

Between a Rock and a Wet Place: Sea-level Rise and the Fate of Salt Marsh Birds

by Pamela Hunt

Sea levels are rising. Through a combination of melting ice and thermal expansion, the ocean in the Gulf of Maine region has risen 10 inches since 1920, and will probably rise at least another 30-50 inches by the end of the century. Seacoast communities like Seabrook have already developed plans to prepare for the potential damage to roads and property from coastal flooding.

Habitats along the New Hampshire coast will also be significantly affected by sea level rise. Areas currently exposed at low tide such as mudflats will remain submerged for longer periods, and areas at the upper edge of high tide such as salt marshes will be flooded more frequently. The net result will be that habitats will slowly shift inland, a process known as "marsh migration." Migration success will depend on whether plants can keep pace with sea level rise, and if they can't there is likely to be a net loss of salt marsh habitat. The situation in New Hampshire is worsened by extensive development (e.g., Route 1 and I-95) directly inland from the marshes on the immediate coast, which often leaves marshes with no place to go.

Very few birds are restricted to salt marshes, and in New Hampshire the only species is the Saltmarsh Sparrow. Saltmarsh Sparrows breed from southern Maine to North Carolina, and because of this narrow range are considered a species of high conservation priority in the Northeast. Nelson's Sparrows and Willets also nest in New Hampshire's salt marshes, but occur over a larger range including freshwater marshes on the Great Plains.

Saltmarsh Sparrows are extremely sensitive to changes in water levels. They build their nests at or near the normal high tide mark, where they are likely to flood during extremely high tides ("spring tides" – associated with the full moon), and over half are lost in this manner in each breeding season. The birds have evolved to be extremely good at re-nesting after such an event (within a few days), and are usually able to complete a full incubation and nestling period before the next extreme tide threatens the nest. As a result, most of the birds in a given marsh will be highly synchronous in their nesting stage, having all been "calibrated" by the first spring tide of the season.

But sea level rise is poised to throw a major wrench into this finely-tuned system. If the rise occurs faster than plants can respond, current sparrow habitat will become less vegetated, and even if the vegetation is still suitable, flooding from spring tides may increase. Attempts by seacoast communities to protect infrastructure and property may only exacerbate the issue by forcing water to build up in marshes and flooding nests more frequently. Efforts are currently underway to better model the potential effects of sea level rise on New Hampshire's coastal ecosystems, and land protection continues around Great Bay, where salt marsh stands a better chance of migrating because there's less surrounding development.



Saltmarsh Sparrow by Jason Lambert

Damage to New Hampshire's salt marsh would not only

be bad for sparrows. The other birds that use this habitat would also be impacted,

including Willets and migrating shorebirds. Salt marshes are also important nursery areas for fish and invertebrates, and help protect (along with barrier islands) coastal areas from flooding. You can help by supporting salt marsh restoration efforts (including elimination of tidal flow restrictions), land protection surrounding salt marshes, and legislation that addresses climate change.

New Hampshire Audubon: Protecting New Hampshire's Natural Environment for Wildlife and for People

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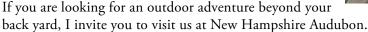
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Kelly Wing, *General Editor* (kwing@ nhaudubon.org) Banner photo by John Hession.

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

The light and warmth of summer's long days beckon us outdoors. The natural world is so accessible this time of year; we need only to step out our back door to feel the sun's rays, see the beauty of flowers in bloom, and hear the songs of birds around us.



Bring your walking shoes to our Massabesic, McLane, or Newfound Centers, or simply relax and enjoy a picnic lunch. These special places provide a wide array of opportunities to connect with the natural world on our lakes, on our trails, or in our forests and fields.

Summer is also a great time to get out and explore New Hampshire Audubon's sanctuaries. Our new "Passport to Nature" program will highlight seven sanctuaries this year—each passport providing engaging clues that will reveal the sanctuary's unique natural history. Passport booklets will be available by early summer. Be sure to visit our website in early summer for details.

Several New Hampshire Audubon chapters also offer exciting field trip opportunities in the summer months. If you are looking for a group outing, or the opportunity to learn from birding experts, check out our 'Chapter Happenings' listings for paddles, easy walks, and hikes to different habitats around the state.

However you choose to spend your summer days, I hope they are filled with the discoveries and sense of wonder that only the outdoors can bring.

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#### 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!



# Ask the Naturalist

# Q: What should I feed Hummingbirds?

A: Hummingbirds return to our state in late April or early May. Put up your feeder when the first really warm weather arrives during that time. Feeders should be placed in partial shade.

To make your own nectar, bring to a boil a mixture of one part sugar to 4-8 parts water and allow to cool. Hummingbirds will investigate anything that is red, so if your feeder has some red on it you do not need to put red dye in the nectar. Do not use honey in your nectar because it can grow a fungus fatal to hummingbirds. Change the nectar in your feeder and put in fresh nectar every 3-4 days or more often in the hottest days of summer. You should also clean the feeder at this time. Store extra nectar in the refrigerator. Hummingbirds will continue to feed on insects and other flowers in addition to your feeder so they will get the diet they need.

