

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROFILES



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One of Nature Canada's major focuses since 1939 has been protecting endangered species and species at risk. In 2003, after a lot of hard work, the federal government moved forward with the Species at Risk Act, thus protecting over 200 hugely important species for Canada.

Nature Canada was thrilled when the federal government finally agreed to pass the Species at Risk Act. Unfortunately, even with this federal legislation, every year, more and more of Canada's animals and plants are still threatened by extinction. Recently we are calling on the federal government to:

- Clear up the backlog of scientifically assessed species at risk not yet declared to be legally at risk;
- Get caught up in preparing Recovery Strategies for threatened and endangered species; and
- Have a better support of the work of COSEWIC, the scientific advisory committee on species at risk.

We have put together this e-Book to summarize brief facts about some of Canada's endangered species. There are various ways you can also help to protect each of these species.

With that, we hope you enjoy this e-Book and learn some new information on endangered species!



American Badger

Common name: American Badger

Latin name: *Taxidea taxus*

Status under SARA: As of the COSEWIC November 2012 assessment, there were 4 subspecies: *Taxidea taxus jacksoni*: Endangered; *Taxidea taxus jeffersonii* (East pop.): Endangered; *Taxidea taxus jeffersonii* (West pop.): Endangered; *Taxidea taxus taxus*: Special Concern.

Range: In Canada, they can be found across the provinces from southern BC to southern Ontario.

Life span: An average of 6 years in the wild for both sexes.

Size: Badgers are short measuring 76 to 89 cm. Their weight ranges from 5.4 kg to 7.3 kg post-hibernation.

Population estimate: *Taxidea taxus jacksoni*: < 200 mature individuals; *Taxidea taxus jeffersonii* (East pop.): 100-160 mature individuals; *Taxidea taxus jeffersonii* (West pop.): 100-245 mature individuals; *Taxidea taxus taxus*: >1000 mature individuals.

Facts: The American Badger is a solitary animal, mainly active at dusk, at night and at dawn. Although they are not true hibernators, they undergo periods of torpor, in which they decrease their metabolism and physiological activity to conserve energy during the coldest months.

What is being done: Before, all subspecies were recognized as one. Once subspecies were recognized and assessed by COSEWIC and distinct statuses were determined species recovery teams could be established.

What you can do: Report any illegal activity: If you're on protected provincial lands such as parks, and you witness badger trapping, hunting or other harassment, you can immediately report to your province's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry number/website.



American Badger by James Perdue (CC by 2.0)



Common name: Blanding's Turtle
Latin name: *Emydoidea blandingii*
Status under SARA: Endangered, Threatened
Range: In Canada, two distinct distributions: Nova Scotia and Great Lakes/St. Lawrence (Ontario and Québec)
Life Span: 75 years or more
Size: Shell size up to 27 cm in length
Population Estimate: 10,000 individuals



Blanding's Turtle

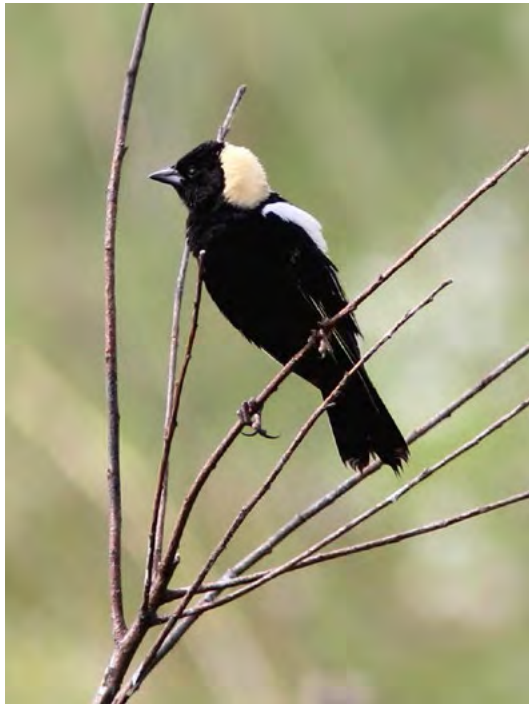


Blanding's Turtle

Facts: Incubation temperature of the eggs will determine the sex of a Blanding's Turtle: eggs incubated between 22°C and 28°C will result in males, while temperatures between 30°C and 32°C produce females. Blanding's Turtles tend to return to the same overwintering habitats that largely remain a mystery to researchers.

What is being done: Provincially, the Blanding's Turtle is protected under the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act and the Ontario Provincial Policy Statement of the Planning Act.

What you can do: Protect Canada's waterways and habitats that the Blanding's Turtle calls home. If purchasing a turtle as a pet, ask the store where it comes from and how it was raised. Never take a turtle from the wild as a pet.



