

# The Merganser

Mid-Coast  
Audubon



*Mid-Coast Audubon's mission is to promote long-term responsible use of natural resources through an informed membership, education, and community awareness*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 39, No. 1 - February 2015

## Guest Author

Jeff and Allison Wells on the "shrimpy" effect.  
Page 1

## President's Corner

Birds and Rockweed  
Page 2

## Critter Corner

That unearthly sound outside your window at night could be a coyote.  
Page 2

## Calendar

An overnight field trip and several fascinating programs  
Page 4

## Feathery Fun Quiz

Miscellaneous trivia.  
Page 7

## Hog Island

Scholarships and more  
Page 5

## Birdseed Sale

Page 5

## New Members

A bonanza  
Page 6

## Christmas Bird Count

Recap of surprises  
Page 7



CBC sunrise at Pemaquid Lighthouse by Nancy Dickinson

## The Shrimpy Effect

We recently read a short essay in the Birding Community E-Bulletin about what the authors called "The Shrimpy Effect." It turns out that "Shrimpy" was the affectionate name bestowed on a particular bird, a gull, that was fed shrimp by the staff of a seafood restaurant along the Maryland shore. What made this gull different was that it was not supposed to be there. It was a Kelp Gull—a species that is a fairly common resident in the Southern Hemisphere—but on a few rare occasions has made it up to North American shores.

Rather predictably, birders came from all over the U.S. to see Shrimpy and many enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Sea Breeze Crab House and Restaurant where the staff fed the bird its favorite shrimp snacks. The bird knew a good thing when it saw it and came back for seven winters in a row

before disappearing after 2005. Of course, the owners of the Sea Breeze also knew a good thing and made thousands of dollars off of the visiting birders who came to see Shrimpy. Thus, "The Shrimpy Effect" is the revenue generated by local businesses by visiting birders who come to see a particularly special bird.

Some of the many Snowy Owls that were so easy to see last winter must have provided some "Shrimpy Effect" to local communities when visiting birders stopped by for meals, snacks, and fuel. A rare Townsend's Solitaire that was in residence in Freeport this past early winter and the Pink-

footed Goose in Damariscotta probably added some birder-generated revenue to some businesses in those areas. Our friend and colleague Derek Lovitch compiled a report to estimate the possible

economic impact of birders to the southern Maine and coastal New Hampshire

*Continued on page 3*



Kelp Gull (Shrimpy) and Black-Backed Gull (on right)



Pink-footed Goose



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SUE SCHUBEL

I love birds. And birders! Some of my best friends are birders. The darting eyes and preoccupied gaze, the fact that they aren't really listening to you, but straining to catch a chip note from the bushes, the knowledge that you would be run over without hesitation if someone says "Quetzal at Pemaquid Point" – these are the charming aspects of friendship with birders. Somehow though, I missed feeling the single-minded, rabid passion invoked in the phrase "I NEED that bird!" Until now.

If you want to nurture a little of that crazy-making feeling, I suggest that you take the Bird-A-Day challenge! A new staff member at Hog Island mentioned it and I have latched on – questing to see a different bird species each day for as long as possible, while still holding down a couple of jobs and caring for dependents. It really is good for paying attention, not only to any creature flapping or paddling by, but to

good roosting spots, winter water sources, bushes full of fruit, diurnal patterns of attendance, and nighttime owl calling! It will get you involved in ebird and watching the local birding listservs.

It's good to be involved. Once a month there is a meeting of the Rockweed working group, a body tasked to recommend areas for closure to Rockweed harvest due to sensitive wildlife. The birds do not generally attend, but thankfully, some who can speak for birds and seals do. It's a sadly recurring theme that wildlife must defend its right to any habitat and food when there is a business opportunity present. One would think, with 4,600 islands off our rich coastline, there could be room for commerce and intact habitat, especially when much of the commerce depends on a healthy ecosystem.

Be aware. Get involved. And if you see a Lapland Longspur, call me – I NEED THAT BIRD!

