



Species at Risk within the Rice Lake Plains

An Information Guide brought to you by the
partners of the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative



www.ricelakeplains.ca

The Rice Lake Plains is one of the most intriguing areas on the Oak Ridges Moraine. It is an area of roughly 100,000 acres (40,469 hectares) located at the eastern end of the moraine, southeast of Peterborough.

Historically, the Rice Lake Plains were dotted with oak savannas, dominated by massive Black and White Oaks, and tallgrass prairies where grasses like Big Bluestem, Indian Grass and Switchgrass grew more than two metres high. Additionally diverse wildflowers like Wild Blue Lupine, Wild Bergamot, Thimbleweed and Round-Headed Bush-Clover blossomed.

Today, the oak savanna and tall grass prairie of the Rice Lake Plains are fragmented and scattered with non-native species. These species include Dog-strangling Vine, Spotted Knapweed, White Sweet Clover, Common Buckthorn, and Scotch Pine.

Globally these habitats are rare, and oak savannas are considered among the most endangered ecological communities in North America. Grassland Birds like the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark and other rare species, including the Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, depend on this habitat to survive.

To learn more about the Rice Lake Plains, please visit www.ricelakeplains.ca.



Cover Photo Credit: Alison Clark

This guide provides general information about some of the Species at Risk (SAR) living within the Rice Lake Plains (RLP), an area which includes sandy soils, prairie grasses with deep roots, colourful wildflowers, hardy shrubs and resilient oak trees. This guide does not include all SAR found within the RLP, nor is it a field guide. This publication is aimed at helping to increase awareness and understanding of some of the plants and animals that have been declining in these rare grassland ecosystems called prairie and savanna.

The Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative partners invite you to learn more about all of the plants and animals, including their habitats, that are in need of protection and conservation throughout the greater Rice Lake Plains area. To do this, please visit www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk.

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Definition of Species at Risk

Species at risk (SAR) are plants and animals in trouble because their numbers have declined noticeably in recent years. They are species at risk of extinction. If they disappear, they will be gone forever, and lost for all future generations. There are over 500 SAR in Canada and more than 190 in Ontario. Depending on the time of year, 40 of these SAR can be found within the Rice Lakes Plains.

At the federal government level, experts identify species which are at risk and in need of protection and recovery efforts. Based on the best available information, each species is placed in one of the following six categories:

Table 1: Status Categories for Species at Risk in Canada



- Extinct = No longer living anywhere on Earth
 - Extirpated = No longer living in Canada, but still exists elsewhere
 - Endangered = Facing imminent extirpation or extinction
 - Threatened = Likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed
 - Special Concern = Sensitive to activities that may make it endangered or threatened
 - Not at Risk = Not at risk of extinction
-  = Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)



Photo Credit: Ken Towle

The Ontario provincial government has also identified species that are at risk in Ontario and has given them designations that reflect their provincial status.

Table 2: Status Categories for Species at Risk in Ontario

- Extirpated = A native species that no longer exists in the wild in Ontario but still exists elsewhere (e.g., Karner Blue Butterfly)
 - Endangered = A native species facing extinction or extirpation (e.g., Hog-nosed Snake)
 - Threatened = A native species at risk of becoming endangered in Ontario (e.g., Eastern Meadowlark)
 - Special Concern = A native species that is sensitive to human activities or natural events which may cause it to become endangered or threatened (e.g., Red-headed Woodpecker)
-  = Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO)

Protection of SAR

Species at Risk Act (SARA)

This federal legislation applies to all species listed as species at risk found on lands and waters owned or administered by the federal government in Canada. Under this Act, all species at risk and their habitats are protected by federal law. For more information see www.sararegistry.gc.ca.

Endangered Species Act

In Ontario, this Act applies to all activities that may affect species at risk in Ontario. Endangered and threatened species are protected by this provincial law and in many cases their habitat is also protected. For more information see www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk.



