

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
Members' Letter, January 1, 1992

Dear Friends,

I just bet you are not aware that you have only 348 days to prepare yourself for the 1992 Christmas Bird Count! Don't let the event sneak up on you this year. Start training your body and mind now to face the rigors of the pre-dawn winter owl search, the numbness of that trudge through open field listening for the "chip" of the elusive sparrow, and of course the real intellectual challenge of accurate tabulation of starlings coming in for evening roost. If you heed this early warning, you'll certainly be thanking me next December! There are also other ways to help you to realize your midwinter night's dream of snow, winter finches and spectacular winter birding, and that's what this letter is all about.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

On Monday, January 13 we will be treated to an evening of slides and narrative about Howe Island (an island between Australia and New Zealand) and "the best birding experience we have ever had" according to Mark Lynch and Sheila Carrol, our speakers. Mark and Sheila are well-known birders from the Worcester area who have delighted us in past years with programs on Australia, England and Scotland. We are very happy to bring them back again. Their photography, knowledge and humor combine to make them among our most popular presenters. A thoroughly satisfying evening is anticipated.

While on the subject of monthly programs, mark your calendars: HBC on February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 8. I'll be sending reminders and more specific information at the appropriate time.

FIELD TRIPS

Dave Small will be looking for winter birds in Northeast Quabbin on Saturday, January 25. Call him at 508-249-2094 for more information.

On Saturday, February 1 the annual census of wintering raptors (the Raptor Count) will be 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 help. Please call him at 253-7486.

On Saturday, February 8 Al Richards will be searching for Waterfowl from Falmouth to Plymouth. Call him at 665-2761.

A NEW BIGGIE: Bob Bieda has come up with a great way to celebrate Leap Year Day (February 29). He is planning a bus trip to the American Museum of Natural History. The bus will leave Amherst at 7:00 am, stop for people in Northampton about 7:15, break for coffee, etc. on the way down and arrive at the museum at 11:00. The bus will return at 4:00 pm, stop for dinner and arrive back in Northampton/Amherst about 8:30. This is a fabulous museum. Besides the bird exhibits there is enough to keep your interest for a lot more time than we will have. (Bob is working on getting us behind the scenes to learn about putting up a bird habitat exhibit and getting us a look at skins in their extensive collection.) There is a restaurant and gift shop on the premises. The museum is located across from Central Park and is a short 12 blocks to stores, restaurants, etc. Cost is \$40.00 per person for the bus and admission. Food, gifts, etc. will be up to you. Bob needs to have at least 25 people sign up by January 20. This means sending a \$20.00 deposit to treasurer Al Richards (7 South Main St., Sunderland, MA 01375) by that date, so if this interests you, get moving! If the trip doesn't fill, your deposit will be "cheerfully" refunded. Call Bob at 527-2623 if you have questions.

ANOTHER NEW BIGGIE: There will be a trip to the fabulous Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem led by Tom Gagnon July 9 - July 19. The descriptive materials, specific itinerary, cost, etc. are not quite ready for this mailing, but will be in your hands by the first week of February. Call Tom at 584-6353 if you need information before that.

ALWAYS A BIGGIE: Scott Sumner is taking reservations for the annual Monhegan Island Memorial Day weekend in May. It seems early to be announcing this trip, but we find it to be extremely popular and it fills quickly. We leave from Port Clyde, Maine, on Friday, May 22, spend all day Saturday and Sunday on the Island enjoying the migrating birds, the spring wild flowers, hiking, eating, laughing and having a wonderful "escape". We return to the mainland on Monday, May 25. The cost will be approximately \$170.00 per person plus shared gas costs to Port Clyde, parking and baggage fees, tips, lunches and snacks, and an optional lobster dinner on the Island. Call Scott at 253-7486 to learn more and/or to be put on the list.

HITCHCOCK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our congratulations go to David Ziomek who has just been named Executive Director of the Hitchcock Center. GREAT NEWS! David has been an HBC member since its start and presently heads the Club's Conservation Committee. The HBC Board recently voted to donate a slide projector to the Hitchcock Center as our way of showing our appreciation for the many years of support. We are an independent organization but the Center lets us use the facilities, gives our members a discount on items purchased in the gift shop, has always been happy to include our program announcements in its Newsletter and has supported the Club in many other ways. Many, many thanks to the entire staff.

Hitchcock programs of interest to birders --- On Saturday, February 1, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm there will be a workshop at Arcadia given by Dick Walton, co-author of the Peterson Field Guide's "Birding by Ear" - the guide to bird-song identification. This is co-sponsored by the Center and Mass. Audubon. Looking forward a bit, the Winter Bird Sale orders are due on February 7, and there will be another owl prowl led by Chris Hill on February 23rd. Call the Center at 256-0660 for more information and to register.

RECYCLED INFORMATION

Have you heard that there is a Snowy Owl in the East Meadows in Northampton? You would know this, even if you are not on the Rare Bird Alert simply by calling the VOICE. I remind you that last year the HBC VOICE became the WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS VOICE OF AUDUBON, a recorded telephone service, updated weekly by Scott Sumner. By calling the number you will learn what birds have been seen in the area and hear about events of interest to birders that are not covered in the mailings. To receive this information call 253-2218. Check it regularly. If you have bird sightings you wish to report call 256-1836. Scott asks that when reporting you leave your name and phone number, identify the bird(s), and say when and where spotted and how many.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

HAPPY BIRDING !!!

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Venman, Sec'y

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

Members Newsletter, February, 1992



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Your friendly neighborhood program director, Morris Lainer, has done it again! A few of the descriptive program notes for this month's speaker: Birder and Photographer Extraordinary for more than 40 years; Executive President of the Brookline Birding Club and the Southshore Bird Club; World Traveller who is seeking to reach number 2,000 (birds not miles) this year. This, and his concentration on New England birding spots (The Connecticut Lakes, Monhegan Island, Plum Island and Marshfield) as his topic should make for a real mid-winter treat! The speaker: H. Warren Harrington. The topic: "Great New England Birds." And the date: Monday, February 10. All this will take place at the Hitchcock Center at 7:30 pm. Additional parking space can be found in the Common School parking lot right beyond the Hitchcock lot.

Other programs to make time for: On March 16 Peter Trull will be with us to speak about the Roseate Tern in a program entitled "Injured and Endangered." And on April 13 George Clark will be with us presenting a program entitled "The Changing Bird Population in New England."

FIELD TRIPS

On Saturday, February 8 Al Richards will lead a trip to Plymouth for waterfowl. Call him at 665-2761 to register.

Enclosed is the latest up-to-date trip schedule completing the HBC year of birding in the field. Think warmth and warblers! Take a moment now to look over the list and mark off the dates of trips that interest you. I have also enclosed the revised edition of the Club's Field Trip Policy. Please take a moment to read it - the Board spent many "interesting" meetings deciding what would make for the best possible field trips, and the Policy defines the guidelines we agreed upon.

Also enclosed is the promised information sheet on the HBC trip to The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem led by Tom Gagnon. If this is not in your summer plans for this year, read it and dream a little. Maybe next time?

