

Findings from the Field

Volume 5

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Note from the Editors

Findings from the Field Editorial Board

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Note from the editors

Dear Findings from the Field Scientist Community,

We are heartened and inspired by the community of curious and engaged youth scientists that continues to grow and flourish, even as pandemic continues to take its toll. In the past school year, one described by many teachers and educators as the hardest of their careers, this community of classrooms, student scientists, peer reviewers, editors, and mentor scientists fostered curiosity and honed skills of looking closely, posing, and investigating questions about the world around us. Gathering virtually for four Community Series events, we shared questions, observations, and learnings about a range of topics including changes in the intertidal, climate change and phenology, bees of Maine, and birds of the northeast. These virtual events supported synchronous participation from approximately 1150 student scientists from across the region and additional asynchronous participation. We launched our first entirely asynchronous symposium, another avenue for sharing our observations of and questions about the natural world. We introduced a new model for student contribution, the Data Challenge, supporting learners to pursue questions about ecology, the environment, and climate change using existing datasets.

We want to celebrate all the ways that this community has taken lessons from current challenges and turned that into creative new ways to engage and share. As these new connections were being made, we received 195 total submissions and 226 peer reviews from approximately 575 students from across 11 schools, and a growing list of passionate educators and mentors joined the editorial board, resulting in 51 Nature Notes and 16 Research Articles to share in Volume 5.

As the school year comes to a close, and as we share this latest volume of *Findings from the Field*, we want to express our most deep and sincere gratitude for the enthusiasm, commitment, and curiosity of this growing scientific community. Please enjoy. And we hope you continue to foster that sense of wonder in nature, in data, in science that has continued to be a source of energy for us all this past school year.

-*Findings from the Field* Editorial Board and GMRI *Findings* Team

Volume 5 Participating Schools

Bath Middle School, Bath, Maine

Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine

Cornerspring Montessori School, Belfast, Maine

Epping Middle School, Epping, New Hampshire

Lincolnton Central School, Lincolnton, Maine

Loranger Memorial School, Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Messalonskee Middle School, Oakland, Maine

Newport Middle High School, Newport, New Hampshire

North Hampton School, North Hampton, New Hampshire
Telstar Middle School, Bethel, Maine
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