



# ROADSIDE AND HYDRO LINE VEGETATION CLEARING

## KNOW YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS



### Situation

**Migratory birds and their nests, eggs or habitat could be affected by vegetation-clearing activities.**

Clearing vegetation along roadsides and rights of way, such as hydro tower lines, during the spring and summer can negatively impact nesting bird species protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

### What you can do!

**Every project owner, consultant and contractor must take care to protect migratory birds from harm during their vegetation-clearing activities.**

To reduce the risk of damaging or destroying migratory bird nests and eggs, it is recommended that workers and contractors avoid engaging in potentially destructive activities, such as clearing vegetation, during the nesting season. Nesting seasons vary by region and by species; for more information, please contact Environment Canada or visit [www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb](http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb).

## What is the law?

**Migratory birds are protected by federal legislation.**

It is an offence under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, for anyone to kill, hunt, capture, injure, harass, take or disturb a migratory bird or to damage, destroy, remove or disturb a migratory bird nest or eggs without a permit. Permits may only be granted for scientific purposes (scientific collection, education, salvage and rehabilitation), aviculture, taxidermy, damage or danger, airport safety, eiderdown collection and hunting.



## Fines

Every person who commits an offence under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, is liable

- on conviction or indictment, to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than three years, or to both; and
- on summary conviction, to a fine of not more than \$300,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb](http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb)



You may also have obligations under the federal *Species at Risk Act* with regard to the protection of species at risk in Canada. Information is available on the public registry: [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca).

Other provincial, federal, or municipal legislation may also apply to the protection of wildlife species, including migratory birds. It is your responsibility to comply with all applicable legislation.

Cat. No.: CW66-297/3-2011E-PDF  
ISBN 978-1-100-19378-6

For information regarding reproduction rights, please contact Public Works and Government Services Canada at 613-996-6886 or at [droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca)

Photos:

Hydro line in Gaspé Peninsula, © Photos.com – 2011  
Mourning Dove, © Douglas Sweiger, EC  
Roadside vegetation management, © Mark McIntyre, EC

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada,  
represented by the Minister of the Environment, 2011

Aussi disponible en français

Additional information can be obtained at:

Environment Canada  
Inquiry Centre  
10 Wellington Street, 23rd Floor  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3  
Telephone: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)  
or 819-997-2800  
Fax: 819-994-1412  
TTY: 819-994-0736  
Email: [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)