
Species-at-Risk

What You Can Do to Help Species-at-Risk:



- Learn more about species-at-risk.
- Keep beaches and coastal waters free of garbage; pick up litter whenever possible.
- Be extra cautious on beaches when species-at-risk such as the Piping Plover are nesting.
- Talk about the value of mature trees and old standing dead trees as a way of promoting forest biodiversity.
- Reduce the use of pesticides and toxins.
- Do not drive on beaches.
- Make sure that pets are on leashes when near Piping Plover habitat.
- Do not drive ATV's and other vehicles around salt marshes or other vulnerable areas
- Do not pick or harvest salt marsh plants, and do not trample beach grass.
- Do not use salt marshes as dump sites.
- Join local and provincial conservation organizations that provide opportunities for learning about endangered species and their habitat around the province (see the contacts and resources section).
- Promote shoreline stewardship of endangered plants and other wildlife.

What You Can Do to Protect Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

There are many things that can be done to protect wildlife and its habitat. Although it is hard to separate the two, the list will first look at what can be done to protect plant and animal wildlife and, then, what can be done to protect wildlife habitat.

What You Can Do to Protect Plant and Animal Wildlife:

- 🌲 **Share** what you have learned with your friends and family
- 🌲 **Don't use pesticides or herbicides** on lawns and gardens; seeds and bugs that birds feed on can have toxic residue
- 🌲 Make sure that pets are leashed on walks and **aren't a threat to wildlife**
Build **bird feeders** and **bird houses**. **Clean** these from time to time to prevent disease transmission.

- ♣ **Don't pollute**; avoid pouring paint, oil, pesticides and other toxins into streams, or even down the drain; never leave litter in natural habitats; always bring it back to the appropriate disposal system.
- ♣ **Don't take** wildlife as pets. **Don't release** pet fish, frogs, toads and other domestic species into the wild
- ♣ **Volunteer** with habitat restoration projects or wildlife clubs
- ♣ Contact a local **naturalist club** to see what is being done for wildlife in your area
- ♣ **Travel lightly** and quietly in the great outdoors
- ♣ Paste hawk silhouettes, or other materials on large windows at home and school to **prevent birds from crashing** into the glass
- ♣ **Learn** more about the wildlife in NB and how you can modify your activities to be more wildlife-friendly
- ♣ **Get involved** with the Piping Plover Guardian Program; respect any signs posted for the protection of Piping Plover or other natural habitats
- ♣ **Pick up** plastic debris, bags and other garbage, wherever you are



Photo: Reginald Webster

What You Can Do to Protect Wildlife Habitat:

If you ride an ATV or a mountain bike, **avoid sensitive wildlife habitat** such as streams, beaches, marshes and bogs; driving all-terrain vehicles or off-road vehicles in places such as wetlands, bogs or beaches is illegal and also causes environmental damage



- ♣ **Clean up** litter
- ♣ **Find out** about important local wetlands; **promote** conservation of wetlands; **travel lightly and quietly** in the great outdoors
- ♣ Get out and **explore** habitats, in the province or in your community
- ♣ **Avoid** toxic products in your home (corrosives, bleaches, and the like)
- ♣ **Follow the 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle whenever possible**
- ♣ **Promote** conservation of natural areas
- ♣ **Grow** native plant species using local seed sources. **Be wary** of what species are considered native – local seed sources are the best
- ♣ **Develop** and **participate** in a conservation day or environment week event
- ♣ **Fence** sensitive areas on your property such as streams prevent livestock from trampling or polluting the banks
- ♣ **Buy certified** organic food (no pesticides used) and certified wood products, bearing the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) symbol
- ♣ **Respect** signed areas identifying sensitive habitats during important breeding and nesting periods
- ♣ **Join** local conservation organizations or efforts



Canada Lynx

Photo: Dr. Gordon Court

Helpful Habits

Many threats to New Brunswick's wildlife and habitats are a result of consumer habits and actions. For example, when one person wastes one sheet of paper each day for an entire lifetime, it can amount to a significant loss of trees or forest habitat. If this is multiplied by all the people in the province who waste paper, the effects are staggering. Imagine if each student in a class decided to save or reuse one sheet of paper a day, for a lifetime. Perhaps more old growth pine-hemlock forests, inhabited by Pinedrops plants, would remain, or habitat for Canada Lynx would be undisturbed.

Some psychologists believe that if a new behaviour is practised for 21 consecutive days, it will become a habit. Students could brainstorm what sorts of habits they could change to benefit wildlife and habitats. Then, a chart could be posted on the wall, outlining specific habits students were willing to change. The habits could be tracked each day for a 21 day period.

References

Atlantic Monthly. (Dec 1997). ***No Middle Way on the Environment:*** Paul Ehrlich, Gretchen Daily, Scott Daily, Norman Myers, James Salzman

Canadian Nature Federation Species-at-Risk Education Guide. (2001). ***The Passing of the Pigeon.*** Ottawa, ON: David Gibson