

GOLDEN EAGLE

Aquila chrysaetos



- HABITAT -** Mountainous cliffs in open conifer forests
- RANGE -** Rarest breeding bird in New England; but migrants flying through Maine are often observed
- NESTING -** No known nesting in Maine since 1999; typically 2 eggs laid May-June on remote eyries (cliff ledges)
- DIET -** In Maine, wading birds such as great blue herons & bitterns are primary prey; make take rabbits & other larger mammals

Although numerous in the West, habitat limitations restrict golden eagle populations in the East. Historically, only 11 eyries have been recorded in Maine, and only 3 young goldens were produced here in the last 25 years. IFW currently works to protect suitable golden eagle nesting habitat.

STRIPED SKUNK

Mephitis mephitis



HABITAT : Semi-open country, mixed woods, brushland, urban and suburban areas

RANGE : Statewide, but more common in southern parts of Maine

DIET : Insects, grubs, berries, mice, eggs, and carrion

YOUNG : 4-7 kittens born in early May

Dens in earth burrows, beneath abandoned buildings, porches and sheds. Does not hibernate during winter months, and may become active during warm spells. Equipped with 2 scent glands capable of spraying an oily musk up to 10-15 feet. The great horned owl is a major predator of this species

PORCUPINE

Erethizon dorsatum

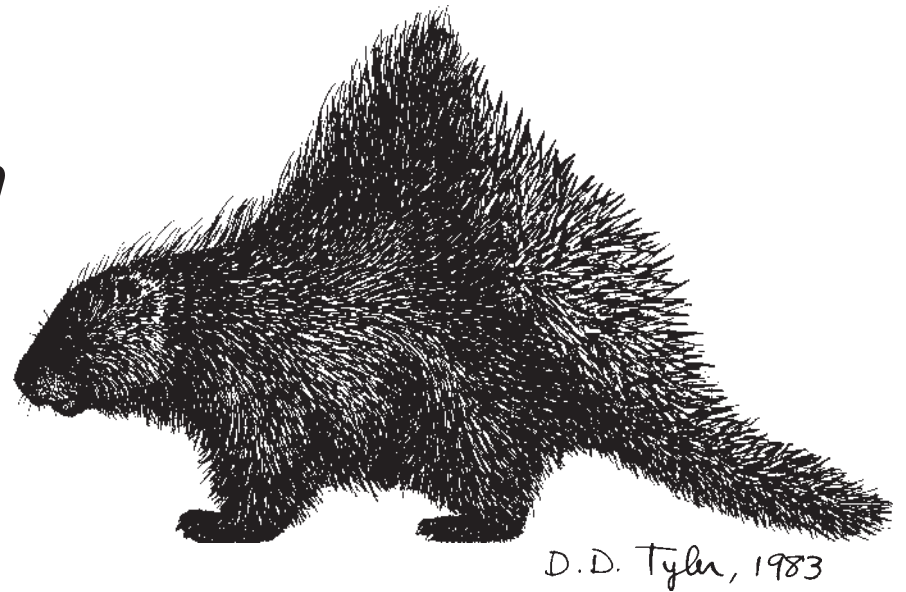
HABITAT: Forested areas

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Inner bark of hemlock trees; buds and small twigs, pine needles; very fond of salt

YOUNG: 1 kit born in April or May

Usually dens in hollow trees or natural caves in rock ledges. Does not hibernate, but may become inactive in winter. An adult averages 30,000 quills on its body, but cannot throw them as commonly believed.



BARRED OWL

Strix varia



HABITAT - Hardwood forests, particularly in wet or swampy areas

RANGE - Statewide

DIET - Small mammals, birds, frogs, and crayfish

VOICE - Eight accented hoots (hence the nickname "Eight Hooter") in two groups of four:
HooHoo-HooHoo...HooHoo-HooHooaw.

This is an owl with a puffy round head and large brown eyes, (all other owls except the Barn Owl have yellow eyes). Crosswise bars on the breast and lengthwise streaks on the belly help to identify this bird in the field. Barred owls are often seen around backyard bird feeding stations in winter; hunting for squirrels and small birds.

GREAT HORNED OWL

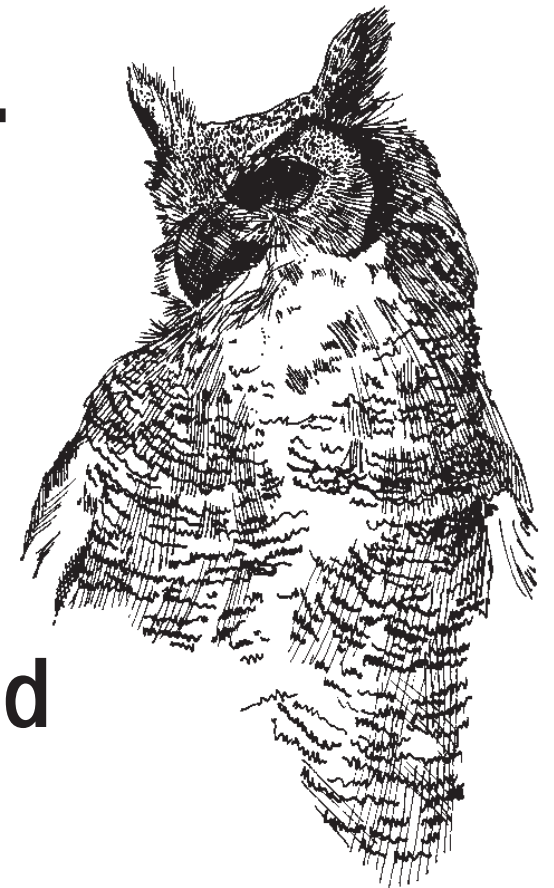
Bubo virginianus

HABITAT - Woodland

RANGE - Statewide

DIET - Small mammals, birds, and insects

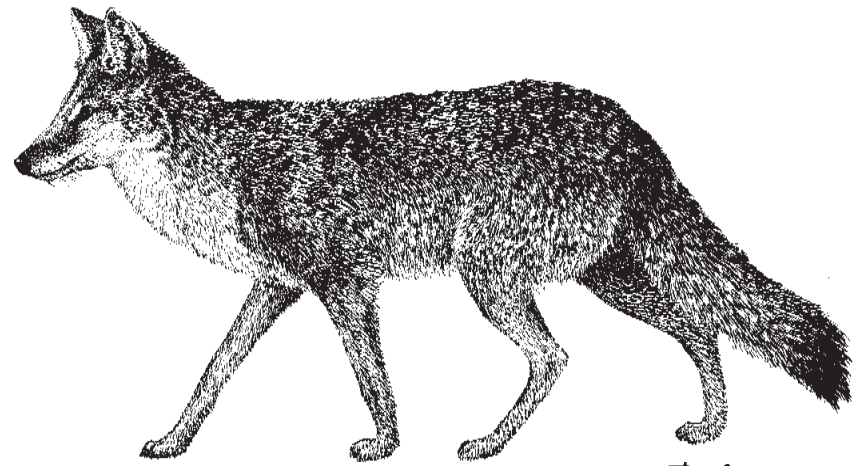
VOICE - Usually five monotoned hoots in this rythym: Hoo, HooHoo, Hoo, Hoo



The only large owl, nearly two feet in length, with ear tufts, or 'horns'. Has a conspicuous white throat collar and yellow eyes. Fluffy plumage makes their flight nearly soundless. Skunks are a favorite food !

COYOTE

Canis latrans



D.D. Tyler, 1983

HABITAT - Generally associated with open areas, but found in forests, farmland, suburbs and cities

RANGE - Statewide

DIET - Will eat almost anything animal or vegetable; food predominantly small rodents and rabbits

YOUNG - 5-10 born in April or May

Prior to 1900, the coyote's range was restricted to areas west of the Mississippi River. Since that time, it has expanded to many of the southeastern states and New England. In most areas, coyote numbers are increasing despite liberal hunting seasons.

RACCOON

Procyon lotor



HABITAT: Woodland, farmland, along streams
rivers, wetlands; and in suburbia

RANGE: Statewide; more common in southern and
central areas

DIET: Fruits, nuts, grains, frogs, crayfish, eggs

YOUNG: 2-7 kits born April-May

The raccoon is an opportunistic omnivore, eating just about anything edible! Will raid cornfields and poultry yards. Does not hibernate, but becomes inactive during the winter months, often sleeping deeply for days at a time.

RED SQUIRREL

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus



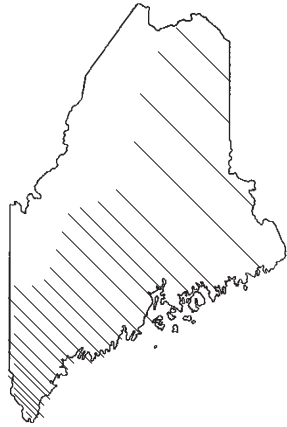
HABITAT: Coniferous, mixed, or hardwood forest; pine plantations; in or around buildings

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Pine cones, acorns, beechnuts, berries, mushrooms, eggs

YOUNG: 3-7 born in late March-April; sometimes a second litter born in late summer

The smallest tree squirrel in its range, it is noted for a loud chatter of various notes and chucks. This squirrel has a decided taste for meat, and will eat eggs and prey upon young birds. May cut and cache up to a bushel of pine cones at a time.



EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL

Sciurus carolinensis



HABITAT - Hardwood forests with oak and beech trees; suburbs, city parks

RANGE - Primarily southern and central Maine

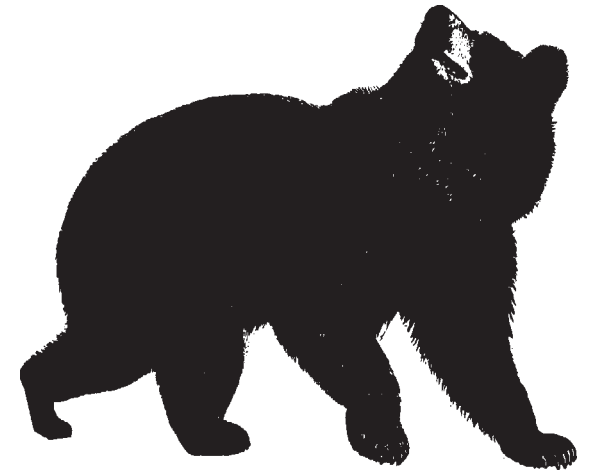
DIET - A variety of nuts, seeds, mushrooms and fruits

YOUNG - 3-5 young born in February-March and July-September; 2 litters/year common

Seldom found far from trees. Nests in tree holes or builds a leaf nest in tree tops, usually 25 feet or more above the ground. Helpful as a reforestation agent by 'planting' nuts for winter food supplies. Fond of bird seed and a nuisance at bird feeding stations.

BLACK BEAR

Ursus americanus



HABITAT - Heavily forested areas

RANGE - Statewide; more common in northern Maine

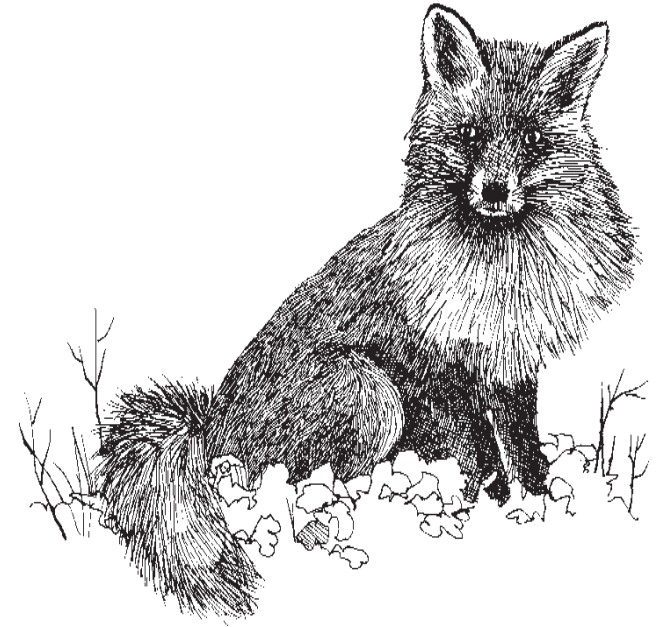
DIET Berries, nuts, insects, small mammals, eggs, honey, and carrion

YOUNG - 1-3 born in January or February while the mother is in her winter den

Shy, but opportunistic feeders, bears will feed at dumps or around camping areas where garbage is left out . An important game animal, but can cause damage to bee hives, livestock, and cornfields. Bears undergo a period of semi-hibernation during the winter.

RED FOX

Vulpes vulpes



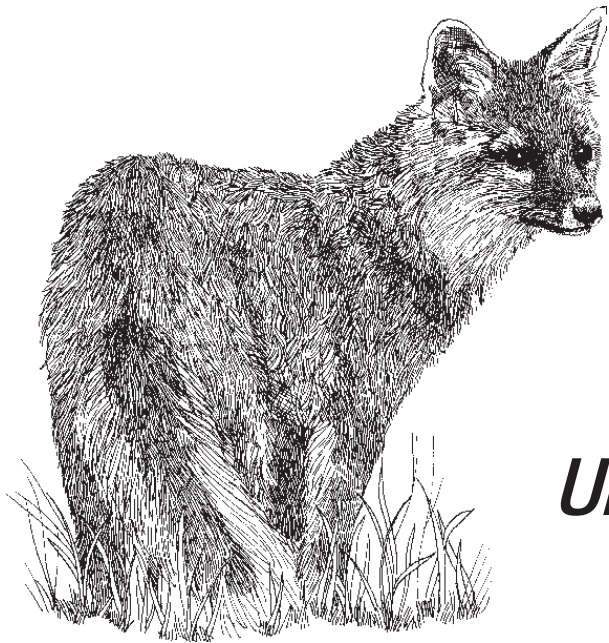
HABITAT: Varied; farmland, mixed cultivated and wooded areas, brushlands; suburbs

RANGE : Statewide

DIET : Berries, apples, acorns, mice, rabbits, squirrels, grasshoppers and other insects, crayfish

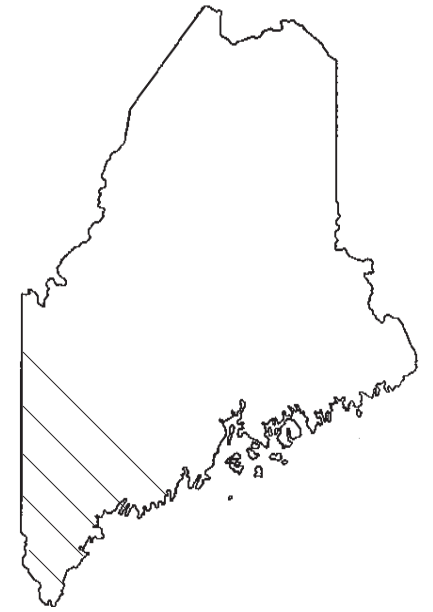
YOUNG : 4-8 pups born in late March-May

Although fairly common, the red fox is shy, nervous, and primarily nocturnal, making it somewhat difficult to observe in the wild. Active year-round.



GRAY FOX

Urocyon cinereoargenteus



HABITAT: Wooded areas and brushlands

RANGE: Southern Maine

DIET: Small mammals such as rabbits, mice, voles; also birds, insects, fruits and nuts

YOUNG : 3-7 kits born in April or May

Found only in the southern part of Maine, this fox will often seek shelter in hollow logs or trees, and under rock piles during winter months. The only fox that readily climbs trees. Primarily nocturnal.

WOODCHUCK

Marmota monax



HABITAT: Fields, forest edge, and open woods

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Green plants, including grasses, clover, and alfalfa

YOUNG: Two to six, born in April or May

Woodchucks live in dens at the end of burrows 20 to 30 feet long and four or five feet underground. These burrows usually have two or more entrances. Woodchucks are 'true hibernators' and hibernate from October to February. This animal gives an alarm 'whistle' when danger is sensed.

MOUNTAIN LION

Felis concolor



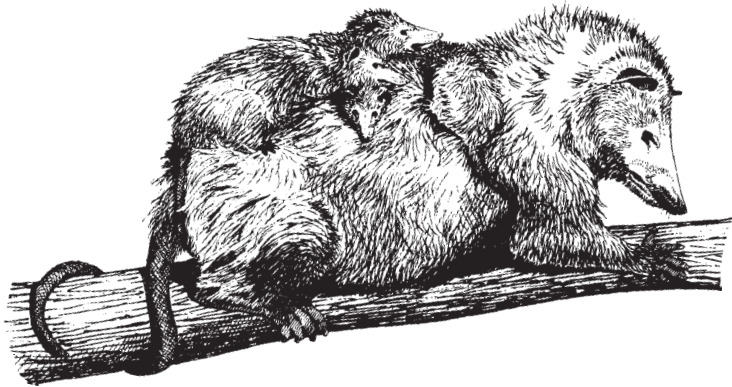
HABITAT: Hilly northern forests, mountainous semi-arid terrain, subtropical forests, and swamps

RANGE: Western N. America, TX, LA, AL, S. FLA, Maritime Provinces, N. New England

DIET: Prefers deer, but will take beaver, hare, mice, raccoon, and birds

YOUNG: 1-6 kittens born mid summer. Kittens stay with female for 1-2 years

Eliminated from Maine before the turn of the century, there is no known breeding population in the state. Unconfirmed sightings of lone cougars have been reported with increasing frequency in the past few years.



VIRGINIA OPOSSUM

Didelphis virginiana

HABITAT: Open woods, farmland, suburban & urban areas

RANGE: Southern - Central Maine

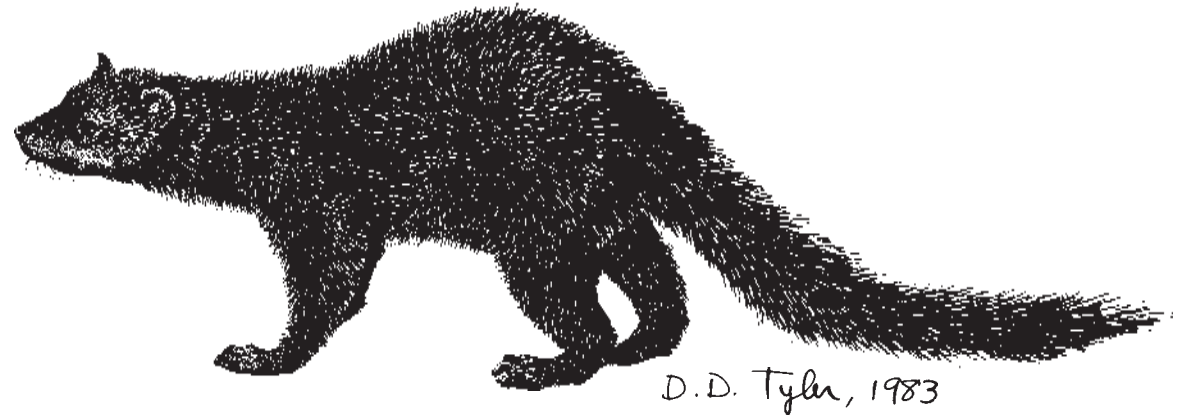
DIET: Insects, frogs, birds, snakes, fruits, berries, carrion; apples, and corn are favored

YOUNG: 5-13 young born in an extremely undeveloped stage and remain in mother's pouch for 60 days

The opossum has extended its range northward to Maine, and was formerly not found here. A 'marsupial', or mammal with a pouch for sheltering young, the opossum is known for 'playing dead' when threatened. Its hairless ears and tail are very susceptible to frostbite.

FISHER

Martes pennanti



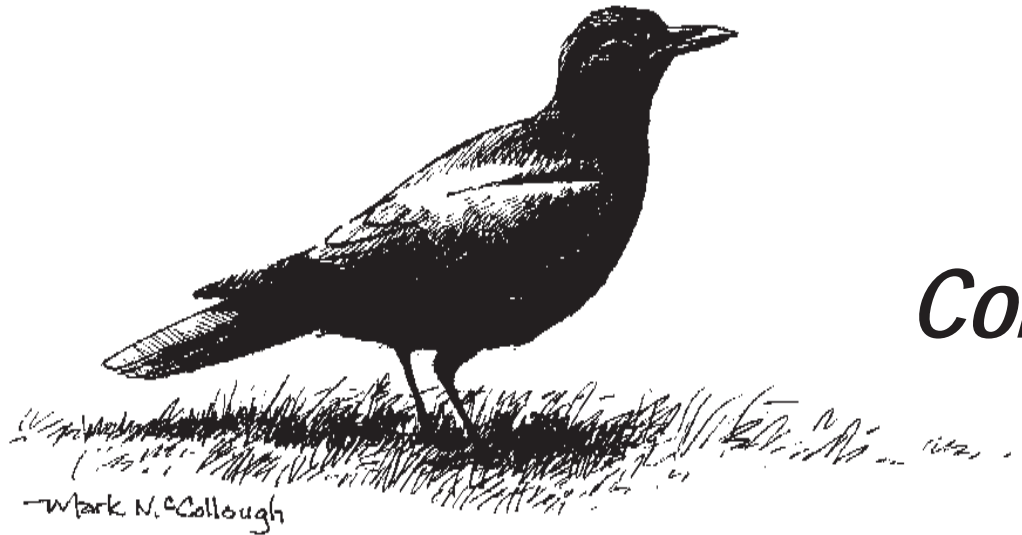
HABITAT: Mature coniferous forests and mixed hardwood-softwood areas

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Snowshoe hare, porcupine, mice, chipmunks, carrion and fruit

YOUNG: 1-5 born in March-April

One of the few predators capable of killing porcupines and escaping the damaging quills. A valuable furbearer, their historic range was drastically reduced by past forest practice. Today, fisher are abundant; and are often blamed for preying on house cats. Despite their name, they do not 'fish'.



CROW

Corvus brachyrhynchos

HABITAT: Fields and open woodland

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Insects, small birds and mammals, eggs, fruit and carrion

VOICE: Loud distinctive 'caw' or 'cah'

About one half the size of the raven, this birds soars with wingtips 'bent upward', and exhibits a squared-off tail. Often seen in large flocks during spring and fall, feeding on field grains, grasshoppers and cutworms. Has been known to mimic the human voice.

RAVEN

Corvus corax

HABITAT - Woodland and coastal areas

RANGE - Statewide

DIET - Insects, small birds and mammals, eggs, and carrion

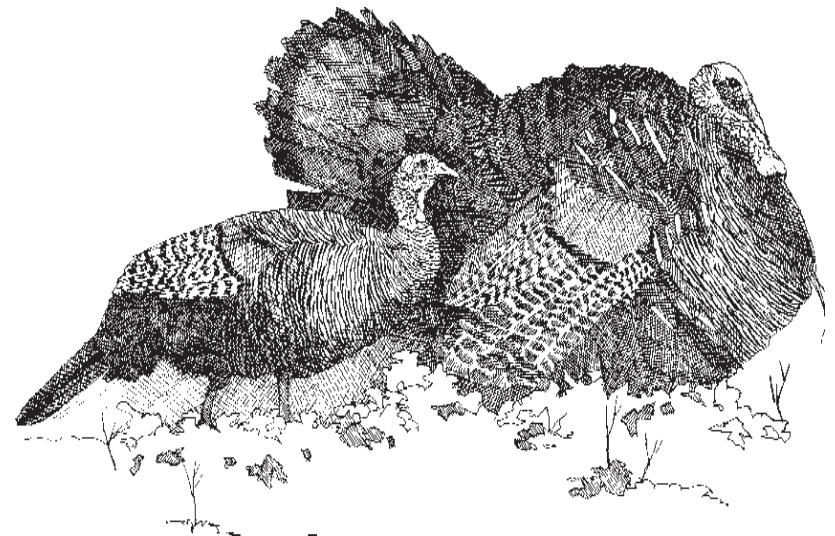
VOICE - A very loud croak: "cr-r-ruck" or "pruk"

Nearly twice as large as the crow, the raven has a shaggy throat and heavy bill. Unlike the crow, the raven soars on horizontal wings, and will alternate flapping and soaring. Look for a wedge-shaped tail. Often seen feeding on road kill.



WILD TURKEY

Meleagris gallopavo



HABITAT: Open hardwood forests, wooded swamps, and farmland

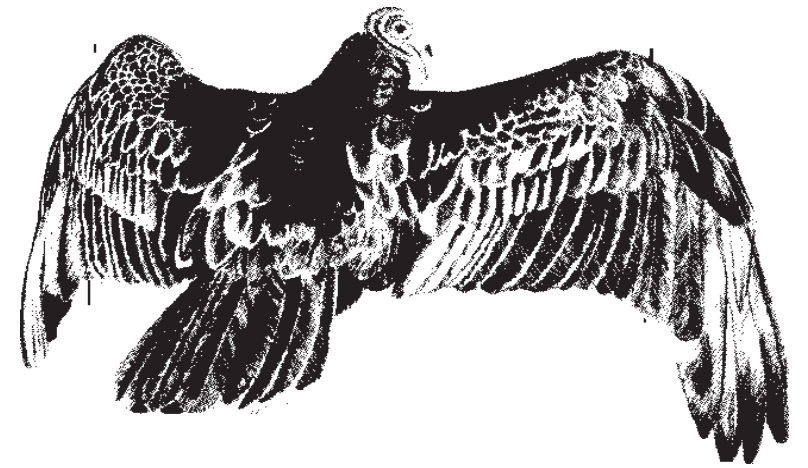
RANGE: reintroduced to southern and central areas, its range includes downeast and northern Maine a

DIET: Insects, fruits, seeds, burdocks, nuts

Historically, turkeys were once common along coastal sections of York and Cumberland counties. Habitat alterations and unregulated hunting eliminated them from much of their former range by the late 1800s. In 1978, 41 wild turkeys from Vermont were released in York County as part of a successful transplant program. Since then, the Maine population has grown, and wild turkeys have established populations in Washington County, western areas, and north to Millinocket and beyond.

TURKEY VULTURE

Cathartes aura



HABITAT: Fields and open woodland

RANGE: Gulf states to Maine. Has been seen with increasing frequency statewide over the past several years.

DIET: Almost entirely scavengers; feeds on carrion, refuse, and small animals

NESTS: Hollow stumps, rock ledges, or directly on the ground; 1-3 dull white eggs

These birds have 6-foot wingspans. Often seen soaring on thermal air currents with wings in a characteristic 'V' silhouette. Featherless heads and a hooked bill aid in consuming carrion. Often roost together in large flocks in the evenings. Commonly seen soaring over roads and fields.



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL

Aegolus acadicus

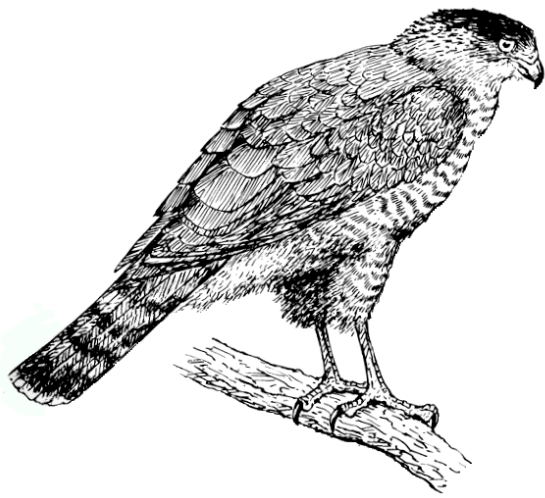
HABITAT: Dense coniferous or mixed forests, tamarack bogs, wooded swamps

RANGE: Statewide, although may winter south

DIET: Small mammals, birds

VOICE: Monotonous, single whistled note

Only 8" tall, this bird is active at night, and roosts by day. Although difficult to locate, once found, they can be closely approached. In winter, look for preferred roosts in dense evergreens-often given away by large piles of regurgitated pellets at the base of a tree.



COOPERS HAWK

Accipiter cooperii

HABITAT: Deciduous/mixed dense woodland;
scattered woodlots-open fields

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Prefers small birds; will take small
mammals, insects and amphibians

YOUNG: 4-5 young hatch early in May-June

A bit larger than a Sharp-shinned Hawk, this colorful hawk has swift and dashing flight in pursuit of its prey. Its long tail makes it highly maneuverable - essential for chasing and capturing small birds in thick forests and brush.

MOOSE

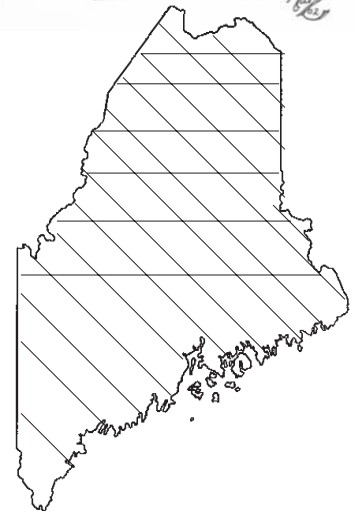
Alces alces



HABITAT - Forests with young stands, lakes, swamps, clearcuts

RANGE - Statewide, but more numerous in northern parts of Maine

DIET - A browser; feeds mainly on twigs and buds in winter; eats leaves, twigs and aquatic plants during the summer



YOUNG - 1-2 calves born in May or June

Largest antlered animal in the world, with males weighing from 850-1300 lbs., females from 600-800 lbs. Also tallest mammal in all the Americas, standing 5-6 1/2 feet to the shoulder. Male sheds antlers annually in December-February. A good swimmer.



WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus

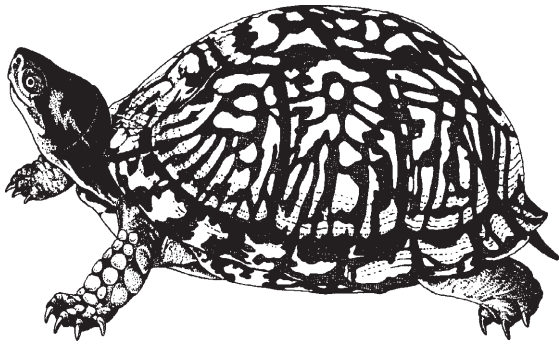
HABITAT: Forests, swamps, old farmland

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: A browser; eating twigs, leaves, grasses; fruits and nuts in season

YOUNG: 1-3 fawns born in late May-June

The most important big-game animal in the East. Can do considerable damage to young orchards, vegetable crops, and its own habitat if populations are not controlled. Can run 35-40 mph, jump 30 feet horizontally, and easily clear a vertical 8 foot barrier.



BOX TURTLE

Terrapene c. carolina

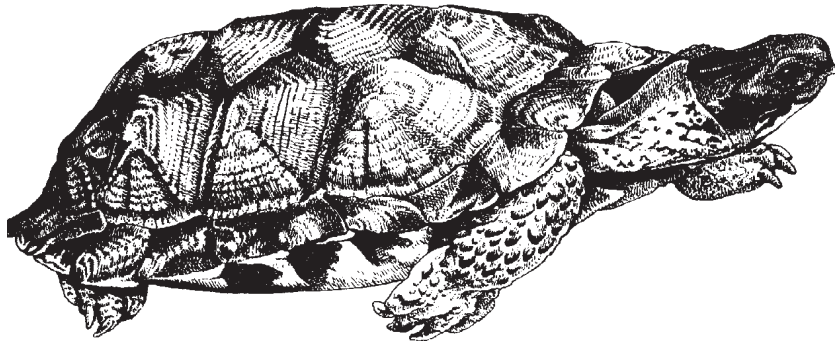
HABITAT: Woodlands, field edges, marshes, pastures, and bogs

RANGE: Extreme southern Maine

DIET: Younger turtles mainly carnivorous; matures more herbivorous; eats worms, slugs, snails, insects, crayfish, snakes, grass, berries, and fungi

YOUNG: 3-8 eggs deposited in June or July; eggs hatch August to September

Listed as a Maine endangered species, the box turtle is perhaps our rarest species. Habitat loss and over-collecting are believed to be the major threats to this species. Box turtles can live to be over 100 years old!



WOOD TURTLE

Clemmys insculpta

HABITAT: Slow-moving, meandering streams; moves from water sources during summer months to fields and woods

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Grass, moss, mushrooms, berries, insects, worms, tadpoles and fish

YOUNG: 4-12 eggs produced in May or June; eggs hatch in August or September

Once common, populations are declining due to development of their preferred habitat, (wooded stream banks), and commercial collection for the pet trade (against the law). May live in large groups or colonies, and uses streams and rivers as well as forest habitats for foraging.



MUSKRAT

Ondatra zibethicus

HABITAT: Marshes, shallow parts of lakes, ponds, drainage ditches; waters with abundant cattails

RANGE: Found throughout Maine

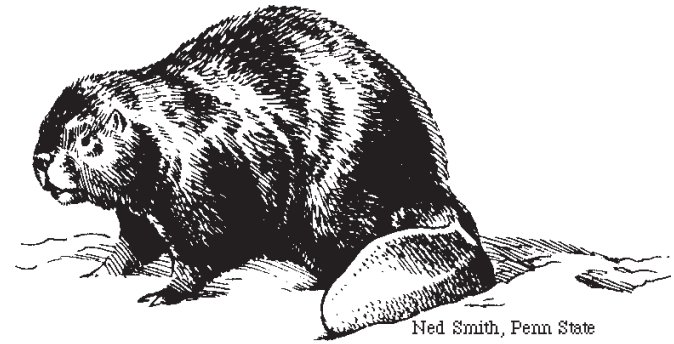
DIET: Cattails, reeds, pondweeds, water lilies, freshwater clams

YOUNG: Young born mid April/May; June/July typically 5-6 kits produced

Constructs a dome-shaped chamber of weeds over the water, or digs a den in banks of ponds or ditches. Mainly nocturnal, but often seen during the day; active throughout the year.

BEAVER

Castor canadensis



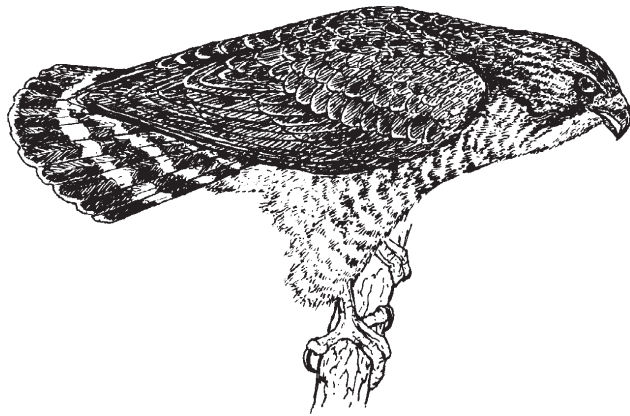
HABITAT: Small to large slowly flowing brooks, streams or rivers that are usually bordered by woodland

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Bark of deciduous trees such as poplar, alder, willow, birch, and maple, as well as aquatic vegetation and grasses

YOUNG: Typically 3-5 young are born mid-May to early June

Common throughout the state, beavers swim with webbed hind feet up to 6 mph, and can remain under water for up to 15 minutes. Pairs are believed to mate for life, and the young may take to the water a 1/2 hour after birth. Dam building and repair is almost constant.



BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Buteo platypterus

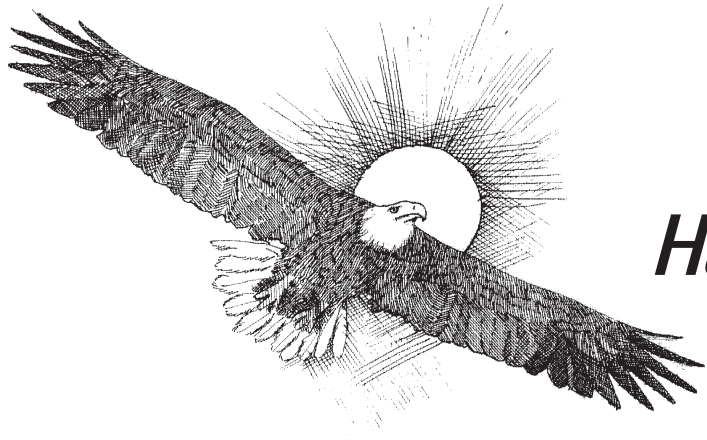
HABITAT: Prefers large tracts of deciduous and mixed dry forests, away from humans

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Shrews, mice, snakes, insects, birds

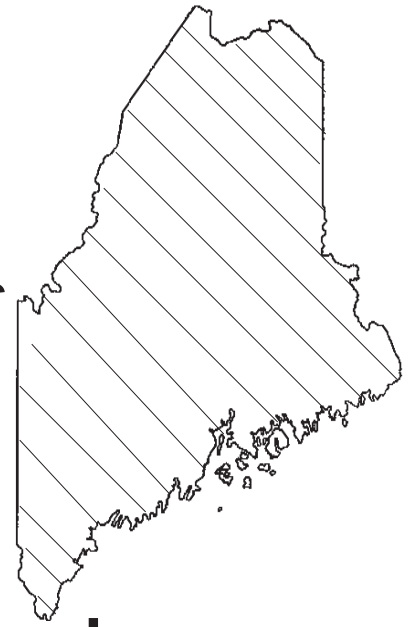
YOUNG: 1-4 young hatch May-June

Best known for its spectacular migration flights, when thousands of individuals travel to nesting sites in spring, and wintering locations in fall. Builds its nest high in the forest canopy, choosing the largest tree in the area. Seems to prefer to nest along untraveled woods roads in New England.



BALD EAGLE

Haliaeetus leucocephalus



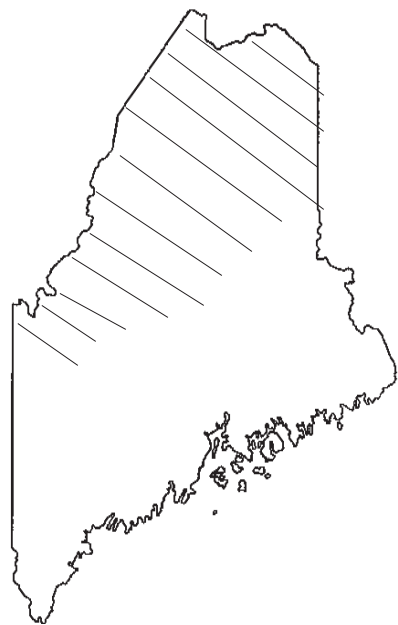
HABITAT: Forested areas near large water bodies; coastal areas and islands

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Fish, small mammals, ducks, carrion

YOUNG: Breeding season begins in early March; typically 1-3 eggs produced; hatching after 35 days of incubation.

A threatened species both here and nationally, Maine has had an aggressive management program for bald eagles since 1976; resulting in a steady increase in our resident eagle population with well over 300 nesting pairs.



LYNX

Felis lynx



HABITAT: Deep woods, extensive unbroken forests well removed from human activity; favors swamps, bogs, or rocky areas

RANGE: Northern & western Maine

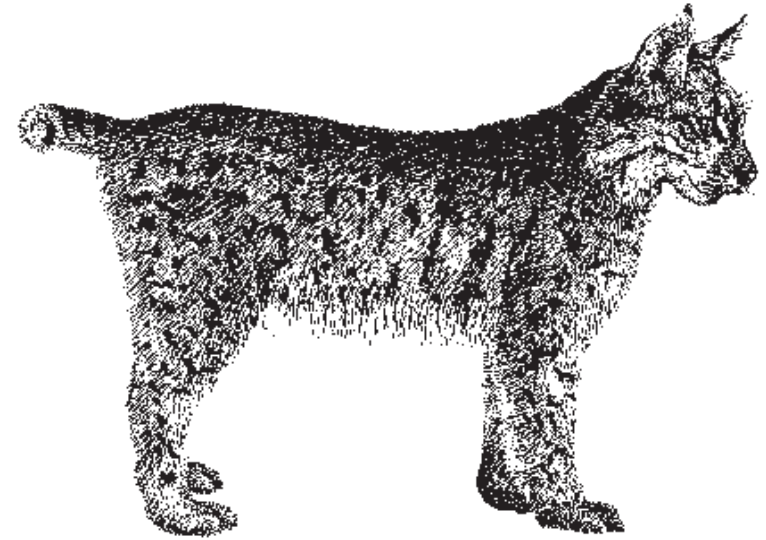
DIET: Snowshoe hare; rodents, ground birds

YOUNG: 1-4 young born May to early June

Nocturnal and solitary, lynx are active throughout the year. Large, thickly furred feet permit silent stalking, speed through soft snow, and help make this cat an excellent swimmer. Its populations are cyclic, and parallel that of the snowshoe hare, its primary prey. A threatened species in Maine.

BOBCAT

Lynx rufus



D.D. Tyler, 1983

HABITAT: Scrubby country and broken forests; can adapt to swamps and farmland

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Snowshoe hare, rodents, porcupines, birds and deer

YOUNG: 2-4 kits born in late April or May

Bobcats are secretive, shy, solitary, and seldom seen in the wild. Its mottled coat provides excellent camouflage. Will den in a hollow log or rock ledge, and often rests on a low branch or boulder, waiting to pounce on passing prey.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

Buteo lagopus



HABITAT: Open ground and mountains; hunts over fields, along rivers, and over marshes

RANGE: Most commonly seen in Maine in winter; does not breed here

DIET: Mice, meadow voles and other rodents, small hares and rabbit, carrion

YOUNG: Breeds above treeline on open Arctic tundra

Named 'rough-legged' for its completely feathered legs, these are birds of open country and tundra. They have small feet and beaks compared to other 'buteos'. Females are larger than the males. Their wingspan runs from 48" to 56". May be observed hovering in the air and perching on small trees and branches.

RED-TAILED HAWK



Buteo jamaicensis

HABITAT: Deciduous and mixed woodlands interspersed with fields, brushy pastures, open bogs and swampy areas

RANGE: Breeds throughout Maine; many migrate south in winter

DIET: Mice, chipmunks, squirrels, snakes, insects, and carrion

YOUNG: Breeding season begins in late April; typically 2-3 eggs produced; hatch after 28 days of incubation.

This is a large, stocky bird with a whitish breast, a belly band of short, dark streaks, and a rust-colored tail. It soars on broad wings over open country, or perches in trees or fenceposts at the edges of fields and roads in search of prey.

ERMINE

Mustela erminea



HABITAT: Wooded or open country with thickets, rock piles or other heavy cover; often close to watercourses

RANGE: Found throughout Maine

DIET: Mice, chipmunks, squirrels, moles and shrews; occasional birds or insects

YOUNG: Young born mid April to early May; typically 6-7 kits produced

Dens are often below ground under fallen trees or stumps. This small mammal is nocturnal and active throughout the year, and molts to its distinctive white coat throughout the Northeast in winter .



D.D. Tyler, 1983

MINK

Mustela vison

HABITAT : Generally near wetland areas such as marshes, lakes, and streams. Will travel considerable distances away from water while hunting.

RANGE : Statewide

DIET : Small mammals, birds, eggs, frogs, crayfish, and fish

YOUNG: 2-8 kits born in April or May

Often dens along the banks of streams or lakes. Mink swim very well, even hunting in the water. Spends up to 90% of its activity period in pursuit of prey. One of our most valuable furbearers.

AMERICAN KESTREL

Falco sparverius

HABITAT: Open country, suburban and city areas

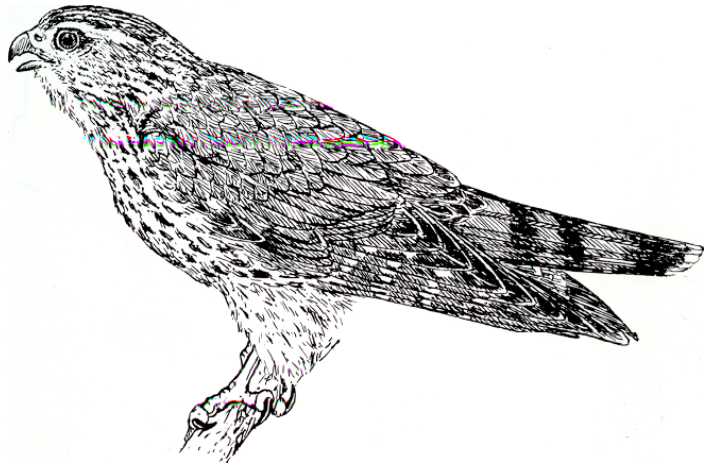
RANGE: Statewide; more common in central and southern parts of Maine; migrates south for the winter

DIET: Grasshoppers, dragonflies, mice, voles, snakes, and small birds

VOICE: Loud, shrill, 'killy killy killy'



Smallest, most common, and most colorful of our falcons. Characteristically hovers over prey before plunging upon it. Indiginous to all 50 states. Often seen perching on telephone wires.



MERLIN

Falco columbarius

HABITAT: Open coniferous forest, marshes, beaches, and fields in migration

RANGE: Uncommon statewide

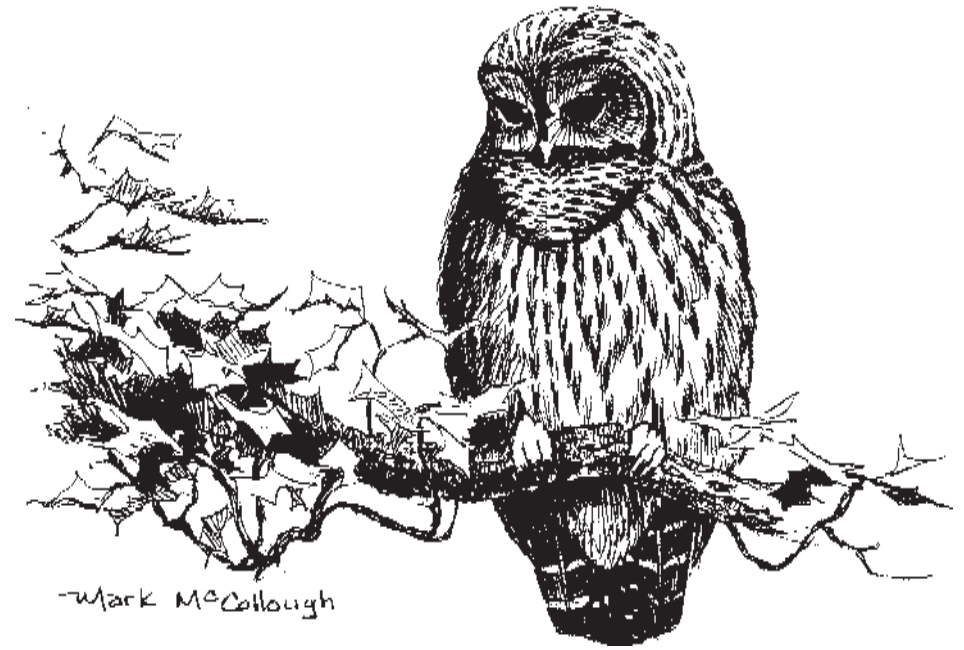
DIET: Prefers small birds; will take small mammals and insects

YOUNG: 4-5 young hatch early in May-June

Formerly called the 'pigeon hawk', this little falcon is swift and aggressive, harassing larger hawks and gulls and feeding on smaller songbirds. Often visible as a migrant along our larger rivers and coastal marshes.

BARRED OWL

Strix varia



HABITAT: Hardwood forests,
particularly in wet or swampy areas

RANGE: Statewide

DIET: Small mammals, birds, frogs, and crayfish

VOICE: Eight accented hoots (hence the nickname
"Eight Hooter") in two groups of four:
HooHoo-HooHoo.. HooHoo-HooHooaw.

The owl with the puffy round head and large brown eyes,
(all others except the Barn Owl have yellow eyes). Crosswise
bars on the breast and lengthwise streaks on the belly help
to identify this bird in the field.

PEACOCK

Pavo cristatus



HABITAT: Open dry forest country; on ground by day and perch at night

RANGE: India, Ceylon, and Malay Peninsula

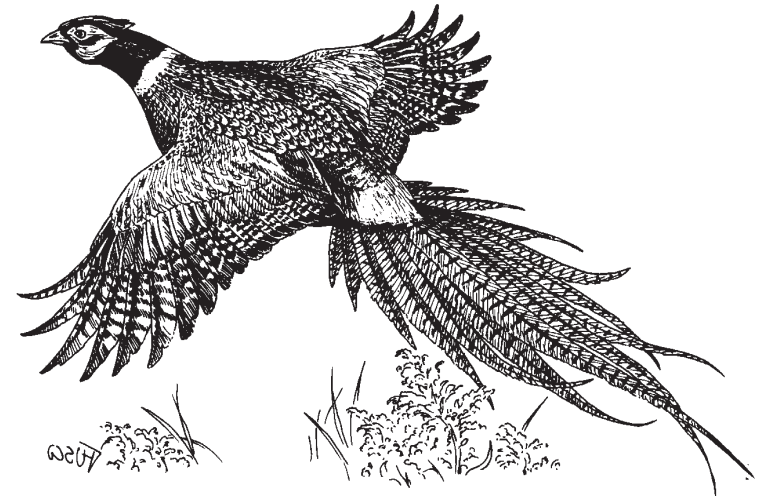
NESTING: Hen builds nest of sticks & leaves under a bush & lays dozens of eggs; female incubates eggs for 28 days & cares for chicks

WILD DIET: grasses, grains, buds, berries, flowers, vegetables, frogs, mice, lizards, snakes

Enemies in the wild are tigers and leopards. Peacocks are prized pets in India, keeping the cobra population down by eating young snakes. They are good watch birds because of their noisy alarm calls. The average peacock's train contains more than 200 feathers. The 'eye' of the fan feathers are believed to have magical powers.

RINGNECK PHEASANT

Phasianus colchicus



HABITAT: Open cultivated fields, bushy pastures, hedgerows

RANGE: Southern to central Maine

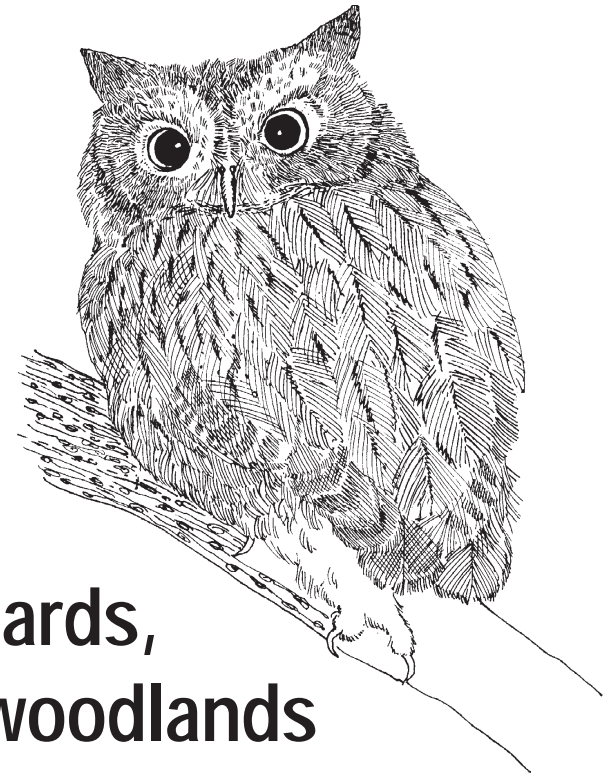
NESTING: Typically 6-15 eggs produced May-July; incubation 25 days; nest site on the ground in hay fields or brushy pastures

DIET: Grains, weed seeds, buds, fruits, insects

Pheasants are native to China, and were first introduced to the northeast US from England as early as 1733. Ringnecks are not well adapted to Maine winters, and few are able to survive. Chicks are reared and released each year by cooperators to maintain a limited hunting season. A pheasant stamp must be purchased in order to pursue pheasants in York and Cumberland counties.

EASTERN SCREECH OWL

Otus asio



HABITAT: Shade trees in towns, orchards, small woodlots and open woodlands

RANGE: Uncommon to rare in southern to central Maine

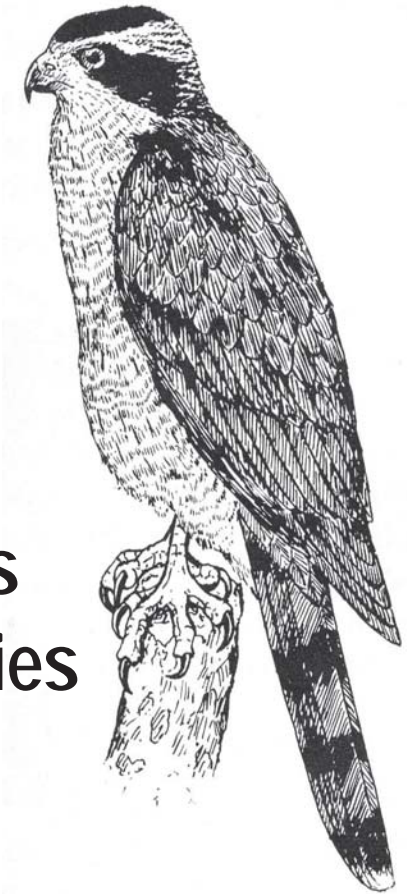
NESTING: Typically 4-5 eggs produced April- May; incubation 22 days; nest sites in natural tree cavities or abandoned woodpecker holes.

DIET: Mice, large insects, small birds, and reptiles

Screech owls defend their nests fearlessly, and will strike unsuspecting humans in the head if they pass by at night. When discovered during the day, the little owl will freeze upright and depend on their coloration to blend in with the tree to try to escape detection.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK

Accipiter gentilis



HABITAT: Mature coniferous & mixed forests with large trees & open understories

RANGE: Uncommon to rare resident, but lately increasing numbers

NESTING: Typically 3-4 eggs; nest placed in tree crotch or on a limb close to tree trunk at bottom of the forest canopy

DIET: Small/medium birds (staple) and mammals

Quick, agile and persistent in pursuit of prey, goshawks hunt from a perch or while airborne. Known for their tenacious nest defense, goshawks will even fly and strike at humans if they unknowingly enter the bird's nesting territory.

COMMON LOON

Gavia immer



HABITAT: Summer-large and small freshwater lakes in open and densely forested areas; winters in coastal bays and inlets from Maine south to Florida.

RANGE: Statewide

NESTING: Typically 2 eggs produced in late May-June; incubation 29 days; nest site at water's edge on small islands, peninsulas, protected bays and inlets.

DIET: Fish, frogs, insects, aquatic plants, mussels, snails

VOICE: Famous for their haunting wails, loud tremolos, and night chorusing

THREATS: Nest predators like raccoons, high speed jet skis and motorboats run over or separate young from adults; high water levels flood nests; ingesting lead tackle poisons birds

ATTENTION!!

Some children and adults have experienced severe allergic reactions to deer saliva.

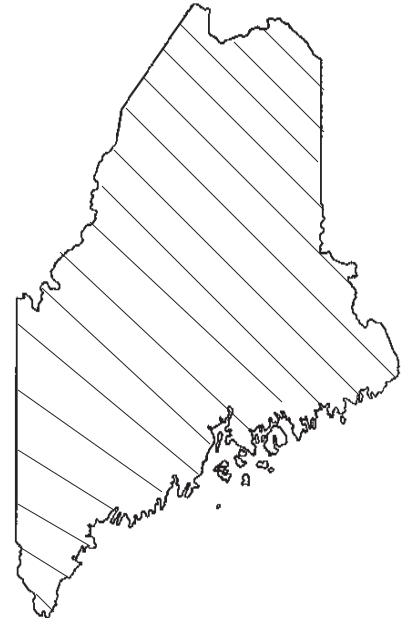
For this reason, DO NOT pet the deer.

Please be respectful and stay outside the wood round rail fence.



SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

Accipiter striatus



HABITAT: Open mixed or coniferous woodlands, clearings and edges

RANGE: Breeds in northern Maine; becoming more common throughout the state

DIET: Small birds and mammals

YOUNG: Breeding season begins in early May; typically 4-5 eggs produced; hatch after 21-24 days of incubation.

These are the commonest of accipiters- hawks with short, broad wings and long tails. They are often seen in large numbers during spring and fall migrations; and more and more frequently preying on small birds at our back yard feeding stations.

RED-TAILED HAWK



Buteo jamaicensis

HABITAT: Deciduous and mixed woodlands interspersed with fields, brushy pastures, open bogs and swampy areas

RANGE: Breeds throughout Maine; many migrate south in winter

DIET: Mice, chipmunks, squirrels, snakes, insects, and carrion

YOUNG: Breeding season begins in late April; typically 2-3 eggs produced; hatch after 28 days of incubation.

This is a large, stocky bird with a whitish breast, a belly band of short, dark streaks, and a rust-colored tail. It soars on broad wings over open country, or perches in trees or fenceposts at the edges of fields and roads in search of prey.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

Buteo lagopus



HABITAT: Open ground and mountains; hunts over fields, along rivers, and over marshes

RANGE: Most commonly seen in Maine in winter; does not breed here

DIET: Mice, meadow voles and other rodents, small hares and rabbit, carrion

YOUNG: Breeds above treeline on open Arctic tundra

Named 'rough-legged' for its completely feathered legs, these are birds of open country and tundra. They have small feet and beaks compared to other 'buteos'. Females are larger than the males. Their wingspan runs from 48" to 56". May be observed hovering in the air and perching on small trees and branches.