

SPRING 2021

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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](http://www.stantonbirdclub.org)*****In this issue**2020 Annual Meeting highlights **P.2**Larry Nadeau Wildflower Walk **P.2**Wednesday Bird Walks **P.3**Christmas Bird Count **P.5**Thorncrag Nature Week **P.6****The President's Perch***Jeri Maurer, President****"I go to nature to be soothed, healed and have my senses put in order."*****John Burroughs American essayist and naturalist**

Two years ago, during the centennial celebration for the Stanton Bird Club, the early history of the Club was highlighted. In the fall of 1918, plans for the founding of the Club were put on hold until the following year due to fears about the rate of infection and death which were occurring in the U.S due to the flu pandemic.

Fast forward to 2020 and we faced our own set of challenges about what to do about planned programs and activities during a pandemic. We learned to do things differently to keep people safe, while recognizing we could still offer activities. Thanks to the dedication of members, we continued to offer bird walks, created a storybook trail for families and gave away over a thousand scavenger hunts for children to enjoy while learning about nature. Our two major sanctuaries remained opened and served thousands of visitors seeking respite. Several members walked at Thorncrag to keep the tradition of the Dr. Larry Nadeau Memorial Wildflower Walk alive. The Christmas Bird Count was held following the National Audubon guidelines. We discovered that holding our annual meeting at Thorncrag worked surprisingly well (see article on page 2) and that Board meetings could be held, initially outside at the Hayward gazebo at Thorncrag and by Zoom when the weather forced us inside.

As we move forward, we will continue to make decisions about programs that had to be canceled last year. We are tentatively planning for the Wildflower Walk and Plant Sale and Thorncrag Nature Week as well as our Annual Meeting. I think those early founders of the Club would be pleased that the Bird Club is alive and well, surviving now through two pandemics a century apart.



SAVE THE

DATE

SUNDAY  
OCTOBER

3, 2021

ANNUAL  
MEETING

at

THORNCRAG

## Larry Nadeau Memorial Wildflower Walk

### and Plant Sale

June 6th 1-3 pm  
at Thorncrag



#### Anticipated species for sale:

New England Asters (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) Columbine (*Aquilegia*) English Daisy (*Bellis perennis*) Canterbury Bells (*Campanula medium*) Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) Coneflowers (*Echinacea*) Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) Foxgloves (*Digitalis*) Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*) Lavender (*Lavandula*) Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*) Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

On a crisp fall day, over thirty members of the Stanton Bird Club gathered for our annual meeting. Seating was set up to maintain physical distancing while members listened to a presentation by Gary Maurer, Chair of the Stewardship Committee on the history of the acquisition of the 14 parcels of land that comprise Thorncrag. By being at Thorncrag during this talk, there was a greater understanding of where each parcel was located.

The silent auction and book sale were held and members left with a goodie bag of autumn-themed baked goods.

The feedback was very positive with members encouraging us to consider holding the annual meeting at Thorncrag again.



Annual Meeting October 4, 2020



## LEWISTON / AUBURN AREA

## GUIDED BIRD WALKS

### SPRING & SUMMER 2021

The Stanton Bird Club is pleased to continue our **Guided Bird Walks** in the Lewiston / Auburn area. All walks are **free** and open to everyone, beginning naturalist to advanced birder. Walks are led by Stan & Joan DeOrsey and Gordon Smith, who identify and comment on birds seen and heard.

Anyone interested in walking, seeing new places, fresh air, and nature is welcomed. Walks are held in a variety of interesting and diverse local habitats, plus some areas less often visited. Please mark your calendar and join us on the Wednesdays listed, or pick and choose the one or two which most interest you.

- May 5 Papermill Trail, Lisbon  
Meet at the boat launch parking lot at Frost Hill Rd. on Route 196, Lisbon
- May 12 Bill Sylvester's home, Auburn (and possibly adding Benjamin's)  
Meet at the Sylvester home, 1128 Riverside Dr., Auburn
- May 19 Ina Small's home, Litchfield  
Meet at the Small home, 476 Pine Tree Rd., Litchfield
- May 26 Chuck Peters' home, New Gloucester  
Meet at the Peter's home, 40 Underpass Rd. off Cobbs Bridge Rd. *immediately* on the right after the railroad underpass
- June 2 Whitman Spring Road, Auburn starting at south end (before West Auburn)  
Meet at the trail, where Spring Rd. dead ends, turn just beyond Summer St.
- June 16 Fitzgerald Preserve, Brunswick  
Meet and park on the entrance road, "Lindbergh Landing" (Lindbergh Crossing) off the Old Bath Rd.
- June 30 Woodbury, Monmouth  
Meet in the parking lot off Carver Rd.
- July 14 Kate Furbish Preserve at Brunswick Landing, Brunswick  
Take Harpswell Rd. (route 123 next to Bowdoin College) approximately 2 miles until Merriconeag Rd. crosses, turn left (east), continue 0.2 miles, parking is on right at tree line before the golf course club house.
- July 28 Riverside Trail, Lewiston  
Meet at the corner of Winter and Whipple Sts. in Lewiston at Sunnyside Park

**Meeting Locations**, as noted above, meet at the walk location. Reservations are not required.

- All walks **start at 8AM** at the walk location. Walks end by 11AM, but you may leave early.
- Walks will be held even if it is drizzling, but if there is a steady rain at 7AM and projected to continue past 9AM, the walk is canceled.
- Walks are approximately 2 miles on a generally even and basically dry surface.
- Bring binoculars and dress for the weather, layers work very well.
- For any questions or to receive a detailed email reminder prior to the walk, call Stan DeOrsey at 406-4741 or e-mail [jsmd@att.net](mailto:jsmd@att.net).
- *We anticipate that face masks will be required at all times. If the health situation requires canceling a walk, this will be done week by week and noted in the reminder email.*



## Wonders of Nature

Two recent studies show that the joy delivered by birds isn't just anecdotal. In December, a study by the German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research connected greater bird biodiversity to increased life-satisfaction for more than 26,000 people in 26 European countries. It turns out the people who live near natural areas with a greater diversity of bird species were demonstrably happier. "According to our findings, the happiest Europeans are those who can experience numerous different bird species in their daily life, or who live in near-natural surroundings that are home to many species." According to another study from Cal Poly, hikers who heard bird song while on a trail have a more positive overall experience and feel greater joy.



