

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

MAINE - HOME TO PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER - ORONO

Vital Statistics

- Located at the Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine; established in 1966
- Patuxent personnel at Orono field research station: 2 research scientists, 1 support staff
- Provides research and technical assistance to Office of Migratory Bird Management and to National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges in the Northeast

Partnership with University of Maine

- Serving as Faculty Associates and members of Graduate Faculty
- Conducting collaborative research studies with staff and graduate students
- Mentoring graduate students through technical, financial, and teaching support
- Sharing laboratory facilities and research tools with the University of Maine

Benefits to Maine

- Partnerships and joint field studies with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on local management areas.
- Partnership with National Wildlife Refuges in Maine and with Acadia National Park
- Technical assistance in natural and cultural resource related issues, including migratory birds, wetlands, contaminants, endangered species, plant and animal surveys, and review of management plans
- Active participants in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (Black Duck Joint Venture, Seaduck Joint Venture) and Webless Migratory Game Bird Research Program
- Evaluating efficiency of helicopters for conducting surveys of waterfowl broods

Examples of Current Research Projects

- Evaluation of mercury uptake from aquatic invertebrates by tree swallows at Acadia National Park.
- Evaluation of songbird response to habitat management on Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge
- Determination of selected toxic metals in tree swallows at EPA Superfund Site in Devens, MA
- Use of DNA to evaluate geographic population structure and mating system of American woodcock, and determine genetic diversity of vertebrates in National Parks
- Survival and habitat use of American woodcock in northeast states (ME, NH, VT, PA)
- Evaluation of efficiency of helicopters for conducting surveys for waterfowl broods
- Evaluation of habitat status on American Woodcock singing ground routes in ME, VT, and NH.
- Survival, recovery rate, and recruitment of Common Eiders

National and Regional-level Technical Assistance

- American woodcock management and habitat use
- American black duck ecology and population restoration
- Effects of exposure of migratory birds to mercury and other toxic metals
- Development of long-term ecological monitoring protocols
- Migratory bird conservation in managed forests
- Waterfowl ecology on managed wetlands and impoundments
- Incidence and distribution of chytrid fungus in amphibians in the Northeast

