

NH Audubon Afield



Silent Spring Revisited

By Pam Hunt, Senior Biologist – Bird Conservation

Back in 1962, Rachel Carson gained fame (and a certain degree of notoriety) with the publication of “Silent Spring,” a book which ultimately led to environmental success stories such as the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the banning of the pesticide DDT in the United States. But none of this means that environmental contaminants are no longer an issue, and new threats to birds and wildlife are constantly being discovered and studied.

Above: Carolina Wren
Photograph by Pam Hunt

A decade ago, mercury was a big issue in much of the Northeast. Mercury from coal-burning power plants precipitates into water bodies, where it can eventually be taken up by aquatic organisms and things that eat them. In high enough doses, mercury can cause physiological problems, and for this reason pregnant women are discouraged from eating too much fish from certain sources. We have long known that fish-eating birds such as loons can accumulate high concentrations of mercury, and more recently, studies of Carolina Wrens and other songbirds in Virginia have shown birds with high

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Exciting times at NH Audubon!

In addition to our conservation projects, educational activities and events, we are beginning a strategic plan for communications – and that’s why this edition of Afield looks a little different! We have so much GREAT information to share, but are still perfecting the best vehicles to use to do so. Visit our website often; it already has had a little “face lift” for spring and provides a wealth of current information. Stay tuned to see what’s next with Afield, as we enter our 2nd century of protecting New Hampshire’s environment for wildlife and for people. I hope to see you at a program or event soon. Be in touch if you have ideas to share!

Happy Spring –

Mike Bartlett
President



NH AUDUBON
Protecting our environment since 1914

Protecting New Hampshire’s
Natural Environment
for Wildlife and for People

Silent Spring Revisited

mercury levels have trouble learning or singing their songs. The jury is out on the longer term effects of such mercury exposure, but they can't be good.

Meanwhile, the demands of intensified agriculture required that substitutes be developed for DDT, and other insecticides to which pest insects had developed resistance. And thus were born a new class of chemicals known as neonicotinoids, which affect the central nervous system of insects – causing death. “Neonics” entered widespread use in the 2000s, and it wasn't long before negative effects (including mortality) on non-target organisms were noticed. They have long been suspected as a factor behind widespread declines in bee and other pollinator populations, and more recently have been linked to bird declines in Europe. While birds may experience lower mortality due to neonic toxicity compared to insects, they may suffer damage to their immune systems and be indirectly affected by the loss of insect prey. In a recent study in

Canada, Tree Swallows nesting in heavily agricultural areas tended to weigh less and their young were in poorer condition compared to birds nesting in more natural areas.

Because of concerns about the ecological impacts of neonics, their use has been temporarily suspended in much of Europe until the end of 2015. In the U.S., use remains widespread, and it is actually hard to find even nursery plants that have not been treated with the chemicals. And of course, there are plenty of other chemicals in the environment with potentially negative effects on birds and other wildlife – Rachel Carson's work is far from done.

For more information on mercury, pesticides, and other contaminants, including some things you can do to help, visit:
<http://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Threats-to-Wildlife/Pollutants.aspx>
<http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/toxins/index.html>

New Conservation Director

By Michael Bartlett, NH Audubon President

I would like to announce changes in job responsibilities (and titles) for two of our valued staff.

After many years at the helm of the NH Audubon's Conservation Department, Dr. Carol Foss has decided to hand off the Director's baton and focus entirely on science. Vanessa Jones has agreed to accept the Director's baton and continue the race!!

Carol joined the year-round staff of New Hampshire Audubon in 1977, after two summers as the seasonal naturalist at Paradise Point. She has served in a number of capacities in the 38 (!) years since, most recently as Director of Conservation, a position she has held since 2007.

Vanessa also brings exceptional talents and skills to the Director's position. She has been part of the Conservation Department for eight years, serving in a variety of roles including GIS Specialist, Wildlife Biologist, Land Protection Specialist and Conservation Department Management Assistant. Her work has varied from monitoring Bald Eagles by kayak, to representing the organization at the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, and creating new systems for tracking grants and contracts.

