



With browner plumage than the black-capped chickadee, the boreal chickadee's squawking "TISK-a-day" or "FITZ-brew" song is commonly heard in older spruce forests.

Boreal Chickadee

(Poecile hudsonicus)

STATUS

SARA **NO STATUS**
 Alberta **SECURE**

British Columbia **YELLOW**
 Saskatchewan **NO STATUS**

PRIMARY HABITAT

Old Coniferous/Mixedwood

TERRITORY SIZE

>5 ha

NEST TYPE

Cavity (secondary)

NEST REUSE

Unknown

STAND LEVEL

Large (>5 ha) patches containing large-diameter cavity trees

LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Old coniferous or mixed forest; black spruce peatlands may also be of value

BREEDING WINDOW



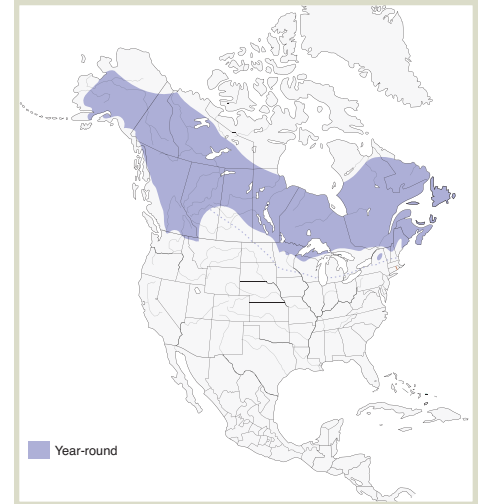
HABITAT ECOLOGY

- Boreal Chickadees are found in conifer forests (mainly spruce and sometimes balsam fir) and mixedwoods. In northern BC, they are found across a range of habitats including open forests.¹
 - In Alberta, they are found mainly in older (>80 years) forests.²
 - In BC spruce-fir forests, they are also found in 31–75 year-old burns containing residual trees.³
 - Lowland black spruce or tamarack forest may represent valuable habitat.⁴
- This species excavates nest cavities in snags with very soft heartwood or reuses cavities excavated by small woodpeckers.¹
- The Boreal Chickadee is a year-round resident that prefers mature stands in the winter.⁵

RESPONSE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Boreal Chickadees avoid young and regenerating harvested stands, and they are expected to decline where old conifer forests are reduced (landscape-level) and potential nest trees/snags are removed (stand-level).^{6,7}
 - Boreal Chickadees were unlikely to be present in regenerating clearcuts (i.e. no planned retention) up to 33 years postharvest.⁸
 - Some winter use of regenerating stands (4–7 m tall balsam fir/white spruce) has been observed, however chickadees mainly used habitats at edges between cutblocks and mature (>7 m tall) forests.⁹
- They were more than twice as abundant in un-thinned lodgepole pine stands than stands that were thinned seven years earlier.¹⁰

RANGE MAP



STAND-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Retention at levels of up to 22% and patches up to 5 ha do not appear to benefit this species in the short term.^{11,12}
- Longer-term benefits of retention include large-diameter residual trees contributing to potential nest trees as they are excavated by woodpeckers or become soft enough for chickadees to excavate.¹³
 - Large-diameter aspen (>35 cm dbh) with conks or other damage, plus large-diameter spruce, are recommended for inclusion in retention patches.