

Appendix 13.C. Wildlife Species of Conservation Concern for the St. Johns River Floodplain

Twenty-two wildlife species in the St. Johns River floodplain are listed for either state or federal protection (Table 13.C-1). Rare, endangered, and threatened species, and species of special concern (SSC) are listed by the FWC (2010) under Chapter 68A-27.005, F.A.C., and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under 50 CFR 17. All river segments have wildlife species that are recognized for their conservation status. Seventeen bird species are listed, 11 of these use freshwater marshes and six use coastal habitats. Bachman's Wood Warbler (*Vermivora bachmanii*) is listed although it may be extinct (FWC 2010). The endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*) is omitted because of its experimental status.

13.C-1. Listed species of the St. Johns River floodplain

Status	Species
Endangered	Wood Stork (<i>Mycteria americana</i>)
	Florida Snail Kite (<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>)
	Florida Manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i>)
	Bachman's Wood Warbler (<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>)
Threatened	Eastern Indigo Snake (<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>)
	Florida Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>)
	Audubon's Crested Caracara (<i>Polyborus plancus audubonii</i>)
	Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)
	Least Tern (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>)
	Florida Black Bear (<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>)
Species of Special Concern	American Alligator (<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>) (1,3)
	American Oystercatcher (<i>Haematous palliatus</i>) (1,2)
	Brown Pelican (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>) (1)
	Little Blue Heron (<i>Egretta caerulea</i>) (1,4)
	Snowy Egret (<i>Egretta thula</i>) (1)
	Tricolored Heron (<i>Egretta tricolor</i>) (1,4)
	Roseate Spoonbill (<i>Platalea ajaja</i>) (1,4)
	White Ibis (<i>Eudocimus albus</i>) (2)
	Limpkin (<i>Aramus guarauna</i>) (1)
	Reddish Egret (<i>Egretta rufescens</i>) (1,4)
	Black Skimmer (<i>Rynchops niger</i>) (1)
Worthington's Marsh Wren (<i>Cistothorus palustris griseus</i>) (1)	

Species of Special Concern categories

1. Has a significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species unless appropriate protective or management techniques are initiated or maintained;
2. May already meet certain criteria for designation as a threatened species but for which conclusive data are limited or lacking;

3. May occupy such as unusually vital or essential ecological niche that should it decline significantly in numbers or distribution other species would be adversely affected to a significant degree;
4. Has not sufficiently recovered from past population depletion

Sixteen wildlife species occur in the floodplain that have declining populations (FWC 2005) (Table 13.C-2).

Table 13.C-2. St. Johns River floodplain wildlife species with declining populations (FWC 2005).

River Reach	Wildlife Species with Declining Populations
Freshwater reaches	Southern dusky salamander (<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>) Florida mottled duck (<i>Anas fulvigula</i>) Lesser scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>) Florida snail kite (<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>) Snowy egret (<i>Egretta thula</i>) Little blue heron (<i>Egretta caerulea</i>) Roseate spoonbill (<i>Platalea ajaja</i>) American avocet (<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>) Florida sandhill crane (<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>) Round-tailed muskrat (<i>Neofiber alleni</i>) Northern river otter (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>)
Estuarine reaches	Brown pelican (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>) Black skimmer (<i>Rynchops niger</i>) American oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>) Gull-billed tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>) Piping plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)

LITERATURE CITED

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). 2005. Florida's wildlife legacy initiative: Florida's comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee.

_____. 2010. Florida's endangered species, threatened species, and species of special concern. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee.