Appendix F Passerine and Diurnal Raptor Migration Survey Protocol and Results

Appendix FPASSERINE AND DIURNAL RAPTOR MIGRATION SURVEY PROTOCOL AND RESULTS





Appendix F Passerine and Diurnal Raptor Migration Survey Protocol and Results

Introduction

Migration monitoring, targeting passerine species, was conducted during the 2017 spring season, utilizing protocol consistent with that used during past studies which occurred from 2006-2008. The 2017 surveys identified a total of 63 species, predominantly landbirds. The majority (91%) of the indifiduals observed were foraging, resting, or flying within 60 m of the ground. Observations of waterfowl and waterbirds were rare (1% of all individuals observed).

Diurnal raptor passage monitoring was also conducted during the spring migration monitoring in the spring of 2017. No concentrations of raptors were observed during the surveys, and all observations were of individual birds. Thirty-six raptors, comprising six species were observed during the course of the surveys, many of which were likely repeat observations of locally breeding indviduals.

Methodology

Stantec took into consideration the information and guidance provided in Environment Canada's guidelines for wind turbines and birds (Environment Canada 2006a) and survey protocols document (Environment Canada 2006b), as well as previous guidance from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) on methodology, timing and frequency of surveys when developing survey protocols.

For the purposes of data collection, a study area was defined within which observations of birds were made. The study area included the areas of proposed expansion, and is shown along with the survey stations on Figure F1.

Nine survey stations were established, one at or near each of the proposed turbine locations, and accessed using existing access roads (mainly forestry roads). Surveys comprised of a 10-minute watch count were conducted over the course of one morning at each of the survey stations. Watch counts began approximately 30 minutes prior to sunrise, and were concluded before 10:00 am. All birds noted by visual or auditory cues were recorded, along with the date of survey, environmental conditions and behavioural data including activity, direction of flight, and relative height of flight for each observation.

Following migration monitoring surveys, a 4-hour watch count targeting migrating raptors was conducted at a point of relatively high elevation near Hayward Pinnacle. The survey began near 9:00am on each survey day, and concluded around 1:00 pm, while environmental conditions were suitable. Using binoculars and a spotting scope, the surveyor scanned for birds in flight from all visible directions. Information collected during this survey included environmental data, observations of all migrating birds, and behavioural data including relative flight height and direction of travel.

Previous guidance from CWS for migration monitoring conducted in previous years (Jacques Whitford 2007) specified surveys be conducted every five days during the shoulder periods of migration, and every three days during the peak periods of migration. During spring, this



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translates into surveys conducted every five days between April 15 – April 30 and May 21-31, and surveys conducted every three days between May 1-20, for a total of up to 13 survey days. Surveys conducted in 2017 will followed this schedule, with a slight modification for health and safety purposes, to allow the surveyor to be present during days when Trans Alta staff were on site.

