



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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September, 2015.

The first program for this year is on Monday, August 31. See p.2 for details

There has been a surge of investment in our local communities lately. No, I am not talking about the new buildings at UMass, though they unquestionably qualify, and I am not talking about all the folks who shop at local farmer's markets, though that too is without doubt a commendable contribution to local agriculture and a sustainable food supply. I am referring instead to all those ratty looking young birds of every shape and size that are wandering about the landscape trying to figure out what this "life" business is all about. They are an investment by their parents in the unique genetic lineage which is their species.

After fledging, many get but a month or two to get their feet under them before braving a long and perilous journey southward for the winter. When we see them again, they will be making breeding investments of their own.

Time for us to make an investment in our bird club. As promised, we have yet another series of stimulating programs to offer each month between now and next June, starting with a humdinger on August 31. The Fall Field Trip schedule is packed with chances to get out there with like-minded folks to see real birds in action. The Education Committee has plans to draw new people into the joys of birding and a bunch of people from the Boutique Proprietor to the Refreshment Committee will be working to add some zing to our bird club.

It all requires a certain amount of green stuff, cashola, fiscal wherewithal, filthy lucre. Call it what you will, a TEENY percentage of your hard-earned income needs to leak over into the HBC coffers if we are to keep the whole show going for another year. You can really help by making your contribution NOW so we can get on with sharing our love of and appreciation for birds. Just follow the handy-dandy checklist below and THANK YOU!!

Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW

- If you are a current member, you will receive a newsletter and membership form in the mail. If you are new to us and want to join, print this document.
- 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 August 31.

Please renew before October 1 by mail, or at the August 31 meeting. Thanks

In this edition:

- The **September program**, (actually happening on August 31)
- The (as promised) **Program Schedule** for the year,
- The **Fall Field Trip Schedule**, and
- All the forms you need to renew. Please read on!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, August 31 at 7:15 p.m.

John Kricher asks Why Did I Go To Borneo?

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Borneo is the world's third largest island and historically has contained some of the planet's richest tropical biodiversity. While increasingly under threat from extensive logging and palm oil production, some significantly large tracts of rain forest remain and are protected, including in Sabah, in northern Borneo. John Kricher will share some observations from his recent trip to Sabah and provide an overview of Bornean biodiversity in a talk richly illustrated with images of everything from broadbills and babblers to orangutans and proboscis monkeys.

John Kricher is a Professor of Biology at Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts. Dr. Kricher teaches courses in ecology, ornithology, and vertebrate evolution. His most recent book is *Tropical Ecology*, (Princeton University Press 2011), now the leading textbook on the subject of global tropical ecology. He has also authored *The Balance of Nature: Ecology's Enduring Myth* (Princeton University Press 2009), and *Galapagos: A Natural History* (Princeton University Press 2006). Other books include the best-selling *A Neotropical Companion*, and three North American ecology field guides (*Eastern Forests, Rocky Mountain and Southwestern Forests, California and Pacific Northwest Forests*) in the Peterson series. His widely used book, *A Neotropical Companion* has been translated into Spanish through the Birders' Exchange Program of the American Birding Association. He has also produced three recorded lecture series, one on dinosaurs, one on ecology, and one on the biology of birds, all published by Modern Scholar. John is a Fellow in the American Ornithologists Union and has served as president of the Association of Field Ornithologists, and president of the Wilson Ornithological Society.

COMING PROGRAMS

October 19, 2015. Stephanie Clymer. Preserving Old Bird Records.

November 9, 2015. Drew Vitz. Bird Conservation in Massachusetts.

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

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

February 8, 2016. Scott Weidensaul. Project SNOWstorm and other studies of owls.

March 7, 2016. Scott Sumner. The Big Chicken Run.

April 11, 2016. Gary Langham. Climate Study.

May 9, 2016. Andrea Jones. A Perspective on Bird Conservation in California.

June 13, 2016. Geoff LeBaron. (to be determined)

LIBRARY

HBC has a substantial library, 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.

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. **Henry Lappen**, the librarian, is happy to bring items to meetings, if you give him a few days in advance. You can reach him at **(413) 549 3722 or library-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org.**

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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

“Why choose “on-line?”

You can archive our publication digitally, without accumulating paper files, or print at home if you like. You reduce postage and printing costs for HBC, which keeps dues down for all of us.

“How does on-line access work?”

The newsletter is posted on the HBC website. Participants receive an email notification, whereupon they can view and/or download the newsletter from the website at their leisure. You need to give us an email address on the membership form in order to get the on-line version.

“What if I encounter technical difficulties?”

The system is pretty easy to use if you have email access, are accustomed to downloading content from the Internet. In the event that you find the system does not work for you, a simple communication with the Membership Secretary will get you back on the “Hard Copy” mailing list.

“What are the software requirements?”

The newsletter will be posted on the Website in PDF format. This means you will need to have .pdf-reading software on your system. 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! We ask all members to decide each year how they want to receive the newsletter. 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!

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

CHRISTMAS COUNT

Mark your calendars (or put some ones and zeroes in whatever digital device now serves...)

The Northampton Christmas Bird Count will be on **Sunday, December 20, 2015**. Updated information on the CBC will be available at <http://hampshirebirdclub.org/cbc/>

REFRESHING NEWS!!

With Sally Hills finally hanging up the Saran Wrap, we have all been on tenterhooks about the future of refreshments at meetings. Would we really be walking into a barren meeting room at the church henceforward? Would we be selling packets of airline peanuts at the door. Would the growling of stomachs drown out all but the most vociferous of speakers? For an intrepid group of members, hereafter to be known as the Lemon Bar Eight, the answer to these questions was a resounding NO.

Helga Beatty, Marylee Bomboy, Grace Dane, Sue Emerson, Lissa Ganter, Mary Hocken, Jan Howard, and Elaine Reilly met at an undisclosed location and, after a torrid series of negotiations have crafted some kind of agreement to coordinate refreshments at meetings. The details remain a closely guarded secret (are they using a public or private email server?) but clearly, we can breathe a collective sigh of relief.

One thing to emphasize is the meaning of the word “coordinate”. It does NOT mean that these noble folk will be slaving away until all hours to provide the actual goodies we all consume so avidly at meetings. No, dear reader. We, the membership, must continue to don the frilly apron* and oven mitts if we want to eat at meetings. But the new refreshment committee will make sure that there is someone there to remind us and gently push us along if we are reluctant.....

Thank you to all the refreshment committee, and here’s to the long-life and health of the refreshment table!

*All aprons are frilly, right?

The **Fall Field Trip Schedule** is attached along with materials to renew your membership.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

FIELD TRIP RELEASE FORM.

Required if you will participate in field trips.

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/we 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/we may incur, directly or indirectly, while on field trips run by HBC within one (1) year of the date below.

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▶

RARE BIRD ALERT FORM: Optional

The Rare Bird Alert is an optional email-only alert system that informs you when and where rare birds are sighted in the valley, or, in some cases, the broader region.

To join via this form

Complete the form and return it with your membership form or turn it in at the Sept./Oct. meetings.

To join online:

Provide name/s and email address/es to membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

You may provide as many email addresses as you like (within reason, please). Participants **will need to provide us with at least one (1) active email address**.automatically receive all RBA announcements.

Please email membership@hampshirebirdclub.org if your email changes.

I would like to receive RBA alerts . email address/es (1) _____

(2) _____

Return with membership form to HBC, P.O. Box 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716 or turn in at the September/October meetings.
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Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Fall Field Trip Schedule, 2015

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 – mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) 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. Please check all information with the trip leaders, and look for updates on our new website (to be launched early this fall).*

SEPTEMBER

***Saturday, September 12. Quabbin Gate 5 and Lake Wallace.** Half day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths lead a trip around Belchertown's two birdiest lakes. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) to get meeting details and for more information. (M)

Wednesday, September 16. Hawkwatching at the Goat Peak. Half day. Join Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353) at the old Mount Tom park headquarters at 8:45 for a 20 minute walk to the Goat Peak observation tower. Dress warmly, and bring lunch. If hawks are moving, the group may stay until 3 p.m., or you may leave when you wish. The rain date is Thursday, September 17. (M)

***Saturday, September 19. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. Friends of the Fort River Refuge lead birders through the refuge to find fall migrants and the local inhabitants. The leader threatens to include butterflies, dragonflies and wildflowers as well! 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)

***Saturday, September 19. Knightville Dam.** Half day. Betsy Higgins explores Knightville Dam for migrants and local residents. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for details. Meet at 7 a.m. at the John F. Kennedy Middle School (100 Bridge Road; Florence, MA). (E)

Saturday, September 26. Quabbin Reservoir: Fall Migrants. All day. Tom Gagnon and Craig Allen head into the Quabbin wilderness to find southbound birds (and residents), late season flowers, butterflies, and mammals. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Participation is limited to 12 people in 3 cars, so carpooling is a necessity. Rain date Sunday, September 27. Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 3. Mineral Hills Conservation Area. Half day. Betsy Higgins leads a new trip for the club to one of Northampton's conservation areas. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for details. Meet at 7 a.m. at the John F. Kennedy Middle School (100 Bridge Road; Florence, MA). (E)

***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)

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)

NOVEMBER

***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)

Saturday, November 14. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin. All day. Craig Allen leads 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. Rain date Sunday, November 15. Contact Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) *well in advance* to register, because participation is limited, and to get meeting information. (M)

Saturday, November 21. Fort River Refuge. Morning. Friends of the Fort River Refuge lead birders through the refuge to look for whatever happens to be around. 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)

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 5. Connecticut River Meadows CBC warm-up. All day. Josh Rose works northward from Hadley hoping for pipits, buntings, longspurs, larks, raptors and all the bounty of early winter! Meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of the Hadley Village Barn Shops, 41 Russell Street, Hadley. Call/email Josh (413-835-0093; [ophi-at-mindspring dot com](mailto:ophi-at-mindspring.com)) to register and for more information.

Wednesday, December 9. Fort River Refuge. Morning. Friends of the Fort River Refuge lead birders through the refuge to warm up for the Christmas Bird Count.). 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)