I would like to thank both Carol and Vanessa for their extraordinary contributions to NH Audubon and welcome them into their new roles.

Read more @ www.nh Audubon.org

Field Volunteer Opportunities

Olive-sided Flycatcher Blitz – Year 2

Volunteers visit one or more “survey quads,” at least three times in June and July. Some surveys may require hiking or accessing difficult terrain such as bogs. Contact Pam Hunt at 224-9909 x328 or phunt@nh Audubon.org.

Chimney Swift Roost Counts

Although a common bird in urban areas across New Hampshire, the Chimney Swift is in steep decline. Biologists are still unsure about the causes of the decline, but one area of interest is the large communal roosts these birds use during migration. Counting birds at roosts is potentially a good way to track local populations, and it also helps identify sites that may be important to the species. At present, most survey work is in the Concord and Upper Valley areas, but we hope to broaden the project's scope in 2015.

Training can be provided in areas where there is sufficient interest. Contact Pam Hunt at 224-9909 x328 or phunt@nh Audubon.org.

Nighthawk Watches

Help locate and monitor Common Nighthawks during the summer nesting season, primarily in the Concord, Keene (in partnership with AVEO), and Ossipee areas. Volunteers watch at a site from 8-9:30 pm. Time commitment is variable. If you are interested, contact Becky Suomala, rsuomala@nh Audubon.org, 603-224-9909 x309.

NH Audubon's Annual Birdathon/Bloomathon — May 16, 2015



Baltimore Oriole in an apple tree. Photo by Jen Esten

With the coming of spring New Hampshire's landscape will once again be graced by lovely wildflowers and colorful singing birds. It is a wonderful time to get out and enjoy these natural wonders, and at the same time do something to help protect them.

Outdoor Exploration with an Added Purpose

NH Audubon's annual Birdathon/Bloomathon is an event designed to raise awareness and funds that are used for research, education, land protection and advocacy through our centers, chapters and programs. By getting outside, searching for birds and/or flowers, and soliciting pledges to support NHA's work, participants are able to enjoy outdoor exploration, connect with others who appreciate the natural world and contribute to NHA's conservation work.

Funds raised through this event will benefit NH Audubon as a whole and a Chapter, Center or Program chosen by each team.

This event is a way for birders to contribute sightings of 'conservation species' to NH Audubon and to

contribute records of birds from all parts of the state in a single day through NH E-bird. This helps provide a look into the changes of our state's birdlife over time. Information about plant blooms may contribute to phenology data as we explore ways that organisms respond to the changing climate.

Everyone can join the fun

Experts and beginners can participate; adults and children; anyone can be part of a team, or support one.

Join a team and try to see as many species of birds and/or wildflowers as possible within a single day in whatever New Hampshire location you choose. Several of NH Audubon's Chapters, Centers, and Programs are organizing teams, including expert-led groups that welcome beginners.

There's no registration fee. Participants are strongly encouraged to seek pledges from friends, co-workers, family members, local businesses, etc. Electronic fund raising through FirstGiving makes it easy to contribute and acquire donations.

Ways to Participate

- Form a team with friends (2-6 participants/team) or join a Chapter or Center group
- Register your team with the B/B Coordinator, Ruth Smith
- Serve as a captain to coordinate multiple teams for a chapter, center or program area
- Set a goal for species or funds (ie: a big day of 170 bird species, 10 new plants you've never seen, \$1000 in pledges or raise \$1/species) – all efforts large and small are appreciated.
- Pledge to support your favorite branch of NH Audubon
- Travel across the state, focus on a favorite local spot or NH Audubon Sanctuary
- Spend the morning or search for 24 hours straight
- Get outside in search of birds and blooms!
- Help NH Audubon protect the places and wildlife you care about.

Registration

Registration deadline (to be entered in the contests) is May 12. Early registration is recommended to enhance coordination and fund raising capacity.

Prizes will be awarded to category winners and those who raise the most in pledges. Participation in the Birdathon/Bloomathon means that everyone wins – including the birds and plants!

Contact us now to let us know how you want to participate so we can send you details about this exciting and important event. Visit the [Birdathon page](#) on the Website to register or contact B/B coordinator Ruth Smith rsmith@nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 ext. 313.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

See the latest event listings
& full descriptions @
www.nhaudubon.org

AMOSKEAG FISHWAYS

4 Fletcher Street
Manchester, NH
603-626-3474



The Amoskeag Fishways Learning and Visitors Center is located on Exit 6, off of Interstate 293 in Manchester, NH.

Family Fun Nights: March Madness with Muskrat and Beaver

March 27 @ 6:30 pm-8:00 pm
Cost: \$5 per family

Muskrat and beaver have many cool adaptations for life along the river. Play games, make crafts, and learn all about NH's water-loving rodents!

Fishways Fundays: Wake Up its Spring!

April 2 @ 9:30 am-11:00 am
Cost: \$8 per family

Spring renews wildlife activity after a long, quiet winter! Celebrate the return of spring by creating a group mural.

Fishways Fundays: Wake Up its Spring!

April 2 @ 12:30 pm-2:00 pm
Cost: \$8 per family

Spring renews wildlife activity after a long, quiet winter! Celebrate the return of spring by creating a group mural.

Predators of the Sky: Live Birds of Prey

April 4 @ 11am-12:30pm or 1pm-2:30 pm
Cost: \$10 per person/\$25 per family

Tom Ricardi and his spectacular birds of prey will be our guests. A diverse group of raptors, which includes a playful turkey vulture and a golden eagle, will be some of the birds on hand for close-up viewing!

Family Fun Nights: The Mighty Merrimack

April 10 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Cost: \$5 per family

How does water collect to make a mighty river like the Merrimack? Where does that water go once it is part of the river?

Fishways Fundays: River Action

April 16 @ 9:30am-11am or 12:30pm-2pm
Cost: \$8 per family

Together we will explore what goes on above and below its surface and learn all about the animals and plants that make up our rich Merrimack River community.



Bald Eagle. Photo by Peter Grey

Family Eagle Watching Days

April 23 @ 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Cost: Walk-in donations accepted

Drop in to look for bald eagles (we have binoculars and a spotting scope) from our excellent vantage point along the river.

Family Fun Nights: River Power

April 24 @ 6:30 pm-8:00 pm
Cost: \$5 per family

Swift-flowing water has a lot of power! From mills to hydropower, discover how people of the past and present have harnessed the strength of the Merrimack River.

2015 Fish Festival Featuring Dash and Splash!

April 30 @ 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family
Line up and cheer on biologists when they deliver fish to stock our fish ladder at 10am.

All about River Raptors

May 16 @ 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Cost: \$3 per person and \$6 per family
Everyone is noticing all kinds of raptors flying over the Merrimack River. Falcons,

eagles and hawks have become a common sight in the Manchester city landscape that we love.

Fishways Fundays: Fish Frenzy

May 21 @ 9:30am-11am or 12:30pm-2pm
Cost: \$8 per family

Fish are fascinating . . . especially the ones that live right here in our own Merrimack River!

Family Fun Nights: Leap, Slither and Slide

May 29 @ 6:30 pm-8:00 pm
Cost: \$5 per family

Meet a few live critters and explore the slithery, slimy world of reptiles and amphibians through games and crafts.

MASSABESIC CENTER

26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH
Phone: (603) 668-2045



Earth Day Festival-Tread Lightly

April 11 @ 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Cost: Individuals \$5, Families \$15

Join Audubon and Student Conservation Association as we celebrate the Earth in our 8th annual Festival.

Soap Making Workshop

April 18 @ 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Cost: \$15 Members/\$25 Non-Members, plus \$5 materials fee

Come join us for a demonstration of making hand-crafted soap using all natural ingredients and essential oils.

Coastal Birding

May 20 @ 9:00 am-2:30 pm
Cost: \$6 Member/\$9 Non-Member per trip

Enjoy birding the coast with JoAnn O'Shaughnessy.

Intro to Pelagic Wildlife

May 23 @ 3:00 pm-4:00 pm
Cost: \$5 (free to those attending Pelagic Trip on May 25)

Come see a brief slideshow about some of the wildlife you might see just off NH's coast.

Pelagic Trip

May 25 @ 7:00 am-5:00 pm
Cost: \$70 Members/\$90 Non-Members
Join NH Audubon aboard MV Granite State as we explore Jeffreys Ledge, 20 miles off the

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Tom Ricardi and a Bald Eagle. Photo by Stefan Mattlage.

New Hampshire coast.

NATURE CAFE AT MASSABESIC

Fridays, 7-8:30pm

Cost: \$5 per person, free for Massabesic volunteers



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

The Signs of Spring

March 20

Come learn the science of phenology, the study of the timing of plant and animal life cycle events.

Moths

April 17

Local naturalist, Deb Lievens will present a program on Moths.

Rain Gardens

May 15

Jillian McCarthy from the NH Department of Environmental Services will teach you how to make a Rain Garden.

MCLANE CENTER

84 Silk Farm Rd.

Concord, NH

(603) 224-9909



Program: Emerald Ash Borer Workshop and Field Trip

March 21 @ 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Molly Heuss of NH Division of Forest & Lands and Tim Fleury of UNH Cooperative Extension will teach you what to look for and how to report potentially infested trees.

Phil Brown of NH Audubon will discuss the birds that feed on EAB and will provide a landowner's perspective. Then we'll head outside to view the recent infestation on trees at the McLane Center.

Spring on the Wing Celebration & Cake Contest

March 28 @ 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Cost: \$8

Join us for this family-friendly event and welcome back the birds with a celebration of spring including crafts, stories, bird house building, games, outdoor explorations and back by popular demand, a decorated cake contest.

Presentation: Wind Power and Wildlife

April 7 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Carol Foss will discuss the current state of knowledge about wind energy and how to balance the needs of native wildlife with our need for energy.

CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

Program: Sandhill Cranes

March 26 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Location: McLane Center, Concord

Udo Rauter will present a slide presentation on Sandhill Cranes focusing on the arrival of cranes on Nebraska's Platte River where 80% of the world's population of Sandhill Cranes stopover during Spring migration.

Field Trip: Morrill's Farm

April 4 @ 7:00 am-10:00 am

Location: Hannah Dustin Park-and-Ride in Boscawen (Exit 17 off I-93)



Join Pam Hunt for an early spring exploration of one of her favorite Penacook birding spots.

Field Trip: Canoeing/birding on the Merrimack River

April 11 @ 1:00 pm-6:00 pm

Location: Hannah Dustin Park-and-Ride in Boscawen (Exit 17 off I-93)

Leader: Bob Quinn

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.

Field Trip: Woodcock Walk

April 23 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Location: McLane Center

Meet Rob Woodward for his annual EVENING walk in search of American Woodcock.

Field Trip: Before Work Walk – Horseshoe Pond

May 8 @ 6:30 am-8:00 am

Location: end of Commercial Street at Horseshoe Pond.

Leader: Rob Woodward

Wake up early and get your fill of spring migrants before you go off to work.

Field Trip: Blue-winged Warbler Walk

May 23 @ 7:00 am

Location: McLane Center

Leader: Rob Woodward

Twenty years ago Blue-winged Warblers were hardly known outside the Seacoast Region in NH but are now regularly found in Concord.

Field Trip: Concord Airport

May 30 @ 7:00 am

Location: Airport Parking Lot

Join Dave Howe for a search for grassland species at the Concord Airport.

LAKES REGION CHAPTER

The following lecture will be at:

The Loon Center

183 Lee's Mills Road,

Moultonborough, NH



Lecture: Climate Reality in times of change: Problems, Solutions, Action

March 19 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Dr. Melendy will demonstrate the inter-relationships between technology, economy,

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Tree Swallow. Photo by Pam Hunt

and climate change, suggesting certain models that people can take with them into their municipal systems, businesses, and every day life, that will help mitigate the destructive forces we have unleashed.

Lecture: Restoration of the American Chestnut Tree

April 16 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Join Wildlife Biologist, Curt Laffin, as he discusses the history and demise of this tree and efforts by the American Chestnut Foundation to restore it locally and throughout its historic range.

