



Barn owl (endangered)

This mid-sized owl is identified by its white heart-shaped face and black eyes. Barn Owls use their unique calls, such as hisses, screams and cries to locate their prey. They nest and roost in barns or abandoned buildings. Threats include urbanization and roadways. Photo credit: JD Taylor



Cerulean Warbler (special concern)

A small songbird, the adult bird is green-blue and white. In Southern Ontario, populations appear near Southern Lake Huron, Western Lake Ontario, and from the Bruce Peninsula and Georgian Bay to the Ottawa River. It requires a large tract of forest so degrading and fragmenting forests threaten this bird. Photo credit: Brian E. Small



Bobolink (threatened)

A medium sized bird, the Bobolink is often found in grasslands and hayfields. These birds babble and sing. Bobolink populations have declined considerably over the last 50 years. They often nest on the ground in dense grasses. Threats include modern animal fodder production practices, including mowing of hay. Photo credit: George K. Peck



Bald Eagle (endangered)

Bald Eagles usually nest in large trees and almost always near a major body of water or large river. Current Bald Eagle populations are impacted by the development of shoreline habitats and pollution. Photo credit: Bill Dalton



Myotis Leibii (threatened)

This bat species grows up to 8 cm long and weighs 4-5 grams. They are most threatened by white nose syndrome, which is caused by a fungus that grows in hibernation sites such as caves. In Ontario, over three quarters of bat hibernation sites are at risk due to this syndrome. Wind turbines are also a threat because bats can collide with rotating blades. Photo credit: Brock Fenton



Karner Butterfly (extinct)

At one time, Karner butterflies were believed to have been widespread in Ontario where wild lupine grows in sunny conditions. Although they no longer live in the Ontario wild, they are believed to be in some U.S. areas. . Intensive ongoing habitat restoration efforts aim to eventually reintroduce the species into the wild. Habitat loss is responsible for the decline of this species as suitable habitat areas were destroyed by development. Photo credit: Brenda Kulon



Blue Racer (endangered)

A large non-venomous snake growing up to 1.5 meters in length, it has a grey-ish blue and blue-green body. It lives in abandoned fields and pastures. They are most threatened by habitat loss, loss of overwintering sites, road mortality and human disturbance. Photo credit: Michael J. Oldham



Jefferson Salamander (threatened)

A grey, brown Salamander with blue specks, adults are 12-20cm long and live in moist, loose soil, breeding in woodland ponds. Habitat loss and degradation caused by land development, draining of wetlands and resource extraction are all to blame for the decline in this species. Photo credit: Leo Kenney



Fowler Toad (endangered)

This grey-beige medium sized toad has a distinctive call that sounds like a shrill cry. The main threat to this toad is habitat loss and degradation of dunes and beaches where they live. Another threat is storm water runoff from urban areas which results in poor water quality for breeding. Photo credit: Sam Brinker



Blandings Turtle (threatened)

A medium sized turtle with a yellow throat and chin, their shell resembles an army helmet. The largest threats are loss of habitat, vehicles and predators like raccoons and foxes. Photo credit: Brendan Toews



Silver Shiner (special concern)

A large, slender minnow with a silvery body with green or blue iridescent detail. They grow to approximately 14 cm long. It lives in large streams with swift currents. Threats include dam construction, channeling of streams, water pollution, sportfish stocking and fish harvesting. Photo credit: Al Dextrase



American Eel (special concern)

This fish has a long, snake-like body. It can be found in both fresh and salt water. Adult females can reach over 100cm in length, while males grow to less than 40 cm. Dams and other in-water barriers, hydro-electric turbines, invasive species and chemical contaminants pose a threat to this species. Photo credit: JB Dawson



American Badger
(endangered)

With a long body and short legs, this is the only badger that lives in North America. A member of the weasel family, they have strong claws for digging burrows. Today, the main threats are habitat loss as open grassland is converted to urban developments. Photo credit: JD Taylor



Caribou (threatened)

Caribou have large crescent-shaped hooves that are well suited to walk on snow, dig for food and swim. Unlike other related species, both males and females can grow antlers, and the appearance of their antlers varies with gender, habitat type, age and season. Threats include habitat loss, degradation due to human settlement and factors such as forestry, mining and roads. Climate change further affect this species by reducing available food sources and habitat. Photo credit: Gerry Racey



Algonquin Wolf (threatened)

This wolf is a result of the hybridization of the eastern wolf, the grey wolf and the coyote. It lives primarily in and around Algonquin Provincial Park. It faces several human-caused mortality threats including hunting, vehicle mortality and habitat loss due to residential development. Currently, there are fewer than 500 mature Algonquin Wolves. Photo credit: JD Taylor



White Lady's Slipper Orchid
(endangered)

A perennial orchid, this plant can grow up to 25 cm in length. It grows in moist prairies and rich limestone wetlands and is limited to isolated populations in southern Ontario and southern Manitoba. It is threatened by habitat loss and degradation due to land development. Photo credit: Michael J. Oldham



Dwarf Lake Iris (special concern)

A low growing plant with white or violet flowers, it can reach about 18cm in length. Changes to sunlight or to the water level and development of shoreline properties are the largest threats to this plant. Photo credit: C. D. Jones



Bloodroot (secure)

This plant resembles a water lily, growing white petals around a yellow centre. It gets its name from the orange-red sap of its rhisomes. Its natural habitat is in or around rich, moist woods. Photo credit: Walter Chandoha www.britannica.ca



Drooping Trillium
(endangered)

This plant blooms in early spring, growing 15-60cm in length with a ring of three leaves around the stem and a single white flower. Ontario's provincial flower the white trillium grows straight up and is larger than the drooping trillium which can often droop to one side. Threats include habitat loss due to urban development, invasive species such as Garlic Mustard and recreational activities including hiking, etc. Photo Credit: C. D. Jones



Sassafras (rare)

Easily identified by their "mitten leaves", these plants grow a dark blue fruit with a red stalk and are loved by birds. These plants are rare and only occur in scattered pockets throughout South Ontario. Photo credit: Steven J. Baskauf



Striped Maple, Moosewood,
Goosefoot Maple (lease concern)

A deciduous shrub that has tough, flexible branches and pliable bark. The Striped Maple is also known as Moosewood because moose consume its bark in winter and Goosefoot because its leaves are shaped like the foot of a goose. It grows small yellow flowers and lives in moist, deep shade. Photo Credit: Steven J. Baskauf



Bunch Berry (secure)

This is a low growing plant in the dogwood family that grows typical dogwood leaves and produces white flowers and red berries in bunches. These plants grow commonly in wooded areas. Photo credit: Wasyl Bakowsky



Monarch Butterfly (special concern)

This showy orange and black butterfly is the only butterfly known to make a two-way migration as birds do, although no individual butterfly makes the entire journey. Four generations of butterflies are involved in the annual migration to wintering sites in Mexico in the fall, and then back to their northern breeding grounds in the spring. Monarchs use a combination of air currents and thermals to travel long distances, some fly over 4,000 kilometers. The butterflies feed on wildflowers, while caterpillars feed on milkweed and so, they can be found most prevalently where milkweed grows. The largest threat is habitat loss due to logging in Mexico. Use of widespread pesticide and herbicide may also limit this species' recovery. Photo credit: Alan Dextrase (caterpillar) Rick Stankiewicz (butterfly)

