



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 32, No. 9
May, 2016.

In this edition:

- Our **program** this month and the (one) **remaining program** before our summer recess,
- A delightful **trip report** from someone who is NOT me,
- The burgeoning May **field trip schedule**,
- **Nominating Committee** news and the **AGM** announcement (woo-hoo),
- a **new birding hot-spot** in need of eyes and ears,
- **Hitchcock programs**,
- a program for **budding birders** at Fitzgerald Lake, and
- one last reminder about and a plea for help from the **Valley Bird Festival**.

Yikes. I will just get out of the way and let you read on.....

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, May 16 at 7:15 p.m.

Andrea Jones gives us some **Perspectives on Bird Conservation in California**
Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Andrea will share her experiences as a transplanted New Englander in the complex world of conservation in California. She has traveled widely across the state and will share her knowledge of places, people and issues she has encountered along the way. Specifically, she will explore some of Audubon's primary bird conservation projects in California and how Audubon approaches daunting conservation challenges such as climate change, logging, fire management and development. She will give us cause for hope, as she describes progress with individual species such as Tricolored Blackbirds, and success stories such as birds and rice cultivation, the avifauna of saline lakes, and coastal bird conservation.

Andrea Jones is the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California and has worked for that organization for ten years. She coordinates with staff and the network of Audubon chapters across the state to implement conservation projects at high priority Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and spearheads efforts to protect crucial coastal ecosystems. She focusses special attention on priority bird species and serves as a spokeswoman for bird conservation across California. Andrea has roots right here in New England. Before moving to the left coast, she served as the Director of the Coastal Water-Bird and Grassland Conservation programs for Mass Audubon. Andrea received her M.S. in Wildlife Conservation/Ornithology and her B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

COMING PROGRAMS

June 13, 2016. Mike Braun. The Red Siskin Project.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Look Park, Northampton. Sunday, April 10.

On a clear, breezy Sunday, trip leader **Betsy Higgins** and seven other birders patrolled Look Park and beyond.

Bird Highlights

Amid 35 species, we had 1 Hermit Thrush, 2 male Common Mergansers, 1 Pine Warbler, 9 Cedar Waxwings, 1 Red-tailed Hawk (eye-level look), a Pileated Woodpecker, and the world's blue-est Eastern Bluebird.

Tidbits

Getting great looks from all sides of a cooperative **Hermit Thrush**; watching a **Pine Warbler** vocalize in the open; discovering that the pale -yellow/buff bellies of 9 birds in a tree above us were **Cedar Waxwings**; hearing the irregular hammering of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**; watching the brief **dust-up** between the **male Mergansers**; beginning the trip with **3 Northern Mockingbirds** in the parking lot and ending in the same place with a **Killdeer** vocalizing overhead. Fantastic!

Deb Oakley

COMING TRIPS

First Announcement

Tuesday, May 3. Fort River Refuge I with George Regmund and Mary Alice Wilson.
Meet at the refuge parking lot; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley at 6:30 AM.

First Announcement

Saturday, May 7, 2016. Mineral Hills Conservation Area. Half Day.
Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins lead birders through one of the less-known Northampton conservation areas. This has been a consistent place for Prairie Warbler over the past several years. For information, contact Marcia (413-896-9539 or mmerithew-at-comcast-dot-net). Meet at the JFK Middle School parking lot (100 Bridge Road, Florence) at 7 a.m. (E/M)

Sunday, May 8. Belchertown Ramble: Herman Covey WMA, Reed Conservation Area, Scarborough Brook. Full day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths explore Herrnan Covey WMA and introduce the uninitiated to several other Belchertown birding spots. Be prepared for migrants galore, and Blue Jays with unusual talents as ventriloquists. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) to get meeting details and for more information. (M/S)

First Announcement

Tuesday, May 10. Fort River Refuge II with George Regmund and Elissa Rubinstein.
Meet at the refuge parking lot; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley at 6:30 AM.

First Announcement

Tuesday, May 17. Fort River Refuge III with George Regmund, Janice Jorgensen and others.
Meet at the refuge parking lot; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley at 6:30 AM.

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Coming trips (continued)

Friday-Tuesday, May 20-23. Monhegan Island. Overnight. Scott Sumner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's somewhat-annual pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. This trip is FULL and registration is CLOSED. (E/M/S)

***Sunday, May 22. Mount Holyoke.** Half day. Mike Locher leads a hike up Mt. Holyoke in search of Cerulean Warblers, other spring migrants, and great views. Meet at 7 a.m. at the gate of Mt. Holyoke. For information contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org). (M/S)

First Announcement

Tuesday, May 24. Fort River Refuge IV with George Regmund and others. Meet at the refuge parking lot; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley at 6:30 AM.

