

Natural Selections

Newsletter of the Penobscot Valley Chapter of Maine Audubon



September–November 2023

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

Changing of the Guard

BY SEAN TRAHAN, PRESIDENT
PENOBSCOT VALLEY CHAPTER OF MAINE AUDUBON

I hope this summer has been treating you well, despite the heavy rain we experienced in June. Let's stay optimistic as we look forward to better weather, offering us ample opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

First and foremost, I want to express my warm congratulations to Gordon Russell for his invaluable service as PVC President over many years. Under his exceptional leadership and dedication, our chapter membership has steadily grown. Additionally, our close partnership with Maine Audubon's Fields Pond Audubon Center has allowed us to expand our programs and offerings, benefiting both our community and our members. In May, Gordon passed the baton to me, and I must admit, I have big shoes to fill!

Allow me to introduce myself briefly: I grew up on Fields Pond in Orrington, living at my grandparents' camp and working at the Curran Farm. I graduated from Brewer High School in the 1990s, and I'm an alumnus of Thomas College.



During the summer months, I reside on Fields Pond with my wife and two dogs, while winters find us in Dallas, Texas. In addition to serving as President of the Penobscot Valley Chapter, I am honored to hold a seat on the Board of Trustees for Maine Audubon.

Looking ahead, our focus for the coming year will be on enhancing our various programs, and expanding our membership and board of directors with enthusiastic individuals from the community. I encourage you to mark Saturday, August 26th on your calendar, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Fields Pond Audubon Center. On that same day, Maine Audubon will also be hosting its annual Butterfly Festival at Fields Pond, featuring the Darling's Ice Cream For a Cause Truck. All donations received will go directly to the Fields Pond Audubon Center.

To stay up-to-date on FPAC's upcoming programs and events, visit the Maine Audubon website at <https://maineaudubon.org/events/> and page down to the Fields Pond offerings. For PVC programs and field trips, follow our Penobscot Valley Audubon Facebook page, and subscribe to weekly email reminders by sending a request to Jim Zeman at kjzeman@hotmail.com. Of course, this newsletter also contains the complete fall program schedules for both PVC and FPAC!



A group of Judy Kellogg Markowsky's (1st Fields Pond Director, and instrumental in the Center's founding) family and friends came together for a memorial hike in her honor this summer. Kit Pfeiffer, Judy's cousin, was instrumental in pulling everyone together. Kit says, "since a number of us couldn't make the anniversary celebration on August 25th, we wanted to celebrate Judy's legacy now that Fields Pond is 25." Pictured left to right: Judy's former FPAC colleague Jane Rosinski and her husband Gordon Russell, both active PVC members; Dick Cleveland, husband of Betty Evans; David Elliott, partner of Kit Pfeiffer; three of Judy's first cousins, Kit Pfeiffer, Betsy Evans, and Bill Evans; and two of Judy's five siblings, Betty Kellogg and Zip Kellogg.

Photo credit: David Lamon

If you have any questions, wish to discuss chapter business, or want to learn more about our programs, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email: Sean.Trahan@gmail.com. I'd love to hear from you!

Summer camper painting quietly along the shore of Fields Pond. Photo credit: David Lamon

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 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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Vice President Gloria Vollmers
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Natural Selections

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<https://pvc.maineaudubon.org>
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FIELDS POND JOURNAL: Past, Present and Future

by David Lamon, Northern Operations and Programs Director

This summer we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Fields Pond Audubon Center. At the celebration event, long-time members of Maine Audubon's Penobscot Valley Chapter shared their memories and anecdotes about the earliest days in the founding and development of FPAC. Activities and images from FPAC's present-day educational and public outreach initiatives were on display, and plans for future development at Fields Pond were unveiled.

