

Rusty Blackbird: Options for Monitoring



Monitoring on the Breeding Grounds

potentially very costly

- combine with surveys of other boreal species
- use existing programs
- citizen science
- standardize methods for local/regional projects



Monitoring Options: existing programs

- BBS
- Migration Monitoring
- Marsh Monitoring Programs
- Waterfowl Pair Surveys
- Aerial Surveys
- Breeding Bird Atlas Projects
- Checklist Programs



Migration Monitoring

Data from bird banding stations:

- numbers of banded birds
- daily estimated totals
- visible migration



Canadian Migration Monitoring Network

Bird Studies Canada



Études d'Oiseaux Canada



CANADIAN
MIGRATION
MONITORING
NETWORK



Canadian Migration Monitoring Network

- 22 banding stations
- very few Rusty Blackbirds banded
- potential to use daily estimated totals
and visible migration



CMMN: trends in estimated totals

Bird Studies Canada



Études d'Oiseaux Canada

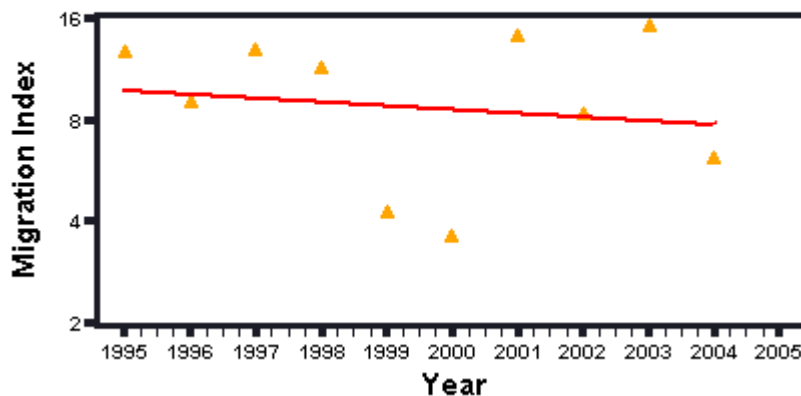
Bird Population Indices



CANADIAN
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NETWORK

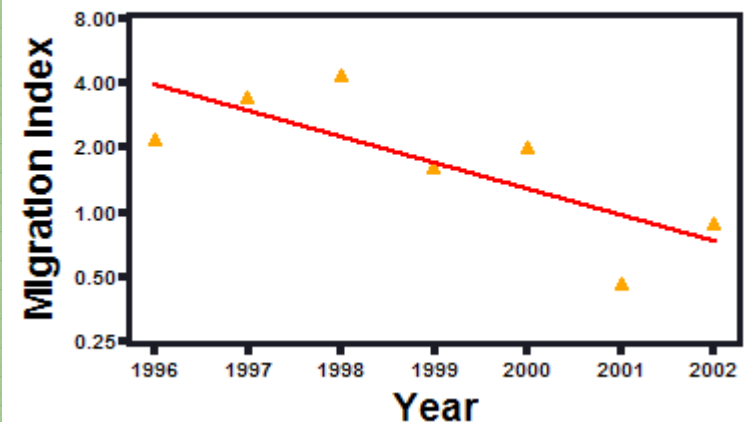
Rusty Blackbird

Thunder Cape Bird Observatory



Rusty Blackbird

Mackenzie Nature Observatory



Environment Canada
www.ec.gc.ca

Marsh Monitoring

- e.g. Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program
 - *semicircular “stations” at wetlands, point-count style survey with broadcast of sound recordings*
 - *birds and amphibians, survey in evening*
 - *designed for “secretive marsh birds”*
 - *ongoing since 1994*

