



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 29, No. 6

February, 2013.

In this edition:

- the monthly **program** and the **upcoming schedule**,
- plugs for **Monhegan Island 2013** and the nascent **Mt. Mansfield** trip,
- the latest exploits of the **Education Committee**,
- a **WFCR volunteering** opportunity,
- **Hitchcock** and **Arcadia** programs,
- **The 21st Annual Massachusetts Birders Meeting** (Mass Audubon),
- voluminous results of the **Quabbin Count** (on their own pages so you can save and file),
- the **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**, AND
- some other odds and sods.

I hope you find some of it useful!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, February 11 at 7:30 PM

Shawn Carey sheds light on **Shorebird Migration Hotspots**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Should bad weather force a cancellation, it will be announced on WHMP 1400 AM.

COMING PROGRAMS

March 11, 2013. Mara Silver. Swallows in the Connecticut River Valley.

April 8, 2013. Joan Walsh. Breeding Bird Atlas II – the Next Steps.

May 13, 2013. David Spector. (To be determined...).

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Please see the enclosed **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Mount Mansfield: Bicknell's Thrush

On the heels of a wonderful program in January by **Chris Rimmer**, the club is hoping to visit Mount Mansfield (Vermont) in June in search of Bicknell's Thrush. We are hoping to link up with Chris and others from the **Vermont Center for Ecological Studies** to bring the behavior and ecology of this threatened species to life. The trip is currently in the early stages of organization.

Please see the *Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule* for a few more details and keep your eyes/ears on HBC's multiple communication channels for further developments.

Monhegan Island, 2013 with Scott Sumner

Memorial Day Weekend (Friday, May 24 to Monday, May 27)

You can see the spring migration almost anywhere, but if you have ever wanted to steep yourself in the glorious warblers of May, while losing yourself in the gentle rhythms of an idyllic island, Monhegan is for you.

During the spring, migrant songbirds moving northward up the Atlantic seaboard are sometimes pushed out over the ocean by storms, and have to fight their way back toward the safety of land. Monhegan Island lies about twelve miles off the coast of Maine and is often a haven for exhausted birds to recuperate before resuming the perilous journey northward.

After arriving by ferry on the island, we will immerse ourselves in the gentle rhythms of island life. We'll find migrant songbirds throughout the tiny village of Monhegan, sheltering in the numerous apple trees, sometimes picking through the sea wrack on the town beach for sand fleas, or even hiding in the lobster pots piled almost everywhere. Each day will bring fresh migrants to the island, and a storm could even produce one of the fallouts of birding legend. When the birding slows down, we can venture off on any of the island's numerous walking trails to Lobster Cove, the stupendous seaward cliffs, the Seal Rocks (aptly named), or the Enchanted Forest.

We'll stay at the rustic Trailing Yew, which will lay on breakfast and dinner each day, including a local lobster dinner. This is the perfect opportunity to slow down, REALLY learn the birds, and remember what life *should* be about. This trip is open only to members of the Hampshire Bird Club, and the approximate cost of the return boat trip, lodging, breakfasts and dinners will be around \$460

For further details about the trip, contact **Scott Sumner** (president@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 256 5438).

To register (by deposit), contact **Mike Locher** (fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 585 5864)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The HBC Education Committee held another **Birding Applications** program on **December 13, 2012** that was well attended by 15 HBC members. The program was led by **Jamie Bishop** who filled in for the peripatetic **Zeke Jakub**. Zeke had created a short presentation on applications or 'apps' to introduce the evening's program.

We looked primarily at the **Sibleys**, **IBird Pro**, **Petersons**, **Birds Eye** and **Bird Log** apps. For those of you who have not been enticed into the world of "applications," they are computer software programs designed to help the user perform a specific task. Typically these programs are easy to load on your device, and I find that they can greatly enhance ones birding experiences. After Jamie's initial presentation, we broke up into a few groups and some folks explored applications on their own. There was plenty of expertise on hand to help newer players become acquainted with the program or application of their choice.

I for one, was excited enough to buy *Birds Eye* when I got home. This app is affiliated with E Bird and will serve as an additional tool to identify birds and, more importantly, to discover where birds are located when I'm traveling in a new area. Next, I'll buy *Bird Log* to report what birds I've seen, and where and when I've seen them, thus adding to the EBird database. That will also help in bird and habitat conservation. Other members were also planning to buy the applications of their choice when they got home.

