

IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES AT RISK IN NORTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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STOP WORK

and contact your project supervisor and the BCTS representative if:

- You suspect there was an encounter with a “Species at Risk” within the area of the worksite
- You are uncertain of the Project Plan, your responsibilities or the location of hazardous/sensitive areas.
- A previously unidentified resource feature, resource value (e.g. cultural) or sensitive area is found.
- You experience unfavourable weather or site conditions that could cause environmental damage.
- You observe conditions that have the potential for immediate environmental damage.
- You believe the Project Plan will not work.



Bay Breasted Warbler

The summer male bay-breasted warblers are unmistakable. They have grey backs, black faces, and chestnut crowns, flanks and throats. They also boast of bright yellow neck patches, and their underparts are white. They have two white wing bars, as well.

Standard Measurements^{[2][3]}

length	5–6 in (130–150 mm)
weight	12.5 g (0.44 oz)
wingspan	9 in (230 mm)
wing	71.7–74.9 mm (2.82–2.95 in)
tail	51–54 mm (2.0–2.1 in)
culmen	10–11.1 mm (0.39–0.44 in)
tarsus	18.5–19 mm (0.73–0.75 in)

Breeding females essentially resemble washed out versions of the male. The females are greyish above and white below, with much weaker head patterns. The females also only have chestnut markings on small flank patches, although tiny tints in their grey crowns have been observed.

Non-breeding birds have greenish heads, greenish upperparts and yellowish breasts. The yellow extends to the belly of young birds. The two white wing bars are always present in every stage of life. These birds differ from non-breeding blackpoll warblers in the absence of breast streaks.

Their breeding habitats are [coniferous](#) woodlands. Bay-breasted warblers nest 5–20 ft (1.5–6.1 m) up in conifer trees,^[2] laying 3–5 eggs in a cup-shaped nest. Migration begins late April and in the Fall.



Bighorn Sheep

Identification:

Bighorn sheep have brown coats and a white rump patch. In the autumn, the coat is rich and glossy, but by the spring it becomes faded and grayish. The pelage is never fine and woolly, as in domestic sheep, and is instead short and coarse. Once a year, in June or July, sheep shed their hair and can have a scruffy appearance with patches of matted hair until the new coat grows in.

Mature males are larger than females, weighing 119 to 127 kilograms and 53 to 91 kilograms, respectively. Rams typically measure 160 to 180 centimetres from head to tail, while ewes are approximately 150 centimetres. Rams stand about a metre tall at the shoulder.

Habitat:

Ovis canadensis can be found in alpine meadows, grassy mountain slopes and foothill areas near rugged, rocky cliffs and bluffs. Generally, bighorn sheep have distinct seasonal ranges, though most of the year is spent on the winter range at lower elevations. The summer range is typically between 1,800-2,600 metres in elevation, and the trigger to move to the winter range is snow accumulation. The winter range is usually at a lower elevation, between 800-1,500 metres, though the sheep may move higher if deep snow buries forage material to areas where wind and sunshine clear away the drift. The spring range is similar to the winter range, but the sheep gravitate to greening areas along streams and valleys. Bighorn sheep also use areas around saltlicks in the spring, and for lambing go to zones offering precipitous cliffs near forage.



Black Throated Green Warbler

Identification:

It is 12 cm (4.7 in) long and weighs 9 g (0.32 oz), and has an olive-green crown, a yellow face with olive markings, a thin pointed bill, white wing bars, an olive-green back and pale underparts with black streaks on the flanks. Adult males have a black throat and upper breast; females have a pale throat and black markings on their breast.

Habitat:

Mainly conifers. Breeds mostly in coniferous and mixed forests, very locally in deciduous forest. Often nests around spruce, also in white pine, hemlock, red cedar, and jack pine. An isolated race on the southern Atlantic Coast breeds in cypress swamps. During migration, occurs widely in woodland and edges. Usually winters in foothills and mountains among oaks and pines.

