

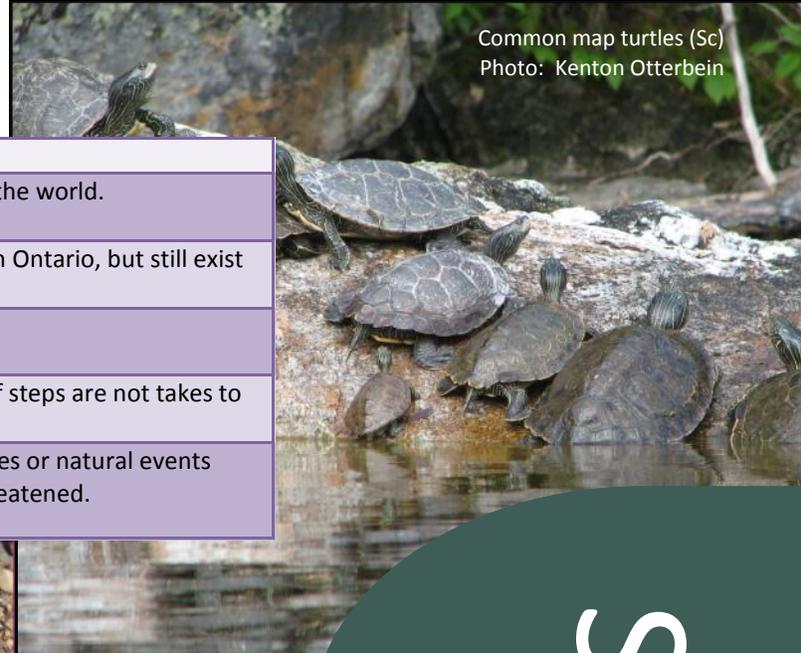
Species at Risk in Parry Sound-Muskoka

STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

WHAT ARE SPECIES AT RISK?

There are 5 classifications for species at risk in Ontario:

STATUS	DEFINITION
Extinct (Ext)	a native species that no longer lives anywhere in the world.
Extirpated (Exp)	a native species that no longer exists in the wild in Ontario, but still exist elsewhere.
Endangered (End)	a native species facing extinction or extirpation
Threatened (Thr)	a native species at risk of becoming endangered if steps are not takes to address factors threatening it.
Special Concern (Sc)	a native species that is sensitive to human activities or natural events which may cause it to become endangered or threatened.



Common map turtles (Sc)
Photo: Kenton Otterbein



Eastern milksnake (Thr) Photo: Scott Gillingwater

WHY ARE THESE SPECIES AT RISK?

Habitat loss (Wetlands are being filled in, forests cut, and grasslands ploughed and fenced)	Competition from other species (invasive & introduced)
Habitat fragmentation (roads, development)	Pollution & Chemicals
Disease	Traffic mortality
Predation	Illegal/Over Hunting



Male Bobolink (Sc)
Photo: Ted Krug

DESIGNATION

There are 2 levels of designation for Species at Risk. They can be listed provincially and/or federally.

Federal: COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) is a committee of academics, independent specialists, Aboriginal knowledge-holders, government biologists, museum staff and independent experts who act as the authority for assessing the conservation status of wildlife species that may be at risk of extinction in Canada.

Provincial: COSSARO (Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario) is another committee of experts whose role it is to review COSEWIC species at risk and classify those that occur in Ontario. This booklet uses provincial designations.

Species at Risk

Species at Risk in Parry Sound-Muskoka

There are 34 Species at Risk found in Parry Sound-Muskoka.

This booklet lets you know how you can help.

For more specific species information, contact the Muskoka Heritage Foundation.

