



Chapter of Maine Audubon Society

North American Bluebird Society Affiliate

Organized December 6, 1969

Rockland, Maine

August 2011

Vol. 35 No. 3

Beauty in the Rockland Bog

The unique Rockland Bog of nearly 700 acres, sometimes referred to as the Oyster River Bog, is the largest peatland complex in the Chapter's Mid-Coast Audubon area, yet rarely visited on field trips.

The bog has several vegetation types: red maple swamp and sedge fen. Unique species such as moonwort, occurring only in three Maine locations, black spruce, dwarf huckleberry, tufted club rush and chain fern. Most colorful is the dragon's mouth orchid or arethusa, considered uncommon, pictured below photo by Don Reimer.



Our Mission is to promote long term responsible use of natural resources through an informed membership, education and community awareness.

SAVE

Chapter Directory

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www.midcoastaudubon.org

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sschubel@tidewater.net

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Phyllis Coelho, Secretary 338-0254 Belfast
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Dennis McKenna Damariscotta
Kristin Pennock, Whitefield
Don Reimer, Warren
Juanita Roshady, Bremen
John Tobin, Rockland

Bird Reports

Doris Balant 563-1216, Newcastle

Field Trips

John Weinrich 563-2930 Dennis McKenna 563-8439,
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Programs & Events

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Scholarship Committee

Carolyn Gray - Marilyn Andrews

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Joe Gray 563-3578

BULLETIN

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The Board

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

Fall Programs

Thursday, September 15th, 6:30, Camden Public Library
Mushrooms, and How to Cook Them with Travis Benner.

Travis Benner of Alna used to hate mushrooms as a kid. but now a bit older, he has fallen in love with them and gained confidence in learning which wild ones are safe to eat. This is particularly valuable since he is a chef at Damariscotta River Grill.

A graduate of Morse High School in Bath, he went on to study culinary arts and to buy a book on mushrooming, and that started him on the path to channelers and oyster mushrooms.

Thursday, October 20th, 6:30, Camden Public Library
Edible Wild Foods, Late Summer and Fall Wildflowers
with Wanda Garland

Wanda's roots as an avid naturalist go back to growing up on a farm in Aroostook County, in the small town of Chapman. "We were taught all the plants and the trees and it just grew from that," she said.

Thursday, November 10th, 6:30, Gibbs Library, Washington
Preparing Mushrooms for Medicinal and Culinary Use
with David Spahr

David is a photographer and author of *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada*. He attended Hartwick College and the University of Maine and lives in Washington, Maine..

Thursday, November 17th, 6:30, Camden Public Library
Wind Over Wings with Hope Douglas founder of a raptor rescue organization based in Dresden. She concentrates on educational programs using live birds unable to return to the wild.



Maine Audubon's Adopt A Road

Maine Audubon's "Wildlife Road Watch" is actively searching for dedicated volunteers to "Adopt A Road" regularly traveled, reporting all wildlife sightings. Visit www.maineaudubon.org/wildliferoadwatch for details and a bumper sticker.



Chapter Scholarship Committee

The Chapter's Scholarship Committee welcomes **Marilyn Andrews** of Waldoboro. Please make scholarship inquiries to Carolyn Gray, 563-3578 or cgray025@gmail.com.

Chapter Affairs

Field Trips

The Chapter Field Trip Committee has worked diligently to arrange trips for all interests. Show your appreciation by attending. You'll like it!

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 A.M. FMI 273-3146.

Saturday, August 13th

Mid-Coast Audubon Annual Meeting at Hog Island. Boast leaves mainland 10:30, Lobster shore dinner. Adults \$40, youth \$20, **Pre registration with fee required:** write Carolyn Gray 35 Schooner Street #103, Damariscotta.

Wednesday, August 17th

Plum Island with Dennis McKenna Join Dennis at this famous National Wildlife Refuge. Depart from Hannaford's parking lot in Damariscotta at 6:30 A.M. 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. FMI 522-2891.

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. FMI 273-3146.

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 A.M. FMI 563-2930.

Saturday, October 15th

Green Point Preserve, Dresden

See fall migrating sparrows, waterfowl, eagles and much more at this preserve. FMI 563-2930.

Saturday, October 22nd

Contact Sue 644-1077 cell 380-1370

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. FMI 273-3146.

Plan now .. to participate in a Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, December 14th - *Pemaquid/Damariscotta*

Dennis McKenna Compiler 522-2891

Saturday, December 17th - *Thomaston/Rockland*

Don Reimer Compiler 273-3146

Monday December 19th - *Bunker Hill*

John Weinrich Compiler 563-2930

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Do YOU have suggestions for future field trip places, subject or times? Call John 563-2930 with your thoughts.

Mark Libby died May 6th at age 86.

