

Cerulean Warbler

Dendroica cerulea



Status: **Threatened**

Threats:

- ◆ Habitat loss especially on wintering grounds - forest fragmentation and degradation; tropical deforestation
- ◆ Even-age forest management practices
- ◆ Brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds



Photo: US DOI

Description:

- ◆ Small songbird 11-12 cm in length
- ◆ Has a short tail and long wings with broad white wing bars
- ◆ Males have a blue back and cheeks, white chest and belly with a dark ring across the chest
- ◆ Females are more blue-grey; chest and belly are slightly yellowish
- ◆ Juveniles are similar to the adult female, but with less vibrant colours and less pronounced markings
- ◆ Song is a series of buzzy notes of one pitch followed by a buzzy higher pitched trill: 'chick-chick-chick-chick-chick-cher-zeee'

Biology:

- ◆ Nests and feeds high in the tree canopy
- ◆ Lays 3-4 eggs in a nest made from bark fibres, grass and spider webs
- ◆ Feeds on insects
- ◆ Returns to the same breeding grounds each year
- ◆ Are interior forest birds

Habitat:

- ◆ Only found in very southern parts of Muskoka; main range in Ontario is south of the Canadian Shield
- ◆ Requires large, relatively undisturbed tracts of wet, mature deciduous forest with large trees, an open understory, and gaps
- ◆ Migrates to central and northern South America in August and returns in May

Species at Risk
STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

Cerulean Warbler

Dendroica cerulea

STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

Status: **Threatened**

Cerulean Warbler on Your Property? **Here's What You Can Do:**

- ◆ **Don't disturb nests, young or adults.** Be respectful and observe from a distance.
- ◆ **Appreciate flying insects.** Flying insects like moths and beetles are an important component of the ecosystem, becoming food for a wide variety of birds and other animals.
- ◆ **Protect any forests and natural vegetation on your property.**
- ◆ **Support sustainable forestry practices when you purchase wood products.** Look for the FSC logo.
- ◆ **Coffee drinkers** - buy shade grown, organic coffee to help protect over wintering habitat for many of our songbirds.
- ◆ **See or hear a Cerulean Warbler close by?** Submit your sighting to the Natural Heritage Information Centre at nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species_report.cfm. Photographs with specific locations or mapping coordinates are always helpful.
- ◆ **Contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.** If you find a Cerulean Warbler or a nest on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship programs that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. Contact the MNR for more information.
- ◆ **Learn More.** Check out the Species at Risk section on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.



Male
Photo: Parks Canada



Female
Photo: Ted Krug

Ontario's **Endangered Species Act**

Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* came into force on June 30, 2008, making Ontario a North American leader in the protection of species at risk and their habitats.

Compared to Ontario's previous Act, written in 1971, the new ESA 2007 provides:

- ◆ Science-based assessment of species' status
- ◆ Automatic protection of a species and its habitat once it's listed as endangered or threatened
- ◆ Broader protection for species at risk and their habitats
- ◆ Greater support for volunteer stewardship efforts of private landowners, resource users, and conservation organizations
- ◆ A commitment to recovery of species through recovery planning
- ◆ Greater accountability, including government reporting requirements

Ontario is home to more than 30,000 species, most of which have stable populations.

However, more than 180 species in Ontario, 34 of which are found in Parry Sound-Muskoka, are currently considered "at risk" because of threats like:

- ◆ Habitat loss
- ◆ Global changes in insect populations
- ◆ Pollution
- ◆ Invasive species
- ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Over-harvesting
- ◆ Road mortality



Learn more about Species at Risk on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.