For more information, visit <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rm/rockweed/Workgroup/RockweedWorkingGroup.htm>

## CRITTER CORNER - DON REIMER

One fall day, I watched a gray-brown animal crossing the back edge of Weskeag Marsh. It was the animal's undulating, rocking gait that drew my attention. This handsome three-legged Eastern Coyote was missing its entire right front leg, but appeared robust, healthy and active as it snatched up a small rodent from foot-tall grasses. For the record, coyotes are intelligent and extremely adaptable.

With their long legs, pointy snout, and drooping bushy black-tipped tail, Eastern Coyotes are bigger and heavier than their western counterparts. Maine coyotes weigh between 30 and 50 pounds, with an average life span of about four years.

There is no historical evidence that coyotes were present in New England through the 1800s. By the mid-1900s, the animals had moved eastward from the Midwest and Canada to establish populations in the Northeast and eventually down the mid-Atlantic corridor. Interbreeding with Gray Wolves in some instances, Eastern Coyotes arrived to occupy a vacant ecological niche as the last wolves were systematically extirpated.

Coyotes are social animals that usually select a lifelong mate. Both parents care for their four to eight pups born in

May, occasionally with some help from older offspring. Coyotes mark and defend their 5-25 square mile territories against other unrelated coyotes and other canids.

Several distinct vocalizations facilitate social communication within the pack structure. Adult coyotes bark to indicate a threat; long howls are used to assemble pack members, and group yip-howls are issued when pack members reunite. Vocal activity is quite high during the January to March breeding season. I have heard coyotes respond vocally to passing train whistles and wailing ambulance sirens.

Being generalists, coyotes eat whatever foods are seasonally abundant. This can include mice, squirrels, woodchucks, snowshoe hare, house cats, carrion, amphibians, garbage, insects and fruit.

To some extent, coyotes undoubtedly play a role in deer predation. Currently there is a year-round open hunting season on coyotes in Maine, with night-time hunting privileges extending from December to August. Despite the mounting kill tallies, these predator control measures are largely ineffective. Preservation and/or expansion of the white-tailed deer's wintering habitat is perhaps the best solution to the long-term management issue.



Eastern Coyote

Don Reimer



# The Shrimpy Effect. . . *continued*

area who came to see the exceedingly rare Western Reef-Heron that spent six days in Kittery before relocating to New Hampshire. Derek estimated that at least \$9,000 was spent in Kittery alone, and that tens of thousands of dollars were spent in southern Maine and New Hampshire combined, by birders who came to see the bird—revenue that would not have occurred without the presence of the bird.

Maine's Midcoast area has its own more long-term version of "The Shrimpy Effect" in its natural beauties and particularly in its publicly accessible open spaces like those protected by such land trusts as the Damariscotta River Association and Pemaquid Watershed Association. For example, The Boothbay Regional Land Trust's preserves and trails were found in a 2013 study by researchers at the University of Maine to contribute \$3.9 million annually to the local economy and have a worth to the community of \$32 million.

Audubon's Hog Island is another natural attraction that brings many people to the Midcoast region. Not to get too much into accounting here but those Black-throated Green

Warblers and Hermit Thrushes whose songs echo from special places in our area throughout the spring and summer are doing their part to help the economy! And of course we can't forget that ultimate "Shrimpy Effect" bird, the Atlantic Puffin that brings many thousands of people to our area every summer to take boat trips out to see them at Eastern Egg Rock from both New Harbor (Hardy Boat) and Boothbay Harbor (Cap'n Fish). That's a bird worth its weight in gold, or better yet, shrimp.



Western Reef Heron



Atlantic Puffin on Egg Rock

*Jeffrey V. Wells, Ph.D., is a Fellow of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Dr. Wells is one of the nation's leading bird experts and conservation biologists. Allison Childs Wells, formerly of the*

*Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is a senior director at the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Both are widely published natural history writers and are the authors of the book, **Maine's Favorite Birds.***



The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a partnership between Audubon and the Cornell Lab of

Ornithology, with Bird Studies Canada as the official Canadian partner. The GBBC is a four-day international bird count open to birders of all ages and abilities. The citizen science data collected gives researchers information about the location and size of bird populations each February.

With 34.5 million bird observations on more than 144,000 checklists, The 2014 count was the most detailed four-day snapshot of global bird populations ever undertaken. Between Friday, February 14, and Monday, February 17, 2014, participants reported 4,296 species, including a record 644 species in the United States.

This was also the second year that participants were encouraged to submit their bird sightings from outside the U.S. and Canada. We received checklists from 135 different countries and independent territories, representing all seven continents!

**Mark the dates on your calendar, February 13-16, 2015, choose your location – your backyard, local park, school yard, preserve – then start counting. For more information visit: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>**



Bohemian Waxwing by Sue Schubel



Common Redpoll by Missy Mandel

# Calendar of Events

*Bird walks and programs are free; donations are welcome to help defray costs.*

**Program chair: Kathy Cartwright 832-5584. Field trip chair: John Weinrich 563-2930**

## FEBRUARY

**Saturday and Sunday, February 14 and 15**

### Plum Island and Coastal Cape Ann

Join Mid-Coast Audubon and Massachusetts native Dennis McKenna for two days of birding through Plum Island, Ipswich, Rockport and Gloucester. Last year's trip had Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls, Cedar Waxwings, Purple Sandpipers, raptors, many ducks and scoters and other land birds.

Overnight arrangements can be made by contacting Dennis McKenna at 563-8439.

*Meet at Damariscotta Hannaford at 7:00am*

Overnight  
trip!

**Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

### Camden Public Library

Don Reimer presents *Winter Birds of Maine* - a colorful slide program featuring an overview of birds wintering in the mid-coast region. Beyond the basic identification piece, the presentation will focus on the social habits and changing distribution of various species. Since about 75% of our summer birds migrate southward, these are the hardy birds of Maine winter.

## MARCH

**Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

### Camden Public Library

Seth Benz of MCAS will present: *Pulse Point: Monitoring Winged Migrations in Acadia National Park*.

This presentation looks at research and education efforts at Acadia National Park, the U.S. gateway to the Atlantic Flyway, with special emphasis on the migrations of birds and their interactions with plants and insects. Seth Benz is the director of the Schoodic Institute Bird Ecology Program.

**Saturday, March 21**

### Biddeford Pool

A day trip to Biddeford Pool, Biddeford Pool Beach, East Point, Pine Point and Scarborough Marsh looking for Brant and other migrating waterfowl.

*Meet at Damariscotta Hannaford at 7:00 am*

## APRIL

**Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

### Camden Public Library

Paty Matrai will present her work in the arctic: *Climate Change & the Biology of the Arctic*. Dr. Paty Matrai is involved with a project called "OASIS" (Ocean-Atmosphere-Sea Ice-Snowpack). She is a Senior Research Scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Maine. Her group focuses on biological production of gases and aerosols that are exchanged with the overlying atmosphere, both in the lab and in the field.

**Saturday, April 18**

### Local Bird Walk - Damariscotta Area

Meet a Mid-Coast Audubon leader for a morning of birding spring birds and waterfowl.

*Meet at Damariscotta River Association parking lot at 7:00 a.m.*

**Saturday, April 25, 2015**

### Reid State Park

Any time of the season this special site with beaches, marshes and mixed growth forests is an unusual trip. Follow Dennis McKenna seeking waterfowl, Loons, Grebes, Sanderlings, Purple Sandpipers, songbirds and more.

*Meet at Damariscotta Hannaford at 7:00 a.m.*

## MAY

**Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

### Camden Public Library

Hope Douglas, founder and president of Wind Over Wings will present: *Birds of Prey and a Raven Who Thinks He's a Bird of Prey!* Experience the wonder of being a few feet away from a magnificent Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, rambunctious Raven, or tiny Saw-whet Owl. Each bird has a story and is unable to survive in the wild. Each inspires us with their stories — stories of courage, adaptability, and resilience.

*Check our website, [www.midcoastaudubon.org](http://www.midcoastaudubon.org) for updates on trips and programs. Thank you.*

## Feathery Fun Quiz

1. What do Common Eiders eat?
2. Do Winter Wrens spend winter in Maine?
3. What do Ruffed Grouse eat when the ground is snow-covered?
4. What color is a Black Guillemot in winter?

