

## An MMA Celebration of Life: Carol Jack

Effervescent, dedicated, loyal, involved, caring, indefatigable are just a few descriptors for the incredible Carol Jack, a beloved MMA Chapter Board member who unexpectedly passed away this Spring.

Carol was a pillar of the community as well as of Merrymeeting Audubon. She constantly had her finger on the pulse of her environment (no pun intended, though she had a degree in Medical Technology from Boston University), which included the First Parish Church in Brunswick, the Thursday Hikers, and People Plus.

Never let it be said that moss grew under Carol's feet! Though she might have traversed moss-covered ground while hiking or birding, she rarely lighted anywhere for long. As her MMA friends and colleagues would agree, she made it her mission to give whatever she could in time, energy, and support.

She was on the MMA Board of Directors for many years, and served as Secretary; Membership coordinator, monitoring monthly reports of new and present members, sending new members Welcome "packages", and suggesting ways the Chapter could recruit new members; as Refreshments coordinator, she made sure there were always goodies at the Board meetings, as well as planning for our Public Speaker programs and Annual Meetings.

Carol also amazed us with her keen "radar" ability to track any and every avian or specific art exhibit programs that were happening somewhere in our galaxy! She would attend most

of them, having already apprised us when and where they were being held.

Carol loved everything she did, and you could tell that just by talking with her at any moment. Her enthusiasm for life and nature were unparalleled.



Perhaps her biggest love was birding. She happily joined many field trips and would excitedly share stories about new sightings, rare sightings, or the numbers of species tallied at the annual Christmas Bird Counts or The Big Sit! adventures.

Carol touched so many lives in so many ways. Just to share a few. . . .

*"...she quickly became a dear friend to me and I enjoyed every minute we spent together. All during COVID we did weekly birding around the mid-coast and a couple times to Portland—she loved going to Capisic Park and Evergreen Cemetery—I think partly because she always ran into so many*

*people she knew! In fact it seems like nearly everywhere we went she knew someone. Our outings together were decidedly equal parts birding and socializing. Her outlook was always very positive, she was full of ideas and fun. We sure laughed alot! I miss her e-mails with all kinds of details in that quirky shorthand of hers." (Susan Fenn).*

*"...She was a big part of MMAS! As soon as she joined, she attended the field trips, and meetings, and then joined the board where she soon became Secretary, serving faithfully for years. She was the cheerful, helpful, reliable face of MMAS—providing refreshments for our meetings, connecting with new people on field trips and at public speaker programs, sending welcome letters to new members and always sporting a bright face at all of our events." (George Sergeant).*

*"Original and long-time member of the Hamilton Sanctuary Stewardship Committee, Carol was a good friend, an outstanding birder, and a strong supporter of the Hamilton Sanctuary. She was always willing to help others whether it be seeing and identifying a bird, helping out with the Family Nature program, or making sure the Hamilton trails were easily passable for visitors. On a personal level, Carol shared her warmth and friendship with our family for years, showing a special appreciation for tales of our children as they grew up. She had a ready ear, and showed kindness to us in many ways. Following our annual Hamilton Stewardship Committee meeting (via Zoom) a few of us stayed around to discuss*

See **CAROL JACK**, page 3

## Merrymeeting Audubon Chapter

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Our Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/MerrymeetingAudubon](http://www.facebook.com/MerrymeetingAudubon)

### PHOTO ATTRIBUTIONS:

CAROL JACK, BLUEBIRD EGGS, BLUEBIRD HATCHLINGS: SUSAN FENN; TREE SWALLOW FLEDGLINGS: ARTHUR BOND; MOTUS ANTENNA: GLENN EVANS; LEAST SANDPIPER, GREEN HERON, HERMIT THRUSH, SAVANNAH SPARROW, SNOW BUNTING & BLUEBIRD ADULT: GORDON SMITH.

*Thank you, Jay Stormer!*  
our web site and publicity guru.

Before Jay became a Board member, we lacked a web site and our communication techniques needed much improvement. Jay brought us up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a fabulous web site, his very creative posters for our special events, and keeping our 650+ birders informed on current happenings. He made it seem so easy!

We are indebted to Jay for all his efforts to promote the Chapter's mission and keep us connected with our fellow birders of all ages! Great job, Jay!

# Scholarship News

*MMA scholarship students firm up plans to attend Audubon summer camps*

## BRYANT POND

*Bryant Pond, ME*

This summer twelve of our scholarship campers are attending Bryant Pond 4-H Camp in Bryant Pond, ME. Four more are going to the new Greenland Point 4-H Camp in West Princeton, ME (located west of Calais), run by the Bryant Pond administration.

Plans to open the camps were announced later than normal, and initially, spaces were limited. Six of our campers had won scholarships in 2020, but Bryant Pond was closed because of COVID. These scholarships were guaranteed for 2021, however, the camp was unsure that there would be spaces for the 2021 winners. Once the restrictions were lifted, the camps were able to accept more applicants.

Our MMA scholarship fund made possible the following: sending Weston Barker for a one-week teen workshop at the National Audubon Hog Island camp in Bremen, ME; another student will attend a leadership program for one week at Tanglewood in Lincolnville, ME; and twenty-two week-long scholarships will benefit younger students. Eighteen children will attend various sessions at Bryant Pond, and four will go to Greenland Point in Princeton, ME. These latter three sites are University of Maine 4-H camps and learning centers.

Our Scholarship Committee, the Merrymeeting Chapter, and all the campers are grateful for the support of everyone who contributed to the camp scholarship fund. *Beth Bullock*

## TANGLEWOOD

*Lincolnville, ME*

Theodore Forcier embodies the very kind of conservation-minded citizen the MMA Scholarship program hopes to foster. A Tanglewood camper since 2016 (except for the cancelled 2020 season), Theodore will attend his first

Leadership Development program at Tanglewood this summer. He says that the program's focus on "nature and the outdoors is an aspect of Maine that I hold dear to my heart." Teen leaders gain an understanding of communication, decision making, group dynamics, problem-solving, world diversity, and sustainable living. Theodore's ultimate goal is to become a Tanglewood counselor, in his words, "someone who can show the path to others while carving mine," and staying "connected to the planet." We wish him every success in his goal!

*Kathy Claerr*

*Heartfelt Thanks!*

We are so grateful to our friends who support our camp scholarships each year, to new donors who also appreciate the importance of nature experiences for kids, to the many people who donated in memory of Carol Jack, our MMA board member and enthusiastic birder. The children who have benefited from your generosity also thank you!

*Sue Sergeant*



**HEY! Which way did they go?** These two Tree Swallow fledglings, perched on the fence at Mitchell Field in Harpswell, are keeping track of their parents (not shown). They probably emerged from one of the many birdhouses installed and monitored by MMA volunteers. This photo was taken by Arthur Bond, nephew of MMA's Jane Robinson. Arthur is brand new to birding, so capturing these swallows up close and personal, was an extraordinary treat for him, and his Aunt Jane!

# MOTUS wildlife tracking tower erected at Hamilton Sanctuary

Birds and their flight have long stirred human imagination and wonder from where they fly locally to the paths of their epic migration routes. While much has been learned about bird movement from banding them, improvements in technology currently offer new ways to learn even more.

One such effort gaining recognition since its inception in 2012 is the MOTUS Wildlife Tracking Network, founded by Bird Studies Canada. "Motus" is Latin for "movement" and it

encompasses an international effort to follow wildlife through automated radio telemetry. A series of strategically placed towers with antennae on top, can detect radio signals generated from tiny transponders unobtrusively attached to wildlife. The antennae generally have a detection range of about 12 miles. Once an antenna detects a signal, it is digitally sent to the Birds Canada National Data Centre where it is decoded and made available to research scientists and the public. While birds are a major focus, towers also track bats and larger insects, such as monarch butterflies.

This spring Maine Audubon became involved with the project by supporting MOTUS towers at two of its sanctuaries: Fields Pond in Holden and Hamilton Sanctuary in West Bath. In both cases, the towers are attached to buildings on the property. The location of both towers increases the growing network of fourteen MOTUS towers currently in Maine.

At Hamilton Sanctuary the tower is attached to the caretaker's residence, reaching 35 feet high. A quick glance might mistake it for an old-fashioned

television antenna. Each of the four arms is an antenna, strategically positioned to maximize their ability to collect signals. The Hamilton tower can best be seen from the beginning of the



Red Trail looking back toward the caretaker's residence. Soon there will be a sign explaining the tower and the MOTUS program placed at that location. It will also recognize the generous gift that helped fund the tower, in honor of Claire Wilson DePalma who spent many hours at Hamilton Sanctuary.

More can be found about MOTUS towers and the data they collect by accessing the MOTUS website: [www.motus.org](http://www.motus.org). Additionally, there is a map of all the towers throughout the world: <https://motus.org/data/receiversmap>.

Clicking on the yellow dot in West Bath (the Hamilton Sanctuary tower) will bring up a general information table. Click on the "table" link within the table and access "receiver deployment detections" which summarize what's been detected by the Hamilton tower.

As of this writing there was one detection since the tower started collecting signals in mid-May. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the tower detected a signal from a bird tagged as part of a Common Nighthawk/Eastern Whip-poor-will research project, examining possible causes for Nighthawk/Whip-poor-will decline. There are hundreds of other research projects utilizing the MOTUS towers. Ultimately, the information gained from these projects will enhance knowledge of wildlife travel patterns and routes to help better understand wildlife habits and needs.

*Glenn Evans*

# President's Perch

Hello Fellow Birders! Great news! We're back on track with a full schedule of field trips and activities this coming year, starting with Fall trips in September and speaker meetings in October. (Check the insert for details or visit our web site).

For all the negative effects that COVID wrought this past year, it has reminded us of our need to stay connected to each other and our environment. We can do both by working together, in recovery, to protect our valuable resources and the natural beauty we've come to love and enjoy.

On a sadder note, two of our long-time MMA members have passed away. **Bruce Amstutz** was president of our chapter in the 1990's, and **Carol Jack** was a very special friend for many years. We will miss them.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon at one of our events. In the meantime, Happy Birding!

*George Sergeant*

## CAROL JACK, from page 1

*our thoughts and concerns about the pandemic. While Carol had not figured out the video portion of Zoom, her voice was still there. Just before Carol passed away—she was always finding the positive side of even the most trying times—she said something like 'but isn't it wonderful how so many people are stepping up to volunteer and help with things [like the immunization clinics]'. That was Carol. We will deeply miss her. Thankfully her spirit and its energy will continue with us". (Glenn Evans and Marianne Warner)*

For Carol:

“All the wide world is beautiful, and it matters but little where we go. . . .The spot where we chance to be always seems the best.”

JOHN MUIR



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# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Merrymeeting Chapter

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# Field Trips & Nature Programs 2021

[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. Thank you.*

## AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29  
7:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Kate Furbish Preserve (West), Brunswick

We will search for Fall land migrants, as well as shorebirds in Harpswell Cove. Expect to walk easy paths on former Navy security roads (up to 2.5 miles total).

◆Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the trail head off Merriconeag Road in Brunswick Landing, across from the golf course clubhouse. There is limited parking (up to six cars) off Merriconeag Rd. Other parking is located in a small lot where Merriconeag Rd. joins Harpswell Rd. (Rt. 123). Do not park in the golf course parking lot. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.



LEAST SANDPIPER

## SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5  
7:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Curtis Farm Preserve/ Mitchell Field, South Harpswell

We will explore Curtis Farm Preserve for Fall land migrants, as well as shorebirds in Basin and Curtis coves. Expect to walk on easy trails. Following, at Mitchell Field we will walk a gravel woods path and view Middle Bay.

◆Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Curtis Farm

Preserve lower parking lot off Basin Point Road. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11  
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

### Field Trip: Morse Mountain, Phippsburg

The Bates Morse Mountain Conservation Area is a great spot for watching the Fall migration of raptors. Maurice and Cathie Dauphin will help you identify the birds as they fly overhead. After the view from the top, an optional walk to Seawall Beach (up to 3 miles total) is possible.

◆Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Morse Mountain parking lot off Rt. 216. **FMI** Maurice Dauphin 389-2585.



GREEN HERON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26  
8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Androscoggin River Trail, Lisbon

We will walk an easy paved path (up to 3 miles total) along the river to observe Fall migrants.

◆Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Sabattus River boat launch parking lot off Rt. 196, at Frost Hill Avenue. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.

## OCTOBER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3  
8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

### Field Trip: Green Point Farm, Dresden

We will search for Fall migrants in the woodlands, fields, and wild rice flats of this diverse State Wildlife Management Area. We will walk paths, farm

roads, and open fields (about 2 miles total). The grassy fields may be wet/dew covered.

◆Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Green Point Farm by the green shed off Rt. 128. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.



HERMIT THRUSH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10  
DAWN TO DUSK

### Field Trip: The Big Sit!, Wharton Point (Maquoit Landing), Brunswick

Join Merrymeeting Audubon for this fun, annual event! We will be working out of a 17-foot diameter circle, and from within that circle we will attempt to observe or hear all birds in the surrounding area. Observation/listening will begin at dawn and continue till dusk. Everyone is welcome to join The Big Sit! at any time during the day and stay as long as desired.

◆Meet at Wharton Point (head of Maquoit Bay) at the intersection of Maquoit and Woodside Roads. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.



SAVANNAH SPARROW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16  
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

### Field Trip: Work Morning at Hamilton Sanctuary, West Bath

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 traffic light at Bath Rd. Proceed across Bath Rd. onto Foster's Point Rd. and follow it nearly to the end. You will see the Sanctuary sign and a parking area on the right. If you plan to participate, please contact the Sanctuary manager, Glenn Evans at 443-9652 prior to the day, for planning purposes.



**SNOW BUNTING**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26  
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

**Board Meeting: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Public Program: 7:00 - 8:00 TBD**

◆Location: *Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room, Brunswick*  
Please check our web site [www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org](http://www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org) or our Facebook [www.facebook.com/MerrymeetingAudubon](http://www.facebook.com/MerrymeetingAudubon) for more information.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31  
8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

**Field Trip: Waterfowl at Sabattus Pond, Sabattus**

John Berry will lead this trip to Sabattus Pond. In the Fall, this pond hosts large concentrations of migrating waterfowl, including ruddy and Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, scaup, and coots.

◆Meet at Martin's Point Park in Sabattus. From the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 126, take High Street north approximately .4 mile to Elm St. Turn right on Elm St. and proceed .2 mile to Lake St. Turn right on Lake St. and proceed to the Park at the end of the street. **FMI** John Berry 632-7257.

## DECEMBER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4  
8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

**Field Trip: Waterfowl Walk,**

### Giant Stairs, Bailey Island

Join John Berry for a look at the winter waterfowl of eastern Casco Bay from one of Harpswell's most scenic locations.

◆Directions: From Harpswell Islands Road (Rt. 24), turn left onto Washington Avenue. Proceed approximately .1 mile to a small parking area, accommodating 4-5 cars, at All Saints-by-the-Sea Chapel. If this lot is full, proceed down Washington Ave. to additional parking at Harpswell Heritage Land Trust's McIntosh Lot Preserve. **FMI** John Berry 632-7257.

### What? No Christmas Bird Counts?

Dear birding enthusiasts, please be patient while we work out our post-COVID schedule. We do expect to have the CBCs this year but we don't have the final dates yet.

Check our web site [www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org](http://www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org) or our Facebook [www.facebook.com/MerrymeetingAudubon](http://www.facebook.com/MerrymeetingAudubon) later this Fall for more details.

In the meantime, polish up your binocs, spotter scopes, and cameras. Remember to check your cold-weather gear, and get ready to go brrrrding.

## Nestbox update

Merrymeeting Audubon erected 35 nestboxes in 2021, all located in Topsham and Freeport. Both Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, the two target species, have claimed a number of the Merrymeeting nestboxes. Other nestbox inhabitants have been a House Wren, a House Sparrow and a paper wasp nest, the latter which was removed.

The House Sparrow is an invasive species and was removed from its nestbox. It is legal to remove invasive species from nestboxes. However, native species, such as the House Wren, cannot be removed and must be allowed to stay in the nestbox. It is important to locate nestboxes at least 50 feet away from forest and scrub to prevent occupancy by House Wrens, and 600 feet away from farms

and buildings to prevent occupancy by House Sparrows. When nestboxes are installed, not compliant with the above criteria, the risk of being taken over by wrens and House Sparrows increases.

Another factor to consider when locating nestboxes is weather. Weather has a big impact on the successful fledging (leaving the nest) of young birds. Earlier this Spring, there were several very hot days, with air temperatures up in the 90's. Most nestboxes are not shaded, which can result in very hot temperatures inside the box. Young bluebirds can withstand temperatures up to 107°F inside the nestbox, however, young tree swallows are less able to tolerate such hot internal temperatures. Our nestbox monitors reported that several young tree swallows did not survive the heat, but all the young bluebirds managed to successfully fledge their nests.

*Gordon Smith*

## And life goes on



**BLUEBIRD EGGS**



**BLUEBIRD HATCHLINGS**



**BLUEBIRD ADULT**