

Fall Raptor Migration & Observatories

By Phil Brown, Raptor Observatory Coordinator

Each September, hundreds of fourth graders from the Concord area descend upon Carter Hill Orchard to learn about raptors through an organized workshop sponsored by NH Audubon and Project SEE. Naturalists and volunteers instruct students in raptor identification, life histories, to help them make the conservation connection. This is just one example highlighting the educational value NH Audubon's Raptor Observatories offer visitors each fall. These are free outdoor classrooms with no walls, the only boundaries the clouds and distant horizons.

Each year brings wider community interest and stronger partnerships with host sites Miller State Park (Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory, Peterborough) and Carter Hill Orchard in Concord. This fall our crew of volunteers will assist an interpretive naturalist at Carter Hill (a first-time hire for this site, thanks to a grant from the Gertrude Couch Trust and TD Bank) and Pack Monadnock, to tally migrant raptors on their southbound journeys. The fall of 2012 featured very good numbers including many record high counts. There are always new and interesting finds like Pack Monadnock's first record of a Swainson's Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk, and Carter Hill's first Black Vulture. The outlook for raptors, unlike that for many groups of birds, is generally positive – another reason to celebrate and support the raptor observatories.

The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), repository of data from hawk watch sites

around the continent, now features eight consecutive years of data from NH Audubon; data that helps biologists better understand population changes. Our sites' contributions become increasingly important as each site stands the test of time and develops greater consistency. Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon are the classic examples of recovery through the recent decades. American Kestrels, however, have declined precipitously. Hawk watches like ours can help play a key

roles in making these discoveries. For a closer look at the changes, a focus on past numbers, and what to expect this fall, see the final reports for both Observatories: <http://www.nhaudubon.org/locations/raptor-observatories> or visit www.hawkcount.org.

There are many opportunities to join NH Audubon at the observatories, including some NH Audubon Chapter field trips, which will offer in-depth identification techniques. The raptor release weekend features the release of a rehabilitated raptor at each site and is attended by hundreds of awed

onlookers. For a somewhat smaller crowd, come help our volunteers tally as many bird species as possible at the annual International Big Sit on October 12th, or traverse the new, 7-mile long West End Farm Trail from the McLane Center to Carter Hill Orchard for the October 20th hawk watch.

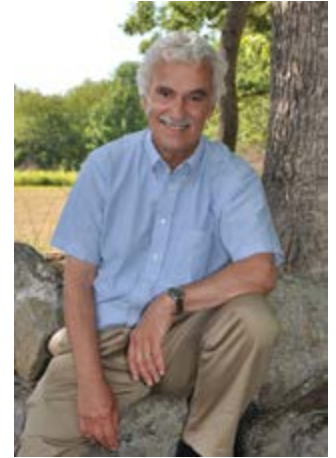
Visit the raptor observatories to develop a new appreciation for birds of prey and bird migration, and understand the need



Red-tailed Hawk at Carter Hill. Photo by Deb de Peyster.

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From the President's Desk



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Banner photo by John Hession.

Dear Friends,

Fall is a great time to get out and explore New Hampshire Audubon's sanctuaries. Our new Passport to Nature program (see page 3) highlights six sanctuaries this year. Each passport provides engaging clues that will reveal the sanctuary's unique natural history. Passport booklets are available for purchase at our Centers and through our Nature Store website. Passport to Nature is the first of many new initiatives you will see, as we gear up to celebrate our centennial in 2014.

This edition of *Afield* is packed with information about upcoming field trips and programs. "Something for everyone" may be an aphorism, but in this case, it is absolutely true! Don't miss the Chapter Happenings and center listings for opportunities that will appeal to every age, every interest, and every experience level.

Fall raptor migration takes center stage in September and October. Our cover story is loaded with information to help you enjoy this awe-inspiring phenomenon, wherever you live in the state. Once the raptor observatories quiet down, we'll be eagerly anticipating the holidays. NH Audubon's Nature Store has some great ideas for holiday gift giving that can jump-start your shopping, and support the Audubon mission at the same time! Come have a look at our new 100 Years of Conservation Commemorative 2014 Calendar. Gorgeous photography that tells a story... NH Audubon has that, in spades! I am confident that this calendar will be a collector's item, one that you'll want to share with family and friends who love the natural world.

NH Audubon is blessed with committed staff, passionate volunteers, generous supporters, a mission that is clear and compelling, and forward momentum that is absolutely palpable. Join me in celebrating our past successes and an exciting future, as we head into our 100th year of service to New Hampshire.

Mike

Michael J. Bartlett
President, New Hampshire Audubon

Fall Raptor Migration & Observatories

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for monitoring raptor populations. Your reward? Stunning scenery, great company, an educational message, an experience that is sure to pique your interest for further investigation...and possibly, a huge raptor flight!

Carter Hill Orchard offers a classic pick-your-own apples experience, as well as a full farmstand featuring fresh baked goods. Miller State Park offers some of the finest mountain views in southern NH, an auto road to the summit and premier hiking. Both sites are free and open to the public between 9 and 5 daily.

Warm weather in September features Ospreys, American Kestrels, and Broad-winged Hawks, which steal the show mid-month. October features the autumn chill, fall foliage, and the chance to see Northern Goshawks and Golden Eagles, among others.



The crowd at Pack Monadnock. Photo by Francie Von Mertens.

Support of the observatories is made possible by foundations, donations, sponsorships, and raffles.

Visit

www.nhaudubon.org/locations/raptor-observatories
to make a gift, or for information about other opportunities.

Raptor Observatory Events

Raptor Release Events

Saturday, September 14, 1 pm at Pack Monadnock
(rain date: September 21)

Sunday, September, 15, 4 pm at Carter Hill
(rain date: September 22)

Big Sit Events

Saturday, October 12, Pack Monadnock & Carter Hill – lend your eyes or sponsor a site! (see Afield p. 14)

Field Trips

Carter Hill Raptor Observatory Peak Migration Workshop.
Friday, September 20, 10 am - 2 pm at Carter Hill Orchard
(RSVP) (see Afield p. 13)

A guided hike of Concord's West End Farm Trail, ending at Carter Hill Orchard. Sunday, Oct 20th at 9 am (see Afield p. 8)

Programs

Hawk watching at Pack Monadnock Thursday, September 12, 7 pm - 8:30 pm at the Harris Center, Hancock. (see Afield p. 14)

Nature Cafe: Observing Raptors

Friday, September 20, 7:30 pm at Massabesic Audubon. Please RSVP.
(see Afield p. 9)

Passport to Nature

Order your Passport to Nature Today!

NH Audubon's Passport to Nature is a full color, 40-page booklet highlighting six of NH Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries. Unique natural and historical features are described for each sanctuary.

A rubber stamp is hidden in a passport box at each sanctuary. Users who visit multiple sanctuaries can collect the stamps in their passport booklet. Those who collect 4 of the 6 stamps may submit their name for a drawing to receive a copy of Mary Holland's book, *Naturally Curious*.



\$7.50 for NHA members, \$9.50 for non-members, price includes postage and handling.

Visit www.nhaudubon.org or visit your local NH Audubon Center to get yours today.

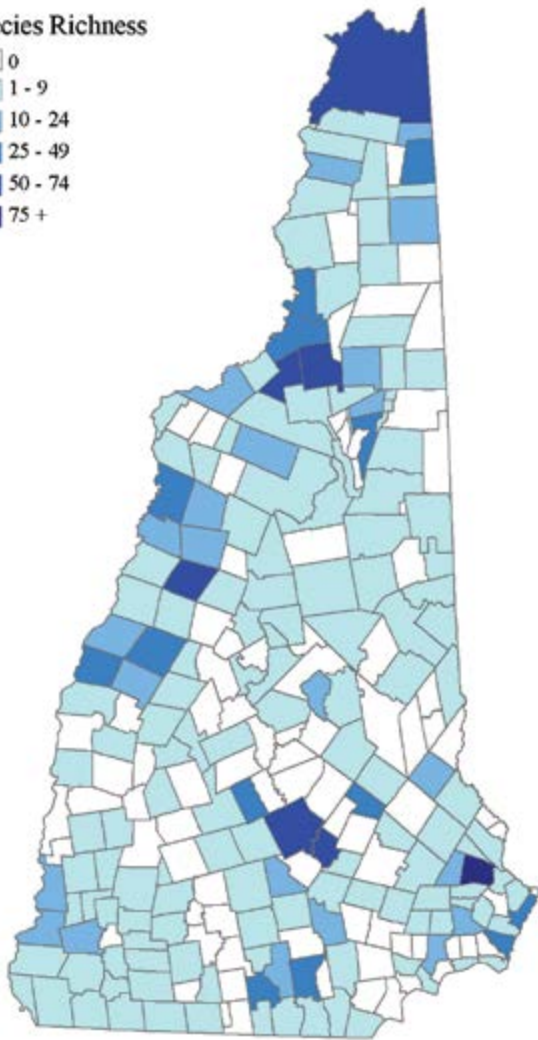
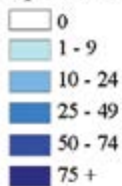
Conservation News

Butterfly Data Results

By Vanessa Jones

NH Audubon recently finished a project compiling historic data on butterfly distributions in New Hampshire. The goal of this project was to create a comprehensive summary of available data that could be used as the first step toward prioritization of future conservation activity directed at this group of insects. A total of 9,232 records were compiled from 18 primary sources and other reports for 124 species of butterflies.

Species Richness



Species richness by town ranged from 0 – 78, with high concentrations of species reported from Durham, Jefferson, Concord, Pittsburg and Whitefield. Clouded Sulphur (*Colias philodice*) had the most records reported – 377! The statewide distribution of many common species, such as Clouded Sulphur, was spotty at best, indicating that further study is needed to create a complete picture of species distributions

in New Hampshire. There are several areas within the state with little to no data reported: the southern Dartmouth / Lake Sunapee Region, the Lakes Region, eastern Monadnock region, southern Seacoast Region and the eastern White Mountains Region. These areas should be targeted during any future research.

Records were compiled for all the rare species currently tracked by state wildlife organizations: Frosted Elfin (*Collophrys irus*), Karner Blue (*Plebejus samuelis*), White Mountain Fritillary (*Boloria chariclea montinus*), White Mountain Arctic (*Oeneis melissa semidea*), Sleepy Duskywing (*Erynnis brizo*) and Persius Duskywing (*Erynnis persius*). Results from this project indicate that other species may also warrant conservation status in New Hampshire. Other species of interest included those that may be expanding their primary range north, such as Giant Swallowtail (*Heracles cresphontes*) and vagrant species uncommonly found in New Hampshire, such as American Snout (*Libytheana carinenta*).

Funding for this project was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grants program, through a contract between NH Audubon and the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Thanks to all who provided data, helped to compile data, and provided expertise.

Antrim Wind Application Denied

By Carol Foss

After 11 days of public hearings and three days of deliberations, on February 7, 2013 the Subcommittee of the NH Site Evaluation Committee appointed to consider the permit application of Antrim Wind Energy, LLC voted to deny a Certificate of Site and Facility to site, construct, and operate a wind energy facility on Tuttle Ridge and Willard Mountain in Antrim. The decision, signed by a majority of Subcommittee members, and a Statement of Dissent, signed by three Subcommittee members, were distributed on May 2.

The denial was based on the Subcommittee's finding that the facility, as proposed, would have an unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics. The Subcommittee considered the impact of the facility's size and scope on the aesthetics of the overall community, the aesthetic impact of the facility on Willard Pond and the dePierrefeu Willard Pond Sanctuary, and the lack of satisfactory mitigation for the facility's aesthetic impacts.

The SEC also expressed concerns about the applicant's financial capability, but ultimately made no final



NH Audubon's 99th Annual Meeting September 28, 2013

Montshire Museum
Norwich, VT 05055

Kick off NH Audubon's year-long Centennial celebration at our 99th Annual Meeting!

Saturday, September 28th at the Montshire Museum, Norwich VT
Hosted by the Mascoma Chapter

Watch for your invitation to arrive in late August.

