President’s Message

By Marie Kennedy, President

Greetings — and Gratitude to our Donors

We are very grateful for your generosity in these Covid-restricted times. Our Annual Appeal has raised a record amount of funds, which will help us pursue our mission (see above). One way we are doing that is by providing you with our monthly programs on Zoom. We invite all members and non-members to join these interesting presentations. To register for a meeting, visit our website, www.lhasct.org, click on "Calendar" and then click on the registration link in the program announcement.

LHAS is also continuing its forestry work to enhance wildlife habitat at our Boyd Woods and Wigwam Brook Sanctuaries. Blighted Chestnut Trees were removed from the plantation at Wigwam, while the study for disease resistant trees continues. (See the Wigwam Brook Update on page 4.)

We also have several field trips scheduled in March and April. Please check pages 6–8 of this newsletter and our website for information on registering and Covid safety measures.

Musings on Migration

With spring on our doorstep, migration comes to mind. As you read this, the long harsh weather will be over and so will my own winter "migration." For the past 15 years, the island of Sint Maarten has been my destination of respite from the short frigid days. Traveling this year was questionable; will the airlines fly there, will the country accept Americans (high-risk country); and the need for quarantining and testing for the safety of all. Many hurdles to cross with more travel anxiety than usual, but then, this is an unusual year. We had to accept these new travel steps as we were determined to get out of the frozen Northeast. Once en route, I was taken by how resilient and adaptable people can be. It was our best experience ever at JFK Airport. The people of Sint Maarten, who suffered devastation from hurricane Irma in 2018 and now Covid-19, show great resiliency in doing what they can to keep their country open in these hard times.

I believe winter migration proves acceptance and resilience of people and birds. This winter Connecticut has experienced great irruptions of migrating birds from the boreal forest. We don’t see these birds in the winter unless they lack food sources on the frozen tundra. We’ve seen crossbills, grosbeaks, redpolls, Red-breasted Nuthatches in abundance. These are very exciting times for birders.

I see it as acceptance. The birds have to accept the fact that if they don’t go on this unknown journey for food, they will not survive. They prove great resilience in finding new territory by traveling long distances and setting down to find the food they need to live. Take the Snowy Owl in New York City’s Central Park. A Snowy in our region is most likely to be found near the shore, but this owl saw an oasis while flying and decided it would do just fine in Central Park. This owl brought much joy (and a check on their life lists) to the many birders in the city. We all hope the young owl makes it back home up north safely.

Soon wintering birds will be gone, and our breeding birds will be arriving — which brings to mind our bluebird nest box monitoring. If you would like to volunteer for that, or for any other LHAS activity, just contact the appropriate person listed on page 2.

My best regards and many thanks!
**Board of Directors**

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**By Doreen Orciari, Membership Records Chair**

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*Welcome back

LHAS Membership is at 864.

If your newsletter is addressed incorrectly or if you fail to receive one, send a postcard to LHAS, P.O. Box 861, Litchfield, CT 06759-0861 or send an email to Doreen Orciari at doreen.orciari@gmail.com.

Chickadee Chatter is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submission deadline for the May/June 2021 issue is April 1.

Please email items to appear in the newsletter to Diane Edwards at edwardsd68@charter.net or mail them to her at 68 Shingle Mill Road, Harwinton, CT 06791.

Send other business to the appropriate chairperson at LHAS, P.O. Box 861, Litchfield, CT 06759-0861 or lhasct@me.com.
Boyd Woods Sanctuary Update

By Rich Martin, Boyd Woods Sanctuary Co-chair

By now we’ve pretty much had our fill of winter. Trudging through a foot of snow while walking the trails at Boyd Woods Sanctuary is great exercise, but most of us are now looking forward to warmer weather and more sunlight.

Margery Boyd’s bird pond, which might be considered a large vernal pool because of its ephemeral properties, was exceptionally low due to the drought this past year. Like in many other years, though, the pond has been restored to its capacity, and more, due to the many heavy rain storms we had late in the season last year and in January 2021. By late March and early April an abundance of life will begin to emerge at the pond, starting with the sounds of Wood Frogs and Spring Peepers. Spring will have arrived!

The feeders at our bird blind have been kept full all winter and have been attracting the usual winter inhabitants with an occasional rarity passing through to grab a bite before moving on. I’d like to thank Joe Bianchi and his brothers,

(continued on page 4)
Boyd Woods (continued from page 3)

The additional sunlight and space should help promote a healthier spruce and/or pine tree.

