

# Afield

NH AUDUBON NEWS AND PROGRAMS  
Spring 2013 (March-April-May)

## NH Audubon's 2013 Birdathon is May 18

*Opportunities for Novice and Expert Birders Alike!*

The Birdathon is New Hampshire's annual "big day" of birding! Teams have tallied upwards of 200 species collectively in past years and have raised several thousand dollars for NH Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries. Birdathon excitement grows each year. Help to keep this momentum going by making the 2013 Birdathon the most successful yet!

Join in the fun as teams of birders try to see as many species of birds as possible within a given time period of a single day in whatever location they choose. Several NH Audubon Chapters and Centers are organizing teams, including some expert-led ones that welcome beginners. Historically, some teams have traveled the state by car for 24 hours straight in search of the coveted "Big Day" record of 170 species, and some may again try to match this mark this year. Other birders cover their favorite local park or NH Audubon sanctuary for a leisurely morning, or travel (even by bike or watercraft) around parts of their entire town or county looking to best last year's totals. The Birdathon even welcomes observations from your own backyard!

The Birdathon is a terrific opportunity for novice birders to get out with the experts and for the experts to set their mark a little bit higher in search of knowledge of bird distribution. It is also a fundraiser for NH Audubon's Chapters and wildlife sanctuaries (participants raise thousands of dollars in Birdathon support each year) with proceeds going to real wildlife management work!

There are categories to fit every level of interest and experience. Additionally, NH Audubon will once again host a Sunday potluck dinner at the McLane Center in Concord to celebrate this friendly competition that focuses on New Hampshire's strong birding community. Great prizes will be awarded to category winners and those who raise the most in pledges. Participation in the Birdathon means that everyone wins – including the birds!

Contact your local NH Audubon Chapter to see how you can participate, or contact Phil Brown at 224-9909x334 or [pbrown@nhaudubon.org](mailto:pbrown@nhaudubon.org) for contest rules and information, and to register your team. We look forward to seeing you on the Big Day!

**May 18, various locations around the state**

**May 19, 5 pm: Potluck dinner and awards celebration at the McLane**

**Center**

Cost: \$20M/\$25NM per person suggested donation (or in total pledges; addition pledges welcome and encouraged); all donations support NH Audubon wildlife sanctuaries or NH Audubon chapter of your choice.

Categories:

- 1) Human-powered – non-motorized transport (foot, bike, canoe, etc)
- 2) Chapter area
- 3) Statewide (more than one chapter)
- 4) Youth (for teams with at least 2 members ages 16 and younger)
- 5) Single Location (a NHA Sanctuary, single park/conservation area, or backyard)
- 6) \*\*"Big Sit" (\*special rules apply)



Photo by Len Medlock.

# From the President's Desk

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*Afield* is published quarterly by NH Audubon.

Kelly Wing, *General Editor* (kwing@nhaudubon.org)

Banner photo by John Hession.

Dear friends,

Milestones give us an occasion to reflect on the past and consider the future. They mark time and distance traveled and invite celebration of the journey. Here at New Hampshire Audubon, we are preparing for just such a significant moment in our history as we look ahead to our 100th Anniversary in 2014.

In this issue of *Afield* we've unveiled our new anniversary logo. It retains the spirit of NH Audubon logos that have come before while highlighting the achievement that a Centennial represents – an achievement that not only commemorates 100 years of conservation work on behalf of birds and other wildlife but also 100 years of *inspiring* conservation, through our members and volunteers.

We are understandably proud of the progress we have made over the past 100 years. In the coming year, we'll be highlighting our accomplishments. The changes are staggering when one considers where bird conservation was 100 years ago.

Our vision for the future of NH Audubon is ambitious and hopeful. We aim to significantly expand awareness of and participation in our mission through increased outreach efforts and opportunities for our members and friends to share their own aspirations for the organization. We hope to grow the ways we connect people with nature by working to boost our school presence, camp attendance, program participation, and membership base. We want to strengthen our capacity in the advocacy arena, particularly in areas associated with climate change and energy policy. Above all, we seek to continue to build a responsible, innovative, passionate, and sustainable New Hampshire Audubon.

Our focus on building a more solid foundation for the future of NH Audubon has been ongoing. Over the past three years, we have cut our debt in half and taken numerous other steps to improve our fiscal health, including reducing overhead expenses, updating our accounting system, and improving our audit process. We are currently in the midst of an intensive strategic planning and budget building exercise that will help steer us closer to meeting all of our financial goals and guide our organization as we embark upon our next 100 years.

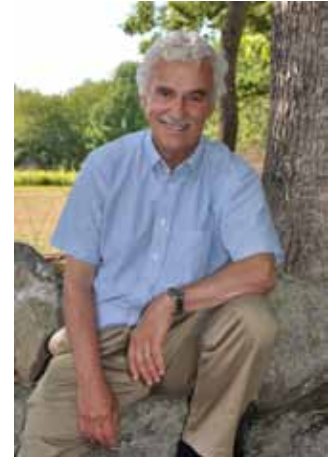
As we look forward to our Centennial, I would like to share with you the following message of gratitude printed in the first periodical published by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire in the summer of 1921. It is as fitting and genuine today as it was 92 years ago.

We deeply appreciate the sympathy and material aid of our loyal members and supporters who have made our organization possible and helped to accomplish what has been done thus far and prepare the way for more and better work in the future. We realize that we are indebted to those who are of broad vision and unselfish purpose, public spirited men and women all, with an ever-present interest in the common weal and an abiding faith in the future. It is this fine spirit manifested in the past that encourages hope for additional growth in the times ahead, the hope to enlist the interest of many more of our good citizens to become members. The more support, the more can be accomplished, - and as in every good work, there is always much to be done.



Mike

Michael J. Bartlett  
President, New Hampshire Audubon





## Centennial Info

A Centennial Committee comprised of past and present NH Audubon staff and long-time friends of the organization has been planning for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. The committee is preparing both to promote ongoing programs in new ways and to develop new, exciting programs that address the concerns, interests, and needs of New Hampshire citizens. Some of those planned activities include:

- NH Audubon's Passport to Nature Program to encourage people to visit our sanctuaries
- Rebirth of the Enchanted Forest at McLane Center
- Historic displays reflecting 100 years of accomplishments at NH Audubon

There are still plenty of ways to get involved. If you have ideas or are interested in volunteering, please contact Centennial Coordinator Ruth Smith at 224-9909 or [rsmith@nhaudubon.org](mailto:rsmith@nhaudubon.org). As many remember, Ruth Smith was the long-time Education Director at the McLane Center. We hope the Centennial activities will re-engage many more former staff, trustees, and friends in the coming year!

## Volunteer Opportunities

Spring begins the field season for many projects and volunteers are needed for the following. Contact Becky Suomala if you are interested or would like a list of all field work opportunities: (630-224-9909 x309) or [bsuomala@nhaudubon.org](mailto:bsuomala@nhaudubon.org).

**Project Swallow CORE** needs volunteers to check historic and active nesting colonies of Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Bank Swallow, and Purple Martin. You can monitor a local swallow colony or check sites as you travel in the state. Swallow CORE: <http://www.nhaudubon.org/swallow-core>.