Featuring

- Morning field trips (see page 6)
- Special Centennial presentations
- Fascinating speakers
- Exhibits
- Awards
- Entertainment

Join us for a tribute to the late Peter Stettenheim, who helped to found the Montshire Museum and who devoted decades as a volunteer and supporter of NH Audubon.

Photo by John Douglas courtesy of the Montshire Museum of Science

Conservation News

Continued from page 4

determination regarding the potential for any permit conditions to render the Applicant financially capable of constructing and operating the project since the project was being denied on other grounds.

Subsequently, the applicant and several other parties submitted petitions requesting a rehearing and reconsideration of the decision. On July 10 the Subcommittee considered these petitions and voted unanimously to deny the requests for rehearing and reconsideration.

If they choose, the Applicant may now appeal the decision to the NH Supreme Court or reduce the size of the project and submit an application to the Town of Antrim.

New Hampshire Bird Records

By Rebecca Suomala

This is a perfect time to subscribe to NH Audubon's quarterly publication that's all about birds and birding in New Hampshire. Read about the bird highlights each season, learn about good birding spots, test yourself with the Photo Quiz, and help support the collection and sharing of bird sighting data at the same time. For more information go to www.nhbirdrecords.org. You can subscribe on-line or call NH Audubon at 603-224-9909.

Annual Library Book Sale

**Saturday, November 16, 9am–3pm
McLane Center in Concord**

- Arrive early for the best selection
- Great bargains on a wide variety of used books
- Special half-price sale from 1-2 pm
- New! Bag sale from 2-3 pm

Book Donations Needed

We welcome all kinds of book donations, including cookbooks, paperbacks, fiction, non-fiction, hardcover novels, children's, mysteries, etc. Bird books, field guides and natural history books are particularly popular. We can accept donations between Oct. 7 – Nov. 4. We cannot accept magazines, text books or old encyclopedias. Thank you in advance!

Book Sale Volunteers Needed

Help our team of book lovers set up and organize the sale. Contact Kathie at 224-9909 x310 or kpalfy@nhaudubon.org. Heavy lifting involved.

Annual Meeting Field Trips

Early morning bird walk with Mascoma Steering Committee member George Clark

7 am at Simon Pearce Flood Plain, Simon Pearce Complex, 109 Park Rd. (US Rt 5) Windsor, VT (For walk details, see page 13)

Directions: Exit 9 off Rt. 91. South on US-5/VT-12 for 1.1 mile; left onto Park Rd. 16.5 miles from Montshire Museum.

Birding on the Connecticut River with Chris Martin. 9 am, Kilowatt Park. (Bring your own boat)

This is a 3.5 mile round-trip paddle to Gilman Island and Mink Brook, beginning and ending at the gravel parking area off Passumpsic Avenue in Wilder VT (~1/2 mi upstream of the Wilder Dam).

Directions: I-89 to White River Junction, VT. Then take I-91 north to exit 12 (Wilder, VT). Take a right onto Bugbee St. Go to the intersection of Bugbee St. and Route 5. Turn left onto Rte 5 heading NORTH. RIGHT onto Depot St. (brown sign says "river access"). Just past Post Office jog left then immediate right again. Cross over RR on bridge, look for gravel parking area ahead and slightly left.

Birding at Mascoma Lake with Pam Hunt. 9 am at Mascoma Dam Boat Launch, Rt. 4A, Enfield

Late September can bring any number of birds to Pam's old stomping grounds in Enfield and Lebanon. Expect some late warblers, early sparrows, and maybe even unexpected waterbirds.

Directions: From I-89, take Exit 17 and follow Route 4 EAST towards Enfield/Canaan. After 1.7 miles, turn right onto Route 4A. In about a quarter mile, take the SECOND LEFT into the boat ramp parking lot (first left is Payne Road).

Hiking Grant Brook/Lyme Hill Conservation Area with Phil Brown and Upper Valley Land Trust

Meet at 9 am at the Montshire Museum or 9:30 at the Lyme Hill trailhead. This is a moderate hike to the slopes of Lyme Hill to explore the trails of this unique property that is jointly managed by UVLT and NHA.

Directions: Take Rt 10 North out of Hanover. Total distance is approximately 13.5 miles. Parking lot is on the left and has signage, just beyond Washburn Hill Rd (which is on the right.)

Leave a Legacy for Nature

Please consider making a legacy gift that will maintain your commitment to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and people.

A bequest, living trust, IRA or insurance policy – all can be used to support our mission in perpetuity. Please consider it... and let us know when you make that decision, so we can say thank you!

NH Audubon's Statewide Offices - The McLane Center

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Enchanted Forest returns to the McLane Center Saturday, October 26, 4:30-8:30 pm

Family friendly event for ages 4-adult. Scout and youth groups are encouraged to attend.

- Follow the glowing jack-o-lantern trail into the nighttime forest
- Encounter larger than life creatures and characters as they present skits about mysterious activities in nature
- Enjoy seasonal games, refreshments and activities in the center
- Gather around a campfire for enlightening stories

Rain or shine – skit sites are under cover. Pre-registration is required. Call to register for a specific time slot. This popular event sold out in years past. Don't miss out on the 2013 edition of the Enchanted Forest.

Cost: \$6/Member, \$9/NM. Group rates available for scout and youth groups; call for details.

Volunteers are needed to help make this event successful. There are opportunities to help with the planning, but also in the production of Enchanted Forest. If you would like to participate by acting in a skit, leading groups on a trail, sharing games and crafts, baking refreshments, assisting with planning or set up, please contact Ruth Smith at rsmith@nhaudubon.org.

FALL NATURE AUTHOR SERIES

This lecture series features local bird authors whose new books are geared towards species ID, birding strategies, and better bird observation. Book sales and signings will immediately follow the presentations. RSVP for special author receptions prior to select talks.

Thursday, September 19, 7 pm

***Birdwatching in New Hampshire* with Eric Masterson 6 - 7pm: Pre-talk author reception and book signing (\$10M/\$15NM, RSVP by calling (603) 224-9909); talk to follow (suggested donation: \$5M/\$8NM)**

Expert birder Eric Masterson, author of *Birdwatching in New Hampshire*, will present an audiovisual presentation on how to find the more than 300 species of birds that are seen annually in NH. Masterson's talk will focus on the less obvious techniques that will help you zero in on the "best" birds and birding moments. Wind, rain, and even habitat offer a fluid dynamic that profoundly affect

bird distribution, sometimes changing rapidly to create ideal conditions that challenge longstanding notions as to what constitutes a seabird, a shorebird, or a rarity. Masterson's talk will feature the best of the best of New Hampshire's birding, with photos, anecdotes, and exciting photo quizzes.

Eric A. Masterson, a native of Ireland, has a degree in ornithology from University College Dublin. Since moving to NH in 1999 he has worked in the field of environmental conservation, including at New Hampshire Audubon, the Piscataquog Land Conservancy, and currently at the Harris Center in Hancock. He serves on the New Hampshire Rare Bird Committee and is a seasonal editor for the quarterly journal *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

Thursday, October 24, 7 pm

***How to be a Better Birder* with Derek Lovitch (Suggested donation: \$5M/\$8NM)**

Derek Lovitch will highlight excerpts from his first book, *How To Be a Better Birder*, through a presentation and discussion. Highlighting the Sandy Point (Yarmouth, Maine) Morning Flight phenomenon as a case study, he will share tips for birders of all levels who want to learn how to bird like the experts. Learn how geography, weather, and habitat combine to provide outstanding birding opportunities, to maximize your time in the field, and challenge yourself to improve ID skills. This program provides an in-depth look at "birding at night" with an intro to birding by NEXRAD Radar, a unique birding resource, and showcases the photography of his wife, Jeannette.

Derek Lovitch has worked on avian research and education projects in nine states including Alaska, where he was a tour guide in the Pribilof Islands. Also a tour guide for WINGS, Derek has written for a number of publications. He was the department editor for *Birding Magazine* for 6 years. He and his wife Jeannette own and operate Freeport Wild Bird Supply, and they founded the Bradbury Mountain Raptor Research Project in Pownal, Maine.

Thursday, November 21

6 - 7pm: Pre-talk author reception and book signing (\$10M/\$15NM, RSVP by calling (603) 224-9909; talk to follow

7 pm: Improving your Bird ID and Bird Photography skills with Don & Lillian Stokes (Suggested donation: \$5M/\$8NM)

Learn how to be a better birder and take better bird photos no matter how experienced you are. Don and Lillian Stokes,

84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301

224-9909

best-selling authors of *The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America* and *The New Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Eastern and Western Region*, will introduce you to the digital revolution and help fast-forward your bird identification skills. They will also show you how to take better bird photographs with any type of camera equipment. Lillian will give extensive special tips on how to use the new superzoom point-and-shoot cameras like the Canon SX 50, the hot new camera for bird photography. The Stokes' lively talk will be illustrated with Lillian's exceptional bird photos.

Don and Lillian Stokes have been prolific writers and award-winning educators in the birding field for over 30 years and have written 34 books. Don and Lillian were also the creators, producers and hosts of the PBS television series, *Stokes Birds at Home*, which was seen by 40 million viewers.

FIELD TRIPS & PROGRAMS

A Guided Hike of Concord's West End Farm Trail

Date: Sunday, October 20 at 9:00 am

Explore Concord's West End Farm Trail with hosts from NH Audubon, Five Rivers Conservation Trust and the Concord Conservation Commission. This 7-mile trail leads from the McLane Center on Silk Farm Road through various habitats on the way to Carter Hill Orchard. From McLane Center to Diamond Hill Farm (3 miles), naturalists will point out wildlife and natural features across several active farmland properties. Arriving at the Orchard, we'll celebrate with cider and seasonal refreshments. Naturalists will be on hand for interpretation at the Raptor Observatory, and there will be live raptor demonstrations between 12:30 and 2 pm. Shuttles will be available at Diamond Hill Farm and Carter Hill Orchard to transport hikers back to their vehicles.

RSVP to Jay Haines at Five Rivers (director@5rct.org or 225-7225.) Group leaves from McLane Center at 9 am. For more information, visit <http://www.concordnh.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1263>, contact Jay (address above) or Phil Brown at NH Audubon: pbrown@nhaudubon.org.

Tar Sands in New Hampshire? What are the Issues? Thursday, October 10, 7:30 pm

This presentation discusses the nature and characteristics of Alberta's oil sands deposits and the issues surrounding the extraction, processing, transportation, and use of the oil. The potential for piping tar sands oil through northern NH, the associated risks, and current efforts to prevent such a project will be addressed in detail by Carol Foss, PhD, Director of Conservation at NH Audubon.

FISHWAYS FUNDAYS

9:30-11 am or 12:30-2pm

Programs are for ages four - five, accompanied by an adult and include outdoor exploration and indoor craft making. Cost: \$8 per family, \$50 for the 7 program series.

AMAZING AUTUMN SERIES

Seeds, Seeds, Everywhere: September 12

Seeds are everywhere and they have some unusual ways of getting from place to place. Play and discover with us as we learn about different types of seeds, how they get around, and what they will become. We will even go on a seed hunt around the Fishways.

Fall Forest Foray: September 26

Join us for a fun journey through our local forest to play and experience the wonder of the woods in early fall. We will meet at the Fishways and then travel together to Hackett Hill natural area (5 min drive).

Colors of Autumn: October 10

Why do leaves change color in the fall? And how does life along the river change during this time? Discover these answers and more as we learn what nature is up to during this colorful season.

Squirrels and Chipmunks: October 24

Why do squirrels and chipmunks always look so busy? What are they doing to get ready for winter? What do they do with all those nuts they collect? We'll play games, explore and learn more about these cute backyard critters.

Let's Talk Turkey: November 7

It's turkey time! What do we really know about NH's wild turkeys? Learn all about this fine bird and make your very own turkey call to take home!

