

SPRING 2018

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Stanton
Tradition***Become a Member-Supporter by giving a financial donation.******For more information see our website at www.stantonbirdclub.org*****In this issue**President's Perch **P.1**Centennial Events **P.2**International Year of the Bird **P.3**Wednesday Bird Walks **P.5**Thorncrag Nature Week **P.6****The President's Perch***Jeri Maurer, President*

"The truth of the matter is, the birds could very well live without us, but many, perhaps all, of us would find life incomplete, indeed almost intolerable without the birds."

Roger Tory Peterson, ornithologist, artist, author

People have different thoughts when they hear the words 'Stanton Bird Club'. Some immediately think about the educational programs we offer adults and children including the monthly Monday night meetings, the Jr. Naturalist program and the guided school group tours. Others automatically think of Thorncrag or Woodbury and their experiences walking in the sanctuaries. For some it's the birding trips offered on Wednesdays or on the weekends.

This is an important year for the Stanton Bird Club. We are kicking off a year of events starting in June with a Wildflower Festival in celebration of our 100th anniversary. Looking back through 100 years of the Stanton Bird Club, I think Ernest Baynes would be impressed that when he came to town 100 years ago, he helped start something that has endured this long. Who was Ernest Baynes? Check out page 2 to see.

We are also proud to be working in partnership with the Auburn Public Library to celebrate the International Year of the Bird which marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This Act has been called the most powerful and important bird protection law ever passed.

We will also offer Thorncrag Nature Week again this summer as last year's pilot effort was so successful.

We invite you during this centennial year for the Club to spend time in nature visiting one of our sanctuaries and participating in some of the activities we offer.

CENTENNIAL !

You might be asking yourself who Mr. Baynes is.

An ornithologist from Connecticut, he came to our area to do a lecture on birds in 1918. Whenever he finished his talk in the town he was in, before he stepped off the stage, he insisted community members start a bird club. Within months our Club was formed and named in memory of a beloved Bates professor. Officers were elected with the first formal meeting of the Club held in February 1919.



Professor 'Johnny' Stanton

Join us for our kickoff
Centennial Event
Wildflower Festival

June 3rd 1-4 pm
at Thorncrag

Wildflower Walks Music Plant Sale
Children and Family Activities



To Celebrate our Centennial, Master Naturalists and others will offer a series of walks:

WALKS at THORNCRAG

June 3rd: Sharon Gallant will join Rick Speer as he leads the annual **Larry Nadeau Memorial Wildflower Walk**. She will provide information on wildflower photography using cell phones.

July 8th: Stone Walls Tell a Story with Cheryl Laz

Aug 12: A surveyor's view of Thorncrag's history with David Chittim

Sept. 9th: Fern identification with Beth Brooke and Sharon Thibeault

Oct. 14th: Nature Journaling with Andrea Lani

Nov. 11th: Tree identification with Pam Davis-Green

Dec. 9th : Mammals of the Sanctuary with Penny Jessop

Jan. 13th: Tracking the trails of Thorncrag with Paula Curtis Everett

Feb. 10th: Winter Twigs tell a Story with Leigh MacMillan Hayes

Jun 9th: Geology walk with Denise Bluhm

Each walk will take place 1:00-2:00pm

Stanton Partners with Auburn Public Library

Stanton Bird Club in partnership with Auburn Public Library is joining forces with other organizations to celebrate the International Year of the Bird marking the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

By the early 1900s, the United States saw the extinction of several species of birds, including the Heath hen, the Carolina parakeet and the Passenger pigeon, once the most numerous bird on the continent. Most of these birds were hunted for food, but in the late 1800s, birds faced a new threat: fashion. The hunting of feathers for women's hats wiped out entire colonies of birds, especially in Florida, leading to calls for regulation. It was a major factor in the establishment of the Migratory Bird Act Treaty in 1918—which forbade the killing of many native birds, disturbing any egg or nest or capturing and transporting birds over state lines.

Today research shows there are many new threats with many birds species having declined by 50 percent in the last 50 years.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Plant native fruit and berry-bearing bushes and trees on your property. Also, maintain ground vegetation and shrubs adjacent to water.

Limit the use of lawn chemicals and pesticides in your garden, which are harmful not only to birds, but to a variety of wildlife and to household pets.

Erect bird feeders and nectar feeders in proper distances from windows or places where birds can't be ambushed by predators. Use appropriate seed and other foods.

From Nature Conservancy

"Everyday Ways You Can Help Birds"

Stanton Bird Club President, Jeri Maurer and Auburn Public Library Director, Mamie Anthoine Ney meet to plan activities during The International Year of the Bird

Photo Courtesy of Barbara Trafton



Birding Activities at Auburn Library

April 19th 2pm Kids! Chewonki Owls of Maine

Come join us as Chewonki presents their Owls of Maine program. Three live owls are the highlight of this program, which introduces participants to the owls native to Maine.

April 23rd 6pm Tom Hayward "The Birds are Coming" – it's a great time of year for migratory birds and Tom will help with tips on how to identify them

May 5th 10 am Stanton Nature Guides Jeri Maurer and Penny Jessop

"Bird's Eye View" for 6-12 year olds. Fun hands-on activities. Build a nest, peck for food. Go home with a craft. To register please call 207-333-6640 ext.3.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE BIRD

National Geographic, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology along with National Audubon have joined forces with nature lovers around the world to celebrate the "International Year of the Bird" committing to protect birds today and for the next hundred years.

For more information go to:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird/>

"If you take care of birds, you take care of most of the environmental problems of the world"

Thomas Lovejoy

Biologist and Godfather of Biodiversity

Interested in bird migration? Check out

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/03/bird-migration-interactive-maps>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”

Winston Churchill

Help with Stanton Goes Green

Would you like to still receive your newsletter and other notices from Stanton through your email? Do you know how to use Mail Chimp? We need help to continue this effort.

Call Jeri Maurer at 524-2060 for more information

Mowing Help Needed – We need help with mowing or weed whacking trails over rough ground at the Centennial Meadow in Thorncrag. Contact steward Gary Maurer at 524-2060 for more information.

Citizen Science Opportunity for Maine Birders

Mountain Birdwatch is a long-term mountain bird monitoring program administered by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, with 129 survey routes across the Catskills and Adirondacks, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Routes consist of 6 sampling stations along hiking trails in the montane spruce-fir forest. Observers choose any morning in June to complete their survey, which consists of repeated 5-minute counts for 10 species of birds including Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Winter Wren and Bicknell's Thrush (species often missed during traditional roadside counts). The short list of monitored species means that almost any birder who **likes to hike can participate. Since 2010 alone**, several hundred **Mountain Birdwatch** citizen scientists have conducted 18,636 point counts in the mountains. The protocol is simple and we are partnering with Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to contribute our data to the Breeding Bird Atlas. We still have routes available to survey this June near Sugarloaf and along the border of Oxford and Franklin Counties. **Interested birders should contact Jason Hill (jhill@vtcostudies.org). You can learn more about the Mountain Birdwatch program and see a map of available routes at**

<https://vtcostudies.org/projects/mountains/mountain-birdwatch/>

Please contact Dr. Hill by mid-May if you are interested in participating in this study.

Spring is here!



Photo Courtesy of Dan Marquis

Summer 2018 Wednesday Walks

All walks start at 8am at the walk location and end by 11am

- May 2** - Papermill Trail, Lisbon
- May 16** - Bill Sylvester's home, Auburn (**starts at 7:30am**)
- May 30** - Chuck Peter's home, New Gloucester
- June 13** - Androscoggin Riverlands State Park, Turner
- June 27** - Brunswick Landing, Brunswick
- July 11** - Fitzgerald Preserve, Brunswick
- July 25** - Riverside Trail, Lewiston

Save the Date!
Annual Meeting
October 1

Summer Wednesday Walks

Contact Stan DeOrsey at 406-4741 or email jsmd@att.net to receive a detailed email reminder prior to the walk along with directions to the location.



P.O. Box 3172
Lewiston, ME 04243-3172

Thorncrag Nature Week

AGENDA

Day 1 – Branching Out
Forest Exploration

Day 2 - Rock Our World

Day 3 – Bird’s Eye View

Day 4 – What’s Bugging
You

Day 5 – Pon-de-licious

Stanton Bird Club

Nature Week at Thorncrag

First Session: July 16-July 20 9 am to Noon

Second Session: July 23-27 9am to Noon

6-12 year olds

REGISTRATION \$25/week

Scholarships available

For information and registration form call Penny Jessop at 782-5467

Registration Form also available at Stantonbirdclub.org

