



## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 33, No. 2

**October, 2016.**

Birds are not supposed to sing in the fall. They typically abandon the exuberant advertisements of the spring for the chips and cheeps that leave them anonymous to all but the best “ears” among us. No doubt about it, spring song is a proclamation of promise, a reckless embrace of the procreative imperative, a celebration of the wide open boreal expanses of the breeding range. The same birds in fall seem, for the most part, to be determinedly taciturn as they contemplate the long march to the crowded tenements of the tropics. Amidst the subdued mutterings of Song Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers in the west meadows last week, I heard an unmistakable song which normally heralds the spring. The first time through the tune was fragmented, halting. The second verse was a seemed a little more confident, but still quavering and uncertain. Finally, third time through, I could make out the pure, cascading song of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, so quiet that I almost felt this diminutive creature was whispering to me.

Why would this tiny bird sing when all others stay secret? The words, for me at least, are unmistakable. “I must leave now, with no companions but the perils of frost and glass and prowling hawk. But I will return, and I will sing again.”

### **NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, October 17 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Zeke Jakub**

sheds light on

### **The Glow-throated Hummingbird: Panama’s Endangered Endemic**

(Adventures of a crazy gringo)

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

The **Glow-throated Hummingbird**, *Selasphorus ardens*, is one of Panama’s only endangered endemics. It exists within a remote and difficult to access indigenous reserve called a Comarca. With minimal current research on this species since the turn of the century, little is known about its life-history, annual cycle, and even where it currently exists. Simple questions about this “Pica flor” have not been answered and some have changed in the last 100 years.

Over the last year, Greenfield native Ezekiel “Zeke” Jakub has been traveling to remote areas in western Panama, trying to answer a simple question to start with: “Where are they?”

Imagine yourself traveling in the cloud forests and semi-paramo highland habitat by horseback for days at a time, braving extreme inclement weather, raging rivers, and high winds. This has been Zeke’s “laboratory” and will continue to be his primary focus of research for 2017. Zeke is the Director of Ornithology at Conservación Panamá Inc., a U.S.-based academic research NGO.

Learn about what we know, what we don't know, and what challenges face the Glow-throated Hummingbird during one hour of pictures, video, and sound. Prepare to be transported into the world of a neotropical bird researcher!

## COMING PROGRAMS

**November 14, 2016. John Van de Graaff.** Birds of Europe.

**December 12, 2016. Members' Meeting.**

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

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Central Quabbin. Saturday, September 24 with Tom Gagnon.

Tom describes the group as small and eager. Eager enough, it seems, to come up with 77 species for the day including 17 Common Mergansers, 2 Northern Goshawks, 13 Broad-winged Hawks, 7 Ruffed Grouse, 3 Golden Plovers, 3 Spotted Sandpipers, 11 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Barred Owl, 45 Northern Flickers, 35 Eastern Phoebes, 4 Swainson's Thrushes and two Scarlet Tanagers. Oh, and a partridge in a pear tree! Other botany and wildlife included three (3) otters, 6 Variegated Fritillaries and one small clump of Beech Drops.

Tom Gagnon

## COMING TRIPS

**Thursday, October 13 and Saturday, October 15. Sparrow Workshop.** Evening and half day. Scott Sumner reprises his sparrow identification workshop from two years ago. Thursday evening (6:30-?) indoor session, then head into the field on Saturday morning (location TBA). This workshop is limited to 12 birders, and there is a \$15 fee. Contact Scott ([ssurner@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:ssurner@hampshirebirdclub.org)) to register and get more information.

**\*Saturday, October 15. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund. 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 23. Mitch's Way – Autumn.** Half day. Mike Locher. Meet at the gate at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)) for further information. (M)

**Sunday, October 30. The Annual Halloween Adventure: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more.** All day. Joshua Rose. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking area for the Power Canal on Migratory Way in Turners Falls. Call or e-mail Josh (413-835-0093; [opihi@mindspring.com](mailto:opihi@mindspring.com)) for further details. (E/M)

**Saturday, November 5. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley.** All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)). Snow Geese, raptors etc. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 5:30 a.m. for carpooling. (E/M)

**\*Sunday, November 6. Ducks on the Berkshire Lakes (or, Donuts and Ducks).** All day. Al Richards and Harvey Allen. Waterfowl. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 6:15 a.m. (Remember to set your clocks back!) Questions? Call Al (413-665-2761). (M)

**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)

**Date TBD. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Craig Allen. Waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or [tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com](mailto:tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com)) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

**Saw Whet Banding. Uxbridge, Massachusetts**  
**Saturday, October 29.**

Trip limited to ten (10) people.

