



# Bird Notes

From Northeast Kingdom Audubon  
1302 Main Street, Saint Johnsbury, Vermont 05819

## For Immediate Release

### Community Trails for All

When we see or say “open to the public”, we don’t always think, “Who is opening this place, or who owns this place?” State lands usually come to mind first, the state parks, fishing access points and hunting areas. Or perhaps we think of the federal lands, such as national wildlife refuges or national forests. But there are also great birding trails that have been made available to the public by others, such as towns, schools, individuals, and groups. These community trails are generally constructed, maintained and promoted by the communities or groups that started them and utilize them. Although not widely known, these little treasures deserve to be appreciated. I will mention a few here and point you in the direction of others.

I will start the discussion with the Hardwick Trails in Hardwick, VT, soon to be the site of the NEK Audubon Annual meeting on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Construction of the 6-mile trail system began in 2002 under a grant from the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and is currently in the third phase of improvements. Starting at the Hazen Union School, these woodland trails offer natural beauty, great birdwatching, and poetry posted along the way. Maps are available at the trailhead. There have been free events along the trails this summer including birding, nature, butterfly and tree ID walks. For directions and more information about these trails and upcoming events, go to [www.hardwicktrails.org](http://www.hardwicktrails.org). Everyone is welcome on July 30<sup>th</sup> when Norma and Ron Wiesen will speak and lead a walk on the history, terrain and plant life of the Hardwick Trails followed by a potluck supper.

To find out about many other community trails in the upper Connecticut River valley, I recommend picking up a copy of the Connecticut River Birding Trail Map – Northern Section, available at most tourist information centers. Visit [www.birdtrail.org](http://www.birdtrail.org) to find out more about this “Source to Sea” effort spearheaded several years ago by Bill Shepard and the George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council. This map was designed to get people outdoors to enjoy habitats full of resident, migratory and breeding bird species in the northern Connecticut River watershed. When people connect with great natural resources, they should want to take care of them. This map may help people do just that. Out of the forty birding spots listed, at least 12 are sites owned by community groups or individuals, schools, towns, airports, and others. The map describes these places, how to find them, what birds you may see, and the best times to see them. There is a strong reminder to all that good birding ethics, are a must at all times, especially respect for private lands. With this map, your summer will be filled with birding trips and excitement.  
Happy Trails To You!

Carolyn E. Boardman is a member of NEK Audubon living in Brownington, Vermont. NEK Audubon is one of 8 chapters of Audubon Vermont and part of the National Audubon Society. NEK Audubon is a non-profit organization that encourages people’s enjoyment of birds, wildlife and natural habitats through field trips, programs and publications. For more information about meetings, field trips and special events visit [www.nekaudubon.org](http://www.nekaudubon.org). Art work by Robin Rothman.