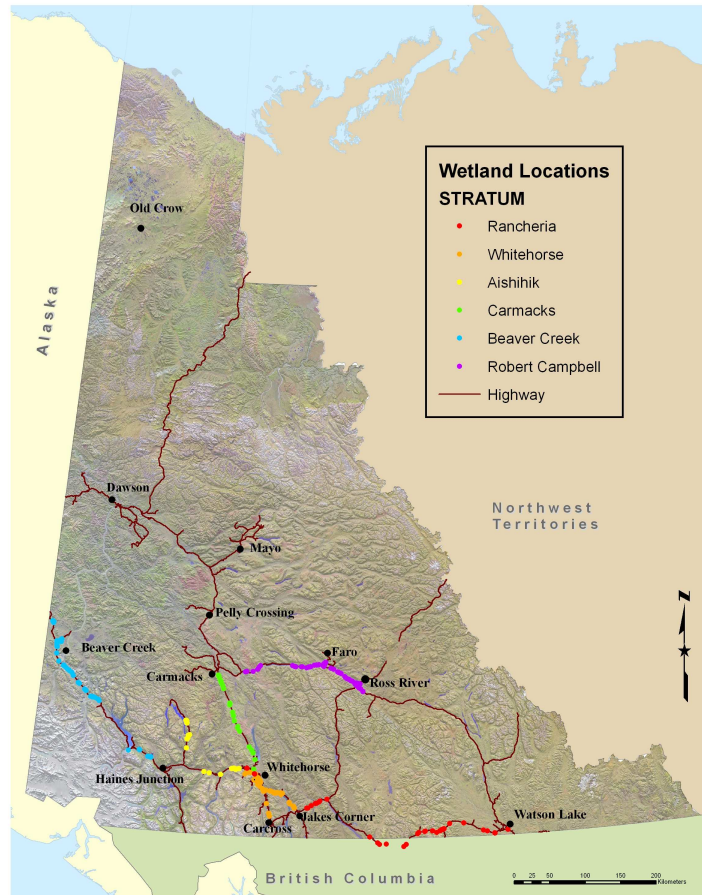


Waterfowl Pair Surveys

- Ground-based, road access
- In Yukon and B.C., 5 weekly visits (late April to early June)
- the survey units are small wetlands or parts of larger wetlands
- surveys conducted at all times of day

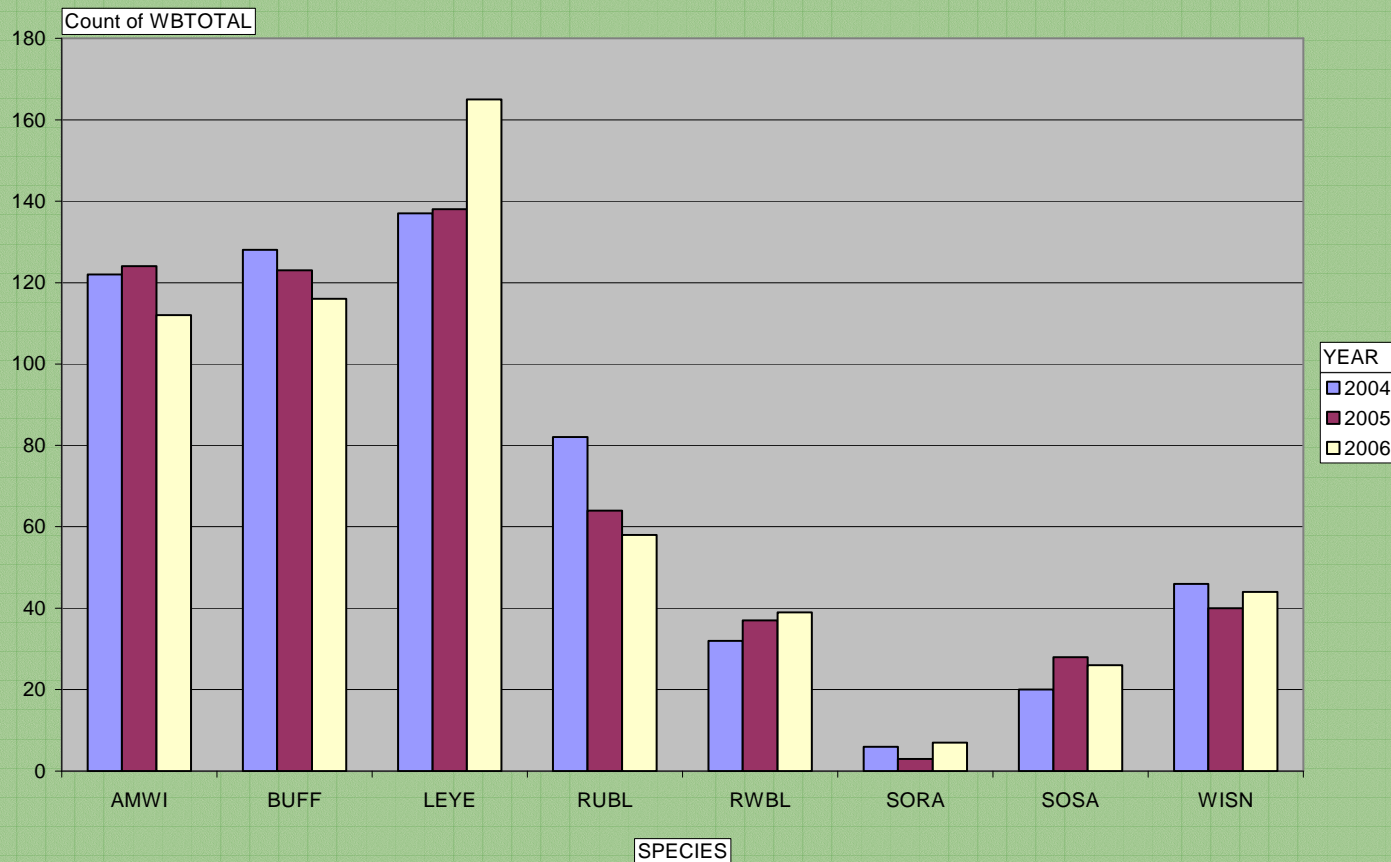


Yukon Waterfowl Pair Survey



- waterfowl survey since '91
- Rusty Blackbird added '04
- 250 wetlands surveyed
- Rusty Blackbirds occur in about 25%

Yukon Waterfowl Pair Survey



Aerial Surveys

- aerial surveys for waterfowl or shorebirds
- can be used where Rusty is the only blackbird
-CO₂....?



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