

**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 synonymy 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:

Boyd, H.P. and Associates. 1982. *Checklist of Cicindelidae: The Tiger Beetles*. Plexus Publishing, Marlton, New Jersey. 1-31.

Hodges, R.W., et. al. 1983. *Check list of the Lepidoptera of America north of Mexico*. E.W. Classey Ltd. and Wedge Entomological Research Foundation. 1-284.

Johnson, R.I. 1980. *Zoogeography of North American Unionacea (Mollusca: Bivalvia) north of the maximum Pleistocene glaciation*. Bull. Museum Comparative Zoology. 149:77-189.

Paulson, D.R. and S.W. Dunkle. 1999. *A checklist of North American Odonata, including English name, etymology, type locality, and distribution*. Slat. Mus. Nat. Hist. Occ. Pap. 56.

## BIVALVE MOLLUSKS

### Unionoida (freshwater mussels)

#### Margaritiferidae (pearlshells)

<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	Eastern Pearlshell	SE
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#### Unionidae (unionid mussels)

<i>Alismidonta varicosa</i>	Brook Floater	SH (1897)
<i>Lampsilis radiata</i>	Lampmussel	C
<i>Ligumia nasuta</i>	Eastern Pond Mussel	C
<i>Strophitus undulatus</i>	Squawfoot	C

## CRUSTACEANS

### Amphipoda (amphipods)

#### Crangonyctidae (freshwater amphipods)

<i>Synurella chamberlaini</i>	Coastal Swamp Amphipod	C
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## INSECTS

### Coleoptera (beetles)

#### Cicindelidae (tiger beetles)

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

#### Silphidae (burying beetles)

<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	American Burying Beetle	FE
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#### Staphylinidae (rove beetles)

<i>Lordithon niger</i>	Black Lordithon Rove Beetle	C
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### Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)

#### Lycaenidae (coppers, hairstreaks, elfins, & blues)

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

#### Nymphalidae (brush-footed butterflies)

<i>Speyeria idalia</i>	Regal Fritillary	SH (1990)
<i>Boloria bellona</i>	Meadow Fritillary	C
<i>Enodia anthedon</i>	Northern Pearly Eye	C

#### Hesperiidae (skippers)

<i>Erynnis brizo</i>	Sleepy Duskywing	C
<i>Erynnis persius</i>	Persius Duskywing	SH (1950)
<i>Poanes massasoit</i>	Mulberry Wing	C
<i>Poanes viator zizaniae</i>	Broad Winged Skipper	C
<i>Atrytonopsis hianna</i>	Dusted Skipper	C

Noctuidae (noctuid moths)

<i>Abagrotis crumbi benjamini</i>	Benjamin's Abagrotis	C
<i>Acrionicta lanceolaria</i>	A Noctuid Moth	C
<i>Apharetra purpurea</i>	Blueberry Sallow	C
<i>Aplectoides condita</i>	A Noctuid Moth	C
<i>Grammia speciosa</i>	An Arctiid Moth	C
<i>Lithophane viridipallens</i>	Pale Green Pinion Moth	C
<i>Metarranthis pilosaria</i>	Coastal Swamp Metarranthis	C
<i>Papaipema appassionata</i>	Pitcher Plant Borer	C
<i>Papaipema leucostigma</i>	Columbine Borer	SH
<i>Spartiniphaga inops</i>	Spartina Borer	C
<i>Zale sp. (*)</i>	Pine Barrens Zale	C
<i>Zale submediana</i>	A Noctuid Moth	C

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

Saturniidae (saturnid moths)

<i>Citheronia regalis</i>	Royal Walnut Moth	SH (1939)
<i>Citheronia sepulcralis</i>	Pine Devil	SH
<i>Hemileuca maia maia</i>	Barrens Buckmoth	C

**Odonata** (dragonflies and damselflies)

Coenagrionidae (pond damselflies)

<i>Enallagma pictum</i>	Scarlet Bluet	C
<i>Enallagma recurvatum</i>	Pine Barrens Bluet	C
<i>Lestes unguiculatus</i>	Lyre-tipped Spreadwing	C
<i>Nehalennia integricollis</i>	Southern Sprite	ST

Gomphidae (clubtails)

<i>Ophiogomphus aspersus</i>	Brook Snaketail	ST
<i>Progomphus obscurus</i>	Common Sanddragon	C
<i>Stylurus scudderi</i>	Zebra Clubtail	ST
<i>Stylurus spiniceris</i>	Arrow Clubtail	C

Aeshnidae (darners)

<i>Aeshna mutata</i>	Spatterdock Darner	C
<i>Anax longipes</i>	Comet Darner	C

Corduliidae (emeralds)