The breeding habitat of the black-throated green warbler is [coniferous](#) and mixed forests in eastern [North America](#) and western [Canada](#) and [cypress swamps](#) on the southern [Atlantic](#) coast. These birds' nests are open cups, which are usually situated close to the trunk of a tree.

They migrate in the Spring and Fall.



Bull Trout

Identification:

Like other species of char, the fins of a bull trout have white leading edges. Its head and mouth are unusually large for salmonids, giving it its name. Bull trout have been recorded measuring up to 103 cm (41 in) in length and weighing 14.5 kg (32 lb).^[2]

Habitat:

Bull trout have exacting habitat demands, requiring water temperatures generally below 55°F (13°C), clean [gravel](#) beds, deep pools, complex cover such as [snags](#) and [cut banks](#), and large systems of interconnected waterways to accommodate spawning migrations.^[7] Thus, they favor the deep pools of cold lakes and large rivers, as well as high, cold mountain headwaters. Bull trout may be [anadromous](#) in coastal rivers, and individual bull trout have been found to have migrated from one coastal river to another by the ocean.^[8]



Canada Warbler

Summary:

This striking warbler breeds across the boreal forest from northeastern British Columbia and Yukon to the Great lakes, Nova Scotia and south along the eastern seaboard to Georgia. It occurs in British Columbia only from late May to late August, and winters in the eastern foothills of the Andes from Venezuela and northern Colombia to southern Peru and northwestern Brazil. While population trends within BC are unknown, a long-term decline is evident across the Canadian range. The causes remain unclear, but loss of primary forest in the South American wintering grounds likely contributes.

Adult Description

- Small songbird.
- Throat, chest, and belly yellow.
- Back dark gray.
- Necklace of dark streaks across chest.
- Under-tail white.
- White eye- ring.
- Yellow line in front of eyes.
- No wing bars or tail spots.

Habitat:

Canada warblers are found in mixed and deciduous forest and thickets with thick, shrubby undergrowth, usually near a stream, wetland or bog. They nest on or near the ground and feed on a variety of invertebrates, including spruce budworm.



Cape May Warbler

Adult Description:

- Small songbird.
- Yellow chest with thin black stripes.
- Reddish and yellow face.
- Pale sides of neck contrast with darker face.
- Wing-bars.
- Yellowish rump.

Migration:

A long-distance migrant with an elliptical migration. Sexes appear to migrate together (Hall 1981). Fall migration is primarily through the northeastern United States. Most birds have departed the breeding grounds by September. In spring, most birds depart the West Indies by early to mid-May (Bond 1985, Baltz and Latta 1998).

Habitat:

The Cape May Warbler breeds across the boreal forest of Canada and the northern United States, where the fortunes of its populations are largely tied to the availability of spruce budworms, its preferred food. Striking in appearance but poorly understood, the species spends its winters in the West Indies, collecting nectar with its unique curled, semitubular tongue.



Common Nighthawk

Identification:

- Common Nighthawks are medium-sized, slender birds with very long, pointed wings and medium-long tails. Only the small tip of the bill is usually visible, and this combined with the large eye and short neck gives the bird a big-headed look.
- ***Color Pattern***
Common Nighthawks are well camouflaged in gray, white, buff, and black. The long, dark wings have a striking white blaze about two-thirds of the way out to the tip. In flight, a V-shaped white throat patch contrasts with the rest of the bird's mottled plumage.
- ***Behavior***
Look for Common Nighthawks flying in looping patterns in mornings and evenings. During the day, they roost motionless on a tree branch, fencepost, or the ground and are very difficult to see. When migrating or feeding over insect-rich areas such as lakes or well-lit billboards, nighthawks may gather in large flocks.

Habitat:

Common Nighthawks are most visible when they forage on the wing over open areas near woods or wetlands. They nest on the ground in open areas such as gravel bars, forest clearings, coastal sand dunes, or sparsely vegetated grasslands. Their South American wintering habitat is not well known.



