

# North American Waterfowl Management Plan



Wetland complex in the Centre-du-Québec region (photo : DUC-MDDEP)

**T**his review presents the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV) member partners' main accomplishments in Quebec for securement, enhancement, research and evaluation during 2011–2012. The funds invested are also detailed throughout.

A key to success has been the good synergy among EHJV partners, coupled with the ongoing support of numerous collaborators and landowners whose common goal is to secure and enhance wetlands and adjacent uplands for waterfowl and biodiversity in general. The EHJV member partners sincerely thank all those who, through their conviction, financial support and active participation, helped make these projects become a reality, the benefits from which will be felt throughout all of Quebec. 

## Securement

Quebec habitats are secured by acquiring (purchase or donation) property or by signing a minimum 10-year conservation agreement with the owner. In recent years, EHJV member partners have secured several thousand hectares of significant habitat in the southern part of the province. Consequently, management of these sites today requires more attention in annual planning. Management includes follow-up visits of the property and the application of priority measures in collaboration with local partners in order to ensure the conservation of the protected property. 



Hooded Merganser (photo : Denis Faucher)



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# Lac-à-la-Tortue Peat Bog

For about 10 years, the Quebec office of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has been working to secure sites of high ecological value in the Mauricie region. The Lac-à-la-Tortue peat bog is an area of prime concern and the largest wetland in the St. Lawrence River and Lake Champlain valleys. It totals 9,293 hectares of mostly ombrotrophic wetlands that characterize the western part of the St. Lawrence Lowlands. Its formation resulted in the creation of small pools scattered over the landscape and this type of habitat attracts nesting waterfowl as well as landbirds.

NCC has already secured 1,403 hectares that are contiguous or adjacent to the Lac-à-la-Tortue Ecological Reserve. The formative work carried out in this area in 2011–2012 has helped secure an additional 130 hectares of natural habitat. The secured land will contribute in maintaining the quality of natural peatlands, marshes and swamps while conserving the habitats of several plant species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec, notably the Virginia Chain Fern and the Twin-scaped Bladderwort. Environment Canada's *Conservation Atlas of Wetlands in the St. Lawrence Valley* describes this habitat as a critical refuge for several waterfowl species such as the Black Duck and the Blue-winged Teal. Moreover, surveys related to the recent acquisitions

confirmed the presence of the Sandhill Crane. NCC will continue its conservation activities and is hoping to double the area under protection within five years. 

## 2011–2012 Wetland Securement Summary

Site	Area (ha)	Costs (\$)
Lac-à-la-Tortue	130	154,000
Rivière du Nord	632	204,000
Barachois de Malbaie	18	453,000
Bois Champigny	487	1,355,000
Grand marais de Bristol	58	417,000
Tourbière du Rocher	224	730,000
Baie Chapman	45	192,000
Pointe Saint-Pierre	2	195,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,596 ha</b>	<b>3,700,000 \$</b>



Lac-à-la-Tortue peat bog (photo : Martine Lapointe)

## Enhancement

### Major Financial Support from Environment Canada for Cavity-nesting Ducks

The loss and degradation of wetlands and adjacent uplands have reduced populations of cavity-nesting ducks that nest in natural cavities. The objective behind placing nest boxes is to increase nesting success, primarily for the Wood Duck, the Common Goldeneye and the Hooded Merganser. In this context, Environment Canada's Community Interaction Program has contributed financially to the cavity-nesting duck habitat enhancement program with the installation of nest boxes. This three-year enhancement program, with the objective to install 300 nest boxes in wetlands along the St. Lawrence River, was implemented by Ducks Unlimited Canada in collaboration with the Société d'aménagement de la baie Lavallière. The success of the program depends on, among other things, the hard work of about 100 collaborators involved in setting up and monitoring the nest boxes. Each person is committed to maintain and check the nest boxes over a 10-year period and to collect data related to their use. The owners of the land where the nest boxes are installed have committed to conserve their wetland for at least 10 years. In signing a landholding agreement, they also confirm their willingness to keep the habitat suitable for use by wildlife. In the end, some 250 hectares of habitat will be protected as a result of the involvement of local stakeholders and landowners. 🦆



Installing a nest box (photo : DUC)

### 2011–2012 Wetland Enhancement Summary

Site	Costs (\$)
Étang Fullerton	47,000
Nest box installation	A summary of the program will be available in 2015



Wetland ground truthing (photo : DUC-MDDEP)

# Partners' contributions

This table shows program accomplishments by agency responsible for program delivery. Consequently, and for a variety of reasons, it is possible that the contribution from one partner is attributed to another.

Activities	Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)	Canadian Wildlife Service	Fondation de la faune du Québec	Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF)	Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)	Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP)	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	TOTAL (\$)
Securement	170,000	243,900	11,000	220,300	3,530,300	3,612,400	456,000	<b>8,243,900</b>
Enhancement	283,000			312,000		143,000	147,400	<b>885,400</b>
Site Management	195,000	122,100	7,500	24,200	869,800	96,300	229,100	<b>1,544,000</b>
Stewardship	509,000	140,000	115,000			36,000	135,000	<b>935,000</b>
Evaluation and Monitoring				50,000				<b>50,000</b>
Communications	10,000	9,000		5,000		5,000		<b>29,000</b>
Coordination	80,000	14,000	47,000	45,000		15,000	36,000	<b>237,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,247,000</b>	<b>529,000</b>	<b>180,500</b>	<b>656,500</b>	<b>4,400,100</b>	<b>3,907,700</b>	<b>1,003,500</b>	<b>11,924,300</b>

## Evaluation and monitoring

In keeping with the objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and the EHJV Implementation Plan (2007–2012), a detailed survey of waterfowl was conducted during the breeding period in the St. Lawrence, Abitibi–Témiscamingue and Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean lowlands. The data collected helps determine the density of nesting couples and ensures consistency between the EHJV and species Joint Venture activities.

There was monitoring of fish species in the newly enhanced marshes, for which fish habitat had been considered in the project design.

Activities to develop and disseminate detailed wetland maps continued, as did activities to produce Regional Wetland Conservation Plans for all areas south of the 50<sup>th</sup> parallel.

The EHJV partners also contributed to setting criteria and conducting analyses aimed at targeting significant sites and at

establishing conservation scenarios for priority species of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), the NAWMP, the Plan Nord, regional county municipality development plans, and habitat and landscape conservation.

## Multi-partner efforts

Conservation activities carried out in Quebec by the EHJV partners are part of a recognized international approach between Canada, the United States and Mexico. In a world where human and financial resources are becoming increasingly scarce, the combined strengths of partnerships such as that implemented under the EHJV are incredibly valuable for 1) protecting sites of great ecological worth, 2) planning land use with a view to increasing wildlife productivity, and 3) planning directed scientific studies and surveys to better understand targeted species and their habitats.

