



Swallow Tales

Hirundo Spring Newsletter

Explore the trails at Refuge!

Bucky Owen

Inside this issue:

Fall — time for travel and exploration	1
Adventures of Alex and Nick	2
• Nature Art	
• Migratory insects	
Swallow Update	3
Upcoming Programs	3
Supporters	4
Question of the Quarter	4

Fall is a time of rapid change for most wildlife species; cool nights and shorter days signal it's a time to prepare for our long winter or head south. It's a time of plenty with food abundant, time to layer on that fat for winter insulation and energy or fuel for a long flight south. Squirrels will be rushing around gathering acorns and other seeds, storing them in underground caches. Chipmunks are preparing for a long winter's sleep as are woodchucks.

Many species of birds shift from a diet of insects, abundant in the summer but scarce in fall and winter, to a berry or fruit diet, or to seeds. Fruits and seeds are high in carbohydrates and are easily converted to fat for energy. Robins are a great example of this shift; feeding on worms throughout most of the year, they add a diet of berries just prior to migration. Mountain ash and flowering crabapple are two species providing abundant fruit in the fall.

As fall approaches waves of migrants will appear, here for a few days and then off again to destinations as far south as Central and South America. I have banded blue winged teal just north of Maine only to have the band recovered 3 days later in Columbia. Sandpipers banded in Lubec have been recovered in South America 36 hours later! Hummingbirds, common in our back yards, make an extraordinary nonstop flight across the Gulf of Mexico.

• Special points of interest:

• Quarterly newsletter published spring, summer, fall and winter

CFW's or, "confusing fall warblers", will appear in large numbers. The males, no longer easily identified by their colorful breeding attire, are now donned with drab colors making them less conspicuous to predators. Shortening day length is the main environmental cue to prepare for fall and winter, but that presents an interesting paradox for some. In spring, as days

When fall day length equals that of the spring courtship period, many males again begin to sing. Woodcock go through their courtship dance, robins sing in our yards, and warblers can be heard singing along our trails. This period doesn't last long so keep an ear tuned.

Once the migrants are fueled and ready to go, weather patterns determine the exact flight time. A rainy, low pressure system, followed by a high with its cool crisp cold front is the key to leave. Northerly breezes will carry the migrants south, reducing the energy to make the flight. Watch the weather patterns this fall and pay particular attention to robins. During unsettled weather they will feed voraciously, flocking up as a high pressure system approaches. If the high comes through in late afternoon or early evening off they go. As dawn approaches or if they encounter bad weather down they come. It's at this time we often see large numbers of sparrows, warblers, vireos and thrushes in our yards and along the trail. Night time migrants use the stars to navigate and by flying at night they avoid the many avian predators that migrate during the day.



So enjoy your walk: there's plenty to see during this great time of year.

The adventures of Alex and Nick:

Who we are — My brother Nick, 11 and I, 14, have always been interested in wildlife. We love learning about the environment, how animals interact, and the ecosystem. We have been participating in many nature programs since

Nature Art

Alex Baron

Family Day is a fun summer day in Hiram. For nature art this year, we made prints with Kris Sader, using any available materials and natural materials, made paper, and did nature weaving. Through printing, I decorated cards with different outlines and designs, as well as different colors and drawings. The two kinds of printing I tried out were printing using foam, and printing using a printing press.

I pressed different objects into a piece of foam, such as a gear, a knife, and a corkscrew. Then I chose a color of paint to spread over the designed side of the foam. After I had evenly spread the paint out, I flipped the foam over onto a piece

of paper and pressed down until the design was copied onto the paper.

The other type of printing involves a printing press. I used crayons to draw a Baltimore oriole on a designated piece of plastic, then placed the paper over it and ran it through the press. If the pressure is right, the picture will come out beautifully.



Making another one, I spread orange paint over a sheet of plastic, and then added plant material with bubble wrap on top on the surface. The pressure hap-



pened to be perfect, and this card turned out with white shadows of the plants on the paper.

Migratory Insects

Nick Baron

Fall is here! Many insects have to face the harsh, cold winter. How do insects survive in this cold climate? The majority of insects lay eggs that are covered with a protective coating, and then the adults die. Some insects bury deeply into the ground, and some have a special kind of antifreeze that allows their bodies to freeze internally. A very small group of insects migrate.

This group includes locusts, butterflies, and dragonflies. While there are not any



Green damselfly by Amy Baron

large groups or swarms of locusts or butterflies migrating from Maine, large numbers of dragonflies, the Aeshnids (damselflies), do. In the late evening, vast majorities

of green damselflies (Anax junius) gather above meadows and forests, and take advantage of the thermals as they migrate south, usually to Florida.

Monarch butterflies also gather in small groups and collectively fly south to join many small groups from across North America. This large group will travel all the way to a special patch of trees in Mexico.

Like monarch butterflies, locusts group in small places here and there. They mainly travel to Florida or Texas.

Volunteers — Thank you!



Cardinal flower — a Native

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

Jo Eaton
Patti Ferguson
John Ferland
Jimmy Haller
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
Bucky Owen
Nathan Parkhill
Kim Perkins
Kris Sader
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
And numerous others who did not sign their name.
We apologize should your name be missing.

