

Enjoy your Fall Semester with the Antioch Bird Club



Great Blue Heron by Ginny Patsun

Welcome to the Fall Semester!

Antioch Bird Club (ABC) is delighted to be back birding with the Antioch community this Fall 2018 semester! A month of classes has already passed and with it an exciting month for ABC, transitioning from summer breeding season in the avian communities to autumn migrations. The first meeting of the semester welcomed MANY new faces as well as returners to the club, in hope that the momentum will continue to a fulfilling season of club adventures. ABC opens this 3rd volume of the Woodcock newsletter to keep the AUNE community up to date on all club-related activities. Here's to another abundant year of birds and adventures with ABC!

ABC News

ABC Welcomes its New Club Leaders!

As our valiant club leaders of previous seasons have transitioned to the next stages in their birding careers, we warmly welcome our new leadership team into their roles.

Ginny Patsun (vpatsun@antioch.edu) and Rachel Yurchisin (ryurchisin@antioch.edu) are our go-to pair for the 2018-2019 year with the club! Ginny has been birding since childhood when she started her species life list, and will be graciously guiding the club on excursions like the Plum Island trip this fall, sharing her years of experience with such outings. Rachel started birding intensely in college and hasn't stopped since! When she is not researching turtles, she will be guiding ABC for many an adventure.

Steven Lamonde (slamonde@antioch.edu), returning for an un-official third year of co-directing ABC, will also be leading several trips this semester, as well as managing our Global Big Year effort. Feel free to reach out to these three leaders with any bird-related questions, club matters, or just to share your passion for nature!



Rachel Yurchisin



Ginny Patsun



Steven Lamonde

Event Recap

Birdathon

Our second annual Bird-a-thon was a grand success, thank you to all who have donated and came to support us in person! With an early start around 4:40 AM our first bird identified was an American Robin. As dawn came upon us we had a burst of activity where we saw Nashville Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. A few other notable birds that we observed were Brown Thrasher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Northern Parula along with juvenile Black-throated Green Warblers and

Magnolia Warblers. Despite encountering no House Sparrows and fewer raptors than last year, we were able to beat last year's record with 42 species total! The last species observed almost 12 hours after our start was a group of Mallards flying over campus. The money raised from this event goes towards other events such as Bagels and Birds and continuing to keep the bird feeders full outside of the library. Thank you once more for your support!

Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory

The Raptor Observatory on Pack Monadnock is a great opportunity to see New England raptors on their way south, some flying as far as Central and South America in the case of the Broadwing Hawks. One of our previous leaders, Chad Witko, is the official counter for the hawk watch on this particular mountain and invited us up to learn more about the migration and the methods for identifying these birds from far away as is often the case. Upon our arrival Chad reported that they had already seen more than 500 individuals! With Broad-winged hawks being the major bulk of that count, some highlight species that we observed were American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Northern Harrier. Another major occurrence that we were able to experience was the release of three rehabilitated birds, two Broadwing and one Red-Tail Hawk. While it is always breathtaking to see these birds so close it was equally satisfying to see them be released into the wild. We ended the day with the watch reporting over 1,000 individuals, one of the greatest days of the season!

Wildlife Conservation Trust at the TONE

On Saturday, 29 September 2018, The Wildlife Conservation Trust hosted a guided bird walk at the TONE property in Alstead, New Hampshire. Lead by Antioch Bird Club members Steven Lamonde and Arianna Ferarrio, the walk focused on beginner bird identification, behavior, and ecology. Sunny skies calm winds, and pleasant temperatures, paired with an inquisitive crowd of bird-enthusiasts, made for a truly enjoyable morning. As we walked up through the field, our first birds of the day came into view. Eastern Phoebe perched conspicuously on exposed branches, where they kept watch for flying insects to dine upon. American Robins flocked along the forest edge, and a group of Palm Warblers foraged between



the goldenrod and pines. All heads turned when a Belted Kingfisher flew overhead, which made for an impromptu opportunity to discuss how one can tell what a bird eats based on the size and shape of its bill.

Entering the forest at the southern end of the field, a vocalizing Downy Woodpecker sparked conversation about differentiating between bird species by sound. Here and there, Black-capped Chickadees called from the canopy as we walked toward Cranberry Pond. Reaching the pond, we watched a Wood Duck swimming through the morning fog. Although this Wood Duck would be the only species of waterfowl seen on our walk, we predicted that a variety of waterfowl species will likely appear on Cranberry Pond in October and November as they migrate south for the winter. Following the trail along Cranberry Pond's western shoreline, mixed-species flocks of foraging songbirds periodically inundated our group. Throughout the hemlock-dominated forest, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Black-throated Green Warblers flitted through the branches. The active movement of these birds made them difficult to study in detail, but a few bold Blue-headed Vireos came closer to inspect us.

In total, 21 species were observed, representing a of both migrating and resident birds. Everyone left the event feeling inspired to learn about the birds in their personal yards, and with hopes that a second guided bird walk will be offered in the spring. Stay tuned!

Birds of AUNE

Bird of the Month



The ABC Bird of the Month for October is the Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*). This is a small songbird, but relatively large for a warbler with longer legs and tail than seen in other warbler species. During breeding season both sexes exhibit a rusty crown and yellow belly plumage which becomes faded in the non-breeding season. They tend to be seen foraging on open ground and are known for constantly bobbing their tails. Though it's name

suggests a tropical species, this is actually one of the northernmost breeding of all warblers. To learn more about this sparrow visit, check out its [species profile](#) on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website.

