





# **Black Rail**

Laterallus jamaicensis

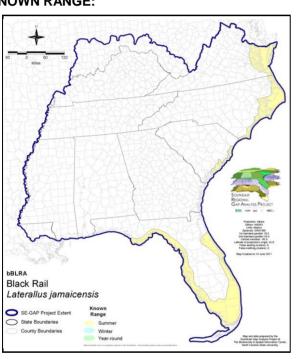
Taxa: Avian Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae

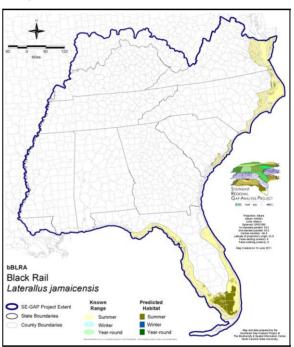
SE-GAP Spp Code: **bBLRA** ITIS Species Code: 176263

NatureServe Element Code: ABNME03040

## **KNOWN RANGE:**



## PREDICTED HABITAT:



Range Map Link: <a href="http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/maps/SE\_Range\_bBLRA.pdf">http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/maps/SE\_Range\_bBLRA.pdf</a>

Predicted Habitat Map Link: <a href="http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/maps/SE\_Dist\_bBLRA.pdf">http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/maps/SE\_Dist\_bBLRA.pdf</a>
GAP Online Tool Link: <a href="http://www.gapserve.ncsu.edu/segap/segap/index2.php?species=bBLRA">http://www.gapserve.ncsu.edu/segap/segap/index2.php?species=bBLRA</a>

Data Download: <a href="http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/region/vert/bBLRA-se00.zip">http://www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap/datazip/region/vert/bBLRA-se00.zip</a>

## **PROTECTION STATUS:**

Reported on March 14, 2011

Federal Status: ---

State Status: AL (GB), AZ (WSC), CT (E), DE (E), IL (LE), IN (SE), KS (C), MD (E), NC (SC), NJ (T/T), NY (E), RI (Not Listed), QC (Non suivie)

NS Global Rank: G4

NS State Rank: AL (S2N), AR (SU), AZ (S1), CA (S1), CO (SNA), CT (S1B), CT (S1B), DC (SHB,SHN), DE (S1B), FL (S2), GA (S2?), IA (SNA), IL (S1), IN (SHB), KS (S1B,S1N), LA (S1S2N), MD (S1), MI (SNA), MO (S1), MS (S2N), NC (S3B,S2N), NE (S1), NJ (S2B,S2N), NM (SNA), NY (S1B), NY (S1B), OH (SNA), OK (S1B), PA (SNA), RI (SNA), SC (SNRB,SNRN), TN (S1), TX (S2B), VA (S2B,S2N), WV (SNA), NS (SNA), ON (SNA), QC (SNA)

