

WINTER 2013-14

NH Audubon Afield



Happy Birthday NH Audubon!
Check out our special Centennial Section for historical information and upcoming events or visit www.nh Audubon.org.

Annual Meeting Highlights Successes

New Hampshire Audubon celebrated its 99th annual meeting on September 28, 2013, a beautiful fall day at the Montshire Museum in the Upper Valley of the Connecticut River. The day included field trips, fun, information, and celebrations of people and events. One of the highlights of the day was a kick-off of NH Audubon's upcoming Centennial year. Bob Quinn led a retrospective of NH Audubon's history that included a "visit" from historical figures Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall, founders of Massachusetts Audubon, and Manley Townsend, a founder of NH Audubon. There will be many events to look forward to as NH Audubon celebrates 100 years.

Above: One of the 18 Bald Eagle nests now found in the upper Connecticut River Valley (NH & VT), from Chris Martin's Annual Meeting presentation showing how far we've come with eagle restoration in the region. This nest is in Orford, NH. Photo by Judy Lombardi.

Chris Martin reminded us of how far we've come with a presentation on the recovery of Bald Eagles in the Connecticut River Valley, and Bill Wilson from Birds and Beans Coffee showed us an example of new challenges we still face and what we can do about them, even by just changing the kind of coffee we drink to certified Bird Friendly. NH Audubon President, Mike Bartlett, shared the good news of a one million dollar bequest from the estate of Irene Pantzer (see Centennial insert) that will help the organization look towards the future.

NH Audubon's annual awards celebrate the achievements of individuals and are always a source of inspiration. The Tudor Richards Award was presented to Francie Von Mertens of Peterborough. The award recognizes an individual who has worked tirelessly

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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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New Hampshire Audubon Afield
Kelly Wing, General Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

It's here. No, I'm not talking about Christmas, or the first snowfall, or even hunting season (hmmmm)!

It's our new improved Centennial version of Afield! This issue looks different – sleeker, more colorful, and more fitting for a proud organization that is about to celebrate a monumental birthday. You'll find an additional four pages in this issue (and in each of the next three), a Centennial insert, featuring 25 years of NH Audubon history, plus information about Centennial events you won't want to miss.

In particular, I urge you to mark your calendars for our 100th birthday bash on February 15. This mega-event is designed for the whole family with crafts, hands-on activities, live animal presentations, outdoor exploration, storytelling, a birthday cake decorating contest and more.

While we're talking about calendars, be sure to order your very special NH Audubon 2014 Centennial calendar – not only does it feature jaw dropping photographs, it is also filled with lots of information on both historical and current events. Everyone on my holiday list is going to receive one...

While you're thumbing through the rest of Afield, be sure to read the articles on last season's field work in the conservation department – Peregrine Falcons, eagles, whip-poor-wills. It's all there.

Lastly, I would invite you to relive our 2013 Annual Meeting with the cover story; it was clearly one of the most enjoyable in recent memory. (Yes – I did use the words Annual Meeting and "enjoyable" in the same sentence!)

During the dark, cold and snowy months ahead, I intend to share NH Audubon's successes and progress with as many of you as possible. There is so much to celebrate – all we need is you to make the picture complete. Like this redesigned issue of Afield, NH Audubon is entering its second century with a renewed sense of purpose... while embracing the familiarity of friends and values that have made us who we are.

See you soon.

—Michael J. Bartlett
President, New Hampshire Audubon



Mike (right) enjoys last year's Holiday Open House with Marlene Friedrich (left), Animal Care Specialist, and the McLane Center's resident Barred Owl. Don't miss this year's Open House on December 7 (details on page 6)!

**SAVE THE DATE: NH AUDUBON'S BIRDATHON/
BLOOMATHON: MAY 17-18, 2014**

This annual event combines the fun of bird watching and bloom seeking with a sense of friendly competition and supporting a great cause. The 2014 Centennial brings an expanded focus to this event which encourages all levels of birders and bloom seekers to participate and raise funds. It's not too soon to think about forming your team! Look to the Spring Afield and website for complete details of how to be part of this great Centennial event!

2013 Bald Eagle Breeding Season Results



Manchester female eagle feeding a chick in April 2013. Photo by Peter Gray.

New Hampshire's state-threatened Bald Eagle population continued its robust recovery during the 2013 breeding season. The number of territorial eagle pairs in the Granite State increased from 35 pairs in 2012 to 40 pairs in 2013. Overall, since the late 1990s, our state's breeding population has been doubling roughly every 4-5 years, and the number of young eagles fledged has been growing at a similar rate. For example, we tallied only two fledgling eagles in the state as recently as 2000, but this past summer we counted a new record high of 35 young fledged from a total of 21 successful nests.

Nests located near the Merrimack River on the outskirts of Manchester and Nashua both succeeded for the first time this season, each producing two young. Breeding success in Manchester is especially sweet, happening in the same tree that we selected for construction of a human-built nest a decade ago. Meanwhile, at the opposite end of the state, a nest recently discovered in Pittsburg also fledged two chicks. Elsewhere in the state, new nests were confirmed at Martin Meadow Pond in Lancaster, on the Ammonoosuc River in Lisbon, and on Mascoma Lake in

Enfield. And after multiple false starts, a nesting pair at Bow Lake finally fledged a chick.

Harsh weather focused on the Lakes Region this spring may have been responsible for nest failure of at least six pairs, including at Newfound, Province, Silver and Squam lakes. These losses were really the only bad news coming out of the state's 2013 eagle breeding season.

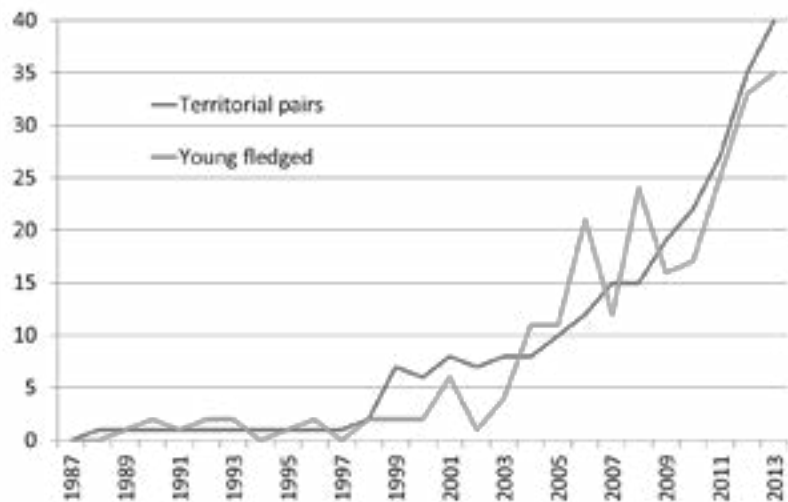
Seeing a Bald Eagle on your local lake or river might still come as a

surprise, but when you break down the various segments of the state's 2013 population it isn't hard to understand why sightings are increasingly common. Add up New Hampshire's 40 territorial pairs (that's 80 individuals) plus their 35 fledged young, and you get a total of 115 birds. Then double that figure (at least!) to account for many transient immature eagles in the one-, two-, and three-year old cohorts. Put all this together, it isn't a stretch to arrive at an estimate of 230-250 eagles present across the Granite State at the close of the summer of 2013!

Bald Eagle monitoring and management work in New Hampshire is supported through a generous multi-year grant provided by TransCanada Corporation's Northeast Hydro Division, with additional funds from NH Fish and Game's State Wildlife Grants. We also receive support from other donors and from many volunteer observers. And we are so very fortunate to have collaborative support from professional colleagues in Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

—Chris Martin

New Hampshire Bald Eagle Productivity, 1987-2013



2013 Peregrine Breeding Season Results

Spring 2013 marked the 33rd year in the post-DDT recovery era for New Hampshire's Peregrine Falcons. Ever since a pair nested in Franconia Notch in 1981, our state's breeding peregrine population – once classified as federally endangered, currently listed as state-threatened – has been slowly rebounding. While many seemingly suitable nesting spots remain unoccupied, yet another historic nest site in the Granite State (Fall Mountain in Walpole) became active this year. Additionally, sites that did not exist in the 1940s (I-95 Bridge in Portsmouth, Brady-Sullivan Tower in Manchester, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant near Hinsdale where NH Audubon urged

nest box placement) are now producing young regularly.

NH Audubon staff and volunteers confirmed 22 occupied territories in New Hampshire in 2013, a new state record-high. All 22 territories hosted pairs, and three had an immature-plumage bird as a member of the pair. We confirmed incubation at 19 (86%) of the state's 22 territories, also a new state high mark. But of the 19 incubating pairs, less than 60% were successful in fledging at least one young. The 11 successful nests in 2013 produced a total of 25 fledged young, an average of only 1.32 young fledged per nesting pair, below the state's 32-year average of 1.64 fledged per nesting pair.



Manchester Peregrine Falcon chicks at banding. Photo by Mark Karl.

Certainly the most intriguing encounter of a banded peregrine native to New Hampshire came from a 3-year old female known as “black/green A/30” who was raised at Holts Ledge in Lyme. In 2012, she tried to breed some 950 miles from home in suburban Atlanta GA, but in 2013 she appeared unexpectedly in downtown Charlotte NC and successfully raised young on the 40th floor of One Wells Fargo Center.

Other season highlights include the first fledging from Woodchuck Ledge in Albany, and success by a pair that typically nests on Cathedral Ledge in Bartlett but shifted to nearby Whitehorse Ledge in 2013. On the negative side, a heavy, wet Memorial Day snowfall that blanketed western New Hampshire's mountains resulted directly in death of chicks at both Bear Mountain in Hebron and Rattlesnake Mountain in Rumney and apparently caused nest failures at several other mountain sites.

In September, the peer-reviewed *Journal of Raptor Research* published an article reporting on 20 years of fieldwork banding 986 fledgling Peregrine Falcons throughout New England. Chris Martin and NH Audubon board member Michael Amaral are two of the paper's six co-authors. —Chris Martin

In Memoriam

New Hampshire Audubon was saddened to lose two long-time members and former trustees. They will be missed.

Sarah W. (Sally) Gallagher of Concord, NH died on July 29, 2013. She was a long time member and avid birder. She volunteered for many survey efforts such as spring Peregrine Falcon watches, and the New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas. She was a faithful participant in Osprey Weekend arriving with her canoe on its unique trailer. Many years ago she led numerous field trips for NH Audubon and Carol Foss remembers Sally co-leading the first field trip she ever attended. She was also a long-time member and leader of the Concord Bird and Wildflower Club.

Guy A. (Andy) Swenson of Franconia, NH died on September 8, 2013. He was a NH Audubon Honorary Trustee and member of the Sanctuaries and Land Management Committee. In addition, he volunteered for the New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas but he loved most roaming the hills and woods of New Hampshire looking for birds and wildlife.

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:

Sarah W. Gallagher	Richard A. Ross
William W. Lothrop	Guy A. Swenson
Frank E. Maddocks, Jr.	Thomas A. (Skip) Timmons

Generous bequest gifts have been received from the following:

- The John C. Calhoun Gift Trust
- The Estate of Eugene and Irene (Lois) Pantzer (see more in Centennial insert)
- The Estate of Jeffrey W. Scott

Whip-poor-will Habitat Use Study Completed

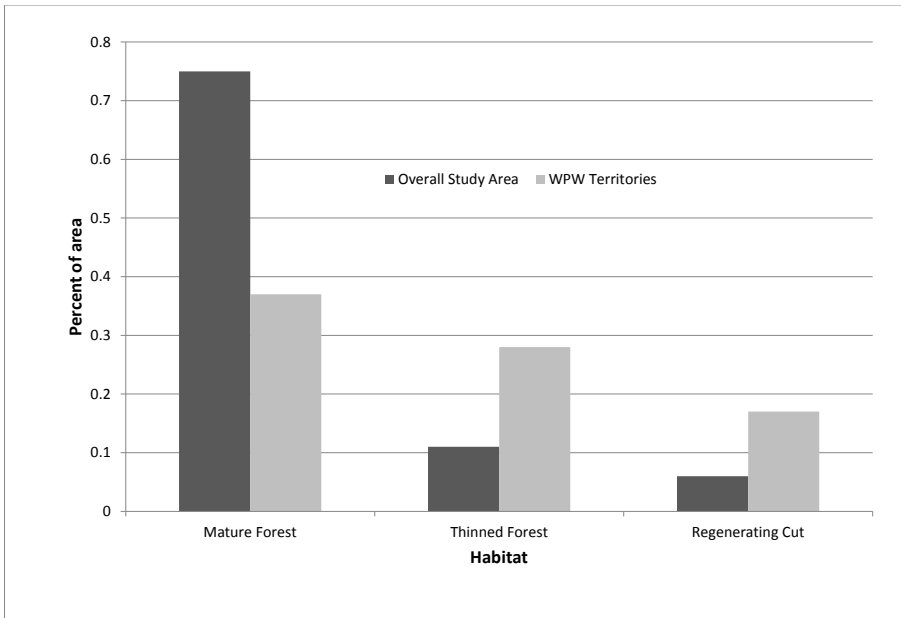


Figure above: Comparison of habitat within whip-poor-will territories to habitat at Mast Yard as a whole.

New Hampshire Audubon's study of Eastern Whip-poor-wills at Mast Yard State Forest wrapped up in August 2012 after five years of field work. One goal of this project was to collect data on habitat use in a managed forest landscape, and use these data to inform future conservation activity. The full report (including some results from the Ossipee Pine Barrens) is available from the author or on the NH Audubon website.

The Mast Yard study area includes over 1,000 acres of state, town, and private lands in Concord and Hopkinton. Each summer from 2008 to 2012, there were between 8 and 11 territorial male whip-poor-wills at Mast Yard, and we mapped their territories using auditory detections and radio telemetry. Territories averaged 12.5 acres in size, and were in three habitat types: 1) power line cut, 2) 20-year-old clear cuts, and 3) recent partial harvest. A detailed analysis of habitat use shows

that whip-poor-wills avoid undisturbed mature forest and select edges and young forest. For example, while roughly 75% of the study area is mature forest, on average only 37% of the habitat within territories was in that habitat category. In contrast, birds used thinned forest and regenerating cuts more often than their availability would predict, as shown in the figure above.

One of our more remarkable discoveries was the speed with which whip-poor-wills can colonize suitable habitat. In the late summer of 2009, a private landowner conducted an extensive harvest on 50 acres just north of Mast Yard: an area where we had never recorded regular activity. In 2010 we documented three territories in the new cut, with birds continuing through 2012. This quick response is good evidence that this species can benefit from appropriate management.

In general, habitat management that could prove beneficial to Eastern

Whip-poor-wills includes some combination of forest thinning and shrubland maintenance. The aim should be to create a mixture of open forest and shrubby openings that provide habitat for nesting, roosting, and foraging. Shrubland habitat may best be enhanced in the short term through overstory removal, in which trees are harvested but shrubs left behind, since the resulting opening is immediately suitable for whip-poor-wills. Clear cuts will eventually be used by whip-poor-wills, but perhaps not for 3-5 years, and in many cases will rapidly mature into unsuitable young forest. Such succession may be prolonged if the site is burned within a year of harvest. In all cases, the size of a shrubby opening needs to be at least 7-10 acres.

Note that management is more likely to be successful if it occurs in or near areas that already support whip-poor-wills. The largest populations are in the Merrimack Valley and Ossipee areas, although smaller numbers occur locally from the White Mountains south. Within these areas, the best habitat tends to occur on sandy soils, and pines appear to be an important component.

This project would not have been possible without the assistance of several volunteers and paid technicians, especially Kathy Gunther, Nate Handwerker, Steve Manifold, Chele Miller, Bob Quinn, Kyle Parent, Jennifer Salchunas, Becky Webster, and Rob Woodward. Funding came from grants from the American Bird Conservancy, Nuttall Ornithological Club, and Norcross Wildlife Foundation, a contract with the NH Fish and Game Department, and private donations.

—Pamela Hunt



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



NH Audubon's Holiday Open House Saturday, December 7, 10am–4pm

The Nature Store has great gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list! Enjoy shopping at the McLane Center while visiting our raptors and walking our trails.

- Cookies and cider
- Coffee from Birds and Beans shade-grown coffee
- Browse our art display, 3-D art by Mark Vernon, photos by Udo Rauter
- Members receive 20% off their purchases at the Nature Store
- Become a member on Saturday and receive 20% off!
- Plenty of free parking

ADULTS & FAMILIES

Backyard Winter Bird Survey: Get the Basics to Participate

February 1, 3-4pm

February 2, 3-4pm

\$10/adult and family

Be a citizen scientist from the comfort of your home. In this 1-hour program, we'll discuss backyard bird identification, what to feed the birds, and how to record what you see and submit your data to New Hampshire Audubon biologists. The Backyard Winter Bird Survey is held the second weekend of February. This survey provides biologists important information about the distribution and abundance of winter bird species in New Hampshire (see page 15).

TEACHERS

Making the Backyard Winter Bird Survey Part of Your Classroom: Mini-workshops for Teachers

This workshop is sponsored by the Bird Sleuth Program of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Blue Seal. Free materials, feeder, and seed to the first 10 people who register!

Observing birds from winter bird feeders provides a tremendous opportunity for student engagement. This series of mini-workshops will introduce you to using bird observation from the classroom to support your literacy, math, and science curriculum. The best part is that students learn to gather important data for the Backyard Winter Bird Survey the second weekend in February. Teachers can use it as a fun homework assignment for students, from which students can compare, analyze, and communicate their results. Six professional development credits are available for participation in all four mini-workshops. Cost: \$50

Teachers who participate will:

- Identify backyard winter birds
- Receive lessons for teaching about birds, and ideas for incorporating birds into literacy and math curriculum
- Collect and submit data for the Backyard Winter Bird Survey
- Review data and discuss ways to analyze with students
- Present student results and teaching experience to peers

Introduction to Backyard Winter Bird Survey

Thursday, December 5, 4:30-6pm or

Saturday, December 7, 9-10:30am

The first mini-workshop will introduce you to the basics of feeding birds and getting a feeding program started outside your classroom.

Birds into the Classroom

Thursday, January 9, 4:30-6pm or

Saturday, January 11, 9-10:30am

Learn, share, participate in a variety of ideas for incorporating birds into your math, literacy, and science curriculum.

Collect and Analyze the Data!

Thursday, January 23: 4:30-6pm or

Saturday, January 25, 9-10:30am

After students have collected the data, what do you do with it? We'll look at examples of how students can make sense of the data and communicate their results.

Tales from the Classroom

Thursday, February 20: 4:30-6pm or

Saturday, February 22, 9-10:30am

Share your students work with the project and your teaching experience.

The Birds of New Hampshire Book Signing

Tuesday, December 10, 4-6pm

Introducing this new book which describes the status and distribution of all species of birds that have occurred in New Hampshire. Meet authors Allan Keith and Robert Fox and purchase signed copies – perfect for holiday gift giving!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BIRD DATA MANAGER

Research reported bird sighting locations and map them in eBird. You'll need some creative research skills to find old place names. Also involves using Excel, eBird and Google Maps. Good record keeping and attention to detail are important and some knowledge of birds (common vs. rare) is helpful. Some work can be done at home, but training and most research takes place in the Concord office. If you are interested, contact Becky Suomala, 603-224-9909 x309, rsuomala@nhaudubon.org.

NATURE STORE AT THE MCLANE CENTER

Unique gifts for this holiday season and any occasion!

FOR CHILDREN

The Nature Store carries a great selection of childrens' gifts for a range of ages, including puzzles, books, stuffed animals and puppets, and items for education and discovery.

Favorites this season:

- **My First Bird Book and Bird Feeder** (\$21.95) - a great way to introduce kids to nature and bird watching. An illustrated field guide and activity book with a sky blue window feeder!
- **Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animals Lives** by Lola M. Schafer (\$17.99) Newly published and beautifully illustrated book about animals and numbers. A delight for young nature lovers.

FOR BIRDERS & NATURE ENTHUSIASTS

Check our selection of bird feeders, field guides, and optics, including:

- **Birdwatching in New Hampshire** by Eric Masterson (\$22.95) for expert and backyard birders alike, revealing where, when, and how to watch and enjoy birds in the Granite State.
- **Vortex Diamondback Binoculars 8 x 42** (\$244.99), our best-selling binoculars.

CELEBRATE NH AUDUBON

Merchandise includes baseball caps, microfleece vests, mugs, and engraved wine glasses.



UNIQUE GIFTS

- Hand crafted gifts by local artisans
- Hand beaded necklaces and bracelets
- Pathfinder Wildlife Pendants, handcrafted designs such as dragonfly, loon, painted turtle and more.
- Healing Touch Pottery mugs
- Hand Carved Bird Ornaments from Vermont-grown Basswood, in a variety of native song birds.

...and so much more!

NH Audubon members receive 10% off purchases!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Annual Meeting 2013

and effectively for conservation in the Granite State. Francie is a land conservation activist, a natural teacher, a writer, and a doer. She was key to the success of the latest additions to NH Audubon's Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, completing the protection of the entire shoreline of the pond. She has also spearheaded land conservation campaigns in Peterborough for many years. Like Tudor, Francie shares her love and knowledge of birds, wildlife, and the outdoors with all who are interested. She is quick to appreciate when something needs to get done, and she does not hesitate to step into the breach, sometimes as a lead advocate, sometimes as an educator, and sometimes simply as another hand to get the job done.

The Goodhue-Elkins Award was presented to Susan Fogleman of Campton. The award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the study of New Hampshire birds. Susan's longevity as hawk watcher and site leader every fall on Little Round Top in Bristol for more than 35 years places her as a standout among New Hampshire birders. There

are few others who have participated in an organized collection of bird data for that length of time. Susan contributed bird sightings to New Hampshire Audubon, served as Spring Season Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*, led field trips, and volunteered for the Breeding Bird Atlas, as well as compiling the Lakes Region Christmas Bird Count for 10 years.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Dr. George Clark from the Dartmouth area and volunteer for the Mascoma Chapter of NH Audubon. The award was created to honor those who through their dedication and hard work have made an outstanding contribution to the success of NH Audubon and its work. George epitomizes volunteerism, in that he gives abundantly of his time, talents and treasure. A lifelong teacher, he's in his element when introducing people to birds and the natural world. George is a mainstay of the Mascoma Chapter and he leads weekly bird walks during spring and fall migration seasons. He volunteers for his community, the Twin States, and NH Audubon in myriad ways.

The President's Award was presented to Margaret Watkins of Dunbarton. The award recognizes a stalwart friend of NH Audubon, be it a group or individual, whose actions and commitment over the years have significantly furthered the organization's work. Margaret has been an advocate for conservation and a passionate supporter of NH Audubon for over 30 years. She has been involved with the organization since 1983 and has been involved in Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle monitoring, Common Nighthawk studies, and acid rain issues. She has served in a variety of roles and taken on key projects that were in need of a strong and forward-thinking leader, such as initiating the planning for NH Audubon's Centennial year. Margaret officially "retired" from her paid position with NH Audubon in July of 2013 but remains an active volunteer and passionate supporter of New Hampshire Audubon's goals.

For more on the award recipients go to: www.nh Audubon.org/about/annual-awards.

—Rebecca Suomala



Located in Manchester on the beautiful Merrimack River, the Center is open year round Monday–Saturday from 9am to 5pm. During fish migration season in May and June, the Center is open seven days a week.

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

FISHWAYS FUNDAYS

WINTER WONDERS SERIES

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

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

Wild Winter Treats

Thursday, December 5

Our wild friends deserve gifts too! We'll help them through the difficult winter season by creating tasty natural garlands and edible decorations to hang outside.

Active Winter Animals

Thursday, January 9

Who is out and about the river in winter when snow covers the ground? Discover which animals are active in winter and how they survive this chilly season in NH.

Winter is for the Birds!

Thursday, January 23

From the cardinal to the chickadee, lots of birds stay in NH during the cold winter. Find out who you might see in your backyard and make your very own bird feeder to take home.

Secrets of Snow

Thursday, February 6

What secrets does snow keep? We'll experiment with snow and play games to discover what makes snow special. We'll even learn which animals make their home in the snow and why they are thankful for this wintry blanket.

Winter Wildlife Detectives

Thursday, February 20

How do we know animals have been around even when we don't see them? They leave clues! Put on your detective hat and help discover clues left behind by winter animals around the Fishways. We'll even make some animal tracks to take home.

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS

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

Cost: \$5 per family. Pre-registration with payment required.

Winter Hawks and Owls

December 20, 7-8 pm

Manchester provides great winter habitat for large birds of prey. Discover their favorite prey animals as we take apart hawk and owl pellets to see what they've been eating.

Manchester's Bald Eagles

January 17, 7-8 pm

See photos of our local bald eagles and find out why the Merrimack River is their favorite spot in the winter.

Who's Hooved in New Hampshire?

January 31, 7-8 pm

Deer and moose are two of New Hampshire's largest and most amazing mammals. Using skulls, pelts, and more, we'll explore some of their unique adaptations. It would "be-hoove" you to come and learn about them.

Wily Weasels

February 28, 7-8 pm

What do otters, minks, and fishers have in common? They are all part of the weasel family. Learn more as we play games to discover their special traits and why they are so "tricky". Don't weasel out of this program!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Wreathmaking and Natural Creations

December 6, 7-8:30 pm

December 7, 10am-12pm

Make a beautiful wreath with your family. We'll use all natural materials to make a fragrant, long lasting, and unique wreath, as well as other fun decorations to 'spruce up' your home. Cost: \$15 per wreath. Pre-registration with payment required.

Open House

December 27, 11am – 3pm

Spend a day of your school vacation enjoying a party at the Fishways! Our annual "thank you" Open House features two presentations: "Active Winter Animals" and "Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons". Create fun crafts, eat yummy treats, and win door prizes! FREE for all ages. No pre-registration

Eagles Along the Merrimack

January 18, 10am-12pm

Learn about our urban bald eagles and search for them roosting around the city. The program begins with a brief overview at the Fishways, followed by a trip to look for local eagles. Carpooling is encouraged. Please bring binoculars if possible. Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family. Pre-registration with payment required.

Let's Go ICE Fishing

Friday, February 14: 6-8 pm

Saturday, February 15: 9am-Noon

Shake off the winter blues and learn how to ice fish with the staff and volunteers of New Hampshire Fish and Game. Ice fishing is a great way to spend the day outside with the family. This two-part program will start Friday evening by introducing ice safety, fish ecology, equipment and bait, and how to dress to beat the cold. Saturday we'll head out to a local pond to try out our new angling skills. Parents and participants over 16 do not need a fishing license during the organized field trip. Program is FREE but registration is required. All angling gear will be provided. Bring your own lunch. Proper outdoor clothing is a must. This program is appropriate for ages 10 and up.

VACATION PROGRAMS

Vacation programs are for children in grades 1-5. Please come prepared for outdoor activities. Cost: \$10 per family. Pre-registration with payment required.

Tracks and Traces

February 26, 10am-Noon

Learn about tracks and other clues that animals are awake and active. We'll search for animal signs around the Fishways.

Fabulous Fur and Feathers

February 27, 10am-Noon

Animal coats may be furry or feathered, but they do the trick. Discover how river critters stay cozy and warm.

1914 - 2014

NH Audubon

FROM HATS TO HABITATS

New Hampshire Audubon marks its Centennial in 2014. Over the next four issues of *NH Audubon Afield* we will present highlights of our first 100 years. 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.

The First 25 Years

Introduction

During the late 1800s hunting of birds was common. They were harvested for food, shot for sport and collected for decorations on ladies' hats. It is estimated that 200 million birds lost their lives annually for the millenary trade. Hats were decorated with feathers, wings and entire birds. Ladies of fashion from London, Paris, New York, Boston and throughout the world unknowingly contributed to the rapid decrease in the population of egrets, herons, terns and many song birds.

Ornithologist Frank Chapman walked the streets of New York and, on two afternoons, tallied 40 species and 173 individual birds on the hats of the women he passed. Cedar Waxwing, Common Tern, Northern Flicker, Northern Bobwhite, Snow Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole topped the list.

George Bird Grinnell who studied with Lucy Audubon, widow of the famous painter and naturalist John James Audubon, became the editor of *Forest and Stream* magazine (1876-1911). In an 1883 issue, he wrote an editorial that launched the "Audubon

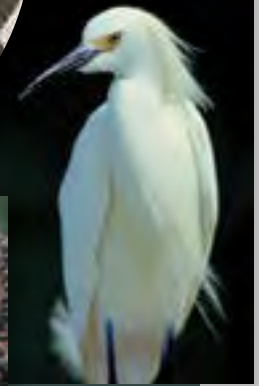
movement." He suggested the formation of "an association for the protection of wild birds and their eggs, which shall be called the Audubon Society."

Many people, including some in New Hampshire heeded this call. In 1897, a group of 30 women met in Manchester to form the New Hampshire Audubon Society. They took pledges to protect birds and to stop using feathers for "ornaments of dress or household furniture." One of the first goals of the new society was to have ornithology put into school curriculum and taught in all schools. Unfortunately, this group was short lived, but the movement was not.

Our Organization is Founded

The Audubon movement made progress elsewhere during the first years of the 20th century, but there was still work to be done. On November 25, 1913, several men and women interested in bird protection met at the Unitarian parsonage in Nashua. A committee was formed to investigate the possibility of forming a formal association for bird protection. A second meeting was held at the First Unitarian Congregational Church on February 26, 1914. At

Continued on next page



NH AUDUBON
A CENTURY OF
CONSERVATION

100 Stories

As part of NH Audubon's Centennial Celebration, we are hoping to gather 100 stories of ways that NH Audubon has impacted people's lives. These stories may be shared on our Facebook page throughout the centennial year and compiled in our Centennial Celebration booklet as a way of documenting some of the work that NH Audubon has done over the past 100 years.

Our goal is to reach a wide variety of people, ages, areas of the state and experiences, and touch on all aspects of NH Audubon's work including conservation, education, land protection, and advocacy.

Please share a brief story of a memorable experience with NH Audubon (a birding highlight, something you learned at a program/event, a staff member or volunteer who made a difference for you, a property that you visited that was special, etc.) If you have a photo to share that illustrates your story, please send it along as well. Please let us know who took the photo.

Please submit your thoughts to Ruth Smith, NH Audubon Centennial Coordinator at rsmith@nhaudubon.org or 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301.

Your Name: _____ Age(optional): _____
 Address: _____ Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: 1) _____ 2) _____ Email: _____

All stories submitted may be used on NH Audubon's Facebook page or other media. Click here to remain anonymous. _____

Answer any questions that are relevant to you.

- How has NH Audubon made a difference in your life?
- How have you contributed to NH Audubon?
- What inspired you to become involved with NH Audubon?
- Are you doing something now that was influenced by your connection to NH Audubon (feeding birds, growing native plants, working in an environmental field, writing to a legislative leader, etc.)?
- Are you currently a member of NH Audubon? If so, when did you first join? How long have you been a member?

The First 25 Years

this time, a constitution and by-laws were adopted and a slate of officers was elected. The Audubon Society of New Hampshire was born. The first officers were General Elbert Wheeler – President, General George E. Anderson and Waldo F. Hubbard – Vice-Presidents, Rev. Manley B. Townsend – Secretary and Herbert E. Kendall – Treasurer. All of the officers were from Nashua. Edward H. Forbush (a noted ornithologist of the time) and Winthrop Packard attended and offered assistance from their experience in Massachusetts. Annual dues were set at \$1.00 and Life Membership at \$25.00. Membership was free for teachers.

Our founding was a direct response to the wanton killing of birds to adorn women's hats and for food. Ironically, Martha, the very last Passenger Pigeon, died in the Cincinnati Zoo in September 1914. This was a species whose flocks darkened the skies, taking hours to pass overhead and was considered the most numerous bird on the planet. Yet it was hunted to extinction, used primarily for food.

In the November-December 1914

issue of *Bird Lore*, Manley Townsend gave the first "state report". After only eight months, membership stood at 307 and income from life memberships was \$425. During this time the State Forester had "offered to cooperate with us to make all the forest reservations in the state into bird sanctuaries—a matter of great importance."

In the 1915 issue of *Bird Lore*, Rev. Townsend reported that membership had increased to 548, with over 100 members being teachers. Rev. Townsend also spent considerable time cultivating Junior Audubon members. By year end, 111 Junior Audubon classes had been formed with a membership of 2,230. He stated that "Every child interested becomes a missionary and teacher at home, influencing fathers and older brothers for bird protection. A little child shall lead them." Another triumph for the Society that year was the defeat of a bill in the legislature that would have permitted the killing of herons and Belted Kingfishers.

This educational work and legislative efforts laid a foundation for future work of the New Hampshire Audubon Society.

—Jay Barry and Ruth Smith

Thanks! We can't wait to read these stories.

A Commitment for the Future

Eugene and Irene Pantzer were NH Audubon volunteers, beginning in the 1980s; they were involved in the early phase of NH Audubon's eagle restoration work. Concord residents, the Pantzers were very involved in their community. Mr. Pantzer served three terms in New Hampshire's state legislature, and was professor emeritus of modern languages at New England College in Henniker. Mrs. Pantzer had the distinction of owning a purebred Vizla – a highly prized Hungarian hunting dog. Her dog was the first Vizla in the US to win a tracking championship.

After being NH Audubon members and supporting the Annual Fund for decades, the Pantzers moved to Arkansas to be close to family. Mr. Pantzer died in 2003; Mrs. Pantzer, in 2012.

Recently, NH Audubon was notified that the Pantzers had directed bequests totaling more than \$1.2 million to be used in support of the organization, with no donor restrictions. This level of giving, by volunteers and donors is absolutely amazing! The Board and staff were truly awed and humbled by this incredible act of generosity, one that will support our mission in our second century.

The Pantzer bequest provides a legacy of support.
You can leave a legacy, too.

You don't need to be a millionaire to have a lasting impact on NH Audubon. As a donor or volunteer, your commitment to NH Audubon can always continue. Consider including NH Audubon in your estate plan. Please contact Gaye Lacasce, 603-224-9909 x307, for more information.

CENTENNIAL EVENTS: WINTER 2014

Twice Seen Photographs: Images of the Passage of Time

January 9-February 28
McLane Center

Richard Moore, former Development Director and President of NH Audubon (1991-2003) will be exhibiting a collection of his photographs in the PSNH Community Room at the McLane Center from January 9 through February 28. To help launch NH Audubon's centennial year, the exhibit, entitled "Twice Seen" will feature photographs from around New Hampshire and Maine that represent the passage of time. Richard's photographs blend 19th and early 20th century glass plate images with current views of the same location layered over each other.

Richard began photographing in the 1950s, and worked several seasons as an archaeological photographer in Israel and Cyprus. He became fascinated with

photographing the passage of time, shooting daily from the same tripod locations as layers of the past were revealed.

After leaving NH Audubon, Richard's interest in photography resurfaced. The discovery of a 1900 image of Pawtuckaway Mountain taken from near his home in Deerfield inspired him to photograph the same image from the same place. "Twice-seen images" were born, and in 2007 he began to pursue "forensic photography" full-time.



Opening Reception & Lecture: Thursday, January 9

Artist Reception, 6–7pm: Greet Richard and view the exhibit.

Program, 7–7:45 pm: Learn about the process that Richard uses to find old photographs, research where they were taken, reshoot the images and meld them into the unique blend of past and present.

Thank You

The return of the Enchanted Forest to the McLane Center in October was a huge success, with a sellout crowd of over 230 people. Nearly 40 volunteers participated to present skits and stories, share crafts, bake and sell goodies and lead visitors through the forest. Additional volunteers (including dozens of students from St. Paul's School) assisted with the preparation. We want to thank all of those volunteers and the donors who helped bring back this popular event as a lead-in to our Centennial year. Please patronize these businesses if you are able and thank them for their support. All businesses are located in Concord, unless otherwise noted.

Saint Paul's School

Apple Hill Farm

Boloco Burritos

Buffalo Wild Wings

El Rodeo

Boloritos

Cimo's Southend Deli

Uno's Pizzeria

Bohanan Farm & Contoocook Creamery, Contoocook

Canterbury Elementary School 5th graders, Canterbury



photo by Phoebe Clark



Don't Miss Out On NH Audubon's Centennial Calendar

Visit the Nature Store at the McLane Center or www.nh Audubon.org to purchase your calendar today!

CENTENNIAL EVENTS: WINTER 2014

New Hampshire Audubon's 100th Birthday Bash Saturday, February 15, 10am–3pm

Come celebrate our 100th birthday with a party, festivities and winter fun. This event is for the whole family and will include ongoing crafts, hands-on activities, live animal presentations, outdoor explorations (conditions permitting), storytelling, a birthday cake contest and more. See our website for a detailed schedule of activities. Come for the morning, afternoon or spend the day. A local café will be selling hot soups and sandwiches. And, of course, birthday cake will be served!

- Make your own Audubon party hat and bird book
- Listen to nature themed stories told by Jay Bird
- Join a guided exploration of the Silk Farm Sanctuary on snowshoes, looking for tracks and signs of animals
- Meet our live birds
- Win a birthday cake in the cake raffle
- Enter a cake into the cake contest (see below for contest rules)
- Learn about NH Audubon's history from an entertaining skit

This event is free but food, raffle tickets and contest entry fees will be charged.

Birthday Cake Contest

What's a birthday party without a cake? We're inviting bakers and aspiring bakers to be creative and make a cake for this momentous occasion. Prizes will be awarded in adult and family categories.

Contest Rules:

- » The cake must represent something about New Hampshire Audubon, its history, birds, ladies' hats or the year 1914. Judging will be based on creativity and appearance. (Cakes should also taste good!)
- » A complete list of ingredients must be provided with each cake.
- » The cakes may be round or square, maximum base size of 14".
- » Cakes must be able to sit out for 3-4 hours unrefrigerated and remain attractive and edible.
- » All ingredients and decorations must be edible.
- » Entry fee of \$10/cake (multiple submissions are welcome) if cake is not entered into the raffle.
- » Cakes entered into the raffle may be submitted for free.
- » Raffle winners will take their cake home at the conclusion of the contest.

Non- raffled cakes must be collected by the baker after the contest.

Visit our website for a registration form and more details or call Ruth at 224-9909 ext. 313 with questions.



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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Binocular Workshops

Saturday, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, 10-11 am

Cost: \$3 M/\$5 NM

Leader: Jon Woolf

Join us for a basic workshop on how to choose and use binoculars. We'll talk about magnification, objective lens size, quality, and how to pick the right pair for you. Try out a few different types and ask questions of our experienced birder.

Nature Photography Workshop Series

Saturdays, February 8, 15, 22; 12-4 pm

Cost: \$120 M / \$150 NM for the whole 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. Introductory level course. 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.

1st class: Composition, Venues and

Examples

2nd class: Camera Equipment and

Operation, Field Techniques

3rd class: Exposure, Focusing / Depth of Field, Workflow

Soap Making Workshop

Saturday, Feb 15, 1-3

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

Leader: Barbara Benton, Little Cabin Crafts

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

into bars using a guitar string. Take home a finished soap bar from a previously cured batch.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Mysteries of the Forest: Tracking NH's Animals

Saturday, January 25, 1-2:30 pm

Saturday, February 8, 1-2:30 pm

Cost: Individuals \$7 M/\$9 NM; Families \$15 M/\$20 NM

The art of tracking is like learning to solve a mystery. Who left these prints? What were they doing? Where were they going? Join us as we learn the basics of tracking some of NH's common winter animals. We'll put our new knowledge to the test with a walk around the woods to see what tracks we can find.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

WEE WONDERS

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am

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

Leader: Kim Murphy, Naturalist

Join us for our winter series. Discover the changing seasons through hands-on activities, songs, crafts, stories, and outdoor discovery. Please dress to be outside and wear appropriate footwear. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Classes are for ages 4-6.

January 8: Snow Birds

Some of our feathered friends flew away south for the winter- but many of them over-winter right here in our backyards! Do you know which ones stayed? How do they keep warm? What might they find to eat here all winter long? Join us as we explore backyard birds in winter- and make them a special treat to hang out in your yard!

Continued on page 10

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.

December 6: Counting on Birds

How did a Christmas-time tradition of shooting birds change to one of counting them? In NHPTV's new documentary, Willem Lange travels to Keene & Errol, NH, Ecuador and Cuba to meet people dedicated to the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. NH birders who watch this will see some familiar faces! Come view a screening of this film and meet the people behind its production.

January 10: Understanding Bobcats in NH

Have you ever seen a wild bobcat? Are they in Auburn? Is a bobcat the same as a lynx? Come hear the story of this animal in our state and the Northeast from a New Hampshire Fish and Game environmental educator. We'll explore the natural history of this secretive and beautiful animal, and learn about current research and conservation efforts and why they are needed.



