THREATS TO OUR LOCAL SPECIES

Learn about species at risk in Unama'ki

Species at risk images and information were created by UINR and CEPI Youth

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Danaus plexippus

- Monarch caterpillars solely rely on milkweeds as their food source.
- Adults mate in Mexico and California during the winter months and begin flying north in late February and early March.
- Female Monarchs lay 300 - 400 eggs on the undersides of milkweed leaves.
- Most Monarchs that reach Canada are the great-grandchildren of those that left Mexico or California.
- Summer adults live for two to five weeks, but overwintering adults live up to nine months.
- The late summer adults migrate south to Mexico and California, where they overwinter and the yearly migration begins again.

MIMIKEJ (MI'KMAQ) * MONARCH BUTTERFLY (ENGLISH) * DANAUS PLEXIPPUS (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Open forests, fields, meadows, wetlands and gardens.

The global population of Monarchs has gone down by more than 70 percent in the last 20 years! To protect, Mimikej, start a butterfly garden with native plants, including swamp milkweed.

CANADA LYNX

Lynx canadensis

- Secretive and hard to spot
- Often mistaken for bobcats
- Short tail, long legs, large feet and prominent ear tufts
- Hind legs are noticeably longer than front legs
- Kittens are raised solely by the female
- More than 75% of a lynx's diet in winter is snowshoe hare
- In summer, its diet is more varied and includes grouse, voles, mice, squirrels and foxes

APUKSIKN (MI'KMAQ) * CANADA LYNX (ENGLISH) * LYNX CANADENSIS (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Prefers old growth boreal forests with a dense undercover of thickets.

Lynx are endangered in Unama'ki (Cape Breton) due to small populations and habitat loss. In the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed, Watch out for Apuksikn in the Boisdale Hills!

WOOD TURTLE

Mi'kmaq name: **Mikjikj**
Scientific Name: *Glyptemys insculpta*

MIKJIKJ (MI'KMAQ) * WOOD TURTLE (ENGLISH) * GLYPTEMYS INSCULPTA (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Found in flood plains, along slow-moving streams, woodlands, fields.

Turtles are a symbol of knowledge and wisdom because of the knowledge they gain over their very long lives— up to 60 years.

AMERICAN MARTEN

Martes americana

- An opportunistic feeder, they consume whatever prey is most abundant
- Meadow voles are the most important food item throughout the year, though snowshow hares are also important, especialy during winter.

APISTANE'WJ (MI'KMAQ) * AMERICAN MARTIN (ENGLISH) * MARTES AMERICANA (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Found in mature coniferous forests (spruce and fir).

Martin are endangered in Unama'ki due to small populations and habitat loss. Apistane'wj is an opportunistic feeder, consuming whatever prey is most abundant, Meadow voles are an important food source throughout the year.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD

Euphagus carolinus

- Typically nest in isolated pairs.
- The female lays three to seven eggs.
- Incubation lasts 14 days, and the chicks remain in the nest for about 13 days.
- Birds from eastern Canada winter mostly east of the Appalachian Mountains

PU'TLISKIEJ (MI'KMAQ) * RUSTY BLACKBIRD (ENGLISH) * EUPHAGUS CAROLINUS (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Boreal Forest, near streams, peat bogs, marshes, swamps and beaver ponds.

Pu'tliskiej is listed as a species of special concern in Unama'ki due to a decline of nearly 90% since 1970 in North America.

BLACK ASH

Fraxinus nigra

- Black ash flowers in mid to late spring and is wind-pollinated
- Black ash can reproduce by seed at about 30 years old and can live for 200 to 300 years
- Predominantly a wetland species, found in swamps, floodplains and fens.
- Leaflets are long and slender in comparison to other ash species and are usually dark green on both top and bottom.
- The end of the bud is dark brown or black and is sharply pointed. It is separated from the side buds with bark visible between which distinguishes it from white ash

WISQOQ (MI'KMAQ) * BLACK ASH (ENGLISH) * FRAXINUS NIGRA (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: A wetland species, found in swamps, floodplains and fens.

Wisqoq is listed as a threatened species in Unama'ki, with only 12 documented seed bearing individuals. Black ash is culturally significant as it can be peeled into thin strips and used for making baskets, barrel hoops, snowshoe frames and canoe ribs.

YELLOW-BANDED BUMBLE BEE

Mi'kmaq name: **Amu**

Scientific Name:
Bombus terricola

Species At Risk Status:
Special Concern

AMU (MI'KMAQ) * YELLOW-BANDED BUMBLE BEE (ENGLISH) * BOMBUS TERRICOLA (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Visits a variety of shrubs and flowers. Often found along shorelines with a variety of flowering shrubs and flowers.

The queen can control whether an egg will be become a male or a female. Eggs that become males are not fertilized: a male bee has no father!

