

HABITAT

Where do Maine birds
go in the winter?



INSIDE—News and Notes • Snowbirds: Following our Winged Friends in Winter •
Featured Events • Naturalist's HQ

Advocacy

The Latest on Offshore Wind in the Gulf of Maine

The development of floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine is poised to play a critical role in increasing Maine's clean energy supply and combating climate change. Maine Audubon supports the development of offshore wind, and is committed to ensuring that impacts to wildlife are properly studied, monitored, and avoided.

Maine Audubon staff are in regular contact with coalitions including local, state, and federal partners; the fishing industry; wildlife partners; renewable energy companies; and others, to ensure that offshore wind proceeds in the safest possible manner. At present there are two offshore wind projects progressing in the Gulf of Maine:

The **Gulf of Maine Floating Offshore Wind Research Array** is a planned turbine test site in federal waters nearly 30 miles off the coast. The state of Maine has submitted an application to lease a 15-square-mile area where 12 or fewer turbines would be deployed. This comes after spending more than a year working collaboratively with stakeholders, including Maine Audubon, to identify an area that minimized conflicts with existing ocean resources. Once a lease is secured, the state believes it would take, at the earliest, five years for turbines to be operational.

New England Aqua Ventus I is a demonstration project featuring a single floating turbine in state waters several miles off the coast of Monhegan Island that will feature technology designed by and developed in partnership with the University of Maine. This project is

Photo courtesy of University of Maine



A prototype scale model designed, deployed, and tested by UMaine in 2013 off the coast of Castine.

moving forward with regulatory review at the local, state, and federal levels. The University of Maine is a worldwide leader in floating offshore wind; aiming to be deployed in 2024, the turbine will be the first commercial-scale floating offshore wind turbine in the nation.

There are many steps to take before floating offshore wind can become a significant source of clean energy in the Gulf of Maine, and Maine Audubon is committed to advocating on behalf of wildlife at every step along the way. Staff biologist Sarah Haggerty sits on the Environment and Wildlife Working Group to advise the creation of the Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap, an effort led by the Governor's Energy Office to support the growing offshore wind sector while ensuring compatibility with our Maine coastal heritage and minimizing the impacts on fisheries and the environment. We plan to use our growing expertise in this area to educate the public about the issues and opportunities for floating offshore wind.

Conservation

Every Beach Matters

2021 was yet another record-breaking year for Piping Plovers in Maine. An incredible 125 pairs nested on Maine beaches and fledged 213 chicks, both numbers easily surpassing 2020's record 98 pairs fledging 199 chicks. The productivity of 1.7 chicks fledged per pair surpasses recovery goals. These incredible numbers are thanks to the hard work of countless biologists, landowners, volunteers, town employees, and beach-goers.

Our "northern" beaches, in Phippsburg and Georgetown, were exceptionally successful with the 29 pairs on these beaches fledging 67 chicks to flying. The resulting 2.31 productivity is well beyond our recovery goal of 1.5 chicks fledged per pair. On the other hand, some beaches fared poorly. At the Saco Bay beaches, the average productivity was a grim .786 chicks fledged per pair. It all goes to show that any site can be a

"plover factory" or it can fail completely. Beaches can be hit hard by predators, storms, or other issues at any time, making it essential that we properly manage and monitor as many potential plover beaches as we can.



Giving Towns the Tools They Need

Maine Audubon released its innovative Renewable Energy Siting Tool in September. The Tool is a GIS map that allows municipalities, developers, landowners, and other users to view natural resources, renewable energy potential, and other layers in Maine towns to help identify low conflict areas best suited for renewable energy development. The Tool was well received by the media and by the Maine

Municipal Association, which hosted an informational webinar for Maine towns to introduce the Tool in October. Explore the Renewable Energy Siting Tool for yourself at

maineaudubon.org/renewable-energy-siting

Volunteers: We couldn't do this without you!

