

WINTER 2015-16

NH Audubon Afield

NH Audubon 101st Annual Meeting and Conservation Awards

On September 12, 2015 members and friends of NH Audubon gathered at the beautiful Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield, NH for the 101st Annual Meeting.

This year's theme was "It's In to Be Out: No Person Left Inside." The day began with morning field trips followed by a buffet lunch, annual business meeting, a silent auction, awards and honors, presentations by staff and a keynote address from David Sobel, a professor at Antioch University New England in Keene. Professor Sobel shared a thought provoking presentation, Preserving Children's Connection to Nature – How Individuals and Communities Can Help, on the importance of getting children outside.

While the concept of kids spending too little time outside was not new to most people in the audience, the examples and reasons that Professor Sobel presented surprised many. The presentation provided hope and inspiration with examples of programs that are helping children experience the outdoors, and ways that individuals can help engage kids in outdoor discovery.

NH Audubon also announced its 2015 conservation award winners, who were



*Jane Doherty (left) receiving the 2015 Tudor Richards Award from Larry Sunderland.
Photo by Terri Donsker.*

recognized for their extraordinary work and dedication.

The Tudor Richards Award was presented to Jane Doherty of Goffstown, NH who has worked tirelessly and effectively for conservation in the Granite State. In the halls of government and within the church walls, Jane has dedicated herself to fostering a better understanding of wildlife and the environment and bringing about needed environmental policy change. Jane has also conducted volunteer bird surveys, helped as a weekly Volunteer Naturalist since 1980, and served on NH Audubon's Environmental Policy Committee.

The Goodhue-Elkins Award was given to David Donsker of N. Hampton, NH

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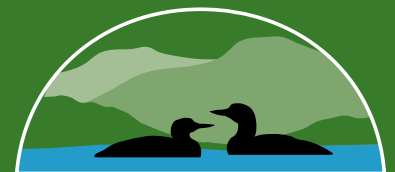
Backyard Winter Bird Survey February 13 & 14, 2016

NH Audubon needs your help
and it's fun to participate!
See page 11 for details.

Purple Finch. Photo by Leonard Medlock.

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NH AUDUBON
Protecting our environment since 1914

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



NH AUDUBON

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NH Audubon Afield

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends,

It has been said that volunteers are the backbone of our society. For NH Audubon, volunteers are the very heart of this special organization. Indeed, they provide support for nearly everything we do.

Massabesic's Earth Day event attracts nearly 800 children and adults and is organized and run entirely by volunteers... nighthawk and whip-poor-will surveys... trail maintenance crews... MAC's holiday wreath sale... McLane's Enchanted Forest... annual raptor migration count at Pack Monadnock

and Carter Hill... backyard winter bird survey...

NH Bird Records. Even the organization's day-to-day operations are made whole thanks to many hands who volunteer to care for our animals, stuff envelopes, and enter valuable data.

We could never achieve our successes without the unwavering commitment of time, support, skills, creativity, and knowledge generously shared by thousands of dedicated volunteers. Special events are made even more so because of the hard work and creative spirit of so many. The impact of their hard work is felt each and every day.

NH Audubon is what it is because of the daily commitment of more than 2,200 volunteers who believe in us and our important mission. On behalf of a deeply grateful organization, I invite all of you to join me in a warm and heartfelt round of applause for every one of NH Audubon's devoted volunteers.

—Michael J. Bartlett, President, New Hampshire Audubon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for outstanding contributions to the study of New Hampshire birds. David's contributions to our knowledge of birds in New Hampshire have been many and varied. His passion for birds has taken him far beyond the borders of New Hampshire bringing his life list to approximately 6,800 species in the world, an astonishing total that is matched by very few people.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Bill and Carol Vose of Conway, NH for their dedication and hard work on the Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary in North Conway. The Voses are stewards for the sanctuary and have been instrumental in making it a frequently visited destination and enjoyable visitor experience.

The President's Award was given to Kelly Dwyer of Hooksett, NH for her actions and commitment over the years, which significantly furthered the organization's work. Kelly first became involved with NH Audubon almost 20 years ago as a volunteer teacher naturalist



Bill and Carol Vose receiving the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award. Right: Phil Brown. Photo by Beth McGuinn.

leading programs for school groups and has remained one of the most active, reliable and effective educators at NH Audubon's Massabesic Center in Auburn.

Thank you to Normandeau Associates Environmental Consultants who once again was the lead sponsor for our annual meeting. Thanks also to the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center for hosting the meeting.

Remembering John Thalheimer: A Lasting Legacy

NH Audubon is grateful for a substantial bequest from the Thalheimer Charitable Trust. We fondly remember the people behind the trust, former Dunbarton residents, John and Irene Thalheimer.

John, who passed several years ago, was a long-time volunteer for NH Audubon. He worked on our sanctuaries and at the McLane Center nearly every day of the week as an integral part of the team. NH Audubon's tools were increased from his own supply and his truck was used on so many trips that it eventually became the organization's vehicle. Stephen Walker, then Director of Sanctuaries and Land Management, described John this way: "John was constant as a star, quietly going about his work, keeping us all on track, providing spirit and heart to all who cross his path."

Those of us who knew him remember John as friendly, open, willing to do anything and very modest. He was the first recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award in 1997 and the award was actually created to honor him. The 2015 Volunteer Award was dedicated to John.



Photo from NH Audubon archives.

The Thalheimer's support during their lifetime was invaluable and their bequest not only honors that contribution but extends it for years to come. We celebrate their lives and their many gifts to NH Audubon.

A bequest is a simple way to leave a lasting legacy while providing support for an organization you care deeply about. For information about making a bequest to NH Audubon, or to talk about other planned giving options, please contact Development Director, Sean Gillery at sgillery@nhaudubon.org or 603-224-9909 ext. 307.

Grant Acknowledgements

NH Audubon gratefully acknowledges the support of the Robin Colson Memorial Foundation for funds for lighting of our new exhibit area at the McLane Center.

We also acknowledge the Nuttall Ornithological Club's Blake-Nuttall Fund for providing grants for the following avian research projects: Common Nighthawk productivity research, assessment of Golden Eagle migration and overwinter activity in New Hampshire, and Rusty Blackbird blowfly parasitism.

The Byrne Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant for fundraising capacity

building in May 2015 of which \$5,000 was a challenge grant. NH Audubon has successfully raised \$5,000 to match the Byrne Foundation's challenge grant. We greatly appreciate the Byrne Foundation's generous grant and their support for developing our fundraising revenue and ability to capitalize on our 100th anniversary events and activities.



In Memoriam



New Hampshire Audubon is honored to receive donations in memory of friends and relatives who have passed.

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:

Louise Baghdoyan
Norma Boulanger
Kelly Chaisson Warner
William Champagne
June Cote
Kim Donovan
Audrey Dunn
Barbara Esten
Hagen Esty-Lennon
Anne Francis
Mabel Geddes
Gordon Hale
Janet Hartford
Leo Hebert
Robin LeDuc
Richard Lewis
John Lloyd
Bruce Luneau
Stephen Noyer
Harry Platt
Theodore Pobywajlo
Priscilla Powers
Virginia Roberts
Wayne Tyrrell
Arrolyn Vernon
Charles Watson
Sharon Williamson
Calvin Wright

Forest Management on NH Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuaries

By Phil Brown, Director of Land Management

Forest management (aka – timber harvesting, or forestry) can be a very effective tool for managing wildlife habitat, and more conservationists in the Northeast have become accepting of this technique.

NH Audubon has owned land across much of the state for several decades, but forest management is still a relatively new concept for the organization. The transition has occurred slowly over the past decade, mainly, but NH Audubon has now taken a close look at forestry (either through conducting it directly, or through planning it) on about half of its acreage, including several of its larger wildlife sanctuaries.

The Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary in Antrim and Hancock is one such location where forestry has been incredibly beneficial in accomplishing multiple landowner objectives: improving wildlife habitat diversity (specifically, through several forest openings), benefiting forest structure and health, improving aesthetics

(improved views along Goodhue Hill Trail), and providing a sustainable stream of stewardship funds – which feeds directly back into managing recreation and natural resource protection, some of which can be costly.

NH Audubon is looking forward in its approach to forest management and is preparing for additional forestry opportunities beginning this winter. Consulting foresters from Meadowsend Timberlands have most recently worked with NH Audubon in developing a bird-focused forest management plan for the nearly 600-acre Kensan-Devan Wildlife Sanctuary in Marlborough.

In addition, wildlife habitat work is planned for parts of the Deering Wildlife Sanctuary in Deering this winter, and an active harvest tour is planned for February 13.



Photo by Phil Brown.

Lastly, NH Audubon is working closely with the forester for St. Paul's School (adjacent property to the Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Concord) on planning a harvest that should benefit wildlife of young forests on both ownerships.

See our event section in this issue of *Afield* or visit nhaudubon.org to learn about the three forestry-related tours planned this winter that will demonstrate pre-harvest (Silk Farm), during-harvest (Deering), and post-harvest (Willard Pond) scenarios.

Seabrook Purple Martin Colony Hits Capacity

By Pam Hunt, Senior Biologist – Avian Conservation

Efforts to help the colony of Purple Martins in Seabrook were tremendously successful in 2015. A total of 13 pairs attempted to nest, making this now the largest colony (of three) in the state.

