

HELPING SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO

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Many species are at risk in Ontario due to climate change, habitat loss, hunting and fishing.

Species at risk include amphibians, birds, fishes, insects, lichens and mosses, mammals, mollusks, plants and reptiles.

Birds are facing danger due to changes in the climate: too many toxins, or by the removal of their habitats. Eagles for example, face danger due to electrocution on hydro lines, as well as eating toxic prey.

The following birds are listed as "endangered" on the species at risk website at www.ontario.ca

Endangered means the species lives in the wild in



Ontario but is facing imminent extinction or extirpation.

BIRDS

- Acadian Flycatcher
- Barn Owl
- Golden Eagle
- Henslow's Sparrow
- King Rail
- Kirtland's Warbler
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Northern Bobwhite
- Piping Plover
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Red Knot ruffa subspecies

- Yellow-breasted Chat
- Red-headed woodpecker

MAMMALS

For animals like the Algonquin wolf, which is threatened by hunters and trappers outside their respected zones, the population of the adult species is listed at 500, in and around the Algonquin Park area. Residential housing also threatens this species.

Increased freight shipping in the Hudson Bay area have threatened the population of the beluga whale, a species that is of concern. The last aerial survey showed about 25,000 beluga whales in the late 1980s.

Polar bears are also on the threatened list. Climate change is responsible for higher air temperatures in the north, causing the spring ice breakup to occur earlier and freeze-up to occur later. The extended ice-free season has a direct impact on the polar bear's ability to hunt.

The following mammals are considered endangered.

- American Badger (northwestern and southwestern Ontario populations)
- Eastern Small-footed, Tricoloured and Little Brown Myotis (bats)
- Mountain Lion (cougar)

FISHES

Some species of fish are in trouble due to hydroelectric turbines, dams and other water barriers that can prevent access to feeding and spawning areas. This is known as fragmentation. Invasive species and chemical contaminants may also pose a threat.

Some fishes that are considered endangered, include:

- Eastern Sand Darter
- Lake Sturgeon
- Northern Madtom
- Redside Dace
- River Darter (Great Lakes and Upper St. Lawrence populations)
- Shortnose Cisco



Laurie Weir photo

There is a special concern for bald eagles. That means the species lives in the wild in Ontario, is not endangered or threatened, but may become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats. Their decline is due to continued development of shoreline habitat and pollution.

- Spotted Gar
- Warmouth

HOW WE CAN HELP

A few things that you can do to help endangered, threatened and extirpated species of Ontario include:

- Report sightings;
- Be a good steward;

- Volunteer with a local nature club;
- Report illegal activity related to plants and wildlife to 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667); and,
- Find out more by visiting <https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk-ontario>

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