



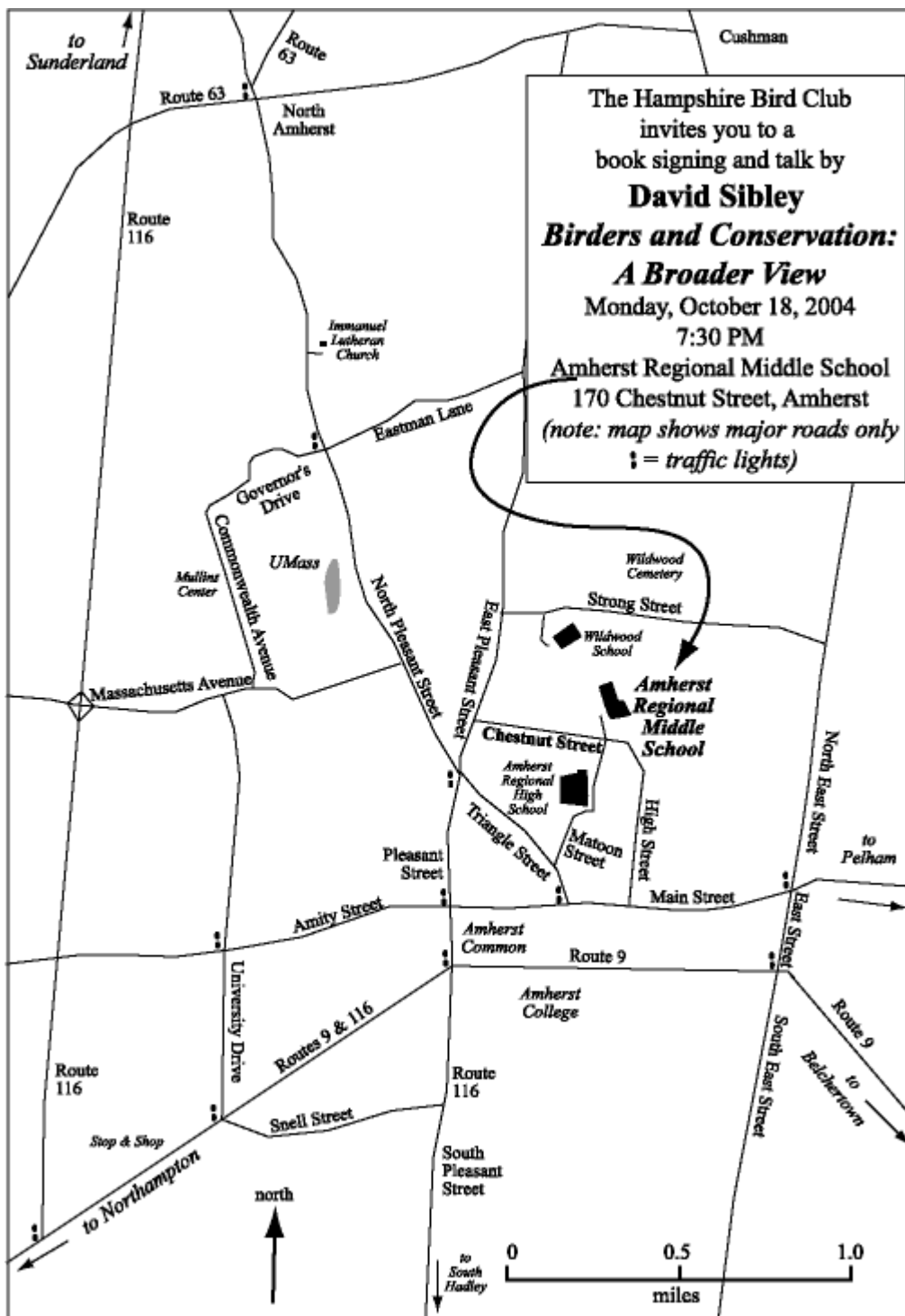
Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 21, No. 2

October, 2004



PROGRAMS

This Month

Monday, October 18: 7:30 PM at Amherst Regional Middle School
David Sibley speaks about Birders and Conservation: A Broader View

Birds are our most watched and most beloved wildlife, and they provide an entry to the natural world for millions of people. However, while birding increases in popularity, concerns about bird populations are also increasing. Understanding the current conservation problems requires an understanding of long-term ecological changes in North America, and real solutions will depend on recognizing our own place in the natural world, and the role of humans in shaping the environment of the 21st century. David will talk about insights gleaned from more than two decades of traveling around North America, studying birds in their wild (and not so wild) surroundings.

David Sibley is the son of the well-known ornithologist Fred Sibley. He began seriously watching and drawing birds in 1969, at age seven, and has since lived in California, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Georgia, New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Since 1980 David has traveled throughout the North American continent in search of birds, both on his own and as a leader of birding tours. This intensive travel and bird study culminated in the publication of his comprehensive guide to bird identification: "*The Sibley Guide to Birds*," in the fall of 2000, and a companion volume: "*The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*," in the fall of 2001. "*Sibley's Birding Basics*" appeared in the fall of 2002, closely followed by the release of "*The Sibley Guide to Eastern Birds*" and its western counterpart.

Mr. Sibley now lives in Concord, Massachusetts, where he continues to study and draw birds. You can learn more about his work at www.sibleyguides.com.

Coming Programs

October 18. David Sibley. "Birders and Conservation: A Broader View"

November 8. Don Kroodsmma. "Bird By Bird By Bike"

December 13. Member's Meeting. (Members Slide Show)

And now, exclusively for readers of the Online Newsletter (with nothing better to do), an intellectual teaser from the ornithological literature.

We all know why many male birds are brightly colored, right? The females key in on color, amongst other things, to choose a mate, and the males with the brightest colors are often selected for (they more often attract a mate than duller birds). There is a puzzling contradiction to this established understanding for at least one species in recent work by **Barbara Ballantine and Geoffrey Hill**. Their work is published originally in *Condor* 105: 593-598), and secondarily referred to in an article in *Birding* 36 (1): pp 24-25, which is the February 2004 edition of the ABA magazine.

Ballantine and Hill found that the brightness of male Blue Grosbeaks (which they manipulated in the study) exerted no effect on mate choice by the females. They postulate, based on anecdotal evidence, that females choose males with larger, more food-rich territories, which seem to be the brighter ones.

But if the color of the males means nothing to the females, why are male Grosbeaks still being selected for color at all? If, indeed, the brightest males get the superior territories, how can this relate to color? Surely territorial dominance is related to physical condition (perhaps correlated with the strength and frequency of singing). Are we supposed to believe that males look at brightness and make (perhaps involuntary) conclusions about how entirely rugged the other male is? So why then are Blue Grosbeaks still blue? Please send me any hypotheses....

Regional Directions for the October Program: David Sibley

From the North-west and North

Take I-91 South to Exit 26 for South Deerfield.

At end of the ramp, LEFT onto Rt. 10 for about 0.3 miles.

RIGHT onto Rt. 116 East toward Sunderland/Amherst for about 8 miles, passing through Sunderland.

Take the exit ramp for University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

At the end of the ramp, LEFT onto North Hadley St. (which becomes Massachusetts Avenue).

Now see the western part of the map on page 1.

From the North-east and East

Take Rt. 2 West (if necessary) to get to Exit 15 for Rt. 202.

Follow Rt. 202 SOUTH for approximately 16 miles.

RIGHT onto Amherst Road (large green highway sign for Amherst) for about 5 miles.

You will come to a traffic light at the corner of Amherst Rd (becomes Main St.) and North East St.

Now see the eastern part of the map on page 1.

From the South-east

Approach Amherst via Rt. 9 through Amherst.

Now see the southeastern section of the map on page 1.

From the South

I-91 North to exit 19 for Amherst, MA.

At the bottom of the ramp, RIGHT onto Rt. 9 East towards Amherst.

Proceed on Rt. 9 through the town of Hadley, for about 6 miles.

At the top of a long hill, you will come to a traffic light at the corner of Rt. 9 and South Pleasant St., with the Amherst Town Common ahead on the left.

Now proceed from the "Town Common" intersection on the map on page 1.

EDITORIAL

What with the excitement attending the impending arrival of Mr. Sibley, and since I watched the first debate last night, you will have to excuse some slight lapses in erudition this month. Hopefully there will not be too great a proliferation of literary inaptitude. With any luck, the nucleus of the newsletter will remain intact.

