



## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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### January, 2013.

If someone told you that the word of the new year was “Honeypot”, you might be forgiven for imagining that person to be a *Bear of Little Brain*. But there is no questioning the intelligence of the hordes of birders from points far and wide who are converging on our very own Honeypot in Hadley for some of the best local birding in years.

In case your inbox is no longer accepting messages or the spouse has put you on post-holiday lock-down, the Honeypot is playing host to a diverse assemblage of Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, Common Redpolls, Vesper Sparrows, a Merlin, a Peregrine Falcon, American Pipits, Savannah Sparrows, Snow Buntings and even a Clay-colored Sparrow. Since the snows of late December, these birds are now spending a lot of time foraging along the road verges, where the snow plough has turned up a treasure trove of seed.

And, as if they weren't enough, the new year has brought renewed reports of a **Gyrfalcon** prowling this happy little corner of the Connecticut River floodplain. It's one of those times to put on the winter woolies, and cast off the winter blahs. Get out there and give it a shot!

#### In this edition:

- the **program** for this month and **coming programs**,
- some long-overdue **field trip reports**, and a couple of **January trips**,
- announcing **Monhegan Island, 2013**,
- tips for **birding Connecticut** from Arn Krugmann,
- a new arrival at the **library**, and
- a few other tidbits.

I hope you find some of it useful!

### NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, January 14 at 7:30 PM**

**Chris Rimmer** brings us **Bicknell's Thrush: Conserving a Bird of Two Worlds**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

**Bicknell's Thrush** is one of North America's most rare and vulnerable songbirds. Nesting only in mountaintop forests of Vermont and other northeastern states, and wintering primarily on the island of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti), Bicknell's Thrush faces numerous threats to its long-term survival. On its breeding grounds, these include acid precipitation, ski area development, communications tower construction, wind power development, mercury contamination, and climate change. The species' limited winter habitats are under siege from deforestation, caused by human population pressures. Since 1992, Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) Director **Chris Rimmer** has led efforts to conserve the species and the habitats on which it depends. Chris will discuss this fascinating and rare songbird, VCE's efforts to study it in New England and the Caribbean, and how Bicknell's Thrush represents a vital conservation link across international boundaries.

## COMING PROGRAMS

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

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

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

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### **The Beelzebub Birding Bash. October 27, 2012.**

I led a trip for the Hampshire bird Club today (Saturday October 27) with six others to several locations in Franklin County, mainly Northfield and Turners Falls. In the spirit of the season, we visited Satan's Kingdom and Hell's Kitchen in Northfield, noting that Witch Hazel was blooming profusely up there; a suitably gloomy fog clung to the landscape, while I recorded a couple of Killdeer (by their four-letter banding code, KILL) in my field notebook.

During our first stop of the day at Turners Falls, we were very excited to find that a **Cackling Goose** was on the canal amid 350 or so Canada Geese. This bird actually appeared only slightly smaller than the Canadas, but distinctly paler in plumage, including a striking white crescent on its chest below its black neck, as well as the usual short, stubby bill and steep forehead. A Great Blue Heron stood sentinel near the shore.

At Hell's Kitchen we found 20 **Green-winged Teal** and 66 American Black Duck. We searched intently for shorebirds but could find only the aforementioned KILL. The most entertaining bird here was a **Winter Wren** that was singing a quiet song near the road, and eventually came out where we had great looks at it.

After all of the build-up, Satan's Kingdom Wildlife Management Area was actually a bit of a disappointment, with the high points being a heard-only Pileated Woodpecker and several heard-only Golden-crowned Kinglets. But at least the residents on the adjacent road were friendly and had suitably impressive Halloween decorations.

Next we visited Bennett Meadows WMA. At least half a dozen orange-clad hunters and their dogs were seeking pheasants in the fields west of the river, and we discovered - perhaps also in the holiday spirit - a gruesome Ring-necked Pheasant corpse in the woods by the parking lot. Still amongst the living here was an immature **Cooper's Hawk**, but the field east of the river was more productive, as a large patch of wild grapes had attracted an abundance of Cedar Waxwings and American Robins plus a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. The weeds beneath them harbored a number of sparrows including a couple of immature **White-crowned Sparrows**.

