



MAINE AUDUBON

FALL 2022

HABITAT

Birding

Maine's National
Treasures



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Conservation

Loons on Board with New Raft Program

In the previous issue of *Habitat*, we wrote about the Loon Restoration Project, with its goal to improve loon nesting success, and the first steps of building artificial rafts with partners and volunteers. We've got some great updates!

Maine Audubon, together with volunteers, built or improved and put out 16 rafts on Maine lakes this summer. Seven of these are being used as nesting locations so far and six chicks have hatched to date. An additional 11 loon rafts were also placed by our partners in the Loon Restoration Project—Maine Lakes, Lakes Environmental Association, and the Penobscot Nation—with the help and dedication of lake associations and local residents. Two of these are being used so far; no chicks have hatched yet though the season isn't quite over!

We're thrilled to have loons nesting on the rafts already,



Peter Daigle took this photo of loons and a chick, hatched from a nest on a raft, using a 500 mm lens from a safe distance. It's important to keep your distance and not disturb loon families especially at this sensitive time.

because it can often take several years for loon pairs to get used to a nesting raft in their territory and take to it as a new nest site. All told, the project partners

are hoping to place 100 nesting platforms on lakes and ponds in an eleven-county region through 2026. We only deploy these rafts in areas where loon pairs have failed to hatch chicks year after year, and only when the reason for nesting failure has to do with water level management, land predators, lack of good natural nesting habitat, or when the pair's natural nest is in a high-risk location. We can't wait to see what next year will bring!

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

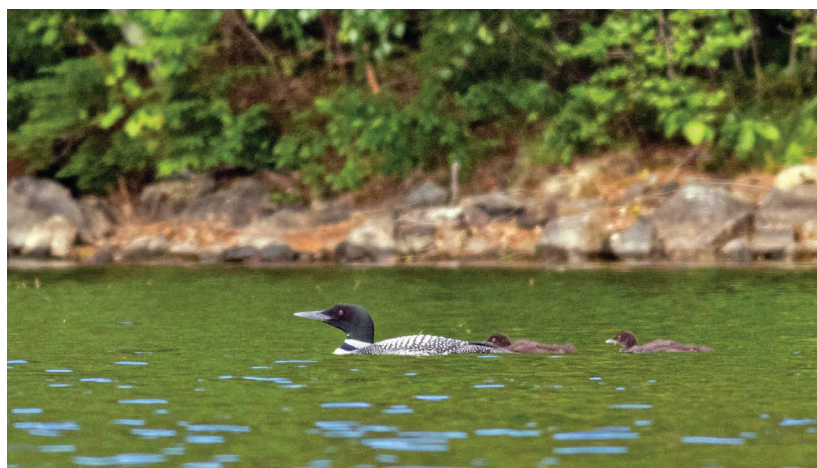


Photo: Earl Johnson/Maine Audubon

Come Wade in a Stream with Us!

Spring 2022 marked the third year of Stream Explorers, a macroinvertebrate treasure hunt searching for the least and most wanted critters in Maine streams. Since the program's beginning in 2020, 71 volunteers have surveyed 62 streams, contributing hundreds of hours of data to Maine's Department of Environmental Protection to help them determine where to focus their in-depth water quality surveys.

This year's training started off with two live webinars (which were also recorded for later viewing), followed by two in-person outdoor workshops where enthusiastic participants had an opportunity to practice and improve their macroinvertebrate collection and identification skills. In all, 75 people attended the webinars and workshops.

There is still a chance to get involved! An in-person workshop is planned for September 17 at Fields Pond in Holden, which leaves plenty of time to complete some surveys before the season ends in November. Head to maineaudubon.com/events to sign up.

In addition to the training sessions and workshops, we created new materials for volunteers, including a "basic" sampling key and guidebook that is more educator friendly (or more approachable for the just-budding entomologist!), as well as an updated advanced guide, online data entry form, and accompanying map that shows where all Stream Explorers have surveyed to date. If you're an educator who wants to bring stream sampling to your classroom, we have a recorded training just

Photo: Madeline Rheame/Maine Audubon



Training staff from Maine Audubon and Portland Water District demonstrate how to use the kick net at a Stream Explorers workshop.

for you, as well as resources for lesson plans and materials to help students get excited about water quality and macroinvertebrates.

More: maineaudubon.org/stream-explorers or email: conserve@maineaudubon.org

Watching Out for All Those Chicks

Endangered Piping Plovers weathered predators, storms, humans, and pets on the beaches of Maine this summer to produce a record-breaking number of chicks and fledglings from a record number of nesting pairs at a record number of beaches. All this was possible because of the daily efforts of the Coastal Birds biologists who put up stake and twine fencing and exclosures to protect nesting areas; track nesting success and chick survival; and coach beach-goers on how to limit their disturbance while at the beach. Help was also provided by many



A Piping Plover sits on a nest inside an exclosure at Old Orchard Beach.

municipal officials and volunteers, state park personnel, and staff from partner state and federal wildlife agencies. The presence of avian

flu meant that the team also had to deal with dead gulls and other waterfowl washing up on beaches. Despite early season storms that washed out numerous nests and predation that wiped out other nests, approximately 140 pairs of plovers nested on Maine beaches, breaking the 2021 total of 125, and far exceeding the 2020 total of 98. Ogunquit, Wells, Seawall, and Popham Beaches each had at least 13 pairs nesting! In addition, at least 277 pairs of terns nested at 6 sites. Though many of the sites did not do well, having them all along the coast bodes well for their future.

Education

Photo: Andree Kehn/Sun Journal



Sprouting in Lewiston

We were delighted to launch a new youth development and habitat stewardship program this summer in Lewiston. Maine Audubon partnered with Healthy Homeworks and Maine Community Integration to pilot Sprout Lewiston, designed to engage local youth in restoring habitat and beautifying their communities. Over the course of five weeks, a total of 16 teens learned about ecology, met local experts, restored native plants and wildlife habitat in Lewiston public parks, and had some fun in the outdoors!



