



# Newfoundland & Labrador Species at Risk

## THE NEWFOUNDLAND MARTEN

**Provincial Designation:** **Endangered (2002)**

**Reason(s) for listing:** A small population restricted to the Island of Newfoundland below the viable population size. Population has declined about 50% since 1986. Major threats are habitat loss and accidental mortality.

**Species description:**

Scientific name: *Martes americana atrata*

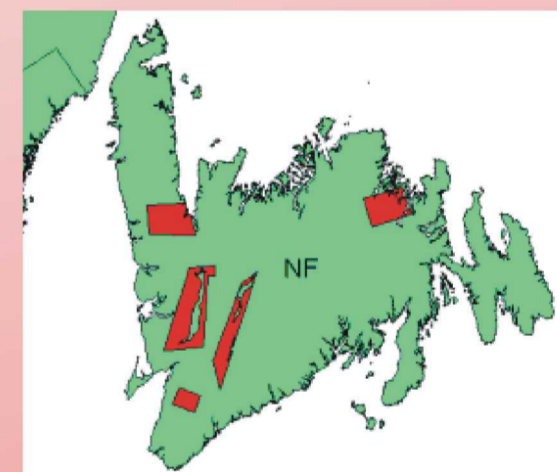
Common name: American marten, pine marten, Newfoundland marten, marten cat

Description: It is a member of the weasel family. It has a slender body with short limbs and a long bushy tail. Its fur is soft and dense, yellowish brown, darker on the tail and legs and lighter on the belly. It has a pale buff patch on the throat.



**Range:**

The American marten - Newfoundland population, is found only on the Island of Newfoundland. Most of the population occurs in the area of Little Grand Lake with other smaller populations located at Red Indian Lake, Glover Island, Main River and Terra Nova National Park. Scattered small pockets of animals are found in adjacent areas. Historically marten were found throughout most of the Island .



**Population estimate:**

Approximately 300 adult animals.

**Trends:**

Marten populations were thought to have dropped from over 800 animals in 1986 to only 300 animals in 1996. Populations have possibly stabilized in the past 5 years.

**Limiting Factors and Threats:**

Habitat loss due to forest harvesting and fire. Accidental mortality due to snaring and trapping. Low population numbers in isolated pockets. Disease outbreaks can occur. Comparative large home ranges.

**Special Significance of Species:**

The marten is 1 of only 14 native mammal species on the Island of Newfoundland. It was once trapped for its fur. It is found in some of the earliest accounts of the natural history of the Province. It is considered an indicator of a forest structure usually associated with old-growth.

For further information, please contact:  
the Endangered Species and Biodiversity Program  
phone: 709) 637 - 2026