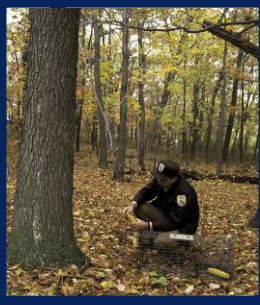


## Delaware State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Delaware's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



*Forest Management, Photo Courtesy of USFWS*

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Delaware's Forestland**

A forest habitat conservation plan is being developed in coordination with the Delaware Forest Service to identify ways to maintain a healthy economy and healthy forests through incentive-based programs. Landowners that manage forestland for wildlife diversity may receive property tax exemptions or reductions. Practices, policies and regulations related to forest management and conservation will be reviewed to ensure programs are coordinated and consistent for maximum benefit to wildlife and forest landowners. This proactive approach to conservation will ensure healthy forestland for future generations.



*Grasshopper Sparrow, Photo Courtesy of USFWS*

### **Research: Gathering Information to Take Action Learning More About Grassland Birds**

Little is known about the grassland birds that live on the Piedmont and Coastal plains of Delaware. State Wildlife Grants are helping us learn more through a project that will assess the status and distribution of grassland birds. Information gathered through the survey will be used to establish conservation priorities and guide management with current and future conservation partners. Such knowledge allows us to make proactive decisions to conserve wildlife and the places they live before they become more rare and costly to protect.



*Asian Tiger Mosquito, Photo Courtesy of Delaware Invasive Species Council*

### **Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Protection From Invasive Species**

Animals and plants that do not naturally occur in an area can be extremely disruptive to the natural balance of an ecosystem. This project will alleviate the effects of invasive species on wildlife and habitat through a detailed analysis of state and local policies and regulations on invasive species. Federal and other states' policies and regulations for addressing invasive species will be reviewed and effective strategies evaluated for application in Delaware with the goal of achieving a balance between ecological and economic costs and benefits. By helping to stop invasive species from spreading throughout Delaware, this project will benefit native wildlife that are important to many of our family traditions.

**Congress has appropriated \$3.7 million in State Wildlife Grants to Delaware since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$939 thousand state and partner dollars.**