

#### Office of the Warden

January 11, 2013

Hon. Sterling Belliveau Nova Scotia Environment PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Re: Environmental Assessment Addendum No. 1, Sable Wind Project

Dear Mr. Minister,

Please find enclosed a copy of the Addendum to the Sable Wind EA Registration Document submitted to NSE on June 27, 2012. This Addendum is in response to your decision, dated August 22, 2012 wherein we were advised that the information contained in the Registration Document was insufficient to allow for a decision and that additional information was required.

The additional information required was related to impact of habitat by turbines and infrastructure of the proposed project and particularly on the impact of coastal proximity and location of proposed turbines related to wetlands and flight corridors for migratory birds and bats.

The Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG), along with our project partner – Nova Scotia Power Inc., are committed to providing all required information and developing protocols to address issues identified through this process.

We wish to formally register this addendum and look forward to receiving the required approvals, subject to conditions.

Regards,

Warden Lloyd Hines



January 10, 2013

Environmental Assessment Branch Nova Scotia Environment PO Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

RE: Environmental Assessment Addendum No. 1, Sable Wind Project

To Whom it May Concern:

Please find enclosed the Addendum to the Sable Wind EA Registration Document submitted to NSE on June 27, 2012. This Addendum is in response to the Minister's Decision, dated August 22, 2012 which states that the information contained in the Registration Document is insufficient to allow the Minister to make a decision and that additional information is required. Additional information is required to assess impacts on habitat by turbines and infrastructure of the proposed Project, specifically on how coastal proximity and location of proposed turbines will affect wetlands and flight corridors for migratory birds and bats.

The following information is included in this addendum:

- Results of 2012 fall bird surveys
- Historical review of 2004 and 2005 bird data from the 2006 EA Registration Document, approved in May 2006
- Results of the 2012 fall bat surveys and acoustic monitoring
- Protocol for 2013 bird surveys, including acoustic and radar monitoring
- Protocol for 2013 bat surveys, including acoustic monitoring
- Mainland Moose monitoring Protocol

The Municipality of the District of Guysborough and Nova Scotia Power Incorporated, who together comprise the Project Team, are confident that the information provided in this Addendum offers additional evidence the Project site does not present a significant

Municipality of the District of Guysborough Nova Scotia Power Inc.



risk to birds and bats. Further, the Project Team is confident that the proposed 2013 studies will provide sufficient information to inform stakeholders of the potential impacts of the Project footprint to existing bird, bat and Mainland Moose populations in the Project area.

Yours truly,

**Terry Toner** 

### 1.0 Introduction

The Municipality of the District of Guysborough and Nova Scotia Power (the Project Team) are proposing to construct an approximately 13.8 MW wind generating facility entitled the Sable Wind Project (the Project) near the communities of Canso, Hazel Hill, and Little Dover in Guysborough County, Nova Scotia (NS). The Project was one of the successful bids in response to the Government of NS's Request for Proposal (RFP) for 300 GWh of Renewable Energy from Independent Power Producers. The commissioning of the Project is required before 2015. The Project is considered a Class I undertaking under the NS Environmental Assessment Regulations and as such, requires a registered Environmental Assessment (EA) as identified under Schedule A of the Regulations.

On June 27, 2012 the Project Team submitted the Sable Wind EA Registration Document to NS Environment (NSE). The registration document was completed according to the methodologies and requirements outlined in the "Proponent's Guide to Wind Power Projects: Guide for Preparing and Environmental Assessment Registration Document" (Nova Scotia Environment 2007, updated 2012) and accepted best practices for conducting EAs. The 2012 EA Document was developed with reference to the original EA registration document entitled "Canso Wind Farm Environmental Impact Statement", which was submitted to and approved by NSE in May of 2006. A map comparing the original 2006 Project footprint to the current proposed footprint can be found in Appendix A.

On August 22, 2012, the Project Team received a letter from the NS Minister of Environment, Sterling Belliveau, advising that the registration information was insufficient to allow the Minister to make a decision and that more information was required. Additional information is required to assess impacts on habitat by turbines and infrastructure of the Project. Specifically, additional information is needed to address how coastal proximity and location of proposed turbines will affect wetlands and flight corridors for migratory birds and bats.

This Addendum contains the following additional information:

- Results of the 2012 Fall bird migration surveys (Appendix A)
- Comparison of 2012 Fall survey results to bird surveys completed in 2004/05 and presented in the 2006 EA Registration Document (Appendix A)
- Protocols for 2013 bird surveys (Appendix B)
- Results of 2012 Fall assessment of bats on the Project site (Appendix C)
- Protocol for the 2013 bat assessment (Appendix D)
- Protocol for moose monitoring (Appendix E)

Protocols were developed in consultation with NSE and NS Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Project Team believes the results of the studies included in the Sable Wind Environmental Assessment Registration Document, the results of the 2012 studies included in this Addendum, the results of the studies included in the 2006 EA Registration Document and the proposed further

monitoring programs in 2013 will provide the Minister with sufficient information to support the development of the Sable Wind Farm.

### 2.0 Birds

Strum Environmental conducted bird surveys during the fall of 2012 at the Project site. The surveys demonstrated that the Project site is not a significant migration route for passerines and in general, the data does not suggest that the Project poses a high risk to the area's migrant passerine community. The surveys also demonstrated that nocturnal migrations were in a south/southwest direction from the head of Chapel Gully Park. Migrating waterfowl were observed mainly in Chapel Gully Park rather than on the Project site, and there is a low diversity of winter bird communities near the proposed turbine locations. Please refer to Appendix B for more detail on the fall 2012 bird surveys.

A good correlation exists between the 2012 fall data and the 2004/2005 data submitted as part of the 2006 EA. The overall bird community in the general area has remained relatively consistent and identified migration corridors during the 2004/2005 surveys were corroborated by the 2012 fall survey results. Similarly, both the earlier surveys and 2012 surveys indicate that important migratory routes for shorebirds do not encompass coastal areas of the Project site. Please refer to Appendix B for details on the analysis of 2004/2005 surveys and comparison to the fall 2012 data.

To add to the 2012 Fall surveys and supplement the 2004/5 assessment, John Kearney has been contracted to complete the remaining 2012/2013 surveys A copy of his proposed protocol can be found in Appendix C. The protocol examines the seasonal movement and behavior of birds (winter 2012/13, spring and summer 2013) including habitat use during the breeding season. Acoustic monitoring will also be conducted to determine use of the area by nocturnal migrants. The pre-construction work will be compatible with post construction surveys and statistical analysis will be possible following the post construction monitoring phase of the Project.

The use of radar technology will also be included in the 2013 bird surveys. This will be used in association with acoustic monitoring to determine the number, altitude and species of birds migrating through the Project area at night. As radar technology is still in the early stages of development as a technique for bird surveys, this is seen as an opportunity for the Project Team to work closely with regulators and provide additional information on the avian community in the Canso area.

### **3.0 Bats**

In fall 2012, Hugh Broders of St Mary's University, Halifax, conducted an acoustic bat survey using Anabat technology at the Project site. The survey results concluded that there did not appear to be significant bat movement or concentration in the Project area, and that there are no known hibernacula or documented suitable mine openings within 25 km of the Project site During the surveys it was noted that the magnitude of activity was low compared to baseline levels for forested ecosystems and no tree bats were identified through the acoustic studies. Please refer to Appendix D for more detail on the 2012 fall bat surveys.

Hugh Borders has been contracted to carry out further studies in 2013 to confirm this information. A copy of his proposed protocol can be found in Appendix E. The protocol includes acoustic surveys in late summer/early fall 2013, maternity colony searches and trapping surveys.

#### 4.0 Moose

As described in Section 4.6.1 of the Sable Wind EA Registration Document, concentrations of Mainland Moose in Nova Scotia occur in the Tobeatic Wilderness and the Cobequid Mountains areas, although the current range of the species extends across much of the province (Municipality of the District of Gusyborough and Nova Scotia Power Inc., 2012). According to the ACCDC database, the closest sighting of the Mainland moose was 91 + 10 km from the Property Boundaries. No indication of the species was observed during field studies and there is no direct evidence to suggest that a viable population exists in the area (Municipality of the District of Gusyborough and Nova Scotia Power Inc., 2012).

