

Example of a Species Ranking Form

Species: Black-throated Green Warbler (<i>Dendroica virens</i>)		
Criteria	Letter Code	Data, Comments, and References
Population Size	B-C	Relative abundance data from the BBS ¹ indicates this species is uncommon in Alberta. In mature white spruce or mixedwood, Black-throated Green Warblers have a density of approximately 1 pair/5ha. There are easily > 10 000 individuals in the province. ⁵⁵
Number of Occurrences	D	> 100 breeding occurrences in the province.
Distribution	C	Most sources ^{1,2,3,4,6} indicate this species is scattered through the boreal forest and foothills natural regions. This species can be found in the Peace River drainage (British Columbia to Wood Buffalo National Park); also the lower Athabasca River drainage, and east to Cold Lake. ¹⁰² A single, recent record from Fort Chipewyan documents the species' presence in the Wood Buffalo region, ¹⁰² but it does not regularly breed in the extreme northwest. ^{2,3,103} Its breeding range includes approximately 75% of the province. ¹³ The distribution of this species within the boreal forest is considered localized.
Trend in Population	C	BBS ¹ sets are too limited in Alberta to assess any population trends for this species, although the trend map suggests stable populations.
Trend in Distribution	C	Unknown.
Threat to Population	D	No direct threats to population. This species is an uncommon Brown-headed Cowbird host. ¹⁸
Threat to Habitat	B	The Black-throated Green Warbler is associated with mature and old mixed and coniferous stands. ^{2,3,4,7,102,104,105} It prefers high heterogeneity in the canopy, ⁷ and avoids disturbed habitat, ¹⁰⁶ openings ¹⁰⁷ and edges. ^{106,108} Several sources ^{22,102,109} suggest that this species is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from forestry and energy sector exploration in the province. A simulation study of the effects of timber harvest suggests that, even under the most effective habitat management scenarios, available optimal habitat for the Black-throated Green Warbler would be reduced by 75% in 100 years. ¹⁰⁴ This species is an obligate neotropical migrant; ^{11,109} however, it appears relatively tolerant of disturbed habitat during the non-breeding season. ¹⁰²

Ranking: Sensitive

Reasons: An uncommon, regionally distributed species with moderate threats to its habitat, although its population appears stable. The Alberta range of this species comprises 18% of its range in Canada, and Alberta's supervisory responsibility is high.¹³ Canadian vulnerability and concern are moderately high.¹¹ The Natural Heritage Element Rarity Rank for Alberta is S3S4B.¹⁴

Status Elsewhere: This species breeds in northern Alberta, across central and southeastern Canada, and the northeastern United States.^{1,4,15} The British Columbia CDC⁴⁵ includes this species on the provincial Red list, and there have been concerns over population declines in Saskatchewan.¹¹⁰ BBS data¹ indicate a Canada-wide, significant increase of 21% (p=0.013) in the 10-year period 1986-1996.

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