

# Species Status Assessment

**Common Name:** Maroonwing moth

**Date Updated:** March 2025

**Scientific Name:** *Sideridis maryx*

**Minor Edits By:** NYSDEC Wildlife Section

**Class:** Insecta

**Family:** Noctuidae

**Species Synopsis** *(a short paragraph which describes species taxonomy, distribution, recent trends, and habitat in New York):*

DEC is not aware of any additional data or new information on population trends or threats to this species since the last SWAP revision in 2015. This species was listed as SPCN in 2015, but with the removal of this status in the 2025 revision it has been changed to SGCN.

## I. Status

### a. Current legal protected Status

i. **Federal:** Not listed **Candidate:** No

ii. **New York:** Not listed

### b. Natural Heritage Program

i. **Global:** G4

ii. **New York:** S2S3 **Tracked by NYNHP?:** Yes

### Other Ranks:

-NYS 2025 SGCN Status: SGCN

-IUCN Red List: N/A

-Northeast Regional SGCN: N/A

### Status Discussion:

United States and Canada National Status: not assessed

Maroonwing is ranked as Imperiled in New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut, and Vulnerable in Massachusetts.

## II. Abundance and Distribution Trends

Region	Present?	Abundance	Distribution	Time Frame	Listing status	SGCN?
North America	Yes	Unknown	Unknown			-
Northeastern US	Yes	Unknown	Unknown			-
New York	Yes	Unknown	Unknown			Yes
Connecticut	No data	Choose an	Choose an			-

Region	Present?	Abundance	Distribution	Time Frame	Listing status	SGCN?
Massachusetts	No data	-	-			-
New Jersey	No data	-	-			-
Pennsylvania	No data	-	-			Yes
Vermont	No	-	-			-
Ontario	No data	-	-			-
Quebec	No data	-	-			-

Column options

**Present?:** Yes; No; Unknown; No data; (blank) or Choose an Item

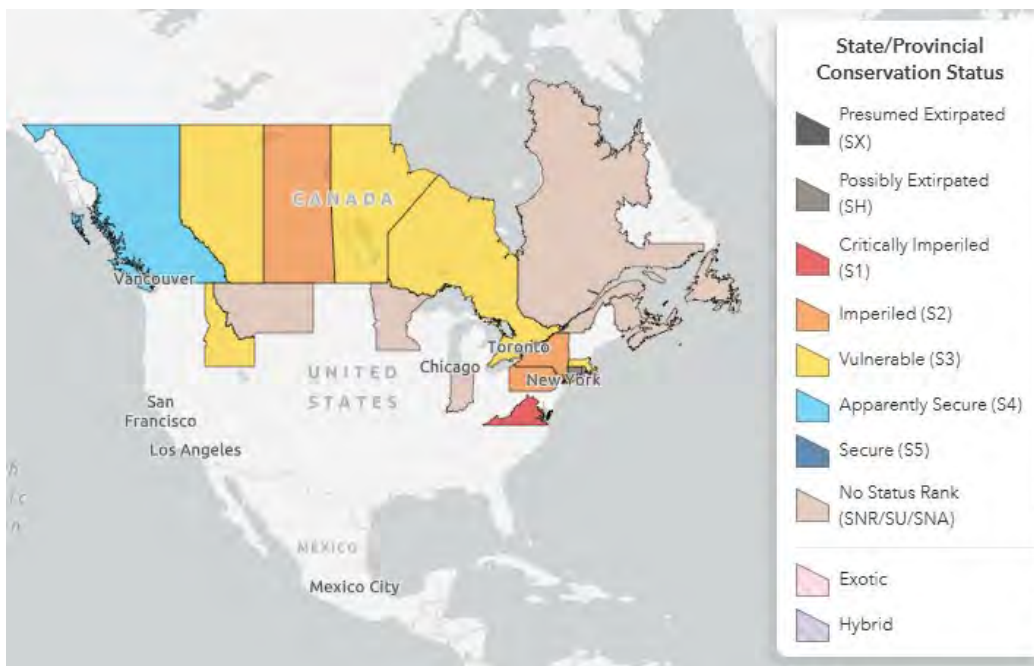
**Abundance and Distribution:** Declining; Increasing; Stable; Unknown; Extirpated; N/A; (blank) or Choose an item

**SGCN?:** Yes; No; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

**Monitoring in New York** (specify any monitoring activities or regular surveys that are conducted in New York):

Intermittent surveys have been conducted in New York’s pine barren communities

**Trends Discussion** (insert map of North American/regional distribution and status):



**Figure 1.** Conservation status of *Sideridis maryx* in North America (NatureServe 2024).

**III. New York Rarity** *(provide map, numbers, and percent of state occupied)*

**Details of historic and current occurrence:**

This species was collected in the Gadway Pine Barrens, Clinton County, in 2003 and 2013 (McCabe 2004, NYDEC 2012). It was observed in the Albany Pine Bush, Albany County, in 2010 (NYSDEC 2010, NYSDEC 2012). It also occurs in Palenville, Greene County and in the Clintonville Barrens, Clinton County (NYSDEC 2012).

**New York’s Contribution to Species North American Range:**

Percent of North American Range in NY	Classification of NY Range	Distance to core population, if not in NY
1-25%	Peripheral	

*Column options*

**Percent of North American Range in NY:** 100% (endemic); 76-99%; 51-75%; 26-50%; 1-25%; 0%; Choose an item

**Classification of NY Range:** Core; Peripheral; Disjunct; (blank) or Choose an item

**IV. Primary Habitat or Community Type** *(from NY crosswalk of NE Aquatic, Marine, or Terrestrial Habitat Classification Systems):*

- a. Pine barrens
- b. Open acidic peatlands

**Habitat or Community Type Trend in New York**

Habitat Specialist?	Indicator Species?	Pollinator Species?	Habitat/Community Trend	Time frame of Decline/Increase
Yes	No	-	Declining	

*Column options*

**Habitat Specialist, Indicator Species and Pollinator Species:** Yes; No; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

**Habitat/Community Trend:** Declining; Stable; Increasing; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

**Habitat Discussion:**

The maroonwing thrives in either rocky or sandy barren habitat. In New York, this species inhabits the sandy barrens of the Albany Pine Bush. It can also be found in the sandstone pine barrens of Clinton County (NYSDEC 2012). In New Jersey and Pennsylvania, a few populations are associated with boggy habitats (Schweitzer 2000). The dwarf pine barrens in Suffolk County are possibly too dry for this species. Given its presence in the Albany Pine Bush, it is thought that this species does not require pristine habitats (NYNHP 2013).

## V. Species Demographic, and Life History:

Breeder in NY?	Non-breeder in NY?	Migratory Only?	Summer Resident?	Winter Resident?	Anadromous/Catadromous?
Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes	-

Column options

First 5 fields: Yes; No; Unknown; (blank) or Choose an item

Anadromous/Catadromous: Anadromous; Catadromous; (blank) or Choose an item

**Species Demographics and Life History Discussion** (include information about species life span, reproductive longevity, reproductive capacity, age to maturity, and ability to disperse and colonize):

This species requires huckleberry (*Gaylussacia* spp.) for its early development. Adults can be seen flying from June-August. This species overwinters as early-instar larva (Neil 1983, NYSDEC 2012).

## VI. Threats (from NY 2015 SWAP or newly described):

Maroonwing is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation by development. Populations in the rocky, sandstone pavement barrens are doing well, and are not threatened. Rock barrens make for poor agriculture, pasture, and forestry, which have left most of the area in almost pristine condition (NYSDEC 2010). This species may be affected by light pollution, as it is readily attracted to light traps and has shown declines in habitat areas with the greatest amount of light pollution (NYSDEC 2012).

General threats known to affect moths include habitat loss and degradation caused by habitat fragmentation; alteration of natural fire regimes; natural succession of shrubland, woodland, and barrens habitats; land clearing; coastal erosion; and sea level rise. Past use of chemical biocides to control gypsy moth and other pest insects continues to kill native Lepidoptera (Schweitzer 2004). Introduced parasitoid flies have been known to negatively affect native Lepidoptera (Boettner et al. 2000). Other threats may include invasive species, over grazing of host plants by wild deer populations, and off-road vehicle use (NYSDEC 2005). The maroonwing was classified as “insufficient evidence” (IE) in an assessment of vulnerability to predicted climate change, conducted by the New York Natural Heritage Program. Lack of available information on the species dismissed it from the assessment (Schlesinger et al. 2011).

<b>Threat Level 1</b>	<b>Threat Level 2</b>	<b>Threat Level 3</b>	<b>Spatial Extent</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Immediacy</b>	<b>Trend</b>	<b>Certainty</b>
9. Pollution	9.6 Excess Energy	9.6.1 Light pollution	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

**Table 1.** Threats to *Sideridis maryx*.

**Are there regulatory mechanisms that protect the species or its habitat in New York?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No:  X  Unknown: \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes, describe mechanism and whether adequate to protect species/habitat:**

Populations of this species occur on property owned by The Nature Conservancy, and thus are protect from future development.

**Describe knowledge of management/conservation actions that are needed for recovery/conservation, or to eliminate, minimize, or compensate for the identified threats:**

**Complete Conservation Actions table using IUCN conservation actions taxonomy at link below. Use headings 1-6 for Action Category (e.g., Land/Water Protection) and associated subcategories for Action (e.g., Site/Area Protection) -**

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/conservation-actions-classification-scheme>

Action Category	Action	Description
A.1 Direct Habitat Management	A.1.0.0.0 Direct habitat management	Site/Area management
A.1 Direct Habitat Management	A.1.1.0.0 Manage plants, animals, fungi, or bacteria	Invasive/Problematic species control
B.3 Outreach	B.3.1.4.0 Public outreach and information	Awareness & Communications
C.6 Design and Plan Conservation	C.6.5.0.0 Conservation planning	Site/Area Protection
C.6 Design and Plan Conservation	C.6.5.0.0 Conservation planning	Resource/Habitat Protection
C.7 Legislative and Regulatory Framework or Tools	C.7.1.3.0 Create, amend, or influence regulation	
C.7 Legislative and Regulatory Framework or Tools	C.7.2.1.0 Create or amend policies	

**Table 2.** Recommended conservation actions for *Sideridis maryx* (add more lines as needed).

The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (NYSDEC 2005) includes recommendations for the following actions for other moths, and for the maroonwing in particular.

**Easement acquisition:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Where appropriate, acquire easements to promote moth protection and conservation.

**Fact sheet:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Create fact sheets covering moths.

**Habitat management:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Determine best management regime for moth species, including fire and other forms of management.

**Habitat monitoring:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Develop standardized measures of habitat parameters for each species of listed moth.

\_\_\_\_\_ Investigate threats to food and host plants.

\_\_\_\_\_ Monitor land development projects.

**Habitat research:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Examine role of light pollution as threat to moths.

\_\_\_\_\_ Determine host/ food plant.

**Life history research:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Investigate the metapopulation dynamics of those species which warrant it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Examine role of introduced parasites and predators in threats to moths.

**Other action:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Develop standard definition of what is needed for "viable" populations of moths.

\_\_\_\_\_ Research the role of pesticide use in threats to moths.

**Population monitoring:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Inventory of species within historical range.

\_\_\_\_\_ Develop standardized survey protocols for moths.

**Private fee acquisition:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Where appropriate, encourage/assist private entities to acquire land for moth protection and conservation.

**State fee acquisition:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Where appropriate, acquire land essential to moth protection and conservation.

**State land unit management plan:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorporate needs of moths into state land management plans.

## VII. References

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University of Alberta E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum. 2013. Entomology Collection Species Page. < <http://pnwmoths.biol.wvu.edu/browse/family-noctuidae/subfamily-noctuinae/tribe-hadenini/sideridis/sideridis-maryx/>> Accessed 3 May 2013.

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