

Budworm Birds in the Northern Forest

by Pamela Hunt

One of the remarkable stories of the past winter was that of a Cape May Warbler which survived the entire season at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, where it fed on brine flies and was enjoyed and photographed by hundreds of people. At that time of year, a Cape May Warbler should have been a couple of thousand miles south in the Caribbean, not within a couple of hundred miles of its breeding grounds in the boreal conifer forests of northern New England and eastern Canada. It's in this breeding habitat that our story is set, with Cape May Warbler as one of the key players.



The Odiorne Cape May Warbler, photo by Pam Hunt.

Cape May is one of a handful of species, including Bay-breasted and Tennessee warblers and Evening Grosbeak, that are considered "budworm specialists." Spruce budworm is a moth whose caterpillars, as you might guess, feed primarily on spruce and fir. Like many forest insects, their populations tend to be cyclical, with huge outbreaks followed by long periods of scarcity. During major outbreaks, budworm caterpillars can be super-abundant, and provide a seemingly endless supply of food to nesting birds. Birds respond to this bounty by rearing more young, and in some cases even producing multiple broods. Most birds will go back to eating other insects after a budworm outbreak has passed its peak, but not the specialists. These birds will actually decline in abundance as the resource declines, either by moving elsewhere in search of their preferred prey, or by producing fewer young. So while they aren't restricted to eating budworm, they have evolved so that their populations closely track the ups and downs of the prey – a classic "predator prey cycle."

But while budworm caterpillars are a boon to birds, they are the opposite to foresters, since a large infestation can kill millions of acres of trees and reduce timber values. As a result, significant effort has gone into budworm control in recent decades, and the last major outbreak in the Northeast was in the early 1980s (although a small one is slowly growing in Quebec). It stands to reason that if an outbreak is prevented from getting too large (usually through pesticide spraying or pre-emptive harvest), it is less likely to attract and support large numbers of budworm specialist birds. This is certainly one of the major hypotheses put forward to explain consistent declines in populations of Cape May, Bay-



Spruce budworm caterpillar on fir. Photo courtesy of Natural Resources Canada.

breasted, and Tennessee warblers, especially since the data also show slight increases in years and regions where budworm is on the upswing. Time will tell whether the current outbreak in Quebec will spread into northern New England, or if birds will respond to it significantly. In the meantime, think about these complex interactions between birds and insects the next time you watch a warbler foraging in the summer treetops.

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

Banner photo by John Hession.



From the President's Desk



Dear Friends,

Loyalty and trust are the keystones of any successful organization. New Hampshire Audubon would not be here if it were not for people who over the years have put their trust in us and expressed their loyalty to our mission in real, concrete ways. Whether serving the organization as members, volunteers, financial supporters, or goodwill ambassadors, these staunch friends have enabled New Hampshire Audubon to grow and to survive for nearly 100 years.

A number of these friends of Audubon recently bequeathed significant legacy gifts to ensure that we are able to continue to carry out our mission. Among them, J. Willcox and Natale Brown and Helen Dahl, were long-time NHA supporters and champions. Another, Katherine Rooney, was completely unknown to us until we received notice of her bequest in January (read more about Katherine on page 4). But each of them saw something of value in NHA and in what we do, and they wanted to make sure that we continue to do it. Now that's a legacy to be proud of. What a gift to all of us!

Wherever your passion lies, I hope you will think about what you can do to help ensure that New Hampshire Audubon will be there to protect the birds and wildlife of our beautiful state for the next 100 years. Whether it's connecting thousands of kids throughout New Hampshire with the outdoor world each year, performing statewide conservation research*, protecting nearly 8,000 acres of wildlife habitat in our 38 sanctuaries, or influencing environmental public policy through science-based advocacy, NH Audubon has a vital role to play in the state, both now and in the future. With your help, we'll be here when – and where – we are needed.

Mike

Michael J. Bartlett
President, New Hampshire Audubon

* Be sure to check out the *Conservation Notes* in this *Afield* for a wrap-up of all the Conservation Department has achieved in the past year!



Peter Gray

Did you know?

You can help support NH Audubon's resident animals while bringing home a piece of their beauty...

Fine art prints and greeting cards now available featuring NH Audubon's resident birds!

For more information or to make a purchase, visit: www.nhaudubon.org/nature-store/nh-audubon-art



ENGAGE WITH NATURE



A Celebration of the Outdoors Presented by
National Wildlife Federation and NH Audubon

Saturday, July 28

Join us for a day of fun-filled activities
between 10–3 at:

- Massabesic Center in Auburn
- McLane Center in Concord
- on the green at Newfound Lake

Live animals, crafts, sanctuary walks,
field explorations, bird banding
demonstrations, telemetry,
conservation staff presentations,
food, and so much more!



Peter Gray



For detailed schedule, visit:
www.nhaudubon.org/engage-with-nature

Legacy

In January, NH Audubon received a sizeable bequest from the estate of Katherine Rooney. We checked our database and didn't see her name, so we called her daughter, Karen Knight, to find out more.

Karen said her mother "loved her birds" – she always had bird feeders and loved to watch them. Mrs. Rooney was born in Albany, NY but frequently traveled to NH to visit her daughter, who has lived here for 42 years. Mrs. Rooney was living in Florida in later years but when her health began to fail she came to live with Karen. She was almost 102 years old when she died late in 2011; she was still active and read the paper every day.

Karen said that because her mother loved birds so much and loved New Hampshire, the family wanted to donate part of her estate to a New Hampshire organization that protected birds and that could really use the money. She says NHA was a logical choice.

New Hampshire Audubon is honored to be the recipient of this generous gift from the Rooney family. Their gift will have a lasting impact as we work to protect New Hampshire's environment for Mrs. Rooney's beloved birds.

Remembering

New Hampshire Audubon was saddened by the loss of a number of volunteers and supporters who will be missed.

Samuel Smith (1928-2011) was a former NH Audubon trustee and founding member of the Mascoma Chapter. He was captivated by Peregrine Falcons and an avid volunteer monitor of the pair in Hanover. He moved to Nevada many years ago, but just before he died he sponsored the addition of ice cream for all at the "Goatsucker Gala" – an end-of-season gathering for nighthawk and whip-poor-will volunteers.

We are grateful to these long-time members who supported New Hampshire Audubon in so many ways.

Priscilla P. Bohanan
Priscilla C. Lord
Suzanne L. Roy

Thoughtful gifts were made in memory of the following individuals:

Richard V. Ashton
William A. Beers
Stephanie M. Belko
Gerard R. Boucher
Ben Hanamoto
Elinor D. Lewis

New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund Established

by Rebecca Suomala

The New Hampshire Audubon Board of Trustees voted to approve the establishment the New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund to provide long-term support for the collection, organization, quality control, distribution, dissemination, publication, promotion, preservation and storage of New Hampshire bird sighting information. *New Hampshire Bird Records* is the current vehicle and umbrella for these functions and the initial focus of the fund is on supporting all facets of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (both the publication and data aspects).

New Hampshire Audubon has been collecting and publishing New Hampshire bird sighting information for more than 90 years and this endowment will help continue that tradition. The form and function of data collection and publication has changed dramatically over time and the fund has the flexibility to respond to future changes. Should the need for *New Hampshire Bird Records* support be met or no longer be necessary, other projects may be considered that fall under a larger goal of contributing to the knowledge and conservation of birds in New Hampshire through bird data collection, birding, and sharing of bird information.

Two generous donors have provided initial funds to establish this permanent endowment and we hope that other donors will help it grow. If you would like more information, please contact Becky Suomala, 603-224-9909 x309, bsuomala@nhaudubon.org.



Q: What should I do if I have found a baby bird out of its nest?

A: If the bird looks like a bird – that is, it has feathers and hops around – it is no longer considered a baby but a fledgling. When a fledgling either jumps from the nest or is pushed out by a sibling, it will hop around trying to locate a low branch. The fledgling will be very vocal as it calls to the parent bird(s), and the parents will continue to feed it until it grows to maturity. Leave it alone if you can. Humans do not make good bird parents and the fledgling's best chance of surviving is to remain with its parents so it can learn how to find food and survive on its own. If necessary, move the fledgling off the ground so that cats or other animals don't get it. A shallow box or a shoe box with an open side can be used to hold the bird. Hang the box in a nearby tree or a dense bush. Even a picnic table or house eave may work well as a safer location for the bird. If you must move the fledgling, try to keep it in close proximity to where it was originally discovered. Enjoy watching the parents return to the youngster with food, after you have left the area.

If, however, the baby bird has its eyes closed and very few feathers, it needs to be returned to the nest as soon as possible. Baby birds must be fed frequently and need to be returned to their parents' care. Birds have a poor sense of smell, so your handling will not discourage the parents from caring for the baby bird. If the entire nest has fallen down, try to place the nest back where it came from. Attempt to ensure that the nest will stay put, then leave the area so that it is quiet for one to two hours.

If no nest can be located, you will need assistance from someone licensed to care for injured and orphaned wildlife. Under no circumstances should you attempt to feed the baby bird; never give a baby bird water, bread or milk. You will be doing more harm than good. Only licensed rehabilitators are legally allowed to take in a wild creature and care for it. The NH Fish and Game Department maintains a list of licensed rehabilitators that is available on their website at: www.wildnh.com/Wildlife/wildlife_rehabbers.htm.

For nearly 40 other frequently asked questions of our naturalists, visit www.nhaidubon.org/conservation/ask-the-naturalist.

Ask the Naturalist

Q: When is it safe to mow fields for nesting Bobolinks and other field birds?

A: The decline in bird species that nest in fields has increased concern about the management of grasslands and meadows. Here in New Hampshire the most common birds that nest in such areas are Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Savannah Sparrows. These species usually return to New Hampshire in April or May and start nesting in early to late May. The young are generally out of the nest by mid-July. Ideally mowing should be delayed until late July.

If waiting this long is not possible, there are certain practices that can be followed in fields used for hay production that will increase the survival rate of ground-nesting birds.