We will depart the valley at between 4:30 and 5 p.m. and, after a bathroom/snack break on the pike, arrive in Uxbridge, MA after a 90 minute drive, and as darkness descends. October 29 is a New Moon, when the sky is darker during banding hours, and this tends to mean more owls flying into the nets during several hours of banding.

Participants will be walking woodland trails at night. You should plan to bring a working flashlight or headlamp, sturdy shoes and be prepared for chilly temperatures.

Transportation

Six (6) of the group will travel in a van provided in partnership with Arcadia Sanctuary. There are, at press time, a few slots left in this vehicle. The remaining participants will get to Uxbridge under their own steam from a meeting point somewhere in the Amherst/Northampton area. (You may carpool at your discretion). Meeting time and place will be communicated to you if you register.

Participants will be walking woodland trails at night. You should plan to bring a working flashlight or headlamp, sturdy shoes and be prepared for chilly temperatures.

Costs

All participants will make a donation of \$20 per adult and \$10 per child to the banding project, payable upon arrival. The donation helps fund the mist nets and audio equipment used, and refreshments for the banders and visitors. Riders on the Arcadia van will pay \$15 for the van, in addition to the banding donation.

Registration is Required

Email Sue Emerson at [spe33-at-charter-dot-net](mailto:spe33-at-charter-dot-net) and tell her how many are going and if you want to go on the van by October 23.

## LIBRARY

*The collection is catalogued on-line at [www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://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.

Our librarian, Henry Lappen, notes that the “old” Hitchcock Center is presently closed, along with general access to our collection. Until the library is once again publicly accessible, the only way to borrow items is to have Henry bring them to meetings. He’d like at least 24 hours notice if possible!

You can reach him at **(413) 549 3722** or **library-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org**.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will have a display of **Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp** artwork at the October meeting. If you would like to see more of the young people's artwork there is currently a display at Massachusetts Audubon's Arcadia Sanctuary on Combs Road in Easthampton.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Northampton (MANO) Christmas Bird Count takes place on Sunday, December 18. Teams of birders will take 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.

To find out more, you can visit: [www.hampshirebirdclub.org/cbc/](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org/cbc/)

To sign up for the event, contact Jan Ortiz and/or Janice Jorgensen at [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## ARCADIA PROGRAMS

**Sandhill Cranes:** *Andrew Vitz*

Thursday, October 20, 7 p.m.

Sandhill Cranes were first documented nesting in Massachusetts in 2007, and after some very lean years, their numbers are slowly increasing in the Commonwealth.

*For more details of these and other programs go to [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) (select "Sanctuaries", then "Choose a Sanctuary: Arcadia") or call the sanctuary at the number below. To register for programs contact Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton, MA 01027. Telephone (413) 584-3009.*

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

***Hitchcock has a new home, on the campus of Hampshire College!***

**Amazing Local Geology: A class and field experience:** *Richard Little*

Saturdays, October 22, 29, and November 5: 10 – 4 pm

**Explore the New Hitchcock Center's grounds:** *Ted Watt*

Sunday, October 30, 9:30-12:30

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

Thursday, November 10, 7- 8:30 pm (at the new Hitchcock Center)

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

*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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

That's all for this month.

Please renew if membership materials are included with this newsletter. Thank you.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

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*For administrative purposes only*

## HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2016-2017

Please note that contact information may be shared with other members of the club, unless you request otherwise below.

