



The Call

FEB-AUG 2024

To change or not to change—that is the question

In 1886, Field and Stream editor George Bird Grinnell founded a new group to oppose the mass slaughter of birds. He called it the Audubon Society after the famous artist and champion of American wildlife, John James Audubon, who had died more than thirty years earlier. Audubon Societies thrived around then-novel wildlife conservation and political action, and continue today as a vast network of impactful and well-regarded organizations.

While the reputation of Audubon Societies as conservation power houses is as strong as ever, the reputation of John James Audubon himself has not held up. Audubon was a slave owner, a strong advocate for the practice of slavery and other racist views.

In light of the re-examination of their namesake, Audubon Societies across the nation are considering what it means to be named after such a man, and whether to change their name to better welcome a broader set of members. Some, like the organizations now known as Birds Connect Seattle and Nature Forward (in Maryland), have opted to change their name to avoid association with Audubon. Others, like the National Audubon Society, have decided to retain their name, stating, in part, that "Audubon has come to symbolize our mission and significant achievements that this organization has made in its long history."

CHANGE, See Page 7

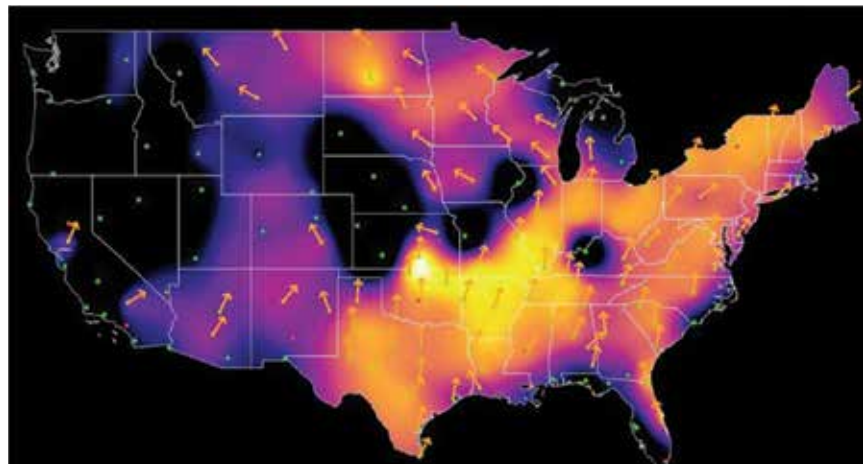
President's Perch

Merrymeeting Audubon conducted its annual Christmas Bird Counts on December 16 and 31. Both days were pleasantly mild, making the birding very enjoyable. The counts each tallied around 75 species, mostly the usual suspects but nothing uncommon or rare. Highlights included 15 Barrow's Goldeneyes, Snow Buntings, Wood Duck, Peregrin, and Merlin. Mourning Doves and Robins seemed a little scarce this year. You can access the full listings on *E-bird*.

These CBCs, the oldest, continuous, citizen-science events, got me thinking about the world we live in, and what can be done to boost Nature's efforts to develop a healthy environment and survive. How can we curtail the accelerating extinction of plants, animals, and our beloved avians, all of which contribute significantly to our own human existence? We can start in our own backyards! Make your property wildlife-friendly with native plants and pollinator favorites, refrain from using toxic pesticides on lawns and gardens, install Bluebird houses and learn how to monitor them. Take time to notice the birds and insects residing in your yard. Look into volunteering at a nature preserve, like Hamilton Sanctuary in West Bath. You don't need special expertise, there are lots of tasks to choose from and you could even learn new skills. Explore the "nooks and crannies" of our beautiful Maine Coast. Encourage next generations to learn about and protect their environment by sending them to one of our summer camps via donations to our Scholarship fund. Last, but certainly not least, support political leaders who endorse policies of good environmental stewardship.

George Sergeant

Calling all birders! Innovative way to follow bird migrations, Live!



BIRD MIGRATIONS, See Page 7

Merrymeeting Audubon Chapter

Officers

George Sergeant, **President** 442-8195
Dee Miskill, **Vice President** 833-6381
Karen Carlisle, **Secretary** 833-6033
John Berry, **Treasurer** 632-7257

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The Call

Dee Miskill, **Editor**

Scholarship Committee

Bronnda Niese (**co-chair**)
Sue Sergeant (**co-chair**)
Beth Bullock • Ed Caswell
Ann Manson • Joan Newkirk • Peggy Page

Coordinators

Maurice & Cathie Dauphin, **Bird ID**
Doug Suito, **Christmas Bird Count**
Glenn Evans, **Hamilton Sanctuary**
Karen Carlisle, **Speaker Programs**
Jane Robinson, **Field Trips Coordinator**
Ralph Gabarro, **Web site & Publicity**

Our E-mail:

merrymeeting@maineaudubon.org

Our Web Site:

www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org

Our Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MerrymeetingAudubon

PHOTO ATTRIBUTIONS:

MIGRATION MAP: **BIRDCAST.INFO**; RED-BILLED STEAMERTAIL:
JEANNETTE LOVITCH; GREAT BLUE HERON: **DEE MISKILL**;
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: **MASON MACRON**; HERON IN FLIGHT:
DON MAMMOSER.



I'm an Audubon summer camp mascot. The MMA Scholarship Committee wants you to know that they are now accepting donations for the 2024 camping season. It costs roughly \$600 to send a student to one of our four U Maine /4H camps and about \$1000 to send a student or educator to Hog Island. The committee would be so grateful for a donation of any size. Checks should be payable to **Maine Audubon**, and on the memo line: **MMA Scholarship Fund**. Send your gift: c/o Sue Sergeant - 84 Harding Road - Brunswick, Maine 04011.



Scholarship Committee News

Welcome to Summer Camp! For those not familiar with the summer camps our scholarship awardees attend, we've provided brief descriptions of their offerings.

In the summer of 2023, Merrymeeting Audubon scholarships sent twenty-three younger students to four University of Maine 4H camps: Bryant Pond in Bryant Pond, (10 campers), Tanglewood in Lincolnville (8 campers), Blueberry Cove in St. George (3 campers) and Greenland Point in Princeton (2 campers).

Students came from the following towns in our scholarship area: Arrowsic, Bath, Bowdoin, Brunswick, Dresden, Lisbon, Richmond, Topsham and West Bath.

In addition, we sent two high school students to National Audubon's Hog Island in Bremen, ME – one from Brunswick High School and one from Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.

Bryant Pond

Formerly the Maine Conservation School, Bryant Pond is located on 170 forested acres on Lake Christopher near the White Mountains.

Campers choose from Primitive, Woodcraft, and Naturalist program paths, often combining skill-building with fun outdoor challenge competitions. Facilities include a central lodge, bunkhouses, and cabin tents; a low and high ropes course; archery, rifle, and sporting clays ranges; a full waterfront; mountain hiking trails; a nature lab; and an art studio. Many programs are taught in cooperation with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Tanglewood and Blueberry Cove

Tanglewood provides two coastal locations—the main camp's 940 acres on the Ducktrap River in Camden Hills State Park, and Blueberry Cove Camp, overlooking Tenants Harbor. They provide ideal settings for teaching respectful stewardship of

natural ecosystems. Facilities include 47 rustic buildings, a swimming area, a pond, a playing field, and an extensive trail network.

The Blueberry Cove site has 1,400 feet of protected ocean beach and salt marsh. Activities include hiking, watershed discovery, swimming, drama, art, wilderness skills, local ecology, gardening, global awareness, canoeing, sustainable living, and a sailing camp.

Greenland Point

This camp is nestled in the center of a 64-acre wooded peninsula known as Greenland Point on Long Lake in Princeton, ME. Long Lake is one of several large lakes near Grand Lake Stream in the Down East region of Maine.

The camp includes traditional rustic log cabins that form a small village and a sporting-camp-style lodge and dining hall. The extensive waterfront includes an aquatics area, boating docks, and natural shoreline, providing swimming, boating, and great fishing opportunities. The forested location boasts hiking trails, and unique natural features to explore; and includes remote campsites, and plenty of wildlife that call Greenland Point home.

A camper's weekly routine will include outdoor skills development, swimming, and canoeing at the beautiful waterfront; hiking, and learning basic survival and outdoor safety skills. Everyone looks forward to the Thursday night campfire, a fun-filled evening of skits, songs, stories, and laughs. Unless otherwise noted, programs are one week (Sunday through Friday). With a few exceptions, all campers are welcome to enter any age appropriate program without prior experience.