The Project Team has developed a Moose Monitoring Protocol in consultation with DNR to assess potential for Mainland Moose on the Project site. In order to assess the area for presence of moose, surveys will be carried out using existing trails and 1 km long transects to look for tracks, scat and browse evidence during the winter months. The Moose Monitoring Protocol is included in Appendix F.

#### 5.0 Conclusions

This EA addendum provides a summary of the results of the 2012 bird and bat studies, a summary of the correlations between the 2004/05 and 2012 data and protocols for proposed bird, bat and moose monitoring studies in 2013 to further support the development of the Sable Wind Project. The 2012 fall bat surveys and acoustic studies do not suggest that the Project site has significant bat movement or concentrations. Further, the magnitude of bat activity was low compared to forested ecosystems and no tree bats were identified. The proposed 2013 bat surveys, which include acoustic and trapping surveys, will provide further detail on the existing bat community in the Project area and potential interactions with the Project footprint.

The 2012 EA Registration Document demonstrates that there is no indication of Mainland Moose in the Project area; no direct evidence of moose presence was observed during 2012 field studies. The Proposed moose monitoring studies have been designed to verify the potential for Mainland Moose to exist on the Project site using transects to identify tracks, scat and evidence of browse during the winter season.

The 2012 fall bird surveys do not suggest that the Project site is of particular significance to migrating passerines, nocturnal migrants or shorebirds. This conclusion is strengthened by the 2004/05 studies, which correlate with the overall bird population of the Project area, identified migration corridors and important migratory routes for shorebirds demonstrated in the 2012 studies. The Project Team is confident that the proposed 2013 studies, which include acoustic monitoring and radar, will provide new and innovative information that further delineates the bird community in the Project area.

The Project Team is confident that the results of the 2012 studies completed to date, which have been substantiated by the data contained in the 2006 approved EA document, provide additional evidence that the Project site does not present a significant risk to birds and bats. Further, the Project Team is confident that the proposed 2013 studies will provide sufficient information to inform stakeholders of the potential impacts of the Project footprint to the existing bird, bat and Mainland Moose populations in the Project area.

### **6.0 References**

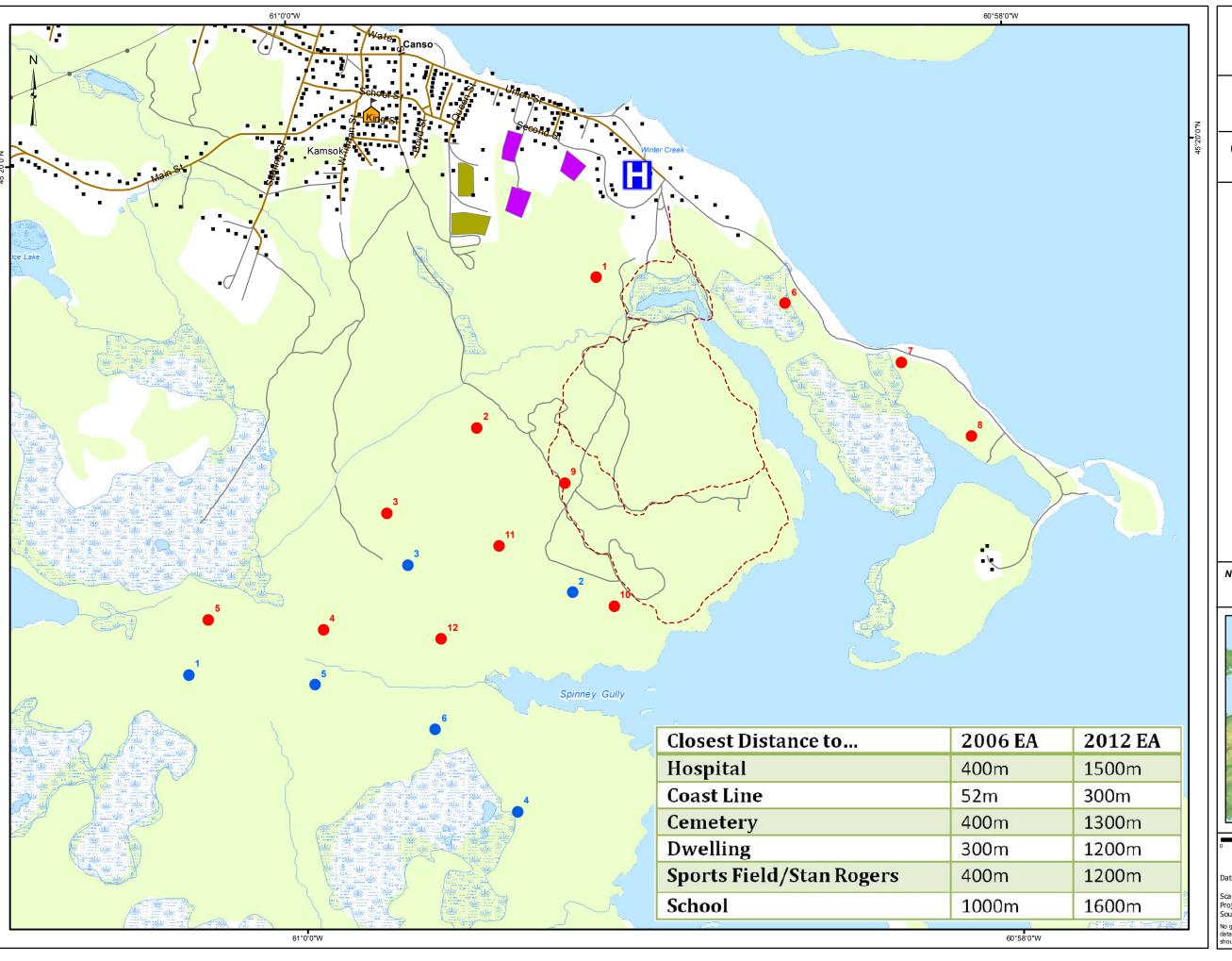
AMEC. (2006). Canso Wind Farm Environmental Impact Statement. 257 pp.

Municipality of the District of Guysborough and Nova Scotia Power Inc. (2012). Sable Wind **Environmental Assessment Registration Document.** 168 pp.

7.0 Appendices

**APPENDIX A** 

Map of 2006 Project Footprint Compared to 2012 Project Footprint



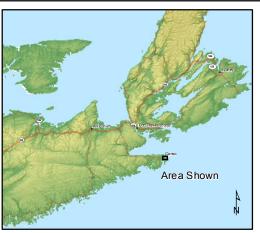


# Sable Wind Project

Compare 2006 EA & 2012 EA **Turbine Locations** 

- Turbine-2006 EA
- Turbine-2012 EA
- Building
- School
- Hospital
- Cemetery
- Sports Field/Stan Rogers

Notes:



Scale: 1:13,000 Projection: UTM Zone20 NAD83 Sources: DNR, GeoBase, NSTDB 1:10,000, Canso Wind Farm EIS 2006

No guarantee is given as to the accuracy or currency of any of the data. The cadastral information portrayed has no legal value and should only be used as a guide.

**APPENDIX B** 

Historical Bird Data Review and 2012 Fall Migration Surveys



## HISTORICAL BIRD DATA REVIEW AND 2012 FALL MIGRATION SURVEYS SABLE WIND PROJECT

November 13, 2012





November 13, 2012

Ms. Heather Holland **Nova Scotia Power Inc.** 1223 Lower Water Street Halifax, NS B3J 3S8

Dear Ms. Holland,

Re: Historical Bird Data Review and 2012 Fall Migration Surveys

**Sable Wind Project** 

Attached is the Historical Bird Data Review and 2012 Fall Migration Surveys Report prepared for the Sable Wind Project.

This report documents our observations and findings.

We trust this report to be satisfactory at this time. Once you have had an opportunity to review this correspondence, please contact us to address any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Garry Gregory, MSc. **Environmental Specialist** ggregory@strum.com

Senior Environmental Specialist cburgess@strum.com

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In August 2012, Strum was retained to conduct pre-construction fall migration bird surveys for the proposed 13.8 MW Sable Wind Project in Guysborough County (the Project), near the communities of Canso, Hazel Hill, and Little Dover.