Bobolink Photos: Jean Iron (adult Boblink), Barbara Frei (fledglings)

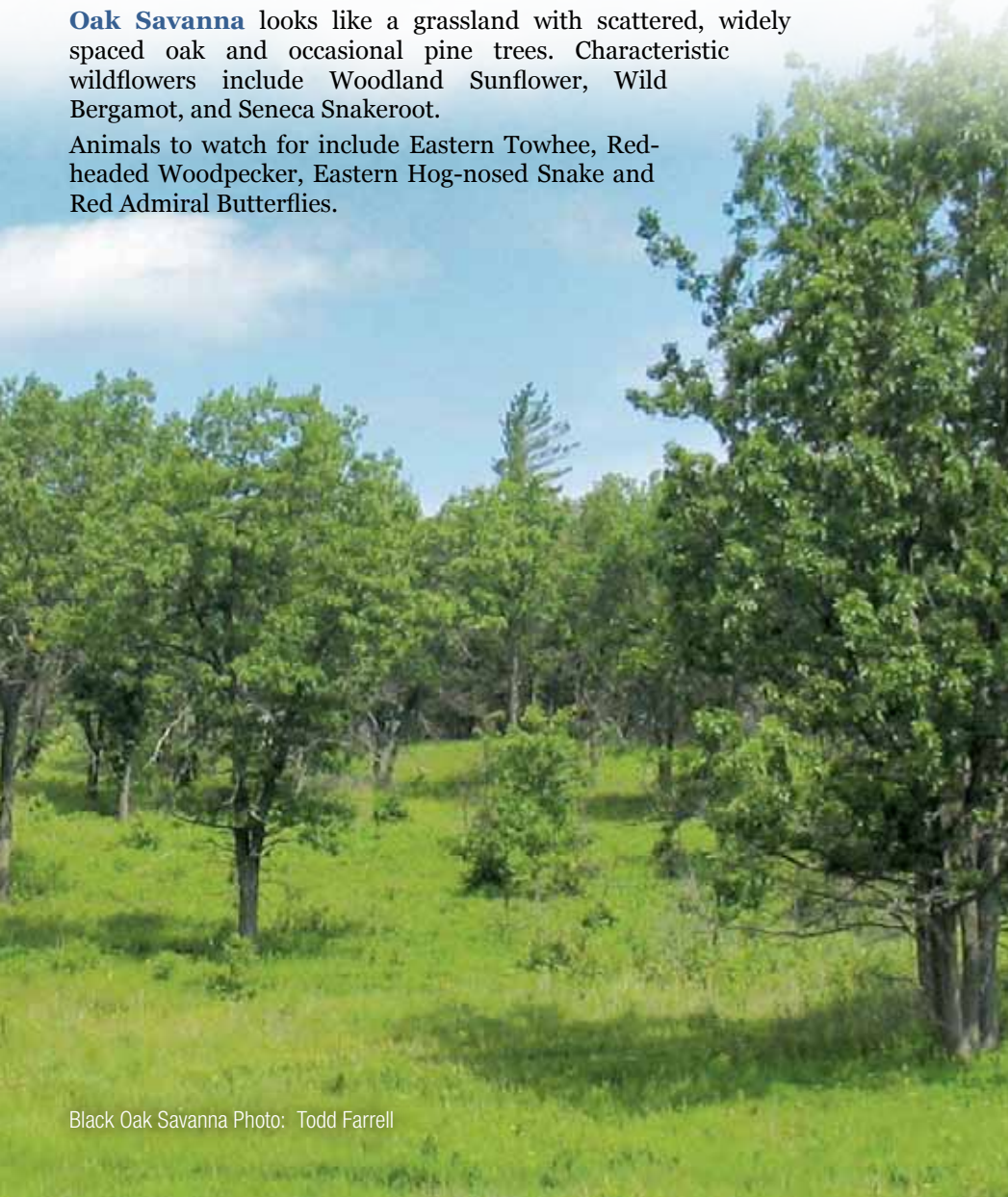
Rice Lake Plains — A Refuge for Rare Ecosystems

Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna are vegetation communities. Once far more widespread in this local region, only small, scattered remnants remain today. Historically, fires maintained these habitats by controlling competing vegetation. Today, technicians mimic natural fires by conducting controlled or “prescribed” burns to revitalize and regenerate these habitats.

