



Bird Notes

From Northeast Kingdom Audubon
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For Immediate Release

Glory Days

These days, we remembering our personal triumphs, and some are rejoicing in the return of familiar birds as well as new observations in familiar places. Arrivals are shared daily with great exuberance on listservs when they post ...”hummers back on May 7th”, “nighthawks over the meeting house at 6:30”, and “FOS (that’s first of season) Yellow-bellied flycatcher and 2 Mourning warblers were good.” These days, we are remembering when the birds arrived or nested last year, and where we first saw them starting their breeding season.

Because this is the final year of the five year Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas, (find out results here: <http://www.uvm.edu/~vbba/>), volunteer atlasers are scrambling to complete their lists and tally their results. This means that we are looking back over the last atlas results to see if we confirmed the species here 25 years ago. If not, does that mean they are not here? Panic sets in! Please be kind to the folks you see this summer wandering around the back roads, binoculars in hand, desperately looking for something they need. These will be their “glory days”.

From your porch, window, or yard, enjoy the moments when you identify your first wood warbler, small, colorful, insect-eaters of the forests. And consider that there are 22 different birds named warbler and others named, for instance, Ovenbird, Yellowthroat and Northern Parula in this group. These are the summer jewels that sparkle and the solitary voices that serenade us in the woodlands. With names like Blue-winged, Bay-breasted, Black-throated green and others, seek out these beauties, or”well, they’ll pass you by.”

What are some of the birds from years past that are now of concern, where numbers are declining and habitat is shrinking? These are the “specialists”, species that are particular about where they live and what they eat. Gee.I can relate to that. For example, let’s take the declining population of the little Canada warbler. It faces a long annual migration to wintering grounds in northern South America, where habitat loss is a threat, then returns to breeding grounds where habitat degradation and loss have also negatively affected populations. It prefers coniferous and mixed northern hardwood forests with dense, often wet, undergrowth, preferring limited ground cover, but high foliage density in the shrub layer. Now That’s Special! See? Without that habitat, they could disappear”in the wink of a young girl’s eye.”

Bird banding is one way to find out about breeding birds. If you are interested in learning how bird banding is conducted and data on birds is collected, contact NEK Audubon. There will be visits to the bird banding station at the Nulhegan Basin Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge this summer. Let us know if you would like to come along. Visit our web page for contact information and trip dates, www.nekaudubon.org. Spend some glory days on the refuge; it is a real warbler stronghold.

Happy Glorious Birding!!

Carolyn E. Boardman is a board 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.

Art work by Robin Rothman.