We all remember the first time we dropped a line into a lake, watching it disappear into the water as the brightly colored bobber bounced on the surface.

We wondered:

How deep did the worm drop? Will the fish see it? Is it in the right spot? Will I catch a fish? Why is it taking so long? How do we know fish are in there?

Then, magic. The bobber was yanked under water. The line tightened. We pulled the rod backwards and hollered for help.

We caught a fish!

For most of us, fishing is a big part of who we are. It's a favorite pastime, a way to hang out with friends, an adventure in Maine's outdoors. We have our favorite fishing spots, know just what bait is best, and when the fish are biting -- hopefully -- and where.

At the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, we've undertaken a few initiatives that we hope are going to make your experiences even better. You'll see a number of them described or linked to in this edition.

The first is a combined fishing regulations law book. As of April 1, open water and ice fishing laws are in one easy-to-read publication. The rules now are in effect for two years, so you only need one book instead of four separate editions like in the past.

With the introduction of the new fishing law book came a major change in fishing seasons. We've expanded fishing opportunities by allowing open water fishing on many lakes and ponds at the same time they are open to ice fishing, and we're making most lakes and ponds in southern and eastern counties open to year-round fishing. Check the new law book to ensure that your favorite body of water is one of them.

Also new this year is “The Maine Fishing Guide,” an online service developed by our fisheries division that uses GoogleEarth software to “layer” fishing information onto a map of Maine. Among the layers to choose from are fish species, lake depths, water access sites, registered guides and other services. For example, you can select “brook trout” and the guide will display lakes and ponds where they are located. Zoom in on your favorites or find new ones! “The Maine Fishing Guide” can be found on our website, www.mefishwildlife.com.

Our hatcheries division has already stocked thousands of brook trout, brown trout and splake in hundreds of Maine's rivers, lakes and ponds, so plenty of opportunities await you this spring! Check out what waters have been stocked in our online fish stocking report.

“Never Dump Your Bait” is a public service announcement that outlines why bait fish should not be discarded into waterways, that it’s a crime to do so, and the penalties one could face if found guilty of such activity. Produced by our fisheries and information and education divisions, the video can be viewed on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/mefishwildlife.

For the last couple of years, IF&W has partnered with the Maine Office of Tourism to promote the sport of fishing on Maine's travel-planning website, www.visitmaine.com. This site offers a wealth of information, including hotels and shops, to plan your next fishing vacation – or staycation – in Maine.

Open water fishing season is off to a great start this spring. Enjoy Maine’s rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. And, if you have the opportunity, bring a child fishing.

It’s never too late to make new memories – and to add to the ones you already have.
**Did you know?**

Nine fishing records have been set in three years, more than any other three-period in the 40 years of record keeping.

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By Travis Barrett
MDIFW Public Relations Representative

The boat slows in the shallows. The humming of the outboard engine barely cracks a ripple along the water’s surface, its sound barely cutting into the dusky calm.

A light beams toward the water. What lies below the surface looks like little more than shadows flitting along a bedroom wall, shapes of all sizes intertwined in the fluidity of motion.

There, out of nowhere, a pair of eyes glow in the darkness – like an outer-space predator on a theater screen in a science fiction ‘B’-movie. Alien, foreign, and strikingly out of place here on a cool, early-spring evening in central Maine.

In a matter of days, reports of a walleye population in two of the Belgrade Lakes are confirmed. Fisheries biologists from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife set up trap nets along rocky shorelines on both Long Pond and Great Pond. In less than two weeks’ time, the nets yield nearly two dozen walleye.

Walleye are prevalent in the northern Midwestern reaches of the United States, though their established populations reach as far north as Quebec and as far south as northern parts of Alabama and Georgia. A member of the perch family, the walleye is remarkably close in shape to the yellow perch, though a mature adult will grow to several times the size of a yellow perch.

Walleye appear very similar in color to smallmouth bass and lack the distinct line patterns seen on either perch or largemouth bass. They also rival the northern pike for their toothy presence, with large teeth protruding from both the upper and lower jaws.

But what makes the walleye the walleye is everything that the species’ name implies: Its eyes. The eyes have a reflective layer that refracts light and give them an “opaque" appearance.

With adults typically growing to 5-10 pounds, anglers are justifiably interested in catching walleye – so much so in some states, including Arkansas, that game departments actually stock them. In Maine, however, their introduction raises some serious concerns about their impact on local fisheries.

“A life history trait for walleye is that they're very aggressive colonizers of habitat,” said IF&W fisheries biologist Joe Dembeck. “That’s a concern for us – they have a big impact on aquatic systems.”

Walleye reminds Dembeck of two other species which spread rapidly across Maine. Yellow perch and black crappie both reproduce profusely and move their populations within water systems. Even in systems where they are native, walleye, perch and crappie rapidly drop downstream throughout connected waters.

Bass, northern pike, pickerel and muskie populations spread at a much slower rate, Dembeck said.

“The walleye’s movement isn’t as fast," he said. “It’s part of their life history.”

When local biologists Scott Davis and Jason Seiders found walleye in their trap nets on

Walleye recovered from a trapnet on Long Pond is measured (left) and weighed (right) by MDIF&W Regional Fisheries Biologist Scott Davis.

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SPRING 2010

FRONT COVER

These ‘aggressive colonizers’ have a negative impact on aquatic systems

A walleye recovered from a trapnet on Long Pond is measured (left) and weighed (right) by MDIF&W Regional Fisheries Biologist Scott Davis.

Continued on Page 6

SPRING 2010
Long Pond, just below The Spillway in the heart of Belgrade Village, and at the Salmon Lake outlet of Great Pond, they were concerned.

Given the species’ propensity for movement, they see the writing on the wall. Though the trap netting process was laborious and time-consuming this spring, the chance to remove 22 adult walleyes – all but one of them yet to spawn – was valuable.

“I really believe that what we’re doing is the right thing,” Davis said.

This is not the first time central Maine has seen walleye, neither in Long Pond nor Great Pond.

In the mid-1990s, walleye were reported and found in Long Pond during routine fall trap netting of the lake, and all of them were estimated to be approximately 4-year-olds. There was no proof of successful spawning by these walleye and there were few future reports by anglers prior to the last couple of fishing seasons.

According to a 1906 commissioner’s report, a total of 1.5 million walleye eggs were supplied from a hatchery in Belgrade, making it entirely possible that the fish themselves later ended up in Great Pond unintentionally. That’s where they were last seen in large numbers in the 1940s – prompting fisheries biologists at the time to allow the spearing of the fish in the shallows at night.

