



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 29, No. 9

May, 2013.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

David Spector (and friends) present *Winging and Singing: Songs for the Birds*

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

A program of songs and photographs, inspired by birds and presented by **Kate O'Connor, Rico Spence, John Van de Graaff, Don Kroodsma, and David Spector**. One of us will sing, one will provide instrumental backup to the singer, one will have photographs projected, one will provide recordings of bird songs, and one will discuss the lyrics. Bird club members get only one guess as to who does what! There are birds in the sky, but you've never seen them winging or heard them singing the way you will in this program!

All the presenters are members of the Hampshire Bird Club, with about a century of membership among them!

COMING PROGRAMS

June 10, 2013. Joey Mason. Kestrels.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Hampshire Bird Club Incorporated** will be held on **Monday, May 13** at the **Immanuel Lutheran Church** (867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst) at **7:30 p.m.** The meeting will immediately precede our program for this month.

The agenda for the meeting is to elect the Board of Directors for 2013-2014. The Nominating Committee has been hard at work and would like to propose the following nominees:

President: Scott Sumner

Vice-President/Program Chair: Geoff LeBaron

Treasurer: Stephen Baker

Membership Secretary: Sue Emerson

Communications Secretary: Sharon Dombeck

Board Members at large:

Bruce Hart
Mike Locher
Jan Ortiz
David Peake-Jones
Josh Rose
Jaap van Heerden

Other nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

THANK YOU

Janice Jorgensen is ending her term as our Treasurer, and **Donna Rickerby** will be handing over the reins as Communications Secretary. We are grateful to both of them.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

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)

Saturday, May 18. 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 is now CLOSED.

***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

Friday, May 24 – Monday, May 27. Monhegan Island. Overnight trip. Scott Sumner 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. Registration is now CLOSED.

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)

A Miss Manners Minute

(from the HBC Field Trip Guidelines)

Please **share costs** with courtesy. We recommend a cost of \$0.50 cents per mile plus tolls and parking to be shared equally among the driver and all passengers, but the rate for your vehicle is entirely up to the driver and passengers. Please agree on a mileage rate or flat contribution BEFORE the trip leaves to avoid misunderstandings. Please bring cash or checks and be prepared to reimburse the driver at the time of the trip.

While birding, please **stay close to the group** unless you have some specific reason to separate, and inform the leader if you are doing so. This reduces delays and distractions for the entire group.

Please **call the trip leader at least a few days** before the trip. It helps the leader plan the trip and you learn about any special arrangements or any change of plans.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Help for Young Birders!!

HBC is offering financial help for young birders who would like to attend a conference or camp. Applications for the HBC Education Committee Youth Scholarship can be made by or on behalf of anyone ages 12 to 18 who is, or has a family member who is an HBC member.

A link to the scholarship application can be found on the HBC Homepage:

www.hampshirebirdclub.org/Application.

For further information, please email the HBC Education Committee:

education@hampshirebirdclub.org

The scholarship is made possible entirely through the generous donations of HBC members.

The Quabbin Eagle Count

During the annual Quabbin eagle count, (part of an annual state-wide Bald Eagle count) on April 5, counters identified 16 adult eagles, one (1) juvenile, and six (6) active nests.

Henceforward, the count will be conducted in the spring, as opposed to its traditional timing of mid-winter.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

1493: The Columbian Ecological Exchange: *Charles Mann*

Tuesday, May 14, 7-9 p.m.. Free. Registration required.

Birding By Ear at Fitzgerald Lake: *John Green*

Saturday, May 18, 7-10 a.m. Fee.

Facing the Climate Crisis: Living in Hope: *Rev. Margaret Bullit-Jonas*

Thursday, May 30, 7-8:30 p.m. Free, donation suggested.

Morning Nature Walk for Seniors: *John Green*

Wednesday, June 5, 9-11 a.m. Free. Registration required.

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 go to www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Check-out* Peregrines at the Library!

Hi folks.

The UMass library peregrines are nesting. There are four eggs. The webcam has just been activated at:

<http://www.library.umass.edu/falcons>

Enjoy!

Jaap

*Just want to let you know that Jaap had no part in the title. It is entirely my fault. Ed.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Early Morning Bird Walks: *Guest leaders*

Arcadia: Saturdays, May 4 and 11; 7:00 – 8:30. Monday to Friday, May 13-17; 6:30 to 8:00 a.m.

Arcadia and Graves Farm: Saturday, May 18; 7:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Wildflowers at Lynes Sanctuary: *Connie Parks and Janet Bissell*

At Marion Sherman Lynes Sanctuary. Wednesday, May 8; 9 a.m. to noon.

Wildflowers at Graves Farm: *Connie Parks and Janet Bissell.*

Wednesday, May 15. 9 a.m. to noon.

Writers In the Wood: Drawing on a Sense of Place: *Kathryn Petrucelli*

Saturday, May 18; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 25; 10 a.m. to noon.

Spring Ephemeral Boreal Plant and Tree Walk: *Aimee Gelinis*

At Tamarack Hollow, Windsor. Saturday, May 18; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wildflowers at High Ledges: *Connie Parks and Janet Bissell.*

Wednesday, May 22. 9 a.m. to noon.

*All programs require a fee 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.*

Scott Weidensaul: Coffee and Birds

Lyman Hall, First Churches, 129 Main Street Northampton.

Wednesday, May 8, 2013. 6:30 p.m.

The impact of coffee farming on neo-tropical migratory bird habitat in Central and South America
Scott is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including "Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding" and the Pulitzer Prize-nominated "Living on the Wind" about bird migration,

Coffee will be served at 6:30. The presentation will begin at 7:00. Free.

Eyes on Owls: Marcia Wilson

Saturday, May 11

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Hadley

Everyone loves owls! Yet how many of us have ever seen a live owl up close? Perhaps you've glimpsed the shadowy form of a Great Horned Owl in the headlights as you've traveled a back road at night or squinted at a distant Snowy Owl in a winter field? Noisy crows in a white pine tree? Have they found an owl?

Where: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Road, Hadley, MA 01035

When: The presentation will be offered at 11:30 a.m. AND AGAIN at 1:30 p.m.
Questions: Call Debra at 313 253 8674

The following is a paid presentation for the Syri-Sync vocal learning system. Syri-sync is not endorsed by the Hampshire Bird Club, any of its unpaid lackeys, or any part of its Pioneer Valley media hegemony.

Hi There. I'm Robin Yewblind and I'm here to talk to all you song-birds about bird-song. Bird-song? That's for the birds, right?

No, but seriously birds, I want to tell you about a revolutionary new way of learning bird song that will make you wonder how you ever got along without it. It's the Syri-sync system from Bird Word: the world's first patented song-learning system for fledglings.

Now I get at least twenty tweets every day...((aside) "'Tweets'; get it bird friends, 'tweets'")... from birdy moms out there, worried about how the little darlings are going to learn the right tune, so to speak.

I mean, who has the time anymore? Let's face it, every year, your kids are being born into an increasingly competitive world. It's not enough to just feed 'em up and tip 'em out anymore, right? You've got the honors avionics group at school, after-school GPS practice, and let's not forget those plumage enhancements that they just don't seem to be able to do without.

Ever wonder how they're going to get the song-learning in as well?

Now we all know the old way. Listen hard to dad and hope it rubs off., but let's be honest now, show of wings if you have ever wondered, whether dad is really 100% committed to your nest? Is he really around enough for effective learning to take place? Yeah, I know. Nothing against Dad, mind you., but maybe more of a lover than a teacher, right? Now, no judgements here. I mean, a show of wings if you have thought of the odd extra-pair excursion from time to time?

OK, OK. Settle down ladies!

So, what's the solution? The solution is the new, patented song-learning system of Syri-sync.

No tapes, no acoustical isolation labs, just dad's voice but without all the FUSS. Here's how it works.

The Syri-sync unit is powerful, compact, and fits over your chick's head with the patented bio-degradable elastic harness. The voice selection unit slides comfortably into the ear canal and the directional mike, solar collector, and harness vanish into the face and crown plumage with the aid of our revolutionary field guide color-matching technology. As soon as Syri-sync picks up Dad's voice print, it locks in and presents that voice and that voice alone to the neonate's developing brain for at least three weeks.

Dad meets an untimely demise? Aw shucks. Syri-sync will extrapolate a realistic set of variations to keep the whole thing lifelike and true-to-nature.

Problem knowing who dad is? Physique and voice desired from DIFFERENT males? No problem. You can reset up to five times with Syri-sync to the individual of your choice. And resetting looks just like de-lousing, so real Dad need never know.

So what are you waiting for? Syri-sync can be yours today. Just send the first of three annual payments of one healthy first-born offspring to the address on your screen.

And don't forget to ask about the special deals available on our cow-bird and flycatcher packages.

For Syri-sync, I'm Robin Yewblind signing off, and reminding you that with Syri-sync, singing is a cinch!

That's all for now.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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