



This small, round songbird is a familiar sight in many coniferous forests, where its high-pitched song sounds like a tiny car trying (unsuccessfully) to start.

# Golden-crowned Kinglet

*(Regulus satrapa)*

**STATUS**

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

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

**PRIMARY HABITAT**

Old Coniferous

**TERRITORY SIZE**

0.3–1.6 ha

**NEST TYPE**

Canopy (conifer)

**NEST REUSE**

No

**STAND LEVEL**

Riparian buffers >30–35 m wide in old conifer forest; large-diameter spruce, Douglas fir, or hemlock

**LANDSCAPE LEVEL**

Large, unfragmented stands of old coniferous forest

**BREEDING WINDOW**



**HABITAT ECOLOGY**

- The Golden-crowned Kinglet is associated with old, dense conifer forests including Douglas fir, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, and spruce.<sup>1</sup> It is also common in spruce-aspen mixedwood forests from >75 years<sup>2</sup> to >140 years old.<sup>3</sup>

**RESPONSE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT**

- This species' close association with forests older than rotation age makes it highly sensitive to harvest. It was absent from stands up to 33 years following clearcutting<sup>1,4</sup> and declined following harvests with 20–70% retention,<sup>1,5</sup> small-scale harvests including uniform single-tree removal,<sup>6</sup> and moderate to heavy thinning.<sup>7,8</sup>
- Riparian buffers >30–35 m may support higher occupancy than narrower buffers ≥10 years postharvest.<sup>9–11</sup> Varying buffer widths with wider areas serving as retention anchors may benefit this species.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet abundance increases in areas of mountain pine beetle, spruce beetle, and spruce budworm infestation.<sup>1</sup>

**STAND-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Retention harvest is overall considered less effective than old forest stands or set-asides, given this species' declines even in harvested blocks with very high retention. The retention of features including large-diameter conifers will, however, likely improve the structural complexity and long-term habitat value of regenerating stands.
- Riparian buffers >30–35 m wide may help support this species, however they will likely occur at lower densities than in unharvested forest.<sup>12</sup>

**RANGE MAP**

