



Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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



Friday, May 25 , 2012

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

The Research and Assessment Section – an IFW Source for Credible Information

Most readers of this weekly bulletin are probably aware that IFW recently went through a reorganization process. Some changes were subtle in effect, and I would like to describe one here. IFW's Wildlife Division formerly held a Wildlife Resource Assessment Section (WRAS), responsible for tracking the status of and recommending management actions for inland vertebrates - these are mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians - and also for invertebrates such as rare mussels, mayflies, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, and tiger beetles. You can find past annual reports and highlights of activities for these species on IFW's website, where the function of WRAS was explained in more detail on page 5 of the 2011 Research and Management report, view report by [clicking here](#).

In the reorganization, WRAS was removed from the Wildlife Division to report directly to IFW's Bureau of Resource Management. What changed? Quite simply, the Section now considers a group of aquatic vertebrates other than herptiles and mammals – and that is fish. WRAS has become RAS. We have also taken this opportunity to change the “Resource” back to “Research”, and thus we are IFW's Research and Assessment Section. This formally acknowledges the scientific training and applications of several of the RAS biologists. Science is a method to discover truth in nature, and scientists are often recognized by their ability to publish research papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals. RAS biologists have published dozens of such papers and are often looked to as the State's species' experts by private landowners, land trusts, towns, state and federal agencies, and other conservation partners.

IFW's new RAS will continue to do what we did before, and that is primarily to: 1) provide reliable information, 2) identify information needs with the help of Regional and Augusta biologists and public input, and 3) try to satisfy those needs – as efficiently and effectively as possible. RAS' Habitat Group writes analytical tools for databasing occurrences of species and their essential habitats that support conservation and management for both fish and wildlife species. RAS' Bird, Mammal, Fish, and Herptile-Invertebrate Groups conduct assessment surveys and research to help inform management plans that guide conservation efforts for all types of Maine's native wildlife. We will continue informational support to several of MDIFW's core programs such as species population planning, endangered species recovery, species' harvest and scientific collections management, Beginning with Habitat non-regulatory outreach, and interagency environmental review to name a few.

-Shawn Haskell, RAS Supervisor

KID'S SECTION



This future license holder is enjoying a day of fishing at Drummond Pond.

INFORMATION CENTER

Last week the front office handled:

- 1,140 Phone calls
- 468 Emails
- 74 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

- Saturday, May 19th the Commissioner attended a volunteer safety instructor conference in Lewiston.
- Wednesday, May 23rd the Commissioner and staff traveled to the Princeton Rod and Gun Club for the monthly Advisory Council meeting.



Like us on Facebook!

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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Youth Activities with Emily!



On Friday, May 18 KVCAP partnered with MDIFW to hold a family fishing event and fish stocking demo at Hight Pond in Skowhegan. Staff from the Embden Fish Hatchery spoke with children about Maine's fishing stocking program and allowed them to assist with stocking 200 brook trout into the pond, which is one of Maine's youth only fishing waters. Following the fish stocking demonstration Emily MacCabe provided equipment, bait and tackle for children to fish.

On Sunday, May 20 the Gray New Gloucester Optimist Club sponsored the 8th Annual Family Fishing Event at Pineland Farms in Gray in partnership with the Dept's Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs program. Many families attended the event and spent the morning catching fish in the pond. There was also a casting competition, face painting, raffles and a cookout. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make the event a success.

On Thursday, May 24 students from Strong Middle School attended an outdoor day at Porter Lake. Students had the chance to participate in seven different activities one being a Hooked on Fishing event with Emily MacCabe, Jeff Boudreau, and Wardens Kris MacCabe and Jonathan Parker.

I&E's New Director bags his first turkey!

Saturday Morning, May 19, 2012, Doug Rafferty had a successful turkey hunt. Denny Denham was the guide, and the guy taking the picture shall remain nameless. It may have been a jake, and it only weighed in at 14 pounds, but Doug is proof positive that being an employee of IF&W does have its benefits!



WILDLIFE DIVISION

Road signs to help Maine's endangered turtles

Late May through early July in southern Maine is a critical period when female turtles undertake risky overland forays to reach nesting areas. During this time, turtles often cross roads, sometimes with fatal consequences. In response, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and The Nature Conservancy, with the help of the Maine Department of Transportation, are cooperating to install new road signs warning motorists of endangered turtle road crossing locations in the towns of Wells, South Berwick and York with the hope of reducing collisions with two of the states rarest species.



Spotted and Blanding's turtles, both protected under Maine's Endangered Species Act, have seen much of their freshwater wetland habitat destroyed or degraded. Increasingly, road mortality is becoming a cause of great concern. For more information [click here!](#)

Early Spring proves positive!

Spring arrived early in northern Maine with record warm weather in both March and April. The warm temperatures caused snow to melt quickly off the Aroostook County fields allowing deer, moose, wild turkeys and many other wildlife species greater mobility and access to many new sources of food. Deer dispersed from winter deeryards unusually early and were observed traveling back to summer ranges as early as mid-late March. This early dispersal of deer into fields and then shortly after movement towards traditional summer range is very positive for deer survival.

Deer losses from starvation and predation are usually minimal when deer disperse very early from deeryards. Wild turkeys also benefited from an early spring, and that will enhance the chances of getting an additional hunting opportunity in the not-so-distant future.



The Department needs your help!

There is an ongoing study regarding loon mortality in the Northeast, conducted by Dr. Mark Pokras at the Tufts Wildlife Clinic over the last 25+ years. If you come across a dead common loon (chick or adult), and have the chance to collect it, please get it and do the following:

- 1) If post-mortem has not already set in, please be sure the neck is bent so that the sharp bill is tucked beneath the wing (this saves freezer space and accidental injuries).
- 2) Place it in a heavy duty garbage bag.
- 3) Label the outside with a tag that has the date collected, the waterbody, and the town. If the collector wants to know the necropsy results, please include their contact info.
- 4) Place it in a freezer until it can be picked up/transported to the Bangor Regional office.
- 5) Notify me by phone or email.

If you know of a dead loon or cannot get out to collect it yourself, please [e-mail](#) Daniel D'Auria or call (207) 941-4478.

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

National Law Enforcement Fallen Officer's Memorial visit



Last week eight uniformed wardens and our Chaplain, Kate Braestrup, traveled down to Washington D.C. to take part in several events where our own fallen warden, Pilot Daryl Gordon, was honored and his name was placed on the National Law Enforcement Fallen Officer's Memorial Wall. On the first Saturday of the trip, Colonel Wilkinson, Captain Cloutier, and Lieutenant's Ward and Gormely ran the Fallen Officers 5k in Daryl's name. Over 2200 officers from around the country ran the race and much to our surprise our very own Chaplain gave the opening prayer at the start of the event. On Sunday night we attended the candle light vigil which was attended by more than 30,000 officers. Daryl's son James attended this event with us as well. To say this was an emotionally moving event would be an understatement. On Tuesday, we attended the Fallen Officers Memorial Ceremony at the Capitol.

Daryl's family was in attendance. 163 officers who died in the line of duty in 2011 were honored at the event. President Obama spoke and Game Warden David Georgia was part of the officer color guard who lined the stage behind the President. It was an honor for the officers to be present and escort and support the Gordon family.

Warden Activity

Wdn. Cross received an OGT complaint on Thursday night in reference to a subject in Troy that was bragging around town about shooting turkeys from his truck. The complainant actually witnessed the subject attempt to shoot a bird Thursday morning from his window, but his gun misfired and he did not get a shot off. Wdn. Cross formulated a plan and did some research on the subject and set out early Friday morning to attempt to catch him doing the same thing. Luck would have it that the plan worked and Wdn. Cross observed the subject shoot a Tom from the paved way in the area that he frequently hunts. The subject was summonsed for Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm and the bird was seized.



On May 20, Warden Peter Herring, Warden Jake Scott, and Sgt Jason Luce responded to a report of serious personal injury boat crash on Watchic Pond in the town of Standish. Upon arrival it was found that there was a sanctioned boat race being held on the pond and the boat crash involved a participant in the race. It was uncertain at the time if the operator of the boat was going to survive the crash, so Warden Herring and Warden Scott investigated the incident. It was determined that the boat was traveling at approximately 60 MPH and came out of the water and flipped. The operator of the boat was then thrown through the deck of the boat. The operator of the boat sustained a broken leg, a dislocated hip and several lacerations. He is suspected to make a full recovery. While the crash was being investigated a second boat crash (involving two race boats) occurred. The two boats collided on a straight away causing both operators to be ejected from their boats. One of the operators injured his back.

MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

What a great start to the season! After a record-breaking opening week, the park has been able to hold on to all time high attendance and revenue to date.

Here are some events that draw people to the park, you should come too!

- Sat-Mon. May 26-28 FRIENDS OF THE MAINE WILDLIFE PARK ANNUAL PLANT SALE
- Saturday, June 2 SPARKS ARK
- Saturday, June 9 THE TARDY BROTHERS: HIGH ENERGY JUGGLING: 11AM
- Saturday, June 16 FLY TYING & FLY CASTING WITH TROUT UNLIMITED



LICENSING DIVISION

- Licensing Division director Bill Swan recently spoke at the annual meeting of the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors and Tax Assessors (MMTCTA). In attendance were representatives from a large number of the town offices in Maine, all of whom are license and registration agents for the Department. An overview was given of recent IF&W legislative changes that impact our agents.
- The application period for the 2012 Moose Hunt has now closed. Preliminary numbers indicated a 9% increase in applications over last year. There were a number of legislative changes made to the Moose lottery this year which were apparently well received by our customers.
- Licensing Division personnel have been very busy this week answering questions on fishing licenses, boat registrations, and ATV registrations from our agents and our customers in preparation for the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

At Wednesday's Advisory council meeting, they held elections for Chair and Vice-Chair. The new Council Chair is Cathy DeMerchant representing Androscoggin, Kennebec and Sagadahoc Counties. Cathy is the first female to be elected as Chair since Ellen Peters had the seat in 1999! Richard Thurston representing Cumberland County was elected as Vice-Chair. Congrats to you both!

