

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Eastern loggerhead shrike

Lanius ludovicianus alvarens

One of Canada's most
endangered songbirds



wildlifepreservation.ca

*Canada's last defense for
endangered species*



Wildlife Preservation Canada exists to save species from extinction

For a growing number of Canadian species at risk, habitat protection alone is no longer enough. Wildlife Preservation Canada's mission is to save animal species at risk from extinction in Canada by providing direct, hands-on care. We specialize in science-based techniques such as conservation breeding and release, reintroduction, and translocation. We are the only organization in Canada to provide this critical need for multiple species in recovery efforts across the country. Our Conservation Action Plan is based on the urgency of the need and is updated annually.

We work in collaboration with appointed recovery teams and other organizations. Our partners include federal and provincial ministries and parks, habitat-oriented charities, land trusts and private individuals, zoos, universities and colleges, Indigenous communities and local grassroots volunteer groups. Our role varies to suit the situation. In most cases we take the lead coordinating role. In others, we are a supporting partner. In all, our only agenda is to save species from disappearing from Canada.

We also build Canada's conservation capacity by providing young scientists the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with endangered species. Our Canada's New Noah program develops future conservation leaders with expertise in recovering species from the brink of extinction.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last year, I wrote that there is good reason for hope and optimism. The world was awakening to the strong connection between human well-being and Mother Nature's well-being as high extinction rates and the climate crisis were making headline news around the world. Being positive is even more important today as we face unprecedented threats and disruption to our everyday lives.

As a field biologist I once scorned my tiny backyard in Vaughan, ON, but it has become a welcome escape and vital connection with nature. I delight in the music of the enthusiastic song sparrow next door and the surprise visits from a hummingbird or tiger swallowtail. The other day I saw what appeared to be an ant crawling up my leg, but a closer look revealed it had eight legs and was an ant-mimicking spider!

In 2019, WPC's conservation breeding programs reared and released dozens, in some cases hundreds, of animals from a wide range of threatened species. For the critically endangered eastern loggerhead shrike in Canada, one third of the wild-breeding birds are individuals that WPC released from our breeding program in earlier years. Our teams raised turtles and frogs, overwintered caterpillars, tested artificial hibernation sites for snakes, surveyed for threatened bumblebees, and more.

The heart of WPC is its dedicated staff, volunteers, board and donors. My thanks to everyone from across Canada, and beyond, who make our programs such a success.

Dr. Bridget Stutchbury
Professor of Biology, York University
President, Wildlife Preservation Canada



We continue to optimize our conservation breeding program by applying what we learn each year through a targeted research program that looks at improving fertility, nutrition and environmental factors. Thanks to increased support from our donors, we increased our capacity to retain larger numbers of both Oregon spotted frogs and western painted turtles at the conservation facility to allow them additional time to grow larger and stronger before we released them to the wild.

~ Andrea Gielens, Lead Biologist

OUR IMPACT

960

Oregon spotted
frogs and tadpoles
released into the
wild.

172

Western painted
turtle hatchlings
being headstarted.

FRASER VALLEY WETLANDS

Oregon spotted frog and western painted turtle

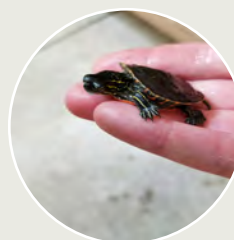
British Columbia's freshwater ecosystems are being impacted by habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and invasive species. Our recovery program aims to increase diversity and functionality of wetland habitats by conserving the Oregon spotted frog and the western painted turtle, two endangered species in the Fraser River Valley.

The Oregon spotted frog recovery plan calls for breeding, headstarting and release to recover wild populations. In 2019 we took care of 48 male and 41 female Oregon spotted frogs at our conservation breeding facility. These produced 820 tadpoles. In April, we released 699 of these tadpoles and released a further 261 young frogs in September. A further 138 young frogs were kept back over the winter to allow them to continue to grow and increase in size prior to being released in 2020. The most encouraging news from 2019 was that wild population monitoring provided evidence that breeding was occurring at the reintroduction site. Wild populations appear to be recovering where we have invested our recovery effort.

To save the western painted turtle from disappearing from BC, the recovery team recommends protecting nests, collecting and artificially incubating eggs, and headstarting new hatchlings for release once they are old enough to be safer from predators. Our team head started 200 turtles over the winter in 2018-2019. Of these, 81 turtles grew large enough to be released to wetlands throughout the Fraser Valley in 2019.

Most significantly, support from donors allowed us to hire a seasonal technician to focus entirely on turtle nest monitoring. This allowed us to find 55 wild nests and collect 268 eggs for artificial incubation and headstarting. Of these, 172 eggs hatched and the hatchlings are thriving and will be kept over the winter and released in 2020. Thanks to extra staffing, 2019 was the first year that we were able to carry out this consistent turtle nest and population monitoring at the release site which will allow us to begin to evaluate the impact of the release program.

The recovery programs for both species continued to benefit from strong collaboration across governments, non-governmental charities, land stewards, universities, conservation breeding facilities, and private individuals demonstrating how positive impact results from positive partnerships.



