

SPECIES AT RISK



Welcome Tawâw

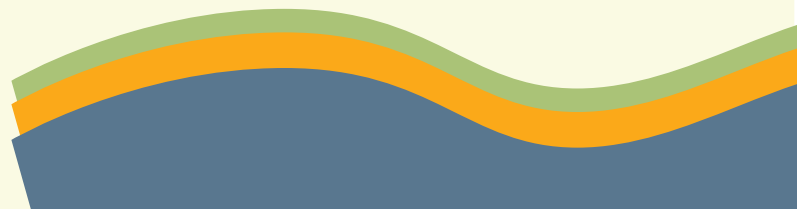
We are the Species at Risk in the RLBR. This document is a way for us to share our unique story about what we look like, where we live and the threats that we face. Along with the RLBR team, we hope that by learning a little bit more about us you will feel inspired to help protect our habitat.

We also hope that you will join us on the journey of creating a thriving ecosystem within the RLBR for future generations. To do this, there are instructions at the end of this document explaining how you can help at home, in your everyday life and within your own community.

See you out in nature!

Sincerely,

Species At Risk



PIPING PLOVER

[CHARADRIUS MELODUS CIRCUMCINCTUS]

ENDANGERED

SIZE - 15-19cm (6-7 inches)

HABITAT - Gravel shores of shallow, saline lakes & on the shores of other large prairie lakes

ABOUT - I love to blend into sandy beaches and because of this, am sometimes hard to detect. The dark banded plumage across my forehead and neck resemble clutter of a shoreline - pebbles, coarse bits of earth and reedy stripes of vegetation. My legs are orange and my bill is orange with a black tip (in winter it becomes fully black).

FIND- Redberry Lake is recognized as one of the best places to find me along with Chaplin Lake/Marsh, Douglas Provincial Park, the Gardiner Dam area on Lake Diefenbaker and the Quill Lakes.



Photo: RLBR

THREATS

- Human use of beaches (disturbance to my habitat)
- Dogs & cats prey on my eggs and young
- Gulls & raccoons are attracted to my nesting sites from human garbage
- Cattle & horses trample nests while cars and ATVs drive over/on top of them. Chicks can get trapped in the hoof prints and deep wheel ruts.



Photo: D. Severson
(USFWS)

WHOOPING CRANE

[GRUS AMERICANA]

ENDANGERED

SIZE - 1.5 M (5 FT) TALL

HABITAT - Shallow wetlands and croplands for feeding.

ABOUT - I am the tallest bird in North America! My plumage is a snow white and I have black tipped wings which can only be seen in flight. My head markings are red and black.

FIND - My main home is in the NE corner of Wood Buffalo National Park (bordering Alberta & the NWT). I migrate there for winter and stop in Redberry Lake Biosphere region to roost and feed.

* In Saskatchewan and Alberta Whooping Cranes are also protected by the Wildlife Acts and in Manitoba by the Endangered Species Act. Under these Acts it is prohibited to kill, harm, or collect adults, young, and eggs.

THREATS

- Loss of habitat quality and food resources in my breeding areas, wintering grounds & migration routes.

BURROWING OWL

[*ATHENE CUNICULARIA*]

ENDANGERED

SIZE - 19-25 CM Tall

HABITAT - Abandoned burrows of mammals

ABOUT - I am a migratory bird with long legs and a short tail. Most often you can spot me on a fence post or on the ground looking for mice, grasshoppers and other insects. I got my name because I like to nest in the abandoned burrows of mammals such as prairie dogs and badgers.

FIND - In April I visit the prairies. By September I start to migrate to my winter grounds (southern United States and Mexico).



Photo: Ray Hennessy,
Unsplash

THREATS

- Hunting
- Human recreational activities
- Habitat loss due to conversion of grassland to crop land
- Habitat degradation and fragmentation
- Reduction in my prey population
- Climate change, and expansion of renewable energy (wind)



Photo: Terry Ross (qnr)

THREATS

- Habitat loss for breeding, migration and wintering.
- Transformation of native grasslands to agricultural land is the main factor for my habitat loss.
- Use of pesticides to combat insects such as grasshoppers that are my prey
- Collisions with automobiles as I often build my nest and hunt near roadways.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

[*LANIUS LUDOVICIANUS EXCUBITORIDES*]

THREATENED

SIZE - 23 cm (9 inches)

HABITAT - Hawthorn bushes, other shrubs and barbed wire.

