**Maine’s State Wildlife Grant Program**

**10 Years of Enhanced Wildlife Conservation**

The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program was established by Congress in 2001 to help states develop and implement management programs that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. Beginning with the approval of Maine’s first Wildlife Action Plan in 2005, an amazing breath and diversity of conservation work has been conducted by MDIFW and its conservation partners. SWG funding provides critical support to *Beginning with Habitat,* which is Maine’s premier habitat conservation outreach program, providing habitat maps and assistance with open-space planning to municipalities, land trusts, and landowners. MDIFW has also directed significant portions of SWG funding to monitoring, research, and restoration efforts on sensitive wildlife species across the state.

The SWG program requires that Maine update its wildlife action plan by October 2015. Ten years have passed since the state's conservation partners and MDIFW prepared Maine's first plan. Together, we have accomplished much for wildlife; and with your help, we hope to continue this success into the future. Maine's traditional "outdoor" values and its rural economy depend upon thriving wildlife populations. We know more remains to be accomplished. Continued habitat loss and fragmentation and the specter of a changing climate present a challenge to much that we value. Over the next 18 months, MDIFW, its conservation partners, and the public will update and revise Maine’s wildlife action plan. As we begin this process, we thought it would be helpful to review the accomplishments of the past decade. Some examples of monitoring and research projects that have been supported by SWG funding include:

* Ecoregional surveys
* Lake habitat inventory program
* Status of the brook floater in Midcoast and central Maine
* Status of the brook floater in the Denny’s and Sandy Rivers and Allen Stream
* Maine Butterfly Atlas
* Status of the spicebush swallowtail butterfly
* Status of the ringed boghaunter dragonfly
* Cobblestone tiger beetle conservation
* River surveys and analysis of wood turtle populations
* Northern black racer conservation
* Timber rattlesnake habitat surveys
* New England cottontail conservation
* Bald eagle monitoring and habitat conservation
* Peregrine falcon monitoring
* Status and monitoring of Maine owls
* Piping plover and least tern management to monitor the effectiveness of predator control
* Enhancing shorebird conservation in Casco Bay
* Survey and mapping of important shorebird habitats
* Enhancing the value of shorebird migration monitoring
* Purple sandpiper research data analysis to identify important wintering areas
* Maine Seabird Atlas
* Inland-nesting seabird surveys
* Monitoring roseate tern nesting activity on Maine islands managed by the National Audubon Society
* Island nesting tern and great cormorant monitoring in outer Penobscot and Jericho bays
* Black tern surveys
* Black tern and inland-nesting seabird surveys at historic breeding sites
* Aerial surveys of common loons in northern and Downeast Maine
* Aerial census of nesting great blue herons and other colonial wading birds
* Harlequin duck and purple sandpiper surveys in Outer Penobscot, Jericho, Blue Hill, and Frenchman’s bays
* Systematic surveys to determine the winter distribution of Barrow’s goldeneye
* Conserving grassland birds in Maine: a comprehensive field survey for declining species in southern Maine
* Studies of sea run brook trout in two Maine streams
* Lake whitefish
* Environmental factors associated with unique lake communities in Maine
* Effects of dam removal and relocation on yellow lampmussels and tidewater muckets
* Genetic structure of Clayton’s copper butterfly metapopulation and assessment of environmental conditions in wetlands with and without Clayton’s copper
* Habitat and distribution of the arrowhead spiketail dragonfly in Maine
* Blandings turtle road research
* Canada lynx ecology
* Canada lynx diet and impact mitigation
* Risk assessment of saltmarsh passerines to mercury contamination
* Effects of tidal restriction on the breeding ecology of saltmarsh sparrows
* Productivity and dynamics of saltmarsh sparrow populations in a hybrid zone
* Determining the relationship between nest predation of rusty blackbirds and timber management
* Foraging behavior of razorbills at the southern limit of their range in Maine

***For a complete summary of the accomplishment of the State Wildlife Grant Program in Maine over the past 10 years, please visit our website at*** <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/reports/wap.html>