

Announcing a flocking of

The Hampshire Bird Club Auxiliary

The Hampshire Bird Club Auxiliary -- familiarly known as **Hambircaux** (pronounced *ham'-bir-cawks* -- or *ham-bir'-cawks* -- or more correctly *ham-bir-cawks'*, with the accent on the last syllable and with the emphasis a chicken gives to its terminal vocal contribution upon having its neck wrung) is a fully subsidized (or, depending upon the source of income) subsidizing appendage of the Hampshire Bird Club. (This organization also has a name used by intimates, *Hambirc*. The obvious pronunciation of this word is *ham'-birk*, but of course it usually comes out as *ham'-burg* so that members of the HBC know each other as hamburgers -- or every once in a while as turkeys, the etymology of which is lost in the mists of time to all except a few.)

The purpose of **Hambircaux** is to provide a measure of stability for **Hambircers** who otherwise have been known to try to fly off in all directions at once, to provide an incentive to honesty in reporting (especially important at times of bird counts and vital on trips to Monhegan Island), and the usual morale and financial support to **Hambircers**. This heroic (but largely unsung) purpose will take wing on Monday evening, January 9, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. at the first meeting of 1989 of the **Hambirc**. (Remember that these same hambircers will have gotten a lengthy start on **Hambircaux**. Many will have arisen at an unbirdly hour on the first day of the year, New Year's Day, a day most sane people dedicate to parades, football and Alka Seltzer, to begin their afflictions anew. We can't get started early enough!)

We urge you to try to attend this meeting. The program will be given by one of the most notorious hambircers, **ex-Chief Hambircer Scott Sumner**, on a subject normally unknown to--and hence uncorrectable by--most hambircauxers, **Birds of Newfoundland** (most will ask "Where the heck is Newfoundland, for Pete's sake, and who would want to go there even if they knew where it was?"). But at least three hambircauxers have actually been to the place he'll almost certainly over-describe. Come help us bear the weight of our auxiliary's purpose. We can report that at least the refreshments are usually good.

Carlos Ortiz , Hambircaux #1

Bill Venman , Hambircaux #2

Darlene Sumner , Hambircaux #3

Sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club Auxiliary. If you want to learn more about **Hambircaux**, contact one of us. No contributions are necessary. We only need your support, certainly more than the hambircers do!

HBC NEWSLETTER (February, 1989)

Dear Friends -

Since a midwinter night's dream for snow, winter finches and spectacular winter birding does not seem to be happening, let us turn to what is.

FOR FEBRUARY

On Saturday, the 4th there is to be a census of wintering raptors (the Raptor count) conducted by Scott Sumner. This is similar to the Christmas Count except that only diurnal raptors are counted and it is done from the comfort of a warm car. A large area needs to be covered and Scott needs more people to participate. Please call him at 253-7486 if you can help.

On Saturday, the 11th there will be an all day field trip to the South Shore led by Allan Richards. He will be leaving at 5:00 a.m. from the Hitchcock Center (bring lunch and wear very warm clothes). Please call Allan at 665-2761 to register.

On Monday, the 13th at our regular monthly meeting at the Hitchcock Center (7:30 p.m.) Mark Lynch and Sheila Carrol will present a program about their second trip to Australia. Mark and Sheila are well known birders from the Worcester area who have delighted us in past years with their programs on Australia and England and Scotland. Their photography, knowledge and humor combine to make a thoroughly delightful presentation. This trip was to the Northern Territory where their number one field hazard was the crocodile. The Kakadu National Park, the Great Barrier Reef and Queenstown yielded Chestnut Quilled Rock Pigeons, Honeyeaters, Great Knots, and Terek Sandpipers, among others.

On Saturday, the 18th there will be a walk in Quabbin led by Scott. We will go in one of the gates looking for the Golden Eagle and other goodies. Dress warmly and be prepared for some exercise - it could be a six mile walk (one way). Call Scott at 253-7486 if interested.

FOR MARCH

On Saturday, the 11th Jan Ortiz will be leading a trip to Woodstock, Vermont to visit VINS - the Raptor Rehabilitation Center. Call her at 549-1768 for more information and to register. There will be an admission fee.

On Monday, the 13th the regular monthly meeting of the Club (7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center) will feature Ted Levin, professional naturalist, author and photographer from Vermont. He will be presenting a program entitled "Home from the Range - Life in Arid Lands" drawn from materials gathered when researching the prairie in South Dakota while on assignment for the National Geographic. We'll be seeing slides of Buffalo, Prairie Dog colonies, Pronghorn, Coyote, Rattlesnake, Golden Eagle and the Pleistocene Mammoth dig. About 1/600 of 1% of original tall grass prairie remains, making it the most reduced of any habitat in the United States. Ted's photos have appeared in many national and international magazines and books including Time, Omni, National Wildlife, National Geographic, and Living Bird Quarterly. His own book, Backtracking: the Way of a Naturalist, published in 1987 by Chelsea Green, is in its third printing. He has written for many national publications and will be featured in the National Geographic's forthcoming book The Curious Naturalist.