The Project site will encompass approximately 137 ha of municipal lands which are dominated by softwood and mixed wood stands (87%) but also support other habitat types including wetlands (bog/fen), barrens, and brush. Softwood stands feature a mixture of red (*Picea rubra*) and black spruce (*Picea mariana*), often with a minor intolerant hardwood [i.e. white birch (*Betula papyrifera*)] or balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) component.

The objective of the assessment was to identify fall migration species and migration corridors within and around the Project site, as well as to compare the 2012 findings with the results of surveys completed in 2004/2005.

This report consists of the following sections:

- Section 2.0 presents the survey methodology.
- Section 3.0 summarizes the results of the bird monitoring program employed by AMEC as part of the 2006 Environmental Assessment (EA) (AMEC 2006) submission in support of the Sable Wind Power Project, and reviews those results in the context of the revised Project scope.
- Section 4.0 summarizes the results of the avian monitoring program implemented at the Project site in the fall of 2012.
- Section 5.0 discusses the overall conclusions of both avian monitoring programs.

The data analysis and interpretation contained herein has been developed to evaluate the potential impacts of the current Project to resident/migratory birds.

### 2.0 METHODOLOGY

A variety of survey protocols were implemented to collect the data required to properly evaluate the avian community at and around the Project site during both the original study (2004/2005) and the current study (2012). These included point counts (breeding birds), stopover counts (passerine migration), shorebird watches, post-dusk passerine migration surveys, and nocturnal owl surveys. Data were collected in accordance with the document "Baseline Information Requirements for Evaluation of Effects of Wind Power Facilities on Migratory Birds in Atlantic Canada" (Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) 2003) [Note: This guidance document has since been replaced by "Recommended Protocols for Monitoring Impacts of Wind Turbines on Birds" (CWS 2007)]. In 2004/2005, the survey program was designed and implemented by an expert birder with over 25 years of experience in scientific bird observation and data collection methods. Birds were identified on the basis of visual observation, songs, and call notes. The same expert birder also led the fall



migration surveys conducted in 2012 to ensure consistency and comparability of the results between the two studies.

Data analysis and interpretation consisted of reviewing the results of the original study in the context of the current Project layout, and screening the data against new conservation status designations for individual species. An emphasis was put on graphically representing some of the key results of these surveys, including identified passerine and shorebird migration corridors and the locations of priority species.

A similar approach was taken to analyze the results of the current (2012) study. Key results of both studies were compared to determine if species abundance/diversity/movement patterns remained consistent in the interim, and to elucidate any potential changes to the bird community that may have compromised the applicability of the previous study results.

### **3.0 2006 DATA REVIEW**

A rigorous avian survey program was implemented in 2004/2005 to determine the potential effects of the Project on avifauna. Although the current Project includes a revised wind turbine generator layout, data obtained in 2006 nonetheless corresponds closely to the current Project boundaries (Figure 1) such that the results are relevant to the current Project.

### 3.1 Breeding Birds

Breeding bird surveys were conducted in the Canso area during the first week of July, 2004, and in June 2005.

Surveys were conducted at both the proposed turbine locations (as of 2004/2005), as well as in the lands surrounding the Project site (extending up to a 25 km radius). Several of the locations surveyed in 2004 and 2005 fall within the current Project site boundaries and indeed are in close proximity to the current proposed Project layout. Since the habitat present at these locations has not changed significantly in the interim, results from these surveys should be indicative of the current breeding bird community at the Project site.

There were 61 species identified at the proposed turbine sites in 2004/2005 (Table 1).



page 2

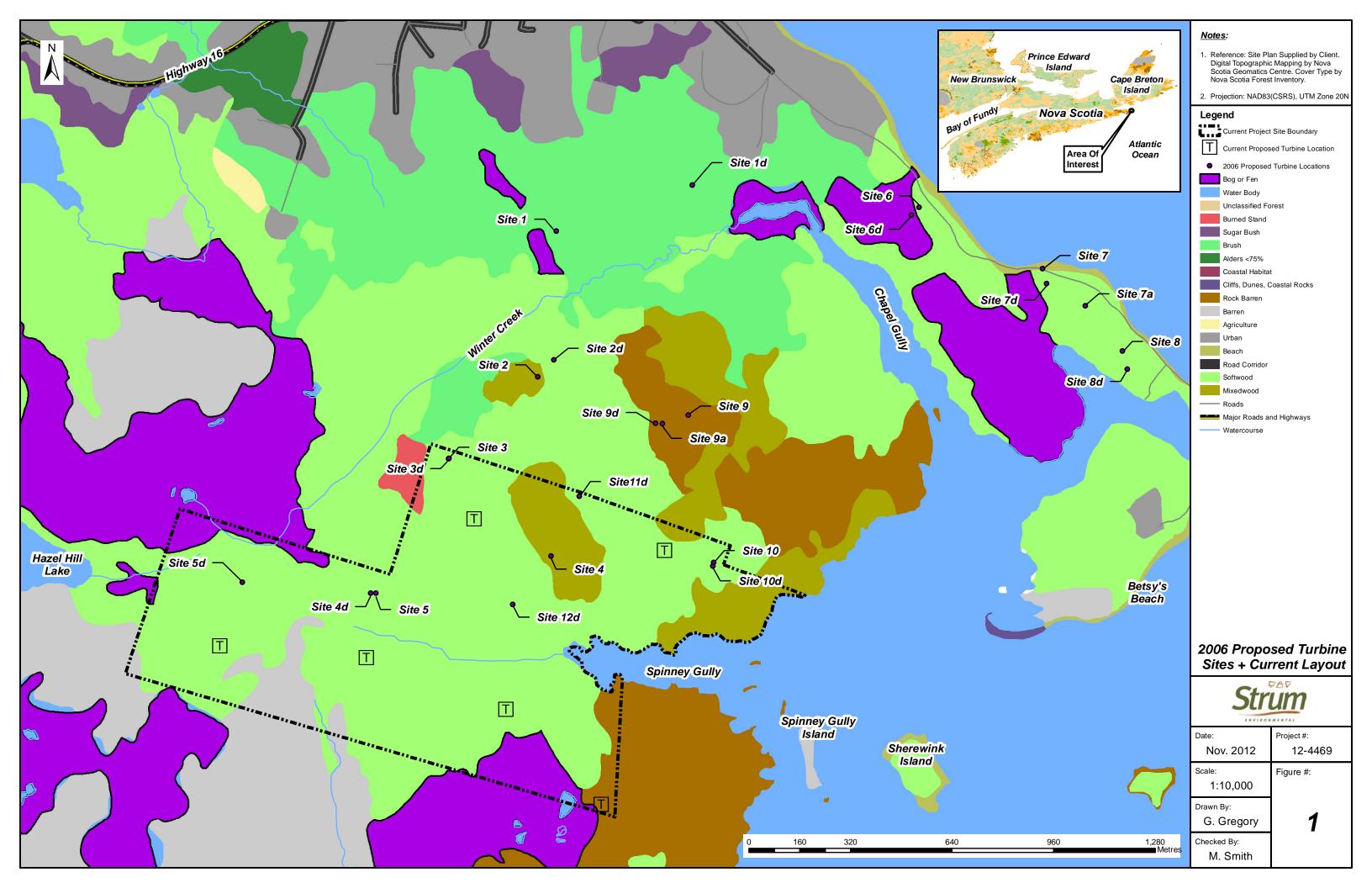


Table 1: Breeding Birds Recorded at the Project Site (July 2004 and June 2005)

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
Alder Flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle alcyon	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-backed Woodpecker <sup>5</sup>	Picoides arcticus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blackpoll Warbler <sup>6</sup>	Dendroica striata	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica virens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitarius	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Boreal Chickadee6	Poecile hudsonicus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Loon <sup>7</sup>	Gavia immer	Red	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Raven	Corvus corax	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Fox Sparrow	Passerella iliaca	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Golden-crowned Kinglet <sup>6</sup>	Regulus satrapa	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Gray Jay <sup>6</sup>	Perisoreus canadensis	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides villosus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Lincoln's Sparrow	Melospiza lincolnii	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Long-eared Owl <sup>5</sup>	Asio otus	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed



Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status⁴
Magnolia Warbler	Dendroica magnolia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Mourning Warbler	Oporornis philadelphia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Nashville Warbler	Vermivora ruficapilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Parula	Parula americana	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Olive-sided Flycatcher <sup>6</sup>	Contopus cooperi	Red	Threatened	Threatened	Not Listed
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Palm Warbler	Dendroica palmarum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Philadelphia Vireo	Vireo philadelphicus	Undetermined	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Siskin <sup>5</sup>	Spinus pinus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruby-crowned Kinglet <sup>6</sup>	Regulus calendula	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Spruce Grouse	Falcipennis canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Tennessee Warble <sup>r6</sup>	Vermivora peregrina	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Veery	Catharus fuscescens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-winged Crossbill	Loxia leucoptera	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Wilson's Warbler <sup>5</sup>	Wilsonia pusilla	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher <sup>6</sup>	Empidonax flaviventris	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR) 2010; <sup>2</sup>Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC 2012); <sup>3</sup>Species at Risk Act (SARA) 2012; <sup>4</sup>Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act (NSESA) 2007; <sup>5</sup>Not observed within current Project site boundaries; <sup>6</sup>Observed within current Project site boundaries;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Observed flying over surveyed location

There were no SARA listed species recorded at the Project site during breeding bird surveys in 2004/2005. However, the following 13 priority species, according to the criteria outlined in the "Guide to Addressing Wildlife Species and Habitats in an EA Registration Document" (NSE 2009), were observed at the proposed turbine locations during the breeding bird surveys (Figure 2):

- Black-backed Woodpecker "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Blackpoll Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Boreal Chickadee "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Common Loon "Red" (NSDNR 2010);
- Golden-crowned Kinglet "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Gray Jay "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Long-eared Owl "Red" (NSDNR 2010);
- Olive-sided Flycatcher "Red" (NSDNR 2010), "Threatened" (COSEWIC 2012), "Threatened" (SARA 2012);
- Pine Siskin "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Tennessee Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Wilson's Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010); and
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010).

Table 2 lists the bird species that were recorded in adjacent areas but were not observed at the Project site.



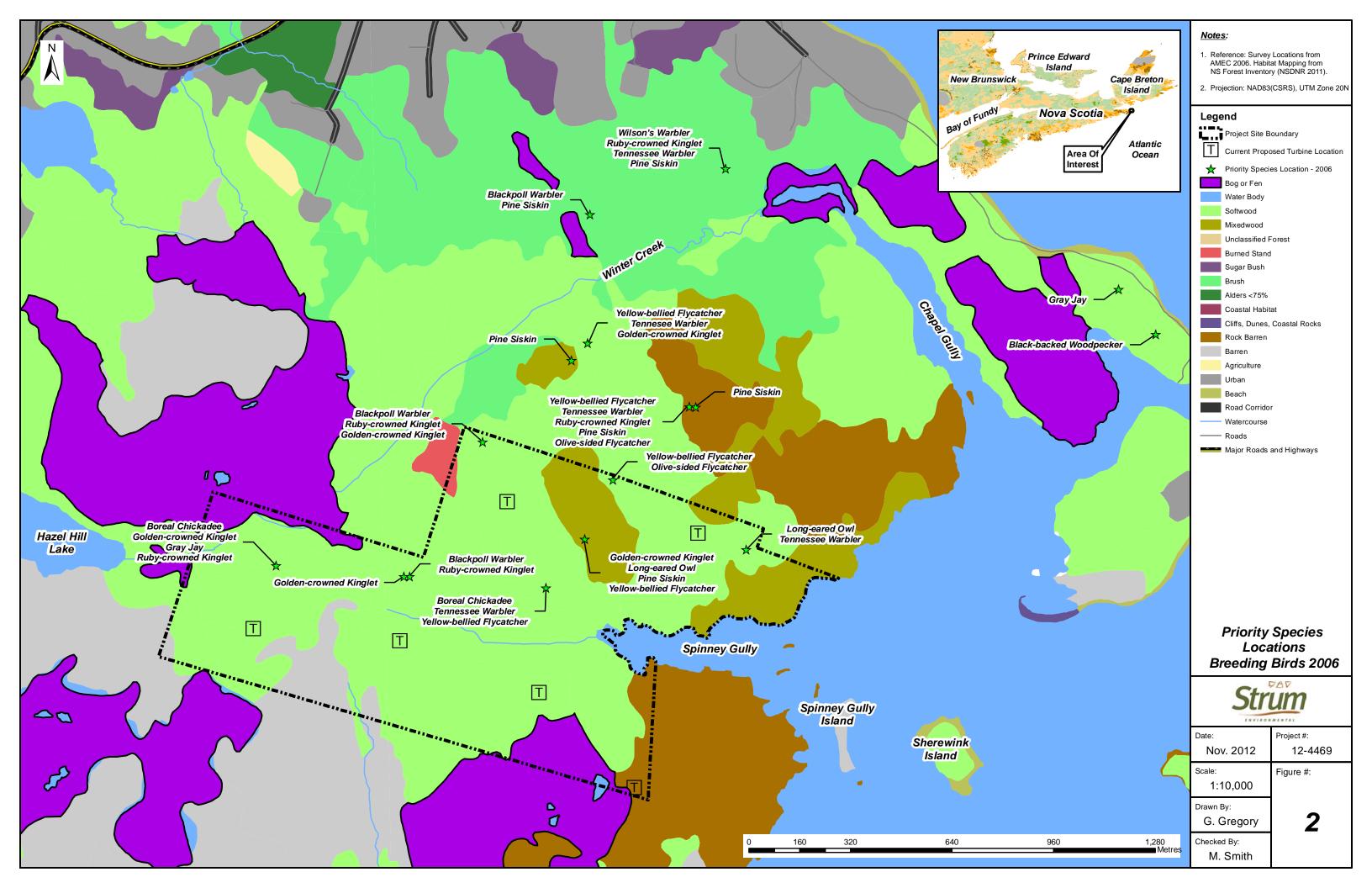


Table 2: Breeding Birds Recorded in Adjacent Areas (2004)

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Eider	Somateria mollissima	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	Yellow	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Double-crested Cormorant	Phalacrocorax auritus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Exotic	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Great Horned Owl	Bubo virginianus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Ammodramus nelsoni	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Grosbeak	Pinicola enucleator	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Roseate Tern	Sterna dougallii	Red	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	Green	Special Concern	Special Concern	Not Listed
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Willet	Tringa semipalmata	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed

<sup>1</sup>NSDNR 2010; <sup>2</sup>COSEWIC 2012; <sup>3</sup>SARA 2012; <sup>4</sup>NSESA 2007



It should also be noted that several of the proposed turbine locations that were surveyed in 2004 and 2005 were outside of the current Project site boundaries. With the exception of the Long-eared Owl, all species identified at the proposed turbine locations were also observed in nearby lands as well. The breeding bird community was found to be more diverse and abundant at the nearby Chapel Gully Park, likely owing to the diversity of habitat types at this location (e.g., freshwater ponds, brackish inlets, salt marsh, field, coastal waters, rocky shoreline, and urban) relative to the softwood dominated habitat of the Project site.

### 3.2 Fall Migration

Fall migration surveys targeting several key birds groups including shorebirds, waterfowl, and passerines, were conducted between July and October, 2004.

### Shorebirds

Key coastal habitats in the Canso area were surveyed to characterize the migrating shorebird community, with considerations made for the effects of the tidal cycle on shorebird roosting and foraging behaviors. Areas surveyed included Canso Harbour to Betsy's Point ("The Outer Coast"), Turf Bog, Spinney Gully, and Chapel Gully and associated coastal lands ("The Inner Coast"). Locations outside of the general Project area were surveyed as well for comparison. These off-site locations included The Tittle, Durrell's Island, Dover Road, Highway 316, and Highway 16 along Chedabucto Bay.

The results of the surveys in 2004 suggest that the coastal lands in the area of the current Project site do not fall within prominent shorebird migration corridors. Relatively few migrating shorebirds were detected in the "Outer Coast" area, and less were observed in the "Inner Coast", which includes coastal sections of the current Project site (Figure 3). It is suspected that shorebirds bypass these coastal lands in favour of the numerous nearshore islands that are situated along migration routes. It was observed that Grassy Island, for example, lies within a major flyway for Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) (Figure 3). Table 3 provides a list of recorded shorebird species from the 2004 surveys.



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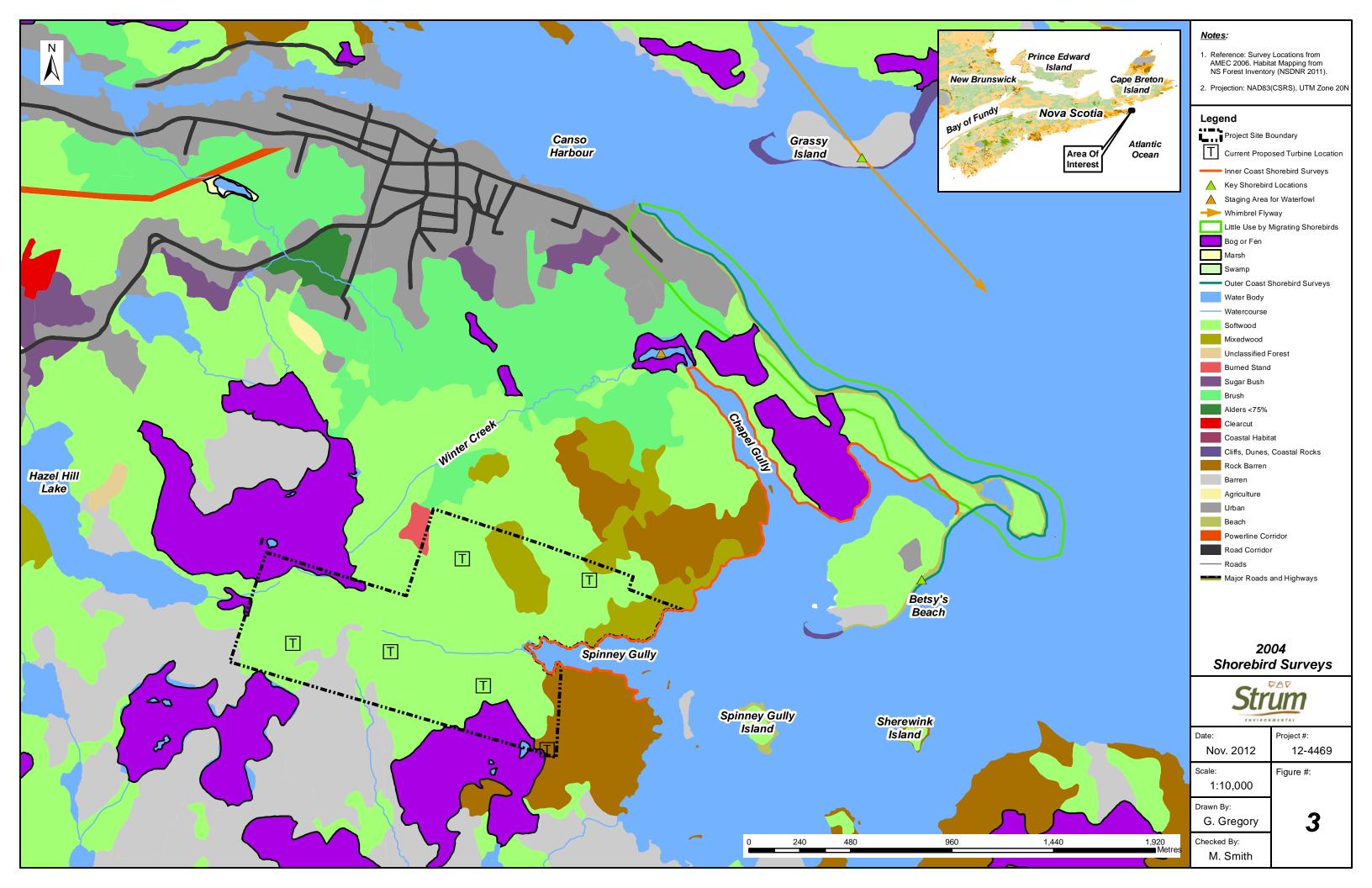


Table 3: Shorebirds Recorded During Fall Migration Surveys (2004)

		MODNID	000514110	0.454	NOTOA			Number	Number Observed			
Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status⁴	Canso and Outer Coast	Inner Coast	Grassy Island	Black Duck Cove Park	Tor Bay Provincial Park	New Harbour	
Baird's Sandpiper	Calidris bairdii	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Black-bellied Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	1	10		12	164	
Common Snipe	Gallinaga gallinaga	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoleuca	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	1	-	10		1	88	
Hudsonian Godwit	Limosa haemastica	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferous	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Least Sandpiper	Calidris minutilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	20	-	-	16	-	26	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	2	-	-	19	
Long-billed Curlew	Numenius americanus	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Calidris melanotos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Sanderling	Calidris alba	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	-	-	6	20	
Semipalmated Plover	Charadrius semipalmatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	99	-	50	37	50	377	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Calidris pusilla	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	18	-	-	8	2	257	
Short-billed Dowitcher	Limnodromus griseus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	-	-	-	124	
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	15	-	-	-	-	1	
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	100+	1	100+	-	9	1	
White-rumped Sandpiper	Calidris fuscicollis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	-	-	1	32	
Willet	Tringa semipalmata	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed	-	-	-	-	-	12	



The highest diversity of species and abundance of individual birds was observed at New Harbour, located approximately 38.4 km to the southwest of the current Project site boundary (Figure 4). The composition of the shorebird community observed at this location suggests that the main fall migration routes for some species along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, bypasses the Canso area. This includes species such as Black-bellied Plover (*Peltigera rufescens*), Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*), Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*), and White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*).

Just three species of shorebird were observed in the coastal areas immediately adjacent to the Project site, including Spinney Gully (Table 3), of which the following are considered priority species according to the criteria outlined in the "Guide to Addressing Wildlife Species and Habitats in an EA Registration Document" (NSE 2009):

- Common Snipe "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010); and
- Whimbrel "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010).

### Waterfowl

Waterfowl were also surveyed in 2004. Small flocks of Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) and American Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*) were recorded in the small pond at the head of Chapel Gully, suggesting that this location may be used as a staging area for local waterfowl (Figure 3). No additional waterfowl species were observed during the 2004 fall migration surveys.

### **Passerines**

There were 62 passerine species observed in the Canso area during surveys conducted in fall 2004 (Table 4). Observations from these surveys indicated areas of particular importance for migrating passerines. Most of the passerine migrant activity was observed on the lands adjacent to the current Project site; in fact, only one flock of 50 individuals was observed within the current Project site boundaries during the early fall migrant surveys (approximately 270 m from the nearest proposed turbine location). However, migrant passerines were observed flying south and southwest from an area of interest at the entrance to Chapel Gully Park, a path which may be intercepted by turbines. Nonetheless, the proposed turbine sites surveyed in 2004 were the least active areas for passerine migrants, likely because more suitable habitat is provided in adjacent areas such as Chapel Gully Park.



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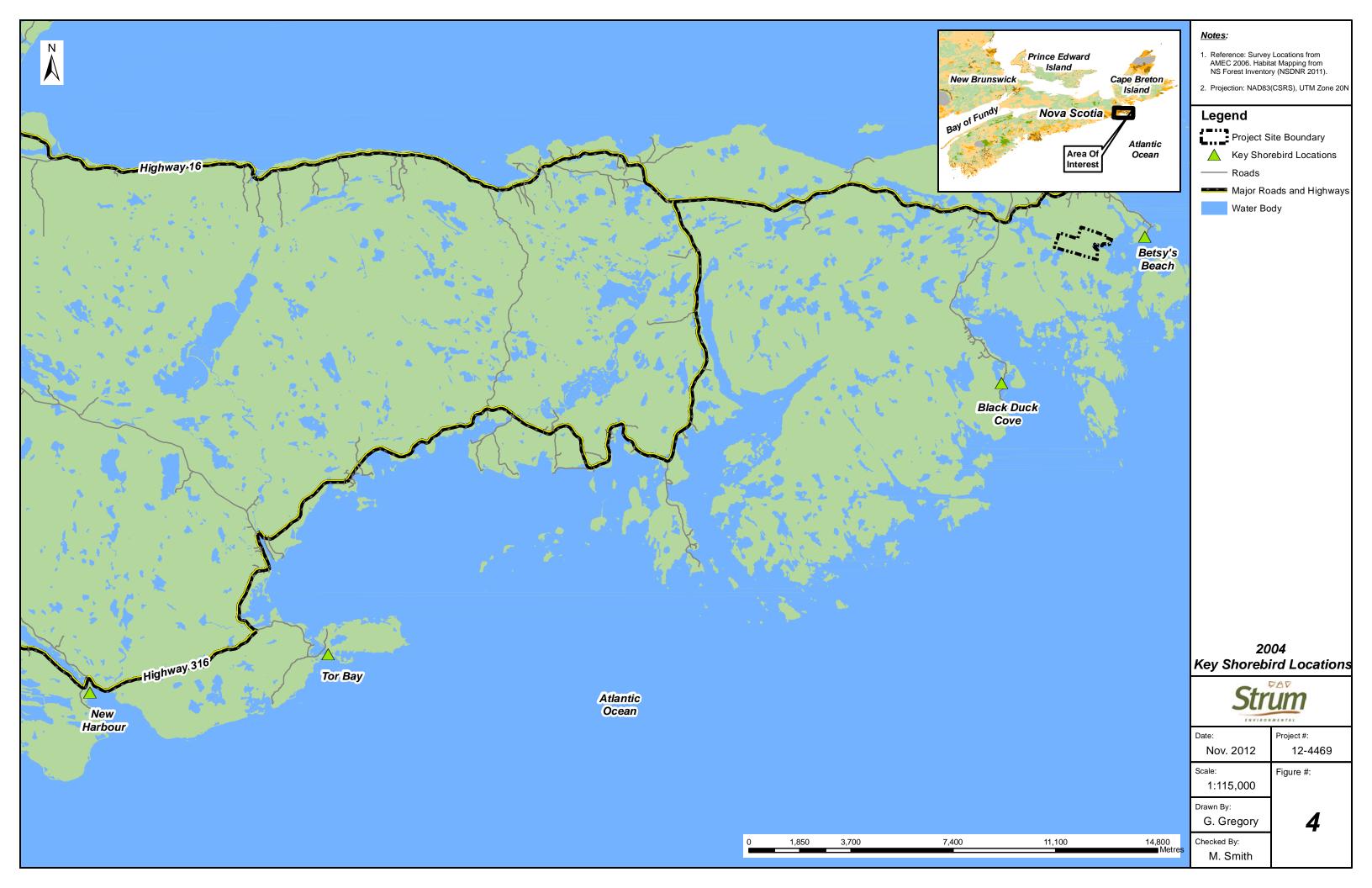


Table 4: Passerines Recorded During Fall Migration Surveys (2004)

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status⁴
Alder Flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Pipit	Anthus rubescens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Baltimore Oriole <sup>5</sup>	Icterus galbula	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Bay-breasted Warbler <sup>5</sup>	Dendroica castanea	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blackburnian Warbler	Dendroica fusca	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blackpoll Warbler <sup>5</sup>	Dendroica striata	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica virens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue Grosbeak	Passerina caerulea	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitaries	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Bobolink <sup>6</sup>	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	Yellow	Threatened	No Status	Not Listed
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Canada Warbler <sup>5</sup>	Wilsonia canadensis	Red	Threatened	Threatened	Not Listed
Cape May Warbler <sup>5</sup>	Dendroica tigrina	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Carolina Wren	Thryothorus Iudovicianus	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerine	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dickcissel	Spiza Americana	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Eastern Bluebird <sup>6</sup>	Sialia sialis	Yellow	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Eastern Kingbird <sup>5</sup>	Tyrannus tyrannus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Eastern Meadowlark <sup>6</sup>	Sturnella magna	Yellow	Threatened	No Status	Not Listed



Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status⁴
Eastern Towhee	Pipilo erythrophthalmus	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	Undetermined	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Lark Sparrow	Chondestes grammacus	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Magnolia Warbler	Dendroica magnolia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Nashville Warbler	Vermivora ruficapilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Waterthrush	Seiurus noveboracensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Orange-crowned Warbler	Vermivora celata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Palm Warbler	Dendroica palmarum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Siskin5	Spinus pinus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Warbler	Dendroica pinus	Undetermined	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Rose-breasted Grosbeak <sup>6</sup>	Pheucticus Iudovicianus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruby-crowned Kinglet <sup>5</sup>	Regulus calendula	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Snow Bunting	Plectrophenax nivalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Tennessee Warbler <sup>5</sup>	Vermivora peregrina	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-crowned Sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-eyed Vireo	Vireo griseus	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Wilson's Warbler <sup>5</sup>	Wilsonia pusilla	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed



Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status⁴
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>NSDNR 2010; <sup>2</sup>COSEWIC 2012; <sup>3</sup>SARA 2012; <sup>4</sup>NSESA 2007; <sup>5</sup>Observed at unspecified 2004 turbine location, may/may not coincide with current Project site; <sup>6</sup>Not observed within current Project site boundaries



Fall passerine migration corridors were observed in areas to the north, east, and west of the current Project site (Figure 5). These areas include: a valley running from northwest to southeast behind the Town of Canso; the Dover Road; a system of active feeders within the Town of Canso itself; and the narrow Canso peninsula. The Town of Canso featured the highest diversity and abundance of migrating passerines during the late fall surveys.

The following priority species, according to the criteria outlined in the "Guide to Addressing Wildlife Species and Habitats in an EA Registration Document" (NSE 2009), were identified from the Canso area during the fall migration surveys:

- Baltimore Oriole "Red" (NSDNR 2010);
- Bay-breasted Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Blackpoll Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Bobolink
  "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010), "Threatened" (COSEWIC 2012);
- Canada Warbler "Red" (NSDNR 2010), "Threatened" (COSEWIC 2012), "Threatened" (SARA 2012);
- Cape May Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Eastern Bluebird "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Eastern Kingbird "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Eastern Meadowlark "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010), "Threatened" (COSEWIC 2012);
- Pine siskin "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Tennessee Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010); and
- Wilson's Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010).

### 3.3 Winter Surveys

Winter bird surveys were carried out in the Canso area in the first week of January, 2005 with the purpose of collecting data on species presence, abundance, and habitat usage both by winter migrants from the far north and by over-wintering residents. This winter program included surveys at proposed turbine locations 1b to 10b as well as an extensive area surrounding the Project site, including all accessible areas within a 2 km radius, Highway 16 from Half Island Cove to the Town of Canso, Highway 316 from Port Felix to Half Island Cove, and the entirety of the Dover Road. Surveys were conducted during peak morning and late afternoon feeding periods, as well as midday to target both over-wintering species and southern strays. Species were identified on the basis of visual observation, flight patterns, and vocalizations (i.e., call notes).

There were 108 species identified during the winter surveys (Table 5), of which 15 were found at or near the proposed turbine locations (Table 6). It is expected that the low diversity of the winter bird community at the proposed turbine locations was due to exposed woodland habitat that does not provide adequate food or cover for any but the hardiest of species.