- Watch for where birds, especially females, frequently land in the field. These are likely to be nesting areas. Avoid mowing these locations.
- Leave small patches such as edges or strips unmowed as nesting areas and feeding areas for young birds.
- Leave uncut sections around areas that are wet or difficult to cut.
- Set the mower at least six inches high to protect nests and young.
- Install a flushing bar on the front of your mower to flush birds from their hiding places in high grass before the mower gets there.
- Rotate larger fields (greater than 10 acres) so that some are mowed late (hay used for bedding and straw).

If you have fields that are not needed for hay, the solution is simpler. Delay mowing until late August. In the case of small fields, you can also try mowing once every two to three years, preferably in August, to increase plant diversity while keeping the growth of woody plants in check. Some nesting birds—Bobolinks for example, actually prefer using older hayfields. For larger fields, cutting one-third of the area every year late in the season will provide valuable food and cover conditions for wildlife as well as nesting sites. Cutting a few strips twice a year, where you know birds are not nesting, provides new growth for food as well as sunning and dusting areas.

If there are a number of fields adjacent to each other, the removal of hedgerows will provide the look of a large area. Such larger grasslands are appealing to the less common New Hampshire grassland birds: Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Upland Sandpiper.

Pastures that are used for grazing animals may provide good nesting sites provided the animals are rotated through a number of fields during the growing season.

If it is feasible to burn small hayfields, there are numerous benefits. Burning is done in early spring before birds nest and reduces or removes dead vegetation, adds nutrients, rejuvenates plant growth and helps prevent the spread of woody vegetation. Grassland bird populations usually benefit from this practice in one to two years after a burn.

The careful maintenance of grasslands and meadows benefits not only those species of birds that nest in them. It also provides hunting grounds for owls and other wildlife and enriches the entire surrounding ecosystem.



Bobolink, photo by Steve Maslowski/USFWS

NH Audubon's Statewide Offices - The McLane Center

Touch the Wild

Saturday, June 30, 9:30am

Cost: \$5 for Individual Members/\$10 non-members or \$15 for Member Families/\$30 non-member Families.

Have you ever seen a trained hawk in action? Master falconer Nancy Cowan demonstrates the power and magnificence of these great hunters and includes live hawks, questions and answers about birds of prey, up close and touch-friendly "raptor time", and flight demonstration, if possible.

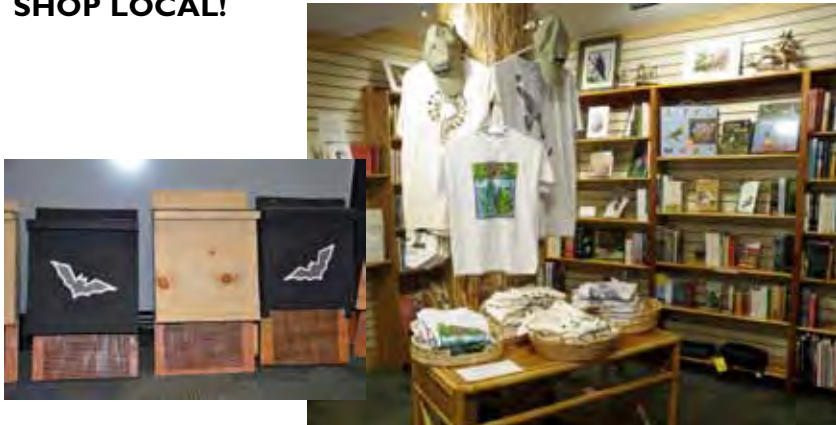
NH Audubon's Nature Store at the McLane Center

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 Bird houses
- 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!



FISHWAYS FUNDAYS

(for children ages 4-5, accompanied by an adult)
10-11 am or 1-2 pm

Cost: \$5 per family, advance registration with payment required

June 6: Chicks, Kits and Other River Babies

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.

Identifying & Using Medicinal Wild Plants in the Concord Area

Tuesday, August 21, 6:30-7:30 pm

Cost: Free, with \$3 donation to NH Audubon recommended Advance registration recommended.

Leader: Maria Noël Groves, Clinical Herbalist

Explore the trails at McLane Center for wild plants that can be used for medicinal purposes and food. We're sure to come across wild berries, cherry bark, edible greens, some forest-dwelling pain relievers, and more. Maria will give tips on how to identify and ethically harvest wild plants.

To register call Maria at 603.340.5161 or email office@wintergreenbotanicals.com.

**84 Silk Farm Road,
Concord, NH 03301
224-9909**

Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center

June 20: Super Seeds to Fabulous Flowers

What makes plants so special? How do they get from seed to flower? What do they need to grow? We'll explore plants around the Fishways, plant seeds and discover the magic of growing.

August 15: Amazing Amphibians

What is an amphibian and which ones live nearby? Meet live frogs and salamanders and learn how they survive in and around the river and other local water bodies.

August 29: Sensational Spiders

Spiders are amazing and important creatures. Are they our friends or foes? Where do they "hang out"? How do they weave their beautiful webs? We'll dive into the world of spiders to answer these questions and more. We'll practice weaving a web, move like spiders and even go on a spider hunt around the Fishways.

