November 2026

The Twelve-Spotted Tiger Beetle and the Water-Willow Stem Borer Moth

Twelve-Spotted Tiger Beetle



Photo by Rusty Adelstein

The twelve-spotted tiger beetle is listed as a species of special concern in Massachusetts due to natural changes in wetland hydrology, as well as human-caused threats like eutrophication and run-off. Its distribution across Cape Cod is limited to the Upper Cape. However, it is widely distributed across North America and can be found as far south as Georgia and Texas. It's habitat includes sandy or gravely areas in or near wetlands, which explains its presence at the Upper and Lower Coonamessett.

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Water-Willow Stem Borer Moth



Photo by Jake McCumber

The water-willow stem borer moth gets its name from its primary diet of water-willow. Adult female moths lay their eggs in the stems of the plant. When the larvae hatch, they feed on the tissues inside the stems. It is endemic to Southeastern Massachusetts, including Cape Cod and the islands. *Endemic* means it is only found in that area. Like the twelve-spotted tiger beetle, these moths inhabit wetland habitats. They are listed as "threatened" due to natural changes in wetland hydrology, water pollution, off-road vehicles, and pesticides.

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