Fast-forward 70 years, however, and there are more walleye in both bodies of water. Virtually all of the fish netted by Davis and Seiders in the spring weighed between 5-7 pounds and estimated at approximately 5 years old.

Dembeck believes their size pinpoints when they were illegally introduced into Long and Great Ponds.

“Really what it is is biological terrorism. That’s what it is, simply put,” Dembeck said, pointing out that IF&W has committed to renewed, more vigorous efforts at finding illegal stockings.

“We do know that they were purposely brought here, and we know that they were purchased as fry. It was a deliberate action by a person or persons.”

People with any kind of attachment to Long Pond know this story all too well, unfortunately. The illegal introduction of another invasive species – northern pike – in the late 1970s decimated a once-proud and well-managed landlocked salmon fishery. Once a place where anglers used to congregate for some of the state’s best salmon fishing, it’s become perhaps best-known for the pike invasion there.

It’s natural for fears to persist regarding the appearance of walleye. Like any invasive species, a new presence in a body of water competes with established fish populations for habitat and forage.

“They are predators,” Dembeck said.

And that’s why law enforcement takes illegal introductions of invasives seriously. Illegally stocking Maine’s inland waters is a Class E crime, punishable by $10,000 in fines and up to six months in jail.

“We’d certainly encourage the public that if they catch any walleye in the Belgrades to call our Sidney office,” Dembeck said. “And if anyone has any information about how they got there, please call the Maine Warden Service.”

(Above) The dorsal fin on a walleye has a distinct size and shape, much like that of a yellow perch. (Top right) Walleye have vicious teeth and gill rakers capable of inflicting serious damage both to their prey and to the fingers of anglers. (Right) Regional fisheries biologists Scott Davis, left, and Jason Seiders collect data following a trapnet check on Great Pond.
The introduction of non-native fish in Maine’s waterways is a crime.

Here are examples of ongoing MDIF&W efforts to combat illegal introductions:

Largemouth bass recently have been caught in Endless Lake and their presence is due to an illegal introduction. Anglers fishing Seboeis Lake are asked to keep all legal-sized and undersized largemouth bass and to report them to Regional Fisheries Biologist Nels Kramer in Enfield at (207) 732-4131.

If you catch a walleye in the Belgrade Lakes, you are asked to kill the fish immediately and keep it before calling the MDIF&W Region B headquarters in Sidney at 547-5317 to report it.

Any information about the illegal stocking of walleye, bass or other non-native species can be reported to the Maine Warden Service through Operation Game Thief at www.MaineOGT.org or 1-800-ALERT-US.
When Jim Pellerin was a boy, he spent hours upon hours with friends trying to find the perfect trout pond. Like most anglers, he wanted one that had an abundant supply of fish that could take the bait, fight back and end up coming home with him.

Most trips, however, would yield only disappointment. “We’d grab the DeLorme map and all that stocking information that wasn’t available and head out,” he recalled. “Do you know how many hours we wasted looking for trout waters? Plenty.”

Now a regional fisheries biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Pellerin is the mastermind behind a new fishing tool that not only tells anglers where principle trout waters are located in Maine, but the hot spots for other species as well. “The Maine Fishing Guide” is an online service that also includes water access sites, guides, campgrounds and other services.

“It can do a lot of things, but as (broadcaster) Doug Rafferty says, ‘it doesn’t quite put the fish on the hook,’” according to Pellerin.

“The Maine Fishing Guide” uses Google Earth software, a global information system application that takes data and layers them as plots on a map. Sounds complicated, but surprisingly it’s not. Users choose selections from a list and zoom in on the results.

The inspiration for the guide came to Pellerin a couple of years ago when he was reviewing the state of Montana’s fishing website and guide. Chock-full of information, the biologist was able to read about what fish graced Montana’s waters. That’s right – read it.

“It was all text, but I liked the concept of it,” Pellerin said. “Montana’s guide is really nice, but I thought if we could do something in Google Earth, it would be better.”

Pellerin sought help from Chris Halstead, a computer analyst with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, who knows how to “layer” and had information on wild brook trout waters for another MDIF&W project.

Over time, the principle waters for other fish species was compiled using information that already was at hand – more than 5,000 records and 1,000 brook trout waters.

“We don’t have data on every pond,” Pellerin said, “And for streams, the data that is compatible with the maps; they’re from 2002. The maps take too long to load their Internet connections to process them.

What “The Maine Fishing Guide” offers is a good start to planning a trip because the information is all in one place. Pellerin said what frustrated him in the past – and he’s heard from anglers – is that information only was available by traditional means: brochures, telephone calls, word-of-mouth inquiries and Internet search engines. “It was so scattered.”

Pellerin sees potential in the site that already is so much better than what’s been available before. Fish stocking information, non-state-owned boat ramps, fish taxidermists, bait shops, estry campsites are being considered for inclusion.

“The sky’s the limit,” Pellerin said. “Whatever you can dream of, you can do a layer for that.”

While Pellerin has developed a guide that he wishes he could have used as a kid, he admits that even if he had it, there was no guarantee that he would have caught a trout. And there still isn’t today.
And for streams, the data doesn’t exist in a format that is compatible with the software application.

Unfortunately, the 2009 maps are out of date, and for most anglers, their Internet connection may be too slow to process the 2009 maps. What “The Maine Fishing Guide” offers is a good start to planning a trip because the information is all in one place. Pellerin said what frustrated him in the past – and he’s heard it from hunters and fellow anglers – is that information only was available by traditional means: brochures, telephone calls, word-of-mouth inquiries and Internet search engines. “It was so scattered.”

Pellerin sees potential in the site that already is so much better than what’s been available before. Fish stocking information, non-state-owned boat ramps, fish taxidermists, bait shops, and primitive and foster campsites are being considered for inclusion. “The sky’s the limit,” Pellerin said. “Whatever you can dream of, you can do a layer for that.”

While Pellerin has developed a guide that he wishes he could have used as a kid, he admits that even if he had it, there was no guarantee that he would have caught a trout.

And there still isn’t today. But because of it, trying has gotten a whole lot easier.

“This is a fishing guide,” Pellerin said. “We want you to have a reasonable expectation of catching a fish. But, you still have to know what you’re doing. Getting there is one thing, but catching them is a whole different story.”
One recent night, I decided to grab my fly rod and paddle down to fish in front of a nice stream that dumps into the lake not too far from my house. The smelts are known to run up this stream and, if you can hit it just right, your odds of catching a nice salmon or brook trout are very good.

It was a beautiful warm early April evening. It would be a nice paddle if nothing else.

Arriving at the mouth of the stream, I proceeded to cover the area with casts and retrieves using one of my favorite smelt streamer patterns. A half-hour went by with no fish while I was entertained by a pair of wood ducks followed by a pair of geese coming in for a landing in the cove to spend the night.

I was beginning to think I had missed the smelt run when suddenly I had a strike from a very big fish. The fight was on! The tremendous fish was quickly into my backing, taking line from the reel while heading to deep water. I was forced to pull the anchor and let the fish tow my canoe out into the lake. I’m always happy when big fish decide to head to deep water, away from the trees and boulders that inhabit the shoreline where so many fish are lost.

The battle ensued for several minutes with the great fish slowly tiring.

As always when fighting a nice fish, I asked God to just let me have a look at it! If you’re like me, you don’t want to be haunted by the “one that got away” without having at least seen what you were doing battle with.

With darkness quickly approaching, the fish finally tired and came to hand. Much to my surprise and initial disappointment, the fish was neither the 6-pound salmon nor the 4-pound brook trout I was hoping for. Instead, it was a lowly sucker that I had foul hooked in the back just above the dorsal fin! Now, I’ve been fly fishing for 36 years and this was the first time I had ever caught a sucker on a fly rod. I can tell you that for those 10 minutes from when the fish struck until

By Bill Swan
Director, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Bureau of Licensing, based in Augusta
I held it in my hand, I had never had a greater thrill fishing.

As I released the fish to fight another day, I realized what this moment was all about. That is the real story.

My good friend Dean Taylor passed away suddenly over the winter. Dean and I shared a love of the outdoors and often fished together. We had a yearly tradition of trolling for salmon just as soon as the ice went out. I can’t say that trolling is my favorite way to fish but Dean loved it so we always went at least once early in the season.

Bill, another friend of mine, is a trolling fanatic like Dean. Each year, Bill would graciously take us on our traditional early season salmon trolling trip. A few years ago, we chose Rangeley Lake as our destination, arriving at the town landing well before daybreak. It was a fine day for fishing and we had

Continued on Page 12
caught several nice salmon in no time. As we putted along enjoying the scenery, Dean had a tremendous strike on his rod and the battle was on. The fish didn’t jump as most salmon usually do so we were all thinking “big brook trout.” After many minutes of back and forth action, the great fish came to net. You guessed it – a big sucker hooked in the back just above the dorsal fin!

Now to say that Bill and I gave Dean a hard time about his great prize would be the understatement of the century. You see, among the three of us, we had well over 100 years of experience trolling for salmon and we had never caught a sucker. In fact, we had never even heard of anyone doing it! Leave it to Dean to do it. Of course, Dean was quick to point out the great skill it took to accomplish such a feat. All in all, it made for a great story that was told many times over.

So, as I sat in my canoe that April evening, enjoying the moment after releasing my very own sucker, I thought of Dean and smiled. He was undoubtedly enjoying a cold beer while watching his beloved Yankees (yes, Dean was a Yankees fan) – and having a good laugh at my expense! Even though he couldn’t be with me in person, he certainly was in spirit.

Thanks, Dean, for yet another great trip!
Invasive plants, fish, and wildlife into Maine’s waters and woods is punishable with fines and/or jail time.
REFLECTION
A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY

MAINE
FISH AND GAME

SPRING, 1965
Restoring Trout Streams

Man has amazing faculties for changing his environment. Indeed we have now reached the incredible position of being threatened with the ultimate in habitat alteration — destruction of our earth by nuclear explosion. On the bright side of our technological development have been the labor-saving devices which have increased leisure and provided more time for relaxation. How to spend this leisure time is a problem which must be solved by the recreation industry.

Because man has always been attracted to water, much of our recreation revolves around water sports, with fishing as one of the all-time favorites. The recreation industry must provide a quality product for increasing numbers of consumers with more leisure, but, at the same time our production plants — the lakes and streams — are suffering continued deterioration.

Think a minute about your favorite fishing areas. How many have not in some way been changed by man? Yes, even the famed Allagash has felt the woodman's axe, the blast of dynamite to make a channel for the old river boats, and changed water levels controlled by dams on lake outlets.

How many waters have been taken out of production by pollution? How many beautiful rivers have been turned into open sewers? Perhaps it goes without saying that clean water is necessary for water recreation. If the oxygen in a stream has been reduced to a critical level, even for a short time, fish cannot survive, and it is useless to consider other habitat improvement. The Inland Fisheries and Game Department has no authority here but to make recommendations.

Responsibility for pollution abatement rests with each of you.

Large impoundments force nature to cut production of stream fish and turn instead to fish that can live in a lake environment. And you are forced to change your fishing habits. No one can deny the need for the construction of high-speed highways, but highways take thousands of acres of wildlands out of production, forcing the hunter and the hunted to concentrate in the remaining space. Fluctuating water flows scour the streams during floods, and later, at low water, there is barely enough flow to cover the stream bottom. Fish production is limited by both these extremes of flow.

Successful attempts have been made to increase the production of our water areas by stream improvement. Research over the past thirty years has provided more and more information about fish, resulting in more efficient stream improvement by the fishery scientist. For example, the solution to the problem of fluctuating water levels is controlled flow, and controlled flow can be provided by water control dams. Such dams collect and store water when it is plentiful and then meter it out throughout the year to provide a stable flow. Generally a fishway is required, and it is usually efficient to use the water that runs the fishway to provide the correct stream flows.

Shown on this page are two water control dams. The Pleasant River Lake outlet dam and fishway (Figure 1) control the water level in Pleasant River Lake and the water flows in the Pleasant River. The Cathance Lake outlet dam and fishway (Figure 2) control the water level in Cathance Lake and the water flows in Cathance Stream, a major tributary to the Denny's River. These dams and others like them are providing improved streams where young fish survive in stable water flows with plentiful food supplies.

Some of Maine's finest trout streams have been destroyed by log-driving operations. River driving of logs and pulpwood has been practiced in
and bank cover results in summer water temperatures too high for brook trout. Small springs are diverted and rendered ineffective for cooling the brook.

2. Pools and cover. Almost all overhanging banks, large boulders, logs, and debris that serve as protective cover for fish are removed. The stream bed is leveled and nearly all pools are eliminated when depressions are filled and loops and turns are straightened. The natural stream width is often increased considerably, and the result is a thin sheet of water flowing over a wide, flat stream bed. Water depth is often insufficient for trout.

3. Trout food. Aquatic insect populations, the chief food of trout, are temporarily destroyed, but the insect populations recover rapidly. Overhanging vegetation is eliminated, and fewer terrestrial insects are available as trout food.

