



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, October 19 at 7:15 p.m.

Stephanie Clymer looks into **Preserving Old Bird Records**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

The **Dale Twining Birding Records Project** was initiated to preserve 75+ years of an avid birder's records, from 1935 to 2014 and from Philadelphia to the South Pacific. In order to preserve these records, his friends and family, together with the Wyncote Audubon Society, initiated an effort to digitize them and make the data available to researchers. Volunteers are entering the observations from Dale's record books into online spreadsheets, whence they can be uploaded to the eBird database. Dale Twining's records are the tip of the iceberg and there are many more historical records out there. We are working to preserve this valuable data by encouraging others to retrieve records from drawers and boxes and to use our methods to digitize them before they are lost.

With more records, researchers will be better able to trace the environmental history of climate change, pesticide use, and urban development as they have affected bird populations in the past century. This historical perspective will improve our understanding of bird populations and allow us to look to the past to guide our actions for the future.

Stephanie L. Clymer is the Project Director for the Dale Twining Birding Records Project and a Research Assistant for the Smithsonian Institution's Neighborhood Nestwatch at the University of Massachusetts. She previously worked with an urban watershed partnership in Philadelphia and studied plant ecology in Minnesota and West Virginia. Stephanie received her B.A. in Biology from Arcadia University in Pennsylvania and has experience in environmental education, community outreach, wildlife rehabilitation, bird banding, and field research. Her current interests include urban avian ecology and actively engaging citizen scientists in research.

Membership Renewals are now OVERDUE

Thank you if you have already attended to this!

If not, please renew NOW!

- 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,
- Mail** the above forms (with your check if needed) to the address on the Membership Form, or bring them along on October 19.

You can also pay your dues ONLINE at hampshirebirdclub.org/membership, if you like.

COMING PROGRAMS

November 9, 2015. Drew Vitz: Bird Conservation at MassWildlife.

December 14, 2015. HBC Members. The Members Meeting.

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

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Fort River Division: Silvio Conte NWR. Saturday, September 19

Co-sponsored with Friends of the Fort River.

A dozen people joined **Josh Rose** and **George Regmund**, and tallied 36 bird species, not too shabby given that migration was just about negligible; only 2 species of warbler, 1 vireo, 1 sparrow, and 1 flycatcher.

Highlights were early, late, and in the middle. The people who showed up early were treated to a **Northern Harrier** cruising through the meadow. The last few to leave witnessed a stream of 2 dozen Turkey Vultures plus a few buteos passing over the area as the first real thermals started to form. And roughly halfway between those two, an especially observant participant saw a “blob” in the trees which was being attended by some agitated Blue Jays; it turned out to be one of the resident Great Horned Owls! A **Swainson’s Thrush**, a **Brown Thrasher**, and a pair of **American Kestrels** also highlighted the bird list.

Some non-birds also proved entertaining for the group:

Wildflowers - Nodding Ladies’-Tresses orchids, White Turtleheads, Jack-in-the-Pulpits (fruit), Virginia Virgin’s-Bower/Old Man’s Beard

Herps - Painted Turtles, Spring Peepers, Gray Treefrogs, Bullfrogs and tadpoles

Butterflies - Monarch, Pearl Crescent, Clouded Sulfur, Cabbage White

Dragonflies - Shadow Darner

Other invertebrates - Banded Argiope (spider - orb weaver), Locust Borer (longhorned beetle), Meloe impressus (blister beetles, a whole bunch of them)....

Josh Rose



Quabbin Reservoir. Saturday, September 26.

Tom Gagnon ventured once again into the secluded depths of Boston’s most valuable wilderness in search of fall migrants.

The group found a Common Loon, **Gray cheeked Thrush**, two **Snow Geese**, a middle-of-the-road* **American Woodcock** and two calling **Saw-Whet Owls**. Mysterious, magical birds in a mysterious, magical place!

To top it all off, the beechdrops were still in bloom.

Tom Gagnon

If the bird’s political inclinations matched its location, we could use him or her in the presidential race. Ed.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

***Wednesday, October 14. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. Friends of the Fort River Refuge lead birders through the refuge to find late fall migrants (especially sparrows). Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

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Sunday, October 25. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley. All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) tries once again to find a Ross' Goose among the hundreds of Snow Geese at their 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)

Saturday, October 31. Halloween Extravaganza: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more. All day-ish. Joshua Rose birds Massachusetts' northern stretches of the Connecticut River Valley from Turner's Falls to Northfield in his annual Halloween trip. Meet at the power canal parking area (closest address 1 Migratory Way, Turners Falls) at 7 a.m. Call Josh (413-835-0093) to register and for more information. (E)

***Sunday, November 1. Donut Run to the Berkshire Lakes (or, Donuts and Ducks).** All day. Tom Gagnon goes into the hills to find cider donuts at Bartlett's Orchard and also visit the lakes and ponds of western Massachusetts to look for migrating waterfowl and anything else he can find. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 6:15 a.m. for carpooling. (Remember to set your clocks back). Dress warmly and bring lunch and water. Call Tom (413-584-6353) to register. (M)

New Since the Schedule was Published

Saturday, November 7. Leader's Choice. All day. Join Geoff LeBaron on this all-day trip. Possible destinations include coastal Rhode Island, coastal Massachusetts, or the local area. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to get information about destination(s), to register, and get meeting information as the date approaches. (M)

Please register with the trip leader(s) at least a few days before the trip. HBC recommends carpooling whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of \$0.30 per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (in the October newsletter or on the Website).

The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher—413-585-5864, fieldtrip-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders.

NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sunday, December 20, 2015.

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 are looking for additional team members and feeder watchers.

You can see a map of the Northampton count circle at

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zRHuvL12FbAQ.kDhebR9yLozg>

If you are interested, contact Jan Ortiz or Janice Jorgensen at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org. We welcome newcomers to this fun and fabulous day.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

“The purpose of the HBC is to help members and the general public enjoy birding and to educate them about birds, bird watching, and bird habitats.” (HBC Bylaws)

How do we attract more young people to birding? Do most HBC presentations really hold a child’s 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?

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

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER, ANYONE?

If you have not yet sent in your membership form and dues this year, why not consider the on-line newsletter? Why? Well, it is 2015, so anything with the words “on-line” in the title is automatically the best choice, right? It means the club sends less of our hard-earned geld to the USPS, and the newsletter-distribution staff deposit fewer of our skin cells in the folds of the paper newsletters. We editorial minions also have more time for watching reality TV, or whatever other guilty pleasures take the place of “newsletter night.”

It means you get a reminder every month to download the newsletter from the HBC Website in .pdf format. There are now more on-line users than paper recipients, and, as far as I know, the on-line folks are no more unhappy with the newsletter than the traditionalists. Well, think about it and sign up on the membership form if you like! You can always retreat back to the good old paper newsletter if it doesn’t work out.

If this stealthy sales pitch has convinced you

Sign up for the on-line newsletter on the membership form or email the Membership Secretary
[\(\[membership@hampshirebirdclub.org\]\(mailto:membership@hampshirebirdclub.org\)\)](mailto:membership@hampshirebirdclub.org)

LIBRARY

HBC has a substantial library at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. **Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m on Saturday. Items are catalogued in the “About” section of the HBC Website and can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. **Henry Lappen** is happy to bring items to meetings, given a few days notice! Call him at **413) 549 3722** or email library-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org.

That’s it for this edition.

The Field Trip Guidelines are included, along with membership renewal material if you have yet to renew. Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor
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