

# Welcome to the Search for Lost Ladybugs!!!



Over the past twenty years several native ladybug species that were once very common have become extremely rare. During this same time some species of ladybugs from other places have greatly increased both their numbers and range. Were these key components of our local ecosystems displaced by other lady bugs introduced to control pests? How will the loss of native predators affect the control of agricultural pests? Can they be reestablished like the wolves of Yellowstone? What can we learn from the demise of native ladybugs that will help us to prevent the loss of other species?



## New York's Honored State Insect

The nine-spotted ladybug, *Coccinella novemnotata* (C-9), was once so common in New York and so respected for the great job it did controlling pests that it was proposed to be the state insect by a fourth grade student in 1985. Unfortunately, by the time C-9 was honored in 1989 a precipitous population decline had already begun. Less than 10 individuals are known to have been collected anywhere in the U.S. this century!



## You can help!

**We need you to be collectors and photographers!  
Citizen scientists!**

To be able to help the nine spotted ladybug and other ladybug species scientists need to have information on which species are still out there and how many individuals are around. But there are too few entomologists to search in enough places to find the really rare ones. We need you to be our legs, hands and eyes.

### Here is how the program will work:

1. Go out and collect ladybugs! ALL LADYBUGS!! Ladybugs can be found wherever there are aphids and small soft-bodied insects: grasses, small grains and legumes, bushes.
2. When you find ANY AND ALL LADYBUGS - cool them to slow them down, and then snap their photos!
3. To send the digital images go to [www.lostladybug.org](http://www.lostladybug.org) or send snapshots to: Lost Ladybug Project, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, along with the time, date, location, and habitat (e.g. garden, wild field, corn field etc.).

### The Penhales found a nine spotted ladybug!

Jilene (age 11) and Jonathan (age 10) Penhale found a nine spotted ladybug near their home in October 2006. This is the first one seen in the eastern U.S. in 14 years. Their finding confirmed that the species is not extinct and gave experts a place to start hunting.

**There may be a rare ladybug in your back yard right now !!!**



Please check our website to find our handy Field Guide, Beetle Photography Tips, how to make your own Sweep Net, more information and Kids Activities !!!  
<http://www.lostladybug.org>



Funded by the National Science Foundation

