

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

Jan 1990

And now, four HBC reminders to help start a new decade:

1. Bob Bieda is leading an all day field trip to Cape Ann and Plum Island this Saturday, January 6. Call him at 527-2623 to register.
2. Don't miss the regular Club meeting on Monday, January 8 (7:30 at the Hitchcock Center.) John Green, noted local naturalist photographer will present a program entitled "The Everglades". 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".
3. The winter birding class presented through the Hitchcock Center and taught by Jan Ortiz starts Saturday, January 13. Call the Center at 256-6006 to register. There is a fee.
4. Only three hundred forty-eight (348) preparation days are left before the gala 1990 Christmas Count! Start training your body and mind now!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sally Venman, Secretary

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB - February, 1990

On Mon., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center, Dave Ziomek and Chris Davis will present a program entitled "The Barn Owl in Western Massachusetts". Chris, a Master Falconer, is a Leverett resident and is working on a Master's Degree in Resource Management and Administration at Antioch College in New Hampshire. Dave, an Amherst native and well known local birder, is an administrator at UMass. They will talk about the Barn Owl project they began in August 1988, the object of which is to analyze the history of the Barn Owl in Massachusetts, gather data on sightings, nestings, habitat and land use practices with the goal of setting up a nesting box program. Through careful monitoring of the boxes they hope to gather information that will help to educate land owners about owls and owl management and to establish safe nesting areas for the bird. A live Barn Owl will be part of the demonstration.

Sat., Feb. 10 - Local Raptor Count. Call Scott at 253-7486 to participate.

Sat., Feb. 24 - all day trip to the South Shore co-led by Bob Bieda and Jim Marcum. Plan to leave at 5:00 a.m., bring lunch, snacks and warm clothing. Call Jim at 549-1613 if you are going.

Save Mon., March 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center when Tom Arny will present a program on Australia.

Birdos and Bilabongs, Cockatoos and Kangaroos, Aussies and Arny!

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB - March, 1990

For those of us who are definitely unpleasant and ugly during prolonged periods of short days and long nights, there is a program on Monday, March 12, 7:30 at the Hitchcock Center that will fill the need, if not the potholes, for brightening the dirty slush of late winter. HBC member Tom Arny will take us across the many miles to Australia to share his sabbatical experiences with slides and narrative. Tom, an astronomer at UMass has a long standing interest in birds and natural history and will introduce us to the many wonders of the Australian birds, beasts and flowers he so enjoyed.

March 17 - All day trip to the South Shore co-led by Bob Bieda and Jim Marcum. (Rescheduling of the Feb. trip which was snowed out). Leave at 5:00 a.m., bring lunch, snacks and warm clothing. Call Jim at 549-1613 if you wish to go.

March 31 - Local Waterfowl Search, led by Allan Richards. 1/2 day trip leaving 7:00 a.m. Call Allan at 665-2761 if interested.

April 7 - Hawk Watch Conference sponsored by the North East Hawk Watchers Association to be held in Holyoke at the Holiday Inn. Pete Dunn is the banquet speaker. All day. Registration required. Call Seth Kellogg at 569-6029 for more information.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
April 3, 1990

Dear Friends -

Whether "green" brings visions of a spring of tender blades of grass, or of salamander crossings or of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the truth remains that spring does bring a very full schedule for us all. Instead of concentrating on term papers or final exams or (heaven help us) spring housecleaning this year, how about the following alternatives brought to you by your Bird Board:

PROGRAMS

BIRDING ETHICS ??? !!!

At the risk of getting you all "RAIL"ed up - Imagine seventy birdwatchers, tramping through a marsh at night during breeding season, slipping, falling, moving into a circle, and surrounding and closing in on a Yellow Rail. The bird flushes and is caught by hand by one of the birders. Flashlights are aimed on the bird and everyone gets a close look before the bird is released. Couldn't happen? Think again! This event took place a year ago during the annual American Birding Association (ABA) National Convention held in Duluth. As you may well imagine, the reporting of this incident elicited a response from many ABA members and it certainly got our Bird Board's attention. In order to facilitate greater understanding of what birding ethics involves the Board has arranged for a panel to discuss the subject at the April meeting. The panel (John Green, Mark Lynch, Jim Marcum and Susan Smith) and moderator (David Spector) are active bird watchers who have also lead birding and natural history trips. Susan and David are also academic ornithologists. A variety of approaches to bird watching will be represented and you will have your chance to express your own opinions. David asks that you consider the following:

"I walk across a field once. - I walk across that field dally. - I lead 20 people across a field once. - I lead 20 people across that field weekly. - I wonder why there seem to be fewer sparrows and Bobolinks nesting there this year?"

In January of this year the Board voted to adopt The ABA Code of Ethics. (There is a copy of this for your records on the back of the "new members" list included in this mailing.) As we move into the woods and fields this spring, what should we be aware of? What are our responsibilities to the welfare of the environment and of the birds that have become so important to us? Come cheer for your favorite advocate or be your own advocate or be the devil's advocate at what promises to be a very lively evening! The meeting is on Monday, April 9, 7:30, at the Hitchcock Center. Our apologies to our Jewish friends for scheduling this meeting on Passover. By the time we were aware of our oversight, it was too late to make program changes.

