



Contact: Dan Cashman, Cashman Communications  
207.947.9113  
207.837.4821 (cell)  
[dan@cashcomm.net](mailto:dan@cashcomm.net)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2012

## **Maine Audubon Asks Mainers to “Adopt a Road” to Help Endangered Species**

**Information sessions on volunteer effort to be held later this month**

FALMOUTH – Maine Audubon seeks volunteers to survey roads in southern Maine for signs of several endangered species. Volunteers will monitor a mile of road this spring and summer and record sightings of dead or alive endangered species and other wildlife. Volunteers will enter their sightings in the interactive website “Maine Audubon Wildlife Road Watch”.

“We know there are areas in southern Maine where endangered species are severely impacted because of roads,” said Barbara Charry, Maine Audubon Wildlife Biologist. “That’s the goal of this program – to identify those areas, and figure out what can be done to improve the conditions for Maine wildlife and Maine drivers. But we can’t do it without volunteers.”

Roads can have a big impact on endangered species by impeding movement and separating populations, as well as killing individuals from collisions. Biologists with Maine Audubon and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife will use the information gathered by volunteers to work with town planners and Maine Department of Transportation to reduce road risks to rare wildlife and improve conditions for drivers. Maine Audubon officials say that Blanding’s turtles and spotted turtles are expected to become extinct in Maine due to road mortality unless changes are made. Other endangered species of interest in the study include the black racer snake and the New England cottontail.

“Maine has a unique mix of wildlife and well-traveled roads,” said Charry. “We find that people are genuinely interested in taking care of our wildlife, especially our endangered species. This program makes it easy for people to do just that by delegating one-mile stretches of roads for volunteers to monitor. We’ll give volunteers all the detailed information they need on what to look for and how to report it. It’s good for the environment and good for volunteers because it gives them another reason to get outside and walk a mile on a regular basis in the spring and summer months.”

To learn more about the Endangered Species Road Watch and how to help, information sessions will be held throughout March for members of the public to attend. The first information session will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 19 at the Parson’s Memorial Library, 27 Old Kennebunk Road in Alfred. The second information session will be at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30, at York Public Library, 15 Long Sands Road in York. Both sessions are free and open to the public. Although RSVPs are not required for the sessions, they are encouraged. Please contact Becca Wilson at Maine Audubon by phone at 207.781.2330 ext. 222, or by e-mail at [bwilson@maineaudubon.org](mailto:bwilson@maineaudubon.org). Refreshments will be provided.

Following the information sessions, Maine Audubon will host two more detailed training workshops for those interested in volunteering in April – with more details to follow.

Those not living in southern Maine can still help collect data on important wildlife road crossings by recording sightings anywhere in the state and entering the data on the “Maine Audubon Wildlife Road Watch” interactive web site at <http://maineaudubon.org/wildlife-habitat/wildlife-road-watch/>.

Maine Audubon and the Maine Departments of Transportation and Inland Fisheries & Wildlife are partnering on the Endangered Species Road Watch project, which is funded in part by TogetherGreen, an initiative of the National Audubon Society with support from Toyota.

###