



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, August 10, 2012

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Black Duck Bling - *Written by Scott McLellan and Kelsey Sullivan*

Wildlife biologists stationed out of the Greenville headquarters are working this summer in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and other Atlantic Flyway states to meet banding quotas for each species that is regulated for annual harvest. As a result of population concerns, the American black duck is a priority over other species in northern Maine. The greater Moosehead Lake region has been identified as an area for trapping and banding black ducks to help reach state and federal annual banding quotas. Other waterfowl species that are incidentally captured will also be handled and affixed with a leg band that has a federal number on it.

The goals of waterfowl management are to ensure sustainable populations and provide recreational opportunity, including sport harvest. To meet these goals, biologists and managers need information on the distribution, abundance, production, and survival of the population. One cornerstone of acquiring this information is through large-scale banding programs.

Banding efforts in the Moosehead Lake Region will continue through the month of August and will terminate prior to the start of the waterfowl hunting season. This is a continuation of past efforts and it will likely continue in future years.

LICENSING DIVISION

Landowner Relations
Coordinator Mark Latti, Game
Warden Sergeant Tim Spahr,
District Game Warden Rick
LaFlamme, the Nature
Conservancy and members
of the Ossipee Mountaineers
Snowmobile Club and Ossipee
Mountain ATV'ers met at the
Nature Conservancy's 2,500 acre Waterboro Barrens
preserve. The preserve has long been closed to ATV use,
but the above groups are working towards an agreement
that may provide an ATV trail, increased stewardship by
the local clubs and enhanced enforcement. This could
provide a through trail for the local clubs, and also further
protect a unique ecological area in southern Maine.



KIDS' SECTION



Governor Hill Hatchery Supervisor Tom McLaughlin took his granddaughter fishing at Woodbury Pond last week. Brooklyn Morin caught herself a sunfish!

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Employee
Recognition!

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INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 1,132 Phone calls
- 519 Emails
- 59 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Black Terns - Written by Danielle D'Auria

Black tern numbers were slightly up this year: 102 pairs compared to 83 pairs last year; but they still only occur at 4 sites in Maine. Their low numbers and few occupied sites are what warrant their protection as a state endangered species.

For over twenty years, black tern surveys have been conducted annually with the volunteer help of two advisors at Nokomis Regional High School in Newport, Don McDougal and Jim Dyer. This year we had two additional helpers on one of our surveys: 10-year old Kelsy Lacroix and her father Steven Lacroix, from Brownville. Kelsy has expressed interest in being a wildlife biologist since she was four! Her passion was evident to a career counselor who recently put her in contact with me through The Wildlife Society. On our survey together at Ebeemee Lake, we estimated at least 40 pairs of black terns, witnessed a fuzzy chick right next to the canoe, and saw several fledglings flying quite close overhead.

For those unfamiliar with the black tern, its silhouette in flight is quite similar to that of most other terns: buoyant flight powered by long, slender, pointed wings. Its small size and black head and underbody during breeding distinguish it from Maine's three other terns: the common, Arctic, and roseate tern, which are mostly white and gray and occur primarily along the coast. The black tern is a marsh tern, and is found at inland freshwater wetlands. Also unlike our three other terns, the black tern does not dive for fish; rather it forages on the wing picking up items at or near the water's surface or catching insects in flight. Its nesting habitat is characterized as "hemi-marsh": freshwater emergent and floating mat vegetation interspersed with open water. They tend to nest quite close to the edge of open water to avoid predators, but this also makes them quite vulnerable to flooding. Despite heavy rains in June, the 40 pairs at Ebeemee Lake appeared to have been successful this year, as evidenced by many hard working adults continuously foraging for insects to feed to their young. It was quite an acrobatic display when 5 terns all went after a large dragonfly right over our heads.

On our survey, we also had the opportunity to see a bald eagle nest with one young, a loon nest, a loon pair with a chick, and a group of loons feeding together - what a spectacular day on the water.



Photo: Kelsy Lacroix, age 10, from Brownville, assisted on our Ebeemee Lake black tern survey.

