

MANITOBA
SPECIES AT RISK

A Landowner's Guide



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SPECIES AT RISK OVERVIEW

While many parts of Manitoba are still largely in its natural state, the southern region of the province has been significantly altered since European settlement. This has provided immense benefits for the people of Manitoba, and around the world, as Manitoba is leading producer of agricultural products that are grown on these altered lands. Changes to the natural habitats and landscapes of southern Manitoba has benefitted some wildlife species, but also endangered others. Species At Risk, are wildlife species that have been identified as requiring special care and management in order to ensure their Manitoba-based populations continue to exist.

In total, Manitoba is home to 59 species that have been identified under Schedule 1 of the Federal government's Species At Risk Act (SARA). The identification of these species as "Species At Risk" concentrates resources on their conservation; this includes the development of Recovery Strategies and the implementation of species-specific actions to benefit the wildlife species. Given the landownership in southern Manitoba, many of these conservation actions are done in partnership with private landowners and managers, often with funding support from various agencies.

It is important to note that the presence of Species At Risk on your land does not likely mean you are mismanaging your property, but actually shows that you are managing your lands in a way that is likely suitable for the species and funding to support continued management is possible.

This document is intended to provide an overview of the Species At Risk that may be found in your area and summarize their threats and habitat needs. It does not cover all species that have been identified in Manitoba as being at-risk, rather, it concentrates on 28 species that are likely to be encountered on agricultural lands, or in nearby habitats.

For purposes of this document, southern Manitoba has been divided into five regions based on the known locations of species, and the location of potentially suitable habitat (Map 1, pg. 4). These regions are generally defined as:

- South-West
- South-Central
- South-East
- Interlake
- West-Central

If you have seen any of these species on or near your property, you may be eligible for financial support to implement management practices that work with your operation and for the species at risk.

For more information on species of programming options, please contact:

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
www.mhhc.mb.ca
204-784-4350



Manitoba Agriculture
www.manitoba.ca/agriculture



PURPOSE

This document is intended to provide a general overview of Species At Risk information and locations. It is not intended to serve as a definitive guide for Species At Risk, nor provide detailed information on habitat preferences for identified species.

GLOSSARY

BMP	Beneficial Management Practice
MB Ag	Manitoba Agriculture
MHHC	Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	Species At Risk Act

DEFINITIONS


- Endangered Species** – A wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation of extinction.
- Extirpated Species** – A wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild, within a particular jurisdiction, but exists elsewhere in the wild.
- Habitat**
- (a) In respect of aquatic species, spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply, migration and other areas on which aquatic species depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes, or areas where aquatic species formerly occurred and have the potential to be reintroduced
 - (b) In respect of other wildlife species, the area or type of site where an individual or wildlife species naturally occurs or depends on directly or indirectly in order to carry out its life processes or formerly occurred and has the potential to be reintroduced
- Species at Risk** – Means extirpated, endangered or threatened species or species of special concern
- Species of Special Concern** – Means a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats
- Threatened Species** – Means a wildlife species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Photographs of birds contained in this document were obtained from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds at www.allaboutbirds.org
- Unless otherwise noted, all remaining images were obtained from individual species’ Recovery Strategies or Assessment Statements as produced by Environment and Climate Change Canada and obtained from <http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca>
- Species at risk locations used in the development of this document were obtained from the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre
- Cover photo by Allison Krause Danielsen

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SOUTH-WEST REGION

Regional Characteristics

This region is a transition between the mixed-grass prairie to the west and the moist tall-grass prairie to the east. In its natural state, the landscape was dominated by grasslands, with shrubs and trees in areas of increased moisture. Sandy soils found around Shilo provide unique habitat for sand-tolerant species.

Land use in the region is dominated by agriculture and is mostly under private ownership. The dominant land use is annual cropping.

Species Threat Overview

The largest threats to species at risk in the south western region are the continued loss and deterioration of native habitats. This region, especially the extreme south-west corner, is home to the highest density of species at risk in Manitoba. While this is due largely to historic habitat loss, the climate and landscape conditions of the area also mean that many of the at-risk species found here are at the eastern and/or northern edge of their habitat range, and shifts in weather and climate are also a significant threat to these species.

