In recent years, fewer than 20 pairs of Piping plovers have been observed nesting in Manitoba.

Animal and plant species have come and gone since life on earth began, with many reasons for their extinction. However, the rate of change on earth seems to be increasing. Habitat is being lost due to human population growth, non-native species are outcompeting native species, species are being overexploited, and the earth’s climate is changing. The rate at which species are becoming extinct appears to be increasing. Many countries, provinces and states have enacted legislation to ensure that species at risk of extinction are given special protection.

“Species at risk” are defined as plants and animals that are in danger of extinction or extirpation throughout all or a portion of their range. Although the terms “Endangered” and “Threatened” are commonly used, here they are used in the legal sense. This overview deals with species that are legally designated under Manitoba’s Endangered Species Act.

### Manitoba’s Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act was proclaimed in 1990 and amended in 1993 by the government of Manitoba. It was enacted: (1) to ensure the protection and survival of endangered and threatened species in the province; (2) to enable the reintroduction of extirpated species into the province; and (3) to designate species as Endangered, Threatened, Extinct or Extirpated species.

The Act prohibits human activities that would kill, disturb or interfere with any listed species. It also prohibits human activities that damage, destroy or remove habitats and natural resources that protected species are dependent upon for life and propagation. Possession of species listed by regulation under the Act is prohibited. The minister may grant permits providing exceptions to these rules for listed species, for the purposes of scientific research or reintroduction efforts.

Species can be regulated under the Act in one of three categories: Extirpated, Endangered and Threatened. An additional Vulnerable category, not regulated under the Act, serves as a “watch list” for species which could become threatened if the factors affecting them are not reversed.

### Extirpated Species

Any species once native to Manitoba that has disappeared through all of its Manitoba range. Extirpated species are declared as such by regulation under the Act. Extirpated species may still be found elsewhere in their range, or in captivity. When a species becomes extirpated throughout its entire range, it is considered extinct. Species currently listed as Extirpated in Manitoba are:

- **Birds:**
  - Greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)
  - Long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*)
  - Trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

- **Butterflies:**
  - Riding’s satyr (*Neominois ridingsii*)

- **Mammals:**
  - Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)
  - Muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*)
  - Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*)
  - Swift fox (*Vulpes velox*)

### Endangered Species

Any native Manitoba species that is threatened to disappear through all or most of its Manitoba range. Endangered species are declared as such by regulation under the Act. Species currently listed as Endangered in Manitoba are:

- **Birds:**
  - Greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)
  - Long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*)
  - Trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

- **Butterflies:**
  - Riding’s satyr (*Neominois ridingsii*)

- **Mammals:**
  - Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)
  - Muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*)
  - Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*)
  - Swift fox (*Vulpes velox*)
Cool Facts

Extirpated species such as the Trumpeter swan are occasionally observed and reported in Manitoba by the public. However, the species will remain listed as Extirpated until it is confirmed as being a breeding resident in Manitoba.

About 25 percent of Manitoba’s native plants and animals are considered provincially rare, often because Manitoba is at the edge of their range. The 23 species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened in Manitoba make up less than one percent of all Manitoba’s known plants and animal species.

Many of Manitoba’s species at risk, such as the Piping plover and Western prairie fringed orchid, are at risk throughout their entire range. Others, such as the Great Plains ladies’-tresses, are considered common in nearby provinces and states.

Southern Manitoba is home to most of Manitoba’s species at risk. This is due in large part to the impacts that human settlement has had on habitat for these plants and animals.

• The Western prairie fringed orchid’s only Canadian occurrence is in southeastern Manitoba.

Threatened Species

Any native Manitoba species likely to become endangered or at risk due to low or declining numbers in Manitoba if the factors affecting it do not improve. Threatened species are declared as such by regulation under the act. Species currently listed as Threatened in Manitoba are:

**Birds:**
- Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

**Butterflies:**
- Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*)

**Plants:**
- Western silvery aster (*Aster sericeus*)
- Western spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*)

This list is current as of March, 2001 and is subject to change. Visit the Wildlife Branch Web site for updated lists.

Get involved in recovery

If you have one of Manitoba’s species at risk on your property, congratulations. Your land management skills have helped to maintain an important part of our natural heritage.

Contact the Wildlife Branch if you would like more information on Manitoba’s species at risk.

**Manitoba Conservation**
**Wildlife Branch**
Box 24, 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3J 3W3
(204) 945-7764
www.gov.mb.ca/natres/wildlife/index.html

Partners in production of this fact sheet:
Manitoba Conservation, Wildlife Branch
Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

Exirpated Species
Any species once native to Manitoba that has disappeared through all of its Manitoba range. Extirpated species are declared as such by regulation under the Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Species
Any native Manitoba species threatened to disappear through all or most of its Manitoba range. Endangered species are declared as such by regulation under the Endangered Species Act.

Threatened Species
Any native Manitoba species likely to become endangered or at risk due to low or declining numbers in Manitoba if the factors affecting it don’t improve. Threatened species are declared as such by regulation under the Endangered Species Act.

Vulnerable Species
Species not regulated under the Endangered Species Act but which could eventually be considered Endangered or Threatened if the factors affecting them do not improve.