4. Siltation. Use of bulldozers to clear haul roads and landings and to push pulpwod into streambeds, disturbs and moves tons of soil, resulting frequently in severe siltation for many miles downstream. Such siltation reduces survival of trout eggs, reduces populations of streambottom insects, and destroys streambed vegetation.

All practices that cause problems similar to those listed above must be controlled and the streams improved if fish production is to match your fishing needs.

Fortunately, some of the natural stream conditions can be restored using the very instrument that may have destroyed them in the first place, the bulldozer. Fishery scientists directing men and machines furnished by the timber companies have demonstrated that “biological know-how” and company resources can combine to solve many problems of stream restoration.

Let’s look at Big Hudson Brook and Sourdannahunk Lake outlet to see the results of some trout stream renewal. Figure 3 shows how Hudson Brook looked before restoration, and Figure 4 shows how Sourdannahunk Stream looked just below the lake. Then the biologist and the machine went to work (Figure 5). Boulders arranged as deflectors now constrict the Big Hudson Brook stream channel to concentr-
trate the water flows and to shape needed pools below the deflectors (Figure 6). Pools were excavated where springs entered the brook, and some spring outlets were diverted into pools above and below, to impound cold water from springs and to help insure the trout of a more stable home with plenty of living space.

Stretches of Sourdnhunk Stream were so full of bark and other wood wastes that the only solution was to cut a new channel and fill in the old (Figure 7). Here the front-end loader was most effective.

Log deflectors for Sourdnhunk Stream were firmly anchored into the banks (Figure 8) and planted with alders (Figure 9) to provide natural and permanent improvement. The deflectors speed up the flow and create live pools for big trout.

We can be thankful that many miles of Maine streams do not need improvement, but those that do are a “lost resource” until we find the funds to complete the stream restoration program.
In order to accept a fish or game animal as a record, The Maine Sportsman requires the person submitting the record to send a photo of himself with the fish or game. We also require a witnessed, signed weight slip that indicates the fish or animal was weighed on a state-certified scale. It is helpful if a photo of the fish on the scales showing the weight is provided.

In the case of fish, we prefer it be seen by a state biologist to confirm the species since several species can be mistaken for others.

Information we require includes the person’s name and address, the name and location of the water a fish was caught in, and, if possible, what tackle and lure or firearm was used. The more verifiable information provided, the more likely the record will be accepted.

If you know of a verifiable fish or game record, send the information to: Harry Vanderweide, The Maine Sportsman, P.O. Box 351, Augusta, ME 04332 or email him at harry.vanderweide@myfairpoint.net.

--Harry Vanderweide
Maine Sportsman

**MDI F&W NOTE:** According to record-keeper Harry Vanderweide, **nine state fishing records have been set in the past three years** -- more new records in a three-year period than any other three-year period in the 40 years that records have been kept.

**ATLANTIC SALMON**
28 lbs. 1 oz.
Howard Clifford
Portland, ME
10/9/80
location undisclosed

**BLACK CRAPPIE**
3 lbs. 4 oz.
Jarod Hjort
Gray, ME
12/28/06
location undisclosed

**BLUEBACK TROUT OR ARCTIC CHARR**
5.24 lbs.
Carter McLaughlin
Mapleton
8/20/08
Pushineer Pond

**BROOK TROUT**
9.2 lbs.
Patrick Coan
Waterboro, ME
1/8/10
Mousam Lake

**BROWN TROUT**
23 1/2 lbs.
Robert Hodsdon
Sanford, ME
3/6/96
Square Pond
Milestones Being Set at a Fast Pace

Cusk
18 lbs. 8 oz.
Annette Dumond
Fort Kent, ME
3/15/86
Eagle Lake

Landlocked Salmon
22 lbs. 8 oz.
Edward Blakely
Darien, CT.
1907
Sebago Lake

Northern Pike
31.2 lbs.
Lance Bolduc
Skowhegan, ME
3/25/98
North Pond

Fallfish
3 lbs. 12 oz.
Wayne S. Morey
Benton, ME
9/12/86
Sibley Pond

Largemouth Bass
11 lbs. 10 oz.
Robert Kamp
Denmark, ME
1968
Moose Pond

Pickerel
7 lbs. .02 oz.
Josh Gagnon
Lebanon, ME
3/10/07
Balch Lake

Lake Trout or Togue
31 lbs. 8 oz.
Hollis Grindle
Ellsworth, ME
1958
Beech Hill Pond

Muskie
33 lbs.
Onezime Dufour
Madawaska, ME
5/15/10
St. John River, Madawaska

Rainbow Trout
7 lbs.
Michael Thebarge
Skowhegan
2/ 6/ 09
Lake George

Smallmouth Bass
8 lbs.
George Dyer
Augusta, ME
1970
Thompson Lake

Splake
10 lbs. 3 oz.
Daniel R. Paquette
Augusta, ME
5/8/93
Basin Pond

Sunapee Trout
4 lbs. 10 oz.
Wayne Dillon
Brownville, ME
6/89
Lower South Branch Pond
WALLEYE  
7 lbs. 2 oz.  
Tom Conard  
Eldersburg, MD  
5/1/10  
Upper Long Pond

WHITE PERCH  
3.24 lbs.  
Daniel I. Dolloff  
Monroe, ME  
5/28/09  
Ellis Pond  
Brooks

WHITEFISH  
7 lbs. 8 oz.  
Neil Sullivan  
Worcester, MA  
1958  
Sebago Lake

YELLOW PERCH  
1 lb. 10 oz.  
Chad Mostats  
Portland, ME  
8/89  
Worthley Pond, East Peru

WALLEYE  
7 lbs. 2 oz.  
Tom Conard  
Eldersburg, MD  
5/1/10  
Upper Long Pond

BLACK BEAR (Archery)  
501 lbs., field dressed  
Pete Shippee  
Winthrop, ME  
8/29/90  
Strong

BLACK BEAR (Sow)  
334.5 lbs., field dressed  
Tom Sullivan  
Portland, CT.  
8/28/06  
Mapleton

BLACK BEAR (Sow)  
(Archery)  
328 lbs.  
Kyle Stokes  
Annville, PA  
8/29/07  
St. Agatha

 BLACK BEAR (Firearms)  
680 lbs. (live weight)  
Richard Moore  
Allentown, PA  
9/13/93  
Patten

MOOSE (Bull)  
1,330 lbs., field dressed  
Willard & Sterling Waterman  
New Gloucester, ME  
1982  
Marsards

MOOSE (Bull)  
(Archery)  
1,040 lbs.  
Craig Warren  
New Gloucester, ME  
9/30/09  
Allagash

