



NORTHEAST KINGDOM AUDUBON

A Chapter Of The National Audubon Society

Spring 2009

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

President's Notes:

Four Camp Scholarship Recipients Chosen

At the beginning of March, the camp scholarship committee met to review the applications for the Airie Lindsay Camp Scholarship Program. We were very pleased to have many applications from young people all over the Northeast Kingdom to attend two environmental camps in Maine. This summer children from Hardwick, Westfield and Barnet will be representing the Northeast Kingdom. One student will be participating in the Renewable Energy Sail offered by Camp Chewonki, while three others will participate in introductory or intermediate marine studies courses at the Acadia Institute of Oceanography. Thank you to everyone who helped with spreading the word about these opportunities and all those who have given generously to support environmental campers.

Exciting news from NEK Audubon! As part of our ongoing efforts to provide opportunities for young people, we have teamed up with The Fairbanks Museum, The St. Johnsbury Recreation Program and The North Branch Nature Center to offer a youth birding program. This spring and summer we are offering three opportunities for young people ages 8-16 to go birding in the "Kingdom" with Larry Clarfeld from The North Branch Nature Center. Our goals for the program are to make sure that the young participants learn how to handle optical equipment in the field, can effectively use a guidebook, and learn about a variety of bird species, wildlife and habitats. We also hope that these young people will come away with a greater sense of the deep connectedness between Vermont and places such as the tropics and arctic regions.

Our first trip will be to Wells River on May 2. The second trip will be to Joe's Pond on June 6. Pre-registration is

required by April 30, 2009. For details and more information, please contact Laura at 802-751-7671 or nekaudubon@myfairpoint.net.

And more good news: This year a team of young people will be attending the World Birding Series in Cape May, New Jersey. As of March 17, there were still spaces available for young people interested in attending this fabulous event. Contact Larry Clarfeld at 802-229-6206 for more details.

And finally, a few words from Danske Dandridge to leave you with as winter turns to spring:

Bloodroot

What time the earliest ferns unfold,
And meadow cowslips count their gold;
A countless multitude they stood,
A Milky Way within the wood.

—Laura Tobin

Join Us For The Birdathon!

The NEK Audubon Birdathon will be held on Saturday, May 30. As in past years, we will cover the birding "hot spots" in the Kingdom from sun up to sun down, seeking the elusive 100 species count by noon.

Whether just a beginner or an expert, you are welcome to join us for all or part of this special day of birding. Contact Charlie Browne at cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org or Tom Berriman at blackpoll@myfairpoint.net for details.

Annual Meeting at Fairbanks Museum: Dr. Jameson Chace Will Present Research on Breeding Birds of the Nulhegan Basin

Beginning with a brief business meeting at 6:30 p.m., the Fairbanks Museum and NEK Audubon will offer an hour-long program by Dr. Jameson Chace at 7 p.m., on **Saturday, July 11**, followed by refreshments. Jim is a

continued on page 3

NEK Audubon Board Of Directors 2008-2009

Officers:

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

Upcoming Events • April - October 2009

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!**



Sunday, April 19 – Wenlock WMA: We'll look for Black-backed Woodpeckers and Gray Jays. Meet at White's/Agway parking lot (exit 23 off I-91) at 7 a.m.

Monday, May 4 – Informational and planning meeting: Join us at 4:30-6 p.m. at the Fairbanks Museum. Open to all. Call Laura at 751-7671.

Saturday, May 9 – NEK field trip at Blue Mt. School: We'll welcome the returning neotropical birds. Meet at the park 'n ride at exit 18 off I-91 at 8 a.m.

Sunday, May 17, NEK field trip to Herrick's Cove: Join us in the search for migrating waterfowl. Meet at park 'n ride at exit 18 off I-91 at 7 a.m.

Saturday, May 23, NEK field trip to the Conte WR: We'll look for warblers and vireos and boreal species. Meet at the White's/Agway parking lot, exit 23 off I-91 at 6 a.m.

Saturday, May 30, NEK AUDUBON BIRDATHON: Contact Charlie Browne at cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org or Tom Berriman at blackpoll@myfairpoint.net for details.

Monday, June 1, Informational and planning meeting: Join us at 4:30-6 p.m. at the Fairbanks Museum. Open to all. Call Laura at 751-7671.

Saturday, June 6, NEK field trip to Concord Corners. *Extreme Birding event.* Night finds (Owls and Whips). We'll hike 4 miles at night. 9 p.m.

Sunday, June 14, Victory Basin Warbler Hike-a-thon: *Extreme Birding event.* 6-mile hike in Victory Basin. Meet at Damon's Crossing at 5 a.m.

Saturday, June 20, Granby Passerine Search: *Extreme Birding event.* Join us on a 5-mile hike to some new places you probably have not visited before. Meet at Damon's Crossing at 5 a.m.

Sunday, June 28, NEK Conte Refuge expedition into new areas: *Extreme Birding event.* We'll hike 6 miles into the refuge at the height of breeding time. Meet at the White's/Agway parking lot in Lyndonville, exit 23 of I-91 at 5 a.m.

Saturday, July 11, NEK Audubon's Annual Meeting & Program about Nulhegan as a breeding refuge by Jim Chace: Join us at the Fairbanks Museum at 6:30 p.m. for our annual meeting followed by The Nulhegan program. Call Laura at 751-7671 for info.

Sunday, July 12, The Damon's Crossing Sit-a-thon at Victory: Join us for coffee and bagels, bring your lawn chair. We'll sit at the parking lot and see what comes to us. Meet at Damon's Crossing at 6 a.m.

Sunday, August 2, Plum Island Shore Bird Fiasco: Join us for this excursion to the Massachusetts coast as we look for migrating shore birds (some still in their breeding plumage). Meet at exit 44 rest stop of I-93 at 6 a.m.

Saturday, August 22, Burke Mountain birding: We'll hike up from lower lodge area to the top. Meet at 6 a.m. at White's/Agway parking lot exit 23 off I-91.

Monday, Sept. 14, Informational and planning meeting: Join us at the Fairbanks Museum at 4:30-6 p.m. Open to all. Call Laura at 751-7671 for info.

Sunday, Sept. 20, Pondichery Autumn: We'll hike through the refuge where all the fall juveniles look alike. Trip starts at 7 a.m. Meet in front of the Fairbanks Museum for car-pooling.

Monday, Oct. 5, Informational and planning meeting: Join us at the Fairbanks Museum at 4:30-6 p.m. Open to all. Call Laura at 751-7671.

Saturday, Oct. 17, The Annual Dead Creek Snow Goose Show: Meet at Joe's Pond park 'n ride at 7 a.m., intersection of rtes. 2 and 15.

continued from page 1

professor of Ecology at Salve Regina University, Newport, RI, but very familiar with the Northeast Kingdom. The presentation will focus on the breeding bird research at the Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Brunswick, VT. This Basin possesses high biological values, including the presence of rare species, wetlands, and contiguous migratory bird habitat. He will summarize the five seasons of mist netting at the refuge's Black Branch River banding station, including a discussion of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program. He will also highlight Canada warbler breeding ecology and population status, as well as songbird population responses to woodcock management at the refuge.



(MAPS) Program was created by The Institute for Bird Populations in 1989. This program was 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.

The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship

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The Airie Lindsay Camp Scholarship Program Seeks Your Support

Dear Friends,

In memory of Airie Lindsay, we have named our camp scholarship program "The Airie Lindsay Camp Scholarship Program." Airie was the voice, the inspiration and the energy behind our scholarship effort to encourage young people to learn about natural history.

We are writing knowing that you share our conviction that young people need to be exposed to the beauty and workings of the natural environment. Their growing respect for the natural world is essential to their well-being and the well-being of our world. For this to happen, we ask for your financial support to make these opportunities possible.

During the summer of 2009, four scholarships will be provided to young people from the Northeast Kingdom to attend two camps on the Maine Coast. Camp Chewonki, located in Wiscasset, Maine, will offer an eight-day "Renewable Energy Sail." The scholarship recipient to that camp will learn about renewable energy by creating renewable energy projects and sailing. The other three recipients will attend a one-week or two-week program with an emphasis on marine studies at Acadia Institute of Oceanography, located at Seal Harbor, Maine.

There will be one scholarship at \$800, two scholarships at \$545 each and a \$1,200 scholarship. These scholarships assure that a young person, who might otherwise not be able to afford such an experience, can attend a camp. These are terrific opportunities for land-locked kids from Vermont to see firsthand the beauty and wonders of the Maine Coast.

Please fill out the form below and send along with your donation, made out to **NEK Audubon**, in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Your gift will also support our NEK Audubon operating expenses, which include taxes on our reserve in Peacham, printing costs, postage, entry fees for use of state lands, and insurance.

With gratitude,
The NEK Audubon Board

Yes, I'd like to help! I am enclosing a donation of: \$10_____ \$25_____ \$50_____ \$100_____ Other_____

Name _____

Address _____

Learn more about us at www.nekaudubon.org



NORTHEAST KINGDOM AUDUBON

1302 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID St. Johnsbury, VT Permit No. 5

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.

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