GYPSY CUCKOO BUMBLE BEE

Mi'kmaq name: **Amu**

Scientific Name: *Bombus bohemicus*

Species At Risk Status:Endangered

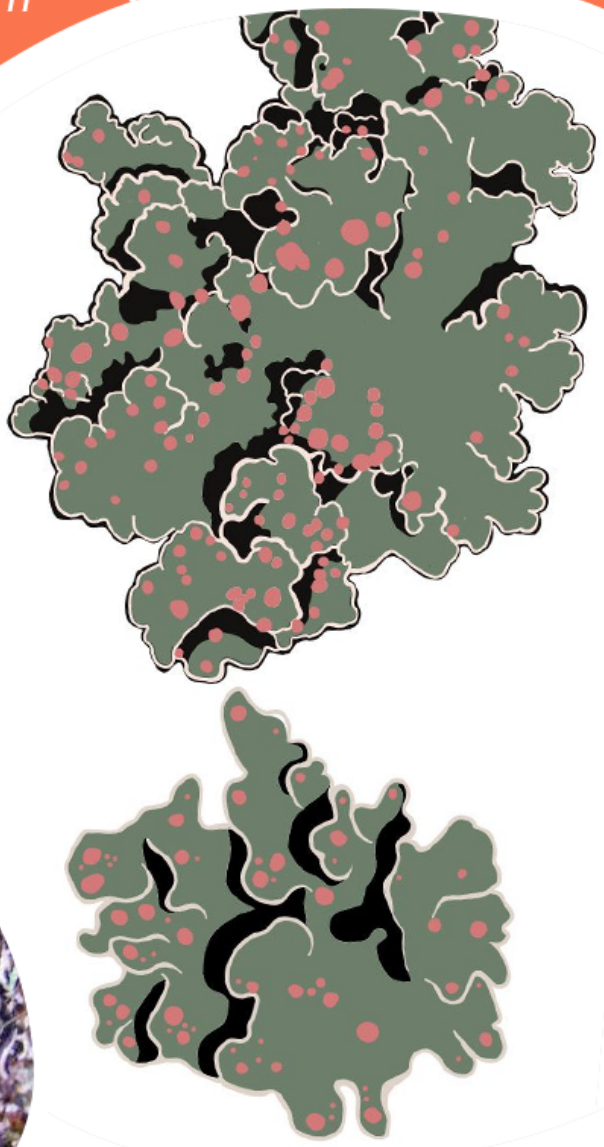
AMU (MI'KMAQ) * GYPSY CUCKOO BUMBLE BEE (ENGLISH) * BOMBUS BOHEMICUS (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Found in a wide range of habitats, including meadows, mixed farm lands, urban areas, and boreal forest.

Once widespread in Nova Scotia, up to mid-1990s. None have been found in last 15 years!

BOREAL FELT LICHEN *Erioderma pedicellatum*

- A leaf-like lichen with distinctive upturned edges that reveal white undersides
- Found in balsam fir stands within 25km of the coast, at elevations up to 300m above sea level
- Reproduces by spores that are carried primarily by wind and by other vectors such as flying insects and woodpeckers
- Has a life span of about 30 years



BOREAL FELT LICHEN (ENGLISH) * ERIODERMA PEDICELLATUM (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Found in balsam fir stands up to 300m above sea level.

The boreal felt lichen is listed as an endangered species in Unama'ki. It is only found in small pockets along the Atlantic coast in Canada, southcentral Alaska and the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia!

COMMON NIGHTHAWK

Chordeiles minor

- Faithfully returning to their nesting sites, females lay an average of two eggs directly on the ground up until mid-August. The female incubates the eggs on her own.
- Depending on the region, incubation lasts from 16 to 20 days and nestlings remain in the nest until they are 45 to 52 days old.
- Common Nighthawks eat flying insects almost exclusively and nest in a wide range of open, vegetation-free habitats.

PI'JKWEJ (MI'KMAQ) * COMMON NIGHTHAWK (ENGLISH) * CHORDELLES MINOR (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Inhabits mixed and coniferous forests. Nests in open areas, including beaches, marshes, and recently logged forests.

Pi'jkwej is a crepuscular and nocturnal bird, meaning that is is active at dawn and dusk, and through the night.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

Contopus cooperi

- Olive-sided flycatchers arrive in Canada to breed between April and June.
- Females choose the nest site, construct the nest from twigs and rootlets, and lay one egg per day for an average clutch size of three.
- Bees, wasps and ants form the largest part of their diet.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (ENGLISH) * DCONTOPUS COOPERI (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Open areas (forest edges or clearings) containing tall trees for perching.

The Olive-sided fly catcher is listed as a species of special concern in Unama'ki. There have been widespread and constant population declines in Canada since 1960.

BARN SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

- Egg-laying starts in May in southern Canada. Two broods are produced each year, except in the far north.
- The Barn Swallow nests in small, loose colonies that usually contain no more than about 10 pairs.
- Barn Swallow parents sometimes get help from other birds to feed their young. These "helpers at the nest" are usually older siblings from previous clutches, but unrelated juveniles may help as well.

PUKWALESIN (MI'KMAQ) * BARN SWALLOW (ENGLISH) * HIRUNDO RUSTICA (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Prefers open habitats for foraging, including grassy fields, pastures; nests in artificial structures, like barns.

Pukwalesin forages in the air and specializes on a diet of flying insects.
The oldest known Barn Swallow in North America was at least 10 years old!

CANADA WARBLER

Cardellina canadensis

- The Canada Warbler builds its nest on or close to the ground, often in dense ferns or fallen logs.
- Found in a variety of forest types, but it is most commonly in wet, mixed deciduous-coniferous forest with a well-developed shrub layer.

CANADA WARBLER (ENGLISH) * CARDELLINA CANADENSIS (SCIENTIFIC NAME)

Habitat: Found in a variety of forest types, but it is most commonly in wet, mixed deciduous - coniferous forest with lots of shrubs.

The Canada Warbler feeds mainly on flying insects, such as mosquitoes and butterflies and moths, and spiders in the shrub layer