

Table 3-12 (Sheet 4 of 4)

Number of Birds/Route¹ Documented Along the USGS Breeding Bird Survey² Watertown (61071), Ogdensburg (61096), and Philadelphia (61113) Routes³ in the Project Vicinity

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Birds/Route		
		Watertown	Ogdensburg	Philadelphia
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	0.79	2.11	8.21
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	36.00	28.32	27.00
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	166.05	74.47	86.63
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	25.47	21.84	23.84
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	35.00	14.42	16.63
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	10.84	5.68	4.84
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	10.47	5.47	3.16
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	0.05	0.26	0.26
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	4.00	0.37	1.05
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	35.05	13.58	17.58
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	27.32	27.84	15.74
Total Number of Species		110	104	117

¹ Based on 50 stops per route, 3-minute counts per stop, and representing the averages of the total counts along the route for the period 1966-2005.

² Source: Sauer *et al.* (2005), United States Geological Survey. 1966-2005 North American Breeding Bird Survey Database [Online].

³ The Watertown route is located approximately 10 miles southeast of the Project Area; the Ogdensburg route is located approximately 20 miles northeast; and the Philadelphia route is located approximately 30 miles east.

Table 3-13 (Sheet 1 of 3)

Avian Species Observed During Project Breeding Bird Surveys

Species/Group ¹	Number of Individuals	Number of Groups	Mean Use
Waterbirds			
Great Blue heron	4	4	0.1
Green heron	1	1	0.025
Ring-billed gull	47	6	1.175
Unidentified gull	38	2	0.95
Waterfowl			
Canada goose	27	4	0.675
Mallard	2	1	0.05
Shorebirds			
Killdeer	16	10	0.4
Raptors/Vultures			
American kestrel	2	2	0.05
Northern harrier ^T	4	3	0.1
Red-tailed hawk	4	3	0.1
Turkey vulture	9	7	0.225
Passerines			
American crow	53	11	1.325

Table 3-13 (Sheet 2 of 3)
Avian Species Observed During Project Breeding Bird Surveys

Species/Group	Number of Individuals	Number of Groups	Mean Use
Passerines			
American goldfinch	23	15	0.575
American robin	30	25	0.75
Baltimore oriole	6	3	0.15
Barn swallow	23	6	0.575
Black-capped chickadee	5	3	0.125
Bluejay	2	2	0.05
Bobolink ^{BCC}	76	32	1.9
Brown-headed cowbird	11	4	0.275
Cedar waxwing	4	1	0.1
Chestnut-sided warbler	1	1	0.025
Common grackle	29	3	0.725
Common yellowthroat	29	20	0.725
Eastern bluebird	2	2	0.05
Eastern kingbird	4	3	0.1
Eastern meadowlark	32	28	0.8
Eastern towhee	1	1	0.025
Eastern tufted titmouse	1	1	0.025
Eastern wood peewee	5	5	0.125
<i>Empidonax</i> spp.	1	1	0.025
European starling	235	19	5.875
Grasshopper sparrow ^{SC}	1	1	0.025
Gray catbird	6	5	0.15
Horned lark ^{SC}	6	2	0.15
House wren	3	3	0.075
Indigo bunting	1	1	0.025
Northern cardinal	2	1	0.05
Ovenbird	11	11	0.275
Red-eyed vireo	7	7	0.175
Red-winged blackbird	136	49	3.4
Rose-breasted grosbeak	1	1	0.025
Savannah sparrow	37	26	0.925
Scarlet tanager	2	2	0.05
Song sparrow	48	35	1.2
Tree swallow	13	3	0.325
Unidentified passerine	1	1	0.025
Unidentified sparrow	1	1	0.025
Veery	1	1	0.025
Willow flycatcher	4	4	0.1
Wood thrush ^{BCC}	6	5	0.15
Yellow warbler	31	18	0.775

Table 3-13 (Sheet 3 of 3)
Avian Species Observed During Project Breeding Bird Surveys

Species/Group	Number of Individuals	Number of Groups	Mean Use
Upland Gamebirds			
Ruffed grouse	1	1	0.025
Wild turkey	4	1	0.1
Doves			
Mourning dove	10	6	0.25
Rock pigeon	14	5	0.35
Other Birds			
Hairy woodpecker	1	1	0.025
Northern flicker	2	2	0.05
Unidentified woodpecker	3	3	0.075

¹ T=State Threatened, SC=State Species of Concern, BCC=USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern

were the most common passerines observed. Most of the observed species are associated with agricultural, grasslands, and/or edge habitat. The northern harrier, a NYS threatened species; the horned lark and grasshopper sparrow, NYS species of concern; and bobolink and wood thrush, USFWS 2002 Birds of Conservation Concern, were recorded during the surveys.

3.3.5.2 Potential Impact

Construction and operation of the proposed Project will likely result in minor, temporary impacts to breeding birds. During construction, clearing and work activities in open habitats will temporarily displace nesting and foraging individuals from the work area and suitable adjacent habitats. Approximately 41 acres of pasture/hay fields, which represent much less than one percent (approximately 0.003 percent) of pasture/hay fields in the Town of Cape Vincent, may be displaced by Project infrastructure. Similarly, 17 acres of second growth deciduous forest (approximately 0.001 percent of forested cover in the Towns of Cape Vincent and Lyme) will be cleared for the Project. Of this total, less than 1 acre will be permanently cleared for Project infrastructure and 16 acres will be temporarily cleared for construction. This will result in temporary and permanent minor habitat loss for some forest-nesting avian species. However, unlike most of the northeast where forest habitats remain a high priority, grasslands are more important in the St. Lawrence River Valley and forested areas temporarily disturbed will be initially converted to grassland habitats.

Some grassland species may be disturbed or displaced by turbine noise and movement. Studies have shown small scale reductions in density for some nesting grassland bird species close to operating wind turbines (Leddy *et al.* 1999, Johnson *et al.* 2000). In general, use by grassland birds was lower in areas with turbines than in areas without. At Buffalo Ridge, Montana, areas