

# A Guide to Maine's Biological Exuberance

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## About This Guide:

- This guide is for anyone interested in learning more about the homosexual, bisexual, and transsexual wildlife that surrounds us in the Maine woods.
- This digital guide is a living document - meaning it will be updated as more information is discovered and shared.
- It will remain accessible online, primarily to reduce paper waste, but can also be printed.

★Observing animals in the wild is most enjoyable when it's done from a safe and respectful distance. Do not approach or attempt to feed wildlife, queer or not.

## Notes on How to Use This Guide:

- Frequency of various observations may be represented in percentage (%) or in descriptors if percent is unknown (ex. incidental, moderate, etc.)

### Legend:

**M** = homosexuality between males observed  
**F** = homosexuality between females observed  
**FtM** = Female-to-male transsexuality observed  
**MtF** = Male-to-female transsexuality observed  
**I** = Intersexuality observed

# Birds

Amer. Barn Owl (*Tyto furcata*) **F** (incidental)

**ID:** medium-sized pale brown owl with white chest and face

Amer. Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) **M, F** (occasional)

**ID:** 12-15" long, chestnut plumage spotted with black, and a gray head and tail in males.

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*)

**ID:** Maine state bird - grey plumage with white belly and signature black cap and throat

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax Nycticorax*) **M** (20%), **F** (19% of juveniles)

**ID:** Stocky, medium sized bird (2' long) with black crown and back, white chest underbelly, and gray wings

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) **M, Transvestism**

**ID:** iridescent black robin-size bird w/ dark brown head

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) **M, F**, 12% of pairs

**ID:** Brown and grey plumage with distinctive black neck and white cheek patch, varies in size

Common Gull (*Larus canus*) **F**, 8-12% of individuals

**ID:** up to 18", slender plain yellow bill, white to gray feathers

\*Nesting colonies can contain a few dozen to several hundred

Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) **M, F** (occasional)

**ID:** 5-6" with blue backs and bright red chest in males, and mottled blue-gray plumage in females. Juveniles are more spotted with dull colors

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*): **M** (moderate)

**ID:** 5.57" swallow with iridescent blue-green upperparts, white underparts, and slightly forked tail

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) **M** (4%) **FtM** (59%)

**ID:** Songbird, yellow underparts, olive green upperparts, and black crown and throat in adult males and some females\*

House Sparrow (*P. domesticus*) **M** (Incidental to Moderate)

**ID:** Songbird with brown mottled coat and dark brown-black bib

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) **M, F** (moderate)

**ID:** a familiar duck with a blue wing patch, iridescent green head, white collar in males and brown mottled plumage all over in females

White Throated Sparrow (*G. Species*) **Gender variation**

**ID:** 6-7.5" passerine bird, brown with black stripes down head, yellow lore, with white or tan throat  
\*Species has four phenotypes, or genders: tan morph males and females, and white morph males and females. A tan morph individual only reproduces with a white morph individual.

**Raven (*Corvus corax*) F, M (1-5%)**

**ID:** 2' all black, bulkier than crow w/ downcurved beak

**Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) M (Moderate)**

**ID:** banded, fan-shaped tail and black ruffs on sides of neck

Chicken (*Gallus gallus*) **F**

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Turkey [Domestic] (*Meleagris gallopavo domesticus*) **F**

Pigeon (*Columba livia*) **M, F**

Puffins [Tufted]

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) **F, M**

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) **M** (occasional)

Albatross **F** (up to 33% of pairs)

## **Mammals (land)**

**White-Tailed Deer (*O. virginianus*): F, M (20%) I (40%)**

**ID:** approx 3' tall at shoulder with white undertail, multipronged antlers \*Velvet horns: permanently velveted antlers on intersex individuals, can be genetically female or male or both

**Moose (*Alces alces*) F, M (25%), I**

**ID:** up to 1300lbs, playmate antlers, pendulous nose

\*Velveticorn: antlers grow on intersexed males lacking testes or scrotum, velvety and covered in ridges and knobs

**Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) F, M (Incidental, captivity)**

**ID:** Small canid (up to 3' in length) with bushy tail and reddish brown coat

\*Mating systems range from monogamy to polygamy

\*Homosexual interactions often involve younger females in heat

**Wolf (*Canis lupus*) F, M (Incidental, captivity)**

**ID:** Largest wild canid (up to 7' in length) with gray, brown, black or white coat

\*Many male wolves that mount each other are bisexual, taking interest in females as well

**Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) F (20%) M (2%), I (11%)**

**ID:** 4-6', coat ranging from black to gray or sometimes brown

N. Amer./Canadian Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*)  
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) **M, F**  
Coyote (*Canis latrans*) **details unknown**  
Common Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) **M**  
Wild Felids (related species: lynx) **F, M**  
Martens (*Martes sp.*) **F**  
Red & Grey Squirrels **F, M**  
Chipmunk (*Tamias minimus*) **F, M**  
Mouse (*Mus musculus*) **M, F**

## Domesticate

Cat (*Felis catus*) **M, F**  
Dog (*Canis familiaris*) **M, F**  
Goat (*Capra hircus*) **M, F**  
Sheep (*Ovis aries*) **M, F**  
Cattle (*Bos taurus*) **M, F**

## Reptiles

Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) **M, MtF**

**ID:** 18-36", Brownish, olive, or grayish above with darker checkerboard pattern, with 3 yellow-ish stripes (sometimes faint), short tailed (¼ of it's body)

Wood Turtle (*Clemmys Insculpta*) **M**

**ID:** 14 - 20" long with pyramidal shape of the scutes, males tend to be larger than females with a more dome shaped carapace.

## Arthropods

Common & Clubtail Damselfly spp. **M**  
Spreadwinged Damselfly spp. **M**  
Common Skimmer Dragonfly spp. **M**  
Field Cricket (*Acheta firmus*) **M**  
Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) **M**  
Water Boatman (*Palmacorixa nana*) **M**  
Water Strider spp. **M**  
Cabbage White moth (*Pieris rapae*) **M**  
Large Milkweed Bug (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*) **M**

House fly (*Musca domestica*) **M**  
Fruit fly spp. **M, F**  
Red Ant sp. (*Formica subpolita*) **M**  
Jumping spider (*Portia fimbriata*) **M, F**

## Marine Life

### Mammals

Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) **M**  
Right Whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*)  
False Killer Whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*)  
Atlantic Spotted Dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*)  
Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)  
Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)  
Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)

### Fishes

#### Lepomis Sunfish species **MtF, M**

\*The Bluegill Sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*) is recorded by Bagemihl, and is related to the Maine native species Pumpkinseed Sunfish (*L. gibbosus*):

**ID:** Golden brown to olive colored, with a flat, deep set body with several small spines on back, adults 6-10" long, native to freshwater, most active late spring - early summer

#### Coregonum Whitefish species **M, F**

\*The Houting Whitefish (*Coregonus lavaretus*) is recorded by Bagemihl, and is related to the Maine native species the Lake Whitefish (*C. clupeaformis*)

**ID:** coloration silvery with dark brown to black top and fins, adults 14 - 20" long, prefers freshwater in deep, well oxygenated lakes, except for spawning in streams or rivers (Oct-Dec).

#### Least Darter (*Etheostoma microperca*) **M**

**ID:** small (35 - 45mm in length), brown-to-olive colored fish -- (breeding) males have a red dotted band distinct from females.

Ninespine stickleback (*Pygosteus pungitius*) **M**

Three-spined Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) **M**

Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) **M, F**

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## Bibliography

- *Biological Exuberance* by Bruce Bagemihl
- *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire* Edited by Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands and Bruce Erickson
- *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals* by Alexis Pauline Gumbs
- “[Gay whales and trans fish: celebrating queerness in the ocean](#),” Seattle Aquarium (2025)
- “[Gay, lesbian and intersex whales: our queer sea has much to teach us](#)” The Guardian (2024)
- <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/species-information/>

## Resources for the LGBT+ Community in Maine

- Kindling Collective (<https://www.kindlingcollective.org/>)
- Queerly ME (<https://www.queerlyme.org/>)
- Out Maine (<https://www.outmaine.org/>)
- TrevorLifeline: 1-866-488-7386 (Crisis intervention & suicide prevention 24/7/365 service)