

Welcome to Volume 3 Edition 2 of The Woodcock Newsletter



Purple Finch on Pelagic Trip by Rachel Yurchisin

Thank you for your support this semester!

This fall semester has been one to remember. Adventures in birding have taken ABC members to the coast, to the mountains, and back to our favorite birding locations in Keene. It has been a Big Year for the club, in more ways than one. ABC has welcomed some new faces and has created moments for many to share. As current classes come to a close, birds and humans both buckle down for the cold the winter months. We hope you keep the binoculars ready and take some time to brave the cold before we meet again in January!

ABC News

Final Stretch for the Antioch Bird Club Global Big Year!

Time is running out on our Big Year effort to find as many birds as possible in a single calendar year. With 334 days behind us, we have tallied >260,000 birds across 1,310 species! Our eBird checklist tally stands at 4,386, still 614 checklist shy of our goal. Can we achieve our goal of 5,000 checklists by midnight on December 31st? Can we pass the 1,400 species milestone?? Can we get up to half a million individual birds??? The Antioch Bird Club calls on you to help out!

If you have questions about how to get involved, or how to submit observations from earlier in the year, please contact Steven Lamonde (slamonde@antioch.edu).

For those of you who have been submitting checklists to eBird, please make sure the checklists are being shared with ABC Big Year so they count towards our effort.

And, if you knows any Antioch University New England faculty, staff, or alumni who might be interested in participating, please do not hesitate to invite them to read about our event on our [Facebook event page](#). Let's work together to reach our goals by year's end!

Campus Update

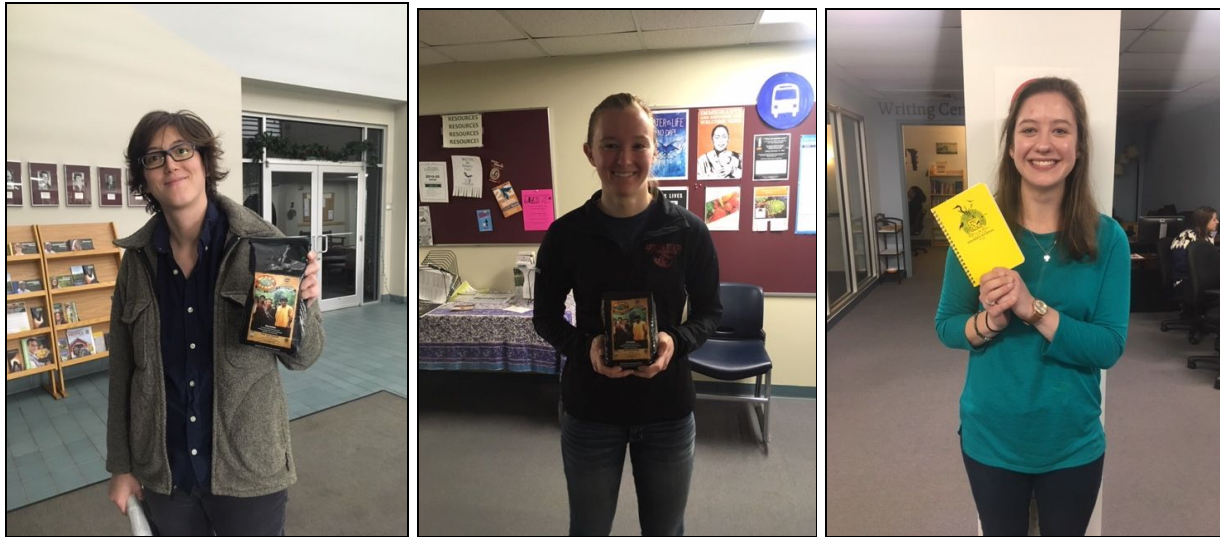
A massive shoutout to those who've supported ABC through the Bird-a-thon and all other outlets over time. The club was recently gifted additional feeders to supplements birds with energy as they visit AUNE. We also received a generous donation of bird seed. With funds generously donated ABC has purchased one more feeder pole to put these gifts to use! A heartfelt thank you to all who enrich the ABC community and keep local avian communities a priority.



