

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER  
January 30, 1988

Dear Friends -

This Hampshire Bird Club Newsletter comes to you as proof that there is life after the holidays. If there were a category for Procrastination in the Olympic Games, I would be reaching for the GOLD. I do have my priorities, however, and have managed to put aside a somewhat overdue commitment to write the 1987 Venman Family Christmas Letter in order that the HBC membership be informed of upcoming goodies. As follows -

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

All meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center unless otherwise noted.

On Monday, February 8, Tim Armstrong, a grad student in ornithology at UMass. will present a program on "Birds and Mammals of Kenya". We will begin promptly at 7:30 with a business meeting. The agenda will be a vote on the By-laws presented by the Board of Directors. I am enclosing a copy along with a brief letter of explanation. The Bylaws will not be read at the meeting. We ask that you read them far enough in advance so that you can contact one of the committee members if you have a question.

On Monday, March 14, Sheila Carrol and Mark Lynch will return to speak on "Birds of England and Scotland". As many of you will remember, they gave us a wonderful program on the birds of Eastern Australia last year. Both are experienced birders from the Worcester area. Mark is an instructor at the Worcester Art Museum and had a splendid article in the October '87 issue of Bird Observer about birding in Quabbin, Gate 40. I would be happy to lend a copy to anyone interested.

Monday, April 11: Carolyn Boardman on "Heron in Western Massachusetts".

Monday, May 9, David Spector on "Sweet, Sweet, Sweet, Sweeter than Sweet: The Life and Songs of the Yellow Warbler".

Monday, June 13, at 6:00 p.m., (note different time):  
Party/Potluck with a recap of the year and plans for the future.

## FIELD TRIPS

Leaders ask that you call if you plan on going on the trip. This way, if there is a change of plans due to a rare bird someplace else or uncertain weather, etc., you can be contacted.

Saturday, February 6: Allan Richards will lead a trip to the South Shore. It will be leaving from the Hitchcock Center at 5:00 a.m.. Please call Allan at 665-2761.

Saturday, February 6: If the Coast is not your thing at this time, you might be interested in taking part in the Annual Winter Raptor Survey which is conducted in this area. If so, please give Scott Sumner a call at 253-7486.

A Cape Cod Weekend (Feb. 26-28) is in the works. The plans are to go down after work on Friday, bird all day Saturday and much of Sunday, and return Sunday evening. The group will concentrate on large flocks of Razorbills, Northern Gannets, Kittiwakes and Sea Ducks. The motel is \$36.00 per night. Scott is in charge so if you are interested please contact him at 253-7486 no later than Feb. 20.

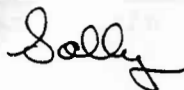
Plans for the Annual HBC Monhegan Island Memorial Day Weekend May 20-23 are also being formulated. Several people signed up at the January meeting, and since we are limited as to how many can go, it would be wise to call Scott at 253-7486 if you are interested in going or just want more information.

Also - Please remember to check the VOICE (253-2218) regularly for the recorded message. Not only will you learn what birds are in the area, but the VOICE is where you will learn about any field trips formed between Newsletters. If you have anything to report please do so by leaving a message on the VOICE (256-1836).

AND

I have included in this mailing a Massachusetts Audubon schedule for its Marine Natural History Cruises for 1988 and the information about the first one that took place on January 16 - obviously not applicable now, but the sheet does give general information. We thought it might be of interest.

Happy, warm thoughts of Birding to you all -



Sally Venman, Secretary

Here is a copy of the HBC Bylaws to be considered for adoption on February 8, 1988. Aside from sprucing up the wording, it is essentially unchanged from the draft presented at the December meeting with the exception of the Article on Field Trips.

#### A BIT OF HISTORY

We on the Board of Directors decided to go this route when we became concerned about the liability of the Club should someone be injured during a Club activity. ~~We live~~ in a suit-crazy world, sadly enough, and we felt we needed to look at ways of protecting the Club, the field trip leaders and the Board members. (In some cases individuals have been known to sue the Board member with the most money simply because his/her name is there as someone in charge.)

A subcommittee was formed and concluded that being incorporated as a non-profit corporation would be a wise move. The first step in this process is to adopt a set of Bylaws for the organization. We started work last summer and presented a draft to you at the December meeting. We received some helpful suggestions which we acted upon.

