

Bineshiik Pashkodeyang Ayaajig

Special Birds of Fields and Meadows

Endangered and Threatened Species in Wiikwemkoong Territory

Recently some birds have become very scarce, almost disappearing from Ontario.

This includes a special group of birds that nest in open, grassy places like farm fields and meadows. The exact reason for the disappearance of meadow birds is unknown, but fewer people are farming and many farms have been turned into urban areas. These may be factors. Fortunately, a lot of birds that are disappearing elsewhere are still doing very well in Wiikwemkoong Territory. We want to make sure these birds survive for many generations to come. All of these birds are Threatened species and by law must be protected from harm. This poster tells how to spot these special birds and gives some ways to help them.

Giikii Bikomeshiinh Threatened



The Meadowlark is about the size of a Robin. It has a yellow breast with a black mark like a V. It sings several up and down notes and also makes a buzzy call. It nests on the ground in dense grass and prefers large hay fields that are cut each year. Adults

will perch on posts or hydro wires. Once as common as Robins and Blue Jays, Meadowlark populations have dropped sharply.

Waabi Asiginaak Threatened

The Bobolink sings a musical song of scrambled notes, almost like it is trying to sing too many notes at once. Males are black with a yellow patch on the head and white on the wings. Females are brown with white streaks. The Bobolink nests on the ground in dense grass and perches on taller stalks or shrubs. It will also hover over the ground searching for insects.



Zhaashaawan Bineshiinh

Threatened



The Barn Swallow has a dark back, rusty face, and long forked tail. They make colonies of nests on old barns and other structures, as well as on cliffs and in caves. They use mud to build their nests. These birds eat insects which they hunt while flying over fields. Barn Swallows are often around farms because the combination of barns for nesting and open fields for feeding is perfect for them.

Maajiitaagoozid Threatened



The Golden-winged Warbler is a tiny bird that flits through bushes and tall brush around fields. Males are grey with yellow wing bars, and a black throat, and an eye patch. Females have grey at the throat and eye. These birds feed on caterpillars, insects and spiders. Their call sounds something like "Bee-Buzz-Buzz-Buzz". Populations have declined 79% in just 10 years.

How can we help meadow birds?

- 1) Keep on farming! Farming and procuding hay is the reason these habitats are in such good shape.
- 2) Leave hay as long as you can before cutting it to give the young birds time to learn to fly.
- 3) If plowing up hay fields, leave some parts of the field in grass each year (this can be rotated), or make a new area for the birds nearby by brushing down shrubs or seeding a different field into hay.
- 4) Keep dogs and ATV riders out of fields where these birds are nesting between mid-May and mid-July.
- 5) Have a chat with the Wiikwemkoong Department of Lands and Natural Resources about how to help these birds while still continuing your regular activities. We may be able to help with some of your needs. (705) 859-3122 x 249 or t.flamand@wiky.net
- 6) Leave Barn Swallow nests where they are built. Make repairs or changes to buildings in fall or winter when the birds are not around. If barns must be taken down completely, contact the Lands Department for assistance with providing other structures for the nests.

