

Blanchard's Cricket Frog: Ministerial response statement (2025)

December 19, 2024

Common Name: Blanchard's Cricket Frog

Scientific Name: *Acris blanchardi*

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

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment:

On 2024-10-21, the Minister of the Environment received the COSEWIC reassessment of Blanchard's Cricket Frog, which concluded its status has changed to Extirpated; it was previously assessed as Endangered and is listed as such on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act. Within 24 months of this date, the Minister will seek to obtain a Governor in Council decision on whether or not to amend the List for this species, or whether to refer the matter back to COSEWIC for further information or consideration. A summary of the consultations and an analysis of why the order is appropriate will be provided. During the normal consultation period the Minister of Environment will consult with Ontario, Indigenous peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not Blanchard's Cricket Frog should have its Schedule 1 status of Endangered changed to Extirpated, or whether the matter should be referred back to COSEWIC.

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This small tree-frog is widespread in the eastern United States, along shorelines of lakes, ponds, and streams with dense aquatic vegetation. It was only known in Canada from two places in southern Ontario (Point Pelee and Pelee Island), and was last confirmed in 1977 on Pelee Island. The presence of this species can be readily confirmed by its distinctive, loud calls in suitable habitat during the breeding season. However, despite many intensive searches and citizen science programs in previously-occupied or apparently suitable habitat, there have been no reliable observations since the 1977 sighting. Thus, there is sufficient information to conclude that no individuals of this wildlife species remain in Canada.

Occurrence:

- Ontario

Competent Minister(s):

- Minister of Environment

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

- Ontario

Applicable federal legislation: When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands and waters 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.

Conservation activities underway: A Recovery Strategy for the Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris blanchardi*) in Canada is published as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.