

Pine Marten

Habitat Hero



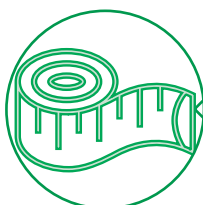
Common Name: Pine Marten
Irish Name: Cat crainn
Scientific Name: *Galium aparine*



Seen in Ireland:

All year round

- Nocturnal animal (most active at night)
- Mostly present in the west and mid-lands



Pine Martens are the same size as a domestic cat and can measure up to 65-75cm long. Pine Martens are related to the Badger, Otter and Stoat. Their coat is brown with a pale colour over the throat and chest. They have a long bushy tail, and large feet and ears



Pine Martens are mostly found in western counties and the midlands. They spend most of their time in trees, in our hedgerows and wooded areas. Their home is called a 'den', and it is important for protection when they are breeding. These dens are usually found in old buildings, log piles, burrows, holes in trees or under rocks.

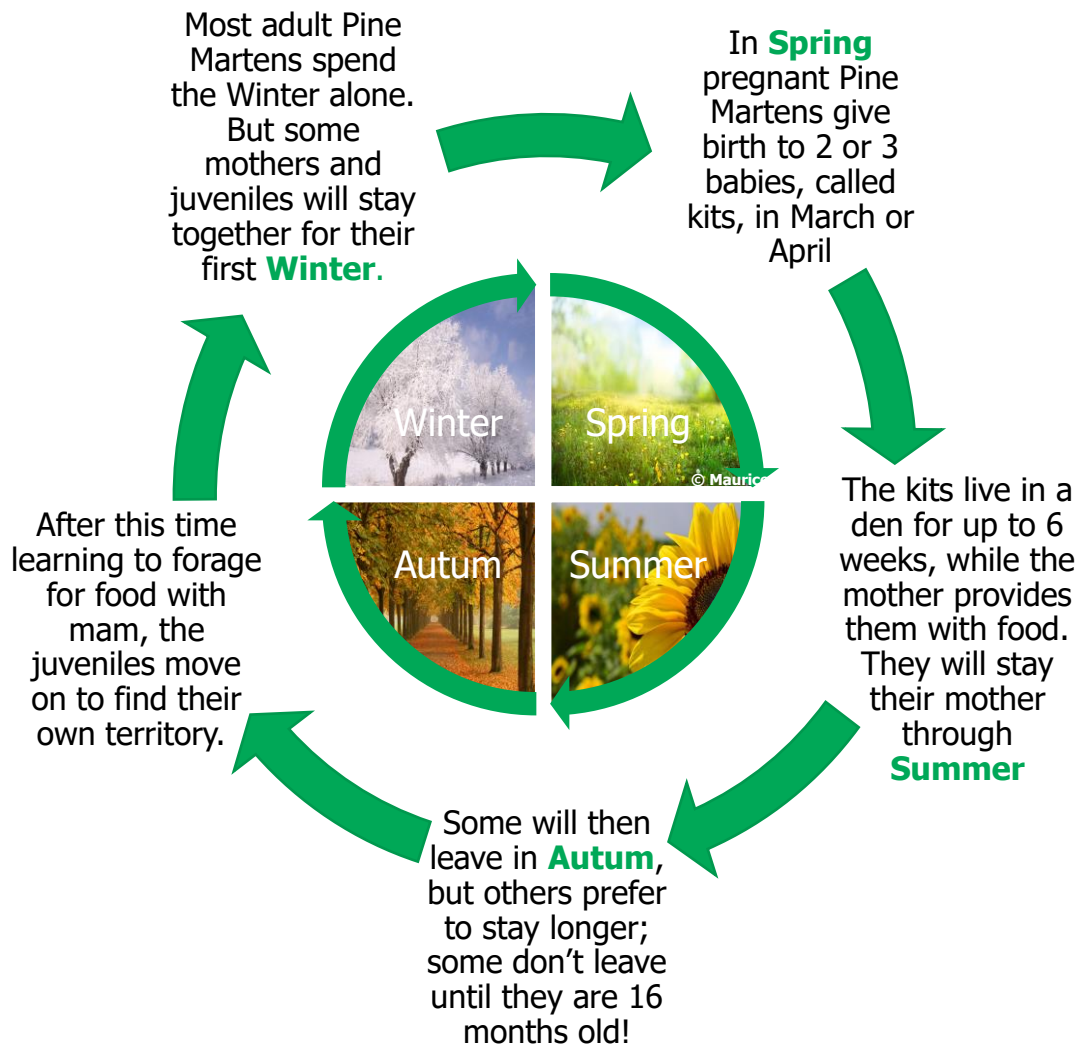


Pine Martens are omnivorous, which means they eat a variety of food including both plants and animals. Diet includes berries, fruits, small mammals, invertebrates, birds, birds eggs and frogs.



They can live up to 10 years, but usually only live up to 5 years in the wild. They are nocturnal animals meaning they mostly come out at night, but they sometimes can be seen during the day.

Pine Marten Life Cycle



Pine Marten

What about the Daddies?!

- Male Pine Martens live alone almost all year around.
- They hunt alone, and sleep alone in small shelters called 'refuges'.
- Refuges are usually found a few metres off the ground, in trees in the hedgerows and woodland.
- Adult males will spend only a short time with females in the summer, in order to breed.



Some more Facts:

- Its Irish name 'Cat Crainn' comes from the fact it is the same size as a cat and lives in trees.
- National Parks and Wildlife believe the Pine Marten population to be around 3000.
- It is one of Ireland's rarest native mammal species.
- Pine Martens breed just once a year, so the population is slow to grow.
- Pine Martens are related to the Badger, Otter and Stoat. Their coat is brown with a pale colour over the throat and chest. In summer, the coat becomes dark brown and in winter it becomes brighter and longer. They have a long bushy tail, and large feet and ears.
- The Pine Martens habitat is getting smaller with less forest, woodland and hedgerows than there was in Ireland's Past.
- We can help by planting more trees in school grounds and in our communities.

