

# Birds in British Columbia that are Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern



"The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) exists to provide Canadians and their governments with advice regarding the status of wildlife species that are nationally at risk of extinction or extirpation." - [www.cosewic.gc.ca](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca)

"The Species at Risk Act (SARA) is a federal law with three main goals: to prevent endangered or threatened species from becoming extinct or extirpated; to help in the recovery of endangered, threatened and extirpated species; and to manage species of special concern to help prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened." – [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca)

"British Columbia has no stand-alone endangered species act. The provincial Wildlife Act protects virtually all vertebrate animals from direct harm, except as allowed by regulation (e.g., hunting or trapping). Legal designation as Endangered or Threatened under the Act increases the penalties for harming a species, and also enables the protection of habitat in a Critical Wildlife Management Area." - [www.env.gov.bc.ca](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca)

There are four different listing categories under SARA (and COSEWIC). As defined in section 2, the four categories are:

- Extirpated species: are species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild.
- Endangered species: are species that face imminent extirpation or extinction.
- Threatened species: are species that are likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.
- Special concern: are species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

In BC, species and ecological communities are assigned to one of three lists, based on their provincial Conservation Status Rank.

- Red-listed species: are Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened in British Columbia.
- Blue-listed species: are of Special Concern (formerly Vulnerable)
- Yellow-listed species: are considered secure.

## Helpful Websites:

- [www.cosewic.gc.ca](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca) - COSEWIC main page
- [registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/](http://registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/) - the "Public Registry" has updates and information about what SARA does
- [laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/) - in depth definition of what the laws of SARA entail
- [www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html) - Ministry of Environment of BC's "Species and Ecosystem Explorer" tool

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English Name	Scientific Name	BC Status	COSEWIC Status	SARA Status	Species Code
Greater Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Red	Extirpated	Extirpated	B-GSGR
White-tailed Ptarmigan, <i>saxatilis</i> subspecies	<i>Lagopus leucura saxatilis</i>	Blue			B-WTPT-SA
Sharp-tailed Grouse, <i>columbianus</i> subspecies	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus</i>	Blue			B-STGR-CO
Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Blue			B-BRAN
Canada Goose, <i>occidentalis</i> subspecies	<i>Branta canadensis occidentalis</i>	Red			B-CAGO-OC
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Blue			B-LTDU
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Blue			B-TUSW
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>	Blue			B-BLSC
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Blue			B-SUSC
Yellow-billed Loon	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	Blue	Not at Risk		B-YBLO
Short-tailed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	Red	Threatened	Threatened	B-STAL
Laysan Albatross	<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	Blue			B-LAAL
Black-footed Albatross	<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-BFAL
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Red			B-NOFU
Buller's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>	Blue			B-BLSH
Flesh-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Blue			B-FFSH
Pink-footed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>	Blue	Threatened	Threatened	B-PFSH
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	Red			B-CLGR
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Red	Special Concern		B-WEGR
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Blue			B-EAGR
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Red	Not at Risk		B-AWPE
Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies	<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-GBHE-FA
Great Blue Heron, <i>herodias</i> subspecies	<i>Ardea herodias herodias</i>	Blue			B-GBHE-HE
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Blue			B-AMBI
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Blue			B-GRHE
Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Red			B-BCNH
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Blue	Not at Risk		B-DCCO
Pelagic Cormorant, <i>pelagicus</i> subspecies	<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus pelagicus</i>	Red			B-PECO-PE
Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	Red			B-BRCO

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Northern Goshawk, <i>laingi</i> subspecies	<i>Accipiter gentilis laingi</i>	Red	Threatened	Threatened	B-NOGO-LA
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Blue	Not at Risk		B-RLHA
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Blue			B-BWHA
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Red			B-SWHA
Yellow Rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Red	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-YERA
American Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Blue			B-AGPL
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Blue			B-AMAV
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Red			B-UPSA
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red	Endangered/ Threatened	Threatened/ Endangered	B-REKN
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Blue			B-SBDO
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	Red			B-HUGO
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-LBCU
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Blue	Special Concern		B-RNPL
Wandering Tattler	<i>Tringa incana</i>	Blue			B-WATA
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Red			B-PAJA
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Blue	Not at Risk		B-CATE
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Blue			B-CAGU
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Red			B-BLKI
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Red	Data Deficient		B-FOTE
Marbled Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Blue	Threatened	Threatened	B-MAMU
Tufted Puffin	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	Blue			B-TUPU
Horned Puffin	<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>	Red			B-HOPU
Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	Blue	Special Concern		B-CAAU
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-ANMU
Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Red			B-COMU
Thick-billed Murre	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Red			B-TBMU
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-BTPI
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Red			B-YBCU

