



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
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February, 2018.

In this edition:

- The **next program** and **coming presentations**,
- The **blockbuster Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule** including the **Monhegan** overnigher,
- The **Quabbin Count** results and summary, plus
- **Hitchcock** and **Arcadia** offerings.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, February 12 at 7:15 p.m.

Keenan Yakola gives an account of **Birding from the Edge**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Weather-related cancellations announced via the HBC email list and local media.

Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge is located 22 miles off Rockland, Maine. The island is a national wildlife refuge and is home to a large colony of nesting seabirds including Atlantic Puffins, Arctic- and Common Terns, Razorbills, Black Guillemots and Leach's Storm-Petrels as well as Double-crested- and Great Cormorants. For the past three summers, Keenan Yakola has been part of a group of biologists and interns working for the National Audubon Society's "Project Puffin," to better understand the biology of the seabirds breeding on the island. During this time, Keenan has accumulated stories, pictures, and a deep understanding of these charismatic seabirds, as well as of the migrant song- and shorebirds that visit the island during spring and fall. This is a rare opportunity for us to share Keenan's experiences with the never-ending and seamless beauty of Maine's coastal islands.

Keenan Yakola is a native Cape Codder who first got interested in birding and conservation at Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary during an internship through Nauset High School. Since then he has completed a degree in Wildlife Conservation at the University of Massachusetts, studied songbirds in Kenya and Tanzania, bushwhacked through the Peruvian Amazon and banded birds from Cape Cod to Florida. Over the past four years, Keenan has lived out of his tent for four months each summer on islands in the Gulf of Maine. He is now back at UMass, Amherst as a Master's Fellow with the DOI Northeast Climate Center, studying the vulnerability of seabirds to climate change in the Gulf of Maine.

COMING PROGRAMS

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

April 9, 2018. Shawn Carey. A Wing and a Care.

May 14, 2018. Sam Fried. Adventures from the Field.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Please see the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule (enclosed)

"These will be the greatest field trips we have had in years, centuries maybe, and they will be great and they will have thousands attending them, countless thousands, believe me!"

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS (A SELECTION)

Nature All Year Study Club 2018

Sundays once per month beginning in March, 9am-12pm. Registration Required. Fee.

Prowling For Owls: *Dan Ziomek*

Saturday, February 17, 8pm -10pm. Registration Required. Fee.

Youth 8 and older welcome with an adult

Attracting Pollinators at Hitchcock: What Plants Where? *Tom Sullivan*

Saturdays, February 3, 10, 17: 10 am – 12 noon. Registration Required. Fee.

Winter Nature Walk on Snowshoes: *John Green*

Saturday, February 17, 9am-12pm (snowdate Feb. 24). Registration Required. Fee.

Salamander Tunnel Maintenance

A weekend day in March.

If you register, you will be notified of the date.

Tree Pruning and Tree Health: *Walker Korby of Whole Tree*

Saturday, March 3, 9am-12pm. Registration Required. Fee.

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.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS (A SELECTION)

Winter Walk, Eagle Reintroduction at Quabbin, Feb 10, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

Winter Raptors, Feb 17, 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

Walking the Winter Milky Way, Feb 18, 8:00-10:00 pm

February Vacation Camp, Feb 20-23

Frogwatch Citizen Science, Feb 23, 6:00-9:00 pm

Birding Plum Island, Feb 27, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

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

That's all we have room for this month.

The following have been **postponed** until the **March** edition.

- The **Cape Ann, Owling** and **Valley Waterfowl** trip reports,
- The **HBC Fast Food Calorie Count** results.

The Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule is enclosed.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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Quabbin Count 2017 and Historical

Species with high or equal high counts this year are listed in **bold** and the previous high count is also listed.

