

WINTER 2014-15

NH Audubon Afield



Len Medlock

Backyard Winter Bird Survey is

February 14-15, 2015

NH Audubon needs your help - anyone can participate! See page 15 for details.

Annual Meeting Celebrates 100 Years

On Saturday, September 20 nearly 120 members and friends of NH Audubon (NHA) gathered at Camp Wicosuta on Newfound Lake for the 100th Annual Meeting and Centennial Celebration. This gathering was a reunion, an opportunity to explore the Newfound Lake area, a chance to honor those who have contributed to NHA's work and a fun way to learn about NHA's history and the history of bird conservation.

Morning field trips included a pontoon boat tour of Newfound Lake offered by the Newfound Lake Region

Association and co-led by their executive director, Boyd Smith, NHA Honorary Trustee Dick Beyer and Conservation Director Carol Foss. Participants observed the resident bald eagles and their nest on Paradise Point as well as loons, waterfowl and numerous song birds. A human powered boat trip was led by biologists Chris Martin and Laura Deming. Paddlers wound through Hebron Marsh and up the Cockermonth River to explore various aquatic habitats and their wild residents.

Land based trips included a walk at Quincy Bog in Rumney, led by NHA biologist Pam Hunt, trustee Judy Stokes Weber and volunteer John Williams.

Continued on page 10

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Conservation News	3
Massabesic Audubon Center	7
McLane Center	9
Amoskeag Fishways	11
Statewide Chapters	12
Christmas Bird Count	14



NH AUDUBON
Celebrating 100 Years of Conservation

Protecting New Hampshire's
Natural Environment
for Wildlife and for People

Above: President Mike Bartlett presents the President's Award to Nancy Mudge Sycamore of Hebron, NH. Photo by Terri Donsker.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tony Sayess, Chair, Concord
 David Ries, Vice-Chair, Warner
 Kelly Lynch Dwyer, Secretary, Hooksett
 Dave Sponenberg, Treasurer, Concord
 Michael Amaral, Warner
 George Chase, Hopkinton
 Mike Dello Iacono, Concord
 Jonathan Edwards, Bedford
 David Howe, Concord
 Lauren Kras, Merrimack
 Dawn Lemieux, Groton
 Paul Nickerson, Londonderry
 Eric Taussig, Moultonborough
 Thomas Warren, Dublin
 Judy Stokes Weber, Rumney
 Chris Williams, Meredith

STAFF

Michael J. Bartlett, President

Nancy Boisvert, Nature Store Manager
 Phil Brown, Director of Land Management
 Lynn Bouchard, Director of Human Resources
 Hillary Chapman, Education Specialist
 Gail Coffey, Grants Manager
 Helen Dalbeck, Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center Director
 Diane DeLuca, Senior Biologist
 Laura Deming, Senior Biologist
 Carol Foss, Director of Conservation
 Marlene Friedrich, Animal Care Specialist
 Holly Johnston, Amoskeag Fishways Teacher Program Naturalist
 Rebecca Gates, Amoskeag Fishways Center Program Naturalist
 Dawn Genes, Massabesic Audubon Center Director
 Craig Holmes, Receptionist
 Pamela Hunt, Senior Biologist
 Vanessa Jones, GIS Specialist/Dept. Management Assistant
 Mark Karl, Database Manager
 Angie Krysiak, Massabesic Center Program Director
 Gaye LaCasce, Director of Membership & Development
 Mary Malan, Director of Finance
 Carolyn Marquis, Massabesic Center Coordinator
 Chris Martin, Senior Biologist
 Rick Matthews, Facilities Assistant
 Kathleen Neville, Amoskeag Fishways Sr. Program Naturalist
 Kathleen Palfy, Membership Coordinator
 Wayne Richard, Facilities Manager
 Ruth Smith, Centennial Coordinator
 Rebecca Spinney, Accountant
 Rebecca Suomala, Senior Biologist
 Kevin Wall, Director of Education
 Sarah Wall, Events Manager
 Kelly Wing, Communications Manager

New Hampshire Audubon Afield
 Kelly Wing, General Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Honoring the past while planning for the future... that has been our mantra during 2014. You can see that mantra as a theme, running through this issue of *Afield*.

Our cover story, documenting a wonderful Saturday in September when we celebrated our 100th Annual Meeting, beautifully captures both our past and our future... and demonstrates that we really do know how to enjoy the present! Two conservation success stories – Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles – provide a dramatic counterpoint to the concerning report about the serious decline of the Olive-sided Flycatcher. Given the remarkable recovery of the two most spectacular raptors in New Hampshire, we are hopeful that we can reverse this decline.

The past and future are also inextricably linked through philanthropy – estate gifts, current donations and pledges for future projects. Environmental education, land conservation, wildlife research, advocacy – whatever your passion, there's a way to support it. Clearly NH Audubon is a great investment.

As the holiday season approaches, we recall the ghosts of Christmas past, present, future. NH Audubon certainly has a storied past (and many "heroes"), a vital present, and is looking forward to a bright future. As our Centennial year draws to a wildly successful close, please remember our past, revel in the successes of the present, and help us plan to meet the challenges of the future. You will be in good company.

—*Michael J. Bartlett*
President, New Hampshire Audubon



Note: The Fall 2014 issue of *Afield* featured a photograph on page 2 that was misidentified. The caption should have read: "NH Audubon volunteer Robert Vallieres shows the crowd the McLane Center's resident Red-tailed Hawk at Carter Hill Raptor Observatory in September 2013. (Photo by Jen Esten.)"

Olive-sided Flycatcher Surveys Yield Sobering Results

The Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*, OSFL) is a large flycatcher found in coniferous forests across the boreal and montane areas of North America. Across this broad range, the species has been in consistent decline since at least the mid-1960s, with an average loss of 3.5% per year according to the Breeding Bird Survey. These declines are also seen in Breeding Bird Atlases, where projects repeated in the early 2000s have consistently shown range retractions when compared with original Atlases from the 1970s and 1980s. Atlases in New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts found OSFLs in roughly a third fewer blocks than 20-30 years previously. Causes for the decline are unknown, but may include habitat loss or alteration on the breeding and/or wintering grounds.

Based largely on these declines, the OSFL is considered a “Special Concern” species in New Hampshire. Although available data suggest a decline, there was need for a more accurate assessment of the species’ current range. To this end, I initiated an OSFL survey in the summer of 2014. To start, I collected all available records of the species since 2000 and plotted them on a map of the state. This map was compared to the map generated by the New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas in the early 1980s to identify areas in need of further searching. Sites where there were flycatchers during the Atlas but which had not been checked recently were the highest priority, followed by other areas with no recent records.

Volunteers were recruited to survey priority areas in June and July, with surveys involving repeated visits to locations with suitable habitat. A total of 13 observers adopted one or more areas to survey, and additional supplemental data were obtained from eBird and other observers. In the end, we obtained data



Olive-sided Flycatcher by David Forsyth

from 35 priority areas, but OSFL were found in only 11. Of 16 areas in the southwestern part of the state, only one had an OSFL, and this was at the northern edge of the region. In contrast, the species was detected in six of 13 areas in central NH and five of six areas in Coos County. Looking only at areas that had OSFL during the Atlas, none were found in nine areas in the southwest, three of eight in central NH, and three of four in the north.

This pattern of decreasing occupancy to the south mirrors the range retractions seen in neighboring states and supports the hypothesis that the decline is a regional problem. Surveys will continue in 2015, when effort will shift into central and northern New Hampshire. After two years of data are collected and analyzed, we will have a much better picture of the species’ status in the state, which may in turn lead to ideas for conservation action. People interested in helping with these surveys should contact me at phunt@nhaudubon.org.

