



THE PARK PRESS

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NS Species at Risk



**Canada Lynx
(Endangered in NS)**

Staff Photo

When you hear “endangered species” people often think about exotic animals like tigers and pandas but, there are many species struggling here in Nova Scotia. On July 11th, 19 new additions were made to Nova Scotia’s protected species list for a total of 60. 20 are plants, 18 are birds, 6 are mammals, 4 are reptiles and the rest are lichens, insects, molluscs and fish. To see the complete list visit: <http://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/species-list.asp> New additions include 3 of our 5 species of bat.

Bats, especially the Little Brown Bat, are suffering from a fungal disease called White Nose Syndrome. This European fungus arrived in North America about 7 years ago and has spread rapidly killing millions of bats. Some populations are down by 90% with no cure in sight. This fungus grows on hibernating bats causing them to wake up in winter and as they fly around searching for food they use up their fat stores and die of dehydration or starvation. The impact caused by this loss is yet to be determined but it is known that bats eat hundreds of insects, including mosquitos, each night.



On a positive note, there were a few species whose status changed for the better. The Peregrine Falcon and three plants improved from Threatened to Vulnerable.

Assessments are done by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC, visit www.cosewic.gc.ca). The legislative aspect is covered by the Provincial Endangered Species Act (DNR, visit <http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/endspec.htm>)

Featured Park Friend: American Marten



American Marten
(Endangered in NS)

Staff Photo

Name: American Marten

Scientific Name: (*Martes Americana*)

Size:

Body Length – 70-80cm (27.5-31inches)

Weight – males 750-1000g (26-35oz)

females 500-650g (17.5-23oz)

Colour: ranges from a light yellowish brown to dark blackish brown with an orange throat patch. The fur is darker and thicker in winter than summer.

Lifespan: 6-8 years

Habitat: mature coniferous or mixed wood forests; they are very sensitive to logging and forestry. Males have a territory of approximately 3.5km² while females are about half that.

Range: once found throughout North America, they now range across northern and central Canada and down the Rocky Mountains. They are only found in Nova Scotia in our two national parks and surrounding areas.

Feeding: Omnivores, consuming anything they can find including: small mammals, eggs, amphibians, berries, fruit and insects.

Breeding: Mating takes place in late July – early August with implantation in February. Litters are born between March and April with 2-6 young (usually 3). The mother raises them alone and the young leave the den with her in June-July and are completely independent by late August-September.

Fun Facts: They are most active in spring-summer and can forage for up to 16 hours. They have semi-retractable, cat-like claws that allow them to be very agile climbers.



American Marten
(Endangered in NS)

Staff Photo

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<http://wildlifepark.gov.ns.ca>

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Upcoming Events

Monarch

Butterfly Day

Sat Aug 10

1 - 4pm

Learn about this amazing species at risk, its threats to survival, lifecycle, unbelievable migration path, and habitat. Play the Monarch Butterfly card game to win a prize. Monarch Butterflies at different stages of their lifecycle will be on display. Make a butterfly lifecycle craft to take home!



No Slandering of the Snakes

Sat Aug 24

1 - 4pm

We are seriously celebrating Snakes with displays, a colouring contest, a snake race and make your own snake with a recycled tie for \$3. Learn about Nova Scotia's five species of snakes and meet some personally.

Interesting Insect Day



Sat Aug 31

1 - 4pm

Learn to look closer at the fascinating life of bugs. Go on an imaginary journey through the life cycle of a butterfly. To remind you of a bugs life make a pair of bug eyes to take home with you.



Regular Park Admission Applies
For more info call: (902) 758-5316
e-mail: legacycentre@gov.ns.ca

How can You Help Endangered Species?

- ♦ Reduce your environmental impact.
- ♦ Report sightings including tracks, scat, fur, feathers to your local Natural Resource office.

<http://novascotia.ca/natr/>

- ♦ Buy a Conservation License Plate (the money goes to the NS Species at Risk Conservation Fund. <http://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/conservationfund/>)

- ♦ Volunteer or become a Steward to help with surveying, monitoring, etc.

<http://www.hww.ca/en/things-you-can-do/action-awareness/>

<http://www.nsnt.ca/>

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/>

<http://www.coastalaction.org>

<http://www.merseytobeatic.ca/>



Peregrine Falcon
(Vulnerable in NS)
Staff Photo

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<http://wildlifepark.gov.ns.ca>

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Upcoming Events

Wicked Web Of Food Chains

Sat Sept 7
1 - 4pm

Learn the importance of food chains. Examine the life of a rotting log. Follow the food chain from cattails to muskrats to hawks. Examine our worm farm and learn how to create your own.

Teddy Bear Picnic

Sat Sept 14
11 - 1:30

Join us for a guided hike along the St. Andrews Marsh Trail, over the foot bridge and to the gazebo. Bring your lunch and teddy bear and enjoy nature and wildlife.

Birds of a Feather



Sat Sept 21
1 - 4pm

As we say good-bye to many of our feathered friends, join us for an up-close investigation of a feather and experience the challenges of using different shaped beaks for various types of bird food. Marvel at the complexity of a bird nest.

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Did you know?

- ♦ **Common Snapping Turtles** (now listed as Vulnerable) are nocturnal, their main daytime activity is basking in sunny swallow waters.
- ♦ Male and Female **Bicknell's Thrush** (now listed as Endangered) take multiple mating partners so each nest has eggs from several different fathers.
- ♦ The **Little Brown Bat** (now listed as Endangered) can reduce its heart rate to 20 beats/minute while hibernating.
- ♦ The wood of the **Black Ash** (now listed as Threatened) separates easily into strips and is used for making baskets, barrel hoops and chair bottoms earning it the nickname "Basket Ash".

Just 4 Fun!!



Search-a-Species

Find the names of at risk species

R O C K R O S E W P T
S V N M O N A R C H N
G K C A L B A R P R T
N W O L L A W S A C U
I P Y Q Q Z B B H X R
D E R U O L O C I R T
N W H I T E F I S H L
A Y L F R E T T U B E
L A T L A N T I C K I
B K N I L O B O B A T



Black Ash
Atlantic Whitefish
Barn Swallow
Tricoloured Bat

Blandings Turtle
Bobolink
Monarch Butterfly
Rockrose