

## THE HARLEQUIN

# York County Audubon Winter 2013

### A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT: WELCOME 2013! Paul F. Wells

Although I write on a gray, windy, rainy, generally miserable Winter Solstice of 2012, we will be well into the New Year when you read this. Christmas, Hanukkah, and Christmas bird counts are behind us, and we all survived the predictions of a Mayan apocalypse — whew! We can now look forward to days of ever-increasing daylight hours, and the fun of seeing what interesting birds might be visiting York County this winter. So far we've not had any grosbeaks wander into our yard in West Kennebunk, but a few Common Redpolls have shown up. Turkeys must be finding plenty of food in the woods this year because there has as yet been no sign of the flock of 20+ that were daily visitors through late fall and winter 2010-2011 - and this year I even prepared for them by buying several sacks of cracked corn at the YCAS fall seed sale!

Speaking of the seed sale—an annual joint venture between YCAS and the Wells Reserve—it was another successful event, though I have yet to see final figures on how sales this year compare to those of years past. I enjoyed meeting more of our members as I helped load the cars and trucks of those who came to Laudholm to pick up their orders. Thanks to Joan Junker for coordinating the YCAS end of things, and to all the other volunteers who helped out.

Winter is, of course, a time when we wind down YCAS activities a bit. But, fear not, things do not grind to a total halt! Our Wednesday walks will continue, albeit perhaps with a bit less frequency than throughout the warmer months. Dave Doubleday, who leads those walks, has also worked to put together another fine slate of programs for our public meetings when they resume in the spring. Check out the schedule elsewhere in this issue of *The Harlequin*. Pat Moynahan and Doug Hitchcox have crafted a great line-up of field trips for the coming months. A new brochure with the full schedule is in the works.

Progress continues on strengthening our relationship with Maine Audubon. The state organization has made great strides in providing greater visibility for YCAS and all other chapters on their website. If you've not visited MaineAudubon.org recently I encourage you to do so and follow the path to "Locations and Chapters." There that lead own links to our www.yorkcountyaudubon.org. The inclusion chapter-specific photos and information in membership renewal letters is another new step in the process of integrating and building our own public presence within of the state organization. that The Communications Committee met with Debbie Atwood and Robert Denton of the Maine Audubon staff in October and talked about further ways in which we can work together for the mutual benefit of both the state and regional groups. We look forward to additional dialogue in the future.

Finally, I want to remind folks about our Hog Island Scholarship program. If you are, or know of, a worthy educator who might be eligible to attend the outstanding Educator week program this summer on famed Hog Island, off the mid-coast of Maine, consider applying. I hope everyone survives another Maine winter in good shape. The spring migration season is not far behind!

### YORK COUNTY AUDUBON ANNOUNCES THE HOG ISLAND SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2013

York County Audubon is seeking an educator or community leader to participate in a one-week program on Hog Island off mid-coast Maine in July 2013. YCAS will sponsor one participant who can benefit from the Hog Island experience and use it to teach others See our more website, **www.yorkcountyaudubon.org**, for more information. Applications are due March 15, 2013.

The program is entitled "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" and will run from July 18<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The YCAS scholarship will pay 70% (up to \$700) of the recipient's cost for program tuition, room, and board.

1



#### YCAS OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	President Paul Wells		
Vice President	Bill Graber	985-3258	
Treasurer	reasurer Linda Eastman		
Secretary	Pat Sanborn	781-9837	
Ellen Doubleday	967-4486		
David Doubleda	967-4486		
June Ficker, Edu	967-3258		
Monica Graber, I	985-3258		
Doug Hitchcox,	671-0815		
Marie Jordan, Pa	799-1408		
Pat Moynahan, F	284-5487		
Dr. Lyman Page,	967-2391		
Scott Richardson	698-4461		
Joanne Stevens, '	883-6475		
Julie Suchecki, N	510-1323		
Ann Watson, Dir	251-1135		
Bob Watson, Pub	251-1135		
Marian Zimmerr	284-5487		

*The Harlequin*, the newsletter of the York County Audubon Society, is published quarterly in spring, summer. autumn & winter. Spring deadline: March 15th.