Male Bobolink
Photo by Kenneth Cole

Common name: Bobolink

Latin name: *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Status under SARA: Listed as “eligible for listing”. COSEWIC assessed this species as threatened in 2010.

Range: Found in tall-grass prairies and meadows, over the last century the Bobolink has adapted to farm croplands, such as hayfields and pastures. They can be found in southern Canada during their breeding season and have an extensive migratory pattern to South America.

Life Span: 2-9 years and on average 5 years in the wild.

Size: Their wingspan is 25-30cm, weighing 29-56g (average 40-45g) and their head-to-foot length is 15-21cm.

Population Estimate: Global population estimated at 8 million but with only ¼ of that breeding in Canadian habitats.

Facts: The Bobolink’s habitat is greatly dependent on food resources. The Bobolink has the longest migration of all North American songbirds, flying 20,000km from mid-Argentina to mid-Canada. The birds have iron oxides in their beak bristles that help orient them with the earth’s magnetic fields to direct their path each migration!

What is being done: The Bobolink has been protected under the Migratory Bird Convention Act since 1994 and multiple provincial Wildlife Acts.

What you can do: Volunteering for bird surveys and sightings is a great way to help out wildlife. It allows conservation groups to map out where the species are located in order to best accommodate their recovery goals. You can read more about the Bobolink and the efforts to protect it in the [State of North America’s Birds](#) report that was recently released.



Female Bobolink
Photo by Kenneth Cole



Common name: Burrowing Owl
Latin name: *Athene cunicularia*
Status under SARA: Endangered
Range: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba
Life Span: 3 to 4 years
Size: 23 to 28 cm tall, 125 to 185 grams in weight
Population Estimate: Fewer than 1,000 pairs in Canada



Burrowing Owl



Burrowing Owl
 Photo by Cliff Wallis

Facts: Burrowing Owls often stand upright on their long thin legs so they can see farther out over the flat prairie. Often, the male will stand watch outside the burrow while the female and her young are underground. If an intruder comes near, the male sounds an alarm call and then tries to lure the intruder away from the nest with a series of short flights. If the intruder continues, the young birds go to the back of the burrow and make a hissing noise that sounds like a rattlesnake.

What is being done: Burrowing Owls are protected in all provinces where they are found – BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

What you can do: Learn more about the Burrowing Owl and its habitat and share this information with your family, friends, and community. Support groups and individuals who are working to save the Burrowing Owl.

You can also help protect the Burrowing Owl's habitat by signing our [petition here](#).



Canada Warbler

Common name: Canada Warbler

Latin name: *Cardellina canadensis*

Status under SARA: Listed as Threatened under the 2008 assessment.

Range: Found mainly in mixed deciduous-coniferous forests across Canada. Their breeding range is 85% in Canadian territory from the southernmost parts of Yukon and Northwest Territories to the Great Lakes region. Their migration ranges over mid-to-eastern United States and they overwinter in the Andean slopes of northern South America.

Life span: Relatively unknown; maximum recorded age was almost 8 years old.

Size: Small warblers; wingspans of 20-22 cm, body length of 12-15 cm, body weight between 9.5-12.5 g depending on before or after migration.

Population estimate: There are approximately 2.7 million individuals today; however, since 1968, Canada Warblers have been declining at an annual rate of 4.6%.

Facts: Canada Warblers are found in many types of forests, from conifer swamps to riparian woodlands. However, they are most commonly found in cool, damp, mixed deciduous-coniferous forests with well-developed shrub layers. Females choose areas ridden with dense ferns, mosses, fallen logs or tree stumps to build their nests. Common nest materials include moss, leaf litter and roots.

What is being done: The Canada Warbler International Conservation Initiative (CWICI) was established in 2013 at the BirdLife International Global Congress in Ottawa, with Nature Canada, Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, and BirdLife International leading.

What you can do: You can help by starting with your purchase of coffee. If you purchase shade-grown, Fair Trade organic coffee, you will be supporting the habitat that Canada Warblers use on migration and during their non-breeding season. [More information here.](#)



