

New Hampshire Audubon Adult Education Programs

New Hampshire Audubon offers programs on a variety of natural history topics presented by our naturalists and biologists. We can bring the program to your group or you can travel to one of our centers—*McLane Center in Concord*, the *Massabesic Center in Auburn*, or the *Newfound Center in Newfound* (summer only).

Please choose a topic then contact Shelby Morelli to inquire on availability, smorelli@nhaudubon.org.

Cost for 1 hour: Programs \$200; Programs with live animals \$250, plus mileage .90cents/mile.

Naturalist Programs

Avian Adventures: Tips and Techniques for Identifying the Birds Around Us

Kelly Dwyer

Come explore the fascinating world of NH's resident and migratory birds as we delve into the mysteries of bird identification, behavior and communication. You will learn techniques to recognize birds by their appearance and song, so the next time you fill your feeders or take a walk you will be able to recognize your avian visitors!

Backyard Bird Feeding: Avian Entertainment!

Kelly Dwyer

With birds being active year round, backyard bird feeding can provide hours of education and entertainment! In this program we explore the birds you can expect to visit, the best feeder types and seeds, as well as strategies to address challenges like squirrels and window strikes.

Backyard Bird Habitats: Creating Your Own Wildlife Sanctuary

Kelly Dwyer

Build it and they will come! In this program we explore the essential elements like food, water, and shelter needed to create a thriving, healthy backyard habitat to entice birds and other wildlife. Regardless of the size of your yard, small changes can transform the wildlife appeal of your property!

Clever Corvids

Kelly Dwyer

Blue jays, crows and ravens are among the most intelligent bird species in our region. In this program we explore the fascinating elements of their natural history, including their ability to problem-solve and communicate.

Feeding Winter Birds

Hilary Chapman

Birds are uniquely adapted to survive New Hampshire winters. How do they do it? Learn about their amazing adaptations and how we can help them through the coldest winter nights. Observe some of these adaptations up close on bird mounts and find out how to participate in NH Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey, a citizen science project celebrating 40 years!

Helping Birds Along the Way: NH Bird Migration

Hilary Chapman

Migration is a challenging journey for birds, made possible by healthy stop-over sites to rest and refuel along the way. Learn about some of our common birds migration habitats, why they do it and how they arrive here year after year. We can all play a role in helping birds along their migratory flyways.

Protecting our Pollinators

Kelly Dwyer

Pollinators are critical to our food supply, economic health and ecological biodiversity. This program explores the insect pollinators, like honeybees and solitary bees, and the challenges facing their survival. Learn about best gardening practices such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and ways to responsibly shop for plants and garden products to avoid hidden pesticides!

NH Raptors: Their Life and Survival (Live Bird)

Hilary Chapman

What is a raptor? How are they adapted for forest, field, and water? Raptor mounts and live birds will help you learn more about this fascinating group of birds.

Romantic Behavior of Animals: The World of Animal Courtship in NH

Kelly Dwyer

It's early spring in NH and the woods, ponds and fields are alive with fascinating animal courtship behavior! This program focuses on the natural history and behaviors of our avian, mammal and amphibian wildlife as they answer the age-old call to perpetuate their species!

Nocturnal Flying Predators (Live Bird)

Hilary Chapman

Winged creatures of the night have captured human imaginations. A live owl, artifacts, and multi-media presentation will guide you through their life history and strategies for survival.

Who is that singing? Learning Bird Songs

Kelly Dwyer

Throughout the spring, birds enchant us with their bright feathers and engaging songs. This program will discuss the reasons birds communicate and demonstrate proven techniques to identify the songs of common bird species.

Why Birds Matter

Hilary Chapman

Our world is filled with the beauty and songs of birds. But beyond their beauty, birds play vital roles in our environment. In this program, learn about the diversity of bird life in your backyard, how these winged treasures help us, and what you can do to help them and attract them to your yard.

Senior Biologist Programs

Bird Migration: Fun Facts and Shameless Speculations

Dr. Pamela Hunt

Why do birds migrate? How do they know where they're going? The phenomenon of bird migration has fascinated people for millennia, and in this program the answers are finally revealed! Pam Hunt will provide an overview of the nuts and bolts of bird migration, including how scientists study it. We'll also discuss examples of migration routes of some familiar (and unfamiliar) species and touch on the conservation issues facing migratory birds.

American Pipits on New Hampshire's Highest Summits

Chris Martin

New Hampshire Audubon biologist Chris Martin talks about the American Pipit, a sparrow-sized ground-nesting bird that breeds only in arctic and alpine habitat, including on New Hampshire's Mount Washington, their southernmost breeding site in eastern North America. NHA first studied pipits in the 1990s, and again recently. This program describes efforts to find nests and document breeding success in very challenging field conditions. Better understanding this alpine-obligate nester could result in more informed land management decisions in the state's fragile alpine zone.

Dragons and Damsels of New Hampshire

Dr. Pamela Hunt

Welcome to the fascinating world of the insect order Odonata! You may be familiar with the dragonflies buzzing over your yard in the summer, or the damselflies that land on your kayak, but what do you REALLY know about these ancient insects? This program provides an overview of the biology and ecology of dragonflies and damselflies, from their amazing life cycle (content alert: some pretty crazy reproductive behavior is involved!) to their incredible diversity. It also highlights a few of NH's notable species and their stories, and closes with some results from the "NH Dragonfly Survey," a five year volunteer-based project that documented the distribution of these insects across the state.