Most Chapter members probably never heard of Mark let alone met and bird with him, and it is their loss. Mark was a shy lifelong naturalist and dedicated his life to birding, especially reporting pelagic birds while fishing the waters off Monhegan Island. My annual contact with Mark was during the Pemaquid-Damariscotta CBC, when the field party returned I called Mark and he always offered one or more rare and unusual sightings to add to our list that day.

Items of Interest

Help Celebrate 25 years of Project FeederWatch

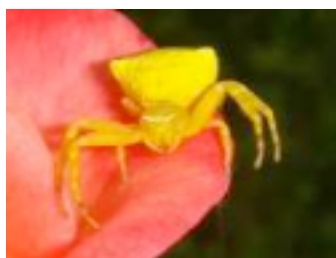
Many members participate (receiving *Winter Bird Highlights* in October and quarterly *Birdscope*).

Subscribe now (\$15), joining thousands of citizen scientist volunteers throughout North America collecting data for the Cornell lab researchers. Materials will arrive in October for the November to April data collection.

Sign up on line at: www.feederwatch.org.

by mail at: Project FeederWatch
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
or by phone (800) 845-2473.

There is no guarantee of species or numbers, evidenced by a site in Bristol that may have 8-12 species and 20 or more birds, and a Newcastle site with 20 or more species and twice that many birds, yet your editor's count this past season was a disgusting nothing on the cold windy shore of the Damariscotta River.



Spiders

Some people find spiders revolting or scary, while others find them an intriguing animal, often misunderstood.

"Spiders compose an outcast race, the age-old object of human innuendo and reprehension", so said our own Audubon Life Member Frank Graham, Jr. of Milbridge, Washington County, Maine.

Frank teamed with photographer Piotr Naskrecki to produce a most interesting photo-journal article, Spinning Their Spell, in the May-June Audubon magazine.

Chapter Annual Report Available

The Chapter annual report for the fiscal year 2010-2011 is available by e-mail at chipmunk.gray95@gmail.com or by writing to the Chapter's P.O.Box 458, Damariscotta, ME 04543-0458.



Changes

Global warming rears its head almost daily in the many publications our members receive. Here is some new information you may not be aware of. Much has been written about Greenland's receding glaciers and Antarctica too. Polar bear survival is threatened, some sources predict.

What we know for certain is the tundra, only 10,000 years old, just north of the Boreal Forest where millions of birds nest, is also being affected by climate change. Willows, birch and alder are beginning to move north, greening the once treeless tundra where Snowy Owls nest. These shrubs block the vision of the nesting owls, surveying their landscape for predators, and inhibit their ability to hunt.

Something else is happening right here in Maine. Songbird habitat is slowly shifting due to increasing urban subdivisions, reduction of undisturbed forest habitat and coastal wintering and breeding areas moving north.

Carolina Wrens, Tufted Titmice, Gray Catbirds, and other familiar species are beginning to stay on territory all year. Many species are changing their biological calendars; raptors, waterfowl and songbirds are breeding earlier. Migrations are controlled by seasonal temperature and light changes.

What happens if other factors associated with a species do not fall into the same change pattern? For example, what if Tree Swallows come back to find they are too early for their natural insect foods, which may not have adapted to change, or adapted sooner and are absent.

Longer and warmer summers create an opportunity for some species to successfully produce two clutches, due to the extended seasons.

Ornithologists report birds have advanced their arrival here over the past decade by about two weeks. Agriculturalists also report earlier plant growth, flowering and plant maturity.

While Mid-Coast birders may not have confirming records, just strong suspicions, many are of the opinion things are changing and questions about climate, habitat and competition or something we have yet to discover.

Ed.



Bird Reports

Please call Doris Balant 563-1216

DBALANT@roadrunner.net

Loon flying daily over Newcastle since 5/1(same as last year, same bird?), (DB) Loon calling nightly in D-River below Damariscotta 5/4/ (JG) Loon repeatedly calling 7/1 for attention a.m. on D-River (JG).

Cormorants 4/24, Pemaquid, (DB)

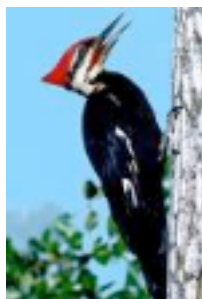
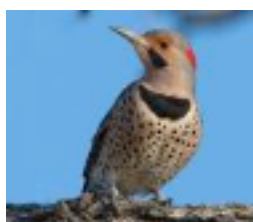
Osprey 4/28, Newcastle (DB)

Northern Harrier 5/1, Newcastle (DB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird 4/29, Newcastle (MW); Hummer arrived in Nobleboro 4/28 (WH)), Newcastle 4/29 (JW), Damariscotta 5/3 (JG).

Bltd.. Kingfisher 5/5, Newcastle (DB).

Pr. Pileated Woodpeckers displaying/chasing 5/6 Schooner Cove, Dam. (JG)



Northern Flickers 4/26, Bremen (LN); Pileated Woodpecker 5/5, 4/20, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nesting and visiting suet daily, 4/25 Jefferson. (BV)

♂ Hairy feeding juv. ♀ at peanut feeder 6/29, Damariscotta (JG).

Phoebe 4/6, Newcastle (DB).

Chickadees like sugar water too, as evidenced by a photo recd. from (WH).

Gr. Crested Flycatcher 5/16 & 30, Newcastle & Bremen (LN)

3 prs. Tree Swallows 7/6, Damariscotta (MW).

House Wrens 2 prs./6 young 7/6, Damariscotta (MW); Winter Wren 4/12, Bremen (LN).

Hermit Thrushes 4/26, Bremen (LN); Wood Thrush 6/29-7/8, Newcastle (DB); Br. Thrasher 5/6, Bremen (LN).

Eastern Bluebirds arrived at Bunker Hill Road 4/24 (CH); checking out nesting boxes 4/13, Newcastle (RB), pr. 4 hatchlings 7/6, Damariscotta (MW); Bluebird on wire Rt 213 Newcastle 5/27 (JG); Bluebird w/5 eggs nesting Kings Mills, near by box filled to opening by wren, no activity, 6/5 (MA)



Gray Catbird 5/20, a few Cedar Waxwings 6/3-5, Newcastle (DB).

Red-eyed Vireos 5/15 & 20, Newcastle (DB).

No. Oriole at suet 7/1, Newcastle (SS).

Warblers: Pine 4/20, Black-throated Green, Parula, Black and White, Yellow, Ovenbird 5/4, Newcastle (DB); also 5/16 Bremen (LN); Hooded 5/31, Newcastle (S McC); Blackpoll Warbler hit window, Camden, taken to school., 5/31 (SL) Hooded Warbler 6/1 (SM).

Chipping Sparrow since 4/30, Newcastle (DB); common at Schooner Cove (JG), White-throated 4/20, Bremen (LN), 4/29, Newcastle (MW), White-crowned 5/16, Bremen (LN); 2 Pr. nesting Song Sparrows, Schooner Cove (JG).

Several prs. Purple Finches 4/29, Newcastle (MW) .

Rose-breasted Grosbeak 5/21, Pemaquid (JB), Blue Grosbeak 5/23-26, Indigo Bunting 5/20 at feeder, (JL) 5/23 (LA), pr 5/20 (DA), all on the Bunker Hill Rd. Jefferson.



♂ Towhee

5/7, Spruce Head (LJ).

Symbols Used



Male



Female

Reporters

DW = Dwane Archer, LA = Lu Archer,

MA = Maggie Atwood, JB = Julie Babb, DB = Doris Balant, RB = Rosie Bensen, JG = Joe Gray, WH = Walt Heathcote CH = Cindy Hennessey, LJ = Lucy Judecki, JL = Joan Ladner,

SL = Silvia Libby, SMcC = Sally McCumber;

LN= Linda Nevins, SS = Stephanie Stephenson,

MW = Mariellen Whelan, BV = Beth Vetter.



Injured Birds !

Call Avian Haven (207) 382-6761
for instructions.

The Maine Legislature



Use your telephone and speak out.

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

Some years ago, Joseph Shealey, an active Chapter volunteer, regularly reported on the Maine Legislature's activities.

Your editor thinks, and hopes the Board concurs, it's time we again focus on what is happening in Maine, which directly or indirectly, effects birds, mammals and habitat. There is a job opening here - read, condense and report.

Maine Audubon has taken the ball forward in recent months and is encouraging members to appear at committee hearings. In late April, dozens of advocates went to Augusta to speak out about [LD 872](#), a bill that proposes to roll back protections for Maine's significant wildlife habitats and their appearance made a big difference

In early May, Maine Audubon urged calling lawmakers in Augusta to support Maine's vernal pools, the significant survival sites for Maine's amphibians. For more details log on to info@maineaudubon.org

A pair of bills has surfaced in the Legislature's Transportation Committee that would try to help the cash-strapped state DOT find new ways to build and maintain roads. **But**, a provision for billboards in one bill, and the option for business signs in another, created an uproar during public hearings, where critics turned out in force to let lawmakers know that they don't want to repeal the state's 34-year ban on billboard advertising.

Audubon has paid close attention in the past to actions of Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC). A Maine judge has rejected the state's zoning approval of Plum Creek Timber Co.'s sprawling resort and residential development at the gateway to Maine's north woods near Moosehead Lake. The superior Court judge agreed with several environmental groups, which claimed that the process used by LURC was not in compliance with their rules.

In the 30-plus years since it was passed, Maine's bottle redemption law has created a cottage industry of centers where Mainers go to drop off containers to get a deposit back. Bottle drives have become a big part of fundraising in the community. So it wasn't a surprise when so many people appeared to weigh in on bills to change the law that an overflow room was needed.

