

COLOR LEGEND

Please be mindful of the categorization of the birds in your area

- Species NOT at Risk
- Vulnerable
- Special Concern (SARA)/(COSEWIC)
- Threatened (SARA)

© Fyn Kynd



WINTER WREN

Troglodytes hiemalis

HABITAT

Breeds in moist coniferous forests with an understory of dense thickets, often close to water.

Winters in dense low-growth woods, especially along streambanks or in brush piles & fallen logs

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Forages among low, dense vegetation, searching for insects in foliage, on twigs & trunks, and on the ground. Also, feeds along stream banks may take items from the water's surface.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

CAVITY NESTER

Nests in any kind of natural cavity close to the ground: holes among upturned roots of downed trees, holes in rotten stumps, old woodpecker holes, holes in streambanks, rock crevices

© Rhododendrites



OVENBIRD

Seiurus aurocapilla

HABITAT

Needs large tracts of mature deciduous or mixed forest for successful breeding: closed canopy cover, large trees, and little ground cover

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Ground forager that eats insects in leaf litter. Sometimes, it catches insects mid-air.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Nests on the ground have domed nests made of dead leaves, grasses, bark, twigs, and animal hair

© Rhododendrites



BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

Setophaga virens

HABITAT

Breeds in coniferous & mixed forests. Often around spruce, white pine, and hemlock.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE CLEANER

Look for insects among branches, twigs, and bases of leaves. Sometimes, it catches insects mid-air.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nests are created where two or more small branches meet on a conifer tree. Nests are usually low, only a few feet above the ground.

© Rhododendrites



RED-EYED VIREO

Vireo olivaceus

HABITAT

Breeds in deciduous & mixed forests, occasionally in conifers. Prefers open woods with undergrowth on saplings, clearings, edges, or areas along streams.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Forages in trees by picking insects from foliage from under leaves & flowers, often while hovering

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nests are compact cups that are woven into a forked twig, found less than 5 ft from the ground.

© DickDaniels



AMERICAN CROW

Corvus brachyrhynchos

HABITAT

Found in a wide variety of semi-open habitats

Found on PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Feed mostly on the ground, sometimes in trees. Opportunistic feeders

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nest up in trees or large shrubs in a fork at the base of a branch

© Rhododendrites



AMERICAN ROBIN

Turdus migratorius

HABITAT

Wide variety: cities, towns, farmlands, forests

Some stay on PEI year-round, others migrate

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

They forage for food on the ground and can often be seen ripping out worms

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nest in trees, ledges of houses, barns, and bridges. Nests are small cups made of grasses, twigs, debris, and mud

© er-birds



BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

Mniotilta varia

HABITAT

Breeds in mature or second-growth forests - deciduous and mixed.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

BARK FORAGER

Creeps along limbs and on tree trunks to feed on insects in bark crevices

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Nests on the ground under dead leaves or limbs, against shrubs, rocks, logs, or trees. Small open cup made of leaves, grass, bark, needles, and roots.

© Ron Knight



NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

Parkesia noveboracensis

HABITAT

Breeds in coniferous forests with standing or slow-flowing water
Breeds on PEI ranked as “vulnerable” (S3)

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Feeds on the ground & wades in shallow water. Uncovers prey by tossing aside dead and soggy leaves

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Nests close to water in small hollows in moss-covered stumps, under small banks, or by uprooted trees. The nest is a small cup often well hidden in ferns

© Cephas



WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Zonotrichia albicollis

HABITAT

Breed in coniferous & mixed forests, mainly in openings with dense shrub layers. Ex. Near ponds, clearings, edges, roadsides, and second growth.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Forages on the ground, in shrubs, and low trees.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Nest on the ground, often hidden by low shrubs, grasses, or ferns

© Dan Pancamo



NORTHERN PARULA

Setophaga americana

HABITAT

Breeds & nests in humid coniferous & deciduous forests, especially those with a lot of tree lichens & usnea, and near swamps, ponds, and streams.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Forages among leaves & hovers to take insects from foliage. Sometimes, they forage on the ground.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Pairs often return to the same nesting sites each year.
Nests in hanging usnea (old man’s beard), will also nest in dangling clumps of twigs or pine needles.

© Cephas



DARK-EYED JUNCO

Junco hyemalis

HABITAT

Coniferous & mixed woods with openings (edges or clearings)
PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Forages on the ground

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Nest on the ground, well-hidden in grass, under logs, exposed tree roots. Sometimes, they will nest in shrubs, trees, or building ledges.

© Paul Danese



HERMIT THRUSH

Catharus guttatus

HABITAT

Breeds in spruce woods, sphagnum bogs, dry pine woods, second-growth forests, and thickly wooded canyons.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Ground foragers search for insects in leaf litter or soil. They will also feed on shrubs & trees.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Ground nester: in natural hollows, well-hidden in low vegetation.

© Rhododendrites



YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS

Setophaga coronata

HABITAT

Breeds in coniferous & mixed forests

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Versatile feeder. Searches among twigs & leaves fly out to catch flying insects and forage along tree trunks & branches.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nest in trees, usually conifers but sometimes deciduous.

© Kirk Gardner



MOURNING WARBLER

Geothlypis philadelphia

HABITAT

Breeds in brushy habitats: dense shrubbery in old deciduous woods clearings, brush cut-over lands, lowland thickets, or bog & marsh edges. Often found in temporary habitats that are growing up from fires or clear-cuts.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Forages mainly grow in low shrubs and feed on the ground and in the air.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Nest on the ground within shrubs and thick vegetation

© Nigel



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

Corthylio calendula

HABITAT

Breeds in coniferous forests: spruce, fir, and sometimes pine.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Diverse forager: feeds from treetops, low brush, in foliage & twigs, hovers, and can catch insects mid-air

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nests in coniferous trees, often spruce.

© Rhododendrites



BLUE JAY

Cyanocitta cristata

HABITAT

Deciduous or mixed woods avoid purely coniferous forests. It can also be found in gardens, towns, groves, and parks.

PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Forages in trees, shrubs, and on the ground.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nest in trees

© Dominic Sherony



YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Sphyrapicus varius

HABITAT

Mixed forests, especially near aspens

PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

BARK FORAGER - WOODPECKER

They are known for creating sap wells, which are rows of shallow holes drilled into trees. These sapwells provide sap for the woodpeckers to drink and attract insects for them to eat

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

CAVITY NESTER

Nests inside tree cavities

© Rhododendrites



BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

Setophaga fusca

HABITAT

Breeds in coniferous & mixed forests, especially spruce and hemlock.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Mainly feeds in treetops. They will also search for leaf clumps and fly out to catch flying insects.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nests high up in dense vegetation near the tips of conifer trees

© Cephas



RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Sitta canadensis

HABITAT

Nests mainly in spruce, fir, and hemlock. Found in pure coniferous stands or mixed ones.

PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

BARK FORAGER

Forages for insects by climbing up & down tree trunks and branches. Sometimes, it catches flying insects in mid-air.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

CAVITY NESTER

Their nests are built inside of trees, which makes them cavity nesters. Snags and dead-standing trees are significant to these birds.

© William H. Majoros



MAGNOLIA WARBLER

Setophaga magnolia

HABITAT

Breeds in areas with short young spruce, hemlocks, and pines. Also, it is in taller coniferous forests with dense understory.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Hops along branches, picking insects from conifer needles, leaves, and twigs. Sometimes hovers or makes shore flights after insects

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nests in short & dense conifers (spruce or hemlock), often near the tree trunk on a horizontal branch. Less than 10 FT up

© Frank Schulenburg



EUROPEAN STARLING

Sturnus vulgaris

HABITAT

Cities, parks, farms, fields, and any kind of disturbed habitat.

PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Ground forager, probing the ground with its bill

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

CAVITY NESTER

Any kind of cavity: old woodpecker holes, birdhouses, buildings.

© Paul Danese



MOURNING DOVE

Zenaida macroura

HABITAT

Almost any type of semi-open habitat: Farms, towns, open woods, roadsides, and fields.

It can be found on PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

They forage for food on the ground.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nests in trees or shrubs, sometimes on the ground or on building ledges.

© Walter Siegmund



RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Agelaius phoeniceus

HABITAT

Breeds in marshes, swamps, and hayfields by water.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Mainly a ground forager, sometimes up in shrubs & trees.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

SHRUB NESTER

They build their nests close to water, often in cattails.

© Mdf



HABITAT

Semi-open areas: farmlands, towns, streamsides, marshes, woodland edges
Breed on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Ground forager also wades in shallow water and up in trees or shrubs. Will sometimes steal food from robins & other birds

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nest in small colonies or 10-30 pairs. The nest site is well hidden in branches of dense trees or shrubs near water.

COMMON GRACKLE

Quiscalus quiscula

© Cephas



HABITAT

Thickets, brush, marshes, roadsides, gardens, streamsides, marsh edges, woodland edges, hedgerows.
Breed on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Mainly ground foragers. Sometimes, they forage in shallow water and up in trees and shrubs.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

SHRUB NESTER

Usually nest on the ground under clumps of grass or shrubs. Will also nest in shrubs, low trees, or marsh vegetation.