The Harlequin is printed on recycled paper

YCAS's 2012 Hog Island scholarship winner was Kate Gerwig, a visual arts teacher at Biddeford Intermediate School. She provided a lively description of her program experience in an article for the Autumn 2012 issue of *The Harlequin*, the YCAS newsletter, which can be accessed through the YCAS website.

Since 1936, some of the world's most well-known and highly respected naturalists have inspired thousands to learn about and protect birds and the environment. Roger Tory Peterson was among the first teachers on the 335-acre island. Rachel Carson described her visit to Hog Island in her landmark book, *Silent Spring*. Kenn Kaufman, only nine years old when he read Peterson's account of Hog Island, is now an international authority on birds and nature.

#### **HELP!!! WE NEED YOUR VOTE!**

Each year our community banks invest a portion of their earnings back into the community through their support of local nonprofit and charitable organizations. They allocate money based on citizen interest in organizations determined by the number of votes cast for them. By expressing your support of York County Audubon Society (YCAS), you can assist us in receiving some of these funds.

**Kennebunk Savings** invites its patrons to indicate support through their Customer Ballot which is included in the mailing of March statements. If you have a Kennebunk Savings account, we ask you to please vote for YCAS. The size of the contribution they will give us depends upon the number of votes we receive.

Bangor Savings Bank also has a balloting process where the top organization in each region receives \$5000 and another five organizations receive \$1000. In this case you do not need to be a patron of the bank, only an interested citizen in order to vote. Simply go to www.Bangor.com/ccm between January 28 and March 11, 2013, and look for the York County region. York County Audubon Society is included in the list of organizations in the write-in line. So, once you click on the write-in line, YCAS will appear after you type in the first part of our name.

YCAS in turn reinvests these monies from the banks back into scientific research, environmental education, and resource conservation efforts right here at home in York County. With your help we will have more funds to support the projects that help keep southern Maine the kind of place that we love to call home. We appreciate your support. Thanks for your vote!

### WINTER WILDLIFE DAY Monica Grabin

Again this year York County Audubon, the Center for Wildlife, and the Wells Reserve are holding our popular Winter Wildlife Day at Laudholm Farm. Scheduled for Thursday, February 21, during school vacation week, school aged children and their families are invited to come to the Wells Reserve from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for indoor and outdoor nature activities.

The Center for Wildlife will bring live animals for you to meet at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.; a Maine guide will lead walks around the center to look for signs of winter residents at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and there will be arts and crafts, touch tables, and people to answer questions about how animals live during the winter months and how to find them. There will also be hot chocolate to warm you up when you return from outside.

Bring your snowshoes if you own some (assuming there is snow!) If you do not have any, we will have some that you may borrow. Sleds or skis might also be fun. The event is free and no reservations are needed! So join us for fun, adventure, and learning about what your furry and feathered friends are doing this time of the year at the beautiful Wells Reserve. And don't forget to bring your family and friends.

### BIRDING PATCH: LONG SANDS BEACH IN YORK & NUBBLE LIGHTHOUSE AT CAPE NEDDICK

Marian Zimmerman



Razorbills ~ Photo by Marie Jordan

Long Sands Beach and Cape Neddick are proximally located on the south coast in York and offer a nice combination of sandy beach, rocky shore, open ocean, and upland habitats that makes for rich birding. Together they support a diversity of species, particularly from late fall through early spring.

In winter Long Sands Beach is used by a large number of gulls so it is worth looking for Iceland, Glaucous, Bonaparte's, Common Black-headed, Lesser Blackbacked, and even Ivory Gulls. Red-throated and Common Loons may be seen just off shore along with a variety of sea ducks. Flocks of Sanderling sometimes roam the beach.

Nearby Cape Neddick with Nubble Lighthouse at Sohier Park protrudes into the ocean and provides a promontory for conducting sea watches. A whole array of sea birds can be observed including Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Razorbill, and Black Guillemot as well as Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, and Purple Sandpiper. Snowy Owl sometimes use the Nubble as a winter staging area. Dovekie, Thick-billed Murre, and Barrow's Goldeneye have also been sited here. In 2001, a Sage Thrasher was found at the edge of Sohier Park and it is not uncommon to find Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, and Lapland Longspur. The interior of Cape Neddick with its hedgerows and brushy edges provides habitat for land birds so it is worth the effort to walk some of the streets in search for wrens, thrushes, crossbills, finches, and who knows what surprises. Sohier Park is open year-round, free of charge. The information center, open seasonally, has rest rooms.