Western painted turtle
(*Chrysemys picta belli*)
Status: Endangered
on the Pacific Coast of
Canada



Oregon spotted frog
(*Rana pretiosa*)
Status: Endangered in
Canada

We continued to restore populations of western painted turtles in habitats that they occupied historically but have since disappeared from in southern BC. These restored populations appear to be stable and thriving. Although we have not yet seen evidence of breeding in the wild, these populations are young and we expect to observe nesting females in the next few years as the reintroduced population ages and females reach breeding age.

In 2019 we produced 820 Oregon spotted frog tadpoles from 12,000+ eggs. We have the capacity to produce significantly more tadpoles, but we must continue to research fertility and egg viability issues within our captive breeding population. Low fertility in frog conservation breeding programs is not unique and there are similar projects around the world that we can learn from. Sharing knowledge across larger global networks is an important part of developing successful species recovery programs.

Active recovery programs for these two species is a catalyst for conserving and restoring wetlands in the Fraser River Valley which benefits all of the other interconnected species that depend on these wetlands for their survival as well.

Program Partners

B.C. Conservation Foundation	Greater Vancouver Zoo
B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy	Leq'a:mel First Nation
B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development	Metro Vancouver Parks
Canadian Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Team	Precious Frog
Coastal Painted Turtle Project	Private landowners of Nicomen Slough
Fraser Valley Conservancy	Seabird Island First Nation
	Simon Fraser University
	Toronto Zoo
	University of British Columbia
	University of the Fraser Valley
	Vancouver Aquarium
	Western Painted Turtle Recovery Team



OUR IMPACT



Insect pollinators are a cornerstone of our natural world and are vital contributors to crop pollination and food production. Pollinator decline is an increasing concern across Canada—1/3 of Canada's bumble bees are in decline, and several have been assessed as critically at-risk of disappearing from Canada altogether. We need to do everything we possibly can to stop this from happening.

~ Genevieve Rowe, Lead Biologist

5,553

bumble bee records
from surveys in
Ontario and Alberta.

400

bumble bee nest
boxes installed in
Ontario for research to
help at-risk species.

NATIVE POLLINATOR INITIATIVE

Bumble bees

Wildlife Preservation Canada began our Native Pollinator Initiative in 2013 to learn more about the threats responsible for declines to Canada's bumble bees and butterflies and to develop techniques for species recovery. We have collaborated with partners across North America to implement a diversity of conservation projects: a bumble bee captive breeding program, a growing BumbleBeeWatch.org citizen science initiative, Ontario's largest bumble bee population research and biodiversity monitoring program, public educational workshops, and habitat assessment and restoration. In 2019, we continued to focus on all programs within this multi-faceted initiative.

Thirty-two yellow-banded and brown-belted bumble bee queens were collected from 23 sites across Ontario for installation in our novel conservation breeding program. Mortality was low with queens of both species living much longer than expected compared to their wild counterparts. Bees remained healthy and full of vitality for the duration of their time in captivity but, inexplicably, did not breed. This reminds us that we are still pioneering conservation breeding methods for native bumble bees and has motivated us to collaborate further with partners working in similar programs in the U.S. and Mexico, to ensure that initiating broodiness in queens is a 2020 priority.

Spring surveys for bumble bees were carried out at 95 sites across Ontario, resulting in 3,426 bumble bee records. 110 observations of at-risk bumble bees were recorded for declining species including yellow-banded, yellow, Suckley's cuckoo, and American bumble bees – as well as Ontario's first record of Hunt's bumble bee. This is by far the largest bumble bee monitoring program of its kind in Ontario and represents a major effort to monitor and determine factors for bumble bee declines in the province.

We participated in expanding the BumbleBeeWatch.org citizen science across North America and continued to develop a Train-the-Trainer program where we trained other organizations and individuals to capably expand the citizen science program across Canada, attracting new participants and incorporating new elements to re-engage dedicated volunteers in Alberta and Ontario. Development of this nation-wide training method for volunteer citizen scientists to survey bumble bees will have a significant impact on the amount of information available to counter declines of rare species.



Yellow-banded bumble bee
(*Bombus terricola*)
Status: Special Concern

Ninety percent of flowering plants rely on insect pollinators for reproduction, and those plants support thousands of other species. Insect pollinators such as butterflies, flies, and bees are a cornerstone of natural ecosystems.

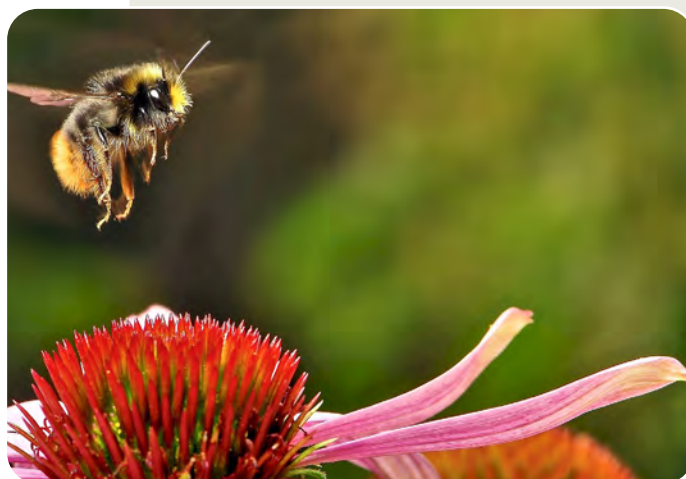
A bumble bee's ability to perform *buzz pollination* sets them apart from most other insect pollinators. By vibrating their large flight muscles when they land on a flower, they can access trapped pollen. Some plants, such as tomatoes and Canada's blueberries, produce much higher yields when pollinated by bumble bees using this technique.

