

## Southeastern U.S. Wintering Areas and Recovery of Loggerhead Shrike, *migrans* subspecies

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*Abstract:* The range of the eastern subspecies of the loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) once extended from Manitoba to New Brunswick in Canada and then south to north-eastern Texas, western North Carolina, and Maryland in the United States. Today it is largely absent from Canada outside Ontario and from the north-eastern United States. The loggerhead shrike is listed as endangered in Canada under the Species at Risk Act with likely less than 100 individuals remaining in Ontario. The subspecies is migratory, breeding in the north and migrating to the southern United States. Band return research and preliminary isotope analyses suggest wintering areas are largely found in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, and Florida. A number of factors are believed to have contributed to the decline of the subspecies; however, the precise cause of the decline is unclear. Recent analyses indicate that overwintering survival and/or low recruitment to the breeding population by juvenile and young adult shrikes is a major factor affecting the size and composition of the Canadian population. Collaboration between Canadian and south-eastern U.S. agencies, organizations, and individuals is essential if the subspecies is going to be recovered.

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