

The **KARNER BLUE** (*extirpated*) butterfly once graced the oak savanna habitats of southern Ontario but due to the loss of the **WILD LUPINE** – the larva's only food source – this butterfly has vanished. Volunteers from community organizations are planting Wild Lupine to encourage its return.



A. H. Bolter

Often overlooked for their ecological importance, **TALLGRASS PRAIRIE** and **SHORT GRASS HABITATS** are crucial for the survival of many species of insects, birds and mammals. Walpole Island is one of the few remaining sites in Ontario with Tallgrass Prairie habitat and hosts rare plants such as Showy Goldenrod (*endangered*), Riddell's Goldenrod (*species of concern*) and **DENSE BLAZING STAR** (*threatened*).



P. Alan Woodliffe



Robert McCow

The **EASTERN LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** (*endangered*) is a songbird that hunts insects and small rodents, using its raptor-like beak and talons. Cattle pasture lands provide suitable short grasslands for this species.

The **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** (*endangered*) is one of Canada's rarest birds. Once abundant, just 10 to 12 breeding pairs remain in south-western Ontario. Competition for nests and predation are key causes of their decline. Scientists and recovery volunteers are creating opportunities for recovery by enhancing suitable habitat and constructing nest boxes. More than 300 nest boxes have been erected in their preferred habitat – deciduous forests with large pools of standing water.



Robert McCow



James Duncan  
Nature Conservancy of Canada

The **CAROLINIAN ZONE** spans from the north shore of Lake Ontario to Windsor. This species-rich region is home to over 30 percent of Canada's species at risk. The **CAROLINIAN FOREST** is an ecosystem under intense pressure. Some trees found in Carolinian forest communities include Sassafras, Tuliptree, Black Gum, American Chestnut, Sugar Maple and American Beech.

**SPECIES RECOVERY TEAMS** are formed through partnerships among government bodies, First Nations, Conservation Authorities, individual volunteers, and non-government organizations of all sizes and capacities. These teams put official recovery strategies into action. The stewardship activities that are needed to recover wildlife populations are often labour-intensive, and recovery would not be possible without the dedication of the teams and individuals who do the on-the-ground work in Ontario's communities.



John Mitchell  
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

# SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO



The **HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM** funds activities that are necessary to recover species (such as habitat improvement and restoration, outreach, and land securement).



April White/Environment Canada



Jim Raftery / USFWS

Several **WATERSHEDS** in Ontario, including the Grand, Thames, Sydenham and Ausable, provide habitat for a wide diversity of species including endangered and threatened species of fish, mollusks, and reptiles. Many other species, such as the **KING RAIL** (*endangered*), find refuge in the wetland habitats.



Tim Heggen

**ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE** combined with scientific research provides the basis for species recovery planning.

**CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS** are being developed between Environment Canada and several First Nations to promote and foster collaborative stewardship activities.

The federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) aims to prevent wildlife species from becoming lost in the wild in Canada and to initiate necessary actions to recover those currently at risk.

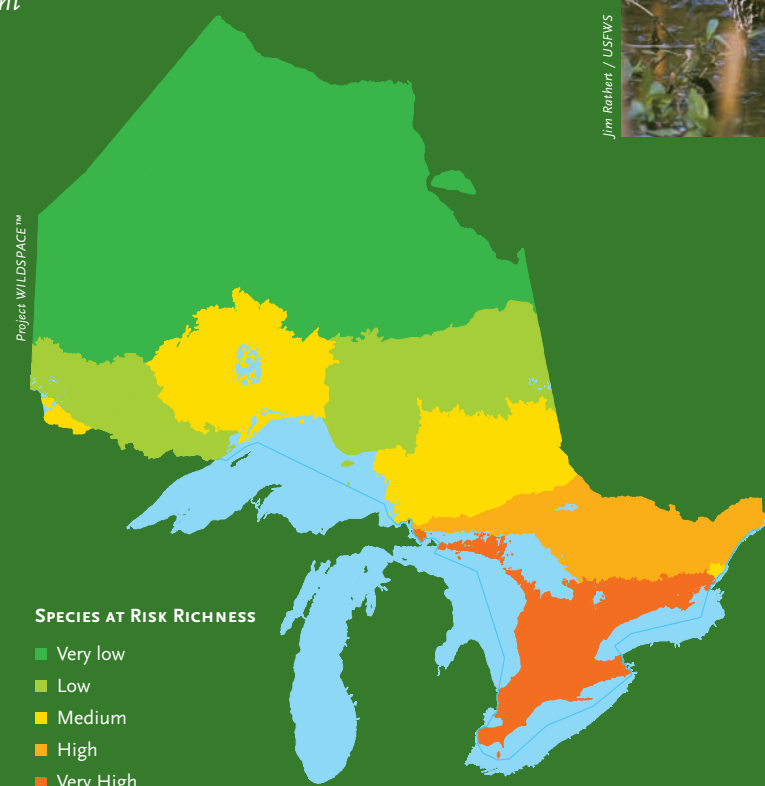
Public input on recovery strategies and plans is welcome. A Public Registry has been established to encourage public participation in the species at risk program at:

[www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)

Environment Canada, Parks Canada Agency, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are responsible for species found on federal lands.

[www.on.ec.gc.ca/speciesatrisk](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/speciesatrisk)

E-MAIL: [Wildlife.Ontario@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Wildlife.Ontario@ec.gc.ca)



A total of **17 DIVERSE ECOREGIONS** in Ontario provide habitats essential to the survival of species at risk. There are more than 180 species at risk found in Ontario; more than 80 percent are found in the Lake Erie Lowlands ecoregion. Nearly two-thirds of Ontario's species at risk are found nowhere else in Canada.

The **10 NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREAS** in the province provide 5,200 hectares of habitat for wildlife. **NATIONAL PARKS** provide habitat for 40 percent of Ontario's species at risk.

It is almost impossible to overstate the significance of **LONG POINT** to wildlife. Established in 1978, the Long Point National Wildlife Area covers 3,250 hectares and is characterized by diverse habitats, including wetlands, dunes, oak savanna and forests. The most striking characteristic of Long Point is the sandy peninsula that stretches 40 kilometres into Lake Erie. Long Point is home to 32 species at risk including Spotted Turtle, Fowler's Toad, American Chestnut, King Rail, and Piping Plover.

Internationally recognized for the large wetland complex, Long Point was designated as a **WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE** by the United Nations in 1986. The Long Point NWA is the core area of this Reserve.



Caroleen Wilby/Sinclair