



## **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts**

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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**November, 2017.**

This balmy November may be pleasant to bird in but, lest we forget, global warming poses a serious challenge to all bird species and a dire threat to many of them. This month we bring you one of our more timely programs, as well as our usual rich offering of field trips.

### **NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, November 13 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Brooke Bateman** introduces us to

**Climate Watch**

**Audubon's Newest Citizen Science Program**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

To prepare for an uncertain future, we must be able to both forecast and monitor how species are responding to climate change. To track climate effects throughout species' ranges requires a landscape-scale coordinated and structured effort. Audubon's Climate Watch program integrates climate projections with community scientists' local knowledge to track how birds are responding to climate change. Skilled volunteers from across the U.S. collaborate with Audubon scientists by testing the predictions of target species' mid-2020s climate model projections through on-the-ground monitoring of bluebirds and nuthatches. Here we will provide an overview of the science behind the program, the general protocol, key resources available, and how to get involved in Climate Watch. We will also highlight how we can directly test hypotheses about bird climate change responses and present preliminary results from the program.

**Brooke Bateman** is the Director of Climate Watch in the Science Division at the National Audubon Society, and received her Ph.D. in Zoology and Tropical Ecology at James Cook University in Australia in 2010. Brooke conducted postdoctoral research with James Cook University, the University of Tasmania, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia and later, as a postdoctoral associate and assistant scientist on a NASA funded project with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Brooke's research focuses on spatial ecology and species distribution modeling, with emphasis on the effect that extreme weather events and climate change have on biodiversity. Since 2010, Brooke has led or contributed to 22 peer-reviewed publications and works closely with on-the-ground practitioners and stakeholders to link research to on-the-ground conservation and management actions. As the Director of Climate Watch, Brooke works with community volunteers to better understand how North American birds are being affected by climate change. In addition, Brooke collaborates with scientists from universities, government agencies and within the National Audubon Society's Science team to develop research focused on climate, citizen science, and conservation of birds.

### **COMING PROGRAMS**

**December 11, 2017. Members' Meeting.**

**January 8, 2018. Don Kroodsma.** Birdsong Alaska (Or Somewhere)!

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

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Southwick Wildlife Management Area, Southwick, MA

#### Saturday, September 23

**Geoff LeBaron** and David Peake-Jones spent the morning on a pleasant ramble through a very impressive and developing grassland in the border with Connecticut. As we walked into the grassland we were almost instantly aware of the gradual but cumulative departure of hundreds of Savannah Sparrows from a corner of it. We also enjoyed a little knot of migrating warblers in the forests on the edge of the area, including **Cape May-**, **Palm-**, **Prairie-** and **Pine-** in good numbers. There is an area being kept under scattered trees at present (almost like a brushy savannah) which was loaded with Eastern Towhees and may become good for other early successional shrubland breeders. One fleeing small brown job was almost certainly a **Grasshopper Sparrow** but whatever grassland birds bred here this season seem have dispersed for the season. The habitat is expansive, and contiguous enough to be an exciting prospect as management continues and local grassland specialists discover it.

Drew Vitz advised us, when he spoke to the club, to keep an eye on this grassland, which is being managed to rival the great but difficult-to-access expanses of Westover as a conservation resource for large-area grassland nesters. Our verdict, slumping back into the car after tallying 39 species is: WE AGREE!

David Peake-Jones



### The Annual Halloween Adventure: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen and More

#### Sunday, October 22

With Josh Rose at the helm, we assembled at the power canal where we had very atmospheric looks at good numbers of Canada Geese and a few Common Mergansers in rising wreaths of mist off the water. Striking off to the north, through the scenic by-ways of Gill, we took in the dual wetlands of Hell's Kitchen and Satan's Kingdom, each of which could not have been less aptly named on what was tuning out to be a balmy fall day. Goodly numbers of land-birds chipped away from the lingering deciduous foliage and we were able to enjoy **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, Yellow-rumped Warblers, **Brown Creepers** and even a **Common Yellowthroat** which eventually gave up its secrets after leading us a merry dance in the pond-side vegetation. Sixteen **Wood Ducks** almost missed our gaze, lurking amidst the waning water lilies. A particularly wonderful and expansive muddy wetland yielded four **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and 16 **Killdeer**. When all hope of further waterfowl seemed lost, we turned up seven **Green-winged Teal**, briefly joined in a secluded end of the wetland by a transient **Red-shouldered Hawk**.

River Road in Northfield yielded some sparrows, a fly-by Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a distant soaring **Peregrine Falcon** to test out silhouette skills. Great Meadow Road was pregnant with possibilities but, in the gathering heat of the day, sadly devoid of actual birds.

It was at this point in the day that we became thankful for Josh's access to the internet in the field. Other birders reported a collection of five (5) Cattle Egrets in Gill and we found them, obediently hanging out where reported with some entirely unimpressed cattle in a picturesque field within easy scope view of the road. As the shadows grew longer, we paid last visits to Barton's Cove and the Rod and Gun Club, without adding anything of note.

All in all a very pretty day and a very pleasant jaunt through some really nice birding areas.

David Peake-Jones

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, November 11. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin.** All day. Craig Allen leads our annual trip to the east side of the reservoir to look for waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Mike Locher ([mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) or 413-585-5864) by November 4 to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

Coming Field Trips (continued)

**Saturday, November 11. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Jim Lafley, Stephen LaValley, Nancy Goodman, and Janice Jorgensen search the refuge for whatever happens to be around. Meet at 7 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

**Sunday, November 12. Valley Waterfowl.** Three quarter day. David Peake-Jones will travel northward up the Connecticut River valley, looking for migrating waterfowl. Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops parking lot (Rt 9, just east of the Calvin Coolidge Bridge at 41 Russell Street in Hadley) at 6:30 a.m. for carpooling. Please contact David ([davidpj@the-spa.com](mailto:davidpj@the-spa.com)) to register. (E/M)

**Wednesday, November 15. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Nancy Goodman, and Janice Jorgensen seek out lagging migrants and early winter birds. Meet at 7 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

**Saturday, December 2. Owls.** Evening. Mike Locher and David Peake-Jones try to locate a few of our nocturnal avian denizens. Note: if you're opposed to the use of audio devices to attract birds, this isn't the trip for you. Dress for the cold. Contact Mike ([mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) or 413-585-5864) or David ([davidpj@the-spa.com](mailto:davidpj@the-spa.com)) for further information. (E/M)

**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)

**Sunday, December 17, 2017. Northampton Christmas Count**  
Contact Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz ([cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org)) to participate.

**Saturday, December 30, 2017. Quabbin Count.**  
Contact Scott Sumner ([president@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:president@hampshirebirdclub.org)) to participate.

## The Winter-Spring Summer Field Trip Schedule

Is beginning to take shape, yes. In his fevered imagination, our field trip chair, Mike Locher, is already contemplating the offerings for next year. If you are willing to lead a trip or trips, please get in touch with Mike ([fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org)) and let him know.

## CHRISTMAS COUNTS

We have close ties with two (2) local Christmas Counts. If you would like to participate in either of these and do not yet have a team, please contact the organizers.

**Northampton Christmas Count: Sunday, December 17, 2017**  
Contact [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org)

**Quabbin Count: Saturday, December 30**  
Contact Scott Sumner: [president@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:president@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## Christmas Count Potluck

A big reason to participate in the Northampton Christmas Count is the potluck that follows it. We need main courses, salads, desserts and beverages. If you can contribute food or drink, please contact **Sue Emerson** at [spe33@charter.net](mailto:spe33@charter.net) or 413 588 6900. Cousin Vinnie will add his thoughts on this subject next month.

## ARCADIA PROGRAMS (Some Highlights)

### **Trees at High Ledges**

Saturday, November 11; 10 am – 1 pm.

### **Nature Odyssey Photo Presentation: *John Green***

Wednesday, November 15; 7 – 8:30 pm

*For more details and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to [www.massaudubon.org/arcadia](http://www.massaudubon.org/arcadia)  
You may also contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** direct at 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027 or  
telephone (413) 584-3009.*

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS (Some Highlights)

### **What We Can Do About Light Pollution: *James Lowenthal***

Wednesday, November 8: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

### **Viewing the Night Sky: *James Lowenthal***

Friday, November 10: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

ALSO Saturday, December 2: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

### **Living Building Tours**

Wednesday, November 15: 12:00 NOON to 1:00 pm

ALSO Friday, December 1: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### **Swallows in Massachusetts: How You Can Help: *Mara Silver***

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Many swallow species that breed in Massachusetts are in decline. The reasons are complex, but Mara will outline ways we can help these birds with that part of their lives they spend here in the valley.

### **The Environmental Canon Book Club**

Thursday, November 16: 6-00 pm – 7:30 pm.

### **An Invisible Terror: Birds and Window Collisions: *Brandon Hedrick***

Friday, November 17: 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

Following deforestation, window collisions are the number one human-made cause of bird mortality, with estimates as high as 1 billion birds per year in the United States alone. Find out what types of windows create the highest risk and what can be done to reduce it.

*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.**

**If you need to send us your renewal, please do so immediately to avoid a break in membership.**

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)

## AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION CODE 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.

### **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.