

Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Aves* (Birds)

Order: *Accipitriformes* (Hawks, Kites, Eagles, And Allies)

Family: *Accipitridae* (Kites, Hawks, Eagles, Harriers, And Old World Vultures)

General comments:

Concern stems from partial reliance on grasslands; also regional concerns. Only grassland occurrences tracked to date.

Species Conservation Range Maps for Northern Harrier:

Town Map: [Circus cyaneus_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Circus cyaneus_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Circus cyaneus is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority: NA

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Northern Harrier:

Formation Name Agricultural

Macrogroup Name Agricultural

Habitat System Name: Agricultural Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Habitat System Name: Pasture-Hay

Formation Name Coastal Scrub-Herb

Macrogroup Name Coastal Grassland & Shrubland

Habitat System Name: Coastal Grassland & Shrubland Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Habitat System Name: Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Dune and Maritime Grassland

Formation Name Developed

Macrogroup Name Maintained Grasses and Mixed Cover

Habitat System Name: Maintained Grasses and Mixed Cover Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Habitat System Name: Urban & Recreational Grasses

Formation Name Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh

Habitat System Name: Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Formation Name Grassland & Shrubland

Macrogroup Name Glade, Barren and Savanna

Habitat System Name: Glade, Barren and Savanna Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Macrogroup Name Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland

Habitat System Name: Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Habitat System Name: Ruderal Upland - Old Field

Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Accipitriformes (Hawks, Kites, Eagles, And Allies)

Family: Accipitridae (Kites, Hawks, Eagles, Harriers, And Old World Vultures)

Formation Name Intertidal

Macrogroup Name Intertidal Tidal Marsh (peat-forming)

Habitat System Name: Tidal Marsh (peat-forming) Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Stressors Assigned to Northern Harrier:

No Stressors Currently Assigned to Northern Harrier or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Northern Harrier:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Northern Harrier or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Conservation Actions Associated with the Grassland Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Public Outreach	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Develop a program to inform small landowners of the best methods for keeping fields open for grassland wildlife			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Livestock Farming and Ranching

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Develop a BMP guide for farmers to minimize negative effects of cutting hay/silage during the grassland bird nesting season. NRCS recommendations should be viewed as a start with increased emphasis on timing, field size, and bird behavioral cues.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Livestock Farming and Ranching

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional 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.

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.