



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 27, No. 5

January, 2011.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, January 10 at 7:30 PM

Joanna Bailey Hodgman and David Spector
A Spicing of Birds: Poems of Emily Dickinson

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Should bad weather force a cancellation, it will be announced on WHMP 1400 AM radio.

Internationally-celebrated poet Emily Dickinson lived, as we all should know, in our little town of Amherst, Massachusetts. She had a great love of birds and mentioned them 222 times in her collected works, sometimes as the central theme of a poem. Both our speakers this month will focus on how the birds of New England feature in some of America's best-loved poetry.

Joanna Bailey Hodgman and co-editor Jo Miles Shuman have brought thirty-seven of Dickinson's poems together in the superbly illustrated anthology "*A Spicing of Birds: Poems by Emily Dickinson.*" Joanna will give us an overview of birds in Dickinson's work, using the book as a framework.

David Spector has subtitled his contribution to the program "Bird of Birds: The Meadow's Sorcerer." We can look forward to some of David's own trademark magic as he explores the role of one particular species in the work of Dickinson and her literary contemporaries.

Joanna Hodgman was born in Boston in 1932 and raised in Cambridge MA. She earned a B.A. in English at Radcliffe and an M.A. in English from the University of Rochester. She taught middle and high school English for 21 years. She and her husband Christopher, a psychiatrist, live in Rochester NY. They have four adult children and eight grandchildren. Joanna has loved poetry all her life.

David Spector has been a member of the Hampshire Bird Club since the first meeting. He is a former president of the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, teaches biology at Central Connecticut State University, and is working on a book on birds in literature.

Joanna will have a number of copies of "*A Spicing of Birds*" with her for us to purchase, and I imagine she will be willing to sign them for those who do. You'll have to wait for David's book, but I bet he'll be willing to flog a few of those off when the time comes.....

COMING PROGRAMS

February 14. Tom Bancroft. The White-crowned Pigeon.

March 14. Don Kroodsma. ???

April 11. Scott Surner. Yellowstone National Park.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Plum Island. November 13, 2010.

Participants: **Geoff LeBaron**, Denny Baker, Nancy Baker, Jesse Brownback, Ray Chapin, Carol & Jim Gabranski, Ilene Goldstein, Nora Hanke, Bruce Hart, Betsy Higgins, Leslie Hoffmann, Nidhin Joseph, Andrew Magee.

The group spent all day at **Parker River N.W.R.** There was huge beautiful surf at Lot 1, great waterfowl at The Pannes, mobbed parking lots everywhere, great ocean and marsh views at Lot 7, a tantalizing **Yellow-breasted Chat** only seen by one person, fantastic looks at shorebirds at Sandy Point, and the **mystery shorebird (revealed...)** at the Hellcat Tower/Bill Forward Pool. Highlights included:

Mute Swan (2)	Common Loon (5)	Ruff (1 first year male)
Gadwall (42)	Horned Grebe (5)	Horned Lark (15)
American Wigeon (35)	Red-necked Grebe (1)	Carolina Brant (5)
Northern Shoveler (35)	Northern Gannet (8)	Wren (2)
Northern Pintail (12)	Double-crested Cormorant (2)	Golden-crowned Kinglet (3)
Green-winged Teal (500)	Great Cormorant (5)	Northern Mockingbird (8)
Common Eider (350)	Great Blue Heron (3)	American Pipit (5)
Surf Scoter (55)	Great Egret (2)	Cedar Waxwing (12)
White-winged Scoter (2)	Northern Harrier (4)	Yellow-breasted Chat (1)
Black Scoter (35)	Cooper's Hawk (1)	Tree Sparrow (5)
Bufflehead (25)	Red-tailed Hawk (3)	Savannah Sparrow (3)
Common Goldeneye (35)	Black-bellied Plover (65)	White-throated Sparrow (8)
Hooded Merganser (15)	Sanderling (25)	Snow Bunting (25)
Red-breasted Merganser (15)	White-rumped Sandpiper (2)	
Red-throated Loon (35)	Dunlin (350)	

(66 Species Total—**LOW**, but ok given crowds on refuge)

Geoff LeBaron

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Please see the enclosed **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**.

Sallymeandering

The wit and wisdom of Sally Venman.

"P.S. Well folks, the impossible, the improbable and the downright unbelievable has happened. Your humble scribe and passer-along of important information has surrendered to the passage of time and explosion of technology. No longer able to bear the weight of abuse from my tacky, techy friends I have joined the masses (oh defeat – sad, sad, sad defeat), given up another thread of independence and have registered my name on the great computer network of the sky. I, Sarah G. Venman, succumbing to pressures no longer bearable can now and forever be reached and informed through email!! Let the drums roll!!....."

Now, if I can ever figure out how to get into husband Bill's computer where I can read volumes of mail I'll really have this technical phobia thing licked. Right! Don't I wish."

From the editorial, February, 1998.

Northampton Christmas Count

Pot Luck Thank You

Sue Emerson and her wonderful "elves" wish to thank all who helped with the set up and take down and for all the delicious "pots" that you brought to the compilation. Without all your contributions the dinner would not be as successful. With great appreciation.

On behalf of all the participants, I would like to echo the sentiments expressed by Sue. Can't tell you how much a plate of hot food means at the end of the Christmas Count! (Editor)

Newsletter Thank You

The first few editions of the newsletter each year take a lot of mailing. We have to include all sorts of forms etc. and we have to tailor the mailings to try to reach those who have drifted from the fold, and gently (one hopes) encourage the tardy to send in their much-needed membership dues.

There is a small group of hardy and accommodating folk who, each year, help shoulder this load and maintain the editor's sanity. This year, that group consisted of Sue Emerson, Sally Hills, Helga Beatty and Mary Alice Wilson. They even brought adult beverages and snacks!

Thank you all!

OTHER GROUPS WHO ARE ALL ABOUT BIRDS.

This list focuses on groups who provide programs and/or field trips on birds and birding in Massachusetts, and list these on active websites. Addresses given are those for current programs and/or trips. Only monthly programs or special events are listed here (****).

Arcadia Sanctuary. Easthampton, MA. Field Trips/Programs.

Programs/trips at www.massaudubon.org/PDF/newsletters/Arcadia_117.pdf

Cape Cod Bird Club. Brewster, MA. Field Trips/Programs. www.massbird.org/ccbc

Programs held at 7:30 PM at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte. 6A, in Brewster, MA.

**** **January 10, 2011. Wayne Peterson - "Birds, Brooks and other Moving Waters."**

Brookline Bird Club. Brookline, MA. Field Trips. www.brooklinebirdclub.org

Athol Birding and Nature Club: Athol, MA. Field Trips/Programs.

www.millersriver.net/events/index/html

**** January 12. 7-9 PM. No topic available.

Allen Bird Club: Springfield, MA. www.massbird.org/allen

Meetings held at the Tolman Wing of the Springfield Science Museum (The Quadrangle).

Hoffmann Bird Club. Berkshire County, MA www.hoffmannbirdclub.org/events/html.

Meetings at 7 p.m. in Pittsfield or Lenox, MA. Check schedule for monthly location.

Updated field trip info available on Website.

****No January program.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked as they moved off. "Because I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!"

Soaring: Not Just for the Big Birds

Many of us spend time in the fall marveling at the sight of raptors migrating southward.

Birds of prey are, in many cases, built for soaring, and we can see them using this strategy to good effect. Most songbirds, by contrast, seem built for flapping flight, and their nocturnal migrations are more mysterious. It has been assumed that smaller songbirds must rely on powered flight (i.e. “flapping”) to cover long distances, and the fact that they put on relatively huge amounts of body mass in preparation for migration seems to bear this out.

Scientists from Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology expected to confirm the conventional wisdom when they attached tiny radio transmitters to the backs of European Bee-eaters, which migrate seasonally between Africa and Europe. To their surprise, they found that the birds switched between flapping and gliding while migrating, and that the birds used the same amount of energy when gliding as they did when at rest. This is an even greater relative energy advantage for these smaller birds than it is for raptors, which still use 30% more energy when gliding than they do at rest.

Once again, when we look beneath the surface, we find more complexity in the natural world than meets the eye.

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (2010, December 8). Soaring is better than flapping for birds big and small. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved January 3, 2011, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/12/101208130046.htm>

How is your winter progressing?

Keeping up with those New Year's Resolutions – especially the one about healthy eating and more exercise? I have devised a method that is really working for me and I am happy to share it with you. It involves seeing the problem through fresh eyes. Creative thinking is the secret to creative problem solving.

Problem – we are advised to eat at least five fruits and vegetables each day. How do we do this?

Solution – French Fried potatoes with catsup account for two fruit and vegetable units. Have this for lunch and dinner (total of four). All you need is one more unit. You can do it!

Problem – we are advised to incorporate more beta-carotene (that healthy stuff found in orange foods) in to our diets. How?

Solution – this is really quite simple. Pick out the orange jelly beans from the “gourmet jelly bean mix.” This also increases your level of exercise. Plan a jelly bean party (it is very helpful to be in a support group when dieting).

Get the idea? Creative thinking is the answer! And there is always the chance that ice cream and chocolate will be listed as health foods under the new Clinton administration.”

Sally, from the editorial, February, 1993

The Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule follows.

That's it for now.

Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, 2011.

Please register with the field trip leader(s) and check this schedule's information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher – 413-585-5864) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders.

The Hampshire Bird Club recommends carpooling whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (September newsletter or on the Website).

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as Easy (E) or Moderate (M) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders.*

Note: There are several trips which are likely to occur, but have not been finalized at the time this schedule goes to press. Always check the monthly newsletter for any additions.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 8. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island. All day. Bob Bieda leads his annual New Year's pilgrimage to the coast in search of wintering specialties like Eared Grebes, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, and much more. Dress for cold weather. For meeting information call Bob at 413-527-2623. (E)

MARCH

Saturday, March 5. Connecticut River Waterfowl I. Half day. Joshua Rose scours the Connecticut River and environs for migrating waterfowl. Call Josh (413-835-0093) as the date approaches for meeting information. Rain date will be Sunday, March 6. (E)

Sunday, March 20. Connecticut River Waterfowl II. Half day. Mike Locher travels from Holyoke to Turner's Falls looking for waterfowl migrating through the valley along the Connecticut River. Call Mike (413-585-5864) for information, or just meet at the Hadley Elementary School parking lot (on Route 47, about a mile north of the Route 9 intersection) at 7:00 a.m. (E)

APRIL

***Sunday, April 10. Ashley Reservoir: Early Warblers.** Half day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Northern Waterthrushes, and Broad-winged Hawks. Meet in the Friendly's parking lot, near the Holiday Inn, close to Exit 15 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7:00 a.m. (E)

MAY

***Sunday, May 1. Early Migrants.** Half day. Betsy Higgins (413-586-7585) looks for migrants, starting around Look Park in Northampton. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the JFK Middle School on Bridge Road in Northampton. (E)

Saturday, May 7. Return to Greylock. All day. Mike Locher cleans up the two blocks the HBC busted last year, looking for nesting waterfowl and other species we didn't get before. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) as the date approaches for meeting information. (M)

Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule. 2011 (page 2)

Saturday, May 28. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, MA. $\frac{3}{4}$ day. David Peake-Jones (413-529-9541) will visit this historic and beautiful garden cemetery which is also a fabled migrant trap. Call David (413 529 98541) to register. (E).

