

SPRING 2016

# NH Audubon Afield

## Of Birds and Banks

By Pam Hunt, Senior Biologist – Avian Conservation

I've recently addressed the plight of aerial insectivores in various NH Audubon media, but a quick recap: populations of many of these species are declining significantly, although the causes are still poorly understood. Swifts and swallows seem particularly hard hit, and NH Audubon is trying to collect data on several species. One is the Bank Swallow, one of the most widespread swallows in the world, occurring throughout North America and Eurasia. In the Old World they're called the Sand Martin, and their scientific name – *Riparia riparia* – further underscores their close relationship with rivers and their associated sandbanks. It is in these banks that the swallows dig their nesting burrows, and sometimes form colonies consisting of hundreds of birds.

Bank Swallows are also one of the most rapidly declining species in New Hampshire. Based on Breeding Bird Survey data from 1966 to 2013, their population decreased by over 9% per year, placing them in the same league as better known species of concern such as the Eastern Meadowlark and Rusty Blackbird. To put this decline in a little perspective, consider the following analogy. In 1966, there were roughly 680,000 people in New Hampshire. If we were declining at the same rate as Bank Swallows over the last 50 years, there'd now be fewer than 7,000 of us! We could all fit inside Northeast



Delta Dental Stadium to watch the Fisher Cats.

A key threat to Bank Swallows is the alteration of river flows – often the result of dams or river channelization – which can lead to the collapse of the banks where swallows nest. This problem is exacerbated if shoreline vegetation has been removed right to the edge of the bank. At the other extreme, bank stabilization – such as with large rocks called rip-rap – can actually eliminate swallow nesting habitat directly. While Bank Swallows evolved to live in naturally dynamic habitats, and can move colony locations as suitable habitat is lost or gained, human activity has led to a net loss of potential sites. This restricts the swallows' options and may lead to population declines.

There is an important way in which almost anyone can help us better understand our state's Bank Swallows. If you find a colony while out birding or paddling, please report it to me at

Bank Swallow. Photo by Jason Lambert.

Continued on page 2

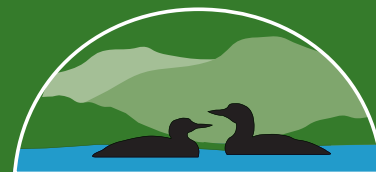


### NH Audubon's Annual Birdathon/Bloomathon May 21, 2016

The Annual Birdathon/  
Bloomathon is coming Saturday,  
May 21. See page 4 for  
more details.

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**NH Audubon Afield**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



### Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that I am sitting here writing the words "this is my last letter From the President's Desk". It is even harder to believe that I wrote my first one over seven years ago.

A lot of good things have happened at NH Audubon since 2009. From a business perspective, we have shed most of the staggering debt burden that drove the organization to its knees a decade ago—an accomplishment that was recognized in 2015 when Charity Navigator awarded NH Audubon its

highest rating (four stars!) for financial stability and governance!!

It has been gratifying to watch the growth in our environmental education programs over the last seven years—particularly those reaching into urban areas of the state. It has been gratifying to watch the growth of our raptor observatories at Carter Hill and Pack Monadnock. It has been gratifying to watch our Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon populations set new records every year. It has been gratifying to start to regain our place at the advocacy table—particularly with regard to the array of issues associated with energy and climate change.

It has been gratifying to be part of it all for the last seven years—and I shall miss the excitement and challenges that go with leading this wonderful organization.

But above all, I will miss the people that work for NH Audubon—the dedicated, passionate staff; the volunteers; the many supporters that I have come to count among my friends.

With luck, I will be able to carry with me many of the relationships I have formed over the last seven years into the next phase of my life. .

I wish NH Audubon and all of you well!!!!

—Michael J. Bartlett, President, New Hampshire Audubon

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NH Audubon. And if you come across a large number away from a colony from late May through July, take a little extra time to find where they're nesting. Only with more comprehensive data on their distribution will we be able to effectively target conservation efforts such as mitigation, protection, or specific measures to prohibit habitat alteration.



*Bank Swallow holes along the Saco River in Conway.  
Photo by Pam Hunt.*

## Gala Fund-the-Future

The generous donors who participated in the Fund-the-Future program during the 2014 Centennial Gala and auction raised over \$13,000 for environmental education programs serving NH's inner city school communities.

This spring those funds will enable sixty 5th graders, from Gossler Park Elementary School in Manchester, to participate in NH Audubon's Urban Bird Unit. This comprehensive, cross-curriculum unit features weekly science lessons at the school led by NH Audubon educators, field trips to the Massabesic and McLane centers, as well as a local bird walk to assess the habitat surrounding their school community. Lessons on binocular use, bird identification and song, data recording and analysis prepare the students for field experiences.

An Action Project at the end of the Unit gives students an opportunity to identify and implement projects such as habitat improvement designed to have a long-term impact for birds.

The Urban Bird Unit was created by NH Audubon educators supported by a grant from Jane's Trust. It was piloted in



the spring of 2015 at Bakersville School in Manchester and is now able to be used at other schools, such as Gossler Park.

When presented with this unique environmental education outreach, Gossler Park Principal Lori Upham wrote, "This looks like a wonderful program and our students are going to LOVE IT!! Thank you so much for this opportunity!"

The Unit has and will continue to generate excitement among students as they learn about birds in their communities. Thanks to the generous donors at the Gala Celebration, future environmental stewards are being trained through their new-found appreciation of birds.

## Grant Acknowledgements

### Cogswell Benevolent Trust

This grant supported our classroom environmental science presentations for second graders at Beech Street School, and two major field trips to our Massabesic Audubon Center from October 2015 - June 2016.

### The Adelard and Valeda Roy Foundation

The Roy Foundation awarded a general support grant which covers operating expenses for our conservation and education work.