We held off as long as we could in thinning the trees in the conifer areas in hopes that a Northern Saw-whet Owl would return to our sanctuaries. We had seen the owl, oftentimes more than one, in previous years at our Boyd Woods and Wigwam Brook Sanctuaries. We weren’t disappointed this year when two owls showed up at Boyd Woods in early January and had remained in the area until it was time to move on to their breeding areas farther north. Being that the owls are quite small, 7 to 8 1/2 inches tall, and are tucked away behind many spruce or pine tree branches, they are difficult to spot. Finding “whitewash” (excrement) at the base of a conifer is a good tell-tale sign that one might be perched and resting in that tree.

Two additional foot bridges will be installed this spring on the Windy Woods Trail in areas that are wet and uneven. If you would like to help out, please email me at

Saw-whet Owl at Boyd Woods Sanctuary.
Photo: Rich Martin
martins283main@mac.com.

Check out the calendar section of this newsletter for the upcoming walks and events that are planned for our sanctuaries this spring. Stay well, and we hope to see you then.

Wigwam Brook Sanctuary Update

By John Baker, Wigwam Brook Sanctuary Chair

Last fall was an active season for everyone involved at Wigwam Brook.

The chestnut trees in the orchard that tested non-resistant to the blight (about 200) were removed by Jon Remeika, who cut, chipped, and hauled the chips to a spot above the orchard to the north, out of the way. The orchard looks very neat and clean now.

Karen Nelson, LHAS recording secretary and program administrator at the Northwest Conservation District (NWCD), has started our pollinator garden near the orchard by planting some native shrubs.

Forester Andrew Bosse has marked (in blue) the trees in the conifer groves to be removed as part of our Forest Management Plan. Removing these mostly small trees will open up the area to let in the light.

The beavers on Lipeika Road, near the intersection with Route 254, repaired the large hole in their dam by raising the height of the dam and clearing away the brush growing on the dam. Their pond, which now looks much larger (because of high water), is also more visible now. Their family of seven has done a remarkable job, probably stimulated by Debbie Martin’s apple diet. The other beaver ponds downstream look much larger, too. Beaver Heaven!

2020 Christmas Bird Count Update

By Ray Belding, Compiler

Or, would that be the Covid Bird Count? Early last fall, I received an email from National, as all compilers did, giving each compiler the choice of doing the 2020 count or not. It would be understandable if anyone decided not to do the count, due to the seriousness of Covid 19. I opted to conduct the count as our tradition dictated, with one change. We would not do a compilation at the White Memorial Carriage House because of social distancing considerations. Each captain was asked to email or snail mail the results to me ASAP. (In this day and age, we actually have two captains who do not own a computer!) I’m pleased to report that I had all results within a week. At this point, I have sent all results in to National. There will be a more detailed report in the next newsletter.
Please Cut Face Mask Strings!

Here's a tip from LHAS member Russ Naylor: Before throwing out a face mask, be sure to cut the strings — or better yet, remove them altogether — to prevent birds or other wildlife from becoming entangled in them.

New Project to Conserve Wood Turtles

Connecticut, with eight other states, has received a federal grant to help the Wood Turtle, a "Species of Special Concern." Wildlife biologists will monitor population trends at important sites and also learn more about where the turtles are found and how abundant they are. CT DEEP biologists will collaborate with others across the region to prevent the illegal collection and trafficking of Wood Turtles. The population of these turtles has declined significantly within the past few decades due to habitat loss, dam construction, collection, severe flooding, and other threats.

Creating a Bird-friendly Yard

By Carol Perrault

It’s not too early to start thinking about spring planting. National Audubon has suggestions on how to make your yard bird friendly.

When selecting plants, choose native shrubs, trees, and flowers such as:

- Oaks, birches, maples, goldenrod, milkweed, and sunflowers to attract caterpillars, which are important protein sources for birds.
- Serviceberry, cherry, cedar, hickories, and walnuts to provide fruits and berries.
- Tubular flowers such as columbine, penstemon, and honeysuckle, which attract hummingbirds as well as bees and butterflies.

These are only a few of the many native plants available in our area. Go to Audubon’s Native Plant Database (audubon.org/native-plants) to find many more.