Thanks to **Janice Jorgensen** for originally setting this up, **Jamie Bishop** for taking the reins when **Zeke** was called away, **Bruce Hart** for follow-up organization, **Jaap van Heerden** for technical assistance, **Jacob Drucker** and **Galen Bishop** for ably assisting during the program, and **Jessica** at the **Hitchcock Center** for hosting the event. Feel free to contact the Education Committee with any ideas you have for a future program.

Bruce Hart

Birding Apps for iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad and Android

<http://www.birdwatching-bliss.com/birding-apps-for-iphone.html>

This site reviews some of the latest applications for iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad and Android. Three that stick out among the competition are the *iBird Pro*, *BirdsEye* and the *Audubon Field Guide to North American Birds*. All three have field guide related information, but *BirdsEye* also allows users to see what birds have been recently sighted in specific locations and has an inventory of birding hotspots as well. HBC does not endorse any particular commercial birding product. Happy browsing!

Janice Jorgensen

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Spring Birding: *Scott Sumner*

Wednesday Classes, 6:30-8pm: February 6, February 27, March 20, April 3, April 10, May 1, May 22, June 5

Class 1 - Saturday Field Trips, start times vary 5-7am: February 9, March 2, March 23, April 6, April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18

(Please note: class 1 is currently filled.)

Plus a special weekend on June 8 & 9 to the Moose Bog region of Vermont

Class 2 - Saturday & Sunday Field Trips, start times vary 5-7am: February 23, March 10, March 31, April 7, April 21, May 12, June 1, June 15

(Space still available for class 2.)

From winter coastal specialties like Eiders, Scoters, Harlequin Ducks, and Loons to peak warbler migration at Plum Island to Vermont early summer encounters like Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee and everything bird in between. Space is limited. **Registration is open.** Members \$225/Non-members \$250.

Solar Fuel: Microbial Photosynthesis: *Kelly Nevin*

Thursday, February 7, 7-8:30pm

Amherst's Famous Salamanders: *Ted Watt*

Tuesday, February 26, 7-8:30 pm

Cozy Living for Less: *Katelyn Tsukada*

Wednesday, February 27th, 7-8:30pm

Evolution in a Toxic World: *Emily Monosson*

Thursday, February 28, 7-8:30pm

Salamander Tunnel Maintenance Day

A Saturday in March determined by the weather.

FREE. Please call 256-6006 to be added to the call/email list to volunteer.

Fees apply unless otherwise stated. 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.

Welcome New Members!

Hany Aziz

West Springfield

Miriam & Sidney Moss

Northampton

Keith Carver

Hadley

Lynn Pelland

Turners Falls

Gwen Dwyer

Leeds

David Pritchard

Haydenville

Neil Erickson

Amherst

Sarah & Edie Shields

Shutesbury

Volunteering for WFCR

Once again this March a group from the HBC will help our local NPR station, WFCR, during its spring fund drive. We will be taking calls at the station on Saturday, March 9, from 8-11 AM. It's easy (training is provided). It's fun (you get to see radio behind-the-scenes). It's exciting (watching the drive totals increase is great motivation). Breakfast in the form of goodies from Henion Bakery is provided; all you need to do is bring yourself (and friend if you wish) and answer pledge calls as they come in. If you'd like to join the fun, sign up by calling or emailing **Dave Gross** at **253-2897** or **dgross@hampshirebirdclub.org**.

Date: Saturday, March 9

Time: 8-11 A.M.

Location: WFCR studios, Hampshire House, UMass campus

Note: I wonder if we should call this a volunteering "opp." Ed.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Eagles at Quabbin: *Patti Steinman and John Green*

Saturday, February 9. 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Meet at Headquarters.

Tracking at Graves Farm: *David MacLain*

Saturday, February 9. 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Meet at Graves Farm.

Berkshire Highland Snowshoe Hike: *Aimee Galinas*

Saturday, February 16. 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Meet at Savoy State Park Camping Area.

Mountain Lions: *Sue Morse*

Friday, February 22. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (Snow date: Saturday, April 22. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.).

Mammal Tracking in the Field: *Sue Morse*

Saturday, February 23. 9:00 a.m. – noon. (Snow date: Saturday, April 23. 9:00 a.m. – noon).

OR Saturday, February 23. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. (Snow date: Saturday April 23, same times).

Digital Nature Photography: Subjects. *Robert Floyd*

Thursdays, February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Ecological Management Conference. David MacLain and John Burk.

Saturday, March 2. 9:00 a.m. – noon. No fee.

Late Winter Ecology Snowshoe at Windsor Jams. *Aimee Gelinas*

Saturday, March 2. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Meet at Windsor Jams State Park.

*Fees apply unless otherwise stated. For more details of these and other programs go to www.massaudubon.org (select "Sanctuaries", then "Choose a Sanctuary: Arcadia") or call the sanctuary at the number below. To register for programs contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary**, 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027. Telephone **(413) 584-3009**.*

Space has been a little tight this month.

If you read on, dear member, you will likely encounter the results of the **Quabbin Count**, the **Massachusetts Birders Meeting** plug, and the **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Quabbin Count 2012 and Since 1988

Species recorded in fewer than five (5) years between 1988 and 2012 are described as occasional "(occ.)"

Species	2012	High Year	High Count	Species	2012	High Year	High Count
Canada Goose	18	1999	193	Herring Gull	13	1990	280
Mute Swan	0	occ.		Glaucous Gull	0	occ.	
Wood Duck	1	occ.	1	Great Black-b'ked Gull	0	1990	47
American Wigeon	1	occ.		Rock Pigeon	87	1999	339
Black Duck	131	1993	349	Mourning Dove	188	1999	440
Mallard	66	1994	975	Eastern Screech Owl	1	1989	4
Northern Pintail	0	occ.		Great Horned Owl	12	1994	24
Green-winged Teal	0	occ.		Snowy Owl	0	not yet	
Ring-necked Duck	5	2001	41	Barred Owl	9	1993	21
Greater Scaup	0	2001	5	Long-eared Owl	0	occ.	
Lesser Scaup	0	occ.		Saw-whet Owl	6	1994	61
White-winged Scoter	0	occ.		Belted Kingfisher	3	2010	6
Black Scoter	0	occ.		Red-b'lied Woodpecker	27	2010	35
Long-tailed Duck	0	occ.		Yellow-b'd Sapsucker	1	occ.	1
Bufflehead	0	1994	28	Downy Woodpecker	156	1994	169
Common Goldeneye	57	1992	105	Hairy Woodpecker	62	2012	62
Barrows Goldeneye	0	Occ.		Northern Flicker	3	2010	10
Hooded Merganser	85	2006	186	Pileated Woodpecker	23	2010	61
Common Merganser	26	199	1127	Eastern Phoebe	0	occ.	
Red-br'sted Merganser	0	occ.		Northern Shrike	1	1995	10
Ruddy Duck	0	occ.		Blue Jay	141	1993	1140
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	1994	16	American Crow	146	1995	395
Ruffed Grouse	5	1994	42	Common Raven	27	2003	56
Wild Turkey	154	2009	248	Horned Lark	0	1998	59
Common Loon	15	1999	23	Black-c'ped Chickadee	1026	1993	2516
Horned Grebe	10	1997	195	Boreal Chickadee	0	occ.	
Red-necked Grebe	1	1995	2	Tufted Titmouse	292	1998	297
D'ble c'sted Cormorant	0	occ.		Red-br'sted Nuthatch	376	1993	1886
Great Cormorant	0	occ.		White-br'sted Nuthatch	210	2001	303
Great Blue Heron	1	1991	2	Brown Creeper	39	1996	82
Turkey Vulture	0	occ.		Carolina Wren	3	2011	12
Osprey	0	occ.		Winter Wren	3	1997	4
Bald Eagle	11	1994	38	Golden-cr'ned Kinglet	97	1996	312
Northern Harrier	0	occ.		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	1996*	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1993	12	Eastern Bluebird	45	2011	45
Cooper's Hawk	3	2010	6	Hermit Thrush	1	2006	4
Northern Goshawk	0	2007*	3	American Robin	160	2009	1878
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	occ.		Gray Catbird	0	2008*	1
Red-tailed Hawk	22	2001	28	Northern Mockingbird	6	1991	45
Rough-legged Hawk	0	occ.		European Starling	221	1999	1690
Golden Eagle	0	1997*	2	Bohemian Waxwing	0	not yet	
American Kestrel	0	occ.		Cedar Waxwing	0	1997	550
Merlin	0	occ.		Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	occ.	
American Coot	0	occ.		Pine Warbler	0	occ.	

