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BULLETIN

Chapter of Maine Audubon Society

North American Bluebird Society Affiliate

Rockland, Maine

MAY 2011

Vol. 35 No. 2

BIRDHOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, July 23, 2011

During this year's **Birdhouse and Garden Tour**, we will travel as a group (or possibly several groups) to special properties in the Bristol/Newcastle/Bremen area, where we will explore different ways to provide habitat, shelter, food and water to the wildlife we hope to attract.

The homeowners and Mid-Coast Audubon Board members will provide detailed information on which plants and animals benefit one another, and survive well in various landscapes.

Who doesn't thrill at the sight of a swooping hawk, or chuckle as a nuthatch cocks its head at the feeder? There are many ways, large and small, we can enhance our own little piece of Maine, making it heavenly for the wildlife as well.

Forest is currently prevalent in the Mid-Coast region, a change from the open landscape created by farming in the 1800's. As a result of this, field birds such as the Bobolink have diminished, while small woodland birds and owls have increased. Keeping a balanced diversity is desirable, with enough acreage to have road-free habitat to roam.

One of our stops will feature a "Made in the Shade" garden, highlighting plants which do well in a wooded setting, in the company of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees, Brown Creepers, and Winter Wrens.

The "Meadow in the Making" site will show what happens when you don't mow the grass - the sparrows love it! Bluebirds are very popular additions to the home landscape - requiring open habitat and enjoying nest boxes mounted on low posts around the periphery. Native plants are preferred for planting, having evolved in concert with the native wildlife and not posing such a threat of invasive behavior due to natural predators.

Water features, particularly moving water, are very attractive to birds. A small drip into a birdbath or pool inspires many migrants and locals to pause for a bath and a drink.

For butterflies one should provide damp sand for drinking water, and nectar rich flowers for food. Caterpillars (their larvae) require specific food plants, which the butterflies key in on to lay their eggs. Eastern Tiger Swallowtails like wild cherry, birch, basswood and ash. Painted Ladies munch on thistles, and Black Swallowtails prefer dill, parsley, carrot and fennel. Monarchs of course need milkweed.

Dr. Stephen Kress of National Audubon will be on hand at one of the stops to offer up tips from his book "The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds".

There will be tasty treats for people at each property (such as Brown Creeper Brownies, and Bluebird Blueberry Tarts) to enjoy while you soak up information and the camaraderie of fellow nature enthusiasts.

This Audubon fundraiser helps provide scholarships for adults and children to attend nature camps, as well as supporting the free programs and field trips offered all year long by Mid-Coast Audubon.

Stay tuned for details at our web site and news items in local papers. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$5 for children. FMI (or if you have a special property you'd like to have included!) contact Sue Schubel sschubel@tidewater.net.

BULLETIN

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The Mid-Coast Audubon
Board meets 6:30 p.m.
the first Thursday
at Medomak Valley H.S..
Waldoboro, ME

Welcome New & Renewing Members

Meg Barclay, Camden
Ms. Sarah Bartz, Rockland
Carol Bauss, Belfast
Sandy Hall Bourrie, Washington
Mr. Donald Choquette, Spruce Hd
David Crossman, Pittsburgh, PA
Bill Dalke, Whitefield
Ms. Donna Daly, Owls Head
Patricia Duncan, Topsham
Fred Engelhardt, Alna
Alison England, Waldoboro
Ms. Susan Formanski, South China
Jill Galloway, Hope
Edes P. Gilbert, New York, NY
Tucker Grinnell, Camden
Margaret Gillespie, Tenants Harbor
Thomas Guthrie, Lexington, VA.
Ms. Jean J. Hewitt, Tennts Harbor
Janice Kasper, Swanville
Ms. Megan Kelley, Damariscotta
Priscilla Linn, Belfast
Ms. Suzanna Love, Islesboro
James McCutcheon, Chelsea
Mary McPherson, New Harbor
Paula Marcus, Bar Harbor
M/M Richard B. Maxcy, Warren
Robert Merrill, Camden
Ms. Andrea Norfleet, Lincolnville
Peter Nutting, China
Ms. Jean L. Riser, Damariscotta
Carol Rohl, Warren=
Kathleen Scheiman, Walpole
John Shelley, Sebastian, FL
Ms. Jane Schroeder, Rockport
Ms. Anna Strickland, Belfast
Susan Strong, East Boothbay
Rebecca Smith, Union
Ann Thayer, Yarmouth
Mr. David Vickers, Waldoboro
Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Walden, Northport
Ellen Westhaver, Round Pond
M/M Stephen White, Newcastle
Mr. David Wilkins & Ms. Karen Ottenstein, Medomak
Lucinda Ziesing, Camden
Benjamin Shaw Zober, Newcastle
Ms. Diane Zollo, South Thomaston

