

Natural Selections

Newsletter of the Penobscot Valley Chapter of Maine Audubon



September-November 2022

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

Spying on the Birds

BY GORDON RUSSELL, PRESIDENT
PENOBSCOT VALLEY CHAPTER OF MAINE AUDUBON

Have you ever wanted to see what goes on in those nesting boxes for ducks that you see sitting out in Essex Woods in Bangor, and in similar wetlands? What if you could spy on the nesting process from start to finish, without interfering with it? My wife and I had that opportunity earlier this year. We used a clever remote camera that fits inside the nest box, connected to a TV monitor in the house. The tiny camera was placed inside the box before the birds arrived, immediately after ice-out. Then we simply turned on our TV and watched. The camera provides regular images in the daytime, infrared at night. There's even a microphone, so you can hear as well as watch. Think of it as a baby monitor for birds.

We installed our nest box on the shore of Green Lake in Ellsworth, in front of the family camp. We knew from nesting in previous years that the box would likely be used by hooded mergansers, although the entire setup is suitable for wood ducks as well. Green Lake ice-out came around April 1st this year, and almost immediately thereafter, we had a tenant. By the first week in

April, there were several eggs buried in the wood shavings lining the box. Although the mother hoodie was often away when we first tuned in, she soon began to incubate the eggs in earnest. While she was feeding, the eggs remained well-buried (actually invisible) in the shavings. When she returned and settled in, you could glimpse the eggs as she shuffled and turned.

She brooded until the third week-end in May, a little longer than average, perhaps due to cooler conditions. We wondered if the eggs were even viable. But at long last, we heard peeping from a hatched chick. Within 24 hours, eight little hoodies were ready to leave the box and join their waiting mother in the lake.

Although we were set up to watch them exit the box and take their initial swim, all the fledglings and Mama seemed to vanish, and we haven't seen them since. Hopefully, some or most of them survived, and we look forward to repeating the process next year. After the ducks left, we moved the camera to an eastern phoebe nest under the eaves on the camp. We watched two broods of phoebes being fed and raised in that nest.

We hope you've had an enjoyable summer, and were able to get close to the natural world around us. We look forward to seeing you soon at future programs and bird walks.

Hooded Mergansers in Nesting Box.
Photo credit: Jane Rosinski.



MAINE AUDUBON

Penobscot Valley Chapter

Natural Selections

Natural Selections is published four times a year by the Penobscot Valley Chapter of Maine Audubon. Maine Audubon members living in the Penobscot Valley region automatically become chapter members and receive *Natural Selections* at no additional charge. Membership in Maine Audubon costs per year:

\$50 household; \$40 individual

\$30 senior/volunteer

Membership benefits include a discount on programs and purchases at all Maine Audubon stores as well as a subscription to the quarterly statewide periodical *Habitat*.

The chapter offers a weekly email service to remind members about upcoming events in our region, plus electronic delivery of this newsletter upon request. Please email Jim Zeman, kjzeman@hotmail.com to sign up for these services.

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FIELDS POND JOURNAL

BY DAVID LAMON, FPAC MANAGER
FIELDS POND AUDUBON CENTER

NEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Some new faces have joined the staff at the Fields Pond Audubon Center in recent months. **Melissa Gallagher** joined us in mid-July as our year-round Community Engagement Coordinator. A mother of three and a military spouse, Melissa lives with her husband Joe in Bangor. Melissa has been an educator for ten years, and she is a national board-certified science teacher. As a longtime nature enthusiast, she enjoys hiking and outdoor exploration. Melissa hopes to integrate her work and pastimes by creating outdoor learning experiences for her community. She is excited to meet others who share her interest in ecology and stewardship. Be sure to stop in and say hello!

Amanda Ives started working part-time last spring as our student intern and then continued as a full-time intern this summer, working with the summer camp program. She'll be continuing to work with us part-time this fall. Amanda is starting her senior year at the University of Maine, where she studies wildlife ecology with Dr. Stephen Coghlan as her academic advisor. In the coming school year, she is looking forward to beginning her senior capstone project in small mammal behavior, advised by Dr. Alessio Mortelliti, and graduating in the spring with honors. Amanda has been licensed as an EMT since January under the National Registry of EMTs, and during the school year she serves with the University Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Post-graduation, she hopes to continue her career in outdoor environmental education and work toward certification as a Wilderness EMT.

Several new volunteers also joined the Fields Pond team this summer. **Matthew D'Angelo** shared his love for birds and his birding skills with our young campers this past summer. Matthew teaches Mathematics at Old Town High School, and for someone who spends most of his time with teenage students, Matt fit right in with the first and second graders at camp this summer. **Henry Smith**, age 17, started volunteering this summer as a trail steward, helping to keep our public trails open and accessible to the public. Henry says, "I've been going to Fields Pond for pretty much my whole life now, and recently, I've been doing volunteer work there. Memories of walking along the trails linger as I walk the same path for what has to be the one millionth time, only this time I'm walking as one who takes care of the place as well as enjoys it. It's really special to me, and the best bit about it is that I still feel that I have it all to myself, even when I literally see houses lining the pond shore and cars parked in the parking lot. It still holds a never ending wealth of beauty within, no matter how small it may be in perspective with what lies around, and for me, that's enough." Thank you Matt and Henry!

As we continue to do more in-person programs and events, we will have a greater need for volunteers at Fields Pond. If you're interested in volunteering, please call the Fields Pond Audubon Center at 989-2591.



Sharp-shinned hawk on feeder.
Photo credit: Joy Borelli Edwards.

What's in a Name?

by Bob Duchesne

Marbled godwit. Ruddy turnstone. Red-necked phalarope. Pine siskin. Who on earth is naming these birds?

Meet the American Ornithological Union (AOU). This association of professional bird scientists was established in 1883. It was modeled after the British Ornithological Union, established 24 years earlier. The AOU does many things to advance the study of birds in North America, but one of its activities can both delight and frustrate amateur birders. It officially names all of our birds...and then sometimes renames them.

To be fair, somebody's got to do it. Without a common standard, chaos would ensue. The same bird would have many different names across the globe. That already happens, of course. Maine's common loon is known as the great northern diver in Britain. But at least everyone on this side of the Atlantic knows it as the common loon, thanks to the AOU.

Scientists are constantly advancing their understanding of species distribution and evolution. The AOU receives tons of evidence every year, asserting that certain birds should be taxonomically reclassified, and that certain bird populations should be split into multiple species, or lumped back into one. Life-listers cheer when several former subspecies are declared to be distinct species, instantly increasing their total count. Then they sob, when they have to cross off previously listed birds that the AOU has officially reclassified as mere subspecies.

Maine's native tribes were the first to name our resident and migratory birds. Colonial settlers later renamed every New World species they "discovered," often with the names of European species that our birds somewhat resembled. Partridge and ptarmigan are archaic English and Scottish names for plump, edible grouse. Plover, dunlin, and curlew are British game species, so colonists used those names for Maine's easily-hunted and edible shorebirds. Phalarope derives from the Greek, meaning coot-footed.

Interestingly, the newcomers adopted the pre-colonial Iroquois name of dowitcher for our two dowitcher species. Apparently no British bird resembles a dowitcher.

Later bird names honored well-known ornithologists – often the Euro-American "discoverer." Others described conspicuous behaviors, sounds, field marks or color. Some color names are esoteric. The hepatic tanager is a southwestern bird with a name that means liver-colored. The plumbeous vireo in western states is lead-colored. Like the scarlet tanager, the vermilion flycatcher of the southwest is too brilliantly red to just be called red.

