



# Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Great Blue Heron Tracking Project

OUR GOAL IS TO GATHER NEW INFORMATION ABOUT GREAT BLUE HERONS WITH CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY, WHILE ACTIVELY ENGAGING STUDENTS OF ALL AGES IN EVERY PHASE OF THE PROJECT, WITHIN MAINE AND BEYOND.

## About the Project

In 2016, students from seven schools helped locate feeding herons and placed live bait so biologists could capture and tag them with GPS transmitters. The transmitters are solar-powered and will last several years, generating location data for the tagged herons through all seasons. Data are now publicly available for use by anyone.

## Ways to Get Involved

*OBSERVE behaviors and movements of tagged herons. Follow the heron with real-time data and record the bird's behaviors to aid in calibration of the movement data received from the transmitters.*

*USE DATA generated by the transmitters to answer questions about movements during nesting, migration routes, habitat use, wintering locations, and much more! These data can be easily pulled into Google Earth, Excel, and ArcGIS, and you can even follow the herons on your smartphone.*

## Track Maine's Herons Online!

The herons' transmitters download data every 24 hours to an open source website, [www.movebank.org](http://www.movebank.org). For instructions on how to track Maine's tagged great blue herons in Movebank, visit: <http://www.maine.gov/wordpress/ifwheron/tracking-project/1-2/>

### Discover

Heron habitat preferences, movement patterns, foraging distances, and much more!

### Get Inspired

Use the experience as inspiration for science, art, music, and technical and creative writing.

### Learn New Skills

Such as field observation, orienteering, new computer programs, and research design.



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TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS EXCITING PROJECT, CONTACT:  
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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GREAT BLUE HERONS, VISIT:  
[www.maine.gov/wordpress/ifwheron/](http://www.maine.gov/wordpress/ifwheron/)