### Couch Trust

This grant will support monitoring Common Nighthawk nests in Concord during the 2016 breeding season. There were two successful rooftop nests in Concord in 2015 so these sites will be monitored by remote cameras and volunteers will help determine reasons for nesting success or failure. A natural ground nesting site in Concord will be monitored for comparison.

## In Memoriam



*House Finch. Photo by Rosalind Hartley.*

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::

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# NH Audubon's Annual Birdathon/Bloomathon

Saturday, May 21, 2016

With the coming of spring New Hampshire's landscape will once again be graced by lovely wildflowers and colorful singing birds. It is a wonderful time to get out and enjoy these natural wonders, and at the same time do something to help protect them.

## Outdoor Exploration with an Added Purpose

NH Audubon's annual Birdathon/Bloomathon is an event designed to raise awareness and funds that are used for research, education, land protection and advocacy through our centers, chapters and programs. By getting outside, searching for birds and/or flowers, and soliciting pledges to support NH Audubon's work, participants are able to enjoy outdoor exploration, connect with others who appreciate the natural world and contribute to our conservation work.

Funds raised through this event will benefit NH Audubon as a whole and a Chapter, Center or Program chosen by each team. This event is a way for birders to contribute sightings of 'conservation species' to NH Audubon and to contribute records of birds from all parts of the state in a single day through NH eBird. This helps provide a look into the changes of our state's birdlife over time.

Information about plant blooms may contribute to phenology data as we explore ways that organisms respond to the changing climate. Everyone can join the fun. For registration information or additional details, contact Ruth Smith at [rsmith@nhaudubon.org](mailto:rsmith@nhaudubon.org) or 603-224-9909 ext. 313. Visit [nhaudubon.org](http://nhaudubon.org) for all the details.

## What IS Birdathon/Bloomathon and who can participate?

- Anyone can participate – from beginners to expert birders and botanists
- It's a day to get outside and observe birds and blooms for fun and funds
- It's a way to learn more about birds and wildflowers
- It's an opportunity to test your skills and win prizes
- You can travel the state, pick one location, or anything in between
- Spend the morning or search for 24 hours
- It's a fun way to support NH Audubon – proceeds go to NH Audubon programs, centers, and chapters



## Ways to participate:

- Join a local field trip with experienced leaders – discover local hot spots and meet other participants (see details in box), or
- Form a team (2-6 people) and plan your strategy (observations and donations), AND
- Pledge to support a team of your choice

All teams and trips must register with the Birdathon/Bloomathon Coordinator. 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 teams) are also welcome to participate but are not eligible for prizes. Prizes will be awarded based on:

- the highest number of bird species observed (The Big Day Challenge)
- the highest number of blooming plant species observed (The Flower Power Award)
- the highest number of combined species (The Conservation Award)
- the most money raised (The Big Green Award)
- the most bird or bloom species observed at one location (The Big Stay Challenge)
- the most bird or bloom species raised without using fossil fuel (Human Powered Challenge)
- the most bird or bloom species observed by a beginner or first time participant (The Beginner Award)

## 2016 BIRDATHON/BLOOMATHON FIELD TRIPS

Several Audubon Chapters and Centers will be hosting field trips to enable broader participation in this annual event. If you are a new birder/botanizer or would prefer to go with a group rather than form your own team, see the options below.

We encourage field trip participants to gather pledges and donations as well. See the Birdathon/Bloomathon page on our website for tips on fundraising and setting up a FirstGiving page, or contact us for information.

The species lists from field trips will not qualify as part of the competition, but individual fundraising efforts, even if you are part of a larger team, are eligible for prizes. All trips will take place on Saturday, May 21 unless otherwise noted.

### CAPITAL CHAPTER

#### Warblers and More at Clough State Park with Rob Woodward

Search for blue-winged warblers and many other migrant and nesting songbirds through the habitats at Clough State Park. Rob is a long-time field trip leader with the Capital Chapter. Meet at 7:00 AM at the end of Sugar Hill Road off Rte. 77, Clough State Park, Weare. For more information, contact Rob at 224-0889 (evenings). Funds raised will support the Capital Chapter.

#### Mast Yard State Forest From Dark to Day with Pam Hunt

Starting at 4:00 a.m. OR 6:30 a.m., each segment about 2.5 hours. Mast Yard State Forest in West Concord is a great place for night birds, so the first part of this trip will meet BEFORE sunrise and spend some time listening for owls and whip-poor-wills, which will grade into the dawn chorus starting by 4:30. For people unwilling to get up quite that early, there



*Baltimore Oriole in an apple tree.  
Photo by Jen Esten.*

will be a second start that will explore the same areas fully in daylight. Mast Yard contains a diverse mix of habitats including forest, shrubland, and wetland, and we should find a good number of species of birds as a result. Pre-registration is required for this trip. Contact Pam Hunt at biodiva@myfairpoint.net or 753-9137.

### LAKES REGION CHAPTER

#### Annual Tamworth Birdathon/Bloomathon trip

For more information, contact the Loon Center at 476-5666. Funds raised will support the Loon Center.

### MASSABESIC CENTER

#### Birds and Blooms of Massabesic

Enjoy a morning walk from 8:00-9:30 a.m. with Pete McVay, NH Audubon and NH Covert volunteer, to identify various bird species in the area. From 10-11:30, join Program Naturalist, Angie Krysiak to search for blooming wildflowers. Funds raised will support the Massabesic Center. Fee per program: \$7M/\$9NM; \$10M/\$15 for both programs.