MMA Scholarship Committee recruiting new members

Since the early 1980's, Merrymeeting Audubon has been awarding scholarships to area youth to attend week-long environmental summer camps. Each year we send between 20 to 30 elementary and middle school children to one of four University of Maine 4H camps, as well as two teens to National Audubon's Hog Island camp. We also strive to send one teacher each year to Hog Island's Educator Week.

The Scholarship Committee currently meets four times a year. They update applications and materials to post on our website and distribute to local schools; review applications, solicit donations, send thank you notes to donors, and are pleasantly rewarded with wonderful letters from campers describing their experiences.

While this work is critical to our scholarship efforts, the time commitment is minimal. As some of our veteran committee members prepare

to retire, we are looking for one or two new members to join our ranks.

If you are interested in promoting environmental education for the next generation of conservationists and birding enthusiasts, please consider volunteering on the Scholarship Committee. Call or email any of the Chapter members listed below for more information.

Beth Bullock

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Sue Sergeant

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Ann Manson

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Suet: the pros and cons of this energy source

We know that birds expend lots of energy: flying from tree to tree, migration, nesting, caring for babies, seeking food sources. Most of the year, nature provides for their needs. Come winter, natural food is tougher to find, increasing their energy expenditure.

In addition to the variety of bird seed available, suet is touted as a high-energy supplement to your avian feeding regimen. It is made from animal fat and is easy to digest and metabolize. Store-bought or homemade, suets come in large blocks, small blocks, nuggets, flavored (peanuts, fruit and corn meal are common ingredients).

However, suet harbors a few potential problems. Rancid raw suet can accumulate bacteria and fungal growth. This is harmful to birds. Also, suet can get soft. When suet gets on feathers, it interferes with the birds natural waterproofing and insulating properties. Worse, if birds happen to be incubating eggs, the developing embryo may not receive enough oxygen if the pores on the shell are blocked with suet transferred from the parent belly feathers. In warm weather, suet containing peanuts, fruit or corn meal can grow dangerous bacteria.

Do not let these cautions deter you from using this high-energy treat. Suet can easily be stored in the freezer or refrigerator, and put out in cold weather conditions.

BIRD MIGRATIONS, From Page 1

As spring approaches, our innate curiosity surfaces in earnest. We get a little more excited watching the brave little crocus pop out from the snow-covered ground. We appreciate the warmth of the sunny days. Most of all, we long for the return of our feathered friends. Enter BirdCast!

BirdCast.info is a website hosted by Cornell University, Colorado State, and UMass Amherst, twenty years in the making. The site will tell you when and where birds are migrating in real time! Using weather radar stations and the data collected there, information on bird numbers and bird direction is turned into forecasts and real-time scenarios.

This year, forecasting will begin on **March 1st**. The color-coded maps show flight patterns for easy-to-understand information. The site also has local bird migration alerts, news articles, and a complete background history of this huge undertaking. While we sit back and enjoy the predictions, researchers are busy using the information to understand the behavioral aspects of migration with regard to timing and climate change as well as population changes.

BirdCast.info is the site. **March 1, 2024** is the date. Try it out.



CHANGE, From Page 1

Merrymeeting Audubon, and our partners at Maine Audubon, are also considering what it means to carry the Audubon name. Maine Audubon is leading a thorough review of thoughts around the name, talking with members and partner organizations, and working towards an understanding of all aspects of a name change decision. Formal decisions are expected later this year, but we are soliciting feedback from Merrymeeting Chapter members at any time.

Nick Lund
Advocacy & Outreach Manager
 Maine Audubon



Field Trips & Nature Programs 2024

www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org

Please Take Note: If inclement weather (rain/snow/ice/strong winds/extreme temperatures) is predicted, the Field Trip may be canceled. Please check our website (<https://merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org>) or call the Trip Leader before venturing out.

Possible Health Restrictions: For all upcoming field trips, Maine and/or federal CDC outdoor guidelines then in effect will be followed. However, if you have any symptoms of illness, please stay home.