Fletcher Street, Manchester, NH 03105

626-FISH (3474)

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS

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

7–8 pm

June 8: Forest Frogs and Salamanders

Discover which frogs and salamanders like to hide out in the forest. We'll learn all about where and how these land-dwellers survive and where they find secret pools to lay their eggs.

June 22: Bring a Bug

Get ready for an evening of creepy-crawly fun! We'll search for bugs around the Fishways and explore some of their amazing adaptations. Kids are encouraged to bring a live insect to investigate.

July 20: Night Hike

Our hike will be filled with lots of fun facts about which animals come out at night and how they find their way around. Group will meet at the Fishways, then drive to Hackett Hill (5 min drive).

August 17: Campfire Tales

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

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE FISHWAYS

Fish Season Finale

June 9, 11am–3pm

Meet live American eels, learn about each of our migrating fish species, and participate in Q&A sessions with Fishways naturalists. Satisfy your curiosity about fish facts as we near the end of our 2012 Fish Season. Free! No registration required.

Paddle the Merrimack River with AMC NH Paddlers

July 21, 9am–3pm

Join the Amoskeag Fishways staff and the Appalachian Mountain Club members for a day of paddling on the Merrimack River. Please bring your own life jacket. Cost: Free. Advance registration required. Call 626-3474.

Project Learning Tree Workshop for Early Childhood Educators

August 22, 1–5pm

Parents and teachers are invited to explore and experience this innovative program designed specifically for children ages 3–6. Practice integrating art, music, math, manipulatives, creative expression, group exercises, and reading connections into outdoor, nature-based education. Includes a CD of songs to encourage playful movement and a copy of Project Learning Tree's Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood Activity Guide. Cost: \$40

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Explorers Program for ages 5–6

July 24, 25, 26, 9:30–11:30am

Adventurers Program for ages 7–9

July 31, August 1, 2, 9:30–11:30am

Please bring a snack and come prepared to be outdoors.

Cost: \$8 per program/ \$20 for all three. Pre-registration with payment required.

Tuesday: Bugs! Everywhere Bugs!

Search for and learn about insects and other bugs living all around us: in your yard, underground, and underwater.

Wednesday: Wildlife in the City

Get acquainted with who lives in the neighborhood.

They're furry, feathery, scaly and slimy, and they might live right next door!

Thursday: Adventures in the Woods

Discover forest treasures, build forts and play games at a nearby forest preserve. (Requires adult transportation, a 5 minute drive from the Fishways)

Voyagers Programs for ages 10–13

August 6–10, 9am–4pm

Enjoy a week of all day outdoor adventures. Cost: \$30 per session/\$140 for all five sessions. Pre-registration with payment required.

August 6: Let's Go Fishing

Learn to fish at Lake Massabesic and Kimball Pond.

August 7: Great Bay Day

Visit the Sandy Point Discovery Center and climb the fire tower for a bird's eye view.

August 8: Rivers to the Sea

Explore the unique ecosystem along the edge of the ocean.

August 9: Critter Quest

Bring your boots and muck around searching for wildlife.

August 10: Learn to Paddle

Enjoy canoeing and swimming on Newfound Lake.

Canoe Trip for ages 14–16

July 27, 9am–4pm

Paddle and swim on Newfound Lake. Cost: \$30. Pre-registration with payment required.

Fishing Trip for ages 14–16

August 3, 9am–4pm

Spend the day fishing at local lakes and ponds. Cost: \$30. Pre-registration with payment required.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Intro to Pelagic Wildlife

Saturday, June 2, 3–4 pm

Cost: \$5 (free to those attending Pelagic Trip on June 8)

Leader: Jon Woolf

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

Pelagic Trip

Location: Rye Harbor, NH

Friday, June 8, 8 am–5 pm

Cost: \$65 M/\$85 NM

Join NH Audubon aboard MV Granite State as we explore Jeffreys Ledge, 20 miles off the New Hampshire coast. Spend all day at sea, searching the length of Jeffreys Ledge for pelagic seabirds, whales, dolphins, and anything else that happens to cross our course. Once you register, you will receive confirmation and further information. Participants need to meet at Rye Harbor at 7:30 for check in and 8am departure. Max. 50.

Coastal Bird Trips

Wednesdays, June 20, July 18, August 15, 9 am–2:30 pm

Cost: \$6 M/\$9 NM per trip

Leader: JoAnn O'Shaughnessy

Enjoy birding the NH coast with trip leader 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. Maximum of 24 people.

Basic Shorebirding: Workshop

Saturday, August 25, 2–4 pm

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

Leader: Jon Woolf

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

Basic Shorebirding: Field Trip

Sunday, August 26, 8:30 am–12:30 pm

Cost: \$10 M/\$15 NM

Leader: Jon Woolf

Join us as we travel to a few of New Hampshire's beaches to study the various species of sandpipers and plovers that appear on our coastlines in fall. Meet at the Hampton Park & Ride at 8:30am. (To carpool from the Manchester area, meet at Massabesic Center at 7:15am.) Bring a bag lunch and prepare to be outside! Binoculars will be provided.

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. Pre-registration is appreciated.

Friday, June 15: John Cooley, Senior Biologist for the Loon Preservation Committee, and John Rockwood, loon photographer: Common Loons on Massabesic Lake. Learn about the natural history of these amazing and beautiful birds on Massabesic and other New Hampshire Lakes. How long does it take for a loon egg to hatch? Do loons mate for life? What threats do they face? And how can you help track and protect loons? Come hear the answers to these and other questions, see photos of loons taken on Massabesic, and find out more about loon conservation. As a biologist for the Loon Preservation Committee, John Cooley has helped to monitor, manage and study loons throughout New Hampshire since 2005. John Rockwood (www.theloonmannh.net) has photographed loons and other wildlife on Massabesic for many years.

Friday, July 20: Jennifer Hatch, ReVision Energy Have you thought about solar hot water or solar electricity for your home, but never knew where to begin? Then come join us for *Solar For the Homeowner*, a presentation about how solar hot water and solar electric energy systems work. You'll learn the answers to questions like: how much will a system cost, are there available incentives for installing these systems, is my home a good site for solar, what type of up-keep and maintenance should I expect, can I really expect a return on investment since I live in New England? In addition to installing solar for homeowners throughout Maine and New Hampshire, ReVision Energy has helped dozens of nonprofits and municipalities install solar since 2003.

Friday, August 3: Steve Murphy, Milieu Counselor Children's Hospital Boston/ Natural Awareness Counselor: Using Nature Awareness Principles to Enrich our Lives

In this fast paced society of ever increasing distractions, it is more important than ever to explore how nature awareness principles can improve and enrich every area of our lives. Come for a discussion about the increasing prevalence of technology in our children's lives, and how it may even change brain patterning. We will learn how to use nature awareness skills to reconnect to nature, as well as ourselves and others.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Massabesic's "Passport to Adventure"

June-October

Families will follow clues that will lead to various locations around the Audubon Center and its trails where they will find a stamp that can be used to stamp their passport. After following all the clues and finding all the stamps, families will have their name added to the Passport Adventure Wall of Fame and will be entered into a drawing to win a prize! Passports are available at two levels- "Junior" for beginners and "Explorer" for experienced hikers. The Passports are \$2.00 each and can be purchased at the front desk, Tues.-Sat., 9:00 am-5:00pm, Sun.- 11-1:pm. Call 603-668-2045 for more information.

Bird Banding Demonstrations

Saturday June 9, 30, July 21, 10-noon

Tuesday, Aug 7, 10-noon

Cost: FREE

Leader: Jay Barry, volunteer educator and licensed bird bander for 40 years

Join Jay as he shows us the fascinating banding process from capture to release. Using mist nets to catch birds, we will ID, band, and record our findings for the national database. Learn how to identify species, sex, and age with a variety of live subjects!

Dragonfly Workshop

Saturday, July 7, 10-noon

Cost: Individuals-\$7 M/\$10 NM; Families-\$15 M/\$25 NM

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist

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

Announcing the 6th Annual: Wild New Hampshire Photography Contest & Auction

If photography is your passion, take this opportunity to have your best photos recognized! Enter your photos to win in any or all of the three categories: wildlife, wild plants and land/water scenes. Up to 5 photos can be submitted. Youth (17 and under) and Adults (over 17) will be judged separately. All winning photos will be donated to the silent auction that will benefit the Massabesic Audubon Center. Winning photos will be on display from October 2 to December 9, 2012. Call the center for complete rules or email mac@nhaudubon.org for more information. Rules and entry forms are on our website, www.nhaudubon.org. Entries must be submitted July 13 to September 5.

NH COMMON GROUND GARDEN NEWS

The Teaching Garden is maintained as an organic and permaculture-based garden where all of the food grown is donated to the NH Food Bank. There is a central nine patch garden which includes four teaching areas for the after-school youth groups who participate in the spring and summer programs and where they plant individual yardstick beds. In 2012 themes for the remaining five patches include Pizza, Quilt, Grain, Peace, Rainbow, Munch 'n Crunch, Fuzzy-Wuzzy and Sunflower House. Other features include the Entrance Arbor and four 4-H signature beds, the Butterfly Garden, a Corn Maze and the Squash Mound. Small areas for beneficial insects patches are strategically located.

At the back of the Garden is a compost area and six science beds where Garden Docents and Garden Crew experiment with different methods of growing crops. A sensory perennial garden is located between the Welcome sign and the Quonset storage hut.



To follow our progress, and to learn about volunteer opportunities, visit the 4-H Children's Teaching Garden webpage at www.extension.unh.edu/Counties/Hillsboro/4-HChildrensTeachingGarden.htm, call (603)641-6060, or email carol.martinward@unh.edu for further information. Also, see our Facebook page at NH 4-H Common Ground Garden Project. We hope to see you in the garden this summer!



It's Not Too Late!

Register Now For Summer Camp

at Massabesic (Auburn) or McLane (Concord) Centers

Many sessions still available

- Live animal presentations
- Different themes each week
- Fun, safe, hands-on learning opportunities
- Crafts, storytelling, nature-based games and outdoor recreation

Camp Programs

Wonders Camp (Ages 4-5): 9am–noon

Available Sessions 1, 3, and 5 only

Pricing: \$110

This half-day program gives your child the opportunity to begin experiencing the wonders of camp. Our instructors develop age-appropriate activities that connect your little one to the natural world.

Discovery Camp (Ages 6-9): 9am–4pm

Pricing: Sessions 1, 3-7 (5 Days), \$200;

Session 2 (4 Days), \$160

Discovery Campers spend their days exploring the fields, forest, and wetlands that surround each camp location. Activities include short hikes, pond explorations, craft making, storytelling, interactive nature-based games, and live animal presentations.

Explorers Camp (Ages 10-12): 9am–4pm

Pricing: Sessions 1, 3-7 (5 Days), \$275;

Session 2 (4 Days), \$220

Explorers experience the beauty of New Hampshire's outdoors by taking field trips around the state each day. Campers will explore wildlife and unique landscapes through hiking, swimming, and projects focused on conservation and stewardship.



Visit
www.nhaudubon.org
for full details,
availability, and
registration.

ABOUT THE LOON CENTER

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.

Annual Summer Luncheon and Auction

Sunday, June 10, 11:30am–3pm

Cost: \$50 for single, \$95 per couple

Church Landing, Meredith

Bid on a variety of locally donated items as well as several big-ticket items, including cruises and vacations, and enjoy lunch catered by Lakehouse Grille. Mingle with other loon lovers and Loon Center biologists! Hosted by the Loon Preservation Committee. Reservations at (603) 476-5666 or find more information at www.loon.org.

Summer Evening Nature Talks at the Loon Center

Thursdays, July 5–August 23, 7:30pm

Free admission, donations accepted.

Stop in the Loon Center every Thursday to hear lectures on a variety of wildlife topics, from the state of New Hampshire's loons, to black bears in our region, to finding new and beautiful habitats to visit in your own backyard. Read more descriptions and check out different lectures at www.loon.org or call (603) 476-5666 for more info.



Loon Family, photo by John Rockwood

“Yakking for Loons” Kayaking Fundraiser

Friday, July 13, 8am

Cost: \$10 per person, pledge form available.

Held at the boat launch on Lee's Mill Rd in Moultonborough, join the Loon Preservation Committee by kayaking for the loons! Pledge forms add to the spirit of competition, and registration fees include a light lunch. Call for reservations.

Annual State-wide Loon Census

Saturday, July 21, 8am–9am

Do you have loons on your lake? Let us know! Help the Loon Preservation Committee count New Hampshire's loons and monitor their progress as part of the state-wide census. No experience necessary. Visit www.loon.org for volunteering information or contact Susie Burbidge at volunteers@loon.org.

Annual Loon Festival

Saturday, July 21, 10am–2pm

Free admission, donations accepted.

Come celebrate your summer with the Loon Preservation Committee at the Annual Loon Festival! There will be face-painting, crafts, a dunk tank, and story-telling on the 200-acre Markus Wildlife Sanctuary. Fun for the whole family!

Carl R. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, August 20, 8am, Shotgun Start

Cost: \$125 per player, \$500 per foursome.

Ridgewood Country Club, Moultonborough

Always a successful event for New Hampshire's loons, the Annual Golf Tournament honors the late Senator Carl R. Johnson, who served on LPC's Board of Directors for over 10 years. Prizes are given for the top golfers, and sponsorships are available. Contact the Loon Preservation Committee at (603) 476-5666 or visit www.loon.org for more information.

Guided Loon Cruises on Squam Lake

Fridays, June 15–August 24, 3pm

Cost: for ticket pricing, contact the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.

Join our Squam Lakes biologist, Tiffany Grade, on a 90 tour of one of New Hampshire's most famous and beautiful lakes. Catch glimpses of loon parents feeding their chicks and diving in their natural habitat. Reservations recommended by contacting the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center at (603) 968-7194.

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, the Paradise Point Nature Center, Ash Cottage at Hebron Marsh Sanctuary and the Bear Mountain Sanctuary. During the summer months, the Nature Center offers many programs for all ages, several interactive exhibits, live animal displays, and canoe and kayak rentals. With sanctuary trails open all year, there is always something to do.



Visit www.nhaudubon.org for Newfound's hours, Summer Program Guide and information about canoe and kayak rentals.



North Shore Road, Hebron NH 03222

603-744-3516

Chapter Happenings

CAPITAL AREA

Field Trip: Pawtuckaway State Park

Saturday, June 2, 7 am

Search for common and uncommon breeding species in a beautiful woodland setting. Meet Rob Woodward under the powerlines on Reservation Road off Route 107. Contact: Rob Woodward at 224-0889 (evenings)

Field Trip: Morning Canoeing/Birding on the Merrimack River

Saturday, June 9, 6:30 am–noon

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

Field Trip: Concord Airport

Saturday, June 16, 7:30 am

Join Dave Howe in search of Grasshopper Sparrows and other grassland species. Meet at the north end of the Concord Airport parking lot on Airport Road, Concord. For more information call Dave Howe at 224-9298 or email him at dmahowe@comcast.net.



Grasshopper Sparrow, photo by Len Medlock.

CAPITAL AREA, continued

Field Trip: Exploring Henniker

Saturday, June 30, 7am–noon

Henniker is another largely underbirded area of Merrimack County, although new birder Aiden Moser is starting to change that. Aiden will co-lead this trip with Pam Hunt, and we'll visit sites largely within the Army Corps flood control lands in search of local breeding birds. Meet at Amy Brook Park (off Old Concord Road in Henniker) at 7:00 or the McLane Center at 6:30. For more info contact Lynnea Koester @ 428-8313.

Field Trip: Hike up Mt. Sunapee, including Lake Solitude

Sunday, July 8, Hike starts at 7am, see below for meeting options

At 2700 feet, Mt. Sunapee is the second highest peak in Merrimack County, and historically had potential breeding records of species like Bicknell's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, and Rusty Blackbird. It's very rarely visited by birders however, so who knows what species occur there today. The goal of this trip is to find out. This is a 5-6 mile (round trip) hike with a vertical gain of 1500'. Bring a lunch and expect to return early-mid afternoon. Hike will depart from the Andrews Brook trailhead along Mountain Road in Newbury, about 1.25 miles south of Route 103. People coming from Concord can carpool from the McLane center: meet at 6:00. Contact Pam Hunt at biodiva@myfairpoint.net or 753-9137. Advance notice requested - we don't want to leave anyone behind!

Field Trip: Afternoon Canoeing/birding on the Merrimack River

Saturday, July 14, 1:00 pm–dusk.

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

Field Trip: Horseshoe Pond

Saturday, August 18, 8:00 am

August is one of the quieter times of year for birding, but that doesn't mean there aren't birds to be found and as we head into the end of August early migrants are on the move. Join Dave Howe for a morning of birding at this popular spot for both water and land birds. Meet at the parking lot at Horseshoe Pond Place at 26-28 Commercial Street, Concord. For more information call Dave Howe at 224-9298 or email him at dmahowe@comcast.net.

Field Trip(s): Common Nighthawk Migration

Late August, pm (days TBD)

Witness hundreds of nighthawks migrating past Concord. Rob Woodward will spearhead the Nighthawk Migration Count in late August. Watch for Details on the NH Birds listserv.

Contact: Rob Woodward 224-0889 (evenings)

LAKES REGION

Field Trip: Sandwich Area

Sunday June 3, 7–10 am

We'll look for breeding birds in the Sandwich area. Bring binoculars and bug repellent. Waterproof shoes may be helpful. Call or email for the location.

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

Program and Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 14, 5:30 pm

Hors d'oeuvres and pot luck supper will be followed by a brief business meeting at 7 pm. Program at 7:30 pm (to be announced).

The Loon Center on Lees Mill Rd. Moultonborough, Handicapped accessible.

Contact: The Loon Center at 476-5666

MASCOMA

Visit www.mascomabirds.org for listings.



Blackpoll Warbler, photo by Len Medlock.

MONADNOCK

Field Trip: Songbirds of Managed Forestland – the Yale Toumey Forest

Friday, June 1, 8–11 am

Join NH Audubon Director of Land Management, Phil Brown, and UNH Cooperative Extension County Forester, Steve Roberge, for an interpretive walk featuring the Forest's long history of management and ecological research and the resulting diverse birdlife. Departs at 8 am from the log landing across from the Market Basket store on Rte. 10 in Swanzy. Contact Steve at 352-4550 for more details.

Co-sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension and The Harris Center.

Field Trip: Highland Birding on Monadnock's Pumpelly Trail

Saturday, June 16, 8 am–1pm

Moderately strenuous bird walk in search of those melodious thrushes, vireos, winter wrens, et. al. Meet avid birder and NH Audubon and Harris Center Trustee, Tom Warren, at 8 am at his house, 15 Pumpelly Lane in Dublin. Go west of the village on Rte 101; turn left on to East Lake Road, then immediately left again on to Pumpelly Lane.

Contact Tom at 563-7194 for more details. *Co-sponsored by The Harris Center.*

Chapter Happenings

NASHAWAY

Field Trip: Sunday, June 10, 6 am–11 am

Benson Park, 27 Kimball Hill Road, Hudson

Formerly Benson's Wild Animal Farm, Benson Park has been getting a makeover by Hudson residents to develop the park for passive recreation. Join us on our annual trip here along the many trails that wind through the diverse habitats of this historic site. <http://www.hudsonnh.gov/boards/bensons>

Program: Wednesday, June 20, 7pm

Backyard Photography in Nashua

Nashua Public Library, Downstairs Theater Room

Master Decorative Artist, author, gardener, photographer and Nashaway member Deanne Fortnam presents her striking photographs of birds, all taken in her hometown of Nashua, many right in her own backyard. You will be surprised at the number and variety of species that Deanne has photographed locally. To preview some of Deanne's photographs, visit <http://deanneart.com/> and select footer link Deanne's Other Hobbies. This is free event is open to the public. No registration is necessary, but if you would like more information, contact Richard Maloon 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net

Ponemah Bog Summer Field Trip Series

See page 15 for details.

