

## SOS! Help stem the tide of our disappearing avians

by Weston Barker, 15

Almost nine years ago, my family and I were exploring Mackworth Island in Falmouth, when I noticed a group of unfamiliar ducks floating on the water. With their beautiful, sleek black and white plumage and yellow bills I was intrigued, and had to find out what they were. Those Common Eiders were the birds that really sparked my lifelong interest in the avian world.



Since then I have had many amazing experiences with birds, ones that I will remember for life. The time I saw my first Boreal Chickadee, after a week of backpacking through the Saddleback mountain range, literally brought tears of joy; and a pair of curious Canada Jays approached me in Rangeley, perching just feet from my head, seeing if I had any food for them. Sadly, those experiences are becoming less and less common, because birds are disappearing at an alarming rate.



We've seen the reports on the internet, in magazines, and in the news. The bird population in the United States and Canada alone has declined by **three billion** birds in the last fifty years. That's thirty percent of North America's birds, gone. For a birder, or anyone with the slightest interest in birds, this is extremely sad! What makes this loss even more disturbing is that we humans are the primary cause.

I am very concerned, not only for birds, but what our future world would be like without them. I feel terribly sad to think that future generations might not experience what I, and almost every other birder, have enjoyed—those special times that teach us to appreciate and care about birds, and allow us to connect with nature in a very special way. I worry about the future if things continue to go in this direction. Below are some of the major threats to birds in North America:

### Habitat Loss

Destruction of crucial wildlife habitat is the **number one** cause of the decline in bird populations. As humans clear native landscapes to make room for agriculture, development, and the extraction of natural resources, birds are pushed out of the habitats they need to survive. Left behind are no suitable places to find protection from predators and weather, build a nest, raise young, and find food.

### Free-roaming Cats

Another significant threat to bird populations is free-roaming domestic cats. Cats are estimated to kill **two and a half billion** birds each year in North America. They raid easy-to-reach nests, take fledglings that have just left the nest and can't yet fly, and wait near backyard feeders for unsuspecting songbirds to come searching for food.

### Windows and Other Obstacles

Another deadly threat to birds is windows. Windows on houses, stores, apartment buildings, skyscrapers, and other structures that reflect the surrounding trees, grass, or just open sky. Birds fly into the windows not sensing the glass between them and Nature's reflection. Additionally, obstacles such as power lines, wind turbines, and communication towers present problems for migrating birds at night. Birds can be attracted to lights both in and around tall buildings and end up flying into their windows, or blindly collide with the aforementioned structures.

### Plastic Debris

Plastic is a huge danger to many bird species. Those most affected are the seabirds, such as Albatrosses, Gannets, Petrels, and Shearwaters, to name a few. They ingest pieces of plastic garbage that have been floating in the ocean, and feed them to their young, thinking the plastic is food. Seabirds also become entangled in discarded fishing lines and hooks, often resulting in death.



Ghostly image of a bird hitting a window.

## Merrymeeting Audubon Chapter

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### PHOTO ATTRIBUTIONS:

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# Thank you, donors!

We are grateful to the following donors who supported the 2019 summer camp scholarship season.



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Al & Bronda Niese  
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## The 2019 BIG SIT! report

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Merrymeeting Audubon **Big Sit!** occurred on Sunday, October 13 at Wharton Point in Brunswick. Fourteen participants observed 60 species, the third highest species total.

We were most fortunate to have excellent weather and great viewing conditions. It was a good day for shore-birds (7 species observed), including a cooperative White-rumped Sandpiper, observed only for the second year on the Big Sit! It was a banner day for Double-crested Cormorants, with the highest number of individuals (290)

being recorded in our eight-year history!

However, duck numbers were down this year. American Black Ducks were observed in the lowest numbers (160) of any Big Sit!, where the average yearly total is almost 400 individuals. Sparrow numbers were also meager, with just 4 species being observed this year (8 species were recorded during the 2018 Big Sit!).

Since the inception of Merrymeeting Audubon's Big Sit! eight years ago, a grand total of 112 bird species have been observed.

*Gordon Smith*

“As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm, and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can.”

John Muir

## WANTED!

Do you have **time**? Looking for **fun** ways to fill it? Ready to try something **new**, learn some new **skills**, make a **difference** in kids' lives, **share** your skills in computers, web site maintenance, fundraising, generating ideas, or birding? Merrymeeting Audubon needs volunteers and/or new members to join the Scholarship Committee, the Board of Directors and general participation in our diverse activities. If you are interested or need more information, please call **George Sergeant at 442-8195**.

## Beginning birders want to know. . .

**Q.** What should I do to minimize birds hitting my windows when they fly from my bird feeders?

**A.** Why birds fly into windows. Glass is a new concept, and birds evolved in a world without glass. Glass is worse than invisible, it reflects images of the sky or foliage and may be viewed as a safe passageway through your home. So the most effective way to minimize bird strikes is to break up the reflections.

Start by identifying dangerous windows, including large picture windows, paired windows at right angles to each other, or windows with feeders outside. Go outside to the feeder location and look at your windows from a bird's point of view. If you see branches or sky reflected in or visible through the glass, that's what the birds will see, too.

There are numerous approaches to breaking up the reflections. One of the simplest is just mounting window screens on the outside of the windows and leaving them up all year. Deer netting (the kind used to keep deer from eating your plants) works nicely, but needs to be far enough from the glass so that it prevents the bird from striking the window. This can be effective on picture windows as it has minimal impact on the view. Put decals, stickers, sun catchers, mylar strips, masking tape, or other objects on the outside surface of the window. These are only effective when spaced closely together. Note that hawk silhouettes do little to deter birds and black is not an effective color. Remember: placing just one or two window stickers on a large window is not going to prevent collisions. Window stickers do not have to be ugly and don't block light.

Past recommendations about safe distances for feeders outside windows are no longer thought to be valid. However, if you've got windows near a bird feeder, make them bird-friendly and don't worry about their distance. Best options might be placing feeders very close, within three feet, or further than thirty feet from the windows.

Feeders close to natural cover, such as evergreen shrubbery, offer a quick refuge from predators and with that closer escape option, may also reduce the chance of a window collision.

*John Berry & Karen Carlisle*

## Save the Dates!

Be sure to mark your calendars for MMA's Public Speaker Programs. We are hosting three fascinating presenters who will share their personal experiences in nature from home and around the world:

- February 24 Jeff Stann "Antarctica & Chile"
- March 23 Bob Duchesne "Backyard Birding"
- April 27 Michael Boardman "Drawing the Arctic"

All presentations are held in the Morrell Room at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. For more information refer to the *Field Trips* section of *The CALL*.

See **BIRDS**, from page 1

## Resolution Revolution

We need to act now to turn this appalling situation around! Every small thing that you do will help birds in a much bigger way than you might think:

- • Place screens on the outside of windows to prevent birds from hitting the glass. Use stick-on decals or hang objects or decorations in the window to break up reflection.
  - • Avoid using toxic pesticides on lawns and gardens. They contaminate seeds and insects that smaller birds eat, as well as small animals that larger birds, such as hawks and owls, prey on. Check out "green" alternatives.
  - • Keep cats indoors. Doing so, keeps both cats and birds safe.
  - • Avoid using plastic and styrofoam containers, cups, straws, shopping bags, takeout containers and other plastic packaging. Recycle any used plastic.
  - • Drink bird-friendly, shade-grown coffee. Coffee grown in the shade of the rainforest, instead of on large plantations where rainforest trees have been cleared, protects the birds and their habitats.
  - • Plant native species in yards and gardens. Native plants provide birds with food and protection. Examples of native plants are: Serviceberry, Black Cherry, Common Winterberry and American Mountain Ash.
  - • Create a safe feeding station. Fill bird feeders with suet, seeds, fruit, or mealworms to help birds survive cold winters. Build a brush pile near the feeder to provide shelter to ground-dwelling birds such as sparrows.
  - • Support organizations that help to protect birds and the environment. Your dollars can go a long way.
  - • Vote to get people in office who understand the importance of protecting this planet.
- We hold the power to fix the damage we have caused, to protect our planet and to preserve the beauty and wonder of birds for generations to come.

## Other examples of native plants you can use:

### • Arrowwood



### • Hornbeam



### • Nannyberry





A Maine Audubon Chapter

Merrymeeting Audubon  
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## DON'T MISS THIS!



### MERRymeETING AUDUBON CHAPTER

## *Annual Meeting*

Monday, April 27 7:00 p.m.  
Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick

Guest Speaker: Michael Boardman, Wildlife Artist

## *"Drawing the Arctic"*

A slide show and talk about his Voices of the Wilderness  
artist residency in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Reservations must be received by April 20<sup>th</sup>  
FMI call Karen Carlisle at 841-1608

There is no charge to attend the Annual Meeting.  
If you wish to donate to the Merrymeeting Scholarship Fund,  
provisions will be made to accommodate you.

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, please consider making  
a tax-deductible donation to the Merrymeeting Audubon Scholarship  
Fund. Mail your donation to: MMA Scholarship Fund, c/o Sue Sergeant,  
84 Harding Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011. Thank you.



# Field Trips & Nature Programs 2020

[www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org](http://www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org)

## Please Take Note:

*If inclement weather (rain/snow/ice/strong winds/extreme temperatures) is predicted, the Field Trip might be cancelled. Please call the Trip Leader before venturing out.*

## FEBRUARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

### Field Trip: Reid State Park, Georgetown

Reid State Park is a magnificent site in winter. We'll search for coastal birds including grebes, loons and scoters. A Snowy Owl is always a possibility, as are various winter finches.

➤ Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the Park's main parking lot overlooking The Lagoon.

**FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22  
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

### Work Day: Hamilton Sanctuary, West Bath

Apple tree pruning and invasive species removal. Directions: Take the New Meadows exit off US Route 1 in West Bath. Turn left onto New Meadows Rd. and go straight ahead to the stop sign. New Meadows Rd. turns into Foster Point Rd. Follow Foster Point Rd. nearly to its end. You will see the Sanctuary sign and a parking lot on the right. If you plan to participate, please contact Glenn Evans, the Sanctuary manager, at 443-9652 prior to the day, for planning purposes. This Sanctuary offers visitors 2.5 miles of well-maintained trails, thanks to the help of a volunteer stewardship committee.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 7:00 P.M.

### Board Meeting: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Public Program: Antarctica & Chile, Jeff Stann, speaker

➤ Location: Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room, Brunswick.

Jeff Stann will recount a trip he made to Western Antarctica in 2019. Including a stopover in southern Chile, he saw five penguin species among a total list of approximately 120 birds. He has

birded from Argentina to Alaska over the years. Visiting Antarctica was of particular interest to Jeff, since he had written about the history of scientific exploration in the Pacific and Southern oceans during a prior life at the Smithsonian.

Jeff is a retired landscape designer, who now busies himself removing invasive plants, woodworking, and hiking; his most recent walk was a redo of the 100-Mile Wilderness in Maine last October.

## MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 14  
8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

### Field Trip: Reid State Park, Georgetown

Winter in Reid State Park offers wonderful opportunities to search for coastal birds including grebes, loons, and scoters. Join Doug Sutor to also look for Purple Sandpipers and wintering songbirds. Dress warmly. Bring lunch or a snack.

➤ Meet at the Bath Shopping Plaza parking lot, across from McDonald's, to carpool at 8:30 A.M. or 9:00 at the large bathhouse at Griffith Head.

**FMI** call Doug Sutor at 841-1951.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21  
7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. (In Brunswick)

### Field Trip: Salisbury Beach & Plum Island

Join the search for wintering birds on this all-day outing to coastal Massachusetts. First stop is Salisbury Beach State Park, where we will look for wintering ducks, loons, grebes and Short-eared Owls. Iceland and Glaucous Gulls will be the target birds in Newburyport. Then on to the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island to see Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings and more waterfowl. Dress warmly and bring lunch.

➤ Meet at Brunswick Hannaford at 7:00 a.m., or call John Berry at 632-7257 for a meeting spot and time in Yarmouth, or at Salisbury Beach.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 7:00 P.M.

### Board Meeting: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Public Program: Backyard Birding, Bob Duchesne, speaker

➤ Location: Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room, Brunswick.

This program explains what to expect in all seasons, including how to attract birds while avoiding problems, and explores what birds are in the woods just beyond the backyard fence.

Bob currently writes a weekly birding column for the Bangor Daily News and a monthly Woods & Waters column for Bangor Metro magazine.

Bob recently completed six terms in the Maine House of Representatives where he chaired the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee and the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. He presently serves on the Maine Board of Environmental Protection and the Wildlife Advisory Council.

## APRIL

SUNDAY, APRIL 5  
8:00 – 11:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Waterfowl of Bowdoinham

We'll search access points along Brown's Point Road for waterfowl and early land migrants.

➤ Meet 8:00 A.M. at the Town Landing Maily Waterfront Park in Bowdoinham.

**FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Scarborough Marsh/ Biddeford Pool

On this annual "Welcome-to-Spring" outing, we hope to see Brant and other migrating waterfowl, snipe, sandpipers, herons, egrets, ibis and sparrows. Bring lunch or a snack.

➤ Meet at the Bath Shopping Plaza parking lot, across from McDonald's, at 7:00 a.m. to carpool, or at Brunswick Hannaford at 7:20 a.m. **FMI** call Maurice Dauphin at 389-2585.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 26  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

## **Field Trip: Capt. William Fitzgerald Recreation & Conservation Area/Bay Bridge Landing Wetland, Brunswick**

We'll explore these two Town-owned properties for early migrants. The "Fitzgerald Preserve" is one of the few sandplain grasslands remaining in Maine. We'll walk easy, sandy paths (up to 2 miles) exploring this unusual natural area. Following, we'll visit the nearby Bay Bridge Landing Wetland Park on the Androscoggin River.

➤ Meet at 7:00 A.M. at the iron gate at the end of Lindbergh Crossing Road (off Old Bath Road), 1.3 miles north-east of the Bath Road/Old Bath Road intersection. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 7:00 P.M.

## **Annual Meeting and Public Program: "Drawing the Arctic", Michael Boardman, speaker**

➤ *Location: Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room, Brunswick.*

Wildlife artist, Michael Boardman, will present a slide show and talk on his Voices of the Wilderness artist residency in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 2019.

# MAY

SATURDAY, MAY 2  
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

## **Work Day: Hamilton Sanctuary, West Bath**

Clean up trail work, remove invasives and plant native species. See February 22 description for Directions to the Sanctuary. If you plan to participate, please contact Glenn Evans, the Sanctuary manager, at 443-9652 prior to the day, for planning purposes.

SUNDAY, MAY 3  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

## **Field Trip: Androscoggin River Trail, Lisbon**

We'll walk an easy paved path (up to 3 miles) along the river to observe Spring migrants. Portable toilet is available.

➤ Meet at 7:00 A.M. at the Sabattus River boat launch parking lot off Route 196 at Frost Hill Avenue. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

TUESDAY, MAY 5  
6:00 P.M.

## **Board Meeting: Jane Robinson's House, Harpswell**

For directions call 833-6675.

THURSDAY, MAY 7  
7:30 – 11:30 A.M.

## **Field Trip: Crystal Spring Farm, Brunswick**

This walk is through a variety of habitats including fields, forests and ponds. We hope to see sparrows, Bluebirds, Bobolinks and several species of warblers.

➤ Meet at Crystal Spring Farm on Pleasant Hill Rd. in Brunswick at 7:30 a.m. **FMI** Ted Allen at 729-8661.

SATURDAY, MAY 9  
6:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

## **Field Trip: World Migratory Bird Day. River Point Conservation Area, Falmouth**

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with Biodiversity Research Institute. Activities include bird banding demonstrations and a guided bird walk. Restroom available nearby.

➤ Meet at 6:45 a.m. at Brunswick Hannaford or at 7:30 a.m. at Hannaford at River Point off Route 100 in West Falmouth. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

SUNDAY, MAY 10  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

## **Field Trip: Woodward Point Preserve, Brunswick**

We'll explore this new preserve (opened Fall 2019), co-managed by Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Brunswick–Topsham Land Trust. We'll walk easy paths (up to 3 miles) through hayfields and forest to views of the New Meadows River and Woodward Cove.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Preserve parking area next to the red barns. Directions from Cook's Corner: From the Bath Rd./Route 24 intersection, take Rte. 24 south for 1.3 miles. Turn left onto Board Rd. and drive about .4 miles to Woodward Point Rd. Turn right (south) on Woodward Point Rd. and drive about .8 miles to its end. Following the directional signs, turn right and then take a quick left onto the road leading down the hill into the Preserve. After passing the barns, find

the parking lot on your left. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

SATURDAY, MAY 16  
6:15 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

## **Field Trip: Evergreen Cemetery & Capisic Pond, Portland**

Expect to observe a wide variety of songbirds, particularly warblers. We hope to observe the rare Orchard Oriole at Capisic Pond. We will walk easy paths (up to 2.5 miles total). Restroom stop before visiting Capisic Pond.

➤ Meet at Brunswick Hannaford at 6:15 a.m., or at Evergreen Cemetery by the lower ponds at 7:15 a.m. **FMI** Doug Suitor at 841-1951.

SUNDAY, MAY 17  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

## **Field Trip: Green Point Farm WMA, Dresden**

Expect a wide variety of Spring migrants in the woodlands, fields and wild rice flats of this diverse State Wildlife Management Area. We'll walk easy paths, farm roads and open fields (up to 2 miles).

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Green Point Farm by the green shed off Route 128. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

TUESDAY, MAY 19  
7:30 – 10:00 A.M.

## **Field Trip: Bradley Pond, Topsham**

This relatively easy walk passes through a conservation easement surrounding a privately-owned working farm. The easement includes varied habitats. We'll focus on migrating land birds: warblers, flycatchers, blackbirds, vireos, sparrows and an occasional raptor.

➤ Meet at Brunswick Hannaford at 7:30 a.m., or at the Bradley Pond 2<sup>nd</sup> parking lot at 8:00 a.m. **FMI** Ted Allen at 729-8661.

SATURDAY, MAY 23  
7:30 – 11:30 A.M.

## **Field Trip: Thorne Head, Bath**

This trip is run jointly by Merrymeeting Audubon and Kennebec Estuary Land Trust. Thorne Head overlooks Whiskeag Creek and is located on the Maine Birding Trail. The preserve is rich in vireos and warblers. The paths provide easy walking under a canopy

of mature trees.

➤ Meet at the east end of Bath Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. to carpool, or at the Preserve parking lot at the north end of High St. at 8:00 a.m.

**FMI** Ted Allen at 729-8661.

**SUNDAY, MAY 24**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Otter Brook Preserve, Harpswell**

We'll explore this Harpswell Heritage Land Trust preserve for migrating songbirds and evidence of early breeding bird activity. Expect to walk on easy trails (up to 2 miles).

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Preserve parking lot off Harpswell Rd. (Route 123). From Bath Rd. in Brunswick, take Rte. 123 south for about 6.1 miles to the parking lot on the left. The Preserve is about .3 miles north of the Mountain Rd./Rte. 123 intersection. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

**SATURDAY, MAY 30**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Curtis Farm Preserve, Harpswell**

We'll explore this Harpswell Heritage Land Trust preserve for late migrating songbirds and evidence of breeding bird activity, as well as waterfowl & shorebirds on Basin and Curtis Coves. Expect to walk on easy trails (up to 2 miles), including a visit to the amazing "Pebble". Portable toilet is available at nearby Mitchell Field.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Preserve upper parking lot off Harpswell Rd. (Route 123). **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

**SUNDAY, MAY 31**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Capt. William Fitzgerald Recreation and Conservation Area/ Bay Bridge Landing Wetland Park, Brunswick**

We'll explore these two Town-owned properties for late migrating songbirds and evidence of breeding bird activity. We'll especially be looking & listening for the rare Clay-colored Sparrow. The "Fitzgerald Preserve" is one of the few sandplain grasslands remaining in Maine. We'll walk easy, sandy paths (up to 2 miles) exploring this unusual natural area. Following, we'll visit the

nearby Bay Bridge Landing Wetland Park on the Androscoggin River.

➤ Meet at 7:00 A.M. at the iron gate at the end of Lindbergh Crossing Road (off Old Bath Road), 1.3 miles north-east of the Bath Rd./Old Bath Rd. intersection. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

## JUNE

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Woodward Point Preserve, Brunswick**

We'll explore this new preserve (opened Fall 2019), co-managed by Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, looking and listening for breeding birds. We'll walk easy paths (up to 3 miles) through hayfields and forest to views of the New Meadows River and Woodward Cove.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Preserve parking area next to the red barns. See May 10 Field Trip for directions to the Preserve. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Josephine Newman Sanctuary, Georgetown**

We will walk trails (up to 2.5 miles) on this Maine Audubon sanctuary, looking and listening for breeding birds.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot off Route 127. After passing south through Georgetown Center on Five Islands Rd. (Rte. 127), and crossing the first bridge, look for the Sanctuary sign a short distance on your right. Proceed up the narrow driveway to the parking lot. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Pettengill Farm, Freeport**

We'll walk easy farm roads/paths (up to 2 miles) on this 140-acre, Freeport Historical Society-owned property, looking and listening for breeding birds.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the gate/welcome sign on Pettengill Rd., a short distance off Flying Point Rd. From Main Street (Rte. 1) in Freeport, head south on Bow St. (which becomes

Flying Point Rd.) for 1.4 miles to Pettengill Rd. on the right. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Bald Head Preserve, Arrowsic**

We'll walk trails (up to 3 miles) on this Nature Conservancy preserve, looking and listening for breeding birds. One of our walking destinations will be Squirrel Point Light.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot at the end of Bald Head Rd., about 2.2 miles from the intersection with Arrowsic Rd. (Rte. 127). From Route 1 in Woolwich, head south on Rte. 127 for about 4.5 miles to Bald Head Rd. on the right. Proceed to the end of the road. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Higgins Mountain Preserve, Georgetown**

We'll walk the trails (up to 1.5 miles) on this Kennebec Estuary Land Trust preserve, looking and listening for breeding birds. This trail can be steep in places, and leads to the highest point (at only 259 feet!) in Georgetown.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Preserve parking lot off Five Islands Rd. (Rte. 127). From Route 1, take Rte. 127 south for about 7.6 miles to the parking lot on the right. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27**  
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

**Work Day: Hamilton Sanctuary, West Bath**

Cut back new growth from trails and remove non-native invasives to maintain native habitat. Prepare Sanctuary for upcoming Family Bird/Nature Programs. **FMI** Glenn Evans, the Sanctuary manager at 443-9652 prior to the day, for planning purposes. See *February 22 Field Trip* for directions to the Sanctuary.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28**  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**Field Trip: Carl and Barbara Segerstrom Preserve at Squam Creek, Westport Island**

We'll walk the trails (up to 2 miles) on this Kennebec Estuary Land Trust preserve, looking and listening for breeding birds. Also along the trail we'll view several old cemeteries and house foundations.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Preserve parking lot off West Shore Road (upper). From Route 1 in Wiscasset, turn in a southerly direction onto Route 144 toward Westport Island. After about 1 mile, turn left to stay on Route 144 (Birch Point Rd.), and after another mile, turn right to stay on Rte. 144. Follow Rte. 144 for 6.5 miles, then turn right onto West Shore Rd. (upper) and the Preserve will be on your left in about .5 miles. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

## JULY

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 24 & 25  
8:00—11:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Family Bird/Nature Program & "Sneaky Pat" Challenge, Hamilton Sanctuary, West Bath

This program is geared for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade beginning birders, with their parents. Participants will have the opportunity to observe resident summer birds and other nature sights, and to have the birds light upon a feeding tray held by the children's gloved hands. Pre-registration is required and limited to 8 children per session. **FMI** to register, contact Glenn Evans or Marianne Warner at 443-9652 or e-mail:

**warnerevans20@yahoo.com.**

➤ Meet at the Hamilton Sanctuary parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Directions: Take the New Meadows exit off US Route 1 in West Bath. Turn left onto New Meadows Rd. and go straight ahead to the stop sign. New Meadows Rd. turns into Foster Point Rd. Follow Foster Point Rd. nearly to its end. You will see the Sanctuary sign and a parking lot on the right.

TUESDAY, JULY 28  
5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

### Board Meeting & Picnic: host Glenn Evans at Hamilton Sanctuary, West Bath

See July 24 & 25 Field Trip for directions.

## AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Curtis Farm Preserve, Harpswell

We'll explore this Harpswell Heritage land Trust preserve for summer birds, including returning shorebirds on Basin and Curtis Coves. Expect to walk on easy trails (up to 2 miles). Portable toilet is available nearby at Mitchell Field.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Curtis Farm Preserve lower parking lot off Basin Point Rd. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8  
7:00 – 10:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Woodward Point Preserve, Brunswick

We'll walk the trails to views of the New Meadows River and Woodward Cove to observe the mudflats for returning shorebirds. Expect to walk up to 2.5 miles on easy paths.

➤ Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Preserve parking lot next to the red barns. See May 10 Field Trip for directions to the Preserve. **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22  
8:00 – 11:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Curtis Farm Preserve, Harpswell

We'll explore this Harpswell Heritage land Trust preserve for early Fall migrant songbirds, as well as returning shorebirds on Basin and Curtis Coves. Expect to walk on easy trails (up to 2 miles). Portable toilet available nearby at Mitchell Field.

➤ Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Preserve upper parking lot off Harpswell Rd. (Rte. 123). **FMI** Gordon Smith at 449-8206.

## Look for some of these beautiful avians on our Field Trips!



*Red-breasted Merganser*



*Eastern Meadowlark*



*Clay-colored Sparrow*



*Yellow Warbler*



*Great Cormorant*

**NOTE:** For current status or updates on Field Trips, please check our web site: [www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org](http://www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org)