APPENDIX 11.2 WILDLIFE TECHNICAL REPORT

Report to:



Dorsey - Portage South Transmission Line Project

Wildlife Technical Report

Document No. 1100450300-REP-V0004-01



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Report to:



DORSEY - PORTAGE SOUTH TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

WILDLIFE TECHNICAL REPORT

May 2012

Prepared by	1.20	Date	May 2, 2012
	Jason Kelly, MNRM Wildlife Resource Consulting Services MB Inc.	•	
Prepared by	Southey-	Date	May 2, 2012
	Robert Berger, MNRM Wildlife Resource Consulting Services MB Inc.		
Reviewed by	Jason Jones, Ph.D., R.P.Bio.	Date	May 3, 2012
Authorized by	Dave Tyson, M.Sc., R.P.Bio., P.Bio.	Date	May 3, 2012



400-161 Portage Ave East, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0Y4

Phone: 204.954.6800 Fax: 204.988.0546



REVISION HISTORY

REV.	ISSUE DATE	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION
NO		AND DATE	AND DATE	AND DATE	
00	March 2012	JK, RB	JJ	DT	
01	April 2012	JK, RB	JJ	DT	Addressed edits from external reviewers



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a 230-kV transmission line (D83P Project) from the Dorsey Station to the Portage South Station. The D83P Project is located in an agricultural setting, and any new transmission line right-of-way (ROW) or extension of an existing ROW will be primarily located on private property. The D83P study area is approximately 1,062 km² in size, and encompasses several conceptual transmission route options in order to initiate preliminary planning. The area is dominated by cropland and development, where anthropogenic disturbances cover about 96% of the study area. Water drainage is most often channelized into roadside ditches and creeks, and few areas of semi-native habitat such as grassland, wetland or forest remain. The two major water systems include the Assiniboine River and the La Salle River. Most of the semi-native wildlife habitat in the study area are found next to these two systems and consist of river bottom forest, riparian forest, shrubland and wetland vegetation associations.

Wildlife Resource Consulting Services MB Inc. was retained by Tetra Tech Inc. to characterize bird, mammal, amphibian, and reptile species and habitat capability in the D83P study area. Two standardized surveys of the study area included a breeding bird survey and a raptor survey. A reconnaissance survey was also conducted to collect habitat data as well as to determine site accessibility due to severe flooding along the Assiniboine River. In addition to field surveys, literature was used to supplement the wildlife species list for the study area. Qualitative habitat capability models were developed for birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Land Cover Classification Enhanced for Bipole (LCCEB) and Canada Land Inventory (CLI) thematic layers were selected in ArcGIS 9.2 to map high quality wildlife habitat capability in the study area.

Of the 316 potential migrants, breeding and resident bird species in the study area, 92 bird species were identified over the course of all the studies. The majority of breeding bird species identified in the D83P study area is considered as common in agricultural Manitoba. Rare bird species in the study area included barn swallow and bobolink, which are two species at risk (Threatened under the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada [COSEWIC]) found during the breeding bird surveys. A total of 78 barn swallows and 28 bobolinks were widely distributed in the study area; most observations, however, occurred south and west of Elie, Manitoba in agricultural cropland, developed and grassland habitat. Other species at risk such as yellow rail and short-eared owl were not detected, but some habitat is present, including wetlands and grasslands.

For most bird species, approximately 3.5% of the study area is considered to have higher quality habitat capability. Excluding waterfowl, high quality native habitat for birds includes forest, grasslands, wetlands and riparian areas, which are found primarily west of the town of Elie, Manitoba. The Assiniboine River is the exception, as it also has high quality habitat capability for songbirds and birds of prey. For waterfowl, approximately 1.0% of the study area



has high quality habitat capability. Waterfowl habitat is found mainly along the Assiniboine River, with the quality of habitat capability generally decreasing westward across the study area.

Site-specific studies were not conducted for mammals. Of the 60 potential mammal species in the D83P study area, seven were observed over the course of the studies: red squirrel, muskrat, white-tailed deer, beaver, raccoon, coyote, and red fox. These species are considered common in Manitoba. No mammalian species at risk were found, or are expected, in the study area. For most mammal species, approximately 3.5% of the study area is considered to have higher quality habitat capability. Mammal habitat is more limited east of Elie, Manitoba. Only about 2.0% of the study area has high quality habitat capability for ungulates. Most of the high quality mammal habitat is found in the western portion of the study area near the La Salle River, or along the Assiniboine River.

Site-specific studies were not conducted for amphibians or reptiles. Of the eight potential amphibian species in the D83P study area, six were observed over the course of the studies: boreal chorus frog, northern leopard frog, gray tree frog, wood frog, American toad and Canadian toad. These amphibian species are considered common in Manitoba. Northern leopard frog is listed as a species of Special Concern by the Species at Risk Act. Of the eight potential reptile species in the D83P study area only one, a single red-sided garter snake, was observed over the course of the studies; this species is considered common in Manitoba. For most amphibian and reptile species, approximately 3.8% of the study area is considered to have higher quality habitat capability. The highest quality amphibian and reptile habitat is found along the La Salle River and, to a lesser extent, Assiniboine River. In addition, there appears to be a higher concentration of amphibian and reptile habitat towards the western portion of the study area, where there are streams, creeks and water bodies.

Environmentally sensitive features identified in the D83P study area include the Assiniboine River and the La Salle River. Other potential sensitive sites or features may exist in the study area, including short-eared owl, yellow rail, barn swallow and bobolink habitat, mammal dens, deer wintering yards, high quality wetlands for amphibians including for the northern leopard frog, and snake hibernacula.

An initial comparison between three alternative routing options suggests there are only minor differences in the amount of each land cover type along each route. As currently aligned, Route A tends to have the least amount of native habitat found within 200 m of the route. Routes C that is located furthest north has a slightly larger amount of broadleaf, herb, shrub tall and water within the buffer, while grassland is slightly higher along Route B.



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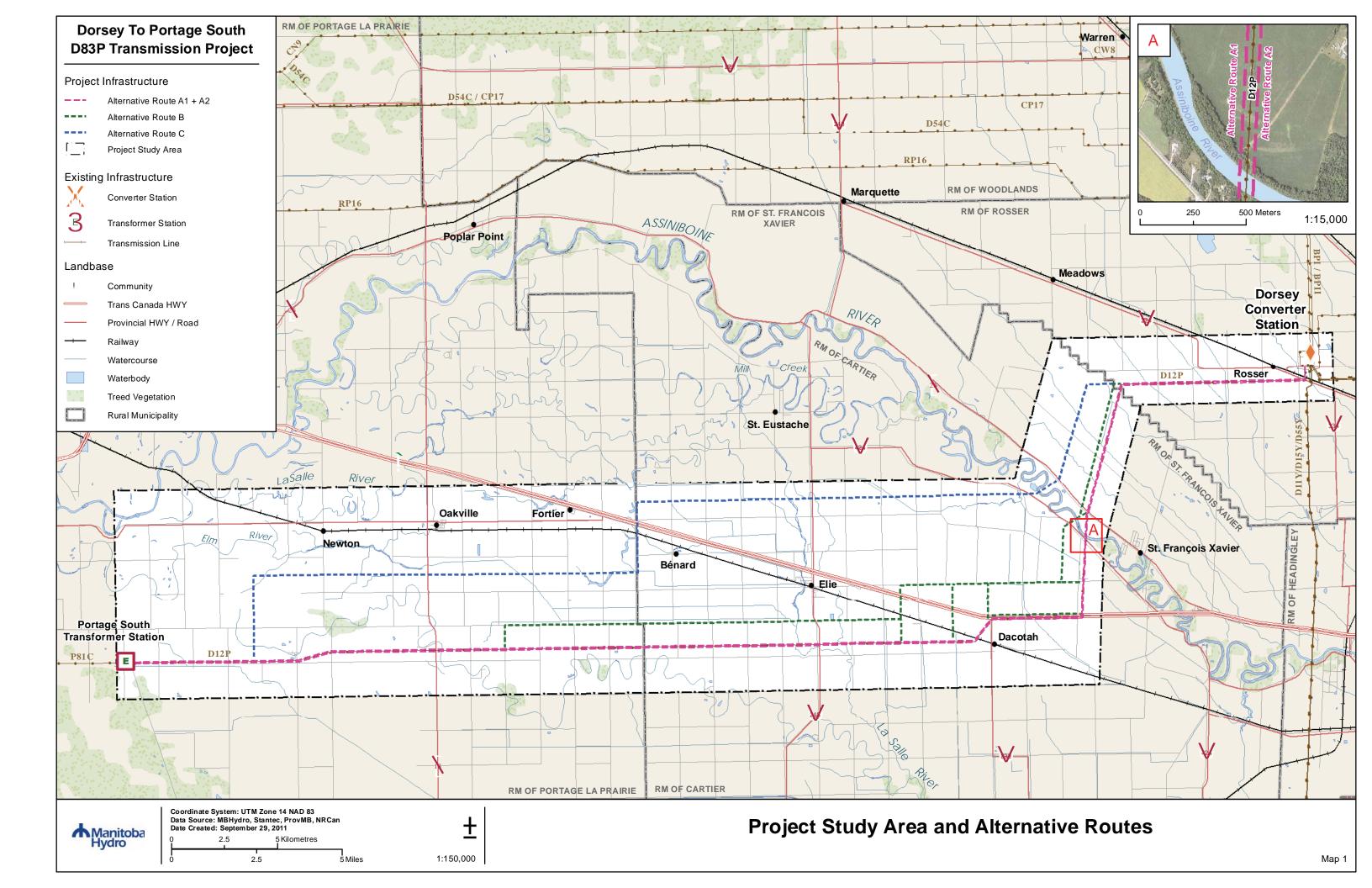
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Manitoba Hydro is proposing to construct a 230-kV transmission line (D83P Project) from the Dorsey Station to the Portage South Station (Map 1). The D83P Project will originate from the 230-kV switchyard of the Dorsey Station, located approximately 8 km northwest of Provincial Trunk Highway No.101, at the northwest side of Winnipeg. It will terminate at the Portage South Station, located about 12.5 km southeast of Portage La Prairie. As the D83P Project is located in an agricultural setting, any new right-of-way (ROW) or extension of an existing ROW will be primarily located on private property. An opportunity to parallel an existing 230-kV Transmission Line referred to as D12P also exists. The D12P transmission line has an unused portion of ROW which may be suitable for use by the D83P Project. Manitoba Hydro has identified a conceptual transmission route option in order to initiate preliminary planning. This route option parallels and is adjacent to the existing D12P 230 kV transmission line which extends from Dorsey to Portage South stations. The D83P transmission line for this option is designed to be a single circuit line configuration consisting of three conductors supported by self-supporting lattice steel towers. The span between the towers will be approximately 420 meters in order to match the existing D12P tower locations. Sky or ground wires (2 to 9 mm in diameter) will be located above the conductors. Wildlife Resource Consulting Services MB Inc. was retained by Tetra Tech Inc. (Tetra Tech) to provide information on wildlife species and habitats in the D83P study area.

1.2 Scope

The purpose of this report is to describe the existing environment for wildlife and habitat in the D83P Study Area. The scope of work includes desktop exercises and field surveys that are necessary to describe wildlife and habitat capability for a future environmental assessment of the D83P study area. Field studies were limited to where Manitoba Hydro identified conceptual transmission route options. Included in this report are: a list of wildlife species potentially occurring in the study area, a report on the species found during field studies, a wildlife habitat capability assessment, and the identification of potential sensitive sites for wildlife. Species at risk found in the study area are also described and mapped.





2.0 STUDY AREA

The D83P study area described by Manitoba Hydro is approximately 1,062 km² (Map 1). The D83P study area is located in the Lake Manitoba Plains Ecoregion and Prairie Ecozone. This ecozone is characterized as being one of the warmest and most humid regions in the Canadian prairies, with a mean summer temperature of 16°C and average annual precipitation ranging from 450-700 mm (Smith *et al.* 1998). The Prairie Ecozone can be describes as a mosaic of trembling aspen/oak forest and fescue. Agriculture is the dominant anthropogenic activity in the ecoregion (Smith *et al.* 1998). Most of the native vegetation in this ecozone has been supplanted by agricultural crops, except in the driest parts where it has been transformed into rangeland (Smith *et al.* 1998). The study area contains two watershed divisions, including the Lower Assiniboine and the La Salle River watersheds (La Salle Redboine Conservation District 2007). The major urban centers include Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Emerson, and Dauphin. Portage la Prairie is the largest urban center near the project.

A small portion of the D83P study area overlaps the Grant's Lake Managed Hunting Area. Grant's Lake Managed Hunting Area (MHA) was established to provide safer hunting experiences by distributing hunting pressure and ensuring that hunting only took place on private land with the permission of the owner or lawful occupant and on designated Crown land areas. The boundaries of the area are: Provincial Road 412 on the west, Provincial Road 221 on the south, Provincial Road 334 on the east and the 4th Base Line Road (which runs directly west from Grosse Isle on the north). The area includes the entire road allowances of the boundary roads (Manitoba Conservation 2011).

Due to the size of the Prairie Ecozone, not all wildlife species can be found distributed throughout the ecozone, but are more regionally distributed. A list of wildlife potentially occurring in the D83P study area was developed (Appendix A) in consultation with Preston (1982), Carey *et al.* (2003), and Banfield (1987). This ecozone continues to provide major breeding, staging and nesting habitat for ducks, geese, other waterfowl and shore birds, even though a significant reduction in acreage and numbers of wetlands has occurred (Smith *et al.* 1998).

The Land Cover Classification Enhanced for Bipole (LCCEB) land cover types for the D83P study area include annual crops, broadleaf, broadleaf dense, broadleaf open, cultivated agricultural lands, developed, exposed land, grassland, herb, shrub tall, shrubland, water, wetland, and wetland shrub and is located entirely within the Lake Manitoba Plain Ecoregion (Appendix B; Table 1). Cultivated agricultural land with Class 1 and 2 agricultural capabilities (La Salle Redboine Conservation District 2007) is by far the most common land cover type in the study area, followed by developed land cover. Together with annual crops, anthropogenic disturbances cover 96.2% of the study area. Developed areas include houses, farms, businesses, airports, communication towers,



other transmission lines, roads and a railway. The TransCanada Highway, primary and secondary roads, municipal boundary roads and trails are distributed throughout the study area. All other LCCEB types are sparse as each cover category comprises <5% of the study area.

Table 1: LCCEB Cover Types Found in the D83P Study Area

Cover Type	Area (km²)	Cover Type	Area (km²)
Cultivated agricultural land	708.53	Shrub tall	0.57
Developed	289.19	Wetland	0.09
Annual crops	23.75	Wetland shrub	0.05
Grassland	21.75	Exposed land	0.04
Broadleaf	13.72	Shrubland	0.01
Water	3.18		
Herb	1.43	Total	1062.31



3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 LAND COVER CLASS ENHANCED FOR BIPOLE

Map products produced for this report are based on the LCCEB. The LCCEB is based upon the Land Cover Classification of Canada (LCC) developed by the Canada Forest Services (Wulder and Nelson 2003). The LCC layer is a national vector database mapping layer that has been harmonized across the major Federal Departments involved in land management or land change detection (Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, Canada Forest Service, and Canada Centre for Remote Sensing). Existing forest classifications and inventories are based primarily on aerial photography, whereas development of the LCC was done using remotely sensed imagery (Landsat data) as part of Earth Observation for Sustainable Development of Forests program. The enhanced version includes a further harmonization/integration of the National Stratification Working Group ecological framework database (Smith et al. 1998) to the ecodistrict scale and the addition of wetland features, Manitoba forest harvest layers, forest fire layers and data from the Canada Land Inventory. This provides attribute data that define the climatological, landform and soil conditions, fire and harvest records, as well as ecological conditions for wildlife. The primary attribute of the LCCEB is the land cover type associated with a particular polygon - these land cover types identify the primary ecological cover condition of an area. The land cover classes developed were based on those used in the National Forest Inventory, and were endorsed by the Canada Forest Inventory Committee. Definitions for the cover types found in the study area are listed below (Geobase 2009):

- Annual Cropland: Annually cultivated cropland and woody perennial crops.
 Includes annual field crops, vegetables, summer fallow, orchards and vineyards.
 Classification process primarily detects and delineates lands that change from bare cover to green/vegetated cover during the growing season.
- Broadleaf Dense: Greater than 60% crown closure; broadleaf trees are 75% or more of total basal area.
- Broadleaf Open: 26-60% crown closure; broadleaf trees are 75% or more of total basal area.
- Cultivated Agricultural Land: Agricultural land, including annual and perennial crops; and would exclude grassland. This class is mapped when the distinction of subagricultural covers is not possible.
- Developed: Land that predominantly built-up or developed and vegetation associated with these land covers. This includes road surfaces, railway surfaces, buildings and paved surfaces, urban areas, industrial sites, mine structures and farmsteads.

