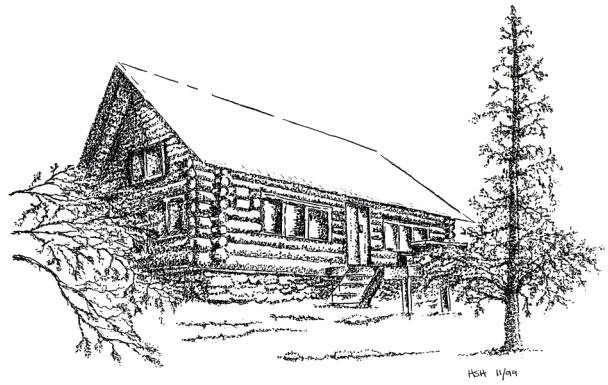


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

www.gmcburlington.org

Fall 2012

CROSSING THE WINOOSKI - THEN AND NOW

Ever since the north-south Long Trail was begun a hundred years ago, the area around Bolton has been particularly challenging because of several east-west barriers, including the Winooski River, railroad tracks, Route 2 and now Interstate 89. The Winter 2011 issue of GMC's *Long Trail News* recounts adventures that many hikers had trying to cross the river. Some hikers attempted to wade across, trusting their hiking poles to help them avoid rocks and holes on the bottom. Many others relied on a local farm family to take them across the river in a rowboat. The boat was leaky, the current was often very strong, and some wondered if they would make it across safely.

Perhaps fortunately, that first boat was swept away by the 1927 flood, but ferry service continued for decades. In the 1930's, hikers would signal the Bert May family by pulling down a window shade that hung on a frame on the riverbank. When the busy farmers noticed the shade, they would send someone to ferry the hikers across, charging them a quarter. (The price went up to a half-dollar by the 1950's.)

In the 1960's, the Long Trail Patrol built a new route that included crossing the river on the Jonesville road bridge. This worked for twenty years or so, but then a house was built on the trail in Jonesville and a radio tower was installed on Robbins Mountain. The Club wasn't able to get landowner permission to rebuild the trail where they had hoped and had to settle for the current route that involves a four-mile road walk.

Since then, the GMC has wanted to re-route the Bolton section of trail to make it more in keeping with the description of the Long Trail as a "footpath in the wilderness". Over the last four years, things finally have come together. The Club has purchased land, worked out easements, and raised funds for a new route that will eliminate the road walk and take hikers over a brand-new footbridge. You can see an video about the new bridge at <http://www.greenmountainclub.org/news.php?id=265> or read Sue Shea's excellent *Long Trail News* article about the long history of this project at http://www.greenmountainclub.org/images/file/LTN/gmc_ltn_w11_web.pdf

You can also be one of the first to hike the new route and visit the site of the new bridge! Join Dave Hardy, GMC Director of Field Programs, for an onsite visit of the proposed new footbridge over the Winooski River. This outing, sponsored by the Burlington and Montpelier Sections, is a great way to celebrate this important milestone in the Club's history. See page 5 for details.

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Fall Paddling

September and October are great months for paddling on Vermont's lakes, ponds and rivers. The water is warm from the summer sun, the hills are beginning to show fall colors, and the crowds thin out after Labor Day. Here are some tips for safe and enjoyable fall paddling. Also, check out page 3 for information about duck and goose hunting seasons.

On Lake Champlain

Before heading out on the broad lake, paddlers should be experienced boaters, good swimmers, and wearing PFDs (personal flotation device). The bays and inlets generally offer calmer water, but anywhere on the lake you're likely to encounter wind, waves and wakes from big boats. It's always a good idea to go with a small group rather than alone.

Check out www.lakechamplaincommittee.org for information about the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail. The web site provides a history of the project, maps, information about overnight camping areas, and guidelines for responsible use of the trail.