Results

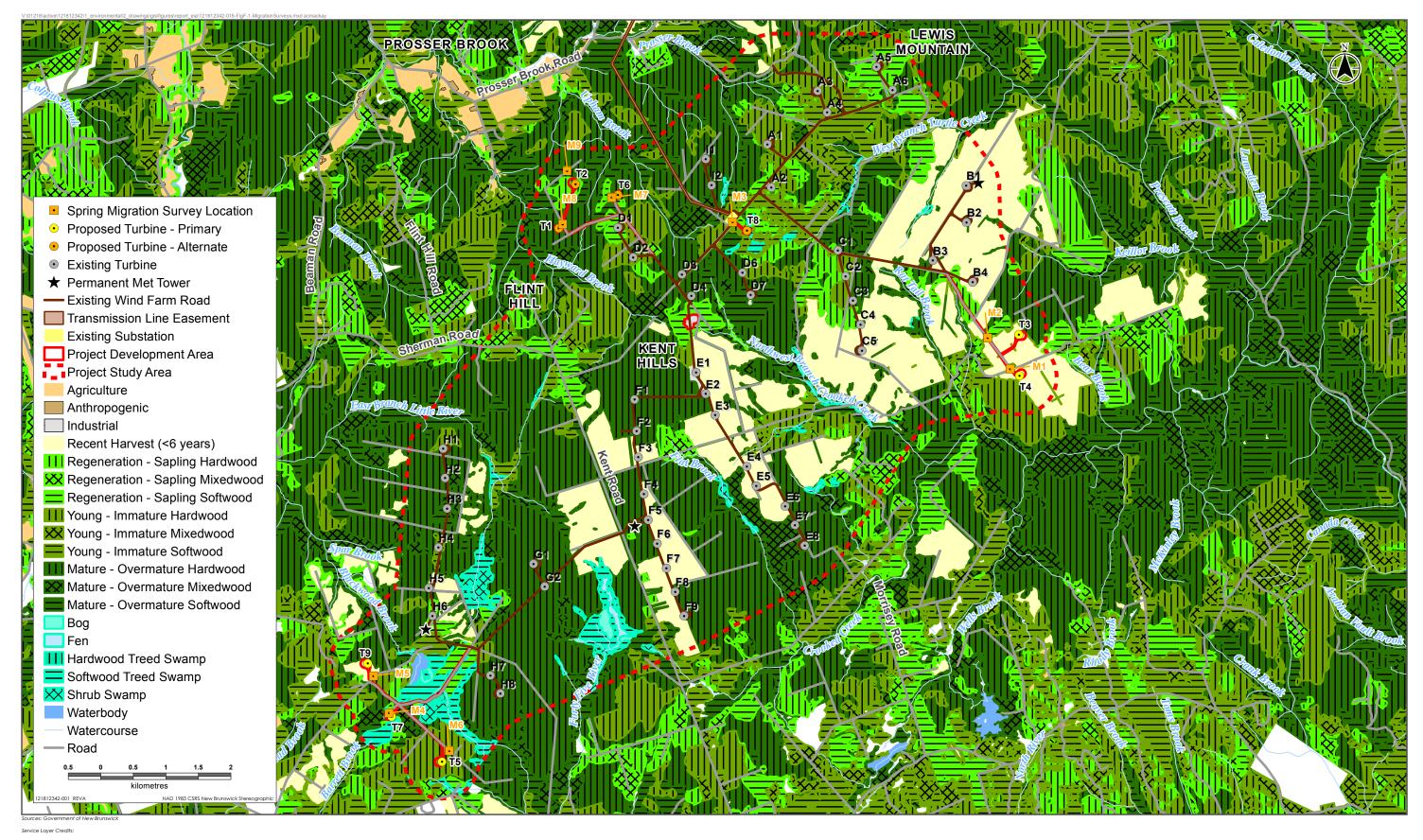
The Kent Hills Wind Farm is located in the Southern New Brunswick Uplands Ecoregion, and is situated on a plateau. The land is currently owned by the province of New Brunswick (Crown Land), and contains logging roads which are frequently utilized by local residents. The habitat within the study area is predominantly hardwood forest, with some nursery/plantation areas. Table F.1 presents basic habitat information on each of the 9 survey stations. These habitats represent a cross-section of habitats found throughout the study area.

Table F.1 Habitat Description of Each Sample Station

Station #	Habitat			
M1	Clear cut and partially-harvested hardwood forest			
M2	Clear cut, partially-harvested, and regenerating hardwood forest			
M3	Young to immature softwood forest. Near substation			
M4	Regenerating softwood and softwood treed swamp			
M5	Clear cut and partially-harvested hardwood forest			
M6	Young to immature hardwood forest.			
M7	Mature mixedwood and sapling softwood forest			
M8*	Partially-harvested mature hardwood forest			
M9	Mature hardwood forest			
* location of raptor v	vatch survey			

Surveys were conducted on 11 separate days within the spring migration period between April 18 and May 29, 2017. Environmental conditions encountered on each survey day are presented in Table F.2.







2017 Spring Migration Survey Locations

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Table F.2 Summary of Environmental Conditions during Each Site Visit.

Date	Temperature and Visibility	Relative Wind Speed and Direction
18-Apr	Cool and cloudy.	Moderate NE winds.
24-Apr	Cool and partly cloudy.	Moderate SE winds.
28-Apr	Warm and cloudy, with fog patches	Moderate SW winds.
1-May	Cool and cloudy.	Moderate SW winds.
4-May	Cool and partly cloudy.	Moderate NW winds.
8-May	Warm and cloudy.	Moderate SW winds.
11-May	Cool and cloudy with fog patches.	Moderate N winds.
16-May	Cool and cloudy. Intermittant drizzle.	Moderate N winds.
18-May	Warm and partly cloudy.	Moderate NW winds.
23-May	Cool and cloudy.	Moderate S winds.
29-May	Warm and cloudy.	Light NW winds.

