

# Afield

NEW HAMPSHIRE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

July-August 2008

## www.nhaidubon.org: Our New Website Invites You to Collaborate

By Rick Minard, President

Our new website is open for business and the more you use it, the more it will grow. Please check it out.

The new site is handsome to look at and easy to use. It is new, up to date, and functional!

More importantly, the site is a dynamic place for us to share information and grow as a community of birders and conservationists. From rare bird alerts to photographs showing what flowers are blooming at particular sanctuaries, the website enables much more rapid communication than our old site. Chapter officers and sanctuary stewards will soon be able to post the latest calendar entries and news directly to the site, strengthening the connections that bring us together as friends of New Hampshire Audubon.

Over the next year, we will add additional features enabling members to post their own bird sightings and photographs, more live bird-box cams, more organizing tools for advocacy, more video, and more links to useful information about energy and conservation.

But first, check it out. I suggest that you take the following nine "field trips" to our web site so you can get a feel for what's there and how it all works.

**Field Trip 1 Find a field trip near you:** The calendar feature on the new site is as sophisticated as any on the web. Wondering what field trips are happening next weekend near the seacoast? You'll find it here. Wondering if there are birding trips particularly suited for families with small children or folks with limited mobility? You can search the calendar for events that meet those criteria. Looking for a daytime event that features live animals? The calendar will help you find it.

From the homepage, click on "Search Statewide Calendar". You'll find yourself at our main calendar page where you can either scroll down through a long chronological list or search quickly using the buttons on the left side of the screen. It's so intuitive that you don't even need instructions here.

**Field Trip 2 Register for Camp:** Yes, it's time to sign up for one of our summer day camp programs and if you've lost the flier we've mailed you or can't find *Afield*, the website will make it simple. From the home page, click on "Programs/Camps" and you'll find the full schedule of programs open to you and how to secure your place.

**Field Trip 3 Climb into bed with a Peregrine Falcon:** Our Peregrine web cam is back on line and easily accessible from the home page. Just scroll down through the "What's Happening" section in the center of the home page until you see the feature on the Peregrine Cam. Click where indicated and you'll be witness to whatever is happening in the nesting box atop the Brady Sullivan Tower in Manchester.

**Field Trip 4 Break Through Our Telephone Defense System:** We've chosen to invest in web technology before upgrading our phone system because the former can help you master the latter. Trying to connect with someone on the N.H. Audubon staff? From the home page, click on "About Us" and then "Staff Directory." You'll find our names, titles, phone extensions, and email addresses. "About Us" will also take you to biographies of N.H. Audubon's trustees, a copy of our bylaws and policies, our annual reports – pretty much anything that will help you connect with the people you're looking for.

**Field Trip 5 Go Birding:** Click on the "Birding" tab on the home page and explore the pages that open up to you. Here you'll find the latest information about bird sightings in New Hampshire and reports from our Conservation Biology Department on eagle populations.

**Field Trip 6 Save the Nighthawk!** Our Conservation Biology Department is working hard with volunteers and businesses across New Hampshire to create rooftop habitat conducive to nighthawk nesting. Take three different routes to find out more: Click on the "Get Involved" tab on the homepage and then scroll through our volunteer opportunities until you find the nighthawk entry or click on the "Conservation/Research" tab and scroll through the department's entries to read about all of our work with nightjars.

**Field Trip 7 Get Personalized Membership Services:** With this website we finally have a tool that will help us make the most of contemporary communications technology and that will allow you to receive emailed bulletins on topics that interest you. If you want birding news or alerts on important legislation, information on camps, or on sanctuary work crews, we will send you just what you want. All we need is your email address and the topics that interest you. From the homepage click "New User? Register now!"

**Field Trip 8 Give a Gift Membership to N.H. Audubon:** Here's something you couldn't do on our old site: give a gift membership to NH Audubon. It's easy now and very, very satisfying. Just click on the "Join/Donate" button at the top of any page and follow the cues. A few minutes, an address, your credit card number, and you will have made someone happy and helped support this great organization.

**Field Trip 9 Go Outside:** N.H. Audubon wants its website to be a gateway to the outdoors, not a substitute for it. So log off and check out the real thing. But do come back often: this site will be different every time you look.

The Amoskeag Fishways in Manchester and the Loon Center in Moultonborough will be unaffected by these changes, because of their unique roles within N.H. Audubon.

Also unaffected are our great outdoor assets: the wildlife sanctuaries that we maintain around New Hampshire. These special places will always be there for you and for future generations. Our land-protection programs, conservation biology work, and advocacy are likewise geared to New Hampshire's future and will not be significantly affected by our restructuring. So please bear with us while we adopt new approaches and adapt to fiscal realities. We're in it for the long haul and appreciate your support.

And what support! Our Annual Fund campaign this year saw a 53 percent increase in the number of donors and a 33 percent increase in total contributions! Thank you. Such generosity makes our work on behalf of New Hampshire's wildlife possible. ■

## Annual Library Book Sale

\*Date Change\*

Saturday, December 6  
9am-3pm

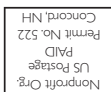
The Annual Library Book Sale will once again be part of the Holiday Fair! It will be held the first weekend in December at the McLane Center. The book sale features all kinds of books from birds and nature to cook-books, mysteries, children's books, fiction and non-fiction, and more.

If you have books you would like to donate to the sale, please bring them to the McLane Center by November 30. All donations are welcome and very much needed. Although the book sale is known for its selection of bird and natural history books, we take anything except text books and non-nature magazines. Please include a note with your name and address with your donated items.

All proceeds benefit the Francis Beach White Library. Thank you!

**Volunteers needed!** Help to set up and organize the book sale Dec. 3-Dec.6.

Contact Kathie at 224-9909, ext. 310, or kpalfy@nhaidubon.org.

