



## TECHNICAL NOTE

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<b>CLIENT:</b>	Aéroports de Montréal	
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Construction of an industrial building for the production of non-woven fabrics for personal protective masks	<b>WSP Ref.:</b> 161-09855-55
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Possible adverse effects on waterfowl	<b>DATE:</b> September 30, 2021
<b>RECIPIENT:</b>	Aéroports de Montréal	

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### 1 CONTEXT

Meltech Innovation Canada is proposing the construction of an industrial building on the northern portion of Lot 5 599 104 located on Chemin de l'Aviation at YUL Montreal-Trudeau International Airport. The building would have a surface area of approximately 4,000 square meters and would occupy a land area of approximately 15,500 square meters (1,5 ha). The projected development is located on Chemin de l'Aviation in Dorval. In the context of this project, WSP was mandated by Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) to provide an answer to the following question: **Is the project likely to cause any significant adverse environmental effect on waterfowl in the targeted zone?** ADM mentions that no construction will be conducted during the general migration period of birds.

#### 1.1 LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

The study area, which corresponds to the proposed development area (1,5 ha), is located in Dorval, south of Chemin de l'Aviation, north of Golf Dorval.

### 2 METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

Our mandate consisted of conducting an evaluation of existing documents, as well as available bird databases (eBird). No field studies were conducted in the scope of this project.

#### 2.1 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

According to the topographic map from the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (MERN), no watercourses or streams are present in the study area. No wetlands are located within the study area (Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2020).

A previous ecological study realized by Évolution Environnement in 2021 shows that the study area consists of grasslands with patches of trees and shrubs.

## 2.2 WATERFOWL

Our mandate consisted in conducting an evaluation of previous studies to assess if the project is likely to cause any significant adverse environmental effects on waterfowl. It is of note that no inventories were conducted by WSP within the context of this mandate.

In early June 2021, Évolution Environnement (2021) visited the study site to catalog the presence of nesting birds as well as active nests. During that visit, only a few birds and nests were detected, and none were waterfowl species.

Because the study site is frequented by birdwatchers, observations are available for a general area that includes our study area, named Champ des Monarques/Golf Dorval on eBird, a citizen science project. Because this eBird site encompasses, but is not limited to the study area, the reported observations might have been directly in the polygon of the study site, or nearby. However, due to the mobile nature of birds, this information still provides us with some information about the waterfowl species that may be present. The reported ducks and geese species are presented in Table 1. It is important to note that it is not an exhaustive list, and other species might frequent the site.

**Table 1** Waterfowl species reported in eBird database for the Champ des Monarques/Golf Dorval area

English name	French name	Latin name
Canada Goose	Bernache du Canada	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Mallard	Canard colvert	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail	Canard pilet	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Snow Goose	Oie des neiges	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>
Blue-winged Teal	Sarcelle à ailes bleues	<i>Anas discors</i>
Green-winged Teal	Sarcelle d'hiver	<i>Anas crecca</i>

Source: Collin, 2020; Coutu, 2019, 2021; Lefebvre-Ouellet, 2020; Riou, 2019

During spring migration, waterfowl use wetlands, floodplains, flooded woodlands and agricultural lands to feed, rest, and seek protection from predators. To our knowledge, the study site is not flooded during the spring or fall and does not present pools of water of any kind. The area is mostly open grassland, so it might not provide birds with much protection. Some species, such as geese and Mallards, might use the site as a stopover if there are adequate food sources, as they can forage on dry land. However, because of the lack of water or protection opportunities, it is unlikely that the study site would be a high-quality stopover.

Most waterfowl species will nest close to a body of water, wetland, or other flooded habitats, which are not present nearby, so the site presents low potential for reproduction. The study area is small (1,5 ha)

and better stopover and nesting habitat is present nearby. The project could cause some habitat loss during migration, but it is unlikely that the project could have significant adverse environmental effect on waterfowl.

Waterfowl can migrate over an extended period, so a recommendation could be to avoid construction during the entire migration period of waterfowl in that region.

### **2.2.1 WILDLIFE SPECIES AT RISK**

According to the Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec (CDPNQ) data obtained by Évolution Environnement, there are no waterfowl species at risk in the study area or any potential habitat for them.

### **2.2.2 DESIGNATED WILDLIFE HABITATS AND PROTECTED AREAS**

According to the map data from the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP)<sup>1</sup>, no designated wildlife habitat is present in the study area.

No protected area is present near the study area, according to the Protected Areas Registry<sup>2</sup>.

## **3 CONCLUSION**

This technical note intends to answer to the following question: **Is the project likely to cause any significant adverse environmental effect on waterfowl?** The area of the proposed development is small, and the vegetation community present consists of grasslands with patches of trees and shrubs. Water is generally a key element for waterfowl migration or reproduction, and no watercourse or wetlands are present in the study area. It is unlikely that waterfowl would use the area for nesting, but it presents a limited potential as a stopover during migration, since some waterfowl species can forage on dry land. However, the site does not provide waterfowl will all the requirements of a high-quality stopover site.

Although the project could cause some loss of habitat during migration, it is unlikely that the project will cause significant adverse effects on waterfowl populations. In order to minimize disturbance during the migration period, we recommend that construction be avoided during the entire migration period of waterfowl in that region.

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<sup>1</sup> MFFP. 2015. Habitats fauniques du Québec.

<sup>2</sup> MELCC. 2019. Carte interactive du registre des aires protégées.

[http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires\\_protegees/carte-interactive.htm](http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/carte-interactive.htm)

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