

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. 3 - November 2015

Guest Author

Fyn Kynd recounts his summer birding adventure.
Page 1



President's Corner

The reality of marine debris
Page 2

Critter Corner

Despite the approach of winter, bees are on our mind.
Page 2

Calendar

Lots of exciting trips and programs ahead
Page 4

Migration Quiz

Do you know why the birds migrated when they did?
Page 5

What's New at Mid-Coast Audubon

Web, newsletter, and board changes
Page 5

New Members

Another bonanza of members and renewing members
Page 6

Hog Island

Spaces still left.
Page 6

Scholarships

Apply now
Page 7

WHOMP!

Window collisions
Page 7



A Young Birder's Summer Memories

In June, I had the pleasure of being able to go to Hog Island's Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens camp.

Living just under an hour away from Hog Island, very few of the birds we would see would be new for me. It wasn't the birds I was most excited about though, it was the fact that I was about to spend almost a week with 16 other young-birders! I know many birders, but very few young-birders in real life.

Four of the teen birders that would be at camp I knew from online birding websites. Two are from Virginia and two from Michigan.

The biggest highlight for me, and most of us, was our trip to Eastern Egg Rock, a seabird nesting island located at the mouth of Muscongus Bay.



Atlantic Puffins on Eastern Egg Rock

Fyn Kynd

In early June, before my camp trip, I was able to go on the annual Matinicus Rock boat trip that stops at Eastern Egg. I saw all the specialty species that are on the island on that trip. The awesomeness about our trip to the island during camp is that the teen program gets to *land* on the island! Only the teens, each year, and the researchers are allowed to go ashore.

We were on the island all day and each of us got an hour in one of the many blinds, feet away from nesting Puffins, Terns, and Guillemots. I was in the blind closest to the Puffins and I took many great photos. Though my favorite photo from the trip was of a Black Guillemot.

There was a quote in my blind that read, "*The meaning of life is to find your gift, the purpose of life is to share it*". This really resonated with me and I'll never forget it.

After an hour, we switched out so the rest of the teens could have a tern (ha ha) in the blinds. Most of the time we sat on

Continued on page 3



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

SUE SCHUBEL

Marine debris, a messy business.

We (Project Puffin staff and volunteers) just finished cleaning up all the marine debris on Seal Island NWR. After a summer of many people staging and removing, we estimate that 5 tons of debris came off that island! Amazing! For a moment - but just for a moment no doubt - Seal Island was the cleanest island on the coast of Maine. That's the trouble with marine debris - there seems to be an endless supply. Each high tide brings a new load to shore to endanger the wildlife there by entanglement.

Many loads came off Stratton Island and Eastern Egg Rock too. Most of the debris is lobster gear - traps and lines torn free in storms and tossed up on shore, or, in the case of buoys, set adrift. Other items we gathered included the ever-present evil balloons, tires, drink bottles, and styrofoam cups.

Eiders, Puffins, Terns and Laughing Gulls have been found trapped inside these derelict tangles of wire over the years. A puffin chick was found stuck in its burrow, restrained by

a balloon ribbon. Seals are regularly seen with plastic loops (such as those found around bundles of newspaper or shingles) cutting into their bodies as they grow.

Lots of caring people (including some commercial fishermen) worked hard to clean up the mess. Solutions to this big problem of private gear polluting public places seem elusive, but worth struggling with. I for one am taking a small action by giving up straws (mostly) and helium balloons. What can you do to help? See what others are doing: <https://marinedebrisblog.wordpress.com/aboutblog/>



Sue Schubel removes derelict lobster traps from Stratton Island.

CRITTER CORNER - DON REIMER

Gazing across an August lawn and a blooming flower garden, I was struck by the eerie stillness of the scene. What was missing? No buzzing bees or fluttering butterflies. Not a single pollinator in sight. This natural scenario plays out in other summer gardens and fields as well.

Bees impact 50-80 percent of the global food supply and Cornell University reported that insect pollinators as a whole contribute a \$29 billion value to the U.S. farm economy.

In recent years, a mysterious syndrome called Colony Collapse Disorder has resulted in serious losses of commercial bee hives as adult bees abandon their colonies. While there is no definitive scientific cause behind CCD, we land owners can follow some simple guidelines to aid the survival of native bees in our back yards.

Avoid the heavy use of chemical pesticides on your lawn. Weeds can actually be a natural food source for bees.

Remember that bees are true vegetarians; wasps and hornets are those omnivores that attack your sandwich and soda at the Sunday picnic.

Plant large clumps of bee-friendly flowers (blue, purple and yellow are favorites.) Clover is a good choice that also makes an attractive, robust ground cover. Other plants such as salvia, lavender, Echinacea, yarrow and bee balm help to attract bees.



