

SUMMER 2014

NH Audubon Afield



Conserving Grassland Birds

The Upper Valley Grassland Bird Project is a partnership among NH Audubon, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, and Plymouth State University. Led by PSU Masters student Jamie Sydoriak, this project has the twofold aim of 1) assessing current grassland bird populations in the Upper Valley and 2) reaching out to landowners interested in managing their lands for these birds. Over 200 sites were surveyed by Jamie and local volunteers in the summer of 2013, where they found over 1,000 Bobolinks, 400 Savannah Sparrows, 20 Eastern Meadowlarks, and handfuls of other species. Many of these sites were first surveyed in the late 1990s, and at these locations both Bobolinks and meadowlarks clearly declined over the intervening 15 years.

Above: Eastern Meadowlark by Len Medlock

To better understand landowner views and practices, we mailed a questionnaire this winter to many of the people whose lands we surveyed. Respondents were willing to delay hay cropping on 20-50% of their fields (for an estimated area of 600-800 acres), but many were unaware of conservation incentive programs which provide financial support for such practices. The final phase of the project involved mailing outreach materials to interested landowners, scheduling site visits at priority grasslands, and recruiting volunteer "grassland ambassadors" to help spread the word among landowners. Hopefully, the momentum we've built will allow the project to continue after Jamie finished her Masters degree in May.

NH Audubon's role in this project has been supported through a donation from the Roby Charitable Trust.

— Pamela Hunt



Julie Klett

Opening Soon!

Newfound Audubon Center will open for the season on June 1 with an exciting line-up of events and programs. See page 10 for details.

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NH AUDUBON
Celebrating 100 Years of Conservation

**Protecting New Hampshire's
Natural Environment
for Wildlife and for People**



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends,

Summer is a dynamic and pleasantly frenetic time of year here at NH Audubon. Our biologists are “out straight” in an effort to utilize every minute of field season. Our campers are in constant motion, discovering the natural world around them. Our Centers are packed with visitors from all over the world. There is an almost palpable energy that is unique to these summer months – an energy that is amplified (100 times over!) this year as we celebrate our Centennial with a cornucopia of special events.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to join us for one of these events, I encourage you to make time to do so. Join us at the Massabesic Center on June 14 for Brown Farm Day, a stroll back through history, with hands on activities from 100 years ago – or at the Newfound Center on June 21 for Solstice Fest, a 12-hour day of nature-based activities to welcome summer’s official arrival. If you’re a baseball fan, don’t miss the chance to celebrate with your family and friends at NH Audubon night at the Fisher Cats on July 19 at NH Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester—and be sure to stay for the fireworks display! You will find the details of these events and so many more in the pages of this Afield.

While you’re looking for just the right event to attend, be sure not to miss “Conservation Notes,” which highlights the work of our Conservation Department in 2013. It was a year full of ups and downs, with record high numbers of Bald Eagles fledged ... but no confirmed nesting of Common Nighthawks; success with Rusty Blackbirds... but more problems with insect eating birds; a crisis with our bat population... but an amazing story about Manchester’s famous peregrine pair (visit our website for all the details!)

It is so gratifying to be spending time during our Centennial year reconnecting with old NH Audubon friends and making new ones! A thought for the day... when you read a great book or eat at a fabulous restaurant, I bet you naturally share your opinions with others. There is so much wonderful activity here at NH Audubon; why not share THAT good news with your family and friends as well?

I hope to see you soon, at one of our Centers or on the trails. May your summer be dynamic and pleasantly frenetic, too!

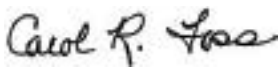
—*Michael J. Bartlett*
 President, New Hampshire Audubon

CONSERVATION NOTES

I am pleased to report on New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department activities from April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. This is a shortened version of our annual *Conservation Notes* but see also a special article in the Centennial insert (see page CE3).

As always, it is the support and help of our dedicated volunteers, donors, and grant funders that allows the Conservation Department to further NH Audubon's mission to protect and enhance New Hampshire's environment for wildlife and for people. Conservation programs also receive funding from NH Audubon's Milne Biological Science Research Fund, contracts with partner agencies, organizations, and corporations.

Please help NH Audubon and the Conservation Department celebrate 100 years of working for the protection of birds and wildlife.



Carol Foss, Department Director
and the entire Department Staff: Diane De Luca, Laura Deming, Pamela Hunt, Vanessa Jones, Chris Martin, Becky Suomala

Dragonfly Conservation Assessment Completed for the Northeast

Starting in 2012, NH Audubon and partners in New York and Maine embarked upon an ambitious project to determine the conservation status of all 228 species of dragonflies and damselflies that occur from Virginia to Maine. Using data from all 14 states in the region (including the recently-completed NH Dragonfly Survey), the team assessed factors such as range size, changes in range, and habitat specificity to place each species in categories representing both vulnerability and "responsibility" (the importance of the Northeast in overall conservation). An example of a high concern species is the Ringed Boghaunter (listed as endangered in



Ringed Boghaunter by Dennis Skillman.

NH), which is a habitat specialist with a small range, and with two thirds of that range in heavily-developed southern New England. This assessment can guide states in prioritizing species (and habitats) for conservation and lead to new conservation and research projects.

This project was funded through a Northeast Regional Conservation Needs grant awarded to the NY Natural Heritage Program, with additional support from NH Audubon, the state of Maine, and other partners.

– Pamela Hunt



Purple Martin, Seabrook, NH, by Len Medlock.

Aerial Insectivore Conservation

NH Audubon's involvement in declining populations of aerial insectivores (nightjars, swifts, flycatchers, and swallows) expanded and diversified last year. Work on Common Nighthawks continued (see below) and the Eastern Whip-poor-wills study was completed, with only roadside monitoring routes ongoing. A pilot survey of Chimney Swift roosting sites occurred in August of 2013. I met with other aerial insectivore researchers at a national bird conservation meeting in September, and we have formed a "Northeast Swallow Working Group" to share ideas, collaborate on research, and work towards learning more about these species' declines. Thanks to a significant donation NH Audubon has the resources and capacity to keep this group moving forward. Other projects that fall under the aerial insectivore banner are Swallow CORE, which completed a third season in 2013, and a new Olive-sided Flycatcher initiative.

– Pamela Hunt

Project Nighthawk

The 2013 Common Nighthawk breeding season brought lower numbers of birds and atypical behavior from more normal years. We were unable to confirm nesting anywhere in the state. The nighthawks appeared to be late settling down and some of them seemed like they never did. Our best guess is that the cold rainy weather early in the season delayed the birds and then the frequent rains may have caused nest failure. It was the fifth wettest June on record for Concord, NH. We hope the low number was an anomaly, but with the declining nighthawk populations we have cause for concern.

– Rebecca Suomala

Phenology

The 2013 phenology season started out with volunteer training workshops at the McLane Center and Deering Wildlife Sanctuary, where volunteers got hands-on experience identifying plants, gathering data, and using the National Phenology Network (NPN) database. This was the first year of monitoring at the McLane Center, the third at Deering, and the second for the Ponemah Bog Sanctuary in Amherst. All data collected contributes to the NPN database, and is available to researchers and managers across the country for climate change related investigations.

In November, NH Audubon hosted a meeting of NH phenology scientists, with representatives from the UNH Cooperative Extension Service, Appalachian Mountain Club, the Rey Center and Plymouth University, and Hubbard Brook State Forest. The group discussed several ideas for collaboration and plans to meet again in the near future.

– *Laura Deming*

Butterfly Data Compilation

The Conservation Department completed the compilation of historic data on butterfly distributions in New Hampshire. A total of 9,232 records were compiled for 124 species of butterflies. The statewide distribution of many common species was spotty at best, and further study is needed to create a complete picture of species distributions. Results indicate that additional butterfly species may warrant conservation status in the state. Other species of interest included those that may be expanding their primary range north and vagrant species uncommonly found in New Hampshire.

Funding for this project was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grants program, through a contract with the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program of NH Fish & Game. Thanks to all who provided data, helped to compile data, and provided expertise on this project.

– *Vanessa Jones*



A pair of mating Horace's Duskywings by Bob Janules.

2013 Rusty Blackbird Summary

We continue to expand our knowledge of the Rusty Blackbird population in northeastern Coos County. In 2013 we confirmed pairs at 52 locations from Milan to Pittsburg. The field team monitored 34 nests, of which 18 were successful, seven failed, and nine were of unknown outcome. A number of nests had one unhatched egg; possibly the first egg succumbed to chilling early in incubation. We documented the first cases of Rusty Blackbird "colonies" in New Hampshire, including three cases of two pairs nesting at sequential beaver ponds, and six pairs scattered around a string of five beaver ponds. The 2013 banding effort was very productive, with color and USFWS bands attached to 40 adults and 80 nestlings.

We appreciate the support and assistance of collaborating landowners, including Plum Creek, the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, and Wagner Forest Management, Ltd.

– *Carol Foss*

Mittersill Bicknell's Thrush Surveys

Summer 2013 was the fifth annual Bicknell's Thrush survey on the Mittersill Ski Area on the northern slope of Cannon Mountain. Despite their extensive and remote spruce-fir breeding habitat, these secretive birds have declined dramatically over the past several decades, most likely due to severe depletion of their Caribbean wintering habitat. The Mittersill surveys provide Ski Area managers with locations of Bicknell's Thrush in forested habitat adjacent to ski slopes, and help guide management activities related to recreation and trail maintenance. As of 2013, Bicknell's Thrush continue to occupy spruce-fir habitat along the entire transect. NH Audubon continues to work with Cannon Mountain and other state and federal agencies to address potential impacts of Ski Area management on Bicknell's Thrush.

– *Laura Deming*

New Hampshire Bat Survey Project

Bat Survey Project volunteers completed a second season of acoustic surveys in 2013, driving 12 routes totaling over 300 miles to document locations of New Hampshire's eight bat species. Volunteers documented 1,036 individual bats of several species, including 165 big brown/silver haired bats, 96 eastern red bats, 251 hoary bats, 35 myotis species (little brown, northern long-eared, eastern small-footed), and 489 unknown. The Bat Survey Project is supported by a grant from the William P. Wharton Trust and is a partnership of NH Audubon, NH Fish & Game, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Northeast Environmental Services, and is part of a nationwide effort to monitor bat populations throughout the US.

– *Laura Deming*

Peregrine Falcon Monitoring and Management

In 2013, we confirmed 22 Peregrine Falcon territories in New Hampshire – a new state record. Only 11 falcon pairs were successful, but they produced a total of 25 fledglings. An atypical Memorial Day snow event led to deaths of chicks in Hebron and Rumney, and may have contributed to failures at several other White Mountain sites. Season highlights for 2013 included re-occupancy of an historic nesting site at Fall Mountain in Walpole, and the first confirmed fledging from Woodchuck Ledge in Albany. With guidance from NH Fish & Game, NH Audubon is responsible for posting season climbing closures at select cliffs, and advising facility managers when peregrines occupy tall buildings and major bridges. In September 2013, the *Journal of Raptor Research* published an article summarizing results from banding 986 fledgling Peregrines in New England over 20 years (1990-

2009). Two of the study's co-authors were NHA Board member Michael Amaral and I. Thanks to all those who support Peregrine Falcon recovery in New Hampshire, and a salute to the many dedicated field volunteers who monitor our nest sites!

– Chris Martin



Immature Peregrine Falcon, Dover, NH, Duane Dotton.

Citizen Science Bird Data

The *New Hampshire Bird Records* publication is the umbrella for bird sighting data collection and quality review, using NHeBird. We continue to upload the historic *New Hampshire Bird Records* data to eBird thanks to the efforts of volunteers. This bird sighting data from 1986-2009 comprises more than 189,000 records. We have uploaded the data from 52 towns including all Lakes Region towns thanks to a grant from the Pardoe Foundation. The Fuller Foundation provided a grant for Seacoast Region towns. These sightings can now be viewed in eBird and are available as a resource for birders and researchers alike. This project is also supported by the Blake-Nuttall Fund. The recently established New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund supports *New Hampshire Bird Records* and generous donors helped the fund double in the past year.

Over 1,300 Backyard Winter Bird Survey volunteers gathered data on wintering birds for the 28th year. Data from the Survey continues to document the increases in southern species such as Carolina Wrens, and regular patterns of irruption for northern visitors such as Common Redpolls. The Survey is supported entirely by private donations and we are grateful for these contributions.

– Rebecca Suomala

Bald Eagle, Sunapee, NH, by Midge Eliasson.



Bald Eagle Monitoring and Management

New Hampshire's Bald Eagle population showed vigorous growth in 2013. The number of territorial eagle pairs increased from 35 pairs in 2012 to 40 pairs in 2013, with the population doubling roughly every five years. We tallied a record high of 35 young fledged from 21 successful nests in 2013. Breeding eagles made strong gains in the Merrimack River valley from Franklin to the Massachusetts border; pairs near urban centers in Manchester and Nashua both succeeded for the first time, each producing two young. A newly-discovered nest in Pittsburg also fledged two chicks. And after multiple false starts, a pair on Bow Lake finally fledged a chick. The only bad news was harsh early spring conditions in the Lakes Region that may have caused up to six nest failures, including at Newfound, Province, Silver and Squam lakes. NH Audubon coordinated two statewide winter counts in 2014, and these surveys found wintering populations at historic highs. Our Connecticut River eagle restoration efforts, in partnership with Vermont Fish & Wildlife and Audubon Vermont, also took big steps forward in 2013. Bald Eagle monitoring and management is supported by a multi-year grant from TransCanada Corporation's Northeast Hydro Division, with additional funds from NH Fish & Game. We also receive support from donors and from many field volunteers.

– Chris Martin

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS: THE MCLANE CENTER



In addition to being a program center, the McLane Center is home to NH Audubon's central operations. It is located on the Silk Farm Sanctuary in Concord. Sanctuary trails are open dawn to dusk daily, as are the raptor mews. The Center and Nature Store are open Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm and Saturday, 10am–4pm.
 84 SILK FARM RD, CONCORD NH 03301
 603-224-9909 nha@nhaudubon.org

ART EXHIBITS

“BIRDS OF A FEATHER”



July 1–August 31

Meet the Artists reception: Thursday, July 10, 4:30-6:30 pm

During July and August, the PSNH Community Room at the McLane Center will be donned with beautiful paintings of birds and bird related items. Artists Susan Parmenter of Sunapee and Mimi Wiggin of Warner have teamed up to share some of their work that has captured the beauty of fleeting birds in hopes of inspiring others to help protect birds and their habitats.

A realist painter, Susan Parmenter enjoys painting in both oil and pastel and often sketches outdoors.



Favorite subjects include landscape, figure, still life, animals, birds, wildlife and the beauty of nature in general. Currently, Susan is a member of the High Street Painters

in Brattleboro, VT and the Portrait Society of America. She is also a member of NH Audubon, The Nature Conservancy and The American Bird Conservancy. Susan has won numerous awards participating in a variety of national art events and also enjoys teaching. View a sample of Susan's work and learn about other upcoming shows at www.susanparmeter.com



Mimi Wiggin paints with oils and is primarily self-taught. Her work has been displayed throughout New Hampshire and has been featured in Kearsarge Magazine, SooNipi Magazine, The Art & Gallery Guide, and Forest Notes. Her work is also featured as covers and illustrations in the books *Poems of Old Warner* and *Mount Kearsarge* (2012) and *Educators and Agitators- Selected Works of 19th Century Women Writers From a Small New Hampshire Town* (2013). Mimi is currently painting backyard birds for a small book to be published in the fall of 2014. To learn more about Mimi and see samples of her work visit: www.mimiwiggin.com.