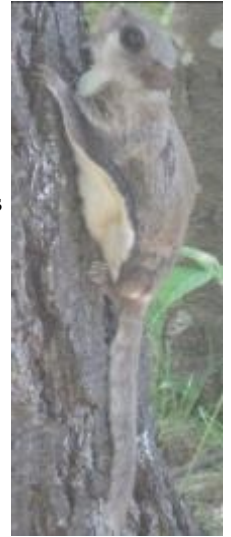
Swallow Update 2013 Megan Dood

What a wonderful summer it has been working at Hirundo. The tree swallows were successful (as were my favorites in box 24, the chickadees) in raising their young with a 91% success rate, with 127 eggs laid and 116 fledged young.

They started heading south around the middle to end of July, because of dwindling food supply, taking their fledglings with them. Tree swallows are the last member of the swallow family to head south, and will be the first swallows to return north in the spring. Their journey down the east coast takes place in large flocks, flying during the day, and roosting at night. This species will most likely spend the winter in Florida. Tree swallows from the east prefer not to travel over the Gulf of

Mexico to other wintering grounds in Central America.

Bird boxes not only shelter their namesake but can be full of surprises! One of the bird boxes by Lac D'or uninhabited by birds for several years is now home to a flying squirrel. They are nocturnal and spend much of their life high up in trees. Its sudden appearance jumped us, making the encounter in the middle of the day very exciting. Flying squirrels are opportunistic omnivores, eating a variety of foods like berries, bark, fungi and insects. Shelter choice is also variable. They may use holes from woodpeckers, make their own nest in a tree, or take advantage of a nest box.



Flying squirrel – out of the box!

Upcoming Programs 2014

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	PRESENTER	LOCATION
19. April	9:00 AM	Beyond the Backyard—Introduction to birding I	P. Markson	HWR Gate 1
26. April	2:00PM	Beyond the Backyard - Introduction to birding II	P. Markson	HWR Gate 1
	2:00PM		G.Keszöcze	HWR Gate 1
	5:30PM	"Spring Spruce Up" Trail Day	G.Keszöcze	HWR Gate 3
	1:00PM		Seanna Annis	HWR Gate 1
	1:00PM		Hirundo Volunteer	HWR Gate 1
	10:00AM		Hirundo Volunteer	HWR Gate 1

"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 it's 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:

www.hirundomaine.org/support or send to:

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



SMILE

— a message sponsored by Hirundo Wildlife

Hirundo relies on investments of time and money made by the local community. Thank you for your support. We could not do it without



Original art brought to you by Snow and

Donations by Individual and Families:

Cathleen Bauschatz	Barbara & Laurent Beauregard	Terry Bourgin	Joanne R. Devlin
Claudia Tucci	Adriaan & Magrietha Van Heinigen		E & ML Drake
Dave Flewelling	John & Carol Gregory	Melody Vydas	Scott Mitchell
Ronald F. Pelletier	Paul Vienneau	Gail White	Steve Coburn
Sharen H. Wilson	Pamela W. Barone	Kristy Kraft	Bucky Owen
Mary A. Harlan	Elizabeth Hickman	Dick Andren	Gloria Vollmers
Stephanie Larouche	Constant Albertson	Glen Rea	Linda Koehler
Scott Mitchell	UMaine AED 470	Lawrence Starchfield, III	
Christian Diebold	Ann Davidoff	Kris & Steve Sader	

and by the many others who contributed at the individual gates.

Donations (in kind or monetary) by Businesses, Institutions & Organizations:

Castine Kayak
Cub Scouts Den 2 and Den 3 of Old Town
Down East Outing Club
Maine Discovery Museum
Orono-Old Town Kiwanis Club
Old Town Elementary School
Penobscot RiverKeepers

Grant Funders & Foundations:

Steven & Tabitha King Foundation
Maine Community Foundation

Volunteers:

Dick Andren
Seanna Annis
Amy, Alex & Nick Baron
Larry Beauregard
Lois Berg Stack
Steve Bicknell
Margo Boyd
Lisa Carter
Stephen Coghlan
Sandy Daniels
Ellie Durso
Steve Dunn
Jo Eaton
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Stephanie Larouche
Glen Koehler
Paul Markson
Rad Mayfield
Roger Merchant
Bucky Owen
Nathan Parkhill
Kris Sader
Steve Sader
Rori Saunders
Lindsay Seward
Bob Stevens

J
Gloria Vollmers
Peter White
Jim Young
Steven Madera & members of Life Jackets program
UMaine
- Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- Bodwell Center for Volunteers
- Alternative Spring Break Groups
- Woodmen's Team
RSU# 34 Chaperones
We apologize should your name be missing.

YES, I WANT TO VOLUNTEER!

We welcome your skill and interest.



Question of the

Quarterly Question

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Laurent Beauregard
Brenda Jackson
Dianne Kopec
June Larouche
Roxane Larouche
Stephanie Larouche, Chair
Veronica Larouche
Rad Mayfield, III
Roger Merchant
Bucky Owen

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

Name the two frog species that turn into Frogsicles.

Send your answer by February 15 and win a Hirundo bird feeder.

Reply to web@hirundomaine.org,

or to

Hirundo Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 266, Orono, ME 04473

Answer to previous Quarterly Question:

Meadow Jumping Mice are true hibernators as are Woodchucks, Little Brown Bats and Chipmunks. Black Bears nap.