Some of the finest examples of these threatened ecosystems are found on the south side of Rice Lake, at the Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna. Visit their website at aldervillesavanna.ca or visit their Ecology Centre (905-352-1008) to see this habitat first-hand.

Oak Savanna looks like a grassland with scattered, widely spaced oak and occasional pine trees. Characteristic wildflowers include Woodland Sunflower, Wild Bergamot, and Seneca Snakeroot.

Animals to watch for include Eastern Towhee, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake and Red Admiral Butterflies.



Black Oak Savanna Photo: Todd Farrell

Tallgrass Prairie

Trees are few and far between in a **Tallgrass Prairie**, and a variety of tall native grasses such as Indian Grass and Big Bluestem, and many colourful wild flowers such as Prairie Lily, Prairie Buttercup and Butterfly Milkweed also help to identify this ecosystem. Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Grasshopper Sparrow can be found here.





Tallgrass Prairie Photo: Todd Farrell

Rare Species across the RLP Landscape

The Rice Lake Plains consists of diverse habitats including wetlands, forests, prairies and savannas; each unique habitat supporting many species. Within this guide a mix of these species are profiled.

American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*)

 Endangered  Endangered

Description

- Perennial herb growing 20-70 cm high
- The stem ends in a compound leaf (usually comprised of 5 leaflets)
- Centrally located flower is greenish white in colour
- Red berries when mature

Habitat

- Rich, moist, mature deciduous forest

Interesting Facts

- Long-lived plant that grows slowly
- Roots are used as a medicinal herb

Threats

- Illegal harvesting for commercial market
- Timber extraction and clearing of land for development
- Hybridization with non-native oriental ginseng



Similar Species

- Sarsaparilla, Virginia Creeper

Photo: Corina Brdar



Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)

 Endangered  Endangered

Description

- Medium-sized tree with leaves divided into leaflets
- Large, lemon-shaped, hard, green nuts
- Young twigs and nuts sticky-downy
- Pith of twigs chocolate brown color

Habitat

- Dry, rocky to moist, rich sites; often with maples

Interesting Facts

- Belongs to walnut family, and produces edible nuts in the fall
- Leaves, bark, and nuts may secrete toxins that inhibit growth or kill other plants surrounding it

Threats

- A fungal disease called butternut canker
- Deforestation

Similar Species

- Black Walnut

Photo: Bob Bowles



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

 Special Concern

Description

- A very large bird of prey
- Mature birds have a white head and tail
- Dark brown body feathers that appear black
- Long broad wings are held flat when soaring

Habitat

- Proximity to large lakes and rivers like Trent River and Rice Lake

Interesting Facts

- Builds the largest nest of any bird in North America
- Sometimes chases ospreys to steal food from them (an opportunist, snatches fish from bills of diver ducks and scavenges bear kills)
- A conservation success story, as many populations appear to be growing in areas where they were once threatened with local extinction

Threats

- Poaching, accidental trapping
- Poisoning by pesticides

Similar Species

- Immature Bald Eagles resemble Golden Eagles

Photo: Parks Canada



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

 Threatened

Description

- Cinnamon-colored forehead and throat, blue black above and tawny below
- Long, deeply forked tail

Habitat

- Open habitats, agricultural fields, parks, marshes and meadows

Interesting Facts

- Feeds almost exclusively in flight with flying insects being the majority of its diet
- Build cup-shaped mud nests on human-made structures

Threats

- Loss of nesting and foraging habitats
- Declines in insect populations

Similar Species

- Cliff Swallow

Photo: Bill Hubick



Black Tern

(*Chlidonias niger*)

 Special Concern

Description

- Small, dark tern that flies gracefully
- Black head, neck, and under parts

Habitat

- Shallow, freshwater cattail marshes, lake edges, and sewage ponds

Interesting Facts

- A social bird that usually breeds in loose colonies
- They build nests on floating reed debris, logs or boards, muskrat rafts or abandoned grebe nests
- Migrate to the north coast of South America
- Snatches insects from the air and minnows from the water

Threats

- Wetland loss, degradation
- Fluctuating water levels
- Human disturbance at nesting sites

Similar Species

- Other terns

Photo: Parks Canada



Bobolink

(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

 Threatened

Description

- Males black below lighter above
- Females light beige streaked with brown
- In breeding season, males have yellow patch on head

Habitat

- Originally nested in tallgrass prairie, now in hayfields, meadows and pastures

Interesting Facts

- Travel 20,000 km round trip for migration – one of the longest for any North American passerine
- More than 25% of global population breeds in Canada
- Typically distributed on northerly portion of the Rice Lake Plains

Threats

- Incidental mortality from agricultural operations
- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Pesticides

Similar Species

- Male plumage outside of breeding season is similar to female. Could be confused with several sparrow species

Photo: Jean Iron



Canada Warbler

(*Wilsonia canadensis*)

 Threatened  Special Concern

Description

- Yellow throat, chest, belly
- Necklace of dark streaks across chest
- Lacks wing bars

Habitat

- Found in moist or wet forests with a well-developed understory of shrubs or young trees (eg. Peter's Woods)
- Shrubby thickets along watercourses

Interesting Facts

- Like many other warblers, winters in mature tropical forests
- Brown-headed Cowbirds often lay their eggs in Canada Warbler nests
- Female often performs "distraction" display when flushed from nest

Threats

- Loss or reduction of forests with well-developed shrub layer
- Tropical deforestation

Similar Species

- Could be confused with several warblers such as the Magnolia Warbler

Photo: Parks Canada



Cerulean Warbler

(*Dendroica cerulea*)

 Special Concern  Threatened

Description

- A small warbler with broad white wing bars
- Male has vivid blue back with white throat and under parts
- Female has a green-blue back with pale yellow throat and under parts

Habitat

- Deciduous or swamp forests dominated by tall trees of uneven structure
- An occasional visitor to Rice Lakes Plains

Interesting Facts

- Migrates to northeastern South America
- If first nest fails, spider web from this nest is used in building of the second nest
- When female leaves the nest, she drops from it, only opening her wings when well below the structure
- In the US, this warbler's population is declining faster than any other warbler species

Threats

- Forest fragmentation and degradation, loss of winter habitat
- Nest parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird



Similar Species

- Black-throated Blue Warbler

Photo: Parks Canada



Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)

 Threatened  Threatened

Description

- Small dark bird, with long narrow, pointed wings and squared tail
- In flight, rapid wing beats and often a chittering call
- Quick, jerky flight; most likely seen flying, usually at dusk and dawn

Habitat

- Forages over towns, cities, pasture and forest
- Roosts and nests in chimneys, or in large tree cavities

Interesting Facts

- Eats, drinks, bathes while flying
- Nest is half saucer-shaped, made of twigs and saliva and is attached to a wall (inside a chimney or deep shaft)
- Birds can't take off from the ground
- Average air speed 46.5 km/hr

Threats

- Decline in its food sources (flying insects)
- Habitat destruction (old chimneys), very few natural nesting areas (large hollow trees)
- Light pollution

Similar Species

- Cliff Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow

Photo: Ken McFarlandr



Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

 Threatened  Special Concern

Description

- Mottled, brown-black feathers and barred under parts
- Large, flattened head
- Large eyes and mouth, small bill and a notched tail
- Wings are long, slender and come to a point, with a white patch near the tip

Habitat

- Forest openings, grasslands, bogs and gravel rooftops

Interesting Facts

- Nests on bare ground or on gravel rooftops; eggs are well-camouflaged
- In breeding season, males perform a "booming" dive, turning abruptly upward at about 2 m above the ground

Threats

- Decline in food source (flying insects)
- Loss of suitable habitat

Similar Species

- Could be confused with Whip-poor-will

Photo: USDA, NRCS



Eastern Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

 Endangered  Endangered

Description

- Robin-sized, grey, black and white bird with a hooked bill
- Black facemask and black wings with a prominent white patch seen when bird flies
- Head appears large

Habitat

- Prefers habitat with thorny trees and shrubs such as hawthorns
- Grazed pastures and abandoned farmland
- Potential pockets of habitat in Rice Lakes Plains

