

Maine Breeding Bird Safe Dates

The Safe Dates delineate the time period in Maine when most migrants are not present and individuals present in appropriate breeding habitat may be nesting. For many species, breeding occurs outside of these dates, but migrant individuals may also be present. Safe dates offer only general guidance and your observations take precedence over any dates given in this Appendix. Remember that spring can be early or late in a given year and that breeding may begin weeks earlier in southern Maine than in northern Maine.

Species	Safe Dates
Alder Flycatcher	6/1 - 7/25
Am Three-toed Woodpecker	5/1 - 7/25
American Bittern	5/1 - 7/25
American Black Duck	5/5 - 8/1
American Coot	5/15 - 8/5
American Crow	4/15 - 7/15
American Goldfinch	6/5 - 9/1
American Kestrel	5/25 - 7/25
American Oystercatcher	5/25 - 8/1
American Pipit	6/1 - 8/15
American Redstart	6/1 - 8/1
American Robin	5/10 - 8/1
American Wigeon	5/25 - 8/1
American Woodcock	4/15 - 7/25
Arctic Tern	6/1 - 7/25
Atlantic Puffin	5/1 - 8/1
Bald Eagle	3/16 - 7/31
Baltimore Oriole	6/1 - 7/20
Bank Swallow	5/25 - 7/15
Barn Owl	4/15 - 8/1
Barn Swallow	5/25 - 7/20
Barred Owl	3/15 - 7/25
Bay-breasted Warbler	6/5 - 7/25
Belted Kingfisher	5/1 - 8/1
Bicknell's Thrush	6/1 - 8/15
Black Guillemot	5/1 - 8/1
Black Tern	6/1 - 8/1
Black-and-white Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Black-backed Woodpecker	5/10 - 7/25
Black-billed Cuckoo	6/10 - 8/1
Blackburnian Warbler	6/1 - 7/25
Black-capped Chickadee	4/15 - 8/1
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5/1 - 8/1
Blackpoll Warbler	6/5 - 8/1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Black-throated Green Warbler	6/1 - 8/1

Species	Safe Dates
Blue Jay	5/25 - 8/15
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5/20 - 8/5
Blue-headed Vireo	5/25 - 8/1
Blue-winged Teal	5/25 - 8/1
Blue-winged Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Bobolink	6/1 - 7/25
Bonaparte's Gull	6/1 - 7/20
Boreal Chickadee	5/15 - 8/1
Boreal Owl	4/15 - 8/1
Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)	6/1 - 8/1
Broad-winged Hawk	6/1 - 7/25
Brown Creeper	5/15 - 8/10
Brown Thrasher	5/20 - 8/10
Brown-headed Cowbird	5/15 - 7/25
Bufflehead	6/10 - 8/1
Canada Goose	4/25 - 8/1
Canada Warbler	6/5 - 8/1
Cape May Warbler	6/1 - 7/25
Carolina Wren	5/15 - 8/10
Cattle Egret	5/1 - 8/1
Cedar Waxwing	6/10 - 8/5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Chimney Swift	5/20 - 8/1
Chipping Sparrow	5/20 - 8/1
Clay-colored Sparrow	6/1 - 8/1
Cliff Swallow	5/25 - 7/15
Common Eider	5/1 - 7/25
Common Gallinule	5/15 - 8/15
Common Goldeneye	5/25 - 8/1
Common Grackle	5/1 - 8/1
Common Loon	5/15 - 7/20
Common Merganser	5/25 - 8/1
Common Nighthawk	6/5 - 7/25
Common Raven	4/1 - 7/1
Common Tern	6/1 - 7/25
Common Yellowthroat	6/1 - 8/15

Maine Breeding Bird Safe Dates (continued)

Species	Safe Dates
Cooper's Hawk	5/20 - 8/1
Dark-eyed Junco	5/25 - 8/15
Double-crested Cormorant	5/15 - 7/20
Downy Woodpecker	5/1 - 8/1
Eastern Bluebird	5/10 - 8/15
Eastern Kingbird	6/1 - 8/1
Eastern Meadowlark	5/15 - 8/1
Eastern Phoebe	5/1 - 8/1
Eastern Screech-Owl	3/1 - 7/1
Eastern Towhee	5/20 - 8/10
Eastern Whip-poor-will	5/25 - 7/25
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6/10 - 8/10
European Starling	4/1 - 8/15
Evening Grosbeak	6/1 - 8/15
Field Sparrow	5/20 - 8/1
Fish Crow	5/1 - 7/15
Fox Sparrow	5/15 - 8/1
Gadwall	5/25 - 8/1
Glossy Ibis	5/1 - 8/1
Golden Eagle	4/1 - 7/20
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5/20 - 8/1
Golden-winged Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Grasshopper Sparrow	6/1 - 7/25
Gray Catbird	6/1 - 8/10
Gray Jay	3/25 - 7/1
Great Black-backed Gull	5/1 - 7/20
Great Blue Heron	5/1 - 8/10
Great Cormorant	5/1 - 8/1
Great Crested Flycatcher	5/25 - 8/1
Great Egret	5/25 - 7/15
Great Horned Owl	1/25 - 8/1
Green Heron	5/15 - 8/15
Green-winged Teal	5/25 - 8/1
Hairy Woodpecker	5/1 - 8/1
Hermit Thrush	5/20 - 8/1
Herring Gull	5/15 - 8/1
Hooded Merganser	5/5 - 8/1
Horned Lark	4/15 - 7/25
House Finch	4/15 - 8/10
House Sparrow	3/1 - 8/25
House Wren	5/25 - 8/20
Indigo Bunting	6/1 - 8/15

Species	Safe Dates
Killdeer	4/20 - 7/15
King Rail	5/15 - 8/1
Laughing Gull	5/15 - 8/1
Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid)	6/1 - 8/1
Leach's Storm-Petrel	6/1 - 8/15
Least Bittern	5/15 - 7/25
Least Flycatcher	6/1 - 8/1
Least Sandpiper	5/25 - 6/15
Least Tern	5/25 - 8/1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	5/1 - 7/20
Lincoln's Sparrow	6/1 - 8/10
Little Blue Heron	5/1 - 7/15
Loggerhead Shrike	5/15 - 8/1
Long-eared Owl	4/20 - 7/25
Louisiana Waterthrush	5/5 - 7/1
Magnolia Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Mallard	5/5 - 8/1
Marsh Wren	5/25 - 8/5
Merlin	5/10 - 7/20
Mississippi Kite	6/5 - 8/1
Monk Parakeet	6/1 - 8/1
Mourning Dove	4/10 - 8/15
Mourning Warbler	6/10 - 8/5
Mute Swan	5/1 - 8/1
N Rough-winged Swallow	5/25 - 7/15
Nashville Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Nelson's Sparrow	6/1 - 8/15
Northern Bobwhite	5/10 - 8/15
Northern Cardinal	4/15 - 8/15
Northern Flicker	5/15 - 7/25
Northern Goshawk	4/15 - 7/15
Northern Harrier	5/15 - 8/1
Northern Hawk Owl	4/20 - 8/1
Northern Mockingbird	5/15 - 8/15
Northern Parula	6/1 - 7/25
Northern Pintail	5/20 - 8/5
Northern Saw-whet Owl	4/1 - 8/1
Northern Shoveler	5/25 - 8/1
Northern Waterthrush	6/1 - 7/25
Olive-sided Flycatcher	6/10 - 7/25
Orchard Oriole	6/1 - 7/20
Osprey	5/8 - 7/24

Maine Breeding Bird Safe Dates (continued)

Species	Safe Dates
Ovenbird	5/25 - 8/1
Palm Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Peregrine Falcon	3/25 - 7/15
Philadelphia Vireo	6/1 - 8/1
Pied-billed Grebe	5/15 - 7/25
Pileated Woodpecker	5/1 - 8/5
Pine Grosbeak	5/25 - 8/15
Pine Siskin	5/20 - 7/25
Pine Warbler	5/20 - 8/1
Piping Plover	5/25 - 8/1
Prairie Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Purple Finch	5/25 - 8/1
Purple Martin	5/25 - 7/15
Razorbill	5/1 - 8/1
Red Crossbill	4/25 - 8/1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5/20 - 8/1
Red-breasted Merganser	6/10 - 8/1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5/15 - 8/1
Red-eyed Vireo	6/1 - 8/5
Redhead	6/10 - 8/1
Red-headed Woodpecker	5/25 - 8/1
Red-shouldered Hawk	5/15 - 8/1
Red-tailed Hawk	5/15 - 8/1
Red-winged Blackbird	5/10 - 7/25
Ring-billed Gull	5/15 - 8/1
Ring-necked Duck	6/1 - 8/1
Ring-necked Pheasant	5/1 - 8/15
Rock Pigeon	3/1 - 11/1
Roseate Tern	6/1 - 7/25
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/1 - 8/5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6/1 - 8/15
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6/1 - 8/1
Ruddy Duck	6/5 - 8/1
Ruffed Grouse	4/20 - 8/10
Rusty Blackbird	5/15 - 8/10
Saltmarsh Sparrow	6/1 - 8/15
Sandhill Crane	5/1 - 8/1
Savannah Sparrow	5/20 - 8/1
Scarlet Tanager	6/1 - 8/10
Seaside Sparrow	6/1 - 8/1
Sedge Wren	6/1 - 8/1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5/25 - 8/1

Species	Safe Dates
Short-eared Owl	5/1 - 8/1
Snowy Egret	5/1 - 7/15
Solitary Sandpiper	6/5 - 6/25
Song Sparrow	5/10 - 8/15
Sora	5/15 - 8/1
Spotted Sandpiper	5/25 - 7/5
Spruce Grouse	4/1 - 8/5
Swainson's Thrush	6/5 - 7/25
Swamp Sparrow	5/20 - 8/15
Tennessee Warbler	6/5 - 7/25
Tree Swallow	5/1 - 7/15
Tricolored Heron	5/1 - 7/15
Tufted Titmouse	4/15 - 8/1
Turkey Vulture	6/1 - 8/1
Upland Sandpiper	5/25 - 7/15
Veery	6/1 - 8/1
Vesper Sparrow	5/20 - 7/25
Virginia Rail	5/15 - 8/1
Warbling Vireo	6/1 - 8/1
White-breasted Nuthatch	4/15 - 8/10
White-eyed Vireo	6/1 - 8/1
White-faced Ibis	5/5 - 7/15
White-throated Sparrow	5/25 - 8/15
White-winged Crossbill	4/25 - 8/1
Wild Turkey	4/15 - 9/1
Willet	5/20 - 7/15
Willow Flycatcher	6/1 - 7/25
Wilson's Warbler	6/5 - 8/1
Wilson's Phalarope	6/1 - 7/25
Wilson's Snipe	5/15 - 7/25
Winter Wren	5/20 - 8/5
Wood Duck	5/5 - 8/1
Wood Thrush	6/1 - 8/1
Yellow Rail	6/1 - 8/1
Yellow Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	6/10 - 7/25
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5/15 - 8/1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6/10 - 8/1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	5/25 - 7/15
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6/1 - 8/10
Yellow-throated Vireo	5/25 - 8/1