



What is the Conservation Champions Program?

Manitoba has many different habitats that are home to Species at Risk. Species at Risk have populations that are declining and are threatened by a combination of factors, and often one of these factors is habitat loss.

The Conservation Champions program is a voluntary stewardship program to reward landowners who protect habitat for bird Species at Risk. Right now, we are focusing on the Eastern Whip-poor-will and the Red-headed Woodpecker.

We also know that living and working on the land is essential to many people. The health of Manitoba ecosystems is a shared responsibility, enhanced by the stewardship of landowners. If you are looking to learn more about how to incorporate healthy habitats on your land, or how to attract bird species, we can help.



Thank you to our Funders and Partners

Environment Canada – Habitat Stewardship Program

Nature Manitoba

And a big thank you to our Conservation Champions!

To learn more about the Conservation Champions Program contact:

Manitoba Important Bird Areas Program

c/o Nature Manitoba

401-63 Albert Street

Winnipeg, MB, R3B 1G4

Phone: 204-943-9029

Email: iba@naturemanitoba.ca

Website: importantbirdareasm.ca

Conservation Champions



Photo credits: Christian Artuso





What does the Conservation Champions program do?

- Identifies areas of Manitoba that have Eastern Whip-poor-will and Red-headed Woodpecker habitat.
- Provides education to landowners, schools, community groups in target areas about the importance of Species at Risk in their areas.
- Monitors populations of Species at Risk through citizen science programming as part of the Manitoba Important Bird Areas program.
- Provides information about beneficial management practices and conservation.




How does the program work?

- Land with our spotlight species or appropriate habitat is eligible.
- If you are unsure about the species or habitat on your land, we would be interested to hear from you.
- No land-use or management changes are necessary. If you already have these species and habitat on your land – you are doing a good job!
- Program participants sign a five-year non-binding agreement to keep or improve their habitat management.
- No minimum habitat size required.



Benefits to Participating Landowners

- Recognition of your commitment through receiving a free personalized gate sign
- Optional free bird survey by a program ornithologist with a personalized bird report
- Optional recommendations to improve habitat for Species at Risk
- Joining a community of like-minded landowners
- Helping to maintain healthy ecosystems and bird populations!



Spotlight on Species

Red-headed Woodpecker

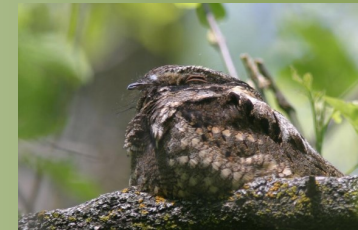
The Red-headed Woodpecker nests in dead trees, notably aspens, in heavily grazed woodlots with little understorey or shrub cover.

They have declined by more than 2% per year from 1966 to 2014, resulting in a cumulative decline of 70%, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.



Eastern Whip-poor-will

Made famous in folk songs, poems, and literature for their endless chanting on summer nights, Eastern Whip-poor-wills are easy to hear but hard to see.



Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat includes nesting areas of patchy forests with clearings and nearby shrubby pastureland to feed.

They have declined by almost 3% per year between 1966 and 2015, resulting in a cumulative decline of 75% during that time, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.