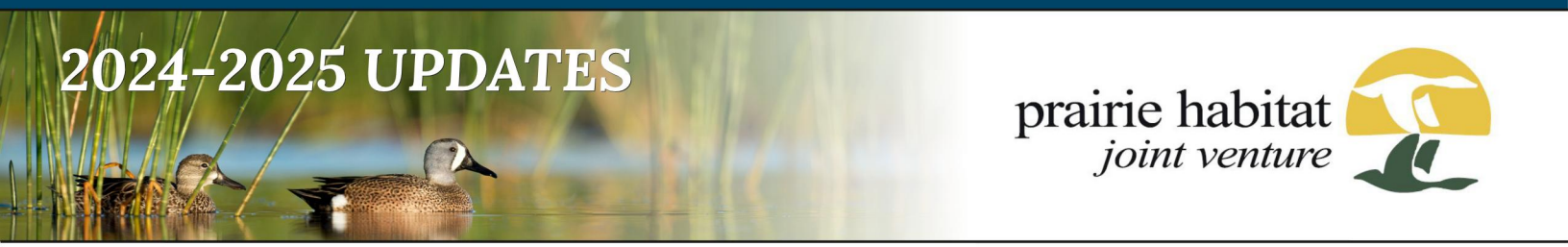

2024-2025 UPDATES

prairie habitat joint venture

ADVANCING ALL-BIRD OBJECTIVES

The Science Committee has developed priority areas for landbirds, waterbirds, and shorebirds. Overlap between priority areas and waterfowl target landscapes provide the greatest impact for all birds.

Grasslands in Focus

Pixel-based density models and simulated grassland conversion were combined to identify the amount of grassland conservation required to meet population objectives for four Species at Risk (Fig. 1). Results indicate that 4.4 million acres of grassland loss must be prevented over a 15-year period. Additional analysis identified grassland areas with the highest density of the four focal species and the highest risk of conversion within the PHJV; targeting these areas for conservation will ensure maximum benefit to grassland birds.

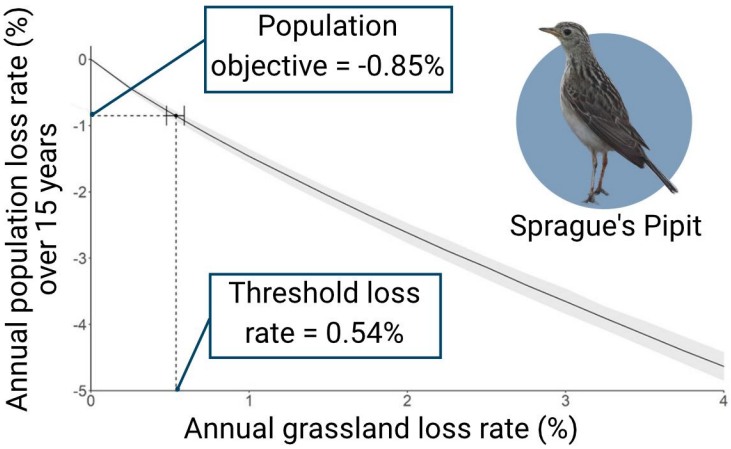

Figure 1. Using bird Species at Risk to model stabilization objectives in declining populations.

FLYING FORWARD

The Science Committee will be updating waterfowl target landscapes based on new species distribution models, and quantifying the multiple benefits of conservation work in the upcoming PHJV Implementation Plan.

Co-benefits for Birds in the PHJV

Western Boreal Forest: Targeting waterfowl conservation in the Northwest Territories has the greatest potential to have co-benefits for wetland and forest-associated birds. However, the greater proportion of several high-priority species were found to be outside of waterfowl target landscapes.

Prairie Parklands: There are opportunities for co-benefits for non-waterfowl species through targeted waterfowl conservation actions, and this is especially true for wetland-associated species. Many upland species, including grassland Species at Risk, will require distinct targeting efforts.

These results guide the PHJV to seek alternative conservation planning and actions to ensure sufficient upland, forest, and wetland habitat is conserved to meet PHJV objectives.

DUCKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A study led by Ducks Unlimited Canada suggests that human activities, such as land conversion driven by agricultural economics, pose a greater threat to duck production than the direct effects of climate change on wetland hydrology. This supports the PHJV's continued focus on habitat conservation and effective policy as the strongest approach to protecting duck populations in the face of climate change.

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