HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB February 3, 1986

Dear Friends -

Just in case this letter is forwarded to you and you are reading it on the beach in the Bahamas or some equally fine birding "hot spot" I should tell you that you are missing some fantastic winter birding here in Western Massachusetts. My definition of "fantastic": I have discovered I can see plenty from my car window and my back yard offers wonderful opportunities to do "in-depth study" of the starling, deepening my understanding of this much maligned bird. By the next letter the spring migration will be underway and we'll be standing in swamps in 35° rainy weather juggling binoculars, scopes, thermoses and Dristan, loving every minute of it. Ahi The Joys of Birding!

MEETINGS

To keep you interested until spring there are two excellent programs planned for the warmth of the indoors and two field trips for the more hardy souls. This Monday, February 10th we are pleased to have James Cardoza who will present a program describing the "Turkey Restoration Project in Massachusetts". Then on Monday, March 10th, Bob Humphrey will be speaking on "A Monomoy Wilderness" drawing on his experiences working at the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. Both programs are at the Hitchcock at 7:30. The last two meetings for the year will be on April 14 and May 12 - more about them in the next mailing.

FIELD TRIPS

The February field trip will be on February 15, Quabbin Reservoir, led by Scott. We'll be meeting at the Winsor Dam at 7:30. It will be a half day trip. Please call Scott at 665-3463 evenings if you wish to go. On March 15 Scott will lead a trip to the South Shore (Plymouth Area). Meet at the Hitchcock at 5:00 a.m. It will be all day (bring lunch). Call Scott at 665-3463 evenings if you wish to go.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO BIRDERS

February 6 - Tom Arny on "Birding in Namibia and Botawana". This is one of the Thursday evening Slide Shows at the Center at 7:30. There is a modest admission.

<u>February 15 - Quabbin Eagles and Ecology</u>, a trip from Hitchcock (9:00 - 2:00). There is a small fee and registration is required. Call the Center (256-6006).

There will be a bird course offered again this spring, details of which are not finalized at this point. Call the Center for more information.

COMING UP

April 12 (?) - FIELD TRIP TO PLUM ISLAND

May 23-26 - FIELD TRIP TO MONHEGAN ISLAND in Maine (the 3rd trip
for the club). There is still room for five more people. It is great
birding on a beautiful, interesting island and wonderful fun. The
approximate cost is \$150.00 which includes 3 nights' sleeping
accommodations, meals, ferry to and from the Island and the boat trip to
see the Puffins. For more information call Scott evenings at 665-3463. We
need to know how many are going by the meeting on Feb. 10th, so either
contact one of us or return the enclosed form to Scott.

We brainstormed many field trip possibilities at a recent Board meeting and came up with a number of ideas we would like your reaction to. I have put them together in a form and am enclosing them with this letter. Please take a moment to mark the form, making comments if you wish. Either bring it to the Feb. 10th meeting or send it to me at 43 Ridgecrest Rd., Amhert, MA 01002.

Also in this mailing you will find the "Dead Bird Sheet". You can thank Dave Spector for this and before making unkind comments and throwing it in the nearest receptacle, please read it and see how you can help budding ornithologists increase their knowledge!

See you on the 10th -

Sincerely,

Sally Venman, Secretary

MONHEGAN REGISTRATION FORM

Date: May 23-26 transportation			(covers	everything	but
NAME:	Warner and the second s		gennegacy (glicens algorithm) fing		
ADDRESS:					

PHONE:

Send to Scott Surner, 13 Elm Circle, South Deerfield, MA 01373 Questions? Call Scott evenings at 665-3463.

Does anybody have a use for this dead bird?

Yes! Dead birds are used in scientific collections for research and teaching purposes. Birds are often prepared as <u>study skins</u> from which most of the skeleton and internal organs have been removed. These skins provide a permanent record of the plumage of the bird and can be used to study molt and geographic variation. Some birds are pickled in alcohol. These <u>spirit specimens</u> are used to study the muscles and internal organs. Some birds are prepared as <u>skeletons</u>, which allows the bones of different species to be compared. Specimens of any sort document the occurrence of a species in a given location at a particular time and serve as permanent records of migration dates and unusual occurrences.

How should I save the dead bird?

The best way to preserve a dead bird until its final preparation as a specimen is to put it in a well closed plastic bag and freeze it.

What documentation is important?

