



whichever residents chose to do so. In the July 1986 50th Anniversary Issue Monroe Donkster shared his list of birds he'd seen on or around the island between the years 1946-1986. It consisted of 80 different birds, some of which were seen only five (5) to ten (10) times during this period, i.e. the Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Water-thrush, Pine Grosbeak and the Red Crossbill. The Gazette continued for 50+ years, however, whether it is still published today is beyond my knowledge. I enjoyed having the opportunity of reading several issues.

After my article "A Little Bit of History About a Lot of Gilford Islands" was published in the January 31, 2008 Steamer I received several phone calls from islanders. I was delighted! One of the most wonderful things about New Hampshire, and a primary reason for my deciding to live here, is the warmth and welcome that is extended to all by its residents, even those born and raised here. I've met with a few of these islanders, one from Welch, which is how I learned about the Gazette; one from Mark and one from Mink. I heard from another lovely lady who has spent her summers on Welch since 1905! and a gentleman from Jolly who assured me that Verizon Wireless is alive and well on Jolly!. From them I also learned that the closeness I perceived about island folks was right on target. A loving spirit exists among the island residents that leaves the impression that they are a part and parcel of each others lives and families. Yet, they also offer their friendliness and warmth to non-islanders, even to flatlanders such as myself!

A number of islanders spend their winters locally in their mainland home. I've been given to understand by a few islanders, that there is a difference between mainland, lakefront and island living. The islanders find a peace from their deep connection with nature. They blend with the whispering of trees, the singing of birds, and the sharing of the land with its animal population. The children revel in the freedom island life gives them to be just "children". Mainland noises are left far behind allowing seemingly endless enjoyment and the chance to rejuvenate their spirit and soul. It's no wonder these properties are handed down in families for generations. How lucky the folks who are given the very rare opportunity to purchase land and/or a camp on any one of the islands that for one reason or another is not being handed down but placed on the market. It would seem to me that the sellers would be mighty particular about whom to sell their property wanting to assure the new residents would become true "islanders".