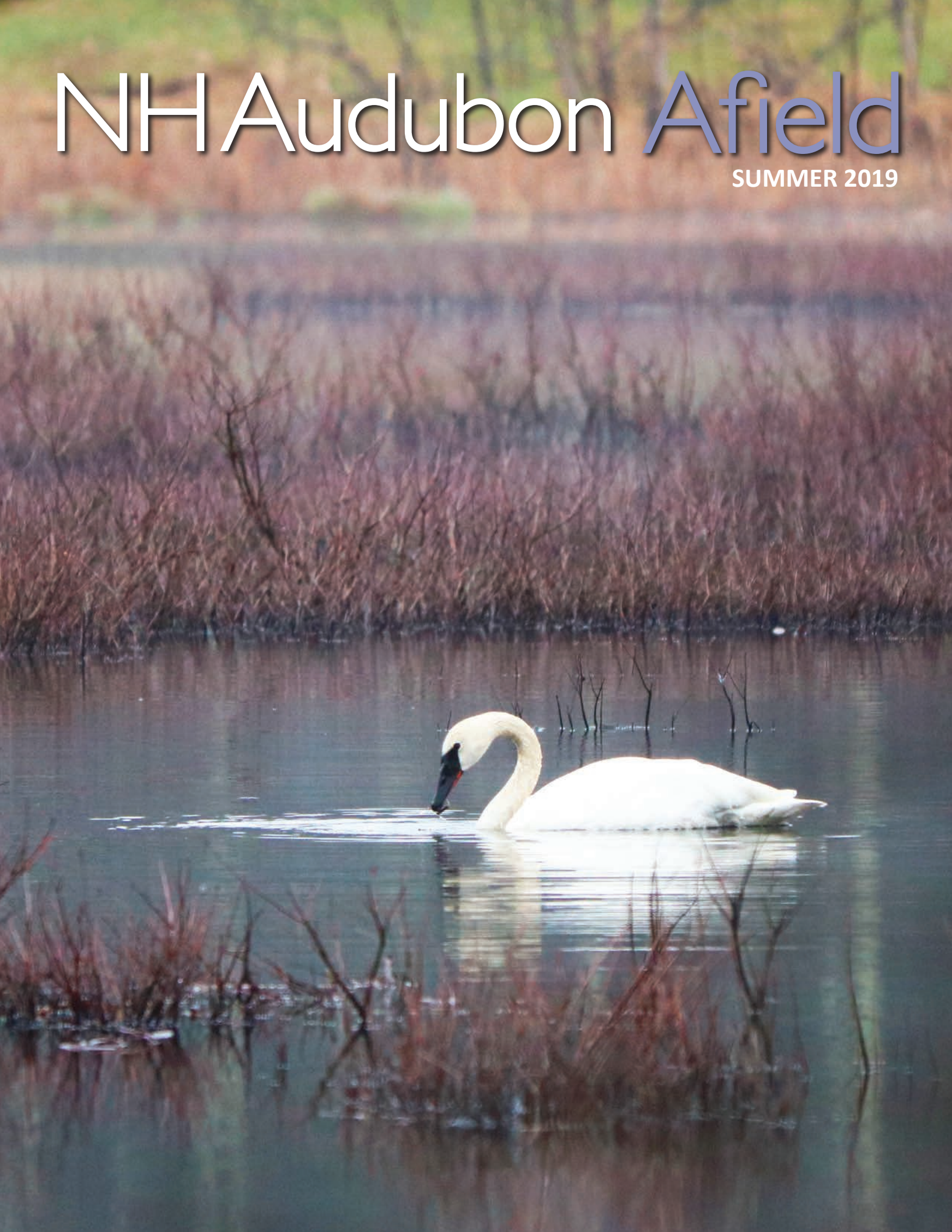


NH Audubon Afield

SUMMER 2019





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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like many of you, I am sure, I made it through what I call SOS (Spring Optimism Syndrome). In March and April, I am ready to go! I start working on the garden; I plant seeds; I look longingly at the bird feeders; and I wonder why the heck it is still cold in the mornings and muddy in the driveway. Bring on spring - *I can't wait any longer!*

And now, well into May, it has happened. Almost overnight, the migratory songbirds are back, singing and nesting. The weather is warming and emerging leaves are quickly filling in the gaps, closing the canopy. And now *I want it to slow down*. Particularly during a cold and gray spring, things are happening too fast outside for me to keep up.

In this spring edition of Afield, I'm excited to share with you our new Strategic Vision. We have been thinking a lot about NH Audubon's next century and what we must do. As you might expect, we will always honor our roots, while looking forward to what we can do better.

One thing is clear. Wildlife will continue to face challenges and our focus must be to fight to protect them. The recent report released by the United Nations (Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) makes it clear that our native wildlife species are facing a crisis caused by human actions. The report states that

We have been thinking a lot about NH Audubon's next century and what we must do.

*Protecting New Hampshire's
natural environment
for wildlife and for people.*

Cover Photo:

Walter Keane captured this image of the rare Trumpeter Swan at Abe Emerson Marsh Sanctuary in April: "The swan was calmly moving around in the marsh, feeding on vegetation underwater. It was a misty morning and its white feathering showed in sharp contrast to the muted colors of the dark water and reddish brush. The still mood was just what I wanted as I adjusted my position and took the photo."



one million species face extinction risk in the coming decades because of land use changes, direct exploitation of species, climate change, pollution, and invasive species. These are not issues that are relevant somewhere else, they are relevant everywhere.

Migration season brings this point home. Today, I saw 30 species of migratory birds in a half hour walk in Concord. On World Bird Day, NH Audubon's Ammonoosuc Chapter annual walk at Pondicherry Sanctuary encountered 92 species of birds.

We are incredibly lucky to live in a state that offers the opportunity to encounter such a rich diversity of wild animals, just by going on a field walk. This precious heritage is something we must work hard to protect for the next century and beyond.

NH Audubon is part of the solution. We will continue to take actions inspired by both optimism and crisis, as outlined in the Strategic Vision.

Stay in touch, and please think of ways you can help us protect wildlife forever.


Doug Bechtel
President

PARADISE POINT TURNS 50

Newfound Audubon Center 1969-2019

Paradise Point Nature Center was constructed 50 years ago, in 1969. As NH Audubon's very first Nature Center, it was designed to offer environmental education to people of all ages. Seasonally this mission persists, engaging thousands of visitors and teaching them about the wonders of this special place.

Paradise Point Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, located on the north shore of Newfound Lake, includes 43 acres with 3,500 feet of rocky, unspoiled lakeshore. In the early 1960s, Colonel and Mrs. Alcott Elwell partnered with New Hampshire Charitable Fund to protect this property. It was donated to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire in 1966.

This iconic property remains a special place of inspiration, reflection, and education to the town of Hebron and the Newfound Lake community. Some 20,000 visitors each year discover, and rediscover, the natural beauty and

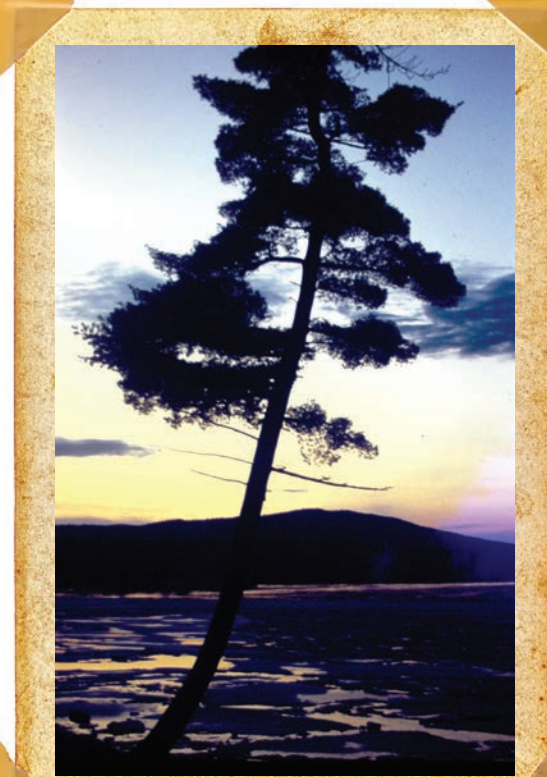
benefits of being outdoors. There is something wonderfully familiar about Paradise Point — bringing visitors back in time and offering up a welcoming sense of home.



"Paradise Point Rocks" (archive file, 2005).



The Giraffe Tree is still a favorite landmark along the Paradise Point trails, seen here in an archive photograph, and more recently during a staff retreat scavenger hunt in 2016 (left to right: Emily Johnson, Becky Suomala, Chris Martin, Sean Gillery, and Sara Wall).




Top down: "A.S.N.H. Staff" (Tudor Richards, 1982), "Luna Moth & Sign" (Bob Quinn, 1984), "Ice out at sunset" (Tudor Richards, 1969).




McLane Center Pollinator Demonstration Garden Opens


by Hilary Chapman




Over 80% of all flowering plants rely on animal-assisted pollination in order to reproduce.




The US Department of Agriculture reports that over 75% of the crops that are cultivated worldwide for human consumption depend on animal pollinators.




North America is home to over 4000 species of native bees, the majority of which are solitary and nest in the ground, small cavities, or hollow twigs.



Although bees are famous for being very proficient pollinators, beetles actually comprise the largest group of pollinating insects.



Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. Research has shown that a native tree can host more than 100 times the number of caterpillars than an introduced species. It takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees...so that is important.



You can make a difference to benefit birds and other wildlife by selecting native plants for your yards and gardens.

We had a lovely working landscape already in place, which offered up this wonderful opportunity to “grow it” to its full potential.

We are excited to announce the opening of McLane Center’s pollinator demonstration garden! This new garden represents over a year of planning, reinvisioning the existing gardens to build a native plant landscape that showcases the beauty of native plants and their incredible benefit to our native wildlife. The garden demonstrates plant and landscape configuration options for backyards, gardening practices that benefit pollinators, and provides opportunities to learn and grow visitor knowledge to conserve pollinators.

The new garden is made possible through a partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). When it comes to pollinator conservation, NH Audubon and the USFWS share a vision for engaging the public in maintaining and recovering pollinator populations.

“Pollinator conservation is a USFWS national priority,” Tom Chapman, Project Leader for the New England Field Office, explains. “Partnering with organizations like New Hampshire Audubon to develop public demonstration gardens is a great way for us to

connect with people who are interested in building a coalition of backyard gardeners that want to contribute to the local pollinator conservation effort.”


The garden is already a calming place to rest, restore, inspire ideas for your own backyard, and observe the wonders of pollinators buzzing about. “It’s wonderful to see the amount of public interest in pollinators and the outpouring of volunteers and gardeners in New Hampshire who want to help,” Tom adds.

The landscape plan was designed by Allen and Major Associates and installed by Olkonen Earth Landscapes, LLC. A cadre of volunteers will help maintain the garden and continue to enhance it for public education. Grants from

the Walker Family Fund, the Robin Colson Memorial Fund, and the Gertrude and Benjamin Couch Foundations, have allowed us to add self-guided interpretation. We’d also like to thank former staff and volunteers for the many hours given to create the original garden. We had a lovely working landscape already in place, which offered up this wonderful opportunity to “grow it” to its full potential.

Enjoy the garden using self-guided interpretation provided at the center or attend one of the many programs to be presented as part of our Pollinator Series (*see calendar insert*). Our grand opening and kick off for National Pollinator Week will be held at the center on June 15th.

Illustration by Lois De Luca:
Long Dash Skipper and
Eastern Tailed Blue on clover.
See more of Lois’ work on display at
this summer’s McLane art show.



For more information on pollinators and the pollinator garden, visit our Pollinator Page at www.nh Audubon.org/conservation-2/pollinators.

LANDS

by Phil Brown

EXPANDING OUR LARGEST WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

This past March, two important parcels of land were added to NH Audubon's lands portfolio. The first was a donation of 27 acres of land that expanded the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary to just over 1,700 acres. The land came to us as the second and final parcel donated by Captain Robert and Mrs. Jane Morgan (the Morgans had donated 149 acres in 1985 when the sanctuary was just a fraction of its current size). Sadly, Captain Morgan passed away before the gift became final.

The Morgan parcel fills in a gap of conservation ownership near Goodhue Hill, a wildlife-rich location with trail access to several vistas of the surrounding conserved landscape. The parcel contains among the highest-ranked wildlife habitat in the State, according to the NH Wildlife Action Plan. As unprotected land containing a right-of-way, it would be at risk of attracting development or being managed in ways not consistent with that of a wildlife sanctuary.

But now, thanks to the Morgans, this property will be conserved forever and maintained as forestland. And per their wishes, NH Audubon will maintain the bulk of this woodland as a 'forest reserve' free from commercial timber harvesting. A small, interior former 'patch cut' may be maintained by hand to provide a diversity of habitat for wildlife requiring young forestland.

BECOME A FRIEND OF WILLARD POND

This spring, NH Audubon helped launch a new support group for its largest wildlife sanctuary, Willard Pond in Antrim and Hancock. The Friends of Willard Pond consists of individuals who have a connection to this place and wish to help better steward and protect its wildlife and waters. At the heart of this 1,700-acre sanctuary is Willard Pond – a popular warm-water destination for fly-fishing, boaters, and other users, and a place that is home to breeding Common Loons, as well as other wide-ranging wildlife species. As more people have discovered this natural gem in the Monadnock Region, the pond has seen increased crowds, and an increase in associated issues such as littering, illegal parking and fires, and general ecological harm from overuse including shoreline erosion and direct impacts to wildlife.

Under the guidance of local resident and volunteer, Anitra Sorensen, and myself, thirty or so individuals gathered recently at the Hancock Library to begin to come up with solutions. The mood of the meeting was very positive and the group immediately engaged in helping NH Audubon and the other landowning parties (State of NH and Town of Antrim).

Additional events are planned to better connect the Friends to some of the challenges at Willard Pond, and to take action through improved stewardship and education of the recreators who come to enjoy this special place. For more information about the next gathering of the Friends of Willard Pond, contact Anitra at anitrasorensen@gmail.com.

Morgan Parcel photos by Phil Brown: Eastern Red-spotted Newt (red eft) and Red-backed Salamander (top); old logging road entrance (right).





Two new staff members have joined NH Audubon in the Development Department, and we would like to introduce them! Judy Spigarelli has been working in nonprofit fundraising for 15 years, most recently at Saint Anselm College, and was hired as our Development Coordinator in November. Marc Nutter joined us from the University of Wisconsin-Extension where he served as the Facility and Operations Director for the Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center. Marc came on board in January as NH Audubon's new Grants Manager. We asked them a few questions to get to know them better, and here's what they had to say:

What have you liked most about being here at NH Audubon?

Judy: Hands down – the people! The people here are passionate about their work. They are kind, ready to teach, and respectful to people and nature.

Marc: I really enjoy working with all the different specialists at NH Audubon. I feel that I'm getting back to my science roots by being able to propose research projects that have meaningful impacts on species of greatest conservation need while also improving the education and accessibility for people to interact with NH Audubon's properties and content. I also learn something every day from the people I work with.

Where did you grow up?

Judy: 10 miles south of McLane in Hooksett.

Marc: I grew up in Northeast Ohio close to Lake Erie and was involved with soccer, rugby, theatre, and marching band. I came of age in Northeastern New Mexico working as an environmental educator, ski instructor, and bicycle mechanic.

What is your dream vacation?

Judy: The Galapagos Islands to visit the penguins. I've wanted to visit penguins my entire life.

Marc: My dream vacation is to spend two months finishing the 800 mile section of the Appalachian Trail that I didn't hike in 2011 – the distance between Connecticut and Katahdin. A weekend spent car camping and exploring the beauty of New England with my fiancée, Anna Ormiston, is high on my list as well and is something we try to do once a month.

What is your favorite bird and why?

Judy: Penguins, but I don't know why. I know I've liked them since early childhood and I used to collect all types of penguin decorations.

Marc: If I were forced to pick a favorite, I think it would be all the subspecies of Sandhill Crane. As North America's only cranes, Sandhills are really neat to see as they gather during their migration, which I had the opportunity to witness last December at the Aldo Leopold Foundation along the Wisconsin River.

If you were an emoji, which one would it be?

Judy: Shocked face. I am constantly amazed – by people, things, and nature. Or laughing with tears. Once I start really laughing, it takes a long time for me to stop.

Marc: I would be the camping tent emoji with a crescent moon.



Photos by Dyanna Smith.

In Memorium

John Lanier – “Lanier”, as he was affectionately known to friends and colleagues, loved the outdoors and spent his professional life promoting effective wildlife and land management in NH and beyond. He served as a Wildlife Biologist for the White Mountain National Forest, later for the NH Fish & Game Department, and most recently as an independent consultant. While with the Forest, he coordinated efforts to restore extirpated Peregrine Falcons through a 12-year release program, and initiated long term songbird monitoring on the Forest. He collaborated with NH Audubon both professionally and as a volunteer. His influence extended throughout New England, often leading to significant natural resource policy and management decisions. With his ready smile, big laugh, and bear-like growl, he was well liked and widely respected. He received NH Audubon’s Tudor Richards Award in 1998 for his commitment to protecting the health of NH forests and wildlife.



John Lanier at NH Audubon’s 2017 Annual Meeting. Photo by Dyanna Smith.

Dennis J. Abbott III – The birding community will greatly miss Denny Abbott, one of our state’s most knowledgeable birders. He devoted most of his adult life to recording the occurrence of birds in NH and to furthering our knowledge and understanding of their identification and distribution. No one has seen more birds in our state than Denny, who recorded a total of 390 species in NH. Denny readily shared his knowledge with others and contributed his observations to New Hampshire’s published bird records. NH Audubon awarded Denny the 2004 Goodhue-Elkins Award in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of birds in the state. You can read more about his full accomplishments on the NH Audubon website under About/Annual Awards.

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Bangor Savings Bank is our 2019 Birds and Beans Concert Series sponsor.

With more than \$4 billion in assets, Bangor Savings Bank offers retail banking to consumers as well as comprehensive commercial, corporate, payroll administration, merchant services, and small business banking services to businesses. The Bank, founded in 1852, is in its 167th year with 59 branches in Maine and New Hampshire and on the web at www.bangor.com.

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NH Audubon Summer Afield 2019 • Calendar of Events

Events are free unless noted with \$. FT = Field Trip. R = Registration Required.



JUNE

Wee Wonders: Wildflowers

June 5, 10-11:30am • \$/R • Massabesic Center, Auburn

Junior Explorers: Water, Water, Everywhere

June 5, 10-11:30am • \$/R • Massabesic Center, Auburn

Nature Club

June 6, 3-5pm • \$/R • McLane Center, Concord

Art Show Opening

June 6, 5-7pm • McLane Center, Concord

Artists: Adele Sanborn, "A Taste of Nature"; Lois De Luca, illustrator, *The Butterflies of the White Mountains*

A Photo Journey Through the Fundy Isles

June 6, 7-8:30pm • Lakes Region Chapter Program, Moultonborough
Presenter: Kyle Wilmarth

Creek Farm with SPNHF

June 8, 7:30-11am • Seacoast Chapter FT, Portsmouth

Mascoma River Greenway Bird Walk

June 8, 8-10am • Mascoma Chapter FT, Lebanon
Leader: Jeff MacQueen

Birds and Dragons of the Bog

June 8, 8-10am • Ponemah Bog SFT Series, Amherst
Leader: Pam Hunt

Ashuelot Headwaters & Lempster Town Forests

June 9, 8-10am • Capital Chapter FT
Leaders: Jack Swatt & Dylan Jackson

Brockway Wee Explorers: Who Lives in the Pond?

June 11, 10-11am • \$/R • John Brockway Nature Preserve, Hopkinton

Brockway Junior Ecologists: Pond Exploration

June 12, 10-11:30am • \$/R • McLane Center, Concord

State of the Loon: The Natural History, Challenges, and Successes of Loons in NH

June 12, 7:30-9pm • Seacoast Chapter Program, Rye
Presenter: Harry Vogel

Pollinator Demonstration Garden Grand Opening Party

June 15, 10am-2pm • \$/R • McLane Center Pollinator Series, Concord

Locke Road Bird Walk

June 16, 7-10am • Capital Chapter FT, Concord • Leader: Jane Hills

Full Moon Walk: Strawberry Moon

June 17, 8-10pm • \$ • Massabesic Center, Auburn

Beecology: Citizen Scientists Helping Pollinators

June 20, 6-8pm • \$/R • McLane Center Pollinator Series, Concord
Presenter: Dr. Robert Gegear

Trudeau Road Bird Walk

June 22, 6am-12pm • Capital Chapter FT
Leader: Mark Suomala

Windsor Grasslands WMA Bird Walk

June 22, 6:30-9:30am • Mascoma Chapter FT, Norwich, VT
Leaders: George Clark & Blake Allison

Ongoing Events

McLane Center Art Show

June 6-Aug 15 • McLane Center, Concord

June 6: Opening Reception

Artists: Adele Sanborn, "A Taste of Nature"
Lois De Luca, illustrator, *The Butterflies of the White Mountains*

Wild NH Photo Contest

May 25-Sept 4 • Massabesic Center, Auburn
Enter your favorite shots!

The Bog and Its Plants

June 30, 9-11am • Ponemah Bog SFT Series, Amherst
Leader: Megan Cook

Native Plant Trust Walk at Ponemah Bog

June 30, 1-5pm • Ponemah Bog, Amherst
Leader: Roland "Boot" Boutwell

JULY

Co-evolution of Native Plants and Pollinators

July 11, 7-8:30pm • \$/R • McLane Center Pollinator Series, Concord
Presenter: Nancy Wilson

Dragonflies & Other Flying Things

July 13, 10am-12pm • Ponemah Bog SFT Series, Amherst
Leader: Tom Young

Nocturnal Wildlife Walk

July 17, 7:30-9pm • \$/R • Massabesic Center, Auburn
Leader: Angie Krysiak

The Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio in Concert

July 18, 7-9pm • \$/R • McLane Center • Birds and Beans Coffee House

Native Plant Trust Hobbs Fern Sanctuary Walk

July 21, 11am-2pm • \$/R • Lyman

Moths: Surprising Pollinators

July 25, 8-10pm • \$/R • McLane Pollinator Series, Concord
Presenter: Deb Lievens

Birding River Road: Hanover to Lyme

July 27, 6:30-9:30am • Mascoma Chapter FT, Hanover
Leader: George Clark

Ash Cottage Fair: Music, Water, and Wildlife

July 27, 7am-3pm • Ash Cottage, Hebron
Leader: George Clark

AUGUST

Native Plants for New England Gardens

Aug 3, 2-4pm • \$/R • McLane Center Pollinator Series, Concord
Presenter: Dan Jaffe

Gardens for Pollinators

Aug 14, 6:30-8:30pm • \$/R • McLane Pollinator Series, Concord
Presenter: Ron Christie

2019 Common Nighthawk Migration

Aug 20, 5:30-7:45pm • Capital Chapter Bird Count, Concord
Count runs daily from approximately Aug 20-Labor Day
Leader: Zeke Cornell

Canoe Birding on the Merrimack

Aug 23, 7:30am-12pm • Capital Chapter FT, Boscawen
Leader: Bob Quinn

Norwich Bird Walk: Early Fall Migrants

Aug 24, 7-9:30am • Mascoma Chapter FT, Hanover
Leader: George Clark

Weekly Email Newsletters

Do you receive our weekly email newsletter? It lists all of our upcoming events, including new additions to this printed calendar. Sign up on any page of our website.

If you received our emails in the past, but haven't seen one in a while, check your email filters and make sure that "emedial@nhaudubon.org" is an approved sender, or add us to your contact list.

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84 Silk Farm Rd,
Concord NH 03801

Open:
Mon-Fri 10am-5pm
Sat 10am-4pm

Massabesic Center

603-668-2045
26 Audubon Way
Auburn NH 03032

Open:
Weds-Fri 9am-5pm
Sat 9am-4pm

Newfound Center

603-744-3516
290 N Shore Rd
Hebron NH 03241

Weekly programs all summer long, open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Check website for full schedule and hours.

For the most up to date event details, visit
nhaudubon.org/calendar.

Tips on searching the Events Calendar from any page:

- ☛ Hover over the "Events and News" menu
- ☛ Select "Calendar"
- ☛ Click the white "Find Events" search bar to open
- ☛ Search by "Date" or enter the title in "Keyword"
- ☛ Click the dark gray "Find Events" button

See all the month's events without searching: click on the light gray "View As" button and select "Month" instead of "List".

SANCTUARIES

Explore NH Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries this summer!

This is a list of the sanctuaries with nature trails that are open to the public (to see a state map of sanctuary locations, see the back cover of the Strategic Vision that came in this issue):

Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge,
Jefferson/Whitefield (166 acres)
Scotland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary,
Landaff (102 acres)
Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, Conway
(63 acres)
**Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary/
Wyman CE/Ridgely CE,**
Sandwich (314 acres)
Hoyt Wildlife Sanctuary, Madison
(135 acres)
**Watts Wildlife Sanctuary/Woods
Mtn Preserve CE/Varrieur CE,
Effingham/Freedom (490 acres)
**Bear Mountain, Hebron (73 acres)
**Newfound Center/Paradise Point &
Hebron Marsh, Hebron (76 acres)
**Proctor Wildlife Sanctuary, Center
Harbor (45 acres)
Stoney Brook Wildlife Sanctuary,
Newbury (667 acres)
**Popple Island, Epsom (149 acres)
**Deering Wildlife Sanctuary/Young I
& II CE/Jarvis CE/R Jarvis CE/
Levesque & Kilbride CE, Deering**
*(964 acres)***********

CE=conservation easement

**Smith Pond Bog/Chase Wildlife
Sanctuary,**
Hopkinton (719 acres)
**McLane Center/Silk Farm Wildlife
Sanctuary/Turkey Pond CE,**
Concord (35 acres)

**Kwaks/Smith Sisters, Newmarket/
Durham (172 acres)**

Bellamy River Wildlife Sanctuary,
Dover (26 acres)

**Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary/
French CE/Pratt CE/
Caughey CE, Antrim/Hancock**
(2822 acres)

**Sucker Brook Cove Wildlife
Sanctuary, Nelson (21 acres)**

**Massabesic Center, Auburn (49
acres)**

**Abe Emerson Marsh, Candia (103
acres)**

**Brookside Wildlife Sanctuary, South
Hampton (31 acres)**

**Kensan Devan Wildlife Sanctuary,
Marlborough (598 acres)**

Betsy Fosket Wildlife Sanctuary,
Ringe (37 acres)

Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary,
Amherst (75 acres)

Isles of Shoals Birding Trip

*Three day adventure with Shoals
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September 2-4: register today!



Blue-headed Vireo, by David Forsyth

50 Years in Paradise

NH Audubon's 105th Annual Membership Gathering & Meeting
September 21, 2019

Camp Pasquaney on Newfound Lake in Hebron, NH

NH Audubon's oldest nature center, Paradise Point, is celebrating 50 years! Quintessential Camp Pasquaney on the eastern shore of Newfound Lake will be the backdrop for this special event. The day will include morning field trips and a keynote address. Watch for details in the fall Afield, weekly email newsletter, and on our website.

Save the
Date!