

SPRING 2019

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For more information see our website at www.stantonbirdclub.org



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The President's Perch

Jeri Maurer, President

“Gardens and the greater landscapes that surround them occupy such enormous areas of the country that they have a great potential to address many of the environmental challenges facing us today if given half a chance.”

Douglas Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*

As we celebrate a successful centennial year, the question we might ask ourselves is what can any of us do to help ensure that people will continue to have birds to enjoy in the next 100 years.

- ❖ Let's start with two quick facts: **Research has found that for one nest of chickadees to successfully fledge from their nest, the parents have to bring their young between 6000 and 10,000 caterpillars! In fact 96 percent of bird species in North America rear their offspring on insects primarily caterpillars.**
- ❖ Nonnative plants may sustain a few native insects, but they don't support the number and diversity of insects that birds need to reproduce.
- ❖ By planting native plants we are helping not only butterflies and moths, including monarch butterflies, we are also helping the birds we enjoy to successfully raise their young.
- ❖ For example a native oak can support over 500 species of the caterpillars of butterflies and moths and goldenrod supports 124 species.
- ❖ **For more information go to National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org or National Audubon at www.audubon.org**

MEMBERSHIP DUES

To eliminate the confusion that has occurred for members with two membership drives per year, the Board has made the decision to hold one annual drive in the Fall of each year. All members will receive a reminder in September.



2nd ANNUAL

Wildflower Festival at Thorncrag

Wildflower
Walk: 1pm

Family
Activities



(Wildflower Garden at the Hayward Gazebo)

Plant
Sale

Wildflowers

Perennials

Herbs

June 2nd 1-4 pm

Christmas Bird Count 2018 Saturday, December 29

By Linda Seamans, compiler

The Stanton Bird Club conducted its 39th Christmas Bird Count of the Lewiston and Auburn area on Saturday, December 29th. In total, seventeen people participated and recorded 42 species; the average since 2000 is 48. There was 1" of snow on the ground and most open water was frozen. The grand total of 4,331 individual birds was well below the average of 5,600. We had a partly sunny and windy day, with temperatures starting at 32 degrees, rising to 46 by the end of the day. Count week added 3 additional species.

Overall, waterfowl numbers were low in comparison to prior years. There was open water on the Androscoggin River, little open water at Lake Auburn and no open water at Sabattus or Taylor Pond. Raptor counts were up this year, driven by a new count high of 35 Bald Eagles (21 on Sabattus pond ice), and a new count high of 3 for Sharp Shinned hawk.

There were no new bird species added to the count this year.

Less-often-seen birds included a Merlin, a flock of Snow Buntings and Pine Grosbeaks. Count for Tufted Titmouse and White Throated Sparrow reached new highs, while Mallard, Song Sparrow & Northern Cardinal counts were above average. On the low side, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay and Mourning Dove were below average this year.

The full list is:

American Black Duck.....6
Mallard.....535
Common Goldeneye.....11
Common Merganser.....14
Red-breasted Merganser...1
Wild Turkey.....124
Common Loon.....1
Bald Eagle.....35
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....3
Cooper's Hawk.....1
Red-tailed Hawk.....6
Ring-billed Gull.....101
Herring Gull.....58
Rock Pigeon.....749
Mourning Dove.....141
Red-bellied Woodpecker...1*
Downy Woodpecker.....22

Hairy Woodpecker.....4
Pileated Woodpecker.....3
Merlin.....1
Peregrine Falcon.....1
Blue Jay.....20
American Crow.....750
Common Raven.....4
Black-capped Chickadee..293
Tufted Titmouse.....70
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....6
White-breasted Nuthatch..36
Brown Creeper.....3
Eastern Bluebird.....1*
American Robin.....45
Northern Mockingbird.....2
European Starling.....895
Cedar Waxwing.....11
Snow Bunting.....25

American Tree Sparrow....18
Song Sparrow.....4
White-throated Sparrow...27
Dark-eyed Junco.....73
Northern Cardinal.....46
Pine Grosbeak.....17
House Finch.....13
Purple Finch.....1*
American Goldfinch.....30
House Sparrow.....126

45 species and
4,334 individual birds.

*count week

CENTENNIAL! – ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

With the backdrop of Dan Cake's incredible bird images, we celebrated our 100th anniversary at LA Arts gallery on February 3rd. Maine State Senator Nate Libby joined us to read a gubernatorial proclamation from Gov. Mills.