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Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Red	Threatened	Special Concern	B-BNOW
Northern Saw-whet Owl, <i>brooksi</i> subspecies	<i>Aegolius acadicus brooksi</i>	Blue	Threatened	Threatened	B-NSWO-BR
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-SEOW
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	B-BUOW
Northern Pygmy-Owl, <i>swarhi</i> subspecies	<i>Glaucidium gnoma swarhi</i>	Blue			B-NPOW-SW
Western Screech-Owl, <i>kennicottii</i> subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>	Blue	Threatened	Special Concern	B-WSOW-KE
Western Screech-Owl, <i>macfarlanei</i> subspecies	<i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i>	Red	Threatened	Endangered	B-WSOW-MA
Flammulated Owl	<i>Psiloscoops flammeolus</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-FLOW
Spotted Owl	<i>Strix occidentalis</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	B-SPOW
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Yellow	Threatened	Threatened	B-CONI
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	Blue			B-WTSW
Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	Blue	Endangered		B-BLSW
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Blue			B-RTHU
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Blue	Threatened	Threatened	B-LEWO
Lewis's Woodpecker (Georgia Depression population)	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i> pop. 1	Red	Threatened	Threatened	B-LEWO-01
White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picooides albolarvatus</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	B-WHWO
Hairy Woodpecker, <i>picoideus</i> subspecies	<i>Picooides villosus picoideus</i>	Blue			B-HAWO-PI
Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	Blue	Endangered	Endangered	B-WISA
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Red	Not at Risk		B-PRFA
Peregrine Falcon, <i>anatum</i> subspecies	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Red	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-PEFA-AN
Peregrine Falcon, <i>pealei</i> subspecies	<i>Falco peregrinus pealei</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-PEFA-PE
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Blue	Not at Risk		B-GYRF
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Blue	Threatened	Threatened	B-OSFL
Gray Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	Blue	Not at Risk		B-GRFL
Steller's Jay, <i>carlottae</i> subspecies	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri carlottae</i>	Blue			B-STJA-CA
Horned Lark, <i>merrilli</i> subspecies	<i>Eremophila alpestris merrilli</i>	Blue			B-HOLA-ME
Horned Lark, <i>strigata</i> subspecies	<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	B-HOLA-ST
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Blue	Threatened		B-BASW

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Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Blue			B-PUMA
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	Blue	Not at Risk		B-CAWR
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	Blue			B-WIWR
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	B-SATH
Western Bluebird (Georgia Depression population)	<i>Sialia mexicana</i> pop. 1	Red			B-WEBL-01
Pine Grosbeak, <i>carlottae</i> subspecies	<i>Pinicola enucleator carlottae</i>	Blue			B-PIGR-CA
Canada Warbler	<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	Blue	Threatened	Threatened	B-CAWA
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	B-YBCH
Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	Blue			B-COWA
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Setophaga castanea</i>	Red			B-BAYW
Cape May Warbler	<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>	Blue			B-CMWA
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	Blue			B-BTNW
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Blue	Threatened		B-BOBO
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Blue	Special Concern	Special Concern	B-RUBL
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Blue			B-BAOR
Western Meadowlark (Georgia Depression population)	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i> pop. 1	Red			B-WEME-01
Nelson's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	Red	Not at Risk		B-NESP
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Red			B-GRSP
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Blue			B-LASP
Vesper Sparrow, <i>affinis</i> subspecies	<i>Pooecetes gramineus affinis</i>	Red	Endangered	Endangered	B-VESP-AF
Brewer's Sparrow, <i>breweri</i> subspecies	<i>Spizella breweri breweri</i>	Red			B-BRSP-BR
Smith's Longspur	<i>Calcarius pictus</i>	Blue			B-SMLO