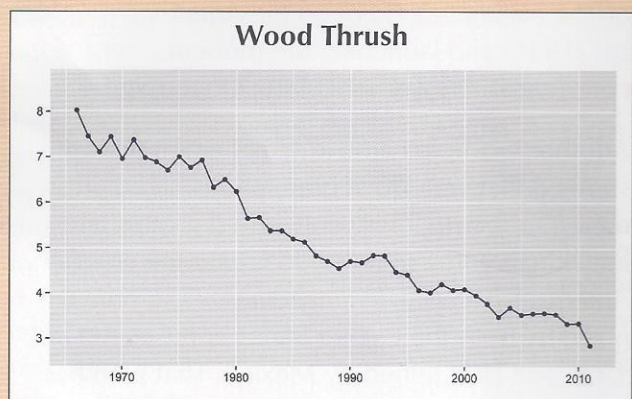
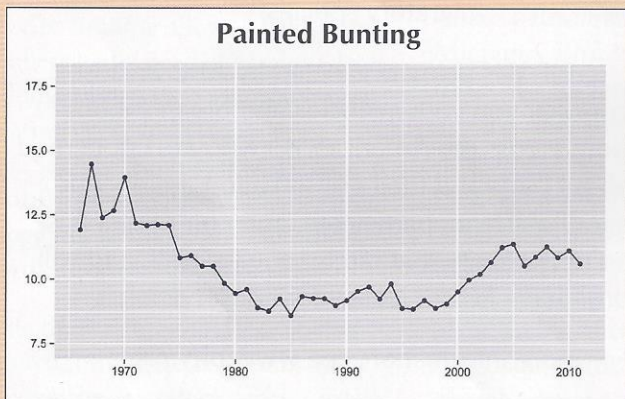
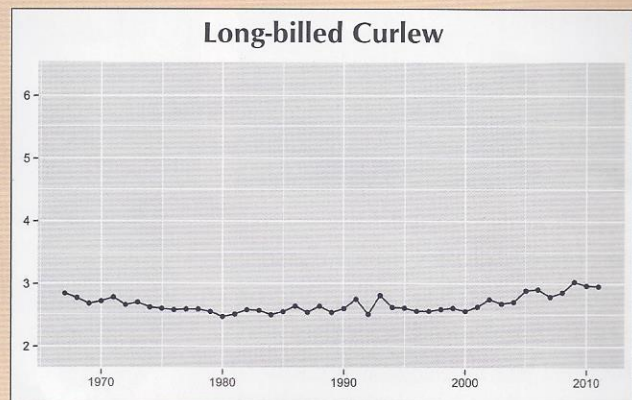
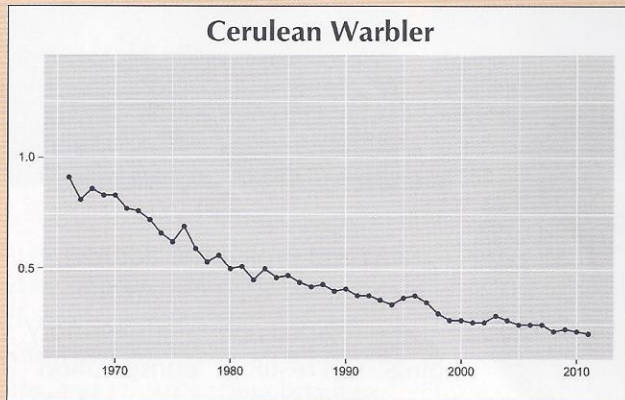


North American Breeding Bird Survey: Changes in Species Sightings Over Time



Since 1966, experienced observers in the North American Breeding Bird Survey have been monitoring more than 400 avian species along nearly 2,000 randomly chosen roadside routes. The charts above show the change in the average number of individual birds detected along BBS routes within the range of these four species. *Data courtesy Paul J. Hurtado of The Ohio State University. The North American Breeding Bird Survey is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service.*

beavers and unsuppressed wildfires. These teams hope to increase crucial breeding habitat for birds including Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, and Cerulean warblers; Red-eyed Vireo; Indigo Bunting; Yellow-breasted Chat; and American Redstart.

Similar restoration efforts are now underway in the Central Hardwood forests in the United States. Meantime, on the wintering grounds, groups including ABC are reconnecting forest fragments by restoring forest corridors with help from local

landowners. ABC and other groups are also working with ranchers on grazing practices that benefit both cattle and migratory birds.

By all accounts, a large part of the job ahead involves finding ways to make these programs work on a landscape scale, both ecologically and economically. A grand attempt to move in this direction is expected to take place when ABC hosts the next meeting of Partners in Flight, which will take place in Utah in late August. (See page 13 for more information).

There, diverse groups of experts will develop large-scale "conservation business plans" for key nonbreeding habitats. "We plan to create a blueprint for future conservation action," says David Younkman, ABC's Vice President for Conservation.

What does it all add up to? At this point it's hard to say, primarily because it will be years before the impact of the work that has been done on behalf of declining migratory birds starts to show up in the data collected by the North American Breeding Bird Survey and other research.