

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB -- January, 1994 Reminders

More than the usual holiday expectations followed by the invasion of the dreaded "flu" makes a postcard reminder the communication of the month.

The first meeting of the year is another good one. Our own local raptor rehabilitator, Tom Ricardi, will be with us on Monday, January 10, 7:30 pm to present a program, complete with live birds, entitled "Birds of Prey."

Field trip reminders:

Saturday, 1/8 -- Bob Bieda (527-2623) will take us to the North Shore.

Saturday, 1/22, 8:00 pm to Midnight -- Jeff Johnstone (508-249-9052) will lead an evening Saw-whet Owl search.

Saturday, 1/29 -- Al Richards (665-2761) searches for waterfowl from Falmouth to Plymouth.

Saturday, 2/5 -- Scott Sumner (253-67486) conducts the Roadside Raptor Survey.

**IMPORTANT:** If you wish to go to Monhegan and Scott doesn't know it, call him NOW. Plans are being made this week!

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
February, 1994

Dear Friends,

In yesterday's mail I received yet ANOTHER post card picturing 3 Aves Tropicales: Tucan, Paloma del Espiritu Santo and Lapa. The sender found the "beauty of this birding/naturalist trip unbelievable" and assures me that I "would go wild" there. I can't wait to share with him the fact that while he was enduring tropical heat, I was building New England character and muscular strength communing with snow, sleet, ice and rain. While he was hearing unfamiliar bird songs I was hearing the familiar voice of WTTT's Brian McCullough telling me to "stay tuned for the list of cancellations." My friend has missed and will never be able to recapture or such joy! 'Tis a pity!

Before the joy completely overwhelms me (I wonder if there is some way I can put the wood stove and the word processor in the same room?), I bring you the HBC news filled with warm tidings of birding cheer.

Warmth is guaranteed on Monday, February 14, 7:30 pm at the Hitchcock Center when Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll, our naturalist friends from Worcester, return to the Club for the fifth time to present a program on Trinidad and Tobago. Mark and Sheila are well-known Massachusetts birders who have delighted us in past years with programs cataloging their adventures in Australia, England and Scotland. Their photography, knowledge and humor combine to make them among our most popular presenters. A thoroughly satisfying evening is anticipated. Their subject will be of special interest to a few members who will be travelling to Trinidad and Tobago in March with Jim Marcum on the Club's first out-of-the-country field trip.

Future Programs:

March 14: Bill Burt on Rails  
April 11: Alvah Sanborn on Sanibel  
May 9: Susan Smith on Antarctica  
June 13: TBA

Field Trip reminders:

2/5: Roadside Raptor Survey (Scott Surner at 253-7486)  
2/12: American Museum of Natural History (Morris Lainer at 527-9412)  
2/19: Maine's Southern Coast (Scott Surner at 253-7486)  
2/26: Rhode Island's Coast (Paul Champlin at 253-5047)  
3/5: Southeastern Massachusetts (Fred Thurber at 508-636-3954; local arrangements through Bob Bieda at 527-2623)

It is exciting to announce that the Club is sponsoring a thirteen day trip to Costa Rica in 1995 through Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). I will be sending more information about the trip in March but here are a few of the particulars you will want if considering being one of the participants.

The dates: July 5 - 17, 1995.

The price: \$2545.00 per person double occupancy - does not include air fare to San Jose. (current roundtrip fare is \$793.00)

Deposit: \$300.00 required to hold a place.

If you wish to have more information now, call Jim Marcum at 549-1613 or Al Richards at 665-2761. The trip is limited to 14 participants.

We have good news concerning the HBC library which is up and running thanks to Shirley Hilborn. With help from the staff at Hitchcock she has found a place for the library at the Center. In order to expand and update our collection, she compiled a list of titles which the Club then purchased. Most of the Lane Guides and standard Field Guides are available along with other books of interest to birders. The books will be for our members' use only and can be signed out for a month (just follow the easy directions) at Bird Club meetings or during the hours that the Center is open. If you should wish to donate books to the library please bring them to a meeting or call Anne Cann (253-7753) who is in charge while the Hilborns are on sabbatical.

The iron-on HBC Patch has arrived and it is simply gorgeous, thanks to Jim Marcum's persistence and Chris Page's design. It is so handsome we were tempted to up the price when we saw it. We did not, however, and all this beauty can be yours for only \$3.00 -- purchase at the meeting or send a check made out to the Hampshire Bird Club and a self-addressed stamped envelope to me (Sally Venman, 43 Ridgecrest Rd., Amherst, MA 01002). It's almost worth buying a jacket to put it on.

Enclosed is the 1993-1994 membership list as of January 31. If you should find any errors, I would appreciate kind and gentle notification so I can discipline my word processor. I have also enclosed a copy of Scott Sumner's favorite game -- The Eight Question Birding Game, or "How to Keep Your Friends While Showing Off Your Birding Knowledge" as told to and translated by Lynn Rubinstein.

*Bird News of Western Massachusetts* subscribers can be expecting the first issue to arrive in late winter. The Winter, 1994, issue contains the records for the Fall, 1993.

I remind you again to call the HBC VOICE (WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS VOICE OF AUDUBON). By calling this recorded telephone service, operated and updated weekly by Scott

Turner, you will learn what birds have been seen in the area and hear about events of interest to birders 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.

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. Sorry.

Other events we feel might be of interest to our membership:

February 12, 8:00 pm - midnight: Dave Ziomek, Director of Hitchcock and HBC birder will lead an Owl Prowl for the Center. Call 256-6006 for fee information and to register. You might want to check the Hitchcock Newsletter -- there are many events to interest the natural history buff.

February 9 - April 14: A traveling exhibition of John James Audubon's original magnificent watercolors from *The Birds of America* will be in Boston at the Museum of Fine Arts. Call the Museum at 617-267-9300 for more information about the exhibit, lectures and fees.

March 19 and 20: The Hawk Migration Association of North America and Northeast Hawkwatch will conduct a conference on raptor migration in the Northeast in Northampton, MA. For information contact Else M. Greenstone, 10 Moss Lane, Cranford, NJ 07016. Tel. 908-276-4605.

April 21 - 22: The Native Grassland-Heathlands of the Northeast conference will be held at UMASS in Amherst. This conference will incorporate a broad range of grassland issues, including grassland management, rare flora and fauna, fire ecology, butterfly re-introduction and grassland bird populations. This is sponsored by Massachusetts Audubon. For more information contact Andrea L. Jones at 617-259-9500, ext. 7401.

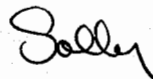
It has been brought to my attention that there are some people out there in Reader Land who believe that your scribe suffers from terminal silliness. NONSENSE! I do notice however that sometimes when I near the end of a particularly long and difficult HBC newsletter I feel....a....puzzling... power....envelop me.....an....aura.....a breeze.....of..... oh.....I.....feel it.....now.....oh..... oh-oh.....

