



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
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December, 2016.

The main thing to remember this month is that we need to get our aprons on and contribute food for both the December meeting AND the Christmas Count Potluck. Cousin Vinnie's exhortation is on the back of the cover sheet. We also need to help Mike Locher put together a dazzling array of trips for the new year.

Also, the club Membership Directory is on its way to you via the USPS. It is our very own "Who's Who" of birding in the Pioneer Valley. We hope you will use it to facilitate birding and conservation-related activity with other members of our club. We trust you will NOT use it for any commercial purpose or distribute any information from the list to anyone else. Please respect the privacy of our members.

Please note that the directory of club officers and other official contacts IS available online at hampshirebirdclub.org. Follow the "All HBC Contacts" link at the foot of the home page.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, December 12 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.

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) or **Geoff LeBaron** (programs@hampshirebirdclub.org) by 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 11. 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.

COMING PROGRAMS

January 9, 2017. Connie Sanchez. Judging the Duck Stamp Program.

February 13, 2017. Dave Wiley. Great Shearwater Migrations.

March 13, 2017. Chris Fisher. Images of South Africa.

COMING TRIPS

Saturday, December 10. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. 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, January 28. Cape Ann Winter ducks. All day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths go to the chilly shore to look for ducks, alcids, gulls, and all the other good birds of winter. Dress for the weather (many layers). The inclement weather date is Saturday, February 11. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting information. (M)

LIBRARY FINDS A HOME

After some anxious moments, the bird club library is now all set up in the **new** Hitchcock Center for the Environment at 845 West Street, Amherst, MA. To find it, go through the lobby to the back hallway and take a right. It's down toward the end on the left. Hitchcock hours are Tuesday – Thursday 9AM – 5:30PM and Friday 9PM – 5PM. As usual, I will bring a selection of books to our meetings, and you can contact me beforehand if you need something in particular.

Our grateful thanks to the **Hitchcock Center** for again finding a home for our collection.

Henry Lappen

FIELD TRIP IDEAS NEEDED

*When the field trip chair's not padding up his trip list (up his trip list),
Or throwing mud upon his Subaru (Subaru),
He loves to dream of strange new trip locations (trip locations)
And strange new folks to lead the darn things, too! (darn things too!)*

Mike Locher is our field trip chair (fieldtrips@hampshirebirdclub.org). In the midst of the holiday season he has the unenviable task of compiling a diverse and evolving set of trips for the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, due out early in the new year.

HBC, of course, has a series of old favorites: well-established trips which tend to be well attended and self-sustaining. But, as with a good sports team, over-reliance on experienced veterans can lead to stagnation and decline. Every one of our “old favorite” trips started as a bold experiment. Some-one had to say, “What if we tried going there?”

So ask that question. If you know a birding location well enough to lead a trip there, or are willing to do some research to develop that expertise, please chat with Mike. He may be able to provide some suggestions, look for a co-leader, or grease the wheels of progress in other ways.

Northampton Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 18

Join the 84th **Northampton Christmas Bird Count**. 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

Quabbin Count Saturday, December 31

Quabbin Count stalwarts please note that keys and permits for each area leader at the Quabbin Christmas Bird Count will be available at the December meeting. Jim Lafley will have them and will endeavor to track down each leader. If you are leading an area for the QC but will NOT be at the December meeting, please contact Jim to arrange an alternate key transference mechanism.

Also, Jim has a list of the birds recorded on the Quabbin Count by year from 1988 to 2015 and can send you a copy electronically if you contact him at Jim.Lafley@state.ma.us If you would prefer a hard copy he can bring some to the December meeting.

If you are not yet signed up for the Quabbin Count and would like to give it a whirl, please contact Scott Sumner (ssurner-at-aol.com).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Duck Stamp Show

Our January program features Connie Sanchez describing her experiences in judging the national Duck Stamp Competition. To complement the program, the Education Committee is arranging a display of the complete series of Duck Stamps from 1934 to the present. The stamps will be on display at our December 12 meeting. Some of the art-work involved is truly outstanding.

The Duck Stamp program functions as an ongoing source of revenue for the purchase and protection of wetland habitats and easements for the National Wildlife Refuge system. Ninety eight (98) percent of all revenues raised go directly toward this goal. Duck stamps can be purchased at the American Bird Association, select National Wildlife refuges, and post offices.

Bruce Hart

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Explore Trees of the Connecticut River Flood Plain: *Ted Watt*

at Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area in Northfield.

Sunday, December 11, 10am- 12pm. Fee.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 845 West St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Solstice Celebration

Bonfire, hot cider, music.

Wednesday, December 21: 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Free.

Owl Moon

Puppet show presentation of the classic story written by Jane Yolen.

Saturday, January 21: 8:00 – 10:00 pm.

For more details of and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to www.massaudubon.org. In the “Choose a Wildlife Sanctuary” pull-down menu, select “Arcadia”.

*You may also contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** direct at 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027 or telephone (413) 584-3009.*

That’s all for this month.

Make sure you have FUN on the Christmas Count

Don’t forget Cousin Vinnie’s Refreshment message on the next page.

My, what a bossy newsletter this is.

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

Happy Holidays!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

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, Vinnie again.

We tawked (well, I tawked, and dose who knew what's good for dem listened) last December when it became clear that youse needed a little incentive in the area of refreshments.

Yeah, see, dere's dis bunch of unsung heroes called de Refreshment Committee. Know who dey are? No? Well I refer of couyse to Helga "Knuckles" Beatty, Lissa "Hacksaw" Ganter, Jan "Slasher" Howard and Elaine "Make it Stop" Reilly.

Dey's been woyking dey fingers to da bone an dey's taking a break dis month. So if youse wanna eat at the **December program**, you gonna hafta pony up yaselves.

And wid da Committee soaking up the sun in the Med., me an' Gino will be here on December 12 just to, ya know, check for compliance.

Oh, and when Gino an' I come in from the cold after the **Christmas Count**, we's gonna need some nourishment, so contact Sue Emerson as soon as possible to make your promises.

Gino and I like promises, specially when dey include hearty main courses, tasty salads, nourishing soups and delectable desserts.

Once again, as long as the food shows up, nobody goes hungry and nobody gets hoyt."

Buon natale,
Vincenzo.

In case Vinnie's message is in any way unclear,

- 1) Everyone please bring some goodies to share for the December meeting, lest we go hungry and*
- 2) Please contact Sue Emerson and commit to bringing a dish for the Christmas Count Potluck. You can reach her at spe33@charter.net.*

Let's make sure Vinnie stays happy!