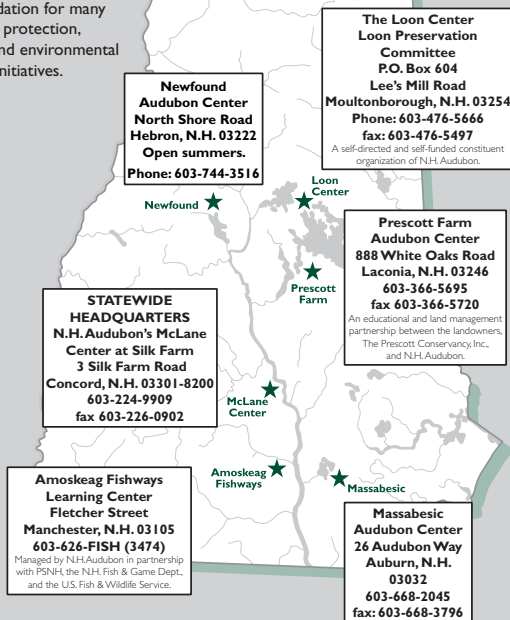


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# Centers

Join the more than 100,000 people who visit New Hampshire Audubon nature centers each year, including more than 50,000 children and adults who participate in programs, camps, and workshops. Each of our six centers has a slightly different focus, and our center educators develop and lead creative environmental programs and field trips for youth and adults year-round. Our state headquarters at the McLane Center in Concord is a base for innovative environmental research in the state, and information gathered and analyzed by the Conservation Department is the foundation for many of our land protection, advocacy, and environmental education initiatives.



For more information, call N.H. Audubon at 224-9909 or contact any of the centers at the numbers listed above.  
**Visit us online at: [www.nhaidubon.org](http://www.nhaidubon.org)**

We are pleased to recognize these businesses for their support:

**Public Service of New Hampshire**  
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New England Wood Pellet\* ■ Orr & Reno, P.A.  
Normandin, Cheney, and O'Neil, PLLC, Attorneys at Law  
St. Paul's School ■ Vortex Optics\*

\*Gifts in-kind. For information on our corporate program, call 224-9909, ext. 307.

# Afield

July-August 2008

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# Opportunities

## Volunteers Needed at the MAC!

If you are interested in any volunteer opportunities, call the Massabesic Audubon Center at 668-2045.

Grounds work: Mowing, weeding, raking are all a part of the summer months' activities. Help us keep the outdoors a welcoming place for all.

Reception Area: Do you like to greet people and answer questions about the beauty and treasures of the MAC? Sign up for a few hours, one or two days a month. Saturday help is very much appreciated, training will be provided.

Educators: Share your enthusiasm and natural history knowledge with school groups! Our volunteer educators are critical in our ability to serve all the school requests we receive. Volunteer educators receive training for fall, winter, and spring programs. Our fall training dates are September 24 & 25. Please call Alison at 668-2045 x207 for more information.

## Art Contest!

- Announcing the 2nd Annual *Wild New Hampshire Photography Contest*
- Seize this opportunity to have your best photos recognized! Enter your photos to win in any or all of the three categories: animals, landscapes, and wildflowers. More than one photo can be submitted. Juniors (under 17 years old) and Adults (over 17 years old) will be judged separately.
- Winning photos will be on display at the Massabesic Audubon Center from October 4-December 6. Call the MAC at 668-2045 for complete rules or email at [mac@nhaidubon.org](mailto:mac@nhaidubon.org).
- Open for submissions August 1-August 22

## Nature Tours

### The Sandhill Cranes of Nebraska

Join Bob Quinn for a trip to see one of North America's greatest wildlife spectacles - the annual migration of Sandhill Cranes through Platte River Nebraska. More than 500,000 cranes consume 1,600 tons of corn during their stopover on Platte River en route to northern breeding grounds. To witness huge flocks of these birds flying in to roost or dancing in the fields is a unique and unforgettable experience. Book your place now. The week-long trip will run either the third or fourth week of March. Cost estimate \$1,300-\$1,500 per person.

### Star Island Migration Watch September 21, October 5th, October 18th

These trips offer the opportunity to see some of New Hampshire's migrants in a more relaxed setting. There are few trees on the island, and birds that would usually be forty feet up in the canopy are often at eye level and easier to find. There is also a good chance for rare fall migrants and seabirds. Leaders include Phil Brown, Eric Masterson, Steve Mirick, and Bob Quinn. Cost from \$45 M / \$50 NM, depending on date. Fuel surcharge may apply.

### Lake Umbagog, Fall Foliage and the Wildlife of Northern N.H. September 23-28

Journey into the wilds of northern N.H. for mountain peaks, fall foliage, moose (maybe), birds (of course), bogs and good times! Visit the untamed headwaters of the Connecticut River, the summit of Mount Washington (by car), where, weather permitting, we will visit the treeless arctic-alpine zone with its breathtaking views and fascinating northern plants. Other highlights include a boat trip on unspoiled Lake Umbagog, bouncing bogs, Madison Boulder, and a sunset trip to the stunning Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge. Expect to see a variety of birds, and possibly beaver, black bear, otter and coyote. The trip is scheduled during the week to maximize the solitude. Our days will be full, but relaxing, and will be shorter because of the time of year. Travel together from Concord by van.

**Cost:** \$1,275 M/\$1,325 NM. Single supplement \$295. (Cost includes lodging, van transportation, tram ride, the Auto Road, boat trip, slide shows, handouts and meals. Limited to 10 participants.)

**Leader:** Bob Quinn for New Hampshire Audubon

### Southern California: Birds and Scenery December 2-10, 2008

California has the most diverse wildlife in the country. The area abounds with wintering birds on the San Diego coast and the desert oasis of the Salton Sea. We will spend a day or two along the coast watching for ferruginous hawk, wandering tattler, black-vented shearwater, the endangered California gnatcatcher and the "large-billed" race of savannah sparrow. In the mountains we could encounter Williamson's sapsucker or the erratic Lawrence's goldfinch. The desert areas should reveal birds such as verdin, Costa's hummingbird, and black-tailed gnatcatcher, plus some great scenery. The Salton Sea is renowned for huge flocks of wintering water birds which might include Ross's goose and yellow-footed gull. The areas nearby might produce mountain plover, Abert's towhee, and black-chinned sparrow.