Gary Kramer/USFWS

February 7: Tips and Tricks to Tracking

Tracking is a great and exciting way to get outside in winter. Come learn the basic patterns and prints that animals leave behind, and learn how and where to look. We'll discuss other examples of animal signs and talk about resources to get you out and tracking in your own backyard.

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

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

January 22: Life Under Ice

Fish, frogs and turtles spend their winter under ice. Who else might we find in this wintery water world? Some of these animals are thriving, while others are barely surviving. Come and explore this hidden world under the ice, and meet a few of the animals that spend their winter there!

February 5: Winter Sleepers

How would you like to skip winter altogether? Which critters of the winter woods DO skip winter by sleeping it away? Although there are some animals that hibernate to survive winter, it's not as easy as it may seem! Come find out which of our animals hibernate, and how they prepare to survive our harsh winter months.

February 19: Burrowing Through Snow

As a layer of snow blankets the ground, all may appear calm and serene... but is it? Who's burrowing down there under the snow, and are they really warmer under there? Today we will take a look under the snow to discover the fury of activity taking place as our smallest of animals are struggling to survive.

Photography Silent Auction Fundraiser

Sunday, December 8, 2-4 pm

Cost: FREE

Join us for your last chance to bid on some amazing nature photography taken and donated by local amateur artists. There will be refreshments, a live animal or two, and good company. Take home a photo for yourself or make it a holiday gift. All money from the auction goes to benefit Massabesic's programs and live animals.



One of the photographs featured in our 2012 auction, a loon chick by Maria Moralez.

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAMS

JUNIOR EXPLORERS

Wednesdays, 10-11:30

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

Leaders: Angie Krysiak and Kelly Dwyer

Join us for our winter series. We'll explore the natural world with live animals, nature walks, and hands-on activities that follow a different natural theme each day. Be prepared to be outside! Classes are for ages 7-12. Pre-registration is required, parents may stay and participate.

January 8: Snow Birds

Come study the birds who make NH their winter home. We'll learn to identify them, as well as learn how they stay warm, find food, and survive our harshest season. Then we'll go outside to look for them!

January 22: Life Under Ice

Many animals spend the winter under the ice. Learn some unique and interesting hibernation and survival techniques and meet some live turtles and frogs who use these techniques. We'll even try to scoop water from under the pond's ice and see if anyone is living there!

February 5: Winter Sleepers

How would you like to skip winter altogether? We'll learn which of NH's animals hibernate the winter away, and study the differences between sleep and true hibernation.

February 19: Burrowing Through Snow

Many animals survive the winter by living under the snow. We'll learn about who burrows under there and figure out why they do it, then we'll go outside to look for evidence of tunnels.

ART EXHIBIT

"Four Views, Four Seasons - Revisited"

January 4-February 21

In 2004, four friends and artists - Patricia Crowley of Windham, Corinne Dodge, Judy Krassowski and Ingeborg V. Seaboyer of Derry - presented an art exhibit at the Massabesic Audubon Center which drew inspiration from the seasonal variety of the New England, and highlighted their individual work in Oils, Pen & Ink, Watercolor, Colored Pencil and Mixed Media. Ten years later, with a decade of new works to draw from, they will revisit the theme this winter. On a cold winter's day, stop in to enjoy an artistic winter, a memory of autumn, a preview of summer and a reminder that spring is not so far away.



THANK YOU

Bev Youree and her wonderful cadre of volunteers for pulling off another great Enchanted Fall Festival.

- Queen City Paint
- Little Critters Pet Center
- Ace/Ben Franklin
- Auburn Lions Club for our brand new animal care freezer, and Janice Hood for helping acquire it.

Joann O'Shaughnessy for underwriting our Birds of Prey program.

- Donors to our Enchanted Fall Festival Drawing for prizes valued at \$100 or more:
 - Nothin' But Good Times
 - Mt Sunapee
 - Gunstock
 - Pat's Peak

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

LOON CENTER



ABOUT THE LOON CENTER

The Loon Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9am–5pm. Enjoy the educational displays and award-winning videos, as well as the trails on the Markus Wildlife Sanctuary, which are open from dawn until dusk daily for walking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing. Then step into

the Loon's Feather Gift Shop for unique holiday and birthday gifts!

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

LEES MILLS ROAD • MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254
603-476-5666

NEWFOUND AUDUBON CENTER



ABOUT NEWFOUND AUDUBON CENTER

Located on the beautiful northern shore of Newfound Lake, the Newfound Audubon Center is comprised of three wildlife sanctuaries: Paradise Point Nature Center, Ash Cottage at Hebron

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

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

February Fun Vacation Camp at McLane or Massabesic!

February 24-28
For children ages 6-12
Monday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm



February Fun Vacation Camp is a special opportunity for children to learn about nature in winter. Join us for a single day, several days, or the whole week. The various themes of each day will be explored through outdoor excursions, games, crafts, stories, live animals, songs, and conservation projects to help participants discover the wonders of the season.

Monday: Water Makes the World Go Round

Tuesday: Snow Birds

Wednesday: Winter Sleepers

Thursday: Follow that Track!

Friday: February Fun

For full details and to register, visit: www.nhaudubon.org.

Camp Fee: \$42 M/\$52 NM per child/
per day

Coming Soon:

Super Spring Vacation Camp!

At McLane: April 21-25

At Massabesic: April 28-May 2

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

AMMONOOSUC

Field Trips: Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, December 19: Pittsburg Christmas Bird Count. Contact David.Govatski@gmail.com

Friday, December 20: Errol-Lake Umbagog Christmas Bird Count. Contact CMartin@NHAudubon.org

Saturday, December 21: Crawford Notch Christmas Bird Count: Contact CRepaz@hotmail.com

Sunday, December 22: Littleton Christmas Bird Count: Contact David.Govatski@gmail.com

All evening programs are held at the Rocks Estate on Christmas Tree Lane in Bethlehem. Programs are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chapter President David Govatski at David.Govatski@gmail.com

Program: Seeking the Greatest Good: The Conservation Legacy of Gifford Pinchot

Wednesday, January 15, 7pm

A new documentary film about the first American forester who under President Theodore Roosevelt helped establish the National Forest System and the concept of sustainable management of natural resources. Retired USFS David Govatski will lead a discussion on the movie afterwards.

Program: Following Atticus: 48 High-Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship

Wednesday, February 19, 7pm

A fascinating story by author Tom Ryan and his miniature schnauzer companion named Atticus who attempted to scale twice in the dead of winter, the 48 highest peaks in the White Mountains. Tom and Atticus will be around to sign books after the program.

CAPITAL

Field Trip: Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 15

Join Bob Quinn and many other birding enthusiasts as we count birds around the Concord area in the annual Christmas Bird Count. To sign up or for more info, contact Bob at RAQbirds@aol.com or at 746-2535.

Program: Birding with Sacagawea

Wednesday, January 15, 7pm

The McLane Center, Concord

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 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 their route have changed over the last 200 years.

Field Trip: Bald Eagles on the Merrimack

Sunday, January 26, 8:30 am

Meet Rob Woodward at the McLane Audubon Center for this popular annual morning jaunt looking for Eagles along the Merrimack River between Concord and Manchester and wintering Peregrine Falcons in downtown Manchester. Contact: Rob Woodward at 224-0889 (evenings)

Field Trip: Coastal Birding - Leader's Choice

Saturday, February 1, 7am (snow date Feb 2)

It's been a while since the Capital Chapter has had an official trip to the coast, so here's a chance for land-locked birders to see what the Gulf of Maine has to offer. The exact destination will be determined closer to the trip date, and based on what sorts of birds are being seen, but will be no more than 2 hours from Concord (basically between Gloucester and Portland). Meet at the McLane Center and expect to be out all day. Bring warm clothing, snacks, and expect to stop at a restaurant for lunch. For more information contact Pam Hunt at 753-9137 or biodiva@myfairpoint.net.

MASCOMA

Program: Eric Masterson: "Birdwatching in New Hampshire"

Monday, December 9, 7pm

The Howe Library, Hanover

Eric will present an illustrated discussion of his much acclaimed guide to finding birds in

NH. For him, the matter is not just finding the bird rarities, it is one of finding "good birds." By that he means encounters of an unusual sort such as the time he looked up at the sky over his back yard and saw a kettles of 900 broad-winged hawks in migration.