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Prepared by Acting Lieutenant Tim Place

- While heading to Solon to assist at the Advanced Warden School at approximately 6:45 AM, Warden Scott Stevens stopped to check a vehicle with no license plates parked on the side of Rte. 16 in Coplin Plantation. Warden Stevens discovered two male subjects sleeping inside. After they could not explain the lack of plates, Wdn. Stevens asked for identification. One subject produced a Honduras identification, and the other subject had no identification. Wdn. Stevens then contacted US Border Patrol to respond. Upon arrival of Border Patrol, both subjects admitted they were in the United States illegally. After further checks of the two subjects, it was discovered that both subjects had criminal history, with one subject having extensive criminal history. In fact, one of the subjects had been deported from the US at least once in the past. Since both subjects are inadmissible in both the US and Canada, it is likely the subjects were going to attempt to get into Canada by walking around the Port of Entry at night.
- Warden Buuck encountered a strange sight in the woods last week. A very large helicopter was sitting in the roadway and had been installing the new radio towers. The helicopter rental fee is quite the bargain; \$32,000 to lift each section of tower. Each tower has three sections. You do the math!
- Warden Alan Curtis and Warden Joe McBrine responded to a call for an older couple in a canoe that could not find their way back to the boat landing on Rocky Lake in Berry Township. They called 911 when they realized the lake was large and every cove looked similar. Dispatchers asked them to go to shore and wait for the game wardens. Wdn. Alan Curtis met Warden McBrine were at the landing and they quickly located the couple and brought them back to their vehicle. They loaded their canoe on their vehicle for them. They asked if we would give them a bill or if it would come in the mail.
- Warden Jared Herrick apprehended a subject on the Kennebec River that was keeping too many fish. As Warden Herrick watched the subject fishing he observed the subject leave with at least one very large rainbow trout. Later in the day the subject returned, caught and kept two salmon. This subject was using worms to catch trout and salmon below the dam. Warden Herrick remarks the subject admitted to catching the three fish, but had likely done this many times before in the month of August. Warden Herrick comments that, had he not intervened, the fish poacher likely would have caught and killed many more game fish below the dam as the salmon and trout are just stacked into the cold water released from Wyman Lake. All the game fish in that section of the Kennebec have been drawn to the base of the dam due to high water temps throughout the rest of the river. Warden Herrick says that the fish are very vulnerable in the Kennebec right now, as their movements to and from other parts of the river are limited.



FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Sebago Lake Region – Lake & Pond Brown Trout Evaluations - *Written by Jim Pellerin*

Brown trout are an important coldwater species for Maine anglers, particularly in southern and central Maine where many waters are incapable of providing quality fisheries for native salmonids like brook trout and landlocked salmon. Browns are often utilized in lakes and ponds with more marginal conditions including: late summer water quality limitations, moderate to heavy competition from other fish species, and/or where smelt populations are inadequate for salmon. They may be stocked alone or in combination with other salmonids, but brown trout are expected to provide some holdover and the opportunity to catch a salmonid of good size quality.



Over the past decade, MDIFW has stocked 38 lakes and ponds in region A with approximately 2,844 fall yearling brown trout (12-14 inches) each year. Beginning in 2005, MDIFW's Region A fisheries staff began a systematic evaluation of our brown trout lakes and ponds, particularly those where we lacked recent data and/or knowledge of the fishery. These evaluations were primarily focused on assessing the size quality objective specified in the statewide brown trout management plan, which states: experienced brown trout anglers should expect to catch brown trout averaging 15 inches and 1.5 pounds, and can expect to catch an 18-20 inch fish on a good fishing day.

Between 2005 and 2011, MDIFW regional staff sampled... Read the rest of this article and view the chart by [clicking here!](#)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife held two Employee Recognition events this year to accommodate both the southern and northern regions of the state. On July 27th our event was held at the Regional Headquarters in Sidney and on August 3rd we were at the Eddington Salmon Club. Commissioner Chandler Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Andrea Erskine presented staff with longevity awards, employee of the year plaques and there were even gifts for everyone so no one went home empty handed. Thanks to all the staff who attended and have provided great service over the years!



Lt. Adam Gormely & Kelly Colby have fun cooking on a giant grill in Sidney.



Zubaidah Sargent, Kelly Richards and Sgt. Tim Place accept their 25 Years of Service award.



Warden Secretary Joan Sage, Capt. Dan Scott, Warden Phil Richter and Warden Alan Curtis do the cooking in Eddington.



The Team of the Year award is accepted by Biologist Randy Cross, Biologist Lee Kantar, and Biologist Wally Jukabas, on behalf of the Mammal Group.



Kelly Colby accepts her Employee of the Year plaque with Supervisor Ron Taylor while Bill Swan accept the Employee of the Year award in honor of Samatha Davis-Gay. (posthumous)



Bobby Brann and Becky Orff accept their 20 Years of Services award.



Biologist Lee Kantar accept his Employee of the Year award with Supervisor Jim Connolly.



Safety Coordinator, Harland Hitching, accepts his Employee of the Year award.