Friday, May 27 – Monday, May 30. Monhegan Island. Overnight trip. Betsy Higgins and Andrew Magee lead the Hampshire Bird Club's annual pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, but the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) to register. (E/M)

JUNE

Saturday, June 4. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Pending permission, Bob Bieda will lead his annual trip into New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Bob (413-527-2623) at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

Saturday, June 11. Hammonasset Beach State Park, CT. All day. Betsy Higgins goes to the coast of Connecticut to find sparrows, rails, and other seaside denizens. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting time and place as the date approaches. (E)

Sunday, June 12, Blockbusting in Stephenton 4. All day. Contact Mike Locher (413-585-5864) to venture into utterly unbirded territory (at least as far the Breeding Bird Atlas is concerned). There should be opportunities for both hikers and drivers. (M)

AUGUST

Saturday, July 30. New South Beach (Early). All Day. David Peake-Jones will look for Red Knots and other early shorebird migrants. We'll be walking a long way over wet sand. Bring sun protection, water, food, and \$20 for the boat ride. Call David (413 529 9541) to register. (M)

Saturday, August 27. New South Beach (Late). All day. Bob Bieda leads birders in their quest for late shorebird migrants, including Curlew Sandpipers and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. Bring a lunch, a jacket, and \$20 for the boat ride. Note: the date may change depending on the tides. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register. (M)

SEPTEMBER

***Saturday, September 10. Knightsville Dam.** Half day. Betsy Higgins leads a new trip to Knightsville Dam WMA. This is a rich habitat where almost anything could turn up. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting details. (E)



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 27, No. 6

February, 2011.

During January, I was approached repeatedly at work with questions about the bird kill in Beebe, Arkansas. On New Year's Day, dismayed residents of that town found thousands of dead birds (mostly Red-winged Blackbirds) scattered over several square miles. I was as bemused as those asking me for an explanation, but I found myself mildly irritated, not by what was being asked, but by what was not.

Bird kills are nothing new. They can be caused by anything from weather events to mass poisonings. This one appears to have resulted from New Year's fireworks, which apparently caused a massive icterid roost to panic and fly into structures such as homes and power lines. It must have been a bit frightening for those who witnessed the aftermath, and, of course, it was the ultimate disaster for the birds killed and injured. But these events are not the real issues facing wildlife on our planet at present. I haven't been asked any questions about the gulf oil catastrophe, global warming, vanishing meadowlarks, or the fast-disappearing American Kestrel, or the 30 acres lost every day to development in Massachusetts alone.

The real threats to our biological diversity and the ecological integrity of our planet are invisible to most people, even to those of us who "know". If only all the birds slowly succumbing to habitat loss, pesticides, global climate change, our addiction to oil, and our predilection for expansive glass windows were to be found on our doorsteps, we might be doing a much better job of conservation than we are.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, February 14 at 7:30 PM

Scott Sumner presents

Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons: Not Just a Birding Destination!

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Should bad weather force a cancellation, it will be announced on WHMP 1400 AM radio.

In July of 2009 the Hampshire Bird Club traveled to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in Wyoming. During the ten day trip the club not only encountered 118 species of birds, but twenty three species of mammals, thirty species of butterflies, and unforgettable scenery.

Scott Sumner is a founding member and current president of the Hampshire Bird Club, past member of the Massachusetts Avian Records committee and for sixteen years was the voice of Audubon for Western Massachusetts. Scott travels have taken him to Alaska, California, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, and too many of the Canadian Provinces.

COMING PROGRAMS

March 14. Don Kroodsma. Our Favorite Birdsongs.

April 11. Shawn Carey. The Gulf of Mexico Oil Disaster.

May 9. John Kricher. Speciation of Birds in the Neotropics.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 5. Connecticut River Waterfowl I. Half day. Joshua Rose scours the Connecticut River and environs for migrating waterfowl. Call Josh (413-835-0093) as the date approaches for meeting information. Rain date will be Sunday, March 6. (E)

Sign Up Now for

Monhegan Island, 2011.

Memorial Day Weekend (Friday, May 27 to Monday, May 30)

You can see the spring migration almost anywhere, but if you have ever wanted to steep yourself in the glorious warblers of May, while losing yourself in the gentle rhythms of an idyllic island, Monhegan is for you.

During the spring, migrant songbirds moving northward up the Atlantic seaboard are sometimes pushed out over the ocean by storms, and have to fight their way back toward the safety of land. Monhegan Island lies about twelve miles off the coast of Maine and is often a haven for exhausted birds to recuperate before resuming the perilous journey northward. We will arrive on the island on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, without vehicles, and immerse ourselves in the gentle rhythms of island life. We'll find migrant songbirds throughout the tiny village of Monhegan, sheltering in the numerous apple trees, sometimes picking through the sea wrack on the town beach for sand fleas, or even hiding in the lobster pots piled almost everywhere. Each day will bring fresh migrants to the island, and a storm could even produce one of the fallouts of birding legend. When the birding slows down, we can venture off on any of the island's numerous walking trails to Lobster Cove, the stupendous seaward cliffs, the Seal Rocks (aptly named), or the Enchanted Forest.

We'll stay at the rustic Trailing Yew, which will lay on breakfast and dinner each day, including a local lobster dinner. This is the perfect opportunity to slow down, REALLY learn the birds, and remember what life *should* be about.

This trip is open only to members of the Hampshire Bird Club.

To sign up and/or for a cost estimate: contact the Field Trip Chair:

Mike Locher (fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org; 585 5864)

To learn more, contact one of the leaders:

Betsy Higgins (hignik@comcast.net; 586 7585), or

Andrew Magee (andrewfmagee@gmail.com; 586 1509).

This Month's Field Trip Courtesy Pointer

Please call the trip leader at least a few days before the trip. It helps the leader plan the trip and you learn about any special arrangements or any change of plans.

Erratum

Many of you received the January newsletter which was wishfully dated "2010," but it was not until our Webmaster made a gentle remark that I became aware of it.

Either:

- a) the entire bird club is extraordinarily tactful, or
- b) no one is actually reading this thing anyway.

Regardless of the reasons why this error went (almost) unchallenged, I can only say in my defense that I was hearkening back to a halcyon time before the November 2010 elections, and for just a few moments, I could almost believe that they had not occurred. Ah well, reality bites!

MassAudubon
19th Annual Massachusetts Birders Meeting
Saturday, March 5 at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts

The program this year includes a cadre of speakers that should appeal to birders of all levels of interest and birding experience. Among some of the familiar names on the program this year are:

Jeff Gordon (*President, American Birding Association*),
Alvaro Jaramillo (Author, tour leader, and expert birder),
Trevor Lloyd-Evans (Ornithologist, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences),
Sy Montgomery (Acclaimed author and lecturer),
Dr. Mark Pokras (Tufts Veterinary Clinic),
Don and Lillian Stokes, as well as lunch, vendors, and a variety of tantalizing raffles.

In recent years all proceeds from the Birders Meeting have gone toward supporting the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program, a program that is part of an international initiative working to identify, prioritize, and monitor bird habitats which are essential to one or more species of breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds in Massachusetts. To see full program details and obtain registration information, visit:

<http://www.massaudubon.org/birdersmeeting>

Record-Breaking Massachusetts Eagle Count

On Friday, January 7, 2011, sightings of at least 107 individual bald eagles were reported from Pittsfield to Plymouth as part of a concentrated 1-day effort by state wildlife biologists, volunteers and other eagle enthusiasts, breaking the record count of 81 birds seen in 2009. This event is part of an annual national bald eagle survey conducted over a 2-week period from late December into early January.

“We thank National Grid, our long time partner in the eagle restoration program, which flew agency biologists by helicopter to survey the Quabbin and Connecticut River,” said Dr. Tom French, Assistant Director of Natural Heritage and Endangered Species. French also noted that citizen interest in the eagle survey has been very useful. “With higher numbers of eagles dispersing throughout their range, we can’t possibly cover the entire state. Citizen spotters play an increasingly important role in our survey efforts. This year, we received 61 emailed reports from people who saw eagles during the 2-week survey period.”

The annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey is a nationwide event coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The nationwide total of bald eagles counted during this annual event ranges from 13,000 to 16,000 birds.

Excerpted from a press release by MassWildlife

Sallymeandering The Wit and Wisdom of Sally Venman

“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)....

In closing, as I mark off the days leading up to the holiday season, I can’t help but look back over the 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’S ALL GO BIRDING!!!”
(November 1992).

HITCHCOCK CENTER PROGRAMS

For anyone new to the club, the two birding courses offered by Hitchcock are the absolute BEST way to get into birding!

Spring Birding Course: *Scott Surner*

Classes: Wednesdays, February 23, March 2, 23, April 6, 13, May 11, 18, June 8, 6:30-8 p.m

Field Trips: Saturdays, February 26, March 12, 26, April 9, 23, May 7, 14, 21, June 4, 11

Start times vary between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Members: \$200 /Non-members: \$220

Take advantage of this opportunity to get out and truly observe the pageant of our spring bird migration and the myriad of colors, plumages, and behaviors. Scott has taught this course for many years and is accomplished at gearing instruction for beginners and experienced birders alike. Evening classes preview species expected on the Saturday field trips using slides, stories from the field, and life history details. Field trips are planned to varied locations around the state, including Cape Ann, Plum Island, Amherst, Hadley, Turners Falls, Hatfield, Quabbin Reservoir, Southern Berkshires, Northern Berkshires, and Mount Greylock. Call the Center for more field trip details. All field trips and classes meet at the Hitchcock Center. Registration is limited to 20.

Winter Tracking Expedition: *Alan Emond, Little Cree Spy Excursions*

Saturday, February 26, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Snow date: Saturday, March 12). Fee.

Introduction to Birding: *Jan Ortiz*

Classes: Wednesdays, April 27, May 4, 11, Thursday, May 19, 6:30-8 p.m.

Field Trips: Saturdays, April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 7 a.m.-noon

Members: \$90/Non-members: \$105.