On your next drive south toward Florida or west to Ohio, look at the clutter or billboards and trash along their highways. It's always a pleasure to cross the bridge at Kittery and see no billboards and clean roadsides.

Other Concerns

Maine National Park ?

In early May, a meeting in Millinocket with landowner Roxanne Quimby, presented pros and cons of an ongoing proposed 74,000 NP east of Mount Kathadin. However, once land ownership patterns and utilization stabilize in the area, more will be heard about this proposal



Insect Pest Watch

We have mentioned the destructive emerald ash borer, now at Kingston, NY, and if or when it invades Maine can kill an ash tree in two seasons. Asian longhorn beetle are attacking maples in nearby Massachusetts. Recently, West Virginia declared they could do nothing to stop the spread and removed the quarantine. The woolly adelgid, is locally on our eastern hemlock. There are dozens of serious pathogens at work in our forests and shade trees.

Add to this the eastern hemlock tip blight, a fungus attacking the end tips, leaving brown foliage.

Also on white pine is the Canavirgell needle cast and brown spot needle blight, both caused by fungus.

However, the frequently asked question about the browning of white pine along highways can be attributed to salt spray last winter, and most trees will recover.

U.S. Forest Service, NE Area & Private Forestry, Durham Field Office.



Welcome New and Renewing Members

L.T. Adrei, Washington
Diane Allmayer-Beck, Belfast
Marilyn W. Andrews, Waldoboro
Joan M. Atwood, Bath
Martin R. Bartlett, Searsmont
Kenneth Gill, St. George
Mr. Wally Heathcote, Nobleboro
Dottie Hokkanen, Camden
Mr. John Keift, Northport
Mr. Henry Kennedy, Nobleboro
Robert & Katherine Ledwith, Rockport
Mary E. Merse, Bath
Mr. & Mrs. H.J. Monthony, Rockport
Nancy Overton, Jefferson
Ms. Shannon Power, South China
Fred Ribeck, West Rockport
Dr. Roger Rittmaster, Camden
Ms Virginia Siegel, Windsor
Carolyn R. Small, Camden
Helen Walsh, West Newbury, MA.
Ms. Susan Yost, Owls Head



Scholarships

Chapter scholarships were granted this year to several worthy applicants

Chapter Director and Program Chair Kathy Cartwright elected to attend the July 14-19 *Sharing Nature; An Educator's Week* on Hog Island.

Lisa H. Workman from Newcastle Art and Librarian, attended the Sharing Nature An Educator's Week at Hog Island.

Stephanie Martin of Camden attended the Field Ornithology course from June 19-24 on Hog Island through a full Jean Boyer Hamlin Scholarship in Ornithology.

Partial scholarships were also funded for four youth to attend Tanglewood 4H Camp and Learning Center: Lauren Miller, St. George 5th Grade, attended the Tanglewood Blueberry Cove day camp, Fyn Kynd, Searsmont home schooled, a "hard core nature enthusiast" attended the Tanglewood mini camp, and both Joshua Johnson and Colby Johnson, Searsport, attended week-long Tanglewood residential camp.



The Chapter Store

Ok, it's late summer, but it is always the time to buy a Mid-Coast Bluebird box or feeder and get ready for winter. We remind you there is a housing shortage for our 35 cavity nesting species in Maine.

There are nest boxes and feeders for all species at our outlet Louis Doe Home Center in Newcastle. Stop in and make your selection for fall.

All new Eastern Bluebird/Tree Swallow nest boxes now have entrance opening protection at no additional cost to you. We continue to attempt to defy squirrels chewing the entrance opening. Our Mid-Coast Audubon nest box design has the APPROVAL of the North American Bluebird Society.

Eastern Bluebird, Flicker, Saw-whet Owl,
American Kestrel \$20
Wood Duck \$30

Hardwood hole replacement kit \$1

Bat Box w/ Maine's Bats booklet \$15
Maine's Bats booklet \$5 pp

Feeders: suet log \$10, simple platform \$20,
platform with roof \$40, oriole fruit \$10

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Proofing the BULLETIN

With ever-failing eyesight, your Editor and his in-house helper, put out the word we need help, and fortunately another volunteer came forward. This issue is being proof read by **Elinor Hallowell** of North Haven, before going to press. Many thanks Elinor! Ed.

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Opportunities

Your Chapter always has opportunities available for short or long term tasks. Call Sue 644-1077.



Mid-Coast Audubon Society

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

Nonprofit organization
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BULLETIN

August 2011



JOIN Mid-Coast Audubon Society

& Maine Audubon Society
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Maine Audubon Society's *HABITAT*
and Mid-Coast Audubon *BULLETIN*

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There is Strength
in
Membership