

Empty Skies: The Decline of Aerial Insectivores

by Pamela Hunt



Purple Martin pair at a nest box.
Photo by Pam Hunt.

One of the more unnerving trends highlighted in New Hampshire's "State of the Birds" (SOTB) report was the decline of a group of birds known as "aerial insectivores." These are birds that catch insects in flight, including swifts, swallows, flycatchers, and nightjars. It now appears that 13 of the 18 species of aerial insectivores are declining, based on an updated analysis of the SOTB. These trends are most evident in Breeding Bird Survey data, and as range retractions in Breeding Bird Atlas data. For example, the number of "Atlas blocks" occupied by Cliff Swallows in Massachusetts dropped from almost 150 in the late 1970s to under 70 in the early 2000s. Chimney Swift declines have been so strong in Canada that the species was listed as "Threatened" in 2007.

Why the alarming declines? At this point, we simply don't know but speculation has centered on pesticides, climate change, and habitat loss. But while all these birds share a food source, they can be very different in habitat, foraging behavior, and wintering areas. Bank Swallows nest along rivers, forage high in the air, and winter in South America. In contrast, Least Flycatchers live in forests, sally for insects from a perch, and winter in Central America. Both are declining. In some cases, breeding habitat loss is a major factor: for example whip-poor-wills require early successional areas that are being developed or growing into mature forest. But for most species we have no idea why they're declining.

Where a species winters may be an important key to the puzzle. Of the 18 species, half travel all the way to South America, and every single one of these is showing sharp declines. Of the six that winter primarily in Central America, only the whip-poor-will and Least Flycatcher are declining. Only three species migrate as far as the southern US, and while two are declining (Eastern Phoebe and Tree Swallow), these declines aren't as strong as those of the other species.

So what might be going on in South America? Agriculture can have negative effects through habitat loss and pesticide use, and both issues are more severe in Latin America than they are here. Clearing land for farms removes native habitats that migratory birds need, while pesticides can affect both birds and their prey. Aerial insectivores wintering in South America may be affected by multiple threats: loss of habitat, depleted food supplies, and even direct mortality.

Because aerial insectivores rely on flying insects, they are particularly sensitive to anything that affects insect activity. For example, Purple Martins can starve during periods of cold spring weather when there are few insects in the air. In northern regions such food resources are increasingly disrupted by climate change in the form of both earlier springs and more unpredictable spring weather. As a result, there may be less food available at critical times for returning swifts and swallows – although we don't know if this is affecting their populations. Interestingly, some of the declines we see in eastern North America are stronger farther north (e.g., Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow), which lends support to the idea that climate change could be an important factor.

I haven't even touched upon the potential effects of pesticides and habitat loss right here in own backyards, or along these birds' migration routes. Many swallows in particular form huge communal roosts during migration and we know little about these. You can quickly see that aerial insectivores are influenced by a complex multitude of factors, and that we still have a lot to learn.

NH Audubon has been conducting research on several aerial insectivores including Common Nighthawks and Eastern Whip-poor-wills. We have also recently launched "Swallow CORE," to gather information on swallow colonies across the state. For more on these projects, visit www.nh Audubon.org.



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Banner photo by John Hession.



From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

It's spring! – the season of pancakes, maple syrup, and mud, returning Red-winged Blackbirds, heartening spring choruses emanating from the woods, fields, and melting ponds, and the rain-inspired movement of amphibians to time-honored breeding pools. It's a time I relish, when the world is once again opening to the sun's warmth and the lengthening daylight. Increasingly for me, it's also a poignant time, as I am starting to realize that many of the barometers of the season that I love so much are shifting, due to our changing climate.

The implications for plants, wildlife, and people from continued use of fossil fuels are far reaching and very complex. Here in New Hampshire, we recycle, we reuse, we plug air leaks in our homes. But even with our frugal New England ways, our impact is staggering. Our per person consumption of petroleum in New Hampshire is higher than every other state except one, due to our heavy dependence on heating oil. Lacking public transportation, we "pile the miles" on our personal cars and other vehicles every year. The list goes on.

New Hampshire Audubon is confronting this complex issue in several ways. Our biologists are trying to assess impacts of climate change on plants and wildlife by way of a long-term project on selected New Hampshire Audubon sanctuaries. We are collaborating on another project involving the purchase and sale of carbon credits from New Hampshire's forests (read about both projects on page 3) – and we are "weighing in" on climate legislation at the State House.

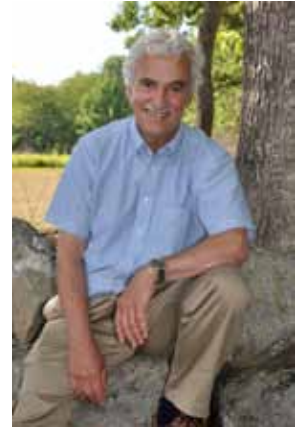
Because education is one of the keys to developing solutions to the climate problems that are confronting us, New Hampshire Audubon is offering each of you opportunities to learn more. Our lecture series on climate change last fall at the McLane Center was so well received we are planning a follow up series this fall. We are also offering you the opportunity to learn about solar energy (a bright energy option for New Hampshire) by spending Earth Day at our Massabesic Center (see page 9). Lastly you can learn how to look for environmental changes by joining New Hampshire Audubon scientists and "citizen scientists" in our phenology project.

We welcome your involvement.

Stay tuned for more.

Mike

Michael J. Bartlett
President, New Hampshire Audubon



Call for Award Nominations

Do you know someone who has done outstanding work for conservation, the study of birds, or who has been a tireless volunteer for NH Audubon? Help us recognize them! The Development Committee of the Board of Trustees requests nominations for the Tudor Richards Award, The Goodhue-Elkins Award, and the Volunteer of the Year Award, which will be presented at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Details on the awards, past recipients, and nomination forms are available on the NH Audubon web site—click on About Us or go directly to www.nhaudubon.org/about/annual-awards. **Submission deadline is April 1, 2012.** If you have questions contact Becky Suomala at 224-9909 x309.



Canada mayflower in full flower, May 22, 2011, Deering Sanctuary. Photo by Diane De Luca

Phenological Monitoring Project

by Laura Deming

Looking for something new to do this spring? Come out and explore one of New Hampshire Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries to learn about Phenology, the study of plant and animal life cycle events. Help Audubon biologists document the timing of blooming woodland flowers, chorusing of wood frogs and arrival of migratory birds – all life cycle events that are tied to regional climate, and therefore indicators of biological responses to climate change.

This spring, Audubon biologists will lead phenology field trips at two sanctuaries (Deering Sanctuary, in Deering, NH, and Ponemah Bog in Amherst, NH) to demonstrate how scientists document the life cycle events, or phenophases, of individual plants and animals. At each site, we'll conduct our survey along established trails, where individual plants have been selected for regular monitoring over the entire growing season. We'll also make note of all wildlife seen or heard. The information collected will not only provide a baseline of information on species found on Audubon's sanctuaries, but will also contribute to a national database managed by the U.S.A. National Phenology Network (www.usanpn.org). This database is critical to researchers trying to determine which species are most vulnerable to climate change, and how changes in one species phenology can impact other species and entire ecosystems.

