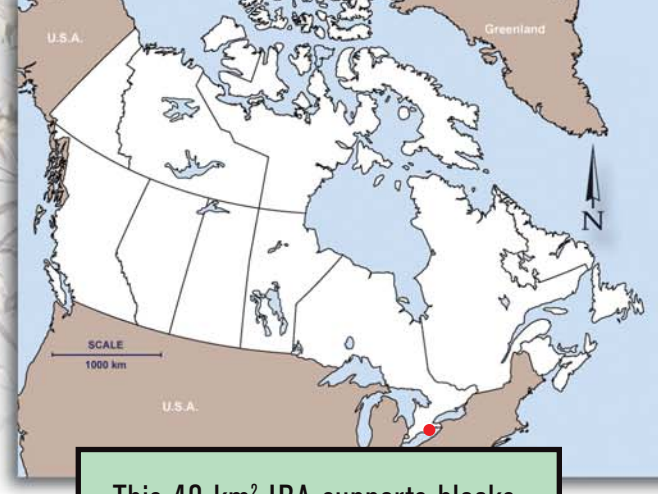
RESTORE THE CAROLINIAN ECOSYSTEM

Norfolk Forest Complex IBA offers a rare opportunity to conserve continuous blocks and corridors of Carolinian habitat in one of Canada's most fragmented landscapes.



This 49 km² IBA supports blocks of Carolinian forest among the farmlands north of Lake Erie.

Norfolk Forest Complex Important Bird Area

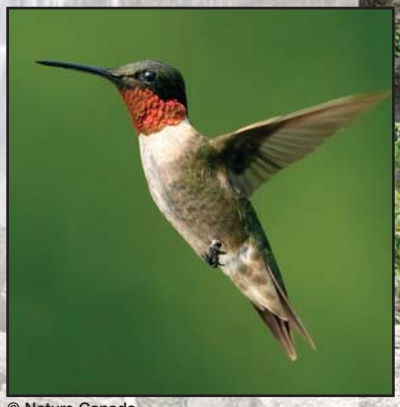
The Norfolk Forest Complex is a fragmented Carolinian forest ecosystem within an agricultural matrix. The deciduous and swamp forests are home to one of southern Ontario's richest breeding bird communities, including Scarlet Tanagers, Winter Wrens, and a dozen warbler species. The Complex includes a nationally rare community type (Tulip Tree – Eastern Hemlock) and supports a wealth of biodiversity, including threatened Jefferson Salamanders and endangered Spotted Turtles. This is critical habitat for breeding birds at risk, including Hooded, Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers, Acadian Flycatchers, and Louisiana Waterthrushes.


© Jim Richards

Norfolk Forest Complex is home to six bird species at risk, including Canada's largest population of threatened Hooded Warblers.

Conservation Action

Large portions of the Norfolk Forest Complex are privately owned, subjected to forestry or agricultural practices, or seriously threatened by invasive species. However, some portions of the IBA are managed by naturalist groups or lie within conservation areas, and there is support for transforming out-of-production agricultural fields into restored natural habitat to connect and buffer existing Carolinian forest blocks. Through IBA Communities in Action, we're partnering with local stewards and volunteers to restore bottomland agricultural lands to swamp forest, remove invasive species, plant native species in upland habitats, improve ecosystem functioning by restoring hydrological flow, and erect signs and fences to discourage inappropriate land use.


© Nature Canada

This Ruby-throated Hummingbird is one of more than 100 bird species that breed in the Norfolk Forest.

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Nature Canada's Priority IBA Program

The IBA Program is science-based from start to finish–from the criteria used to designate sites, through the baselines of conservation planning, to the determination of projects for Communities in Action funding.

From vast tracts of intact wilderness to fragmented urban environments, hundreds of sites in Canada are vitally important for breeding, migrating, and wintering birds, and the conservation of these sites is a cornerstone of effective bird conservation. Nature Canada is a co-partner in the international Important Bird Areas (IBA) program, which aims to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provides essential habitat for bird populations.

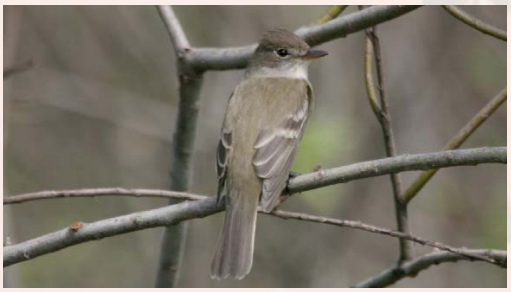
Of our 597 Important Bird Areas in Canada, Nature Canada highlights the sites of greatest biological significance, those facing the most imminent threats, and those offering timely conservation opportunities, in its series, Natural Priorities: Protecting our Important Bird Areas.

To obtain other fact sheets in our series, visit our web site at naturecanada.ca and click on Reports and Downloads. Or call 1-800-267-4088 ext. 241 to request one.

Through advocacy, education, and restoration efforts, we're strengthening the national network of protected areas, battling environmentally unsound resource exploitation, and sensitizing Canadians to the value of wildlife—results that benefit all 597 IBAs across Canada.

About Nature Canada

Nature Canada is the Canadian co-partner (with Bird Studies Canada) of BirdLife International, a global alliance of conservation organizations working together for the world's birds and people. We are a member-based non-profit conservation organization with supporters in every province and territory. Our mission is to protect nature, its diversity, and the processes that sustain it.



Acadian Flycatcher

For more information visit these Web sites:

naturecanada.ca • ibacanada.ca • birdlife.org