

Wildlife Report

By Buster Carter,
Wildlife Biologist

Springtime on Cold Stream Pond brings out to view many of the species of wildlife living on, around, in and under the waters of the Pond. In past articles I've brought attention to many of the larger wildlife commonly seen associated with the Pond. This spring, I'll focus on a couple of different classes of wildlife often overlooked, but an important part of the ecosystem we all know and enjoy as Cold Stream Pond. The Department, which includes myself, is responsible for the management and protection of these critters as much as we are for the larger ones.

These critters are the freshwater mussels, (sometimes mistakenly called "clams"), and the numerous species of dragonflies and damselflies. The Wildlife Division has biologists in the Bangor office whose specialty is these species. There is an entire project devoted to the dragonflies and damselflies of Maine. Follow this link to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, (MEIFW) website, <http://www.state.me.us/ifw/wildlife/wildlife.htm> to learn more about this project. The direct link to the project information is <http://mdds.umf.maine.edu/> This link has color digital images of many of the species, distribution, and much more. A poster about dragonflies and damselflies is available for a small fee from the Education and Information Division in Augusta. 207-287-8000, or it can be ordered online at: http://www.informe.org/cgi-bin/ifw/merc/showcart.cgi?template_file=catalog.html



Freshwater mussels are an interesting group of wildlife. The MEIFW has produced a highly informative reference book, with color photos, identification features, and a great amount of biological data including their very fascinating life histories, titled *The Freshwater Mussels of Maine*. A couple of quick facts from the publication, the average life span of mussels in Maine is 8 to 20 years, depending on the species. The average age at sexual maturity is 6 years old. Two of the ten species found in Maine are listed as state threatened, three others are listed as special concern species. By following

this link to MEIFW's website, additional information on these species, as well as photos can be found about the two threatened species. <http://www.state.me.us/ifw/wildlife/etweb/invertebratelist.htm>

The department has copies of various posters and publications on vernal pools, Maine snakes, turtles, and amphibians for a small fee through the Education and Information Division, 207-287-8000, or at this website: http://www.informe.org/cgibin/ifw/merc/showcart.cgi?template_file=catalog.html. Our



office has a copy of some of these posters and publications if you would like to view it before ordering a copy.

Have a great spring and summer looking for, observing, and photographing all the wildlife, big and small, associated with Cold Stream Pond. We all have a highly valuable and important resource in our backyard, I want to thank all of you for your continued assistance in the stewardship of Cold Stream Pond.