

How are Species Listed and Protected?

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)

COSEWIC is a committee of representatives from federal, provincial and non-governmental agencies that assigns national conservation status to species at risk in Canada, based on detailed status reports. Some species listed by COSEWIC are currently protected by provincial legislation.

Canada's Species at Risk Act (2002)

This act provides for the assessment and listing of species, protection of critical habitat and species recovery. It officially recognizes for the first time the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The Act prohibits the killing and harming of all listed endangered and threatened species and destruction of their residences. It also protects the critical habitat of listed aquatic species, many migratory bird species and any listed species on federal land.

The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO)

COSSARO is the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources committee that evaluates the conservation status of species occurring in Ontario and makes recommendations on the status of species at risk in Ontario.

Ontario's Endangered Species Act (1971)

This act protects the species listed in regulation under the Act and their habitats. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for enforcement of the Act. Some species are also protected through regulations under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

Information Management

Information on species at risk locations is sensitive because inappropriate use may add to the risks facing them. Specific information on locations is available on a "need to know" basis (for conservation purposes only) from MNR or other conservation agencies, museums and local experts.

More general information is found in status reports that have been prepared for most listed species, and in recovery plans and management guidelines that are available for a smaller number of species. This information is available online at www.sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm.

Information on the occurrence of these species is the result of observations by many naturalists and volunteers, as well as agency staff. Individuals can report their sightings of these species to their local OMNR office (see blue pages in the phone book) or Ontario Nature; alternately, sightings can be reported online at www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species_report.cfm.

The Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC)

Ontario's Natural Heritage Information Centre maintains a provincial database for all rare Ontario vertebrates and vascular plants, and for certain invertebrates (e.g. butterflies) and non-vascular plants (e.g. mosses). This system includes a ranking of global and provincial rarity that is very useful for setting conservation priorities.

For more information on species at risk in Ontario, contact:

SPECIES AT RISK PROJECT, ONTARIO PARKS
300 Water St., Peterborough Ontario K9J 8M5
www.ontarioparks.com/english/sar.html

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM
Information on Ontario's species at risk is available on the ROM-MNR website at www.rom.on.ca/ontario/risk.php

COSEWIC
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0H3
www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca (for general information)
www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct5/index_e.cfm (for COSEWIC species assessments)

NATURAL HERITAGE INFORMATION CENTRE
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 300 Water St.,
Peterborough Ontario K9J 8M5
www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/nhic/nhic.cfm

ONTARIO NATURE - FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS
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Tel: 416 444 8419, Toll Free 1 800 440 2366
Email: info@ontarionature.org
www.ontarionature.org

Ontario Nature, founded in 1931, protects and restores nature through research, education and conservation action. Ontario Nature champions woodlands, wetlands and wildlife, and preserves essential habitat through its own system of nature reserves. It is a charitable organization representing 25,000 members and over 135 nature groups across the province, connecting individuals and communities to nature.

Species at Risk

Species at risk include endangered species (many of which are protected by law), as well as threatened and special concern species. Some species have already been extirpated from Ontario and others are now extinct. Other species at risk are of conservation concern because of their rarity in Ontario, but their formal conservation status has yet to be determined.

Status Definitions

Endangered

a species facing imminent extinction or extirpation in Ontario

Threatened

a species that is at risk of becoming endangered in Ontario if limiting factors are not reversed

Special Concern

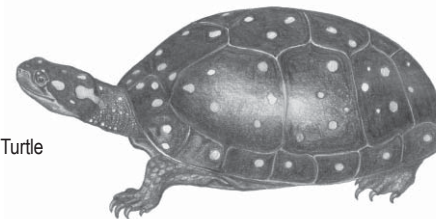
a species with characteristics that make it sensitive to human activities or natural events

Extirpated

a species that no longer exists in the wild in Ontario but still occurs elsewhere

Extinct

a species that no longer exists anywhere



Spotted Turtle

Species at Risk in Ontario



American Badger

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ontarionature.org

Species at Risk in Ontario

Note: The following list is based on status designations assigned by OMNR as of April 2004. In some cases the statuses assigned by COSEWIC and OMNR differ (see legend).

Endangered

Mammals

American Badger
Cougar (Eastern population) ♦*

Birds

Acadian Flycatcher
American White Pelican ♦*△
Bald Eagle ♦*△
Barn Owl △
Eskimo Curlew ♦
Golden Eagle ♦*△
Henslow's Sparrow ♦
King Rail ♦
Kirtland's Warbler ♦
Loggerhead Shrike ♦
Northern Bobwhite △
Peregrine Falcon ♦*△
Piping Plover ♦
Prothonotary Warbler ♦

Reptiles/Amphibians

Blue Racer ♦△
Lake Erie Water Snake ♦△
Northern Cricket Frog (Blanchard's) ♦△
Northern Dusky Salamander ♦*△
Timber Rattlesnake ♦*
Wood Turtle *△

Insects

Frosted Elfin ♦*△
Kamer Blue ♦*△

Vascular Plants

American Ginseng
Bird's-foot Violet
Bluehearts
Blunt-lobed Woodsia ♦
Butternut
Cucumber Tree ♦
Drooping Trillium ♦
Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid
Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus ♦
Engelmann's Quillwort
False Hop Sedge ♦

Few-flowered Club-rush (Bashful Bulrush) ♦

Forked Three-awned Grass
Gattinger's Agalinis
Heart-leaved Plantain ♦
Hoary Mountain-mint ♦
Horsetail Spike-rush ♦
Juniper Sedge ♦
Large Whorled Pogonia ♦
Nodding Pogonia ♦
Pink Milkwort ♦
Pitcher's Thistle
Purple Twayblade
Red Mulberry
Scarlet Ammannia
Showy Goldenrod
Skinner's Agalinis ♦
Slender Bush-clover ♦
Small-flowered Lipocarpa
Small White Lady's-slipper ♦
Small Whorled Pogonia ♦
Spotted Wintergreen ♦
Toothcup
Virginia Goat's-rue ♦
Western Silvery Aster ♦*
White Prairie Gentian
Wood-poppy ♦

Mosses

Spoon-leaved Moss

Molluscs

Kidneyshell
Mudpuppy Mussel
Northern Riffleshell
Rayed Bean
Round Hickorynut
Round Pigtoe ^{NS}
Snuffbox
Wavy-rayed Lampmussel

Fishes

Aurora Trout
Northern Madtom
Pugnose Shiner

Threatened

Mammals

Grey Fox
Wolverine *
Woodland Caribou (Boreal population)

Birds

Hooded Warbler
Least Bittern

Reptiles/Amphibians

Blanding's Turtle ^P△
Butler's Gartersnake △
Eastern Foxsnake △
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake △
Eastern Ratsnake △
Fowler's Toad △
Jefferson Salamander △
Massasauga △
Queen Snake △
Small-mouthed Salamander *△
Spiny Softshell △
Stinkpot (Common Musk Turtle) △

Vascular Plants

American Chestnut
American Water-willow
Branched Bartonia
Colicroot
Common Hoptree
Crooked-stem Aster
Deerberry
Dense Blazing Star
Dwarf Hackberry
Goldenseal
Hill's Pondweed*
Kentucky Coffee-tree
Lakeside Daisy
Round-leaved Greenbrier
White Wood Aster
Wild Hyacinth
Willowleaf Aster

Fishes

Black Redhorse

Blackfin Cisco ^{NS}
Channel Darter
Cutlips Minnow *
Deepwater Sculpin (Great Lakes populations)
Eastern Sand Darter
Lake Chubsucker
Lake Whitefish (Lake Simcoe population)
Redside Dace *
Shortjaw Cisco
Shortnose Cisco ^{NS}
Spotted Gar

Lichens

Flooded Jellyskin ^{NS}

Special Concern

Mammals

Beluga Whale ^{NS}
Eastern Mole
Eastern Wolf
Polar Bear
Southern Flying Squirrel
Woodland Vole

Birds

Black Tern *
Cerulean Warbler
Great Gray Owl *△
Louisiana Waterthrush
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-shouldered Hawk △
Short-eared Owl △
Yellow Rail
Yellow-breasted Chat

Reptiles/Amphibians

Milksnake △
Eastern Ribbonsnake
Five-lined Skink △
Northern Map Turtle △
Spotted Turtle *△

Insects

Monarch △

West Virginia White ^P△

Vascular Plants

American Columbo
American Hart's-tongue Fern
Blue Ash
Broad Beech Fern
Climbing Prairie Rose
False Rue-anemone
Green Dragon
Riddell's Goldenrod
Shumard Oak
Swamp Rose-mallow
Tuberous Indian-plantain

Fishes

Bigmouth Buffalo
Black Buffalo
Blackstripe Topminnow
Bridle Shiner
Greenside Darter
Kiyi
Northern Brook Lamprey
Orangespotted Sunfish
Pugnose Minnow
River Redhorse
Silver Chub
Silver Shiner
Spotted Sucker
Warmouth

Extirpated

Birds

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Fishes

Atlantic Salmon (Great Lakes population) ^P
Gravel Chub
Paddlefish
Shortnose Cisco *

Vascular Plants

Illinois Tick-trefoil
Spring Blue-eyed Mary

Reptiles/Amphibians

Spring Salamander *
Tiger Salamander (Great Lakes population)

Mosses

Incurved Grizzled Moss

Extinct

Mammals

Eastern Elk ^P

Birds

Passenger Pigeon

Fishes

Blackfin Cisco
Blue Pike (Blue Pickerel, Blue Walleye)
Deepwater Cisco

Mosses

Macoun's Shining Moss

Other Species of Conservation Concern

Many other rare native breeding species occurring in Ontario have not yet been evaluated by COSEWIC or COSSARO. The examples listed here are considered globally extremely rare (G1) or provincially extremely rare (S1), and are listed as a high priority for assessment by COSEWIC. An S1 species is defined as a species with usually 5 or fewer occurrences in Ontario or with very few remaining individuals, often especially vulnerable to extirpation.

Flowering Plants

Houghton's Goldenrod (S2)

Butterflies

Bog Elfin (S1)
Bogbean Buck-moth (G1/S1)
Hayhurst's Scallopwing (S1)

Molluscs

Threehorn Warty-back (S1)
Ornamented Pea Clam (S1)
Purple Cap Valvata (S1)
Lilliput Mussel (S1)
Tiny Pea Clam (S1)

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- ♦ Regulated under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*
- △ Protected under Ontario's *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*
- * Provincial status differs from COSEWIC national status
- ^P Provincially-designated only (species/population found in Ontario not designated by COSEWIC)
- ^{NS} No OMNR status



Northern Bobwhite