



# Taking Action for Wildlife

New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan News & Updates

Fall 2008

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Welcome to the Fall 2008 issue of **Taking Action for Wildlife**, a joint endeavor by UNH Cooperative Extension and the NH Fish and Game Department. Find out about New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan workshops, community projects, tools, resources and information that can benefit you and your community.

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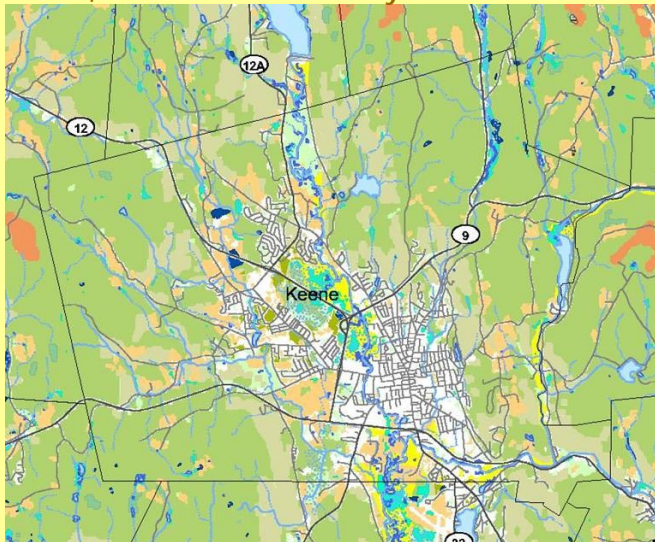
## New Wildlife Action Plan Workshops Offered

Do you want to host one of our new Wildlife Action Plan workshops? Check out the list of workshops offered by NH Fish & Game and UNH Cooperative Extension. We now offer workshops focused on Conservation Planning using the Wildlife Action Plan, and Habitat Workshops. If your organization is looking for a workshop with a different angle than those listed we are open to suggestions: contact [Lindsay Webb](#) at [Lindsay.Webb@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Webb@wildlife.nh.gov).



## Putting the Wildlife Action Plan to Work Locally

### Keene, Alstead and Swanzey



Three towns in southwest New Hampshire, Keene, Alstead and Swanzey, have been hard at work this summer using the Wildlife Action Plan to strengthen their land conservation and community outreach efforts. Working in partnership with the Monadnock Conservancy and the Southwest NH Regional Planning Commission, UNH Cooperative Extension staffers Amanda Stone and Frank Mitchell have been helping representatives of the conservation commissions and open space committees in Alstead, Keene and Swanzey to use the Wildlife Action Plan in their natural resources inventories, town property management plans, open space plans, and board and community outreach.

[Read More](#)

*Keene Wildlife Habitat Land Cover Map*

Small-footed bat



## New Hampshire Bats are in Trouble!

### White Nose Syndrome

Bats in the Northeast are facing one of the most devastating threats ever, a new disease named White Nose Syndrome (WNS). This affects bats in their winter hibernacula, causing them to use up the stored fat they need to get through the winter. Desperate bats will sometimes leave the hibernacula and fly in search of food, but there is none to be found when snow is on the ground. Researchers from all over, plus citizens reporting sick bats, are needed to help with this problem. First found in New York in 2007, last winter WNS was found in many caves in New York, Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts. According to Emily Brunkhurst, conservation biologist for Fish & Game's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, this could present a serious problem for New Hampshire's bats. [Read More](#)

## Rooting Out Invasives!

### NHDOT Invasive Species Best Management Practices

Not only do invasive plants wreak havoc on New Hampshire's habitats, they can also create serious safety and maintenance concerns along roadways. Increasing concerns over invasive plants and the role NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) activities could potentially play in the spread of these plants along roadsides has prompted the NHDOT Bureau of Environment to produce the manual Best Management Practices for Roadside Invasive Plants. Implementing the Best Management Practices (BMPs) described in the manual will help NHDOT control the spread of certain invasive plants along roadways. This helps with the Wildlife Action Strategy: develop and implement a terrestrial invasive species program.

[Read More](#)





## Critical Habitats: New Hampshire's Floodplain Forests



Intact floodplain forests contain a variety of uncommon plants and animals and are important reservoirs of New Hampshire's biodiversity. Over the years, New Hampshire's floodplain forests have been cleared for development due to their proximity to river systems, and plowed under for agriculture due to their rich and productive soils. Damming of rivers for flood control and hydroelectric facilities prevents natural flooding cycles which alters plant and wildlife communities in floodplain forests. Additionally, invasion by non-native plants further threatens the long-term integrity of these unique natural communities. As such, the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan identifies floodplain forests as a habitat type in greatest need of conservation. [Read More](#)

## Landowners Taking Action For Wildlife Taking Action For Wildlife Is A Family Tradition

Sandy Finn recalls fondly how her grandmother introduced her to nature at an early age at the family farmland in Greenland, NH. "I remember being a little tyke and my grandmother would walk me around", she reflects. Today, years later, Sandy is the family's designated manager of the "lovely" field and forested fringe near the shores of Great Bay. Most of the land is in grassland - an 18 acre field managed primarily for grassland-dependent wildlife. Sandy's goal is to "restore the land as a hayfield, which my grandparents managed for years." When she started on this effort, Sandy recognized that, as she says, "I'm no farmer", but, with advice from Matt Tarr (UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Specialist), "I got a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help us try to get rid of invasive species on the land." This is part of what Sandy has done to restore the hayfield to its former quality as cropland and as habitat. [Read More](#)



Bobolink in hayfield

## Wildlife Habitat and Natural Resources Protection: Conducting an Audit of Town Documents



Why conduct an audit? Natural resources make important contributions to New Hampshire's economy, rural character, and quality of life. When these resources are degraded you may feel frustrated and want to learn how you can prevent it from happening again. You may have already experienced the effects of lost natural resources by noticing loss of wildlife, loss of open space and recreational areas, contamination of ground and surface waters, and increased erosion and flooding. These concerns may have already been addressed in your town's Conservation or Open-Space Plan, but they must also be considered in other town planning documents. New Hampshire land use law designates the Master Plan as the basis for all municipal land use regulations. If your town's Master Plan does not address natural resource protection, subsequent ordinances

and regulations cannot be implemented. [Read More](#)

## Volunteering for Wildlife

Let's get birding! The weather may be cold, but there are several opportunities to get out and survey winter wildlife to help us understand more about the common and rare species in NH. NH Audubon coordinates three opportunities for you to survey birds: The Christmas Bird Count in December, the Midwinter Eagle Count in January and February, and the Backyard Winter Bird Survey in February. Winter is also a great time to expand your knowledge of other species. Learn how to identify tracks and signs of mammals - check your local nature center or tracking club for classes and field trips. You can also cozy up by your woodstove and learn about animals you'll see next spring. Start on the [Reptile and Amphibian](#) web pages on NH Fish & Game's website to learn about these fascinating creatures so that you can participate in the [Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program](#) starting in the spring. Read about the [NH Dragonfly Survey](#) on the NH Fish & Game website, and practice sweeping your net around (careful of the lamps!). Pull out a field guide on rare plants or butterflies or birds, and learn about new species. Find out how you can get involved in winter surveys. [Read more](#)



**Newsletter Editor:** Amanda Stone (UNH Cooperative Extension)

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