

## New York State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

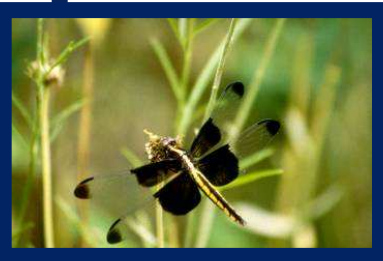
In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of New York's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Windmills, Photo Courtesy of EPA

### **Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People** **Protecting Migratory Birds and Bats**

Effective conservation of migratory birds and bats, including many species in need of conservation, requires better information on their migration patterns through New York State. Specifically, information is needed to help prevent birds and bats from flying into wind energy developments and other tall structures, often resulting in death. This project will assess the ability of various techniques to protect birds and bats migrating through areas where such structures exist. This is a proactive and cost-effective way to conserve these species for future generations while meeting our energy needs today.



Dragonfly, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

### **Research: Gathering Information to Take Action** **Dragonfly Atlas**

The health of dragonflies is an indicator of disease and pollution that affect us all. Though dragonflies have been around since before the dinosaurs, there has been almost no research done on this insect, which eats many types of pests. With funding from State Wildlife Grants, a three year survey is being conducted in New York using hundreds of volunteers to catalogue all the dragonfly species in the state. Researchers are predicting that at least ten new species will be discovered as a result of the survey. Data gathered by the project will help inform conservation decisions that will keep dragonflies common for future generations to enjoy.



Research on Peconic Bay, Photo Courtesy of IAFWA

### **Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas** **Comprehensive Bay Scallop Restoration Plan**

Historically, bay scallops represented an important shellfish resource in Peconic and Gardiner's bays in eastern Long Island. Bay scallops have experienced a 99 percent decline in abundance since 1985 due to the occurrence of an unusual algal bloom known as "brown tide". Brown tide kills the eel grass in which mussels live, and discourages recreational fishing, boating, and swimming. This State Wildlife Grant funded project will develop a Comprehensive Bay Scallop Restoration Plan and evaluate a pilot bay scallop spawning sanctuary. Results will provide vital information for the rehabilitation of bay scallop resources in New York State and may lead to a greater understanding of "brown tide", which would benefit both wildlife and people.

**Congress has appropriated \$17.6 million in State Wildlife Grants to New York since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$3.3 million state and partner dollars.**