**Project Nighthawk** volunteers help locate and monitor Common Nighthawks during the nesting season, primarily in the Concord, Keene (in partnership with AVEO), and Ossipee areas. Volunteers watch at one site from 8-9:30 pm. Time commitment is variable, but we request at least two evenings from new volunteers. Project Nighthawk: <http://www.nhaudubon.org/project-nighthawk>.

**In the Office - Data Assistant:** Volunteers research locations to prepare bird sighting data for upload into eBird. Involves using Excel, eBird and creative research to find old sites.

## 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.

Thoughtful gifts were made in memory of the following individuals:

Nellie Butterworth	Frank Lovinski
Marjorie L. Colby	George Snow
Richard "Dick" Holm	George M. Stabler
Ann L. Houghton	

During the holiday season, memorial donations were received in memory of these cherished friends:

Alex Higgins  
Harry C. McDade  
Wendy S. Schorr  
Jean Tasker

## Thank You

NH Audubon gratefully acknowledges the following for their grant support.

The Benjamin Couch Trust & The Gertrude Couch Trust for the Phenology Monitoring Project at the McLane Center

The Fuller Foundation for New Hampshire Bird Records-eBird data import

TD Charitable Foundation for the Beech Street School Environmental Education Outreach Program

The William P. Wharton Trust for Rusty Blackbird Best Management Practices

## Bald Eagles Reclaim the Connecticut River

by Chris Martin

NH Audubon conservation biologists are currently collaborating with natural resource colleagues from both Audubon Vermont and Vermont Fish and Wildlife to track and enhance, when possible, a remarkable resurgence of Bald Eagles on the Connecticut River and across the entire Connecticut watershed in both states. An amazing resettlement by eagles is underway on the Connecticut, as pairs reclaim ancestral breeding areas that have been vacant for decades. In the Spring of 1999, one eagle pair established a new territory near the Vernon Dam, the first in many years anywhere along the Connecticut River north of Massachusetts. In 2011, a dozen years later, biologists knew of 14 territories, an increase of roughly one pair per year.



Red color-banded 4-yr old eagle on territory at East Inlet in Pittsburg, NH. Photo by Peter Gray.

Our recovery initiative, formally called the Connecticut River Bald Eagle Restoration and Habitat Protection Project, has a vast focal area – all tributaries of the Connecticut River located north of the Massachusetts state line. It spans 7,700 square miles of ridgelines and bottomlands in both states, including 124 townships in Vermont and 93 more in New Hampshire. Even a tiny wedge of Quebec located just west of Pittsburg is included. The Connecticut River itself starts as a mere trickle in cedar bogs near Fourth Connecticut Lake, then flows roughly 280 miles to reach the Massachusetts line, at which point it has developed into an 850-ft wide dynamo.

TransCanada Corporation, producer of hydropower at 13 generating stations and three water storage reservoirs along the Connecticut and Deerfield rivers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, is providing major financial support over a three-year period to make this project possible. Because the project seeks to enhance breeding Bald Eagle recovery in both states, it directly supports wildlife conservation objectives of both New Hampshire Fish and Game and Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

Field staff working on the project last spring and summer included Laura Deming, Vanessa Jones, and Chris Martin from NH Audubon, and Kathy Wohlfort from Audubon Vermont. In 2012 we documented an increase from 2011 in the total number of known Bald Eagle breeding territories in the NH/VT portion of the watershed of six pairs (+46%). The number of young fledged rose by 3 (+20%). Successful nests in the same area increased by three (+30%). Overall in 2012, we found that the project area hosted 19 territorial pairs, 13 incubating pairs, 12 productive nests, and a total of 18 young fledged! New Hampshire's portion had 10 pairs and nine young fledged. Vermont's had 9 pairs and nine young fledged.

With logistical help from TransCanada personnel in 2012, we completed shoreline surveys on Harriman (17+ mi shoreline) and Somerset (12.5 mi shoreline) reservoirs in the Deerfield River drainage in southern Vermont, and on First Connecticut Lake (15 mi shoreline) in northern New Hampshire. The survey of Harriman turned up a newly-documented territorial pair, as did the visit to First Connecticut Lake. Additionally, staff from both Audubons conducted canoe-based surveys on 64 miles of the main stem of the Connecticut River, plus additional land and water-based surveys of roughly 15 other large water bodies.



The November-December 2012 issue of New Hampshire Fish and Game's Wildlife Journal magazine featured an article focusing on eagle recovery on the Connecticut. You can access this article on the NH Audubon web site to learn more by visiting: [www.nhaudubon.org/conservation/reports-publications](http://www.nhaudubon.org/conservation/reports-publications). Over the winter, we are installing metal predator guards on nest trees to minimize predation by mammals and enhance productivity. Preparations are already underway for the 2013 field season. And the eagles are keeping busy, too. For example, in December we learned about yet another new pair nest-building in the Mascoma River basin!

NH Audubon biologist Chris Martin installs camouflaged predator guard on nest tree located in Townshend, VT. Photo by Robert Vallieres.

# Deering Phenology Reflections 2012

by Diane De Luca



Phil Brown

Climate change researchers predict that rising global temperatures will dramatically impact ecosystems and many, if not all, of the species they support, including humans. Climate change will undoubtedly affect many plants and animals by disrupting their phenology, which refers to life cycle phases (phenophases), such as leafing, flowering, fruiting, emergence of insects, and arrival of migratory birds.

Biologists at New Hampshire Audubon believe that phenology monitoring is a valuable tool for gathering data on climate change and educating people about the impacts of climate change in their own backyard. The monitoring also represents an opportunity to utilize NH Audubon sanctuaries in a long term research project for which they are uniquely suited because of their long term protection, public accessibility, and potential to involve volunteers in monitoring. The information collected will not only provide a baseline of information on species found on Audubon's sanctuaries, but will also contribute to a national database managed by the USA National Phenology Network. This database is critical to researchers trying to determine which species are most vulnerable to climate change, and how these changes can impact other species and entire ecosystems.

At close to 1000 acres, the Deering Wildlife Sanctuary contains moderately hilly acreage of forest, field, wetlands and open water; an ideal location to establish phenology monitoring. In the summer of 2011, Deering served as a pilot site to develop, implement and test techniques to document the phenology of plant and animal species at the sanctuary. After a successful pilot, biologists completed an entire year of monitoring in 2012. Many of us have spent years noting, by memory or paper, the changes that we see from year to year in our own "backyards". The phenology project is an opportunity to make consistent and documented observations of these changes. It also allows for those special glimpses into the natural world.

Through the years I had taken note of bird happenings on the Deering Sanctuary including arrivals, departures and nesting chronology. It has been a great learning experience to also focus on the timing of wildflowers, shrubs and trees. 2011 was a learning year where emergent sprigs of green were not always recognizable and additional growth was needed to make a positive identification. Canada Mayflower was obvious as one of the very earliest to spread across the forest floor. Other species, however, took more time to make themselves known.

Markers placed in the first pilot year of 2011 mark the sites of plant species that are being monitored on the phenology project. Monitoring in 2012 was greatly enhanced by these known plant sites. Tiny sprigs of green now had meaning – data collection could begin as soon as the plant emerged. I had great fun identifying this very early growth phase. April, May and June are dynamic for plant monitoring and a window into the rapid changes as a tiny green sprig transforms into a flowering and fruiting plant in a short few weeks. Join us in observation.