How volunteers contributed to our conservation efforts this past summer.

1,350 VOLUNTEERS
counted loons on **300+** LAKES

160 VOLUNTEERS
helped us monitor for nesting Piping Plovers on **6** BEACHES

50 VOLUNTEERS
helped sample aquatic insects in **34** STREAMS

30 VOLUNTEERS
listened to bird songs from **8** different sites in **4** FORESTS

A total of **6,000+** HOURS of
volunteer time, a value of
approximately **\$153,000**

Education

Partnering with State Department of Education on Climate Education

Throughout the pandemic and continuing this fall, Maine Audubon educators have worked with teams of educators and experts across the state to develop new curricula and resources. The Maine Online Opportunities for Sustained Education, or MOOSE, is an online library of standards-based learning modules intended to provide teachers and students access to high quality asynchronous learning. The Maine Department of Education has taken the lead from the Governor's ambitious innovation and climate agendas, and climate education and STEM have been central to our contributions to

MOOSE. Educator Linda Woodard worked on a Climate Change module, which leads students through questions like "What is climate change?" and "How does climate change affect Maine and the world?," as well as a module called Water and My World, which leads students to explore their relationship with water at the individual, community, and world levels. Learn more at maine.gov/doe/moose.

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Cooperative Extension Collaboration

Our partnership with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension has deepened greatly over the past year through two collaborations. The Maine Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) training aims to educate and engage horticulture volunteers to serve the community in educational and food security efforts. Prompted by COVID-19, the long-standing training now has an online format, and Maine Audubon Education Director Eric Topper and Staff Naturalist Doug Hitchcox have been instrumental in helping to develop content focused on native plants and ecology. "Eric and Doug's contributions to the MGV training curriculum have empowered volunteers to realize the important role they play in the local ecosystem and how they can become stewards in their own community," says Pamela Hargest, UMaine Extension Horticulture Professional. Additionally, in a new partnership with the UMaine Extension's Maine Home Garden Newsletter, Doug profiles a backyard bird of the month. UMaine Extension Horticulturist Kate Garland reports, "Doug's articles have been a big hit with our readers and help build awareness of the link between our landscapes and the treasured birds we so appreciate." FMI: extension.umaine.edu/gardening



Sanctuaries

Autumn Equinox at the Audubon

The smiles on attendees' faces said it all! This year marked the fourth Autumn Equinox at the Audubon, a community fundraising event created and hosted by Portside Real East Group on behalf of Maine Audubon. Ushering in the fall season in September, more than 400 people gathered at Gilsland Farm in Falmouth to hear live music, have delicious food from a host of food trucks and craft beers from local breweries, play games, take part in a silent auction, and visit with friends and colleagues. The event, Portside's biggest fundraiser to date, raised more than \$22,000 for Maine Audubon's programs, including increased efforts to reach a broad, diverse, and traditionally underserved population through environmental education efforts and activities. Tremendous thanks to all involved, including the many sponsors, vendors, organizers, musicians, educators, and participants.



Photo: David Stultz, Structure Media

2021 Plant Sale BY THE NUMBERS

Maine Native
Plants Sold: **5488**

More than **520** customers
placed **840+** orders

Buyers from Maine as
well as **12** other states

Total Sales: **\$80,000+**

Top selling plants:
Swamp Milkweed (**270**)
New England Aster (**186**)
Black-eyed Susan (**180**)

See you in the spring!

Building a New Outdoor Classroom at Fields Pond

Last spring, Maine Audubon approached the construction engineering technology (CET) program at the University of Maine at Orono about designing and constructing a new outdoor pavilion at Fields Pond Audubon Center. Our beloved fabric shelter had served us well for decades, and COVID has taught us all about how important sheltered outdoor spaces can be for communities needing space to convene, learn, or celebrate. We made our pitch amongst several other deserving construction projects, the students agreed to take on the project, and the class is now working to erect the shelter over this school year. The CET program is a blend of civil engineering, technology, and construction business management. The program gives students a practice-oriented education that leads to careers in the construction industry. We're very happy to have the UMaine students at Fields Pond and look forward to having a new outdoor classroom space available by next summer!