As you all undoubtedly know, February is National Home-baked Fudge Month. While we all celebrate this and Groundhog Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's Day, and Washington's birthday, I believe there are other days equally qualified for merry making. Here's something for everyone:

- 2/6: The One Week Anniversary of Superbowl Sunday. Some people who can't use the TV remote control unit responsibly will be taken away by the remote control police.
- 2/7: Charles Dickens applied for a Reader's Ticket at the British Museum in 1830. He was 18.
- 2/11: The Year of the Dog begins.
- 2/14: Sweetheart Day. Count 100 snowmobiles, then look for a fat woman in a purple dress and a short man in a green bow tie. The next person you speak to you will marry. Pass it on.
- 2/15: White House gets touchtone voice-mail system.
- 2/19: Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood debuts in 1968.
- 2/23: International Pancake Day. Celebrate with flapjacks in the a.m. For dinner continue the celebration by treating yourself to a plate of grits with mashed potatoes, biscuits and gravy. Side order of macaroni and cheese.
- 2/27: Saccharin was discovered in 1879. Only 294 days to prepare for the Annual Christmas Count -- make your plans now!
- 3/6: In case I don't have the chance to remind you in the next letter, be sure to raise a glass of milk to the Oreo Cookie, for on this date 82 years ago the very first Oreo was sold from a small store in Hoboken, New Jersey. You might call it an eighty-second "Oreo-versary?"

Wishing you lots of winter finches and perhaps a Snowy Owl or two. And please learn how to use you television's remote control -- we want to see you at the February meeting.

Sincerely,



Sally Venman, Secretary

## HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

March, 1994

Dear Friends,

Isn't this great weather? I have Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at my feeder and Common Yellowthroats at my birdbath. Each morning the Northern Oriole wakes me, singing outside my window. Major hallucinations, creative visualizations, spiritual enlightenment? -- Only my analyst knows. Oh, the plight of the aging, snow-bound, winter-weary birder.

On to March: March On!

### MEETINGS

On Monday, March 14, 7:30 pm. at the Hitchcock Center, we have as our speaker William Burt, photographer and naturalist. A noted Connecticut photographer, Bill has been searching out and photographing natural history subjects for twenty years, with particular devotion to marshes and marshbirds, especially rails. His forays into the swamps have resulted in exhibitions, many awards and feature articles in magazines (*Smithsonian*, *Audubon*, etc.). He has just finished writing his first book *Shadowbirds*, an adventure/essay about dark meadows and rare, elusive birds. His program for us will feature these wonderful creatures.

Mark your calendars for the rest of the year: April 11 -- Alvah Sanborn on Sanibel; May 9 -- Susan Smith on Antarctica; and June 13 -- Tom French on endangered species.

### FIELD TRIPS

- Sat. 3/12 Rhode Island -- Early Spring with Paul Champlin (253-5047).
- Sat. 3/19 Start of the Trinidad and Tobago trip with Jim Marcum (549-1613).
- Sat. 3/26 Connecticut River Valley with Al Richards (665-2761).
- Sat. 4/9 Early warbler search at Ashley Reservoir with Bob Bieda (527-2623). Meet at the Holyoke Holiday Inn parking lot at 7 am.

Enclosed with this letter is the spring/summer Field Trip List. Take a moment and plan your birding for the next few months. You'll find a few new ventures along with the old favorites. And on the back of the Field Trip List you will find the revised HBC Field Trip Policy statement clarifying fee-based trips.

## COSTA RICA TRIP

As announced in the last letter, the Club is sponsoring a thirteen-day trip to Costa Rica in 1995 through Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). The response to this new way of providing trip opportunities was gratifying. Eight people have already paid their deposits. This leaves six more spaces to fill. Here are a few of the particulars you will want if considering being one of the participants.

Costa Rica is often called the "Switzerland of Central America." It is a small, stable country with a prosperous middle class, fine educational system, and spectacular highland terrain. For its size it is one of the richest countries in the world for birds, with over 750 species known within an area the size of West Virginia. In addition, Costa Rica boasts the finest national park system in Latin America, protecting examples of all major habitats and the flora and fauna within. As we explore each of the major habitats, we will search for many of Central America's most spectacular birds. The list seems endless -- the magnificent Resplendent Quetzal, Jabiru, Black-chested Hawk, Black Guan, Double-striped Thick-knee, Scarlet Macaw, over thirty species of hummingbirds, ten trogons, motmots, barbets, manakins, and on and on and on. (Secretarial note -- I don't even know which birds to pick to list for you. What I do know is that I have convinced myself and will be one of the 14 to experience the adventure.)

The dates: July 5 - 17, 1995.

The price: \$2545.00 per person double occupancy - does not include air fare to San Jose. (current roundtrip fare is \$793.00)

Deposit: \$300.00 required to hold a place.

Call Jim Marcum at 549-1613 for further information about the trip, its leaders and the itinerary.

## BIRDING with HITCHCOCK

Jan Ortiz, HBC president, experienced birder, field trip leader and teacher will again be teaching the Spring Birding Class for the Hitchcock Center. There will be two sessions this year. Session One will run for 8 consecutive weeks, two times a week starting March 30 (Wednesday evening at the Center, 7:00 - 9:00; and Saturday morning in the field, 7:00 - 12:00). There will be an all-day trip to Plum Island on May 21. Session Two will run for four consecutive weeks starting April 28. (The class will meet on Thursday evenings at Applewood from 7:30 - 9:00 with the field work on Friday mornings, 8:00 - 11:00). Jan offers this description: "The classes are geared to birders of all levels, but the pace will be leisurely. Ample time will be given to view and discuss the birds we see. Using slides and bird mounts in the classroom sessions, we will discuss migration, behavior, identification, song and what species we expect to see in the field. We will also take some time each week to note the progression of spring and how it relates to bird migration." Call the Center at 256-6006 for fee information and to register.

## OTHER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

On Thursday, March 24, 7:30 - 9:00 at Arcadia there will be a program on "Changes in Massachusetts Bird Populations" presented by Wayne Petersen, MAS Field Ornithologist. Wayne has recently finished, with Richard Veit, *Birds of Massachusetts*, a study of bird populations in Massachusetts. Some species are new, some are declining, some are increasing. Join Wayne as he explains the changes in the populations of many different species here in Massachusetts and suggests reasons for the changes.

## REMINDERS

Scott Sumner asked to remind you about the fifth regional NORTHEAST HAWK WATCH conference focusing on raptor migration to be held March 19 and 20 in Northampton, and to tell you that the organizers are in need of volunteer help. If you can lend a hand please call him at 253-7486. Contact Else Greenstone, 10 Moss Lane, Cranford, NJ 07016 (908-276-4605) for registration information.

February 9 - April 14: A traveling exhibition of John James Audubon's original magnificent watercolors from *The Birds of America* will be in Boston at the Museum of Fine Arts. Call the Museum at 617-267-9300 for more information about the exhibit, lectures and fees.