Partial proceeds of sales of art that is displayed at NH Audubon goes to support our mission.

The Birds of New Hampshire

by Allan R. Keith and Robert P. Fox

The first book in 100 years to document the sightings of birds in New Hampshire is now available through the Nature Store for \$55 (\$49.50 for members!). It is a must-have for any avid New Hampshire birder. The book contains:

- First state-wide coverage of all species in 110 years
- Status and distribution for all 427 species, seasons of occurrence and abundance
- History of New Hampshire Christmas Counts
- Summary of New Hampshire Hawk-watching data
- Location and identity of over 4,800 museum specimens collected in the state
- Summary of over 17,500 bird band returns for New Hampshire
- Breeding Bird Survey results since 1966
- Bibliography of over 1,200 titles covering the last 200 years

Order online or using the form below:

Please send me *The Birds of New Hampshire*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Shipping Option (select one):

Media Mail (add \$10)

Priority (add \$15)

Member/nonmember price (select one):

\$49.50, NH Audubon member

\$55, non-member

TOTAL: _____

Make your check payable to 'NH Audubon' and mail with form to: Attn Nature Store, McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Rd, Concord, NH 03301



Celebrate Summer at the NH Audubon Nature Store

*Need a special gift to celebrate a birthday for young or old?
Want to get started on bird watching?
We have what you need at our Nature Store.*



BINOCULARS: A variety of high quality optics from Nikon and Vortex ranging from \$90 to \$650 is available. We even have children's binoculars for those who are too young to own their own but want to come along.

FIELD GUIDES: We have guides for every outdoor activity from identifying mushrooms and flowers to birds and butterflies. We even sell a guide to help you identify species of bees!

BACKYARD EXPLORER GEAR: A brand new bug net and bug container can motivate even the most reluctant child to make a few outdoor discoveries of his/her own.



The Nature Store is open six days a week.
Monday-Friday: 9 am—5 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm
84 Silk Farm Rd.
Concord
224-9909 Ext. 318, ask for Nancy



It's Not Too Late! Register for Summer Day Camp Today

- MASSABESIC & MCLANE CENTER LOCATIONS
- PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGES 4-12
- LEADERS-IN-TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGES 13-15
- MANY SESSIONS STILL AVAILABLE
- MORE INFO AT WWW.NHAUDUBON.ORG



Campers will experience:

- Live animal presentations
- Different themes each session including Wilderness Ways, Water Wizards, and Earth Heroes
- Fun, safe, hands-on learning opportunities
- Crafts, storytelling, nature-based games and outdoor recreation
- NH Audubon's nature centers and surrounding sanctuaries





Located in Manchester on the beautiful Merrimack River, the Center is open year round Monday-Saturday from 9am to 5pm. During fish migration season (April 28-June 14), the Center is open seven days a week.

FLETCHER ST • MANCHESTER, NH 03105
603-626-FISH www.amoskeagfishways.org

FISHWAYS FUNDAYS

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

Fundays are for children ages four to five accompanied by an adult. Programs include fun outdoor exploration and indoor craft making. Cost: \$8 per family. Advance registration with payment required.

Get Ready, Grow!



Thursday, June 12

What makes plants special? How do they get from seed to flower or fruit? What do they need to grow? We'll explore outdoors, play games, and plant seeds to discover the magic of plant growth. Amphibians abound this time of year! Meet some live frogs and salamanders, discover their special qualities and try your luck at mimicking frog calls.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

Join us for extended evening hours. Families may drop in to enjoy our exhibits and animals, plus themed crafts and interactive activities. Cost: \$5 per family, no registration necessary.

Summer Solstice



Friday, June 20, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Celebrate the longest and lightest day of the year. We'll offer en-lightening activities and make mini-lanterns to take home.

River Reptiles



Friday, July 18, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Meet the turtles and touch a real snake skin. We'll explore the scaly world of reptiles with a touch table and a turtle craft.

FISHWAYS FAMILY ADVENTURES

FAMILY DAY CAMP

Cost: \$10 per family. Advance registration with payment required.

Thursdays, July 10, 17, 24 & 31
9 am - Noon

Looking for some fun, summer outings to go on with your kids? Join Fishways staff on Thursdays in July for exciting family adventures. We'll hike, stomp, dig, climb, splash, search for critters and more as we discover some of the local natural gems in the Merrimack River watershed. Put on your boots and explore with us!

FISHWAYS SUMMER WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS

TEACHING STEM, LITERACY, AND HISTORY WITH THE MERRIMACK

Wednesday, July 9
8:30 am - 3:30 pm



Teach about your local river and meet multidisciplinary curriculum goals! The Merrimack River and its watershed have a rich cultural and natural history. From the textile mills to geology to dams and fish ladders to natural history data, the Merrimack River watershed offers many unique opportunities for student learning. Join us for a fun day of science inquiry, problem solving, literacy, and data analysis with a river theme. This watershed curriculum will act as a model for using local natural systems to achieve your science, literacy, math, and STEM goals. **CEUs available.** Please call 626-3474 for more information.

USING MINDFUL INQUIRY TO ACHIEVE GREAT SCIENCE LEARNING

Wednesday, July 16
8:30 am - 3:30 pm



State Frameworks, Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core, STEM, 5E's, QUEST model - Aaaaah! The number of new educational models and

curriculum changes from year to year can be overwhelming. Teaching with mindful inquiry can cut through all the rhetoric and allow you to accomplish great science teaching and learning in your classroom, no matter what the latest model is. Join us to experience this first-hand and bring mindful inquiry tools and techniques into your classroom to enhance student learning. **CEUs available.** Please call 626-3474 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sea Lamprey Appreciation Day

Saturday, June 7

11 am - 3 pm



The fascinating sea lamprey return once again! Lamprey are the coolest and most ancient fish in the Merrimack River. They are fun to touch and carefully hold as they are three feet long, lively, and slimy! Get sucked into the fun at this unique celebration.

Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family (fee does not cover extended family). No registration necessary.

Fish Season Finale

Saturday, June 14

11 am - 3 pm



Learn about each of our migrating fish species and participate in Q&A sessions with Fishways naturalists and biologists. We will have educational presentations throughout the day. Satisfy your curiosity about fish as we near the end of our 2014 fish migration season.

Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family (fee does not cover extended family). No registration necessary.

Family Friday Nights

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

Campfire Tales

August 15, 7- 8 pm

The Penacook told stories by campfire light, and so will we. Listen to traditional Native American tales and enjoy a campfire on the banks of the Merrimack River. Dress appropriately for weather and insects.

1914 - 2014

NH Audubon

FROM HATS TO HABITATS

New Hampshire Audubon marks its Centennial this year. The many triumphs and accomplishments achieved over these years in education, research, conservation, sanctuaries and legislative action are a tribute to the dedicated effort of thousands of women and men who shared a common vision. This is the third installment in a four-part history of the organization. If you missed reading about the first 50 years, please visit www.nh Audubon.org/about/centennial/history.

Change and Growth: 1965-1989

The second 50 years of New Hampshire Audubon's history began with the added momentum of a national environmental movement. As the organization celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1974, the first Executive Director, Tudor Richards wrote "... more has happened in the last ten years than occurred in the previous fifty." The following is a sampling of some of the outstanding achievements of your Society between 1965 and 1989.