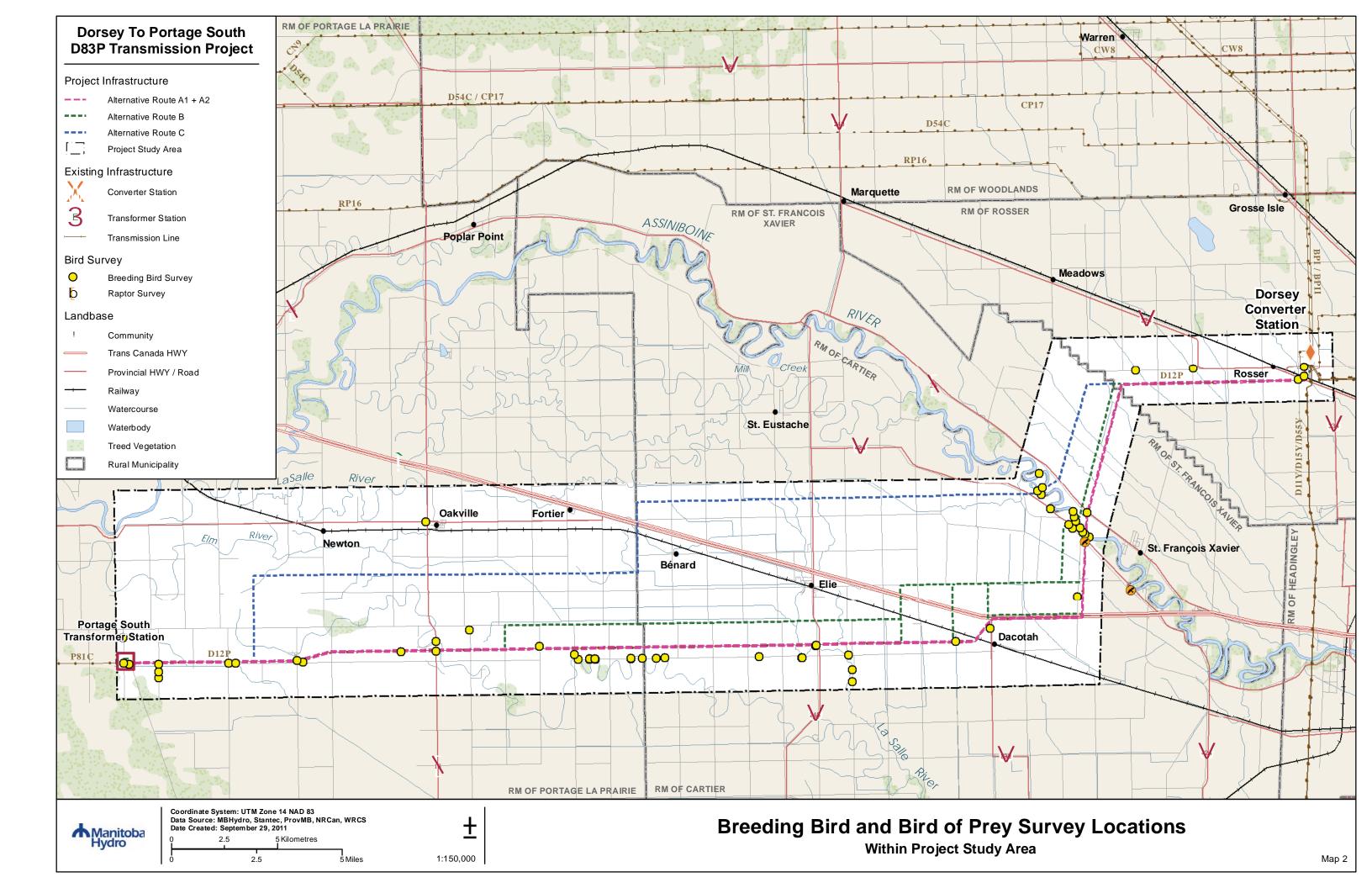


- Exposed Land: River sediments, exposed soils, pond or lake sediments, reservoir margins, beaches, landings, burned areas, road surfaces, mudflat sediments, cutbanks, moraines, gravel pits, tailings, railway surfaces, buildings and parking, or other non-vegetated surfaces.
- Grassland: Predominantly native grasses and other herbaceous vegetation may include some shrubland cover. Land used for range or native unimproved pasture may appear in this class.
- Herb: Vascular plant without woody stem (grasses, crops, forbs, graminoids);
 minimum of 20% ground cover or one-third of total vegetation must be herb.
- Shrub Tall: A least 20% ground cover which is at least one-third shrub; average shrub height greater than or equal to 2 m. In the North, moist to wet erect tall shrub > 40 cm forming more than 25% of the vegetated cover, consisting mainly of dwarf birch (Betual), willow (Salix) and/or alder (Alnus). Remaining cover consists of graminoids, lichen and may contain <10% prostrate dwarf shrubs and bare soil.
- Shrubland: Predominantly woody vegetation of relatively low height (generally ±2 meters). May include grass or grassland wetlands with woody vegetation, regenerating forest.
- Water: Lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, or salt water.
- Wetland: Land with a water table near/at/above soil surface for enough time to promote wetland or aquatic processes (semi-permanent or permanent wetland vegetation, including fens, bogs, swamps, sloughs, marshes, etc.). This class is mapped based on cover properties corresponding with image date(s) conditions.
- Wetland Shrub: Land with a water table near/at/above soil surface for enough time to promote wetland or aquatic processes; the majority of vegetation is tall, low, or a mixture of tall and low shrub.

3.2 BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

A total of 57 breeding bird survey plots were sampled in the D83P study area over June 7, June 12 and July 2, 2011 (Map 2). Sampled LCCEB cover types included broadleaf, broadleaf dense, cultivated agricultural land, developed land, grassland, herb, and shrub tall. A few sample plots extended outside the study area into the surrounding region. An uncommon cover type in the study area, consisting of a single broadleaf cover type, was merged into the broadleaf-dense cover type.

Sample methods followed Elzinga *et al.* (2001). Unlimited distance point counts were used to sample the bird populations in the study area. Five-minute point counts were conducted at each sample station. Point count circle sheets were used to chart the location of individuals, and to keep track of movements to ensure that birds were not double-counted. Individual birds were recorded as falling within three distance categories (<50 m, 51-100 m, >100 m) estimated from the observer. Sample stations were separated by a minimum distance of 250 m to minimize double-counting individuals.





Bird point count surveys were conducted by a biologist between approximately one-half hour before sunrise to 10:30 a.m. The position of each sample location was collected using a Garmin GPS map 60CSx Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. An 8 megapixel Olympus C-8080 digital camera was used to take photographs of representative habitat. Standardized sampling could not be achieved due to cover type limitations, private land access limitations, and further access restrictions from severe flooding at the time of the survey. Point counts were conducted systematically as to maximize the total number of sample plots to be surveyed. Data was entered into the Pointcount Data Recorder 1.6.27 software for analysis.

Roadside counts were conducted as property access was not feasible at the time of the survey. All sites were visited at least once. Twelve sites were visited on June 7, 28 sites on June 12, and 25 sites on July 2, 2011. Eight of the 57 roadside sites were resampled where it was determined that sample conditions became less than ideal (i.e., too windy) during the first site visit. A modified point count survey was conducted along the Assiniboine River due to severe flooding that prevented overland access. A canoe was used to access riparian habitat along the river on June 7, 2011. Observers travelled to 12 predetermined stations and pulled into the trees to remain stationary on site. Five-minute point counts were sampled using the same protocols as the land-based surveys.

3.3 BIRDS OF PREY SURVEY

Two locations were surveyed for birds of prey on April 30, 2011 (Map 2). Both sites selected were located along the Assiniboine River. The northern sample site was located adjacent to D12P where it crossed the Assiniboine River. The southern site was located 1.5 km east of the study area because access was limited due to flooding at the time of this survey. Survey locations focused on those geographic features in the D83P study area such as wide rivers and valleys, which tend to channel and concentrate birds of prey during spring migration. The Assiniboine River valley was determined to be the only site in the D83P study area that approached these criteria.

Raptor surveys were conducted between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The northern location was sampled first for 30 minutes and the southern location was sampled over four consecutive 30-minute observation periods. The maximum observation distance at each site was estimated at 300 m. Although a 360 degree view was afforded to the observer, efforts were focused along the Assiniboine River and not surrounding cropland cover type. The position of the sample station was collected using GPS. The biologist recorded information on species, number of individuals, sex, habitat, direction of travel, flight height, and distance and direction from the observer. Incidental observations of species at risk and stick nests were also recorded during all studies. Photographs were taken at each site.



3.4 RECONNAISSANCE SURVEYS AND INCIDENTAL OBSERVATIONS

A reconnaissance survey of the study area was conducted on May 14, 2011 to assess the accessibility of potential sampling sites due to severe overland flooding of the Assiniboine River. All birds observed during this survey were recorded and treated as incidental observations. General survey stops were selected opportunistically as encountered, and where the biologist determined that the habitat at the survey stop was of interest. Photographs of habitat features were taken at most sites. Additional incidental observations include all mammals, amphibians, and reptiles observed, and birds observed outside of the established protocols for the breeding bird and raptor surveys. Tetra Tech also recorded wildlife observations during rare plant surveys, and these observations are contained within the report.

3.5 Habitat capability assessments and route evaluation

Bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian habitat capability assessments were conducted for the D83P study area. Habitat capability is defined as the potential for an area of land or water to provide an appropriate biophysical environment upon which an organism in question depends on, directly or indirectly, to carry out its life processes¹. To identify areas having the highest values for wildlife, and in particular, those wildlife habitats that may be most sensitive to potential disturbances in the D83P study area, three simple habitat capability models were constructed; one for each wildlife group including birds, mammals, and amphibians and reptiles.

The qualitative descriptive models that follow (Sections 3.5.1 to 3.5.3) were developed from a limited review of primary literature and by using professional judgment to determine the relative importance of wildlife habitat capability in the D83P study area. Three categorical variables (i.e., low, moderate and high) were used to differentiate between less important and more important potential wildlife habitats. Only those wildlife habitats of moderate or high importance are expressed on the habitat capability maps. Where possible, field data and further professional judgement were used to qualitatively validate the underlying assumptions and performance of each model developed (see Section 4).

Data used to interpret, quantify and map wildlife habitat capability for the D83P study area included LCCEB cover types and Canada Land Inventory (CLI) land class capability (Table 1, Section 3.1). The CLI is based on a national system developed in conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Service and the game branches of the provinces (Canada Land Inventory 1998a and 1998b). The CLI land capability was assessed using interpretation of aerial photographs and by field surveys and is intended to serve as an inventory tool for land-use planning and wildlife protection (Canada Land Inventory 1998a and 1998b). Land capability for wildlife considers the quantity and quality of food, protective cover, and space to meet the needs for survival, growth and reproduction (Canada Land Inventory 1998a and 1998b). CLI land class capability is

¹ Adapted from Dunster and Dunster (1996)



ranked 1 through 7 with class 1 being highly product and having no limitation to productivity and class 7 having significant restrictions making an area uninhabitable (Canada Land Inventory 1998a and 1998b). The results were mapped using ArcGIS 9.2.

Habitat capability was assessed by calculating the amount of native land cover types compared to disturbed, non-native land cover types in the D83P study area. In some cases, the modeled extent of wildlife habitat capability is qualified, limited or refined with expressions of land class capabilities such as in the case for waterfowl and ungulates, or in the case of certain species such as amphibians, even disturbed areas (e.g., ditches) might provide relatively important habitat for the maintenance of wildlife corridors and landscape connectivity. Maps presented in this report were produced using Manitoba Hydro's Data Management Protocols and ORIENTIS System.

In addition to the production of wildlife habitat capability maps for birds, mammals, and reptiles and amphibians, two other desktop evaluation exercises were conducted: the identification of potential environmentally sensitive sites; and a preliminary description and evaluation of three alternative transmission line concept routes located in the D83P study area. The requirement for the identification of environmentally sensitive sites and the introduction of transmission line route concepts were developed to provide context for future studies concerning the selection of Valued Environmental Components (VECs) and for the development and selection of alternative transmission line routes.

3.5.1 BIRD HABITAT CAPABILITY MODEL

Based on VEC considerations and potential connections with the D83P project, habitat capability assessments were conducted for three bird groups: songbirds, birds of prey and waterfowl. For birds, the total area of each native land cover type in the D83P study area was estimated using ArcGIS 9.2. Waterfowl habitat capability was assessed further by using CLI land capability data to qualify the extent and location of waterfowl habitat in the study area. The total area of native land cover types overlapped by areas with a land capability of class 3 or 4 was calculated to quantify waterfowl habitat capability. No class 1 or 2 were found in the study area and classes 5 and up were too low in habitat capability to support waterfowl populations. Definitions, as defined by CLI (1998a), for the selected land capability classes are as follows:

- Class 3 Lands in this class have slight limitations to the production of waterfowl.
 Capability on these lands is moderately high, but productivity may be reduced in some years because of occasional droughts. Slight limitations are due to climate or to characteristics of the land that affect the quality and quantity of habitat. These lands have a high proportion of both temporary and semi-permanent shallow marshes poorly interspersed with deep marshes and bodies of open water.
- Class 4 Lands in this class have moderate limitations to the production of waterfowl. Capability on these lands is moderate. Limitations are similar to those in class 3, but the degree is greater. Water areas are predominantly temporary ponds, or deep, open waters with poorly developed mash edges, or both (Canada Land Inventory 1998a).



Birds are capable of occupying almost all types of habitat found on the landscape in Manitoba, including anthropogenic environments. However, many bird species do exhibit strong breeding and foraging habitat preferences, often utilizing narrow niches within selected habitats (Power 1971). Songbirds use a wide variety of habitats ranging from grasslands to forest and wetlands, with diversity varying according to habitat type (Yahner 1988; Gates and Giffen 1991).

Raptor nests are commonly constructed of sticks and other plant material, usually in a tree, although some species may nest on the ground or on cliff faces (Snyder 2001a; Snyder 2001b). The availability of foraging perches nearby may influence the selection of nest sites, as well as cover offered by the surrounding habitat (Smith *et al.* 2003).

Waterfowl are abundant and breed throughout much of Manitoba (Newman *et al.* 2000), although they are much more common in the prairie pothole region of the province, arriving in early spring and departing in late fall, occasionally remaining in the province into December depending upon conditions (Baydack and Taylor 2003). Waterfowl utilize water bodies for breeding; however they show no preference for permanent water bodies over semi-permanent wetlands (Rotella and Ratti 1992). Waterfowl typically nest in the vicinity of water, usually on the ground or in tree cavities (Kaufman 1996).

Bird Habitat Capability Model

Based on VEC considerations and potential connections with the D83P project, a general habitat capability model using LCCEB cover types was created for songbirds, birds of prey and waterfowl. The global bird model was enhanced for waterfowl using both CLI and LCCEB data.

Assumptions

- Vertical vegetation structure and diversity are important components of bird habitat.
- All native vegetation cover types provide nesting and foraging habitat for a large variety of bird species.
- While non-native vegetation cover types are used by a few bird species, it does not provide high quality habitat. Exceptions may include rare bird species.
- The habitat requirements of disturbance-tolerant and invasive bird species are less important than those of neotropical migrants, sensitive species or rare species that require native habitat.
- Important migration corridors in southern Manitoba include the Assiniboine River and possibly, the La Salle River.
- Waterfowl habitat includes breeding, nesting, foraging and migration staging areas, which in part, can be found on some agricultural lands; productivity however, is limited by land capability.



Model

Bird Habitat Capability

- LCCEB categories include broadleaf dense, broadleaf open, broadleaf, grassland, herb, shrub tall, shrubland, wetland shrub, and wetland.
- Waterbodies and streams.
- Waterfowl component LCCEB native cover classes in CLI land capability classes 3 and 4.

3.5.2 MAMMAL HABITAT CAPABILITY MODEL

In order to assess mammal habitat capability in the D83P study area native LCCEB cover types were used where the total area of each native land cover type in the D83P study area was estimated using ArcGIS 9.2. Ungulate habitat capability was further assessed using CLI land capability data. The total area of native land cover types overlapped by areas with a land capability of class 3, 3W or 4 was calculated to quantify ungulate habitat. No class 1 or 2 were found in the study area and classes 5 and up were too low in habitat capability to support ungulate populations. Definitions, as defined by CLI (1998b), for the selected land capability classes are as follows:

- Class 3 Lands in this class have slight limitations to the production of ungulates.
 Capability on these lands is moderately high, but productivity may be reduced in some years. Slight limitations are due to characteristics of the land that affect the quality and quantity of habitat, or to climatic factors that limit the mobility of ungulates or the availability of food and cover.
- Class 3W Lands in this special class are class 3 areas that are winter ranges on which animals from surrounding areas depend.
- Class 4 Lands in this have moderate limitations to the production of ungulates.
 Capability on these lands is moderate. Limitations are similar to those in class 3, but the degree is greater (Canada Land Inventory 1998b).

Riparian areas often contain habitat for aquatic furbearers such as beaver and muskrat. However, these sites tend to be fragmented in places, and are often too narrow to provide sufficient cover as travel corridors for terrestrial mammal species, with the exception of those that may tolerate or thrive in heavily disturbed human-dominated and agricultural landscapes. White-tailed deer fall into this category. For example, Banfield (1987) reports that while it is commonly believed that white-tailed deer prefer oldergrowth forests, they in fact inhabit a variety of more suitable habitats, such as edges of deciduous forest, stream banks, swamps and swamp edges; habitats which are also utilized by a variety of other mammals including raccoon and beaver (Banfield 1987). However, thermal cover for white-tailed deer and other mammal species is sparse in the study area, and might be limited to woodlots and remnants of river bottom forest along the Assiniboine River and riparian forest along the La Salle River.



Mammal Habitat Capability Model

Based on VEC considerations and potential connections with the D83P project, a general habitat capability model using LCCEB cover types was created for mammals. The global mammal model was enhanced for ungulates using both CLI and LCCEB data.

Assumptions

- Vertical vegetation structure and diversity are important components of mammal habitat.
- All native vegetation cover types provide breeding, foraging and thermal cover for a large variety of mammal species. Forest cover and water is particularly important to many species.
- While non-native vegetation cover types are used by many mammal species, it does not provide high quality habitat. Exceptions may include rare mammal species.
- The habitat requirements of disturbance-tolerant and invasive mammal species are less important than those of migrants (e.g., bats), sensitive species or rare species that require native habitat.
- Important movement corridors in southern Manitoba include the Assiniboine River and the La Salle River.
- White-tailed deer habitat includes breeding, foraging and thermal cover, which in part, can be found on agricultural lands; productivity and survival however, is limited by land capability.

Model

Mammal Habitat Capability

- LCCEB categories include broadleaf dense, broadleaf open, broadleaf, grassland, herb, shrub tall, shrubland, wetland shrub, and wetland.
- Waterbodies and streams.
- Ungulate component LCCEB native cover classes in CLI land capability classes 3, 3W & 4.

3.5.3 AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE HABITAT CAPABILITY MODEL

In order to assess amphibian and reptile habitat capability in the D83P study area native LCCEB cover types were used where the total area of each native land cover type in the D83P study area was estimated using ArcGIS 9.2. In addition, the area of water bodies and lengths of streams were included as amphibian habitat. The edges of roads were mapped to simulate amphibian and reptile habitat found in roadside ditches, which intermittently have standing, shallow water and vegetation; however, the area of potential habitat capability was not calculated as it was unknown whether ditches would contain water. Cultivated agricultural land, developed land and annual crops are less



suitable for amphibians and reptiles due to food and cover limitations, high risk of sensory disturbances and accidental mortality, and overall lack of water from drainage.

All amphibians that breed in Manitoba require water for reproduction, but many species are also found in terrestrial environments. For example, the American toad is primarily a forest toad found east of the Red River, while the Canadian toad prefers aspen parklands and prairie environments that may be found in the D83P study area. Frogs occupy a range of habitat in Manitoba, with preferences for wooded habitats (e.g., gray treefrog) to the boreal chorus frog's selection of marshy meadows and ditches (Preston 1982, Cook 1984).

Reptiles, such as red-sided garter snakes, are found in grasslands, woodlands, scrub, and forests adjacent to ponds, marshes, prairie potholes, roadside ditches, and streams (Stebbens 1985). Dens and snake hibernacula are typically found in along creek and river valleys with exposed shale outcrops, limestone formations, anthills, and small mammal burrows (Preston 1982). Northern prairie skink (listed as Endangered by *Species at Risk Act* [SARA]) and plains hognose snake are highly unlikely to occur in the study area due to habitat limitations (i.e., the absence of dry sandy soil grasslands) and other general range limitations.

Amphibian and Reptile Habitat Capability Model

Based on VEC considerations and potential connections with the D83P project, a general habitat capability model was created for amphibians and reptiles using LCCEB cover types.

Assumptions

- All native vegetation cover types provide breeding, foraging and cover for a variety
 of amphibian and reptile species. The proximity of water is particularly important to
 all amphibian species.
- Amphibian and reptile habitat is often associated due to common feeding requirements and predator-prey relationships.
- While non-native vegetation cover types are used by a few species, it does not provide high quality habitat. Exceptions may include non-native or semi-native habitat adjacent to water.
- Road side ditches and channelized creeks provide limited habitat to some amphibian and reptile species and are considered somewhat important to maintain connectivity of amphibian habitat throughout the landscape in agro-Manitoba.
 Western painted turtle habitat does not include ditches and channelized creeks.
- Plains hognose snake or northern prairie skink are not included, as these species would be limited to dry, sandy soil, grassland environments.



Model

Amphibian and Reptile Habitat Capability

- LCCEB categories include broadleaf dense, broadleaf open, broadleaf, grassland, herb, shrub tall, shrubland, wetland shrub, and wetland.
- Waterbodies and streams.
- Edges of roads were used to define ditches associated with them.

3.5.4 IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SITES

Environmentally sensitive sites are defined as locations, features, areas, activities or facilities that could be identified in the D83P study area to be ecologically, socially, economically or culturally important or sensitive to disturbance and require protection during construction and operation of the project. For wildlife and habitat, environmentally sensitive sites may require special consideration because of the disproportionately high role they play in maintaining ecosystem function. Considerations for the identification of such sites include critical wildlife habitats, the presence of listed species and landscape connectivity, including existing wildlife movement corridors.

3.5.5 EVALUATION OF THREE ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION LINE CONCEPT ROUTES

The amount of habitat capability available along different routing options was estimated using ArcGIS 9.2. Three conceptual routes have been identified (Map 1). While routes A and C were easily identifiable route B was selected from a variety of conceptual options. The option selected as 'route B' was the route which has the least overlap either A or C. Each route was given a 200 m buffer in order to estimate the amount of area potentially influenced by the project. The LCCEB layer was then clipped by the buffered transmission line routes and the area of each LCCEB polygon in each route was calculated.



4.0 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

4.1 BREEDING BIRD RESULTS

4.1.1 Breeding Bird Surveys

A total of 1,096 birds from 67 species were recorded on 59 plots in the D83P study area during the breeding bird surveys, with an average number of 19.2 birds/plot. In descending rank order of abundance, the five most common bird species found during the breeding bird surveys included: red-winged blackbird, barn swallow, American goldfinch, yellow warbler, and savannah sparrow (Table 2). Two species at risk, barn swallow and bobolink, were observed during the breeding bird surveys (Map 3).

The greatest number of species (n=58) recorded was found in cultivated agricultural land, followed by developed land (n=43) and grassland (n=29) (Table 3). This result was not surprising as these cover types are the most common in the study area, and the most intensively sampled. In addition, the greatest density of birds was observed near or along the Assiniboine and La Salle Rivers.

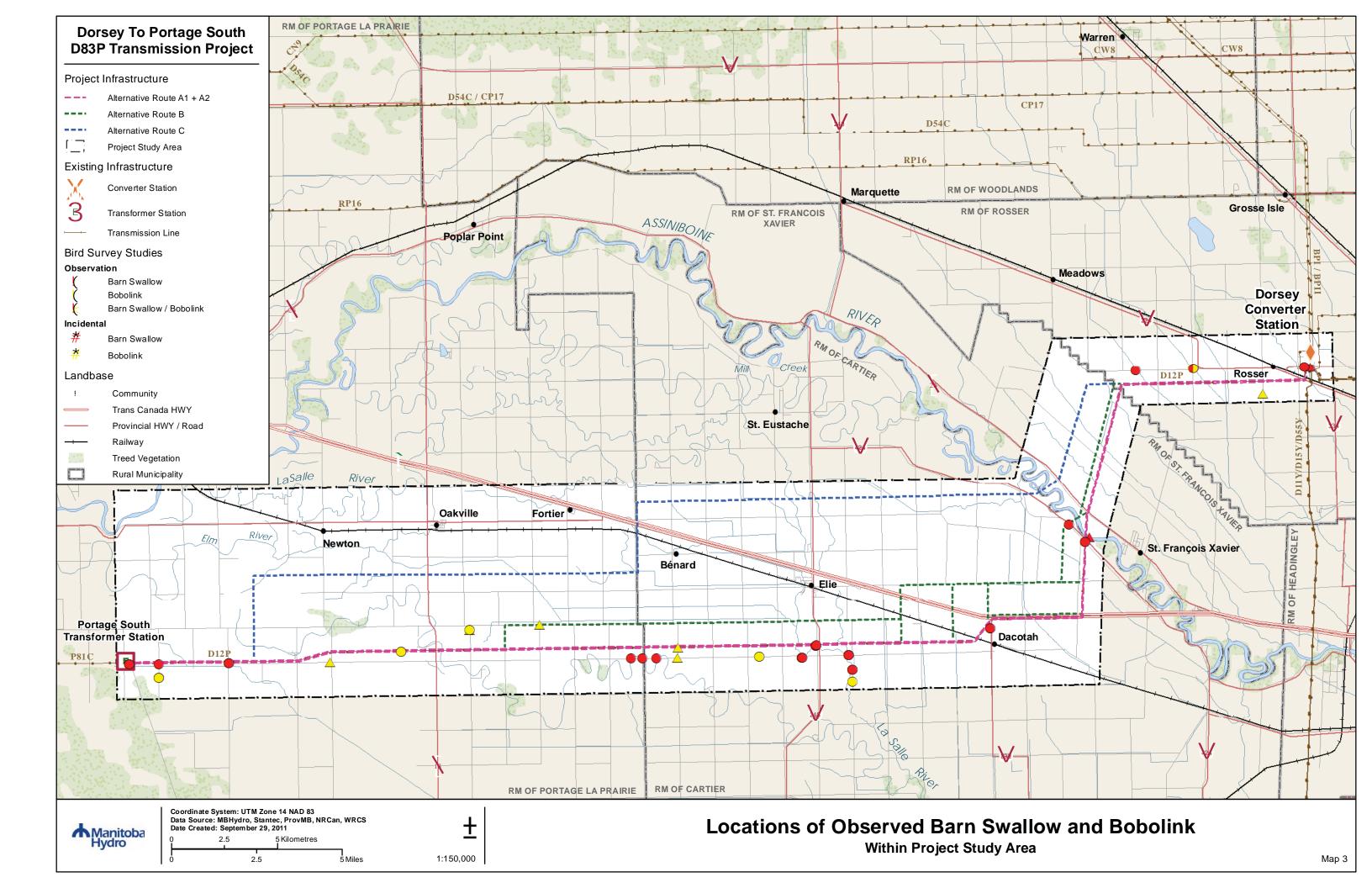
Bird species identified in the 16 developed habitat sample plots accounted for 43 of 67 species observed in all sampling plots, indicating bird diversity in the area is associated with disturbance tolerant species (Table 3). Most bird species observed in the developed habitats are common to disturbed landscapes. A few species such as hairy woodpecker, eastern wood-pewee and least flycatcher tolerate disturbance, but usually are associated with woodlots or forest habitat. Marbled godwit and western meadowlark tend to prefer unfragmented wetland and grassland habitats respectively. As several habitat specialists were found in the developed cover types, it is likely that this cover class contains a variety and mixture of habitats such as forest and grassland that are adjacent to the sample sites and suitable for these species. Both barn swallow and bobolink were observed in developed habitats (Map 4). Both species are listed as threatened by COSEWIC, but neither has status or schedule under the SARA.

Bird species identified in the 28 cultivated-agricultural land sample plots accounted for 58 of the 67 bird species observed in this study (Table 3). Similar to the species recorded in developed habitat, most bird species observed in cultivated agricultural land are common to disturbed landscapes, or are opportunistic and non-native species such as European starling and rock pigeon. Also similar to developed habitat, a variety of species associated with wetlands, grasslands and forest were recorded in this habitat category, including sedge wren, western meadowlark and yellow-throated vireo respectively. Barn swallow and bobolink were observed using this habitat type.



Table 2: Breeding Bird Survey by Species

Species	# individuals	# Indv/Plot	Species	# Individuals	# Indv/Plot
Alder Flycatcher	3	0.05	House Wren	17	0.30
American Crow	37	0.65	Killdeer	19	0.33
American Goldfinch	73	1.28	Le Conte's Sparrow	1	0.02
American Redstart	6	0.11	Least Flycatcher	18	0.32
American Robin	37	0.65	Mallard	40	0.70
Baltimore Oriole	20	0.35	Marbled Godwit	2	0.04
Barn Swallow	76	1.33	Marsh Wren	5	0.09
Black-and-White Warbler	1	0.02	Mourning Dove	39	0.68
Black-billed Magpie	9	0.16	Northern Shoveler	2	0.04
Black-capped Chickadee	4	0.07	Red-eyed Vireo	22	0.39
Blue Jay	4	0.07	Red-winged Blackbird	157	2.75
Blue-winged Teal	3	0.05	Ring-billed Gull	17	0.30
Bobolink	14	0.25	Rock Pigeon	1	0.02
Brewer's Blackbird	46	0.81	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4	0.07
Brown-headed Cowbird	30	0.53	Sandhill Crane	1	0.02
Canada Goose	15	0.26	Savannah Sparrow	49	0.86
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	0.05	Sedge Wren	4	0.07
Chipping Sparrow	7	0.12	Song Sparrow	30	0.53
Clay-colored Sparrow	34	0.60	Sora	8	0.14
Common Grackle	19	0.33	Spotted Sandpiper	2	0.04
Common Yellowthroat	9	0.16	Tree Swallow	7	0.12
Double-crested Cormorant	1	0.02	Vesper Sparrow	7	0.12
Downy Woodpecker	2	0.04	Virginia Rail	1	0.02
Eastern Kingbird	11	0.19	Warbling Vireo	18	0.32
Eastern Phoebe	3	0.05	Western Kingbird	1	0.02
Eastern Wood-Pewee	9	0.16	Western Meadowlark	28	0.49
European Starling	4	0.07	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	0.05
Franklin's Gull	12	0.21	Wild Turkey	1	0.02
Gray Catbird	7	0.12	Wilson's Snipe	4	0.07
Great Crested Flycatcher	15	0.26	Yellow Warbler	51	0.89
Hairy Woodpecker	7	0.12	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	0.04
Hooded Merganser	1	0.02	Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	0.02
House Finch	2	0.04	Yellow-throated Vireo	2	0.04
House Sparrow	8	0.14			



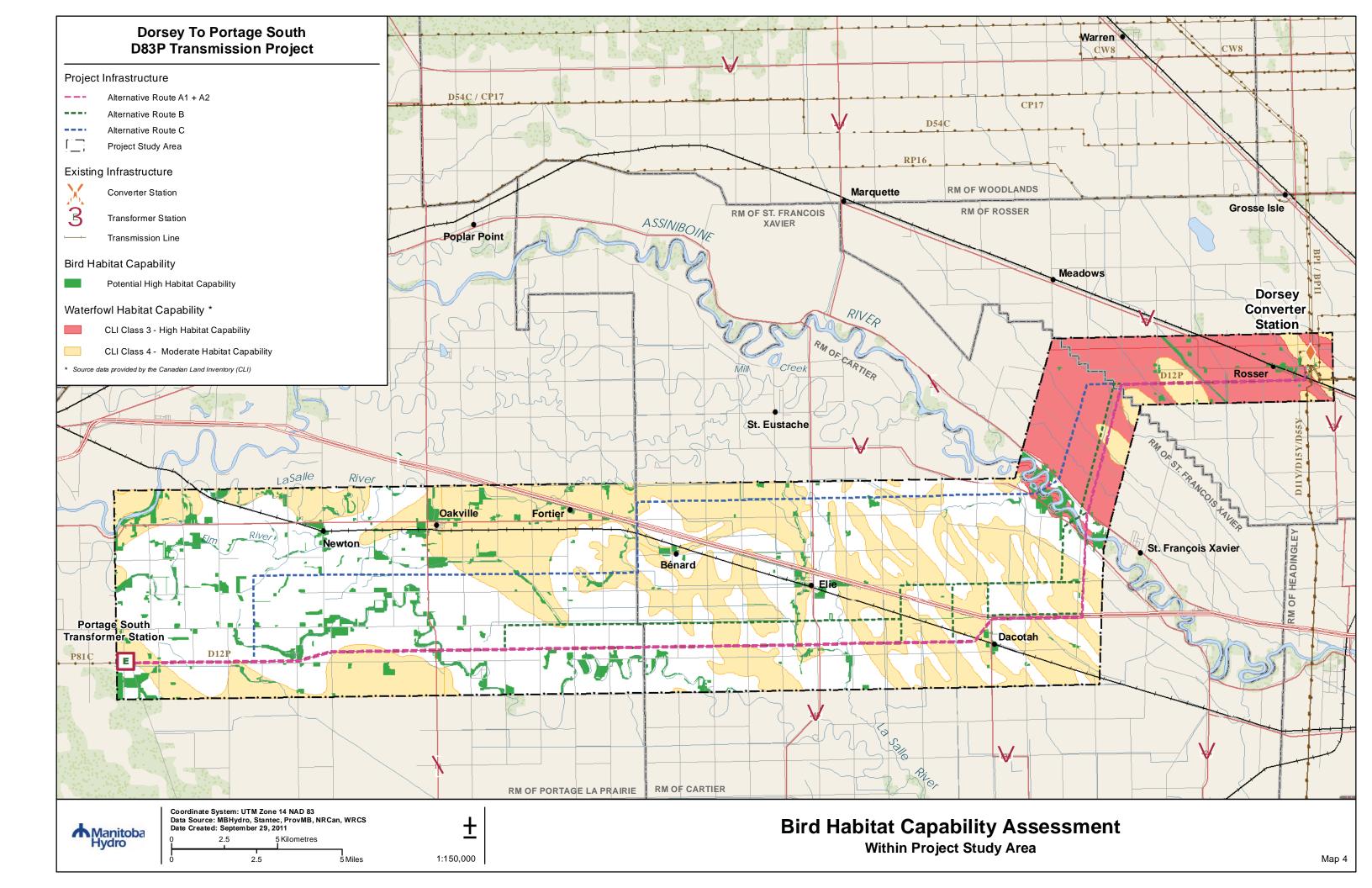




Table 3: Breeding Bird Survey Results by LCCEB Cover Type

	Broa	dleaf		Agricultural nd	Deve	loped	Gras	sland	He	erb	Shru	b Tall
Number of Plots		=6		:29		:16		=6		=1	n:	
Species	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot
Alder Flycatcher	1	0.17	1	0.34					1	1		
American Crow	6	1.00	14	0.48	12	0.75	3	0.50	1	1	1	1
American Goldfinch	13	2.17	32	1.13	13	0.81	11	1.83	4	4		
American Redstart	2	0.33	2	0.69					2	2		
American Robin	4	0.67	22	0.76	7	0.44	3	0.50	1	1		
Baltimore Oriole	2	0.33	8	0.28	5	0.31	4	0.67	1	1		
Barn Swallow			57	1.97	18	1.13	1	0.17				
Black-and-White Warbler			1	0.34								
Black-billed Magpie			8	0.28	1	0.63						
Black-capped Chickadee	1	0.17	3	0.13								
Blue Jay			4	0.14								
Blue-winged Teal					2	0.13	1	0.17				
Bobolink			9	0.31	5	0.31						
Brewer's Blackbird			26	0.90	18	1.13	2	0.33				
Brown-headed Cowbird			15	0.52	11	0.69	3	0.50			1	1
Canada Goose	1	0.17	13	0.45			1	0.17				
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	0.33							1	1		
Chipping Sparrow			5	0.17	2	0.13						
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0.17	2	0.69	11	0.69	2	0.33				
Common Grackle			5	0.17	14	0.88						
Common Yellowthroat			5	0.17	4	0.25						
Double-crested Cormorant			1	0.34								
Downy Woodpecker					1	0.63	1	0.17				
Eastern Kingbird			5	0.17	5	0.31	1	0.17				
Eastern Phoebe	1	0.17	2	0.69								
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	0.33	6	0.27	1	0.63						

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	Broa	dleaf		Agricultural nd	Deve	loped	Gras	sland	He	erb	Shru	b Tall
Number of Plots	n:	=6	n=	:29		:16	n	=6	n:	=1	n:	=1
Species	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot
European Starling	1	0.17	3	0.13								
Franklin's Gull			12	0.41								
Gray Catbird	1	0.17	3	0.13	2	0.13					1	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	5	0.83	8	0.28	1	0.63	1	0.17				
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0.17	3	0.13	3	0.19						
Hooded Merganser	1	0.17										
House Finch			1	0.34	1	0.63						
House Sparrow			5	0.17	3	0.19						
House Wren			11	0.38	4	0.25	2	0.33				
Killdeer			1	0.34	8	0.50	1	0.17				
Le Conte's Sparrow							1	0.17				
Least Flycatcher	2	0.33	11	0.38	5	0.31						
Mallard	1	0.17	12	0.41	12	0.75	15	2.50				
Marbled Godwit			1	0.34	1	0.63						
Marsh Wren					4	0.25	1	0.17				
Mourning Dove	2	0.33	2	0.69	9	0.56	8	1.33				
Northern Shoveler			2	0.69								
Red-eyed Vireo	5	0.83	12	0.41	2	0.13	2	0.33	1	1		
Red-winged Blackbird	1	0.17	59	2.34	82	5.13	14	2.33			1	1
Ring-billed Gull			6	0.27	1	0.63			1	1		
Rock Pigeon			1	0.34								
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0.17	3	0.13								
Sandhill Crane			1	0.34								
Savannah Sparrow			35	1.27	14	0.88						
Sedge Wren			1	0.34	3	0.19						
Song Sparrow	4	0.67	15	0.52	9	0.56	2	0.33				
Sora					5	0.31	3	0.50				



			Cultivated	Agricultural								
	Broa	dleaf	La	nd	Deve	loped	Gras	sland	He	erb	Shru	b Tall
Number of Plots	n:	=6	n=	-29	n=	=16	n	=6	n	=1	n:	=1
Species	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot	Count	#/plot
Spotted Sandpiper					2	0.13						
Tree Swallow			3	0.13	4	0.25						
Vesper Sparrow			5	0.17	2	0.13						
Virginia Rail							1	0.17				
Warbling Vireo	4	0.67	7	0.24	3	0.19	2	0.33	1	1	1	1
Western Kingbird			1	0.34								
Western Meadowlark	1	0.17	1	0.34	13	0.81	4	0.67				
White-breasted Nuthatch			2	0.69	1	0.63						
Wild Turkey			1	0.34								
Wilson's Snipe			3	0.13			1	0.17				
Yellow Warbler	11	1.83	24	0.83	3	0.19	9	1.50	2	2	2	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1	0.34			1	0.17				
Yellow-shafted Flicker			1	0.34								
Yellow-throated Vireo			2	0.69								

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Twenty-seven bird species were identified in broadleaf habitat areas (Table 3); approximately one-half of the point count locations within this habitat type were located in the vicinity of the Assiniboine River. Observations of wildlife habitat in the Assiniboine river bottom forest included large cottonwood trees (*Populus deltoides*), basswood (*Tilia americana*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). Other tree species included trembling aspen (*P. tremuloides*) and balsam poplar (*P. balsamifera*). Large-diameter trees were observed mainly along the Assiniboine River in the study area. A few large trees were also observed near the La Salle River.

Twenty-nine bird species were identified in grassland habitat areas (Table 3) including the barn swallow. Most species seen in grassland habitat areas were observed in other habitat types and could be considered disturbance or generalist species. Seldom seen species in grassland habitat areas included blue-winged teal, downy woodpecker, marsh wren, sora, Wilson's snipe and yellow-bellied sapsucker. Within the sampled grassland area was the single sighting of a Le Conte's sparrow and Virginia rail. Both these species are more common to wetland habitat which, along with sightings of mallard and marsh wren, indicates that there may be an association between grasslands and wetlands in the study area.

Surveys in shrub-tall habitat (Table 3) and herb habitat (Table 3) indicated the presence of six and 11 species respectively. As only a single site was sampled in shrub-tall and one site sampled in the herb habitat classification these data should not be considered to be representative of bird species associated with these habitats.

A total of 76 barn swallows and 14 bobolinks, both listed as threatened under COSEWIC, were widely distributed in the study area; however, most observations occurred south and west of Elie, Manitoba. Barn swallows were most often observed feeding in cultivated agricultural lands or developed areas near drainage ditches and farmyards. A few nests were observed under bridges and inside large culverts. Occasionally, barn swallows were observed in grassland habitat. Bobolink detection frequency was distributed equally between cultivated agricultural land and developed areas. Bobolink songs and flight displays were observed mainly in alfalfa fields, which are considered uncommon in the study area; grasslands and certain types of wetlands can also be used for breeding and nesting.

Eight breeding bird stations were re-sampled in part, due to timing and deteriorating weather conditions. The data from the first visit of these eight sites were excluded from Table 3. No bird species were detected on these plots during the first visit that were not detected during the second visit.

The observation of bird species in each habitat type can be indicative of a number of factors including potential community relationships between species and habitat requirements needed for the species to be present. While this type of habitat analysis is potentially useful, caution should be applied in this case as the value of these data are limited by a number of factors, including sample size, potential inaccuracies in habitat



data, and potential issues of scale and habitat adjacency. Further, due to overland flooding in many areas surveyed near rivers and creeks, the presence of groundnesting species were most likely under-represented. Finally, the number of plots falling into these habitat classes was not equally distributed. The final assessment of the quality and quantity of these bird communities, and the distribution of local populations therefore, should be based on supplemental data and further analysis.

4.1.2 BIRDS OF PRFY SURVEY

During the birds of prey surveys, a total of 115 birds were observed: six at the northern site (sampled for 30 minutes, one occasion) and 109 at the southern site (sampled for 120 minutes, one occasion). Only two raptors were observed: 2 rough-legged hawks at the southern site. An additional 30 species of birds were also observed during these surveys (Table 4). Yellow-rumped warbler, purple martin, rough-legged hawk, ruby-crowned kinglet, and western palm warbler were not observed during the breeding bird survey. The weather conditions during the birds of prey survey were only fair, which likely resulted in the reduced number of birds of prey observations. No species at risk were recorded during the survey.

Although the presence of two rough-legged hawks migrating through this area does not confirm that the Assiniboine River is a migration corridor for birds of prey, other nearby sites suggests that it is still possible. At least one site along the Red River at St. Adolphe (i.e., located about 40 km SE of the Assiniboine River sample sites) is well known for spring bird migration, which includes large numbers of birds of prey, waterfowl and other species (Carey *et al.* 2003). Similarly, movement of Neotropical species through the southern site (e.g., western palm warbler and yellow-rumped warbler) indicate that the adjacent river bottom forest might be an important movement corridor for songbirds and other spring migrants.

4.1.3 INCIDENTAL OBSERVATIONS

Green-winged teal, American Kestrel, American white pelican, bald eagle, bank swallow, cedar waxwing, common raven, eastern bluebird, grey partridge, northern harrier, great horned owl, greater yellowlegs, red-tailed hawk, ring-necked duck, Swainson's hawk, upland sandpiper, wood duck, and yellow-headed blackbird were species observed incidentally that were not observed during other surveys. Bobolink and barn swallow were the only species at risk recorded during the reconnaissance surveys (Map 3). Refer to Appendix C for a list of all incidental bird species observations.

Human-supplemented bird habitats in the study area included wood duck, purple marten, eastern blue bird and tree swallow nest boxes. A few bird feeders were also observed. At least two American crow or common raven stick nests were observed on D12P transmission line tower structures (at approximately UTM 14 U 609138 5538022 and 14 U 595629 5525762).



Table 4: Number of Species Observations during the Birds of Prey Survey

Site	Species	Number of Observations
Northern	American crow	1
	blue jay	1
	European starling	1
	mallard	1
	ring-billed gull	1
	song sparrow	1
Southern	American crow	1
	American robin	2
	black-capped chickadee	1
	blue jay	1
	Brewer's blackbird	9
	brown-headed cowbird	1
	Canada goose	2
	common grackle	35
	downy woodpecker	1
	eastern phoebe	1
	Franklin's gull	3
	hairy woodpecker	1
	hooded merganser	2
	killdeer	1
	mallard	19
	purple martin	1
	ring-billed gull	5
	rough-legged hawk	2
	ruby-crowned kinglet	1
	song sparrow	1
	palm warbler	6
	white-breasted nuthatch	1
	white-throated sparrow	1
	yellow-rumped warbler	10
	northern flicker	1

^{*} species in bold-face fonts are spring migrants unlikely to breed in the study area

Eleven individuals of six mammal species were observed during the bird surveys and include red squirrel, muskrat, beaver, racoon, coyote, and white-tailed deer. None of the mammal species observed is a species at risk.

Four amphibian species, and sixteen individuals, were recorded incidentally during the bird surveys. Boreal chorus frogs were the most commonly observed, followed by northern leopard frogs, listed as Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act and the



COSEWIC. Other amphibian species observed includes American toad, Canadian toad, wood frog and gray treefrog.

