



the ***Pileated Press***

Western Maine Audubon, *a chapter of Maine Audubon*

Box 832, Farmington, ME 04938

- Our Fall Talks -

All talks take place on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in the North Dining Hall, UMF.
They are free and open to the public.

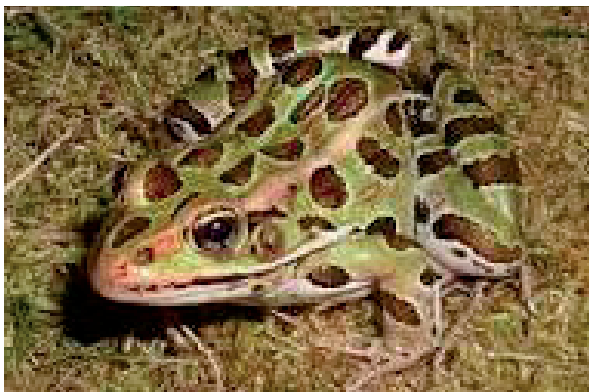
September 12 – Sea Gulls Disappearing? Noah Perlut will tell us more:

The Herring Gull nesting population in the Gulf of Maine has declined ~5% annually since the 1960's. While gulls traditionally nest on islands, Herring Gulls are nesting on roof-tops in Portland, ME. Beginning in 2011 Noah Perlut has been exploring this phenomenon. His talk will describe the choices these birds are making in response to human habitat change.

Noah Perlut is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. He teaches field-based classes, exploring the woods and wetlands of southern Maine.



October 10 – The Sobering Truth about Our Disappearing Amphibians. Matt Chatfield will tell us more:



Worldwide, it is estimated that a third of all species are threatened with extinction and nearly half are in decline. The reasons for this are complex and involve many of the usual culprits, including habitat loss and degradation, pollution, climate change, and disease. Acting in concert, these stressors are pushing amphibians over the brink. In this talk you'll learn about the threats facing amphibians, particularly from disease, which is thought to be the single largest driver of amphibian declines worldwide. These diseases are alive and well in Maine. Join us and learn what researchers are doing

to understand the scope of the problem and a few simple things you can do to help stem the tide of the global amphibian extinction crisis.

Matthew Chatfield is an Associate Professor of Conservation Biology at Unity College. He earned his Doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Michigan. He subsequently worked as a postdoctoral researcher and, later, as a Visiting and Research Assistant Professor at Tulane University in Louisiana.

**November 14 – Our Forests in Maine, how have they changed; what threatens them?
Patty Cormier will tell us more:**

She will give us an update on the constantly changing forest lands that surround us and the movement of invasive insect species in Maine and what is being done to mitigate their effects.

EMERGENCY ORDER ISSUED - Restricting the Movement of Certain Ash (*Fraxinus* spp) Products and Any Untreated Firewood from Emerald Ash Borer Infested Towns in Maine. Current Order Area Towns: Frenchville, Grand Isle and Madawaska, Aroostook County, Maine.

NOTE: as reported in news release 8/10/18 by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's (DACF) Bureau of Forestry

Patty Cormier is a valuable and well known asset to people concerned about the woodlands of western Maine. Her knowledge comes from a combination of 30 years of experience, 10 as a forester for Georgia Pacific and 20 as a District Forester for the Maine Forest Service. She grew up in Kingfield and has a BS in forestry from University of Maine at Orono.

Also, as some of you may know, Patty recently was part of a twenty member crew from Maine and New Hampshire who spent time out West fighting forest fires. She will share her experiences and the reality of wild land firefighting with us.



Emerald Ash Borer

- President's Column - Nancy Knapp

Photo Credit: Maine Island Kayak Co

Summer is flying by, the Bird Atlas is under way and monarchs are numerous this year around our farm which has plenty of milk weed. Nice to see so many. We hiked up Little Jackson Mountain in the Tumbledown area late spring and were serenaded by birds most of the trip including both wood and hermit thrushes, a barred owl, white throated sparrow, red eyed vireo and others. Burt sighted the very colorful Blackburnian Warbler. What amazing habitat we have available to us.

Have you ever thought about light pollution? This is becoming more of a topic in the media, fortunately, as extensive use of lights at night has an impact on both birds and animals. Maine Audubon and particularly Doug Hitchcox are trying to make people aware of the problems associated with our use of lights at night. For example small migrating birds such as warblers migrate at night to avoid predators. They have been observed to fly lower over a lit up ball field, etc. This puts them at risk of running into buildings with their night lighting. Why they do this is not known. Mammals also are impacted by light. Many species including all rodents forage and eat at night, which is safer for them, and carry their food to a dark place to eat.

Without safe dark places they are at risk from predators and starvation. Doug is concerned we will see “lower productivity and higher mortality in many of our native species” due to excessive light use.

What can you do? Shut off lights not being used. Look for bulbs approved by the IDA, International Dark-sky Association and replace bright lights with low wattage bulbs and be sure they are angled downward. If safety is a concern, use motion detector lights. Also draw curtains at night to keep moths away. Moths are pollinators and the more they gather around your lights the less pollination is happening. This is also an economic issue for Maine as our state is trying to encourage eco-tourism to our dark sky areas and to become certified as such. Talk to your friends and encourage everyone to be aware of the value and beauty of the dark night sky. All our feathered friends and animals will thank you.

- Citizen Science -

Update Maine Bird Atlas – notes from the front lines

After attending Doug Hitchcox’s talk on the Maine Bird Atlas, a five year citizen science project to improve our understanding of wintering and breeding birds in Maine, my husband and I, who are really just backyard birders, decided to give it a try. We were amazed at how many signs of breeding were around us. Two families of robins began early construction on nests, and phoebes settled on top of our motion sensor light on the garage. Chickadees, bluebirds, 4 families of tree swallows and a pair of house wrens all moved into boxes we had available and all had successful fledgings. We observed the parents going in and out with bugs and worms and carrying out the fecal sacs. Goldfinches began late by taking mouthfuls of our cat and dog fur to work on their nests. One morning as I was sitting on my deck having coffee a baby downy woodpecker flew precariously over my head and was then fed by it’s mother and 3 hairy woodpecker fledglings came to practice eating suet. We even observed a mourning dove nest constructed under some solar panels. With other birds, we never saw the nests but observed behaviors such as courtship, pairs interacting, singing, or feeding of the young such as song sparrows, rose breasted grosbeaks, starlings, turkeys, red winged blackbirds, purple and house finches, catbirds, crows and nuthatches. The cardinal, tufted titmouse, great blue heron, barn swallows, common yellowthroats and indigo buntings were icing on the cake but not confirmed breeders in this location.



The study is dependent on volunteers throughout the state. The last time a Maine Bird Atlas was done was 33 years ago, so it’s extremely important that they get new data which will be compiled online and in a book. We encourage you to give it a try if only to get outdoors and take time to see what’s going on around you. You can adopt a block or just observe birds near your home or camp. All observations are valuable! To find out more go to the website: maine.gov/birdatlas

-Pam Mauzaka



1. Phoebes - time to fledge | 2. Baby tree swallows in a “Well Feathered Nest” by Burt Knapp | 3. “Tree Swallow Nest Box “ by Tom and Pam Mauzaka

Journey North

Another fantastic citizen science project is a website called Journey North where citizens report their sightings and/or send photos and can view maps which track migrations. They are celebrating their 25th year! Monarchs and first spring sightings of robins, orioles, hummingbirds and red winged blackbirds are just a few of the things they monitor. Reported sightings are mapped in real-time as waves of migrations move across the continent.

We have fields of milkweed and we eagerly anticipate the arrival of the first monarch but have had very few in the past few years. This year they arrived in Strong just in time to celebrate the 4th of July. Since then, we’ve seen many flitting about on the coneflowers, Joe Pye weed and milkweed.



Photo Credit: Pam Mauzaka



Photo Credit: Pam Mauzaka

By mid -August the first members of the magnificent migratory generation will be emerging. These butterflies are the great-great grandchildren of the monarchs that left Mexico last spring and will have a long and difficult journey back to Mexico this fall. Monarchs produce four generations during a typical breeding season.

Journey North keeps track of monarch adults, eggs and larvae and would like your sightings until the last monarch leaves. To participate or just check out the amazing photos, information and data, go to:

journeynorth.org.

-Pam Mauzaka

- Nature Watch -



Sightings

Burt Knapp reports “While picking blackberries today, 8/11, I heard some chittering and looked up to see a male



Photo Credit: Burt Knapp
Black and White Warbler



Photo Credit: Burt Knapp
Female Bluebird

Baltimore Oriole, my first sighting of this colorful bird in some time. Other unusual sightings around the farm for Nancy and I this year have been: a Scarlet Tanager, a Black and White Warbler, and a female and an immature Redstart with their distinctive yellow outer tail feathers. Nesting have been observed of American Robins, Tree Swallows, Blue Birds, Song Sparrows and Bobolinks. The Bobolinks are frequent around the farm and we bless them for their melodious if not somewhat reparative song as we plant the gardens each spring. I mow the fields conservatively so as not to disturb these ground nesting birds. We now have a

flock of immature Bobolinks flying together like a gang of adolescents!”

- Changes -

After many years Steve Bien has left the board. We will miss his articles in the newsletter and are grateful for his many years of service on the board. Hopefully he will continue to share his birding expertise on spring bird walks.

Also after many years Art and Sallie Wilder have decided to leave the board. Sallie has been putting the newsletter together faithfully forever it seems and definitely deserves a break. We will miss their many contributions and thank them for their years of service.

Three new people have joined the board: Todd Jones, Jason Hawkins and John Slack. They bring experience with conservation and interest in what Audubon is trying to accomplish.

Last spring, our newsletter was printed in color, for the first time. It is being formatted now by a local graphic designer. This is new territory for us and we hope the result will be pleasing to our readers.



Western Maine Audubon
PO Box 832
Farmington, Maine 04938

Presort Standard
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Farmington, ME
 Permit No. 30

**Western Maine Audubon
 Board Memebers**

President, Nancy Knapp 778-6285
 Treasurer, Pam Mauzaka 6843781
 Secretary, Lynda Fourier 645-2893

Directors at Large:

Burt Knapp 778-6285
 Tom Mauzaka 684-3781
 Lynda Fournier 645-2893
 Jason Hawkins 485-7823
 Todd Jones 491-2443
 John Slack 778-9641



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Western Maine Chapter

YES! I want to protect and conserve wildlife and habitat in Maine as a **new** **renewing** member.

Annually \$30 Senior/Volunteer/Student | \$40 Individual | \$50 Household | \$100 | \$Other _____

Monthly Enroll me in the Frequent Flyer Program and charge my credit card each month:
 ___ \$5 ___ \$10 ___ \$15 ___ \$25 Other \$ _____

View all member benefits online by visiting maineaudubon.org/memberFAQ

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Seasonal Address: _____ from _____ to _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card (below)

Card # _____ Exp. date: ____ / ____

Please make checks payable to Maine Audubon | 20 Gisland Farm Rd, Falmouth, ME 04105 | 207-781-2330 ext. 230

Join or renew online:
maineaudubon.org/join

Our community of members is integral to our success on behalf of Maine's diverse wildlife and habitat. When you join or renew your Maine Audubon membership, you ensure that work can continue.

Thank you!