

# Species at Risk in Nova Scotia

## What are species at risk?

Species at risk are animals, plants, and other species in danger of becoming **extinct** or in danger of becoming **extinct from a local area**, called *extirpated*.

## Animal species no longer living here

Nova Scotia's three **extirpated** animal species – no longer living in Nova Scotia:

- Eastern wolf
- Woodland caribou
- Atlantic walrus

Nova Scotia's five **extinct** animal species – no longer living here or anywhere:

- Sea mink
- Labrador duck
- Passenger pigeon
- Great auk
- Eelgrass limpet

## Status categories for species at risk:

-  Extinct
-  Extirpated
-  Endangered
-  Threatened
-  Vulnerable (Special Concern)
-  Not at Risk

# Protecting species at risk and their habitat since 1998

The Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act (NS ESA) came into law in 1998. This act protects species at risk and their habitat. Once a species is listed under the act as endangered or threatened, a recovery plan and team is created for its protection. Recovery plans must be developed within a year of a species being designated endangered, and within two years for a species listed as threatened.

Legal recognition of species at risk is the first step in protecting them. **In 2013, 19 species were added to the protected list** of the NS ESA, which brought the total number of species on the list to 60. Additional species will be assessed as information becomes available.

**The total number of species listed under the act is 60.**

**28 Endangered**

**9 Threatened**

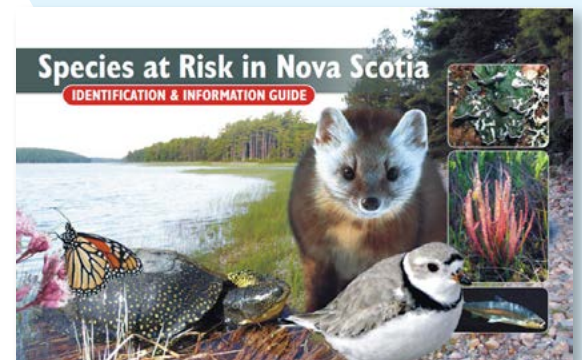
**15 Vulnerable (Special Concern)**

**3 Extirpated**

**5 Extinct**

Species at risk in Nova Scotia

- 20 plants
- 15 birds
- 6 mammals
- 3 lichens
- 4 reptiles
- 2 mussels
- 1 fish
- 1 bee
- **8 extinct and extirpated species**



*Species at Risk in Nova Scotia* - publication available at [www.speciesatrisk.ca/SARGuide](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/SARGuide)

## About federally protected species

A few species, like the Atlantic salmon (specifically the inner Bay of Fundy population), are protected federally under the Species at Risk Act, but not under the NS ESA. This is because some species — in this case anadromous fish like Atlantic salmon, which migrate from salt to fresh

water to spawn — fall largely under federal jurisdiction. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) also recognizes and lists species considered to be at risk and makes suggestions for federal protection.

## Key habitats: forests and wetlands

Over a third (36.5 per cent) of species protected under the provincial law are dependent on forests for survival, and a further third (31 per cent) are forest-associated. More than half are dependent on wetlands (53.8 per cent), while 19 per cent are wetland-associated. Half of the species listed under the act are dependent or associated with both forests and wetlands, and only three species on the list are not associated with either.



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## Building awareness, encouraging stewardship

Species at risk in Nova Scotia are facing many threats:

- habitat loss, alteration, and fragmentation
- competition for resources by invasive species
- pollution
- unsustainable consumption
- climate change

Private land stewardship programs, such as those launched by groups like the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute, have raised awareness of threats that species at risk face. One such program has resulted in the creation of two identification and information guides, ***Species at Risk in Nova Scotia*** and ***Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora in Nova Scotia***, both of which have helped increase awareness of how human activity can affect species at risk.

## Accountable for protection and recovery

In June 2016, The Auditor General of Nova Scotia reviewed the province's efforts under the Endangered Species Act. The Department of Natural Resources

is currently working to address the recommendations provided in the audit report with the aim of improving the delivery of species at risk protection and recovery.

## Status and Trends\*

- **Recovery plans** are in place for all but seven listed species at risk.
  - Of the species found in Nova Scotia that are protected federally under the Species at Risk Act, **79 per cent are also protected provincially by the NS ESA.**
  - **In 2013 three plants** – golden crest, redroot, and tubercled spike-rush – **were moved to a lower risk category**, from threatened to special concern. This was a result of new information. The Plymouth gentian, previously listed as threatened, is now considered endangered. This change is a result of increased threats, particularly those posed by water quality degradation. Increased threats have also resulted in the wood turtle being updated from special concern to threatened and Bicknell's thrush updated from special concern to endangered.
  - To date, **the peregrine falcon is the only species to have been moved to a lower risk category due to recovery efforts.** From 1955 to 1995, no nesting peregrine falcons were observed in Nova Scotia. Currently nine known pairs nest along the coast in the Bay of Fundy. As the future of the peregrine falcon is still uncertain, it continues to be protected under the NS ESA and is currently considered a species of special concern.
  - **Three Nova Scotia bats** affected by white-nose syndrome – the tri-coloured bat, northern long-eared myotis, and little brown myotis – **were listed as endangered in the province in 2013.** A national emergency assessment, requested by the Government of Nova Scotia, was conducted in 2012 by COSEWIC. The Government of Canada protected the bats under the federal Species at Risk Act in December 2014.
  - The Government of Nova Scotia and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute recently launched a **“citizen science” program to track bat population** and health in the province. The program allows Nova Scotians to report bat sightings, using either a telephone hotline or an online reporting form. Since its launch in August 2013, almost 2000 bat sightings have been reported. For more information, visit: [www.batconservation.ca](http://www.batconservation.ca)
- \* *Calculations exclude species that are legally protected but are extirpated from Nova Scotia or extinct.*

