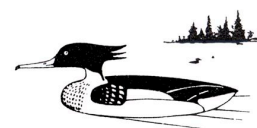


# Bulletin



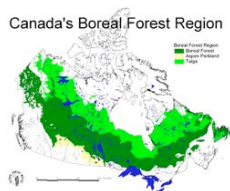
*Mid-Coast Audubon's mission is to promote long-term responsible use of natural resources through an informed membership, education, and community awareness*

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

**Volume 36, No. 2 - May 2012**

## Guest Author

*Jeff Wells writes about Boreal Forest Migration*  
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## Critter's Corner

*Don Reimer describes how a Fisher can outwit a porcupine.*  
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## President's Corner

*Where are we without our relationships?*  
**Page 2**



## Calendar

*Read about our upcoming trip to Monhegan Island*

*Visit our website for our monthly programs.*  
**Page 4**

## Feathery Fun Quiz

*How did you do on our last quiz? Check out our new one.*  
**Page 5**

## What's in My Backyard?

*Readers' sightings in their yards.*  
**Page 7**

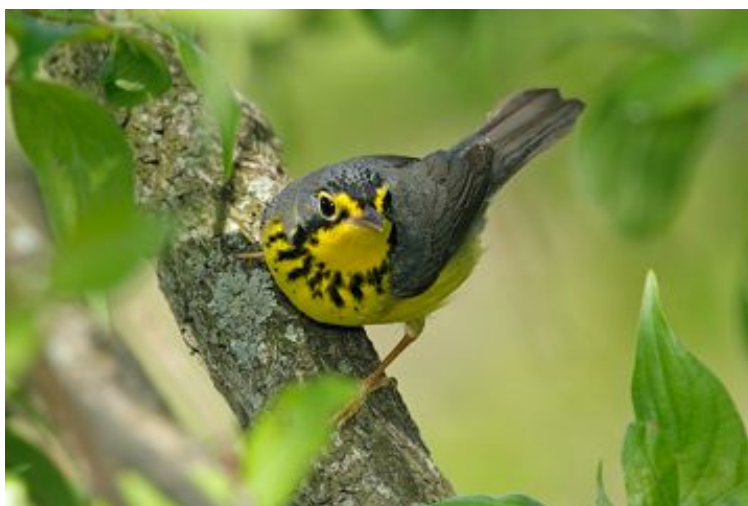
## Find Out Where the Birds Are!

*Doug Hitchcox writes about the Maine Birds Listserv*  
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## Boreal Forest Migration

Every spring a massive wave of birds moves north from the United States and Latin America into Canada's Boreal Forest to breed. This wave of returning Boreal Forest birds is one of the world's largest migratory spectacles and though it happens right above our heads here in Maine, most people don't even notice it. That's because most of the birds that breed in Canada's Boreal Forest make their annual migrations after dark when most of us are fast asleep.

In fact, the Boreal Forest supports up to 3 billion individual breeding birds and nearly 100 bird species rely on the Boreal Forest to host at least half of their global population. This incredible reservoir of abundance is why people in southern Canada and the U.S. can still expect to experience the thrill of seeing trees filled with warblers, wetlands brimming with ducks, and backyards stocked with sparrows and finches during migration and winter.



Canada Warbler

Canada's Boreal Forest is quite literally one of only three or four forested ecosystems left on earth with vast tracts of never-before logged, untouched habitat. Its 1.4 billion acres represents fully a quarter of the world's uncut forests. Many of the most familiar migratory birds of the Americas are abundant because more than 70 percent of the Boreal Forest is still ecologically intact. But even as kinglets and warblers and

loons and ducks are winging their way north, many parts of the Boreal Forest will no longer provide the habitat they need. Millions of acres of Boreal Forest are logged every year and together with industrial development from large hydropower, oil, gas, and mining, over 180 million acres of Boreal Forest habitat is estimated to have already been impacted. The impacts will only grow larger.

Boreal Forest Initiative

Sadly the industrial development of the Boreal Forest is largely driven by the

American desire for cheap energy, minerals, paper, wood, and other resources. Most U.S. citizens don't realize that their country imports more oil and gas from

*Continued on page 3*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Creating partnerships was something the MCAS Board discussed at our retreat last year. I was thinking about this and started to jot down all the organizations we already partner with. An impressive list began to grow!

