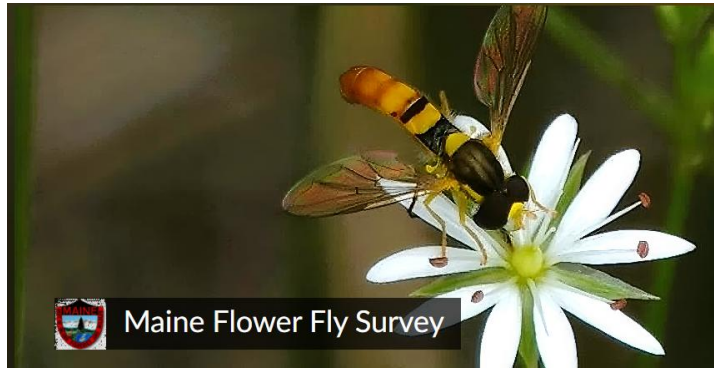


Maine Flower Fly Survey

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) will sponsor the Maine Flower Fly Survey (MFFS) beginning in the spring of 2025, and we are recruiting volunteers to help in a statewide survey of this important group of pollinators. This project will build on the success of MDIFW's previous community science

initiatives involving other ecologically significant insects including the Maine Damselfly and Dragonfly Survey, the Maine Butterfly Survey, and the Maine Bumble Bee Atlas.



Project Description - Flower Flies (aka Hover Flies; Family Syrphidae) are an important and under-surveyed pollinator group in Maine. Moreover, while the larvae of many species are herbivores or detritivores, about 40% are predators of soft-bodied insects (e.g., aphids, thrips). Maine has over 200 known species of flower flies and many are bee or wasp mimics. Their distinctive color patterns allow identification of many of our species using a recently published regional field guide and associated website (Skevington et al 2019). Establishing a comprehensive database for Maine's flower fly fauna will expand our understanding of the distribution, status, and habitat associations of this important pollinator group in the state and will provide a baseline for evaluating potential impacts associated with climate change and other drivers of global insect decline.

Project Coordinators – Dr. Ron Butler, Dr. Herb Wilson, Beth Swartz (MDIFW)

Time frame - 5-year project (2025-2029)

Zoom Orientations – Prospective volunteers are asked to register for one of the following orientation sessions using the link below. These sessions will cover project objectives, the biology and taxonomy of flower flies, survey methods, fly photography, and the use of iNaturalist.

Time of day – Evenings (6:30-8:30 pm)

Dates – Feb 5 (Wed), Feb 10 (Mon), March 11 (Tues), March 20 (Thurs)

Registration - <https://forms.gle/ybqyMoiYUBjYi3kFA>

Problems registering – please contact Herb Wilson at whwilson@colby.edu

Records – Flower fly records will be images collected using cameras or smartphones which will then be posted directly to each volunteer's iNaturalist account (establishing an account is free and we will provide user instructions during orientation). We will not be accepting specimen records in this project. We will use iNaturalist's project feature as our primary website, and this will allow us to aggregate all member records automatically as soon as they are posted. Volunteers will be able to access updated survey results anytime they log on to the website and check the Maine Flower Fly Survey project. Volunteers are not required to identify flower flies to species to participate.

iNaturalist Flower Fly Survey Project Link - <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/maine-flower-flies>

Recommended Field Guide – Skevington, J.H., M.M. Locke, A.D. Young, K. Moran, W.J. Crins, and S.A. Marshall. 2019. *Field Guide to the Flower Flies of Northeastern North America*. Princeton University Press. New Jersey.