













Riparian focal species of Canada's Great Basin: conservation issues and objectives.

Focal Species ^a	Population Data and Objective	Potential Conservation Concerns ^{a, e}	Habitat Description ^e	Conservation Focus ^{a, e} and Habitat Objective
<p>Lewis's Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> LEWO</p>  <p>Photo: Laure Neish</p>	<p>Status ^b: BC: Blue-listed CAN: Special Concern Trend ^c: BC GB: No BBS trend; Slow anecdotal decline. GB: ↓ Size Estimate: 700-1200 (Siddle and Davidson 1991) [accuracy rating - moderate]^d Objective ^d: Increase current population by 50%</p>	<p>Loss of riparian habitat adjacent to open woodland. Loss of large cottonwood & snags for nesting and perching to forestry & recreation. Reduction of insects/fruit due to fire suppression & habitat conversion to non-native plant species.</p>	<p>Throughout BC's Great Basin, from 275 to 1100 m elevation: Nests in large-diameter black cottonwood snags and trees, especially those with dead tops or heartrot. Prefers previously excavated cavities. Requires adjacent grassland habitat or open dry woodland habitat with a shrubby understory (Campbell et al. 1990; Forest Practices Code of BC 1997; Cooper 1997 in Fraser et al. 1990; Sousa 1989).</p>	<p><u>LOWLAND RIPARIAN</u> Conservation Focus: Large cottonwood snags and trees adjacent to open areas.</p>  <p>Photo: Andy Bezener</p> <p>Habitat Objective: To be determined.</p>
<p>Western Screech-Owl <i>Otus kennicottii</i> WESO</p>  <p>Photo: Andy Bezener</p>	<p>Status ^b: BC: Red-listed CAN: Endangered (<i>macfarlanei</i> ssp.) Trend ^c: BC GB: No BBS trend. Size Estimate: ~50-300 birds: most in Okanagan Valley (Dick Cannings, unpubl. data 2003) [accuracy rating - fair]^d Objective ^d: At minimum, maintain current distribution and habitat until data deficiencies (i.e., population size and habitat requirements) are determined.</p>	<p>Loss of habitat area (riparian areas >300m in length). Loss of large live trees and snags (especially cottonwoods) with cavities used for nesting and/or roosting. Direct mortality from collisions with vehicles. ↓ prey base (domestic cats reduce food base).</p>	<p>In the Okanagan, lower Similkameen, Boundary and Nicola watersheds, below 1000 m elevation: Nests in existing cavities in large live trees or snags, especially cottonwoods. May forage in adjacent grassland habitat or open dry woodland habitat (Campbell et al. 1990).</p>	<p><u>LOWLAND RIPARIAN</u> Conservation Focus: Large cottonwood snags and trees.</p>  <p>Photo: Andy Bezener</p> <p>Habitat Objective: To be determined.</p>

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<p>Yellow-breasted Chat <i>Icteria virens</i> YBCH</p>  <p>Photo: Andy Bezener</p>	<p>Status ^b: BC: Red-listed CAN: Endangered (<i>auricollis</i> ssp. - BC population) Trend ^c: BC GB: No BBS trend. Size Estimate: 30-35 breeding pairs in South Okanagan watershed (C.A. Bishop and T. Morgan, unpubl. data 2003) [accuracy rating - good]^d Objective: Adopt population recovery objective from Recovery Action Plan (in progress)</p>	<p>Loss of riparian areas and native shrub thickets due to urbanization, agriculture (including overgrazing), water management. Reduced reproductive success due to nest predation and brood parasitism. Use of pesticides reducing insect prey base.</p>	<p>In the south Okanagan and lower Similkameen valleys, below 800 m elevation: Nests in dense, impenetrable wild rose thickets, often within lowland cottonwood or water birch woodlands (Campbell et al. 2001; Cadman and Page 1994).</p>	<p><u>LOWLAND RIPARIAN</u> Conservation Focus: Native riparian thickets – especially wild rose.</p>  <p>Photo: Andy Bezener</p> <p>Habitat Objective: To be determined.</p>
<p>Veery <i>Catharus fuscescens</i> VEER</p>  <p>Photo: Andy M. Bezener</p>	<p>Status ^b: BC: Yellow (Not at Risk). CAN: Not Assessed. Other: Declining globally. Trend ^c: BC GB: ↑ Size Estimate ^d: 100,000 [accuracy rating – fair]^d Objective ^d: Increase current population by 10%.</p>	<p>Loss of native riparian thickets due to agriculture (including overgrazing) and urban development. Low reproductive success due to high parasitism and nest predation rates.</p>	<p>Throughout Canada's Great Basin: Nests on or near the ground in dense, moist and shady undergrowth of deciduous riparian woodlands (Campbell et al. 1997; Moskoff 1995).</p>	<p><u>LOWLAND RIPARIAN</u> Conservation Focus: Native riparian thickets – especially cottonwood understory.</p>  <p>Photo: Andy Bezener</p> <p>Habitat Objective: To be determined.</p>

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<p>Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i> YWAR</p>  <p>Photo: Andy M. Bezener</p>	<p>Status ^b: BC: Yellow (Not at Risk). CAN: Not Assessed. Trend ^c: BC GB: -3.1%/yr* GB: ↓ Size Estimate ^d: 100,000 [accuracy rating - fair]^d Objective ^d: Double current population.</p>	<p>Loss of riparian areas and native shrubs, especially willows due to urbanization, agriculture (including overgrazing), water management. Low reproductive success due to high levels of nest parasitism and nest predation Use of pesticides reducing insect prey base.</p>	<p>Throughout Canada's Great Basin, below 900 m elevation: Nests in dense deciduous riparian vegetation, especially short trees or tall shrubs, especially willows, usually adjacent to a source of water (Campbell et al. 2001).</p>	<p><u>LOWLAND RIPARIAN</u> Conservation Focus: Native riparian thickets – especially willow.</p>  <p>Photo: Andy Bezener</p> <p>Habitat Objective: To be determined.</p>
<p>Red-naped Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i> RNSA</p>  <p>Photo: Laure Neish</p>	<p>Status ^b: BC: Yellow (Not at Risk). CAN: Not Assessed. Trend ^c: BC GB: No BBS trend. Size Estimate ^d: 60,000 [accuracy rating – fair]^d Objective ^d: Increase current population by 50%.</p>	<p>Removal of nest trees for pulp & paper industry, aesthetics, urbanization. Low recruitment of deciduous trees and snags due to overgrazing & fire suppression.</p>	<p>Throughout Canada's Great Basin, below 1300 m elevation: Excavates nest cavities in large, preferably live, aspen, birch, alder, cottonwoods and other deciduous trees, with a dbh of >23 cm (Campbell et al. 1990).</p>	<p><u>MONTANE RIPARIAN</u> Conservation Focus: Deciduous trees and snags, especially aspen, birch, small cottonwoods and alder.</p>  <p>Photo: Andy M. Bezener</p> <p>Habitat Objective: To be determined.</p>