Four items should be written down as soon as the bird is collected and the piece of paper with this information should be put in the bag with the bird before it is frozen:

The <u>date</u> (day, month, and year) the bird was found (writing out the name of the month in full can help prevent confusion);

The location (at least town and state) the bird was found;

The <u>collector</u>, the person who found the bird and recorded the data; and The <u>circumstances of collection</u>, how the bird came to be collected—do not draw conclusions—it is better to write "dead on road" or "found under window" than "hit by car" or "hit window," unless you <u>know</u> the latter to be true.

Any other intormation that seems important can be included.

Can I keep this bird?

No! It is illegal to keep dead or live birds, or parts thereof, without appropriate federal and state permits.

Can I help by shooting birds for scientific collections?

No! It is illegal to kill birds without federal and state collecting permits. [Domestic species, Rock Doves (Pigeons), Starlings, House Sparrows, and game birds in season are exceptions to the above mentioned laws.]

Who in this area can use this bird?

The University of Massachusetts Museum of Zoölogy maintains research and teaching collections of birds and welcomes additions to these collections. The Museum of Zoölogy holds federal and state salvage permits which allows it to keep birds found dead.

Specimens can be brought to room 321 or room 347 Morrill Science Center at the University in Amherst (across North Pleasant Street from the campus pond). For more information call (413) 545-0457 or 545-0068.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB APRIL 7, 1986

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Plum Island Birding, May 17. Must pre-register (256-6006).

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And, while you're traveling and adding to your life list, think about picking up informative books from areas we don't have covered to add to to collection! Many thanks!

Hope to see you Monday -

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Presents

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Vessel:

The Gusty Gale II/ Holds a maximum of 45 people.

When & Where:

August 23, 1986 at 8:30 a.m./ Lynn, Massachusetts.

Leaders:

Seth Kellogg / Southwick / phone 1-800-332-9685. Scott Surner / So. Deerfield / phone 665-3463.

Payment:

The trip will cost \$18.00 per person. Reservations will only be held upon payment.

Send payment to: Mr. Gerhard Thiem

149 Butternut Hollow Rd. West Springfield, Ma. 01089

Meals:

Bring your own. The Vessel will have cold drinks & light snacks available.

Motion Sickness:

Ginger Capsules will be available before our departure at a minute cost. Studies have shown Ginger Capsules to be more effective than the Scopalamine patch, and with no side effects.

We hope to see you on board!!

Should See:

Greater, Sooty, Manx, Cory's Shearwaters. Parasitic Jaeger, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Laughing Gull, Common and Roseate Tern.

Possibilities:

Pomarine Jaeger, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Red-necked Phalarope, Sabine's Gull, Black Tern.



Dear Friend,

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1986/1987 - THE WAY IT'S GOING TO BE (at least for now)

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Saturday, September 13 - Hawk Watch field trip (registration necessary).

September 19 - 21 - Cape May weekend (must register - see insert).

Hitchcock asks a modest fee for its programs. Call the Center (256-6066) for information or to register.

MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is a membership form. We hope that you will be overcome by an uncontrollable urge to fill it out and return it with a check in rapid fashion. The Club has three expenses: programs, upkeep on the "Voice" (we're the only bird club in the State with its own voice) and the costs that go with bi-monthly mailings. Our only source of income is membership dues. At this point we are in the black, but just so. We really appreciate your support in becoming a member and hope that if you are renewing your membership you might consider contributing at a higher level than before. In order to save, this will be the only mailing that will go to everyone on the general mailing list. From now on only members will receive Club news by mail. Membership runs from September through August. Sometime this fall I will get a membership list together with names and telephone numbers. A new Rare Bird Alert telephone tree will also be formed. Both will be sent to the appropriate people.

RARE BIRD ALERT (a membership privilege)

If you are interested in continuing on the Rare Bird Alert telephone tree or if you want your name included, it is necessary that we be notified of this by the October 20th meeting. After that time the '85 - '86 tree will not be used. There is a place on the membership form to indicate your interest.

AND . . ET CETERA

Hampshire Bird Club Board Members:
Scott Surner (665-3463) - President
Jim Marcum (549-1613) - Vice-President
Sally Venman (549-1098) - Secretary
Natalie Drake (549-4599) - Treasurer
Tom Arny (548-9520)
Jan Ortiz (549-1768)
Marny Price (253-5016)
Marge Tauer (584-8257)
Jan Tolhurst (256-8832)
Jeff Zeyr (323-4931)

Please call any of us if you have questions or comments. We are looking for people interested in leading field trips. If you are interested in helping or know someone who might be, please let us know.

Promising shorter letters in the future and really hoping to see you on September 15th – $\,$

Sincerely,

Sally Venman

Secretary

Dear Pelagic Birder,

The time has finally arrived for our first ever Hampshire & Allen bird club Pelagic trip. As indicated in the previous announcement, we set sail this coming Saturday August 23rd at 8:00 am. Our ship is the "Gusty Gale II". The Gusty Gale II is a party fishing boat chartered by the Hampshire & Allen bird clubs. Its length is 55 feet, Coast Guard approved, with restrooms and some outside seating. It also has an enclosed cabin.

As stated before, we leave from the Harbor Mall, Lynn (see directions below) at 8:00 am sharp and should return to port around 3 or 4:00 in the afternoon. In terms of clothing, I recommend rain gear for protection from the sea spray or rain, and warm clothes period. Weather out at sea can be drastically different from the mainland, even on a hot August day. Another must is a lunch. Food will not be available on this trip. Drinks on the other hand will be available, but I still recommend you bring your own. The last item on the list is most important, MOTION SICKNESS PREVENTION. We will have available before our departure, Ginger Capsules. Whether you use our Capsules or bring your own, just make sure you take something. "DON'T BE A HERO"

Directions to Harbor Mall, Lynn.

Take the Mass.Pike (rte.90) east to Boston. Once in Boston, take the Fitzgerald Expressway (North & South/rte.93). Once on the expressway, look for signs that say Callahan Tunnel/Logan Airport. (Exit 24) Take that exit and go through the Callahan Tunnel. Once through the tunnel, follow signs to Revere & Lynn.(rte.1A NORTH) From this point on you'll stay on Rte.1A NORTH. After about 15 minutes on rte.1A North, you'll see a sign on the right that says "POINT OF PINES", go past the sign and proceed over the bridge. Once over the bridge, about 1.5 miles down on right, look for sign to HARBOR MALL. Take that right and drive down to dock. Parking may cost \$1.00. If you have any questions before Saturday, please feel free to give me a ring in the evening. Look forward to seeing you on board!.

Sincerely,

Scott Surner (413)665-3463

Scott Survey.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB November 28, 1986

Dear Friends -

I have a new toy. It's a bird feeder with one way glass that fits in a window, inside the room. The birds can feast without being aware that I am watching their every move, just a few inches away. This is a mixed blessing. I have it set next to my desk and all I want to do is watch the birds. There hasn't been a bill paid since the feeder was installed. It is by sheer agonizing discipline that this letter is being written at all. My cats are on the verge of nervous breakdowns; my husband is claiming desertion; and I suspect that Christmas might not happen at the Venmans' this year. In answer to this problem however, I say that I have to keep close watch so that when that rare bird arrives (and arrive it will) I'll be there to alert you - I know you are depending on my vigilance!

OLD NEWS

We have had two very good speakers and a party thus far this year. Mark Lynch took us to Australia, and John Green to Bonaventure and "places along the way". We had field trips to Plum Island, Quabbin, and the Berkshire Lakes. The new Rare Bird Alert telephone tree is out and ready to be used. I am getting materials together for members including a membership list, board members' names, telephone numbers of interest to birders and an updated list of book titles in the Bird Club library.

NEW NEWS

Monday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Center - Members' holiday party - Please bring up to ten of your slides to show (any subject depicting nature) and a goodie (snack or dessert) to share. Following the meeting we will be making plans for the annual Christmas Bird Count to be held Sunday, December 21. We hope to involve many people. You can go out all day, a portion of the day or even participate by counting birds at your feeder. Our area includes parts of Amherst, Sunderland, Hadley and South Hadley. The count is done nationally, information being compiled by the National Audubon Society. It is not only fun to participate but is important information gathering at the same time. There will be a potluck supper at Arcadia at 6:00 p.m. followed by compilation of the day's count of the whole area at 7:00. If you want to participate and can't make the meeting, please call Scott (665-3463) or leave a message on the Voice (256-1836).

Thursday, January 1, 1987: A Western Massachusetts BIRD BLITZ (a field trip brought to you by your Bird Club) to start the year right. We'll meet at the Hitchcock Center at 7:00 a.m. and go where the birds are. Scott Surner will lead and would like you to call him at 665-3463 if you are interested.