Our remaining group stopped at Rooster's Bistro for lunch, then drove down past the cemetery into what I call the Northfield Meadows, a huge expanse of agricultural fields that lie between the town and the river. Another Cooper's Hawk, this one an adult, met us first. Also striking was that, after we had all but struck out on **Swamp Sparrows** the rest of the day, at this site they were not only abundant but were almost the only sparrow species present! Our last Northfield stop was on Munns Ferry Road where we finally had really satisfying views of **American Pipits**, which we had only heard previously.

Back at Turners Falls power canal, the geese were mostly absent but duck diversity had picked up, including an eclipse-plumage male **Wood Duck**, two Common Mergansers, and two Buffleheads, plus a **Pied-billed Grebe**.

Stops in the Montague Sand-plains and Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club (finding only 23 Mute Swans) were unproductive. With the last of our daylight, we ended our day at Barton Cove with a suitably impressive (though not particularly Halloween-y) adult Bald Eagle.

Josh Rose



### **Berkshire Lakes. Sunday, November 4, 2012.**

They waited. Some had been lurking there, fully formed, even as we lurched out of bed at 6 AM and girded our loins for battle. Others took form in the murky depths of their lair even as we made our circuitous way toward the battleground. But, one way or another, they waited...

Our side featured some pretty battle-tested veterans. Harvey Allen, Bill Benner, Sue Cloutier, Janice Doppler, Sue Emerson, **Tom Gagnon**, Bruce Hart, Sonia Krotkov, Scott Norris, David Peake-Jones, Elaine Pourinski, Jeff Traft, and Joe Wicinski have years of collective experience. Perhaps that explained our complacency.

At Moran, there were twenty thousand naked tree tops. In one of them, a splash of white against the gray fingers of winter trees heralded a **Northern Shrike**, there for some, gone for others, as is their wont. We were rewarded at Cleveland by a loon, some Hooded Mergansers, a calling Pileated Woodpecker, and some wonderful harbingers of winter. Bill Benner alertly picked out eight **Snow Buntings** at close range amongst the jumbled rocks of the shore. First of the year for many, and an absolute delight, as always. A close Coopers Hawk livened up Dalton Pond, and a **Fish Crow** justified our pit stop at Allendale in Pittsfield. It said, "Uh, oh," but no-one heeded the warning..... Still, they waited.

The various micro-habitats of Cheshire Lake gave up a pair of **American Wigeon**, two **Long-tailed Ducks**, four **Ruddy Ducks**, and a **Gadwall**, amongst many more usual suspects. Pontoosuc was relatively quiet, but did support a bunch of Hooded Mergansers, another Gadwall, two **Greater Scaup**, **15 Green-winged Teal** and one **Greater Yellowlegs**, improbably perched on a pole in a cat-tail marsh. Still, they waited, still we did not suspect. They could smell us now.

More usual suspects at Onota Lake, and a **Red-necked Grebe** enjoying the solitude at the northern end of the lake. And now, finally, the trap was sprung. Ignoring the cohort of pro-bono cardiologists pleading with us to turn around, we filed up to the glass case at **Bartlett's**, supremely and pathetically confident in the supremacy of our dental hardware over the foe we found there. Once joined, the battle was strangely quiet; each combatant unaware of the torrid struggle on all sides, and the **donuts** had won almost before it started. Their sugary shock troops, combining in deadly tandem with mercenary bacteria from our own mouths, immediately went to work on the frail enamel of our teeth. Not content with the initial onslaught, they formed a paste of chewed donut which affixed itself cloyingly to the moth-eaten remnants of our dentition and doggedly finished off the surviving molars. The starchy, fatty mass of donut infantry proceeded on down to our small intestines, and thence to our sluggish bloodstreams. Finally, under cover of a carefully orchestrated sugar rush, they secreted themselves around our waistlines and in the linings of our arteries, where the struggle continues....

So, feeling remarkably well, considering, we picked through distant ducks at Richmond Pond to uncover **American Coot**, Surf Scoters, Black Scoters, lots more Ruddy Ducks, and another Red-necked Grebe. There was a late **Osprey** at Stockbridge Bowl to round out the day. Though we lost the battle at Bartlett's (again) this year, never was defeat so sweet.....

