



NORTHEAST KINGDOM AUDUBON

A Chapter Of The National Audubon Society

Fall 2009

The mission of Northeast Kingdom Audubon is to foster the stewardship and enjoyment of birds, other wildlife and natural habitats.

President's Notes:

Youth Birding Initiative

With a grant from VT Audubon and support from the Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury Rec Program and North Branch Nature Center, NEK Audubon started a youth birding series this spring. Not surprisingly, the adults as much as the children experienced with new eyes some old familiar Northeast Kingdom haunts. There has been a desire in Vermont to cultivate the interest of young birders and we were pleased to be a part of this growing and important initiative.

Under the leadership of Larry Clarfeld from North Branch Nature Center, we visited Wells River and Joe's Pond. Thanks to the VT Audubon grant we had extra binoculars and guidebooks available for the participants. Both trips were well attended by youngsters and their parents. We were fortunate to have participants from ages three up to the "tweens."

On the trips we enjoyed a variety of bird species through sight and sometimes only by sound. We also were fascinated by many other aspects of the natural world — the youngest ones enjoying making ripples in the water with rocks, the oldest learning field marks and migratory patterns of a variety of bird species. Turtles were out and the spring flowers were starting to poke out of the ground. The children also found a neat looking deer skeleton. One of my favorite moments was standing with a mesmerized six-year-old and his mother under a canopy of tree branches watching within arm's reach yellow-rumped warblers flit from branch to branch. It was a real pleasure to watch the group work to answer all the questions that arose and to share together their knowledge of so many aspects of the natural world. One of our eight-year-old participants was so excited she brought a whole backpack filled with her favorite guidebooks!

We look forward to offering a series again in the future. To sign up for future notification, email Laura at nekaudubon@myfairpoint.net (or call 802-751-7671).

Anyone interested in the state youth birding initiatives should go to www.northbranchnaturecenter.org. From this website click on "Youth Birding." This will take you to the

new "Feather Questers" page with connections to the youth happenings in the state.

Please make a note on your calendars: On **November 2**, the board and any interested parties will be welcoming the young people, sponsored by NEK Audubon, who attended Camp Chewonki and the Acadia Institute of Oceanography this past summer. The four young people will be making presentations on their experiences at 4:30 at the Fairbanks Museum.

Thanks to everyone for the on-going support of our programs. Through the continued generosity and interest in NEK Audubon, we all do make a difference to support this beautiful place we call home.

—Laura Tobin

Do not engage to find things as you think they are.

—Henry David Thoreau



Annual Meeting:

A Really Good Show

On July 11, the annual meeting and special program were very well attended with over 30 people filling the meeting room at the Fairbanks Museum to hear Dr. Jameson Chace. After a brief business meeting, Jim presented an interesting account of his breeding bird research at the Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Brunswick, Vt. The Basin possesses high biological values including the presence of rare species, wetlands, and contiguous migratory bird habitat.

A professor of Ecology at Salve Regina University, Newport, R.I., Jim is very familiar with the Northeast Kingdom. He summarized the five seasons of mist netting at the refuge's Black Branch River banding station and discussed the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program. He highlighted Canada Warbler breeding ecology and population status (his own research interest), as well as songbird population responses to woodcock management at the refuge.

He explained that the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program was created by The Institute for Bird Populations in 1989. This program was

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designed to assess and monitor the vital rates and population dynamics of over 120 species of North American land birds in order to provide critical conservation and management information on their populations. The MAPS Program utilizes constant-effort mist netting and banding at a continent-wide network of monitoring stations. For more information about the MAPS program, go to this Internet site: <http://www.birdpop.org>.

Jim Chace is the founder and president of the Center for Northern Forest Research. The mission of the Center is to foster understanding of and appreciation for the unique biological communities of the Northern Forest, with emphasis on the Nulhegan Basin in northeastern Vermont. More information is available at www.cnfr.org.

