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Introducing: Small Things

E. O. Wilson, sometimes referred to as the father of biodiversity, once wrote, "The most wonderful mystery of life may well be the means by which it created so much diversity from so little physical matter." That is a fitting way to introduce *Small Things*, a new [Habitat for All](#) digital newsletter for members and friends of the Mahoosuc Land Trust.

In Western Maine and Eastern New Hampshire, we are certainly proud of our moose, deer, bobcat, and bear, but *Small Things* will give special attention to the less noticed habitants of our region - the birds, insects, plants, mushrooms and more. In this way, *Small Things* will strive to help you see deeper into the forest, the garden and your own backyard. The information it provides will challenge you to think differently about the creatures which live here with us. Most important, *Small Things* will invite you to act.

We live in a time that is often referred to as The Sixth Extinction. The drumbeat of reports never stops: [Three billion North American birds have vanished since 1970; More than 75 percent of flying insects gone in 27 years; 1 million species at risk of extinction and accelerating.](#)

Barbara Murphy, the Director of Development and *Habitat for All (HFA)*

This leads to the real vision for this newsletter. *Small Things* is committed to the belief that all of us can become conservationists in our own yards and communities. More important, these actions, often small, matter beyond what can be seen. Individual actions taken in your yard can impact unseen millions in the soil below your feet.

These individual actions impact birds that fly from your yard to foreign forests in Costa Rica or Canada. Even better, individual actions are cumulative! What each of us does individually and locally can create an unstoppable ripple across our community, the continent and globe.

So, dear reader, welcome to *Small Things*. Join us for a deeper look into the Mahoosuc Region. Join us as fellow conservationists, exploring how to preserve what Wilson described as that "most wonderful mystery of life," the teaming diversity here in our home.

Upcoming Events!

Click below to read more and register for events at Mahoosuc Land Trust:

for the Mahoosuc Land Trust, recently commented, "There is a hopelessness that can set in when we hear all the bad news about the environment. HFA is here to address this hopelessness to show that actions taken by individuals, families and communities matter. What we do in small spaces – our yards, our garden plots, our neighborhoods and schools - matters for the birds, bees, and butterflies." Surely, she is right even though the impact of these actions may often go unseen.

"What we do in small spaces – our yards, our garden plots, our neighborhoods and schools - matters..."



Bohemian Waxwing by Ruthie Snogren, 11 years old

BOHOS IN BETHEL

Bohemian waxwings, unique visitors to our region, have been reported visiting Bethel this winter. Bohemian waxwings are a bulkier version of their more common cousin the cedar waxwing. The Bohemian's preferred habitat during the spring, summer and fall are coniferous forests across Alaska and Canada. In the winter, they extend their range further east and south into the Northern United States including Maine. They form large, gregarious flocks looking for left-over, sugary fruits on trees and shrubs. This is the time of year when they are most likely to come into human contact. For instance, Julie Reiff of Bethel, ME discovered a flock of 80

February 9th:

Winter Bird Walk

with James Reddoch

February 15th:

Winter Finches (online)

with James Reddoch

February 18th:

Winter Wildlife Tracking (fee)

with Dan Gardoqui

February 18th - 26th:

Winter Fest

February 23rd:

Family Winter Bird Walk

with James Reddoch

March 21st:

Mushrooms 101 (4-weeks)

with Amanda Moran

March 29th:

Talking With Birds (online)

with Dan Gardoqui

ornamental cherry tree of its shriveled fruit. Bohemians are not considered a threatened species. However, since they often seek out fruit on shrubs next to our houses, take care to guard against window strikes. A good resource is the [American Bird Conservancy](#) which provides tips and a variety of products that minimize or prevent bird strikes. Bohemians are also particularly susceptible to pesticides when they come into town looking for left-over fruit. An entire flock can suffer due to spraying. Avoiding pesticides in your yard will go a long way toward ensuring Bohemian waxwings and other visitors are safe. Watch for this crested and masked bird in your neighborhood. Look for the rusty, peach color on the underside of its tail that is a good indicator it is a Bohemian versus its smaller summer cousin the cedar waxwing.

Visit our website to learn more about the 22,000 acres protected and our other conservation projects!

Bohemians that spent several days on
Chapman Street stripping an

SIMPLE ACTIONS!

Actions you can take as a conservationist:

- Share this newsletter with others interested in conservation.
- Renew your membership with [Mahoosuc Land Trust](#) or join now.
- Research [American Bird Conservancy](#) for ways to prevent window strikes at your home or office.



Connect with us

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Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (AudieQuestions or Comments?)

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