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Bird Species Search at Historic Mount Lebanon Shaker Site *Blue-Headed Vireo at the Shaker Museum property. Photo by Chris Franks, Alan Devoe Bird Club*

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Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon and the Alan Devoe Bird Club invite the public to search for up to 100 species of birds currently in residence at the Mount Lebanon historic site. A series of free bird walks will be held on the museum's recently constructed North Pasture Trails from September 2019 through the fall of 2020, with the first program taking place on September 21, 2019.

The woodlands and wetlands in the area of New Lebanon, NY, where the Shakers once lived, are home to a vast number of bird species. 32 species have been identified on the Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon property since 2014, but there are still many more to discover. The Alan Devoe Bird Club will lead a series of informative workshops and bird walks in search of more species at the historic site.

"Several of our club members recently walked the trail to research this series, and we were thrilled to find 26 species including four Indigo Buntings," said organizer Chris Franks.

The first program of the series is an Introduction to Bird Identification and Field Walk, which will take place on Saturday, September 21, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. on the North Pasture Trails at the Shaker Museum site. The group will meet at the Visitor Center in the red Granary building, just opposite the Great Stone Barn.

The workshop and walk will be presented by Kathryn Schneider, author of *Birding the Hudson Valley*, past president of the New York State Ornithological Association, biology professor, and member of the Alan Devoe Bird Club.

The hands-on workshop will focus on clues for finding and identifying birds in the field. The group will then walk the trail in search of species, using these methods along with field guides and apps to learn how to identify the birds encountered. The group's observations will be recorded using the eBird mobile app, where Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon site is listed as a birding "hot spot."

Participants should bring their binoculars and smart phones to the workshop and walk. Everyone is encouraged to download the free app, Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab, onto their phone before their arrival.

The program is free and open to the public. Those new to birding are welcome. Maximum 20 participants. Pre-register on the Shaker Museum website at: shakerml.org. Walk-ins accepted if space

is available. For more information, please contact Anna Win at 518-794-9100 or Kathy Schneider at 518-248-8665. The Mount Lebanon historic site is located at 202 Shaker Road in New Lebanon, NY.

Founded in 1957, the Alan Devoe Bird Club promotes the conservation of natural resources and the enjoyment and protection of birds, flora, and fauna. They are an organization of Columbia County residents and interested parties with a common bond – a love of nature and a fascination with its wildlife. Some are experts in these fields, others just love the outdoors. The bird club offers the opportunity to take part in their many activities: bird walks, lectures, contributing to their monthly newsletter, and helping maintain their sanctuary, the Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, a preserve in Chatham, NY protected by the Columbia County Land Conservancy. More information can be found online at www.alandevoebirdclub.org.

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon is dedicated to preserving the history of the Shakers, including their furniture and architecture as well as their values of inclusion, innovation, integrity, and conviction. It stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, New York, which is open year-round for programs seasonally. The museum also has a campus in Old Chatham, New York, open year-round by appointment, where the administrative offices, collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum's collection of over 16,000 Shaker items is the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the world and may be viewed online at www.shakerml.org.