

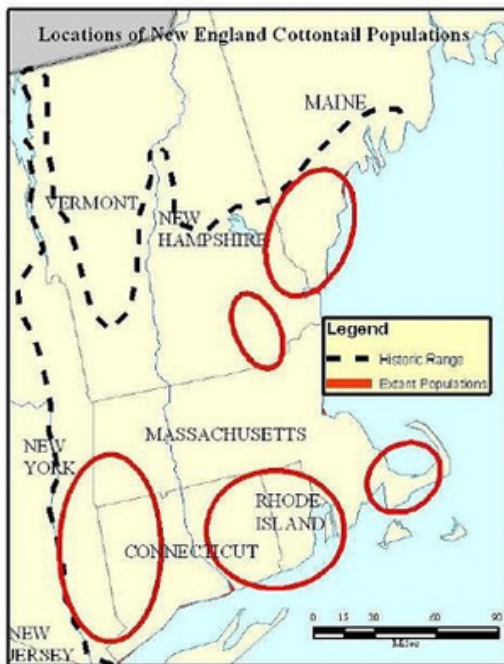


Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

The New England Cottontail



New England cottontails are the only rabbit that is native to New England. They prefer to live amongst dense thickets that provide them with cover from predators. New England cottontail populations have declined drastically due to the extensive loss of brushy, early-successional habitat. They also face competition from the non-native Eastern cottontail, which was introduced to the region as a game species in the early 1900s.



The New England cottontail's historic range and current populations.



This rabbitat was built by AmeriCorps Cape Cod during their work on the pollinator gardens on April 1st, 2024.

How can we help New England cottontails? By creating *Rabbitat*, or brush piles for them to hide in. You can create these yourself with any logs, sticks, and leaves that you have laying around. By creating *Rabbitat*, you are helping to protect this threatened by valuable species.

