

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 Alberta

**NEST TYPE** 

STAND LEVEL

PRIMARY HABITAT

Old Coniferous

Canopy (conifer)

NO STATUS

SECURE

British Columbia Saskatchewan

YELLOW NO STATUS

TERRITORY SIZE

0.3-1.6 ha

**NEST REUSE** 

No

LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Large, unfragmented stands of old

coniferous forest

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

**BREEDING WINDOW** 

**FEB** MAR

IUN IUL

AUG

NOV

DEC

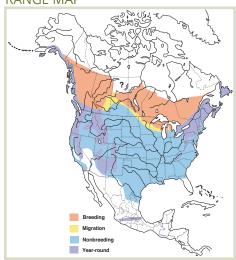
#### HABITAT ECOLOGY

• The Golden-crowned Kinglet is associated with old, dense conifer forests including Douglas fir, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, and spruce. 1 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> smallscale harvests including uniform single-tree removal,<sup>6</sup> and moderate to heavy thinning.7,8
- Riparian buffers >30–35 m may support higher occupancy than narrower buffers ≥10 years postharvest. 9-11 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.1

#### RANGE MAP



### 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.12