



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 31, No. 7

March, 2015.

In this edition:

- the **program** for this month and the **coming slate**,
- coming **field trips**,
- **library news** (in a racy font),
- **two local conferences** that may be of interest, and
- announcing the **first annual Valley Birding Festival**: a wonderful new event for our area!
I hope some of it is useful!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, March 9, at 7:15 p.m.

David Allen Sibley looks into **The Psychology of Bird Identification**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Weather-related cancellations announced via the HBC email list, www.hampshirebirdclub.org and local media.

In his presentation, illustrated with photos, drawings, and a few tests, David will talk about how we perceive the world around us, and how our brains both help and hinder our efforts at bird identification.

The Sibley Guide to Birds, published in the year 2000, was the realization of a lifelong dream for **David Allen Sibley**, who began painting birds when he was seven years old and has continued painting them for over three decades. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* contains over 6,600 original illustrations by Sibley, now recognized as America's leading ornithologist/illustrator.

David Allen Sibley is the preeminent brand in American birding and everywhere he goes hundreds of fellow birders come out to meet him. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* became the fastest selling bird book in history, earning the author the nickname “*Beate of birding*” among the press. Stories about Sibley have run in *The New York Times*, *Audubon*, *Time*, and *Science*. David has appeared on *ABC World News Tonight* and on NPR's *Science Friday* and *The Connection*.

David Allen Sibley has been called the heir apparent to John James Audubon and Roger Tory Peterson and his long awaited guidebook immediately became the gold standard for bird identification when it was published. Used by millions of birders from novices to the most expert, *The Sibley Guide* became the standard by which natural history guides are measured. The second edition (published in March 2014) builds on this foundation of excellence, offering massively expanded and updated information, new paintings, new and rare species, and a new, elegant design.

CARPOOL TO PROGRAM PLEASE!

Our program this month is likely to attract, shall we say, healthy interest. Parking is likely to be at a premium. Please consider carpooling with others from HBC so that those who REALLY need to park close to the church can do so.

COMING PROGRAMS

April 13, 2015. John Van de Graaff. Fabulous birds!

May 11, 2015. Jonah Keane. New Visions for Arcadia Sanctuary.

June 8, 2015. Mario Cohn-Haft. What's so Special about Amazonian Birds?

COMING FIELD TRIPS

See also the **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**
at www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Saturday, March 7. Plum Island, Newburyport, and Salisbury. All day. Geoff LeBaron looks for migrants and residents at one of Massachusetts' premier birding locations. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register. Meet at Northampton Stop & Shop (228 King St.) at 6:30 a.m. (E)

***Monday, March 16. Fort River Refuge: Early Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and Janice Jorgensen lead birders in looking for avian signs of spring at the Fort River Refuge. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E)

Saturday, March 28. Connecticut River Waterfowl. Half day. Josh Rose seeks out the ducks and geese migrating up the Connecticut River to their breeding grounds. Meet at the parking lot near Migratory Way (near 109 G St.) in Turner's Falls at 6:30. Lunch will probably be at the Wagon Wheel in Gill. Contact Josh (413-835-0093 or opihi-at-mindspring-dot-com) for more information and to arrange a possible southern meeting place for carpooling. (E)

LIBRARY

The HBC library has lots of new books, from guides to adventure stories. Come check them out, literally! Here is a sampling:

- **The Warbler Guide**, by Stephenson & Whittle
- **Beetles of Eastern North America**, by Evans & Arthur
- **Birds' Nests of the World**, by Mamoru Suzuki
- **The Nesting Season**, by Bernd Heinrich
- **The Big Twitch**, by Sean Dooley
- **Hope is the Thing With Feathers**, by Christopher Cokinus

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.

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 or **(413) 549 3722**.

If Henry has not yet convinced you to try out some of the new offerings in the collection, note that the library blurb comes to you in all the splashy glory of Comic Sans MS typeface.. Whoo hoo! Ed.

PIONEER VALLEY ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
Saturday, March 7, 9am-2pm
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

Join Mass Audubon and our conservation partners for presentations on research and ecological management that is occurring in the Pioneer Valley. Presenters will include:

- **The Trustees of Reservations,**
- **Kestrel Land Trust,**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife,**
- **Smith College, and**
- **Mass Audubon's Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries.**

Everyone welcome! The conference is **free**.

