



Protecting Species at Risk on Middle Island



What is a Species at Risk?

A Species at Risk is a plant or animal that is at risk of no longer being found in Canada. These plants and animals are categorized by level of threat and can be *Endangered*, *Threatened*, or *Of Special Concern*.

Endangered

A plant or animal that is facing imminent extinction.

Threatened

A plant or animal that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extinction.

Of Special Concern

A plant or animal that may become a threatened or an endangered species if current environmental conditions continue.

What Species at Risk are found on Middle Island?

Middle Island, part of Point Pelee National Park, is home to many rare species. Of these species, 9 are nationally recognized Species at Risk.

Endangered

Lake Erie Watersnake
Red Mulberry



Red Mulberry

Threatened

American Water Willow
Common Hop Tree
Eastern Fox Snake
Kentucky Coffee Tree
Wild Hyacinth



Wild Hyacinth

Of Special Concern

Blue Ash Tree
Monarch Butterfly



Monarch Butterfly

Why should we care about Species at Risk on Middle Island?

Middle Island is an important resting stopover during bird and butterfly migrations in spring and fall. These birds and butterflies, often called *migratory pollinators*, need the food and shelter provided on Middle Island to survive their long journey.

Many other species, spread over large areas, depend on migratory pollinators for their own continued health. Protecting the Species at Risk on Middle Island will help maintain biodiversity in our region and preserve an important part of Canada's natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

What is happening to the Species at Risk on Middle Island?

Middle Island has extremely high numbers of nesting double-crested cormorants. These birds physically damage trees through their nesting habits and deposit large amounts of guano on the trees and vegetation below. The nesting habits of this over-abundant nesting colony is destroying Middle Island's ecosystem, making it difficult for the Species at Risk to survive.

Common hop tree covered in guano, Middle Island.



Vegetation destroyed at base of Blue ash tree, Middle Island.



Nesting cormorants physically damage Blue ash tree, Middle Island.



What is Parks Canada doing to protect Middle Island and its Species at Risk?

Parks Canada is entering Year 4 of a five-year conservation plan to restore the health of Middle Island. This plan will protect not only the Species at Risk, but also the many other plants and animals on Middle Island. Actions include research and monitoring, management and recovery, and public education.

On behalf of Canadians, Parks Canada protects the Species at Risk and their habitats in our national parks. Ongoing research and monitoring allows Parks Canada to make informed decisions about the best way to protect the great diversity of life on Middle Island.

Collecting soil samples, Middle Island.



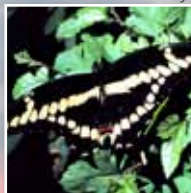
Nest counts, Middle Island.



Research team, Middle Island.



Giant Swallowtail butterfly



Miami Mist



Hackberry butterfly



Parks Canada's goal on Middle Island is to work towards establishing a healthy ecosystem where the rich biodiversity of plants and animals – including Species at Risk- is in balance and maintained for future generations.



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