MOOSE (Cow)  
774 lbs.  
Mark McKenna  
Jay, ME  
10/13/05  
Dyer Brook

TURKEY  
27 lbs. 12 oz.  
Sarah Levangie  
Belfast, ME  
4/28/03  
Waldo County

TURKEY  
(Bow)  
25 lbs.  
Chris Nadeau  
Wells, ME  
5/1/07

WHITE-TAILED BUCK  
(Firearms)  
185 lbs., field dressed  
Luke Arsenault  
Lisbon Falls, ME  
11/1/92  
Seboomook Township  
and  
Steve Letourneau  
Turner, ME  
11/11/04  
Lower Enchanted Township

WHITE-TAILED BUCK  
(Bowhunting)  
355 lbs., field dressed  
Horace Hinckley  
Augusta, ME  
1955  
Concord

WHITE-TAI LED BUCK  
(Firearms)  
210 lbs., eight-points  
Darryl Flagg  
Bethel, ME  
11/15/80  
Bethel

WHITE-TAI LED BUCK  
(Antlered)  
210 lbs., eight-points  
Jack Cross  
Bethel, ME  
11/15/80  
Bethel

WILD TURKEY  
27 lbs. 12 oz.  
Sarah Levangie  
Belfast, ME  
4/28/03  
Waldo County

TURKEY  
(Bow)  
25 lbs.  
Chris Nadeau  
Wells, ME  
5/1/07

WHITE-TAILED BUCK  
(Firearms)  
185 lbs., field dressed  
Luke Arsenault  
Lisbon Falls, ME  
11/1/92  
Seboomook Township  
and  
Steve Letourneau  
Turner, ME  
11/11/04  
Lower Enchanted Township

WHITE-TAILED BUCK  
(Bowhunting)  
355 lbs., field dressed  
Horace Hinckley  
Augusta, ME  
1955  
Concord

WHITE-TAI LED BUCK  
(Firearms)  
210 lbs., eight-points  
Darryl Flagg  
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11/15/80  
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WHITE-TAI LED BUCK  
(Antlered)  
210 lbs., eight-points  
Jack Cross  
Bethel, ME  
11/15/80  
Bethel
A WORD ABOUT INTRODUCED SPECIES RECORDS

FROM MDIF&W
Though records are maintained for the following introduced fish species -- black crappie, northern pike, muskellunge and walleye -- MDIF&W does not manage these species.

Introduced fish species compete with and prey upon the existing fish species in a water, altering the food chain in a negative manner. Additionally, fish introductions can transmit fish diseases between waterbodies.

MDIF&W offers information on harms of illegal fish stockings.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection website gives information of how to prevent and report invasive aquatic plants.

NEVER DUMP YOUR BAIT!
An informative video.

ออนไลน์ทริปแพลนนิ้งแกะแผนที่จากสำนักงานการท่องเที่ยวメイン

visitmaine.org

SELECT TO WATCH
PART 1
PART 2

Maine: A World-Class Fishery
GET ON BOARD
SUPPORT WILDLIFE

$20 annually plus regular registration fees. Vanity plates up to six characters available at all BMV locations and designated town clerks.
FISHERMAN LICENSE PLATE

Supports Maine's fish hatcheries

25%
Builds stronger landowner relations

15% DEVELOPS BOAT LAUNCHES

10%
Promotes endangered species conservation
There aren't too many birds in Maine that get more personalized attention than Marian and Robin, the adult peregrine falcons nesting in Portland. The peregrines nest on a bridge in the city, and the bridge staff is so enamored with the birds they've named them and have been watching over -- and monitoring them -- every day during the breeding season for four years now.

In addition to the bridge staff these peregrines have a web cam set up on their nest courtesy of the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), so literally thousands of people from all over the world are able to watch their development. Last year when the only chick fell off the nesting platform, the phones in the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's office were ringing off the hook immediately (the parent eventually pulled the chick back up to safety). These birds have a lot of caretakers.

Happily, I consider myself one of them. One mid-May morning, I joined biologists Patrick Keenan from BRI, Chris Martin from New Hampshire Audubon, as well as communications staff from BRI, MDIF&W and the Maine Sportsman, as we banded Robin and Marian's four chicks.

This was a good year for the Portland peregrines. In 2007, the birds only produced one chick, and in 2008 none of their eggs hatched. In 2009 again only one egg hatched, so this year I was one of the people watching the web cam, cheering when I realized that all four eggs in the nest had hatched.

Our group met with bridge staff to go over protocols and safety precautions for the morning. Our process seemed pretty straightforward: walk to the nest, collect the chicks, transport them to a room inside the bridge, band them and return them to the nest and their parents.

Simple, eh? Well, you try taking a chick away from two adult peregrine falcons.

Did I mention that peregrine falcons, an endangered species in...
Photos by Will Lund; Single chick photo by Judy Camuso

After banding; Marian, the adult female peregrine, keeps an eye on biologists. (Above) Biologist Chris Martin from New Hampshire to put a band on a peregrine falcon chick.
Maine, are known to swoop at speeds in excess of 90 miles-per-hour? That they are so aggressive that hiking trails where they nest are often closed to prevent the birds from harming people? That they knock their prey out of the air to kill them?

Marian and Robin are no exception; they are good parents and did their best to keep us intruders from invading their nest. They were diligent in their efforts to ward us off. I’m exaggerating a little, but it can be intimidating. Fortunately, we were prepared. The bridge staff accompanied us, and held swimming noodles and snow pushers up in the air to prevent the falcons from getting too close to our heads. We also wore hard hats in the event one of the parents did make a strike (which generally happens at least once).

Within short order, we collected the four chicks, put them in their carrier and brought them to a room to be banded. Peregrines generally nest on a cliff face or rock precipice, so bringing the chicks into a room isn’t possible, but here it is a luxury; it’s less stressful for the chicks, the parents and the banders. The birds are fitted with two bands, one aluminum band from the U.S. Geological Survey, and one color band. The USGS band has nine numbers and basically works like a Social Security number for the bird; it permanently identifies the bird and all its associated data. The color band has just one or two number and letters and a unique color pattern that allows us to identify the bird from a distance, so we don’t have to recapture it to monitor it.

I won’t go into all the goals and objectives of banding, but quickly say that banding birds allows us to monitor individuals. It helps us to answer some of the most common questions: How long do the birds live? Where do they go in the winter? Do they use the same nest year after year? Same mate? Being able to identify individuals goes a long way in helping us to answer some these questions.

Each bird was banded and data on general body condition were recorded, and then each was set on a pillowcase to wait until all four were finished.