April 21 - 22: The Native Grassland-Heathlands of the Northeast conference will be held at UMASS in Amherst. This conference will incorporate a broad range of grassland issues, including grassland management, rare flora and fauna, fire ecology, butterfly re-introduction and grassland bird populations. This is sponsored by Massachusetts Audubon. For more information contact Andrea L. Jones at 617-259-9500, ext. 7401.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Enclosed with this mailing is information on the new HBC Lending Library. And, I am extremely happy to announce that I finally got the New Member's packet out to the new members. If somehow I missed someone, please give me a call (549-1098). Included in the packet was a copy of the By-laws, the Dead Bird Sheet (Does anybody have a use for this dead bird?), a copy of the ABA Birding Ethics, the Rare Bird Cross Country phone list and the Feeder Check List. The Member's List and the Eight Question Birding Game were sent to those who had not previously received them. Should anyone want extra copies of any of these, I'll always have them at the meetings or would be happy to send them to you -- just call.

Guess that's it for March.  
Happy Duck Hunting!

Sally, the Secretary

*Sally*



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

April, 1994

Dear Friends,

At this writing the Spotted Salamanders are donning their little earmuffs and waxing their little cross-country skis in preparation for the annual Henry Street crossing. The word is that the warblers are simply sipping cool drinks by southern pools ignoring inner voices urging northerly flight. I am sitting in front of the word processor writing the "spring" letter in the middle of, what is it -- the 19th snow storm? Enough already! GRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!

We do have a terrific program planned for April if the snow drifts don't make us cancel. With more than a little luck the snow might even be gone by April 11 and we will see you at the Hitchcock Center enjoying the monthly program featuring Alvah Sanborn, former Director of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Massachusetts Audubon Society, in Lenox, Massachusetts. Alvah has also been a lecturer for the National Audubon Society and is a member of the Camera Naturalists of New England. Now retired, he spends his winters on Sanibel Island, Florida. The title of his program is "Sanibel -- Natural History of a Barrier Island."

A short business meeting will precede the program. Because interest in birding and in Club activities has increased greatly in recent years and our membership is at an all-time high, the Board of Directors would like to enlarge the size of the Board in order to give more people a chance at leadership roles. This requires a change in the By-Laws. The Board proposes that we increase the size of the Board from nine to eleven by adding one Member at Large and by splitting the Secretary's position into two parts, Membership Secretary and Communications Secretary, both of which will be officers in the organization. The Membership Secretary "will be responsible for processing and maintaining the membership and mailing lists of the HBC." The Communications Secretary will be responsible for all other jobs as defined in section 6.5 under Article VI. The proper language needed to effect the changes in Articles V, VI and IX will be presented for your consideration and vote at the April 11 meeting.

Also in keeping with the By-Laws, we will be electing a new Board (numbering eleven if the By-Law changes are approved) at our May meeting. The Nominating Committee -- Jim Marcum (chair), Paul Champlin, and Marilyn Gonter will present a slate at that time. Call one of them if you wish to offer a name for consideration. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

And while we are on the subject of HBC organization, one area really needs our attention. There are several interesting conservation projects that we as an active Club could be involved in. Project Tanager, out of Cornell Lab

of Ornithology, needs help from local groups in assessing the breeding status of tanager species. Last year's pilot project was very successful but much more information is needed. International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) on May 14 is another exciting project now in its second year. Coordinated by Smithsonian, Cornell and the National Audubon Society, it also involves many bird clubs and conservation organizations working to gather data and to educate people about Neotropical Migrants.

In the past a number of HBC members have shown interest in being part of a Conservation Committee but unfortunately the interest has never been developed. What we need now is someone who would be willing to bring these people together to explore and discuss conservation possibilities, local and beyond, that Club members might participate in. If you would like to take on this Committee project or be a part of it please call Jan Ortiz (549-1768).

#### FIELD TRIPS

On Saturday, April 9 Bob Bieda (527-2623) will be searching for early Warblers at the Ashley Reservoir. Meet him at the Holyoke Holiday Inn parking lot at 7 a.m.

On Saturday, April 23 the annual Ruff trip to Plum Island will be led by Morris Lainer. Call him at 527-9412.

On Saturday, April 30 Jim Marcum (549-1613) will take us on a half-day search for local Rails.

And don't forget the May Warbler Walks. Tuesday, May 3 will be the first and they will be held every Tuesday & Thursday in May from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. Meet at the entrance to Wildwood Cemetery in Amherst.

#### BIRDING with HITCHCOCK

The Center is offering a truly amazing packet of natural history programs this spring. If you have not received their Newsletter call them for one.

There is still time to sign up for the short second session of the Spring Birding Class taught by Jan Ortiz and described in last month's newsletter. This session will run for four consecutive weeks starting on Thursday, April 28. The evening presentations are at Applewood from 7:30 - 9:00. The field work will be on Friday mornings starting Friday, April 29 from 8:00 - 11:00.

Jan will also be leading "Twilight Dancer -- the American Woodcock" on Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. sharp (rain date Friday, April 15). She will start with a brief slide presentation on the woodcock at the Center. Shortly before dusk the group will travel to a nearby site to view this unique courtship display.

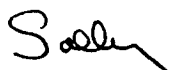
And don't forget the Spring Fund Raiser and Auction on Friday, April 29, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Red Barn at Hampshire College. Good food, good fun, the Silent Auction, Vacation Homes, and great musical entertainment including our own HBC members Kate O'Connor and Rico Spence. For more information or to register for any Hitchcock offering call the Center at 256-6006.

While going over old magazines and birding stuff preparing for a trip I am taking in May, I found the following guide. Knowing the discerning qualities of our membership and sensing its need to REALLY know itself, I knew I had to pass it on. Credit goes to Susan Ulrich of Otterbein, Indiana, who submitted it for publication in her local Audubon chapter newsletter. Evaluate yourself if you wish, but certainly use it to evaluate friends before committing to them.

### A Guide to Evaluating Your Birding Skills

Performance Factor	Far Exceeds Norm	Exceeds Norm	Meets Norm	Needs Some Improvement	Does not Meet Minimal Standards
Pursuit Ability	Leaps trees with a single bound	Needs a running start to leap trees	Can leap large bushes	Crashes into bush when attempting to leap over it	Catches poison ivy
Locating Birds in Binoculars	Faster than a Peregrine Falcon	Fast as a Chimney Swift	Not quite as fast as a Chimney Swift	Would you believe a slow Chimney Swift?	Has trouble locating chimneys
Field Work	Walks on water consistently	Walks on water in emergencies	Needs log to get over water	Drinks water	Spills water
Credibility	Talks with God	Talks with Roger Tory Peterson	Talks with himself	Argues with himself	Loses arguments
Sight Identification	Eyes of an eagle	Eyes of a Blue Jay	Needs binoculars	Needs binoculars in good light	Can't find binoculars
Sound Identification	Can recognize birds from a single chip	Can recognize birds by song	Can identify some birds by song	Can hear songs	Eh?

