

WOOD THRUSH

HYLOCICHLA MUSTELINA

An Ally In Your Maple Forest

Main Benefits for Agriculture

The wood thrush feeds mainly on soil **invertebrates and larvae**. Insects make up 62% of its diet; these include lepidopterans (11%), arachnids (8%), beetles (4%), and orthopterans (2%). It also feeds on fruit, which accounts for 38% of its diet, from late summer through fall.

As an insectivore, the wood thrush helps **control populations of pests** that are harmful to trees, thus contributing to the maintenance of a healthy forest.

As a fruit-eating species, it also promotes **seed dispersal and plant regeneration**, which can contribute to the diversity and resilience of agricultural and forestry environments.

Ecosystem health indicator: The presence of the wood thrush can be an indicator of a healthy, balanced environment. Maple forests where the bird nests are often well-preserved habitats, which can be a sign of sustainable forestry practices.



Habitats

- Mature, dark (low-light) deciduous and mixed forests
- In southern Quebec, the species is mainly associated with stands dominated by sugar maples

Did you know?

Wood thrushes migrate south in winter and return to Quebec in the spring and summer. They generally go back to the **same nesting site every year**, a trend that is more pronounced among males than females.

Legal Status :

Since 2017, threatened species listed on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act.

No recovery program, but: COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* in Canada registre-especes.az.ec.gc.ca/index-en.html#/documents/aswat4z1B9okMtrkwRFbV

What You Can Do To Help The Wood Thrush

Preserving Habitats	Promote connectivity between forest fragments, aiming to maintain areas of at least 80 hectares of contiguous forest
	Preserve mature forests and avoid forest fragmentation
	Support plant diversity by maintaining a variety of tall deciduous trees over 12 m tall
	Plant fruit bushes such as red elderberry (<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>)
Encouraging Breeding	Control the deer population (limit to less than eight per square kilometre) to reduce excessive grazing, which can degrade the wood thrush's habitat
	Use forest management practices that mimic small-scale disturbances, such as shelterwood cutting, to encourage forest regeneration
Reducing Mortality	Avoid forestry work during nesting season (May to August)
	Limit the use of insecticides

References :

Government of Canada (2012). "Wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*): COSEWIC assessment and status report 2012." www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-assessments-status-reports/wood-thrush-2012.html

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