

Appendix C. NS Endangered Species Act: Legally Listed Species as of 2007

The following species at risk are legally protected under the *NS Endangered Species Act*. This is a subset of the full list. Only those species with a remote chance of being found on this woodlot are in this list.

Included for each species is the year it was listed under the Act, the status category, and a brief explanation of why it was listed. Please note that species are assessed each year and therefore the list of species at risk protected under the act is updated annually. Refer to <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/species-list.asp> for additional information.

Status Category	Definition
Endangered	a species facing imminent extirpation or extinction
Threatened	a species likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed
Vulnerable	a species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events
Extirpated	a species that no longer exists in the wild in the Province but exists in the wild outside the Province
Extinct	a species that no longer exists

ENDANGERED

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) - **Endangered** (2007)



The Canadian population of Chimney swift has declined by almost 30 percent in the past 13 years and geographic area these birds occupy has declined about one third over the same period. In Nova Scotia, the number and the sites where chimney swifts are found has also declined. Many aerial insect eating bird species have declined throughout the Americas in the past 30 years. The cause of the declines is not clear but likely involves changes in insect populations due to habitat changes and pesticide use. A decline in chimneys and large hollow trees that are used for nesting and roosting is also a factor. Large kills resulting from hurricanes crossing migration paths has recently been a serious concern.

Moose (Mainland Population) (*Alces alces americana*) - **Endangered** (2003)



The native population of moose in Nova Scotia is limited to approximately 1000 individuals in isolated sub-populations across the mainland. The population has declined by at least 20% over the past 30 years with much greater reductions in distribution and population size over more than 200 years, despite extensive hunting closures since the 1930's. The decline is not well understood but involves a complex of threats including: over harvesting, illegal hunting, climate change, parasitic brainworm, increased road access to moose habitat, spread of white-tailed deer, very high levels of cadmium, deficiencies in cobalt and possibly an unknown viral disease.

Moose on Cape Breton Island are not at risk as they are abundant and the result of a re-introduction of moose from Alberta in the 1940's.

Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) - **Endangered** (2002)



Lynx formally occurred in areas of suitable habitat across mainland Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island. The current population is very small and restricted to two areas in the highlands of Cape Breton Island. Historic and current threats to Lynx include: harvesting, competition from bobcats and coyotes, habitat loss, disease and climate change.

American Marten (Cape Breton Population) (*Martes americana*) - **Endangered** (2001)



The Cape Breton population of Marten is likely less than 50 animals. At present there is no evidence of breeding and there has been extensive loss and degradation of suitable habitat. Marten were trapped extensively throughout Nova Scotia since the 1700's until the season was closed in the early 1900's due to low numbers. The species was thought to have been extirpated from the mainland and several re-introductions have been attempted. There have been some very recent records of

Marten in southwest Nova Scotia. However, the status of the Marten on the mainland is considered "data deficient." More research is required.

THREATENED

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) - **Threatened** (2007)



In Canada, this species has shown both long and short-term declines in population. Over the last nine years, a 49 percent decline was observed in survey. Declines have also been observed in Nova Scotia. Reduction in insect food resources has apparently contributed to the decline of this species as with other aerial insectivore. Reduction in habitat availability caused by fire suppression, intensive agriculture and declines in gravel rooftops in urban areas, may also be factors in some regions.

Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) - **Threatened** (2003)



In Nova Scotia, the Ribbon Snake exists as a small, isolated post-glacial relic population confined to the southwest part of the province. This semi-aquatic snake is restricted to specialized habitats on lakeshores and other wetland habitats. Little is known about the species. As such, it is unique and due to its apparently small population is susceptible to demographic and environmental fluctuations. In addition, the species is threatened by habitat loss due to shoreline development.

VULNERABLE

Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) - **Vulnerable** (2006)



Cedar is an uncommon tree in Nova Scotia and currently only 32 stands in five counties have been identified. The population is fragmented and comprised of mostly small stands that appear genetically separate from each. Most populations are different from populations in NB and PEI. Almost all of the cedar are located on private land and only one stand is formally protected. In the recent past stands have been lost to forest harvesting and highway construction. Ornamental cedars of the same species have been planted around homes and in gardens; these trees are not considered part of the native population and are not covered by the listing under the

Act.

Prototype Quillwort (*Isoetes prototypes*) - **Vulnerable** (2006)



A regional endemic with almost all of its global population in Canada . The species is an aquatic perennial with very specific habitat requirements limiting its occurrence in Canada to about 12 small unconnected lakes, 9 of which are in Nova Scotia. The species is found in nutrient-poor, cold, spring-fed lakes. Although several sites have been shown to contain large numbers of plants, one half of the documented sites contain small populations. A wide range of potential limiting factors could impact the species, including changes in water quality, boating and

shoreline development.

Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) - **Vulnerable** (2000)



There may be 2,500 Wood Turtles widely dispersed across river habitats in Nova Scotia, but information suggests that this species is declining. Like other turtles, this species is of concern because even low mortality rates of adults can have serious population impacts. Threats to wood turtles in Nova Scotia include alteration and destruction of river and stream habitats and translocations of turtles by people. (click [image](#) for larger pictures)