With warm wishes,



Sally Venman  
Your (Communications) Secretary

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
ALL THE BIRD NEWS  
FIT TO PUBLISH

August 1994

Was it only a year ago I was ironing bed sheets and bath towels while watching Huey, Louie and Dewey outwit Uncle Donald on the Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival in order to avoid the production of the Hampshire Bird Club *Newsletter*, August Edition? Those who have followed my emotional and intellectual development over the HBC *Newsletter* years will be happy to learn that shortly after that letter, realizing that I was out of control, I joined a recovery program for Saturday Morning Cartoon addicts and now I only watch The Discovery Network and The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour. My one relapse occurred during a *George of the Jungle* Cartoon Festival just before the December holidays -- always a stressful time of the year.

But I digress.

The real purpose of writing the Hampshire Bird Club Newsletter, August Edition, is to give you general information about the Club, let you know about programs, field trips, and interesting birding events, and to suggest, request, and, yes, even demand payment. The end of August is in sight and I can no longer put this off. So with a little help from my friends -- chocolate, diet soda and word processor -- I offer the following:

The Club is a good source of information for birdwatching newcomers as well as for the more experienced birder. All are welcome. As a member you receive monthly mailings describing regular programs, field trips, and bird related events in the area. You have access to our ever expanding lending library for birders located at the Hitchcock Center; earn the privilege of getting frostbite by participating in local Christmas Bird Counts (not mandatory); and can have a place on the Rare Bird Alert telephone tree (if desired). Through the VOICE (an up-to-date recorded telephone service) you will learn what and where birds are being seen, reminders of meetings and trips, and news that may not have been covered in the letter. All this, and as a new member, you receive the treasured and truly amazing MEMBERSHIP PACKET filled with membership-only kinds of information. (And you thought this was just another Bird Club!)

Our membership year runs from September through August. You may join at any time, but this is the only letter that goes out to everyone on the mailing list.

In order to maintain the quality of our programs and continuing service to the membership, and because postage is going up, we have found it necessary to raise membership cost by whopping \$1.00 for an individual or by a menacing \$2.00 for a family unit. This is still one of the best bargains around. Should you be interested in becoming more involved in the Club, you will find a spot on the Membership Form where you can check off your interests. Your name will be passed on to the appropriate person. On the back of the Membership Form there is a form from the Field Trip Committee asking for information which will help in planning future long-distance trips. Also enclosed with this letter is the Release Form that needs to be signed and the Rare Bird Alert for those interested.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst on the second Monday of the month (holiday exception October 17, not 10), September through June, at 7:30 pm. People come early (and stay late) to socialize, immerse themselves in the "The Taste of HBC" (goodies provided by the Club and by members), peruse the HBC Library and shop in the Hitchcock Gift Shop. All programs are free and open to the public. I've been asked to remind you that if you need to park along the driveway do so on the north side only. Carpooling is a good idea when possible.

On Monday, September 12, Arthur Morris, internationally noted nature photographer, returns to present a slide lecture entitled "Everything You Wanted To Know About Shorebirds But Were Afraid To Ask." Waders (herons, egrets, bitterns) will also be featured in a presentation that he is fashioning especially for our Club. More than 1,400 of Art's images and 42 of his photo-illustrated articles have been published in virtually all major birding and natural history magazines. Nine of his images have appeared on Audubon and Kodak calendars and he is the author of the color photo booklet, *Bird Photography Basics*. Since his program last September, I have been amazed at how often I have seen his name next to a photo -- he's everywhere. He will bring copies of his booklet, mounted prints and notecards which can be purchased should you be interested. Come join us for the first meeting of the year. It's a nice way to start the fall routine!

Mark your calendars: On Monday, October 17, Victor Emanuel of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) fame will be with us to talk about Costa Rica, the destination of an HBC field trip planned for the July, 1995. On Monday, November 14, Wayne Petersen, MAS Field Ornithologist and co-author of the recently published *Birds of Massachusetts* returns to present a program on "Changes in Massachusetts Bird Populations." And on Monday, December 12, we gather for the annual holiday party when members show their own natural history slides, plans are made for the Christmas Bird Counts, and we eat ourselves silly. Details 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. No costs other than travel, meals and incidental fees are involved. Please call the trip leader to register so plans can be made for the size of the group and you can be notified if a change is necessary. We carpool whenever possible and share in driving expenses. It is recommended that drivers be reimbursed at the rate of at least \$.20 per mile per car plus tolls and parking fees. All persons in the car will be expected to share costs equally.

Fee-based trips are generally for a longer period, where costs are predetermined and participants pay in advance. It is for this second type of trip that the Field Trip Committee needs your guidance. Please take time to let your desires be known by answering the questionnaire on the back of the Membership Form and returning it with your membership dues.

If you have questions or suggestions make note on the form or contact the Field Trip Chair, Bob Bieda, directly (21 Pomeroy St., Easthampton, MA 01027; 413-527-2623).

The complete fall and winter field trip schedule will be ready for the next mailing. Meanwhile here are several trips you may wish to be part of (call leaders for more information):

- On Saturday, August 27 Bob Bieda (527-2623) and Al Richards (665-2761) will take 12 people to Monomoy Island on Cape Cod. There is room for 2 more people at this writing.
- On Saturday, September 10 Jim Marcum (549-1613) is off to Plum Island for warblers and shorebirds.
- On Wednesday, September 14 Al Richards (665-2761) will be watching for hawks.
- On Saturday, September 24 Paul Champlin (253-5047) will be looking for fall warblers.
- And on Saturday, October 15 Morris Lainer (527-9412) will lead a group to Plum Island.

## COSTA RICA

As announced in the March, 1994 Newsletter, the Club is sponsoring a thirteen-day trip to Costa Rica in 1995 through Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). The response to this new way of providing trip opportunities has been gratifying. Nine people have already paid their deposits, leaving five more spaces to fill. Victor Emanuel himself will be with us in October to present a program. I'll be describing the trip more fully in the next letter, but remembering that the trip is limited to 14 participants, you might wish to call Jim Marcum at 549-1613 for more information now. Here are a few of the basics:

The dates: July 5 - 17, 1995.

The price: \$2545.00 per person double occupancy - does not include air fare to and from San Jose, Costa Rica

Deposit: \$300.00 required to hold a place.

## HITCHCOCK NEWS OF INTEREST TO BIRDERS

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

**FALL BIRDING CLASS:** Jan Ortiz, HBC President, is presenting her ever-popular birding classes again this fall. Relaxed and comfortable as well as being a comprehensive survey of birds during fall migration, the classes are geared for both beginners and experienced birders. Jan is a seasoned, respected and dedicated birder with a special gift for communicating her love and knowledge of birds. Evening classes will cover subjects of interest to birders and will preview species expected on the field trips. There will be three sessions. Session 1 (starting September 7): eight Wednesday evenings and eight Saturday - and possibly Sunday - field sessions plus trips to Plum Island, Quabbin, and the Berkshire Lakes. Session 2 (starting September 8) and Session 3 (starting October 20): four Thursday evenings and four slower paced Friday field trips staying in the local area.

