



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 30, No. 1

## September, 2013.

September draws nigh. For those of us whose lives are rooted in the human rhythms of school, work and vacation, the playtime of summer is narrowing and the serious work of earning, studying and, well, not-vacationing looms. Some, of course, march to the beat of a different drummer. Nighthawks are already on the move, bobbing and weaving their way through the last midge swarms of summer to points south. Young shorebirds have already touched down at South Beach and are on their way to the wild coasts of central- and south- America, only now followed by their sage and more world-weary parents. The hawks will be swirling southward soon, and the warblers are beginning to feel the pull of the tropics.

**Hampshire Bird Club** is girding its collective loins for another year! We have a **new meeting time** (read on, dear member), a wonderful **new schedule of programs**, a great slate of **fall field trips**, and a whole year of shared birding experiences in store. All we need is you and a small portion of your hard-earned wealth. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the engine that keeps our birding community going is our membership, and the pragmatic expression of your undoubted commitment to HBC is the check you hand to the Membership Secretary at the September meeting, or place in an envelope in response to this missive.

Peruse the Program Schedule and the Fall Field Trip Schedule, follow the handy-dandy Renewal Checklist at the end of this letter, and we will see you on September 9!

### NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, September 9 at 7:15 p.m.\***

**Barbara Volkle** delves into the nooks and crannies of **Massbird**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

**\*New Program Time**

**MassBird** describes itself as follows at MassBird.com:

*"MASSBIRD is a mailing list dedicated to the interchange of wild bird and birding information relevant to Massachusetts and New England. This list is intended for the discussion of local issues - such as birding locations, local conditions, reports of local rarities and unusual sightings, pelagic trip reports, legislative alerts, events and speakers in the area, and calls for volunteers in research and census activities."*

Maybe MassBird is already an integral part of your birding world and you are curious about what makes it tick. Maybe you visit occasionally and could use some information on how to better use its resources. Maybe you thought Massbird was an ornithological dieting site. Whatever the source of your curiosity, you should come hear **Barbara Volkle**, who IS Massbird, delve into the history and innermost secrets of this extraordinary forum.

## COMING PROGRAMS

- October 21, 2013. Shawn Carey.** Epic Migrations.  
**November 11, 2013. John Van de Graaff.** Birds Across Europe II.  
**December 9, 2013. Members' Meeting.**  
**January 13, 2014. Don Kroodsma.** Bird by Bird by Bike III.  
**February 10, 2014. Geoff LeBaron.** Hummingbirds at Home.  
**March 10, 2014. Chris Dwyer.** Common Eider Die-off in MA.  
**April 14, 2014. David Spector.** Bird-worthy Authors of the CRV.  
**May 12, 2014. Joan Walsh.** Birds and Agriculture.  
**June 9, 2014. Steve Kress.** Puffins and other Seabirds.

## MEETINGS TO BEGIN AT 7:15

Rumblings began around the club about a year ago about the start times of our meetings. More than a few people could not stay till the end of some of our programs, and we heard concerns from families that the programs ended too late for youngsters to attend.

We looked into this further through a survey sent out one year ago in which we asked you to tell us whether you would be more or less likely to attend if meetings were held earlier. The results were quite clear. One hundred and eight (108) people turned in surveys. Of these folks, 48 (44%) said they would be more likely to attend if meetings were held earlier, 48 (44%) were neutral on the idea and 12 (11%) said they would be less likely to attend.

The board considered this at a recent meeting and decided on a modest change in start-time. We hope this will help the majority of members come to more meetings and stay for longer. We apologize to those who preferred 7:30 and hope you will give the new time a fair go.

## Newsletter: On-line or Hard Copy?

The membership form asks you to select either “on-line” access to the newsletter this year, or the “hard copy” delivered to you via the United States Postal Service.

### “Why choose “on-line?”

The on-line newsletter reduces postage and printing costs for the club, and also the wear and tear upon the editor and his mailing minions.

### “How does on-line access work?”

The newsletter is posted on the HBC Website. Each month, you get an email notification, with a link to the Website, whence you can download our humble publication at your leisure. You need to give us an email address on the membership form in order to get the on-line reminder.