Directions: From the south, take Rt. 1A north at the intersection of Rt. 1 and 1A in York Village. In 3.4 miles, Long Sands Beach begins at Prebbles Point, seen only at low tide across from the York Harbor Motel, and continues for about 1.5 miles. Just beyond the end of the beach on the right is Nubble Road. Go .9 miles to Sohier Park where the lighthouse is directly ahead. From the north, take 1A south at the intersection of Rt. 1 and 1A in Cape Neddick. Continue for 2.1 miles and turn left onto Nubble Road to the lighthouse. To go the Long Sands Beach, return on Nubble Road and turn left on 1A South.

#### **BIRDING CHALLENGE SPONSORS**

YCAS thanks the following businesses who helped make the 2012 Birding Challenge a success

Wells

Alfredo's Italian Pizzeria

Allieuo S Italian I izzena	vvens
Blooms & Heirlooms	Kennebunk
Bob & Mike's Mini Mart	Saco
Brady Construction	Biddeford
Buffleheads, Inc.	Biddeford
C & K Hardware, Inc.	Kennebunk
Chiropractic Family	Scarborough
Wellness Center	-
Cote-Dow Accounting	Bar Mills
Services, Inc.	
Don Guay's Service Center, Inc.	Kennebunk
Esty Optical Company	Saco
First Maine Real Estate	Biddeford
LoInk Specialties	Kennebunkport
Maine Seaside Rentals, Inc.	Biddeford Pool
Ray's Auto Tech	Biddeford
Resurgence Engineering &	Portland
Preservation, Inc.	
Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution	Saco
Saco Valley Autocare, LLC	Saco

### GARDENING FOR BIRDS USING NATIVE PLANTS

Ann Hancock

If you are a birder, chances are you already are gardening with some native plants. In this brief overview I want to build on the article "Bird Feeding" by Jeannette and Derek Lovitch in the Autumn 2012 issue of *The Harlequin*, considering specifically backyard habitat.

In his book, **Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants**, Dr. Douglas Tallamy makes a compelling case for the importance of creating backyard habitat that is rich in native species. We all know the basic needs of birds: food, shelter, nesting habitat and water. We can take the food component a step further here to emphasize "food for breeding birds." We all provide food at our feeding stations for winter bird guests. In the summer, however, do the plantings in our gardens and landscape provide insects and their larvae for birds to feed their young? Do they provide high quality food for migrating birds?

This is where native plants are critical for wildlife. Birds need insect larvae to feed their young, and the insects need native host plants. The exotic plants offered by nurseries support almost none of the insects that birds need to feed their young. The insect-host relationship takes thousands of years to develop. In the 200 years or so since most ornamental plants have come to America, there has not been time for insects to adjust and evolve in order to eat these new plants. This is all beautifully explained in Dr. Tallamy's book, with a great deal of supporting data.

The good news is that you do **not** need to redo your entire landscape to make a difference. There are many native plants that are just as beautiful as the commonly offered exotic nursery species. Start with one or two species that are documented host plants.

If you can plant only one thing, Dr. Tallamy recommends planting an oak tree. In Maine, some of our choices would be Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*, White Oak, *Quercus alba*, or Swamp White Oak, *Quercus bicolor*. Oaks are the undisputed champion hosts for lepidopteran species, supporting 534 different butterflies and moths. In addition, they also provide acorns for squirrels, Blue Jays, deer and turkeys.

If you want to take the next step and remake a part of your landscape, remember that birds are drawn to *edges*. Plant accordingly with one or more trees of your choice

as the central planting, with some companion understory trees such as serviceberry or perhaps one of the tree dogwoods. Alternate-leaved dogwood is a handsome native that you might try. Continue layering with shorter shrubs, bayberry, redtwig dogwood, blueberry, winterberry, or arrowwood viburnum would all be good choices, and finish with an underplanting of some perennials you enjoy. As the trees and shrubs mature and begin to cast more shade, opportunities to plant with shade tolerant species will increase. Many species such as wild geranium, ferns, violets, trout lilies, wild ginger, Virginia bluebell and foamflower will do well in part-shade to shady conditions.