Canada Warbler



Common name: Common Nighthawk

Latin name: *Chordeiles minor*

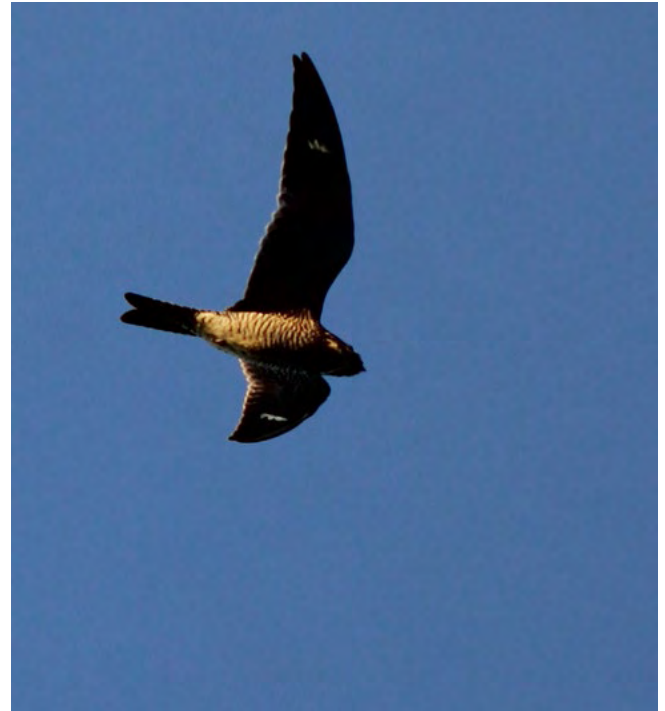
Status under SARA: Listed as Threatened as of the 2010 assessment

Range: Found throughout the Americas except for the north and south extremities. Canada is home to the Common Nighthawk during the warmer months then they will migrate to as far as mid-Argentina to overwinter.

Life Span: Relatively unknown, longest recorded was 9-10 years. Average lifespan is 5 years in the wild.

Size: Body length of 21-25cm, wingspan of 53-57cm, and a weight of 65-98g.

Population Estimate: Canadian habitats make up for approximately 10% of global populations of nighthawks, which, as of COSEWIC 2007 assessment was estimated as 400 000 adults



Common Nighthawk



Common Nighthawk

Facts: The Common Nighthawk is a master of camouflage. Its dark brown and speckled plumage makes it almost invisible when perched on the ground.

What is being done: While there are small-scale recovery projects focused on the Common Nighthawk given the common threat, efforts need to be focused on all threatened aerial insectivores.

What you can do: Join our NatureCaretakers program to help monitor bird habitats in your local Important Bird Area (IBA)! These volunteers help to monitor birds, assess habitats, and conduct conservation activities. As well, you can help this species by supporting our efforts to protect the North French, a critical habitat for the Common Nighthawk.



Eastern Cougar

Common name: Eastern Cougar

Latin name: *Puma concolor cougar*

Status under SARA: Data Deficient under Canada's Species at Risk Act. In 1978, the eastern subspecies was declared "endangered" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. The status was re-examined in 1998, and the animal was designated "data deficient" because there was not enough data to evaluate the status of the animal or its classification as a subspecies. The species has been declared extinct in the United States.

Range: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia

Life Span: Unknown, but possibly up to 21 years

Size: Male cougars reach two metres in length and weigh over 100kg. Females are slightly smaller.

Population Estimate: Unknown

Facts: Male cougars reach two metres in length and weigh over 100kg. Females are slightly smaller. Masters of camouflage, cougars usually hunt at night and rarely chase their prey. A cougar will locate its prey by scent of sound, slink forward slowly and silently, then pounce when the prey is within reach.

What is being done: Until there is confirmation that the Eastern Cougar still survives, no direct recovery actions will take place for this species. Cougars are protected from hunting and killing in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario. Despite this, their population does not seem to have increased.

What you can do: Report any Eastern Cougar sightings to the [Canadian Wildlife Service](#) and your provincial Department of Wildlife.



Eastern Cougar by Bruce Tuten, Flickr



Common name: Great Blue Heron (*fannini* subspecies) — also known as Pacific Great Blue Heron

Latin name: *Ardea herodias fannini*

Status under SARA: Special Concern

Range: Pacific Coast, from the regions of Prince William Sound in Alaska to Puget Sound in Washington State. In Canada, the *fannini* subspecies is found only on the northern and southern coasts of British Columbia, including its large coastal islands.

Size: While standing and with its neck extended, averages heights over 1 m and measures 97 to 137 cm in length.

Population estimate: Best available estimates suggest Canadian populations of nesting adult herons are 4,000 to 5,000.



Great Blue Heron



Great Blue Heron

Facts: Currently, there are five subspecies of the Great Blue Heron identified, and of these two reside in British Columbia. Great Blue Heron breeding couples are monogamous and both participate in incubating the eggs. The main predator of the species in British Columbia is the Bald Eagle.

What is being done: Today, the Great Blue Heron's nests and eggs are protected under the British Columbia government's Wildlife Act, as well as the Migratory Birds Convention Act (1994). The last COSEWIC assessment in April 2008 designated the Great Blue Heron *fannini* subspecies as "Special Concern."