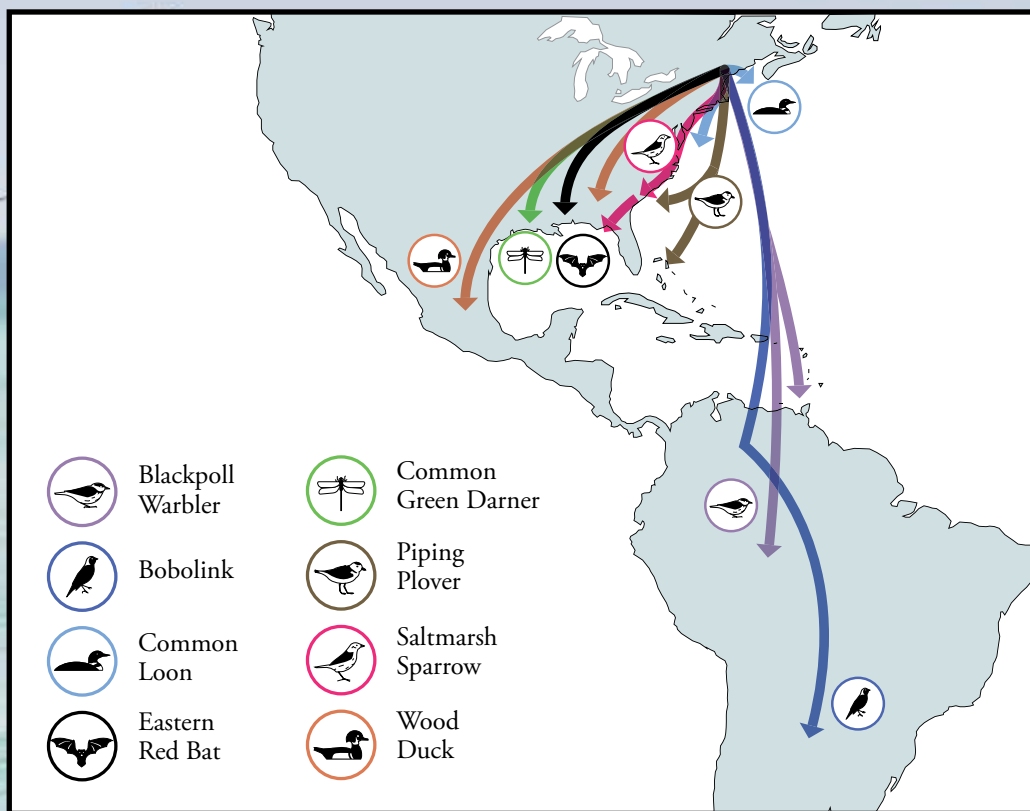
By Sally Stockwell

SNOWBIRDS

Following our winged
friends in winter

A flock of 116 Piping Plovers and
other shorebirds fly over the ocean
in the Berry Islands, Bahamas.

Photo by Camilla Cereal/Audubon. ©Audubon



Map illustration: Eban Roos

My mom is a snowbird. Every year she heads south to Arizona for a few months in the winter to escape the snowy, icy northern clime. She enjoys the long warm sunny days, the plentiful fresh local fruits and vegetables, and the ease with which she can walk, swim, and garden. If you live in Maine, you probably know some snowbirds too.

But did you know snowbird was originally a nickname for the Dark-eyed Junco, and in the 1920s was used to describe seasonal workers who moved from the north to the south for the winter months, while Dictionary.com defines snowbird as “any of various birds that winter in a cold, snowy climate, especially the Dark-eyed Junco and the Snow Bunting”?

Just like human snowbirds, many of “our” birds head south for the winter. They breed here in Maine or pass through Maine on their

way to breed even farther north, then head to warmer climes for many of the same reasons—it takes less energy to stay warm, the days are longer, and there is ample food of all kinds. Even some bats and insects migrate south for the winter, such as the Eastern Red Bat, Monarch Butterfly, and darner dragonflies (yes, dragonflies—who knew?). Then there are the true snowbirds that visit us each winter, coming south from the Canadian taiga and tundra.

Let’s take a closer look at a few of these winged critters and follow them on their amazing journeys. Where do they go? What do they do when they’re gone? Come with me on an armchair travelogue from the warm confines of your winter home. Let’s start at the northern tip of Maine and work our way south.

FORESTS

Blackpoll Warblers breed in wet black spruce and tamarack forests that stretch from northern Maine, across Canada, and up to Alaska. I first met Blackpoll Warblers when I was conducting breeding bird surveys in peatlands of Maine. They liked the black spruce forests with wet feet that formed a ring around bogs, and I loved listening to their wispy song and trying to find them grazing on insects on the spindly branches of the trees. Their coloring matches the trunks of the stunted spruce so they are very hard to find.

Most Blackpolls migrate south to the coast of Maine or Maritimes before jumping off and flying nonstop more than 1800 miles to overwinter in either the Caribbean or northern South America, east of the Andes. The trip takes them about 88 hours, so they need to double their weight before heading south. Imagine all the energy needed to make that flight!

In the winter they can be found in forest edges and second-growth forests below 10,000 feet, and during migration they stop in mature evergreen and deciduous forests. Habitat loss is shrinking their wintering grounds; and



Blackpoll Warbler



Eastern Red Bat

Photo: Dave Yates

logging and other extractive industries, plus climate change, threaten their boreal breeding grounds. That's why Maine Audubon is working with forest landowners, foresters, and loggers to improve breeding habitat for Blackpolls and other forest birds of conservation concern through our Forestry for Maine Birds program.

Five of Maine's bats hibernate in large groups in caves. However, tree bats—or those that roost hanging underneath leaves and nest singly or in small groups in tree cavities or under the bark of trees—do not hibernate in caves for the winter, but migrate to southern parts of the U.S. and then hibernate, hiding in hollow trees or under leaf litter. There are three tree bats in Maine: Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, and **Eastern Red Bat**. Eastern Red Bats mate during the fall migration, and females give birth the following spring. Little is known of their actual migratory pathway or final wintering range.

STREAMS & WETLANDS

Forests cover more than 95% of the state, but tucked among those forests are many streams, wetlands, ponds, and lakes, so let's take a look at some of the migratory species that breed in those habitats.

What could be more thrilling than to see a **Wood Duck** swimming and flying along the course of a river? These birds favor streams, swamps, marshes, beaver ponds, and floodplain forests, with ample vegetation along the shore for finding food and hiding from predators, and adjacent to upland forests for nesting. Contrary to popular notions, they do not nest only in Wood Duck boxes, but in natural cavities in larger, older trees—sometimes more than a mile away from water. Wood Ducks in Maine and Canada migrate to the southern U.S. or Mexico for the winter, but in other parts of the U.S. where the water doesn't freeze, they can be found year-round.

Moving to saltwater, one of the hidden gems that makes its home in salt marshes along Maine's coast is the **Saltmarsh Sparrow**—a cryptic bird that nests in the high marsh grass and is accustomed to being occasionally flooded by high tides. When that happens, the young climb up on the tall grasses around their nest and take refuge until the tide subsides. Later, with sea level rise, that trick doesn't always work, so Maine Audubon is working with biologists who are experimenting with building floating nest platforms. Saltmarsh Sparrows migrate south along the Atlantic coast, stopping in salt marshes along the way, with some wintering in Florida or the Gulf Coast.

By now, most everyone has heard about the amazing migratory journeys of the Monarch Butterfly, but did you know that some dragonflies also have a multi-generational, migratory lifestyle? A recent study documented the **Common Green Darner** migration, which involves at least three generations that travel 400 miles from their southern to northern ranges and back each year. The young spend most of their time in the water as dragonfly nymphs, and only a short time flying around as adults, when we are most likely to see them.

Photo: USFWS Northeast Region



Saltmarsh Sparrow



Common Green Darner

Photo: Josh Fecteau
(joshfecteau.com)

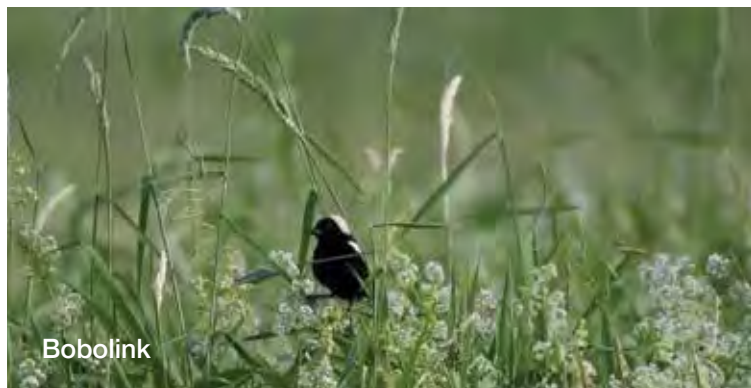
LAKES

When most Mainers think of loons, they think of haunting wails and young chicks riding on parents' backs on our freshwater lakes and ponds during the warmer breeding months. But did you know that these same loons normally winter in ocean waters off the Atlantic coast? They actually spend more of their life on the ocean than on freshwater. In the frosty months, you'll often find **Common Loons** socializing in groups and eating seafood meals including crabs, flounder, and herring. Because our lakes freeze, Common Loons normally migrate in late fall to salty waters including coastal bays and coves, sometimes even frequenting areas up to 60 miles offshore in New England's coastal waters. Some of Maine's breeding loons do travel farther south, however, to wintering sites in New Jersey, Maryland, and beyond. Wherever they travel, most will return to the same four to eight square miles of ocean every winter.



Common Loon

GRASSLANDS



Bobolink

Grasslands and beaches—though they are not extensive in Maine—are of particular interest to us. Most of our grassland birds have shown dramatic declines in recent decades and the only shorebird that nests on our beaches is endangered. Helping these species during breeding and migration is an important conservation goal for Maine Audubon and many other organizations.

Like other grassland birds—those that used to nest in the tallgrass and mixed grass prairies of the central and western U.S. and Canada—**Bobolinks** now nest in large fields, meadows, and hayfields across the northern U.S., including in Maine. They have a bubbly song that rises with them above the field grass, and they feed on seeds, insects, and spiders. After breeding, they move to marshes to molt before flying in groups across Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, making a long stop-over in Venezuela, then settling in south of the equator in Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina for the winter—an annual round trip of more than 12,000 miles!

Many shorebirds such as the Semipalmated Sandpiper migrate through Maine on their way to nesting areas in the Arctic and wintering areas in the Caribbean and Central

& BEACHES

and South America, but there's only one that nests on the beaches of southern Maine: the **Piping Plover**. Piping Plovers make a scrape in the sand for a nest, typically lay four eggs, and usher their chicks around the beach searching for insects and other invertebrates in the seaweed rack and mudflats. In late summer, they depart. But to where?

We are still learning more every year about Piping Plover migration and wintering habitat. Many of them winter on remote sandy cays that are expansive and difficult to access. In 2012 about ten percent of all the Atlantic Coast population of plovers was observed at Joulter Cays in the Bahamas—a new discovery. Now, through an intensive collaborative conservation effort, the area is on its way to becoming a National Park partially due to these recent discoveries. Nesting Maine plovers have also been found wintering in South Carolina and Georgia.



Piping Plover

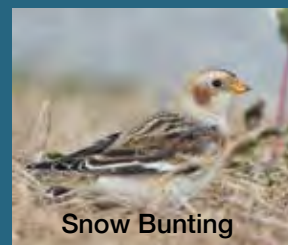
Photo: USFWS Northeast Region

Online Extra

For an expanded version of this article with more species, visit maineaudubon.org/snowbirds



Dark-eyed Junco



Snow Bunting

Photo: Doug Hitchcox

True SNOWBIRDS

The true “snowbirds” —birds that move south into Maine from northern Canada to spend their winter with us—are some of my favorite birds, as they love northern winters as much as I do.

Snow Buntings, Snowy Owls, and more visit us each winter from the Canadian taiga and tundra. I've seen Snow Buntings whizzing by in the wind on the top of Katahdin and foraging in the snowy hayfields near my home in southern Maine, and I always stop to marvel at their small size but tough nature. They remind me of the many wonders and challenges of traveling in the high Canadian Arctic where they breed, making a nest in rock crevices lined with moss, grass, fur, and feathers to keep the young warm. They feed on grass and flower seeds, insects, and spiders.

Other snowbirds include Lapland Longspurs, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, Common Redpolls, and Bohemian Waxwings. Often these birds travel in flocks, searching for food and avoiding predators by sticking together. These are the birds you should be looking for this winter at your feeder or when you are out walking, skiing, or snowshoeing. They will keep you company, bundled up against the cold, ready to embrace all of winter's glory. ❄️

Sally Stockwell is Director of Conservation at Maine Audubon.



Featured Events

Registration is required for all programs (unless otherwise stated). In-person events are subject to change based on current pandemic considerations.

Falmouth

Gilsland Farm Audubon Center

Double Discount Days at the Nature Store December 4 & 5, 10 am–4 pm

Maine Audubon members receive 20% off!

No registration required.



Marsh Ecology with Field Naturalist Madeleine Ferguson
Tuesday, December 7, 6–7 pm
An in-person, indoor program.

Beginner Bird Walks

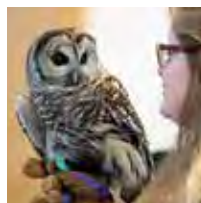
January 8 & February 12, 9–11 am
Greater Portland area

Read & Ramble

Wednesdays: January 12–February 23
10–10:30 am or 11–11:30 am
Outdoor storytime for children ages 2–5.

Drawing Nature

February 12, February 26, March 12, March 26
Four individual field journal/nature sketching classes with Michael Boardman. *In-person program*



Winter Wildlife Mingle with the Center for Wildlife
Thursday, February 17, 7 pm
A 21+ live wildlife, in-person program with beverages provided.



Winter Carnival
Saturday, February 19
10 am–2 pm
Our annual outdoor celebration of winter weather and wildlife!
Event is made possible by L.L.Bean.
No pre-registration required.

Grades 1–5



February Vacation: Winter Explorations
February 22–25, 10–11:30 am

Explorations focused on winter wildlife with a new theme each day. *All children must be accompanied by an adult.*

- In January, check our website for updates on full-day school vacation camps.

Bringing Nature Home

in Maine

in person

Flora for Fauna with botanist and Maine Guide Arthur Haines
Thursday, January 20, 7 pm
Gilsland Farm
In-person lecture

Winter Pruning Workshop
with Wild Seed Project
Saturday, January 22, 1 pm
February 26, 1 pm
Gilsland Farm
In-person, outdoor program

Fields Pond Audubon Center

Double Discount Day at the Nature Store
Saturday, December 11, 10 am–4 pm
Maine Audubon members will receive 20% off all day! *No registration required.*

Winter Walk: Wildlife Adaptations
Saturday, December 11, 10 am–12 pm

Night Tree Story Walk
December 1–January 3
No registration required.



Read & Ramble
Wednesdays: January 12–February 23
10–10:30 am or 11–11:30 am
Outdoor storytime for children ages 2-5.

Winterland: Create a Beautiful Garden for Every Season
Wednesday, January 12, 7 pm
Cathy Rees, cofounder of Native Gardens of Blue Hill in Maine, will describe how to craft a rich and compelling all-season garden.
Online via Zoom

Moonlight Snowshoe Hike
Monday, January 17, 6 pm

Winter Seed Sowing Workshops

Wednesday, December 15	Saturday, December 18
Saturday, January 15	Thursday, January 13
9–11:30 am	10 am–12:30 pm
Gilsland Farm	Fields Pond
<i>In-person program</i>	<i>In-person program</i>

Motus in Maine: Research and Education
Thursday, January 27, 7 pm
Online via Zoom

Winter Fun Day
Saturday, February 5, 11 am–2 pm
No registration required.

“Who Goes There?” Outdoor Tracking Walk
Saturday, February 12, 9–11 am

Moonlight Snowshoe Hike
Friday, February 18, 6:30 pm

★ Grades 1–5
February Vacation: Winter Explorations
February 22–25, 10–11:30 am
Explorations focused on winter wildlife with a new theme each day. *All children must be accompanied by an adult.*

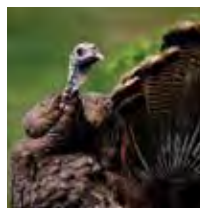
- In January, check our website for updates on full-day school vacation camps.

Around the State

Chapters

Merrymeeting (merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org)
Field Trip: Waterfowl Walk
Saturday, December 4, 8:30–11:30 am
Location: Giant Stairs, Bailey Island

Mid-Coast (midcoast.maineaudubon.org)
The Real James Bond
Thursday, December 16, 7 pm
Online via Zoom



Penobscot Valley
(pvc.maineaudubon.org)
Wild Turkey Ecology
Friday, February 4, 7 pm
Online via Zoom



Naturalist HQ

Doug Hitchcox, Staff Naturalist

The Times, They are a Changin'

As a birder, it is hard for me to think of winter and not think about the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). This long-running effort to count all the birds within a predetermined area, each year, on a single day, gives us an amazing set of data to use when looking for changes in the populations of our birds.

The 2020-21 CBCs gave us some remarkable new data points. One major trend is the northward march of species in response to climate change, and Maine is geographically positioned to be on the front lines. There are a number of species, whose ranges barely reached New England a few decades ago, that are now becoming abundant in the state. Look back a few centuries, and that number is even higher.

Carolina Wrens are one of my favorite species to track. Looking at a fourth edition *Peterson Field Guide to Birds*, which came out in 1980 and advertises its new “390 color maps [that] now show up-to-date summer and winter ranges,” these wrens are shown as year-round residents extending north into eastern Massachusetts. They would occasionally make it to Maine, and even be seen during CBCs, but it wasn’t until the mid-90s that they really became regulars.

The trusty Peterson guide includes an excerpt that nicely summarizes the Carolina Wren’s movement into Maine: “Fluctuating in north; cut back by severe winters.” We saw a steady

increase, especially along southern and coastal sections, with reports of record highs with more than 50 in the early 2010s. Then record-setting low temperatures in the winter of 2014-15 “cut them back”. Carolina Wren numbers dropped



Carolina Wren

Photo: Charles Warren



to the 10s and 20s for the next few years until warmer winters allowed them to continue their northward march. And boy have they marched! Last winter, 108 wrens were counted in Maine, nearly doubling the previous high. (Skeptics: I’m using actual numbers of individuals because that is easier for us to understand, but this is not biased by the number of observers (yes, there are more people birding) or their effort; we can normalize these numbers by looking at “birds per party hour” and trust me, the trend is still there.)

