

Glossary

Abiotic	Objects, substances, or processes that are non-living
Accidental	A species that has been recorded in Virginia, but for which Virginia is not within their usual breeding, migratory, or wintering range
Alfisol	Mineral soil with umbric or ochric epipedons, argillic horizons, and that hold water at <1.5 MPa tension during at least 90 days when the soil is warm enough for plants to grow; the mean annual soil temperature is <8° C or a base saturation in the lower part of the argillic horizon of 35% or more when measured at pH 8.2
Anadromous	Fish species that are spawned in freshwater and spend adult stages in saltwater, except to migrate back to freshwater to spawn
Anthropogenic	Relating to or resulting from the influence of human beings on nature
Anurans	General term referring to frogs and toads, which belong to the order Anura
Aqualfs	An alfisol (soil) saturated with water for long enough intervals to limit use for most crops, except pasture or woodland, unless artificially drained
Aquifer	A layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel holding water and able to yield usable quantities of water to a well or spring
Aquults	An ultisol (soil) saturated with water for long enough intervals to limit use for most crops, besides pasture or woodland, unless they are artificially drained
Argillaceous	Describes soils that contain or consist of clay; clayey
Backwater	Along a channel's margin, an eddy that is separated from the main current by a gravel or sand bar or other small barrier
Barrier islands	Long, islands just off the coast that are parallel to the mainland and prone to shifting or other change; many are found along the Atlantic coastline of the U. S., including the seaside of the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland
Beach armoring	Actions intended to prevent erosion, such as placing seawalls and rock embankments along shores; these structures ultimately increase erosion the longer they stay in place and become barriers to sea turtles and other wildlife
Beach nourishment	The process of placing sand on a beach to replace sand that that has been lost through erosion, to provide a buffer from waves and flooding, or to enhance the recreational value of the beach
Benthic	Describes organisms or areas that occur at the bottom of water bodies
Benthos	Organisms that live on or along the bottom of a water body

Best management practices (BMPs)	Land management procedures that are designed to help homeowners, farmers, foresters, developers, and planners preserve the environment, protect areas from flood damage, erosion, and improve aesthetics
Bias	The logical difference between a biological attribute and the data-based estimate representing it, or the difference between the expected or average value of an estimated parameter and its actual value; most common in biology are 1) a mismatch between the sampled and target populations, or 2) a failure to report on detectability when assessing population status and vital rates.
Bioaccumulation	The concentration of a pollutant found in an organism that came from its environment; due to the process by which the pollutant is accumulated and sequestered by the organism, the concentration of the pollutant in the organism is higher than the concentration in the environment
Biocide	General term for a substance that is applied to harm or kill living organisms (such as a pesticide, herbicide, fungicide, insecticide, etc.)
Biodiversity	The variety of life forms on earth or in a given area
Biogeography	The study of floral and faunal geographic distributions
“Biological distinctiveness”	This term refers to an assessment of an ecoregion’s biological significance; classes include “globally outstanding”, “continentally outstanding”, “bioregionally outstanding”, and “nationally important”
Biota	General term for living things/organisms
Biota of Virginia (BOVA) database	A database created through analyses of peer-reviewed literature and communication with taxonomic experts; records within this database include information on all native and naturalized fauna of Virginia, including taxonomy, status, distribution, life history, management practices, habitat associations, foods, and environmental associations; initial development of this database was supported by OSM, BLM, and VPI&SU; DGIF is currently the lead agency in developing this database with continued support from VPI&SU
Bottomland	Habitat within a floodplain that consists of low, flat, or depressed topography; soils of this habitat are usually loamy and slowly permeable
Bradycttic	Long-term brooder (mussels); females hold glochidia (larvae) in their gills over winter
Bulkhead	Man-made structure running parallel along a shoreline in order to protect it from eroding wave action, or to protect channels from sedimentation
Candidate species	Legal listing of a species for which there is sufficient data on status and threats to propose endangered or threatened status under ESA, but for which development of a listing regulation is precluded by higher priority listing activities
Catadromous	Fish species that migrate to the ocean to spawn and spend all other adult life stages in freshwater habitats

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Glossary

Catchment area	Sometimes referred to as a basin, this land is a low point or river that is bordered by natural topographic features such as hills or mountains, from which all run-off water flows
Channelization	The action of deepening and/or straightening a waterway in order to control water run-off or ease navigation
Clearcut	A timber management regime in which all, or nearly all, of the trees in the area are harvested at once
Closed canopy	Treetops are close and dense enough to prevent most sunlight from reaching the forest floor
Collections	A database developed by DGIF in 1991 to store information reported annually by researchers under the Commonwealth's Scientific Collection Permit Program; it was expanded to include location data from technical reports, museum records, staff field activities, the agency's warm water stream survey and more detailed locations from a follow-up of the Breeding Bird Atlas project; and DGIF has also added records from other agency or individual's databases, such as DCR-NH, Dr. Robert Jenkins' JFISH fish collection and Dr. Joseph Mitchell's HERPS database
Connectivity	The course allowing movement of fish and other wildlife between streams and along stream corridors
Conservation easement	An agreement in which a landowner voluntarily limits the amount and/or type of development on their property as long as the property is in private ownership
Conservation Land (DCR-NH)	Parcels of land that have some conservation value and are recorded in a database maintained by DCR-NH; these lands may be owned by a federal, state, or local government, a non-profit organization, or a private citizen or entity; most of the privately-owned properties under conservation easement
Conservation Site (DCR-NH)	An area around one or more rare plant or animal, or significant natural community or geological feature; these areas have been entered into a dataset maintained by DCR-NH and are designed to include the species location (where possible), its associated habitat, and a buffer or other adjacent land deemed necessary for the element's conservation
Cool season grass	Grasses that grow in spring and fall and become dormant during hot summer months; in much of the U. S., these grasses are introduced for use as crops, forage, or ornamentals
Creosote	A mixture of many chemicals produced by high-temperature treatment of wood or coal, or from the resin of the creosote bush
Cryogenic preservation or cryopreservation	Preservation of cells, tissues, or organs by placing them in extremely low, sub-zero temperatures
Detritus	Undissolved material that results from decaying matter
Dipterans	The true flies, order Diptera; Diptera is derived from a Latin term meaning "two wings" because members of this order have only two functional wings

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Glossary

Disjunct populations	When two or more populations of the same species occur in extensively divided areas, but not between
Disturbance regime	All of the events that are not among ordinary environmental conditions of an area that cause some impact to or change in the area's environment
Dolomite	A globally widespread sedimentary rock-forming mineral found in immense beds several hundred feet thick
Drain tiles	Underground drainage, often through several perforated tubes about 0.5-1.5m below the ground's surface, eliminating excess water from the soil profile
Drainage	A set of streams that are interconnected, with a main channel that flows into an estuary, ocean, or the main reach of a basin (such as the James River Drainage or the New River Drainage)
Dredge spoil island	Islands constructed of material that has been brought up from dredging the bottom surface of a waterway in order to construct or maintain navigation channels
Ecoregion	An area that is similar area-wide in terms of ecological components
Ecotone	The area between two or more different habitat communities where the different habitat or community types transition from one to the other
Edge	The area between two different habitats, plant communities, or successional stages
Effluent	Wastewater or other liquid waste that is discharged into a river or other waterway
Elbrook formation	A geologic formation, classified by Cambrian-aged carbonates and clastic rocks
Element Occurrence (EO)	Under DCR-NH, a single unit of a resource, or a precise location of a species' population or a natural community stand
Endangered	Legal status of a species that is in danger of becoming extinct, issued either by USFWS or as state regulation under DGIF or VDACS
Endemic species	A species that occurs naturally in a relatively limited geographic distribution
Ephemeral stream	A stream that only flows at times of and immediately following precipitation events, or a low area with a poorly-defined channel that receives flows during such times; such streams or areas are often referred to as stormwater channels, drains, swales, gullies, hollows, or saddles
Escarpment	A long cliff or steep incline resulting from erosion or faulting that separates two more gently sloping or more level surfaces
Essential habitat	Habitat features critical for a species' viability