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## Phenology Field Trip Opportunities

- Silk Farm Sanctuary, Concord: Saturday, April 13 (meet at the McLane Center)
- Deering Sanctuary, Deering: Saturday, April 20 (meet at the upper parking lot)
- Ponemah Bog Sanctuary, Amherst: Saturday, April 27 (meet at the parking lot)

*All field trips will meet at 9:00 am.*

The Silk Farm session will start with an indoor presentation of the NH Audubon Phenology Project and volunteer training, followed by the outdoor session. Those interested in volunteering for the Phenology Project at any one of the sanctuaries may want to attend the indoor workshop at the McLane Center.

Participation is free of charge, but spaces for each field trip will be limited, so please call to let us know you're coming. Please contact Laura Deming (ldeming@nhaudubon.org; 224-9909 x335) for more information.

## Call for Award Nominations

Do you know someone who has done outstanding work for conservation, the study of birds, or who has been a tireless volunteer for New Hampshire Audubon? Help us recognize them! The Board of Trustees requests nominations for the Tudor Richards Award, The Goodhue-Elkins Award, and the Volunteer of the Year Award, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Details on the awards, past recipients, and nomination forms are available on the NH Audubon web site (under About), <http://www.nhaudubon.org/about/annual-awards>. Submission deadline is April 1, 2013 – no fooling! If you have questions contact Becky Suomala x309.

# Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center

## FISHWAYS FUNDAYS

9:30–11am or 12:30–2pm

Fundays are for children ages four to five accompanied by an adult and include both an outdoor component and a craft. Please check [amoskeagfishways.org](http://amoskeagfishways.org) for full series listings and special discounts.

**Cost: \$8 per program**

### **Wily Weasels: Wednesday, March 6**

What do otters, mink, and fishers have in common? They are all part of the weasel family. Learn more about these clever animals as we play games to discover special traits and why they are so “tricky”. Don’t weasel out of this program.

### **Coyotes and Foxes: Wednesday, March 20**

Fox kits and coyote pups love to play and are naturally curious. We’ll learn by playing, just like them! You can even show off your talent in a howling contest.

### **Spring Wonders Series**

#### **Spring Has Sprung: Thursday, April 18**

Spring is in the air! As days get longer and the weather gets warmer, life along the river starts to wake up. Discover this for yourself as we explore the outdoors and search for the many signs of spring.

#### **Spring Serenade: Thursday, May 2**

Who is making all that noise in your backyard? And what is all that noise about anyway? Discover which animals are calling in spring and why. We’ll try our luck at mimicking some of their songs and make an animal call to take home!

#### **Fin-Tastic Fish: Thursday, May 16**

Explore the Fishways and learn all about Merrimack River fish, what makes them special and how they survive underwater. We’ll discover which fish migrate from the ocean to the Merrimack River each spring and search for them underwater in our fish ladder.

#### **River Animal Babies: Thursday, May 30**

Which animals grow up in and around the river? What do they eat? Where do they live? Discover who raises young on the banks of the Merrimack and search for their signs around the Fishways.

## FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS

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

### **Yip, Bark, or Howl: New Hampshire’s Wild Dogs March 8, 7–8 pm**

Get ready for a howlin’ good time as we learn all about New Hampshire’s wild members of the dog family. We will dispel myths and uncover the special canine qualities of the gray fox, red fox, and coyote. You can even show off your talent in a howling contest.

### **Squirmin’ Vermin: Wildlife We Love to Hate March 22, 7–8 pm**

Uncover the special qualities of the creepiest members of our wildlife community. Snakes, rodents, cockroaches, and pigeons are all fair game in this fascinating program about wildlife’s underworld.

### **Manchester’s Peregrine Falcons: April 12, 7–8 pm**

Join us for an evening dedicated to the peregrine falcons that nest right here in the city. We’ll discover why these amazing birds live here and where you can look for them this spring.

### **Incredible Journey: A Fish Season Tour: April 26, 7-8 pm**

Join us for a tour to learn about the incredible migration of some Merrimack River fish. Discover the amazing adaptations of fish and why some fish make this difficult journey.

### **May Flowers: May 10, 7–8 pm**

Learn how plants grow, what every seed needs, and why flowers are so beautiful. We’ll get hands-on with soil and find out about the amazing world of plants, flowers, fruits, and seeds.

### **Family Fishstravaganza: May 31, 7–8 pm**

Some of our Merrimack River fish travel amazing distances. Find out which go the farthest as we go on a tour, play fish games, and look for migrating fish in our ladder.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### **Learn to Fly Fish for Beginners and Intermediates**

**March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 7–9 pm**

Learn all about equipment, how to tie a fly, strategies and techniques, where fish live and what they eat. Members of Trout Unlimited certified in the NH Fish and Game ‘Let’s Go Fishing’ Program will be our instructors. Classes are FREE, but pre-registration is required.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **Predators of the Sky: Live Birds of Prey Saturday, March 9, 12–1:30pm and 2–3:30pm**

Tom Ricardi and his spectacular birds of prey will be our guests. A beautiful bald eagle will be on hand for close-up viewing! Learn about the great work done by Tom’s organization, the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility, which cares for injured birds and operates a successful captive breeding program. Cost: \$10 per person /\$25 per family. Advance payment with registration required. Location: PSNH 5 Rivers Auditorium, Energy Park, 780 North Commercial St. Manchester, NH 03101

### **2013 Fish Festival, Featuring Dash and Splash!**

**Thursday, April 25, 10am–3pm**

Line up and cheer on US Fish and Wildlife biologists when they deliver adult broodstock salmon to stock our fish ladder at 10am. The ladder is running but the wild fish have yet to swim up the Merrimack River. While we wait, we stock fish in the ladder for up close and personal underwater viewing. Fish stocking will be followed by fish crafts, fish hats, fish games, and fish fun! Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family. No registration required.

### **Falcon Watch**

**Saturday, May 18, 10am–noon**

Celebrate the success of our local peregrine falcon family. Meet at the Fishways for an introductory presentation, then walk to the Brady Sullivan building to view these urban raptors. Fishways naturalists will assist in spotting falcon parents and fledglings. Please bring binoculars if possible. Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family.

**Fletcher Street, Manchester, NH 03105**

**626-FISH (3474)**

# NH Audubon's Statewide Offices - The McLane Center

## STEWARDSHIP SERIES: Protecting New Hampshire's Landscapes and Wildlife

A free evening lecture series, 7–8:30 pm

No pre-registration required.

For more details, including speaker biographies, visit [www.nh Audubon.org/stewardship-series](http://www.nh Audubon.org/stewardship-series)

### March 21: Managing Invasive Plant Species in Your Backyard

**Speaker: Jeff Taylor of Vegetation Control Services**

Invasive plant species have been implicated as top reasons for losses of biodiversity, and competition with native plants has resulted in declines in wildlife populations. Invasive species can also be detrimental to aesthetics, particularly in gardens and backyards. Controlling them in your backyard is the first defense in keeping our forests and fields invasive plant free. Jeff will review species ID and state regulations, and discuss effective control options for landowners.

### April 4: More Than a Woodlot book presentation

**Speaker: Stephen Long of Northern Woodlands**

How can people who own 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. Stephen Long, author of *More Than a Woodlot: Getting the Most from Your Family Forest*, will present material from his book and help people recognize the financial and ecological value of their woods.

