



## **NORTH AMERICAN BREEDING BIRD SURVEY**

### **Summary of Effort in 2018**

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The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is jointly coordinated by staff from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland and the ECCC Canadian Wildlife Service in Ontario. Since its inception more than 50 years ago, the BBS has become the primary source of long-term, large-scale population data for more than 400 of North America's breeding bird species. The survey launched in earnest in 1966 with surveyors sampling routes east of the Mississippi and in southeastern Canada. The effort expanded the following year to include the Great Plains states and the Prairie provinces. And by 1968, the BBS program was coast to coast, covering all the continental U.S. and Canada. There were roughly 1,850 routes distributed north of Mexico at that time and today, thanks to the dedication of thousands of highly skilled volunteers, that number stands greater than 4,600. Not all routes get sampled in a given year owing to landscape level phenomena such as floods, fires, and other natural disasters and because of the remoteness of routes in areas such as the northern boreal region and the arid intermountain west.

#### **2018 ROUTE COVERAGE**

Our thanks to everyone who participated in the 2018 season – the BBS's 53<sup>rd</sup> year of data collection! Data from 3,291 routes have been received so far. While the numbers are not exact (a small percentage of 2018 data have yet to arrive), Table 1 on the next page provides good indication of how route coverage in each state and province had played out.

*(Better Late Than Never - Do you have BBS data from previous years that were never sent in? Remember, it is never too late. Whether they are from last year or a decade ago, we can still use them. While we don't wish to promote late data submission, don't throw them out just because they are old; send them to us!)*