A single red-sided garter snake was observed during vegetation field studies.

4.2 BIRD HABITAT CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

A total of 37.62 km², or 3.54% of the study area, was identified as having higher quality capability for most bird species such as songbirds and birds of prey (Map 4). Excluding waterfowl, high quality native habitat for birds includes forest, grasslands, wetlands and riparian areas. The majority of the native landcover types including broadleaf and grassland are found primarily west of the town of Elie, Manitoba. The Assiniboine River is the exception, as it also has high quality capability for birds. Waterfowl habitat is found mainly along the Assiniboine River and eastward, with the quality of waterfowl capability generally decreasing westward across the study area. The quality of capability surrounding the La Salle River is the lowest in the study area for waterfowl. Only 12.07 km², or 1.14% of the study area, was identified as habitat for waterfowl when assessing cover types found in the areas with a class 3 or 4 CLI land capability value.

Field observations confirmed that native bird habitat, and in particular for songbirds, waterfowl, and birds of prey, appeared to be very limited in the D83P study area as agricultural croplands dominate the landscape. Field studies that focused on native habitat for birds occasionally encountered small habitat patches in agricultural cropland and developed areas that were not captured by LCCEB cover types. Stand-level native habitat, and other non-native tree, shrub and grass habitat patches that are suitable for birds and other wildlife was present in small woodlots and shelterbelts on rural farmyards, and for some private properties along the Assiniboine and La Salle Rivers. Overall, the D83P study area is heavily fragmented with low vegetation diversity and habitat capability for most bird species; a few potential bird movement corridors are connected with the exception northwest along the Assiniboine River, and generally east-west along the La Salle River.

4.3 MAMMAL HABITAT CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

The highest quality habitat capability is found in the western portion of the study area and along the La Salle and Assiniboine Rivers (Map 5). There is very limited mammal habitat east of the town of Elie, Manitoba, with the exception of the Assiniboine River area. A total of 37.62 km², or 3.54% of the study area, was identified as having higher quality habitat capabilities for most mammal species. For ungulates in particular, 21.68 km², or 2.04% of the study area, was identified as higher quality habitat capability when assessing cover types only found in the areas with a class 3, 3W or 4 CLI land capability value.

Field observations confirmed that undisturbed and native mammal habitat appeared to be very limited in the D83P study area as agricultural croplands dominate the landscape (Table 1). Similar to birds, site-specific native mammal habitat tends to be distributed



around rural farmyards, pastures, and along the Assiniboine and La Salle Rivers. Some of the small habitat patches are not always captured at the mapping scale represented by the LCCEB. The study area is heavily fragmented and very few potential wildlife movement corridors are connected with native vegetation with the possible exception northwest along the Assiniboine River, and generally east-west along portions of the La Salle River and adjacent creeks.

4.4 AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE HABITAT CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

The highest quality amphibian and reptile habitat capability is found along the La Salle River and, to a lesser extent, Assiniboine River (Map 6). In addition, there appears to be a concentration of habitat on the western portion of the study area, where there is a series of remnant naturalized areas including streams, creeks and small water bodies. A total of 39.99 km², or 3.76%, of the study area, with an additional 492.58 km of streams, irrigation channels, and small rivers, was identified as having higher habitat capabilities for amphibians and reptiles that may be found in the D83P study area.

Other than anthropogenic habitat, field observations confirmed that native amphibian and reptile habitat appeared to be very limited in the D83P study area as agricultural croplands dominate the landscape. With the exception of some amphibian and reptile habitat provided by roadside ditches, and channelized creeks for boreal chorus frog, wood frog, and possibly, for red-sided garter snake, the area is heavily fragmented. Few marshes remain in the study area. Overwintering habitat for northern leopard frog is considered sparse in the study area, and it is likely limited to a few ponds, drainage channels, and to the Assiniboine and La Salle Rivers. Large snake hibernacula are unlikely to occur, and are most likely to be limited to small rock formations and small mammal burrows.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SITES

The Assiniboine River and La Salle River areas have relatively uncommon forest types located adjacent to a water features, and are considered as having higher bird habitat values relative to the rest of the D83P study area; three of these sites are located where different route options cross the Assiniboine River. The fourth site is located where Route A crosses the La Salle River (Map 7).

Although short-eared owls were not detected during field surveys, this species has been recorded in the area by others (Carey *et al.* 2003). Grasslands, wetlands and hayfields in the D83P study areas that are important for nesting and movements of short-eared owls qualify as environmentally sensitive areas. Similarly, yellow rail wetland habitat is considered an environmentally sensitive area. Other environmentally sensitive sites for COSEWIC-listed species include alfalfa fields and grasslands, which are important for bobolink nesting (Kauffman 1996), and structures, such as bridges and barns, near water, which are important for barn swallow nesting (Kauffman 1996).



The Assiniboine River and La Salle River areas have uncommon forest types located adjacent to a water features, and is considered as having higher mammal habitat values relative to the rest of the D83P study area. No other environmentally sensitive sites for mammals have been identified to date. Although white-tailed deer wintering yards are not expected to occur regularly in the study area, these may occur in heavily wooded areas along the Assiniboine River, and possibly elsewhere. Mammal dens could also be considered potentially sensitive sites; however these sites can vary year to year, tend to be very site-specific if they occur, and would require further field investigations to identify potential locations.

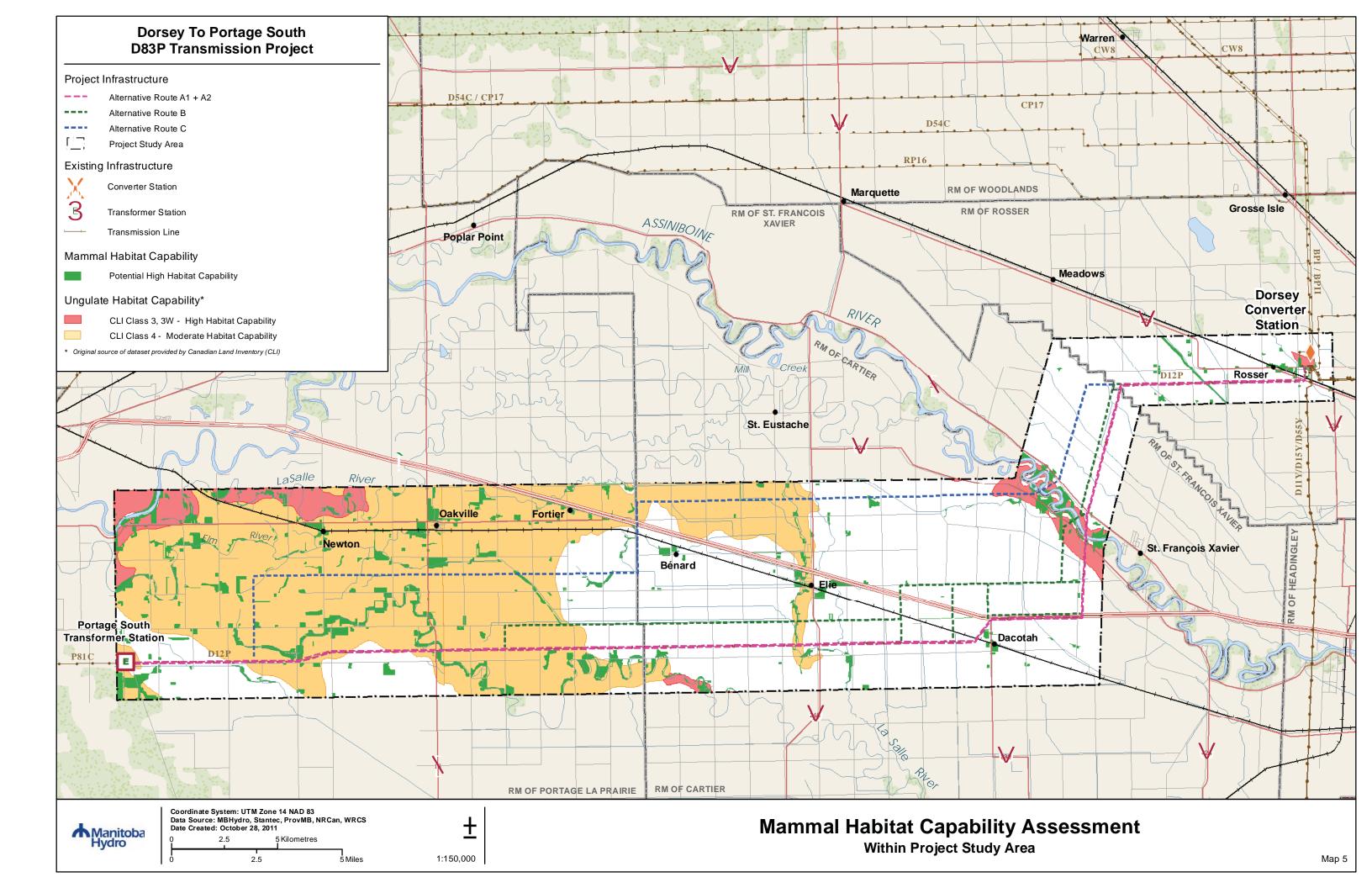
Environmentally sensitive sites for amphibians and reptiles include high-quality wetlands and snake hibernacula; however, none have been identified in the D83P study area to date. The Assiniboine River and La Salle River areas, which have an uncommon forest type adjacent to water, are considered to have high amphibian and reptile habitat values relative to the rest of the D83P study area.

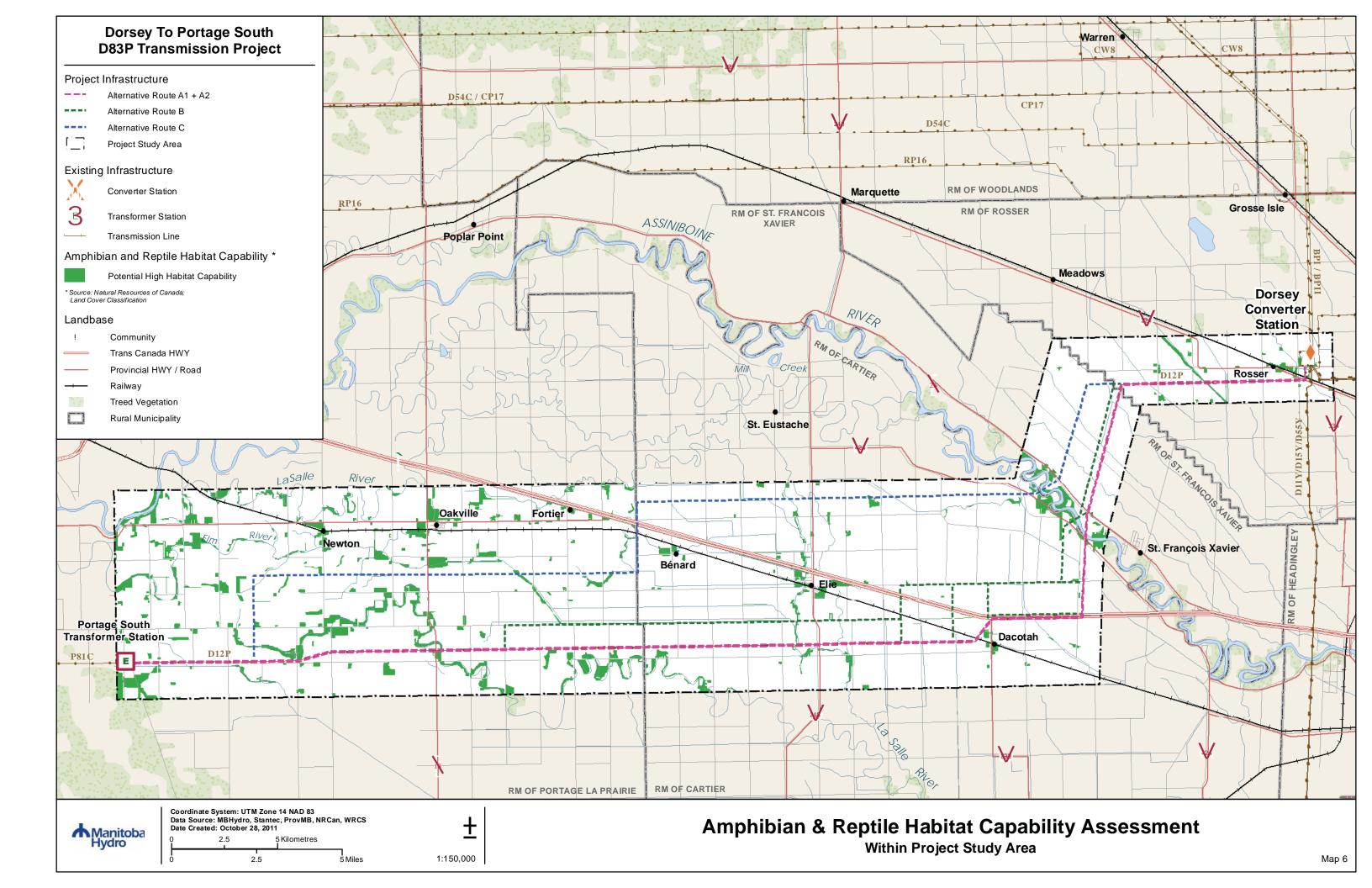
4.6 ALTERNATIVE ROUTE ASSESSMENT

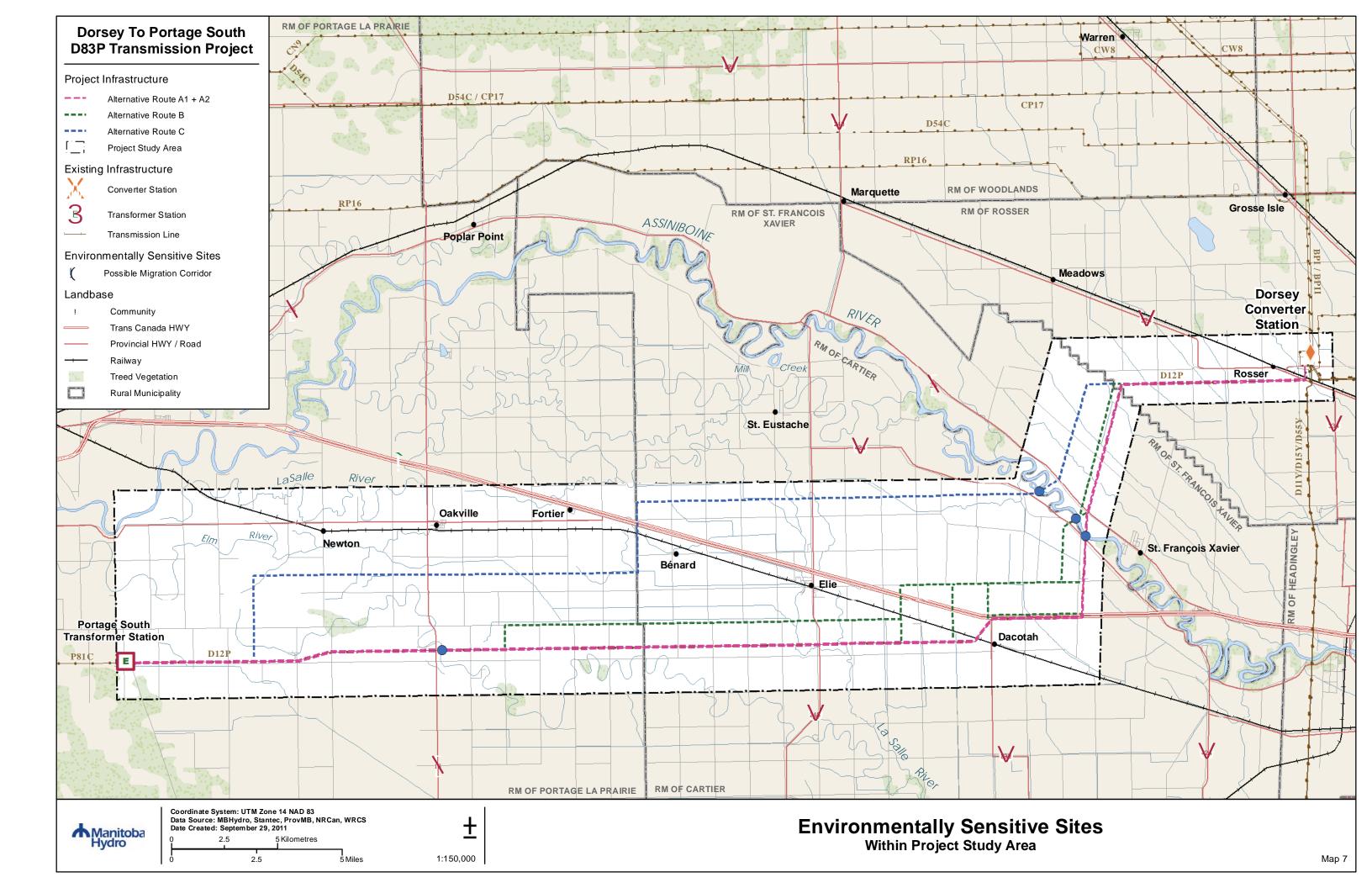
Cultivated agricultural land is the most common cover type in all three concept route options, followed by developed and annual crops (Table 5). Only minor differences are apparent among the options. Route C contains the greatest amount of broadleaf forest, which has important values as wildlife habitat. Route B has the greatest amount of grassland. All potential transmission line routes would cross at least two environmentally sensitive features, including the Assiniboine River and the La Salle River.

Table 5: LCCEB Cover Types Found in Three Potential Routes for the D83P Transmission Line

Cover Type	Area (Km²)						
	Route A	Route B	Route C				
annual crops	0.83	0.87	0.96				
broadleaf	0.10	0.16	0.17				
cultivated agricultural land	23.75	23.23	24.18				
developed	1.28	1.66	0.96				
exposed land	0	0	0.03				
grassland	0.55	0.76	0.58				
herb	0.04	0.00	0.03				
shrub tall	0.00	0	0.03				
water	0.05	0.05	0.06				
Total	26.71	26.88	27.17				









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APPENDIX A - LIST OF POTENTIAL SPECIES FOUND IN THE D83P STUDY



List of Potential Species Found in the D83P Study

English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Greater White-fronted Goose	Anser	albifrons	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Snow Goose	Chen	caerulescens	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Ross's Goose	Chen	rossii	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Canada Goose	Branta	canadensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Trumpeter Swan	Cygnus	buccinator	Bird	Extirpated	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Tundra Swan	Cygnus	columbianus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Wood Duck	Aix	sponsa	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Gadwall	Anas	strepera	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
American Wigeon	Anas	americana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
American Black Duck	Anas	rubripes	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Mallard	Anas	platyrhynchos	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Blue-winged Teal	Anas	discors	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Cinnamon Teal	Anas	cyanoptera	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Northern Shoveler	Anas	clypeata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Northern Pintail	Anas	acuta	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Green-winged Teal	Anas	crecca	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Canvasback	<i>Aythya</i>	valisineria	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Redhead	<i>Aythya</i>	americana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya</i>	collaris	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya</i>	marila	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya</i>	affinis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Harlequin Duck	Histrionicus	histrionicus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Surf Scoter	Melanitta	perspicillata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
White-winged Scoter	Melanitta	fusca	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Black Scoter	Melanitta	americana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Long-tailed Duck	Clangula	hyemalis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Bufflehead	Bucephala	albeola	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala	clangula	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Barrow's Goldeneye	Bucephala	islandica	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Hooded Merganser	Lophodytes	cucullatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Common Merganser	Mergus	merganser	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus	serrator	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Ruddy Duck	Oxyura	jamaicensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Gray Partridge	Perdix	perdix	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Ring-necked Pheasant	Phasianus	colchicus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa	umbellus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Tympanuchus	phasianellus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Wild Turkey	Meleagris	gallopavo	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Red-throated Loon	Gavia	stellata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Migrant
Common Loon	Gavia	immer	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus	podiceps	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Horned Grebe	Podiceps	auritus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps	grisegena	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Eared Grebe	Podiceps	nigricollis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Western Grebe	Aechmophorus	occidentalis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Clark's Grebe	Aechmophorus	clarkii	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Double-crested Cormorant	Phalacrocorax	auritus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
American White Pelican	Pelecanus	erythrorhynchos	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
American Bittern	Botaurus	lentiginosus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Least Bittern	Ixobrychus	exilis	Bird	N/A	Threatened	Rare migrant or visitor
Great Blue Heron	Ardea	herodias	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Great Egret	Ardea	alba	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Snowy Egret	Egretta	thula	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Little Blue Heron	Egretta	caerulea	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Tricolored Heron	Egretta	tricolor	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus	ibis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Green Heron	Butorides	virescens	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax	nycticorax	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron	Nyctanassa	violacea	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes	aura	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Osprey	Pandion	haliaetus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus	leucocephalus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Northern Harrier	Circus	cyaneus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter	striatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Cooper's Hawk	Accipiter	cooperii	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter	gentilis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo	lineatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo	platypterus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Swainson's Hawk	Buteo	swainsoni	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo	jamaicensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Ferruginous Hawk	Buteo	regalis	Bird	Threatened	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Rough-legged Hawk	Buteo	lagopus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Golden Eagle	Aquila	chrysaetos	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
American Kestrel	Falco	sparverius	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Merlin	Falco	columbarius	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Gyrfalcon	Falco	rusticolus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Peregrine Falcon	Falco	peregrinus	Bird	Endangered	Threatened	Regular migrant
Prairie Falcon	Falco	mexicanus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Yellow Rail	Coturnicops	noveboracensis	Bird	N/A	Special Concern	Breeding populations
Virginia Rail	Rallus	limicola	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Sora	Porzana	carolina	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
American Coot	Fulica	americana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Sandhill Crane	Grus	canadensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Whooping Crane	Grus	americana	Bird	Endangered	Endangered	Rare migrant or visitor
Black-bellied Plover	Pluvialis	squatarola	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
American Golden-Plover	Pluvialis	dominica	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Semipalmated Plover	Charadrius	semipalmatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Piping Plover	Charadrius	melodus	Bird	Endangered	Endangered	Breeding populations
Killdeer	Charadrius	vociferus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
American Avocet	Recurvirostra	americana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis	macularius	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Solitary Sandpiper	Tringa	solitaria	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa	melanoleuca	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Willet	Tringa	semipalmata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa	flavipes	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Upland Sandpiper	Bartramia	longicauda	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Eskimo Curlew	Numenius	borealis	Bird	Endangered	Endangered	Extirpated Breeder
Whimbrel	Numenius	phaeopus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Long-billed Curlew	Numenius	americanus	Bird	Endangered	Endangered	Extirpated Breeder
Hudsonian Godwit	Limosa	haemastica	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Marbled Godwit	Limosa	fedoa	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria	interpres	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Red Knot	Calidris	canutus	Bird	N/A	Endangered	Regular migrant
Sanderling	Calidris	alba	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Calidris	pusilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Least Sandpiper	Calidris	minutilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
White-rumped Sandpiper	Calidris	fuscicollis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Baird's Sandpiper	Calidris	bairdii	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Pectoral Sandpiper	Calidris	melanotos	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Purple Sandpiper	Calidris	maritima	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Dunlin	Calidris	alpina	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Stilt Sandpiper	Calidris	himantopus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Tryngites	subruficollis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Short-billed Dowitcher	Limnodromus	griseus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Long-billed Dowitcher	Limnodromus	scolopaceus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Wilson's Snipe	Gallinago	delicata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
American Woodcock	Scolopax	minor	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Wilson's Phalarope	Phalaropus	tricolor	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Red-necked Phalarope	Phalaropus	lobatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Bonaparte's Gull	Chroicocephalus	philadelphia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Little Gull	Hydrocoloeus	minutus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Franklin's Gull	Leucophaeus	pipixcan	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Ring-billed Gull	Larus	delawarensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
California Gull	Larus	californicus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Herring Gull	Larus	argentatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Thayer's Gull	Larus	thayeri	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Glaucous Gull	Larus	hyperboreus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Great Black-backed Gull	Larus	marinus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne	caspia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Black Tern	Chlidonias	niger	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Common Tern	Sterna	hirundo	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Forster's Tern	Sterna	forsteri	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Parasitic Jaeger	Stercorarius	parasiticus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Rock Pigeon	Columba	livia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Mourning Dove	Zenaida	macroura	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus	americanus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus	erythropthalmus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Eastern Screech-Owl	Megascops	asio	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Great Horned Owl	Bubo	virginianus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Snowy Owl	Bubo	scandiacus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular in winter
Northern Hawk Owl	Surnia	ulula	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Burrowing Owl	Athene	cunicularia	Bird	Endangered	Endangered	Breeding populations
Barred Owl	Strix	varia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Great Gray Owl	Strix	nebulosa	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Long-eared Owl	Asio	otus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Short-eared Owl	Asio	flammeus	Bird	N/A	Special Concern	Breeding populations
Boreal Owl	Aegolius	funereus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Aegolius	acadicus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles	minor	Bird	N/A	Threatened	Breeding populations
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Caprimulgus	vociferus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Chimney Swift	Chaetura	pelagica	Bird	N/A	Threatened	Breeding populations
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus	colubris	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle	alcyon	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes	lewis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes	erythrocephalus	Bird	N/A	Threatened	Breeding populations
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Melanerpes	carolinus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus	varius	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides	pubescens	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides	villosus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
American Three-toed Woodpecker	Picoides	dorsalis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Black-backed Woodpecker	Picoides	arcticus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Northern Flicker	Colaptes	auratus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus	pileatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus	cooperi	Bird	N/A	Threatened	Breeding populations
Western Wood-Pewee	Contopus	sordidulus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Contopus	virens	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax	flaviventris	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Alder Flycatcher	Empidonax	alnorum	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax	traillii	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax	minimus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis	phoebe	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Say's Phoebe	Sayornis	saya	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus	crinitus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Western Kingbird	Tyrannus	verticalis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus	tyrannus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Tyrannus	forficatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius	ludovicianus	Bird	Endangered	Threatened	Breeding populations
Northern Shrike	Lanius	excubitor	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular in winter
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo	flavifrons	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo	solitarius	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Warbling Vireo	Vireo	gilvus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Philadelphia Vireo	Vireo	philadelphicus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo	olivaceus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Gray Jay	Perisoreus	canadensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta	cristata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Clark's Nutcracker	Nucifraga	columbiana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Black-billed Magpie	Pica	hudsonia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
American Crow	Corvus	brachyrhynchos	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Common Raven	Corvus	corax	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Horned Lark	Eremophila	alpestris	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Purple Martin	Progne	subis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta	bicolor	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx	serripennis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Bank Swallow	Riparia	riparia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Cliff Swallow	Petrochelidon	pyrrhonota	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Barn Swallow	Hirundo	rustica	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile	atricapillus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Boreal Chickadee	Poecile	hudsonicus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta	canadensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta	carolinensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Brown Creeper	Certhia	americana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Rock Wren	Salpinctes	obsoletus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Carolina Wren	Thryothorus	ludovicianus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
House Wren	Troglodytes	aedon	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Winter Wren	Troglodytes	hiemalis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Sedge Wren	Cistothorus	platensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Marsh Wren	Cistothorus	palustris	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus	satrapa	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus	calendula	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Eastern Bluebird	Sialia	sialis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia	currucoides	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Townsend's Solitaire	Myadestes	townsendi	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Veery	Catharus	fuscescens	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Catharus	minimus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus	ustulatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Hermit Thrush	Catharus	guttatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla	mustelina	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
American Robin	Turdus	migratorius	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Varied Thrush	Ixoreus	naevius	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Gray Catbird	Dumetella	carolinensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus	polyglottos	Bird	N/A	N/A	Extralimital breeding record
Sage Thrasher	Oreoscoptes	montanus	Bird	N/A	Endangered	Occasional visitor
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma	rufum	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
European Starling	Sturnus	vulgaris	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
American Pipit	Anthus	rubescens	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Sprague's Pipit	Anthus	spragueii	Bird	Threatened	Threatened	Breeding populations
Bohemian Waxwing	Bombycilla	garrulus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla	cedrorum	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Lapland Longspur	Calcarius	lapponicus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Calcarius	ornatus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Smith's Longspur	Calcarius	pictus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Snow Bunting	Plectrophenax	nivalis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Ovenbird	Seiurus	aurocapilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Northern Waterthrush	Parkesia	noveboracensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Golden-winged Warbler	Vermivora	chrysoptera	Bird	N/A	Threatened	Breeding populations
Blue-winged Warbler	Vermivora	cyanoptera	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta	varia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Tennessee Warbler	Oreothlypis	peregrina	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oreothlypis	celata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Nashville Warbler	Oreothlypis	ruficapilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Connecticut Warbler	Oporornis	agilis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Mourning Warbler	Geothlypis	philadelphia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Kentucky Warbler	Geothlypis	formosa	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis	trichas	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Hooded Warbler	Setophaga	citrina	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
American Redstart	Setophaga	ruticilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Cape May Warbler	Setophaga	tigrina	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Northern Parula	Setophaga	americana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Magnolia Warbler	Setophaga	magnolia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Bay-breasted Warbler	Setophaga	castanea	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Blackburnian Warbler	Setophaga	fusca	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Yellow Warbler	Setophaga	petechia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Setophaga	pensylvanica	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Blackpoll Warbler	Setophaga	striata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Setophaga	caerulescens	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Palm Warbler	Setophaga	palmarum	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Pine Warbler	Setophaga	pinus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Setophaga	coronata	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Yellow-throated Warbler	Setophaga	dominica	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Black-throated Green Warbler	Setophaga	virens	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Canada Warbler	Cardellina	canadensis	Bird	N/A	Threatened	Breeding populations
Wilson's Warbler	Cardellina	pusilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Eastern Towhee	Pipilo	erythrophthalmus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
American Tree Sparrow	Spizella	arborea	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular migrant
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella	passerina	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Clay-colored Sparrow	Spizella	pallida	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Field Sparrow	Spizella	pusilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Extralimital breeding record
Vesper Sparrow	Pooecetes	gramineus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Lark Sparrow	Chondestes	grammacus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Lark Bunting	Calamospiza	melanocorys	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus	sandwichensis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Grasshopper Sparrow	Ammodramus	savannarum	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Baird's Sparrow	Ammodramus	bairdii	Bird	Endangered	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Le Conte's Sparrow	Ammodramus	leconteii	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Nelson's Sparrow	Ammodramus	nelsoni	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Fox Sparrow	Passerella	iliaca	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Song Sparrow	Melospiza	melodia	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Lincoln's Sparrow	Melospiza	lincolnii	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza	georgiana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia	albicollis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Harris's Sparrow	Zonotrichia	querula	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
White-crowned Sparrow	Zonotrichia	leucophrys	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Zonotrichia	atricapilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco	hyemalis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Summer Tanager	Piranga	rubra	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Scarlet Tanager	Piranga	olivacea	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Western Tanager	Piranga	ludoviciana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis	cardinalis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Extralimital breeding record



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus	ludovicianus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Black-headed Grosbeak	Pheucticus	melanocephalus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Lazuli Bunting	Passerina	amoena	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Indigo Bunting	Passerina	cyanea	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Dickcissel	Spiza	americana	Bird	N/A	N/A	Rare migrant or visitor
Bobolink	Dolichonyx	oryzivorus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius	phoeniceus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Western Meadowlark	Sturnella	neglecta	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Yellow-headed blackbird	Xanthocephalus	xanthocephalus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Rusty Blackbird	Euphagus	carolinus	Bird	N/A	Special Concern	Breeding populations
Brewer's Blackbird	Euphagus	cyanocephalus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Common Grackle	Quiscalus	quiscula	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus	ater	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Orchard Oriole	Icterus	spurius	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus	galbula	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Brambling	Fringilla	montifringilla	Bird	N/A	N/A	Occasional visitor
Pine Grosbeak	Pinicola	enucleator	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Purple Finch	Carpodacus	purpureus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
House Finch	Carpodacus	mexicanus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Red Crossbill	Loxia	curvirostra	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
White-winged Crossbill	Loxia	leucoptera	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Common Redpoll	Acanthis	flammea	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Hoary Redpoll	Acanthis	hornemanni	Bird	N/A	N/A	Regular in winter
Pine Siskin	Spinus	pinus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
American Goldfinch	Spinus	tristis	Bird	N/A	N/A	Breeding populations
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes	vespertinus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
House Sparrow	Passer	domesticus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer	montanus	Bird	N/A	N/A	Extralimital breeding record
Masked Shrew	Sorex	cinereus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant



English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Northern Water Shrew	Sorex	palustris	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Arctic Shrew	Sorex	arcticus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Pygmy Shrew	Microsorex	hoyi	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Little Brown Myotis	Myotis	lucifugus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Regular Migrant; Breeding Populations
Northern Myotis	Myotis	septentrionalis	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Silver-haired Bat	Lasionycteris	noctivagans	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Regular Migrant; Breeding Populations
Big Brown Bat	Eptesicus	fuscus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Red Bat	Lasiurus	borealis	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Regular Migrant; Breeding Populations
Hoary Bat	Lasiurus	cinereus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Regular Migrant; Breeding Populations
Eastern Cottontail	Sylvilagus	floridanus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Snowshoe Hare	Lepus	americanus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
White-tailed Jackrabbit	Lepus	townsendii	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Eastern Chipmunk	Tamias	striatus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Least Chipmunk	Tamias	minimus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Woodchuck	Marmota	monax	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	Spermophilus	richardsonii	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	Spermophilus	tridecemlineatus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Franklin's Ground Squirrel	Spermophilus	franklinii	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Eastern Grey Squirrel	Sciurus	carolinensis	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Eastern Fox Squirrel	Sciurus	niger	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Red Squirrel	Tamiasciurus	hudsonicus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Northern Flying Squirrel	Glaucomys	sabrinus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Deer Mouse	Peromyscus	maniculatus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Boreal Red-backed Vole	Clethrionomys	gapperi	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Meadow Vole	Microtus	pennsylvanicus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Prairie Vole	Microtus	ochrogaster	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Muskrat	Ondatra	zibethica	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Norway or Brown Rat	Rattus	norvegicus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
House Mouse	Mus	musculus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant

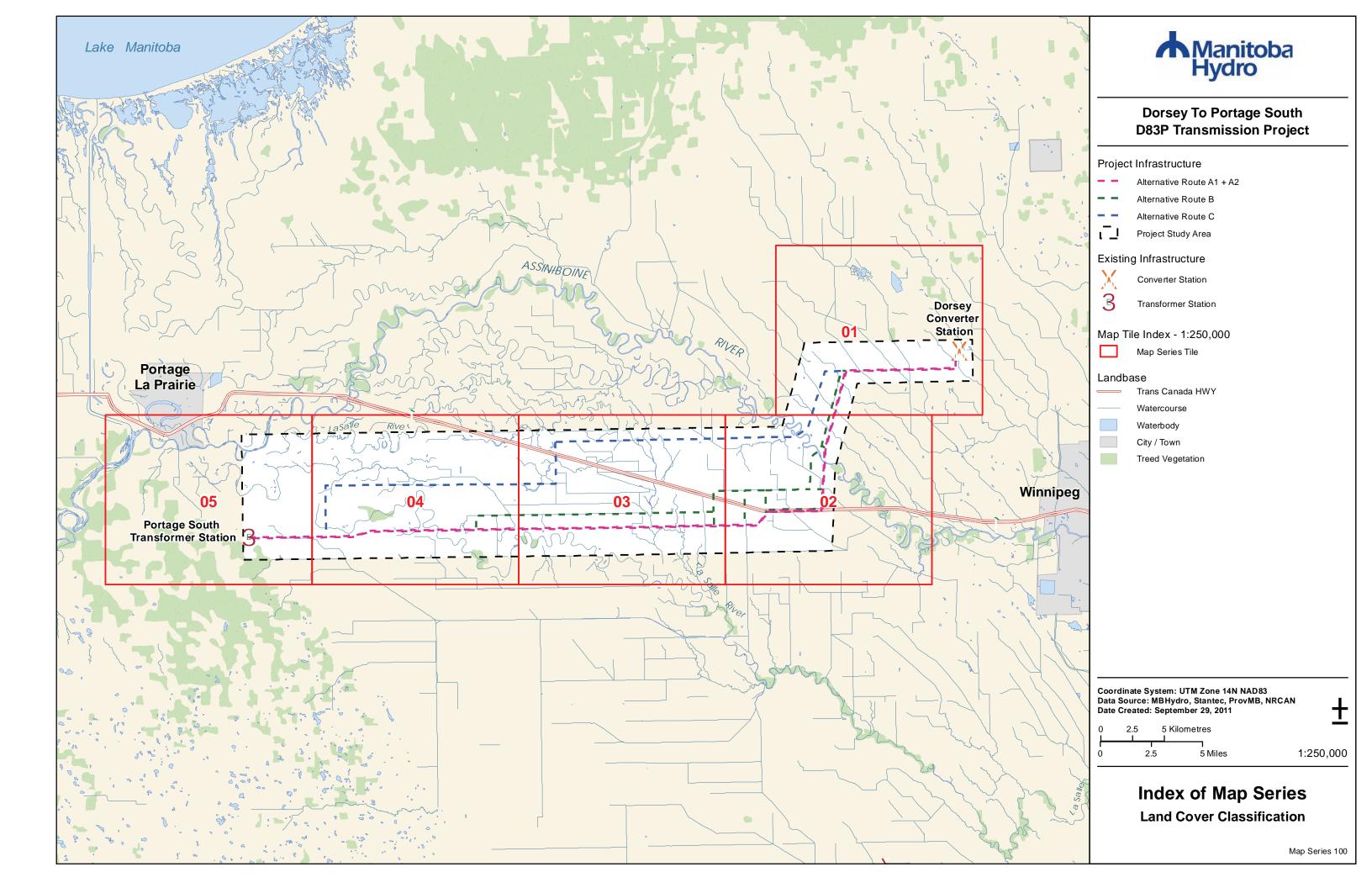


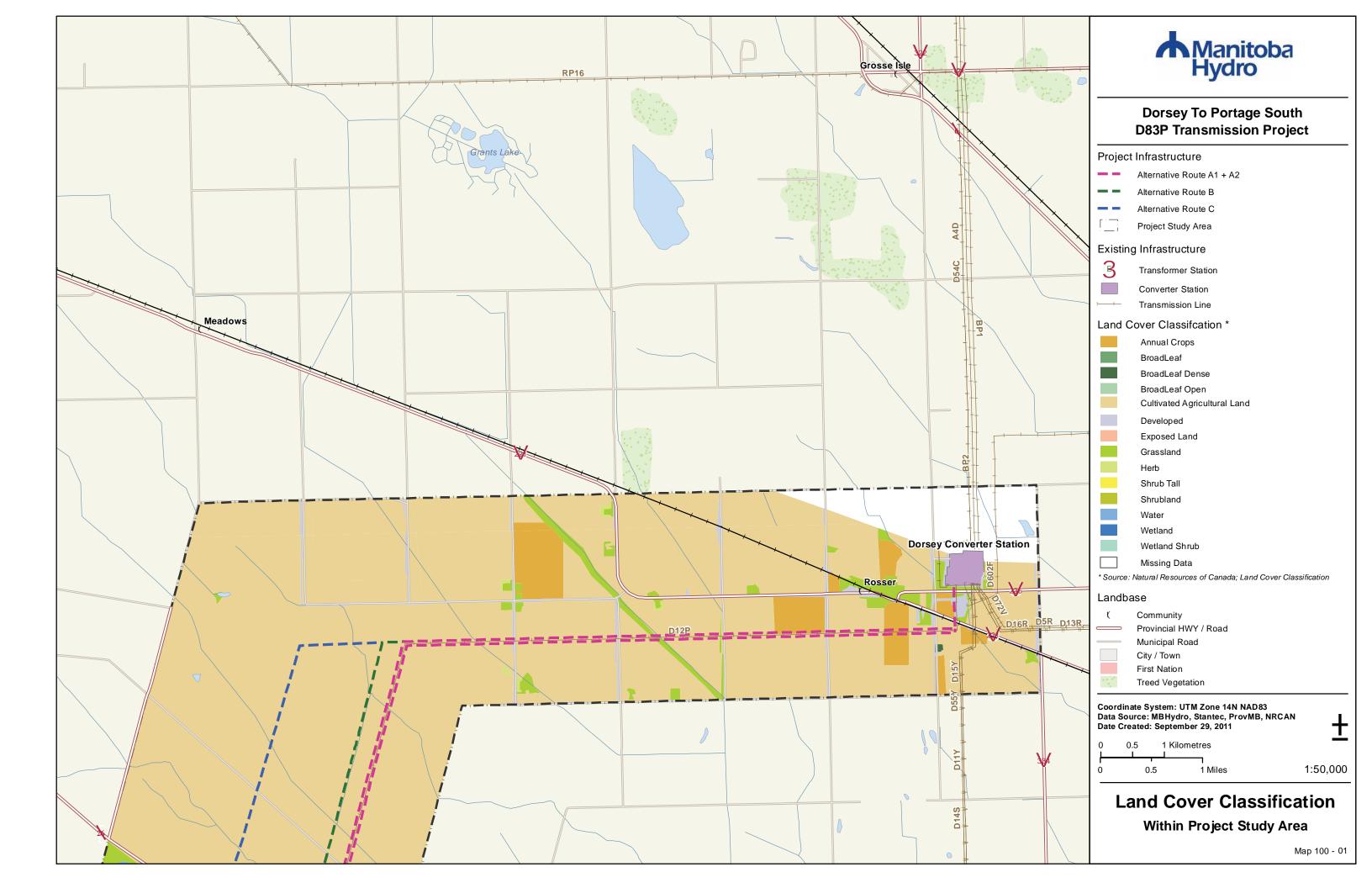
English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Meadow Jumping Mouse	Zapus	hudsonius	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Western Jumping Mouse	Zapus	princeps	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Porcupine	Erethizon	dorsatum	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Beaver	Castor	canadensis	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Northern Pocket Gopher	Thomomys	talpoides	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Coyote	Canis	latrans	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Red Fox	Vulpes	vulpes	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Swift Fox	Vulpes	velox	Mammal	Extirpated	Threatened	Extirpated
Gray Fox	Urocyon	cinereoargenteus	Mammal	Extirpated	Threatened	Occasional visitor
American Black Bear	Ursus	americanus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Plains Grizzly Bear	Ursus	arctos	Mammal	Extirpated	Extirpated	Extirpated
Raccoon	Procyon	lotor	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Marten	Martes	americana	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Fisher	Martes	pennanti	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Short-tailed Weasel	Mustela	erminea	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Least Weasel	Mustela	rixosa	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Long-tailed Weasel	Mustela	frenata	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Mink	Mustela	vison	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
American Badger	Taxidea	taxus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Striped Skunk	Mephitis	mephitis	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
River Otter	Lutra	canadensis	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Cougar	Puma	concolor	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Occasional; Year-round inhabitant?
Lynx	Lynx	lynx	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Bobcat	Lynx	rufus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Elk	Cervus	elaphus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Mule Deer	Odocoileus	hemionus	Mammal	Threatened	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
White-tailed Deer	Odocoileus	virginianus	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Moose	Alces	alces	Mammal	N/A	N/A	Year-round inhabitant
Pronghorn antelope	Antilocapra	americana	Mammal	Extirpated	N/A	Extirpated

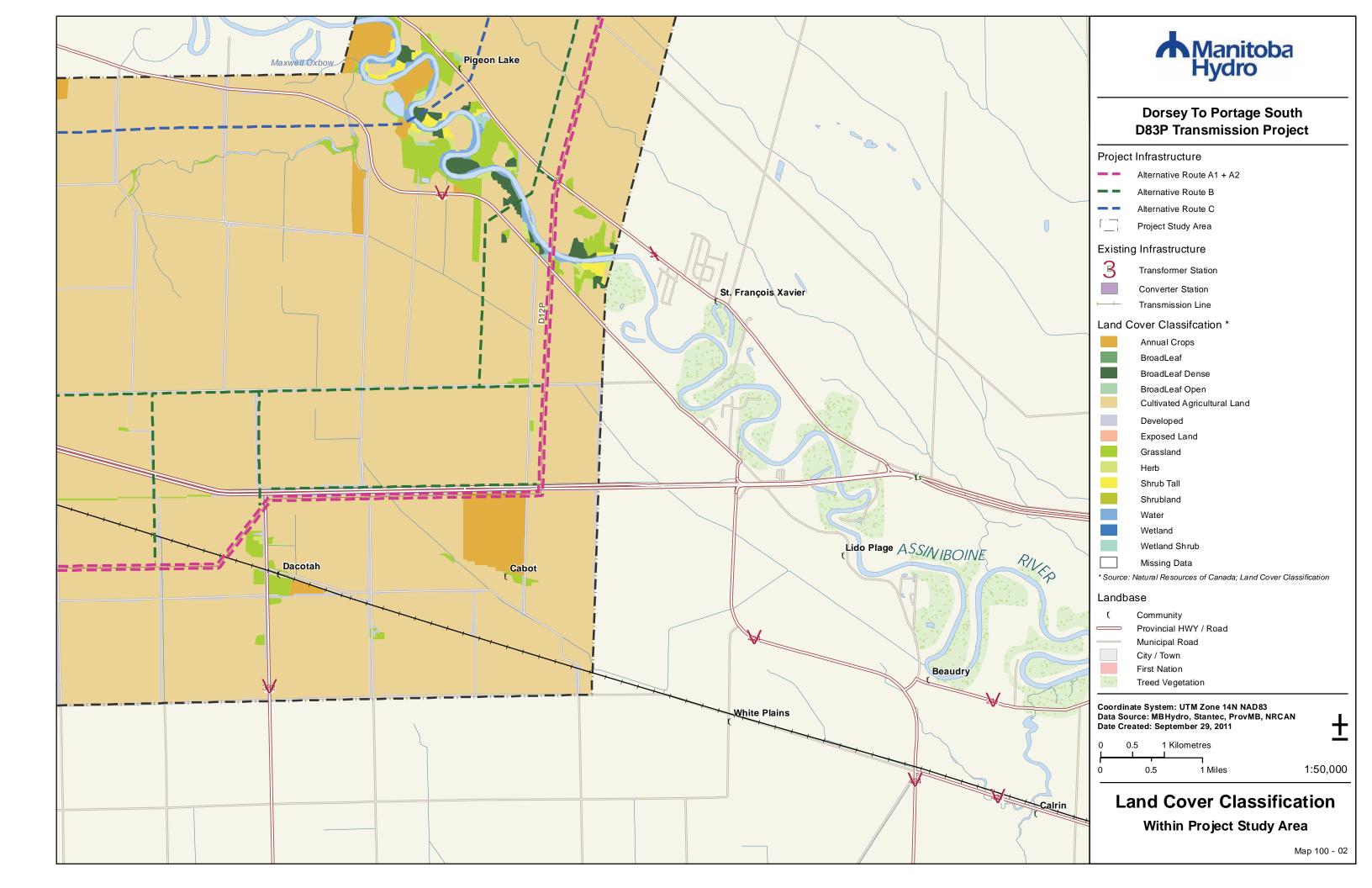


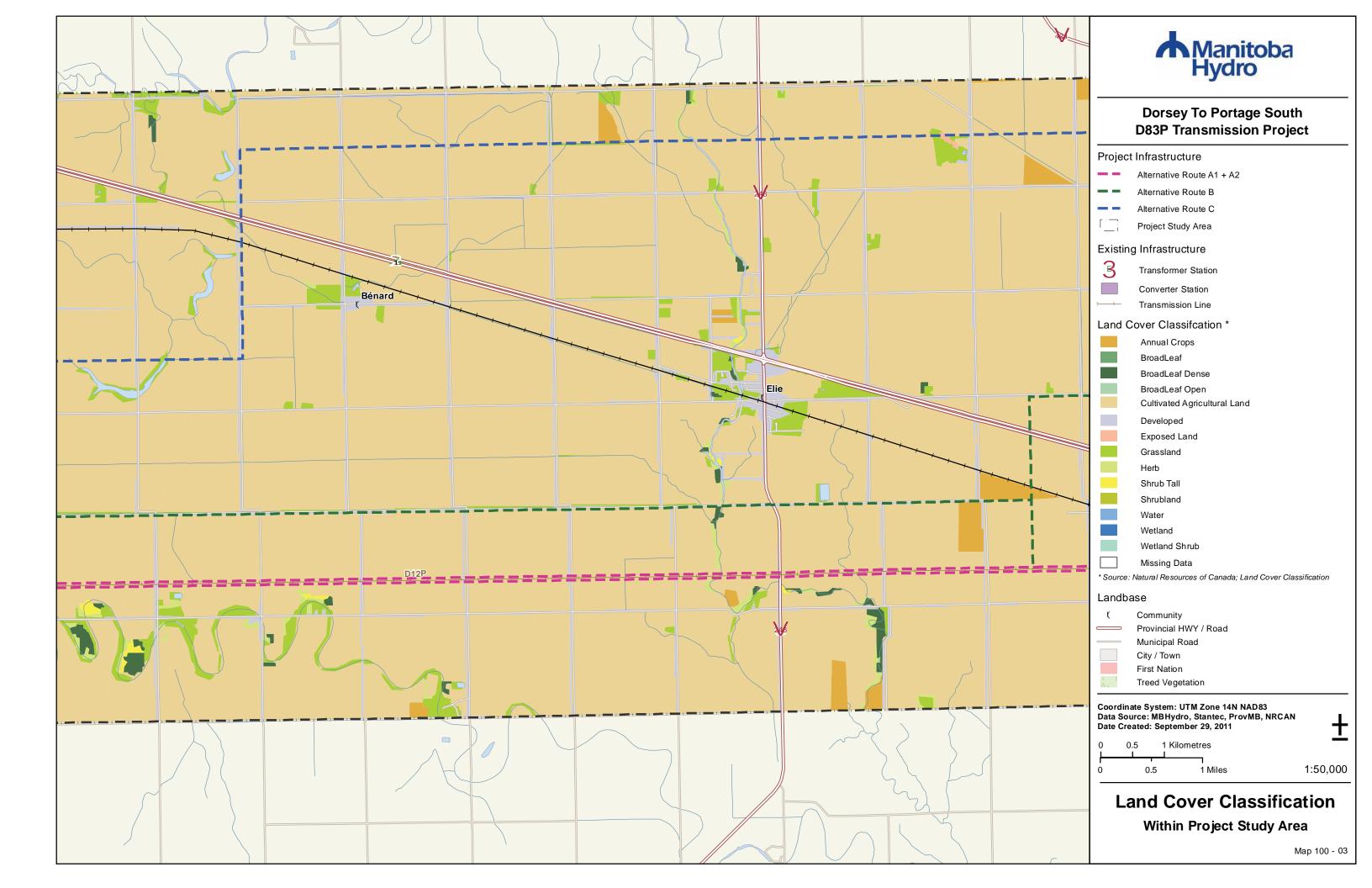
English Name	Genus	Species	Family	Provincial Listing	Federal Listing	Occurrence Type
Bison	Bison	bison	Mammal	Extirpated	N/A	Extirpated
Mudpuppy	Necturus	maculosus	Amphibian	N/A	N/A	Uncommon
Gray tiger salamander	Ambystoma	tigrinum	Amphibian	N/A	N/A	Common
American toad	Bufo	americanus	Amphibian	N/A	N/A	Common
Canada toad	Bufo	hemiophrys	Amphibian	N/A	N/A	Common
Cope's gray treefrog	Hyla	chrysoscelis	Amphibian	N/A	N/A	Common
Boreal chorus frog	Pseudacris	triseriata	Amphibian	N/A	N/A	Common
Wood frog	Rana	sylvatica	Amphibian	N/A	N/A	Common
Northern leopard frog	Rana	pipens	Amphibian	N/A	Special concern	Uncommon
Common snapping turtle	Chelydra	serpentina	Amphibian	N/A	Special concern	Uncommon
Western painted turtle	Chrysemys	picta	Amphibian	N/A	N/A	Common
Northern prairie skink	Eumeces	septentrionalis	Reptile	N/A	Endangered	Uncommon
Northern redbelly snake	Storeria	occipitomaculata	Reptile	N/A	N/A	Locally common
Western plains garter snake	Thamnophis	radix	Reptile	N/A	N/A	Common
Red-sided garter snake	Thamnophis	sirtalis	Reptile	N/A	N/A	Common
Plains hognose snake	Heterodon	nasicus	Reptile	N/A	N/A	Uncommon
Smooth green snake	Opheodrys	vernalis	Reptile	N/A	N/A	Uncommon

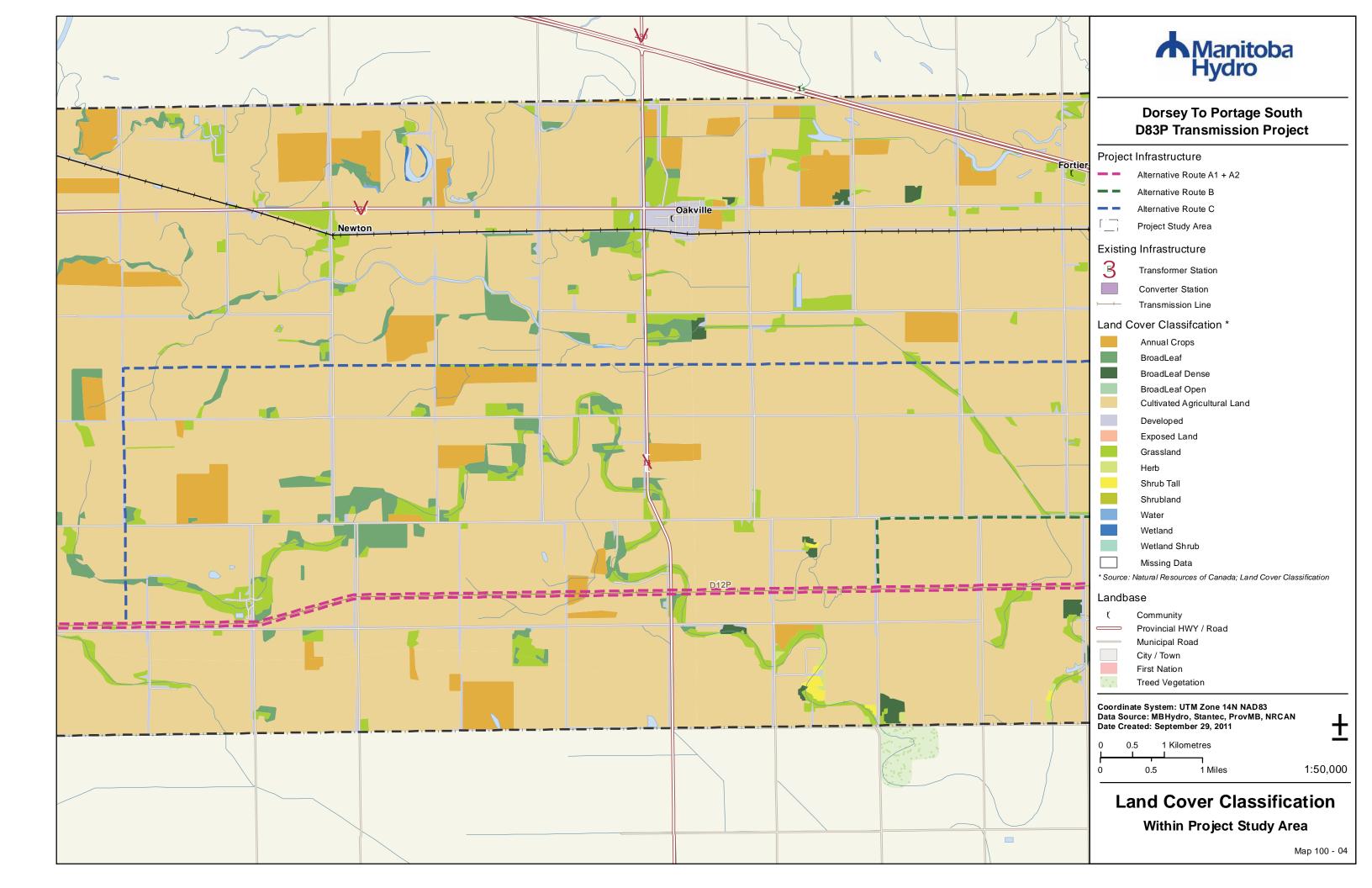
APPENDIX B - LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION











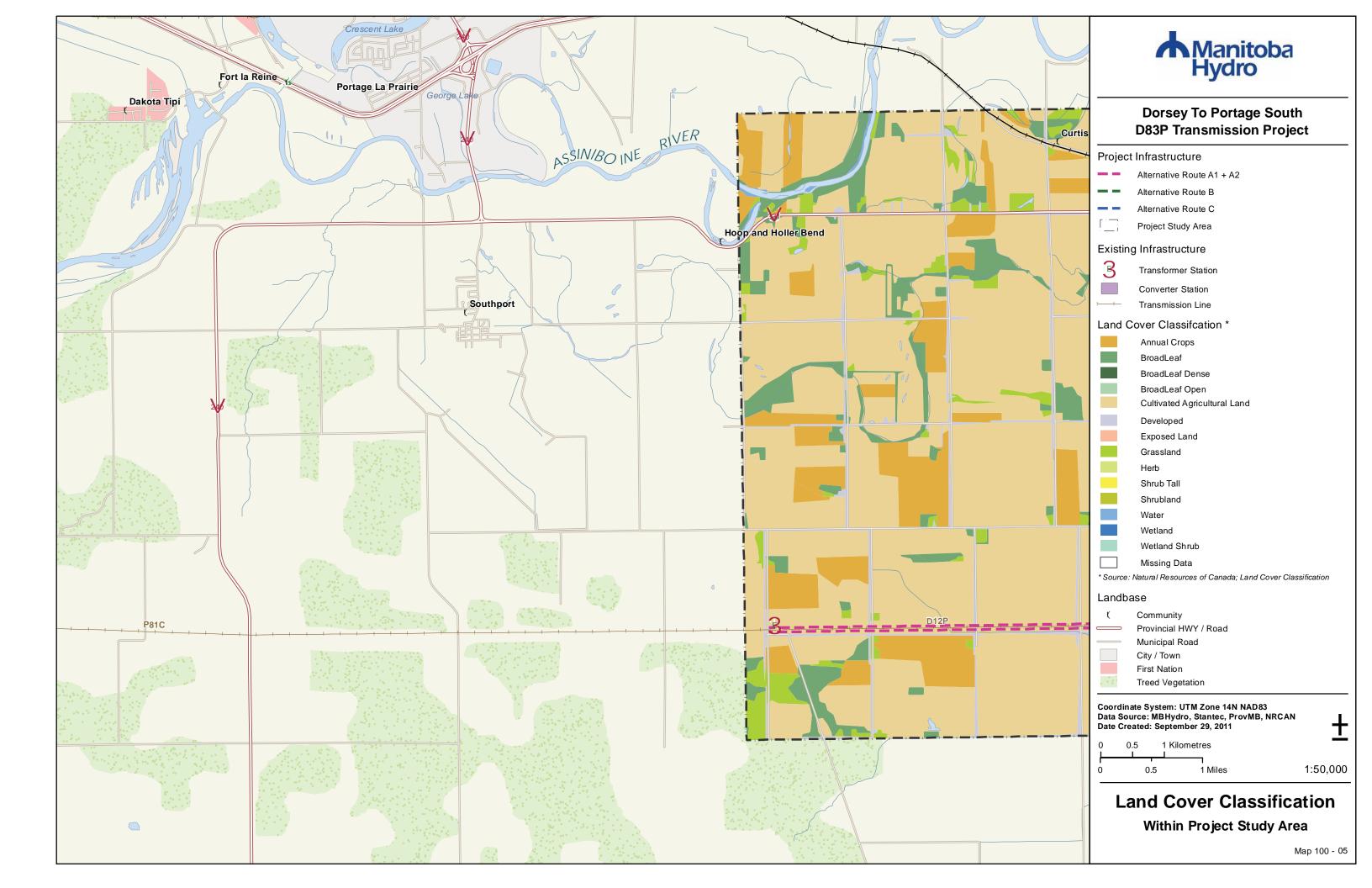






Photo 1: Cultivated Agricultural Land Cover Type

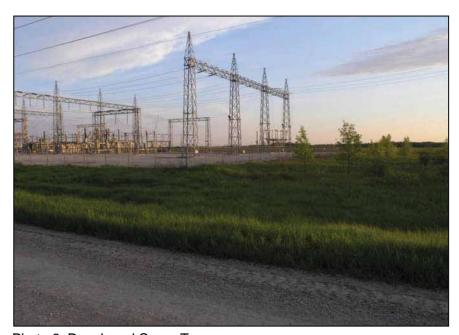


Photo 2: Developed Cover Type





Photo 3: Grassland Cover Type



Photo 4: Broadleaf Cover Type







Photo 5: Water Cover Type



Photo 6: Shrub Tall Cover Type (flooded)



APPENDIX C - INCIDENTAL BIRD OBSERVATIONS

Incidental Bird Observations

	<u> </u>				
•	American crow	great horned owl			
	American goldfinch	greater yellowlegs			
	American green-winged teal	hairy woodpecker			
	American kestrel	hooded merganser			
	American robin	horned lark			
	American white pelican	house wren			
	bald eagle	killdeer			
	Baltimore oriole	least flycatcher			
	bank swallow	mallard			
	barn swallow	marbled godwit			
	black-and-white warbler	mourning dove			
	black-billed magpie	northern harrier			
	blue jay	red-eyed vireo			
	blue-winged teal	red-tailed hawk			
	bobolink	red-winged blackbird			
	Brewer's blackbird	ring-billed gull			
	brown-headed cowbird	ring-necked duck			
	Canada goose	rock pigeon			
	cedar waxwing	rose-breasted grosbeak			
	chestnut-sided warbler	savannah sparrow			

Species

chestnut-sided warbler savannah sparrow song sparrow Swainson's hawk common grackle tree swallow upland sandpiper common yellowthroat warbling vireo double-crested cormonat western meadowlark

eastern bluebird wild turkey
eastern kingbird wood duck
eastern wood-pewee yellow warbler

Franklin's gull yellow-headed blackbird gray partridge yellow-throated vireo

great crested flycatcher