Please bring a lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Registration is required at www.massaudubon.org/arcadia

NORTHEAST HAWKWATCH
Tenth Regional Hawk Migration Conference
Saturday, April 4: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Holyoke Community College

Presentations Include:

- Telemetry-tracking of nestling Broad-winged Hawks: **Rebecca McCabe**
- Increasing Red-shouldered Hawk breeding populations in Connecticut: **Shannon Kerney**
- Wintering Golden Eagles in New York: Camera Traps and Telemetry: **Andy Mason**
- Identifying Red-shouldered Hawks: **Steve Walton**
- Falcons on Fire: 33 Years of Falcon Trends Along the Fire Island Barrier Beach: **Drew Panko and Trudy Battaly**
- An Innovative Kestrel Nest Box Project: **Tom Sayers**
- Epic Journeys of Amazing Shorebirds: **Shawn Carey.**

Costs: \$40 for NEHW members.
 \$45 for non-members
 \$13 (optional) for lunch.

More information including **registration** process, email update list, email address for questions at <http://www.battaly.com/nehw/conference/>

FALL FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS

Even with spring a mere rumor in the whisperings of robins, our Field Trip Chair, **Mike Locher** is already beginning to think about the **Fall Field Trip Schedule**. If you have **new ideas** for trips to be done between September and the new year, especially if you are prepared to lead these trips, please let Mike know. You can find him at fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org or by phone at (413) 585-5864.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Salamander Tunnel Maintenance: *Hitchcock Center Staff*

A date in March dependent on the weather

Tour of Amherst Wastewater Treatment Facility

Saturday, March 7, 10am-11:30am OR

Wednesday, May 20, 10am-11:30am

Nature Drawing for the Complete Non-Artist: *Elizabeth Farnsworth*

Sunday, March 8, 10am-12pm

Phenology Research in Your Own Back Yard: *Carol Trosset*

Thursday, March 12, 7-8:30 pm

Salamander Citizen Science: *Tim Zimmerman and Ted Watt*

Sunday, March 15, 1:30-3:00 pm

Still Life: Victorian and Contemporary Taxidermy: *Jennifer Pyke*

Thursday, March 26, 7pm-8:30pm

Citizen Science Spotted Salamander Egg Mass Survey: *Ted Watt*

A Date in April dependent on the weather and development of egg masses.

Make Your Home More Energy Efficient: *Adin Maynard*

Wednesday, April 1, 7pm-8:30pm

Tour of Smith's Bechtel Environmental Classroom

Saturday, April 4th, 10am-2pm

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.

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That's all for this month.

Included with this newsletter are two ALMOST identical flyers for **Celebrate Birds: the first Valley Birding Festival**. If you are printing this, please stick the un-bordered one on the fridge for your household and consider distributing the bordered one where it might gain the attention of people from outside the club!

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

CELEBRATE BIRDS

The first Valley Birding Festival

Saturday, May 30 from 8:00 am to 2:30 p.m.

Join environmental organizations from throughout the valley for a fun-filled and family-oriented day of learning about our feathered friends. The festival will feature events at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)* in Hadley and then later at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** in Easthampton. Both venues are **accessible** to all.

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

- **bird walks,**
- **a bird banding demonstration, and**
- **a falconry demonstration by Chris Davis**

At Arcadia Sanctuary from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

- **games, information and activities for all ages, and**
- **“Eyes on Owls. 11 a.m. AND 1 p.m.**

This wonderful demonstration of six (6) species of **live owls** from New England and beyond will occur at 11:00 a.m. and AGAIN at 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about these amazing birds.

The **venues** are:

*The Silvio Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
(Fort River Division)
69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley

**Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts
Audubon Society)
127 Coombs Road, Easthampton.

Festival **organizers** include

- ◆ Hampshire Bird Club,
- ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
- ◆ Mass Audubon,
- ◆ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation,
- ◆ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife),
- ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment,
- ◆ Friends of the Fort River Division and
- ◆ Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center.

Festival **sponsors** include

- ♣ Springfield Naturalists Club and
- ♣ Hadley Garden Center.

Bird Festival Volunteers

The **Hampshire Bird Club** through the **Education Committee** is one of the partners in the upcoming Valley Bird Festival on Saturday, May 30.

We are looking for **volunteers** from the HBC to assist with the event that day.

If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more about the volunteer opportunities please contact **Jim Lafley** at Jim.Lafley@state.ma.us or at (413) 221-1941.

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