### “What if I encounter technical difficulties?”

If “on-line” does not work for you, a simple communication with the Membership Secretary or Editor will get you back on the “hard copy” mailing list.

### “What are the software requirements?”

The on-line newsletter is in Portable Document Format (.pdf). You will need .pdf-reading software. If you do not have it already, Adobe Acrobat is available FREE via a link at the club Website.

### “How do I sign up?”

Sign up in the upper right hand corner of the Membership Form.

### “I signed up last year. Do I need to sign up again?”

Yes, please! Regardless of how you got the newsletter last year, please make your choice of how to receive the newsletter this year on this year’s membership form! Thank you!

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

Please see the enclosed **Fall Field Trip Schedule**.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Please Contribute!

The Education Committee is now well-established activity and thriving. There were a number of community events last club year, and some exciting things in the offing for this for year.

The committee is accepting applications for scholarships to support youth up to 18 years in pursuing bird-related educational opportunities. Please follow the [Application](#) link from the HBC Homepage to download an application form or contact a member of the committee

If you want to participate in the Committee, contact any one of its members: **Janice Jorgensen, Scott Surner, Jan Ortiz, Bruce Hart, and Tom Gagnon**. You can reach them collectively at [education@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:education@hampshirebirdclub.org).

Please consider a financial contribution to the work of the committee, which you can make via the membership form.

## Broad Brook Coalition Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary!

The Broad Brook Coalition, which manages the 800-acre Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area (FLCA) for the City of Northampton, will mark its 25th anniversary with two special events this month.

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**Saturday, September 21, 2013: 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Grande Promenade** through the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, from the North Farms Road Entrance to Coles Meadow Road, via the Dam, the Wildlife Blind, and the New Broad Brook Gap Parcel. Meet at the North Farms Road entrance to the FLCA at 9:30. Rain date: Sunday, September 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

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**Sunday, September 29, 2013: 4:00 p.m.**

**"The Social Black Bear"** with **Benjamin Kilham**, bear behaviorist, conservationist and author.

At the Florence Civic Center, corner Main and Park Streets, Florence (near Lilly Library) (no actual bears scheduled to appear, but you never know.....),

*followed by*

**5:00 p.m. Reminiscences and Awards, and**

**5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Reception with Refreshments and Celebratory Beverages.**

**All are welcome!**

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Board Meetings of the Hampshire Bird Club are open to all members. The next one is on Thursday, September 12 at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst.

**Hawks on Mt. Tom: A Family-Oriented Public Program**  
**September 22, 2013: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**Mt. Tom Reservation, Holyoke, MA.**

Featured activities:

- **Eyes on Owls:** Mark and Marcia Wilson (Two Presentations),
- **Live Raptors with Tom Ricardi** (12:00 NOON) at the Visitors Center,
- **The WOW Express** traveling educational program from Conte Refuge,
- **Hawk-watching** at Bray Tower and Goat Peak 10 AM to 2 PM, and
- Several other family-oriented activities such as **crafts, face-painting** etc.

For further details, please email Patti Steinman at Arcadia: [psteinman@massaudubon.org](mailto:psteinman@massaudubon.org).

From the North: take exit 18 off I-91 South, and proceed South on Route 5 toward Holyoke. Pass the power station on the left, the Delaney House Restaurant on the right, and then begin looking for Reservation Road on the right (signs for the reservation as well). Proceed through the park entrance and follow signs for the visitors center.

From Easthampton and points WEST, you can enter the park opposite the Log Cabin restaurant on Holyoke Street/Mountain Road (Rt 141) between Easthampton and Holyoke.

**Another Plug for the Saw-whet trip....**

**Saturday, November 2, Saw-whet Owl Banding. Evening.**

Janice Jorgensen and Sue Emerson will join Strickland Wheelock and his crew at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, MA for an evening of netting and banding Saw-whet Owls. Visitors help check the nets for owls every 45 minutes, then observe as crew members weigh, measure, and band the owls. Visitors often participate in the releasing the owls. Bring a camera to record a great evening in the outdoors and, with luck, an owl or two.

More information will be available at the September meeting. This trip is limited to 7 participants (first-timers given preference) and costs \$20 per person. For information and to register call Sue Emerson ( 413-588-6900) and to reserve a place send a non-refundable check for \$20 payable to "HBC" to HBC Treasurer, C/O Stephen Baker, 287 Williamsburg Road , Williamsburg, MA 01096.

**Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW** using this handy-dandy checklist

- Your **membership status** is shown on the cover page. Check to see if you owe dues this year.
- Complete the **Membership Form** (including your membership contribution for this year) and its reverse side (the **Field Trip Release Form**),
- Throw in a donation for the work of the **Education Committee** if you wish,
- Fill out the **HBC Member Skills Survey**, and
- Mail** the above forms (with your check if needed) to the address on the Membership Form, or bring them along on September 9th.

**Please renew before October 1 by mail, or at the September meeting. Thanks!**

That's all for now!

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor  
529 9541

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

Date received:	Payment: __ cash, __ check, \$ _____	Release Form signed?	Newsletter Choice?	Data entered:
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*For administrative purposes only*

### HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2013-2014

Please note that contact information may be shared with other members of the club, unless you request otherwise below.

Name(s):	<p><b>How would you like to get the HBC newsletter?</b> (For the "online" version, we need to have an email address for you).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Download from the HBC Website (club will send reminders), OR</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Send me the newsletter via US mail</b></p> <p><b>Please check any activities listed below which you would like to participate:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally provide refreshments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Field Trip Committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lead field trips</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Share info. on birding locations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)</p>											
Address:												
City:												
State: _____ ZIP: _____												
Home phone:												
Other phone (whose?):												
E-mail(s):												
<table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>May we publish your contact information in the annual club membership list (sent to members)?</b></td> <td><b>Yes</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.?</b></td> <td><b>Yes</b></td> <td><b>No</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	<b>May we publish your contact information in the annual club membership list (sent to members)?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
<b>May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>										
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										

Please choose a level of membership below. Our supporting membership categories are essential in financing our outstanding programming. **All membership contributions are tax deductible** (if you itemize your deductions).

**MEMBERSHIP - REGULAR: Tax deductible**

Student @ \$5.00	\$ _____
Individual @ \$18.00	\$ _____
Family @ \$30.00	\$ _____

**MEMBERSHIP – SUPPORTING: Tax deductible**

Downy Woodpecker @ \$40.00	\$ _____
Northern Flicker @ \$60.00	\$ _____
Red-bellied Woodpecker @ \$100.00	\$ _____
Pileated Woodpecker @ \$250.00 or more	\$ _____

**OUTREACH ACTIVITY**

Donation to Education Committee (Optional)	\$ _____
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Please make checks payable to the **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.** and send (with this form) to:  
**Hampshire Bird Club, P.O. Box 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716.**

### FIELD TRIP RELEASE FORM: 2013-2014

Please complete the release form below if you intend to go on field trips or think you might participate in the future. We need members to share responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others during field trips. The signed release will be filed with the club secretary. For family memberships, all participating members should sign.

#### RELEASE OF ALL DEMANDS - HOLD HARMLESS

I hereby acknowledge that as a participant in field trips with the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC) I may be exposed to significant risks. These may include, but are not limited to, vehicular travel over land and water, foot travel over difficult terrain, and hazardous weather conditions. I may also encounter poisonous plants, dangerous wildlife, and/or disease-carrying insects. In the event of injury, I understand that I may face considerable delays in reaching professional medical help.

I fully accept these risks and agree to hold the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc., its officers, directors, volunteers, employees, and agents free from any and all liability for injuries and/or loss which I may incur, directly or indirectly, while on field trips run by HBC between August 31, 2013 and October 1, 2014.

EXECUTED freely and voluntarily this day:....., ....., .....,  
(month) (day) (year)

All participating family members, please sign and print name:

- 1)..... print name▶ .....
- 2)..... print name▶ .....
- 3)..... print name▶ .....
- 4)..... print name▶ .....

## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Fall 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 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. However, check all information with the trip leaders.*

### SEPTEMBER

**\*Tuesday, September 17. Mount Tom: Hawk Migration.** Half day. Tom Gagnon goes hawk watching at Goat's Peak, at the Mt. Tom State Reservation. Meet at 9 a.m. at the old park headquarters parking area, and expect a 20 minute walk to the tower. If hawks are moving, the trip could last until 3 p.m., but participants may leave earlier on their own. Bring lunch or a snack if you plan to stay, and dress for the weather. Call or email Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) for information and to register. (E)

**\*Saturday, September 28. Migrants along the River.** Half day or more. Joshua Rose prowls the farmland of Hadley and Northampton for fall migrants. Meet at the old Bri-Mar Stables (69 Moody Bridge Road; Hadley). Then, depending on interest and energy, progress through the Honeypot, the East Meadows, Aqua Vitae Road, and back to Cook's Farm for ice cream. Contact Josh (413-835-0093) for information. (E)

### OCTOBER

**Saturday, October 12. Quabbin Reservoir: Fall Migrants.** All day. Tom Gagnon leads his annual fall trip to the Quabbin to see southbound birds, late season flowers, butterflies, and mammals. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) well in advance to register, because participation is limited, and to get meeting information. Rain date – Sunday, October 13. (M)

**\*Sunday, October 13. Sparrows, sparrows, and more sparrows!** Half day. Scott Sumner beats the bushes of Hadley and Northampton to find migrating and resident sparrows (everybody's favorite little brown birds). Call Scott (413-256-5438) for meeting time and place. (E)

**\*Saturday, October 26. Coastal Rhode Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron travels to Rhode Island to look for migrants, waterfowl, and seabirds along the coast. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register and get meeting information as the date approaches. (E)

**\*Sunday, October 27. Halloween Extravaganza: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more.** All day. Joshua Rose birds the northern reaches of the valley from Northfield to Turner's Falls. Call Josh (413-835-0093) for meeting information. (E)

## NOVEMBER

**\*Saturday, November 2, Saw-whet Owls.** Evening. Janice Jorgensen and Sue Emerson join Strickland Wheelock and his crew at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, MA for an evening of netting and banding Saw-whet Owls. This trip is limited to 7 birders (first-time participants get preference) and costs \$20 per person. For information and to register call Sue Emerson (413-588-6900) and to reserve a place send a non-refundable check for \$20 payable to "HBC" to Stephen Baker (HBC Treasurer; 287 Williamsburg Road; Williamsburg, MA 01096). (E)

**\*Sunday, November 3. The Apple Cider Donut Field Trip.** All day. Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) goes into the hills to find the best cider donuts in Berkshire County and also visits the lakes and ponds of western Massachusetts to look for ducks and other migrating waterfowl. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 6:15 a.m. for carpooling. Dress warmly and bring food and water. (M)

**Saturday-Monday, November 9-11. Cape Cod. Overnight.** Scott Surner leads the club on a trip to Cape Cod for late migrants, waterfowl, seabirds, and more. This trip is limited to 12 participants, and you must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for details and cost. (M)

**\*Saturday, November 16. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley.** All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) travels to the premier Snow Goose staging area in New England and looks 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)

**Saturday, November 23. East Quabbin.** All day. Tom Gagnon leads his annual trip to the east side of the reservoir to look for waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) well in advance to register, because participation is limited, and to get meeting information. (Sorry, no donuts on this trip.) (M)

## HBC Member Skills Survey

You just might be one of those people with a set of specific technical abilities we need to help HBC thrive. If so, we would love to be able to ask for your help on an occasional basis or even as a board member at some time in the future. With this in mind, we ask that you complete the survey below. In doing so, you are not making a commitment of any kind. The information simply allows us to reach out to you in the future if and when the need arises.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I have the following skills and could consider volunteering for HBC in the future:**

- Working with audio-visual technologies such as digital slide projectors, Power-point presentations, PA sound systems, microphones, computer interfaces etc. (Set-up chair)
- Financial management/accounting/small business management (Treasurer).
- Financial auditing (small non-profit).
- Website development and maintenance (Webmaster).
- Legal and/or insurance consulting (especially with regard to the needs of small non-profits).
- Spreadsheet data entry and maintenance (e.g. Excel) (Membership Secretary).
- Ornithology/birding networking (extensive range of contacts amongst potential speakers) (Program Chair).
- Environmental education/presentations (Education Committee).
- Newsletter editing and distribution (Newsletter).

Other skills and/or  
comments? \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this to HBC with your membership form: either in person at the September/October meetings, or by mail to:

**Hampshire Bird Club, P.O. Box 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716**