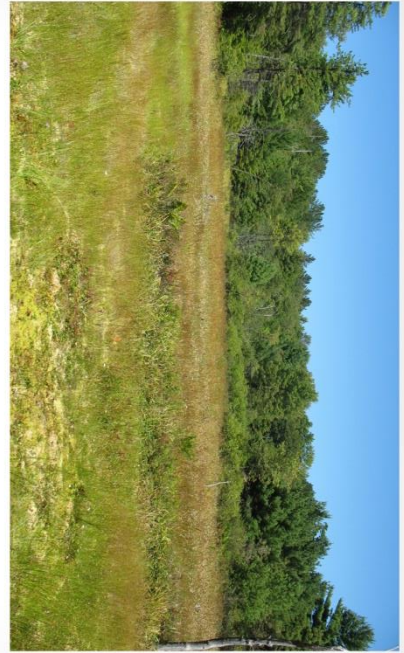


2014 Rare Species Trading Card Series



Allegheny Crayfish
Orconectes obscurus



Cranberry-Beakrush Peatland



Loggerhead Shrike
Lanius ludovicianus



Wild False Indigo
Baptisia australis

Cranberry-Beakrush Peatland

2014 Series

Global Status: Globally Rare

This dwarf shrubland is found in the flooded or saturated acidic peat soils of Western Maryland. Large-seeded Cranberry alternates with sphagnum moss hummocks and wet hollows supporting White Beaksedge. These open shrublands also support many songbirds, including the Chestnut-sided Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, and phoebes. Minks, foxes, fishers and bobcats are regular winter visitors. This community is threatened by changes in hydrology.



Photo Credits: Peter Stango

Wild False Indigo

2014 Series

MD Status: Threatened

Global Status: Secure

Habitat: Scour bars & overwash areas

This blue beauty can be seen flowering in May and June along the Potomac and other Central MD rivers, in scour areas and overwash zones. It prefers moist woods and meadows with sandy gravelly soil. It is the preferred host plant for several butterflies. Threats to this plant and also the butterflies include habitat loss, trampling, overbrowsing by deer, and invasive species.



Photo Credits: R. Wiegand

Loggerhead Shrike

2014 Series

MD Status: Highly Rare Breeder / Endangered

Global Status: Apparently Secure

Habitat: Grasslands

This songbird thinks it's a raptor! It dines on insects, small mammals, lizards, and even other birds. The smaller insects are eaten immediately. Larger items are impaled on thorns or barbed wire, cached for later. Loggerhead shrikes are now so rare in MD, it mostly no longer breeds here. Possible causes include loss of their favored open habitats, and the overuse of pesticides.



Photo Credits: Dave Menke, USFWS

Allegheny Crayfish

2014 Series

MD Status: Rare to Uncommon

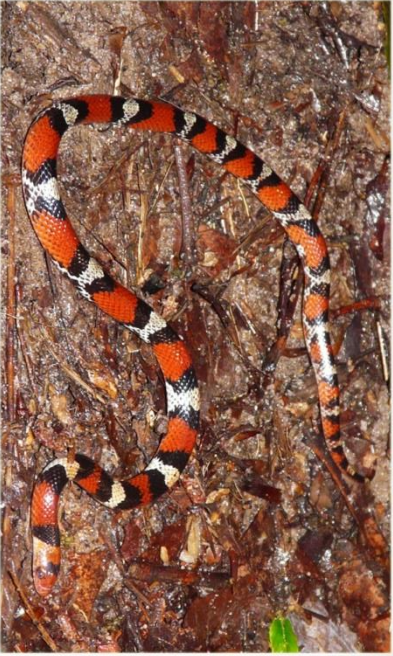
Global Status: Secure

Habitat: Rocky streams and pools

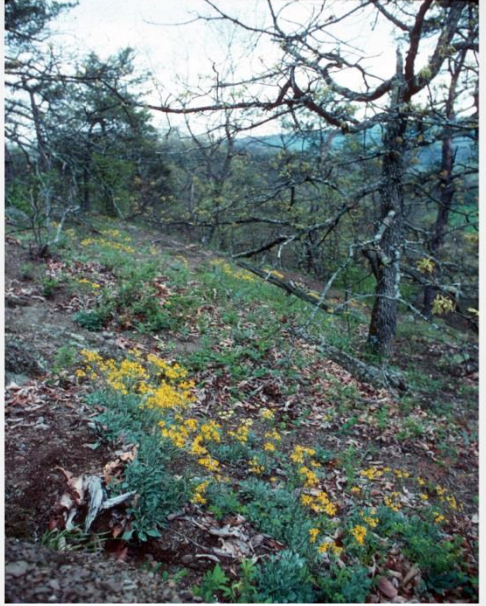
This species is commonly found in shallow burrows under cobble, boulders and large pieces of gravel in riffle and run habitats. Although native to the Ohio River drainage, it has been introduced, probably via bait buckets, to New England, Ontario, and Tennessee. Ironically, its main threat comes from the invasive Rusty Crayfish.



Photo Credits: C. Swecker



Northern Scarletsnake
Cemophora coccinea copei



Shale Barrens



Piping Plover
Charadrius melodus



Palamedes Swallowtail
Papilio palamedes

Palamedes Swallowtail

2014 Series

MD Status: Endangered
Global Status: Apparently Secure
Habitat: Swamps

This striking butterfly, also called the Laurel Swallowtail, can be found patrolling the pickerelweed and milkweeds of cypress swamps of the Lower Eastern Shore. It lays its eggs on members of the Laurel family, especially red bay. Maryland is near the northern edge of its range along the evergreen swamps and wet woods of the southeast coast.



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
Martin O'Malley, Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
www.dnr.maryland.gov

Photo Credits: Vincent P. Lucas

Shale Barrens

2014 Series

Global Status: Globally Rare

These treasure troves of rare and endemic species are the result of a unique combination of geology, soil, topography and climate. The bedrock shale is an easily crumbled rock which makes for an unstable, droughty substrate. The southern-facing slopes are hot and dry. Species which flourish here - rattlesnake weed, little bluestem, lizards - are also found in other hot dry locations. Invasion by non-native species is the greatest threat.



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
Martin O'Malley, Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
www.dnr.maryland.gov

Photo Credits: R. H. Weigand

Piping Plover

2014 Series

MD Status: Endangered
Global Status: Vulnerable
Habitat: Beaches and Sandflats

This globally rare shorebird winters in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and southern US coast. It breeds on the beaches of Assateague and other Atlantic shores from N. Carolina to Nova Scotia, the Great Lakes and Great Plains. They eat insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and marine worms. Loss of habitat to human use and nest site depredation are the greatest threats to this species.



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
Martin O'Malley, Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
www.dnr.maryland.gov

Photo Credits: USFWS

Northern Scarletsnake

2014 Series

MD Status: Watchlist
Global Status: Secure
Habitat: Dry, sandy woods

This NON-venomous snake ("red to black - friend of jack") mimics the venomous Coral Snake ("red to yellow - dangerous fellow" and not found in MD). Its red, pointed snout helps it burrow into the debris of its favorite pine woods habitat and to find eggs of snakes and lizards. This habit makes this uncommon species difficult to find.



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
Martin O'Malley, Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
www.dnr.maryland.gov

Photo Credits: Billy Heimbuch