



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distribution: General

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Agenda Item 24.1.1

PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE CANADA WARBLER (*Cardellina canadensis*) ON CMS APPENDIX II

Summary:

The Government of Ecuador has submitted a proposal for the inclusion of the Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) on CMS Appendix II for the consideration of the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11), 4-9 November 2014, Quito, Ecuador.

The proposal is reproduced under this cover for a decision on its approval or rejection by the Conference of the Parties.

**PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION IN THE APPENDICES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)**

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of the Canada Warbler, *Cardellina canadensis*, on Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

B. PROPONENT: Government of Ecuador

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

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|---------------------------|--|
| 1.1 Class: | Aves |
| 1.2 Order: | Passeriformes |
| 1.3 Family: | Parulidae |
| 1.4 Genus/Species: | <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> |
| 1.5 Common Name: | English: Canada Warbler
Spanish: Reinita Canadiense |

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

Cardellina canadensis nests in North America, from the centre of Alberta eastwards to south Quebec and Nova Scotia in Canada. In the United States, it is found in the centre of Minnesota, centre of Michigan, and from the Appalachian mountains to north Georgia. The species migrates mainly through Central America. It is not commonly found in Mexico, El Salvador or Belize, but often migrates through Costa Rica and Panama. Some birds migrate over the Gulf of Mexico, although only a few have been recorded in Florida and the Caribbean islands. Their wintering grounds are almost exclusively in the north of South America (from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Colombia, then southwards to eastern Ecuador and towards the centre of Peru). There are a few records of these birds in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, although they have only ever been recorded in small numbers. A few have been recorded in the Amazon region of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Brazil, and in Chile, and there have been rare sightings in Panama and Costa Rica during the winter. According to data gathered by BirdLife International, the priority areas for the species in winter are in the Colombian Andes, northwest and eastern Ecuador and northern Peru (BirdLife International 2014).

2.2 Population

The species population size is estimated at 1,400,000 individuals (Rich *et al.* 2004). The vast majority are found in their breeding grounds in Canada (about 80%, COSEWIC 2008), and around 20% in the United States.

The species population trend is decreasing (Fig. 1). Data from the *Breeding Bird Survey* (BBS) suggest that, between 1968 and 2007, the population decreased by 4.5% per year, which is the equivalent of losing approximately 85% of the population during that time (COSEWIC 2008).

Between 1997 and 2007, the population decreased by 5.4% per year, which is the equivalent of a 43% reduction in the population in that decade. These falls are even more apparent in the east of the breeding grounds, which is where most of the population choose to breed (COSEWIC 2008).

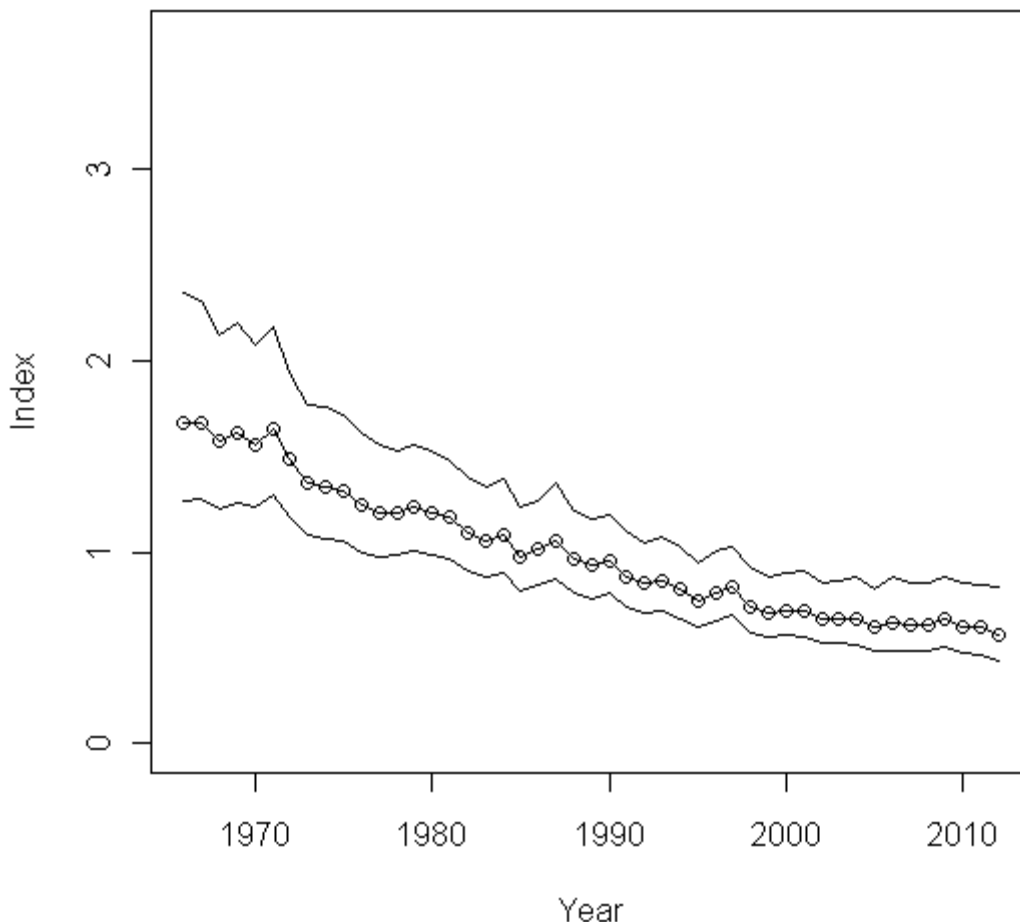


Figure 1. Population trend for the Canada warbler *Cardellina canadensis* (Sauer *et al.* 2014).

2.3 Habitat

During the breeding season, the species is more abundant in moist forests with a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees, a dense understorey and complex ground cover, often with standing water and trees that emerge from the subcanopy. It frequents rhododendron thickets in mountainous areas in the south, poplar forests in the north, and forested wetlands/swamps in the central part of its breeding area. During migration, it prefers dense tickets, brambles, wetlands, forest edges and clearings. In wintering grounds, the adults can be found in primary and secondary forest, field edges and crop fields, with the juveniles in successional fields on former farmland (Dunn & Garrett 1997; Reitsma *et al.* 2010).

2.4 Migration

The Canada warbler migrates from breeding grounds in the Nearctic to its wintering grounds in the Neotropics. It is one of the Parulidae family species that spends the least amount of time in its breeding grounds, arriving to breed in spring and leaving before the arrival of autumn. The species beings to migrate south between July and August, before arriving in the wintering grounds between late September (in Colombia) and early October (in Peru). It has been recorded passing through the mountains in Mexico, southern Belize, Guatemala, northern El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. The migration back up north begins in late March from Peru, early April from Ecuador and mid-April from Colombia. In Panama, the most intense migratory period is from late April to early

May. It takes the warbler about three or four weeks to migrate north. The migratory route runs through the mountains of Central America and the Andes. The species appears to engage in differential migration, with the male adults being first to arrive in the breeding grounds. The species has been recorded in the Caribbean (albeit on rare occasions).

3. Threat data

The decrease in population of *Cardellina canadensis* is believed to be mainly the result of mortality caused by the loss and degradation of habitat throughout its range in breeding, migration and wintering grounds.

3.1 Direct threats to the population

Direct threats include the loss of habitat that is being turned into plantations for coffee and other crops, tree plantations, infrastructure and mining. There is little information on direct impacts.

3.2 Habitat destruction

3.3 Indirect threat

N/A.

3.4 Threats related to migration

Habitat loss and degradation were identified as the main threats throughout the distribution range (including areas used during migration).

3.4 National and international utilization

N/A.

4. Protection status and needs

Cardellina canadensis is not considered an endangered species worldwide.

4.1 National protection status

In the United States, the species is included on the list of species of conservation concern at the national level (USFWS 2008), and is considered a “yellow watch list species” (Butcher *et al.* 2007). In Canada, it is considered an endangered species (COSEWIC 2012).

4.2 International protection status

Despite the decrease in population, it is not protected worldwide due to its wide distribution range and large population size.

4.3 Additional protection needs

- Identification of key sites for conservation in wintering grounds
- Determination of scale and rate of habitat loss in wintering grounds
- Identification of proximate and ultimate causes of the observed decrease in population
- Development of conservation measures in priority areas for the species’ distribution during winter and migration
- Development of a conservation plan for the species.

5. Range States¹

Canada; United States; Mexico; Belize; COSTA RICA; Guatemala; HONDURAS; Nicaragua; PANAMA; BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF); Brazil; CHILE; Colombia; ECUADOR; PERU; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); Puerto Rico (United States); CUBA; Bahamas; Cayman Islands (United Kingdom); Guadeloupe (France); Dominican Republic.

6. Comments from Range States

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7. Additional Remarks

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8. References

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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2008) Birds of Conservation Concern 2008. United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, Virginia.

¹ CMS Parties in capitals.