If you have a problem with bees, try getting a feeder with bee guards. Ants can also be a problem – try putting petroleum jelly on the wire holding the feeder so they cannot travel down to the feeder. Mammals, such as flying squirrels, will occasionally discover a feeder and empty it at night.

The only hummingbird we have in New Hampshire is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, although the rare, vagrant Rufous Hummingbird turns up every once in a while. The male Ruby-throated has a red throat that will appear black if it is not in the sun. The female has a whitish-gray breast and both have a greenish back. The young resemble the female during their first year.

Hummingbirds migrate south at summer's end. Adults will usually migrate first, often as early as the beginning of August. The young usually stay longer and are gone by the end of September. Research has shown that hummingbirds will migrate regardless of whether there is food present, so you can leave your feeder up until the weather turns colder and the hummingbirds are gone.

We hope you enjoy watching these wonderful birds.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird photographed by Len Medlock in Exeter, NH.

# In Memoriam

**Peter Stettenheim of Lebanon, NH**, died unexpectedly on January 20, 2013. He was a long-time NH Audubon volunteer, Board member and active member of the Mascoma Chapter. Peter's dedication to ornithology led him to travel the world with his wife, Sandy; they avidly collected art, and at the time of his death, Peter was teaching a class about the symbolism of birds in art. An award winning teacher, author, and peace activist, Dr. Stettenheim was committed to science, education, social justice, his family, and the local organizations he so generously supported.

Physically and intellectually active and vigorous until his passing, Peter will be remembered for his fascination with the natural world, his wonderful conversations, dry wit and personal warmth.

The Massabesic Audubon Center also lost a valued volunteer, **Sharon Williamson**, on February 11, 2013. Sharon's love for our rescue turtle Lucky, the center, and wildlife was evident to all who met her.

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:

Kevin Doyle Elwin Faulkner Helen Green Hilde Hoffman Christine Howe Susan M. Jackman Marie E. Robinson Marjorie Rolfe Leroy J. Salisbury Peter Stettenheim Florence B. Woods

# News

# Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program: 25 Years Conserving Wildlife and Habitat in New Hampshire

by Jane Vachon, NH Fish and Game

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program celebrates a big anniversary in 2013. For 25 years, this program has worked in partnership with NH Audubon and other conservation organizations to restore and protect our native wildlife.

NH Audubon was an influential voice calling for the creation of the Nongame Program back in 1988, driving a growing awareness that many of New Hampshire's threatened and endangered birds, mammals and fish were disappearing.

The intervening years have seen many successes for the Nongame Program and its conservation partners like NH Audubon. Together, they developed the state's Wildlife Action Plan in 2005, setting important priorities and creating tools for local communities to take action for wildlife. Conservation efforts grew more effective as the focus shifted from local to regional levels. Today, biologists from multiple states, and even countries, work together to protect entire populations of species –

from pint-sized shorebirds like piping plovers to enormous raptors like bald eagles – throughout their ranges.

Thanks to the work of the Nongame Program, NH Audubon and other partners, New Hampshire now has the highest number of nesting pairs of bald eagles in 20 years. Ospreys were removed from the state's threatened and endangered wildlife list in 2008. Restoration efforts have resulted in more than 2,200 pairs of breeding terns returning to the Isles of Shoals. More than 100 endangered piping plover chicks have successfully fledged from nests on New Hampshire's beaches since protection began.

As we all know, there is still much work to be done. In this milestone 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Nongame Program is looking ahead with renewed energy and commitment to working with dedicated partners like NH Audubon to meet the future challenges of conserving New Hampshire's birds and other nongame wildlife. Join the festivities at wildnh.com/ nongame.



More than 100 endangered piping plover chicks have successfully fledged from nests on New Hampshire's beaches since protection began. Credit: C. Stubblefield



# Eighth Annual Winnipesaukee Wine Festival to Benefit Newfound Audubon Center

The eighth annual Winnipesaukee Wine Festival featuring samples of more than 150 wines and spirits from around the world will benefit the Newfound Audubon Center this year.

The annual event will be held on Thursday, June 20 from 5:30–8:00 p.m. in the Winnipesaukee Ballroom at Church Landing on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee in Meredith. Hosted by The Common Man Family of Restaurants and The Martignetti Companies of New Hampshire, the festival will feature wine, spirits and beer from local, national and international wineries and breweries. Tickets are \$50 per person, and all proceeds will benefit the Newfound Audubon Center in Hebron.

A pre-Wine Festival Beach Party at the Common Man's Town Docks outdoor beach bar overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee in Meredith will be held the night before on Wednesday, June 19 starting at 6 p.m. The evening will feature wine, tapas-style food and live music. Admission to the event is free and a portion of the proceeds will also benefit the Newfound Audubon Center.

For information about the Eighth Annual Winnipesaukee Wine Festival visit thecman.com or call (603) 968-9330 to order tickets. Tickets can also be purchased at New Hampshire Audubon's McLane Center in Concord. Space is limited and advanced tickets are strongly suggested. Discounted room rates are also available.

# Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge Turns 50

Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. In 1963, New Hampshire Audubon acquired its first significant sanctuary, the land that would become the heart of Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge. Pondicherry encapsulates what NH Audubon is all about, from the discovery of this valuable wildlife habitat through the purchase of the land, all of which was accomplished through volunteer efforts. This grassroots effort has continued to bring about the protection of a very special place, involving many partners to bring about a conservation success. As NH Audubon prepares to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, we recognize the importance of Pondicherry's success to our history.

Bob Quinn, birder, NH Audubon volunteer and former staff, shares a part of his experience at Pondicherry and provides a glimpse into part of what makes this refuge so special.

# What Pondicherry Means To Me by Robert A. Quinn

"Pondicherry!" The name conjures up vivid images of cloud-draped mountain views, magnificent and memorable boreal birds, a protected landscape full of wild and untouched northern ponds, bogs, and forests, dedicated people...

For some of us Pondicherry is a supernatural place, in the most literal use of that word. A place that holds the richest experiences and the most cherished memories of any natural area in New Hampshire's treasure trove of splendid wild sites.

But ask me about Pondicherry and through the kaleidoscope of my thoughts, two images vividly fill the high definition

screen in my mind. First, there is Tudor Richards and then there are my exceptional weeks of birding those northern acres in 1997. Tudor, as the leader of NH Audubon for 35 years, is truly the father of Pondicherry. Initially he was intrigued by the birding exploits of Horace Wright at the Cherry Ponds, as written up in "The Birds of the Jefferson Region of the White Mountains" (1911). This sparked dozens of visits to the area by Tudor from the late 1940s onward. It was Tudor's enthusiasm, inspiration, and drive that resulted in the acquisition of the original 312 acres which, besides being the crown jewel of NH Audubon's sanctuary system, are at the core of the now almost 7,000 acre National Wildlife Refuge. In 1999, Wright's book was reprinted with a 50-page update by Tudor.

In 1997, I was hired to conduct bird surveys on the existing NH Audubon Pondicherry property as well as on some of the surrounding lands. What an enjoyable and amazing project it was. During two months,



Tudor Richards (President of NH Audubon) and Ralph Carpenter (Director of NH Fish & Game Dept.) at the dedication of the Pondicherry Wildlife Sanctuary in 1964.

every visit was memorable – from the very first day when Chris Martin, David Govatski, and I found an Orange-crowned Warbler in a May snow storm to the very last day in July when an early (fall) migrant Northern Shoveler literally dropped onto Little Cherry Pond during my canoe survey. I discovered something new and exciting about the bird life of Pondicherry every time I was in the field; something new to Tudor, new to Horace Wright, new to the larger birding community, and, in at least one case, new to North American ornithology when I confirmed the southernmost (at the time) breeding population of Palm Warblers on the continent.

Pondicherry turned out to be a birder's dream that summer and I feel privileged to have been at the right place at the right time. I also am proud to have contributed to the seedling of an idea which grew (with help from many, especially David Govatski) from the original 312 acres to the impressive National Wildlife Refuge it is today.

Pondicherry will always hold a special place in my heart, for its obvious natural values and for its connection with Tudor Richards, my mentor and friend.

News



# Get Involved: Centennial Opportunities

As we plan for our Centennial celebration in 2014, we invite members and friends to contribute in many ways. If you can help us meet any of the needs listed below, please contact Centennial Coordinator, Ruth Smith at rsmith@nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 ext. 313.

• Do you have memories that you can share of past participation in Audubon field trips, camps, programs or involvement as volunteer or staff? We'd love to hear or read those stories. Please contact us to discuss opportunities.

- Are you a videographer or photographer able to share some time to help record interviews with past Audubon leaders and key players who have helped shape the organization?
- Do you have an interest in history or experience with cataloging archives?
- Are you interested in helping plan events or promote activities and our mission?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we would benefit from your skills and interest. Please contact us.

# NEW!! Passport to Nature Program

Our new "Passport to Nature" program will feature seven NH Audubon Sanctuaries this year. Passports will provide clues that will reveal some of each sanctuary's unique natural history story. Booklets will be available in hard copy and downloadable formats by early summer and are designed for families and adults. As we prepare to celebrate our Centennial in 2014, we

will highlight the following wildlife sanctuaries: Deering, Pondicherry in Jefferson, Ponemah Bog in

Amherst, Silk Farm in Concord, Massabesic in Auburn, Newfound in Hebron and Dahl in Conway. These properties span a variety of wet and dry habitats, and through the Passport to Nature program visitors will experience a great sampling of our 39 properties.

For those who enjoy hiking with others, a naturalistled walk will be offered at several of the featured sanctuaries. The walks will focus on the general ecology and natural history with an eye on exploration of some of the particular features that are unique to these properties.

## Saturday, June 29 - Massabesic in Auburn Saturday, July 20 - Ponemah Bog in Amherst

Visit www.nhaudubon.org for other dates and locations and more details on the walks above.

# Save the Date: Enchanted Forest at the McLane Center

The Enchanted Forest is returning to the McLane Center this October. Mark your calendars for this familyfriendly, fun and educational event.

# Saturday, October 26 at NH Audubon's McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord

Fifty minute tours will run from 4-8:30 in the evening. This is an ideal event for families and scout and youth groups!

• Follow the glowing jack-o-lantern trail into the nighttime forest

• Encounter larger than life creatures and characters as they present skits about mysterious activities in nature

• Enjoy seasonal games, refreshments and activities in the center

• Gather around a campfire for enlightening stories

This popular event sold out in years past. Don't miss out on this reinvigorated 2013 edition of the Enchanted Forest.

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

For those in the Manchester area, mark your calendars for the Massabesic Audubon Center's perennial favorite Enchanted Fall Festival, October 19!

# NH AUDUBON'S NATURE STORE

McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord

Visit us for a wonderful variety of nature-inspired gifts! All proceeds from Nature Store sales support the work of NH Audubon.

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

**New Binoculars Inventory** 

SHOP LOCAL!

Nature Store Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm and **NEW!!** Saturday, 10am-4pm



# Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center

# FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS

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

# **River Reptiles**

### June 14, 7–8 pm

Which snakes and turtles live in and around the river? Through hands-on activities and observation of live animals, we will discover the special traits of our river reptiles.

# Night Hike

## July 12, 7–8 pm

Many creatures emerge as the sun goes down. Explore the night time world in the woods by moonlight. Group will meet at the Fishways, then travel together to the Cedar Swamp Nature Preserve.

# **Campfire** Tales

## August 16, 7–8 pm

The Penacook told stories by firelight on the banks of the Merrimack River and we will do the same. Dress appropriately for weather and insects.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

#### Sea Lamprey Appreciation Day Saturday, June 1, 11 am–3 pm

The slimy and fascinating sea lamprey returns! Hold a live three foot long sea lamprey! Lamprey are the coolest and most ancient fish in the Merrimack River. Get sucked into the fun at this unique celebration of an under appreciated animal. Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family. No registration required.

# SUMMER VACATION PROGRAMS

Sunfish: ages 6-9 July 17, 24 Cost: \$10 per program

## Amazing Amphibians: July 17, 1–3 pm

They're slimy but superb! Get acquainted with some live New Hampshire amphibians.

## Life in a Bucket of Soil: July 24, 1–3 pm

Lurking beneath the ground are creatures more fascinating and fun than you ever imagined. Discover this miniature world as we dig through dirt.

Snapping Turtles: ages 10-12 August 1, 8 Cost: \$30 per program

Water Snakes: ages 13-15 August 2, 9 Cost: \$30 per program

**Let's Go Fishing: August 1, 2, 9 am-4 pm** We'll bring the poles – you bring your luck, as we spend the day fishing!

**Learn to Paddle: August 8, 9, 9 am–4 pm** Learn to paddle a canoe on beautiful Newfound Lake.

Fletcher Street, Manchester, NH 03105 626-FISH (3474)

# YOUTH PROGRAMS

10:30am–noon at Paradise Point Cost per participant of all youth programs: \$8 M/\$10 NM

# Mondays, July 1–August 26

## Stories & Discoveries: Ages 3-8

Greet and get to know a different environmental theme each week through well-told stories and outdoor activities. Grandparents and parents are welcome to stay as young people awaken to new delights.

#### Tuesdays, July 2–August 27 Nature Detectives: Ages 7-11

Consider how natural systems work and how human actions can help them function properly via lively meanderings and measured studying of field, marsh, wood & lakeshore habitats.

# Wednesdays, July 3–August 28

#### Newfound Explorers: Ages 9-13 Explore and learn about local ecosystems by examining the natural world using scientific methods. Explorers will perform transect studies, collect and interpret water analysis data, and learn that the more you know about your surroundings, the

# more fascinating they become. Thursdays, July 4–August 29

#### Curious Naturalists: Ages 4-7

Utilize movement, one's five senses, and different tools of discovery to delve into inspections of the outdoor universe. Adults welcome to accompany children.

# Fridays, July 5-August 30

# Fairy & Gnome Home Building: Ages 3 & up

Create homes for small forest-dwelling beings rarely seen by grown-ups using found building materials provided by the natural world, and discuss how wildlife finds shelter without the help of human hands.

# FAMILY PROGRAMS

**Red Barn Lecture Series** Tuesdays, July 2-August 27, 7:30-8:45 pm Suggested Donation: \$8 M/\$10 NM, Family \$16M/\$20NM Join us Tuesday evenings this summer as we learn about different species of wildlife in our state and conservation issues affecting the Newfound region. Some topics will include Bald Eagles, Rusty Blackbirds, and Wildlife and Wind Energy. See website for schedule of presentations.

#### **Guided Canoe and Kayak Tours** Wednesdays, July 3–August 28, 10-12 Suggested Donation: Adult \$15 M/\$20 NM, Youth (5-16 accompanied by adult) \$10 M/\$12 NM

Skim the crystal clear surface of Newfound Lake and glide along the edges of Hebron Marsh where an abundance of wildlife congregates. Paddlers will explore the water of the lake and the Cockermouth River during these naturalist-led outings. Please bring water, snacks, and binoculars.

# Friday Evenings, July 5–August 23, 7:30-9 pm

# Suggested Donation: \$4/person, \$10 per family (up to 2 adults/2 kids)

Warm your hands and imaginations as gifted weavers of well-told tales charm and delight enraptured listeners circled around the enchanting glow of traditional summer campfires. A delightful way to start your weekend.

# Get-out-and-Explore Series

Campfire Stories, Songs & Lore

#### Saturdays, July 6–August 31 (Program times will vary) Cost: \$8 M/\$10 NM, Family \$16 M/\$20 NM

This series of programs and field trips will offer varying opportunities each week to explore the many special areas within the Newfound Lake watershed. Programs will range from early morning birding walks to local hikes to connecting with nature through the arts. Please see our website for schedule of events.

# ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMS

#### Early Evening Naturalist Walks Mondays, July 1–August 26, 5:30 pm

Unwind after a long day with an early evening walk exploring the trails of the Newfound Lake watershed area. Experiencing the transition from late afternoon to twilight often goes unnoticed in our busy lives. Join us in discovering the hidden treasures of this extraordinary, lively time of day that leads up to the magic of dusk.

#### **Evening Yoga with Eve Belanger** Wednesdays, July 3–August 28, 5:30-6:30 pm Cost: \$15 or 4-pass/class \$50

Focus and recharge your body and mind. Yoga students of all levels will breathe deeply and follow Hatha style progressions that gently encourage proper alignment and restoration of balance. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring water. Yoga mats available if needed.

#### Evening Tai Chi with Viki Kiman Thursdays, May 23–September 19, 5:30-6:30 pm at the Ash Cottage Cost: \$12 M/\$15 NM



Draw health and vigor from the surrounding sanctuary inward while releasing stress and tension. This program is for beginners, however, all fitness levels are welcome and will benefit from this guided practice of focused movement and natural breathing.

Morning Tai Chi with Viki Kiman Saturdays, June 1–September 7, 9-10 am at the Ash Cottage Cost: \$12 M/\$15 NM See description above.

# North Shore Road, Hebron, NH 03222

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# **The Loon Center**

## **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 30, 11am–2pm

**Cost:** \$50 per person

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 11–August 29, 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 moose, butterflies, Bald Eagles, river

otters and more. Read more descriptions and check out different lectures at www.loon. org or call (603) 476-5666 for more info.

#### "Yakking for Loons" Kayaking Fundraiser Friday, July 12, 8am

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

Held at the boat launch on Lees 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 20, 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 20, 10am–2pm

Free admission, donations accepted. Come celebrate your summer with the Loon Preservation Committee at the Annual Loon Festival! There will be facepainting, 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 19, 8am, Shotgun Start

**Cost:** \$100 per player

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

## Mondays and Fridays, June 10–August 30, 3pm

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

Join our Squam Lakes biologist, Tiffany Grade, on a 90-minute 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.

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Lees Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254
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Loon Family, photo by John Rockwood

603-476-5666

# 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 2, 3, and 4 only

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

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

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.



Explore

Wonder

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

# Massabesic Audubon Center

# ADULT PROGRAMS

## Nature Café

**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.

#### Amazing Horseshoe Crabs Friday, June 7, 7–8:30 pm Speaker: Beth Heckman, Assistant Education Coordinator, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Did you know we still have an animal walking around that was here when the dinosaurs were here? Come and learn about these spectacular creatures, how their blue blood helps people today, and see one up close! Also, find out where you can view these creatures in large numbers in the month of June.

#### Intro to Pelagic Wildlife Saturday, June 1, 3–4 pm Cost: \$5 (free to those attending Pelagic Trip on 6/3) 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 Monday, June 3, 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.

# FAMILY PROGRAMS

#### Massabesic's "Passport to Adventure" June–October

#### Cost: \$2/passport

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. This year's passports are all about the Earth and its air. At the completion of your passport adventure, 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.

#### Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Dates TBA, May–August Cost: FREE

# Leader: Jay Barry, licensed bird bander for 40 years

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

#### Pond Probe

#### Saturday, June 29 and July 13, 1–3pm Cost: Individuals-\$7 M/\$10 NM; Families-\$15 M/\$25 NM

**Leader: Logan Young, Volunteer Coordinator** Join us as we explore the waters of our pond to see who is out and about! We'll learn to identify tiny aquatic life, look at some through a microscope, and learn what they can tell us about the health of the pond.

#### Dragonfly Workshop Saturday, July 6, 10am–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.

# 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH 03032

# 603-668-2045

# Massabesic Audubon Center

# **4-H TEACHING GARDEN NEWS**



The Teaching Garden is maintained as an organic and permaculture-based garden where all of the food grown is donated to participants and the NH Food Bank. There is a central nine patch garden which includes four teaching areas for the afterschool youth groups who participate in the spring and summer programs and where they plant individual vardstick beds. 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.

To follow our progress, and to learn about volunteer opportunities, visit the 4-H Teaching Garden webpage at http://extension.unh.edu/4-H-Teaching-Garden, call (603)641-6060, or email carol.martin-ward@unh.edu for further information. Also, see our Facebook page at 4-H Teaching Garden. We hope to see you in the garden this summer!

## Announcing the 7<sup>th</sup> 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/waterscapes. Up to 5 photos can be submitted by amateur photographers only. Youth (under 18) and Adults (over 18) 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 1 to December 8, 2013. 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 4.

# 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH 03032 603-668-2045

# **Chapter Happenings**

#### **CAPITAL AREA**

#### Field Trip: Garvin Falls Area Walk Saturday, June 1, 7 am–10 am

Meet Dave Howe for a walk near Garvin Falls on the Merrimack River. The walk will be through some forest and grass lands and by the Soucook River. Be prepared for a moderately difficult walk. Trip ends by 10 am. Meet Dave at telephone lines at Garvin Falls Road in Concord (one mile from the Dunkin Donuts on Manchester Street). Contact Dave at 224-9298 or dmahowe@ comcast.net.

#### Field Trip: Pawtuckaway State Park Saturday, June 8, 7 am

Search for common and uncommon breeding species in a beautiful woodland setting. No entrance fee! Meet Rob Woodward under the powerlines on Reservation Road off

Route 107. Contact: Rob Woodward 224-0889 (evenings).



Veery Thrush photographed by Len Medlock at Pawtuckaway State Park.

#### Field Trip: Exploring Henniker Saturday, June 15, 7 am–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 Bob Quinn, 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: Pre-work Solstice Birding on Mount Kearsarge

### Friday June 21, 5 am

Celebrate solstice sunrise and the breeding birds of Mount Kearsarge with trip leader Chris Borg. Highlights potentially include Swainson's Thrush and a suite of breeding warblers. We'll meet at Winslow State Park and begin our hike up the Barlow Trail: http://www. nhstateparks.org/uploads/pdf/KearsargeHikingMap\_ Web.pdf

Be prepared for steep hiking albeit at a birders' pace. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, sturdy footwear, and your favorite trekking pole. Contact Chris (before June 20) for trip specifics at borealbirder@gmail. com.

# Chapter Happenings

#### **CAPITAL AREA, continued** Field Trip: Northfield Rail Trail Sunday, July 14, 6–10 am

From 2000-2004, Pam Hunt conducted a weekly bird survey along a 5 mile route in Northfield. This trip will revisit those old haunts, and focus on a stretch of old railroad grade along the Winnipesaukee River. Be prepared for at least a two mile walk (four miles round trip, with an option of spotting cars at one end if needed), although a lot will depend on how the birding is. This route passes through a variety of habitats, including wetland, forest, riverside, and grassland, and the timing may reward us with observations of breeding activity. It will be interesting to see what we turn up almost a decade since Pam last surveyed the area. If time, interest, and weather permit, we may also explore other birding sites in the Northfield/Tilton area. Meet at the Hannah Dustin park-nride in Penacook (Exit 17 off I-93) at 6:00. For more info contact Pam Hunt at 753-9137 or biodiva@myfairpoint.net.

#### Field Trip: Canoeing/birding on the Merrimack River Saturday, August 24, starting at 1:30 pm. Ends at dusk

Bring your canoe or kayak and join us for an afternoon of drifting down the Merrimack River from Boscawen to Penacook as we look for birds along the way. We'll stop several times so bring snacks or a light meal. Pre-registration is required for this trip (but no cost). Meet at the Hannah Dustin Park 'N Ride on Route 4 West, off I-93 Exit 17. Contact Bob Quinn at raqbirds@aol.com or 746-2535.

#### Field Trip(s): Common Nighthawk Migration Late August, pm (dates TBD)

Witness hundreds of nighthawks migrating through Concord, some right up close. Rob Woodward will spearhead the Nighthawk Migration Count as part of a larger regional count project. Watch for details on the NH Birds listserv.

# LAKES REGION

#### Program and Annual Meeting Thursday, June 6, 5:30 pm

The Loon Center on Lees Mill Rd. Moultonborough (Handicapped accessible) Hors d'oeuvres and pot luck supper will be followed by a brief business meeting at 7 pm and program (topic TBA) at 7:30pm. Contact: The Loon Center at 476-5666

#### MASCOMA

#### Program: Birdwatching in New Hampshire with Eric Masterson Tuesday, June 4, 7 pm Converse Free Library, Lyme, NH

Come hear noted birder and NH bird expert Eric Masterson talk about his newly published book "Birdwatchinging in New Hampshire." Eric will be bringing "slides, sounds and more" as well as copies of his book available for purchase and signing. The Lyme Converse Free Library is on Union Street (NH Rt, 10) across from the from the Lyme School. The event is free and open to the public. *Co-sponsored by the Converse Free Library.* 



#### Field Trip: Birding River Road – Hanover to Lyme Saturday, July 27, 6:30–9am

Mascoma Chapter Steering Committee member George Clark will lead this outing along scenic River Rd. Meet at Dartmouth Printing Company parking lot in Hanover at 6:30. From there the trip follows the Connecticut River north making various stops beginning at Wilson's Landing and concluding at Grant Brook in Lyme. Free and open to the public. *Jointly sponsored with Hanover Conservancy and Upper Valley Land Trust.* 

#### Field Trip; Norwich Birdwalk Saturday, August 17

To be led by George Clark. Itinerary and time to be announced.

