



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Maine Upland Game Hunting



ABOUT MAINE UPLAND HUNTING

- **Long bird and hare seasons**
- **Vast accessible land**
- **Unique opportunities for woodcock and grouse**
- **Quality snowshoe hare habitat**

Explore our woods, waters and wildlife

HUNT MAINE

mefishwildlife.com

BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITY

Maine is one of the few places left in the eastern U.S. where a hunter can leave civilization behind, run their dogs through undeveloped land all day and potentially not encounter another hunter.

PUBLIC LANDS

Maine has hundreds of thousands of acres of land in wildlife management areas, state forests, public reserve lands and other parcels, all open to public hunting.

PRIVATE LANDS

Maine contains several million acres of privately owned industrial forest land, much of which is open to the public, either for free or a nominal access fee. Within it, a vast network of gravel roads supports wood transportation.

Visitors are reminded that specific rules may apply in certain areas, and they should always be respectful of those working in the area. Hunters are also encouraged to seek landowner permission before hunting on private land.



RUFFED GROUSE

Maine has a robust grouse population, with varying densities across the state. Highest densities occur in the transitional zone between the "big woods" and more developed areas.

The quality of this area is enhanced by a good interspersion of active and abandoned agricultural land. Maine hunters harvest between 425,000 and 500,000 ruffed grouse annually during the 3-month season.



WOODCOCK

Woodcock breed in Maine so are already present in moderate numbers early in the season. Action really heats up when the flight birds move in later on. While grouse are more prevalent up on the aspen and beech ridges, hunters will find woodcock most abundant down in the alder runs, or in early successional cover where the soil is wet enough to hold their preferred food: earthworms.

MIXED BAG

Both grouse and woodcock can be found where their habitat types overlap, and a day's hunt often includes a mixed bag. The Department, in cooperation with several dedicated fish and game clubs, also stocks about 2300 pheasants at 23 sites in southern York and Cumberland Counties.

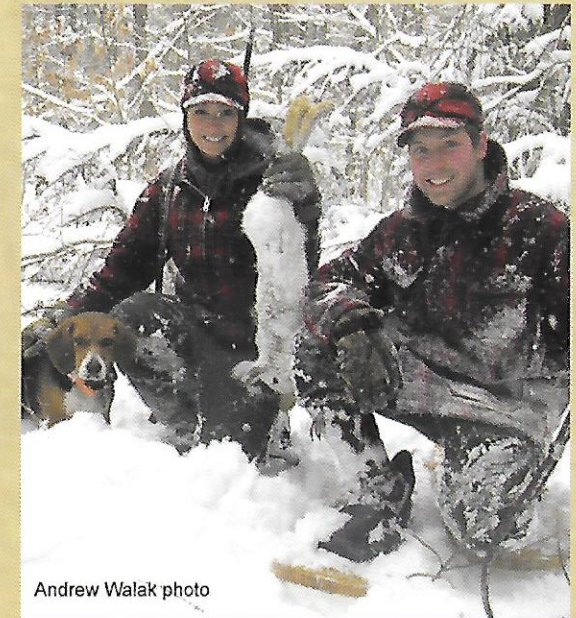
SNOWSHOE HARE

Maine is a destination for many hunters looking to experience the excitement of hunting snowshoe hare over hounds. Maine's vast working woodlands and forest practices provides ideal habitat for these elusive lagomorphs.

Maine biologists have recorded hare densities as high as 440 hares per square mile, meaning exciting opportunities for prospective hare hunters.

In the northern regions of the state, hunters must be prepared for a tough Maine winter, which often means snowshoes and cold weather gear.

Maine's long hare season runs from October 1 to March 31 in most areas. Some of the best hunting occurs in late winter, when days lengthen and temperatures moderate.



MAINE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES

Hiring a Guide

Non-resident and resident hunters alike opt to hire a registered Maine guide for their hunt.

Registered Maine Guides have a long and colorful history and are recognized around the world as the gold standard in outdoor skills and knowledge. Rigorous testing and compliance standards ensure that guides are professionals dedicated to quality, ethical and legal outdoor experience for all.

For more information including tips on how to hire a guide, and a searchable list of guides by region and specialty, visit the Maine Professional Guides Association website at:



www.maineguides.org

MAINE SPORTING CAMPS

Maine Sporting Camps offer a traditional experience unique to the Maine Woods. Association members provide a high quality recreational opportunity for individuals and their families, one you'll remember long after you return home.

A Maine Sporting Camp provides hearty meals and comfortable lodging in the wild Maine Woods, giving you more time afield.



www.mainesportingcamps.com

MAINE HUNTING LAWS

Maine hunting laws and regulations are produced by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. They are available online or at more than 800 licensing agents statewide.

www.mefishwildlife.com

LICENSES

Hunting licenses and permits may be purchased online, 24-7, or from more than 800 statewide licensing agents.

www.mefishwildlife.com

MAPS

The **Maine Hunting and Fishing Map** details all the Wildlife Management Areas, Public Lands and National Wildlife Refuges open to hunting. Request your copy by calling: 207-287-8000.

www.mefishwildlife.com



Terly Bennett photo