We already partner with nine libraries in our Chapter area for programming: Camden Public Library, Jackson Library in Tenant's Harbor, Gibbs Library in Washington, Skidompha Library in Damariscotta, Rockland Public Library, Belfast Free Library, Waldoboro Public Library, and Vose Library in Union. We have led walks and maintained trails with six land trusts: Sheepscot Valley Conservation

Association, Damariscotta River Association, Pemaquid Watershed Association, Medomak Valley Land Trust, George's River Land Trust, and Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition. Plants Unlimited helps us with our Annual Birdseed Sale, and Louis Doe's Hardware sells our official bird boxes. We've worked with Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and Merryspring Gardens.

We are blessed to have so many complimentary organizations in this area and such an abundance of opportunities for people to learn about and care for the wild world. It's amazing to think that air, water, and critical habitats could ever be threatened with such a strong network in place!

*Sue Schubel*

## CRITTER CORNER

Sometimes known as "Fisher Cats," the Fisher is actually a medium-sized member of the weasel family. In truth, these mostly solitary, dark brown animals are unrelated to cats and do not generally fish. The chunky head, rounded ears and long bushy black tail are good field marks. These are rugged, aggressive hunters, with the agility to climb trees with their five retractable claws. Scent pads on the hind feet are used to mark their territories.

In the east, Fishers are found from Virginia north to Quebec and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. They inhabit mixed mature forest areas with a dense canopy, and are seldom observed in areas of open habitat. The larger male Fishers commonly patrol a 30-square mile territory, whereas females may range over 10 square miles. Commercial trapping of Fishers continues in some states, but the current low demand for natural fur products has reduced the prices significantly.

Their omnivorous diet



David Small caught this photo while on a walk in the woods this winter.

includes fruit, rodents, birds, eggs and carrion. Snowshoe hares, domestic poultry and occasional house cats are also taken. The Fisher is one of the few predators that can successfully prey on porcupines. The Fisher repeatedly jumps directly over its prey, forcing the porcupine to keep turning to protect its vulnerable head. Once the porcupine grows exhausted and confused, the Fisher mortally attacks its face. The dead porcupine is then flipped onto its back, exposing the soft, un-quilled belly area. In this manner,

Fishers help to control porcupine numbers throughout the Boreal Forest region.

Fishers use dens in hollow logs, stumps, brush piles and ground burrows. The females usually choose natural tree cavities high off the ground to give birth to their 3-4 kits.

Consider yourself fortunate if you see one of these bounding critters in the wild!

*Don Reimer*

## DO YOU HAVE YOUR BIRD HOUSES?

Mid-Coast Audubon makes its own Eastern Bluebird / American Tree Swallow boxes with a reinforced entrance. **Stop by Louis Doe Home Center in Newcastle or call 563-2930 to order.**

