

# MASSACHUSETTS WILDLIFE

## **Author/Photographer/Illustrator Guidelines**

*Massachusetts Wildlife* is published quarterly by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) with editorial offices at Field Headquarters, One Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. Telephone: (508) 389-6300, Fax (508) 389-7890, [mass.wildlife@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.wildlife@state.ma.us).

Our 40-page magazine is a 6 x 8 ¾ inch format with a four color signature. Subscriptions are \$6.00/year or \$10.00/two years. The publication first appeared as a magazine in 1956 and was offered free of charge, upon request, until it became a paid subscription publication in 1986. We currently have approximately 25,000 subscribers, and based on surveys, a readership of about 75,000. We do not print any advertising, although we do occasionally recommend public service events or organizations of environmental focus. Subscription list rentals are available at our discretion.

Our format calls for balanced issues of original (we rarely print work which has already appeared elsewhere) articles for the sportsmen and women, environmentalist, the general public and students of natural history. Articles should be interesting, informative, lively in style and entertaining to read. They must apply specifically to wildlife, fisheries or environmental concerns in Massachusetts, or be of interest to Massachusetts sportsmen and women and/or environmentalists (i.e. we consider articles that are global in scope, including rain forest preservation, national wetlands protection efforts, etc.). Creative efforts (e.g. short stories, humor, etc.) which relate to our audience and carry a conservation message may also be acceptable. We do not print poetry. While some subjects may demand a certain amount of technical information, such information must be presented in terms understandable to the average reader. Though we require factual information and scientific integrity, we are not a technical journal. Our aim is to promote the dissemination of sound conservation principles and ethics, scientific thought and environmental information.

Feature articles typically run from 2,000 to 3,000 words; shorter articles and essays from 750 to 1,500 words. We accept material via email, other electronic means, or hard copy.

We have an extensive in-house digital image library and our staff photographer is available for assignment for accepted articles. We occasionally use photographs and illustrations from outside sources, however, and always encourage them with article submissions. We prefer digital photography submissions, but we can also scan slide and negative film, and prints. Photographers and illustrators who would like to see their work presented in our magazine are encouraged to send us a general listing of their portfolios (e.g. northern songbirds, waterfowl, hunting dogs, freshwater fishing, wild flowers, etc.). These are kept on file, and the photographer/illustrator will be contacted as the need for his or her specialties arise.

**All Material is Solicited on a NO-PAY Basis.**

**[mass.gov/dfw/magazine](http://mass.gov/dfw/magazine)**

We are a non-profit magazine and are specifically forbidden to purchase articles, photographs or illustrations, although contributors whose work is published in the magazine are acknowledged with credit/byline in the text, receive at least five complimentary copies of the issue in which their work appears, and also receive a two-year subscription to the address of their choice in lieu of payment. Except for photographs and illustrations, material published in the magazine is typically not copyrighted, being in the public domain and presented for educational purposes. Unless otherwise informed, we assume that all or portions of some articles will be reproduced by MassWildlife in any form for educational purposes (always with credit to the contributor). However, it is also understood that contributors retain their rights to any material donated for publication and may offer it for sale to other outlets.

Authors should always include a few sentences about themselves at the end of any manuscript (the proverbial “author’s blurb”) and in some cases may take this opportunity to promote an organization with which they are affiliated, provided such organization is related to the subject of the article and supports scientific resource management, public education and environmental responsibility. The blurb also offers an opportunity to promote other things (such as books) the author has written.

All unsolicited hard copy material should be submitted with a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. Manuscripts will be edited for brevity, clarity and “readability” at the discretion of the editor and every effort will be made to send edited material back to the author electronically for final review prior to publication. Material should be in our editorial offices at least four months in advance of the issue in which it is to appear (the magazine generally is released on January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1). More advance time may be necessary if our photographer is required for assignment.

**We are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts.**

Inquiries can be made to:

Troy Gipps, Editor  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Field Headquarters  
One Rabbit Hill Road  
Westborough, MA 01581  
Phone: (508) 389-6307, Fax (508) 389-7890  
E-mail: [troy.gipps@state.ma.us](mailto:troy.gipps@state.ma.us)

**Our Magazine Goal**

**To provide sportsmen and women, environmentalists and the general public with factual, up-to-date information on the fisheries and wildlife resources of Massachusetts and how to enjoy them; to enhance the understanding and appreciation of those resources and instill a sense of responsibility for them; to keep the public informed of our agency’s work and recent developments and discoveries in the science of fisheries and wildlife management and research; to promote the scientific management of fisheries and wildlife resources; to provide an ongoing “catalogue” of reference articles for those seeking information on individual species and projects.**