Ponds and Rivers

Vermont has hundreds of small lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. For many of them, it's easy to get on the water by using one of 170 fishing access areas maintained by the State Fish & Wildlife Department. These sites used to be paid for by fishing licenses, but now they're funded through motorboat registration fees and taxes on fishing equipment and fuel for motorboats and small engines. Paddlers may use the fishing access areas to park their cars and launch their kayaks and canoes – but paddlers weren't intended as the primary users and don't usually contribute to the cost involved in building or maintaining the areas. **The Fish and Wildlife Department has established a clear list of priorities for authorized use of state fishing access areas.**

- First priority: Angling, ice fishing and the launching of any boat to be used for fishing and parking of vehicles and boat trailers related to fishing
- Second: Launching inboard and outboard motorboats and parking of vehicles and trailers needed for that purpose
- Third: Trapping, hunting and parking of related vehicles and trailers
- Fourth: Launching of non-motorized vessels (boats, kayaks, canoes, rafts, sailboats and sailboards) not used for commercial purposes, and parking of vehicles and trailers related to that purpose.

The bottom line is that recreational paddlers have a right to use the access areas *after* people who are fishing, trapping or hunting.

There have been a few heated altercations between fishermen and kayakers. Paddlers can avoid further controversy by following some basic guidelines:

- If you're going paddling with a group, carpool whenever possible. If you need a car for every boat, unload boats at the access and then move cars well away from the launching ramp. If the access parking area is very small, leave cars alongside the road if it's safe to do so.

Note: Groups of paddlers who have paid a guide are required to get a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Department before using state-controlled fishing accesses.

- Be polite and friendly with people who are fishing. Don't put your boat in until you've checked where people's lines are. When you're coming in off the water, approach slowly. Hang back a short distance from shore and look at the posture of the people fishing. If everyone is sitting around chatting and looking relaxed, getting out of your canoe or kayak won't be too intrusive. On the other hand, if someone's craning forward with tension in every line of her body, she might have a big fish nibbling the bait and she won't appreciate a sudden approach.

BE SAFE IN HUNTING SEASON

Hikers and paddlers should always be aware that they share Vermont's woods and waters with hunters, especially in fall and winter. The exact dates of hunting seasons change each year. Here are some of this year's dates:

Black Bear – September 1 - November 14

Ruffed Grouse– September 29 – December 31

Bow & Arrow Turkey in Wildlife Management areas - October 6 – 19

Bow and Arrow Deer – October 6 – 28 and December 1 - 9

Bow and Arrow or Shotgun Turkey – October 20 – November 4

(exact dates depend on location)

Youth Deer Hunting Weekend – November 3 - 4

Deer Rifle n – November 10 - 25

Bow and Arrow and Muzzleloader Deer - December 1 - 9

For hikers, deer rifle season requires extra caution. *All* the land crossed by the Long Trail is open to hunting. Many other Vermont trails also cross prime hunting land. **Always wear blaze (fluorescent) orange.** Don't go into the woods dressed in brown, tan, black or camouflage colors. Don't wear clothing with patches of white that might be mistaken for the white tail of a deer. Outfit your canine hiking buddies with blaze orange harnesses or "saddle blankets".

Another way to stay safe is to plan some or all of your November hikes in places that are closed to legal hunting. Many GMC sections offer road walks during deer season. Go to www.greenmountainclub.org, click on News and Events, then Events Calendar, and then November.

If you're planning to take out your canoe or kayak, first find out about waterfowl hunting dates. Hunting for ducks and geese starts with the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend on September 24 and 25, and lasts through December. Exact dates depend on whether you're near Lake Champlain, along the Connecticut River, or in the interior of the state. You can get specific information at

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/reports_and_documents/Hunting_and_trapping/waterfowl/Migratory_Waterfowl_laws.pdf

Critter Column: Common Loon - *another installment in our now-and-then feature of facts and stories about Vermonters who walk on four legs, hop, bound, slither, or fly*

Almost nothing evokes wilderness like the yodeling cry of the Common Loon echoing over still water at the end of the day. The presence of these large black-and-white birds on Vermont's lakes and ponds is a real success story. In the mid-80s, there were only seven breeding pairs in the entire state; now there are over 70 pairs and over 200 individual loons. Vermont Loon Recovery Project has worked with conservation groups, state agencies, landowners and hundreds of volunteers to identify and reduce threats to loons including habitat loss, lead fishing gear, mercury poisoning, and disturbance from recreational boating.

