

## PROVINCIAL RANK DEFINITIONS

Ranks provided by the SKCDC are intended to indicate a species' risk of extirpation. They do not necessarily reflect its management priority. In addition, some species may be rare in the province yet not at risk of extirpation.

An element occurrence is the spatial representation of a species or ecological community at a specific location. An element occurrence generally delineates a species population or ecological community, and represents the geo-referenced biological feature that is of conservation or management interest. A single element occurrence may be documented by one or multiple specimens or by observations taken from the same population over multiple years.

A Range Rank (i.e., S2S3) is used when existing information on an element straddles the criteria defining two separate ranks (i.e., S2 vs S3).

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>S1</b>	Extremely Rare	5 or fewer occurrences in Saskatchewan, or very few remaining individuals	Critically imperiled; may be especially susceptible to extirpation because of some factor of its biology
<b>S2</b>	Rare	6 to 20 occurrences in Saskatchewan or few remaining individuals	Imperiled; may be susceptible to extirpation because of some factor of its biology
<b>S3</b>	Rare - Uncommon	21 to 100 occurrences in Saskatchewan; may be rare and local throughout province or may occur in a restricted provincial range (may be abundant in places)	Vulnerable; may be susceptible to extirpation by large scale disturbances
<b>S4</b>	Common	more than 100 occurrences; generally widespread and abundant but may be rare in parts of its range	Apparently secure but may be of long-term concern
<b>S5</b>	Very Common	more than 100 occurrences; widespread and abundant, but may be rare in parts of its range	Demonstrably secure

### **Codes and Modifiers**

**A**- accidental or casual in the province, including species recorded infrequently that are far outside their range (birds or butterflies)

**B** - for a migratory species, rank applies to the breeding population in the province

**N** - for a migratory species, rank applies to the non-breeding population in the province

**M**- for a migratory species, rank applies to the transient population

**H** - historical occurrence but without recent verification (e.g. within 20 years)

**U** - status uncertain in Saskatchewan, because of limited information

**X** - believed to be extinct or extirpated

**NR**- rank is not yet assigned (not ranked)

**NA**- conservation status is not applicable to the species

## **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)**

### **Species Definition and Status Categories.**

**Species** - Any indigenous species, subspecies, variety, or geographically or genetically distinct population of wild fauna and flora.

**Extinct (X)** - A species that no longer exists.

**Extirpated (XT)** - A species no longer existing in the wild in Canada, but occurring elsewhere.

**Endangered (E)** - A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

**Threatened (T)** - A species likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.

**Special Concern (SC)** - A species that is particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events but is not an endangered or threatened species.

**Data Deficient (DD)** - A species for which there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction.

**Not At Risk (NAR)** - A species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk.

COSEWIC assesses the national status of wild species, subspecies, varieties, or other designatable units that are considered to be at risk in Canada. COSEWIC comprises members from each provincial and territorial government wildlife agency, four federal entities (Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada Agency, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Federal Biosystematics Partnership, chaired by the Canadian Museum of

Nature), three non-jurisdictional members and the co-chairs of the species specialist and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge subcommittees.

COSEWIC's assessments will be forwarded to the federal Minister of the Environment and will form the basis for inclusion in the legal list of species at risk under the federal Species at Risk Act. SARA prohibits the killing, harming, harassing, capturing or taking of species officially listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated, and the destruction of their residences. See [http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct5/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct5/index_e.cfm) for more information on COSEWIC.