

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	1	Current distribution and status	64
Preface	3	Ireland	64
Marterns, martins, marts and martens	6	Scotland	65
Martens in heraldry, legend, mythology and popular culture	10	Wales	65
Origins and close relatives	15	England	66
The Weasel Family	15	Modern marten habitats	67
Early origins and evolutionary history	15	Woodland specialist or habitat generalist?	67
The <i>Martes</i> Complex	16	Going underground in Nietoperek, Poland	71
Stone Marten	20	Activity Patterns	73
Sable	25	‘Gimme Shelter’ – Dens and resting sites	74
Yellow-throated marten	26	Seeking elevation and insulation	74
Nilgiri marten	27	Missing cavities	75
Japanese marten	28	Where do pine martens sleep and breed?	76
American marten	28	Designing bedrooms and nurseries for martens	78
Pacific marten	29	Field signs	80
Pine marten history, genetics and distribution in Europe	29	The Joy of Scats	83
Is the stone/beechn marten native to the British Isles?	32	Heaven-scent!	83
The body beautiful	36	Variations in form, texture and colour	84
Shape and movement	36	The hip-wiggle (please don’t try this at home!)	86
Coping with the cold	37	Scats for surveys	88
Body size and sexual dimorphism	38	Scat detection dogs	91
Arboreal adaptations	40	The work of the Gene-genies	93
Skull and teeth	44	The pine marten’s year	95
Fur colour and moult	46	Social life and home range behaviour	97
Horrendous history	49	Territoriality	97
Downhill from a Mesolithic heyday	49	Home range sizes	97
The confusing pattern of the pine marten’s decline in Britain and Ireland	49	Social martens	100
Pine martens killed as vermin	50	Martelism	100
Trapping for fur	51	Foraging and food	102
Hunting with hounds	52	A multi-skilled omnivore	102
Game shooting	54	The pine martens of Białowieża Forest	103
Habitat loss	55	The predator-prey arms race	105
Differences between Britain and Ireland	56	Continental variations in feeding ecology	106
Where did martens survive and why?	57	Rodents rule	109
Survival and slow, partial recovery	59		
The ‘mythical’ martens of England and Wales	61		



Pine marten diets in Britain and Ireland	110	predator	146
Why do Scottish pine martens prefer field voles?	111	How do pine martens and stone martens coexist?	146
Caching of food	115	Capercaillie capers	150
<b>Marten communications</b>	<b>116</b>	Grey squirrel control?	154
Scented messages	116	<b>Interactions with people</b>	<b>158</b>
Vocalisations	119	The teething pains of pine marten recovery	158
Tail-swishing	120	Mischievous media manipulation	158
<b>Mating and breeding</b>	<b>122</b>	The good, the bad and the delightfully cheeky	159
Breeding slow but long	122	Adapting to life with pine martens	161
The mating season	123	Protecting bird boxes	162
Delayed implantation and gestation	124	Roof martens	164
Birth dates and litter sizes	125	Protecting poultry and game	166
Mast and mice control the martens	125	Sustainable egg-collection?	168
Development of kits	126	Illegal trapping and killing of pine martens	169
Natal den relocation	128	Moving pine martens	171
Juvenile dispersal	129	Feeding and watching pine martens	172
The male 'teenage' phase	130	An evening with Pat and James's martens	176
Longevity	131	<b>Reintroductions and translocations</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>How many martens?</b>	<b>132</b>	Covert releases	178
Improving abundance estimates	132	The VWT's Pine Marten Recovery Project	179
National population estimates	133	<b>Studying pine martens</b>	<b>182</b>
The martens of Portlaw Woods, Eire	135	<b>Pine martens and the law</b>	<b>184</b>
The martens of Galloway Forest, Scotland	135	<b>Pine martens and commercial forestry</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>Further reading</b>	<b>188</b>
Causes of mortality	137	<b>Sources of information and advice</b>	<b>189</b>
Street-fighting martens?	138	<b>Index</b>	<b>190</b>
Parasites and diseases	138		
<b>Interactions with other wildlife</b>	<b>144</b>		
Relations with foxes	144		
Adjusting to the return of a native			