

# Conservation Notes



*Ringed Boghaunter by Pam Hunt.*

## Boghaunters Revisited: Updating Our Data on a Threatened Dragonfly

*by Pamela Hunt*

The Ringed Boghaunter is the only dragonfly on New Hampshire's threatened species list, and is found at only 15 sites in the southeastern portion of the state. The last time we had systematic data on the species was at the end of the NH Dragonfly Survey (NHDS) in 2011. Since that time a handful more sites have been discovered, and 2021 seemed a good time to check all sites to see if they were still occupied and, if so, how common boghaunters were. Fortunately, two entities with known locations, The Nature Conservancy and NH Army National Guard, were also interested in boghaunter surveys on their properties. Volunteers were recruited from NHDS standbys, and the hunt was on.

Boghaunters are actively almost entirely in May when few other dragonflies have emerged, and their timing can depend on how warm it's been earlier in the spring. The first one of 2021 was in Fremont on May 1, but despite efforts at another eight sites in the following days, no boghaunter evidence emerged until volunteers found exuviae (the shed larval skin of an emerging adult) in Litchfield on May 11. Records from four more sites followed in short order, but in the end we found boghaunters at only seven of the 13 known sites we surveyed. Did we miss them at the other sites or have those populations disappeared in the last decade? Obviously we'll need some more surveys to find out.

## Backyard Winter Bird Survey *Save the Date!*

**February 12-13, 2022**

This annual Survey began in 1987 and thanks to over 1,400 volunteers who participate each year, our biologists can see what's happening with New Hampshire's resident bird populations. It's easy to do – just count the birds in your backyard on the survey weekend and send the results on the form or on-line. Past participants receive last year's results with their 2022 forms in the mail in January. Check the web site for more information. To receive a packet in the mail, call NH Audubon.

*To receive a packet in the mail, email [bwbs@nhaudubon.org](mailto:bwbs@nhaudubon.org) or call NH Audubon at 603-224-9909.*



*Pine Grosbeaks were abundant last winter as they came south in search of food. They feed primarily on fruit trees, often in the backyards of Backyard Winter Bird Survey participants. Data from the Survey allows biologists to track the movements of northern species that "invade" New Hampshire periodically during the winter. Photo by Steve Mirick, December 31, Jefferson, NH.*