SONG SPARROW

Melospiza melodia

© Cephas



HABITAT

Mixed & deciduous forests, willow thickets, open forests,
PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Forages by hopping among tree twigs & branches, often hanging upside down to reach underneath branches. Sometimes, they fly out to catch insects mid-air.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

CAVITY NESTER

Nest in tree holes (old woodpecker holes, rotten tree cavities)

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Poecile atricapillus

© Mike's Birds from Riverside



HABITAT

Breeds in marshes and other wet habitats with dense low growth.
Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Forages in dense, low-growth are looking for insects on the surface of plants. Will sometimes forage mid-air or on the ground.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

SHRUB NESTER

Nests low to the ground (3ft or lower) in vegetation

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

Geothlypis trichas

© Barbara Schelkle



GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

Regulus satrapa

HABITAT

Breeds in dense coniferous forests: especially spruce, fir, and hemlock.

Can be found on PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Forages in trees & shrubs (mainly conifers), hops among branches, often hanging upside down from twigs

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

They place their small nests high up in coniferous trees.

© Mykola Swarnyk



TREE SWALLOW

Tachycineta bicolor

HABITAT

Breeds in any kind of open or sem-open areas, typically close to water.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

AERIAL FORAGER

Catches insects while in flight

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

CAVITY NESTER

Nests in holes in dead trees, old woodpecker holes, holes in buildings, or nesting boxes.

© Judy Gallagher



BELTED KINGFISHER

Megasceryle alcyon

HABITAT

Nest in banks near streams, bays, coasts, ponds, marshes, and estuaries.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

AERIAL DIVER

Forages by plunging headfirst into the water, catching fish with their bill.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

BURROW NESTER

Nest in steep vertical dirt banks.

© Rhododendrites



CEDAR WAXWING

Bombycilla cedrorum

HABITAT

Open woodlands, fruiting trees, orchards. Often common in edge habitats near fruiting trees.

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Hover while plucking berries or taking insects from foliage. Will also fly out to catch insects mid-air.

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nest up in trees



RUFFED GROUSE

Bonasa umbellus

HABITAT

Deciduous & mixed forests, especially ones with clearings and dense undergrowth

PEI year-round

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Foliage-gleaner: eats buds, leaves, and fruits of ferns & shrubs

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Nest at the base of a tree, stump, or rock in areas with sparse ground cover.

FOREST BIRDS: SPECIES AT RISK

Habitat, feeding behaviors, nesting behaviors and threats.

COLOR LEGEND

Please be mindful of the categorization of the birds in your area

- Species NOT at Risk
- Vulnerable
- Special Concern (SARA)/(COSEWIC)
- Threatened (SARA)

© Rhocodendrites



EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE

Contopus virens

HABITAT

Mixed & deciduous forests that have openings
 Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

AERIAL FORAGER

Forages by watching from an exposed perch within a tree, then flying out to catch an insect in the air

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nest in deciduous trees (maples, oaks, birches, elms)

THREATS

Their food supply (insects) is reduced due to pesticides, invasive species, climate change, and environmental contaminants.
 Habitat loss and degradation on wintering grounds
 Higher mortality during migration as a result of increased occurrence of severe storms.

© William H. Majoros



CANADA WARBLER

Cardellina canadensis

HABITAT

Wet forests that have a good shrub layer and snags (dead-standing trees) for perching
 Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

FOLIAGE GLEANER

Flushes insects from foliage while foraging on twigs and leaves, then darts out to catch escaping insects on the wing. Also, searches on the ground among fallen leaves

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND NESTER

Nest very close to the ground in areas with dense cover

THREATS

Habitat loss due to increased forest harvesting and residential & commercial development.
 Their food supply (insects) is reduced due to pesticides, invasive species, climate change, and environmental contaminants.

© Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren



OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

Contopus cooperi

HABITAT

Prefers mainly coniferous forests near openings like ponds, bogs, or clearings
 Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

AERIAL FORAGER

Forages by watching from an exposed perch and then flying out to catch an insect in the air

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Prefers to nest in coniferous trees but will sometimes nest in deciduous ones

THREATS

Their food supply (insects) is reduced due to pesticides, invasive species, climate change, and environmental contaminants.
 Habitat loss

© Ant.tab



RUSTY BLACKBIRD

Euphagus carolinus

HABITAT

Breeds on PEI in wet coniferous forests

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Forages on the ground

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Nests coniferous trees with dense cover

THREATS

Habitat loss

Their food supply (insects) is reduced due to pesticides, invasive species, climate change, and environmental contaminants.

© Mykola Swarnyk



EVENING GROSBEAK

Coccothraustes vespertinus

HABITAT

Found in coniferous and mixed forests

Breeds on PEI

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

GROUND FORAGER

Forages for insects, seeds, and berries in trees, shrubs, and on the ground

NESTING BEHAVIOUR

TREE NESTER

Builds their nests in trees

THREATS

Special Concern (COSEWIC)

Their food supply (insects) is reduced due to pesticides, invasive species, climate change, and environmental contaminants.