RARE NATIVE ANIMALS OF RHODE ISLAND
Revised: March, 2006

ABOUT THIS LIST

The list is divided by vertebrates and invertebrates and is arranged taxonomically according to the recognized authority cited before each group. Appropriate synonomy is included where names have changed since publication of the cited authority.

The Natural Heritage Program's Rare Native Plants of Rhode Island includes an estimate of the number of "extant populations" for each listed plant species, a figure which has been helpful in assessing the health of each species. Because animals are mobile, some exhibiting annual long-distance migrations, it is not possible to derive a population index that can be applied to all animal groups. The status assigned to each species (see definitions below) provides some indication of its range, relative abundance, and vulnerability to decline. More specific and pertinent data is available from the Natural Heritage Program, the Rhode Island Endangered Species Program, and the Rhode Island Natural History Survey.

STATUS. The status of each species is designated by letter codes as defined:

(FE) Federally Endangered  (7 species currently listed)

(FT) Federally Threatened  (2 species currently listed)

(SE) State Endangered  Native species in imminent danger of extirpation from Rhode Island. These taxa may meet one or more of the following criteria:
1. Formerly considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Federal listing as endangered or threatened.
2. Known from an estimated 1-2 total populations in the state.
3. Apparently globally rare or threatened; estimated at 100 or fewer populations range-wide.

Animals listed as State Endangered are protected under the provisions of the Rhode Island State Endangered Species Act, Title 20 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island. This law states, in part (20-37-3):

"No person shall buy, sell, offer for sale, store, transport, export, or otherwise traffic in any animal or plant or any part of any animal or plant whether living or dead, processed, manufactured, preserved or raw if such animal or plant has been declared to be an endangered species by either the United States secretaries of the Interior or Commerce or the Director of the R. I. Department of Environmental Management."

(ST) State Threatened  Native species that are likely to become State Endangered in the future if current trends in habitat loss or other detrimental factors remain unchanged. In general, these taxa have 3-5 known or estimated populations and are especially vulnerable to habitat loss.

(C) Concern  Native species not considered to be State Endangered or State Threatened at the present time, but are listed due to various factors of rarity and/or vulnerability. Species listed in this category may warrant endangered or threatened designation, but status information is presently not well known.

(SH) State Historical  Native species which have been documented for the state during the last 100 years, but which are currently unknown to occur. When known, the year of the last documented occurrence in Rhode Island is included.
FUTURE REVISIONS

The listing of rare species is an ongoing process requiring annual revisions to reflect the best scientific information available concerning the circumstances of rarity, as well as our increased knowledge of the native fauna. Submission of additional data on species currently listed, or on other species which may warrant listing, is encouraged. Information may be sent to:

Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Planning & Development
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908
Telephone: (401) 222-2776 ext.4308

Rhode Island Endangered Species Program
Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Great Swamp Management Area
West Kingston, Rhode Island 02892
Telephone: (401) 789-0281

INVERTEBRATES

The task of evaluating the status of invertebrates in Rhode Island has been initiated for several selected groups. At this time the list primarily includes freshwater bivalves (clams and mussels) and the following insect groups: lepidopterans (moths and butterflies), odonates (dragonflies and damselflies), silphids (burying beetles), and cicindelids (tiger beetles). Additional taxa will be added in the future upon the completion of further research and inventory. The following publications are a partial listing of taxonomic references:


BIVALVE MOLLUSKS

**Unionoida** (freshwater mussels)

Margaritiferidae (pearlshells)

*Margaritifera margaritifera*  
Eastern Pearlshell  
SE

Unionidae (unionid mussels)

*Alismidonta varicosa*  
Brook Floater  
SH (1897)

*Lampsilis radiata*  
Lampmussel  
C

*Ligumia nasuta*  
Eastern Pond Mussel  
C

*Strophitus undulatus*  
Squawfoot  
C
**CRUSTACEANS**

**Amphipoda** (amphipods)

Crangonyctidae (freshwater amphipods)

*Synurella chamberlaini* Coastal Swamp Amphipod C

**INSECTS**

**Coleoptera** (beetles)

Cicindelidae (tiger beetles)

*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis* Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle FT/SH (1978)
*Cicindela formosa generosa* Pine Barrens Tiger Beetle ST
*Cicindela hirticollis* Seabeach Tiger Beetle ST
*Cicindela limbalis* Claybanks Tiger Beetle C
*Cicindela marginata* Salt Marsh Tiger Beetle ST
*Cicindela patruela* Barrens Tiger Beetle SH (1921)
*Cicindela purpurea* Purple Tiger Beetle C
*Cicindela rufiventris* Red-bellied Tiger Beetle C
*Cicindela tranquebarica* Dark-bellied Tiger Beetle ST

Silphidae (burying beetles)

*Nicrophorus americanus* American Burying Beetle FE

Staphylinidae (rove beetles)

*Lordithon niger* Black Lordithon Rove Beetle C

**Lepidoptera** (butterflies and moths)

Lycaenidae (coppers, hairstreaks, elfins, & blues)

*Lycaena epixanthe* Bog Copper C
*Satyrium acadica* Acadian Hairstreak C
*Satyrium caryaevorum* Hickory Hairstreak C
*Mitoura hesseli* Hessel's Hairstreak C
*Incisalia henrici* Henry's Elfin C
*Incisalia irus* Frosted Elfin ST
*Incisalia polia* Hoary Elfin C
*Fixsenia favonius ontario* Northern Hairstreak C
*Parrhasius m-album* White M Hairstreak C

Nymphalididae (brush-footed butterflies)

*Speyeria idalia* Regal Fritillary SH (1990)
*Boloria bellona* Meadow Fritillary C
*Enodia anthedon* Northern Pearly Eye C

Hesperiidae (skippers)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Erynnis brizo</em></td>
<td>Sleepy Duskywing</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Erynnis persius</em></td>
<td>Persius Duskywing</td>
<td>SH (1950)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Poanes massasoit</em></td>
<td>Mulberry Wing</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Poanes viator zizaniae</em></td>
<td>Broad Winged Skipper</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Atrytonopsis hianna</em></td>
<td>Dusted Skipper</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Noctuidae (noctuid moths)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Abagrotis crumbi benjamini</em></td>
<td>Benjamin's Abagrotis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acronicta lanceolaria</em></td>
<td>A Noctuid Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Apharetra purpurea</em></td>
<td>Blueberry Sallow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aplectoides condita</em></td>
<td>A Noctuid Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Grammia speciosa</em></td>
<td>An Arctiid Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lithophane viridipallens</em></td>
<td>Pale Green Pinion Moth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Metarranthis pilosaria</em></td>
<td>Coastal Swamp Metarranthis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Papaipema appassionata</em></td>
<td>Pitcher Plant Borer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Papaipema leucostigma</em></td>
<td>Columbine Borer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Spartiniphaga inops</em></td>
<td>Spartina Borer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Zale sp. (</em>)*</td>
<td>Pine Barrens Zale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Zale submediana</em></td>
<td>A Noctuid Moth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) a full scientific name for this species has not been published.

**Saturniidae (saturnid moths)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Citheronia regalis</em></td>
<td>Royal Walnut Moth</td>
<td>SH (1939)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Citheronia sepulcralis</em></td>
<td>Pine Devil</td>
<td>SH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hemileuca maia maia</em></td>
<td>Barrens Buckmoth</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies)**

**Coenagrionidae (pond damselflies)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Enallagma pictum</em></td>
<td>Scarlet Bluet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Enallagma recurvatum</em></td>
<td>Pine Barrens Bluet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lestes unguiculatus</em></td>
<td>Lyre-tipped Spreadwing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nehalennia integrigollis</em></td>
<td>Southern Sprite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gomphidae (clubtails)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Ophioogomphus aspersus</em></td>
<td>Brook Snaketail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Progomphus obscurus</em></td>
<td>Common Sanddragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Stylurus scudderi</em></td>
<td>Zebra Clubtail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Stylurus spiniceris</em></td>
<td>Arrow Clubtail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Aeshnidae (darners)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Aeshna mutata</em></td>
<td>Spatterdock Darner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Anax longipes</em></td>
<td>Comet Darner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corduliidae (emeralds)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cordulegaster obliqua</td>
<td>Arrowhead Spiketail</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurocordulia obsoleta</td>
<td>Umber Shadowdragon</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somatochlora georgiana</td>
<td>Coppery Emerald</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsonia lintneri</td>
<td>Ringed Boghaunter</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Libellulidae (common skimmers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leucorrhinia glacialis</td>
<td>Crimson-ring Whiteface</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libellula auripennis</td>
<td>Golden-winged Skimmer</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VERTEBRATES

The following reference is used:


FISH

Petromyzontidae (lampreys)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lampetra appendix</td>
<td>American Brook Lamprey</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acipenseridae (sturgeons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acipenser oxyrhynchus</td>
<td>Atlantic Sturgeon</td>
<td>SH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acipenser brevirostrum</td>
<td>Shortnose Sturgeon</td>
<td>FE (SH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AMPHIBIANS

Plethodontidae (lungless salamanders)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</td>
<td>Northern Spring Salamander</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pelobatidae (spadefoot toads)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scaphiopus holbrookii</td>
<td>Eastern Spadefoot</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ranidae (true frogs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rana pipiens</td>
<td>Northern Leopard Frog</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REPTILES

Note: Several reptiles are covered under regulations of the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, which identifies several species as "protected", i.e., that possession without a permit is prohibited at all times. Species designated under these regulations are indicated by "P" in the status column.

Cheloniidae (sea turtles) - offshore waters only.

- **Caretta caretta** (Loggerhead Sea Turtle) FT
- **Eretmochelys imbricata** (Hawksbill Sea Turtle) FE
- **Lepidochelys kempii** (Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle) FE

Dermochelyidae (leatherback turtles) - offshore waters only.

- **Dermochelys c. coriacea** (Atlantic Leatherback) FE

Emydidae (turtles)

- **Clemmys guttata** (Spotted Turtle) P
- **Clemmys insculpta** (Wood Turtle) C/P
- **Malaclemys t. terrapin** (Northern Diamondback Terrapin) SE/P
- **Terrapene carolina** (Eastern Box Turtle) P

Colubridae (colubrid snakes)

- **Carphophis amoenus** (Eastern Worm Snake) C
- **Elaphe obsoleta** (Black Rat Snake) C
- **Heterodon platirhinos** (Eastern Hognose Snake) C
- **Thamnophis sauritus** (Eastern Ribbon Snake) C

Viperidae (vipers)

- **Crotalus horridus** (Timber Rattlesnake) SH (1972)/P

BIRDS

Note: Birds are listed based on the status of breeding populations in Rhode Island.

Podicipedidae (grebes)

- **Podilymbus podiceps** (Pied-billed Grebe) SE

Ardeidae (herons)

- **Botaurus lentiginosus** (American Bittern) SE
- **Ixobrychus exilis** (Least Bittern) ST
- **Ardea herodias** (Great Blue Heron) C
- **Ardea albus** (Great Egret) C
- **Egretta caerulea** (Little Blue Heron) C
- **Egretta thula** (Snowy Egret) C
- **Bubulcus ibis** (Cattle Egret) C
- **Nycticorax nycticorax** (Black-crowned Night Heron) C
Nyctanassa violacea  Yellow-crowned Night Heron  C

**Threskiornithidae (ibises)**

*Plegadis falcinellus* Glossy Ibis  C

**Anatidae (swans, geese, ducks)**

*Anas crecca* Green-winged Teal  C
*Anas discors* Blue-winged Teal  C
*Anas strepera* Gadwall  C
*Lophodytes cucullatus* Hooded Merganser  C

**Accipitridae (eagles, hawks)**

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* Bald Eagle  FT
*Pandion haliaetus* Osprey  C
*Circus cyaneus* Northern Harrier  SE
*Accipiter striatus* Sharp-shinned Hawk  SH (1939)
*Accipiter cooperii* Cooper's Hawk  C
*Accipiter gentilis* Northern Goshawk  C
*Falco peregrinus* Peregrine Falcon  SE

**Rallidae (rails, gallinules)**

*Rallus elegans* King Rail  C
*Rallus longirostris* Clapper Rail  C
*Porzana carolina* Sora  C
*Gallinula chloropus* Common Moorhen  SH (1970)

**Charadriidae (plovers)**

*Charadrius melodus* Piping Plover  FT

**Haematopodidae (oystercatchers)**

*Haematopus palliatus* American Oystercatcher  C

**Scolopacidae (sandpipers)**

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus* Willet  C
*Bartramia longicauda* Upland Sandpiper  SE

**Laridae (gulls, terns)**

*Sterna dougallii* Roseate Tern  FE/SH (1979)
*Sterna antillarum* Least Tern  ST

**Tytonidae (barn owls)**

*Tyto alba* Barn Owl  SE

**Strigidae (owls)**
Asio otus  Long-eared Owl  C
Aegolius acadicus  Northern Saw-whet Owl  C

Caprimulgidae (goatsuckers)

Chordeiles minor  Common Nighthawk  C

Picidae (woodpeckers)

Dryocopus pileatus  Pileated Woodpecker  C

Tyrannidae (flycatchers)

Empidonax virescens  Acadian Flycatcher  C

Alaudidae (larks)

Eremophila alpestris  Horned Lark  C

Hirundinidae (swallows)

Hirundo pyrrhonota  Cliff Swallow  SH (1991)

Troglodytidae (wrens)

Troglodytes troglodytes  Winter Wren  C
Cistothorus palustris  Marsh Wren  C

Parulidae (warblers)

Vermivora chrysoptera  Golden-winged Warbler  SH (1960)
Parula americana  Northern Parula  ST
Dendroica caerulescens  Black-throated Blue Warbler  ST
Dendroica cerulea  Cerulean Warbler  SE
Dendroica fusca  Blackburnian Warbler  ST
Protonotaria citrea  Prothonotary Warbler  C
Helmitheros vermivorus  Worm-eating Warbler  C
Icteria virens  Yellow-breasted Chat  SE

Emberizidae (sparrows)

Ammodramus henslowii  Henslow's Sparrow  SH (1940)
Ammodramus savannarum  Grasshopper Sparrow  ST
Ammodramus maritimus  Seaside Sparrow  C
Zonotrichia albicollis  White-throated Sparrow  C
Junco hyemalis  Dark-eyed Junco  C
## Mammals

### Soricidae (shrews)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Sorex fumeus</em></td>
<td>Smoky Shrew</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sorex palustris</em></td>
<td>Water Shrew</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Leporidae (rabbits, hares)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Sylvilagus transitionalis</em></td>
<td>New England Cottontail</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Muridae (mice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Synaptomys cooperi</em></td>
<td>Southern Bog Lemming</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Felidae (cats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Lynx rufus</em></td>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Balaenopteridae (rorquals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Balaenoptera physalus</em></td>
<td>Fin Whale</td>
<td>FE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Megaptera novaeangliae</em></td>
<td>Humpback Whale</td>
<td>FE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Balaenidae (right whales)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Eubalaena glacialis</em></td>
<td>North Atlantic Right Whale</td>
<td>FE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>