

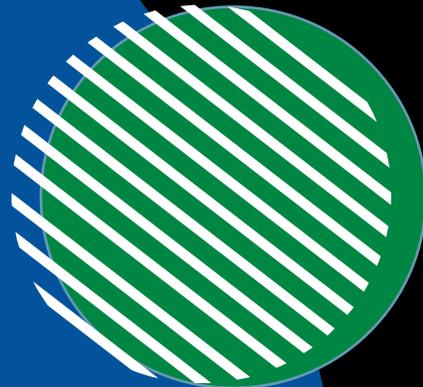
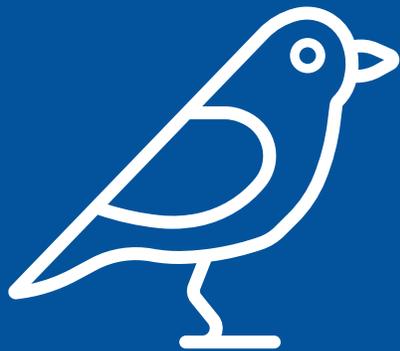


MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION
ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

Bird Field Program

Discussion Guide

March 2022





Bird Field Program

Discussion Guide | March 2022

This Discussion Guide provides an overview to upcoming Bird Field Programs. **We welcome and encourage your feedback on the key questions listed in this Guide. Your insights and knowledge will help shape and enrich our field studies.**

The Bird Field Programs in 2022 include Autonomous Recording Unit, Aerial, Marsh Bird Call Playback and Breeding Bird Point Count Surveys will take place this year for the federal Impact Assessment (IA) and provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) for Marten Falls First Nation's proposed All-Season Community Access Road.

A field notice will be distributed once dates are confirmed and information will be provided regularly by email in our monthly Project Updates.

[Interested in this topic? Click to schedule a meeting with us today, especially if you have Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests in the area](#)



Next Page: We Need Your Input





We Need Your Input!

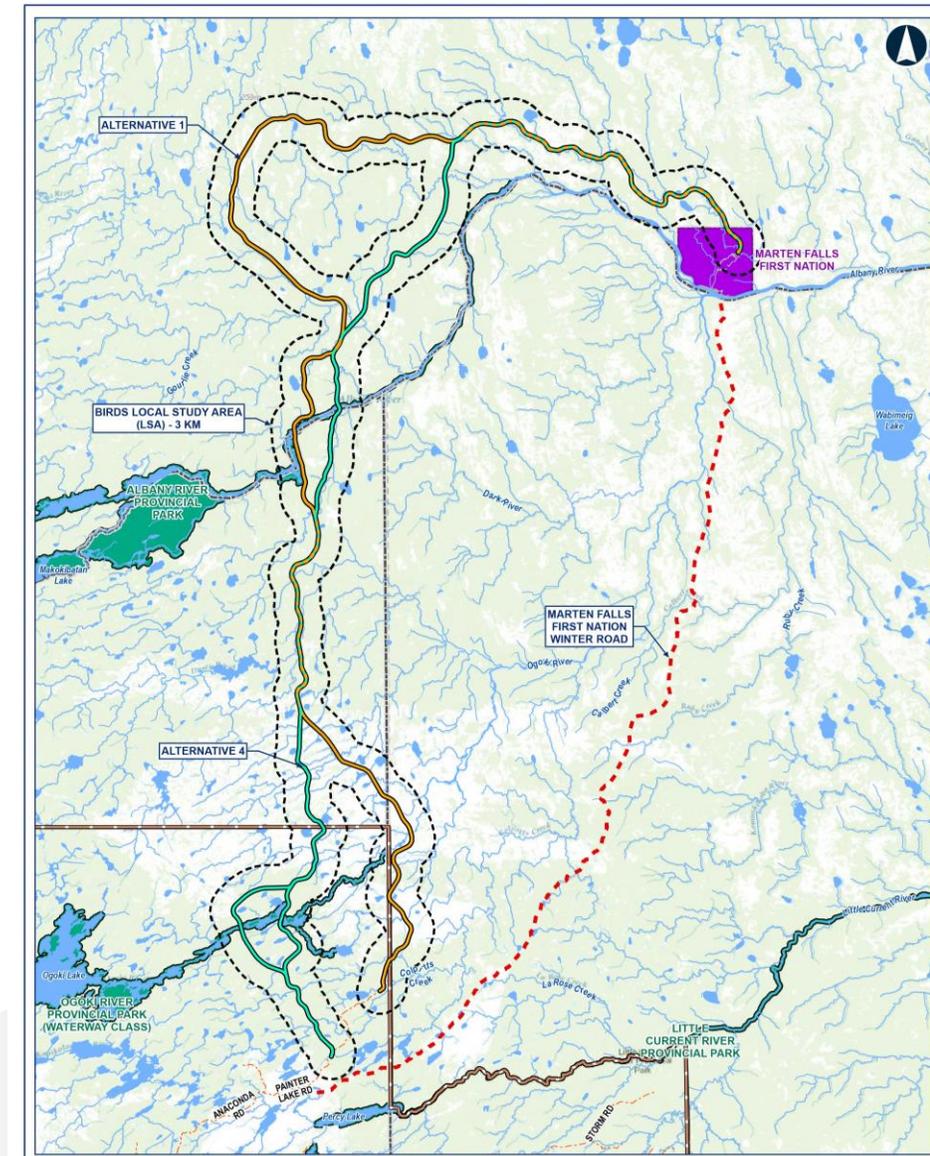


Your input is an important part of shaping our bird field program and will be considered as we plan our field program. If you have any feedback on the following questions, we want to hear from you:

