

## Migratory Bird Assessments and Nest Sweeps



### Project Profile

SynergyAspen assessed a Migratory Bird presence/absence study. We accomplished this by identification of species or by song along a proposed 15 km pipeline corridor and prepared a Mitigation Plan for all encountered nests.

### Issue

The client required completing pre-construction vegetation clearing work during a critical timing window for migratory birds. We mitigated disturbances to the nesting habitat and nests of migratory species during vegetation clearing. In this situation, songbirds were the species of concern.

### Solution

We completed an initial migratory bird survey one or two days prior to vegetation clearing. This allowed us to identify species present within the project corridor. We identified species at risk before vegetation clearing started. We then conducted another sweep through the area to identify new nests or species that may have entered the area.

Once we identified a nest or breeding pair, buffer zones and a mitigation plan were implemented ensuring construction activities would neither harm nor harass migratory bird species.

### Outcome

Construction activities continued around the allocated buffer zones. When we encountered numerous bird nests, we drilled underneath the nests to reduce the harm to migratory birds and their nests during the vegetation clearing process. We located over a dozen nests within the 15 km right-of-way and all of the nests were able to hatch and fledge during the construction activities.