ABOUT ME - I am a songbird with a defining nickname "The Butcher Bird". This is because I am known to impale my prey (frogs, grasshoppers, beetles & mice) from time to time using the thorns/barbed wire found in my habitat. I am slightly smaller than a robin and have a distinctive black mask covering my eyes. My plumage is a contrast of black, white and grey, making me easy to spot as an adult in flight.

FIND ME - I like to live in thorny- buffaloberry trees, grasslands, sand-sage, pastures, agricultural areas and open woodlands



Photo: Bob Gress

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT

[ANTHUS SPRAGUEII]

THREATENED

SIZE - 16-17cm (6-7 inches)

HABITAT - Native grassland

ABOUT ME - I am a ground-nesting songbird and look very similar to a sparrow. I am a little bit secretive and prefer to be heard more often than seen. Consequently, my plumage is a standard brown and my bill is thin. If I am male you can often find me singing a twittering song while circling in the air and then dropping rapidly to the ground to hide in the grass.

FIND ME - I am a difficult bird to spot because I prefer vegetation that is 20-30cm high. Sometimes I can be in hay and alfalfa fields but prefer native grassland. I am not usually found on cultivated land or introduced forage.

THREATS

- Loss of my habitat
- Extensive livestock activity, hay harvesting and cultivation of native grasslands and interrupted prairie-fire cycle
- Use of pesticides to control grasshoppers (my prey)
- Drought affects my nesting habitat and food supply

OTHER BIRDS, MAMMALS & PLANTS AT RISK IN THE RLDR

NORTHERN SHRIKE

[LANIUS BOREALIS]

SIZE - 23-24 CM in length

HABITAT - I like to live in forests, grasslands, desert, svannas, shrubland, inland wetlands and rocky areas.

ABOUT ME - I am a gray bird with a black mask around my eyes. I have some black on my wings along with a white flash noticeable in flight. My tail is black with a white edge. Just like the loggerhead shrike I also catch and impale my prey on barbed wire or thorns.

FIND ME - I breed in open parts of the boreal forest (taiga) and along the northern edge where boreal forest transitions to tundra.



Photo: Bob Martinka,
Macaulay Library

THREATS

- Sask breeding population at risk even though my species overall is not at risk
- Habitat loss



Photo: Tim J. Hopwood,
Macaulay Library

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

[SETOPHAGA CAERULESCENS]

HABITAT - As an inner forest species I dominantly live in canopy trees such as sugar maples, american beech, yellow birch and red spruce eastern hardwood forests.

ABOUT ME - I am a long-distance migratory songbird and I breed in North America. I have a midnight blue back, white belly and black throat.

THREATS

- Climate change affects prey numbers
- Habitat loss in wintering and breeding sites
- Long migration routes mean my population is vulnerable to global climate cycles



Photo: John Kindrachuk

BOBOLINK
[dolichonyx oryzivorus]



Photo: Josh Adams,
Macaulay Library

BAIRD'S SPARROW
[centronyx bairdii]



Photo: Kyle Blaney,
Macaulay Library

HORNED GREBE
[Podiceps auritus]



Photo: Joshua J. Cotten,
Unsplash

LONG-BILLED CURLEW
[Numenius americanus]



Photo: Tim Avery,
Macaulay Library

NORTHERN HARRIER
[Circus hudsonius]



Photo: RLBR

COMMON NIGHTHAWK
[Chordeiles minor]

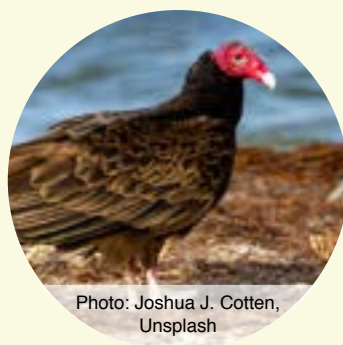


Photo: Joshua J. Cotten,
Unsplash

TURKEY VULTURE
[Cathartes aura]



Photo: Steven Mlodinow,
Macaulay Library

WESTERN GREBE
[Aechmophorus occidentalis]



Photo: Ian Hearn,
Macaulay Library

BARN SWALLOW

[*Hirundo rustica*]



Photo: David M. Bell,
Macaulay Library

BANK SWALLOW

[*Riparia riparia*]

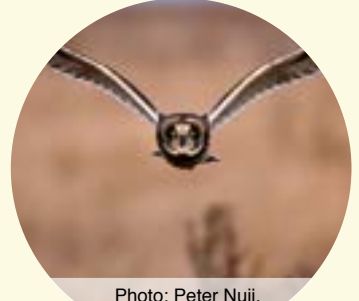


Photo: Peter Nuij,
Unsplash

SHORT-EARED OWL

[*Asio flammeus*]



