

Species at Risk

Yellow-breasted Chat

Icteria virens auricollis



STATUS

The Yellow-breasted Chat is protected under the federal *Species at Risk Act* as an Endangered species.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION

The Yellow-breasted Chat is found in south-central and south-eastern British Columbia. They are primarily found in dense riparian scrubland, preferring thickets around wood edges, riparian areas, and in overgrown clearings. This species is strongly associated with thickets of wild rose (*Rosa spp.*) along streams and rivers, nesting almost exclusively in wild rose. They are present in British Columbia between spring and late summer.

HABITAT FEATURES (BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES)

Yellow-breasted Chats require habitat with the following biophysical attributes:

- Dense riparian thickets of wild rose; and
- Undisturbed low-lying scrubland riparian areas with mid-successional, low to moderate overstory canopies of water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), willow (*Salix spp.*), mountain alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*) or trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

CRITICAL HABITAT RANGE



Figure 1: Yellow-breasted Chats are found in south-central and south-eastern B.C.

CRITICAL HABITAT FEATURE LINK TO BC AGRICULTURAL BMPs

This table identifies which Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) may be applicable; other stewardship actions may also be possible.

Habitat biophysical attributes	Activity that would destroy critical habitat	Agricultural BMP for protection or enhancement of habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undisturbed low-lying scrubland riparian areas • Dense riparian thickets of wild rose 	<p>Partial or total riparian vegetation removal (e.g., brush cutting, excavation, burning, forest harvesting, urban or agricultural conversion, transmission infrastructure development or maintenance, livestock grazing/trampling, construction of roads or access trails, herbicide spraying).</p> <p><i>How activity would destroy critical habitat:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation removal (tree/canopy removal, understory alteration) leads to elimination of cover needed for nesting and dispersal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance riparian vegetation • Avoid construction of roads or water crossings in riparian areas • Exclude livestock from riparian areas and provide alternate water sources/foraging areas • Rehabilitate riparian habitats damaged by livestock through revegetation with wild rose and other common indigenous shrubs <p>BMPs</p> <p>2006-0601 2006-0602 2006-1002 2006-1003 2006-2001 2006-2101 2006-2104 2006-2107 2006-2203 2018/2019-0601 2018/2019-0704 2018/2019-3001 2018/2019-1002 2018/2019-1003 2018/2019-1004 2018/2019-1005 2018/2019-1101 2018/2019-2201 2018/2019-2202 2018/2019-2204 2018/2019-2205 2018/2019-3501</p>
	<p>Alteration of the hydrological regime.</p> <p><i>How activity would destroy critical habitat:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May result in loss of riparian vegetation required for breeding, cover, and foraging 	



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