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**If you find an injured bird,
YOU think can be rehabilitated,
call AVIAN HAVEN
(207) 382-6761
for further instructions.**

2011 Annual Meeting

"Birds and Bugs".

Saturday, August 13th, will be a traditional Muscongus Bay lobster bake on the shores of beautiful Hog Island.

This is a rare opportunity for Mid-Coast Audubon members and their guests to visit the Hog Island Audubon Sanctuary! Your \$40 adult \$20 children ticket includes: transportation to the island aboard the SNOW GOOSE; the boat will depart Bremen at **10:30** (you'll be in time to help put the food on the fire!), and depart Hog Island at 3:30 after lunch and meeting.

A guided or unguided nature walk on Hog Island; lobster, clams (or mussels if clams are unavailable), potato, onion, and ear of corn – all cooked on the beach under seaweed in the traditional manner. Lemonade, coffee and dessert will finish the meal. BYOB if desired.

Preregistration is required – please contact Carolyn Gray at 563-3578 or cgray025@gmail.com for more information and to reserve a spot.

Chapter Field Trips & Events

Saturday, May 14th International Migratory Bird Day

Wednesday, June 22nd

Leaders Choice

Meet at Hanniford's parking lot at 7:30 AM in Newcastle for an event to be determined by the leader.

Saturday, June 25th

The Davidson Preserve, Vasselboro and Augusta Airport

Join our leader through blueberry fields, mixed woodland to a Great Blue Heron rookery situated over a beaver bog.

Meet at Lincoln Co. News in Newcastle at 7:00 AM or at the Preserve. FMI call 563-2930.

Tuesday, July 12th 1 p.m.
Attracting Birds and Butterflies
with naturalist Joe Gray
at Skidompha Library, Damariscotta.

Wednesday, July, 13th

Leaders Choice

Meet the leader at Hanniford's parking lot in Damariscotta at 7:30 AM for an event to be determined.

Saturday, July 23rd

Birdhouse & Garden Tour

Mid-Coast Audubon's second annual tour of properties and gardens created to lure birds and butterflies.

Saturday, August 6th

Weskeag Marsh

Shorebirds and raptors with Don Reimer.

Meet at Weskeag Marsh parking area on Buttermilk Lane off Route #1 at 8:00 AM

Saturday, August 13th

Mid-Coast Audubon Annual Meeting

Details to follow

Wednesday, August 17th

Plum Island with Dennis McKenna

Join Dennis at this famous National Wildlife Refuge.

Depart from Hanniford's parking lot in Damariscotta at 6:30 AM Call Dennis at 522-2891 or 563-8439 for details.

Saturday, August 27th

Biddeford Pool and Laudholm Farm Preserve

Bird these popular locations with Dennis McKenna for shorebirds, ducks, passerines and much more.

Wednesday, September 14th

Leaders Choice Meet at Hanniford's parking Lot at 7:30 AM for an event to be determined by the leader.

Saturday, September 17th

Hawk Watch on Bradbury Mt.

Join expert birder for a morning of hawk watching on Bradbury Mt. Meet at Moody's Diner at 8:00 and Lincoln Co. News at 8:20 AM for car pooling.

Saturday, September 23rd and 24th

Monhegan Fall Birding Trip

Another 2 day option arriving on Monhegan Friday morning, spending the night and joining the others on Saturday the 24th for a second day of birding. Birders are responsible for boat tickets and lodging.

Contact Monhegan Boat Line for reservations. Boat departs at 7:00 AM

Saturday, October 15th

Green Point Preserve, Dresden

See fall migrating sparrows, waterfowl, eagles and much more at this preserve.

Saturday, October 22nd

Mid-Coast Audubon Seed Sale.

More to follow.

