

Summary

Conservation Status

Distribution

Image

Comprehensive

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**Comprehensive Report:** Record 1 of 1 selected.

&lt;&lt; Previous | Next &gt;&gt;

[See All Search Results](#) [View Glossary](#)**Lepomis auritus** - (Linnaeus, 1758)

Redbreast Sunfish

Unique Identifier: AFCQB11010

Informal Taxonomy: Animals, Vertebrates - Fishes

- Bony Fishes - Sunfishes and Freshwater Basses



© Noel Burkhead &amp; Virginia Dept of Game and Inland Fisheries (Fishes of Virginia)

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus
Animalia	Craniata	Actinopterygii	Perciformes	Centrarchidae	Lepomis

**Genus Size:** C - Small genus (6-20 species)**Concept Reference:** Robins, C. R., et al. 1991. Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada. American Fisheries Society, Special Publishing 20. 183 pp.**Concept Reference Code:** B91ROB01NAUS**Name Used in Concept Reference:** *Lepomis auritus***Taxonomic Comments:** Though the gender of the name LEPOMIS is feminine (see Bailey and Robins, 1988, Bull. Zool. Nomencl. 45 (2):100), the 1991 AFS checklist (Robins et al. 1991) retained the masculine ending for AURITUS and other species, pending a vote by the ICZN on a petition (by Etnier and Warren) to treat LEPOMIS as masculine for nomenclatural purposes.**Conservation Status****NatureServe Status****Global Status:** G5**Global Status Last Reviewed:** 23Sep1996**Global Status Last Changed:** 23Sep1996**Rounded Global Status:** G5**Nation:** United States**National Status:**  
N5**Nation:** Canada**National Status:**  
NNR**U.S. & Canada State/Province Status**

United States	Alabama (S5), Arkansas (S4?), Connecticut (S5), Delaware (S4), District of Columbia (S5), Florida (SNR), Georgia (S5), Kentucky (SNA), Louisiana (SNA), Maine (SU), Maryland (S5), Massachusetts (S3), Mississippi (SNA), New Hampshire (S4), New Jersey (S5), New York (S3), North Carolina (S5), Oklahoma (SNA), Pennsylvania (S5), Rhode Island (S3), South Carolina (SNR), Tennessee (S5), Texas (SNA), Vermont (S4), Virginia (S5), West Virginia (S5)
Canada	New Brunswick (S4)