### April 18: Backyard Habitat: Landscaping for Wildlife

**Speaker: Marilyn Wyzga of NH Fish & Game**

How can we create gardens and yards that are beautiful for us yet at the same time offer a safe and healthy habitat for wildlife? What are the essential ingredients to attract wildlife to your backyard? Marilyn Wyzga, co-author of *Integrated Landscaping: Following Nature's Lead* and a wildlife educator for the NH Fish and Game Department, will show how to enhance your backyard habitat for birds, butterflies and a variety of wildlife using native vegetation and water features.

### May 2: Grazing for the Birds: A Conservation Collaborative

**Speakers: Carole Soule & Bruce Dawson of Miles Smith Farm**

Traditional haying has drawbacks for quality of the grass, the soil, the environment and livestock. At the St. Paul's School/NH Audubon pasture in Concord, Miles Smith Farm is conducting research funded by a SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) grant to demonstrate whether, despite harsh NH weather, cattle can thrive on winter pasture. In addition they are using the hoof action of the cattle to "till the soil" to determine if farmers can rely less on mechanical means to plow and sow seeds.

### May 16: Managing for Native Pollinators

**Speaker: Don Keirstead, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

What is happening to honey bee hives and populations in the United States? In recent years, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has decimated honey bee hives in the US. Don will present information on possible causes of CCD and discuss the effects on farmers who rent bees. Because wild bumble bees are more effective at pollinating crops in the cold wet springs of New England, managing wild bumble bee habitat is increasingly popular among farmers and backyard gardeners. Learn some of the basics in managing for wild bumble bees as a method of improving food security and reducing costs to local farmers and food growers.

Sponsored by:



## NH Audubon's Nature Store at the McLane Center

Visit NH Audubon's Nature Store for a wonderful variety of nature-inspired gifts. All proceeds from Nature Store sales support the conservation and education work of NH Audubon.

Featured Products:

- Locally Made - Jewelry, Soaps, Bat and Birdhouses
- Shade Grown "Birds and Beans" Coffee
- Winnepesaukee Chocolate Bars
- Hummingbird Feeders
- Great Selection of Field Guides
- Wide Variety of Children's Gifts

**Nature Store Hours: Tuesday thru  
Friday 12–5 pm**

**SHOP LOCAL!**

84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301

224-9909

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Nature Café

**Fridays, 7–8:30pm**

**Cost: \$5 per person, Free for Massabesic Volunteers**

Come join us once per month at the Massabesic Audubon Center to enjoy coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and delicious desserts while you learn about our natural environment.

### Bird Calls for Beginners

**March 8: Presented by Kelly Dwyer, Volunteer Educator and NHA Trustee**

As our avian friends start tuning up their vocal chords, come learn the basics of bird songs and calls. Learn a whole new way of birding when you are able to identify the songs and calls of common birds you may be able to hear but not see!

### Extreme Weather

**April, Date TBA, check NHA website for further details**

Join us as Josh Judge, WMUR Meteorologist and Associated Press award winner of “The Best Weathercast,” talks about the extreme weather we have been experiencing in New England. He will discuss everything from our hot, dry summers and intense storms to how climate change may be playing a role in these events. Josh will also bring along his two books, *Extreme New England Weather* and kids’ book *Weather Fun and Facts!*

### Ticks in NH

**May 10: Alan Eaton, Entomologist with UNH Cooperative Extension**

NH is the state with the 3rd highest rate of Lyme disease in the nation. Additionally, the number of people with Babesiosis or Anaplasmosis is rising rapidly. All are tick-transmitted, and there are simple things you can do to greatly reduce the risk of becoming a victim. Dr. Alan Eaton will describe tick species in NH, their biology, the diseases they spread, and how to protect yourself. He’ll bring live specimens too.

### Bluebird Natural History and Trail Monitoring 2013

**Saturday, March 9, 10 am–2 pm**

**Cost: FREE**

Get involved in a citizen science project to research the status of declining NH species like Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Morning workshop focuses on the bluebird’s natural history, conservation status and how to become a bluebird trail monitor. In the afternoon become oriented to our bluebird trail, clean out and make minor repairs to boxes as well as look for any early bluebirds. Volunteer monitors adopt a part or a whole field and contribute about one hour each week from the beginning of April to early August to monitor activity in our 100+ nest boxes.

### The Medicinal & Edible Wild Plants of Spring

**Wednesday, May 8, 6–7 pm**

**Cost: \$10 M/\$15 NM**

**Leader: Maria Noel Groves, Clinical Herbalist, Wintergreen Botanicals, LLC**

The earth is awakening to a new season, and we’ll go out in search of emerging wild greens, tasty teas, and the medicinal joys of spring. Although a wide range of healing plants can be found, you’ll notice that this time of year specializes in nutritious and mildly detoxifying plants that aid our bodies during this shift of seasons. We’re likely to meet and discuss burdock, dandelion, birch, wintergreen, and more.

### Soap Making Workshop: Saturday, May 11, 1–3 pm

**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.

### Coastal birding

**Wednesday, May 15, 9 am–2:30 pm**

**Cost: \$6 M/\$9 NM**

**Leader: JoAnn O’Shaughnessy**

Enjoy birding the coast with Audubon trustee JoAnn O’Shaughnessy. Meet at the Hampton Beach State Park parking lot at 9 and carpool from there to coastal hot spots. Lunch is not provided, but the group will stop at a local restaurant to cap off the morning’s adventure. Meet at 7:45 am in the Massabesic Audubon parking lot if you want to carpool with other participants to Hampton.

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### The Sweet Taste of Spring Fundraiser

**Saturday, March 16**

**Program 9:30 or 11; Breakfast 9–noon**

**Cost: Program and Breakfast: Individuals \$10 M/\$15 NM; Families \$25 M/\$35 NM**

Join us for a maple sugaring celebration and NH Audubon Fundraiser breakfast. Attend a 1/2 hour program to learn all about the amazing process of turning sap into syrup and join us for a homemade pancake breakfast with real NH-made syrup and live music! Help support NH Audubon’s animals, programs, and mission. Bring your friends! Breakfast is first come, first served.





## **FAMILY PROGRAMS, continued**

### **2013 Salamander Watch!**

**Thursday, March 7, 6–8pm**

**Cost: FREE, Suggested \$5 donation**

**Leader: Rick Glatz**

Watch a salamander slide show that tells all about these unique amphibians. Each year a majority of the mole salamanders (yellow spotted and more) migrate to their breeding vernal pools during the first few warm rains after the snow has melted. In the process of migrating many are killed crossing roads. On migration nights this year we will have salamander “patrols” to help save these slow-moving amphibians. Come to this training workshop to learn how to take part in this exciting event and to help gather amphibian population data.

### **Bird Banding Demonstrations**

**Saturdays, March 23 and May 11, 10am–noon**

**Cost: FREE**

**Leader: Jay Barry, Volunteer Educator and licensed bird bander for 40 years**

Join Jay as he shows us the fascinating banding process from capture to release. Using mist nets to catch birds, we will ID, band, and record our findings for the national database. Learn how to identify species, sex, and age with a variety of live subjects! On May 11, we will also discuss the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) program that will be happening at Massabesic in summer. Analyses of the resulting banding data provide critical information relating to the ecology, conservation, and management of North American landbird populations, and the factors responsible for changes in their populations.

**Draw a Bird Weekend: Saturday, April 6, 9am–5pm,**

**Sunday, April 7, 11am–1pm**

**Cost: FREE**

Celebrate “International Draw a Bird Day” with us! Stop in to the center and draw some birds, using our live raven, the birds at our feeders, and our mounts as models. All drawings will go up on the walls for the month of April. No artistic talent necessary—all ages and skill levels welcome.

## **Earth Day Festival-Tread Lightly**

**Saturday, April 13, 10am–3pm**

**Cost: Drop-in Fee Individuals \$5, Families \$10**

What better way to appreciate the Earth than to come to the beautiful Massabesic Audubon Center and enjoy fun-filled activities for the entire family! Join Audubon and the Student Conservation Association for bird banding demonstrations, live animals, drawings to win prizes, a “build your own birdhouse” station, games, crafts, and marshmallow roasting at our campfire. See live raptors from the McLane Audubon Center and a Wildlife Encounters live animal show from the W.I.L.D. Center! Visit booths by a variety of earth friendly businesses and organizations and learn tips and tricks to reduce your impact on the earth. Learn how you can make a difference today and every day.

### **Fantastic Frogs Night Walk**

**Friday, May 17, 7:30–9 pm**

**Cost: Individuals \$6 M/\$9 NM; Families \$8 M/\$12 NM**

**Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist**

Come discover who’s out at night with a walk to our wet places. We’ll learn to identify our native frog species by sight and sound, look at our center’s live examples, then go outside to see who’s calling! Bring a flashlight!

## **PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**Wee Wonders (ages 4-6)**

**Tuesdays, 12:30-2 pm**

**Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am**

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

**Leader: Kim Murphy, Naturalist**

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. Class descriptions at [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)

### **Spring Series 1: Water Water Everywhere**

Mar 5/6 Snow and Ice

Mar 12/13 Tale of the Beaver

Mar 19/20 Looney Tunes

Mar 26/27 Spring Showers Bring... Puddles!

Apr 2/3 Wicked Big Puddles

Apr 9/10 Our Blue Planet

### **Spring Series 2: Habitats**

Apr 30/May 1 Home is a Habitat

May 7/8 Life Underfoot

May 14/15 Our Friends of the Forest

May 21/22 Pond-ering the Pond

May 28/29 Our Friends of the Field

June 4/5 Habitat Quest

## **HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**Junior Explorers (ages 7-12)**

**Tuesdays, 12:30-2pm**

**Wednesdays, 10-11:30am**

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

**Leaders: Angie Krysiak and Jay Barry**

We’ll explore the natural world with live animals, nature walks, and hands-on activities that follow a different natural theme each day. Be prepared to be outside! Parents may stay and participate. Class descriptions at [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)

### **Spring Series 1: Water Water Everywhere**

Mar 12/13 Beavers and Loons

Mar 26/27 Pools and Puddles

Apr 9/10 Our Blue Planet

### **Spring Series 2: Habitats**

May 7/8 Life Underfoot

May 21/22 Pond-ering the Pond

June 4/5 Habitat Quest

# Massabesic Audubon Center

## EXHIBITS

### Photography through a Painter's Eye

March 5–April 4

In Toshihide Takekoshi's recent work, *Photography through a Painter's Eye*, the artist introduces a fresh angle to what surrounds us every day that we may be taking for granted. The artist wishes that we all nurture emotional connections with the environment in which we live.

Please join Toshi and award-winning guitarist Dwight Phetteplace at the opening reception on Saturday, March 23, 2–4PM.

### The Road Not Taken; Illustrations of Robert Frost's poems

May 7–June 14

Opening reception Saturday, May 11, 1-3 pm

Conceived by Derry artists Corinne Dodge, Inge Seaboyer and Judy Krassowski, this exhibit includes works inspired by the words of Robert Frost that provide vivid and connective imagery for his anthology of poems in pen and ink, watercolor, and acrylics and oils.



Toshihide Takekoshi

## 4-H Teaching Garden Prepares for 2013 Season

The 4-H Teaching Garden is anticipating another successful season in the garden. The Garden program is overseen by the UNH Cooperative Extension and guided by a Steering Committee of volunteers. Thanks to the Massabesic Audubon Center we have a large garden space to carry out our mission of teaching youth, their counselors, adults and special groups about sustainable agriculture in a permaculture-based setting.

In 2012 volunteers and staff taught over 100 youth from inner city youth agencies and the neighborhood about gardening, the environment and nutrition. Youth grew their own yardstick beds and tended numerous theme gardens such as the Pizza Garden, Sunflower House and Science Beds. The garden donated over 3,000 pounds of produce to the NH Food Bank. We will continue our efforts in 2013 with the goals of including more youth groups in our summer educational program and reaching more adults through tours, workshops and hands-on volunteering opportunities.

You are invited to join our team of dedicated, friendly volunteers if you can spare a few hours each week or just once in a while. Consider the benefits of volunteering: meet like-minded people, learn about gardening, get fresh air and exercise, contribute to a worthy cause, make use of your unique skills, and feel a sense of accomplishment. What tasks do garden volunteers perform? They tend the gardens by weeding, watering, mulching, and staking; maintain the compost; repair structures; prepare teaching materials; and teach the youth. Training and orientation are provided for new volunteers. If you love being outside and would like to get involved or would like more information contact Carol Martin-Ward at carol\_5854@yahoo.com or 603.315.0334. See pictures on Facebook at 4-H Teaching Garden, on Volunteer NH at the same name or at the Cooperative Extension website <http://extension.unh.edu/Counties/Hillsboro/4-HChildrensTeachingGarden.htm>

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If you missed the 2011 edition of UNH Cooperative Extension Garden Workshops they will be offered again this year during February, March and April, sponsored by the UNH Cooperative Extension and the Massabesic Audubon Center. The series is presented by Ron Christie, Master Gardener Coordinator for Rockingham County, and will cover an extensive array of home gardening topics such as: garden planning, starting seeds, evaluating soil, growing in containers, weeds, pests, composting and so much more. These workshops held at the Massabesic Audubon Center are popular, informative and fun. Please contact Ron Christie directly for more information at [ron.christie@unh.edu](mailto:ron.christie@unh.edu).

26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH 03032

603-668-2045



## APRIL VACATION CAMP

Monday, April 22–Friday, April 26

For Children Ages 6-10

All-day sessions: 9am–4pm

Camps held at Massabesic & McLane Centers  
Complete April & Summer Camp details and  
registration are available at:

[www.nhaudubon.org/programs/camps](http://www.nhaudubon.org/programs/camps)

## SUMMER CAMP 2013

Sessions begin June 24

One and two week sessions available

For Children Ages 4-12

Leaders-in-training Opportunities for Ages 13-15

Registration opens March 18 for NH Audubon  
members, March 25 for non-members.

## 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**

## The 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 stop 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. Check our website ([www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org)) for upcoming events.

