

MMP volunteers monitor birds and amphibians in marshes. Established bi-nationally in 1995, the survey provides information on the population status of marsh birds and amphibians, information about their habitat requirements, and an assessment of wetland restoration efforts. Data collected by MMP volunteers are an important contribution to the conservation and management of wetlands and their wildlife.



S. Timmermans

IT'S EASY TO BE AN MMP SURVEYOR!

- ★ Volunteers receive a training kit containing: written instructions for surveying marsh birds, amphibians and their habitat; data forms; and an instructional tape with examples of songs and calls of birds and amphibians occurring in wetlands within their region.
- ★ Surveys are conducted at appropriate marshes located in Ontario or in a U.S. Great Lake state. Volunteers survey existing routes or establish new ones at sites chosen with MMP staff assistance.
- ★ Volunteers participate during spring and early summer to survey birds, amphibians or both.
- ★ Data forms are sent back to Bird Studies Canada for analysis.
- ★ Participants of the MMP receive an annual newsletter that summarizes survey results and includes articles about marsh ecology, amphibians and marsh birds.

The MMP was developed by BSC and Environment Canada, and receives support from:



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

What is Bird Studies Canada?

Bird Studies Canada (BSC) is a not for profit research and conservation organization. BSC's mission is to:

- ★ Advance the understanding, appreciation and conservation of wild birds and their habitats.
- ★ Engage the skills, enthusiasm and support of its members, volunteers, staff and the interested public.

Some other BSC programs:

- ★ Quebec Marsh Bird Monitoring Program
- ★ Prairie Region Marsh Bird Monitoring Program
- ★ Canadian Lakes Loon Survey
- ★ Christmas Bird Counts
- ★ Coastal Waterbird Surveys
- ★ Birds at Risk Programs
- ★ James L. Baillie Memorial Fund
- ★ Latin American Training Program
- ★ Long Point Bird Observatory
- ★ Nocturnal Owl Surveys
- ★ Project FeederWatch



J. Shore

For more information, please write:
 Bird Studies Canada
 P.O. Box 160
 Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0
 Or call (519) 586-3531 or 1-888-448-BIRD (2473)
 Or fax (519) 586-3532
 Or visit
www.birdscanada.org/mmpmain.html



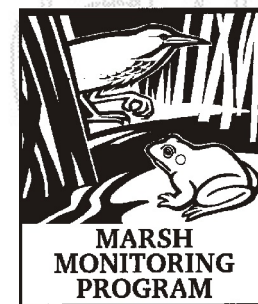
BIRD STUDIES CANADA
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA

understand appreciate conserve
 comprendre apprécier conserver



M. Garrshore

CALLING ALL NATURALISTS



Join the Marsh Monitoring Program!



M. Bradstreet

Facts about wetlands

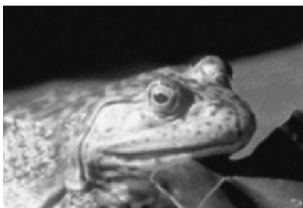
- ★ Wetlands have been drained, filled, and polluted for decades, resulting in a reduction in population levels of many wetland dependent species.
- ★ Wetlands provide habitat critical for sustaining many fish and wildlife species, improve water quality, help stabilize shorelines, and absorb excess nutrients.
- ★ A marsh is a low-lying wetland with vegetation. The water can be still or slowly moving, permanent or temporary. Small numbers of trees or shrubs may occur but commonly the vegetation consists of plants such as cattails, rushes, reeds, grasses or sedges. In open water areas submerged and floating aquatic plants such as lily pads will flourish.

Facts about marsh birds

- ★ Marsh birds are one of the most species rich groups that breed in marshes.
- ★ Marsh birds are an ecologically significant component in these ecosystems and play an important role in human recreational uses of natural resources.

Facts about marsh amphibians

- ★ Amphibians depend on wetlands for one or more stages of their life cycle.
- ★ Amphibians found in marshes are critical members of wetland food webs.
- ★ There have been many unexplained population declines in amphibians.
- ★ Thirteen species of frogs and toads exist in the Great Lake and St. Lawrence regions.



BSC files

What we Have Learned

To date, data submitted by MMP volunteers have been used to detect significant changes in population trends of marsh birds and amphibians, develop indicators of wetland health, and to provide practical information for marsh habitat management.

HOW CAN you help?

Join the Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP). The MMP offers everyone – from amateur naturalists to professional biologists – a unique and rewarding opportunity to contribute toward understanding and conserving wetlands, one of North America's most threatened ecosystems.

The amphibian survey is suitable for novice naturalists, because there are only 13 species of frogs and toads to identify.

To survey birds, participants should be able to correctly identify most common marsh birds by sight and sound.



How to Survey

Initially, a couple of hours are needed to establish routes. Conducting the surveys and tallying results usually requires about 10 hours per year.

Upon registration, participants receive a selected marsh to survey. In which, with help from MMP staff and a detailed Training Kit, they establish a route, consisting of up to 8 semi-circular sample stations .

Each amphibian survey route is visited 3 nights during the year, no less than 15 days apart. Each station is surveyed for 3 minutes.

Bird routes are surveyed twice a year, no less than 10 days apart. Each station is surveyed for 15 minutes.

Habitat in and around each sample station is described annually by the volunteer.

Yes, I'd like to Join the MMP!

To register, phone: 1-888-448-BIRD (2473),
e-mail: aqsurvey@birdscanada.org or
use this form.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province/State _____

Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

I would like to monitor:

Birds Amphibians Both

The marsh I would like to monitor is

Marsh Name (if known): _____

Nearest town/county: _____

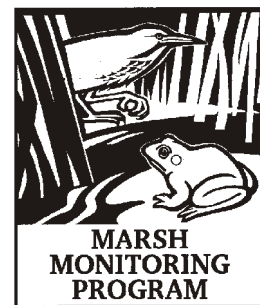
I live near _____ (nearest town). Please let me know if there is an existing route on a nearby marsh that I could survey.

I have included a donation in support of the MMP \$ _____

I heard about the MMP through: _____

Welcome Aboard!

Bird Studies Canada
Marsh Monitoring Program
P.O. Box 160
Port Rowan, Ontario
NOE 1M0



MMP survey kits are mailed in March