bBLRA Page 1 of 5

## SUMMARY OF PREDICTED HABITAT BY MANAGMENT AND GAP PROTECTION STATUS:

|          | US FWS                |         | US Forest Service     |       | Tenn. Valley Author. |     | US DOD/ACOE           |           |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------|----------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----------|
|          | ha                    | %       | ha                    | %     | ha                   | %   | ha                    | %         |
| Status 1 | 43,253.2              | 3       | 0.0                   | 0     | 0.0                  | 0   | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Status 2 | 45,324.3              | 3       | 80.4                  | < 1   | 0.0                  | 0   | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Status 3 | 1,036.4               | < 1     | 6,919.1               | < 1   | 0.0                  | 0   | 13,405.2              | < 1       |
| Status 4 | 12.0                  | < 1     | 0.0                   | 0     | 0.0                  | 0   | 5.7                   | < 1       |
| Total    | 89,625.8              | 6       | 6,999.5               | < 1   | 0.0                  | 0   | 13,410.9              | < 1       |
|          | US Dept. of Energy    |         | US Nat. Park Service  |       | NOAA                 |     | Other Federal Lands   |           |
|          | ha                    | %       | ha                    | %     | ha                   | %   | ha                    | %         |
| Status 1 | 0.0                   | 0       | 206,037.8             | 13    | 137.5                | < 1 | 4,200.4               | < 1       |
| Status 2 | 0.0                   | 0       | 7,787.3               | < 1   | 11,320.7             | < 1 | 2.7                   | < 1       |
| Status 3 | 0.0                   | 0       | 251,115.1             | 16    | 0.0                  | 0   | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Status 4 | 0.0                   | 0       | 0.0                   | 0     | 0.0                  | 0   | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Total    | 0.0                   | 0       | 464,940.3             | 30    | 11,458.2             | < 1 | 4,203.1               | < 1       |
|          | Native Am. Reserv.    |         | State Park/Hist. Park |       | State WMA/Gameland   |     | State Forest          |           |
|          | ha                    | %       | ha                    | %     | ha                   | %   | ha                    | %         |
| Status 1 | 0.0                   | 0       | 0.0                   | 0     | 0.0                  | 0   | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Status 2 | 0.0                   | 0       | 83.4                  | < 1   | 328,763.7            | 21  | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Status 3 | 0.0                   | 0       | 75,523.0              | 5     | 15,593.4             | < 1 | 15,437.8              | < 1       |
| Status 4 | 0.0                   | 0       | 0.0                   | 0     | 321.0                | < 1 | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Total    | 0.0                   | 0       | 75,606.4              | 5     | 344,678.1            | 22  | 15,437.8              | < 1       |
| 1        | State Coastal Reserve |         | ST Nat.Area/Preserve  |       | Other State Lands    |     | Private Cons. Easemt. |           |
|          | ha                    | %       | ha                    | %     | ha                   | %   | ha                    | %         |
| Status 1 | 0.0                   | 0       | 0.0                   | 0     | 0.0                  | 0   | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Status 2 | 13,902.7              | < 1     | 10,794.6              | < 1   | 0.0                  | 0   | 16.6                  | < 1       |
| Status 3 | 0.0                   | 0       | 700.6                 | < 1   | 0.0                  | 0   | 573.2                 | < 1       |
| Status 4 | 0.0                   | 0       | 0.0                   | 0     | 1.3                  | < 1 | 0.0                   | 0         |
| Total    | 13,902.7              | < 1     | 11,495.2              | < 1   | 1.3                  | < 1 | 589.8                 | < 1       |
|          | Private Land - I      | No Res. |                       | Water |                      |     | Overa                 | ıll Total |
|          | ha                    | %       | ha                    | %     |                      |     | ha                    | %         |
| Status 1 | 0.0                   | 0       | 0.0                   | 0     |                      |     | 253,628.9             | 16        |
| Status 2 | 0.0                   | 0       | 0.0                   | 0     |                      |     | 418,076.3             | 27        |
| Status 3 | 0.0                   | 0       | 0.0                   | 0     |                      |     | 380,303.7             | 25        |
| Status 4 | 495,267.2             | 32      | 7,742.5               | < 1   |                      |     | 503,658.7             | 32        |
| Total    | 495,267.2             | 32      | 7,742.5               | < 1   |                      |     | 1,555,667.6           | 100       |

GAP Status 1: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a natural state within which disturbance events (of natural type, frequency, and intensity) are allowed to proceed without interference or are mimicked through management.

GAP Status 2: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a primarily natural state, but which may receive use or management practices that degrade the quality of existing natural communities.

GAP Status 3: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area, but subject to extractive uses of either a broad, low-intensity type or localized intense type. It also confers protection to federally listed endangered and threatened species throughout the area.

GAP Status 4: Lack of irrevocable easement or mandate to prevent conversion of natural habitat types to anthropogenic habitat types. Allows for intensive use throughout the tract. Also includes those tracts for which the existence of such restrictions or sufficient information to establish a higher status is unknown.

bBLRA Page 2 of 5

## PREDICTED HABITAT MODEL(S):

#### **Summer Model:**

Habitat Description:

Black rails occur in salt, brackish, and freshwater marshes, pond borders, wet meadows, and grassy 'swamps.' Cover of vegetation peripheral to marshes may possibly be important in reducing predation on rails flushed from marsh by high tide (Evens and Page 1986). In northeastern North America breed primarily in salt and brackish marshes (Davidson 1992). However, wet meadows and freshwater areas of narrow-leaved cattail (TYPHA ANGUSTIFOLIA) and river bulrush (SCIRPUS FLUVIATILIS) have also been documented (Griscom 1923, Proctor 1981, Armistead 1990). In salt or brackish marshes, home ranges generally include dense stands of cordgrass, spikegrass, and rushes (Kerlinger and Wiedner 1990). Black rails also occur in the dryer, upland edges of these marshes where saltmeadow cordgrass mixes with marsh elder, the saltbush community and with common reeds (PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS) in disturbed areas (Kerlinger and Wiedner 1990). Research in wetlands along the lower Colorado River has revealed that water depth is an important and perhaps key habitat component. Black rails there are found typically where the water depth is less than two to four cm (R. Flores, pers. comm.). Other significant habitat factors may include vegetation density, distance to open water, and water regime stability (R. Flores, pers. comm.). Nesting takes place in the highest sections of the marsh, which have mesic to hydric soils and are flooded by only the highest tides (Todd 1977, Andrle and Carroll 1987). The area around the nest also typically includes lower wet areas, such as shallow pools and potholes (Andrle and Carroll 1987; W. Burt, W. R. Eddleman, and H. Wierenga, pers. comms.).

Nests are built in or along edge of marsh, in area with saturated or shallowly flooded soils and dense vegetation, usually in site hidden in marsh grass or at base of Salicornia; on damp ground, on mat of previous year's dead grasses, or over very shallow water (Terres 1980). High tides may destroy nests (see Evens and Page 1986).

Quoted directly from existing state habitat notes - K. Cook, 15Feb05

## Hydrography Mask:

Utilizes open water features with buffer of 250m from selected water features.

Utilizes wet vegetation features with buffers of 250m from and unlimited into selected vegetation features.

| Functional Group                  | Map Unit Name  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Atlantic Coastal Plain Central Salt and Brackish Tidal Marsh                     |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Atlantic Coastal Plain Embayed Region Tidal Salt and Brackish Marsh              |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Atlantic Coastal Plain Indian River Lagoon Tidal Marsh                           |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Sea-Level Fen                                    |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Tidal Salt Marsh                                 |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Tidal Wooded Swamp                               |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Atlantic Coastal Plain Southern Tidal Wooded Swamp                               |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | East Gulf Coastal Plain Tidal Wooded Swamp                                       |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Florida Big Bend Salt-Brackish Tidal Marsh                                       |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Mississippi Sound Salt and Brackish Tidal Marsh                                  |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | South Florida Everglades Sawgrass Marsh  |  |  |  |
| Brackish Tidal Marsh & Wetland    | Southwest Florida Perched Barriers Salt Swamp and Lagoon - Marsh Modifier        |  |  |  |
| Coastal Dune & Freshwater Wetland | Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Interdunal Wetland                               |  |  |  |
| Freshwater Tidal Marsh & Wetland  | Atlantic Coastal Plain Central Fresh-Oligohaline Tidal Marsh                     |  |  |  |
| Freshwater Tidal Marsh & Wetland  | Atlantic Coastal Plain Embayed Region Tidal Freshwater Marsh                     |  |  |  |
| Freshwater Tidal Marsh & Wetland  | Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Fresh and Oligohaline Tidal Marsh                |  |  |  |
| Freshwater Tidal Marsh & Wetland  | Florida Big Bend Fresh-Oligohaline Tidal Marsh                                   |  |  |  |
| Wetlands                          | Atlantic Coastal Plain Blackwater Stream Floodplain Forest - Forest Modifier     |  |  |  |
| Wetlands                          | Atlantic Coastal Plain Blackwater Stream Floodplain Forest - Herbaceous Modifier |  |  |  |
| Wetlands                          | Atlantic Coastal Plain Brownwater Stream Floodplain Forest                       |  |  |  |
| Wetlands                          | Atlantic Coastal Plain Clay-Based Carolina Bay Herbaceous Wetland                |  |  |  |
| Wetlands                          | Atlantic Coastal Plain Depression Pondshore                                      |  |  |  |
| Wetlands                          | Atlantic Coastal Plain Large Natural Lakeshore                                   |  |  |  |

bBLRA Page 3 of 5

Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Nonriverine Swamp and Wet Hardwood Forest - Oak Dominated Modifier Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Basin Peat Swamp Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Northern Pondshore Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Sandhill Seep Wetlands Atlantic Coastal Plain Small Blackwater River Floodplain Forest Atlantic Coastal Plain Small Brownwater River Floodplain Forest Wetlands Wetlands Central Florida Herbaceous Pondshore Wetlands Central Florida Herbaceous Seep East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest - Herbaceous Modifier Wetlands Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Depression Pondshore Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Southern Depression Pondshore Wetlands East Gulf Coastal Plain Treeless Savanna and Wet Prairie Wetlands South Florida Bayhead Swamp Wetlands South Florida Cypress Dome Wetlands South Florida Dwarf Cypress Savanna Wetlands South Florida Freshwater Slough and Gator Hole Wetlands South Florida Pond-Apple/Popash Slough Wetlands South Florida Wet Marl Prairie Wetlands South Florida Willow Head

### **CITATIONS:**

American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds. Sixth Edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.