Today, the AOU updates bird names whenever science, often aided by DNA evidence, indicates the need. The AOU also tries to simplify names, and rename species that English speakers worldwide know by a different name. Thus the oldsquaw was renamed the long-tailed duck in 2000, and "greater shearwater" was shortened to great shearwater in 2010.

Still, I scratch my head. Why is there a northern cardinal, but no southern cardinal? In fact, there are northern mockingbirds, shrikes, gannets, shovelers, flickers, fulmars, pintails, waterthrushes, harriers, and goshawks, but no southern

birds of those names.

There are eastern and western-named species of bluebirds, kingbirds, screech-owls, wood-pewees, and meadowlarks. Yet there are eastern phoebes, and no western phoebes. There are eastern towhees, but no western towhees. So what clarity does the word "eastern" bring? Likewise, there are western sandpipers, grebes, gulls, and tanagers, with no eastern-named equivalents.

Some bird names are hopelessly pedantic. The name of our pileated woodpecker refers to the crest on its pileum, which is Latin for the top of its head. Out west, the flammulated owl is named for flame-shaped markings in its plumage.

What do I propose? I'd start by renaming the short-billed and long-billed dowitchers. These shorebirds both have absurdly long bills, with little actual difference in size. The current names are not helpful. In 1983, the AOU changed the name of the short-billed marsh wren to sedge wren, while the long-billed marsh wren became the marsh wren. Easy-peasy. So why not do it for dowitchers? You're welcome, AOU.

FIELDS POND BOOK GROUP

The Fields Pond Book Group meets monthly on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m., facilitated by professional librarian Joyce Rumery. At press time, meetings were being held online via Zoom. Please contact Joyce directly at rumery@maine.edu, and she will send you the Zoom link shortly before the meeting.

September 8, 2022

Vietze, Andrew. *White Pine: American History and the Tree That Made a Nation*. 2018. 164 pages.

October 13, 2022

Patlak, Margie. *More Than Meets the Eye: Exploring Nature and Loss on the Coast of Maine*. 2021. 209 pages.

November 10, 2022

Vassnes, Bjorn. Translated by Lucy Moffatt. *Kingdom of Frost: How the Cryosphere Shapes Life on Earth*. 2020. 236 pages.

PENOBSCOT VALLEY CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS FALL 2022

Penobscot Valley Chapter field trips are fun, FREE ways to meet like-minded people, while enjoying the rich natural heritage of our region. We hope you will come outside and join us!

Sunday, August 28, 8-11 a.m. **Late Summer in Essex Woods** **Leader: Bob Milardo**

In late summer and early fall, it's not unusual to spot transient great egrets and migrating shorebirds at Essex Woods. Trip leader Bob Milardo likes to call this area "Little Penjajawoc" since it is a tiny offshoot of the extensive Penjajawoc Marsh-Caribou Bog wetland corridor that runs from Bangor to Alton. We will look for ducks, shorebirds, green and great blue herons, and pied-billed grebes in the marsh, and check the surrounding trees and shrubs for lingering neotropical songbirds and year-round residents.

Directions: Meet at the entrance to Essex Woods on Garden Way, off Drew Lane in Bangor. Please park in the adjacent business parking lot (largely unoccupied on weekends) at the corner of Stillwater Avenue and Drew Lane, and not on the shoulder of Garden Way.

Sunday, September 11, 8-11 a.m. **Late Summer in the Caribou Bog Conservation Area (CBCA)** **Leaders: Tara Barker and Sharon Wilson Barker**

The restored wetlands in Boulder Pond and Black Pond (formerly known as the Taylor Bait Ponds) are now being actively managed to attract shorebirds and waterfowl. Late summer through early fall is the best time to come for shorebirds, as this is the height of their migration through our region. CBCA can often be a good spot for mammal sightings as well. Directions: From Forest Avenue in Orono, follow Taylor Road (aka the "Dump Road") 0.3 miles to a slight left onto Putnam Road. We will meet in the trailhead parking area in front of the gate.