**HAWKS IN MIGRATION:** On Sunday, September 11, and/or Saturday, September 17, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm Andrew Magee, Naturalist, Artist and HBC member will spend an early autumn day on Skinner Mountain observing the height of the fall hawk migration.

**LUNAR BIRD COUNT AND SKY WATCH:** On Friday, September 16, 7:30 - 9:30 pm Ron Woodland, Director, Amherst College Planetarium, will be showing us neotropical bird species migrating at night with a telescope aimed at the nearly full moon. We'll also be doing some sky watching. Sounds like a great combination!

**BIRD SEED SALE:** Orders are due Friday, September 23 with pick-up on Saturday, October 1, 9:00 am -- 1:00 pm. Call the Center or order at our meeting on September 12.

## MISCELLANEOUS HBC NEWS

Last spring a decision was made by the Board to become more actively involved in the field of conservation. A call to the membership for leadership was answered and Anne Lombard agreed to coordinate volunteers participating in Project Tanager, a National Science Experiment in progress at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, during May and June. She reports "We gathered data to test whether Scarlet Tanagers are able to nest successfully in forest patches of different sizes. A total of thirteen forest patches in Amherst, Granby, Northampton, and Easthampton were visited several times in May and June, and results were sent to Cornell. We learned a great deal and plan to participate again next spring." Participating in the project were: Anne Cann, Ann Floyd, Monica Jakuc, Anne Lombard, Micky McKinley, Dave McLain, Dee Dee Minear, and Mara Silver.

### MONHEGAN ISLAND TENTH YEAR REUNION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

On Sunday, September 25, 2 PM to 7 PM, there is to be a great party to celebrate ten years of trips to Monhegan Island. Notices were sent to alumni earlier this summer. If by chance you did not receive one, please get in touch with Jan Ortiz (413-549-1098) or Scott Sumner (413-253-7486).

The party is not limited to alumni -- anyone interested in joining the fun is welcome and should contact Jan or Scott for details.

and now -

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

Congratulations! You have arrived at the end of this letter! Now the moment has come for you to take pen in hand, fill in the blank spaces on the membership form, the field trip inquiry form on the back, the Rare Bird Alert form (if you want to be alerted), and sign the release form. Then make out a personal check, or equivalent, payable to the Hampshire Bird Club. Place it all in a stamped envelope and return to the new Membership Secretary, Tom Carpenter, 80 Federal St., Northampton, MA 01060-2702. PRESTO --- your YEAR OF THE BIRD, 1994 - 1995 --- becomes a reality! If you wish to be on the Rare Bird Alert, note that we need to receive that form by October 1. If you prefer to join at the first meeting, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE bring your completed forms with you - saves wear and tear on your easily confused secretaries.

NOTE: By acting now you will also be spared the truly horrible fate of receiving a dunning "reminder" letter sent to past members who do not renew!

If by any chance you could possibly have any questions after plowing through the above illumination, or have names of people who might be interested in the Club please feel free to call me at 549-1098, or our President Jan Ortiz at 549-1768.

Sincerely,

*Sally*

Sally Venman, Secretary



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
RARE BIRD ALERT  
1994-1995

A telephone tree is used to alert interested members to rare birds in the area. Northern Wheatear, Pine Grosbeaks, and Bohemian Waxwings by the carload; Warblers -- Kentucky, Cerulean and Worm-eating; Snowy Plover, Common Moorhen and White-eyed Vireo were just a few of the birds people saw or tried to see last year because of the tree.

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. We have learned that the tree falls apart when even one person does not cooperate.

People responding by October 1 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 Tom Carpenter, 80 Federal Street, Northampton, MA 01006-2702.



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
October, 1994

Dear Friends -

October -- Ah! -- Autumn, the fall of the year, harvest time, the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" -- frosty mornings -- crisp sun-filled afternoons -- wood fires -- tart apples -- children dancing around carved pumpkins, singing merry pumpkin songs, and - - -

!!! Christmas Catalogs !!!

Isn't it comforting to receive a personal letter from a Bird Board which understands your needs and puts you first in ALL seasons! Let us make your month by offering the following:

### PROGRAMS

The next meeting of the Club will be held on Monday, October 17, 7:30 pm, at the Hitchcock Center. VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS (VENT), thought by many to be the number one tour group in the birding game, was founded by Victor Emanuel, an outstanding name in the ornithological world. And we have the man himself as our October speaker. His experiences as a naturalist, birder, writer, traveler, field trip leader, and administrator are far too many to list here. In 1993 he was the recipient of the Roger Tory Peterson Excellence in Birding Award in recognition of a lifetime of dedication to careful observation, education and addition to the body of avian knowledge. He is very well rounded in his love of birds. He initiated the first birding camps for young people and considers that to be one of his greatest achievements. His associates - Kenn Kaufman, Roger Tory Peterson, Peter Matthiessen, Pete Dunne - to name four, read like a Who's Who in Natural History. One would be hard pressed to find anyone who has visited more birding spots in the world with any greater enthusiasm. Victor Emanuel derives great pleasure from seeing and hearing birds and sharing with others. We will be the honored ones as he shares his knowledge and love of birds in his program entitled "The Joys of Tropical Birding." In July, 1995, HBC is sponsoring a trip to Costa Rica through VENT - see description below.

On Monday, November 14, Wayne Petersen, MAS Field Ornithologist and co-author of the recently published *Birds of Massachusetts* returns to present a program on "Changes in Massachusetts Bird Populations." And on Monday, December 12, we gather for the annual holiday party when members show their own natural history slides and plans are made for the Christmas Bird Counts. Details will be in future membership mailings.

A problem: the HBC Board is concerned that our increasing numbers are outgrowing the Perry Room at the Hitchcock Center. We are most unhappy with the prospect of moving and have been working with the staff to solve the problem. However, if we are to continue to provide the quality programs that draw lots of people, we may have no choice but to move. We are now looking into other places and will keep you informed. In the meantime we will be bringing in extra chairs for the meetings and suggest that people arrive on the early side and carpool when possible.

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

There is still space in Session 3 of the Fall Birding Class being taught by HBC president Jan Ortiz. There will be four Thursday evening classes (October 20, 27, November 3 & 10) followed by four local field trips on Friday mornings. Please call the Center at 256-6006 for more information and to register.

### FIELD TRIPS

Enclosed is the Field Trip Committee's list of trips through March. I'll be reminding you of the trips in each newsletter, but you might want to take a moment now to look over the offerings and mark your calendar for those that especially interest you. Call the leader if you have questions.

Saturday, October 15: Plum Island for hawks and late migrants with Morris Lainer (527-9412). Bring lunch.