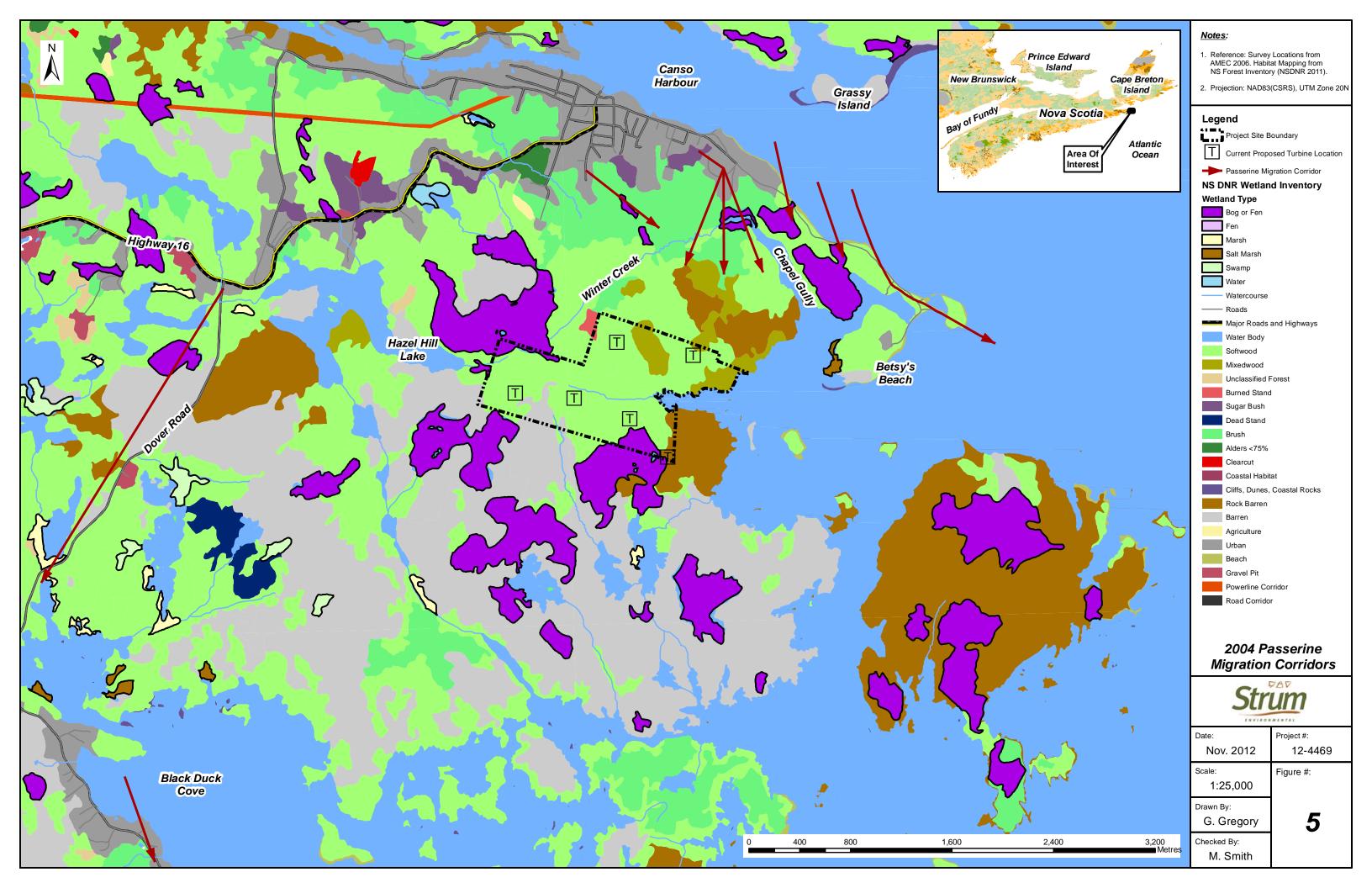


Table 5: Avifauna Observed During Winter Bird Surveys in the Canso Area (2005)

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
American Black Duck	Anas rubripes	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Tree Sparrow	Spizella arborea	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Woodcock	Scolopax minor	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Barrow's Goldeneye	Bucephala islandica	Red	Special Concern	Special Concern	Not Listed
Black Guillemot	Cepphus grille	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black Scoter	Melanitta nigra	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Bonaparte's Gull	Chroicocephalus Philadelphia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Boreal Chickadee	Poecile hudsonicus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Brown Creeper	Certhia Americana	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Canada Goose	Branta Canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Eider	Somateria mollissima	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Loon	Gavia immer	Red	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Raven	Corvus corax	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Redpoll	Acanthis flammea	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dickcissel	Spiza Americana	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Double-crested Cormorant	Phalacrocorax auritus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dovekie	Alle alle	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Exotic	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed



Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
Glaucous Gull	Larus hyperboreus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus satrapa	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Gray Jay	Perisoreus canadensis	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Greater Scaup	Aythya marila	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides villosus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Horned Grebe	Podiceps auritus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Exotic	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Iceland Gull	Larus glaucoides	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Lincoln's Sparrow	Melospiza lincolnii	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Long-tailed Duck	Clangula hyemalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Merlin	Falco columbarius	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Gannet	Morus bassanus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Palm Warbler	Dendroica palmarum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Grosbeak	Pinicola enucleator	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Purple Sandpiper	Calidris maritime	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Razorbill	Alca torda	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta Canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-throated Loon	Gavia stellata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	Exotic	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed



Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Snow Bunting	Plectrophenax nivalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Surf Scoter	Melanitta perspicillata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza Georgiana	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-winged Crossbill	Loxia leucoptera	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-winged Scoter	Melanitta fusca	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>NSDNR 2010; <sup>2</sup>COSEWIC 2012; <sup>3</sup>SARA 2012; <sup>4</sup>NSESA 2007

Table 6: Avifauna Observed During Winter Bird Surveys at the Proposed Turbine Locations (2005)

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Brown Creeper	Certhia Americana	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Redpoll	Acanthis flammea	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Golden-crowned Kinglet <sup>5</sup>	Regulus satrapa	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Siskin <sup>6</sup>	Spinus pinus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta Canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>NSDNR 2010; <sup>2</sup>COSEWIC 2012; <sup>3</sup>SARA 2012; <sup>4</sup>NSESA 2007; <sup>5</sup>Not observed within current Project site boundaries; <sup>6</sup>Observed within current Project site boundaries



The following priority species were observed at the proposed turbine locations during winter bird surveys in January 2005:

- Golden-crowned Kinglet<sup>1</sup> "Yellow" (NSNDR 2010); and
- Pine Siskin<sup>2</sup> "Yellow" (NSNDR 2010).

### 3.4 Spring Surveys

### Owls

Nocturnal owl surveys were carried out in mid-April, 2005 at sites 1d to 12d to evaluate the breeding activity of owl species at the Project site (Site 5d was not visited due to access issues during dark hours). Surveys were conducted on nights with no precipitation and winds of less than 10 km/hour. Owls were identified based upon calls elicited by audio playbacks or from response calls elicited by the surveyor.

There were 29 owls, representing five species identified during these nocturnal spring surveys, of which 20 were identified at or near the proposed turbine locations (Table 7; Figure 6).

Table 7: Owls Observed At/Near Proposed Turbine Locations During Early Spring Surveys (2005)

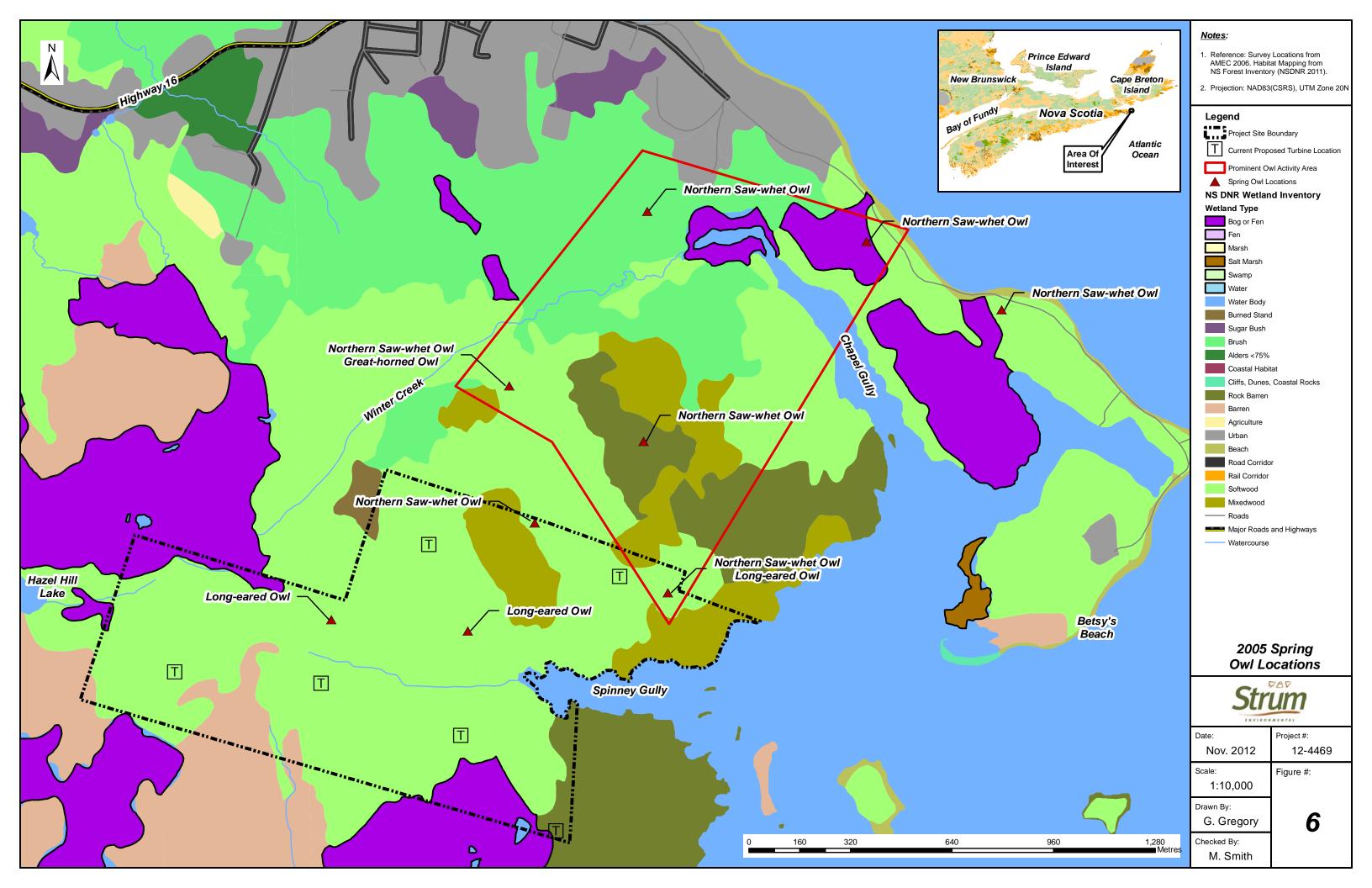
Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status⁴
Great Horned Owl	Bubo virginianus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern saw-whet	Aegolius				
Owl	acadicus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Long-eared Owl	Asio otus	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>NSDNR 2010; <sup>2</sup>COSEWIC 2012; <sup>3</sup>SARA 2012; <sup>4</sup>NSESA 2007

Long-eared Owls were identified at three survey locations that fall within the current Project site boundaries. It appears that the softwood dominated habitat at the Project site offers the combination of cover and nearby feeding grounds necessary for this species to establish a breeding territory.

Although owls were detected within the current Project site boundaries, the area with the most owl activity was focused on the lands to the north (Figure 6).





## Early Migrants

Early spring migrants were surveyed in mid-April (2005) to capture early migrants (i.e., waterfowl, other waterbirds) as well as early breeding species (i.e., woodpeckers, owls). These surveys were also planned to coincide with the peak of the sea duck migration, while surveys for freshwater waterfowl species were carried out after ice melt. Surveys encompassed the area described for the 2004 Fall Shorebird surveys as well as lakes close to the Project site, including Hazel Hill Lake, Wilkin's Lake, Basin Lake, Three Mile Lake, and Little Kavanaugh Lake.

Passerine early spring migration surveys were carried out at locations 1d-12d (Figure 1) as well as the surrounding areas including Chapel Gully Park, Glasgow Head, Glasgow Camp, Betsy's Point, Hazel Hill, and the Town of Canso. Surveys were carried out threefold as follows:

- early morning hours to encompass peak feeding periods for nocturnal migrants;
- midday to encompass a second peak feeding period due to increased insect activity; and
- late afternoon to target diurnal migrants.

There were 26 bird species observed at or near the proposed turbine sites during these surveys (Table 8). The results indicated no significant migration corridors for early spring migrants in the Canso area.

Table 8: Avifauna Observed At/Near the Proposed Turbine Locations During Early Spring Migration Surveys (mid-April 2005)

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status⁴
American Black Duck	Anas rubripes	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle alcyon	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Boreal Chickadee	Poecile hudsonicus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Brown Creeper	Certhia Americana	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Raven	Corvus corax	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Fox Sparrow	Passerella iliaca	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus satrapa	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Great Blue Heron	Ardea Herodias	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Great Egret	Ardea alba	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Green-winged Teal	Anas crecca	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed



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Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Grosbeak	Pinicola enucleator	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta Canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Spruce Grouse	Falcipennis Canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed

<sup>1</sup>NSDNR 2010; <sup>2</sup>COSEWIC 2012; <sup>3</sup>SARA 2012; <sup>4</sup>NSESA 2007

The following priority species were observed during these surveys:

- Boreal Chickadee "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Golden-crowned Kinglet "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Pine Grosbeak "Red" (NSDNR 2010; and
- Pine Siskin "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010).

Boreal Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Pine Siskin were observed at most of the proposed turbine locations, whereas Pine Grosbeak was identified at sites 4d and 5d, both of which fall within the current Project site boundary (Figure 1). Due to its hilltop location, site 5d may be important to both rare and regular spring migrants. A proposed turbine location in the current Project layout is situated just 210 m to the south, on the same hilltop. The possibility therefore exists that this proposed turbine may interfere with access to this hilltop location, creating the potential for collisions.

### Main Migrants

Main migrant surveys were carried out at the Project site in May, 2005 to characterize the bird community during the peak passerine migration period. Surveys were conducted at sites 1d-12d, as well as in the lands surrounding the Project site including Chapel Gully Park, Glasgow Head, Glasgow Camp, Betsy's Point, Hazel Hill, and the Town of Canso. Surveys were conducted within four hours of sunrise to target peak feeding times for nocturnal migrants, with shorter surveys completed later in the day to target diurnal migrants. Where possible, data were also collected on non-passerine migrant species including waterfowl, shorebirds, and birds of prey.

There were 64 bird species were identified at or near the proposed turbine locations (Table 9).



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Table 9: Avifauna Observed At/Near the Proposed Turbine Locations During Peak Spring Migration Surveys (May 2005)

Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
Alder Flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Black Duck	Anas rubripes	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
American Woodcock	Scolopax minor	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle alcyon	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus erythropthalmus	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blackpoll Warbler	Dendroica striata	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica virens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitaries	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Chuck-will's-widow	Caprimulgus carolinensis	Accidental	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Raven	Corvus corax	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Snipe	Gallinaga gallinaga	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus satrapa	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Gray Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Green-winged Teal	Anas crecca	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed



Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Lincoln's Sparrow	Melospiza lincolnii	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Long-eared Owl	Asio otus	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Magnolia Warbler	Dendroica magnolia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Nashville Warbler	Vermivora ruficapilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Northern Parula	Parula Americana	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Palm Warbler	Dendroica palmarum	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta Canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	Green	Special Concern	Special Concern	Not Listed
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	Green	Not at Risk	Not Listed	Not Listed
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Spruce Grouse	Falcipennis canadensis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Tennessee Warbler	Vermivora peregrina	Yellow	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Veery	Catharus fuscescens	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Virginia Rail	Rallus limicola	Undetermined	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Willet	Tringa semipalmata	Red	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed



Common Name	Scientific Name	NSDNR Status <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Status <sup>2</sup>	SARA Status <sup>3</sup>	NSESA Status <sup>4</sup>
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Dendroica coronata	Green	Not Listed	Not Listed	Not Listed

NSDNR 2010; <sup>2</sup>COSEWIC 2012; <sup>3</sup>SARA 2012; <sup>4</sup>NSESA 2007



The following priority species were observed during these surveys:

- Black-billed Cuckoo "Red" (NSDNR 2010);
- Black-crowned Night-Heron "Red" (NSDNR 2010);
- Blackpoll Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Common Snipe "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Eastern Kingbird "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Golden-crowned Kinglet "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Gray Catbird "Red" (NSDNR 2010);
- Long-eared Owl "Red" (NSDNR 2010);
- Pine Siskin "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Spotted Sandpiper "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010);
- Tennessee Warbler "Yellow" (NSDNR 2010); and
- Willet "Red" (NSDNR 2010).

Some of the priority species, including Blackpoll Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, were common at the site and were observed at all proposed turbine locations (Figure7). Long-eared Owl was the only other priority species observed within the current Project site boundaries. All other priority species were identified at locations on adjacent lands.

No significant migration corridors were indicated by the results of the peak spring migration surveys. Waterfowl and wader species, which were recorded in the small pond at the mouth of Winter Creek, were observed to use Chapel Gully as the preferred access route, essentially bypassing the current Project site.