— Carolyn Boardman

Upcoming Events • October 2009 - January 2010

All activities and board meetings are open to the public. **Please register for trips by calling Tom at 626-9071 or email blackpoll@myfairpoint.net.** Events may be updated or changed. If you have any doubt about a trip being cancelled call Tom. A note about our field trips: We go regardless of the weather (unless the weather would in some way pose a danger) - so dress appropriately! Sometimes the bad weather brings out the best birds. We report all our bird sightings to: www.ebird.org/VINS. **Also note our new "extreme birding" offerings!**



October 24, Saturday: Fairbanks Museum/NEK Audubon field trip to Dead Creek Wildlife Refuge. We'll welcome the Snow Geese back and search for Rough-Legged Hawks and other northern visitors. Call Charlie Browne at 748-2372 or email cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org for fee and registration.

November 2, Monday: Informational and planning meeting for NEK Audubon. Our NEK Audubon sponsored campers will tell about their summer experience. Meet at the Fairbanks Museum at 4:30 pm. All are welcome. Call Laura at 751-7671 for details.

December 7, Monday: Informational and planning meeting for NEK Audubon. Meet at the Fairbanks Museum at 4:30. All are welcome. Call Laura at 751-7671 for details.

January 1, Friday: NEK Audubon's Annual Christmas Bird Count. Join us for all or part of the day as we inventory the birds of the Kingdom. Call Charlie Browne at 748-2372 or email cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org for information and to register.

January 4, Monday: Informational and planning meeting for NEK Audubon. Meet at the Fairbanks Museum at 4:30 pm. All are welcome. Call Laura at 751-7671 for details.

Northeast Kingdom Audubon Society ~ Fiscal Year 2008-09 Budget

	Budget 08-09	Actual 08-09	Budget 09-10
Beginning Balance:	\$14,946.03	\$14,946.03	\$19,199.13
Income:			
Interest	36.00	29.82	30.00
Contributions (including Memorial Gifts)	3,200.00	8,957.00	4,000.00
Local Membership & Field Trips	200.00	215.00	250.00
Calendar Sales	1500.00	—	—
National Audubon Distribution	—	626.00	400.00
Audubon Vermont Scholarship Grant	—	1,000.00	500.00
Subtotal, Income:	\$4,936.00	\$10,827.82	\$5,180.00
Expenses:			
Programs	145.00	293.52	200.00
Postage (Newsletter, Fundraising, Calendar)	800.00	433.99	450.00
Printing (Newsletter and Calendar)	1,400.00	1,315.82	1,350.00
Scholarships	1,900.00	3,090.00	2,400.00
Website and Advertising	200.00	130.00	130.00
Insurance	—	410.00	—
Windsong Wildlife Sanctuary Property Taxes	600.00	549.57	600.00
Youth Birding Program	—	351.82	—
Subtotal, Expenses:	\$5,045.00	\$6,574.72	\$5,130.00
Ending Balance:	\$14,837.03	\$19,199.03	\$19,249.13

2009 BIRDATHON Results • May 31, 2009 • Species Seen and/or Heard in the NEK

Participants:

