

The Grassland Habitat Conservation Initiative brings together a range of groups in support of proactive conservation including the Connecticut Farmland Trust, Audubon groups, academic institutions, municipal organizations, and many state and federal agencies.

Connecticut Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Implementing the actions in Connecticut's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy is already improving Connecticut's quality of life by conserving the diversity of ecosystems and wildlife in the state. The likelihood of new species being listed as threatened or endangered will be minimized, helping to keep today's common species common in the future. By identifying the species and habitats of greatest conservation need, and defining the actions and research needs required to conserve them, the conservation strategy serves as a comprehensive guide to conserve all of Connecticut's wildlife.

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas

Connecticut's Grassland Habitat Conservation Initiative

An important aspect of Connecticut's wildlife conservation strategy aims to conserve rapidly disappearing grassland habitat. Connecticut grasslands provide nesting and breeding habitat for 80 bird species, including 13 on the state's endangered species list. Other wildlife include meadow jumping mice, smooth green snakes, and the threatened violet dart moth. The Grassland Habitat Conservation Initiative brings together a range of groups in support of proactive conservation including the Connecticut Farmland Trust, Audubon groups, academic institutions, municipal organizations, and many state and federal agencies. Their work ranges from land acquisition, land banking, and

management incentives to partnerships that help grassland conservationists work together. These wide-ranging and collaborative efforts will conserve wildlife and the grassland habitat upon which they depend for future generations.

Gathering Information to Take Action

Researching Connecticut's Native Bee Pollinators

Connecticut's conservation strategy identifies the statewide assessment of bees as an urgent conservation action. Fruit growers and scientists alike are reporting rapid and serious declines in pollinators nationwide, affecting natural processes as well as agricultural production. Wild honeybee hives, common in Connecticut just two decades ago, have disappeared. Many eastern bee species are declining rapidly, including the once common bumblebee



Grassland habitat/Geoff Krugar, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division

that is now rare. There is growing concern that many North American bumblebee species are sliding toward extinction. Efforts are underway to study existing native pollinator populations to help regional and national pollinator conservation efforts. Conserving these native bees will benefit wildlife as well as the multi-million dollar agricultural operations that are dependent on bee pollination.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Conserving Migratory Fish in the Connecticut River

Striped bass predation of river herring and other migratory fish is a major threat identified in Connecticut's conservation strategy. Several actions address this threat, particularly studying the food habits of predators and adjusting management efforts accordingly. River herring have long been an important biological resource throughout the northeastern U.S., providing food, fertilizer, and bait. River herring are also important ecological links between fresh waters where they breed and the ocean where they live and mature. Over the last two decades, alewife and blueback herring populations have declined

drastically in Connecticut and elsewhere. Gaining a more complete understanding of the effects of striped bass on river herring populations in the Connecticut River will inform good management decisions. Altering the striped bass harvest may help more river herring complete their spawning runs and ultimately help restore their population levels for the benefit of future generations.

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Trapping striped bass/Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Fisheries Division



Common eastern bumblebee/John Ascher, www.discoverlife.org

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