Species	2017	High Year	High Count	Species	2017	High Year	High Count
Snow Goose	0	2015	1	American Coot	0	unusual	
Canada Goose	0	2015	236	Black-headed Gull	0	unusual	
Mute Swan	0	unusual		Ring-billed Gull	60	2011	185
Wood Duck	0	unusual		Herring Gull	0	1990	280
American Wigeon	0	unusual		Glaucous Gull	0	unusual	
Black Duck	43	1993	349	Great Black-backed Gull	0	1990	47
Mallard	111	1994	975	Rock Pigeon	21	1999	339
Northern Pintail	0	unusual		Mourning Dove	361	1999	440
Green-winged Teal	0	unusual		Eastern Screech Owl	3	1989	4
Blue-winged Teal	0	unusual		Great Horned Owl	13	1994	24
Ring-necked Duck	0	2001	41	Snowy Owl	0	not yet	
Greater Scaup	0	2001	5	Barred Owl	5	1993	21
Lesser Scaup	0	unusual		Long-eared Owl	0	unusual	
White-winged Scoter	1	unusual		Saw-whet Owl	4	1994	61
Black Scoter	0	unusual		Belted Kingfisher	2	2010	6
Long-tailed Duck	0	unusual		Red-bellied Woodpecker	37	2016	51
Bufflehead	0	1994	28	Yellow-bell'd Sapsucker	2	unusual	
Common Goldeneye	2	1992	105	Downy Woodpecker	139	1994	169
Barrows Goldeneye	0	unusual		Hairy Woodpecker	58	2012	62
Hooded Merganser	30	2006	186	Northern Flicker	3	2010	10
Common Merganser	312	1999	1127	Pileated Woodpecker	20	2010	61
Red-breasted Merganser	0	unusual		Eastern Phoebe	0	unusual	
Ruddy Duck	0	unusual		Northern Shrike	0	1995	10
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	1994	16	Blue Jay	297	1993	1140
Ruffed Grouse	10	1994	42	American Crow	131	1995	395
Wild Turkey	151	2008	248	Common Raven	20	2013	62
Common Loon	0	2014	28	Horned Lark	0	2016	95
Horned Grebe	0	1997	195	Black-capped Chickadee	539	1993	2516
Red-necked Grebe	0	1995	2	Boreal Chickadee	0	unusual	
Double crested Cormorant	0	unusual		Tufted Titmouse	294	2015	298
Great Cormorant	0	unusual		Red-breasted Nuthatch	25	1993	1886
Great Blue Heron	0	1991	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	183	2001	303
Turkey Vulture	0	unusual		Brown Creeper	10	1996	82
Osprey	0	unusual		Carolina Wren	1	2011	12
Bald Eagle	21	1994	38	Winter Wren*	4	2014	5
Northern Harrier	0	unusual		Golden-crowned Kinglet	112	1996	312
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1993	12	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	1996*	3
Cooper's Hawk	3	2016	7	Eastern Bluebird	28	2014	88
Northern Goshawk	0	2007*	3	Hermit Thrush*	4	2006	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	2017	4	American Robin	113	2016	2624
Red-tailed Hawk	23	2014	32	Gray Catbird	1	2008*	1
Rough-legged Hawk	0	unusual		Northern Mockingbird	7	1991	45
Golden Eagle	1	1997*	2	European Starling	644	1999	1690
American Kestrel	2	2017	2	Bohemian Waxwing	0	Not yet	
Merlin	0	unusual		Cedar Waxwing	244	1997	550
Peregrine Falcon	0	unusual		<i>(Continues next page)</i>			

Quabbin Count 2017 and Historical (continued)

Species	2017	High Year	High Count	Species	2017	High Year	High Count
Yellow-r'd Warbler*	0	unusual		House Finch	14	1992	429
Pine Warbler	0	unusual		Red Crossbill	0	1993	240
Eastern Towhee	0	2009	3	White-winged Crossbill	0	1993	27
American Tree Sparrow	111	1998	611	Common Redpoll	0	1997	1357
Field Sparrow	0	1999	2	Hoary Redpoll	0	unusual	
Fox Sparrow	1	unusual		Pine Siskin	0	2008	137
Song Sparrow	30	1994	50	American Goldfinch	299	1994	664
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	Not yet		Evening Grosbeak	0	1989	413
Swamp Sparrow	0	2014	3	House Sparrow	808	2004	1032
White-throated Sparrow	114	2009	584				
White-crowned Sparrow	0	unusual					
D'-eyed (pink sided) Junco	0	unusual					
D'-eyed (slate-co') Junco	1564	2009	2297				
Snow Bunting	0	2013	230	Write Ins			
Northern Cardinal	135	2005	123				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	unusual					
Red-winged Blackbird	37	2006	309				
Rusty Blackbird	1	2011	51				
Common Grackle	0	2006	100				
Brown-headed Cowbird	58	2006	553	Number of species this year			60
Pine Grosbeak	1	2007	154	# of <u>new</u> species this year			0
Purple Finch	1	1992	169	Cumulative # of Species (historically)			124

Species counted in fewer than five (5) years between 1988 and 2017 are described as "unusual."

QUABBIN COUNT 2017 SUMMARY

The **Quabbin Christmas Bird Count** took place on the last Saturday of 2017 under less than favorable conditions. Pre-dawn owling teams were faced with minus nine (-9) degree temperatures, but despite the frigid conditions they turned up four species of owls. As dawn approached temps got to around -2 and would later top off at around 16 degrees. During the morning, a light snow developed and basically lasted throughout the day, making visibility an issue at times.

We had 37 Field Observers and 1 feeder watcher for the count this year. Our volunteers found most of the small streams, coves and even some larger bodies of water around the Quabbin completely frozen. The main body of the reservoir remained open and produced most of our waterfowl sightings. Interestingly we missed Common Loon for only the 4th time and Horned Grebe for the 3rd time in the 30 year history of the Quabbin count.

Scott Surner

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, 2018

Please **register** with the field trip leader(s) and check this schedule's information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher – 413-585-5864) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders.

The Hampshire Bird Club recommends **carpooling** whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (September newsletter or on the Website).

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (*), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as **Easy (E – suitable for people who can walk on level ground at a relaxed pace)**, **Moderate (M – suitable for people who can walk over uneven ground at a relaxed pace)**, or **Strenuous (S – suitable only for people who can walk over uneven or difficult terrain at a quick pace)** to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders.

In an effort to change things up, there's a new series this spring: **Quick-and-Dirty Midweek Birding (QDMB)**: a series of very short trips around Hadley. Think of this as a chance to see something before heading off to work, or an opportunity to get together with other birders who have no immediate commitments and explore an area more fully after the leader leaves (by 7 most mornings).

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 25. Leader's Choice. Half day. Mike Locher will chase any local rarities that happen to be around. If there aren't any rarities, he'll figure something out. Contact Mike for more information (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org). Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops, (41 Russell St., Hadley) at 7 a.m. (E/M).

MARCH

Saturday, March 3. Winter Coastal Rhode Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron leads his annual winter trip to a great area for ducks, gulls, and seabirds. Contact Geoff (413-268-9281) to register and get meeting information. (M).

Tuesday, March 13. QDMB: Alexandra Dawson Conservation Area. Morning. Mike Locher scans the river for ducks. Bring a scope, if you have one. Meet at the eastern parking area (North Lane, Hadley) at 6:30 a.m. (E)

Saturday, March 17. Connecticut River Waterfowl. Half day. Mike Locher seeks out the ducks and geese migrating up the Connecticut River to their breeding grounds. We may work the south and east (Coolidge Bridge, Holyoke Dam, Quabbin); or more to the north (Hadley Cove, Great Pond, Turner's Falls Power Canal, and Barton's Cove), depending on the prevalence of ice. Contact Mike for more information (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org). Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops, (41 Russell St., Hadley) at 7 a.m. (E/M)

***Wednesday, March 21. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Ted Gilliland, and Leslie Hoffman lead the first spring walk into the refuge. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8:00 a.m. (E/M)

APRIL

***Saturday, April 7. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and Leslie Hoffman look for early migrants, hangers-on, and residents. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M).

***Sunday, April 8. Ashley Reservoir: Early Warblers.** Half day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Louisiana Waterthrushes. Meet in the Holyoke Elks parking lot (250 Whitney Ave.), near Exit 15 (“Holyoke Mall”) off Rt. 91 at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) for more information. (E/M with one optional S section).

Thursday, April 12. QDMB: Hadley Reservoir. Morning. Mike Locher looks for early migrants along Bay Road. Meet at the dirt access road to the reservoirs (Reservoir Road, Hadley) at 6 a.m. (E/M).

***Wednesday, April 18. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and Marcia Merithew look for early warblers and other spring migrants. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M).

Tuesday, April 24. Mount Tom. Morning. Tom Gagnon looks for migrating hawks and early-season butterflies at Mount Tom State Reservation. Meet at Bray Lake parking area at 8:30 a.m. From there the group will drive up to the old park headquarters and walk to Goat Peak tower. Contact Tom (413-584-6353) for more information. (Rain date: Wednesday, April 25.) (M).

Wednesday, April 25. QDMB: Aqua Vitae Road. Morning. Mike Locher looks for migrants, and with luck, there may be a few ducks and shorebirds. Meet near the entrance furthest from the bridge at 6:00 a.m. (E/M).

Saturday, April 28. Spring Coastal Rhode Island. All day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths ply the shores for migrants and residents. The species mix should be very different than for Geoff’s March trip. Meeting time is 6 a.m. at a place to be determined. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for information. (M).

MAY

***Tuesday, May 1. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Ted Gilliland, and Laura Beltran leading. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:00 a.m. (E/M).

Saturday, May 5. Station Road Rail Trail. Half day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths reprise last year’s warbler-fest with a walk along the rail trail and a possible extension to Wentworth Farm in Amherst. Meet at the rail trail parking area on Station Road at 6:30 a.m. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for more information. (M).

Sunday, May 6. Quabbin Gate 5 and Lake Wallace. Full day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths visit two Belchertown hotspots, looking for spring migrants and anything else they can find. Meet at Gate 5 at 6:30 a.m. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for more information. (M/S).

Tuesday, May 8. QDMB: Hadley Transfer Station. Morning. Mike Locher looks for migrants around one of the (perhaps justifiably) underappreciated parts of the Honey Pot. Meet at the turnaround just past the transfer station (end of North Branch Road, Hadley) at 6:00 a.m. (E/M)

***Tuesday, May 8. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Ted Gilliland, and Laura Beltran look for warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, tanagers, flycatchers, and other spring migrants. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M).

Saturday, May 12. 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 13. Mt Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, MA. All day. David Peake-Jones heads to this legendary garden cemetery and migrant trap in Watertown, MA. Possible optional stop on the way home. We will meet at the Northampton Bowling Alley at 5:45 AM to carpool. Contact David Peake-Jones (newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) before the end of Friday, May 11 to register. (E/M).

***Tuesday, May 15. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Henry Lappen, Stephen LaValley, and Devin Griffiths look for warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, tanagers, flycatchers, and other spring migrants. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:00 a.m. (E/M).

Wednesday, May 16. Montague Plains WMA: Whip-poor-wills. Evening. Al Richards searches the unique habitat around the Montague Plain for whip-poor-wills and other local specialties (like Towhees and Prairie Warblers). Contact Al (413-665-2761) to register and get meeting information. (E).

Saturday, May 19. Hilltown Ramble. All day. Bob Zimmermann (413-585-0405) and a co-leader to be named later visit migrant spots from Cumington through Moran Wildlife Management Area, to Savoy, Plainfield and Hawley. Some hiking will be done. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop on King Street at 6:30 a.m. to organize carpools. (M)

Sunday, May 20. Montague Sandplains. Half day. Jeremy Coleman leads a daylight trip into this unique habitat. Expected birds include Prairie, Blue-winged, and Pine Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher, Grasshopper and Field Sparrow, maybe Canada- and Mourning Warblers and Red Crossbills. For information, contact Jeremy (jcolemanarch-at-gmail-dot-com). (E/M).

Tuesday, May 22. QDMB: USFWS Northeast Regional Headquarters. Morning. Mike Locher looks for Willow Flycatchers, orioles, and warblers. Meet at the visitor's lot (300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley) at 6:00 a.m. (E).

***Tuesday, May 22. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Stephen LaValley, and Devin Griffiths look for warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, tanagers, flycatchers, and other spring migrants. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:00 a.m. (E/M)

Thursday-Sunday, May 24-27. Monhegan Island. THREE NIGHTS. Scott Surner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, but the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to 12 Hampshire Bird Club members. Price will depend upon the number of participants. Contact Scott (413-256-5438) for information, and Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) to register or for questions about the cost of the trip. (E/M/S).

***Saturday, May 26. Knightville Dam.** Half day. Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins look for spring migrants and local residents. Contact Marcia (413-896-9539 or mmerithew-at-comcast-dot-net) for details. Meet at 7 a.m. at the John F. Kennedy Middle School (100 Bridge Road; Florence, MA). (E/M)

Sunday, May 27. Mt Holyoke. Half day. David Peake-Jones takes the steep hike up this local peak hoping for deep-woods breeders including Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers (both quite reliable in recent years). We will meet at the (gated) entrance to Skinner State Park (at the end of Old Mountain Road in Hadley) at 6:00 am. Contact David Peake-Jones (newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) before the end of Friday, May 25 to register. (M/S)

Tuesday, May 29. QDMB: Orchard Arboretum. Morning. Mike Locher looks for warblers around this hidden conservation area. Meet at Russett Lane in Amherst at 6:00 a.m. (M)

***Tuesday, May 29. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. Devin Griffiths, Henry Lappen, and Stephen LaValley leading. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M).

JUNE

Saturday, June 2. 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 fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E/M).

***Saturday, June 9. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Laura Beltran, and Josh Rose leading. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:00 a.m. (E/M)

Sunday, June 10. Mt Greylock. Full Day. David Peake-Jones samples the altitudinal variation in species from the bottom to the top. Most of the journey is by car, but we hike the last ½ mile (steep and rough). We will meet at the Northampton Stop and Shop on King Street to carpool at 6:00 AM. Contact David Peake-Jones (newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) before the end of Friday, June 8 to register. (M/S)

***Saturday, June 23. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Laura Beltran, and Josh Rose leading. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:00 a.m. (E/M)

Check the website and newsletter for possible additions to the schedule, including Quabbin, Mount Mansfield, Southwick WMA, and Milford Point, CT, among other possibilities.