Interesting Facts

- Lacking talons, this bird impales larger prey on thorns or barbed wire, to help it tear up its victims
- Has excellent vision
- Eats a wide variety of organisms including insects, amphibians, small reptiles, birds and mammals
- continues to decline throughout range

Threats

- Farming practices, pesticides
- Loss of habitat, road mortality

Similar Species

- Northern Mockingbird, Northern Shrike

Photo: Parks Canada



Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)

 Threatened

Description

- Medium-sized songbird with short tail.
- Throat, chest, and belly yellow
- Black "V" across chest

Habitat

- Open habitats, grasslands, pastures, and hayfields

Interesting Facts

- Not a lark, rather a member of Icteridae (i.e. blackbirds and orioles)

Threats

- Habitat loss, farming practices
- Succession of grasslands to shrubland and forest

Similar Species

- Western Meadowlark

Photo: Jean Iron



Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)

🇨🇦 Threatened 🌿 Special Concern

Description

- Small bird (12 cm in length) with a black throat and eye mask
- Bright yellow patch on crown of head and wing
- Bluish grey underparts and flanks

Habitat

- Shrubby fields and woodland edges, wooded swamps, alder bogs, recently abandoned farm fields, clearcuts
- Recent observations in Alderville area

Interesting Facts

- Builds nest of grass on the ground, hidden by vegetation

Threats

- Loss of breeding habitat
- Hybridization with Blue-winged Warbler

Similar Species

- Could be confused with the hybrid "Lawrence's Warbler"

Photo: Larry Kirtley



King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

🇨🇦 Endangered 🌿 Endangered

Description

- A large marsh bird with a long, slightly down-curved bill and long legs and toes
- Black and white stripes on its flanks
- Reddish chest, neck, and back
- More likely to be heard than seen

Habitat

- Shallow, densely vegetated freshwater marshes
- Sightings near Warkworth

Interesting Facts

- Largest rail species in North America; about the size of a chicken
- Call is a series of fewer than 10 "kek-kek-keks"
- After nesting, adult King Rails are flightless for almost a month

Threats

- Draining and conversion of wetlands
- Changes in water levels, introduction of non-native plants
- Pesticide poisoning, accidental trapping on wintering grounds

Similar Species

- Could be confused with the smaller Virginia Rail

Photo: Jim Rathert, USFWS



Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

🇨🇦 Threatened 🌿 Threatened

Description

- Very small heron (28-37 cm in length)
- Buff-coloured feathers
- White streaking on the breast, dark brown head and back
- Large chestnut patches on wings when seen flying
- More likely to be heard than seen

Habitat

- Freshwater marshes with dense cattail stands and other tall vegetation

Interesting Facts

- Smallest of the North American herons
- Prefers larger wetlands with quiet, undisturbed areas
- Secretive behaviour and solitary lifestyle
- Hard to see; its soft, low "coos" from within heavy cover can reveal its location
- Its small size and ability to straddle and climb reeds allows it to feed in waters too deep for wading herons

Threats

- Wetland loss and degradation, urban development

Similar Species

- Could be confused with the much larger American Bittern

Photo: John Schwarz, www.birdspix.com



Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

🇨🇦 Threatened 🌿 Special Concern

Description

- Bright red head, chin, throat, and bib
- Black back and wings, white underparts and wing patch
- Medium-sized woodpecker

Habitat

- Open deciduous forest and oak savanna, orchards, groves of dead or dying trees, parks

Interesting Facts

- Omnivorous woodpecker, eating nuts, seeds, berries, fruit, insects
- During breeding season may also eat young birds, eggs, small rodents and dead fish
- Stores food, hiding it in cracks in wood and under bark
- Aggressively defends its territory by attacking other birds, destroying their nests and removing their eggs

Threats

- Habitat loss and road mortality
- Competition with other species for available nest sites

Similar Species

- Immature birds could be confused with some other woodpeckers

Photo: Dave Menke, USFWS



Whip-poor-will

(*Caprimulgus vociferus*)



Threatened



Threatened

Description

- Mottled, brown-grey feathers
- Black throat and long rounded tail with white outer tail feathers

