
9.5 USFWS Correspondence

IPaC Official Protected Species List

Emergency Consultation Letter



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service Georgia Ecological Services

RG Stephens, Jr. Federal Building
355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320
Athens, Georgia 30601



FWS.gov/office/Georgia-Ecological-Services/
GAES_Assistance@FWS.gov

March 26, 2025

Tasha Brooks, Senior ERC
Environmental Services
Georgia Transmission Corporation
Tasha.Brooks@gatransmission.com

CC: Suzanne Kopich
Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Suzanne.Kopich@usda.gov

RE: Emergency Consultation for Georgia Transmission Corporation LaGrange Primary-Oseligee Creek Transmission Line and Oseligee Creek Substation Project, FWS Project Code: 2025-0063542

Thank you for your March 6 and 18, 2025, email correspondence initiating emergency consultation and providing supporting information for the Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC) LaGrange Primary-Oseligee Creek Transmission Line and Oseligee Creek Substation Project in Troup County, Georgia (the Project). GTC is seeking financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program to complete the Project. RUS is proposing to provide the requested federal financial assistance and considers its proposed action of funding the Project to be an emergency response action under Executive Order 14156: Declaring a National Energy Emergency and Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3417: Addressing the National Energy Emergency.

RUS has initiated emergency consultation (50 CFR §402.05) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to comply with section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The Service's role in emergency consultation is to provide recommendations to minimize the effects of the action on listed species. If the federal action agency determines that the Project resulted in adverse effects to listed species or critical habitat, consultation must be entered as soon as is practical following the emergency.

Project Description

GTC's LaGrange Primary-Oseligee Creek Transmission Line and Oseligee Creek Substation Project which RUS is proposing to fund, consists of multiple components, including clearing of easement from private and public landowners ranging from 25-30 feet in width when collocating with public roads and 100-feet in width elsewhere. The Project will also involve clearing and grading up to 6 acres for the construction of a new 230-25kV substation. GTC estimates that overall Project impacts will be approximately 115 acres of tree removal activities across 194.5 acres of easement and fee

simple properties; side-trimming along 9.4 miles of existing transmission rights-of-way. Clearing activities are scheduled to begin in August 2024 and continue for 4-6 months to February 2026.

Threatened and Endangered Species

GTC, acting as the applicant and designated non-federal representative for RUS, has determined that the Project is within the ranges of eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. Jamaicensis*), whooping crane (*Grus americana*), alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), Georgia rockcress (*Arabis georgiana*), monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). GTC has determined that the proposed Project will have “no effect” on the eastern black rail, whooping crane, and Georgia rockcress. The Act does not require that an action agency obtain concurrence from Service for its no effect determinations. Therefore, the Service only comments on an action agency’s no effect determinations when it has information that refutes the no effect determination or when the Service has suggestions for voluntary activities that the action agency might choose to implement to further the conservation of listed or at-risk species.

Although RUS has determined that the proposed Project is “not likely to jeopardize” the monarch butterfly, this species is known to occur in open habitats statewide and relies heavily on a variety of native milkweed species and nectar-producing plants that may be found along the Project corridor. Because this species is proposed threatened but is not yet listed, there currently are no prohibitions for taking this species. If this species is listed prior to completion of the Project and take is documented, RUS may request further emergency consultation for this species and the Service may enter consultation accordingly. The Service suggests that RUS and GTC consider implementing these voluntary conservation recommendations for this species, including:

- 1) Planting (recommended) or seeding of native milkweed and native nectar plants with an aim for diversity of species and bloom timing (note: organically grown Georgia sourced plants are best; common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is not native to Georgia and is an invasive concern; and tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) is also not native and potentially harmful);
- 2) Brush removal to promote habitat with native milkweed and native nectar-producing plants;
- 3) Targeted hardwood control when thinning woodlands on timberlands and selecting herbicides that preserve the herbaceous layer of plants when doing soil prep;
- 4) Prescribed burning (outside the growing season for native milkweeds; in patches or smaller units is recommended) to promote suitable habitat on a 2-3 year rotation in the Piedmont, 2 year rotation on the coastal plain, and 3-5 year rotation in the mountains;
- 5) Creating or preserving suitable habitat on idle lands or set-asides For additional information, please visit Georgia Ecological Services’ guidance for [Monarch Conservation in Georgia](#);
- 6) Conservation mowing (*i.e.*, mowing only November – March) to enhance native floral resource habitat;
- 7) Targeted herbicide treatments (outside the growing season of native milkweeds) to restore suitable habitat;
- 8) Invasive species management; and
- 9) Contributing to our knowledge base and help inform conservation efforts by reporting your sightings of monarch butterflies, caterpillars, and milkweed on the Journey North website <https://journeynorth.org/monarchs>.