Tick Warning: Please be aware, ticks could be encountered at any location we visit. Precautions are advised.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17,
9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Field Trip: Reid State Park, Georgetown
Reid State Park is a magnificent site in winter. We will search for all manner of coastal waterbirds, including scoters, grebes and loons, as well as sanderlings and purple sandpipers. Also, we'll be on the lookout for snowy owls, a distinct possibility at this location.

❖ Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Park's main parking lot overlooking The Lagoon. **FMI** John Berry 632-7257.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26,

Location: Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room, Brunswick

Board Meeting: 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Public Program: 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Guest speaker: Bob Duchesne, "Maine is Weird"

Bob Duschene has spent a little time on such questions as, "Why is the coast so rugged?" "Why is Maine the most forested state in America?" "Why do we have so much northern habitat compared to our peer states?" The answers are fascinating.

MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 9,
7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Field Trip: Salisbury Beach and Plum Island

Join the search for late winter birds on this all-day outing to coastal New Hampshire and Massachusetts. First stop is Salisbury Beach State Park, where we will look for ducks, loons, grebes and short-eared owls. Then on to Newburyport and Plum Island to see Iceland and glaucous gulls, snowy owls, snow buntings and more waterfowl. Dress warmly and bring lunch.

❖ The number of vehicles is limited on this trip. Morning meeting location to be decided. Please call John Berry at 632-7257 to reserve your spot.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23,
9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Field Trip: Reid State Park, Georgetown
Reid State Park is a magnificent site in early spring. We'll search for all manner of coastal waterbirds, including scoters, grebes and loons, as well as sanderlings and purple sandpipers. Walking the beach to Todd's Point is optional, but often worth the effort.

❖ Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Park's main parking lot overlooking The Lagoon. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206 or Peggy Page 650-0549.

MONDAY, MARCH 25,

Location: Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room, Brunswick

Board Meeting: 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Public Program: 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Guest speaker: Derek Lovitch, "Birding in Jamaica: Island Endemics to Jerk Chicken"

Join Derek and Jeannette Lovitch on their tour through Jamaica as they search for the island's 28 Endemic bird species – birds found nowhere else on the planet. Along the way, they take time to explore the island's ecology and biogeography.

Derek and Jeannette own and operate Freeport Wild Bird Supply, a retail store which caters to birders of all levels. Derek is a published author of *How to be a Better Birder* and *Birdwatching in Maine: A Site Guide*.



APRIL

SUNDAY, APRIL 21,
7:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Field Trip: Brunswick Landing Perimeter Trail, Pine Street Entrance

In addition to observing early returning woodland migrants, we will be on the lookout for hunting kestrels on the airfield grassland. Also, we'll be listening for singing field and savannah sparrows, as well as eastern meadowlarks. We'll walk paved/gravel roads and easy paths (up to 2.5 miles).

❖ Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Brunswick Landing Perimeter Trail, Pine Street entrance. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206 or Peggy Page 650-0549.

MONDAY, APRIL 22,

Location: Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room, Brunswick

Annual Meeting: 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Public Program: 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Guest speaker: Danielle D'Auria, "Heron Tracking"

Did you ever wonder where Maine's Great Blue Herons go in winter, and what path they travel to get there? Since 2016, Maine department of Inland fisheries & Wildlife has deployed lightweight GPS tracking devices on Great Blue Herons to follow their movements during



nesting, migration, and wintering. Hear all about these majestic birds, how over 100 volunteers have been monitoring their colonies for the past 15 years, and how students are integral to tracking their movements within and beyond state lines. Danielle is Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's species expert on secretive marsh birds, colonial wading birds, common loons, and black terns. Over the past 15 years, she has devoted a great deal of effort to heron surveys and research, including coordination of a volunteer monitoring program called the Heron Observation Network of Maine.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27,
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Field Trip: Work Morning at Hamilton Sanctuary, West Bath

As conditions allow, we will be removing invasive plants and doing trail maintenance.

❖Directions: Take the New Meadows exit off US Route 1 in West Bath. Turn left onto New Meadows Road and go straight ahead to the traffic signal at Bath Road. Proceed across Bath Road onto Foster's Point Road 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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28,
7:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Field Trip: Green Point Farm WMA, Dresden

Expect a wide variety of early 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 7:30 a.m. at Green Point Farm by the green shed off Route 128. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206 or Peggy Page 650-0549.