AUNE eBird Hotspot Update

In the 4 months since the last edition of *The Woodcock* was published, a plethora of highlights have occurred. Starting in May, Steven Lamonde and Arianna Ferrario observed the first Veery and Black-billed Cuckoo ever documented on campus. Just three days later, on May 23, Steven added three more species: Wood Thrush, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Alder Flycatcher, bringing the campus species total to 116. And, just recently on September 20, Steven watched a frigatebird fly over the campus bike path! Two species of frigatebird have been documented in New England (Magnificent and Lesser), despite their affinity for Caribbean climate. Although Steven was unable to narrow down which species of frigatebird he saw, the observation made national news among the birding community for representing the first documented record of a frigatebird in New Hampshire.

And the update doesn't stop there! A total of 20 species were observed in record-setting or record-tying numbers between the end of the spring semester and the publication of this newsletter: Black-billed Cuckoo (1), American Kestrel (1), Indigo Bunting (1), Willow Flycatcher (1), Alder Flycatcher (1), Merlin (1), Eastern Wood-Pewee (1), Wood Thrush (1), Fish Crow (3), Baltimore Oriole (2), Veery (2), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (2), Red-tailed Hawk (2), Least Flycatcher (3), Common Raven (2), Common Yellowthroat (4), Chestnut-sided Warbler (2), American Robin (96), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2), Yellow Warbler (2), American Redstart (4), Blue Jay (22), Warbling Vireo (1), Wilson's Warbler (2), Nashville Warbler (1), Hairy Woodpecker (2), Lincoln's Sparrow (2), and Northern Flicker (2).

Antioch Bird Club Global Big Year Update

To orient new students and readers with what a Big Year is, this event is an AUNE-wide (including alumni) effort to document as many species of birds around the world in a single calendar year - 2018. With many Peace Corps students traveling abroad, and other students, staff, and faculty visiting far-off places, Antioch Bird Club is tracking which birds are seen, where they are seen, and how many.

To date, our effort has documented almost 200,000 individual birds across 1,264 species. Sightings have been shared with us from 16 countries and 31 USA states. IF YOU HAVE SEEN A BIRD THIS YEAR, we encourage you to



share your sighting with us so we can add it to our dataset! Our goal is to reach 250,000 individual birds, and you can help us! To share your sighting, please contact Steven Lamonde (slamonde@antioch.edu) or Kelsey Higney (khigney@antioch.edu).

Schedule of Events

Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge

October 6 (Saturday)- All Day

Have you always wanted to visit the White Mountains of New Hampshire, but never had the chance to go? Join ABC for a trip to Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge! Nestled in the northern reaches of the White Mountains, this refuge offers a unique opportunity for birding and wildlife viewing in a mosaic of habitats. A variety of wetland and spruce-fir communities makes Pondicherry one of New Hampshire's superb destinations for northern birding.

We'll search for migrating waterfowl like American Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, scoters, scaup, mergansers, and goldeneye. Common Loons are likely, as well as a variety of herons and raptors. Black-backed Woodpeckers, a boreal specialty, live year-round at Pondicherry. Kinglets and finches should be present in good numbers, as well as number of late-migrant wood warblers: Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

A 2hr 30min drive is required to reach the refuge, so a carpool will leaving campus at 6:00 AM and returning to Keene no later than 4:00PM. Bring binoculars if available, lunch, and warm layers.

Yoga & Birds

October 7 (Sunday)- 9:30-11am

Take a morning to tune in to the beauty of nature and experience birds in a holistic sense. This yoga class will involve a guided meditation followed by a Hatha yoga sequence for all levels. No experience is necessary. This is a FREE yoga class open to all and will include bird-inspired movements as well as nature-inspired reflection. This event will take place either outside at Ashuelot River Park, or in the Antioch Dance Studio pending weather.

Bird Colloquium with Scott Hecker

October 12 (Friday)- 11:30am-12:30pm

ABC has invited Antioch alumni and ornithologist Scott Hecker for a lunchtime colloquium. Scott has spent 35 years protecting endangered migratory birds for Massachusetts

Audubon Society, National Audubon Society, and the International Conservation Fund of Canada. Take this afternoon to delve deeper into the realm of avian conservation

Plum Island

October 21 (Saturday)-All Day

It's time to head back to Plum Island and Parker River Wildlife Refuge to relish in this birding hotspot. Those who have not had the chance to visit the coast or to experience Plum Island in the past will not want to miss this opportunity! We will stop for lunch and dinner at local establishments and return to Antioch in the evening, so prepare for an entire day of birds!

Bagels & Birds

October 27 (Saturday)- 8am-11am

Every semester the club hosts Bagels and Birds in the Antioch library to bring birders together for a relaxing morning of bagels, coffee, and feeder watching. As the semester gains momentum, there's nothing like taking a morning to observe local birds with friends. Breakfast is on ABC! Brand new birders as well as the more experienced will enjoy this event equally. The morning's checklist will be submitted to eBird for citizen science data.

eBird Workshop

November 1 (Thursday)- 5pm

Immediately following ABC's November meeting will be an eBird workshop with our own eBird expert Steven Lamonde. Heard of eBird but intimidated by the platform? Never heard of eBird, but eager to contribute to a global citizen science initiative? This workshop will clarify all that you need to know about submitting online bird checklists through the website or the app. This is a great way for you to increase the impact of your birding, or to simply gain perspective on this well-utilized resource.

Next Meeting: Thursday October 4, 4:15 pm, Room 231