RUS has determined that the proposed Project is “not likely to jeopardize” the alligator snapping turtle. However, Project activities will occur near the Chattahoochee River and smaller tributary

streams and the action area may provide suitable habitat for this species. Because this species is proposed threatened but is not yet listed, there currently are no prohibitions for taking this species. If this species is listed prior to completion of the Project and take is documented, RUS may request further emergency consultation for this species and the Service may enter consultation accordingly. RUS and GTC have committed to the following conservation measures for this species:

- 1) Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented as required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater construction permit, Clean Water Act Section 404 program, and the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act (O.C.G.A. 12-7), including maintenance of a 25-foot undisturbed, natural, vegetative buffer along all state waters.

GTC has determined that the Project is “not likely to jeopardize” the tricolored bat. In this region of Georgia, we recommend seasonal tree-clearing restrictions during the tricolored bat pup season (May 1 to July 15) and winter torpor season (December 15 to February 15). GTC has stated that all tree removal activities will occur outside of the pup season but may extend into the winter torpor period. Because this species is proposed endangered but is not yet listed, there currently are no prohibitions for taking this species. If this species is listed prior to completion of the Project and take is documented, RUS may request further emergency consultation for this species.

Thank you for your efforts in complying with your obligations under section 7(a)(2) of the Act. Because you have made no effect determinations for all listed species within your action area and because no critical habitat exists within your action area, no consultation with the Service is required. Because you have determined that no proposed listed species are likely to be jeopardized and no proposed critical habitat exists within the action area, no conferencing with the Service is required. If adverse effects to any listed species or critical habitat occur during Project implementation, please contact our office for further coordination. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our team at gaes_assistance@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Peter Maholland
Field Supervisor



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
355 East Hancock Avenue
Room 320
Athens, GA 30601-2523
Phone: (706) 460-7161 Fax: (706) 613-6059



In Reply Refer To:

06/13/2025 17:09:21 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0063542

Project Name: LaGrange Primary-Oselilgee Creek TL + Oselilgee Creek SS

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for requesting information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is responsible for managing certain species of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as amended (16 USC 701-715), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668c). We provide the following guidance for understanding which federally protected species and critical habitats may occur within your project area and to recommend conservation measures for your project if you determine those species or designated critical habitats may be affected by the project activities.

Federally-listed Species and Critical Habitat

Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency, their designated non-Federal representative, or a project proponent to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit. If you need additional guidance to inform your effect determination, please contact the Service.

If you determine that your proposed action may affect federally listed species, please consult with the Service. Through the consultation (for projects seeking Federal funding or permitting) or technical assistance (for non-Federal projects) process, we will work with you to evaluate information contained in a biological assessment or equivalent documents that you provide. If



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Sincerely,

Peter Maholland
Field Supervisor

your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a) (1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a Habitat Conservation Plan) may be necessary to exempt "take" of federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species when it cannot be avoided.

Action Area. The scope of ESA compliance includes direct and indirect effects of project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations). The "action area" is the spatial extent of an action's direct and indirect modifications or impacts to the land, water, or air (50 CFR 402.02). Large projects may have effects to land, water, or air outside the immediate footprint of the project, and these areas should be included as part of the action area. Effects to land, water, or air outside of a project footprint could include things like lighting, dust, smoke, and noise. To obtain a complete list of species, the action area should be uploaded or drawn in IPaC rather than just the project footprint. Please note that a lead federal agency may consider an action area that excludes portions of the project footprint. In these cases, further coordination with our office may be required to ensure compliance with the ESA. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to coordinate with the lead federal agency to understand the action and action area being reviewed as part of ESA Section 7 consultation.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. An updated list may be requested through IPaC.

How to Submit a Project Review

If your action may affect any federally listed species and you would like technical assistance from our office, please send us a complete project review package. A step-by-step guide is available below and supplemental guidance is available at the Georgia Ecological Services Project Planning and Review page (<https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review>).

Requests for threatened and endangered species project reviews must be submitted to our office using the process described below. All steps must be completed to ensure your project is reviewed by a biologist in our office and you receive a timely response.

Step 1. Request an official species list for your project through IPaC. You have just completed this step.