5. Where do Snow Buntings come from?
6. What birds take birdseed and hide it away for later?
7. What food do Pileated Woodpeckers live on, year-round?
8. What arctic Buteo might we see in the winter?
9. Are American Tree Sparrows fond of trees?
10. How many people participate in Project FeederWatch?

**Answers on page 6.**

# Would You Like to Go to Hog Island?

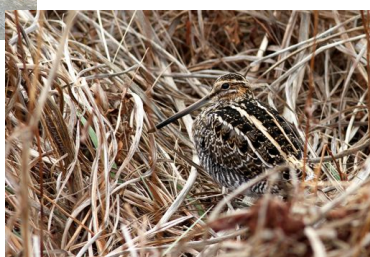
Despite the vagaries of the weather, one thing is sure Mid-Coast Audubon will be sending at least one student, rain or shine, to Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Fyn Kynd of Searsmont.

Fyn, not one to let grass grow under his feet, applied early for a scholarship. He is an avid birder and photographer and looks forward to learning from the experts at Hog Island.

Hog Island is gearing up for its



2015 season which promises to be a blockbuster. Not only does it have the tried-and-true sessions but it also has several new ones: "Hands-on Bird



Wilson's Snipe by Fyn Kynd



Science" with Scott Weidensaul and "Breaking into Birding" with Pete Dunne. Its stellar lineup of instructors is waiting to share all their collective knowledge with you. Sign up and see if doing so will change your life, like it has for so many others. You'll never look at the natural world in the same way again. You don't have to be a birder to attend -- just like the outdoors.

Mid-Coast Audubon still has funds to send an educator to Educator Camp. If you are a teacher or you know of a teacher who would like to reenergize their environmental curriculum, then have them send an e-mail to [sschubel@tidewater.net](mailto:sschubel@tidewater.net) with SCHOLARSHIP in the subject line. Don't wait too long!

For more information on Hog Island Audubon Camp's sessions visit [www.hogisland.audubon.org](http://www.hogisland.audubon.org). The camp is 72% full, so don't let the grass grow under your feet. Volunteer opportunities are possible, visit [www.fohi.org](http://www.fohi.org), click on "support" tab. See box on back cover for instructor list.



## Winter Birdseed Sale

Orders due Friday, February 21

PICKUP is Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m. to noon at Plants Unlimited, Rte. 1, Rockport.

Support your Mid-Coast Audubon Chapter which offers free programs and field trips for everyone throughout the year!

*Did you notice . . .* our newsletter's name change? A new year and a new name. We've decided to shake our wings and give homage to our namesake the Red-Breasted Merganser. So with this issue, we are no longer the Bulletin but *The Merganser*. We hope you like it.

**Black Oil Sunflower Seed** – the mainstay ... a favorite of chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and many others!

20 pounds - \$17.00

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

40 pounds - \$30.00

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunflower "meaties"** - hulled sunflower seed, less mess, more food/lb. Everyone loves them. Best deal.

25 pounds - \$24.00

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

50 pounds - \$44.00

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Melody Mix** – a mix of corn, millet and sunflower.

20 pounds - \$13.50

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

40 pounds - \$21.50

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thistle (niger)** – finches and siskins go for this

5 pounds - \$10.00

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Suet blocks** – yummy treat for woodpeckers and others

\$2.00 each

# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total cost** (make check payable to "Mid-Coast Audubon")

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Send form with check to

Address \_\_\_\_\_

"Seedsale Sue"

Town and zip \_\_\_\_\_

117 Texas Rd.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

South Bristol, ME 04568

Email \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, email is best: [sschubel@tidewater.net](mailto:sschubel@tidewater.net) (subject BIRDSEED) or phone Sue at 380-1370.





## Welcome New Members!

Ms. and Ms. Nancy Adams, Newcastle  
 Stanley Allain, Owls Head  
 Robert Anderson, Tenants Harbor  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Armentrout, Rockport  
 Susan Beebe, Rockland  
 Seth Benz, Belfast  
 Margaret M. Boyajian, Spruce Head  
 Leila Bright, Rockland  
 Kevin Brown, Belfast  
 Camden Garden Club, Camden  
 Dan and Jackie Cassiday, Topsfield, MA  
 Douglas Chamberlin, Belfast  
 Todd Mace Christensen, Camden  
 William Clarke, Port Clyde  
 Susan B. Davis, Bremen  
 Joshua T. Day, Lincolnville  
 Greg and Arine Detmer, Bremen  
 John Dickens, Newcastle  
 Ellen and Paul Durgin, Walpole  
 Anne L. Ertmann, Palm Desert  
 Jan Fish, Rockport  
 Sarah L. Fisher, Damariscotta  
 Rick and Liz Fitzsimmons, Belfast  
 Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Greenhalgh, Spruce Head  
 Joan Gregoire, Nobleboro  
 Mrs. and Mrs. Thomas L. Guthrie, North Haven  
 Charlotte P. Gulezian, Waldoboro  
 Jane and Stephen Hardy, Lincolnville  
 Paul and Sue Hitchcox, Monhegan  
 Donald Howlett, South Thomaston  
 John P. Hurley, Belfast  
 Mrs. Gill Iltis, Chicago  
 Arlene Kellman, Appleton  
 Linda Knapp, Rockport  
 Patrick and Ariana Killoran, Camden  
 Margaret and Barry King, Union  
 Nick Leadley, Rangeley  
 Nancy and Bob Lipper, Waldoboro  
 Edith Kelley Manns, Camden  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Maxcy, Owls Head  
 Mary McGee, Nobleboro  
 Marilyn McLelland, Belfast  
 Dr. and Mrs. Lyndon W. Morgan, Belfast  
 Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Myer, Washington, D.C.  
 Andrea N. Norfleet, Lincolnville  
 Wayne and JoAnn Myers, Waldoboro  
 North American Bluebird Society  
 Jamie Oates, Belmont

Whitney and Tony Oppersdorff, Lincolnville  
 The Osgood Family, Vinalhaven  
 Skip and Jo Pendleton, Belfast  
 Marilyn Petit, Belfast  
 Jeff and Karen Philbrick, Alna  
 Antoinette Pimentel, Whitefield  
 Mr. and Mrs. David G. Preston, China Village  
 Sarah Price, Rockport  
 Mary B. Reynolds, Newcastle  
 Dr. Roger Rittmaster and Ms. Jeannie, Camden  
 Mrs. Ann Robbins, Searsmonth  
 Paul E. Robie and Karen J. Young, M.D., Northport  
 Nicholas Ruf, Rockland  
 Kristen Rupert and John H. Foote, Watertown, MA  
 Anita Sandefur, South Thomaston  
 Melody and Warren Schubert, Rockport  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Siegenthaler, Port Clyde  
 Lee S. Sligh and Tom Prescott, Camden  
 Clifton and Rosemarie Smith, South China  
 Noah Soto, South China  
 George Stadler, Camden  
 Pat Stanek, Windsor  
 Stephanie and Wendell Stephenson, Newcastle  
 Tamara Stock and Robin Moody, Damariscotta  
 Karen A. Thompson, Edgecomb  
 Carol N. Tichy, Union  
 John Tobin, Rockland  
 Kathleen and Allan Toubman, Rockland  
 Eileen Tucked, Nobleboro  
 Mariellen Whelan, Newcastle  
 Christine West, Lincolnville  
 Ms. Brooke Williams, Thomaston  
 Robert E. Worthing, Cushing  
 Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Sheehan, Portland

## ... and Renewing Members

Margaret Atwood, Newcastle  
 Deidre Good and Julian Sheffield, NY  
 Joseph and Carolyn Gray, Damariscotta  
 Patricia and James Jennings, Bristol  
 Peter Lawrence, Nobleboro  
 Anthony Liss, South Bristol  
 Hilda Livingstone and Mr. Joseph, Hope  
 Krista Meinersmann, Warren  
 Nirvana Shaw, Newcastle

*Our members keep our programs, field trips, and scholarships going, as we receive 20% of your dues. Bring your friends to a program or field trip and help raise our membership.*

## Mid-Coast Audubon

Organized December 6, 1969

a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization

P.O. Box 458, Damariscotta, ME 04543-0458

### OFFICERS

Sue Schubel, President  
 John Weinrich, Vice President  
 Phyllis Coelho, Secretary  
 Lew Purinton, Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