What you can do: Participate in Nature Canada's ongoing efforts to protect the habitat of the Great Blue Heron and other birds that are in danger of disappearing in Canada by supporting our Important Bird Area program and our species at risk work. Contact [BC Nature](#) and find out how you can help them support their conservation efforts.



Greater Sage-Grouse
Photo by Gary Kramer

Common name: Greater Sage-Grouse

Latin name: *Centrocercus urophasianus urophasianus*

Status under SARA: Endangered Range: South-eastern Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan and eleven states in the western United States. The phaios subspecies once occurred in the southern Okanagan valley of British Columbia but has been extirpated from this region for over a century.

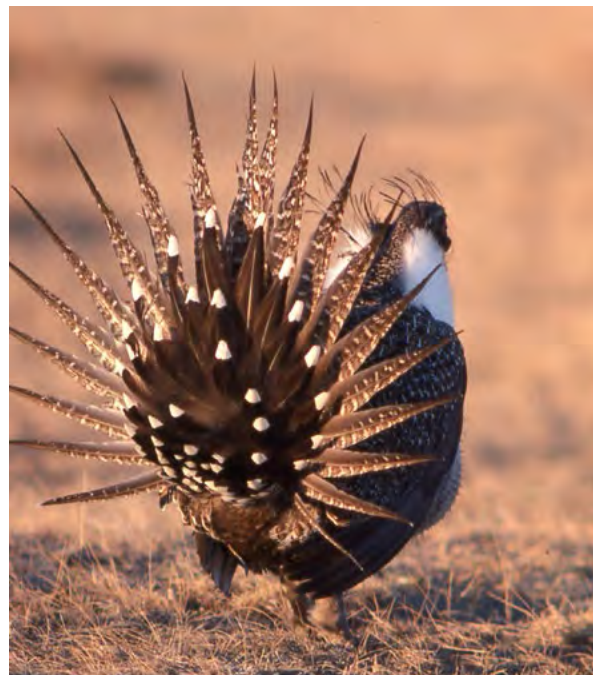
Description: A brownish-gray plump, chicken-like bird with white patterning. It has a long spiky pointed black-and-white tail and a black belly. It is the largest grouse in North America; males weigh about two kilograms and females about one. Males can reach lengths of up to 75 cm.

Population estimate: Fewer than 150 adults remain in Canada.

Facts: Over the past few decades, Canada's Greater Sage-Grouse population has been reduced to Alberta and Saskatchewan and are occupying approximately 7% of the species' historic range.

What is being done: The Greater Sage-Grouse is federally protected under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), the Canada National Parks Act and provincially by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Act and the Alberta Wildlife Act. It is prohibited to harm, destroy or collect adults or eggs or destroy occupied nesting sites.

What you can do: Join our campaign to save the Greater Sage-Grouse by establishing the Govenlock National Wildlife Area. Protect other birds that are in danger of disappearing by supporting our Important Bird Area program.



Greater Sage-Grouse
Photo by Gary Seib



Common name: Grizzly Bear

Latin name: *Ursus Arctos*

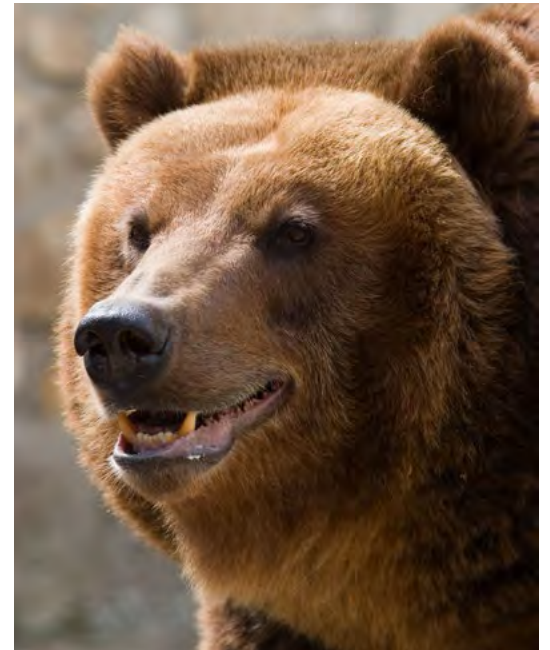
Status under SARA: Currently no status under SARA. The 2012 COSEWIC Assessment designated the species under Special Concern.

Range: The Grizzly Bear can be found in all three Canadian territories, in addition to British Columbia, Alberta, northern Saskatchewan, northeast Manitoba and as well as a few places in the southwest Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Summed together, the total range has been estimated to cover approximately 2.98 million km².

Life Span: In nature, Grizzly Bears have an expected lifespan of around 20-30 years.

