

# Round Pond State Natural Area



**Trailhead** 57 East Shore Road, South Hero. Pull completely off the road into the pullout by the orange gate and watch for cars coming in either direction.

**Use** walking, running, snowshoeing, skiing, horseback riding. Dogs are allowed.

**Accessibility** Trail is narrow, with wooden boardwalks and small bridges spanning the wet areas. One area of steep trail is located just before getting down to the lake.

**Terrain** moderate.

**Distance** 1 mile, or 3 miles round trip if combined with the Landon Trail Loop via the Connector Trail.



**Trail Activity** Great as a standalone short hike, or combine with the Landon Trail via the connector trail for a longer outing. Visit [shlt.org/natural-areas](http://shlt.org/natural-areas) for info on the connector route.

**Nature Notes** Bring your binoculars (*or borrow a pair out from the Worthen Library*) and look across the lake for Mergansers, Northern Pintails, and other winter waterfowl. If the lake is frozen, check around for tracks; a family of otters lives nearby and you can often spot their slides, which look like tiny sled runs. On your way back, look for winter songbirds like Nuthatches and Chickadees.

**Afterwards** Treat yourself to take-out from Cook Sisters Cafe (at Wally's By Night). Chef Christine Mack incorporates many Islands products into her menu, including pork from Pigasus Meats, just down the street from Round Pond. Learn more about Cook Sisters and other local food businesses in the **NW VT Guide to Agriculture** at [www.nwvtgrown.com](http://www.nwvtgrown.com).



*White Breasted Nuthatch*

**Reading Suggestion** *Birds* by Kevin Henkes is a favorite for the 3 and under crowd; **When birds could talk & bats could sing: the adventures of Bruh Sparrow, Sis Wren, and their friends** is a collection of folklore told by Virginia Hamilton; and **Stokes beginner's guide to birds. Eastern region** by Donald and Lillian Stokes will get you started identifying birds. All these books, and more, can be found at the Worthen Library.