

New Hampshire State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

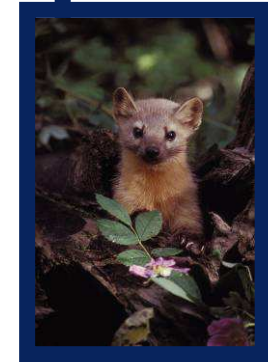
In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of New Hampshire's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Karner Blue Butterfly, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **The Karner Blue Butterfly**

The Karner blue, a sapphire-colored butterfly with a wingspan barely an inch across, disappeared from New Hampshire less than a decade ago. Many people and organizations have been working to bring back the Karner blue—New Hampshire's official state butterfly—and to restore pine barrens habitat, the only place where the butterfly can survive. The captive rearing program, partially funded with State Wildlife Grants, has resulted in a small but growing wild butterfly population; last year, eggs, larvae and adults were all observed in the release area. This project will help conserve New Hampshire's state butterfly for future generations to enjoy.



Pine Marten, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Pine Marten Habitat**

Although the pine marten has been protected from trapping since the 1930's, the northern New Hampshire spruce and fir forests that it depends on have undergone dramatic changes over the last 100 years, beginning with large-scale cutting and the fires of the 1920's. Even though suitable habitat has been restored in northern New Hampshire, and pine martens have been protected from trapping for the last 10 years, they were added to the list of State Threatened and Endangered wildlife in 1979, and the animal's range remains limited in distribution and abundance. A State Wildlife Grant funded project is being conducted to calculate how much suitable habitat currently exists, determine the status of pine marten in those habitats, and develop a strategic plan to provide for the complete restoration of this New Hampshire mammal.



American Bittern, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Salt Marsh Bird Research**

Sharp-tailed sparrows, willet, and American bittern are species of concern in New Hampshire and the broader eastern seacoast. Work funded by State Wildlife Grants will be initiated to better understand the status of these bird species in New Hampshire via surveys of suitable habitat, an assessment of nesting success, and an assessment of the risk of predation and flooding. A plan for long-term monitoring of these species will also be developed.

Congress has appropriated \$3.7 million in State Wildlife Grants to New Hampshire since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$962 thousand state and partner dollars.