Oh, and by the way, there are great birds around. Gasp at the rich autumnal hues of migrating female Red-winged Blackbirds and Bobolinks! Look for the telltale flash of white wing bars in the swirling clouds of assembling blackbirds! Strain to determine the precise timbre of those geese bugling far overhead, seeking the faintest hint of a higher pitch which would suggest Snow Geese! Stretch that slight yellowness on the breast and the slightly dusky lores of a vireo to make it a Philly! This is the season of nuance and aesthetics. Luxuriate!

RENEWAL

If you have not yet renewed your membership, you will receive the tactful, yet pointed, dunning letter attached to this letter. We really need your subscription in order to fund speakers like David Sibley, and all the other activities of the club, so **PLEASE RENEW NOW**. Don't forget to sign up for the rare Bird Alert (on-line or phone tree) if that is your wont. Forms were sent in September. They are also available at the Website (www.hampshirebirdclub.org), and at the October meeting.

JUST JOINING OR RENEWING? HBC Newsletter Available On-line!

As you complete a membership form this year, please note that the club offers on-line versions of the newsletter as an alternative to the "hard copy."

"How does that work?"

The newsletter is posted on the HBC website. Participants receive an email notification, whereupon they can view and/or download the newsletter from the website at their leisure. You need to give us an email address in order to get the on-line newsletter reminder.

"What's the point?"

You can archive our publication electronically, without accumulating paper files. You reduce postage costs for HBC, which keeps dues down for all of us.

"What are the computer/software requirements?"

The newsletter will be posted on the Website in PDF format. This means you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader software (version 5.0 or later) on your system. If you do not have it already, this software is available FREE via a link at the club Website.

How do I sign up?

Please sign up in the upper right hand corner of the **Membership Form** and make sure you include your email address.

"What if I encounter technical difficulties?"

Most users last year had no difficulty. In the event that you find the system does not work for you, a simple communication with the Membership Secretary will get you back on the "Hard Copy" mailing list.

I signed up last year. Do I need to sign up again?

We ask all members to decide each year how they want to receive the newsletter. Regardless of how you got the newsletter last year, please make your choice of how to receive the newsletter this year on this year's membership form.

Your Bird Club Thanks You!

HBC WEBSITE BULLETIN BOARD

In the September newsletter we mentioned some changes and additions to the HBC website. One addition that may be of interest is the bulletin board. At present there are three sections to the bulletin board: the HBC rare bird alert archive, a less formal "what's being seen where" listing, and a give-and-take section about HBC field trips. These boards can be accessed by anyone with web access. The rare bird archive includes space for comments on the alerts (like "I saw this bird today at 7:30 in the big tree by the barn"). The more of us who use the bulletin boards, the more useful they will become, so please do. You can link to the boards from the front page of the web site, which is at www.hampshirebirdclub.org. If you have comments or suggestions about the web site, including new bulletin board topics, please send them to:

webmaster@hampshirebirdclub.org.

LIBRARY

Bill Clinton has one. George Bush Snr. has one. Ummm...the President before that has one. Some day, even G.W. will have one. More to the point, we have one!

A substantial library, that is. It is located at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst. **Henry Lappen** maintains a collection of birding resources including field- and bird-finding-guides to almost every major birding destination in the U.S., and some overseas locations, natural histories, periodicals and videos. **Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. Henry is happy to bring items to meetings, given a few days notice! Call him at **(413) 549 3722**.

FIELD TRIPS

Reports

The **New South Beach**, trip, scheduled for August 21 was rescheduled to the 28th because of threats of thunderstorms. On Saturday, **August 28**, five of us took the boat from Outermost Harbor to the southern tip of the beach, passing a huge herd of Gray Seals on the way. As in the past, the highlight of the trip was the variety of gulls, terns, and shorebirds, unequalled elsewhere in Massachusetts. We saw nineteen species of shorebirds, including our first-ever **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** (two) at New South Beach. We saw both species of **Godwit** (**Marbled** at 30 feet), and three **Whimbrel**. We also had three species of gulls, including **Parasitic Jaeger** right overhead, and a nice Lesser Black-backed Gull. There were six species of terns, including the first **Black Skimmers** (three) in years, and three **Black Terns** in various plumages. We celebrated with a hearty seafood dinner on the way home.