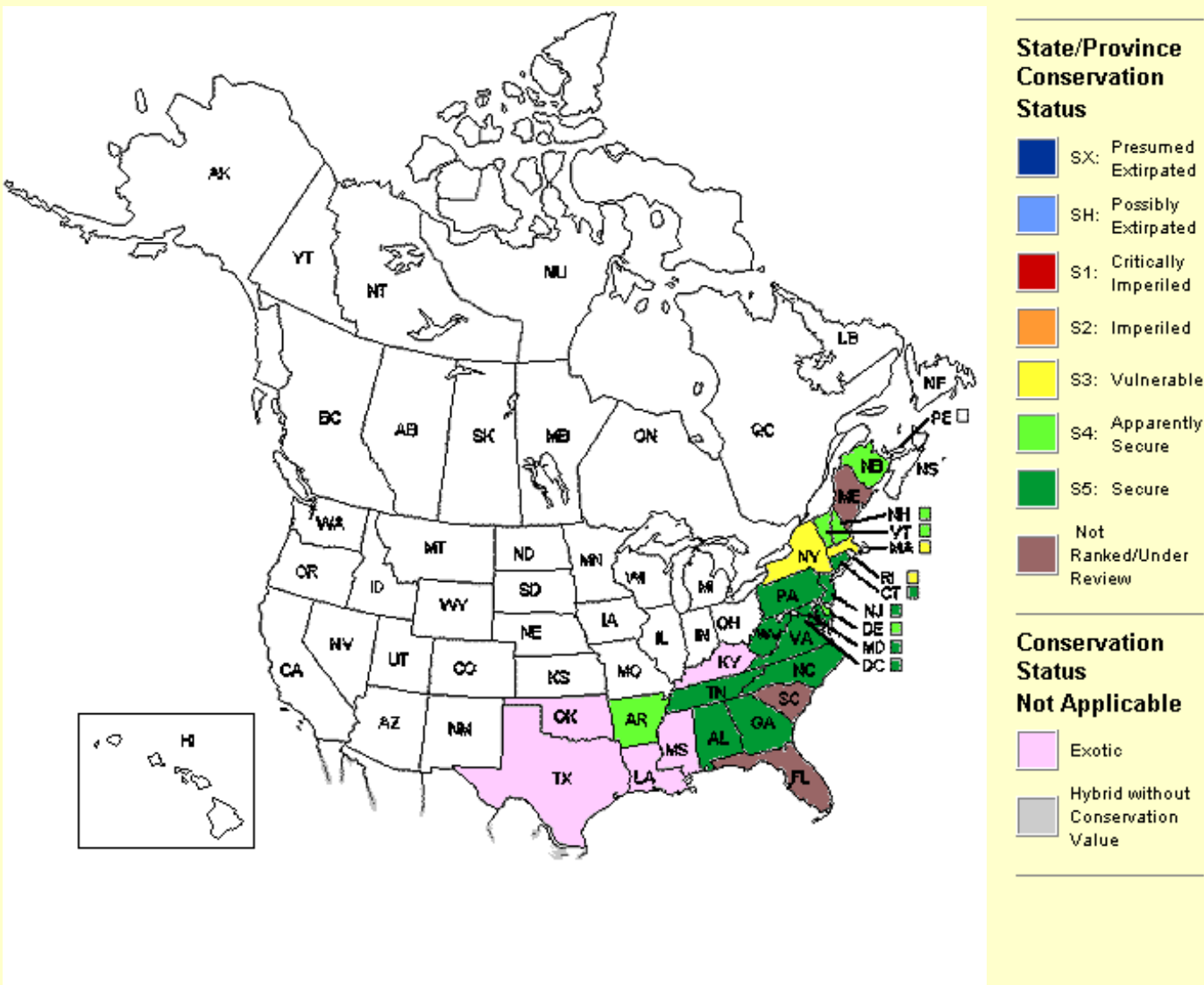
**Other Statuses**

**Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):** Special Concern (01Jan1989)

**NatureServe Conservation Status Factors**

**Distribution**

**U.S. States and Canadian Provinces**



**Endemism:** occurs (regularly, as a native taxon) in multiple nations

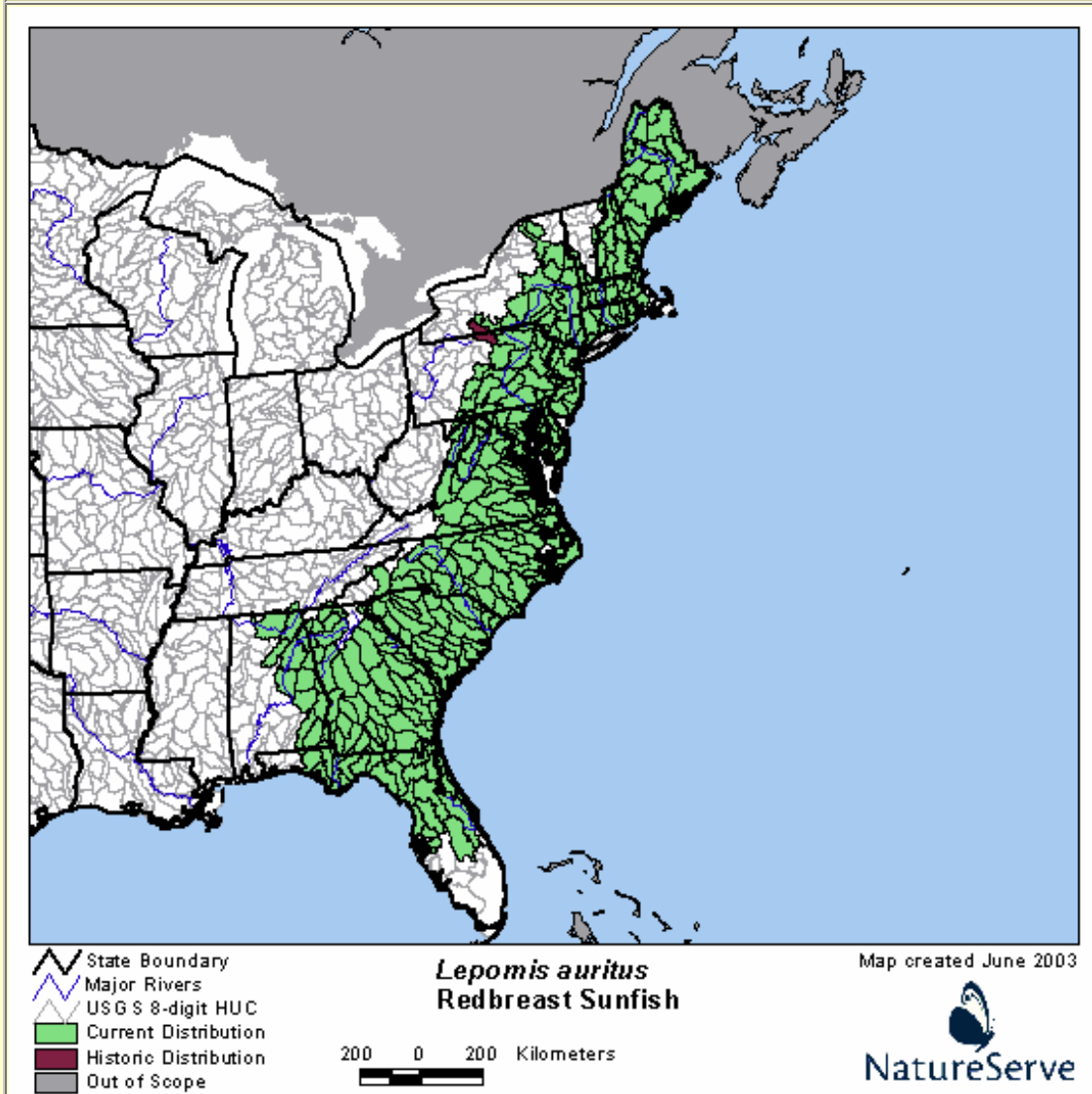
**U.S. & Canada State/Province Distribution**

United States	AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, VT, WV
Canada	NB

**Range Map**

No map available.

**Global Range Comments:** Atlantic Slope from New Brunswick south to central Florida, west on Gulf Slope to Apalachicola and Choctawhatchee drainages, Florida and Georgia. Introduced in Gulf drainages as far west as the Rio Grande and in the Mississippi River basin as far north as Kentucky and Arkansas; locally common (Page and Burr 1991). See Houston (1990) for information on occurrence in Canada.

**U.S. Distribution by Watershed (based on multiple information sources) ?****Economic Attributes****Management Summary**

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## Ecology & Life History

**Reproduction Comments:** Spawns in spring and summer; male guards nest, fans eggs, and may briefly guard hatchlings; sexually mature when 2-3 years old; nests may be close together (Scott and Crossman 1973, Manooch 1984).

### Ecology Comments

In a large Coastal Plain stream in Georgia, marked individuals usually stayed in a small area (within 33 m of original capture location), but some moved up to 200 m away (Freeman 1995).