Birds

- Bobolink (Thr)
- Chimney Swift (Thr)
- Least Bittern (Thr)
- Peregrine Falcon (Thr)
- Whip-poor-will (Thr)
- Bald Eagle (Sc)
- Black Tern (Sc)
- Canada Warbler (Sc)
- Cerulean Warbler (Sc)
- Common Nighthawk (Sc)
- Golden-winged Warbler (Sc)
- Red-headed Woodpecker (Sc)
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (Sc)



Reptiles

Snakes

- Eastern Foxsnake (Thr)
- Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (Thr)
- Massasauga Rattlesnake (Thr)
- Eastern Milksnake (Sc)
- Eastern Ribbonsnake (Sc)



Turtles:

- Spotted Turtle (End)
- Blanding's Turtle (Thr)
- Eastern Musk Turtle (Thr)
- Northern Map Turtle (Sc)
- Snapping Turtle (Sc)



Lizard

- Common Five-lined Skink (Sc)

Plants

- Butternut (End)
- Englemann's Quillwort (End)
- Forked Three-awned Grass (End)
- Branched Bartonia (Thr)
- Broad Beech Fern (Sc)

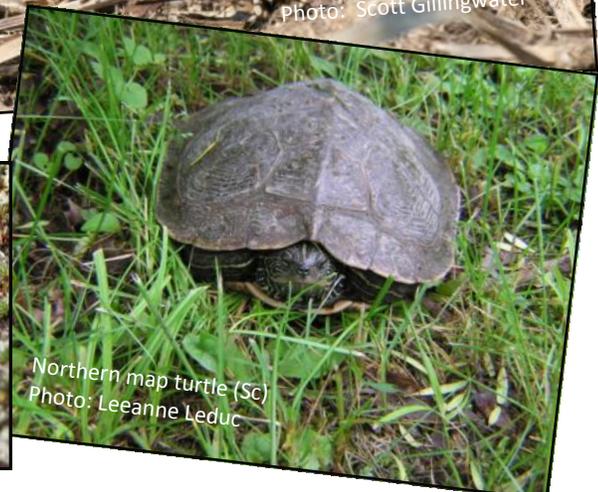


Insects

- Monarch (Sc)
- West Virginia White (Sc)

Fish

- Lake Sturgeon (Thr)
- Northern Brook Lamprey (Sc)



Mammals

- Eastern Wolf (Sc)

HOW CAN WE HELP SPECIES AT RISK?

Each of us has an important role to play in the recovery of species at risk



Massasauga rattlesnake (Thr)
Photo: Joe Crowley



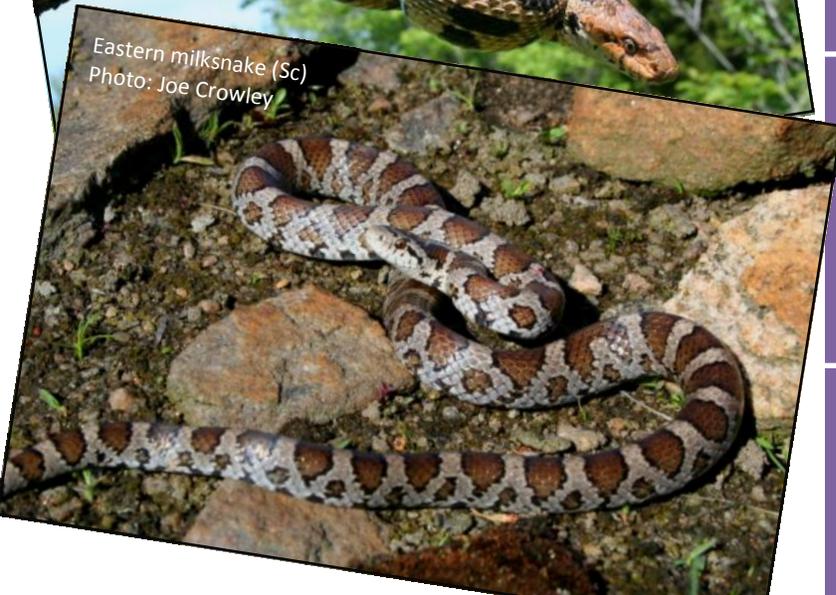
Eastern hog-nosed snake (Thr)
Photo: Jeremy Rouse



Eastern ribbonsnake (Sc)
Photo: Scott Gillingwater



Eastern foxsnake (End)
Photo: Joe Crowley



Eastern milksnake (Sc)
Photo: Joe Crowley

Around your home and cottage

-  If you have a species at risk on your property: don't disturb or harass the species or their habitat. Be respectful and observe from a distance, especially during breeding season.
-  Keep wetlands! Many species at risk are threatened by habitat loss- specifically the loss of forest and wetland areas. You can help by protecting these areas and native vegetation on your property.
-  Create habitat on your property. Plant native species, leave dead standing trees (when it's safe), they provide habitat for bald eagles and shelter for many other animals. Make small piles in the forest with brush: they provide shelter and a place to rest for small animals.
-  Avoid using chemicals and pesticides. They are not good for humans and they can leak into the ground and water and disturb animals too. Use phosphate-free products whenever possible.
-  Maintain your septic system.