I’ve banded lots of birds, owls and songbirds mostly, but all birds that can fly. It was so unusual to band a bird and then set it down and have it just look up at you and not try to fly away. It was like they were just sitting in their nest waiting for their parents to come back, not really fazed by us at all. Once we finished the banding process and all the necessary data were collected, we put the chicks back in their carrier and made our way back to their nest.

Their parents were right there waiting, screaming at us as we made our way along the catwalks up to their nest. Our primary goal is always the birds’ safety, so we do our best to minimize stress and handling time. The entire process, from our getting organized and meeting with the bridge staff, to banding and returning the chicks to the nest, took less than an hour.

This is always one of my favorite days of the spring, and is the third year I’ve been able to help out with banding these birds. What takes a total of an hour of actual work, actually takes many hours of preparation.

---

**APPRECIATION**

I offer a special thank you to Patrick, who always takes the lead in organizing the event and does all the prep work, and to Chris, who traveled from New Hampshire to lend his expertise. As always the bridge staff is enormously helpful and makes the whole thing possible. It’s a great cooperative effort. Hopefully we’ll have many more cooperators as these chicks leave their nest and are spotted around the state.
MDI F&W Regional Wildlife Biologist Judy Camuso holds a peregrine falcon chick. (Above) Marian and Robin’s four chicks sit after being banded.

KEEP US INFORMED
Please call or e-mail if you see a banded peregrine. Sightings or recoveries of banded birds is the ultimate goal and allows us to add to our collective knowledge.
To reach us, call (207) 657-2345 or e-mail Judy.Camuso@maine.gov.
Larry Barnes, of midcoast Maine, is a Master Falconer. This unusual hobby has turned into a passion and a lifestyle, and his commitment to his birds is exceptional.

Falconry is an ancient sport of hunting with hawks, falcons, eagles or other raptors that dates back thousands of years worldwide. Falcons have been found buried with Vikings. In China, the culture of falconry once occupied a very significant role, with many historic remains in literature, poems, painting and porcelain prior to 700BC. In ancient times, the Japanese ‘hawked’ by falconers on horseback and armed with bows on their back. Falconry appeared with the emergence of civilizations, and was already popular in the Middle East and Arabian Gulf region several millennia BC.

Today, it takes dedication to become a falconer, and to make the intensive commitment to your birds necessary for them to be successful hunters. Currently, Maine has about 20 licensed general falconers and roughly one third of them are Master Falconers.

To practice falconry in Maine, a person must pass an exam and an onsite inspection of his/her facility and equipment by the department, hold a valid Maine hunting license, and be at least 16 years old. Larry, as a falconer, just became one of them.

Larry keeps a peregrine falcon at the moment, a two-year-old female that is just coming into her own as a huntress. She is a Peales Peregrine, a subspecies not found in Maine but native to the Pacific Northwest. She is a bit larger than our native falcons, thus better able to handle her preferred quarry of ducks.

There are few veterinarians in Maine that are experienced in treating raptor ailments. Larry consults Dr. Pat Redig, a veterinarian at the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, whom he can contact with questions or symptoms to receive medical advice and instructions.

The female peregrine falcon is kept outdoors during the day, except in the worst of weather, and brought into her unheated mews for the night. This assures good feather condition and acclimatization to the elements and seasons.

Raptors are birds that have a hooked beak and sharp talons, adapted for seizing, tearing up and eating prey animals. (Photo by USFWS)

Photos By Lisa Kane
MDIF&W Natural Sciences Educator
To practice falconry in Maine, a person must pass an exam and an onsite inspection of his/her facility and equipment, both administered by the department. An individual also must hold a valid Maine hunting license. To get your start as a falconer, you must begin as an Apprentice, be at least 16 years of age, have a sponsor that is a general or master falconer and plan to apprentice for at least two years. See what I mean about dedication?

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Daily handling is essential to monitor the health of the bird and to build a reliable rapport between the falconer and the bird.

She is weighed twice daily, one of the most important parts of determining the bird's condition and level of hunger, which is the main reason the bird will hunt for its handler.

Flown and hunted daily during the various hunting seasons throughout the year, this peregrine has gained strength, experience and a working relationship with Larry. When she is successful, and captures a duck -- her principle hunting target -- she is immediately given choice morsels to eat to reinforce her success.

On the days she does not hunt, she is fed Coturnix quail, a domestic gamebird raised for human meat and egg consumption, and purchased frozen from a Minnesota supplier. There is a fine line between providing enough food to keep the bird in top flight and strength condition, yet hungry enough to be eager to hunt.

Continued on Page 32
Larry most often hunts at low tide in the mid-coast region, flushing ducks for his falcon to take. One big hazard can be the presence of other wild raptors in the area in which he is hunting. He has lost one bird, a gyrfalcon, to an eagle, and just recently his peregrine was harassed by a more aggressive wild peregrine. This is when the radio transmitters come in handy -- Larry can follow the signal of his birds to retrieve them if they are chased off course or out of sight.

The leather glove that Larry wears is called a gauntlet, and gives the bird something to grip while sitting on the fist and protects his arm from her razor sharp talons.

These birds are not pets! They are wild birds that have been trained to hunt cooperatively with their handlers. In the wild, they may live only three to four years, while in captivity and with the excellent care they receive from their handlers, may live more than 15 years.

Falconry is clearly not a hobby for just anyone. Falconers are dedicated, committed and passionate about their birds and their sport. They strive to create the highest quality environments for and relationships with their birds.
Peregrine Falcons are a Maine Endangered Species. Once a breeding resident of our mountain cliffs and coastal headlands, this raptor was eliminated from the entire eastern U.S. by the early 1960s. Like bald eagles, peregrines were the victims of DDE, a lingering by-product of the insecticide DDT used to kill mosquitoes and other pests. As smaller birds ate the contaminated insects, then the peregrines ate the smaller birds, DDE built up in their systems causing their eggshells to thin and break during incubation. Unable to reproduce, the species died out here.

From 1984 to 1997, 144 captive-bred falcons were released from 8 different Maine locations in an effort to restore the birds to our state. Today, peregrines are nesting from the city of Lewiston to Acadia National Park to Mount Kineo on Moosehead Lake!

