

HBC - January, 1991

Saturday, Jan. 5: Field Trip to Plum Island and Cape Ann led by Bob Bieda. Call him at 527-2623 if you wish to go.

Monday, Jan. 14, 7:30 at the Hitchcock Center: Chris Davis will be presenting a program on the ancient sport of Falconry and how it relates to wildlife use in modern times. He will have with him a Peregrine Falcon, a Gyr-Peregrine Falcon Hybrid and a Harris' Hawk. It should be a wonderful evening. Extra parking is available beyond the Hitchcock lot at the Common School.

Saturday, Jan. 19: Field Trip into East Quabbin by way of Gate 40 led by Morris Lainer. Call him at 527-9912 if you are interested.

David Spector will be giving a lecture on birdwatching on Jan. 24 and will be teaching the Winter Bird Watching class beginning Feb. 3 through the Hitchcock. Call the Center at 256-6001 to register. There is a fee.

AND - don't forget the exhibit at the Worcester Art Museum through Jan. 27 as described in last month's mammoth mailing.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

February Update from your Bird Board

1991

Sat., 2/10 Two Field Trips: If you wish to go to Plymouth & Plymouth for waterfowl led by Al Richards, give him a call at 665-2761. If the coast is not your thing this month, Scott Sumner will be conducting the Roadside Raptor Count (count the birds from the comfort of a warm car). Call him at 253-7486 if interested.

When asked what he planned for his Bird Club program on Monday, 2/11, 7:30 at the Hitchcock, Don Kroodsma replied, "Oh - wrens, wrens, wrens, wrens." Wrens, Wrens, Wrens, Wrens, Marsh Wrens. Wrens, Wrens, Wrens, Wrens, Winter Wrens. Wrens, Wrens, Wrens, Wrens, Bewick's Wrens. Wait minute, Don. Just how many wren species are REALLY out there? When pinned down he gave us the title of "Let there be Wrens" and said he will be making a dramatic and historic announcement that night! Using song as the basis of his research, Don has been studying wren species since 1968 and will take this opportunity to give us an update of his latest findings. A professor of zoology at UMASS and charter member of the HBC, this will be Don's third presentation to the Club.

FEBRUARY events worth celebrating:

- 2/15, 1928: Largest Jigsaw Puzzle completed (10,000 pieces)
- 2/17, 1876: 1st canned sardine
- 2/22, 1630: 1st popcorn eaten by Puritans
- 2/26, 1986: 6,00 shoes found in Imelda Marcos' closet

#### HBC MARCH UPDATE

A special meeting on Mon., 3/11, 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. Wayne Petersen, Field Ornithologist for Mass. Audubon, will present a slide show entitled "Shorebirds - A Profile Incredible." Wayne is the Summer Season and Christmas Bird Count Editor for the New England Region of American Birds, has contributed over forty species accounts to the Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding, and is past president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. His research experience spans North and Central America from Belize to James Bay, Canada. Wayne is also an international tour leader for Field Guides and teaches a week-long workshop on shorebirds for the Institute for Field Ornithology in Maine.

Two field trips are planned: Sun., 3/17 for Red-shouldered Hawks on Mt. Tom led by Tom Gagnon (584-6353), and Sat., 3/23 for waterfowl in the Conn. Valley led by Al Richards (665-2761).

The Ruff trip to Plum Island scheduled for 4/13 has been changed to 4/27. Two new trips have been added to the list: Mount Auburn Cemetery on 5/11, and Grave's Farm in Williamsburg on 6/9. More about these later. You might also want to know that the Plum Island National Wildlife Refuge beaches will be closed from 4/1 to 8/1.

Scott Sumner will be leading the SPRING BIRDING CLASS for the Hitchcock Center starting in April. There will be eight sessions including three trips to Plum Island and one to Mount Greylock. Call the Center at 256-6006 for more information and to register.

#### HBC APRIL UPDATE

Traffic jams, congestion, jet fumes, massive runways, ponderous airports, exhaust haze . . . Meadow vole, Norway rat, muskrat, red fox, wading birds, shore birds, water-fowl, upland sandpiper, Lapland longspur, rough-legged hawk, short-eared owl . . .

What could these two lists possibly have in common? Norman Smith, our April speaker, will be presenting a slide show about a place and a subject that brings these two seemingly non-compatible situations together. Norman's work focuses on the snowy owl, the largest owl that regularly winters in Massachusetts, and his study takes place at Logan Airport, the sight of the largest known wintering population of snowy owl in New England. Come to the Hitchcock Center on Monday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. and learn some of the natural history of this fascinating bird from a man well qualified to tell its story.

Field trips for April: Wed., 4/17 Mt. Tom for hawks and waterthrush with Bob Bieda (527-2623). Sat., 4/21 Mt. Holyoke hawk watch with Bill Lafley (253-2883). Sat., 4/27 (changed from 4/13) to Plum Island (hope for a ruff) with Morris Lainer (527-9412).

There is still room in the Hitchcock SPRING BIRDING CLASS with Scott Surner. Eight field sessions (includes three trips to Plum Island and one to Mount Greylock) plus Wednesday night classroom sessions. Call the Center at 256-6006 for more information and to register.

HAPPY SPRING

HBC NEWSLETTER  
May, 1991

The monthly meeting on Monday, May 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center features John Kricher, Professor of Biology at Wheaton College, who will present a program entitled "Ecology of Winter Migrants in Belize". John is an expert in the entire field of neotropical biology and has written extensively on the subject. His program will feature an overview of where and why migrants go to winter in the neotropics. He will focus on his own research on winter site fidelity in Belize. We are indeed fortunate to have him with us. A short business meeting will precede the program. We are required by the By-laws to elect Board officers and members for the coming year at our May meeting. The nominating committee (Magda Bechar, chair; Shirley Hilborn and Al Richards) will present the following slate for your approval: Jan Ortiz (President), Morris Lainer (Vice President and Program Chair), Al Richards (Treasurer), Sally Venman (Secretary), Bob Bieda, Shirley Hilborn, Pat Lynch, and Scott Surner (Members-at-Large) and Jim Marcum (Immediate Past President). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, if seconded.

ZOUNDS!!!!

The Purple-breasted, Eight-toed, Ridge-crested Sapfoolery bird made its first recorded Western Massachusetts appearance on May 26 in a dogwood tree in my back yard, not 20 feet from my kitchen window. It preened and posed in perfect light for at least 10 minutes and I have no doubt as to its identity. Unfortunately, I was alone at the time and my instamatic was without film so Scott is refusing to accept it as a legitimate sighting. Ah - the perils and frustrations allied with proper bird identification. So, I've missed my one chance to get my name "in the book". The road to fame is indeed a rocky one.

Spring is certainly a time when unusual sightings are possible and the HBC is giving you lots of opportunities to get out there to make them - and with other people so that your veracity will not be questioned.

Starting on Tuesday, May 7 and continuing every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the month, the Club sponsors an early morning bird walk through Wildwood Cemetery in Amherst. No need to register - just meet the leader at the gate at 6:30 a.m. The walk is designed to finish at about 8:00 a.m. so you can catch some warblers before work.

On Saturday, May 11 Paul Champlin will lead a trip to Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Call him at 253-4104 if you are interested.

On Saturday, May 18 the annual 1991 Arcadia Bird-a-thon is being planned (actually it runs from 6:00 p.m. Friday, May 17 - 6:00 p.m. Saturday, May 18). 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. HBC members will be involved. For more information call Tom Gagnon 584-6353 or Arcadia at 584-3009.

On Saturday, May 25 Bob Bieda will take us to Plum Island in search of shorebirds and warblers. Call him at 527-2623 to register.

If you wish to plan ahead (and in case I don't get the June reminder out in time) Al Richards (556-2761) will go to Plymouth Beach on Saturday, June 1; Jim Marcum (549-1613) will search for southern warblers in Connecticut on Saturday, June 8; and Tom Gagnon (584-6353) will be conducting the breeding census at Grave's Farm in Williamsburg on Sunday, June 9. Again looking forward, be sure to put June 10 on your calendar. This final meeting of the year will feature Paul Rezendes presenting his program "A Year with the Common Loon".

## MORE BIRD-STUFF TO DO

On Friday, May 3 at 8:00 p.m., ornithologist Stephen W. Kress, Director of National Audubon Society Puffin Project, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, will present a program entitled "Restoring Puffins and Terns to Maine Islands" at Smith College's Clark Science Center.

On Saturday, May 4 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (rain date is May 5) there will be an open house at the UMass Hadley Farm on North Maple Street. David Zlomek (chair of HBC Conservation Committee) will be there to give out information on this important birding spot. Stop by, see the facility, learn about the birds that inhabit or pass through that area and hear what is being done to protect and enhance it.

The Hitchcock Center's Newsletter lists the following: Chris Davis will present a program entitled "Birds of Prey" on Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m. He will speak on their natural history and will have live birds with him. The program is suitable for children. On Tuesday, May 21 7:30 p.m. there will be another "Birds of Prey" presentation also featuring live bird demonstration by Tom Ricardi. On Thursday, June 6 Becky Fields will give a slide show and lecture on "Journey to Alaska". She will include Bald Eagle surveys, nesting bird studies and migratory bird habitat around Prudhoe Bay in her presentation. Both Chris and Becky are HBC members and have given very popular Club programs. If you missed them or if you want a repeat, here is your chance! Call the Center at 256-6006 for more information.

Rudd Stone is recuperating from recent illness at Heritage Hall, North Building, Room 225, Cooper Street, Agawam, MA 01001. I am sure he would love hearing from his friends.

And a few more reminders for your calendar, compliments of your full-service secretary: The month of May is National Asparagus Month! May 3 - Pete Seeger's 72nd birthday; May 8 - the first unassisted triple play in 1878 -AND- Ostrich mating season begins; May 12 - Mothers Day; May 22 - Toothpaste tube was invented just 99 years ago; May 25 - Babe Ruth hit his last homerun (#714) in 1935; May 27 - Memorial Day; June 4 - 42nd Anniversary of the day that Dick Tracy married Tess Trueheart after an 18 year engagement.

## HAPPY BIRD SEARCH

*Sally*

Sally Venman, Secretary

#### HBC JUNE UPDATE

(1991)

We had a real treat for the last meeting of the year! Many of us had the privilege of taking a course with this unique individual, have enjoyed his fine programs or admired his photography. Paul Rezendes, naturalist, professional tracker and award-winning photographer will present his captivating program entitled "A Year with the Common Loon" on June 10, 7:30 p.m., Hitchcock Center. As Loon Warden at the Quabbin Reservoir during the summers of 1986-1988, Paul has had many opportunities to observe and photograph these spectacular birds, gaining an intimate knowledge of them and witnessing many fascinating behaviors. His exquisite photos and informative narrative will give you a glimpse into the world of this very ancient species, and help to enhance your understanding and appreciation of a "symbol of the wilderness" that is slowly making a comeback in Massachusetts. Don't miss this inspiring portrait of the not-so-common Common Loon!

Field trips for June: Saturday, June 8 - Jim Marcum (549-1613) will search for southern warblers in Connecticut; Sunday, June 9 - Tom Gagnon (584-6353) will be conducting the breeding census at Grave's Farm in Williamsburg; and Saturday, June 15 - Bob Bieda (527-2623) will be searching for northern warblers on Mt. Greylock. Call the leaders for more information and to register.

And a special message to all the cats who live with birdwatchers: A very happy GARFIELD THE CAT DAY (June 19, in case your owner has forgotten). May your year be filled with catnip mice!

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
1991 CONNECTICUT LAKES TRIP  
June 27 - June 30

This beautiful and fascinating area, birthplace of the Connecticut River, boasts acres of timberlands, mountains, lakes, streams and forest trails. Highlights expected by 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. On Friday morning, weather permitting, Tom will lead the group in a search for the elusive Spruce Grouse. Birds are not the only reason for visiting this picturesque area. Moose, Snowshoe Hare and magnificent fields of wildflowers are sure things. We will be staying in Pittsburg, New Hampshire in a comfortable cabin which has a fully-equipped kitchen and other "necessaries." Cost for lodging is \$75.00 for HBC members (\$85.00 for non-members). A non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 is required upon registration. You will be responsible for your own transportation (shared car-pooling) and food. Please call Tom at 584-6353 as soon as possible if you are interested so that he can reserve a spot for you.



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
August, 1991

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, allow me to elucidate: the Hampshire Bird Club is an organization that 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 postcards (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 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. Through the VOICE (an up-to-date recorded telephone service) you will learn what birds are being seen, what trips are being planned and any other bird news fit to broadcast. All this, and as a new member, you will receive the treasured and truly amazing MEMBERSHIP PACKET filled with membership-only kinds of 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 23.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst, September through June, at 7:30 pm. All programs are free and open to the public.

Monday, September 16: Our opening speaker, HBC member Allison Whitlock, is a graduate student at UMass with lots of bird banding experience and lots of great slides of song birds in hand. She has pictures of Magnolia Warbler-type beauties that we can ooh and aah over and pictures of "l.b.j's" (little brown jobs) and "confusing fall warblers" (thank you, Mr. Peterson) to give us a chance to play "Name that Bird." AND -- attention you ID specialists! She also has some slides of serious mystery birds (a mystery even to her) to challenge the best of you. Come join us for the first meeting of the year. 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!

October 21: Noble Proctor, well known birder and trip leader with a wonderful reputation as a speaker and program presenter, will be with us to present his program on "Birding Alaska."

### FIELD TRIPS

The HBC offers two different types of trips: regular and fee-based. Regular field trips will be to spots easily reached and explored in one day. These trips are open to the general public. No costs other than travel, meals and incidental fees will be involved. It is our policy to ask that you call the trip leader to register so that he/she can plan for the size of the group and can notify people if a change is necessary. Fee-based trips are generally for a longer period, usually a week-end, where costs are predetermined and participants pay in advance. Participants in these trips must be HBC members.

It is also our policy to car pool whenever possible and to share in driving expenses. It is recommended that transportation costs be set at a minimum of \$.20 per mile per car plus tolls and parking fees. All persons in the car will be expected to share costs equally.

Saturday, August 24: Bob Bieda will be leading us on a half-day search for shorebirds in Western Massachusetts. Call him at 527-2623 for more information.

Saturday, September 14: Jim Marcum will lead an all-day trip to Plum Island. You can sign up by calling Jim at 549-1613.

Wednesday, September 18: Jan Ortiz will help us to improve our identification skills as we view the exciting fall hawk migration. Call her at 549-1768 for more information and to sign up.

The annual fall week-end trip to Monhegan Island is being planned for September 26 - 29 (Thursday - Sunday) and will be led again by Scott Sumner. (Note that this is not over the Columbus Day week-end this year). For those unfamiliar with this trip, it is a great way to experience the fall migration (with help from experienced birders) and is tremendous fun! If you think you might be interested in the joining the group, it would be wise to call Scott immediately (253-7486) for information and costs. This trip fills up fast!

### HITCHCOCK NEWS

The Hitchcock Center is offering a series of Birding Field Trips this fall. Scott Sumner has planned four exciting day-long trips to shoreline sanctuaries and observatories: Plum Island on September 7, Cape Ann on October 5, South Shore on October 26, and Cape Cod on November 23. These trips are limited to 12

people to ensure that participants have plenty of time to get all of their questions answered. Scott welcomes beginners and seasoned birders alike. NOTE: These trips are offered as a series. Pre-registration is required by August 27. FEE: \$60.00 for Hitchcock Center members; \$70.00 for non-members. Call the Center at 256-6006 to register.

The Center is now taking orders for its fall Bird Seed Sale. A wide variety of seeds 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 to answer questions about birds and bird feeding, either in person or by phone. We will also help by making deliveries if needed. To order your bird seed call the Center at 256-6006 by Friday, September 13. Pickup day is Saturday, September 21, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. And, a Hitchcock reminder: HBC members receive a 10% discount on all items at the Hitchcock Gift Shop.

and now -

\$\$\$ THE PITCH \$\$\$

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 field trips), the signed Rare Bird Alert form (if you want to be alerted), 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

P.S. If by any chance you could possibly have any questions after plowing through the above illumination, other than "why does she write so much?" please feel free to call me at 549-1098, or Jan Ortiz (President) at 549-1768.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
RARE BIRD ALERT  
1991-1992

telephone tree is used to alert interested members to rare birds in the area. Twenty-three sightings were successfully reported last year: MacGillivray's Warbler and LeConte's Sparrow (Peabody - 10/13/90), White-fronted Goose (Quabbin - 10/14/90), Ross' Goose (Addison, VT - 10/31/90), Wood Sandpiper (Rye, NY - 11/1/90), Sand Hill Crane (Belchertown - 11/4/90), Western Kingbird and Northern Shrike (Belchertown - 11/9/90), Clay-colored Sparrow (Hadley - 11/11/90), Tropical Kingbird (New Haven, CT - 11/13/90), Black-backed Woodpecker (Upton - 12/11/90), Northern Hawk Owl (Springfield, VT - 12/22/90), Snowy Owl (Quabbin - 12/27/90), Lark Sparrow (Northampton - 1/13/91), Barrow's Goldeneye (Holyoke - 2/6/91), Northern Tree-toed Woodpecker (Rhode Island - 2/13/91), Tufted Duck (Rhode Island - 2/13/91), Greater White-fronted Goose (Cheshire 3/21/91), Snow Goose (Sunderland 3/22/91), Northern Lapwing (New Scotland, NY - 3/22/91), Tundra Swan (Northampton 3/24/91), Wilson's Phalarope (Hatfield - 5/1/91), and Glossy Ibis (Hadley - 5/10/91).

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 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 by September 23 will be included on the first tree. An additional tree will be formed in December if enough people are interested.

The Alert is for HBC members only. If you wish to be on the RARE BIRD ALERT telephone tree, please fill out the following form, detach and return it with your membership form to Sally Venman, 43 Ridgecrest Rd., Amherst, MA 01002.

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HBC SEPTEMBER 91

CHANGE: Something a little different and special from long-time HBC member and always interesting lecturer, David Spector, Ornithologist/Naturalist, who will be our first speaker this Mon., Sept. 16, 7:30 at the Hitchcock Center. His topic, "Naturalists and Novelists," will join Thomas Bewick and the Bronte sisters through slides and talk to demonstrate how the great 19th century English naturalist's bird references and insights influenced the sisters in their great story telling. David leaves soon for his new job with the National Zoo in Washington D.C. to continue his yellow warbler research, so it may be some time before we have the opportunity to see one of his programs again.

SEMI-CHANGE: Scott Sumner has opened his Hitchcock fall birding trips to non-series members on an if-there-is-room basis. Trips still to come: Cape Ann (Oct. 5), South Shore (Oct. 26) and Cape Cod (Nov. 23). Call the Hitchcock for registration and fee information.

OOPS: In the fall mailing we left out one important bit of information on the blue sheet describing Wayne Petersen's Birding Workshops. To register you need to call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006.

SAME STUFF AGAIN: Jim Marcum (549-1613) will lead an all-day field trip to Plum Island this Sat., the 14th. And Jan Ortiz (549-1768) will lead a fall hawk watch on Wed., the 18th.

## HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

### October Newsletter, Hunter's Moon Edition

Dear Friends,

In the autumn of the year, filled with Christmas catalogs and junk mail, isn't it nice to receive an actual personal letter (you and 150 other people) informing you of the wonderful events that are yours simply for the attending? I know I usually send postcards in October, but the field trip list is now completed through February and the Board thought you would enjoy having a copy. Plus, there are the usual need-to-know bits of information vital to birders' well-being, AND, a couple pieces of information of questionable vitality to anyone.

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

(All meetings are held at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst at 7:30 pm.)

Monday, October 21: We are delighted to be able to bring you a very special program. Noble Proctor, who is a professor at Southern Connecticut State University, will be presenting a program entitled "Alaska." In addition to teaching ornithology, botany and biogeography, he is a professional photographer and author (five books on birds), and a popular trip leader (sixty-two countries over twenty-two years). He has visited Alaska every spring for seventeen years, twelve of those on Attu, experiencing all aspects of the state's natural history. Birds, plants and mammals will appear in his slide show presentation as he concentrates on three areas: the Pribilofs, Denali National Park and Attu Island. We have heard that his slides are fabulous and that he is a great speaker. Don't miss it!

Monday, November 18: HBC member Todd Highsmith, now the Public Information Coordinator for Manomet Bird Observatory, returns to Amherst, where he earned his PhD in ornithology, to speak about his research on blue-winged warblers.

Monday, December 9: The annual holiday party when members bring their own natural history slides, Christmas Counts are planned and we eat, eat, eat!

#### HBC FIELD TRIPS

Checking out the field trips offered for October we find that Morris Lainer (527-9412) heads for Plum Island for hawks & late shorebirds this Saturday, the 12th (sorry this is so last minute); Jan Ortiz (549-1768) will lead a mid-week sparrow search next Wednesday, the 16th; and Harvey Allen (253-7963) will take a walk around the Ludlow Reservoir on Saturday, the 26th. Please call the leader to get times, etc., and to register.

Scott Sumner tells us that the Memorial Day Monhegan weekend trip (yes, I'm talking about the end of May, 1992) has three signed up already! That trip seems to contain a built-in self-starting mechanism. This is first notification. If you know you want to go or want to get some information about the trip call him at 253-7486.

#### OTHER INTERESTING BIRD STUFF

A word about the Wayne Petersen Waterfowl Birding Workshop that is being co-sponsored by the HBC and the Hitchcock Center. There will be a lecture on Thursday evening, October 17 and a one-day field trip on Saturday, October 19, which, much to our surprise, still has room for more birders. This is a rare opportunity for beginning and advanced birders alike. Anyone who has taken a course or workshop led by Wayne will attest to his remarkable knowledge and teaching skills. If you have even given it passing thought, please think again - this is really an opportunity that is worth considering! Call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 for cost and other specifics. I remind you that Wayne will also be giving a workshop on Gulls in November (the 14th and 17th).

Scott Sumner will be leading a Hitchcock sponsored field trip to the South Shore on October 26. There is room for a few more participants. Call the Center at 256-6006 for fee information and to register.

On Saturday, November 16, Mass Audubon and the Forbush Bird Club will present the Third Annual Massachusetts Birders' Meeting in Shrewsbury. \$20.00 will bring you a full day of speakers, slide shows, workshops and lunch. Call (617) 259-9500 X7401 or 7407 for information and registration.

#### TO ADD TO YOUR OCTOBER CALENDAR

The 13th (1903): Honus Wagner strikes out, first World Series ends. (Boston won!)

The 15th: National Grouch Day and/or World Poetry Day (take your pick or read poetry grouchily).

The 16th (1701): Yale founded by Congregationalists unhappy with liberal Harvard.

The 26th (1785): Mules arrive in the U.S.  
(Don't forget to set your clocks back).

Happy October!

*Sally*

Sally, the Secretary

# Birding Workshops

with Wayne Petersen



Hampshire Bird Club and the Hitchcock Center are pleased to announce to their members that the following workshops are being offered this fall! HBC is very excited to be able to bring to its members these lectures and field trips of the highest quality. We hope that you will agree that this is a great opportunity for us and that you will support this project with your participation.

Each workshop will include a weeknight lecture at the Hitchcock Center followed by a weekend field trip to Eastern Massachusetts. You may attend just the evening lecture. The field part of the workshop will be limited to 20 participants so an early sign-up is recommended.

## Waterfowl



For many years ducks, geese, and swans have been domesticated, hunted, studied, and admired. As a result a great deal is now known about this large and diverse family of birds.

With nearly thirty-five species of waterfowl occurring in Massachusetts annually, the opportunities for investigation and appreciation are many. In this workshop, topics to be covered include waterfowl adaptations, breeding biology, the peculiarities of waterfowl molt, migration strategies, and helpful hints on identifying local species on the water and on the wing. Slides, specimens, and printed handouts will augment the indoor lecture session.

A one-day field trip will provide a chance for participants to witness autumn sea duck migration at Manomet Point and to visit several inland South Shore localities where a variety of pond and diving ducks will be observed. As many as 25 species of waterfowl may be seen on the field trip.

Lecture: Thursday, October 17 7:30-9:30 PM  
Field Trip: Saturday, October 19 Time to be announced  
Pre-registration by: October 3

## Wayne R. Petersen

Wayne R. Petersen is a field ornithologist for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He has been involved in bird study for over thirty years, during which time he has written many papers on birds, has given workshops for BIRD OBSERVER and the Institute for Field Ornithology in Maine, has lectured widely on ornithology, and has taught ornithology courses for Manomet Bird Observatory, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, and Lesley College. He contributed a number of species accounts to The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding and is currently the *American Birds* New England regional editor for the nesting season and the Christmas Bird Count. Wayne is an international tour leader for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and Field Guides, Inc. The HBC was pleased to have Wayne give a presentation on shore birds at our March meeting last year.

## Gulls



Gulls consistently confound and confuse birders by their complex plumages, protracted maturation process, and their sheer abundance. Furthermore, gulls manifest a number of interesting biological and evolutionary principles not so readily observed in many bird groups. For these reasons, gulls make a model group to study to hone identification techniques and at the same time to acquire knowledge of some basic bird biology.

In this workshop on Massachusetts gulls, topics on gull biology, evolution, ecology, historical status and identification of local species will be covered. Through the use of slides, study skins and discussion, participants will be introduced to the subtleties of gull molt and to the many complexities affecting the aging process of gulls.

A full day trip to Newburyport will provide an opportunity for the group to put to use the information gained from the evening session.

Lecture: Thursday, November 14 7:30-9:30 PM  
Field Trip: Sunday, November 17 Time to be announced  
Pre-registration by: November 1

## Cost per workshop

Lecture & Field Trip or Field Trip only

Members	\$35
Non-members	\$40

Lecture only	Members	\$12
	Non-members	\$15

Trips will be held unless weather is **outrageously** bad.

There will be car pooling from the Hitchcock Center for the field trips



1971

HBC November Reminders

The next meeting of the Hampshire Bird Club will be on Monday, November 18, at 7:30 pm. Our speaker will be Tod Highsmith, Director of the Field Biology Training Program at Manomet Bird Observatory. Tod will present a slide show, "A Tale of Two Warblers," based on his UMass PhD research into the genetic relationship between the blue-winged and golden-winged warblers. Tod is a long time member of the HBC. We really look forward to welcoming back an old friend!

Al Richards will lead a field trip to Cape Anne Sat., Nov. 30th. Call him at 665-2761 if you are interested in joining the group.

Hitchcock Offerings of Interest to Birders

Bulls - a Birding Workshop with Wayne Petersen will be offered the evening of Thursday, the 14th with a field trip to Plum Island on Sunday, the 17th, and Scott Sumner will lead a field trip to Cape Cod on Sat., the 23rd. Call the Center at 256-6006 to register. In need of bird seed? Bird seed orders are due Friday, Nov. 29, with pickup day on Saturday, Dec. 7. Call the Center to order.

And

Scott Sumner will be one of the presenters at Mass Audubon's Third Annual Mass. Birders' Meeting in Shrewsbury on Sat., the 16th. He will be talking about Monhegan Island. Call (617) 259-9500 X 7401 to register.

#### HBC DECEMBER REMINDERS

The HBC meeting on Mon, Dec. 9, 7:30 pm is the annual holiday party when members are asked to bring a snack or dessert to share and up to 10 natural history slides to show. This is also the meeting when we organize the local Christmas Bird Count which this year takes place on Sun. Dec. 15. If you wish to be included in the count and cannot attend the meeting, call Chris Hill at 585-0013 and he'll sign you up. Other area counts and people to call are: Springfield on Sat Dec. 14 (Morton Bates at 783-6411); the Quabbin Count on Sat. Dec 28 (Scott Sumner at 253-7486); and Greenfield on Sun Dec. 29 (Mark Fairbrother at 367-2695.) Check the Hitchcock gift shop - lots of bird books, special orders anytime and 10% discount!

#### COMING EVENTS

Early January field trips: Wed., Jan. 1, 1992 - Scott Sumner (253-7486) will lead the annual Bird Blitz for the Chronic Listers. Sat., Jan 4 - Bob Bieda (253-7486) will bird the North Shore. Call them if interested.

January will (hopefully) bring you a large mailing including info on Bob Bieda's bus trip to NY Museum of Nat. Hist. on Feb. 29 (call him at 527-2623 to reserve a spot), info and itinerary for our first-ever long-away field trip adventure to Yellowstone (July 9 - 19) led by Tom Gagnon (call him at 584-6353 if you can't wait for the mailing), membership lists, updated cross-country Rare Bird Alert numbers, the amazing updated Dead Bird Sheet, and other informational goodies that will make you so glad you became a member. Until then --- HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!

Sally, the Secretary