Quabbin Count 2012 and Since 1988 (continued) Page 2 of 2

Species	2012	High Year	High Count	Species	2012	High Year	High Count
Black-headed Gull	0	occ.		American Tree Sparrow	173	1998	611
Ring-billed Gull	49	2011	185	Hoary Redpoll	0	occ.	
Field Sparrow	0	1999	2	Pine Siskin	0	2008	137
Fox Sparrow	0	occ.		American Goldfinch	124	1994	664
Song Sparrow	22	1994	50	Evening Grosbeak	27	1989	413
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	Not yet		House Sparrow	250	2004	1032
Swamp Sparrow	0	2008	3				
White-throated Sparrow	52	2009	584				
Dark-eyed Junco	714	2009	2297	Write Ins			
Snow Bunting	49	1988	157				
Northern Cardinal	100	2005	123				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	occ.					
Red-winged Blackbird	3	2006	309				
Rusty Blackbird	0	2011	51				
Common Grackle	0	2006	100				
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	2006	553				
Pine Grosbeak	19	2007	154				
Purple Finch	1	1992	169				
House Finch	58	1992	429				
Red Crossbill	6	1993	240				
White-winged Crossbill	9	1993	27				
Common Redpoll	302	1997	1357				

*Most recent high year

Number of species this year: 67

Cumulative number of species since 1988: 120

Despite the impending nor'easter, the twenty-fifth Quabbin Christmas Bird Count has been recorded safely into the books. Generally, overall numbers were down, but we ended the day with 67 species, along with three new highs or equal highs (Hairy Woodpecker, Wood Duck, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker). The temperature ranged from 16-30 degrees with increasingly overcast skies and late snow.

Scott Sumner and Jim Lafley

21st Annual Mass Audubon Birders Meeting
Birding: Past, Present, and Future. Challenges and Opportunities
Saturday, March 16, 2013
The LaCava Center, Bentley University, Waltham, MA

Registration fee (which includes lunch): \$55 Mass Audubon members, \$62 non-members.

Early Bird Special! Register before March 1 and get \$8 off full price.

Walk-in registration available. Get a map and directions, view the program schedule and/or register online at www.massaudubon.org/news.

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, 2013

Please register with the field trip leader(s) and check this schedule's information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher – 413-585-5864) 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 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (September newsletter or on the Website).

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as Easy (E) or Moderate (M) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders.*

JANUARY

Saturday, January 5. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island. All day. Bob Bieda leads his annual New Year's pilgrimage to the coast in search of wintering specialties like Eared Grebes, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, and much more. Dress for cold weather. For meeting information call Bob at 413-527-2623. (E)

***Saturday, January 26. Coastal Rhode Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron repeats his annual cold-weather trip to the coast of Rhode Island, looking for gulls, ducks, Short-eared Owls, and whatever else may be there. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) for information and meeting details. (E)

FEBRUARY

***Sunday, February 17. Leader's Choice: Winter Birds.** Half day. Mike Locher will look for winter birds, either finches around Royalston, waxwings around Turner's Falls, or shrikes at Moran Wildlife Management Area. Call Mike (413-585-5864) for the destination and meeting details the week before the trip. (E)

MARCH

Saturday, March 9. Plum Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron looks for migrants and residents at one of Massachusetts' premier birding locations. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) as the date approaches for meeting time and information. (E)

Saturday, March 16. Connecticut River Waterfowl. Half day. Bob Bieda looks for ducks and geese migrating up the Connecticut River to their breeding grounds. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 6:45. (E)

APRIL

***Sunday, April 14. Ashley Reservoir: Early Warblers.** Half day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Northern Waterthrushes. Meet in the Friendly's parking lot, near the Holiday Inn, close to Exit 15 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7 a.m. (E)

