

# BIRDS: THE POWER TO CHARM AND FASCINATE

Through the ages and around the world, birds have captivated us with song, colour, and flight. Sadly, over 12% of the world's birds are now at risk of extinction, including 60 Canadian species. This is a problem for all of us, not just bird lovers. Failing bird populations indicate a loss in biodiversity and a breakdown in ecosystem functioning that threatens all life, including our own. By working to establish healthy bird populations, we can secure a healthier future for all of us.

Nature Canada has been conserving birds and their habitats since 1939. In 1996, we became the Canadian co-partner, with Bird Studies Canada, of the global Important Bird Areas (IBA) program. With BirdLife International partners in over 100 countries, we're monitoring a worldwide network of sites that provide essential habitat for birds. Canada's 597 IBAs are vitally important for breeding, migrating, and wintering bird populations, and IBA conservation has become a cornerstone of our national bird conservation strategy.

Thousands of volunteers have helped conserve IBAs by surveying bird populations, building nest boxes, erecting signs, removing invasive species, planting native grasses, and promoting awareness of the value of wildlife.

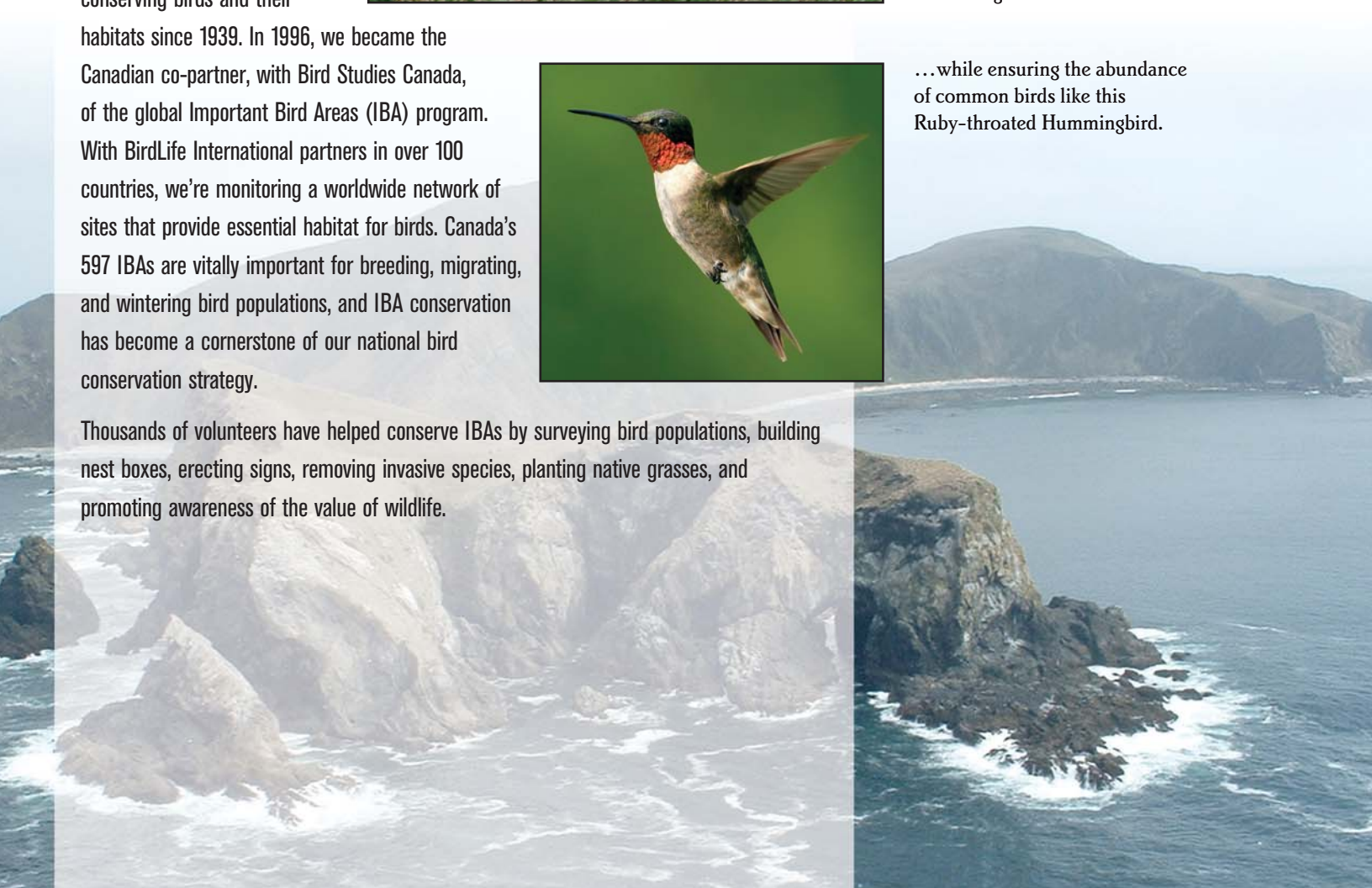


Canada is home to 597 of the world's Important Bird Areas.

In conserving IBAs, Nature Canada is recovering endangered species like this Burrowing Owl...



...while ensuring the abundance of common birds like this Ruby-throated Hummingbird.





# Nature Canada's Priority IBA Program

IBAs are areas of high biodiversity, home to bird and other animal species both common and endangered. IBA conservation helps achieve the objectives of the federal Species at Risk Act while ensuring that each site's ecological integrity is maintained across species boundaries.

Canada's IBA program empowers communities to become stewards for local bird populations within a science-based framework of international conservation strategies. With the generous support of our corporate, government, and foundation partners, Nature Canada has helped over 100 grassroots IBA site support groups, facilitated more than 150 on-site projects, developed 150 conservation plans, and cultivated a superb voluntary stewardship network to monitor bird populations, restore habitats and educate communities from coast to coast.

## Nature Canada's Priority IBAs

From vast tracts of threatened wilderness to scattered fragments of endangered habitats, we are intensifying our efforts to save Important Bird Areas of the greatest biological significance, those facing the most imminent threats, and those offering the timeliest conservation opportunities. These priority IBAs span 10,900 km<sup>2</sup> of lands and waters that support millions of birds. To save these sites, we will strengthen Canada's network of protected areas, battle unsound resource exploitation, restore altered habitats, and connect Canadians to our magnificent natural heritage—with results that will benefit birds and biodiversity well beyond the borders of our IBAs.

Nature Canada highlights priority Important Bird Areas in its series, *Natural Priorities: Protecting our Important Bird Areas*.

To obtain fact sheets in our series, visit our web site at [naturecanada.ca](http://naturecanada.ca) and click on Reports and Downloads. Or call 1-800-267-4088 ext. 241 to request your copy.

Nature Canada's Important  
Bird Areas program  
generously supported by:



Wildlife Habitat Canada  
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For more information visit these Web sites:  
[naturecanada.ca](http://naturecanada.ca) • [ibacanada.ca](http://ibacanada.ca) • [birdlife.org](http://birdlife.org)