Photo: Daniel Jauvin,
Macaulay Library

RUSTY BLACKBIRD

[*Euphagus carolinus*]



Photo: Greg Gilson,
Macaulay Library

PRAIRIE FALCON

[*Falco mexicanus*]



Photo: Christoph Moning,
Macaulay Library

HORNED LARK

[*Eremophila alpestris*]



Photo: Hugues Brunoni,
Macaulay Library

YELLOW RAIL

[*Coturnicops noveboracensis*]



Photo: Chris Wood,
Macaulay Library

FERRUGINOUS HAWK

[*Buteo regalis*]



Photo: Jeremiah Trimble,
Macaulay Library

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

[*Contopus cooperi*]



Photo: David Turgeon,
Macaulay Library

CANADA WARBLER

[*Cardellina canadensis*]



Photo: Ian Davies,
Macaulay Library

RED KNOT

[*Calidris canutus*]



Photo: Doug Hitchcox,
Macaulay Library

LARK BUNTING

[*Calamospiza melanocorys*]



Photo: Eric Dallalio,
MTNHP

WESTERN TIGER SALAMANDER

[*Ambystoma mavortium*]



Photo: Canadian Wildlife
Federation

NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG

[*Rana pipiens*]



Photo: JD Taylor

AMERICAN BADGER

[*Taxidea taxus*]



Photo: albertabats.ca

NORTHERN MYTOSIS

[*Myotis septentrionalis*]



Photo: Bob Hamilton

LITTLE BROWN MYTOSIS

[*Myotis lucifugus*]



Photo: Lysandra Pyle,
Twitter

PLAINS ROUGH FESCUE

[*F. hallii* (Vasey) Piper]

TALL PUSSYTOES

[*ANTENNARIA ANAPHALOIDES*]

SIZE - 60cm in height

HABITAT - I am found in loamy soil and open fescue prairie

ABOUT ME - I am a plant with a white flower and long, olive, hairless, grooved fruit in the centre of my flower.

THREATS

- Habitat loss from native prairie to cropland
- Changes in soil properties
- Competition with forest and invasive species



Photo: Matt Lavin,
Montana Field Guide

PALLAS BUGSEED

[CORISPERMUM PALLASII]

HABITAT - Sand dunes, sandy and gravelly shores

ABOUT ME - I have a splotch that is easy to spot and I bloom between summer and fall. I might not be a native plant to the prairies, however more research is required about me to determine this.

FIND ME - I live globally in three continents- Eastern Asia, North American and Europe



Photo: Samuel Brinker,
Inaturalist.org

THREATS

- Potentially habitat loss, but more research is required



Photo: Inaturalist.org

COMMON MOONWORT

[BOTRYCHUM LUNARIA]

SIZE - Shorter than 25cm

HABITAT - I live in semi-open to open woods, dry prairie sloughs, moist meadows and aspen woods.

ABOUT ME - I am a stout and fleshy plant with a middle stalk. My stalk is surrounded on both sides by sessile sporangium.

FIND ME - You can find me in 2 territories and five provinces (including Saskatchewan)

THREATS

- Habitat loss



Photo: aquaplant.tamu.edu

WIDGEON GRASS

[Ruppia cirrhosa]



Photo: GD Bebeau

LONG STALKED CHICKWEED

[Stellaria longipes ssp. longipes]



Photo: Peter M. Dziuk

STRIPED CORAL ROOT

[Corallorhiza striata]



Photo: Glen Lee

CROWFOOT VIOLET

[*Viola pedatifida*]



Photo: Jennifer Cote,
2012

CANADA MOUNTAIN RICEGRASS

[*Piptatherum canadense*]



Photo: Walter Muma

LEATHERY GRAPE FERN

[*Sceptridium multifidum*]



Photo: Biodiversity.sk.ca

YELLOW IMMACULATE LILY

[*Lilium philadelphicum* var. *andinum* forma *immaculata*]



Photo: Keir Morse

CALIFORNIA WILD OAT GRASS

[*Danthonia californica*]



Photo: Glen Lee

YELLOW LADY'S SLIPPER

[*Cypripedium parviflorum*]



Photo: Jim Morefield,
inaturalist.org

ALPINE TIMOTHY

[*Phleum alpinum* L.]



Photo: usask.ca

AMERICAN BUGSEED

[*Corispermum americanum* var. *americanum*]

HOW YOU CAN HELP

AT HOME OR IN YOUR BACKYARD



Contact our AEGP Technician (Agri-Environmental Group Plan) to help you establishing Beneficial Management Practices on your farm.