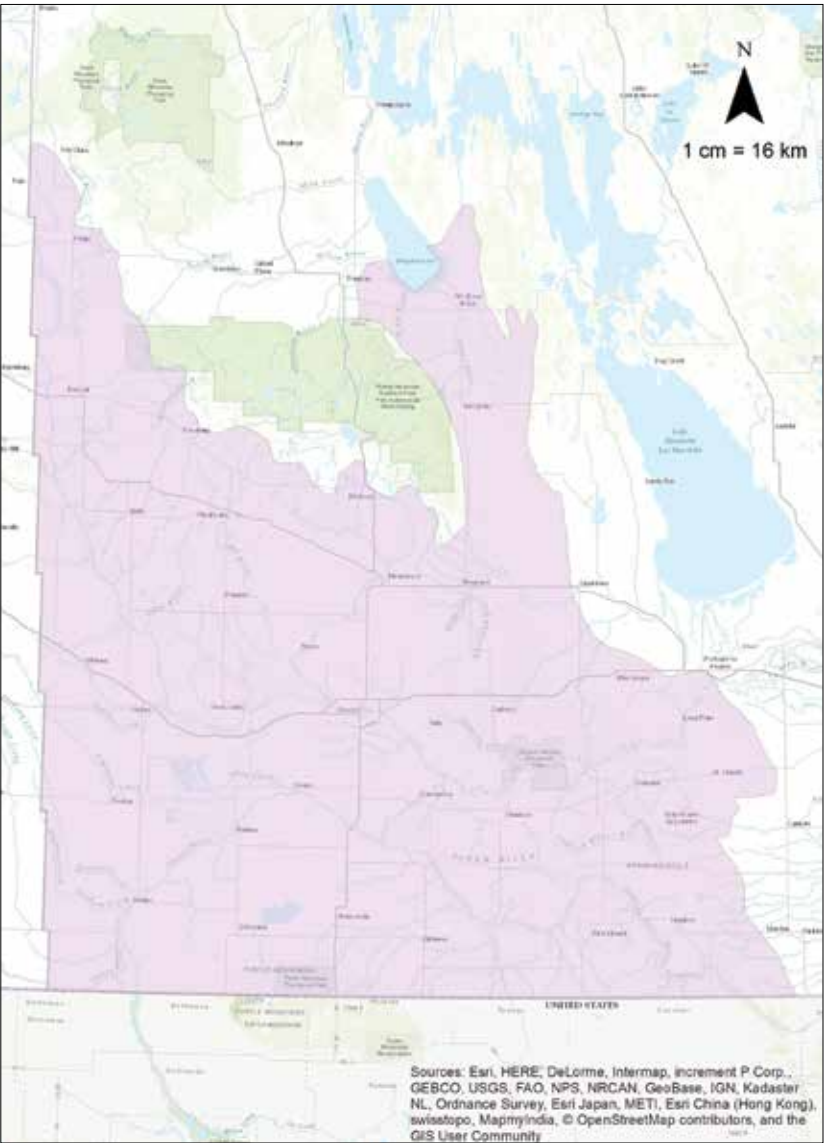
Beneficial Management Practices

While beneficial management practices for specific species can be implemented, ensuring a mix of habitats and habitat conditions across the landscape are important for the long-term survival of species at risk in south-west Manitoba. The retention of natural habitats like grasslands, wetlands and forested areas is an important action that can be taken but the condition of Species At Risk habitat is also vital and can be addressed through management techniques that include:

- Grazing and livestock management
- Shrub mowing
- Restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Creation of a heterogeneous landscape

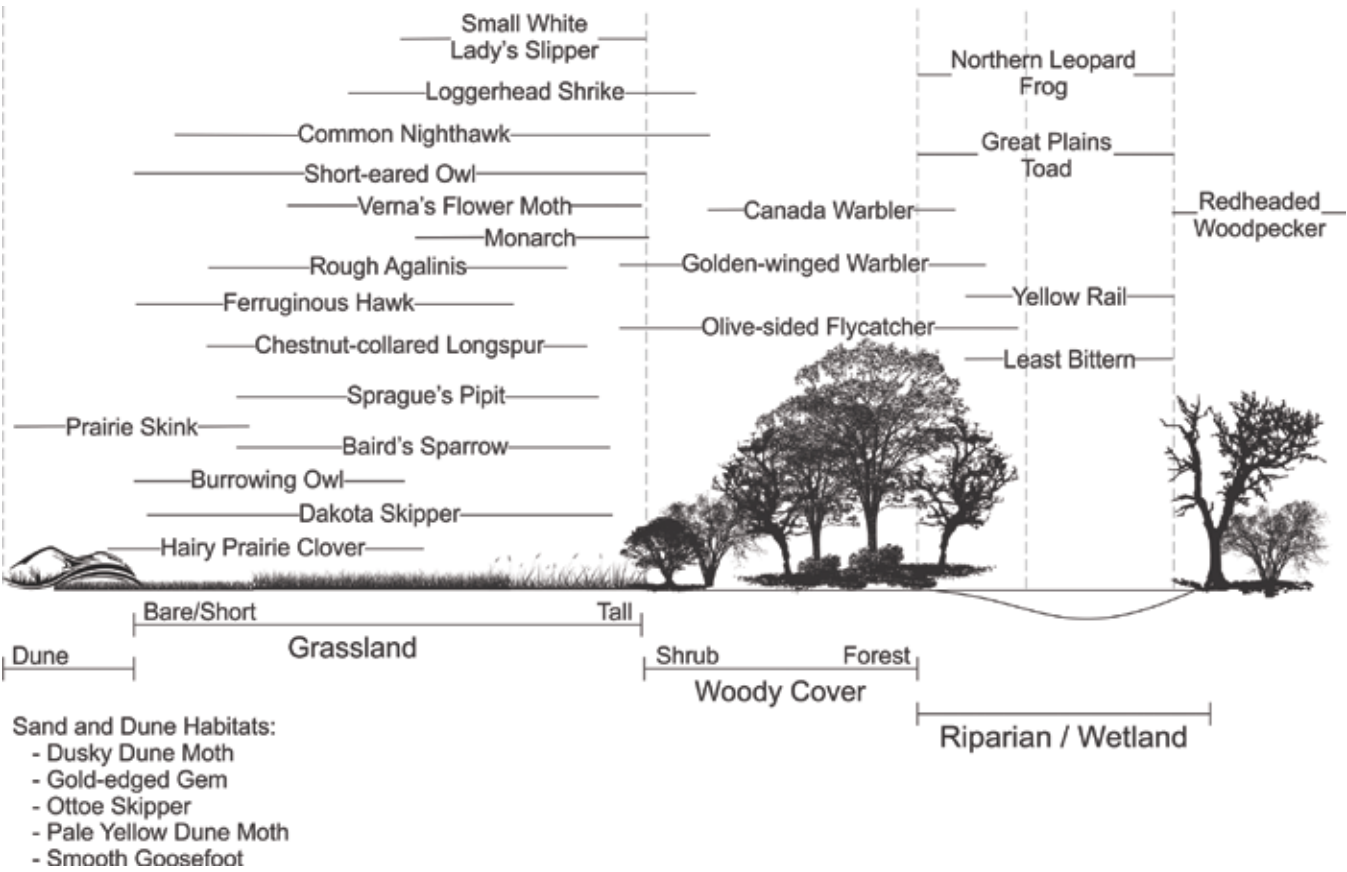


Map 1 - Species at Risk Regions of Manitoba



Map 2 - South-West Region

Regional Species' Habitat Preferences



Species of the Region

BIRDS



Baird's Sparrow (Special Concern)



