



NORTHEAST KINGDOM AUDUBON

A Chapter Of The National Audubon Society

Spring 2010

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

President's Notes:

Scholarships to Maine and Nicaragua

Every season brings its own magic. To enjoy the woods, valleys and hills of the Northeast Kingdom during the coldest and darkest months of the year is exhilarating. The woods are fairly still these days — a few birds quietly flutter through the branches and animal tracks mysteriously lead this way and that across the landscapes. The stark beauty of the winter landscape certainly holds us in awe of the winter season.

In just a couple of months the long days of sunlight and bird migration will be well underway. The woods will be filled with the birdsong we all so eagerly await. There will be animal families with young and the waterways will beckon us with the sounds of our aquatic friends. The amazing cycle of life is once again apparent before our eyes.

Scholarships

During these winter months, the board of NEK Audubon enjoys the great outdoors, but we also spend time working on the Airie Lindsay Camp Scholarship Program. NEK Audubon will offer four scholarships again this year to young people ages 10 to 17 — thanks to the generous support of friends and members. Final decisions regarding applicants will be made by mid-March and those chosen will attend camps at Hog Island, as well as the Acadia Institute of Oceanography. This year at Hog Island young people will have the opportunity to hone their ornithological skills with such experts as Scott Weidensaul, Kenn Kaufman and Sara Morris. At the Acadia Institute, children will participate in an extensive curriculum with emphasis on oceanography and marine biology. For more information about these exciting programs go to www.acadiainstitute.com or www.project-puffin.org.

This winter, we also created a scholarship for the North Branch Nature Center trip to Nicaragua for teens. During the trip the participants will stay with Nicaraguan families, have opportunities for bird watching and wildlife watching and complete service learning projects with Nicaraguan school children. All of this will be under the greater umbrella of historical and cultural understanding. Given our mission and past collaborative efforts with North Branch, the board is very pleased to support this type of educational experience.

Youth Birding

The NEK Audubon Board is also very pleased to offer the Youth Birding Program in coordination with the Fairbanks Museum and North Branch Nature Center. Larry Clarfeld from the North Branch Nature Center will be leading the trips again this year. Highlights will include the Wells River Area, Joe's Pond and Hardwick Trails. Children and their families are invited to join us **May 8th, June 5th and August 21st** for birding/nature trips. Come for one trip, two trips or all three. There is no charge. Please contact Laura at 802-751-7671 or nekaudubon@gmail.com for more information and to register.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support and appreciation of our work. Please check out news and events at www.nekaudubon.org or www.facebook.com/pages/NEK-Audubon/166466131408?ref=mf. Enjoy all that a Northeast Kingdom winter and spring have to offer!

—Laura Tobin

Not to be Missed:

Update on Recovery of the Peregrine Falcon

On **March 12, at 6:30**, at the **Fairbanks Museum** in St. Johnsbury, Margaret Fowle, Conservation Biologist with Audubon VT, will discuss the natural history, biology, and successful recovery of the peregrine falcon, with special emphasis on current peregrine conservation efforts in Vermont.

Notes of a Summer Camper:

Excerpts from Justin Carpenter

In June 2009, I had the opportunity to go to camp for a week at the Acadia Institute of Oceanography in Seal Harbor, Maine. The camp is to help kids learn more about the ocean and marine life. I got many scholarships from organizations: NEK Audubon, Barnet PTF and the Good Neighbor Fund. Thanks to all who gave me scholarships and made it possible for me to go to camp.

At camp we did lots of different things. After I got settled into my bunk and room, I went down to the dock and went fishing in the ocean. After fishing, I had a lesson on Sea

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Stars. After that, I had my microscope orientation. We learned about plankton. There are two different type of plankton: zoo and meroplankton. We went on hikes and went swimming and snorkeling in Echo Lake. We collected sea life in the ocean and on the beach and went out in a lobster boat and saw how they catch lobsters and crabs.

We went to a salt marsh and swam in the ocean. We had lessons on sea turtles, dangerous creatures in the ocean and learned about Kingdom (classifications). We did a squid dissection and had a lesson on tide pools and, then, went to one to observe it. I learned about sand dunes and looked at sand sediments in the microscope.

I learned a lot of information about ocean life and met many people. There were campers from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Texas, West Virginia, Connecticut, New Jersey and Montreal. Camp ended with a barbeque on Friday night.



PHOTOS BY JIM ASHLEY

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The Christmas Bird Count: And the Winners are ...

On January 1, 2010, 23 enthusiastic birders plied the roads and byways of Barnet counting birds as part of the annual, national Christmas Bird Count. Each year, the numbers change and a different species may emerge as the most abundant in our area. In Barnet, the most numerous species was the American Goldfinch at 983. Ranked second was the Black-capped Chickadee at 838. And coming in third was the American Crow at 541. What might 2011 bring?

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The Airie Lindsay Camp Scholarship Program Seeks Your Support

Northeast Audubon is pleased to provide **four scholarships for 2010** summer camps. The camp scholarships are in memory of Airie Lindsay — a devoted educator and environmentalist. The goal of the program is to honor Airie’s memory through the continued support of ecology education for young people from the Northeast Kingdom. These are terrific opportunities for land-locked kids from Vermont to see firsthand the beauty and wonders of the Maine Coast.

There will be **three scholarships** available for attendance at the **Acadia Institute of Oceanography** in Seal Harbor, Maine (www.acadiainstitute.com) and **one scholarship** for **Maine Audubon Camp at Hog Island** (www.projectpuffin.org).

Young people attending the Acadia Institute’s programs will participate in a hands-on curriculum that focuses on oceanography. The Acadia Institute offers a 6-day introductory program for children **ages 10-12** and a more extensive 14-day intermediate program geared for youth **ages 12-15**.

The scholarship recipient to Hog Island will focus on ecology with a strong emphasis on ornithology. The program, Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens, is scheduled for teens **14 to 17 years old**.

The scholarships are:

- Acadia Institute Introductory Program: \$545 scholarship / Family pays \$200
- Acadia Institute Intermediate Program: \$1,200 scholarship / Family pays \$400
- Maine Audubon Camp at Hog Island: \$795 scholarship / Family pays \$200

Please send your donation made out to: **NEK Audubon** in the enclosed envelope.

I am enclosing a donation of: \$10____ \$25____ \$50____ \$100____ Other_____

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

The NEK Audubon Board thanks you for your generous support
Learn more about us: www.nekaudubon.org

Spring and Summer Field Trips for 2010

All activities and board meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. **Please register for trips by calling Tom at 626-9071 or email blackpoll@myfairpoint.net.** Events may be updated or changed. For more details or 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.



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Saturday, May 8 - Blue Mountain School Trails: Larry Clarfeld of the North Branch Nature Center will lead a **youth birding field trip** in the morning. To register call Laura at 751-7671 or email stonesandstars@myfairpoint.net.

Sunday, May 16 - Conte Wildlife Refuge field trip: Bring your cameras! We'll try to take some pictures of warblers and migrating passerines before the trees leaf out.

Sunday, May 23 - NEK Audubon Birdathon: We'll travel the NEK's birding hotspots and try to break 100 species. Last year we had 106 including a Ruddy Turnstone.

Saturday, May 29 - Victory Basin and Miles Pond: Bring your Binos and Cameras. We'll try for 20 species of warblers and maybe a few moose.

Saturday, June 5 - Joe's Pond: Larry Carfeld of the North Branch Nature Center will lead a **youth birding field trip** to Joe's Pond. All are welcome. Call Laura

at 751-7671 or email stonesandstars@myfairpoint.net to register.

Sunday, June 6 - Conte Wildlife Refuge: Here we go again to the Jewel of the Kingdom. Why not a Tennessee or a Yellow-throated Vireo? They're up there! Let's go find them!

Saturday, June 26 - Victory Dawn Patrol: We'll see who's moving around before the sun comes up. Maybe the full moon will still be up.

Sunday, August 8 - Parker River National Wildlife Refuge: Here's where the shorebirds are on their way south. Last year we had 15 species of shorebirds.

Saturday, August 21 - Hardwick Trails: Larry Carfeld of the North Branch Nature Center will lead a **youth birding field trip** on the Hardwick Trails. All are welcome. Call Laura at 751-7671 or email stonesandstars@myfairpoint.net to register.

Saturday, September 11 - Conte Wildlife Refuge: There's just too much to see up here and the Fall is spectacular. Bring your cameras and Binos.

Sunday, September 19 - Victory Basin in Autumn: Heck, let's just hike around! Who cares what we see?

Saturday, October 17 - Dead Creek Snow Goose Viewing and Lake Champlain Valley: Last year we saw thousands of Snow Geese, Blackbirds and Black Scoters. Let's see if we can top that.

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Keeping in Touch: *NEK Audubon on Facebook*

Check out NEK Audubon's new Facebook page at the following link www.facebook.com/pages/NEK-Audubon/166466131408?ref=mf. You don't have to be a facebook member or join Facebook to visit this site, but we'd love it if you did. Learn about upcoming field trips and what birds are being found in the Kingdom. Lots of great photos of Vermont's wildlife.

A reminder to anyone who hasn't sent their email address to Laura Tobin at stonesandstars@myfairpoint.net, now is a good time to do so with lots of field trips planned for the spring and summer. Laura sends an email reminder of upcoming NEK events to those listed.

And for those who would rather view our newsletter on our website instead of a mailed copy, please contact Bill Marshall at dbmarshall@kingcon.com.

Paid Summer Position Offered at Nulhegan Refuge

Dr. Jameson Chace, Founder of the Center for Northern Forest Research, is looking for a dextrous and curious bird lover to work this summer at the Nulhegan Refuge near Island Pond, Vermont.

This paid volunteer will help with bird banding, keeping net lanes clear, getting nets up and down, entering data and writing reports.

Contact Dr. Chace by phone 401-341-3204 or email Jameson.Chace@salve.edu.



NORTHEAST KINGDOM AUDUBON

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St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

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How 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. Or 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
Bill Marshall, Vice President
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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.