

Introduction to the Species and Habitat Profiles

New to the 2015 Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan Revision are the Species and Habitat Profiles. These profiles are user-friendly fact sheets that can be used individually, by animal group, by habitat group, or altogether. For each species (or groups of species) of greatest conservation need (SGCN) these profiles contain photos, distribution maps, status information, associated key habitats, and threats and actions. The Profiles can be used for quick reference or as educational tools as well.

The Species and Habitat Profiles provide threats to their conservation in Rhode Island and specific conservation actions for each. 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 and 3. It was determined by the Technical Teams based on the action's likelihood of success and urgency, with 3 being the strongest likelihood of success and highest sense of urgency. Examples of performance measures for the conservation actions can be found in Chapter 4.

An example:

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

There are 3 separate threats to conservation listed on the Species Profile for the Tree Swallow, each with associated actions, all of which are ranked. 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 is 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 priority in conservation. For example, the Big Brown Bat most often uses barns and attics and the Chimney Swift most often utilizes building chimneys.

Map disclaimer:

Species and Habitat Profile maps were all developed by The Nature Conservancy for this project.

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 factors affecting their distribution.