



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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September, 2007

Fall is approaching. In the minds of birds - the post-breeding adults and developing juveniles alike - an impulse is coalescing that will eventually become an irrepressible and unrelenting sense of purpose. Birds are moving! This fall, we will sample the migration across the length and breadth of New England: from the September thickets of the valley to the bracing expanses of the Lake Champlain farmlands. We'll go on into the winter, and be ready again when spring brings birds back to us again!

We hope you will join us for superb field trips and some of the presentations in our widely-respected monthly program series. To help you further, we have a library, located at the Hitchcock Center and cataloged on-line, and we participate in bird conservation in the local area, particularly in collaboration with the national and state Audubon societies, and the Hitchcock Center in Amherst.

Mind you, none of this is possible if you do not renew! Memberships are our major financial engine, and it is through numbers that we gain our strength. This year, we have decided upon a modest increase in dues, which will help defray increasing costs for postage, speakers, and to help us purchase the ever-more-complex technologies required to bring the best speakers to the club. We hope you will agree it is worth it!

In this issue:

- an introduction to this month's program, and the program schedule for the year,
- the Membership Form (due in by September 30) and Rare Bird Alert sign-up (due by October 15) for 2007-2008,
- the fall field trip schedule, and
- a survey for the 25th anniversary committee, to help plan for this event in 2008-2009.

I hope you find some of it useful.

Please renew your membership NOW or at the September program!

PROGRAMS

Monday, September 10 at 7:30 PM

Larry Hott speaks about The Making of "American Masters. John James Audubon: Drawn From Nature"

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

John James Audubon, whose name has become synonymous with conservation in North America, created the largest and most beautiful book of the nineteenth century: "Birds of America". Few people, and certainly few birders, could fail to associate most of these 435 illustrations of birds with their progenitor, but equally, few know the details of his extraordinary, tempestuous, and ultimately tragic life.

The documentary film "*American Masters. John James Audubon: Drawn from Nature*" had its world premiere in Northampton earlier this year, and aired on PBS on July 25. Larry Hott directed this exquisite film, and promises to give us an inside look at its making.

Lawrence R. Hott has been producing nationally-acclaimed documentary films since 1978, when he left the practice of law to join Florentine Films, based in Northampton, Massachusetts. Mr. Hott was a Fulbright Scholar in Film and Television in the UK, and has been widely recognized for his broad contributions to journalism, film, the humanities, and non-fiction writing. Larry has made twenty-one other films for national PBS broadcast, including (recently) *Imagining Robert: My Brother, Madness and Survival*, and *The Harriman Alaska Expedition Retraced*.

Coming Programs

October 15, 2007. John Van de Graaff. Birds Across Europe: A Photographer's Odyssey

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

December 10, 2007. Members Meeting

January 14, 2008. Don Kroodsma. Bicycle Trip 2

February 11, 2008. Ed Neumuth. Palmyra Atoll Research

March 10, 2008. Scottt Hecker. NAS Coastal Waterbird Program

April 14, 2008. Chris Elphick. Sharp-tailed Sparrow Nesting

May 12, 2008. Rob Williams. Avian Endemism in Peru

June 2008. Bruce Beehler. Foja, New Guinea Expeditions

The 25th Anniversary Committee Needs your Help!

The committee is beginning the planning process for this anniversary, which occurs during 2008-2009, and to do this, they need your ideas. The committee has compiled a survey, which will help you provide your ideas on what you would want to see as part of the 25th celebration. The survey is up on the web at

www.hampshirebirdclub.org.

Please do one of the following:

- **download and complete the survey and bring it to the September meeting, *or***
- **come a few minutes early to the September meeting.** We'll have more paper surveys there and writing implements.

HBC NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON-LINE

On the annual membership form, we ask you to choose between two versions of the HBC 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. If you choose the 'On-line' option, you will receive an email notification, whereupon you can view and/or download the newsletter from the website at your 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. You also reduce the labor involved in assembling and mailing the hard copies.

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!!

That's all for this month. More from the bird club in late September!

Until then, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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RELEASE FORM: 2007-2008

Please complete the release form below if you intend to go on field trips or think you might participate in the future. We need members to share responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others during field trips. The signed release will be filed with the club secretary. For family memberships, all participating members should sign.

RELEASE OF ALL DEMANDS - HOLD HARMLESS

I hereby acknowledge that as a participant in field trips with the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC) I may be exposed to significant risks. These may include, but are not limited to, vehicular travel over land and water, foot travel over difficult terrain, and hazardous weather conditions. I may also encounter poisonous plants, dangerous wildlife, and/or disease-carrying insects. In the event of injury, I understand that I may face considerable delays in reaching professional medical help.

I fully accept these risks and agree to hold the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc., its officers, directors, volunteers, employees, and agents free from any and all liability for injuries and/or loss which I may incur, directly or indirectly, while on field trips run by HBC during the 2007-2008 membership year.

EXECUTED freely and voluntarily this day:.....,,

(month) (day) (year)

.....
(Signatures of all participating family members)

Please print names:

HBC Rare Bird Alert: Where Are the Birds Today?

All of us are interested in knowing what birds are in our area each day. We do this by:

- birding
- talking with other birders
- calling the Voice of Audubon or reading "The Voice" in the newspaper
- checking the Web
- joining the Rare Bird Alert (for those interested in unusual species)

To check The Voice of Audubon:

Call toll free **1-781 259 8805**

Follow the directions (press 2 to listen to Seth Kellogg, the Western Mass voice). Seth updates The Voice once a week - more often when necessary - so check regularly. (Thanks to Trudy Tynan, the transcript also appears weekly in most of our local papers.)

To share local sightings with other valley birders via email:

You may wish to join the Allen Bird Club "*Bird News of Western Massachusetts*" network. To join, email Seth Kellogg at skhawk@comcast.net

To check various sources on the web:

Go to the HBC website: www.hampshirebirdclub.org. From the **Related Links** section on the Home Page, you can go to **the Voice** and/or to **Massbird**

To join the HBC Rare Bird Alert (RBA).

This operates by email ONLY. You will need at least one active email address. Fill in the form below and return (perhaps with your membership form) **by Monday, October 15**. You may turn the form in at the September/October meetings, if you like.

Date: _____

Rare Bird Alert (RBA) Form: 2007-2008

Name(s): _____

You may provide as many email addresses as you like (within reason, please). Participants automatically receive all RBA announcements.

email address/es (1) _____

(2) _____