Team #1: Tom Berriman, Laura Tobin, Charlie Browne, Tom Labeledz

Team #2: Libby Welch

Team #3: Jim Ashley, Jean Ashley

Team#4: Tom Ziobrowski

CANADA GOOSE	CHIMNEY SWIFT	WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER
WOOD DUCK	RUBY-THROATED HUMMING- BIRD	HOUSE WREN	AMERICAN REDSTART
AMERICAN BLACK DUCK	BELTED KINGFISHER	WINTER WREN	OVENBIRD
MALLARD	YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	MARSH WREN	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH
HOODED MERGANSER	DOWNY WOODPECKER	GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	MOURNING WARBLER
RUFFED GROUSE	HAIRY WOODPECKER	RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT
WILD TURKEY	NORTHERN FLICKER	EASTERN BLUEBIRD	CANADA WARBLER
COMMON LOON	OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	VEERY	SCARLET Tanager
PIED-BILLED GREBE	EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE	SWAINSON'S THRUSH	CHIPPING SPARROW
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	HERMIT THRUSH	FIELD SPARROW
GREAT BLUE HERON	ALDER FLYCATCHER	WOOD THRUSH	SAVANNAH SPARROW
GREEN HERON	LEAST FLYCATCHER	AMERICAN ROBIN	SONG SPARROW
TURKEY VULTURE	EASTERN PHOEBE	GRAY CATBIRD	SWAMP SPARROW
OSPREY	GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	EUROPEAN STARLING	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW
BALD EAGLE	EASTERN KINGBIRD	CEDAR WAXWING	DARK-EYED JUNCO
RED-TAILED HAWK	BLUE-HEADED VIREO	NASHVILLE WARBLER	ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK
PEREGRINE FALCON	WARBLING VIREO	YELLOW WARBLER	INDIGO BUNTING
VIRGINIA RAIL	RED-EYED VIREO	CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	BOBOLINK
COMMON MOORHEN (!)	BLUE JAY	MAGNOLIA WARBLER	RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD
KILLDEER	AMERICAN CROW	CAPE MAY WARBLER	EASTERN MEADOWLARK
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	COMMON RAVEN	BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	RUSTY BLACKBIRD (!)
RUDDY TURNSTONE (!)	TREE SWALLOW	YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER	COMMON GRACKLE
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER	BANK SWALLOW	BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER	BALTIMORE ORIOLE
WILSON'S SNIPE	CLIFF SWALLOW	BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	PURPLE FINCH
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	BARN SWALLOW	PINE WARBLER	PINE SISKIN
RING-BILLED GULL	BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	PALM WARBLER (!)	AMERICAN GOLDFINCH
ROCK PIGEON	RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	BLACKPOLL WARBLER	EVENING GROSBEAK
MOURNING DOVE			HOUSE SPARROW
BARRED OWL			TOTAL SPECIES: 112

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NEK Audubon Thanks These Generous Birdathon Donors

Harry Adamek	Grace Gershuny	Daisy McCoy	Joan Sanchez
Deanne Alex	Bill Graves	Don Miller	Barbara Schoolcraft
Stan Baker	Ray Griffin	Mike Morrow	Rachel Siegel
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NORTHEAST KINGDOM AUDUBON

1302 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

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U.S. Postage
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Two ways to join Northeast Kingdom Audubon

1. Join the National Audubon Society (first time) – send \$20 (or more) payable to the National Audubon Society to: Audubon Vermont, 255 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, VT 05462.
phone: 802-434-3068 email: vermont@audubon.org; website: www.audubon.org

When you join the National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of our NEK Audubon Chapter. You may opt for: a) No Audubon magazine; b) No telemarketing calls; c) No national solicitations; d) Local (VT) appeals only; e) Anonymity ... by so indicating on your application.

2. Join Northeast Kingdom Audubon only – Send \$10 or more yearly (honor system!) to: NEK Audubon, Charlie Browne, Treasurer, 1302 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

We recommend that you join National Audubon, but no matter how you become a member, you will receive a newsletter three times a year and are welcome to attend our board meetings, which are usually held on the first Monday of each month from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Fairbanks Museum. Whether or not you are a member, send your email address to Laura at stonesandstars@verizon.net or call 802-751-7671 to receive updated events calendars and notices of board meetings. Please keep us informed of changes in your email address. You can expect about one email notice per month.

NEK Audubon Board Of Directors 2009-2010

Officers:

Laura Tobin, President
Howard Pires, Vice President
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Board Members:

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Tom Berriman, Virginia Elliott,
Bill Marshall, Carolyn Boardman,
Mary Beth Prondzinski

Audubon Vermont: Douglas Parker, Executive Director, (802) 434-3068, dparker@audubon.org

For more information on our chapter and birding in the area, visit the NEK Audubon chapter website, www.nekaudubon.org.