



COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES, FORESTRY, AND AGRICULTURE

## Wildlife Ecology

### UMaine's ADVANTAGE

- Location
- Established in 1935, the Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit is the third oldest in the nation
- Extended field programs in Wildlife
- Cooperating faculty and research associates from the U.S. Geological Survey, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stationed on or near campus
- Travel experiences include introductory courses that take first-year students to off-campus sites to observe wildlife and their habitats

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### WHY STUDY WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AT UMAINE?

UMaine sits on the doorstep of a spectacular natural environment. Nowhere else in the eastern United States can you find so many millions of acres of forests where moose and bear outnumber people. These forests begin at the edge of campus, with nearly 15,000 acres of university-owned forests, featuring miles of trails for hiking, biking and cross country skiing, and extend north into Canada. Sunkhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is located only 10 minutes from campus and is home to numerous wildlife species, including deer, eagles, moose, bears, beavers and bobcats, and offers numerous recreational opportunities, from canoeing and birdwatching to hunting and fishing. The wilderness of Baxter State Park and Mount Katahdin — widely regarded to be the most dramatic mountain in eastern North America — are just a couple hours from Orono.

The highlight of the Maine coast — world-famous Acadia National Park — is only 1.5 hours from campus, but most of our coastal studies are focused an hour farther east on Cobscook Bay. Here the cold waters of the Bay of Fundy attract large populations of whales, seals and porpoises, plus puffins and other seabirds, making it one of the richest areas for marine wildlife on the east coast.

No other wildlife program at universities in New England provides the field training that we do at UMaine. Students have field opportunities throughout their curriculum. They are immersed in field studies of wildlife from their second week of classes. Our summer field course is unique among university wildlife programs; only eight wildlife programs nationwide offer extended field programs in wildlife.

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN WILDLIFE ECOLOGY?

Students with degrees in wildlife ecology from UMaine have gone on to leadership roles in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

and have served as waterfowl, endangered species, fisheries, and wildlife disease specialists with that agency. Our students also hold prominent roles in state and national wildlife and fisheries management agencies throughout the U.S. and internationally. Within Maine, our graduates hold key positions, serve as regional wildlife and fisheries biologists, as enforcement wardens for the Department of Marine Resources and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and for federal agencies, and are responsible for species management for deer, bear, Canada lynx, Atlantic salmon, nongame and endangered species, waterfowl and eagles. Outside of government, our graduates are employed by a variety of wildlife consulting firms, with organizations such as Maine Audubon and The Nature Conservancy, teach in secondary schools and/or serve as environmental educators, participate as paid technicians in wildlife research, and serve as biologists for Native American Nations. Many of our undergraduates go on to graduate school at other universities and our graduates also hold faculty positions at prominent institutions throughout the U.S. and the world.

### OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Our undergraduate program includes a core series of wildlife ecology and management courses, along with classes in the basic sciences, natural resource management, mathematics and liberal arts. These experiences are designed to provide the opportunity for certification as a wildlife biologist or fisheries biologist by The Wildlife Society or American Fisheries Society.

The Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology has an active wildlife research program, which exposes students to the cutting-edge of wildlife ecology and management and provides many opportunities for undergraduate student employment or experience with wildlife research.

## ABOUT UMAINE

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls more than 11,000 total undergraduate and graduate students. UMaine students directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. The University of Maine offers doctoral degrees in 30 fields, representing the humanities, sciences, engineering and education; master's degrees in 85 disciplines; 90 undergraduate majors and academic programs; and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, visit [umaine.edu](http://umaine.edu).

## explore

*Bachelor of Science in  
Wildlife Ecology*

*Concentrations in  
Conservation Biology  
Fisheries  
Wildlife Science and Management*

*Minor in  
Fisheries*

*Master of Wildlife Conservation in  
Wildlife Conservation*

*Master of Science in  
Wildlife Ecology*

*Ph.D. in  
Wildlife Ecology*

While most students in our program aspire to be wildlife or fisheries biologists, ecologists, conservation biologists or natural resource managers, students also can pursue other individual interests by choosing elective courses in concentration areas such as environmental education, forestry and international conservation.

### OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM

Since its inception in 1935, the wildlife ecology program at the University of Maine has developed a tradition of excellence in the graduate-level training of wildlife professionals. With 10 faculty and over 24 graduate students, the graduate program in wildlife ecology is large enough to create a stimulating environment, but small enough for students to receive individual attention.

Our program also has broadened to be closely aligned with the interdisciplinary program in ecology and environmental sciences at the University of Maine. The Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, a unit of the U.S. Geological Survey, is an integral part of the Wildlife Ecology graduate program. The University of Maine also has a wealth of programs in ecology and resource management that offer outstanding opportunities for interdisciplinary interaction.

### OUR FACULTY

Our faculty strongly believes that field or professional experience enhances career development, and the department actively assists students in obtaining internships or other employment opportunities.

The faculty also are joined in research and graduate student advising by several cooperating faculty and research associates. Biologists from the U.S. Geological Survey, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stationed on or near campus participate in the program and add to the research specialties of the faculty.

### MAINE COOPERATIVE USGS FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT

Established in 1935, the Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (CFWRU) is the third oldest of the approximately 40 cooperative research units across the nation. Initially, units focused on meeting the growing need for trained wildlife professionals and providing better technical information to managers. Over the decades, as land grant universities have developed their own fish and wildlife programs, emphasis has shifted from training to research, especially on issues involving both state and federal interests. The fisheries and wildlife components were combined in 1982 to form the present-day Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. The CFWRU maintains a close liaison among the university, state and federal agencies.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

Students are encouraged to join the student chapters of The Wildlife Society, American Fisheries Society and the Society for Conservation Biology. They also have opportunities to attend such annual professional conferences as the Northeast Student Wildlife Conclave. Travel experiences include introductory courses that take first-year students to off-campus sites to observe wildlife and their habitats, and learn about conservation and management issues; ecology laboratory, which involves afternoon and weekend laboratories, and trips to different ecosystems to collect data for laboratory reports; wildlife field survey, in which students are in the field daily for two weeks; wildlife habitat evaluation, in which students prepare research proposals on an original question; and field studies in ecology, which surveys ecological and conservation questions in another country (usually Africa or Central or South America).

### HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit [umaine.edu](http://umaine.edu) for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.

