



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 34, No. 4
December, 2017.

Just the facts this month. The annual Members Meeting, Christmas Count reminders, coming trips, leaders needed for spring trips, potluck plea, and Cousin Vinnie's December Refreshments message. The HBC Membership List has been mailed to all current members. See you Monday!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, December 11 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.

This month, the program is US!

We'd like to see and hear about something special you did this year. Not so much signing every on-line petition that landed in your inbox, but more like some natural history-related experience that might interest others in the club. A short, narrated slide selection is the norm, but any kind of audio-visual presentation that can hold the attention of our discerning audience is most welcome.

If you have slides or a power-point presentation to share

As in past years, please limit your show to 20 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 12. 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 8, 2018. Don Kroodsmma. Birdsong Alaska (Or Somewhere)

February 12, 2018. Keenan Yakola. Seabird Research at Seal Island.

March 12, 2018. Dave Wiley. Great Shearwaters on Stellwagen Bank.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, December 9. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund, Jim Lafley, Nancy Goodman, Laura Beltran, and Janice Jorgensen lead birders through the refuge to warm up for the Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

Saturday, January 13. The Second Annual Cape Ann Winter Ramble. 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). Meeting time is 6 a.m.; contact Devin (413-323-8417) for the place, or further information. (M)

The Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule Leaders Wanted

While the rest of us are finding creative ways to spend money in the run-up to the holiday season, Mike Locher spends endless hours in a drafty garret in Hadley, muttering to himself and scribbling endless iterations of the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule in crayon on old Dunkin Donuts bags.

The first prerequisite for a good trip is a willing leader! Not a hot-shot, just an organized person with knowledge of a destination and the ability to get a group of fellow HBC folks there and back again safely. What happens when the group is there is a kind of magic that can happen regardless of who is leading. Like the birds, we all need to get out on that limb. **Give it a shot.** Drop Mike a line at fieldtrips@hampshirebirdclub.org and throw him an idea for a trip, especially if you are willing to lead or co-lead. Mike may be able to link you up with another leader who can take a share of the responsibilities and he can help with suggestions as to dates, times etc. Please, please, please drop Mike a line soon. He has to get the schedule down before the end of December and he is down to the last stub of crayon.....

BIRDERS' HOROSCOPE FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

It's written in the stars. Today is for the birds!

The fates are throwing you an opportunity to participate in a traditional community project : the **84th Northampton Christmas Count** which takes place today from midnight to midnight. Join a team. Count and appreciate every bird you see. If you can't get outdoors today, enjoy the birds at the feeders in your yard. Focus on the birds but also give a nod to the other creatures there.

Embrace the chance to accompany an owling team during the wee hours and be resigned to the cold, moonless conditions and unpredictability of these mysterious creatures.

Pay extra attention to what look like white trash bags out in the open fields. They might be just that, or they might be the bird of the day since a Snowy Owl invasion is on the cards. Again, be open to the unexpected. After four o'clock, share a delicious potluck meal and report your tally for the day at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. It has nothing to do with your horoscope. It's just a no-brainer. Oh, and be especially kind to the Northampton CBC compilers today. Again, no brainer.

Janice Jorgensen

Jan Ortiz

cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

BIRDERS HOROSCOPE FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

You have been a very, VERY, VERY bad person and the only way you can fix this is to participate in the **Quabbin Count**.

No-one is keeping track of how many Quabbin Counts there have been, but the birds stubbornly hang on in those lonely, windswept wastes, so someone has to count 'em.

If it doesn't kill you, it will make you stronger.

If John Snow was a birder, he would be doing the Quabbin Count.

There is usually pizza.

Scott Sumner

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That's all for this month.

Pleas for food are on the back of the cover.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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