Sunday, September 25, 8-11 a.m. **Fall Migration in Essex Woods** **Leader: Steve Mierzykowski**

See trip description and directions for the August 28 trip. This is a great opportunity to see and compare the range of dif-

ferent species that rely on Essex Woods as a stopover in their annual post-breeding migration through the Bangor region.

Sunday, October 9, 9 a.m. to Noon **Fall Migration in CBCA** **Leaders: Gordon Russell and Jane Rosinski**

See trip description and directions for the September 11 trip. Enjoy some peak-season leaf peeping as you help us look for late-migrating birds that use the woods and waters of the CBCA to rest and fuel up, before continuing on toward their wintering grounds. We are also likely to find many resident species, birds that are hardy enough to survive the cold Maine winter. It gets easier to spot them when the foliage starts to thin out with colder weather.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Rain date: Sunday, November 13** **Late Fall Birding in Downeast Maine**

Trip Leaders: Bob and Sandi Duchesne
We will meet at Fields Pond and carpool to the scenic Schoodic Peninsula via Ellsworth and Coastal Route One, stopping at numerous hot spots to scan for year-round resident birds and winter migrants on both sea and land. This is a great trip for novice birders and new residents who want to learn more about Maine's winter bird populations, and good places to look for them along the Downeast coast. More experienced birders can help us locate and identify unusual visitors among the many seabirds that gather on the Maine coast in winter, and everyone will enjoy the scenic natural vistas as we travel along the rugged coastline. Bring your own brown-bag lunch, beverages, and snacks and dress in warm layers, including hiking boots or sturdy shoes, that will allow you to comfortably stand outside and do some short-distance walking (optional). A scope will come in handy if you have one, and the leaders will share theirs. Please call Sandi at 207-735-5436 to register, so she can call you if the weather looks too iffy on Saturday. If you'd prefer to meet up with our carpool caravan in Ellsworth or Winter Harbor, please let Sandi know that too.

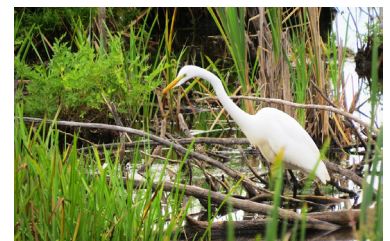
NATURE NOTES: Aliens **Amongst Us** BY GLORIA VOLLMEERS

National Audubon focuses on birds – personal favorites of mine – but our Maine Audubon chapter broadens that mission considerably: *Conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat by connecting people to our regional natural heritage, through enjoyable and meaningful activities that educate and promote greater environmental awareness.* Our bird walks and other activities are enhanced when participants identify plants, mosses, and insects, contributing to the learning that accompanies hearing and seeing birds and noting their habits and habitats. Though we love learning about wildlife and find much joy in observing its abundance, nevertheless not all wildlife is pleasant to behold. Indeed – it can be as frightening as any horror movie.

The word "alien" derives from Latin: strange, unfamiliar, belonging to another. The use of alien to denote a person from another country came much later (circa 14th to 15th century). Someone from beyond Earth? That's a 20th century creation.

As a science-fiction fan, I am accustomed to space travel, apocalyptic visions, endless wars, alternate histories, and unfriendly creatures – humanoid, reptilian and insectoid. Aliens all. The plot of "Ender's Game" begins after a barely-won war against the Formics – an ant-like civilization. Don't forget the classic sci-fi movies about aliens, like "Them!" (1954). In "Starship Troopers," a futuristic military force battles giant arachnids that want to eliminate humanity. More recently, in "A Quiet Place," sightless monsters (an uneasy insectoid-reptilian mix) kill and eat any creature that makes noise.

One does not have to leave our solar system to find aliens. There are many strange creatures here on Earth (the octopus for one – indeed, living in water is pretty darned alien to humans) and some are dangerous. (Continued on Page 5)



Great egret in Essex Woods.
Photo credit: Jerry Smith.

