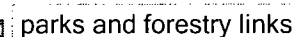


NJ DEP 2001



## New Jersey Rare Species and Natural Community Lists By County

Lists of rare species and natural communities by county can be viewed on this home page. These lists are revised several times each year. Included in the lists is information on the rarity and official status of each species/natural community. [Explanations of codes used in Natural Heritage Reports](#) are also available to assist in your interpretation of the lists.

The Natural Heritage Database is continuously updated as new information becomes available. Sources of data include scientific literature, museum records, observations of naturalists around the state, staff scientists and field inventories. Entry of information into the database is prioritized according to the rarity of the species or natural community. Most emphasis has been placed on globally rare or officially listed endangered and threatened species. Information provided by the Natural Heritage Database should not be considered a **definitive** statement on the presence, absence, or condition of biological elements in any part of New Jersey, but simply what has been included in the database to date.

If you have information which you believe would add to our knowledge of a specific county, species or natural community, please [contact our staff](#) or submit a [rare species reporting form](#).

## Rare Species and Natural Community Lists by County

- [Atlantic](#)
- [Bergen](#)
- [Burlington](#)
- [Camden](#)
- [Cape May](#)
- [Cumberland](#)
- [Essex](#)
- [Gloucester](#)
- [Hudson](#)
- [Hunterdon](#)
- [Mercer](#)
- [Middlesex](#)
- [Monmouth](#)
- [Morris](#)
- [Ocean](#)
- [Passaic](#)
- [Salem](#)
- [Somerset](#)
- [Sussex](#)
- [Union](#)
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Department of Environmental Protection  
P. O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Last Updated: April 29, 2003

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OCEAN COUNTY  
RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE

*S/2- Breeding population / migrating or winter population*

NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK
*** Vertebrates					
ACCIPITER COOPERII	COOPER'S HAWK		T/T		G5
AMBYSTOMA TIGRINUM TIGRINUM	EASTERN TIGER SALAMANDER		E		G5T5
AMMODRAMUS SAVANNARUM	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW		T/S		G5
ARDEA HERODIAS	GREAT BLUE HERON		S/S		G5
BARTRAMIA LONGICAUDA	UPLAND SANDPIPER		E		G5
BOTAURUS LENTIGINOSUS	AMERICAN BITTERN		E/S		G4
CALIDRIS CANUTUS	RED KNOT		T		G5
CHARADRIUS MELODUS	PIPING PLOVER	LT	E		G3
CIRCUS CYANEUS	NORTHERN HARRIER		E/U		G5
CISTOTHORUS PLATENSIS	SEDGE WREN		E		G5
CLEMMYS INSCULPTA	WOOD TURTLE		T		G4
CLEMMYS MUHLENBERGII	BOG TURTLE	LT	E		G3
CROTALUS HORRIDUS HORRIDUS	TIMBER RATTLESNAKE		E		G4T4
EGRETTA CAERULEA	LITTLE BLUE HERON		S/S		G5
EGRETTA THULA	SNOWY EGRET		S/S		G5
EGRETTA TRICOLOR	TRICOLORED HERON		INC/S		G5
ELAPHE GUTTATA GUTTATA	CORN SNAKE		E		G5T5
EUMECES FASCIATUS	FIVE-LINED SKINK		U		G5
FALCO PEREGRINUS	PEREGRINE FALCON		E		G4
HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS	BALD EAGLE	LT	E		G4
HYLA ANDERSONII	PINE BARRENS TREEFROG		E		G4
HYLA CHRYSOSCELIS	COPE'S GRAY TREEFROG		E		G5
IXOBRYCHUS EXILIS	LEAST BITTERN		D/S		G5
LATERALLUS JAMAICENSIS	BLACK RAIL		T/T		G4
LYNX RUFUS	BOBCAT		E		G5
MELANERPES ERYTHROCEPHALUS	RED-HEADED WOODPECKER		T/T		G5
NYCTANASSA VIOLACEA	YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON		T/T		G5
NYCTICORAX NYCTICORAX	BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON		T/S		G5
PANDION HALIAETUS	OSPREY		T/T		G5