We met with a lawyer in early January to go over the document and to get answers to our questions. One major concern was where we stood on the question of liability. He felt that the Bylaws covered everything necessary and made us feel considerably more comfortable concerning the liability question, especially as it applies to individual Board members. Two recently passed Massachusetts bills (M.G.L. Chapter 238 and M.G.L. Chapter 345, both of the Acts of 1987) make it difficult, if not impossible for individual officers, directors, and trustees of educational or charitable corporations to be sued because of injury sustained by an individual, unless gross negligence can be proved. The lawyer did feel that incorporating was important however, and our document paves the way.

AND SO -

We present this to you for a vote. It will not be read at the meeting and, as indicated in the meeting notice, we ask that you allow yourself enough time to read it so that if you have a question you can contact one of the committee members ahead of time.

Jim Marcum is Chair of the Committee. Members are Tom Arny, Magda Bechar, Nat Drake, Jan Ortiz, and Sally Venman.

We are well on our way! We are anxious to get out of the legalities and into the birdwatching, but we do feel this is very important to our future!

READ ON

(other side please)

BYLAWS OF  
**HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB**  
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002

(To be considered for adoption, February 8, 1988)

**Article I - NAME**

The name of the organization shall be **Hampshire Bird Club**, which will subsequently be referred to as the HBC in this document.

**Article II - PURPOSE**

2.1 The first purpose of the HBC is to help its members enjoy birding.

2.2 The second purpose is to educate its members and others about birds and bird watching.

2.3 The HBC may also engage in other activities designed to support the above purposes. These may include but are not limited to field trips and fund raising activities.

2.4 No net income of the HBC shall materially benefit any individual.

**Article III - MEMBERSHIP**

3.1 Membership in the HBC shall be open to any person interested in the purposes of the HBC and who has paid the dues for the current year.

3.2 There shall be three classes of membership as follows:

- a) Individual - single person
- b) Family - two or more persons of the same household
- c) Supporting - an individual or family member making a contribution at or above a minimum level determined by the Board of Directors of the HBC.

**Article IV - DUES**

4.1 Membership dues for the year September through August shall be set by the Board of Directors of the HBC.

4.2 Dues will be payable in September of each year.

4.3 New members may join at any time. However, membership will be for the current membership year unless payment is made after the last meeting of the year.

**Article V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

5.1 The HBC shall be directed by a Board of Directors (hereafter called "the Board") composed of the following: President, Vice President/Program Director, Treasurer, Secretary, and three members at large, including the immediate past president (if possible).

5.2 Officers and Board members shall be elected for one-year terms and shall be eligible for re-election.

5.3 The responsibilities of the Board shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) Overseeing operation of the HBC.
- b) Arranging of meeting times and locations, and calling of business meetings.
- c) Appointing of people to organize and make arrangements for field trips, and publicity. This shall be done as soon as possible after the annual meeting.
- d) Setting of dues and overseeing of the expenditure of the HBC's funds.
- e) Naming of any committees necessary or helpful to fulfilling the HBC's purposes.
- f) Appointing of temporary officers and other Board members to fill unexpired terms whenever a vacancy occurs.

5.4 In order to conduct official business, at least four members of the Board must be present.

#### Article VI - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICERS

6.1 The officers of the HBC shall be the President, the Vice-President/Program ~~Director~~ the Treasurer, and the Secretary.

6.2 The President shall preside at meetings of the Board and all meetings of the HBC. The President shall also name, in consultation with the Board, a nominating committee at the appropriate time, and shall call meetings of the Board, as necessary.

6.3 The Vice-President/Program Director shall, in the absence of the President, assume the duties of the President. As Program Director, this officer shall be responsible for planning and arranging all monthly evening programs for the upcoming membership year.

6.4 The Treasurer shall handle all financial matters of the HBC, subject to the direction and supervision of the Board. This officer shall prepare an annual report and such interim reports as the Board may Request.

6.5 The Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of all official records of the HBC; shall keep minutes of all business meetings and Board meetings; maintain a current membership list; handle all correspondence; and mail notices of all regular and special meetings to the HBC membership.

6.6 The above officers shall assume other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

#### Article VII - MEETINGS

7.1 Regular monthly program meetings of the HBC shall be held from September through June.

7.2 The annual meeting of the HBC shall be held in conjunction with the May program Meeting.

7.3 Other meetings of the HBC may be called by the Board.

7.4 All regular program meetings shall be open to the public.

7.5 All meetings of the HBC Board shall be open to any member of the HBC, however, only duly elected Board members shall have voting privilege.

#### Article VIII - FIELD TRIPS

8.1 As an important opportunity for members to observe new and interesting birds and their behavior, field trips shall be held periodically throughout the year.

8.2 All participants of field trips shall be required to sign a waiver of liability form prior to the beginning of a field trip.

## **Article IX - TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS AT PROGRAM MEETINGS**

9.1 Business may be transacted at any monthly program meeting at which a quorum is present. A quorum is defined as fifteen percent of the current membership. All current members of the HBC shall be eligible to vote.

9.2 The Secretary shall mail notice for all business meetings to the membership at least seven days prior to the meeting.

## **Article X- ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

10.1 In consultation with the Board, the President shall appoint a nominating committee at the March program meeting each year. The nominating committee shall be composed of three members of the HBC. At least one member of this committee shall be a member of the Board and at least one shall be a person who is not on the Board, but from the membership at large. The nominating committee shall present a slate of officers, and other board members, to be voted on at the annual meeting in May. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, if seconded.

10.2 Newly elected officers and board members shall assume their duties immediately after the annual meeting.

10.3 To be eligible for election to the Board, one must have been a member of the HBC for at least one calendar year prior to the election.

10.4 To be eligible for the presidency of the HBC, one must have served on the Board for at least one calendar year prior to the election.

## **Article XI- FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the HBC shall commence June 1 and end May 31 of each year.

## **Article XII- AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

12.1 A vote to amend these bylaws may be taken at any regular program meeting, provided that the proposed changes were introduced at the previous regular monthly program meeting. A quorum must be present (Article IX) and a two-thirds majority of those present will be required to approve any change.

12.2 Proposed amendments may be introduced by any member of the HBC by presenting the proposed change, in writing, to the Board. The Board must discuss the proposal at its next meeting and present it, along with Board recommendations, to the HBC at the next monthly program meeting.

## **Article XIII- CESSATION OF OPERATIONS**

When there have been no meetings or scheduled activities for a period of eight consecutive months, the HBC shall be considered dissolved. In that event, the Board shall be responsible for the liquidation of assets and the subsequent conveyance of those assets to a non-profit organization with similar purposes.

Ap 88

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB - Reminders of events.

Mon., 4/14, 7:30 Hitchcock. Monthly Meeting. Carolyn Borman -  
"Heron in Western Massachusetts".

Sat., 4/16 - Field Trip to Plum Island. Call Allan Richards at  
665-2761.

Mon., 5/9, 7:30 Hitchcock. Monthly Meeting. David Spector -  
"Sweet, Sweet, Sweet, Sweeter than Sweet: The Life and Songs of  
the Yellow Warbler".

Mon., 6/13, 6:00 p.m. Hitchcock. Monthly Meeting. Party/Potluck.

HITCHCOCK EVENTS (7-9 pm. Small charge, preregister 256-6006)

Thurs., 4/7. David Spector - "The Life Cycle of Birds".

Wed., 4/27. Mark McGarigal - "Return of the Raptors".

Thurs., 4/28. (raindate 5/5) Jeff Zehr - "Dance of the Woodcock"  
(classroom and in the field).

Thurs., 5/5. Paul Rezendes - "The Common Loon".

Thurs., 5/19. David Spector - "Plum Island Ecology".

Sat., 5/21. Jan Ortiz will lead a Field trip to Plum from 5:00  
a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (limited space - call early)

HAPPY SPRING!!!!!!!

# HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB - MAY NEWS

1988

The regular monthly meeting of the Hampshire Bird Club will be May 9 at 7:30PM at the Hitchcock Center. David Spector will talk on "Sweet, Sweet, Sweet, Sweeter than Sweet: The Life and Songs of the Yellow Warbler".

In addition to David's talk, we must have a brief business meeting, because, in accord with the newly adopted by-laws, we must elect new officers for the Hampshire Bird Club at the May meeting.

This will not be the last meeting of the season. There will be a meeting June 13 at 6:00 PM featuring a Party/Potluck (but more about that later).

A nominating committee has prepared a slate of candidates on the basis of conversation with and a straw poll of the current executive board and the following slate has been the outcome.

For President - Jim Marcum  
Vice-president - Jan Ortiz  
Secretary - Sally Venman  
Treasurer - Allan Richards

Additional Board Members  
Magda Bechar  
Bob Bieda  
David Spector

Please note that the past president serves automatically on the board. Also, please note that additional nominations from the membership -at -large are permitted, provided they are seconded.

In preparing this slate, the nominating committee realized that it had a real problem: too many enthusiastic and able people! Therefore, the Executive Board would like the first order of business for the fall to be a change in the by - laws to increase the board's size from 7 to 10-ish. Also remember that the Board Meetings are open to any interested regular member. We hope that those whom the idiosyncracies of the by-laws have removed from the board will continue to attend.

Now to birding matters. Ten field trips have been organized for May.