ABC has a logo!

The club is very proud to finally reveal the ABC logo. This has been in the works since the beginning of the club in 2016. Designed using original artwork of the club's mascot, the American Woodcock, by ABC's founder Chad Witko, BeezeTees in Keene met the need for a graphic designer by producing a logo that was everything we could have envisioned.

Scavenger Hunt



Winners have been revealed for the Fall 2018 ABC Library Scavenger Hunt. Competition was impressive this time around, resulting in a 3 way tie between Kat Lauer, Erin Glocke, and Chris Collins for 1st place! Each identified all of the birds correctly, and there were certainly some challenges! They've been gifted *A Robin Makes a Laughing Sounds*, a bird-themed Rite in the Rain notebook, and Sibley bird identification flashcards respectively. There was also a tie for second place between Nevada Trager and Audrey Boraski, who only misidentified two birds, and will each receive a pound of fair-trade, shade-grown Dean's Beans coffee. Thank you to all who participated and continue to participate in the library scavenger hunt. ABC enjoys organizing this activity immensely.

Event Recap

Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge

A group of dedicated ABC members journeyed up to the White Mountains on October's Global Big Day to experience this birding hotspot. The search for the elusive but recently sighted Black-backed Woodpecker was unsuccessful, however the trip was a wonderful introduction to birding the Whites for some members. The club was given an incredible view of a Northern Harrier as it glided in close proximity to the viewing platform, adding some magic to the morning. Those in attendance were able to share their passion with fellow birders out to enjoy the refuge.

Yoga & Birds

On October 7 ABC hosted its first Yoga & Birds event. Club members spent a morning focusing on strength and flexibility in both physical and subtle bodies. Movement was inspired by Garuda, the golden eagle of yogic mythology.

Plum Island

A group of six ABC members braved the chilled coastal air on Sunday, October 21 to observe migrating waterfowl along the New Hampshire and Massachusetts coast. Starting off at Andrew's Point in Rockport, MA we were greeted by Black and White-Winged Scoters, Common Eider, and Northern Gannet. Moving north into the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and Plum Island we had great looks at many shorebirds such



Semipalmated Plovers and Sanderlings

along the first parking lot beach, Greater Yellowlegs in the Salt Pans, and Piping Plovers within Emerson Rocks who have protected nesting sites in this location. Hunting Merlin and Northern Harrier were also seen near Hellcat Dike. The most surprising observation were five Great Egret roosting temporarily in a tree; these are usually found in more southern locations by this time of year.

Bagels & Birds

Despite the rain, this semester's Bagels and Birds event was a success! A total of 9 humans and [96 birds](#) participated, consuming a large amount of bagels and bird seed, respectively. Identification games, bird trivia, and bird stories were shared across mugs of hot cocoa and coffee, while birds flitted between feeders outside the library windows. Bird highlights included a late-migrating [Blue-headed Vireo](#) and a large flock of glossy-plumaged [Common Grackles](#).

Halloween Cemetery Walk

Just four days after our Bagels and Birds event, a group of ABC participants gathered in the Greenlawn/Woodland cemetery in Keene for a bone-chilling walk through the headstone forest. Fifteen species were seen flying from the graves, skulking through thorn-ridden bushes, or darting overhead as if chased by ghosts. Highlights included Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, and Eastern Bluebird.

Painting Workshop

ABC hosted an art workshop on campus on November 29th, to provide a little respite from study fatigue and a creative outlet for participants to express their love of birds and the natural world. Everyone was encouraged to either create their own masterpiece using watercolors or follow instructions to make galaxy-inspired avian creations. The result was beyond the stratosphere, with so many incredible pieces from lunar loons to orbital owls. The beauty of birds is so universally captivating and it was so wonderful to see how talented the Antioch community is in capturing it.



Intro to Winter Birds



Our two-part event consisting of a presentation concerning local winter birds that many of us will have the pleasure of observing this coming season and a bike-trail walk the following morning was a success! Members of both the Antioch and Keene communities were in attendance, all of varying levels of birding experience. After an introduction on where these winter birds come from, we went through

ID of 15 common winter birds, how to get involved in birding this winter, and a quick eBird workshop! The next morning we had a group of eight armed with coffee and binoculars in the cold. We were treated with close looks of Northern Cardinals, White-Throated Sparrows, and Black-capped Chickadees. We always enjoy the opportunity to connect with other parts of community while sharing our birding knowledge; thanks to all who joined us!

Birds of AUNE

Bird of the Month



A heavyset finch of northern coniferous forests, the Evening Grosbeak adds a splash of color to winter bird feeders every few years, when large flocks depart their northern breeding grounds en masse to seek food to the south. The yellow-bodied, dusky-headed male has an imposing air thanks to his massive bill and fierce eyebrow stripe. The female is more subtly marked, with golden highlights on her soft gray plumage. This declining species is

becoming uncommon, particularly in the eastern United States. There however an irruption of winter finches in the southern extent of their ranges this winter, making it an excellent year to observe Evening Grosbeaks. They are most attracted to platform feeders with black-oil sunflower seed. To learn more about this sparrow visit, check out its [species profile](#) on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website.

AUNE eBird Hotspot Update

Despite not adding any new species to the campus list during November, a number of highlights occurred. First, 5 bird feeders were generously donated to ABC by Amy Janvier and Sarah Wilson - thank you! Second, our very own [campus eBird hotspot](#) has risen to 4th place in the all-time leaders list for most-birded locations in New

Hampshire with 1,255 checklists submitted to date. This is an increase from 7th place (out of >770 locations in NH) since summer 2018. Third, 8 different species were

118 Species

1255 Checklists

Last Seen

First Seen

High Counts

Bar Charts

Printable Checklist

	SPECIES NAME	COUNT	DATE	BY
1	Rock Pigeon	3	1 Dec 2018	Rachel Yurchisin
2	Mourning Dove	6	1 Dec 2018	Rachel Yurchisin
3	Red-tailed Hawk	1	1 Dec 2018	Rachel Yurchisin
4	Downy Woodpecker	1	1 Dec 2018	Rachel Yurchisin

recorded at new high-counts: (Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; White-crowned Sparrow, 16; Common Grackle, 54; White-throated Sparrow, 29; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Pine Siskin, 46; Evening Grosbeak, 9; and Dark-eyed Junco, 59). Fourth, Marie Fargo and Dylan Kelly observed a Pine Grosbeak near the library feeders on November 14th, a species which had not been recorded on campus since 2013!

Antioch Bird Club Global Big Year Update

With a dwindling number of days left in 2018, the Antioch Bird Club Global Big Year effort has tallied some impressive results. Over 260,000 individual birds have been counted, belonging to 1,310 species. Observations of birds, submitted on >4,300 checklists, by AUNE students, staff, faculty, and alumni have come in from [18 countries and 34 US states](#). An incredible 555 species have been seen within the United States alone, roughly 60% of all the species recorded in the country this year.

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 300,000 individual birds and 5,000 checklists, and you can help us! Additionally, we are still missing observation from the following states: Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. To share your sighting, please contact Steven Lamonde (slamonde@antioch.edu) or Kelsey Higney (khigney@antioch.edu).

Schedule of Events

Christmas Bird Count

December 16 (Sunday)- All day

Join ABC to participate in Keene's local Christmas Bird Count for the 119th year of the National Audubon Society's citizen science initiative for winter resident species. This is the nation's longest running community science initiative. As climate changes and ecological patterns follow, this data is essential to the conservation of vulnerable species. If you will not be in the area and wish to participate in a CBC wherever you are, surveys are conducted between December 14 and January 5 each year from coast to coast!

Follow the link to find a count near you:

<https://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=fadfb421e95f4949bde20c29a38228bd>

Next Meeting: Thursday January 10, 4:15 pm, Room 231

Enjoy your break!