At more than 70 years of age, Wisdom, the world's oldest known banded wild bird, is taking on the challenge of motherhood once again. An egg laid by Wisdom, a Laysan Albatross, late last year on a speck of land in the Pacific Ocean hatched at the beginning of last month, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced. Biologists believe that Wisdom, who was first identified and banded on Midway Atoll in 1956, has hatched between 30 and 36 chicks, possibly more.

*From NY TIMES March 5, 2021*

Birds are smarter than we may think. Starting in 1921 in Great Britain, Blue Tits began to pierce holes in the foil on the top of milk bottles to sip the cream. Over the next 25 years this behavior spread to thirty towns. Urban sparrows and finches often bring cigarette butts to their nests; they've somehow discovered that nicotine kills bugs. In some places, crows drop nuts on roads and wait for them to get run over by cars.

*From Becoming Wild by Carl Safina*

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Linda Seamans, compiler

The Stanton Bird Club conducted its 41st Christmas Bird Count of the Lewiston and Auburn area on Friday, January 1st. In total, 21 people participated (includes 6 feeder watchers) and recorded 49 species; the average since 2000 is 48. There was little/no snow on the ground and most waterways were open (Sabattus pond was frozen). The grand total of 7,576 individual birds was a new count high for individuals, and well above the average of 5,500. We had a perfectly clear sunny day in the morning, giving way to clouds later in the day. There was little/no wind and temperatures started at 17 degrees, rising to 37 by the end of the day. Count week added 2 additional species. There were no new bird species added to the count this year.

**New Highs:** Red-tailed Hawk, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, American Crow, Eastern Bluebird

**Low Counts:** Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Black-capped Chickadee, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco

**Above Average:** Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing

**Irruptive:** Pine Grossbeak, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll (cw)

**Trending:** Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen for the 9th consecutive year and Eastern Bluebirds have become more reliable winter residents this past decade. Peregrine Falcons have continued on the spires of the Gendron Franco Center (old St. Mary's church).

**Notables:** A Belted Kingfisher found along North River Rd in Auburn, while a Gray Catbird was successfully pushed out of a grapevine/bittersweet thicket in the same area. A pair of Carolina Wrens visited a feeder during count week.



Belted Kingfisher – Sighting and Photo by Gordon Smith

## The full list is:

American Black Duck.....5  
 Mallard.....287  
 Greater Scaup.....9  
 Common Goldeneye.....39  
 Hooded Merganser.....8  
 Common Merganser.....19  
 Common Loon.....2  
 Wild Turkey.....10  
 Bald Eagle.....8  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk.....1  
 Cooper's Hawk.....2  
 Red-tailed Hawk.....18  
 Ring-billed Gull.....73  
 Herring Gull.....300  
 Great Black-backed Gull..5  
 Rock Pigeon .....1,037  
 Mourning Dove.....108  
 Belted Kingfisher.....1

Red-bellied Woodpecker.....5  
 Downy Woodpecker.....29  
 Hairy Woodpecker.....18  
 Pileated Woodpecker.....4  
 Peregrine Falcon.....2  
 Blue Jay.....155  
 American Crow.....3,245  
 Common Raven.....4  
 Black-capped Chickadee...316  
 Tufted Titmouse.....59  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch.....19  
 White-breasted Nuthatch....59  
 Brown Creeper.....5  
 Carolina Wren.....2\*  
 Eastern Bluebird.....32  
 American Robin.....98  
 Gray Catbird.....1  
 Northern Mockingbird.....3

European Starling.....956  
 Cedar Waxwing.....52  
 American Tree Sparrow.....4  
 Song Sparrow.....2  
 White-throated Sparrow.....14  
 Dark-eyed Junco.....28  
 Northern Cardinal.....46  
 Pine Grossbeak.....17  
 House Finch.....57  
 Purple Finch.....9  
 Common Redpoll.....15\*  
 American Goldfinch.....109  
 House Sparrow.....279

49 species and  
 7,576 individual birds.

\*count week



## Calling all Artists



In 2022 we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thorncrag. If you are an artist or photographer who would like to participate in an art show to highlight Thorncrag, please contact Jeri Maurer at [jerigary@fairpoint](mailto:jerigary@fairpoint) for details.



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

 **Stanton Bird Club**   
**Nature Week at Thorncrag**

**"FROM YUCK TO WOW"** – children will explore this beautiful, yet sometimes yucky, world by taking part in hands-on explorations, crafts, hikes and games.

Aug 9-13, 2021 9 am to Noon   
5-10 year olds  
REGISTRATION \$25/week  
**Scholarships available**

For further information call Penny Jessop at 782-5467  
Registration Form available at [Stantonbirdclub.org](http://Stantonbirdclub.org)