The Native Pollinator Initiative is a nationwide multi-species effort to save these important insect pollinators from extinction.

Program Partners

African Lion Safari
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Ministry of Environment and Parks
Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation & Provincial Park
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ontario Parks, Pinery Provincial Park
Queens University

Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Science North
The Rogers Foundation
The Schad Foundation
The Xerces Society
Toronto Zoo
University of Guelph
University of Toronto, Scarborough
US Department of Agriculture
York University





2019 was a busy year with the butterfly captive rearing program producing more than 900 caterpillars and we will be looking forward to releasing them at a new release site on Hornby Island in 2020. This will be a historic release and significantly expand the safety net for this species here in Canada. This is now possible due to the re-establishment of an effective conservation breeding program to provide caterpillars for release to boost wild populations.

~ Andrea Gielens, Lead Biologist

OUR IMPACT

911

Taylor's checkerspot caterpillars raised in captivity for release.

300

Taylor's checkerspot eggs collected by wild oviposition.

NATIVE POLLINATOR INITIATIVE

Taylor's checkerspot butterfly

The Taylor's checkerspot butterfly is sensitive to changes in its Garry Oak meadow habitat and is an indicator of a healthy ecosystem. Garry Oak habitats are also endangered and conservation of both butterflies and their habitat will be mutually beneficial and benefit the other threatened species that also rely on this habitat for their survival.

In 2018 we discovered a new population of this bright butterfly on Vancouver Island bringing the Canadian range to two locations – the only other population being on Denman Island. In 2019, we surveyed this new population and found it to be healthy, a significant step forward for the conservation of this species in Canada. This also allowed us to collect 106 caterpillars to restart the conservation breeding program.

In addition to the caterpillars collected in the spring, in the summer we collected 300 eggs from wild females through a technique called wild oviposition. Females were temporarily covered with an enclosure while we watched, and then our team collected some of the wild laid eggs. The eggs were then brought into captivity where we could care for them and improve their chances of growing into healthy caterpillars which can then be released back into the wild to bolster wild populations. This worked well and is a new technique that can be added to future butterfly conservation programs.

These innovative techniques and the hard work by our butterfly team and partners in BC have resulted in increased knowledge of the wild Taylor's checkerspot population, and the re-establishment of the conservation breeding program, crucial steps toward a brighter future for this beautiful butterfly.



Taylor's checkerspot butterfly
(*Euphydryas editha taylori*)
Status: Endangered in Canada

One of the things that sets Wildlife Preservation Canada apart from other conservation organizations is that we focus heavily on hands-on management for endangered species. This means that our recovery strategies build upon a framework that is anchored by our conservation breeding programs across a wide range of animal groups, big and small.

Our recovery programs for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and for bumble bee species at-risk have challenged the teams in our Native Pollinator Initiative to pioneer new techniques in the realm of captive breeding for insects—an approach to conservation that has been highlighted in the long-term recovery strategies of these and closely related species at-risk.

Program Partners

B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

Denman Conservancy Association

Denman Island Community Members

Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team

Greater Vancouver Zoo

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Implementation Group

Taylor's Checkerspot Community Working Group

The Rogers Foundation

University of British Columbia





The eastern loggerhead shrike program is one-of-a-kind. It is the only project answering questions on how to recover an endangered migratory songbird using so many novel techniques, including conservation breeding and release. Without the work we have been doing the loggerhead shrike would already have disappeared from Canada's short grasslands. Shrike conservation protects these grasslands and the other species that rely on this habitat for their own survival as well.

~ Hazel Wheeler, Lead Biologist

OUR IMPACT

64

shrikes raised in
captivity for release
in the wild.

18

confirmed breeding
pairs in the wild in
Canada.

EASTERN LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

Core program activities for the eastern loggerhead shrike recovery program throughout 2019 focused on habitat surveys, wild population monitoring, captive-breeding and release of juvenile shrikes, landowner outreach, and public education. Collaboration strengthened with partners in the U.S. to coordinate loggerhead shrike recovery activities across North America.

Program staff recorded 18 wild pairs of shrike breeding in eastern Canada (11 in Napanee, 5 in Carden, 1 in Smiths Falls, and 1 in Quebec). In addition to breeding pairs, there were at least another six single birds confirmed in Ontario. While the number of pairs in Napanee held steady compared to 2018, this was the second successive year that numbers in Carden declined.

Captive-bred birds comprised 36% of the wild population in Ontario this year, and pairings that included at least one captive-origin bird contributed 35% of wild fledglings. This highlights the importance of the conservation breeding and release program in ensuring that this species does not disappear from Canada.

Breeding facility partners produced 80 fledglings this season. We released 64 young shrikes to the wild in 2019 (40 in Carden and 24 in Napanee). The remaining young birds were kept back to supplement the captive population to continue this unique release program in the future. Ten of the released young were equipped with radio-transmitters, to be tracked on a Motus tower network so that we can piece together the puzzle that is shrike migration. This is addressing a critical knowledge gap to inform recovery strategies across their entire range, both here where they nest and in the U.S. where they overwinter.

The shrike team presented numerous talks and participated in community events throughout the year. The “Our Incredible World” educational series featuring the shrike recovery program was available for use in Ontario schools this year and highlighted how conservation programs can save species from extinction.

