

**Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control**  
**Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
**Species Conservation and Research Program**

**Explanation of State, Physiographic Province, Global and Federal Status Ranks**

**March 2018**

Status ranks are based on a system used by Nature Serve, a non-profit conservation organization that is a leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. Status ranks are a measure of the relative rarity of a species, and **State Status** ranks reflect the rarity of a species in Delaware. The state **Physiographic Province Status** rank reflects the rarity of a species within a given Province in Delaware (Piedmont or Coastal Plain). The **Global Status** rank reflects the rarity of a species worldwide, and the **Federal Status** rank refers to species listed as either Endangered, Threatened or Candidate by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Status ranks are used to prioritize conservation and protection efforts so the rarest of species receives immediate attention. The primary criteria for ranking a species is based on the total number of documented occurrences or populations, with strong consideration given to the quality of the occurrence (i.e., size and vigor of a population and condition of habitat), and threats to the occurrence or population and its habitat. Status ranks for individual species are frequently updated and are based on current knowledge.

STATE STATUS RANK

S1: Extremely rare and of conservation concern; typically 5 or fewer extant occurrences or populations in the state; or only a few remaining individuals; may be especially vulnerable to extirpation.

S1.1: To date, only a single extant occurrence or population of this species is known to exist in the state.

S2: Very rare and of conservation concern; typically between 6 and 20 known occurrences or populations; may be susceptible to becoming extirpated.

S3: Uncommon not of conservation concern; typically 21 to 50 known occurrences or populations; S3 ranked species are not yet susceptible to becoming extirpated in the state but may be if additional populations are destroyed.

S4: Common; apparently secure under present conditions; typically 51 or more known occurrences or populations, but may be fewer with many large populations; usually not susceptible to immediate threats.

S5: Very common; demonstrably secure under present conditions.

SU: Status Undetermined; species that are thought to be rare or uncommon in the state, but cannot presently be included within another classification, due to: questionable identification; taxonomic status is uncertain; species may be reported falsely from Delaware; nativity of the species is uncertain; or more field work and herbaria studies are needed in order to better understand the current distribution and abundance of the species in the state.

SH: Historically known from the state but not verified for an extended period (usually 20 years), but there are expectations that the species may be rediscovered.

SX: Species has been determined or presumed to be extirpated. All historical occurrences have been searched, or all known sites have been destroyed, and a thorough search of potential habitat has been completed.

## PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE DELAWARE STATE STATUS RANK

PD: Piedmont Rare or Uncommon –Very Rare to Extremely Rare (PDS1), Rare to Very Rare (PDS2), or Uncommon (PDS3). These species are considered to be of conservation concern only within the Piedmont province.

CP: Coastal Plain Rare or Uncommon –Very Rare to Extremely Rare (CPS1), Rare to Very Rare (CPS2), or Uncommon (CPS3). These species are considered to be of conservation concern only within the Coastal Plain province.

## GLOBAL STATUS RANK

G1: Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences), or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

G2: Imperiled globally because of rarity (6-20 occurrences), or because of some other factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

G3: Either very rare or local throughout its range (21 to 100 occurrences), or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range (e.g. a physiographic region), or because of some other factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

G?: Species has not yet been ranked.

Q: A qualifying "Q" is added after the global rank to denote its questionable taxonomic assignment.

T#: The rank of a subspecies or variety. As an example, G4T1 would apply to a subspecies of a species with an overall rank of G4, but the subspecies warranting a rank of G1.

## FEDERAL STATUS RANK

Endangered (LE): A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened (LT): A species that is likely to become endangered in the near future.

Candidate (C): A species that is a candidate for listing as either Endangered or Threatened, but more study is needed.