

The Woodcock

ANTIOCH BIRD CLUB

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Welcome Part 2

Welcome to the second issue of *The Woodcock*! In this latest edition, the Antioch Bird Club reviews our October events, discusses new resources on campus, introduces our upcoming events for November, and shares recent bird highlights from Antioch's campus.

ABC Monthly Update

Bagels and Birds



On Saturday, October 14th, ABC held our 2nd Annual 'Bagels and Birds' event. From 8 AM until 12 PM, a total of 15 participants stopped by the library to help themselves to some fresh coffee and bagels while watching birds at the ABC feeders across from the library windows. The primary focus of the event was to introduce participants new to the club to its resources while spending a relaxing morning of birding from the comfort of the library's soft furniture. In total, 18 species were observed, including

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Palm

Warbler, and Dark-eyed Junco (the first of the fall season). For the full list of species observed, please check out our eBird checklist [here](#). Because birds were only half of the event, we want to express a heartfelt thanks to [The Works Bakery Cafe of Keene](#) for their generous donation of two dozen mixed bagels and two tubs of cream cheese.



Plum Island Fall Migrants

Just a day after our Bagels and Birds event, on Sunday, October 15th, five intrepid birders departed Keene in the blackness and heavy fog of predawn to head to Plum Island, Massachusetts for a day of birding. Named after the wild beach plum shrubs that grow along the dunes of the barrier island, Plum Island lies along the north shore of Massachusetts, just south of the New Hampshire border.



With a diverse suite of habitats ranging from sandy beaches, sand dunes, tidal creeks, water impoundments, and estuarine marshes, Plum Island is one of the best places in New England to view birds at any time of year. The island is divided into three sections (map on next page): a residential area in the north, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in the center, and Sandy Point State Reservation at the southern tip.



With an eight-mile auto road, almost a dozen trails, and multiple beachheads and boardwalks, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge offers easy access to birders of all skill levels. At promptly 8:00 AM, we started at the north end of the refuge and worked our way south to the very southern tip of Plum Island at Sandy Point State Reservation before working our way back out again.

ABC TV!

The Antioch Bird Club is proud to announce that we now have a prominent form of advertisement in the front lobby for all to see! Complete with addresses for our email, Instagram, and Facebook accounts, we hope our slide on the lobby's flatscreen television will help increase our reach across campus to students, faculty, and staff of all departments.



November Schedule of Events

Connecticut River Waterfowl at the Hinsdale Setbacks

November 4th (Sat)- 8 AM

To many, waterfowl migration is an awe-inspiring spectacle to behold. Join the Antioch Bird Club in a trip to the Hinsdale Setbacks, a natural area along the eastern banks of the Connecticut River, where thousands of ducks, geese, mergansers, and grebes gather on their migratory journey southward. The Setbacks also provide unique viewing opportunities of Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. Leader(s): Steven Lamonde. RSVP by November 2nd.

Fall Seabirds of the North Atlantic Coast

November 11th (Sat)- All Day

Too often we think of the “beautiful” birds as our songbirds. This trip will show you the painted beauty of seabirds such as Harlequin Ducks, Common and King Eiders, and scoters. It’s also a great opportunity to see loons, grebes, gannets, and winter sandpipers along the picturesque rocky shoreline of Cape Ann. Last year we also saw from shore a variety of seals and a Minke Whale! We will end the day looking for Short-eared Owls. A lunch trip to Woodman’s of Essex, home of the fried clam is also a possibility! Leader(s): Chad Witko and Steven Lamonde. RSVP by November 9th.

Birds of AUNE



Bird of the Month

The ABC Bird of the month for November 2017 is the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). This hardy wren is an uncommon bird to the AUNE campus, but can often be heard singing its familiar and emphatic *teakettle-teakettle!*, even late into the fall and early winter on seasonably warm days. To learn more about Carolina Wren, a denizen of thick underbrush, please read [here](#).

AUNE eBird Hotspot Update

Over the last month zero new species of birds have officially been added to the AUNE campus [list](#), keeping the total to 107 species. However, several species have returned back to campus for the fall and winter seasons including Dark-eyed Junco (October 14th) and numerous White-throated Sparrows, of which many first-year birds are practicing their songs. A Pileated Woodpecker has been seen somewhat regularly on campus (last sighted October 25th), and new high counts of Yellow-rumped Warbler (30), Common Grackle (51), and Red-winged Blackbird (85) were recorded on October 7th, 13th, and 27th, respectively.

Our Next Meeting is Wednesday, December 6th, at 3:00 PM.