Kathy Cartwright, Waldoboro  
 Dennis McKenna, Damariscotta  
 Kristin Pennock, Whitefield  
 Lew Purinton, Somerville  
 Don Reimer, Warren  
 Juanita Roushdy, Bremen  
 John Tobin, Rockland

### COMMITTEES

**Conservation:** Joe Gray, 563-3578  
**Field Trips:** John Weinrich, 563-2930  
**Nest boxes:** John Weinrich, 563-2930  
**Membership:** Juanita Roushdy, 529-2355  
**Preserves:** Bill Goodwill, 354-0669  
**Programs:** Kathy Cartwright, 832-5584  
**Scholarship:** Sue Schubel, 380-1370  
**Speaker Bureau:** Joe Gray, 563-3578  
**Special Events:** Sue Schubel, 380-1370

*The Merganser* editor: Juanita Roushdy, 529-2355

*The Merganser* is published quarterly in February, May, August, November. News items or photos are welcome. **The deadline for the next issue is April 15!**

Send to [juanitar@tidewater.net](mailto:juanitar@tidewater.net)



## Injured Birds!

Accepts all bird species year-round

### Avian Haven

207-382-6761  
[www.avianhaven.org](http://www.avianhaven.org)

Only seabirds and shorebirds

### On the Rush of Wings

207-832-5044  
[www.ontherushofwings.org](http://www.ontherushofwings.org)

### Answers

1. Mollusks
2. No, they migrate south.
3. Buds of deciduous trees.
4. Mostly white and gray
5. Arctic tundra
6. Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Blue jays, nuthatches
7. Ants and ant larvae
8. Rough-legged Hawk
9. No, they prefer grasses and scrub.
10. More than 20,000

# Christmas Bird Count - What Was Here?

Mid-Coast Audubon sponsors three Christmas Bird counts each year: Pemaquid/Damariscotta, Bunker Hill, and Thomaston/Rockland. Each count circle is 15 miles in diameter divided into segments. The 2014-15 CBC had 55 participants counting 16,239 individual birds. Circle highlights are below.

**Pemaquid-Damariscotta, December 14** - 78 species and 6,041 individual birds. A Merlin was new for the count, but 13 species recorded all time highs for the circle. Mild weather and little or no ice on the river and other water bodies favored the best result ever for the circle.

Highlights include four Cooper's Hawks, three Great Blue Herons and six Belted Kingfishers. A Pied-billed Grebe on McCurdy Pond was the third such occurrence on the count. Surf Scoter was the all-time count high duck species with 107 individuals. Other historically rare or uncommon species found included two Barrow's Goldeneyes, four Northern Pintails, and that most beautiful of sea ducks, one Harlequin Duck. Common Loons set a new record of 145.

Passerines of note were two Carolina Wrens, two Yellow-rumped Warblers, and one Bohemian Waxwing. Not all thrushes go south for the winter, 23 Robins, 12 Eastern Bluebirds and 4 Hermit Thrushes were located. Two of the three mimic thrushes were represented: one Gray Catbird and one Northern Mockingbird.

"Little brown jobs" were represented by 7 species including an all-time high count of 53 White-throated Sparrows, one Fox Sparrow, one White-crowned Sparrow and one Chipping Sparrow, 15 Common Redpolls, and an all-time high of 60 Pine Siskins. **Dennis McKenna, Compiler.**

**Bunker Hill, December 15** - 58 species and 3,887 individual birds - the second highest count in this circle where 4,151 birds were counted in 2013. Most feeder stations observed by circle counters and home feeder counters report reported low numbers of birds. An abundant seed crop and no snow cover in the area likely kept the feeder numbers low.

The European Starling, an introduced bird released in New York's Central Park in 1890 bumped the Black-capped Chickadee from first place into second for total numbers of a single species counted. The Blue Jay, American Crow and Mourning Dove filling out the top five.

Great Cormorants by Juanita Roushdy



Iceland Gull by Don Reimer



Gray Catbird by Don Reimer



Carolina Wren by Don Reimer



Kristin is happy to find a CBC Rest Stop!

Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Common Raven numbers rose while Wild Turkey numbers declined. Two

count-week birds included a Red-winged Blackbird in Waldoboro and a female Baltimore Oriole foraging near Duckpuddle Pond. **John Weinrich, Compiler**


**Thomaston/Rockland, December 20** - 79 species and 6,311 individual birds within the circle geographically centered at the Knox Mansion in Thomaston.

Count highlights include a flock of 148 American Coots at Chickawauke Lake.

Except for a few Common Redpolls, 10 Bohemian Waxwings and three colorful Evening Grosbeaks, the northern finch contingent was virtually absent. Not a single Cedar Waxwing was recorded this year in our circles.

A Clay-colored Sparrow found at the Samoset Resort was a new species for this count and was an exceptional find at this season of year. A Black-legged Kittiwake spotted by a Vinalhaven Ferry birder near Owls Head was another notable find. A lingering Gray Catbird, two Red-winged Blackbirds and a Double-crested Cormorant loafing in a Rockland quarry added a hint of summer past to the results. **Don Reimer, Compiler.**

*Mid-Coast Audubon wishes to recognize the efforts of the observers who "braved" the elements to contribute to this annual citizen science event; the weather couldn't have been better. It should be known, however, that these dedicated watchers would have been out counting birds even in inclement weather. Additionally, those who watched and counted birds at their bird-feeders were of key import to the end result.*

Mid-Coast Audubon  
 P.O. Box 458  
 Audubon Damariscotta, ME 04543-0458  
[www.midcoastaudubon.org](http://www.midcoastaudubon.org)

An all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) chapter  
 of Maine Audubon

Nonprofit org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Permit #862  
 Damariscotta, ME  
 04543-0458



**Brrrr - it's cold outside.  
 Stock up on your winter  
 supply of birdseed to keep  
 the birds warm!**

## Winter Birdseed Sale

*Orders due Friday, February 21*


**PICKUP** is Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m. to  
 noon at Plants Unlimited, Rte. 1, Rockport.

M I D - C O A S T A U D U B O N

## Hog Island Audubon Camp Instructors for 2015

Jonathan Alderfer,  
 Rob Bierregaard,  
 Pete Dunne, Tim Gallagher,  
 Ted Gilman, Melissa Groo,  
 Tom Johnson,  
 Stephen Kress, John Kricher,  
 Chris Lewey, Jean Mackay,  
 Laurie McLaughlin,  
 Steve Morello, Sara Morris,  
 Agelika Nelson,  
 Craig Newberger,  
 Wayne Peterson,  
 Trudy Phillips, Joshua Potter,  
 John Pumilio,  
 Heather Richard, Joe Rozak,  
 Pete Salmansohn,  
 Sue Schubel, Jerry Skinner,  
 Ron Smith,  
 Nina-Stoyen-Rozenzweig,  
 Peter Vickery,  
 Scott Weidensaul,  
 Doug Wentzel, Paul Winter,  
 Sherrie York, and more!


[http://hogisland.audubon.org/  
 instructors-and-guest-  
 speakers](http://hogisland.audubon.org/instructors-and-guest-speakers)



Maine Audubon

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mid-Coast Chapter



Mid-Coast  
Audubon

**YES!** I would like to protect and conserve wildlife and habitat in my community and  
☐ join ☐ renew my membership with Maine Audubon and the Mid-Coast Chapter.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal Address: \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I'm enclosing an additional \$10 to receive Audubon National Audubon's magazine  
 (free for Patron members and above)

☐ Check enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Charge my monthly Frequent Flyer gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

☐ Charge my annual membership of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ CSV \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Level**

Annual

☐ \$25 Senior/Volunteer

☐ \$35 Individual

☐ \$45 Household

☐ \$65 Contributing

☐ \$100 Patron

☐ \$250 Sustaining

☐ \$500 Benefactor

Monthly

☐ Frequent Flyer \$5/mo

Check payable to Maine Audubon, 200 South Main Street, Portland, ME 04101. For renewal of membership, please mail this form with payment to: 200 South Main Street, Portland, ME 04101.



*Gather family and friends  
 and join in the Great Backyard Bird Count  
 February 13-16, 2015*

