

OCTOBER 01 - 14, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

By Dick Harlow

A LAKE AND COLORS OF CHANGING SEASONS



(1) Early Fall at Arrowhead Lake, © Dick Harlow

These images are not from around here, but I felt, because of the times we are living in, both you and I might want a break from nature for nature's sake and enjoy a little scenic venture during an early Fall morning.

These pictures were taken of Arrowhead Mountain Lake, formed by damming the Lamoille River before the river entered Lake Champlain in Milton, VT. The dam is officially called the Clark's Falls Dam which was constructed in 1948. As a matter of fact, there are two dams on the Lamoille River where once there were four. The other dam is called the Peterson Dam located up-river about 2.5 miles from Milton, VT.

There is a great deal of history surrounding the Lamoille River and the four dams that once were built on the river to harness its energy. However, this river has flooded and has caused serious damage to property that was built too close to the river. Unfortunately, natural disasters are a fact of life when buildings are constructed near water.

Picture 1 was taken from our shoreline property in Milton, VT where we lived before coming to EastView.



(2) Early Fall at Arrowhead Lake, © Dick Harlow

Picture (2) and (3) were taken from Arrowhead Lake Road in Milton before Rt. 104 A.

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(3) Early Fall at Arrowhead Lake, © Dick Harlow

I hope you enjoy this special time of year when the weather cools down; fall is in the air and color begins to show in the forests!

OSPREY



1. Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, © Dick Harlow

The Osprey, or formerly known as a fish-hawk, is actually in its own classification family. This almost eagle-like bird used to be classified with other hawks; therefore, some may still think of it as a fish-hawk.

Found throughout the North and South American continents, the Osprey nests next to or near fresh or saltwater. They feed almost entirely on fish. Osprey will hover over a body of water and then close their wings and dive feet first at the last moment pursuing their quarry. They have reversible outer digits, toes or talons, that allow them to usually carry the fish headfirst, belly down to their nest or feeding location.

The North American population of Ospreys was in grave danger in the 1950's because of DDT and other pesticides. According to National Audubon data, from 1950 to 1972 along the Atlantic coast between Boston and New York City, 90 percent of the breeding pairs of Ospreys disappeared. However, the ban on DDT in 1972 has helped this species in parts of North America. This ban allowed for the Osprey populations to rebound, although they are still listed as endangered or threatened in some areas.

These images, **picture #1 and #2** were taken at Arrowhead Lake, VT.

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2. Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, © Dick Harlow

Picture #2 is the courtship behavior of a male, top bird, flying with a fish for his female, bottom bird. This is called "fish-flight". The male, constantly screaming and calling will alternate this type of hovering with slow swoops above or near their nest. I was fortunate to capture this display at Arrowhead Lake in Vermont near their nest, although the images are not very sharp.

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

- Eastern Coywolf - heard
- Gray Squirrel

BUTTERFLIES

- Clouded Sulphur

Weather Tidbits

Weeks of SEPTEMBER 01-14, 2020

All Measurements taken at solar noon (1230 EST).

PRECIPITATION

Average October Precipitation for Vermont = 3.58 inches.

Last Two Weeks Precipitation = 17.2 mm or 0.68 inches. A 2.90 deficit.

Overcast Days: 8