



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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www.hampshirebirdclub.org

It is nearly June. The spring migration is winding down, the Atlas is getting into full swing, the club's twenty-fifth anniversary is coming to its official end, and the fall migration begins next month! After June 8, there are no further programs till September, but there are several field trips happening over the summer, and the fall migration begins in late July!

In this edition:

- an introduction to this month's **program**,
- **field trip reports** and the **summer field trips**,
- the **Peterson shorebirding workshop and field trip** (part of the 25th anniversary celebration),
- **last chance** to sign up for the **anniversary potluck**,
- **Hitchcock summer offerings**, and a few other tidbits.

I hope you find some of it useful!

Please note that pre-registration IS required for the Peterson Shorebirding Workshop (on August 12). Details on page 4.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, June 8 at 7:30 PM

Kenn Kaufman soars on *Wings of the Imagination: Why We Need Birds*

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

If you're reading this, you probably realize already that birds are wonderful and amazing. You may even take it for granted that birds are an important part of our world. But how do you communicate that point to the uninitiated? In this wide-ranging talk, Kenn Kaufman draws on his experiences to deliver a series of examples of the reasons why we really NEED birds. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you may get annoyed and leave the room, but you won't fall asleep during this presentation. And if you happen to be one of those who doesn't yet realize that we need birds, we challenge you to come to this talk and see if you aren't convinced by the end.

In 2008 **Kenn Kaufman** received the American Birding Association's Roger Tory Peterson Award for a lifetime of promoting the cause of birding, although, as he points out, he isn't finished yet. Kenn burst onto the birding scene as a teenager, hitch-hiking around North America in pursuit of birds, and has gone on to travel and lead birding tours on all seven continents. He is a field editor for Audubon and a contributor to every major birding magazine. Most of his time, however, has gone into writing books such as *Kingbird Highway*, *Flights Against the Sunset*, *Lives of North American Birds*, and the *Peterson Guide to Advanced Birding*. His own *Kaufman Field Guide* series now includes volumes on birds (in English and Spanish), butterflies, mammals, and insects. He and his wife, Kim, keep busy with birds and their classic rock band from their base in northwestern Ohio.

FIELD TRIPS

Reports

Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Saturday, May 16.

Ed McKarron, Ray Chapin, Julia Vanderwielen, Hank, and David Peake-Jones met at America's first garden cemetery at the peak of migration with high hopes. To anyone else, the cheerful melange of sounds emanating from the nearby trees would have been a joyous sign of spring. However, for us the harsh sounds of starlings, cowbirds and grackles signaled tough sledding as we made our way along the storied Indian Ridge path, past Longfellow's resting place. We caught glimpses of Northern Parula and Black-throated Green warblers, and enjoyed the sweet notes of Baltimore Orioles, but of the rarer warblers there was neither sight nor sound. Rounding Halcyon Pond, we struck off into the normally-uninteresting north east corner of the cemetery in response to persistent "mweep" calls, which we eventually traced to a pair of **nesting Great Crested Flycatchers**. An equally anonymous thicket along the eastern boundary gave up a **Lincoln's Sparrow**.

Thus, as the morning wore on, we eked out a longer and longer list of sightings from fragments of song and painstaking searching through the spring foliage. In the dell, we found a roosting **Great Horned Owl**, and Scarlet Tanagers and Wood Thrushes in the shadowy depths. But it was at the Laurel Path circle, having given up hope of rarities, that we eventually heard several high pitched songs which signaled paydirt. After a lot of searching we eventually found singing male **Bay-breasted-** and **Cape May Warblers**. In the same neighborhood, just for good measure, we caught glimpses of the **Blackburnian Warbler** which had so successfully eluded us earlier. Hence, as we finally wound our way back to the cars, perseverance had been rewarded, and what we had not found in terms of quantity, had been made up for with quality.

David Peake-Jones



Poor Man's Monhegan (Plum Island). Saturday, May 23.

Seven people slipped between the peaks of Memorial Weekend traffic to catch the end of migration on Plum Island. Generally the birding was quiet with no fall outs and no remnants of coastal storms*. In this sense Poor Man's mirrors the real Monhegan; you take what you get.

The day started cool with showers but pollyanna Marcia Merithew guaranteed the sun would be shining soon and it was. David Mako requested a **Bay-breasted Warbler** for a life bird and, being the accommodating club that we are, we provided one at Goodno Woods. (Since David wasn't a charter club member, he had to settle for a female). Our eighty six species included nine species of heron, twelve species of shorebirds and thirteen species of warblers. Highlights included the above mentioned Bay-breasted, two **Cattle Egrets** and a **Greater Yellowlegs almost completely submerging itself as a Merlin flew over (nice)**.

Bob Bieda

* Bob is alluding to the trip in 2005, which seems to have become the "WOW" standard for all time. Ed.

Coming Trips

Wednesday, June 3. Mt. Greylock – Birds and Butterflies. All day. Tom Gagnon hikes around the highest peak in Massachusetts looking for birds and butterflies. Meet at Mt. Greylock State Reservation Headquarters building at 8:00 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) with any questions. (M)

Saturday, June 6. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Pending permission, Bob Bieda will lead his annual trip into New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Registration deadline Thursday, May 28. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E/A)

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Saturday, June 13. Hammonasset Beach State Park, CT. All day. Betsy Higgins goes to the coast of Connecticut to find sparrows, rails, and other seaside denizens. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting time and place as the date approaches. (E)

Thursday, June 18 – Monday, June 22. The Crown of Maine. Overnight trip. Geoff LeBaron leads this special 25th anniversary HBC field trip to the mixed boreal and agricultural habitats of far northern Maine. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only and registration has closed. (M)

Tuesday, July 21 – Thursday, July 31. Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Overnight trip. Join Tom Gagnon and Scott Sumner on this special 25th anniversary HBC field trip. The trip will look for birds, mammals, butterflies, wildflowers, and whatever else this amazing ecosystem has to offer. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only and registration has closed at the time of publication. (M)

Wednesday August 12. Shore Bird Workshop with Wayne Peterson.
Hitchcock Center, Amherst. 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Details on pg 4.

Saturday, August 15. Shore Bird Workshop Field Session with Wayne Peterson.
New South Beach, Chatham, MA. Please contact David Peake-Jones (413 529 9541; newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) to register and for meeting place and time. Details on pg 4.

Saturday, September 5. New South Beach, II. All day. Bob Bieda leads birders in their quest for late shorebird migrants, including Curlew Sandpipers and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. Bring a lunch, a jacket, and \$20 for the boat ride. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register. (M)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the HBC Board for 2009-2010.

<u>Officers</u>	<u>At-large members</u>
Scott Sumner, President Geoff LeBaron, Vice President/Program Chair Janice Jorgensen, Treasurer Sue Emerson, Membership Secretary Elissa Rubinstein, Communications Secretary	Mike Locher Jan Ortiz Larry Therrien Jaap van Heerden Joe Wicinski

We would like to thank **Lisa Rock** and **Dennis McKenna** for their service in 2008-2009.

LIBRARY

HBC has a substantial library at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. **Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. **Henry Lappen** is happy to bring items to meetings, given a few days notice! Call him at **(413) 549 3722**.

25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Potluck with Kenn Kaufman

In the tradition of years past, we will hold a potluck dinner to cap off our 25th Anniversary year activities. We will meet and eat at the Immanuel Lutheran Church starting at 6 PM on June 8, just prior to our June meeting. Kenn Kaufman, our speaker for the evening, will join us for dinner. If you want to attend the dinner, you need to sign up to bring a dish (main, side or salad).

Sign Up

Contact **Dave Gross** (dgross@hampshirebirdclub.org or 253-2897) by June 5. We will provide utensils, plates, drinks and dessert. Come and join us and see if Kenn likes your tuna hot dish.

25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Shorebirding Workshop and Field Trip with Wayne Peterson

You can participate in either or both the indoor session and/or the field trip.

Shorebirding Workshop (“classroom session”)

- **Wednesday, August 12**, from **7:00 – 10:00 p.m.** at the **Hitchcock Center**. We ask that you pre-register. The workshop will be free for HBC and Hitchcock members, \$5 for others.

To Register

Please sign up with Geoff LeBaron at the June meeting, or at programs@hampshirebirdclub.org, or phone (413) 268 9281.

Field Trip to South Beach (Chatham on Cape Cod, MA) (Whole Day)

- **Saturday, August 15**. The trip (limited to 20 people) will begin from **Outermost Harbor Marine** in Chatham, MA at 8:30 a.m. Those car-pooling from the valley will meet at **Northampton Bowling Alley, at 5:00 a.m.** Pickups along 91S or the pike by arrangement with David.
- The trip involves a short boat ride, then several miles of walking over sand and mud, and likely wading in knee-deep water. Disembarking and re-embarking from the boat at the beach requires wading in water up to thigh-height sometimes. We need to be prepared for high sun-exposure, and carry water and food for the day.
- Because we have an outside leader making time for us, it is very important that we fill the trip. Hence, **pre-registration is required**, including a non-refundable trip **fee of \$20**, which covers the cost of the boat trip to South Beach from Chatham.

To register you may either:

- speak with David Peake-Jones at the June HBC meeting (you should pay the trip fee by check at this time), or
- email or call David; newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org, (413) 529 9541. If you choose this option, David will give you details of how to pay.

25TH ANNIVERSARY THANKS!

Thank you to the 25th Anniversary Committee: **Shirley Hammersmith**, Elissa Rubinstein, Tom Gagnon, Geoff LeBaron, Jan Ortiz, Janice Jorgensen, Sue Emerson, Mike Locher, Jim Marcum, Scott Sumner, and Betsy Higgins for all their efforts in making this special year a success! Thanks also to **Trudy Tynan** for the hours spent compiling the **HBC History** which has made such entertaining reading this year.

Welcome New Members

Charles Quinlan.	Cummington
Sue Cloutier.	New Salem
Mary Santiago	Amherst
Connie Lentz	Amherst

Nest Watch: A Cornell Citizen Science Program

You're invited to **register your nest box** (or boxes) with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's **NestWatch** program (www.RegisterYourNestbox.org). It won't cost you a thing but it does yield valuable information about breeding birds and how their natural rhythms may be changing.

Studies are showing that some birds are laying their eggs sooner than they used to--as much as nine days earlier in the case of Tree Swallows. That could spell trouble if the eggs hatch before a steady supply of insects is available for feeding the young. As a NestWatch participant, you'll visit nests once or twice a week and report what you see: Which kinds of birds are using your nest boxes? When were the first eggs laid? How many eggs were laid and how many actually hatched?

You can find instructions for building the best and safest boxes for bluebirds, swallows, chickadees, and other cavity-nesting birds at the Nest Watch website if you like. Good luck!

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Slideshow: Alpine Wildflowers of the Presidentials: *Pete Westover and Ted Watt*
Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Pondering Ponds: *Micky McKinley*
Saturday, June 6, 2009, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Your Place, Your Words: *Rema Boscov*
Sunday, June 7, 2009, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This is Rotten: Composting for the Home Garden: *Hans Leo*
Saturday, June 13, 2009, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

What Does Nature Do? A Biomimicry Walk: *Tim McGee and Ted Watt*
Sunday, June 28, 2009, 1 to 4 p.m.

Lost and Found: Navigation, Maps and Compass: *Pandora Judge*
Sundays, July 19 & July 26, 2009, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Mid-Summer Evening Nature Walk: *John Green*
Thursday, July 23, 2009, 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

The Night Sky: *Ron Woodland*
Thursday, August 13, 2009, 8 to 9:30 p.m. (cloud date, Monday, August 17, 2009)

Late Summer Evening Nature Walk: *John Green*
Thursday, August 20, 2009, 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Plum Island Family Birding Excursion (Ages 9 and up with adult): *Ted Watt*
Tuesday, August 25, 2009, 7 a.m. to 6 p.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.

ATLAS

“There once was an atlas in Massachusetts. . . .”

no, that won't work

“’Twas the 10th day of June and all dates were now SAFE. . . .”

no, not right either

“Oh, oh, say can you see, that magnolia in the tree”

hmmmm.

“Something there is that does not love a black fly. . . .”

OK, enough. Enjoy the birds, the summer AND the atlas.

Mary Alice Wilson

That's it for this month.
You'll be hearing from us again in August!
Until then, talk softly and carry a big scope!

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

And here is something to think about in the next month.....

Panama Birders: and Panama Wannabebirders.

I am coordinating a group of folks to go birding in Panama in March of 2010. We are looking at two possible trips. There is a ten-day basic option, and a "Darien extension" that would target a different set of birds including the Harpy Eagle. The guide, Guide Berguido, is a member of Panama Audubon, and I birded with him many times while I lived in Panama.

The basic ten-day option will cost USD \$1,795 per person plus sales tax (5%) from Panama City, based on double occupancy. Single Supplement: USD \$345. The Darien cost is an additional U\$595 based on min. 5 people.

Tour participants should arrive in Panama City by the evening of Wednesday, March 17th, 2010. Birding would be from Thursday March 18th to Thursday March 25th. People going on the Darien extension would travel into the Darien that same day. They will return to Panama City, the evening of Tue March 30th.

You can find out a lot more at the tour company website:

<http://advantagepanama.com/birdwatchers-paradise-itinerary.html>

If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible. I will be sending deposits to the company by July 1, 2009. *Remember this is not a Hampshire Bird Club trip. It is a group of us who want to go bird in Panama and utilize local birding folks.*

Janice Jorgensen
janicejorgensen@charter.net