



# HANOVER CONSERVANCY

*Protecting land & water in our community*

## **September 2012**

### **ALDO LEOPOLD on September...**

"By September, the day breaks with little help from birds. A song sparrow may give a single half-hearted song, a woodcock may twitter overhead en route to his daytime thicket, a barred owl may terminate the night's argument with one last wavering call, but few other birds have anything to say or sing about.

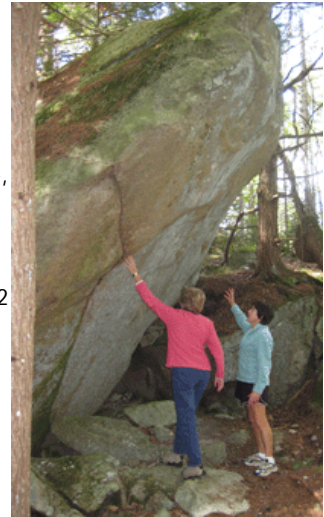
"It is on some, but not all, of these misty autumn daybreaks that one may hear the chorus of the quail. the silence is suddenly broken by a dozen contralto voices, no longer able to restrain their praise of the day to come.

"There is a peculiar virtue in the music of elusive birds. In June it is completely predictable that the robin will give voice when the light intensity reaches 0.01 candlepower and that the bedlam of other singers will follow in predictable sequence. In autumn, on the other hand, the robin is silent and it is quite unpredictable whether the covey-chorus will occur at all. The hope of hearing quail is worth half a dozen risings-

## **Fall Trips: Visit Hidden Hanover!**

Current Conservancy members should check their mailboxes for a colorful card announcing our fall schedule of outdoor trips. Join our leaders to explore remote, out-of-the-way spots with fascinating stories. Here's what's coming up:

- **Annual Hawk Watch** - Sat. 9/22 (rain date Sun. 9/23)
- **Secrets of Greensboro Ridge** - Sat. 9/29
- **Historic Cory Road** - Sat. 10/6
- **Insider's View from Lord's Hill** - Sun. 10/14
- **Tour of Trescott Water Company Lands** (space limited to members only, [registration required](#))- Sat. 10/20
- **Find the Town Forest: Bike & Hike** - Sat. 10/27



Details, including meeting times and places, level of difficulty, leaders, and more are posted [here](#). If you're not yet a member, we hope you'll [join today](#).



## **Deer Study Underway at Balch Hill**

The Hanover Conservancy is working with Dartmouth College on a multi-year study of the effects of deer browsing on the Balch Hill Natural Area. Under professors Kathy Cottingham and Craig Layne, ecology students are setting up 24 experimental plots, half enclosed with fencing to exclude snacking deer and half left open for comparison.

in-the dark."

*A Sand County Almanac*  
[More on Aldo Leopold](#)

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*We appreciate your  
support!*

Dartmouth has kindly covered the cost of fencing that is now being installed by Dartmouth Outing Club student volunteers (above). Ecology students have collected data on trees, shrubs, and herbs growing within the study plots, and will return to look for changes.

Nearby, the Trescott Water Company lands will be open on a trial basis for deer hunting *under restricted conditions* from Sept. 15-Dec. 15. Managers hope to reduce the resident population by 40 animals. Deer browsing is enabling more unpalatable invasives like buckthorn to gain ground on these precious water supply lands.

### **Free Topo Maps On Line**

We are among those folks who just can't get enough of maps - and the US Geological Survey is back to feed the addiction. You can now download the 2012 digital topographic maps *for free* from the [USGS Store](#). The quadrangles are delivered in GeoPDF format and may be viewed using free [Adobe Reader](#) software. They're beautiful, sharp, and easy to store. Those on dial-up beware - they are big files.

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