MAY

SATURDAY, MAY 4,
7:30 A.M. - 11:30 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 early spring 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 7:30 a.m. at the iron gate at the end of Lindbergh Crossing Road (off Old Bath Road), 1.3 miles northeast of the Bath Road/Old Bath Road intersection. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206 or Peggy Page 650-0549.

SATURDAY, MAY 11,
7:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Field Trip: Brunswick Town Commons

Once part of a large 1000 acre "commonage", this mostly wooded town-owned park harbors many spring bird migrants. Our walking route will be decided based on current conditions, but may include the Coffin Ice Ponds, as well as a restored pitch pine barren. We'll walk on mostly level woodland paths (some may have exposed roots) for up to 2.5 miles.

❖Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking area off Harpswell Road (Rt. 123), 1.5 miles south of Bowdoin College. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.

SATURDAY, MAY 18 OR
SUNDAY, MAY 19,
5:00 A.M. - ?

Field Trip: Big Day by Bike, Brunswick Landing

If you have a bicycle – a regular bike, ebike, or even an etrike (for us seniors!) – and you enjoy birding, this is the trip for you. Our goal is to exceed 100 bird species by day's end. To make an informed decision concerning your potential participation, please review the following:

1. Since good weather conditions are desired for a successful Big Day, on the Wednesday before the Big Day weekend, the trip leader will choose either Saturday or Sunday for this trip. To know which day has been chosen for the Big Day, please check the Merrymeeting website (<https://merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org>) or contact the trip leader.

2. The Big Day by Bike trip will take place entirely within the confines of Brunswick Landing (former Naval Air Station) and will include paved roads and gravel/dirt paths (not mountain bike trails). Therefore, gravel or "fat" tires (not road tires) are desired for your bike.

3. A bike helmet will be required to be worn while riding. No exceptions!

4. Expect to ride 25+ miles on mostly flat terrain. However, the pace will be slow at times, as we will be stopping frequently to observe and/or hear birds.

5. Bring water/lunch/snacks, outerwear based on the weather, sunscreen, and tick/mosquito repellent.

6. Since we will be viewing the airfield, as well as Harpswell Cove, it may be helpful to bring along a small birding scope that can be safely stowed on your bike.

7. Since 3 or 4 species of owls are desired for the Big Day list, the trip leader (and anyone who desires to ride along) is planning to ride out at 3:00 a.m. (bike headlight and/or flashlight required) to listen for owls. If you are planning to come along to

listen for owls, please confirm with the trip leader.

8. Anyone can leave or join the Big Day group at any time during the day. However, please notify the leader when you leave, or join, the group.

9. Meet at 5:00 a.m. at the Brunswick Landing Perimeter Trail, Pine Street entrance. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206 (text or call).

SUNDAY, MAY 26,
7:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Field Trip: Androscoggin River Trail, Lisbon

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

❖Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Sabattus River boat launch parking lot off Route 196 at Frost Hill Avenue. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.

JUNE

SUNDAY, JUNE 2,
7:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Field Trip: Green Point Farm WMA, Dresden

Expect a wide variety of breeding birds (and some late 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 7:30 a.m. at Green Point Farm by the green shed off Route 128. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9,
7:30 A.M. - 11:30 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 breeding birds. 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 7:30 a.m. at the iron gate at the end of Lindbergh Crossing Road (off Old Bath Road), 1.3 miles northeast of the Bath Road/Old Bath Road intersection. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15,
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Field Trip: Birds and Butterflies - Mitchell Field, Harpswell

We'll walk paved and gravel paths around the perimeter of this 120-acre town-owned property searching for these flying wonders, whether they be birds or butterflies. Jack Collins, our butterfly expert, will be joining us, providing commentary and insight into the butterflies we may encounter. Following, as time allows, we may visit the Curtis Farm Preserve nearby.

❖Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking area near the bay and pier. Mitchell Field is located in West Harpswell, off Harpswell Neck Road (Rt 123). **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22,
8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Field Trip: Work Morning at Hamilton Sanctuary, West Bath

As conditions allow, we will be removing invasive plants and doing trail maintenance.

❖Directions: Take the New Meadows exit off US Route 1 in West Bath. Turn left onto New Meadows Road and go straight ahead to the traffic signal at Bath Road. Proceed across Bath Road onto Foster's Point Road 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.