- Do you know of any stopover or nesting sites for waterfowl and raptors (*binesi*)? Other information or interest in birds that you can provide is also appreciated.
- Are there known locations of stick nests for eagles (*binsei*) or ospreys (*saagwadamo*)?
- Are there any areas in the study area that are known waterfowl staging / harvesting locations?
- Are there any known staging areas if a spring harvest occurs?
- Are there any areas in the study area we should avoid? This could be because the areas are cultural / spiritual / sacred sites.
- What are your Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests in the area?

[Share your thoughts through this Survey!](#)

Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use in the area of the proposed routes can be shared through the Project's Indigenous Knowledge Program. If you have sensitive and confidential information that you would like to share through this program, please let us know. We will ensure your knowledge is protected. **Read on to learn about the upcoming field program.**





What bird groups are we studying?

Birds are a diverse category of species and can include: waterbirds such as ducks (shesheeb), geese (nikah), herons, and sandpipers; raptors (binesi) such as owls (gookoko'oo), hawks (gekek) and eagles (mikisi); upland game birds like grouse; and songbirds like jays (kwiikwiishih), warblers and sparrows. Species at Risk birds, those that are listed as endangered or special concern, in the study area include birds such as the Olive-Sided Flycatcher and Common Nighthawk (bekshkew).

What's Happening?

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The bird field programs are important to understand potential effects that the proposed Community Access Road may have on birds in the area. We previously conducted bird studies in 2018 and 2019. There are four programs that will support our understanding of where birds currently are in the study area:

1. Autonomous Recording Unit Surveys
2. Aerial Surveys
3. Marsh Bird Call Playback Surveys
4. Breeding Bird Point Count Surveys



Next Page: Autonomous recording unit surveys



What's Happening?

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Autonomous recording unit surveys, will be used to record bird-songs. This study will complement other bird field programs conducted during the breeding season, migration (spring and fall) and winter. The Autonomous Recording Units will help provide more frequent data collection and will be valuable in finding rare bird species and bird *Species at Risk*, such as the Common Nighthawk (*beshkew*), Eastern Whip-poor Will (*biigokokew'owesi*), Short-eared Owl and the Yellow Rail.

Autonomous Recording Units will be installed in early spring (2022) throughout the study area, including some locations where breeding bird count surveys will be conducted, to record spring migration. The Autonomous Recording Units will be left in place for the rest of 2022 to record through fall migration and early winter.



What's Happening?

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Aerial surveys will be conducted to understand the waterbirds, shorebirds and raptors (*binsei*) in the Local Study Area. These surveys will be used to estimate the location of birds between spring and fall (excluding raptors (*binsei*)), the range of ages of the birds (i.e., young or adult) and the percentage of each of these age ranges for these birds types.

Helicopters will be used to identify and count birds in areas where birds gather and in other open habitats. There are two types of aerial surveys, one focusing on the breeding birds in spring 2022 and the second is a waterfowl survey in spring and fall 2022.



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What's Happening?

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Marsh bird call playback surveys will help to determine the presence, location, age ranges and percentages of each age range of breeding marsh birds. A recording of bird calls will be played for 30 seconds, followed by 30 seconds of silence where an experienced bird specialist will listen for calls from species of interest. This approach will help us to detect marsh bird species that are elusive or rare.

Surveys will be conducted twice during the bird breeding season between late May and early July 2022.

➤➤➤ Next Page: Breeding Bird Point Count Surveys



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What's Happening?

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Breeding bird point count surveys will primarily target songbirds, upland game birds, raptors (*binesi*) and waterbirds due to the abundance of forest, bog, fen and other wetland habitats in the Local Study Area. The objective of these surveys is to determine the presence, location, age ranges and percentages of each range of breeding birds. Specialists with experience in identifying Northern Ontario birds by sight and sound will listen and count birds at a number of stations throughout the Local Study Area in spring and early summer of 2022. Breeding bird point count surveys were also previously conducted in 2018 and 2019.

During all-natural environment studies, wildlife and **bird habitat data** will be collected to help predict the Project effects on bird species and their habitats. Habitat such as marshes and wetlands will be documented with photographs and will be reviewed by qualified individuals to classify the habitat.

»»» Next Page: When?



When?

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The programs will take place starting Spring 2022. Exact dates will be provided once confirmed.

- **Bird Autonomous Recording Unit surveys:** four trips starting in March 2022 and ending early winter 2022
- **Aerial surveys:** spring and fall 2022
- **Marsh call playback and breeding bird point count surveys** will occur together: May 2022 until July 2022



Next Page: Contact Us!



If you have sensitive and confidential information that you would like to share through the Indigenous Knowledge Program to make sure it is protected, please let us know.

Contact Information

You are welcome to contact the Project Team at any time with questions or comments

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