



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 33, No. 3

November, 2016.

OK. I will spare you my typical November editorial about the Dead Creek trip. I shall refrain from yet more tedious descriptions of what it is like to watch twenty four hundred Snow Geese swirling over an autumn field. Let us avoid yet another breathless description of a male Northern Harrier quartering a corn field at dusk. I can leave the image of a massive Rough-legged Hawk hovering like a kestrel entirely to your own imagination. I will ask you to trust, without elaboration, that the thirteen sandpipers we found scuttling about in the weedy margins of an anonymous north-country creek were, in fact, White-rumps, and not just Killdeer in drag. Yes, dear reader, these musings will remain only in my fevered mind, for now.

Let me content myself with thanking you for joining or renewing with the Hampshire Bird Club. As we push into the cold season, there are plenty of fall and winter trips to consider and our monthly programs will continue right through until the spring. Mike Locher is working on the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip schedule. If you have an idea for an old favorite to resurrect, or some brand new place we could visit, please contact him, especially if you can lead the outing. It takes a village.....

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, November 14 at 7:15 p.m.

John Van de Graaff recounts his adventures while
Roaming for Birds In Europe: 2011-2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Marylee and I took our first European birding trip to Spain in 2001, barely three months after I started photographing birds. We've been birding in Europe nearly every year since, especially in France; and particularly the Carmargue region of that country.. We have seen a number of locations in Britain. In Eastern Europe, we've been to Estonia, Hungary, and Bulgaria. Our most northern ventures were to Swedish Lapland and Norway; more recent forays took us into Belgium, Portugal and the Italian Alps. As for species; flamingos, Eurasian cranes and white storks appear frequently, but there are numerous smaller birds and raptors as well. If you haven't yet birded in the Old World, I hope this show will tempt you.

A native of Boston, **John Van de Graaff** has been photographing birds virtually full-time since 2001 and particularly enjoys traveling to do so. He migrated from New York City to Northampton in 2003 with his wife Marylee Bomboy. In addition to the exploits described above, he has photographed extensively on the Massachusetts coast, capturing images which have been used by Mass Audubon to support their IBA and Coastal Waterbird Programs. He's an active member of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (PVPA) and the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA). John's website is easily remembered:
www.birdsbyjohn.com.

Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW if you have yet to do so.

- Complete the **Membership Form**, with the **Field Trip Release and RBA sign up** on the back.
- Write a **check** for the required funds (if any), and
- Mail** the forms and check to the address on the Membership Form, as soon as possible.

COMING PROGRAMS

December 12, 2016. Members' Meeting.

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

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

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Saw Whet Owl Banding. Saturday, October 12 in Uxbridge, Massachusetts.

Hampshire Bird Club and Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary partnered for this memorable trip to Look Out Rock, just south-east of Worcester, MA. We witnessed the banding of five Saw Whet Owls. Two were hatchlings, one a second year bird and the other two had been previously banded earlier in October at the same location. It was a fantastic evening: warm and with little wind, which helped make for a great experience for the 12 participants.

Sue Emerson & Janice Jorgensen

COMING TRIPS

Wednesday, November 9. 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/M)

Sunday, November 12. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin. All day. Craig Allen. Waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Craig Allen (413-467-3028; allenec2-at-juno-dot-com) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

Saturday, November 19. 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/M)

Sunday, December 4. Moran WMA. Half day (or more). Josh Rose and Mike Locher. Shrikes and winter finches. Get warmed up for the CBC! Dress for the weather and choose your footwear wisely; snowshoes may be useful. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for further information and meeting details. (M)

Wednesday, 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)

LIBRARY

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.

The collection catalog is available on-line at:

<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/hampshire-bird-club-library/>

Our collection continues to be temporarily without a home that is accessible to the public and to between-meeting walk-ins. However, you can still get our librarian, Henry Lappen, to bring items to meetings, especially if you let him know a few days in advance. You can reach him at library@hampshirebirdclub.org or (413) 549 3722.

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. The committee values 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

Sunday, December 18

The 83rd Annual Northampton (MANO) Christmas Bird Count involves teams of intrepid (other adjectives may also apply) teams of birders taking to the fields, woods and environs of the towns in our area to count and then tally all the birds they hear and/or observe. You are welcome to take part regardless of your birding expertise. If you are confident birding on your own or more comfortable as part of a team, we will find a place for you.

The enduring value of this event is that it provides a history that suggests trends in the population, occurrence and distribution of resident, common, uncommon and rare winter birds.

After the count there is a potluck and compilation at the Hitchcock Center on the Hampshire College campus in Amherst beginning at 4:30 p.m.

To find out more, you can visit: www.hampshirebirdclub.org/cbc/

To sign up for the event, contact Jan Ortiz and/or Janice Jorgensen at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Four Seasons of Quabbin Reservoir: *Dale Monette*

Friday, November 4: 7:00-9:00 pm. Fee.

The North American Fur Trade: *Fran Ryan*

Wednesday, November 9: 7:00-9:00 pm. Fee.

Plant Vandals: *Todd Lynch*

Thursday, November 17: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Acadia, and

Sunday, November 20: 10 am - 11:30 am at Graves Farm. Free but registration required.

*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**.*

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Red, Black and Scarlet – Identifying The Oaks: *Ted Watt, Nancy Goodman, Kim Noyes & Patti Steinman*

Thursday, November 10, 7- 8:30 pm

Sunday, November 13, 9:00 am – noon (field trip)

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

at Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area in Northfield .

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

Nature All Year Study Club 2017

Sundays once per month, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon (some class times may vary depending on topics). Fee.

Our Living Building Tour Program

Wednesdays at 12 pm – September 14, 28, October 19, November 16

Fridays at 4 pm – September 23, October 7, November 4, December 2. Free but please register online.

Hot Water Issues Symposium: Global, National & Valley Perspectives – Problems, Solutions, and the Challenges Ahead

Saturday, November 19, 12pm- 3pm. Free but please register online.

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.

Winging and Singing: Songs for the Birds

Westhampton Public Library

Tuesday, November 15 at 3 p.m.

Kate O'Connor and **Rico Spence** perform a diverse array of popular songs with birds in the lyrics, backed by projected images of birds by **John Van de Graaff** and commentary by **David Spector**. The event is free.

Hope to see you there?

Ten Months on the Wing

Which bird spends the longest periods on the wing without ever touching down? I suppose I have always assumed that the mantle would be held by one of the albatrosses, but I never really thought about it.

Anders Hedenstrom and others, writing in the journal *Current Biology*, find that Common Swifts, *Apus apus*, may remain in flight for 99% of the time during an arduous migration from breeding grounds in Europe to sub-Saharan Africa and back, with some individuals apparently never landing at all outside the breeding season.

These are some of the incredible insights we are gathering from the use of increasingly tiny data loggers which can be attached to even the smallest birds with minimal impacts on behavior and survival. The discoveries are just beginning....

You can read more about this at:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/10/27/499635084/this-bird-can-remain-airborne-for-10-months-straight?ft=nprml&f=1001>. It might be easier to type “this bird can remain airborne for ten months straight” into your friendly neighborhood search engine.

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

American Birding Association's
PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practise common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a **Group Member**.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practises this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE AND DISTRIBUTE AND TEACH IT TO OTHERS