There will be six trips to Wildwood Cemetery in Amherst. Meet at the Cemetery entrance at 6:30 AM. These trips will end about 8AM to allow people to get to work. Target birds are spring migrants such as vireos, warblers, flycatchers, and thrushes. Dates and leaders are as follows:

✓ May 4 - Jan Ortiz, ✓ May 6 - Scott Sumner ✓ May 10 - Chris Page,  
✓ May 12 - Jeff Zehr, ✓ May 17 - Jan Ortiz , May 26 - tentative

✓ May 14 - Quabbin. Meet at headquarters building at 6:30AM. Scott Sumner will lead. This is a half day trip.

✓ May 20 - Lawrence Swamp, South Amherst. Meet at the parking lot on Station Road at 6:30 AM. The lot is on your left just before the Railroad tracks. Scott Sumner will lead. This trip will end about 8 AM.

✓ May 21 - Hitchcock Center trip to Plum Island. Meet at the Hitchcock Center at 5AM (NOTE DIFFERENT TIME). This is an all day trip. Bring a lunch. For this trip, you must register with the Hitchcock Center (256-6006), and there is a small fee. Jan Ortiz will lead.

✓ May 24 - Larch Hill. Meet at the Hitchcock Center Parking Lot at 6:30 AM. Jeff Zehr will lead.

GOOD BIRDING!

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
June 4, 1988

Dear Friends,

The last meeting of the year for the Bird Club will be this coming Monday, June 13. It's time for a PARTY! We thought we would try a strictly Pot Luck Supper this time. In other words, this is NOT A BARBECUE and grills will NOT be available, so unless raw meat is your favorite dish, I suggest bringing something a bit warmer or more likely to appeal to a larger group of friends. Please bring a dish with enough to share with 8 - 10 people. As a guide, if your last name begins with the letter ...

A - L: Bring a main dish  
M - R: Bring a salad  
S - Z: Bring a dessert

It might be a good idea to bring a blanket to sit on should we decide to stay outdoors and something to drink should you wish something other than the usual hot pot with instant. We'll have plates, cups, napkins and utensils for all. Friends, family and potential bird people welcome. We'll start at 6:00 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center.

A trip to Mount Greylock is being planned for Sunday, June 12. Allan Richards will be leading. He plans on leaving from the Hitchcock at 5:00 a.m. If interested, please call him at 665-2761.

Scott Sumner is planning a trip to Monomoy near the end of June. When details are determined you can learn more by calling the Voice at 253-2218 or Scott at 253-7486.

The HBC Board is putting out a call for the creation of a Club logo. We are looking for a representation of a Pileated Woodpecker (probably in flight) that can become our symbol. Chris Page heads the committee working on this. August 1st has been set as the deadline for submission of sketches. If you are interested and/or have questions call Chris at 253-3118.

And that's it for this time. If we don't see you on the 13th, have a wonderful summer. We will look forward to sharing bird stories with you come fall.

Sincerely -

*Sally*

Sally Venman, Secretary

## HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

August, 1988

Dear Friends -

Greetings from your Bird Board. Just when you thought it was safe to venture forth, you learn that only Supporters, at \$25.00 or more, are truly safe from the Terrible, Twisted, Two-toed, Tufted, Tri-colored Terrorbird. ----- OH HORRORS ----- Family (more than one in a household), at \$10.00, and Individual (just one independent-type person), at \$7.00, have moderate protection. (\$3.50 extra for Bird News of Western Massachusetts doesn't provide extra protection, but it does suggest that you are literate.) In other words - get that checkbook out! Renew your membership (or join for the first time) and we'll say welcome to an organization that enjoys the magic and sometimes craziness of birding. A membership form is enclosed.

The Hampshire Bird Club is a group of people who enjoy watching birds, either as a casual hobby or to the point of an addiction. We are a good source of information for those just getting started or for those who would enjoy knowing more about the natural history of birds. Anyone interested in birding regardless of experience or level of expertise is welcome. We meet monthly, September through June, at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst to hear guest speakers, see slide presentations and review recent sightings and experiences. The Club also sponsors field trips throughout the year and participates in the annual Christmas Count. Members have access to a lending library, a rare bird alert, and current birding information available through the Voice, an up-to-date recorded telephone service.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (except October when it is the third Monday) at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst (always).

Sept. 12, 6:00 p.m. - POTLUCK PARTY! Come and greet old friends or meet us for the first time. Bring your Big Bird stories, your appetite, something to drink and food to share, enough for 8 - 10 people. As a guide, if your last name begins with A - L, bring a main dish; M - R, bring a salad; S - Z, bring a dessert. (If you have a favorite dish in another category that you would prefer to bring, feel free to ignore this guide.) The Club will provide utensils, plates, napkins, cups and ice. Please note that the potluck is NOT A BARBECUE this year.

Oct. 12 - Roger Everett, professional naturalist/photographer will present a program entitled "Birds of Cape Cod." He has had his photos published in "Birder's World," "American Birds," "Wildlife Art News" and "Cape Cod Life." His new book Wading and Shorebirds has just been published.

On Nov. 14, Scott Sumner will present a slide show entitled "Newfoundland - Land of Cod Tongue and Ptarmigan." And on Dec. 12 there will be a holiday party when members show their own slides and plans are made for the Annual Christmas Count. More about these and future meetings will be found in the bimonthly Newsletters sent to members.

#### FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are open to all. We offer both local and long distance trips to birding "hot spots" throughout the year. A Cape May weekend led by David Spector and Tod Highsmith is being planned for Sept. 16 - 18. (See enclosed sheet for further information.) On Sat., Sept. 17, Bill Lafley will be hawk watching at Mt. Holyoke. Scott Sumner is planning a Cape Cod weekend October 1 - 2; a Plum Island trip is planned for Sat., Oct. 15; and Tom Gagnon will lead a trip to the Berkshire Lakes on Sun., Nov. 6. Further information on these and other trips will be found in HBC Newsletters or by calling any Board member.

This year we are asking that everyone participating in field trips sign a Release of All Demands form. It is enclosed with this letter along with an explanation for its need.

#### BIRD ALERT TELEPHONE TREE

Also enclosed is a Bird Alert form which gives you the opportunity to be on a telephone tree that notifies birders when rare birds are seen in the area and where to find them. Please read the information carefully - we hope that it will clearly indicate why we are changing the process this year. Deadline for signing up is Friday, September 16.

#### NURSING HOME PROJECT

HBC and the Hitchcock Center are co-sponsoring a bird feeder program for local nursing, convalescent and residential care facilities. It is a three part program that includes putting up feeders, presenting a slide show on feeder birds and having a follow up visit by our members to visit with the residents and to answer questions. Each facility will also receive a poster, a book and a chart on feeder birds. Last winter our pilot project in Hadley was a great success. We hope to have this program off and running this fall. If you would like to participate call Jan Ortiz at 549-1768.

#### HBC BOARD

Board meetings are held on the Monday following the regular monthly meetings. Any HBC member is welcome to attend a meeting or to present ideas at any time. For your information, Board members are President, Jim Marcum (549-1613); Vice-president/Program Director, Jan Ortiz (549-1768); Treasurer, Allan Richards (665-2761); Secretary, Sally Venman (549-1098); and members at large, Magda Bechar (549-0328), Bob Bleda (527-2623), and David Spector (253-5873). Call us with questions or suggestions.

Enjoy the last days of summer. Hope to see you at the Pot-luck.

Sally Venman, Secretary

*Sally*

RELEASE OF ALL DEMANDS - HOLD HARMLESS

In consideration of my participation in field trips of the Hampshire Bird Club, I hereby release the Hampshire Bird Club from any and all liability for injuries or loss which I may incur as a result of said trips during the 1988-89 membership year (September 1, 1988 through August 31, 1989).

I hereby acknowledge that field trips may involve significant risk in that travel may occur in rugged terrain and/or over water. **However**, I fully accept these risks and agree to hold the Hampshire Bird Club, its **officers, directors** and employees free from any and all liability for injuries which I may incur while on said trips and further I agree to hold the said Hampshire Bird Club, its **officers, directors** and employees harmless as a result of any such harm.

EXECUTED freely and voluntarily this ..... day of

....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature)



# Cape May Birds!



The days are getting shorter; birds and their watchers are heading south, many of both stopping at Cape May, New Jersey, renowned migration concentration area. For the past five years the species list on our third-weekend-of-September trip has gone well over 100, and our cumulative list stands at 179. More than numbers, we remember certain scenes--the morning it rained warblers, Black Skimmers skimming at sundown, the Merlin eating a Black-throated Green Warbler, dusk flights of thousands of herons and ibises into the Stone Harbor heronry, squealing flickers chased by Sharp-shinned Hawks . . . .

The Hampshire Bird Club will sponsor the annual trip to Cape May and Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge this fall. It is open to bird-watchers of all abilities and will be led by Tod Highsmith and David Spector. Our schedule--subject to the vagaries of birds and weather--will be roughly as follows:



Friday, September 16--meet and camp.

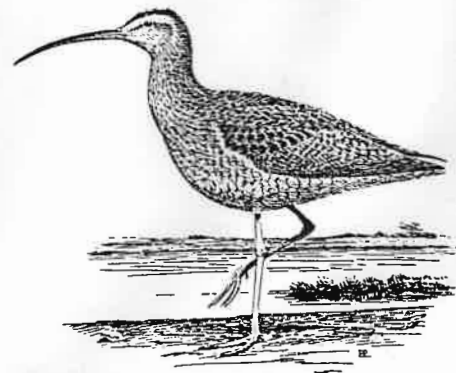


Saturday, September 17--Warblers and other land birds at the camp and Higbee's Beach; shorebirds at the South Cape May Meadows; lunch, hawks, and other birds at Cape May Point; salt marsh and the Stone Harbor Heronry at sunset; and dinner at camp.

Sunday, September 18--Cape May area in the early morning; shorebirds, lunch, ducks, and other birds at Brigantine refuge; and return to Amherst Sunday evening.

The group will camp in Cape May; participants need their own sleeping bag and tent or camper; please inform a leader if you can accomodate extra sleepers or need space in a tent. There are many hotels in the Cape May area; early reservations are suggested for those who prefer not to camp. The trip costs \$30 for members of the Hampshire Bird Club. The price for non-members is \$40. (A note to the thrifty--club memberships start at \$7.) The fee includes the campsite, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday dinner (nothing fancy!). We will arrange carpooling from Amherst.

Please register by calling David Spector at 253-5873 or 545-0068 as soon as possible. This trip is limited to 20 participants. Payment is due by September 12.



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER  
September 23, 1988

Dear Friends -

Time for a report on activities brought to you by your busy Bird Board. At our meeting this week we decided to assemble an information packet to be mailed to members after the October meeting. It will include wonderful, exciting information that will leave you in awe of the assemblers. You will wonder how you ever managed to get through the day without it, realizing once again how fortunate you are to be an H.B.C. member!

The Rare Bird Alert Telephone Tree is being assembled and will be sent to participants when completed. If you missed the deadline for this alert, and wish to have your name added, send the form to Sally by December 12. (Call her at 549-1098 if you need another form).

Chris Page's logo of the pileated woodpecker was approved. Decals will be available (for a price - not a big one) in the not too distant future.

MEETINGS

Monday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.: A very special program is planned featuring the well known bird photographer Roger Everett who will speak on the Birds of Cape Cod. A serious photographer since 1972, he began concentrating on birds in 1977. The thrill and joy of pursuing the challenge of portraying bird life on film has been all-consuming ever since. After taking early retirement from his job as financial controller for Texas Instruments in Attleboro, MA, he moved to Brewster on Cape Cod to take up bird photography full time. Everett is a member of the Photographic Society of America where he holds a star rating in pictorial color slides. His photos have been published in Wildlife Art News, Birder's World, American Birds, Bird Observer, and Cape Cod Life. A recent book of Everett's pictures, Wading and Shore Birds has been published by Schiffer Publishing. He is also in demand as a speaker, sharing his slides with the public, and is a regular exhibitor at art shows.

There will be a brief business meeting prior to the program in order to vote on a change in the bylaws. We propose wording changes throughout, adding Inc. to Hampshire Bird Club and substituting the word Corporation for H.B.C. where appropriate. In Article V, 5.1, the number of members-at-large will be increased from three to five.

Be sure to save Monday, November 14 and Monday, December 12 for the next two meetings. I'll send more information about these later.

## FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, October 15: An all day trip (bring lunch) to Plum Island leaving from the Hitchcock Center at 5:00 a.m. Call Scott Sumner at 253-7486 for more information.

Sunday, November 6: An all-day trip (bring lunch) to the Berkshire Lakes led by Tom Gagnon. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Bradlees in Northampton. If weather permits the trip will end at Berry Mountain in hopes of finding a golden eagle. Call Tom at 584-6353 for information and to register.

And - as a final reminder. Keep checking the VOICE for last minute field trips, interesting sightings and events. Call 253-2218 to receive a recorded message or 256-1836 to report sightings or to leave messages.

Happy Birding!

*Sally*

Sally Venman  
Secretary

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

NOVEMBER 1988

Saturday, November 12, HAWK WATCH on Mount Tom to catch the tail end of the migration. If we are lucky we'll spot Red-tailed, Goshawk, Rough-legged, and Golden Eagle. David Spector will lead. Please call him at 253-5873 (h) or 545-0068 (w) if you wish to go.