<u>Bird Species and Numbers Observed</u>

Overall, the bird species noted during the 2017 monitoring program were expected for this environment, and are typical of the habitat types found in eastern New Brunswick. A total of 1,114 individual birds representing 63 species were observed within the study area during the 2017 spring migration period. Table F.3 below provides a list of the species encountered over the spring migration monitoring in past years (2006-2009) and for the spring season of 2017, including the relevant bird group and numbers of each species reported in each year.

Table F.3 Bird Species Observed during Spring Migration Monitoring at Kent Hills Wind Farm

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	2006	2007	2009	2017
Gamebird	ruffed grouse	Bonasa umbellus	84		10	36
Landbird	mourning dove	Zenaida macroura	13			
Landbird	great horned owl	Bubo virginianus	4	4		2
Landbird	barred owl	Strix varia	19			
Landbird	long-eared owl	Asio otus	8	13		
Landbird	northern saw-whet owl	Aegolius acadicus	1	2		
Landbird	ruby-throated hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	4			1
Landbird	belted kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon				1
Landbird	yellow-bellied sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius	190	5	13	19
Landbird	downy woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	89	2	4	11



Table F.3 Bird Species Observed during Spring Migration Monitoring at Kent Hills Wind Farm

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	2006	2007	2009	2017
Landbird	hairy woodpecker	Picoides villosus	53	3	4	3
Landbird	black-backed woodpecker	Picoides arcticus	1			
Landbird	northern flicker	Colaptes auratus	52	3	9	30
Landbird	pileated woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus	13			1
Landbird	olive-sided flycatcher	Contopus cooperi			1	
Landbird	eastern wood-pewee	Contopus virens			1	
Landbird	yellow-bellied flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris	4			
Landbird	alder flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum			3	
Landbird	willow flycatcher	Empidonax traillii	1			
Landbird	least flycatcher	Empidonax minimus	28		8	
Landbird	blue-headed vireo	Vireo solitarius	86		8	27
Landbird	red-eyed vireo	Vireo olivaceus	3		18	
Landbird	blue jay	Cyanocitta cristata	16	5	2	10
Landbird	American crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	8			20
Landbird	common raven	Corvus corax	14	2	10	14
Landbird	tree swallow	Tachycineta bicolor				15
Landbird	barn swallow	Hirundo rustica	1			
Landbird	black-capped chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	118	10	2	39
Landbird	boreal chickadee	Poecile hudsonica	16	4		2
Landbird	red-breasted nuthatch	Sitta canadensis	12		2	9
Landbird	white-breasted nuthatch	Sitta carolinensis	13			
Landbird	brown creeper	Certhia americana	4			1
Landbird	winter wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	112	5	1	41
Landbird	golden-crowned kinglet	Regulus satrapa	48	9	1	33
Landbird	ruby-crowned kinglet	Regulus calendula	57		3	9
Landbird	eastern bluebird	Sialia sialis	5			4
Landbird	veery	Catharus fuscescens	1			
Landbird	Swainson's thrush	Catharus ustulatus	3			1
Landbird	hermit thrush	Catharus guttatus	338	3	5	48
Landbird	American robin	Turdus migratorius	340	63	25	167



Table F.3 Bird Species Observed during Spring Migration Monitoring at Kent Hills Wind Farm

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	2006	2007	2009	2017
Landbird	cedar waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum				25
Landbird	Nashville warbler	Vermivora ruficapilla	18		6	
Landbird	northern parula	Parula americana	25		3	10
Landbird	chestnut-sided warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	40		16	10
Landbird	magnolia warbler	Dendroica magnolia	146		19	33
Landbird	black-throated blue warbler	Dendroica caerulescens	61		14	12
Landbird	yellow-rumped warbler	Dendroica coronata	174	8	13	26
Landbird	black-throated green warbler	Dendroica virens	117		31	16
Landbird	Blackburnian warbler	Dendroica fusca	12			
Landbird	palm warbler	Dendroica palmarum	4	4	1	3
Landbird	blackpoll warbler	Dendroica striata	3			
Landbird	black-and-white warbler	Mniotilta varia	20		3	12
Landbird	American redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	49		4	4
Landbird	ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	97		32	43
Landbird	northern waterthrush	Seiurus noveboracensis	1			
Landbird	mourning warbler	Oporornis philadelphia	6		10	5
Landbird	common yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	58		13	12
Landbird	Canada warbler	Wilsonia canadensis	1			
Landbird	American tree sparrow	Spizella arborea	1	3		
Landbird	chipping sparrow	Spizella passerina				1
Landbird	fox sparrow	Passerella iliaca				3
Landbird	song sparrow	Melospiza melodia	24	9	3	19
Landbird	Lincoln's sparrow	Melospiza lincolnii	26		11	5
Landbird	swamp sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	3	3		
Landbird	white-throated sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	584 29		55	117
Landbird	dark-eyed junco	Junco hyemalis	267	46	22	62
Landbird	rose-breasted grosbeak	Pheucticus Iudovicianus	18		1	
Landbird	red-winged blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus		1		
Landbird	rusty blackbird	Euphagus carolinus	4	1		
Landbird	common grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	6	17		6



Table F.3 Bird Species Observed during Spring Migration Monitoring at Kent Hills Wind Farm

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	2006	2007	2009	2017
Landbird	pine grosbeak	Pinicola enucleator	2			
Landbird	purple finch	Carpodacus purpureus	37	7	2	15
Landbird	red crossbill	Loxia curvirostra				6
Landbird	pine siskin	Carduelis pinus	3	1		
Landbird	American goldfinch	Carduelis tristis	10	1	4	35
Landbird	evening grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus	6			3
Raptor	turkey vulture	Cathartes aura				7
Raptor	osprey	Pandion haliaetus	2			1
Raptor	bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	4			10
Raptor	northern harrier	Circus cyaneus	3			
Raptor	sharp-shinned hawk	Accipiter striatus	2			1
Raptor	broad-winged hawk	Buteo platypterus	4			1
Raptor	red-tailed hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	11			16
Raptor	American kestrel	Falco sparverius	5		1	8
Raptor	merlin	Falco columbarius				2
Shorebird	solitary sandpiper	Tringa solitaria				1
Shorebird	Wilson's snipe	Gallinago delicata	1		1	
Shorebird	American woodcock	Scolopax minor	29	14		23
Waterbird	common loon	Gavia immer	2			1
Waterbird	double-crested cormorant	Phalacrocorax auritus	28	38		
Waterfowl	Canada goose	Branta canadensis		3		10
Waterfowl	wood duck	Aix sponsa		1		
Waterfowl	American black duck	Anas rubripes	1			5
Waterfowl	mallard	Anas platyrhynchos				1
Waterfowl	black scoter	Melanitta nigra		11		
Waterfowl	long-tailed duck	Clangula hyemalis		6		
Waterfowl	common merganser	Mergus merganser	1			
		Totals	3675	336	395	1114



Table F.4 Bird Species Observed during Fall Migration Monitoring at Kent Hills Wind Farm (2006-2008)

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	2006	2007	2008
Gamebird	ruffed grouse	Bonasa umbellus	1	11	1
Landbird	mourning dove	Zenaida macroura		2	
Landbird	great horned owl	Bubo virginianus		3	
Landbird	barred owl	Strix varia	14	12	
Landbird	long-eared owl	Asio otus	1	1	
Landbird	ruby-throated hummingbird	Archilochus colubris		16	3
Landbird	belted kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon		1	1
Landbird	yellow-bellied sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius	5	6	4
Landbird	downy woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	19	43	14
Landbird	hairy woodpecker	Picoides villosus	28	63	26
Landbird	northern flicker	Colaptes auratus	13	12	4
Landbird	pileated woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus	1	1	1
Landbird	olive-sided flycatcher	Contopus cooperi		2	
Landbird	eastern wood-pewee	Contopus virens		2	3
Landbird	yellow-bellied flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris			1
Landbird	alder flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum		2	
Landbird	least flycatcher	Empidonax minimus		2	2
Landbird	eastern phoebe	Sayornis phoebe		1	
Landbird	blue-headed vireo	Vireo solitarius	5	35	7
Landbird	Philadelphia vireo	Vireo philadelphicus		1	
Landbird	red-eyed vireo	Vireo olivaceus	38	62	43
Landbird	gray jay	Perisoreus canadensis	4	11	
Landbird	blue jay	Cyanocitta cristata	126	52	58
Landbird	American crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	1		
Landbird	common raven	Corvus corax	30	100	23
Landbird	black-capped chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	90	286	63
Landbird	boreal chickadee	Poecile hudsonica	15	11	6
Landbird	red-breasted nuthatch	Sitta canadensis 9		41	9
Landbird	white-breasted nuthatch	Sitta carolinensis 6		17	23
Landbird	brown creeper	Certhia americana			2
Landbird	house wren	Troglodytes aedon		1	
Landbird	winter wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	9	3	
Landbird	golden-crowned kinglet	Regulus satrapa	64	36	16



