



MASSWILDLIFE

## DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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**MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE**

Jack Buckley, *Director*

### Central District Activities – June, 2018

#### Wildlife

Culvert bear-trapping will be wrapping up in the central part of Worcester County by the end of June. One yearling female has been captured to-date and was fitted with a VHF radio collar.

District and Headquarters personnel assisted with a LART (Large Animal Response Team) call regarding a bear in Auburn. The bear was in the vicinity of several schools and Interstates 290 and 90. The bear was immobilized and transported to an undisclosed rural location where it was monitored until it made a full recovery.

This time of year juvenile bears are dispersing from their mothers and setting out to find their own territories. The public is reminded to please bring in birdfeeders and secure any other food sources such as pet food and garbage to help prevent these young bears from lingering in urban areas. Additional information can be found on the [mass.gov/bears](http://mass.gov/bears) webpage.

District personnel picked up a Turkey Vulture that was unable to fly in Berlin and transported it to Tufts Wildlife Clinic for evaluation. Tufts confirmed a broken wing as a result of being shot. The matter has been turned over to the Environmental Police.

#### Fisheries

Trout stocking in the Central District wrapped up the last week of May with over 95,000 trout being released. A complete list of water-bodies stocked with trout this spring can be found on the [mass.gov/trout](http://mass.gov/trout) webpage. A map of trout-stocked waters with the date and species of trout stocked is also available.

#### Natural Heritage

District personnel, with the help of Kurt Palmateer of the McLaughlin Trout Hatchery, banded 12 Bald Eagle chicks at 6 different nest sites. The nests were located across Worcester County and included a new pair of eagles located in West Brookfield.

#### Land Management/Stewardship

The West Sutton Road Driveway Culvert Project is on schedule and should be completed by the end of June. This project is being done in anticipation of the removal of the Welsh Pond Dam.

The Welsh Pond and Putnam Pond Dam removal projects have been continued and are on the agenda for the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sutton Conservation Commission. Engineers and representatives from MassWildlife will be on hand to answer questions.

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The Lackey Pond Dam repair project is moving forward and is anticipated to be completed by the end of June.

A prescribed burn was successfully executed at the Muddy Brook WMA in Hardwick. Approximately 20 acres of grassland/shrubland was burned in cooperation with Northeast Forest and Fire Management LLC, DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control, and the Town of Hardwick Fire Department. More information on the prescribed fire program can be found at [mass.gov/service-details/prescribed-fire-for-habitat-management](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/prescribed-fire-for-habitat-management).

### **Outreach/Notable Meetings**

Todd Olanyk, the new Central District Manager, started at his new post effective Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. He'll be a great asset for the District and we look forward to working with him.