Burrowing Owl (Endangered)

BIRDS



Chestnut-collared Longspur (Threatened)



Ferruginous Hawk (Threatened)



Loggerhead Shrike (Threatened)



Short-eared Owl (Special Concern)



Common Nighthawk (Threatened)



Least Bittern (Threatened)



Red-headed Woodpecker (Threatened)



Sprague's Pipit (Threatened)

BIRDS



Yellow Rail (Special Concern)

MOTHS & BUTTERFLIES



Verna's Flower Moth (Threatened)

AQUATIC/
AMPHIBIANS



Great Plains Toad (Special Concern)



Northern Leopard Frog (Special Concern)

REPTILES



Prairie Skink (Endangered)

PLANTS



Hairy Prairie Clover (Special Concern)



Rough Agalinis (Endangered)

MOTH & BUTTERFLIES



Dakota Skipper (Threatened)



Dusky Dune Moth (Endangered)



Gold-edged Gem (Endangered)



Monarch (Special Concern)



Ottoo Skipper (Endangered)



Pale Yellow Dune Moth (Special Concern)



Small White Lady's Slipper (Endangered)



Smooth Goosefoot (Threatened)



Native grasslands and the associated native plant and wildlife species have evolved and adapted to grassland disturbance. Historically, these disturbances would have included floods, droughts, fires, periods of intense grazing, and periods of rest. While the natural rhythm of these disturbances has changed, management of grasslands can effectively mimic the natural past and provide significant benefits to species at risk. Grazing by cattle and other livestock is not only beneficial for species at risk, but essential.

SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION

Regional Characteristics

This region is part of the moist tall-grass prairie ecozone. In its natural state, the landscape was dominated by grasslands, with shrubs and trees in areas where disturbance (i.e. fire, flooding, grazing, etc.) was minimal. Almost all of the original tall-grass prairie has been lost with only remnant patches remaining.

Land use in the region is dominated by agriculture and is mostly under private ownership. Large urban areas including the cities of Winnipeg and Steinbach, and surrounding communities, are found within this region.

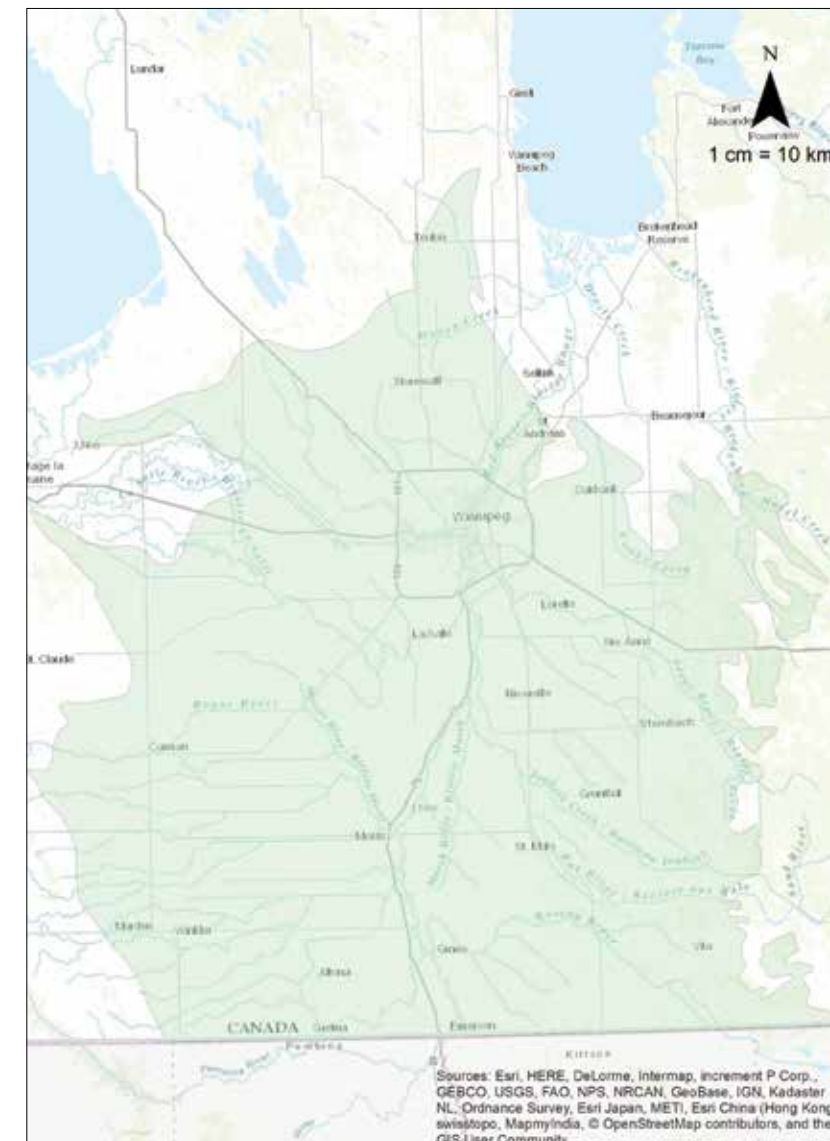
Species Threat Overview

Of all regions in Manitoba, this area is the most urbanized. While annual cropping is still the major threat to species at risk in the region, urban development and expansion is a significant threat to remain at-risk populations. This region is the northern-most extension of the tall-grass prairie of North America and is also the northern limit of several species at risk found here.

Beneficial Management Practices

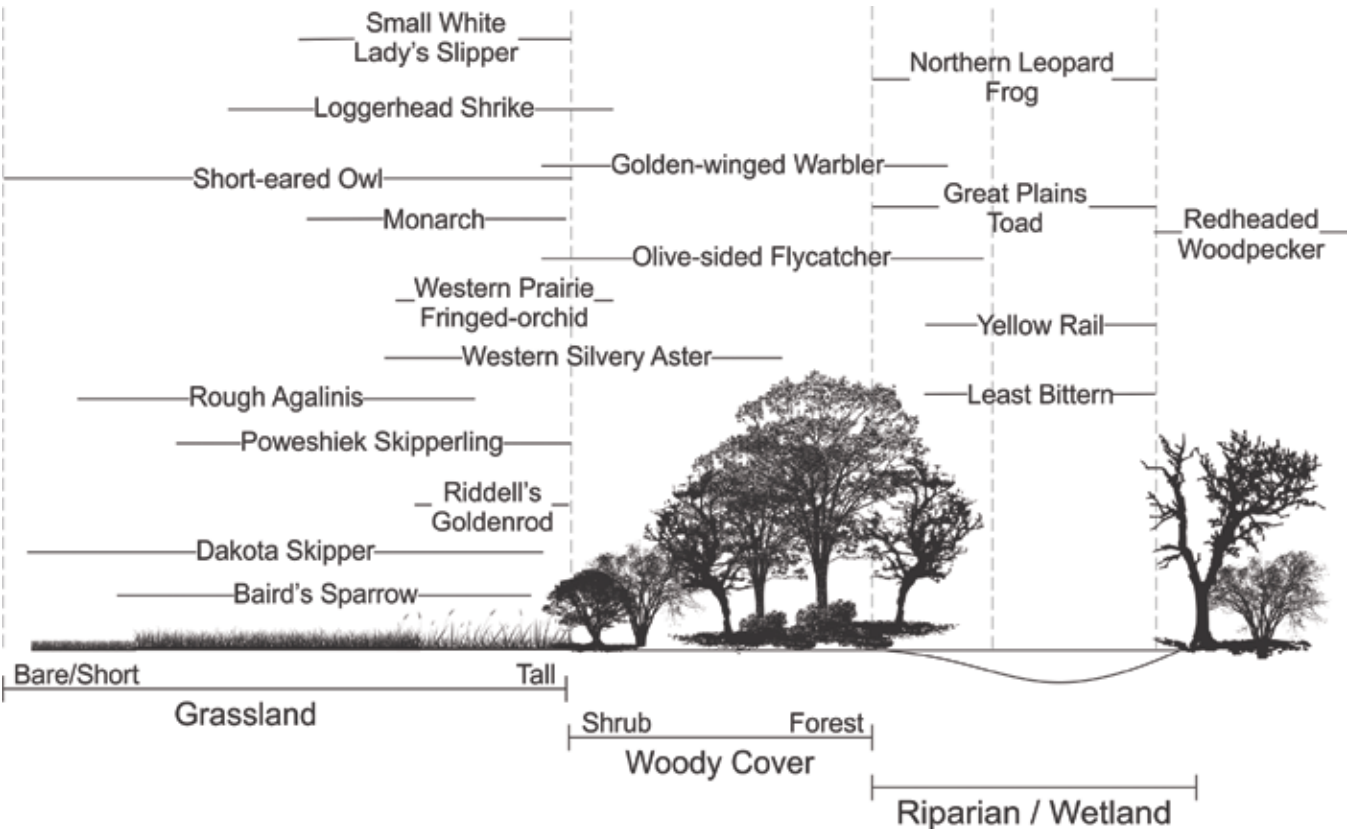
While beneficial management practices for specific species can be implemented, ensuring a mix of habitats and habitat conditions across the landscape are important for the long-term survival of species at risk in south-central Manitoba. The retention of natural habitats like grasslands, wetlands and forested areas is an important action that can be taken but the condition of Species At Risk habitat is also vital and can be addressed through management techniques that include:

- Grazing and livestock management
- Prescribed burns
- Shrub mowing and tree removal
- Restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Creation of a heterogeneous landscape



Map 3 - South-Central Region

Regional Species' Habitat Preferences



Species of the Region

BIRDS



Baird's Sparrow (Special Concern)



Golden-winged Warbler (Threatened)

MOTHS & BUTTERFLIES



Dakota Skipper (Threatened)



Monarch (Special Concern)

BIRDS



Least Bittern (Threatened)



Loggerhead Shrike Migrants (Threatened)



Red-headed Woodpecker (Threatened)



Short-eared Owl (Special Concern)



Yellow Rail (Special Concern)

MOTHS &
BUTTERFLIES



Poweshiek Skipperling (Threatened)

AQUATIC/
AMPHIBIANS



Great Plains Toad (Special Concern)



Northern Leopard Frog (Special Concern)

PLANTS



Riddell's Goldenrod (Special Concern)



Rough Agalinis (Endangered)



Small White Lady's Slipper (Endangered)



Western Prairie Fringed-orchid (Endangered)

PLANTS



Western Silvery Aster (Threatened)



Located one hour south of Winnipeg, is the largest block of remaining Tall-grass prairie left in Manitoba. Once covering much of central North America, less than 1% of this habitat now exists. These remnant tall-grass prairie lands in Manitoba are home to many species at risk. The Manitoba Tall-grass Prairie Preserve and its associated management committee was established as a partnership between government, conservation organizations, and local landowners for the purpose of integrating agricultural activities (like grazing and haying), species at risk management, and public education.

SOUTH-EAST REGION

Regional Characteristics

This region forms a transitional area between highly productive agricultural lands in the Red River Valley and boreal forest and rock outcrops to the east. The region's numerous lakes and forests creates desirable cottage and recreational areas. While agriculture is not the dominant industry within the region, pockets of quality agricultural land is present, especially lands suitable for grazing.

Land use in the region is a mix of agricultural and industrial uses, such as peat mining, gravel extraction and forestry. Much of the land is under Crown ownership but significant portions, particularly in the western reaches are privately owned.

Species Threat Overview

Relative to other parts of Manitoba, few species at risk are found in this region. The main threats to species are water quality impacts and loss of habitat.

Beneficial Management Practices

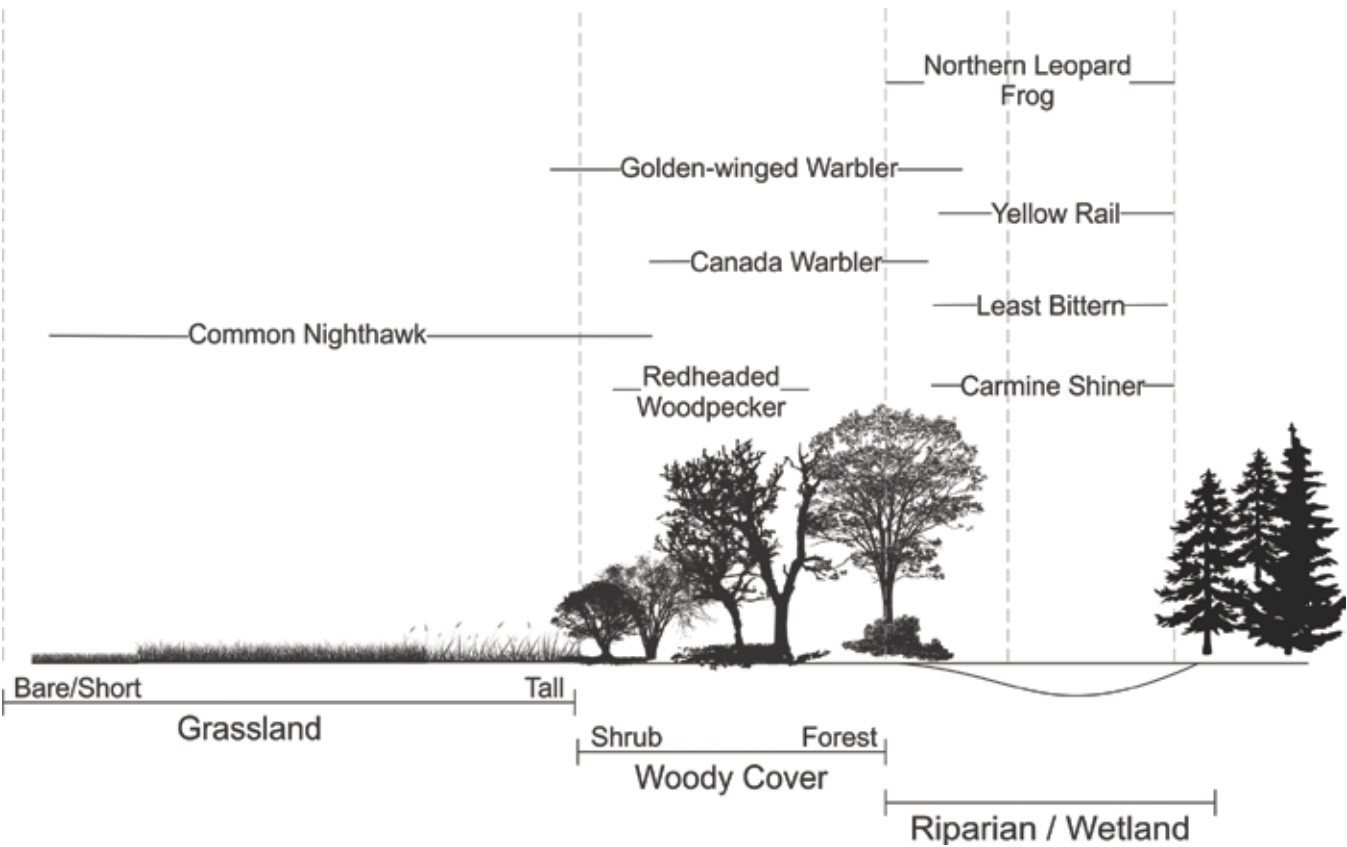
While beneficial management practices for specific species can be implemented, ensuring a mix of habitats and habitat conditions across the landscape are important for the long-term survival of species at risk in south-east Manitoba. The retention of natural habitats like grasslands, wetlands and forested areas is an important action that can be taken but the condition of Species At Risk habitat is also vital and can be addressed through management techniques that include:

- Grazing and livestock management
- Restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Creation of a heterogeneous landscape



Map 4 - South-East Region

Regional Species' Habitat Preferences



Species of the Region



Canada Warbler (Threatened)



Common Nighthawk (Threatened)

BIRDS



Golden-winged Warbler (Threatened)



Least Bittern (Threatened)



Red-headed Woodpecker (Threatened)



Yellow Rail (Special Concern)

AQUATIC/ AMPHIBIANS



Carmine Shiner (Threatened)



Northern Leopard Frog (Special Concern)

INTERLAKE REGION

Regional Characteristics

This region forms a large plain with ridge and swale topography between and around Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg. The low-lying, undulating topography of this region creates large areas of wetland. The region is underlain, largely, by limestone, and this "karst" landscape provides unique habitat for species at risk.