Size: Adult females have masses between 100-150 kg, and fully grown males range between 180-270 kg.

Population estimate: The Canadian population of Grizzly Bears is estimated to be around 26,000, but the number of mature Grizzlies could be closer to 10,000.



Grizzly Bear



Grizzly Bear - Female and Cub

Facts: Grizzly Bears are well-adapted for digging, hunting, grazing and rooting, and these bears are omnivorous. They live in dens during the winter and can hibernate up to 7 months!

What is being done: One of the major ways in which Grizzly Bears are currently protected is through hunting regulations. While Manitoba, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador do not give Grizzly Bears any special legal status, the territories, British-Columbia and Alberta all have some hunting restrictions in place.

What you can do: Purchase Bear-resistant trash and electric fences if you live near or in rural areas. This will help to prevent Grizzly Bears from coming onto your property and getting into your garbages.



Horned Grebe

Common name: Horned Grebe

Latin name: *Podiceps auritus*

Status under SARA: Special Concern; Quebec's Magdalen Islands population is Endangered.

Range: Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, and into Manitoba, Ontario and the Magdalen Islands in Quebec.

Size: 100,000 in North America; Magdalen Islands population likely less than 50 breeders.

Population Estimate: On average, a length of 31-38 cm, weighing 300-570 g, with a wingspan of 55-64 cm.

Facts: One interesting fact about the Horned Grebe is that while at rest or sleeping, the species will place its neck onto its back with its head off to one side while facing forward.

What is being done: Three Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Quebec's Magdalen Islands support the Horned Grebe. Nature Canada works to identify IBAs across the country, determine the protection and stewardship required for each site, and ensure their conservation through partnerships with local stakeholders.

What you can do: Advocate for greater protection of Important Bird Areas in your community and across the country!



Horned Grebe



Common name: Orca or Killer Whale

Latin name: *Orcinus orca*

Status under SARA: The Northeast Pacific Northern Resident Population is listed as Threatened as of the 2008 Update Assessment. The Northeast Pacific Southern Resident Population is listed as Endangered.

Range: The known range for the Northern Population stretches from Glacier Bay, Alaska to Grays Harbour, Washington. The known range for the Southern Population stretches from the Queen Charlotte Islands in Northern British Columbia to Monterey Bay in California.

Life span: Long-lived mammals, with females recording at up to 80 years and males at 40-50 years.

Size: Males have been recorded up to 9m long and weigh on average 6600-9100kg. Females are on average 7m long and weigh 4700-6800 kg.

Population estimate: As of 2006, there were 85 Southern Residents and 244 Northern Residents. Both show erratic population growths of increases and decreases of +/- 3%.



Orca



Orca

Facts: Since 2008, genetic research found that there are “types” of Orcas from which actually differ enough in vocal patterns, diets, and eco-niches, that they can be considered sub-species or different species entirely! These “types” are known as “Resident”, “Transient” and “Offshore” populations. A group of Orca whales are known as a pod and those that reside in the waters around British Columbia are called the Northern Residents and Southern Residents in respect to their preferred locations.

What is being done: SARA developed a Recovery plan which is based on 4 objectives for which research projects are underway to collect data.

What you can do: Know your products! Become more aware of what you’re buying and try to buy the most environmentally friendly items!



Ord's Kangaroo Rat. Photo
Andy Teucher

Common name: Ord's Kangaroo Rat

Latin name: *Dipodomys ordii*

Status under SARA: Special Concern; Endangered by COSEWIC (up-listed from Special Concern in April 2006)

Range: The isolated Canadian population (a separate and slightly different US population exists) of *Dipodomys ordii* occupies a small area in southwestern Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta. Kangaroo Rats occupy sparsely vegetated, sandy habitat as a part of the mixed grassland eco-region of the prairie eco-zone in the vicinities of the Great Sand Hills, Saskatchewan and the Middle Sand Hills, Alberta.

Population estimate: Canadian population drops to 1,000 or fewer during its seasonal low-point in early spring.

Life Span: Most Ord's Kangaroo Rats in Canada survive less than one year.

Size: Weight from between 68 – 71 g. Total length (including tail) between 260 – 263 mm.

Facts: The Kangaroo Rat is not a direct relative of the common rat. Unlike domestic rats, these rats don't spread disease or have a negative effect on crops. In fact "K-Rats" need to live in open arid landscapes that are so marginal for farming that they could scarcely cause any trouble to humans.

The Story: For 52 years, Alberta's Rat Patrol has been using shotguns, shovels and poison to eradicate rats. Kangaroo Rats have recently been placed on COSEWIC's endangered species list and may soon meet the same fate provincially as their distant rodent brethren.

