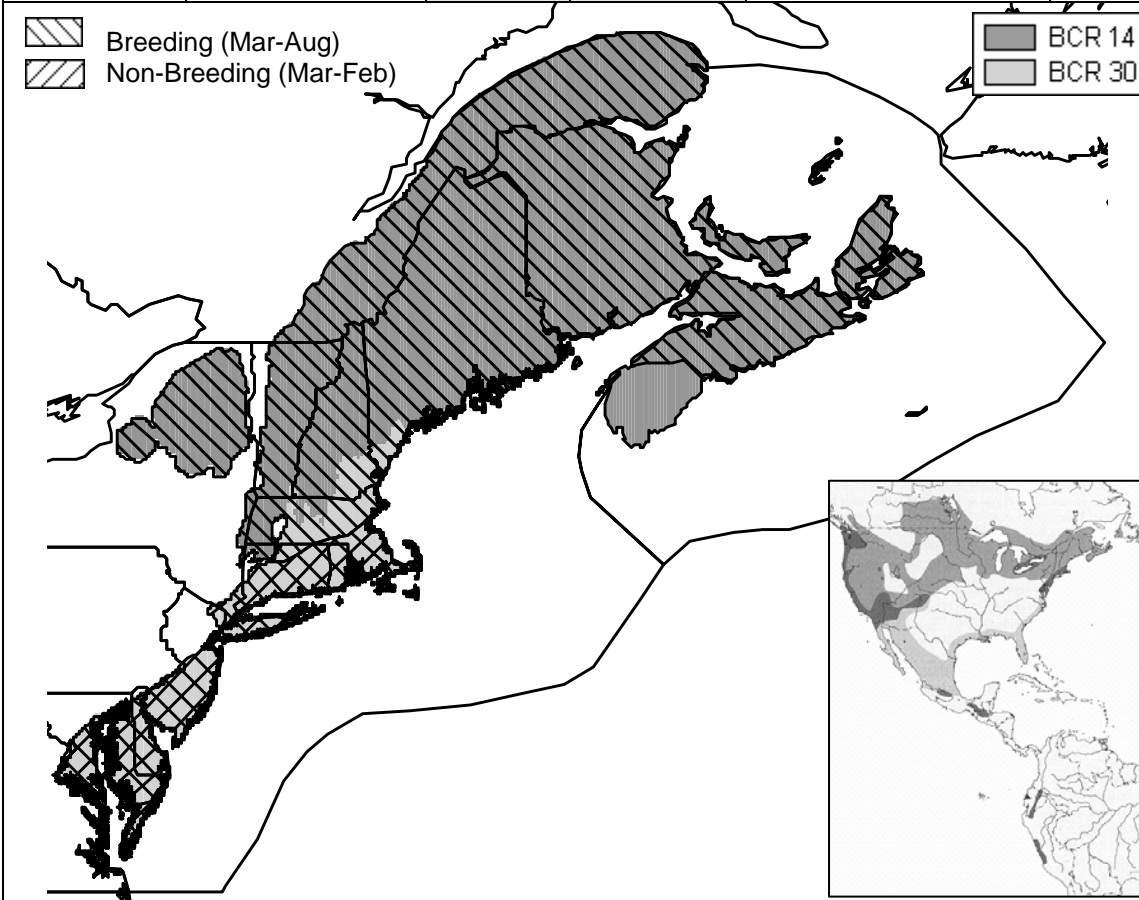


## VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus limicola limicola*)

<b>Conservation Status:</b> Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals), Population Importance (% reference population) and Conservation Rank							
Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
?	? (90?% global)	?b (?% NA)	?b (?% NA)	?b (10% MANEM)	?b (10% MANEM)	?b (40% MANEM)	700b (40% MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- Moderate Concern	Moderate Concern	Moderate Concern	NJ-S4; DE-S4; MD-S4B, S4N; VA-S2B, S3N State SGCN-NJ,VA	NY-S5; CT-S3B, SZN; RI- S2B, S2N; MA-S3; VT-S3S4B,S4N State SGCN-CT	MA-S3; NH-S4B; ME- S4B; NB-S3B, NS-S2B	QC-S5; NB-S3B; PE-S2B; NS-S2B



**Regional Occurrence**

- Distribution: breeds in region; winters in BCR 30
- Habitats used: fresh-water and brackish marshes, mostly in cattails, reeds and deep grasses; forages mainly in shallow water with emergent cover or on mudflats; prefers unstable, moist, silty substrate, generally more open areas compared to nesting microhabitat; will use deep water habitats if adequate upright emergent cover exists to walk and forage, wider variety of habitats used than other rails

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=4

**Regional Abundance**

- Current population size: unknown
- Historical population size: unknown
- % change in regional population: unknown

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=3

**Regional Threats/Limiting Factors**

- Loss and degradation of wetlands
- Nests can be lost/deserted due to flooding; young will fledge immediately after hatching if nest is disturbed
- Invasive species of vegetation
- Resident Canada Geese and Mute Swans
- Toxic bioaccumulation (mercury)
- Collisions with utility wires, TV towers and vehicles
- Hunted game bird in US

NAWCP TB=4; NAWCP TN=4

**Conservation Needs:** *Sustainability:* 4.4 chicks/brood for 2 yrs; density 25 pairs/ha. *Conservation Actions:* Implement national monitoring programs that use response to recordings for rails and other marshbirds. Encourage a diversity of vegetation in breeding and foraging areas. *Needs:* monitor, ID key nesting areas, manage habitat at nesting and wintering sites (invasive species control). *Population Goals:* monitor. *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitat in following priority complexes: Freeschool Marsh; MD-Blackwater-Fishing Bay; DE-Bombay Hook NWR; NY-S Oyster Bay, Moriches Bay; CT-Western State, Housatonic, Bantam; RI-Sakonnet River; MA-Middle Berkshire, Sudbury, N Plymouth, Ipswich-Parker; NY-Happy Valley Area; VT-Berlin, W Rutland Wetlands, Memphremagog; NH-Middle CT River, W Central Wetlands, Great Bay Wetlands; ME-Central/mid-coast Maine; NB-Minto, Moncton; NS-Amherst, Tatamagouche Park. Protect non-breeding habitat in BCR 30. *Conservation Projects:* 22, 24, 34, 35, 58, 59, 83.