Andrle, R. F. and J. R. Carroll, Eds. 1987. The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York state, Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.

Armistead, H. T. 1990. Notes on black rails on the Delmarva Peninsula, especially in Dorchester County. Unpublished report. Maryland. Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Annapolis, Maryland. 6 pp.

Bent, A. C. 1926. Life histories of North American marsh birds. U.S. National Museum Bulletin No. 135. [reprint. 1963. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, New York].

California Department of Fish and Game. 1990. 1989 annual report on the status of California's state listed threatened and endangered plants and animals. 188 pp.

Carter, M., G. Fenwick, C. Hunter, D. Pashley, D. Petit, J. Price, and J. Trapp. 1996. Watchlist 1996:For the future. Field Notes 50(3):238-240.

Davidson, L. M. 1992. Black rail, LATERALLUS JAMAICENSIS. Pages 119-134 in K. J. Schneider and D. M. Pence, editors. Migratory nongame birds of management concern in the Northeast. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Newton Corner, Massachusetts. 400 pp.

Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1992. Birds in jeopardy: the imperiled and extinct birds of the United States and Canada, including Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 259 pp.

Evens, J. G., et al. 1991. Distribution, relative abundance and status of the California black rail in western North America. Condor 93:952-

Evens, J., and G. W. Page. 1986. Predation on black rails during high tides in salt marshes. Condor 88:107-

Griscom, L. 1923. Birds of the New York City region. American Museum of Natural History, Handbook Series No. 9, New York, New York. 400 np.

Hands, H.M., R.D. Drobney, and M.R. Ryan. 1989. Status of the black rail in the northcentral United States. Missouri Coop. Fish Wildl. Res. Unit Rep. 11 pp.

Harrison, C. 1978. A field guide to the nests, eggs and nestlings of North American birds. Collins, Cleveland, Ohio

Harrison, H.H. 1979. A field guide to western birds' nests. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 279 pp.

Herkert, J. R., editor. 1992. Endangered and threatened species of Illinois:status and distribution. Vol. 2:Animals. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. iv + 142 pp.

Kerlinger, P., and D. S. Wiedner. 1990. Habitat use and vocal behavior of black rails in South Jersey. Unpublished draft report. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Endangered and Nongame Species Program. 18 pp.

National Geographic Society (NGS). 1983. Field guide to the birds of North America. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

Proctor, N. 1981. The black rail:mystery bird of the marsh. Connecticut Warbler 1(2):15-16

Raffaele, H.A. 1983. A guide to the birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Fondo Educativo Interamericano, San Juan, Puerto Rico. 255 pp.

bBLRA Page 4 of 5

Ripley, S.D. 1977. Rails of the world. M.F. Feheley Publishers, Ltd., Toronto. 406 pp.

Stiles, F.G., and A.F. Skutch. 1989. A guide to the birds of Costa Rica. Comstock Publ. Associates, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 511 pp.

Terres, J.K. 1980. The Audubon Society encyclopedia of North American birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York

Todd, R. L. 1977. Black rail, little black rail, black crake and farallon rail (LATERALLUS JAMAICENSIS). Pages 71-83 in G. C. Sanderson, editor. Management of migratory shore and upland game birds in North America. Int. Assoc. Fish and Wildl. Agencies, Wa

For more information:: SE-GAP Analysis Project / BaSIC

Dept. of Biology, NCSU
Raleigh, NC 27695-7617
(919) 513-2853
www.basic.ncsu.edu/segap

Compiled: 15 September 2011

This data was compiled and/or developed by the Southeast GAP Analysis Project at The Biodiversity and Spatial Information Center, North Carolina State University.

bBLRA Page 5 of 5