The eastern loggerhead shrike was once a common sight on the short grasslands of eastern Canada but habitat loss here and on their winter migrating grounds has reduced their numbers to the point where they are just hanging on. WPC has been carrying out recovery work for this species since 2003 and, while more work is still needed for them to recover, there is no doubt that without the conservation breeding and release component as part of the wider recovery program, this songbird would already have disappeared from Canada.



Eastern loggerhead shrike
(*Lanius ludovicianus alvarensis*)
Status: Endangered in Canada

Eastern loggerhead shrikes are among the first migratory songbirds to return to Canada in the springtime; pairs usually begin breeding and laying their first clutches of eggs in April.

Altricial birds like loggerhead shrikes go through perhaps one of the most dramatic “glow-ups” in the entire animal kingdom; what starts out as a bald, shriveled, bug-eyed ball in a nest turns into an adorable, fluffy, clumsy nestling!

Program Partners

African Lion Safari
Bird Studies Canada
BluEarth Renewables
Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative
Carden Forum
Couchiching Conservancy
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Laurentian University
Little Ray's Reptile Zoo and Nature Centre
Napanee Plain Joint Initiative
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere
North American Loggerhead Shrike Working Group

Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ontario Parks
Queens University
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
The Nature Conservancy of Canada
Toronto Zoo
Trent University
Western University
York University





Time is running out for our beloved Ojibway Prairie massasaugas. With only one sighting of this rattlesnake in 2019 (despite intensive search effort!), the need to augment Canada's only tallgrass prairie population of massasaugas through conservation reintroductions is greater now than ever before.

~ Jonathan Choquette, Lead Biologist

OUR IMPACT

450

field surveys to locate rattlesnakes and record other at-risk species.

260

meters of barrier fencing installed to prevent snake mortality.

OJIBWAY PRAIRIE REPTILES

The Ojibway Prairie Complex and Greater Park Ecosystem is an urban park system in southwestern Ontario that supports a remnant population of endangered eastern massasauga rattlesnakes. This population has experienced a drastic decline over the last 40 years and is in imminent threat of extirpation without immediate conservation intervention. The extinction of this population would mean a significant loss to the distribution, and ecological and genetic diversity of this species in Canada.

The long-term goal of the program is to recover the Ojibway Prairie population of massasaugas while providing benefits to a suite of other endangered reptiles and plants. Our approach hinges upon reducing threats following the recovery actions recommended in the Ontario government's Massasauga Recovery Strategy, and preparing the site for population augmentation using conservation translocations.

In 2019 Wildlife Preservation Canada continued surveys for massasaugas and other species in Ojibway while also carrying out a range of activities to prepare for the release of conservation bred massasaugas. Despite more than 180 surveys for massasaugas we found only a single individual suggesting that the population has reached an all-time low. Despite these results, we are committed to securing provincial permission to release captive bred snakes and prepare the site for release by restoring habitat and removing the threats that have caused the decline. In partnership with Laurentian University we tested novel release techniques at artificial hibernation sites with common eastern gartersnakes as a surrogate species. Once granted permission to go ahead with massasaugas, we will already have techniques developed and release sites will have been assessed for suitability as rattlesnake hibernation sites.

At the same time, we restored and managed 5km of habitat corridor linking reptile habitats and installed 260m of barrier fencing. Fencing reduces incidents of intentional killing by preventing snake dispersal into residential areas. Good fences make for good neighbours. Our public outreach program educated nearby businesses and 481 households on the uniqueness of Ojibway's massasaugas.

The greatest threat to endangered reptiles in the region is road mortality. We collaborated with partners to request temporary seasonal road closures adjacent to the Ojibway Prairie to address high road mortality. Surveys on 8 roads surrounding the Ojibway Prairie recorded 937 dead animals from June-November, one of the region's deadliest areas for snakes and turtles. We presented at city council meetings, but municipalities decided to do nothing in the short term. We will continue to work together to install wildlife crossings at mortality hotspots and advocate for seasonal road closures, similar to those used elsewhere in Ontario to protect reptiles from this unnecessary threat.



Eastern massasauga rattlesnake
(*Sistrurus catenatus*)

Status: Endangered in the Carolinian Zone of southwestern Ontario

The Ojibway Prairie Complex and Greater Park Ecosystem is home to a small population of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes. These rattlesnakes and other at-risk species in the area are threatened by residential development, habitat fragmentation, road mortality, and human-animal conflict. Conflicts between rattlesnakes and people can occur when these animals are encountered on trails or if they inadvertently wander into residential backyards adjacent to their protected habitat.

We tackle the issue of human-snake conflict in a few ways. Firstly, we provide park users with outreach materials and signage to inform them that they are sharing the park with a legally protected endangered species, something unique to the area they are visiting in southwestern Ontario. Secondly, we deliver outreach door hangers to residents that live next to rattlesnake habitat with information on how to call us first if they find a rattlesnake in their yard, instead of killing it. Finally, in some residential areas we are preventing negative human-snake interactions altogether by installing permanent snake barrier fencing between backyards and the massasauga's protected adjacent tallgrass habitat.

