



Insects

Huckleberry Sphinx

Paonias astylus

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Insects (*Insecta*)

Order: Butterflies, Skippers, And Moths (*Lepidoptera*)

Family: Sphinx Moths (*Sphingidae*)



General comments:

2 modern EOs; historically more widespread; traditionally rare in New England; in northern part of range, has typically been associated with PP barrens, but also uses bogs, barrens, heath lands, etc with lots of blueberry in other parts of range; potentially under-surveyed in habitats outside PPSO in ME – RW says most common in highbush blueberry swamps, which have not been surveyed in southern ME; also flies late in evening, so may be undercollected?
; JC: removed State SC status 2025

Species Conservation Range Maps:

Town Map: [Paonias astylus_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Paonias astylus_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Understudied Rare Taxa:	Recently documented or poorly surveyed rare species for which risk of extirpation is potentially high (e.g. few known occurrences) but insufficient data exist to conclusively assess distribution and status. *criteria only qualifies for Priority 3 level SGCN* Notes:
High Regional Conservation Priority:	NatureServe: Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3

Habitat Associations:

Formation: Northeastern Upland Forest

Macrogroup: Acadian-Northern Appalachian Forest

Macrogroup: Appalachian Oak - Pine Forest & Woodland

Macrogroup: North Atlantic Coastal Forest & Woodland

Formation: Northeastern Wetland Forest

Macrogroup: Coastal Plain Evergreen Hardwood - Conifer Swamp

Threats

No Threats Currently Assigned to Huckleberry Sphinx or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Huckleberry Sphinx *Paonias astylus*

Priority 3 SGCN



Species Level Conservation Actions:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Huckleberry Sphinx or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Conservation Actions Associated with the Dry Barrens Lepidoptera Guild:

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Communication with Maine Forest Service and Bureau of Pest Control is necessary to prevent unintended mortality from aerial pesticide spraying (e.g., for spongy moth and spruce budworm)	Species Management	high	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Other Threat

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Conduct a statewide review of potential high quality barrens habitat that is threatened by ecological succession and identify strategic habitat restoration actions for implementation by key conservation partners.	Habitat Management	critical	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Removing or Reducing Human Maintenance
- Fire and Fire Suppression

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
A concerted effort should be made to conserve as much of the remaining unprotected sandplain grasslands and PP/SO barrens as possible.	Habitat Management	critical	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Commercial and Industrial Areas
- Roads and Railroads
- Housing and Urban Areas
- Other Threat
- Removing or Reducing Human Maintenance
- Fire and Fire Suppression
- Mining and Quarrying

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Increase MDIFW staff capacity for survey and conservation of SGCN invertebrates.	Policy	critical	new

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Education & Outreach
- Lack of knowledge
- Resource Needs



Huckleberry Sphinx *Paonias astylus*
Priority 3 SGCN

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Develop/distribute guidelines and outreach materials to inform conservation partners, land use managers, and the general public about the impacts of pesticides on native pollinators and to promote the alternative use of Integrated Pest Management practices.	Public Outreach	moderate	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Education & Outreach
- Other Threat

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4. 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, threats, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work