

Dear Friends,

This is the fifth edition of a periodic newsletter letting you know of important updates and changes in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB).

October 2006 NEWS from the CNDDDB

1. RareFind 3 has undergone several changes. Notably, the CNPS RED Code is no longer an item you can select on. This is because CNPS recently changed their ranking system and deleted the RED Code. They modified the CNPS List rank slightly to compensate for this. You will notice that CNPS List now includes a threat rank (.1, .2 and .3). This change is reflected in RareFind when you do a selection using CNPS List.
2. We have removed an additional field from screens and reports in RareFind: the “Major Source” field. Therefore, you will not see this field on outputs anymore. The complete bibliography for each record is still given on the Occurrence screen and in the Full Report with Sources as well as in the Source Report, so the relevant information is still there.
3. Some changes to the database structure affected the CNDDDB GIS data specifically. As part of our migration from Oracle to SQL Server, the CNDDDB has undergone structural changes to better accommodate the data that we track and our current and future tools for working with that data. Some of these changes are reflected in the GIS data that we distribute.
 - In the CNDDDB.SHP shapefile:
 - i. The fields SourceType, Trend, and MainInfo have been dropped. SourceType was a legacy field for mostly internal use. It was dropped since it was redundant with ACCURACY (see below) and a high percentage of the records had “undefined” or “null” in this field. Trend was dropped since only a small proportion of the CNDDDB records have any meaningful information in this field (most are “unknown”). Once we actually have trend data and can display it, we will change this. MainInfo was dropped because it is hard to define exactly which source is the “main” one. This is more important now that the CNDDDB is more mature (almost 28 years old!) and many occurrences have multiple sources. All sources are listed for each occurrence record as before.
 - ii. The field FCODE has been renamed "MAPNDX" to match the name that we use internally.
 - iii. The field ELTYPECODE has been renamed "ELMTYPE" to match the name that we use internally.
 - iv. The field ACC_CLASS, which contained a lookup code, has been replaced with the field ACCURACY, which contains the text description for the accuracy of the element occurrence.
 - v. The field FEDLIST, which contained a lookup code, has been expanded to contain a description of the federal listing status.
 - vi. The field CALLIST, which contained a lookup code, has been expanded to contain a description of the state listing status.
 - vii. The field PRESENCE, which contained a lookup code, has been expanded to contain a description of the condition of the element occurrence.

- viii. The field OCCTYPE, which contained a lookup code, has been expanded to contain a description of the origin of the element occurrence.
 - ix. The field KQUADNAME has been added to show the quad name of the Key Quad for the element occurrence.
 - In the CNDDBPNT.SHP shapefile:
 - i. The field FCODE has been renamed "MAPNDX" to match the name that we use internally.
 - ii. The field ELTYPECODE has been renamed "ELMTYPE" to match the name that we use internally.
 - iii. The field ACC_CLASS, which contained a lookup code, has been replaced with the field ACCURACY, which contains the text description for the accuracy.
 - iv. Note: the field SOURCETYPE was accidentally left in the point shapefile. In the next CNDDDB data distribution, this field will be dropped.
 - In the quad75 coverage:
 - i. The field DATASENS has been renamed "SENSITIVE" to better depict the nature of the field.
 - In the elmo.df INFO table:
 - i. The fields Trend and MainInfo have been dropped.
 - ii. The field FCODE has been renamed "MAPNDX" to match the name that we use internally.
 - iii. The field FEDLIST, which contained a lookup code, has been expanded to contain a description of the federal listing status.
 - iv. The field CALLIST, which contained a lookup code, has been expanded to contain a description of the state listing status.
 - v. The field PRESENCE, which contained a lookup code, has been expanded to contain a description of the condition of the element occurrence.
 - vi. The field OCCTYPE, which contained a lookup code, has been expanded to contain a description of the origin of the element occurrence.
 - vii. The field KQUADNAME has been added to show the quad name of the Key Quad for the element occurrence.
 - viii. The field ACCURACY, which contains the text description for the accuracy of the element occurrence, has been added.
 - ix. Note: since the elmo.df table is redundant -- the data it contains is in the attribute table of the CNDDDB.SHP shapefile -- we plan to remove it from future CNDDDB data distributions.
4. CNDDDB primary activities in 2006
- As of October 11, 2006, 6400 sources had been processed as element occurrences.
 - The 6400 sources went into updating or adding 4100 different element occurrences
 - As of Sept 30, CNDDDB had 52,500 element occurrences in total.
 - In 2006, CNDDDB has concentrated on NCCP areas of concern and on the San Joaquin Valley species. The San Joaquin project has resulted in major improvements in several large datasets such as burrowing owl and San Joaquin kit fox that will soon be reflected in your data.