



Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

284 State St., 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04330 207-287-8000



Friday, August 31, 2012

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

The Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project (MARAP) -

Written by Phillip deMaynadier, Reptile-Amphibian-Invertebrate Group Leader

Amphibians and reptiles have several life history characteristics that make them more sensitive to certain threats than other vertebrates, including low mobility, extreme site fidelity, a requirement for both water and land, and (for amphibians) a permeable skin vulnerable to pollution, acidity, elevated temperatures, and UV radiation. Maine is home to at least 35 species of frogs, salamanders, snakes, and turtles and keeping track of their distribution and status is the job of the Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas (MARAP). Started in 1986, as a cooperative project between MDIFW, Maine Audubon, and the University of Maine, MARAP is likely the longest, continuous wildlife atlas in the State, with contributions from hundreds of citizen volunteers.



Informed largely by MARAP, the University of Maine Press published a book in 1998 summarizing the state of knowledge of this group entitled *Maine Amphibians and Reptiles*, edited by Malcolm Hunter, Aram Calhoun, and Mark McCollough. MDIFW continues to manage this atlas project with a comprehensive database on the distribution of all 35 species. Though most of this work is opportunistic, over 6,300 entries from 634 volunteers have now been logged statewide. There is much still to learn regarding the distribution and ecology of Maine's cryptic, cold-blooded vertebrates, and we encourage members of the public to continue sharing their photo-documented observations with MDIFW (E-mail [Beth Swartz](mailto:Beth.Swartz@maine.gov) or [click here](#)). Funding for this work comes primarily from contributions to the Nongame and Endangered Species Fund (via Loon License Plate and Chickadee Check-off) and a State Wildlife Grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



INFORMATION CENTER

Last week the front office of the Department received and replied to:

- 870 Phone calls
- 553 Emails
- 73 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

To view previous Weekly Reports, please visit www.mefishwildlife.com and select "About Us"

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Woodcock attended a breakfast meeting with members of the Waterville Sunrise Rotary Club this week. Members requested he discuss some of the challenges of his position as Commissioner, as well as share some fish stories.

ENGINEERING & REALTY

It's Open! After being closed much of the summer for reconstruction, the Dry Mills Hatchery is back open and accessible to the public. It features a new observation area for the public and a new fish tank to hold all the brook trout. Bird netting over the top insures that our feathered friends don't get a free lunch.



Like us on Facebook!

Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Maine Sporting Heritage 1870-1970

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Warden Activity - Prepared by Captain Chris Cloutier

- Members of the Maine Warden Service K9 team participated in the annual Iron Dog K9 Competition hosted by the Maine State Police. Warden Jeremy Judd and his K9 Tundra won the canoe relay, and finished 2nd overall in the detection category. Congratulations to Warden Judd and K9 Tundra!!!
- Corporal Mike Joy, Warden Eric Blanchard, and Sergeant Tim Spahr coordinated a search for a missing 14 year old girl who was suffering from depression. The girl had been missing for over five hours when Warden Service was finally notified. After a two and a half hour ground search, wardens located her in a three hundred acre woodlot associated with the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. She was barefoot and did have some open wounds on her feet but was otherwise in good condition. She was reunited with her parents.
- On the evening of August 23, 2012, Warden Pierre was called by a distressed boater on Sebago Lake. The boater reported that she was in the "Big Bay" and was out of gas. The boater stated that her husband was very upset that they were out of gas and had put on a life jacket and jumped into the lake and started to swim to shore. Warden Pierre contacted the Standish Fire and Rescue and requested that a fire fighter respond with him and to bring the Standish fire departments thermal imaging device. Warden Pierre responded via watercraft with the fire fighter and located the boat. It was well after dark and there was a lot of boat traffic on the lake causing great concern for the "swimmer". Warden Pierre went in the direction that the swimmer had gone, and 1.7 miles later he found the swimmer. The swimmer was 800 feet from shore. The swimmer was not intoxicated and had just decided that he was going to swim to shore to get help (he had a cell phone but was too proud to call for help). The swimmer was not cold or exhausted.

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Two new boat launches on the Sandy River almost ready to 'go'

Written by Bob VanRiper, Regional Fishery Biologist, Rangeley Lakes Region

The final construction activities are being worked on at two new hand-carry boat launch sites on the Sandy River. The sites, one in Farmington Falls, the other in New Sharon, will allow opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation, including fishing, hunting, and float trips. Spring and fall fisheries for stocked brook trout exist, and there is a season-long fishery for smallmouth bass.

Fishing regulations for the reach are: April 1 – October 1: no size or bag limit on bass, 2 trout, minimum length on trout 6 inches, maximum length on brown trout and landlocked salmon: 25 inches. From October 1 – October 31, regulations are: Artificial lures only, 1 trout, minimum length 14 inches, and maximum length limit on landlocked salmon and brown trout 25 inches.

The riparian area of the river in the reach between the two new launches provides excellent habitat for waterfowl and will provide opportunities for hunting.

The new boat launches will allow for a myriad of float trips of varying length on the Sandy River below Phillips. Along with several landowner –permission access sites, there are hand-carry sites in Strong and Farmington. Enterprising boaters could potentially devise a float trip that started as high up river as Phillips and paddle or row as far downstream as New Sharon with a single portage at Farmington Falls.

The reach of the Sandy River between the two launches is just that: Sandy. There are a number of meanders (bends) for ever-changing scenery. The banks vary, from steep and eroding to stony bends to wetlands. As with the rest of the Sandy River, the reach is subject to natural water level fluctuations. At low water levels currents is slow to quiet, meaning that one would have to paddle or row. At higher water levels the current is still rather slow until just above the take-out, where it picks up slightly.

The new launches will be accessed from Route 2. The put-in or upper site is about a mile east of Farmington Falls while the lower site, the take –out, is at the confluence of Muddy Brook with the River. While there are only 2.5 road miles between the launch sites, there are almost 5 river miles, a terrific half-day trip.



RECREATIONAL SAFETY DIVISION

The Recreational Safety Unit held instructor training @ Cabella's in Scarborough on Sunday, August 26th with about 50 volunteers in attendance. Commissioner Woodcock and I&E Dir. Doug Rafferty attended to speak and assist with distribution of awards for service. Volunteers recognized for certifying 2000 students in Hunter Safety were Blaine Porter of Sanford and Glenn Dochtermann of Alfred.

Training provided by the staff included volunteer instructor behavior & policies, lesson planning & delivery methods, an update on ATV activities in Maine, first aid training, etc.

Recreational staff included Regional Coordinators Bruce Martin, Vic MacCallum, and Craig Gerry and supervisor Mike Sawyer.

-Written by Mike Sawyer, Recreational safety & vehicle coordinator

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Traffic and Moose just don't mix! - *Written by Judy Camuso, Assistant Regional Wildlife Biologist*

I knew something was amiss when my cell phone started ringing at 6:22 am last Wednesday. Warden Peter Herring called looking for assistance with a female moose wandering around in a highly trafficked area in Westbrook. After checking with my supervisor, we decided to try and tranquilize and relocate the moose to a safe area. I quickly changed out of my running clothes and into my uniform and headed to the office to collect all the necessary equipment. Biologist Cory Stearns arrived just as I was heading to the site so eagerly agreed to help me. The adult moose was in a small patch of woods immediately adjacent to the Westbrook Arterial. Our first idea was to "drive" the moose across the arterial and into a large wooded area that would provide her with plenty of habitat and away from the congested area of the City. The Westbrook Police Department temporarily closed the arterial to traffic, so we could get her across the road safely. Of course, she had a different idea. Instead of crossing the road, she promptly ran right down the railroad tracks into an even more congested area.

Within minutes calls were coming in with her new location, so we quickly packed up and relocated her. At this point we felt like we had a good chance of getting the immobilization drugs into her safely. With a whole neighborhood of on-lookers watching, I loaded up the appropriate drugs. Fortunately the moose cooperated and gave me a perfect opportunity to dart her. Within minutes she started showing signs of getting "woozy" but she didn't actually lie down. I followed up with an addition dose of the drug and after that she went right down. We took her vital signs, doused her with cold water and put a numbered tag in each ear. One of the neighbors had a tractor in the garage next to where she was laying, so we ran two straps under her and used the tractor bucket to lift her up and load her into the bed of warden Herring's truck. We transported her to the Leavitt Plantation in Parsonsfield. As soon as we unloaded her, I gave her a "reversal" drug and within 14 minutes she was up and walking around. Immobilizing animals always has a risk of mortality, so we were all very pleased with such a positive outcome.



MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

Sarah Smith removes a couple of quills from one porcupine that the other – an albino porcupine – left there. The newest residents of the wildlife park are still working out their "living together" issues!



Volunteers turned out for the annual picnic in park at the Maine Wildlife Park Tuesday evening. About 75 people attended the pitch-in dinner. Lisa Kane cut the cake to serve to the volunteers!



Coming Soon!

The 2012-2013 Hunting & Trapping Lawbook will be available soon! This edition features articles about moose, bear and also honors fallen employees. You can find the most current season dates, new laws and license fees.

The Maine Hunting & Fishing Map will be available to guide you to many recreational opportunities in Maine. This map features hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, boating, ATVing, Wildlife Watching opportunities and more!