Saving Saltmarsh Sparrows from Rising Seas

More than four out of every five Saltmarsh Sparrows have disappeared since 1988 — an estimated population decline of 87%, according to CT DEEP. The only bird species that breeds solely in the salt marshes of the Northeast, the Saltmarsh Sparrow is increasingly being threatened by rising sea levels and more frequent storms that flood its nests. A $1 million federal grant will allow six partnering Atlantic coastal states (Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Virginia) to restore salt marsh habitat and halt the decline of the Saltmarsh Sparrow. CT DEEP’s *Wildlife Highlights* e-newsletter (February 2021) says, "This restoration effort will have far-reaching benefits for coastal communities, as healthy coastal marshes support clean water, storm and flood protection, and multi-billion dollar fishery, recreation, and tourism industries."
GENERAL MEETINGS
The meetings below will be held via Zoom. To register for a meeting visit our website, www.lhasct.org, click on “Calendar” and then click on the registration link in the program announcement. And, while you're there, bookmark our website for future access.

March 1 ........ Birds of the New England Swamp ............................. Monday, 7 PM
Wildlife photographer Peter Christoph presents a narrated slideshow, sharing both his award-winning images and his photographic secrets as he brings you inside a typical New England swamp. Peter provides an intimate look into the many varieties of birds that inhabit our swamps, including Ospreys and herons, shorebirds, woodpeckers, and other cavity dwellers. Sloshing and crawling through the swamp so you don't have to, Peter captures the birds' many activities, including building their nest, feeding their young, and catching their prey. You'll almost want to bring your own wading boots and bug spray for protection as you sit down to watch this captivating presentation. Peter is a well-known wildlife advocate, naturalist, and bird photographer based in Lancaster, MA. He has also published three bird photography books, including his latest, The Art of Bird Photography.

April 5 ........ "Tanzania: A Photographer's Journey" .......................... Monday, 7 PM
Wildlife photographer Shawn Carey adventured into the heart of Tanzania, including the famous Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park. From a safari vehicle, we'll go into the country's spectacular national parks and see the "Big Five" — African Elephant, Black Rhino, Cape Buffalo, Lion, and Leopard—in all their glory, as well as Cheetahs, Giraffes, Black-backed Jackals, and Hippos. And he encountered a panoply of Tanzania's wonderful and amazing birds, including the Greater Flamingo, Lilac-breasted Roller, Little Bee-eater, Giant Kingfisher, and Grey-crowned Crane — the country's national bird. If you've ever dreamed of visiting East Africa and its incredible wildlife, this is a journey you'll never forget. And it may just have you planning your own African adventure. Shawn lives outside Boston, MA, and has been photographing birds and other wildlife for over 25 years. He teaches wildlife photography for Mass Audubon and is on the advisory board for the Mass Audubon Society and Mass Audubon Museum of American Bird Art, among several other ornithological organizations. Shawn co-founded Migration Productions.

May 3 ........ A Self-Found Big Year..................................................... Monday, 7 PM
One of Connecticut’s top birders, Nick Bonomo set out to find as many different birds as he could in Connecticut. Unlike a traditional Big Year, however, he would not count birds found by other people. He will take you through this challenging task and will share strategy, bird-finding tips, and some surprises he found along the way. Nick has been actively birding southern New England since his early teens. He sits on the Avian Records Committee of Connecticut. He also leads domestic and international bird tours for the Connecticut Audubon Society’s EcoTravel department.

(continued on page 7)
BIRDING EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

Covid Safety Precautions: Field trips are limited to 15 participants, on a first-come, first-served basis, unless a trip leader specifies otherwise. Please let the trip leader know IN ADVANCE if you plan to attend. If you later decide not to go, please let the leader know so your spot can be given to someone else.

Additional requirements:

- No carpooling to or during the trip. People who live together may share a ride.
- Masks are required at all times.
- Social distancing (6 feet) will be followed.
- Trip participants must follow state quarantining guidelines with regard to recent travel and the health status of members in their household.

March 20 ...... Welcome Spring Walk at Boyd Woods ........................................ Saturday, 1 PM

The calendar tells us it’s spring, but it seems we can never rely on this date to know for sure that this most-welcome season has really arrived. Still, as we wander along the Windy Woods Trail, we’re sure to discover that the earth is warming up. Skunk cabbage leaves begin to unfurl. Tiny magenta hazelnut flowers bloom. Bear tracks appear in the mud (is this a “welcome” sign?). Might we hear a Wood Frog or Peeper at Margery’s Pond? Join sanctuary co-chairs Rich and Debbie Martin as we seek signs of spring while enjoying the company of friends along our beautiful Boyd Woods trails. Meet at the Boyd Woods Sanctuary parking lot on Route 254 in Litchfield. No dogs. Rain cancels. Masks are required. For additional information contact Debbie at barnowl524@hotmail.com or 860-819-7462.

April 11 ...... Shorebirding in Connecticut .......................................................... Sunday, 8:30 AM

Join Angela Dimmitt for yet another of her shorebird trips. Let’s see what’s arriving on the coast — location to be determined nearer the time. We still won’t be able to carpool and will still wear masks. If interested or for more information, please contact Angela Dimmitt in advance at 860-355-3429 or angeladimmitt@aol.com.

April 17 ...... Woodcocks and Woodland Wonders at Boyd Woods .................... Saturday, 7 PM

As we wait for the appearance of our reliable woodcocks, we’ll take an easy walk along the Hilltop Trail to visit the Spooky Hollow Tree, the Happy Tree, and a vernal pool (annual tradition: toss an acorn into the pool for good luck!). After a stop at Margery’s Bird Pond, where we’re sure to hear a variety of noisy frogs, we’ll enter the Monarch Meadow just in time for the unique performance of the woodcock. If you wish to forgo the woodland walk, go directly down The Lane to the meadow. This area provides plenty of space for social distancing. If you will visit the Monarch Meadow only, you do not have to register. Bring binoculars and a flashlight. Boots are recommended as trails are soggy in spring. Masks are required. No dogs. Rain cancels. Meet at the Boyd Woods Sanctuary parking lot on Route 254 in Litchfield. For additional information, contact Debbie Martin at barnowl524@hotmail.com or 860-819-7462.

April 22 ...... Earth Day Evening Walk at Wigwam Brook Sanctuary ............... Thursday, 6 PM

Earth Day is an annual event, created in 1970 to celebrate our planet’s environment and raise awareness about pollution. We’ll observe this important date with a short, easy walk of exploration along the Wigwam Brook wetland corridor, which has been managed by beavers for decades. We’ll discuss the beneficial work these large rodents perform as they create habitat for wetland birds and wildlife, and help to filter water that flows through their dams. At the end of our walk, you’ll have a chance to meet our seven industrious beavers. Treats will be provided for them (because we appreciate all the work they do!), and for you, too (because you care about the environment!). PLEASE register, so we know how many treats to provide. Meet at the Wigwam Brook Sanctuary (continued on page 8)
parking lot on Lipeika Road, just off Route 254, in Litchfield. No dogs! Rain cancels. Masks are required. For additional information, contact Debbie Martin at barnowl524@hotmail.com or 860-819-7462.

April 28 ........ Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. .................. Wednesday, time TBD
Ray Belding’s spring migration bird walks will begin the last Wednesday of April and end the first Wednesday of June. If interested in attending, send your email address to Ray (turaco3000@gmail.com) so he can let you know where and when the walks will take place. Be aware: Attendance will be limited, and will be first come, first served.

May 5 .......... Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. .................. Wednesday, time TBD
If interested in attending Ray Belding’s spring migration bird walk, send him your email address (turaco3000@gmail.com) so he can let you know where and when the walk will take place. Be aware: Attendance will be limited, and will be first come, first served.

May 12 .......... Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. .................. Wednesday, time TBD
If interested in attending Ray Belding’s spring migration bird walk, send him your email address (turaco3000@gmail.com) so he can let you know where and when the walk will take place. Be aware: Attendance will be limited, and will be first come, first served.

May 19 .......... Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. .................. Wednesday, time TBD
If interested in attending Ray Belding’s spring migration bird walk, send him your email address (turaco3000@gmail.com) so he can let you know where and when the walk will take place. Be aware: Attendance will be limited, and will be first come, first served.

May 23 .......... Watch Swirls of Chimney Swifts Flying Into Roosts (Tentative) .... Sunday, 8 PM
Russ Naylor is tentatively scheduling this visit to the Mitchell School in Woodbury at dusk to view migrating Chimney Swifts coming in to roost — the annual "Swift Swirl" — for both LHAS and Western Connecticut Bird Club members. This will take place at an outdoor, socially distanced venue. Meet at the junction of Route 6 (Main Street) and Route 47 (Washington Road) in Woodbury Center, at the Canfield Corner Pharmacy. To learn if this trip is a go, call Russ at 203-841-7779.

May 26 .......... Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. .................. Wednesday, time TBD
If interested in attending Ray Belding’s spring migration bird walk, send him your email address (turaco3000@gmail.com) so he can let you know where and when the walk will take place. Be aware: Attendance will be limited, and will be first come, first served.

June 2 .......... Wednesday Morning Birding with Ray. .................. Wednesday, time TBD
If interested in attending Ray Belding's spring migration bird walk, send him your email address (turaco3000@gmail.com) so he can let you know where and when the walk will take place. Be aware: Attendance will be limited, and will be first come, first served.

**NWCD Earth Day Plant Sale to Be Pre-order Only**

The Northwest Conservation District will have a pre-order only, drive-thru, contactless Earth Day Plant Sale April 19–24th. Among the shrubs, trees, groundcovers, and edibles will be plants that are bird friendly, pollinator friendly, and environmentally responsible. An order form will be on the NWCD website, nwcd.org, in March. Plants can be picked up at the Goshen Fairgrounds. Due to Covid19 concerns, there will be no one in the barns except staff and a few volunteers for pre-scheduled pick-ups.

In past years, NWCD partnered with LHAS to give plant sale attendees information about bird-friendly gardening. We hope to participate again next year, when it is safe to do so. As usual, though, we will be buying plants from the sale for our three sanctuaries.
Chickadee Chatter

Signs of Seasonal Change

By Russ Naylor

The tides of seasonal migration continue to ebb and flow in our area. On January 6, 58 Common Redpolls were rushing southbound at Bent of the River Audubon Center in Southbury. But by midmonth, early signs of the first pulses of northbound migration appeared. At Orton Lane Pond on the Pomperaug River in Woodbury, five Bald Eagles paused to fish on January 15 before winging north. The next day, 15 Common Mergansers showed up at the same site before their flight upriver. And on January 18, Lake Zoar in Southbury presented a mix of migratory activity as the tide was slowly swinging toward spring.

Two Black Ducks and 45 Common Mergansers were tallied winging downriver from points farther north, followed by an immature Bald Eagle. But upriver, northbound movement predominated — 10 Black Ducks, 10 Hooded Mergansers, 230-plus Common Mergansers, and right behind them, 96 Ring-necked Ducks — a record number for this early in the year. The start of “spring” migration seems to occur earlier each winter, in spite of the fact that there is still a lot more of winter weather ahead. With premature Pussy Willow buds on one willow thicket at Lake Zoar, one wonders what Mother Nature is trying to tell us.

Late Member Royal Meyers Bequeaths $5,000 to LHAS

LHAS learned in February that the late Royal A. Meyers Jr., who was a member of Audubon from 2010 until 2019, has bequeathed us $5,000.

Mr. Meyers passed away September 11, 2020. According to his obituary, “the world lost a kind-hearted man with an adventurous spirit and colorful history.” He was descended from the Rev. John Trumbull, the founder of Watertown’s First Congregational Church. As a young man, Royal competed in ski jumping. His college roommate at Tufts University was the comedian Dom DeLuise. After serving as a frontline medic in the Army during the Korean War, he worked as an engineer for several military contractors.

LHAS expresses our sincere sympathy to his family, as well as our profound gratitude for his bequest to us.

Annual Appeal: Another Record!

We obviously have very generous donors: As of early February, our members and friends had sent in a total of 194 donations, amounting to nearly $13,000 — a record for us!

With all we have going on — maintaining our sanctuaries, offering programs and outings, providing scholarships, and more — we really, really appreciate your help.

If you haven’t already done so, there is still time to donate to our Annual Appeal. If you no longer have the Annual Appeal mailing we sent you in November, you can simply send your donation to Litchfield Hills Audubon Society, P.O. Box 861, Litchfield, CT 06759. A receipt for your tax-deductible donation will be sent to you immediately.

Thank you for your support! And thank you, Harry Ainsworth, for tracking all these donations!
IN MY GARDEN — AND BEYOND!
A Journal — January 2021

By Angela Dimmitt

My Big January started off with a bang with the Pawling/Hidden Valley Christmas Bird Count — my house is in the middle of the Connecticut section of their count circle. That gave me 44 species towards the goal of over 100, nothing special, but a good start. Since nothing was happening in my garden and only the usual suspects were visiting my feeders, I did a lot of chasing around the state, beginning with visits to the shore. Maddeningly, this has been a year of misses — three times I went up to Great Mountain in Canaan hoping to see the Pine Grosbeaks seen and heard by so many but not by me. I chased a Barrow’s Goldeneye off Bridgeport — it was last seen the day before. But I really lucked out with a Hoary Redpoll in Avon — missed the turn to the pond and was driving round an office parking lot when I saw several people lying on the ground, huge cameras pointed — sure enough, there was the exquisite little bird, with a Common Redpoll beside it. So I’m happy with what I’ve found — an immature Glaucous Gull off Long Beach in Stratford, nearby flocks of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings; an Iceland Gull on Frash Pond in Stratford; and a seldom-seen male Northern Harrier, nicknamed the Gray Ghost, at Milford Point. I also saw several “good” ducks on 14-Acre Pond in Norwalk, a Pine Siskin at a friend’s feeder, unusual Common Loons on Candlewood Lake, a Grey Catbird in Woodbury seen earlier on the Woodbury-Roxbury Count, and near it a Barred Owl, which flew out to surprise me. And so on!

The only real excitement in my garden was a huge bobcat crossing the back lawn as I made coffee early one morning. He just sauntered by, but too fast for me to reach for a camera. Compared with a friend’s golden retriever which I saw that day, that cat was definitely the bigger of the two.

Birds in my garden? Not so many, less than in December — my feeders need filling only every other day now, versus every day before Christmas. I have 10 assorted feeders — most on a high wire out of reach of bears, but some now on crook poles. Black oil sunflower, peanuts, and suet are the most popular, mixed spills on the ground, eaten by juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and Mourning Doves — nothing goes to waste. Today, there was an early feeding frenzy before the snow came around noon — all my regulars, including 26 juncos (the norm is 6-10), six cardinals, a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers, four downies, a couple of goldfinches, chickadees, titmice, etc. I saw a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks nearby; this is their territory and hopefully they will nest here again this spring. A Cooper’s Hawk has been swooshing through, his eye on the feeder birds. Well, Coops gotta live too!

My cat Star definitely misses poor Lucy — nowadays he is quite needing of my attention, mewing pitifully this moment as I write — he slept all day and now wants to play! One of his favorite games is to catch my robe’s belt as I get up in the morning, now a routine. And his favorite site for toilette is between the keyboard and monitor as I try to work. You may have seen him on a Zoom screen, his eyes bluer than you’d believe.

Now with fresh snow, there are feline foot-

(continued on page 11)
Finding Stratford Point open for birding, we hit upon a bonus of birds — scattered rafts of Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Ducks, and Black Ducks; plus five Common Eiders up close, a few Scoters, and superb looks at both Red-throated and Common Loons for field comparison of ID marks.

The Birdseye Boat Launch area brought us Gadwalls and a trio of American Coots, while seven Green-winged Teal graced one of the access road marsh ponds.

In all, we beheld at least 50 winter bird species, courtesy of our leader, the ever-intrepid Angela Dimmitt — a splendid way to start the 2021 birding year. As always, well done!
First-Day Hike at Boyd Woods

By Marie Kennedy, LHAS President

Do you remember what the weather was like on New Year’s Day? I do! It was a perfect day for a hike; bright sunshine, no wind, and plenty of bird activity. Fourteen people gathered at our Boyd Woods Sanctuary for the “First-Day Hike” to learn more about Margery Boyd and the history of Boyd Woods. Everyone seemed delighted to be outside in the presence of others and to share this glorious day. The new bird blind did not disappoint. I heard murmurs of excitement while folks watched the birds up close at the feeders, vowing to bring their grandchildren, friends, and family for a visit. On we went to Margery’s “picnic rocks,” then around the pond to Monarch Meadow where we all delightfully watched a Bald Eagle soar overhead, most likely heading toward Bantam Lake. It was a special day.

Many thanks to Rich and Debbie Martin and Joe and Terri Bianchi for keeping Boyd Woods interesting and safe for all ages to visit!