Do you ever wonder about the birds you see in your yard, on your way to work or on your favorite walk? What are they? What are their songs? Where have they come from? These questions and many more will be explored while being introduced to the world of birds. Join Jan Ortiz, long time birding instructor and founding member of the Hampshire Bird Club, for this four week class that will be taught at a leisurely and comfortable pace. During the evening sessions at the Hitchcock Center, among the topics covered will be instruction in using binoculars and spotting scopes, how a field guide is organized, and of course, how to identify birds.

Lens on Outdoor Learning *Virginia Sullivan, Author/Educator*

Thursday, March 3, 6:30-8 p.m. Free

Family Tracking Along the Fort River: Saturday, March 5th (first in a series).

Find out more about the entire Fort River Series at www.fortriverdiscovery.org.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Sallymeandering

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!"*

(March, 1994)

Migrating Ospreys: A Correction

In a recent newsletter we gave a Website address where you can follow the migration routes of Ospreys. Merry Cushing informs me that the Web address we published has changed.

If you are interested in spying on migrating Ospreys, you can do so at

<http://www.bioweb.uncc.edu/bierregaard/migration10.htm>

The Keystone Project

Are you a community leader interested in learning more about land conservation and management?

The UMass Keystone Project invests education and reference materials in important, keystone people, those in a position to influence forest conservation decisions. Applicants can own woodlands, be involved in the care and stewardship of a property, or be an involved community leader.

Participants in the program are provided an intensive 3-day training and a bag of take-home resources. Topics covered at the training include historical perspectives on land use, forest succession and ecology, forest and wildlife management, land protection tools, and community outreach. In return for the training and take-home resources, graduates of the program, called Keystone Cooperators, agree to return to their communities and advance forest conservation through a project of their choosing.

This year's training will be held April 14th - 17th, 2011 at the Harvard Forest in Petersham. The Keystone Project is a competitive program. Applications are due March 3rd, 2011.

Learn more about the program and download an application at: www.masskeystone.net

Thanks to the Athol Bird and Nature Center for this information

Conservation Restriction Law Changes

Placing a Conservation Restriction, or CR, on your land is one way to permanently conserve important natural resources you care about. With a CR, you still own your land, and typically you can continue forestry, recreation, farming and other activities. But development is permanently restricted or curtailed in the area of your land encumbered by the CR.

A new law increases the tax incentives for a landowner who donates a CR to a land conservation organization or agency. The incentives, which apply to CR donations in 2010 and 2011:

- Raise the federal income tax deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation restriction from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allow farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
- Increase the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.

For information about land conservation organizations and agencies in your area that can help you take advantage of this benefit, go to Masswoods.net and plug in your zip code in the box titled "Find a Forester or Land Trust in Your Town".

Thanks to the Athol Bird and Nature Center for this information.

SallyMeandering

One of our members, whose "nom de plume" is a deep, dark secret sent me the following:

A large pizza chain opened a franchise in northern New England. Unfortunately, the grain used to make the pizza dough was infested with an insect pest. Surprisingly, though, the Mainers enjoyed the antics of the frolicsome insect, so that now – drum roll –

Uno's wheat weevil larks in the hearts of Maine.

(April, 2000)

Gleanings from the Technical Literature

A Lousy Topic!

Studies of feather lice across a wide variety of birds reveal that these lice are closely associated with particular species, and that they are almost always cryptically colored; i.e. they are blend in with the typical plumage of their hosts. This makes sense since birds typically deal with lice by preening, and lice which stood out against their feathery backgrounds would be more easily seen and picked off.

The exceptions to cryptic coloration in feather lice are those which specifically target the heads of birds. In these species, the lice are randomly colored with respect to their hosts, presumably because birds have to locate head lice by feel, and cannot see them anyway!

Reference:

Evolution of Cryptic Coloration in Ectoparasitic Lice.

Bush, S.E.; Kim, D.; Reed, M. and D.H. Clayton.

Am. Naturalist 176 (4) pp 529 – 535.

Sallymeandering

"It was dusk in Newfoundland's Gros Morne National Park. We were camped on one of the planet's oldest geological treasures, in eye contact with a family of soon-to-be-fledged, extremely raucous ravens on the next-door cliff. I was occupied defending myself against giant mosquitoes and black flies bent on carrying me off as sacrificial meat to the great god ITCH when a "who-who-who" broke through all other sounds. It was repeated. The ravens quieted. Seeing no other HBC'ers around to make fun of my vocal attempts,, I 'who-who-who'ed back. Surprise of surprises, my "who-who-who" was answered. A conversation ensued. I knew from the call that that the "who-who-who"-er was moving toward me, but no movement, no sight confirmed this. Being a graduate of many Hitchcock Birding courses, I declared it to be an OWL! But which one? The field guides and an ancient Newfoundland bird list helped me to narrow the field down to two possibilities.

Every night the conversation was repeated. I spent much of one night outdoors bathed in citronella, flashlight at the ready carrying on a conversation with my rapidly improving "who-who-who"-ing. The owl was there, but not to my eyes.

The next camp site we visited had two of the "who-who-who"-ers to torment me. Same story. By now, with help from a ranger, I knew I was being haunted and teased by the elusive Boreal Owl – a bird I have searched for unsuccessfully when it has wintered in our area. I can still answer the call in my sleep. I know they saw me but no, I never saw them. LIFE BIRD. Do I count it?"

August, 1998.

Backyard Birds (on Strong St. in Northampton) offers a wide range of birding books, audio resources, gifts, feeders, and other paraphernalia. They also offer a 10% discount to Hampshire Bird Club Members. Remember, when you shop locally, your money stays here!

That's it for this month.

Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

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You have been spared further suffering



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 27, No. 7

March, 2011.

It is March, and already yawning potholes and nervous-looking ice-fishermen hint at the approaching thaw. I thought I had better take a short break from following the all-important exploits of Charlie Sheen to get the newsletter out, and I had an idea for an editorial this month. Now let me see. Oh, yes, I wanted to rail about the increasing prevalence of.... Wait a second. Cell phone is beeping. Incoming text.....

(aside, muttering) Well I don't know. Why didn't you ask me that during the staff meeting... Get back to it later.

Well, where was I? Ah, yes. It seems you can't go a few minutes lately. Hold on.

(aside) What now. Friend me on what book? Seems like we always used to go fishing *WITH* friends. Now it seems we are phishing *FOR* friends. Seems like we should reverse-copyright the word friend as a culturally significant and endangered NOUN with particular significance to the indigenous people of EARTH and stop these tech-savvy aliens from using it in their proprietary schemes for world domination.

So, as I was saying, it is getting more and more difficult to...

(aside again) Oh my goodness! Are you serious? OMG they are so cute at that age. Yes, by all means send me another thirty photographs of the whole unspeakably funny episode: my existing portfolio of your delightful offspring is at least three days old.

Well, you know, now that it comes to it, I can't recall what I had on my mind. However, regardless of the stream of electronic "tweets" that intrudes unceasingly upon our peace-of-mind, there is soon to be some real twittering going on out in the woods and fields of our beloved valley. I suggest we switch off the digital tyrants that lurk in our pockets and go birding!

Please note that a revised and much-improved Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule accompanies this newsletter.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, March 14 at 7:30 PM

Don Kroodsma listens in on **Our Favorite Birds**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

At a meeting in the not-so-distant past, Don Kroodsma surreptitiously circulated amongst the assembled aviophiles, collecting the identities of our favorite birds. I have a funny feeling he will be re-introducing us to the songs and behavior of these old friends we *thought* we knew (in his inimitable style, of course).

Don Kroodsma discovered birds during his last semester in college, back in 1968, and that summer learned how to tape record them. For a Ph.D. at Oregon State, he studied where and when young Bewick's wrens learn their songs. He then spent eight years at Rockefeller University before coming to UMass, Amherst in 1980. Forty years of birdsong pretty well sums it all up—first in an academic setting and publishing in obscure scientific journals, now free and at large, writing for a broader audience and sharing the joy of birdsong (and sonograms, of course).

COMING PROGRAMS

April 11, 2011. Shawn Carey. The Gulf of Mexico Oil Catastrophe.

May 9, 2011. John Kricher. Speciation of Birds in the Neotropics.

June 13, 2011. David Spector and John Van de Graaff. Words and Birds.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Coastal Rhode Island. Saturday, February 26. 2011.

Participants: *Geoff LeBaron, Harvey Allen, Larry and Joan Duprey, Betsy Higgins, Nidhin Joseph, Andrew Magee, David Peake-Jones, Elaine Pourinski, Judy Smith, Mary Lou Splain, Chris Yerlig.*

Perhaps to stave off the seasonal affective delusion that we might never go birding again, the group above set out on a relatively pleasant day for the coast of Rhode Island. We first cruised the “tony” environs of Watch Hill, where we espied a massive raft (potentially thousands) of Brant at the limits of visibility. Misquamicut and Weekapaug were amazingly bird –free but for a tantalizing Rorschach alcid which we more-or-less reckon was a **Thick-billed Murre**.

Ninigret N.W.R. was eerily quiet, with barely a song-bird to be found. We did scare up a Northern Flicker, some Yellow-rumped Warblers, and three individual birds notable for the superb views they offered: the friendly neighborhood **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, a superb and acrobatic **Red-throated Loon** at close range, and a beautiful **Red-shouldered Hawk** which held court in a roadside tree. In the surf at Charlestown Breachway, we found a nice complement of Horned Grebes in the shallows, and several lovely **Long-tailed Ducks**. At Moonstone Beach we had lovely looks at close red-breasted Mergansers in superb late afternoon light, plus a sprightly **Pied-billed Grebe** and a beautiful **Rough-legged Hawk**.

We rounded out the day with a long haul to the mysterious and always unpredictable Sachuest Point. Though **Harlequin Ducks** were not numerous this year, and were initially well-hidden, we were eventually rewarded with some nice looks at a few, along with a raft of Purple Sandpipers. Searching along the cove for a Green-tailed Towhee (not to be found) we came across a large complement of Sanderling scuttling about on the beach. As if to make up for the absence of owls at this normally owly spot, we were astounded by the peenting of at least three VERY improbable **American Woodcocks**, which were our last birds of the day and displayed about us in the gathering dusk at the visitors center.

David Peake-Jones, from notes by Geoff LeBaron

COMING TRIPS

Please see the enclosed REVISED edition of the **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**.

Sallymeandering The Wit and Wisdom of Sally Venman

“As part of the HBC information gathering and dispensing service, your secretary is always on the lookout for enrichment items that may have been missed by you, the membership. In that light, I offer the following which will be of special interest to those born between March 21 and April 19:

“In 1967, the longest flight by a chicken, 302 feet, was accomplished by a hen born under the sign of Aries. And, in 1955 – an Aries python provided the only known case of a snake devouring a whole pig. Keep this in mind if Aries is your sign and if the Guinness Book of World Records is your goal. The wild and crazy Aries animals are everywhere.”

