Cerulean Warbler  
*Dendroica cerulea*

**Status:** Threatened

**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

**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

Species at Risk
Cerulean Warbler
Dendroica cerulea

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.