Wednesday, October 19: Mid-week Sparrow Search with Al Richards (665-2761). Meet at the Hitchcock Center at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 22: Hawk Watching on the Connecticut Coast with Bob Bieda (527-2623). Meet at the Holiday Inn parking lot off I-91, Exit 15, at 6:30 a.m. Bring a lawn chair and lunch.

### Costa Rica:

The Club is sponsoring a thirteen-day trip to Costa Rica in July of 1995 through Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). The response to this new way of providing trip opportunities has been gratifying. Ten people have already paid their deposits. This leaves four more spaces to fill.

The natural riches of Costa Rica are legendary and it has become one of the world's premier natural history destinations. It is a small, stable country with a prosperous middle class, fine educational system, and spectacular highland terrain. For its size it is one of the richest countries in the world for birds, with over 750 species known within an area the size of West Virginia. In addition, Costa Rica boasts the finest national park system in Latin America, protecting examples of all major habitats and the flora and fauna within. Many can not get away during March and April when most people visit Costa Rica so we have chosen July for our trip. Surprisingly, summer is actually 5 to 10 degrees cooler than in the winter. Although it is the rainy season, on most afternoons only one hard but brief rainfall is encountered, and these showers are followed by dawn-like bird activity. As we explore each of the major habitats, we will search for many of Central America's most spectacular birds. The list seems endless -- the magnificent Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, Black-chested Hawk, Great Tinamou, Scarlet Macaw, over thirty species of hummingbirds, ten trogons, motmots, barbets, manakins, and on and on and on. (Secretarial note -- I don't know which birds to pick to list for you. What I do know is that I will be one of the 14 sharing the adventure with friends who have also birded Wildwood Cemetery, Plum Island, and Barton's Cove.) From all reports it's a priceless (if pricey) once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The dates: July 5 - 17, 1995.

The price: \$2545.00 per person double occupancy - does not include air fare to San Jose. (Current round trip fare is \$793.00.)

Deposit: \$300.00 required to hold a place.

Jim Marcum 549-1613 would be happy to answer any questions and to send you more detailed information on the leaders, itinerary, etc.

## Monhegan Island - Memorial Day Weekend:

We leave from Port Clyde, Maine, on Friday, May 26 and 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. The cost is approximately \$180.00 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.

Monhegan Island is a very popular spot, not only for our club. Places to stay are limited, and reservations for the annual Memorial Day weekend trip need to be made by December this year. It seems early to be announcing this trip, but it is extremely popular and fills quickly. If you plan on going or if you think you would like to go, insure a spot for yourself by making a \$25.00 deposit by December 1. Make the check out to the Hampshire Bird Club and send it to treasurer Al Richards, 7 South Main St., Sunderland, MA 01375. Call Scott Surner at 253-7486 if you have questions.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

If you did not sign up to be on the Rare Bird Alert by the October 1 deadline and would be interested in being on the tree, an additional tree will be formed in December. Please contact Jan Ortiz at 549-1768 if you are interested.

I remind you to call the HBC VOICE (WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS VOICE OF AUDUBON), the recorded telephone service, operated and updated weekly by Scott Surner. You will learn what birds have been seen in the area and hear about events of interest to birders, special programs or field trips that may not have been covered in newsletters. 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.

I thought it might be useful for you to know the names and phone numbers of the HBC Board members should you have suggestions, questions or concerns. Board meetings are open to all members. Let us hear from you.

### **Officers:**

Jan Ortiz (Pres.) 549-1768; Shirley Hilborn (V.P. & Program Chair) 549-1362; Al Richards (Treasurer) 665-2761; Tom Carpenter (Membership Chair) 584-0779; and Sally Venman (Sec'y) 549-1098.

### **Members at Large:**

Bob Bieda (Field Trip Chair) 527-2623; Morris Lainer 527-9412; Pat Lynch 549-5850; Jim Marcum 549-1613; Mark Mount 253-7580 and Scott Surner 253-7486.

Anne Cann (253-7753) in her role of librarian wants you to know that the Club is now a member of ABA (American Birding Association) and the magazine *Birding* and the newsletter *Winging It* will soon be appearing on the library shelf. If you are not an ABA member, here is your chance to sample the publications. Also to be found are additional books, periodicals, and catalogs that have been generously donated by members. The library is housed on the first floor of the Hitchcock and is for member's use only.

In her role of Commissary Dispenser (Chief Provider of the Punch and Cookies) the same Anne Cann reminds you that donations of food and money are always welcome.

A Plea: Is there anyone out there who would be interested in taking over the role of "publicity person?" All it involves is sending news releases to the media giving information about our monthly programs. At the present time, we cover eight newspapers, two radio stations and the local Cable TV in Amherst. If you would be interested in giving it a whirl, please call me (Sally V.) at 549-1098.

The Sixth Annual Statewide Massachusetts Birders' Meeting is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Brookline Bird Club. It will take place on Saturday, November 19, Noon - 7:00 p.m. with a Banquet at 7:00 p.m. at Bently College in Waltham. This informative day includes presentations and discussions (includes Simon Perkins, Dr. Katherine Parsons, Dr. Elisha Atkins, and William Burt), identification workshops, Audubon and Conservation Teacher of the Year Awards, Reception, Book Signings, Demonstrations, & Exhibits. An evening banquet and program will feature Dr. Noble Proctor presenting his program on "Attu: Birding and Outer Limits." For more information, contact Wayne Petersen 617-259-9506, Ext. 7412.

#####

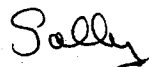
It is with great sadness that I have to finish this newsletter on a very serious note --

Recently a birder was assaulted at gunpoint while birding alone. Unfortunately events of this nature are no longer rarities in our Valley.

We birders frequent out of the way places such as the Hadley and Northampton Meadows, Quabbin, and other quiet and secluded spots.

Please take this seriously and use every caution. Try not to bird alone if at all possible.

Sincerely,



Sally Venman, Secretary

## Hampshire Bird Club -- November, 1994

Since your secretary and her word processor are barely on speaking terms this month, a short and sweet postcard will give you timely reminders.

**MONTHLY MEETING:** Monday, 11/14, 7:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Wayne Petersen back for another of his special programs. He will be speaking on "Changes in Massachusetts Bird Populations," a program he has given across the state and for which he has received rave reviews. Some bird species are new, some are declining, some are increasing. He explains changes in populations and suggests reasons for the changes. He has recently finished (with Richard Veit) a book entitled *Birds of Massachusetts* and I suspect that we can persuade him to sign copies after the meeting.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Sunday, 11/13 -- Berkshire Lakes and Berry Mountain with Tom Gagnon (584-6353); Friday, 11/25 -- Cape Anne and Plum Island with Al Richards (665-2761). Check the HBC Voice (253-2218) to learn what birds are being seen.

**HITCHCOCK FIELD TRIP:** Saturday, 11/26 -- the North Shore with Jan Ortiz. Call Hitchcock (256-6006).

**CONSERVATION ALERT:** Broad Brook Coalition is a neighborhood group working with the Valley Land Fund to preserve Cooke's Pasture, a valuable, well-known birding spot in Northampton. Immediate help is needed! To learn more, call HBC member Monica Jakuc (584-3017). The Kestrel Trust Board of Directors invites us all to a reception and mapping exhibition on Sunday, 11/20, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Red Barn at Hampshire College. Just completed maps of all protected open space in the Kestrel Trust's nine-town region will be shown and explained. Sen. Stan Rosenberg will be present to discuss the Open Space Bond and other legislative issues affecting environmental protection. If you can come, RSVP: Judith Eiseman (253-2932) or Carl Mailler (549-2845).

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB  
December 1994

"THE GREAT DAY COMETH" echoes across winter-locked fields.

AHHHHH!

3:00 a.m.: A frigid vigil by a railroad crossing ---  
listening --- listening --- Is that a Long-eared Owl calling  
or the wind gusting to 50 mph?

Dawn: An icy trudge through open fields, expectant ears  
listening --- listening --- there it is, the sparrow's  
"chip"! Could it possibly be a Clay-colored? No, it's a  
cold Savannah.

Sunset: Even though weary, cold and hungry, the eyes of our  
birder are on fire with excitement. No identification  
questions this time. The climactic moment of the day has  
arrived as our hero zeros in on and begins the count of the  
Starlings along the Connecticut: 5432 ... 5433 ... 5434 ...  
5435 ... 5436 .....

WOW!

Yup -- it's that time again. The Annual CHRISTMAS BIRD  
COUNT is upon us and will be plotted and planned at our next  
meeting on Monday, December 12, 7:30 pm, at the Hitchcock  
Center. For the record, the count is a census of birdlife  
taken annually at the end of the year across the Continent.  
It was started in 1899 as an alternative to the traditional  
Christmas "side hunt," a time when hunters would go out  
after Christmas dinner, chose sides and compete to see which  
group could shoot the most birds. The count is sponsored by  
the National Audubon Society and is undertaken by volunteers  
who count not only the different species of birds but also  
the actual number of individuals. Thousands of birdwatchers  
participate in this major information gathering event. Data  
fed into the computer show densities of wintering bird  
populations and help to point out cyclical movements and  
evidence of changes in populations. Studied over the years,  
the information is helpful in detecting trends and  
pinpointing 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.  
If you are a beginner, you can be put with an experienced  
birder.

Our local count (officially the Northampton Christmas  
Count) on Sunday, December 18 covers an area on both sides  
of the river. Immediately following the Count participants  
will meet at Arcadia for the compilation. (Note that there  
will not be a potluck this year.) A \$5.00 fee to cover  
costs of compiling and publishing the results is required  
from all field observers. The fee does not apply to feeder  
watchers unless they wish to be listed with participants in  
the published CBC issue of the National Audubon Society

publication *Field Notes*. If you are interested in participating in this local count 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 17 (call Mort Bates at 783-6411), for Athol on December 17 (call David Small at 508-249-2094), for Quabbin on December 31 (call Scott Surner at 253-7486) and for Greenfield on January 2 (call Mark Fairbrother at 367-2695).

### MEETINGS

The meeting on Monday, December 12, at the Hitchcock Center at 7:30 p.m. is the annual holiday party when members have the opportunity to tell their Big Bird Stories and show their own natural history slides -- any natural history subject is welcome but not more than ten slides, please. It is also a time when we get an early start on holiday eating. Everyone is asked to bring a snack or dessert to share. The Christmas Count planning will follow the meeting.

Mark your 1995 calendars now so as not to miss David Spector on Monday, January 9; Don Kroodsma on Monday, February 13; and Dick Walton on Monday, March 13.

### FIELD TRIPS

Several field trips are planned to give you a jump start on your year list, or to help you fulfill your New Year's Resolution to bird more. Call the leader for more information or to tell him you want to be included.

On Sunday, January 1 be ready for the famous BIRD BLITZ for TWELVE CHRONIC LISTERS with Scott Surner (253-7486). It's a great way to start the year and coming just after the Christmas Counts, Scott should know where to find the birds.

On Saturday, January 7 Bob Bieda (527-2623) will lead a trip to the North Shore. Meet at the Hitchcock Center at 6:00 a.m.

On Saturday, January 28 Al Richards (665-2761) searches for waterfowl from Falmouth to Plymouth. Meet at the Hitchcock Center at 6:00 a.m. or the Ames parking lot near Palmer Turnpike entrance at 6:30 a.m.

And -- on Saturday February 4 Scott Surner (253-7486) will be birding Southeast Maine.

There are three spaces still to be filled on the HBC trip to Costa Rica with Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) this summer (July 5 - 17). The plan is to extend an invitation to join us to other Bird Clubs after the December meeting. Please call Jim Marcum (549-1613) for more information.

And Scott Surner (253-7486) reminds us to send in our deposit of \$25.00 to hold a spot on the annual Memorial Weekend Monhegan trip. There is room for five more people, so make haste! A waiting list will be formed if needed and your deposit will be returned if your name doesn't come up. Make your check out to the Hampshire Bird Club and send it to Al Richards, 7 South Main St., Sunderland, MA 01375.

The Field Trip Committee will be meeting soon to plan spring and summer trips and also to discuss future long distance trips. If you have any special places you would like to bird (near or far), ideas or suggestions, please get in touch with Bob Bieda at 21 Pomeroy St., Easthampton, MA 01027. Any input would be appreciated.

#### LIBRARY UPDATE

The HBC is now an official member of the American Birding Association and the HBC library will be receiving the magazine *Birding* every other month, the Newsletter *Winging It* every month and a special monthly Newsletter by and for teenagers.

A copy of the booklet *Birds of Berkshire County* has been presented to the Club by Bartlett Hendricks. If you would like a copy of your own, you can purchase one through Anne Cann at a meeting or by calling her at 253-7753. The cost is \$5.00 per copy which includes postage and tax.

Anne would like to thank all of you who have been helping to fill the bookcase at the Center with your contributions of books and magazines. She welcomes input of ideas as well as contributions at any time.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Jan Ortiz has asked me to tell those of you on the Rare Bird Alert telephone tree that if you want extra copies to please call her. If you joined the HBC after the Rare Bird Alert telephone tree was set up and would like to be included on an extended list please get in touch with Jan (549-1768) by January 9.

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 Al Richards, 7 South Main St., Sunderland, MA 01375 by December 15. Your first issue will arrive later this winter.

Enclosed with this letter is the list of updated Rare Bird Alert numbers to call across the country. Whether planning a trip or just fed up with New England in the winter, it's fun to find out what is being seen in far-away places. To enhance your winter feeder viewing pleasure you'll find a Feeder Check List. This is just for fun - we aren't doing a survey. Get copies of the chart made at your local copy place so recording can continue past January.

And, finally, coming next month (if the computer gods remain friendly), new members will receive the NEW MEMBERS PACKET with all kinds of wonderful information available only through HBC! Oh -- be patient new members. And I'll be sending a list of all the members with addresses and phone numbers as recorded by you on your membership form. Call me (549-1098) if there have been changes I should have.

With warm wishes for a peaceful  
holiday season.

Sally



# HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB

May and June 1994

Dear Friends,

In order that the hands behind the word processor can be better employed as the hands behind the binoculars, this letter will be short! (Oh sure -- "Promises, promises", mumbles the reader.) This is also a two-months-in-one mailing to allow the same hands behind the same word processor a break. (Besides, I'll be gone most of May.)

## PROGRAMS

The HBC fledged fully in the fall of 1984. One of its first members and one of its first presenters migrated over the Holyoke Range from South Hadley to give an absolutely delightful program on her "addiction," the Black-capped Chickadee. The title of her program, "Flock Switching in Black-capped Chickadees" got lots of attention and was the first of roughly biannual visits updating her research. Her last update in November, 1992, was after the publication of her well received and very readable book, *The Black-capped Chickadee*. She also participated as a panel member in an HBC program concerning birding ethics. On Monday, May 9, HBC member Susan Smith, Professor of Biological Sciences at Mount Holyoke College, will return to present a program focusing on a spot far from her backyard mist nets and banded chickadees. The subject of Susan's program is "Antarctica." Please note that we have not asked her back repeatedly (this will be her fifth presentation) because she pays her yearly dues. Be there! You won't regret 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 (Paul Champlin, Marilyn Gonter and Jim Marcum, chair) will present the following slate for your approval: Jan Ortiz (President), Shirley Hilborn (Vice President/Program Director), Al Richards (Treasurer), Sally Venman (Communications Secretary), Tom Carpenter (Membership Secretary) and Bob Bieda, Morris Lainer, Pat Lynch, Mark Mount, Jim Marcum, and Scott Sumner (Members at Large). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, if seconded. Board meetings are open to the general membership. Let one of us know if you would be interested in attending.

On Monday, June 13 Tom French will be with us to present a program entitled "Natural Heritage and Endangered Species." Tom has been with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for ten years working in conservation education. His job is funded from money received from the voluntary checkoff for endangered wildlife on the Massachusetts income tax form. He did his graduate work in zoology and has done postdoctoral work at Cornell University. He has also worked as a zoologist with the National Audubon Society and with the Nature Conservancy. Tom's natural history experiences, ranging from shrews to whales, are numerous and widespread. He will give us a great finish for our program year.

Al Richards reminds you that he still has T-shirts with the famous HBC logo (thanks to Chris Page) on sale for the amazingly low price of \$10.00. The same famous logo can be found on decals for \$1.25 and on the patch for \$3.00. When you are on vacation this summer, let the world know that you are a proud member of the Hampshire Bird Club.

## FIELD TRIP REMINDERS

### MAY:

Starting Tuesday, May 3, 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 14, Don Kroodsma will be leading a group interested in "Birding by Ear." The group is limited to 12 participants. Call Don at 253-5519 for more information.

Saturday, May 21, is the date set for the 1994 Massachusetts Audubon Birdathon. Call Tom Gagnon at 584-6353 for more information.

Friday, May 27, is the start of the Spring Monhegan Weekend led by Scott Sumner (253-7486).

On Saturday, May 28, Bob Bieda will lead a group to Plum Island searching for shorebirds and warblers. Call Bob at 527-2623.

### JUNE:

Saturday, June 4, a group led by Al Richards (665-2761) and Tom Gagnon (584-6353) will be birding Mount Greylock.

On the evening of Friday, June 17 (note the date change) Al Richards (665-2761) will be searching for Whip-Poor-Wills.

### JULY:

Monday, July 25, is First Monday Morning on the Longmeadow Sandbar from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. led by Bob Bieda (527-2623).

### AUGUST:

On Saturday, August 27, Bob Bieda (527-2623) and Al Richards (665-2761) will lead a group (no more than 12) to Monomoy Island, Cape Cod.

### SEPTEMBER:

Saturday, September 10, will be a trip in search for Warblers and Shorebirds on Plum Island led by Jim Marcum (549-1613).

On Wednesday, September 14, Al Richards (665-2761) will lead the Mid-week Hawk Watch.

And on Saturday, September 24, Paul Champlin (253-5047) will be in search of Fall Warblers.

I remind you again to call the HBC VOICE. 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 not covered in the mailings. To receive this information call 253-2218. Check it regularly.

## HITCHCOCK CENTER

On Saturday, May 14, 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Karl Meyer, HBC birder and bicyclist will be "Birding the Bike Path." Starting and ending at Elwell Island State Park Karl will guide us along the bike path in search of the many birds in the Valley at the height of the spring migration. Beginning bikers and birders welcome. Helmets are required.

On Sunday, May 15, 6:00 - 9:00 a.m., Andrew Magee, HBC birder and naturalist will guide us to "Birding Hot Spots at Northfield Mountain." This is for birders of all abilities. It's your chance to investigate another great birding location.

On Saturday, May 21, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., Lillian Lund Files returns to the Valley with her wonderful slide lecture "Bring Back the Bluebirds."

And on Thursday, June 2, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. there is a program of interest to all, especially those who will be participating in the Costa Rica trip in July, '95. Phil Robakiewicz will share his "Travels in Costa Rica."

(Call the Center at 256-6006 for more information.)

## OF GENERAL INTEREST

The Board is very happy to announce that the response to the request for Conservation Committee volunteers in the last Newsletter was gratifying. Anne Lombard has agreed to coordinate interested people and Micky McKinley has gathered information around Project Tanager which will be the first project. Anne gives us the following:

### PROJECT TANAGER

The Hampshire Bird Club will be participating in Project Tanager this spring and summer. Project Tanager is a national science project in progress at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology designed to involve birders across the country in determining the relationship of forest fragmentation to the success of breeding. Specifically, project participants gather data to test whether four species of North American tanagers are able to nest successfully in forest patches of different sizes. The hope is that volunteer birders will be able to collect data on a massive scale not possible by any team of professional researchers.

We are in the process of selecting 12 sites in the Valley ranging in size from 30 to 300 acres. Depending on the number of people interested, we will divide into three teams, each team responsible for four sites. The first visit to each site will take place during the third or fourth week of May, according to the specific guidelines set up by Cornell, and will determine whether scarlet tanagers are at the site. If so, follow-up visits will take place in June and July to attempt to determine whether successful breeding has taken place. Our data will be sent to Cornell and analyzed with that from other areas of the country.

If this project is a success, and interest continues, we plan to become involved in other conservation projects in the future.

If you are interested, please call Micky McKinley (367-9791) or Anne Lombard (586-7509)

## HAVE A WONDERFUL BIRD-FILLED SUMMER