Step 2. Complete applicable Determination Keys (DKey's, for short)

Step 3. Send your complete project review package to gaes_assistance@fws.gov for review if no DKey is applicable or certain project components have not been addressed (i.e. a species returned by IPaC does not have a DKey). A complete project review package should include:

1. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. The description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat, such as the purpose of the action; duration and timing of the action; location (latitude and longitude); specific activities involving disturbance to land, water, and air, and how they will be carried out; current description of areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action; and maps, drawings, or similar schematics of the action. Please submit all areas of a project as one single submission and do not separate into smaller components/submissions.
2. An updated Official Species List and Determination Key results
3. Biological Assessments (may include habitat assessments and information on the presence of listed species in the action area);
4. Description of effects of the action on species in the action area and, if relevant, effect determinations for species and critical habitat;
5. Conservation measures and any other available information related to the nature and scope of the proposed action relevant to its effects on listed species or designated critical habitat (e.g., management plans related to stormwater, vegetation, erosion and sediment plans). Visit the [Georgia Conservation Planning Toolbox](#) for more information.
6. In the email subject line, use the following format to include the Project Code from your IPaC species list and the county in which the project is located (Example: Project Code: 2023-0049730 Gwinnett Co.). For Georgia Department of Transportation related projects, please work with the Office of Environmental Services ecologist to determine the appropriate USFWS transportation liaison.

Our team will respond within approximately 30 days of receipt with technical assistance and recommendations.

Wetlands and Floodplains

Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value. We encourage you to use the [National Wetland Inventory \(NWI\)](#) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

Migratory Birds

The MBTA prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the [Service's Migratory Birds Program](#). To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general bird nesting season from

March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until the young have fledged. Information related to industry best practices and migratory birds can be found at the Service's [Reducing Impacts to Migratory Birds](#) page.

Bald and Golden Eagles

The Service works to manage and conserve both bald eagle and golden eagle populations. We provide guidance on living and working near eagles, updates on the status of the populations of bald and golden eagles, and permits for the take, possession, or transportation of eagles and their parts, nests, and eggs. For more information, please visit the Service's [Eagle Management](#) page.

Other Species Considerations

Bats. If your species list includes Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*), or tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and the project is expected to impact forested habitat, tree clearing should occur outside of the periods when bats may be present and most vulnerable. Federally listed bats could be actively present in forested landscapes from spring through fall of any year. In much of Georgia, our winters are mild enough that tricolored bats are likely active on the landscape to some extent year-round. Pups are incapable of flight and vulnerable to disturbance from the spring to summer. Our recommended seasonal clearing restriction windows depend on species and region in Georgia. Please reach out to us for guidance.

Indiana, northern long-eared, tricolored, and gray (*M. grisescens*) bats are all known to utilize bridges and culverts in Georgia. If your project includes maintenance, construction, or any other modification or demolition to transportation structures, a qualified individual should complete a survey of these structures for bats and submit your findings via the “GADNR Bats in Bridges” form in the Survey123 App, free on Apple and Android devices. Please include these findings in any biological assessment(s) or other documentation that is submitted to our office for technical assistance or consultation.

Eastern Indigo Snake. The [Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake \(*Drymarchon couperi*\)](#) include educational materials and training that can help protect the species by making staff working on a project site aware of their presence and traits. In Georgia, indigo snakes are closely associated with the state-listed gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), a reptile that excavates extensive underground burrows that provide the snake shelter from winter cold and summer desiccation. To assist project proponents in avoiding and minimizing potential impact to the eastern indigo snake, the Service provides the [Visual Encounter Survey Protocol for the Eastern Indigo Snake \(*Drymarchon couperi*\) in Georgia](#) for project proponents or their designees to evaluate the possible presence of the Eastern indigo snake at a proposed project site.

Solar Energy Development

The [Recommended Practices for the Responsible Siting and Design of Solar Development in Georgia, Version 2.0](#) (published in May 2024) are intended to provide voluntary guidance to support consideration of natural resources during the development of photovoltaic solar in Georgia. Furthermore, the [Georgia Low Impact Solar Siting Tool \(LISST\)](#) is also available as a

map layer in IPaC (Find it in the “Layers” Box > “Environmental Data”) to provide project managers with the data to identify areas that may be preferred for low-impact development. The tool seeks to support the acceleration of large-scale solar development in areas with less impact to the environment.

