

Response Statement - Cerulean Warbler

December 8, 2011

Common Name: Cerulean Warbler

Scientific Name: *Dendroica cerulea*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Endangered

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The Minister of Environment will undertake consultations with the governments of Ontario and Quebec, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Cerulean Warbler should have its Schedule 1 status of Special Concern changed to Endangered on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act*. The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Cerulean Warbler to the GIC upon completion of consultations.

Once a species has been assessed by COSEWIC, further steps must be undertaken before it is added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information on this process, please view [The Species Listing Process Under SARA](#).

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This sky-blue forest songbird is at the northern edge of its breeding range in Canada. Relying on relatively large tracts of undisturbed hardwood forest, it has rather specialized habitat requirements on both its breeding and wintering grounds. Its population has been experiencing significant declines across most of its range since the 1960s and the present Canadian population is estimated at about only 1000 individuals. These declines are believed to be driven mostly by loss and degradation of this species' wintering habitat, which is restricted to montane forests in the northern Andes of South America. It is also threatened by habitat loss and degradation on its breeding grounds. There is evidence for continuing declines. Also, new information on demographics suggests that chances for population rescue in Canada are lower than previously thought.

Occurrence: Ontario, Quebec

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:

Ontario

Quebec

Applicable federal legislation: This species is protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation. Where it occurs in a National Wildlife Area this species is subject to the *Wildlife Area Regulations* under the *Canada Wildlife Act*, which prohibits activities that could be harmful to species and to their habitat, unless a permit is issued indicating the permitted activity.

Conservation activities underway: A management plan has been written for Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) and has been posted as final on the SAR Public Registry.