

NH Eagle Count Readies for 32nd Year

by Chris Martin



Dozens of NH Audubon volunteers will tally eagles, like this sub-adult plumage bird, on the statewide Midwinter Survey on January 7, 2012. Len Medlock photo.

January 2012 marks the 32nd consecutive winter that NH Audubon has coordinated the state's Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey. Part of a national effort, this annual count provides long-term data on both breeding and non-breeding segments of the eagle population, as well as an opportunity to monitor important wintering habitat. In addition to generating data on eagle trends, distribution, and habitat, the count is a tradition for many, and helps raise awareness of Bald Eagles and their conservation.

New Hampshire started participating in the Midwinter Survey in the Winter of 1980-81. Back then, seeing an eagle in the state was highly unusual, and they were on both the state and federal Endangered Species lists. But after three decades of eagle population recovery, many in the Granite State now expect to see eagles (plural!) on our rivers, lakes, and estuaries, no matter what the season! We focus our midwinter counting efforts primarily in the state's five major eagle wintering areas: the Androscoggin River, Connecticut River, Great Bay/Coastal area, Lakes Region, and Merrimack River.

As we prepare for the 2012 count, let's quickly review past results.

Last year on the official Midwinter Survey Day (Saturday, January 8, 2011), we found a total of 54 Bald Eagles. This included 37 adult birds, 15 immatures, and two others whose plumage/age were not determined. The total was down about 10% from the record-setting 61 eagles seen on the 2009 and 2010 counts, but that wasn't too surprising, as snowfall confronted many volunteer observers on the 2011 count, especially in the southwestern part of the state.

For logistical reasons, we actually count eagles in the Lakes Region on the Thursday before the statewide date. So while Saturday's falling snow presented some visibility challenges, Thursday's Lakes Region count took place in beautiful, mild sunlit conditions with no precipitation. And – no surprise here – top regional honors for most eagles seen on the 2011 Midwinter Survey went to the Lakes Region, where 14 individual eagles were counted. But both the Merrimack River and the Great Bay/Coastal areas followed close behind with 13 birds apiece tallied on Survey Day. And a total of 72 volunteers turned out for the counts.

For some long-term perspective, 10 years ago (2001) we tallied 42 eagles, 20 years ago (1991), we counted just 19, and 30 years ago (1981) we found only 8. The number of eagles present in New Hampshire in winter is clearly increasing!

NH Audubon monitors bald eagle abundance and distribution in NH throughout the year under a contract with the NH Fish & Game Department, and with additional support from TransCanada. Additional eagle studies are funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and by donations to NH Audubon's Conservation Department. And thanks to the volunteers who donate time to participate in these counts!

Visit <http://ocid.nacse.org/nbii/eagles/> to learn more about the National Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey. You can also listen to a brief audio commentary about bald eagles and the state's midwinter count on NH Public Radio's Something Wild web page. Go to: www.nhpr.org/magestic-winter-eagles, and click on "Listen" to hear the story.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2012 MIDWINTER SURVEY! NH Audubon will be conducting the 2012 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey on Saturday, January 7, 2012 (except on Thursday, January 5, 2012 in the Lakes Region). We hope that you will be able to help us. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Chris Martin at NH Audubon.

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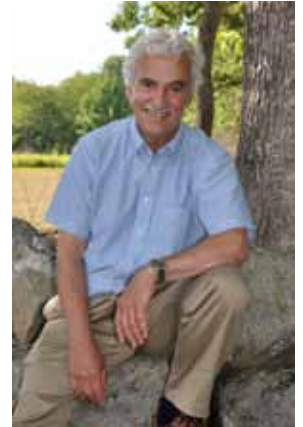
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Kelly Wing, *General Editor* (kwing@nhaudubon.org)

Banner photo by John Hession.



From the President's Desk



Dear Friends,

On Saturday, October 8, 2011, I delivered a “state of the state” report at our Annual Meeting, and I’d like to share with you the highlights of what I said. First the mixed news. We still have a large debt. On the other hand we sliced almost \$750,000 off it in one year by selling an extraordinarily tight conservation easement on our land at the Massabesic Center, thereby protecting the land from development in perpetuity.

On the good news front, we launched a new website in January -- and are now sending our extremely popular electronic newsletter (E-Field) to nearly 6,000 households statewide. One of our greatest strengths, connecting people with nature, is clearly a growth industry at NH Audubon. Our summer camps attracted more than 400 children (100+ more than last year). Another 200 kids participated in winter and spring camps. In all, more than 20,000 children participated in our environmental education programs, and more than 5,000 adults participated in programs geared to an older audience. Our raptor observatories at Pack Monadnock and Carter Hill continue to grow in popularity. More than 500 enthusiastic visitors came to at least one of the sites this year – and the birds cooperated in spectacular fashion. Record numbers of raptors moved over Carter Hill and “Pack” during the peak of the migration.

Breeding Bald Eagle populations continue to increase. Peregrine Falcon populations continue to increase. Osprey populations continue to increase – thanks in large part to our own Chris Martin and his team of volunteers. Our State of the Birds report made national news a year ago. Since its release, NH Audubon biologists have been doing ground breaking research to find out why almost 1/3 of New Hampshire breeding birds are in such serious decline.

In an exciting new initiative to document climate change impacts right in our own backyard, our biologists will soon be joining hands with dozens of students and adults to collect detailed data – once again connecting people with the natural environment.

At the conclusion of my presentation, I shared with the audience the fact that NH Audubon is on the “edge” of becoming the National Wildlife Federation’s state affiliate – an extraordinary opportunity to join forces with an extraordinary conservation organization. By the time this letter reaches you, the NWF Board will have met and voted on the affiliation, a “marriage” that will bring great benefits to both organizations.

It has truly been a great year for NH Audubon, and with your help we are looking forward to many more!

Mike

Michael J. Bartlett
President, New Hampshire Audubon

New Hampshire Audubon's Annual Fund is underway. If you haven't contributed already to this key source of operating support, now is the time. You can make a gift on-line at www.nhaudubon.org/donate/annualfund or send your gift by mail. We can also accept gifts of appreciated securities.

If you are 70½ years old and do not need required IRA distributions, you can make a tax free contribution up to \$100,000 if the gift comes directly from your IRA to NH Audubon before year end. Please help keep our programs vibrant!



Eastern Whip-poor-will in the hand during banding at Mast Yard

2011 Whip-poor-will Summary

by Pamela Hunt

2011 marked the fourth summer that New Hampshire Audubon staff and volunteers mapped Eastern Whip-poor-will territories at the Mast Yard State Forest and Ossipee Pine Barrens. Because whip-poor-wills are nocturnal, it's impossible to follow them around, and even seeing one is a rare treat. Instead, we rely on locating them by male's distinct "whip-poor-will" call, and estimating locations using compass bearings. Do this enough times and you get a map showing approximate singing sites across the study area. We can use this information to determine which habitats the birds prefer in comparison to overall habitat at each site, which in turn can inform management options for this declining species.

Data for 2011 are still being analyzed, but based on roughly 300 locations at Mast Yard there were 10-11 territories there. As in past years, these were concentrated near edges or open areas. In Ossipee there were over 400 locations, which resolved themselves into 12-13 territories. Our study area here is only a small portion of the pine barrens, where based on more comprehensive surveys there are 40-50 territories overall. This was the first year with consistent coverage in Ossipee, thanks to this summer's field tech: Kathy Gunther. Without her we'd still not be sure how many birds were really out there!

Back at Mast Yard, another bit of excitement was our first ever whip-poor-will nest, which unfortunately appears to have failed. And Kyle Parent, a graduate student at Plymouth State, continues to monitor birds using radio telemetry (data not yet available for 2011). Looking ahead to 2012, we will focus all our efforts at Mast Yard for a fifth and final season. After this I will shift to data analysis and developing management recommendations.

The whip-poor-will project is funded through a contract with the N.H. Fish and Game Department and with private donations. Additional thanks are due to volunteers Becky Webster, Jenny Salchunas, Chele Miller, Bob Quinn, and Rob Woodward.

New Board Member

The Board is pleased to welcome Dawn Lemieux, chair of the Newfound Audubon Committee, as the Newfound Committee's representative to the Board. In addition to her work in the Newfound Lake area, Dawn brings 17 years of business experience as the owner of Venture Print Unlimited, Inc. in Plymouth. Together with her husband Michael she also operates Sculptured Rocks Farm Country Inn in Groton, a bed and breakfast on 158 acres. In both endeavors, she is committed to creating a greener world – at her printing company by reducing chemical waste and using papers that are either recycled or made from trees grown using sustainable forestry; at the Inn, by working to return the property to a self-sufficient farm. After living throughout the country as a child, Dawn and her husband chose to make the Newfound Lake area of her childhood vacations their permanent home. Dawn has served on the Friends of the Arts board of directors in Plymouth and is currently serving on the D Acres Organic Permaculture Farm & Educational Homestead board of directors in Dorchester. She has also served as a selectperson in Groton.



NH Audubon News

2011 Peregrine Falcon Breeding Season

by Chris Martin

The 20 pairs of Peregrine Falcons in New Hampshire in 2011 set a new record-high for this State-listed threatened species. Each of the past five years have seen 12 or 13 successful nests annually, whereas prior to 2007 there were NO years where we found 12 or more successful nests. The current 5-year running average of >28 young fledged per year has never been higher at any time over three decades of monitoring in the Granite State.

NH Audubon biologists and volunteers confirmed incubation by 16 (80%) of the state's 20 pairs, slightly fewer than a state high of 17 incubating pairs in 2007. Of this year's 16 incubating pairs, 12 (75%) were successful at fledging at least one young. A total of 26 young fledged from peregrine nests in the state in 2011, below the record 35 young in 2010, but the 1.63 young fledged per nesting pair was right on the 30-year average for productivity.

We found immature (1-year old) female peregrines at four territories in 2011; three of the four sites were newly discovered this season. We had never before detected such a high percentage (20%) of 1-yr olds of either sex among the state's breeding population. We believe that presence of these young females at newly occupied sites will translate into increased productivity in upcoming breeding seasons.

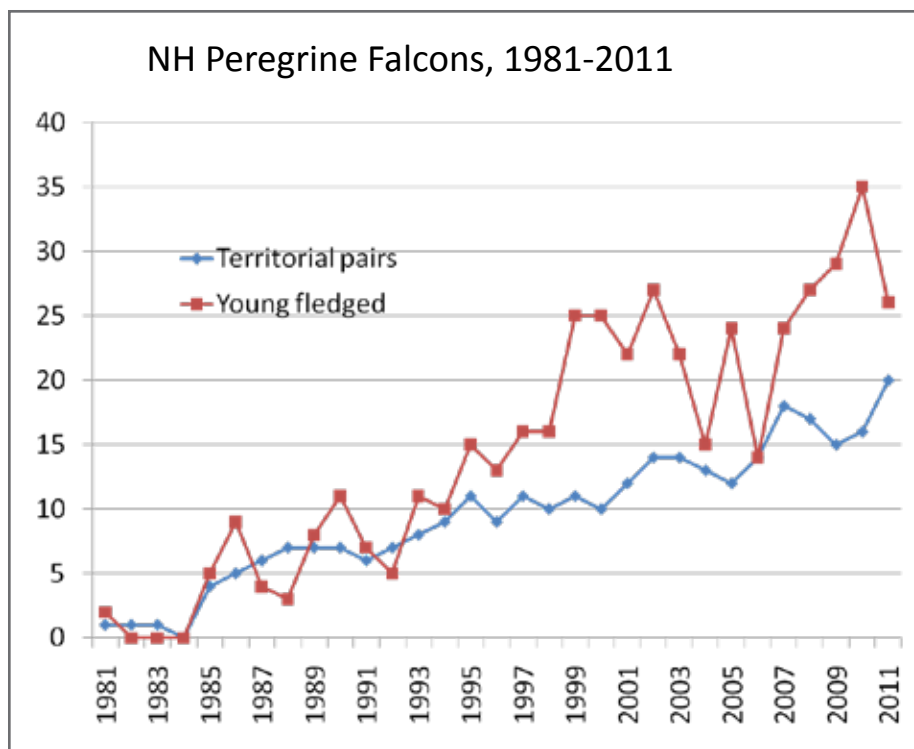
Biologists and cooperators accessed four of the state's peregrine nests in 2011 and banded seven nestlings. We tried to access two other sites, but were foiled by safety issues and weather. Band status of New Hampshire's breeding peregrines in 2011 was as follows: 40 individuals (20 pairs) with banded status known for 27 (68%) and unknown for 13 (32%). Of the two-thirds of the breeders where we knew banded status, 20 (74%) were confirmed to be unbanded, while seven (26%) were color-banded. Six of those were individually IDed, included three males and three



NHA volunteer and skilled climber Mike Thompson approaches peregrine nest at Hots Ledge in Lyme, NH. Photo by Chris Martin

females, ranging from one to 11 years old. Overall, from a total of 340 fledgling peregrines color-banded in the state since the early 1990s, 79 individuals (23.2%) have been re-sighted and reported.

Management of peregrines in New Hampshire is coordinated by NH Audubon under contract with the NH Fish & Game Department, with guidance from both NHFG and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and with cooperation from other federal, state, and private land owners and managers. Additional support for monitoring comes from individual donors and from extraordinary volunteer climbers and birders.



Ornithology Corner: How Birds Survive Winter's Cold

by Pamela Hunt

Winter can be a challenging season for non-migratory birds. The major challenges are lack of food and cold temperatures. This article focuses on how birds survive our cold New Hampshire winters.

Birds are “warm-blooded,” meaning that they generate their own body heat and maintain a constant body temperature. All warm-blooded animals have what’s called a “thermoneutral zone:” a range of environmental temperatures within which the animal doesn’t have to do anything special to keep its body temperature constant. If the outdoor temperature gets too high, the animal needs to actively attempt to cool off (i.e. move into the shade, sweat or pant). Cold temperatures require that birds generate additional heat or reduce their heat loss.

So how do our winter birds keep warm? There are two main mechanisms: thermogenesis and conservation. Thermogenesis simply means “heat production,” and is accomplished largely by shivering. Shivering generates heat via muscle contractions, which requires greater caloric intakes. This is why we often see birds make a last-minute feeder run late in the afternoon. They’re stocking up on fuel to increase their chances of making it through the cold winter night ahead.

Conservation means that the bird attempts to reduce the amount of heat lost, and thus decrease the need to generate extra heat. One way to do this is to seek out sheltered locations or roost communally with other birds (and thus share body heat). Some birds will grow extra feathers in winter and increase the insulation value of their plumage. And finally, some birds can actually lower their body temperatures at night – a condition known as torpor. The result is a smaller difference between body and ambient temperatures, proportionally less heat loss, and thus a reduced need for thermogenesis. The same thing happens in animals that hibernate, in which case the torpor continues for several months.

So the next time you wonder how birds as tiny as chickadees and kinglets survive extended sub-freezing (or even sub-zero) temperatures, visualize them huddled in a sheltered spot, lowering their body temperatures, and shivering through the morning. Then they’ll get up bright and early and spend the rest of the day feeding –to do it all over again the next evening.

Red-breasted Nuthatch, by Jason Lambert



NH Audubon News

NOW AVAILABLE

The State of New Hampshire's Birds: A Conservation Guide

New Hampshire Audubon is excited to announce this new publication which is a follow up to the technical report released in the spring of 2010 by New Hampshire Audubon and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. The Conservation Guide takes the information from the original report and presents it in a non-technical form that is colorful and easy to understand. It includes photos of birds and their habitat, information on how our state’s birds are doing, threats to their populations, and conservation strategies for each group of birds. You’ll also find a new section with a wide variety of actions that individuals, businesses, and communities can undertake to help our birds.

One third of the bird species that nest in New Hampshire are declining, including familiar species like the Barn Swallow and Baltimore Oriole, and even our state bird the Purple Finch. Helping them may be as simple as keeping your cats indoors or as complicated as conserving valuable winter habitat in South America. One of the goals of the Conservation Guide is to present all these options in one place, and tie them to the issues facing our birds here at home. The publication is designed for a wide audience, but especially interested individuals, landowners, and community officials, including members of conservation commissions and planning boards.

Not all the bird news is bad. One third of New Hampshire’s birds are either stable or increasing. Some of these species have been restored to New Hampshire thanks to conservation actions, like restoration programs for the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon and regulations concerning DDT and air quality. For populations to remain secure, we need to recognize the value of these previous achievements, and keep existing protections strong and uncompromised. This too is one of the key messages of the Conservation Guide. Without an engaged and informed citizenry, protecting birds and their habitats is a much more challenging task, and the Conservation Guide continues the effort to inform conservation-minded people throughout New Hampshire.

The State of New Hampshire's Birds – A Conservation Guide is available on the NH Audubon website (go to Conservation, Reports & Publications). Printed copies may be picked up at the McLane Center in Concord, the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn, and at NH Audubon Chapters while supplies last. Development of the Conservation Guide was made possible through grants from the Biber Foundation and the Butler Foundation.

SPECIAL EVENTS

New England Nature Writers Series

Series is sponsored by Baldwin & Callen, PLLC,
nhlandlaw.com

Todd McLeish

Thursday, January 26, 7pm

Cost: Free, Refreshments will be served.

"While hundreds of books have been published on the plight of endangered species, few authors have managed to master the genre as well as Todd McLeish has done with *Golden Wings and Hairy Toes*," according to Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine. "McLeish provides a very personal, thorough, and authoritative account of the natural history of his selected species." An older book, it remains a 'must have' book for any New England wildlifer. Bill McKibben, author of *Deep Economy*, calls the book "Both haunting and hopeful," a reminder of "how much damage we've done to lovely old New England, and how many people devote their lives to undoing that damage. It will inspire many to carry on the fight!" Author and essayist Todd McLeish will discuss his first book, *Golden Wings and Hairy Toes: Encounters with New England's Most Imperiled Wildlife*. It and his most recent book *Basking with Humpback* will be available for purchase and signing.

Coming this spring: Mary Holland, Vermont naturalist, photographer, columnist, and author of *Naturally Curious*

Snowshoe Rentals

Enjoy nature in winter at the McLane Center! Snowshoeing offers a fun winter sport activity that is also one of the oldest forms of snow travel. Rent the shoes for one hour or all day. Fees: \$7 M / \$9 NM per pair; shoes for use on-site only. Pairs available for children.

Keeping Our Birds Fed in the Winter Thursday, January 12, 7-9pm

Cost: Free

Discover the joy of feeding birds and other wildlife – or enhance your understanding. Whether you live in a small apartment or a rural estate, you can feed the birds. Join Hope Hutchinson of Bow Blue Seal Feeds & Needs for a talk about the different feeds - Black Oil, Song Maker Supreme, Concerto, Nature's Choice - what do these names mean? Learn about the types and placement of feeders, and how to feed birds and other wildlife. Raffle tickets for a 50 lb. bag of sunflower chips available that evening only! Refreshments, door prizes.

The Nature Store is getting ready for the Holiday Season!

Featured items include:

Audubon Calendars, bird-themed holiday cards, great selection of field guides, many new Made in New Hampshire Products, & a variety of feeders and seed.

Special Saturday Hours!

The store is open regular hours Tues.-Friday, 12-5
AND Saturdays in December:

December 3, 10 and 17 from 12-4

Volunteer Opportunities

Concord in-office Volunteer Openings

Rare Bird Data Manager: This position involves compiling, organizing and tracking incoming documentation on rare bird sightings. Tasks will include checking and sending e-mails; gathering documentation if necessary; printing, scanning and compiling documents, photos, and other associated materials; compiling a list of rarities and organizing materials at the end of each New Hampshire Bird Records season. Experience with computers (including e-mail) and good attention to detail is required. Familiarity with various file types (i.e. photos, pdfs, Word and Excel) is preferred; familiarity with the birding community is helpful. The position requires a half day, once a week, in the Concord office. Some work may eventually be done from home. If you are interested, contact Becky Suomala, bsuomala@nhaudubon.org, 603-224-9909 x309.

Project Assistant for Swallow CORE: We are looking for a person interested in becoming an important part of this project. Tasks include communicating with field volunteers, entering sightings into eBird, and managing the swallow colony registry. Conducting swallow colony monitoring in the field is also included (to better understand the process and volunteer activities) but the extent can vary. Tasks may change as the project evolves. Training will be provided but volunteer must be able to operate independently. Familiarity with computers is required, and preferably experience with Word, Excel, and eBird. Most suitable for a volunteer interested in becoming more involved with a single project and taking a significant role in the project's operation over the longer term. The position requires a half day, once a week, in the Concord office. If you are interested, contact Becky Suomala, bsuomala@nhaudubon.org, 603-224-9909 x309.

84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301

224-9909

Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center

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

Winter is For the Birds!: January 25

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

Sense-Sational Nature: February 8

Wild animals must depend on their senses of smell, hearing, sight and touch in order to survive in the outdoors. We'll have fun using our senses as we play games and learn how river animals use these senses too!

It's Snow Fun!: February 22

Why is snow so much fun? We'll play games and experiment with snow to discover what makes snow special. We'll even build with snow and make ourselves snow "homes" like our wild friends do.

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS

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

Family Wreathmaking and Natural Creations

Friday December 2, 7–8:30 pm

Saturday December 3, 10 am–12 pm

Make a beautiful seasonal wreath with your family. We'll use all natural materials to make a fragrant, long lasting, and truly unique wreath, as well as other fun decorations to 'spruce up' your home.

Cost: \$15 per wreath.

Zip! Zap! Pop!

Friday, December 16, 7–8 pm

Uncover the wonders of fast moving and fascinating electricity. Explore static and current electricity, discover what materials conduct and insulate, and find out ways to save energy in your home this winter. Cost: \$5 per family.

Pizza Party with the Painted Turtle

January 6, 6:30–8 pm

Eat pizza and meet animals! Come join us for a pizza party followed by a live animal presentation. We'll end with some free time to explore the Fishways exhibits after dark. Cost: \$15 per family includes pizza.

Whoop Loves Winter?

February 10, 7–8 pm

Owls swoop through the cold to catch mice. A mink jumps from the river to the snow-covered ice and back into the water to catch a fish. Winter is an active and exciting time for many critters. We'll play games and observe fur and feathers to find out which animals love winter and why. Cost: \$5 per family.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE FISHWAYS

Winter Eagles Along the Merrimack

February 4: 9am–noon

Cost: \$2/person \$5/family

Join us on an urban eagle search! The session begins with a brief overview at the Fishways, followed by a trip in search of local wintering eagles. Our expert guide will be Rita Tulloh! Pre-registration with payment required.

Let's Go ICE Fishing

Friday, February 24: 6–8 pm

Saturday, February 25: 9am–noon

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

SEEKING ADULT VOLUNTEERS FROM THE MANCHESTER AREA!

Volunteer to Help Manchester's Wildlife

In January and February the Amoskeag Fishways will lead adult volunteers to monitor wildlife in Manchester. No experience is necessary, only a willingness to learn and walk outside in the snow for several hours. Take advantage of this GREAT opportunity to learn about our 4-legged neighbors. Call 626-FISH for more information and dates.

WINTER VACATION SERIES

Participants may register for one or all three programs.

Cost: \$8 per session/ \$20 for all three sessions

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

February 28, 29, and March 1

10am–noon for grades K-2

1pm–3pm for grades 3-6

Become nature explorers! Children will learn about winter wildlife and discover the great outdoors.

Fletcher Street, Manchester, NH 03105

626-FISH (3474)

Snowshoe Rentals!

Enjoy nature in winter at the Massabesic Audubon Center as you trek the trails on snowshoes! Enjoy traversing the snow-covered trails from the Center down to the shores of picturesque Lake Massabesic. Snowshoeing offers a fun winter sport activity that is also one of the oldest forms of snow travel. Rent the shoes for one hour or all day. Fees: \$7 M / \$9 NM per pair; shoes for use on-site only. Limited pairs available for children.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Binocular Workshops

Saturdays: Dec 3, Jan 7, Feb 4, 2–3 pm

Cost: \$3 M/\$5 NM, Leader: Jon Woolf

Join us for a basic workshop on how to choose and use binoculars. Try out a few different types and ask questions of our resident expert.

Do-It-Yourself Herbal Holiday Bodycare Gifts

Saturday, December 3, 10 am–1 pm

Cost: \$25 M/\$35 NM + \$5 materials fee

Leader: Maria Noël Groves, Clinical Herbalist,
www.wintergreenbotanicals.com

Save money and your health with all-natural bodycare and herbal gifts. We'll discuss and demonstrate basic steps for making lip balm, body cream, bath salts & sugars, aromatherapy spray, and massage oil—then get to make five of your own products to bring home. Find out how easy it is to make big batches all at once! Receive recipes for herbal honeys, sachets, and homemade teas. The holiday season is just beginning - create gift baskets to give this year.

Photography Silent Auction Fundraiser

Sunday, December 4, 2–4 pm

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

Tracking Workshop

Saturday, January 14, 10:30–12 pm

Cost: \$6 M/\$9 NM (includes use of snowshoes)

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist

Join us as we learn the signs that NH's winter critters leave behind them. We'll learn some basics then go for a snowshoe walk to see who has left evidence in the snow.

Soap Making Workshop

Saturday, January 28, 1–3pm

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

Leader: Barbara Benton, Little Cabin Crafts

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

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. Call 668-2045 to register.



January 6: Jon Woolf- Identifying Backyard Birds

Do you love watching the birds at your feeder on those cold winter days? Join us to learn about the common birds you are likely to see in the winter. Also learn how to attract the greatest variety of birds using food and type of feeder. Some basic information about binoculars will be offered as well as how to participate in the Backyard Winter Bird Survey in February.

February 3: Maria Colby- Wildlife Rehabilitator, Wings of Dawn, www.wingswildlife.org

Wings of the Dawn, managed and run by Maria Colby, strives to provide the best wildlife rehabilitation services possible. With every rescue, their goal is to rehabilitate the animal back to full health and release it back into the wild. In the few cases that the animal cannot be released back into the wild, it is kept at the bird sanctuary at Wings of the Dawn, or transferred to another nearby wildlife sanctuary (our Raven was rescued and nursed back to health by Maria). She will discuss what a typical day is like, share some amazing stories, and provide info on what to do if you find injured wildlife.

Nature Photography Workshop Series

Saturdays, February 4, 11, 18, 12–4 pm

Cost: \$120 M / \$150 NM for the whole series or \$45 M/ \$55 NM for individual sessions

Leader: David Saxe, USA Aloft, LLC.

Like being outdoors? Like taking pictures? Combine the two in this successful series of classes. *Introductory level course.* Have your camera make and model available when you register, and be prepared to go outside. Topics below are general. For specific info, visit www.usaaloft.com/courses.

Feb 4: Composition, Venues and Examples

Feb 11: Camera Equipment and Operation, Field Techniques

Feb 18: Exposure, Focusing/Depth of Field, Workflow

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Snake Feeding

Every Sunday, 11:30 am

FREE

Come watch our ball pythons eat lunch! Learn about these incredible animals and even get to touch them.

Raven Feeding

Every Sunday, 12:30 pm

FREE

Come watch as we give our raven his daily meal. Learn what these birds eat in the wild and watch some of our raven's peculiar habits.

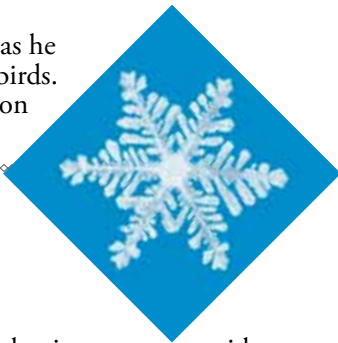
Backyard Birding

Sundays, Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5, 12-1 pm

Cost: \$3 M/\$5 NM

Leader: Jon Woolf

Join an experienced bird-watcher as he watches our feeders for backyard birds. Learn to identify our most common winter feathered friends!



Winter Festival

Saturday, January 21, 1-4pm

Cost: Individual \$ 8M/\$ 10NM,

Family \$15M/\$ 20NM

Getting cabin fever? Come out and enjoy a mid-winter festival and try a variety of winter activities in New Hampshire. New this year-join us for a snowshoe Frisbee Golf tournament! Call to sign up for tee times (1 or 2:30 pm). We'll also have a winter campfire, go on a tracking hunt, make some crafts, meet some live animals, and do some snowshoeing! Come back inside for hot chocolate and treats. Bring your friends!

Cheese and Garlic Workshop

Saturday, February 11, 1-3pm

Cost: Individuals \$15 M/\$18 NM; Families \$20 M/\$30 NM

Leaders: Barbara Benton and Angie Krysiak

Learn how to make mozzarella cheese, then talk about garlic-how to grow it, harvest it, and the many reasons it is good for you! Come hungry. Ages 10 and up, please.

Mysteries of the Forest: Tracking NH's Animals

Saturday, February 25, 1-2:30 pm

Cost: Families \$8 M/\$12 NM

Leader: Sarah Koval, Volunteer Coordinator and Naturalist

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

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS, Wee Wonders

Tuesdays, 12:30-2 pm & Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am

Cost: \$8 M / \$11 NM (per child/parent pair)

Leader: Kim Murphy, Naturalist

Join us for our winter series: Locomotion in Winter! Discover the changing seasons through hands-on activities, songs, crafts, stories, and outdoor discovery. Please dress to be outside and wear appropriate footwear. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-Registration is required.

Dec 6/7: 'Tis the Season for Evergreens: What would the holidays be without evergreens? They add color to winter woods, provide cover, protection, shelter, and food for our animal friends, and supply us with materials for holiday decorations! Explore the world of evergreens, and discover which animals rely on them for winter survival!

Dec 13/14: Homes for the Holidays: Winter is just around the corner, and by now the animals should know exactly where they will need to shelter as the snow and ice takes hold of the New England landscape. What kinds of winter homes and hibernacula will the animals be settling into?

Jan 10/11: Swimming Through Winter: There's a whole lot of life trapped under the ice in winter...fish spend their winter swimming under the ice. But who else stays down there? And what are they doing in that dark, cold, watery underworld? Today we'll take a peek under the ice to discover the hidden winter world of our aquatic animal friends.

Jan 17/18: Wings of Winter: Some of our feathered friends flew south for the winter- but many of them over-winter right here in our backyards! Do you know which ones stayed? How do they keep warm? What might they find to eat all winter long? Join us to explore backyard birds through winter & make them a treat to hang in your yard!

Jan 24/25: Sledding Mammals: How do you play in winter? Do you build a snowman? Go ice skating? Sled? Although survival in winter is serious business for our animal friends, some have fun while traveling over the snow. Some animals travel while sledding- on their bellies! Learn about these animal friends as we play in the snow like otters!

Jan. 31/Feb. 1: Keeping Still: Which critters of the winter woods skip winter altogether by keeping still and sleeping it away? Come find out which of our animals hibernate, and how they prepare to survive our harsh winter months.

Feb.7/8: Animals on Snowshoes: Deep snow can make winter survival and travel very difficult - until you strap on your snowshoes! The lynx and snowshoe hare are two animals that have snowshoe feet- and it is no wonder that this predator-prey combination depend on each other. Come and learn about these winter-adapted animals, as we try on our own snowshoe feet, and play some predator-prey games!

Feb. 14/15: Burrowing through Snow: As a layer of snow blankets the ground, all may appear calm and serene... but is it? Who's burrowing down there under the snow, and are they really warmer under there? Today we will take a look under the snow to discover the activity taking place as our smallest of animals struggle to survive.

Massabesic Audubon Center

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS, Junior Explorers

Tuesdays, 12:30–2

Wednesdays, 10–11:30

Cost: \$8 M / \$11 NM (per adult/child pair)

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist

Parents, drop off your older children for a class that can't be beat. Join us for our winter series: Locomotion in Winter. We'll explore the natural world with live animals, nature walks, and hands-on activities that follow a different natural theme each day. Be prepared to be outside! Classes are for ages 7-12. Pre-registration is required, parents may stay and participate.

Dec 13/14: Homes for the Holidays: Winter is just around the corner, and by now the animals should know exactly where they will need to shelter as the snow and ice takes hold of the New England landscape. What kinds of winter homes and hibernacula will the animals be settling into? Today we'll learn about a few different animals, and find out where they will call home for the winter holidays.

Jan 17/18: Wings of Winter: Some of our feathered friends flew away south for the winter- but many of them over-winter right here in our backyards! Do you know which ones stayed? How do they keep warm? What might they find to eat here all winter long? Join us as we explore backyard birds flying through winter- and make them a special treat to hang out in your yard!

Feb 7/8: Animals on Snowshoes: Deep snow can make winter survival and travel very difficult – until you strap on your snowshoes! Animals may not be able to wear them- but some animals' feet so big they certainly look like snowshoes! The lynx and snowshoe hare are two such animals that have snowshoe feet- and it is no wonder that this predator-prey combination ecologically dependent on each other. Come and learn about these winter-adapted animals, as we try on our own snowshoe feet, and play some predator-prey games!

Feb 14/15: Burrowing through Snow: As a layer of snow blankets the ground, all may appear calm and serene... but is it? Who's burrowing down there under the snow, and are they really warmer under there? Today we will take a look under the snow to discover the fury of activity taking place as our smallest of animals are struggling to survive.

ART EXHIBIT

Quilt-scapes

Jan 12-Feb 24, 2012

Artists' Reception:

Jan 14, 2–4pm, FREE

Come see our winter "Quiltscape", featuring a wide variety of quilts from area quilters. In contrast to winter's stark white landscape, these quilts are beautiful with warm, vibrant colors; sure to chase away the winter blahs and cabin fever. The quilters invite you to enjoy the warm glow that radiates from these pieces in an amazing display of quilting styles and techniques, crafted by local textile artists.

26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH 03032

603-668-2045

Newfound Audubon Center

ABOUT NEWFOUND AUDUBON CENTER

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

North Shore Road
Hebron, NH 03222
603-744-3516

The Loon Center

ABOUT THE LOON CENTER

The Loon Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9am–5pm. Enjoy the educational displays and award-winning videos, as well as the trails on the Markus Wildlife Sanctuary, which are open from dawn until dusk daily for walking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing. Then stop into the Loon's Feather Gift Shop for unique holiday and birthday gifts!

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

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



Photo by Mark Wilson

**Register now
for camps at
Massabesic &
McLane**

FEBRUARY FUN VACATION CAMP

Monday, February 27–Friday, March 2

For Children Ages 6-12

All-day sessions: 9am–4pm

February Fun Vacation Camp is a special opportunity for children ages 6-12 to learn more about nature in winter. Join us for a single day, several days, or the whole week. The various themes of each day will be explored through outdoor excursions (by foot or on snowshoes), games, crafts, stories, live animals, songs, and conservation projects to help participants discover the wonders of the season. Children should bring their own lunches and snacks and be prepared to be outside with appropriate clothing.

Monday: Feeding Frenzy

We'll talk about NH food chains, play a predator/prey game, and feed some of our center's live animals.

Tuesday: Common Senses

We'll explore the various ways animals perceive the world around them, using whiskers, hands, noses, antennae, eyes... Then we'll look at some live animals and try to see what they see!

Wednesday: Homes & Shelters

Find out where NH's different animals make their homes, then go into the woods to build our own survival shelters.

Thursday: Starry Night

Come discover what goes on in NH at night! We'll look at stars and talk about nocturnal animals, then look at some of our center's live examples.

Friday: Maple Mania

The trees may not have leaves yet, but they will start waking up very soon! Learn all about the fascinating process of collecting maple sap to make maple syrup and candies, and get to taste some NH-made maple syrup!

WINTER SOLSTICE CAMP

Tuesday, Dec. 27–Thursday, Dec. 29

For Children Ages 6-12

All-day sessions: 9am–4pm

Celebrate the end of 2011 and join us for Winter Solstice Camp! Each day we'll keep your child active with educational games, outdoor adventures, live animals, crafts, and stories. We'll explore the winter world, find out who is still out and about, look for evidence of animal activity and share good times. Join in the fun for just one day or sign up for all of them! Children should bring their own lunches and snacks and be prepared to be outside with appropriate clothing.

Tuesday: Cold-blooded Critters

Discover what our native cold-blooded animals do to survive the winter, then meet some of our center's live turtles and frogs!

Wednesday: On The Trail

Strap on snowshoes and hit the trails to see what we can learn about NH's flora and fauna in winter. We'll look at plant survival techniques and learn to look for animal tracks and sign.

Thursday: Happy New Year!

Celebrate the coming of 2012 with games, scavenger hunts, and hikes in the woods. We'll learn about the changing seasons and what it means for NH wildlife.

INFO

Camp Fee: \$40 M/\$50 NM per child per day

Camper drop-off begins at 8:30 am and after-hours care is available from 4–5:30 pm for an additional charge of \$8 M/ \$10 NM per child per day.

Registrations are accepted online at

www.nh Audubon.org, by mail or in person (at McLane Center, Concord); we cannot take registrations over the phone.



SAVE THE DATE

Super Spring Vacation Camp!
Monday-Friday, April 23–27

Sanctuary & Chapter Happenings

SANCTUARY FIELD TRIP

Willard Pond's Lesser Known Side

Saturday, January 7, 9 am–noon

Join NHA Director of Land Management, Phil Brown, and former NHA and Harris Center Trustee, Francie VonMertens, for a hike into some lesser-known parcels of the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. This special tour will feature some of NHA's newest protected properties in Antrim. We will traverse 2-3 miles of mainly level terrain and an access road, and, if weather and conditions cooperate, we will hike to the most remote part of Willard Pond itself. We'll meet at the public parking area at Gregg Lake in Antrim, then carpool to the start of the hike from there. Bring a snack, beverage, snowshoes, and dress for the weather. *Co-sponsored by the Harris Center.*

Contact: Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or at 224-9909x334 for more information.

AMMONOOSUC

December 18: Littleton Christmas Bird Count

January 18: The Wild Turkey: Almost our National Bird!

A native species of North America, the wild turkey was extirpated from New Hampshire and many other states by 1900, due to unregulated hunting and loss of habitat. But the turkey has recovered remarkably, thanks in large part to a dedicated conservation effort, and the large birds are commonly sighted in fields and meadows throughout New Hampshire. Participants in the Wild Turkey Program have the opportunity to touch feathers, see spurs, and hear the sounds of the wild turkey as they discover how the bird got its name and how it was domesticated and learn about different sub-species of turkey, including a tropical form of the turkey. Nigel Manley is our speaker.

February 15: Big Trees of New Hampshire

Learn about the champion trees of New Hampshire with Sam Stoddard, former Coos County Forester. See photos of some of the biggest and tallest trees in New Hampshire and learn how to measure trees and participate in the Big Tree program.

CAPITAL AREA

Field Trip: Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 18

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

Field Trip: Bald Eagles on the Merrimack

Sunday, February 12, 8:30 am

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

Program: Observing Microscopic Ocean Life from Space Friday, February 10, 7 pm

Location: McLane Center

Phytoplankton are microscopic algae responsible for producing about half of the world's oxygen. Optical oceanography uses the color of ocean water to measure the amount of chlorophyll in the ocean, an indicator of phytoplankton populations. Alison Chase, a Research Associate at Atmospheric & Environmental Research, Inc., will introduce the fundamentals of optical oceanography and the ways we can study changing global phytoplankton populations using satellite ocean color.

LAKES REGION

Program: Fifty Years of Banding Birds in the Lakes Region

Thursday, January 19, 7:30 pm

Master bird bander John Merrill from Center Harbor has been banding birds in the Lakes Region over a remarkable span of 50 years. Accompanied by a slide presentation, John will share some of his experiences with us and give us some insight into local bird trends. *The Loon Center on Lees Mill Rd. Moultonborough. Handicapped accessible.*

Contact: The Loon Center at 476-LOON (476-5666)

Program: To Be Announced

Thursday, February 16, 7:30 pm

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

Contact: The Loon Center at 476-LOON (476-5666)

MASCOMA

Visit www.mascomabirds.org for listings.

NASHAWAY

Programs

Nashaway Chapter evening educational programs are held at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua on the third Wednesday of the month. All Nashaway programs are free and open to the public. Programs are held in the Theater Room and after a brief informal business meeting feature a guest speaker. Come join us and share your "sightings".

Old pests, new distributions: A look at how climate change has led to insect range expansion

Wednesday Dec 21, 7–9 pm

Join Piera Siegert, State Entomologist, as he explains how climate change has affected insect populations. Hear about land use changes in the Monarch butterfly's overwintering habitats and how the hemlock woolly adelgid has moved into NH.



Common Redpoll, by Jason Lambert

NASHAWAY, continued

Upcoming Programs (Topics TBD):

January 18, 7–9 pm

February 15, 7–9 pm

Field Trips

Annual Chapter Christmas Bird Count: Sat, Dec. 17

Join us for this traditional event. Count local birds by day, tally up your sightings in the evening (5 pm) over dinner at the Lawrence Barn (Hollis Recreation Comm. 28 Depot Rd.) in Hollis. Each group is assigned their own count area. No meeting place in the morning. *Small fee is collected for evening tally/dinner.*

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

Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey, Merrimack River, Hudson to Manchester: Saturday, Jan. 14, 8am to 12pm

Join our group in this annual statewide count to learn about local Bald Eagle foraging and roosting habitat and the protection eagles need to stay healthy over the cold winter. Bring Binoculars and a scope if you have one, and dress WARMLY. We will meet in Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind the Granite Inn.

Contact: Richard Bielawski at 429-4537 or rbielawski(AT)mac.com

Wintering Owls: Saturday Feb. 11, 8am to 3pm

Join us as we look for Short-eared and Snowy Owls at Salisbury Beach State Park and across the river in Parker River Wildlife Refuge. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one, and dress WARMLY. There is a \$5 entrance fee into the refuge and no pets allowed. We will meet in Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind the Granite Inn.

Contact: Richard Bielawski at 429-4537 or rbielawski(AT)mac.com

SEACOAST

Program: The Frontiers of Field Ornithology: Discovery and Adventure in the Upper Amazon

Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 pm (*Refreshments 7 pm*)

Just as pioneers gradually shifted the American frontier westward, so have field ornithologists rapidly advanced our knowledge of birds including their identification, distribution, ecology, behavior, and evolution. While field ornithology in North America has advanced to the point that the frontier now lies in determining small-scale distributional patterns, identifying migrating birds by flight call, and exploring isolated banks far off the coast, the frontier of field ornithology in the American tropics lags a century behind in many respects. In a land where new species are found annually, dramatic and exciting discoveries are almost routine. Mike Harvey, a Louisiana State University graduate student, will speak to us about his recent research in the upper Amazon basin, principally in central Peru. His work focuses both on gathering the very basic data still lacking on many tropical birds and attempting to answer larger questions in evolutionary biology and ecology. Meet at the Seacoast Science Center, Odiorne Point State Park, 570 Ocean Boulevard, Rye NH. Contact: Dan Hubbard, 332-4093, danielhubbard@peoplepc.com

Program: Graduate Research at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest

Wednesday, January 11, 7:30 pm

Ben Griffith, graduate student at the University of Vermont, will describe his research at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest. 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.

Program: The Sea Beside the Sea: An Introduction to the Gulf of Maine

Wednesday, February 8, 7:30 pm

The Gulf of Maine is a very special water body that has had a profound impact on the history of this country. Come learn how the Gulf was formed, why it is so incredibly productive, and how that productivity has shaped New England history. Presenter Mark Wiley is the Assistant Director for Education for the NH Sea Grant and UNH Cooperative Extension programs and directs the UNH Marine Docent Program. 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.

Field Trip: Coastal New Hampshire, January 14

Contact: See our web site for the complete information, <http://www.seacoastchapter.org/field-trips>.

Field Trip: Winter Finch Trip, February 18, 8 am

Join Kathy Dube for a field trip to look for winter finches in the north country. Previous trips yielded both species of crossbills and redpolls, and an assortment of other winter-loving critters. Meet at 8 am at the McDonald's at 214 Main St (Rt. 16) in Gorham, NH. Read Kathy's Winter Finch article in NH Bird Records. Dress warmly for this trip!

Contact: See our web site for the complete information, www.seacoastchapter.org/field-trips.

SOO-NIPI

All programs held at Tracy Memorial Library, New London
Contact: Natalie Davis, 763-5320

Program: Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm

Pam Hunt of the Conservation Department of the NH Audubon, will give a talk, "1000 Miles of Solitude: Driving the Baja California Peninsula," about its natural history.

Program: Friday, January 13, 7:30 pm

Richard La Porte, a retired bush pilot for 28 years, will tell us about his adventures, rescuing people, and dealing with grizzlies and storms in Alaska and Canada.

Program: Friday, February 10, 7:30 pm

Robin Gray, an avid local birder and Soo-Nipi member, will talk and give a slide show about his recent visit to the birding hotspots in Peru.

Christmas Bird Count Preview 2011

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

1. Pittsburg – December 22

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

2. Errol-Umbagog – December 23

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

3. Littleton – December 18

Contact: Mary Boulanger (444-6993 or mboul@roadrunner.com)

4. North Conway – December 30

Contact: Nora Dufilho, Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr. (447-6991 or nbeem@tinmountain.org).

5. Baker Valley – December 18

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

6. Hanover-Norwich – January 1

Contact: Dan Crook (448-2544).

7. Laconia-New Hampton – January 2

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

8. Concord – December 18

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

9. Lee-Durham – December 26

Contact: Steve Mirick (978-374-0654 or smirick@comcast.net).

10. Coastal – December 17

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

11. Keene – December 18

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

12. Peterborough-Hancock – December 17

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

13. Nashua-Hollis – December 17

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

14. Lake Sunapee – December 17

Contact: Gary Stansfield (inuk@sugar-river.net [preferred] or 863-8737).

15. Saxtons River (Vt.-N.H.) – December 17

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

16. Manchester – Compiler needed.

17. Isles of Shoals – tentatively December 18

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

18. Sandwich – December 29

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

19. Barnet (Vt.-N.H.) – January 1

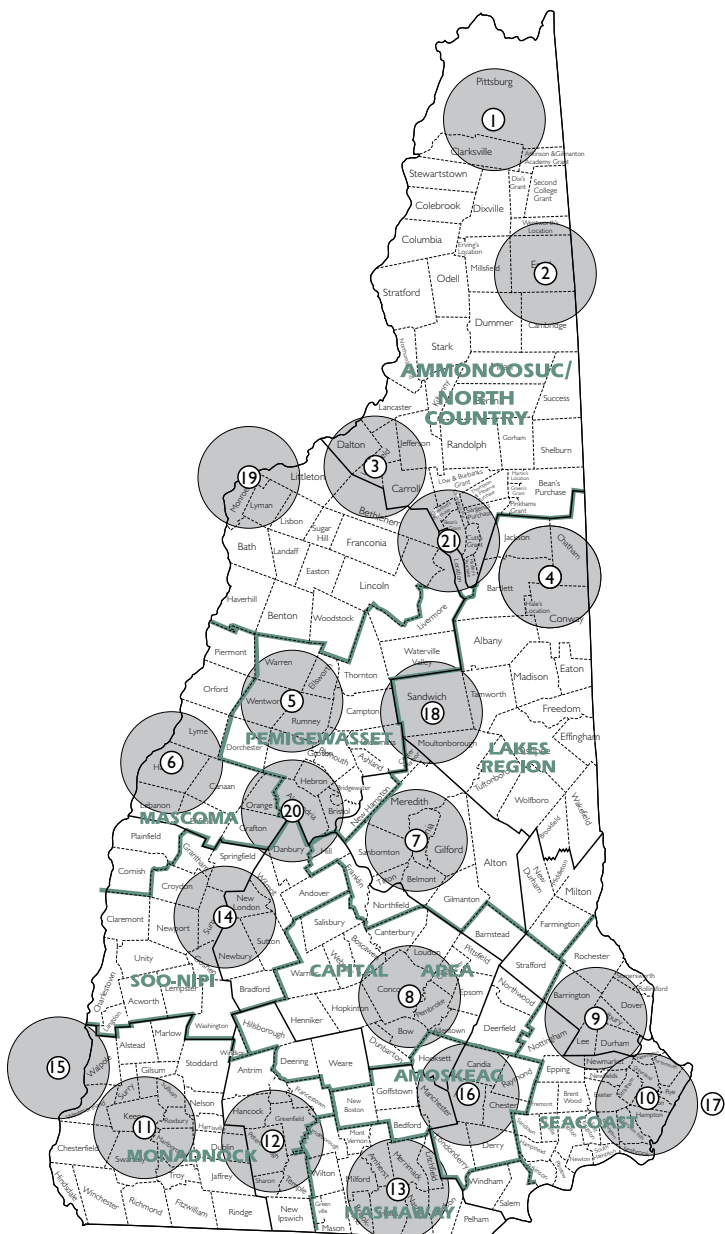
Contact: Charlie Browne (802-748-2372, ext. 104 or cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org).

20. Grafton-Bristol – status unknown

Contact: Phred Benham (523-7941, or fbenha1@lsu.edu).

21. Crawford Notch – December 17

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



2012 Backyard Winter Bird Survey: February 11 & 12

Survey Instructions

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

When to watch

February 11 and 12 only. Watch and count the birds in your yard at any time during the weekend.

How long to watch

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

How to count

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

Additional species

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

Birds you can't identify

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

Confusing species

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

Unusual species

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

Survey results

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

Other notes

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

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

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

At press time, online data forms are under development. Check the website for the latest.

Backyard Winter Bird Survey Form 2012

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NH Audubon Member? Yes No
 _____ I can't participate this year but keep me on the mailing list.

SURVEY LOCATION:
 Street _____ Town _____
 Date(s) observed _____ Total hours watched _____
 Comments: (e.g., weather, etc.) _____

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

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



NH AUDUBON
84 SILK FARM ROAD
CONCORD, NH 03301

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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 emedial@nhaudubon.org

Thank You

NH Audubon gratefully acknowledges the following for their grant support.

The Butler Foundation for *The State of New Hampshire's Birds, A Conservation Guide*

Benjamin Couch Trust/TD Wealth Management, TD Bank for Carter Hill Raptor Observatory

The Dorr Foundation for the Phenology Project

The Kingsbury Foundation for Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for membership development

Nuttall Ornithological Society's Charles Blake Fund for Swallow CORE

Together Green, a five-year initiative launched by National Audubon and Toyota, for a Phenology Project Planning Grant

Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge Conservation Fund for Rusty Blackbird research

US Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service for Rusty Blackbird research

Read the NH Audubon annual report at www.nhaudubon.org/about/annual-report.

Corporate Partner Spotlight

RATH YOUNG PIGNATELLI

National Impact. Uniquely New Hampshire. www.rathlaw.com

RATH, YOUNG AND PIGNATELLI, P.C. was one of the first law firms in New England to build and embrace the capacity to represent clients before all branches of government. The firm has established a reputation for understanding these relationships and achieving client goals by negotiating business transactions in New England and nationally, working closely with legislators and regulatory agencies. Key sectors where business and government interact and for which the firm is known include energy, environmental, tax, healthcare, insurance and business and finance. Based in Concord with offices in Nashua and Boston, the firm is also committed to community involvement. Its professionals donate hundreds of hours every year as board members and volunteers with local non-profit organizations, including NH Audubon.

OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

Public Service Company of New Hampshire • TransCanada
Hitchiner Manufacturing Co., Inc. • Burt Consulting, Inc.
Blue Seal • Baldwin & Callen, PLLC • Aaron Water Systems
Normandeau Associates • Stonyfield Farm • Rath, Young, and Pignatelli, P.C.
Ed Reilly Subaru • Weare Animal Hospital • Grappone Automotive Group

Thanks also to: Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, ReVision Energy, New Hampshire Distributors, Osborne's Farm and Garden Centers, & Carter Hill Orchard.

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