Program Partners

8Trees Inc.
City of Windsor
Environment and Climate
Change Canada
Essex Region Conservation
Authority
Hydro One/ Infrastructure
Ontario
Laurentian University
Ojibway Nature Centre
Ontario Ministry of
Environment, Conservation
and Parks

Ontario Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry
Ontario Ministry of
Transportation
Ontario Parks
ReNew Zoo
The Nature Conservancy of
Canada
Toronto Zoo
Town of LaSalle
University of Windsor



CANADA'S 30th NEW NOAH

Our 2019 Noah, Eric Jolin, shares his journey

Like most biologists, my fascination with the living world began at a young age. With summers spent at my grandparents' campground near Dunnville, along the banks of the Grand River, I was given free range to explore the surrounding forests, swamps, and waterways. Towards the end of high school, I picked up a copy of Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* and after the first few chapters I realized I had stumbled upon a game changer. The insights provided by that book are what propelled me to pursue a career in conservation.

This led me to the University of Guelph, where I completed my Bachelor's Degree, majoring in Wildlife Biology & Conservation. After a series of highly rewarding volunteer positions in post-grad labs around campus, I gained the experience necessary to get my first real job in conservation, as a naturalist with Killbear Provincial Park.

I would go on to spend two summers at Killbear. It was during this time that I came face to face with the threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake (aka massy). I became completely enthralled by Ontario's only venomous snake and I found myself drawn to the graduate research being conducted on ways to mitigate road mortality for the park's resident species at risk reptiles. Although I could not know it at the time, the massasauga would become the focal point for the next four years of my conservation career.

In time I began my role as a field biologist with Wildlife Preservation Canada's Ojibway Prairie Reptile Recovery Program and eventually as a project biologist of Wildlife Preservation Canada's Massasauga Site Fidelity and Translocation Study. Part of the study objective was to assess the efficacy of translocating neonate massasaugas. I was responsible for processing well over one hundred species-at-risk reptiles as well as for the translocation of 24 neonate (baby) massies. This experience allowed me to make a difference and enjoy what I was doing at the same time.

To have been chosen by Wildlife Preservation Canada as Canada's New Noah has been an immense honour. It represented not only the next big leap forward in my conservation career, but has equipped me with skills that I have brought home to help recover endangered species in Canada.



Canada's New Noah is a prestigious opportunity that has been bestowed annually to one promising young Canadian wildlife biologist every year since 1990. New Noahs spend six months on the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius, home of the famous but ill-fated dodo. While there, New Noahs are embedded within an internship program with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, a world-renowned conservation organization carrying out hands-on recovery programs for some of the world's rarest species.

During their time in Mauritius, these New Noahs experience firsthand the practical aspects of being part of an integrated conservation program focused on invasive species, small population management, and endangered species reintroductions. This is followed by a three-month course at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in the U.K. where the New Noah is enrolled in a Degree in Endangered Species Management run by the Durrell Conservation Academy in partnership with The University of Kent. The course provides a theoretical and evidence-based background on conservation to complement the hands-on experience in Mauritius.

