



# Save The River® / Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER®

*Protecting the St. Lawrence River now, and for generations to come*

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## It's Hard to be a Tern

### A Vocabulary Guide for Students and Educators

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Aquatic birds</b>      | Birds that live on or near water.   |
| <b>Adaptation</b>         | A change by which a species becomes better suited to its environment.   |
| <b>Camouflage</b>         | Natural animal pattern or covering that makes it difficult for them to be seen.   |
| <b>Carnivore</b>          | An animal that feeds on other animals' flesh, meat.   |
| <b>Colony</b>             | A group of birds of one or more species and their nests.  |
| <b>Diurnal</b>            | Animals that are active during daylight hours.  |
| <b>Endangered Species</b> | A species which could become extinct in the near future.  |
| <b>Exclusion Grid</b>     | A wire mesh with openings large enough for the intended species to fly through (common terns), but small enough to keep predators or competitors (owls, gulls) out. Removed after nesting season. |
| <b>Extinct Species</b>    | A species where there are no more of that species left anywhere in the World.   |
| <b>Habitat</b>            | The home or natural environment of plants, animals, and other organisms.  |
| <b>Habitat Usurpation</b> | When one species takes over another species' habitat for its own use  |
| <b>Incubate</b>           | A bird sits on its eggs to keep them warm and bring them to hatch.  |
| <b>Island</b>             | A piece of land completely surrounded by water. Must have at least one living tree.   |
| <b>Migrate</b>            | Moving from one region to another according to the season.  |

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Save The River envisions a healthy Upper St. Lawrence River that provides safe drinking water, is home to a thriving range of indigenous species and supports sustainable economic activity.

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|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Nest</b>               | A structure made or chosen by a bird for laying eggs and to shelter its young.      |
| <b>Predator</b>           | An animal hunting other animals for food.   |
| <b>Prey</b>               | An animal hunted by another animals for food.                                       |
| <b>Raptor</b>             | A bird that hunts other animals for prey. A bird of prey.                           |
| <b>Shoal</b>              | An area of land exposed above the water, has no trees.                              |
| <b>Shoreline</b>          | The area where the water meets the land.  |
| <b>Shorebirds</b>         | Birds that wade, swim, and fly along the shoreline in search of food.               |
| <b>St. Lawrence River</b> | A large river in North America that connects the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. |
| <b>Threatened Species</b> | A species which are, vulnerable and could become endangered in the near future.     |
| <b>Vertebrae</b>          | Small bones forming the backbone or neck.   |
| <b>Wingspan</b>           | Wings measured from tip to tip.   |

## REFERENCES

Oxford Languages Dictionary: <https://languages.oup.com/>

The Cornell Lab All About Birds: <https://allaboutbirds.org>

The Thousand Islands Land Trust: <https://tilandtrust.org>

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