Habitat

- Open deciduous and pine woodlands

Interesting Facts

- Lays eggs on ground, no nest built
- Young hide on ground until they can fly about 20 days after hatching

Threats

- Decline in food source (flying insects)
- Reduction of habitat availability

Similar Species

- Common Nighthawk

Photo: Jean Iron



Yellow Rail

(*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)



Special Concern



Special Concern

Description

- A small marsh bird with a very short tail and dark stripe through the eyes
- Buffy yellow face and chest
- Yellow and black-streaked back
- Hard to see, secretive species that freezes or slips away easily through thick vegetation

Habitat

- Marshes with shallow or little standing water
- Occasionally wet meadows

Interesting Facts

- Its “clicking” call sounds like the striking together of two small stones; given mostly during hours of dusk and night
- Birds moult and are flightless for two weeks before their migration in early fall
- Among the most infrequently encountered of all birds known to breed in Ontario
- Migrates through Rice Lake Plains, found on two recent bird counts

Threats

- Drainage and conversion of wetlands
- Alterations in water levels and flows

Similar Species

- Could be confused with the slightly larger Sora Rail

Photo: Dominic Sherony



Eastern Hog-nosed Snake

(*Heterodon platirhinos*)



Threatened



Threatened

Description

- Stout body with wide neck and upturned nose
- Dark blotch behind each eye

Habitat

- Sandy shorelines, wet areas such as swamps and pine or oak woodlands

Interesting Facts

- These snakes eat mainly toads
- When threatened, snake flattens neck like a cobra and hisses, then may turn belly-up with tongue out to play dead, but very rarely bites

Threats

- Development and agricultural practices
- Road mortality and human persecution

Similar Species

- Could be confused with Northern Water Snake

Photo: Joe Crowley



Eastern Milksnake

(*Lampropeltis triangulum*)



Special Concern



Special Concern

Description

- Head and neck has a light-coloured Y or V-shaped blotch
- Long and slender, with rusty coloured patches outlined in black on its back

Habitat

- Forests, fields, edges of farms, water bodies, rocky areas

Interesting Facts

- Name derived from old belief that these snakes entered barns at night to drink milk from cows
- Eats small rodents, birds, other snakes and insects
- Active at night

Threats

- Human persecution and road mortality

Similar Species

- Eastern Foxsnake, Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

Photo: Joe Crowley



Eastern Ribbonsnake

(*Thamnophis sauritus*)

🇨🇦 Special Concern 🌿 Special Concern

Description

- Small, slender snake with black body and 3 yellow stripes
- Has a vertical white bar in front of each eye

Habitat

- Wetlands and shorelines; rarely found more than 30 m from water's edge

Interesting Facts

- They eat mostly small fish and amphibians
- Females are bigger than males and give birth to live young
- In winter, hibernate together in burrows or rock crevices known as hibernacula

Threats

- Shoreline development, wetland loss or degradation, road mortality

Similar Species

- Eastern Garter Snake

Photo: Joe Crowley



Blanding's Turtle

(*Emydoidea blandingii*)

🇨🇦 Threatened 🌿 Threatened

Description

- High-domed upper shell, long neck with a bright yellow chin

Habitat

- Wetlands and exposed sandy/gravel areas for nesting in late May-June
- Secluded bays, wetlands and shallow parts of lakes and creeks with soft bottoms

Interesting Facts

- May wander several hundred meters from wetlands
- Don't mature until at least 15-20 years of age and they can live longer than 80 years
- They can survive the winter under water, by absorbing oxygen through their skin
- Females often return to nest in the same place each year

Threats

- Habitat loss and degradation threatens all life stages; road mortality
- Predators (primarily raccoons, skunks, red fox, coyote) eat eggs, hatchlings and young juveniles
- Collection for illegal pet trade

Similar Species

- Painted Turtle, Wood Turtle

Photo: Parks Canada



Northern Map Turtle

(*Graptemys geographica*)

🇨🇦 Special Concern 🌿 Special Concern

Description

- Irregular yellow or light brown markings on upper shell can resemble contour lines on a map
- Upper shell somewhat flattened with a low keel running down the center
- Yellowish-green stripes on skin, yellow spot behind eye