***Saturday, May 28. Fort River Refuge: Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Monday, May 30. Abandoned Atkins Orchard. Morning. Jim Lafley leads a new club trip into the wilds of Belchertown. This is the site where the White-eyed Vireo was seen last spring, and is a great habitat with at least two distinct biozones. Ticks (the nasty, disease carrying kind, not the life-list kind) will be an issue here, so come prepared with adequate clothing and repellent. Meet at Jim's house (28 Sabin St., Belchertown) at 7 a.m. For information, contact Jim (413-323-5892). (M/S)

Saturday, June 4. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Mike Locher hosts the HBC's annual trip to New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Contact Mike 413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

***Monday, June 6. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area Programs

Children's Bird Walk: *Bruce Hart, David Pritchard, and others*

Saturday, May 14: 9:00–11:00 am.

Cooke Ave. entrance (at the former Moose Lodge; park to the right)

Co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee

Encourage a love of the natural world in children by joining us on this short walk along Boggy Meadow Rd. to look for spring birds. We'll complement the program with photos of some of the birds we see, in order to help children focus on what is being observed, and will point out fun facts of bird behavior. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them, but we'll have some extras on hand to share. The road could be muddy in spots, so water-resistant footwear is advised, as is your favorite bug repellent. Contact Bruce Hart (413-584-4176, bhart2000@aol.com) with any questions.

Cave Hill Conservation Area eBirders Needed.

The 102-acre **Cave Hill Conservation Area** in Leverett is a wonderful place for birds. In fact, it also supports vernal pools, wonderful rock formations and a variety of other interesting ecological features. Until the town purchased it using CPA and private contributions, only a few folks knew how special this land was. Now it is open to the public and has an extensive new trail network. It is an **eBird hotspot** meaning you can record all the birds you detect and help create a database of how birds use this property throughout the year.

For a trail map, go to rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/trail-map

You can also scroll down the map page to “Special Resources” to print out “Birds of Leverett.”

Of course, we hope you will not be constrained by the existing bird list. The whole point is to get birders engaged in adding more birds to the list of those already seen!

If you want to contribute your data but don’t do eBird, we can find you a secretary. Send a note to birdlist@rattlesnakeguttertrust.org

Mary Alice Wilson, translated into English by the editor.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Hampshire Bird Club Incorporated** will be held on **Monday, May 16, 2015** at the **Immanuel Lutheran Church** (867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst) at **7:15 p.m.** The meeting will immediately precede the May program.

I don’t think we are going to match the spectacle of this year’s presidential elections, but our brief and fuss-free AGM has one agenda item, and one only. It is to elect the Board of Directors for 2016-2017. The **Nominating Committee** this year includes: **Bill Benner, Bruce Hart, Anne Lombard and David Peake-Jones**. They have prepared the following slate of nominees for the coming year:

President: Scott Sumner

Vice-President/Program Chair: Geoff LeBaron

Treasurer: Stephen Baker

Membership Secretary: Lissa Ganter

Communications Secretary: Sharon Dombeck

Board Members at large:

Bruce Hart

Mike Locher

Carol Mardeusz

David Peake-Jones

Josh Rose

Jaap van Heerden

Other nominations for the board may be sent to the nominating committee (David Peake-Jones, newsletter-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org, or (413) 529 9541) or presented at the meeting. At-meeting nominees must be present at the meeting so as to verify their consent.

Stepping down from the board this year are **Sue Emerson**, after years of service as Membership Secretary, and **Jan Ortiz**, whose most recent of many stints on the BOD was as a Member-at-Large. Thank you Jan and Sue!

THE 2ND ANNUAL VALLEY BIRD FESTIVAL

The festival promises to be even bigger and brighter this year than last, so come along if you can. Jim Lafley has been slaving away to get all the pieces in place and he still needs some **volunteers** to **coordinate parking**.

OK, its's not glamorous, but if the visitors end up parking on the first Bobolink nests of the year, it kinda puts a damper on the whole affair (especially for the Bobolinks).

Basic dexterity and a healthy caution around lethal four-wheeled metallic objects are recommended prerequisites.

So, to do your part to keep cars where they belong and contribute to a trouble free experience for all. Contact Jim if you can help: jimlafley-at-gmail-dot-com; or 413 323 5892.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Understanding Residential Solar Options: *Sally Pick*

Thursday, May 5; 7 pm. Free. Call to Register.

Hitchcock's new "living" building site tour

Fridays, May 6, June 3; 12:30 – 1:00 pm. Free.

Opening to the World of Birds: *Pete McLean*

Saturdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28; 7 am – 9 am

Book & Plow Farm – 425 South East St., Amherst. Fee. Call to register.

Exploring Larch Hill - Monthly Sunday Nature Walk: *John Green*

Sunday, May 22; 1 – 3 pm. Free. Call to register.

Wildflowers at Cave Hill: *Nancy Goodman*

Saturday, June 12, 9 am - 12 pm. Fee. Call to register.

Explore the Hitchcock Center's New Grounds: *Pete McLean and Ted Watt*

A bioblitz-style experience!

Saturday, June 18; 9 am-noon. Fee. Call to Register.

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.

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

CELEBRATE BIRDS

The 2nd Valley Bird Festival

Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 6:30 a.m. 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 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

- **Early morning bird walk with George Regmund of Friends of Fort River**

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- 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 and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)

69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley

AND

**Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts Audubon Society)

127 Coombs Road, Easthampton.

Festival **organizers** include:

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

Hope to see you there!