

1994

## Non-Game and Endangered Wildlife Program, Annual Report - Rare species status review

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES  
PERFORMANCE REPORT (July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994)

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PROJECT TITLE:	WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	PROJ. NO:	WE99R-3
STUDY TITLE:	RARE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PLANNING AND STATUS REVIEW	STUDY NO:	VII
JOB TITLE:	RARE SPECIES STATUS REVIEW	JOB NO:	I
PERSONNEL:	KAREN TERWILLIGER, RICK REYNOLDS, DANA BRADSHAW	COSTS:	
		Total:	\$13,200
		Federal:	\$9,900
		State:	\$3,300

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SUMMARY:

The process of ranking and listing rare animals is continuing and dynamic. Each year, data from our field work is compiled and the status of species and projects are reviewed and reevaluated. Our contractors and experts in the field are contacted for their review of existing species and project status as well as recommendations on additional species protection needs. A taxonomic committee, established through the 1989 symposium, provides recommendations and comments to VDGIF staff through a cooperative and interactive process of meetings and correspondence. This year the mammals committee held a special meeting in conjunction with our small mammal workshop at Ferrum College. The workshop was well attended by VDGIF staff, USFS,USFWS and many expert mammalogist and educators.

OBJECTIVE A: To collect, compile, and analyze current status information on rare, threatened, and endangered nongame species and continually evaluate their status..

PROCEDURE:

A symposium workshop was held in 1989 which brought together national and state experts on these organisms. Current status information is being evaluated in the proper standardized ranking format so that it can be entered into Virginia's Fish and Wildlife Information Service database.

Each year, results from surveys, research, and other field work are compiled and provided to us. This information is analyzed and species status is reviewed. Experts are asked for input annually through the taxonomic committee network. Academics, managers, and others provide their input to the respective committees, which then review and provide recommendations to VDGIF for the taxa. This has developed into a very productive and beneficial system for receiving sound input on the status of these species from the most accurate and current knowledge base across the state.

This year an extended effort was taken by VDGIF staff, the mammals committee and a number of expert mammalogists across the state to coordinate a small mammal workshop. The workshop was hosted by Ferrum College and its two professors and cooperators, John Leffler and Mike Mengak. The workshop was designed to identify, coordinate and prioritize conservation efforts on small mammals across the state. Presentations were given on current work and the workshop format provided opportunity for discussion of conservation needs and priorities.

FINDINGS:

This is an ongoing, dynamic process which requires continual coordination and communication with staff biologists and experts in the field. Research, inventory and management results are compiled and reviewed annually to determine if new protection or conservation measures are necessary. At this point, no new species are being considered for listing as a result of this year's review. Numerous species are now considered a priority for research and management strategies. These findings are reported under each species project.

The taxonomic committees organized for the 1989 symposium have been called upon for another status review and to make conservation recommendations annually.

The small mammal workshop and the mammals committee effort this year produced a list of action conservation items which were assigned to various committee members and VDGIF staff. The effort was so successful that a consensus recommended it to be an annual event.