



Swallow Tales

Hirundo Spring Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Inside Story	1
Adventures of Alex and Nick	2
Insects in Spring	2
2012 Recap	3
Upcoming Programs	3
Hirundo Wildlife Refuge	4
Question of the Quarter	4

Alton School makes generous gift to HWR

A proud group of 2nd and 3rd grade students, along with teacher Cathy Fox, presented a \$300 dollar check to Hirundo Wildlife Refuge. The presentation was followed by the concerned question of a second grader: "Will the Refuge stay open now?"

This generous donation was the result of the energy and creativity of the students, teachers and volunteers from the Alton School, who raised the money by creating and selling crafts and recipe books. The crafts were made by the entire Alton School. The fair was held and setup by the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade classes. Monies were collected by Laura Sanborn, Cathy Fox, and principal Nathan Dyer. These funds will help to support Hirundo's programs for the public. Even more important, however, is that this donation is a concrete demonstration of public support for and commitment to Hirundo's efforts. "We look

forward to many years of working together with the community and to helping local youth develop a life-long connection to the natural world. They are our future", says Stephanie Larouche, Chair of Hirundo's Board of Trustees. Hirundo Wildlife Refuge would also like to express its thanks and admiration to Phoebe Sanborn, along with the children and families who participated in this impressive effort.



2nd & 3rd grade students with teacher Cathy Fox.



Phoebe Sanborn (right) presents a \$300 donation to Hirundo Wildlife Refuge Naturalist, Gudrun Keszöcze, at the Alton School.

Special points of interest:

- Check this blog from UMaine students artempany.wordpress.com
- HWR's quarterly newsletter is published spring, summer, fall and winter.

HOT OF THE PRESS

The Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation awarded \$15,000 grant to Hirundo Wildlife Refuge in support of the Next Generation Science Standards Field Experiences Project.

The grant will support the 5th grade Student's Environmental Monitoring Project. Students will study fresh-water mussel ecology and mercury accumulations in the mussels. Our goal is to provide all 5th grade students from Old Town Elementary School (approximately 100 students) with an inquiry-based science project.



5th graders collecting mussel data at Hirundo.

The project offers practical experience with fundamental scientific principles, including creating a hypothesis, field data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and presentation of conclusions.

The adventures of Alex and Nick:

“How to identify a fox den” Alex Baron



With the coming of spring, foxes get more and more active; they mate, and the raise their kits. But, to actually see where they live, you can visit them in the winter, when you will least disturb them.



There are two species of foxes in Maine, the gray fox and the red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*, is more common. A way to find one is to track it down, following its tracks in the snow. Fox tracks are situated in a straight line, the back paws stepping into the front paw prints.

Foxes have wide ranges, where they explore and hunt.

Their territories are regularly visited by coyotes, which are much bigger and hunt foxes for food.

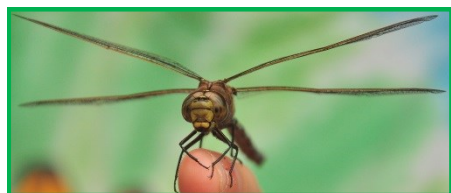
You can also try to find a fox den. Foxes like to choose soft soil for easy digging, and dig many entrances into their burrows in case they need a quick getaway. They regularly maintain the burrow's condition, especially at the main entrance, by cleaning out leaves and extra dirt. Coyote dens are very similar to fox dens, but fox dens are smaller. To be

really sure, you can stick your nose into the hole leading into the den and sniff. If it smells like a skunk, then the den's owner is a fox. Also, when the den is inhabited, the warmth from the sleeping foxes causes featherlike frost to “bloom” around the burrow entrances.



Ice crystal bloom at entrance hole

Insects in spring Nick Baron



Green Darner (*Anax junius*)

Spring is paradise for insects. Some insects are out even before spring!

Winter stoneflies, for example, emerge from their aquatic larval stage in late February or early March. The larva climbs out of the water through cracks and holes in the ice it can find. Other insects can't survive such frigid temperatures and start to be active in spring. Most insects are active in mid-Spring such as mayflies and alderflies.

The Common Green Darner emerges from its aquatic larval stage around June.

Spring is also the time to mate. Male insects of different species swarm in large numbers and compete to attract mates.

Female Field Crickets, for example favor the males with the loudest calls. When a female responds to a male's call by coming to

him, and another male is nearby, the two males will fight for her. Females are most like to mate with males that are strong, and can produce loud, high-pitch calls.



Mayfly

Volunteers — Thank you!



Bloodroot — a Native spring flower

Dick Andren
Seanna Annis
Raanan Avargil
Amy, Alex and Nick Baron
Larry Beauregard
Angie Bennett
Lois Berg Stack
Lola Bullion
Margo Boyd
Lisa Carter
David Clement
Stephen Coghlan
Andrew Corson
Sandy Daniels
Ellie Durso

Steve Dunn
John Ferland
Alyx Hannigan
Catherine Herr
Karl Hill
Jeremiah Hobbs
Brenda Jackson
Glen Koehler
Clay Kirby
Gerry Lapointe
Stephanie Larouche
Helen Lock
Phil Lock
Jerry Longcore
Paul Markson
Rad Mayfield
Renae Moran

Bucky Owen
Nathan Parkhill
Kim Perkins
Ali Romano
Steve Sader
David Sanger
Rori Saunders
Lindsay Seward
Bob Steven
Gloria Vollmers
Peter White
Jim Young
Yang Yu
Steven Madera & participants of the Life Jackets program
Gamma Sigma Sigma

National Service
Sorority
UMaine Chapter of The Wildlife Society
UMaine Freshman Volunteers
Bodwell Center UMaine
UMaine Alternative
Spring Break Group
Chaperones with RSU # 34
Margo
And numerous others who did not sign their name.
We apologize should your name be missing.

Recap 2012 - Outlook 2013

Encouraged by the success of 2011 we offered 65 programs in 2012. Participation more than doubled. Hirundo welcomed over 1200 participants to its programs and 1,000 visitors explored the seven-mile trail network or paddled along Pushaw and Dead Streams. The annual Spring Spruce up drew people from as far as Dover Foxcroft and we hope for another good turn out in 2013.

New in 2013 are Amphibian Inventories in April, May and June. Join us, learn how to identify and monitor frogs & salamanders – Use your new skills to teach others!

Wish list

Paddling Equipment

- Canoes
- Paddles (54 inch)
- PFD's (Universal & youth)

Scientific Equipment

- Stereo Microscopes
- GPS Units (Garmin ex Trex 30 or Oregon 400t)



In awe of fish—a future biologist at Hirundo Family Day 2012.

Upcoming Programs

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	PRESENTER
4.20.13	10:00AM	Beyond the Backyard	Paul Markson
4.24.13	6:30PM	Beyond the Backyard	Paul Markson
4.27.13	10:00AM to 3:00PM	Spring Spruce Up - Annual Trail Day	YOU
5.12.13	7:00AM	Marsh Bird Paddle	Hirundo Volunteer
5.19.13	1:00PM	For the Birds -Natural Bird Feeders	G. Keszöcze
5.23.13	6:30PM	Flower Moon Paddle	G.Keszöcze
6.1.13	10:00AM	Canoe Skill Clinic	UMaine Bound
6.9.13	1:00PM	Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk	G.Keszöcze

"In the end
we will conserve only what
we love,
we will love only what we
understand,
and we will understand
only
what we are taught."

-Baba Dioum
Senegalese conservationist

YOUR SUPPORT

Hirundo Wildlife Refuge is a private, non-profit organization that depends on public donations and volunteers to run our programs.

We receive our funding from grants and donations for the preservation of wildlife and forest management and are not supported financially by the University of Maine, or any other institution.

Your support of Hirundo is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Please make your tax deductible donation on-line or send to:

*Hirundo Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 266
Orono, Me 04473*



SMILE

— a message sponsored by Hirundo Wildlife

Hirundo Wildlife Refuge

Office: P.O. Box 266 Orono, ME 04473
Refuge: 15 Hudson Road, Old Town, ME 04468
Phone: 207-944-9259 , Naturalist
207-951-3061, Care Taker
E-mail: web@hirundomaine.org



We're on the Web!

Visits us on

www.hirundomaine.org

and join us on

Facebook !

The mission of the Hirundo Wildlife Trust is to maintain the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge as a sanctuary to preserve and protect wildlife and their habitats. Consistent with this primary purpose, the Trust makes the Refuge available as a living laboratory for education and research, and to promote the public's appreciation of Nature.

Oliver Larouche, founded Hirundo in 1965. Today the Refuge protects 2400 acres of diverse habitat. We offer seven-miles of hiking trails, including self-guided educational trails, canoes, paddles, life vests and a dock to access Pushaw and Dead Streams. Archaeological digs in 1970 discovered remnants of a 9,000 year old fishing village, placing Hirundo on the National Register of Historic Places.

Many people enjoy our public programs and local schools use Hirundo as a living laboratory.

Hirundo Wildlife Refuge serves the Greater Bangor area. Our visitors come from Old Town, Hudson, Bangor, Hawaii and as far as Europe.

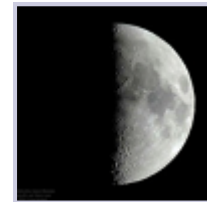
We be happy to answer any questions you might have:

Gudrun Keszöcze, Naturalist: 207-944 -9259

Fred Bryant, Caretaker: 207-951-3061

YES, I WANT TO VOLUNTEER!

We welcome your skill and interest.



Question of the Quarter:

On what day will ice-out at Lac D'or occur?

Send your guess by April 15
to either

- web@hirundomaine.org

- Hirundo Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 266, Orono, ME 04473

Winner will receive a Swallow
Bird Nesting Box.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dick Andren, Vice Chair

Brenda Jackson

Dianne Kopec

June Larouche

Roxane Larouche

Stephanie Larouche, Chair

Veronica Larouche

Bucky Owen

Gloria Vollmers, Treasurer

Rad Mayfield, III

Outdoor Volunteer Activities

- ♦ Trail maintenance
- ♦ Removing non-native invasive species
- ♦ Lead walks, present a program
- ♦ Public Outreach
- ♦ Fauna & Flora inventories
- ♦ Photography

Indoor Volunteer Activities

- ♦ Administrative and technical help
- ♦ Publicity
- ♦ Coordinate Volunteers
- ♦ Fundraising
- ♦ Outreach