Connecticut Warbler

Species Description:

- small songbird, large warbler.
- Complete gray hood and throat.
- White eyering.
- Yellow belly and undertail.
- Plain olive back and wings.

Forest / Deciduous/Broadleaf Forest / Facultative - frequent use
Forest / Mixed Forest (deciduous/coniferous mix) / Facultative - frequent use
Riparian / Riparian Forest / Facultative - frequent use

Global Habitat Comments:

Breeds in spruce and tamarack bogs, dry ridges, poplar and aspen woods, moist areas with low shrubby growth, thick undergrowth, or sapling thickets. In thickets of low wet woods or wet meadows in migration. (Terres 1980, Harrison 1978). NON-BREEDING: woodland, forest borders, shrubby clearings (Ridgely and Tudor 1989). BREEDING: Nests on ground, in small hollow, on moss mound in bog, or in grasses or weeds, or at base of shrub (Harrison 1978).

Migration:

Spring migration in North America is chiefly west of the Appalachians. Migrates mostly through West Indies. Present in South America mostly October-April



Fisher

Identification:

- Head and body length:** 50 cm to 70 cm
Tail length: 30 cm to 42 cm
Weight: 1.5 kg to 8 kg
Life expectancy: approximately 10 years

The fisher is a member of the weasel family and a close relative of the marten, but is nearly twice as large and four times as heavy as the marten. The coat on the fisher's slender body is dark brown with blackish brown fur on its rump and bushy tail. It also has a lighter, cream coloured bib on its chest. The name 'fisher' has no relation to fish, but is derived from 'fiche' an old English word for the European polecat and its pelt.

Fishers have short legs and strong, large feet with hairy soles. It has sharp, partially retractable claws on each of its five toes.

Habitat:

The fisher finds shelter in holes in the ground, hollow trees, logs and stumps. They only maintain a permanent den when raising their young. Female fishers produce an average of three offspring per litter after enduring a pregnancy that lasts approximately 51 weeks, or 350 days.



Great Blue Heron

Identification:

The Great Blue Heron is the largest wading bird in North America and measures about 60 cm in height, 97–137 cm in length, and 2.1–2.5 kg in mass (Butler 1992). The wings are long and rounded, the bill is long, and the tail is short (Butler 1992). Great Blue Herons fly with deep, slow wingbeats and with their necks folded in an S-shape. Plumage is mostly a blue-grey colour and adults have a white crown.

Habitat:

Forest / Conifer Forest - Moist/wet / Facultative - **frequent use**
Forest / Deciduous/Broadleaf Forest / Facultative - **frequent use**
Forest / Mixed Forest (deciduous/coniferous mix) / Facultative - **frequent use**
Grassland/Shrub / Meadow / Facultative - **frequent use**
Lakes / Lake / Facultative - frequent use
Lakes / Pond/Open Water / Facultative - **frequent use**

Breeding Time:

Breeding is initiated in late March for *A. herodias herodias* (Butler 1992; Gebauer and Moul 2001).



Grizzly Bear

Identification:

Average weight: 250 – 350 kg (male)
125 – 175 kg (female)

