

How You Can Help Our Feathered Friends

by Marian Zimmerman

Buy shade-grown coffee! Not all coffee is equal, as any coffee connoisseur knows, but it is not just in the way that it tickles your taste buds. More importantly, it is how it is grown and its environmental impact.

It turns out that shade-grown coffee is grown in plantations that retain many of the plant and animal species found in natural forests. The forest canopy in shade-grown plantations hosts an array of orchids, bromeliads, mosses, and lichen that, in turn, support fruit, flowers, and diverse insect populations. Similarly, leaf litter that accumulates on the forest floor forms the basis for the ground community of flora and fauna. The coffee, grown in the middle, thrives from the shade provided by the over story and the nutrients that replenish the soil. The plantations mimic natural forests, sustain biodiversity, and support many of the vital relationships that make up tropical forests communities. In them many avian residents of the tropic as well as over-wintering species from North America maintain healthy populations.



In contrast, sun-grown coffee is grown in plantations where the land is cleared before the planting. This coffee has the marketing advantage of producing a larger crop in fewer years after planting. However, without the

canopy and under story, the plantation quickly becomes a virtual biological desert. Without the plants, insects, flowers and fruit are eliminated, and without the insects, flowers, and fruits, the birds and other animals they support are lost. Also the soil becomes exhausted of nutrients within a few years, as it is not replenished by the natural cycling of biomass. Soil depletion leads to the need for heavy application of fertilizer and increased soil erosion.

Tropical birds as well as “our” North American breeding birds wintering in the tropics thrive in shade-grown coffee plantations. Sadly, significant declines in bird populations have been connected with the conversion of plantations from shade-grown to sun-grown.



So what happens in those far away wintering grounds can dramatically affect the birds we love to see right here in Maine. “Out of sight” should never become “Out of mind!” We can make a difference through the power of our choices. Buying shade-grown coffee helps the tropical forest ecosystem, our North American birds, and the local human community to make a sustainable living. And besides, your taste buds will love the difference. So next time you go shopping, make sure you buy shade-grown coffee. Do it for the birds!

Steadfast Supporter: Bob's Clam Hut

York County Audubon has received a very generous donation from Bob's Clam Hut, in Kittery, along with a letter from their Office Administrator, Christine Greenwood: "At Bob's we collect excess change from our guests – either in cash or rounded up credit card payments – at the time of food ordering and payment. Instead of our staff receiving these as tips, we let our guests know that we are collecting for specific local charities. The sign on the cups reads, 'in lieu of tips we are collecting donations for (name of charity).'"

During the time of 5/2/13 – 5/31/13 we collected donations from our guests for your organization. As a result, I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$600 (for YCAS). We are proud to have the opportunity to support you in this small way and hope the funds come in handy. Thank you for all the great work you do making our community stronger."

We at YCAS are very grateful for this considerable gift. Thank you, Bob's Clam Hut, for supporting our endeavors! We hope our members will take advantage of Bob's menu offerings, as well. The restaurant is located at 315 US Rte. 1 in Kittery.

New Members:

Martha Bowman & Amy Marcotte	North Waterboro
Michael Buckley & Patricia Wright-Buckley	Kennebunk
Leanna Fleming	Kittery Point
Susan Gray	Kennebunkport
Linda Becker	South Berwick
Stephen Blais	Arundel
Elisha Camp	Kennebunkport
Colin Campbell	Arundel
Miranda and Mike Cassidy	Saco
Tom Chapais	Alfred
Carol Donnelly	York Harbor
Cynthia Fessenden	Kennebunk
Dixie Frei	Eliot
David Howe	Saco
Arnie and Grey Jones	Hollis Center
The Kalowsky Family	Kittery
Lee Morgan	Sanford
Wendy Pirsig	South Berwick
Nancy Pittman	Eliot
Kellie Robertson	South Berwick
David Sjulander	Hollis Center
Carol Wiggin	Cape Neddick
Jean Begin	Kennebunk
Barbara Bridge	Cape Porpoise
Mr. and Mrs. David K. Robinson	Ocean Park
Deborah Morrison	Hollis Center
Joseph Davock	Parsonfield
Donald McKenney	Eliot
Kristine R. Pynn	Kennebunk
Todd Young	Eliot
Lori Babb	East Waterboro
Elizabeth Baker	Kennebunkport
Sedona Bolevic	South Berwick
Karen Casey	Biddeford
Nancy Cucinotta	Wells
Cindy Dentremont	York
Yoli Gallagher	Acton
Debbie Greene	Lebanon
Stephen Hall	Kittery
Thomas Olson	York

Justin Lamkin	Kittery
Huntley Pierson	Biddeford
Elizabeth Rindler	Kittery Point
Amy Ryan	Kittery
Darlene York	Arundel
Susan C. Brown	Kittery Point
Andrea A. Dub	Buxton
Barbara Foss	Old Orchard Beach
James Litchfield	Alfred
Julie Manson	Kittery
Judith Merrow	Kennebunk
Margaret Miller-Weeks	Ogunquit
Stephen Palermo	Cape Porpoise
Patricia C. Peck	Biddeford
Sarah and Brian Razak	Old Orchard Beach
Heidi Smart	Saco
Dorinne Spirito	Saco
Deborah Morrison	Hollis Center

Welcome Back:

Michael H. Chace-Ortiz	Buxton
Armistead Dennett	Kittery
Henry Kingsbury	Kennebunk
Kate R. Reynolds	South Berwick
Beth Sturdevant	Fryeburg
Alexander N. Davis	York
Karen Minton	Biddeford
Gillian Carter	Kittery
Jason Clemons	Biddeford
Donald Davis	Rochester, NY
Clay T. Graybeal	Arundel
James Ricci	Buxton
Mary Ellen Van Hemel	Kennebunk
Hilary N. Wallis	Boston, MA
Bridget A. Coullon	York
Neal Flaherty	Buxton
David B. Gould	Kennebunk
Christopher McKenney	Saco

New to Chapter:

Priscilla and Dale Doucette	Portland
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Programs

Tuesday, September 17, 7:00 pm at Kennebunkport Conservation Trust ***Birds Do the Darndest Things***. One of the great pleasures of birding is observing the intimate snippets of birds' lives. Usually the birds we see are either perched, flying, or feeding. But every so often, we glimpse less obvious behaviors, which hold us spellbound—a meadowlark fleeing a falcon, an oriole constructing a complex nest, or a jay surreptitiously stashing away seeds. Observing bird behavior carefully often leads us to ponder some puzzling questions: Why do Yellow Warblers devote themselves to feeding cowbird fledglings twice their size? How do Black-capped Chickadees remember where they have stored *thousands* of seed-caches? Do birds play for fun or do they play to develop skills necessary for survival? Join naturalist and birding tour guide Lena Senko as she explores a slew of intriguing bird behaviors.

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 pm at Wells Reserve ***The Holy Grail of North American Birding***. In 2012 five YCAS members ventured off to Attu...an island birding mecca 1500 miles from mainland Alaska which some may recall from the movie *The Big Year*. Robert and Ann Watson, Pat Moynahan, Marian Zimmerman and Doug Hitchcox will share their adventure into the Eastern Hemisphere for rare birds. During their trip, they saw colonies of over two million birds, Song Sparrows the size of robins, 20+ foot seas en route in a 72 foot boat, and a bird recently back from the edge of extinction.

Come hear the story of how these birders went from making a day trip to see a bird in New Jersey to traveling across the world together in just a few months.

Field Trips

All field trips are free and open to all. Please call the contact person(s) to receive the latest information. Trip plans may change due to weather or the occurrence of local rarities and we do not want you to miss us due to these changes.

Saturday, August 10. Hills Beach. Leader and Contact Doug Hitchcox 671-0185. Tide dependent so call Doug for more information.

Saturday, September 14, 8:00 am to noon. Sanford Sewer Works. Leader Andy Aldrich. Contact Joanne Stevens 883-6475.

Wednesday Morning Bird Walks. Location varies every week and lasts a couple of hours. Beginners are welcome to come and learn about birds. Contact David Doubleday davidd@roadrunner.com.

Saturday Morning - Laudholm Farm Summer Bird Walks. Saturdays, July 27, August 10 & 24. Meet at Laudholm Farm parking lot at 7:30 am.

*-For updates check www.yorkcountyaudubon.org
-Thanks to Marie Jordan, Chuck Homler and Doug Hitchcox for photos.*

BIRDING CHALLENGE 2013

by Linda Eastman

On Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11, eighteen birders, distributed among seven teams, braved some very rainy weather to participate in our thirteenth annual Birding Challenge. After a busy 24 hours, we enjoyed pizza donated by Alfredo's Italian Pizzeria in Wells, and tallied a total of 159 species in York County.

Our fund-raising for the event is still underway and we hope you'll send a contribution of *any* amount, so we can follow our tradition of donating our proceeds to environmental education, conservation, and research projects in York County. Please send your tax-deductible contributions to YCAS, PO Box 201, Kennebunkport, ME 04046. We thank you!

York County Audubon
P.O. Box 201
Kennebunkport, ME 04046-0201

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AUDUBON

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

ETYMOLOGY
American Oystercatcher
Haematopus palliatus
"Haematopus" is derived from two Greek
word'l: 'haima; meaning "blood" and
"pous; meaning "foot." "Palliatus" is taken
from the Latin "pallium" meaning "cloak."
This stunningly attired bird has a blood-red
bill and in some lights, its legs have a
reddish cast. With its black hood, it looks as
though it is wearing a dark cloak. -



Maine Audubon Membership Form

Yes, I would like to join Maine Audubon & the York County Chapter of Maine Audubon (this also includes membership in the National Audubon Society). I want to help promote environmental education and advocacy in our communities, and protect and conserve wildlife habitat. I understand that membership benefits include Maine Audubon's *Habitat: The Journal of Maine Audubon*, *The Harlequin* newsletter, and discounts on field trips and tours, children's programs, and at Audubon nature stores and sanctuaries nationwide. For a subscription to *Audubon*, the magazine of the National Audubon Society, please add \$10.

- Senior /Volunteer /Student \$25 Individual \$35 Household \$45 Contributing \$65
- Patron \$100 Sustaining \$250 Benefactor \$500 Director's Circle \$1000

I wish to receive *The Harlequin* newsletter by email instead of by mail. (Make sure to give us your email address!)

Name _____ Check enclosed \$ _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Winter address from _____ to _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How did you hear about York County Audubon? _____

Please make checks payable to Maine Audubon. Send this form & your check to:
Maine Audubon - 20 Gilsland Farm Road - Falmouth, ME 04105