



Blackpoll Warbler

(Setophaga striata)

STATUS

SARA NO STATUS
 Alberta SECURE

British Columbia YELLOW
 Saskatchewan NO STATUS

PRIMARY HABITAT
 Wet Coniferous

TERRITORY SIZE
 0.2–1.9 ha

NEST TYPE
 Ground

NEST REUSE
 No

STAND LEVEL
 Unknown

LANDSCAPE LEVEL
 Old/riparian coniferous forest

BREEDING WINDOW



This species occurs in low densities and has a quiet song, making it difficult to study. Most studies are from the eastern boreal forest and should be interpreted with caution.

HABITAT ECOLOGY

- The Blackpoll Warbler’s primary habitat is wet conifer forest (black spruce, tamarack) and riparian spruce/alder/willow thickets. Subalpine habitats include mixed conifer, birch and aspen.¹
 - Old aspen forest (>125 years old)² and young pine and mixedwood³ may be important habitat in western forests but this is based on only a few studies, making it difficult to draw strong conclusions (See Knowledge Gaps).
- These warblers typically build their nests about a meter off the ground, often against the trunk of a conifer.¹
- Young Blackpoll Warblers use habitat with high volumes of coarse woody debris.⁴

RESPONSE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Clearcuts are generally considered low-quality habitats, but they may recolonize them relatively quickly (e.g., after 10 years).¹

STAND-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Given the small amount of information available on this species, their response to riparian buffers is uncertain.^{5,6} Minimum riparian buffer widths of 60 m are conservatively recommended within spruce forests.⁵
- The amount of green-tree retention needed to benefit this species is not known. However, harvest patterns that increase volumes of coarse woody debris may provide some long-term benefits as the block regenerates.

RANGE MAP

