

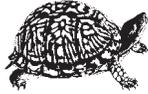


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Monthly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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



June, 2015

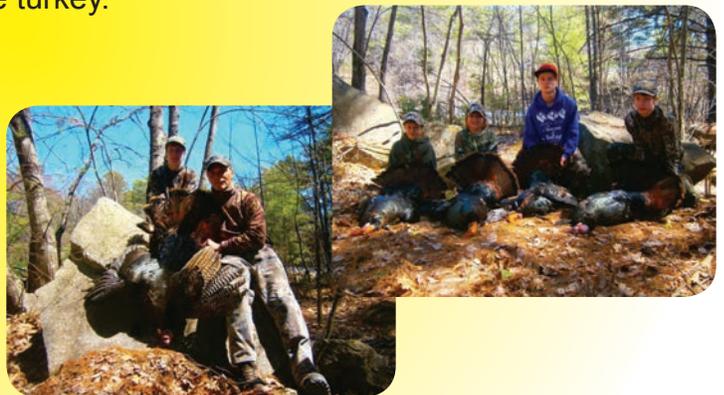
Outdoor fun!



Steve Abbott and his daughters with a nice turkey.



Johnathan Blair and Everett Blair, the one fanning the tail, had some fun! The turkey had a double beard. One beard was 5 inches and the second was 10 1/2 inches. It weighed 20 pounds. The spurs were 3/4 of an inch long.



INFORMATION CENTER

In May the front office of the Department received and replied to (approx):

- 5,391 Phone calls
- 2,370 Emails
- 278 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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



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Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Swan Island

Maine Wildlife Park

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Hidden Treasures of Spring - Article and photos by Amy Meehan, Wildlife Biologist

You don't have to travel very far or spend a lot of money to view vibrant, multi-colored or flashy birds. Maine has quite a few of them that breed here every spring, but it's safe to say that a lot of people just never take the time to notice them. Spring is a fabulous time of year to get outside and enjoy some wildlife viewing. Early spring is when migratory birds start making their way back to their breeding grounds and some of them, like those in the photos below, might just make a stop in a neighborhood near you! Birding is a wonderful hobby that can be as relaxed or as intense as you desire to make it. Not much more is needed than a pair of binoculars and a bird book. Many people add a camera or a spotting scope to their equipment list, but they are not necessary. And you don't have to get quite as crazy as the guys from the movie, "The Big Year". You can bird in your own backyard. Or take a



walk through your neighborhood. If you live in a city, visit your local botanical gardens, park, or even, crazy as it sounds, the cemetery! These open spaces often attract migratory birds on their way north.

You can even do some landscaping in your yard that will attract birds. Planting native flowering or fruiting shrubs and trees is one way. Even a simple brush pile can provide cover for birds. And a brief internet search can lead you to lists of plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Plants such as cardinal flower, coreopsis, butterfly bush, beebalm, hollyhock, verbena, etc., will attract both to your yard.

So grab a pair of binoculars, a bird guide and your camera and take a stroll around your neighborhood or even just your yard this spring. It's amazing what you can find when you just stop to look!

WILDLIFE DIVISION

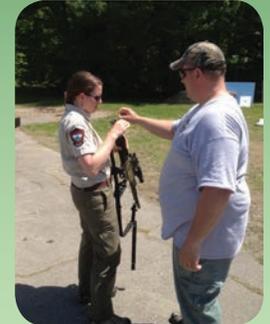
Chemical Immobilization Training - Written by Ryan Robicheau, Wildlife Management Section Supervisor & Photo by Chuck Hulsey

On May 27th, Regional Wildlife staff met to review chemical immobilization procedures and check and practice on equipment. Chemical immobilization is an option to capture and release a free ranging wild animal, and is mainly used when an animal is in a location dangerous to itself or a person. In some instances, chemical immobilization is used to allow capture of wildlife for collection of data – like fitting an animal with a GPS collar for survival or productivity studies.

Wildlife Biologist Bob Cordes led the morning discussion, talking about the various drugs used, how the equipment is organized, and the logistics of being able to respond promptly while having all the tools necessary to handle wildlife safely for the animal, the biologist, and the public.

The afternoon was spent practicing on the different equipment available. Different delivery systems are needed due to the situation in which the capture is taking place, the drug being used, and the different syringes needed.

I'd like to express my thanks to Bob and the other Regional Wildlife Biologists for the effort to lead the meeting and pass information along to others in the Section.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

- Commissioner Woodcock attended the Veteran Spring Turkey hunt wrap-up dinner in Gray. This was a spring turkey hunt for 6 combat wounded veterans that took place at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester on May 6-8. Mossy Oak participated and filmed the event nationally for their television show "Hunting the Country" on the Outdoor Channel and Turkey T.H.U.G.S. on the Pursuit Channel.
- The Commissioner and staff attended the May 6th Advisory Council meeting in Augusta. The Council voted to approve recommended moose permit allocations and discussed the Phippsburg expanded archery hunt petition; any-deer permit numbers for 2015; trapping season and fishing regulations. The next Council meeting will be held on June 13th in Bethel in conjunction with the Maine Moose Lottery drawing!
- Commissioner Woodcock and staff attended the annual Fallen Officers Memorial on May 14th to pay tribute to those in law enforcement who gave their lives in the line of duty.
- The legislative session is drawing to a close, although we still do not have an official "end of session" date. Enacted bills that were not deemed emergency will become effective 90 days after the session closes. For more information please visit: www.maine.gov/ifw and click on the link for "127th Legislatures 1st Session".

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE



< Game Warden Kemp recently received two complaints of ice shacks that had not been removed. One shack was left at a boat launch and was being vandalized and the other shack was floating on First Davis pond in Guilford. Warden Kemp investigated both shacks and issued a summons for one of the violations. Both shacks will be removed soon.

> Game Warden Kim Bates continues to attend K9 cadaver training in Rhode Island working on ground level, buried, and elevated cadaver finds. She will continue training for another four weeks.



< Game Warden Charlie Brown encountered two fishermen as they were getting ready to leave the Mattawamkeag River earlier this month. After a conversation with both fishermen, it was determined they he had caught more than their limit of brook trout. After conducting a consent search, a total of 31 trout were seized and two summonses were issued.



< Game Warden Dave Simmons (Gouldsboro) shown here with several students during a science fair at a local school.



Recently, the Maine Warden Service assisted the U.S. Department of State in hosting a group of foreign Game Wardens participating in the Multi-Regional International Visitor Leadership program entitled, "Wildlife Conservation: Anti-Poaching and Anti-Trafficking." Goals for the project included: assessing U.S. efforts to deter poaching and trafficking of wildlife resources through wildlife protection, law enforcement and criminal prosecution; discussion of international collaboration at the federal and state levels to combat wildlife poaching and strengthen global cooperation against wildlife trafficking; explore non-governmental organizations, citizens, activists and private organizations that promote and support wildlife protection and discourage consumer demand; and examine the harmful impact of international wildlife trafficking on political, economic, environmental and social stability.

The program was three weeks long and destinations included: Washington DC, Maine, Florida, California, and Washington State.

There were a total of eleven participants from the following countries: Gambia, Ethiopia, Hungary, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Madagascar, Nepal, Oman, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

While in Maine the group was given a tour of the state house, and shown how we enact legislation specific to fish and wildlife poaching; given an overview of Operation Game Thief; shown demonstrations by several of our specialty teams; given overviews of several large wildlife trafficking cases that have been worked by us in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department; and provided with information on our show North Woods Law.

The group was also given a tour of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Game Warden Aaron Cross provided a presentation about Operation Game Thief to the International Visitors Leadership Program in Augusta.



OUTREACH

Sebago Lake Trail Day - Otter Ponds, May 16th
Hooked on Fishing event / Learn to fish clinic

Becoming an Outdoors Woman

- Mini Skills at Bryant Pond 4-H Camp & Learning Center May 17th (*pictured at right*)
- Summer Adventure Camp at Nicatous Lodge June 5 - 7

Pineland - May 31st

Hooked on Fishing event / Learn to Fish Day

Camp North Woods at Bryant Pond 4-H Camp & Learning Center

July 15 - 19 & July 29 - Aug. 2

We are excited for our first summer of Camp North Woods.

Lottery winners will be notified shortly.



FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Changes Needed at Long Pond in Belgrade - *Written by Jason Seiders, Regional Fisheries Bio, Belgrade Lakes Reg.*

Our fisheries staff has spent a significant amount of time in recent years studying Long Pond in Belgrade. While we wish we were studying a robust and thriving landlocked salmon population, just the opposite is true. While attempting to capture and examine landlocked salmon, we find that a plethora of invasive fish species has replaced the iconic salmon that made Long Pond famous. Once noted as one of the top salmon waters in Maine, it's now rare for a salmon to survive for more than one year in Long Pond.



Most people are familiar with the illegal introduction of northern pike in the Belgrade Lakes, and how that has taken its toll on the lakes' traditional trout and salmon fisheries. Another, perhaps lesser known invader has contributed to a severe decline in Long Pond's rainbow smelt population (a salmon's primary food source), and has caused irreversible damage. Landlocked alewives were first discovered in Long Pond in the 1990's, and their population has exploded. Don't confuse landlocked alewives with our native sea-run alewives. Sea-run alewives are generally beneficial to the systems they inhabit and they contribute to our ocean fisheries. Unlike sea-run alewives, landlocked alewives never leave the lakes they inhabit; they live out their entire life within the same freshwater lake system. They are very prolific and out-compete rainbow smelt for food and habitat. Landlocked alewives have almost completely replaced smelt as the primary forage fish in Long Pond, which puts salmon at a complete disadvantage compared to other fish species. Fishes such as bass, pike, perch, and chain pickerel all thrive on landlocked alewives, but unfortunately salmon do not.



The fisheries staff in the Belgrade Lakes Region has investigated all available options pertaining to trout stocking in Long Pond, and one option seems best given the conditions we now face: rainbow trout. Numerous other states have great success managing rainbow trout in lakes with landlocked alewives. In fact, biologists in those states depend upon landlocked alewives as the primary food source for supporting their rainbow trout populations. Since this is such a dramatic change to our local fishery, we will be holding a public informational meeting this summer to discuss this and other potential changes in an attempt to improve Long Pond's coldwater sport fishery.

While we know that exotic fish species have forever changed the fishery in Long Pond, we are hopeful that we can utilize a different trout species that might actually benefit from one of these invaders. Ultimately, our goal is to produce a trout fishery that will once again draw anglers to the Belgrade Lakes.

The Governor's Cup Charity Bass Tournament on May 30, 2015 was a success as always! We had 7 members from the House of Representatives and 3 from the Senate with a total of 9 guests. Beautiful day, good fishing, and great food! Since it is a competition, We would be remiss if we didn't say that the House won this year!

We had all ages fishing as you can see from the photos and some pretty good success as well. Thanks go out to Brittany Humphrey for organizing on our end of the event and to Steve Wilson from Maine B.A.S.S for gathering all the boat owners so we could get everyone on the water and for making us a terrific lunch, and to The Birches Campground for hosting us and feeding us breakfast early.



Swan Island staff hosted a wildlife tour on June 4th at 6:30pm, and it went very well! About 22 people enjoyed a 2 hour evening tour of the island. Kristina Paulhus, IFW employee who does a lot of administrative and creative work for the Island, took these nice pics of the trip.

Because of the popularity of this tour, Island staff will be adding a few more opportunities like this in July and August.

Check the event page of the swan island website to see other scheduled boat and truck tours!

<http://maine.gov/ifw/education/swanisland/index.htm>

