



# Taking Action for Wildlife

## New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan News & Updates Winter 2010

### In This Issue

**Cabin Fever? Come Learn More  
about Wildlife**

**2010 Saving Special Places Land  
Conservation Conference**

**Speaking for Wildlife: Programs in  
the Upper Valley**

**The NH Dragonfly Survey Project  
Reaches Midpoint!**

**Betsy Hardwick: Caring for  
Francestown's Conservation  
Lands**

**Whitenose Syndrome Continues  
to Harm Bats in NH**

**Appalachian Oak Pine: Critical  
Wildlife Habitats**

***Taking Action for Wildlife** is a joint endeavor by UNH Cooperative Extension and the NH Fish & Game Department. Contributors to this issue also include NH Audubon and The Nature Conservancy. Read on to find out about the Wildlife Action Plan and how you can Take Action for Wildlife through workshops, community projects, resources and more!*

### Cabin Fever? Come and Learn More About Wildlife at Some Great Events!

[Click here](#) to find out more about upcoming wildlife workshops on topics including: Backyard Wildlife, Farms as Important Wildlife Habitat, Forest Openings: Wood and Wildlife, Using the Wildlife Action Plan, and more! These workshops are presented by staff from UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Fish & Game.



### Quick Links

[Previous Newsletters](#)

[UNHCE Wildlife Web Pages](#)

[NH's Wildlife Action Plan](#)

[Wildlife Action Plan Workshops](#)

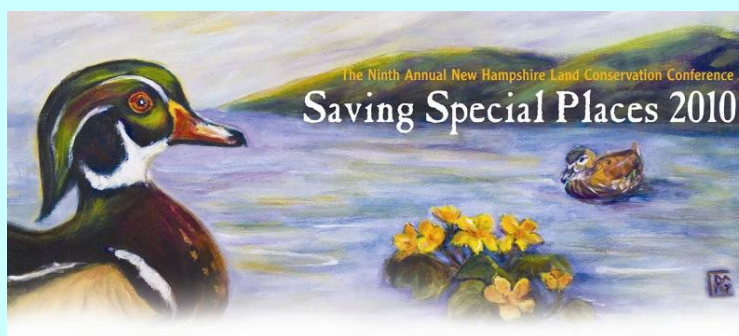
[Wildlife Theme tool on the  
GRANIT Data Mapper](#)

[NHDES Model Ordinances  
\(Wildlife Habitat Management\)](#)

### 2010 Saving Special Places Land Conservation Conference

Saturday April 10, John Stark Regional High School Weare, 8:30am-4pm

Save the date for the 9th Annual Saving Special Places Conference!



Among the many workshops offered at this conference, four focus specifically on wildlife:

\* Importance of Shrublands and Young Forests to Wildlife

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- \* Importance of Floodplains & Riparian Corridors to Land Conservation
  - \* Wolves, Coyotes and Land Conservation
  - \* Forest and Wildlife Habitat Stewardship in the Public Eye
- [Click here](#) for more information.

## Speaking for Wildlife Programs in the Upper Valley

"Did you hear about the bear sighting in town this week?" "Nah. But did you see that family of red fox out by Goose Pond?" Wildlife stories and sightings are a way of life here in New Hampshire. Presentations and field walks that focus on wildlife are always a hit with the public. Now, thanks to a grant from the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation, community groups in the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire will soon see an influx of presentations and field trips that focus on wildlife. *Speaking for Wildlife* is a pilot project that trains UNH Cooperative Extension volunteers who live in the Upper Valley to plan walks, deliver talks, and communicate important messages about wildlife and habitat in their communities. [Read More](#)



## The NH Dragonfly Survey Project Reaches Midpoint!



in the state, particularly those of potential conservation concern.