**Cost:** \$2,295. Single supplement of \$355. Price includes all ground transportation, most meals, and lodging. The trip originates in San Diego. Airfare is not included.

**Leader:** Bob Quinn for New Hampshire Audubon

Contact Eric at [emasterson@nhaidubon.org](mailto:emasterson@nhaidubon.org) for more details.

# Programs

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR ALL PROGRAMS

🐸: Live animal program; ♿: Handicapped accessible. Call for details.

## AMOSKEAG FISHWAYS

# 626-3474

### Summer Vacation Series

**Choice of two daily sessions: 10am–noon, or 1:30–3:30pm**

Each age group meets once a week for fun two-hour summer programs that turn the natural world into great learning experiences!

**Cost:** \$8 per session/\$30 for all four sessions.

**Explorers Series (Ages 5-6): July 8, 15, 22, 29**

**Adventurers Series (Ages 7-9): July 9, 16, 23, 30**

**July 8, 9: Amphibians Around Us** 🐸

They're slimy, but superb! Get acquainted with some live New Hampshire amphibians.

**July 15, 16: Critter Quest**

Where do amphibians, fish, and other critters hang out? Search a local habitat to find them yourself. Group meets at Fishways, then adults must transport children to site.

**July 22, 23: Fun With Fish** ♿ 🐸

Meet a variety of Merrimack fish up close and personal, fashion a fish craft, and play fish games.

**July 29, 30: Adventures in the Woods**

Explore the local woods with an emphasis on FUN! Group meets at Fishways, then adults must transport children to site.

**Voyagers Series (Ages 10-13): July 10, 17, 24, 31**  
**9am-4pm**

Each Thursday we will embark on an all-day adventure exploring the natural wonders of the Merrimack River watershed.

**Cost:** \$28 per session/\$105 for all four sessions.

**July 10: Learn to Paddle**

Spend a day on the Merrimack River learning to paddle a canoe.

**July 17: Let's Go Fishing**

We'll bring the poles - you bring your luck, as we spend the day fishing.

**July 24: Paddle on Newfound Lake**

Improve your paddling technique as we canoe on beautiful Newfound Lake.

**July 31: Great Bay Day!**

Explore two sides of New Hampshire Great Bay, climb a fire tower for a bird's eye view, and enjoy a special program at the Sandy Point Discovery Center.

### Preschoolers

**Fishways Fundays (Ages 4-5 accompanied by an adult)**

**Wednesdays**

**10-11am, or 1-2pm**

**Cost:** \$5 per family (parents & their own children under age 18)

**August 6: Pond Sleuths**

We'll search for fabulous frogs, slithery salamanders, and more. Meet at the Fishways, then adults must transport children to nearby Maxwell Pond (5 minutes from Fishways) for a wild and wet adventure!

**August 20: Shells, Scales and Reptile Tales** ♿ 🐸

Did you know we have two groups of reptiles in New Hampshire? Join us for stories and games to discover the special qualities of these scaly creatures and meet some snakes and turtles up close.

### Family Friday Nights



**Full Moon Hike**

**July 18, 8-9 pm**

**Cost:** \$5 per family

Many creatures emerge as the sun goes down. Explore the night time world in the woods under the light of a full moon. Group will meet at the Fishways, then proceed to Hackett Hill (5 min. drive from the Fishways).

**Campfire Tales**

**August 15, 8-9 pm**

**Cost:** \$5 per family

Enjoy a campfire on the banks of the Merrimack River while listening to traditional Native American tales. Dress appropriately for weather and insects.

## NEWFOUND AUDUBON CENTER 744-3516

### Summer Sampler

Starting this past Spring, the Newfound Audubon Center has begun booking field-trip and outreach programs for area schools and small to mid-size groups of all ages. We will also be renting canoes and kayaks from Memorial Day to Columbus Day (call ahead to reserve your craft). Offering the best environmental programs from the last three seasons, including our very popular LOST (Learning Outdoor Survival Techniques) Program, we can accommodate school groups from K through college.

The LOST Program is available as both a water and land-based adventure, with the land-based program also offered in an outreach capacity (we will come to your site!). On the water, you can navigate crystal-clear Newfound Lake in our canoes and kayaks, with a beach-side stop into the world of a cast-away, lost on a deserted shore. On land, explore two diverse ecological settings, the Cocker-mouth River and Hebron Marsh, with a closer look at how to survive and thrive when you have lost your way.

Also offered this season will be an Introduction to Camping Course, a local-specific Native American program entitled, "Through the eyes of the Eastern Wood-land people", and our newest offering, the Stay Local Series, which will highlight the Best Management Practices for local sustainable living through exciting, interactive workshops. Call ahead for more information or to book your trip at (603) 744-3516 or at (603) 304-6809. You can also contact us through email at mdionne@nhaudubon.org.

In addition to our engaging programs, our Nature Center includes several interactive exhibits, live animal displays and our newest multi-media attraction, Sky-Watch, which is a NASA-based program that patches through up-to-date images from deep space telescopes. With three separate sanctuaries, a wonderful nature store and 3500 feet of unspoiled frontage on Newfound Lake, we are the perfect destination for inquisitive and adventure-seeking groups. We offer half-day and full-day programs and can work directly with you to complement your current curriculum.

Field-trip rates are \$10 per student, and Outreach Programs are \$75 - \$100 per hour. For more information on who we are and what we offer, please visit: [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org).



### Canoe & Kayak Rentals

**Daily, through October (Sundays by appointment)**  
**(Paradise Point)**

Explore Newfound Lake and the Cocker-mouth River in a canoe or kayak. Canoes, kayaks, paddles, life jackets, and a map of the lake are provided. Beginner boaters should arrive 30 minutes early for instructions and orientation.