There are five species of loons in North America, but the only one that is usually seen in Vermont is the Common Loon. This is a big water bird, weighing as much as 12 pounds, over 30" in length, with a wingspan that can reach 46". (Loons that were bred in eastern Canada sometimes show up in Vermont; they tend to be a little smaller than those hatched in Vermont.)

Loons spend almost their whole lives on water, going ashore only to nest. In many areas, they have adjusted well to man-made floating rafts for nesting sites. The fluffy black young can swim within hours of hatching. Young loons often ride on their parents' backs to rest and for protection.

Common Loons are excellent underwater swimmers and strong fliers, but they're very awkward on land. Loons must take off from water and need a lot of area to get airborne. They sometimes get stranded when they land on ponds that are too small.

- continued on page 7 -

Recollections of Working with Roy Buchanan

- continued from the June issue of *Ridge Lines* -

Roy Buchanan was the founder of the Long Trail Patrol, the official trail crew of the Green Mountain Club. Long-time Burlington Section member Don Cook worked with Roy on the Long Trail Patrol in the summers of 1950 and 1951. Don lives in Colorado now, but he still follows the activities of what he calls "the wonderful GMC family". In our June issue, Don wrote about constructing Gorham Lodge with the Long Trail Patrol.

Valerie Wilkins contacted Don and helped him prepare this article.

If you'd like to share memories of the Long Trail Patrol or your own trail clearing adventures with Don, please contact the *Ridge Lines* editor, Maeve Kim, for Don's contact information.

Constructing Sterling Pond Lodge

Sterling was a key lodging point for this heavily traveled section [part of the Long Trail that's easily accessible from Smugglers' Notch]. Of course, it was beautifully situated on Sterling Pond with many panoramic views off to the Mansfield area. I enjoyed this trail area immensely, with the Notch always an inspiring point of entry. It never seemed overly difficult and once again we had to haul up the tools, building materials, and daily necessities. The young guys usually took off quickly, but we would no sooner pull into camp, then in a few short minutes, Roy would pop over the hill, rarely out of breath, ready to go. Roy's technique for climbing was unbelievably consistent—short breaks and steady moving. With his good conditioning and frequent outings, he could stay with anyone on the trail. I used his technique in Colorado and coaxed my neophyte daughter and friend up a couple of 14'ers.

On occasion a most welcome visitor would pop into camp—none other than Helen Buchanan, Roy's wife. She would usually have delicious goodies for the whole crew: homemade cookies or the best old fashioned homemade doughnuts. We were much more than grateful.

Construction moved on without major hitches and we completed Sterling by summer's end. I would have gladly enjoyed a week's vacation at this glorious spot. There was some spotty trail clearing to do and I was still working occasional musical gigs on weekends so my summer was nearly shot. Summer nights were usually spectacular sitting on the rocky ledges above the pond. Roy's "no seeums" (little black biting critters) often went with the territory, but what more could you ask for?

Remembering the "Citizen of the Mountains"

It had truly been a spectacular summer. It's not often that a mountaineer would experience the privilege of building two cabins of such stature and working with a magnificent and fun crew.

The "times" move on to the next year of maintenance and trail clearing, largely in the North to Canada and south of the border. We still kept in touch and had a number of great outings, including the "Big 2"—Mt. Washington and Mt. Katahdin. Larry Dean, Jack Harrington, and Don Havens joined us on this one. Finally, in the mid 50's, I took leave of the "Great Green Mountains" and entered another world of political and military intrigue. But I'll always remember the many pleasurable times with this wonderful "Citizen of the Mountains," Roy "O."



Section Outings

Fall 2012

Unless otherwise specified, call the trip leader to sign up, find out what equipment you'll need, and learn about any changes. Check with trip leader before bringing your pet along. Human guests are always welcome. Trip leaders often arrange carpooling. If you ride along in someone else's car, we recommend reimbursing the driver at the rate of 10 cents a mile.

September

9/1 (Sat) **Beaver Meadow Trail** Beaver Meadow Trail to Chilcoat Trail, LT to Whiteface Mountain, then return to the Beaver Meadow Trail via the Whiteface Trail. Moderate to difficult, 8.5 miles. Group limit 10. Dogs welcome. Carlene Squires, 434-2533.

9/2 (Sun) **Hedgehog Brook to Burnt Rock Mountain** We'll go up the Hedgehog Brook Trail (Fayston area) for 2.0 mi. and 1500' elevation gain to the Long Trail. Then We'll go north on the Long Trail for another 0.6 mi. and 500' elevation gain to Burnt Rock Mt. Moderate hike, moderate pace. Beautiful views almost all around. Contact Russ Kinaman by Friday 8/31. russkin34@comcast.net or 879-6666.

9/3 (Monday – Labor Day) **Mt. Abraham via Battell Trail** We'll hike to the top of Mt. Abraham via the Battell Trail. We'll stop at the Battell Shelter for a snack and then continue to the top for lunch. After eating lunch and enjoying the great 360-degree views on the top, we'll return the same way. Moderate to difficult, moderate pace, approx. 6 miles round trip, 2500' elevation gain. Contact leader by 9/1. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

9/8 (Sat) **Journey's End** We'll cross Jay Peak shortly after starting from Route 242 and then continue north to Journey's End and take the trail down. Requires car drop and car pooling. Moderate to difficult, 14 miles, 3600' elevation gain, moderate to fast pace (2 mph average). E-mail leader by 9/7. Darryl Smith, 522-2516 or dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com

9/9 (Sun) **Honey Hollow Botany Walk** We'll walk the loop from the Honey Hollow Trailhead, up the HH trail and down the HH road. We'll attempt to identify the wildflowers, ferns, trees, mushrooms, but will move along at a decent pace. Easy to moderate hike at a moderate pace. 5 miles, about 1000' of climbing, Group limit 15. Contact leader by 9/7. Rich Larsen, 878-6828, larsen007@aol.com.

9/15 (Sat) **Mt. Ellen via Jerusalem Trail** We'll go up the Jerusalem Trail to the Long Trail, 1800' elevation gain and 2.4 mi., then south on the Long Trail for another 1.8 mi. and 800' elevation gain to the summit of Mt. Ellen. Moderate hike, moderate pace. Contact leader by Thursday, 9/13. Russ Kinaman, 879-6666 or russkin34@comcast.net

9/16 (Sun) **Cantilever Rock and Cook-Out** A 2.7 mile hike about half-way up Mt. Mansfield leads you to Cantilever Rock. As you approach the area, look up and see this amazing blade of rock 60 feet above you sticking out of a 100-foot cliff. If you've never seen it, you'll want to go on this hike! The hike will be followed by a cookout at Underhill State Park. Everyone should bring something for themselves to cook and something to share with the group. There is a fee to hike in the park at this time of year. Moderate hike, slow pace, 5.4 miles. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

9/29 (Sat) **Jay Pass to Route 105** Enjoy beautiful fall colors and views of the Vermont and Quebec countryside as we hike the northern part of the Long Trail over the summit of Jay Peak. 9.3 miles at a moderate pace. Contact Peter Cottrell, 879-0755

Special Extra Outing – 9/29 (Sat) Hike the New Bolton Bridge and Long Trail Re-Route!! Join Dave Hardy, GMC Director of Field Programs, for an onsite visit of the proposed new foot bridge over the Winooski River. This is a joint venture with the Montpelier Section. Moderate. Bring lunch. Dress for hiking the LT from Bolton Notch Road, down the new flag line/trail, over Stimson Mountain, and conclude at north side of Winooski River bridge site. Meet at Richmond Park and Ride at 8:45 A.M. We will carpool in as few cars as possible. Leaders: Pam Gillis, gillis1986@gmail.com or 879-1457 and for Montpelier, Fred Jordan, 223-3935.

9/30 (Sun) **Glimpses of Fall from Stowe Pinnacle - Good for Kids and Dogs** Relatively short but steep hike leading to a bald open summit with spectacular views and signs of fall over the Green Mountains and the Worcester Range. Moderate, 2.8 miles, 1520' elevation gain. Limit 3 dogs. Contact leader by 9/28. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or Kelleychristie@gmail.com

October

10/6 (Sat) **Ap Gap to Mad River Glen** We'll hike to Theron Dean Shelter from Appalachian Gap then down the ski trail at Mad River. Moderate, 5 miles. Lee Wrigley, 318-6281 or leewrigley@myfairpoint.net

10/7 (Sun) **Long Trail to Burnt Rock Mountain** We'll follow the Long Trail north from RT 17 to the summit of Burnt Rock Mountain then return south to Hedgehog Brook Trail and descend east to the parking lot in North Fayston. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 9.6 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader in advance. Peter Cottrell, 879-0755 or pcottrel@myfairpoint.net

10/8 (Mon) **Snow Geese Plus** Every fall, flocks of snowy white waterfowl pass through the Champlain Valley on their way south from northern breeding areas. We'll go to Addison County, ogle geese and take a walk – or we'll go to the Chazy NY area, ogle geese and take a walk. Maeve Kim, 899-4327 or maevulus@surfglobal.net

10/13 (Sat) **Camels Hump** With a few leaves lingering on, it's up the Monroe Trail, the Dean Trail, and north on the Long Trail to the summit. Difficult hike, leisurely to moderate pace, 8 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net

10/14 (Sun) **Birch Glen Foliage Hike** This easy hike is through hardwoods so we should see bright foliage at this time of year. Lunch at the camp and return by the same route. Approx. 3 miles round trip. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

10/20 (Sat) **Mt. Abe via Battell Trail** There will be a few lingering oak leaves on the trees, but most will be crunching under our feet. Of course there will be sharp blue skies with views for a hundred miles on top of Mt. Abe. Money back guarantee! Difficult hike, leisurely pace, 5.8 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net

10/21 (Sun) **Shelburne Bay Park: Kid- and Dog-Friendly** Enjoy some time with kids and dogs and we'll meander the trails at Shelburne Bay Park and see last signs of fall and early signs of winter. Easy with easy pace, approx. 2 miles. Limit 3 dogs. Please contact leader by 10/19. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

10/27 (Sat) **Mt. Abe via Battell Trail** Join a small group up Mt. Abraham, a pleasant hike just above 4000' and with great views. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 2500' elevation gain, 5.8 mi. round trip. Group limit 4. Ted Albers ted@ted-albers.net

10/28 (Sun) **Worcester Range** We'll traverse the Worcester Range using the Skyline Trail, crossing four 3000'-plus peaks including White Rocks, Hunger and Worcester. We'll spot cars at the trailheads in Middlesex and Worcester. Difficult hike, moderate to strong pace (1.5 mph), 10.7 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Darryl Smith 522-2516 or dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com

November

11/3 (Sat) **Mt. Mansfield** Under crisp clear blue skies, we'll hike Butler Lodge Trail, Wampahoofus Trail to the Forehead and on to the Chin via the Long Trail. And then find a path down. Difficult hike, moderate to strong pace, 10 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, philhazen@comcast.net or 355-7181.

11/4 (Sun) **White Mountains Hike** It's off to NH we go! If the weather is very nice, this will be a moderately difficult hike in NH. If the weather's foul, there will be no hike. Suzanne Daningburg, suzannedaningburg@yahoo.ca

11/10 (Sat) **Hunger Mountain and White Rocks** We'll be past the foliage season but the temps should still be nice. Come on out! 6 miles. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 11/8. Robynn Albert, 878-4036 or robynnalbert@hotmail.com

11/11 (Sun) **Stevensville Loop – Mt. Mansfield Area** We'll hike up the Maple Ridge Trail, then head south on the Long Trail to Taylor Lodge, a nice place to take a break. We'll complete the loop by hiking down the Nebraska Notch Trail. Moderate pace, 7 miles. Chase Rosenberg, 614-425-5027.

11/17 (Sat) **Haselton Trail to Mt. Mansfield** We'll ascend the Haselton Trail, through the center of Stowe Mountain Resort, to the Toll Road and Welcome Center on Mt. Mansfield. We'll then head north to the Chin and descend on the Long Trail to Rt. 108. It is hunting season, and this should be a safer trail, but you should still display some orange. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5 miles, 2500' elevation gain. E-mail leader by 11/15. Darryl Smith, dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com or 522-2516.

November – cont.

11/18 (Sun) **Mud Pond: Kid- and Dog-Friendly** Easy, leisurely walk through woods and rolling hills. Approx. 3 miles. Limit 3 dogs. Please contact leader by 11/16. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

11/25 (Sun) **Nebraska Notch: Butler Lodge Trail and Long Trail to Mansfield Forehead** If you haven't worked off the turkey and cranberry sauce, no time like today! 7.5 miles, 3940' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 11/23. Robynn Albert, 878-4036 or robynnalbert@hotmail.com

December

12/1 (Sat) **Adirondack Outing** To be decided later - something fun for certain! 7-8 miles total. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 11/29. Robynn Albert, 878-4036 or robynnalbert@hotmail.com. Check the Burlington Section website (<http://gmcburlington.org>) as the date draws near for specifics.

12/2 (Sun) **Ethan Allen Homestead: Kid- and Dog-Friendly** Mostly flat trails will take us through fields and marshland and along the Winooski River. Easy, approx. 3 miles. Limit 3 dogs. Please contact leader by 12/1. Kelley Christie, 999-7839 or kelleymchristie@gmail.com

12/8 (Sat) **Whiteface via Beaver Meadows** Will we have snow??? Let's find out!! 7 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 12/6. Robynn Albert, 878-4036 or robynnalbert@hotmail.com.

12/9 (Sun) **White Mountains Hike** Hike one of NH's 48 highest. Leader's choice will be moderately difficult distance and elevation, at a moderate pace. Contact leader for more info. Suzanne Daningburg, suzannedaningburg@yahoo.ca

12/15 (Sat) **Camels Hump By Popular Demand** We'll head up Camels Hump from the north, east, south or west, whatever direction the crowd wants to go, mild to wild. Please respond early and often. Moderate hike, moderate pace (averaging 1-2 mph). 4.8 - 12.4 miles, 1300' - 3700' elevation gain. E-mail leader by 12/14. Darryl Smith dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com or 522-2516.

12/16 (Sun) **Taylor Lodge** This is a popular trip well worth doing throughout the year. We'll hope for snow so we can snowshoe. Easy to moderate, 5.5 miles. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

12/23 (Sun) **Camels Hump via the Burrows Trail** Depending on the weather, we'll either hike or snowshoe to the top of Camels Hump from the Huntington side. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4.8 miles, 1950' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

12/30 (Sun) **Mount Mansfield via Laura Cowles** We'll start at the winter parking area and ascend Mansfield via Laura Cowles. Winter clothing and gear required, including snowshoes and microspikes. Expect to spend two hours above treeline, where conditions may be severe. Difficult, strong pace, 8 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 12/28. Richard Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com.

Critter Column: Common Loon - continued from page 3

Common Loons breed in parts of the northern United States, Canada, Greenland, Iceland and Scotland. (In Europe, the bird is called the Great Northern Diver.) Common Loons winter along both coasts of the Atlantic or on large lakes.

Loons are fiercely territorial during breeding season, sometimes even killing other loons that get too close to their young. During the nesting season, paddlers should take care not to get close to loons because the birds might abandon their nests if they're feeling harassed by boat traffic. After the young are fledged, however, loons enter a much less anxious time of their lives. They are often seen calmly preening within a few feet of boats. In the fall and winter, Vermonters might see groups of loons swimming and fishing together in open water on Lake Champlain and other large bodies of water.

If you google Common Loon, you can find information from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and a video that includes the bird's haunting calls.

Ridge Lines

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