

BC Important Bird Areas Program



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Photo: Larry Adamache

The IBA Program

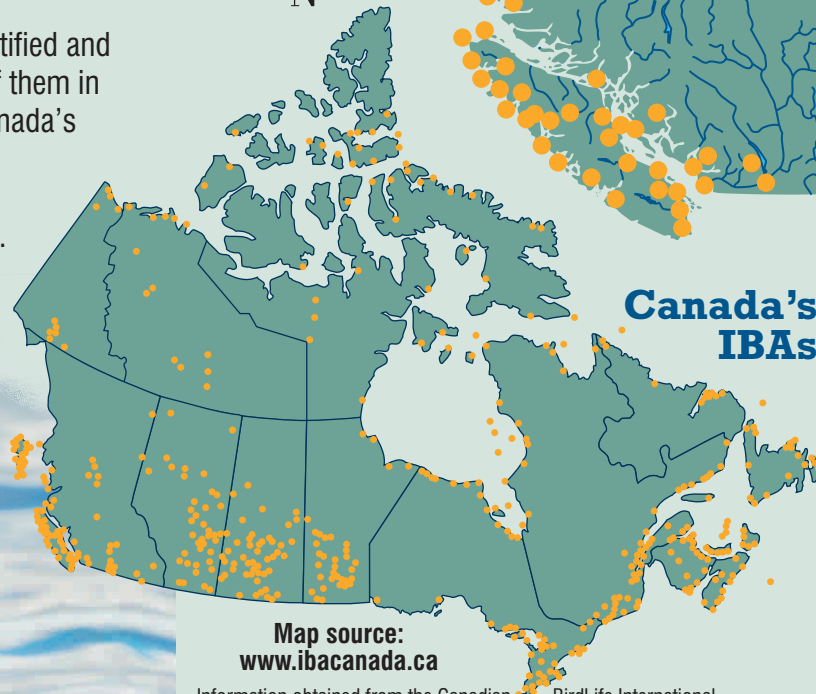
The Important Bird Areas (IBA) program is an international effort to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for bird populations. BirdLife International began the IBA program in the 1980s, and since that time partners in over 100 countries have joined together to build the global IBA network.

Since 1996, 597 IBAs have been identified and designated in Canada, with over 80 of them in British Columbia. Because 89% of Canada's birds migrate beyond our borders, an international program is essential to conserve birds throughout their range. British Columbia is a vital link in the chain: our network of IBAs provide essential habitat for nesting, wintering and migrating birds.

Photo: Tom Middleton



Black Oystercatcher



Map source:
www.ibacanada.ca

Information obtained from the Canadian BirdLife International co-partners (Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada) IBA Site Directory

Goals of the IBA Program

- Identification of bird sites
- Designation of IBAs based on criteria and recognition by communities
- Protection of IBAs through support of local community, individuals, groups and governments.
- Monitoring of IBAs to identify and address bird population trends and threats to bird conservation.

BirdLife
IBA
IMPORTANT
BIRD AREA

Long-billed Curlew



Photo: Ian Routley

Important Bird Areas – Criteria

- Threatened Species – sites that hold endangered or threatened birds.
- Birds with restricted breeding ranges – endemic species: more applicable in tropical countries.
- Biome-restricted assemblages or unique natural community type: often sites of general conservation interest.
- Bird Concentrations – significant numbers when breeding, wintering, migrating. The majority of Canadian sites are in this category.

IBA Program in British Columbia

BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) coordinates the program with the support of national partners Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada. We are enlisting the support of other birding, naturalist, conservation groups, and agencies.

Primary goals of the BC Program are the establishment of the **BC IBA Caretaker Network**, monitoring of sites, and public education.

Keep the IBA program flying by making a donation or volunteering to help! For more information, contact BC Nature at www.bcnature.ca.

Common Murre



Photo: Tom Middleton

What IBAs are NOT!

- Important Bird Areas are not *all* the areas important for birds in the province, country or world.
- They are only the sites which meet the specific, scientific criteria.
- Many other sites have important bird populations.
- Diffuse songbird habitats are currently rather poorly represented in the IBA Program.



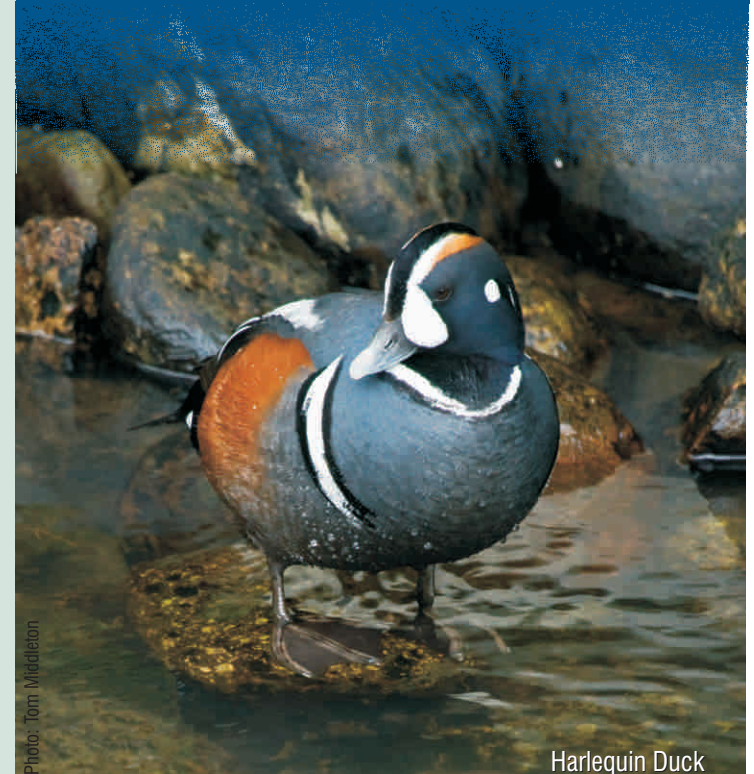
BC IBA Caretaker Network

Volunteers are working as stewards of Important Bird Areas in their community. Monitoring, stewardship, public education, and advocacy are required to safeguard sites. To facilitate communication among IBA volunteers, BC Nature has set up Canada's first comprehensive **IBA Caretaker Network**.

To learn more about your local IBA, visit:

www.ibacanada.ca

British Columbia Important Bird Areas Program



Harlequin Duck

Photo: Tom Middleton

Protecting BC Birds



BIRD STUDIES
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