What you can do: Visit the [Royal Alberta Museum](#) in Edmonton to learn more about the importance of prairie ecosystems. You can also [raise your voice for grasslands here!](#)



Ord's Kangaroo Rat. Photo
Andy Teucher



Common name: Peary Caribou

Latin name: *Rangifer tarandus pearyi*

Status under SARA: This caribou subspecies is currently listed as “Endangered” under SARA. A 2015 COSEWIC assessment recommends that it be down-listed to “Threatened”.

Range: An endemic to the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, found in the northern parts of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Life span: The typical lifespan of this caribou subspecies is at least 15 years.

Size: Males average at 1.7m in length and weigh 110 kg and females weigh an average of 60 kg.

Population estimate: With a remote and scattered habitat among the arctic islands (which are connected by sea ice in the winter months), it proves difficulty to monitor population trends. The estimate of total Peary Caribou is 13,200 mature individuals.



Peary Caribou

Facts: What sets caribou apart from the rest of the cervidae family is the fact that both males and females grow antlers! The antlers on the males are larger than those of the females and they are also coated with grey fur called velvet. Peary Caribou have denser coats than the other caribou subspecies which helps them survive the Arctic winter.

What is being done: As a SARA-listed species, individuals and industrial operations are required to avoid disturbing or harming the Peary caribou and its protected habitats.

What you can do: Aside from doing your part to limit your contributions to climate change, the best way to support this caribou subspecies is to get the word out that they exist and are in need of our support to survive! Sharing links about the Peary Caribou on social media and even getting to know more about Arctic climate changes will all help out our wildlife species.



Porbeagle shark sticking its head out of the water beside a boat. Photo: S. Campana

Common name: Porbeagle Shark

Latin name: *Lamna nasus*

Status under SARA: Not Listed, COSEWIC Assessment: Endangered

Range: In the Northwest Atlantic, porbeagle sharks are found from northern Newfoundland into the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Life Span: Estimated to be between 25 and 46 years

Size: Up to 3.7 meters (12 feet)

Population Estimate: 180,000 in Northwest Atlantic

Facts: No porbeagle has ever been incriminated in unprovoked attacks on humans — probably because it lives in such cold water — but as a relative of the mako and great white sharks it is among the fastest swimmers in the sea. It ranks at the very top of the food chain and is the top predator in its own territory.

What is being done: The biggest step in saving the porbeagle shark was taken in 1998 when fishing quotas were cut by 80 per cent.

What you can do: If you're interested in the porbeagle shark and want to help protect them, one of the most powerful things you can do is call your local federal MP and tell him or her that you support the government's research on sharks.



Porbeagle sharks on life support for research purpose. Photo: S. Campana



Common name: Sei Whale

Latin name: *Balaenoptera borealis*

Status under SARA: Listed as Endangered for the Pacific Population and Data Deficient for the Atlantic Population in a 2003 assessment.

Range: Sei Whales have a largely unknown geographic distribution, as their wintering grounds have not yet been identified. However, Sei Whales can be found in oceans in the sub-polar latitudes in each hemisphere during the summer months, and in sub-tropical waters during the colder months.

Life Span: Oldest recorded age is 74 years in the wild

Size: Females are slightly larger than males. These whales average 15-19 tonnes, and have an average length of 15m.



Sei Whale

Facts: Sei Whales are baleen whales, which refers to the structure of their teeth. Instead of the common mammal tooth form, baleen whales have plates for filtering foods in and filtering water out.

What is being done: In 2006 a multi-species Recovery Strategy was developed under Canada's Species at Risk Act that included the Pacific Sei Whale as well as the Pacific Blue and Fin whale populations in Canada.

What you can do: A safe practice is to not flush chemicals down your drain. Be sure to dispose of them safely at your local hazardous waste centre or contact your city to find out where the appropriate place to dispose of these chemicals safely.



Vancouver Island Marmot
Photo by Jared Hobbs

Common name: Vancouver Island Marmot

Latin name: *Marmota vancouverensis*

Status under SARA: Listed as Endangered as of 2008 assessment.

Range: An endemic to the island of Vancouver. Originally found in the Nanaimo Lakes region until it was introduced to other nearby areas.

Life Span: It has the average age of 10 yr in the wild and 14 yr in captivity.

Size: It is the largest of the ground squirrels; weighing an average 5 kg and has a nose to tail length of 67-72cm.

Population Estimate: In 2007, it was estimated that only 30 remained in the wild. The Marmot Recovery Foundation has since counted 250-300 marmots in 2015.

Facts: They can be described as the size of a large house cat. On average, these marmots weigh 5 kg, with males being larger than females. Family groups can include up to 7 marmots and as the size of the group increases, one will leave to build its own individual den and eventually build its own family group.