FIELD TRIP POLICY REMINDER

For most trips, unless otherwise stated, there is no fee, but people are expected to share in the cost of driving when participating in a car pool. A minimum of \$.15/mile plus tolls and parking fees shared by all in the car is suggested.

HITCHCOCK'S TRADITIONAL SPRING BIRDING CLASS

This popular class is again being offered through the Hitchcock Center. Coming at the most exciting season for birdwatching it is an ideal way for the less experienced to get some help and all to enjoy the seasonal changes with friends. Jan Ortiz will be teaching the class starting April 1. Since the next Newsletter may not reach you until after the class begins you might wish to make note of it now. Call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 for more information and to register. There is a fee.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

(call the Hitchcock at 256-6006 for more information)

Thursday, February 16, 7:30 p.m.: Naturalist and photographer John Green will present his latest multi-media natural history program. John is intrigued by nature's ability to adapt to difficult conditions imposed on it by human activity. By using slides, music, and narration, he shows us nature's remarkable strength to overcome such conditions and to survive.

(cost: Hitchcock Members \$1.00 Non-Members \$2.00)

Thursday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.: Penny Worman will present her slides and recount her experiences of natural history travel in the northern reaches of our continent. (Churchill, Manitoba, Bathurst Inlet showing Caribou, Musk Ox, Polar Bear, etc.)

(cost: Hitchcock Members \$1.00 Non-Members \$2.00)

HELP FOR THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD: A two-part program presented by Ted Watt about Bluebirds, giving their life history and reasons why they need our help. Part one will be a slide presentation from the North American Bluebird Society which will be shown twice. The follow up program will be workshop to construct nest boxes to take home and put up.

Slide Show: Thursday, March 2, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

(or) Friday, March 3, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Workshop: Saturday, March 4, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Costs:

Slide Show: Hitchcock Members \$1.00 Non-Members \$2.00

Workshop: \$8.00/\$10.00 - Individual (one box)

\$12.00/\$14.00 - Family (one box)

(\$5.00 each additional box)

AND LOOKING AHEAD (more details later)

On Monday, April 10 Clif Read, former program director for the Hitchcock Center now working as a naturalist in charge of interpretive services at Quabbin Reservoir will present a program on Senegal.

A Pedricktown, New Jersey weekend trip in the hope of observing Ruffs and Reeves is being planned by David Spector. The tentative dates for this expedition are April 15 and 16. We'll car pool down and stay in motels.

There will undoubtedly be a trip to Plum Island at some time - check the Voice for when.

On Monday, May 8, Rebecca Field, leader of the Massachusetts Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit will present a program on bird habitat on the North Slope in Alaska.

In May we are planning seven Warbler Walks in Wildwood Cemetery from 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Dates are the 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23th, 25th and 30th.

Bob Bieda will lead a walk into Quabbin on May 13th.

It's not too early to think about the annual Monhegan Island trip over Memorial Day weekend (May 26-29). Cost will be in the neighborhood of \$160.00 per person. This includes the boat trip over, lodging and two meals per day. Not included is the cost of getting to the boat (about 500 miles - we car-pool and share the cost), parking fee, lunch and snacks, and an optional lobster dinner on the Island if desired. This trip fills up fast so if you know that you want to go call Scott at 253-7486 to get more information and to reserve a spot.

On June 3rd we hope to travel to Connecticut in search of the Hooded, Cerulean and Worm-eating warblers.

Save Monday, June 12 for our final meeting of the year.

Another weekend trip is planned for June 23 - 25. Tom Gagnon will be leading a group to the Connecticut Lakes in Pittsburg, New Hampshire. We will be staying in cabins and eating at restaurants. Cost has yet to be determined.

We have had seven new members since the list was sent to you in the Membership Packet. You might wish to add them to that list.

Tom Arny
548-9520 (h) 545-3665 (w)
Keith Carver
256-1515 (h) 545-3508 (w)
Bertha E. Fessenden
549-0593
Rebecca Field
549-8373 (h) 545-2757 (w)
Mary McDermott
584-5719 (h) 586-3150 (w)
Frank P. Meckay
533-0655
Fran Swaminathan
549-0550

79 Teawaddle Rd. - RD 3
Amherst, MA 01002
49 S. Valley Rd.
Pelham, MA 01002
17 Riverside Park, P.O. Box 412
N. Amherst, MA 01059-0412
166 North Maple St.
Hadley, MA 01035
P.O. Box 788
Northampton, MA 01061
484 Chicopee St.
Chicopee, MA 01013
50 Sheerman Lane
Amherst, MA 01002

That about does it for this Newsletter. The next one will hopefully be out before the April meeting. Please remember to check the Voice (253-2218) for additional happenings.

Happy Birding -

Sally

Sally Venman, Secretary

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER
April, 1989

Dear Friends,

Before spring fever totally overcomes my ability to function in front of the word processor, my sense of duty to all birders out there compels me to write about Bird Club events for the remainder of the year.

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETINGS
(Hitchcock Center, 7:30 p.m.)

