

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Protection of Nesting Birds and Wildlife

May 2026

All native wildlife in BC is protected under the BC Wildlife Act. Migratory birds and species at risk have extra protection under the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act and the Species at Risk Act. Property owner must make sure any work on their lands follows the requirements of all local, provincial and federal laws. In other words, getting a City Permit does not give you permission under other laws and does not protect you from getting fined.

Why should we care?

Besides following the law, protecting wildlife helps keep ecosystems healthy. Healthy ecosystems give people clean air and water, and support healthy forests and farms.



What is the best timing for land disturbance activities?

Songbird nesting season begins once nesting behaviours commence. Many songbirds nest from mid-March to mid-August, but this is species and climate dependent. Raptors, herons and woodpeckers nest earlier, and spring/summer are when other wildlife species typically have their young with them. Frogs, salamanders, and reptiles are usually more active in spring and summer too.

Before you cut trees, clear plants, or level (grade) a lot, it is a good idea to check for wildlife first: hire a Biologist* to do a survey for birds, nests, and other wildlife on the site. Doing this helps you avoid breaking provincial or federal laws. It also helps protect wildlife during your project.

***To Find a Biologist** visit: <https://cab-bc.org/about-the-college/colleges-public-register>



What if wildlife is found during a survey?

If wildlife is found, follow the advice of the Biologist: their advice will help you avoid breaking laws that protect these species. You can hire a Local Pest Management Company to safely trap and remove non-bird wildlife if needed. Always use trained professionals and follow rules.

What if injured wildlife is discovered?

The Province has a webpage called "What to do if you find sick, injured, or dead wildlife" that explains what to do. The Wildlife Rehabilitators Network of BC also explains how to report injured animals and lists local wildlife rehabilitators you can contact for help.

For specific information and links see:

- <https://www.abbotsford.ca/people-community/environment/wildlife>
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-health/what-to-do-if-you-find-sick-injured-or-dead-wildlife>
- <https://www.wrnbc.org/>
- <https://wildsafebc.com/>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds.html>
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/laws-policies-standards-guidance/best-management-practices/develop-with-care>

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