April. 1995

SIGN UP NOW FOR

Monhegan Island, 2011.

Memorial Day Weekend (Friday, May 27 to Monday, May 30)

You can see the spring migration almost anywhere, but if you have ever wanted to steep yourself in the glorious warblers of May, while losing yourself in the gentle rhythms of an idyllic island, Monhegan is for you.

During the spring, migrant songbirds moving northward up the Atlantic seaboard are sometimes pushed out over the ocean by storms, and have to fight their way back toward the safety of land. Monhegan Island lies about twelve miles off the coast of Maine and is often a haven for exhausted birds to recuperate before resuming the perilous journey northward. We will arrive on the island on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, without vehicles, and immerse ourselves in the gentle rhythms of island life. We'll find migrant songbirds throughout the tiny village of Monhegan, sheltering in the numerous apple trees, sometimes picking through the sea wrack on the town beach for sand fleas, or even hiding in the lobster pots piled almost everywhere. Each day will bring fresh migrants to the island, and a storm could even produce one of the fallouts of birding legend. When the birding slows down, we can venture off on any of the island's numerous walking trails to Lobster Cove, the stupendous seaward cliffs, the Seal Rocks (aptly named), or the Enchanted Forest.

We'll stay at the rustic Trailing Yew, which will lay on breakfast and dinner each day, including a local lobster dinner. This is the perfect opportunity to slow down, REALLY learn the birds, and remember what life *should* be about.

This trip is open only to members of the Hampshire Bird Club.

To sign up and/or for a cost estimate: contact the Field Trip Chair:

Mike Locher (fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org; 585 5864)

To learn more, contact one of the leaders:

Betsy Higgins (hignik@comcast.net; 586 7585), or

Andrew Magee (andrewfmagee@gmail.com; 586 1509).

Sallymeandering

"And a few more reminders for your calendar, compliments of your full-service Secretary. The month of May is National Asparagus Month! May 3- Pete Seegers 72nd birthday. May 8 – the first unassisted triple play in 1898 – AND – Ostrich mating season begins; May 12 – Mother's Day; May 22 – Toothpaste tube was invented just 99 years ago; May 25 – Babe Ruth hit his last home run (#714) in 1935; May 27 – Memorial Day; June 4 – 42nd anniversary of the day that Dick Tracy married Tess Truehart after an 18 year engagement. HAPPY BIRD SEARCH" May 1991.

Cornell Lab Young Birders Event

August 11-14, 2011. Ithaca, New York

The Young Birders Event aims to bring together teenagers (students who will be sophomores, juniors and seniors) with a passion for birds who are interested in pursuing a career with birds. The young birders will meet people who have successful careers that involve birds in a variety of ways from ornithological researchers to tour leaders, to audio specialists and computer scientists. High-school-aged young birders need to apply by mail by April 15, 2011. Ten young birders will be selected and notified in late May. Please share this information with any young birders you know!

For further information and application materials, go to: ebird.org/content/ebird/news/YB2011.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Please note: The Spring Birding course with Scott Sumner is already in progress.

Introduction to Birding: *Jan Ortiz*

Classes: Wednesdays, April 27, May 4, 11, Thursday, May 19, 6:30-8 p.m.

Field Trips: Saturdays, April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 7 a.m.-noon

Members: \$90/Non-members: \$105. Pre-registration required.

Bark: Get to Know Your Trees: *Michael Wojtech*

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-noon. Fee.

Salamander Tunnels Maintenance Day: *Ted Watt*

A Saturday in March to be determined by weather.

Please call 413-256-6006 or email us at hcenter@crocker.com and we will contact you when the date is scheduled.

Residential landscape Design Course: *Melinda Reid*

Saturdays, March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fee.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Sallymeandering

Three friars opened up a small florist shop to raise funds for the poor. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. After they repeatedly refused his pleas to close down, the opposing florist hired Hugh McTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to “persuade” them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed the store, whereupon the terrified friars finally shut up shop, proving that **Hugh, and only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.**

Breeding Bird Atlas

Atlas Workshop: What is the best way to spend my time in this last year?

Monday, March 28, 7-9 PM, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary Headquarters, Easthampton

How can topographic maps and satellite photos help find species? How do I get the most information from the block’s species list? What are some techniques for finding the elusive species? What are some techniques for upgrading species to that CO (or at least PR) category?

To make this workshop more helpful (and fun), please let Mary Alice (548-9078, mwilson@umassk12.net) know that you are coming so that we will be analyzing the blocks you will be working on AND tell her what you would like to learn – what your own questions are. Please do this soon so the planning committee (Bob Bieda, Betsy Higgins, Chuck Horn, Geoff LeBaron) can gear up for the world’s greatest workshop.

Welcome New Atlasers: Join us for this final year. (It will be another 25 years before the next atlas.) If you get organized now, you can come to the March 28 workshop ready to sling jargon with the best of them. Contact Mary Alice (548-9078, mwilson@umassk12.net) NOW.

OTHER GROUPS WHO ARE ALL ABOUT BIRDS.

This list focuses on groups who provide programs and/or field trips on birds and birding in Massachusetts, and list these on active websites. Addresses given are those for current programs and/or trips. Only monthly programs or special events are listed here (****).

Cape Cod Bird Club. Brewster, MA. Field Trips/Programs. www.massbird.org/ccbc

Programs held at 7:30 PM at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte. 6A, in Brewster, MA.

******March 14, 2011. Gina Nichol - "Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems"**

Athol Birding and Nature Club: Athol, MA. Field Trips/Programs. www.millersriver.net/events/index/html

**** **Wednesday, March 9. 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

The Sudden and Unexpected Decline of Massachusetts Bats: Dr. Thomas French

At Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environment Center.

Breeding Bird Survey Volunteer Needed.

Amherst Breeding Bird Survey, now in its 22nd year, is looking for one volunteer for 2 short routes (3 sites each). Surveys are done between June 1-June 17, beginning each survey between 6 and 7 AM (5 minutes at each stop, 5-10 minute walk between sites).

For more information, contact Mary Alice Wilson (mwilson@umassk12.net, 548-9078).

Please note: the Amherst Breeding Bird Survey should not be confused with the MA Breeding Bird Atlas.

Gleanings from the Scientific Literature

OK, this one has nothing to do with birds, but it is mind-blowing enough to include anyway!

Imagine a cheap sci-fi flick in which aliens parasitize people, cause them to climb trees, and then use the decomposing bodies as factories to produce millions more aliens!

Well, the people are actually rainforest carpenter ants, and the aliens are fungi of earthly origin, but in other respects, reality is as strange as fiction.

Several species of *Cordyceps* fungi have been found in Brazil whose spores infect the bodies of carpenter ants, and, via psycho-active chemicals, induce them to climb into rainforest vegetation, and fasten themselves in position in the foliage. The ants then die, and their bodies become spore factories for the fungus, which uses the decomposing tissue to generate millions of spores for up to a year.

Chemicals from this genus of fungi have been known to science for some time and have a variety of uses in medicine. Thankfully, the side effects do not appear to include the types of impacts seen on the ants.

"Hidden diversity behind the Zombie-Ant fungus Ophiocordyceps unilateralis: Four new species described from Carpenter ants in Minas Gerais, Brazil." By Harry C. Evans, Simon L. Elliot, David P. Hughes. *PloS One*, Vol. 6 No. 3, March 2011.

Source: www.wired.com/wiredscience

That's it for this month.

Until next time, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Revised Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, 2011.

Please register with the field trip leader(s) and check this schedule's information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher – 413-585-5864) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders.

The Hampshire Bird Club recommends carpooling whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (September newsletter or on the Website).

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as Easy (E) or Moderate (M) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders.*

MARCH

***Sunday, March 20. Connecticut River Waterfowl II.** Half day. Mike Locher travels from Holyoke to Turner's Falls looking for any waterfowl that Josh missed migrating through the valley along the Connecticut River. Call Mike (413-585-5864) for information, or just meet at the Hadley Elementary School parking lot (on Route 47, about a mile north of the Route 9 intersection) at 7 a.m. (E)

APRIL

***Sunday, April 10. Ashley Reservoir: Early Warblers.** Half day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Northern Waterthrushes. Meet in the Friendly's parking lot, near the Holiday Inn, close to Exit 15 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7 a.m. (E)

***Sunday, April 17. Bullitt Reservation.** Half day. In a new trip for the HBC, Mary Alice Wilson explores a reservation along the Conway/Ashfield line. Contact Mary Alice (413-548-9078) as the date approaches for meeting information. (E)

MAY

***Sunday, May 1. Early Migrants.** Half day. Betsy Higgins (413-586-7585) looks for migrants, starting around Look Park in Northampton. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the JFK Middle School on Bridge Road in Northampton. (E)

Saturday, May 7. East Quabbin Reservoir. All day. Larry Therrien leads the HBC's annual trip to the east side of the reservoir, looking for spring migrants. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to attend this trip, which is limited to 15 people plus the leader. Call Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353) to register no later than April 15. (M)

Sunday, May 8. Return to Greylock Glen. All day. Mike Locher cleans up the two blocks the HBC busted last spring, looking for nesting waterfowl and other species we didn't get before. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) as the date approaches for meeting information. (M)

Sunday, May 15. MacLeish Field Station, Northampton. Half day. In a new trip for the HBC, Bill Benner explores a newly-opened property run by Smith College. Call Bill (413-320-4422) as the date approaches for meeting information. (E)

Monday, May 16. Mount Holyoke. Half Day. Tom Gagnon hikes up Mt. Holyoke looking for birds (think Cerulean Warbler), wildflowers, and perhaps a few butterflies. Meet at the LOWER parking lot at 7 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) after May 10. (M)

Friday, May 20. Rails and Marsh Birds. Evening. Tom Gagnon looks and listens for Virginia Rails, Sora Rails, and Marsh Wrens. Meet between Stop & Shop and Liquors 44 in Northampton at 6 p.m., then the group will proceed to the Bike Path. The walk ends at dusk. Bring insect repellent. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for information. (E)

Saturday, May 21. Plum Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron looks for migrants and residents at one of Massachusetts' premier birding locations. Call Geoff as the date approaches for meeting time and information. (E)

Saturday, May 28. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, MA. $\frac{3}{4}$ day. David Peake-Jones will visit this historic and beautiful garden cemetery which is also a fabled migrant trap. Call David (413-529-9541) to register. (E)

Friday, May 27 – Monday, May 30. Monhegan Island. Overnight trip. Betsy Higgins and Andrew Magee lead the Hampshire Bird Club's annual pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, but the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for information, and Mike Locher (413-585-5864) to register. (E/M)