Life expectancy: 15 – 20 years

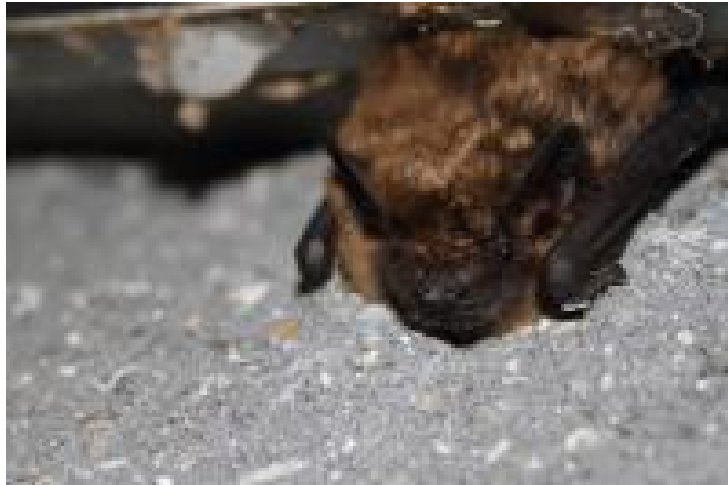
The grizzly bear is the second largest land carnivore in North America. It has a strong, heavy body with an average length of 1.8 metres from nose to tail. It is distinguished from other bears by the large shoulder hump that supports its massive front legs, its extremely long front claws and the concave facial profile of its large head. The grizzly bear's fur is usually darkish brown, but can vary from ivory yellow to black. It has long hairs on its head and shoulders that often have white tips and give the bear the "grizzled" appearance from which it derives its name. Its legs and feet tend to be even darker in colour.

Despite its large size, the grizzly bear has been known to run at speeds of 55 kilometres per hour. It has well developed senses of smell and hearing that compensates for its poor eyesight.

Habitat:

The grizzly bear is a solitary animal. Individual bears have a home range, but these may overlap and are not fiercely defended. The grizzly's habitat can range from dense forest to alpine meadow or arctic tundra.

Contrary to popular belief, the grizzly bear is not a true hibernator. In the winter its body temperature may drop a few degrees and its respiration may slow slightly, but it can remain active all winter.



Little Brown Myotis (Bat)

Identification:

One of the smaller Canadian bats, little browns weigh only seven to fourteen grams and have a wingspan of 22-27 centimetres. This species of bat is the one most closely associated with humans, as it is the most likely to take up residence in buildings.

Habitat:

The little brown bat is the most common and widespread of Canada's nineteen species of bats. They are found across Canada to the northern edge of the boreal forest.

Little brown bats play an important role as predators of night flying insects. They are very efficient hunters capable of catching over 1000 insects in just one hour. Little brown bats concentrate on insects that have an aquatic larval stage, such as mosquitoes, midges, and mayflies. Consequently, they prefer roosts in the vicinity of water. Although they prefer to forage over water, they will also hunt in open areas where they catch moths, beetles, and other flying insects.

Contrary to the myth that bats are blind, little brown bats have excellent vision. There are a number of predators that feed on little brown bats, such as raccoons, hawks, owls, and snakes. They are dependant, therefore, on finding roosts that provide protection from these predators while still being close to food and water sources. Little brown bats form a strong attachment to their maternity site and will return year after year to the same location.

In the winter, little brown bats move to caves and mines for hibernation.



Nelson's Sharp Tailed Sparrow

Identification:

Adult Description

- Small, stocky songbird.
- Orange-yellow face.
- Gray ear patch.
- Smudgy streaks on breast and flanks.
- Short, rounded tail with pointed tail feathers.

Immature Description

Juvenile orangish all over, with a few black streaks on sides of chest.

Habitat:

Freshwater marshes and wet meadows in interior and brackish marshes along coast; in winter in salt and brackish marshes.

Nelson's Sparrows are relatively common and numbers increased between 1966 and 2014, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.



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Northern Goshawk

Identification:

The Northern Goshawk is the bigger, fiercer, wilder relative of the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks that prowl suburbs and backyards. It's an accipiter—a type of hawk with short, broad wings and a long rudder-like tail that gives it superb aerial agility. These secretive birds are mostly gray with bold white "eyebrow" stripes over piercing orange to red eyes. Northern Goshawks flash through forests chasing bird and mammal prey, pouncing silently or crashing feet first through brush to grab quarry in crushingly strong talons.

