

Summer 2015

# NH Audubon \ Afield



## Tracking New Hampshire's Butterflies – How You Can Help!

By Vanessa Jones

It's mid-day, the sun is shining, the wildflowers are blooming, and I am out in the field with my net at the ready. Fortunately for me, butterflies and I prefer the same type of conditions to be active outside. I've never been fond of setting an alarm clock, which may explain why I have a lot to learn about birds! And why am I looking for butterflies? It's step one of the scientific method....before we can ask questions about what's happening in the natural world, we must first observe.

New Hampshire is home to over 100 species of butterflies, but the actual status of most is not fully known. Butterfly conservation work in the state has focused on rare species such as the state and federally-endangered Karner Blue<sup>1</sup> (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*), and the state-threatened White Mountain Arctic<sup>2</sup> (*Oenis melissa semidea*). We may have other rare species in New Hampshire in need of conservation action, but we just don't have enough information to make that determination yet.

Atlantis Fritillaries on Joe Pye Weed. Photo by Bob Janules

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Visit the Currier Museum of Art to see the John James Audubon Print Exhibit, which runs from May 23 – August 30.

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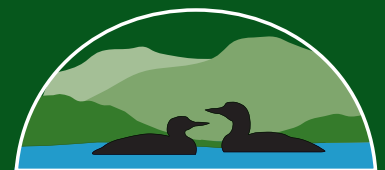
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**NH AUDUBON**  
Protecting our environment since 1914

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

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Whenever I compose these letters for Afield, I start slowly... and then I can hardly type fast enough to keep up with the torrent of information I am proud to share. This edition is no different.

As many of you know by now, we have entered into an extraordinary collaboration with the Currier Museum of Art to display John James Audubon prints in an absolutely breathtaking exhibit (see page 3). Our conservation staff is buried in field work - Nighthawks, Rusty Blackbirds, butterfly and dragonfly surveys, Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle monitoring. Our Paradise Point Center on Newfound Lake is open for the summer. The Massabesic Center has just launched a very successful partnership with NH AARP whose members are learning about birding, backyard habitats, and Lake Massabesic. It's wedding season at the McLane Center—the perfect venue for couples who want to marry in a “green” setting. Volunteers are currently improving the trails at the Silk Farm Sanctuary and Ponemah Bog. Summer camps are gearing up, soon to be in full swing...the good news goes on and on. So join us at the Currier, get outdoors, take a hike on our trails, go kayaking on Newfound Lake, enjoy a NH Audubon event, sign your kids up for summer camp, and get to know the people who do the work at this great organization.

It's THAT time of year—just do it!!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bartlett

*President, New Hampshire Audubon*



## Thank You

NH Audubon wishes to acknowledge the generous support received from the following organizations. Their support, as well as others, have allowed us to protect New Hampshire's natural environment for wildlife and people for over 100 years.

### Grants

*Byrne Foundation*

*Red Acre Foundation*

*Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation*

*Patagonia*

*Parker Nelson*

## Save the Date

**2015 Annual Gathering** with morning field trips – Saturday, September 12, Greenfield NH

**Bid for the Birds** - Auction and Party – Saturday, November 14, Gilford NH

## Tracking New Hampshire's Butterflies

Continued from page 1

Neighboring states and parts of Canada have undertaken multi-year survey efforts to collect data on butterflies in their area. For example, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and their volunteers surveyed for butterflies from 2002 – 2007, resulting in 36,121 records of over 100 species of butterflies. A similar effort in New Hampshire would provide important information for making butterfly conservation decisions.

So how does knowing which species of butterflies occur, and where in New Hampshire we can find them, fit into the big picture? Butterflies are widely recognized as important components of natural ecosystems. Adults are

important pollinators and larvae can be major herbivores (and tasty morsels for other wildlife). Many are also specialists on one or a few host plants, and in this context can serve as indicators of change in our environment.

Want to help? Get out there and look! A great way to keep track of all the amazing butterflies you will find is by entering your data in eButterfly ([www.e-butterfly.org](http://www.e-butterfly.org)). Check out sites like the Xerces Society ([www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)) to become educated about pollinators and ways to make the area around your home more attractive to our winged-friends. If you find yourself wanting to help but short on time, donate to projects like ours ([www.nh Audubon.org](http://www.nh Audubon.org)).

[org/new-hampshire-butterfly-survey/](http://new-hampshire-butterfly-survey/)) and help us continue our work.

As for me, I plan to spend this summer at New Hampshire Audubon sanctuaries and other spots around the state to “see what I can see!”

Initial funding for this project has been provided by the Conservation and Research Foundation and the Cricket Foundation.

1. *Karner Blue Butterfly and Concord (NH) Pine Barrens Project is the work of the Non-game and Endangered Wildlife Program of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.*
2. *The Vermont Center for Ecostudies has conducted work on the butterfly species endemic to the alpine habitat of New Hampshire's Presidential Range.*

## A Blending of Nature and Art

NH Audubon and Currier Museum collaborative exhibit will run from May 23 to August 30.

By Ruth Smith



Plate 81 - Common American Deer by John James Audubon

In the early 1970's New Hampshire Audubon received a donation of original prints of the work of John James Audubon — over 100 images of mammals produced between 1845-48. This summer some of those prints, along with a few original Audubon bird prints and other related works, are on display at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. The exhibition, "From Birds to Beasts: Audubon's Last Great Adventure" will run from May 23 – August 30. In addition to the exhibit, NH Audubon and the Currier are offering associated programs to enhance the public's understanding of Audubon, the man, his art and the animals that fascinated him.

John James Audubon achieved fame from his groundbreaking publication *The Birds of America*, which depicted nearly 500 species of birds, life size in a series of volumes called the double elephant folio. But even before completing that audacious project, he set his sights on the country's mammals.

In 1843 Audubon, and several companions, journeyed up the Missouri River to observe and study some of

America's most iconic creatures. *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* resulted from this expedition. Audubon's images of 150 mammals were painted in their natural settings with life-like poses, just as he had done with his birds (only not life size).

The three volume set was the most elaborate color plate book printed entirely in the United States in the mid-1800s. Each copy included an additional three volume scientific text that provided detailed information about each of these intriguing and in some cases little-known creatures. Only 300 of these books were printed and they sold by subscription for \$300 (nearly \$5000 today).

Not only is the collaborative exhibition an opportunity for the public to see some of these historic prints, but it provides a window into the work and impact of John James Audubon. It illustrates some of Audubon's adventures that took place in a time when travel was done by foot, horseback, stage coach or boat and much of this continent was relatively unexplored by European decedents. The themes of art,

### Reciprocal Membership Discounts

Current NH Audubon members receive a \$15 discount on a new membership to the Currier (not renewals). Visit [www.currier.org](http://www.currier.org) for more details.

Currier members are invited to join NH Audubon at the following discounted rates:

- \$20 – Student (26 and under)/Senior 65+
- \$30 – Individual
- \$45 – Family

We look forward to welcoming Currier Members into the "Audubon family".

nature and adventure are interwoven throughout the exhibition.

"We are thrilled to be working with the Currier Museum of Art on this project, which will raise awareness about the impact of John James Audubon, the groundbreaking artist and naturalist," said Mike Bartlett, NH Audubon president. "Our collaboration with the Currier has been tremendously rewarding, allowing us to share this incredible collection with the public."

See below for a sample of programs at the Currier Museum and NH Audubon centers. Check the calendar or websites for details: [www.currier.org](http://www.currier.org) and [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)

- **Bats of NH – June 11**
- **Ecological Change Since Audubon – June 18**
- **Birds of the Zimmerman House – June 21, July 12, and August 9**
- **Moose of NH – June 30**
- **Cottontails in NH – July 14**



# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

**See the latest event listings  
& full descriptions @  
[www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)**

## AMMONOOSUC CHAPTER

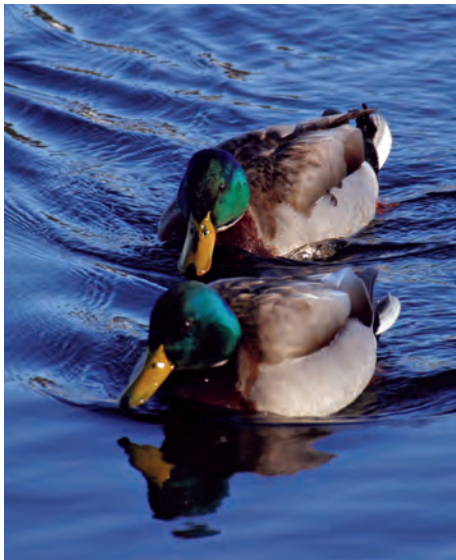
Meeting are held at The Rocks Estate, 4 Christmas Lane, Bethlehem, NH 03574.  
[www.therocks.org](http://www.therocks.org). (603) 444-6228

For more information, contact David Govatski, Chapter President at [david.govatski@gmail.com](mailto:david.govatski@gmail.com).

## Mothapalooza at the Rocks

July 22 @ 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Local moth expert Lucy Golden of Franconia will host an evening program and opportunity to observe Moths at the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem. The program will have an indoor session to learn about these night flyers followed by an outdoor session where we will observe moths in a natural setting, attracting them with lights and sugary solutions.



*Photo by Dirk Van der Merwe*

## AMOSKEAG FISHWAYS

4 Fletcher Street  
Manchester, NH  
(603) 626-3474

The Amoskeag Fishways Learning and Visitor's Center is located on Exit 6, off of Interstate 293 in Manchester, NH.

## Fishways Fundays: River Critter Babies

June 4 @ 9:30 am – 11:00 am and again at



12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Cost: \$8/family. Preregistration with payment is required.

Discover who raises young on the banks of the Merrimack and search for their signs around the Fishways. Fundays are for children ages 4-5 accompanied by an adult. Programs include outdoor exploration and indoor crafts.

## Sea Lamprey Appreciation Day

June 6 @ 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

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

Touch a live sea lamprey and get sucked into the fun at this unique event as we discover and compare the fascinating life cycles of these two amazing fish.

## Family Fun Night: River Safari with Macro-invertebrates

June 12 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$5/family

Become familiar with these wild-looking creepy crawlies, and discover some of their amazing adaptations by observing them up close!

## Fishways Fundays: Get Ready, GROW!

June 18 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am & 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Cost: \$8/family

We will explore outdoors, play games and plant seeds to discover the magic of plant growth.

## Family Fun Night: A Plethora of Parasites: Lamprey, Ticks and More

June 26 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$5/family

Frightening as they may seem, parasites present us with an intriguing survival strategy and some very interesting behaviors. Learn about their redeeming qualities and mix up some of our secret tick repellent for a worry-free summer.

## Fishways Family Adventures

July 9, 16, 23, 30 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cost: \$10/family

Join Fishways staff Thursdays in July for exciting family adventures. We'll hike, stomp, dig, climb, splash, search for critters



*Photo by Mona Johnson*

## Announcing the 9th Annual: Wild NH Photography Contest and Auction

If photography is your passion, take this opportunity to have your best photos recognized! Enter your photos to win in any or all of the three categories: wildlife, wild plants and land/water-scapes. Up to 5 photos can be submitted by amateur photographers only. Youth (under 18) and Adults (over 18) will be judged separately. All winning photos will be donated to the silent auction that will benefit the Massabesic Audubon Center. Winning photos will be on display from October 6 to December 6, 2015. Call the center for complete rules or email [mac@nhaudubon.org](mailto:mac@nhaudubon.org) for more information. Rules and entry forms are on our website, [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org). Entries must be submitted July 15 to September 1.

*Photo by William Dow*



## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



and more as we discover some of the local natural gems in the Merrimack River Watershed.

### **Family Fun Nights: Birds and Beasts**

July 31 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$5/family

Delve into the natural history of birds and beasts by exploring skulls, pelts, feathers and more.

### **Family Volunteer Day: Build a Wigwam**

August 8 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cost: Free

Help us rebuild our Fishways wigwam! Spend the morning outdoors, bending saplings, lashing them together, and learning firsthand how these structures were traditionally made.

### **Family Fun Nights: Campfire Tales**

August 14 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$5/family

Participate in traditional Native American tales, play games and enjoy a campfire on the banks of the Merrimack River.

### **CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER**

#### **Field Trip: Pawtuckaway State Park**

June 6 @ 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Cost: Free

Search for familiar and uncommon woodland songbirds and their nests at the height of nesting season in a beautiful woodland setting. Contact Rob Woodward at (603) 224-0889 (evenings) for more information.

### **Mid-Summer Birding in Concord**

July 25 @ 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Cost: Free

We will look for nestlings as well as early fall migrants, and you might be surprised at what we can find in the middle of the summer! Contact Bob Quinn at [raqbirds@aol.com](mailto:raqbirds@aol.com) for more information.

### **Field Trip: Weekday Canoe Birding on the Merrimack River**

August 13 @ 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Cost: Free, preregistration is required.

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. Contact Bob Quinn at [raqbirds@aol.com](mailto:raqbirds@aol.com) for more information.

### **Field Trip: A New Tradition—Labor Day Fall Warblers of Concord**

September 7 @ 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Cost: Free

Fall warbler migration is in full swing in early September and we will spend the

morning in a variety of habitats that should result in at least a dozen species of warblers and other migrants. Contact Bob Quinn at [raqbirds@aol.com](mailto:raqbirds@aol.com) for more information.

### **Block Island Weekend**

September 25 – 27

Cost: meals, lodging, ferry

Block Island lies off the coast of Rhode Island and is a renowned location for watching fall migration in New England. Pam Hunt will lead this two-day, two night trip near the peak time for warblers and other songbirds. Watch for more details as we get closer, but for more information contact Pam Hunt at 753-9137 or [biodiva@myfairpoint.net](mailto:biodiva@myfairpoint.net).

### **MASCOMA CHAPTER**

#### **Field Trip: VT State Farm Prison and Environs**

June 25 @ 6:30 am – 9:00 am

Cost: Free

The grounds of the VT correctional facility in Windsor offer some excellent birding opportunities. Join us for bird watching and identification. We are sure to see as many if not more species than we saw last year. If time allows we'll also check fields at the junction of Hunt Rd. and Marton Rd for grassland species. We'll meet at the Vermont end of the Ledyard Bridge at 6:30 a.m. to carpool to Windsor. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact [mascomabirds@yahoo.com](mailto:mascomabirds@yahoo.com).

### **MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER**

26 Audubon Way, Auburn, NH

Phone: (603) 668-2045



#### **Nature Café: Being Batty**

June 5 @ check website for time

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

Learn the importance of bats and how to be a citizen scientist. Cynthia Nichols will present and teach you how to conduct bat surveys near you.

#### **Nature Café: Honey Bees**

July 10 @ check website for time

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

The Dodge family will show you how to make a bee hive and how to become a



## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

beekeeper. They will tell about bee behavior and their importance. We will take a stroll out to the beehive on our sanctuary to view the bees.

### **Nature Café: Call of the Loons**

August 7 @ check website for time

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

Come meet John Rockwood, common Loon educator, author, naturalist, and professional nature photographer. John will tell you the fascinating life of Loons through the eyes of Grapenut, a real loon who adopted John into his loon family and shared all his young and incredible growing stages with him for two seasons.

### **Family Programs: Butterflies**

July 11 @ 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Cost: Free

Come by our Butterfly Garden and meet our volunteer Bill Coder who will tell you interesting facts about butterflies and how you can attract them to your garden.

### **McLANE CENTER**

84 Silk Farm Rd.

Concord, NH

(603) 224-9909



### **Bats of New Hampshire – Facts and Myths**

June 11 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: Donations

Learn about the important roles that bats play in our ecosystem and how the white-nosed syndrome has impacted bats in NH and beyond.

### **Moose of New Hampshire – Their Importance and Status**

June 30 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Cost: Donations

Learn about the history of moose in NH, their biology, current status, research results and management plans for the future.

### **Artist Reception: Tom Zack**

July 11 @ 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Cost: Free

Tom Zack has spent over 35 years as a nature and wildlife photographer. He has been published in national magazines and calendars as well as exhibited in various galleries throughout New England. Come



meet the artist and see his work in person.

### **Recovering NH's Native Rabbit – the New England Cottontail**

July 14 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Cost: Donations

Learn about the recovery effort and details of the life of New Hampshire's rabbits with NH Fish and Game biologist Heidi Holman.

### **MONADNOCK CHAPTER**

#### **Birding the Nighthawk Migration**

August 26 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Cost: Free

Join Cliff Seifer to observe one of the under-appreciated spectacles of fall migration, the annual flight of Common Nighthawks over the Monadnock Region. Meet on the Surry Dam. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education and New Hampshire Audubon. For more information, contact Cliff at [clifdisc@gmail.com](mailto:clifdisc@gmail.com).



### **NASHAWAY CHAPTER**

Lectures and programs held at:

Nashua Public Library

2 Court St., Nashua, NH

#### **Lecture: Live Free or Fly Fish**

June 17 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: Free

Join Jerry Bernier of Nashua, an avid fly fisherman and adventurer, who has traveled the world in pursuit of his passion for an informative lecture.

### **Ponemah Bog Walks**

Saturdays, June 20, 27, July 11, 25, September 12, 26 @ 9:00 am

Cost: Free

Join us for one or more of these informal walks. Many interesting topics will be covered. Children always welcome. Some of the topics covered on the walks, include: the wildlife in the bog (birds and dragonflies), plants found in the bog and their special adaptations, bog formation and how bogs differ from marshes and swamps.

June 20 Jack Gleason, Bog Plants and their Adaptations (Grass Pink Orchids should be in bloom)

June 27 Tom Young, Dragonfly Enthusiast

July 11 Laura Deming, Senior Biologist, NH Audubon

July 25 Pam Hunt, Senior Biologist, NH Audubon (Rhodora azaleas and bog cotton will hopefully be in full display)

Sept. 12 Elaine Jacobson, Bog Plants and their Adaptations, "Friend of Ponemah Bog"

Sept. 26 Elaine Jacobson, Bog Plants and their Adaptations, "Friend of Ponemah Bog"

### **NEWFOUND AUDUBON CENTER**

North Shore Road, Hebron, NH

Contact the Newfound Audubon Center at (603) 744-3516 from May through September and leave a detailed message to register for a program. You may also email [ejohnson@nhaudubon.org](mailto:ejohnson@nhaudubon.org).

### **Tai Chi with Viki Kinman**

Mondays, May 18 – September 7 @ 9:00 am – 10:00 pm at Ash Cottage (Beginner Classes)

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**Mondays, May 18 – September 7 @ 10:00 am – 11:00 pm at Ash Cottage (Advanced Classes)**

**Cost: \$12/class or \$15 for both classes**

Tai Chi is a slow moving, fluid, Chinese exercise which refreshes and relaxes the practitioner, while developing balance and strength. Join local Tai Chi instructor Viki Kinman in a meditative, relaxing and holistic experience. All ages welcome.

### **Nature Crafts**

**Sundays, June 7 – August 30 @ 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Cost: \$5/person**

Join a Newfound Audubon Center naturalist at Paradise Point to create educational crafts. We will learn why certain critters look the way they do and what makes them so special and adapted to their own environment.

### **Herpetology**

**Tuesdays, July 7 – August 25 @ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at Paradise Point**

**Cost: \$10/person. Preregistration required.**

Join one of our naturalists on a trek through the trails to find our favorite reptilian and amphibian friends! We will also get to spend some time with our resident painted turtle.

### **Red Barn Lecture Series**

**Tuesdays, July 7 – August 25 @ 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm**

Park at Ash Cottage. Programs held across the street at Meadow Wind B&B.

**Cost: \$8M/\$10NM, family \$20M/\$24NM**



**(suggested donation)**

Join us for our Red Barn Lecture Series starting July 7. With lecture topics ranging from New Hampshire favorite mammals to invasive plant species to haunted tales of New England, there will be a lecture to spark everyone's interest!

Visit [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org) for the schedule of lectures.

### **Kayak/Canoe Lake Ecology Lesson**

**Wednesdays, July 1 – September 2 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm at Paradise Point**

**Cost: \$10/person, \$20/family (without rental); \$20/person, \$40/family (with rentals). Preregistration required.**

Families are welcome to join us for a group kayak/canoe trip around Newfound Lake for a lake ecology lesson in which we will discuss local flora and fauna as well as what makes Newfound Lake so special.

### **Bird Survey**

**Thursdays, July 2 – August 27 @ 9:00 am – 10:00 am at Ash Cottage**

**Cost: \$10/person. Preregistration required.**

All ages are welcome to join a Newfound Audubon Center naturalist on a walk through our local various habitats to conduct a survey of the birds in our backyard.

### **Campfire and Stories**

**Fridays, July 10 – August 28 @ 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Paradise Point**

**Cost: \$5/person, \$20/family**

Join local storyteller Doug Riddle, better known as Amoo, who will warm your imagination with delightful tales while gathered around the enchanting glow of a traditional summer campfire.

## **SANCTUARY TRIPS**

### **North Country Birding and Nature Tour**

**August 22 @ 8:00 am – August 25 @ 5:00 pm**

**Cost: \$899/members; \$999/non-members. Price includes lodging, transportation, two guides, special presentations, a pontoon boat tour, and all meals.**

Leaders: Bob Quinn (Merlin Wildlife Tours) and Phil Brown (NHA's Director of Land Management)

This special nature tour will focus on birds and other wildlife, and several of the most accessible boreal and other fascinating landscapes of NH's 'North Country'. This tour is designed to include NHA-specific conservation and historical themes, as well as visits to several of NHA's finest wildlife sanctuaries. We will visit places such as East Inlet and the Connecticut River Headwaters in Pittsburg, and take a special wildlife watching boat tour on Newfound Lake. Other locations we will visit include NHA's own Pondicherry, Scotland Brook, Holman, Hebron Marsh, and Paradise Point Wildlife Sanctuaries. Bob and Phil will highlight themes such as changes in both the landscape and avifauna of this unique Region of the state over the past 100 years.

Please contact Phil Brown at [pbrown@nhaudubon.org](mailto:pbrown@nhaudubon.org) or (603) 224-9909x334 for more information or to book your spot. Space is limited!

## **SEACOAST CHAPTER**

Programs and lectures held at:  
Seacoast Science Center,  
570 Ocean Blvd, Rye, NH



### **Birding the Ho Chi Minh Trail**

**June 10 @ 7:00 pm – 8:45 pm**

**Cost: Free**

Join Seacoast Chapter members Jim Sparrell and Katie Towler for a "visit" to Vietnam in which they search for the "very skulking" Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush and a new species first identified in 1999.



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CONCORD, NH 03301

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We are working to streamline our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive electronic communications from NH Audubon, please call 603-224-9909 or email [membership@nhaudubon.org](mailto:membership@nhaudubon.org).

## Summer 2015

### Look Inside

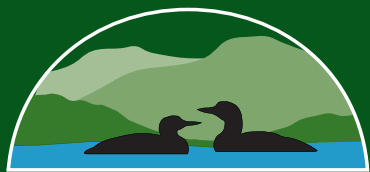
NH Butterfly Survey

President's Letter

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**NH AUDUBON**  
Protecting our environment since 1914



2014 Wild Photography Contest: 2nd Place winner in the animal category.  
Ruby Throated Hummingbird by David Pushee

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE AUDUBON NEWSLETTER & PROGRAM GUIDE