David Peake-Jones



### **Champlain Valley, Vermont. Saturday, November 10, 2012.**

**Mike Locher**, Nora Papian, and David Peake-Jones set forth in the wee (meaning early) hours, heading north toward Addison County, Vermont. I would like to gently point out to those who were dissuaded from joining us by the early start that Nora (admittedly being of an age where these things are possible) was up till 1 AM on the morning of the trip at an (entirely decorous) birthday party and CAME ALONG ANYWAY!!

As darkness gave way to dawn, we slipped through the gap between the northern and southern Green Mountains, to emerge on the eastern edge of the Champlain Valley. We made our way onward toward Addison, the glorious big skies and gritty farmlands of the valley spread out before us, and a spectacular view

of the Adirondacks away to the west. Even were it not for what lay in store, this drive was almost worth the price of admission...

Approaching Dead Creek WMA, the questions began. Would they be there, and if they were there, would they be in range? These are time-honored questions for those on this trip and today, the answer was a resounding YES! As we came over a rise in the road, still a quarter mile shy of the viewing area, the ploughed-over cornfield on our left was bedecked with a white carpet of **Snow Geese**. After three quarters of an hour of peering, watery-eyed through scopes and countless rotations of the fine-tuning knobs with our gloved hands, we estimated at least 2,900 of them! We know we were looking at a Ross's Goose, but, as they say in Addison County, we just couldn't figure out which one it was!

The group began to diminish as the birds moved from the muddy field toward the cover of the Dead Creek wash, taking themselves from our sight, but giving us a glimpse of the grandeur of geese in flight.

Satiated, at least for a time, we travelled further afield for a broader sampling of waterfowl and raptors. Along the back roads around and through Pantton we came across no fewer than eight (8) **Rough-legged Hawks**, all showing us their distinctive plumage and behavior. There were also at least five (5) **Northern Harriers**, most of which were superb "Grey Ghost" males. At the Brilyea access to Dead Creek itself, we found hordes of Mallard, Black Duck, and Green-winged Teal, all back-lit so early in the day. Button Bay hosted a scattering of Horned Grebes, a Red-throated Loon and Bufflehead. Several **Bonaparte's Gulls** (including one which flirted with us close inshore) and a Bald Eagle graced the waters of Oven Bay and the distant birds at the DAR State Park included **White-winged Scoters** and **Lesser Scaup**, plus a number of **Common Goldeneye**. Heading back to Dead Creek, we spotted a single **Peregrine Falcon** perusing the smorgasbord of ducks in the marsh. We enjoyed much better views of the birds at Brilyea Access (this time, it also gave up a **Ruddy Duck** and three **American Coot**), but we found the geese entirely hidden this time, so we called it a day.

The Champlain Valley is one of the iconic landscapes of the north-east. If you miss the Snow Geese, it's a good day of birding in a wonderful landscape. If you find the geese, it is the experience of a lifetime...

David Peake-Jones



### **The Turkey Trot to (Cape Ann) and Salisbury. November 2, 2012.**

Harvey Allen, Bob Bieda, Ann Bodkhe, Joan & Larry Dupre, Andrew Magee, David Peake-Jones, Elaine Pourinski and Elissa & Bernie Rubinstein, accompanied **Al Richards** on the post-Thanksgiving ramble along the north shore. It was apparent from the start that this was actually the Turkey Trot to Salisbury. Lured by the prospect of crossbills, we ran through the familiar sea-watch spots on Cape Ann in business-like fashion, with Al keeping his eye on the prize and expertly keeping us moving onward. Gloucester Harbor, the fish pier, Niles Beach, Niles Pond, Bass Rocks, the Granite Pier, Cathedral Ledges, Andrews Point and Plum Island were all whistle-stop visits, but by the time we set sail for Salisbury, we had tallied up a wonderful list including **Harlequin Ducks**, numerous **Red-throated Loons**, good numbers of **Red-necked Grebe**, all three **Scoters**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Pied Billed Grebe**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Black-legged Kittiwake**, **Northern Gannet** (numerous adults flying along the coast), **Razorbill**, **Green-winged Teal**, **American Widgeon**, **Gadwall**, and **Northern Pintail**.

As dusk approached, we arrived at Salisbury State Park. We first saw the crossbills as a swirling cloud of birds alighting, unmistakably, in a line of pines near the entrance. As we pulled up and began to pick through the foraging birds in the pines, a **Coopers Hawk** dove in out of nowhere and put up the whole lot.

We then set about driving the lanes of the campground, ears peeled, listening for the slightest suggestion of *jit jit*. It was while looking at a single bird teed up near the bathrooms (turned out to be a Red Crossbill) that we relocated the whole flock, which alighted in a tree close to the saltmarsh. Finally, our entire group was able to assemble and get good looks at these voracious and dogged birds feeding both in the trees and on the ground

underneath them (which) made things a lot easier. After a few glorious minutes up close and personal with at least 45 **White-winged Crossbills**, it was raptor time again and the entire group was flushed by a **Merlin**, whereupon they were lost to us.

A great day, capped off by a wonderful experience with winter finches.

David Peake-Jones

## COMING TRIPS

**Saturday, January 5. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island.** All day. Bob Bieda goes east to the coast on his annual New Year's migration 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.

## OVERNIGHT TRIPS

### Monhegan Island, 2013.

#### 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.

We will arrive on the island on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, without vehicles, and 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.

Registration is by deposit. For further details about the trip, contact **Scott Sumner** ([president@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:president@hampshirebirdclub.org); 413 256 5438). For cost information and/or to register, contact Mike Locher ([fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org); 413 585 5864)

#### From the Mouths of Babes

Words of Wisdom from some of the younger denizens of Earth.

*"Countries with sea around them are called islands. Ones without sea are continents."*

## LIBRARY

The library has a new book:

***FEATHERS, the Evolution of a Natural Miracle*** by Thor Hanson.

It's very interesting and easy to read.

HBC has a substantial library at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. **Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Items are catalogued in the "About" section of the HBC Website and 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 [library@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:library@hampshirebirdclub.org)(413) 549 3722.

Henry Lappen

### Christmas Count Potluck Thank You!

Thank you, everyone for being so generous with your delightful dishes and your assistance with set up & take down of the meeting rooms after the count. It is such a wonderful feeling to have everyone so helpful. Sorry we didn't get a chance to thank you Sunday evening --

Our best wishes for a wonderful year ahead --- Sally Hills, Helga Beatty, John & Merry Cushing, Mary Alice, Jan Ortiz, Janice Jorgensen, Sue & Wayne Emerson.

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

**On Top of New England: *Nick Shaw***

Thursday, January 31, 7-8:30pm

**Spring Birding: *Scott Surner***

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

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

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

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. For the final weekend trip participants will be responsible for their own travel, food and lodging. Space is limited. **Registration opens Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am.** Members \$225/Non-members \$250.

**Solar Fuel: Microbial Photosynthesis: *Kelly Nevin***

Thursday, February 7, 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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

### From the Mouths of Babes

*"The closest (English) town to France is Dover. You can get to France on a train or you can take a fairy."*

## ARCADIA PROGRAMS

### **Digital Nature Photography: The Basics. Robert Floyd**

Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### **Nature Photography: Beyond the First Steps. Robert Floyd**

Saturdays, January 12, 26, February 2, 9, 23. 10:30 a.m. – noon.

### **Naked Shrubs in Winter: Boot Boutwell**

Saturday, January 19. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### **Bird Walk at Montague Plains: Michael Metivier**

Saturday, January 26. 8:00 -10:00 a.m.

### **The Birds Downtown: Watching and Documenting or Urban Ecology. Greg Saulmon**

Wednesday, January 30. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### **Winter Crows: James Sullivan and Patti Steinman**

Saturday, February 3. 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

*All programs require a fee unless otherwise stated. For more details of these and other programs go to [www.massaudubon.org](http://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**.*

### **Redpolls**

Perhaps no bird has been more emblematic of the winter finch irruption this year than the Common Redpoll. Seems all you have to do is find a weedy field, and there they are! It turns out these diminutive finches have several anatomical and behavioral adaptations which enable them to spend most winters in even harsher climes than we have here.

Firstly, it turns out that the Redpoll has an expanded esophagus, which allows it to ingest large amounts of food (seeds) very quickly in exposed habitats. Having done so, and with the seeds safely sequestered in this expanded storage area, the birds then retire to more sheltered environments, where they then regurgitate the seeds one at a time, remove the husks, and swallow the nutritious kernels.

Redpolls are also known to shake the birch catkins and weed seed heads on which they feed, before dropping to the ground to ingest the fallen seeds: thus minimizing the amount of time they spend exposed to the freezing winds above the ground.