**Nest Boxes:** Eastern Bluebird, Flicker, Saw-whet Owl, and American Kestrel - \$20 Hardwood hole replacement kit - \$1

Bat Box with *Maine's Bats* booklet - \$15; booklet only - \$5

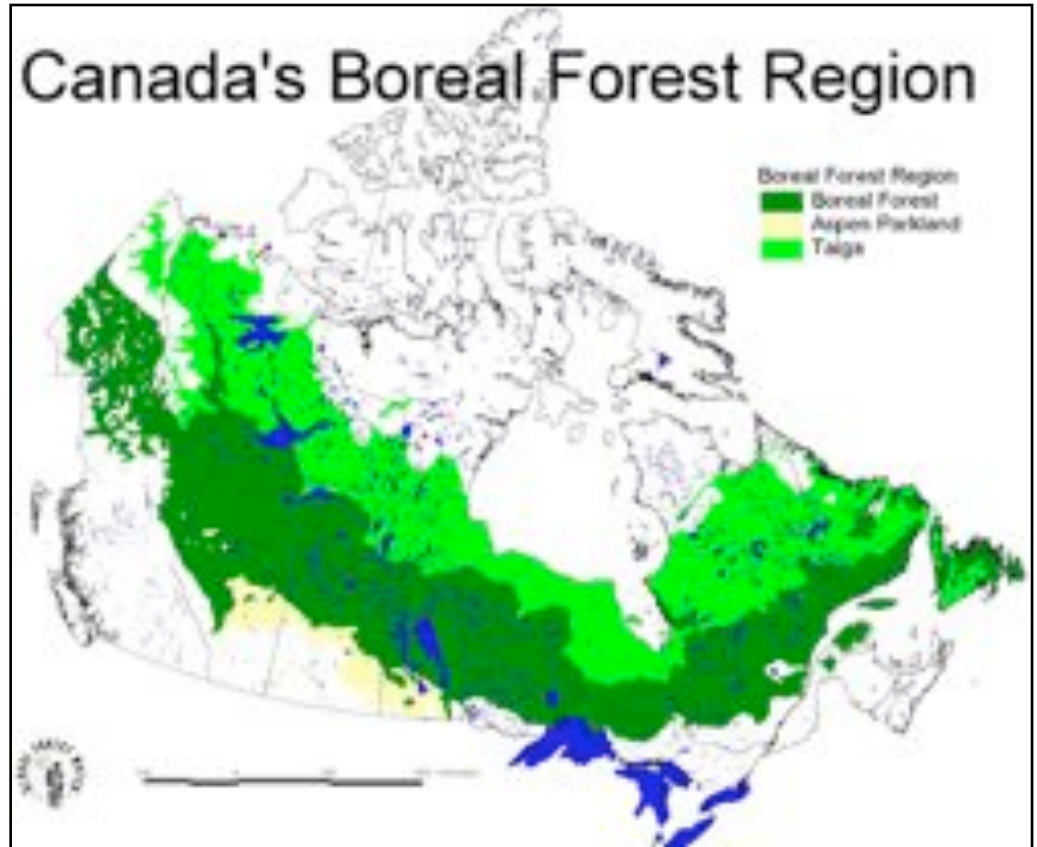
**Feeders:** suet log \$10; simple platform \$20, platform with roof \$40, Oriole fruit \$10



## Boreal Forest Migration - *cont'd*

Canada than from any other country including Saudi Arabia. Most of the logging in the Canadian Boreal is also for the U.S. market. Millions of acres of Boreal Forest habitat have been inundated behind large-scale hydroelectric dams and more wild rivers are slated to be dammed with the hope that the electricity can be exported to Maine and other U.S. border states.

Clearly Canada has the awesome responsibility of ensuring the well-being of the abundance of North America's migrant and wintering birds that generations of people have grown up assuming would always be there. Fortunately many of Canada's leaders have risen to this responsibility. In 2008, spurred on by a letter from 1500 international scientists, the premiers of Ontario and Quebec pledged that each province would protect half of its northern Boreal Forest--an area larger than the state of Texas!



These bold actions and others have put some parts of Canada at the forefront of forest conservation. Already since 2000, 130 million acres of Canada's Boreal Forest have received permanent or interim protected status and 110 million acres have been or are in the process of being certified under the Forest Stewardship Council--the current gold-standard of sustainability certification. These conservation actions are among the largest taking place in the world today, and they mean that hundreds of millions of birds and other wildlife will have habitat in which to raise their young.

*Jeff Wells is Science and Policy Director for the Boreal Songbird Initiative. He occasionally speaks at local Audubon chapters and is a regular at the Hog Island Audubon Camp. He has just written a new book, Maine's Favorite Birds. For more information please visit: [www.borealbirds.org](http://www.borealbirds.org)*



Peatlands, lake, forest - NW Ontario. Both photos by Boreal Forest Initiative



Lesser Yellowlegs.