MONADNOCK CHAPTER

Field Trip: 32nd Annual "Waterfowl Safari" along the Connecticut River

March 28 @ 8:00 am

Location: Charlestown Library, Main St or Home Depot parking lot, Keene.

Leaders: Phil Brown and Eric Masterson.

Contact pbrown@nhaudubon.org

Through carpools and a little walking, we're likely to see a variety of northward bound ducks and other species.

Field Trip: Spring Warbler Walk in Hinsdale

May 9 @ 7:00 am-12:00 pm

Location: Prospect St boat ramp parking area in Hinsdale. Leader: Cliff Seifer.

Contact: clifdisc@gmail.com

May 9th is International Migratory Bird Day. Why not celebrate with a trip to a perennial migration hot spot, along the

Connecticut River in Hinsdale?

Field Trip: Annual Surry Birdathon/Bloomathon

May 16 @ 7:00 am-12:00 pm

Location: Surry Town Hall parking lot

Contact: weward0@yahoo.com

or 352-0987 (Dave)

Join local birder Dave Hoitt and wildflower enthusiast Wendy Ward on this easy walk looking for birds and wildflowers of the open field and wetland habitat.

MASCOMA CHAPTER

Field Trip: Spring Migratory Waterfowl

March 21 @ 8:00 am-11:00 am

Location: Dartmouth Rowing House parking lot

This outing will head north from the Ledyard Bridge on the VT side of the Connecticut River searching the river and its adjacent fields and woods for waterfowl and early arriving spring migrants.

Program: Matt Tarr: "Song Birds and Invasive Shrubs"

April 13 @ 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Location: Howe Library, Hanover, NH
UNH Coop Extension Wildlife Specialist
Matt Tarr has been researching this relationship focusing on the common yellowthroat warbler.

Field Trip: Spring Migrant Birdwalk

April 18 @ 6:00 am-9:30 am

Location: Wilson's Landing, Hanover, NH

Leader: George Clark

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

Field Trip: "Feathered Fridays"

May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 @ 7am-10am

Location: Union Village Dam, Thetford Center, VT

Leader: Becky Cook and Ted Boze

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

Field Trip: "Warbler Wednesdays"

May 6, 13, 20 & 27 @ 7am-10am

Location: Parking lot across from Wilder Dam on Rt. 10

Leader: Gail "Pip" Richens

Join our popular, early morning May series of weekly warbler searches at Lebanon's Boston Lot Lake.

Field Trip: Bedell Bridge Birdwalk

May 30 @ 6:30 am-9:00 am

Location: Dartmouth Rowing Club House parking lot

Leader: Blake Allison

This visit to the former site of the Bedell Covered Bridge, lost in a September 1979 hurricane, offers an opportunity to see a wide variety of birds due to the park's interesting combination of riparian, mixed woodlands and agricultural land habitats. The park entrance is located on NH Rt. 10 just north of the Haverhill Green.

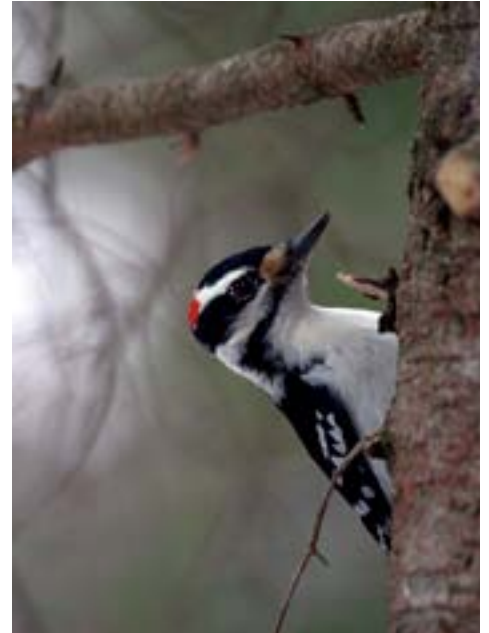


Photo by Dirk Van der Mewre

NASHAWAY CHAPTER

Lectures and programs held at:

Nashua Public Library

2 Court St., Nashua, NH



Lecture: Adventures in birding around Salem

March 18 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Join us and long time birders Kyle Wilmarth and Amanda Altena as they share their birding adventures in the Greater Salem area.



