



# LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION



## The Simple Guide to... Species at Risk (Birds)

Over 180 species are at risk in Ontario. Everytime a species is eliminated, many more species are affected upsetting the natural balance of the ecosystem. It is important to the health of all living things that we protect Ontario's biodiversity and think long term about the implications of our actions.

### The Endangered Species Act, 2007

In 2007 Ontario introduced the new Endangered Species Act to protect species at risk and their habitat. The province now protects more species and their habitat and provides flexibility to balance protection with social and economic factors and provide sensible solutions. What does this mean to you? If you are planning any development projects on your property and you are unsure as to whether you might be infringing on a SAR or its habitat, contact your local Conservation Authority or Municipality to understand how it might affect you.

### What can I do to help birds?

- Learn more about your local species at risk and report sightings to the Natural Heritage Information Centre [http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species\\_report.cfm](http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species_report.cfm)
- Learn more about the types of habitat that sustain these birds and help maintain it
- Plant native vegetation that provides food and cover (ex. fruit producing shrubs)
- Expand forested areas to increase the amount of forest interior habitat
- Refrain from mowing fields until July, after ground nesting birds have moved on
- Participate in the Marsh Monitoring Program (contact us for more details)
- Reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides – many birds eat insects!
- Refrain from using recreational vehicles off trails, stay away from wetlands & beaches
- Do not disturb nesting birds
- Maintain a natural shoreline
- Walk pets on leash
- Spread the word

Funding assistance is often available to help implement projects and tax incentives are available for certain habitat . Contact us to learn more.

### What is a SAR?

A 'species at risk' is a species that is found naturally in the province that is in danger of extinction or disappearing from Ontario. Visit [www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk](http://www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk).

### Why are Birds at Risk?

Many factors contribute to a species becoming at risk.

They include:

- Loss of habitat (wetland drainage, forest fragmentation and clearing, etc.)
- Human recreational disturbance
- Nest predation
- Poaching
- Pollution
- Agricultural practices
- Dogs and cats

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## Birds at risk in the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region:



### Henslow's Sparrow

Overall chestnut/rusty tinge with white under-parts, with pale olive head and hind neck, brown and black streaked back, wings and tail.  
Breeds in large old fields, pastures and wet meadows.



### Least Bittern

Smallest of herons in North America. Plumage is buff, with white streaks on breast, dark brown head and back. More likely heard than seen, "coo"s softly from deep in a cattail marsh.



### Black Tern

Small tern with black head and under parts, grey wings and tail.  
Builds floating nests in loose colonies in shallow marshes, especially in cattails.



### Cerulean Warbler

Male has vivid blue back, head & cheeks, with white underparts. Female has green-blue back, head & neck, pale yellow throat & underparts.  
Forest-interior bird of tree tops, requires large tracts of mature deciduous forest.



### Eastern Loggerhead Shrike

Robin-sized song bird with hooked bill, black facemask, black wings with a prominent white wing patch and white under parts  
predatory bird, impales prey on thorns prefers combination of

pasture and shrub trees

### King Rail

Large marsh bird about the size of a chicken, long bill, brown and black streaked back, rich brown breast and strong barring on flanks.  
Inhabits shallow, densely vegetated freshwater marshes but is rarely seen.



### Red-Headed Woodpecker

Bright red head, throat and bib with a white breast and black back and wings.  
Cavity nester.



### Common Nighthawk

Mottled brown/black/buff plumage with barred underparts, large flattened head, large eyes and mouth, small bill and notched tail.  
Nests on bare ground in open areas and likes gravelly surfaces.



### Chimney Swift

Dark brown with a pale throat, with long narrow wings and a squared tail.  
Nests in cavity trees in remote areas or in chimneys.



**For more information on Species at Risk in Ontario visit: [www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk](http://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk)**