Where, When, How:

Phenology field trips will be held on the following dates:
Deering Sanctuary, Deering, NH: Saturday, April 21, and Friday, April 27

Ponemah Bog, Amherst, NH: Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 28

Participation is free of charge, but spaces for each field trip will be limited, so please call to let us know you're coming. Please contact Laura Deming (ldeming@nhaudubon.org; 224-9909 x335) for more information.

NH Audubon News

Carbon Credits: Potential Income for NH Landowners

by Carol Foss

NH Audubon, Audubon Vermont, and the Society for Protection of NH Forests are collaborating to educate Vermont and New Hampshire forest landowners about emerging markets for carbon credits. Northern New England's forests provide multiple ecological and economic benefits, from wildlife habitat to timber resources. These forests also have significant capacity for absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. The sale of carbon credits or "forest carbon offsets" places a monetary value on carbon that is absorbed by a forest. Industries that emit large amounts of carbon dioxide purchase these credits, which are measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, to compensate for their emissions.

Because more than 80% of the region's forested landscape is privately owned, how individual landowners manage their properties will profoundly affect New England's future. The sale of carbon credits can provide a new income stream that supports continued forest ownership, maintains wildlife habitat, and benefits the climate. This project, funded by a \$30,000 TogetherGreen Innovation Grant, will help landowners understand their forests' potential to provide economic and environmental benefits through the sale of carbon credits. A collaboration between National Audubon Society and Toyota, TogetherGreen grants support projects using innovative approaches and technologies to engage new and diverse audiences in conservation and tackle pressing conservation problems.

Details about the 2011 TogetherGreen projects are available at www.togethergreen.org.



Common Nighthawk female on a rooftop nest with two eggs in Concord. The nest was predated soon after. Photo by Rebecca Suomala



Remembrances

Several dearly beloved New Hampshire Audubon members have passed away recently and we would like to acknowledge our sympathy to their families.

Helen S. Dahl 12/4/11, who donated land which became the Dahl Sanctuary in North Conway. We are grateful for her generous bequest.

Katherine E. Dymont 12/7/11, a longtime birder and recipient of the Goodhue-Elkins Award in 2008.

Natale L. Brown 12/9/11, wife of J. Willcox Brown, both longtime supporters of NH Audubon. We are grateful for her generous bequest.

Robert M. Soule 12/25/11, husband of former trustee Dorothy Soule and both longtime supporters of NH Audubon.

The Trials and Tribulations of Nighthawk Nest Watching

by Rebecca Suomala

It was a year of ups and downs for nesting nighthawks and Project Nighthawk volunteers in 2011. Here are a few highlights: There are few nesting nighthawks in the state and we were thrilled when nests were discovered in natural areas of Ossipee and Concord. The Ossipee nest hatched but the chicks were impossible to locate and we can only assume they were successful based on the adults' behavior. The Concord nest at Broken Ground was very late and failed at hatch for reasons unknown. Another pair nested on a Concord rooftop but was predated within a couple of days. We were also sure that the pair had returned to the gravel pit in Pembroke, but we were denied access and could not monitor them.

If you would like a full summary of the nighthawk nesting season, send me your address or check the Project Nighthawk web page. Many thanks to the Project Nighthawk volunteers who helped monitor these state-endangered birds. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at bsuomala@nhaudubon.org or 603-224-9909 x309.

Field Volunteer Opportunities

Spring brings chances to volunteer outside doing field work such as observing nighthawks or recording plant blooming times. For a current list of opportunities, check the list (pdf) on the web at: <http://www.nhbirdrecords.org/volunteer/WildlifeSurveylist.pdf> or contact Becky Suomala (630-224-9909 x309) for a printed version.



Dahl Sanctuary, Photo by Phil Brown.



Eric Berger Joins Staff as Director of Membership & Development

Eric comes to NH Audubon with over ten years experience in non-profit fundraising and donor services. He most recently served as Director of Donor Services and then Director of Lions Relations at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan, where he was responsible for \$2 million in annual donations from Lions clubs and individuals. To accomplish this, he developed and implemented strategic plans which included cultivation, stewardship, and recognition programs. Eric managed this critical donor group through personal contact, communication, tours and numerous presentations across North America. He created key relationships which positioned Leader Dog to secure critical funding for its programs and services for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Eric looks forward to growing NH Audubon membership and building relationships with individuals and businesses which will enable the organization to enhance the unique services it provides protecting New Hampshire's environment. He is excited at the opportunity to be a part of NH Audubon's continued revival.

Eric has a passion for American history, especially the Civil War. In his spare time he can frequently be found at used bookstores browsing for "treasures" to add to his extensive book collection on the Civil War and other subjects of interest. Eric and his wife Ruth live in Exeter and have five children in all.

New Elections to New Hampshire Audubon Board of Trustees

Jonathan Edwards



Jonathan J. Edwards, Principal of Granite Financial Partners, is considered by many as a pillar of strength for family leaders building a legacy. As a trusted advisor and value-centric businessman, Mr. Edwards is the go-to person for successful owners of closely held businesses. His clients benefit from his highly developed technical abilities and preservation strategies, which are key to building and maintaining family wealth. In addition to being a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®), his professional designations include Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) and Accredited Investment Fiduciaries (AIF®).

Mr. Edwards believes in using his success to serve society. He served as Director of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Manchester Region for six years, and on the foundation's Fiscal Policy Committee. He served on the board of the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Foundation for six years, serving his final year as President. In addition to serving on New Hampshire Audubon's board, he is a director of Earth Limited and President of the Bedford Athletic Club. Mr. Edwards lives in Bedford with his wife, Jennifer, sons, Zachary and Austin, and daughter, Jady. An avid outdoor enthusiast, he enjoys fly-fishing, hiking, skiing, coaching soccer, and spending time with his family and three dogs.

Dave Howe



Dave Howe has been an attorney in private practice for almost 30 years and concentrates in corporate and real property law. Born in Connecticut and raised in New Jersey, he moved to New Hampshire with his family shortly before starting at Colby College in Maine. He has been a sole practitioner in Concord for the last three years and a resident of Concord for over 25 years. Dave is an avid birder, and, as a former glider pilot and flight instructor, he particularly enjoys hawk watching at Carter Hill Orchard. In 2011, he won the NH Audubon President's Award for his contributions to the Carter Hill Raptor Observatory. He also enjoys bicycling and combining birding with bicycling. In addition to helping with the hawk counts at Carter Hill, he helps New Hampshire Audubon as a volunteer with New Hampshire eBird and *New Hampshire Bird Records*, ProjectNighthawk and the annual whip-poor-will survey. His other community and volunteer activities have included serving as past Chair of the Board of Trustees of Five Rivers Conservation Trust, a regional conservation land trust that serves the Concord area and happens to hold the conservation easement on Carter Hill Orchard, and as a founder, past director and past President of Main Street Concord, Inc., a downtown revitalization organization.

New England Nature Writers Series

Series is sponsored by Baldwin & Callen, PLLC, nhlandlaw.com

Mary Holland

Thursday, March 15, 7pm

Cost: Free, Refreshments will be served.

Mary Holland, Vermont naturalist, photographer, educator, will be discussing her book *Naturally Curious: A Photographic Field Guide and Month-by-Month Journey through the Fields, Woods, and Marshes of New England*, which won the 2011 National Outdoor Book Award in the Nature Guidebook Category! Here's what NOBA said about the book:

"*Naturally Curious* is a marvelous new nature guide. And quite naturally, it's by Mary Holland, one of the East's most seasoned naturalists. She's also something of a Renaissance woman: educator, advocate, columnist, and photographer... What makes this guide stand out is the way it's organized. Starting in March, with the first signs of spring, it covers the changes in the natural world, on a month to month basis. You can't go wrong with this guidebook. It's one that you'll use over and over—naturally."

The Boston Globe described *Naturally Curious* as "a fine guide, providing about 900 photographs and dozens of annotated lists of animals, plants, and fungi you might expect to see or hear at various times throughout the year. Holland writes about creatures big and small, from the habits of the bull moose in rut to the migration of the snow flea."

Join us for this fascinating evening with Mary Holland. Copies of *Naturally Curious* will be available for purchase and signing.

Wildlife Carving and Painting Workshop

Saturdays, 3/3-4/21, 8:30-12:30

Cost: \$125 plus materials, additional \$15 for carving knife (all other tools provided by instructor)

Leader: Bob Schwinger

Join prize-winning master carver Bob Schwinger for an 8-week course designed to teach participants the skills needed to carve and paint wooden birds and fish. Bob will demonstrate and practice step-by-step procedures of carving and painting that will benefit both the beginner and those with previous experience. Learn which tools to use, how to select appropriate wood, and how to keep those tools sharp. At the end of the workshop, participants will head home with new skills, one or two beautiful carvings, and a keen appreciation for the art of wood carving. Tools will be provided by the instructor. However, students are expected to purchase a carving knife either online or directly from the instructor. This class will be taught in Bob's private studio in Concord and is limited to 8 participants. Register early to guarantee space. To register or for additional information, please contact Bob at 603-496-4631, or email rschwinger@my-fairpoint.net. **Proceeds from this course will be used to benefit NHA's education department.**

Rites of Spring

Eyes on Owls with Marcia & Mark Wilson

Who's Watching You? Owls of the World

Saturday, March 17 (snow date: March 31)

Two shows: 10-11:15am and 1-2:15pm

Cost: \$8M/10NM for individuals and \$20M/30NM families

Reservations by calling 224-9909 x310 or online at www.nh Audubon.org/eyes-on-owls

Everyone loves owls! Yet, how many of us have ever seen a live owl up close? Join naturalist Marcia Wilson and photographer Mark Wilson in sharing their passion for owls! "Who's Watching You? Owls of the World" will introduce you to the owls of New England and beyond. Some owls such as Great Horned, Barred and Eastern Screech Owls are more common than you may think. Boreal owls and Great Gray owls are a rare find here, yet are found on other continents, too. Others like Snowy Owls, Eurasian eagle owls and familiar Barn Owls feature in popular movies and nature programs. Mark and Marcia will share the field marks, signs and naturalist's skills that you can use to find wild owls without disturbing them, while introducing you to **six live owls up close**. Everyone is treated to a hooting lesson, as well as tips on how to attract and protect owls near you.



Explore the world of owls with two talented naturalists and six lively owls, whose pursuits both near and far make this interactive program fun and educational!

A Northern Saw-whet Owl and an Eastern Screech Owl join 4 other owls with Marcia and Mark Wilson. Photo © Mark Wilson / WILDSHOT

Black Bear Happenings in New Hampshire

Thursday, April 19, 7-9pm

Cost: Free, Refreshments will be served.

Program offered by NH Fish & Wildlife Stewards. Learn about the natural history of the animal, research taking place, how the information learned will affect management for all species, and background on the Wildlife Restoration Program that has made this work possible. See www.nh Audubon.org for more details.

Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center

FISHWAYS FUNDAYS

(for children ages 4–5, accompanied by an adult)

10–11 am or 1–2 pm

Cost: \$5 per family, advance registration with payment required

March 7: Snow Detectives

What secrets can we find in the snow? What stories does snow tell? We'll put on our detective caps, get out our hand lenses, and search for clues to reveal which animals are out and about in winter.

March 28: Beavers, Otters and Mink, Oh My!

How do beavers build their lodges? How fast can river otters swim? Learn all about the adorable otters, beavers and mink who spend time in the river and discover the special "tools" they have that help them live there.

April 11: River Reptiles: Turtles and Snakes of the Merrimack

What makes an animal a reptile and which ones live nearby? Meet live turtles and snakes, learn how they survive, do your best turtle & snake imitations, and play some reptile games.

April 25: Spring Serenade

Who is making all that noise in your backyard? And what is all that noise about anyway? Discover which animals are calling in spring and why. We'll try our luck at mimicking some of their songs and make an animal call to take home!

May 23: Fin-Tastic Voyage

Learn about some amazing Merrimack River fish. We'll discover what makes fish special and which fish make a long journey from the ocean to the river each spring. We'll even look for them underwater in our fish ladder.

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS

(Programs are for all ages and focus on the Merrimack River and its watershed)

7–8 pm, unless noted

March 9: The Hunters and the Hunted

What is the difference between a predator and a prey animal? We'll investigate the adaptations animals use to find food and stay safe.

March 30: Finding their Way

Discover how migrating creatures find their way back to N.H. Compare their navigation skills to yours through games and activities.

April 20: Eco-Art

Create your own beautiful art with recycled and natural materials. We'll also brainstorm ways to celebrate Earth Day every day.

May 4: Finned Friends

We'll learn about these underwater river creatures through games and activities. Find out which fish live in NH, which don't, and which ones aren't really fish at all!

May 18, 7-8:30 pm: Family Fishstravaganza

Some of our Merrimack River fish travel amazing distances. Find out which go the farthest as we play fish games, make a fish craft, and look for migrating fish in our ladder.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE FISHWAYS

Predators of the Sky: Live Birds of Prey Sat., March 10

Two Presentations: 12–1:30 pm or 2–3:30 pm

Tom Ricardi and his spectacular birds of prey will be our guests. A beautiful bald eagle will be on hand for close-up viewing! Learn about the great work done by Tom's organization, the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility, which cares for injured birds and operates a successful captive breeding program. Cost: \$8 per person /\$20 per family. Advance payment with registration required. Location: PSNH 5 Rivers Auditorium, Energy Park, 780 North Commercial St. Manchester, NH 03101

Growing Up WILD Educator Workshop for Parents and Teachers of Young Children: Sat., March 24, 9am–1pm

The creators of Project WILD (a national Wildlife education program) have developed a new early childhood education curriculum. This workshop is an introduction to the Growing Up WILD units designed especially for children ages 3-7. Through direct exploration, play, and creative activities, teachers and parents will find new ways to get children outdoors and excited about learning! Cost: \$40. Pre-registration required. Call 626-3474 for more information. www.amoskeagfishways.org

Roots Along the River: Saturday, April 14, 1pm–3pm

Immerse the imagination in songs, stories, and magical music while discovering our connection to local rivers. Join award winning storyteller and author, Michael Caduto, in an interactive performance for all ages. Learn about the special places that protect our rivers and streams from pollution. Michael's new children's books, *Riparia's River* and *Catch the Wind, Harness the Sun* will be on sale and autographed in person. Cost: \$8 per person/ \$20 per family. Advance payment with registration required.

2012 Fish Festival: Featuring Dash and Splash Thursday, April 26, 10am–2pm, Salmon Stocking at 10am

Line up and cheer on U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists when they deliver adult broodstock salmon to stock our fish ladder. The ladder is running but the wild fish have yet to swim up the Merrimack River. While we wait, we stock fish in the ladder for up-close underwater viewing. Stocking followed by fish crafts, fish hats, fish games, and fish fun! Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family. No registration required.

Peregrine Falcon Festival: May 19, 11am–3pm

The fastest bird in the world lives right here in Manchester. We'll celebrate the peregrine falcon with community art projects and raptor presentations throughout the day. See a live falcon up close. Walk across the bridge to the Brady Sullivan building where an interpretive naturalist will be on hand to assist in spotting our Manchester peregrine falcons. Please bring binoculars if possible. Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family. No registration required.

Celebrate the 2012 Fish Season April 30–June 16!
Visit www.amoskeagfishways.org for details.

Fletcher Street, Manchester, NH 03105

626-FISH (3474)

ADULT PROGRAMS

Bird Banding Demonstration

Saturday, March 24, 10 am–noon

Cost: FREE

Leader: Jay Barry, licensed bird bander for 40 years

Join Jay as he shows us the fascinating banding process from capture to release. Using mist nets to catch birds, we will ID, band, and record our findings for the national database. Learn how to identify species, sex, and age with a variety of live subjects! We will also discuss the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) program that will be happening at Massabesic in summer. Analyses of the resulting banding data provide critical information relating to the ecology, conservation, and management of North American landbird populations, and the factors responsible for changes in their populations.

Bluebird Natural History and Trail Monitoring 2012

Saturday, March 31, 10 am–noon and 12:30–2:30 pm

Cost: FREE

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist

Our bluebird trail monitoring season begins in April! Join us for a morning workshop focused on the bluebird's natural history, conservation status and how to become a bluebird trail monitor. In the afternoon become oriented to our bluebird trail, clean out and make minor repairs to bluebird boxes as well as look for any early bluebirds. Volunteer monitors adopt a part or a whole field and contribute about one hour each week from the beginning of April to early August to monitor activity in our 100+ nest boxes.

Soap Making Workshop

Saturday, April 28, 1–3pm

Cost: \$15 M/\$25 NM, plus \$5 materials fee

Leader: Barbara Benton, Little Cabin Crafts

Come join us for a demonstration of making hand-crafted soap using all natural ingredients and essential oils. Follow the entire process: the selection of recipe and ingredients, the choice of utensils and equipment, mixing and pouring into a mold. Watch a recently processed batch being cut into bars using a guitar string. Take home a finished soap bar from a previously cured batch.

Map and Compass Workshop

Saturday, May 12, 10am–noon

Cost: \$15 M/\$25 NM

Leader: Dave Coughlin

An introductory two hour workshop on using maps and compass. Bring your compass and if haven't one, you can borrow ours. We'll discuss how to use a compass, true north and magnetic north, declination, bearings and azimuths, advantages of GPS and compasses, topographic maps and their scales and features. How to determine if a map is based on true north or magnetic north, determining map scale if unknown, finding north on a map that has no north arrow, orienting a map to the land you're on, and ways to measure distance. We will go outside and put your new skills to the test.

The Nature Café

Fridays, 7–8:30 pm

Cost: \$5 per person, Free for Massabesic Volunteers

Come join us once per month at the beautiful Massabesic Audubon Center to enjoy coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and delicious desserts while you learn about our natural environment. Pre-registration is appreciated.

March 2: Phoebe Robinson-Instructor, Remote Medical International, EMT, RN.

Be safe as the hiking season begins! Learn the "10 Essentials" for wilderness travel and what should be in your first aid kit and survival kit. Phoebe will share some of her experiences in medical relief work in third world countries and wilderness medical experiences.

April 6: Jeff Romano, author of Best Loop Hikes: New England, NH White Mts to the Maine Coast and 100 Classic Hikes in New England.

Jeff will give a presentation about classic hikes such as the Franconia Ridge to lesser known gems such as hikes in the Mahoosuc Mountains in Maine. He also shares great places to view wildlife as well as other natural, historical, and cultural facts about the particular locations. Book signing to follow!

May 11: Dr. Pam Hunt-Senior Biologist, NHA. Dragonflies and Damselflies of NH.

Welcome to the fascinating world of the insect order Odonata! This program provides an overview of the biology and ecology of dragonflies and damselflies, and shows some of NH's notable species. It includes a summary of NH Audubon's "NH Dragonfly Survey," a volunteer-based project that documented the distribution of these insects across the state from 2007-2011.



Coastal birding

Wednesday, May 16, 9 am–2:30 pm

Cost: \$6 M/\$9 NM per trip

Enjoy birding the coast with JoAnn O'Shaughnessy. Meet at the Hampton Beach State Park parking lot at 9 and carpool from there to coastal hot spots. Lunch is not provided, but the group will stop at a local restaurant to cap off the morning's adventure. Meet at 7:45 am in the Massabesic Audubon parking lot if you want to carpool with other participants to Hampton. Maximum of 24 people.

The Home Herbalist Series

Saturdays, 10am–1pm

Cost: Individuals \$25 M/\$35 NM + \$5 materials fee per class
If you sign up for the whole series: \$20 M/\$30 NM + \$5 materials per class

Leader: Maria Noël Groves, Wintergreen Botanicals

Join us for this highly informative series on how to use herbs to help our health. Each class will cover different body systems and the herbs to treat them, as well as a different type of remedy making. Take home a sample with every class!

Mar 24: Introduction to Herbalism & Herbal Nutrition

We'll start off with a brief exploration into the art of herbalism and some herb safety basics. We'll also discuss some of most nutritious, vita-mineral-rich herbs that provide the base for almost any herbal therapy. Remedy Making: The Art of Tea

Mar 31: Energy & Relaxation: Herbs for the Nervous and Adrenal Systems

We'll learn about herbs that help your body withstand stress better to keep your mood and energy levels at top notch. We'll also discuss herbs that help to relax your nervous system, relieve tension, depression, anxiety, and insomnia. Remedy Making: Tinctures

Apr 7: Digestive Wellness: Herbs for the Upper & Lower GI

We'll discuss our best herbal options for indigestion, heartburn, gas, diarrhea and constipation. Remedy Making: Herbal Oils

Apr 21: Detoxification: Herbs for the Liver, Colon and Urinary Tract

Learn how food and herbs help your body remove toxins more efficiently and how to decide which ones are best for you. Remedy Making: Capsules

Apr 28: Insulin Resistance & Diabetes: Herbs to Support Blood Sugar Balance

Learn how diet and herbs like gymnema, cinnamon, and blueberries can help manage blood sugar—from basic sugar cravings to type 2 diabetes. We'll also talk about how to create your own First Aid Kit.