Table F.4 Bird Species Observed during Fall Migration Monitoring at Kent Hills Wind Farm (2006-2008)

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	2006	2007	2008
Landbird	bird ruby-crowned kinglet Regulus calendula		22	16	6
Landbird	veery	Catharus fuscescens	1		
Landbird	Bicknell's thrush	Catharus bicknelli	3		
Landbird	Swainson's thrush	Catharus ustulatus	51	2	
Landbird	hermit thrush	Catharus guttatus	317	40	42
Landbird	American robin	Turdus migratorius	32	40	12
Landbird	bohemian waxwing	Bombycilla garrulus		16	
Landbird	cedar waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	1	62	14
Landbird	Tennessee warbler	Vermivora peregrina	2	2	1
Landbird	Nashville warbler	Vermivora ruficapilla	27	12	9
Landbird	northern parula	Parula americana	2	9	7
Landbird	yellow warbler	Dendroica petechia	3	5	
Landbird	chestnut-sided warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	1	25	4
Landbird	magnolia warbler	Dendroica magnolia	25	31	18
Landbird	cape may warbler	Dendroica tigrina	1		
Landbird	black-throated blue warbler	Dendroica caerulescens	10	38	6
Landbird	yellow-rumped warbler	Dendroica coronata	80	34	13
Landbird	black-throated green warbler	Dendroica virens	66	48	30
Landbird	Blackburnian warbler	Dendroica fusca	6	1	
Landbird	palm warbler	Dendroica palmarum	18	15	10
Landbird	blackpoll warbler	Dendroica striata	8		2
Landbird	black-and-white warbler	Mniotilta varia	1	12	14
Landbird	American redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	1	53	2
Landbird	ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	3	7	7
Landbird	mourning warbler	Oporornis philadelphia	5	34	3
Landbird	common yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	188	265	59
Landbird	Wilson's warbler	Wilsonia pusilla		1	
Landbird	Canada warbler	Wilsonia canadensis			1
Landbird	chipping sparrow	Spizella passerina	2		
Landbird	savannah sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis 4		2	
Landbird	song sparrow	Melospiza melodia	16	28	9
Landbird	Lincoln's sparrow	Melospiza lincolnii	20	21	6
Landbird	swamp sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	14	4	1



Table F.4 Bird Species Observed during Fall Migration Monitoring at Kent Hills Wind Farm (2006-2008)

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	2006	2007	2008
Landbird	white-throated sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	212	451	161
Landbird	white-crowned sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys		4	
Landbird	dark-eyed junco	Junco hyemalis	50	138	90
Landbird	snow bunting	Plectrophenax nivalis		29	
Landbird	rose-breasted grosbeak	Pheucticus Iudovicianus		1	
Landbird	rusty blackbird	Euphagus carolinus	2	2	
Landbird	common grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	375		
Landbird	pine grosbeak	Pinicola enucleator	1	24	
Landbird	purple finch	Carpodacus purpureus	10	16	
Landbird	red crossbill	Loxia curvirostra			1
Landbird	white-winged crossbill	Loxia leucoptera	51	148	15
Landbird	pine siskin	Carduelis pinus	46	10	60
Landbird	American goldfinch	Carduelis tristis	8	31	18
Landbird	evening grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus		67	3
Landbird	warbler sp.		179		
Landbird	sparrow sp.		2		
Landbird	unidentified landbird			74	48
Raptor	turkey vulture*	Cathartes aura	3	8	
Raptor	osprey	Pandion haliaetus	1	1	
Raptor	bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	3	4	
Raptor	sharp-shinned hawk	Accipiter striatus	12	13	1
Raptor	cooper's hawk	Accipiter cooperii		1	
Raptor	northern goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	2	9	
Raptor	broad-winged hawk	Buteo platypterus	9	1	
Raptor	red-tailed hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	12	25	1
Raptor	golden eagle	Aquila chrysaetos		1	
Raptor	American kestrel	Falco sparverius	4	23	2
Raptor	merlin	Falco columbarius	1		
Raptor	peregrine falcon	Falco peregrinus anatum		1	
Raptor	unidentified raptor			19	
Shorebird	solitary sandpiper	Tringa solitaria	2	5	
Shorebird	semipalmated sandpiper	Calidris pusilla			
Shorebird	American woodcock	Scolopax minor	5 1:		1



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Table F.4 Bird Species Observed during Fall Migration Monitoring at Kent Hills Wind Farm (2006-2008)

