

Maine Breeding Bird Safe Dates

The Safe Dates delineate the time period in Maine when most migrants are not present and individuals present in appropriate breeding habitat may be nesting. For many species, breeding occurs outside of these dates, but migrant individuals may also be present. Safe dates offer only general guidance and your observations take precedence over any dates given in this Appendix. Remember that spring can be early or late in a given year and that breeding may begin weeks earlier in southern Maine than in northern Maine.

Species	Safe Dates
Canada Goose	4/25 - 8/1
Mute Swan	5/1 - 8/1
Wood Duck	5/5 - 8/1
Blue-winged Teal	5/25 - 8/1
Northern Shoveler	5/25 - 8/1
Gadwall	5/25 - 8/1
American Wigeon	5/25 - 8/1
Mallard	5/5 - 8/1
American Black Duck	5/5 - 8/1
Northern Pintail	5/20 - 8/5
Green-winged Teal	5/25 - 8/1
Redhead	6/10 - 8/1
Ring-necked Duck	6/1 - 8/1
Common Eider	5/1 - 7/25
Bufflehead	6/10 - 8/1
Common Goldeneye	5/25 - 8/1
Hooded Merganser	5/5 - 8/1
Common Merganser	5/25 - 8/1
Red-breasted Merganser	6/10 - 8/1
Ruddy Duck	6/5 - 8/1
Northern Bobwhite	5/10 - 8/15
Ring-necked Pheasant	5/1 - 8/15
Ruffed Grouse	4/20 - 8/10
Spruce Grouse	4/1 - 8/5
Wild Turkey	4/15 - 9/1
Common Loon	5/15 - 7/20
Pied-billed Grebe	5/15 - 7/25
Leach's Storm-Petrel	6/1 - 8/15
Great Cormorant	5/1 - 8/1
Double-crested Cormorant	5/15 - 7/20
American Bittern	5/1 - 7/25
Least Bittern	5/15 - 7/25
Great Blue Heron	5/1 - 8/10
Great Egret	5/25 - 7/15
Snowy Egret	5/1 - 7/15
Little Blue Heron	5/1 - 7/15

Species	Safe Dates
Tricolored Heron	5/1 - 7/15
Cattle Egret	5/1 - 8/1
Green Heron	5/15 - 8/15
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5/1 - 8/1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	5/25 - 7/15
Glossy Ibis	5/1 - 8/1
White-faced Ibis	5/5 - 7/15
Turkey Vulture	6/1 - 8/1
Osprey	5/8 - 7/24
Golden Eagle	4/1 - 7/20
Mississippi Kite	6/5 - 8/1
Northern Harrier	5/15 - 8/1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5/25 - 8/1
Cooper's Hawk	5/20 - 8/1
Northern Goshawk	4/15 - 7/15
Bald Eagle	3/16 - 7/31
Red-shouldered Hawk	5/15 - 8/1
Broad-winged Hawk	6/1 - 7/25
Red-tailed Hawk	5/15 - 8/1
Yellow Rail	6/1 - 8/1
King Rail	5/25 - 8/1
Virginia Rail	5/15 - 8/1
Sora	5/15 - 8/1
Common Gallinule	5/25 - 8/15
American Coot	6/1 - 8/5
Sandhill Crane	5/1 - 8/1
American Oystercatcher	5/25 - 8/1
Piping Plover	5/25 - 8/1
Killdeer	4/20 - 7/15
Upland Sandpiper	5/25 - 7/15
Least Sandpiper	5/25 - 6/15
American Woodcock	4/15 - 7/25
Wilson's Snipe	5/15 - 7/25
Wilson's Phalarope	6/1 - 7/25
Spotted Sandpiper	5/25 - 7/5
Solitary Sandpiper	6/5 - 6/25

Maine Breeding Bird Safe Dates (continued)

Species	Safe Dates
Willet	5/20 - 7/15
Razorbill	5/1 - 8/1
Black Guillemot	5/1 - 8/1
Atlantic Puffin	5/1 - 8/1
Bonaparte's Gull	6/1 - 7/20
Laughing Gull	5/15 - 8/1
Ring-billed Gull	5/15 - 8/1
Herring Gull	5/15 - 8/1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	5/1 - 7/20
Great Black-backed Gull	5/1 - 7/20
Least Tern	5/25 - 8/1
Black Tern	6/1 - 8/1
Roseate Tern	6/1 - 7/25
Common Tern	6/1 - 7/25
Arctic Tern	6/1 - 7/25
Rock Pigeon	3/1 - 11/1
Mourning Dove	4/10 - 8/15
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6/10 - 8/1
Black-billed Cuckoo	6/10 - 8/1
Barn Owl	4/15 - 8/1
Eastern Screech-Owl	3/1 - 7/1
Great Horned Owl	1/25 - 8/1
Northern Hawk Owl	4/20 - 8/1
Barred Owl	3/15 - 7/25
Long-eared Owl	4/20 - 7/25
Short-eared Owl	5/1 - 8/1
Boreal Owl	4/15 - 8/1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	4/1 - 8/1
Common Nighthawk	6/5 - 7/25
Eastern Whip-poor-will	5/25 - 7/25
Chimney Swift	5/20 - 8/1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6/1 - 8/1
Belted Kingfisher	5/1 - 8/1
Red-headed Woodpecker	5/25 - 8/1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5/20 - 8/1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5/15 - 8/1
Downy Woodpecker	5/1 - 8/1
Hairy Woodpecker	5/1 - 8/1
Am Three-toed Woodpecker	5/1 - 7/25
Black-backed Woodpecker	5/10 - 7/25
Northern Flicker	5/15 - 7/25
Pileated Woodpecker	5/1 - 8/5

Species	Safe Dates
American Kestrel	5/25 - 7/25
Merlin	5/10 - 7/20
Peregrine Falcon	3/25 - 7/15
Monk Parakeet	6/1 - 8/1
Olive-sided Flycatcher	6/10 - 7/25
Eastern Wood-Pewee	6/10 - 8/10
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	6/10 - 7/25
Alder Flycatcher	6/1 - 7/25
Willow Flycatcher	6/1 - 7/25
Least Flycatcher	6/1 - 8/1
Eastern Phoebe	5/1 - 8/1
Great Crested Flycatcher	5/25 - 8/1
Eastern Kingbird	6/1 - 8/1
Loggerhead Shrike	5/15 - 8/1
White-eyed Vireo	6/1 - 8/1
Yellow-throated Vireo	5/25 - 8/1
Blue-headed Vireo	5/25 - 8/1
Philadelphia Vireo	6/1 - 8/1
Warbling Vireo	6/1 - 8/1
Red-eyed Vireo	6/1 - 8/5
Gray Jay	3/25 - 7/1
Blue Jay	5/25 - 8/15
American Crow	4/15 - 7/15
Fish Crow	5/1 - 7/15
Common Raven	4/1 - 7/1
Horned Lark	4/15 - 7/25
N Rough-winged Swallow	5/25 - 7/15
Purple Martin	5/25 - 7/15
Tree Swallow	5/1 - 7/15
Bank Swallow	5/25 - 7/15
Barn Swallow	5/25 - 7/20
Cliff Swallow	5/25 - 7/15
Black-capped Chickadee	4/15 - 8/1
Boreal Chickadee	5/15 - 8/1
Tufted Titmouse	4/15 - 8/1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5/15 - 8/1
White-breasted Nuthatch	4/15 - 8/10
Brown Creeper	5/15 - 8/10
House Wren	5/25 - 8/20
Winter Wren	5/20 - 8/5
Sedge Wren	6/1 - 8/1
Marsh Wren	5/25 - 8/5

Maine Breeding Bird Safe Dates (continued)

Species	Safe Dates
Carolina Wren	5/15 - 8/10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5/20 - 8/5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5/20 - 8/1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6/1 - 8/15
Eastern Bluebird	5/10 - 8/15
Veery	6/1 - 8/1
Bicknell's Thrush	6/1 - 8/15
Swainson's Thrush	6/5 - 7/25
Hermit Thrush	5/20 - 8/1
Wood Thrush	6/1 - 8/1
American Robin	5/10 - 8/1
Gray Catbird	6/1 - 8/10
Brown Thrasher	5/20 - 8/10
Northern Mockingbird	5/15 - 8/15
European Starling	4/1 - 8/15
American Pipit	6/1 - 8/15
Cedar Waxwing	6/10 - 8/5
Ovenbird	5/25 - 8/1
Louisiana Waterthrush	5/5 - 7/1
Northern Waterthrush	6/1 - 7/25
Golden-winged Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Blue-winged Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)	6/1 - 8/1
Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid)	6/1 - 8/1
Black-and-white Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Tennessee Warbler	6/5 - 7/25
Nashville Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Mourning Warbler	6/10 - 8/5
Common Yellowthroat	6/1 - 8/15
American Redstart	6/1 - 8/1
Cape May Warbler	6/1 - 7/25
Northern Parula	6/1 - 7/25
Magnolia Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Bay-breasted Warbler	6/5 - 7/25
Blackburnian Warbler	6/1 - 7/25
Yellow Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Blackpoll Warbler	6/5 - 8/1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Palm Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Pine Warbler	5/20 - 8/1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6/1 - 8/10

Species	Safe Dates
Prairie Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Black-throated Green Warbler	6/1 - 8/1
Canada Warbler	6/5 - 8/1
Wilson's Warbler	6/5 - 8/1
Grasshopper Sparrow	6/1 - 7/25
Nelson's Sparrow	6/1 - 8/15
Saltmarsh Sparrow	6/1 - 8/15
Seaside Sparrow	6/1 - 8/1
Chipping Sparrow	5/20 - 8/1
Clay-colored Sparrow	6/1 - 8/1
Field Sparrow	5/20 - 8/1
Fox Sparrow	5/15 - 8/1
Dark-eyed Junco	5/25 - 8/15
White-throated Sparrow	5/25 - 8/15
Vesper Sparrow	5/20 - 7/25
Savannah Sparrow	5/20 - 8/1
Song Sparrow	5/10 - 8/15
Lincoln's Sparrow	6/1 - 8/10
Swamp Sparrow	5/20 - 8/15
Eastern Towhee	5/20 - 8/10
Scarlet Tanager	6/1 - 8/10
Northern Cardinal	4/15 - 8/15
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/1 - 8/5
Indigo Bunting	6/1 - 8/15
Bobolink	6/1 - 7/25
Eastern Meadowlark	5/15 - 8/1
Orchard Oriole	6/1 - 7/20
Baltimore Oriole	6/1 - 7/20
Red-winged Blackbird	5/10 - 7/25
Brown-headed Cowbird	5/15 - 7/25
Rusty Blackbird	5/15 - 8/10
Common Grackle	5/1 - 8/1
Evening Grosbeak	6/1 - 8/15
Pine Grosbeak	5/25 - 8/15
House Finch	4/15 - 8/10
Purple Finch	5/25 - 8/1
Red Crossbill	4/25 - 8/1
White-winged Crossbill	4/25 - 8/1
Pine Siskin	5/20 - 7/25
American Goldfinch	6/5 - 9/1
House Sparrow	3/1 - 8/25