Leave animals some space to hide and breed; plant trees and shrubs; let a stretch of grass grow instead of mowing it.



Place bird feeders close to natural shelters such as trees and shrubs.

Grow native plants in your garden.

Do not use pesticides around the home

PESTICIDES



IN THE WOODS



Stay on the trails and keep your dog on a leash.

Dispose of all food and litter back home.

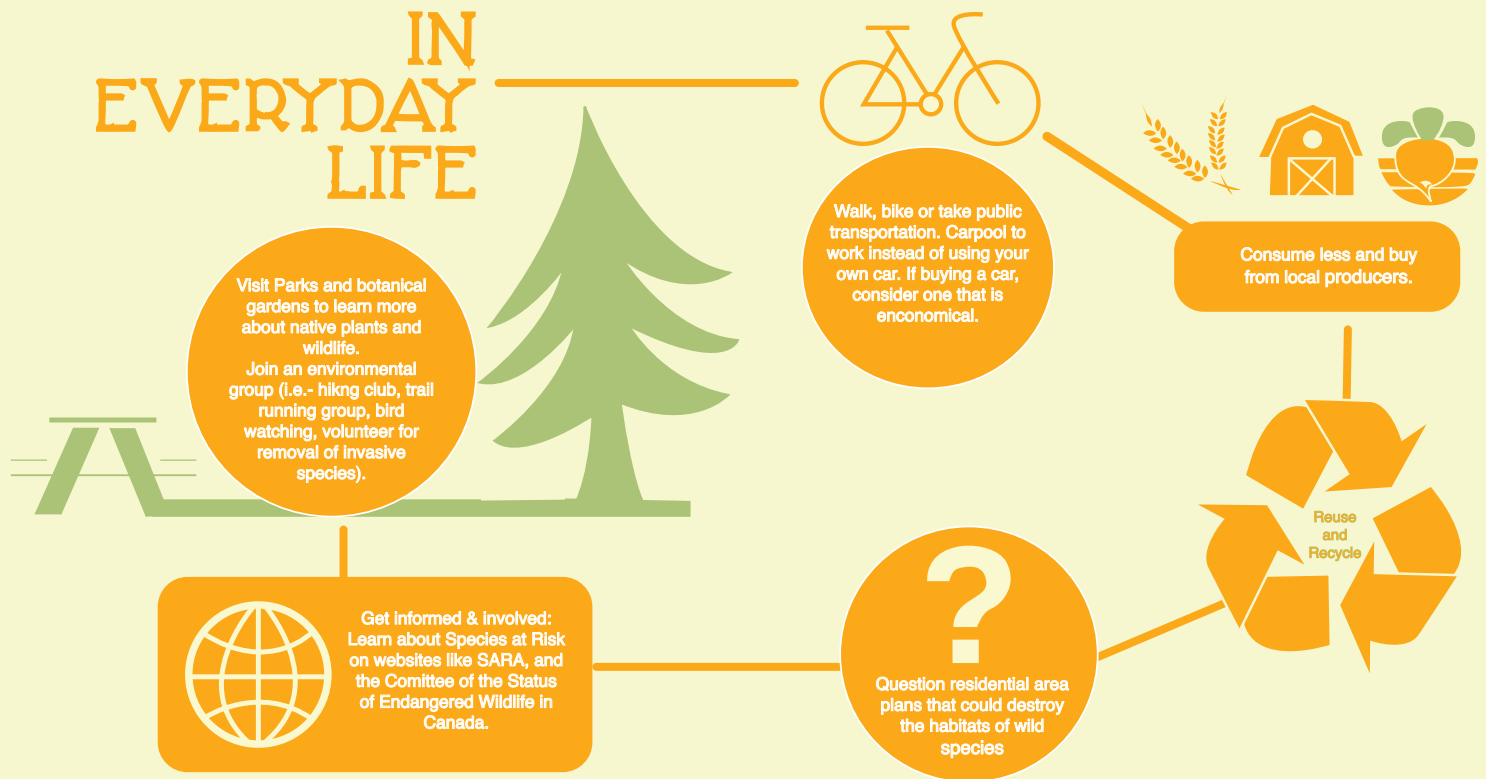


Avoid making too much noise.

Do not kill, harm or collect adult and young animals as well as eggs. Also do not pick any native plants that are part of the species habitat or learn more about sustainable foraging.



IN EVERYDAY LIFE



SOURCES

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