Habitat

- Large, soft-bottomed lakes and rivers

Interesting Facts

- Great swimmers and will swim long distances over the summer
- Will bask in the sun together, often in large numbers, sometimes on top of each other
- Their shyness and excellent eyesight can make them hard to approach
- Females are much larger than males, with powerful jaws that can break open clam shells

Threats

- Habitat loss and degradation
- Road mortality, mortality from outboard motors
- Nest predation by raccoons, skunks, foxes and stray pets

Similar Species

- Painted Turtle

Photo: Parks Canada



Snapping Turtle

(*Chelydra serpentina*)

🇨🇦 Special Concern 🌿 Special Concern

Description

- Largest turtle in Canada, weighing up to 16 kg
- Carapace (upper shell) with 3 ridges
- Plastron (lower shell) is very small and cross-shaped

Habitat

- Lakes, rivers, streams and ponds with slow moving water and a soft bottom

Interesting Facts

- Can be aggressive on land since it cannot withdraw itself into its shell
- Poor swimmers, preferring to walk on the bottom
- Females will lay up to 40 eggs shaped like ping-pong balls
- Temperature of nest determines sex of baby turtles

Threats

- Road mortality, persecution by humans, trapping (for food)
- Habitat loss, especially nesting areas
- Nest predation by raccoons, skunks, foxes and stray pets

Similar Species

- Small Snapping Turtles can be confused with Musk Turtles

Photo: Parks Canada



Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*)



Description

- Most striking visual characteristic is 3 long, dark lines running the length of the body
- Grow up to 37 mm long; females larger than males
- Body is long and pear-shaped with a narrow, pointed head
- Colour varies from brown to grey to olive

Habitat

- Both aquatic and terrestrial habitats in proximity to each other
- Usually humid prairie, wetlands or meadows, moist woods, ditches

Interesting Facts

- Call of this frog is similar to the sound made by sliding a fingernail along the teeth of a comb
- Poor swimmers and climbers

Threats

- Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation
- Wetland drainage and alteration

Similar Species


- Spring Peeper, Wood Frog

Photo: James Harding



Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)



Special Concern  Special Concern

Description

- Orange-red in colour, outlined in black with white spots
- Wingspan is approximately 95 mm

Habitat

- Fields, roadsides, meadows with milkweed
- Overwinters in the central mountains of Mexico

Interesting Facts

- The orange colour warns predators that it will taste bad
- The Viceroy Butterfly mimics this colour pattern to protect itself

Threats

- Habitat loss in Mexico
- Use of herbicides and pesticides in Ontario

Similar Species

- Viceroy Butterfly

Photo: Parks Canada



Reporting SAR Sightings

- The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) tracks species at risk. You can use an online form to report your sightings to the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). Photographs with specific locations (mapping coordinates) are very helpful. Contact <http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca> for more information.
- If possible, and with minimal disturbance, photograph the species, and record brief notes concerning the sighting details (e.g., whether seen or heard; living or dead; single or group; description of habitat; time of day, date).

Volunteer Opportunities

- The RLPJI offers many volunteer opportunities and educational programs to learn more about species at risk and the habitats that are in need of conservation. Join us for a day of combating invasive species, collecting native seeds, touring restoration sites, conducting a butterfly count, or enjoying our annual Prairie Day celebration. Please visit us at www.ricelakeplains.ca for specific programs and dates.

Assistance for Landowners

- If you find a SAR on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship funding programs that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. For more information contact the *Ontario Stewardship Program* at www.ontariostewardship.org. Also visit www.ricelakeplains.ca to learn more about supporting species at risk in the Rice Lake Plains.

Hiking in the Rice Lake Plains Photo: RLP



This booklet has been developed by the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative. Assistance for this project was provided by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Stewardship Fund.

This fund provides money for a wide variety of activities that increase awareness or knowledge about SAR, or encourage good land stewardship, habitat protection and/or improvement.

For more information see: www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk.

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Rice Lakes Plains Joint Initiative Members



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Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada





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