



NORTHEAST KINGDOM AUDUBON

A Chapter Of The National Audubon Society

Winter 2008

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

Notes from the President:

Results of Membership Survey and a new Birders' Calendar for 2008

This fall we surveyed our membership in order to update the mailing list and obtain feedback on our chapter activities. We were pleased to get a 25% response.

NEK Audubon has about 260 members and approximately 150 people are on the email list for notices of events and outings. Anyone can be added to or taken off this list by sending their email address to me: airie@kingcon.com.

Several people asked that we plan more trips on Saturdays. In response, six of the eleven trips planned in 2008 will be on a Saturday. Other suggestions included having more trips close to home and shorter in length, offering canoe/kayak trips, mountain hikes and bicycle trips, and organizing trips to see hawk migration and loons. We will accommodate these requests as best we can. Tom Berriman, our trip coordinator, researches bird sightings and migration patterns when planning every trip.

Many people were surprised to learn that we no longer receive monies from National Audubon Society and indicated that they will contribute, or continue to contribute, when we do our annual fundraising in May. With our annual Birdathon we fund camp scholarships, send out newsletters, and pay for taxes and insurance.

Eight months ago, Jim Ashley procured a grant to develop a 2008 bird calendar, which is now available for \$15. The 11" by 17" format includes a large, local bird photograph, NEK Audubon's Events Calendar highlights, a list of birds likely to be seen during each month and a grid on which daily

sightings can be noted. These calendars are both attractive and informative and would make wonderful holiday presents. To place an order for the calendar send an email to ltobin@together.net or drop Ms. Tobin a note at 15 Spring St., St. Johnsbury, Vt. 05819. Once you've ordered, the calendars will be available for pickup only at the Fairbanks Museum. (Sorry, no mail orders!)

Many of our members have yet to visit our website: www.nekaudubon.org – set up and maintained by Shelly Guy. Here you can read Carolyn Boardman's Bird Notes, newsletter articles, obtain camp information, see our Events Calendar and much more. The website is pleasant and easy to use. Check it out!

—Airie Lindsay

Field Trips Recap:

25% of North American Breeding Birds Were Seen on our Trips

Last year was not unlike the past few years for participants of NEK Audubon's field trips. In one word ... GREAT! The NEK chapter offers at least 10 to 12 opportunities to see not only the birds in the Northeast Kingdom but to see many species in neighboring New England states that are often not found in Vermont. NEK field trips are usually half-day trips in the Kingdom or all-day trips to the Champlain Valley and the Atlantic coast.

Our highlights began in late February in the lower Champlain Valley where we happened upon a mixed flock of a few hundred **Horned Larks** and **Snow Buntings**. To our surprise the buntings were already changing into breeding plumage, a real treat to see these northern birds in that plumage. Other northern visitors included: **Rough-legged Hawk**, **American Tree Sparrow** and **Common**

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Goldeneye. A **Carolina Wren** sang for us while we hiked out the Champlain Causeway, with the frozen lake on both sides of us and hundreds of over-wintering waterfowl waiting to be seen in the open waters of the gap.

In our boreal habitats of the Kingdom, we saw **White-winged Crossbills** in their display flights in Victory along with flocks of **Pine Siskin**. In April, at Moose Bog, we got lucky, catching a displaying **Spruce Grouse, Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees** and **Black-backed Woodpecker**. A grand slam as they say!

Plum Island or The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on the Massachusetts coast is a goldmine any time of year. We managed this year's trip in late August and were rewarded with sixteen species of shore birds: **Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher** were some of the highlights. **Peregrine Falcon, Least Tern and Bonaparte's Gull** soared in the coastal skies.

No year is complete without our annual trip to Dead Creek for the **Snow Geese** show. On October 20, we arrived at 9 a.m. to an unusually warm 65-degree day. Overhead between 400 and 500 Snow Geese were descending, landing in the fields a few hundred yards away. Later more Snow Geese arrived along with migrating **Canada Geese**. We were able

to catch views of two **Rough-legged Hawks**, an adult **Bald Eagle**, five **Red-tailed Hawks**, and three **Northern Harriers**. We spent the afternoon at Shelburne Museum taking in the John James Audubon prints on display.

Although our trips to the Atlantic coast can be tiring, long days, they always provide some of our best looks at over-wintering waterfowl and shore birds. On last November's trip, **Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Northern Gannet and Great Cormorant** were only the beginning of what would be a great day. The **Harlequin Ducks** we saw at two different locations would have been enough, but all three **Scoter species, Common Eider, Long-tailed Ducks, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck** also presented themselves for our viewing pleasure. **Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Purple Sandpipers and Dunlin** rounded off the day.

With field trips around Vermont and to the Atlantic coasts of Massachusetts and Maine, we managed to see an amazing 160 species, among these were 17 species of warblers in the Kingdom alone. Some 650 birds breed in North America, meaning NEK Audubon saw 25% of the birds in North America on just 10 field trips within a few hours drive of St. Johnsbury.

—Tom Berriman

A Point of Pride: Way to Go, Airie!

This fall, NEK Audubon's President, Airie Lindsay, received Audubon Vermont's **Steve Young Award** for her efforts in environmental education and support of the mission of Audubon Vermont and National Audubon Society. Jim Shallow, Audubon Vermont's director of conservation and policy, stated during the award's ceremony, "Airie is a citizen scientist, educator and activist who has channeled her passion for the environment into energizing and reorganizing the Northeast Kingdom Audubon society. ... Year after year, Airie has spearheaded the fund-raising for the annual birdathon which has successfully raised scholarship funds for Northeast Kingdom youth to attend Audubon camps. ..." We, too, are proud of Airie's contributions.

NORTHEAST KINGDOM AUDUBON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2007

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Audubon Vermont:

Douglas Parker, Executive Director (802) 434-3068;

dparker@audubon.org

Upcoming Events • December 2007 - March 2008

All activities and Board Meetings are open to the public. Events are listed in our newsletter and in local newspapers, but may be updated or changed. We appreciate a \$3/member or \$5/non-member donation, collected at the beginning of the trip, as well as pre-registration for trips and programs.

To learn more about the NEK Audubon Chapter, how to join, camp scholarships or trips, visit our website, www.nekaudubon.org. For trip information and pre-registration contact: Tom Berriman at (802) 626-9071 or email Tom at thomas.berriman@verizon.net.

Tuesday January 1: NEK Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Call Charlie Browne at 748-2372 or email cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org for information.

Monday, January 7: Informational and Planning Meeting: 4:30-6 p.m. in the classroom at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, open to all.

Sunday January 20: NEK Audubon trip to the Champlain Valley north of Burlington. Meet at West Danville park and ride at intersection of Rtes. 2 and 15 at 7 a.m. Call Tom at 626-9071 or email thomas.berriman@verizon.net to register.

Monday, February 4: Informational and Planning Meeting: 4:30-6 p.m. in the classroom at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, open to all.

Saturday, February 10: NEK Audubon snowshoe bird walk to Moose Bog. Meet at White's/Agway parking lot exit 23 of interstate 91 at 7 a.m. Call Tom at 626-9071 or email thomas.berriman@verizon.net to register.

Friday, February 15 – Monday, February 18: The Great Backyard Bird Count. Observe nature in your own backyard. Contact: Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, pel27@cornell.edu.

Monday, March 3: Informational and Planning Meeting: 4:30-6 p.m. in the classroom at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, open to all.

Check our website (www.nekaudubon.org) for additions or changes.

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! If you have any doubt about the trip being cancelled call Tom at 626-9071.

Sometimes the bad weather brings out the best birds. Proceeds go to our Camp Scholarship Fund.

We report all our bird sightings to: www.ebird.org/VINS.

Northeast Kingdom Audubon Society ~ Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget

	Budget 06-07	Actual 06-07	Budget 07-08
Beginning Balance:	\$12,931.61	\$13,547.71	\$13,487.45
Income:			
Interest	\$30.00	\$36.83	\$35.00
Birdathon; Local Membership; Program Fees	\$4,000.00	\$4,979.60	\$4,400.00
Subtotal, Income:	\$4,030.00	\$5,016.43	\$4,435.00
Expenses:			
Programs (Events, Sanctuary)	\$650.00	\$893.71	\$700.00
Postage	\$300.00	\$174.54	\$200.00
Printing (Newsletter)	\$500.00	\$598.44	\$600.00
Scholarships	\$2,700.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,000.00
Insurance	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$410.00
Other	—	120.99	—
Property Taxes	—	466.01	500.00
Subtotal, Expenses:	\$4,450.00	\$5,103.69	\$4,410.00
Ending Balance:	\$12,511.61	\$13,487.45	\$13,512.45



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1302 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

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Two ways to join Northeast Kingdom Audubon

There are two ways to become a member:

1. To 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. To 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 airie@kingcon.com or call Airie Lindsay at 802-748-8515 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.