Bob Bieda



The sharp eyes of **Bob Bieda** and a number of others revealed a nice diversity of migrants (and, no doubt) some residents) in the **East and West Meadows** of Northampton on **September 12**. The trip began auspiciously with absurdly close looks at an immature Bald eagle on a power pole near the Ibis Pool. Assorted (and confusing) Fall Warblers included Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided-, Magnolia-, Prairie-, and Blackpoll Warblers, as well as American Redstart and lots of post-breeding Common Yellowthroats. There were several groups of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (unusually communal) and a nice Scarlet Tanager. Swamp Sparrows and Indigo Buntings were already showing up in migration.

Mike Locher

Coming Trips

Please register with the trip leader(s) and check this schedule's information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher-413-585-5864, mlocher@yahoo.com) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders. The Hampshire Bird Club recommends carpooling whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of \$0.30 per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (in the October newsletter or on the Website).

Friday-Monday, October 8-11. Cape May, New Jersey. Overnight. Scott Sumner travels to Cape May to intercept southbound migrants. Space is limited, so contact Scott (413-253-5983) to reserve your spot. This trip is limited to members of the Hampshire Bird Club. (M)

Wednesday, October 20. Mid-week Sweep of the Connecticut Valley. Meet opposite Atkins Farm, corner Rt. 116 and Bay Rd. in Amherst. Call Harvey Allen: 253 7963, for meeting time

Saturday, October 16. Coastal Rhode Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron goes to the coast of Rhode Island to find migrants and lingering shorebirds. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) for details and meeting information. (M)

Saturday, October 23. Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Vermont. All day. Either Al Richards or Mike Locher will lead this trip to southern Lake Champlain to see hundreds of Snow Geese, and maybe a few Ross's Geese and other seasonal specialties. Look for information in the October newsletter or call Mike (413-585-5864) for information. (M)

Sunday, November 7. Berkshire Lakes. All day. Tom Gagnon leads his annual trip to the lakes and ponds of the Berkshires in search of migrating waterfowl. Bring snacks, warm clothing, and a lunch. Meet at the Super Stop and Shop on King St. (Routes 5 and 10) in Northampton at 6:30 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) to register or for further information. (M)

CHRISTMAS COUNT, 2004

Now that you can tell a Downy from a Hairy in driving rain (or not!), here is an opportunity to contribute to one of the longest-running databases in ornithology. Birders all over the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and Pacific Islands contribute to an annual census of birds in their local areas, the results of which are collated internationally. Last year's Northampton count recorded historical high counts for Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl, and Saw-whet Owl. In addition, there were a Baltimore Oriole and a count-week Long-eared Owl.

This is perhaps the most communal birding activity. The Northampton and Quabbin circles are divided up into smaller areas, each counted by an experienced leader or leaders, with assistants. Groups plan who will participate, for how long, and how to divide up the count area. To take part, all you really need is a willingness to cope with the vagaries of December birding, and a willingness to count everything in a scientific manner. The coordinators can hook you up with a team that needs members in your area. Both local counts culminate in a compilation session during which those still standing come together to pool results. The sense of camaraderie and shared purpose is palpable and rarely equaled in birding!

Mark These Dates!

Northampton Count: Sunday, December 19

Quabbin Count: To Be Announced.

For further information, watch coming newsletters, or contact Jan Ortiz (413 549 1768; jtortiz@aol.com, Northampton Count) and Scott Surner (413 253 5999; ssurner@aol.com, Quabbin Count)

CONSERVATION

*If you are interested in conservation of birds and birding habitat, you may like to share information and effort with others in the club. **Anne Lombard** is our **Conservation Chair**. She is looking for ideas on how we can contribute to the conservation of species in our area. Contact her at (413) 586 7509, or aslombard@comcast.net*

Project INSPIRE

Hampshire Bird Club is happy to announce its participation in Project INSPIRE: an initiative to promote outdoor recreational activities that are accessible to everyone. This program funded by the US Dept. of Ed. and a partnership between the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and the Universal Access Program and All Out Adventures, Inc. is initiating its three-year grant with a focus on birding.

As we all know, birding is a multi-dimensional experience, and it can be enjoyed at many levels. Our participation in this program gives us the opportunity to introduce a pastime that we are passionate about to another segment of the community and to share our enthusiasm and knowledge with them. HBC's involvement can range from noting the accessibility of existing walks and trips to people with disabilities to designing specific activities for people with physical or cognitive disabilities.

If you would like more information about Project INSPIRE or are interested in attending training sessions to lead or co-lead inclusive walks contact Jan Ortiz at (413)-549-1768 or jtortiz@aol.com.

BOUTIQUE

If you have any financial instruments which are not completely maxed out, you might want to bring them to the October meeting. The boutique will be stocked with **new t-shirts in new colors** - stonewashed blue, khaki, and cactus green - at the October meeting. Sizes available range from Small to Extra, Extra Large. T-shirts cost \$10. Grey sweatshirts will also be available for \$20. Don't miss out!

HITCHCOCK CENTER

DEHYDRATING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: Sharon Gensler, Homesteader Extraordinaire
Sunday, October 17, 1 - 3 p.m.

ART, WRITING AND THE NATURAL WORLD; Rema Boscov, Artist, Poet, Writer
Saturdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

STORIES FROM WHERE WE LIVE: A READING OF NATURE POETRY WITH WALLY SWIST:
Wally Swist, Poet
Sunday, October 10, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE: BATS! John Foster, New England Naturalist Training Center
Monday, October 25, 7 p.m.

MOOSE MEANDER: Alan Emond, Little Cree Spy Excursions, Tracker
Sunday, November 7, 1 - 5 p.m.

SENIOR HIKES: Jennifer Wiest and Guest Leaders
Tuesday, October 26, 10 a.m.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Backyard Birds (on Strong St. in Northampton) offers a wide range of birding books, audio resources, gifts, feeders, and other paraphernalia. They also offer a 10% discount to Hampshire Bird Club Members. Remember, when you shop locally, your money stays here!

Broad Brook Coalition

Bird walk at Fitzgerald Lake with Bob Packard: October 9 at 7 AM. Use the Moose Lodge entrance off Cooke Avenue above the Northampton Walmart.

That's all for this month!
Until next time, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor
(413) 529 9541
newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Following are the ***Field Trip Policy, Guidelines for Participants in Field Trips***, and the ***ABA Guide to Birding Ethics***

**FIELD TRIP POLICY: 2004-2005
HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. 9/12/03**

1. Field trips are an essential activity of the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC). They are an important way to increase members' interest in and knowledge of birds, birding, and bird habitat. Field trips are announced in the HBC newsletter, on the website and at monthly meetings.
2. Each year, all HBC members are asked to sign the HBC Release Form. Minor children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or another adult who has written authorization to be responsible for the child's care and conduct. Please request a form from HBC if you want to authorize another adult to accompany your child.
- 3 The HBC conducts two different types of field trips: Day Trips and Overnight Trips.

Day Trips are planned by the Field Trip Committee, who prepare the schedule and select leaders. Day Trips generally do not require extensive planning by the trip leader. No costs other than travel (see #4 below), meals, and incidental fees will be involved. If requested to do so in the newsletter, participants must call the trip leader in advance to express interest in the trip. This allows the leader more flexibility and the opportunity to change the trip itinerary should that seem desirable. Day trips are open to both HBC members and non-members unless restricted to members by the host site.

Overnight Trips (2 or more days, reasonable driving distance) are planned by the Field Trip Committee and approved by the HBC Board at least 3 months in advance (see #5 below). Such trips generally require more planning by the trip leader, including, for example, arranging for lodging and travel. Participants will be charged an amount equal to actual predetermined costs (including liability insurance) plus a prorated amount to cover reimbursement of the leader's expenses (see #5 below). All fees, including the trip deposit, shall be paid to the HBC Treasurer. If a participant needs to cancel, fees (less a 10% processing fee) will be refunded subject to the conditions outlined in the trip description. Any excess fees remaining after costs have been met will be refunded, unless they are less than ten dollars per person, in which case they will revert to the HBC treasury. Overnight trips are open to only HBC members who have signed a release form and who have completed a medical information form.

4. The HBC Board recommends that passengers reimburse owners of vehicles used on HBC trips for costs associated with vehicle operation. Recommended reimbursement is currently set at \$.30/mile plus tolls and parking to be shared equally by all persons in the car including the driver. The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making carpool arrangements.
5. Leaders of Overnight Trips shall:
 - a. Submit a trip plan to the Field Trip Committee, which must be approved by the Board at least 3 months in advance of the trip. The plan should describe in writing the nature of the trip as completely as possible. Include an itinerary, estimated cost, conditions of lodging and lead time needed for reservations, roughness of terrain, pace of the trip, extra costs not covered by the fee, date of deposit and final payment, date after which fee is not refundable, and provide a list of any specialized items that participants should take on the trip. Repeat trips lead by the same leader need only submit necessary changes to the previous plan. The Board can waive the 3-month planning time if there is a special birding opportunity.
 - b. Consult with the membership secretary before the trip to make sure that all participants have signed the HBC Release Form.
 - c. Be reimbursed for all costs associated with planning (i.e. long-distance calls, postage), lodging, and transportation during the trip.
 - d. Upon return, provide the HBC Board with an itemized account of all income and expenses related to the trip including receipts for major expenses.
6. The Field Trip Chair will send all participants in overnight trips the Field Trip Evaluation Form. The completed forms, to be returned to the Field Trip Chair, will help the Field Trip Committee plan future trips and provide feedback for leaders.
7. Leaders of both Day and Overnight Trips are asked to submit a Trip Highlights Report to the newsletter editor for publication in the next HBC newsletter.
8. HBC may ask professional bird touring organization to organize trips further away than the Overnight Trips. All responsibilities for planning the trip and all liability will be assumed by the touring organization. Such trips must be approved by the Board at least 6 months in advance.
 9. Trips not sponsored by the Club: As a courtesy to its members, HBC will announce birding trips organized by members or other organizations, but not sponsored by the club. Such announcements will be made in the newsletter (on a space available basis) and at meetings and HBC will assume no other responsibility for such trips.

**Field Trip Guidelines for New Field Trip Participants and Drivers: 2004-2005
Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**

Field trips are one of the best ways to help the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC) achieve its purpose: "to help its members and the general public enjoy birding and to educate them about birds, bird watching and bird habitats."

While these Guidelines are written primarily for new HBC Participants and Drivers, we hope that everyone will review this document, the ABA's Principles of Birding Ethics, the HBC Field Trip Policy, and the HBC Release Form.

All Participants:

1. Most trips described in the newsletter ask you to call the trip leader in advance. Please do so. It helps the leader plan the trip and you learn about any special arrangements or any change of plans.
2. Check with the leader before bringing children on a trip. Many of the trips are not appropriate for children. (All minor children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or an adult who has written authorization to be responsible for the child's care and conduct. See the Field Trip Policy for more information.)
3. All HBC members are asked to sign the HBC Release Form each year. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the Membership Secretary.
4. Be on time at the meeting place. If you plan to leave the trip early, you must inform the leader in advance.
5. Be prepared with binoculars, appropriate clothing (including protection from ticks), food and water. Assume the weather will be more extreme on the trip than at home and prepare accordingly.
6. Do not bring pets.
7. HBC encourages participants to carpool, both to reduce the environmental impact of the trip and to make the trip as safe as possible for all participants. We ask that the cost (presently \$.30/mile plus tolls and parking) be shared equally among the driver and all passengers. You should estimate the probable cost of the trip so that you will be able to reimburse the driver at the end of the trip. The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making carpool arrangements.
8. HBC always encourages new birders to participate in trips. It is the responsibility of all trip members, leader and participants, to help new birders learn both identification techniques and bird observing skills.
9. All participants are responsible for their own safety. Use common sense if you feel that any part of the trip is too arduous for you. Always check with the trip leader if you have any questions or medical concerns about the trip.

Drivers:

1. It is the responsibility of the car owner to meet all registration, insurance, and inspection regulations.
2. Please fill up your tank before the trip and set your odometer at the beginning of the trip.
3. If the trip is going to caravan, follow common sense rules to make sure no one is put in danger or lost.
 - Stay in the same order so that you know which car is in front of you and which car is behind you.
 - If the car behind you is stopped by a light, pull safely to the side of the road so that you can wait until that car catches up.
 - If you are driving the car or cars catching up with the group, slow down so that the lead/stopped cars can pull in front of you.
 - It is a good idea for all caravan drivers to have their lights on.
4. Always have a description of the next major stop from the trip leader so that, should the caravan become separated, you can join the group at the next major stop.

American Birding Association's
PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practise common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a **Group Member**.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practises this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE AND DISTRIBUTE AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS