



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

<http://hampshirebirdclub.org>

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The field trip program involves at least a dozen different leaders, and a bewildering variety of destinations. Mike Locher has somehow managed to draw these threads together into the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, which is enclosed. Thanks to Mike and all those who lead trips!

A complete membership list has been mailed to members, thanks to the efforts of Mary Alice Wilson and Sue Emerson. The list is intended for the private use of HBC members. It should not be used for any commercial purpose, nor shared with any individual or organization outside the club. We appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

PROGRAMS

All programs are held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant St. in Amherst. Should bad weather force a cancellation, it will be announced on WHMP 1400 AM radio.

This Month

On **Monday, December 9**, we hold the annual **Members Meeting**. Perhaps the most important item on the agenda is the Christmas count. Time is allocated for team leaders to meet with their respective teams and plan the count. If you haven't yet found a group for the count, please see "Christmas Count" later in this edition.

There is also a program, of sorts. The featured speaker is you! This is a chance for us to kick back and share natural history experiences from the entire season through slides and (brief) narratives. Birding tales are, of course, most relevant, but any adventures in the natural world are probably of interest to others in the club. We ask that you plan to present no more than twenty slides per person, since there may be many others who wish to present! Hope to see you there!

Coming Programs

January 13: Robert S. Ridgely on the *Jocotoco Foundation*

February 10: Dave Stemple speaks on *Scottish Bird Song*

March 10: Paul Baisich savors *Shade Grown Coffee*

FIELD TRIPS

Reports

Tom Gagnon and others searched the **Berkshire Lakes** for waterfowl and donuts on **November 3**. They found a healthy swag of waterfowl species and a number of migrating Red-tailed Hawks. The group found one species of donut - the Sugar-coated Cinnamon (at Bartletts). Despite heavy predation and restricted habitat, the species reproduces rapidly, and its future seems secure.



Harvey Allen ended up on his own for this month's **Sweep of the Connecticut Valley**. At the last meeting, Harvey said (cryptically) that he had "a few nice birds".



The East Quabbin trip report will have to wait until the January issue due to a space shortage.

Coming Trips

Wednesday, December 11. Morning Sweep of the Connecticut R. Valley. Half day. Warm up for the CBC. Meet Harvey at 8:30AM across the street from the Atkins Farms, cnr. Rte 116 and Bay Road in SouthAmherst. Call him (413-253-7963) for further information. I think he would appreciate some company this month!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

If you have not yet made arrangements to take part this year, it is not too late! Simply contact one of the two coordinators listed below, and they will try to find a spot for you!

The **Northampton Christmas Count** (in its 69th year) will be held on **Sunday, December 15**. Contact Jan Ortiz (413) 549-1768 jtortiz@aol.com or Mary Alice Wilson (413) 548-9078 mwilson@k12s.phast.umass.edu.

The **Quabbin Count** will be held on **Saturday, December 28**. Contact Scott Sumner (413) 253-5999 ssurner@aol.com.

The **Springfield Count** will be held on **Saturday, December 14**. Contact Bruce Kindseth (860) 745-9593 kindsebr@aol.com

The **Athol Count** will be held on **Saturday, December 14**. Contact David Small (978) 249 2094 dhsmall@gis.net.

For the **Greenfield Count**, contact Mark Fairbrother at (413) 367-2695

Most Important of All

Any time one finds a large number of people engaged in esoteric pursuits in foul weather, one suspects an ulterior motive. Though Geoff LeBaron might not subscribe to it, there is a persuasive school of thought which holds that this whole Xmas Count thing is actually a thin excuse for something else! The appeal below may enlighten you further.

Food Donations Needed for Christmas Bird Count "Pot Luck" Meal !!

We are in need of food contributions (hot or cold dishes) for the Post-Christmas Bird Count's "Pot Luck" meal. After a rigorous day (and in some cases night) in the field, there is no better way to cap-off a successful bird count than by partaking in a good pot luck meal. Your help is needed in order to make this an evening to be remembered!

*Please call either **Helga Beatty (413/253-2410)** or **Sue Emerson (413/584-6736)** before December 11 and tell us what you will be bringing.* We are seeking hot or cold main dishes, salads, deserts and snack foods (This is an ideal way to test that new recipe you have always been wanting to try-out). We will need you to bring your contribution to the Hitchcock Center that afternoon.

Thank you for your support of this important project.

Until next time, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones

Editor

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