Wednesday, April 24. Spring hawk watching at Goat Peak. Half day. Tom Gagnon climbs the tower on Mount Tom State Reservation and looks for northbound raptors. Meet at the old park headquarters building at 9 o'clock for a 20 minute walk to the tower. Please call Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353) or email tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com. (M)

MAY

***Sunday, May 5. Hilltown Ramble.** All day. Bob Zimmermann (rzimmermann@hampshirebirdclub.org, 413-585-0405) and Dave Gross (dgross@hampshirebirdclub.org, 413-253-2897) visit migrant spots from Cumington through Moran Wildlife Management Area, to Savoy, Plainfield and Hawley. Some hiking will be done. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop on King Street at 6:30 a.m. to organize carpools. (M)

Saturday, May 11. Quabbin Park and East Quabbin. All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien lead their annual spring trip to the eastern side of the reservoir. Participation is limited and you must be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club. To register, call or email Tom (413-584-6353) or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com. Please register with Tom early. (M)

Wednesday, May 15. Mount Holyoke. Half day. Tom Gagnon leads a hike up Mt. Holyoke in search of Cerulean Warblers and other migrants. Plan to stop along the way to look at some of the flora of Mt. Holyoke. Meet at 7 a.m. at the gate of Mt. Holyoke. For information call or email Tom (413-584-6353) or email tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com. (M)

***Sunday, May 19. Northfield.** Half day. Eric Huston (734-355-2933) searches for migrating warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other avifauna around the Northfield Public Golf Course and other sites in the area. Meet at the parking lot of the Greenfield Big Y (just west of exit 26 off I-91) at 6:45 a.m. (M)

Overnight Trip

<p>Friday, May 24 – Monday, May 27. Monhegan Island. Overnight trip. Scott Surner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, but the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for information, and Mike Locher (413-585-5864) to register. (E/M)</p>
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JUNE

Wednesday, June 5. October Mountain and Tyringham. All day. Ed Neumuth goes to one of his favorite spots (October Mountain) looking for Mourning Warblers and other local specialties. Bring lunch and be prepared to hike. Call or email Ed (413-844-4961) or eneumuth-at-gmail-dot-com for meeting time and place. The trip is limited to 7 participants. (M)

Saturday, June 8. 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. Call Bob (413-527-2623) at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

Overnight trip

<p>Mid June, 2013. Dates to be announced. Mount Mansfield, Vermont.</p>
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<p>HBC hopes to coordinate with the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies in search of Bicknell's Thrush. We <u>hope</u> to drive up to Stowe, VT on a Sunday (might change), and visit the top of the mountain for the evening chorus. The following (Monday?) morning, we will travel up to a VCES study site to observe and participate in banding of Bicknell's Thrush and perhaps find these reclusive birds in the balsam fir woods which clothe the mountain. The trip will wrap up some time on the Monday.</p>

<p>Please keep your eyes on the newsletter and your ears open at meetings for further details.</p>
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Wednesday, June 12. Windsor and Savoy Forest. All day. Ed Neumuth explores a relatively unbirded part of the Berkshires looking for, among other things, Mourning Warblers. Bring lunch and be prepared to hike. Call or email Ed (413-844-4961) or eneumuth-at-gmail-dot-com for meeting time and place. The trip is limited to 7 participants. (M)

***Saturday, June 29. Birding by Ear.** Half day. Back by popular demand, Don Kroodsma will head to a birdy part of Amherst to listen for early morning bird song (and he promises to bring recording equipment too, for anybody who wants to see the master in action). Call Don (413-247-3367) to get meeting details. (E)

A Note About Insurance

Carpooling is an essential part of a successful field trip. It reduces consumption of fossil fuels, allows the group to more easily stay together while travelling, reduces parking congestion in the field, and reduces delays as the group assembles. As you decide on how to carpool for HBC field trips, you should consider the following.

Hampshire Bird Club does carry liability insurance and our members contribute to the premiums for this insurance through membership dues and fees for overnight trips. However, the policy does not cover individuals who drive during overnight or day field trips. Neither does HBC insurance cover damage to private vehicles used on any HBC trip.