Give the  
birds a leg  
to stand on!  
Support the  
**Boreal  
Songbird  
Initiative**

# 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*

## MAY

### Saturday, May 12

SVCA and MCAS - Birding through Sheepscot Village with Kristin Pennock

*Meet at SVCA in Sheepscot at 7:30 a.m.*

### Saturday, May 19

Evergreen Cemetery and Cupisic Park for Spring Warblers, Flycatchers, Orioles and more

*Meet at Hannaford's in Damariscotta at 7 a.m.*

### Saturday, May 26

Vaughn Woods, Belgrade Lakes and Augusta Airport

*Meet at Hannaford's in Damariscotta at 7 a.m.*

## JUNE

### Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2

Monhegan Island

*Overnight or single day trip. Call Monhegan Boat Lines for reservations. Boat leaves Port Clyde at 7 a.m. sharp.*

### Saturday, June 9th, 2012

Clary Hill

*Meet at Clary Hill at 8 a.m.*

### Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Kennebunk Plains and Sanford Sewage Treatment Plant

*Meet at Hannaford's in Damariscotta at 7 a.m.*

### Friday and Saturday June 15-17

Spencer Pond in the Maine Highlands - Moosehead area.  
See page 6.

### Saturday, June 23, 2012

Davidson Preserve (Heron Rookery) and Augusta Airport

*Meet at Hannaford's in Damariscotta at 7:30 a.m. or CVS in Augusta, located off Rt 3, at 8:15 a.m.*

### Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Damariscotta River Association

*Meet in parking lot at 8 a.m.*

### Friday, June 29, 7:00 p.m.

*Annual Meeting. Location to be announced.*

## AUGUST

### Saturday, August 4, 2012

Weskeag Marsh for Shorebirds

*Meet at parking area at marsh at 9:30 a.m.*

### Friday, August 17, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

*Annual fundraiser Lobster Bake on Hog Island.*

### Thursday, August 23, 2012

Plum Island Day Trip with Dennis McKenna

*Meet at Hannaford's in Damariscotta at 6:30 a.m. Call Dennis McKenna at 207-563-8439.*

## SEPTEMBER

### Saturday, September 15, 2012

Hawk Watch with Don Reimer

*Basin Point, Harpswell. Meet at Moody's at 7:30 a.m.*

*Check our website,*

*[www.midcoastaudubon.org](http://www.midcoastaudubon.org) for more*

## SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST 17

MCAS's ever popular LOBSTER BAKE on Hog Island will be held this year on Friday, August 17th, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner at 5 p.m. This traditional bake on the beach features lobsters, clams, corn, potatoes, and onions slow-cooked to perfection over a seaweed-draped bed of embers. Come join your Chapter for this important fundraiser and enjoy an afternoon on beautiful Hog Island! Watch local papers and our website for more details.



## Hog Island Audubon Camp

Spaces are still available for exciting new programs at the Camp, check out the instructors and programs at <http://hogislandaudubon.org>.

Friends of Hog Island is presenting Kaiulani Lee



in a one-woman performance of Rachel Carson's *Sense of Wonder* at the Lincoln Theater in Damariscotta on **July 28, 2012** at 7 p.m. **Save the date.** E-mail [president@fohi.org](mailto:president@fohi.org) for more information or visit [www.fohi.org](http://www.fohi.org)

Kaiulani Lee. Courtesy David Spylios



## Did You Miss the Plum Island Trip?

A blustery day with wind gusts 40-50 mph did not stop 12 determined chapter members from heading out to Plum Island and Cape Ann, Massachusetts for a weekend in February.

Dennis McKenna, trip leader, said the "weather on Saturday was challenging with steady winds of 25-30



Dennis McKenna

mph, gusting to 50 mph. We toughed it out, and were rewarded with some good birds." He noted that "Land birds were smart and remained low, out of the wind . . . Short-eared Owls also kept down despite our efforts to find them."

They managed to see 46 species,

Bright sun, blustery winds at Plum Island.

including good looks at a Snowy Owl. Other highlights were a Razorbill and Great Cormorants - some in breeding plumage.

Overnight trips are always an excuse for good food and lots of bird camaraderie. This trip was no exception with excellent meals at the Plum Island Grill on Plum Island and the Red Skiff in Rockport, MA.

**Don't miss our next overnight trip to Monhegan Island on June 1 and 2. You never know what will turn up.**



Don Reimer

A \_\_\_\_\_ of Coots.

## Name Our "Spokesbird"

Don't be caught napping like our feathered friend in the photo! There's still time for you to enter a name or an illustration, or both, in the "Name our Spokesbird" contest! This perky chickadee, iconic to our state and northern forests, will be a voice from the woods, telling us how to improve our own piece of the world for wildlife.



