



MAINE AUDUBON

SUMMER 2022

HABITAT

Celebrating Scarborough Marsh

INSIDE

50 THINGS TO LOVE ABOUT
SCARBOROUGH MARSH

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO BIRDING
THE SCARBOROUGH MARSH

FEATURED EVENTS

NATURALIST'S HQ

Advocacy

Developing Solar With Wildlife in Mind

We need to increase the amount of homegrown renewable energy produced in Maine, while making sure that it's done with the smallest environmental footprint possible. To that end, Maine Audubon has developed model town ordinances; a GIS-based Renewable Energy Siting Tool; and reports, FAQs, and Best Practices documents. We've also developed and supported state policies that encourage thoughtful solar siting. Our latest guidance is aimed at

improving the landscape under and around ground-mounted solar developments. Solar arrays, if sited, planned, and managed properly, can provide wildlife habitat for birds, mammals, and other wildlife. In particular, the ground around solar arrays can become a haven for important pollinating insects if the area is planted with native plants.

Maine Audubon, working with various partners and consultants, will release *"A Guide to Habitat*

Restoration and Native Planting for Maine Solar Development," this summer. The guide provides detailed information to help solar developers plant native plants under and around their projects, and also outlines strategies for all aspects of a solar project, from selecting plants and determining timing, to maintenance, fencing requirements, local nursery options, cost considerations, and more.

More: maineaudubon.org/solar

Supporting Additional Protections for Northern Long-eared Bats



Northern
Long-Eared Bat

Credit: USFWS/NYDEC

The Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), like many bat species in Maine and around the country, is not doing well. Since the discovery of White-nose Syndrome in 2006, affected Northern Long-eared Bat populations have dropped by an estimated 97 to 100 percent and all populations of Northern Long-eared Bat are expected to be exposed to White-nose Syndrome by 2025.

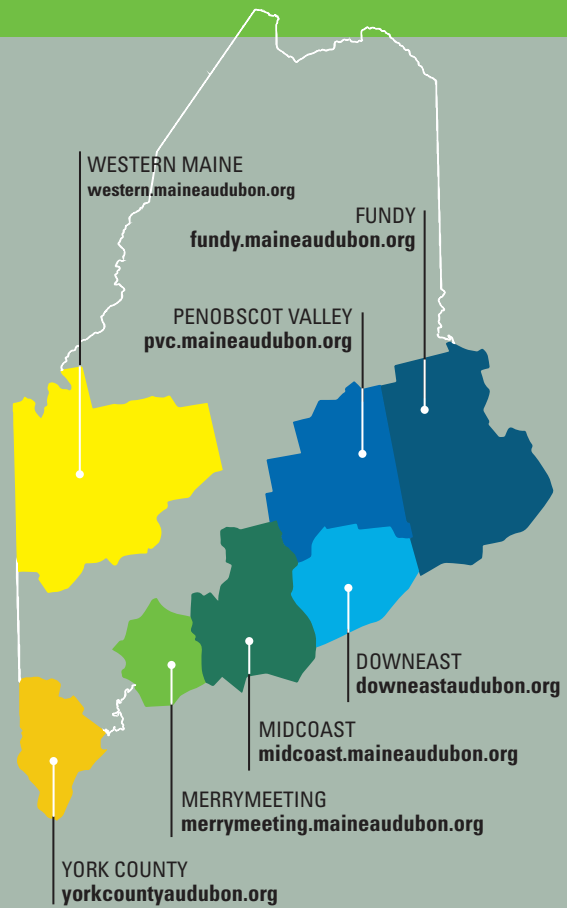
The species is currently listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. In March 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed shifting the status from

Threatened to Endangered. The concern of an Endangered listing is that it might impose a burden to our working forest industry. Northern Long-eared Bats occasionally roost in trees, and forest landowners and managers would need to take additional precautions to scout for roosts before cutting. However, Maine Audubon believes the effort is worthwhile, and has called upon the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a strategy to help forest landowners comply with any added requirements. We strongly support the relisting, for without these protections, this native bat species may not survive in Maine.

Chapters

When you become a member of Maine Audubon, you automatically become a member of your local chapter and receive all the benefits and access to local programming that comes with it.

If your primary residence does not fall into a chapter region, you may join a chapter if you have property or spend time in the area. Your membership dues support both Maine Audubon statewide and the chapter you select. Maine Audubon is not a chapter of the National Audubon Society; we have an independent, collaborative relationship and share conservation goals.



SPOTLIGHT: Downeast

BY SUE SHAW, SECRETARY,
DOWNEAST CHAPTER

In the spring issue of *Habitat*, you met Wriley Hodge and Rosie Chater, Downeast Audubon's 2022 Sal Rooney Scholarship recipients. Not only are they talented young scientists, they are also extremely gifted artists. This brief glance at both their creative philosophies and the artwork of these College of the Atlantic standouts shows their amazing potential.

Wriley Hodge, who paints in oils



Humpback Whales by Rosie Chater

says, "I've drawn the world around me for as long as I can remember. The natural world has been a big inspiration throughout my life. The world is just so utterly beautiful that I feel I must paint its portrait a thousand times."

"I plan on continuing a path in field science. Art and science are very synergetic, and they each inform the other. By pairing art and science together, we can create a more powerful, whole, and human way of communicating about the world around us. I paint because it's compulsive, because painting is a way of understanding. Painting is the closest I can get to inducing magic."

Rosie Chater says, "I've been doing art for longer than I can remember. My mom has photos of me when I was very little, sketching deep within a penguin colony. My inspiration has always been my



Common Eiders by Wriley Hodge

parents and the world around me. I have never had formal training, though my parents, who are both professional watercolor artists, have supplied me with materials and tips since before I can remember. I am confident that art will be a huge part of my life until I can no longer hold a paintbrush. It has been important throughout my life within academic study, research, and observation, and general curiosity of the natural world.”

Conservation

Giving Grassland Birds a Boost

Grassland birds are disappearing across the continent at the fastest rate of any group of birds—a drop of 53% between 1970 and 2019! But the folks at the Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District have developed an innovative and successful program for working with farmers to bring them back. Ag Allies introduces farmers to the nesting habits of Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Savannah

Sparrows, and even Wood Turtles, and shows how they can help provide high quality breeding habitat by rotating crops, changing mowing schedules, and/or enriching soils. Using royalties donated to Maine Audubon from the book *Birds of Maine* (Princeton University Press, 2020) along with generous gifts from many private donors, Maine Audubon is teaming up with Ag Allies to increase staff capacity to

give presentations about the program; visit with and help farmers provide valuable nesting habitat along with important agricultural products; and provide funding to enhance grassland soil and provide incentives for landowners to try out the program.

Please visit somersetwcd.org/ag-allies for more information or to schedule a visit on your farm with someone from Ag Allies.

Studying Sparrows in the Saltmarshes

Saltmarsh Sparrows have mastered life on the brink and are well-adapted to life in our saltwater marshes—timing their nesting with tidal cycles and taking advantage of the bounty of coastal wetlands like Scarborough Marsh. Unfortunately, high tides from rising seas and storm surges are wreaking havoc on this small sparrow; its amazing adaptations cannot change fast enough as its nests, eggs, and nestlings are getting washed over and drowned more frequently than in the past. Still, there are some innovative approaches being experimented with to try to help these and other saltmarsh nesting birds, including plugging old drainage ditches (dug in the 1800s to dry out the marsh for salt marsh hay) to improve tidal flow and increase the area of



Credit: Bri Benvenuti/USFWS. 2021

Saltmarsh Sparrow nest and chicks at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge

high marsh grasses (where these birds tend to nest), and building elevated mounds in the high marsh, where the birds can safely nest. Using funds generated from sales and support of the book *Birds of Maine*, Maine Audubon is teaming up with Rachel Carson

National Wildlife Refuge this summer and fall to survey nesting pairs, track nesting success, and test out the efficacy of enhancing nesting habitat at several tidal marshes in southern Maine, including the largest salt marsh in Maine—Scarborough Marsh.



Volunteers and staff build a modular raft at an April workshop.

Lifting Loons on the Lakes

Maine is home to the largest population of loons in the Northeast, but they are still vulnerable to threats. The Loon Restoration Project, funded from the result of an oil spill, aims to increase loon nesting success and decrease loon mortality by engaging volunteers in four efforts: Placing artificial nests (rafts); monitoring productivity of loon rafts; expanding Fish Lead Free programs to reduce lead tackle use and related loon mortality; and launching a Loon Rangers Program to reduce disturbance to loons and increase nesting success through nest protection measures and outreach to lake users.

The project began in earnest this spring with webinars to help determine which lakes were good candidates for loon rafts, followed by raft-building workshops in several

locations. Throughout April and May, staff and volunteers launched more than 30 rafts, and volunteers were trained on monitoring and nest protection. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been a valuable partner, providing a truck and helping with nest protection and other components; and Laura Robinson and Reed Robinson have shared their modular raft design and expertise as well. Look for updates later this year on this exciting new project!

Maine Audubon leads the effort while partnering with Maine Lakes, Lakes Environmental Association and the Penobscot Nation. This project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the Bouchard Barge 120 Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Trustees.

More: maineaudubon.org/loons



**THE ANNUAL
LOON
COUNT**
**WILL TAKE PLACE ON
JULY 16, 2022.**

This will mark the 39th year of the count, which involves more than 1400 volunteers counting on more than 300 lakes in Maine.

CONTACT

conserve@maineaudubon.org
to get involved!

Education

Networking for Good, Statewide



Over the past year, Maine Audubon has expanded its involvement with the Nature Based Education Consortium (NBEC). NBEC is an independent network of education, conservation, and community leaders organizations which started in 2017 “working together on systems-level efforts to ensure that every Maine youth has access to powerful outdoor learning experiences.” A steering committee guides the work, most of which is fulfilled by working groups in areas such as Climate Education Advocacy and Local Outdoor Learning Advocacy, as well as contracts with independent experts and consultants. Maine Audubon staff in several departments help to comprise and support this important effort.

More: nbeconsortium.com

New Museum and Library Grants

Maine Audubon was recently awarded two separate project grants from the Institute for Museum & Library Services (IMLS), the first we have received from this federal institution. An IMLS American Rescue Plan Grants Program grant will fund a project to create and implement a new unit around Atlantic Salmon for all Portland third graders that

blends STEM and Wabanaki traditional ecological knowledge. We were also awarded funding to hire professional consultants to formally assess our collections—taxidermy, historic journals, documents, artwork, etc.—and to develop a long range conservation plan for those artifacts, which have great educational and historical value.

Atlantic Salmon at a glance

10 FISH TANKS AT
SCHOOLS

PORTLAND PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

100 EGGS PER SCHOOL

500 STUDENTS
RAISING ATLANTIC
SALMON





Staff Naturalist Doug Hitchcox leads an early spring bird walk at Gilsland Farm Audubon Center in Falmouth.

Free Weekly Bird Walks at Gilsland Farm

Thanks to a committed and steady staff, volunteer, and participant base, there have only been a handful of Thursday mornings without a group birding our headquarters sanctuary for more than 20 years. We took a short break from staffing these walks during the pandemic, although a small group of regulars kept walks happening. We are thrilled to be back, now free of charge, guiding weekly walks on Thursday mornings at Gilsland Farm (we start at 7 am during spring and summer). No registration or membership is required, and we have binoculars and spotting scopes to share. Beginners to experts are welcome.

VOLUNTEER with Maine Audubon

To get involved with one of our community science or conservation-related projects

CONTACT Hannah Young
hyoung@maineaudubon.org

For all other volunteer opportunities visit maineaudubon.org/volunteer

CONTACT Jill Valley-Orlando, Volunteer Coordinator
jvorlando@maineaudubon.org



Sanctuaries

Welcome, Pete



In our last issue of *Habitat*, we said farewell to Properties Director Peter Beacher. Now we'd like to welcome incoming Properties Director Pete Grebowski!

Pete joined Maine Audubon in January and has been immersed in facilities maintenance and strategic planning, while trying to visit all eight properties during winter and mud season.

Pete was most recently the Compliance Monitoring Program Manager for the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Prior to that, he held stewardship roles for multiple conservation organizations, including Land Steward for the Nisqually Land Trust in Olympia, WA, Stewardship Coordinator for the Southeast Alaska Land Trust, and Land Steward for the Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire. Originally from New England, Pete studied Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the University of New Hampshire. Having worked in many parts of the country since then, he's excited to finally settle down in Maine and be close to family. Outside of work, Pete can be found rock climbing, learning to play the guitar, experimenting with new recipes, or hanging out with his dog Dean. Look for Pete on the trails at our properties this summer!



Have a Brush with Nature

Maine Audubon has a strong affinity for that creative place where art and nature intersect. We were thrilled with the response to last September's Brush with Nature Plein Air Art Event and Auction, as 25 amazing Maine artists turned out to support Maine Audubon by painting at our eight sanctuaries. The final works, which were auctioned off to benefit our education and conservation programs, illustrated how rich and diverse the landscapes of Maine are, from the shoreline at East Point, to quiet reflection at Fields Pond, to the bold peak at

Borestone Mountain.

This year, juried artists will paint at our sanctuaries between August 20 and September 6. During a special painting weekend, August 27-28, we invite you to watch the artists at work, visit the sanctuaries, and create some art of your own! The finished art will be on display at the Gilsland Farm Audubon Center in Falmouth from September 16-29, and the event will culminate in an auction on September 29.

More: maineaudubon.org/brushwithnature

50 Things to Love About Scarborough Marsh



BY MELISSA KIM, NICK LUND, AND LINDA WOODARD

SCARBOROUGH MARSH began to form 10,000 years ago as the last continental glacier retreated northward. As quantities of clay and gravel were washed seaward, a barrier beach was created across the mouth of the river. Enough silt washed into the low-lying estuaries behind it, that in time it became shallow enough to support salt-tolerant grasses.

Humans were quick to discover the significance and appeal of the marsh. The Sokokis tribe named this area “Owascoag,” or Land of Many Grasses, and they fished for and trapped alewives, using them for fertilizer and food. For centuries before their communities were displaced by colonization, various sovereign Wabanaki cultures stewarded and relied on this landscape for sustenance and medicine.

During settlement by Europeans, colonists fed their cattle on the rich salt hay and thatched their roofs with cordgrass. Roads, railroads, canals, and even an airport have intruded on this habitat over the years. But attitudes toward environmental protection evolved, and by the 1970s, led by then-Maine Audubon Executive Director Dick Anderson and others, an ambitious and complex land acquisition process was completed, making the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife the owners of 3100 acres, Maine’s largest contiguous salt marsh. In 1972, Maine Audubon began providing visitors with educational experiences and information at a nature center converted from a clam shack.

With a changing climate and rising sea levels, this critical habitat is changing more—and more rapidly—than ever. As Maine Audubon marks its 50th year of operations, we celebrate and renew our commitment to protect the wildlife and wildlife habitat at Scarborough Marsh. There are more than 50 things to love about the marsh, but we think these are a good starting point!

Visit maineaudubon.org/marsh50 for information about our 50th year celebrations this summer.

Habitat

Scarborough Marsh, like all salt marshes, has great **ECOLOGICAL VALUE**. The marsh offers a quiet resting and feeding area for migrating birds, and provides a nursery and shelter for animals. Marshes also buffer stormy seas, slow shoreline erosion, filter sediments and pollutants from water, and absorb excess nutrients before they reach the ocean.

Brackish water is created in the **ESTUARY** where the river meets the ocean.

Rain or extra-high tides fill shallow pools, or **SALT PANNES**, with water.

SUNSETS are legendary here. Colors change with time; during the day it’s a dull brown, at sunset the different grasses turn a striking yellow or gold. At high tide it’s full of water, and in winter, it’s covered by white snow.

continued on page 10

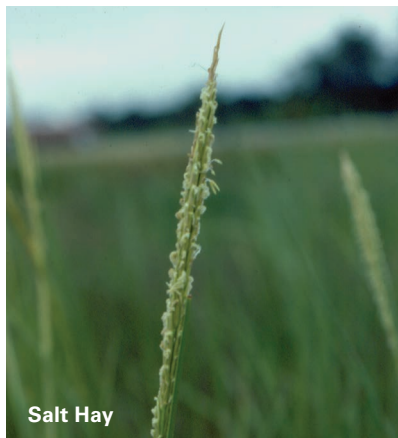
As a meeting ground of fresh and salt water, coastal salt marshes are rich in **BIODIVERSITY**. To help track the biodiversity of the marsh, every summer we gather data about the plants and insects and upload it to iNaturalist, and upload bird data to eBird. Everyone from college students and professors to amateur naturalists and interested volunteers helps; join us this summer!

The marsh is fed by the Dunstan, Nonesuch, and Libby **RIVERS**, which form the Scarborough River, which in turn leads to Saco Bay.

The marsh is officially recognized as an **IMPORTANT BIRD AREA** (IBA). IBAs are part of a global effort to identify areas that are most critical for long-term bird conservation and must meet a set of criteria which are focused primarily on large concentrations of birds, species of conservation concern, and species diversity. Scarborough Marsh was Maine's first recognized IBA.

It may look just like mud, but much of the **DETRITUS** (decaying organic matter) comes from fast-growing cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). Bacteria and algae help in decomposition and this plays a vital role in the salt marsh food web.

The marsh supports a highly-productive and rich **FOOD WEB**, from detritus to the top consumers. Microscopic bacteria break down organic matter into nutrients on which small animals feed. In turn, this wildlife is preyed upon by birds and fish that support predators such as hawks, foxes, otters, and humans.



Salt Hay

Exposed at low tide, filled with water at high tide, the **INTERTIDAL AREAS** look different every day.

Flora and Fauna

The dominant plants of the tide marsh are grasses. The coarse, tall grass growing along the edge of the river is **CORDGRASS**. Farther back from the river and higher up in the marsh is **SALT HAY**. Both of these grasses have adapted to life in a saltwater environment that few other plants can tolerate. One species of grass that grows in salt marshes, sweet grass, is sacred to indigenous people, whose harvesting for ceremony and basket making in turn benefits the species by encouraging its spreading.



Cattails

Wabanakis used the fluffy seed heads of **CATTAILS** to line their boots and birds use them to line their nests. A cattail seed head contains as many as two million seeds! Muskrats eat the roots of cattails and use the leaves to make their lodges.

Crushed and dried leaves of the fragrant **SWEET FERN** were smoked by Sokokis and may be used for tea.

The marsh glows with vibrancy when the **GLASSWORT** turns red in the fall.



Snowy Egret



Cormorants

Of all the rare waders to show up at Scarborough Marsh, the most unusual might be the **LITTLE EGRET**. Native to Europe and Africa, Little Egrets occasionally and accidentally show up across the pond, and then typically adapt to living with closely-related **SNOWY EGRETS**, living a parallel life in the New World. One or more Little Egrets have been appearing at the Marsh each year since 2011, and likely breeding nearby with Snowy Egrets. Look for the Little Egret

in summer by catching a glimpse of its very long head plumes, but be careful to distinguish from the look-alike Snowy.

BALD EAGLES are occasional visitors; a pair even tried to build a nest here one year!

CORMORANTS love to dry their wings on the sign in the marsh.

The **SALT MARSH SPARROW** nesting habitat is greatly affected by sea level rise since the birds place their nests right in the marsh grasses. Maine Audubon is teaming up with Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge to survey nesting pairs, track nesting success, and test out the efficacy of enhancing nesting habitat at several tidal marshes in southern Maine including Scarborough Marsh.

In June, the wheeling **WILLETS** of summer fly close overhead, screaming "*We Willet, We Willet.*"

They are so focused on establishing their territories, they don't care about people!

The twittering of the **MARSH WRENS** is a special sound.

Fifty years ago, **GLOSSY IBIS** were rare in number and are now plentiful; the same goes for Snowy Egrets and Willets.

Yes, it's a rare sighting, but you can sometimes see **MOOSE** at the marsh!

BATS used to be a regular part of the full moon canoe tour; now with the decline in the bat population due to White-nose Syndrome, they are almost never seen.

Playful **HARBOR SEALS** visit from time to time and once, a Harp Seal was seen floating down the river on an ice floe!

Not just for the birds! River otter, fishers, mink, foxes, and other **MAMMALS** make their homes here. People used to trap muskrat in the marsh! Star-nosed moles tunnel along the nature trail and can be seen swimming in the river. Deer can sometimes be seen along the marsh's edges because they like the salt hay.

AMERICAN EELS: Sometimes all kinds of things show up in the fish trap.

STRIPED BASS were close to extinction, but have now come back. A lot of people go striped bass fishing at the marsh, especially in May and early June when they are running.

People

LINDA WOODARD has had a long love affair with Scarborough Marsh. She first visited in the early 1970s when she accompanied her mother, a second-grade teacher who was bringing her class to the marsh. First a volunteer, Linda has been the director of the Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center since 1990. She has grown the center and programs offered to engage at least 8,000 people and 1,500 schoolchildren every year.

Maine Audubon's former Executive Director **DICK ANDERSON**, together with Lee Perry, the first Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist for the marsh, and many others (including Richard Parks, Margaret Small, Bruce Lincoln, and Bob Steele to name a few) led the charge to bring all the land in the marsh under state ownership. According to Anderson, it took almost 20 years just to figure out who owned all the parcels. He was also the force behind creating

a nature center at Scarborough Marsh, envisioning public and educational programming and ways for the public to appreciate the importance of the marsh. A run-down clam shack was converted into the nature center and Maine Audubon began public programming in 1972.

Staff Naturalist **DOUG HITCHCOX**'s first Maine Audubon job was at Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center!

Many schools send **STUDENTS** on field trips to the marsh. You can

go to a forest almost anywhere in Maine, but a salt marsh is a unique habitat. Students from preschool to college age have visited and done hands-on experiential learning and research here.



Pat Powers



Dick Anderson and Linda Woodard



SENIOR CITIZENS are welcome here. At age 98, Pat Powers is our oldest canoeist ever!



VISITORS from all over the world come to the marsh. Even a group from the United Nations, at a summit held at a local inn, came to the marsh for a canoe trip and walk.

VOLUNTEERS are the backbone of the marsh. In any given week, volunteers devote 80 hours, the equivalent of two full-time employees. A lot of people have a deep personal connection to the marsh. Dave DesRochers holds the record for most volunteer hours logged.

ARTISTS and **PHOTOGRAPHERS** are a common sight at the marsh.

Hélène Vigeant has translated all of our guides into French—a great help when our **FRENCH-CANADIAN NEIGHBORS** come to visit.

Runners and walkers have done **THE SNOWY EGRET 5K** both in person and virtually; 2022 marked the 15th year.

the **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS**, which take place at 7 am every week.

BOAT TOURS including sunset canoe trips, early / sunrise tours, and full moon canoe tours give visitors a unique perspective and way to see the wildlife of the marsh. How to describe the ambience and stillness of the marsh under the full moon, or the indescribable colors and morning dew at sunrise . . .

EARTH DAY CLEANUP is an annual favorite, done with many community partners, and there's also an annual fall cleanup as well.

THE BOARDWALK is part of a self-guided **NATURE TRAIL** across Route 9 from the nature center, winding around and leading to the shores of a former canal.

EAGLE SCOUTS have contributed to many projects at the center, building the canoe and kayak racks, Adirondack chairs and benches, a picture window, and even a tower for Chimney Swifts.

Picture yourself as a Snowy Egret in the **PHOTO BOARD**.

A full moon canoe tour is a romantic setting for a **WEDDING**. Ashes have been spread here too, and the marsh features in many senior pictures and engagement photos.

Many visitors leave their nature sightings in our beautiful **MAILBOX**, created by intern Rowan Price in 2017. 🍷

MENU	
LOBSTER PLATE	CHIPS BUTTER \$1.10
STEAMED CLAMS	CRACKERS .80
LOBSTER ROLLS	.65
LOBSTER STEW	CRACKERS .85
CLAM CHOWDER	CRACKERS .65
HOT DOGS	.20
COFFEE- COLD DRINKS	.10
EGG SALAD ROLLS	.25
LOBSTERS AND CLAMS to take out	

At the Nature Center

Did you know **THE NATURE CENTER** used to be a clam shack?

Migration means that there's always something new to see on



An Insider's Guide to Birding the Scarborough Marsh

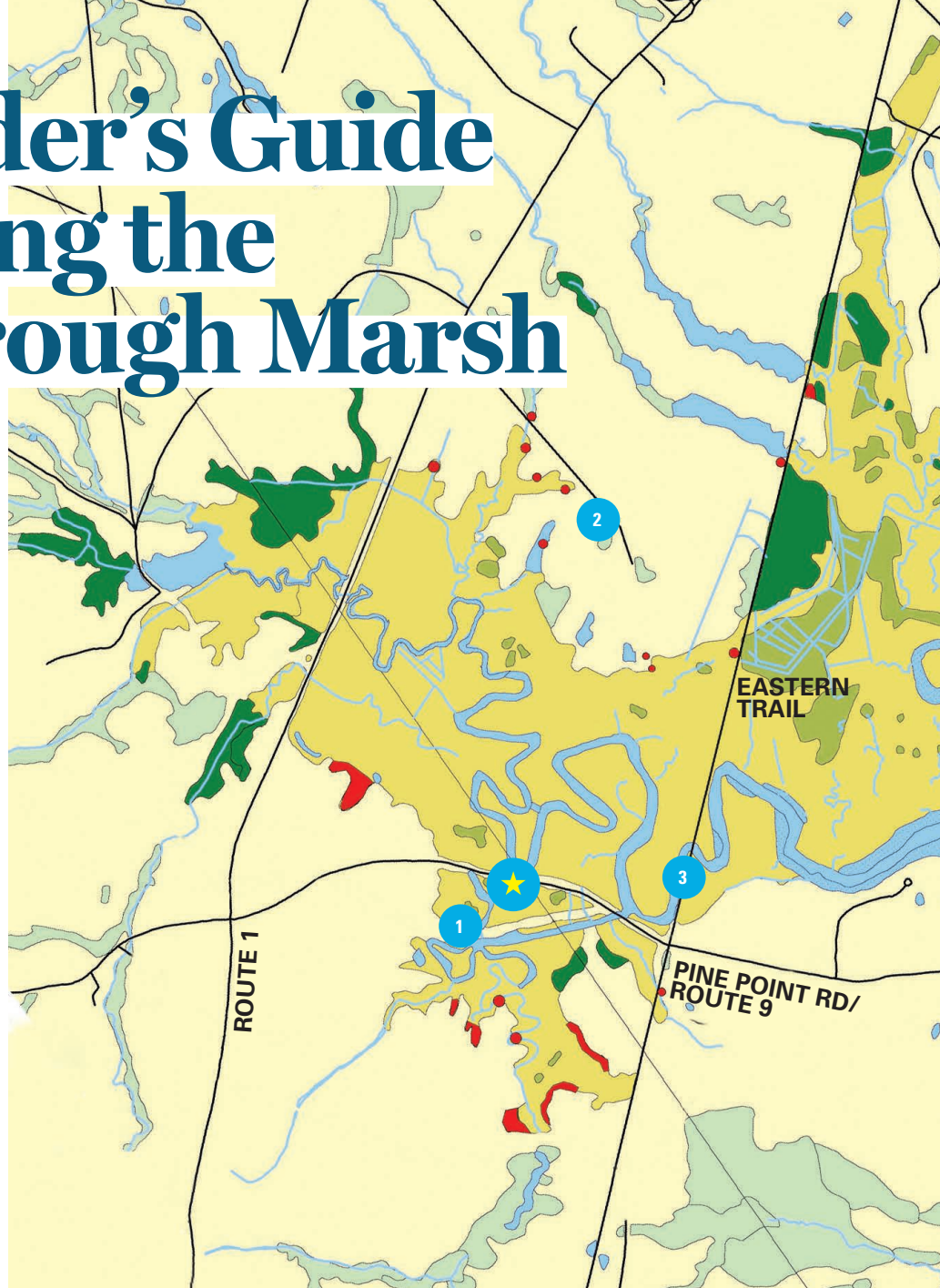
More than **260 species of birds** have been seen in Scarborough Marsh.

Here are some of the best birding spots.



Scarborough Marsh Audubon Nature Center

Scan the river and pannes for wading birds and sandpipers. Endangered Least Terns forage in the pannes for fish. You can also rent canoes or kayaks to get on the water.



1

Dunstan Landing

Park in the roundabout and walk along the trail; great for herons, egrets, rails, and shorebirds.

2

Gervais

Get a birds-eye view of the Marsh from the observation tower. Good in all seasons.

3

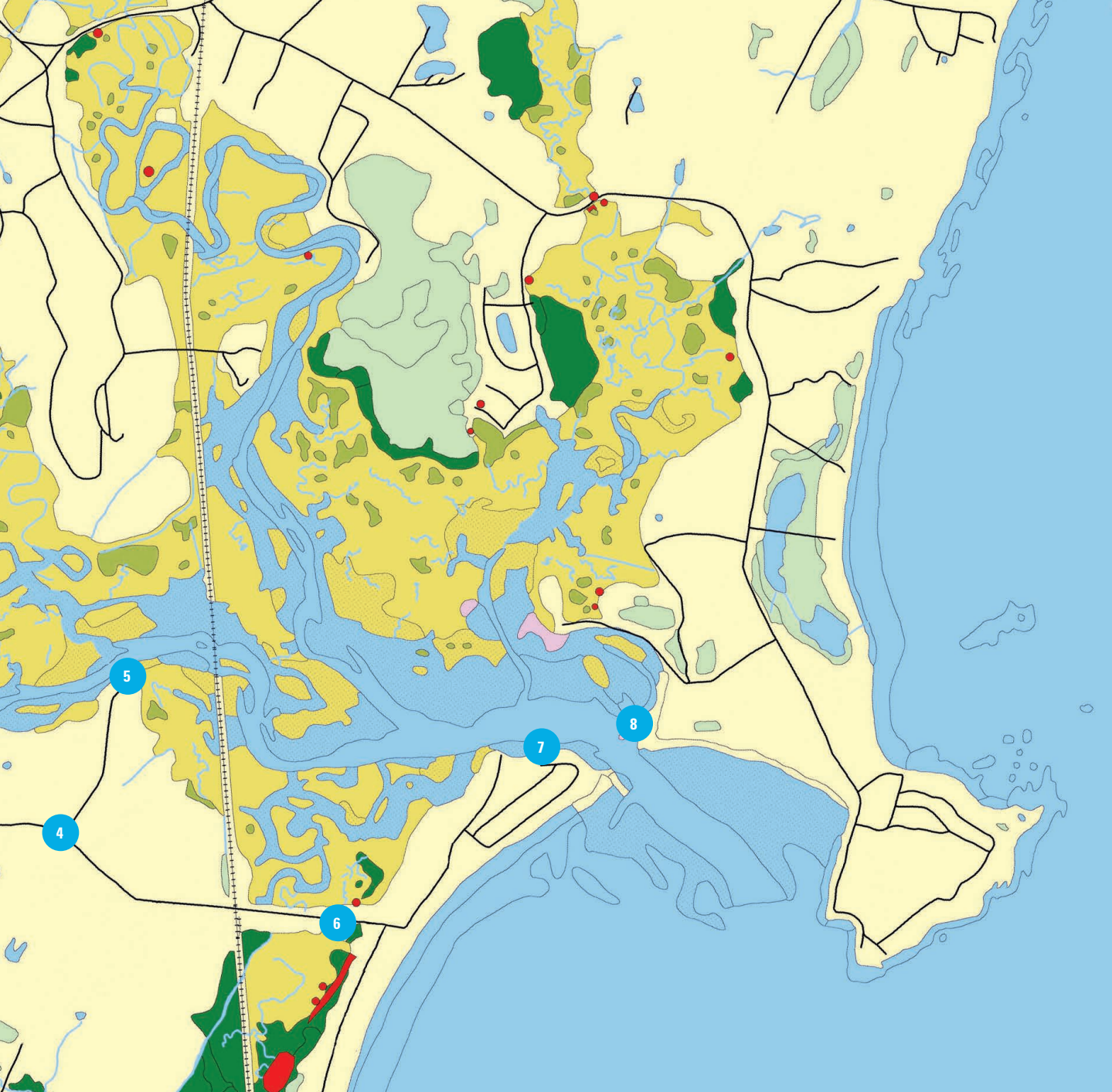
Eastern Trail

Park and walk the trail, looking for birds in all seasons. In summer, the trail is the best place to look and listen for Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows.

4

Blue Point Preserve

Take the trail through the birdy wooded section through to nice views of ponds with waders and shorebirds.



5

Seaveys Landing

A small parking area at the end of Seaveys Landing Road gives close views of the river down to the railroad bridge. Good for ducks.

6

Pelreco

Named for a former tenant, this is still an active commercial area. Park away from the building and scan the flats behind the parking lot for shorebirds, ducks, waders, swallows, and more.

7

Pine Point

One of Maine's most famous birding spots, Pine Point is accessible and productive all year. Get close looks at sea ducks in winter, shorebirds in migration, and terns, eagles, and waders feeding in the summer.

8

Ferry Beach/ Western Beach

Get another angle on shorebirds and ducks from pay-to-park Ferry Beach; around the bend, look for Piping Plovers on Western Beach.

Summer Events

Full event listings, prices, and registration: maineaudubon.org/events

Featured Events



JUNE
14
JULY
22

Sunset Puffin Cruises

Tuesday, June 14, 7–9 pm and
Friday, July 22, 7–9 pm

Leaves from New Harbor

The resurgence of the Atlantic Puffin is a testament to the dedication of Audubon biologists who led the way in reestablishing Maine's seabird colonies. On this popular boat trip, we will circle Eastern Egg Rock several times for great views of puffins, terns, and other seabirds.



FIELDS POND

AUGUST
27

Finding Wild Edible & Medicinal Plants

Saturday, August 27,
11 am–1:30 pm

Maine has an abundance of wild plants and other natural treasures that can be foraged for food, medicinal use, and other purposes. David Spahr, author of *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada*, will discuss what you can find, how to differentiate safe from toxic, and ways to use what you forage.

GILSLAND FARM

JUNE
7

Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders with Tiffany Kersten

Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 pm



Tiffany Kersten is a professional bird guide and sexual assault survivor based in Texas. She spent 2021 completing a Lower 48 States Big Year, attempting to be the youngest woman to see 700 species in one calendar year. Throughout her travels, she has been gifting personal safety alarms to women. Through her company, Nature Ninja Birding Tours, she continues to elevate women birders and bird guides.

SCARBOROUGH MARSH

AUGUST
6

Snowy Egret Day & 50th Birthday Party for the Center

Saturday, August 6, 7 am–4 pm

Experience a day of family fun, including an early morning bird walk starting at 7 am, a canoe parade, nature crafts, used book sale, nature walks, and more. There will be special programs for children as well as displays and information.

More: maineaudubon.org/marsh50



Statewide

JUNE
21

York County Audubon

Tuesday, June 21, 7 pm

Bird Songs concert with Monica Grabin and honoring Pat Moynahan; check

yorkcountyaudubon.org for details.

JUNE
26

Forestry For Maine Birds workshop

Sunday, June 26, 9:00 am–12:30 pm

Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson

Please join Sally Stockwell of Maine Audubon and Logan Johnson from the Forest Stewards Guild to learn how to manage forestlands to enhance habitat for birds and other wildlife. Registration is required; limited to 25 people.

JUNE
30

BirdSafe Maine Awards & Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 30, 5:30 pm

An evening to recognize the work of

builders, architects, and homeowners to reduce the threat of bird collisions against windows, organized with partners Portland Society for Architecture and the University of Southern Maine.

JULY
16

Annual Loon Count

Saturday, July 16, 7 am

Volunteers venture onto lakes and ponds across the state to count loons. The

observations recorded provide an excellent “snapshot” of Maine’s loon population.

Contact conserve@maineaudubon.org to get involved.

AUGUST
27
&
28

Brush with Nature

Saturday and Sunday, August 27 & 28

It’s our second annual plein air painting festival! Maine artists will be creating paintings at our sanctuaries this weekend; visit, watch, be inspired, and create something of your own! The paintings will be auctioned in September.

More: maineaudubon.org/brushwithnature



Save
the
Date!

Borestone Naturalists Weekend

Sept. 23–25

Join Gary Roberts, Doug Hitchcox, and others for a guided naturalist weekend at the spectacular Lodges at Borestone Audubon Sanctuary.

Gilsland Farm Audubon Center

FALMOUTH/GREATER PORTLAND

JUNE
12

Wild Edibles Walk at Gilsland Farm with Russ Cohen

Sunday, June 12, 2–5 pm

Southern Maine is home to over 100 species of edible wild plants. Join Russ Cohen, wild edibles expert and author of *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*, on a three-hour ramble through Gilsland Farm to learn about at least two dozen species of edible wild plants. Plants expected to be encountered will range from native edible species to non-native weeds and invasive species.

WEEKLY

Gilsland Farm Bird Walks

Every Thursday, 7–9 am

Join us for a weekly bird walk at Gilsland Farm, led by Maine Audubon’s Staff Naturalist, Doug Hitchcox. Meet in the

parking lot in front of the Visitor Center, where we’ll begin a slow walk around the property to look and listen for birds.

Fields Pond Audubon Center

HOLDEN/GREATER BANGOR

JULY
13

Full Moon Canoe Paddle

Wednesday, July 13, 7 pm

Spend the evening with fellow paddlers on Fields Pond for a peaceful paddle. Meet at the

Fields Pond Boat Landing with your own canoe or kayak (or reserve a seat on one of our canoes for an extra fee).

JULY
16

Family Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, July 16, 10 am–2 pm

Hit the trails and join the hunt! Families will compete to complete a series of challenging

and fun natural history tasks.

AUGUST
6

Field Botany: Aquatic Plants Paddle

Saturday, August 6, 10 am–noon

Head out onto Fields Pond to explore the

world of aquatic flora. We'll get a close-up view of the aquatic species that make Fields Pond home. Meet at the Fields Pond Boat Landing with your own canoe or kayak (or reserve a seat on one of our canoes for an extra fee).

AUGUST
20

Fields Pond Butterfly Festival

Saturday, August 20, 10 am–2 pm

Celebrate the beauty and diversity of

butterflies with a Monarch Butterfly release, Insect BioBlitz, crafts, and more. Come dressed as your favorite butterfly and join the Butterfly Parade at noon!

Fields Pond Summer Camp



FOUR SESSIONS

June 27–July 1

July 11–15

July 25–29

August 8–12

Spots still available
for Grades 3 to 5!

Details:

maineaudubon.org/camps

Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center

Many programs are free and open to drop-ins. For information, prices, and registration: visit maineaudubon.org/events, email smac@maineaudubon.org, or call 207-883-5100.

BOAT RENTALS AND TRIPS

DAILY

Canoe/Kayak Rentals

Daily, 9 am–4 pm

Discover the meandering Dunstan River on your self-guided exploration. We provide a canoe/

kayak, paddles, life jacket, and map. Weekdays: first come, first served walk-in service. Weekends: Online reservations can be made in advance at maineaudubon.org/canoe.

DAILY

Guided Canoe Tours

Daily, June 22–September 5, 10–11:30 am

Discover wildlife and plants as you paddle along the Dunstan River. See the Snowy Egret catching

fish and the Cormorant drying its wings.

Full Moon Canoe Tours

MONTHLY

June 13, 14, 8–9:30 pm

July 11, 12, 13, 8–9:30 pm

August 9, 10, 11, 7:30–9 pm

Experience the sights and sounds of marsh creatures under the full moon. Watch for

Black-crowned Night Heron along the bank or a Snowy Egret flying to a nearby island for the evening. Arrive one half hour before the start time; advanced registration required.

JUNE
25

JULY
15

AUGUST
21

Sunset Canoe Tours

Saturday, June 25, 7:30–9 pm

Friday, July 15, 7–8:30 pm

Sunday, August 21, 6:30–8 pm

Experience the marsh at this beautiful time.

See the reflection of the setting sun on the calm waters of the river, and watch herons and shorebirds flying back to their roosts.

Arrive one half hour before the start time; advanced registration required.

AUGUST
7

Early Morning Canoe Tour

Sunday, Aug 7, 6–7:30 am

Tour the marsh at this magical time when animals wake up and start to explore.

NATURE PROGRAMS

WEEKLY

Bird Walks at Scarborough Marsh

Every Wednesday, 7 am

We start birding at the Nature Center and then head to various local hot spots including Pine Point, the Eastern Trail, Pelreco, and Dunstan Landing.

WEEKLY

Family Nature Walk: Mummichogs & Marsh Muck

Every Wednesday from

June 22 to August 31, 10:30 am–noon

Explore the marsh using all five senses. Touch the marsh fish, look for migrating and resident birds, and search through algae to discover the creatures living there. This program is for “children” of all ages.

JULY
9

—
AUGUST
20

Scarborough Marsh Bird Monitoring

Saturday, July 9 and
Saturday, August 20, 7–10 am

Join us for a marsh-wide bird survey on foot, canoe, or kayak. All levels welcome. Data collected helps researchers determine the health of the marsh and is entered into

eBird. Advanced registration appreciated.

AUGUST

Insect and Plant Biodiversity Day

August (date TBA)

Help us survey the habitat around the center. Our data is shared with scientists to help determine the health of the marsh and to notice any changes or developing trends. We begin with an orientation and materials will be provided. Beginners are welcome! Snacks will be provided; advanced registration appreciated.

ART AT THE MARSH

AUGUST
17

Create a Seashell Wreath

Wednesday, August 17, 6:30 pm

Join us for an evening of creativity and sculpture as we make unique wreaths out of seashells and artifacts; bring your own or use ones we have collected. Advanced registration required.

Full Event Listings, Prices, and Registration:
MAINEAUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS

Children's Nature Series at Scarborough Marsh

JULY
15

—
AUGUST
12

Cat Tales

Friday, July 15 and Friday August 12,
10:30 am–noon

Bring your preschooler to our fun and exciting story hour; we'll read a story related to the marsh and afterwards children will have the chance to make a craft. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Advanced registration required.

JULY
21

Nature Detectives

Thursday, July 21, 1–2:30 pm

Become a detective and discover the mysteries of the marsh. Join in on a scavenger hunt, make your own nature notebook, and learn how to use investigative tools to unlock the wonders the marsh holds.

JULY
28

Tiny Tot Tour

Thursday, July 28, 10:30–11:30 am

Introduce your wee folk to this unique habitat through interactive hands-on activities, including looking through algae for small critters, jumping in the mud, looking at fish and insects up close and more. There will also be a story and a craft. An adult must accompany each child; advanced registration required.

AUGUST
18

Investigating Marsh Creatures

Thursday, August 18, 1–2:30 pm

Come join us as we search for elusive insects, catch some fish, explore the algae for slippery slimy critters, look for mammal tracks, and search the skies and water for marsh birds.

JULY
26

—
AUGUST
23

Nature Pottery at Scarborough Marsh

Tuesdays, July 26 and Tuesday, August 23,
10:30 am–noon

Search the marsh for natural artifacts like shells, grasses, and flowers and then incorporate these treasures into handmade pottery. Advanced registration required.

JULY
12

—
AUGUST
9

Exploring Nature Through Art

Tuesday, July 12 and Tuesday, August 9,
10:30 am–noon

Through art projects children (ages 5–10) will discover the wonder of the salt marsh. Each session will be different but will include some outside exploration. Advanced registration required.

MAINE AUDUBON Corporate Partners

Maine Audubon is grateful for our Corporate Partners and their investment in our work to protect iconic Maine wildlife species and wildlife habitat in the state.

We appreciate every financial donation, gift of products and materials, and the volunteer time donated by these organizations. We use one hundred percent of the Corporate Partner gifts for Maine Audubon education, conservation, and advocacy work right here in Maine.

SPOTLIGHT: Portside Real Estate

As a Corporate Partner, Portside Real Estate Group raised \$22,000 for Maine Audubon by hosting Autumn Equinox at Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm in Falmouth on September 22, 2021. The event was attended by 450 people and featured live music, food trucks, a silent auction, and local beer and wine. Thank you, Portside!

L to R: Maureen Duggan (Membership and Annual Giving Manager, Maine Audubon), Kate Lewis (Director of Development, Maine Audubon), Dava Davin (Founder and Principal, Portside Real Estate Group), Jessica Nason (Vice President, Marketing and Business Development, Portside Real Estate Group), Andrew Beahm (Executive Director, Maine Audubon)



SPOTLIGHT: Martin's Point Healthcare

It's rare that you actually get to taste the fruits of your labor, but that's exactly what happened as a result of a partnership between Maine Audubon, Corporate Partner Martin's Point HealthCare, and Keepers, a Portland-based beekeeping group.

It began back in 2019. Audubon and Martin's Point had been working together for some time, putting on bird walks and presentations for patients and staff, when Russ Phillips, the Director of Community Engagement, asked about replacing untended vegetable gardens on their campus with a low maintenance native plant pollinator garden. That fall, Maine Audubon and Martin's Point staff worked to plant asters, goldenrod, Wild Bergamot, Joe Pye Weed, and other lovely native flowers in their plots. Then, Martin's Point worked with Keepers to locate a beehive nearby.

The flowers bloomed, the bees pollinated, and, in late 2021, Russ brought us two jars of honey. Never has a corporate partnership tasted so sweet.





Maine businesses that have made a **demonstrated commitment to Maine's wildlife and habitat** by investing in Maine Audubon

EAGLE (\$10,000+)

Bernstein Shur
L.L.Bean
Martin's Point Health Care
Portside Real Estate Group

OSPREY (\$2,500+)

- 50 Biddeford Savings Bank
Free Street*
- Highland Green
- Maine Beer Company, LLC
- OceanView at Falmouth
- Poland Spring

OWL (\$1,000+)

- Anonymous
Baker Newman Noyes
Banded Brewing*
- Boston Trust Walden
Brann & Isaacson
Cornerstone Financial Planning, LLC
Dow Capital Management
Down East: The Magazine of Maine
Gorham Savings Bank
H.M. Payson and Co.
Indisco Kitchen & Baths
- 50 Inn by the Sea
 - 50 Lamey Wellehan
 - Moody's Co-Worker Owned
 - Perkins Thompson, P.A.
 - Platz Associates
 - ReVision Energy
 - RLC Engineering
 - Spinnaker Trust
 - Terrence DeWan Associates
 - 50 Wood Wizard*

LOON (\$500+)

- Allagash Brewing Company
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Atlantic Sportswear
Axis Natural Foods
Back Cove Financial
Bath Savings Institution
Belfast Veterinary Hospital
Casco Systems
Coffee By Design
CRPC Group, LLC
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 - Green Clean Maine
 - Jade Integrated Health
 - 50 Kittery Trading Post
 - Lee Auto Malls
 - Mast Landing Brewing Company
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 - Oakhurst Dairy
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 - PeoplesChoice Credit Union
 - Steinke and Caruso Dental Care
 - Strategic Media
 - 50 Town of Scarborough*

CARDINAL (\$250+)

- Albin, Randall & Bennett, CPAs
Bath Savings Trust Co.
Cheese Louise*
Cianbro
Coastal ACE Hardware
Doyle Enterprises, Inc.
East Brown Cow Management, Inc.
Flatbread Company
Gideon Asen LLC*
Gnome Landscapes
Havana Restaurant
- 50 Hogan Philanthropy Consulting*
 - 50 Holy Donut*
 - Kennebunk Savings
 - Lafayette Hotels/
Lafayette Oceanfront Resort
 - Lee International
 - 50 Lois' Natural Marketplace
 - The Maine Outdoor Film Festival*
 - The Maine Sportsman
 - Matrix Group Benefits
 - Norway Savings Bank
 - 50 Oasis Wellness Partners*
 - 50 On the Vine Marketplace*
 - Osteopathic Healthcare of Maine
 - 50 Pat's Pizza – Scarborough
 - Peak Dental Health
 - Pine State Trading
 - Quince & Co.
 - Saco & Biddeford Savings
 - Simons Architects, LLC
 - Town & Country Federal Credit Union
 - WellTree Inc.

