

# GRUMMAN F4F WILDCAT

## WILDCAT SERVICE

**Manufacturers:** The Grumman Aircraft Engr. Corp, Bethpage, Long Is.,  
New York, USA  
General Motors Corp., Eastern Aircraft Division, Trenton,  
New Jersey, USA

**Models:** G-16, G-18, G-33, G-36, G-43, G-52, G-53

**Designations:** F4F; FM, F2M

**Names:** Wildcat; Wildcatfish (F4F-3S), Martlet (Royal Navy)

**First official flight:** XF4F-2      02 Sep 1937  
**Factory production period:** 1937 – 1945  
**Primary service period:** 1940 – 1945  
**Last official flight:** -                      1945

## WILDCAT VARIANTS

### Grumman

1937	<b>Model G-18</b>	<b>XF4F-2</b>	1	
1940	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>F4F-3</b>	285	
1940	<b>Model G-36A</b>	<b>Martlet Mk. I</b>	91	
1940	<b>Model G-36B</b>	<b>Martlet Mk. II</b>	100	
1941	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>F4F-3A</b>	95	
1941	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>XF4F-4</b>	1	
1941	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>F4F-4</b>	1169	
1942	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>Martlet Mk. IV</b>	220	
1940	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>XF4F-5</b>	2	
1940	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>XF4F-6</b>	1	
1941	<b>Model G-52</b>	<b>F4F-7</b>	21	
1942	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>XF4F-8</b>	2	<b>Total: 1988</b>

### General Motors

1942	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>FM-1</b>	1060	
1943	<b>Model G-36</b>	<b>FM-2</b>	4777	<b>Total: 5837</b>

**Total: 7825**

## WILDCAT PRODUCTION

### Grumman

*XF4F-1 – Model G-16 biplane fighter design, not built.*

## **XF4F-2**

*Prototype monoplane fighter, 2 nose guns, fixed wings, later upgraded to **XF4F-3**. produced 1937*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 0383                      356

1 **Total: 0001**

*Model G-33 – 1938, proposed engine upgrade, cancelled.*

## **F4F-3**

*As XF4F-3, 4 wing guns, minor changes, late production aircraft had engine upgrade. First 2 airframes retained for tests.*

*produced 1940 – 1943*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 1844, 1845              558, 559  
BuNo. 1848 / 1896          562 / 610  
BuNo. 2512 / 2538          616 / 642  
BuNo. 3856 / 3874          738 / 756  
BuNo. 3970 / 4057          852 / 939  
BuNo. 12230 / 12329        5890 / 5989

285 **Total: 0285**

## **Martlet Mk. I**

*As F4F-3, order for France, diverted to Royal Navy, fixed wings, 4 wing guns, engine upgrade. First 7 with US reg: NX-G1 / NX-G7. 81 delivered, last 10 lost at sea.*

*produced 1940*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
(RAF) AL231 / AL262        unknown  
(RAF) AX725 / AX747        unknown  
(RAF) AX753, AX754        unknown  
(RAF) AX761                  unknown  
(RAF) AX824 / AX829        unknown  
(RAF) BJ554 / BJ570        unknown  
(RAF) BT447 / BT456        unknown

91 **Total: 0091**

## **Martlet Mk. II**

*As Martlet Mk. I, order for Britain, similar to XF4F-4 with engine upgrade, folding wings, 6 wing guns. AM954 / AM963 with fixed wings, redesignated as **Martlet Mk. III**.*

*produced 1940 – 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
(RAF) AJ100 / AJ153        unknown  
(RAF) AM954 / AM999        unknown

100 **Total: 0100**

## **F4F-3A**

*As F4F-3, supercharged engine of **XF4F-6**. First 30 diverted from Greece to Royal Navy as **Martlet Mk. III**. Original designation was **F6F-6**. produced 1940 – 1941*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 3875 / 3969              757 / 851

95 **Total: 0095**

**XF4F-4**

*As F4F-3, hydraulic folding wings,  
6 wing guns, pilot armour.  
produced 1941*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 1897                      611

