TRAIL MAP

DAHL AUDUBON SANCTUARY
North Conway, New Hampshire

1) From the trailhead by LL Bean, the short **Pine Trail** from the parking area parallels Rt.16. to a turnaround. The trail wanders uphill along the ridge of the esker and through a second- growth upland pine forest.
Round trip ½ mile

From the trailhead by LL Bean, take the road down the hill to the trail junction where there is an interpretative sign.

2) From this junction, take a left onto the **Silver Maple Loop Trail**. The field on your right was once farmed but now is being managed as a habitat for upland and nesting birds and a variety of wildlife. Stay on the trail as there are still remnants of barbed wire along the trail edge. You will walk through a canopy dominated by silver maple, with other species such as sugar maple, white ash and American Elm. As you reach the interpretative sign, the low wetland in front of you is called a meander scar where the Saco River once flowed. The interpretative sign explains the diversity of the floodplain and how it supports false nettle, sensitive fern and other herbaceous plants, as well as habitat for denning mammals and nesting birds, and provides vernal pools for amphibians. Continuing on this trail will bring you around the field's edge to the trail junction where you can bear left on the **Beach Trail** or turn right back to the trailhead. **The loop is ½ mile.**

3) For the **Beach Trail** go straight ahead from the trail junction. The trail passes an oxbow to your right where mallards and mergansers may be seen, but be quiet as they are sensitive to intruders. You will pass over a gravel stone bridge where to your left a wetland overflow has been created, and when dry, pawprints of deer, moose, bear, and fox may be seen.

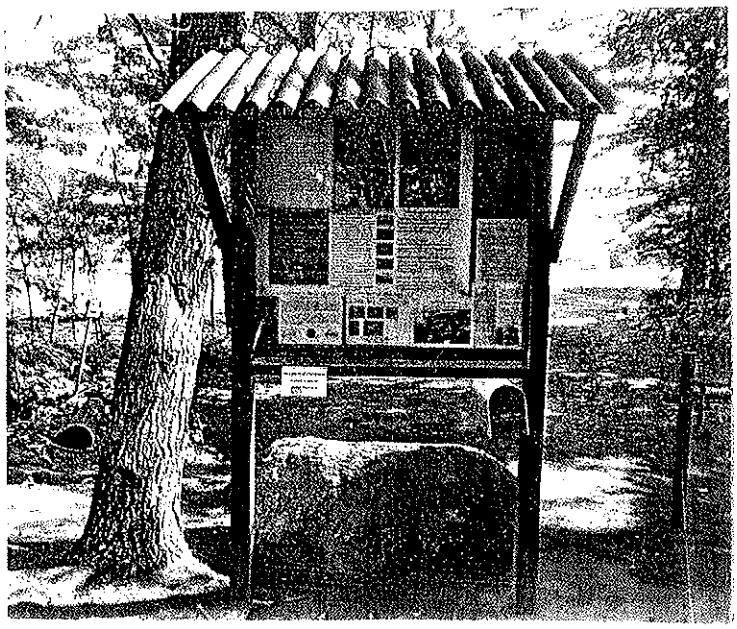
The field to the left contains a bat box and kestrel box, as well as 13 bird boxes, where blackcapped chickadees, house wrens, and tree swallows nest. The grasses in the field provides cover as wildlife habitat. After crossing the gravel bridge looking to the right, a large dead tree stands where a piliated woodpecker has been seen. Looking across the water, a large colony of Eastern painted turtles makes their home. The trail comes to a junction at the tree line. The Silver Maple Loop Trail follows around the field to the left. For the **Beach Tail** go across the brook bed and into the woods and bear left. The trail runs parallel to the Saco River and ends at the cobble barren (beach). Looking across at the river bank notice the holes where bank swallows make their home. At the cobble barren you may see belted kingfisher and common mergansers with ducklings. The Audubon property ends where the large DAHL sign is at the edge of the woods. The rest of the beach is owned by the town of North Conway.

There along the forest edge of the cobble barren is a globally-rare community of hudsonia – silverling which is currently known only on channel barrens along the Saco River in New Hampshire and Maine.

Retracing the trail notice the young trees with angular cuts close to the ground. This is damage from beavers that cut the trees, and drag them into the river and to their lodges. As you follow the trail back, notice the debris above your head. It was deposited there in the flood of August 28, 2011, when there was over 7 feet of water throughout the sanctuary. A number of silver maple trees were also uprooted and the bird boxes were filled with mud. But, it is a flood plain forest and that is expected.
The Beach Trail round trip to the cobble barren is 1 mile.

Please enjoy yourself, stay on the trail, do not pick flowers or plants, and be careful of poison ivy.

Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary
Information Kiosk at Trail Head



NEW HAMPSHIRE AUDUBON'S

DAHL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY TRAIL MAP