SPRING 2017

# NH Audubon \ Afield



As we were going to press, a Great Gray Owl was found in Newport, NH. This spectacular northern owl is seldom seen in New Hampshire, but they occasionally invade in the winter from far northern Canada. This bird is part of a larger irruption in the Montreal area where more than 30 individuals were recorded. Photo by Steve Bennett.

### Bats on the Brink

By Laura Deming, Senior Biologist - Wetlands

Tt has been 10 years since the discovery **L** of the deadly fungus

Pseudogymnoascus destructans, the pathogen that causes Whitenose syndrome (WNS). In its rapid spread through the eastern US and Canadian Maritime, this disease has killed millions of bats, primarily cave-hibernating species, which contract the

their hibernacula. The discovery last spring

fungus in the cold, damp environment of

of a Little brown bat infected with WNS in Washington State crushed any hope that solutions could be found before western bat populations were exposed.

> This terrifying news makes the work of bat researchers and managers especially critical.

From the time WNS was discovered, scientists have worked rigorously to understand all aspects of the disease to slow or stop its spread and minimize its impact. In addition

to researching the disease, biologists at state and federal agencies, universities, and private organizations also initiated statewide surveys to document bat species Continued on page 4

Join a field trip or register your own group for this year's Birdathon/Bloomathon



See pages 8-9 for details!

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**Protecting New Hampshire's Natural** 

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Little brown bat, photo by US Fish & Wildlife Service.



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### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This morning the forecast is for spring warmth...and it's just barely March. My driveway is a muddy mess. Tufted titmice, chickadees, and cardinals are all singing their territorial songs in the trees surrounding my home as I leave for work. As any seasoned New Englander knows, it would be foolish to count winter out this early. But is spring really here?

You must have noticed recent warming trends. The top ten hottest years on record have all occurred since 1998. The last three years in a row have all been proclaimed "the hottest year on record." Federal and independent scientists from NOAA, NASA, EPA and academic institutions continue to watch long-term climate trends, while daily weather reports seem to support warming as well. At the same time, we continue to see unpredictable and strong storm patterns.

Spring months' temperature projections look warmer than normal, which means potentially early snowmelt, early leaf-out on the trees, accelerated spring blooms, early insect emergence... are you seeing a pattern here? What if it all happens early—what will the birds do when they return if the weather puts them out of sync with many of their food sources?

At New Hampshire Audubon, we continue to focus on what science is telling us about our environmental health. We are monitoring birds (and other wildlife too!) most at risk. We are



watching seasonal changes that impact when birds and other species migrate, when plants bloom, when ice melts, and the timing of a variety of natural events. These seasonal shifts—the study of "phenology"—help us understand how global climate influences our NH wildlife, and ultimately, our own health and well-being.

Here's how you can help! Our annual Birdathon-Bloomathon on May 20 is a fun way to get outside, count birds and blooms, add to our phenology data, and raise funds for NH Audubon. There are numerous birding opportunities across the state. As spring emerges, I hope you will also consider donating to NH Audubon to help us start our spring field season on a strong note. I can't wait for spring migrants to return!

See you out there.



Doug Bechtel
President

### **NH Audubon Grant Acknowledgements**

#### **Horne Family Foundation:**

Environmental education programs in Manchester

# **Gilbert Verney Foundation:** Pack Monadnock Observatory

Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation:

General support

#### **Noah Foundation:**

General support

### Red Acre Foundation:

Raptor Care Program

### **Gertrude Couch Trust:**

NH Pollinator Conservation Project

#### The Waterman Fund:

Census of American Pipit breeding population in alpine habitat in the Presidential Range and Franconia Ridge

### Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation: Common Nighthawk Productivity Research

### **EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT**

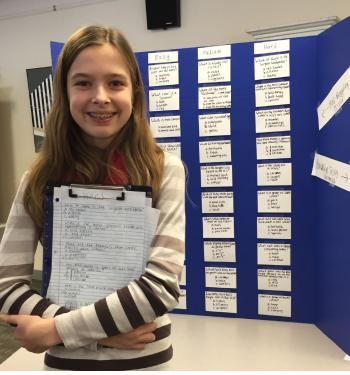
By Kelly Dwyer, Education Specialist

### Junior Explorers Bird Extravaganza!

Students of the Massabesic Center's Junior Explorers Home School program had the opportunity to teach, entertain and share their knowledge of birds with invited guests on Wednesday, December 14th at a Bird Extravaganza!

The semester-long Avian Adventures program used an inquiry-based thematic approach to focus student learning on bird classification, identification, communication and the roles and challenges facing birds. To showcase their knowledge and creativity, students worked on individual projects at home, culminating in this special event.

Working with these talented and bright students has been such a pleasure. Everyone who attended the Extravaganza and interacted with these students was impressed with their creativity, knowledge and enthusiasm. Right now, the Junior Explorers are delving into a unit on Phenology, studying aspects of NH's natural world and how seasonal changes are interconnected.



Leah Phillips' bird trivia tests the knowledge of guests attending the Extravaganza. Photos by Kelly Dwyer.

# Barrington Elementary School Learning Garden



Charlie A. and Lucius K. shopping for sale items with Assistant Principal, Laura Deely. Photos by Kelly Dwyer.

For more information about Eco-Schools NH and to learn how your school can benefit from this free program, please visit the Eco-Schools page on the NH Audubon website or contact Kelly Dwyer at kdwyer@nhaudubon.org.

Seeds from the Barrington Elementary School's Learning Garden have yielded a tremendous bounty, literally and figuratively!

The vision for a Learning Garden, which prompted community member and parent volunteer, Traci Bisson to seek a \$500 Action Grant last spring from the Eco-School USA program. The Learning Garden is one of seven projects earning an Action Grant from this National Wildlife Federation program, administered in New Hampshire by NH Audubon.

Now a happy reality, the Learning Garden provides an invaluable educational component for many students. "Students don't always fit in the typical school mold, "says Assistant Principal, Laura Deely. "The Learning Garden has been a place where students have come together with a common goal and they work on social skills. From planting, to harvesting, to preparing food, to going to the market and delivering food to our local food pantry...students are learning and growing alongside the garden while we grow a positive school culture."

Students tended the flourishing plants, harvesting fresh produce for school lunches and raising over \$200 selling the garden produce. In the spirit of giving back to their community, students used the funds to purchase food for the Barrington Food Pantry, proudly contributing to this community resource just before Thanksgiving. "I like that I could give to my town," beamed 9 year-old Ariana D.

Plans are already underway to expand the scope of the Learning Garden, involving even more students in the opportunity to support sustainable gardening and local foods.

### Bats on the Brink

Continued from cover

distribution and relative abundance - essential information for assessing the impacts of WNS on bat populations. Since 2012, NH Audubon has partnered with New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Northeast Ecological Services to recruit volunteers, coordinate surveys and data management, and raise funds to purchase equipment and support project administration.

NH Audubon's Bat Survey Project has just finished a fifth season, during which volunteers logged hundreds of miles

and many evening hours in pursuit of bats. The acoustic survey team of 24 volunteers (including 6 teams of 2) surveyed 20 acoustic driving routes throughout central and southern New Hampshire and central Vermont. More than half of the routes were surveyed between two to five times, highlighting changes in bat activity throughout the season for these routes.

As in past years, nearly all bats recorded along driving routes were Big brown bats and the three

Maternity count at dusk, Massabesic Audubon Center, July 15, 2016. Photo by Laura Deming.

migratory tree bats: Eastern red bats, Silver-haired bats, and Hoary bats. The smaller Myotis species (Little brown, Northern long-eared, Small-footed, and Tricolored bats) have accounted for just 1-6% of all recordings along driving routes over the five survey years. The near-absence of smaller bats in the acoustic data reflects not only lower numbers due to WNS mortality, but also the difficulty of recording these species' highfrequency vocalizations with mobile units.

While the acoustic survey team scanned the countryside for foraging bats, the colony survey team kept watch at barns and other buildings to count bats emerging from maternity colonies. Females of both Little brown bats and Big brown bats form communal roosts in warm, dark spaces to give birth and raise their pups. At dusk, females leave these colonies to hunt for insects, and are just visible enough against the sky to be counted.

Little brown bats, once the most common species in North America, have declined precipitously throughout the eastern US and southeast Canada, and remaining breeding colonies

are small. For this reason, each individual bat is critically important to the species' recovery, and colonies—no matter how small—deserve protection. NH Audubon's colony survey team conducted surveys at five sites, documenting colonies ranging from 33 to 130 bats. Reports from several other sites indicate that maternity colonies are persisting, even if at low numbers.

Looking ahead for this year, we'll begin more detailed analyses of trends in migratory bats and follow up on documented Myotis vocalizations to search for potential breeding colonies. Each survey route and colony site contributes valuable data to our understanding of New

> Hampshire's bats, and with each year, those data become more useful. We are extremely grateful to our partners (NH Fish & Game Department, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Northeast **Ecological Services**) for their guidance and support, and to our very dedicated volunteers for their continued support, generosity, and commitment to the New Hampshire Bat Survey.

We could not do it without you! Thank you!

### How you can help!

You can help bats by allowing them to roost in barns and other outbuildings. If guano is a problem, place a tarp underneath the roost to collect droppings, which are excellent fertilizer for your garden.

Because bats, like birds, eat lots of insects, refrain from using insecticides and other toxic substances on plants or yards.

Finally, providing roost boxes for bats will encourage them to stay around and keep insect populations under

To report a bat colony or to volunteer, please contact Laura Deming (Ideming@nhaudubon.org).

To volunteer with bat research, consider attending the Bat Brigaid Training at Massabesic Center on May 18!

### RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

### Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey Record-high 95 eagles counted

By Chris Martin, Senior Biologist - Raptors

This year marked the 37th annual New Hampshire Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, part of the national Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey coordinated by the US Geological Survey. The 2017 count results are our best numbers ever, with 100 volunteer observers locating a record-high 95 individual eagles on Count Day. This tops our previous high of 90 birds seen in 2015. Top regional honors for most eagles seen on Count Day go to the Lakes Region where 24 eagles were tallied. The Merrimack River watershed counted 22 birds, and the Connecticut River watershed and Great Bay/Seacoast followed up with 19 birds

Count Day occurs within a broader two-week Count Period, which spanned a 15-day interval from January 6-20, 2017. During this year's Count Period, we documented 114 Bald Eagles (75 adults, 36 immatures, 3 unknown age). Long-term trends reveal the number of eagles counted during the Midwinter Survey in New Hampshire has been doubling roughly every 10 years: for Count Period in 2015 we had 110 eagles, in 2005 we tallied 55 eagles, in 1994 we counted just 25, in 1984 we saw only 12.

Right now, NH eagle-watchers are turning their attention towards the eagle breeding season. Most of our pairs are laying eggs and beginning their 5-week incubation period. Please watch for, and report, any courtship or nesting activity that you may observe as NH Audubon continues to monitor and manage NH's breeding eagles in collaboration with NH Fish & Game.

Thanks once again to each and every one of you who donated your time and skills to participate in this year's successful Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey!

Count Day Results Jan 1981 through Jan 2017

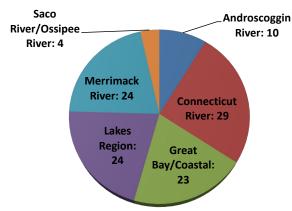
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Two young eagles near the Newfound Lake nest, where two chicks fledged in 2016. Could these still be them? Photo by Libby Corbin.

### 15-Day Count Total



### 90 80 unknown 70 ■ immatures 60 □ adults 50 40 30 20

**New Hampshire Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey Results:** 

We located 95 Bald Eagles (64 adults, 28 immatures\*, 3 unknown age) in NH on Count Day, slightly higher than our counts in 2016 (89) and 2015 (90).



Bald eagles know all the hot spots to dine, including going "dumpster-diving" with gulls and crows. Volunteer Scott Young found this beauty at the Turnkey Landfill in Rochester.

### Remembering

N Tew Hampshire Audubon was saddened to lose two long-time members and former trustees who were very active in the organization. They will be missed.

Roger Lawrence, 2012 recipient of NH Audubon's Goodhue-Elkins Award, died in November of 2016. Roger devoted his time and effort to NH Audubon for many years, primarily from the 1950s to the 1980s and was a board member from 1963-1969. One of his passions was birding and he led many field trips for NH Audubon, banded birds at his farm in Merrimack, and established the Nashua-Hollis Christmas Bird Count, to name just a few of his activities. Roger was a biology professor at St. Anselm College in Manchester. After retirement, he conducted a hawk watch for 25 years with elementary students at the Reeds Ferry School in Merrimack. His greatest influence was in the many hundreds of students, young and old, that he brought into the birding and natural history community.

Pauline Theriault formerly of Amherst, NH died in May of 2016.

Pauline was a NH Audubon Trustee and an early stalwart in the Nashaway Chapter, taking on many roles including Chapter President. She had a particular interest in Ponemah Bog where she, Bob Quinn, Ron Carr, and Ralph Andrews laid the first planks for a board walk there. She also fought to keep the town "cemetery fields" as open grassland, one of the last areas in New Hampshire with nesting Grasshopper Sparrows. She took part in other bird surveys including winter Bald Eagle surveys, Osprey weekend and the Nashua-Hollis Christmas Bird Count.

### Special Notice

**∧** s this AField was being finalized, Awe learned of the passing of "NH" Audubon's First Lady," Barbara Richards. She was the widow of our first paid, and long serving Executive Director, Tudor Richards. She was also a force and amazing woman in her own right. There will be a service to remember and honor her at the Exeter Unitarian Church on Saturday, April 22 – Earth Day. We will honor Barbara more fully in a future AField.

### 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 by the following individuals and businesses:

#### In memory of Susie Van Laarhoven: Manchester Association of Police

**Supervisors** 

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In memory of Thomas Algozzine: Ms. Pat Wynne

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In memory of Liz Weeden: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Leahy

In memory of Harry C. McDade: Mr. Clarence V. LaBonte, Jr.

In memory of Harry St. Ever: Ms. Marcia E. Wyman

### In memory of Ralph Naylor:

Ms. Marilyn Knowlton Ms. Suzanne Naylor Ms. Ellen Hodnett Ms. Jean Donnelly Mr. Jonathan Donnelly Mr. Ian Gunn Ms. Susan Brydon Ms. Britta Kowalski

In memory of Henry C. Beck: Ms. Patricia Toner

In memory of Stephen J. Larson:

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In memory of Joseph E. Carney:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Remillard Mr. George Khoury Casey Fleischmann Mr. and Mrs. Don Hill Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Carney Ms. Janice L. Parent

In memory of Cheryl P. Burrows: Ms. Mary P. Wright Mr. and Ms. Richard Little Ms. Kelly Purdy Mr. Stephen Stepenuck Ms. Joan M. Freedman Mrs. Cecile Goff Ms. Nancy A. Guyette Ms. Andrea Boulanger

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### **Honorary Gifts**

In honor of Daniel H. Hubbard: Mr. and Mrs. Bruce W. Smith

In honor of JoAnn Maynard: Ms. Martha R. Hammond

In honor of New England Friends: Ms. Lauren Darcey

### **Fourth Annual North Country Nature Tour: Boreal Birds** and Wildlife of Northern NH

Sign ups going on now; Trip: June 11-15 Cost: \$1,299

Explore the birds and natural areas of the 'Great North Woods' region on this five-day van tour, which starts and ends in Concord. Visit many of the iconic wildlife-viewing and scenic locations that NH is famous for – Mt. Washington (sunset auto tour), Lake Umbagog, Pondicherry Refuge, and the northernmost town of Pittsburg, where the group will spend three nights. This guided learning opportunity will focus on birds and other wildlife, botany, and natural places, as well as highlight some of NH Audubon's conservation research projects and the stewardship of its natural areas.

Trip is filling up fast, so call or email Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or (603) 224-9909 ext. 334 to inquire about availability and to reserve your space with a deposit.

### **Scotland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Trails Work Day**

Also Ammonoosuc Chapter event April 15, 2017, 9am-2pm

Join David Govatski, Joanne and Kevin Iones (Sanctuary Stewards), and other volunteers from the Ammonoosuc Chapter for a fun day working in the woods and learn about one of NH Audubon's spectacular and historic northern NH gems - the Scotland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Landaff. Tasks will include doing a short relocation on the Red Trail, opening up the drainage in a wet area on the Yellow Trail, and clearing several blowdowns. Bring lunch, water, and work gloves, and dress for weather and work conditions.

Contact: Phil Brown at pbrown@ nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 ext. 334.

**Check event listings** throughout AField for other sanctuary field trips!

### **Spring Bird Walks at Silk Farm Sanctuary**

May 1, 8, 15, & 22, 7-8:30am

Start your week off with the right notes - those of spring migrant songbirds! Director of Land Management, Phil Brown, and other special guests, will lead you through the various habitats of the Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary outside McLane Center in search of whatever spring brings our way. Bring binoculars, a notebook, and dress for the conditions including mud and insect pests.

### **9th Annual Tudor Richards Memorial Field Trip/ International Migratory Bird** Day (IMBD) at Pondicherry Refuge

Also Ammonoosuc Chapter event May 13, 6am at Airport Marsh or 8am at Pondicherry trailhead on Airport Rd.

Join leaders Dave Govatski of the Friends of Pondicherry, and Phil Brown, Director of Land Management for NH Audubon, for a guided bird watching tour around Airport Marsh in Whitefield (for grassland and marsh birds), then on to Cherry and Little Cherry Ponds in Jefferson (for warblers and other songbirds). 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."

Bring water, lunch and binoculars. Past field trips have yielded upwards of 100 species of birds! Be prepared to walk 3-5 miles on flat terrain. Stay for as long as you'd like; the last group usually ends around 3 pm. The event will be held rain or shine. Free IMBD posters for all participants.

Contact: David Govatski at 586-7776 or david.govatski@gmail.com.

In addition to the Winter Afield feature article on Alice Bemis Thompson Sanctuary, we would like to extend our deep appreciation to the Davis Conservation Foundation, a major supporter of the new boardwalk!

### **Ponemah Bog Sanctuary** Field Trip

May 27, 8-10am

Join Senior Ornithologist, Pam Hunt, on a spring walk of the Bog, focusing on migratory and breeding birds, which will be in full song at this point. This is also a fine time to observe some of the Bog's earliest blooms such as rhodora azaleas and bog cotton.

Contact: Pam at 224-9909 ext. 328 or phunt@nhaudubon.org

### Volunteer **Opportunities!**

If you are interested in any of the following opportunities, contact Becky Suomala at rsuomala@nhaudubon.org, or 224-9909 ext. 309.

### **Nighthawk Watches**

Help locate and monitor Common Nighthawks during the summer nesting season, primarily in the Concord, Keene (in partnership with the Harris Ctr.), Franklin and Ossipee areas. Volunteers watch at a site from 8-9:30 pm. Time commitment is variable.

### **New Hampshire Bird Records Field Notes Editor**

Select and gather materials for Field Notes feature: select stories (includes reviewing the NHBirds e-mail list for material), contact authors or compile written material, collect photos and captions. Familiarity with birds and birding helpful.

#### Sales Help

NH Audubon is looking for a volunteer to sell used books and other donated items through avenues such as eBay and other on-line venues. On-line sales experience preferred. We envision a consignment sales type of process.

### **Capital Chapter**

Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton Sunday, May 21

Meet Jane Hills at the entrance to Elm Brook Park in Hopkinton at 7am and spend the morning looking for spring migrants. An entrance fee to the park may be charged, so bring a few dollars. Birdathon/Bloomathon donations collected will support the Capital Chapter.

Contact: jhbird@myfairpoint.net, 625-8332

### Lakes Region Chapter

Tamworth

Identify as many species as possible in the greater Tamworth area. Donations or pledges per species are welcome. Co-sponsored by the Loon Preservation Committee.

Contact: Loon Center at 476-5666

### Massabesic Center

Auburn

Take a birding walk from 9-10:30am with volunteer Pete McVay. Then, from 11:30am-12:30pm, join Program Naturalist Angie Krysiak for a wild edible and wildflower walk to see what plants are in bloom. Both programs are good for beginners as well as seasoned observers and can be done individually or as a package.

Fee: \$7M/\$9NM per program or \$10M/\$15 for both programs.

### **Monadnock Region**

Robb Reservoir, Stoddard

Explore a mix of habitats and search for birds and blooms in the large block of conserved land from 8am-12pm with Francie Von Mertens and Meade Cadot. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation. Meet at the junction of Rte. 123 and Rte. 9, from the Hancock direction. Donations will support the Raptor Observatories.

Contact: Francie Von Mertens, vonmertens@myfairpoint.net.

# JOIN A FIELD TRIP

Several Audubon Chapters and Centers will be hosting field trips to enable broad participation in the annual Birdathon/Bloomathon! If you are a new birder or botanizer, or would prefer to go with a group rather than form your own team, jump in to one of these established options. Field trip participants are encouraged to gather pledges.

All trips will take place on Saturday, May 20 unless otherwise noted.

# AN EVENT FOR EVERYONE

Spring in New Hampshire is brief, but it is filled with color and song thanks to lovely wildflowers and beautiful birds. It is a perfect time to get out and enjoy these natural wonders, and at the same time do something to help protect them.

Teams of observers and groups on field trips spend a few hours or the whole day looking for birds and blooms. Supporters donate funds to encourage the teams and contribute to our mission. Funds raised will benefit NH Audubon as a whole and a Chapter, Center or Program chosen by each team.

Bird sightings are added to the NH e-bird data base which provides records of changes in our state's birdlife over time. Information about blooms contributes to phenology data as we explore ways that plants respond to the changing climate.



Pitcher plants. Photo by Jon Woolf.

Everyone can join the fun. For registration information or additional details, contact Ruth Smith at rsmith@nhaudubon. org or 224-9909 ext. 313. Visit nhaudubon.org for all the details.

### Monadnock Region

Surry area Sunday, May 21

Tally birds and blooms found in the open fields and wetland habitats along this easy walk in Surry with Dave Hoitt and Wendy Ward. Meet at the Surry Town Hall parking lot at 7am. The trip should end by noon. Bring field guides, binoculars, drink, snacks, and be prepared for bugs. Donations will support the Raptor Observatories.

Contacts: Wendy at weward0@yahoo.com or Dave at 352-0987.

# **CREATE YOUR OWN GROUP**

Form a team of 2-6 people and plan your strategy! Try to see as many species of birds and/or wildflowers as possible within a single day in whatever New Hampshire locations you choose. Register your team in advance with Ruth Smith, rsmith@nhaudubon.org. There's no registration fee but each team is

encouraged to raise funds to support NH Audubon and the Chapter, Center or Program of their choice. Online tools and tips will make engaging friends and family as supporters simple and successful.



Cape May warbler. Photo by Jen Esten.

### Nashaway Region

Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary

Jack Gleason, Ponemah Bog Sanctuary Steward, will lead a walk from 9-11am focused on bog plants including blooms such as Rhodora azaleas and Bog cotton. Donations will go towards supporting Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Contact: Jack at 673-3177 or westonpond10@gmail.com.

### Pemigewasset Chapter Newfound Center

Hebron Habitats

Join Mavis Brittelli to explore a wide array of forests, fields, wetlands and lake shore which provide habitat to a wide range of birds and blooms. Hundreds of acres of protected land include three Audubon properties (Ash Cottage, Paradise Point Nature Center and Bear Mountain), the Hebron Town Forest and other areas around the north end of Newfound Lake. Funds support the NH Audubon's Newfound Center.

Contact: Mavis Brittelli at mavisgr@att.net.

# Prizes and Awards

An award ceremony and wrap-up supper takes place on Sunday, May 21 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the McLane Center in Concord. Prizes will be awarded based on:

### Big Day Challenge

highest number of bird species observed

#### Flower Power Award

highest number of blooming plant species observed

#### **Conservation Award**

highest number of combined species

### Big Green Award

most money raised

### Big Perch Challenge

most bird or bloom species observed at one location

### **Human Powered Challenge**

most bird or bloom species raised without using fossil fuel

#### **Beginner Award**

most bird or bloom species observed by a beginner or first time participant

In order to qualify for awards, teams must follow the competition guidelines (see our website for details). Non-competitive teams (ex: chapter field trips and larger groups) are also welcome to participate but are not eligible for prizes.

### Quotes from past participants:

"It's great to spend time with friends, enjoy birding and help NH Audubon."

"Enjoyed identifying wildflowers"

I learned a lot by joining the field trip - great to have a knowledgable leader."

### PROGRAMS & EVENTS: THE MCLANE CENTER



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 9am–5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm.

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### **Nature of National Parks**

March 23, 7-8:30pm; Cost; \$5M/\$7NM

David Govatski has embarked on a life long quest to visit all 417 national park units and currently has visited 369 of them. He will share tips on the best times to visit, where to see wildlife and how to plan your trips.



### **Birds and Beans Coffee House Presents: Harvey Reid** & Joyce Andersen

April 6, 7-8:45pm; Cost: \$15M/\$18NM

Songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and engaging singer Harvey Reid has been called "one of the true treasures of American acoustic music." Joyce Andersen brings versatility as a vocalist and violinist to the stage touring across the country and globe performing solo and with her husband Harvey Reid. Together, they create a performance of astounding strength and power. Refreshments and Birds and Beans birdfriendly coffee will be available.

Seating is limited. Tickets may be purchased online at nhaudubon.org or reserved by calling 224-9909 ext. 313.



This performance is sponsored by Altus

### **Bird Carving and Painting** Workshop

Starts April 11 (8 weeks), 6-8pm Cost: \$140 plus materials

Prize-winning master carver Bob Schwinger is offering an 8-week course designed to teach participants the skills needed to carve and paint wooden birds and fish. Bob will demonstrate and practice step-by-step procedures of carving and painting detailed wild birds that will benefit both the beginner and those with previous experience. This class will be taught in Bob's private studio in Concord and is limited to 8 participants.

To register or for additional information, please contact Bob at 496-4631, or via email: Woodcarversloft@gmail.com.

### **Beginning Bird Identification**

April 27-May 30 (5 weeks), 6-9pm Cost: \$145M/\$205NM

Join experienced birder Bob Quinn for this introductory class, ideal for people newly interested in birds who want to learn how to identify local species. During five field and indoor lessons you will learn how to identify at least 100 of our most common birds. The focus will be on basic identification skills and the spring migrants but we will also cover topics from binoculars and bird books to basic bird biology. Maximum 10 participants. Pre-registration is required.

### **Helping Birds Along the Way**

May 16, 7-8:30pm; Cost: \$5M/\$7NM

Migration is a challenging journey for birds, made possible by healthy stop-over sites to rest and refuel along the way. Join Hilary Chapman, NHA Education Specialist (and past curriculum developer for Environment for the Americas which coordinates International Migratory Bird Day) in a celebration of the wonders of migration!



### **Sherie Dowsett Nature Photography Exhibit**

May 1-June 30

Amherst photographer Sherie Dowsett studies flora and fauna in their natural environment with an emphasis on creating an image that it is true to nature. She uses only natural light (no flash) and, in most cases, minimal editing. A juried member of the New Hampshire Art Association, Sherie has received awards from The Nature Conservancy, the Plymouth Center for the Arts, and the Photographic Society of America.

"For me, photography is about being connected to a moment in nature. It's about feeling the light, the innocence yet wisdom of an animal, the tranquility of the scene. It's about the elegance of the ordinary."



# September 23

NH Audubon's 2017 Annual Meeting & Membership Gathering:

Alnoba Lodge in Kensington

### PROGRAMS & EVENTS: MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER



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; sanctuary trails are open dawn to dusk daily.

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### **Nature Cafe**

Fridays, 7-8:30pm Cost: \$5 per person, Free for Massabesic Volunteers Enjoy coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and delicious desserts while learning about our

natural environment.

#### March 9: Salamander Crossing **Brigades Program**

Join Brett Amy Thelen from the Harris Center for Conservation Education to learn more about the spring amphibian migration and how you can help save amphibians in our area by joining the Salamander Crossing Brigades!

#### March 23: Where Does the Water Go?

Michael Redding, of Loureiro Enginering Association, discusses the impact of stormwater on the environment, what businesses do to reduce contamination, and what you can do to improve water quality near you.

#### May 11: Pollinators in the Landscape

UNH Cooperative Extension specialist, Amy Papineau, discusses the many types of native pollinators found in the NH landscape, and the Pollinator Plots planted at the Massabesic Center and at many other sites across the state. She'll also give you ideas for planting your own pollinator garden.

### **Heart of Nature Art Exhibit**

March 4-April 29 Reception: March 11, 3-5pm

Members of the Manchester Artist Association present an exhibit of fine art interpreting their love of nature.

### **Bluebird Natural History and Trail Monitor Training**

March 18, 10am-12pm

Learn about the bluebird's natural history, conservation status and how to become a bluebird trail monitor. We will go outside and become oriented to the Massabesic bluebird trail, clean out and make minor repairs to boxes as well as look for any early bluebirds.

### The Secret Life of Bees

April 20, 7-8:30pm; Cost: \$5M/\$7NM

Explore the fascinating world of honeybees and other essential pollinators. Learn best management practices for the backyard gardener to foster a safe and thriving habitat for these critical insects.

### The Places We Love in NH **Art Exhibit**

May 5-June 24

Enjoy the artwork of Joey Pearson, Gisele Thompson, and Aline Lotter featuring places they love in New Hampshire.

#### **Musical Time Out**

May 12, 3-4:30pm

Take some time out to relax, slow down, and enjoy a folk string ensemble from the Manchester Community Music School led by John Zevos.

### **Coastal Birding**

May 17, 9am-2:30pm Cost: \$6M/\$9NM

Enjoy birding the coast with JoAnn O'Shaughnessy. Meet at the Hampton Beach State Park parking lot and carpool from there to coastal hot spots. Adults only, please. Contact JoAnn at 494-4209 to register.

### **Bat Brigade Training**

Cynthia Nichols, biologist and NH

May 18, 7-8:30pm

Audubon volunteer, will tell us about the status of Bats in NH and present a Citizen Scientist project about Counting Summer Bat Colonies. Then we will go outside to see bats come out at dusk to forage for their evening meal and do a practice count ourselves! These bats eat up to half their weight in mosquitoes every summer night, so they are a big help to us. Now it's our turn to help them in return!

Advance registration required for all programs. Call 603-668-2045.

### **Junior Explorers**

Every Other Wednesday, 10-11:30am Leader: Kelly Dwyer; Ages 7-12 Cost: \$12M/\$15NM per class

Mar 8: Mammals: From Mice to Moose

Mar 22: Firmly Rooted: NH's Plant Life

Apr 5: Vernal Pools: Nature's Nurseries

Apr 19: Earth Day: Celebrate Our Home!

May 3: Avian Adventures

May 17: Incredible Insects: Essential Roles

#### **Wee Wonders**

Every Other Wednesday, 10-11:30am Leader: Kim Murphy; Ages 4-6 Cost: \$12M/\$15NM per class

Mar 8: The Sweet Taste of Spring

Mar 22: Babies of Spring-Hidden from View Apr 5: Marsupial Moms

Apr 19: Amphibians on the Move

May 3: Nesting Success

May 17: Eggs Left Behind

### **Earth Day Festival: Protect and** Connect

April 8, 10am-3pm Cost: \$7 individuals, \$20 families

Join Audubon and the Student Conservation Association as we celebrate the Earth in our 10th annual festival.

We'll have live animals, drawings to win prizes, 'build your own birdhouse' kits for sale, games, mural painting, crafts, live music, and marshmallow roasting at our campfire.

Lunch will be available for sale by Roots Catering. Visit booths by a variety of earth friendly businesses and organizations and learn tips for reducing your impact on the earth.

Sponsored by Whole Foods and A-Market.







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.

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### 2017 Fish Season

May 1-June 17

The 2017 Fish Season is here! During this time, visitors may view migrating fish through our underwater windows. Our center will be open seven days a week from 9am-5pm. Walk-in visitors are always welcome and guided fish season tours are offered to groups of 10-30 participants.

### **Predators of the Sky: Live Birds of Prey**

March 11: 11am-12:30pm; 1-2:30pm Cost: \$10/person, \$25/family Location: Eversource 5 Rivers Auditorium

Tom Ricardi teaches with a diverse group of raptors which often include a very playful turkey vulture and a beautiful golden eagle! Learn about the great work done by Tom's organization, the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility, which cares for injured birds and operates a successful captive breeding program. For all ages.

### **Saturday Nature Seekers**

Saturdays, 11am-12pm Cost: \$5 donation encouraged

Do you and your kids wish for opportunities to learn about nature but have trouble finding the time? Try these short and sweet mini-programs and nature-based activities. Discover something new every month!

Aerial Predators: March 18, 25 Falcon Focus: April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Fish Season Tours: May 6, 20

### **Learn to Fly Fish**

12

Four Part Series: March 22, 29, April 5, 12 6-8pm; Cost: \$5/person

Discover this unique pastime! Members of Trout Unlimited will be our

instructors, teaching about fly fishing equipment, fly-tying, sharing secret strategies and techniques, where fish live and how to read the water.

### Fish Fest Featuring Dash and Splash!

April 27, 10am-3pm Cost: \$3/person, \$6/family No registration required

Line up and cheer on biologists as they deliver fish to stock our fish passage at 10am. Our fish ladder is open but the wild anadromous species have vet to swim up the Merrimack River. While we wait, the stocked fish will be here for up close underwater viewing. Fish crafts, fish hats, fish games and fishy fun throughout the day!

### **International Migratory Bird** Day (IMBD): Helping Birds Along the Way

May 13, 11am-3pm Free; no registration required

This special day focuses attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird — its journey between its summer and winter homes. The tree swallow, yellow warbler, Baltimore oriole, and osprey all winter in Central and South America and return to NH each spring to nest and

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

raise their young. And there are many others! We will play games, make music, create masks and teach kid centered conservation actions that everyone can do to make every day "Bird Day".

### **Sea Lamprey Appreciation** Day

May 27, 11am-3pm Cost: \$3/person, \$6/family No registration required

The slimy and fascinating sea lamprey returns! Hold a live three foot long fish and get sucked into the fun of a much under-appreciated animal as we learn all about the unique physical nature and lifecycle of the incredible sea lamprey.

### **Family Fun Nights**

Fridays, 6:30-8pm; Cost: \$8/family

Family Fun Nights are for all ages and focus on Merrimack River ecology. Engaging facts and stories are followed by group activities and open crafts.

Mar 10 - Squirrels & Chipmunks Abound

Mar 24 - Wilv Weasels

Apr 7 - River Safari with Macroinvertebrates

Apr 21 - Critter Quest

May 5 - Fabulous Fish

May 19 - Family Fishtravaganza

## Homeschool **Discovery Programs**

### **MERRIMACK RIVER LIFE**

Thursdays, 10-11:30am Cost: \$10/child Grades: 1 & up

From algae to fish to river otters, discover how plants and animals eke out a living in and around the Merrimack River, through hands-on exploration and outdoor discovery.

Mar 16 - River Fish

Apr 20 - Reptiles and Amphibians

May 18 - River Macroinvertebrates

### **AMMONOOSUC CHAPTER**

All evening programs are held at the Rocks Estate on 4 Christmas Tree Lane in Bethlehem and start at 7pm. Contact: David Govatski at David.Govatski@gmail.com.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### **Birding the Northeast Kingdom (NEK)** March 15, 7-8:30pm

Photographer and birder Tom Berriman is the President of NEK Audubon in St Johnsbury, VT and has birded all over America but calls the NEK home. He will take us on a slide journey to many of the hotspots of the NEK to see favorites like the Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Evening Grosbeak, Bicknell's Thrush and many more species.

### **Scotland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Trails Work Day**

April 15, 9am-2pm (See page 7)



Hermit thrush, photo by Bob Basile.

### The Natural History of Ticks in NH April 19, 7-8:30pm

Ticks and the health problems they cause are a big concern for anyone spending time outdoors, Professor Alan Faton of UNH Extension Education in Durham, is the leading expert on ticks in New Hampshire. Dr. Eaton will describe the varieties of ticks and how to prevent tick borne illnesses.

### International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at Weeks State Park

#### May 11, 7am-2pm

Starting at the parking area along the auto road to the summit of Mount Prospect at Weeks State Park in Lancaster, we will walk

SPRING 2017 NH AUDUBON AFIELD

up the 3-mile auto road slowly looking for a variety of recent arrivals of warblers, flycatchers and vireos. At 11am we will regroup and drive over to the boat launch on Martin Meadow Pond to look for loons, eagles and osprey.

### 9th Annual Tudor Richards/IMBD at **Pondicherry Refuge**

May 13, 8am-3pm (See page 7)

#### Carnivores of the Plant World May 13, 7-8:30pm

Author Natch Greyes will present an illustrated program on the carnivorous plants of America with special emphasis on those we have in Northern New England including sundews, pitcher plants, butterwort and bladderwort.

### **CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER**

### Field Trip: Concord Area Waterfowl March 25, 8am-12pm

Join Bob Quinn on this traditional waterfowl tour in the Concord area. Sightings in prior years have included Northern Pintail, American Widgeon, Snow Goose and Gadwall. Please note that we are going back to a morning trip rather than an afternoon trip. Meet at the McLane Center. Contact: Bob Quinn at RAObirds@aol.com.

#### Field Trip: Canoeing/Birding on the **Merrimack River**

#### April 20, 12-6pm

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. Bring snacks or a light meal, as we will be on the river until evening. Pre-registration is required for this trip. Meet at the Hannah

Dustin Park 'N Ride on Route 4 West, off I-93 Exit 17. Contact: Bob Quinn at RAQbirds@aol.com.

#### Field Trip: Woodcock Walk April 24, 7-9pm

Join Pam Hunt for this popular spring trip to see and hear the mating display of the American Woodcock. If we're lucky, maybe we'll hear an owl as well. Meet at the McLane Center. Contact: Pam Hunt, 753-9137 or biodiva@myfairpoint.net.

### Field Trip: Spring Migration at **Horseshoe Pond**

#### May 12, 6:30-10am

Wake up early and get your fill of spring migrants with new trip leader, Zeke Cornell for what has become one of the most popular trips of the year to see colorful spring migrants. Meet at the end of Commercial Street at Horseshoe Pond. Contact: Zeke Cornell at zekecornel@ gmail.com.

#### Field Trip: Head's Pond May 13, 7-11am

Jane Hills explores a new birding area at Head's Pond in Hooksett, where we could find as many as 35 species of birds. Bring your binoculars, but also be prepared to work on birding-by-ear skills. The trail starts at a dirt parking area opposite Green's Marine on Route 3 in Hooksett, about seven miles south of Exit 14 in Concord. Contact: Jane Hills, 625-8332 or jhbird@

#### Field Trip: Hinsdale Setbacks May 20, 7:30-11am

myfairpoint.net.

Meet new trip leader, Aiden Moser at the parking lot off of Prospect Street. While there we will be searching for warblers and waterfowl among other things. Depending on time we may also bird sections of the trail just south of the setbacks. Contact: Aiden Moser at aidenmoser10@gmail.com.

### **Before Work Birding at McLane** May 23, 6:30-8am

Pam Hunt will keep up the Capital Chapter tradition of early weekday birding with a stroll along the bike path at the McLane Center. If we're lucky there'll be all sorts of migrants in plain view. Contact: Pam Hunt, 753-9137 or biodiva@ myfairpoint.net.

### **LAKES REGION CHAPTER**

Meetings are held at the Loon Center in Moultonborough.

### **US National Park and Wildlife Refuge Slide Show**

### March 21. 7-9pm

Andy and Beth Greenwood have made a hobby of capturing digital wildlife images. This passion involves local and distant opportunities to respectfully photograph nature. The couple will take you with them on a visual journey from New England, through the deep South, through the desert West to California and north to Alaska.

FOR COMPLETE EVENT DETAILS, VISIT NHAUDUBON.ORG

# Birds of the White Mountains April 20, 7-9pm

Stephen Hale takes us on a virtual tour along a regular hiking trail in the White Mountains, beginning in the low lying valleys with intermittent streams, ponds, and wetlands. The tour progresses through mixed forest with increasing fir and spruce community birds until reaching the uppermost boreal forest zone, which hosts a distinctive assemblage of birds reserved for the most hearty hikers.

#### **MASCOMA CHAPTER**

All Mascoma Chapter events are free and open to the public. Times and dates are subject to change. Visit our website at mascomabirds.org for up to date information.

# Tools and Tricks of the Birding Trade March 13, 7-8:30pm

Join us as Connecticut River Birding Trail Project Coordinator Bill Shepherd presents a program "devoted to giving the audience some juicy tips on how to make birding more fun and productive." Bill will focus on Upper Valley birding hot spots, recommended birding gear, making bird identification and "perhaps even some bird technology."

# Field Trip: Spring Migratory Waterfowl March 18, 8-11am

This outing will begin at Norwich's riverside Foley Park adjacent to the Ledyard Bridge, moving up the VT side of the Connecticut River searching the river and its adjacent fields and woods for migratory waterfowl and early arriving spring songbirds. Meet in the parking lot at the Norwich end of the Ledyard Bridge to form car pools.

### Woodcock Walks Early April, TBD, dusk

The male, American woodcock's mating flight is one of the avian world's great spectacles, an upward spiral followed by a plunging dive back to earth. Join George Clark in Hanover to observe this memorable display. Co-sponsored with the Kendal Birding Club.

# Vernal Pools: Wicked Big Puddles or Critical Wildlife Habitat

#### April 10, 7-8:30pm

Vermont Center for Ecostudies Conservation Biologist Steve Faccio will focus on the ecology and conservation issues surrounding vernal pools, including his research radio-tracking salamanders and investigating mercury levels in vernal pool foodwebs.

#### Spring Migrant Bird Walk April 15. 6:30-9am

We'll start in Hanover at Wilson's Landing and travel north along River Road to Lyme's Grant Brook looking for migratory waterfowl and early arriving songbirds. Meet in the Dartmouth Printing parking lot on NH Rt. 10. Led by Mascoma Chapter Steering Committee member George Clark. Co-sponsored with The Hanover Conservancy and Upper Valley Land Trust.

### Warbler Wednesdays

#### May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31; 7-10am

Join Blake Allison for our popular, early morning, May series of weekly searches for warblers and other spring migrants at Lebanon's secluded gem, Boston Lot Lake. Meet in the parking lot on NH Rt. 10 directly across from Wilder Dam. Walking conditions include a fairly steep, uphill climb and surfaces that are unpaved and uneven.

#### **Feathered Fridays**

#### May 5, 12, 19 & 26; 7-10am

Join Blake Allison each Friday morning in May, to survey the woods and fields in

VT's Union Village Dam Park, with special focus on the park's "Mystery Trail" area. Meet inside the gate at the park's entrance across from E.C. Brown's Nursery in Thetford Center on Rt. 113. Walking conditions include a dirt road and fields that have uneven surfaces that

can be damp depending on whether rainfall has occurred recently.

### Bedell Bridge Bird Walk May 27, 6:30-9am

Jeff MacQueen visits the former site of the Bedell Covered Bridge, lost in a September 1979 hurricane, offering an opportunity to see a wide variety of birds due to the park's interesting combination of riparian, mixed woodlands and agricultural land habitats. Meet in the parking lot at the Norwich end of the Ledyard Bridge to form car pools.

### **MONADNOCK CHAPTER**

# 34th Annual Waterfowl Safari Along the Connecticut River

#### April 1, 8am-1pm

Chapter events are free and open to the public unless noted otherwise.

Through carpools and a little walking, we're likely to see a variety of northward bound ducks and other species. Phil Brown's group will go south from Charlestown (departing at 8am from the Charlestown Library on Main Street), while Cliff Seifer's group will head north from Hinsdale (departing at 8am from the Home Depot parking lot in Keene). The two groups will meet at Herrick's Cove in Vermont for lunch and tall tales.

Co-sponsored with the Harris Center. Contacts: Phil at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or Cliff at clifdisc@gmail.com.

# Spring Warbler Walk in Hinsdale May 13, 7am-12pm

Why not celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a trip to a perennial migration hot spot along the Connecticut River in Hinsdale? The walk



Great blue heron, photo by Scott Hecker.

will start at the Hinsdale setbacks where breeding Marsh Wrens keep company with migrating warblers, gnatcatchers, flycatchers, possible rails and maybe even a Least bittern! The walk will continue along the causeway and out to the bluffs overlooking Lake Wantastiquet where possible birds include Orchard Oriole, Bald Eagle, and Bank Swallow. Meet at Prospect

St. boat ramp. Contact: Cliff Seifer at clifdisc@gmail.com.

#### **NASHAWAY CHAPTER**

Programs are held in the Theater Room of the Nashua Public Library on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm, except where noted. Contact: Richard Maloon, 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net.

#### **Birds of India**

#### March 15, 7-9pm

Krishna Mangipudi shares his birding adventures in India. Mr. Mangipudi grew up in India in an area that has a famous bird sanctuary and a zoo that boasts of a huge aviary. Over the past few years he has renewed his interest in birding locally and also uses every opportunity during his visits back to India to include some birding.

#### NH Wild History April 19, 7-9pm

UNH Cooperative Extension Covert Volunteer, Kathy Schillemat guides us on a journey through 350 years of stories and images of the Granite state. Kathy is active with the Conservation commission in Nelson and is a member of the Harris Center citizen science group.

#### Speaker TBA May 17, 7-9pm

Field Trip: Ponemah Bog Sanctuary May 27, 8-10am (See page 7)

#### **SEACOAST CHAPTER**

Meetings are held at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park, Route 1A, Rye, NH, and wheelchair accessible. Refreshments are served at 7pm. Meetings start at 7:30pm. The entrance doors are locked at 7:45pm. Contact: Dan Hubbard, 332-4093 or danielhubbard@peoplepc.com or see our web site at seacoastchapter.org/programs.

# Vernal Pools and Breeding Amphibians March 8, 7:30-9pm

Learn about the life cycles of the vernal pool obligate amphibians. Naturalist Dave Anderson, Director of Education for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, will share the ecology and natural history of vernal pools and the NH wildlife species adapted to use these pools for breeding and feeding. This program is a perfect opportunity to prepare and get psyched for the coming frog and salamander breeding seasons at a vernal pool near you!

#### Field Trip: Great Bay April 1. 8am-12pm

or bgriffith@gmail.com.

### Bird the varied habitats of the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge and other Great Bay birding hotspots. Meet trip leader Ben Griffith at the McDonald's in Newington, 49 Gosling Road, next to the Fox Run Mall. Contact: Ben Griffith, 801-1856

### How to be a Better Birder-Tips on Improving Your Birdwatching Skills April 12, 7:30-9pm

Join Steve Mirick for a discussion on topics from identification to photography, and reporting your bird sightings. In a changing world of technology, Steve shares some of his thoughts.

### Field Trip: Owl Prowl April 22, 4-7am

Join our always popular search for owls and sunrise birds. Meet trip leader, Steve Mirick, at 4am (!) at the Mill Road Plaza parking lot in Durham. Be prepared for a long and possibly a bit wet, but leisurely walk through the woods. Contact: Steve Mirick, 978-374-0654 or smirick@comcast.net.

#### Field Trip: Birds and Beers May 6, 8am-2pm

Join Paul LaCourse for a repeat of the extremely popular Birds and Beer collaboration with Smuttynose Brewing Company. We'll bird Odiorne State Park in the morning before heading to the Smuttynose Brewery in Hampton for an afternoon social, brewery tour and beer tasting. This trip is open to all ages but only those over 21 with valid ID may sample beer at the brewery. Meet at Odiorne Point State Park (main parking area). Contact: Paul LaCourse at placourse55@comcast.net.

### Bird-friendly Buildings May 10, 7:30-9pm

Birds can't see glass. People can't either, but unlike birds, we "see" glass by interpreting the signals of the surrounding walls, window frames, doorways, and other features that make glass "visible" to us. Unfortunately for birds, there is a lot of glass and every year in the US, hundreds of millions of birds die by colliding head-on with windows, doors, bus shelters, noise barriers, and other structures. The good news is that there are solutions! Learn how you can make your home safer for birds from Laura Deming, Senior Biologist at NH Audubon.

### Beginner Bird Walks

The Seacoast Chapter will have five Beginner Bird Walks this spring. Although these walks are geared with the beginner birder in mind, birders of all levels of expertise are encouraged to participate and share their experiences. Children are gladly welcome with an adult.

### **Odiorne Point**

#### May 13, 8am-12pm

Ben Griffith leads this walk around Odiorne Point State Park's extensive trail system, traversing coastal forest, marshes, and scrub making it an ideal resting spot for migrating landbirds. Contact: Ben Griffith at bgriffith@gmail.com.

### Pickering Ponds May 14, 7am-12pm

# May 17, 7-9am Traverse Rocheste

Traverse Rochester city park trails along the Cocheco River and around old wastewater treatment facility settling ponds. Meet at the Pickering Ponds parking area. Contact: Dan Hubbard, 332-4093 or danielhubbard@peoplepc.com.

#### Webster Wildlife Area May 24, 7-9am

Join Scott Heron for a walk in Kingston to look for migrant and breeding birds, as well as other wildlife. This unique area is home to a wide variety of animals and plants, some of which are found nowhere else in the state. Meet at the first dirt parking area along Green Road. Contact: Scott Heron at smheron@gmail.com.

#### Strafford County Farm May 28, 7am-12pm

This walk will include the Don Black Trail and the hedgerows around the fields of the conserved property. The progress of the Osprey nest also will be checked. The walk will last as long as participants choose, but not beyond noon. Contact: Dan Hubbard, 332-4093 or danielhubbard@peoplepc.com.

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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.

What will your child discover?



April Vacation Camp

April 24-28 for ages 6-10

Summer Nature Camp 8 Sessions from June 26-Aug 18 for ages 4-15

Nature day camps in Concord & Auburn Learn more at nhaudubon.org

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