

Loggerhead Shrike

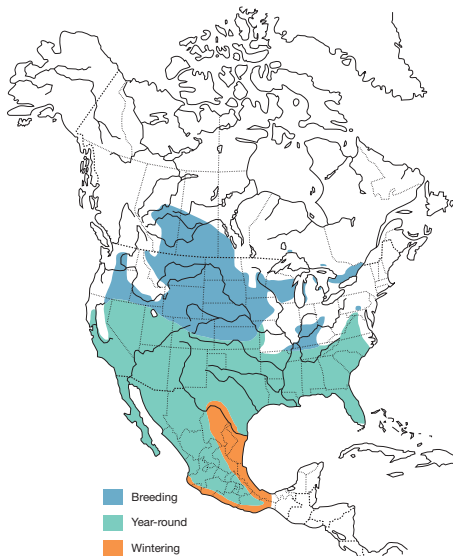
Lanius ludovicianus



Photo: J. Wedge



Photo: R & N Bowers



PROVINCIAL STATUS

Endangered

- fewer than 50 pairs in Ontario

DESCRIPTION

- robin-sized perching bird and hunter
- light gray with white throat and black mask
- dark wings with white wing patch
- dark curved bill
- sits perched on tree branches, utility wires or fence posts for long periods of time hunting
- uses sharp thorn, twig or barbed wire to impale insects, birds or mice while eating

VOCALIZATION

- harsh deliberate notes and phrases, repeated mockingbird-like 3 to 20 times: *queedle*, *queedle* over and over, or *usurp-see-usurp-see*

PREFERRED HABITAT

- farm pastures, fields with hawthorns

MIGRATION

Spring arrival: mid-April

Fall departure: mid-October

WINTERING GROUNDS

- southern United States and into Mexico

LOCAL POPULATION

- rare nesting species in Renfrew County
- declining

THREATS

- habitat destruction and alteration
- highway traffic and vehicular collisions
- intensive farming practices

NICHE INFORMATION

- eats small birds, large insects, mice, lizards
- eaten by small hawks, crows, rats, snakes, raccoons
- active in daytime
- lives in open fields with scattered trees, hawthorn shrubs, wetlands and hedgerows
- nests in tree crotch, branch or vine tangle

WHAT WE CAN DO

- protect special habitat from development