



Newsletter ~ Sept/Oct 2014

A Birding Club for Northern Maine
www.aroostookbirders.com

Volume 22, Pg. 1 of 1

Upcoming Events:

September Trip - Long Lake Birding
Saturday, Sept. 27 (raindate, Sept. 28)
Meet 7:30 a.m., Caribou High School
(lunch at Lakeview Restaurant afterwards)

October Outing - Wild Goose Chase
Saturday, Oct. 18 (raindate, Oct. 19)
Meet 8:00 a.m., Collins Pond, Caribou
(Caribou, Limestone, Fort Fairfield areas)

November Meeting -
Thursday, Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Presentation by photographer Tammy Morris
on "Texas Birds and Birding"
UMPI Campus location TBA

Aroostook Birders Officers:

President: Bill Sheehan
Vice-President: Russell Mount
Secretary: Judy Roe
Treasurer: Denise Gagnon
Publicity: Sue Pinette
Membership: Bob Pinette

Photos from previous fall trips



Above, view from the Lakeview Restaurant on Long Lake at St. Agatha. Below, hundreds of Canada Geese return mid-morning to Collins Pond.



Aroostook Birders is an organization whose members share a passion for bird watching and an appreciation of northern Maine's natural environment through field trips and educational programs. Bird enthusiasts of all ages and ability levels are welcomed.

Citizen Scientists & the Christmas Bird Count

September marked the 100th anniversary of the passing of the last Passenger Pigeon, Martha, lone survivor of a species which once numbered in the millions.

Timed to coincide with this notable anniversary, was the release of the 2014 *State of the Birds* report (www.stateofthebirds.org), a comprehensive review of long-term data for U.S. birds. It looks at birds as indicators of ecosystem health by examining populations of species dependent on grasslands, forests, wetlands, ocean, aridlands, islands and coasts. Characterized as "unsettling" by its authors, the 2014 report was summed-up in the following way: the good news - conservation efforts work when applied; the bad news - populations are down in many key habitats. Close to home, another recently released study, *Climate Change and Biodiversity in Maine*, identified iconic species such as Common Loon and Atlantic Puffin as "highly vulnerable" to rising temperatures and weather extremes.

How can we as birders help conservation efforts? It is data collected by observers that has allowed researchers to study the long-term health and status of bird populations and what needs to be done to protect them. Our club will host two Audubon Christmas Bird Counts here in northern Maine: the Caribou area count and the long-standing Presque Isle count first established in the 1930s. If you would like to join us as a "citizen scientist" in observing and recording birds, contact Bill at bill.j.sheehan@gmail.com.

Caribou/Limestone Christmas Bird Count
Sunday, December 14
Presque Isle Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015



Bird count field observer searching for Ruffed Grouse in the winter landscape.

September Outing - Long Lake Birding

Meet up at the Caribou High School parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 a.m. (raindate Sunday, Sept. 28) for a morning of far northern Maine birding, exploring both boreal forest and shoreline habitat in the Long Lake region of Sinclair and St. Agatha. Those who wish can gather for lunch afterward at the Lakeview Restaurant.

October Outing - Wild Goose Chase

Hope you can join us for this traditional fall outing, a three-hour excursion in the Caribou, Limestone and Fort Fairfield areas in search of abundant geese as well as other waterfowl, shorebirds, and lingering migrants. Meet at Caribou's Collins Pond on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 8:00 a.m. (raindate Sunday, Oct. 19) for three hours of non-strenuous birding by car with short jaunts on foot. Check this website for weather updates.

E-mail thearoostookbirders@gmail.com, call 207-764-1801 for infor-