## MONADNOCK

#### Field Trip: Evening Paddle on Howe Reservoir Saturday, June 8, 6–8:30 pm

Tom Warren will lead an easy evening paddle on Howe Reservoir looking and listening for birds. We will look for nesting loons to the evening vespers of our most beautiful songsters, including Veery and Wood Thrush. Meet at the pull-off on Route 101 just west of Charcoal Road in Dublin. Co-sponsored with The Harris Center. RSVP to Tom at 563-7194 or at ttwassociates@ myfairpoint.net

#### Field Trip: Warren Woodland Warbler Walk Saturday, June 15, 7–9 pm

Tom Warren will lead a moderately easy evening hike from Audrey's Cafe to Stone Pond to look and listen for the evening sights and sounds of the forest. Meet at Audrey's Café on Route 101 in Dublin at 7pm. Back by 9pm. Co-sponsored with The Harris Center. RSVP to Tom at 563-7194 or at ttwassociates@myfairpoint.net

#### Field Trip: Warren Woodland Warbler Walk Sunday, June 16, 8–10 am

Tom Warren will lead a moderately easy hike from Stone Pond to Meetinghouse Pond in Marlborough to

look and listen for the sights and sounds of the forest. Meet at Audrey's Café on Route 101 in Dublin at 8am. Back by 10am. Co-sponsored with The Harris Center. RSVP to Tom at 563-7194 or at ttwassociates@myfairpoint.net

#### Field Trip: Warren Woodland Warbler Walk

#### Saturday, June 22, 9–11 am

Tom Warren will lead a moderately easy hike to Mountain Brook in Dublin, with a focus on birds. Meet at the Yankee Magazine parking lot in Dublin at 9am. Back by 11am. Co-sponsored with The Harris Center. RSVP to Tom at 563-7194 or at ttwassociates@myfairpoint.net

# Chapter Happenings

#### MONADNOCK, continued Field Trip: Warren Woodland Warbler Walk Sunday, June 23, 6–9 pm

Tom Warren will lead a moderately easy evening hike from Stone Pond to Troy Road to look and listen for the evening sights and sounds of the forest. Meet at the Stone Pond parking lot at 6pm. Back by 9pm. Co-sponsored with The Harris Center. RSVP to Tom at 563-7194 or at ttwassociates@myfairpoint.net

#### Field Trip: Celebrating Henry David Thoreau's Birthday Saturday, July 13, 9 am–3 pm

Join Ben Haubrich and Eric Masterson for a hike up Mount Monadnock in celebration of Thoreau's birthday (July 12, 1817). Ben was manager of Monadnock State Park for 21 years and will share some of the history of the park. Eric will help spot the birds. Bring lunch and water and meet at 9 am at the Park Headquarters at the end of Poole Road. \$5pp park entrance fee. Co-sponsored with The Harris Center. Call 525-3394 for more details.

#### Field Trip: Paddling for Eagles on Nubanusit Sunday, July 21, 10 am–2 pm

Tom Warren will lead an easy paddle on Nubanusit Lake to view the nesting eagles and loons. Bring water and a picnic lunch, and meet at the boat launch in Hancock at 10am. Co-sponsored with The Harris Center. RSVP to Tom at 563-7194 or at ttwassociates@myfairpoint.net

#### NASHAWAY

#### Rusty Blackbird Project: Dr. Carol Foss, Director of Conservation (NH Audubon) Wednesday, June 19, 7–9 pm Nashua Public Library

This species has experienced a significant decline over the last four decades, and is the focus of research efforts in both the United States and Canada. The New Hampshire Rusty Blackbird Project is focused in northeastern Coos County, where surveys have documented more than 20 pairs. Field research includes documenting breeding sites, nesting success and productivity, habitat characteristics, site fidelity of colorbanded birds, and radio telemetry of adults and fledglings. Collaborative research with the University of Georgia and several other institutions includes tissue sampling to

investigate diet, genetics, blood parasites, and mercury levels. Join New Hampshire native Carol Foss as she gives an update on over forty years of observations on the bird we usually associate with spring. Contact: Richard Maloon at 424-5621 or richard. maloon@att.net



Rusty Blackbird by Len Medlock

#### SEACOAST

# Program: Rediscovering Rivers

#### Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 pm (refreshments at 7pm) Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park

Although a major engine that supported the economy of our nation, our rivers were long abused until the creation of the Clean Water Act. This talk by Tom Ballestero, PhD, of the UNH Department of Civil Engineering Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering Section will describe river systems and how we now restore these systems with ecosystems being a primary driver. In addition, how land use decisions of the past affected our streams and how modern land use decisions try to integrate aquatic systems into the process will be included.

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

# Field Trip: Bellamy River Sanctuary Saturday, June 1, 7 am

Please note, we will meet at the NH Audubon sanctuary, not the state wildlife management area (although we will probably bird there too). Meet trip leaders Greg Tillman and Dan Hubbard at the sanctuary parking area. From the junction of Routes 4 and 108 in Durham, go 2.5 miles east on Route 4. Turn north (left) at the traffic light onto Back River Road. Travel 0.8 mile, then turn right onto Bayview Road. At 0.5 mile, bear left at a junction onto a dirt road and continue 0.25 mile across a field to the parking area on the right. Contact: Greg Tillman at gregtillman@comcast.net, 603-679-8167 or Dan Hubbard at danielhubbard@peoplepc.com, 603-332-4093.

## Field Trip: Sweet Trail

#### Sunday, June 9, 8 am to approximately 2 pm

The 4.3 miles long trip, with leaders Al Stewart, Jr. and Dan Hubbard, will start in Durham, NH at Longmarsh Preserve and end at Great Bay in Newmarket by the Nature Conservancy's Lubberland Creek Preserve parking area. For start directions of the walk, go to downtown Durham, take Route 108 south for about 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Longmarsh Road towards the town of Durham's

Longmarsh Preserve. The trailhead is located 2 miles down the road with parking on the left side just before the gate. Check our website for a parking strategy. Bring water, snacks or lunch. Contact: Al Stewart, Jr at bikenbird@aol.com, 603-828-7724 or Dan Hubbard at danielhubbard@peoplepc. com, 603-332-4093 or see our website at www.seacoastchapter.org/field-trips

# Counting Bats for Conservation Thursday, May 30, 7:30–9 pm

Attics, barns, and church steeples often serve as summer homes for female bats and their young. In the face of white-nose syndrome, which is decimating bat populations throughout the Northeast, monitoring these "maternity colonies" is more important than ever. NH Fish & Game is looking for volunteers to help keep track of New Hampshire's bats by conducting "emergence counts" at bat roosts throughout the state.

Join NHF&G biologist Emily Preston for a night of bat counting at a barn near the Harris Center to learn how you can participate in this important citizen science project. Be prepared for biting insects, and bring along your headlamp or flashlight. This training is free, but space is limited and registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Brett Amy Thelen at thelen@ harriscenter.org or 358-2065. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education, New Hampshire Audubon, and NH Fish & Game.

# Passport to Nature Sanctuary Field Trips Saturday, June 29: Massabesic in Auburn Saturday, July 20: Ponemah Bog in Amherst

Visit www.nhaudubon.org for other dates and locations and more details on the walks above. See page 6 for more information on the Passport program.

## A Special Tour of the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary with Rick Van de Poll

## Sunday, August 18, 9 am-noon

Join Environmental Scientist, Dr. Rick Van de Poll, and Naturalist Phil Brown on an in-depth exploration of the 300-acre Alice Bemis Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary in Sandwich, NH. We'll access this remarkable property through the homestead property of David & CC White, who assist NH Audubon in stewarding the Sanctuary. The easy, mile-long loop trail traverses old growth hemlock swamp forests as it winds towards a 200-acre marsh and swamp with exceptional views of the Sandwich Range and Ossipee Mountains. Over 200 bird species have been seen at the Sanctuary, many of which breed, including least bittern, king rail, rusty blackbird, olivesided flycatcher, and mourning warbler. This multi-disciplined walk will include instruction on all types of flora and fauna, fungi, lichens, and land use history. Wear comfortable shoes (no wetland walking unless you want to!), bring binoculars, a snack and drink, and dress

for the weather. Contact Phil Brown at pbrown@ nhaudubon. org or at 224-9909x334 for more details or to RSVP.



Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary by Phil Brown.

# 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

Saturday, May 18 with Jack Gleason,\* Bog Plants and Adaptations\*\*, 9 AM Saturday, May 25 with Laura Deming, NH Audubon Senior Wildlife Biologist, 9 AM Saturday, June 8 with Elaine Jacobson,\* Bog Plants and their Adaptations 9 AM Saturday, June 29 with Tom Young, Bird and Dragonfly Enthusiast\*\*\*, 10 AM Saturday, July 20 with Pam Hunt NH Audubon Senior Wildlife Biologist, 10 AM

- \* Friends of Ponemah Bog Group- Jack & Elaine will jointly present the walks.
- \*\* Rhodora azaleas and bog cotton will hopefully be in full display.
- \*\*\* Grass Pink Orchids should be in bloom.

For more info, contact Jack Gleason at 673-3177 or westonpond10@gmail.com.



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We are trying to streamline our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive electronic communications from NH Audubon, please call (603)224-9909 or email emedia@nhaudubon.org

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