



SSAC

Species Status Advisory Committee

Annual Report 2007-08



THE COMMITTEE

The Species Status Advisory Committee (SSAC) was established under the Provincial *Endangered Species Act* which was passed on December 13, 2001. Its role is to review, and recommend to the Minister, conservation status designations and re-designations of species at risk based on the best scientific, traditional and local ecological knowledge available about the species.

MEMBERSHIP

The Act allows for a committee of up to nine members. The committee started the year with eight members. Dr. Christine Doucet (chair) declined re-appointment in September 2007. Nathalie Djan-Chékar and Christine Campbell were confirmed as co-chairs for the Committee. Therefore at the end of 2007-08, the committee consisted of seven members:

Dr. Luise Hermanutz - Plant ecology, conservation biology
Dr. William Montevecchi - Birds
Ms. Nathalie Djan-Chékar (co-chair) - Vascular and non-vascular plants
Mr. John E. Maunder - General natural history, plants, invertebrates
Dr. Christine Campbell (co-chair) - Aquatic invertebrates
Ms. Shelley Pardy-Moores - Terrestrial invertebrates
Mr. Mac Pitcher – General natural history, lichens

The Committee wishes to thank Christine Doucet for her dedication and hard work on behalf of the Committee over the past several years, particularly in her filling the role of Chair of the Committee.

Additional members, with expertise in the areas of fresh water fishes and traditional knowledge are currently being sought. Recommendations for new members were submitted to the Minister in 2007-08.

The secretariat to the SSAC is provided by the Wildlife Division. The role of the secretariat is to help organize meetings and keep minutes, arrange contracts, and provide other necessary logistical support to the Committee. The current secretariat is managed by:

Joe Brazil, Senior Manager
Biodiversity and Endangered Species Program, Wildlife Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
P.O. Box 2007, 117 Riverside Drive, Corner Brook, NL, A2H 7S1

THE MINISTER & THE DEPARTMENT

Responsibility for species at risk, the *Endangered Species Act* and the SSAC rests with the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Honorable Charlene Johnson is the Minister

responsible for the Department, replacing the Honorable Clyde Jackman part way through the year. The Committee did not have an opportunity to meet with the new Minister during the year. Nonetheless, several pieces of correspondence were sent back and forth between the Minister and the Committee during the year, dealing with an emergency listing request, delays in listing decisions regarding previous recommendations, and recommendations for appointments to the SSAC.

MEETINGS AND BUSINESS

The Committee met three times in 2007-08: April 10 and 11, 2007 in St. John's, October 10 and 11, 2007 in Corner Brook, and February 19 and 20, 2008 in St. John's. A considerable amount of additional time was spent by members outside of the confines of the meetings, reviewing and revising status reports, developing priority lists, developing plans and reports as required under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, contacting potential candidates for SSAC membership and preparing correspondence to the Minister. Items discussed related to the determination of priority species for which status reports should be prepared, the review of reports, the carrying out of species assessments, and the selection of new committee members. Considerable time was also spent on the transparency and accountability process, and the issue of timely response to status recommendations.

PROCEDURES

While every effort is made to convene meetings only when all members are present, a quorum of 50%+1 of the membership is the minimum required for holding a meeting.

Voting on procedural matters is on the basis of a simple majority of members present but, in the event of a status recommendation to the minister, failing a consensus, a two thirds majority of all members, whether present or not, will be required.

CRITERIA

The criteria for decisions on the level of risk for a species (endangered, threatened, vulnerable) follow those of the federal COSEWIC committee, which in turn are based on those of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) with minor adjustments for local circumstances and conditions. A copy of the COSEWIC criteria can be found in Appendix 1.

STATUS REPORTS AND PRIORITY LISTS

Considerable time was expended upgrading the status report template, in response to significant feedback from both report writers, and committee members. The result of these efforts is recorded in Appendix 2.