Funding for the Olive-sided Flycatcher surveys has come from the Nuttall Ornithological Club’s Blake-Nuttall Fund and the Davis Conservation Foundation.

-Pamela Hunt

New Hampshire Bird Records Volunteer Opportunities

We hope you'll consider joining the great team of volunteers at *New Hampshire Bird Records*. There are more details on each of the following positions at: www.nhbirdrecords.org/volunteer/index.htm. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Becky Suomala, 603-224-9909 x309, rsuomala@nhaudubon.org.

Summer Season Editor

Review the eBird reports, write the summaries of the highlights and determine the reports to be published.

eBird Data QC Assistant

Assist with error checking and updating the NH database of bird sightings in eBird.

Bird Data Special Project

Preparing historic bird sighting data for upload into eBird – review and standardize location names, research vague locations, and map locations in eBird.

Where to Bird Feature Coordinator

Create a lineup of topics, contact authors and provide guidance and editing.

eBird Hot Spot Manager

Review suggestions for eBird Hot Spots in New Hampshire, name and place hot spots.

Database Programmer

Create a new program for NH Christmas Bird Count data analysis to replace an old existing one.

Holts Falcons Fledge Five!

In 2014, NH Audubon staff and volunteer observers confirmed 23 occupied territories for state-listed threatened Peregrine Falcons in the Granite State. This established a new state record-high for the 34 consecutive breeding seasons in the post-DDT era. There were 22 territorial pairs and one site with only a solo bird. One territory had a mate replaced during the breeding season, and three sites had immature-plumage (1-yr old) birds as a member of the pair.

We confirmed incubation of eggs by 17 (77%) of the state's 22 pairs. For reasons we could not identify, a higher than usual proportion (23%) of NH's pairs were not seen incubating this year. Of 17 incubating pairs, 14 (82%) were successful in fledging at least one young. The 14 successful nests set a new post-DDT era high mark. A total of 33 young fledged in 2014, an average of 1.94 young fledged per nesting pair, above the state's 34-year average of 1.64 fledged per nesting pair.

At Holts Ledge in Lyme, one of NH's most productive sites over the long-run, a remarkable five young fledged in 2014.



*This 13-yr old male peregrine is nesting in Lawrence MA. He is "black/green *6/*4," an offspring of the Manchester NH pair in 2001. Photo by Craig Gibson.*

In state records that date back a third of a century, this is only the second case where a nest fledged five chicks in 323 documented nesting attempts (less than 1% of the time). The only other instance was in 2010 at the Brady-Sullivan Tower in Manchester. At opposite ends of the state, we documented the first successful fledging of peregrines from Second College Grant's Diamond Peaks in more than half a century, and the first ever from downtown Nashua. We documented new territories at Berlin's Mt. Forist and at Kingston's RediMix concrete plant.

Collaborating with partners at BioDiversity Research Institute and Stantec, we successfully fitted lightweight solar-powered satellite transmitters on two nesting female peregrines (Bear Mountain in Hebron, Rattlesnake Mountain in Rumney) to learn more about peregrine home ranges and how they may interact with wind turbines on ridgetops nearby. We installed a new falcon nest box at the Christian Science Church in downtown Concord in March which unfortunately remained unused in 2014.

After more than 20 years of intensive work, NH Audubon has scaled back on banding falcon chicks on remote cliffs. Only two juvenile peregrines (Brady-Sullivan Tower and a rehabilitated fledgling from a nest on the Connecticut River) received ID bands in 2014. We also banded two adult females captured during satellite transmitter studies. Of the 350 fledgling peregrines that have been color-banded at New Hampshire nests since the early 1990s, a total of 85 (over 24%) have eventually been re-sighted (either

alive or dead) and reported to us and to the federal Bird Banding Lab.

Efforts to determine the banded status of New Hampshire's breeding peregrines in 2014 yielded the following results. Of 46 known individuals, banded status was confirmed for 29 individuals (63%) and unknown for the other 17. Of the 29 birds where banded status was determined, 21 (72%) were confirmed to be unbanded, while 8 (28%) were confirmed to be banded. Notable band encounters in 2014 included the original male at Brady-Sullivan, 14-yr old "black/green 6/7" originally from Cathedral Ledge, who broke a wing in late March and was euthanized. His mate, 9-yr old "black/green 02/Z" originally raised in Worcester MA, quickly found a new unbanded 1-yr old mate. The breeding male in Nashua, 5-yr old "black/green 5/9" originally raised at UMass-Amherst, was also seen courting a female located 10 miles away in Lowell, MA this past August. A fledgling from Manchester in 2001, 13-yr old "black/green *6/*4", continues to rule the roost in Lawrence MA. And a 4-yr old female, "black/green A/30" from Holts Ledge, nested in downtown Charlotte, NC again in 2014.

Thanks to all who support Peregrine Falcon recovery efforts in New Hampshire, including natural resource managers and private land owners, volunteer observers and our rock climbing partners. Management activity at breeding sites is supported by a federal State Wildlife Grant to NH Fish and Game's Nongame Program. Monitoring activity was funded in part by an anonymous gift from the NH Charitable Foundation. Additional monitoring support for two breeding sites is provided under a contract with Stantec. And of course we always appreciate the generous support of NH Audubon members and other individuals.

—Chris Martin

Bald Eagles Continue to Climb

Spring 2014 marked the 27th breeding season in the post-DDT recovery era for New Hampshire's Bald Eagles. Since a sub-adult pair reoccupied an historic nesting tree on Umbagog Lake back in the late 1980s, our state's Bald Eagle population – once classified as federally endangered, currently listed as state-threatened – has been rebounding. Over the past decade, this population growth has been extremely robust, doubling roughly every 5 years – 10 territorial pairs in 2005, 22 territorial pairs in 2010, and 41 territorial pairs in 2014!

The 41 territorial pairs documented in NH in 2014 set a new state record-high. NH Audubon staff and volunteer eagle observers confirmed incubation by 27 (66%) of the state's 41 pairs. One-third of known NH pairs were not seen incubating eggs, which may have been due to several factors, including early nest abandonment in ill-timed snow events, and new or inexperienced pairs that formed in the 2014 season.

Of 27 incubating pairs, 24 (89%) were successful in fledging at least one young. The 24 successful nests set a new post-DDT era high mark for NH. A record-high total of 41 young fledged in NH in 2014, an average of 1.52 young fledged per nesting pair and 1.00 young fledged per territorial pair.

We now have Bald Eagles nesting in all three far-flung corners of the state – from Pittsburg to New Castle to Hinsdale. Perhaps nowhere is growth of the state's eagle population more obvious than in the Lakes Region, where 11 territorial pairs scattered between Newfound Lake in Hebron and Province Lake in Wakefield produced a total of 14 fledglings in 2014. The Lakes Region only hosted only one known nest (Squam Lake) a decade ago. Two Lakes Region eagle pairs (Squam and Round Island on Winnepesaukee) produced three fledglings apiece, the only 3-chick eagle nests documented in the state in 2014. Other highlights included first successful nesting on the Merrimack River north of Concord, confirmation of a new territory south of Concord near the Bow Power Plant, and the post-fledging discovery of another successful pair on the Connecticut River in Piermont.

Recognizing the difficulty of keeping up the pace needed to band a meaningful proportion of the state's increasing number of fledgling eagles, we have made a strategic shift to focus field efforts on identifying banded adults on territories. This will allow us to reap a greater return on investment from previous banding efforts made across New England during the last two decades. Much physical effort has gone into banding young at nests over the years, and we want to ID these already-banded birds – while they are still alive – in order to gather useful data on dispersal, longevity, and recolonization of breeding sites.

