



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 24, No. 2

October, 2007

Mother Earth, here in New England, is about to assume her earth-toned fall plumage. Earth-toned (or less complimentary descriptors) can also be attached to the fall migrants who are wending their way south through the crisp dark of night, or the last thermals of a dieing summer. It is a time to revel in crisp mornings, dun-colored weeds in quiet fields, fall warblers, sparrows, hawks and the promise of waterfowl to come.

Please note that this on-line version of the newsletter has the following documents included with it, so you will not have to navigate through a multitude of links: HBC Field Trip Guidelines, HBC Field Trip Policy, and HBC Directory (contact list for board and officers). Hope this is helpful DPJ

Please Renew Your Membership NOW (if you haven't already)!

Memberships are due by October 31, and this is the last complimentary newsletter we will be sending. Membership forms can be downloaded from www.hampshirebirdclub.org if you lost the nice tan-colored one we sent in September. New members who joined after January 1, 2006 do not need to pay dues this year. Don't forget that we are seeking funds to begin organizing events for the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations in 2008-2009. Your contribution can be recorded on and sent in with your membership form and dues.

On-Line Newsletter

The club offers an on-line (or "electronic") version of the newsletter, as an alternative to the "hard copy" delivered via USPS.

"How does that work?"

All members get the first two newsletters as a hard copy owing to the large number of forms we need to send you. The eight editions coming after the October edition are 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 on the membership form in order to get the on-line version.

"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 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.

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?

Sign up in the upper right hand corner of the Membership Form.

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. Thank you!!

PROGRAMS

Monday, October 15 at 7:30 PM

John Van de Graaff shows us **Birds Across Europe: A Photographer's Odyssey**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

This digital slide show covers an extensive swath of Europe: from Spain (John's earliest bird-photo trip, in 2001) through France to England, and northeasterly to Estonia (May 2007). The presentation includes such continent-wide species as (for example) White Storks, Common Cranes, Wagtails, Chaffinches, European Robins, and Common Buzzards. There are vivid portrayals of many other species as well, showing both the birds themselves and their habitats.

A native of Boston, **John Van de Graaff** has been photographing birds virtually full-time since 2001 and particularly enjoys traveling in Europe, especially France. He migrated from New York City to Northampton in 2003 with his wife Marylee Bomboy. John has made presentations to a number of birding and photography groups including several major bird clubs in Massachusetts. A widely-attended exhibition of his bird photos appeared at the Burnett Gallery in Amherst this past July, and a smaller selection appeared during September at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on Cape Cod. His Painted Bunting appeared on the June 2006 cover of *Birder's World* magazine. He has photographed extensively on the Massachusetts coast, capturing images which have been used by Mass Audubon to support their IBA and Coastal Waterbird Programs. John's website is easily remembered: www.birdsbyjohn.com.

Coming Programs

November 12, 2007. **Susan Russo**. The Conte Refuge and Discovery Center

December 10, 2007. **Members Meeting**

January 14, 2008. **Don Kroodsmma**. More Fun With Bird Song: Local Heroes

MORE REMINDERS

Rare Bird Alert

If you want to be part of the Rare Bird Alert (now via email only), please send the form in with your membership, turn in at the October meeting or to the club at P.O. 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716. The RBA will go into operation around October 15, so get your application form in before then to be part of the first contact list. The RBA form, if yours got shredded by the USPS in September, is also available at www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Twenty Fifth Anniversary Celebration Survey

The committee, headed by Shirley Hammerschmith, is busily gathering, filtering, and developing ideas for this still-nascent event. Please let your ideas be heard by completing and bringing the salmon-colored survey to the October meeting, or mailing it to Shirley as indicated on the form.

Welcome New Members!

Christopher Benning and Lana Fiala, Amherst	Paul and Susan Laliberte, Easthampton
Bryan Bridges, Easthampton	Deborah Levy, Northampton
Cindy Chamberland, Easthampton	Marianna McKim, Northampton
Sara Griesemer, Sunderland	Jeff Rankin, Florence
Robert and Susan Jones, Monson	Barbara Snook, Westhampton

Interesting to see a majority from the better side of the river!

FIELD TRIPS

Reports

Westover Air Force Base. Saturday, June 2 with Bob Bieda

Highlights included the following:

10 Upland Sandpipers - pair with a newly hatched chick	8 Savannah Sparrows
1 Chimney Swift carrying a small stick	10 Grasshopper Sparrows - carrying food, entering nest sites
2 Willow Flycatchers	Bobolink - many
2 Horned Larks - juveniles hatched this year	6 Eastern Meadowlarks
2 Prairie Warblers	2 Orchard Orioles
2 Field Sparrows	

Also our annual walk through a cranberry bog that is rapidly being lost to invasive plants.

Bruce Hart

Connecticut Lakes. June 22-24 with Mike Locher and David Peake-Jones

Participants (in order of edibility to black flies): David Gross, Julie Gross, Betsy Higgins, Isabel Higgins, Mike Locher, Marcia Merithew, Joanne Parker, Lou Peugh, David Peake-Jones, Ed Olmstead.

Auxiliary: Elizabeth McAnulty, Bob Wilce.

Surrogate Bird Finders: Tom Gagnon and Bruce Callahan

After assembling at Powderhorn Lodge early on Friday afternoon, we leapt right into the fray by traveling out along Indian Stream road, which runs just a few miles inside the Canadian border. Conditions were cool and breezy. In no time, we picked up a Winter Wren singing in the dense undergrowth on the outskirts of Pittsburg, along with breeding Magnolia and other warblers. A lone Hooded Merganser prowled the snags of Muddy Pond, and a Belted Kingfisher chattered along the shore. Going further, we quickly became immersed in the world of boreal breeding birds. Least and Alder Flycatchers were abundant, along with Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Cedar Waxwings. Swamp Sparrows and a Northern Waterthrush sang from the marshy environments of the stream. Breeding Dark-eyed Juncoes and Northern Parulas were everywhere, and the song of the north woods was definitely that of the White-throated Sparrow. As we continued along the road, the first car flushed a female **Ruffed Grouse with young** from the roadside ditch, all of whom were seen nicely by those in the car behind as they scuttled off into the undergrowth.

During the evening hours we went looking for moose along Moose Alley. Both cars, though we ended up separated, were successful. We enjoyed a hearty dinner at the local restaurant, and went to bed with loons calling from Back Lake.

On Saturday morning, acting on intelligence from Tom Gagnon, also staying at the Lodge, we headed toward East Inlet to look for a Black-backed Woodpecker. At the bridge near the head of second Connecticut Lake, we came across a MassAudubon group looking at a boisterous group of **Gray Jays** right by the road, which gave us great looks. We proceeded down Scotts Bog road to the reported Woodpecker location, pausing for a family group of **American Woodcock** who bobbed their way enchantingly across the road. Even as we approached the parking area by the outlet of the bog, we saw another moose beating a dignified retreat through the swampy vegetation. This was probably the same animal which swam across Scott's Bog a few minutes later. As we disembarked from the cars, we could hardly have failed to see the two woodpeckers flying back and forth from the surrounding woods to a nest hole about five feet off the ground in open view. The black backs of both birds were unmistakable and one had a bright pastel-yellow head. They were indeed one of the signature birds of the region: **Black-backed Woodpeckers**. Shivering in the driving winds blowing off Scott's Bog, we watched these birds for about half an hour before leaving to search the length of the Scott's Bog Road. We were impeded by strong winds, which obscured all sight and sound of birds, but we were able to locate singing Wilson's and Canada warblers during the morning. Later in the afternoon, after a period of regenerative rest, we set off along Day Road. With the wind having died some, this proved to be one of our best locations. We found an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** foraging from a high dead tree, and several wonderful clusters of mixed songbirds, which included the elusive **Boreal Chickadee**, along with **Pine Siskin**, Blackburnian Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and singing Purple Finch.

Sunday dawned perhaps too clear and sunny for optimum birding, but we found **Cliff Swallows** nesting at the Lake Francis dam, and observed another swimming moose, this one crossing the substantial expanse of Lake Francis, in which effort it was engaged for about fifteen minutes. Proceeding along a logging road from Lake Francis, Betsy's sharp ears

picked up a Mourning Warbler singing by the roadside. This bird flashed in and out of view for well over half an hour, allowing Marcia to add it to her life list with more than a clear conscience. The birds quickly went silent in the clear morning sun, allowing the butterflyers amongst us to browse the offerings amongst the roadside wildflowers, while the rest of us had to be content with a family of Eastern Phoebes lining up along a branch to be fed. After a compilation and picnic lunch at the Lake Francis State Park, we set off for home.

David Peake-Jones

New South Beach. Saturday, July 28 with David Peake-Jones.

Geoff LeBaron, Elaine Pourinski, and David Peake-Jones (participants in order of increasing susceptibility to greenheads) alighted on the fog-enshrouded tip of the beach after an agonizingly slow boat ride through the fickle shoals of the Monomoy channel. As always, as our feet found the sand and our ears and eyes adjusted to the glare of the beach, we slipped effortlessly into the milieu of the mud. For the next few hours we would pick our way amongst a beautiful array of shorebirds. We were, no doubt, oblivious to the subtleties of water and worms that govern their lives, but content to bear witness to the miracle of their migration just for a moment.

Black-bellied Plovers stood, enigmatic as ever, apparently ignoring the dainty dancing of Greater- and Lesser Yellowlegs in the shallows. **Hudsonian Godwits** – we counted a conservative 44 of them this year – fossicked among hordes of Willet and Short-billed Dowitchers, betraying themselves by their beautiful chestnut breasts, subtle size difference, and, of course, those gorgeous bills. We were delighted to find a **Marbled Godwit** leading an unassuming life amongst its more common cousins. On the drier sands, the constant scurry and chirrup of a moving carpet of Semi-palmated Plovers, Least- and Semi-palmated Sandpipers soon challenged our willingness to sort through them for rarities. However, the masses did give up a beautiful **Dunlin**. Better yet, having prophesied the possibility of a trans-continental visitor amongst the semi-palmated herd, Geoff managed to locate a **Western Sandpiper** in almost full breeding plumage.

In our all-too-frequent detours away from the fractious birds at the shoreline into the abrasive world of the beach grass, we came across three Whimbrel, a Salt-marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and the most unbearably cute family of Piping Plovers, whose brethren were encouragingly common on the shore. Overhead, Common and Least Terns pursued their fishy errands, as yet unaccompanied by the dispersing Roseate Terns and rarer species that Bob will no doubt document in August. Amongst the massed gulls on the sand, we found a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** trying to remain anonymous.

Even the possibility of rarities pales for me beside the true wonder of this time of year on South Beach. Amongst the extremes of shorebird physiognomy on display are several hundred rather dumpy birds, with unremarkable bills, whose only claim to fashion sense comes from the pastel apricot of their breasts. These are a good proportion of the embattled eastern race of the **Red Knot**, perhaps the most endangered shore bird on the beach. I, for one, said a silent prayer that each of these, and ultimately, a healthy population of their kind, may once again find horseshoes crabs massed on the beaches of Delaware Bay next spring. Having been doused with a bracing sprinkle from the flanks of a passing mid-afternoon rainstorm, we reluctantly made our way to the pick-up point, to relinquish our place among the shorebirds, at least for this July.

David Peake-Jones

New South Beach II. Saturday, August 25, 2007 with Bob Bieda

Bob Bieda led a group of 9 HBC birders to the islands off Chatham and delivered all of the target species as advertised. It was a warm, sunny day with a steady breeze from the south. After a short boating commute via Outermost Adventures, the group landed at the south tip of the island for a northward day-hike along the beach through large numbers of shorebirds, gulls and terns.

Just before the boat reached shore, a **Black Tern** flew directly toward our boat, providing views that were so close that we had to put down the binoculars and resort to the naked eye. Other terns seen throughout the day included **Common, Least, Roseate** and **Forster's**. We had great opportunities to observe **Semipalmated, Black-bellied and Piping Plovers, Sanderlings, Dunlin, and Semipalmated, White-rumped and Least Sandpipers**. The highlight for most of us was the **Curlew Sandpiper**. It was initially difficult to find and some of us were getting restless with the thought of a possible miss. But it was ultimately picked out of the pack with a long scope as a “dowitcher with a distinctly different feeding behavior”. Closer inspection provided excellent views of this life bird for several of us. We also had a nice comparative study of eastern and western **Willetts**, along with a reminder of the challenges of fall peep plumages as we watched a Western Sandpiper with a group of Semipalmateds all morph into a flock of White-rumped Sandpipers when flushed! A

nice mix of **Short-billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits, American Oystercatchers, Red Knots and Whimbrels** rounded out the beautiful day on the beach.

After a “refreshing” boat ride through the salt spray back to the Chatham dock, we retired to the Kreme N Kone to sample the local fare and tallied about 45 species for the day.

Dave Mako

Goat Peak Hawkwatches. Friday, September 14 and Monday, September 17 with Tom Gagnon.

On the 14th, the highlights were close looks at a couple of hundred Broad-winged Hawks, six (6) Coopers Hawks, thirty three (33) Sharp-shinned Hawks and a Northern Goshawk. In addition, three (3) Merlin flashed by and nine (9) Osprey loped past the tower.

However, the real fireworks happened on the 17th, when **3685 Broad-winged Hawks** swirled past in a series of elegant and stupendous kettles! Not to be content with this, Tom and Larry Therrien managed to locate a **Connecticut Warbler** in the Red Maple swamp at Arcadia, just for good measure!

Tom Gagnon

On Sunday, September 30, Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien led a trip into the magical interior of the Quabbin. Amongst the 61 species of birds they encountered were a **Northern Goshawk** (unfortunately seen by only a lucky few), a **Greater Yellowlegs**, three **Bald Eagles**, and a fine showing of **Swainson’s Thrushes**. Hidden innocuously in Larry’s on-line trip summary is the following entry: “White-throated Sparrow: 220.” Also of note were nine species of warblers, including abundant Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers. The undoubted highlight was a superb **bull moose**, which remained in view for seven or eight minutes.

Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien

Coming Trips

Please see also the Fall Field Trip Schedule, 2007

Saturday, October 13. Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area: Snow Geese.

All day. Al Richards will lead birders to the annual spectacle of thousands of Snow Geese (and a Ross’s Goose or two, with any luck) fueling up for their migration, then explores the shore of Lake Champlain. Call Al (413-665-2761) to register and get meeting information. (E)

Saturday, October 27. Coastal Rhode Island. All day. Join Geoff LeBaron on this trip to Rhode Island to find the birds along the coast. For meeting information and further details, call Geoff (413-2689281) as the date approaches. (E)

Sunday, November 4. Berkshire Lakes: Migrating Waterfowl. All day. Tom Gagnon leads participants to the lakes and ponds of western Massachusetts for ducks and other migrating waterfowl. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King St.) at 6:15 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) to register and for further details. (M)

Where Are They Now?

Several of our members appear to have moved without leaving a forwarding address, presumably to avoid receiving the newsletter. Well, not so fast! If anyone knows where these good members are, please notify the Membership Secretary, Sue Emerson: membership@hampshirebirdclub.org, 584 6736

Mary McDermott, formerly of Northampton
Anne and Robert Grose, formerly of Amherst
Mary Schneider, formerly of Belchertown

Thanks, HBC.

LIBRARY

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HBC has a substantial library, located at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst.

Hours are those of the Hitchcock Center:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday, and

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The collection is catalogued on-line at www.hampshirebirdclub.org.

The library contains birding resources in various media, including field guides, bird-finding guides to almost every major birding destination in the U.S., and overseas, natural histories, periodicals and videos. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. Henry Lappen, the librarian, is happy to bring items to meetings, if you give him a few days in advance. You can reach him at **(413) 549 3722**.

“Valley Land Fund” has a New Logo and Website!!

Valley Land Fund, a local land trust, has revamped their logo and launched a new Web site at valleylandfund.org. Working with Nancy Haver, a well-known local artist in the Pioneer Valley, the new logo is a visual image which truly represents the beauty of our valley and the goals of VLF. Incorporating Forest, Field, Wetland, and Wildlife Habitat, the new logo reflects the preservation focus of VLF. The Web-site features a slide show of the Valley and has extensive information on VLF and land preservation. The new site represents seven months of care and effort with web-designer Brit Albritton.

Founded in 1986 and serving Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin counties, the trust has saved over 8,000 acres from development. Among the special places already protected by Valley Land Fund are 160 acres on Mt. Toby in Leverett and Sunderland, 100 acres of the Holyoke Range sheltering six rare animal species, 148 acres on Lake Fitzgerald in Northampton, 180 acres of farmland in Montague, 118 acres of floodplain in Longmeadow, and 300 acres adjoining wildlife in Chesterfield. At valleylandfund.org, users can view many other past land projects, as well as pending projects. The site also features “Landowner Q & A” to help landowners interested in protecting their land from development.

The mission of Valley Land Fund is to protect threatened forests, farms, wetland, and wildlife habitat in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts. Collaborating with local communities, conservation groups, and government organizations, we provide loans, grants, and technical support to help preserve our special places for future generations.

John Body, President of the Board of Directors, can be reached at info@valleyfund.org.

Tom and Bill in Print

For those of you dabbling in butterflies, we are pleased to announce that two of our members have recently published a paper in the field.

Tom Gagnon and Bill Benner wrote one of the articles in the “Definite Destinations” series, presented in the journal “*American Butterflies*.” It is entitled “**The Mt Greylock State Reservation**,” and appears in the Spring-Summer 2007 edition of the journal. Congratulations. Tom and Bill!!

Because of shortage of space we cannot include program information from Hitchcock, Arcadia, and the Turner’s Falls Discovery Center. Our apologies!

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

(413) 529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

**Field Trip Guidelines for New Field Trip Participants and Drivers: 2007-2008
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 \$0.40/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.

FIELD TRIP POLICY: 2007-2008
HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. 9/27/2006

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. The maximum recommended reimbursement (currently \$0.40 cents per mile) is the federal government employee mileage reimbursement rate, rounded down to the nearest 10 cents, 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 and obtain a signed Medical Information Form from each participant.
 - c. Be reimbursed for all costs associated with planning (i.e. long-distance calls, postage), lodging, and transportation during the trip. The maximum reimbursement for automobile travel shall be one quarter of the costs incurred by a single vehicle under clause 4 of this policy.
 - 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 and a Medical Information Form. The completed evaluation form, to be returned to the Field Trip Chair, will help the Field Trip Committee plan future trips and provide feedback for leaders. Participants should give their signed Medical Information form to the trip leader prior to departure.
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.

HBC Directory October, 2007

President - *David Gross*: (413) 253 2897; president@hampshirebirdclub.org

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