Program: Sara Eisenhauer: "Birding in the Upper Valley"

Monday, January 13, 7pm

The Howe Library, Hanover

VINS Wildlife Services Manager Sara Eisenhauer will bring her enthusiasm and considerable experience to bear on this subject near and dear to the Upper Valley's birding community. The talk will be accompanied by a slide presentation.

Program: TBA

Monday, February 10, 7pm

The Howe Library, Hanover

Speaker and talk to be announced.

Field Trip: Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, January 1

Field Trip: February Eagle Watch at Wilder Dam

Date and time to be announced.

Please consult the chapter's website to confirm dates and for more information: www.mascomabirds.org

NASHAWAY

Program: Why Birds Count

Wednesday December 18, 7-9pm

Nashua Public Library

Join Nashaway chapter members and avid Christmas bird counter David Deifik as we hear about the origins of the traditional NH Christmas Bird Census from the early 20th century to the present day. At this annual event, birdwatchers brave cold temperatures and all weather conditions to survey birds in a designated "count circle" on a given day. International in scope, the Christmas Bird Count is organized and compiled by the National Audubon Society, who coordinates all count circles so they don't overlap. There are 21 counts in New Hampshire, run by New Hampshire Audubon Chapters.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Program: More Than a Woodlot with Stephen Long, Author, co-founder and former contributor to Northern Woodlands Magazine

Wednesday, January 15, 7-9pm
Nashua Public Library

How can people who own or have an interest in forestland - even a few acres - help protect New Hampshire's wildlife and environmental quality? Forestland owners can play an important role in protecting air and water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, and keeping New Hampshire's forests intact. Come to the warm library and hear Stephen Long, author of *More Than a Woodlot: Getting the Most from Your Family Forest*, present material from his book and other information that can help people recognize the financial and ecological value of their woods.

Program: The Mysteries of Bird Migration

Wednesday, February 19, 7-9pm
Nashua Public Library

Join author and avid birder Steve Mirick, past Seacoast Chapter president and recent (2011) New Hampshire Audubon Goodhue-Elkins award recipient, in this presentation about the recent advances in the study of bird migration. Steve will talk about the how, when and where of bird migration here in New Hampshire. Some incredible specific bird migrations to South America will also be highlighted.

All Nashaway outings are open to the public at no charge, unless there is a charge for members. Trips begin in Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind the Fireside Inn and Suites unless otherwise noted. To register for the trip or for directions to meet the group at the destination, contact Field Trip Coordinator: Richard Bielawski 603- 429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com

Field Trip: Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 28
Count local birds by day and tally up your sightings in the evening (5pm) over dinner at the Lawrence Barn (Hollis Recreation Comm. 28 Depot Rd.) in Hollis. Each group is assigned their own count area. No meeting place in the morning. Small fee is

collected for evening tally/dinner.

Field Trip: Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey, Merrimack River, Hudson to Manchester

Saturday, January 11, 8-noon
Join our group in this annual statewide count to learn about local Bald Eagle foraging and roosting habitat and the protection eagles need to stay healthy over the cold winter.

Field Trip: Wintering Owls

Saturday, February 15, 8am-3pm
Join us as we look for Short-eared and Snowy Owls at Salisbury Beach State Park and across the river in Parker River Wildlife Refuge.

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. The public is welcome free of charge. Contact: Dan Hubbard at danielhubbard@peoplepc.com, 603-332-4093 or see our web site at www.seacoastchapter.org.

Program: A (Boat) Trip Through Time with the Birds of Lake Umbagog

Wednesday, December 11, 7:30 pm
In far northeastern NH the Umbagog region is still one of the wildest, most bird-rich, areas in northern New England. In this slide show, Bob Quinn of Merlin Enterprises Eco-tours will share the dramatic scenery of this remote area and talk about some of the fascinating changes in Umbagog's bird life over the last 140 years. The program focus will be on the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge and its efforts to protect this dazzling northern lake and the surrounding forests. The program is perfect for the wildlife enthusiast and those wanting to explore this little known corner.

Program: Magyar Madarok (Hungarian Birds): Birding Hungary Without a Car, Kowa, or Clue

Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 pm
Kurk Dorsey, UNH Associate Professor of History, got to spend four months in Budapest, Hungary in the fall of 2011.

With no car, no scope, and limited ability to communicate even in English, much less Magyar, he still managed to see some of the great birds of Central Europe (and not get lost or cause an international incident). You too can bird Hungary by rail, foot, and mooching.

Field Trip: New Hampshire Coastal

Saturday, January 11, 8 am
Kick off your new year birding with our annual seacoast trip. Join leader David Blezard as we look for scoters, mergansers, loons, grebes, and anything else that might be hidden in the nooks and crannies of New Hampshire's coast. Meet at the south end of Odiorne at 8 am. Contact: David Blezard at dblezard@mac.com or 603-343-1223

Field Trip: North Country Winter Finch Trip

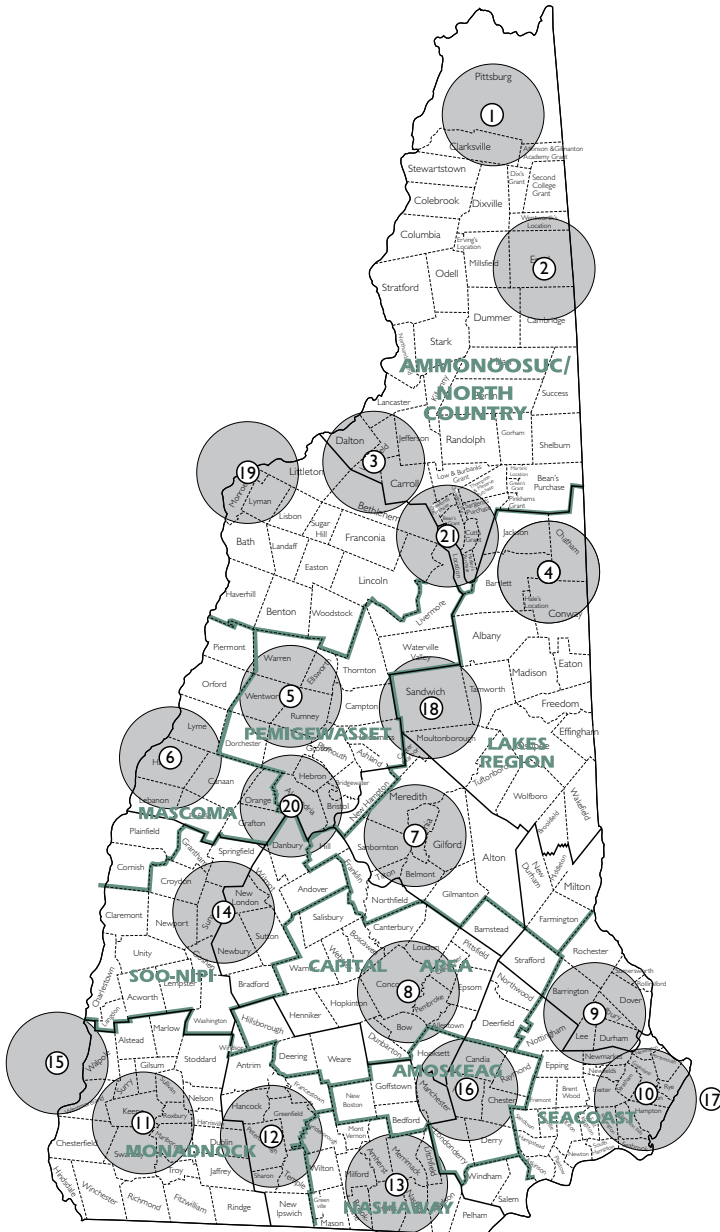
Saturday, February 8, (8 am in Gorham, 5:30 am in Rochester)
The seacoast chapter heads north again this year with leader Kathy Dube to look for winter finches. For those who wish to carpool, meet at Hannaford Supermarket in the Lilac Mall on Route 125 in Rochester at 5:30 am. All parties will meet at the McDonald's in Gorham, 214 Main Street, at 8am. Contact: Ben Griffith at bgriffith@gmail.com or 603-801-1856

Program: The Mortal Sea

Wednesday, February 12, 7:30 pm
Professor W. Jeffrey Bolster, UNH History Department presents an illustrated talk based on his recent book *The Mortal Sea: Fishing the Atlantic in the Age of Sail*. Since the Viking, Middle Ages ascendancy, the Atlantic shaped people's lives around its rim. Just as surely, people have shaped the Atlantic. In his innovative account of this interdependency, Bolster, a historian and former professional seafarer, takes us through a millennium-long environmental history of our impact on one of the largest world ecosystems. Bolster tells a story that is both ecological and human; the prelude to an environmental disaster.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PREVIEW 2013

It's time for the annual Christmas Bird Count! There are 21 counts in New Hampshire, and they are open to all interested birders. Many are run by New Hampshire Audubon Chapters. Check the list below for a count near you and contact the person listed if you'd like to help. Each count takes place in a designated "count circle" on a specific day. The coordinator assigns teams to count birds in each section of the circle, but if you live in the circle you can simply count the birds in your backyard. Each count's survey area stays the same from year to year, comprising a circle fifteen miles in diameter around a central point. International in scope, the Christmas Bird Count is organized and compiled by the National Audubon Society, who coordinates all count circles so they don't overlap. Each count picks its own particular survey day between December 14 and January 5. So join in a 100-year-old tradition and have some winter fun!