Efforts to determine the banded status of NH's breeding Bald Eagles in 2014 yielded the following results. Of 83 known individuals, banded status was confirmed for 49 individuals (59%) and unknown for the other 34 (41%). Of the 49 birds where banded status was determined, 27 (55%) were confirmed to be unbanded, while 22 (45%) were confirmed to be banded.

Natal origin of NH's breeding eagles in 2014 included 10 (45%) from MA, 6 (27%) from ME, 4 (18%) from NH, 1 (5%) from NY, and 1 (5%) undetermined state origin. Many of these birds were also individually IDed by reading the alphanumeric codes on their bands, so that we know how old they are, where they came from, and in some cases how many years they have nested in a territory.

Sincere thanks to all who support Bald Eagle recovery efforts in NH, including natural resource managers, private land owners, lake associations, volunteer observers, and others. Monitoring and management activity at breeding sites is supported by a federal State Wildlife Grant to the NH Fish and Game's Nongame Program. We are particularly grateful to TransCanada for major multi-year support of Bald Eagle recovery in NH and VT through their Community Investment program. Additional funds for monitoring a site in Nashua in 2014 came from a contract with R.S. Audley, Inc. We also appreciate the generous support of funds and time by NH Audubon members, donors and others.

–Chris Martin



Two juvenile eagles fledged in 2014 from a nest on Moore Reservoir in Littleton, NH. Photo by Jack Dorsey.

End Your Year on a Generous Note

For most of us, 2014 was a year of financial ups and downs. You may feel a bit unsure about the possibility of making a year-end gift to NH Audubon. Fear not—we've assembled a group of gifts that can work for anyone. Whatever your charitable goals or priorities, you have options to support NH Audubon today and into the future.

Make a Difference Tomorrow With a Gift in Your Will

A gift in your will or living trust (a bequest) is one of the simplest, most straightforward ways to support our work. A bequest can work for almost everyone for two reasons:

1. It provides flexibility. A bequest lets you balance your commitment to NH Audubon with your concerns about living expenses, future medical costs and loved ones. Because you're not actually parting with assets today, you don't need to worry about what might happen if you need those assets down the road. A bequest in your will can be changed at any point up until your death, so you have the option to change your mind at any time.

2. It lets you be sensible in your commitment. It's impossible to predict the value of your estate down the road. But bequests can also be made as a percentage of your estate. This option ensures that your estate can benefit charitable organizations like NH Audubon and loved ones in relative proportion.

Make a Difference Today with an Outright Gift

If you'd like to make an immediate difference in support of our mission, you can make an outright gift to NH Audubon using these three options:

1. Give cash. In exchange for a gift of cash, you receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full value of the gift up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

2. Donate stocks or mutual funds. Even if these types of assets have lost value, for tax purposes they are still appreciated if their current value is more than what you originally paid for them. If you've owned them for more than one year, you may deduct the full fair market value of the property up to 30 percent of your AGI. You also eliminate paying capital gains tax on the appreciation, thus reducing the out-of-pocket cost of your gift.

3. Become a NH Audubon member. Memberships renew annually on the anniversary of your original join date. Sometimes people confuse NH Audubon with the National Audubon Society; we are not affiliated with National Audubon, and we receive no funding from them. Your membership in NH Audubon means a great deal to us, and provides a reliable base of support throughout the year... and you'll always be "in the know" about upcoming programs, events and special offers!

We Can Help

We're happy to discuss these and other options with you and we're here to answer any questions you might have. Feel free to contact Director of Membership and Development Gaye LaCasce at glacase@nhaudubon.org or 603-224-9909 x307.

REMEMBERING

New Hampshire Audubon is honored to receive donations in memory of friends and relatives who have died. These gifts are a valuable contribution to the work we do for wildlife and conservation.

Since the last issue of *Afield*, thoughtful gifts were made in memory of the following individuals:

Margaret S. Bascom
Marcia Decatur
Wilson B. Fantom, Jr.
Robert H. Frey – a long-time volunteer at the Newfound Audubon Center in Hebron
Stephen Hoyer
Carmel "Cammy" Radwan

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS: MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER



Located on a historic farm site, the Center is bordered by 130 acres of wildlife sanctuary that encompasses a diverse array of upland habitats and includes more than five miles of trails that lead to Lake Massabesic.

26 AUDUBON WAY • AUBURN, NH 03032
603-668-2045 mac@nhaudubon.org

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Mysteries of the Forest: Tracking NH's Animals

Saturday, January 31, 10-11:30am

Cost: Individuals \$7 M/\$9 NM; Families \$15 M/\$20 NM

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Director

The art of tracking is like learning to solve a mystery. Who left these prints? What were they doing? Where were they going? Join us as we learn the basics of tracking some of NH's common winter animals. We'll put our new knowledge to the test with a walk to see what tracks and sign we can find.

What Is That Tree?

Saturday, February 7, 10-11:30am

Cost: Individuals \$7 M/\$9 NM; Families \$15 M/\$20 NM

How do you identify trees without their leaves? Join forester Dave Coughlin for a walk around our woods to learn the ins and outs of identifying some of NH's common tree species in winter. Complimentary use of MAC snowshoes included if necessary for ease of travel.

I My Snowman

Saturday, February 14, 10am-noon

Cost: Free

Get outside and build your best snow person, critter, or sculpture in the Massabesic Center's backyard (assuming enough snow!). There will be prizes and hot chocolate for sale to keep your energy up!

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

WEE WONDERS

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am

Cost: \$9 M / \$12 NM (per child/parent pair)

Leader: Kim Murphy

Join us for our winter series. Discover the changing seasons through hands-on activities, songs, crafts,

stories, and outdoor discovery. Please dress to be outside and wear appropriate footwear. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Classes are for ages 4-6.

December 3: Trees, Dead or Alive

As fall fades into winter, the trees' colorful displays turn to branches bare. The trees of our forests seem to show little sign of life. Or do they? Come and take a close up look at our trees preparing for winter, how they'll survive, and how they're already showing the signs of the spring ahead!

December 17: Weathering Winter

Today's New England winters may be cold, or mild. Snowy or bare. But there is one thing you can always count on: they are always unpredictable! Come and learn about some of the winter weather we may see in our state, and how it happens as we prepare for one of our most fun seasons of the year!

January 7: Where have all the wild things gone?

Have you ever wondered... what the animals do in winter? After a flurry of animal activity throughout the fall, the forest starts to feel quiet and empty. Today we will discover some of the things the animals have done to prepare for the winter to come, and where they may have gone!

January 21: Whitetails in Winter

Can you walk on your toes? White-tailed deer can, and they travel that way all the time! Come join us as we

THE NATURE CAFÉ

Fridays, 7-8:30 pm

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

Come join us once per month at the beautiful Massabesic Audubon Center and enjoy warm drinks and delicious desserts while you learn about our natural environment.

January 9: Emerald Ash Borer

Wood stove users be on the lookout!

The Emerald Ash Borer has been labeled the most destructive forest pest in North America and has killed ever-widening swaths of ash trees in the Northeast since the late 1990's. It has now been spotted in New Hampshire. As outdoor enthusiasts and/or firewood users, YOU can help by learning how to recognize the signs of this highly destructive insect and what you can do if you spot Emerald Ash Borer.

