



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
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**December, 2015.**

One quick glance at this missive will tell you that it is merely a trumped up postcard with three simple goals. One is to alert you that we are meeting this month. A second is to make sure you are aware of the Christmas counts that are happening around the Yuletide. The third is to get the HBC 2015 membership directory into your hands. It appears I have also slipped in an inadvertent quip about the current political circus into the editorial. I will leave you to identify it and let the circus tramp on past, for now.

An **ERROR** to confess to.

The hard copy of the December newsletter contained an error under "Coming Programs."

The February program will feature **David Spector** with "**Sam Peabody and Friends: A Look at Birdsong Interpretation.**" We hope Scott Weidensaul can join us at another time.

Whatever the holidays mean for you, I hope it is not presumptuous to wish for kindness, gentleness and peace in a world which seems to be struggling to hold onto these qualities.

**NEXT PROGRAM**  
**Monday, December 14 at 7:15 p.m.**  
**HBC Members Meeting**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

*Weather-related cancellations announced via the HBC email list and local media.*

**This month, the program is US!**

**Please bring some slides to share.**

As in past years, please limit your show to 15 or fewer slides and you must be prepared to narrate your own stuff. Please contact either **Jaap van Heerden** ([jvanheerden@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:jvanheerden@hampshirebirdclub.org)) or **Geoff LeBaron** ([programs@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:programs@hampshirebirdclub.org)) by 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 13. Please let them know:

- Are your slides digital or 35 mm format?
- If digital, are the images in Powerpoint format or stand-alone images?

If you bring digital images, please have them on a memory stick or CD-ROM disk.

**AND**

**Please bring some sort of snack to share.**

The Refreshment Committee are taking a well-earned break this month. If we don't bring stuff, we will go hungry!!

**COMING PROGRAMS**

**Please note a change to the February program.**

**January 11, 2016. Dave Wiley.** Tracking Great Shearwater Migration.

**February 8, 2016. David Spector.** Sam Peabody and Friends: A Look at Birdsong Interpretation.

## CHRISTMAS COUNTS

### Woo-Hoo!

#### Northampton Christmas Bird Count

Join the 83rd Northampton (MANO) CBC on December 20, 2015. We have 36 teams during the daylight hours and about 10 owling teams. At dusk we sit down to a yummy potluck at the Hitchcock Center to compile the results and share the thrills and spills of the day. Be there or be square. To join a team or be a feeder counter contact Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz at [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org)

#### The Christmas Count HOW –TO

*Wanna be part of this whole Christmas Count thing but new to birds and worried about your skill level?* Learn to identify birds at the feeders at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary and join birders from the Hampshire Bird Club to experience the Christmas Bird Count, and discover how your family can become citizen scientists. This program is **free** and requires no registration. Drop in any time between 10:00-12:00 on **Sunday, December 20** (the day of the Northampton CBC). Binoculars are helpful, but not necessary.

#### The Feeder Watch

If you'd like to be part of the Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 20 but aren't able to be in the field and are within our count area, your help would be appreciated. Please email the compilers at [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org) or Sally Hills at [sara09@charter.net](mailto:sara09@charter.net).

#### The Potluck

Try, just try, to imagine the Christmas count without the potluck! Imagine struggling back to 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. 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, with hot drinks ranging from mulled cider to hot chocolate. **This does not happen by magic.** Please contact Sue Emerson — [spe33@me.com](mailto:spe33@me.com) or 413-588-6900. Whatever you can provide, we, I assure you, can consume. Volunteer counters thank you!!

#### Quabbin Count

The Quabbin Count this year is on **Saturday, January 2**.

If you are looking for balmy conditions, balmy people and a frightening diversity of birds, you may want to consider signing on with a team.

Not dissuaded yet? Please contact Scott Turner: [ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com) or 413 256 5834

Postponed to January because of lack of space and editor lethargy:

- Reports from the Satan's Kingdom trip in October and the Plum Island trip in November,

Added to the online version this month (after the closing):

- An entirely serious and well-researched compendium of **Christmas Bird Counts in Western Massachusetts** which deserved to make it into the printed letter but for spatial limitations, and
- An entirely frivolous message about December refreshments which has no place in any respectable publication whatsoever.

That's all for this month.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

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

# December ONLINE Newsletter Extra #1

## A Directory of Christmas Bird Counts in Western Massachusetts 2015

### **Sturbridge**

Monday 12/14, contact Mark Lynch at [moa.lynch@verizon.net](mailto:moa.lynch@verizon.net)

### **Athol**

Saturday 12/19 Athol, contact Dave Small at [dave@dhsmall.net](mailto:dave@dhsmall.net) or (978) 413-1772

### **Central Berkshire**

Saturday 12/19, contact Holly Higginbotham and Bob Wood at (413) 684-3724

### **Northern Berkshire**

Saturday 12/19, contact Pam Weatherbee at (413) 458-3538

### **Springfield**

Saturday 12/19, contact George Kingston at [gcking@yahoo.com](mailto:gcking@yahoo.com) or (413) 525-6742

### **Northampton**

Sunday 12/20 (but you already know all about this one)

### **Cobble Mountain**

Saturday 12/26, contact Seth Kellogg at [skhawk@comcast.net](mailto:skhawk@comcast.net) or (413) 569-3335

### **Southern Berkshire**

Friday 1/1, contact Rene Laubach at [renelaubach@gmail.com](mailto:renelaubach@gmail.com) or (413) 623-8803

### **Quabbin**

Saturday 1/2, contact Scott Sumner at [ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com) or (413) 256-5438

### **Greenfield,**

Sunday 1/3 contact Mark Fairbrother at [bogelfin@crocker.com](mailto:bogelfin@crocker.com) or (413) 367-2695

**Compiled by Josh Rose**

## December ONLINE Newsletter “Extra” #2 Cousin Vinnie’s December Refreshments Message

*Cousin Vinnie’s words of wisdom can best be understood if you imagine him standing before you. Please envisage a portly gentleman in a pinstripe suit with a carnation in the lapel and a comb-over. His voice is a high pitched cross between the Godfather and Corporal Klinger from M\*A\*S\*H. Hope that helps.*

“Hey dere. Cousin Vinnie here. Best you don’t know exactly where I am, but let’s just say its close enough that we know where you are. Did I say we? No, just me. No other tough guys in the room. Not even one.

OK, so da refreshment committee got some t’ings to share wit’ youse all. Da committee’s been woyking dey fingers to da bone and deys takin’ a break. Youse all wants anything to eat this month, youse gonna bring it is yaselves. Oh and da committee asked me to toyn up just to, you know, check on things December 14.

You should know I likes lady fingers and an’ I likes to get what I likes if ya know what I mean.

Da Committee hopes youse all can cooperate so nobody has to take an impromptu dip in the Connecticut with, shall we say, non-regulation footwear.

So, like I said, bring some nice eats on December 14 and nobody gets hoyt.

Oh, and IF my brudder Gino happens to show up, he’s gonna be a lot happier if theys cannoli on the table. And you probly wanna have Gino be as happy as possible.”

Jus’sayin’. Know what I mean?

Buon natale,  
Vincenzo.

*In case Vinnie’s message is in any way unclear, we need everyone to bring some goodies to share for the December meeting, lest we go hungry. THANK YOU!*