State Agency Coordination

Environmental review staff at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) Wildlife Conservation Section can assist with information requests and the review of Georgia rare species and natural community data for specific projects or actions within the state. Please visit their [Environmental Review](#) page. Additional information that addresses at-risk or high priority natural resources can be found in the [Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan](#), at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, [Wildlife Resources Division Biodiversity Portal](#), [Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS portal](#) pages.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. For further consultation on your proposed activity, please email gaes_assistance@fws.gov and reference the project county and your FWS Project Number. This letter constitutes Georgia Ecological Services’ general comments under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office

355 East Hancock Avenue
Room 320
Athens, GA 30601-2523
(706) 460-7161

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0063542
Project Name: LaGrange Primary-Oselilgee Creek TL + Oseligee Creek SS
Project Type: Distribution Line - New Construction - Above Ground
Project Description: To mitigate a number of identified contingencies and thermal limitations relating to changes in energy flow patterns caused by the displacement of fossil fuel resources, particularly the retirement of older coal facilities, GTC is proposing to add additional capacity to the system by introducing new electric transmission facilities, i.e., the Oseligee Creek 230/25kV Substation and the associated LaGrange Primary – Oseligee Creek 230kV Transmission Line. The transmission line, stretching from the city of LaGrange to the city of West Point, Georgia, is approximately 16.5 miles in length. It will require easement from private and public landowners that is 25-30 feet in width when collocating with public roads and 100-feet in width elsewhere. In addition to the line, the proposed Project also entails constructing a new 230/25kV substation. Approximately, 11.5-acres has been purchased for the substation; and much as 6.0 acres will be cleared and graded as part of the proposed Project.

In all, GTC estimates that there will be approximately 115 acres of tree removal activities spread over approximately 194.5 acres of easement and fee simple properties. The proposed Project parallels existing transmission line rights-of-way for 9.4 miles and where the existing easement has become overgrown, Georgia Transmission will side-trim tree limbs, as well as bush hog so that the corridor is returned to its proper widths and are traversable. Where new rights-of-way is being acquired, the right-of-way will be cleared ground-to-sky of woody vegetation to establish an area of low growing vegetation. The clearing activities are scheduled to begin in August 2024 and to last four to six months in duration.

Georgia Transmission intends to request financing from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@32.8833583,-85.14956845572368,14z>

NOTE: The location has been updated to reflect the Project's Action Area delineated in CPB.



Counties: Troup County, Georgia

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non- Essential

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Georgia Rockcress <i>Arabis georgiana</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4535	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

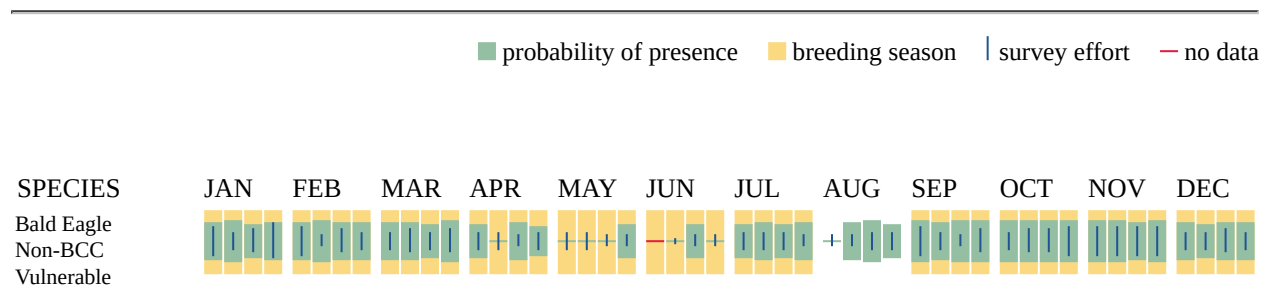
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>

- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

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1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Cerulean Warbler <i>Setophaga cerulea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974	Breeds Apr 28 to Jul 20
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Chuck-will's-widow <i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9604	Breeds May 10 to Jul 10

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrastomus vociferus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8329	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 20
Kentucky Warbler <i>Geothlypis formosa</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9443	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 20
Prairie Warbler <i>Setophaga discolor</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478	Breeds elsewhere
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

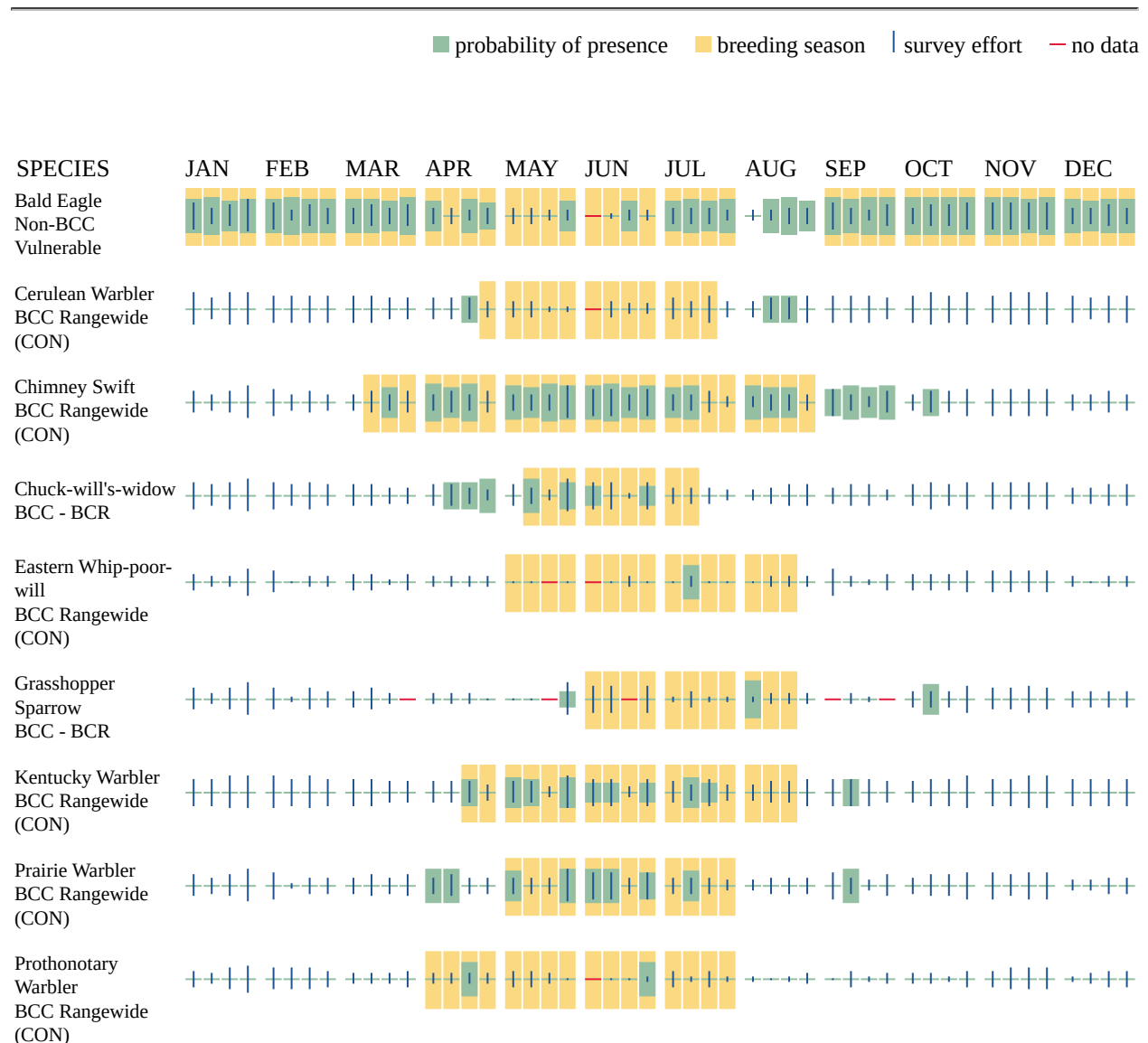
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

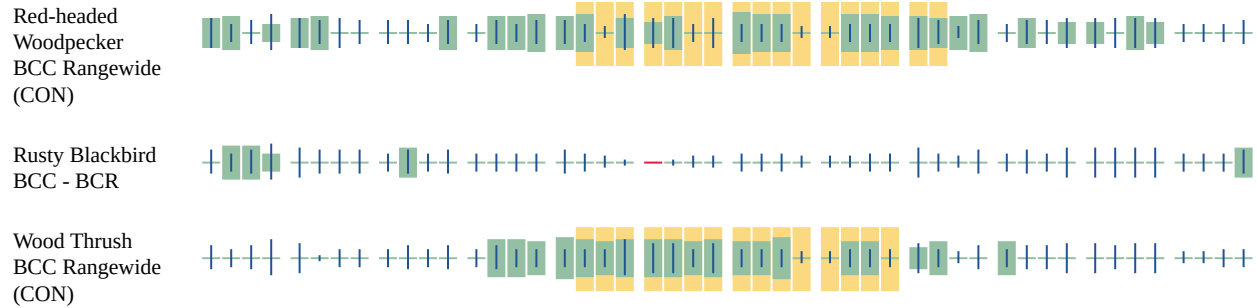
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Tasha Brooks
Address: 1979 Lakeside Parkway
City: Tucker
State: GA
Zip: 30084
Email: tasha.brooks@gatrans.com
Phone: 7702707582

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Rural Utilities Service
Name: Suzanne Kopich
Email: Suzanne.Kopich@usda.gov
Phone: 2029618514

You have indicated that your project falls under or receives funding through the following special project authorities:

- EMERGENCY CONSULTATION (EO 14156)