

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
February 1, 1987

Dear Friends -

With this bitter cold weather keeping all but the most dedicated or deranged birders by the fireside, it seems an appropriate time to be sending a letter reminding you of warmer times to come and offering you interesting and entertaining things to look forward to.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, the 7th, ANNUAL RAPTOR COUNT. Anyone interested in taking part please call Scott at 665-3463.

Sunday, the 8th, HITCHCOCK CENTER PROGRAM. Quabbin Eagles - Call Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 for information and to register.

Monday, the 9th, REGULAR MEETING (7:30, Hitchcock Center). Susan Smith, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Mount Holyoke College, returns to give a follow-up talk to "Flock Switching in the Black-capped Chickadee", an entertaining and informative presentation she gave at one of our first meetings in 1984. The title of this presentation is "Removal Experiments on Winter Black-capped Chickadee Flocks".

Saturday, the 14th, FIELD TRIP. Pine Plains, New York for winter raptors, led by Scott Surner. Leave Hitchcock at 6:00 a.m. (all day, bring lunch). Call Scott at 665-3463 if interested.

Saturday, the 14th and Sunday, the 15th. Mass. Audubon Census (see enclosure).

Wednesday, the 25th, HITCHCOCK PROGRAM (7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Center). "Owls: the Silent Hunters", a program by Jeff Zehr (slight charge).

Saturday, the 28th, HITCHCOCK PROGRAM (3:00 to 6:00 a.m., Hitchcock Center). "Owl Prowl" - call the Center at 256-6006 for information and to register (slight charge).

Saturday, the 28th, FIELD TRIP. South Shore, led by Allan Richards. Leave Hitchcock at 6:00 a.m. (all day - bring lunch). Call Allan at 665-2761 if interested.

MARCH

Saturday, the 7th, FIELD TRIP. The Connecticut Shore, led by Dave Spector. Leave Hitchcock at 6:00 a.m. (all day, bring lunch). Call Dave at 253-5873 if interested.

Monday, the 9th, REGULAR MEETING (7:30 at the Hitchcock Center). Curt Griffin, faculty member in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife at UMass will present a program entitled "Breeding Strategies of Two Insular Birds of Prey: The Galapagos and Hawaiian Hawks".

Saturday, the 28th, FIELD TRIP. Plum Island, led by Scott Surner. Leave Hitchcock at 6:00 a.m. (all day, bring lunch). Call Scott at 665-3463 if interested.

Looking ahead - be sure to save April 13th for a view of Costa Rica's natural history and bird life by Nat Drake and May 11th for a presentation on the Amazon by George Flores. More about that later. Hitchcock will be offering its annual spring birding class, led this year by Jan Ortiz and Chris Page. Also in the works is a beginning birding class for 4th, 5th and 6th graders entitled "The Fledgling Birder". Both classes begin in April. Call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 for more information.

ENCLOSURES

The annual Cardinal/Mockingbird/Tufted Titmouse Census, sponsored by Mass. Audubon is being held on February 14 and 15. The ease of taking this census makes it an interesting,

satisfying project (yes, you can sit in your warm house and still count the birds for this one). I've enclosed the information sheet and a random scattering of the cards used for recording the field results. We were not sent enough of the latter to include in all these letters. If you don't receive one and wish to be a part of the survey, we will have extra cards at the February 9th meeting and I'll have some here I'd be happy to get to you - Just give me a call at 549-1098.

With this mailing I'm including information on the third New England Regional Hawk Migration Conference to be held April 4th. I'm sure there will be some of us going so we could pool the driving - looks fascinating!

And as a SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP EXTRA, at NO extra cost (aren't you glad you decided to join?) you will find enclosed a list of the rare bird hot lines across the country for your edification and dreaming. (Suggestion - you might want to keep this one a secret from any non-birding members of your household - comments made in this family by the unenlightened were definitely not complimentary!) Also on the sheet are numbers of local interest.

And - finally - the information on the Monhegan and Connecticut Lake trips.

Not enclosed, but available at the meetings or by calling me at 549-1098 are lists of club members with addresses and phone numbers and an updated list of books in the Library.

HELP

At our most recent Board meeting we discussed the future of the organization and agreed that if it is to continue to grow in quality we are going to require increased funds. Our income from membership dues adequately covers current expenses (the Voice, mailings and speakers), but no money is left over. We have been lucky having many excellent speakers donate their time to help a young club, but it would not be right to expect this to continue. And we would like to have enough money in reserve to bring in speakers from outside our immediate area. We would also like to say thankyou to the Hitchcock Center for its support and use of facilities by donating something from its "wish list". Of course donations from friends are always welcome but we feel that the need to have some sort of a fund raiser should be addressed. We see it as something low key where hopefully many people would be involved thereby lessening the work per person. Please call with your suggestions of ways to raise money and/or your willingness to help. Call Jan Ortiz at 549-1768.

Finally - we are thinking it might be fun as well as useful to have a Hampshire Bird Club logo. What says The Hampshire Bird Club to you? Should it be a drawing of a specific bird? a suggestion of a generic bird? a picture of binoculars? a cross-eyed birder? I know there are some bird watching artists out there and I suspect there may be some closet bird sketchers as well. Try your hand at it - see what you can come up with. Get in touch with someone on the Board with your ideas.

That's it folks! You have arrived at the end of the Newsletter. Congratulations! Sorry about the length - long cold days and nights make me wordy, and since it's MY word processor, no one dares to make "shortening" suggestions. I promise to try to "condense" myself in the future.

Sincerely,

Sally
Sally Venman, Secretary

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
APRIL

1987

Monday, April 13, 7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Center, REGULAR MEETING.

Nat Drake, H.B.C. Treasurer, will present slides from her trip to Costa Rica. The talk will focus on her experiences last summer when she studied tropical ecology with the Duke University-based Organizations for Tropical Studies.

Sunday, April 19, 7:00 a.m., Hitchcock Center, FIELD TRIP.

Scott Sumner will lead a Hawk Watch trip (bring lunch). Call Scott (665-3463) to register or for more information.

Saturday, April 25, 5:00 a.m., Hitchcock Center, FIELD TRIP.

Allen Richards will lead a trip to Plum Island (all day -- bring lunch). Call Allen (665-2761) to register.

Don't forget to check the Voice (253-2218) regularly for migration information and save May 11th for a presentation on the Amazon by George Flores.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, May, 1987

Monday, May 11, 7:30, last REGULAR MEETING for this year: George Flores, Science teacher in the Holyoke School System and former Loon Ranger for Mass. Audubon, will present a program entitled "Heart of the Jungle". The materials gathered and his enthusiasm for his subject come from spending time studying the flora and fauna of the Amazon in Peru.

Saturday, May 16, 6:30 a.m., FIELD TRIP: Bob Bieda will lead a trip to local birding hot spots. Call Bob (527-2623) to register.

Saturday, May 23, 5:00 a.m., FIELD TRIP: Allan Richards will lead an all day trip to Plum Island (bring lunch). Call Allan at 665-2761 to register.

There is still room in the Connecticut Lakes trip (June 26 - 28). Call Scott Sumner (665-3463) for information.

Hitchcock programs of interest to birders (small fee): Early morning warbler walks - May 5, 7, 12, & 14; Plum Island - May 16; and Bartholomew's Cobble - May 31. (256-6006 to register).

Don't forget to check the VOICE regularly - if something exciting happens over the summer, that's where you'll learn about it.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
MONHEGAN ISLAND
MAY 22-25, 1987

The time has arrived to sign up for our Memorial Day Weekend excursion to Monhegan Island, Maine. For those of you who have never been able to make the journey, Monhegan offers tremendous birding, along with peaceful downeast days and nights. As a club, we have three years under our belts now. During the last three years we have compiled a list of over 140 species. Last year's trip really produced some fancy finds, Summer Tanager, Clay-colored Sparrow, Cerulean Warbler -feeding on the stacked lobster traps and on the beach. Along with our usual sightings of Red-necked Phalarope, Black Guillemot, and Atlantic Puffins. However, the Swallow-tailed Kite that stayed for the weekend, proved not only to be a life bird for just about everyone on the trip, but Maine's first state record as well.

Monhegan Island is located 10 miles south of Port Clyde, the hour long ferry ride to the Island produces fine looks at Common Eider, Black Guillemot, Common Tern, and at times hundreds of Red-necked Phalarope. The Island itself is only 1.5 miles long by 0.5 miles wide, but offers over fifteen miles of trails that wind through the tranquil little town, the Cathedral forest, to the rocky headlands that rise 160 feet above the Atlantic Ocean.

The trip usually runs around \$150.00 per person. That includes round trip ferry service to and from Monhegan. Three nights at the Trailing Yew with Breakfast and Dinner. (Lobster Dinner is extra) And Puffin Trip.

If you have any other questions about the trip, please don't hesitate to give me a call. Scott (665-3463)

Registration Form

NAME

ADDRESS

TOWN

PHONE (HOME & WORK)

PUFFIN TRIP- (YES or NO)

Please mail form and \$35.00 Deposit to

Scott Surner
13 Elm Cir.
So. Deerfield, MA 01373

RARE BIRD ALERTS

LOCAL

Hampshire Bird Voice: 253-2218 (to receive information)
256-1836 (to leave messages)
Voice of Western Massachusetts: 1-569-6926
Voice of Eastern Massachusetts: 1-617-259-8805

UNITED STATES

ALASKA

Statewide (907) 274-9152

ALABAMA

ARIZONA

Tucson (602) 881-9464 (-WING)

ARKANSAS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles (213) 874-1318

Modesto (209) 571-0246

Monterey (408) 449-6100

Morro Bay (805) 528-7182

Northern California (415) 528-0288

Sacramento (916) 481-0118

San Bernardino (714) 793-5599

San Diego (619) 435-6761

Santa Barbara (805) 964-8240

COLORADO

Denver (303) 759-1060

CONNECTICUT

Statewide (203) 572-0012

DELAWARE

Statewide (301) 657-1088

Statewide (215) 567-2473

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Districtwide (301) 652-1088

FLORIDA

Statewide (305) 644-0190

GEORGIA

Atlanta (404) 321-6079

IDAHO

ILLINOIS

Central Illinois (217) 785-1083

Chicago (312) 671-1522

INDIANA

IOWA

Statewide (319) 622-3353

KANSAS

Statewide (316) 343-7061

KENTUCKY

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge (504) 927-2134

New Orleans (504) 246-2473 (-BIRD)

MAINE

Statewide (207) 781-2332

MARYLAND

Statewide (301) 652-1088

MASSACHUSETTS

see above

MICHIGAN

Statewide (616) 471-4919

S. E. Michigan (313) 592-1811

MINNESOTA

Statewide (612) 544-5016

Duluth (218) 525-5952

MISSISSIPPI

MISSOURI

Statewide (314) 449-7938

Kansas City (816) 795-8177

MONTANA

NEVADA

NEBRASKA

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Statewide (603) 224-9900

Mon.-Fri. 5:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m.

Sat. & Sun. - 24 hrs.

NEW JERSEY

Statewide (201) 766-2661

Cape May (609) 884-2626

NEW MEXICO

NEW YORK

Albany (518) 377-9600
Buffalo (716) 896-1271
New York (212) 832-6523
Rochester (716) 461-9593
Schenectady (518) 377-9600

NORTH CAROLINA

Statewide (704) 875-2525

NORTH DAKOTA**OHIO**

Southwestern Ohio (513) 277-6446
Cleveland (216) 289-2473 and
(216) 861-2447
Columbus (614) 221-9736 (-WREN)
Blendon Woods Metro Park:
(614) 895-6222
Toledo (419) 867-9765

OKLAHOMA**OREGON**

Statewide (503) 292-0661

PENNSYLVANIA

Western PA (412) 963-6104
Philadelphia (215) 567-2473
and (301) 652-1088

Wilkes-Barre (717) 825-BIRD

RHODE ISLAND

Providence (401) 521-4252;
Thurs.-Fri. after 5:00, and
anytime during weekends.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Statewide (704) 875-2525

SOUTH DAKOTA**TENNESSEE****TEXAS**

Austin (512) 451-3308
Northcentral area (817) 237-3209
Rio Grande Valley (512) 565-6773
San Antonio (512) 699-3013
Texas Coast (713) 821-2846

UTAH

Statewide (801) 530-1299

VERMONT

Statewide (802) 457-2779
Mondays through Saturdays -
5:00 p.m. & 8:00 a.m., and all
day Sundays.

VIRGINIA

Statewide (301) 652-1088

WASHINGTON

Statewide (206) 526-8266

WEST VIRGINIA**WISCONSIN**

Statewide (414) 352-3857

WYOMING

Statewide (307) 265-BIRD

CANADA**ALBERTA**

Calgary (403) 237-8821

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver (604) 876-9690
Victoria (604) 382-5562

MANITOBA**NEW BRUNSWICK****NEWFOUNDLAND****NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****NOVA SCOTIA****ONTARIO**

Ottawa (613) 744-4704
Windsor/Detroit (313) 592-1811
Windsor/Pt. Pelee (519) 252-BIRD

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**QUEBEC**

E. Quebec (819) 778-0737
(in French)

SASKATCHEWAN**YUKON**

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
August 11, 1987

Dear Friend,

Time to break into your day for a moment with a gentle reminder that even in the tranquillity of summer your diligent Bird Club organizers never sleep in their constant search for programs and projects to increase the knowledge and delight the soul of even the most jaded of birdwatchers. Once again we give you the privilege of being involved in this unique organization. In other words - it's renew your membership time.

Information for potential members: the Hampshire Bird Club is open to anyone interested in birding regardless of experience. The Club meets monthly September through May at the Hitchcock Center. Meetings include guest speakers, slide presentations and sharing of birding experiences and sightings. The Club also sponsors many field trips during the year, participates in the annual Christmas Count, offers a rare bird alert, has up to date bird information available by telephone and in general passes on information of interest to people who enjoy watching birds.

Last year's meetings saw presentations by Mark Lynch, (Birds of Eastern Australia), John Green (The Gannets of Bonaventure), Susan Smith (update on her work with the black-capped chickadee), Curt Griffin (Galapagos and Hawaiian Hawks), Nat Drake (Costa Rica) and George Flores (the Amazon region in Peru). Field trips included day trips to Plum Island, Quabbin, the Berkshire Lakes, Pine Plains, the South Shore, the Connecticut Shore and weekend trips to Monhegan Island and the Connecticut Lakes. There were a couple of parties, the Christmas Count and opportunities to be involved in other activities of interest to birders. It was a busy year!

UP-COMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. PARTY! Come with your Big Bird Stories, your appetite and the following: (1) something to grill (barbecue, barbecuer, condiments, utensils, cups, plates, etc. will be provided), (2) a salad or dessert to share (pot-luck style), and (3) whatever you want to drink (the Club will provide a hot pot with instant coffees, teas, etc.). We'll get acquainted, talk about plans for the year, update the Rare Bird Alert and take memberships.

Monday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. Laurie MacIvor will present a program intitled "Recovery Program for Piping Plovers in Massachusetts" which stems from the cooperative effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Laurie is a graduate student at the University.

Monday, November 16, 7:30 p.m. Don Kroodsmas, Professor in the Zoology Department at the University who teaches Ornithology, returns to share his interests and skills.

All meetings are at the Hitchcock Center. If you wish to mark your calendars for the rest of the year, the remaining meetings will be held on

the second Monday of each month through May. More specific information will be sent in later mailings.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO BIRDERS

Please note the two enclosed fliers for information concerning the fall birding class led by Scott Sumner and Jan Ortiz (Introductory class meets Wednesday, August 19) and the Nighthawk Picnic led by Scott (Thurs. August 27). Also through the Hitchcock (sorry I don't have a flier on this one) is the annual weekend trip to Cape May and Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge with by David Spector. That will be September 18 - 20 and is certainly worth a call to the Center (256-6006) for more details. Pre-registration is required for all three.

MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed is a membership form. Hopefully you will be overcome by an uncontrollable need to fill it out and return it with check in rapid fashion. The Club has three expenses: programs, upkeep on the "Voice", and the costs that go with bi-monthly mailings. Our only source of income is membership dues. 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 money 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.

RARE BIRD ALERT

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 19th meeting. After that time the '86 - '87 tree will not be used. This is a membership privilege and there is a place on the membership form to indicate your interest.

AND . . . ET CETERA

The Club has a library of Field Guides (North American and Foreign), area guides (such as Lane's Birder's Guide to Florida), and a pile of miscellaneous fare to amaze and amuse you. They are yours to borrow for the asking. I have the list of books available - give me a call.

The Board which runs the Bird Club is open to anyone interested in volunteering a bit of time. The present officers are Scott Sumner, President (253-7486); Jim Marcum, Vice-President (549-1613); Natalie Drake, Treasurer (549-4599); and Sally Venman, Secretary (549-1098). Please feel free to call us at any time if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Venman
Secretary



FALL BIRDING COURSE !

Fall birding is sometimes challenging, sometimes puzzling -- but always interesting!

Join us as we view shorebirds, warblers, sparrows, and waterfowl on their southward journey from nesting territories to wintering grounds.

The fall bird course will consist of ten sessions from August through November. In addition, there will be an introductory meeting to get acquainted and to review some of the birds we will be seeing on our first outing.

The class will begin with a trip to Plum Island to see the dramatic flocking of tree swallows and the peak of shorebird migration. In between the local birding trips, including hawk watching from Mt. Holyoke, we will travel to the Quabbin Reservoir, the Berkshire Lakes and back to Plum Island as we experience fall migration from late summer into early winter.

The class will be led by Hampshire Bird Club members Scott Sumner and Jan Ortiz. It is designed in such a way that missing a session or two won't keep you from enjoying the rest.

DATES: Introductory session Wednesday, August 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Field trips:	August 22, 29	
(Saturdays)	September 5, 12, 19	Departure and
	October 3, 10, 17	return times
	November 7, 28	will vary.

PLACE: Introductory session at Hitchcock Center

Field trips will carpool from Hitchcock Center

FEES: Members \$55 Non-Members \$65

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY CALLING THE HITCHCOCK CENTER AT 256-6006.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

FALL FIELD TRIPS

The following trips have been planned for your enjoyment. We hope that you will participate and ask only that you call the leader ahead of time to let him know that you plan to go. This is important in that it allows for some flexibility and opportunity for a change of plans if that becomes desirable. For example, should a rare bird be in the area, it may be necessary to announce a change in departure time in order to include an attempt to see the bird in the day's itinerary.

OCTOBER 17, 1987

LOCAL HAWK WATCH

Half day trip to observe some of the raptor species which generally migrate later in the season. Example: red-shouldered hawk. Be sure to bring plenty of warm clothing.

Departure time: 8:00 a.m.

Place to meet: Hitchcock Center

Leader: David Spector. Call 545-0068 (work) or 253-5873 (home) if you wish to go.

NOVEMBER 14, 1987

BERKSHIRE LAKES

All-day trip to Berkshire County. Visit Cheshire Reservoir, Pontoosuc Lake, Onota Lake, Richmond Pond, etc. to view migrating waterfowl. Bring your lunch.

Departure time: 6:00 am

Place to meet: Hitchcock Center

Leader: Allan Richards. Call 665-2761 if you plan to go.

DECEMBER 5, 1987

NORTH SHORE

Day trip to the coast. Stops will include Cape Anne, Salisbury Beach, Newburyport Harbor and Plum Island. Bring your lunch and remember that the wind off the ocean can be frigid this time of the year.

Departure time: 6:00 a.m.

Place to meet: Hitchcock Center

Leader: Bob Bieda. Call 527-2623 if you want to go.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
1987 & 1988 PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 14. PARTY/COOKOUT 6:00pm

OCTOBER 19. RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR PIPING PLOVERS IN MASSACHUSETTS.
LAURIE MACIVOR 7:30pm \$50.00

NOVEMBER 16. BIRD SOUNDS ? DON KROODSMA 7:30pm. 253-5519

DECEMBER 14. XMAS PARTY. 10 FAVORITE BIRD SLIDES. PLAN FOR XMAS COUNT.
7:30pm

1988 PROGRAMS

JANUARY 11. STARTING BLUEBIRD TRAIL. ELEANOR ELLIS & OLYPIA LeBEAU.
7:30pm. \$50.00 ELEANOR (802) 263-5488

FEBRUARY 8. BIRDS OF ANTARTICA/ CHRISTOPHER LEAHY. 150.00 PLUS. 7:30pm
MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY-(617) 259-9500.

MARCH 14. BIRDS OF ENGLAND & SCOTLAND. MARK LYNCH & SHEILA CARROL.
7:30pm \$50.00 (617) 799-9343

APRIL 11. HERONS IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS. CARLYN BOARDMAN 863-8181
7:30pm \$50.00

MAY 9.

JUNE 13. COOKOUT & SPRING RECAP. 6:00pm.

"I Am A New Member"

I see you at the meetings
But you never say "Hello,"
You're busy all the time you're there
With the ones you already know.
I sit among all the people
I'm only lonesome, not shy.
I want to be your friend, you see
But you old members just pass me by.
You have all invited me in
And you talk of good fellowship.

You need only step across the room
But never bothered to make the trip.
Why can't you nod and say "Hello"
Or stop and shake my hand.
Then go and sit with your friends,
That's something I'd understand.
I'll be at your next meeting
This message I want to send.
Please introduce yourself to me
I really want to be your friend.

Published at the request of a new member.
taken from SaLU Newsletter 10/87

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

DECEMBER 1, 1987

Dear Friends -

Let me be among the first to offer you holiday greetings along with the local merchants and your television set. Only nineteen (19) preparation days left before the gala 1987 Christmas Count. Don't let the event sneak up on you this year. Start training your body NOW to face the rigors of the winter owl search; the numbness of the trudge through open fields at dawn listening for "chips" from birds much too smart to be wasting energy on bi-peds with binocular eyes in 20 degree weather; and of course the real intellectual challenge of accurate tabulation of thousands of starlings coming in for evening roost. If Christmas Count is not your idea of gangs of fun, then read on - the HBC offers many other interesting programs and events for us all to enjoy this winter and into spring. Here are some:

Saturday, Dec. 5 - Day trip to the coast. Stops will include Cape Anne, Salisbury Beach, Newburyport Harbor and Plum Island.

Bring lunch and warm clothes. Meet at the Hitchcock Center at 6:00 a.m. Please call the leader Bob Bieda (527-2623) if you want to go.

Monday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Center (monthly meeting):

Member's 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 on -

Sunday, Dec. 20. Regardless of what was written above, this can be a very rewarding and enjoyable event. You don't have to be an expert and you don't have to bird all day (you can 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.

Following the count there will be a potluck supper at Arcadia at 6:00 p.m. when the day's count of the whole area will be compiled. If you want to participate or want more information and can't make the meeting, please call Scott (253-7486) or leave a message on the Voice (256-1836).

Friday, Jan. 1, 1988: 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 Sumner will lead and would like you to call him at 253-7486 if you are interested.

Saturday, Jan. 2 : A field trip to the North Shore leaving the Center at 5:00 a.m. led by Jim Marcum. Please call Jim at 549-1613 if you wish to go.

Monday, Jan. 11, 7:30 at the Center (monthly meeting): "Starting Bluebird Trails" presented by Eleanor Ellis and Olypia LeBeau.

Saturday, Jan. 23: Field trip to the Moran Wildlife Refuge in Windsor, Mass. More about this later.

Saturday, Feb. 6: Field trip to the South Shore - more later.

Monday, Feb. 8, 7:30 at the Center (monthly meeting): Christopher Leahy on "Birds of Antarctica".

Monday, March 14, 7:30 at the Center (monthly meeting): Mark Lynch and Sheila Carrol on "Birds of England and Scotland".

Monday, April 11, 7:30 at the Center (monthly meeting): "Herons in Western Massachusetts" with Carlyn Boardman.

Monday, May 9: ????????

Monday, June 13, 6:00 p.m. at the Center; An added monthly meeting for your birding pleasure - where else will you find 10 meetings for the price of 9? This will be a Cookout and Spring Recap Party! - More later!

There will be reminders sent which will also include additional field trips. CHECK THE HBC VOICE (253-2218) REGULARLY FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

There is to be a winter birding class taught by Jan Ortiz through the Hitchcock Center. It is an 8 week course entitled the "Basics of Birding" and will emphasize longer and slower paced looks at resident species and winter visitors. Classroom instruction will be combined with field work. Discussion will include bird identification and behavior, habitats, range of familiar favorites, etc. The class will meet from 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Center. Class dates are January 16, 23 and 30; February 6, 20 and 27; and March 5 and 12. Call the Center (256-6006) for information, cost and registration.

The Board has been working on by-laws for the HBC since early fall. We have prepared a rough draft which will be available for you to look over at the December meeting. We welcome your comments. We hope to present the finished form at the January meeting and vote on it at the February meeting.

The new Bird Alert is out and ready for the arrival of that truly magnificent Western Massachusetts first, preferably at a feeder just outside a warm, welcoming living room. I gladly volunteer mine.

The HBC is working on a service project with the Hitchcock Center. We are offering a program where we will install bird feeders and give slide presentations on feeder birds for the enjoyment and information of the residents of local nursing and convalescent homes. Jan Ortiz is chairing the project.

A reminder that the HBC has a library of bird books including many area field guides (Lane's guides to Florida, Arizona, etc.) that are yours for the borrowing simply by asking. I have the master list of who has the book. Give me a call (549-1098). If you have books yourself that you would be willing to share, let me know and I'll put them on the list - you can keep them yourself or I'll keep them with others I have.

Guess that about does it for this time. I hope you will be able to join us at the December meeting. If not - Seasons Greetings one and all!

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Venman, Secretary

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB FEEDER CHECKLIST

The enclosed check list is being distributed to all the members of the HBC to encourage more active and intensive observation of birds at feeders. We hope that you will find the list worthwhile and will put it to use beginning January 1, 1988. If many club members begin to actively make the observations necessary to record the information on this sheet, a number of things should happen.

1. Information, to a degree not currently available, on the comings and goings of winter birds in the area will begin to accumulate.
2. More intense observation will likely result in more frequent observations of rare birds. (Please let Scott, or one of the other club officers, know if you see a varied thrush, dickcissel, golden-crowned sparrow, or any other bird that appears to be out of its normal range.)
3. You will become more observant and the skills you develop while watching feeder birds from your window will be useful in the field.
4. **You** will have more fun watching your feeders!

Item number four is the most important of the above since the major purpose of the HBC is to help the members enjoy birds and birding. A number of club members are already using some type of a list such as this (Allen Richards has been doing it for years) and can vouch for the enjoyment to be gained.

Please **note** that the checklist enclosed should be used as a **master copy**. Do not write on it. Have your local copy shop make as many copies as you want or need. You should have one page for each month during which your feeders will be in operation. If you lose, spindle, or mutilate your master copy, another can be obtained from the HBC.

The checklist contains the names of 29 species of birds that are most likely to be seen at feeders in this area. You may have a species regularly visiting your feeder that is not on this list. Don't despair. There is space for five write-ins. (But don't forget to call about the rare ones!)

Use of the Checklist: Simply place a check mark to the right of the bird's name below the date of the month on which the observation is made. If you wish, other information may also be recorded. You may want to record notes about the weather - for example, inches of snowfall. Just make a note in the top or bottom margin opposite the day of the month. Or, you may wish to record numbers of birds observed - especially if a large number of a species or more individuals than usual appear, or if you have the high count of the season. Simply insert a number instead of, or beside, the check mark. Use your imagination to expand in any other way.

Happy birding, and best wishes for the New Year !!!

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. FEEDER CHECKLIST

The enclosed check list is being distributed to all the members of the HBC to encourage more active and intensive observation of birds at feeders. We hope that you will find the list worthwhile and will put it to use. If many club members begin to actively make the observations necessary to record the information on this sheet, a number of things should happen.

1. More intense observation will likely result in more frequent observations of rare birds. (Please let one of the club officers know if you see a varied thrush, dickcissel, golden-crowned sparrow, or any other bird that appears to be out of its normal range.)
2. You will become more observant and the skills you develop while watching feeder birds from your window will be useful in the field.
3. **You will have more fun watching your feeders!**
4. Information to a degree not currently available, on the comings and goings of winter birds in the area, will begin to accumulate.

Item number three is the most important of the above since the major purpose of the HBC is to help the members enjoy birds and birding. A number of club members are already using a list such as this and can vouch for the enjoyment to be gained.

Please note that the checklist enclosed should be used as a **master copy**. Do not write on it. Have your local copy shop make as many copies as you desire. You should have one page for each month during which your feeders will be in operation. If you lose, spindle, or mutilate your master copy, another can be obtained from the club secretary.

The checklist contains the names of 29 species of birds that are most likely to be seen at feeders in this area. You may have one or more species regularly visiting your feeder that are not on this list. Don't despair. There is space for five write-ins. (But don't forget to call about the rare ones!)

Use of the checklist: Simply place a check mark to the right of the bird's name below the date of the month on which the observation is made. If you wish, other information may be recorded also. You might want to record notes about the weather--for example, inches of snowfall (Just make a note in the top or bottom margin opposite the day of the month.) or you may wish to record numbers of birds observed--especially if a large number of a species or more individuals than usual appear, or if you have the high count of the season. Simply insert a number instead of, or in addition to, the check mark. Use your imagination to expand in any other way.

Happy birding !!!

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB FEEDER CHECKLIST

SPECIES		DATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
YEAR:	Ring-necked Pheasant																																
	Mourning Dove																																
	Downy Woodpecker																																
	Hairy Woodpecker																																
	Blue Jay																																
MONTH:	Black-capped Chickadee																																
	Tufted Titmouse																																
	Red-breasted Nuthatch																																
	White-breasted Nuthatch																																
	Northern Mockingbird																																
OBSERVER:	European Starling																																
	Northern Cardinal																																
	American Tree Sparrow																																
	Chipping Sparrow																																
	Fox Sparrow																																
	Song Sparrow																																
	White-throated Sparrow																																
	White-crowned Sparrow																																
	Dark-eyed Junco																																
	Red-winged Blackbird																																
	Common Grackle																																
	Brown-headed Cowbird																																
	Purple Finch																																
	House Finch																																
	Common Redpoll																																
	Pine Siskin																																
	American Goldfinch																																
	Evening Grosbeak																																
	House Sparrow																																
	LOCATION:																																

I am sending this to just a few of the HBC members - those present at the Board meeting last week who might appreciate the need to keep Bill away from the HBC computer files. He gave me this alert after working on a new program experimenting with different type styles. The "facts" he says he overheard at the meeting. He offered to send it to the membership and wanted to know where I kept the membership information. Imagine if this should become publicly known. There is no end to the possibilities - our credibility would be shot - our non-profit status would be doomed before even getting started. (Who would grant non-profit status to an organization that chases a bird with polka-dotted toenails?) Perhaps I should be stripped of my disc and my secretarial badge. I'm so embarrassed. Any suggestions as to how to handle this particular problem would be greatly appreciated.

TOGETHER IN ADVERSITY.

Hampshire Bird Club NEWS

Amherst, Massachusetts - Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Loggerhead Shrike Spotted in South Hadley

It was reliably reported by an absolutely unimpeachable source yesterday (Tuesday, November 25) that a very rare ~~Loggerhead Shrike~~ was spotted in South Hadley on the road leading to the Riverboat Lodge.

Avid birders were out with their spotting scopes, hot water bottles, warm booties and flasks of antifreeze most of the night, but only one or two additional sightings were reported with any subsequent reliability, due in part to the high octane of the antifreeze. It is impossible to predict whether or when this most unusual avian species will show his (or possibly her) hairy little head again.

Great Horned Owl Wakes Jim Marcum

Jim Marcum, at a meeting of the Executive Board of Executive Directors of the HBC, reported that he and his wife had been awakened at an unGodly hour that morning by the wail of a ~~Great Horned Owl~~. Given the assessment of the Board of the unlikelyhood of Jim's having stuffed himself (or his wife) with antifreeze, the Board, upon the motion of ~~Executive Chairman~~ and Lord High Hooter Surner, voted (6-5-2) to accept the report as the real thing. The meeting promptly adjourned and the members present retired to Jim's back yard, where nothing more was seen or heard of them.

The next major sighting of record concerned a

Bushmills Three-tailed Short-stringed Kite!

This absolutely beautiful light green-billed orange bird with gently polka-dotted toenails blew all of the minds of birdwatchers in Western downtown North Amherst the other day by making a swooping appearance on the roof of Daisy's One-Minute No-Sit-Down Luncheonette on North Pleasant Street opposite the world renowned Amherst Hot Air Balloon Company, ably piloted by ex-AF balloon jockey Tom Carhart. The Three-tailed Short-Stringed Kite made a pass over Daisy's OMNSDL and nose-dived into Tom's balloon, sending it crashing to earth, landing on the roof of an automobile passing by which in turn was being piloted by the National Executive Secretary and Housemother of the HBC, Sally Yenman. Bird and Secretary were extricated from the wreckage by the Amherst Fire Department, using the Jaws of Death machine newly purchased by subscription at a dollar a throw. Thanks to all who helped.