Saturday, November 19th

Ducks with Don Reimer

Meet at Chickawukkee Lake parking lot on the border of Rockland/Rockport for birding in Rockland, Rockport and Stockton Springs.

2011 Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, December 14th - Pemaquid/Damariscotta

Dennis McKenna Compiler

Saturday, December 17th - Thomaston/Rockland

Don Reimer Compiler

Monday December 19th - Bunker Hill

John Weinrich Compiler

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HOG ISLAND OPPORTUNITIES

There are still a few slots available in some of the camp sessions on Hog Island. If you've ever wondered what the buzz is about (or the chirp, or the trill), join world-class naturalists for a week in a beautiful setting to find out. Learn more about Audubon Camp programs at <http://www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCamps.htm>.

There are also VOLUNTEER opportunities available – come join the camaraderie of making things run smoothly. If you would like to help out with cleaning, cooking, and assorted tasks, while staying on an island and fitting in an occasional field trip, please contact Sue sschubel@tidewater.net, 380-1370.

Events and Information

Chapter Events missed

Plum Island NWR trip 2/12, led by Dennis McKenna, with 14 people. They recorded 42 species including this wonderful shot by Lew Perinton of a napping Screech Owl, below



Of the 42 species recorded, some of the more significant were Great Cormorant, King Eider, Dunlin, Purple Sandpiper, Iceland Gull and Snow Bunting.

Plum Island NWR is a great place for the novice birder to see many species within a short time., especially with knowledgeable birders McKenna, Wenrich and Goodwill.

Nelson Preserve trail maintenance. It was a beautiful day, clear and cold, but not too cold out of the wind and there was wonderful sun. The crew included: Kathy and Steve Cartright, Bill Goodwill, Ayla Liss, Sue Schubel, Kristin and Colin Pennock and Jerry Therrien.

We began with the trail along the stone wall and working along the stone wall down to the river. Heavy of growth in the swamp portion, and deep snow (snowshoes here). Some broke trail and located old markers, others pruned. Jerry and Kathy focused on pruning, one prepared trees for paint, the kids, Steve and Bill broke trail and located markers (also did some pruning), Kristin scraped off trees for Sue to mark with boundary paint. Now that trail is well marked with orange blazes.

Plans to do the whole perimeter in orange, but by the time we got to Middle Trail we were out of orange paint so decided to return on that trail with blue blazes. Got a little confused at junction of Swamp and Middle. We will go back with a new color to paint Swamp trail.

Began our day at 9:30 and finished up at about 2:30 and time for refreshment at Billy's!

Reids State Park, 4/9/11. A total of 42 species were observed with some unusual sightings. Wood Duck - seen in company with Common Eiders in one instance and with a Common Loon in another Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, American Robin and Red-winged Blackbird were signs of spring. Two leaders and two participants, but sighting good. (KMCK)

8th Annual

May 27-30

Cobscook Bay

Widely scattered field trips and programs in the Cobscook Bay area, include trips to Moosehorn NWR, Machias Seal Island, Cobscook Bay Kayak, Cutler bold coast, Roosevelt Campobello Int. Park, boreal and northern hardwoods, bogs, salt marshes, tidal flats, streams, lakes, and rugged headlands. Ask for program:

Down East Spring Birding Festival
Cobscook Community Learning Center
10 Commissary Point Road
Trescott Twp, ME 04652
(207) 733-2233

www.downeastbirdfest.org Email: birdfest@theccclc.org

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Nature Tid Bits

Did you hear the Woodcocks singing?

Spring rain brought out wood frog chorus.

May 17th is the Flower Moon

Doz. Canada Geese through the period. Newcastle (D.B.); 35 on river 3/31 (JG), Eurasian Green-winged drake with American Green-winged Teals 3/24, Weskeag (D.R.); 15 Ring-necked Ducks 4/4, at McCurda Pond 4/8 (LN) pr. Goldeneyes 3/31, Union (M.M.); 10 Buffleheads still around 4/9, Newcastle (D.B.); pr. Hooded Mergansers 3/29, 4/1, Union (M.M.); pr. Common Mergansers 3/17, Newcastle (P.S.);

Common Loon 3/31, Union (M.M.); Heard on D-river 4/28 (JG)

Turkey Vultures 3/25, Waldoboro, 3/28, Damariscotta (D.B.)