February 13: Romantic Habits of Animals

Come spend the night before Valentine's learning about the courtship behaviors of some of our native animals. Many mammals and birds spend February and the coming months finding mates through a variety of interesting calls, behaviors, and habits, some of which are fascinating to observe. There will be chocolate!

learn about what these large mammals of the woods are doing to survive through the long winter ahead.



Len Medlock

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS. CALL 603-668-2045 TO REGISTER.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS: MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER

PRESCHOOL, CONTINUED

February 4: Who's Wearing White?

Now you see them, now you don't! Some animals are able to "disappear" in winter- as long as there is snow on the ground! Come and find out who is wearing white this winter, and why!

February 18: Weasel Ways

Snow doesn't slow down the weasels! Weasels are active all year long, even as the days get cold! How do they stay warm during the cold weather? What do they eat? Join us as we explore the secret, and very active, lives of NH's 5 different kinds of weasels.

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

JUNIOR EXPLORERS

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am

Cost: \$9 M / \$12 NM (per child/parent pair)

Leader: Kelly Dwyer

Join us for our winter series. We'll explore the natural world with live animals, nature walks, and hands-on activities that follow a different natural theme each day. Be prepared to be outside! Classes are for ages 7-12. Pre-registration is required, parents may stay and participate.

December 3: Trees, Dead or Alive

Come and take a close up look at our trees preparing for winter, how they'll survive, and how they're already showing the signs of the spring ahead!

December 17: Weathering Winter

Come and learn about some of the weather we may see in our state, and how it happens with a variety of fun winter weather experiments.

January 7: Winter Adaptations

Today we'll explore the world of hibernators and migrators, then get outside to look for tracks and signs of our winter natives.

January 21: Whitetails in Winter

Come join us as we learn about what these large mammals of the woods are doing to survive through the long winter ahead. We'll go outside and look for evidence of deer in the area.

February 4: Weasels in White

Weasels are active all year long, which is why they turn white in the winter! Our other color-changing mammal is the Snowshoe Hare; we'll learn all about the winter habits of these two cold-adapted species.

February 18: Winter Courtship Behavior

With spring around the corner, some of our native mammals and resident birds are preparing to start their families. We'll learn some of the calls and behaviors of courtship for animals like eagles, owls, and coyotes, and learn how you can observe some of these fascinating habits!

EXHIBIT

Manchester Artists Association presents The Heart of Nature from January 3 to February 20. MAA is a group of local artist from the greater Manchester area. This exhibit will include works from many of its 100 members in all media

Snowshoe Rentals!

Tuesday through Saturdays between 9 am and 2 pm

Cost: \$7 M / \$9 NM dollars per pair

Enjoy nature in winter at the Massabesic Audubon Center as you trek the trails on snowshoes! Snowshoes for use on-site only. Limited pairs available for little children. Call to reserve if bringing a large party.

Wild NH Photography Contest Fundraiser

Sunday, December 7, 2-3 pm

Cost: FREE

Final bidding closes at 3 pm! These amazing nature photos were taken and donated by local amateur artists. Join us for refreshments, a visit with our live animals, and good company. Take home a photo for yourself or make it a holiday gift. All money from the auction goes to benefit Massabesic's programs and live animals.



February Fun Vacation Camp at McLane or Massabesic!

February 23-27

For children ages 6-12

Monday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm

February Fun Vacation Camp is a special opportunity for children to learn about nature in winter. Join us for a single day, several days, or the whole week. Each day will include outdoor excursions, games, crafts, stories, live animals, songs, and conservation projects to help participants discover the wonders of the season.

Visit www.nhaudubon.org for details and registration.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS. CALL 603-668-2045 TO REGISTER.



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 and Nature Store are open Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm and Saturday, 10am–4pm.
84 SILK FARM RD, CONCORD NH 03301
603-224-9909 nha@nhaudubon.org

Lanting and Galen Rowell, and learned a great deal from them. Hal's photographs of glacial markings were taken at the foot of Viedma Glacier in Patagonia, Argentina in October 2005. The rocks had been exposed to the air for a very short time due to the rapidly shrinking glacier. The different colors are due to the rapid oxidation of the various minerals in the area.

Workshop – Introduction to eBird
Tuesday, February 3, 7:00-8:30pm

Learn how to get started and entering sightings into eBird, an on-line system for reporting and keeping track of bird sightings. See the basic step by step process of how to enter sightings using a live on-line example and then hands-on help to enter your own sightings on your own laptop (some computers will also be available for participants). Class size is limited so please e-mail Becky Suomala to register, rsuomala@nhaudubon.org. A donation of \$10 would be appreciated.

ART EXHIBITS



Hal Close: Patagonian Images

Exhibit Open through December
The artist's interest in photography began in the mountains. While at Exeter and then Harvard, he skied and climbed in the White Mountains, then out west, then in Switzerland as he grew older. He always brought a camera on these trips, and it became a passion to try to capture the beauty of the mountains. During his life in business, his camera became more important, and the trips Hal took usually centered around photography. He travelled to Africa, South America, and Asia. One trip was around the world with National Geographic! He was very fortunate to travel with top-notch photographers, such as Franz

Pat deAlmeida: "Our Backyard, Another Look"

January and February 2015
Artist's Reception: Thursday, January 8, 3-5pm
Pat deAlmeida photos are again at the McLane Center, showcasing more backyard wildlife from Boscawen and the surrounding Concord area. Pat is an avid amateur photographer who enjoys capturing the unique personalities of all kinds of animals and the beauty of our New Hampshire landscapes. She lives in Boscawen with her husband and Ozzie, her rescued dog. Both of whom spend many hours with her in the woods near her home looking for subjects for her photo collection.

Enjoy Holiday Shopping
At the NH Audubon Nature Store

*Select from unique, nature-based items many of which are made in New England.
All of your purchases support our mission to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and for people.*

NOV. 28 —BLACKbird FRIDAY: 20% off any one item including binoculars
DEC. 6 — Holiday Open House and Audubon Attic: Members receive 20% off all store purchases.

Make a purchase and receive our gift of free suet!



STOCKING STUFFERS: Winnepesaukee chocolates, wildlife-shaped cookie cutters, wooden Tooth Fairy boxes, note cards and more.

SURPRISES FOR CHILDREN: Wooden puzzles, bug boxes, cute and fuzzy animal hand-puppets, nature books, and educational games.

TREATS FOR BIRDERS: Nikon or Vortex binoculars, field guides, hats, t-shirts, and vests.



The Nature Store is open six days a week.
Monday-Friday: 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm
EVENING HOURS IN DECEMBER: Thursdays 5-8 pm
84 Silk Farm Rd., Concord
224-9909 Ext. 318, ask for Nancy



Other participants visited NHA's first nature center and the trails at Paradise Point with Sanctuaries Manager Phil Brown and volunteer Jay Barry, one of Paradise Point's early naturalists from the 1970's. The highpoint trip (geographically) was a hawk watch at Little Round Top (LRT) Mountain in Bristol, New Hampshire's first official hawk watching site. This trip was co-led by long time LRT hawk watch coordinator, Susan Fogelman and keynote speaker Scott Weidensaul.

At the conclusion of the field trips, participants gathered at Camp Wicosuta where the program commenced with a welcome by NHA President Mike Bartlett. President Bartlett reflected on the momentous occasion of the 100th annual meeting of the organization. He then introduced special guest Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster. The Congresswoman spoke eloquently about spending summers of her youth on Newfound Lake and the strong environmental ethic instilled in her by her mother, the late Senator Susan McLane. Susan was a former trustee of NHA for whom the McLane Center in Concord is named. She is listed as one of the 100 Heroes in the program book created for this event.

Some "heroes" were present at the gathering. They included honorary trustees Dick Beyer, Ed Broad, Betsy Janeway, Tupper Kinder, Bruce Schwaegler, Larry Sunderland, and Francie Von Mertens; former staff members Bob Quinn, Stephen Walker and Margaret Watkins and Audubon's "First Lady", Barbara Richards. Other notable guests included several former Executive Directors/Presidents: Les Corey (1982-86), Richard Moore (1998-2003), Bruce Schwaegler (interim 2006), Rick Minard (2006-2008).

After the business meeting, at which three new trustees were elected (Mike Dello Iacono, Judy Stokes Weber and Chris Williams), awards were presented. Allan Keith and Bob Fox, co-authors of the recently published *The Birds of New Hampshire* received the Goodhue-Elkins Award. Eric Orff received the Tudor Richards Award for his work with New

Hampshire wildlife. Jane Kolas and Stephanie Parkinson were recipients of the Volunteer of the Year award for their efforts with Project Nighthawk. The President's Award was presented to Nancy Mudge Sycamore for her long commitment to NHA, especially Paradise Point and the Newfound Audubon Center. [See details of award winners elsewhere in this issue].

The milestone nature of this annual meeting was highlighted by the "Audubon Community Players" who brought to life some past leaders and their accomplishments. Period costumes and a 1914/15 Model T Ford added to the historical feel of the day.

The program ended with a riveting keynote address by author Scott Weidensaul. Using information from his book *Of a Feather, a Brief History of American Birding*, he told the story of how birds have captivated Americans for 400 years and how we have interacted with and learned about them.

Everyone enjoyed a hardy harvest buffet dinner and more time to visit before heading home. A silent auction was also held which raised more than \$1300.

Thanks to event sponsors Normandeau Associates and ReVision Energy; donors: The Common Man Restaurants, Sculptured Rocks Inn and Farm, Camp Wicosuta, David Dufo (owner of the Model T), The Concord Community Players, CopperToppe Inn and Retreat Center, Newfound Lake Region Association, Scott Weidensaul, Moving on Massage, Gould Hill Farm, Apple Hill Farm and other individuals who donated to the silent auction.



Robert Fox (left) and Allan Keith, recipients of the Goodhue-Elkins Award. Photo by Terri Donsker.

NEWFOUND AUDUBON CENTER



ABOUT NEWFOUND AUDUBON CENTER

Located on the beautiful northern shore of Newfound Lake, the Newfound Audubon Center is comprised of three wildlife sanctuaries: Paradise Point Nature Center, Ash Cottage at Hebron Marsh Sanctuary and Bear Mountain Sanctuary. The trails at all three sanctuaries are open year-round to bird watchers and hikers, Nordic skiers and snowshoers, and all-around nature lovers. Paradise Point and Hebron Marsh extend to the water's edge, allowing visitors to experience more of Newfound Lake's habitat, while Bear Mountain's hillside habitat exemplifies the beauty of New Hampshire's woodlands. With sanctuary trails open all year long and exciting summertime program offerings, there is always something to do.

NORTH SHORE ROAD • HEBRON, NH 03222
603-744-3516



Located in Manchester on the beautiful Merrimack River, the Center is open year round Monday-Saturday from 9am to 5pm. During fish migration season (April 28-June 14), the Center is open seven days a week.

FLETCHER ST • MANCHESTER, NH 03105
603-626-FISH www.amoskeagfishways.org

FAMILY FEBRUARY VACATION PROGRAMS

Family Eagle Excursion and Program

Wednesday, February 25

Saturday, February 28

9am-Noon

Cost: \$10/family

Learn about Manchester's resident and wintering bald eagles by watching for them from unique urban locations along the Merrimack River. We will find out what makes an eagle special, and learn how they fit into our river community through activities, games and crafts. Advance registration with payment required.

Family Eagle Watching Days

February 23, 24, 26 and 27

10am-Noon

Look for bald eagles with binoculars and a spotting scope from our excellent vantage point along the river, and learn about them through crafts and activities. No registration required; donations accepted.

SATURDAY "SPECIALS"

Family Wreathmaking

Saturday, December 6, 10am-1pm

Cost: \$15 per wreath

Make a beautiful seasonal wreath with your family. We'll use natural materials to make a fragrant, long-lasting and truly unique wreath. Advance registration with payment required.

Eagles along the Merrimack

Saturday, January 17, 10am-Noon

Cost: \$3 per person or \$6 per family

Learn about our urban bald eagle and search for them roosting around the city. The program begins with a brief overview at the Fishways, followed by a trip to find local eagles. Carpooling is encouraged. Please bring binoculars if possible. Advance registration with payment required.

Let's Go ICE Fishing!

Friday, February 13, 6-8pm

Saturday, February 14, 9am-Noon

Cost: FREE

Learn how to ice fish with staff and volunteers of New Hampshire Fish and Game during this two-part program. Friday evening will cover ice safety, fish ecology, equipment, and other important information. Parents and participants over 16 do not need a fishing license during the organized field trip on Saturday, and all angling gear will be provided. Bring your own lunch and wear proper outdoor clothing for the Saturday field trip. For ages 9 and up. Advance registration required.

FISHWAYS FUNDAYS

9:30-11am & 12:30-2pm

Cost: \$8 per family

Fundays are for children ages 4 - 5 accompanied by an adult. Programs include fun outdoor exploration and indoor craft making. Advance registration with payment required.

Feeding Birds in your Backyard

Thursday, December 4

Discover how birds survive the winter, and help them through the season by making birdfeeders and winter bird treats to take home.

Fishways Open House

December 30, 11am-3 pm

Spend a day of your school vacation enjoying a party at the Fishways! Our annual "thank you" Open House features two presentations: "Active Winter Birds" and "Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons". Create fun crafts, eat yummy treats, win door prizes and bring your binoculars for a short winter bird walk around the Fishways!

FREE, for all ages, no pre-registration necessary.

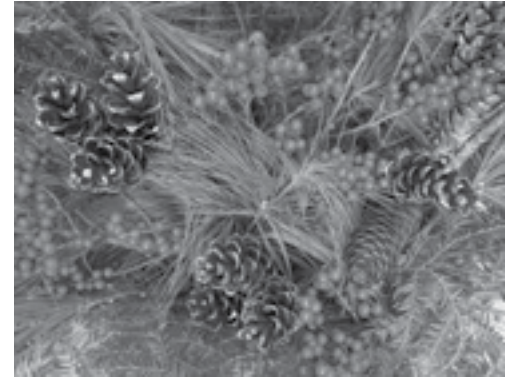
FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

6:30-8pm

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

Cost: \$5 per family. Advance registration with payment required.

Scott Hecker



Natural Creations

Friday, December 5

Create fun, beautiful holiday adornments with evergreen sprigs, pinecones, and other materials from nature.

NH Mustelids: Otters, Fishers and Mink!

Friday, January 16

What do otters, fishers and mink have in common? They all belong to the mustelid family! Learn about this special group of mammals with games, crafts and more!

NH Moose

Friday, January 30

Moose are amazing creatures, but the warming climate is hurting our population. Learn about their life history, the current challenges they face, and how you can help them.

NH Wild Cats

Friday, February 27

Find out which wild cats live in NH and learn about some of their unique adaptations.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

AMMONOOSUC

For more information contact David Govatski at David.Govatski@gmail.com.

Program: “The Adventures of Buffalo and Tough Cookie”

Wednesday, February 18, 7pm

Rocks Estate on Christmas Tree Lane in Bethlehem, NH

When hiker Dan Szczesny and his nine-year-old ward, Janelle, first set foot on the trail to Mt. Kearsarge in November 2011, neither of them knew that this easy hike to one of the state’s most popular mountain tops would change both their lives. Dan will chronicle the journey of the author and his young but ambitious hiking partner as this unlikely pair formed a unique and unforgettable bond that transformed both their lives.

CAPITAL

Field Trip: Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 14

Join Bob Quinn and many other birding enthusiasts as we count birds around the Concord area in the annual Christmas Bird Count. To sign up or for more information, Contact Bob at RAQbirds@aol.com [preferred] or at 746-2535.

Field Trip: Bald Eagles on the Merrimack

Sunday, January 25, 8:30 am

Meet Rob Woodward at the McLane Audubon Center for this popular annual morning jaunt looking for Eagles along the Merrimack River between Concord and Manchester and wintering Peregrine Falcons in downtown Manchester. Contact: Rob Woodward at 224-0889 (evenings)

Field Trip: Winter North of the Notches

Saturday, February 7, 7am (Snow Date Feb 8)

The winter of 2014-15 should be a good one for some of the irruptive winter finches, and even though they may wander downstate, a trip north also has the potential for boreal species such as Gray Jay, black-backed Woodpecker, and even Spruce Grouse. This trip will cover a sampling of good northern winter birding locales, possibly including Pondicherry and parts of Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. Dress warm and meet at the McLane Center at 7am. We will stop for lunch somewhere up there and expect to

be back in the late afternoon/early evening. For more information contact Pam Hunt at 753-9137 or biodiva@myfairpoint.net.

MASCOMA

Program: Dr. Pamela Hunt – “Birding with Sacagawea”

Tuesday, December 9, 7 pm–8:30 pm

The Howe Library, Hanover

When the Lewis and Clark Expedition set out on its celebrated journey to the Pacific Northwest, they were charged by then President Thomas Jefferson to catalogue all manner of animal, insect and bird life they encountered. NH Audubon Senior Biologist Pamela Hunt has twice traveled the Lewis and Clark Trail. Her presentation will recount those travels, the most recent one completed in the spring of 2013. Pam’s talk will describe the places the Corps of Discovery saw on its three year journey focusing on how the landscape and wildlife along the route have changed from that time to the present.

Field Trip: Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, January 1

Hanover/Norwich

Watch for details in early December.

Program: Peg Ackerson – “Adventures in Birdland; Volunteering at VINS

Monday, January 12, 7 pm–8:30 pm

The Howe Library, Hanover

Peg Ackerson is very active in many aspects of the Upper Valley birding scene as well as at the state level working on several NH Audubon projects. In addition to her long time volunteer work at VINS, Peg participates in annual banding programs on Appledore Island in the Isles of Shoals and is a monitor for NH Audubon’s peregrine falcon nesting watch program. She recently completed a week-long bird banding class at the Braddock Bay Bird Banding Observatory, north of Rochester, NY. In her talk, Peg will present a behind the scenes look at the important work that goes on at VINS drawing on her considerable experience there.

Program: Dr. Judith Scarl – Unlocking the Mysteries of the Rusty Blackbird: From Dramatic Declines to Conservation Collaborations

Monday, February 9, 7 pm–8:30 pm

The Howe Library, Hanover

Rusty Blackbirds have experienced one of the steepest declines of any once-common North American land bird, losing more than 85% of their population over a 40-year period. Yet, only within the last 15 years did scientists notice that alarming trends. What caused Rusty Blackbird populations to plummet, and why did it take so long for anyone to notice? VT Center for Ecological Conservation Biologist Dr. Judith Scarl will address these questions highlighting her work coordinating the “Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz,” a citizen science initiative that tracks Rusty Blackbirds northward migration across 38 states, nine Canadian provinces and three territories.

Field Trip: Annual Wilder Dam Eagle Watch

Saturday, February 14, 10am–Noon

Wilder Dam, Wilder, VT

Join us as we look for early bald eagle activity and scan for waterfowl that feed in the open waters below Wilder Dam. The event is free and open to the public. Bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes as you prefer. The viewing site is handicapped accessible. In the event of inclement weather, the outing will be moved to Sunday, February 15 with the same start and finish times. Contact: mascomabirds@yahoo.com

For more information on these and other events, please consult the Chapter’s website: www.mascomabirds.org

LAKES REGION

Please call the Loon Center at 603-476-5666 for program information, or check our website at www.nhaudubonlakes.com.

NASHAWAY

Annual Chapter Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 27

The Nashaway Chapter will be participating in the 115th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count within a 15-mile diameter centered near the Nashua Hollis boarder. We will be counting birds by day and tallying up the sightings in the evening (5pm) over dinner at the Lawrence Barn (Hollis Recreation Comm. 28 Depot Rd.) in Hollis. A small fee will be collected in the evening for the tally/dinner.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey, Merrimack River, Hudson to Manchester

Saturday, January 10, 8am-noon

Join our group in this annual statewide count to learn about local Bald Eagle foraging and roosting habitat and the protection eagles need to stay healthy over the cold winter.

Wintering Owls

Saturday, February 21, 8am-3pm

Join us as we look for Short-eared and Snowy Owls at Salisbury Beach State Park and across the river in Parker River Wildlife Refuge.

Program: Dr. Pam Hunt, Birds of the West Indies

Wednesday, December 17, 7-9pm



Nashua Public Library

Join NH Audubon Senior biologist Pam Hunt as she shares her adventures of almost a quarter century birding the West Indies islands and the Caribbean region. There are entire vertebrate families found nowhere else in the world, and of course endemic species of birds, lizards, and other animals on many islands. Pam Hunt first visited the region in 1990, got hooked, and has been back over 20 times since. In this talk she'll provide a brief overview of the evolutionary history of the West Indies, and then shift focus to the diversity of birds found there.

Program: Curt Laffin, American Chestnut Tree Restoration Update!!

Wednesday January 21, 7-9pm

Nashua Public Library



Join Wildlife Biologist and Nashua chapter member, Curt Laffin, as he discusses the history and demise of this tree and efforts by the American Chestnut Foundation to restore it here in NH and throughout its historic range. Less than 100 years ago, large American chestnut trees dominated eastern U.S. forests. These trees reined over 200 million acres of eastern woodlands from Maine to Florida, and from the Piedmont west to the Ohio Valley, until succumbing to a lethal fungus disease, chestnut blight. An estimated 4 billion American chestnuts, one quarter of the hardwood tree population, grew within this range prior to the blight.

Program: Chris Martin, NH Bald Eagle Recovery

Wednesday February 18, 7-9pm



Nashua Public Library

Join Chris Martin, NH Audubon raptor biologist who has coordinated bald eagle recovery here in the Granite state for a quarter century! Chris Martin has focused on recovery of the state's bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and ospreys in collaboration with NH Fish and Game. Chris will discuss nearly three decades of bald eagle population recovery in New Hampshire and describe eagle management efforts and partnerships, and detail the return of breeding eagles to the Merrimack River. Learn about this success story that has led to the removal of the bald eagle from the federal Threatened and Endangered Species list in 2007.

SEACOAST

Meetings are held at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park, Route 1A, Rye, NH, and wheelchair accessible. Refreshments are served at 7 pm. Meeting begins at 7:30 pm. The public is welcome free of charge. Contact: Dan Hubbard at danielhubbard@peoplepc.com, 603-332-4093 or see our web site at <http://www.seacoastchapter.org/programs>

Program: Injured Seal on a New Hampshire Beach? Who You Gonna Call?