What is being done: Recovery projects for this species include captive-breeding and release, in which marmots are captured, allowed to reproduce in captivity, and later reintroduced in the wild.

What you can do: The biggest help you can do is conservation awareness. The more everyone can learn about wildlife, biodiversity and endangered species, the more people will see how much of a difference we can make if we work together to make nature a better home for humans and wildlife.



Vancouver Island Marmot.
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BY-NC-SA 3.0)



Common name: West Virginia White
Scientific name: *Pieris virgiensis*
Taxonomic Group: Anthropods
Status under SARA: Special concern
Size: 3-5 cm wingspan
Population Estimate: 180,000 in Northwest Atlantic



West Virginia White

Facts: The West Virginia White butterfly is 2-3 times more likely to lay their eggs on garlic mustard over a native host plant. This is unfortunate as the hatched larvae will not survive on this invasive species. The West Virginia White is a small white butterfly with wings that are translucent on the underside. Its veins have grey-brown scaling, causing it to look like a lace pattern. As a caterpillar, it is yellow-green with a green stripe along each side. Adults feed on flower nectar of toothworts, spring beauty, violets, and other plants. The larvae feed only on the leaves of toothwort, a small, spring-blooming plant of the forest floor.

Where else can you see this species: This butterfly has a very limited North America range. In Canada, it can be found in localized colonies in southern and eastern Ontario, as far north as Manitoulin Island, Batchawana Bay (north of Sault Ste. Marie) and Sharbot Lake (north of Kingston). There are also records of this butterfly in the Montreal area. The largest populations are in the western Lake Ontario region.

How they are at-risk: Currently, there are couple threats to the West Virginia White such as forest fragmentation and invasive species, such as the garlic mustard. The butterfly is restricted to rich, moist deciduous woods. Since it refuses to cross open areas its sensitivity to forest fragmentation is the largest threat to this butterfly's survival.



Whip-poor-will

Common name: Whip-poor-will

Latin name: *Caprimulgus vociferus*

Status under SARA: Threatened

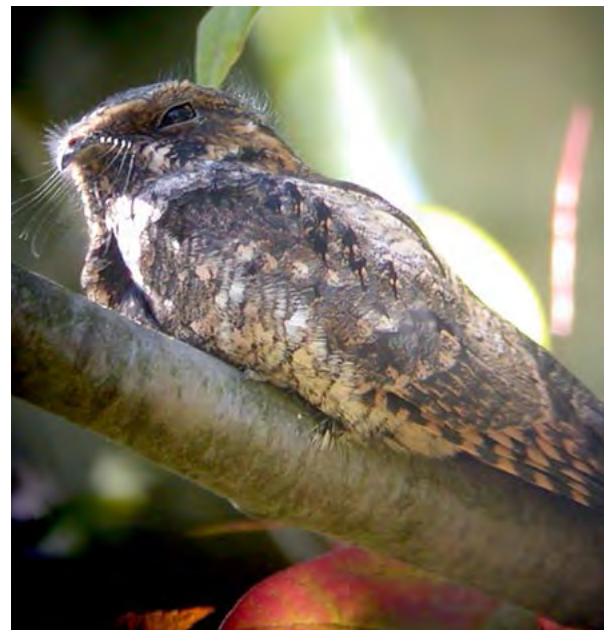
Range: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Québec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan

Size: Reaches an average length of 22-26 cm, weighs 43-63 grams, and has a wingspan of 45-47 cm

Facts: Male Whip-poor-wills will intimidate nest intruders by hovering with their body almost vertical and tail spread wide open. The female lays her eggs in synchrony with the lunar cycle, allowing the eggs to hatch about ten days before a full moon, giving parents the time to gather as much food as possible for the chicks.

What is being done: The Whip-poor-will is listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of Canada's Species At Risk Act. The species is also protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

What you can do: Advocate for the reduction or elimination of pesticides and biocides in agriculture and forestry, and maintain a pesticide-free lawn to encourage a healthy population of insects on which Whip-poor-wills can feed. You can also support our efforts to highlight threatened bird species in North America! [Read more about these efforts here.](#)



Whip-poor-will



Common name: Whooping crane

Latin name: *Grus americana*

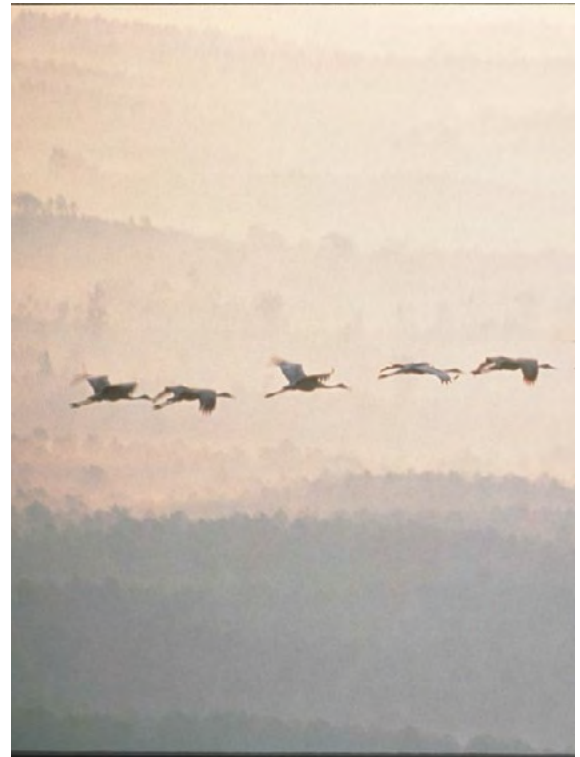
Status under SARA: Endangered (last reviewed in November 2000)

Range: The original flocks of whooping cranes nest in Wood Buffalo National Park, located on the Alberta-Northwest Territories border, and migrate to the Texas Gulf Coast and winter in or near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. An additional flock of whooping cranes nests in southeastern Idaho and winters in the middle Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. A non-migratory wild flock lives in Florida.

Population estimate: Wood Buffalo National Park: 220 birds and increasing. Florida: 60 birds, stable to decreasing.

Life Span: 22 to 30 years

Size: Adults are 1.5 meters tall and weigh between six and seven kilograms.



Whooping Crane



Whooping Crane

Facts: Whooping cranes are naturally wary and aggressive, and cannot tolerate human disturbance. During nesting (but never flight) they make a wild bugling sound that can be heard from 5km away.

What is being done: Whooping cranes are protected in Canada and the US under the Migratory Bird Convention Act.

What you can do: Learn about the whooping crane and pass your knowledge on to others to increase public concern for this endangered bird and its habitat. Support conservation groups working to save the whooping crane and its habitat.



Wolverine

Common name: Wolverine, Eastern population

Latin name: *Gulo gulo*

Status under SARA: endangered; declared by COSEWIC in 2003

Range: Labrador and Quebec (eastern population)

Life Span: 17 years

Size: Adult males weigh approximately 14 kg; females, 9 kg. Adult male is approximately 1 m long, female is shorter.

Population Estimate: Fewer than 50

Facts: When food is scarce, a high percentage of the population will not have young. Females have a delayed implantation mechanism that allows them to have young when food is most abundant and to adjust the size of the litter to the availability of food.

What is being done: In 2004, experts performed an aerial survey of 195,000 square-kilometres of wilderness, but didn't find any trace of wolverines. And since 2003, the group has tried to collect hair samples of wolverines with hair poles, poles wrapped in barbed wire and topped with carrion.

What you can do: Inform the Wolverine Recovery Team (Eastern Population) of any wolverine sightings in Quebec at 418-627-8694 ext. 7435. In Labrador, contact the Labrador Wolverine Working Group at 709-637-2970.



Wolverine



Common name: Woodland caribou

Latin name: *Rangifer tarandus caribou*

Status under SARA: In 2002, COSEWIC listed woodland caribou as threatened overall and specifically, four populations at risk: Atlantic-Gaspésie, Boreal, Southern Mountain (BC, AB) and Northern Mountain (YK, NT, BC).

Range: Boreal forest in all provinces / territories except NS, NB, and PEI

Population estimate: 1.5 million in Canada

Life Span: 10-15 years

Size: 1 to 1.2 m high at the shoulder, 110 to 210 kg in weight.



Woodland Caribou



Woodland Caribou

Facts: Woodland caribou have grey-brown grey coats, with thick creamy white on shoulders, chests, bellies and under tails. A longer layer of semi-hollow guard hair supplements a dense undercoat, providing insulation against cold and wind, and buoyancy while swimming.

What is being done: In many areas, hunting of caribou has been closed, restricted, or managed, while in others, hunting allocations for predators, deer, moose and elk have been increased in areas adjacent to caribou habitat.

What you can do: Join and/or support environmental organizations that work to protect wildlife habitat. **You can support efforts to protect habitats animals like the Woodland Caribou live in here!**



Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to learn about some of the endangered species we have in Canada. We hope you got a basic understanding of the species populations, where you can find them, and the ways that you can act to help these species.

To learn more, check out these recent newspaper articles:

[Triage in the wild](#)

[Canada, once a global leader in conservation](#)

If you are looking for more ways to help endangered species, consider [volunteering](#) for Nature Canada or making a gift to help further our work in protecting species across Canada.

**Help Protect Canada's
Endangered Species Today!**

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