On Monday, May 14, Brian Cassle, birding tour leader and coordinator of the Butterfly Atlas project with Mass Audubon will present a slide show entitled "Birding Argentina."

We have changed the date for our June meeting to take advantage of a visit with John and Rita Squire, a couple from Australia who operate a Birding Bed and Breakfast. They have offered to present a slide show on the uniqueness of Australian Birds. The program will be on Monday, June 18.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips planned for May include the annual Warbler Walks in Wildwood Cemetery Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Meet at the gate. No registration required. A trip to Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge is planned for May 20. The annual Monhegan trip over Memorial Day weekend led by Scott Sumner is filled. However - there is a waiting list. If you want to be on it, call Scott at 253-7486. Bob Bieda will lead a trip to Plum Island on May 26. Call him at 527-2623 for more information and to register. Looking ahead, Jim Marcum will be leading a warbler search to Connecticut on June 2. There will be more complete field trip information in the next mailing. Remember to check the VOICE at 253-2218 for possible trips that are unscheduled at this point.

BIRDING AT the HITCHCOCK CENTER

(For registration and fee information call the Center at 256-6006)

Birding class with Jan Ortiz: There is still some room in Jan's spring birding class. This course has a track record for being very popular with beginners and advanced birders alike. If you've promised yourself all winter that you would really treat yourself to more time with the birds this spring, this would be a very special way of doing it. Jan's knowledge is extensive, her pace is leisurely, and her style is just plain fun. The class runs for eight weeks. There will be a Wednesday night (7:00 - 9:00) classroom session and a Saturday morning (7:00 - 12:00) field trip. There will be an all-day trip to Plum Island, a day in Quabbin and an early morning owl prowl. Very few can make all the meeting times, so don't let missing some classes deter you. In fact, you will have already missed one by the time this reaches you. The first Wednesday class is (was) April 4 and the first Saturday class is April 7. Registration required. There is a fee.

Tuesday evening, April 17 (6:30 - 8:30): a program on the Woodcock given by David Spector, Ph.D. in ornithology from UMass and active HBC member. Pre-registration required. There is a fee.

Sunday afternoon, May 6 (1:00 - 3:00): a program for the whole family with falconer Chris Davis. You will remember Chris as David Ziomek's partner in the Barn Owl project, presented at our February meeting. Chris will be showing a live hawk, falcon and owl. Children are welcome! No pre-registration. There is a fee.

Tuesday evening, May 8 (7:30 - 9:30): David Spector returns to give a program on bird song. Pre-registration required. There is a fee.

Saturday morning, May 12 (8:00 - 10:00): a bird banding demonstration by HBC member Alison Whitlock. No pre-registration. Free!

Saturday morning, June 9 (8:00 - 12:00): David Spector (once again) with a slide show followed by a field trip to the nesting site of a Bald Eagle. Pre-registration required. There is a fee.

AND NOW SOME MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

Finding a parking space for recent Club meetings has become a problem. The Center suggests using the lot at the Common School, just in back of the Hitchcock lot, for the overflow.

Bluebird houses built by Scott Sumner are on sale at the Hitchcock gift shop for \$10.00. I remind you that the gift shop has many books and bird related items for sale and can order what they don't have in stock. I also remind you that members of the HBC get a discount! Happy Mothers/Fathers Day presents, anyone?

Late last month you received a postcard from Mass Audubon's Laughing Brook Education Center describing a program on "Threatened Species: Global Implication and Protection Projects" presented by Christoph Imboden of ICBP. The Board felt that this program would interest our members. Continuing our intention of keeping you informed, we agreed that if Mass Audubon agreed to provide the postcard and the postage, we would do the mailing.

The 1990 Arcadia Bird-a-thon is being planned (6:00 p.m. Friday, May 18 - 6:00 p.m. Saturday, May 19). Teams of birders and individuals representing Arcadia will search the state for as many species of birds as they can find. You can participate in this fundraiser by being part of an Arcadia team, going out on your own, or by sponsoring a team or an individual. The coveted Brewster Cup for most species seen is at stake. (Last year it was captured by the Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary with 192 species). I suspect that a number of HBC members will be involved. Call Arcadia at 584-3009 for more information.

And that, believe it or not my friends, should do it for this Word-a-thon bird communication from the word processor of your now wordless, but

Sincere secretary,

Sally

Sally Venman

HBC News for May, 1990

Monday, May 14: Brian Cassie, birding tour leader and coordinator of the Butterfly Atlas project with Mass Audubon will present a slide show entitled "Birding Argentina." We will start with a brief business meeting to elect Board members and officers for 1990-1991. The slate proposed by the nominating committee (David Spector, Tom Arny and Ged Dorman) consists of officers Jim Marcum (Pres.), Jan Ortiz (V.P./Program Chair), Al Richards (Treas.), Sally Venman (Sec'y); members-at-large Bob Bieda, Ged Dorman Pat Lynch, Chris Page; and immediate past president Scott Turner.

Monday, June 18 (note change of date from regular 2nd Monday): John and Rita Squire who operate a Birding Bed and Breakfast in Australia will present a slide show on unique Australian Birds.

May Warbler Walks: every Tues. and Thurs. morning (starting May 1). 6:30 - 8:00. Meet at the gate at Wildwood Cemetery. Registration not necessary.

May 20: Mount Auburn Cemetery trip CANCELLED.

May 26: Plum Island. Led by Bob Bieda. Call him at 527-2623 for information and to register.

June 2: Warbler search to Connecticut. Led by Jim Marcum. Call him at 549-1613 for information and to register.

HBC News for June, 1990

Dear Friends,

I have just finished reading materials on Australian birding sent from Cassowary House in Kuranda, Australia by John and Rita Squires, and I'm ready to sell my soul (well, almost) for air fare and another bird guide. The Squires operate this birdwatching holiday spot near Cairns, the tourist center of tropical north Queensland. John is an experienced ornithologist. They came from England originally, have travelled extensively in Europe and have lived in Turkey, Kenya and New Zealand. Come meet these interesting people on Monday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center when they will present a slide show on the birds of Australia, many of which are endemic to the continent.

This will be the final HBC meeting of the 1989-1990 year. Keep using the VOICE (253-2218) over the summer to keep in touch with what is being seen and what is happening. You'll be hearing from me again in August with the annual "get out the checkbook" routine.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sally Verman, Sec'y

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
NEWSLETTER
August, 1990

Greetings from your Bird Board!

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since the last "take out the old checkbook" letter was sent. For those of you who have known the joys and privileges of membership, I remind you that now is the time to make sure that the joys and privileges continue. For those of you who do not know us, the Hampshire Bird Club brings together people who enjoy watching birds, either as a casual hobby or to the point of 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. We welcome anyone interested in birding regardless of experience or level of expertise.

As a member you will receive monthly newsletters or reminders (some more wordy than others) describing regular programs, field trips, news of happenings of interest to birders, and whatever else your inventive Bird Board can come up with. You will also earn the privilege of getting frostbite by participating in local Christmas Bird Counts (not mandatory); a place on the Rare Bird Alert telephone tree (if desired); and access to a lending library and to current birding information available through the VOICE, an up-to-date recorded telephone service. All this, and by acting immediately, you will receive the treasured and truly amazing MEMBERSHIP PACKET filled with secret membership-only information!!!!

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, note that I need to receive that form by September 15.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst on the second Monday of each month (exception - October 15), September through June, at 7:30 p.m. All programs are free and open to the public.

On Monday, September 10 Chris Page, HBC Board Member and enthusiastic local birder will present a slide program on "Birding Grand Manan Island: Blue Grosbeaks to Harlequin Ducks". Situated on a major Eastern flyway in the Bay of Fundy, the Grand Manan Archipelago has long been renowned as a bird watcher's paradise with over 240 species of birds making the island their home. This active fishing community also boasts of fresh water lakes, meadows of wild flowers,

sand beaches, craggy cliffs, and hiking trails. It is no wonder that Chris returns to this sanctuary as often as possible. Come join us on the 10th. Share your Big Bird stories, greet old friends or meet us for the first time. It's a nice way to start the fall routine!

On October 15 Thomas Martin, naturalist-photographer from New York City, will present a program entitled "Tweet, Tweet." Tom is well known to many Club members who have met him on Monhegan Island trips. Many of his photographs have appeared in major field guides and natural history publications. His wit and wisdom assure a special and fun evening!

Looking further down on the calendar be sure to save November 19 when David Klingener, Professor of Zoology at the University, will present a program entitled "Mechanics of Flight: Birds, Bats, Pterosaurs," and December 10 for the holiday party and members' slide show which always has a few surprises. Programs scheduled for winter and spring include the return of Don Kroodsma with his latest research and Chris Davis, falconer, with live birds.

FIELD TRIPS

Enclosed with this letter is a list of this year's Field Trips as planned by the Field Trip Committee. Future Membership mailings will include reminders and additions as they occur. Trips are open to any interested person, but it is Club policy that you need to be a member to go on weekend trips.

A note on the Monhegan Island trip over Columbus Day Weekend (October 5 - 8). Scott Sumner has been announcing this trip on the VOICE and it is filling rapidly. If you think you might be interested in joining the group, it would be wise to call him immediately (253-7486) for complete information and cost and to get on the list. Remember that membership is necessary for this trip.

The Hitchcock Center is offering several public programs and classes that will be of interest to birders. A five session workshop on "Bird Banding" with David Spector as instructor will begin on Saturday, September 15. Enrollment is limited to a maximum of six participants. David will also be teaching an eight week course on "Ornithology for Birdwatchers" which will meet Wednesday evenings beginning September 19. On Friday, October 26, John Green will be giving a slide-lecture on "The Gannets of Bonaventure." Jan Ortiz and Scott Sumner will be leading a "Plum Island and Cape Ann Birdwatching Trip" on Saturday, December 1. Fees are charged and pre-registration is required for all except for John's slide lecture. Call the Hitchcock at 256-6006 for more information.

Hitchcock is now taking orders for its fall bird seed sale. A wide variety of seed is available and your purchase helps support the programs and services of this worthwhile organization. The Bird Club has offered its support by agreeing to be at the Center on seed pick-up day (Saturday, September 15) to answer questions about birds and bird feeding, either in person or by phone. We will also help by making deliveries if needed. We could use your help in this project. Please call Jan Ortiz at 549-1768 if you can volunteer a few hours. To order your bird seed call the Center at 256-6006 no later than Friday, September 7. A reminder that HBC Members receive a 10% discount at the Hitchcock Gift Shop (20% on items over \$25.00). There are books, binoculars, and feeders, to mention only a few bird-related items and they will special order for you.

Please take the time to read the latest information on the Manomet Bird Observatory (MBO) Birders' Forum project from Jan Ortiz. It suggests something concrete that we as individuals can do to help alleviate a very real and serious problem.

Congratulations! You have arrived at the end of this letter! Now is the time to take pen in hand and fill in the blank spaces on the Membership Form. Simply place it (if you want to be a member), the signed release form (if you want to go on trips), the signed Rare Bird Alert Form (if you want to alert rare birds) and a signed personal check, or equivalent (if you want us to take you seriously) in a stamped envelope addressed to Sally, the fingers behind the word processor. And PRESTO your YEAR OF THE BIRD will become a reality.

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Venman, Secretary

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

I'll bet you didn't realize that there are ONLY one hundred and five (105) days left before the local 1990 Christmas Bird Count!!!!!! Be Prepared: Don't be left out in the cold without HBC protection:

JOIN NOW!!!!!!!

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

1990-1991 MEMBERSHIP FORM

The membership form for this year has several new features. The first dues increase since the HBC was founded in 1984 has occurred. The Board wishes to continue to offer first class programs, and fees and transportation costs for speakers can be expensive. Outstanding programming has been one of the hallmarks of our club and we are sure that you want to see this continued. This necessitates the increase in dues. Also the supporting membership category has been expanded into three levels and the list of participant opportunities which you may check off at the bottom of the form has been expanded.

MEMBERSHIP - REGULAR

Individual @ \$9.00

Family @ \$15.00

MEMBERSHIP - SUPPORTING

Birder (includes HBC decal and *Bird News*) @ \$25.00

Big Birder (includes decal and *Bird News*) @ \$50.00

Rare Birder (includes decal and *Bird News*) @ 100.00

SUBSCRIPTION

Bird News of Western Massachusetts @ \$4.00

Four issues per year with the first likely to arrive in the spring. Full year subscriptions are not available after April 1. Subscriptions \$6 for non bird club members.

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HBC DECALS

\$1.25 each or five for \$5.00

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GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

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Please make checks payable to the **Hampshire Bird Club** and send to Sally Venman, 43 Ridgecrest Road, Amherst, MA 01002 along with this form.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ZIP_____

Home Phone_____

Work Phone_____

Please check the activities listed below in which you are interested:

- ___Attending Board meetings
- ___Occasionally providing refreshments
- ___Leading fieldtrips
- ___Presenting program
- ___Committee service
- ___Conservation Projects Comm.
- ___Fieldtrips Committee
- ___Refreshments Committee
- ___Other (Please explain)

H.B.C. RARE BIRD ALERT

A telephone tree is used to alert interested members to rare birds in the area. Fifteen sightings were successfully reported last year. Birders saw, or attempted to see, Common Black-headed Gull (Hadley, 10/3), Hudsonian Godwit (Hadley, 10/19), Green-tailed Towhee (Brattleboro, VT 12/22), Short-eared Owl (Sunderland, 1/18), Ross' Gull (Gloucester, 2/1), Short-eared Owl (Hadley, 2/1), Cassin's Finch - ? (Athol, 2/3), Yellow-headed Blackbird (Northampton, 3/24), Loggerhead Shrike (Athol, 3/26), Fork-tailed Flycatcher (Concord, 5/2), Cattle Egret (Gill 5/17), Golden-winged Warbler (Gill, 5/17), Red-headed Woodpecker (Deerfield, 5/17), Curlew Sandpiper (Plum Island, 7/7), and Eared Grebe (Gloucester, 7/7).

As was true last year, the VOICE will be used to report local sightings of interesting birds. This should meet the needs of many of us. For those of us who are more interested in going after rare or unusual birds the Rare Bird Alert telephone tree will be activated. There will be two categories:

- A. For rare birds in the Pioneer Valley only.
- B. For rare birds in the Pioneer Valley and beyond.

Signing up for either category implies that you want to be called and are willing to call at any time. The secret to making the telephone tree work is individual commitment to passing along the word.

It is absolutely essential that you call the next person on the list immediately. If unable to reach that individual personally, you keep going down the list until you do reach someone. It is still your responsibility to see that those not contacted are reached later on. Please do not sign up if you are only casually interested.

People responding no later than September 15 will be included on the first tree. An additional tree will be formed in December if enough people are interested.

BIRD CLUBS ORGANIZE TO AID RESEARCH ON MIGRANT BIRDS

First Project: A Used Binocular Drive.

Hampshire Bird Club has joined with Manomet Bird Observatory and 17 other state bird clubs to form MBO/Mass. Birders' Forum a network of bird clubs working to establish ties with research, conservation, and education groups in Latin America.

Birders are mobilizing in a promising new effort to help protect threatened birds and their habitats throughout the Western Hemisphere. The idea for a network focusing around bird conservation strategies grew out of the sense of emergency that pervaded a symposium on the ecology and conservation of migrant birds sponsored by MBO last December. The overriding message from the conference was that certain populations of birds are declining and that deforestation in the tropics and habitat fragmentation in North America may be accelerating this ominous trend.

On the final day of the symposium a delegation of Latin American scientists delivered an eloquent plea for help: "Migrant birds do not recognize political borders. To save these species we must begin to have a similar perspective of the hemisphere," said Luis Naranjo of Columbia. Among the problems facing researchers, Dr. Naranjo noted, is the fact that binoculars, scopes, and banding supplies are often prohibitively expensive or simply unavailable in Latin America. There are many trained field biologists, eager to understand what is happening to birds and habitats in their countries, who must struggle along ill-equipped for the task.

Responding to this need, the Forum's initial project is a used binocular drive (used spotting scopes and tripods would be welcomed also). No matter how "unworthy" you feel that old pair of binoculars up in the attic might be, it is still better than nothing and may be much better than what someone is currently using.

Anyone who would like to donate used equipment may bring it to the Hitchcock Center during regular Center hours or to the Hampshire Bird Club meetings on September 10, October 15 or November 19.

In September, all HBC members will be receiving from Manomet the Forum's first newsletter which will include more detailed information about this exciting new project. If you have any questions about the Forum or how to donate call Jan Ortiz 549 - 1768.

Hampshire Bird Club

Oct 1990

Before retirement, Thomas W. Martin was a master diemaker who worked and lived amid the skyscrapers of Manhattan. Weekends and holidays were spent photographing nature. Now retired, still living in New York, he enjoys being a naturalist-photographer, and we will enjoy experiencing his work, his wit and his wisdom in a program entitled "Tweet, Tweet" on Monday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. His work is praised by wildlife and photographic experts alike. His photos have been in The National Geographic, Audubon and on television. 175 of them were used in the Audubon Field Guides. Many HBC members have met Tom on Monhegan Island and have seen his slides and been entertained by his many stories. He has shared his knowledge of the birds on the Island and has taken us on wildflower walks when the birding was slow. Come enjoy his beautiful slides and laugh with this informal and imaginative naturalist as he shares his experiences with us. An unpredictable and entertaining evening is in store for us all! Extra parking is available in the Common School lot just beyond Hitchcock.

FIELD TRIPS

- 10/13: Great Meadows: leader - Jan Ortiz; through Hitchcock (call 256-6006)
- 10/17: Midweek Sparrow Search: Cancelled
- 10/27: Walk Around Ludlow Reservoir: leader - Harvey Allen (253-7963)

Keep in touch by calling the VOICE at 253-2218

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB - November, 1990

Turkey wings, flying machines, bats, bones & birds!!!
Just a few of the topics to be dealt with on Mon.,
Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center when
popular lecturer David Klingener, Professor of
Zoology at UMASS, will present a program entitled
"Mechanics of Flight: Birds, Bats, Pterosaurs".

The annual Mass. Birders' meeting sponsored by Mass.
Audubon will be held on Cape Cod on Nov 17. Call the
headquarters at 617-259-9500 for information.

Our Cape Cod weekend field trip has become a one day
extravaganza which will take place on Sat., Nov. 24.
Call leader Scott Sumner at 253-7486 for more
information and to register.

Did you see the Sandhill Crane in Belchertown? What
a bird! All the information needed to find it was on
the VOICE at 253-2218. Want to report a bird? Call
the VOICE at 256-1836.

UPDATE: 38 conditioning days left before the annual
Christmas Bird Count. I sincerely hope you took my
early warning seriously and have been preparing
yourselves daily for this high point in the year of a
birder. More about the event in the next mailing.

INTERESTED IN TRYING SOMETHING NEW? HOW ABOUT BIRDING
SOUTHWEST ARIZONA -- ONE OF THE "HOT SPOTS" IN NORTH AMERICA! 11/90

Hampshire Bird Club would like to offer a new and exciting trip to its members -- a little farther afield than in the past -- Southeast Arizona. This beautiful area bordering Mexico rises from desert to forested mountains. It is truly spectacular in both its scenery and its diversity of breeding birds. Ten species of hummingbirds, three species of orioles and tanagers are just a few of the probably 150+ species that can be seen.

LEADERS: Jan Ortiz and Scott Sumner (both have experience birding this area)

WHEN: For 10 days during the last 2 weeks of July

APPROXIMATE COST: \$1200, which includes all transportation, accommodations (comfortable, moderately priced) and some meals.

If enough interest is shown at this stage of planning, we will put together a more detailed itinerary next month. If you think you might be interested, please contact Jan (549-1768) or Scott (253-7486) by November 30.

HBC NEWSLETTER
December, 1990

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 all new members that will include the Club's By-laws, the field trip policy statement, the paper on birding ethics, updated Rare Bird Alerts from across the country, the feeder checklist and the "Dead Bird" sheet (what to do with a dead bird). Members from the last two years should have received this packet upon joining. If you did not, or want more, I will have extra copies at the meetings, or give me a call (549-1098).

Announcement #2: As you will note when you call, the HBC VOICE has become the WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS VOICE OF AUDUBON. It is still the place to learn what birds have been seen in the area, to hear about events of interest to birders, and to report your sightings. To receive information call 253-2218. To report sightings call 256-1836.

Announcement #3: 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 Marcum (549-1613) by December 15.

May I be among the first to wish you a happy December - the month that brings us Hanukkah, Christmas, Boxing Day, two full moons and --- yes, it's finally here --- the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. I truly hope you have taken my early warnings seriously and will be fully prepared when the count down reaches the GREAT DAY! Ah - standing motionless for twenty minutes at 3:00 a.m. by a railroad crossing attempting to hear an owl responding to a tape with wind gusting to 50 mph; the numbness of the trudge through open fields at dawn listening for "chips" of birds who wouldn't be caught awake at that ridiculous hour; the intellectual challenge of accurate tabulation of thousands of starlings coming in for evening roost - how we love it!

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 participating across the continent. 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 in the warmth of your home. (That thought kept returning to me last year by that railroad crossing!) 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. It will take place on Sunday, December 16 and we'll be organizing it following the December meeting. If you are interested in participating but can't attend the meeting, please call Scott Sumner (253-7486) for information and assignment east of the Connecticut. If you plan to count west of the river, Chris Hill (585-5138) 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 similar counts at Springfield on December 15 (call Mort Bates at 783-6411), at Quabbin on December 29 (call Scott at 253-7486) and at Greenfield on December 30 (call Mark Fairbrother at 367-2695). There is a fee of \$5.00 per person which goes to American Birds to help defray the costs of compiling and publishing the count results.

The meeting on Monday, December 10, at the Hitchcock Center at 7:30 p.m. is the annual holiday party. Members are asked to bring a snack or dessert to share and up to 10 natural history slides to show. Remember that we shall be organizing the local Christmas Bird Count following the meeting.

January Events

On Tuesday, 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 (253-7486) if you want to join the group.

On Saturday, January 5 Bob Bieda will take us on an all day trip to Cape Ann and Plum Island. Be sure to 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.

Chris Davis returns with live birds for our first meeting of 1991, Monday, January 14, 7:30 at the Hitchcock Center. His topic is "Falconry".

Saturday, January 19 will be a walk into East Quabbin by way of Gate 40 with Morris Lainer. Please call him at 527-9912 if you are interested.

David Spector will be giving a lecture entitled "Introduction to Birdwatching" on January 24 though the Hitchcock Center. He will also be teaching a class on Winter Bird Watching, beginning on February 3. Please call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 for more information and to register. There is a fee.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the notice of a truly exciting exhibit entitled Pioneers of Bird Illustration that is being presented by the Worcester Art Museum December 4 - January 27. Think of seeing the works of Mark Catesby, Thomas Bewick, Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon all in one place at one time - what an opportunity!

Future Events

Looking forward to future meetings: on February 11 Don Kroodsma will present a program giving an update on his latest research; and on April 8 Wayne Petersen is scheduled to give a program on shorebirds. More details later.

It seems a long way in advance, but if you want to go to Monhegan Island over Memorial Day this spring, call Scott NOW at 253-7486 and get your name on the list!

Miscellaneous

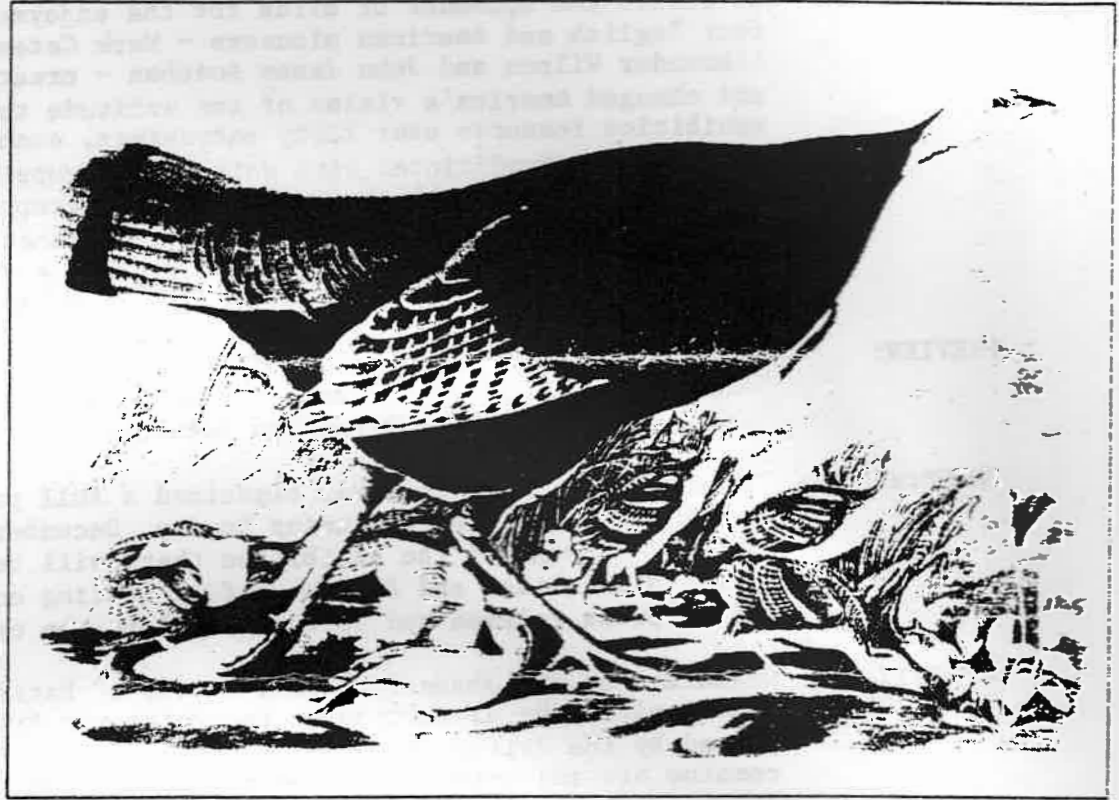
I have information to pass on to those who know Kenneth Young, a former member and birder from Newburyport. I recently received a letter from his wife informing me of an injury he sustained last winter that has left him a quadriplegic. If you want more information give me a call.

And as a rather important and timely extra - if you haven't visited the gift shop at the Hitchcock Center lately, you really should do so. It is full of wonderful gift items and there are many things of interest to bird watchers. What they don't have on hand they can order for you. And remember that HBC members receive a 10% discount on all purchases..

And that should do it for this month!
HAPPY DECEMBER!

Sally
Sally Venman
Secretary

PIONEERS IN BIRD ILLUSTRATION
December 4, 1990 - January 27, 1991
at the
Worcester Art Museum
55 Salisbury Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609
508.799.4406



John James Audubon

Pioneers in Bird Illustration

Catesby, Bewick, Wilson and Audubon

Number of pieces:
50-60 framed prints
12-15 engraved
wood blocks
interpretive panels
photos
maps

The 1700s and 1800s were marked by a great surge of interest in natural history. This trend is beautifully exemplified by the development of illustrated books on birds. The best of these books was produced by a small group of artist-naturalists who combined skills in ornithology and art to record the splendor of birds for others to enjoy. In the process, these pioneers — Mark Catesby, Thomas Bewick, Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon — created a new art form and changed our attitudes toward nature.

Pioneers in Bird Illustration features original prints from Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahamas* 1731-1743, Bewick's *History of British Birds* 1797-1804, Wilson's *American Ornithology* 1808-1814, and Audubon's *The Birds of America* 1827-1838. Through these images, the exhibit frames a window on how America's wild heritage was first seen by these early explorers. Mark Catesby's 11 years of

tramping through the southern colonies culminated in the first illustrated natural history of North America. Alexander Wilson's definitive work on American birds helped tie our national identity with wilderness and wildlife. The centerpiece of the exhibit will be prints from the Bell Museum's double-elephant folio of Audubon's *Birds of America*, the most dramatic of the books. The exhibit also includes a set of prints and original engraved wood blocks by Thomas Bewick, whose work stimulated Britain's fascination with natural history.

This exhibition celebrates the rich resources in ornithological art that have not been previously recognized. While providing an eyewitness account of the discovery of America's wildlife and documenting the evolution of an art form, **Pioneers in Bird Illustration** demonstrates the links between scientific advancement and artistic creativity.

FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: PIONEERS OF BIRD ILLUSTRATION

DATES: December 4, 1990 through January 27, 1991

CONTENT: The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were marked by a great surge of interest in natural history. Beautifully illustrated books on birds were produced at the time by a small group of artist-naturalists who combined their skills in ornithology and art to record the splendor of birds for the enjoyment of all. These four English and American pioneers - Mark Catesby, Thomas Bewick, Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon - created a new art form and changed America's vision of and attitude toward nature. The exhibition features over fifty engravings, etchings and relief prints, many hand-tinted with watercolor, supplemented by a selection of printing blocks, maps and photographs. The prints on view document the evolution of an art form that joined scientific inquiry with artistic creativity to express a vivid appreciation of the inherent value of wildlife and the wilderness.

PREVIEW: The preview party for the exhibition will be held on Saturday, December 8, from 6 pm - 8 pm. For members of the Worcester Art Museum and Massachusetts Audubon Society.

PROGRAMS: The Worcester Art Museum has organized a full program of related events and activities beginning Sunday, December 9 with OUTSIDE-IN DAY. Throughout the exhibition there will be lectures, tours, slide talks, hikes and films. A full listing concludes the exhibition press release and is summarized in the calendar of events.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION & SUPPORT Organized by the James Ford Bell Museum of National History in Minneapolis, the exhibition at the Worcester Art Museum is supported by the Britta Jeppson Curatorial Fund. In an effort to combine art and science, the Worcester Art Museum and the Massachusetts Audubon Society have joined together for this exhibition and related events.

HOURS & ADMISSION The Worcester Art Museum is open from 11 am - 4 pm on Tues, Wed, and Fri; 11 am - 8 pm Thurs; 10 am - 5 pm Sat; and 1 - 5 pm Sun. Admission: \$3.50 adults; \$2 senior citizens and college students with a current I.D. Visitors 18 and under are free. Free admission to all on Saturdays with entrance from 10 am - noon, courtesy of Shaw's Supermarkets. For information on exhibitions and events call 508.799.4406 or visit the Worcester Art Museum at 55 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

Photographs and slides of works in the exhibition are available through the Public Information office: Gretchen Harris 508.799.4406 extension 256.

Of special interest
to HBC Members:

Tuesday, December 11, 2 pm
Thursday, December 13, 7 pm
Thursday, January 24, 7 pm

Christmas Bird Count/Tour of the
Exhibition Join in the spirit of
this nation-wide event by identifying
the species in the exhibition and
the permanent collection with Museum
docent and birder Mark Lynch as your
guide.

Rare Bird Alerts

United States

Alabama

Statewide (205) 987-2730

Alaska

Statewide (907) 248-2473

Arizona

Phoenix (602) 832-8745

Tucson (602) 798-1005

Arkansas

Statewide (501) 753-5853

California

Arcata (707) 826-7031

Los Angeles (213) 874-1318

Monterey (408) 375-9122

Updates (408) 375-2577

Morro Bay (805) 528-7182

Northern California

(415) 528-0288 or 524-5592

Sacramento (916) 481-0118

San Bernardino (714) 793-5599

San Diego (619) 435-6761 and

(619) 479-3400 (daily updates)

Santa Barbara (805) 964-8240

San Francisco (415) 528-0288

SW Sierra/San Joaquin (209) 782-1237

Colorado

Statewide (303) 423-5582

Connecticut

Statewide (203) 254-3665

Delaware

Statewide (215) 567-2473

District of Columbia

Districtwide (301) 652-1088

Florida Statewide (813) 984-4444

Lower Keys (305) 294-3438

Tallahassee (904) 222-2084

(6pm-6am on weekdays,24 hrs on weekends)

Idaho

Southeast (208) 236-3337

Illinois

Central Illinois (217) 785-1083

Chicago (708) 671-1522

Indiana

Statewide (317) 259-0911

Iowa

Sioux City (712) 262-5958

Statewide (319) 338-9881

Kansas

Statewide (913) 329-4499

Louisiana

Baton Rouge (504) 293-2576

New Orleans (504) 246-2473

Maine

Statewide (207) 781-2332

GEORGIA

Statewide (404) 509-0204

Maryland

Statewide (301) 652-1088

Harford County (301) 638-0290

Massachusetts

Boston (617) 259-8805

Western Mass. (413) ~~549-5922~~ 253-2218To report - (413) 256-1836

Michigan

SE Michigan (313) 278-4288

Statewide (616) 471-4919

Minnesota

Duluth (218) 525-5952

Statewide (612) 544-5016

Mississippi

Coast (601) 467-9500

Missouri

Kansas City (816) 795-8177

Statewide (314) 445-9115

St. Louis (314) 938-5349

Montana

Statewide (406) 721-2935

To report (406) 728-1296

Nebraska

(5pm-8am) (402) 453-0724

New Hampshire

Statewide (603) 224-9900

(M-F: 5pm-9am,

weekends: 24 hrs)

New Jersey

Cape May (609) 884-2626

Statewide (201) 766-2661

New Mexico

Statewide (505) 662-2101

New York

Albany (518) 439-8080

Buffalo (716) 896-1271

New York (212) 832-6523

Rochester (716) 461-9593

Syracuse (315) 682-7039

North Carolina

Statewide (704) 332-2473

Ohio

Cincinnati (513) 521-2847

Cleveland (216) 289-2473

Columbus (614) 221-9736

Blendon Woods Metro Park

(614) 895-6222

SW Ohio (513) 277-6446

Toledo (419) 877-5003

Youngstown (216) 742-6661

Oregon

Statewide (503) 292-0661

Southern Oregon (503) 826-7011

(10pm-6am weekdays only)

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia (215) 567-2473

and (301) 652-1088

Western Penna. (412) 963-0560

Wilkes-Barre (717) 825-2473

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City (405) 373-4531

Rhode Island

Statewide (401) 231-5728

To Report (401) 231-6444

South Carolina

Statewide (704) 332-2473

Tennessee

Statewide (615) 356-7636

Texas

Statewide (713) 821-2846

Austin (512) 451-3308

Northcentral (817) ~~287-3209~~ 261-6792

Lower Rio Grande Valley (512) 565-6773

San Antonio (512) 733-8306

Sinton (512) 364-3634

Utah

Statewide (801) ~~538-4730~~

Vermont

Statewide (802) 457-2779

(M-Sat: 5pm-8am, Sun: 24 hrs)

Virginia

Statewide (804) 929-1736

and (301) 652-1088

Washington

Statewide (206) 526-8266

Wisconsin

Statewide (414) 352-3857

Madison (608) 255-2476

(except 9-3 weekdays)

Wyoming

Statewide (307) 265-2473

Canada

Alberta

Calgary (403) 237-8821

British Columbia

Vancouver (604) 876-9690

Victoria (604) 592-3381

Nova Scotia

Provincewide (902) 852-2428

Ontario

Provincewide (519) 586-3959

Ottawa (613) 596-4888

Windsor/Detroit (313) 278-4288

Windsor/Pt. Pelee (519) 252-2473

Hamilton (416) 648-9537Long Point Bird Obs. (519) 586-3959

Quebec

Eastern Quebec (in French)

(819) 778-0737

Saskatchewan

Regina (306) 545-2825

NOTE - Underlined phone numbers have been updated since the last listing.

Please make it your responsibility to notify us of changes. Write ABA's Colorado Springs office, or call us on the toll-free line: (800) 634-7736.