



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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## November, 2014.

In this edition:

- the **next program** and the coming **program schedule**,
- the **remaining fall trips**,
- news from the **Education Committee**,
- the **Northampton Christmas Bird Count**,
- the Christmas Bird Count **POTLUCK**,
- **Birds of the World** at Harvard,
- **Hitchcock Programs**, and
- a few other tid-bits.

I hope you find some of it useful.

### NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, November 10 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Ian Davies** pries into **The Secret Lives of Shorebirds**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Surprisingly robust, tiny sandpipers and plovers fly thousands of miles each fall from areas like northern Alaska to South America, reversing this herculean journey the following spring. During these journeys they pause to refuel in certain crucial stopover areas such as the Bay of Fundy in eastern Canada, and numerous locations in coastal New England. After resting and feeding on the abundant invertebrates in mud and sand flats, the shorebirds take wing again, often flying non-stop for several days to reach their destination.

After witnessing shorebirds in migration, seeing the transformation on the breeding grounds is nothing short of awe-inspiring. The quiet and demure shorebirds that probe along our beaches transform into creatures with spectacular aerial displays and songs that rival any songbird.

This presentation will focus on the lives of shorebirds throughout their summer season, and the following migration southwards to our shores and beyond.

**Ian Davies** is a recent graduate of UMass Amherst. He spent a happy few years birding in the Pioneer Valley during his time as a student. He originally got interested in birding at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences 10 years ago, and since that time has been lucky enough to travel to over a dozen countries in the pursuit of all things feathered.

### COMING PROGRAMS

**December 8, 2014. HBC Members Meeting.**

**January 12, 2015. Don Kroodsmas.** Birdsong: The Hour Before Dawn.

**February 9, 2015. Scott Sumner.** The Big Chicken Run.

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, November 15. East Quabbin.** All day. Craig and Harvey Allen lead our 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 Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)) *well in advance* to register (because participation is limited) and to get meeting information. (M)

**\*Sunday, November 16. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley.** All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)) continues his quest to find the elusive Ross's Goose among the hundreds of Snow Geese at the premier staging area in New England. After the geese, he'll look for other seasonal specialties along the shores of Lake Champlain. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 5:30 a.m. for carpooling. (E)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

How to attract more young people to birding? Do most HBC presentations really hold childrens' interest? How do we get kids out into the field? What to do when physical issues due to aging, illness or accident won't allow one to participate at meetings or in the field as before?

The Education Committee tries to reach out to people who might otherwise never have a chance to learn about birds and birding.

School presentations, senior walks and programs, live bird interactions (captive and wild), visits to raptor centers, learning about falconry, organizing boy & girl scout merit badge events, member workshops, purchasing and/or reading natural history and bird books to children, these are just a few of the ideas on the table. You can donate to support the work of the committee via your membership form, but just as importantly, we need your input and energy. What ideas do you have? Let us know! Or better still, join the committee!

Contact the committee at [education@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:education@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Puffin Raffle

Your chance to have a life-sized Atlantic Puffin perch in your home has arrived. The Education Committee is raffling a hand-carved puffin valued at \$275 to raise funds to support the work of the committee. The carving has been donated by HBC member Janice Doppler. It was amongst the prize-winners at a recent competition sponsored by New England Woodcarvers, Inc.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at the November and December club meetings. Tickets are \$2 for one and \$5 for three. The winning ticket will be drawn at the December meeting. You do not have to be present at the December meeting to win.

Janice has been carving birds in wood for a dozen years. Her goal in each carving is to create a realistic bird that looks soft and lifelike. You can see some of her work at her website at

<http://birdcarvingsbyjanicedoppler.weebly.com/>

or check out her Facebook page about the intersection of bird carving and bird watching at

<https://www.facebook.com/birdcarvingsbyjanicedoppler>.

## NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

**Sunday, December 14, 2014.**

The annual Northampton Christmas Bird Count (CBC), sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club, enlists over a hundred volunteers across Hampshire County to count every bird they see and hear. For more than 80 years the CBC has been a citizen science tradition for the Valley.

This long record of data-keeping provides valuable insight into bird populations and the health of their habitats, helping wildlife organizations implement conservation strategies.

We have walkers, feeder-counters, owlers, snow-shoers: whatever is necessary to get the count done. If you are interested, contact Jan Ortiz or Janice Jorgensen at [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org) We welcome newcomers to this fun and fabulous day.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT POTLUCK

### Contributors Needed

To get a sense of how important the Potluck is, try to imagine the Christmas Count without it! Imagine struggling back to the Hitchcock Center after a day on your feet in the winter weather, with nothing but the prospect of sitting in a cheerless room listening to other groups recount the rarities they found. Thankfully, this is NOT how the CBC works. Instead, we return to the wonderful culinary achievements of our members, ranging from stunning salads to steaming crockpots of chili and melt-in-the-mouth desserts, all washed down, of course, by hot drinks ranging from mulled cider to hot chocolate.

### Please help!

This does not happen by magic. Please email or call Sue Emerson with your promised contribution. Whatever you can provide, we, I assure you, can consume! Volunteer counters thank you!!

## LIBRARY

**The HBC Library** is located at the **Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst.**

Hours are those of the Hitchcock Center:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday, and

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The collection is catalogued on-line at [www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org).

The library contains birding resources in various media, including field guides, bird-finding guides to almost every major birding destination in the U.S., and overseas, natural histories, periodicals and videos. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. Our librarian, **Henry Lappen**, is happy to bring items to meetings, if you give him a few days in advance. You can reach him at [library@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:library@hampshirebirdclub.org) or (413) 549 3722.

## BIRDS OF THE WORLD GALLERY

### Harvard Museum of Natural History

A new exhibit opened to the public on September 20 of this year at Harvard Museum of Natural History. On the balcony encircling the museum's Great Mammal Hall, this bright, newly remodeled gallery captures the staggering diversity of birds with many hundreds of stunning specimens, representing over 200 different bird families.

You can find out more on-line at

<http://hmsc.harvard.edu/news/birds-world-gallery>

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

### **Tour of Amherst Wastewater Treatment Facility**

Saturday, November 8, 10am-11:30am

### **Green Buildings Tour: *Wright Builders***

Sunday, November 16, 10am-2pm

### **Reading the Forested Landscape: *Tom Wessels***

Full: Wait-List.

Sunday, November 16, 1pm-4pm

### **Wildlife Conservation in Kenya: *Steve Upton***

Tuesday, November 18, 7pm-8:30pm

### **Animals of the North: What Will Climate Change Mean for Them? *Sue Morse***

Thursday, November 20, 7pm-8:30pm

Held at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley

### **Animal Tracking in the Field: *Sue Morse***

Saturday, November 22

Field Walk 1: 9am-12pm

Field Walk 2: 1pm-4pm

*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).*

## **NO SUNDAY HUNTING**

At the time this goes to press, HUNTING is still prohibited in Massachusetts on Sundays. A bill to allow bow-hunting on Sundays was passed by the House in June, but did not get passed by the full legislature. Please be aware that there is steady pressure from various groups in the state to allow hunting seven days per week during the various hunting seasons in the Commonwealth. If you have thoughts on the matter, you might consider sharing these with your elected representatives.....

## **Backyard Birds**

***17 Strong St., Northampton (near Eastside Grill). Phone 586 3155***

Your local source for birding and bird-feeding supplies, including feeders, optics, gifts, written and audio-materials. Ten percent discount for members of the Hampshire Bird Club. Remember, with local merchants, your dollar stays here!

That is all for this month.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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