

Response Statement - Yellow Rail

December 2, 2010

Common Name: Yellow Rail

Scientific Name: *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Special Concern

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The above assessment confirms the classification of this wildlife species in Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* as Special Concern. Activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: Relatively little is known about this small, secretive rail. It is primarily restricted to shallow, dense, grassy marshes and wet meadows. Most of its breeding range (about 90%) is in Canada. It is relatively uncommon in most areas; populations are most widespread and common in coastal areas of Hudson and James Bay in northern Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. It winters in shallow marshes that occur in a narrow band extending from Texas to the Carolinas. The species is close to meeting some criteria for Threatened status because of its relatively small population size, compressed wintering range, ongoing threats to breeding and wintering wetland habitats, and evidence for local declines in several parts of its breeding range.

Occurrence: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Applicable federal legislation: This species is protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

Conservation activities underway: A draft Management Plan for the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) in Canada has been prepared.