For information on how to become a Maine Audubon Corporate Partner

CONTACT Maureen Duggan at mduggan@maineaudubon.org

VISIT maineaudubon.org/corporate

*New Corporate Partner: Thank you and welcome!

- 50 Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center
50th Anniversary Season Sponsor



Naturalist HQ

DOUG HITCHCOX, STAFF NATURALIST

The Steller's Sea-Eagle Leaves Us With Hope

THIS YEAR BEGAN with what I confidently think is “the craziest birding event to ever happen in Maine” when a Steller’s Sea-Eagle spent almost three months in the Greater Boothbay region. Quick reminder: Steller’s Sea-Eagle is a globally threatened species, a massive eagle with a range restricted to eastern Russia. One sea-eagle, in a journey beginning in August 2020, began wandering across the U.S. and eventually came to Maine where it delighted thousands of birders. As of this writing, the sea-eagle had moved north and was being seen in Nova Scotia.

I wanted to reflect on some of the impacts this bird had while it was in Maine. First of all, it was the news we needed. Journalists were happy to help spread the news of a large charismatic eagle in an area where it had never been seen before, and readers ate it up! Deirdre Fleming’s *Portland Press Herald* article on the sea-eagle was the newspaper’s most-read piece in January. In that same month, more than 80,000 people visited our website where we posted daily updates. The bird was discussed in the *New York*



Credit: Zachary Holderby

Times, *Washington Post*, on NPR, in Canada, even in Brazil.

One of the best things about the Steller’s Sea-Eagle lingering for so long was that so many people were able to see it. I estimated that 600 people came through in just the first day it was seen (31 Dec. 2021) but thousands more must have been able to connect with it. Almost 5,000 people used the Maine Rare Bird Alert GroupMe (a group messaging app) that I set up to help people share sightings. Looking in Cornell’s eBird database, of the few thousand

records of Steller’s Sea-Eagles that have been reported ever, now 35% of those are of ‘our’ bird. And people were busy with their cameras, as 68% of all the Steller’s photos in Cornell’s Macaulay Library are of ‘our’ bird.

This bird was a tremendous boon for local businesses; an inspiration for artists; and a creator of community. My hope is that these attention-getting birds help inspire more people to realize the importance of our natural world. Based on the impact of this one bird, I’ve got a lot of hope!

Watch a recording of our “The Amazing Saga of the Steller’s Sea-Eagle” webinar on YouTube here:
maineaudubon.org/steller

The Naturalist's Summer Almanac

June

10 As we head into baby bird season, keep in mind that most fledglings don't need your help. The first few days out of the nest are awkward, and **GIVING BABIES SPACE WILL HELP KEEP THEM SAFE.**

18 **ATLANTIC PUFFIN CHICKS** are hatching! Watch the Puffin Cam on explore.org to see inside a burrow on Seal Island.

21 *Summer Solstice!*

24 **IT'S BIG ATLAS WEEKEND!** Get involved with the Maine Bird Atlas (maine.gov/birdatlas) this weekend to help Maine defend its title in this multistate competition.



Credit: Dan Jaffe

29 **BUNCHBERRIES** (*Cornus canadensis*) are in bloom with their whitish flowers. This common roadside wildflower will later produce its namesake reddish bunch of berries.

July

1 **PECK'S SKIPPER**, one of our most common species of this uniquely shaped family (*Hesperiidae*) of butterflies, is in the peak of its flight period and easy to find right now.

4 **SKIP THE FIREWORKS** this year! These explosions cause birds to prematurely fledge which can be fatal.

17 **SPREADING DOGBANE** is in bloom and can attract all sorts of butterflies, but keep your dogs away as the sap of this plant is toxic (both to dogs and to humans as well!).



23 It is the start of **INTERNATIONAL MOTH WEEK!** Hang out a sheet with a light on it and see what comes in at night.

30 Now is a great time (depending on weather) to look for the delicious **CHICKEN OF THE WOODS** (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) mushroom.



DOGDBANE

August

3 Noticing big swarms of ants? Neighboring **PAVEMENT ANT** colonies are at war as they establish their territories.

10 Many species of elaborately ornamented **TUSsock MOTH CATERpillARS** (*Erebidae*) are on the move. The beautiful hairs on these caterpillars are neither venomous nor poisonous, but can cause some skin irritation.

14 **SHOREBIRD MIGRATION** is ramping up. Visit hotspots like Hills Beach in Biddeford or the Lubec Sandbar and you may see thousands of southbound sandpipers and plovers.

22 **MONARCH CATERpillARS** are eating all the milkweed they can find before pupating. Make sure you don't accidentally mow any down!



30 **THE ROARING BROOK MAYFLY**, an endangered species found only at the base of Mt Katahdin, is emerging in its adult stage at this time of the year.



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MAINE
AUDUBON
20 Gilsland Farm Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

Native Plants Festival & Sale

Saturday, June 11, 9 am to 3 pm
Gilsland Farm Audubon Center, Falmouth

Featuring 40 species of native wildflowers,
shrubs, and tree seedlings for sale, as well as
workshops, info tables, expert advice, books,
and more!

Native Plants Sale

Begins June 15
shop.mainenativeplants.org

Order online for pick-up in Falmouth and
Holden



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DUDLEY WARNER**

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maineaudubon.org/visit/scarborough-marsh

HABITAT

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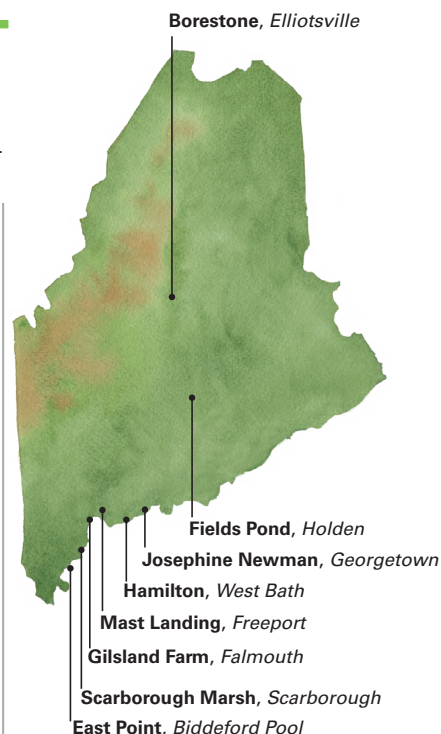
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