Land use in the region is a mix of agricultural, industrial and commercial activity such as grazing, annual cropping, peat and aggregate extraction.

Species Threat Overview

Habitat loss and changes in water quality and quantity are the largest threats to species in the region. Damage or destruction of unique limestone ridges and outcrops, which provide habitat for species at risk, is a major threat in the region.

Beneficial Management Practices

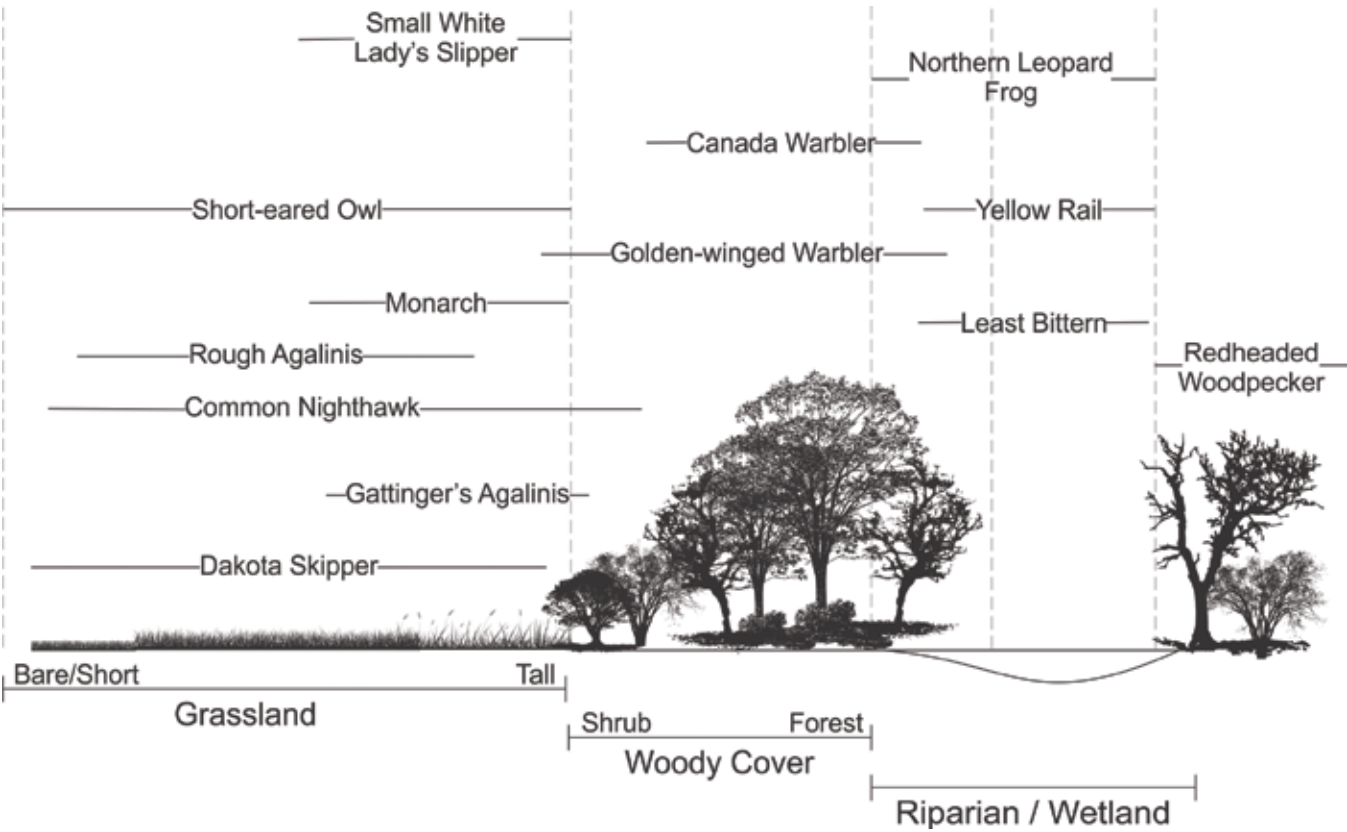
While beneficial management practices for specific species can be implemented, ensuring a mix of habitats and habitat conditions across the landscape are important for the long-term survival of species at risk in Manitoba's Interlake region. The retention of natural habitats like grasslands, wetlands and forested areas is an important action that can be taken but the condition of Species At Risk habitat is also vital and can be addressed through management techniques that include:

- Grazing and livestock management
- Restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Creation of a heterogeneous landscape



Map 4 - Interlake Region

Regional Species' Habitat Preferences



Species of the Region

BIRDS



Canada Warbler (Threatened)



Common Nighthawk (Threatened)

BIRDS



Golden-winged Warbler (Threatened)



Least Bittern (Threatened)



Red-headed Woodpecker (Threatened)



Short-eared Owl (Special Concern)



Yellow Rail (Special Concern)

AQUATIC/ AMPHIBIANS



Northern Leopard Frog (Special Concern)

MOTHS & BUTTERFLIES



Dakota Skipper (Threatened)



Monarch (Special Concern)

PLANTS



Gattigner's Agalinis (Endangered)



Rough Agalinis (Endangered)



Small White Lady's Slipper (Endangered)

WEST-CENTRAL REGION

Regional Characteristics

This region is characterised by the northern extension of the Manitoba Escarpment. This physical feature creates a significant topographic transition between elevated regions to the west and the treed plains and lakes to the east. Significant features of the escarpment include the Riding, Duck and Porcupine mountains. The majority of land in this region is under Crown ownership; however areas within the larger region contain productive agricultural lands.