- Their name comes from the Latin ‘peregrinus’, meaning wanderer or traveler.
- They are ‘raptors’, meaning ‘to seize’.
- Females are called falcons, males are called a tiercel.
- Adult peregrines have gray backs, pale colored chests and spots on their lower body.
- Distinctive black ‘sideburns’ are prominent on their faces.
- They are commonly called ‘Duck Hawks’, because they eat ducks, pigeons, starlings and other birds.
- Adults eat about 2 ¼ ounces of food a day – about 2 blackbirds’ worth.
- Peregrines can spot a bird they are hunting from up to 1 mile away.
- They are diurnal, meaning they hunt during the day.
- Peregrines are the fastest birds on earth, snatching their prey out of the air at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour!
- Length: 15-21 inches with a wingspan of 3.5 feet.
- Weight: about 2 lbs, females weight slightly more than males.
- Lifespan: 7-15 years; sometimes up to 20 yrs old!
- Range: found on every continent except Antarctica; can live in urban cities, tropics, desert and tundra.
- Peregrines mate for life.
- They make a nest, or scrape on ledges, caves, buildings.
- Females lay a ‘clutch’ of 3-4 eggs; both parents will take care of them.
- Peregrine falcon chicks are called eyases; in 6 days they double their weight and at 3 weeks they are 10 times their birth size.
- In 9-12 weeks the chicks will begin to learn to hunt on their own; their first prey will be dragonflies and butterflies.
- Only 1 out of 2 will survive their first year.
- 2009 surveys identified 25 nesting pairs of peregrines in Maine, the highest count of the resident population in at least 60 years.
- Peregrines now reside at 20 Maine cliffs or coastal headlands; as well as 5 bridges or buildings in urban centers.

See if you can fill in the blanks with the correct words under each picture or photograph. Now try to figure out the mystery words below using the color-coded circled letters. They will spell out the names of 3 favorite foods peregrines like to hunt for and eat in Maine.

The Latin ‘peregrinus’ means ‘wanderer’ or ‘traveler’.

Their nest, or scrape on ledges, cliffs or buildings is also called an aerie.

Peregrine falcon chicks are called eyases.

At _ to _ weeks old, their first prey will be .

and

The word _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ means ‘to seize’.

The mystery words are: DUCKS, GEESE, PIGEONS.
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FOR ANSWERS, SEE PAGE 46
Why Run Exercise Drills?

At 11:05 a.m. on Sept. 27, 1996, the oil tanker Julie N, inbound with a cargo of 8.8 million gallons of No. 2 fuel oil, struck the south side of the Million Dollar Bridge spanning Portland Harbor between Portland and South Portland as it went through the draw span.

Following the collision, the vessel proceeded one mile up the Fore River to the Rolling Mills terminal where it was boomed off. State and federal agencies responded for more than two months, until the clean up was declared complete in Dec. 2, 1996.

Recovery rates for oil spills typically range from 10 to 15 percent. Of the 179,634 gallons spilled in the Julie N spill, 140,994 gallons were recovered - a recovery rate of 78 percent.

By Jordan Bailey
MDIF&W Wildlife Biologist

An oil tanker and a car carrier have collided 15 miles off Portland Head Light. More than 2.7 million gallons of crude oil has been released into Maine's waters.

This is not a real incident. It's a simulation, the basis for the Spill of National Significance 2010, a federally driven oil spill response drill hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard every three years at a different U.S. location. This time around,
southern Maine proved to be a perfect fit for the drill, which took place the week of March 22 in Portland, as this area is the second largest oil importation port on the east coast.

To be designated a "SONS," a spill must occur that will exceed the local capacity to respond. For this drill, the simulated spill oiled coastline within the Gulf of Maine from Portland south to Massachusetts within three days.

Unlike most oil spill drills that begin when a spill occurs, this drill was not initiated until the third day of the spill. The decision to start on Day 3 gave responders more time to react to a spill already underway, versus starting from the beginning and waiting to see where the oil was going to spread while making initial notifications. This led to an immediate increase in action for players in the drill and assisted in involving multiple states and agencies at the start of the drill.

All players in the SONS 2010 drill were working within a pre-designated script designed so that each drill player would have activities to react to. This script was written to test the ability of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to respond to a catastrophic oil spill resulting in hundreds, if not thousands, of oiled birds.

For oiled wildlife response in Maine, MDIFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Continued on Page 38
Continued from Page 37

Service were lead planners for SONS 2010. We were able to script each hour of the two-day drill to simulate real events and scenarios that wildlife staff would respond to during a real, catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Maine. These wildlife scenarios were written with the potential for 6,000 birds oiled along the Maine coast in late March, if not more.

SONS 2010 had involvement from more than 30 wildlife agency personnel, including wildlife biologists from MDIFW (20), USFWS (9), USDA-Wildlife Services (1), and New Hampshire Fish & Game (2), as well as wildlife rehabilitation specialists from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research (2) and International Bird Rescue Research Center (2) - the state of Maine’s contracted wildlife rehabilitator for large-scale oiled wildlife response.

Wildlife biologists were stationed in Portland at either the Unified Area Command, based at Holiday Inn by the Bay, or Oiled Wildlife Rehab Center, which was the Maine Department of Environmental Protection office. Individuals at the Portland Unified Area Command were involved in the operations section to direct field response and in the planning section for activities, such as Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Resource at Risk specialists. Those stationed at the rehabilitation center were focused on field deployments in response to oiled wildlife calls.

This drill tested most aspects of a large-scale oiled wildlife response, but there are still areas that we hope to continue to improve. MDIFW wildlife biologists will continue to train as needed to ensure a proper response to any oil spill in the future that may affect wildlife. Future trainings will focus on communication, chain-of-custody documentation for law enforcement, and testing equipment deployment such as boats and wildlife deterrence equipment.

Participating in SONS 2010 was a great learning experience for MDIFW wildlife biologists, and the relationships we were able to form with other state and federal natural resource agencies will be our greatest asset if we ever have a catastrophic oil spill in Maine.
MDIF&W Regional Wildlife Biologist Scott Lindsay surveys the shore during the simulated oil spill drill effort.

MDIF&W Regional Wildlife Biologist Don Katnik (above) checks a map during the drill. MDIF&W Wildlife Biologist Jonathan Mays (right) looks out over the ocean while MDIF&W cartographer Jason Czapiga takes notes.
The past two years have been a challenge for the governor and legislature having to cover a $340 million revenue shortfall. State agencies, including the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife endured cuts to budgets and programs. Currently there are 24 vacant positions in the Department that will not be filled.

As I write this article, the Department’s revenues from license sales and registrations are below projections. With little or no state money, and depending almost entirely on these sales, our ability to preserve, protect, and enhance our natural resources - the lifeblood of our economy - are at great risk.

For many years now, funding for fish and wildlife has been declining. There is one basic reason for this: the number of hunters and anglers has been declining across the country, and that translates into fewer licenses and registrations sold. Fewer licensed sportsmen and women mean less federal money.

Further complicating matters is the fact that revenues, for decades now, have not kept up with the rising cost of doing business, as well as the expanded responsibilities of fish and wildlife agencies.

In the face of this gloomy outlook, there are solutions and opportunities. The first is entirely within the Department’s control. The second is a new source of funding over and above the sale of licenses and registrations. It is a solution that will depend on the people of Maine and our elected officials.

First, what the Department can do, and quickly, is make every effort to increase the sale of non-resident big game and non-resident fishing licenses. We’ll do that in two ways. In order to effectively “tell” the story and make the sale, we’re creating several short video “infomercials,” one each for the bear hunt, moose hunt, big buck hunt, and wild turkey hunt.

We’ll broadcast those videos on our website, on Youtube, and on Facebook. We’ll also bring them to key out-of-state shows and send them to sportsman’s clubs in each of those states.

We have to “sell” the rarity and uniqueness of moose and bear, the signature icons of the state. Big game sports bring in larger revenues to the Department and will also have a measurable impact on the state’s economy. Despite a significant decline of Maine’s whitetail deer herd, especially in the vast northern part of the state, 304 big bucks were harvested last year, all weighing between 200-265 lbs.

We must also “sell” the fact that everything in Maine is less expensive than most anywhere else. Food, lodging, guide fees, and equipment all cost less in Maine.

Finally, and what is truly unique about Maine is…..the Maine experience. No where else in the lower 48 states can one
find the vastness of our wild places; the abundance and diversity of fish, game and wildlife; thousands of miles of clean rivers and streams; thousands of lakes and ponds; quaint villages and friendly people; and an incredible seacoast with lighthouses and lobsters.

We also have to “sell” our two-season wild turkey hunt, and new this year, a permit for one additional bird. To do that, we’ll focus on the southern states, especially Tennessee where turkey hunting is immensely popular….and bass fishing is king. In the south we will sell our fantastic turkey hunt and the best kept secret in Maine….our incredible bass fisheries, which none other than the renowned Lefty Kregg has described as the best on the East Coast. “You want to catch small-mouth bass,” Lefty states, “go to Maine.”

The other solution is up to Mainers. As a result of a partnership between the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, and the sportsmen and women of Maine, an alternative funding mechanism for the Department is being pursued. A proposed 1/8 of a percent of the sales tax would go to the Department to enable it to continue to preserve, protect, and enhance our natural resources. This additional money would be constitutionally protected in the same way our license sales and registrations are protected.

This will happen by way of a citizen’s initiative on the November 2011 ballot, and be subject to approval by the state legislature. As Mainers have done in the past, they will be called upon once again to support and protect the natural resources of this unique and special place we call home.

This method of funding is not new, but actually has become law in several states already. Most importantly it spreads the responsibility for caring for and protecting our natural resources to everyone who uses them: bird watchers, campers, hiking enthusiasts, mountain bikers, kayakers, canoeists, skiers, and anyone who loves this place and wants it to be here for future generations.

Sportsmen and women will continue to do their share, but will not have to endure repeated fee increases and single-handedly bear the stewardship burden of this magical and special place.

To be clear. What’s at stake is not the survival of an agency, but the ability of the State of Maine to safeguard our economy which is based on the health and attractiveness of the only commodity we have to sell: our abundant, priceless, and renewable natural resources.
The Fahi Pond Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in Embden in Somerset County. It is a 277-acre ericaceous fen, and encompasses the bog area on the north end of Fahi Pond; including 2 much smaller ponds called Mud and Boynton. A dam located at the outlet to Fahi Stream impounds the pond. The only uplands associated with the management area are two wooded islands and a two-acre wooded lot at the dam site. This WMA was purchased in 1957 with Federal Aid monies.

ABOUT THE AREA
Wetlands are the principal management focus here and comprise three major wetland types: open fresh water, bog, and wooded swamp. Small areas of deep freshwater marsh are interspersed throughout the bog. The wetlands abutting Fahi Pond, including Mud and Boynton Ponds, are rated as High Value Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat (WWH). Bog/fen habitats like this also provide good habitat for dragonflies and other invertebrates.

The Department controls the level of Fahi Pond at the dam - the only major development on the management area. The original dam was built by MDIFW in 1958. The original wooden structure was replaced with a concrete dam in 1995. There are several waterfowl nest boxes maintained by the Department on the WMA with some waterfowl production here, but the purchase was primarily aimed at providing habitat for migrating waterfowl.

WILDLIFE
Resident aquatic furbearers include beaver, muskrat, river otter and mink. Since this WMA is almost entirely wetland, moose, deer, and bear are known to frequent its wetland fringes and riparian zone. The Virginia rail and common...
Ties and other invertebrates. (Top, right) An aerial view of the access site leads to Fahi Pond.

Snipe have been observed here, too. A wide variety of non-game wildlife species are found here, including tree swallows, red-winged blackbirds, eastern kingbirds, and several species of sparrows. Many are inhabitants of the bog/marsh environment, but others are associated with the surrounding lake and woodland habitats. Common loons have nested on a small island on the pond and aggregations of loons are often present. Large late summer concentrations of tree, barn, cliff and bank swallows are seen annually.

ACTIVITIES

Access to the small parking area and unimproved boat launch is off the Fahi Pond Road. A large, brown WMA sign marks the turnoff. This scenic pond provides for a variety of recreation, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, kayaking, photography, snowshoeing, xc-skiing and wildlife observation. There are camps and homes lining the southernmost shorelines, but as you paddle further north, development fades out and there are wonderful views of the Bigelows. The two small ponds, Mud and Boynton are quiet, secluded places to explore and birdwatch; with high possibilities of seeing an otter, deer or moose.

Remember, Fahi Pond is closed to ice fishing, but it is a great place for a variety of warm water sport fishing.
Wilmot "Wiggie" Robinson
Legendary Maine Guide

A Limited Edition Print
of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Legendary Maine Guide Award named in Mr. Robinson's honor.
Designed by Ralph Brissette

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The Latin ‘peregrinus’ means wanderer or traveler.

Their nest, or scrape on ledges, cliffs or buildings is also called an aerie.

Peregrine falcon chicks are called eyasses.

At 9 to 12 weeks old, their first prey will be butterflies and dragonflies!

The word raptor means ‘to seize’.

Peregrines have distinctive black sideburns on their faces.

Peregrines are also called duckhawks because they can grab one out of the air going up to 200 miles per hour!

Male peregrines are called tiercels.

**RED WORD:** PIGEON

**YELLOW WORD:** STARLING

**GREEN WORD:** DUCKS