2013 Rare Species Trading Card Series

- **Acuminate Crayfish**
  - Cambarsus acuminatus

- **Barn Owl**
  - Tyto alba

- **Bald Cypress Swamp**

- **Treetop Emerald**
  - Somatochlora proctori
**Barn Owl**

**2013 Series**

**MD Status:** Watchlist  
**Global Status:** Secure  
**Habitat:** Grasslands, marshes, hayfields or abandoned fields

This prolific hunter prefers to feast on meadow voles and other small mammals. Barn owls occur in areas where there is sufficient food and nest sites. In Maryland, nest sites typically include cavities & abandoned buildings. In the 1860s, barn owls even nested in the Smithsonian castle tower in DC! This bird is threatened by the loss of grassland & saltmarsh habitat.

**Photo Credits:** Thomas G. Barnes, USFWS

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**Acamarine Crayfish**

**2013 Series**

**MD Status:** In Need of Conservation  
**Global Status:** Apparently Secure  
**Habitat:** Under flat rocks in slow water riffles and pools in small streams

This brown and green crustacean is the Hoover of the deep, devouring everything from stream insects, worms, and snails to dead or decomposing plants and animal remains. It is the largest crayfish in the area and is threatened by habitat loss from urbanization.

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**Treetop Emerald**

**2013 Series**

**MD Status:** Endangered  
**Global Status:** Apparently Secure  
**Habitat:** Forests and boggy seepages with sandy soil

True to their name, treetop emeralds are high-flying dragonflies often seen above the trees. They require forested seepage, wetlands, and sandy, spring-fed trickles which they depend on for their eggs and larvae. These dragonflies are endangered due to habitat loss.

**Photo Credits:** Ben Coulter, Flickr

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**Bald Cypress Swamp**

**2013 Series**

**Global Status:** Globally Rare/Vulnerable

Usually a southeastern community, this Bald Cypress community reaches its northern limit in Maryland and Delaware. This community is found along slow-moving blackwater streams, so-called because of the communities evolved to living in this environment by growing their flared trunks for stability in saturated soils and modified roots, called "knees."
**Round-leaved Sundew**
2013 Series

**MD Status:** Rare to Uncommon  
**Global Status:** Secure  
**Habitat:** Bogs

Round-leaved sundew is a tiny, carnivorous plant that attracts and traps insects with its colorful and sticky glands on its rounded leaves. Once caught, the insects are "externally digested" by the plant using enzymes. The resulting ammonia is absorbed the plant for food. This plant is restricted by habitat.

Photo Credits: David Kazyak

**Eastern Spiny Softshell**
2013 Series

**MD Status:** In Need of Conservation  
**Global Status:** Secure  
**Habitat:** Rivers & tributaries with sandy substrates

Unlike our other native freshwater turtles, the eastern spiny softshell turtle has a leathery shell. To make up for its lack of protective covering, this turtle can swim really fast and can sometimes be aggressive. The upper shell (carapace) contains a row of small, conical spines that account for the name "spiny." This turtle is threatened by habitat loss.

Photo Credits: Linh Phu

**Green Salamander**
2013 Series

**MD Status:** Endangered  
**Global Status:** Apparently Secure/Vulnerable  
**Habitat:** Rock crevices & trees adjacent to rock outcrops

The green salamander is the only salamander in Maryland with conspicuous lichen green colored blotches on the back. Its toes are square-tipped and spaced apart for climbing in rock crevices and trees. This salamander is threatened by habitat loss.

Photo Credits: David Kazyak

**American Brook Lamprey**
2013 Series

**MD Status:** Threatened  
**Global Status:** Apparently Secure  
**Habitat:** Clear, fast flowing brooks w/ sandy, gravel bottoms; Juveniles– slow moving water w/ soft bottoms

This freshwater lamprey is not parasitic, like its marine cousin. In fact, adults do not even feed and live short lives. They use their strong teeth to move rocks to make nests. The juveniles, called ammocoetes, live on organic material and microscopic organisms. This species is threatened by degraded habitat and dam placement.

Photo Credits: John G. Cramer, Flickr
Least Tern
Sternula antillarum

Atlantic White Cedar Swamp
Atlantic White Cedar Swamp
2013 Series

Global Status: Rare

These dense stands occupy nontidal areas of rivers and basins over acid, peat soils. Because they don’t tolerate shade, the Atlantic White Cedars require an occasional fire to keep the canopy open. The community also supports a lush array of wildflowers, mosses, ferns and rare, red bay trees (on the eastern shore). Botanically speaking, the Atlantic White Cedar is actually a cypress, not a cedar.

Photo Credits: Kerry Wixted

Least Tern
2013 Series

MD Status: Threatened
Global Status: Apparently Secure
Habitat: Sandy coastal beaches, flat pea-gravel roofs

This bird, and the Little Tern, are two of the smallest terns in the world. The loss of the Least Tern’s preferred beach habitat has spurred this tenacious fish-eater to adapt to nesting on flat, gravelly roofs near tidal water. This bird is threatened by the loss of beach habitat due to sea-level rise, human recreation along beaches, shoreline development & predation.

Photo Credits: USFWS