Reports commissioned and reviewed in 2007-08

- Graceful Felt Lichen (*Erioderma mollissimum*), Dr. David Richardson was selected to author the report. The report was commissioned upon the recommendation of the Minister in response to a request for an emergency listing for this species.
- Lindley's Aster (*Symphyotrichum ciliolatum*). The report was commissioned in 2006-07, and reviewed in 2007-08. However the assessment was deferred to a later date in order to allow for the incorporation of newly discovered information.

Species assessed in 2007-08

- Bodin's Milkvetch (*Astragalus bodinii*)
- Oval-leaved Creeping Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula* var. *ovalis*)
- Rock Dwelling Sedge (*Carex petricosa* var. *misandroides*)
- Shaved Sedge (*Carex tonsa* var. *tonsa*)
- Cutleaf Fleabane (*Erigeron compositus*)
- Sharpleaf Aster (*Oclemena acuminata*)
- Alaska Rein Orchid (*Platanthera foetida*)
- Water Pygmyweed (*Tillaea aquatica*)
- Tradescant's Aster (*Symphyotrichum tradescantii*)
- Gmelin's Watercrowfoot (*Ranunculus gmelinii*)
- Feathery False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum* subsp. *racemosum*)
- Graceful Felt Lichen (*Erioderma mollissimum*), comment for an emergency designation.

See Table 1 for further details. For a list of SSAC status reports from previous years and their current status within the listing process see Appendix 3.

Species identified as priority for upcoming status assessment reports

Mammals

- Arctic Hare (*Lepus arcticus*)

Birds

- Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*)
- Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*)
- Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)
- Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)

Insects

- Blowout Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela limbata labradorensis*)

Vascular Plants

- Darkgreen Bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*)
- Eastern Star Sedge (*Carex radiata*)
- Mountain Bladder Fern (*Cystopteris montana*)
- Vreeland's Striped Coralroot (*Corallorhiza striata* var. *vreelandii*)
- Trianglelobe Moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens*)

Table 1: SSAC Species Status Assessment 2007-2008

Common Name	Scientific Name	Assessment Date	Date Minister Notified::
Bodins Milkvetch	<i>Astragalus bodinii</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Shaved Sedge	<i>Carex tonsa</i> var. <i>tonsa</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Cutleaf Fleabane	<i>Erigeron compositus</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Feathery False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> subsp. <i>racemosum</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Sharpleaf Aster	<i>Ocelmena acuminata</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Alaska Rein Orchid	<i>Platanthera foetida</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Gmelin's Watercrowfoot	<i>Ranunculus gmelinii</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Lindley's Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum cilliolatum</i>	20-Feb-08	Additional information became available during assessment and status report is being revised.
Tradescant's Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum tradescantii</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Water Pygmyweed	<i>Tillaea aquatica</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Rock Dwelling Sedge	<i>Carex petricosa</i> var. <i>misandroides</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Oval-leaved Creeping Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> var. <i>ovalis</i>	20-Feb-08	Will be notified early in 2008/09
Graceful Felt Lichen	<i>Erioderma mollissimum</i>	SSAC provided comment on a public request for emergency designation and commissioned a status report which was completed on 31-Mar-08	

Recommendations

No status recommendations were submitted to Government based on status reports commissioned in 2007-08 fiscal year. A total of 11 reports were reviewed, revised and status assessments applied. The assessments came near the end of the fiscal year with the recommendations expected to go forward early in the next fiscal year.

The Crowded Wormseed Mustard (Endangered) and the Mountain Fern (Vulnerable), assessed in 2006-07 were listed in the 2007-08 fiscal year as per the SSAC's recommendation. The Minister was seeking additional consultation on the listing of the MacKenzie's Sweetvetch, Rattlesnakeroot and Northern Bog Aster which were also assessed in 2006-07.

Emergency listing request and response

The Committee was asked by the Minister of Environment and Conservation for advice and an opinion as to a public request for an emergency listing of the rare lichen *Erioderma mollissimum*. The Committee felt that the request was valid and recommended to the Minister that *Erioderma mollissimum* be listed as Endangered under the emergency listing provisions of the *Endangered Species Act*.

THE FUTURE

Recommendations for listing of the following species will be provided to the Minister in early 2008-09:

- Bodin's Milkvetch (*Astragalus bodinii*)
- Oval-leaved Creeping Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula* var. *ovalis*)
- Rock Dwelling Sedge (*Carex petricosa* var. *misandroides*)
- Shaved Sedge (*Carex tonsa* var. *tonsa*)
- Cutleaf Fleabane (*Erigeron compositus*)
- Sharpleaf Aster (*Oclemena acuminata*)
- Alaska Rein Orchid (*Platanthera foetida*)
- Water Pygmyweed (*Tillaea aquatica*)
- Tradescant's Aster (*Symphotrichum tradescantii*)
- Gmelin's Watercrowfoot (*Ranunculus gmelinii*)
- Feathery False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum* subsp. *racemosum*)
- Graceful Felt Lichen (*Erioderma mollissimum*)

Additional status reports will be commissioned

In most cases status reports for species on the priority lists will have to be contracted out to individuals with detailed knowledge about the species under consideration. The number of status reports that can be commissioned and evaluated will depend primarily upon the budget, the availability of authors and the capacity of the Committee to review and assess the reports. The priority will be to find authors and commission reports for 11 new species over the next year. It is

anticipated that only a portion of those will be completed and assessed before March 31, 2009.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. COSEWIC criteria.

Appendix 2. Status Report template

Appendix 3. Chronology of Assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee

Appendix 1

COSEWIC Status Assessment and Designation

Table 2. COSEWIC quantitative criteria and guidelines for the status assessment

The quantitative criteria used by COSEWIC for species' status assessment are presented below. They are based on the revised IUCN Red List Criteria and Categories (IUCN 2001¹)

Endangered

Threatened

A. Declining Total Population

Reduction in population size based on any of the following 4 options and specifying a-e as appropriate:

> 70 %

> 50 %

(1) population size reduction that is observed, estimated, inferred, or suspected in the past 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer, where the causes of the reduction are clearly reversible AND understood AND ceased, based on (and specifying) one or more of a-e below.

> 50 %

> 30 %

(2) population size reduction that is observed, estimated, inferred or suspected over the last 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer, where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible, based on (and specifying) one or more of a-e below.

(3) population size reduction that is projected or suspected to be met within in the next 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer (up to a maximum of 100 years), based on (and specifying) one or more of b-e below.

(4) population size reduction that is observed, estimated, inferred, projected or suspected over any 10 year or 3 generation period, whichever is longer (up to a maximum of 100 years in the future), where the time period includes both the past and the future, AND where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible, based on (and specifying) one or more of a-e below.

-
- a. direct observation
 - b. an index of abundance appropriate for the taxon
 - c. a decline in area of occupancy, extent of occurrence and/or quality of habitat
 - d. actual or potential levels of exploitation
 - e. the effects of introduced taxa, hybridisation, pathogens, pollutants, competitors or parasites

Endangered

Threatened

B. Small Distribution, and Decline or Fluctuation

1. Extent of occurrence < 5,000 km² < 20,000 km²

Or

2. Area of occupancy < 500 km² < 2,000 km²

For either of the above, specify at least two of a-c:

(a) either severely fragmented or known to exist at # locations < 5 < 10

(b) continuing decline observed, inferred or projected in one or more of the following:

- i. extent of occurrence
- ii. area of occupancy
- iii. area, extent and/or quality of habitat
- iv. number of locations or populations
- v. number of mature individuals

(c) extreme fluctuations in one or more of the following: > 1 order of magnitude > 1 order of magnitude

- i. extent of occurrence
- ii. area of occupancy
- iii. number of locations or populations
- iv. number of mature individuals

C. Small Total Population Size and Decline

Number of mature individuals < 2,500 < 10,000

and 1 of the following 2:

(1) an estimated continuing decline rate of at least: 20% in 5 years or 2 generations whichever is longer (up to a maximum of 100 years in the future) 10% in 10 years or 3 generations whichever is longer (up to a maximum of 100 years in the future)

(2) continuing decline, observed, projected, or inferred, in numbers of mature individuals and at least one of the following (a-b):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| (a) population structure in the form of one of the following: | (i) no population estimated to contain >250 mature individuals | (i) no population estimated to contain >1,000 mature individuals |
| | (ii) at least 95 % of mature individuals in one population | (ii) all mature individuals are in one population |

(b) extreme fluctuations in the number of mature individuals

D. Very Small Population or Restricted Distribution

(1) Number of mature individuals estimated to be < 250 < 1,000

Or

(2) Applies only to threatened: Population with a very restricted area of occupancy (area of occupancy typically < 20 km²) or number of locations (typically 5 or fewer) such that it is prone to the effects of human activities or stochastic events within a very short time period in an uncertain future, and thus is capable of becoming highly endangered or even extinct in a very short time period.

E. Quantitative Analysis

Indicating the probability of extinction in the 20% in 20 years or 5 10% in 100 years

wild to be at least:

generations, whichever
is longer (up to a
maximum of 100 years)

Guidelines for use of Special Concern:

those species that are particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events but are not endangered or threatened species.

Species may be classified as being of Special Concern if:

- a. the species has declined to a level of abundance at which its persistence is increasingly threatened by genetic, demographic or environmental stochasticity, but the decline is not sufficient to qualify the species as Threatened; or
- b. the species is likely to become Threatened if factors suspected of negatively influencing the persistence of the species are neither reversed nor managed with demonstrable effectiveness; or
- c. the species is near to qualifying, under any criterion, for Threatened status; or
- d. the species qualifies for Threatened status but there is clear indication of rescue effect from extra-limital populations.

Examples of reasons why a species may qualify for "Special Concern":

- a species that is particularly susceptible to a catastrophic event (e.g., a seabird population near an oil tanker route); or
- a species with very restricted habitat or food requirements for which a threat to that habitat or food supply has been identified (e.g., a bird that forages primarily in old-growth forest, a plant that grows primarily on undisturbed sand dunes, a fish that spawns primarily in estuaries, a snake that feeds primarily on a crayfish whose habitat is threatened by siltation); or
- a recovering species no longer considered to be Threatened or Endangered but not yet clearly secure.

Examples of reasons why a species may not qualify for "Special Concern":

- a species existing at low density in the absence of recognized threat (e.g., a large predatory animal defending a large home range or territory); or
- a species existing at low density that does not qualify for Threatened status for which there is a clear indication of rescue effect.

Guidelines for use of Extinct or Extirpated

A species may be assessed as extinct or extirpated from Canada if:

- there exists no remaining habitat for the species and there have been no records of the species despite recent surveys; or
- 50 years have passed since the last credible record of the species, despite surveys in the interim; or
- there is sufficient information to document that no individuals of the species remain alive.

Guidelines for use of Data Deficient

Data Deficient should be used for cases where the status report has fully investigated all best available information, yet that information is insufficient to: a) satisfy any criteria or assign any status, or b) resolve the species' eligibility for assessment.

Examples:

- Records of occurrence are too infrequent or too widespread to make any conclusions about extent of occurrence, population size, threats, or trends.
- Surveys to verify occurrences, when undertaken, have not been sufficiently intensive or extensive or have not been conducted at the appropriate time of the year or under suitable conditions to ensure the reliability of the conclusions drawn from the data gathered.
- The species' occurrence in Canada cannot be confirmed or denied with assurance.

Data Deficient should not be used if: a) the choice between two status designations is difficult to resolve by COSEWIC, or b) the status report is inadequate and has not fully investigated all best available information (in which case the report should be rejected), or c) the information available is minimally sufficient to assign status but inadequate for recovery planning or other such use.

Date Published: 2005-06-15

Last Update: 2008-08-22

URL of this page: http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct0/Assessment_process_e.cfm

Appendix 2

DRAFT

The Status of
[English Common Name]
(*[Scientific Name]*)

in Newfoundland and Labrador

[Image of Taxon]

Photo: [Photographer]

prepared for
THE SPECIES STATUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

by
[Author Name]
[Author Address]

Submitted: [Date]

STATUS REPORT

[Full Scientific Name, including author]

[Common Name (English)]; [Common Name (French, aboriginal, and/or local) – if available]

[Name of population(s) or subspecies (if applicable)]

Synonyms:

[Full Scientific Name, including author; list several entries, if applicable]

Family: [Latin Name] [(Common Name)]

Life Form: [example: “Herbaceous, perennial, amphibious forb”].

[Systematic/Taxonomic Clarifications (if required)]

[A systematic/taxonomic clarification may be critical to properly understanding the precise taxon being discussed, and/or to facilitate more precise delimitation of global, national or even provincial distributions.

A brief entry should be inserted here if such is critical to the general understanding of the main text, and to the ability of the reader to assess the status of the species being reported upon.

A more detailed systematic/taxonomic clarification may, nevertheless, be critical to a more comprehensive technical understanding of the subject as a whole; if so, a more detailed entry should be placed in Appendix B.

In some cases, both a brief entry and a more detailed entry may be useful.]

Distribution

Global:

North America (excluding Canada): [country]: [include a general statement of national distribution, followed by a comprehensive listing of individual states where the species being reported upon is found, in logical geographical order (if applicable)] [e.g.: United States, Greenland, Mexico, St. Pierre and Miquelon]

[Other Continents or Individual Political Jurisdictions: list continents, and included countries, in logical geographical order (if applicable)]

National [i.e. Canada]:

[Include a general statement of national distribution, followed by a list of provinces where the taxon is found, in logical geographical order]

Provincial:

[List localities separately for Newfoundland and for Labrador]

[Specifically list all known occurrence localities, in logical geographical order. Reference the figure containing range map.]

[Note any qualifications, and/or discrepancies.]

[In all cases, above, distribution entries should refer only to the specific taxon being reported upon, and not to the “species as a whole, and individual populations or subspecies” ... unless there is some specific value in doing so.]

[In all cases, cite references.]

[Annotated Global or National Range Map (if relevant to provincial status assessment, e.g. migratory species, wide disjunction)]

[Figure x. Global or national distribution of taxon]

Annotated Provincial Range Map

[Good quality outline map of Newfoundland and/or Labrador, identifying individual known occurrence localities. If a migratory/nomadic species, distinguish between breeding/nesting localities and other occurrence localities.]

Figure x. Known occurrence localities for [taxon being assessed] in Newfoundland and/or Labrador:
[List localities.] [Use different symbols for modern versus historical localities.]

Description

[Briefly describe the organism. If appropriate, a more detailed description, including photographs, may be placed in Appendix B.]

Habitat

[Briefly describe the habitat. If a migratory/nomadic species, distinguish between breeding/nesting habitats and other occurrence-related habitats. Begin with a general description of habitat throughout the taxon’s range. Follow up with a more detailed description of its habitat within Newfoundland and Labrador. If habitat differs significantly between occurrence localities, it may be necessary to describe habitat specifically for each locality. A photo/s of the organism in its habitat may be useful to include here, if the habitat does not vary too greatly between occurrence localities. If appropriate, a more detailed description, including photographs, may be placed in Appendix B.]

Overview of Biology

[Briefly outline life history details, demographic information, generation time, and ecology, as each is pertinent to conservation. If appropriate, a more detailed description may be placed in Appendix B.]

Population Size and Area of Occupancy

[Briefly describe present population size, and area of occupancy, for each Provincial occurrence locality. A general statement addressing the entire/larger range of the taxon may be useful. For migratory and/or nomadic taxa, the population size and area of occupancy entries may need specific comment. Briefly discuss methodologies for arriving at the figures presented, where applicable. Information could be provided in table format if appropriate.]

Aboriginal, Traditional and Local Ecological Knowledge

[Outline any known applicable aboriginal, traditional and/or local ecological knowledge.]

Trends.

[Describe known trends in population, habitat, and distribution. If sufficient data are available, a graphical figure should be included.]

Threats and Limiting Factors

[Outline actual or imminent limiting factors and threats to populations or habitats. Briefly indicate scale and immediacy of threats. The RENEW Threat Assessment Table (Appendix C), which ranks threats by value, may be useful. Describe any additional potential threats. Consider threats to the taxon in all parts of its range and life cycle. Briefly present the results of any available Population Viability Analysis (PVA). A more detailed analysis may be included in Appendix B.]

[If “critical habitat” (habitat necessary for the survival of the species) is identified/identifiable, include description and provincial location. Precise and/or sensitive location information should be included in Appendix B.]

Existing Protection

[Outline existing protection; including occurrence in protected or management areas, or under stewardship agreements.]

Special Significance

[Outline any known scientific or cultural significance of the taxon.]

Sources of Information and List of References

[Provide a complete list of references cited either within the main text or within any of the included appendices. List references with a space between each, using hanging indents.]

Collections Examined

[List by institution, citing the number of specimen lots examined. Do not include collection/catalogue numbers; that should be a separate entry in Appendix B.]

Rank or Status

[A suggested format is presented below. Use the latest available Newfoundland and Labrador rank/status data, available from the Provincial Wildlife Division. Additional data, for adjacent jurisdictions, are available from sources including (but not necessarily exclusive to) NatureServe Explorer and General Status of Species in Canada (2005). Cite sources used.]

Global	
G-rank	
IUCN	
National	
N-rank	
National General Status	[e.g. May be at risk (2)]
COSEWIC	
Provincial	
Provincial General Status	[e.g. May be at risk (2)]
Newfoundland S-rank	
Newfoundland General Status	[e.g. May be at risk (2)]
Labrador S-rank	
Labrador General Status	[e.g. May be at risk (2)]
Adjacent Jurisdictions	
Nova Scotia S-Rank	[e.g. May be at risk (2)]
Nova Scotia General Status	
Prince Edward Island S-Rank	
Prince Edward Island General Status	[e.g. May be at risk (2)]
New Brunswick S-Rank	
New Brunswick General Status	[e.g. May be at risk (2)]
Québec S-Rank	
Québec General Status	[e.g. May be at risk (2)]

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Distribution and Population Information	Criteria Assessment
<i>Extent of occurrence (EO)(km²)</i>	
<i>Area of occupancy (AO) (km²)</i>	
<i>Number of extant locations</i>	
<i>Specify trend in # locations, EO, AO (decline, stable, increasing, unknown)</i>	
<i>Habitat trend: specify declining, stable, increasing or unknown trend in area, extent or quality of habitat</i>	
<i>Generation time (average age of parents in the population) (indicate years, months, days, etc.)</i>	
<i>Number of mature individuals (capable of reproduction) in the Provincial population (or, specify a range of plausible values)</i>	
<i>Total population trend: specify declining, stable, increasing or unknown trend in number of mature individuals or number of populations</i>	
<i>Are there extreme fluctuations (>1 order of magnitude) in number of mature individuals, number of locations, AO and/or EO?</i>	
<i>Is the total population severely fragmented (most individuals found within small and isolated populations)</i>	
Rescue Effect (immigration from an outside source)	
<i>Does species exist elsewhere?</i>	[Y or N]
<i>Status of the outside population(s)?</i>	
<i>Is immigration known or possible?</i>	
<i>Would immigrants be adapted to survive here?</i>	
<i>Is there sufficient habitat for immigrants here?</i>	

Appendix A. Population Information

[This appendix contains detailed population-related information which is required to support the main report. Since the appendix will not be released to the general public, the main report should not reference it.]

Recently Verified Occurrences/Range Use (recorded within the last 25 years)

Verified occurrences consist of observations supported by the collection of a voucher specimen (i.e., a sample to be identified/confirmed by experts and deposited in a museum); or well-documented, diagnostic, photographs; or well-documented field observations meeting the observational standards for verification accepted by reputable workers in any particular field (this is particularly relevant to bird or mammal field observations).

[For all occurrence records: note [1] dates of observation/collections, [2] general and specific occurrence localities (including lat/long or UTM coordinates (specify datum), where available), [3] habitat, [4] estimates of population size and area of occupancy (where available), [5] observer and/or collector, [6] collection/museum catalogue number (if applicable), and [7] reference to distribution maps included in Appendix A. The records should be listed by individual site, where practical. Otherwise, or in addition, the records may be compiled into one or more summarizing tables.]

Recent Search Effort (areas searched within the last 25 years with estimate of effort)

[A comprehensive accounting of the efforts of earlier researchers, and, if applicable, any additional efforts by the author of the report.]

Historical Verified Occurrences/Range Use (recorded prior to the last 25 years)

[For all occurrence records: note [1] dates of observation/collections, [2] general and specific occurrence localities (including lat/long or UTM coordinates (specify datum), where available), [3] habitat, [4] observer and/or collector, [5] collection/museum catalogue number (if applicable), and [6] reference to distribution maps included in Appendix B. The records may be listed by individual site, where practical. Otherwise, or in addition, the records may be compiled into one or more summarizing tables.]

Other Observations (unverified occurrences)

[If applicable. While unverified, such records should, nevertheless, be considered to be basically credible.]

Potential Sites Unexplored

[Analysis of the potential of as yet unexplored sites to harbour the taxon being reported upon.]

[Maps of Specific Provincial Occurrence Locations (if useful)]

[Topographic, or similarly-detailed, geo-referencable maps.
Mark individual known occurrence localities. If a
migratory/nomadic species, distinguish between
breeding/nesting localities and other occurrence localities.
Reference these maps, as appropriate, within Appendix A.]

Figure A-x. Known occurrence localities for [taxon being assessed] in Newfoundland and/or
Labrador: [List localities.] [Use different symbols for modern versus historical localities.]

Appendix B. Supplementary Details

[This appendix should contain all supplementary details (other than “detailed population-related information” – see Appendix A) that are considered to be useful additional background support for the main report. The main report should contain ONLY information that is critically required for actually assigning species status. Since the appendices will not be released to the general public, the main report should not reference them.]

Taxonomic Clarifications

[Detailed entry, if required]

Description

[Detailed entry, if required. Photos if required.]

Habitat

[Detailed entry, if required. Photos if required.]

Biology

[Detailed entry, if required]

Threats and Limiting Factors

[Detailed entry, if required. Include precise or sensitive information about critical habitat.]

Collections Examined

[Detailed entry, if required. Indicate museum/institutional collections, and catalogue/collection numbers. Reference details provided in Appendix A.]

[Additional entries, as appropriate]

Appendix 3

Chronology of Assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee

Common Name	Scientific Name	SSAC Assessment	Date of Recommendation:	Decision from Government Required By:**	Designated Status or Reason Not Designated:
Low Northern Rockcress	<i>Neotorularia humilis</i>	Endangered	6-Oct-04		Endangered
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Vulnerable	4-Nov-05		Vulnerable
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	Not at Risk		No recommendation required.	
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Not at Risk		No recommendation required.	
Redwine Caribou Herd	<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i> (Redwine Population)	SSAC has decided not to assess populations but species as a whole. This assessment was never completed.			
Blowout Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela limbata labradorensis</i>	Data Deficient		Status report being revised due to new information.	
McKenzie Sweet-Vetch	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06		Endangered
Rattlesnakeroot	<i>Prenanthes racemosa</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06	21-Jan-06	Response overdue
Northern Bog Aster	<i>Symphotrichum boreale</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06	21-Jan-06	Response overdue
Crowded Wormseed Mustard	<i>Erysimum inconspicuum</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06	21-Jan-06	Response overdue
Mountain Fern	<i>Thelypteris quelpaertensis</i>	Vulnerable	21-Oct-06		Vulnerable

**The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall within 90 days of the minister receiving a written recommendation from SSAC to designate a species, give the minister approval to do one of the following: (a) designate the species under section 7 in the recommended or an equivalent category; (b) designate the species under section 7 in a different category and release to the public the reason for using a different category; or (c) make no designation and release to the public the reason there will be no designation. Section 8 of the Endangered Species Act.

Based on the legislated time line above a decision from Government is overdue.