Name(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Download from the HBC Website (club will send reminders), OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Send me the newsletter via US mail</b>	<b>How would you like to get the HBC newsletter?</b> (For the "online" version, we need to have an email address for you).												
Address:														
City:														
State: _____ ZIP: _____														
Home phone:		<b>Please check any activities listed below which you would like to participate:</b>												
Other phone (whose?):		<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally provide refreshments <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trip Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Lead field trips <input type="checkbox"/> Share info. on birding locations <input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)												
E-mail(s):														
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>May we publish your contact information in the annual club membership list (sent to members)?</b></td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><b>No</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.?</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>No</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	<b>May we publish your contact information in the annual club membership list (sent to members)?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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Please choose a level of membership below. Our supporting membership categories are essential in financing our outstanding programming. **All membership contributions are tax deductible** (if you itemize your deductions).

### MEMBERSHIP - REGULAR: Tax deductible

Student @ \$5.00	\$
Individual @ \$18.00	\$
Family @ \$30.00	\$

### MEMBERSHIP – SUPPORTING: Tax deductible

Downy Woodpecker @ \$40.00	\$
Northern Flicker @ \$60.00	\$
Red-bellied Woodpecker @ \$100.00	\$
Pileated Woodpecker @ \$250.00 or more	\$

### OUTREACH ACTIVITY

Donation to Education Committee (Optional)	\$
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Please make checks payable to the **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.** and send (with this form) to:  
**Hampshire Bird Club, P.O. Box 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716.**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **Hampshire Bird Club Inc.**

### **Field Trip Guidelines for Participants and Drivers**

Field trips are one of the best ways to help the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC) achieve its purpose: "to help its members and the general public enjoy birding and to educate them about birds, bird watching and bird habitats."

#### **All Participants:**

All HBC members are asked to sign the HBC Release Form each year. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the Membership Secretary or check the "Join" section of the HBC Website.

Please call the trip leader at least a few days before the trip. It helps the leader plan the trip and you learn about any special arrangements or any change of plans.

Please do not bring pets and check with the leader before bringing children on a trip. Many of the trips are not appropriate for children. (All minor children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or an adult who has written authorization to be responsible for the child's care and conduct. See the Field Trip Policy for more information.)

Be on time at the meeting place. If you need to meet the group at the birding location, please offer to be early so the group can start promptly upon arrival. If you plan to leave the trip early, you must inform the leader in advance.

Carpooling is essential to allow the group to park when space is limited, reduce delays, reduce the likelihood of auto accidents and to reduce the chances of the group becoming separated. Carpooling from the valley is best. Carpooling once the trip location is reached is the next best option.

The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making all carpool arrangements.

Be prepared with binoculars, appropriate clothing (including protection from ticks), food and water. Assume the weather will be more extreme on the trip than at home and prepare accordingly.

Please share costs with courtesy. We recommend a cost of \$0.50 cents per mile plus tolls and parking to be shared equally among the driver and all passengers, but the rate for your vehicle is entirely up to the driver and passengers.

Please agree on a mileage rate or flat contribution BEFORE the trip leaves to avoid misunderstandings. Please bring cash or checks and be prepared to reimburse the driver at the time of the trip.

HBC always encourages new birders to participate in trips. It is the responsibility of all trip members, leader and participants, to help new birders learn both identification techniques and bird observing skills.

While birding, please stay close to the group unless you have some specific reason to separate, and inform the leader if you are doing so. This reduces delays and distractions for the entire group.

All participants are responsible for their own safety. Use common sense if you feel that any part of the trip is too arduous for you. Always check with the trip leader if you have any questions or medical concerns about the trip.

#### **Drivers:**

1. It is the responsibility of the car owner to meet all registration, insurance, and inspection regulations. Please note that HBC liability insurance does NOT cover individuals who drive or allow the use of their own vehicles on club trips.
2. Please fill up your tank before the trip and set your odometer at the beginning of the trip.
3. If the trip is going to caravan, follow common sense rules to make sure no one is put in danger or lost.
  - Stay in the same order so that you know which car is in front of you and which car is behind you.
  - If the car behind you is stopped by a light, pull safely to the side of the road so that you can wait until that car catches up.
  - If you are driving the car or cars catching up with the group, slow down so that the lead/stopped cars can pull in front of you.
  - It is a good idea for all caravan drivers to have their lights on.
4. Always have a description of the next major stop from the trip leader so that, should the caravan become separated, you can join the group at the next major stop.