**Habitat Type:** Freshwater

**Non-Migrant:** Y

**Locally Migrant:** N

**Long Distance Migrant:** N

**Estuarine Habitat(s):** River mouth/tidal river

**Riverine Habitat(s):** CREEK, Low gradient, MEDIUM RIVER, Moderate gradient, Pool

**Lacustrine Habitat(s):** Deep water, Shallow water

**Special Habitat Factors:** Benthic

**Habitat Comments:** Rocky and sandy pools and margins of creeks and small to medium rivers; rocky and vegetated lake margins. In streams with rapids, occurs in deeper slower areas over rock and gravel, often near cover or obstructions. Aggregates in deeper holes when water temperature fall below about 5 C. Eggs are laid in nests made by male on bottom; nests may be close together in ponds and lakes, usually on downstream side of rock in stream. There is a report of apparently successful nesting in tidal water in Virginia.

**Adult Food Habits:** Invertivore

**Immature Food Habits:** Invertivore

**Food Comments:** Eats mainly immature aquatic insects; also other invertebrates (Scott and Crossman 1973).

**Length:** 16 centimeters

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## Population/Occurrence Delineation

**Group Name:** SUNFISHES (CENTRARCHIDS)

**Use Class:** Not applicable

**Minimum Criteria for an Occurrence:** Occurrences are based on evidence of historical presence, or current and likely recurring presence, at a given location. Such evidence minimally includes collection or reliable observation and documentation of one or more individuals (including eggs and larvae) in appropriate habitat.

**Separation Barriers:** Dam lacking a suitable fishway; high waterfall; upland habitat.

**Separation Distance for Unsuitable Habitat:** 10 km

**Separation Distance for Suitable Habitat:** 10 km

**Separation Justification:** Separation distance is arbitrary. Although members of this group vary in size and probably in typical movement distances, it is likely that even the smallest centrarchids occasionally disperse as far as do large centrarchids. Hence a single separation distance is used for all members of the family. Because of the difficulty in defining suitable versus unsuitable habitat, especially with respect to dispersal, and to simplify the delineation of occurrences, a single separation distance is used regardless of habitat quality.

**Date:** 25Jun2001

**Author:** Hammerson, G.

**Notes:** Note that some species some species may at time be hard to detect. For example, nowhere is the Carolina pygmy sunfish known to be abundant. In addition, it is essentially an annual species, with adults dying soon after spawning, at an age of 12-15 months. In addition, young are so small that, for a several months, documentation of the species' presence at a particular locality might be almost impossible, at least without preserving specimens. Therefore, negative data at a known locality should be carefully interpreted (P. Shute).

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## Population/Occurrence Viability

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## Authors/Contributors

**Element Ecology & Life History Edition Date:** 09Apr1996

**Element Ecology & Life History Author(s):** Hammerson, G.

Zoological data developed by NatureServe and its network of natural heritage programs (see [Local Programs](#)) and other contributors and cooperators (see [Sources](#)).

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**Citation for data on website including Watershed and State Distribution maps:**

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**Citation for Bird Range Maps of North America:**

Ridgely, R.S., T.F. Allnutt, T. Brooks, D.K. McNicol, D.W. Mehlman, B.E. Young, and J.R. Zook. 2003. Digital Distribution Maps of the Birds of the Western Hemisphere, version 1.0. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

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"Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Robert Ridgely, James Zook, The Nature Conservancy - Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International - CABS, World Wildlife Fund - US, and Environment Canada - WILDSPACE."

**Citation for Mammal Range Maps of North America:**

Patterson, B.D., G. Ceballos, W. Sechrest, M.F. Tognelli, T. Brooks, L. Luna, P. Ortega, I. Salazar, and B. E. Young. 2003. Digital Distribution Maps of the Mammals of the Western Hemisphere, version 1.0. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

**Acknowledgement Statement for Mammal Range Maps of North America:**

"Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, The Nature Conservancy-Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International-CABS, World Wildlife Fund-US, and Environment Canada-WILDSPACE."

NOTE: Full metadata for the Bird Range Maps of North America is available at:

<http://www.natureserve.org/library/birdDistributionmapsmetadatav1.pdf>.

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