Gathering to share memories, stories, ideas, and plans reminds us all that when we come together as a community, we can achieve great things. The Fields Pond Audubon Center is an ongoing example of this. Just this past summer, hundreds of people hiked our sanctuary trails for the very first time, and discovered this gem of natural wonder in their local community. Dozens of children attended our summer camp programs each week, and deepened their appreciation and connection with Maine's natural history. Artists shared their creativity and skills with participants during our Summer Arts Series. Skilled trip leaders in our Summer Naturalist Series revealed the ecological stories of our native plants and animals, helping people to identify, appreciate and protect these treasured elements in our natural landscape.

Through the collective efforts of many people in the past and present, the Fields Pond Audubon Center has become many things to residents, businesses, and visitors in central and eastern Maine. This is "Your Wildlife Community" and I invite your involvement with our ongoing work. You can help to shape the evolution of the Fields Pond Audubon Center over its next 25 years. The possibilities await!

WELCOME! TO PVC NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS!

John Burns, Greenville
Rebekah Campbell, Brewer
Donna & David Casavant, Hampden
Patrick Corr, Eddington
John Emerson, Old Town
Travis Gass & Judi McCashland, Brewer
Sarah Gilbert, Old Town
Jan Goddard, Orrington
Julie Johnston, Hampden
Tammi Jones & Donald Jones-Avery, Orrington
Fred Kay, Orrington
Rori Knott & Olivia England-Knott, Bangor
Sandra Lowden, Glenburn
Sally & Lawrence Mahoney, Bangor
Krista Molnar Smith, Bangor
Caroline Ng, Hampden
Philip Pepin, Bradford
Kate Peppard, Newburgh
Melissa & Steven Preston, Holden
Logan Reardon, Brewer
Sean Smith & Raphaelle Silver, Bangor
Jean Tibbetts, Hampden
Barbara & Donald Vereault, Bangor
Ashleigh Vincent, Bucksport
Krista Watson, Brewer
Joanne Yestranski, Falmouth



Maine IFW Biologist Cory Stearns installing an acoustic bat detector at Fields Pond as part of a state-wide effort to monitor Maine's eight bat species. The detector was up for 14 days this summer. More and more bat species are getting listed every year as they are in trouble, but one of the biggest challenges of all is insufficient information. Photo credit: Brianna Guy

Fall Migration in Full View

by Bob Duchesne

Spring migration is noisy. Birds sing upon arrival on their breeding grounds, or even when they're just passing through. Fall migration is quiet. One day, a flock of warblers is still in the neighborhood. The next day, they're not. Most songbirds migrate at night. So do waterfowl. Their departures are virtually invisible.

Except when they're not. We happen to have two viewable migration spectacles right in our own backyard.

Hawks migrate by day, many of them right past Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park, site of the best-known hawk watch in Eastern Maine. This is its 33rd year.

Every morning from mid-August through October, hawk-watchers gather on a ledge just below the summit to begin the day's tally of passing raptors. Officially, the watch lasts from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., but on a favorable breeze, watchers are likely to linger longer. A hundred hawks may pass the peak on a good day, and three times that many on a great day. Mid-September is busiest.

Weather is all important. The best viewing happens when winds are blowing from the northwest. This tailwind carries

the hawks down Maine's coastline and over Frenchman's Bay. The hawks aim for Cadillac, expecting to gain altitude from the updrafts pushed skyward by the peak. Thermals rising from the sunbaked granite add additional lift. From there, the hawks can merely ride the wind toward Blue Hill and the Camden Hills.

Not much happens on a rainy day, nor on a day when the winds are from the south or east. It's best to watch the weather and plan ahead. That used to be easier. The park now requires advance online registration for those wishing to drive up the auto road between May 24 and October 22, and it costs \$6.

Meanwhile, across the bay, another migration spectacle is happening. Tens of thousands of seabirds will pass by Schoodic Point. Expect big flocks of common eiders, surf scoters, black scoters, white-winged scoters, and double-crested cormorants. Northern gannets are also working their way south from their enormous nesting colonies in Québec and Newfoundland.

Think of Schoodic Point as a speed bump. Birds leaving the soon-to-be-frozen north follow the Atlantic coastline

south, and they must maneuver around the Schoodic Peninsula. Many flocks pass, and there can be hundreds of birds in each. Some pass close to shore, but most are typically distant. Binoculars are necessary, and a spotting scope is helpful.

Hawks sleep late, but the seaducks are on the move before dawn. Project Sea Watch experts begin the daily count at sunrise. Migration movements slow down by mid-morning. The peak of seabird migration occurs in early to mid-October.

Weather also matters for the Schoodic Point Sea Watch. Southerly and easterly winds are better than northerly or westerly winds. The birds will migrate in any breeze, but the preferred winds tend to push the birds closer to shore, and they'll often fly just over the water's surface. Winds from the north and west tend to push the birds farther offshore, where they can ride the air currents skyward.

The Cadillac Hawk Watch and Project Sea Watch are both supervised by Schoodic Institute. Anyone can show up and join the fun at any time. If you struggle to tell one species from another, the birding experts conducting the counts will be happy to call them out to you. Watch the weather. Pick a good day.

NATURE NOTES

Black Terns and Dragonflies

by Gloria Vollmers

We drove out of Bangor in July with our canoe for a half-day trip to paddle and see a bird not available to those of us who tend to stick around the Bangor/Brewer METROPLEX for our birding enjoyment. Destination - Carlton Pond (Carlton Pond Waterfowl Production Area) in Waldo County, about 35 miles west of Bangor (<https://www.fws.gov/office/carlton-pond-waterfowl-production-area>). It is one of the few nearby places to see Black Terns, which nest there and are on the endangered species list in Maine. The pond is mostly shallow open water and marsh. We put in at a culvert off Detroit Road - an awkward entry-point for this older woman, but obviously (since I'm writing this) possible with the help of a strong partner. Paddling for several minutes in calm water and then through pickerel weed, and providing an occasional resting place for several species of dragonfly, we came upon the terns. They

were flying low over the water, hunting, dipping quickly, and capturing and eating dragonflies. We saw four of them, and they were undisturbed by us and flew nearby often. They were in their summer plumage: black head, bill and legs, dark gray wings, white rear belly and under the tail. The leading edge of their wing, from shoulder to elbow (I don't know the proper term for bird body parts, though I did try to look it up) is white-edged, as if drawn with chalk.

The pond was peaceful. Not a single other person was there, and there were no sounds beyond the terns and the frogs. Lily pads were abundant, decorated by two flowers: the Yellow Pond-lily, whose cup-like structure is marvelous strange - it floats on the water, but then stays suspended on stalks when the water-level drops. When opportunity arises, take one and examine it - it's from another world. The other is the Fragrant Water-Lily, a



Black Tern

Photo credit Bob Duchesne

beautiful white open-petaled flower with yellow stamens that also floats on the water. The yellow flowers outnumbered the white flowers by 50 to 1.

I regret that I cannot identify dragonflies. There were many varieties, and I know I would have enjoyed myself even more if I had learned their names. Judging from the terns, they must be delicious. We might entertain a Maine Audubon evening to learn major dragonflies.

(Editor's note: PVC has sponsored superb dragonfly presentations in the past, and maybe it's time for a reprise! Thanks for the program idea, Gloria!)

FIELDS POND AUDUBON CENTER FALL 2023 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Registration online—www.maineaudubon.org

All fall programs will be held in-person at Fields Pond Audubon Center, unless otherwise specified.

Foraging: Finding Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants

Saturday, September 2, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost: \$22 member/\$30 nonmember; spaces limited, pre-registration required
Maine has an abundance of wild plants, mushrooms and other natural treasures that can be foraged for food, medicinal use and other purposes. This program will help you learn about what you can find, how to differentiate the safe from the toxic, and different ways to use what you forage. Leader: David Spahr, author of *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada*.

Wednesday Family Fun Hours

Series starts Wednesday, September 13, 9:30-10:30 am (10 weeks to November 15)

Cost: \$100/member, \$130/nonmember per 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. Advanced registration is encouraged! Drop-ins are welcome if space is available, please call ahead. \$15 per child drop-in fee.

