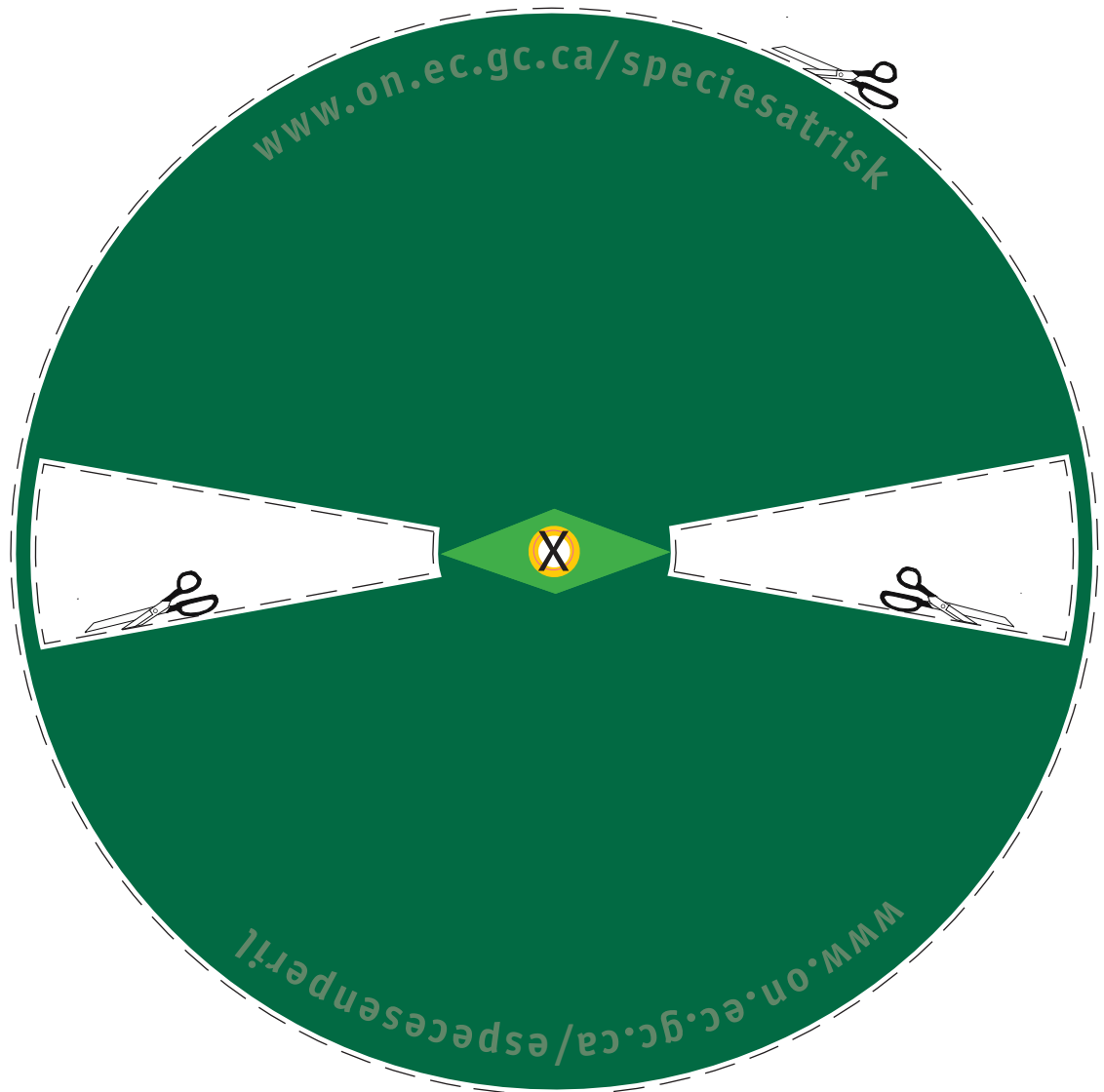


Instructions to build your own **Species at Risk Wheel**

1. Print pages 1 and 2 (double-sided) on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.
2. Print page 3 on a separate 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.
3. Using the dashed lines as a guide, cut out the wheel and windows on page 3.
4. Match up the X on page 1 with the X on the wheel and attach using a brass or other fastener.
5. Turn the wheel to see various species at risk and their habitat needs.



SPECIES AT RISK in Canada



Spotted Turtle

Why do wild plants and animals need habitat?

Habitat is the place where wildlife can find the food, water, shelter and space they need to survive, and to raise their young. Wild plants and animals can thrive in a variety of healthy, wild spaces, including wetlands, forests, meadows and lakes. A broad range of habitat is necessary to provide for different species' needs.

What are Species at Risk?