Several members of the Youth Corps with Maine Audubon's Seasonal Youth Programs Assistant Carly Rahl (far left) who was a strong co-leader for the program this summer.

Digging in with Portland Teens

For the second year in a row, Maine Audubon staff worked with teenagers in Portland as part of the Portland Youth Corps, leading the teens on bird walks, doing native plant restoration in city parks, and giving them experience with our Coastal Birds crew on the beaches.



Happy Campers!

Kids strutting like turkeys, colorful art hanging from all corners of the building, joyful shouts during a game of "Maine Wild Animals"—it can only mean one thing: the return of summer camp! Between Gilsland Farm and Fields Pond, we hosted 175 campers this summer, almost back to pre-COVID numbers. 2022 also marked the return of our popular preschool camp at Gilsland Farm. Themes included "Wacky Wildlife," "Science in Action," and "Nature Art."

Native Plants Festival Blossoms

Beautiful clear blue skies graced Gilsland Farm Audubon Center on June 11 as hundreds of happy gardeners arrived at the Native Plants Festival and Sale, back in person for the first time since 2019. More than 2860 Maine native plants are now (hopefully!) planted and thriving in containers, gardens,

yards, and landscapes, playing a vital role in creating wildlife-friendly ecosystems.

The festival included programming from Wild Seed Project, Maine State Horticulturist Gary Fish, and Shawn Jalbert from Native Haunts. Audiences also enjoyed presentations about a multicultural, interdis-



Basketmaker
Gabriel Frey

plinary effort to conserve Brown Ash (or Black Ash) *Fraxinus nigra*, from Wabanaki University of Maine scholars, School of Forest Resources Professor John Daigle (Penobscot) and three PhD students Suzanne Greenlaw (Maliseet), Tyler Everett (Mi'kmaq), and Emily Francis.

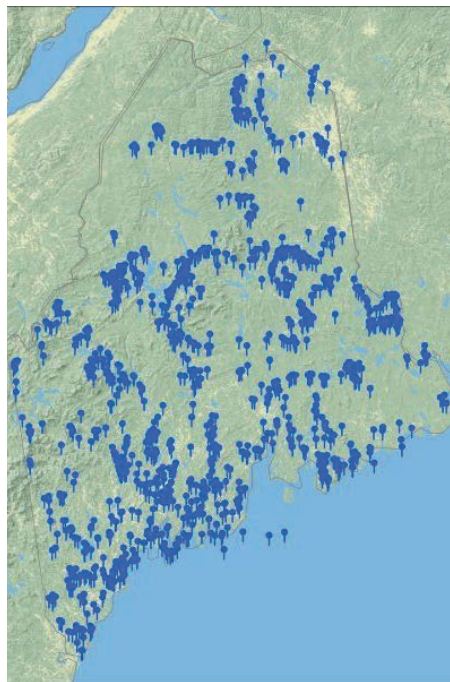
A captivating demonstration by



Passamaquoddy basketmaker Gabriel Frey highlighted the importance of the Brown Ash, and a special guest appearance by author Bernd Heinrich ended the festival on a high note!

Language Academy Lessons

Maine Audubon has committed to our partnership with Portland Public Schools' Summer Language Academy, a free enrichment program for English language learners, thanks to the district's support. This summer marked our fourth year introducing the environment to dozens of middle and high school students, exploring the outdoors and doing stewardship and conservation work. This began as a project funded by US Fish and Wildlife Service and has since been adopted and funded by the Portland Public Schools as an invaluable program.



Maine Bird Atlas Defends Title

The second annual Big Atlas Weekend, a friendly competition between regions completing breeding bird atlases (Maine, New York, Maryland-DC, North Carolina, Ontario, and Newfoundland) was a huge success! Maine defended the 'Canary Cup' thanks to 200 volunteers spending 930 hours and documenting 188 species breeding over the June 24th weekend. This dedicated effort was a huge help towards completing the Maine Bird Atlas.

Sanctuaries

Welcome! Soo Dhawaada! Bem-vindo! Bienvenue!



Maine Audubon welcomes all visitors to our centers and sanctuaries, and we are committed to making our spaces accessible and inviting. We are now offering our Gilsland Farm trail guides in French, Portuguese, Swahili, and Somali, and our Scarborough Marsh guide is also available in French. These guides are available on our website and in printed form at the Visitor Centers as well.



The Summer of Scarborough

The party's not quite over (see page 18), but this has been the summer to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center. Since 1972, the center has been a beloved and special place for birders and nature lovers, and special events all season long have been marking the occasion. In July we honored Director Linda Woodard and former Executive Director Dick

Anderson (shown above)—and others who have been instrumental in the protection and preservation of this special habitat—at an evening that included food and drink (inspired by the Center's origins as a roadside clam shack), music, a silent auction, and a proclamation from the Town of Scarborough announcing July 21, 2022, as Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center Day.



A Borestone Milestone

Hats off to 84-year-old Nelson Daigle who completed his 200th hike up Borestone Mountain this summer. Borestone staff gifted Nelson with a “key” to the mountain, a Maine Audubon T-shirt and other gifts, and an honorary lifetime membership. Nelson lives in Millinocket and since his retirement, he has been hiking at a pace that is truly an inspiration. It's always a pleasure and honor to welcome Nelson to Borestone.

Birding

Maine's National Treasures



KATAHDIN WOODS
& WATERS



BY NICK LUND



ACADIA NATIONAL
PARK

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument both protect some of Maine's most beautiful landscapes, yet in many ways they couldn't be more different. Established in 1919, Acadia is one of the country's oldest national parks, and throngs of tourists visit each year to marvel at the rocky shorelines and granite peaks. Katahdin Woods and Waters, on the other hand, at just six years old, is one of America's newest units in the national park system. Its small but growing annual visitorship discovers a landscape of deep woods, spruce bogs, and winding rivers.

Among the commonalities, however, are birds. Acadia has a well-earned reputation as a migration hotspot, and was the site of some of the earliest Peregrine Falcon restoration efforts. Katahdin Woods and Waters is a haven for breeding birds, and thousands of individuals representing dozens of species arrive each spring to raise their young in the forests.

Another commonality is access. Both of these places give birders of all ages and ability levels reliable admittance to habitats not easily found elsewhere. Visitors to both Acadia National Park and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument are granted up-close looks to the best bird habitat Maine has to offer—if they know where to look. To help guide those visitors, Maine Audubon is proud to produce these two maps showing the top hotspots for each park.

1 Loop Road: Sandbank Campsite

Bird the wetlands and boreal forests around the campground. More than a dozen species of warbler may be seen and heard here in summer, and look year-round for boreal specialties like Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Boreal Chickadee.

2 Loop Road: Deasey Ponds

Park at the Deasey Ponds Trailhead for a 1.2-mile round-trip walk to the Deasey Ponds. Pass through a mix of forest types, keeping an eye out for Ruffed and Spruce Grouse, warblers, and finches. The ponds themselves may hold American Bittern, Wood Ducks, Common Loons, and other water birds.

3 Loop Road: Lynx Pond

Just past Mile Marker 2 is parking for the short, ADA-accessible Lynx Pond Trail. The habitat here is good for migrant songbirds, including Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers, and the pond has hosted waterfowl including American Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser.



Spruce Grouse by Luke Seitz

4 Loop Road: The Overlook

Abundant birdlife may be the only distraction from views at this spectacular overlook just after Mile Marker 6. Elusive Mourning Warblers may be heard singing from the brambles in the meadow, and eagles, hawks, and vultures may be seen soaring over the treelines. Nearby vistas along the Loop Road are also rich in songbirds.

5 Loop Road: Barnard Mountain Trail

The moderate, 4-mile out-and-back Barnard Mountain Trail begins from a parking area just before Mile Marker 12. Birders will cross Katahdin Stream and pass through a variety of habitats with chances at dozens of species of breeding and resident birds before summiting with a dazzling view of Katahdin to the west.

6 Lunksoos Campsites

A boat launch and campground near the historic Lunksoos Camps provides an opportunity for waterfowl like Hooded Merganser and lowland forest birds like Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, Northern Parula, and Yellow Warbler.

7 Seboeis Unit

The dirt roads of the Seboeis Unit, east of the Penobscot River accessed off Waters Road, provide unparalleled backcountry birding. Follow your eyes and ears to find dozens of species of warblers, sought-after species like Black-billed Cuckoo, Philadelphia Vireo, Least Bittern, and many others.

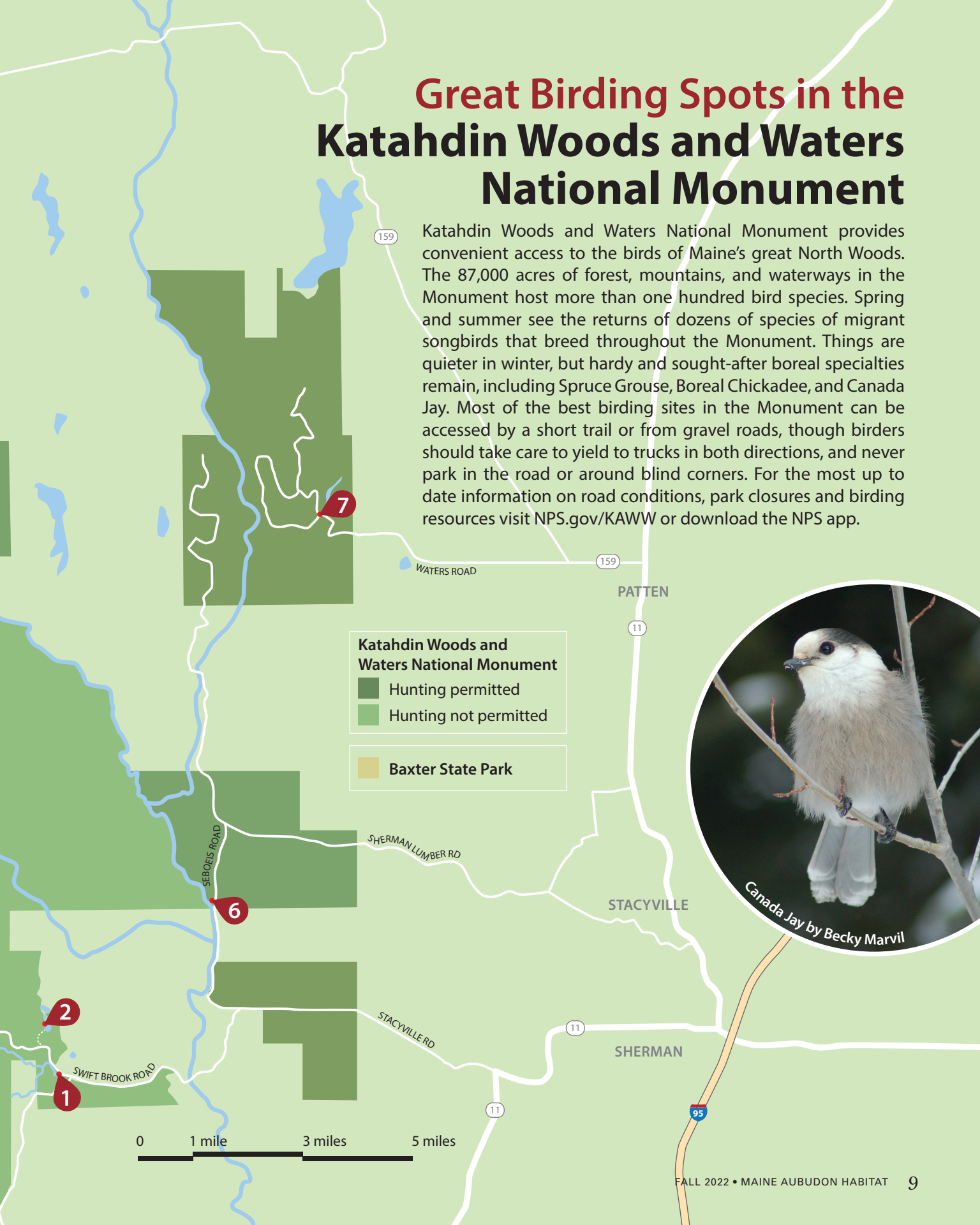
8 North Gate Area

Several trails begin at the North Gate, just south of Grand Lake Matagamon, including groomed cross-country ski trails for winter birders. Follow the river for as long as you please, looking for breeding warblers, Bald Eagles, Spotted Sandpipers, Ruffed Grouse, and numerous resident finch species.



Great Birding Spots in the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument provides convenient access to the birds of Maine's great North Woods. The 87,000 acres of forest, mountains, and waterways in the Monument host more than one hundred bird species. Spring and summer see the returns of dozens of species of migrant songbirds that breed throughout the Monument. Things are quieter in winter, but hardy and sought-after boreal specialties remain, including Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, and Canada Jay. Most of the best birding sites in the Monument can be accessed by a short trail or from gravel roads, though birders should take care to yield to trucks in both directions, and never park in the road or around blind corners. For the most up to date information on road conditions, park closures and birding resources visit [NPS.gov/KAWW](https://www.nps.gov/KAWW) or download the NPS app.





Northern Gannet



Black Guillemots



Atlantic Puffins

1 Cadillac Mountain

This famous landmark hosts a hawk watch in the fall, where birders can spot some of the thousands of hawks, eagles, and other raptors on their way south. Snowy Owls are frequent visitors to the summit in winter.

8

Great Birding Spots in Acadia National Park

Acadia is one of the oldest and most famous national parks in the country. Its 47,000 acres protect some of the best scenery on the entire East Coast, including granite peaks overlooking clear lakes and sparkling bays. The park is also a destination for birders in all seasons, who seek songbirds and raptors in Acadia's interior, and seabirds off the coast.



2 Jordan Pond Area

Exploring the easy trails around Jordan Pond in spring and summer can produce more than a dozen warbler species as well as other forest species, like nuthatches, flycatchers, and vireos. Common Loons, decked out in their intricate summer plumage, are regularly seen on the pond, and other large ponds in the park.

3 Otter Point

Maine's rocky coast is perhaps at its most dramatic at Otter Point. Ocean-going birds are the focus here, in all seasons. In summer, look for small, black-and-white Black Guillemots—relatives of the Atlantic Puffin, diving close to shore, and large Common Eider ducks in groups just off the rocks. In winter, scan the waters for sea ducks riding out the season on the ice-free coast, including Long-tailed Ducks, all three scoter species, and even Common Loons.

4 Precipice Trail

Acadia's Jordan Cliffs were the site of a landmark Peregrine Falcon reintroduction effort in the early 1980s, and falcons are still nesting in the park today. The best place to see them during the summer breeding season is from the Precipice Trailhead, which is staffed by the National Park Service between May and July to help people spot the nest.

5 Seawall Picnic Area

More than 200 bird species have been seen at the Seawall Picnic Area, on the southwest side of Mount Desert Island. A variety of habitats make the site good in all seasons, and it provides access to seabirds like Northern Gannets and migratory sea ducks.

6 Bass Harbor Marsh

This tidal marsh on the west side of the island hosts breeding populations of American Black Duck and Nelson's Sparrow, as well as occasional rare visitors like Least Bittern. Parking is limited along the roadside of Route 102.

7 Schoodic Peninsula

Acadia's best birding is found on the Schoodic Peninsula. More than 2,200 acres of trails and coast are productive in all seasons, from winter seawatching at Schoodic Point and Blueberry Hill, to spring and fall migration birding on Frazer Point and the Schoodic Woods Campground. Keep an eye out along trails for the elusive Spruce Grouse, one of the last of the park's boreal breeders.

8 Isle au Haut

Just under half of this island's 8,000 acres are part of Acadia National Park, but the birding is good everywhere. Birds are most abundant here during migration, as is the case with many of Maine's offshore islands, and they may use Isle au Haut as a stopover. The passenger ferry to the island leaves from Stonington, and the boat ride provides a great opportunity to look for seabirds like Northern Gannet and Great Shearwater.

Puffin Colonies

Though puffin colonies are not actually part of the national park, taking a boat ride to see one is an essential stop on a trip to the Maine coast. Maine is the only state with breeding populations of Atlantic Puffin, and they may be found on offshore islands in the summer. Private tours leave from Bar Harbor, Winter Harbor, and other towns along the Maine coast.



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Eastern Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis

LABOR DAY MEANS the return of cool evenings, gentler sunlight angles, and hopefully more frequent precipitation—all great reasons to plant trees and shrubs! Eastern Arborvitae or Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) is an ancient tree with benefits to both wildlife and people that cannot be overstated. Its fragrant evergreen foliage and fruit feed dozens of species of caterpillars, birds, and mammals throughout the year. These immature cones will slowly open and brown into cones that resemble tiny roses as the summer and fall unfolds.

The Ojibwe people called it “the Grandmother Tree” because of everything it provides for people in terms of medicine, ceremony, craft, and building materials. Today, our yards, parks, cityscapes, golf courses, etc. have called on this plant for endless landscape functions, and our native Thuja has responded by serving as the base for too many resized and recolored cultivars to count.

More: mainenativeplants.org

Shop: shop.mainenativeplants.org



Second Session of the 130th Maine Legislature

LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY

2022 Update

Dear Maine Audubon members and supporters,

The second and final session of the 130th Maine Legislature wrapped up in May, and Maine Audubon was again hard at work advancing policy to conserve and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. We secured successful outcomes for many of Maine Audubon's priority bills this session, thanks in part to our advocacy and conservation staff's efforts to submit testimony, work with lawmakers, and communicate with the press.

As always, our ultimate success is due to the work of Maine Audubon members and supporters. Our network sent at least 1660 individual messages to more than 100 Maine legislators representing every corner of the state. These messages were in addition to the phone calls you made, the in-person visits you attended, the letters and op-eds Maine Audubon members submitted to local papers, social media posts you shared and re-shared, and uncountable other ways you demonstrated your support for Maine's environment. We thank you.

Yours in conservation,



ELIZA DONOGHUE, ESQ.
Director of Advocacy and
Staff Attorney



Join our Action Network: maineaudubon.org/act

IN THE NEWS

Maine Voices: [Endangered] Piping plovers need federal backing to complete comeback

"Bat populations have dropped by more than 95% in Maine in just over a decade due to the insidious white-nose syndrome. Sea turtles, Atlantic Salmon, and marine mammals are at grave risk from a changing Gulf of Maine. We must ensure a strong Endangered Species Act to allow us to respond to new threats."

Laura Williams, Maine Audubon Wildlife Biologist and Conservation Assistant, writing in the *Portland Press Herald*

JUNE 21, 2022

New law allows creation of more ecological reserves in Maine

"The best way to maintain biodiversity is to keep good examples of all the pieces of the puzzle."

Maine Audubon Conservation Director Sally Stockwell, talking about networks created by Maine's Ecological Reserve System in *Spectrum News*

MARCH 31, 2022

Lawmakers approve \$2 million in funding to expand climate education in Maine schools

"It's important that all students have access to climate education, but specifically for people in low income communities. We have to make sure it's equitable for them and that they're not left behind."

Kosis Ifeji, Nature Based Education Consortium, quoted on *Maine Public*

APRIL 27, 2022

Highlights from the Second Session of the 130th Legislature



Promoting Climate Education

LD 1902 | PASSED

LD 1902 secured over \$2 million for a pilot program to increase climate education in Maine public schools by providing grants for professional development and creating partnerships between schools and community organizations to develop engaging climate curriculum.



Improving Maine's Ecological Reserve System

LD 736 | PASSED

LD 736 increased the size limit of the Ecological Reserve System, helping meet climate goals and protect biodiversity.



Improving the Water Quality of Maine Lakes

LD 1826 | PASSED

LD 1826 expands the membership and purpose of the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species, including the identification of possible legislation to address threats to Maine lakes.



Reducing Conflict Between Boats and Wildlife

LD 1663 | PASSED

Maine will phase in a mandatory boating safety and education course for inland water users. The course will include education on how to minimize impacts on wildlife, including no-wake zones, and removing invasive species from boats.



Limiting Sprawl

LD 2003 | PASSED

LD 2003 encourages concentrated development in strategic locations across Maine, which will reduce transportation emissions, improve public health, and spare important wildlife habitat from loss or fragmentation.



Protecting Water Quality

LD 1964 | PASSED

LD 1964 reclassified more than 800 miles of rivers and streams across Maine—a tool to maintain water quality—including several waters with important trout and salmon habitat, such as the South Branch of the Sandy River, Orbeton Stream, the Little Narraguagus River, and the West Branch of the Penobscot River above Ambajejus Lake.



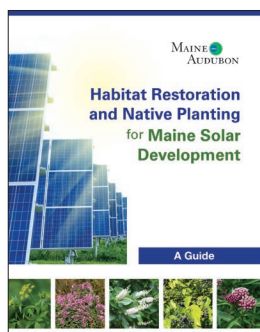
In late June, LD 1902 sponsor Rep. Lydia Blume addressed members of the Climate Education Advocacy Working Group at The Ecology School in Saco.

Photo: Nathan Broaduss, NBEC

SPOTLIGHT

LD 1902 | Climate Education

Maine Audubon was proud to work with the Nature Based Education Consortium, a youth-centered network of leaders and advocates who care about building equity and access for all Maine youth outdoors, and other partners to craft and pass LD 1902. The Consortium's Climate Education Advocacy Working Group, which also included representatives from the Maine Environmental Education Association, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, The Nature Conservancy in Maine, and other groups, led the campaign to pass the bill and secure funding.



SPOTLIGHT

Solar Array Native Planting Guide Now Available

Maine Audubon recently published "*Habitat Restoration and Native Planting for Maine Solar Development*," which provides detailed information to help solar developers plant native plants under and around their projects. The guide is for solar developers, landscape architects, and other professionals and individuals who are interested in designing solar arrays that maximize co-benefits to wildlife and wildlife habitat through native plantings and site-specific design and management considerations.

More: maineaudubon.org/solar



Work to Do

While this session was dominated by success stories, there is still work to be done. We are truly disappointed that LD 1626, the bill to recognize the sovereignty of Maine's Wabanaki tribes, has not been successfully resolved. We will continue to support sovereignty for Maine's tribes. Likewise, Maine lawmakers did not fund bills that would help guide responsible solar development or reclassify the Lower Presumpscot River, issues that we will continue to pursue.

As Maine Audubon's advocacy work continues, we'll keep you in the loop as vital partners in advancing strong environmental policy in Maine and beyond. Thank you for your support of Maine Audubon.

Fall Events

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

Featured Events



GILSLAND FARM

SEPT
17

Fall Frolic

Saturday, September 17, 10 am–2 pm

Join us for an outdoor family festival to celebrate the change of seasons! We will welcome fall and learn about habitat stewardship with fun activities for all ages. Join us to: use our seed ball slingshot to launch a native plant seedball into the meadow; tackle the Monarch migration obstacle course; explore seed science & plant part art; and much more!

This event is made possible by L.L.Bean.



BORESTONE

SEPT
23-25

Borestone Naturalists Weekend

September 23–25

Join us for a weekend retreat to Borestone Mountain Audubon Sanctuary, located just 20 miles south of Moosehead Lake. We will stay in the sanctuary's historic Adirondack style lodges, which are accessible only by boat or on foot, lending an extra sense of remoteness and tranquility to this special place. Centered around rock-topped Borestone Mountain, this 1600-acre North Woods preserve encompasses remarkable granite outcroppings and cliffs, clear mountain ponds, and old growth forest stands carpeted by luxuriant mosses and lichens. Optional activities will include taking moderate hikes, swimming and canoeing, or just relaxing on the lodge porch with a good book.



FIELDS POND

OCT
8

Fall Foliage 5K Trail Run

Saturday, October 8, 10 am

Join us for our annual trail running event. This challenging course will take you up through our beautiful, wooded trails and onto the adjoining Holden Land Trust trail system for the perfect fall foliage tour!

Gilsland Farm Audubon Center

FALMOUTH/GREATER PORTLAND

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

Naturalists. 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.

WEEKLY

Family Fun at Gilsland Farm

Wednesdays, 9:30–10:30 am OR
10:45–11:45 am, Sept. 21–Nov. 9

Young children (ages 2-5) and their grown-ups are invited to spend an hour exploring nature together through stories, songs, art, and play. Each week will include outdoor activities and adventures designed to foster a connection to nature, encourage stewardship, and provide an introduction to group learning settings.

Advanced registration is encouraged! Drop-ins are welcome if space is available.

SEPT
22

Autumn Equinox at Maine Audubon

Thursday, September 22, 4 pm

A special fundraiser hosted by Portside Real

Estate Group, with live band, food trucks, children's activities, adult beverages, auctions, and more!

SEPT
29

Brush with Nature Art Auction

Thursday, September 29, 5:30pm

Join us for a silent and live auction of the

paintings created by 26 Maine artists at each of our sanctuaries this summer.

More: maineaudubon.org/brushwithnature

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

NOV
11-13

Member Double Discount and Fall Bird Seed Sale

November 11-13

Members get 20% off on all items (except bird seed and optics) over this long weekend. If you are not a member yet, this is a great time to join! Visit the store and check out our new products and holiday gift items.

- Sustainable home goods
- Products by local artists & craftspeople
- Gilsland Farm honey & bird-friendly coffee
- Books, bags, T-shirts, and more!

By shopping in our Nature Stores, you are helping Maine Audubon further our mission: to conserve Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat by engaging people in conservation, education, and action.

Fall Author Talks

SEPT
21

Ethan Whitaker

Wednesday, September 21, 7 pm

Why would a successful Maine software developer in his early 60s close his laptop and spend an entire year chasing a little known birding record? Ethan Whitaker will talk about his Big Year and subsequent book, *One Man's Journey to See Every Bird in Maine: A Photographic Account of a Maine Big Year in Birding*.

OCT
12

Phillip Hoose

Wednesday, October 12, 7 pm

National Book Award and Newbery honor-winning nonfiction master Phillip Hoose will talk about his new young adult book *Duet: Our Journey in Song with the Northern Mockingbird*, the story of the important and overlooked connection between humans and mockingbirds past, present, and future. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

NOV
17

Scott Weidensaul

Thursday, November 17, 7 pm

Award-winning author and naturalist (*A World on the Wing*) Scott Weidensaul will talk about his research on the threat of insecticides to grassland birds.

Fields Pond Audubon Center

HOLDEN/GREATER BANGOR

SEPT
10

Fall Stewardship Day

Saturday, September 10, 9 am–Noon

Join the Fields Pond Staff for a morning of stewardship activities focused on improving our trails and public access spaces. Bring work gloves and sturdy footwear. Snacks provided!

WEEKLY

Family Fun at Fields Pond

Weekly on Thursdays, 9:30–10:30 am, Sept. 15–Nov. 10

Young children (ages 2–5) and their grown-ups are invited to spend an hour exploring nature together through stories, songs, art, and play. Each week will include outdoor activities and adventures designed to foster a connection to nature, encourage stewardship, and provide an introduction to group learning settings.

Advanced registration is encouraged; drop-ins are welcome if space is available.

SEPT
17

Stream Explorers Workshop

Saturday, September 17, 2 sessions:
9–10:30 am & 10:30 am–noon

Come and practice your sampling methods and macroinvertebrate identification skills at this in-person training workshop. Stream Explorers is our community science project featuring aquatic insects and what they can tell us about wildlife habitat and water quality.

Contact conserve@maineaudubon.org for info.

SEPT
23

Bird-Friendly, Bird-Safe: Making Your Property a Haven for Birds

Friday, September 23, 6 pm

Join Maine Audubon's Nick Lund for an in-depth look at how to turn your home landscape into a year-round bird sanctuary. The program will include the best types of plants to use to attract birds and how to mitigate bird collisions with building structures.

OCT
1

Mushroom Walk

Saturday, October 1, 11 am–1:30 pm

A journey through the world of fungi! Join Maine mushroom expert David Spahr for outdoor learning about mushroom identification, folklore, collecting, and cooking. Be prepared for a moderate amount of physical activity and dress appropriately for the weather.

Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center

For prices and to register, visit maineaudubon.org/events, email smac@maineaudubon.org, or call 207-883-5100.

DAILY

Guided Canoe Tours

Daily through September 5,
10:00–11:30 am

Discover wildlife and plants as you paddle along the Dunstan River. See the Snowy Egret catching fish and the Cormorant drying its wings. Tours are daily subject to staffing availability. Call ahead to check on staff/availability.

WEEKLY

Bird Walks at Scarborough Marsh

Wednesdays through Sept. 28, 8 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.

SEPT
3-5

Labor Day Extravaganza Weekend

September 3-5, 9 am–5:30 pm

The 50th party continues! Join us for our last full weekend of the summer filled with fun—games, exhibits, crafts, raffles, used book and store-wide sales.

SEPT
9

Full Moon Canoe Tour

Friday, September 9, 6:30–8 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.

Statewide

SEPT
10

Bar Harbor Pelagic Trip

Saturday, September 10,
6 am – 1:30 pm

Leaves from Bar Harbor

Maine Audubon's annual fall pelagic trip out of Bar Harbor has a great boat, great camaraderie, and, of course, great sightings of birds and marine mammals! Past trips have encountered all three jaeger species, both Great and South Polar Skuas, thousands of shearwaters and storm-petrels, Northern Gannets, Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Common Murres, five different whale species, porpoises and dolphins, gray seals, and schools of tuna.

OCTOBER
15

Forestry For Maine Birds workshop

Saturday, October 15, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust,

The Wildlands, Orland ME

The Forestry for Maine Birds approach integrates bird and fish conservation into forest management and planning. This workshop welcomes foresters, landowners, loggers, and woodland owners.

Online

SEPT
20

Favorite Fall Hikes with Aislinn Sarnacki

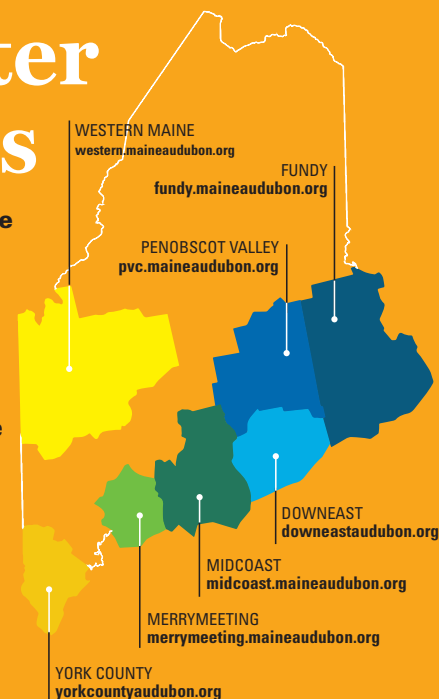
Tuesday, September 20,
7 pm, online via Zoom

Author, former *Bangor Daily News* columnist, and Registered Maine Guide Aislinn Sarnacki will highlight some of her favorite fall hiking locations and share some tips about hiking in the fall, including how to protect yourself from ticks, layer your clothing, and stay safe in areas that are open to hunting.

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

Chapter Events

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.

WESTERN MAINE AUDUBON

western.maineaudubon.org

Hybrid talks, held at UMaine Farmington (location TBA) with speakers live via Zoom. All talks begin at 7 pm.

SEPT
14

September 14: Loons

Mark Pokras, retired wildlife vet, founder of the Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine, and researcher on lead poisoning in loons, will present an update on the status of loons in Maine.

OCT
12

October 12: Snow Birds

Maine Audubon Conservation Director Sally Stockwell will discuss where our birds go in the winter and what birds migrate here to us in the colder months.

NOV
9

November 9: Lichens

UMF Professor Emeritus and ecologist Ron Butler will present a guide to lichens.

In Memoriam

Maine Audubon was saddened to learn of the passing of many dedicated members and volunteers in 2021 and 2022. We honor their memory and remember their many decades of support in protecting Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat.

ANDREW AND LINDSEY CADOT

Andrew and Lindsey were loyal supporters for more than four decades and both served on the Board of Trustees. Andrew also served a term as President of the Board and had been an Advisory Trustee since 2009.

DONNA LEE CHENEY

A member for more than 20 years, Donna was also an active volunteer at Gilsland Farm Audubon Center who cared deeply about protecting Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat.

ALFRED DRISCOLL

Alfred's family has owned land near Borestone Mountain for generations. An avid birder, Alfred was a longtime supporter of Maine Audubon and the Borestone Mountain Audubon Sanctuary.

ELIOT FIELD

Eliot served as a Trustee in the 1980s and 1990s and was a dedicated supporter for more than 30 years.

BILL GOODWILL

Bill was a member for nearly 40 years and was active in the Mid-Coast Chapter, serving in multiple leadership positions including as Chapter President.

CAROL JACK

A member for more than 20 years, Carol also served on the Board of the Merrymeeting Chapter in many different roles. She had a gift for making new members feel welcome.

SALLY JORDAN

Sally was a member for more than 30 years. She loved nature and found joy and peace in visiting Gilsland Farm Audubon Center.

ED KFOURY

A dedicated conservationist in the Rangeley region, Ed was a supporter for more than 30 years, serving on the Board of Trustees, as an Advisory Trustee, and as a volunteer on the annual Loon Count.

CLARK (CHIP) MOSELEY

A longtime member, Chip was instrumental in reviving the Downeast Chapter in the early 2000s. He led numerous field trips for the chapter and loved sharing his knowledge of birds with anyone who would listen.

PATRICIA MOYNAHAN

A board member of the York County Audubon Chapter for more than 25 years, Pat was also a passionate advocate for Piping Plovers on Hills Beach and volunteered with Maine Audubon's Coastal Birds Crew.

SUE SHANE

A talented artist whose work has been shown at Gilsland Farm and whose Common Loon is showcased on the Maine Audubon Sea Bag, Sue served as a Trustee from 2005 to 2011.

SUSAN SHAW

Susan was a highly respected, world-renowned scientist and champion for the environment, and we are grateful for her generous support of both Maine Audubon and Downeast Audubon for nearly 20 years.

ANNE STANLEY

Anne was a steadfast supporter whose generosity enabled Maine Audubon to protect Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat and connect people to nature for more than 20 years.

CHARLES STOCKMAN

Charlie was an ardent environmentalist, and we are grateful for his more than 30 years of generous support.

ELLEN WELLS

A supporter for 40 years, Ellen was also the former chair of the Fundy (formerly Schoodic) chapter of Maine Audubon.

VICTORIA ZAVASNIK

Victoria was a volunteer in the Gilsland Farm nature store, responsible for organizing and revamping the entire stockroom. We will miss her can-do attitude.