Species Threat Overview

Threats to the species found in this region are limited. Several species are suspected to be in decline due to losses of habitat on their wintering grounds rather than in the breeding habitat (i.e. in Canada). Although the majority of threats may be elsewhere, in the west central region habitat loss and degradation is likely the largest threat to these species. This can be a result of agriculture, forestry, mining or residential development. Another likely threat is the loss of insect prey.

Beneficial Management Practices

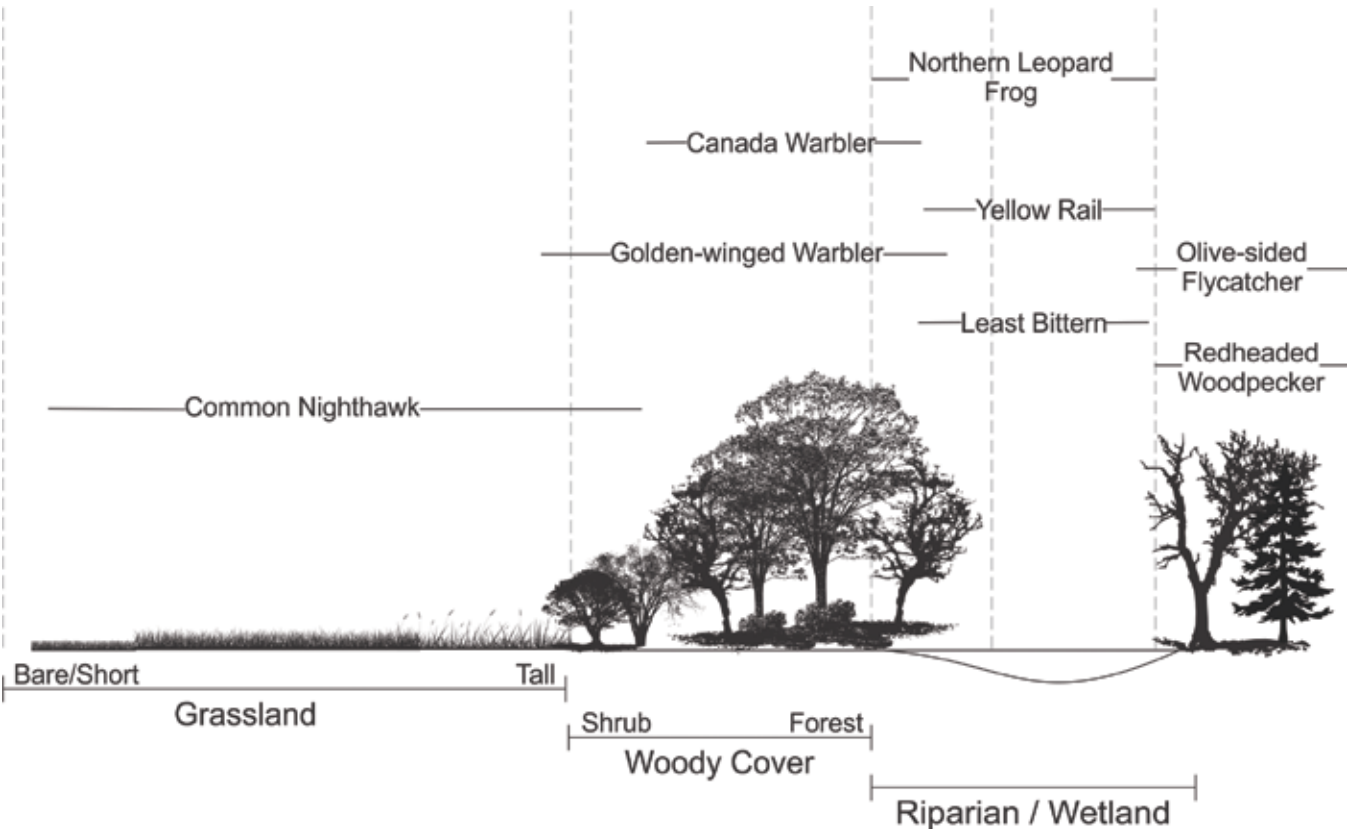
While beneficial management practices for specific species can be implemented, ensuring a mix of habitats and habitat conditions across the landscape are important for the long-term survival of species at risk in west-central Manitoba. The retention of natural habitats like grasslands, wetlands and forested areas is an important action that can be taken but the condition of Species At Risk habitat is also vital and can be addressed through management techniques that include:

- Grazing and livestock management
- Shrub mowing
- Restoration of wetlands and grasslands
- Creation of a heterogeneous landscape



Map 5 - West-Central Region

Regional Species' Habitat Preferences



Species of the Region

BIRDS



Canada Warbler (Threatened)



Common Nighthawk (Threatened)

BIRDS



Golden-winged Warbler (Threatened)



Least Bittern (Threatened)



Olive-sided Flycatcher (Threatened)



Red-headed Woodpecker (Threatened)



Yellow Rail (Special Concern)

AQUATIC/
AMPHIBIANS



Northern Leopard Frog (Special Concern)

BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

A wide variety of Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) can be implemented to improve habitat for Species At Risk. The following is a list of some key actions that can be done to benefit Species At Risk. However, due to the unique habitat requirements for each species, actions that benefit one species may actually hinder another. Partners of Manitoba Agriculture can offer assistance in identifying appropriate management practices that work with your operation and will benefit Species At Risk that may be in found your area.