JULY

SUNDAY, JULY 28,
7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Field Trip: Shorebird Sunday - Wharton Point, Brunswick

Join us for Shorebird Sunday as we

search for shorebirds at Wharton Point (Maquoit Bay) in Brunswick. We will be observing the shorebirds as they begin to forage on the mudflat on the outgoing tide.

❖Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Wharton Point (head of Maquoit Bay) at the intersection of Maquoit Road and Woodside Road. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206 or Peggy Page 650-0549.

AUGUST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3,
7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Field Trip: Shorebird Saturday - Wharton Point, Brunswick

Join us for Shorebird Saturday as we search for shorebirds at Wharton Point (Maquoit Bay) in Brunswick. We will be observing the shorebirds as they forage on the mudflat on the incoming tide.

❖Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Wharton Point (head of Maquoit Bay) at the intersection of Maquoit Road and Woodside Road. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206 or Peggy Page 650-0549.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11,
6:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.

Field Trip: Shorebird Sunday - Wharton Point, Brunswick

Join us for Shorebird Sunday as we search for shorebirds at Wharton Point (Maquoit Bay) in Brunswick. We will be observing the shorebirds as they begin to forage on the mudflat on the outgoing tide.

❖Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Wharton Point (head of Maquoit Bay) at the intersection of Maquoit Road and Woodside Road. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206 or Peggy Page 650-0549.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18,
6:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.

Field Trip: Shorebird Sunday - Wharton Point, Brunswick

Join us for Shorebird Sunday as we search for shorebirds at Wharton Point (Maquoit Bay) in Brunswick. We will be observing the shorebirds

as they forage on the mudflat on the incoming tide.

❖Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Wharton Point (head of Maquoit Bay) at the intersection of Maquoit Road and Woodside Road. **FMI** Gordon Smith 449-8206.



Rachel Carson Refuge showcases its one-mile handicapped accessible trail

Merrymeeting Audubon held its annual trip to the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge this past Fall. Established in the 1960s for migratory birds, the Refuge encompasses eleven divisions, each incorporating salt marsh/estuarine environments. These highly productive habitats offer shelter and food for migrating birds.

This year's trip visited three divisions including Wells to Biddeford, the Mousam River Division, and Timber Point, near the Kennebunkport/Biddeford town boundary. The twelve participants met at the Upper Wells Division, the current site of Refuge Headquarters, to walk the beautiful one-mile loop handicapped-accessible Carson Trail, widely considered one of the best of its kind in Maine. The trail offers proximity and beautiful views of the salt marsh and its wildlife.

Given its handicapped accessibility, it truly offers birders of all mobilities a wonderful experience. Recently, accessibility trail advocate and Maine resident, Enock Glidden, was filmed there by Maine Public for a Borealis broadcast when the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England visited. You can check out the film at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivk_NhIitDo

Should you visit the Refuge soon, be aware the recent January storms damaged parts of the Refuge that

Four and twenty blackbirds. . . .

Nursery rhymes notwithstanding, if you missed MMA's Christmas Bird Counts, here's another opportunity to practice your counting skills, and no, we're not talking for pie fillings! As the poster below suggests, you can count birds from the comfort of your toasty home, bundle up for some outdoor winter chill, or wherever you spot an avian hangin' around, note your observations and send them to birdcount.org.

It's a great way to chase the "cabin-fever blues" and know that you're doing a good deed (Oh, might that be a New Year's resolution that doesn't involve weight loss?). Anyway, whatever method you choose, there are birds out there just waiting to be counted.

Count birds in your backyard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online.

birdcount.org

Birdy-covered Kinglet/Corpho clemensae
Photo: Mount Mansfield/Caroline Loring

Great Backyard Bird Count

27th Annual • Feb 16–19, 2024

Audubon | BIRDS CANADA OISEAUX CANADA | Cornell Lab | sponsored in part by Old Time School

are currently being accessed for repair. For those who missed this trip, Merrymeeting Audubon plans to offer another trip to the Refuge next September.

Glenn Evans



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Brunswick, ME 04011

www.merrymeeting.maineaudubon.org

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MERRYMEETING AUDUBON CHAPTER'S

Annual Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Curtis Memorial Library
Morrell Room
Brunswick, ME

Light refreshments

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Danielle D'Auria,

Topic: "Heron Tracking"