[Read More](#) and find out how you can participate in the NH Dragonfly Survey in 2010

When people think of wildlife surveys, they generally conjure up images of early morning bird counts, small mammal trapping, or even monitoring salamander road crossings. Rarely if ever do invertebrates come to mind, and yet these less charismatic species make up the bulk of NH's wildlife diversity. If we are to effectively conserve all of the state's biodiversity, we need to have better information on where all these overlooked species live. Some groups of invertebrates are easier to work with than others, and one that is rapidly gaining in popularity is the insect order Odonata: the dragonflies and damselflies. Thus was born the New Hampshire Dragonfly Survey (NHDS), started in 2007 as a partnership of NH Fish & Game, NH Audubon, and UNH Cooperative Extension. Its main goal is to improve our understanding of the distributions of dragonflies and damselflies



## Betsy Hardwick: Caring for Francestown's Conservation Lands

Betsy Hardwick is Chair of the Francestown Conservation Commission and a member of the Select Board. For the past eleven years, in addition to managing her family's 30 acre property, she has worked to increase conservation land in her town and involve town residents in those lands through education, events and frequent communication. Much of this work has included enhancing and protecting valuable wildlife habitats. Betsy has lived in Francestown all her life, as have generations of family before her. It's not surprising, then, to hear her say, "I have a very strong connection to the place. I love nature. I'd as soon be in the woods as anywhere." [Read More](#)



## Whitenose Syndrome Continues to Harm Bats in NH



Bat infected with White Nose Syndrome

White-nose syndrome (WNS), a new disease fatal to bats, continues to kill bats at an increasing rate. Early surveys in Virginia and Pennsylvania this fall have found bats already showing the fungus, and vastly fewer bats. These two states were first affected with WNS just last winter, so what does this mean for NH bats? This summer a heavily studied little brown bat colony in a Peterborough barn was essentially missing. Researcher Dr. Scott Reynolds has been collecting data on population, reproduction and phenology for 16 years at a little brown bat colony in a Peterborough barn. This summer the colony essentially disappeared: few bats returned from hibernation, only a few pups were born and later all disappeared. The future

of this colony is uncertain. We also received calls about empty barns in several other NH towns, and empty skies over several ponds. [Read More](#)

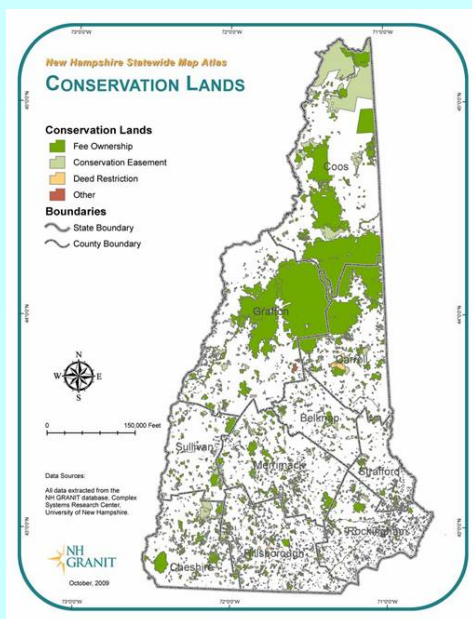
## Appalachian Oak-Pine Forests:

## Critical Wildlife Habitats

At a recent town council meeting in Durham, town officials debated the merits of a land protection project under consideration. "It's typical forestland," someone remarked. But was it? If you took a walk on the 100-acre parcel, near downtown, you'd find it flat and dry, with a sparse understory and patches of both young and old trees. You would see mostly red oak and pine trees, but shagbark hickories would probably stand out, with their large strips of flaking bark and their graceful compound leaves. You might also notice small sprigs of sassafras on the forest floor, with their unique mitten-shaped leaves and delicious smell. These are clues suggesting that this forest, though "typical" for Durham, is pretty special in the state of New Hampshire. [Read More.](#)



## GRANIT Conservation Lands Data Layer Updated!



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the New Hampshire Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (NH GRANIT) have completed a substantial update to New Hampshire's Conservation/ Public Lands data layer. This data layer contains a digital record of parcels of land that are protected from future development or that are publicly owned. This data layer is a vital tool for tracking the conservation status of New Hampshire's land base, and is used across the State to inform land use and natural resources planning, conservation action, environmental mitigation, grant-making, and other important decisions. The NH GRANIT data layer included 7,613 tracts covering 1.48 million acres at the start of the project. Upon completion of the project, the data layer now comprises 8,851 tracts covering 1.72 million acres.

Questions about this project ? Contact Pete Steckler, GIS & Conservation Information Manager for the NH Chapter of TNC ([psteckler@tnc.org](mailto:psteckler@tnc.org)), or Fay Rubin, Project Director for NH GRANIT ([fay.rubin@unh.edu](mailto:fay.rubin@unh.edu)).

[rubin@unh.edu](mailto:rubin@unh.edu).

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