Fatten Up, Sleep or Go South! Preparing for a Wild Winter: November 21

While we're preparing feasts and getting mittens out of the attic, how are NH's wild animals getting ready for winter? Who sleeps? Who flies south? Who sticks around? We'll discover how different animals get ready for a cold winter along the river.

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS

Programs are for all ages and focus on the Merrimack River and its watershed. Cost: \$5 per family

Forest Frogs and Salamanders: September 13, 7-8 pm

Discover which frogs and salamanders like to hang out in the forest. We'll meet a couple of critters and learn all about where and how these land-dwelling amphibians survive.

We're Outta Here! Mysteries of Migration September 27, 7-8 pm

Waterfowl, songbirds, and even some insects take off for winter. Why don't they brave the cold of New Hampshire?

Super Seeds: October 18, 7-8 pm

Seeds have some incredible ways to travel: helicopters, parachutes, and more! We'll explore nuts, seeds, and the magic of plants.

Going Batty: November 1, 7-8 pm

Bats are amazing and misunderstood creatures. We'll learn about bat habitat and how you can help these magnificent creatures keep their New Hampshire homes.

Native American Storytelling: November 15, 7-8 pm

Listen to traditional Native American stories and find out how Penacook families made their own clothes and stayed warm all winter.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The 13th Annual Bug Ball

Saturday, September 7

11 am - 3 pm

Activities will include an insect petting zoo, buggy crafts, and special guest, Dr. Paul Johnson, insect expert from UNH. Participants will enjoy special staff presentations, "Amazing Ants" and "The Buzz about Bees." Give our six-legged friends the respect they deserve! Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family. No registration required.

ADULT PROGRAMS

THE NATURE CAFÉ

Fridays, 7-8:30 pm

Cost: \$5 per person, free for Massabesic Volunteers.

Join us once a month at the beautiful Massabesic Audubon Center. Enjoy warm drinks and delicious desserts while you learn about our natural environment.

Observing Raptors with Phil Brown, NH Audubon Raptor Observatory Coordinator: September 20

Join Phil for a talk about hawk watching in New Hampshire, raptor identification and species natural histories. He will discuss the fall migration spectacle that is best enjoyed at Pack Monadnock Mountain and Carter Hill Orchard from September through November, and will share anecdotes from the observatories, ID techniques, and tips on timing to best enjoy this annual event.

Tar Sands in New Hampshire? What are the Issues? by Carol Foss, NH Audubon Director of Conservation: October 4

This presentation discusses the nature and characteristics of Alberta's oil sands deposits and the issues surrounding the extraction, processing, transportation, and use of the oil. The potential for piping tar sands oil through northern NH, the associated risks, and current efforts to prevent such a project will be addressed in detail by Carol Foss, PhD, Director of Conservation at NH Audubon.

FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

Basic Shorebirding Workshop

Location: Massabesic Audubon Center

Saturday, September 14, 2-4 pm

Cost: \$5 (FREE if attending Shorebirds Field Trip)

Leader: Jon Woolf

Come learn about shorebirds, some of the most interesting and most puzzling birds we see in New Hampshire. Study the features and field marks of common plovers and sandpipers in the classroom and learn how to identify many of the species that populate New Hampshire's coasts. Then join us for the Sunday field trip to the coast to put your new knowledge to the test.

Basic Shorebirding Field Trip

Location: Hampton Park and Ride

Sunday, September 15, 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Cost: \$10 M/\$15 NM

Leader: Jon Woolf

Travel to some of New Hampshire's beaches to study the various species of sandpipers and plovers that appear on our coastlines in fall. Meet at 8:30am, bring a bag lunch and prepare to be outside! Binoculars are available to borrow.

Nature Photography Workshop Series (Introductory)**Saturdays, September 14, 21, 28; 12:30-4:30pm****Cost: \$120 M / \$150 NM for the series****Leader: David Saxe, USA Aloft, LLC**

Like being outdoors? Like taking pictures? Combine the two in David Saxe's successful series of nature photography classes. Please have your camera make and model available when you register, and be prepared to go outside. For more specific information, please visit www.usaaloft.com/courses.

Coastal Birding Trips**Location: Hampton Beach State Park****Wednesdays September 18, October 16, November 20
9am-2:30pm****Cost: \$6 M/\$9 NM per trip****Leader: JoAnn O'Shaughnessy**

Enjoy birding on the coast with avid birder JoAnn O'Shaughnessy. Meet at the Hampton Beach State Park parking lot at 9 am 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 Center parking lot if you want to carpool with other participants to Hampton.

Intro to Pelagic Wildlife**Location: Massabesic Audubon Center****Saturday, Oct 12, 3 - 4 pm****Cost: \$5 (free to those attending Pelagic Trip)****Leader: Jon Woolf**

Come see a brief slideshow about some of the wildlife you might see just off NH's coast. We'll teach you how to identify some of our common pelagic birds as well as a few of our commonly sighted whale species.

Pelagic Trip**Location: Rye Harbor, NH****Sunday, Oct 13, 8 am - 5 pm****Cost: \$65 M/\$85 NM**

Join NH Audubon aboard MV Granite State as we explore Jeffreys Ledge, 20 miles off the New Hampshire coast. We'll spend all day at sea, searching for pelagic seabirds, whales, dolphins, and anything else that happens to cross our course. Once you register, you will receive confirmation and further information. Participants need to meet at Rye Harbor at 7:30am for check in and 8am departure.

Minimum of 30 participants. Pre-registration required.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Massabesic's Passport to Adventure**Location: Massabesic Audubon Center****Now through October****Cost: \$2 per passport**

Follow clues that lead to various locations around the Audubon Center and its trails to find a stamp to mark your passport. After completing your passport, have your name added to the Passport Adventure Wall of Fame and be entered into a drawing to win a prize! Passports are available at two levels - "Junior" for beginners and "Explorer" for experienced hikers.

Bird Banding Demonstrations**Saturdays, Sep 21, Oct 12, 10-noon****Cost: FREE****Leader: Jay Barry, volunteer educator and 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!

Enchanted Fall Festival**Saturday, October 19, 3:30-8 pm****Cost: Families \$15 M/\$25 NM**

The Massabesic Audubon Center is pleased to announce its sixth annual Enchanted Fall Festival. Tour along a lighted pathway as we visit our talented naturalists, festival players, bluegrass musicians and the Enchanted Bonfire. Tours require a reservation and are scheduled for the following times: 4:00, 4:45, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:15.

LIVE Birds of Prey Show**Saturday, November 16****Two Shows: Noon - 1 pm & 2 - 3 pm****Cost: \$5 M/\$10 NM Individuals, Families: \$15 M/\$30 NM**

Get a close-up look at a live Golden Eagle, Turkey Vulture and other birds of prey at this exceptional presentation by Tom Ricardi, a licensed rehabilitator and wildlife biologist. Our thanks to NH Audubon Trustee JoAnn O'Shaughnessy for underwriting this program.

Continued on page 12

Celebrate 100 Years of Conservation with a Commemorative NH Audubon Calendar



Available in early October.
Perfect for holiday gift giving!
\$16/each plus shipping

In 2014, NH Audubon invites you to celebrate with us every day with your own wall calendar filled with:

- 12 breathtaking images
- Conservation milestones
- Outdoor almanac facts and updates
- Historical events

Reserve Your Copy Today!

____ 2014 calendars @ \$16/each (plus \$2/calendar for shipping) = \$ ____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment method

Check MC VISA

Card Number _____ Expiration _____

Signature _____

Checks payable to NH Audubon

Mail to: NH Audubon, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301

Holiday Wreaths

Natural Beauty for the Holidays

Order a beautiful, fragrant balsam fir wreath and support NH Audubon's educational programs!

TO ORDER: Complete this form and mail with payment to address below, or call or fax your order. Order by November 4th. NH Audubon members receive a 10% discount!

Name: _____ NH Audubon Member: Y or N

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

WREATH SIZE	PRICE	BOW COLOR (check one)	DECORATED**	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> 18" wreath	____ \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> Burgundy <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/> Red	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add \$6	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 24" wreath	____ \$28	<input type="checkbox"/> Burgundy <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/> Red	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add \$7	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 36" wreath	____ \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Burgundy <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/> Red	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add \$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 48" wreath	____ \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Burgundy <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/> Red	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add \$15	_____
PAID BY: <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK <input type="checkbox"/> MC/VISA			Member Discount (-10%)	- _____
			TOTAL	_____

MC/VISA # _____ EXP DATE: _____

Pick up at (check one): ___ Massabesic (Auburn) OR ___ McLane (Concord). Pick-up begins Tuesday, December 3rd.

** Decorated wreathes feature natural materials collected near MAC!

Massabesic Audubon Center * 26 Audubon Way, Auburn 03032 * Ph. 668-2045 * Fax 668-3796

Massabesic Audubon Center

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Wee Wonders

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am

Cost: \$9 M / \$12 NM (per child/parent pair)

Leader: Kim Murphy

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.

ADVENTURES IN AUTUMN SERIES

Autumn in New England is a unique and magical time of year. From the colors of leaves, to animal migrations, to busy animal harvesters, all of life is preparing for the winter season to come. Join us for some autumn adventures.

Hide and Seek: September 11

Come out, come out wherever you are! Animals have amazing ways of hiding in the habitats where they live. Come and learn about these animal hidiers today!

Mysteries of Migration: September 25

Songbirds, hawks, and even butterflies are on the move – do you know how and why? Come explore the mysteries of migration - would you know which way to go?

Rainbow Leaves: October 9

Red, orange, yellow and brown - the colors of autumn. Come and explore the many questions of New England's rainbow leaves.

Animal Harvesters: October 23

Food is on everyone's mind this time of year. Let's take a look into the lives of some animal harvesters, as we search the forest for foods and play some squirrely games.

Harvest Time: November 6

Autumn time is harvest time! Today we'll explore two of New England's most favorite fall harvests - pumpkins and apples!

Gobble Gobble Turkey Time: November 20

All thoughts turn to turkey at this time of year. Come and learn about our beloved wild turkey as we identify some of their silly parts and make a gobbler to take home!

Nature's Gifts: December 4

Food, water, and shelter are the Earth's gifts to us... along with the beauty of all that share the planet with us.

Appreciate nature's gifts - and make your own natural gift to take home.

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Junior Explorers

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am

Cost: \$9 M / \$12 NM (per child/parent pair)

Leaders: Angie Krysiak and Jay Barry

We'll explore the natural world with live animals, nature walks, and hands-on activities that follow a different natural theme each day. Classes are for ages 7-12, parents may drop off or stay and participate. Pre-registration is required.

Forest Study Series: September 11, 25, Oct 9, and 23

A series of four classes will establish a "study site" area at Massabesic. Standard forestry practices will be used to establish the study site, identify and measure the trees, plot their locations, and analyze the data. The study sites will be permanent, and part of a broader forest ecology program at Massabesic.

Mysteries of Migration: November 6

Songbirds, hawks, and even butterflies are on the move. Do you know how and why? Explore the mysteries of migration.

Harvest Time: November 20

Fall is a time of harvest, for us and for wildlife! Enjoy some fall treats and learn about what NH's animals are harvesting this time of year.

Nature's Gifts: December 4

Take time today to learn about the rocks, water, plants, and everything else the Earth provides to help us survive. We'll look for edible plants, play some water games, and take time to appreciate nature's gifts!

EXHIBITS

7th Annual Wild NH Photo Contest and Auction

If photography is your passion, take this opportunity to have your best photos recognized! Enter your photos to win in any or all of the three categories: wildlife, wild plants and land/water-scapes. Entries are accepted until September 4. Up to 5 photos may be submitted per person. Youth (under age 17) and adults (over 17) will be judged separately. All winning photos will be on display from October 1 to December 8, and then donated to the silent auction that will benefit the Massabesic Audubon Center. Call the Massabesic Center at 668-2045 for rules and entry forms.

