



Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan

Species and Habitat Profiles

Prepared by Terwilliger Consulting Inc.

for

The Rhode Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

for

**The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife**

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Introduction to the Species and Habitat Profiles

New to the 2015 Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan Revision are the Species and Habitat Profiles. The Profiles can be used for quick reference or as educational tools. These profiles are summary fact sheets that can be used individually or by animal group, by habitat group, or altogether. For each species (or groups of species) of greatest conservation need (SGCN) these profiles contain a photo, a distribution map, status information as well as, the key habitat upon which it depends. Important additional information is found in the Habitat Profile so we highly recommend that you review the Habitat Profile section as well.

The Species and Habitat Profiles also list the threats to conservation in Rhode Island and specific conservation actions to best address these threats. Please note that more broad and overarching actions are listed in Chapter 4 that may also apply to many of these species and habitats. The Rank for each conservation action ranges from 0 to 3. It was determined by Technical Expert Teams based on the action's likelihood of success and urgency. Therefore, a rank of 3 indicates the strongest likelihood of success and the most urgent. Performance measures for all conservation actions and examples can be found in Chapter 4.

An example: Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

There are 3 key threats to conservation listed on the Species Profile for the Tree Swallow, each with ranked actions to address them. Threats appear in order of priority, however, some threats may be of an equal rank of importance, which would not be apparent in the ordering. The Tree Swallow's Habitat Community is Ruderal Grassland/Shrubland and the Type is Old Field. We further recommend that you then access the Habitat Profiles to find the Ruderal Grassland/Shrubland Profile to locate the section 'Threats and Actions by Community Type' and find Old Field. There are 6 threats to conservation for this type of habitat, all with associated conservation actions as well. This suggests that there are a total of 9 threats and 18 actions directly relevant for conservation of the Tree Swallow in Rhode Island.

Chapter 4 also lists more broad threats and actions for groups of species or all SGCN species. A few examples are: "Data collection and analysis to address the need for additional information" and "Identify and restore priority restoration sites to address residential and commercial development".

Note:

The several Mammal and Bird Species that do not have a Habitat Community listed in the Distribution & Abundance section primarily utilize developed or man-made structures as their habitats, and so, their associated habitat is not considered a high priority in conservation. For example, the Big Brown Bat most often uses barns and attics and the Chimney Swift most often utilizes building chimneys.

Acknowledgements:

Species and Habitat Profile maps were all developed by [The Nature Conservancy](#) for this project. Without the contributions of the [Rhode Island Conservation Stewardship Collaborative](#) (CSC) the creation of this new resource would not have been possible.

Map disclaimer:

These maps are intended for general planning purposes only. They should not be used for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or property conveyance purposes. The resources identified on these maps are intended to capture habitats with high conservation value by identifying the largest intact and connected blocks of common habitats, as well as other unique places based on rare, resilient, or productive natural systems. These maps provides a general guide for strategic investment in Rhode Island's natural areas and is not intended as a comprehensive inventory of all valuable natural habitats.

These maps provide an estimated range of each species within Rhode Island. They are not a comprehensive inventory of the species, rather a guide to the locations in the state that are likely to benefit from the conservation actions described in the RI WAP.

The fish species maps were created with the intention of mapping potential habitat for each species. In many cases the fish will not be found in the mapped areas due to river impediments and other limiting factors affecting their distribution.

In order to better conserve and manage wildlife, a priority action of this plan is to better identify and map all GCN species and their key habitats. This will be an ongoing process of improvement throughout the 10 year implementation period and beyond. Profiles for which there are currently no distribution maps provided either have too diverse a group of species to accurately display distribution, have areas too small to be depicted on a map of the given scale, and/or need additional research in order to determine distribution and map appropriately.

Key to Status Ranks

CITES. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

- I. Appendix I.
- II. Appendix II.
- III. Appendix III (none listed in RIWAP)

IUCN. International Union for the Conservation of Nature

- EX Extinct
- EW Extinct in the Wild
- CR Critically Endangered
- EN Endangered
- VU Vulnerable
- NT Near Threatened
- LC Least Concern
- DD Data Deficient
- NE Not Evaluated

FEDSTAT. United States Federal Endangered Species Act

- FE Federally Endangered
- FT Federally Threatened
- C Candidate for Listing
- PE Proposed Endangered
- PT Proposed Threatened

STSTAT. Rhode Island State Status

- SE State Endangered (Including Federally listed species)
- ST State Threatened
- C Concern
- SH State Historic

GRANK. Global Rank (Natureserve)

- GX Presumed Extinct
- GH Possibly Extinct
- G1 Critically Imperiled
- G2 Imperiled
- G3 Vulnerable
- G4 Apparently Secure
- G5 Secure
- G#G# Range Rank (e.g. G2G3 = range of uncertainty in assigning rank)
- GR Unrankable
- GNR Unranked

Qualifiers:

- ? Inexact Numeric Rank (e.g. G3?)
- T# Subspecies Rank

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SRANK. State Rank (Natureserve)

SX	Presumed Extirpated
SH	Possibly Extirpated
S1	Critically Imperiled
S2	Imperiled
S3	Vulnerable
S4	Apparently Secure
S5	Secure
SNR	Unranked
SU	Unrankable
S#S#	Range Rank (e.g. S2S3 = range of uncertainty about exact status)
SE	Exotic
SA	Accidental
SZ	Zero Occurrences
SNR	Unranked

Breeding Status Qualifiers:

SB	Breeding
SN	Nonbreeding

Other Qualifiers:

?	Inexact or Uncertain
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PIF_BCPSN. Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan for Southern New England

Tier I.	High Continental Priority
Tier IA.	High Continental Priority – High Regional Responsibility
Tier IB.	High Continental Priority – Low Regional Responsibility
Tier II.	High Regional Priority
Tier IIA.	High Regional Concern
Tier IIB.	High Regional Responsibility
Tier IIC.	High Regional Threats
Tier III.	Additional Watch List
Tier IV.	Additional Federally Listed
Tier V.	Additional State Listed

AJV_BCR. Atlantic Coast Joint Venture – New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast Bird Conservation Region Plan

HH	Highest Priority
H	High Priority
M	Moderate Priority

RSGCN. Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Ranks = lettered combinations separated by a (-) according to:

Northeast Conservation Concern:

VH Very High
H High
M Moderate
L Low

Northeast Conservation Responsibility:

VH Very high
H High
M Moderate
L Low
Li Limited

The 2008 AFS Endangered Species Committee list of imperiled freshwater and diadromous fishes of North America.

Atlantic Sturgeon (*Accipenser oxyrinchus*) Vulnerable
Bridle Shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*) Vulnerable

The Bridle Shiner was previously listed in Rhode Island as a G5 and S5 species. Recently, and probably because of its listing by the AFS as “vulnerable”, its G rank has been changed to G3; however, Natureserve Explorer stills identifies Rhode Island as S5. According to Allen Libby’s recent Inland Fishes of Rhode Island, this fish was only located in 12 sample locations, with no more than 3 individuals found at any one site. It is apparent the S rank for Rhode Island should be changed, probably to an S2.

NEPARC: Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

SC Severe Concern
HC High Concern
MC Moderate Concern
LC Low Concern

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Lady Crab - <i>Ovalipes ocellatus</i>	Inverts-30
Cone Worm - <i>Pectinaria gouldii</i>	Inverts-30
Sea Scallop - <i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>	Inverts-31
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