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OCEAN COUNTY  
RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
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NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK
→ PITUOPHIS MELANOLEUCUS	NORTHERN PINE SNAKE		T		G4T4
MELANOLEUCUS					
→ PLEGADIS FALCINELLUS	GLOSSY IBIS		D/S		G5
→ PODILYMBUS PODICEPS	PIED-BILLED GREBE		E/S		G5
→ POOECETES GRAMINEUS	VESPER SPARROW		E		G5
→ RYNCHOPS NIGER	BLACK SKIMMER		E		G5
→ STERNA ANTILLARUM	LEAST TERN		E		G4
→ STERNA DOUGALLII DOUGALLII	ROSEATE TERN	LE	E		G4T3
STERNA HIRUNDO	COMMON TERN		D/S		G5
STERNA NILOTICA	GULL-BILLED TERN		S		G5
→ STRIX VARIA	BARRED OWL		T/T		G5
SYNAPTOMYS COOPERI	SOUTHERN BOG LEMMING		U		G5
*** Ecosystems					
COASTAL DUNE SHRUBLAND	COASTAL DUNE SHRUBLAND				G4
COASTAL DUNE WOODLAND	COASTAL DUNE WOODLAND				G2G3
MARINE INTERTIDAL GRAVEL/SAND	MARINE INTERTIDAL GRAVEL/SAND				GU
BEACH COMMUNITY	BEACH COMMUNITY				
PINE PLAINS	DWARF PITCH PINE-BLACKJACK OAK				G1
	PINE PLAINS				
PINUS RIGIDA-CALAMOVILFA	PITCH PINE-PINELANDS REEDGRASS				G1
BREVIPILIS SAVANNA	SAVANNA				
*** Invertebrates					
ACRONICTA ALBARUFA	BARRENS DAGGERMOTH				G3G4
AESHNA CLEPSYDRA	MOTTLED DARNER				G4
AGROTIS BUCHHOLZI	BUCHHOLZ'S DART				G2
AMBLYSCIRTES VIALIS	ROADSIDE SKIPPER				G5
APHARETRA DENTATA	A NOCTUID MOTH				G4
ATRYTONE AROGOS AROGOS	AROGOS SKIPPER				G3G4T1T

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OCEAN COUNTY  
RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
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NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK
BOLORIA SELENE MYRINA	A SILVER-BORDERED FRITILLARY				G5T5
CALLOPHRYS HENRICI	HENRY'S ELFIN				G5
CALLOPHRYS HESSELI	HESSEL'S HAIRSTREAK				G3G4
CALLOPHRYS IRUS	FROSTED ELFIN				G3
CALLOPHRYS POLIOS	HOARY ELFIN				G5
CALLOPISTRIA GRANITOSA	GRANITOSA FERN MOTH				G4G5
CATOCALA HERODIAS GERHARDI	HERODIAS OR GERHARD'S UNDERWING				G3T3
CATOCALA JAIR SSP 2					G4T4
CELITHEMIS MARTHA	MARTHA'S PENNANT				G4
CICINDELA DORSALIS DORSALIS	NORTHEASTERN BEACH TIGER BEETLE	LT	E		G4T2
CICINDELA PATRUELA CONSENTANEA	A TIGER BEETLE				G3T2
CRAMBUS DAECKELLUS	DAECKE'S PYRALID MOTH				G1G3
DATANA RANAECES	A HAND-MAID MOTH				G3G4
ENALLAGMA PICTUM	SCARLET BLUET				G3
ENALLAGMA RECURVATUM	PINE BARRENS BLUET				G3
ERYNNIS PERSIUS PERSIUS	A PERSIUS DUSKY WING				G5T2T3
EUPHYES BIMACULA	TWO-SPOTTED SKIPPER				G4
FARONTA RUBRIPENNIS	PINK STREAK				G3G4
GLENA PLUMOSARIA					G4
GRAMMIA PLACENTIA	PLACENTIA TIGER MOTH				G4
HESPERIA ATTALUS SLOSSONAE	DOTTED SKIPPER				G3G4T3
HETEROCAMPA VARIA	A NOTODONTID MOTH				G3G4
HYPOMECEIS BUCHHOLZARIA	BUCHHOLZ'S GRAY				G3G4
ITAME SP 1	A SPANWORM				G3
LIBELLULA AURIPENNIS	GOLDEN-WINGED SKIMMER				G5
LIBELLULA AXILENA	BAR-WINGED SKIMMER				G5
LITHOPHANE LEMMERI	LEMMER'S PINION MOTH				G3G4

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RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
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NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK
MACROCHILO SP 1	A NOCTUID MOTH				G3
MEROLONCHE DOLLI	DOLL'S MEROLONCHE				G3G4
METARRANTHIS PILOSARIA	COASTAL BOG METARRANTHIS				G3G4
METARRANTHIS SP 1	A GEOMETRID MOTH				G3
NEONYMPHA AREOLATA	A SATYR				G4T3T4
→ SEPTENTRIONALIS					
→ CNICOPHORUS AMERICANUS	AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE	LE	E		G2G3
PONTIA PROTODICE	CHECKERED WHITE				G4
PTICHODIS BISTRIGATA	SOUTHERN PTICHODIS				G3
PYGARCTIA ABDOMINALIS	YELLOW EDGED PYGARCTIA				G3G4
RICHIA SP 2					G1Q
SEMIOTHISA EREMIATA	THREE-LINED ANGLE MOTH				G4
SPARTINIPHAGA CARTERAE	CARTER'S NOCTUID MOTH				G2G3
ZALE SP 1	PINE BARRENS ZALE				G3Q
ZANCLOGNATHA SP 1					G3G4
ZANCLOGNATHA THERALIS					G4
*** Other types					
BALD EAGLE WINTERING SITE	BALD EAGLE WINTERING SITE				G?
COASTAL HERON ROOKERY	COASTAL HERON ROOKERY				GU
MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD	MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD				G?
CONCENTRATION SITE	CONCENTRATION SITE				
*** Vascular plants					
ALOPECURUS AEQUALIS VAR	SHORT-AWN MEADOW-FOXTAIL				G5T?
AEQUALIS					
→ AMARANTHUS PUMILUS	SEABEACH AMARANTH	LT	E		G2
AMIANTHIUM MUSCITOXICUM	FLY POISON				G4G5
ARETHUSA BULBOSA	DRAGON MOUTH				G4

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OCEAN COUNTY

RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN

## THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE

NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK
ARISTIDA DICHOTOMA VAR CURTISSII	CURTISS' THREE-AWN GRASS				G5T5
ARISTOLOCHIA SERPENTARIA	VIRGINIA SNAKEROOT				G4
ARTEMISIA CAMPESTRIS SSP CAUDATA	BEACH WORMWOOD				G5T5
ASCLEPIAS LANCEOLATA	SMOOTH ORANGE MILKWEED				G5
ASCLEPIAS RUBRA	RED MILKWEED			LP	G4G5
→ ASTER RADULA	LOW ROUGH ASTER		E		G5
BUCHNERA AMERICANA	BLUEHEARTS				G5?
→ CACALIA ATRIPLICIFOLIA	PALE INDIAN PLANTAIN		E		G4G5
CALAMOVILFA BREVIPILIS	PINE BARREN REEDGRASS			LP	G4
→ GARDAMINE LONGII	LONG'S BITTERCRESS		E		G3
CAREX BARRATTII	BARRATT'S SEDGE			LP	G4
CAREX MITCHELLIANA	MITCHELL'S SEDGE				G3G4
CAREX PALLESCENS	PALE SEDGE				G5
CAREX WILLDENOWII VAR WILLDENOWII	WILLDENOW'S SEDGE				G5T5
→ CIRSIIUM VIRGINIANUM	VIRGINIA THISTLE		E		G3
→ CLITORIA MARIANA	BUTTERFLY-PEA		E		G5
→ COREMA CONRADII	BROOM CROWBERRY		E	LP	G4
COREOPSIS ROSEA	ROSE-COLOR COREOPSIS			LP	G3
CROTON WILLDENOWII	ELLIPTICAL RUSHFOIL			LP	G5
→ DESMODIUM PAUCIFLORUM	FEW-FLOWER TICK-TREFOIL		E		G5
ELEOCHARIS HALOPHILA	SALT-MARSH SPIKE-RUSH				G4
→ ELEOCHARIS TORTILIS	TWISTED SPIKE-RUSH		E		G5
ERIOCAULON PARKERI	PARKER'S PIPEWORT				G3
→ ERIOPHORUM TENELLUM	ROUGH COTTON-GRASS		E		G5
ERYNGIUM AQUATICUM VAR AQUATICUM	MARSH RATTLESNAKE-MASTER				G4T4
→ EUPATORIUM RESINOSUM	PINE BARREN BONESET		E	LP	G3

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## OCEAN COUNTY

RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE

NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK
FIMBRISTYLIS CAROLINIANA	CAROLINA FIMBRY				G4
→ FRAXINUS PROFUNDA	PUMPKIN ASH		E		G4
FUIRENA SQUARROSA	HAIRY UMBRELLA-SEDGE				G4G5
→ GALACTIA VOLUBILIS	DOWNY MILK-PEA		E		G5
GENTIANA AUTUMNALIS	PINE BARREN GENTIAN			LP	G3
→ GLAUX MARITIMA	SEA-MILKWORT		E		G5
→ GNAPHALIUM HELLERI	SMALL EVERLASTING		E		G4G5T3?
→ HELONIAS BULLATA	SWAMP-PINK	LT	E	LP	G3
→ → → MACKENZIA PEPLOIDES VAR ROBUSTA	SEABEACH SANDWORT				G5T4
→ HOTTONIA INFLATA	FEATHERFOIL		E		G4
HOUSTONIA LONGIFOLIA	LONG-LEAF SUMMER BLUET				G4G5
→ JEFFERSONIA DIPHYLLA	TWINLEAF		E		G5
→ JUNCUS CAESARIENSIS	NEW JERSEY RUSH		E	LP	G2
JUNCUS GREENEI	GREENE'S RUSH				G5
→ JUNCUS TORREYI	TORREY'S RUSH		E		G5
→ LIMOSELLA SUBULATA	AWL-LEAF MUDWORT		E		G4G5
→ LINUM INTERCURSUM	SANDPLAIN FLAX		E		G4
LISTERA AUSTRALIS	SOUTHERN TWAYBLADE			LP	G4
LOBELIA CANBYI	CANBY'S LOBELIA			LP	G4
LUDWIGIA BREVIPES	TUCKER'S ISLAND PRIMROSE-WILLOW				G4G5
→ → → LUZULA ACUMINATA	HAIRY WOOD-RUSH		E		G5T4T5
→ MELANTHIUM VIRGINICUM	VIRGINIA BUNCHFLOWER		E		G5
MUHLENBERGIA TORREYANA	PINE BARREN SMOKE GRASS			LP	G3
→ MYRIOPHYLLUM TENELLUM	SLENDER WATER-MILFOIL		E		G5
→ MYRIOPHYLLUM VERTICILLATUM	WHORLED WATER-MILFOIL		E		G5
→ → → NARTHECIUM AMERICANUM	BOG ASPHODEL	C	E	LP	G2
→ NYMPHOIDES CORDATA	FLOATINGHEART			LP	G5
→ OENOTHERA HUMIFUSA	SEA-BEACH EVENING-PRIMROSE		E		G5

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## OCEAN COUNTY

RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE

NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK
→ <del>ONOSMODIUM VIRGINIANUM</del>	VIRGINIA FALSE-GROMWELL		E		G4
PASPALUM DISSECTUM	MUDBANK CROWN GRASS				G4?
PHORADENDRON LEUCARPUM	AMERICAN MISTLETOE			LP	G5
PITYOPSIS FALCATA	SICKLE-LEAF GOLDEN-ASTER			LP	G3G4
PLANTAGO MARITIMA VAR JUNCOIDES	SEASIDE PLANTAIN				G5T5
→ <del>PLANTAGO PUSILLA</del>	DWARF PLANTAIN		E		G5
→ POLYGONUM GLAUCUM	SEA-BEACH KNOTWEED		E		G3
PRENANTHES AUTUMNALIS	PINE BARREN RATTLESNAKE-ROOT			LP	G4G5
→ <del>PRUNUS ANGUSTIFOLIA</del>	CHICKASAW PLUM		E		G5T4T5
PUCCINELLIA FASCICULATA	SALTMARSH ALKALI GRASS				GU
PYCNANTHEMUM SETOSUM	AWNED MOUNTAIN-MINT				G3?
→ <del>RANUNCULUS CYMBALARIA</del>	SEASIDE BUTTERCUP		E		G5
→ <del>RHODODENDRON ATLANTICUM</del>	DWARF AZALEA		E		G4G5
RHYNCHOSPORA CEPHALANTHA	LARGE-HEAD BEAKED-RUSH			LP	G5
→ <del>RHYNCHOSPORA GLOBULARIS</del>	COARSE GRASS-LIKE BEAKED-RUSH		E		G5?
RHYNCHOSPORA INUNDATA	SLENDER HORNED-RUSH			LP	G3G4
→ <del>RHYNCHOSPORA KNIESKERNII</del>	KNIESKERN'S BEAKED-RUSH	LT	E	LP	G1
→ <del>RHYNCHOSPORA MICROCEPHALA</del>	SMALL-HEAD BEAKED-RUSH		E		G5T5
RHYNCHOSPORA NITENS	SHORT-BEAKED BALD-RUSH				G4?
RHYNCHOSPORA PALLIDA	PALE BEAKED-RUSH				G3
RUBUS RECURVICAULIS	BLANCHARD'S DEWBERRY				G4?
RUMEX HASTATULUS	ENGELMANN'S SORREL				G5
SABATIA CAMPANULATA	SLENDER MARSH-PINK				G5
SABATIA DODECANDRA VAR DODECANDRA	LARGE MARSH-PINK				G5?T4T5
→ <del>SCHIZAEA PUSILLA</del>	CURLY GRASS FERN			LP	G3
→ <del>SCHWALBEA AMERICANA</del>	CHAFFSEED	LE	E	LP	G2
→ <del>SCIRPUS LONGII</del>	LONG'S WOOLGRASS		E	LP	G2
→ <del>SCIRPUS MARITIMUS</del>	SALTMARSH BULRUSH		E		G5

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## OCEAN COUNTY

RARE SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES PRESENTLY RECORDED IN  
THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE

NAME	COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	REGIONAL STATUS	GRANK
SCLERIA MINOR	SLENDER NUT-RUSH			LP	G4
SOLIDAGO STRICTA	WAND-LIKE GOLDENROD			LP	G5
SOLIDAGO TARDA	LATE GOLDENROD				G4?Q
SPIRANTHES LACINIATA	LACE-LIP LADIES'-TRESSES	E			G4G5
SPIRANTHES ODORATA	FRAGRANT LADIES'-TRESSES				G5
STYLISMA PICKERINGII VAR PICKERINGII	PICKERING'S MORNING-GLORY	E		LP	G4T2T3
TIPULARIA DISCOLOR	CRANEFLY ORCHID				G4G5
TRIDENS FLAVUS VAR CHAPMANII	CHAPMAN'S REDTOP	E			G5T?
TRIGLOCHIN MARITIMA	SEASIDE ARROW-GRASS	E			G5
UTRICULARIA BIFLORA	TWO-FLOWER BLADDERWORT	E			G5
UTRICULARIA MINOR	LESSER BLADDERWORT	E			G5
UTRICULARIA PURPUREA	PURPLE BLADDERWORT			LP	G5
UVULARIA PUBERULA VAR NITIDA	PINE BARREN BELLWORT	E			G5T3?
VERBENA SIMPLEX	NARROW-LEAF VERVAIN	E			G5
XYRIS FIMBRIATA	FRINGED YELLOW-EYED-GRASS	E			G5
ZIGADENUS LEIMANTHOIDES	DEATH-CAMUS	E			G4Q

198 Records Processed

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## Special Plants of NJ - Appendix I - Categories & Definitions

### Contents

- [Federal Status Codes](#)
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- [Global Element Ranks](#)
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### FEDERAL STATUS CODES

The following U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service categories and their definitions of endangered and threatened plants and animals have been modified from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F.R. Vol. 50 No. 188; Vol. 61, No. 40; F.R. 50 CFR Part 17). Federal Status codes reported for species follow the most recent listing.

LE Taxa formally listed as endangered.

LT Taxa formally listed as threatened.

PE Taxa already proposed to be formally listed as endangered.

PT Taxa already proposed to be formally listed as threatened.

C Taxa for which the Service currently has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened species.

S/A Similarity of appearance species

### STATE STATUS CODES

#### Animals:

Two animal lists provide state status codes after the Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act of 1973 (NSSA 23:2A-13 et. seq.): the list of endangered species (N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.13) and the list defining status of indigenous, nongame wildlife species of

New Jersey (N.J.A.C. 7:25-4.17(a)). The status of animal species is determined by the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP), with the review and approval of the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee.

The state status codes and definitions provided reflect the most recent lists that were revised in the New Jersey Register, Monday, June 3, 1991.

EX -- Extirpated species-a species that formerly occurred in New Jersey, but is not now known to exist within the state.

E -- Endangered species-an endangered species is one whose prospects for survival within the state are in immediate danger due to one or many factors - a loss of habitat, over exploitation, predation, competition, disease. An endangered species requires immediate assistance or extinction will probably follow.

T -- Threatened species-a species that may become endangered if conditions surrounding the species begin to or continue to deteriorate.

D -- Declining species-a species which has exhibited a continued decline in population numbers over the years.

S -- Stable species-a species whose population is not undergoing any long-term increase/decrease within its natural cycle.

INC -- Increasing species-a species whose population has exhibited a significant increase, beyond the normal range of its life cycle, over a long term period.

P -- Peripheral species-a species whose occurrence in New Jersey is at the extreme edge of its present natural range.

U -- Undetermined species-a species about which there is not enough information available to determine the status.

I -- Introduced species-a species not native to New Jersey that could not have established itself here without the assistance of man.

Status for animals separated by a slash(/) indicate a dual status. First status refers to the state breeding population, and the second status refers to the migratory or winter population.

### **Plants:**

Plant taxa listed as endangered are from New Jersey's official Endangered Plant Species List (N.J.A.C. 7:5C - 5.1).

E Native New Jersey plant species whose survival in the State or nation is in jeopardy.

### **OTHER STATUS CODES FOR PLANTS**

LP Indicates taxa listed by the Pinelands Commission as endangered or threatened within their legal jurisdiction. Not all species currently tracked by the Pinelands Commission are tracked by the Natural Heritage Program. A complete list of endangered and threatened Pineland species is included in the New Jersey Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.

HL Indicates taxa or ecological communities protected by the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act within the jurisdiction of the Highlands Preservation Area.

## **EXPLANATION OF GLOBAL AND STATE ELEMENT RANKS**

The Nature Conservancy developed a ranking system for use in identifying elements (rare species and ecological communities) of natural diversity most endangered with extinction. Each element is ranked according to its global, national, and state (or subnational in other countries) rarity. These ranks are used to prioritize conservation work so that the most endangered elements receive attention first. Definitions for element ranks are after The Nature Conservancy (1982: Chapter 4, 4.1-1 through 4.4.1.3-3).

### **GLOBAL ELEMENT RANKS**

G1 Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

G2 Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

G3 Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range (e.g., a single western state, a physiographic region in the East) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range; with the number of occurrences in the range of 21 to 100.

G4 Apparently secure globally; although it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

G5 Demonstrably secure globally; although it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

GH Of historical occurrence throughout its range i.e., formerly part of the established biota, with the expectation that it may be rediscovered.

GU Possibly in peril range-wide but status uncertain; more information needed.

GX Believed to be extinct throughout range (e.g., passenger pigeon) with virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.

G? Species has not yet been ranked.

GNR Species has not yet been ranked.

#### **STATE ELEMENT RANKS**

**S1** Critically imperiled in New Jersey because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres). Elements so ranked are often restricted to very specialized conditions or habitats and/or restricted to an extremely small geographical area of the state. Also included are elements which were formerly more abundant, but because of habitat destruction or some other critical factor of its biology, they have been demonstrably reduced in abundance. In essence, these are elements for which, even with intensive searching, sizable additional occurrences are unlikely to be discovered.

**S2** Imperiled in New Jersey because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences). Historically many of these elements may have been more frequent but are now known from very few extant occurrences, primarily because of habitat destruction. Diligent searching may yield additional occurrences.

**S3** Rare in state with 21 to 100 occurrences (plant species and ecological communities in this category have only 21 to 50 occurrences). Includes elements which are widely distributed in the state but with small populations/acreage or elements with restricted distribution, but locally abundant. Not yet imperiled in state but may soon be if current trends continue. Searching often yields additional occurrences.

**S4** Apparently secure in state, with many occurrences.

**S5** Demonstrably secure in state and essentially ineradicable under present conditions.

**SA** Accidental in state, including species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded once or twice or only at very great intervals, hundreds or even thousands of miles outside their usual range; a few of these species may even have bred on the one or two occasions they were recorded; examples include European strays or western birds on the East Coast and vice-versa.

**SE** Elements that are clearly exotic in New Jersey including those taxa not native to North America (introduced taxa) or taxa deliberately or accidentally introduced into the State from other parts of North America (adventive taxa). Taxa ranked SE are not a conservation priority (viable introduced occurrences of G1 or G2 elements may be exceptions).

**SH** Elements of historical occurrence in New Jersey. Despite some searching of historical occurrences and/or potential habitat, no extant occurrences are known. Since not all of the historical occurrences have been field surveyed, and unsearched potential habitat remains, historically ranked taxa are considered possibly extant, and remain a conservation priority for continued field work.

**SP** Element has potential to occur in New Jersey, but no occurrences have been reported.

**SR** Elements reported from New Jersey, but without persuasive documentation which would provide a basis for either accepting or rejecting the report. In some instances documentation may exist, but as of yet, its source or location has not been determined.

SRF Elements erroneously reported from New Jersey, but this error persists in the literature.

SU Elements believed to be in peril but the degree of rarity uncertain. Also included are rare taxa of uncertain taxonomical standing. More information is needed to resolve rank.

SX Elements that have been determined or are presumed to be extirpated from New Jersey. All historical occurrences have been searched and a reasonable search of potential habitat has been completed. Extirpated taxa are not a current conservation priority.

SXC Elements presumed extirpated from New Jersey, but native populations collected from the wild exist in cultivation.

SZ Not of practical conservation concern in New Jersey, because there are no definable occurrences, although the taxon is native and appears regularly in the state. An SZ rank will generally be used for long distance migrants whose occurrences during their migrations are too irregular (in terms of repeated visitation to the same locations), transitory, and dispersed to be reliably identified, mapped and protected. In other words, the migrant regularly passes through the state, but enduring, mappable element occurrences cannot be defined.

Typically, the SZ rank applies to a non-breeding population (N) in the state - for example, birds on migration. An SZ rank may in a few instances also apply to a breeding population (B), for example certain lepidoptera which regularly die out every year with no significant return migration.

Although the SZ rank typically applies to migrants, it should not be used indiscriminately. Just because a species is on migration does not mean it receives an SZ rank. SZ will only apply when the migrants occur in an irregular, transitory and dispersed manner.

B Refers to the breeding population of the element in the state.

N Refers to the non-breeding population of the element in the state.

T Element ranks containing a "T" indicate that the infraspecific taxon is being ranked differently than the full species. For example *Stachys palustris* var. *homotricha* is ranked "G5T? SH" meaning the full species is globally secure but the global rarity of the var. *homotricha* has not been determined; in New Jersey the variety is ranked historic.

Q Elements containing a "Q" in the global portion of its rank indicates that the taxon is of questionable, or uncertain taxonomical standing, e.g., some authors regard it as a full species, while others treat it at the subspecific level.

.1 Elements documented from a single location.

Note: To express uncertainty, the most likely rank is assigned and a question mark added (e.g., G2?). A range is indicated by combining two ranks (e.g., G1G2, S1S3).

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