**Cost:** Canoes: \$25 M/\$35 NM; Kayaks: \$20 M/\$25 NM

**Call ahead to reserve a canoe or kayak: 744-3516**

## McLANE CENTER AT SILK FARM

# 224-9909

### Homeschoolers

#### Science Inquiry Homeschool Series (Ages 7-12)

Join us at the McLane Center for this year's Homeschool series focusing on scientific inquiry and investigation. By the end of the series students will have had monthly opportunities to get outside to examine birds, identify macroinvertebrates in the pond, and canoe to collect dragonflies! Classes are appropriate for ages 7-12. Parents are invited to attend and participate with their children. Pre-payment and pre-registration is required. Call 224-9909, ext. 333.

#### Saturday, July 5: Canoe Trip - Dragonfly Collecting

10am - 1pm

Cost: \$12 M/\$15 NM, \$3 for participating siblings

N.H. Audubon has been studying and discovering the locations of dragonfly species throughout New Hampshire. Here is your chance to grab a paddle, learn to canoe, and collect and identify dragonfly exuvia on the Merrimack River. Your data may be used by the N.H. Audubon Conservation department.

#### Saturday, August 9: Compass Rumpus

1-2:30pm

Cost: \$9 M/\$11 NM, \$3 for participating siblings

Do you know which way is north or what a topography line is? Learn how to use a compass and read a map as we explore the Silk Farm Audubon Sanctuary. Venture into the woods to test your sense of direction, play games to discover the ease of direction finding, learn how to read a trail map, and make your own compass to take home with you.

### Summer Day Camp!

Friends of the Eagle Summer Camp is in session! Join us for age-appropriate activities (4-14 year olds) that foster wonder and awareness of the natural world. Participate in outdoor excursions and discovery, experiments, games, crafts, guest presentations, and all-camp events! For more information and to register, visit [www.nhaidubon.org](http://www.nhaidubon.org).

#### Session 2: July 7-17 New Hampshire's Finest (N.H. Wildlife)

#### Session 4: July 28-August 1: Wonderful Wetlands, Wild Weather

#### Session 5: August 11-21: Let's Get Green



#### Survival Leadership Academy at Lake Umbagog (Ages 12-14) July 21-25

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend the night in a shelter, get a fire going without matches, boil lake water for drinking, or forage for food in the woods? Here's your chance to perfect your wilderness survival skills as we camp out under the stars, canoe, hike, swim, and explore the Lake Umbagog region of northern New Hampshire. This area, including the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, is home to eagles, ospreys, loons, moose, and many other species of wildlife. Participants will earn a Survival Leadership Certificate through skills practiced over the course of the week. This trip embarks from the McLane Center in Concord, but is open to campers throughout the state. Register at [www.nhaidubon.org](http://www.nhaidubon.org).

Cost: \$450 M/\$510 NM (covers travel, fees, food, and camping costs).

### Birthday Parties

Don't miss out on your opportunity to celebrate your birthday at NH Audubon. 10 themes include Survival Party, Low Ropes Adventure Party, and Take Flight Zip Line Party. Also choose from live animal parties such as owls, hawk, falcon, turtles, frog, and snakes. Parties include an hour-long naturalist-led program and one hour of exclusive use of our party room. Call 224-9909 ext. 333 for more details.

### Art Exhibits

#### Birds of New Hampshire, Paul Merritt

July 1 - August 1

Artist's Reception: July 2, 6-8pm

Come and experience the treasures of New Hampshire's wildlife and natural beauty, as seen through the lens of nature and wildlife photographer Paul Merritt. Come and meet Mr. Merritt as we host a reception to kick off the exhibit on Wednesday evening July 2nd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.



#### Wildlife Photography, Fred Martin

August 5 - September 28

Over five decades, Fred Martin has captured thousands of rare and beautiful photos of wildlife in New Hampshire. His work has been featured in national magazines and has been recognized both locally and internationally.

### Families

#### Family Fun Overnight Adventure

Friday-Saturday, August 8-9

5:30pm-11:30am

Bring the whole family to the McLane Center! Camp out in your own tent under the stars and listen for the calls of the barred owl! Enjoy a pizza dinner and a visit with our live raptors. We'll tell stories around the campfire, snack on smores, and even venture into the darkness to touch, feel, smell, and taste the outdoors on a sensory night hike. In the morning we'll have a delicious breakfast and trek down to Turkey Pond to search for dragonflies, salamanders, and more! All ages welcome.

Cost: \$27/ family of 2 and \$48/family of 3+

### Adults

#### Birds & Butterflies of Pondicherry

Saturday, July 12 (rain date, Sunday, July 13)

7am-2pm

In this workshop, we'll explore the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson, and the adjacent Whitefield Airport area, visiting a wide variety of habitats. Common Loon, Northern Harrier, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Mourning Warbler are possible birds. Possible butterflies include Baltimore Checkerspot, Great Spangled Fritillary, Tiger Swallowtail, and White Admiral. We'll hike over 5-miles on level trails with some uneven footing, while we look for birds and butterflies, and learn how to identify them. Bring a bag lunch, and be prepared to carpool. Meet at the McLane Center at 5:30am.

Instructor: Mark Suomala, Naturalist

Cost: \$29 M/\$35 NM

#### Shorebird Identification for Beginners

Saturday, August 16 (rain date, Sunday, August 17)

7am-2pm

In this workshop, we will learn how to identify shorebirds at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island in Massachusetts. We'll focus on learning what species are likely, and how to look for and see the key field marks on sandpipers, plovers, and other shorebirds. Bring a bag lunch, and be prepared to carpool. Meet at the McLane Center at 6am.

Instructor: Mark Suomala, Naturalist

Cost: \$29 M/\$35 NM. You will also have to pay for your own admission into Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (\$5.00 per car).

## MASSABESIC AUDUBON CENTER 668-2045

### Families

#### Campfire Programs

Join us at our campfire for a few summer evenings of storytelling at the MAC. Each evening will have a different Natural History theme. Enjoy a guided hike followed by stories around the campfire. Conclude each evening with toasting marshmallows. Co-sponsored by Tellers from the Central New Hampshire Storytelling Guild and open to all ages. In poor weather, program will be held indoors.

**Cost:** \$8 M/\$12 NM individual; \$24 M/\$40 NM families

#### Life in Miniature

**Friday, July 18, 6:30–8:30pm**

#### The Cycles of Life

**Friday, August 1, 6:30–8:30pm**

#### Our Watery World

**Friday, August 15, 6:30–8:30pm**

### For Teens!

#### Nature Photography Workshop

**July 14–18, 10am–1pm**

This week long workshop mixes instruction with practical field experience, introducing aspects of nature photography including composition, exposure, focusing, lighting, camera operation and field techniques. Examples of topics covered include: nature photography venues and examples, composition techniques, tools for composition, natural and modified lighting, controlling exposure, focusing methods, depth of field, camera equipment and operation, polarizing filter use, field equipment, practical tips for the field, and projects for the beginner. Throughout, application of these techniques to nature photography is highlighted. Field exercises augment the classroom instruction and permit the students to practice the techniques they have learned. Please contact the center or visit [www.usaaloft.com/fineart](http://www.usaaloft.com/fineart) for further information and prerequisites. Educational scholarships available on an as-needed basis.

**Leader:** David Saxe, USA Aloft  
**Cost:** \$90 M/\$120 NM

### Partners in Art

#### Currier Museum Art Center

#### Plein-Air Pastel Drawing

**July 28–August 1, 12–4 pm**

Pack your pastels and paper and meet Bruce McColl on the grounds of the MAC where you will explore the natural beauty of this wildlife sanctuary during this exciting week of “plein-air” pastel drawing. As a bonus, you will take a nature walk through the grounds of the MAC with the guidance of an Audubon specialist. Bring a lunch! (Drawing materials and equipment not provided; a supply list is available upon request.) Appropriate for teens and adults who are either Beginning or Intermediate students.

**Instructor:** Bruce McColl  
**Cost:** \$250 M/NM

Visit [www.currier.org](http://www.currier.org) for more information

### Save the Date!

#### Volunteer Appreciation Evening, Friday, September 19

The MAC staff want to shower you with appreciation! Please note this date in your calendar today and join us for an evening of good food and entertainment.

### Saturday Hikes

#### Slimy and Scaly Adventure

**Saturday, July 26, 10am–noon**

Is your child a budding herpetologist? Join us today for some slimy, slippery and scaly fun as we learn about New Hampshire's reptiles and amphibians, go on a hunt for salamanders, frogs, turtles, and snakes in and around our Center and Sanctuary and even meet some up close!

**Cost:** \$8 M/\$12 NM individual; \$24 M/\$40 NM families

#### Splish, Splash It's A Pond Survey!

**Saturday, August 30, 1–3pm**

Search for invertebrates, tadpoles, and sunning turtles. Observe birds in and around the pond. Discover how all these living things are interconnected as we explore the life styles of aquatic creatures and celebrate the wonders of wetlands at Milne Pond.

**Cost:** \$8 M/\$12 NM individual; \$24 M/\$40 NM families

### Nature Class Series for Young Naturalists

Join us for a series of four classes for ages 4–7 with parents (and younger siblings!) Each week a different theme will be explored through hands-on activities, songs, stories, outdoor discovery time and skill building with a natural focus. Bring a lunch and enjoy a picnic after the program. Sign up for one at a time or the series. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Limited to 12 adult/child pairs.

**Thursdays, 10–11:30am**

**Cost:** \$6 M/\$9 NM per child; no fee for accompanying adult

#### July 10: Spider Hiders!

Come and join in as we spin a web of spider fun! Tell stories, make a craft, go on a hike, and meet some living eight-leggers!

#### July 17: Water, Water Everywhere!

Explore the water cycle and some watery places. Learn about the creatures that need water to survive. Please wear boots or old shoes!

#### July 24: Birds of a Feather!

Explore the world of birds as we look at feathers, go bird watching, dig through an owl pellet and play some bird games.

#### July 31: Adventure Hike!

Bring a snack and join us for a hike to Lake Massabesic playing **Camouflauge!** and other games along the way. Look for loons and have a snack at the osprey viewing blind.

### Adults

#### Padding into a Full Moon

**Friday, July 18, 7–9pm**

Listen to loons calling in the stillness of the night, learn some “loon-lore,” watch the sun set and the moon rise as you paddle leisurely across Lake Massabesic. Participants must be 18 years or older, stable swimmers, comfortable in the water and have their own canoe or kayak and life jackets! Bring binoculars if you wish. Meet at the boat ramp at Claire's Landing in Auburn Village. In poor weather, program will be cancelled.

**Leader:** Ed & Ruth Fowler, nature lovers and active N.H. Audubon members.  
**Cost:** \$8 M/\$12 NM per person

#### Calling All Citizen Scientists-It's the Annual Loon Survey!

**Saturday, July 19, 8–10am**

Do you enjoy kayaking or canoeing and love the call of the loon? Share 2 hours of your time to help conduct the annual Loon Census on Lake Massabesic and Tower Hill Pond. Call the MAC prior to the date to be assigned a survey section of the lake and to obtain your survey instructions. On Saturday, be prepared to be out on the lake or pond and ready to count at 8am sharp. Canoe, kayak, or motorboat and binoculars are necessary. Return to the MAC after the census for a cup of coffee, bagels, and muffins and to log your field data. Contact Alison at 668-2045 x 207 or via email at [adixon@nhaudubon.org](mailto:adixon@nhaudubon.org) to join the survey.

#### Dragonfly Conservation Survey Series (continued)

**Saturday, July 19, and August 30, 10–noon**

In 2007, the N.H. Dragonfly Survey, a partnership of N.H. Audubon, N.H. Fish & Game, and UNH Cooperative Extension, was piloted with the goal of a better understanding of the N.H. distribution of dragonfly species of conservation concern.

Fascinated with dragonflies? Come join us for the final two sessions of this workshop series that focuses on surveying which species are found during different times of the summer. A quick overview of basic dragonfly biology, habits, and common species identification will be followed by hands-on field practice of safely catching and handling these amazing insects. Participants will learn to identify the dragonflies caught. Please bring any insect catching gear you've got!

