



Migratory birds

The **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** provides comprehensive documentation of the extensive technical work undertaken by CN to assess the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of the Milton Logistics Hub, consistent with the EIS Guidelines issued by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA). The full EIS (submitted December 7, 2015) is available on the public registry at ceaa.gc.ca, Reference Number: 80100 (Doc. #57).

About the assessment

Protection of migratory birds and their habitat is an important part of planning for the Project, and measures have been proposed to mitigate potential effects. An assessment was conducted in the Project Development Area (PDA) – the area that would be directly disturbed or occupied by the physical footprint of the Project – and Local Assessment Area (LAA) – the area in which the effects of the Project would occur. to determine the potential effects of the proposed Project on migratory birds, including:

- Migratory bird mortality
- Migratory bird use of the area
- Sensory disturbance to migratory birds as a result of Project construction and operation

Assessment findings

A total of 64 bird species was observed in the LAA, many of which are likely to be breeding in the area. The surveys did not identify any rare birds in Ontario or specialized habitat such as breeding colonies. Habitat for migratory birds in the PDA and LAA generally falls into three categories: woodland, grassland, and wetland.

- Some bird species with species-at-risk (SAR) status were identified through background review and observed during field investigations, including Barn Swallow, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark.
- The most commonly observed species in woodland habitat areas are relatively common and widespread in Ontario, and did not include species that are considered sensitive.
- The most commonly observed species in grassland habitat areas included Red-winged Blackbird, Bobolink, and Savannah Sparrow, which are common of grassland areas in Ontario.
- Few species were recorded in wetland habitat areas, likely due to the small size of these features.

The construction and operation of the Project facility could result in a change to the use of migratory bird habitat. To compensate for clearing of habitat during site preparation, grassland and wetland enhancement and compensation measures will be implemented, resulting in no net loss of habitat. With the implementation of proposed mitigation measures, the impact to migratory birds is expected to be low in magnitude.



Proposed mitigation and habitat enhancement measures

Among other measures, CN is committed to protecting migratory birds and their habitat by:

- Scheduling and planning construction activities during least-sensitive times.
- Avoiding vegetation clearing around the facility and roads where feasible, and minimizing disturbances of soil and vegetation during operations.
- Implementing an on-site stormwater management system, including oil-grit separators.
- Using efficient lighting and limiting the use of site flood lighting during migration periods.
- Securing and managing off-site grassland habitat to offset the loss of similar on-site habitat anticipated during construction.
- Retaining natural habitat features to provide nesting opportunities, where possible.
- Creating berms planted with native Ontario vegetation and trees.
- Enhancing habitat for wetland birds, wherever practicable.
- Providing employees with sensitivity education for on-site wildlife encounters.

For more information about assessments related to migratory birds, refer to Section 6.0 of the EIS, as well as Appendix E.16.

Monitoring

CN will conduct follow-up and monitoring studies to verify the predictions made in the EIS and confirm that the mitigation measures are implemented and working effectively.

About CN's Milton Logistics Hub

CN is proposing to build and operate a new intermodal hub on CN-owned land, east of Tremaine Road and south of Britannia Road in Milton, Ontario. The Project is proposed to accommodate the growing demand for infrastructure to handle the increasing flow of goods in and out of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Canada's largest population area and the fastest-growing region in the country. The Project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by an independent joint review panel, under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*. CN is committed to ongoing engagement with Aboriginal communities, local governments and local communities to continue to find ways to mitigate potential effects and to enhance potential benefits locally. More information is available at cnmilton.ca.

For more information

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