Eastern Bluebirds are another favorite. Their winter range from that 1980s guide nearly matches the aforementioned wren, but the bluebird’s shift northward has been even more dramatic. From single-digit counts in the ’90s, the number of individual bluebirds in Maine on

The Naturalist's Winter Almanac

DECEMBER

- 6 As winter comes, the dominant plant in the salt marsh, Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) goes dormant, waiting until spring to grow again.
- 10 Mammal activity should still be high. While temperatures remain manageable, animals continue to forage to prepare for the possibility of a long and cold winter.
- 18 Witness the last Full Moon of 2021! Native American tribes often referred to this winter lunar cycle as the “Cold Moon” because at this time of year, cold winter air settles in and the nights become long and dark.

JANUARY

- 3 Best viewing of the annual Quadrantids Meteor Shower will be at a dark location sometime after midnight, between January 1 and January 5.
- 7 Wood Frogs are known to produce a natural antifreeze yet they also become frozen solid, an adaptation that allows them to survive cold weather.
- 22 Local year-round birds should be apparent at this time. Expect visits at your feeders from Northern Cardinals, White-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees, and goldfinches, to name a few.


FEBRUARY

- 14 Red foxes will celebrate Valentine's Day with the beginning of their courtship period. At this time mates pair up, so it is not unusual to see two sets of fox tracks together.
- 24 Waterfowl, and wading birds in particular, haunt the winter salt marsh, foraging and grazing, searching for any invertebrate prey that may be hibernating.
- 28 Stirrings of Groundhogs and early arriving American Woodcock are expected by the end of the month.



Eastern Bluebird

CBCs cracked 100 by 2012, climbed into the 400s just a few years later, and took a remarkable jump last year with 903 Eastern Bluebirds counted. (And yes, using birds-per-party-hour shows a nearly identical exponential increase over this period.)

Many of these changes are being documented thanks to the power of large numbers of observers reporting what they are seeing over broad areas, over long time frames. These surveys have value because of their longevity. So as we head into the winter season, I hope you see value in contributing sightings to efforts like the Christmas Bird Counts (maineaudubon.org/birding) or the Maine Bird Atlas (maine.gov/birdatlas). 

Maine Audubon for the Holidays

Celebrate the season with
wildlife and habitat in mind!

Give the gift of a Maine Audubon membership

maineaudubon.org/gift

A Maine Audubon membership is the perfect gift for friends, family, coworkers, or anyone who loves nature and wildlife!

See website for 2021 gift-giving deadlines

Shop at our Nature Stores

naturestore.maineaudubon.org

We're more than just bird feeders, seed, and suet. Holiday gift items include sustainable home goods, products by local artists and crafts people, Gilsland Farm honey, bird-friendly coffee, toys, and more!

Make a year-end donation

maineaudubon.org/donate

We appreciate and use every gift we receive to help conserve Maine's wildlife and habitat by engaging people in education, conservation, and action.

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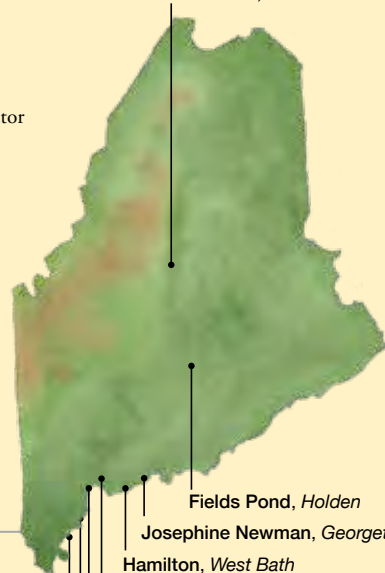
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to dusk.

Borestone, Elliottsville



East Point, Biddeford Pool

Cover photo:
Piping Plover, Joulter Cays, Bahamas. Photo by Camilla Cereal/Audubon. © Audubon