Monday, April 10: Cliff Read, former program director for the Hitchcock Center now working as a naturalist in charge of interpretive services at Quabbin Reservoir will present a program on Senegal and the Gambia. On his trip to West Africa, a fascinating part of the world where tremendous numbers of wintering European species can be found, he had the experience of going on one of the first (if not the first) organized birding expeditions up the Gambia River with Peter Alden. Cliff will share with us his experiences of viewing Reef Herons in their native habitat as well as Abyssinian Rollers, sunbirds (ecological equivalent of our hummingbirds), weavers, River Eagles and Palm Nut Vultures. He will also discuss wildlife preserves and local conservation issues.

Monday, May 8: Rebecca Field, Unit Leader, Massachusetts Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Massachusetts, will present a program entitled "Birds, Biologists, Blizzards, and Bears: Avian Studies on the Northern Coast of Alaska". She has spent the past three summers on the coastal tundra of northern Alaska studying birds and their habitat for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of the study is to provide information to help with management decisions in areas slated for future oil and gas development. She will show slides of tundra birds and other animals, life in tundra camps, and will give preliminary results of the study which is finishing up this year.

Monday, June 12: PARTY! This will be a pot-luck supper and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. Please bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people. If your last name begins with the letter -

A - M: Bring a main dish

N - S: Bring a salad

T - 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 if you want something other than the usual hot pot with instants. We'll have plates, cups, napkins, utensils, and ice. Friends, family and potential bird people all welcome!

A WINDOW ON SONGBIRD MIGRATION

Please read the enclosed announcement telling about a very special meeting on Wednesday, May 3 which the Club is co-sponsoring. We are very fortunate to have a representative from such an outstanding organization as Manomet Bird Observatory presenting a program to the Western Massachusetts birding community. Trevor Lloyd-Evans is a noted ornithologist and a popular speaker. It is interesting to note that the entire April issue of Sanctuary (Mass. Audubon's publication) is devoted to the decline of songbird populations, the topic of Trevor's talk. It promises to be a very interesting and worthwhile evening. We are hoping to attract a large

turnout and encourage you to attend. If well received we would like to offer similar programs in the future. There will be a reception immediately following the program to which you are all invited. Refreshments will be served. The Board asks that anyone able to help by donating food or serving on the food committee (a one-time commitment) to please call David Spec at 545-0068 or 253-5873. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

BIRDING in the FIELD

Saturday, April 8: Allan Richards will lead a day trip to Plum Island. He will be leaving at 5:00 a.m. from the Hitchcock Center. Don't forget your lunch and layers of clothing in case of cold weather, and don't forget to call Allan at 665-2761 to let him know you are interested in going along.

Saturday, May 6: A quiet walk into Quabbin by way of Gate 40 led by Bob Bleda. There will be plenty of time to savor the birds, the emphasis being on enjoyment rather than listing or searching for any one species. The group will leave from the Hitchcock Center at 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch if you want to stay the whole day. Call Bob at 527-2623 if interested.

MAY MORNING WARBLER WALKS: (May 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, and 30) These will be early morning walks (6:30 - 8:00 a.m.) in Wildwood Cemetery. Meet the leader at the entrance (Strong Street in Amherst). No pre-registration required.

Saturday, June 3: A full day trip (bring lunch) to the Salem area in Connecticut in search of the Hooded, Cerulean and Worm-eating warblers led by Jim Marcum. If time permits there will be a side trip to Devil's Hop Yard State Park in East Haddam. Call Jim at 540-1613 if interested.

WEEKEND TRIPS

Memorial Day Weekend - May 26-29: There is still room for a few more on the annual trip to Monhegan Island led by Scott Sumner. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$160.00 per person, which includes the boat trip over, lodging and two meals per day. Not included are transportation costs (about 500 miles round trip - we share the cost of car-pooling), parking fee, lunches and snacks, and an optional lobster dinner on the Island if desired. Call Scott at 253-7486 for more details.

CONNECTICUT LAKES TRIP - June 23-25: We'll be staying in Pittsburg, New Hampshire. This beautiful and fascinating area is the birthplace of the Connecticut River and boasts acres of timberlands, mountains, lakes, streams and forest trails. Highlights expected by trip leader Tom Gagnon are the Common Loon, Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay plus 20 species of breeding warblers. However, birds are not the only reason for visiting this picturesque area. There is a good chance of seeing Black Bear, Moose and Snowshoe Hare, plus magnificent fields of wildflowers. Canoeing (if we can get some canoes) and just enjoying the natural world make this trip especially appealing. We'll be staying in a comfortable cabin which has a fully-equipped kitchen and other "necessaries." Cost will be in the neighborhood of \$55.00. Not included in this is the shared cost of transportation and food which each person is responsible for. We plan on leaving Friday morning (June 23) and returning home late afternoon on Sunday (June 25). The trip is limited to 12 people so call Tom at 584-6377 if you are interested or to get further information.

MISCELLANEOUS BITS and PIECES

In accordance with our Bylaws, the annual meeting of the HBC is held in May and at that time the membership votes on the Board of Directors (President, Vice President/Program Director, Treasurer, Secretary, and five members at large, including the immediate past president) who will keep the organization going for another year. The nominating committee (David Spector, Chair; Deedee Minear and Jeff Zehr) will present a slate to be voted on at that time. They welcome any suggestions from the membership. Please contact one of them.

As many of you already know, The HBC official Piliated Woodpecker logo (created by Chris Page) is no longer a myth and can be seen (and purchased) in the form of a decal for your car window, or perhaps on the window of your house stating that "this house is protected by an attack woodpecker." The creative possibilities are endless. At the unbelievably low price of only \$1.25 one (1) decal can be yours. If you are economy minded or have five cars, you can purchase five (5) for the price of \$5.00 - What a bargain! It/they will be at the monthly meetings or, if you wish, you can send me (Sally Venman, 43 Ridgecrest Rd., Amherst, MA 01002) your request, a check made out to the Hampshire Bird Club and a self addressed stamped envelope for speedy return.

Pete Westover and the the Conservation Commission in Amherst, are asking area birders for help this spring in locating the following in Amherst:

- (1) the location of raptor nests
- (2) use of ponds by waterfowl and wading birds
- (3) Woodcock singing grounds.

This will assist the Commission land acquisition and land management plans and will improve the baseline data on birds and habitat in town. He is also inviting bird experts to accompany trip leaders on planned spring trail walks along the Robert Frost Trail (all start at 2:00 p.m.):

April 16 - Holyoke Range from Notch Visitor's Center (John Aldrich);

May 7 - Lawrence Swamp (Lisa Mott);

June 11 - Leverett (Bill Davis).

You can reach Pete at the Conservation Service in Amherst at 256-0413 if you have anything to report or questions to ask.

And finally, there are two more names to add to the membership list for 1988-1989:

Doug Roy
549-1359

Dave Stemple
247-5016 (h) 545-2372 (w)

271 Puffton Village
Amherst, MA 01002

Box 27
Hatfield, MA 01038

HAPPY SPRING TO ONE AND ALL!

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Venman, Secretary

A WINDOW ON SONGBIRD MIGRATION

Are our songbird populations declining? If so, what factors are contributing to this situation?

Manomet Bird Observatory has been studying these issues for 20 years. On Wednesday, May 3rd at Hampshire College, Senior Research Biologist at Manomet, Trevor Lloyd-Evans will present a lecture-slide show. He will discuss the origin of the amazing migration strategies of landbirds, and the feeding ecology of the migrants as they stop over at MBO. This window on migration includes warbler populations, which breed from New England to the limits of the tree line in Canada, and winter principally in the Caribbean and Central and South America. He will also consider the factors that affect populations of landbirds in their breeding and wintering grounds. These include the effects of modern North American forestry practices, persistent pesticides, fragmentation of their habitats due to human development, and tropical deforestation, which will totally eliminate tropical forests in Central America by the year 2000 if it continues at present rates.

Trevor Lloyd-Evans came to Manomet in 1972 from the British Trust for Ornithology. His work includes long-term banding and population studies of many migrant species. He has conducted field work on warbler populations in the muskegs of Ontario, the conifer forests of Gaspé, Quebec, wintering areas of Belize in Central America, and at the 18 acre research site at MBO on the coast of Massachusetts.

Won't you join us for this very important program sponsored by Manomet Bird Observatory, Hitchcock Center, Hampshire Bird Club and the School of Natural Science at Hampshire College?

DATE: Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Franklin Paterson Hall, Hampshire College.

FEE: Members \$ 3.00 Non-Members \$ 4.00

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Hampshire Bird Club will be held on May 8, 1989 at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment at 7:30 p.m. This brief session will be conducted prior to the regular program meeting.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of David Spector, chair; Dee Dee Minear and Jeff Zehr, has presented the following slate of candidates:

President	* Jim Marcum
Vice-president	* Jan Ortiz
Secretary	* Sally Venman
Treasurer	* Allan Richards
Board Members	* Bob Bieda
	Ged Dorman
	* Chris Page
	Marny Price
(Past-president)	* Scott Sumner
* Incumbent	

MAY PROGRAM

Rebecca Field, Unit Leader, Massachusetts Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, College of Food and Natural Resources, University of Massachusetts, will present a program entitled "Birds, Biologists, Blizzards, and Bears: Avian Studies on the Northern Coast of Alaska." She has spent the past three summers on the coastal tundra of northern Alaska studying birds and their habitat for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of the study is to provide information to help with management decisions in areas slated for future oil and gas development. She will show slides of tundra birds and other animals, life in tundra camps, and will give preliminary results of the study which is finishing up this year.

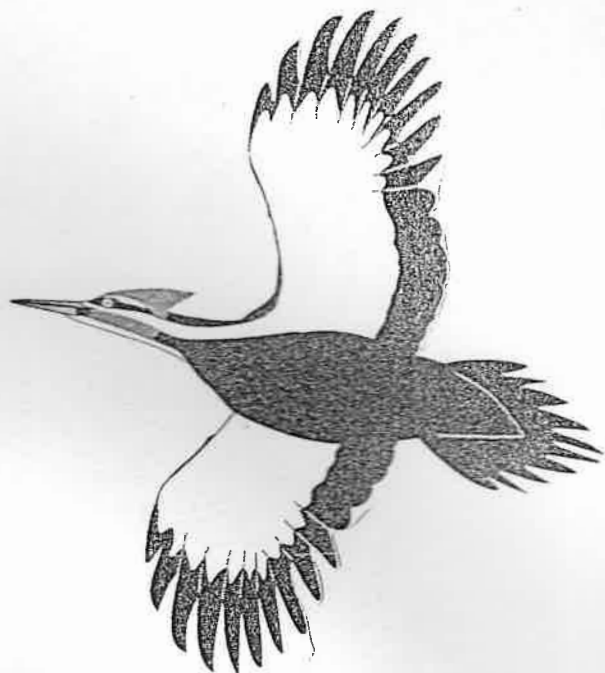
JUNE PROGRAM

Our June 12 meeting will be a pot-luck supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. Please bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people. If your last name begins with the letter:

- A through M: Bring a main dish
- N through S: Bring a salad
- T through Z: Bring a dessert

You may wish to bring a blanket to sit on should we decide to stay outdoors, and something to drink if you want something other than the usual hot pot with instant. Plates, cups, napkins, utensils, and ice will be provided. Friends, family and potential birders are all welcome!

Hampshire Bird Club



Coming events May - June 1989

May 8, Monday. Monthly meeting and Alaskan birds..
Rebecca Field, Unit Leader, Mass. Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Univ. of Mass., presents "Birds, Blizzards, and Bears: Avian Studies on the Northern Coast of Alaska," about her research on bird populations in northern Alaska for the USFWS.
Hitchcock Center, Amherst, 7:30 P.M. Free.

May 6, Saturday. Field trip to Gate 40 at Quabbin.
A quiet, all day walking trip led by Bob Bieda; call him at 527-2623 for details or to sign up.

May 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, and 30, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Warbler Walks at Wildwood Cemetery, 6:30-8:00 A.M.
Meet at the gate on Strong Street in Amherst at 6:30.

June 3, Saturday. Southern warblers trip to Connecticut.
All day trip (bring lunch and share expenses) to look for the likes of Cerulean, Worm-eating, and Hooded Warblers. Call trip leader Jim Marcum at 549-1613 for details.

June 12, Monday. Monthly meeting and annual June party!
Pot luck dinner and informal program. Please bring food to share. *Everybody welcome.* Hitchcock Center, Amherst, 7:30 P.M. Free.

June 23-25, weekend. Boreal birds trip.
Weekend trip (cost around \$55) to the Connecticut Lakes region of northern New Hampshire to look for birds such as the Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, etc. Call trip leader Tom Gagnon at 584-6353 for details or to sign up.

As always, call the Voice of the Hampshire Bird Club at 253-2218 for the latest sightings.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

July, 1989

Dear Friends,

At the last HBC Board of Directors meeting it was decided to have the secretary send a summer letter to the membership. I happened to be away at the time doing good deeds, rescuing handsome princes from the clutches of fiery dragons, and in general being a wonderful person so I was not a part of this decision. But, being a good-deed-doer, rescuer par excellence and a generally wonderful person, I sit before the word processor (on a beautiful summer) and greet you all for the last time in the bird year 1988-1989. Really brings a tear to the eye, doesn't it? But, your Bird Board has been busy planning trips for this summer and early fall that you should know about at this time.

"Best Bet for Beach Birds", or "Biking with Bieda" (sorry, Bob!): Bob Bieda is planning a field trip looking for shore birds at Graves landing in Quabbin Reservoir on Saturday, August 26. Since it is about six miles to the spot, Bob thought it would be fun trying a birding on bicycle jaunt, starting at Gate 40. Right now the area is under water. If the rains continue and Quabbin remains high, an alternate plan such as a trip to the Agawam sandbar may be necessary. Check with Bob at 527-2623 for greater detail.

Also on Saturday, August 26 the Hitchcock Center is sponsoring an all day trip to Plum Island led by Jan Ortiz and Scott Sumner. This takes place at the peak of the shorebird migration. The birding will be done at a leisurely pace with plenty of time to watch, discuss and enjoy the birds. Call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 to register. There is a fee.

On September 2 Scott Sumner will lead an all day trip to Appledore, one of the small islands in the Isles of Shoals, about forty-five minutes off shore from Portsmouth, NH. Plans are to meet at 7:30 a.m. at Portsmouth for an easy boat trip out to the island where we will have the opportunity to observe bird banding, seeing many different species in hand. This will be the third year the HBC has made this fascinating trip. Unfortunately only twelve people can go, so if you are interested or need more information, call Scott at 253-7486 as soon as possible. There will be a fee.

Tom Gagnon is planning a real birding adventure. The Connecticut Warbler is an extremely difficult bird to find in our area but Tom has been successful in past years and would like to share the search with any of us willing and able to do what is necessary to increase our chances of success. This will be a somewhat rugged trip. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes and walking sticks are a must. We will be moving fast through heavy undergrowth on the flood plains somewhere in the Meadows in Northampton. The trip will take place on the afternoon of either September 23 or 24. Check the Voice during the preceeding week for more detail. And be sure to contact Tom at 584-6353 if you want to join the bush-whackers. Will this be life bird for you? There is no guarantee, but Tom may well be your best bet for seeing it.

Scott is going to lead a trip over Columbus Day weekend to Monhegan Island to observe the fall migration. We will leave on Friday morning, October 6 from Port Clyde, Maine and return on Monday, October 9. Approximate cost will be \$160.00 per person. This includes the boat trip over, lodging and two meals per day. Not included are transportation costs to Port Clyde, parking and baggage fees, tips, lunches and snacks, and an optional lobster dinner on the Island. The HBC has made this very popular trip many times over Memorial Day weekend for the spring migration. This will be only the second time we have visited in the fall. Scott needs to know how many will be going and will need to send a deposit by mid-August so if you wish to join us, please call him at 253-7486 as soon as possible.

David Ziomek, Amherst native and member of the HBC, spoke briefly to the membership at our June meeting concerning his most recent project. Dave and Chris Davis from Leverett, both bird-watchers since childhood, met last fall to share Barn Owl data they had collected individually and have designed a research project that should provide a clearer understanding of the owl's activities and habitats in the Valley. They are installing nesting boxes in barns with the cooperation of local farmers in hopes of attracting the birds. These nests will be monitored over the next three to five years. David is very interested in speaking to people who think they may have seen a Barn Owl locally. Please call him at 549-1717 if you have any information. He reminds us that a sighting can arouse great excitement in the bird-watching community and too much attention to the bird can easily drive it away. Out of respect and concern for the bird, Dave and Chris plan to be discreet while monitoring their nesting boxes and will respect any information you can provide.

And now for a little begging. Is there anyone out there who normally attends the monthly Club meetings who would be willing to be in charge of the goodie table? It involves arriving at the meeting about 7:00, starting the hot water pot and setting out instant, cookies, etc. It would also mean keeping track of the supplies and buying whatever is needed from donations received. Cleanup is no big deal because there are always people around willing to help. Jan Ortiz and David Spector have both had turns at being in charge and I am sure they would agree that it was not an arduous task. We feel that food adds a great deal to the pleasure of the meetings and if you would be willing to donate a bit of your energy to such a worthy cause we would wish you joy and at least one life bird per month. Call me at 549-1098 if you could help us out.

I will be writing a letter to members and potential members later this summer with news of fall programs, field trips, reminders of membership renewal, etc. If you know of anyone who would like to receive this information, please contact me with the person's name, address and phone number which I'll add to the list.

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Venman, Sec'y

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

NEWSLETTER
August, 1989



Attention members: It is necessary to break into your summer tranquillity for a moment to bring you the following important bulletin: YOUR HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP IS RUNNING OUT!!!!!!!

OH, HORRORS!

Attention Potential Members: I break into your summer tranquillity for a moment to invite you to take advantage of the rare opportunity to become a part of an organization with benefits and privileges challenging description and boggling the mind!!!!!!!

OH, JOY!

Benefits of membership include a bi-monthly Newsletter bringing information about programs and field trips (I remind you that your Bird Club planners never sleep in their constant search for special programs and projects to increase the knowledge and delight the soul of even the most jaded birdwatcher); the privilege of getting frostbite by participating in local Christmas counts (not mandatory); access to a lending library; a place on the Rare Bird Alert telephone tree, if desired; access to current birding information available through the VOICE, an up-to-date recorded telephone service; and a soon-to-be-famous membership packet filled with assorted goodies all birders will cherish.

OH, WOW!

There are three categories from which to choose. For the independent-type Individual, \$7.00 will reserve you a spot. For those who wish to be categorized as Family (more than one member in a household) all the rights and privileges of membership are yours for \$12.00. Then there is that special category that is said to entitle the subscriber to one life bird every other month and three rare birds over the course of the year. I speak, of course, of the category entitled Supporter which is yours for \$25.00 or more. On a serious note, you should know that dues are our only source of income. We want to continue to bring you quality programs and as you are all aware, costs are going up. If you could join as a Supporting member this year, it would be greatly appreciated!

Membership information is enclosed. All forms should be returned to me, Sally Venman, 43 Ridgecrest Road, Amherst, MA 01002. Please make checks payable to the Hampshire Bird Club. If you wish to be on the Rare Bird Alert, please return that form no later than Saturday, September 16.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst on the second Monday of each month (except in October when it is the third Monday), September through June, at 7:30 unless otherwise stated.

September 11, 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, and food to share (enough for 8 - 10 people). If your last name begins with the letter -

A - M: Bring a main dish

N - S: Bring a salad

T - Z: Bring a dessert

There will be a hot pot and instant drinks available and the Club will provide plates, cups, napkins, utensils and ice. Friends, family and potential bird people all welcome! Following the meal there will be a short meeting to introduce our plans for the year and to describe some of the trips and projects from past years.

October 16 - Greg Budney, curator of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Library of Natural Sounds will present a program entitled "The History of Bird Sound Recording". LNS houses the largest collection of wildlife sounds in the world numbering over 65,000 recordings. Included in this number are recordings of over half the world's 9,000 species of birds. This grows increasingly useful as a source for researchers and conservationists, especially as bird species and subspecies become rare or extinct. Greg has recorded bird sounds in North America, Peru, Ecuador, Kenya and the Galapagos Islands and several of his recordings appear on the Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Bird Songs which was produced in the LNS studio, as was The National Geographic Guide to Bird Songs.

Save November 13 when Scott Sumner will present a program on Appledore, and December 11 for the annual holiday party when members show their own slides and when plans are made for the local Christmas Counts. But more of those later.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are open to all. We offer both local and long distance trips to birding "hot spots" throughout the year. Cost, if any, is minimal, but participants are asked to share in the cost of carpooling. We also ask that participants sign a Release of All Demands form which is enclosed with this letter.

On Saturday, August 26 Bob Bieda is planning a biking field trip to Graves Landing at Quabbin Reservoir starting at Gate 40 to look for shore birds. Check with Bob at 527-2623 for greater detail and to register.

Also on Saturday, August 26 the Hitchcock Center is sponsoring an all day trip to Plum Island led by Jan Ortiz and Scott Sumner. Call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 to register. There is a fee.

On September 2 Scott Sumner will lead an all day trip to Appledore, one of the small islands in the Isles of Shoals, about forty-five minutes off shore from Portsmouth, NH. Plans are to meet at 7:30 a.m. at Portsmouth for an easy boat trip out to the island where we will have the opportunity to observe bird banding, seeing many different species in hand. Space is limited for this trip, but there are still a few spots left. Call Scott at 253-7486 if you are interested. There will be a fee.

Tom Gagnon is planning a real birding adventure. The Connecticut Warbler is an extremely difficult bird to find in our area but Tom has been successful in past years and would like to share the search with any of us willing and able to do what is necessary to increase our chances of success. This will be a somewhat rugged trip. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes and walking sticks are a must. We will be moving fast through heavy undergrowth on the flood plains somewhere in the Meadows in Northampton. The trip will take place on the afternoon of September 23. Will this be a life bird for you? There is no guarantee, but Tom may well be your best bet for seeing it. Contact him at 584-6353 if you want to join the bush-whackers.

Scott is going to lead a trip over Columbus Day weekend to Monhegan Island to observe the fall migration. We will leave on Friday morning, October 6 from Port Clyde, Maine and return on Monday, October 9. Approximate cost will be \$160.00 per person. This includes the boat trip over, lodging and two meals per day. Not included are transportation costs to Port Clyde, parking and baggage fees, tips, lunches and snacks, and an optional lobster dinner on the Island. The HBC has made this very popular trip many times over Memorial Day weekend for the spring migration. This will be the second time we have visited in the fall. Scott needs to know how many will be going very soon so if you wish to join us, please call him at 253-7486 without delay.

There are some very interesting birding events in the works which members will be informed of as the year progresses. In the interest of saving money, this will be the only letter I will send to the names I have on the general mailing list. From now on it will be to members only. So, folks, don't be left out. Get out the old checkbook, become a member of the HBC and treat yourself to a year with the birds!

Sincerely,

Sally -

Sally Venman, Secretary

Oct 89

Ever wonder how the Chachalaca, Pigeon Guillemot or Yellow-bellied Sapsucker calls its mate? Or how the calls found their way to the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Songs, or who was responsible, or how the average birder can benefit and contribute to this whole thing? This is to remind you that the HBC has a very special program planned for next Monday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. Greg Budney, curator of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Library of Natural Sounds will present a program entitled "The History of Bird Sound Recording". He explains the history with the help of tapes made by Arthur A. Allen and Peter Paul Kellogg, the founders of LNS. The presentation will include recordings of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker made in Louisiana in 1935, a tape which was an invaluable help to those searching for the race of the Ivory-billed rediscovered in Cuba in 1986. Jan Ortiz, Vice-president/Program Chair of the HBC, took a course from Greg this past summer and has had the opportunity to see this program. She speaks highly of him and his accomplishments and teaching ability. It should be a very special evening.

Mass. Audubon is holding a Mass. Birder's meeting on Sat. Nov. 18 at Laughing Brook. Speakers, discussion and comradery promised. \$15.00. Call Jim Marcum at 549-1613 for more information.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

November, 1989

Sunday, Nov. 12, FIELD TRIP - Tom Gagnon will lead an all day trip to the Berkshire Lakes. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Bradlees in Northampton. Call Tom at 584-6353 to register.

Monday, Nov. 13, REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - Scott Sumner, one of the founders and past president of the HBC will present a program on Appledore Island, a small island in the Isles of Shoals off the coast of Maine where the Club has observed bird banding and seen many different species in hand on field trips during the fall migration. Scott's programs are fun as well as informative. Don't miss it!

Saturday, Nov. 18, SPECIAL EVENT - The first annual Massachusetts Birders' Meeting sponsored by Massachusetts Audubon Society will be held at Laughing Brook from 8:30 - 4:00. Presenters will be Wayne Petersen, Seth Kellogg, Bradford Blodget, Kathleen Anderson, David Stemple, Susan Drennan, Richard Forster, Richard Walton, Robert Abrams, and Blair Nikula. Cost is \$15.00 which includes lunch. To register call Mass Audubon at (617) 259-9500, ext. 7401 or 7407.

Dear Friends -

Before getting into the heart and soul of this dispatch, I have **some public service** announcements to make.

Announcement #1: I am sending a MEMBERSHIP PACKET to new members. Included in this exciting package: the by-laws, the field trip policy, cross-country rare bird alert telephone numbers, the famous dead-bird sheet (what to do with a dead bird), and a feeder checklist. Last year's members should have already received this packet. If not, or if you want more just give me a call (549-1098).

Announcement #2: Remember to use the HBC VOICE (updated weekly) to learn what birds have been seen in the area and to hear 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, where, how many.

Announcement #3: Remember to use the LIBRARY. The Club has many books for lending. Some members are happy to lend books but prefer to keep them in their own libraries. Others have donated their books which I am storing for the time being. I have a complete list of who has what. There are many field guides highlighting regions across the U.S. and in foreign countries. There are books with general information and books focusing on specific species. If you have books you are willing to lend please give me a call (549-1098). We lack guides to birds of the Northwest U.S. at this time. It's very helpful having this information when going on a trip to a bird-infested area. Call me at 549-1098 for information.

Announcement #4: 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 Venman at 549-1098 by December 15.

AND NOW BACK TO OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM:

Let me be among the first to offer you holiday greetings and remind you that only fourteen (14) preparation days are left before the gala 1989 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 field at dawn listening for "chips" from birds who know better than to be wasting energy on birdwatchers at dawn in 20° weather; and of course the real intellectual challenge of accurate tabulation of thousands of starlings coming in for evening roost. Actually this can be a very rewarding and enjoyable event. Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Count is a census of birdlife taken each year at the end of December. From a modest beginning in 1899 it has become a major information-gathering event with thousands of birders counting birds across the continent. The sheer scope of the data collected has scientific significance. Fed into the computer, the data give densities of wintering bird populations and points out cyclical movements and evidence of changes in populations. When studied over the years, it is helpful in detecting trends and possible environmental problems. You don't have to be an expert and you don't have to count all day. In fact you can participate by simply counting birds at your feeders. If you are a beginner, you will be put with a more experienced birder. Our local count covers an area on both sides of the river. (Each census is restricted to a circle with a diameter of fifteen miles and must not overlap other count circles.) It will take place on December 17. We'll be organizing the Count following the December 11th meeting. If you are interested in participating but can't attend the meeting, please call Scott Sumner (253-7486) for

information and assignment. If you plan to count west of the river, Chris Hill (259-1318) is the person to call. Following the count there is a potluck supper at Arcadia at 6:00 p.m. when the day's count of the whole area will be compiled. There will be a similar count at Quabbin on December 30. If interested in participating, call Scott.

The meeting on December 11 is the annual holiday party at the Hitchcock Center at 7:30 p.m. Members are asked to bring a snack or dessert to share and favorite slides to show, if desired. Since this is a bird club, pictures of birds would seem logical, but any subject depicting the natural world will be fine. (Last year your secretary slipped in a colorful shot of her beautiful grandchild performing as the third bumblebee on the right in her ballet recital, and was told that this natural event was definitely not acceptable. You can use that pronouncement as a guide.)

On Monday, January 1 be ready for the BIRD BLITZ, our annual search for local birds. It's a great way to start the year and your year list. 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 Saturday, January 6 Bob Bieda 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 527-2623 if you wish to go. As you know, interesting birds can show up any place at that time of the year and Bob may wish to change the destination.

John Green, noted local naturalist-photographer will be presenting a program entitled "The Everglades" at our regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 8 (7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center.) This special program, combining narration, music and slides will highlight wading bird behavior, the role of the alligator in this complex ecosystem and the many habitats of the "Glades". Those of us who have seen this program will attest to John's sensitivity and knowledge of the natural world, photographic skills and his ethical techniques. His work can be seen this month on exhibit at the Hitchcock Center.

On Saturday, February 10 the annual Raptor Count will take place. "A piece of cake," said the cold Christmas Count Birder. This count is made from warm cars, with warm friends and frequent hot chocolate breaks. It runs from 7:00 a.m. until noon. Call Scott at 253-7486 if interested.

Please note the enclosed list of the present membership and Board members. 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.

Information describing the winter BIRDING CLASS offered by the Hitchcock Center and taught by Jan Ortiz is enclosed. 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.

And finally, please note the enclosed announcement of a new service to birders offered by the Hitchcock Center giving special discounts to HBC members. The Hitchcock has been overwhelmingly supportive of the Club since its inception. Please help Hitchcock and treat yourself to some easy holiday shopping.

If you have stayed with me for this long you are to be congratulated! The future promises informative postcards or short letters. Anything longer than one paragraph will be the Board's fault, not mine!

Happy December to all of you -

Sally

Sally, the Secretary