## Key Findings

With the exception of the peregrine falcon, no species has moved to a lower risk category due to recovery efforts.

The current status and trend of **moving to a lower risk level due to recovery efforts** is:



Status impaired  
Trend deteriorating  
Data confidence: high

## Endangered Species

## Status

See complete list at

[novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/species-list.asp](http://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/species-list.asp)

1.	Little Brown Myotis ( <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> )	Endangered
2.	Northern Myotis ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered
3.	Tri-coloured Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Endangered
4.	Black Ash ( <i>Fraxinus nigra</i> )	Threatened
5.	Spotted Pondweed ( <i>Potamogeton pulcher</i> )	Vulnerable
6.	Hoary Willow ( <i>Salix candida</i> )	Endangered
7.	Macropis Cuckoo Bee ( <i>Epeoloides pilosulus</i> )	Endangered
8.	Snapping Turtle ( <i>Chelydra serpentina</i> )	Vulnerable
9.	Brook Floater ( <i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i> )	Threatened
10.	Blue Felt Lichen ( <i>Degelia plumbea</i> )	Vulnerable
11.	Vole Ears ( <i>Erioderma mollissimum</i> )	Endangered
12.	Eastern Baccharis ( <i>Baccharis hamilifolia</i> )	Threatened
13.	Eastern Wood Peewee ( <i>Contopus virens</i> )	Vulnerable
14.	Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )	Endangered
15.	Bobolink ( <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> )	Vulnerable
16.	Canada Warbler ( <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> )	Endangered
17.	Olive-sided Flycatcher ( <i>Contopus cooperi</i> )	Threatened
18.	Rusty Blackbird ( <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> )	Endangered
19.	Eastern Whip-poor-will ( <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> )	Threatened
20.	Plymouth Gentian ( <i>Sabatia kennedyana</i> )	Endangered
21.	Golden Crest ( <i>Lophiola aurea</i> )	Vulnerable
22.	Redroot ( <i>Lachnanthes caroliana</i> )	Vulnerable
23.	Tuberclad Spike-rush ( <i>Eleocharis tuberculosa</i> )	Vulnerable
24.	Wood Turtle ( <i>Glyptemys insculpta</i> )	Threatened
25.	Bicknell's Thrush ( <i>Catharus bicknelli</i> )	Endangered
26.	Red Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> subspecies)	Endangered

27. Rockrose (Canada Frostweed) ( <i>Helianthum canadense</i> )	Endangered
28. Ram's-Head Lady Slipper ( <i>Cypripedium arietinum</i> )	Endangered
29. Chimney Swift ( <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> )	Endangered
30. Moose (Mainland Population) ( <i>Alces alces americana</i> )	Endangered
31. Boreal Felt Lichen ( <i>Erioderma pedicullatum</i> )	Endangered
32. Atlantic Whitefish ( <i>Coregonus huntsman</i> )	Endangered
33. Canada Lynx ( <i>Lynx canadensis</i> )	Endangered
34. American Marten (Cape Breton Population) ( <i>Martes americana</i> )	Endangered
35. Water-Pennywort ( <i>Hydrocotyle umbellata</i> )	Endangered
36. Blanding's Turtle ( <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i> )	Endangered
37. Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> )	Endangered
38. Piping Plover ( <i>Charadrius melodius</i> )	Endangered
39. Harlequin Duck ( <i>Historonicus historonicus</i> )	Endangered
40. Pink Coreopsis ( <i>Coreopsis rosea</i> )	Endangered
41. Thread-leaved Sundew ( <i>Drosera filiformis</i> )	Endangered
42. Eastern Mountain Avens ( <i>Geum peckii</i> )	Endangered
43. Common Nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles minor</i> )	Threatened
44. Yellow Lamp Mussel ( <i>Lampsilis cariosa</i> )	Threatened
45. Eastern Ribbonsnake ( <i>Thamnophis sauritus</i> )	Threatened
46. Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco perigrinus anatum</i> )	Vulnerable
47. Eastern White Cedar ( <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> )	Vulnerable
48. Eastern Lilaeopsis ( <i>Lilaeopsis chinensis</i> )	Vulnerable
49. Prototype Quillwort ( <i>Isoetes prototypes</i> )	Vulnerable
50. New Jersey Rush ( <i>Juncus caesariensis</i> )	Vulnerable
51. Long's Bulrush ( <i>Scirpus longii</i> )	Vulnerable
52. Sweet Pepperbush ( <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> )	Vulnerable