

SPRING 2022

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Join the
Stanton
Tradition*Become a Member-Supporter by giving a financial donation.**For more information see our website at www.stantonbirdclub.org***In this issue**Thorncrag Centennial **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*

"For me, it always comes back to the land, respecting the land, the wildlife, the plants, the rivers, mountains and deserts, the absolute essential bedrock of our lives". *Terry Tempest Williams teacher, naturalist, author*

Happy Anniversary Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary!

This is a special year for the club as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary. From the beginning the members had a dream of creating a model bird sanctuary and with the generosity of the Anthony family they were able to begin that process. When asked to explain his original gift, Professor Anthony wrote that the club was "flourishing" and "gave promise of uniting persons of different races, religions, professions, and calling in a broad manner, perhaps superior to any other organization then existing..... the transfer of the property to the bird club was intended to make possible a service to the community which should include everybody who was willing to be included".

On a regular basis as I walk the trails or work in the gardens near the Hayward Gazebo, someone stops to express their appreciation for the gift of Thorncrag. It is a joy to watch the variety of folks who walk up the main trail from the parking lot, eager to spend time enjoying the land. I think Anthony would be pleased that Thorncrag continues to be available to 'everyone willing to be included'.

THORNCRAG CENTENNIAL EVENTS



Historical Walks

April 30th

10am to noon

Walk on the East Ave ext. side of Thorncrag. Come learn about the farm that was there. Walk to Whale Rock and Centennial Meadow. Meet at the end of East Ave.

May 21st

10am to noon

Historical Walk on the Red Trail. Come learn about the sanitorium and the Bates Outing Club cabin that were located there. Meet at the Montello Street parking lot

The Board of Directors of the Stanton Bird Club welcomed Secretary of State, Shenna Bellows to Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary on December 17th. The occasion marked the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Bird Club which occurred on December 5th 1921. The Club had been in existence for two years at that point and this step was taken so that the Club could accept the first gift of land from the Anthony family to create Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary.



On February 19th we hosted a snowshoe trek as part of the Thorncrag centennial celebration with hot cocoa and marshmallows roasted at the Anthony Fireplace.

5th annual WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

Larry Nadeau Memorial Wildflower Walk

and Plant Sale

**June 5th 1-3 pm
at Thorncrag**

We will also have wildflower-themed
Items for sale





LEWISTON / AUBURN AREA GUIDED BIRD WALKS SPRING & SUMMER 2022

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 4 Papermill Trail, Lisbon
Meet at the boat launch parking lot at Frost Hill Rd. on Route 196, Lisbon
- May 11 Bill Sylvester's home, Auburn (and then the Benjamin's)
Meet at the Sylvester home, 1128 Riverside Dr., Auburn
- May 18 Ina Small's home, Litchfield
Meet at the Small home, 476 Pine Tree Rd., Litchfield
- May 25 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 1 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 15 Maurer's Bog, Leeds for birds and botany
Meet at the Maurer's home, 886 Route 106, Leeds. From Lewiston take route US202 to route Me106; 4.1 miles from US202, mail box 886 on right, house on left. Be sure to wear rubber boots for wet walking.
- June 29 Kate Furbish Preserve - East, Brunswick Landing
Meet at the paved lot at the corner of Admiral Fitch Ave. and Allagash Dr., about 0.1 mile from the Bath Road entrance. We will drive to the Preserve and walk a paved road and gravel path.
- July 13 Riverside Trail, Lewiston
Meet at the corner of Winter and Whipple Sts. in Lewiston at Sunnyside Park
- July 27 Fitzgerald Preserve, Brunswick
Meet on the entrance road, Lindbergh Landing (Lindbergh Crossing) off the Old Bath Rd.
- 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.
 - ***We prefer that everyone attending has been vaccinated for covid-19.***

**2021 Stanton Bird Club
Christmas Bird Count Results**

The Stanton Bird Club held its Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 18 to miss Sunday snow. There was no snow on the ground and both the Androscoggin River and Lake Auburn were open. Small waters were frozen. The total species (49 + 3 count week) was near average but the total individual birds (3583) was exceptionally low. Most song birds were at a few feeders, many full feeders lacked birds. The bird-of-the-day was one Snowy Owl well photographed. An American Wigeon, also photographed, was uncommon.

The following is a complete list:

Canada Goose - 4
 American Wigeon - 1 on Androscoggin River at Auburn boat launch (photo)
 Mallard - 201 lower than usual on River
 American Black Duck - 2
 Common Goldeneye - 32
 Hooded Merganser - 27 more than normal, seen by all teams
 Common Merganser - 3
 Ruddy Duck - 18 on Lake Auburn, far photo
 Wild Turkey - 69 more in the woods, not easily found in numbers
 Ruffed Grouse - 2 at Beaver Park, Lisbon and YMCA property on Stetson Rd., Auburn, both seen
 Rock Pigeon - 790
 Morning Dove - 242
 Ring-billed Gull - 99 gull numbers down from usual
 Herring Gull - 57
 Common Loon - 5 on unfrozen Lake Auburn, seen well in scope
 Great Blue Heron - 1
 Cooper's Hawk - 1
 Bald Eagle - 14 most adults, possibly only one first year
 Red-tailed Hawk - 8

Rough-legged Hawk - 1 count week near Lewiston Turnpike exit on Apple Rd., watched catch small prey
 Snowy Owl - 1 at Sabattus Turnpike exit, multiple photos
 Barred Owl - 1 count week, heard by David Haines at home
 Red-bellied Woodpecker - 3
 Downy Woodpecker - 33
 Hairy Woodpecker - 13
 Northern Flicker - 1
 Pileated Woodpecker - 3
 Peregrine Falcon - 1 seen early morning and mid-afternoon both on Continental Mill building
 Blue Jay - 92
 American Crow - 555
 Common Raven - 1 count week, by David Haines at home
 Black-capped Chickadee - 190
 Tufted Titmouse - 61
 Cedar Waxwing - 5 in two "flocks"!
 Red-breasted Nuthatch - 7
 White-breasted Nuthatch - 23
 Brown Creeper - 2
 Carolina Wren - 1 seen well, not common in Lewiston
 Northern Mockingbird - 6
 European Starling - 467
 Eastern Bluebird - 31 found in five different locations
 American Robin - 39
 House Sparrow - 210
 House Finch - 44
 Purple Finch - 1
 Pine Siskin - 1 in a yard bush
 American Goldfinch - 106
 American Tree Sparrow - 7
 Dark-eyed Junco - 59
 White-throated Sparrow - 7
 Song Sparrow - 1
 Northern Cardinal - 39



Last fall we welcomed back the first field trip Farwell School had approved since the start of the pandemic. Watching this class of students take delight in building nests, using the binoculars we fashioned out of toilet paper rolls and exploring Thorncrag was a great way to lift the spirits of everyone who participated.

Their teacher, Sue Hedrich has already scheduled a spring trip.

Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary – 100th anniversary

What was the land like one hundred years ago? There are 14 separate land parcels that have been gifted to or purchased by the Stanton Bird Club over the last century that surround and include Thorncrag Hill.

The land on the west side (the East Ave entrance) was a thriving dairy farm serving the north end of Lewiston with horse-drawn bottled milk delivery.

The south side, including the main entrance was mostly regenerating forest surrounding the Highland Spring Bottling Plant which shipped bottled spring water into the New York City market. There was enough open land in this area for the original founders of the club to plant sunflowers to feed the birds.

The east side, along Bloody Hill Road was used partly to grow crops and also as a source of timber.

And on the north there were fields and forests, much of it a woodlot which was about to be harvested before being sold to our benefactor, Alfred Anthony, who with his wife and sister donated the first 220 acres of land to the bird club.

The height of land, which includes the highest point in Lewiston had recently seen the removal of some cabins which were part of a short-lived attempt to create a sanatorium. There had also been a proposed scheme to build a hotel which failed to materialize only a decade or so before.





P.O. Box 3172
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Stanton Bird Club

Nature Week at Thorncrag

During Thorncrag's 100th anniversary year, children will explore the sanctuary by taking part in hands-on explorations, crafts, hikes and games.

July 25-29th 2022 9 am to Noon

5-10 year olds

REGISTRATION \$25/week

Scholarships available

Registration Form available at Stantonbirdclub.org

For further information call Penny Jessop at 782-5467

