

The Boreal Forest Bird Nursery of the North

Where is the boreal forest located?



Picture a giant crown that fits around the earth just below the Arctic circle – that's where you'll find the boreal forest.



North America's boreal forest stretches across the continent from Newfoundland to Alaska, covering 1.5 billion acres.

What does the boreal forest look like?

The boreal forest is the largest unspoiled forest in North America. It is made up of forests, lakes, rivers, bogs, grasslands, tundra and other habitats. It is home to many different kinds of animals, including billions of birds.

WOODS



The boreal forest is made up of many different types of trees and plants including spruce, fir, pine, aspen, and a carpet of moss and lichen on the forest floor.

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WATER



30% of the boreal forest is water, including 1.5 million lakes and ponds. Three of the largest lakes and one of the longest rivers in the world are found here.

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WILDLIFE



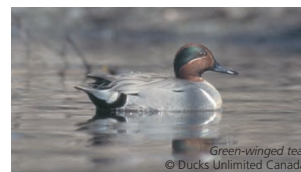
The boreal forest protects a variety of animals, including caribou, wolves, bears, moose, links, hares, butterflies, and frogs – and of course, billions of birds!

Why is the boreal forest so important to birds?

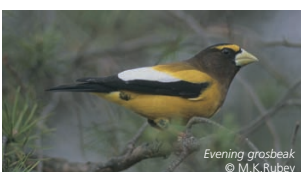
About three billion birds fly north to the boreal forest each spring to build nests and lay eggs. These birds arrive in the boreal forest after spending the winter in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the United States.



325 bird species – that's almost half of all the bird species in North America! – depend on the boreal forest.



About 3 billion of North America's landbirds, 26 million of its waterfowl, and 7 million of its shorebirds breed here.



There are nearly 100 species of which 50% or more of the entire population breeds in the boreal forest.



Up to 5 billion birds – adults and their new babies – migrate south from the boreal forest each fall.

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The birds of the boreal forest need your help!

- About **30% of the boreal forest** has already been allocated for industrial uses – logging, oil and gas, mining and hydro-electric dams.
- Each year, about **2.5 million acres** of boreal timber is cut. In some areas, forest loss is equal to rates in tropical rainforests.
- Destruction of the boreal contributes to **global warming**, which has already affected migration for some North American birds.
- Many of North America's most **rapidly declining birds** are among those most reliant on the boreal forest for their survival; at least 40 different landbird species that breed in the boreal are in decline.
- **Only about 12%** of the boreal has been conserved in protected areas by Canadian laws.
- Land-use planning decisions made over **the next 5-10 years** will determine the fate of the boreal.



The Canada Warbler has witnessed an **overall 80% decline**.



Timber companies in Canada **cut down about 2.5 million acres** of trees each year, leaving behind clearcuts.

Here's what you can do:



BUY RECYCLED

Use paper, tissues, and paper towels made from recycled material in your home, school, and office to reduce logging.

For a guide to recycled paper products, visit:
greenpeace.org/usa/en/campaigns/forests/tissue-guide



CONSUME LESS

Read your favorite newspapers and magazines on the web, and ask catalog and marketing companies to remove your name from their mailing lists, to cut down on junk mail.

Remove your name from mailing lists online at:
dmaconsumers.org/consumerassistance.html



JOIN A GROUP

Become a member of a conservation group that works to protect the boreal forest and the billions of birds that depend on it.

Find local conservation groups to join at:
audubon.org
nwf.org
nature.org



SPREAD THE WORD

Give a presentation at a local school, library, or nature club to let your community know about the boreal forest and its link with your neighborhood birds.



BE EFFICIENT

Use energy-efficient appliances, light bulbs, and vehicles. Set your thermostat lower, use less water and light, and drive less.

Find tips for being energy-efficient at:
aceee.org/consumer
ucsusa.org/publications/greentips
fueleconomy.gov



LEARN ABOUT BIRDS

Go birding and find birds that breed in the boreal forest in the nearest woods or lakes – or right in your own backyard!

To learn all about boreal birds, visit:
borealbirds.org/guide
To learn about the boreal forest, visit:
nrdc.org/land/forests/boreal/intro.asp
borealcanada.ca
cpaws.org/campaigns/boreal-forest



ASK FOR SUPPORT

Write to companies as well as local and federal governments asking them to adopt boreal-friendly policies such as FSC certification and the Boreal Conservation Framework.

You can find letter-writing campaigns at:
borealbirds.org/action.html