SEACOAST

Program: Cheaters Sometimes Prosper: Aristotle Onassis, Alexei Solyanik, and Other Scoundrels of Modern Whaling

Wednesday, June 13, 7:30 pm

Long before there was a Save the Whales movement, there was a Steal the Whales movement, led by notorious capitalist Aristotle Onassis and little known Communist Alexei Solyanik. Together, they violated nearly every rule of the International Whaling Commission, and in doing so, they made conserving the world's whales nearly impossible. The whaling commission had the capability to manage whaling sustainably using science, if it had the confidence of its members, but the prosperous cheaters undermined that confidence. UNH Associate Professor of History Kurk Dorsey will discuss this dastardly chain of events. Meet at the Seacoast Science Center (wheelchair accessible), Odiorne Point State Park, 570 Ocean Boulevard, Rye NH. Refreshments are at 7 pm.

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



Bellamy River Sanctuary, photo by Phil Brown.

Field Trip: Bellamy River Sanctuary

Saturday, June 2, 7 am

Please note, we will meet at the Audubon sanctuary, not the state wildlife management area. Directions: From the junction of Routes 4 and 108 in Durham, go 2.5 miles east on Rt. 4. Turn north (left) at the traffic light onto Back River Road. Travel 0.8 mile then turn right onto Bayview Road. Half a mile down Bayview Road, bear left at a junction onto a dirt road and continue a quarter of a mile across the field to the small dirt parking area on the right. Contact: Trip leaders Dan Hubbard (332-4093) or Greg Tillman (679-8167).

**Field Trip: Whale Watch and Pelagic Birding Boat Trip
July**

For complete information and contact see the web site: www.seacoastchapter.org/field-trips

Chapter Decal!

The Seacoast Chapter is proud to announce our very own chapter decal! The decal is a full color, vinyl, 3-inch diameter circle available in cling-on or sticker style. The photograph is a Purple Sandpiper taken by Len Medlock. This is a chance to own an example of Len's beautiful photography. It is perfect for display on a car window, home door or window. Help us fund the cost of programs, newsletters and meeting refreshments by purchasing one today! To print out an order form, visit the Seacoast Chapter web site at www.seacoastchapter.org.



SANCTUARY FIELD TRIPS

Friends of Ponemah Bog Summer Field Trip Series

Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary in Amherst, NH is one of New Hampshire's most beloved places. A true bog, this location is an excellent place to observe rare and interesting plant life including carnivorous pitcher plants and sundews, and it is a haven for wildlife, too! Join us for one or more of these free, informal walks – usually lasting about two hours. Some of the following interesting topics will be covered on each walk:

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



Ponemah Bog in Amherst, photo by Pam Hunt.

Saturday, May 19 with Jack Gleason, Bog Plants and Adaptations, 9 AM

Saturday, June 2 with Phil Brown, NH Audubon Director of Land Management, 8 AM

Saturday, June 9 with Laura Deming, Senior Wildlife Biologist, 8 AM

Saturday, June 30 with Jack Gleason, Bog Plants and Adaptations, 8 AM

Saturday, July 21 with Pam Hunt NH Audubon Senior Biologist Friends, 10 AM

Saturday, August 4 with Tom Young, Bird and Dragonfly Enthusiast, 10 AM

Field Trip: Paddle and Hike of Meetinghouse Pond & the Kensan-Devan WS

Saturday, July 14, 8–11 am

Join Phil Brown of NH Audubon and Emily Hague of the Monadnock Conservancy for a morning paddle on Meetinghouse Pond at the Kensan-Devan Wildlife Sanctuary in Marlborough, followed by a short hike down to Chelsey Meadow on the recently protected Monadnock Conservancy-owned Devan Preserve. We'll paddle the whole pond, looking at ecologically-interesting floating bog mats, and then beach our boats while we walk from the boat access parking lot into lands protected by both organizations, which total well over 1,000 acres.

Bring footwear for hiking, your own kayak or canoe, and binoculars! Contact Emily@monadnockconservancy.org for more details. *Co-sponsored by Monadnock Conservancy and The Harris Center.*





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We would also like to acknowledge companies that have made matching gifts to NH Audubon:

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If you would like to become a Corporate Partner of NH Audubon, please contact us at (603) 224-9909, ext. 307.

Corporate Partner Spotlight

Ed Reilly Subaru

Ed Reilly Subaru is a family-owned, full service Subaru dealership that has operated out of Concord, NH for 16 years. Over the past 16 years they have been proud to sell and service Subaru vehicles throughout the Concord area as well as Manchester, Laconia, and the Lakes Region. They have sold cars throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Canada.

Ed Reilly Subaru has been named a Subaru Stellar Performer which is an award presented from Subaru of America for consistent and exceptional service in all departments. Ed Reilly Subaru is proud to be named a Subaru of New England President's Club Member which signifies excellence in market penetration and sales volume.

Ed Reilly Subaru was the proud sponsor of NH Audubon's Rites of Spring programs. The first event, Eyes on Owls was attended by some 250 people who were treated to a wonderful presentation with live owls by Mark and Marcia Wilson. New Hampshire Audubon thanks Ed Reilly Subaru for sponsoring our Rites of Spring programs. We are excited about our partnership!

