

SUMMER 2017

NH Audubon *Afield*

Annual Report Edition





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NH Audubon Afield

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I am so excited about this Newsletter! This issue represents our Annual Report edition where we share the wide diversity of *your impact* on the work we accomplish each year. We feel enormous gratitude for all the volunteers, donors, foundations, and grants we receive each year that support our critical work in environmental education, conservation science, land management, and advocacy.

For example, Larry Sunderland represents not only an individual donor who supports our policy work, he is also one of our most loyal donors. Larry's involvement with NH Audubon spans 30 years. *Thank you* Larry, for your support and loyalty!

Another amazing example of support comes from the estate of Drs. Lorus and Margery Milne, both of whom were acclaimed scientists and authors of their time. When they each accepted faculty positions at UNH in 1948, New Hampshire began to benefit from their exemplary careers in biological research and secondary education. NH Audubon continues to benefit from the Milne's through the endowment fund established in their name, providing annual and long-term support for our science staff's contributions to wildlife research.

In this issue we also say *thanks* to our long-term staff. Thirteen members of the Audubon team have been employees for more than 10 years each, representing almost three centuries of longevity and expertise (295 years combined). In a staff of 36, this group represents over a third



of our work-force. We applaud their level of dedication and consistent high performance. Next time you see one of these folks, make sure to thank them for their work, too!

Finally, we recognize two leaders in the environmental and Audubon movement that passed this year. Barbara Day Richards and Chan Robbins were champions of birding, wildlife ecology, and support for our great work. We will miss them.

I hope you enjoy the stories and information that summarize your impact in the recent year. *Without support from you, and your belief in our work, we would not be here.* It is a very simple model, and yet so important.

Thank you.

We couldn't do it without you!

Doug Bechtel
President

NH Audubon Grant Acknowledgements

Queen City Rotary

Massabesic Center camperships

Kettering Family Foundation

Environmental education programs

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

Rusty Blackbird research

Dorr Foundation

Bald Eagle research

Cover Photo:

Brown Booby, photographed by David Lipsy, Eagle Eye Photography, on June 11 at Cobbett's Pond in Windham, NH. This very rare sighting is thought to be the first record of the species in the state. Here it is walking across the roof of a home at the edge of the pond.

The Year in Numbers

2016

2017

5,200
members

8,241 bats

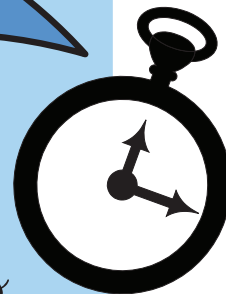
recorded during state-wide
acoustic surveys

2,304 volunteers

gave their time
for a total of

21,946 hours

that's 2.5 years of time!



14,249 students

learned about
the nature of NH
during

553 school
programs

19 bills

supported with testimony
or sign-in

11 bills

were enacted

opposed

8 bills

only 1

of these was enacted,
and an amendment
removed the
objectionable section



51 Bald Eagles fledged

from a record high of 42 incubating pairs

32 Peregrine Falcons fledged

from 20 incubating pairs

26,381 people

total program outreach,
including kids



20,294 raptors migrated

past our two observatories



15,575 were Broad-winged Hawks
that's 77%

802 boards

span the length of the new Alice Bemis
Thompson Sanctuary boardwalk



998 campers

having fun and making lifelong
connections with the outdoors



33 Rusty Blackbird nests

found in the Androscoggin watershed:
down from 50 in 2015



completed third and final year of
Olive-sided Flycatcher surveys:

gone from one third

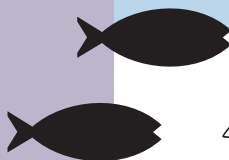
of its former range in NH

5 Purple Martin colonies

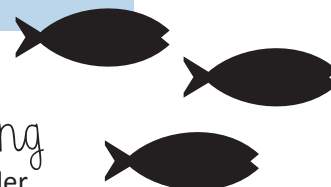
2 new colonies on the seacoast

12 Purple Martin pairs
in Seabrook, produced an estimated

58 fledglings



a record-breaking
417,134 River Herring
used the Amoskeag fish ladder





Larry Sunderland in front of the Concord State House, by Sean Gillery.

SCA crew building the Thomom boardwalk, by Matt Coughlan.



volunteer

thank you
for all the ways you support

individual impact

The Environmental Policy Committee advocates for effective, science-based environmental policies, reviewing current environmental issues and proposed legislation. At the very heart of these efforts is Larry Sunderland. A politically active resident of Deering, NH, soft-spoken Sunderland is a powerful voice for the environment. He has championed legislation protecting lakes and streams, air quality, and threatened wildlife habitats. NH Audubon is grateful to Larry not only for generously supporting our ongoing environmental policy efforts, but also for taking a leadership role in protecting the future.

TD Charitable Foundation's decade of annual giving creates the longevity of support that allows NH Audubon a continued presence in Manchester's Beech Street School. Grants from the Foundation enable us to offer monthly science programs, teaching the importance of environmental values to 1,200 2nd grade students since 2006!



long term



power

rt NH Audubon

Since 2006, our partnership with the Student Conservation Association's NH AmeriCorps program helps us accomplish conservation stewardship projects on many of our wildlife sanctuaries. These projects include numerous access improvements including the Tudor Richards Memorial Platform and boardwalk along the shore of Cherry Pond at Pondicherry, and now, the entire length of the new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible trail and boardwalk at the Alice Bemis Thompson Sanctuary in Sandwich. This long-lasting public access improvement will allow safe and responsible viewing – for all – for many years to come.

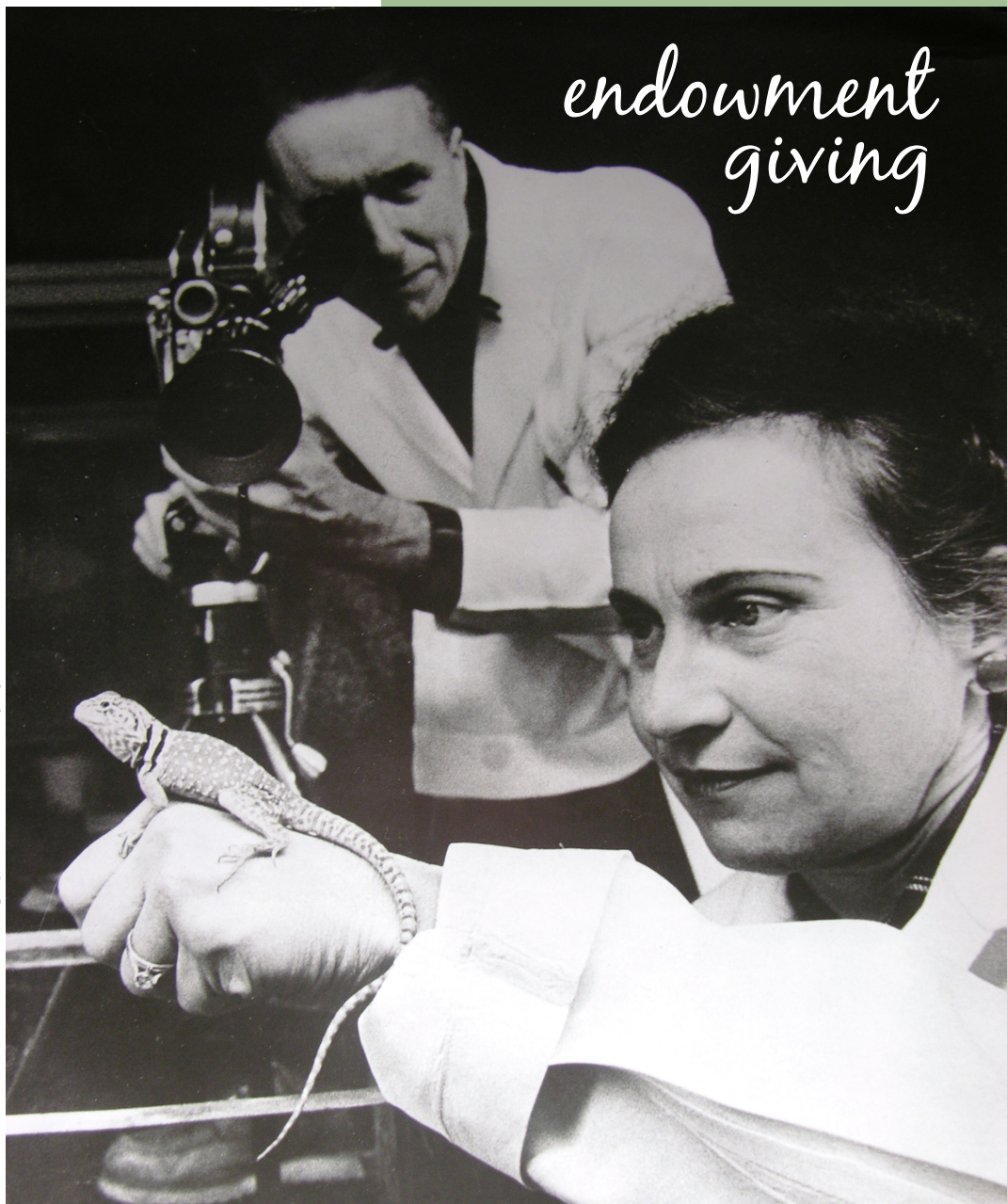
Providing for NH Audubon through a bequest in your will is a powerful way of creating a lasting legacy while perpetuating Audubon's important work. In 2007, NH Audubon received a generous bequest from Drs. Lorus J. and Margery J. Milne to create an endowment in support of ongoing research in the biological sciences. For the past decade, the Milne Endowment has supported important conservation projects on threatened and endangered species, scientific publications, and research of regional importance. The Milne Endowment will continue to support biological research at NH Audubon long into the future.



rm funding

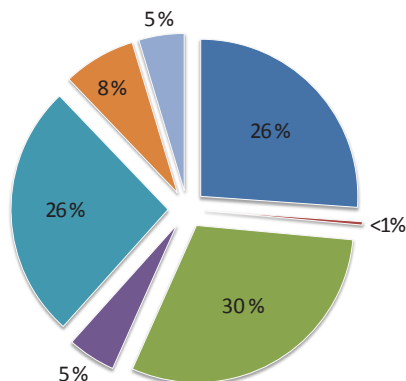
Environmental education program at the Beech Street School.

Drs. Lorus J. and Margery J. Milne, courtesy of the Milne estate.

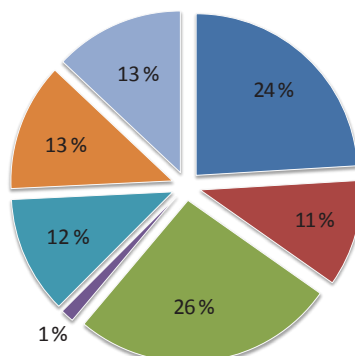


endowment
giving

Revenue & Support

**Contributions - \$ 497,803****Bequests - \$ 6,533****Contracts & Grants - \$ 575,986****Membership - \$ 94,318****Programs & Events - \$ 500,036****Investment Income - \$ 142,465****Other Income - \$ 88,841****Total Income \$ 1,905,982**

Program & Functional Expenses

**Conservation - \$ 510,197****Massabesic Center - \$ 226,878****Silk Farm/McLane Center - \$ 559,631****Newfound Center - \$ 28,333****Amoskeag Fishways - \$ 249,602****Administration & General - \$ 271,275****Membership & Development - \$ 275,103****Total Expenses \$ 2,121,019**

Change in net operating assets	\$ (215,037)
Nonoperating revenue & other changes to net assets	\$ 180,609
Total change in net assets	\$ (34,428)

Annual contributions increased by more than \$39,000

5018 donors made generous contributions—345 more than FY16

69% of NH Audubon donors made larger contributions

We maintained our 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator

We added 541 new members to our ranks

More than 100 people honored retired President Mike Bartlett with gifts totaling \$108,632

Note

While robust fundraising and strong event rentals help NH Audubon exceed its annual revenue goals, we realized a small deficit due to several unbudgeted expenses.

Our Incredible Employee Dedication

By Lynn Bouchard, Director of Human Resources

There is no doubt that the success of an organization relies heavily on the performance and dedication of its employees. Here at NH Audubon, we are fortunate to work with a wonderful team of employees who regularly demonstrate a commitment to our organization and an admirable passion for the work they do. We have a broad range of skilled employees who play crucial roles in our success—from staff who cheerfully greet visitors in our centers and custodians who maintain the Gold Leed status of our McLane facility, to seasoned biologists who climb cliffs to check on falcon nests and administrative staff who enter membership data and pay the bills. NH Audubon exists as a reputable, beloved institution because of the dedicated employees who work diligently to support our mission. In addition to being appreciative of ALL of our devoted employees, I would like to recognize our current employees who have worked at NH Audubon for 10 years or more.

Having 13 employees with ten or more years of service from a team of 36 regular employees is a proud testament of employee loyalty and dedication to NH Audubon's valuable mission.

40 years: Carol Foss, Senior Advisor for Science and Policy

29 years: Diane De Luca, Senior Biologist

29 years: Rebecca Suomala, Senior Biologist

27 years: Chris Martin, Senior Biologist

25 years: Laura Deming, Senior Biologist

23 years: Ruth Smith, Development and Community Engagement Coordinator

17 years: Helen Dalbeck, Amoskeag Fishways Executive Director

17 years: Kathleen Neville, Education Coordinator

16 years: Pam Hunt, Senior Biologist

12 years: Phil Brown, Director of Land Management

10 years: Vanessa Jones, Director of Conservation

10 years: Angie Krysiak, Program Manager

10 years: Becky Spinney, Accountant

Remembering Two Pioneering Leaders for Birds, Birding and NH Audubon

Barbara Day Richards

NH Audubon's First Lady

(January 1, 1929 – January 19, 2017)

When the Audubon Society of New Hampshire elevated long-time volunteer Tudor Richards to be its first paid Executive Director in 1968, the organization got more than a dedicated and capable leader. They also got Tudor's wife Barbara. Her attention to their three children enabled Tudor to devote time to helping NH Audubon grow, over his long and noteworthy tenure. But beyond being a mother and Tudor's "right hand," Barbara was a woman with endless curiosity and creativity.

An accomplished artist, Barbara drew NH Audubon's first logo: a parent loon and two chicks, first appearing on the cover of the society's newsletter in 1951. Barbara's efforts also augmented Tudor's vast bird records from around the state.

Throughout her life Barbara remained inspired by the natural world. She noted the beauty of birds, flowers and landscapes and captured them with her colorful paintings. She once said, "I am blessed and cursed with the need to make something." As a result, we are blessed with the legacy of her artwork, marionettes, plays, song lyrics, stories and whimsical productions. We are blessed to have had Barbara as a friend, a supporter and our own "first lady".



Barbara Richards visiting the Tudor Richards memorial at Pondicherry, by Dave Govatski.



Chandler Robbins, by Barbara Dowell, USGS.

Chandler S. Robbins

(July 17, 1918 – March 20, 2017))

Chandler S. Robbins died in March of 2017 at the age of 98. Even if you didn't know him personally, you probably knew him by his achievements. Chan created the Breeding Bird Surveys in the 1960s, now the primary source of information on bird trends today. He was co-author of the "Golden Guide" – A Guide to Field Identification of Birds of North America, and wrote about the effects of DDT before Silent Spring. He banded (and re-discovered 46 years later) the oldest known bird, a Laysan Albatross named Wisdom.

Chan spent summers in New Hampshire since he was a young boy and devoted many hours to the New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas. He participated in over 400 Christmas Bird Counts, including several in New Hampshire. By all accounts, he was a humble, unassuming person whose contributions to our knowledge of birds and bird conservation are legendary. His son, George, and wife, Andrea, live in New Hampshire and continue his birding tradition.

"The world has lost a birding genius." – Andrea Robbins

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 Andrew P. Begosh:
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Chenette

In memory of Chandler S. Robbins:
Ms. Linda Kornfeld

In memory of Cheryl P. Burrows:
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Taylor, Jr.
Marilyn J. Burday
Ms. Katrina Lozier

In memory of Christopher Doerr:
John L. White
Tyngsboro Middle School
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Ms. Linda Ruiz

In memory of Victor Wright:
Ms. Dixie Buckland
Mrs. Sandra W. Martin
Ms. Susan L. Hanamoto

Honorary Gifts

In honor of Dr. Charles L. Ward:
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Dunklee
Ms. Fay Dabney
Ms. Stella J. Scheckter
Mr. Hank McIntyre
Mr. Paul W. Blackford
Ms. Eleanor E. McIntyre
Mr. Barry L. Brown

In honor of Ruth A. Smith:
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pacelli

In honor of Tracy Holmes:
Meta Alice Keith Bratten
Foundation

Correction: In the last Afield a memorial tribute was made to Robert Lievens by Ms. Eliza Spaulding. This should have been "in honor of" Bob and Deb Lievens.



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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.

2017 Annual Gathering 🌿 Saturday, September 23

We are thrilled to be holding our Annual Gathering at Alnoba in Kingston – *a place to reflect, connect and create change*. With 400 acres of conserved land, a working farm, and an art gallery that spills out into the woods and trails, the morning will offer a lovely variety of field trips on the property. Other field trip choices will include coastal birding and exploring nearby sanctuaries. A farm to table luncheon leads into an afternoon flow from annual meeting and keynote speaker to awards ceremony and silent auction.



"Self-organization, Co-evolution, Resiliency, and Stability"

This year's keynote speaker will be ecologist and author Tom Wessels, exploring the processes by which natural systems become more complex and stable over time and lead to incredible biodiversity. Many regional examples will be used to illustrate how co-evolution works. Wessels will conclude by describing how this process is a wonderful model for creating sustainable human systems.



Sanderlings, by Jon Woolf

Join us for a rewarding day together, celebrating the past year's accomplishments and looking forward to opportunities for continued success.

Registration and details at www.nhaudubon.org.

Event sponsors:

