

MMP volunteers monitor birds and amphibians in the Great Lake basin's marshes. Established bi-nationally across the Great Lakes region 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 Great Lake basin wetlands and their wildlife.



### IT'S EASY TO BE A 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 the Great Lake basin.

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 also 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 non-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:

- Canadian Lakes Loon Survey
- Canadian Migration Monitoring Network
- Christmas Bird Counts
- Coastal Waterbird Surveys
- Endangered Species Programs
- Important Bird Areas Program
- James L. Baillie Memorial Fund
- Latin American Training Program
- Long Point Bird Observatory
- Nocturnal Owl Surveys
- Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas
- Project FeederWatch



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 <http://www.bsc-eoc.org>



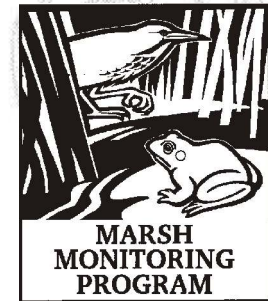
**BIRD STUDIES CANADA**  
**ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA**

understand appreciate conserve  
comprendre apprécier conserver



M. Cornshore

# CALLING ALL NATURALISTS



## Join the Marsh Monitoring Program!



M. Bradstreet

## FACTS ABOUT WETLANDS

The Great Lakes basin's wetlands have been drained, filled, and polluted for decades, resulting in a reduction in population levels of many wetland dependent species.

The basin's wetlands provide habitat critical for sustaining many fish and wildlife species, improve water quality, help stabilize shorelines, and absorb excess nutrients.

## FACTS ABOUT MARSH BIRDS

Marsh birds are one of the most species rich groups that breed in Great Lakes marshes.

Marsh birds are an ecologically significant component in these ecosystems and play an important role in human recreational uses of the basin's natural resources.



BSC files

## FACTS ABOUT MARSH AMPHIBIANS

Amphibians depend on wetlands for one or more stages of their life cycle.

Amphibians of Great Lake 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 basin.

## WHAT WE KNOW

Some information is available regarding wetland loss and degradation, but almost nothing is known about how these have affected populations of most wetland dependent animals.

## 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.



S. Timmermans

## 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.

With help from MMP staff and a detailed Training Kit, participants select a marsh to survey, then 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, after 6 p.m., no less than 10 days apart. Each station is surveyed for 10 minutes.

Volunteers are asked to describe the habitat in and around each sample station.

## YES, I'D LIKE TO JOIN THE MMP!

To register, phone: 1-888-448-BIRD (2473),  
email: [aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org) or  
use this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.

When you sign up for the Marsh Monitoring Program you will receive an annual newsletter about the MMP.

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

How did you hear about the MMP? \_\_\_\_\_

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



MMP kits are mailed in March