Crowdsourcing for Wildlife Road Crossings

Sarah Haggerty Maine Audubon October 17, 2019 Ma





Vehicles and Wildlife Don't Mix

- In the U.S., >200 motorists are killed and nearly 30,000 injuries annually in crashes with wildlife
- Costs *\$\$BILLIONS* annually
- ~1MILLION vertebrates killed daily by cars in the U.S.











What Can We Do?

- Identify the worst areas where animals are getting hit
- Work with DOT and towns
- Find local solutions





Role of Citizen Scientists

- Ability to collect a lot of data
- Ability to cover a lot of area
- **Community connections**



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Wildlife Road Watch

- Online tool created with and hosted by UC Davis Road Ecology Center
- Upload photos, describe what you see
- Information used to identify "hotspots" of roadkill



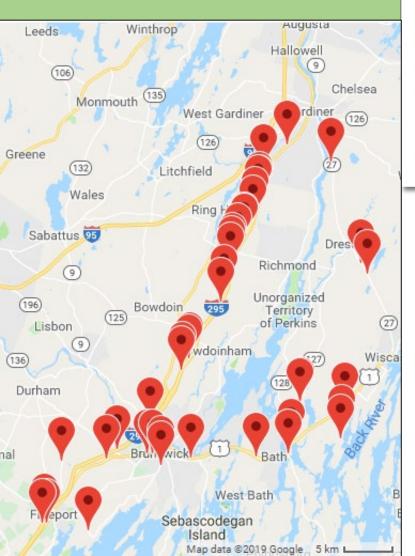
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On Route 1 in Falmouth, heading S from Exit 10 off of 295. Animal was on the right hand side of the road in the wide, road intersection where Route 1 and Foreside Road come together, between commercial development

and residential development.



WRW Hotspot Analysis





(7.2 observations/mile)

High Density Locations & Hotspots Overlap

Brunswick Route 1 Interchange

Bowdoinham (Excit 37 Interchange Raute 125 to North of Millay Road)

Richmond (South of Exit 43 North to Langdon Road)

Gardner (Exit 49)

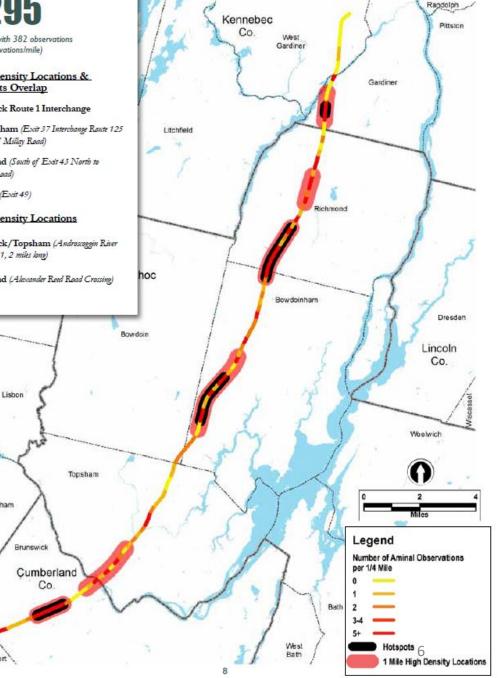
Durham

Freeport

High Density Locations

Brunswick/Topsham (Androscoppin River and Exit 31, 2 miles long)

Richmond (Alexander Reed Road Crossing)



Maine Turtle Roadkill Survey

- Three year Citizen Science project (2018 – 2020)
- Statewide survey routes
- Survey <u>></u>3 times/year
- Survey May September



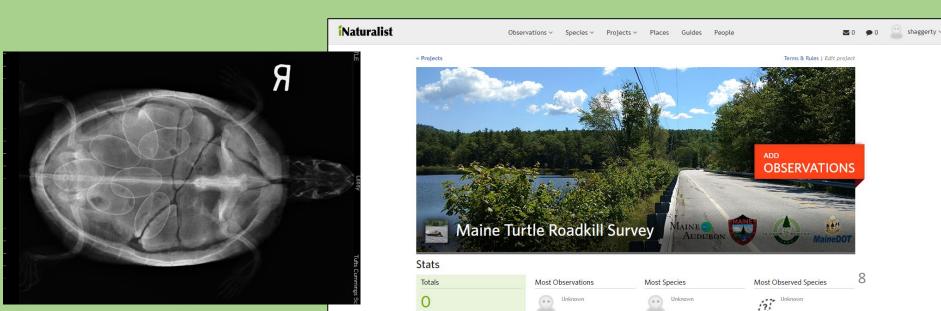




Maine Turtle Roadkill Survey

- Use iNaturalist for data
- Over 100 volunteers trained
- Over 600 observations
- 186 turtles, including all 4 state-listed species





Working Towards Solutions

- Working with DIFW to identify good locations for seasonal signs
- Locals creating signs
- Girl Scout signs at Maine Audubon Sanctuary







Working Towards Solutions

- Stream Smart training program to encourage/teach appropriate road-stream Xings
- New! Wildlife passage design gets extra points in state grant





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Next Steps

- Complete Turtle Project (year 3)
- Work with towns, MaineDOT, IFW on solutions
- Upgrade Wildlife Road Watch to include mobile application and on-the-fly hotspot ID











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