



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
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November, 2012.

Included this month:

- an introduction to the **next program** and the upcoming schedule,
- two groovy **trip reports** (neither by the editor)!,
- **coming trips**,
- announcing the **HBC Apps Information Course**, brought to you by the **Education Committee**,
- **Christmas Counts**,
- a **Hitchcock program**,
- a musing on the hurricane, and
- a locator for **bird rehabilitators** in Western Massachusetts

I hope you find some of it useful!!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Don Kroodsma brings us **Bird By Bird By Bike. Part 2: The West**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Bicycling across America is taking a small bite out of the continent each day, for 4500 miles over 10 weeks, listening to bird after bird after bird (among other things), and it's all good -: life-transforming, in fact. In an HBC talk some years ago, I managed to take us from the Atlantic to the prairies, so this time we'll pick up in Missouri and head west. Come celebrate life on back roads and blue highways, riding each wrinkle of the landscape through the Great Plains, up and over the Rockies, through the Tetons and Yellowstone, dipping into Hell's Canyon and then ascending into Oregon, trying to fathom how so fantastic a land could have been formed, and listening to just a few of the birds no respectable birder would count on any list unless the bird was also heard to speak its mind. And, yes, drum roll . . . by popular demand there will be for "seeing birders" a challenging western edition of *Name that Roadkill*.

Don Kroodsma discovered birds during his last semester in college, back in 1968, and that summer learned how to tape record them. For a Ph.D. at Oregon State, he studied where and when young Bewick's wrens learn their songs. He then spent eight years at Rockefeller University before coming to UMass, Amherst in 1980. Forty years of birdsong pretty well sums it all up—first in an academic setting and publishing in obscure scientific journals, now free and at large, writing for a broader audience and sharing the joy of birdsong (and sonograms, of course).

COMING PROGRAMS

December 10, 2012. HBC Members. Members' meeting.

January 14, 2013. Chris Rimmer. Bicknell's Thrush.

February 11, 2013. Shawn Carey. Shorebird Migration Hotspots.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Saw Whet Owl Banding. Northbridge, MA. October 13.

As they say, "the frost was on the pumpkin". On Saturday, October 13, 20 hearty folks (including 5 youngsters aged 9 - 12) set out to observe the capture and banding of elusive saw-whet owls at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, Ma. Although the weather hovered around 28 degrees, this intrepid group (fortified with hot drinks) braved the cool and still night air to witness the capture, banding and release of 3 tiny saw-whets, each not much larger than a tennis ball. It was an experience that we all shall remember and treasure – although perhaps the owls might feel differently. The children were selected to hold and release the owls, but not before they had named each one: "Sue," "Lou" and "Sally." Many thanks are due to Strickland Wheelock and his crew --Beth, Paul & Bob who made this outing such a success. It should be noted that HBC's newly formed (last year) **Education Committee** sponsored the children. We wished bon -voyage to the owls, wishing for their return next year.

Sue Emerson & Janice Jorgensen.



Coastal Rhode Island. October 20, 2012

Tim Carter, Sue Emerson, Carol & John Gabranski, Betsy Higgins, Andrew Magee and Elissa & Bernie Rubinstein accompanied **Geoff LeBaron** along the coast of Rhode Island.

Tackling first things first, the group made a stop at marsh Meadows Preserve in Jamestown, and were immediately rewarded with views of the **Wood Sandpiper** which has been causing such excitement this fall. The bird was nice and close, at first feeding voraciously on large horsefly larvae, and then settling down for a nap.

As the fog lifted at Point Judith, we had wonderful views of **Northern Gannet** going by (apparently in pairs) and huge skeins of Double-crested Cormorants.

At Succotash Marsh in Jerusalem, RI, we found roosting Greater Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper. At Trustom Pond N.W.R. we enjoyed an encounter with a **Northern Goshawk** as well as a **Snow Goose** and other nice waterfowl. The day ended at Ninigret N.W.R. where there were a mystery boat and a mystery bat to entertain us, as well as patrolling **Merlins** and some Great Blue Herons as the sun set.

Geoff LeBaron

COMING FIELD TRIPS

(See also the Fall Field Trip Schedule)

***Saturday, November 10. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain.** All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) and David Peake-Jones (413-529-9541) hope Snow Geese show up late this year and look for other seasonal specialties along the shore of Lake Champlain. Meet at Stop & Shop on King St. in Northampton at 5 a.m. for carpooling. (E)

Friday, November 23. Cape Ann: Turkey Trot. All day. Al Richards comes off the DL in style, leading his traditional trip to the east coast. Expect sea ducks, Purple Sandpipers, a few alcids, and a cool breeze. Bring snacks and warm clothing. Call Al (413-665-2761) to register and get meeting information. (E)

Saturday, November 24. East Quabbin. All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien lead their annual trip to the east side of the reservoir to look for water fowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well in advance to register, because participation is limited to twelve participants, and to get meeting information. (M)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HBC Apps Information Course

HBC members!! Do you have a fancy smart phone? A iPad or iPod Touch? If you have and are not using these type of devices to their full measure when birding ... its time you do! Spend an evening "wired into" the Hitchcock Center and learn how to use Field Guides, Bird Finders and even Bird Reporting Apps to your benefit in our wonderful world of birds! Apps we will be featuring:

(*) **FIELD GUIDES:** *Sibley's Field Guide to Birds, Peterson's Field Guide to Birds, National Geographic Field Guide to Birds,*

(*) **BIRD FINDING:** *Birds Eye (eBird),* and

(*) **BIRD REPORTING:** *Birders Diary, BirdLog (eBird)*

Saturday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Hitchcock Center for the Environment,
525 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA.

Bring your smart phone, iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, or Android.
 Please email **Janice Jorgensen** if you are planning to attend by 11/26 at
jjpcpanama@gmail.com
 Tell Janice what apps you have and which of the above 3 areas are of interest.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Quebec's Plan Nord: Towards a New Global Model for Sustainable Development: *Mathew Jacobson*

Thursday, November 8, 7–8:30pm

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.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

If you want to contribute to one of the most important (and certainly the largest) research efforts into bird distribution world-wide, the Christmas Count may be for you. There are several counts in this region every December, and HBC plays a key role in the Northampton and Quabbin counts.

Every December, we get together to count all the birds in a **BIG** circle around some point in Hadley. The count circle is 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.

Believe it or not, there is also a count in the Quabbin region for those who want better birds and cushy weather!

Details!!

Northampton: Sunday, December 16.

Jan Ortiz, 413 549 1768, jtortiz@aol.com, OR

Janice Jorgensen, 413 585 0145, janicejorgensen@charter.net

Quabbin: To Be Announced. **Scott Sumner** (413 253 5999; ssurner@aol.com)

Christmas Count Potluck!!

Just a quick "heads-up" that we will be requesting volunteers to assist us with snacks and real food, like main dishes, salads and desserts for the gathering after the count on December 16th at the Hitchcock center. I'll be seeking donations at the November meeting and reminders at the December one. Thank you in advance -- making our job "lighter"!!! Sue Emerson & elves.

On the Wings of a Hurricane

Hurricanes fling countless thousands of pelagic birds onshore, whence some of them may find their own way back to sea and some are rescued and rehabilitated. Most, however, probably die from exhaustion and storm-related injury (witness the storm petrel found dead in Florence, MA by Betsy Higgins after Irene). Birders, in our somewhat macabre fascination with rarity, whatever the cause, comb the shores of hurricane-affected areas after storms, and there are usually some gems to be found amongst the avian survivors.

Sandy was no exception, and though there were no (reported) tropicbirds plying the breezes over Quabbin reservoir this year, New England saw its share of storm-carried birds. On October 31, three **Brown Pelicans** were observed off Nantucket, and on October 30, there were two separate sightings of **Northern Lapwings**. Of the latter, two individuals were found on Nantucket, and one was photographed from First Encounter Beach at Eastham, Cape Cod. Both these species are somewhat regular vagrants in the New England area. The lapwings are especially intriguing, since this species is associated entirely with terrestrial habitats in Eurasia!

Of all the climatological phenomena affected by climate change, hurricanes and tornadoes remain amongst the most controversial. We're not going to dive too deeply into those waters here, but there is at least one (albeit distant) connection between climate change and the birds that showed up in the last days of October. Read this fascinating tidbit about the Northern Lapwing, also known in Europe as the "peewit"!

"In the Netherlands there is a cultural-historical competition to find the first peewit egg of the year (*het eerste kievitsei*). It is especially popular in Friesland province, but there are also regional competitions. The gathering of peewit eggs is prohibited by the European Union, but Friesland was granted an exception for cultural-historical reasons. The Frisian exception was removed in 2005 by a court, which determined that the Frisian executive councilors had not properly followed procedure. As of 2006 it is again allowed to look for peewit eggs between 1 March and 9 April, though the actual harvest of those eggs is now forbidden. *Over the last century, the first peewit egg is found earlier and earlier. This is caused both by increased use of fertilizer and climate change.*"

(from Wikipedia, "Northern Lapwing." Emphasis mine, spelling Americanized. Grammar left intact because, well, just because...)

Welcome New Members

Tim Carter	Belchertown	Patricia Lynch	South Hadley
Kathy Davis	South Hadley	Kelly Manson	Sunderland
Lee Halasz	Pelham	Betzi Sylvan	Florence
Laura Hilberg	Northampton		

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Bird Rehabilitators in Western Massachusetts

Songbirds and other Non-Raptors

Lynne Bodon, Williamsburg. (413) 628 4560

Nancy and Kathleen Bordewieck, Bernardston. (413) 648 9293, (songbirds including nestlings)

Judith Pasko, Cummington. (413) 695 6854, background info. at www.cummingtonwildlife.com

Raptors Only

Julie Anne Collier, Leverett, (413) 628 4560, background info. at www.wingmasters.net

Tom Ricardi, Conway, 413 369 4072

General Resources

A list of wildlife rehabilitators for birds, mammals, reptiles, and bats is available at

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/rehab/wildlife_rehab_index.htm

Tufts University: The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, North Grafton. (508) 839-7918, (all kinds of rehabilitation) <http://vet.tufts.edu/wildlife/research.html>

Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts. General information at www.wraminc.org

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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