

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)

Status, Criteria, Status History, and Reason for Designation

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF SPECIES AT RISK (COSSAR) IN NEW BRUNSWICK – December 2021

Scientific name: *Contopus cooperi*

Mi'kmaq name: Not available at this time

English name: Olive-sided Flycatcher

Wolastoqey name: Not available at this time

French name: Moucherolle à côtés olive

Peskotomuhkati name: Not available at this time

Range: Throughout New Brunswick

Status: Endangered

Final Criteria: A2bc+4bc*

Status History: Designated Threatened in Canada by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in November 2007; status re-examined and designated Special Concern in Canada in April 2018. Designated Threatened in New Brunswick in 2013, based on the COSEWIC assessment at the time when the new NB *Species at Risk Act* was proclaimed; has not been previously assessed by COSSAR.

Reason for Designation: The Olive-sided Flycatcher is a medium-sized insectivorous bird that breeds in forested regions of Canada and overwinters in Central-South America. They are most common in sparsely-treed mature forest, typically near burns or wetlands such as bogs, but also will use recent clearcuts if some trees remain. Populations in New Brunswick have declined by 51% in the last 3 generations (2009-2019) and 93% over the long term (1970-2019). Declines are not well understood but likely relate to reduction of sparsely-forested areas due to forest and peat harvest, declines in insect prey availability throughout their range, and habitat loss in the wintering grounds. Overall decline in habitat quality is likely to continue. The potential for rescue effect is limited; the species is declining in adjacent Maine and Nova Scotia, and the closest adjacent region in Quebec.

*As per the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) quantitative criteria and guidelines:

[Cosewic / Cosepac - Quantitative criteria and guidelines for the status assessment of wildlife species](#)

Criterion A: Meets Endangered A2bc+4bc due to a decline of 51% over 10 years (based on breeding bird surveys and change in quality of habitat). An ongoing decline is predicted.

Criterion B: Not applicable. Extent of Occurrence (EOO) and Index of Area of Occupancy (IAO) exceed criteria thresholds.

Criterion C: Not applicable. Population estimate (5,100) meets Threatened (i.e. <10,000) but predicted percent decline has not been quantified.

Criterion D: Not applicable. Population size exceeds criteria thresholds; estimate of 5,100 adults is > than 1,000, which is the threshold needed for Threatened status.

Criterion E: Not applicable. Population viability analysis not conducted.

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