Juanita Roushdy

The person(s) submitting the winning name and illustration (or drawn at random from the group of winning names) will be awarded a Mid-Coast Audubon built bird box, and a membership to Maine Audubon! You can also submit your name choice by emailing Sue at [sschubel@tidewater.net](mailto:sschubel@tidewater.net), with "Spokesbird" in the subject line.

Check out our website: [www.midcoastaudubon.org](http://www.midcoastaudubon.org) and our Facebook page to learn more.

**Deadline for entries is June 1, 2012!**

## Feathery Fun Quiz

Match the bird with its group name (for example, a flock of geese; a murder of crows). Answers are on page 6.

### Groups

Zipper  
Rainbow  
Apology  
Commotion  
Richness  
Cleavage  
Teeter  
Ostentation  
Rant  
Stealth  
Gulp  
Creep  
Rotundity  
Loomery  
Aristocracy  
Alacrity

### Birds

Guillemots  
Peacocks  
Robins  
Flycatchers  
Ravens  
Stilts  
Nuthatches  
Grosbeaks  
Cowbirds  
Martins  
Waxwings  
Sparrows  
Pipits  
Coots  
Shearwaters  
Cormorants



Bicknell's Thrush

## Love birding? Love hiking?

Join Mountain Birdwatch, an international conservation effort to monitor high-elevation breeding birds in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and eastern Canada!

We seek enthusiastic hikers and birders to adopt a mountain route and monitor breeding songbirds. For 2012, we need volunteers to cover routes in the central and northern White Mountains of New Hampshire, and in northwestern Maine.

Volunteers survey 11 high-elevation species, including the rare and vulnerable Bicknell's Thrush. Each volunteer adopts one route to survey; surveys can be conducted on any morning in June, but you should be flexible to schedule around bad weather. Surveys begin 45 minutes before sunrise and last 2 - 4.5 hours, depending on the length of the route.

Overnight camping is required for most routes; some require a 4WD vehicle. The goal of Mountain Birdwatch is to monitor the status, distribution, and habitat requirements of high-elevation songbirds. Results are used to identify habitat conservation priorities and assess impacts of proposed development and climate change.

Visit <http://www.vtecostudies.org/MBW/index.html> for more information and routes. Contact director Judith Scarl at [jscarl@vtecostudies.org](mailto:jscarl@vtecostudies.org) to sign up or ask questions about this exciting program!

<b>Answers</b>		Zipper of Flycatchers	Teeter of Stilts	Aristocracy of Waxwings
Rainbow of Grosbeaks	Stealth of Cowbirds	Rant of Ravens	Ostentation of Peacocks	Alacrity of Pipits.
Apology of Sparrows	Gulp of Cormorants	Creech of Nuthatches	Rotundity of Robins	5-10 correct – Still a bit
Commotion of Coots	Richness of Martins	Cleavage of Shearwaters	Loomery of Guillemots	definite birdbrain!
				10-16 correct – You're a
				flighty.
				5-10 correct – Still a bit



Louis Bevier learns warbler watching from Don Reimer's grandson, Adrian.

## Welcome New and Renewing Members!

Judith Falk, Nobleboro  
 Maroulla Gleaton, Palermo  
 Brenda and Paul Goth, Bristol  
 John Griffith, Cushing  
 Priscilla Hafner, Loudonville, NY  
 John F. Langhans, Newport  
 Richard S. Lenfest, Bellmouth  
 Steven J. Linnell, Portland  
 Dennis McKenna, Damariscotta  
 Kathleen and Allen Toubman, Rockland  
 Grinnell Tusker, Camden  
 Brian Wilson, Rockport

## 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  
 Carolyn Gray, Treasurer

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Kathy Cartwright, Jefferson  
 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:** Vacant  
**Preserves:** Bill Goodwill, 354-0669  
**Programs:** Kathy Cartwright, 832-5584  
**Speaker Bureau:** Joe Gray, 563-3578  
**Special Events:** Sue Schubel, 380-1370

*Bulletin* editor: Juanita Roushdy, 529-2355

The *Bulletin* is published quarterly in February, May, August, November. News items or photos are welcome. **The deadline for the next issue is July 15!** Send to [juanitar@tidewater.net](mailto:juanitar@tidewater.net)





Northern Cardinal

Don Reimer

## Find Out Where the Birds Are!

Have you ever wondered which birds people were seeing around the state? Do you wish you had known about a rare bird before it was too late to go and see it? Or, have you wanted to go birding vicariously while you are stuck inside? The Maine Birds Listserv was created as a way to do all that and more.

