

# WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD (WSR) PROJECT

## Breeding Birds Study Plan - Fact Sheet

### What was the primary purpose of this assessment?

To describe birds and their habitat in the study area for the Project and identify potential effects of the Project on birds.

➤➤➤ Raptors, Shorebirds, Waterfowl, Forest birds, Wetland birds

### What is the study area for the potential effects on breeding birds?

Study areas are used to define the geographic boundaries in which the Project may have environmental effects. At this stage, there are three general study areas:

- **Project Footprint (PF):** The area of direct disturbance (i.e., the physical area required for Project construction and operation);
- **Local Study Area (LSA):** The area where largely direct, and indirect effects of the Project are likely to be measurable; and
- **Regional Study Area (RSA):** The area where potential, largely indirect and cumulative effects of the Project in the broader, regional context may occur.



### What is the timeline for potential effects on birds?

The Assessment process will consider both the short and long-term effects on bird communities, including their distribution and abundance.



#### The project will occur in two phases:

- Construction phase; and
- Operations phase

The Project is proposed to be operated for an indeterminate time period; therefore, retirement (decommissioning/abandonment/closure) is not anticipated and will not be considered in the Assessment.

# HOW WILL THE INFORMATION BE GATHERED?

The following secondary sources will be drawn from in order to characterize the current conditions for birds, migratory birds and their habitat:

- Previously conducted environmental studies, including Indigenous Knowledge and information obtained through consultation with Indigenous communities;
- Regulatory databases and aerial photography;
- North American Landbird Conservation [PlaneBird.org](http://PlaneBird.org);
- [eBird.com](http://eBird.com) and [iNaturalist.com](http://iNaturalist.com) (recorded observations); and
- The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario North American Breeding Bird Survey.

The Project Team will also collect their own data through the following proposed field methods:

- Breeding Bird Point Count Survey;
- Acoustic Bird Sampling;
- Crepuscular Bird Surveys;
- Waterfowl Migration Aerial Surveys;
- Shorebird Migration Aerial Surveys; and
- Raptor Nesting Data Collection.

## How are the field study sites being selected?

The locations were chosen by reviewing existing data and consulting with Indigenous communities and government agencies. They were chosen to ensure adequate representation of all habitat types in the **LSA** and **RSA** for the proposed WSR and supportive infrastructure such as construction camps and access roads.

## What kind of information is being collected?

- Bird data to represent temporal variation (migration and breeding cycles);
- Describe the distribution and abundance of all bird species within the study areas;
- Data that is needed to model spatial and temporal sources of variation such as land cover types, hydrological process, climatic conditions and soil type;
- Identify the federal and provincial **Species at Risk** and/or **Critical Habitat** in the study areas that are likely to be sensitive habitat for birds; and
- Identify important areas for migratory birds such as breeding, staging, feeding, and resting sites.

