

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

An area bird club (replacing the former Amherst Bird Club) is being organized. Plans are to have monthly programs of interest to birders, both beginners and seasoned; to plan field trips; to form a rare bird alert telephone tree; and to swap bird stories.

The plans are to meet on the second Monday of every month during the school year. There will be two meetings this spring - April 9 and May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. Meetings will resume in September. There will be membership dues of \$7.00 to cover cost of programs, mailings, etc. Included in the \$7.00 is a year's subscription to Bird News of Western Massachusetts.

Please pass the word to people we may have missed in trying to throw together a mailing list. Questions or suggestions? Call Scott Sumner at 253-5983 or Sally Verman at 549-1098.

Hope to see you on April 9!!!!

Scott and Sally

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

April 26, 1984

The second meeting of the Club is planned for May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. At this meeting Scott Sumner will present a program of slides taken on his two week trip to Manitoba, Canada in June of '82.

We are very excited about the response and interest in the Club, and are anxious to hear from anyone interested in leading bird walks, presenting programs, or with ideas about what you would like to see happen.

If you haven't already paid your membership dues, please do so as soon as possible. Membership is \$7.00 and entitles you to a subscription to "BIRD NEWS", a place on the Bird Alert Telephone Tree (if you so wish), and regular notices of programs, field trips, etc. You may send your dues to the treasurer, Jan Tolhurst, 7 Red Fox Lane, Amherst MA 01002, or pay at the next meeting. Make checks out to the Hampshire Bird Club and please submit the enclosed form with your payment.

At our May meeting we hope to have the new bird-finding guide of Amherst for you to look at (and purchase). This is a book compiled by local birders documenting productive birding areas in Amherst, giving check lists for Amherst conservation areas, and describing the changing habitat of Amherst over the years. Also in the book are reports of rare and interesting sightings in recent years.

We haven't made up the bird alert tree as yet because names have been coming in almost daily. If you wish to be on it, be sure to pay your dues and let one of us know no later than the May 14th meeting. We'll get it out to you soon after the meeting. The list will be revised as necessary over the summer.

Coming up -

May 19 - Trip to Plum Island led by Scott Sumner for the Hitchcock Center. Please call the Center (256-6006) to reserve a place. There is a small fee.

May 20 - First Annual H.B.C. Century Run (Spring version of the Christmas Bird Count). Sign up at the May meeting, or call Scott or Sally.

Early July - Monomoy Island (Cape Cod) trip led by Scott Sumner. Sign up at the May meeting or call Scott or Sally.

Questions? Comments? Call Scott Sumner (253-5983) or Sally Venman (549-1098). Hope to see you on the 14th.

Scott and Sally

Hampshire Bird Club

August 29, 1984

Dear Friend,

It doesn't seem possible that nighthawks and shorebirds and sparrows and kettles of broadwings, to say nothing of those pesky, impossible warblers that Scott says are so easy to identify are again here or coming soon. But---they are and I hope I am getting to you early enough so you can put some of the REALLY important dates on your calendar before things like work and school get in the way.

This is by way of enticing you to join us this fall in what looks like some wonderful birding. We have had many requests for field trips and Scott has really responded. To name a few - Plum Island (Sept. 8), local warblers and migrating hawks (Sept. 15), Monhegan Island Weekend in Oct., and Berkshire Lakes in November. The field trips are in addition to some really interesting monthly meetings. September will be a party (more below). In October, Don Kroodsmā from the University will present a program on "Tuning into the Sounds of Birds." In November, Susan Smith from Mount Holyoke will present a program entitled "Flock Switching in Black-capped Chickadees." Monthly programs have been planned through May.

The First meeting will be on Monday, September 10 at the Hitchcock Center starting at 6:00 p.m. It's a Get Acquainted Barbecue - Pot Luck Party. Please bring your own food to grill, enough salad or dessert to share and whatever you want to drink. The club will provide the grills, condiments, ice, instant hot drinks, utensils, dishes, cups, etc. We'll have a short meeting after dinner to talk about plans for the year, explain the new Voice of the Hampshire Bird Club, hear suggestions, take memberships, etc.

Speaking of memberships - anyone who has already paid dues (last spring or during the summer) can consider themselves paid through next summer ('85). Members should find the Yearbook enclosed in this mailing (if you think you are a member and have not received the book, please give me a call). The Yearbook gives advance information about Club activities for the year, telephone numbers for the Voice of the Hampshire Bird Club, general membership information and includes a list of members. Because of the cost of postage, mailings will have to be limited to members only from now on.

Still speaking of memberships, the classifications are as follows: Individual, \$7.00; Family, \$12.00; Supporting, \$25.00 or more. Membership is open to anyone interested in birding regardless of experience or knowledge. Members are entitled to a subscription to "Bird News of Western Massachusetts," a place on the Rare Bird Alert Telephone Tree, a copy of the Yearbook, regular notices of programs, and participation in field trips and special events. Please consider joining if you are not already a member. Being a new organization, we need the support of as many members as possible.

We'll be making up a new Rare Bird Alert Telephone Tree as soon as we get our membership list up to date. If you have had a change of telephone number or would like to be included on the Tree, please call me as soon as possible.

One more item. The first field trip of the year is an all day trip to Plum Island on Saturday, Sept. 8. Peter Yaukey will be leading the group which will leave the Hitchcock Center at 5:00 a.m. Please give him a call (549-1183) if you plan on going.

That just about does it for now. I certainly hope to see you on Sept. 10, if not before. If you have any questions or comments please give Scott Sumner (253-5983) or me a call.

Sally
Sally Venman, Sec'y.
(549-1098)

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

December 3, 1984

Dear Member:

The December meeting will be on Monday the 10th at 7:00 (note time change) at the Hitchcock Center. Please bring some holiday goodie (snack or dessert) to share and up to 10 of your most satisfying, exciting or imaginative slides to show (any subject depicting nature).

The annual Christmas Bird Count is to be December 16th. This year we hope to involve many people. You can go out all day, a portion of the day or even participate by counting birds at your feeder. Our area includes parts of Amherst, Sunderland, Hadley, and South Hadley. There will be a central spot (the Venmans' - 43 Ridgecrest Rd, Amherst, 549-1098) for phoning in sightings, answering questions, or getting warm. This count started in 1899 and is done nationally. The information gathered is compiled by the National Audubon Society and does have scientific significance, so it is not only fun to do but is important information gathering at the same time. There will be a potluck supper at Arcadia at 6:00 p.m. followed by compiling of the day's count at 7:00. We will make plans for the count at the Dec. 10th meeting. If you want to participate and can't make the meeting please call Scott on the Voice (256-1836) or Sally (549-1098). We really want and need as many of you as possible with whatever committment you can make.

Don't forget the Plum Island and Cape Ann trip on Jan. 5 (start your year list with a bang). We'll carpool from the Hitchcock Center meeting at 5:00 a.m. It will be all day, so bring lunches and warm clothes.

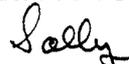
The subject for the Regular Meeting on Jan. 14th will be firmed up in the next day or so, and will be announced at the December meeting. (We have 2 excellent possibilities - it's a matter of clearing dates and schedules).

We are in the process of planning more field trips and evaluating the program so far. Enclosed is a questionnaire that we would like you to fill out and get to us, either at the meeting or by mail. The trips this fall were not well attended so any information you could give us would be greatly appreciated.

If you have questions or comments give one of the Board a call.

Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,



Sally Venman
Secretary