

Eagle Hill Discussion Forum ... Tuesday, March 9th ... 4:30 PM

Where Have all the Birdies Gone?

By Barbara Snapp

Since 1970, we've lost 1 in 4 birds across the globe. Bird populations are declining almost everywhere and climate change is increasing challenges to bird health and survival. Learn which birds are most and least affected and why, especially birds in Maine. Learn about threats to bird populations and what YOU can do to create a healthy future for the feathered friends that bring us such joy.

Biography

Barbara Snapp has taught and researched in science for 45 years since receiving her PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University. Her research focused on the ecological adaptiveness of behavior and the physiology of temperature regulation. Projects included growth in Leach's petrel chicks, responsiveness of naïve chicks to maternal calls, the adaptiveness of coloniality in barn swallows, temperature regulation in California quail, hibernation in ground squirrels, and feeding behavior of intertidal snails.

Although retired, Barbara continues to participate scientifically in a number of ways. She is on the stewardship committee of the Downeast Coastal Conservancy and teaches science-based courses at Midcoast Senior College on a wide variety of topics. She has also served on the board of the Cathance River Education Alliance – an organization involved with K-12 environmental education. Every winter Barbara takes part in Project FeederWatch sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Since moving to Maine, she has kept logs of species sighted at her home in Brunswick and at her vacation cottage in Steuben. Barbara also monitors a Downeast preserve for migrating shorebirds each fall.

A new retirement hobby has allowed Barbara to explore the overlap of science and art. She now paints nature in broad landscapes, intimate close-ups, and abstract interpretations. Barbara also writes poetry, finding that this creative act helps her focus on key concepts and ideas in both her teaching and her painting. The blend of art and science – which meet for Barbara in the experience of nature – provide a perfect balance for life.