Friday Fall Bird Walks

Series starts Friday, September 15, 9-10 a.m. (6 weeks to October 20)

Cost: FREE

Fall migration provides an excellent opportunity to see birds you may not otherwise get a chance to see. Add to that the challenge of identifying birds that have molted from their breeding plumage, and you have an exciting mix of birding!

Fall Stewardship Day

Saturday, September 16, 9 a.m. to noon

Cost: FREE

Join the FPAC staff for a morning of stewardship activities, focused on improving our sanctuary trails, Nature Center building, and other public use spaces. Bring work gloves and sturdy footwear. Snacks provided!

Mushrooms of Maine

Saturday, September 23, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost: \$22 member/\$30 nonmember; spaces limited, pre-registration required
Join Maine favorite David Spahr on a journey through the world of fungi. Time will be spent both indoors and outdoors, learning about mushroom identification, folklore, collecting, and cooking. David's book will be available for purchase and signing. Come prepared for a moderate amount of physical activity while outdoors. Leader: David Spahr, author of *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada*.

Packrafting & Hiking Adventure with PackRaft Maine

Saturday, September 30, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 member/\$35 nonmember

Rather than valuing remoteness, danger and challenge, the focus of packrafting is on finding delight, connection with others, and wildness close to home. Alejandro Strong from Packraft Maine, along with Maine Audubon staff, will co-lead an afternoon of quiet connection with nature. Depending on the trails we choose, we will take a half-mile to two-mile hike to the southwest shore of Fields Pond. From there, we will inflate the rafts to explore the pond itself. Depending on the route we choose, we will paddle from a half-mile to two miles. After landing at the Fields Pond boat ramp, we will deflate and pack the boats for a short hike back to the Nature Center.

Guide Pack Basketmaking Workshop

Saturday, September 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$120 member/\$135 nonmember

Weave a 17" tall basket with instructor Jessica Steele. These baskets are great for ice fishing, day hiking, going to music festivals or to the local co-op. The possibilities are endless. Program fee covers the cost of all materials and instruction. Please bring your own brown-bag lunch and snacks (refrigerator available).

Annual Fall Foliage 5K Trail Run

Saturday, October 7, 9 a.m.

Cost: \$25 member/\$30 nonmember

Join us for our annual trail running event. This challenging course will take you up through our beautiful, wooded trails, onto the adjoining Holden Land Trust trail system for the perfect fall foliage tour! Registration fee includes souvenir race t-shirt, if pre-registered by September 1.

NEW for 2023! FREE Kids Fun Run at 10:30 am. Kids are invited to participate in a short fun run following the 5K Trail Run.

Native Plants Walk

Sunday, October 29, noon to 2 p.m.

Cost: \$10 member/\$12 nonmember

Join us for a late fall installment to conclude our popular native plant program series, led by Maine Audubon's Field Naturalist, Andrew Kapinos. You will learn how to collect and store native plant seeds for spring planting, the different ways that seeds are dispersed, and how we can help native plant populations thrive.

Autumn Owl Prowl

Friday, October 27, 5-6:15 p.m.

Cost: \$8 member (\$12 family rate)/\$12 nonmember (\$15 family rate)

This family-friendly program will start indoors. Participants will learn about fascinating world of Maine owls, and how their unique adaptations allow them to be such capable hunters in the dark. We'll then venture out into the night, to "prowl for owls" along the Fields Pond sanctuary trails. PLEASE NOTE: there is no guarantee that we will see or hear any owls during our outing.

The Three Ws of Wildlife Rehabilitation

Saturday, October 28, noon to 1 p.m.

Cost: \$8 member (\$12 family rate)/\$12 nonmember (\$15 family rate)

Come learn more about wildlife rehabilitation work, with Ann Rivers from Acadia Wildlife Centers. WHAT is it, WHO does it, and WHY do they do it? Ann's presentation will feature a live owl!

Pine-rimmed Gourd Basket Workshop

Thursday, November 2, 5-8 p.m.

Cost: \$50 member/\$60 nonmember

Jessica Steele will demonstrate how to craft a gourd to make a perfect holiday gift, or a decorative addition to your home. Gourds (4-5" diameter) will be pre-cut, and students will clean, sand, drill and stain the gourds, choosing from an assortment of staining colors. Pine needles will then be sewn around the rim. During this class, students will also learn basic techniques for making their own pine-needle baskets. Course fee covers all materials and tools required to make the gourd baskets.

FPAC PROGRAMS Continued

Black Terns and Other Marsh Rarities

Thursday, November 16, 6 p.m.

Cost: FREE

The black tern (*Chlidonias niger*) is the rarest tern in Maine. It nests in just a handful of freshwater marshes in the state. Since 1989, Maine's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department (IFW) has closely monitored its population, watching it wax and wane to its current level of only 30 nesting pairs in the state. In 2021, IFW began marking this state-endangered species with color bands and geolocators, to better understand the birds' movements between wetlands, their return rates to breeding sites, their migration routes, and their overwintering locations. IFW wildlife biologist Danielle D'Auria will present a fascinating program on the habits and habitats of black terns. She will also discuss some of the other rare birds that inhabit Maine's marshes.



Summer camper delighted by a visit from a butterfly. Photo credit: Brianna Guy

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! All programs are once again being offered at Fields Pond Audubon Center.

OUR MAINE: EXPLORING ITS RICH NATURAL HERITAGE (Authors' talk and book signing)

Friday, October 6, 6:00 p.m.

Lobsters, blueberries, moose, and rugged coastlines dotted with lighthouses are emblematic of the state of Maine. But underlying these simple icons is the rich natural heritage of Maine that drives the economy and shapes the state's culture. The history of Maine's natural heritage has been co-produced by both the natural and human worlds. The writings and photographs in this newly published anthology paint a vivid portrait of Maine's wild places and wild creatures, and the ways people have shaped our state's natural heritage. Join co-editors and retired University of Maine professors Aram Calhoun, Ph.D. and Mac Hunter, Ph.D. for a presentation about their new book and the large cast of writers, photographers and scientists who helped them produce it, celebrating



Maine's landscapes and waters along with the charismatic plants and animals that inhabit them. They will also highlight some of the book's contents, using its outstanding photography to speak a thousand words! Copies will be available in the FPAC Nature Store for purchase and signing by Aram and Mac, before and after the presentation. Maine Audubon members get a 10 percent discount!

TINY OWLS, BIG QUESTIONS

Friday, November 3, 7:00 p.m.

Northern saw-whet owls are common breeders throughout Maine, but their migratory habits and routes have been difficult to study. They migrate at night and in complete silence, to avoid being eaten by larger predators. Project OwlNet was established in the mid-1990s to pool and share data collected across multiple sites, in an effort to gain a better scientific understanding of saw-whet migration patterns and their annual population fluctuations. There are now mist-netting and banding locations scattered across the continent, including one at a secret Downeast Maine site established in 2015. A lot of owls have been banded in Maine since Inland Fisheries & Wildlife biologist Adrienne Leppold, Ph.D., first became involved with the project. She'll present a slide show on our tiniest native owls, and describe what wildlife biologists have learned so far about these minuscule, mysterious creatures of the dark.

Saw Whet Owl
Photo credit Bob Duchesne

FIELDS POND BOOK GROUP

The Fields Pond Book Group meets monthly on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Orono Public Library, facilitated by professional librarian Joyce Rumery. At press time, Joyce was still scheduling hybrid FPBG meetings, for attendance either in-person or online via Zoom. If you would like to participate, please contact Joyce directly at rumeryj9@gmail.com to sign up for the Zoom link, which she will send out shortly before the meeting. Here are the titles for September through November.

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|--------------------|---|
| September 14, 2023 | Halliday, Thomas. <i>Otherlands: A Journey Through Earth's Extinct Worlds</i> . 2022. 384 pp. |
| October 12, 2023 | Leopold, Aldo. <i>A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There</i> . 1949. 226 pp. |
| November 9, 2023 | Milman, Oliver. <i>The Insect Crisis: The Fall of the Tiny Empires That Run the World</i> , 2022. 260 pp. |

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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PENOBSCOT VALLEY CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS—FALL 2023

Penobscot Valley Chapter field trips are fun ways to meet like-minded people, while enjoying the rich natural heritage of our region. We hope you will come outside and join us! Trips are free and open to the general public, although of course we encourage participants to join Maine Audubon at whatever financial level makes sense for them. Your membership supports science-based education, conservation, and advocacy for the protection of native wildlife and wildlife habitat throughout Maine, including right here in the Penobscot Valley.

ESSEX WOODS, Bangor

Sunday, September 10, 8-11 a.m.

Leaders: Paul Markson & Gloria Vollmers

In late summer and early fall, it's not unusual to spot great egrets and migrating shorebirds at Essex Woods. Bob Milardo has nicknamed this special place Little Penjajawoc, since it is an extension of the larger Bangor marsh system and just as magical throughout the year. We also will look for multiple species of ducks and other waterfowl, green and great blue herons, and songbirds.

Directions: Meet at the parking lot entrance to Essex Woods at the end of Watchmaker Road, off Essex Street in Bangor.

CARIBOU BOG CONSERVATION AREA, Orono

Sunday, September 24, 8-11 a.m.

Leaders: Gordon Russell & Jane Rosinski

The restored wetlands in Boulder Pond and Black Pond (formerly known as the Taylor Bait Ponds) are now being actively managed to attract migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Late summer to 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, take 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.

SCHOODIC POINT SEA WATCH

Saturday, October 14, drop in anytime between sunrise and 9 a.m.

Leaders: Bob Duchesne & Schoodic Institute staff

Tens of thousands of seabirds migrate past Schoodic Point each autumn. Common eiders and double-crested cormorants are joined by passing groups of black, surf, and white-winged scoters, with some flocks numbering in the hundreds. Northern gannets often pass close to shore. Each morning starting at sunrise, biologists from Schoodic Institute show up to count them – and members of the public are invited to join in the process. Most of these species are too difficult to survey in their remote breeding habitats, so this daily seasonal count allows scientists to assess the health and population trends of many seabirds. Bob and the biologist on duty will point out the different species as they pass by, so participants can develop their flying seabird identification skills. Come and go as you please, anytime between sunrise and 9 a.m. Bring binoculars and, if you have one, a spotting scope; otherwise, Bob will share his. PLEASE NOTE: in the event of heavy rain, this program will be cancelled without notice.

Directions: From Coastal Route US-1, take State Route 186 to Moore Road, aka the Schoodic Loop Road. Follow

the Loop Road all the way to its end at Schoodic Point, bearing right where the road forks. If you have never visited the Schoodic portion of Acadia National Park before, allow time for at least one more driving tour around the loop, and possibly some hiking or bicycle touring after the Sea Watch program ends. There are plenty of great birding, photography, sightseeing, picnicking, and wildlife-watching adventures awaiting you here, with much smaller crowds than you will find on MDI.

LATE FALL MIGRATION ON INLAND WATERS

Sunday, October 22, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leaders: Bob Milardo & Sandi McRae Duchesne

Join us for a fall migration tour of productive birding hotspots in central Maine, focusing on species that rest and refuel around ponds, rivers, and lakes. We will make multiple stops to survey birds at Plymouth Pond, Sebasticook Lake-Durham Bridge, Sprague's Mill, and Corinna Bog/Corundel Lake. We're likely to spot a wide variety of waterfowl, along with smaller numbers of late-migrating shorebird species - and possibly a few unexpected delights. Last fall, a pair of Hudsonian godwits spent an entire month at Durham Bridge, along with greater and lesser yellowlegs and black-bellied plovers. Bring binoculars and/or camera, and a spotting scope if you have one; the guides will also share theirs with participants.

Directions: Meet at the commuter Park-and-Ride lot east of I-95 Exit 174 (Carmel-Newburgh), directly across from the Dysarts convenience store.

PLEASE NOTE: parking along the route is very limited, so carpooling is a must.