26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH 03032

603-668-2045

CAPITAL AREA

Field Trip: Fall Warblers of Webster with Bob Quinn Saturday, September 7, 8-11 am

Many warblers and other fall migrants are on the move by the beginning of September. We will spend the morning in a variety of habitats that should result in spotting at least a dozen species of warblers (we saw this many in 2011.) We might walk several miles on dirt roads and easy trails. Meet at Webster Elementary School at 8 am. Contact: Bob Quinn at raqbirds@aol.com

Field Trip: Silver Mountain Hawkwatch Saturday, September 14, Time TBD

Come explore the untapped potential of Silver Mountain (Lempster) and the Ashuelot River Headwaters in Fall with trip leader Chris Borg. We will begin the day birding for neotropical migrants along a flat snowmobile trail running through both boreal and northern deciduous hardwood forest, followed by a short but moderately strenuous hike to the summit of Silver Mountain with its commanding view of the southwestern highlands. From this excellent vantage point we will scan for raptors during the peak migration period for Broad-winged Hawks. RSVP to Chris by September 13 (borealbirder@gmail.com) for trip specifics. Space is limited due to parking.

Field Trip: Carter Hill Raptor Observatory, Friday, September 20, 10 am -2 pm

Join Director of NH Audubon's Raptor Observatories and hawk aficionado, Phil Brown, at Carter Hill Orchard's Orchard Room for a slideshow introduction/refresher of raptor identification and life history. We will then join an interpretive naturalist on the hawkwatch platform and enjoy some sky watching during the peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration! (Over 7,000 raptors were tallied here on this date in 2011!) In addition to Broad-winged, favorable winds should bring Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels, Northern Harriers, Ospreys, and Bald Eagles, among others. Bring binoculars (we have a few loaners on hand), water, a lunch, and sun protection. Contact: Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 x334 to RSVP. Space is limited.

Field Trip: "Warblerpalooza!" Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton, Saturday, September 21, 7 am

Search for fall migrants at Elm Brook Lake, Sparrow Corner, and see warblers galore along mythical Dendroica Alley. Contact: Rob Woodward at 224-0889, evenings.

Field Trip: 6th Annual Concord November Challenge! Saturday and Sunday, November 2nd and 3rd

An annual tradition begun in November 2008. How many species can we find in Concord during the first weekend in November? The total species list is well over 100, with a one year record of 91! Join the fun this year and find out if 2013 will outdo any of the previous years! You are welcome to participate for all or part of the weekend, which will also include a lunch gathering on Saturday to compare notes and plan strategy. Beginner birders can be paired with people who know their birds and their way around the city. If interested, contact Pam Hunt at 753-9137 or biodiva@myfairpoint.net and she'll keep you posted as the plan forms.

MASCOMA

All outings are free and open to the public. Visit www.mascomabirds.org for travel details and other updates.

Field Trip: Annual Hawk Watch Lebanon Airport - Airport Road, W. Lebanon, NH Saturday, September 14, 10 am-noon

This popular event provides a good opportunity to watch the wonderful fall hawk migration. Past outings have produced good views of Kettling Broad-winged Hawks, Bald Eagles, Osprey and other fall migrants. The event is free and open to the public. In the event of inclement weather or poor wind conditions, the watch will be moved to September 15 with the same start and finish times.

Annual Meeting Field Trip: Simon Pearce Flood Plain, Simon Pearce Complex - US Rt. 5, Windsor, VT Saturday, September 28, 7-9 am

Mascoma Chapter Steering Committee member George Clark will lead this outing to the fields along the Connecticut River adjacent to the Simon Pearce and Harpoon Brewery complex north of Windsor. Last year produced a bonanza of sparrows both in variety and number. The walking is mostly level, but footwear suitable to potentially wet conditions is recommended.

Annual Meeting Field Trip: Bedell Bridge Bird Walk, Bedell Bridge State Historic Site, NH Rt. 10, Haverhill, NH

Saturday, September 28, 7-9 am

The Bedell Covered Bridge may be long gone, a victim of a violent windstorm in 1979, but the grounds surrounding it offer a diverse array of habitats that always produce some interesting sightings. There are wetlands, hardwood trees and shrubs as well as active agricultural fields. Last fall's trip produced a count of 40 species that included six types of sparrows, American Pipits and over 600 robins in migration!

Chapter Happenings

Field Trip: Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison, VT Saturday, November 2

Did someone say Snow Geese? Last year's visit to this major migratory stop on the Lake Champlain flyway produced a tally of over 3,000 of the birds occasionally spiraling upwards creating spectacular white, cloud-like formations. Eighteen waterfowl species were observed that day including scaup, pintail, golden eye and ruddy ducks. Significant numbers of land species were seen including Rough-legged Hawks, Rusty Blackbirds and White-winged Crossbills.

MONADNOCK

Field Trip: Nighthawk Migration in Keene Monday, Sept 2, 6-7:30 pm

Join Cliff Seifer in monitoring one of the under-appreciated spectacles of fall migration, the annual flight of Common Nighthawks over the Monadnock Region. An average night will provide great looks at a handful of these incredible nightjars. On a good night you can see hundreds of Nighthawks feeding in giant flocks. Meet at Stone Arch Village on Court St. in Keene. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center. Contact: Cliff at clifdisc@gmail.com for more information.

Program: Hawk Watching at Pack Monadnock The Harris Center, Hancock, NH Thursday, September 12, 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Join Phil Brown and Henry Walters of NH Audubon's Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory for a presentation about fall hawk watching, including raptor identification and species natural histories. They will discuss the fall migration spectacle that is best enjoyed at Pack Monadnock Mountain from September through November, and will share anecdotes from the observatories, ID techniques, and tips on timing for best enjoying this annual event. Sharpen your skills before peak season! Co-sponsored by the Harris Center. Contact Henry at 525-3572 for more details.

Field Trip: Pack Monadnock Big Sit Saturday, October 12, 9 am - 5 pm

In coordination with Big Sit events throughout the country, join the hawk watchers atop Pack Monadnock as they attempt to tally the largest possible list of species from within a stationary count circle. For the gastronomically inclined, there will also be an annual Soup-Off starting at noon so bring a cup, a spoon and, if you like, a soup. It's like a tailgate party for birds! The Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory is atop Pack Monadnock at Miller State Park. Contact: Henry Walters at 525-3572 for more details.