Photo by Patt Watts

Lecture: New Hampshire Naturally

April 15 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Join our members as NH native Bob Quinn describes how our mountains and our seacoast offer a bountiful array of scenery, birds, beasts, and blossoms.

Lecture: The demise of the ash tree

May 20 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

In this program, Molly Heuss, NH Division of Forest & Lands and Jon Nute, UNH Cooperative Extension, will describe what to look for and how to report potentially infested trees.

Lecture: Live free or fly fish

June 17 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Join us and Jerry Bernier of Nashua, an avid fly fisherman and adventurer, who has traveled the world in pursuit of his passion.

SANCTUARY FIELD TRIP

7th Annual Tudor Richards Memorial FT/International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at Pondicherry Refuge

May 9 @ 6:00 am

Location: 6 am at Airport Marsh or 8 am at Pondicherry trailhead on Airport Rd. This annual field trip commemorates the return of migrating birds and the memory of Tudor Richards, NH Audubon's first President and the "father of Pondicherry".

SEACOAST CHAPTER

Programs and lectures held at:
Seacoast Science Center,
570 Ocean Blvd, Rye, NH



Field Trip: Woodcock Walk

March 26 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Powdermill Pond in Exeter

Leader: Len Medlock at lmedlock@comcast.net or 603-770-8224

Join Len Medlock as he searches for this harbinger of spring at Powdermill Pond in Exeter.

Field Trip: Great Bay

March 28 @ 8:00 am

Location: McDonald's in Newington, 49 Gosling Road

Leader: David Blezard at blezard@mac.com or call 603-343-1223

Bird the varied habitats of the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge and other Great Bay birding hotspots.

Program: The Birds of Iceland

April 8 @ 7:30 pm-9:00 pm

Join NHA member David Govatski of Jefferson for a program on the bird life of Iceland.

Field Trip: Owl Prowl

April 25 @ 4:00 am-7:00 am

Location: Mill Road Plaza parking lot in Durham, NH

Leader: Steve Mirick at smirick@comcast.net or 978-374-0654

Join our always popular search for owls and sunrise birds.

Field Trip: Exeter and Beyond

May 9 @ 7:00 am-9:00 am

Location: Powderhouse Pond

Leader: Len Medlock at lenmedlock@comcast.net or 603-770-8224

Meet at Powderhouse Pond to look spring migrant songbirds and water birds.

Field Trip: Pickering Ponds Trails

May 10 & 13 @ 7:00 am-9:00 am

Location: Pickering Ponds parking area.

Leader: Dan Hubbard at danielhubbard@peoplepc.com or 603-332-4093

These walks will traverse Rochester city park trails along the Cocheco River and around old wastewater treatment facility settling ponds.

Program: Uganda: Gorillas in our Midst

May 13 @ 7:30 pm-9:00 pm

Explore this unique destination from the shores of Lake Victoria to the steep slopes of the Impenetrable Forest in search of rare birds and amazing mammals. Seacoast Chapter member David Donsker will be your guide.

Field Trip: Strafford County Farm

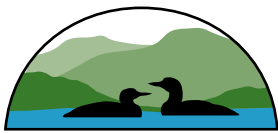
May 31 @ 8:00 am-10:00 am

Leader: Dan Hubbard at danielhubbard@peoplepc.com or 603-332-4093

This walk will include the Don Black Trail and the hedgerows around the fields of the conserved property.



Photo by Dirk Van der Mewre



NH AUDUBON
Protecting our environment since 1914

84 SILK FARM ROAD
CONCORD, NH 03301

Change Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 522
Concord, NH

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

What will your child discover?



April Vacation Camp

April 27th-May 1st for ages 6-10

Summer Nature Camp

8 Sessions from June 22-Aug 14 for ages 4-15

Nature day camps in Concord & Auburn

Learn more at nhaudubon.org