

## A welcome, a visit, an invasion and a clash over the weekend

Don't you just love spring? Especially when the birds make their way back north. My wife and I are casual birders, mostly while we're at camp. My wife



### SCORES & OUTDOORS

by Roland D. Hallee

puts out a buffet of feed for the little feathered creatures: sugar water for the hummingbirds, assorted seeds for the songbirds, this-tle for the American golden finch, suet for the woodpeckers (that one attracts a variety from nuthatches, grosbeaks, chickadees, blue jays, etc.) With the feeders in place, it provides for some interesting observations.

#### Hummers return

On Saturday, May 15, the hummingbirds made their return, right on schedule. The first one at camp was spotted at about 9 a.m. They were in and out of the feeders all weekend. Welcome back, little guys.

#### Pet rabbit

My wife and I have a Holland lop rabbit as a house pet. He pretty much has the run of the house and makes a very enjoyable companion. He doesn't bark and will take all the loving he can, any way he can. Oh, by the way, he is litter box trained. Sunday, we celebrated his third birthday with some extra treats.

But, earlier in the weekend, we had a little visitor from the wild. This one was a snowshoe hare, young and obviously in search of a meal. He's been hanging around, making periodic appearances. He's a little nervous, but seems to not mind the presence of humans. So perhaps he is being fed and is looking for more. Good luck, little fella.

#### Alewives invasion

On Sunday, following our habitual breakfast at the China Dine-ah, we decided to take a ride out to the dam on Webber Pond to see if the alewives were running. Upon our arrival, we noticed the waters between the bridge and the dam, at the beginning of Seven Mile Brook, were blackened with thousands of alewives. We proceeded to the top of the fish ladder, and watched as they made their way up the funnel and into the lake, completing their migratory run to their spawning waters. Once the breeding is complete, the adult alewives will return to the ocean, to complete the cycle. The fry will follow in October/November.

If you get a chance, go to the dam and watch this phenomenon. Alewives, which are natural to Webber Pond, were blocked for the better part of 167 years from completing their migration by the Edwards Dam in Augusta. After the dam's removal in 1998, the alewives, generations removed from those of the mid-1880s, still have the instincts to return to their ancestral breeding grounds. Mother Nature is truly amazing!

#### Clash of the Titans

Monday morning came with an entertaining show during breakfast. Looking out my window at camp, I noticed a rather large gray squirrel making his way to the suet feeder. He was sizing up

its location as though he was planning an attack. As he made his way up the trunk of the tree, an even larger American crow came swooping down, convincing the squirrel that he should probably go check out another place to have his breakfast. The squirrel backed down rather quickly. The crow then set himself on the feeder. That is when an even larger human entered the fray. I chased off the crow and settled back to my bowl of oatmeal. That being done, it was time to prepare for work.

It was at that point when the feeder had another suitor. This was a red squirrel. Apparently, he had been watching the con-

frontations, and upon seeing the results, figured the coast was clear for an attempt at the suet. Enter the large human, again. A short rendition of hide-and-seek ensued around the trunk of the tree, with the squirrel finally summarizing that, at this point, discretion was the better part of valor, left the scene, living to fight another day.

Mother Nature never fails to provide with wildlife entertainment during the great months we spend at camp between April and October.

#### Roland's trivia question of the week:

In what year did the American and National Leagues of MLB divide into two divisions; three divisions?

Answer on page 19.

## Fishy Photo

Wow! What a catch!



Aiyana McNeill, 9, caught her first fish of the season, a 3-pound bass, on Togus Pond, in Augusta. She is anxious for more!

Send us your Fishy Photo to:  
The Town Line, PO Box 89, South China, ME 04358  
Or e-mail to townline@fairpoint.net. Please send photo as a jpeg attachment.

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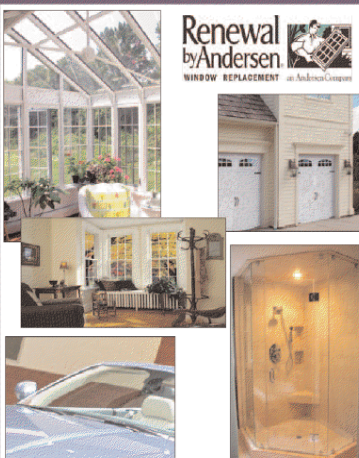
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## Area youths excel at karate tournaments



Left, Alex Sasuclark, of Waterville, captured the overall under black belt youth grand championship at KICKS USA Nationals Karate Championship on May 15, in Gardiner. Sasuclark is a member of Huard's Sport Karate Team



Below, siblings Juliann (left) and Jake Lapierre, of Winslow, captured trophies at the recent KICKS USA National Karate Tournament held May 15 in Gardiner. Juliann won a first and third place and Jake took a third place in fighting. Both young martial artists will be attending the Children's Miracle Network telethon live on WABI-TV 5 on June 5, in Bangor. The Lapierre's collected an amazing \$1,000 for the children's network as part of the Battle of Maine fundraiser to help children in need of services.

Photos by Mark Huard/  
Central Maine Photography

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