In September of 1918 a nationally famous Chautauqua speaker, Harold Ernest Baynes, came to town to speak about birds. At the end of his talk, he challenged the community to start a bird club as he had at talks throughout the nation. October saw the largest number of deaths in Maine from the great influenza epidemic so the activity of the Club was not launched until the election of officers in February 1919. The Club was named after beloved Bates professor, Jonathan Stanton who had died the previous year and who was well known throughout New England for his knowledge of birds.

GOVERNOR MILLS PROCLAMATION

Excerpts

"Whereas the Stanton Bird Club owns and stewards over 850 acres of land and has successfully created and provided stewardship for Thorncrag, a 450 acre inner city nature sanctuary which has been open and free to all community members since it's inception in 1921....

Whereas the Stanton Bird Club has been at the forefront of 'keeping children in the woods' impacting hundreds of school age children.....

...be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills ...do hereby congratulate the Stanton Bird Club on their 100th anniversary of education, conservation and bird habitat"

Our Thanks

As we wrap up our Centennial year activities, thanks to everyone who helped to make the events a success. We are grateful to each of you who volunteered time and effort throughout the year. Special thanks to Barbara Trafton and Mamie Anthoine Ney who worked on events in celebration of our centennial and the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Our thanks to Governor Janet Mills for the gubernatorial proclamation celebrating our Centennial (see page 3 for excerpts). Our thanks as well to Bill Low and Jim Parakalis and the Board of LA Arts for hosting our anniversary celebration at L/A Arts Gallery.

JR NATURALISTS CELEBRATE EARTH DAY



For the April meeting each Junior was asked to create a project out of recyclable material. All who attended voted on their three favorite ones and ribbons and a book were awarded to the top three.

CENTENNIAL! SNOWSHOE TREK



February 16th – a beautiful winter's day. Thanks so much to the Boy Scouts for helping to make this a successful event.



Spring is here!



Male Chestnut-sided Warbler, by Dan Marquis

Master Naturalist Walks

The last of the Master Naturalist Walks celebrating our Centennial will take place at Thorncrag:

April 28th - "Amphibians" Bryce Hatch
Jun 9th - "Lichens and Mosses" Alan Seamans and Sue Kistenmacher

These walks will take place 1:00-2:00pm

Our thanks to Penny Jessop for arranging these walks for the year and to all the Master Naturalists who took part.

Summer 2019 Wednesday Walks

The Stanton Bird Club is pleased to continue our 12th year of **Guided Bird Walks** in the Lewiston/Auburn area. Walks are led by Stan and Joan DeOrsey. **All walks start at 8am at the walk location** and end by 11am.

May 1: Papermill Trail, Lisbon

Meet at the boat launch parking lot at Frost Hill Rd. on Route 196, Lisbon

May 8: Brunswick Landing, Brunswick (old Naval Air Station)

Meet in the parking area on the right ½ mile beyond the entrance off the Bath Rd.

May 15: Bill Sylvester's home, Auburn

Meet at the Sylvester home, 1128 Riverside Dr., Auburn

May 22: Ina Small's home, Litchfield

Meet at the Small home, 476 Pine Tree Rd., Litchfield

May 29: Chuck Peters' home, New Gloucester

Meet at the Peters' home, 40 Underpass Rd. off Cobbs Bridge Rd. *immediately* on the right after the railroad underpass

June 5: Whitman Spring Road, Auburn

Meet at the trail, park on Holbrook Rd. at North Auburn

June 12: Woodbury, Monmouth

Meet at the parking area on Carver Rd. off ME Route 126, South Monmouth

June 26: Sherwood Forest, Auburn

Meet and park beyond the school on Sherwood Dr. at 19th St., Auburn

July 10: Fitzgerald Preserve, Brunswick

Meet and park on the entrance road, "Lindbergh Landing" (Lindbergh Crossing) off at Old Bath Rd.

July 24: Riverside Trail, Lewiston

Meet at the corner of Winter and Whipple Sts. in Lewiston at Sunnyside Park

All walks are free and open to everyone, beginning naturalist and advanced birder.

For any questions, call Stan or Joan DeOrsey at 406-4741 or e-mail jsmd@att.net.



P.O. Box 3172
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Stanton Bird Club
Nature Week at Thorncrag
July 15-July 19 9 am 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