Wednesday, December 10, 7:30 pm



Since January, 2014, for the first time, you will call a NH rescue team from the Seacoast Science Center (SSC). For 47 years, the New England Aquarium led the rescue response and for the past seven years, SSC's crew members contributed as volunteer responders. Today, the Center is responsible for 238 miles of NH shoreline (Great Bay-Hampton Harbor-Isles of Shoals). Ashley Stokes, Rescue Coordinator, and Wendy Lull, SSC President, will explain how the team is protecting animals from people and people from animals through response, rescue, and education, and also describe which species of seals visit our shores.

Program: Turtles of New Hampshire; What You May Not Know

Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 pm



Do you know that NH has no truly terrestrial turtles or that we have a state endangered turtle? Turtles are very long lived and their continued existence depends

on this longevity. Turtles see in color and hatchling/baby turtles receive no parental care. Please join us and learn much more about the natural history of turtles. Chris Bogard, a NH State Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, will present a few of her case histories of turtles hit by cars and also bring some live individuals that you may never have seen before.

Program: Lions and Zebras and Ostrich, Oh My!



Wednesday, February 11, 7:30 pm

The Tanzania plains are home to about a quarter of Africa's large mammals and hundreds of bird species. It's not possible to see all in two weeks, but NH Audubon's, Ruth Smith observed and learned about many of them during a February 2013 dream-come-true trip. Join Ruth sharing safari slides and highlights, including close encounters with elephant herds, towers of giraffes, a coalition of cheetahs, migrating wildebeest, mischievous monkeys, gorgeous rollers, flamboyant flamingos, and elegant cranes (naming a few). Experiencing "zoo creatures" in their native habitat, visiting the cradle of mankind, and meeting current residents of this special country was a journey worth sharing.

Field Trip: The Coast of Maine

Saturday, December 6, 9am-2pm

Meet at Perkins Cove, Maine. Dress warmly in layers and bring a lunch or snack. From Perkins Cove we will go to Cliff House, Nubble Light, Long Sands Beach, and Sea Point Beach. Contact: Ann Ablowich at 603-659-6078.

Field Trip: New Hampshire Coastal

Saturday, January 10, 8 am

Join leader David Blezard as we look for scoters, mergansers, loons, grebes, and anything else that might be hidden in the nooks and crannies of New Hampshire's coast. Meet at the Seabrook Harbor parking lot on Route 1A, just south of the Yankee Fisherman's Coop. Contact: David Blezard at dblezard@mac.com or 603-343-1223

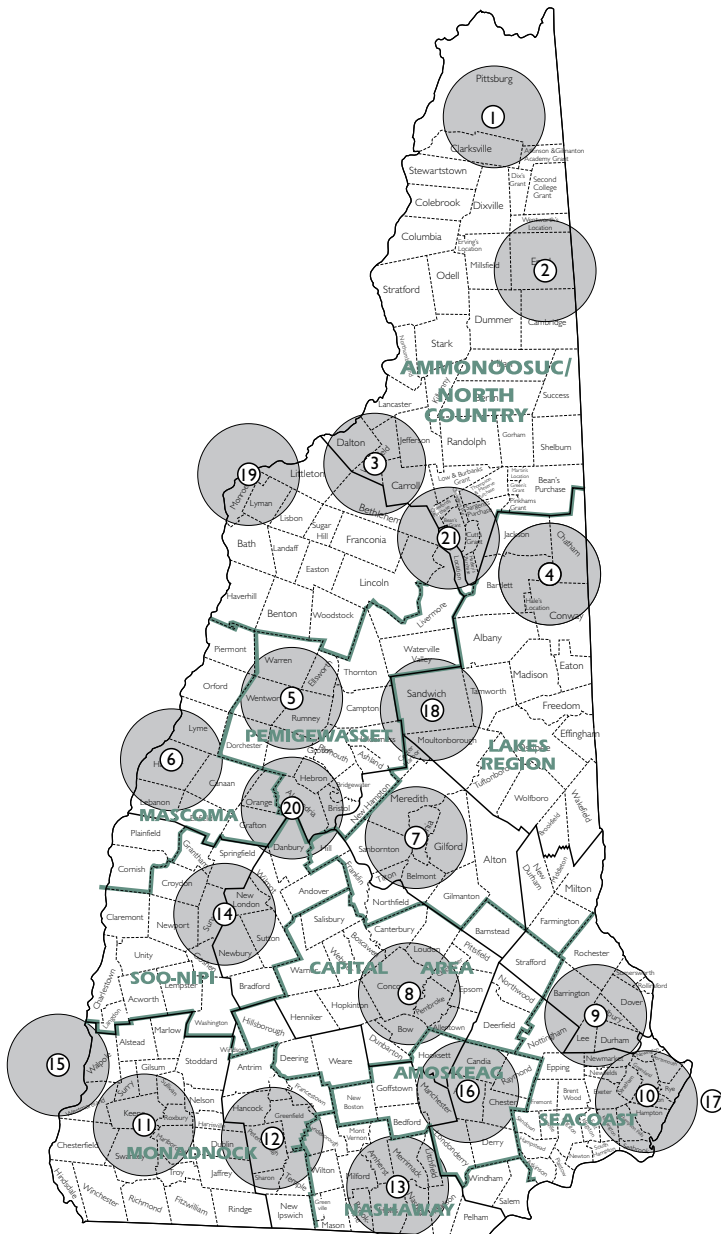
Field Trip: North Country Winter Finch Trip

Saturday, February 7, 8 am

The Seacoast chapter heads north again this year to look for winter finches. Meet at the McDonald's, 214 Main Street, Gorham, NH. Contact: Kathy Dube at 752-1924, cell 915-6294, email: kdube@ncia.net

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PREVIEW 2014

It's time for the annual Christmas Bird Count! There are 21 counts in New Hampshire, and they are open to all interested birders. Many are run by New Hampshire Audubon Chapters. Check the list below for a count near you and contact the person listed if you'd like to help. Each count takes place in a designated "count circle" on a specific day. The coordinator assigns teams to count birds in each section of the circle, but if you live in the circle you can simply count the birds in your backyard. Each count's survey area stays the same from year to year, comprising a circle fifteen miles in diameter around a central point. International in scope, the Christmas Bird Count is organized and compiled by the National Audubon Society, who coordinates all count circles so they don't overlap. Each count picks its own particular survey day between December 14 and January 5. So join in a 100-year-old tradition and have some winter fun!



1. Pittsburg – December 22.

Contact: David Govatski (586-7776 or David.Govatski@gmail.com).

2. Errol-Umbagog – December 23.

Contact: Chris Martin (224-9909 x317 or cmartin@nhaudubon.org).

3. Littleton – December 21.

Contact: David Govatski (586-7776 or David.Govatski@gmail.com) or Mary Boulanger (444-6993 or mboul@roadrunner.com).

4. North Conway – December 20.

Contact: Corrie Blodgett, Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr. (447-6991 or cblodgett@tinmountain.org).

5. Baker Valley – December 14.

Contact: Stephen Rounds (764-9011 or ullungdo96@yahoo.com) or Nory Parr (786-9896 or northparr@gmail.com).

6. Hanover-Norwich – January 1.

Contact: Dan Crook (448-2544) or Walter Ellison (rossgull61@gmail.com).

7. Laconia-New Hampton – tba.

Contact: Pam Hunt (753-9137 or biodiva@myfairpoint.net).

8. Concord – December 14.

Contact: Robert Quinn (RAQbirds@aol.com [preferred] or 746-2535).

9. Lee-Durham – December 21.

Contact: Kurk Dorsey (397-5844 or kd@unh.edu).

10. Coastal – December 20.

Contact: Len Medlock (lenmedlock@comcast.net).

11. Keene – December 14.

Contact: Phil Brown (pbrown@nhaudubon.org or 224-9909 x334).

12. Peterborough-Hancock – December 20.

Contact: Dave Rowell (924-8790 or daverowell@myfairpoint.net).

13. Nashua-Hollis – December 27.

Contact: Richard Bielawski (429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com).

14. Lake Sunapee – December 20.

Contact: Gary Stansfield (inuknh@gmail.com [preferred] or 863-8737).

15. Saxtons River (Vt.-N.H.) – December 13.

Contact: Donald Clark (802-843-2347 or sapsbks@sover.net).

16. Manchester – December 20.

Contact: Richard Bielawski (429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com).

17. Isles of Shoals – tba.

Contact: Ben Griffith – (bgriffith@gmail.com [preferred] or 801-1856)

18. Sandwich – December 29.

Contact: Tony Vazzano (284-7718 or tvazzano@ncia.net).

19. Barnet (Vt.-N.H.) – January 1.

Contact: Charlie Browne (802-592-3545, ext. 104 or cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org).

20. Grafton-Bristol – December 27

Contact: Bill Belanger (455-3741, or penmen1@metrocast.net)

21. Crawford Notch – December 20.

Contact: Craig Repasz (203-230-1697 or crepasz@hotmail.com).

2015 BACKYARD WINTER BIRD SURVEY, FEBRUARY 14 & 15

Survey Instructions

Backyard Winter Bird Survey participants report any bird species that visit their yards and/or feeders in New Hampshire on the second weekend in February. The survey was expanded in 1987 to gather information on the distribution and abundance of many winter species in New Hampshire. Please take this opportunity to enjoy a closer look at the feathered neighbors in your yard during the survey period.

When to watch

February 14 and 15 only. Watch and count the birds in your yard at any time during the weekend.

How long to watch

Watch for as little or as long as you wish during the survey weekend. Be sure to record the total number of hours you observed as closely as possible. For example, if you were home all day but only watched for five minutes every hour, your time will be 45 minutes.

How to count

Record only the maximum number of each species seen at one time. Do not add to your total each time you see a bird at the feeder. For example, if at 10am you see six blue jays, at 2pm you see seven, and at 5pm you see four, your survey total for blue jays is seven. If you did not see any birds, mark the survey form accordingly.

Additional species

Use the blank lines to record any additional species observed, with descriptions or photographs of unusual birds.

Birds you can't identify

If you don't know the names of all the birds visiting your yard, you can still participate, but please record only the species you can identify.

Confusing species

Please be sure you can distinguish between similar species, such as Purple and House Finches, Chipping and American Tree Sparrows, and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. A current field guide can help. Remember that the House Finch is more common than the Purple Finch and Chipping Sparrows will be in their winter plumage.

Unusual species

If you observe an unusual species, please include a detailed description of the bird's appearance and behavior. Photographs are always helpful and may be e-mailed to bwbs@nhaudubon.org; be sure to include your name and address in your e-mail and note on your survey form that you've e-mailed a photo. Without this documentation, unusual reports may not be included in the final tally.

Survey results

All participants receive a copy of the results with next year's forms when they are mailed in January.

Other notes

Remember to fill out the entire form.

Your mailing address and zip code are necessary to ensure that you remain on the survey mailing list.

If you cannot participate but would like to remain on the mailing list, you must still return the survey. Please fill in your name and address and return to NH Audubon.

For past results and more about the Survey, go to:

<http://nhbirdrecords.org/bird-conservation/backyard-winter-survey.htm>

**You can now enter your survey results at
[www.nhaudubon.org/birding!](http://www.nhaudubon.org/birding)**

Backyard Winter Bird Survey Form 2015

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NH Audubon Member? Yes No

____ Enclosed is my donation to NH Audubon to support the Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

SURVEY LOCATION:

Street _____ Town _____

Date(s) observed _____ Total hours watched _____

Comments: (e.g., weather, etc.) _____

Species	Max. #	Species	Max. #
Rock Pigeon (pigeon)	_____	Dark-eyed Junco	_____
Mourning Dove	_____	Northern Cardinal	_____
Downy Woodpecker	_____	Purple Finch	_____
Hairy Woodpecker	_____	House Finch	_____
Blue Jay	_____	Pine Siskin	_____
American Crow	_____	American Goldfinch	_____
Black-capped Chickadee	_____	Evening Grosbeak	_____
Tufted Titmouse	_____	House Sparrow	_____
Red-breasted Nuthatch	_____	_____	_____
White-breasted Nuthatch	_____	_____	_____
Brown Creeper	_____	Red Squirrel	_____
American Robin	_____	Gray Squirrel	_____
Northern Mockingbird	_____	_____	_____
European Starling	_____	_____	_____
Cedar Waxwing	_____	_____	_____
American Tree Sparrow	_____	_____	_____
White-throated Sparrow	_____	_____	_____

Please send this form to:
Backyard Winter Bird Survey
NH Audubon
84 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301



NH AUDUBON
Celebrating 100 Years of Conservation

84 SILK FARM ROAD
CONCORD, NH 03301

Change Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 522
Concord, NH

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 emedia@nhaudubon.org.



THE SANDHILL CRANE SPECTACLE IN NEBRASKA

March 25-31, 2015

The amazing sight of tens of thousands, sometimes hundreds of thousands, of Sandhill Cranes calling and flying and courting is something right out of primeval North America. Join us for this short but extraordinary experience during spring migration in the heartland of our country. In Nebraska we will experience life on the Great Plains as well as witness the crossroads of the birds of North America. We will have an excellent chance to compare similar species such as Cackling and Canada Geese, Snow and Ross's Geese, and also to see and study mid-continent specialties such as Harris's Sparrow, Baird's Sandpipers, and maybe even breeding plumage Franklin's Gulls and the ever-increasing Trumpeter Swan. The ancient dance of the Greater Prairie Chickens will be an expected bonus.

Price: \$1395. Single supplement of \$175. Led by Bob Quinn, the tour begins and ends in Omaha. The price includes all ground transportation, lodging, most meals, and gratuities.

Reserve your spot by sending a deposit of \$200, per person, directly to Anne St Cyr: 2 Scituate Place Unit 27, Merrimack, NH, 03054.

Thank You

New Hampshire Audubon gratefully acknowledges the following for their corporate and foundation support:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A&B Lumber | Johnny Prescott & Son Oil Co. Inc. |
| A Market Natural Food | Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd. |
| Ambrose Brothers Gravel Pit | Millennium Integrated Marketing |
| Apple Hill Farm | The Mountain Corporation |
| The Barley House, LLC | Nathan Wechsler & Company Professional Association |
| BCM Environmental Law | Newfound Lake Region Association |
| Ben Franklin/Ace Hardware | New Hampshire Charitable Foundation |
| Blue Seal Feeds | New Hampshire Education Association |
| Brookside Pizzeria | New Hampshire Humanities Council |
| The Byrne Foundation | Public Service of New Hampshire |
| Checkmate Pizza | Normandeau Associates TransCanada |
| The Common Man Family of Restaurants | The Red Blazer |
| Coppertoppe Inn & Retreat Center | ReVision Energy, LLC |
| Country Woods Furniture | The Rowley Agency Inc. |
| Eastern Mountain Sports | Sculptured Rocks Bed and Breakfast |
| Ed Reilly Subaru | St. Paul's School |
| Endicott Furniture | Venture Print Unlimited, Inc. |
| First Colebrook Bank | Vinnie's Pizzeria |
| Gould Hill Orchards | |
| GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. | |