Remedy Making: Herbal Salves

May 5: Hypertension & Cholesterol: Herbs for the Cardiovascular System

Learn how to use herbs, food, and dietary supplements to help manage these two common cardiovascular concerns. Remedy Making: Herbal Honey & Vinegar

May 12: Allergies, Colds, the Flu & Respiratory Health: Herbs for the Immune System

We'll discuss foods and herbs to maintain a healthy immune system, as well as the ones we can call in when viral and bacterial infections strike. Remedy Making: Elderberry Syrup

May 19: Women's & Men's Health: Herbs for the Reproductive System

We'll discuss some of the common women's and men's health concerns including PMS, cramps, menopause, libido, and BPH. Remedy Making: Lip Balms & Natural Bodycare

Backyard Medicine: Identifying and Using Common Medicinal Plants

Saturday, May 19, 1:30–2:30 pm

Cost: \$10 Members/\$14 Non-Members

Leader: Maria Noël Groves, Wintergreen Botanicals

You have a bounty of healing remedies in your backyard whether you planted them or not! We'll look at several common safe, wild plants that have useful healing properties and how to make remedies with them. You'll get a list of recipes to try at home. *Rain or shine.*

FAMILY PROGRAMS

2012 Salamander Watch!

Thursday, March 8, 6–8pm

Cost: FREE, Suggested \$5 donation

Leader: Rick Glatz

Watch a salamander slide show that tells all about these unique amphibians. Each year a majority of the mole salamanders (yellow spotted and more) migrate to their breeding vernal pools during the first few warm rains after the snow has melted. In the process of migrating many are killed crossing roads. On migration nights this year we will have salamander "patrols" to help save these slow-moving amphibians. Come to this training workshop to learn how to take part in this exciting event and to help gather amphibian population data.

The Sweet Taste of Spring Fundraiser

Saturday, March 17

Program 9–10 or 11–12; Breakfast 9–12

Cost: Program and Breakfast: Individuals \$10 M/\$15 NM; Families \$25 M/\$35 NM

Join us for a maple sugaring celebration and fundraiser breakfast. Attend a 1-hour program to learn all about the amazing process of turning sap into syrup and join us for a homemade pancake breakfast with real NH made syrup and live music! Help support NH Audubon's animals, programs, and mission. Breakfast is first come, first served.

Earth Day Festival-Tread Lightly

Saturday, April 14, 10am–3pm

Cost: Drop in Fee Individuals \$5, Families \$10

Join us to celebrate Earth Day! What better way to appreciate the Earth than to come to the beautiful Massabesic Audubon Center and enjoy fun-filled activities for the entire family. We'll have bird banding demonstrations, recycled crafts, and live animals. Visit booths by Red Manse Farm, ReVision Energy, Loon Preservation Committee, our own NH Common Ground Garden Project, and more! Student Conservation Association will be showing off their students' service learning projects and working on conservation projects. Make your own soy candles with Little Cabin Crafts, enter drawings to win prizes, build your own birdhouse, and roast marshmallows at our campfire. Take walks on our gorgeous trails! Learn how you can make a difference today and every day.

Massabesic Audubon Center

FAMILY PROGRAMS, continued

Pond Probe

Saturday, May 5, 2–4 pm

Cost: \$8 M/\$10 NM Individual; \$15 M/\$20 NM Families

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist

Walk to our pond and scoop out some water to see who's hiding out! We'll look for water bugs, frogs, and turtles, learn to identify the critters we find, and have a great time in the process.

Fantastic Frogs Night Walk

Friday, May 18, 7:30–9 pm

Cost: Individuals \$6 M/\$9 NM; Families \$8 M/\$12 NM

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist

Come discover who's out at night with a walk to our wet places. We'll learn to identify our native frog species by sight and sound, then go outside to see who's calling! Bring a flashlight!

For full descriptions of preschool and homeschool programs, visit:

www.nhaudubon.org/programs

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS,

Wee Wonders

Tuesdays, 12:30–2 pm & Wednesdays, 10–11:30 am

Cost: \$8 M / \$11 NM (per child/parent pair)

Leader: Kim Murphy, Naturalist

Join us for our spring series! Discover the changing seasons through hands-on activities, songs, crafts, stories, and outdoor discovery. Please dress to be outside and wear appropriate footwear. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-Registration is required.

Spring series 1: The Earth is Our Home

March 13/14: Rocks

March 20/21: Waters

March 27/28: Invertebrates

April 3/4: Plant Life

April 10/11: Vertebrates

April 17/18: The Earth is Our Home

Spring series 2: Spring Celebration

May 1/2: Signs of Spring

May 8/9: Nesting Success

May 15/16: I'm Hungry, What Should I Eat?

May 22/23: Amphibians All Around

May 29/30: Butterflies

June 5/6: Wildflower Wonders

ART EXHIBIT

Naturally, an Art Exhibit

May 1–June 16

An exhibit of photographic and digital artworks featuring natural subjects by local photographers, including past award recipients from the annual Wild NH Amateur Photography shows. All of the artwork will be for sale with profits benefitting Massabesic Audubon Center. Opening artists reception, Sunday, May 6 from 2 – 4 pm.

NH COMMON GROUND GARDEN NEWS

Spring into Gardening Time!

Spring IS around the corner and now is the time to think about becoming a volunteer at the 4-H Children's Teaching Garden located at the Massabesic Audubon Center. Volunteers are needed for the 2012 season to teach, help plan, plant and tend the gardens or to help with special events and short term/half day gardening activities. All volunteers are screened and, if accepted, receive joint appointments as volunteers for NH Audubon and the University of New Hampshire.

The 4-H Children's Teaching Garden is an initiative of the NH 4-H Common Ground Garden Project and serves inner city youth and their families through hands-on, minds-on gardening and nutrition experiences in the garden. Produce goes to the youth themselves and the NH Food Bank. The program is cosponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension 4-H and the Massabesic Audubon Center. For more information and to apply contact Carol Martin-Ward or Julia Steed Mawson via gardensforall@unh.edu.

26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH 03032

603-668-2045



APRIL VACATION CAMP

Monday, April 23–Friday, April 27

For Children Ages 6-12

All-day sessions: 9am–4pm

Camps held at Massabesic & McLane Centers
Complete April & Summer Camp details and
registration are available at:

www.nhaudubon.org/programs/camps

SUMMER CAMP 2012

One-week sessions begin June 25

For Children Ages 4-12

Registration opens March 19 for NH Audubon
members, March 26 for non-members.

Newfound Audubon Center

ABOUT NEWFOUND AUDUBON CENTER

Located on the beautiful northern shore of Newfound Lake, the Newfound Audubon Center is comprised of three wildlife sanctuaries: Paradise Point Nature Center, Ash Cottage at Hebron Marsh Sanctuary and Bear Mountain Sanctuary. The trails at all three sanctuaries are open year-round to bird watchers and hikers, Nordic skiers and snowshoers, and all-around nature lovers. Paradise Point and Hebron Marsh extend to the water's edge, allowing visitors to experience more of Newfound Lake's habitat, while Bear Mountain's hillside habitat exemplifies the beauty of New Hampshire's woodlands. With sanctuary trails open all year long and exciting summertime program offerings, there is always something to do.

**North Shore Road
Hebron, NH 03222
603-744-3516**

The Loon Center

ABOUT THE LOON CENTER

The Loon Center is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm through May 1. Enjoy the educational displays and award-winning videos, as well as the trails on the Markus Wildlife Sanctuary which are open dawn to dusk daily for walking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing.

