



Save The River® / Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER®

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

It's Hard to be a Tern

A Vocabulary Guide for Students and Educators

Aquatic birds	Birds that live on or near water.
Adaptation	A change by which a species becomes better suited to its environment.
Camouflage	Natural animal pattern or covering that makes it difficult for them to be seen.
Carnivore	An animal that feeds on other animals' flesh, meat.
Colony	A group of birds of one or more species and their nests.
Diurnal	Animals that are active during daylight hours.
Endangered Species	A species which could become extinct in the near future.
Exclusion Grid	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.
Extinct Species	A species where there are no more of that species left anywhere in the World.
Habitat	The home or natural environment of plants, animals, and other organisms.
Habitat Usurpation	When one species takes over another species' habitat for its own use
Incubate	A bird sits on its eggs to keep them warm and bring them to hatch.
Island	A piece of land completely surrounded by water. Must have at least one living tree.
Migrate	Moving from one region to another according to the season.

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