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	2006	2007	2008
Waterbird	red-throated loon	Gavia stellata		5	
Waterbird	common loon	Gavia immer		2	
Waterbird	unidentified waterbird			2	
Waterfowl	Canada goose	Branta canadensis	37		1
Waterfowl	unidentified waterfowl			1	
	unidentified bird			3	
		Totals	2439	2802	988

<u>Behaviour Data</u>

Different bird groups demonstrated differences in potential sensitivity to the presence of wind turbines (Kingsley and Whittam 2004), so the data on migration have been summarized according to seven bird groups: water fowl (including ducks and geese), waterbirds (including herons, gulls and cormorants), shorebirds (including plovers and sandpipers), raptors (including hawks, falcons, eagles, and for the purposes of this summary, vultures), owls, and gamebirds (including grouse), as indicated in the above table.

Error! Reference source not found. F.4 summarizes the flying heights of the bird groups observed during surveys. Modifications to the height categories were made in consideration of the dimensions of the proposed new wind turbines. \Birds observed within 10 m of the ground were considered at Tree (T) level; those from 10 to 60 m of the ground were considered to be "Above Tree" (AT) height; those flying between 60 m – 120 m above ground were considered to be "Well Above Tree" (WAT) height; those birds observed flying 120-180 m were characterized as "High" (H) and those above 180 m were classified as very high (VH). WAT and H height classifications correspond with the blade sweep of the turbines proposed for Kent Hills 3.

Migration surveys recorded a total of 63 species, and the majority of birds observed (91% of individual birds) were within 60 m of the ground. Six percent of the birds were observed flying at 60 – 180 m. Out of a total of 1115 birds observed, less than one percent were observed flying above 180 m. The most frequently recorded birds in the WFSA were American robin, white-throated sparrow, dark-eyed junco, and winter wren; however, hermit thrush were the fourth most numerous species after American robin, white-throated sparrow, and dark-eyed junco. Waterfowl observations were rare, with four records of American black duck, two records of small flocks of Canada goose, and a single record of mallard. No waterbirds were observed.



Appendix F Passerine and Diurnal Raptor Migration Survey Protocol and Results

Table F.4 Relative heights of birds observed during spring migration, 2017

Height1						
Bird Group	T	AT	WAT	Н	VH	N2
Gamebirds	100% (100%)	-	-	-	-	50 (59)
Landbirds	96% (92%)	4% (7%)	<1% (<1%)	<1% (<1%)	-	664 (989)
Owls	100% (100%)	-	-	-	-	2 (2)
Raptors	20% (21%)	16% (15%)	13% (13%)	31% (30%)	20% (21%)	45 (47)
Shorebirds	100% (100%)	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Waterbirds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waterfowl	25% (12%)	50% (35%)	13% (6%)	13% (47%)	-	8 (17)
Total	91% (89%)	5% (7%)	1% (1%)	2% (2%)	1% (<1%)	770 (1115)

Notes:

Based on historic and more recent field surveys undertaken to date for the Kent Hills Wind Farm, and knowledge of migration within the region, the WFSA does not provide important habitat for migrating birds and does not host significant numbers of migrant birds during either the spring or the fall. There are no significant landform features to concentrate migrants within the WFSA. Results of migration surveys planned for autumn 2017 will be provided as a supplemental report to confirm assumptions made based on past surveys and post-construction monitoring.

<u>Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern</u>

One SAR was observed during the 2017 spring migration monitoring program. Bald Eagle (Table F.5), which is considered Endangered by NB SARA, was observed singly on 10 occasions during raptor passage surveys. Additionally, four SOCC were observed during the 2017 spring migration monitoring program, including solitary sandpiper, turkey vulture, red crossbill, and evening grosbeak.

Table F.5 SAR and SOCC Observed during the 2017 Spring Migration Monitoring Period

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	Number Observed	SARA	COSEWIC	NB SARA	AC CDC S-Rank
Shorebird	solitary sandpiper	Tringa solitaria	1				S2B,S5M
Raptor	turkey vulture	Cathartes aura	7				S3B,S3M



Data presented are percentage of observations (percentage of individual birds) observed in each area.

Total number of observations (total number of individual birds).

Table F.5 SAR and SOCC Observed during the 2017 Spring Migration Monitoring Period

Bird Group	Common Name	Latin Name	Number Observed	SARA	COSEWIC	NB SARA	AC CDC S-Rank
Raptor	bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	10			Endangered	\$4
Landbird	red crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	6				\$3
Landbird	evening grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus	3				S3B,S3S4N,SUM

^{*}SAR are presented in **bold** text.