### MONADNOCK REGION

#### Goodhue Hill at Willard Pond Sanctuary with Francie Von Mertens and Meade Cadot

A habitat improvement clear cut was made near the summit of Goodhue Hill 5 years ago and the area is now growing into

prime habitat for shrub nesting songbirds, a number of which are in decline. In order to reach this area during "spring singing hours", we will be departing the Willard Pond parking lot for the climb to the summit at 7 am sharp. We expect to be back by 11:30. Co-sponsored with the Harris Center. Contact Francie Von Mertens at vonmertens@myfairpoint.net

#### Explore Surry with Dave Hoitt and Wendy Ward on SUNDAY, May 22 (note this event takes place on a different day).

Tally both birds and blooms found in the open fields and wetland habitats along this easy walk in Surry. Meet at the Surry Town Hall parking lot at 7:00 a.m. The trip should end by noon. Bring field guides, binoculars, drink, snacks, and be prepared for bugs. For more information email Wendy at weward0@yahoo.com or call Dave at 603-352-0987. Funds raised will support the Raptor Observatories.

### NASHAWAY REGION

#### Ponemah Bog Plants and their Adaptations with Jack Gleason

Join Sanctuary Steward, Jack Gleason, from 9-11 at the Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary in Amherst. This is a fine time to observe some of the bog's earliest blooms such as rhodora, azaleas and bog cotton, and a list of blooming plants will be kept as part of the annual Birdathon/Bloomathon. Funds raised will support Wildlife Sanctuaries. For more information, contact Jack Gleason at 673-3177 or westonpond10@gmail.com

### PEMIGEWASSET CHAPTER AND NEWFOUND CENTER

#### Hebron Habitats with Mavis Britelli.

The small town of Hebron encompasses a wide array of forests, fields, wetlands and lake shore which provide habitat to a wide range of birds and blooms. Contact Mavis at mavid@netscape.com for details on this trip. Funds raised will support the Newfound Center.

# New Hampshire Bat Survey Project

By Laura Deming

This past summer, a team of 25 intrepid Bat Volunteers drove back roads across the state to conduct surveys of foraging bats. In all, they surveyed 24 routes, with eight being surveyed two to four times for a total of 43 surveys.

Using sensitive equipment to record high-frequency sounds and an accompanying GPS logger, each volunteer drives slowly along a 20 to 30-mile long route during the first few hours after sunset, when bats emerge from their roosts to feed on night-flying insects. Data are analyzed to create maps showing each site where a bat was recorded. Some species have distinctive calls, whereas others sound too similar to tell apart are listed as species groups. "Unknown" calls are those that were not clear enough to identify a particular species or species group. The map shown here, a composite of two survey nights, shows where species (or species groups) were recorded.

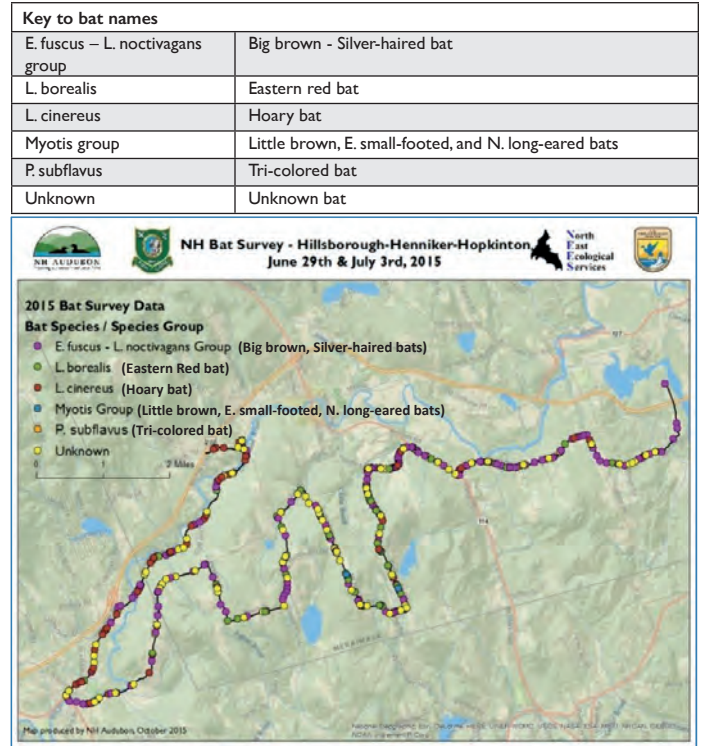
Results indicate that the most frequently recorded species are the Hoary, Red, and Silver-haired (or Big brown) bats. These migratory "tree" species roost in trees, often well away from barns and other large buildings. In contrast, Big brown bats roost in structures, often foraging in areas close to

buildings. Not surprisingly, very few *Myotis* (cave-hibernating) species were encountered, reflecting the devastating mortality caused by white-nose syndrome (WNS).

Another group of volunteers spent their evenings conducting counts of bats emerging at dusk from barns and other buildings. All of these bats were female

Big and Little brown bats, which roost in large maternity colonies in warm, dark places where they give birth and raise their young. Counting bats zipping in and out of dark structures in low light is tricky work, but volunteers were able to gather data at 25 colonies over the summer. Because many colonies have declined dramatically or been wiped out completely, it is critically important to identify and protect those that remain

These surveys generate data that is essential for bat researchers and managers in their efforts to protect bat species. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, or have a bat colony you would like to report, please contact Laura Deming ([ldeming@nhaudubon.org](mailto:ldeming@nhaudubon.org)).



## Save the Date

NH Audubon's 2016 Annual Meeting  
and Membership Gathering

September 17, 2016

at the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn

**Meet NH Audubon's new president** and hear her/his vision for the organization's future

**Morning field trips** – visit Ponemah Bog, paddle on Lake Massabesic, explore the Battery Point trails and more

**Award presentations** – honor conservation leaders

**Speakers** – learn about NH Audubon's accomplishments and hear from an inspirational keynote

More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters and announcements, but mark your calendar so you can join us.





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

## End Products: What guano reveals about bat behavior and NH insect populations

March 10, 7-8pm

**Presenter:** Devon O'Rourke,  
PhD Student at UNH

**Cost:** \$5M/\$7NM

North American bats are voracious insectivores, often eating up to half of their body weight in one night. While earlier methods to describe bat feeding preferences relied on dissecting guano for insect parts under a microscope, DNA sequencing provides a far more sensitive and robust description of bat feeding habits. Data from DNA studies can be used to monitor invasive pests as well as characterize how the insect community is changing as a result of the bat population declines suffered this past decade. Come learn how you can be part of this collection process and be directly involved in this cutting edge research!

## Raptor Migration in NH – What the numbers tell us

March 24, 7-8pm

**Presenter:** Phil Brown, Director of Land Management at NH Audubon

**Cost:** \$5M/\$7NM

The spectacle of large numbers of migrating hawks, eagles, falcons and other 'raptors' has always captivated people, and historical accounts of this phenomenon in NH date back to the 1700's. Conservation of raptors is now a major theme across the globe, and species' population changes can provide evidence for conservation needs – or successes. NH Audubon maintains two active monitoring sites: Carter Hill Orchard in Concord and Pack Monadnock in Peterborough, both of which have become premier New England hawk watches. Phil Brown, Raptor Observatory Coordinator for

NH Audubon, will review the history of hawk watching in NH, detail the ongoing monitoring efforts in NH and beyond, and provide some analysis of migration trend data. The program will be filled with raptor photography that will motivate you to welcome back migrating spring raptors.

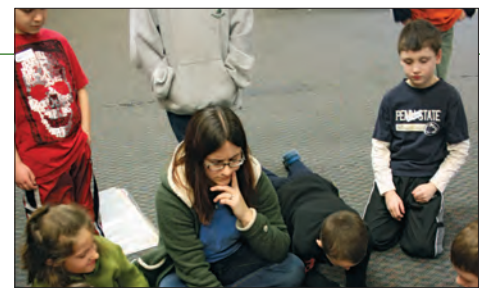
## Phenology – What's That?

April 21, 7-8pm

**Presenter:** Diane De Luca,  
Senior Biologist at NH Audubon

**Cost:** \$5M/\$7NM

What do budding wildflowers, metamorphosing frogs, and migrating hawks have in common? They are all undergoing life cycle phases that can be affected by climate change. Have you ever made notes about the first Spring Peeper you heard calling, the first Mourning Cloak Butterfly you see in the spring, or the date the Pink Lady Slippers bloom? Then you've actually been monitoring phenology! NH Audubon biologists have joined a nationwide cooperative effort to monitor these life cycle events to better understand the impacts of climate change. In 2015, NHA collaborated with Williams College researchers to use time-lapse photography to record pollinator visitation to selected plants. Join us to learn more, and find out how you can study phenology in your own backyard!



## Spring on the Wing March 19, 10am-3pm

**Cost:** Individuals - \$5/M, \$7/NM;  
Families - \$12/M, \$18/NM

Join us for this family-friendly event and welcome back the birds with a celebration of spring including crafts, stories, skits, music, games, outdoor explorations and visits with live animals. A full schedule of activities will be available on our website in March.

## Spring Birding with Bob Quinn

April 23, 30 and May 7, 14

**Cost:** \$35/M per session, \$43/NM per session (must book a minimum of two sessions). Pre-registration is required.

Brush up on your spring birds during field sessions with Bob Quinn. These sessions are designed for intermediate birders, those who have taken classes with Bob, or anyone who wants to brush up on their birding skills. This is a great way to prepare for the annual Birdathon/Bloomathon on May 21.



*19,000 raptors seen on Pack Monadnock in Peterborough, during the 2015 season.  
Photo by Francie Von Mertens.*

### The Restoration of the American Chestnut

May 10, 7-8pm

**Presenter:** Curt Laffin, biologist with the American Chestnut Foundation

**Cost:** \$5M/\$7NM

The American Chestnut tree once dominated eastern forests from Maine to Florida, representing about a quarter of the hardwood trees within its range. A fungus imported from Asia spread to the native trees. By the 1950's this blight had reduced the American Chestnut to only short-lived stump sprouts. Learn about the history of this tree and the efforts to restore it. **Presenter:** Biologist Curt Laffin with the American Chestnut Foundation

### Beginning Bird Identification with Bob Quinn

May 2, 4, 23 and 25, 6-9pm

**Cost:** \$35/M per class, \$43/NM per class or \$115/M, \$175/NM for all four sessions. Register early, class is limited to 10 participants. Pre-registration is required.

This introductory class is ideal for people newly interested in birds who want to learn how to identify our local birds. During 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.



*Bob Quinn.*

### 3rd Annual North Country Nature Tour: Boreal Birds & Wildlife of Northern New Hampshire June 11-15, 2016

**Leaders:** Phil Brown and Bob Quinn • **Cost:** \$1199 for NH Audubon members (\$1299 for non-members). Price includes lodging, transportation, two guides, special presentations, pontoon boat tour, tram fee, and most meals

This five-day tour will include a Lake Umbagog boat tour, a tram ride to a high-elevation spruce forest, nocturnal birding in the Ossipee pine barrens, and a special focus on the birds & wildlife of NH Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries such as Pondicherry, Thompson, and Dahl. We will visit choice locations during peak breeding season in search of uncommon marsh and other nocturnal species, boreal and grassland birds. We've added an extra day so we can do all this leisurely while also learning about some of NH Audubon's conservation initiatives and recent habitat management efforts on premier wildlife sanctuaries.

NH Audubon's Director of Land Management, Phil Brown, will provide participants an in-depth look at select northern NHA wildlife sanctuaries, where we will see examples of stewardship and conservation projects in action as we search for target species. Longtime NHA volunteer and former staff, Bob Quinn, (now owner and proprietor of Merlin Wildlife Tours) will lead the group in search of boreal bird species and will provide a historical look into NH Audubon's role of conserving many landscapes in the North Country.



*Male Spruce Grouse displaying. Photo by Bob Quinn.*

**Group size is limited for maximum enjoyment and wildlife viewing opportunity, so call or email Phil Brown at [pbrown@nhaudubon.org](mailto:pbrown@nhaudubon.org) or (603) 224-9909x334 to reserve your space with a deposit.**



## ARTIST EXHIBITS: MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER & THE MCLANE CENTER

**Howard S. Muscott**

### **Chasing the Golden Light Photo Exhibit**

McLane Center, March 1 – April 30.

**Merrimack River Painters**

### **Flights of Fancy Art Exhibit**

McLane Center, May 1 – June 30.

Artist Reception, May 12, 5-7pm

**Manchester Artist Association**

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

Massabesic Audubon Center, February 28 – April 24

Artist Reception, March 12, 12-3pm

### **Discovering America's Natural History Photo Exhibit – The Story of Lewis & Clark's Expedition**

Massabesic Audubon Center, May 3 – June 19



*Top: Reflections, Pemaquid Point Lighthouse, Maine. Photo by Howard S. Muscott. Bottom: "Flight of Fancy", 20x24 watercolor on panel by Kathy Tangney.*

## WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD DISCOVER?



### **April Vacation Camp**

April 25– April 29 for ages 6-10



### **Summer Nature Camp**

8 Sessions from June 27–Aug 19 for ages 4-15

**Nature day camps in Concord & Auburn**

**Learn more at [nhaudubon.org](http://nhaudubon.org)**



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

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## Wee Wonders Preschool Science Program (ages 4-6) & Junior Explorers Homeschool Science Program (ages 7-12)

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

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

Register online at [nhaudubon.org](http://nhaudubon.org). Class size is limited so register early.

Wee Wonders are led by Kim Murphy; Junior Explorers are led by Kelly Dwyer.

### Rocks

March 2, 10-11:30am

### Water

March 16, 10-11:30am

### Plants

March 30, 10-11:30am

### Earth Day

April 13, 10-11:30am

### Vertebrates

May 4, 10-11:30am

### Invertebrates

May 11, 10-11:30am

### Natures' Recyclers

June 1, 10-11:30am



Photo by Chris Kenney.

## Birding with Sacagawea

March 11, 7-8:30pm

Cost: \$5/person, Free for Massabesic Volunteers

Dr. Pamela Hunt, senior biologist at NH Audubon, has traveled the Lewis and Clark Trail twice, and will talk about how the landscape and wildlife along the route has changed over the last 200 years.

## Bluebird Natural History and Trail Monitoring

March 12, 10am-2pm

Get involved in a citizen science project to research the status of declining NH species.

## Salamander Crossing Brigades Program

March 19, 10-12pm

Join Brett Amy Thelen from the Harris Center for Conservation Education to learn how you can help save amphibians in our area.

## Natural Allergy Relief with Maria Noel Groves

April 22, 7-8:30pm

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

We'll discuss remedies such as nettles, horehound, goldenrod, quercetin, and the neti pot nasal wash, as well as potentially problematic food sensitivities and a weak immune system.

## Staying Found Workshop

April 30, 2-4pm

Free program. To register, please contact Millie Mugica at [millie.mugica@gmail.com](mailto:millie.mugica@gmail.com) or (603) 891-5726 (before 9:30 pm).

Join AMC Boston Family Outings and NE K-9 Search and Rescue for a great program on avoiding being lost in the woods & what to do if lost.

## Avian Adventures in Spring with Kelly Dwyer

Co-sponsored by AARP.

### Classroom Exploration

April 28, 7-8:30pm

Cost: \$7 M/\$9 NM

Learn about the behaviors of our brilliantly-colored migrants through the exploration of their songs, nesting strategies and unique territorial activities.

### Field Exploration

April 30, 8:30-10:30am

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

Come celebrate the arrival of spring birds as we explore the various habitats of the Massabesic Audubon Center searching for bird activity and listening for melodious song.

## Singing with Care

May 6, 2-3pm

Cost: \$5 suggested donation. Please call to reserve a seat.

In honor of family caregivers and Mother's Day, we invite you to the Massabesic Center with your mother, grandmother or other special person to hear and sing-a-long. Garden tours available. Afternoon tea and snacks following, compliments of AARP.

## The Study of Wood as an Archaeological Tool in Understanding the Past with Dr. Barrett Rock

May 13, 7-8:30pm

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

This presentation will explore the use of wood as an archaeological tool in researching the past. Examples include lumber samples discovered in historic structures as well as in early cemeteries of NH.

## Invaders Beware: Invasive Species Removal

May 14, 10am-12pm

Learn about a few invasive plants in the area that may be attacking your yard and help remove some of the invasive plants in our sanctuary.



## Intro to Pelagic Wildlife

May 28, 3-4pm

Cost: \$5, free if booked on the 5/30 Pelagic Trip

Come enjoy a brief slideshow about some of the wildlife you might see just off NH's coast. We'll teach you how to identify some of our common pelagic birds as well as a few of our commonly sighted whale species.

## Pelagic Wildlife Trip

May 30, 7:30am-5pm • Cost: \$70M, \$90NM

Join NH Audubon aboard the MV Granite State as we explore Jeffrey's Ledge, 20 miles off the New Hampshire coast. Spend all day at sea, searching the Ledge for pelagic seabirds, whales, dolphins, and anything else that happens to cross our course. Participants need to meet at Rye Harbor at 7:30 for check in and 8am departure.

## Call for Award Nominations

Do you know someone who has done outstanding work for conservation, the study of birds, or who has been a tireless volunteer for New Hampshire Audubon? Help us recognize them! The Board of Trustees requests nominations for the Tudor Richards Award and the Goodhue-Elkins Award, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Details on the awards, past recipients, and nomination forms are available on the NH Audubon web site (under About), <http://www.nhaidubon.org/about/annual-awards>. Submission deadline is April 1, 2016 – no fooling! If you have questions contact Becky Suomala, [rsuomala@nhaidubon.org](mailto:rsuomala@nhaidubon.org) x309.

## Coastal Birding

May 18, 9am-2:30pm

Cost: \$6/M, \$9/NM

Enjoy birding the coast with Audubon trustee JoAnn O'Shaughnessy.

## Container Gardening: Food for You & Nature in Small Spaces

May 25, 7-8:15pm

Cost: \$7M, \$9NM

Join UNH Co-op Ext. Master Gardeners, and some of the best gardeners at the Massabesic Audubon Center, to learn tips and "how-to's" for working in small spaces to maximize your production be it veggies, herbs, or flowers. This is a joint program with AARP and AARP membership can be applied towards the NH Audubon membership discount.



## We would like to thank

**Grappone Automotive Group** for helping to support the spring adult programs at Massabesic Audubon Center this year. For more information about corporate sponsorships of programs and events, contact Sean Gillery at [sgillery@nhaidubon.org](mailto:sgillery@nhaidubon.org) or 603-224-9909 ext. 307

Grappone Automotive Group (est. 1924) has been serving NH for almost as long as NH Audubon has, and we're proud to partner with them in their efforts to keep NH wild and beautiful. Yes, we sell and service cars and trucks, but there is another kind of service that defines who we are. Service to our team members, guests, and community is the backbone of Grappone's mission. How we choose to do business, support our team, and contribute back to the community makes us who we are, and we welcome the opportunity to support NH Audubon! Visit us at [www.grappone.com](http://www.grappone.com) or stop by any of our dealerships in Bow, NH.

## Earth Day Festival – Tread Lightly

April 16, 10am-3pm

Drop In Fee: Individuals \$7M, \$10NM; Families \$20M/\$30NM

Join Audubon and the Student Conservation Association as we celebrate the Earth in our 9th annual Festival! We'll have bird banding demonstrations, 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. See Massabesic's own live turtles and frogs up close. In addition, we will celebrate our retiring President's accomplishments and love of the natural environment.

**ReVision Energy is a proud corporate sponsor of New Hampshire Audubon.**



The company purposely seeks out partner organizations that share a passion for creating a sustainable future for coming generations.

ReVision is northern New England's local solar professional, with more than 5,000 installations since 2003. ReVision designs, installs and services solar electric and solar hot water systems for commercial and residential clients, as well as non-profits, schools and municipalities.

The company is proud to have earned certified B Corporation status. In 2015, ReVision became one of only 6 New Hampshire companies to earn the designation and only one of 1,598 companies worldwide. B Corporations or benefit corporations are for-profit companies that meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.

ReVision was recently named a top ten installer by SolarReviews, a nationwide consumer rating service. ReVision has four locations throughout New Hampshire and Maine. For more information, visit [revisionenergy.com](http://revisionenergy.com).

**Registration required for all programs. Call (603) 668-2045.**





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.  
4 FLETCHER ST • MANCHESTER, NH • (603) 626-3474



*Photo by Fishways Staff.*

## 2016 Fish Festival Featuring Dash & Splash April 28, 10am-2pm

**Cost:** \$3/person, \$6/family (fee does not cover extended family). No registration required.

We will meet in the upper parking lot at 10 am to create fish hats, noise makers and banners. Thus bedecked, we will parade down to the center accompanied by live music, local dignitaries, and Fishways partners. Fish enthusiast and retiring President of NH Audubon, Mike Bartlett, will be our grand marshal and deliver the first fish to stock our ladder. Fish games, surprises and activities will continue throughout the day. Don't miss this classic Fishways fun event!

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

## Predators of the Sky: Live Birds of Prey

April 2, 11am–12:30pm & 1-2:30pm  
Eversource Five Rivers Auditorium, 780 North Commercial St., Manchester, NH  
**Cost:** \$10/person, \$25/family (fee does not cover extended family). Advance registration with payment required.

Tom Ricardi teaches with a diverse group of raptors. 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.

## Fish Season 2016

May 2 – June 18, 9am-5pm  
The 2016 Fish Season will run from May 2 – June 18. During this time, visitors may view migrating fish through our underwater windows. Our center will be open seven days a week from 9 am – 5 pm. Walk-in visitors are always welcome and guided fish season tours are offered to groups of 10 - 30 participants.



*Photo by Fishways Staff.*

## Learn to Fly Fish

March 23, 30, April 6 & 13,  
6-8pm

**Cost:** \$5/person. Advance registration with payment required.

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. Ages 9 & up.

## Chimney Swift Watch

May 12, 6-8pm

**Cost:** \$3/person, \$6/family (fee does not cover extended family). Advance registration with payment required.

We will cover the Chimney Swift's story and natural history at the Fishways before we go out together to explore a confirmed roost site. Binoculars encouraged.

## Falcon Watch

May 14, 10am-12pm

**Cost:** \$3/person, \$6/family (fee does not cover extended family). Advance registration with payment required.

Meet at the Fishways for an introductory presentation, then walk to the Brady Sullivan building to view these urban raptors.

## Homeschool Discovery Programs

Second Thursday of every month through June, 10am–12pm, ages 9–14

**Cost:** \$10/child per class

## Exploring River Life throughout a Year

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

## World Fish Migration Day

May 21, 11am-3pm

World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) is a one day global-local event to create worldwide awareness of the importance of open rivers and migratory fish. We will host fish migration games and art projects for the kids as well as natural history and fish life cycle presentations for all ages. Learn about sturgeon and other migrating fish in the Merrimack River and view fish in our underwater windows.

## Sea Lamprey Appreciation Day

May 28, 11am-3pm

**Cost:** \$3/person, \$6/family (fee does not cover extended family)

Hold a live three-foot-long fish and get sucked into the fun of celebrating a much under-appreciated animal as we learn all about the unique physical nature and life cycle of the incredible sea lamprey.



*Photo by Fishways Staff.*

## Fishways Fundays

**Cost:** \$8/family per event. For ages 4-5.

Advance registration with payment required.

### Beaks, Feathers and Feet

March 10 & 12, 12:30-2pm

Explore the world of birds by observing beaks, feet and feathers. Learn how these features can give us clues about where a bird lives, how it behaves, and what it likes to eat.

### Animal Babies Along the Merrimack

March 24 & 26, 12:30-2pm

Some are fluffy, some are slimy, but all animal babies are adorable in their own way! Discover who raises young every spring along the banks of the Merrimack River.

### Incredible Eggs

April 7 & 9, 12:30-2pm

From birds and fish to frogs and insects, so many different creatures hatch from eggs...incredible! Find out what goes on inside an egg and learn about some of the amazing animals that lay them.

### Earth Days

April 21 & 23, 12:30-2pm

Spring is here, and the earth seems to be celebrating with chirping birds and flowering plants! Join the fun and help us honor this special time of year by planting seeds, making artwork, and enjoying the beautiful outdoors.

### Spring Serenade

May 5 & 7, 12:30-2pm

Who is making all that noise in your backyard? And what is all that noise about anyway? Discover which animals are calling in spring and why. We'll try our luck at mimicking some of their songs and make an animal call to take home!

### Fin-Tastic Voyage

May 19, 12:30-2pm

Discover what makes fish special and which fish make the long journey from the ocean to the Merrimack River each spring. We'll even look for them underwater in our fish ladder.



*Photo by Fishways Staff.*

## Family Fun Nights

**Cost:** \$8/family per event. Advance registration with payment required.

### Raccoons, Opossums and Skunks, Oh My!

March 4, 6:30-8pm

Learn about some of NH's most opportunistic urban mammals and their special adaptations.

### Prickly Porcupines

March 18, 6:30-8pm

Fun activities and games will help us better understand these shy, gentle tree climbers.

### Build a Bird House

April 1, 6:30-8pm

Learn how to build a birdhouse by helping us create a new nest box for birds that raise their young here at the Fishways.

### Herp Hunt

April 15, 6:30-8pm

Get ready to look and listen for amphibians as we venture into the woods in search of these important spring habitats.

### Fabulous Fish

May 6, 6:30-8pm

Find out what makes a fish unique, and which ones live in our local river. We will make our own fishy artwork to understand how fish survive in a river habitat.

### Family Fishtravaganza

May 20, 6:30-8pm

Find out who goes the farthest and more as we lead you on a tour, play fish games, and look for migrating fish in our ladder.



## AMMONOOSUC CHAPTER

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

### America's First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment

March 16, 7-8:30pm

Join us for the New Hampshire premiere showing of the 60-minute film about the birthplace of forestry in the United States. The setting is the Vanderbilt Estate in Asheville, North Carolina in 1892 and the 100,000-acre Vanderbilt Forest.

### The Reptiles and Amphibians of NH with Mike Marchand

April 20, 7-8:30pm

This program is designed to acquaint citizens with the natural history of frogs, salamanders, turtles and snakes that live in the North Country.

Additional chapter field trips are listed on page 5 in association with Birdathon/Bloomathon.

## CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

### Concord Area Waterfowl Field Trip

March 26, 2-5pm

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

### Canoeing/Birding on the Merrimack River with Bob Quinn

April 21, 1-6pm

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. Pre-registration is required for this trip. Contact Bob at [RAQbirds@aol.com](mailto:RAQbirds@aol.com) or (603) 746-2535.

### Woodcock Walk with Rob Woodward

April 21, 7:30-8:30pm

Meet Rob Woodward for his annual evening walk at the McLane Center. Contact Rob Woodward at (603) 224-0889 (evenings).

### Horseshoe Pond Field Trip

May 7, 7-11am

This year, let's spend the whole morning searching for spring warblers and other migrants at Concord's most popular birding spot. Contact Rob Woodward at (603) 224-0889 (evenings).

## LAKES REGION CHAPTER

Programs are held at the Loon Center, 183 Lees Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH [loon.org](http://loon.org), 603-476-5666.

### The Nature of America Through Conservation Stamps

March 17, 7-8:30pm

Join naturalist David Govatski for a slide program that traces the art, history and science behind conservation stamps. Conservation leaders and artists such as "Ding" Darling, Roger Tory Peterson, Bob Hines and others will be discussed.

### Turtles of NH – One Turtle Matters

April 21, 7-8:30pm

Chris Bogard will discuss the turtle species found here in NH and their life and reproductive strategy.

## MASCOMA CHAPTER

Meetings are held at the Howe Library – Mayer Room, 13 South Street, Hanover, NH. Contact Blake Allison at [mascomabirds@yahoo.com](mailto:mascomabirds@yahoo.com) or visit [mascomabirds.org](http://mascomabirds.org).

### Spring Migratory Waterfowl Field Trip with George Clark

March 19, 8-11am

Ledyard Bridge, Norwich, VT  
This outing will head north from the Ledyard Bridge on the VT side of the Connecticut River searching the river and its adjacent fields and woods for waterfowl and early arriving spring migrants.

### Plotting Wildlife Populations and Their Movements in Lebanon and Hanover with Dr. Rick Van de Poll

April 11, 7-8:30pm

Dr. Rick Van de Poll will present an illustrated talk on the condition of Lebanon's salient wildlife populations as well as Hanover's Mink Brook Nature Preserve.

### Spring Migrant Birdwalk with George Clark

April 16, 6:30-9am

Dartmouth Printing, Hanover, NH  
We'll start in Hanover at Wilson's Landing and travel north along River Road to Lyme's Grant Brook looking for waterfowl and other early migrants.

### Warbler Wednesdays Field Trips with Gail "Pip" Richens

May 4, 11, 18, 25, 7-10am

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

## SANCTUARY FIELD TRIPS

### Spring Warbler Walk at Follett's Brook

Follett's Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Newmarket, NH • May 20, 8-10:30am

Join NH Audubon's Director of Land Management, Phil Brown, for a search of spring migrant warblers and more at the Kwaks and Smith Sisters Wildlife Sanctuaries in Newmarket. RSVP to Phil at [pbrown@nhaudubon.org](mailto:pbrown@nhaudubon.org) or (603) 224-9909 x334.

### 8th Annual Tudor Richards Memorial/International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at Pondicherry Refuge

Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson, NH • May 14, 6am-5pm

This annual free field trip commemorates the return of migrating birds and the memory of Tudor Richards, NH Audubon's first President and the "father of Pondicherry". See NH Audubon website for full details.



*Tudor Richards at Pondicherry Refuge, 2006. Photo by David Govatski.*



## Feathered Fridays Field Trips with Blake Allison

May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 7-10am

Thetford Center, VT

We'll survey the woods and fields in VT's Union Village Dam Park, with special focus on the park's "Mystery Trail" area.

## Bedell Bridge Birdwalk with Blake Allison

May 28, 6:30-9am

Bedell Covered Bridge, Haverhill, NH

This visit to the former site of the Bedell Covered Bridge offers an opportunity to see a wide variety of birds due to the park's interesting combination of riparian, mixed woodlands and agricultural land habitats.

## MONADNOCK CHAPTER

### 33rd Annual "Waterfowl Safari" Along the Connecticut River

April 2, 8am-1pm

Annual field trip to see northward bound ducks and other species. Co-sponsored with the Harris Center. For more information or to sign up, contact Phil at [pbrown@nhaudubon.org](mailto:pbrown@nhaudubon.org) or Eric at [masterson@harriscenter.org](mailto:masterson@harriscenter.org).

### Signs of Spring – Woodcock Mating Flights

April 16, 7-9pm

91 Charcoal Road, Dublin, NH

Join NH Audubon Trustee, Tom Warren, to observe the mating flights of the American Woodcock. Call (603) 563-7194 for directions.

## NASHAWAY CHAPTER

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

### Birding in Southern AZ with Mark Suomala

March 16, 7-9pm

Mark Suomala has guided numerous trips to Arizona and will present a captivating overview of the avifauna, with tips on where and when to visit.



American Woodcock. Photo by Len Medlock.

## Common Nighthawks in NH with Becky Suomala

April 20, 7-9pm

Join NH Audubon's Becky Suomala for a free program about the state-endangered Common Nighthawk.



Common Nighthawk. Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

## SEACOAST CHAPTER

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

### Update on the Purple Martin Colony in Seabrook

March 9, 7:30-9pm

Seacoast Audubon member Dennis Skillman will present an overview of the establishment of a colony of the NH endangered Purple Martin in Seabrook.

### Bob Hull Memorial Bird Walk

March 26, 8am-12pm

Mill Road Plaza, Durham, NH

Help trip leader Len Medlock clean out bluebird boxes, look for early migrants and lingering winter birds, and get yourself in the mood for spring.

### Great Bay Field Trip

April 2, 8am-12pm

McDonald's, 49 Gosling Road, Newington, NH  
Bird the varied habitats of the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge and other Great Bay birding hotspots. Contact Ben Griffith at (603) 801-1856 or [bgriffith@gmail.com](mailto:bgriffith@gmail.com).

### Woodcock Walk

April 2, 6:30-9pm

Powdermill Pond, Exeter, NH

Join Len Medlock as he searches for this harbinger of spring at Powdermill Pond in Exeter. As the sun sets, enjoy the sounds and hopefully sights of courting American Woodcocks at an important area for this declining species. Contact Len Medlock at [lmedlock@comcast.net](mailto:lmedlock@comcast.net) or (603) 770-8224.

## The Acadia Birding Festival (ABF) – Changes Through the Years and What is Offered Now

April 13, 7:30-9pm

Come hear ABF Executive Director, Becky Marvel describe the making of a successful festival, how ABF has changed through the years, and what to expect if you attend in June, 2016 or any future year.

## Owl Prowl Field Trip

April 23, 4-8am

Mill Road Plaza, Durham, NH

Join our always popular search for owls and sunrise birds. Contact: Steve Mirick at [smirick@comcast.net](mailto:smirick@comcast.net) or (978) 374-0654.



Barred Owl. NH Audubon archives.

## Bird Banding

May 11, 7:30-9pm

Join Jay Barry and Lauren Kras as they introduce you to the methods of banding and a look at current research programs being conducted in NH.

## Beginner Bird Walks

NH Audubon Seacoast Chapter will host seven 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 welcome with an adult. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, water, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Walks are free and open to the public. Please visit [nhaudubon.org](http://nhaudubon.org) for complete details

### Pickering Ponds

May 8, 7am-12pm

May 11, 7-9am

### Creek Farm

May 14, 7am-12pm

### Strafford County Farm

May 15, 7am-12pm

### Follett's Brook NH Audubon Sanctuary

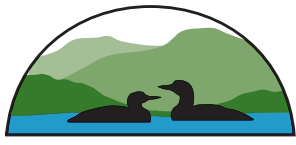
May 20, 8-10:30am

### Urban Forestry Center

May 22, 8am-12pm

### Webster Natural Area

May 29, 8am-12pm



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## You're Invited to Say Farewell!

April 16 at Massabesic Center, Auburn  
April 28 at Amoskeag Fishways, Manchester  
Mike's Farewell - May 26 at McLane, Concord



Mike Bartlett, President  
Photo by Terri Donsker

Join us at one or all of the events listed above to wish Mike Bartlett, President of NH Audubon, farewell and an adventure-filled retirement.

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATES**