

Credit 2.1: Enhanced Critical, Sensitive, or Migratory Bird Habitat Stewardship



Green Shores for Homes Credits and Ratings Guide, 2023 Update

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Credit Overview

The addition of Credit 2.1 to the Green Shores for Homes Credits and Ratings Guide stemmed from the ever increasing need for habitat stewardship of species at risk and migratory birds. This credit builds on the Critical and Sensitive Habitats prerequisite for properties with critical, sensitive, or migratory bird habitat partially or wholly onsite. Points are awarded to projects where no work occurs within the habitat, and where an additional buffer between the work and habitat is applied. This credit offers up to 6 base points with the opportunity for a further 2 bonus points for additional stewardship activities and monitoring.

Sensitive vs. Critical Habitat:

Sensitive Habitat

Sensitive habitats include reserves, parks, protected areas, Ramsar sites, valued foreshore habitats, clam beds, tidal channels, and spawning/nesting areas for coastal wildlife.



Critical Habitat

Habitat necessary for the survival or recovery of a species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* and that is identified in the species' recovery strategy or action plan.



The Importance of Biodiversity Recovery

Biodiversity is a beautiful thing; by creating a habitat where diverse species can thrive, you are decreasing the ability for certain diseases to spread throughout the ecosystem. Each species fills a role in the habitat, so if one species declines, biodiverse habitats are able to redistribute some of that role while the species recovers. Stewardship for species at risk on private land is vital for their recovery, since habitat destruction and degradation is one of the main causes of species' decline, and a large portion of our shoreline habitats are privately owned.

Vegetated Buffers

Habitat quality decreases along the boundary between habitat and human use. By adding additional buffer space between species at risk habitat and your home, you are adding valuable, higher quality habitat space for the species that need it most. Extra vegetation within the buffer has additional benefits like improving water quality, aesthetic value, and soil stabilization.

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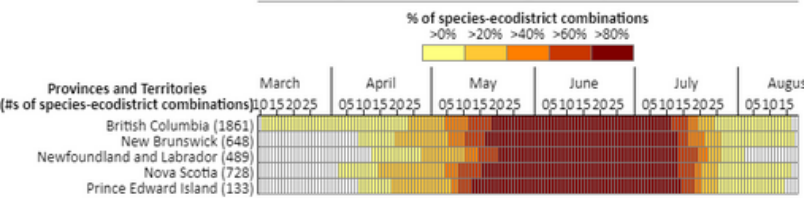


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Considerations for Migratory Birds

All project activities must take place outside of the nesting period for migratory birds on your property in order to ensure nesting success. A calendar of the average nesting periods by province can be found below. Darker colours indicate a higher likelihood of nesting birds.

Nesting Periods of Migratory Birds/Province



Rousseau, F. & Drolet, B. (2015). Prediction of the nesting phenology of birds in Canada. In: J. Hussell and D. Lepage. 2015. Bird Nesting Calendar Query Tool. Project NestWatch. Bird Studies Canada/ Études d'Oiseaux Canada, Retrieved January 4, 2024

How to get started with Green Shores for Homes

Ready to get started with Green Shores for Homes? Visit our website to learn more about how to enroll.

To learn more about the prerequisites, credit system, and monitoring protocols, check out the Green Shores Guidebooks, and keep an eye out for training opportunities near you!

Acknowledgement to our Partners

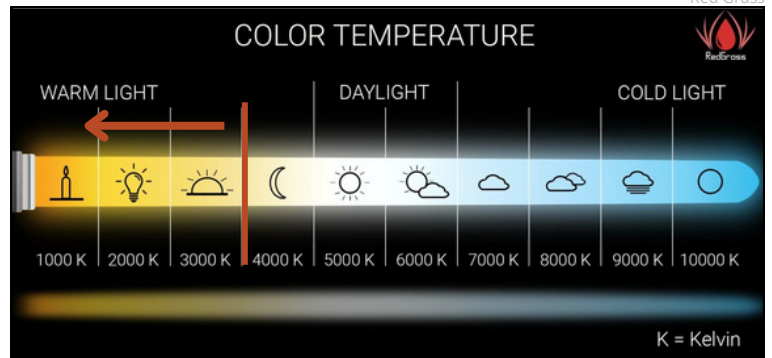
This project is part of the “Building Community Coastal Resilience in Nova Scotia with Green Shores for Homes” initiative led by TransCoastal Adaptations and the Stewardship Centre for BC, with additional support from Saint Mary’s University. Funding is provided, in part, by the Government of Canada, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, and the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund.

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Migratory birds rely on natural light from the moon and stars to navigate. Outdoor lighting can disorient them, causing them to waste their energy to reorient, and puts them at higher risk of collisions or predation. Motion sensors, upper level window coverings, no spotlights or floodlights, and warm (3000 K or less) lighting pointed towards the ground are best practices to support migrating birds.



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1. Request a shoreline assessment
2. Enroll your project with Green Shores
3. Project design and construction
4. Project verification and award
5. Monitoring