**Lees Mills Road  
Moultonborough, NH 03254  
603-476-5666**

## Special Opportunities & Chapter Happenings

### Wildlife Carving and Painting Workshop

Saturdays, 3/9-4/27, 9:00-12:00

Location: Concord, NH

Cost: \$140 plus materials, additional \$35-40 for materials, carving knife and safety glove are necessary and can be purchased on line or directly from teacher.

Leader: Bob Schwinger

Once again, prize-winning master carver Bob Schwinger is offering an 8-week course designed to teach participants the skills needed to carve and paint wooden birds and fish. Bob will demonstrate and practice step-by-step procedures of carving and painting detailed wild birds that will benefit both the beginner and those with previous experience. Learn which tools to use, how to select appropriate wood, and how to keep those tools sharp. At the end of the workshop, participants will head home with new skills, one or two beautiful carvings, and a keen appreciation for the art of wood carving. Tools will be provided by the instructor. However, students are expected to purchase a carving knife either online or directly from the instructor. This class will be taught in Bob's private studio in Concord and is limited to 8 participants. Register early to guarantee space. Last year's class filled fast! To register or for additional information, please contact Bob at 603-223-6848, or email 1974schwinger@gmail.com. Proceeds from this course will be used to benefit NHA's education department.

Instructor's Biography:

Concord native, Bob Schwinger, is a retired corporate general manager and high school teacher. He has been carving for over twenty years and regularly shares his knowledge and passion with students in his home studio and elsewhere. Bob spends most of his time carving for competition, commission, and collectors. He has competed and won awards in New England and Ward World Bird Carving competition in Maryland.

### What's going on with New Hampshire's bats?

Thursday, April 11, 7 – 8:30 pm at the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock

Emily Brunkhurst, a NH Fish & Game biologist, will give an introduction to New Hampshire's eight bat species and ongoing efforts to protect them from the devastating disease known as White Nose Syndrome. Laura Deming, NH Audubon biologist, will give an overview of last summer's volunteer effort to collect data on bat population distribution and abundance in the state. Finally, Cynthia Nichols, a consulting wildlife biologist, will introduce an exciting new citizen science initiative to locate and monitor Little Brown Bat "maternity colonies" in the Monadnock Region. Among their many attributes, bats eat up to half their weight in mosquitoes every night (anywhere from 500-1000 an hour), so they play an important ecological role, and are a big help to us. Let's help them in return! Come learn about bats and how you can help us help them.

This event is cosponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education, New Hampshire Audubon, New Hampshire Fish & Game, and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

### Sanctuary Field Trips & Special Events

**Stewardship Event: Earth Day at Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Concord, NH**

Sunday, April 21, 9 am – noon

It's Earth Day - a day to celebrate the beauty and diversity of the planet by giving something back to some of our special places...so come out to Silk Farm and lend a hand to the land! Home to NH Audubon's headquarters, the Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary has a series of impressive trails traversing fields and woods – but they need your help. Volunteers will be working on maintaining a newly-created bluebird trail and managing vegetation in other areas. Bring a pair of gloves and a hand tool of your choice (NHA will provide if you don't have one!), drinks, and snacks, and be prepared for muddy sections and insect pests. For more information, please contact Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or call 224-9909x334.

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tudor Richards Memorial Field Trip/  
International Migratory Bird Day at Pondicherry Refuge**

Saturday, May 11, 6 am at Airport Marsh or 8 am at the Pondicherry trailhead on Hazen Rd

Join leaders, Dave Govatski of the Friends of Pondicherry, and Phil Brown, Director of Land Management for NH Audubon, in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Pondicherry Refuge as they lead a guided bird watching tour around Airport Marsh in Whitefield (for grassland and marsh birds), then to Cherry and Little Cherry Ponds in Jefferson (warblers and other songbirds). This annual field trip commemorates the return of migrating birds and the memory of Tudor Richards, NH Audubon's first President and the "father of Pondicherry" - who was first responsible for conserving land at Pondicherry 50 years ago. In addition to the walk, there will be some festivities to commemorate this occasion. Bring water, lunch and binoculars. Past field trips have yielded upwards of 100 species of birds! Be prepared to walk 3-5 miles on flat terrain. The event will be held rain or shine. Free IMBD posters for all participants. For more information contact David Govatski at 586-7776 or david.govatski@gmail.com.

### AMMONOOSUC CHAPTER

Ammonoosuc Chapter Evening Programs are held at the Rocks Estate on Christmas Tree Lane in Bethlehem starting at 7pm. For more information contact Chapter President David Govatski at david.govatski@gmail.com.

**Program: Wednesday, March 20**

**The Nature of Pondicherry by David Govatski**

This program celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge in 1963 by Tudor Richards and Bill Carpenter. Explore the rich natural and cultural history and the stories behind the creation of this National Wildlife Refuge.

## AMMONOOSUC, continued

**Program: Wednesday, April 17**

### **The Life of Vernal Pools by David Anderson**

This popular annual program is designed to get children and adults interested in nature by learning about frogs and salamanders. Bring a flashlight and dress for the outside as we search for frogs and salamanders at a nearby vernal pool after the program.

**Field Trip: Saturday, May 11**

### **International Migratory Bird Day at the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson, Whitefield and Carroll, New Hampshire**

Details on opposite page.

**Program: Saturday, May 11**

### **The Amazing Hummingbird by Betsy Fraser**

This program is about the amazing natural history of hummingbirds and how to attract them to your backyard. This is the annual meeting of the Ammonoosuc Chapter but everyone is welcome to attend at 7pm at the Rocks Estate.

## CAPITAL AREA

### **Program: A Natural and Unnatural History of the Caribbean Flamingo in Florida: Wither the Twitch?**

**Wednesday, March 6, 7 pm, McLane Center, Concord**

Conservation biologist and naturalist Chris Borg will take you on a subtropical slide show from Kissimmee to Tortuga with special emphasis on his studies addressing the seasonal occurrence of flamingos at Snake Bight, Everglades National Park.

### **Field Trip: Concord Area Waterfowl and Sunset Roost**

**Saturday, March 30, 2 pm until sunset**

Join Bob Quinn as we once again do a new take on the traditional waterfowl tour in the Concord area. We will go where the ducks are during the afternoon but end up at the "Big Bend" in the Merrimack River in Boscawen toward sunset (or wherever it will be best) to watch the birds come in to roost. Sightings in prior years have included Northern Pintail, American Widgeon, Snow Goose and Gadwall. Meet at the McLane Center. Contact Bob Quinn at 746-2535 or RAQbirds@aol.com.

### **Field Trip: Woodcock Walk**

**Thursday, April 25, 7:30 pm**

Meet Rob Woodward for his annual EVENING walk in search of American Woodcock. If you've never witnessed the mating displays of this bird, you're in for treat! Bring a flashlight and meet at the McLane Center. Exact location for walk to be determined. Contact: Rob Woodward at 224-0889 (evenings)

### **Field Trip: Before Work Walk– Horseshoe Pond**

**Friday, May 10, 6:30–8am**

Get your fill of spring migrants before heading off to work. Join Rob Woodward for what has become one of the most popular trips of the year to see new spring migrants. Contact: Rob Woodward at 224-0889 (evenings)

### **Field Trip: Spring Migrants in the Outer Reaches of Merrimack County**

**Sunday, May 12, 7 am–noon**

Join Bob Quinn at another new area and spend the morning searching for migrants in an area with lots of habitats and birds. We will be birding the edge of Cascade Marsh on foot and exploring the untapped birding region of Andover & Danbury, for water birds and warblers in an area that has great potential. Be prepared for some wet walking but on mostly flat and easy terrain. Meet at the junction of Routes 4 and 11 in Andover. Contact Bob Quinn at 746-2535 or RAQbirds@aol.com.