In Canada, nearly 400 species of wildlife are considered to be "at risk", meaning they are at risk of extinction. To date, 12 species of wildlife are known to be extinct in Canada, including a bird called the Passenger Pigeon and a fish called the Blue Walleye.

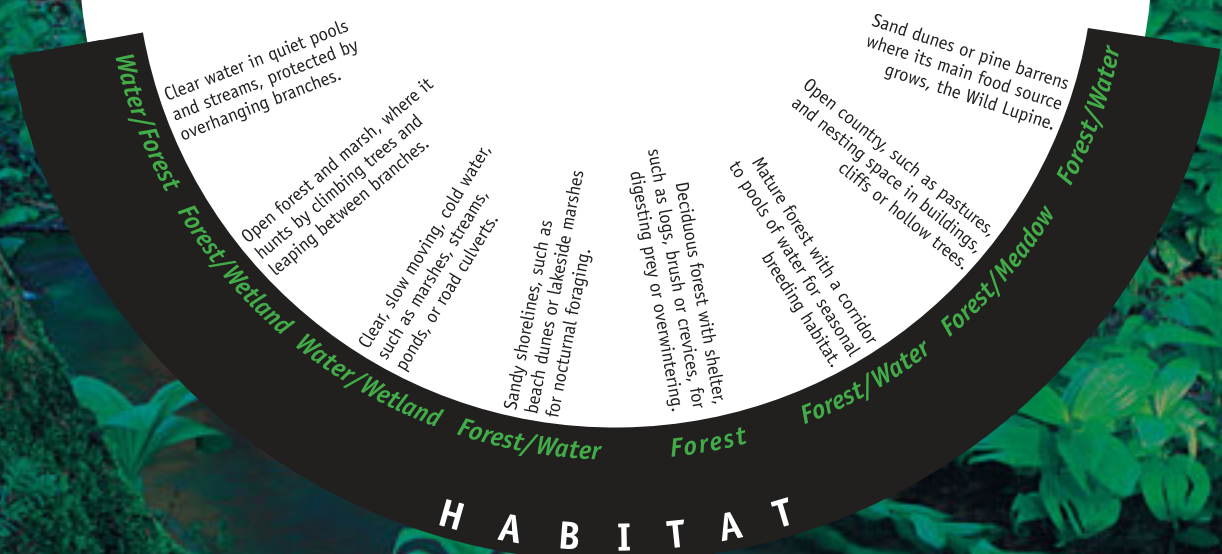
Why are some wild species "at risk" of extinction?

Wildlife face many challenges to their survival. Across Canada, wildlife habitat is being destroyed, altered and polluted – by people.

Just like people, wildlife need an environment that is suitable for them.



Species at Risk in Canada



Who decides which wildlife are "at risk" in Canada?

COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assesses the health of wildlife populations. Made up of expert scientists and wildlife managers, the committee reviews scientific reports on wildlife to try to understand whether a species is "at risk". Species at Risk are defined in five main "risk" categories: extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened, and special concern. The Canadian Wildlife Service, part of Environment Canada, is responsible for managing wildlife that are nationally at risk. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for protecting wild populations that are at risk within this province, through Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*.

Do all Species at Risk become extinct?

No. Bald Eagles are living proof that action can protect endangered species. These large birds of prey are sensitive to environmental pollutants. Exposure to pesticides such as DDT thins eagle eggshells, causing them to break before the eaglets can hatch. As a result, by the late 1970s there were less than 10 Bald Eagle pairs recorded in Ontario. Laws were passed in Canada and the United States to prevent the unrestricted use of the pesticides, and conservationists cooperated with landowners to protect eagle nesting habitat. Today, Bald Eagles thrive in many regions of the country. Bald Eagle populations are expanding slowly around the Great Lakes and on inland lakes, but they are still considered to be endangered in Ontario.



Bald Eagle



Forest



Water



Wetland



Meadow

Be a wildlife conservationist
Learn all you can about wildlife and their habitats!

Reduce, reuse, recycle

That means: use less, use more than once, and put it in the recycle box rather than the garbage!

Leave wild plants and animals in their habitats.

Don't keep wild animals as pets.

Keep your cat indoors to protect wild birds.

Conserve water and energy at home and school.

Walk or ride when you can, instead of driving.

Respect protected areas – stay on trails and don't litter.

Learn about Species at Risk in Ontario

Canada's Species At Risk

www.on.ec.gc.ca/speciesatrisk

COSEWIC

www.cosewic.gc.ca

Hinterland Who's Who

www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/hww-fap/enderanger/enderanger.html

Ontario's Species at Risk

www.rom.on.ca/ontario/risk.php



www.earthrangers.ca

For more information

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Environment
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www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife