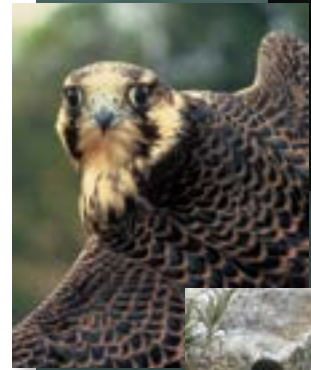
One of the most important and momentous actions in the entire history of the Society occurred in 1966 with our participation in a project with the unassuming name of "Conservation Services". Conservation Services originated with a large grant from the Ford Foundation which was channeled through Massachusetts Audubon to stimulate membership growth in some of New England's private conservation organizations. One outcome of that investment was that membership in New Hampshire Audubon (NHA) more than doubled from about 1000 in 1966 to over 2000 in 1968!

Between 1965 and 1989 a remarkable number and variety of other successful

projects were completed. NHA continued to grow as reflected below:

- In 1968 Judith Pratt and Tudor Richards were hired as the first paid staff, serving as secretary and Executive Director respectively. The Beaver Brook Association in Hollis was instrumental in Tudor being hired by NHA.
- In 1973 the burgeoning staff moved from a Main Street office into Audubon House on Silk Farm Road in Concord. Acquiring this property was a stroke of tremendous good fortune and hard work partly because it included 15 acres of woodland and trail access to Turkey Pond. This marvelous location has been our home ever since.
- Roger Tory Peterson was the keynote speaker at the 60th Annual Meeting.
- Between 1973 and 1977 new staff members were added including Jim Mullins, Dick Beyer, Bette Verville, Carol Foss, and Bob Quinn.
- In 1982 Tudor Richards "retired" after 35 years of leading the organization but remained on staff as a Wildlife Consultant. Les Corey was hired as the new Executive Director.

Continued on next page



NH AUDUBON
A CENTURY OF
CONSERVATION

1965-1989, continued

- The original Audubon House couldn't keep up with the growing staff so in 1986 it was completely remodeled and greatly expanded.

With a growing staff and programs, the organization diversified into departments.

Organizational growth and projects

The membership continued to grow and topped 5,000. With the expansion of Audubon House in 1986 came a nature store, classroom and large meeting room. Additional staff hired included Jackie Tuxill, Adair Mulligan, Chuck Gibilisco, Mary Carr, Josie Gemmill, Stephen Walker, Diane DeLuca, Ruth Smith, Becky Suomala, Iain MacLeod to name a few of the long-time stalwarts.

Ten Chapters were set up throughout the state and many are still active today.

One of the most important efforts ever undertaken by the Society, and one which was spread across all departments, was helping to pass a State Endangered Species Program bill in 1979. We then took the lead in raising money, setting up the projects, and doing a lot of the actual monitoring work during the Program's early years.

Educational efforts

An active environmental education program has been a strong niche for Audubon within the state. The Paradise Point property on Newfound Lake was acquired and a Nature Center built and staffed (seasonally). The much acclaimed and award-winning Project S.E.E. was a resounding success and was ultimately taken over by the Concord Union School District. A fledgling summer nature center was established in Rye at Odiorne Point State Park in 1973, in cooperation with the State Parks Department, and that program would grow to eventually become the multi-faceted Seacoast Science Center. A modest education program was also started at Willard Pond in the early 1970s. In 1983, a summer day camp program was launched in Concord which would later expand to other centers.

Weekly radio programs are expanded, thanks to Stacey Cole (Chairman for Public Relations).

Land protection

NHA properties doubled in size when Willard Pond in Antrim was added in 1971. Over these 25 years other new properties of note were added including Brookside in South Hampton, the Ashuelot Great Blue Heron rookery, and what was to become the Deering Wildlife Sanctuary. In 1980 the Society's first wildlife management plan was written and habitat management work began at Deering. One of the most remarkable stories related to an NHA property occurred in 1976 with the discovery

and identification of bones from the extinct Great Auk (a large, flightless seabird that became extinct in the mid-19th century due to hunting) on an island in the coastal salt marshes. The reason these remains were discovered was due to a mandatory archaeological dig required before the construction of the Seabrook nuclear power plant.

NHA was involved in prestigious land protection activity as the coordinator of the Local Initiative component of the Trust for New Hampshire Lands, a large-scale statewide land conservation project.

Environmental Affairs

NH Audubon has a long history of lobbying for conservation and one of the most important land use laws ever passed in New Hampshire, the Current Use law, was promoted by the Society for five years before being enacted by the Legislature in 1968. This pioneering act allowed land to be taxed at its "current use," helping landowners maintain ownership of large acreages. This effort helped create the conditions that eventually led to the formation of our strong local land trusts. In 1981 Jackie Tuxill was hired as the first paid Director of Environmental Affairs. She coordinated a national Conference on Acid Rain held in New Hampshire at which the Rev. Jesse Jackson was a memorable speaker. She led NHA's effort for the successful passage of the Native Plant Protection bill (with much help from then State Senator Susan McLane). Jackie was deeply involved in the Endangered Species Program (ESP) legislative work as well. She even became the Acting Director for part of 1986. Kirk Stone and others followed Jackie's lead on the Environmental Affairs staff.

One of NHA's first ever organized wildlife projects was the Loon Survey that was conducted in 1970. It was so successful and generated so much interest that after continuous annual growth it evolved into the permanent and autonomous Loon Preservation Committee. In 1977 Carol Foss was hired as the Education Director but she soon became the lead biologist in what would become the Wildlife (Conservation) Department. Carol was largely responsible for the phenomenal growth from nothing to a full-fledged State Endangered Species Program in 1979 and 1980. You can read more about the major efforts of the Department in her article.

In 1989 the third quarter century of the NH Audubon came to a fitting and climactic close when for the first time in 40 years Bald Eagles nested once again at Lake Umbagog, in the same tree that housed the last nest 40 years prior. This exciting event was to portend one of the major stories of the last and final 25 years of our first century.

—Robert A. Quinn

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING CENTENNIAL EVENTS

NH AUDUBON CENTENNIAL STAFF REUNION

Saturday, August 2

McLane Audubon Center

Have you been employed by New Hampshire Audubon in the past 100 years? Do you know someone who has? As part of our centennial celebration we are planning a staff reunion to welcome back as many people as possible who have contributed to the educational, conservation, land protection and policy work of our past.

The event will include some outdoor fun, a barbeque, sharing of photos, stories and memories and an update on where NHA is today and where we are headed. We look forward to seeing many “old” friends.

If you are or know someone who is a former employee, please contact Ruth Smith, Centennial Coordinator at rsmith@nhaudubon.org or 603-224-9909 ext. 313 so we can send you more details.

Check out more events on page 15!

A Century of Wildlife Conservation

When the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH) was established one hundred years ago, conservation of birds involved preventing the slaughter of millions for the millinery trade. Since then, ASNH (now known as NH Audubon) has greatly expanded its conservation work. Education and legislation were at the forefront in the early years, but it wasn't long before ASNH began to lay the foundation for gathering the bird data that has come to play an important role in driving bird conservation action.

When ASNH first published notes on bird observations from around the State in 1921, no one imagined that this was setting the stage for a database of bird observations that now grows by more than 80,000 records annually. Long before “citizen science” was conceived as a term, Audubon members were contributing to what has become an invaluable resource for tracking long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance within New Hampshire. After decades of reporting on paper slips, observers now report sightings on-line through NHeBird to a global database of bird observations

housed at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. After years of including seasonal bird records in other Audubon publications, *New Hampshire Bird Records* became a stand-alone publication in 1982, and now includes photographs and substantive articles as well as summaries of sightings.