1. Pittsburg – December 19.

Contact: David Govatski (586-7776 or David.Govatski@gmail.com).

2. Errol-Umbagog – December 18.

Contact: Chris Martin (224-9909 x317 or cmartin@nhaudubon.org).

3. Littleton – December 22.

Contact: David Govatski (586-7776 or David.Govatski@gmail.com) or Mary Boulanger (444-6993 or mboul@roadrunner.com).

4. North Conway – December 28.

Contact: Sarah Frankel, Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr. (447-6991 or sfrankel@tinmountain.org).

5. Baker Valley – December 15.

Contact: Stephen Rounds (764-9011 or ullungdo96@yahoo.com) or Nory Parr (786-9896 or northparr@gmail.com).

6. Hanover-Norwich – January 1.

Contact: Dan Crook (448-2544) or Walter Ellison (rossgull61@gmail.com).

7. Laconia-New Hampton – December 29.

Contact: Pam Hunt (753-9137 or biodiva@myfairpoint.net).

8. Concord – December 14.

Contact: Robert Quinn (RAQbirds@aol.com [preferred] or 746-2535).

9. Lee-Durham – December 21.

Contact: Kurk Dorsey (397-5844 or kd@unh.edu).

10. Coastal – December 14.

Contact: Len Medlock (706-5539 or lenmedlock@comcast.net).

11. Keene – December 15.

Contact: Phil Brown (pbrown@nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 x334).

12. Peterborough-Hancock – December 14.

Contact: Dave Rowell (924-8790 or daverowell@myfairpoint.net).

13. Nashua-Hollis – December 28.

Contact: Richard Bielawski (429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com).

14. Lake Sunapee – December 14.

Contact: Gary Stansfield (inuknh@gmail.com [preferred] or 863-8737).

15. Saxtons River (Vt.-N.H.) – December 14.

Contact: Donald Clark (802-843-2347 or sapsbks@sover.net).

16. Manchester – December 21.

Contact: Richard Bielawski (429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com).

17. Isles of Shoals – tba.

Contact: Ben Griffith – (bgriffith@gmail.com [preferred] or 801-1856)

18. Sandwich – December 29.

Contact: Tony Vazzano (284-7718 or tvazzano@ncia.net).

19. Barnet (Vt.-N.H.) – January 1.

Contact: Charlie Browne (802-592-3545, ext. 104 or cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org).

20. Grafton-Bristol – compiler needed

Contact: Phred Benham if you are interested in becoming compiler (443-2744, or phbenham@gmail.com).

21. Crawford Notch – December 21.

Contact: Craig Repasz (203-230-1697 or crepasz@hotmail.com).

2014 BACKYARD WINTER BIRD SURVEY, FEBRUARY 8 & 9

Survey Instructions

Backyard Winter Bird Survey participants report any bird species that visit their yards and/or feeders in New Hampshire on the second weekend in February. The survey was expanded in 1987 to gather information on the distribution and abundance of many winter species in New Hampshire. Please take this opportunity to enjoy a closer look at the feathered neighbors in your yard during the survey period.

When to watch

February 8 and 9 only. Watch and count the birds in your yard at any time during the weekend.

How long to watch

Watch for as little or as long as you wish during the survey weekend. Be sure to record the total number of hours you observed as closely as possible. For example, if you were home all day but only watched for five minutes every hour, your time will be 45 minutes.

How to count

Record only the maximum number of each species seen at one time. Do not add to your total each time you see a bird at the feeder. For example, if at 10am you see six blue jays, at 2pm you see seven, and at 5pm you see four, your survey total for blue jays is seven. If you did not see any birds, mark the survey form accordingly.

Additional species

Use the blank lines to record any additional species observed, with descriptions or photographs of unusual birds.

Birds you can't identify

If you don't know the names of all the birds visiting your yard, you can still participate, but please record only the species you can identify.

Confusing species

Please be sure you can distinguish between similar species, such as Purple and House Finches, Chipping and American Tree Sparrows, and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. A current field guide can help. Remember that the House Finch is more common than the Purple Finch and Chipping Sparrows will be in their winter plumage.

Unusual species

If you observe an unusual species, please include a detailed description of the bird's appearance and behavior. Photographs are always helpful and may be e-mailed to bwbs@nhaudubon.org; be sure to include your name and address in your e-mail and note on your survey form that you've e-mailed a photo. Without this documentation, unusual reports may not be included in the final tally.

Survey results

All participants receive a copy of the results with next year's forms when they are mailed in January.

Other notes

Remember to fill out the entire form. Your mailing address and zip code are necessary to ensure that you remain on the survey mailing list. If you cannot participate but would like to remain on the mailing list, you must still return the survey. Please fill in your name and address and return to NH Audubon.

For past results and more about the Survey, go to:

<http://nhbirdrecords.org/bird-conservation/backyard-winter-survey.htm>

**You can now enter your survey results at
[www.nhaudubon.org/birding!](http://www.nhaudubon.org/birding)**

Backyard Winter Bird Survey Form 2014

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NH Audubon Member? Yes No

_____ Enclosed is my donation to NH Audubon to support the Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

SURVEY LOCATION:

Street _____ Town _____

Date(s) observed _____ Total hours watched _____

Comments: (e.g., weather, etc.) _____

Species	Max. #	Species	Max. #
Rock Pigeon (pigeon)	_____	Dark-eyed Junco	_____
Mourning Dove	_____	Northern Cardinal	_____
Downy Woodpecker	_____	Purple Finch	_____
Hairy Woodpecker	_____	House Finch	_____
Blue Jay	_____	Pine Siskin	_____
American Crow	_____	American Goldfinch	_____
Black-capped Chickadee	_____	Evening Grosbeak	_____
Tufted Titmouse	_____	House Sparrow	_____
Red-breasted Nuthatch	_____	_____	_____
White-breasted Nuthatch	_____	_____	_____
Brown Creeper	_____	Red Squirrel	_____
American Robin	_____	Gray Squirrel	_____
Northern Mockingbird	_____	_____	_____
European Starling	_____	_____	_____
Cedar Waxwing	_____	_____	_____
American Tree Sparrow	_____	_____	_____
White-throated Sparrow	_____	_____	_____

Please send this form to:
Backyard Winter Bird Survey
NH Audubon
84 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301



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Celebrating 100 Years of Conservation

84 SILK FARM ROAD
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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 emedial@nhaudubon.org.

Thank You

New Hampshire Audubon gratefully acknowledges the following for their grant support:

Allan B. Roby and Frances M. Roby Charitable Trust for the Upper Valley Grassland project.

Benjamin and Gertrude Couch Trusts for the Carter Hill Raptor Observatory.

Blake-Nuttall Fund for Olive-sided Flycatcher research, New Hampshire Bird Records-eBird data import, and the Rusty Blackbird blitz.

The Butler Foundation for hawk taxidermy.

Gilbert Verney Foundation for the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory.

New Venture Fund for the Tar Sands Free NH Campaign.

NH Academy of Audiology for Auditory Equipment for Community Rooms.

NH Charitable Foundation's Conservation Research Fund for Rusty Blackbird research.

Patagonia for the Tar Sands Free NH Campaign.

The Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation for New Hampshire Bird Records-eBird data import.

TransCanada for the Connecticut River Bald Eagle Recovery Project

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Join the Annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey – see page 15.

Northern Cardinal by Len Medlock.