MBO Birders' Exchange

Update from Manomet Bird Observatory

"Equipment donated by birders in Massachusetts and other states has been distributed to twenty-three environmental organizations in nine countries throughout Central and South America. Our old binoculars and field guides are now at work in the hands of Latin American biologists and teachers helping to protect birds, preserve habitats and educate the public on conservation issues." Following is a list of donors from the HBC whose gifts have been distributed and where these donations are being used:

Carolyn Collins & Jan Ortiz - ECONCIENCIA, Filipe Carillo Puerto, Mexico;
Janice Gifford - Cocha Cashu Research Station, Peru; Lee Lipsitz & Lynn Rubinstein - Brazilian Bird Banding Office & Center for Bird Migration Studies (CEMAVE), Brazil;
Trudy Tynan - Parque de la Flora y Fauna Silvestre Tropical, Veracruz, Mexico.

If you have any questions about the Birder's Exchange or any equipment to donate call Manomet at (508)224-6521 or Jan Ortiz at 549-1768.

HITCHCOCK ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Winter Bird Seed Sale orders are due on February 7. Pickup day is Saturday, February 15. Hitchcock programs of interest to birders: There will be an owl prowl, "Whoo's Out there!!!," led by Chris Hill early Sunday morning, February 23rd and another owl prowl, "Owl Prowl II," led by Dave Ziomek early Sunday morning, March 1. On Saturday morning, March 7 Lillian Lund Files will present a lecture and slide show entitled "Bring Back the Bluebirds." Call the Center at 256-6006 to order seed and to register for programs.

MISCELLANEOUS BIRD BITS

Here are a few more names to add to the membership list that was sent to you last month:

Lisa Marie Bertoldi & Bill Sayre: 268-7485 (Hph)

51 Conway Rd., Williamsburg, MA 01096

Beatrice Botch: 548-9778 (Hph) 545-4257 (Wph)

316 Long Plain Rd., Amherst, MA 01002

Sheila Carroll & Mark Lynch: 508-799-9343 (Hph)

35 Carlisle St., Worcester, MA 01602

David Small: 508-249-2094 (Hph) 508-544-6363 (Wph)

89 Lake Ellis Rd., Athol, MA 01331

Katharine W. Taft: 256-3029 (Hph)

Applewood at Amherst, 1 Spenser Dr., Apt. #226, Amherst, MA 01002

When there is extra room in the Newsletter it is the Board's policy to pass on many different kinds of information that we feel would be of interest to our membership. Long-time birder and HBC member, David Yaukey has a new cottage in Nova Scotia built on a high bluff overlooking a bay in a prime birding area which he is looking to rent. He even has a list of the many birds that have been spotted there. If this is of interest to you, contact him at 549-1183.

When there is extra room in the Newsletter it is your secretary's policy to pass on different kinds of information that she feels would be of interest to our membership. If you think that you can only celebrate ground hogs, cupid, presidents and an extra day this month, read on ---

Favorite February moments designed for Frolic, Feasting and Fun:

2/10 - First day of National Kraut and Frankfurter Week

2/11 - White Shirt Day in Michigan

2/20 - Toothpick making machine patented in 1872

And finally --- Heed this timely warning:

2/28 is the day that Ice Houses MUST be off Minnesota Lakes!

Happy Birding!

Sally

Sally Verman, Secretary

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB TRIP THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM

WHEN: July 9 - July 19, 1992

TRAVEL: We will fly out of Bradley Field on the 9th on American Airlines. Travel while in Wyoming and Montana will be by rental car. The cost of the car and gas is included in the estimated trip price.

FOOD: Breakfast will be in local restaurants. We will bring lunch and snacks for the trail and for traveling and will plan on a good dinner in the evening in one of the many local restaurants. None of the food costs is included in the estimated trip price.

LODGING: We will be staying in motels in the Jackson, Wyoming and the West Yellowstone, Montana areas. Estimated trip price is per person based on double occupancy. If you prefer to have a room to yourself at extra cost it should be available if you request it soon.



This is NOT JUST A BIRDING TRIP. The wild flowers should be near their peak and we definitely want to take time to enjoy them. We will be doing a mammal list as well as a bird list. Big game - Elk, Buffalo, Mule Deer, Bighorn Sheep, and Antelope - are real possibilities. There are also many small mammals we'll be seeing. And as for birds, how about Mountain Bluebirds, Trumpeter Swans, Golden Eagles, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Ruffous Hummingbirds, Blue Grouse, White Pelicans, Avocets, Rock Wrens, Clark's Nutcrackers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Lazuli Buntings, MacGillivray's Warblers, and on and on and on! This is one of the most photographed areas in this beautiful country and you will want to bring plenty of film.

Because we will be flying into an area with a valley floor elevation of about 6500 feet above sea level, the first two days of the trip will be scheduled around very short, easy walks and casual driving in and around the Grand Teton National Park area to allow our bodies to adjust to the high altitude. Later in the week we will be taking several short hikes and one optional long, all-day hike. I have scheduled specific day trips to different areas of the Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park and to Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Our time in Yellowstone will be spent traveling from one scenic area to another. We will see the Grand Canyon, Old Faithful and Mt. Washburn to name a few. Not much hiking in Yellowstone because of limited time and the possibility of Grizzly Bears.

The last two days of the trip will be the groups' choice. We will break up into smaller groups and go where our interests lead. It could be horseback riding, a white water float trip, a calm water float trip, another hike or more birding.

LEADER: Tom Gagnon (584-6353)

Tom worked for the National Park Service at the Grand Teton National Park for three summers in the mid 60's. He has since returned three times for summertime vacations, the most recent being in July 1990 to view the burned areas of the 1988 Yellowstone fires. Tom has great love and knowledge of the area and his boundless enthusiasm is very contagious. Call Tom for a more detailed itinerary or to get your specific questions answered.



The Estimated total trip cost is \$1,300.00 per person, based on double occupancy. This includes air fare, car rental, gas, lodging and leadership fee. Single rooms, if available, can be requested at additional cost. Not included in the \$1,300.00 is food, optional trips (float trips, tram-way ride above Alpine country, horseback riding, etc.), and personal incidentals.

We are asking a \$200.00 deposit by February 21 with the balance due on or before May 9. Checks should be made out to the HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB and mailed to the treasurer, Al Richards, 7 South Main St., Sunderland, MA 01375.

TRIP IS LIMITED TO 15 PEOPLE (plus Tom)

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC.

FIELD TRIP POLICY

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

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

Fee-based trips are those for which participants must pay in advance for predetermined costs. Such trips will generally require more planning by the trip leader, including, for example, the making of reservations for lodging and boat transportation when needed. Participants will be charged an amount equal to actual predetermined costs plus a prorated amount to cover the reimbursement of the leader's expenses as stated in Item 7, below. All fees shall be paid to the HBC Treasurer. Prepaid fees will be refunded, if feasible, whenever participation is cancelled due to extenuating circumstances. Any excess fees remaining after costs have been met, unless greater than ten dollars per person, will revert to the HBC treasury. Fee-based trips are open to HBC members only.

4. The first occurrence of a fee-based trip must be approved by the HBC field trip committee and the HBC Board of Directors. For this purpose a written proposal should be presented to the field trip committee at least six months before a trip involving air travel and at least three months before a trip not involving air travel. This proposal should contain the items listed in 6.a, below.
5. It is recommended that automobile transportation costs for both regular and fee-based field trips be set at a minimum of twenty cents per mile (\$.20/mi.) per car plus tolls and parking fees. All persons in the car will be expected to share costs equally.
6. Leaders of fee-based trips shall:
 - a. Describe in writing the nature of the trip as completely as possible including the conditions of lodging, extra costs not covered by fee, the roughness of terrain, pace of the trip, etc., and provide a list of any specialized items that participants should take on the trip.
 - b. Upon return, provide the HBC Board with an itemized account of all income and expenses related to the trip including receipts for major expenses.
7. Leaders of fee-based trips shall be reimbursed for all predetermined trip costs and incidental costs incurred in planning and arrangement (telephone, postage, etc.) and shall be given a per diem/honorarium of forty dollars (\$40) to cover meals and minor incidental costs. With regard to auto transportation costs the leader will be considered a participant and expected to share the costs as described in Item 4, above.
8. Leaders of all trips shall submit a list of birds identified on the trip to the HBC president, or his/her designee, who shall maintain the club's year and life lists. For the purpose of these lists "trips" may include those called by the club president and announced on the club "voice" at least 24 hours before the trip and must have at least two HBC members present on the trip. The HBC listing year shall be the calendar year.
9. As a courtesy to its members, the HBC will announce fee-based birding trips organized by members but not sponsored by the club. Such announcements will be made on a space available basis and the club will assume no other responsibilities for these trips.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB - March, 1992

Monday, March 9, 7:30 pm, Hitchcock Center: East Coast birder Peter [unclear] will present a slide show entitled "The Roseate Tern in Massachusetts: Endangered and Enduring" based on his job as warden for the Mass. Audubon Society (1976 - 86) which included two expeditions to the bird's wintering grounds in Surinam and Guyana. His photos show all aspects of the terns' breeding ecology as well as hints on how to identify Roseates compared with other species they nest with. Some of his photos show behavioral activity never seen on film before.

Field Trips: Saturday 3/14: Early Hawk Migration on Mt. Tom with Tom Gagnon (584-6353); and Sat. 3/21: the Connecticut Valley Waterfowl with Al Richards (665-2761). Check Field Trip list for time and place of meeting, or call leader.

Misc.: Susan Smith should be added as a recipient on the infamous "Dead Bird Sheet". If you have a bird in the freezer that has her name on it please write her c/o the Dept. of Biological Sciences, Mt. Holyoke College, S. Hadley, MA 01075, or call her at 538-2328 or 538-2149 to arrange delivery.

Dan Albano, student at UMASS, Dept. of Zoology, is doing research on the Belted Kingfisher and is looking for known or possible nesting sites. If you can help, please call him at 545-3034 (UMASS) or 323-4934 (home).

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB - April, 1992

April! Migration Time!

Come celebrate spring with fellow birders on Monday, April 13, 7:30 pm highly rated speaker George Clark, UConn professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, will present a slide show entitled "The History of Bird Populations in the Northeast". George is a researcher on structure, evolution, behavior and biogeography of birds, study leader for the Smithsonian on cruises in the North Atlantic and in South America, and chair of the Connecticut Rare Records Committee.

Field Trips:

Sat., 11th -- Hike around Ashley Reservoir with Harvey Allen (253-7963). Meet at the Holyoke Holiday Inn parking lot at 7:00 am.

Wed. 22th -- Trip cancelled.

Sat. 25th -- Ruff Trip to Plum Island with Scott Sumner. Call him at 253-7486 for more information and to register.

Hitchcock bird programs (call the Center at 256-6006 to register):

SPRING BIRDING COURSE with Andrew McGee -- evening classes start 4/8 and field trips start 4/11.

SPRING OWL PROWL with David Ziomek -- Sun., 12th (3:00 am to dawn)

EXPLORING THE AMAZON with Paul Beaver -- Sun., 12th (2:00 - 4:00 pm)

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

MAY, 1992

Have we got a show for you!!! Julio de la Torre is a well-known naturalist, lecturer, free lance editor, translator, author (most recently of the highly acclaimed *Owls: Their Life and Behavior*); natural history consultant, announcer, narrator, and teacher, just to name a few of his credentials. He is reported to be a dynamic speaker, dramatic and theatrical - a real "ham". He is also a former opera singer (ask Chris Hill about his first owl prowling with the man). This multi-talented and highly acclaimed speaker will be our guest on Monday, May 11 at 7:30 pm when he presents a slide show entitled "Owls of North America." There is extra parking at the Common School behind the Hitchcock lot should you need it.

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 (Sharon Dombeck, Morris Lainer and Chris Page) will present a slate for your approval. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, if seconded.

FIELD TRIP REMINDERS

Starting on Tuesday, May 5 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 am. The walk is designed to finish at about 8:00 am so you can catch some warblers before work.

On Saturday, May 9: Jeff Johnstone will lead a trip to the Mount Auburn Cemetery. Call him to register at 508-249-9052.

On Saturday May 23 travel to Plum Island for Shorebirds & Warblers with Morris Lainer (527-9412).

And on Saturday May 30 Scott Surner (253-7486) plans a trip to Monomoy Island.

HITCHCOCK CENTER


The Spring Bash (and fund-raising auction) will be held on Friday, May 8, at the Amherst College Alumni House from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Come and enjoy the fun, feast on wonderful gourmet foods and wines and bid on donated goods and services of all sorts. Call the Center at 256-6006 for more information.

AND ---

A few reminders for your calendar compliments of your full-service secretary. As we anticipate the arrival of National Water Balloon Month, take a moment to record the following: Ostrich mating season begins on May 8. On May 10, you can celebrate the day skunks are born as well as honoring Mom. The last day of May marks the 108th anniversary of the day that a Dr. J. H. Kellogg applied for a patent for a flake cereal. I wonder what that was? Looking ahead a bit to one of my own personal favorites we find that on June 1, 1938 Velveeta Cheese was introduced. And finally if Socrates were alive today we would raise a National Donut Day donut to him on his 2,460th birthday on June 5.

HAPPY MAY BIRDING

Sally Venman, Secretary



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

June, 1992

The last meeting of the year will be held on Monday, June 8, 7:30 pm, at the Hitchcock Center. Christopher Leahy, Director of Conservation with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, natural-history tour leader, author and well-known birder will be giving a slide-show presentation entitled "Antarctica".

Field Trips

6/6 to Plymouth Beach has been cancelled. (Leader Al Richards is in China picking up a few life birds.) 6/12 evening start to the Mt. Greylock Camp-out: Wake up to the sounds of barred owls calling. Camp in your own gear, or in a room at the lodge. Or just join the group during the day for a walk. Call Tom Gagnon (584-6353) for more information.

Special Birding Workshop

The Club and the Hitchcock Center will offer a workshop with Wayne Petersen this summer. The subject is Shorebirds, the dates are 7/30 for the lecture and 8/2 for the field trip, the cost is \$35. Call the Hitchcock (253-6006) to register.

Letter Coming

It will contain more detail on the Workshop, additional summer field trips, and other nuggets of birding goodies you will want to consider before committing your entire summer to frolic.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
July, 1992

Dear Friends,

Are you experiencing the dreaded brain paralyzes of summer? Tired of watching re-runs? Feel that there has to be more to life than deciding between *Pinocchio* and *Batman Returns*? Wish that you had signed up for that Yellowstone trip with Tom Gagnon? Well your forward thinking Bird Board has anticipated this sad but predictable mental haze and has a few suggestions to make.

A WORKSHOP

Every summer thousands of shorebirds move through our state as they travel to wintering quarters in South America. With approximately thirty-five species occurring annually, many nondescript in coloration and often resembling one another in size and form, shorebirds offer the birder an assortment of identification difficulties. Fortunately, the behavior, habitat, and vocalizations of many shorebirds can be used to help in the identification process.

At the end of this month the Bird Club together with the Hitchcock Center is offering a very special workshop opportunity to learn about these birds from one of the country's best teachers and most knowledgeable naturalists, Wayne Petersen. The emphasis will be on learning to identify shorebirds by using a combination of physical and behavioral features. General background biology will supply additional information that can also be applied to problems in field identification.

THE TEACHER

Wayne Petersen has been involved in bird study for over thirty years. He has lectured widely on ornithology and has given birding workshops and taught courses for *Bird Observer*, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, the Institute for Field Ornithology at the University of Maine at Machias, and the Manomet Bird Observatory. Wayne has written extensively on birds, is currently the New England regional editor for the nesting season and Christmas Bird Count for *American Birds*, and has authored a number of species accounts published in *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*. In addition, he is at present an international tour leader for Field Guides, Inc., and for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, where he is employed as field ornithologist.

THE DATES

The Lecture:	Thursday, July 30	7:30pm - 9:30pm
The Field Trip:	Sunday, August 2	Time and Place TBA

COST AND REGISTRATION

Lecture & Field Trip (or Field Trip only):
HBC and Hitchcock Members \$35.00
Non-members \$40.00

Lecture Only:
HBC and Hitchcock Members \$12.00
Non-members \$15.00

Please call the Hitchcock Center at 256-6006 to register.

This is serious birding and serious fun but you don't have to have serious knowledge to enjoy a learning adventure with this proven teacher who is also one of the premier identification persons in the country. His workshops on waterfowl and gulls offered last fall were wonderful. His slide show on shorebirds (March, 1991) was terrific. Take advantage of this opportunity if at all possible!

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

Monday, July 27: Bob Bieda keeps checking the Longmeadow Sandbar for shorebirds this time of the year. Call Bob at 527-2623 if you would like to join him.

Saturday, August 8: Al Richards will travel to Jamaica Bay, NY, in search of shorebirds. There should be a flood of them this time of the year. (Could be sort of a test on what you have learned if you are a Petersen workshop graduate.) Call Al at 665-2761 if you are interested.

September 25 - 28: First (and I thought early) notification of Scott Sumner's fall migration trip to Monhegan Island. It seems that Scott has already taken several deposits from people who have enjoyed this trip before, and since the fall trip is limited in number, you would be wise to contact him now if you are interested in going or want more information. Call him at 253-7486.

BIRD BOARD FOR 1992-1993

The membership voted to accept the following slate of officers and board members at the annual meeting on May 11:

President: Jan Ortiz (549-1768)
V. Pres./Program chair: Pat Lynch (549-5823)
Treasurer: Allan Richards (665-2761)
Secretary/Membership: Sally Venman (549-1098)
Members at Large:
Bob Bieda - Field Trip Chair (527-2623)
Shirley Hilborn (549-1362)
Morris Lainer (527-9412)
Jim Marcum - Immediate. Past Pres. (549-1613)
Scott Sumner (253-7486)

If you have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to call.

MISCELLANEOUS

Points to ponder and places to play during the dog days (7/3 through 8/11) and cat nights (starting 8/17) of summer:

1. Don't miss the Coon-Dog Barking contest (7/11) in Saluda, North Carolina. Call "Orbin" at 704-749-9551 for information.
2. On 7/19/1848 Camelia Bloomers introduced bloomers in Lowell, Massachusetts. ("Trivial Pursuit" ammunition)
3. 7/22: Celebrate National Rat Catcher's Day in memory of the Pied Piper.
4. For you Velveeta Cheese lovers, commemorate the anniversary of the introduction of Wonder Bread in 1930 on 8/11 with a luncheon of toasted cheese sandwiches and Campbell's Tomato Soup. Don't forget to light the candles.
5. And finally, on a more serious note in this politically pregnant summer, let me remind you of two historical happenings. On 8/26/80 President Reagan announced to the waiting world that trees cause pollution. And on 8/31/84 the *National Enquirer* published for a fact that Nixon was grooming Elvis for the Presidency.

For those of you whose summer does not unfold the way you would like, September is "Scream-at-the-top-of-your-lungs-month", so hang in there!

You'll be hearing from me once again in August with the annual dunning letter. Start saving your money!

Happy Summer

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Venman, Sec'y

NEWS RELEASE - ATTENTION - NEWS RELEASE - ATTENTION - NEWS RELEASE - ATTENTION - NEWS RELEASE

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

BIRDS  US



(elegant and understated)

August 23, 1992



For a limited time only it is my privilege as representative of the HBC Bird Board to inform you, the discriminating bird watcher, about an amazing once in a year-time back-to-school special offer. By acting NOW you can become a member of the Hampshire Bird Club for the unbelievably low price of \$9.00, \$15.00, \$30.00, \$50.00, or \$100.00 depending on choice of membership category. But, don't delay! This offer will be valid only up to and including the firm deadline of October 1, 1992, after which the cost of membership will be \$9.00, \$15.00, \$30.00, etc., etc., etc. Although technically this may sound the same, if you join before the deadline you can measure your savings in terms of freedom from personal guilt, remorse, and self-reproach that comes with procrastination and indecision. You will also be spared the truly horrible dunning "reminder" letter I send to members who have not renewed.

The Club is a good source of information for those just getting started and for those who wish to know 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 mailings 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 receive the treasured and truly amazing MEMBERSHIP PACKET filled with membership-only kinds of information.

Forms are enclosed.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

For starters on Monday, September 14, Scott Sumner will be presenting another of his popular programs. Scott is a well-known local birder, field trip leader, teacher, and one of the prime movers and shakers behind the Club's formation and its first president. His slide and lecture presentation (some would call it a stand-up comedy routine - Scott has that reputation) features Monhegan Island, that wonderful island off the coast of Maine where Scott leads the spring and fall HBC weekend field trips. He presented this program at the Third Annual Massachusetts Birders' Meeting in Shrewsbury last November and I note that he has written an article, "Monhegan: Island of Possibilities" in *Bird Observer*, August 1992, which has just been published. 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!

Mark your calendars: On Monday, October 19, Noble Proctor returns to present a program on Kenya (many of you will remember his program on Attu Island last October); on Monday, November 9, HBC member Susan Smith returns to update us on her Chickadee research; and on Monday, December 14, we gather for the holiday party when members show their own natural history slides, plans are made for the annual Christmas Bird Counts, and we eat ourselves silly. More detailed information will be in future membership mailings.

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 are involved. It is our policy to ask that you call the trip leader to register so that s/he 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.

We are always looking for new places to explore and new leaders to take us there. Bird identification skill is not the most important requirement for being a trip leader. Familiarity with a good birding location is. If you know of a good spot that would lend itself well to a birding group, or would be interested in leading a trip yourself we would like to know about it. If you have suggestions please make note

of them on the membership form or contact field trip chair Bob Bieda directly. (21 Pomeroy St., Easthampton, MA 01027; 413-527-2623).

The fall and winter field trip schedule should be completed in a couple more weeks and I'll be sending it to all members in the next newsletter. Meanwhile there are four September trips you will want to know about:

<u>Saturday, 9/12:</u>	PLUM ISLAND;	Bob Bieda (527-2623)
<u>Tuesday, 9/15:</u>	MIDWEEK HAWK WATCH;	Jan Ortiz (549-1768)
<u>Saturday, 9/19:</u>	VALLEY SHOREBIRDS;	Paul Champlin (253-5047)
<u>Friday, 9/25:</u>	MONHEGAN WEEKEND;	Scott Sumner (253-7486)

HITCHCOCK NEWS OF INTEREST TO BIRDERS

(Call the Center at 256-6006 for fee information and to register)

FALL BIRDING CLASS: Beginning on Wednesday, September 9 HBC president and well-known local birder Jan Ortiz returns to the Hitchcock to teach her most popular class during her favorite birding season. More birds can be seen in Massachusetts in September than during any other month in the year. Jan is a seasoned, dedicated birder with a special gift for communicating her love and knowledge of birds. Her first teaching objective is for you to enjoy the birds and enjoy learning about them. Her approach is comprehensive yet comfortable and will accommodate the beginning as well as more experienced birder. This twelve session class (Six Wednesday evening lectures - 9/9 and 16, 10/7, 14, and 28, and 11/4 - followed by six Saturday field trips - 9/12 and 19, 10/10, 17, and 31, and 11/7) will include all-day trips to Plum Island and to Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Registration required.

BIRD SEED SALE: Order due Friday, September 18 with pick-up on Saturday, September 26, 9:00 am -- 2:00 pm. Call the Center or order at our meeting on the 14th.

FALL OWL PROWL: David Ziomek, Hitchcock Director, long-time HBC member, birder and experienced owl prowler will be leading the wakeful in search of barred, screech and great horned owls on two fall trips. Sunday, September 20 and Sunday, October 18 are the dates and 3:00 am is the time. Group size is limited to 15. Registration required.

BIRDING CAPE COD: Scott Sumner, long-time HBC member and past president will lead a trip to the Cape from Morris Island to Provincetown on Saturday, October 3 in search of migrating shorebirds, peregrine falcons, hawks, warblers, sparrows - anything is possible at this time of the year. Registration required.

JOINT HBC/HITCHCOCK OFFERING

SEABIRDS OF THE NORTHEAST: The fourth in a series of workshops led by Wayne Petersen. The lecture is planned for Monday, Oct. 26 and the field trip tentatively planned for Nov. 1. More about this later.

and now -

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

Congratulations! You have arrived at the end of this letter! Now the moment has come for you to avoid the aforementioned personal guilt, remorse, and self-reproach that comes with procrastination and indecision. Simply take pen in hand immediately, fill in the blank spaces on the membership form, 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 made payable to the Hampshire Bird Club (if you want us to take you seriously) in a stamped envelope and return to me, Sally Venman, 43 Ridgecrest Road, Amherst, MA 01002. And PRESTO --- your YEAR OF THE BIRD, 1992 - 1993, will become a reality! If you wish to be on the Rare Bird Alert, note that I need to receive that form by October 1. If you prefer to join at the first meeting, please bring your completed forms with you - saves wear and tear on your easily confused secretary.

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 our president Jan Ortiz at 549-1768.

Sincerely,

Sally

Sally Venman, Secretary

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Do you realize that there are ONLY one hundred and nineteen (119) days left before the local 1992 Christmas Bird Count?

Be Prepared: Don't be left out in the cold without HBC protection!

JOIN NOW!!!!!!!



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

October, 1992

Dear Friends -

My original plan to run off a quick October post card ran into a problem: I could present half the information, I could tell all by condensing the type size to a ridiculous speck on the paper, or I could run off a quick October letter, as follows:

HBC PROGRAMS

The next meeting of the Club will be held on Monday, October 19, 7:30 pm, at the Hitchcock Center. Last October I sent a letter introducing our speaker Noble Proctor in glowing terms, even though his reputation as a presenter was based only on hearsay evidence. I finished the note by saying "we have heard that his slides are fabulous and that he is a great speaker." As it turned out, that was not only true but understated! We were so entertained and enlightened by his presentation on Alaska that arrangements were made on the spot for him to return to us this October. He has chosen Kenya, his own personal favorite, for his topic. Noble is a professor at Southern Connecticut State University. 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). His Kenya talk will include many aspects of this rich area's natural history, and of course African birds will be featured. Don't miss it! There is extra parking at the Common School just behind the Hitchcock Center should you need it.

Mark your calendars: on Monday, November 9, HBC member Susan Smith returns to update us on her Chickadee research; and on Monday, December 14, we gather for the holiday party when members show their own natural history slides, plans are made for the annual Christmas Bird Counts, and we eat ourselves silly. More detailed information will be in future membership mailings.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

Tuesday, the 13th: A Midweek Sparrow Search with Jan Ortiz. Call her at 549-1768 if you would like to join in.

Saturday, the 17th: Birding the Connecticut Coastline with Byron Butler. Call him at (203)453-1965 for more information.

Saturday, the 24th: Plum Island with Morris Lainer. Call Morris at 527-9412 to save yourself a spot.

Saturday, the 31st: Walk around the Ludlow Reservoir with Harvey Allen. He'll meet you at the Hitchcock Center at 7:00 a.m. For more information call him at 253-7963.

SEABIRDS OF THE NORTHEAST

Would you be interested in learning more about gannets, shearwaters, petrels, tropic birds, puffins, murres, murrelets, auklets, guillemots and phalaropes? While not birds you are apt to see locally during any migration, the life histories, behavior, and customs of these birds make them an extremely interesting learning experience.

Seabirds of the Northeast will be the subject of the fourth in the series of workshops led by Wayne Petersen sponsored jointly by the Bird Club and the Hitchcock Center. The lecture is planned for Monday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. Due to low enrollment and cost we have had to cancel the "official" field trip. But if you are interested in an all day pelagic field planned for Sunday, Nov. 1 there is a group from the Brookline Bird Club going out of Plymouth that would be happy to include you. There will be experts on the trip to help with identification problems and to answer questions. The cost of the trip at sea is \$22.00. Glen D'Entremont is the coordinator. Call him at (617)961-2616 if you are interested. The lecture is still on (\$12.00 for HBC and Center members or \$15.00 for non-members). However, we do need a commitment from you by Monday, October 19 to know if enough people will be attending the lecture. Call the Hitchcock at 256-6006.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

(contact the Center at 256-6006 for more information)

Saturday, October 17, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. HAWKS AND OWLS UP CLOSE:

Tom Ricardi will show slides of native hawks, owls and eagles and will introduce several birds from his raptor rehabilitation center. A good program for children, as well as adults. There is a fee.

Sunday, October 18, 3:00 a.m. FALL OWL PROWL: led by David

Ziomek, Hitchcock Director, long-time HBC member, birder and experienced owl prowler. Group size is limited to 15. Registration required. There is a fee.

AND AHEAD

The fourth annual Massachusetts Birders' meeting, co-hosted by Mass Audubon and the Merrimack Valley Bird Club will take place on Saturday, November 21, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in Andover. Cost is \$20.00 which includes a light lunch. Send a check made out to Massachusetts Audubon Society; c/o Conservation Department; South Great Rd.; Lincoln, MA 01773.

--until next month

Sally

Sally Venman, Sec'y

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB
November, 1992

ANOTHER HBC NEWSLETTER

(or)

Something to read while waiting for your back ordered copy of Madonna's book. Ah - what a privilege to be alive to witness the birth of such a literary masterpiece -- one of the great artistic achievements of all time -- certain to be found on a future Great Books of the Western World list! Makes you wonder what *Reader's Digest* will do with it, doesn't it? But I digress.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

On Monday, November 9, 7:30 at the Hitchcock Center Susan Smith will be presenting an update on her Black-capped Chickadee research. This is one of those very special in-house programs we are so lucky to be able to offer. Susan, a major researcher and valuable member and contributor to the Club delighted and enlightened us in the past with two of her Chickadee programs. She was also a member of the panel that presented our program on birding ethics. On the back cover of her recently published book *The BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - Behavioral Ecology and Natural History* she tells us that "studying chickadees can be addictive. I've been hooked for years." For those of us who have enjoyed seeing her past programs it is quite clear that she not only enjoys this "addiction" but is very able to present it in an informative and appealing manner. Susan is Professor of Biological Sciences at Mount Holyoke College.

Save Monday, December 14 for 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 Sunday, December 20. If you wish to be included in the count and cannot attend the meeting, call Jan Ortiz at 549-1768 and she'll sign you up. Other area counts and people to call are: Springfield 12/19 (Morton Bates at 783-6411); the Quabbin Count 12/26 (Scott Sumner at 253-7486); and Greenfield 12/27 (Mark Fairbrother at 367-2695.)

FIELD TRIPS

On Sunday, November 8 Tom Gagnon will lead his annual all-day (bring lunch, wear warm clothes) trip to the Berkshire Lakes and Berry Mountain in search of migrating waterfowl and perhaps a Golden Eagle. The group will meet at 6:00 am sharp in the Stop and Shop parking lot in Northampton (Route 5) and car-pool from there. Call Tom at 584-6353 for more information and to register.

On Saturday, December 5 Jim Marcum will lead an all-day trip to the Massachusetts coast, most likely the Gloucester/Rockport area, Newburyport and Plum Island to search for sea ducks, alcids and other winter treats. Jim says to dress as warmly as you think you should then bring extra. You'll need your lunch, snacks and of course binoculars (a little nearsighted birder's humor there). Call Jim (549-1613) for time and place of departure.

Christmas Counts -- see December's meeting announcement above.

A NEW BIGGIE that didn't happen last year because there were not quite enough people who committed to go in time: Bob Bieda has come up with a great way to beat the mid-winter blahs. On Saturday, February 27 he is planning a bus trip to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The bus will leave Amherst at 7:00 am, stop for people in Northampton about 7:15, break for coffee, etc. on the way down and arrive at the museum at 11:00. The bus will return at 4:00 pm, stop for dinner and arrive back home about 8:30. This is a fabulous museum. Besides the bird exhibits there is enough to keep your interest for a lot more time than we will have. There is a restaurant and gift shop on the premises. The museum is located across from Central Park and is a short 12 blocks to stores, restaurants, etc. Cost will be about \$40.00 per person for the bus and admission. Bob needs to have at least 25 people sign up to make it a go. If enough people express interest by Christmas Bob would have time to work on getting us behind the scenes! Think seriously about this opportunity and let Bob know as soon as possible! Call him at 527-2623.

ALWAYS A BIGGIE: Scott Sumner is taking reservations for the annual Monhegan Island Memorial Day weekend in May. ~~It seems early to be announcing this trip,~~ but we find it to be extremely popular and it fills quickly. We leave from Port Clyde, Maine, on Friday, spending all day Saturday and Sunday on the Island enjoying the migrating birds, the spring wild flowers, hiking, eating, laughing and having a wonderful "escape." We return to the mainland on Monday. The cost will be approximately \$170.00 per person plus shared gas costs to Port Clyde, parking and baggage fees, tips, lunches and snacks, and an optional lobster dinner on the Island. Call Scott at 253-7486 to learn more and/or to be put on the list.

HITCHCOCK ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Call the Center at 256-6006 for fee information and to register)

Scott Sumner will again be leading his popular trip to the coast (North Shore and Cape Anne). This "usually" productive all-day trip will car-pool from the Center Saturday morning, November 28, leaving at 5:00 am. This trip is limited to 12 people, so give Hitchcock a call and get on the list.

On Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 -- 8:30 pm. HBC member David Klingener, UMASS Professor of Zoology, will give a walking tour of the zoological collections (mounts, skeletons, study skins) focusing on mammals and birds. Call to sign up.

On Sunday, December 6, 3:00 am -- dawn another owl prowl with Center Director, HBC member, and owl prowler extraordinaire David Ziomek. Call to sign up.

Your order for the December Bird Seed Sale is due Friday, December 11 with pick up on Saturday, December 19.

The Nature Stop gift shop has been transformed and has new and exciting items for sale. There are many bird books and items of interest to birders. What can't be stocked can be ordered from the *Common Ground* catalog. Remember that HBC members enjoy a 10% discount. I am pleased to announce that HBC member Marilyn Gonter has volunteered to run the shop before and after our monthly meetings, so bring your wish list with you.

RECYCLED INFORMATION

The fourth annual Massachusetts Birders' meeting, co-hosted by Mass Audubon and the Merrimack Valley Bird Club will take place on Saturday, November 21, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in Andover. Cost is \$20.00 which includes a light lunch. Send a check made out to Massachusetts Audubon Society; c/o Conservation Department; South Great Rd.; Lincoln, MA 01773.

I thought you might want to know the names and numbers of the HBC Board members should you have suggestions or questions. Board meetings are open to members. Let one of us know if you would be interested in attending.

Officers:

Jan Ortiz at 549-1768 (President); Pat Lynch at 549-5823 (V.P. & Program Chair); Allan Richards at 665-2761 (Treasurer); and Sally Venman at 549-1098 (Secretary & Membership).

Members at Large:

Bob Bieda at 527-2623 (Field Trip Chair); Shirley Hilborn at 549-1362 (Food Chair); Morris Lainer at 527-9412; Jim Marcum at 549-1613 (Immediate Past President); and Scott Sumner at 253-7486.

I remind you to call the HBC VOICE (WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS VOICE OF AUDUBON). By calling this recorded telephone service, operated and updated weekly by Scott Sumner, you will learn what birds have been seen in the area and hear about events of interest to birders that are not covered in the mailings. To receive this information call 253-2218. Check it regularly. If you have bird sightings you wish to report call 256-1836. Scott asks that when reporting you leave your name and phone number, identify the bird(s), and say when and where spotted and how many.

MISCELLANEOUS

A note of thanks to two club members who have offered their help in making our meetings just a little bit nicer. As noted above Marilyn Genter will be operating the Hitchcock gift shop before and after the meeting. And Anne Cann will be helping Board member Shirley Hilborn in making sure that the food table well stocked.

HBC T-Shirt update from Al Richards: Al will have T-shirts available at the next meeting. The shirts are white with the HBC logo (created by Chris Page) in red and black on the shirt's front. The shirts came into being when Al wanted a souvenir to give people when he went to China last spring. They were so popular he guessed that we might be interested in them ourselves. He has them in sizes Medium, Large, X-Large, and a few XX-Large. They sell for \$10.00.

MBO Birders' Exchange update from Manomet Bird Observatory: Equipment donated by birders in Massachusetts and other states has been distributed to at least twenty-three environmental organizations in nine countries throughout Central and South America. Our old binoculars and field guides are now at work in the hands of Latin American biologists and teachers helping to protect birds, preserve habitats and educate the public on conservation issues. In addition to the continued need for optics and field guides, used camping equipment such as small tents, sleeping bags, back packs and knapsacks of any size are needed and would be greatly appreciated. If you or your office or company has used or outdated audio-visual equipment or computers this would be a wonderful place to

send them. The MBO is non-profit and you can get tax credit for such items. Jan Ortiz at 549-1786 is the local contact. Julie Sibbing is the contact at MBO and can be reached at (508)224-6521.

I have enclosed the HBC Field Trip list through February of this year to help in your planning. I remind you to check the VOICE regularly for late additions to this list. If your travel plans include places well beyond this area and you would like to check in with the appropriate birding community, I have enclosed a list of rare bird alerts from all over the country.

The "New Members Packet" including such wonders as the "Dead Bird Sheet" should reach new members within the next 2 weeks. Your secretary is working for the procrastination award of the year which is why it's so late.

When there is extra room in the Newsletter it is the Board's policy to pass on information that we feel would be of interest to our membership. Long-time birder and HBC member from New Hampshire, William Harris knows of a "birder's paradise" for sale in southern New Hampshire. He hopes to see this beautiful place occupied by people interested in the outdoors and wildlife. He would be happy to fully describe this property to you. For more details call him at (603)882-9639.

When there is extra room in the Newsletter it is your secretary's policy to pass on different kinds of information that she feels would be of interest to our membership. If you think that you can only celebrate election day, Veteran's Day, Friday the 13th, and Thanksgiving Day this month, you are wrong, wrong, WRONG!

WARNING: Take special care all month because November is National UFO Abductions Month (We would hate to lose you, even though we have your dues).

11/4: National Observance of Broken Campaign Promises begins.

11/7: National "Punster's Day." How about the ABA's bumper sticker "Elementary, my dear Hoatzin"? (What Sherlock should have said.) Or -- "Though he's not very humble, there's no police like Holmes"?

11/19: First model train sold in Germany in 1891. (This is for my husband who has every one sold since then.)

11/27: National Leftover Awareness Week begins. Turkey Support Group anyone?

In closing, as I mark off the days leading up to the holiday season and the end of the year, I can't help but look back over this eventful election year. I note in particular the Red Sox bid for last place and Dagwood's courage to quit his job, go to work for Blondie in her catering business, only to be fired by Blondie for eating up the profits. The country chose the young Elvis over the old Elvis for a place in postage stamp history and the new talking Barbie told us that "math is hard" and "let's go to the mall." Makes you pause in sheer wonderment, doesn't it?

LET US ALL GO BIRDING!!!!

Sally

Sally your secretary

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

(510) 528-0288 or 524-5592

Orange County (714) 563-6516 (weekly updates)

Sacramento (916) 481-0118

San Bernardino (714) 793-5599

San Diego (619) 479-3400 (daily updates)

Santa Barbara (805) 964-8240

SW Sierra/San Joaquin (209) 782-1237

Colorado

Statewide (303) 279-3076

Connecticut

Statewide (203) 254-3665

Delaware

Statewide (215) 567-2473

District of Columbia

Districtwide (301) 652-1088

Florida

Statewide (813) 984-4444

Miami (305) 667-7337

Lower Keys (305) 294-3438

Georgia

Statewide (404) 509-0204

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) 372-5499

Kansas City (913) 342-2473

Kentucky

Statewide (502) 894-9538

Louisiana

Baton Rouge (504) 293-2473

New Orleans (504) 246-2473

Maine

Statewide (207) 781-2332

5pm-8am wkdays; 24 hr wkends

Maryland

Statewide (301) 652-1088

Massachusetts

Boston (617) 259-8805

Western Mass. (413) 253-2218

Michigan

Statewide (616) 471-4919

Detroit (313) 477-1360

Minnesota

Duluth (218) 525-5952

Statewide (612) 544-5016

Mississippi

Coast (601) 467-9500

Missouri

Kansas City (913) 342-2473

Statewide (314) 445-9115

St. Louis (314) 935-8432

Montana

Statewide (406) 721-2935

Nebraska

Statewide (402) 292-5325

Nevada

Statewide (702) 649-1516

New Hampshire

Statewide (603) 224-9900

(M-F: 5pm-9am,
weekends: 24 hrs)

New Jersey

Cape May (609) 884-2626

Statewide (908) 766-2661

New Mexico

Statewide (505) 662-2101

New York

Albany (518) 439-8080

Buffalo (716) 896-1271

Cayuga Lakes Basin (607) 277-5455

(10pm-7am)

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) 321-7245

Columbus (614) 221-9736

Blendon Woods Metro Park

(614) 895-6222

SW Ohio (513) 277-6446

NW Ohio (419) 875-6889

Youngstown (216) 742-6661

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City (405) 373-4531

Oregon

Statewide (503) 292-0661

Southern Oregon (503) 826-7011

(10pm-6am weekdays only)

Pennsylvania

Allentown (215) 759-5754

Philadelphia (215) 567-2473

Western Penna. (412) 963-0560

Wilkes-Barre (717) 825-2473

Rhode Island

Statewide (401) 231-5728

To Report (401) 231-6144

South Carolina

Statewide (704) 332-2473

Tennessee

Statewide (615) 356-7636

Chattanooga (615) 843-2822

Texas

Statewide (713) 992-2757

Austin (512) 483-0952

Northcentral (817) 261-6792

Lower Rio Grande Valley

(512) 565-6773

San Antonio (512) 733-8306

Sinton (512) 364-3631

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) 526-8766

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) 737-9910

Victoria (604) 592-3381

New Brunswick

Provincwide (506) 450-3825

Nova Scotia

Provincwide (902) 852-2428

Ontario

Provincwide (519) 586-3959

Ottawa (613) 761-1967

Toronto (416) 350-3000

(pushbutton phones then enter 2293)

Windsor/Detroit (313) 477-1360

Windsor/Pt. Pelee (519) 252-2473

Hamilton (416) 648-9537

Long Point Bird Obs.

(519) 586-3959

Quebec

Western Quebec (in French)

(819) 778-0737

Saskatchewan

Regina (306) 761-2094

NOTE - 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) 835-2473. Rev: 8/27/92

HBC NEWSLETTER
December, 1992

Dear Friends,

May I be among the first to wish you a happy December - the month that brings us Hanukkah, Christmas, Boxing Day, a total lunar eclipse 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 respond to a tape with wind gusting to 50 mph; the numbness of the trudge through open fields at dawn listening for the "chip" of a sparrow; the intellectual challenge of accurately tabulating thousands of starlings coming in for evening roost at sundown. 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 pinpointing 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 -- a thought that kept coming to me as I stood by that railroad crossing! If you are a beginner, you can be put with a more experienced birder. Our local count on Sunday, December 20 covers an area on both sides of the river and we will be organizing it at the December meeting. 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 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. If you are interested in participating but can't attend the meeting, please call Jan Ortiz (549-1768) for information and assignment. There will be similar counts for Springfield on December 19 (call Mort Bates at 783-6411), for Greenfield on December 27 (call Mark Fairbrother at 367-2695) and for Quabbin on January 2 -- note change of date -- (call Scott at 253-7486).

The meeting on Monday, December 14, 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.

JANUARY EVENTS

On January 1st be ready for BIRD BLITZ for TWELVE CHRONIC LISTERS with Scott Sumner. It's a great way to start the year and coming just after most of the Christmas Counts, Scott should know where to find the birds. Call him at 253-7486 to join the group.

On Saturday, the 9th 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.

On Monday, the 11th at the Club's regular monthly meeting Barry VanDusen, Massachusetts artist featured on the cover of this month's *Bird Watcher's Digest* will present a program on Massachusetts birds.

On Saturday, the 23rd there will be an evening Saw-whet Owl search with Jeff Johnstone from 8:00 p.m. until midnight. Call him at (508) 249-9052.

On Saturday, the 30th Scott Sumner will be coordinating the annual Roadside Raptor Count. Viewing raptors from the warmth of a car makes winter birding especially appealing. Call him at 253-7486.

COMING SOON

On February 8 Julie Sibbing, from Manomet Bird Observatory will be with us. And on March 8 our own Tom Army will be showing us Brazil. Details later.

NEED TO BE ACTED ON NOW INFORMATION -- New and Old

Please take note of the blue enclosure from Jim Marcum, leader of a newly proposed Club trip to Trinidad and Tobago in March, 1994. Jim had planned on polling people interested in the trip to determine when people would like to go. Upon calling Asa Wright, however, he learned that two of the three weeks he was considering had already been booked. It is of extreme urgency that he know immediately if enough people are interested in the trip so that he can reserve the ten spots. So, please, take time now to think about it and return the form.

Bob Bieda is planning a bus trip to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on Saturday, February 27. The bus will leave Amherst at 7:00 am, stop in Northampton about 7:15, break for coffee, etc. on the way down and arrive at the museum at 11:00. The bus will return at 4:00 pm, stop for dinner and arrive home about 8:30. This is a fabulous museum. Besides the bird exhibits there is enough to keep your interest for a lot more time than we will have. There is a restaurant and gift shop on the premises. The museum is located across from Central Park and is a short 12 blocks to stores, restaurants, etc. Cost will be about \$40.00 per person for the bus and admission. Bob needs to have at least 25 people sign up to make it a go. If enough people express interest by Christmas Bob would have time to work on getting us behind the scenes! Think seriously about this opportunity and let Bob know NOW!!! Call him at 527-2623.

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

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 Jan Ortiz at 549-1768. And if you haven't already done so and wish to subscribe to *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*, at \$4.00 a year send a check made out to Hampshire Bird Club to Sally Venman, 43 Ridgcrest Rd., Amherst MA 01002 by December 31st. Your first issue will arrive later this winter.

Your order for the Hitchcock December Bird Seed Sale is due Friday, December 11 with pick up on Saturday, December 19. Call the Center at 256-6006.

MISCELLANEOUS

HBC T-shirts can be bought from Al Richards for \$10.00 at the meetings.

The Hitchcock *Nature Stop* gift shop has been transformed. There are many bird books and items of interest to birders. What can't be stocked can be ordered. Remember that HBC members enjoy a 10% discount. HBC member Marilyn Gonter will again be running the shop before and after our December meeting.

I am sending a MEMBERSHIP PACKET to all new members. It includes the Club's By-Laws, the field trip policy statement, the paper on birding ethics, the feeder checklist and the dead bird sheet (what to do with a dead bird). If you would like additional copies, I'll bring extras to the meetings.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Sally

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN 1994

The Hampshire Bird Club Board has approved a proposal by Jim Marcum to lead a trip to Trinidad and Tobago March 19-27, 1994. Caligo Ventures will make travel arrangements and arrange for local guides. While in Trinidad we will stay in the renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge, a 200 acre wildlife sanctuary located at 1200 feet in the Northern Range. The Blue Waters Inn will be our base in Tobago.

Trinidad and her smaller sister island, Tobago, are the southernmost islands in the Caribbean. The continental origin and proximity of Trinidad to Venezuela has resulted in an avifauna that is much more akin to South America than to the other Caribbean islands. Over 400 species of birds have been recorded in Trinidad and an experienced birder who has not yet visited the American tropics should be able to see 100 or more new life birds during a short stay. Birding Trinidad and Tobago is an excellent introduction to tropical birding since the number of new birds and bird families is not as overwhelming as on the continent. Trinidad and Tobago have a wide range of habitats and the distances between them are not great.

Among the birds likely to be seen on this trip are Scarlet Ibis, Yellow-headed Caracara, Rufous-vented Chachalaca, Southern Lapwing, Wattled Jacana, Red-bellied Macaw, Blue-headed Parrot, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Common Potoo, Oilbird; numerous **hummingbirds** including Rufous-breasted Hermit, Green Hermit, Little Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Black-throated Mango, Ruby-topaz, Tufted Coquette, Blue-chinned Sapphire, White-chested Emerald, and Copper-rumped; Violaceous Trogon, Channel-billed Toucan, Blue-crowned Motmot, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Lineated Woodpecker, White-fringed Antwren, Golden-headed Manakin, Bearded Bellbird, Cocoa Thrush, Bare-eyed Thrush, Rufous-browed Peppershrike; numerous **tanagers** including Speckled, Turquoise, Bay-headed, Blue-gray, Palm, Silver-beaked, and White-lined; Red-breasted Blackbird, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, Giant Cowbird, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Crested Oropendola and many others.

The duration of the trip is nine days including travel time. Current cost is \$995 plus airfare from Bradley Field (now approximately \$400). These costs are of course subject to change. In order to use the Asa Wright Nature Center, reservations will need to be made quickly. Therefore, if you wish to be one of the **ten** participants, please complete the form at the bottom of the page and return to Jim Marcum **as soon as possible**.

Jim, I wish to be a participant on the Hampshire Bird Club trip to Trinidad and Tobago March 19-27, 1994.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Return to James B. Marcum, 132 Rolling Ridge Road, Amherst, MA 01002