### **Field Trip: Silk Farm & Turkey Pond**

**Saturday, May 25, 7 am**

Explore with Rob Woodward the fields and forests of Audubon's Silk Farm Sanctuary and discover the mystique of Turkey Pond. Meet at McLane Center. Contact Rob Woodward, 224-0889 (evenings).

## LAKES REGION

Programs take place at The Loon Center on Lees Mill Rd., Moultonborough. (*Handicapped accessible.*) Contact: The Loon Center at 476-5666

**Program: Thursday, March 21, 7:30 pm**

To be announced. Check local papers.

**Program: Ethiopia**

**Thursday, April 18, 7:30 pm**

Ethiopia has spectacular scenery, diverse cultures, incredible birds and mammals – it is one of Africa's most rewarding birding destinations. Bob and Dana Fox of North Andover, MA and Tuftonboro, will present a program on their recent birding trip to Ethiopia – a remarkable land. Their presentation will focus on the endemic and special birds and animals of major regions of the country shaped by its geological history.

### **Field Trip: Sunday, May 19, 7 am**

Join us in a search of spring migrants that are currently moving through the area. Call or email for the meeting place. Contact: Tony Vazzano at 284-7718 or tvazzano@ncia.net

## MASCOMA

### **Spring Birdwalk Schedule**

Times and dates subject to change. Visit [www.mascomabirds.org](http://www.mascomabirds.org) for updated information and more detail.

### **Saturday, March 23: Waterfowl Field Trip**

Travel south along the Connecticut River as we search the river, its tributaries, bays and agricultural fields for migrating waterfowl.

### **Wednesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 11:**

#### **Woodcock Walks**

These early evening explorations hope to see the woodcock's spectacular mating flight.

### **Saturday, April 20: Spring Migrant Birdwalk**

We'll start in Hanover at Wilson's Landing and travel north along River Road to Lyme's Grant Brook looking for waterfowl and other early migrants.

### **Wednesday, May 1: "Warbler Wednesdays"**

Our popular, early morning May series of weekly warbler searches at Lebanon's Boston Lot woods across from Wilder Dam.

### **Friday, May 3: "Feathered Fridays"**

Each Friday morning in May, we'll survey the woods and fields in VT's Union Village Dam Park.

## Chapter Happenings

### MASCOMA, continued

#### Friday, May 17 & 24: Evening Birdwalk

Take an early evening tour through Union Village Dam Park.

#### Program: Kent McFarland: Get the Buzz on Bumblebees Monday, March 11, 7pm, Howe Library in Hanover

The recent “buzz” on bee populations has been anything but positive. Most has involved the decline of European Honeybees that are important pollinators of North American crops. In the late 1990s, biologists started to notice a decline in the abundance and distribution of several bumblebee species in the Northeast. Today, three species may actually be extirpated from Vermont. Join Vermont Center for Ecostudies biologist Kent McFarland and learn about the natural history and conservation of bumblebees in the region.

#### Program: To Be Announced

#### Monday, April 15, 7pm, Howe Library in Hanover

### MONADNOCK

#### Field Trip: 30<sup>th</sup> Annual “Waterfowl Safari” along the Connecticut River

#### Sunday, March 24, 8 am

Through carpools and a little walking, we’re likely to see a variety of northward bound ducks and other species. Phil Brown’s group will go south from Charlestown (departing at 8 am from the Charlestown Library on Main Street), while Eric Masterson’s group will head north from Hinsdale (departing at 8 am from the Home Depot parking lot in Keene). The two groups will meet at Herrick’s Cove in Vermont for lunch and tall tales. Carpools return about 1 pm. Co-sponsored with the Harris Center. For more information or to sign up, contact Phil at [pbrown@nhaudubon.org](mailto:pbrown@nhaudubon.org) or Eric at [masterson@harriscenter.org](mailto:masterson@harriscenter.org)

#### Field Trip: Spring Hawkwatching from Bald Mountain Sunday, April 7, 9 am–1 pm

The hills of the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary are excellent for watching raptor migration. Bald Mountain’s summit, the sanctuary’s highest point, has views from Mt. Wachusett in Massachusetts to Mt. Washington. Northbound raptors include falcons, buteos, and accipiters, as well as both species of eagle. Dress for the weather (Bald Mountain’s winds are cold!), and be prepared for 2+ miles of moderate hiking with some steep spots. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at the end of Willard Pond Road. Contact Henry Walters for more details at 525-3572. Cosponsored with the Harris Center.

#### Field Trip: Spring Migrant Walk in Keene Sunday, May 5, 8 am–noon

The fields and trails at Krif Road in Keene are always a hot spot for migrant activity. Join trip leader Chris Newton for a leisurely walk along these level, easily accessible roads and trails. Brown Thrasher, Tennessee and Cape May Warblers are among the migrants seen here most years and there is the potential for lingering shorebirds and waterfowl. Bring binoculars, a snack and drink. For more info, contact Chris Newton, [dexterdevon68@gmail.com](mailto:dexterdevon68@gmail.com)

#### Field Trip: Spring Warbler Walk in Hinsdale Sunday, May 12, 7 am–noon

Join trip leader Cliff Seifer for a walk along the Connecticut River in search of warblers and other spring migrants. The walk will start at the Hinsdale setbacks where breeding Marsh Wrens keep company with migrating warblers, gnatcatchers, flycatchers, possible rails and maybe even a Least Bittern! The walk will continue along the causeway and out to the bluffs overlooking Lake Wantastiquet where possible birds include Orchard Oriole, Bald Eagle, and Bank Swallow. Meet at

Hinsdale High School at 7am and bring along water, bug spray and a snack. Contact Cliff at [clifdisc@gmail.com](mailto:clifdisc@gmail.com)



Orchard Oriole by Len Medlock

#### Field Trip: Annual Surry Birdathon

#### Saturday, May 18, 7 am–noon

Join local birder Dave Hoitt and wildflower enthusiast Wendy Ward on this easy walk looking for birds and wildflowers of the open field and wetland habitat. Meet at the Surry Town Hall parking lot at 7am. Bring field guides, binoculars, drink, snack and bug repellent. For more info, call Wendy at 313-0197 or [weward0@yahoo.com](mailto:weward0@yahoo.com)

### NASHAWAY

#### Field Trip: Wintering and Migrating Seabirds of Cape Ann and Gloucester, MA

#### Saturday, March 23, 8am–4pm

Come join us as we explore the other Cape of Massachusetts. We will be looking for wintering and migrating sea birds from Halibut Point and other areas in Cape Ann. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. Also pack a lunch and dress WARMLY. Meet at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind Granite Inn in Nashua or contact Richard Bielawski for directions at 603-429-2537 or [rbielawski@mac.com](mailto:rbielawski@mac.com).

#### Field Trip: Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts Saturday, April 20, 8am–4:30pm

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge occupies the southern 7 miles of this coastal barrier island. April is a good time to see migrating ducks and early shorebirds. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one and lunch. Meet at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind Granite Inn in Nashua or contact Richard Bielawski for directions at 603-429-2537 or [rbielawski@mac.com](mailto:rbielawski@mac.com).

#### May Early Morning Bird Walks

Focusing on spring warblers and other songbirds. Bring binoculars, bug spray/water. Prepare for mud. Walks will meet at the destination. For directions contact Richard Bielawski at 603-429-2537 or [rbielawski@mac.com](mailto:rbielawski@mac.com). More details at : [www.nhaudubon.org/locations/chapters/nashaway](http://www.nhaudubon.org/locations/chapters/nashaway)

#### Saturday May 4, 6:30–10:30am: Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Gerard Dr, Merrimack, NH

## NASHAWAY, continued

### *May Early Morning Bird Walks, continued*

**Sunday May 5, 6:30–10:30am: Mines Falls Park, in back of the Millyard, Nashua, NH**

**Saturday May 11, 6:30–10:30am: Beaver Brook, Hollis**

### **Birdathon: Saturday, May 18**

The Nashaway Chapter will be conducting a spring count of bird species coinciding with NH Audubon's statewide annual Birdathon. This will loosely cover the same area of the annual Nashua–Hollis Christmas Bird Count. Participants can set their own schedules for early morning walks or later in the day. There will be a tally at 5pm at Beaver Brook's Brown Lane Barn in Hollis. Please RSVP to Richard Bielawski [rbielawski@mac.com](mailto:rbielawski@mac.com)

### **Program: A Passage Northwest: Birding Alaska by Planes, Trains, Automobiles and Boats with Dr. Pamela Hunt** **Wednesday, March 20, 7–9 pm, Nashua Public Library**

Pam Hunt, senior biologist and bird conservation expert with NH Audubon, spent two weeks in August 2012 covering more of Alaska than many native-born Alaskans see in their lives. From Pacific rainforest to Mt. McKinley to remote areas on the Bering Sea, Pam logged a lot of miles and saw a lot of birds (plus mammals and scenery), and will share her experiences in this slide show. All programs are open to the public. Contact Richard Maloon at 424–5621 or [richard.maloon@att.net](mailto:richard.maloon@att.net).

### **Program: Birds of the White Mountains: Dr. Stephen Hale, Wed, April 17, 7–9 pm, Nashua Public Library**

Stephen Hale, Ph.D., U. of New Hampshire, is a research associate at the Joan and James Litzel Center for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Education at UNH. His research interests include climate change and vertebrate distribution modeling and mapping using satellite remote sensing and geographic information systems. Join us as Steve talks about the birds of the White Mountains using slides and audio recordings. Contact Richard Maloon at 424-5621 or [richard.maloon@att.net](mailto:richard.maloon@att.net).

### **Program: To Be Announced**

**Wednesday, May 15, 7–9 pm, Nashua Public Library**

## 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, 603-332-4093, [danielhubbard@peoplepc.com](mailto:danielhubbard@peoplepc.com) or see our web site at [www.seacoastchapter.org/programs](http://www.seacoastchapter.org/programs)

### **Program: Our Endangered Great Bay Estuary** **Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 pm**

Peter Wellenberger is the Great Bay–Piscataqua Waterkeeper with Conservation Law Foundation New Hampshire. The ecological and recreational value of the Great Bay estuary is immeasurable but its future is uncertain. Pollution is pushing the estuary towards a tipping point. Peter will describe the importance of Great Bay for the region, the problems the ecosystem faces and his role in finding policies and innovative solutions for those problems.

### **Program: 12 Months of Migration on the NH Seacoast** **Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 pm**

Join Steve Mirick, past Seacoast Chapter president and recent Goodhue-Elkins award recipient, in this presentation about bird migration in New Hampshire. Steve will talk about migration in general including the amazing advances in how we learn about bird migration. Steve will then “fly” through a year of bird migration along the NH Coast. Along the way, he will share some of the results that he and his wife Jane have accumulated in the last 10 years of “migration watching” along the coastline.

### **Program: The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership- and You!**

**Wednesday, May 8, 7:30 pm**

The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership has invested millions of dollars protecting thousands of acres of land around Great Bay. Learn from Mike Speltz of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests and Duane Hyde of the Nature Conservancy how this work was accomplished, appreciate the results achieved to date, and understand how the Partnership and other land trusts work with landowners to conserve their land. Learn how to be a link to future conservation work.

### **Field Trip: Bob Hull Memorial Bird Walk**

**Saturday, March 23, 8 am**

Help trip leaders Len Medlock and Mark Hatfield clean out bluebird boxes, look for early migrants and lingering winter birds, and get in the mood for spring. Meet at the Mill Road Plaza in Durham. Contact: Len Medlock at [lenmedlock@comcast.net](mailto:lenmedlock@comcast.net) or 603-770-8224.

### **Field Trip: Great Bay: Saturday, April 6, 8 am**

Bird the varied habitats of the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge and other Great Bay birding hotspots. Meet at the McDonald's in Newington, 49 Gosling Road, next to the Crossings at Fox Run. Contact: Lauren Kras [atlauren.kras@gmail.com](mailto:atlauren.kras@gmail.com) or 315-263-3436 and David Blezard at [dblezard@mac.com](mailto:dblezard@mac.com) or 603-343-1223

### **Field Trip: Owl Prowl: Saturday, April 20, 4 am**

Join our always popular search for owls, woodcock, and sunrise birds. Meet at the Mill Road Plaza in Durham. Contact: Steve Mirick at [smirick@comcast.net](mailto:smirick@comcast.net) or 978-374-0654

### *Beginner Bird Walks*

NH Audubon Seacoast Chapter volunteers will lead the following walks this spring. Birders of all levels of expertise are encouraged to participate and share their experiences. Children are welcome with an adult. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, water, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Walks are free and open to the public. Details at [www.seacoastchapter.org](http://www.seacoastchapter.org).

**Exeter and Beyond: Saturday, May 4, 7 am–noon**

**The Hidden Wilds of Durham: Wednesday, May 8, 7–9 am**

**Urban Forestry Center: Saturday, May 11, 7:30 am–noon**

**Pickering Ponds Trails: Sunday, May 12, 7 am–noon and Wednesday, May 15, 7–9 am**

**Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Wednesday, May 22, 7–9 am**



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## CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Jason Reiners on joining Jed Callen, Amy Manzelli, and Carolyn Baldwin at the recently renamed firm, BCM Environmental and Land Law, LLC (formerly, Baldwin and Callen, PLLC).



BCM Environmental & Land Law focuses primarily on environmental and land use law. Clients include land-owners and developers who want to do it right, individuals who want to pass on their family lands intact to heirs with minimum “shrinkage”, and neighbors who want to protect our streams, lakes, wetlands, forests, fields, soil, and air, and their neighborhoods, from development done wrong.

The BCM legal team works to achieve clients' legal goals while honoring a shared commitment to preserving New Hampshire's prized natural and built environment. Representing clients with passion, integrity and skill, they design legal solutions consistent with both private property rights and sustainable stewardship of our land and natural resources.

A firm committed to New Hampshire's natural legacy, BCM Environmental and Land Law has been protecting and preserving natural resources since long before it was popular to be “green”.