The story began in 2013, when a single pair was discovered nesting in a swallow box – itself an unusual location for this highly colonial species. A group of volunteers became interested in expanding

the local population, and in 2014 we erected a pole and a dozen artificial gourds out in the salt marsh.

That summer, the pair returned to the swallow box, but the exciting news was that five additional pairs used the gourds, and ultimately reared eight young.

The excitement continued in 2015, when all 12 gourds were occupied – plus the swallow box – and produced 45 young.

Looking ahead, the Seabrook martin team is already trying to figure out the best way to add additional capacity without impacting the local Tree Swallow population (the swallows are regularly harassed by the martins, much to the dismay of local residents). Right now the plan is to add a second gourd set-up somewhere else nearby, and in the meantime the volunteers built and

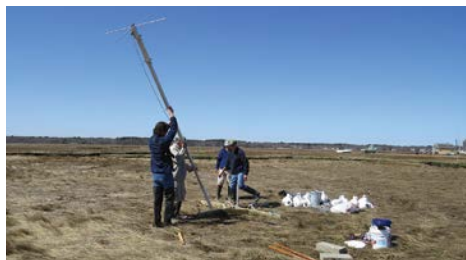


Purple Martins at the gourd rack in July.

Photo by Pam Hunt.

installed a total of 50 new boxes for the swallows, which have smaller holes that prohibit the martins from getting in.

Elsewhere in the state, there were four and two pairs of martins at the only other known colonies in Laconia and Wakefield, respectively. In addition to expanding housing at Seabrook, we are in the early stages of helping out these inland colonies as well – and will hopefully achieve similar levels of success!



Volunteers erect the pole for the martin colony in April 2014. Photo by Pam Hunt.



In addition to being a program center, the McLane Center is home to NH Audubon's central operations. It is located on the Silk Farm Sanctuary in Concord. Sanctuary trails are open dawn to dusk daily, as are the raptor mews. The Center is open Monday–Friday 9a m–5pm and Saturday 10am–4pm.
84 SILK FARM RD • CONCORD NH • 603-224-9909

The Natural History of Dragonflies and Damselflies

January 7, 7pm

Presenter: Frank Gorga, Photographer

Program is free, but donations are welcome.

It may be cold and wintery outside, but inside the McLane Audubon Center images of dragonflies and damselflies conjure up warm days of summer. Join Frank Gorga for an illustrated presentation which accompanies and expands upon his exhibit of photographs on display at the McLane Center during January and February 2016. Learn about the fascinating life cycle of these beautiful and charismatic insects, beginning with the emergence of adults in the spring and ending with their demise, often by predation.



Photo by Frank Gorga.

Bird Friendly Buildings: Why Are They Important?

February 25, 7pm

Presenter: Laura Deming, NH Audubon Senior Biologist

Program is free, but donations are welcome.

Birds do not understand glass; to a bird, reflections are real. Every year in North America, millions of birds die from flying into transparent structures, like windows, glass walls and doors, bus stop shelters, and walkways. Mortality is especially high during spring and fall migration, when birds stop to feed and rest in unfamiliar territory. The American Bird Conservancy's recently published Bird-Friendly Buildings provides innovative

guidelines, designs and materials that dramatically reduce building collisions, saving millions of birds. Come learn about NH Audubon's work to promote

the American Bird Conservancy's Bird-Friendly Buildings guidelines here in the Granite State.



Romantic Habits of New Hampshire Animals (A Special Valentine's Day Program)

February 11, 7pm

Presenter: Kelly Dwyer, NH Audubon Naturalist and Educator

Suggested donation: \$5M/\$7 NM

Romance is in the air, in the woods and in the water. Many mammals, birds and even amphibians spend late February and the coming months finding mates through a variety of interesting calls, behaviors and habits. Join Kelly Dwyer as we delve into the fascinating world of animal courtship, unraveling the mystery of those eerie sounds coming from your woods!

February Fun Vacation Camp



at McLane or Massabesic!

February 22-26

For children ages 6-12

Monday-Friday, 9am–4pm

February Fun Vacation Camp is a special opportunity for children to learn about nature in winter.

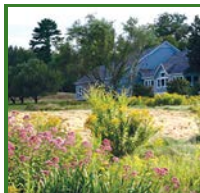
Join us for a single day, several days, or the whole week.

Each day will include outdoor excursions, games, crafts, stories, live animals, songs, and conservation projects to help participants discover the wonders of the season.

Visit www.nh Audubon.org and click on **Get Outside** for details and registration.

Photos by camp staff.





Located on an historic farm site, the Center is bordered by 130 acres of wildlife sanctuary that includes more than five miles of trails that lead to Lake Massabesic. The Center is open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm; closing at 4pm on Saturdays in December and January.

26 AUDUBON WAY • AUBURN, NH 03032 • 603-668-2045

Junior Explorers Homeschool Science Program

For ages 7–12 years old.

Discover the changing seasons through hands-on activities, songs, crafts, stories, and outdoor discovery.

Cost: \$10/student M with adult; \$13 NM

Register online at nhaudubon.org. Class size is limited so register early. All programs are led by Kelly Dwyer.

Homes for the Holidays

December 2, 10–11:30am

Nature's Gifts

December 16, 10–11:30am

Winter Ecology

January 13, 10–11:30am

Big Black Bears

January 27, 10–11:30am

Clever Corvids

February 10, 10–11:30am

Wee Wonders Preschool Science Program

For ages 4–6 years old.

Discover the changing seasons through hands-on activities, songs, crafts, stories, and outdoor discovery.

Cost: \$10/student M with adult; \$13 NM

Register online at nhaudubon.org. Class size is limited so register early. All programs are led by Kim Murphy.

Homes for the Holidays

December 2, 10–11:30am

Nature's Gifts

December 16, 10–11:30am

Winter Ecology

January 13, 10–11:30am

Big Black Bears

January 27, 10–11:30am

Clever Corvids

February 10, 10–11:30am

Nature Café – Winter Bird Feeding

December 4, 7–8:30pm

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

Join NH Audubon Naturalist Kelly

Dwyer as we explore winter backyard bird feeding. In lieu of the program fee bring in a bag of black oil sunflower seed and help us feed our birds here at MAC!



Coastal Birding Seacoast, NH

December 16, 9am–2:30pm

Cost: \$6/M; \$9/NM. Call ahead to register.

Enjoy birding the coast with JoAnn O'Shaughnessy.

Mysteries of the Forest: Tracking NH's Animals

January 16, 10–11:30am

Cost: Individuals \$7 M/\$9 NM;

Families \$15 M/\$20 NM

Join us as we learn the basics of tracking some of NH's common winter animals.

Program does not include the use of snowshoes.

Soap Making Workshop

January 16, 1–3pm

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

Join us for a demonstration of making hand-crafted soap using all natural ingredients and essential oils. Take home a finished soap bar from a previously cured batch.

Snowshoe Rentals Available

December 15 – April 15 (or until snow melts), Tuesday – Saturday, 9am–2pm

Cost: \$7 M/\$9 NM per pair

Enjoy nature in winter at the Massabesic Audubon Center as you trek the trails on snowshoes! Snowshoes for use on-site only with a minimum of 6" of snow cover. Limited pairs available for little children. Call to reserve if bringing a large party.

Painting for Birds

The Canvas Roadshow, 176 S. Rover Road, Bedford, NH

January 21, 6:30–9pm

Cost: \$45/person

Reserve your spot for our painting fundraiser event. Get out of the cold and paint a picture that will make you think of spring! To reserve your spot, call The Canvas Roadshow at 943-2103 or visit their website at www.thecanvasroadshow.com.

Full Moon Snowshoe Walk

January 23, 7–10pm

Cost: \$15 M/\$20 NM

(includes snowshoe rental)

Join outdoor enthusiast Jake King of Thrive Outdoors on a full moon snowshoe walk. Enjoy the night sky and listen for sounds from the forest.

Snowshoe & Tracking Workshop

January 30, 10am–12pm

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

Learn about prints, scat, and other signs of a variety of NH's winter mammals. All ages welcome but snowshoes for children under 8 are limited.

Wild NH Photo Contest Silent Auction Wrap-up

December 6, 2–3pm

Just in time for holiday gift-giving come bid on your favorite photos from our annual photo contest. Come finalize your bid during this hour or enter a new bid on a photo, minimum bid is \$20. Refreshments will be served. The person with the winning bid on each framed photo will be able to take the photo with them that day. All photos are by local, amateur artists and are donated to our show. They are all framed and ready for hanging. Money raised helps to feed our animals!

PROGRAMS & EVENTS: MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER

Nature Photography Workshop Series

Composition, Venues & Examples

February 13, 12–4pm

Camera Equipment and Operation, Field Techniques

February 27, 12–4pm

Exposure, Focusing/Depth of Field, Workflow

March 5, 12–4pm

Cost: \$120 M/\$150 NM for the series or \$45 M/\$55 NM per class

Join us for David Saxe's successful series of nature photography introductory level classes. Please have your camera make and model available when you register, and be prepared to spend some class time outside.



Raven's Race 5K

A Snowshoe Event to Benefit Education Animals at Massabesic

February 14, 2016

Entry Fee: Early bird special – register before 1/20/16: \$20

1/21–2/10: \$25 • After 2/10: \$30 • Goodie bags to the first 100 entrants.

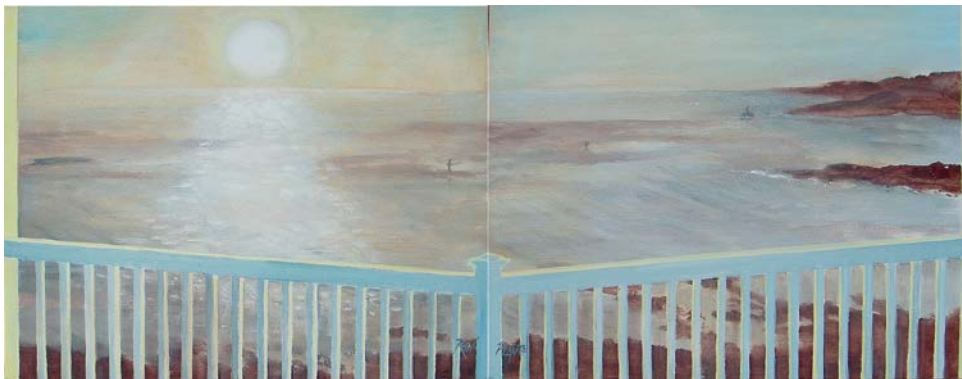
Support the animals and nature education at Massabesic Audubon Center's 5K run/walk race to take place in the fields and woods of our Center. Warm up with some hot chili after the race.

Awards will be given to the top three male and female racers, and age group awards in 10 year increments. Adult couple and adult/non-adult couples division. Bring a friend to get a discount on your registration fee.

For more information, visit bit.ly/ravensrace5K



ARTIST EXHIBITS: MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER & THE MCLANE CENTER



Sunrise Tide in Ogunquit River. Ron Plante.

Lifelong artist, designer, illustrator and educator, Ron Plante has devoted his 40-year career to the pursuit of excellence in fine art, illustration, design and visual communication. Plante will display his work at the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn, NH from December 8, 2015 - February 21, 2016.

Photographer Roger Irwin is the person behind the camera that captures spectacular portraits of moose, bear, deer, bobcats, loons and a host of other north-woods residents. Since he sold his cows a dozen years ago, the former dairy farmer has emerged as one of the

premier wildlife photographers in New England. Irwin will display his photos through December 31st in the PSNH Room at McLane Center in Concord.



Photo by Roger Irwin.

In a series of 10 photographs and accompanying captions, photographer Frank Gorga explores and illustrates the natural history of dragonflies and damselflies. His intent is to prepare the interested nature observer to examine these fascinating animals and their



Photo by Frank Gorga.

behavior in greater detail as they explore the environment. Gorga will display his photos from January 1 – February 29 in the PSNH Room at McLane Center in Concord.

Please stop by during regular business hours to view these exhibits.



The Amoskeag Fishways Learning and Visitor's Center is located at Exit 6 off Interstate 293 in Manchester, NH. The Center is open Monday–Saturday 9am–5pm (winter hours Monday–Saturday 9am–4pm 12/1–3/1).
4 FLETCHER ST • MANCHESTER, NH • (603) 626-3474



Let's Go ICE Fishing! Part 1 and 2

February 12, 6–8pm and
February 13, 9am–12pm

Cost: Free
For ages 8 and up.

Learn how to ice fish with staff and volunteers of NH Fish & Game during this two-part program. Friday evening will cover ice safety, fish ecology, equipment, and other important information.

Parents and participants over 16 do not need a fishing license during the organized field trip on Saturday, and all angling gear will be provided.

Bring your own lunch and wear proper outdoor clothing for the Saturday field trip.

Advance registration with payment required for all programs unless otherwise noted.

Family Wreathmaking

December 5, 10am–12pm

Cost: \$15/wreath

Make a beautiful seasonal wreath with your family using natural materials.

Eagles Along the Merrimack

January 23, 10am–12pm

Cost: \$3/person, \$6/family

Join us as we search for Bald Eagles in Manchester. The program begins with an orientation at the center, followed by a quest to spot the first eagle of the day!

Backyard Winter Birds

February 27,

10am–12pm

Cost: \$3/person;
\$6/family

Find out what birds you might see in your yard this winter and make a bird feeder to take home.



Photo by Erich V. Minkle.

Family Fun Nights

Cost: \$8/family per event except where noted. Advance registration with payment required.

Natural Creations

December 4, 6:30–8pm

Drive the dark away by creating fun, natural adornments for your home or a friend's home! We will use evergreen boughs, pinecones, and other materials from nature to make beautiful, unique decorations.

Winter Raptors

January 22, 6:30–8pm

Manchester provides great winter habitat for large birds of prey. Through games and hands on activities, we will explore the incredible adaptations of hawks and other local raptors.

Fishways Fundays

Natural Creations

December 3 and 5, 12:30–2pm

Cost: \$8/family For ages 4-5

Get in the spirit of the holiday season and create fun, natural adornments for your home using natural materials.

Homeschool Discovery Programs

Second Thursday of every month,

October–June, 10am–12pm, ages 9–14

Cost: \$10/child per class

Exploring River Life Throughout a Year

Through field trips, data collection and classroom instruction, we will study the living and non-living components of the Merrimack River ecosystem.

Fishways Open House

December 29, 11am–3pm

Cost: Free

No preregistration required

Spend a day of your school vacation enjoying a party at the Fishways!

Our annual Thank You Open House features two presentations:

**Active Winter Animals and
Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons.**

Create fun crafts, eat yummy treats, and win door prizes! Try not to miss this fun annual event!

Pizza Party with the Painted Turtle

February 5, 6:30–8pm

Cost: \$15/family, includes pizza

Take Friday night off and drive away the winter blues with a pizza party at the Fishways! After dinner and some turtle crafts, our very own painted turtle will make an appearance for a fun presentation.

Clever Crows

February 19, 6:30–8pm

American Crows are smart and social. Find out why they form large flocks in winter and how they use teamwork and communication to soar above the challenges of the cold.

AMMONOOSUC CHAPTER

Meetings are held at The Rocks Estate, 4 Christmas Lane, Bethlehem, NH therocks.org, (603) 444-6228. Contact: David Govatski, Chapter President, at david.govatski@gmail.com.

Wild Tanzania with Chuck and Betsey Phillips

February 17, 7–8:30pm

Join us for a visit to two spectacular wildlife areas of Tanzania – the lush jungles of the Mahale Mountains and the plains of the Serengeti – with Chuck & Betsey Phillips who have been traveling to Africa for over 20 years.

CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

Christmas Bird Count Field Trip

December 20

Join Bob Quinn and many other birding enthusiasts as we count birds around the Concord area in the annual Christmas Bird Count. Contact Bob at RAQbirds@aol.com or (603) 746-2535.

Bald Eagles on the Merrimack River Field Trip

January 31, 8:30am–12pm

Join Rob Woodward for this popular annual morning jaunt looking for Bald Eagles along the Merrimack River. Contact Rob at (603) 224-0889 (evenings).

LAKES REGION CHAPTER

Programs are held at the Loon Center, 183 Lees Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH loon.org, 603-476-5666.



Brown Trembler. Photo by Pam Hunt.

Leeward Ho! Island Hopping in the Northern Lesser Antilles with Pam Hunt

February 18, 7–8pm

Pam Hunt has visited the islands and will share info and stories about birds, lizards, friendly people, and an active volcano.

MASCOMA CHAPTER

Meetings are held at the Howe Library – Mayer Room, 13 South Street, Hanover, NH. Contact Blake Allison at mascomabirds@yahoo.com or visit mascomabirds.org.

Puffin Stuff with Photographer Ian Clark

December 16, 7–8:30pm

Ian Clark will present a “photographic travelogue” of his recent tour of Machias Seal Island in Maine.

Bicknell’s Thrush: Conserving a Bird of Two Worlds with Chris Rimmer

January 11, 7–8:30pm

Since 1992, Chris Rimmer, Executive Director of the VT Center for Ecostudies, has spearheaded work to conserve Bicknell’s Thrush and the habitats on which it depends. He will discuss his findings.

Sex, Lies and Videotape, Canada Warbler Style with Len Reitsma

February 8, 7–8:30pm

Plymouth State University biology professor, Len Reitsma will discuss what is causing the decline of the Canada Warbler.

Annual Wilder Dam Eagle Watch Field Trip: Wilder Dam, Wilder, VT

February 13, 10am–12pm

Join us as we look for early Bald Eagle activity and scan for waterfowl that feed in the open waters below Wilder Dam.

NASHAWAY CHAPTER

Lectures and programs held at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, NH

Christmas Bird Count with David Deifik

December 16, 7–9pm

Join local birder David Deifik, CBC Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*, for a presentation.

SEACOAST CHAPTER

Programs and lectures are held at Seacoast Science Center, 570 Ocean Blvd, Rye, NH. Contact Dan Hubbard at 603-332-4093 or danielhubbard@peoplepc.com.

Winter Ticks and Moose

December 9, 7–9pm

Kyle Ball, a Master’s candidate at UNH, will describe his research project on how Winter Tick abundances affect the population dynamics of the Moose in our region.

Effects of Invasive Shrubs on Common Yellowthroat Breeding Success

January 13, 7–9pm

UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Specialist Matt Tarr will present the results of his PhD research.

Bosque del Apache and the Rio Grande Corridor

February 10, 7–9pm

Bill Gette, Sanctuary Director of Mass Audubon’s Joppa Flats Education Center, will show photos of these diverse habitats and describe the beautiful wildlife he has encountered.

SANCTUARY FIELD TRIPS

Silk Farm/St. Paul’s School Harvest Tour

Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Concord, NH • December 12, 1–4pm

Join Phil Brown (NH Audubon’s Director of Land Management), Tim Fleury (County Forester, UNH Cooperative Extension), and Swift Corwin (Forester, Saint Paul’s School) for an informative walking tour of both a pre and post-condition timber harvest. Co-sponsored with UNH Cooperative Extension.

Goodhue Hill Hike at Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, Antrim, NH • January 9, 9am–12pm

Join Phil Brown for a moderately strenuous hike/snowshoe of Goodhue Hill at the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, where a timber harvest was conducted five years ago. Co-sponsored with the Harris Center for Conservation Education.

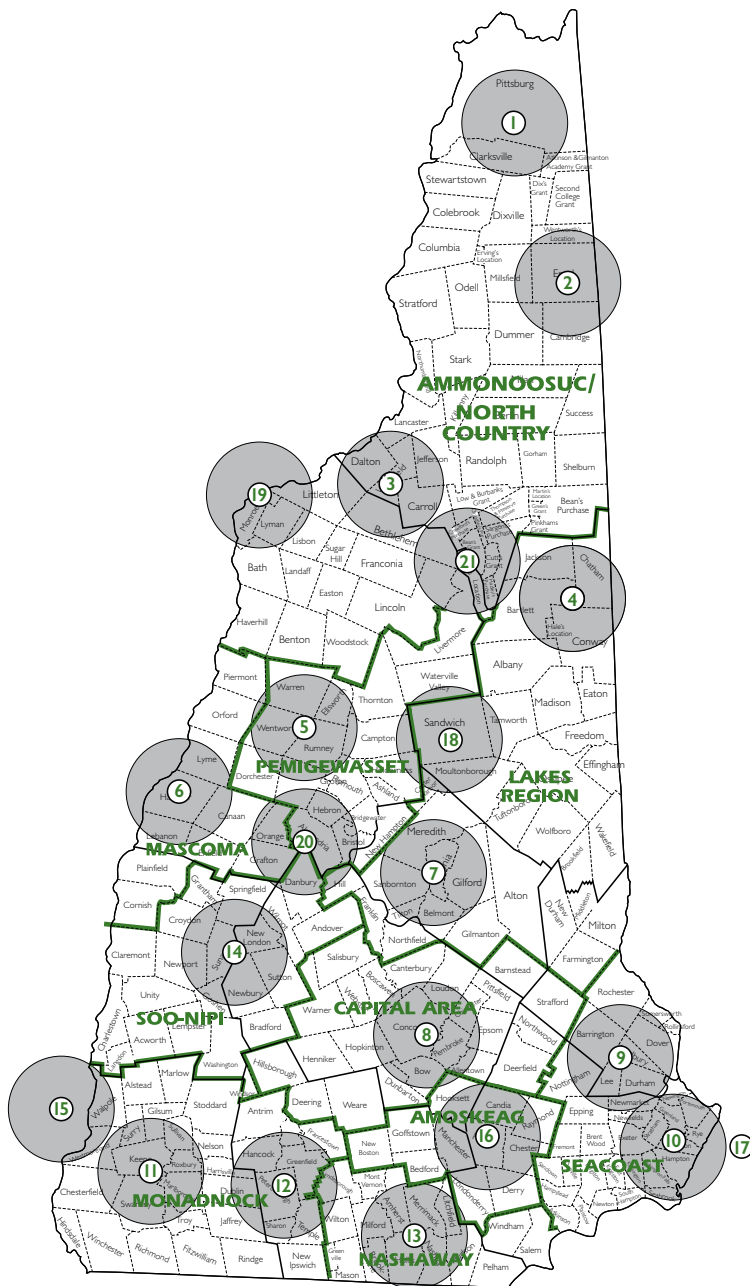
Deering Wildlife Sanctuary Timber Harvest Tour

Deering Wildlife Sanctuary, Hillsboro, NH • February 13, 9am–12pm

Join Phil Brown, Matt Tarr (Wildlife Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension), Jeremy Turner (Forester, Meadowsend Timberlands) and Wendy Ward (Soil Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service) for a tour of an active timber harvest on NH Audubon’s second largest property. Co-sponsored with UNH Cooperative Extension.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PREVIEW 2015

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 14.**
Contact: David Govatski (586-7776 or David.Govatski@gmail.com).
- 2. Errol-Umbagog – December 15.**
Contact: Chris Martin (224-9909 x317 or cmartin@nhaudubon.org).
- 3. Littleton – December 20.**
Contact: David Govatski (586-7776 or David.Govatski@gmail.com) or Mary Boulanger (444-6993 or mboul@roadrunner.com).
- 4. North Conway – December 29.**
Contact: Corrie Blodgett, Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr. (447-6991 or cblodgett@tinmountain.org).
- 5. Baker Valley – January 3.**
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) or Walter Ellison (rossgull61@gmail.com).
- 7. Laconia-New Hampton – January 2.**
Contact: Pam Hunt (753-9137 or biodiva@myfairpoint.net).
- 8. Concord – December 20.**
Contact: Robert Quinn (RAQbirds@aol.com [preferred] or 746-2535).
- 9. Lee-Durham – December 20.**
Contact: Kurk Dorsey (397-5844 or kd@unh.edu).
- 10. Coastal – December 19.**
Contact: Len Medlock (lenmedlock@comcast.net).
- 11. Keene – December 20.**
Contact: Phil Brown (pbrown@nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 x334).
- 12. Peterborough-Hancock – December 19.**
Contact: Dave Rowell (924-8790 or daverowell@myfairpoint.net).
- 13. Nashua-Hollis – December 26.**
Contact: Richard Bielawski (429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com).
- 14. Lake Sunapee – December 19.**
Contact: Gary Stansfield (inuknh@gmail.com [preferred] or 863-8737).
- 15. Saxtons River (Vt.-N.H.) – December 19.**
Contact: Donald Clark (802-843-2347 or sapsbks@gmail.com).
- 16. Manchester – December 19.**
Contact: Richard Bielawski (429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com).
- 17. Isles of Shoals – tbd.**
Contact: Ben Griffith – (bgriffith@gmail.com [preferred] or 801-1856).
- 18. Sandwich – December 27.**
Contact: Tony Vazzano (284-7718 or tvazzano@ncia.net).
- 19. Barnet (Vt.-N.H.) – January 1.**
Contact: Charlie Browne (802-592-3545 or ccbrowne63@gmail.com).
- 20. Grafton-Bristol – December 26.**
Contact: Bill Belanger (455-3471, or penmen1@metrocast.net).
- 21. Crawford Notch – December 19.**
Contact: Craig Repasz (203-230-1697 or crepsz@hotmail.com).

2016 BACKYARD WINTER BIRD SURVEY FEBRUARY 13 & 14

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 13 and 14 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:

[nhbirdrecords.org/bird-conservation/bwbs/
backyard-winter-bird-survey](http://nhbirdrecords.org/bird-conservation/bwbs/backyard-winter-bird-survey)

You can now enter your survey results at
nhaudubon.org/birding

BACKYARD WINTER BIRD SURVEY FORM 2016

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

NH Audubon Member? Yes No

_____ Enclosed is my donation to NH Audubon to support
the Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

SURVEY LOCATION:

Street _____

Town _____

Date(s) observed _____ Hours watched _____

Comments: (e.g., weather, etc.) _____

SPECIES

MAX.

Rock Pigeon (pigeon) _____

Mourning Dove _____

Red-bellied Woodpecker _____

Downy Woodpecker _____

Hairy Woodpecker _____

Blue Jay _____

American Crow _____

Black-capped Chickadee _____

Tufted Titmouse _____

Red-breasted Nuthatch _____

White-breasted Nuthatch _____

Brown Creeper _____

American Robin _____

Northern Mockingbird _____

European Starling _____

Cedar Waxwing _____

American Tree Sparrow _____

White-throated Sparrow _____

Dark-eyed Junco _____

Northern Cardinal _____

Purple Finch _____

House Finch _____

Pine Siskin _____

American Goldfinch _____

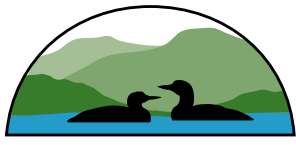
House Sparrow _____

Red Squirrel _____

Gray Squirrel _____

Send this form to: BACKYARD WINTER BIRD SURVEY

NH Audubon, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301



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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 nha@nhaudubon.org.

Is shopping for the birds? **YES!**

Need a last minute gift?

Visit the Nature Store at NH Audubon and choose a beautiful carved bird to decorate a tree, a hand-designed pewter ornament with a nature theme, or one of our field-tested binoculars — try them out first while looking at our live Barred Owl, Bald Eagle, or Falcon.



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Hand puppets begin at \$13.

Nikon and Vortex binoculars for adults and children begin at \$135

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Natural history books only

Saturday, December 12

Members Receive 20% Off All Purchases
(except used books)

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Your dollars support our mission to protect the natural environment for wildlife and people.

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