



CONTENTS

- It's that Time of Year Again!
- The Center for Biological Diversity
- From the President's Desk
- New e-Book Publication
- Featured Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Pack
- Trail Cam Highlights

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

It's winter and love is in the air-for wolves, that is. Maine's wolves breed during the winter and into the early spring. The breeding age females come into heat for only five to seven days each year. Wolves typically pair for life, but they do not necessarily breed only with their mate. Although this is apparently uncommon, pups from one litter may have more than one father.

Here is an interesting website regarding the breeding habits of wolves: [Wolf Country, reproduction, bonding and mating](#)

Most of Maine's large wild canids are coyote/wolf/dog hybrids. To our knowledge, no research has been conducted in Maine into the lives and breeding habits of these canids. Our trail cameras have been documenting breeding pairs that produce litters year after year. This is good news, because it shows that many canid pairs have been surviving for several years. Many of the thousands of Maine canids that are killed by hunters and trappers are dispersing juveniles that have not yet established a territory.

THE CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FILES WOLF LAWSUIT

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) filed a lawsuit in early February demanding a National Gray Wolf Recovery Plan. The reason for this is that the federal government has reneged on its promise to develop a recovery plan saying that a plan "is no longer appropriate".

[New Lawsuit Demands National Gray Wolf Recovery Plan - Center for Biological Diversity](#)

The CBD is a member of the Northeast Wolf Recovery Alliance (NEWRA) and is an important part of the Northeast wolf recovery movement. Despite the facts that MWC has documented an eastern wolf in Maine and eastern wolf territories in Québec are just sixty miles from New York, the federal government continues to ignore wolf recovery in the Northeast.

It is unfortunate that the federal government has been working to delist wolves for more than a quarter of a century. Every time they have tried to do so, wolf advocates have won in court. Twenty-five years of illegal activities and legal maneuvering by the federal government in violation of the Endangered Species Act is a disgrace. Recovery of significant wolf populations in the Northeast may not ever occur without the recovery plan, given the actions of the Northeast states to promote the killing of wolves by promoting the killing of "coyotes".





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By John Glowa, MWC President



Happy End of Winter!

As a 501c3 non-profit corporation, The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc. is prohibited from endorsing candidates. This article is not an endorsement or request for support. It is only for your information.

Very unfortunately, the state and federal governments have made the northeast wolf recovery issue 100% politics and 0% science. As an active wolf advocate for more than three decades, this is one reason I am running for governor of Maine. I've learned over my lifetime that if we want to change the government, we have to become the government. I've come to realize that Maine will never have a governor who will put the public's fish and wildlife resources first.

As governor, I will reverse course of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW). With regard to Maine's fish and wildlife, my first priority will be the resources, all of which are held in trust by the state.

If I am elected governor, my plans would include the following:

- I will prohibit wildlife killing contests except for fishing derbies.
- I will require that all fish and wildlife management activities are supported by science.
- I will require that all fish and wildlife management activities take ethics into consideration.
- I will expand the Maine Warden Service.
- I will support ending recreational trapping.
- I will require IFW to conduct research into the status of wolves and mountain lions.
- I will require IFW to develop a turtle restoration program.
- I will order the phasing out of lead ammunition for hunting.
- I will appoint Advisory Council members who are representative of Maine's demographics.
- I will work closely with the IFW commissioner and staff to ensure that the department is no longer a captured agency and that it represents all the people of Maine.

Warmly,
John



NEW E-BOOK PUBLICATION

Wild *Canis* of Maine: A Photographic Montage



By Jonathan G. Way, Jennifer Rosado, and Ken Smith

Published by Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research - www.EasternCoyoteResearch.com

January 22, 2026

In an effort to increase access, we have made this latest e-book, **Wild Canis of Maine: A Photographic Montage**, Open Access which ensures that anyone in the world can read this book for free. All we ask, as explained in the book, is that you donate to our research (see bottom of this page) if you enjoyed the read. That will help facilitate the production of more books like this one. Enjoy!

[Download your free book here](#)

This book depicts the best of our pictures of wild *Canis* taken in Maine from the past five years from our collective trail-camera operations. This is a unique book, and besides Jon Way's e-book [Coywolf](#), we are not aware of another source that offers this many pictures on the elusive eastern coyote, also called coywolf. For purposes of inclusivity for the various degrees of coyote and wolf hybrids in the region, we simply use the genus term *Canis* as the preferred term for them in this book.