NATURE NOTES

Continued

Killer bees are not numerous or angry enough to seek the annihilation of humanity, but kill they do. Fire ants attack when disturbed, and birds, especially ground-nesters, are vulnerable. Any insect, lizard, bird, small mammal, or amphibian that is unlucky enough to disturb a fire ant mound is sure to be attacked, often fatally (<http://www.tsusinvasives.org/home/database/solenopsis-in-victa>). We emit odors or warmth that attracts mosquitoes and black flies and deer flies, who pierce and suck or take bites out of us – similar to those noise-attracted Quiet Place monsters. Unless allergic, human reactions are minimal, because these blood-drinking creatures are small and not too poisonous. But winter ticks are also very small, and they are well on their way to eliminating Maine's moose population. Let's not even talk about the disgusting browntail moth. The only reason we're not screaming in terror is because all of these insects are so small.

How about some real-life alien horror stories, as seen in the movies? In "The Village of the Damned" (1960 and a remake is coming!), all women get pregnant on a single night, and give birth to aliens. In the terrifying "Alien" (1979), a mother creature lays eggs which, upon hatching, violently attach themselves to another creature (a human, in the movie) and then develop inside it, eating its guts and then digging itself out. The host dies, of course. Did these original stories emerge spontaneously from demented but creative minds? I think not. The writers no doubt browsed publications like National Geographic or Scientific American. Mother Nature provides plenty of inspiration.

There are parasitic birds that lay eggs in the nests of other birds. The most well-known of these are cuckoos and brown headed cowbirds. The alien egg is incubated by a host mother. Upon hatching, the fledgling – born evil – is known to destroy their host's other offspring by cracking unhatched eggs, stabbing live nestlings to death, or pushing them out of the nest. They are thus left alone to be fed exclusively by the host mother. Equally cringe-worthy are the stories of parasitic wasps (of which there are many) and their malevolent life cycle. Some inject a caterpillar with an immobilizing agent and then deposit their eggs in

NATURE NOTES

Continued

the caterpillar's body. The eggs hatch into larvae that eat the caterpillar's insides, and then dig themselves out when they pupate. Some turn the caterpillar into a zombie that protects the developing pupae until they are ready to emerge as adult wasps. Of course, the caterpillar dies (RIP John Hurt).

Most people are conscious of caterpillars' destiny to metamorphose into magnificent butterflies or moths. We celebrate this mysterious transformation, but think a bit about what actually happens. It is a stunning example of an alien life cycle. Though from Earth, with many species native to Maine, these appear to be very alien creatures. If any of these inhuman creatures should mutate into larger forms – watch out!! Meanwhile, may I suggest that you read up on giant African land snails and the Burmese pythons, which have escaped from captivity and are now living and thriving in Florida! No sleeping tonight.

I submit that the appearances of some movie aliens were also inspired by nature. Check out the close-up photos of a dust mite, a bat, and a spider on Page 6.

For more fascinating but disturbing information about the aliens among us, may I suggest: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/body-snatchers-eaten-alive.html> <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-brilliant-ways-parasitic-birds-terrorize-their-victims>

FIELDS POND AUDUBON CENTER PROGRAMS FALL 2022

Please register online at www.maineaudubon.org/events/.

Stream Explorers Workshop

Saturday, September 17, two sessions offered: 9 to 10:30 a.m. or 10:30 to noon

Practice your water sampling methods and macroinvertebrate identification skills at this in-person training workshop. Stream Explorers is our newest community science project, exploring the world of aquatic insects and what they can tell us about wildlife habitat and water quality.

Annual Fall Stewardship Day

Saturday, September 10, 9 a.m. to noon

Join the Fields Pond staff for a morning of stewardship activities, focused on improving our trails and public access spaces. Bring work gloves and sturdy footwear. Snacks provided!

Family Fun at Fields Pond

Weekly on Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Fall session: 9/15-11/10 (10 weeks)

\$120/member child, \$150/nonmember child

Ages 2-5, siblings under 2 free

Young children and their grown-ups are invited to spend an hour exploring nature together through stories, songs, art, and play. Each week will include outdoor activities and adventures designed to foster a connection to nature, encourage stewardship, and provide an introduction to group learning settings. Advance registration is encouraged! Drop-ins are welcome if space is available.

Favorite Fall Hikes with Aislinn Sarnacki

Tuesday, September 20, 7 p.m. (held online via Zoom)

Aislinn Sarnacki, a Registered Maine Guide, author, and long-time outdoor columnist for the Bangor Daily News, will highlight some of her favorite fall hiking locations, places in Maine where you'll see plenty of bright fall foliage. She'll also share some tips about hiking in the fall, including how to protect yourself from ticks, layer your clothing, and stay safe in areas that are open to hunting. Her presentation will include a slideshow of fall hiking photos. Aislinn is passionate about nature photography, and she will point out beautiful flora and fauna you should keep your eye out for during the fall season. This is a free online Zoom program. Pre-registration is required to get the link.

Bird-Friendly, Bird-Safe: Making Your Property a Haven for Birds

Friday, September 23, 6 p.m.

Join Maine Audubon's Nick Lund for an in-depth look at how to turn your home landscape into a year-round bird sanctuary. The program will include the best types of plants to use to attract birds, and how to mitigate bird collisions with building structures. Nick will also be available to sign his new book, *Field Guide to Birds of Maine*. Copies may be purchased at the Fields Pond Nature Store, with the usual 10 percent member discount off retail price.

\$12/member, \$15/nonmember

(Continued on Page 6)

FIELDS POND PROGRAMS (Continued)

Mushroom Walk

Saturday, October 1st, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

A journey through the fascinating world of fungi! Join Maine mushroom expert David Spahr for outdoor learning about mushroom identification, folklore, collecting, and cooking. Be prepared for a moderate amount of physical activity and dress appropriately for the weather of the day.

Presenter: David Spahr, author of *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada*.

\$25 for members; \$35 for nonmembers

Fall Foliage 5K Trail Run at Fields Pond

Saturday, October 8, 10 a.m.

Join us for our annual trail-running event. This challenging course will take you up through our beautiful, wooded trails, and onto the adjoining Holden Land Trust trail system for the perfect fall foliage tour! \$25 registration (member), \$30 registration (non-member), includes souvenir race T-shirt.

WELCOME NEW AND REJOINING PVC MEMBERS!

Harry Buchanan, Milford

Sue Canton, Bucksport

Corey Dupuy, Detroit

G. C. Eames, Bangor

David Fenderson, Brewer

Joanne and Barry Frecker, Bucksport

Alison Hermanns and Earl Parfitt, Bradford

Martha Jackson, Orono

Lynne D. Knippler, Stillwater

Karen Littlefield, Stillwater

Valerie Levy, Orono

Hope W. MacDonald, Old Town

Nancy M. MacKnight, Orono

Scott Mitchell, Glenburn

Sydney Olson, Bangor

The Salyer Family, Hampden

Linda and Robert Webster, Portland

REAL-WORLD ANIMALS THAT LOOK LIKE ALIENS!

(From "Aliens Amongst Us," *Nature Notes*, pp. 4-5)



Dust Mite: learn.allergyandair.com



MacConnell's Bat: istockphotocom/photos/bat-face



Wolf Spider: dreamstime.com

GET WELL SOON DONNE!

If you're wondering why this issue of *Natural Selections* looks a lot less professional than usual, it's because our amazing volunteer design & layout specialist, Donne Sinderson, slipped and broke her wrist while working in her garden earlier this summer. Doctor's orders, no serious computer work for her until the fracture is fully healed! We're plugging along the best we can without her for this issue, but please join me in wishing Donne a very speedy recovery!

-Editor

PENOBSCOT VALLEY CHAPTER PROGRAMS FALL 2022

We invite you to join us as we explore Maine's natural history and environmental concerns, with special attention to the abundant wildlife and diverse ecosystems within the Penobscot Valley region. Free monthly programs that follow the school year calendar (October-May, no January) are one of the many benefits of your membership in the Penobscot Valley Chapter of Maine Audubon. All chapter programs are open to the general public, so feel free to bring a friend or an out-of-town guest!

At press time (August 2022), we made the difficult decision to continue presenting chapter programs via Zoom. Many PVC members are at high risk for COVID-19 complications due to their age or health status, and highly contagious variants appear to be evading the current vaccine protocols. So we decided to err on the side of caution, especially at a time of year when meeting outdoors (or even keeping the windows open) is not practical due to dropping temperatures. Please note that all PVC meetings are still FREE, but you will need to pre-register with Maine Audubon using the link provided below for each program. You'll receive another link to the actual program after pre-registering, typically within 24 hours of the meeting time.

MAINERS GO WILD IN ALASKA

Friday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.

Offered via Zoom, pre-register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84562891234>

This last spring, Sandi and Bob Duchesne finally took their first trip to Alaska, after planning and saving up for it over the past forty years. Their far-flung itinerary took them through city parks in Anchorage, numerous destinations along the Kenai Peninsula in the southwest, Nome on the northwestern coast just below the Arctic Circle, and finally camping out in Denali National Park and along the wild and scenic Denali Highway, allowing them to explore some of the vast interior of our 49th state. Despite spending nearly a month on the ground, visiting glaciers by land and by sea, and seeing plenty of birds, mammals, and other wildlife for the first time (as well as many species they had seen previously in Maine and elsewhere), they were able to visit only a tiny fraction of Alaska's wild places – so there are still a lot of destinations remaining on their joint bucket list. Join Sandi and Bob for an entertaining and educational travelogue, with plenty of time at the end of the program to ask questions and share some of your own Alaska experiences and travel tips.

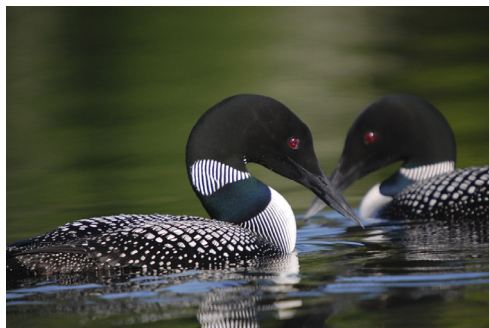


Photo credit:
"Common Loons"
by Gary J. Wege,
US Fish & Wildlife
Service, public
domain.

STATE OF THE LOONS

Friday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.

Offered via Zoom, pre-register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84562891234>

Maine Audubon has worked for 40 years to better understand how Maine's iconic common loons are faring. Nick Lund, Advocacy and Outreach Director for Maine Audubon and an avid lifelong birder, will summarize what has happened to Maine's loon population over the last four decades. Please join us to learn about the biology of these beautiful birds, the threats they face (both natural and human-caused), and what Maine Audubon and others are doing to protect them.



Don't bring those hummer feeders in yet! Maine's ruby-throated hummingbirds often linger well into the fall, and a few out-of-area species (especially rufous hummingbirds, which nest in the western US and Canada) show up in Maine almost every fall. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to host a rare hummer this year! Photo credit: US Fish & Wildlife Service, public domain.

MAINE AUDUBON

Penobscot Valley Chapter

c/o Fields Pond Audubon Center
216 Fields Pond Road
Holden, Maine 04429

*Mission of the Penobscot Valley Chapter:
Conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat by
connecting people to our regional natural heritage,
through enjoyable and meaningful activities
that educate and promote greater environmental
awareness.*

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Penobscot Valley Chapter

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

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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!

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