Near water

-  Create a buffer along your shoreline with native plants. It helps to filter runoff, provides habitat, and minimizes erosion.
-  Build docks that minimize impacts to the shoreline and lake bed (e.g.. floating docks).
-  Watch for wildlife when boating and keep wake to a minimum near shore.

On the trails

-  Stay on the trail. When you finish your hike, clean your shoes so not to transport any invasive species back home. Invasives can outcompete native species and reduce habitat for wildlife.
-  Do not drive ATV's through sensitive habitat

On the roads

-  Keep your eyes open for wildlife crossing the roads, especially turtles from May through October.

HOW CAN WE HELP SPECIES AT RISK?

We all have an important role to play in the recovery of species at risk



Snapping turtle (Sc)
Photo: Joe Crowley



Eastern musk turtle (Thr)
Photo: Scott Gillingwater

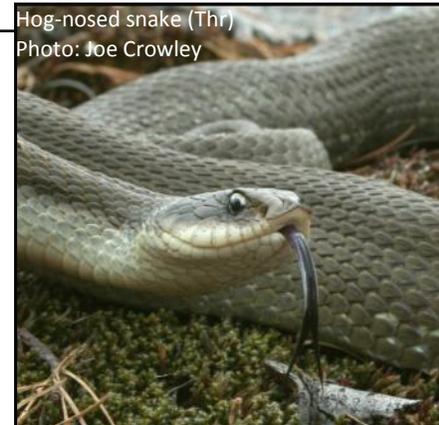
In your community

- 🐢 If you spot a species at risk, you can report your sighting to the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) which tracks and maintains a database of many of Ontario's species, or the local MNR Species at Risk Biologist. The more we know about the habits and whereabouts of these species, the better work and research we can do in our recovery efforts: <http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/>
- 🐢 Get involved with a local nature club to learn more about species at risk and participate in their outings. In Muskoka, the Muskoka Field Naturalists and the Huntsville Nature Club are great places to start.
- 🐢 Many provincial parks also have programs geared toward species at risk. Check out Algonquin, Arrowhead, Killbear and the Massassauga Provincial Parks.
- 🐢 Become a Citizen Scientist! Volunteer in local stewardship programs like the Muskoka Heritage Foundation, Muskoka Heritage Trust, Muskoka Watershed Council, Muskoka Lakes Association, Lake of Bays Association, Parry Sound Muskoka Stewardship Network, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, your lake association and others all need volunteers. Get involved in your community!
- 🐢 Ontario Nature, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and Bird Studies Canada also have opportunities for volunteering.
- 🐢 Spread the word! Whether it's online or in the yard with your neighbour, talking about species at risk makes more people aware of these animals. Tell others what you are doing to help and encourage them to get involved too.

RESOURCES:

There are species fact sheets for many of the species at risk found in Parry Sound-Muskoka. Contact Muskoka Heritage Foundation to get your copies or learn more by visiting these websites:

- 🐢 Federal SAR registry: <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/>
- 🐢 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources SAR information: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Species/index.html>
- 🐢 Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve: www.gbbr.ca
- 🐢 Adopt a Pond: www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/
- 🐢 Royal Ontario Museum www.rom.on.ca/ontario/risk.php
- 🐢 Cottage Life Dock and Shore Primers: www.cottagelife.com/index.php/ci_id/5012.htm



Hog-nosed snake (Thr)
Photo: Joe Crowley

The Stewards' Guide Series is a collaborative project:

Cottage Life



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Lake of Bays
ASSOCIATION