To increase access for all people, rich or poor, majority or minority, we are offering this e-book for free to anyone in the world who wants to read it. We share with you, the reader, our experience and research findings from our collaborative study.

If you enjoy it, all we ask in return is that you pay it forward by sharing and please consider a [donation of \\$10.00](#) to support our research and education efforts, as well as supporting the book's Open Access format. That is about the price of one movie ticket, and you get to own this book, and all of its pictures, forever. If you do not want to donate from the website, you are welcome to email us, and we will gladly provide you with a physical postal address: jon@easterncoyoterresearch.com or easterncoyoterresearch@yahoo.com.

Citation: Way, J.G, J. Rosado, and K. Smith. 2026. E-book. Wild *Canis* of Maine: A Photographic Montage. Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research, Barnstable, Massachusetts. 320 pages. Open Access URL: <http://www.easterncoyoterresearch.com/WildCanisofMaine>.

FEATURED EASTERN COYOTE/COYWOLF PACK

A TALE OF RESILIENCE: THE BLOCKHEAD AND HALFPAW PACK

For three years, the Maine Wolf Coalition has observed this remarkable duo. Our researchers were first intrigued by the very blocky wolf-like head of the breeding male, whom we nicknamed “Blockhead.” Unlike typical eastern coyotes, Blockhead has a very short, broad snout and short ears set widely apart on his head, indicating a relatively large skull. His facial features are more consistent with those of an eastern wolf than an eastern coyote. Based on our estimates, we are confident he stands about 24 inches tall at the shoulder, which is typical of Maine’s hybrid Canis, the eastern coyote. They are also called coywolf because of their hybrid origin with wolves.



Blockhead



Half-paw in summer coat

Blockhead’s mate, Half-paw, is named for the fact that she is missing half of her rear left paw. We don’t know how this happened, but we speculate it may have been the result of a trapping incident where she may have pulled out of a trap and injured her foot. Blockhead and Half-paw have been together for over two years. They are a mated pair and will likely stay together until one of them dies. Half-paw has a very light pelage, mostly white with a little black in her coat, which gives her a unique look and makes her easy to identify. She also has a long face, though not necessarily a narrow snout—it’s long but not thin. Her long, pointy ears are typical of an eastern coyote.

For the past three years, Half-paw has appeared to adapt well to her disability, though she still walks with a limp and often avoids using her injured rear leg. Her resilience is incredible. However, several of the videos taken of her this past fall suggest that she is now struggling more with her injury. Half-paw and Blockhead live in the Northwoods of Maine. At present, we don’t have access to this remote region because of heavy snowfall, and we will not be able to return to the site until late May. We can only hope that Half-paw will still be alive then.



Half-paw in winter coat

FEATURED EASTERN COYOTE/COYWOLF PACK (CONT'D)

We usually see these Canis alone or together as a pair, but until recently we had never seen them in a pack of three or more. In earlier years we observed no pups, so there really wasn't a true pack associated with these two. That changed this past summer when we saw the pair with several pups. They now have a pack. Perhaps they did not have pups before because of



Half-paw with two pups

Half-paw's injury, or maybe they simply didn't bring their pups in front of the camera. It will be interesting to see whether the pups stay with the pack for more than one year or disperse while still young. Many of Maine's Canis packs include animals from more than one year's litter; older pups remain with the pack to help care for younger pups and assist with hunting. This is exactly what is observed in wild wolf packs.

Blockhead and Half-paw live in a very remote region of the northwoods where their habitat is dominated by young spruce trees planted about 10 years ago, interspersed with scattered islands of larger, mature trees. In this landscape, snowshoe hare populations are high, and we believe hares make up a large proportion of these Canis' diet. Hare tracks are visible in the snow between the young trees, with well-worn paths that reveal their daily movements. Our cameras have also captured several lynx, which rely heavily on hares and further supports the idea that hare density in this region is high. Moose appear to thrive here as well, likely because of the abundance of young trees that they can feed on. We frequently observe both species on camera and while traveling through the area.



Blockhead



Pup from Blockhead & Half-paw Pack



CANIS OF THE NORTH MAINE WOODS

FALL 2025



Winter 2026

CANIS OF THE NORTH MAINE WOODS

FALL 2025



All trail cam photos taken by MWC



STAY INFORMED

For more information, please visit the following Maine Wolf Coalition sites:



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[The MWC Facebook Page](#)



[The MWC Substack Page](#)



[The MWC YouTube Channel](#)

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ABOUT US

The Maine Wolf Coalition, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to wolf recovery in Maine through research, education, and protection.