Saturday, January 10: An Eastern Massachusetts field trip to Plum Island and Cape Ann led by Jim Marcum will leave from the Center at

5:00 a.m. It's an all day trip so bring lunch and very warm clothes.

Monday, January 12, 7:30, Hitchcock Center - the regular monthly meeting will be a slide presentation and talk by Frank Mantlik entitled "A Year in the life of a Birder".

FUTURE NEWS (more details later)

Monday, February 9 - Regular meeting featuring Susan Smith from the Department of Biological Science at Mount Holyoke College.

Monday, March 9 - Regular meeting with Curtice Griffin, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, UMass, speaking on the Galapagos.

Monday, April 13, - Regular meeting with Nat Drake showing slides taken on her recent trip to Costa Rica.

Monday, May 11 - Regular meeting with Paul Beaver featuring South American birds.

Also, in the works - our annual Monhegan trip Memorial Day weekend, a repeat of last year's weekend trip to the Connecticut Lakes in New Hampshire on the last weekend in June, and who knows what else?

HITCHCOCK PROGRAM (small fee, call 256-6066 for more information)

Wednesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., "Winter Bird Feeding Workshop".

Saturday, January 17, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., "Quabbin Eagles and Ecology" - pre-registration required.

Also be sure to check the Bird Voice (253-2218) regularly for unscheduled field trips and other events of interest to birders. Hope to see you on December 8th and at the Christmas Count!

Sally Venman, Secretary

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Hitchcock asks a modest fee for its programs. Call the Center (256-6066) for information or to register.

MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is a membership form. We hope that you will be overcome by an uncontrollable urge to fill it out and return it with a check in rapid fashion. The Club has three expenses: programs, upkeep on the "Voice" (we're the only bird club in the State with its own voice) and the costs that go with bi-monthly mailings. Our only source of income is membership dues. At this point we are in the black, but just so. We really appreciate your support in becoming a member and hope that if you are renewing your membership you might consider contributing at a higher level than before. In order to save, this will be the only mailing that will go to everyone on the general mailing list. From now on only members will receive Club news by mail. Membership runs from September through August. Sometime this fall I will get a membership list together with names and telephone numbers. A new Rare Bird Alert telephone tree will also be formed. Both will be sent to the appropriate people.

RARE BIRD ALERT (a membership privilege)

If you are interested in continuing on the Rare Bird Alert telephone tree or if you want your name included, it is necessary that we be notified of this by the October 20th meeting. After that time the '85 - '86 tree will not be used. There is a place on the membership form to indicate your interest.

AND . . ET CETERA

Hampshire Bird Club Board Members:
Scott Surner (665-3463) - President
Jim Marcum (549-1613) - Vice-President
Sally Venman (549-1098) - Secretary
Natalie Drake (549-4599) - Treasurer
Tom Arny (548-9520)
Jan Ortiz (549-1768)
Marny Price (253-5016)
Marge Tauer (584-8257)
Jan Tolhurst (256-8832)
Jeff Zeyr (323-4931)

Please call any of us if you have questions or comments. We are looking for people interested in leading field trips. If you are interested in helping or know someone who might be, please let us know.

Promising shorter letters in the future and really hoping to see you on September 15th – $\,$

Sincerely,

Sally Venman

Secretary

Dear Pelagic Birder,

The time has finally arrived for our first ever Hampshire & Allen bird club Pelagic trip. As indicated in the previous announcement, we set sail this coming Saturday August 23rd at 8:00 am. Our ship is the "Gusty Gale II". The Gusty Gale II is a party fishing boat chartered by the Hampshire & Allen bird clubs. Its length is 55 feet, Coast Guard approved, with restrooms and some outside seating. It also has an enclosed cabin.

As stated before, we leave from the Harbor Mall, Lynn (see directions below) at 8:00 am sharp and should return to port around 3 or 4:00 in the afternoon. In terms of clothing, I recommend rain gear for protection from the sea spray or rain, and warm clothes period. Weather out at sea can be drastically different from the mainland, even on a hot August day. Another must is a lunch. Food will not be available on this trip. Drinks on the other hand will be available, but I still recommend you bring your own. The last item on the list is most important, MOTION SICKNESS PREVENTION. We will have available before our departure, Ginger Capsules. Whether you use our Capsules or bring your own, just make sure you take something. "DON'T BE A HERO"

Directions to Harbor Mall, Lynn.

Take the Mass.Pike (rte.90) east to Boston. Once in Boston, take the Fitzgerald Expressway (North & South/rte.93). Once on the expressway, look for signs that say Callahan Tunnel/Logan Airport. (Exit 24) Take that exit and go through the Callahan Tunnel. Once through the tunnel, follow signs to Revere & Lynn.(rte.1A NORTH) From this point on you'll stay on Rte.1A NORTH. After about 15 minutes on rte.1A North, you'll see a sign on the right that says "POINT OF PINES", go past the sign and proceed over the bridge. Once over the bridge, about 1.5 miles down on right, look for sign to HARBOR MALL. Take that right and drive down to dock. Parking may cost \$1.00. If you have any questions before Saturday, please feel free to give me a ring in the evening. Look forward to seeing you on board!.

Sincerely,

Scott Surner (413)665-3463

Scott Survey.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB November 28, 1986

Dear Friends -

I have a new toy. It's a bird feeder with one way glass that fits in a window, inside the room. The birds can feast without being aware that I am watching their every move, just a few inches away. This is a mixed blessing. I have it set next to my desk and all I want to do is watch the birds. There hasn't been a bill paid since the feeder was installed. It is by sheer agonizing discipline that this letter is being written at all. My cats are on the verge of nervous breakdowns; my husband is claiming desertion; and I suspect that Christmas might not happen at the Venmans' this year. In answer to this problem however, I say that I have to keep close watch so that when that rare bird arrives (and arrive it will) I'll be there to alert you - I know you are depending on my vigilance!

OLD NEWS

We have had two very good speakers and a party thus far this year. Mark Lynch took us to Australia, and John Green to Bonaventure and "places along the way". We had field trips to Plum Island, Quabbin, and the Berkshire Lakes. The new Rare Bird Alert telephone tree is out and ready to be used. I am getting materials together for members including a membership list, board members' names, telephone numbers of interest to birders and an updated list of book titles in the Bird Club library.

NEW NEWS

Monday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Center - Members' holiday party - Please bring up to ten of your slides to show (any subject depicting nature) and a goodie (snack or dessert) to share. Following the meeting we will be making plans for the annual Christmas Bird Count to be held Sunday, December 21. We hope to involve many people. You can go out all day, a portion of the day or even participate by counting birds at your feeder. Our area includes parts of Amherst, Sunderland, Hadley and South Hadley. The count is done nationally, information being compiled by the National Audubon Society. It is not only fun to participate but is important information gathering at the same time. There will be a potluck supper at Arcadia at 6:00 p.m. followed by compilation of the day's count of the whole area at 7:00. If you want to participate and can't make the meeting, please call Scott (665-3463) or leave a message on the Voice (256-1836).

Thursday, January 1, 1987: A Western Massachusetts BIRD BLITZ (a field trip brought to you by your Bird Club) to start the year right. We'll meet at the Hitchcock Center at 7:00 a.m. and go where the birds are. Scott Surner will lead and would like you to call him at 665-3463 if you are interested.

Saturday, January 10: An Eastern Massachusetts field trip to Plum Island and Cape Ann led by Jim Marcum will leave from the Center at

5:00 a.m. It's an all day trip so bring lunch and very warm clothes.

Monday, January 12, 7:30, Hitchcock Center - the regular monthly meeting will be a slide presentation and talk by Frank Mantlik entitled "A Year in the life of a Birder".

FUTURE NEWS (more details later)

Monday, February 9 - Regular meeting featuring Susan Smith from the Department of Biological Science at Mount Holyoke College.

Monday, March 9 - Regular meeting with Curtice Griffin, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, UMass, speaking on the Galapagos.

Monday, April 13, - Regular meeting with Nat Drake showing slides taken on her recent trip to Costa Rica.

Monday, May 11 - Regular meeting with Paul Beaver featuring South American birds.

Also, in the works - our annual Monhegan trip Memorial Day weekend, a repeat of last year's weekend trip to the Connecticut Lakes in New Hampshire on the last weekend in June, and who knows what else?

HITCHCOCK PROGRAM (small fee, call 256-6066 for more information)

Wednesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., "Winter Bird Feeding Workshop".

Saturday, January 17, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., "Quabbin Eagles and Ecology" - pre-registration required.

Also be sure to check the Bird Voice (253-2218) regularly for unscheduled field trips and other events of interest to birders. Hope to see you on December 8th and at the Christmas Count!

Sally Venman, Secretary