

***Thamnophis sauritus* (Eastern Ribbon Snake)****Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)**Class: *Reptilia* (Reptiles)Order: *Squamata* (Lizards And Snakes)Family: *Colubridae* (Colubrids)**General comments:**

Small wetland specialist; existing habitat regulations inadequate but new SVP protection a plus; both sub species listed together

**Species Conservation Range Maps for Eastern Ribbon Snake:**Town Map: [Thamnophis sauritus\\_Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Thamnophis sauritus\\_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation: NA****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:***Thamnophis sauritus* is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.**Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority:****Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):**

Status: T, Last Examination: 11/1/2012, Change: No Change, Canada Occurrence: NS

**Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:**

Risk: No, Data: Yes, Area: Yes, Spec: No, Warrant Listing: No, Total Categories with "Yes": 2

**Northeast Partners In Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC):**

Regional Responsibility: &lt; 50 % US Distribution, Concern: &gt;= 75% of States Listed in WAP

**High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA****Understudied rare taxa: NA****Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to Eastern Ribbon Snake:****Formation Name Agricultural**

Macrogroup Name Agricultural

Habitat System Name: Pasture-Hay Notes: secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent

**Formation Name Freshwater Aquatic**

Macrogroup Name Lakes and Ponds

Habitat System Name: Vernal Pool **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\*** Notes: primary habitat**Formation Name Freshwater Marsh**

Macrogroup Name Emergent Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh Notes: secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent

Macrogroup Name Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\*** Notes: primary habitat**Formation Name Grassland & Shrubland**

Macrogroup Name Ruderal Shrubland &amp; Grassland

Habitat System Name: Introduced Shrubland Notes: secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent

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#### Formation Name      **Grassland & Shrubland**

**Habitat System Name:** Powerline Right-of-Way    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Habitat System Name:** Ruderal Upland - Old Field    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

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#### Formation Name      **Northeastern Upland Forest**

**Macrogroup Name      Central Oak-Pine**

**Habitat System Name:** North Atlantic Coastal Plain Maritime Forest    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Habitat System Name:** Northeastern Interior Pine Barrens    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Macrogroup Name      Exotic Upland Forest**

**Habitat System Name:** Introduced Upland Vegetation - Tree    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Macrogroup Name      Northern Hardwood & Conifer**

**Habitat System Name:** Appalachian (Hemlock)-Northern Hardwood Forest    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Habitat System Name:** Laurentian-Acadian Pine-Hemlock-Hardwood Forest    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Habitat System Name:** Northeastern Coastal and Interior Pine-Oak Forest    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Macrogroup Name      Plantation and Ruderal Forest**

**Habitat System Name:** Managed Tree Plantation    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Habitat System Name:** Ruderal Forest - Northern and Central Hardwood and Conifer    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

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#### Formation Name      **Northeastern Wetland Forest**

**Macrogroup Name      Central Hardwood Swamp**

**Habitat System Name:** North-Central Interior Wet Flatwoods    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Macrogroup Name      Coastal Plain Peat Swamp**

**Habitat System Name:** North Atlantic Coastal Plain Basin Peat Swamp    **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***    **Notes:** *primary*

**Macrogroup Name      Northern Swamp**

**Habitat System Name:** North-Central Appalachian Acidic Swamp    **Notes:** *secondary where primary wetland habitat is adjacent*

**Habitat System Name:** North-Central Interior and Appalachian Rich Swamp    **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***    **Notes:** *primary habitat*

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#### Formation Name      **Peatland**

**Macrogroup Name      Northern Peatland & Fens**

**Habitat System Name:** Boreal-Laurentian-Acadian Acidic Basin Fen    **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***    **Notes:** *primary habitat*

**Habitat System Name:** North-Central Interior and Appalachian Acidic Peatland    **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***    **Notes:** *primary habitat*

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### Stressors Assigned to Eastern Ribbon Snake:

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<b>Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability</b>		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Biological Resource Use

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Logging and Wood Harvesting

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Highly actionable

**Notes:** Forestry operations conducted in and around wetland habitat may impact ribbon snakes directly with mortality and indirectly by affecting habitat quality

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Other Options

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Lack of knowledge

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Highly actionable

**Notes:** Lack of comprehensive survey effort to ID occurrences outside core range in south of the state, species appears to be more widespread but patchy in distribution

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Residential and Commercial Development

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Housing and Urban Areas

**Severity:** Severe      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

**Notes:** Habitat loss and fragmentation from development

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**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Commercial and Industrial Areas

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

**Notes:** Habitat loss and fragmentation from development

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Transportation and Service Corridors

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Roads and Railroads

**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

**Notes:** Direct mortality from vehicles and fragmentation/degradation of habitat may result

### Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Eastern Ribbon Snake:

*\*Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
Develop an improved understanding of habitat and movement ecology to help develop Best Management Practices and other targeted species conservation actions			

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Housing and Urban Areas

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**Conservation Action**      **Category:** Policy      **Biological Priority:** moderate      **Type:** on-going  
Cooperate with University of Maine and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to research and implement a voluntary Special Area Management Program (SAMP) by towns that want greater flexibility in the implementation of

#### **Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

Housing and Urban Areas

#### **Guild Level Conservation Actions:**

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

#### **Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:**

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

#### **Habitat Based Conservation Actions:**

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.*