Monday, November 14, 7:30 at the Hitchcock Center, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING. Cindy Staicer will present a program entitled "Resident and Migrant Warblers of Porto Rico". She has been studying warblers that spend half the year in that area and will discuss the first long-term study of the tropical resident, the Adelaide's Warbler. Cindy is a grad student in ornithology at UMass.

Don't forget to check the Voice (253-2218) for up-to-date information. Be sure to save Monday, December 12 for the holiday party when we'll view each other's natural history slides and make plans for the annual Christmas count which will take place on December 18.

HBC NEWSLETTER (December, 1988)

Dear Friends -

The long awaited Membership Packet is finally in your hands. You are now the proud possessor of all sorts of membership-only privileged information that will warm your winter hours and make you wonder once again how you managed to manage without it. This is brought to you by your forward thinking Bird Board. Please contain your eagerness to rip into the contents for a moment and read on because beyond this paragraph lies news of future events and happenings that you will need to know and will want to put on your calender.

Our annual Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 12 at 7:30 at the Hitchcock Center. Members are asked to bring favorite slides to show. Since this is a bird club, pictures of birds would be logical, but any subject depicting the natural world will be fine. (Your secretary has some colorful shots of her grandchild performing as third bumblebee on the right in her ballet recital, but she has been told that this is not acceptable.) You are also asked to bring a goodie to share (dessert or snack). After the program, plans will be made for the annual Christmas Count which will be held on Sunday, December 18. Scott is the contact person for the area east of the Connecticut. If you are interested in participating but can't attend the meeting, please call him at 253-7486. If you are west of the river and wish to count in that area, Arcadia is in charge. Call them at 584-3009 for your assignment. 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. Birders from other areas welcome participants in their own local counts. If you are interested in participating in the Springfield count on December 17, call Morton Bates at 783-6411. For the Berkshire count on December 17, call Pamela Wetherbee at 458-3538 for the northern area or Dr. Edwin Neumuth at 633-6001 for the central area. For the Athol count on December 17, call Robert Coyle at (508)249-6083. For the Greenfield count on December 26, call Mark Fairbrother at 367-2695. And for the Quabbin count on December 31, call Scott Sumner at 253-7486.

On Sunday, January 1 be ready for the annual local BIRD BLITZ! It's a great way to start the year and coming just after all the Christmas counts, our leader, Scott Sumner should know where to find the birds. Meet at the Hitchcock at 7:00 a.m. Call Scott at 253-7486 if you want to join the group.

On Monday, January 9, 7:30 at the Hitchcock Center Scott Sumner will present a program on Newfoundland showing slides taken on his trip there in July of 1986. Well-known in birding circles locally and across the state, Scott was one of the founders and the former President of the HBC.

On Saturday, January 14 Jim Marcum will take us on an all day trip to Cape Ann and Plum Island. He'll leave at 5:00 a.m. but asks that you call him at 549-1613 if you wish to go. As you know, interesting birds can show up any place at that time of the year and Jim may wish to change the destination.

Trips for February will include the South Shore, Cape Cod and possibly Amherst Island. Looking far ahead, we will again be spending Memorial Day weekend on Monhegan Island and we'll travel to the Connecticut Lakes in June. More of all that later.

HBC VOICE - Just a reminder that there is a recorded telephone message, updated weekly, just waiting for members to call and learn what birds have been seen in the area and about events of interest to birders. Call 253-2218 to receive information. To report sightings or to leave messages call 256-1836. Scott passes the sighting information on to Seth Kellogg and it becomes part of the record for the Bird News of Western Massachusetts. He asks that you leave your name and phone number, identify the bird or birds, and say when and where spotted and how many.

If you joined the HBC after the RARE BIRD ALERT telephone tree was set up and would like to be included on the extended list please get in touch with Jim Markum at 549-1613 or Sally Venmen at 549-1098 by December 16.

The HBC LIBRARY has many books that are there for the lending. Sally has the list and many of the books. Some members have books they are willing to lend but want to keep in their own library. Sally has that list as well. There are many field guides highlighting regions across the U.S. and to birds in foreign countries. There are books with general information and books focusing on specific species. We welcome any donation of books or if you have books you would be willing to lend but want to keep with you, please give Sally the list. For instance, we lack guides to birds of the Northwest U.S. It is really very helpful to have this information if you are going on a trip to a new and bird infested area. Call Sally at 549-1098 for information.

Please note the enclosed sheet describing a BIRDING CLASS offered by the Hitchcock Center and taught by Jan Ortiz. While designed for the beginning birder it is a great way to brush up on the basics. Enrollment is limited. You will need to call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 to register. There is a fee.

You should know that the HBC has donated seven bird feeders to the Hitchcock Center as a way of saying thanks for the years of support and use of the building. The nursing home project led by Jan Ortiz is going very well. Seven nursing homes have participated so far with several more interested. Jan is still looking for volunteers for the project. Call her at 549-1768.

Chris Page's HBC logo is being made into decals and should be ready for purchase by the first of the year.

And a final note - the HBC Board meets (almost) regularly on the Monday after the regular monthly meeting. Any member is welcome to join us - call one of us for details.

If you have stayed with me for this long you are to be congratulated! I promise postcards or short letters for the rest of the year. Anything longer than one paragraph will be the Board's fault, not mine!

Happy December to all of you -

*Sally*

Sally, the Secretary

# HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC.

## FIELD TRIP POLICY

1. Field trips are an essential activity of the Hampshire Bird Club providing an important means of increasing members' interest in and knowledge of birds and birding.
2. Field trips are open to all members of the HBC who have completed a *Release of all Demands - Hold Harmless* form for the current membership year. Non-members are also welcome to participate on a space-available basis, upon completion of release form.
3. The HBC conducts two different types of field trips, regular and fee-based.

Regular field trips will generally be less formal and will not require extensive planning by the trip leader. No costs other than travel, meals, and incidental fees will be involved. Participants must call trip leader in advance to express interest in the trip in order to allow for more flexibility and opportunity to change the trip itinerary should that seem desirable.

Fee-based trips are those for which participants must pay in advance for predetermined costs. Such trips will generally require more planning by the trip leader, including, for example, the making of reservations for lodging and boat transportation when needed. Participants will be charged an amount equal to actual predetermined costs plus a prorated amount to cover the reimbursement of the leader's expenses as stated in Item 6, below. Participants who are not members of the HBC will be charged an additional ten dollars (\$10). All fees shall be paid to the HBC Treasurer. Prepaid fees will be refunded, if feasible, whenever participation is cancelled due to extenuating circumstances. Any excess fees remaining after costs have been met, unless greater than ten dollars per person, will revert to the HBC treasury.

4. It is recommended that automobile transportation costs for both regular and fee-based field trips be set at a minimum of fifteen cents per mile (\$.15/mi.) per car plus tolls and parking fees. All persons in the car will be expected to share costs equally.
5. Leaders of fee-based trips shall:
  - a. Describe in writing the nature of the trip as completely as possible including the conditions of lodging, extra costs not covered by fee, the roughness of terrain, etc., and provide a list of what each participant should take on the trip.
  - b. Upon return, provide the HBC Board with an itemized account of all income and expenses related to the trip including receipts for major expenses.
6. Leaders of fee-based trips shall be reimbursed for all predetermined trip costs and incidental costs incurred in planning and arrangement (telephone, postage, etc.) and shall be given a per diem/honorarium of forty dollars (\$40) to cover meals and minor incidental costs. With regard to auto transportation costs the leader will be considered a participant and expected to share the costs as described in Item 4, above.
7. Leaders of all trips shall submit a list of birds identified on the trip to the HBC president who shall maintain the club's year and life lists.

### **THE BASICS OF BIRDING**

**(Winter course offered by the Hitchcock Center, Amherst)**

Watching birds. Birding is as simple as that. And winter birding is the perfect time to leisurely watch and enjoy resident and wintering species.

This eight week class, taught by Jan Ortiz, is designed for the beginning birder and for those who want to brush up on their birding skills. Among the topics to be covered will be the selection and use of binoculars and field guides. A primary goal is that the class participant become quite familiar with the common species in our area, and as we observe these birds at the feeder and in the field, we will discuss their behavior, natural history and identification.

The class will meet on Saturday mornings from 7 a.m. until noon. Half of the morning will be spent in the warmth of the Hitchcock Center watching birds at the Center's feeders and talking about various aspects of birding. For the second half of the class, we will go out into the field and search for, among others, wintering hawks, owls and finches.

There will be two guest speakers: David Spector on "How to Identify and Misidentify a Bird, and Mark Mc Garigal on "Owls: Their Natural History and Identification." (This includes an optional "Owl Prowl" in the wee hours of the morning to look for Screech, Barred and Great-horned owls.)

**DATES :** Saturdays on January 14, 21, & 28; on February 4, 11, 18 & 25; and on March 4.

**TIME :** 7 a.m. until noon.

**PLACE :** Classes will meet at the Hitchcock Center. Field trips will be local.

**COST :** Hitchcock members \$45.00. Non (Hitchcock) members \$55.00.

**NOTE :** You need to call the Center at 256-6006 to pre-register.