



Pine Marten

Martes martes

Quick facts

Order Carnivora

Conservation status

GB *Least concern*

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England *Critically endangered*

Scotland *Least concern*

Wales *Critically endangered*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Increasing*

Size Body 46 - 54 cm, tail
18 - 27 cm, males larger

Weight Males 1.5 - 2.2 kg,
females 0.9 - 1.5 kg

Life span 8 years maximum

The pine marten has dark brown fur and a yellow to white throat patch. It is larger than mink, weasel, or stoat, and more likely to be seen in trees. Found in parts of Scotland, seems to be on the verge of extinction in England and Wales, common in Ireland.

Habitat

Coniferous, deciduous, and mixed woodlands, but not dependent on closed-canopy woodland. Also occurs in areas of low forest cover such as upland montane areas, semi-natural grassland, and heathland.

Behaviour

Nocturnal, solitary, territorial. Agile climbers. Often uses tree cavities for dens - will also use squirrel dreys and bird nests. Territories of males are around 25 square kilometres, those of females half as large.

Diet & Feeding

Small rodents (especially field vole), birds, beetles, eggs, carrion, fungi. Berries are a staple in autumn.

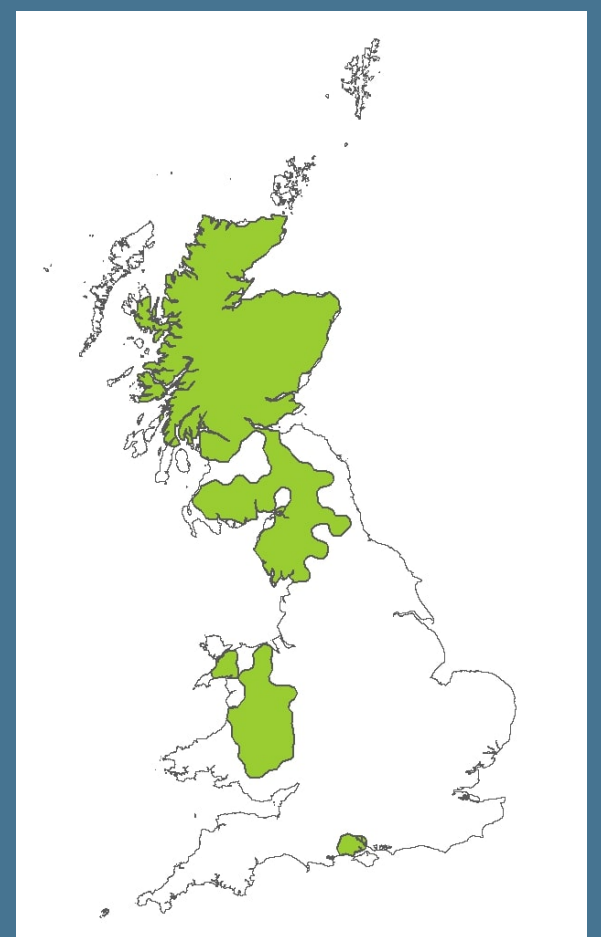
Reproduction

1 litter of 1 - 5 young born in early spring, usually March or April. Usually breeds for the first time at 2 - 3 years of age.

Conservation & Threats

One of Britain's rarest native mammals. Fully protected by Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Poisoned baits and traps set for other predators cause many marten deaths per year. Until 19th Century, it was found in much of mainland Britain and some islands, but habitat loss, persecution, and hunting dramatically reduced this.

Range



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