

**Forest Co-op Ontario Birds Workshop  
April 8-10, 2008 - Sault Ste Marie, Ont.**



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Jim Trotter



# Forest Co-op Ontario Birds Workshop

April 8-10, Sault Ste Marie, Ont.



Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative Inc.



SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT NETWORK  RÉSEAU DE GESTION DURABLE DES FORÊTS



## Why a bird workshop?

A: Uncertainty about the State of Ontario's Forest Birds

- OBBA results now available (new info on abundance & change in distribution - How are birds doing? How are WE doing?)
- recent literature & lit. reviews
- CEC publication of MBCA "Factual Record"
- Boreal Birds campaign – *save the forest NOW!*
- public concern during FMP development



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## Workshop Purpose:

- To assemble key scientists and interested practitioners to:
  - distill recent info (literature, OBBA, research in progress), and
  - to make recommendations for forest policy, management, research & monitoring in Ontario



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## THEMES:

- Status of Ontario birds
- Forest management effects
- Research & monitoring
- Putting science into policy & practice



Presentations – Panel Discussions – Workshops - Summary

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75 participants:

MNR Staff – Science, District, Region

Scientists from CFS, CWS, Bird Studies Canada

University Researchers – U of A, U of G, Trent U, U of Quebec

Abitibi-Bowater, Domtar, Tembec, Wagner, LP



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### Outcome:

- Summary of key results presented on the last day (Thompson-Baker-Donnelly-Rempel)
- Presentations to be posted on the Forest Co-op web site
- Special Issue of the Forestry Chronicle:
  - the summary paper
  - Science papers



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## Highlights from the Workshop Summary:

### STATUS:

- forest birds doing well overall
- some species in a long-term decline (e.g., aerial insectivores, those responding to budworm)
- identification of baselines is important if “emulating natural disturbances” through FM, or trying to “recover” or maintain species (i.e., consider the role of external factors - insect outbreaks, weather, migration effects)



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## Highlights from the Workshop Summary:

### FOREST MANAGEMENT EFFECTS:

- no evidence and no species is of concern solely due to forest management
- need for shoreline forest management to address the needs of a broader suite of birds (e.g., beaver pond suite; “don’t do the same thing everywhere”)



Matt Goff



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## Highlights from the Workshop Summary:

### RESEARCH & MONITORING:

- more work on habitat models is needed
- targeted research to determine causes of decline (e.g., of aerial insectivores)

BSC preparing a paper with hypotheses



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## Highlights from the Workshop Summary:

### PUTTING SCIENCE INTO POLICY & PRACTICE:

- a variety of spatial scales is needed to assess and manage bird habitat (landscape and local or stand scale)
- recommendations for selection of focal species in FMPs (fine filter species)
- continue to improve natural disturbance emulation (retention of or creation of key structures)





*Thank you!*