Sherry Huber

We mourn the passing of former board president Sherry Huber. As a longtime champion for Maine's environment, she did so much for Maine, Maine's wildlife habitat, and for Maine Audubon. As President of the Board in the 1970s, she was instrumental in Maine Audubon's move to our current headquarters at Gilsland Farm in Falmouth. She was a steadfast supporter for nearly 50 years and continued to play a role in shaping the direction of Maine Audubon in recent years as an Advisory Trustee. Says Maine Audubon Executive Director Andy Beahm, "Sherry was a force of nature. She was not someone who lived her life quietly—she advocated passionately for the things she believed in, and I admired her greatly."



Naturalist HQ

DOUG HITCHCOX, STAFF NATURALIST

Back and Busier than Ever!

WOW, THE LAST six months have been busy! I'll quickly acknowledge we're not done with COVID yet, but as we've learned to safely operate programs and get back to normal (or find the cliché 'new normal'), it has been amazing and inspiring to explore Maine with so many people, and to meet people discovering new hobbies, especially birding, as they turned to the outdoors for safe activities during the pandemic.

The spring went by in a flash and we filled nearly every day with some birding opportunities: from bird banding demonstrations with Ed Jenkins from the Biodiversity Research Institute, to two weeks of Warbler Walks at Evergreen Cemetery in Portland, to our partnered walk with Friends of Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth, and of course our weekly (year-round) Thursday morning bird walks at Gilsland Farm. All of these have been free to remove any financial barrier to entry. We are able to do so much of this thanks to you, our members, so I'll speak for myself as well as the hundreds of people that joined us: THANK YOU!

Sprinkled between those walks, we helped with birding festivals from the busy Acadia Birding Festival (with 400+ people



attending) to the smaller quieter corners of the states covered by the Down East and Rangeley Birding festivals. These all showcase fantastic areas of the state, and do a wonderful job providing opportunities for tourists visiting these regions in an otherwise slower shoulder season. These festivals also make these areas more accessible to Mainers that need assistance or advice on where to go in a new-to-them place.

Hot on the heels of the festivals, it was an absolute pleasure to help National Audubon's Hog Island Mountains to Sea Birding For Teens camp, a full week of birding and nature exploring with 14 teenagers. We take these kids, who come from all over the country, to see areas along the mid-coast, starting on Hog Island for a few days, then up to the lodges

at Borestone Mountain. There are more highlights than I'll ever be able to share here, but getting to summit Borestone with the group, especially the handful that told us they'd *never* climbed a mountain before, was really moving.

We also wrapped up the breeding portion of the Maine Bird Atlas! In between all the above adventures, we were coordinating volunteers and organizing "blockbusting" trips to gather the final bits of data in the most remote areas of the state. Ever heard of Johnson Brook Mountain? Well, let me tell you, I can't thank the volunteers enough who helped me survey that spot! The five years we've spent on this project have gone by insanely fast, but it isn't quite over yet. Stay tuned as we have one more winter season to go: more details to come in our next newsletter!

The Naturalist's Fall Almanac

September

10 Watch for large **GREEN DARNERS** (*Anax junius*) that are beginning their fall migration. Some will travel 900 miles to reach their wintering destinations.



Photo: Dan Jaffe

12 The blue fruit on **VIBURNUM DENTATUM** (Arrowwood Viburnum) is a great food source for birds right now. Find a patch and watch the feast!

15 **MONARCH BUTTERFLY** numbers will peak in September and we'll continue to see migrants heading south to Mexico for the next month.

23 The first day of Fall and **AUTUMNAL EQUINOX**

26 Step outside a couple of hours after sunset and listen for **MIGRATING BIRDS** passing overhead. Also look for Jupiter (and its moons, using binoculars) as it makes its closest approach to Earth.

October

1 Keep those feeders up! Late **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS** are passing through, and through November you may help feed a wandering western hummingbird.



3 **FRINGED GENTIAN** (*Gentianopsis*) are late bloomers; look for their showy purple flowers in woods or stream banks.

10 **QUESTION MARKS**, a butterfly named for the ? shape on their hindwing, are late fliers and are often seen into early October.



Photo: BJ Wetherbee

15 **BALD-FACED HORNETS'** large paper nests are easy to spot when the leaves fall, but beware, some may have lingering residents.

22 Watch for large flocks of **CANADA GEESE** flying south in a V-formation, known as a skein.



AMERICAN COOTS

Photo: Peter Pearsall, USFWS

November

1 **AMERICAN COOTS** are rare breeders in Maine, but can be quite abundant in freshwater ponds during this time of their fall migration.



3 Watch for **WINTERBERRY** patches along the roadside. These red clustered berries are easy to spot as their leaves fall, and they'll be an important source for a variety of wildlife readying for winter.

7 The **AUTUMN MEADOWHAWK** (*Sympetrum vicinum*) is one of the few dragonflies you can see in November.

15 **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS** are moving out of the state for the winter, when their larger cousins from the north, Great Cormorants, are more likely to be seen.



29 On this day, four years ago, the **GREAT BLACK HAWK** was found in Portland's Deering Oaks park, where it would awe thousands of spectators.

Brush WITH NATURE

A PLEIN AIR PAINTING
EVENT AND ART AUCTION



MAINE
AUDUBON
20 Gilsland Farm Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

August 27 & 28

Come watch the 26 artists painting at our sanctuaries and get inspired to create your own art!

September 18

Preview and online bidding begins!
Come view the art at the Gilsland Farm Audubon Center.

September 29

Join us in person for a silent and live auction event at Gilsland Farm.

Support Maine's wildlife through art.

More: maineaudubon.org/brushwithnature



CEDAR WAXWING.
COVER PHOTO BY NICK LUND.

HABITAT

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Mast Landing, Freeport

Gilsland Farm, Falmouth

Scarborough Marsh, Scarborough

East Point, Biddeford Pool



Visit Maine Audubon's
Centers and Sanctuaries
which are free and open
to the public from dawn
to dusk.