Measurements

Both Sexes

<u>Length</u>	<u>Wingspan</u>	<u>Weight</u>
20.9–25.2 in 53–64 cm	40.6–46.1 in 103–117 cm	22.3–48.1 oz 631–1364 g

Habitat:

Breeding sites include Douglas-fir and pine forests, aspen groves, and stands of paper birch (in Alaska). Goshawks often build nests near breaks in the canopy, such as a forest trail, jeep road, or opening created by a downed tree, and prefers sites with a creek, pond, or lake nearby.

The Northern Goshawk is well known for its fierce defense of its nest. It commonly attacks people and other animals that approach the nest too closely.

Throughout their range, whether at sea level or in alpine settings, Northern Goshawks nest in mature and old-growth forests with more than 60% closed canopy.

Northern Goshawk pairs build and maintain up to eight alternate nests within their nesting area. Even with options available, they may use the same nest year after year, or may switch to a new nest after a brood fails. Pairs may add fresh conifer needles to the nest during breeding. Aromatic chemicals (terpenes) in the needles may act as a natural insecticide and fungicide.



Northern Long Eared Myotis (Bat)

Identification:

The northern long-eared bat is a medium-sized bat with a body length of 3 to 3.7 inches but a wingspan of 9 to 10 inches. Their fur color can be medium to dark brown on the back and tawny to pale-brown on the underside. As its name suggests, this bat is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus, *Myotis*.

Habitat:

During the summer, northern long-eared bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities or in crevices of both live trees and snags (dead trees). Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. Northern long-eared bats seem to be flexible in selecting roosts, choosing roost trees based on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. This bat has also been found rarely roosting in structures, like barns and sheds.

Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines, called hibernacula. They use areas in various sized caves or mines with constant temperatures, high humidity, and no air currents. Within hibernacula, surveyors find them hibernating most often in small crevices or cracks, often with only the nose and ears visible.



Olive Sided Flycatcher

Identification:

A rather large (18-20 cm) flycatcher, large-headed, with a proportionately short tail. Plumage is brownish-olive above (brownier on juveniles) with a dull white to yellowish throat, breast, and belly. The streaked or mottled chest patches are darker. Sexes are similar, but may be separable in the hand by wing chord length, 96-109 mm (females) and 103-117 mm (males) (Pyle et al. 1987).

The juvenal plumage, "...essentially like the adult in color pattern, but darker above and brighter below" (Bent 1942), is acquired by a complete postnatal molt.

Habitat:

Olive-sided flycatchers breed in various forest and woodland habitats: taiga, subalpine coniferous forest, mixed coniferous-deciduous forest, burned-over forest, spruce or tamarack bogs and other forested wetlands, and along the forested edges of lakes, ponds, and streams. Most nesting sites contain dead standing trees, which are used as singing and feeding perches. Nests are placed most often in conifers, on horizontal limbs 2-15 meters from the ground.

Possibly because of their dependence upon flying insects as prey, these birds arrive rather late on their breeding grounds from South America.



Rusty Blackbird

Identification:

Rusty Blackbird is a medium-sized blackbird with a slender bill and medium-length tail. The bill is slightly decurved. They are a bit larger and longer-tailed than Red-winged Blackbird with a more slender bill. Rusty Blackbird is thinner-billed and shorter-tailed than Common Grackle.

Habitat:

Breeding habitat includes moist woodland (primarily coniferous), bushy bogs and fens, and wooded edges of water courses and beaver ponds. Nests are in trees or shrubs, usually in or near water, frequently in a conifer to about 6 meters above ground.

They winter in the mid U.S. to mid Florida area. Flight migration time is Spring and Fall.



Sandhill Crane

Size & Shape

Sandhill Cranes are very large, tall birds with a long neck, long legs, and very broad wings. The bulky body tapers into a slender neck; the short tail is covered by drooping feathers that form a “bustle.” The head is small and the bill is straight and longer than the head.

Color Pattern

These are slate gray birds, often with a rusty wash on the upperparts. Adults have a pale cheek and red skin on the crown. Their legs are black. Juveniles are gray and rusty brown, without the pale cheek or red crown..

Habitat:

Sandhill Cranes breed and forage in open prairies, grasslands, and wetlands. Outside of the breeding season, they often roost in deeper water of ponds or lakes, where they are safe from predators.

Sandhill Cranes winter in the southern U.S. and northern Mexico.



Short Eared Owl

Length: 34–43 cm
Wingspan: 85–103 cm
Weight: 206–475 g

Size & Shape

Short-eared Owls are medium-sized owls with rounded heads. The "ears" mentioned in their name are difficult to see. The wings are broad and the tips are smoothly rounded. The tail is short.

Color Pattern

Short-eared Owls are medium brown spotted with buff and white on the upperparts. The face is pale with yellow eyes accentuated by black outlines. The breast is heavily streaked with brown; the chest and belly are pale or buffy. The pale underwing has a dark comma-shaped mark near the wrist, and the upper wing shows a pale patch in the primaries.

Habitat:

Look for Short-eared Owls in grasslands and open areas, where they perch in low trees or on the ground. Breeding Short-eared Owls roost on the ground in tall grass.



Westslope Cutthroat Trout

Identification:

The Westslope Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*) is a subspecies of the Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*). This subspecies has been further divided into two populations, the Alberta and British Columbia populations. The Westslope Cutthroat Trout is a member of the Salmonidae family and has the following characteristics: Streamlined body shape; generally trout-like in appearance with small, irregularly shaped dark spots, which form an arc from the anal fin to the pectoral fin; series of small basibranchial teeth at the back of the throat; colouration ranges from silver to yellow green with red on the front and sides of the head; spawning fish often develop a bright red colouration over the entire body; and typically small in size at 150 to 230 millimeters (28 to 142 grams); larger individuals rarely exceed 460 millimeters (1400 grams).

Habitat:

Westslope Cutthroat Trout are found in a wide range of habitats, but do best in cold, clean, moving water with various forms of cover such as undercut banks, pool-riffle habitat and riparian vegetation.

In Canada, it is restricted to the upper Kootenay, upper Columbia and South Thompson drainages in British Columbia.

Tumbler Ridge

Native or natural occurrence is possible



Wolverine

Identification:

Average height: 66 to 86 cm

Average weight: 12 kg to 18 kg (males), 8 kg to 12 kg (females)

Average lifespan: 7 to 13 years (in the wild)

This funny little creature looks like a combination of a skunk and a small bear. Its tiny eyes and short round ears offset a small round face. Its thick head, neck and shoulders are insulated with muscles that are covered in a brown coat with two adjacent yellow stripes. Despite how beautiful their sleek fur looks, you shouldn't get too close. Wolverines are fierce animals. They have strong, sharp teeth and semi-retractable claws that they use for digging, climbing and scaring away predators. Their paws are large and furry, and act as snowshoes that keep wolverines from sinking into the snow.

Habitat:

Wolverines are a shy species, so don't expect to see one out in the wild. They live in dens made out of snow tunnels, rocks and boulders and can be found in remote forests and tundra. They are constantly on the move, looking for their next meal. When more food is available, wolverines don't have to walk as far. On average, the males have a home range of approximately 1,000 square kilometres, while females stay within 100 square kilometres.

Although sometimes this species will eat berries and plants, they usually go after meat — everything as small as mice and rabbits to as big as moose and caribou. Wolverines are opportunistic eaters meaning they will eat whatever is close and easy. Sometimes they eat animal carcasses and other times they'll dig into burrows to eat hibernating animals. The small wolverine will even scare bears away and steal their food instead of going to get their own meal.



Wood Bison

Identification:

Average weight: 725 kilograms

Life expectancy: 20-40 years

Bison, also known as buffalo, are very large animals with a shaggy dark brown mane. They have humped shoulders and short legs that are covered with hair. They have a long tail with a furry end, called a tuft. Their coat is extremely thick in order to keep them warm in cooler temperatures and in the summer months they shed to keep cool.

Short, black horns stick out from the bison's massive head, just above their eyes. These horns are used to defend themselves against predators. Bison's eyesight is poor, but their hearing and sense of smell is very good. In fact, a bison can smell an animal three kilometers away.

Male bison are called bulls and have large, square-shaped necks, while females have smaller, rounder necks and are referred to as bison cows.

Habitat:

Bison feed mainly on grass, plants and sometimes berries. Finding food in the winter isn't a problem for the bison. They swing their large heads from side to side and push the snow away in order to find grass.

Despite their size, bison are very fast creatures, able to run up to 55 kilometres per hour. Bison are mostly active at night time and at dusk.



Caribou

Identification:

Average weight: 55 to 318 kg

Average lifespan: 4.5 years

Caribou are ungulates, which mean they are cloven-hoofed and chew cud. The caribou has a short, stocky body that conserves heat, but its legs are long to help it move through the deep snow. Its winter coat provides insulation from the cold, and its muzzle and tail are short and covered in hair. The caribou's large and concave hooves support it through the snow or muskeg, and it uses them as a scoop when looking for lichen and other plants in the snow. Although the caribou can withstand the cold temperatures and hard terrain, it has a tough time coping with insects in the summer.

The caribou belongs to the deer family and is the only member where both male and female counterparts carry antlers. The antlers of the female are smaller than those of the male, but they are carried for a longer period of time. Caribou start growing their antlers each spring and are normally done the process by August. Male caribou shed their antlers in November or December, after mating, while females will often carry them until June, after they have given birth. Antlers are a sign of dominance, and it is usually only the pregnant caribou that keep the antlers that late. It allows them to defend their feed and displace large caribou from favoured sites while nourishing their babies. Woodland caribou are usually found in groups of only up to ten to twenty-five animals.

Habitat:

The woodland caribou, the largest and darkest of the species, can be found in the boreal, or northern, forests from British Columbia and the Yukon Territory to Newfoundland and Labrador. In mountainous western areas the woodland caribou make seasonal movements from their winter range on the mountainside to their summer range on the tundra.

All caribou in British Columbia belong to the woodland subspecies (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) but can be further divided into three ecotypes based on differences in habitat use, behaviour and migration patterns (Heard and Vagt 1998). Northern Woodland Caribou live in west-central and northern British Columbia. During winter, these caribou use low elevation forests or windswept alpine ridges where they crater for terrestrial lichens. They also feed on arboreal lichens during winter but to a lesser extent than on terrestrial lichens. Mountain Woodland Caribou live in the snowbelt of south-eastern British Columbia, where, during winter they forage primarily for arboreal lichens in subalpine parkland forests. During summer, both Northern and Mountain Woodland Caribou are found in and around mountainous terrain. Boreal Woodland Caribou live in the lowlands of northeastern British Columbia throughout the year and do not have access to mountainous terrain. During winter, Boreal Woodland Caribou use large peatlands where they crater for terrestrial lichens, and feed on arboreal lichens to a lesser extent. Boreal **woodland caribou** like to hang out in the mosquito- and lichen-filled boreal forests.



Yellow Rail

Identification:

A small buffy rail with very secretive habits (Peterson 1980). White wing patch noticeable in flight. Has a very short greenish bill and a striped, checkered back with buff and black (Peterson 1980). The male's bill turns black after the breeding season. Males are generally larger than females. The chicks have a pink bill and are black in color. The bill fades and eventually becomes black in its juvenile stage. Juveniles are darker than adults and have white barred breast areas and distinctive spots on the head.

Length	13–18 cm
Wingspan	28–32 cm
Weight	41–68 g

Habitat:

Shallow marshes, and wet meadows; in winter, drier fresh-water and brackish marshes, as well as dense, deep grass, and rice fields. This bird migrates in the Spring and Fall.