<i>Cordulegaster obliqua</i>	Arrowhead Spiketail	C
<i>Neurocordulia obsoleta</i>	Umber Shadowdragon	C
<i>Somatochlora georgiana</i>	Coppery Emerald	C
<i>Williamsonia lintneri</i>	Ringed Boghaunter	SE

Libellulidae (common skimmers)

<i>Leucorrhinia glacialis</i>	Crimson-ringed Whiteface	ST
<i>Libellula auripennis</i>	Golden-winged Skimmer	C

**VERTEBRATES**

The following reference is used:

August, P.V., Enser, R.W. and L.L. Gould. 2001. *Vertebrates of Rhode Island*. Vol. 2. Biota of Rhode Island. Rhode Island Natural History Survey, Kingston, RI.

**FISH**

Petromyzontidae (lampreys)

<i>Lampetra appendix</i>	American Brook Lamprey	ST
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Acipenseridae (sturgeons)

<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	Atlantic Sturgeon	SH
<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Shortnose Sturgeon	FE (SH)

**AMPHIBIANS**

Plethodontidae (lungless salamanders)

<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Northern Spring Salamander	C
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Pelobatidae (spadefoot toads)

<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Eastern Spadefoot	SE
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Ranidae (true frogs)

<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Northern Leopard Frog	C
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## **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.

<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Sea Turtle	FT
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill Sea Turtle	FE
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	FE

Dermochelyidae (leatherback turtles) - offshore waters only.

<i>Dermochelys c. coriacea</i>	Atlantic Leatherback	FE
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Emydidae (turtles)

<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle	P
<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	C/P
<i>Malaclemys t. terrapin</i>	Northern Diamondback Terrapin	SE/P
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	P

Colubridae (colubrid snakes)

<i>Carphophis amoenus</i>	Eastern Worm Snake	C
<i>Elaphe obsoleta</i>	Black Rat Snake	C
<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	Eastern Hognose Snake	C
<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	Eastern Ribbon Snake	C

Viperidae (vipers)

<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber Rattlesnake	SH (1972)/P
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## **BIRDS**

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

Podicipedidae (grebes)

<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe	SE
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Ardeidae (herons)

<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern	SE
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	ST
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron	C
<i>Ardea albus</i>	Great Egret	C
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron	C
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy Egret	C
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	C
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	C

<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	C
Threskiornithidae (ibises)		
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Glossy Ibis	C
Anatidae (swans, geese, ducks)		
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Green-winged Teal	C
<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal	C
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall	C
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser	C
Accipitridae (eagles, hawks)		
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	FT
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	C
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	SE
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	SH (1939)
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk	C
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	C
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	SE
Rallidae (rails, gallinules)		
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail	C
<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	Clapper Rail	C
<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Sora	C
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen	SH (1970)
Charadriidae (plovers)		
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	FT
Haematopodidae (oystercatchers)		
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	American Oystercatcher	C
Scolopacidae (sandpipers)		
<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	Willet	C
<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Upland Sandpiper	SE
Laridae (gulls, terns)		
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate Tern	FE/SH (1979)
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least Tern	ST
Tytonidae (barn owls)		
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	SE
Strigidae (owls)		

<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared Owl	C
<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Northern Saw-whet Owl	C
Caprimulgidae (goatsuckers)		
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk	C
Picidae (woodpeckers)		
<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Pileated Woodpecker	C
Tyrannidae (flycatchers)		
<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	Acadian Flycatcher	C
Alaudidae (larks)		
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark	C
Hirundinidae (swallows)		
<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow	SH (1991)
Troglodytidae (wrens)		
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren	C
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Marsh Wren	C
Parulidae (warblers)		
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler	SH (1960)
<i>Parula americana</i>	Northern Parula	ST
<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Black-throated Blue Warbler	ST
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler	SE
<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Blackburnian Warbler	ST
<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Prothonotary Warbler	C
<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	Worm-eating Warbler	C
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-breasted Chat	SE
Emberizidae (sparrows)		
<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow	SH (1984)
<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Henslow's Sparrow	SH (1940)
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow	ST
<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>	Seaside Sparrow	C
<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	White-throated Sparrow	C
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco	C



## MAMMALS

### Soricidae (shrews)

<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	Smoky Shrew	C
<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Water Shrew	C

### Leporidae (rabbits, hares)

<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>	New England Cottontail	C
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### Muridae (mice)

<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	Southern Bog Lemming	C
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### Felidae (cats)

<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Bobcat	ST
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### Balaenopteridae (rorquals)

<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin Whale	FE
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback Whale	FE

### Balaenidae (right whales)

<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	North Atlantic Right Whale	FE
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