Run as a listserv, through the free Google Groups servers, Maine Birds works by automatically distributing to all its members an e-mail that is sent to it. With 660 members, as of April 2012, the list averages about 10 messages a day but you can also sign up to receive a single "digest" e-mail a day.

The diverse membership is what really makes the listserv an important resource: members range from complete novices reporting birds at their feeders to some of the state's top ornithologists. We all share the same interest in birds and the listserv is the most efficient and fastest way to learn and share what birds are being seen, ask questions, or find out about opportunities across our state.

The listserv is a free service and easy to join. All you need is an e-mail address and an interest in birds! Simply go to: <http://groups.google.com/group/mainebirds> and click "Apply for group membership." Then sit back and wait to find out where the birds are!

Doug Hitchcox, Listserv Manager,  
dhitchcox@mac.com



Pileated Woodpecker

Carolyn Wronker

## What's in My Backyard?

Carolyn Wronker of Jefferson writes:

*A male pileated woodpecker has been busy working on what I think will be a nest. It's near our place in Jefferson and I've seen him and a female around for about a month now. He's been very busy working on this cavity and sometimes the female comes by to check to on things.*

*As you can see, the hole is quite big--he's able to fit in easily. This site was used two years ago by a pair of Hairy woodpeckers. Last year, they moved farther up this same tree and nested again. Don't know yet if they'll be back or whether the Pileated's might keep them away. This was my first successful attempt at digiscoping, with a small spotting scope (30x) and a point-and-shoot camera held up to it. The hole is about 30 ft up the tree, so a mite hard on the neck!*



Pileated Woodpecker

Carolyn Wronker



Baltimore Oriole

Doris Balant

## Doris Balant's Bird Reports

For more than 20 years, Doris has provided the *Bulletin* with detailed reports from around our area. A dedicated group of reporters provided sightings for the report. Some of them include Julie Babb, Doris Balant, Rosie Benson, Joe Gray, Norma Jones, Mark Mahnke, Linda Nevins, Don Reimer, Anna Shaw, Kathy Scheinman, Daniel Seigel, Wendell Stephenson, Mariellen Whelan, and Bob Worthing.

Please continue to follow Doris's reports, which can now be found on MCAS's Facebook page.

We thank Doris and the wonderful group of reporters for keeping us aware these many years of what birds were visiting our area. Doris will continue to report for *The Guillemot*.

## Injured Birds!

Birds of all species - year-round

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[www.avianhaven.org](http://www.avianhaven.org)

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**On the Rush of Wings**

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[www.ontherushofwings.org](http://www.ontherushofwings.org)

# Join Audubon today!

Become better informed of legislative and environmental events in the Mid-Coast and Maine. Pay one membership for two organizations: Maine Audubon and Mid-Coast Audubon.

\_\_\_ \$25 Volunteer/Senior    \_\_\_ \$35 Individual    \_\_\_ \$45 Household    \_\_\_ \$65 Contributor

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Send with check to:** Maine Audubon  
20 Gilsland Farm Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105



Bill Goodwill, Jackie and Dan Cassady, Ed Kahor, and Ayla Liss

## MCAS volunteers spend the day marking and clearing up trails at Nelson Preserve

Stop by and visit this oasis of moss in Friendship, located 1 mile from Friendship Village on Rte. 97.

Contact Bill Goodwill,  
[barredowl@juno.com](mailto:barredowl@juno.com) or 354-0669 for information or to volunteer at any of MCAS's five preserves.



Nelson Preserve, Friendship.

**Mid-Coast Audubon**

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[www.midcoastaudubon.org](http://www.midcoastaudubon.org)



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