Field Trip: 6th Annual Monadnock Waterfowl Safari Saturday, October 26, 8 am – 1 pm

Join Phil Brown for a driving tour searching for migratory waterfowl on several of the Monadnock Region's most productive lakes and ponds. Upwards of 12 species are possible on this annual tour of some of the most spectacular back roads, and the fall foliage isn't bad, either! We'll visit about a dozen lakes in several towns. Meet at the Nelson Town Hall at 8 am and return in the early afternoon. Trip goes rain or shine. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center. **Please RSVP** to Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 x334 for carpool and details.

NASHAWAY

For program information, contact: Richard Maloon at 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net.

Program: Forest Insects Nashua Public Library Wednesday, September 18, 7-9pm

Come meet NH State entomologist Kyle Lombard and UNH Cooperative State Forester John Nute as they discuss the destructive Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long-horned Beetle and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, their lives and bad habits. These invasive insects are impacting our NH trees and commerce activities, such as imposing a quarantine on ash trees being imported or exported from Merrimack County. Come get the latest information and what you can do to minimize the negative effects of these invasive insects.

Program: Ethiopia - Birding the Horn of Africa Nashua Public Library Wednesday, October 16, 7-9pm

Dana and Bob Fox spent January 2011 birding in Ethiopia, a fascinating northeastern African country with amazing birds, an ever-changing geology, stunning scenery, and a dramatic cultural and religious history.

Program: Birds of the Merrimack River Nashua Public Library Wednesday November 20, 7-9pm

Join Nashaway chapter members and Bill Gette, Sanctuary Director, Massachusetts Audubon Joppa Flats, for a bird's eye view of the Merrimack River from the pre-colonial era to the present. We will hear about the Merrimack River's change from a pristine fishing ground, to an open drain for industrial and human waste, to our current recovery. We will talk about the recovery of the Bald Eagle and the many other birds that are routinely seen along the banks of the river from the Pemi in Franklin to Newburyport, Massachusetts.

SEACOAST

Meetings are held at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park, Route 1A, Rye, NH, and are wheelchair accessible. Refreshments are served at 7 pm. The public is welcome, free of charge.

For information, contact Dan Hubbard, 603-332-4093, danielhubbard@peoplepc.com or see our web site at <http://www.seacoastchapter.org/programs>

Program: Endangered and Extinct Birds of Hawaii Wednesday, September 11, 7:30 pm

This program will feature a 30-minute film that explores the ongoing environmental crisis in Hawaii that has led to the extinction of 70% of the islands' endemic birds and highlights conservation efforts that are making a difference for those remaining species on the brink.

Program: Tar Sands in New Hampshire? What are the Issues?

Wednesday, October 9, 7:30 pm

This presentation discusses the nature and characteristics of Alberta's oil sands deposits and the issues surrounding the extraction, processing, transportation, and use of the oil. The potential for piping tar sands oil through northern NH, the associated risks, and current efforts to prevent such a project will be addressed in detail by Carol Foss, PhD, Director of Conservation at NH Audubon.

Program: The Birds of Chile

Wednesday, November 13, 7:30 pm

Dana and Bob Fox travel the world to see wonderful birds in amazing habitats. Chile is a beautiful country with

dramatic scenery, a joy to travel, and is filled with an array of outstanding birds. Join Dana and Bob as they explore three different regions of the country. You'll want to pack your bags and leave the next day!

In Memoriam

New Hampshire Audubon is honored to receive memorial donations in honor of friends and relatives who have died. These gifts are a valuable contribution to the work we do for wildlife and conservation, and are a wonderful tribute.

Since the last issue of *Afield*, thoughtful gifts were made in memory of the following individuals:

- **Patricia Wible**
- **Ann W. Graham**
- **Deborah B. Holland**
- **John Myhaver Jr.**
- **Doris Barter, a long time NH Audubon member**

We are remembering **Joseph Quinn**, a long time NH Audubon member, volunteer and avid birder who was instrumental in introducing his brother, Bob Quinn, to the world of birding.

We were also saddened to hear of the loss of **Donald Niswander**, son of Pat Niswander, volunteer at the McLane Nature Store.

Lake Umbagog, fall foliage and the wildlife of northern New Hampshire with Bob Quinn

Tuesday, October 1- Sunday, October 6

Join us for a journey into the wilds of northern New Hampshire for spectacular mountain peaks, brilliant fall foliage, moose (maybe), birds (of course), bogs and other good times! It is wild country that echoes with the calls of Loons, Coyotes, and Bald Eagles. It is home to Mount Washington, the most spectacular mountain east of the Rockies, where we will drive up to the strange, treeless, arctic-alpine zone with its breathtaking views and fascinating northern plants.

Other highlights will include a boat trip on wild and unspoiled Lake Umbagog, bouncing bogs, Madison Boulder, a walk to the stunning Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge,

waterfalls, and some almost unbelievably gorgeous fall colors.

We can expect to see a good variety of birds and possibly beaver, black bear, otter, and coyote. The trip is scheduled during the week to maximize solitude. Although days will be full, this will be a relaxing trip. The trip will start and end in Concord

COST: \$1150 per person. (Single supplement of \$195.) Cost includes lodging, van transportation in NH, tram ride, the Auto Road, boat trip, slide shows, hand outs and most meals. Limited to eight participants. Reserve your spot by sending a deposit of \$200, per person, directly to Anne St. Cyr, 2 Scituate Place Unit 27, Merrimack, NH 03054. For more information contact Bob Quinn at raqbirds@aol.com.



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NH Audubon's Nature Store

Do you have your binoculars for raptor migration season?



Visit the Nature Store at the McLane Center for expert help selecting the best Nikon or Vortex binoculars for your needs.

**Nature Store Hours
 Monday - Friday 9-5 & Saturday 10-4**

Donor Support

Your donation makes it possible for us to protect our New Hampshire way of life...our birds, our wildlife, our unique landscapes, our environment, our planet.



Send your gift today!

Mail to: NH Audubon
 84 Silk Farm Rd., Concord, NH 03301
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