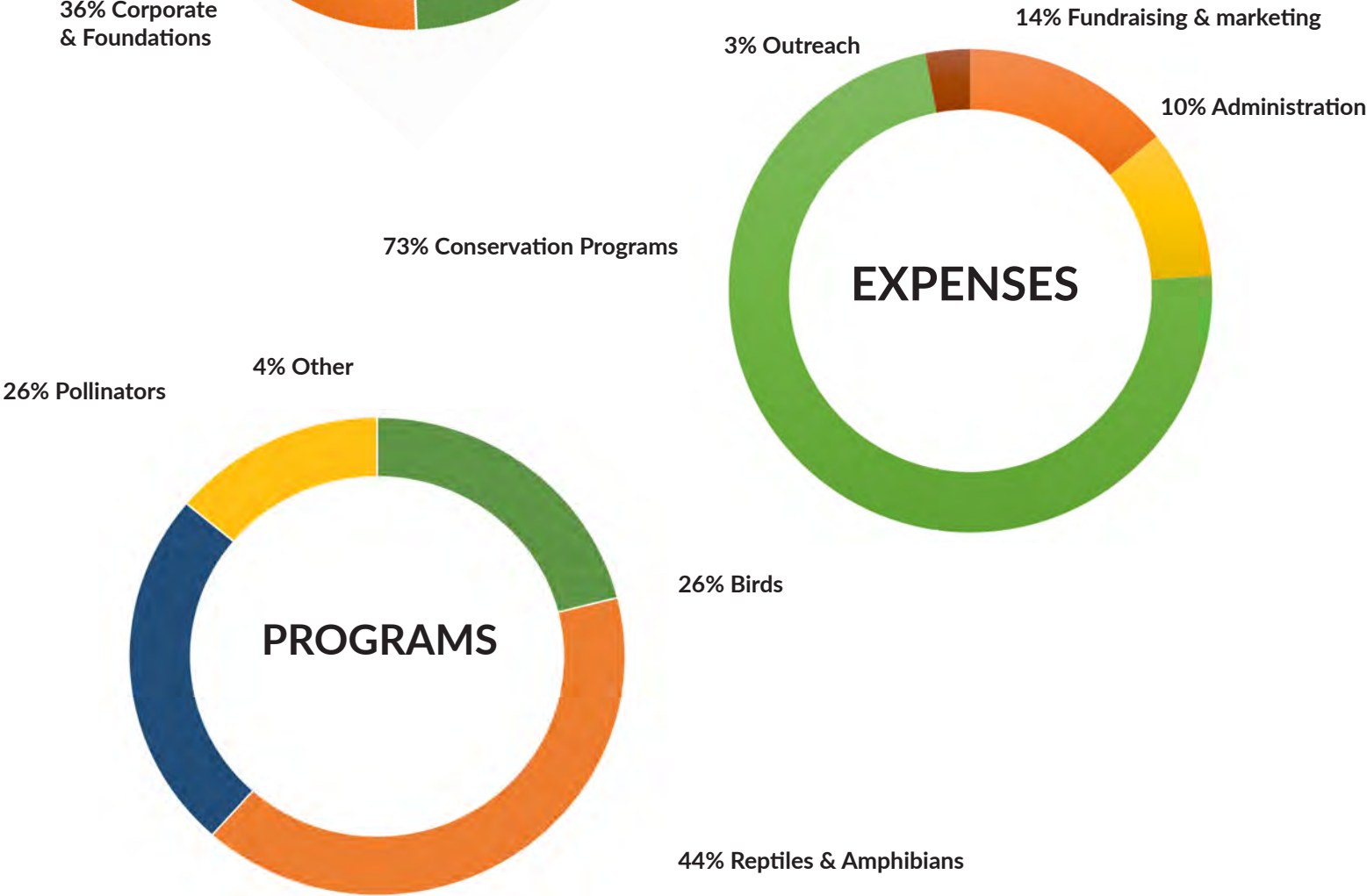
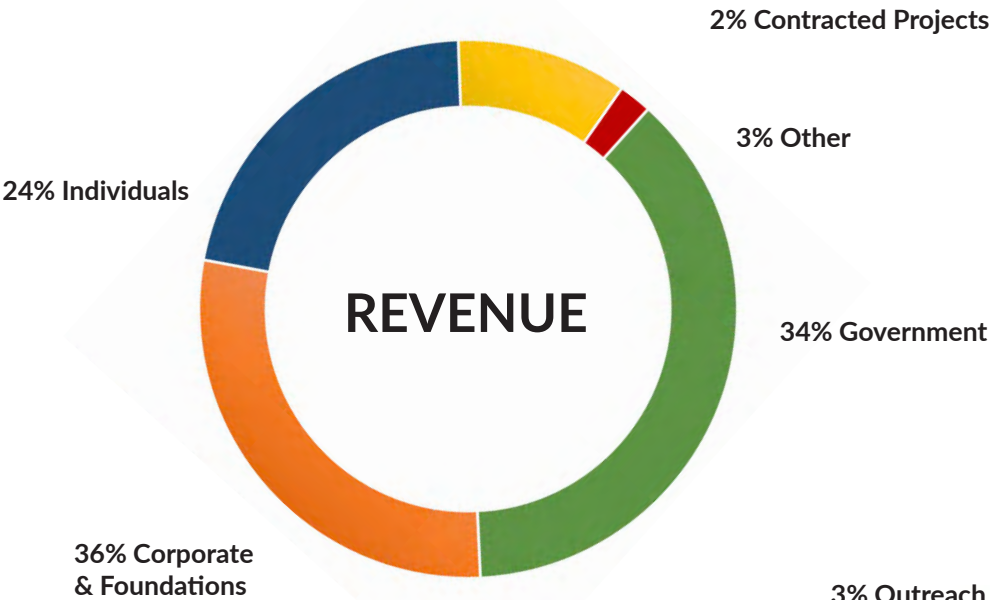
Program Partners

Alan & Patricia Koval Foundation
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Mauritian Wildlife Foundation





FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



THANK YOU

Saving Canada's species at risk is a monumental task. Wildlife Preservation Canada's success cannot be achieved without strong partnerships and generous funding. We want to thank all our corporate, foundation, and individual donors who believe in our work and are investing in the future survival of Canada's wildlife.

Corporate & Foundation Donors

Anonymous Foundation	Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation at the
Alan and Patricia Koval Foundation	Toronto Foundation
Alberta Conservation Association	Hodgson Family Foundation
Alberta Ecotrust	Joan Poulsen Foundation
The Bill and Jean Somerville Foundation	K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation
The Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company of Canada	Kathleen, Mary & Walter Barron Family Foundation
Bonterra Organic Wines	King Foundation at the Ottawa Community Foundation
Bremner Family Fund at the Saskatoon Community Foundation	The Printing House Charitable Office
British Columbia Conservation Foundation	The Rogers Foundation
Burt's Bees	The Schad Foundation
The Grant MacEwan Nature Protection Fund at the Calgary Foundation	The Sitka Foundation
Greater Vancouver Zoo Quarters 4 Conservation	Takla Foundation
Hallward Fund at the Toronto Foundation	The Westaway Charitable Foundation
	Wilyn Pharmacy

Individual Donors

Legacy Gifts	Wildlife Preserver	
Estate of Doris Hunter	\$1,000 - \$9,999	
Wildlife Patron		
\$10,000 and above		
1 Anonymous Donor	Barbara Alderson	Patricia McKenzie
Brian Dawson	Victoria Berriman	Catherine McLean
Areez Gangji	Bill Caulfeild-Browne	Roy Merritt
Donation in memory of Gloria Pederson	Elizabeth Churcher	Alec Monro
Martha Rogers	Deborah Dulude	Nancy S. Netting
	John Grandy	Robert Nichols
	Douglas Hart	Roberta Olenick
	Holy Trinity School	Richard Richardson
	Richard Johnson	Christian Schroeder
	J.J. Johnson	Brandy Shaw
	Darryl Sharma	Dorothy Sherling
	Martin Kuhn	Bridget Stutchbury & Gene Morton
	Rod MacFadyen	Shanna Van Maurik
	Eric Maki	Julie Wood
	Carole Marshall	