2 Gr. Blue Herons 4/4, Newcastle, 1 on 4/6 Damariscotta (D.B.); regular at Miles Hosp. campus 4/2 (JG)

Killdeer 3/14, Bremen 4/3 N.) (L.N.)

Dead juv. Sharpshinned Hawk 3/8, Round Pond (R.F.); Bald Eagle on a narrow pathway with a pigeon, not enough space to spread wings, walking until he could fly off, 1/25, in tree 1/26, Spruce Head (A.H. & L.J.), 2 Bald Eagles on Damariscotta Lake looking for nesting site (?) 2/12, (P.S.)

Red-shouldered Hawk 2/3 Rockport, "a Red-tailed Hawk also patrols this area regularly" (D.R.)

Woodcocks: one displaying 3/16, Bremen (L.N.), 1 on 3/17, Newcastle (R.B.);

Snowy Owl, not fully adult 2/25, Belfast (R.C.); Barred Owl seen in tree, then found dead under same tree 2/18, Camden (J.C.)

There are a great number of barred owls across NE this winter due to food shortages further north. The Camden owl was probably a young bird that starved. Avian Haven has treated 50 injured or starving barred owls over the winter; (DR)

Pileated Woodpecker off and on in period,

Brown Creeper occasional through the period, Newcastle (D.B.)

Carolina Wren 2/28, Newcastle (R.B.) & (S.McC)

Br. Thrasher 2/18, Rockport (D.R.);

Eastern Bluebirds 1 among Goldfinches 2/12, Newcastle (P.S.), 2 on 2/17, 4 on 3/12, same location, Newcastle (D.B.)

Flocks of Robins 3/14, Bremen (L.N.)

Hermit Thrush 3/30, Newcastle (J.D.)

Bohemian Waxwings: 50-60 1/13, Bremen (L.N.); 200 1/20, Newcastle (W.S.), 200 2/19, Wiscasset, 60 3/18, Newcastle (P.S.); 30 Cedar Waxwings 2/18, Newcastle (D.B.); 3/15 (J.W)

Winter Wren singing, Bremen 4/8/ (L.N.).

Fox Sparrows: 1 on 3/20, Newcastle (M.W.), 2 on 3/23, Bristol (M.Wi.); pr. Song Sp. 3/12 (JG), fe. collecting nest material 4/8 (JG). Chipping Sp. 4/8 Bremen (L.N.).

Phoebe calling 4/9 Bremen (LN)

Flocks of Red-Winged Blackbirds and C. Grackles, 3/9, 3/14, Bremen (L.N.); Camden 3/12 (GJ)

White-winged Crossbill 2/2, Pemaquid (J.B.)

Flocks of Juncos, Bremen 3/14, (L.N.), Newcastle 3/17 (P.S.)

2 Snow Buntings 1/12 Waldoboro (L.N.)



Don Reimer photo

Common Redpolls, above, 12 1/28 Bristol (TM) large flock 2/18 and 21, Pemaquid (J.B.), 70-80 2/25, Newcastle, (R.B. & S.McC.), 20-30 3/5, Newcastle same location (M.W.), 8 on 3/12, Bristol (M.Wi.)

Reporters:

J.B.=Julie Babb, D.B.=Doris Balant,
R.B.= Rosie Bensen, R.C.= Roxanne Cummings,
J.C.= Jan Cunningham, J.D.= Judy Doe,
J.G. =Joe Gray, A.H.= Adrian Hooydonk,
GJ = Glen Jenks, L.J.= Lucy Judecki,
M.M= Marjorie Margolis,
S.McC.= Sally McCumber, T.M.= Tina Molt,
L.N.= Linda Nevins, D.R= Don Reimer,
P.S.= Pat Skilling, J.W. = John Weinrich,
M.W.= Mariellen Whelan,
M.Wi.= Muriel Wilhelm,
W.S.= Wendell Stephenson.

Wildlife Notes

Opossums are here! Many have learned in the past several years about the reoccurring sightings of opossums from Lewiston, Warren, Damariscotta and Nobleboro.

The Lincoln County News, 2/10 reported two opossums in Nobleboro, one captured last summer, one (young) captured same place 2/5. Another was seen at a bird feeder in the Damariscotta Mills this winter. (DB)



How did this southern slow moving mammal get here? My guess is most likely as a stowaway on a car or truck, but from the increasing number of reports, it would appear at least one was female. They are active year round and will frequent bird feeders as well as food placed outside for pet cats and dogs. They are omnivores and will eat anything. (JG)

A black squirrel was observed on Glidden Street, Newcastle 4/1 (DB).

The black squirrel is a handsome native species and there is something magical about sighting a black squirrel. They are usually seen where gray squirrels are common and are not a distinct species but a melanistic morpheme or color morph. They appear to be more common in limited areas, such as Toronto, but there have been repeated sightings in Boothbay Harbor and Damariscotta Mills. (JG)

Groundhogs appeared shortly after April 1st, and the male is seen traveling within a small area servicing his harem of possibly four or five females. (JG)

Red squirrels, while active all winter, are now establishing nests, storing food, while keeping gray squirrels away at bird feeder. (JG)

Skunks and raccoons became more active with warming weather and both will visit back yard bird feeders and food left on the porch for pet cats and dogs. Food is the attraction for all wild animals. (JG)

During this migratory season for waterfowl, I think they can appear in odd settings or circumstances on a fairly random basis. One afternoon last week, at least 60 wood ducks (probably a conservative estimate) were feeding with other dabbling ducks in the roadside corn stubble at Beth's Farm. The next morning they had all moved on. (DR)

**Look for Hog Island's wildlife
Saturday August 23rd
Chapter Annual Meeting**



What Happens in Augusta

Will Affect *YOU* !

Governor LePage [proposes to drastically weaken Maine's strong environmental protection, compromising coastal sand dunes, slashing protection of waterfowl habitat, threatening vernal pools, jeopardizing fisheries, and rezoning the North Woods for development.

Maine Audubon, our Chapter officers, directors and other Maine organizations have appeared to testify at hearings in the State House,

Your phone call to your senator or Representative will go a long way toward influencing decisions made in Augusta.

Make that call today;

**The Maine Senate
3 State House State
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1540**

**Maine House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1400**

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Eastern Cougar Extinct

The eastern cougar has been listed as endangered species. Mark McCulloch, USF&W (Bangor), lead scientist for the eastern cougar, said it has likely been extinct since the 1930's.

According to a F&W report the sightings in the wild were cougars of other subspecies, often a South American subspecies, that had been held in captivity and had escaped or released into the wild, or were western subspecies that may have migrated eastward.

The Forest Source, April 2011

New and Improved

Chapter's Eastern Bluebird nest box, North American Bluebird Society "APPROVED", now has an added metal entrance opening device, protecting from squirrel damage to the opening and for the same \$20.

Greet spring with a new nest box and remember, there is a housing shortage for all cavity nesting birds!



NEW IMPROVED

Bluebird nest box

with metal entrance opening protection.

Same price \$ 20 !

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The nest box you purchased some time ago,
and now residing in your garage or barn,
is no help to spring arriving songbirds
looking for a cavity nesting site.

Put up a nest box **NOW**
and you are almost
guaranteed occupancy!

There is a housing shortage for Bluebirds and other cavity dwellers!

Bluebirds are particular, they require a clean nesting cavity, and you can help by erecting a new Mid-Coast Audubon nest box, North American Bluebird Society "Approved" **\$20 !**

Other nest boxes too-

Eastern Bluebird, Flicker, Saw-whet Owl,

American Kestrel \$20

Wood Duck \$30

Hole replacement kit \$1

Bat Box w/ Maine's Bats booklet \$15

May is Oriole Month

Do you have your Mid-Coast Audubon
Oriole feeder with orange half out ?



Oriole feeders are \$10

Mid-Coast Audubon's outlet for our products
is Louis Doe Home Center

Route 215 Newcastle,
where you will find nest boxes and feeders.

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Our Chapter's new address is:
P.O. Box 458
Damariscotta, ME 04543-04548

Mid-Coast Audubon Society

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

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BULLETIN

May 2011

Please Note
Change
of Address

Become a member of BOTH Mid-Coast Audubon
and Maine Audubon with one membership TODAY !

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

Send name, complete Mailing Address and Phone number to :

Maine Audubon Society
20 Gilsland Farm Road
Falmouth, ME 04105