1 **Total: 0001**

**F4F-4**

*As XF4F-4, manual folding wings.  
produced 1941 – 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 4058 / 4098              940 / 980  
BuNo. 5030 / 5049              981 / 1000  
BuNo. 5050 / 5262              2001 / 2213  
BuNo. 01991 / 02152          3026 / 3187  
BuNo. 03385 / 03544          3190 / 3349  
BuNo. 11655 / 12227          unknown

1169 **Total: 1169**

*F4F-4A – Projected version with engine upgrade, cancelled.*

**Martlet Mk. IV**

*As F4F-4, Lend-Lease version for Royal  
Navy, engine upgrade. US designation  
F4F-4B.*

*produced 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
(RN) FN100 / FN319          unknown

220 **Total: 0220**

**XF4F-5**

*As F3F-3, factory converted with two  
separate engine upgrades.  
produced 1940*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 1846, 1847              560, 561

2 **Total: 0002**

**XF4F-6**

*As F3F-3, factory converted with engine  
upgrade, prototype to the F4F-3A.  
produced 1940*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 7031                      737

1 **Total: 0001**

**F4F-7**

*As F4F-4, unarmed photo reconn.  
version, fixed wings, autopilot.  
produced 1941 – 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 5263 / 5283              2214 / 2234

21 **Total: 0021**

**XF4F-8**

*As F4F-4, reduced weight, slotted flaps,  
engine upgrade, second airframe with  
tail tail.  
produced 1942*

Grumman Bethpage, New York (F)  
BuNo. 12228, 12229          unknown

2 **Total: 0002**

## General Motors

### FM-1

GM built version of the **F4F-4**, 4 wing guns.  
produced 1942 – 1943

General Motors Linden, New Jersey (M)

BuNo. 14992 / 15951 unknown

BuNo. 46738 / 46837 unknown

1060 **Total: 1060**

### FM-2

GM built version of the **XF4F-8**, tall tail, lower observation windows deleted, 4 wing guns, engine upgrade.

produced 1943 – 1945

General Motors Linden, New Jersey (M)

BuNo. 15952 / 16791 unknown

BuNo. 46838 / 47437 unknown

BuNo. 55050 / 55649 unknown

BuNo. 56684 / 57083 unknown

BuNo. 73499 / 75158 unknown

BuNo. 86297 / 86973 unknown

4777 **Total: 4777**

746 additional airframes cancelled.

*XF2M-1 – 1944, 3 prototypes with engine upgrade, cancelled on VJ Day.*

**Total: 7825**

## WILDCAT CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS

### US Navy

F4F-3P 18 17 F4F-3 / 1 F3F-3A, 1940, photo reconnaissance conversions.

### **F4F-3S Wildcatfish**

1 F4F-3 (BuNo. 4038), 1943, float plane, later with ventral stabilising fin.

F4F-4P 1+ F4F-4, photo reconnaissance conversions.

FM-2P 1+ FM-2, photo reconnaissance conversions.

### **(Model G-36) XF4F-3**

1 (Model G-18) XF4F-2, 1939, redesigned fixed wings, fuselage, tail section, engine upgrade. Proposal made to the Army as the **Model G-43**.

**Model G-53** 1 F4F-4 (BuNo. 5262), 1942, factory conversion, fixed wings, full span flaps.

### British Royal Navy

*Martlet name changed to **Wildcat** in 1944.*

**Martlet Mk. III** 40 10 Martlet Mk. II, 1941-1945, fixed wing version for Royal Navy. Assigned RN s/n: AM954 / AM963.

30 F4F-3A, 1941-1945, fixed wing order for Greece, diverted to Royal Navy in the Middle East.

Assigned RN s/n: AX733, AX824 / AX829, BJ507 / BJ527, HK841, HK842. Some s/n's duplicated with Martlet Mk. I.

**Martlet Mk. V** 312 FM-1, 1942-1945, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy. Assigned RN s/n: JV325 / JV636.

**Wildcat Mk. VI** 370 FM-2, 1944-1945, aircraft in service with the Royal Navy. Assigned RN s/n: JV637 / JV924, JW785 / JW836, JZ860 / JZ889.