

Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: *Pelecaniformes* (Peleicans, Herons, Ibises, And Allies)

Family: *Ardeidae* (Bitterns, Egrets, Herons, And Night-herons)

General comments:

Small numbers have nested in Maine since 1977; high count of 20 pairs in 1999 on Stratton Island.

Species Conservation Range Maps for Little Blue Heron:

Town Map: [Egretta caerulea_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Egretta caerulea_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan:

High Concern

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Range Expansion:

Range Expansion: Little Blue Heron is a species with a recent range expansion. Priority 1 designation is not intended for species who have expanded their range into Maine within the past 50 years. Notes: 1977; 1984, likely no more than 10 prs yr.

Habitats Assigned to Little Blue Heron:

Formation Name Cliff & Rock

Macrogroup Name Rocky Coast

Habitat System Name: North Atlantic Cobble Shore **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Formation Name Coastal Scrub-Herb

Macrogroup Name Coastal Grassland & Shrubland

Habitat System Name: Coastal Grassland & Shrubland Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System **Notes:** *Shrubby areas on islands for nesting.*

Formation Name Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name Coastal Plain Pond

Habitat System Name: Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Pond **Notes:** *May nest in shrubs on edges; forage in wetland.*

Macrogroup Name Emergent Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh **Notes:** *May nest in shrubs on edges; forage in wetland.*

Macrogroup Name Modified-Managed Marsh

Habitat System Name: Modified-Managed Marsh **Notes:** *May nest in shrubs on edges; forage in wetland.*

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Formation Name Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh

Habitat System Name: Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System **Notes:** *May nest in shrubs on edges; forage in wetland.*

Formation Name Grassland & Shrubland

Macrogroup Name Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland

Habitat System Name: Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System **Notes:** *Shrubby areas on islands for nesting.*

Formation Name Intertidal

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Gravel Shore

Habitat System Name: Lower Intertidal **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Mudflat

Habitat System Name: Freshwater Tidal Marsh **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Habitat System Name: Non-Vascular Mudflat **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Habitat System Name: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Sandy Shore

Habitat System Name: Sand Flat **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Habitat System Name: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Tidal Marsh (peat-forming)

Habitat System Name: Acadian Coastal Salt Marsh **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Habitat System Name: Coastal Plain Tidal Marsh **Notes:** *Foraging area.*

Formation Name Northeastern Upland Forest

Macrogroup Name Central Oak-Pine

Habitat System Name: North Atlantic Coastal Plain Maritime Forest **Notes:** *Nesting colonies.*

Stressors Assigned to Little Blue Heron:

No Stressors Currently Assigned to Little Blue Heron or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Little Blue Heron:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Little Blue Heron or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

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The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.