Consider reducing the size of your lawn, also. Lawns of pure grass are an ecological desert, and do not absorb rainwater as well as a natural landscape. In addition they require a fair amount of chemical input to maintain them in a weed-free state and chemicals can pollute the groundwater or poison the very wildlife we hope to attract and foster. Besides, wouldn't you rather be birding than mowing the lawn?

There are a number of sedge species which make handsome ground covers. Think about a clump of birch under planted with a pool of sedges. Carex laxiculmis is an undemanding, deer resistant semi-evergreen sedge that tolerates extreme drought and thrives when given normal garden conditions. Think of it as a native replacement for lily turf, but without the spring "bad hair" problems. A cultivar of this plant which has blue foliage is 'Hobb', available from a wonderful nursery called Plant Delights. Pennsylvania sedge, available from specialty nurseries, is also recommended for our area. It is planted as plugs, not by seed. Ferns can be wonderful landscape plants and many species form gorgeous colonies. Most ferns will have some fall color as well. New York Fern or Hay-scented Ferns can withstand some sun if the soil has sufficient organic matter. Both are vigorous colonizers and will fill in a shady area quickly. The point is to use native groundcovers instead of grass.

A great method to attract many birds will appeal to those of us who hate to rake leave; allowing fallen leaves to remain on the ground in at least a portion of your landscape. Not only will the leaves feed your soil, they will also provide shelter and nourishment for insects, small arthropods and land snails, all of which are food for birds. Land snail shells are also an important source of calcium for birds, critical in spring for egg laying. If the leaves seem too messy, you can run the lawn mover over them. The resulting texture makes them look more like mulch. This also helps them break down faster. In

our yard we regularly have visiting Ovenbirds, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, and thrushes who vigorously work through the fallen leaves looking for food. They will often spend the better part of a day here resting and feeding. Our home is in a very urban neighborhood setting, surrounded by far better groomed landscapes.... which offer nothing for these birds.



White-throated Sparrow ~ Photo by Marie Jordan

If this has piqued your interest, the next step is to consult a reference source, and choose species you love and know are found in our local natural landscapes. The Tallamy book is an excellent place to start. It has many good tables to choose from, documenting the species that depend on the plants as food sources, as well as recommendations for dry and wet area planting. A visit to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens is also a great way to get inspired by native plants used artfully in a Maine setting.

Many local nurseries have begun offering native plants and will be very helpful in finding them for you. If you can't find the natives you want from local vendors, Sunshine Farm and Gardens is a great nursery. You'll learn a lot every time you visit their website!

#### http://www.sunfarm.com/index.phtml

Another nursery to check out is Plant Delights. If you get on their mailing list you'll receive a truly hilarious and unique catalogue. This is a great antidote to those endless late winter days when spring seems so far away.

#### **Further Reading**

**Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife** with Native Plants. Douglas W. Tallamy, 2007. Timber Press, Portland OR. This is a must read for any birder.

**Bird by Bird Gardening** Sally Roth, 2006. Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA. This is a good book but has a few unfortunate plant recommendations (such as privet and mulberry, which are now invasives).

### THE YEAR OF THE FINCH Doug Hitchcox

Many birders may already be aware of Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast that assesses the success of fruit and cone-bearing trees in northeastern North America. By the time it was circulated around the Internet this September, we were already in the midst of a major invasion. Red-breasted Nuthatches increased throughout the summer and peaked by early September. Data from **eBird.org** shows that these nuthatches, which are year round resident in Maine, are typically reported on 17% of reports. This year at their peak, however, they were reported on over 30% of reports, with some indicating in excess of 100 birds at a single location.

Pittaway's report indicated a widespread tree seed crop failure in the Northeast that would cause an irruption of many of our winter finches. You may remember a sudden increase in Pine Siskins arriving near the end of September, when they went from being reported on 2% of checklists to 36% in just two weeks. Some flocks had counts as high as 350 birds at feeders. Less common finches, such as White-winged Crossbills and Common Redpolls, have also been showing up in our area. White-winged Crossbills move "like a pendulum" across the boreal forest, so we can go several years without seeing any and then see numbers triple as in October, 2012.

White-winged Crossbill Photo by Marie Jordan



Red Crossbills have also been invading the Northeast this fall but in fewer numbers. Of interest is the origin of the birds: there are ten known 'types' of Red Crossbills with Type 10 and Type 1 previously recorded in Maine. Significantly, as part of this winter's invasion, a majority of birds recorded has been Type 3. Type 3 Red Crossbills come from northern coastal areas of western U.S.

Lastly, this has been the largest invasion of Pine Grosbeaks in recent memory. These frugivores come to Maine most winters but typically do not make it much further south than Bangor. However, due to the poor fruit crops (particularly mountain-ash berries) to our north, Pine Grosbeaks were being reported in York and Cumberland Counties by mid November. To quantify this irruption with eBird data, Pine Grosbeaks are reported on 2-3% of reports in Maine on an average of all previous years. They peaked at 21% of reports so far in 2012. Assuming there is any fruit left, we should all be on the lookout for Bohemian Waxwings coming south next.

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM A RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Pat Moynahan



Rufous Hummingbird Photo by Doug Hitchcox

I have learned to keep my hummingbird feeders cleaned and filled into November even though the Rubythroated Hummingbird, the typical hummingbird in Maine, usually leaves by the first of October. This year I was encouraged to keep mixing the sugar and water combination by Derek Lovitch and the Cornell Bulletins on Rare Fall Hummingbirds. I learned the value of these notices when bander, Anthony Hill measured, weighed and identified a hatch year female Rufous Hummingbird that had taken up residence here at 133 Hills Beach Rd.

Rufous Hummingbirds (Selasphorus rufus) breed in Northwestern North America (Idaho and Oregon north to Alaska), and winter primarily in northwestern and central Mexico (Calder 1993). Doug Hitchcox shared a paper titled, "Recent Change in the Winter Distribution of Rufous Hummers" published in the Auk 115 (1); 240-245, 1998, where I learned of increasing numbers of these birds observed in winter in the Southeastern United States. Likewise the Cornell eBird news reported that "Fall 2012 has been highlighted by very good numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds in the Northeast." Check out the map on eBird, explore data for Rufous Hummingbird. This species is on the move; expanding winter migration routes and winter distribution.

My learning continued as super storm Sandy blew through. This is one tough bird! I continued to gain admiration during the nor'easter when she had to limit her feeding. On good days, birders continued to view her, parked out front, while she continued to feed at the sugar water. But I watched a steady decrease in weight and activity. She was appearing latter in the day and her chip note dimming. Finally, I learned I could not watch her demise and therefore, I captured her on November 10th and took her to Avian Haven. There she is gaining weight in preparation for release in the Delmarva Peninsula, another new overwintering area.

In summary, I learned that I cannot assume that migration patterns will stay "the same." Bird migration

patterns change and perhaps adapt to a changing world. I learned how tough hummingbirds are and when keeping feeders cleaned and filled into November tough decisions may have to be made. Thank you, Ms. Selasphorus.

#### **QUEST FOR 300 SUCCEEDS IN 2012**

We did it! In 2012, York County birders achieved the goal of our informal quest. Together, we recorded 302 bird species in the county, surpassing the inaugural 2011 effort by six species. The 2012 list includes 17 species not discovered in 2011. among them were Barnacle Goose (1/6), Prothonotary Warbler (5/5), Chestnut-collared Longspur (6/23), Connecticut Warbler (9/16), Northern Wheatear (10/8), Rufous Hummingbird (10/16), and Northern Lapwing (11/3). On the other hand, 14 species found in 2011 went unseen in 2012. Does that mean in a remarkable year the quest could approach 320? Now is our next chance to find out. Please post your sightings to eBird, the maine-birds group, or our web site and we'll see what 2013 bring for birds.

### SIGHTING HIGHLIGHTS FOR FALL OF 2012 DID YOU SEE THEM?



Northern Wheatear ~ Photos byKen Janes



Northern Lapwing

### FIELD TRIP: SACO RIVER AREA TO CAMP ELLIS. February 9 ~ 8:00am to 11:00am

Meet in the parking area by the Saco Yacht Club at the start of the Saco River Walk. We will be looking for Barrow's Goldeneyes, white-winged gulls and other species. After the River Walk we will plan to car pool.

Contact: Pat Sanborn (sanborn@gwi.net) 781-9837

### 100 SPECIES FOR THE YORK COUNTY CBC Pat Moynahan



Harlequin Ducks
Photo by Marie Jordan

Weather postponed this year's York County Count. Originally scheduled for Monday, December 17, rain, snow, and sleet helped make the decision to delay the count until Thursday, December 20. Thanks to all who waited and then got out and beat the bushes to create a new record number for this count, 100 species including count week birds.

Twenty-eight folks birded and most came to the chili countdown. We did not add any new species although Red Crossbill was seen for only the second time in the 38 year history of this count. We established new high counts for Harlequin Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco and Northern Cardinal.

This was an exceptional count and generated several questions that have been referred to the CBC Administrative Staff. These questions included: "How should eBird data be handled? That is when non-Christmas count participants report birds in the count circle not seen by Christmas counters should it be included in the data? And should verbal reports of non-participants be included in the data? I am looking forward to feedback. Thanks to all who contributed.

### ANOTHER GREAT DAY IN THE MEBK CBC Marie Jordan

After a snow storm blew in causing us to postpone the count until December 31<sup>st</sup> – 36 hardy birders braved the deep snow, cold, and wind to track down 88 species and 13772 individual birds - a new high species count for the Biddeford/Kennebunkport CBC. Congratulations for a count well done!

We had historically high numbers for the following eleven species. The number in ( ) represents the previous high. We doubled or more the previous highs

for Pine Grosbeak 48 (20); Pine Warbler 2 (1); and Eastern Bluebird 63 (31). Other highs counts were Northern Cardinal 199 (176), Red-Bellied Woodpecker 21 (17), Belted Kingfisher 6 (5), Ring-billed Gulls 375 (361), Red-tailed Hawks 25 (22), Wild Turkey 182 (157), Bufflehead 213 (209), and Mallard 1560 (1320). Only a single individual bird of seventeen species was seen.



Pat Sanborn, Ann Hancock & Joanne Stevens CBC counters

Photo by Marie Jordan

The Saco River's Barrow's Goldeneye continued to tease us by arriving two days late for count day so it can only be included as a count week bird. Other count week birds were a couple of American Wigeons, 15 Ruddy Turnstones, 15 Dunlin, a Snowy Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a Rough-legged Hawk.

### PROGRAM MEETINGS Mather Auditorium at the Wells Reserve in Wells

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00pm: Cuba: Old Havana, Classic Cars & Endemic Birds. Speaker: Marie Jordan.

Member, traveler and birder Marie will help us vicariously experience Cuba and its birdlife.

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00pm: Snowy Owls to Saw-whet Owls. Speaker: Norman Smith.

Norman Smith has spent countless days and nights collecting data on Snowy Owls and also Saw-whet Owls at the Logan International Airport.

#### **HELP YCAS GO GREEN!!!**

Can you help us Go Green? Receiving *The Harlequin* by email will eliminate postage and printing costs. We will send you an email alert so you can download the new issue from our website: yorkcountyaudubon.org

To sign up please contact Linda Eastman at: islndr@fairpoint.net

Name:		
Address:		
Phone:	email:	

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

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID KENNEBUNK, ME 04043 PERMIT #69



#### **ETYMOLOGY**

White-winged Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* 

"Loxia" is taken from the Greek "loxos," meaning "crosswise," "slanting," or "crooked." This is a

clear reference to the actual crossed bill of the bird, adapted for prying out the seeds of small cones. The species name "leucoptera" is from two Greek roots: "leukos" or "white" and "pteron," meaning "wing." An interesting footnote to the genus name is that the god Apollo had the epithet of "loxias." The messages from Apollo's oracles were notably ambiguous, deviating from the straight path.

### 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	☐ Individua	1 \$35	☐ Household \$45	☐ Contributing \$65				
☐ Patron \$	3100	Sustaining	\$250	☐ Benefactor \$500	☐ Director's Circle \$1000				
I wish to receive <i>The Harlequin</i> newsletter by email instead of by mail. (Make sure to give us your email address!)									
Name			Check 6	enclosed \$					
Address									
City	State	Zip	Ema	il					
Winter address fron	nto	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