Bee and flower

Leave a few leafy vegetable plants in your home garden to "bolt" and go to seed, allowing bees to stock up on nutrients for the colder months ahead. Buy local and organic produce whenever possible.

Bees need to drink. Place some "thirsty stones" in your bird bath to give bees hospitable surfaces to climb on and drink.

While we may have limited input on industrial agricultural policies and practices, we can each exert positive influences on local bee populations one yard and one garden at a time.

A Young Birder's Summer . . . cont'd



My favorite photo: A Black Guillemot

the roof of the "Hilton," the only actual building on the island. It serves as the research building and is where the four interns that live on the island keep their food and things. There we watched Roseate, Arctic, and Common Terns courting, nesting and doing other terny things. There was one Common Tern that sat on the roof, maybe 5 feet away and yapped at us.



Common Tern

The second coolest experience was when we were able to do some banding. It's something I had wanted to do for a while, but hadn't gotten the chance until camp.

We only netted 3 birds, a Black-capped Chickadee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a Black-throated Green Warbler, but it was so exciting seeing these everyday birds in the hand and learning how they band them

On the last full day we went to Ross Island, where the Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls that are not allowed on Eastern Egg Rock nest. They would devastate the population of terns if they weren't scared off by the researchers. Everyone held a day-old Herring Gull chick.



Black-capped Chickadee ready for banding



Yellow-rumped Warbler in the classic photo pose

The last meal was a *lobstah* dinner, something a lot of the out-of-staters were looking forward to, personally I don't really like lobster, I know, what kind of Mainer am I. To be honest, that dinner might have been the best moment of the week. We were all together laughing.



This entire experience was made possible by Mid-coast Audubon's scholarship, for which I am so very thankful. I can't wait to get back to Hog Island!!!

Fyn Kynd is a 15 year-old, home-schooled student from Searsmont and an avid birder and photographer.



Calendar of Events



Free bird walks and programs; donations are welcome to help defray costs.

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

DECEMBER

Monday, December 14

Damariscotta/Pemaquid Christmas Bird Count

Contact Compiler: Dennis McKenna at 563-8439

Saturday, December 19

Thomaston/Rockland Christmas Bird Count

Contact Compiler: Don Reimer at 273-3146

Monday, December 21

Bunker Hill Christmas Bird Count

Contact Compiler: John Weinrich at 563-2930

JANUARY

Saturday, January 16

Pemaquid Point

Dress warm and join Don Reimer for a wintery morning along the beautiful Pemaquid Point coast. Expect to see winter gulls, sea ducks, alcids and more.

Meet at the lighthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 30

South Coastal Birding

This has become an annual outing with emphasis on Cape Neddick and Ogunquit north searching for Snowy Owls, Harlequin Ducks, Scoters, Great Cormorants and other waterfowl. Plan for an all-day outing.

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

FEBRUARY

Saturday and Sunday, February 20 and 21

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. Our 2013 trip produced 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 6:00 a.m.

MARCH

Saturday, March 19

Biddeford Pool

A day trip to Biddeford Pool Beach, East Point, Pint Point and Scarborough Marsh.

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

Overnighter!

Join us!

Check our website, www.midcoastaudubon.org for updates on trips and programs. Thank you.

Mid-Coast Audubon board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except June, July, and August) from 6 to 7 p.m. at Waldoboro Library. Public welcome.

Fall Migration Quiz



1. What is the only spot-breasted thrush to winter in the U.S. and South Canada, therefore migrating latest in fall?
2. Which birds start their southerly migration as early as June?
3. Why do raptors generally migrate during the day?

4. What birds typically migrate at night?
5. What kind of weather is best for fall migration birding?
6. Why do many songbirds migrate southward over the ocean, east of their northward route?
7. What North American songbird has the longest migration route?
8. What seabird is common off the northern Atlantic Coast, yet breeds in Antarctica?



Our recent Sabbatus Pond trip - good duck birding.

Marine Debris Quiz - how long does each item take to decompose in ocean? Match number with letter. Answers on page 7.