The Loon Center is a self-directed and self-funded constituent organization of NH Audubon located on the 200-acre Markus Wildlife Sanctuary. The Loon Preservation Committee exists to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world. All gift shop proceeds benefit Common Loon research and preservation in New Hampshire.

**Lees Mills Road
Moultonborough, NH 03254
603-476-5666**

Birdathon & Sanctuary Happenings

NH Audubon's Annual Birdathon To Be Held the Weekend of May 19-20

The Birdathon, NH's annual 'big day' of birding, tallied 202 species last year among the 20 or so teams that participated. Think of how many more species we can add with increased coverage - and an extra day of bird observations! Help us meet the challenge by again topping 200 species in 2012.

Join in the fun as teams of birders try to see as many species of birds as possible within a given time period of a single day in whatever location they choose. Several returning teams and NH Audubon Chapters have already offered their returning participation, including some expert-led teams which will be taking on beginners.

Historically, some teams have traveled the state by car for 24 hours straight in search of the coveted 'Big Day' record of 170 species. Typically, though, birders cover their favorite local park or NHA sanctuary for a leisurely morning, or travel (even by bike) around parts of their entire town or county looking to best last year's totals. We'll even welcome observations from your own backyard!

The Birdathon is a terrific opportunity for novice birders to get out with the experts and for the experts to set their mark a little bit higher in search of knowledge of bird distribution. It is also a fundraiser for NH Audubon's Chapters and wildlife sanctuaries (participants raise thousands of dollars in Birdathon support each year).

There are categories to fit every level of interest and experience, as well as expert-led teams in various locations. Additionally, there will once again be great prizes awarded and a Sunday potluck dinner to celebrate this friendly competition that focuses on New Hampshire's strong birding community. Participation in the Birdathon means that everyone wins!

For more information about the Birdathon, please visit: www.nhaudubon.org/birding/birdathon. Contact your local NHA Chapter to see how you can participate, or contact Phil Brown at 224-9909x334 or pbrown@nhaudubon.org for contest rules and information, and to register your team. We look forward to seeing you on the Big Day!

May 19 and 20, various locations around the state
May 20, 5 pm: Potluck dinner & awards celebration at the McLane Center

\$10M/\$15NM per person suggested donation; all donations support NH Audubon wildlife sanctuaries or NH Audubon chapter of your choice.

Categories:

- 1) Human-powered - non-motorized transport (foot, bike, canoe, etc)
- 2) Chapter area
- 3) Statewide (more than one chapter)
- 4) Youth (for teams with members ages 16 and younger)
- 5) Single Location (NHA Sanctuary or "Big Sit")

SANCTUARY FIELD TRIPS

Stewardship Event: Earth Day at Abe Emerson Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Candia, NH
Sunday, April 22, 9 am-noon

It's Earth Day, a day to celebrate the beauty and diversity of the planet by giving something back to some of our special places...so why not lend a hand to an important project at NH Audubon's little-known Abe Emerson Marsh? Sanctuary steward, Hannah Dukerschein, recently raised funds to construct a visitor's kiosk and install new signage at this 100-acre sanctuary close to Manchester. Volunteers will be gathering to clear and reroute parts of the trail system. Bring a pair of gloves and a hand tool of your choice (NHA will provide some if you don't have one!), drinks, and snacks, and be prepared for wet trails and early black flies. For more information, please contact Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or call 224-9909x334.

4th Annual Tudor Richards Memorial FT/ International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at Pondicherry Refuge
May 12, 6 am at Airport Marsh or 8 am at the Pondicherry trailhead on Airport Rd

Join leaders, Dave Govatski of the Friends of Pondicherry, and Phil Brown, Director of Land Management for NH Audubon, for a morning of guided bird watching around Airport Marsh in Whitefield (for grassland and marsh birds), then to Cherry and Little Cherry Ponds in Jefferson (warblers and other songbirds). This annual field trip commemorates the return of migrating birds and the memory of Tudor Richards, NH Audubon's first President and the "father of Pondicherry". Bring water, lunch and binoculars. Past field trips have yielded upwards of 100 species of birds! Be prepared to walk 3-5 miles on flat terrain. The event will be held rain or shine. Free IMBD posters for all participants. For more information contact David Govatski at 586-7776 or david.govatski@gmail.com



Group gathers during the first Tudor Richards Memorial Field Trip in 2009. Photo by Phil Brown.

AMMONOOSUC

All evening programs, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Rocks Estate on Christmas Tree Lane and Glessner Road in Bethlehem, NH. Programs start at 7pm and are free and open to the public. For more information contact David Govatski, Ammonoosuc Chapter President at david.govatski@gmail.com

The Birds of Brazil: March 21

Visit the fascinating country of Brazil and learn about the birds and habitat that make it such a desirable place to visit. Visit the Atlantic Rain Forests, Amazon Jungle and the Highlands and see a variety of birds and wildlife. Mary Boulanger, who has birded South America many times will be our speaker.

The Life of Vernal Pools: April 18

Each spring, as the snow melts and spring rains fall, vernal pools form throughout the forests of New Hampshire. The state is home to 11 species of salamanders and 10 species of frogs, and they all depend on these temporary bodies of water. The amphibians lay their eggs in the vernal pools, where the young are able to develop in relative safety. Discover more about the vernal pools and the spring life they harbor during this program that features a visit to a nearby vernal pool. Bring a flashlight. Emma Carcagno will be our speaker. Emma has a Masters degree in wetland biology and a passion for teaching.

4th Annual Tudor Richards Memorial FT/International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD): May 12

See details on opposite page.

CAPITAL AREA

Field Trip: Concord Area Waterfowl and Sunset Roost Saturday, March 31, 2 pm until sunset

Join Bob Quinn on this new take on the traditional waterfowl tour in the Concord area. We will go where the ducks are during the afternoon but end up at the "Big Bend" in the Merrimack River in Boscawen toward sunset to watch the birds come in to roost. Sightings in prior years have included Northern Pintail, American Widgeon, Snow Goose and Gadwall. Meet at the McLane Center. Contact Bob Quinn at 746-2535 or RAQbirds@aol.com.

Field Trip: Woodcock Walk: Thursday, April 19, 7:30 pm

Meet Rob Woodward for his annual EVENING walk in search of American Woodcock. If you've never witnessed the mating displays of this bird, you're in for treat! Bring a flashlight and meet at the McLane Center. Contact: Rob Woodward at 224-0889 (evenings)

Field Trip: Early Songbirds Along the Merrimack Saturday, April 28, 7 am-12

The Merrimack River Valley is more than a corridor for waterfowl in spring. For this trip we'll travel south to the southernmost tip of Merrimack County in Hooksett to see what passerines are just starting to arrive in central NH. Meet at the Park-n-Ride at Bow Junction (end of I-89). Contact: Pam Hunt at biodiva@myfairpoint.net or 753-9137 (evenings)

Field Trip: "Before Work Walk"– Horseshoe Pond Friday, May 11, 6:30–8 am

Get your fill of spring migrants before heading off to work (or not!). Join Rob Woodward for what has become a surprisingly popular annual trip to see new spring migrants. Contact: Rob Woodward at 224-0889 (evenings)

Field Trip: Spring Migrants in the Outer Reaches of Merrimack County

Sunday, May 13, 7 am to noon (approx.)

Join Bob Quinn at a new spot and spend the morning searching for migrants in an area with lots of habitats and birds. We will be birding the edge of Danbury Bog on foot and exploring the untapped birding region of Andover & Danbury, for water birds and warblers in an area that has great potential. Be prepared for some wet walking but on mostly flat and easy terrain. Meet at the junction of Routes 4 and 11 in Andover. Contact Bob Quinn at 746-2535 (daytimes) or RAQbirds@aol.com.

Field Trip: Clough State Park, Weare

Saturday, May 19, 7 am

Follow Rob Woodward in search of Spring migrants. With its variety of habitats, this popular location should provide us with many species of warblers and other birds. Meet at the end of Sugar Hill Road off Rt. 77 in Weare. Contact Rob Woodward, 224-0889 (evenings)

LAKES REGION

Program: California: Birds and Scenery

Thursday, March 16, 7:30 pm

Ornithologist Bob Quinn will share his knowledge of this great state. California has the most diverse wildlife of any state in the country and this show will sample that bounty from the dramatic northern coastline and it's Redwood trees, across the rugged mountains, out to sea off Monterey Bay, to the San Diego coastline and on to the surprising, bird-thronged, oasis of the Salton Sea. These areas abound with birds and other wildlife and the plant life is even more amazing than the birds. Spectacular scenery, tens of thousands of sea birds, the largest living organisms on earth, volcanoes, huge flocks of wintering water birds...and that is just the beginning. The Loon Center on Lees Mill Rd. Moultonborough. Handicapped accessible. Contact: The Loon Center at 476-5666

Program: Chile

Thursday, April 19, 7:30 pm

Bob and Dana Fox, of North Andover, MA and Center Tuftonboro, NH will present this program about the special birds and fantastic scenery of this South American country. The Loon Center on Lees Mill Rd. Moultonborough. Handicapped accessible. Contact: The Loon Center at 476-5666

Field Trip: Tamworth / Madison area

Saturday, May 19, 7 am

The warblers have finally arrived! Join us in a search of spring migrants. Meet at the parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 25 West in West Ossipee; the same lot as McDonald's but at the opposite end. Contact: Tony Vazzano at 284-7718 or tvazzano@ncia.net

Chapter Happenings

MASCOMA

Visit www.mascomabirds.org for listings.

MONADNOCK

Field Trip: Owl Prowl

Saturday, March 10, 7 pm

Easygoing Prowl for Owls with an introductory session on owl identification by sight and sound. Prowl leader, and owl fan, Tom Warren (NHA Trustee) will begin at his house on Pumpelly Lane in Dublin. We'll listen for the owl species often heard thereabouts. Great Horned, Saw-whet and Barred Owls are all known to nest here in this season. Show starts at 7 pm, and ends about 8:30. To get there from Dublin village, go west on 101, turn left at East Lake Road, then immediately left up Snow Hill Road to Pumpelly Lane. Tom's house is number 15—the first house on the left. Co-sponsored with the Harris Center. Please call 603-563-7194 for more information.



Northern Saw-whet Owl, Portsmouth NH, 2010.
Photo by Len Medlock.

Field Trip: 29th Annual "Waterfowl Safari" along the Connecticut River

Saturday, March 31, 8 am

Through carpools and a little walking, we're likely to see a variety of ducks and other species northward bound in spring migration. We'll have two groups, one with Phil Brown and one with Eric Masterson from the Harris Center. Eric's group will head north from Hinsdale (departing at 8 am from the Home Depot parking lot in Keene), while Phil's group will go south from Charlestown (departing at 8 am from the Charlestown Library on Main Street). The two groups will meet at Herrick's Cove in Vermont for lunch and tall tales. Carpools return about 1 pm. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center. For more information or to sign up, contact Phil at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or Eric at masterson@harriscenter.org

Field Trip: Spring Hawk Watch at Bald Mountain

Sunday, April 15, 9 am–1 pm

The high elevation ridgelines of the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary have proven to be excellent places to watch raptor migration in both fall and spring. Scenic Bald Mountain is the sanctuary's highest point, and views on a clear day include everything from Mt. Wachusett in Massachusetts to the summit of Mt. Washington in the far north. Northbound raptors may consist of falcons, hawks, and accipiter hawks, as well as eagles of both species. A wind farm is being planned for the ridgeline between Willard Mountain and Tuttle Hill just to the north along this ridge, so it will be interesting to note raptor migration patterns along this natural feature. Dress for the weather (wind can make it feel much cooler atop Bald Mountain!), and be prepared for some steep and potentially slippery spots due to the time of year. Bring a lunch, drinks, and binoculars. Co-sponsored with the Harris Center. RSVP to Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org

Field Trip: Dillant-Hopkins Airport Spring Ramble

Saturday, April 21, 7–10 am

Late April is an exciting time to explore nature at Swanzey's Dillant-Hopkins Airport. Join Ken Klapper for a stroll along Airport Road in search of migrant waterfowl, raptors, and early returning songbirds. We'll experience the sights, sounds, and smells of spring woodlands, fields, and marshes and be serenaded by Wood Frogs, Red-winged Blackbirds, and the drumming of Ruffed Grouse. Previous field trip bird species have included Wood Duck, American Bittern, American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Rusty Blackbird - but a few surprises are always possible! Meet at the airport terminal parking lot on Airport Road (off Rt. 32) at

7am and bring binoculars, field guides (if you have them), water, bug spray, and a snack if desired. The walk will last approximately three to four hours and may include up to three miles of walking along a paved road. Contact Ken at kkklapper@gmail.com.

Field Trip: Spring Warbler Walk in Hinsdale

Sunday, May 13, 7 am–noon

Join trip leader Cliff Seifer for a walk along the Connecticut River in search of warblers and other spring migrants. The walk will start at the Hinsdale setbacks where breeding Marsh Wrens keep company with migrating warblers, gnatcatchers, flycatchers, possible rails and maybe even a Least Bittern! The walk will continue along the causeway and out to the bluffs overlooking Lake Wantastiquet where possible birds include Orchard Oriole, Bald Eagle, and Bank Swallow. Meet at Hinsdale High School at 7 am and bring along water, bug spray and a snack. Contact Cliff at clifdisc@gmail.com

Field Trip: Surry Birdathon (Dave Hoitt & Wendy Ward)

Sunday, May 20, 7 am–noon

Join local birder Dave Hoitt and wildflower enthusiast Wendy Ward on this easy walk looking for birds and wildflowers of the open field and wetland habitat. Meet at the Surry Town Hall parking lot at 7:00 am. The trip should end by noon. Bring field guides, binoculars, drink, snack and bug repellent. For more info, call Wendy @ 313-0197 or weward0@yahoo.com.

NASHAWAY

Programs are held at the Nashua Public Library

John Rockwood: Adventures with Grapenut

Wednesday, March 21, 7–9 pm

The loon man presents an in-depth peek into the Common Loon's Fascinating, often Mysterious Behaviors. Learn about the Life Cycles of these Magnificent Waterbirds! Featuring a very special and most Endearing young loon named, GRAPENUT! Spectacular and very entertaining multi-media narrated show featuring all things amazing about the Common Loon in the wild.

Henry Walters: Heisenberg and Hawkwatching (tentative title): Wednesday, April 18, 7–9 pm

A program presented by Henry Walters, official Hawkwatch counter, rehabilitator, activist and co-author with Julie Brown of the Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory Report for 2010.

Edward Boyle: Black Bear Happenings in New Hampshire: Wed. May 16, 7–9 pm

A program on the natural history of bears in New Hampshire, research taking place and how this research is used to manage our bear population. Presented in cooperation with NH Fish and Game Department. Mr. Boyle is a volunteer Wildlife Steward for NH Fish and Game.

SEACOAST

Contact for Seacoast Chapter Programs is Dan Hubbard, 332-4093, danielhubbard@peoplepc.com or visit www.seacoastchapter.org. Programs are held at the Seacoast Science Center (wheelchair accessible), Odiorne Point State Park, 570 Ocean Boulevard, Rye NH. Refreshments are at 7 pm.

**Program: Project Osprey Track
Wednesday, March 14, 7:30 pm**

Join Iain MacLeod, Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, for a presentation about Ospreys in the Lakes Region. MacLeod has studied the Lakes Region's Ospreys since 1997 when a nest was found in the region for the first time in living memory. Since then, he has documented the growing population and monitored annual breeding success. Hear about recent successes using artificial nesting structures. Also, learn about a new multi-year study to track Ospreys as they migrate from New Hampshire to South America using GPS satellite transmitters, including the story of Saco, a young Osprey whose two month journey to the Caribbean was followed by many via Google Earth.

**Program: Ethiopia: Birding the Horn of Africa
Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 pm**

Dana and Bob Fox spent January 2011 birding in Ethiopia - a fascinating northeastern African country with amazing birds, stunning scenery, and a dramatic cultural and religious history. In this program, they will share their extraordinary experience with us.

**Program: Endemic, Endangered and Elusive Birds of Brazil
Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 pm**

Presenter Edson Endrigo is Brazil's foremost bird photographer who specializes in the rare, endangered and little known birds of his bird-rich country. He has produced many fine photographic books featuring the birds of several Brazilian states and is completing a series of books on the birds of Brazil's many varied ecological regions. He has been twice honored by having his photographs featured on postage stamps issued by his country. Edson's love of birds and bird photography is infectious and his enthusiasm is boundless.

**Field Trip: Bob Hull Memorial Bird Walk
Saturday, March 24, 8am**

Help trip leaders Len Medlock and Mark Hatfield clean out bluebird boxes, look for early migrants and lingering winter birds, and get yourself in the mood for spring. Meet at The Bagelry, Mill Road Plaza in Durham. Contact: Len Medlock, lenmedlock@comcast.net, 603-770-8224

Field Trip: Waterfowl: Sat., March 31, 8 am

New Hampshire had some exciting birding in recent years, and the Seacoast chapter is trying a new trip. Come see what the inaugural version brings. Meet trip leader Eric Masterson at 8am in the Home Depot Parking lot, 22 Ash Brook Rd, off Rte 101 just west of Keene; or to carpool, meet at 6am at the Epping Park-and-Ride, off Rte 125 just south of Rte 101. Contact: Eric Masterson, eric.masterson@myfairpoint.net or Greg Tillman, gregtillman@comcast.net, 603-679-8167

**Field Trip: Great Bay
Saturday, April 7, 8 am**

Last year's trip netted glossy ibis, snipe, and an "Ipswich" sparrow, among other things. But birding is always unpredictable. Meet trip leaders Lauren Kras and David Blezard at the McDonald's in Newington, 49 Gosling Rd, next to the Fox Run Mall. Contact: David Blezard, dblezard@mac.com, 603-343-1223.

Field Trip: Owl Prowl: Saturday, April 21, 4 am

Join our always popular search for owls, woodcock, and sunrise birds. Meet trip leader, Steve Mirick at 4 am(!) in the TheBagelry parking lot, Mill Road Plaza in Durham. Contact: Steve Mirick, smirick@comcast.net, 978-374-0654.

Beginner Bird Walks

Volunteers will lead the following beginner bird walks. Although these walks are geared with the beginner birder in mind, birders of all levels are encouraged to participate and share their experiences. Children are gladly welcomed with an adult. Wednesday trips end by 9 am, you can leave early for work. Saturday and Sunday trips end around noon. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, insect repellent and sunscreen. Walks are free and open to the public. Visit www.seacoastchapter.org for details.

**Southern Sweet Trail Beginner Bird Walk
Saturday, May 5, 7 am**

**The Hidden Wilds of Durham Beginner Bird Walk:
Wednesday, May 9, 7 am**

**Exeter and Beyond Beginner Bird Walk
Saturday, May 12, 7 am**

**Pickering Ponds Beginner Bird Walks
Sunday, May 13, and Wednesday, May 16, 7 am**

**Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge Beginner Bird Walk:
Wednesday, May 23, 7 am**

SOO-NIPI

All programs are held at Tracy Memorial Library, New London. Contact Natalie Davis, 763-5320, for information.

Program: Friday, March 9, 7:30 pm

Rob Woodward, a New Hampshire premier birder, spent time in November in Columbia, the country with the highest species count in the world. He will give us a presentation with pictures of the wonderful birds he saw.

**Program: Friday, April 13, 7:30 pm
To be announced.**

Program, Friday, May 11, 7:30 pm

Kittie Wilson, recipient of 2009 Spirit of the Loon Award from the Loon Preservation Committee, will give the second part of her presentation on the loons of Pleasant Lake.

We are trying to streamline our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive electronic communications from NH Audubon, please call (603)224-9909 or email emedia@nhaudubon.org

TransCanada Supports Bald Eagle Recovery

NH Audubon received a major grant from TransCanada as part of a remarkable 3-year commitment to fund a new Connecticut River Eagle Recovery Project. TransCanada has been a strong corporate partner and this new multi-year grant shows their commitment to Bald Eagle conservation in northern New England. NH Audubon is excited about this new opportunity to advance Bald Eagle population recovery.

“We are proud to be part of the energy and enthusiasm surrounding this community initiative.” – Cleve Kapala, TransCanada’s U.S. Northeast Region

THANK YOU, TRANSCANADA

NH Audubon’s Chris Martin (left) accepts TransCanada’s first installment of \$80,000 from Cleve Kapala.



Corporate Partner Spotlight

Weare Animal Hospital, WeareVet.com

NH Audubon is pleased to count Dr. Dutton and the staff at Weare Animal Hospital as a supporter of our programs for many years.

For almost 20 years, the Hospital has provided free veterinary care and help to both the McLane and Massabesic centers and to local area wildlife rehabilitators.

Weare Animal Hospital is a full service dog, cat and exotic veterinary care facility that prides itself on providing modern medicine along with a caring and well trained staff.

General services include adolescent, adult, and senior pet well-care, radiology, ultrasound, full laboratory services, ECG, respiratory and blood pressure monitors, orthopedic surgery, soft tissue surgery, and intensive care facilities. Advanced services include stem cell therapy, pain management, and dental care. The practice also offers grooming and boarding services.

Dr. Dutton is a Board certified specialist in both Canine/Feline Practice and Avian Practice.

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