



BLAKE ALLISON

IN THE LYME LIGHT FEBRUARY, 2021

This year, throughout the month of February, CommunityCare of Lyme highlighted birds and birding, in support of local and national bird counts, and to encourage our friends, family and community to get outside during these long winter months. One of Lyme's bird experts was integral to CommunityCare of Lyme's bird month programming, providing resources, tips and ideas for anyone, even a novice birder, to find success participating in important bird counts. For his support, and for volunteering his time and expertise, **Blake Allison is In the Lyme Light!**



Photo used with permission from: Valley News
Patterson, James. "Blake Allison." Valley News, 26 Oct. 2019,
www.vnews.com/Birders-worry-about-decline-in-population-29386876.

As a nature enthusiast, Blake began as a volunteer with the Mascoma Chapter of the NH Audubon in 2010, becoming chair of the steering committee in 2012. In 2008 Blake began serving on Lyme's Conservation Commission, becoming its Chair in 2013. Blake feels it is important to support people getting outside and involved in birding, because it is fun to do, and it encourages interaction with the natural world. He notes that in addition to the 900 acres of Town-owned land that the Conservation Commission manages for Lyme, there are many other excellent bird watching opportunities scattered around town, such as the ATC's Smart's Mountain Trail, the Edgell Covered Bridge wetlands, and the fields behind Stella's.

Blake appreciates how civic-minded the Lyme community is, how generous people are with their time, and how impactful that is in creating a better more vibrant community for people and wildlife. If you're interested in learning more about birding in the area, Blake is happy to help! He has suggested ways to learn more about birding in our area: Learn about the Mascoma Chapter of the NH Audubon at their website: www.mascomabirds.org. Blake has also shared some wonderful Listservs for local birders, please contact shelby@cclyme.org for information on how to join.

On behalf of the entire Lyme community, thank you, Blake, for your dedication, your warmth, and the encouragement you've provided to everyone exploring birding! Your [guest blog post](#) helped frame birding as a welcoming activity where the focus becomes the process rather than the outcome, and it sparked lots of interest. CommunityCare of Lyme distributed many DIY pine cone bird feeder kits and dozens of Winter Bird Survey packets provided by the the NH Audubon. Our virtual art show, *The Beauty of Birds*, in collaboration with Matt Brown Fine Art and the Lyme School, was inspired in part by Blake's infectious enthusiasm for the beauty and diversity of birds.

Our Mission To build on Lyme's heritage as a warm, welcoming and service-oriented community, by building partnerships, embracing new ideas, and designing systems that improve our individual and collective sense of well-being, as we help transform health and healthcare in our town and beyond.