**Leader:** Angie Krysiak, N.H. Audubon Naturalist

**Cost:** \$8 M/\$12 NM per session

### Outdoor Ventures

#### Beginner Touring Kayak Trip

**Thursday, July 10, 10am–2pm**

Kayak on picturesque Lake Winnepocket in Webster, N.H. We will meet at Contoocook River Canoe Company, rent boats if needed, and take a shuttle to the lake. After reviewing paddling strokes, we will explore the remote scenic lake (approximately 2 miles round-trip), watching for abundant wildlife. Bring your binoculars and your lunch!

**Cost:** \$20 M/NM, shuttle fee \$15 paid to Contoocook River Canoe Co., boat rental \$19

#### Intermediate Touring Kayak Trip

**Thursday, July 17, 11am–3pm**

Explore secluded tidal creeks and salt marshes by kayak on the Great Bay Estuary and watch osprey dive for fish and herons glide across the water. The Head Naturalist of Great Bay Discovery Center will be joining us to teach us about the flora and fauna of salt marshes. This trip is rated intermediate because we will be kayaking 4 miles of sustained paddling (some against the tide) and because of the lack of shore access to get out of the boats once we are on the water. You should have previous paddling experience for this trip.

**Cost:** \$20 M/NM; boat rental \$5

#### Beginner Touring Kayak Trip

**Thursday, August 14, 10am–2pm**

Contoocook River Canoe Company will shuttle us to Hopkinton Lake where we will paddle approximately 2 miles in the more remote sections of the lake and explore the marshes and coves looking for beaver dens and great blue heron nests. An Audubon naturalist will paddle with us to interpret the landscape and wildlife. A great way to spend a leisurely August day!

**Cost:** \$20 M/NM, shuttle fee \$15 paid to Contoocook River Canoe Co., boat rental \$19

#### Beginner Kayaking on Lake Umbagog

**Thursday, August 26–28**

Experience the waterways and wildlife surrounding Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. Travel by pontoon boat and kayak to view one of New England's true wilderness areas. Bald eagles and osprey fly overhead as we explore short stretches of the Magalloway and Androskoggin Rivers. The cost of the trip includes instruction, lodging, lunch on the kayaking day, and the pontoon boat trip. Transportation, boat rental and other meals are not included. A deposit of \$100.00 is due at registration to reserve your space with the remainder paid by August 1. Sign up early to join Outdoor Ventures on an unforgettable kayaking experience – this trip will fill up quickly!

**Cost:** \$265 M/NM

## PRESCOTT FARM AUDUBON CENTER 366-5695

### WildQuest Summer Day Camp Programs

#### Preschool Pioneers (Pre-K to K) 9am–noon

Age-appropriate activities that foster a wonder and awareness of nature. Sessions are weekly and themes follow the WildQuest Camp schedule (Each week's activities will be unique and campers may attend any session or combination of sessions).

**Cost per 5-day session:** W1 (June 23–27), W3 (July 7–11), W5 (July 21–25), W7 (Aug. 4–8), W9 (Aug. 18–22): \$85 M/\$110 NM

**Cost per 4-day session:** W2 (June 30–July 3), W4 (July 14–17), W6 (July 28–31), W8 (Aug. 11–14): \$68 M/\$85 NM



#### WildQuest (Grades K–7) 9am–4pm

Nature activities, outdoor exploration, games, and hands-on learning.

**Cost per 9-day session:** \$295 M/\$355 NM

**Cost per session 5 (5 days):** \$155 M/\$195 NM

#### Leaders-in-Training Program (Ages 13–14)

Participants will assist with the Preschool Pioneers Camp each morning, and gain valuable leadership skills in the afternoon. Participants must complete an application process and have finished seventh grade. Download an application at: [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)

**Cost per 9-day session:** \$135 M/\$195 NM

### N.H. Audubon Camps

- Enhance ecological awareness;
- Cultivate appreciation for and stewardship of our natural environment;
- Provide fun, safe, hands-on learning opportunities;
- Build a sense of community; and
- Foster a collaborative, non-competitive atmosphere.



Photos: John Hession, Julie Klett, NHA Staff

### Session Themes & Dates

#### Session 1: June 23–July 3, Survivor!

Test your senses and your skills! We will work with compasses to complete an orienteering course, build shelters, make fires and toast marshmallows—and keep you on your toes with surprise rounds of camouflage throughout.

#### Session 2: July 7–17, Phenomenal Plants

We will learn a ton of amazing fun facts about the plant life at Prescott Farm as we make our own natural dyes, plant presses, lip balm and sun tea. Be sure to bring your green thumb as we will be doing some planting. We will identify local flora and discover their medicinal purposes too!

#### Session 3: July 21–31, N.H. Wildlife

We will explore the survival needs and diverse habitats of New Hampshire wildlife during our Habitat Scavenger Hunt. Campers, get ready for live visits from an owl, snakes, turtles and critters from the Seacoast!



#### Session 4: August 4–14, Water World

We will probe through the pond at Prescott Farm to discover what creatures are living below the surface. Get ready to join in on fun activities and games to learn about wet ecosystems and animals such as reptiles, amphibians, birds, and even beavers that are found in these habitats!

#### Session 5: August 18–22, Farm Life

We'll start to enjoy an early harvest by creating corn husk dolls and tasty treats from the garden. A History Mystery Quest will allow us to discover more about this particular farm and family.

#### Survival Leadership Academy at Lake Umbagog (Ages 12–14) July 21–25

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend the night in a shelter, get a fire going without matches, boil lake water for drinking, or forage for food in the woods? Here's your chance to perfect your wilderness survival skills as we camp out under the stars, canoe, hike, swim, and explore the Lake Umbagog region of northern New Hampshire. This area, including the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, is home to eagles, ospreys, loons, moose, and many other species of wildlife. Participants will earn a Survival Leadership Certificate through skills practiced over the course of the week. This trip embarks from the McLane Center in Concord, but is open to campers throughout the state. Register at [www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org).

**Cost:** \$450 M/\$510 NM (covers travel, fees, food, and camping costs).



**Hiking Trails Open Daily, Dawn to Dusk!**  
Explore the fields and wooded trails of Prescott Farm. Trail maps are available in kiosk outside our new program building.

# THE LOON CENTER 476-5666

## The Annual Loon Festival!

Saturday, July 19  
10am–2pm

Mr. Phil Balloonologist  
Kid's Crafts  
Face Painting  
Loon Slide Shows  
Live Music  
Refreshments  
And more!

Visit the Loon's Feather Gift shop featuring all things loon and more! Proceeds benefit common loon research and preservation in N.H.

The Loon Center is located on the 200-acre Markus Wildlife Sanctuary with trails open dawn to dusk daily. The Center is open 9am–5pm daily.  
Home of the Loon Preservation Committee:  
A self-directed and self-funded constituent organization of N.H. Audubon.  
183 Lee's Mills Rd., Moultonborough [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org)

## Annual Loon Census

### July 19, 8-9am

Volunteers count loons and send the results in to the Loon Preservation Committee. Call Loon Center for details.

## Summer Nature Talk Series

### July 11-August 29, 7:30pm

Every Thursday evening at 7:30 come enjoy a program on various topics from Mount Washington weather to moose and other New Hampshire wildlife. Admission is free, though donations are appreciated.

# Chapter Happenings

Free\*, all are welcome!

\*Unless otherwise noted.

## CAPITAL AREA

Field Trip: Dragonfly Search in Warner/Bradford  
Saturday, July 5, 10am (Cool/overcast/rain date: Sunday, July 6)  
Although Concord has one of the highest species lists in the state for dragonflies and damselflies, areas of the county to the west are very poorly known. This trip will attempt to fill some of the holes, and do it during the peak dragonfly season when the most species are flying. This trip will visit areas along the Warner River and end up in the vicinity of Lake Massasecum. Bring footwear you don't mind getting wet and an insect net if you have one! Trip will last 4-5 hours, so bring a lunch or snacks. Meet at the McLane Center. The trip will not go under cool, overcast, or rainy conditions, in which case it will be postponed to Sunday, July 6. Contact: Pam Hunt, 224-9909 ext. 328 or [phunt@nhaudubon.org](mailto:phunt@nhaudubon.org).

Field Trip: Ossipee Pine Barrens and Watts Sanctuary  
Saturday, August 9, 8am  
The Nature Conservancy and N.H. Audubon properties in Ossipee and Effingham are off the radar of most birders due to their out-of-the-way locations, but have an interesting diversity of habitat and species. Meet at the McDonald's at the intersection of Routes 16 and 25 in West Ossipee. Contact: Terry Bronson, 929-1745, [tbirds@comcast.net](mailto:tbirds@comcast.net), for possible carpooling options from Concord.



Chapter activities are a great way to learn more about birding and wildlife and to connect with like-minded people.  
Beginners are always welcome!

## LAKES REGION

There are no scheduled activities for the Lakes Region Chapter during July or August.

## MASCOMA

Mascoma Field Trips: General Information  
We suggest that you sign up with the trip leader ahead of time in case of a change of plans due to weather or emergencies.



## NASHAWAY

Ponemah Bog Walks  
Saturdays, as noted below

July 12, 10am: Led by Friends of Ponemah Bog  
July 19, 10am: Led by Pam Hunt, senior conservation biologist, NHA  
July 26, 10am: Led by Tom Young, dragonfly enthusiast

Ponemah Bog's varied and interesting habitat is home to a number of unique species, many of which are found only in bogs. Bring binoculars, insect spray, and wear shoes for wet terrain. Contact: John Dustin at 672-5646, [bogvisit@yahoo.com](mailto:bogvisit@yahoo.com).

Directions: Ponemah Bog entrance is on Rhodora Drive, off Stearns Rd., which runs between Boston Post Rd. and Rt. 122, just north of Rt. 101A in Amherst.

## MONADNOCK

Field Trip: Dragonfly Search in Keene  
Saturday, July 12, 10 am  
The dragonfly fauna of southwestern NH is not as well known as many other parts of the state. This trip will attempt to fill one of the known holes by exploring a variety of habitats within the city of Keene. How many species do you think we'll find?!? Bring footwear you don't mind getting wet and an insect net if you have one! Trip will last 4-5 hours, so bring a lunch or snacks. The trip will not go under cool, overcast, or rainy conditions, in which case it will be postponed to Sunday, July 13. Meet in carpark of Keene Cinema, 121 Key Road. Contact: Pam Hunt, 224-9909 ext. 328 or [phunt@nhaudubon.org](mailto:phunt@nhaudubon.org).

Field Trip: Plum Island  
Saturday, August 2nd, 7am-3pm  
Join Lance Tanino and Eric Masterson for a field trip to the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island to witness the first southbound migrant shorebirds, along with a chance to encounter some of the specialty waterbirds of the island. \$5 per vehicle fee payable to Plum Island National Wildlife Refuge. Bring packed lunch and bug repellent. Meet in carpark of Keene Cinema, 121 Key Road at 7am. Contact Eric Masterson, 224-9909 ext. 307 or [emasterson@nhaudubon.org](mailto:emasterson@nhaudubon.org).

Program: Raptors of the Northeast at Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory  
Thursday, August 28, 7pm  
About fourteen species of raptors (not including owls or turkey vulture) can be seen each year in New Hampshire, and all pass by Pack Monadnock's raptor observatory which opens on September 1. Bone up on your identification skills and learn about hawk migration with Julie Tilden, hawkwatcher extraordinaire from the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory. Keene Public Library. Contact: Eric Masterson, 224-9909 ext. 307.



## PEMIGEWASSET

Program: Nature's Boardroom  
Monday, July 21, 7pm  
A roundtable discussion on area conservation efforts which could affect your neck of the woods. Participants may include area conservation commissions, Plymouth State University, Center for the Environment and the Hubbard Brook Research Station. Also a sharing of birding experiences, photo slideshows and fieldtrip planning. Pease Public Library, downstairs meeting room, Plymouth, NH. Contact: Frank Benham at 726-3027 or [fbenham@roadrunner.com](mailto:fbenham@roadrunner.com).

Program: Birding and Beyond  
Monday, August 25, 7pm  
Pizza, a birding related movie, and great fellowship - what more could you ask for. Share your life list, where you're at, what you've seen and where you might go. For novice birders and nature lovers obtain valuable information on expanding your horizons. Pease Public Library, downstairs meeting room, Plymouth, NH. Contact: Frank Benham at 726-3027 or [fbenham@roadrunner.com](mailto:fbenham@roadrunner.com).

Field Trips: Spontaneous Birding  
Any day of the week.  
Contact a fellow Audubon member or even someone new to explore the outdoors, anywhere, anytime. Contact our fellow chapters, Squam Science Center, Audubon Centers or historical societies to participate in bird or nature walks.

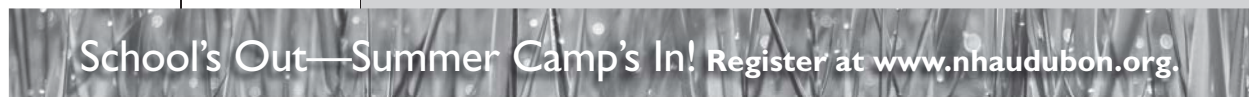
## SEACOAST

Program: Summer Picnic  
Wednesday, July 9, 7:00 pm  
Our Annual Summer Picnic. Bring your own beverage and a food dish to share. Photos, stories, and other fun. Bird walk will be held, weather permitting. Seacoast Science Center, Odiome Point State Park, 570 Ocean Boulevard, Rye. Contact: Terry Bronson, 929-1745, [tbirds@comcast.net](mailto:tbirds@comcast.net) or Dan Hubbard, 332-4093.

Program: Venezuela  
Wednesday, August 13  
7pm: refreshments; 7:30pm: meeting  
Bob Fox and Dana Duxbury-Fox will present a program on Venezuela birding and other interesting aspects of that country. Seacoast Science Center, Odiome Point State Park, 570 Ocean Boulevard, Rye. Contact: Dan Hubbard, 332-4093, [danielhubbard@peoplepc.com](mailto:danielhubbard@peoplepc.com).

# Statewide Activities Visit [www.nhaidubon.org](http://www.nhaidubon.org) for updates and additions.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Birds of N.H. Art Exhibit (continues through August 1) F/MC	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Homeschoolers Canoe Trip C/MC Dragonfly Search in Warner Bradford CH
<b>6</b> Look for black swallowtail caterpillars on parsley, carrots, and Queen Anne's lace.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Amphibians Around Us C/AF	<b>9</b> Amphibians Around Us C/AF Summer Picnic CH	<b>10</b> Learn to Paddle C/AF Spider Hiders! C/MAC Beginner Kayak Trip MAC	<b>11</b> Summer Nature Talk Series (continues through August 29) LC	<b>12</b> Birds & Butterflies of Pondicherry MC Ponemah Bog Walks CH Dragonfly Search in Keene CH
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Nature Photography Wkshp (continues through July 18) C/MAC	<b>15</b> Critter Quest C/AF	<b>16</b> Critter Quest C/AF	<b>17</b> Let's Go Fishing C/AF Water, Water Everywhere! C/MAC Intermediate Kayak Trip MAC	<b>18</b> Cape Cod Shorebird NT Family Friday Nights F/AF Life in Miniature F/MAC Paddling into Full Moon A/MAC	<b>19</b> Cape Cod Shorebird NT Annual Loon Survey A/MAC Dragonfly Collection A/MAC Ponemah Bog Walks CH Annual Loon Census & Festival LC
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Nature's Boardroom CH	<b>22</b> Fun With Fish C/AF	<b>23</b> Fun With Fish C/AF	<b>24</b> Paddle on Newfound Lake C/AF Birds of a Feather! C/MAC	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Slimy and Scaly Hike F/MAC Ponemah Bog Walks CH
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Painters in Art (continues through Aug. 1) F/MAC	<b>29</b> Adventures in the Woods C/AF	<b>30</b> Adventures in the Woods C/AF	<b>31</b> Great Bay Day! C/AF Adventure Hike /MAC	<b>1</b> The Cycles of Life F/MAC Photo Contest submissions open MAC	<b>2</b> Plum Island Field Trip CH
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Wildlife Photography Art Exhibit (continues through September 28) MC	<b>6</b> Fishways Fundays C/AF	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Family Fun Overnight Adventure F/MC	<b>9</b> Compass Rumpus C/MC Ossipee Pine Barrens and Watts Sanctuary CH
<b>10</b>	<b>Hummingbirds begin to migrate south—males are the first to leave, young linger until September.</b>					
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Beginner Touring Kayak MAC	<b>15</b> Family Friday Nights F/AF Our Watery World F/MAC	<b>16</b> Shorebird Identification for Beginners MC	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Fishways Fundays C/AF	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Last day to submit Photos for Photo Contest MAC	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Birding and Beyond CH	<b>26</b> Beginner Kayaking on Lake Umbagog MAC	<b>27</b> Beginner Kayaking on Lake Umbagog MAC	<b>Redbelly and ribbon snakes give birth to live young.</b>		<b>30</b> Splash, Splash It's a Pond Survey! F/MAC Dragonfly Survey A/MAC
<b>31</b>	<b>Listen for the evening chorus of crickets, katydids, and cicadas.</b>					
<b>FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK THE SECTION OR CATEGORY INDICATED:</b>						
AF: Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center		PF: Prescott Farm Audubon Center		A/ Adult		
LC: Loon Center		CH: Chapter Listings		C/ Children		
MC: The McLane Center at Silk Farm		NT: Nature Tours		F/ Family		
MAC: Massabesic Audubon Center		SS: Sanctuary Spotlight		P/ Preschool		
NC: Newfound Audubon Center		Live Animal Program		H/ Homeschool		
				S/ Seniors		



School's Out—Summer Camp's In! Register at [www.nhaidubon.org](http://www.nhaidubon.org).