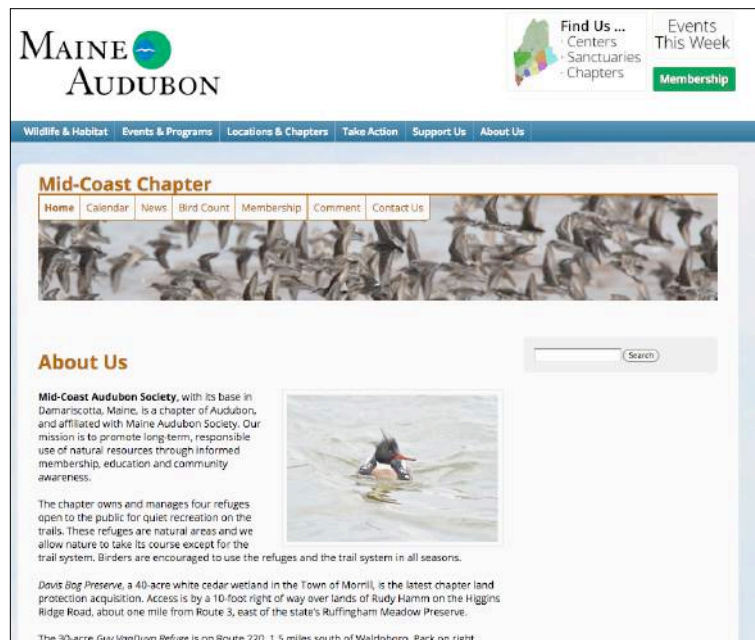
- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Fishing line | diapers | 9. Glass bottle | a. 50 years | f. 450 years | j. 50 years |
| 2. Plastic bottle | 6. Cigarette butts | 10. Plastic 6-pack holder | b. 10-20 years | g. 2 months | k. 450 years |
| 3. Tin can | 7. Foam buoy | | c. 600 years | h. undetermine | |
| 4. Styrofoam cup | 8. Plastic grocery bag | 11. Apple core | d. 400 years | d | |
| 5. Disposable | | | e. 50 years | i. 1-5 years | |



What's New at Mid-Coast Audubon?

The two biggest changes at Mid-Coast Audubon have to do with communication. Time and money are the main drivers of these decisions.

First is our migration to the Maine Audubon website. We have the same features and content as our old website, and you can still find us by Googling Mid-Coast Audubon. We hope you'll like our new look.



Second is our newsletter *The Merganser*, which is usually published four times a year. We have decided to only publish three times a year and do away with the August issue. The issue months are February, May and, November. Of course, the latest information about our calendar of events can always be found on our website.

Other news includes the relocation of one of our board members, John Tobin, and our loss. We'll miss John, both for his work with the board and as a birding buddy - but we'll still see him occasionally.

Our board consists of 11 members and meets the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Waldoboro Library. Meetings finish promptly at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. Consider joining the board. We'd love to have you. You may enjoy our post-meeting meeting at The Narrows Tavern for libation, conviviality, and more discussion about birds. No meetings in June, July, or August. *See you at the next meeting!*

We always welcome feedback, so don't hesitate to contact us. See page 6 for information.

Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you!

Need a Gift for the Holidays

The holidays are rapidly approaching and what better way to help your local chapter and the birds by giving hand-crafted nest boxes, made by our board members.



Nest Boxes: Eastern Bluebird, Flicker - \$20; Saw-whet Owl, and American Kestrel - \$25. 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

Unassembled nest box kits - \$18; paint - \$4

Stop by Louis Doe Home Center in Newcastle or call John Weinrich at 563-2930 to order.



Don Reimer

A Dovekie under the bridge in Warren!



Great Egret feasts on eels at Weskeag - quite a mouthful!



Don Reimer



Don Reimer

Hudsonian Godwit in Thomaston



Welcome New Members!

David Berg, Searsport
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Cady,
Washington
Janet Davis, South Bristol
Betta Ehrenfield, Falmouth
Bruce Garren, Damariscotta
Rachel Genthner, Waldoboro
Steven and Susan Hirshberg,
Union
Mary and Tim Moroney,
Pemaquid
Susan Naegely, Cushing
Cathy Peterman, Newcastle
Nancy Seibert, Camden
David Seybold, Damariscotta
Jeanette Smith, Damariscotta

... and Renewing Members

L.T. Adrei, Washington
William W. Alcorn, Vinalhaven
Jennifer Armstrong, Belfast
Dan and Tally Avenir, Belfast
Mr. and Mrs. David Bailey,
Newcastle
Deborah Bailly, Swanville
Mary L. Baird, Friendship
JoAnne and Michael Bander,
Spruce Head
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Newcastle
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Glen S. Bridge, Freedom
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Linda Callahan, Camden
James Carpenter, North Haven
Cartwright Family, Waldoboro
Charles Chatfield, Rockport
Jeff Cherry and Kass Hogan,
Damariscotta
Darlene and David Coker
Cloe Chunn and David A.
Thanhauser, Swanville
Caren M. Clark, Waldoboro
William Clough, Salem
Gordon Cox, Port Clyde

Luci Craib, Walpole
Jenny Cully, Rockland
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Head
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Ann L. Ertman, Palm Desert
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Belfast
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Brenda Goth, Bristol
Bob Grobe, Camden
Mary M. Grow, China Village
Charlotte Gulezian, Waldoboro
Dorothea Guthrie, Camden
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Petra Hall, Belfast
Sean Hatch, Newcastle
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Jospehs, Damariscotta
Carole Hobson, Palermo
Harry and Mariette Hollins,
Islesboro
Jemi H. Howell, New Harbor
Susan J. Hufnagel, Owls Head
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Kava,
Rockport
Paul Killoran, Rockport
C.S. Kline, Round Pond
Ronald Kostron, China
Carolyn Landau, Damariscotta
Peter and Judi Lawrence,
Nobleboro
Katie Lee, Nobleboro
Reginald Lebouillier, Owls Head
Justin Lesage-Boutin, Hope
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Linker, The
Villages, FL
Edith Kelley Manns, Camden
Julie and Matt Lutkus,
Damariscotta
Joseph and Wendy Mallory, New
Harbor
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Belfast
Ann Marston, Tenants Harbor
Robert Merrill, Camden
Marian F. McAleenan, Rockport
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Arthur Messer, Pemaquid
Sandy Millar, Camden
Michael Moore, Owls Head

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William Murphy, Rockport
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Andrew and Louise Williamson,
Jefferson
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Mid-Coast Audubon

Organized December 6, 1969

a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization

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

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John Weinrich, Vice President
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Don Reimer, Warren
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Nest boxes: John Weinrich, 563-2930
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Preserves: Bill Goodwill, 354-0669
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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 three times a
year in February, May, November. News
items or photos are welcome. **The deadline
for the next issue is January 15!**

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Scholarships Available

Through a generous donation by the Hamlin family, Mid-Coast Audubon has tuition available for scholarships for environmental education, with particular emphasis on birds.

In the past, we have sent teachers, students, and members of the public to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine (see box opposite) and to Tanglewood Camp in Lincolnville, Maine. We are open to sending applicants to other environmental camps on a full or partial scholarship.

All that is required is to complete an application telling us a little about yourself and why you'd like a scholarship and then a commitment to write a piece for *The Merganser* about your experience. We also hope that you would share your experience with others through a presentation, but that is optional.

To apply for a scholarship, contact Sue Schubel at sschubel@tidewater.net. Don't wait too long, summer camps and courses fill up quickly.



WHOMP!

That's the sound of a bird hitting my window. We live in a heartbreakingly beautiful state and are eager to gaze out our windows and see the

landscape unfold and watch our feathered friends at the feeders. But then along comes a raptor looking for a meal and the birds flee in all directions. Many see the reflection of the landscape in the windows and head full tilt only to slam into the glass.

This is becoming an increasingly common occurrence both in residences and commercial buildings. It is known that over 1 million birds a year die in window crashes. Googling "preventing bird window collisions" brings up a host of new products and studies to help decrease the numbers of window strikes. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Birding Association, National Audubon, *Birder's Digest*, all have information on this dilemma.

Some solutions are decals, outside window netting, moving feeders closer to the house, preventing line of site through the window.



Some window treatments



The Hog Island Audubon Camp

Mid-Coast Audubon has a long history of support for the Hog Island Audubon Camp. Each year, it is the venue for our annual fundraising lobster and clambake.

The camp had a successful 2015 season with 96% capacity and two new sessions. A knockout line-up of instructors is on tap for the 2016 season and registration is brisk.

Many of the chapter's scholarship applicants attend the camp. Hog Island's 2016 schedule is now on their website,

<http://hogisland.audubon.org/>

If you are interested in a scholarship visit the site.

A number of our recipients have attended *Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week*, or *Field Ornithology*. Read through the session descriptions and find one that will benefit you.

Don't wait though, as many of their sessions are filling rapidly. The teen sessions are sold out, but there is a waiting list.

Hog Island is the home of Rachel and Steve, our returning ospreys. They can be seen at www.explore.org. Click on the osprey photo. They have flown south for the winter, but the camera is live 365 days.



Juanita Roushdy



Juanita Roushdy

Marine Debris - Answers


1. c
2. f, k
3. a, e, j
4. a, e, j
5. f, k
6. i
7. a, e, j
8. b
9. h
10. d
11. g



Fall Migration Answers

1. Hermit Thrush
2. Shorebirds
3. To ride thermals
4. Warblers, thrushes, and sparrows
5. The days after a cold front passes through
6. To catch a tail wind
7. Blackpoll Warbler
8. Wilson's Storm-petrel



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Audubon
 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 14, 19, and 21
 See page 4 for details

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



Maine Audubon

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mid-Coast Chapter

Mid-Coast

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YES! I would like to protect and conserve wildlife and habitat in my community and
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Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

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City/State/Zip: _____

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 (free for Patron members and above)

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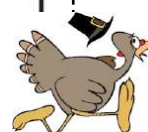
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