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Glossary

Estuarine/Marine	Areas where salt water or other oceanic factors (sea spray or flooding) have the most impact on vegetative communities (this includes estuarine wetlands, marine tidal and non-tidal wetlands, beaches and overwash areas)
Euryhaline	Aquatic species that can occur in waters of greatly varying salinities
Eutrophication	A circumstance in which high nutrient concentrations that may stimulate algal blooms are present in a stream or other waterbody
Exotic species	A species that is not native to the Commonwealth of Virginia; sometimes refers to invasive species
Extant population	The existing or surviving population of a species
Extinction	When a species no longer exists in wild or natural conditions
Extirpation	When a species has been eliminated within a certain range; for instance, a species may be extirpated in Virginia but may still be found in North Carolina
Eyrie	The term for a raptor's nest; also may be spelled "aerie"
Federal Species of Concern	A federal designation that is assigned at the Virginia Field Office of USFWS and does not provide any legal status to the species; however this status does indicate that the species is restricted in distribution, uncommon, ecologically specialized, or threatened by other factors
Felsic	Rock with a relatively high amount of silica that crystallizes from silicate minerals at relatively low temperatures
Fire regime	Fire's role on the landscape, natural or anthropogenic
Fish host	A fish species that is parasitized by freshwater mussels to carry the glochidia until they are old enough to live on their own; the glochidia attach to the gills of the fish until they have developed enough for the next stage in their life cycle, when they simply drop off of the gills (Some mussels parasitize aquatic salamanders as well)
Floodplain	Low lying area of land that is adjacent to a waterway and has at least a 1% chance of flooding in a given year
Forb	An herbaceous plant (having little or no woody parts), excluding true grasses (family Gramineae), sedges (family Cyperaceae), and rushes (family Juncaceae)
Ford	In a shallow portion of a stream, a stream crossing that lacks a structure or a culvert; a streambed modification that hardens the bottom to provide support for vehicles with minimal stream bottom disturbance
General standard (benthics)	A type of DEQ/DCR stream impairment; the bottom-dwelling invertebrates in the stream are diminished in number, diversity, or species composition
Genetic diversity	The variety of populations that comprise a species; species reduced to a single population generally contain less genetic diversity than those consisting of many populations

Glochidia	Larvae of freshwater mussels that are parasitic for the first few weeks, attaching to gills of fish until they are developed enough to live independently; this aids in the dispersal of young mussels
Geospatial layer	Illustrated display of a geographic dataset on a digital map; a stratum of the geography of a specific area (i.e. roads, rivers, and boundaries are different layers on a map)
Greenspace	Areas of relatively natural features that include forests, shrubs, grasses, wetlands, ravines, parks, agriculture, pathways, and/or corridors
Greenway	Corridors of natural landscape that are protected and combine well with trail systems (natural and/or historic)
Habitat	The environment in which an organism naturally lives and grows
Habitat conversion	Land quality alteration, such as land use intensification; commonly habitat is converted by deforestation/reforestation, urbanization, transportation corridor development, desertification, and agricultural intensification
Habitat diversity	The variety of places where life exists in a given area
Habitat fragmentation	Division of a continuous habitat or ecosystem into smaller sections due to human activities (such as logging and development) or natural events (like fire)
Headwater	The portion of a waterway where flow originates and often where a significant amount of groundwater recharge takes place
Herpetofauna	General term referring to all reptile and amphibian species
Hibernaculum	A frost-free shelter during winter months in which animals can hibernate; it may consist of an underground burrow, the inside of a hollow tree, a cave, a deep crevice between rocks, etc. (Plural = hibernacula)
High Elevation	Climatically cooler areas in Virginia above 1070m elevation, containing northern vegetation communities; these include spruce/fir, Appalachian shrub and balds, northern hardwoods, high elevation bolder fields, high-elevation cove forest, northern red oak, high elevation outcrop barrens
Historical distribution	Known range of a species from past location records
Homogeneity	Sameness or similarity between units of a group
Imperilment	State of endangerment
Impoundment	A body of water created by a barrier such as a dam or dike that is restricting water movement
Inceptisol	A young soil in which the development of soil horizons is in its earliest stages
Incidental take	Harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting wildlife as a result of other activities that do not intend such actions; a person or group may apply for permits for such activities through state and federal wildlife agencies

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Glossary

Insectivore	An animal whose diet consists primarily of insects
Intentional take	Purposefully harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting wildlife; Intentional take may be illegal (poaching, illegal trade or sale) or legal (angling, trapping, hunting)
Interdunal	Occurring between dune crests
Interspecific competition	When two or more species compete with one another for limited resources, such as food, territory, nesting sites, etc.
Introduced species	Non-native species of an area that arrived by unnatural means
Invasive species	Non-native species that outcompetes and replaces native species
Kjeldahl nitrogen	Reduced forms of nitrogen, mainly amino and ammonium forms of organic nitrogen, found in surface waters
Lacustrine	Of or associated with lakes
Land cover type	The vegetation community or other landscape of an area (such as forest, wetland, developed)
Landform	Features, or the topography, of the earth's surface, such as mountains, plains, and plateaus
Lentic	Waters with little or no flow, such as ponds and lakes (still or static water)
Limestone	Sedimentary rock that is formed from sediment and mineral calcite (calcium carbonate)
Lithology	Physical attributes of rock used in classification, such as texture, color, grain size, etc.
Loam	A soil that combines all the three types of soil particles (sand, silt, and clay) in relatively equal amounts; thus it holds plenty of moisture but also drains well
Lotic	Inhabiting or occurring in moving water
Low-intensity development	Typically, refers to suburban development, in which structures are built among open space
Macroinvertebrates	Invertebrates that can be seen with the naked eye, usually referring to those that are found along stream bottoms or among leaf litter and other organic debris on the bottom of a waterbody (aquatic insects, crayfish, snails, spiders, clams, etc.)
Mafic	Rock formed from silicate minerals at relatively high temperatures and are relatively high in heavier elements
Mean high water mark	Point along a shore or bank where water will reach its average highest level during normal ebb and flow or tidal fluctuations
Mesic	Areas or habitats that are moist

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Glossary

Mesocarnivore	Small- to medium-sized, furbearing, carnivorous mammals (such as foxes, raccoons, and skunks)
Mesophytic	An environment with a moderate moisture or water supply, or an organism that is adapted to such an environment
Metamorphic rock	Igneous or sedimentary rock that has transformed into another type of rock due to physical and chemical conditions (such as temperature or pressure) that differ from those under which the rock formed originally
Microclimate	Environmental conditions within a relatively small area
Microhabitat	A small, specific habitat within a larger, more general habitat type
Molluscicide	A chemical used for killing mollusks, often used for slug or snail control
Montane	Mountainous areas where altitude affects the local climate, such that zonation occurs among vegetation or soil, and the local climate is different from that of nearby lowlands; this may include vegetation near the base of the mountain if the community is different from that of adjacent lowlands
Mycorrhizal fungi	Fungi that have a symbiotic relationship with plant roots, helping the plant with absorption of nutrients and water by living inside the root cells and forming structures called arbuscules
Natural succession	The systematic progression of changes in vegetation types and other organism types within a specific area over time
Nest parasitism	The practice of one species lays its eggs in the nest of another
Nocturnal	Active primarily at night
Non-point source pollution	Pollution that originates from many locations, rather than a specific identifiable place; includes stormwater, when pollutants are washed from farms, streets, construction areas, lawns, buildings, and driveways into waterways; effects of this pollution are difficult to control, since effects are not immediately noticeable
Nymph	Part of the incomplete metamorphic life cycle of many insects; insect nymphs may resemble adults but are smaller and lack wings; sometimes called a naiad
Oak scrub	A well-drained open area of pines with oak understory
Occurrence viability	The probability of persistence of a species or population (the occurrence) dependent upon parameters such as condition, size, and landscape context
Oligohaline	Waters or wetlands of low salinity; brackish
Omnivorous	Feeds on both animal and vegetative matter
Ontogenetic	Of the development of an organism; different life stages and traits of an organism

Open canopy	Condition occurring when treetops are small and/or spread far apart so that the canopy is thin and allows ample sunlight to reach the forest floor
Order (of streams)	A measure of the relative size of streams and the position of a stream in the hierarchy of tributaries
Ornithology	The study of birds
Overstory	The tallest level of forest trees, which makes up the forest canopy
Palustrine	Inland, nontidal wetlands that lack flowing water, are dominated by trees, shrubs, or persistent emergent vegetation, with salinity due to ocean-derived salts < 0.5 ppt
Pelagic	A species that is at sea or in/over open water during most of its life
Perennial stream	A stream with flowing water in its channel throughout the year, except during some periods of extreme drought
Perturbance	A disturbance that causes change
Phenology	The study of cycles of natural processes that recur, particularly with respect to seasons and climate
Phreatic	Related to groundwater, or layers of rock or soil below the water table that consists of cavities saturated with water
Phreatobite	A subterranean organism that lives in pore spaces of rock
Physiographic	Broad-scale subdivisions of land types, based on terrain texture, rock type, and geologic structure and history
Pine savannah	A pine forest with open canopy (trees are generally far apart) with little to no understory and a ground layer that is dominated by grasses and forbs; this habitat was historically maintained by fire
Point source pollution	Pollution that originates from a single source, such as a discharge pipe from a factory or a hazardous material spill
Pole timber	Trees > 13cm but < 23cm in diameter at breast height
Pool	Stream section with relatively deep, slow-flowing water
Population	Aggregation of individuals of a single species within a given area at one time
Population connectivity	The ability of sub-populations to exchange individuals and/or genes
Population dynamics	Manner in which the number of individuals in a population increases or decreases over time, involving two inputs (birth and immigration) and two outputs (death and emigration)

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Glossary

Population regulation	The control of a population's size; the tendency of a population to either increase when its density is low or decrease when its density is high
Population viability	The extent to which a population is at risk of becoming extinct within a certain time period
ProbMon	Part of DEQ's biological monitoring program (DEQ & DCR 2004), this is a probabilistic monitoring program that statistically assesses conditions of all non-tidal permanent streams in Virginia
Propensity	Strong natural preference
Protectedness	Proportion of habitat within a DCR-NH Conservation Land
Quiescent	Of inactivity, at rest
Relict	A species or population that remains viable in an area where similar ones have become extinct; it may have had a larger historic range than its current range, or it may have survived nearly unchanged over long periods of time
Remote sensing	Aquiring data about the Earth's surface through recording energy that is reflected or emitted instead of by visiting the resource or collecting physical material (aerial photography, satellite imagery, etc.)
Reproductive isolation	Separation of populations of a species by one or more barriers, thus prohibiting gene flow between them
Riffle	Section of a stream of comparatively shallow, turbulent, fast-flowing water
Riparian	Referring to areas adjacent to a waterway or waterbody, or to areas of transition between aquatic and upland ecosystems
Safe Harbor	An agreement between USFWS and a non-government property owner, in which the landowner implements conservation actions for a threatened or endangered species, with the assurance that no further restrictions will apply in the future if the given species' population increases as a result of said actions
Saltpetre	Naturally-deposited potassium nitrate that is mined for and used in producing explosives
Sandstone	Sedimentary rock formed by tiny grains of quartz, feldspar, or mica, held together by clay silica, carbonate, or iron oxide; often forms in visible layers
<i>Sargassum</i> sp.	Marine plant that often forms free-floating mats, in which many marine organisms, such as young loggerhead sea turtles, find protection from predation and other hazards; <i>Sargassum</i> thrives in temperate to tropical waters
Sawtimber	Trees with a diameter at breast height of at least 23cm, harvested for lumber
Secchi depth	Measure of water turbidity; the depth at which a Secchi disk (a circular plate that consists of alternating black and white quarters) is no longer visible; high depth indicates clearer water, and low depth indicates higher turbidity
Sediment load	Amount of sediment transported in the flow of a waterway during a time period

Sedimentary rock	Rock that is formed when loose sediment consolidates
Sedimentation	The process of rock or mineral fragments and biological materials (sediments) depositing in layers on a surface through water or air
Seep	Area where the water table meets the Earth's surface, often on the sides of small drainages in sandy soils
Shale	Fine-grained sedimentary rock, made up of clay and silt compacted together
Shale barren	A habitat of thin woodlands, shrublands, and open vegetated rock outcrops over a shale substrate that usually occur on steep, xeric, south- or west-facing slopes
Shelterwood cuts	A timber management regime in which 30% of the basal area of overstory trees are removed, allowing more sunlight to reach subcanopy and understory trees
Shoal	Portion of a waterway that consists of shallow water
Siliceous	Containing large amounts of (or exclusively) silicon dioxide
Siltation	When silt, sediment, and mud fill and clog reservoirs or channels of waterways, often caused by soil erosion
Sinkhole	A depression in the landscape that is created by the collapse of loose materials or soils into cavities that form from underlying soluble bedrock
Smart growth	Community growth and development that minimizes impact to the environment and creates sustainable, livable communities; type of development that maintains the economy, community, and environment
Snag	Remnant of a dead and decaying tree that is still standing
Spawn	Egg production or deposition, particularly when referring to fish reproduction
Species richness	The number of species that occur within a given habitat or community
Speleothems	Features (such as stalagmites and stalactites) formed in caves by deposits of dissolved and recrystallized minerals
Spring viremia	A communicable, potentially fatal viral disease in fish; once only known in Europe and the Middle East, this disease was first reported in 2002 in the U. S. from cultivated ornamental and wild common carp; it is not known if any North American species are susceptible
Stakeholders	People or organizations that may affect or be affected by the CWCS, including the public, conservation organizations, government agencies, developers, land managers, and others
State Special Concern	A designation by DGIF that does not assign any legal status to a species, but does indicate that the species is restricted in distribution, uncommon, ecologically specialized, or threatened by other factors
Stenothermic	Found within a narrow temperature range

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Glossary

Straight pipe	A device used to drain raw sewage directly from a residence into a waterbody
Stream Conservation Units (SCUs)	DCR-NH Conservation Sites data that represent rare aquatic species by identifying stream reaches containing them and including upstream and downstream buffers, as well as tributaries associated with the given reach
Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)	Sometimes called underwater bay grasses, these plants thrive in shallow water where they grow toward the surface of the water but not above it
Submontane	Areas where altitude does not affect the local climate, such that the local climate is not different from that of nearby lowlands
Subterranean	Beneath the soil surface, beneath the earth's surface, or located within the earth
Sustainable development	Development of communities and workplaces that plans for and incorporates ecological stewardship, economic development, and overall human wellness for the distant, as well as the immediate, future
Tachytictic	Short-term brooder (mussels); females hold glochidia (larvae) in their gills over the summer
Tailwater	The portion of a waterway that lies downstream of a dam or other impediment
Talus	Accumulation of rock that forms a slope at the base of a steep mountain or cliff; sometimes refers simply to rocky debris
Thermoregulation	An animal's maintenance of body temperature
Threatened	Legal status of a species that is in danger of becoming endangered, issued either by USFWS or as state regulation under DGIF or VDACS
Threats	Actions or conditions that may damage to wildlife populations or their habitat
Torpor	Deep sleep in which an animal is able to greatly reduce its body temperature and its metabolism and respiration rates; some animals are able to enter this state during times of temperature extremes or food and/or water scarcity; differs from hibernation in that an animal in torpor can be easily awakened
Tributary	A waterway that feeds into a larger waterway or waterbody
Troglobitic	Refers to species that occur in caves
Turbidity	Amount of cloudiness in the water due to small suspended particles that have resulted from events such as erosion, run-off, or pollution discharge
Turtle exclusion device (TED)	An apparatus that is fitted to a shrimp trawl that allows large animals, such as sea turtles and sharks, to exit before becoming trapped in the trawl
Udults	Older soils that tend to be moist
Ultisol	Mineral soil with an argillic horizon and base saturation of < 35% when measured at pH 8.2 and a mean annual soil temperature of 8°C or higher.

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Glossary

Umbrella species	A species whose range and habitat is so vast that when they are protected, many other species within this range and habitat will be protected as well
Understory	A low level of the forest made up of small trees, shrubs, and grasses, which grow in the shade of the canopy
Uneven-aged stand	Forest or wooded area containing trees that vary greatly in age
Vagrant species	A species that has been recorded in Virginia and for which is not part of its normal range, or that occurs in Virginia during a different season than that in which it was recorded
Viability	The ability of a population or habitat to survive and to thrive
“Vulnerable”	A conservation status between the “endangered” and “relatively stable,” distinguished by favorable odds of persistence of the remaining habitat as well as by loss of some (at-risk) species
Warm season grass	A grass that grows in the warmer summer months and becomes dormant and brown during spring and fall; these grasses tend to grow in clumps, which are easier for wildlife to move through to avoid predation and forage than cool season grasses; most native grasses are warm season
Whirling disease	An infection of trout and salmon caused by a water-borne parasite, the amoeba <i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i> ; infected fish may not be directly killed, but can become deformed and display an erratic tail-chasing behavior
Xeric	Areas or habitats that are dry
Zoogeography	The study of the geographical distribution of animals