Friends of Wildlife**\$500 - \$999**

Brian Armstrong
Doris Arnold
Ryan Benninghaus
Cindy Clarke
Lori Cohen
Rosanne Gasse
Ian Glen
Dorothea Godt
Glen Holmwood
Nancy Kennedy

Naomi Lee
Viola Loewen
Brian Luckman
David Lymburner
Emily Ma
Marion Magee
Chantelle Mazik
Janice McEwan
Madeline McLaren
Rosemary Mueller

William Noble
Neil & Amani Oakley
Denis Odorcic
Pinar Ozyetis
Lou Probst
Christopher Richards-Bentley
Rita Sorensen
Laurie White
Ken & Lynda Whiteford
Peggy Wilson

Wildlife Guardians are a special group of dedicated individuals who support our work through recurring monthly donations. Wildlife Guardians make it possible for our conservation teams to help endangered animals throughout the year by providing steady funding.

Anonymous
Frieda Adams
Debbie Allen
Jane Amro
Carollyn Andrews
Helen Argiro
Cindy Barr
Craig Barrett
Miriam Barry
Larry Baswick
Darby Bayly
Jordyn Beaupre
Eva Bednar
Teri Belyea
Ryan Benninghaus
Monica Betz
Ingrid Betz
Nancy Biehl
Constance Boldt
Frank & Margaret Both
Alice Boudreau
Rosemary Bower
Borka Boyle
Gina Breitzkreutz
Ruth Bucknell
John Capin
Eugenia Carson
Anne Chisholm
Clare Church
Elizabeth Churcher
Cindy Clarke
Maurilio Cocca
Colin Creasey
Donald Creelman
John Crookshank
Anne Curtis
Patricia Dairon
Kathleen Dallman
Harriet Dent
Simone Desilets
Jean Desrochers
Steve & Rosemary Digby
Jean Dilcock

Ian D'Mello
Charles Dobson
Bruce Dowling
Criscentia Dunbar
Janis Emberly
Joan Fenske
Graham Fraser
Carolyn Freeman
Bruce Gemmel
Dag Gillberg
Guy Gilron
Dorothea Godt
Fiona Griffiths
Lucy Guest
Margaret Hallward
Beverley Hamilton
Carol Hargreaves
Shirley Harris
Jasent Harris
Douglas Hart
Randal Heide
Guillermina Herbert
Flor De Maria Horta-Ash
Lilianne Humberst
Theresa Ichino
Merrill Jamieson
Jolanta Jason
Linda Kaser
Janet Kellam
Mark Kennedy
Richard Klotz
Ivars Kops
Bethany Kort
Patricia Kotow
Andrea Kuntz
Robert Laker
Mireille Lapensee
Don & Kathy Lea
Cynthia Leslie

Joyce Litster
Margaret Lock
Viola Loewen
Cornelia Lopers
Dolores MacDonald
Scot MacLean
Kathleen MacNamara
Nancy MacPherson
Marion Magee
Cindy Manderscheid
Brenda Mann
R. Gordon Marantz
Sarah Matheson
Penelope McCracken
Denise McCready
Shirlee McEdwards Monteith
Judith McIntyre
Stephanie McLarty
N. Clare McMartin
Leah McNish
Harold Mills
Marilyn Moakes
Gayle Morton
Douglas Murray
Kathryn Nicholson
William Noble
Brenda-Lee Normey
Robert Olenick
Pinar Ozyetis
Lynn Pady
Suzanne Pals
Ramesh & Hansa Patel
Donna Pearson
Isolde Petite
Danuta Plachcinska
Hannelore Plonka
Maurice Prevost
Philip Price
Christine Quibell

Lea Ray
Natasha Reid
Rhonda Rempel
Richard Richardson
Johanne Rioux
Silvia Rodriguez
Richard & Elizabeth Rooke
Lisa Rosenberger
Mitchell Rowe
Lina Sakellaropoulos
Nancy Sawers
Lorraine Scott
Marian Sinn
Rebecca Smith-Mandin
Rita Sorensen
Steve Spring
Joyce Standish
Donald Stark
Rosemary Stiell
Naomi Stinson
Bridget Stutchbury
Gina Taylor
Wendy Tremblay
Suzanne Truchan
Richard Turner
Enid Irene Varney
Wendy Verkerk
Chris von Boetticher
Ann Walsh
Anne Ward
Joan Warren
J. Michael Watts
Louise White
Karen Whitney
Dalene Wilkins
Peggy Wilson
Jay Wilson
Patricia Wrightsell
Joanne Young

Become a Wildlife Guardian!
Visit www.wildlifepreservation.ca
to register as a monthly donor.



Alec Monro Award for Conservation Excellence

The H. Alec Monro Conservation Excellence Award is given annually to an early to mid-career Canadian in the conservation community who demonstrates a passion for and commitment to saving endangered animals in Canada.

Wildlife Preservation Canada encourages the nomination of Canadian citizens of all backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, abilities, genders and gender identities across Canada.

Congratulations to our 2019 award winner, Karsten Heuer whose work leading the reintroduction of bison to Banff National Park has inspired us here at WPC!

FACING THE CHALLENGE

I hope that in reading through this annual report you have gained a sense of how much of an impact Wildlife Preservation Canada has had on endangered species conservation over the last year, particularly for the often overlooked, yet precious, creatures we share our country with. We have dedicated ourselves to saving them from disappearing from our landscape here in Canada and we will not waver from this mission.

Thanks to our loyal donors, individuals, foundation, and corporate partners, we were able to expand each of our core programs and to work with two new species in 2019, Butler's gartersnake and blue racer. New conservation breeding partnerships will allow us to release loggerhead shrikes in greater numbers over the next few years. Our bumblebee network continues to grow with new colleagues in the U.S. and Mexico as we develop best conservation breeding practices for bumblebees and continue to expand citizen science engagement for pollinator conservation. The Taylor's checkerspot butterfly is back on track with the re-establishment of the captive population, and preparations for a release at an entirely new site in 2020. The Ojibway Prairie massasauga rattlesnake project reached a critical juncture with the wild population declining to near-extirpation. This has only strengthened our resolve to move ahead with a full reintroduction. The decline of this population highlights just how important reintroduction programs like ours are for species where habitat protection and threat mitigation alone were not enough. The Fraser Valley Wetlands project had one of our most successful seasons for releases of Oregon spotted frogs and western painted turtles.

Our planet, and our country and its wildlife are facing unprecedented challenges. As a society we are dealing with a level of uncertainty that is new to most of us. Yet I am more convinced than I have ever been of Wildlife Preservation Canada's importance in ensuring that our wildlife biodiversity remain intact as part of a healthy environment - to provide invaluable ecosystem services that we all rely on every day of our lives, and to act as a buffer and source of resilience in such uncertain times. Our future depends on it.

The momentum we have achieved together throughout the past year will carry over into 2020 and beyond. I know this to be true because Wildlife Preservation Canada's team and wider community of partners and supporters consists of like-minded people with the resources, expertise, and dedication to carry out our mission to be Canada's last defense for endangered species.

Lance Woolaver Jr., Ph.D.,
Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Founder

Gerald M. Durrell OBE

President

Bridget Stutchbury, Ph.D.

Secretary

Pinar Ozyetis

Treasurer

Shripal Doshi

Directors

Christopher Boynton

Jay Bryant

Guy Gilron

Ian Glen

Douglas Hart

Randal Heide

Stephanie McLarty

H. Alec B. Monro

Andrea Murray

Joanna Robertson

Julie Wood

Honourary Directors

Chris Von Boetticher

Louise Gervais

Kathryn B.P. Dempster

Graham F. Hallward

Anson R. McKim

William Noble

Thomas C. Sears

Eleanor R. Clitheroe

W. Paterson Ferns, C.M.

Stephen T. Molson

Lee Durrell, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Lance Woolaver, Ph.D.

NEW SPECIES FOR 2019

Thanks to strong collaborations with a network of valued partners and support from donors, we were able to initiate projects with two new species in 2019, both endangered snakes that are close to disappearing from Canada.

BLUE RACER *Coluber constrictor foxii*

The blue racer is one of the rarest snakes in Canada and found only on Pelee Island in southern Ontario. The species is in decline due to habitat loss and fragmentation and direct persecution by people. This harmless, attractive, and curious snake is one of the fastest in North America and can reach speeds of nearly 7 km/h. Wildlife Preservation Canada was part of a multi-partner collaboration in 2019 that is determining the genetic uniqueness of the Pelee population to inform future conservation breeding efforts while at the same time carrying out population monitoring, habitat use research, and community outreach – all part of an integrated recovery program for this species. Program partners include: African Lion Safari, Natural Resource Solutions Inc., Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Nature, Queen's University, Scales Nature Park, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, and University of Toronto.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Hathaway



BUTLER'S GARTERSNAKE *Thamnophis butleri*

The Ojibway Prairie Reptile recovery team has been working with snakes for many years and their expertise resulted in us being asked to resurvey historical sites throughout Essex County for Butler's gartersnake in 2019. Although 150 snakes of five different species were recorded during these surveys, the results for Butler's gartersnakes were not as encouraging with only nine individuals located across 18 sites. This information will be incredibly important for determining immediate future actions needed to recover this declining and endangered species here in Canada, which may very well include a conservation breeding and reintroduction program. Program partners included the Canadian Wildlife Service - Environment and Climate Change Canada.





Wildlife Preservation Canada has been providing wildflower seed grants to restore and create critical pollinator habitat from coast to coast across Canada since 2017.

Seed grants have been awarded to create pollinator meadows and gardens with community groups, conservation authorities, municipalities, parks, land trusts, charities, schools, and private individuals across the country.

The winning applicants submitted stewardship plans that were well-researched and demonstrated a long-term commitment to pollinator conservation. Most of all, they have all shown a strong desire to prevent their local at-risk native pollinators from disappearing.

The wildflower seed grants program has been generously supported by The Printing House Charitable Office, Burt's Bees Canada, and Bonterra Organic Wines.



Artwork created by Heather Wodhams



5420 Highway 6 North, Guelph, ON N1H 6J2
1-800-956-6608 1-519-836-9314
Charitable Registration No.
89171 0535 RR0001