Effects of Climate Change on New Hampshire's Birds (30 minutes)

Dr. Pamela Hunt

We are already seeing some of the effects of climate change in New Hampshire, with a trend toward warmer winters, more extreme weather, and drier summers. How will our birds – both breeding and migrant – be affected by these changes as they manifest over the next several decades? In most cases we don't know the answers, but there is often enough information to allow some informed speculation. In this talk, we explore subjects as diverse as range shifts, declining food supplies, and changes in migration patterns as they apply to the birds of New Hampshire. What will birders in the 22nd Century encounter in the Granite States forests, fields, and wetlands? Come learn a little about the possibilities.

Empty Skies: The Decline of Aerial Insectivores

Dr. Pamela Hunt

Aerial insectivores are those birds that feed primarily on insects captured in flight, and include nightjars, swifts, flycatchers, and swallows. Many of these species, particularly swallows and the Chimney Swift, are experiencing significant population declines both in NH and across the Northeast, and sometimes across their entire ranges. This program provides an overview of these species' biology and population trends, and delves into what we know – or don't know – about the causes of the declines.

Important Bird Areas of NH

Dr. Pamela Hunt

The IBA program seeks to identify sites that provide critical habitat for birds at any point in their life cycles and focus conservation efforts on these areas. This program provides an overview of the statewide program and then focuses in on some of the IBAs that are located near the program venue.

New Hampshire Bald Eagle Recovery

Chris Martin

This program examines the dramatic Bald Eagle population recovery in New Hampshire and describes management efforts and partnerships that have helped eagles. Chris Martin has been a raptor biologist for NH Audubon for more than 28 years. His work focuses on recovery of the state's endangered and threatened raptors in close collaboration with NH Fish & Game. He recruits, trains, and supervises an enthusiastic corps of NH Audubon volunteer field observers who monitor these species all across the state.

NHA's Wildlife Sanctuaries

Phil Brown, Director of Land Management, will provide an overview of the organization's wildlife sanctuaries, including special features, trails, and ongoing wildlife management. These 39 special locations around the state exemplify how NHA protects NH's natural environment for wildlife and people.

NH's Winter Birds

Dr. Pamela Hunt

NH Audubon's "Backyard Winter Bird Survey" is a citizen science project that has been collecting data on the state's birds since 1967. In this program, Dr. Pamela Hunt uses the Survey's data to illustrate how populations of

our common winter birds have been changing over time. In the process, we'll explore many other aspects of bird biology.

Peregrine Falcon Recovery in New Hampshire

Chris Martin

This program reviews decades of effort to restore Peregrine Falcons in New Hampshire and describes management and partnerships that have helped these aerial predators. Chris Martin has been a raptor biologist for NH Audubon for more than 28 years. His work focuses on recovery of the state's endangered and threatened raptors in close collaboration with NH Fish & Game. He recruits, trains, and supervises an enthusiastic corps of NH Audubon volunteer field observers who monitor these species all across the state.

Purple Martins for the Masses

Dr. Pamela Hunt

Purple Martins are unique among our native birds in that populations in eastern North America are completely dependent upon artificial nesting structures provided by people. Despite plenty of available housing, the species is declining over a large portion of its range. This program provides an overview of martin biology and conservation, including some of the things individuals can do to help the species right here in New Hampshire.

Since Audubon: 200 Years of Birds in New Hampshire (30 minutes)

Dr. Pamela Hunt

The New England landscape of the early 1800s, when John James Audubon was working on his "Birds of America," was very different then it is today. From Audubon's notes and those of his contemporaries, we know that some species were more common and others less so. Using more recent data from the 1960s onward, this program explores the changes to New Hampshire's bird populations over the long and short terms, and includes discussion of the causes of population change and conservation actions that can help reverse declines.

The State of New Hampshire's Birds

Dr. Pamela Hunt

In 2009, NH Audubon and NH Fish and Game completed a report detailing population trends for the 186 species known to breed in the state. In a series of habitat summaries, "The State of the Birds" outlines general population trends, major threats facing each habitat, and some of the conservation strategies that might help populations and habitats recover. This is the first large scale summary of conservation information for the state's birds, and should help guide efforts for years to come.

The State of the Birds: What NH Communities can do to Help Bird Populations

Dr. Pamela Hunt

This program is based on NH Audubon's 2010 publication: "The State of NH's Birds: A Conservation Guide." It presents an overview of bird populations in the state and some of the causes of recent declines, and provides examples of things that individuals and communities can do to help birds and their habitats.

The Whip-poor-will: Biology and Conservation of a Crepuscular Enigma

Dr. Pamela Hunt

The Eastern Whip-poor-will was once a familiar bird across much of New Hampshire, but is rare today except in a few scattered locations. To learn more about this poorly-known species, Pam Hunt initiated a monitoring program in New Hampshire in 2003, and followed this with habitat research from 2008 to 2012. In this program she'll provide an overview of whip-poor-will ecology, discuss conservation issues facing the species, and wrap up with some of the results of her research program.