

# Olive-sided Flycatcher

*Contopus cooperi*



Status: **Threatened**

## Threats:

- ◆ Habitat loss on breeding grounds
- ◆ Deforestation on wintering grounds
- ◆ Decline in its food sources (flying insects)
- ◆ Disturbance of nesting areas by logging



Photo: Dominic Sherony

## Description:

- ◆ Medium-size songbird  
18-20 cm long
- ◆ Stocky body with a relatively short tail
- ◆ Back and side feathers are a brownish, olive-gray colour
- ◆ Center of its breast is white
- ◆ Distinctive call is a whistle that sounds like “quick-three-beers”
- ◆ Often seen perching at the tops of tall trees

## Biology:

- ◆ Makes swooping flights from its high perch to catch insects on the fly such as bees, wasps, large flies, beetles and dragonflies
- ◆ Nest building occurs from mid-May to mid-June; nests are usually placed on the outer reaches of branches in dense clusters of twigs and needles high in a conifer tree
- ◆ 3-4 eggs usually laid mid-June to early July
- ◆ Will aggressively defend their nest by dive bombing and bill snapping at potential predators such as other birds and squirrels

## Habitat:

- ◆ Often found along natural forest edges and openings in central and northern Ontario
- ◆ Prefers semi-open coniferous or mixed forests adjacent to wetlands and rivers
- ◆ Begins migration in late summer to wintering grounds in Panama and the Andes Mountains

Species at Risk  
STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

# Olive-sided Flycatcher

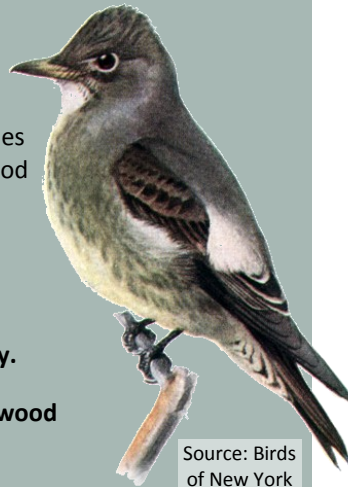
*Contopus cooperi*

## STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

Status: **Threatened**

### Olive-sided Flycatcher on Your Property? **Here's What You Can Do:**

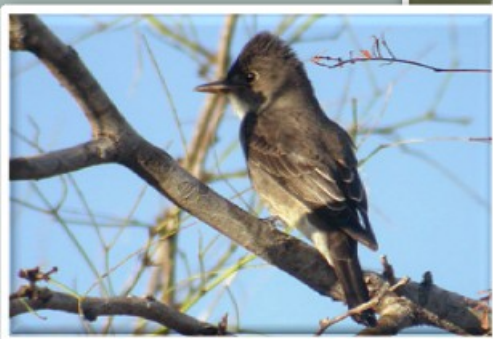
- ◆ **Don't disturb nests, young or adults.** Be respectful and observe from a distance.
- ◆ **Appreciate flying insects.** Flying insects like moths and beetles are an important component of the ecosystem, becoming food for a wide variety of birds and other animals.
- ◆ **Coffee drinkers** - buy shade grown, organic coffee to help protect over wintering habitat for many of our songbirds.
- ◆ **Protect any forests and natural vegetation on your property.**
- ◆ **Support sustainable forestry practices when you purchase wood products.** Look for the FSC logo.
- ◆ **See or hear an Olive-sided Flycatcher close by?** Submit your sighting to the Natural Heritage Information Centre at [nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species\\_report.cfm](http://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 an Olive-sided Flycatcher 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](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).



Source: Birds of New York



Photo: Jeff Nadler



### 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](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).