Targeted data collection began with the Cardinal-Tufted Titmouse Survey in February 1967, later expanded to include Northern Mockingbirds, and evolved into today's Backyard Winter Bird Survey in 1987. ASNH sponsored the first statewide survey for breeding Common Loons in 1970, leading in 1976 to formation of the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC). Collection of targeted data on species of concern continues to be an important piece of our conservation work.

Passage of the federal Endangered Species Act in 1973 and the State Act in 1979 led to creation of the NH Endangered Species Program (NHESP), a collaborative project of ASNH and the NH Fish & Game Department (NHFG). This project initially engaged seasonal technicians and citizen scientists in locating breeding

sites for Ospreys, Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Common Terns, and wintering areas for Bald Eagles. ASNH and NHFG biologists then worked together to promote conservation of these species. This collaboration also led to the establishment of ASNH Wildlife Programs in 1982 (now the Conservation Department). Involvement in major regional conservation efforts for Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, and Common Terns have contributed to the successful recoveries of these species.

The presence of staff biologists brought additional collaborative opportunities. The New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas (1981-1986) in partnership with NHFG and the University of New Hampshire Department of Natural Resources, the White Mountain National Forest Bird Monitoring Project coordinated by ASNH from 1992 to 2000, and endangered species were major activities of the 1980s. While the collaborative NHESP ended in 1988 with establishment of the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program within NHFG, NH Audubon staff and volunteers have remained actively

Continued On Next Page

CONTINUED FROM CE3

involved in monitoring and management of threatened and endangered bird species.

A major grant from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust in 1989 supported the three-year Wetlands Protection Project, which brought a new area of expertise to the staff and generated the NH Method for Inventorying and Evaluating Freshwater Wetlands in New Hampshire in 1991. The NH Method manual was recently updated and republished by UNH Cooperative Extension, and continues to be widely used today.

As Wildlife Department staff increased in size and breadth of expertise, activities expanded to address species other than birds. Vernal pool surveys, turtle studies, a Biodiversity Initiative, a statewide inventory of dragonflies, and acoustic surveys for bats have joined the lexicon of projects. With the Hampton Marsh Project we linked bird data with

habitat to prioritize specific areas for conservation action. More recently we have conducted intensive research into species of concern that were not yet on the threatened and endangered list (such as Rusty Blackbird), often tied to larger regional initiatives and a proactive approach to conservation.

Advances in technology, from Geographic Information Systems to Geographic Positioning Systems to a myriad of telemetry systems have enabled more intimate views of how animals use the landscape. From ground-based radio-telemetry of spotted and Blanding's turtles, Eastern Whip-poor-wills, and Rusty Blackbirds to satellite-based telemetry of Bald Eagles, these technologies enable us to identify critical habitat more efficiently than ever before.

Our combination of professional biologists and citizen scientists is unique in New Hampshire's conservation community, and provides a sound scientific basis for land protection priorities and policy decisions. Our data helped to justify establishment of the Conte, Great Bay, and Umbagog National Wildlife Refuges, and protection of Wilcox Point, an important Bald Eagle roosting area on Great Bay.



A male Bobolink, one of the declining grassland species of concern in New Hampshire (see article on page 1). Photo by Christine Sheridan.

As we move into our second century, the environmental issues we face are much more complicated than the slaughter of birds for ladies' hats, the spewing of pollutants into water bodies, and even the decimation of bird populations by effects of DDT. Climate change will be with us for decades to come and conservation must now span the globe as we learn more about species' vulnerability during migration and on wintering grounds that may be as far away as Argentina. Issues such as impacts

of bioengineered organisms, neonicotinoid insecticides, nanotechnology, and as yet unheard of innovations promise to keep our scientists, both staff and citizen, alert for changes in New Hampshire's environment and wildlife for the next hundred years.

— Carol Foss

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

"HAT'S OFF TO AUDUBON" GALA AND LIVE AUCTION

Saturday, November 8, 5 pm
Currier Museum, Manchester NH

Help launch us into the next 100 years by joining us for NH Audubon's first gala, fund raising auction and dinner.

Highlights will include:

Elegant 4-course meal prepared by Greenhouse Catering

Access to the Currier Museum galleries including the M. C. Escher exhibition

Live auction with professional auctioneer Steve Schofield

Auction items including trips, unique Audubon related experiences, musical performances, artwork and more



Chris Martin posting signs at a Peregrine Falcon nesting cliff as part of NH Audubon's endangered species management. Photo by Jim Block.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS: MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER



Located on a historic farm site, the Center is bordered by 130 acres of wildlife sanctuary that encompasses a diverse array of upland habitats and includes more than five miles of trails that lead to Lake Massabesic.

26 AUDUBON WAY • AUBURN, NH 03032
603-668-2045 mac@nhaudubon.org

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship

Dates TBA, May-August, check the center for info

Cost: FREE

Leader: Jay Barry, licensed bird bander for 40 years

The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) program bands birds in order to collect data. Analyses of the data provide critical information relating to the ecology, conservation, and management of North American land bird populations, and the factors responsible for changes in their populations. 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!

Peace of the Wild Things, Concert by Women Singing Out

Sunday, June 1, 3 pm

Cost: \$10/individuals, \$25/family

Directed by Dr. Rachel Samet, Artistic Director, Derryfield School

“Women Singing Out”, a Seacoast community choir, presents a concert to celebrate NH Audubon’s 100th Birthday. The concert will include songs about nature and some opportunities to sing along. Following the one-hour concert, guests will be invited to take part in a half-hour guided nature walk around the Center.



Dragonfly Workshop

Saturday, July 5, 10 am-noon

Cost: Individuals-\$7 M/\$10 NM;

Families-\$15 M/\$25 NM

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist
Come watch a slide show about these beautiful and beneficial insects, then head outside to learn the art of catching dragonflies! We’ll learn tricks to catching and handling, what equipment to use, as well as how to identify some of our most common species. We’ll even walk to the pond to look for dragonfly nymphs.

Art In Nature

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm, Three Sessions during July/August

Cost: \$60

Join artist Amanda Tempesta for three sessions of sketching. Class to be held outdoors by the garden, pond or meadow. Learn to sketch what pleases your eye from nature. Class dates to be determined by the class members. Suggested materials list to be provided by instructor two weeks prior to first class.

8th Annual: Wild New Hampshire Photography Contest and Auction

If photography is your passion, take this opportunity to have your best photos recognized! All winning photos will be donated to the silent auction that will benefit the Center. Winning photos will be on display from October 1-December 8. Rules and entry forms are at www.nhaudubon.org. Entries must be submitted July 15 to September 2.

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.



Summer Medicinal & Useful Plant Walk: June 20

Join Maria Noël Groves, RH (AHG), Registered Clinical Herbalist at Wintergreen Botanicals, and open your eyes to the wonderful herbal medicines growing right in your backyard. We’ll explore wild lands and gardens of the Massabesic Audubon Center in search of plentiful and common edible and healing herbs. Maria will discuss safety, proper identification, and how to harvest and use the herbs in your kitchen. You will be amazed! Rain or shine - If the weather is awful, we’ll move the “walk” indoors.

Abnormal Amphibians: July 18

Malfunctioning frogs are not as unusual as you may think, and you may have even seen one already. Hear Stacia Sower, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the director of the Anadromous Fish and Aquatic Invertebrate Research Laboratory at the University of New Hampshire, discuss what changes are going on inside of NH’s frogs. How are manmade factors influencing the makeup of our amphibians, and what does this mean for their future? Come and find out!

NH’s Wild History: 350 Years of Wildlife: August 8

Enjoy a virtual journey through New Hampshire’s past, focusing on changes in the land and how wildlife populations have responded over time since the state was settled. You’ll learn why changes in NH’s habitat history are behind the decline of many of our rarest species today, why others are more abundant than before, and what you can do to help!

BROWN FARM 1914 – SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 10 AM TO 3 PM

Cost: drop-in fee \$5/individual, \$10/family

Take a step back in time to what the Massabesic Audubon Center would have been like 100 years ago. Listen to history of the Lake Massabesic area, learn about barn construction, and take guided walks to read the history of the landscape over time. Sessions on raising backyard chickens, beekeeping, gardens of 1914, and live animals!



PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS. CALL 603-668-2045 TO REGISTER.



Located on the beautiful northern shore of Newfound Lake, the Center is comprised of three wildlife sanctuaries: Paradise Point Nature Center, Ash Cottage at Hebron Marsh Sanctuary and Bear Mountain Sanctuary.

NORTH SHORE RD • HEBRON, NH 03222
603-744-3516

Songbird Survey

Mondays, 8-10am

Families are welcome to join us for a walk through our varying local habitats to conduct a survey of the bird species we hear and see. Bring your binoculars!

Guided Kayak Tour and Waterfowl Search

Mondays, noon-2pm

Families are welcome to join us for a group kayak/canoe around the lake for a lake ecology lesson. We will try to identify the waterfowl species we see in our travels. Bring your binoculars!

Laughing Loon Kayak Tour

Wednesdays, 6-8pm

We will kayak/canoe around the lake in the hopes of seeing or hearing resident loons laugh on Newfound on this twilight tour.

Scavenger hunt and Passport Check

Fridays, 1-3pm

Have an Audubon Passport? If not, come purchase one and start your self-guided adventure through our trails! We will check passports and guide you through a nature scavenger hunt!

Owl Prowl and Campfire

Saturdays, 7-9pm

Join us every Saturday evening for a sunset campfire filled with stories, songs and tales followed by an owl prowl on our local trails. Don't forget your binoculars and your flashlights!

RED BARN LECTURE SERIES

Tuesdays 7:30-8:45pm (Starting July 1)

Park at Ash Cottage and walk across the street to Meadow Winds B&B Red Barn. Suggested Donations: \$8 Members, \$10 Nonmembers, \$20 Member Families, \$24 Nonmember Families

Join us on Tuesday evenings for lectures of varying topics. From biological lectures on black bears and moose to haunted tales of New Hampshire, we will have lectures on topics to spark everyone's interest! See the website for schedule of presentations. (*Lecture week of August 3 will be held on THURSDAY August 7, NOT TUESDAY)

Center opens June 1!
All programs listed below will run June 21-August 29.
Please call for more info.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Cost per participant for programs:
\$6 Members, \$8 Nonmembers

Marsh Madness

Ages 7-14; Tuesdays, 10am-noon

Join us in the backyard for a lesson on marsh ecology.

Herp Hunt

Ages 5-12; Wednesdays, 10-11am

Join one of our naturalists on a trek through the trails to find our favorite reptilian and amphibian friends! We will also get to spend some time with our resident painted turtle!

Nature Detectives

Ages 4-10; Wednesdays, 2-4pm

We will be following clues and meandering through a variety of habitats to see what critters call our backyard home.

Pre-k Lakeside Learning

Ages 3-5; Thursdays, 9-10am

Our resident naturalist will instruct lakeside songs, stretching and lake education for our youngest visitors.

Camera Traps

Ages 7-16; Sundays, 2-4pm

Join our resident naturalist on the first Sunday of each month to set up a few camera traps around our trails and join us again the following three Sundays to collect the memory card and look at the pictures captured to document what animals are living in our woods!

ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS

SUP Yoga Classes

Saturdays, 9-11am

Cost: \$30 per individual

SUP classes are traditional Yoga classes taught on the water on floating boards. Your mat is a stand up paddle board; the lake is your studio and all the elements have been invited – sun, wind, water and loons. Enjoy learning while adapting to the motion of the board, the continuous challenge to balance, the instant instability created by minor energy and weight shifts, and the focus required to ground while afloat. Change is the only constant in life. On the water we learn to flow and enjoy the ride!

T'ai chi

Thursdays, 3-4pm or Saturdays, 9-10am

Cost: \$10 per class, plus a \$2 contribution to NH Audubon. Family discounts are given.

Thursday classes are open to anyone with experience, or with permission of the instructor and Saturday classes are for anyone who wants to drop in. T'ai chi is a slow-moving, fluid, Chinese exercise which refreshes and relaxes the practitioner, while developing balance and strength. It has been called "a moving meditation", a way of being in harmony with Nature and ourselves. The classes are held in the Ash Cottage, in front of us is the beautiful Newfound Lake.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Cost per family for family programs: \$20 Members, \$24 Nonmembers

Solstice Fest

Saturday, June 21, Sunrise to Sunset

Join the naturalists at the Newfound Audubon Center to welcome the summer season on the longest day of the year with a 12-hour day of nature-based activities. Starting at sunrise (5:25am), we will have various programs throughout the day to excite your inner biologist ending at sunset (8:31pm). See the website for schedule of events.

SANCTUARY HAPPENINGS

National Trails Service Day at Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

Saturday, June 7, 9 am–2 pm

Join NH Audubon and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) for a work day to improve the Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary's trail system. All ages and abilities are welcome to work alongside with the experts from SCA's Conservation Field Crew. Dress for trail work (long pants and boots) and bring gloves, a picnic lunch, and plenty of water, and we'll provide the rest. RSVP to Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or call (603) 224-9909x334. Limited to first 10 participants.

Emerald Ash Borer for Birders Workshop

Thursday, June 26, 6:30–8:30 pm

McLane Center

See Capital Area Chapter listing on page

Joseph Ford Wildlife Sanctuary Field Trip and Celebration

Thursday, July 24,

5:30–7:30 pm

Late last fall, NH Audubon helped play a key role in permanently protecting an ecological gem of the Oyster River watershed in Lee, NH. Come celebrate this ecologically-rich property on a special access field trip led by



*An old woods road on the Joseph Ford Wildlife Sanctuary.
Photo by Phil Brown.*

Phil Brown, Director of Land Management. Following the field trip through fields maintained for birds and other wildlife, we will celebrate with hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments as the evening sets in. Bring binoculars, a drink, and dress for the weather and insect pests. Co-sponsored with the Strafford Rivers Conservancy and the Town of Lee. For more information or to RSVP, contact Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or call (603) 224-9909x334.

Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary "That Bloomin' Bog" Walk Series

Saturday, June 7, 8 am with Laura Deming, Senior Biologist, NH Audubon

Saturday, June 21, 9 am with Jack Gleason, Friends of Ponemah Bog – Bog Plants and their Adaptations***

Saturday, June 28, 10 am with Tom Young, Bird and Dragonfly Enthusiast***
(*** Grass Pink Orchids should be in bloom)

Some of the topics covered on the walks:

1. The wildlife in the bog, including birds and dragonflies
2. The plants found in the bog and their special adaptations
3. Bog formation and how bogs differ from marshes and swamps

NATURE TOUR:

Boreal Birds and Wildlife of NH's North Country –With a Special Focus on NHA's Wildlife Sanctuaries*

August 23-27

Leaders: Phil Brown (NHA's Director of Land Management) and Bob Quinn (Merlin Wildlife Tours)

This special nature tour will focus on boreal and migrants birds, other wildlife, and several of the most accessible and fascinating landscapes of NH's 'North Country'. With NHA's milestone Centennial celebration in mind, this tour is designed to include NHA-specific conservation and historical themes. At many of our locations, we will highlight the history of NH Audubon's role in conserving and stewarding these special places such as East Inlet and the Connecticut River Headwaters in Pittsburg, and NHA's own Pondicherry and Dahl Wildlife Sanctuaries. The tour will include extensive time in Pittsburg (NH's border town to Canada) and at Lake Umbagog, where we will take a pontoon boat tour in search of waterbirds. Bird conservation themes of the tour will include changes in both the landscape and avifauna of this unique region of the state over the past 100 years. As an added bonus, all proceeds of this special tour will directly support NH Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries throughout the state*.

Visit www.nhaudubon.org/programs/travel for complete details or contact Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or (603) 224-9909x334 for pricing, more information or to book your spot. Space is limited! Don't miss this exciting once-in-a-Centennial opportunity!

A portion of the cost of this trip is tax-deductible. Please inquire for more details.

Below: Male spruce grouse displaying by Bob Quinn



CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

CAPITAL

Field Trip: Pawtuckaway State Park

Saturday, June 7, 7am

Search for familiar and uncommon woodland songbirds at the height of breeding season in a beautiful woodland setting. Wide dirt roads in a quiet state park make this a popular birder's destination. Meet Rob Woodward under the powerlines on Reservation Road of Route 107, Deerfield. Contact: Rob Woodward 224-0889 (evenings).

Field Trip: Slight Wrinkle on a Traditional Trip-CONCORD Canoe/Birding the Merrimack

Saturday, June 14, 7am-Ends by Noon

Bring your canoe or kayak and join us for a morning of drifting down the Merrimack River from Sewall's Falls to Concord as we look for birds along the way. We'll stop several times so bring snacks. Pre-registration is required for this trip (but no cost). Meet at the boat ramp behind the NH Tech on Fort Eddy Road in Concord. Contact Bob Quinn at raqbirds@aol.com.

Field Trip: Pre-work Solstice Birding on Mount Kearsage

Friday, June 20, 5am

Celebrate the coming solstice with sunrise and the breeding birds of Mount Kearsage with trip leader Chris Borg. Highlights potentially include swainson's thrush and a suite of breeding warblers. We'll meet at Winslow State Park and begin our hike up the Barlow Trail:http://www.nhstateparks.org/uploads/pdf/KearsageHikingMap_Web.pdf. Be prepared for steep hiking albeit at a birders pace. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, sturdy footwear, and your favorite trekking pole. Contact Chris (before June 19) for trip specifics at borealbirder@gmail.com.

An Emerald Ash Borer infested ash tree in Canterbury, NH.



Emerald Ash Borer for Birders Workshop

Thursday, June 26, 6:30-8:30 pm



McLane Center

Emerald Ash Borer has been labeled the most destructive forest pest in North America and has killed ever-widening swaths of ash trees in the Northeast since the late 1990s. Forest Health officials need your help in finding where potentially infested trees are in our area. In 2013, the Emerald Ash Borer was detected in Concord, New Hampshire. As outdoor enthusiasts, YOU can help us locate and manage this insect by looking for signs of Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Woodpeckers and other birds feast on Emerald Ash Borer larvae under the bark of ash trees, creating characteristic bark damage known as "blonding". Woodpecker activity and "blonding" are often the first signs that Emerald Ash Borer larvae are present in an ash tree. In this workshop, we will show you the telltale signs and symptoms to watch for so that you can help in locating and reporting suspicious and potentially infested Ash trees. Field Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension, Amy Papineau, will help you learn how to identify ash trees in the forest and landscape. Forest Health Technician with NH Division of Forest and Lands, Molly Heuss, will talk about the biology of the Emerald Ash Borer and show examples of infestation symptoms. We will then explore forests around the McLane Center

to look at potential infested trees so you can practice your observation skills and learn how managers are trying to control and reduce infestations. NH Audubon's Director of Land Management, Phil Brown, will lead the search for bird activity and talk about the strategy for dealing with this destructive pest on NH Audubon lands. Bring binoculars, a drink, and dress for the weather and insect pests. Co-sponsored with UNH Cooperative Extension. For more information or to RSVP, contact Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or call (603) 224-9909x334.

Field Trip: Traditional Mid-Summer Paddle-Canoeing/birding on the Merrimack

Saturday, July 26, 1:30 pm-Ends at Dusk

Bring your canoe or kayak and join us for an afternoon of drifting down the Merrimack River from Boscawen to Penacook as we look for birds along the way. We'll stop for a picnic lunch so bring snacks or a light meal. Pre-registration is required for this trip (but no cost). Meet at the Hannah Dustin Park 'N Ride on Route 4 West, off I-93 Exit 17. Contact Bob Quinn at raqbirds@aol.com .

Field Trip(s): Common Nighthawk Migration

Late August, PM (dates TBD)

Witness hundreds of nighthawks migrate through Concord, some right up close. Last year on one night over 900 were counted! Rob Woodward will spearhead the Nighthawk Migration Count. Watch for details on the NH Birds listserv as we approach the peak count week.

MASCOMA

Field Trip: Birding River Road - Hanover to Lyme

Saturday, July 26, 6:30 am - 9am

Mascoma Chapter Steering Committee member George Clark will lead this outing along scenic River Rd. Meet in the Dartmouth Printing Company parking lot on NH Rt.10 next to The Richmond School. From there, we'll carpool north along the Connecticut River making a number of stops beginning at Wilson's Landing and concluding at Grant Brook in Lyme. The trip is free and open to the public. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes as you prefer. The walking at the various stopping points is level and mostly

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

paved. Wear comfortable shoes. It is advised to bring water and sun screen. Jointly sponsored with the Hanover Conservancy and Upper Valley Land Trust. Contact: mascomabirds@yahoo.com

Field Trip: Norwich Birdwalk – Early Fall Migrants

Saturday, August 16, 6:30 am – 9am

We'll gather at The Ledyard Bridge on the river's Vermont side to see what waterfowl and land birds might be passing through as they begin their journey south to their wintering grounds. From there, we'll carpool north along US Rt. 5. Likely stops include the Ompompanoosuc River Outflow, Ompompanoosuc Flats and Campbell Flats. The trip is free and open to the public and is to be led by George Clark. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes as you prefer. The walking at the various stopping points is level and mostly paved. Wear comfortable shoes. It is advised to bring water and sun screen. Contact: mascomabirds@yahoo.com

Field Trip: Lyme Hill Conservation Area Bird Census

Check Chapter Web Site (www.mascomabirds.org) for Dates and Times. This project was begun in the summer of 2013 by Mascoma Chapter Chair Blake Allison. Its intent is to gather information about the recently expanded Lyme Hill Conservation Area's bird population. The intent is to schedule walks for the last week of the month beginning in May to the extent weather and ground conditions allow. The Lyme Hill preserve has a variety of habitats including wetland, riparian and mixed hardwood and pine/fir forests. The trip is free and open to the public. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes as you prefer. Walking conditions will be highly variable. The trails are dirt, often uneven and at times steep in their rise or descent. Contact: mascomabirds@yahoo.com

MONADNOCK

Field Trip: Counting Bats for Conservation

Thursday, June 5, 7:30 – 9 pm

Attics, barns, and church steeples often serve as summer homes for female bats and their young. In the face of white-nose syndrome, which is decimating bat populations



throughout the Northeast, monitoring these “maternity colonies” is more important than ever. NH Fish and Game is looking for volunteers to help keep track of New Hampshire's bats by conducting “emergence counts” at bat roosts throughout the state. Join biologists Cynthia Nichols and Laura Deming for a night of bat counting at a barn near the Harris Center to learn how you can participate in this important citizen science project. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education, New Hampshire Audubon, New Hampshire Fish & Game, and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. This training is free, but space is limited and registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Brett Amy Thelen at thelen@harriscenter.org or (603) 358-2065.

Field Trip: Willard Pond Sanctuary Bird Walk

Sunday, June 8, 9 am – noon

The Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary is home to an old apple orchard, but at first glance you'd never know it. Long since shaded out by encroaching woods, the remains of the orchard were brought to light by a 2013 timber cut, which aimed to restore valuable hillside meadow habitat to the property. Join Sanctuary steward Henry Walters for a moderately strenuous, 3.5-mile round-trip hike through the old orchard, following the ridgeline south from Bald

Mountain. We'll monitor the post-cut successional growth, along whose edges we may find singing Eastern Towhees, Eastern Bluebirds, Nashville Warblers, and perhaps a Ruffed Grouse. Meet at 9 am in the parking lot at the end of Willard Pond Road. Back by noon. Co-sponsored with the Harris Center. For more information, contact Henry at (603) 525-3572 or walters.henry@gmail.com.

Program: Winter Camera Surveys of Golden & Bald Eagles near Umbagog NWR

Thursday, August 14, 7 – 8:30 pm



Pack Monadnock's Raptor Observatory tallied 11 golden eagles in Fall 2013. But there are ways to observe goldens that don't require one to stand on a mountaintop and face numbing winds. Since December 2011, NH Audubon has participated in a “camera-trapping” effort to document golden eagles across the entire Appalachian Mountain range during the non-breeding season. We are learning much new information about these elusive birds as a result of this initiative. NHA's raptor biologist Chris Martin is collaborating with a private landowner to operate a camera site on the Maine-NH border near the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge that attracts both bald and golden eagles. Goldens are far more abundant in the eastern U.S. in migration and over winter than was previously recognized. A few of these enigmatic birds overwinter right here in northern New England! Hosted by and co-sponsored with the Harris Center for Conservation Education, 84 Kings Highway, Hancock, NH. Call 525-3394 for more details.



View from a wildlife cut atop Goodhue Hill on the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary in Antrim. Photo by Phil Brown.

Field Trip: Nighthawk Migration in Keene



Monday, August 25, 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 and on a good night you can see hundreds of Nighthawks feeding in giant flocks. Meet at Stone Arch Village on Court Street in Keene. Co-sponsored with the Harris Center. Contact: Cliff Seifer at clifdisc@gmail.com for more information.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

NASHAWAY

Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary “That Bloomin’ Bog” Walk Series

June 7, 21, 28

See listing under Sanctuary Happenings on page 11.



Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary

Program: Dave Harris: Birding and Data Analysis is fun

Wednesday June 18, 7-9pm

Nashua Public Library



Come to the last meeting of spring and share your bird tales. In addition local birder and mathematician Dave Harris will share his ongoing research to unravel the activities of our birding community. Citizen Science efforts such as the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) and Ebirds generate substantial data. This has enabled researchers to track where birds live and note overall bird population trends. This talk by local member Dave Harris will explore challenges and opportunities for applying innovative techniques to this data in order to find answers to additional questions of importance that can support effective wildlife management. No exams will be given. David Harris is an enthusiastic birder who has a long career in mathematics as both a teacher and practitioner in industry. All are welcome to attend the NH Audubon Nashaway Chapter free programs.

SEACOAST

Meetings are held at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park, Route 1A, Rye, NH, and wheelchair accessible. Refreshments are served at 7 pm. Meeting begins at 7:30 pm. The public is welcome free of charge.

Program: Birdwatching in New Hampshire



Wednesday, June 11

Eric Masterson, Birdwatching in New Hampshire author, gives a presentation on finding the more than 300 species of birds occurring annually in NH. Finding good birds can be summed up in two words, where and when. The book contains maps to more than 120 of the best birding NH sites. Eric focuses on the question when. Finding good birds is more than just observing the calendar; wind, rain, and habitat all change, sometimes rapidly, creating ideal conditions for seeing the best NH has to offer. Eric shares field anecdotes, including a few illustrating the final question, why we go birding. Contact: Dan Hubbard at danielhubbard@peoplepc.com, 603-332-4093 or see our web site at <http://www.seacoastchapter.org/programs>

Program: Birding with Sacagawea



Wednesday, August 13 (reschedule of cancelled March program)

Most people know the basics of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and most birders know that Lewis's Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker are named after the explorers.

This program is your chance to combine history and birding all in one place! Pam Hunt, Senior Biologist at NH Audubon, has traveled the Lewis and Clark Trail twice, and this presentation stems from her most recent effort in the spring of 2013.

See the places that the Corps of Discovery saw in 1804-06 and hear how the landscape and wildlife along the route have changed over the last 200 years.

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



American White Pelicans at sunset in the Missouri River, one of Pam's many wildlife sightings along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Field Trip: Strafford County Farm

Sunday, June 8, 8 am

This walk will include the Don Black Trail and the hedgerows around the fields of the conserved property. The progress of the Osprey nest also will be checked. The walk will last as long as participants choose, but not beyond noon.

Contact: Dan Hubbard at danielhubbard@peoplepc.com or 603-332-4093.

Check the Seacoast Chapter Website www.seacoastchapter.org/field-trips for any additional field trips.

Catch a Game... ...with New Hampshire Audubon!



NH FISHER CATS VS. PORTLAND SEA DOGS

Saturday, July 19 at 7:05 PM
Northeast Delta Dental Stadium

Tickets are specially priced at \$9.00 each. Call the McLane Center at 224-9909 to order yours... they are going fast!

Special events that evening include a 50/50 drawing, a special guest throwing out the first pitch, a NH Audubon "twist" on the National Anthem, special NH Audubon recognitions, and a fireworks display in the park at the end of the game!

Don't miss this great family event.

CENTENNIAL MEETING AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 20
Camp Wicosuta, Hebron NH, on Newfound Lake

This will not be a typical annual meeting! We are planning some wonderful field trips, explorations, presentations, entertainment and anniversary celebration.

Field trips will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m. and include some of the following options:

- Hawk watch with Scott Weidensaul
- Paddling through Hebron Marsh and the Cockermonth River
- Exploring Newfound Lake via pontoon boats
- Hike Bear Mountain or Little Sugar Loaf for views of the lake
- Visit Paradise Point, NHA's first nature center and pristine lakeshore sanctuary
- And more

The Celebration gathering will run from 1:30-8:00 p.m. and include:

- A keynote address by author, bird bander and naturalist Scott Weidensaul
- Highlights from NHA's 100 year history, delivered in an entertaining way
- Key accomplishments from the past year
- A solar energy primer from ReVision Energy
- Annual meeting and election of officers
- Presentation of conservation awards
- Recognition of long-time members and contributors
- A harvest dinner
- Silent Auction

Don't miss this opportunity to join new and old friends to celebrate 100 years of conservation and launch an exciting future for New Hampshire Audubon.



In Memoriam

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

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

Elizabeth P. Crowley
Ethel DiPadula
Robert Dumont
George Gobin
Edward Grohosky
Jonathan Hoyt
Genevieve Greenleaf
Elizabeth I. Jones
Arline Murphy
Natalie Painting
Eva Powers
Ralph Pryor
Tudor Richards
Stephen Tierney
Arthur and Phyllis Zirngiebel



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We are working 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.

Grants and Sponsorship

Opportunities abound for support and company visibility during the many activities of this Centennial year.

The following businesses have made generous gifts in support of NH Audubon projects. We would like to publicly thank all of these partners. If you visit or patronize any of these businesses, please let them know that you appreciate their support of NH Audubon.

Fabulous Finds Gift Shop
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The Rowley Agency Inc.
Rath, Young and Pignatelli
Millennium Integrated Marketing
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Johnny Prescott Oil
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First Colebrook Bank
TD Bank

**Read about our
Peregrine Falcon
monitoring
efforts and other
Conservation
projects in this
issue! Photo by
Steve Sachs.**



The National Wildlife Federation deserves special recognition for recent partnerships focused on climate change.