Source: Todd Peterson: **BirdNote**, November 2012.

**Birdnote** is a series of short radio segments about birds produced daily by a non-profit organization in Seattle Washington, and played on radio stations nation-wide. You can listen to programs and find out more at [www.birdnote.org](http://www.birdnote.org)

That’s it for this month.

Arn’s tips for birding Connecticut follow in glorious isolation, in case you want to paste them up on the fridge. Look for the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule in February.

Until then, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## BIRDING TIPS FOR South-Central and Southeastern CONNECTICUT

*We at HBC have been neglecting Connecticut for years. In an effort to rectify this sad state of affairs, club member Arn Krugman offers these insights into birding our southern neighbor.*

The Hampshire Bird Club has regular trips to Plum Island, Cape Cod, and Rhode Island, but Connecticut is closer and there are some good birding spots 1 ¼ -1 ½ hours from Northampton. (**Windsor**, of course, is closer and there's a special place there with which several members are familiar, **Station 43**.)

**Lighthouse Point** in East Haven is one of the best places in New England for the hawk migration. It's better on north wind days, so scheduling a trip in advance has its drawbacks. Many people don't realize that the adjacent meadows there can also be great for fall migrants.

Another special place for the fall migration is **Bluff Point** in Groton, just east of New London. Drive past the airport toward the trailhead and park just beyond the railroad overpass. Walk up the small hill next to the tracks. (Again, wind is a factor.)

**Hammonasset State Park** in Madison is excellent year round. It gets a lot of rarities and they're usually reported because many birders are on the lookout. *Snowy Owls* can be there in the winter. *Saw-whet Owls* have often been seen in the cedars on Willard's Island in the fall. At Cedar Island *Glossy Ibis* are regulars in the spring and rails are often heard there. Hammonasset also has a lot of *Purple Martins* in boxes at different locations.

**East Rock Park** in New Haven is a less famous version of Mt. Auburn. It isn't a botanical garden, but it is a "migrant magnet" city park with a number of trails and it can be phenomenal on a good day in May.

**Milfort Point**, just west of New Haven, often pops up on the rare bird alert and it's the best place to see Monk Parakeets.

**Lyme** is famous for ticks, but it also has several good birding spots in the spring migration. There are many more *Cerulean-* and *Worm-eating Warblers* down there. *Cuckoos* are also much easier to find and the occasional *Redheaded Woodpecker* makes an appearance. The best places are Hartman Park, Nehantic State Forest and Pleasant Valley. Pleasant Valley is also one of the few places where you can find Box, Wood and Spotted Turtles in good numbers. *Hooded Warblers* are hard to find in the preserves, but they're easy to locate if you drive with your windows down and listen on Joshuatown Road, Mount Archer Road (the end closer to Pleasant Valley), and Grassy Hill Road (near Hartman). Pay closer attention when you see large patches of barberry bushes. The Ravine Trail across from the Selden Creek Preserve on Joshuatown Road has an Acadian Flycatcher spot near the far end. A *Prothonotary Warbler* has been making regular stops at a beaver pond in early May in Nehantic near the Beaver Brook Road end. There have been two reliable trees for *Eastern Screech Owls* in the spring on Ely Ferry Road off Route 156 in Lyme.

*White-eyed Vireos* can usually be found near the parking area at the **Walden Preserve** on Hagan Road in Salem, five minutes from Hartman Park. Hagan Road is just east of the junction of Routes 11 and 82, off route 82.

**Great Island in Old Lyme** is the best place for close looks at *Ospreys* on platform nests. *Marsh Wrens* are also abundant. With a kayak you can paddle upstream toward Lord's Cove and see *American-* and *Least Bitterns* (and Diamond-back Terrapins hauled up on the shores of islands at low tide). Great Island is also wonderful for shore birds at low tide in late August.

Roger Tory Peterson, who lived in Old Lyme, said that the most spectacular bird phenomenon he ever witnessed occurred five minutes from his home, when *500,000 Tree Swallows* funneled down onto **Goose Island** at sunset in September.

(If you go down to this part of Connecticut, you might want to check out two places when you're done birding—Gillette's Castle and the waterfall at Devil's Hopyard. There are also excellent restaurants in Essex and Chester.)

Please feel free to call me for more detailed information at 413-446-9727.

Arn Krugman