

# **Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan\***

November 22, 2005

## **Appendix I Explanation of Legal Status and Information Ranks used by the Nongame & Natural Heritage Program, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department**

*\*formally the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)*



# Appendix I: Explanation of Legal Status and Information Ranks Nongame & Natural Heritage Program Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

## Legal Status

### State Status per the Vermont Endangered Species Law (10 V.S.A. Chap. 123)

- E:** Endangered: in immediate danger of becoming extirpated in the state  
**T:** Threatened: with high possibility of becoming endangered in the near future

### Information Categories only; not established by this law

- SC:** Special Concern: rare; status should be watched  
**PE:** Proposed for endangered  
**PT:** Proposed for threatened

### Federal Status As per the Federal Endangered Species Act (P.L. 93-205)

- LE:** Listed endangered  
**LT:** Listed threatened

## Natural Heritage Ranking: Informational categories only; not established by law. Developed by the Science Division of The Nature Conservancy.

### State Ranks of Plants, Animals, and Natural Communities

State ranks are assigned by the Nongame & Natural Heritage Program based on the best available information. Ranks are reviewed annually. For bird species the ranks refer to breeding status only.

- S1:** Very rare, generally 1 to 5 occurrences believed to be extant and/or some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state  
**S2:** Rare, generally 6 to 20 occurrences believed to be extant and/or some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation in the state  
**S3:** Uncommon, believed to be more than 20 occurrences and/or there is some threat to it in the state  
**S4:** Apparently secure in state, often with more than 100 occurrences  
**S5:** Demonstrably secure in state  
**SA:** Accidental in state  
**SE:** An exotic established in state  
**SH:** Known from historical records only  
**SR:** Reported from the state, but without persuasive documentation  
**SRF:** Reported in error but this error persisted in the literature  
**SP:** Possible in the state but no reported or documented records  
**SSYN:** No longer considered a taxon in the state.  
**SZ:** Not of practical conservation concern because there are no definable occurrences  
**SX:** Extirpated from the state  
**SU:** Status uncertain  
**?:** Denotes provisional rank

**Breeding Status** (primarily birds) only for species which have distinct breeding and or non-breeding populations

**B:** Breeding status e.g. S1B is a very rare breeder

**N:** Nonbreeding status e.g. S1N is a very rare nonbreeder; and SZN is a migrant that occurs in an irregular, transitory, and/or dispersed manner

### **Global Ranks of Plants, Animal, and Natural Communities**

Global Ranks are assigned by the international network of Natural Heritage Data Centers. The ranks are tracked by The Nature Conservancy and by The Natural Heritage Programs. They reflect the rarity and endangerment of species worldwide.

**G1:** Critically imperiled globally (on the order of 1-5 occurrences worldwide)

**G2:** Endangered globally (ca. 6-20 occurrences worldwide)

**G3:** Threatened globally: rare and/or local

**G4:** Apparently secure globally, though perhaps locally rare

**G5:** Demonstrably secure globally

**T:** Subrank for subspecies and varieties; 1-5 ranking similar to G ranks

**Q:** Questionable taxonomic assignment

**?:** Denotes provisional rank

**NE:** Exotic established in nation

**GU:** Status uncertain

For further information contact

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