BMPs by Management Activity

Management Activity	BMP ID	Benefiting Species
Habitat Protection	P	
Conservation Agreement	P-1	All species
Term Agreement	P-2	All species (Grassland bird focus)
Habitat Restoration	R	
Wetland Restoration	R-1	Least Bittern, Yellow Rail, Northern Leopard Frog, Great Plains Toad
Grassland Restoration	R-2	Baird’s Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Short-eared Owl, Sprague’s Pipit, Dakota Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Poweshiek Skipperling, Verna’s Flower Moth, Riddell’s Goldenrod, Rough Agalinis, Western Prairie Fringed Orchid
Perennial Cover Establishment	R-3	Chestnut-collared Longspur, Great Plains Toad
Shelterbelt Establishment	R-4	Loggerhead Shrike, Red-headed Woodpecker
Bufferstrip Establishment	R-5	Loggerhead Shrike, Carmine Shiner
Habitat Enhancement	E	
Invasive species control	E-1	Common Nighthawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Sprague’s Pipit, Yellow Rail, Dusky Dune Moth, Gold-edged Gem, Dakota Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Gatteringer’s Agalinis, Hairy-prairie Clover, Riddell’s Goldenrod, Rough Agalinis, Small White Lady’s Slipper, Smooth Goosefoot, Verna’s Flower Moth, Western Prairie Fringed Orchid, Western Silvery Aster
Shrub mowing	E-2	Baird’s Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Ferruginous Hawk, Sprague’s Pipit, Small White Lady’s Slipper, Dakota Skipper, Western Prairie Fringed Orchid
Fencing	E-3	Baird’s Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Ferruginous Hawk, Least Bittern, Sprague’s Pipit, Yellow Rail, Carmine Shiner, Great Plains Toad, Northern Leopard Frog

Management Activity	BMP ID	Benefiting Species
Off-site Watering	E-4	Baird’s Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Least Bittern, Sprague’s Pipit, Yellow Rail, Carmine Shiner, Great Plains Toad, Northern Leopard Frog
Delayed Haying	E-5	Baird’s Sparrow, Chestnut Collard Longspur, Sprague’s Pipit
Pesticide Reductions	E-6	Baird’s Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Common Nighthawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Monarch, Dakota Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Poweshiek Skipperling, Great Plains Toad, Northern Leopard Frog, Western Silvery Aster
Habitat Assessment	A	
Range Assessment	A-1	Baird’s Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut Collard Longspur, Ferruginous Hawk, Sprague’s Pipit, Gatteringer’s Agalinis, Western Silvery Aster
Grazing Plan Development	A-2	Baird’s Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Ferruginous Hawk, Sprague’s Pipit, Yellow Rail, Dakota Skipper, Dusky Dune Moth, Gold-edged Gem, Ottoe Skipper, Pale Yellow Dune Moth, Poweshiek Skipperling, Carmine Shiner, Gatteringer’s Agalinis, Hairy-prairie Clover, Smooth Goosefoot, Verna’s Flower Moth, Western Prairie Fringed Orchid, Western Silvery Aster
Woodlot Management Plan	A-3	Red-headed Woodpecker, Canada Warbler

Note: Funding for all BMPs may not be available and are dependent on program criteria of partnering organizations.

BMPs by Species

Species Name	Beneficial Management Practice Code			
	Protection (P)	Restoration (R)	Enhancement (E)	Assessment (A)
BIRDS				
Baird’s Sparrow	1, 2	2	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2
Burrowing Owl	1, 2	2	2, 3, 4, 6	1, 2
Canada Warbler	1, 2			3
Chestnut-collared Longspur	1, 2	2, 3	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1, 2
Common Nighthawk	1, 2		1, 6	
Ferruginous Hawk	1, 2	2	1, 2, 3	1, 2
Golden Winged Warbler	1, 2			3
Least Bittern	1, 2	1	3, 4	
Loggerhead Shrike	1, 2	2, 4, 5	6	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1, 2	1	6	
Red-headed Woodpecker	1, 2	4		3
Short-eared Owl	1, 2	2		
Sprague’s Pipit	1, 2	2	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2
Yellow Rail	1, 2	1	1, 3, 4	2
MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES				
Dakota Skipper	1, 2	2	1, 2, 6	1, 2
Dusky Dune Moth	1, 2		1	2
Gold-edged Gem	1, 2		1	2
Monarch	1, 2		6	
Ottoe Skipper	1, 2	2	1, 6	2
Pale Yellow Dune Moth	1, 2			2
Poweshiek Skipperling	1, 2	2	6	2
Verna’s Flower Moth	1, 2	2	1	2
AQUATIC / AMPHIBIANS				
Carmine Shiner	1, 2	5	3, 4	2
Great Plains Toad	1, 2	1, 3	4, 6	
Northern Leopard Frog	1, 2	1	3, 4, 6	
REPTILES				
Prairie Skink (Northern)	1, 2			
PLANTS				
Gattinger’s Agalinis	1, 2		1	1, 2
Hairy-prairie Clover	1, 2		1	2
Riddell’s Goldenrod	1, 2	2	1	
Rough Agalinis	1, 2	2	1	
Small White Lady’s Slipper	1, 2		1, 2	
Smooth Goosefoot	1, 2		1	2
Western Silvery Aster	1, 2		1, 6	1, 2
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	1, 2	2	1, 2	2

ADDITIONAL SPECIES AT RISK RESOURCES

Species at Risk Public Registry	www.sararegistry.gc.ca
Manitoba Conservation Data Centre	www.manitoba.ca/sd/environment_and_biodiversity/cdc/index.html
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	www.mhhc.mb.ca
NatureServe	www.natureserve.org
Nature Conservancy Canada	www.natureconservancy.ca
Internation Union for Conservation of Nature	www.iucn.org



Homegrown conservation since 1986.