

# Response Statement - Red Knot rufa subspecies

December 4, 2007

**Common Name:** Red Knot rufa subspecies

**Scientific Name:** *Calidris canutus rufa*

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

**Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC:** This subspecies is a medium-sized shorebird that breeds only in Arctic Canada and migrates thousands of kilometres between its Arctic breeding grounds and wintering areas at the tip of South America. The subspecies has shown a 70% decline in abundance over the past three generations (15 years). It is threatened by a depletion of horseshoe crab eggs, a critical food source used during northern migration. There is no potential for rescue from other populations.

**Occurrence:** British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

**Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:**

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Ontario

Quebec

Newfoundland and Labrador

New Brunswick

Nova Scotia

Prince Edward Island

Northwest Territories

Nunavut

**Applicable federal legislation:** This species is protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation. Where it occurs in a National Wildlife Area this species is subject to the *Wildlife Area Regulations* under the *Canada Wildlife Act*, which prohibits activities that could be harmful to species and to their habitat, unless a permit is issued indicating the permitted activity.

**How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment:** The Minister of Environment will undertake consultations with the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council - Northwest Territories and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Red Knot rufa subspecies should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act*. The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Red Knot rufa subspecies to the GIC upon completion of consultations.