JUNE

***Thursday, June 2. Holyoke Fish Ladder.** Half day. Tom Gagnon reprises his trip to the Holyoke Fish Ladder to look for birds and fish. (Last year the group saw seven species of fish and eels.) To carpool, meet at the Park & Ride parking lot near the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton at 11:30 a.m., or else meet the group in Holyoke. Bring a lunch, if you want one. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for information. (E)

Saturday, June 4. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Pending permission, Bob Bieda will lead his annual trip into New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Bob (413-527-2623) at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

Saturday, June 11. Hammonasset Beach State Park, CT. All day. Betsy Higgins goes to the coast of Connecticut to find sparrows, rails, and other seaside denizens. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting time and place as the date approaches. (E)

Sunday, June 12, Blockbusting in Stephenton 4. All day. Contact Mike Locher (413-585-5864) to venture into utterly unbirded territory (at least as far the Breeding Bird Atlas is concerned). There should be opportunities for both hikers and drivers. (M)

JULY

Saturday, July 30. New South Beach (Early). All day. David Peake-Jones will look for Red Knots and other early shorebird migrants. We'll be walking a long way over wet sand. Bring sun protection, water, food, and \$20 for the boat ride. Call David (413-529-9541) to register. (M)

AUGUST

Saturday, August 27. New South Beach (Late). All day. Bob Bieda leads birders in their quest for late shorebird migrants, including Curlew Sandpipers and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. Bring a lunch, a jacket, and \$20 for the boat ride. Note: the date may change depending on the tides. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register. (M)

SEPTEMBER

***Saturday, September 10. Knightsville Dam.** Half day. Betsy Higgins repeats her trip to Knightsville Dam WMA. This is a rich habitat where almost anything could turn up. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting details. (E)



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 27, No. 8

April, 2011

In this edition:

- this month's **program** and the coming schedule,
- a field trip report and the coming trips,
- **LAST CALL** for **Monhegan Island** this year,
- scandalous revelations about the Nominating Committee and the AGM,
- **Hitchcock Programs**,
- **kudos to one of our youngest members, and**
- Atlas exhortations.

I hope you find some of it useful!

The newsletter will close with a tribute to **Deedee Minear**.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, April 11 at 7:30 PM

Shawn Carey shows us **Scenes from the Gulf Oil Disaster**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Haven't you wanted to hear about the Gulf oil disaster from someone who's actually been there? Wildlife photographer Shawn Carey shares firsthand accounts, images and video from two recent trips to the Louisiana Coast to witness and document the effects of the nation's largest oil disaster on the region and its wildlife. Find out what he observed regarding the impacts of this environmental disaster and efforts underway to fix the damage. Carey also discusses the risks facing large numbers of migrating birds heading in and out of the Gulf region each year.

Originally from Pennsylvania, **Shawn Carey** moved to Boston, MA in 1986, and has been photographing birds and other wildlife for over 20 years, including 12 years teaching photography for Mass Audubon. He serves as Vice-President for the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, and is also on the advisory boards of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Massachusetts Visual Arts Center. Shawn is a past-president of the Brookline Bird Club and served on the board of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.

COMING PROGRAMS

May 9, 2011. John Kricher. Speciation of Birds in the Neotropics.

June 13, 2011. David Spector and John Van de Graaff. Words and Birds.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Connecticut River Waterfowl

Sunday, March 20

Mike Locher led a group to visit some of the varied wetlands in the Connecticut River Valley seeking ducks and other puddly wonders.

We had an auspicious start at Cowpath Road in Hatfield when a **Northern Goshawk** lumbered over our heads while we looked at Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Eastern Phoebe in (or over) the northern reaches of Great Pond. On the northern outskirts of town, we frightened off the riff-raff with strategic slamming of car doors, leaving some beautiful Green-winged Teal and a few other things. In flooded fields toward Deerfield, we found Wood Ducks and Killdeer. Proceeding to the Rod and Gun Club, we beheld a plethora of mergansers of every kind, hordes of distant Ring-necked Ducks, some Bufflehead, Goldeneye, and a couple of very ratty young Bald Eagles.

Becoming tired of this mundane fare, Bruce and David decided to stand suggestively on a street corner in Turners Falls, to see what action they could rustle up. Most of the local folk had the good taste to look the other way and distract their offspring. In the end, our only interested motorist was Scott Sumner, and even we were not that desperate.

The day ended in spectacular fashion with a superb male **Redhead** (no relation to David or Bruce) at the boat ramp.

David Peake-Jones

COMING FIELD TRIPS

(see also the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, March revision)

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as 'E' (Everyone) or 'M' (Mature Audiences Only) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders.*

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**LAST CHANCE!!
REGISTRATION CLOSING!!
HBC MONHEGAN ISLAND OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP
Memorial Day Weekend (May 27-30), 2011.**

OK, folks, you've read the glossy descriptions of this fabled birding paradise, perhaps you've had a lot on, perhaps you've been waiting to see what the tax refund looks like. You've procrastinated. Well, if you're going this year, it's time to bite the bullet.

Registrations for the trip CLOSE on APRIL 15.

Still have questions? Well, Betsy, Andrew and Mike will be glad to give you any information you need, but the decision is really rather simple.

If you have not been to Monhegan Island birding, you need to go, so SIGN UP!

If you have not been in the last ten years, then you need a refresher, so SIGN UP.

Just to recap: the only people who have any conceivable excuse NOT to sign up are those who have been to the island in the last ten years, and even you guys are nuts if you don't go again.

To sign up, and/or for a cost estimate, contact Mike Locher (fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org; 585 5864). For general questions, contact Betsy Higgins (hignik@comcast.net; 586 7585) or Andrew Magee (andrewfmagee@gmail.com; 586 1509).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each year a small group of conscripts puts together a list of nominees for the Board for the following year. Despite the fact that Board membership is a breathtaking thrill-ride through intrigue and non-profit politics, there are usually a few members who elect not to return for another year.

This year, the indefatigable **Bruce Hart** (brucehart@hampshirebirdclub.org) is the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Please let him know if you, or anyone with whom you have a blood feud, would like to serve on the board. Bruce will put together a proposed slate of Board members for the coming year, in time for the May newsletter, and the membership will elect the new Board for 2011-2012 at the Annual General Meeting in May.

Ok, there was really no scandal in this report, but for what legitimate reason would you have read it?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. for 2010-2011 will occur on **Monday, May 9, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA at 7:30 P. M.**

The meeting serves as the opportunity for the membership to elect the **Board of Directors** for **2011-2012**. A slate of proposed directors (nominees) will be published in the May newsletter, and presented at the meeting. Nominees will also be accepted from the floor.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

The final year of the Breeding Bird Atlas has begun with a lively workshop, new HBC webpage information, and birds arriving daily hoping they will be counted. If you are not already involved, contact Mary Alice Wilson, mwilson@umassk12.net to participate.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Birding by Ear: *John Green*

Saturdays, April 23, May 21, June 25, 7-10 a.m. Fee.

Introduction to Birding: *Jan Ortiz*

Classes: Wednesdays, April 27, May 4, 11, Thursday, May 19, 6:30-8 p.m.

Field Trips: Saturdays, April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 7 a.m.-noon

Members: \$90/Non-members: \$105

Bark: Get To Know Your Trees: *Michael Wojtech*

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-noon. Fee

The 2nd Annual Amherst Sustainability Festival

Held on the Amherst Town Common and around town

Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Dynamic Landscape: Creating Powerful Photos: *Michael Zide and Peter Chilton*

Thursday, April 14, 7-8:30 p.m. No Fee.

Low Maintenance Design with Native Plants: *Owen Wormser*

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Held at the New England Wild Flower Society's Nasami Farm in Whately. Fee.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant Street., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or online at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Pledge for Galen!!

We congratulate club member **Galen Frank-Bishop**, who has been selected to participate with the American Birding Association's young birders team, the **Tropicbirds**, in the **Great Texas Birding Classic** this month. In this big-day type tournament, teams of elite birders from nation wide compete to locate the most species in a defined period.

Teams raise money through sponsorships, and the proceeds go towards the ABA's educational programs, which aim to help developing birders of all ages nation-wide.

To find out more about the Great Texas Birding Classic, use the search engine of your choice (the only links I could find are incomprehensible).

To find out more about the Tropicbirds, go to www.aba.org/yb/tropicbirds.

You can proceed from there to the Pledge link, for an online pledge process or to download a paper form.

GO Galen!!

That's all for now!

Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Our tribute to **Deedee Minear** follows.

April, 2011. Page 4 of 5

In Memory of Deedee Minear

Deedee died in March after a long illness. Though she would strenuously oppose this effort to acknowledge her contribution to our community over many years, we believe her passing cannot go unremarked.

Deedee was born in Northampton, and graduated from Smith College. Though her work and interests took her all over the country and the world, it is her presence here in the valley that birders will remember. She participated avidly in both the Christmas Count over many years and, recently, in the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas. She participated in ornithological research at Savoy State Forest, and especially loved the Sugarloaf, Lawrence Swamp, and Puffer's Pond.

Deedee did not simply spend time in the natural world. It was, truly, her element. Birds, wildflowers, salamanders, butterflies, moths, trees, mammals: no living thing escaped her keen interest, and she loved all of them.

For one who so treasured nature on her own terms, she touched more people with her willingness to share her knowledge and love of wildlife than she would have realized. So many of us remember her sharing observations we had either missed altogether, or the true significance of which we had failed to grasp. Some folks remember her astride her bike on the bike path, "pointing out the best ones." Others recall her appearing mysteriously to some startled birder, and whispering the tip of the day in conspiratorial undertones, before vanishing along the by-ways of her unique and private world.

We shall leave it to Jan Ortiz to close this tribute,

"I do not know of anyone who was a more conscientious or ethical birder. Often starting out in the earliest hours of the morning, usually alone, she walked quietly, pausing often to look and listen. It was not unusual for friends to find a note from her on a car, in the mailbox or wedged in the door, sharing with us a special sighting – be it bird, butterfly or wildflower. She was a gentle woman, a solitary presence with an exceptional knowledge and appreciation of the natural world. She will be missed by her many friends in the birding community."

Hampshire Bird Club



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 27, No. 9

May, 2011.

In this edition:

- the monthly program introduction and biography of our speaker: **John Kricher (page 2)**,
- a field trip report and the packed May schedule, including a **newly-announced trip**,
- the always-exciting **AGM announcement** and **board nominations**,
- important news about the **Sally Venman Memorial Fund**,
- a doffing-of-the-cap to **Galen Frank-Bishop**,
- a resource to compare **birding “apps,”** and
- a few other odds and sods.

I hope you find some of it useful!

Since birding “apps” are all the rage, we are proud to announce the imminent release of the Hampshire Bird Club App: **“Pileations,”** available soon for all mobile communication devices. There are many new applications out there that will give you basic data on plumage, distribution, voice etc., but that still leaves you with the cumbersome task of sifting through the aging memory banks for some kind of identification that matches the facts.

Pileations helps avoid all that messy uncertainty. Just point the viewfinder in the general direction of the bird, press the ID button, and the app will tell you what it is. Now, in case that seems a little too cut-and-dried, **Pileations** allows you to calibrate the results for your personality and/or life stage! You may want to start out at the PIS (Play It Safe) level. The device will take the visual data, your GPS, location, and the date, and come up with a nice, common species that will not draw any attention from your local birding elite. As you get more adventurous, you might wish to try the “SMW” (Spreading My Wings) setting, which allows certain more controversial possibilities like McGillivray’s Warbler and Bell’s Vireo into the mix. If you have been diagnosed with a terminal disease or are about to have children, it might be time to consider the FAAP (Fame At Any Price) level, which will actively select for trans-Atlantic accidentals and endangered species.

The fun doesn’t end there! Capture just one chip note with the inbuilt mike and the KROOD function will tell you whether that bird is paired up yet and how the relationship is going. Use the MAW link to get the regional Atlas coordinator involved (for hours of interrogatory amusement). Hit the GAG button, and **Pileations** will tell you how many times Tom Gagnon has seen this individual bird that day, and what his ID was! Scroll through the “Listers Playground” menu to find out whether the bird is yet represented on the local lists of notable local celebrities like Bob Bieda, Al Richards, and Scott Sumner. For added pleasure you can send a text to just one of these folks and snub the rest! And for that rainy day, just click on SPECTRE to find out where that species is represented in the world’s great literature!

Pileations is brought to you over the strenuous objections of Jan Ortiz by the software developers at Hampshire Bird Club: 27 years old and always on the cutting edge!! **In case you are interested in a real (and very useful) comparison of available birding applications for mobile devices, please see the article on page 6.**

Please note: the Monthly Program follows on page 2.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, May 9 at 7:30 PM

John Kricher sheds some light on **Speciation of Birds in the Neotropics.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Ecuador is one of the most bird species-rich countries in the world, perhaps second only to Peru and Colombia. This talk will focus on various ideas as to how and why so many species of birds have evolved to inhabit Ecuador and how speciation in the tropics may be unique compared with other ecological regions. From Darwin's first observations in the Galapagos Islands to current research on species from rain forest to high mountains, this talk will provide a broad overview that will help any birder to understand why Neotropical bird guides have so many pages.

John Kricher is a Professor of Biology at Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts. A graduate of Temple (B.A.) and Rutgers Universities (Ph.D.), Dr. Kricher teaches courses in ecology, ornithology, and vertebrate evolution.

John has conducted Earthwatch-sponsored research on migrant birds on their wintering grounds in Belize. He is the author of over 100 papers and articles in scientific journals, magazines, and newspapers and several important texts on the neotropics. John is a Fellow in the American Ornithologists Union and has served as president of the Association of Field Ornithologists, president of the Wilson Ornithological Society, and president of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and has been a member of the boards of directors of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, the New Jersey Audubon Society, and the American Birding Association. He is currently on the Council of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

John has led trips to many places including Cape May, Block Island, coastal New England, Arizona, the Pacific Northwest, Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Panama, and Trinidad. He has lectured for Linblad Tours of the Galapagos Islands, for Society Expeditions trips to Venezuela, Brazil, and Indonesia, and for Glacier Bay Cruise Lines in Alaska.

John and his wife Martha Vaughan divide their time between Pocasset, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod and Sunbury, Georgia.

COMING PROGRAMS

June 13. David Spector and John Van de Graaff. Words and Birds.

Sallymeandering

The Wit and Wisdom of Sally Venman.

"Speaking of which, let me tell you about what I did on my summer vacation (pretty clever segue there, no?). I experienced a migratory fall-out at Point Pelee (an incredible, unforgettable, amazing, goose-bump-raising birding experience); took a journey "home" (discovered why I am FROM my growing-up area and not still living IN it); spent an amazing hour with a good friend trying to remain objective as we silently watched a Fisher pilfer the nesting hole of a Pileated Woodpecker pair, seeing and hearing the parents' reaction to this beautiful animal; and lastly challenged the stability of a long-time marriage by painting (with husband Bill) a huge area inside the house during the peak of the heat and humidity wave. I think August will find me with a trashy novel, a wine cooler, and a comfortable hammock far away from all things that have any potential for maturing me."

August, 1997.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The Bullit Reservation (Trustees of Reservations Property), Ashfield, MA.

Sunday, April 17

Mary Alice Wilson led an adventurous group to this remote gem in the Berkshires. Given the weather prediction (rain and strong wind), the clearing sky and brisk breeze was a gift – but it was cold. Final score was Birders 13, Birds 9 (species) - demonstrating once again that birds have more sense than birders. Special thanks to TTOR/Americorps intern, Layla Hazen, who introduced the group to the property and answered the many questions from participants who went inside for facilities, warmth, and information. While on our walk, Carol Garanski's sharp eyes found a porcupine in a tree stump. Each of us will be back to this great birding spot – on a nicer day.

Mary Alice Wilson

COMING TRIPS

Please register with the field trip leader(s) and check this schedule's information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher – 413-585-5864) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders.

The Hampshire Bird Club recommends carpooling whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (September newsletter or on the Website).

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as Easy (E) or Moderate (M) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders.*

***Sunday, May 1. Early Migrants.** Half day. Betsy Higgins (413-586-7585) looks for migrants, starting around Look Park in Northampton. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the JFK Middle School on Bridge Road in Northampton. (E)

Saturday, May 7. East Quabbin Reservoir. All day. Larry Therrien leads the HBC's annual trip to the east side of the reservoir, looking for spring migrants. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to attend this trip, which is limited to 15 people plus the leader. Call Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353) to register no later than April 15. (M)

Sunday, May 8. Return to Greylock Glen. All day. Mike Locher cleans up the two blocks the HBC busted last spring, looking for nesting waterfowl and other species we didn't get before. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) as the date approaches for meeting information. (M)

Newly Added to the Schedule

Sunday, May 15. Lyme, Connecticut. $\frac{3}{4}$ Day. Arn Krugman will be leading this new trip, involving walks in Hartman Park and Pleasant Valley (a Nature Conservancy property). Target species include Hooded Warbler and White-eyed Vireo. Cerulean Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler are more abundant than in our northern climes. Possible side stops may include Great Island for good looks at nesting Osprey and Marsh Wren, and/or Nehantic State Forest for the almost annual Prothonotary Warbler, if it is reported this year). We will meet at 6 AM at Northampton Bowl, on Rt. 5 just south of Northampton, near the highway interchange. Please call Arn (413 446 9727) to register and for further details. Rain cancels. (E)

Continues over ►

Coming Trips (continued)

Sunday, May 15. MacLeish Field Station, Northampton. Half day. In a new trip for the HBC, Bill Benner explores a newly-opened property run by Smith College. Call Bill (413-320-4422) as the date approaches for meeting information. (E)

Monday, May 16. Mount Holyoke. Half Day. Tom Gagnon hikes up Mt. Holyoke looking for birds (think Cerulean Warbler), wildflowers, and perhaps a few butterflies. Meet at the LOWER parking lot at 7 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) after May 10. (M)

Friday, May 20. Rails and Marsh Birds. Evening. Tom Gagnon looks and listens for Virginia Rails, Sora Rails, and Marsh Wrens. Meet between Stop & Shop and Liquors 44 in Northampton at 6 p.m., then the group will proceed to the Bike Path. The walk ends at dusk. Bring insect repellent. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for information. (E)

Saturday, May 21. Plum Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron looks for migrants and residents at one of Massachusetts' premier birding locations. Call Geoff as the date approaches for meeting time and information. (E)

Saturday, May 28. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, MA. $\frac{3}{4}$ day. David Peake-Jones will visit this historic and beautiful garden cemetery which is also a fabled migrant trap. Call David (413-529-9541) to register. (E)

***Thursday, June 2. Holyoke Fish Ladder.** Half day. Tom Gagnon reprises his trip to the Holyoke Fish Ladder to look for birds and fish. (Last year the group saw seven species of fish and eels.) To carpool, meet at the Park & Ride parking lot near the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton at 11:30 a.m., or else meet the group in Holyoke. Bring a lunch, if you want one. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for information. (E)

Saturday, June 4. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Pending permission, Bob Bieda will lead his annual trip into New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Bob (413-527-2623) at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

Sallymeandering

"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 I was out of control, I joined a recovery program for Saturday Morning Cartoon addicts and now I only watch the Discover Network and the McNeil-Lehrer Newshour. My one relapse occurred during a George of the Jungle cartoon Festival just before the holidays – always a stressful time of the year."

August, 1994.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee this year consisted of Bruce Hart, Ilene Goldstein, and Joe Wicinski.

Only minimal arm-twisting was required to persuade Josh Rose to stand for election to the board, to replace Joe Wicinski who has done his time (for now). Thank you, Joe!

It's a fair bet that Josh will bring candor (and hopefully refreshments) to the Board. He's also promised to keep his hands off Medicare, which, in the universe of elected officials, is saying something!

Thank you to the Nominating Committee!!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Hampshire Bird Club Inc. will take place on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. The venue will be the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA. The AGM will occur immediately prior to the scheduled HBC program for the month.

The primary purpose of the AGM is to elect a Board for the 2011-2012 club year. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for next year:

President: Scott Sumner

Vice-President/Program Chair: Geoff Lebaron

Membership Secretary: Sue Emerson

Communications Secretary: Elissa Rubinstein

Treasurer: Janice Jorgensen

Members-at-Large:

Bruce Hart

Mike Locher

Jan Ortiz

David Peake-Jones

Jaap van Heerden

Josh Rose

Other nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Sally Venman Memorial Donations to Fund Hitchcock Camperships!

Hampshire Bird Club members were exceedingly generous in donating funds to our memorial fund for Sally Venman. The board determined that the best way to honor Sally's legacy was to contribute to the environmental education cause which was so dear to her.

With guidance from the Education Committee and approval from her family, we asked the Hitchcock Center in Amherst to fund TWO scholarships in Sally's name for environmental camps at Hitchcock this summer. The center was happy to accept the suggestion, and we forwarded \$800 to them in April.

The funds will extend the unique camp experience at Hitchcock to young folks who might otherwise never experience it. We think Sally would be delighted!!

Sallymeandering

"And a few more reminders for your calendar, compliments of your full-service Secretary. The month of May is National Asparagus Month! May 3- Pete Seegers 72nd birthday. May 8 – the first unassisted triple play in 1898 – AND – Ostrich mating season begins; May 12 – Mother's Day; May 22 – Toothpaste tube was invented just 99 years ago; May 25 – Babe Ruth hit his last home run (#714) in 1935; May 27 – Memorial Day; June 4 – 42nd anniversary of the day that Dick Tracy married Tess Truehart after an 18 year engagement. HAPPY BIRD SEARCH!"

May, 1991.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Birding Applications for Mobile Devices.

If you wish to enhance your birding experience by using one of the many birding applications available for cell phones/blackberries/tablet PCs or iPads, you may be bewildered by the wide variety available and struggling to choose between them.

If so, Janice Jorgensen and the Education Committee would like to extend an offer of help.

There is an extensive comparative guide to the different “apps” available at <http://ibird.com/compare.aspx>.

Why do I feel like I am contributing to the delinquency of a minor? (p'raps that should be “mynah”). Ed.

Accessible Birding

Check out the excellent list of local, national, and international birding spots for those with limited mobility or endurance. Click on CBC/Inspire on the HBC's opening page, and then follow the directions for the links in Comfortable Birding For All.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Bark: Get to Know Your Trees: *Michael Wojtech*

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-noon. Fee.

Old Growth at Dunbar Brook: *Ted Watt*

Saturday, May 21, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Rain Date: Sunday, May 22). Fee.

Sea Lamprey: *Boyd Kynard* (Fort River Discovery Series)

Thursday, May 19. Details at www.fortriverdiscovery.org.

Family River Romp and Clean Up (Fort River Discovery Series)

Monday, May 30th. Details at www.fortriverdiscovery.org.

Natural pest Control: *Jim McSweeney*

Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m.-Noon.

Held at the New England Wild Flower Society's Nasami Farm in Whately. Fee.

Biothon 2011

Any 24-hr period during May 13-15 or May 20-22. Please call 413-256-6006 for participation packet.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Sallymeandering

Three friars opened up a small florist shop to raise funds for the poor. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. After they repeatedly refused his pleas to close down, the opposing florist hired Hugh McTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to “persuade” them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed the store, whereupon the terrified friars finally shut up shop, proving that *Hugh, and only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.*

ATLAS

Data is already coming in. Check out the new information on the HBC website. Click on Atlas at the bottom of the opening page, and wander around. But especially, check out the information in #6 – especially the new “Hampshire-Franklin 4th year All Data” – what a stunning document.

Mary Alice Wilson

Galen Soars In Birding Classic!

American Birding Association's Tropicbirds team won their division at the Great Texas Birding Classic sponsored by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. HBC's own **Galen Frank-Bishop** was on the winning team.

Congratulations, Galen!!

You can still support the team and the conservation effort. Go to

<http://www.aba.org/yb/tropicbirds/tropicbirdspledgeform.pdf> to download the form.

OTHER GROUPS WHO ARE ALL ABOUT BIRDS.

This list focuses on groups who provide programs and/or field trips on birds and birding in Massachusetts, and list these on active websites. Addresses given are those for current programs and/or trips. Only monthly programs or special events are listed here (****).

Arcadia Sanctuary. Easthampton, MA. Field Trips/Programs.

Programs/trips at www.massaudubon.org/PDF/newsletters/Arcadia_117.pdf

Allen Bird Club: Springfield, MA. www.massbird.org/allen

Meetings held at the Tolman Wing of the Springfield Science Museum (The Quadrangle).

Cape Cod Bird Club. Brewster, MA. Field Trips/Programs. www.massbird.org/ccbc

Programs held at 7:30 PM at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte. 6A, in Brewster, MA.

**** **May 9, 2011. Jim Fenton - “Birds of Plymouth Beach through the Seasons: A Photographic Journey”**

Brookline Bird Club. Brookline, MA. Field Trips. www.brooklinebirdclub.org

Athol Birding and Nature Club: Athol, MA. Field Trips/Programs. www.millersriver.net/events/index/html

**** **Wednesday, May 11. 7 – 9 p.m. Birding the Rio Grande: Josh Rose**

Hoffmann Bird Club. Berkshire County, MA www.hoffmannbirdclub.org/events/html.

Meetings at 7 p.m. in Pittsfield or Lenox, MA. Check schedule for monthly location.

**** **Friday, May 5. 5 p.m. Annual Meeting at Cork and Hearth, Rt. 20, Lee, MA.**

Wayne Petersen. The Birds of Cuba.

Sallymeandering

Two boll weevils grew up together in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other remained behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.

TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS PROGRAMS

Barn Birds

May 14, 2011. 9:30 a.m. Bullit Reservation, Ashfield (TTOR).

Come learn why and how old barns serve as valuable habitat for barn swallows, and what you can do to nurture them while protecting your barn. FREE.

HBC members: call to register with Trustees of Reservations (413.628.4485) and check out TTOR website for map (www.thetrustees.org).

Directions

Route 116 west through the town of Conway. About half a mile after the Ashfield town line, turn left/south on Bullit Road: first uphill, then downhill, then at the sharp corner, there will be the green TTOR sign will be straight ahead of you.

Volunteer Bird Surveyors Wanted

The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) are planning to conduct grassland surveys on all their properties, for more information, contact Julie Richburg (jrichburg@ttor.org).

Backyard Birds

17 Strong St., Northampton (near Eastside Grill). Phone 586 3155

Your local source for birding and bird-feeding supplies, including feeders, optics, gifts, written and audio-materials. Ten percent discount for members of the Hampshire Bird Club. Remember, with local merchants, your dollar stays here!

Athol Bird and Nature Center Programs/Field Walks

ABNC is located at 100 Main Street, Athol, MA.

Mt. Auburn Cemetery: *Leader TBA*

Saturday, May 7. 6 a.m. start from Athol, 7:30 a.m. at the cemetery.

Call Joan/Larry Duprey for details (978-249-4964)

Early Bird Birding (North Quabbin): *Jeff Johnstone*

Sunday, May 8. 7 a.m. start. Meet at ABNC. Call Jeff for details (978-249-9052.)

Accessible Birding with Joe: *Joe Superchi*

Tuesday, May 10, 8-10 a.m.

Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at ABNC. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, 978-248-9491.

Birding the Rio Grande: *Josh Rose*

Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m. ABNC.

Northfield: *Bob Coyle and Mark Taylor*

Saturday, May 14, 6:30 a.m. from ABNC in Athol or 9 a.m. from the Country Club in Northfield. Call Bob for details (978-249-6083)

ABNC Programs/Walks (continued)

Early Bird Birding (North Quabbin): *Jeff Johnstone*

Sunday, May 15. 7 a.m. start. Meet at ABNC. Call Jeff for details (978-249-9052.)

Evenings with the Birds: *Larry Dupre*

Wednesday, May 18, 5:30 p.m. Meet at Alan E. Rich Environmental Park, Athol.

Info: Larry Duprey, 978-235-6581 or Larry_Duprey@hotmail.com.

Birding Lite (Beginners Encouraged): *Cindy and Chuck Hartwell*

Friday, May 20, 8 - 10 a.m. Meet at ABNC. Info: Cindy and Chuck Hartwell, or cindyhartwell56@gmail.com.

Spring Birds with the Springs: *Ann and Jeff Spring*

Saturday, May 21, 7:30 a.m. Bicentennial Park (455 Holtshire Rd., Orange).

Info: Jeff Spring, 978-544-2912.

Early Bird Birding (North Quabbin): *Jeff Johnstone*

Sunday, May 22. 7 a.m. start. Meet at ABNC. Call Jeff for details (978-249-9052.)

Early Bird Birding (North Quabbin): *Jeff Johnstone*

Sunday, May 29. 7 a.m. start. Meet at ABNC. Call Jeff for details (978-249-9052.)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ellen & Chris Pile

Amherst

Ann Barber

North Hatfield

James Mallet & Jennifer Southgate

Hadley

Peter Allison

Hatfield

Sallymeandering

“For a limited time only it is my privilege as representative of the HBC Board to inform you, the discriminating bird watcher, about an amazing once-in-a-lifetime 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, depending on the 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 horrible dunning “reminder letter I send to members who have not renewed.”

August 23, 1992.

That’s it for now.

Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 27, No. 10

June, 2011.

"He's there again, Sven. First the overwhelming smell of geraniol and then those oversize detachable eyes peering in on us. Same one as last year, I think. And you know what? I actually think it's affirming for me in some way. Oh yes, my angel, the price of this passion has been these feelings, feelings I can't ignore, this nagging sense of deceit and shame, this knowledge that I was dirty, guilty, nothing more than a common Yellowthroat.

I started to doubt you, doubt how I felt here in this pondside lovenest with the jewelweed screen. I even began to doubt that there even was a scandinavian branch of the yellowthroats, and that we small warblers actually need personal trainers. I became skeptical about the downhill skiing and the mountainside spa, if you would really make them mine, after all. But the big biped with the notebook and the peanut butter breath makes me believe again. After all, if what we are doing is so wrong, how can it be so interesting to the hominids? I mean, he wasn't in the least interested when I was keeping house with dear, boring, solid old Cuthbert in the goldenrod.

Oh Sven. We have only days till Bertie returns, and till I must take up with him again. . I mean, watching your muscular bouts with the roadside yellowthroats makes my heart beat like a hummingbird, but my head says Cuthbert the Provider. We both know the fledglings will be yours, and you know I will see your dashing mask every time their dear little gullets open skyward, but our genetic legacy needs Cuthbert, patiently harvesting the inchworms, and convinced in his trusting little heart that our chicks are his.....

Sven, Sven dearest, let's declare our love right here in the Swamp Azaleas, whose sparse foliage will reveal just enough to Mr. Atlas. Only then can we feel like this is all legitimate. Oh my love, he is writing, writing a "C."! No, wait! Sometimes the "c" word is not really a "C," if you know what I mean. Here. Just hold this nesting material a moment my darling..... I think he got it! We're in the book! Sven and Constance in a story that shall never end...!"

Migration is virtually over, and the scandalous machinations of the breeding season are underway. Mary Alice would like you to remember that this is the final field season of the **Atlas**. Please contribute if you can.....

If you can stomach going any further, you may find:

- an introduction to the last **program** of the year (pg. 2),
- **next year's stunning program schedule**,
- **field trip reports** which vividly illustrate the vagaries of birding....,
- the **summer field trips** still to come,
- a welcome to the **new board** and **thanks to a departing member**,
- news from the **Education Committee**,
- **Hitchcock** programs,
- some dubious **Atlas** research, and
- one or two other bits and pieces.

I hope you find some of it useful

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, June 13 at 7:30 PM

David Spector and John Van de Graaff connect Words and Birds

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

In this program David and John take a brief look at some of the words of avian origin that have entered the English language and the origins of some bird names. David and John say that this **auspicious** program, if done with **panache**, will be a **feather** in their collective cap, unless they **chicken** out, in which case they will be **crestfallen**, with **egg** on their faces. David's discussion of etymology should **dovetail** with John's beautiful photographs. Knowing the two speakers, one might guess that there will be a mention or two of warblers and of Piping Plovers. Can they really tell the club what the 22nd (and 24th) president of the United States has to do with bird names?

David says this show will prove beyond doubt that **John Van de Graaff** is the best bird photographer this side (or any side) of the Mississippi. After retiring from the last of some four previous careers in 2000, John plunged into shooting birds. It has been immensely fun and gratifying, not least due to his warm reception at HBC.

David Spector has done research on warbler song and is working on a book on birds in literature. He is a former board president of the Hitchcock Center for the Environment and teaches biology at Central Connecticut State University.

John and David have each given more programs at this and other bird clubs than anyone can count.

NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMS.

The indefatigable Geoff LeBaron has already put together a provisional schedule for next year. Here it is, so far.....

September 12, 2011. Paul Sievert. The Short-tailed Albatross Story.

October 17, 2011. Sam Fried. Warblers and Vireos.

November 14, 2011. John Cecil. IBAs from Top to Bottom.

December 12, 2011. Members Meeting.

January 9, 2012. Geoff LeBaron. Panama and Costa Rica.

February 13, 2012. John Nove. A Tale of Two Scottish Isles: Adventures in Orkney.

March 12, 2012. Jeff Boettner. Birds & Bugs.

April 9, 2012. Gina Nichol. Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems.

May 14, 2012. Bret Whitney. Birds of Brazil.

June 11, 2012. Scott Turner. Birding Alaska.

Sallymeandering

"This month is national Turkey Lover's month and two birthdays will be celebrated. Donald Duck will be 57 on the 9th and Garfield the Cat's special day is the 19th. (May I suggest a catnip cake, cat-shaped of course, with sparklers serving as candles and whiskers?) On the 21st we celebrate the official adoption of the eagle as our national symbol. Ben Franklin wanted to see the turkey in that spot. Speaking of which, does anyone remember what president said,

"Sure we make mistakes, but point them out and we will correct them. Let's not throw the baby out though, with the dishes." Clue: the year was 1987 and the same president once said that "trees pollute the air."

June, 1999.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Look Park. Sunday, May 1.

Betsy Higgins, Sharon Tuohey, Elissa and Bernie Rubenstein, Sarah LaPointe, Carol Gabranski, John Gabranski, Sonia Krotkov, Nidhin Joseph, Marcia Merithew, and David Peake-Jones took an early morning bird walk in Look Park on Sunday, May 1st. For the first time in my memory, it did not rain for the Look Park walk! We had a beautiful morning and 40 species of great spring birds. We heard my target bird, a distant **Louisiana Waterthrush**, but never did spot it. A drake Wood Duck perched on a rock in the river for a nice look. He watched us warily as Wood Ducks will do. The brilliant colors of the Baltimore Oriole and the Scarlet Tanager always stun me no matter how many times I see them. But I think that the highlight of the morning may have been the Red Fox that Sarah spotted running along the bank of the river! It was a very pleasant morning and thanks to all for coming along.

Betsy Higgins

Quabbin Reservoir (Prescott Peninsula). Saturday, May 7.

Larry Therrien led birders into this, the most remote and sealed section of the reservation.

At the Pelham overlook, the group had a Prairie Warbler, and from gate 22 to the water, the highlights were seven Common Loons, a **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and four (4) **Blackburnian Warblers**.

Highlights from the peninsular included seven (7) Ruffed Grouse, a Spotted Sandpiper, fourteen (14) Least Flycatchers, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, and eight species of warblers, including **Blue-winged**, **Northern Waterthrush**, and **Nashville**. Perhaps the most exciting bird of the trip, unfortunately flying over only, was a **Sandhill Crane**.

From information from Larry Therrien.

Rails and Marsh Birds. (Northampton Rail Trail). The Evening of May 20.

We had 23 people show up for the Rail Trail Rail Walk! We were able to hear 3 Virginia Rails but had no sightings, even though one was less than 8 feet from us in the grass! Much to our disappointment, we never heard or saw a Sora. We did manage to see a Solitary Sandpiper, Fish Crows in the parking lot of Stop and Shop, several warblers, 2 Common Nighthawks and 1 Beaver. Thank you all for coming out for a "New Walk".

Tom Gagnon

- Note: this is certainly a recent record for attendance on a club walk: possible an all-time high mark!!

Plum Island. Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Geoff LeBaron led Harvey Allen, Jesse Brownback, Ray Chapin, Betsy Higgins, Nidhin Joseph, Elissa and Bernie Rubenstein to this Massachusetts jewel, which solidified its reputation as the place to be in May (well, arguably any time). The group totaled a startling 110 species. WOW.

From the extreme end of Plum Island (Sandy Point) the group found a huge and very vocal group of 800-1,000 predominantly first-year Bonaparte's Gulls. Among them (fleetingly), and unfortunately only seen by group leaders, were both Little and Black-headed gulls. We also found two **Roseate Terns** and had great looks at a flock of **White-rumped Sandpipers** and a **Piping Plover** on its nest. For the afternoon we predominantly birded the Hellcat Swamp area of the Refuge, finding lots of warblers of many different descriptions, plus a great assortment of different flycatchers.

On the way home, one car stopped at the **Montague Sand Plains** to listen for Whip-poor-wills. Though it took a few stops to find some Whips, we did have a wonderful aural experience at two places; first with a huge movement of **American Toads** into Green Pond (where we also found an **Eastern Spadefoot Toad** and heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl!**) and then along Old Northfield Road where we heard Whips, Barred Owl, and night-singing Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Field Sparrows.

Geoff LeBaron

Mt Auburn Cemetery. Saturday, May 28, 2011.

Sometimes you da windshield, sometimes, you da bug.

It was our turn to play the entomological role as Henry Lappen, Betsy Higgins, Nidhin Joseph, Carol and John Gabranski, and David Peake-Jones took off for the fabled birding paradise of Mt. Auburn cemetery on Saturday, May 28. The day started out badly as Peake-Jones, mind addled with fantasies of Warblers Mourning in every bush and Olive-sides hawking beer in a cemetery, sailed blithely past the Palmer exit, where Nidhin and Henry waited patiently. Fortunately, Henry had the presence of mind to locate our phone number, and we reunited at the exit 10 Park and Ride, only half an hour behind schedule. Proceeding on, we found the cemetery ominously quiet as we set off down Indian Ridge path past an un-encouraging Longfellow. Our spirits rose as we found a Blackburnian Warbler singing, and narrowly missed locating a singing **Black-billed Cuckoo**. However, apart from a ventriloquial Blackpoll, a few Black-throated Greens, and a late Yellow, these were our only warblers!!! YE GADS!!

But, as life taketh away, it also giveth, and we were guided by a local enthusiast to a female **Great Horned Owl** and her **two recently-fledged young** in a white pine. The family have been quite the *cause de célèbre* at the cemetery this year and we located all three roosting quietly in the pine. Mobbing crows led us to the male sitting in a nearby copper beech. We also found nesting Baltimore Orioles at Willow Lake and witnessed two Song Sparrows desperately working to keep a hulking cowbird fledgling adequately nourished!

Yet more unrequested excitement occurred when Henry discovered that he had left his car keys somewhere on the ground in the cemetery. Owing to a public-spirited citizen, these have now been returned to him!

David Peake-Jones

COMING TRIPS

***Thursday, June 2. Holyoke Fish Ladder.** Half day. Tom Gagnon reprises his trip to the Holyoke Fish Ladder to look for birds and fish. (Last year the group saw seven species of fish and eels.) To carpool, meet at the Park & Ride parking lot near the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton at 11:30 a.m., or else meet the group in Holyoke. Bring a lunch, if you want one. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for information. (E)

Saturday, June 4. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Pending permission, Bob Bieda will lead his annual trip into New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Bob (413-527-2623) at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

Saturday, June 11. Hammonasset Beach State Park, CT. All day. Betsy Higgins goes to the coast of Connecticut to find sparrows, rails, and other seaside denizens. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting time and place as the date approaches. (E)

Sunday, June 12, Blockbusting in Stephenton 4. All day. Contact Mike Locher (413-585-5864) to venture into utterly unbirded territory (at least as far the Breeding Bird Atlas is concerned). There should be opportunities for both hikers and drivers. (M)

Saturday, July 30. New South Beach (Early). All day. David Peake-Jones will look for Red Knots and other early shorebird migrants. We'll be walking a long way over wet sand. Bring sun protection, water, food, and \$20 for the boat ride. Call David (413-529-9541) BEFORE July 6 (please) to register. Note: if you register late for this trip, I may not be able to get back to you to confirm till right before the trip. (M)

Saturday, August 27. New South Beach (Late). All day. Bob Bieda leads birders in their quest for late shorebird migrants, including Curlew Sandpipers and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. Bring a lunch, a jacket, and \$20 for the boat ride. Note: the date may change depending on the tides. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register. (M)

(Continues on the next page ►)

Coming Trips (continued)

***Saturday, September 10. Knightsville Dam.** Half day. Betsy Higgins repeats her trip to Knightsville Dam WMA. This is a rich habitat where almost anything could turn up. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting details. (E)

HBC at WFCR

Looking for something a little different to do with your fellow HBC members? A group of us will be helping local NPR affiliate WFCR with their upcoming fund drive. A group of us will be answering incoming pledge calls on the last morning of the fund drive, **Saturday, June 25, from 8-11 AM**. Join us for a fun and exciting 3 hours. Training is simple (ever answer a phone call? – you’re already trained!), a light breakfast is provided (usually from Henion’s), and birder gossip is plentiful. If you would like to be part of the group, please get in touch with **Dave Gross** (dgross@biochem.umass.edu or 253-2897).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Following an epic discussion and vote at the 2011 Annual General Meeting on May 9, the following were elected to the HBC Board of Directors for 2011-2012, and will assume their posts on June 14, 2011. All except Josh Rose are returning board members.

President: Scott Turner

Vice-President/Program Chair: Geoff Lebaron

Membership Secretary: Sue Emerson

Communications Secretary: Elissa Rubinstein

Treasurer: Janice Jorgensen

Members-at-Large:

Bruce Hart

Mike Locher

Jan Ortiz

David Peake-Jones

Jaap van Heerden

Josh Rose

Thanks, Joe!

We thank **Joe Wicinski** for his service on the board for the past three years. In documenting Joe’s virtues as a board member one hardly need look past the fact that he consistently contributed high quality refreshments to our gatherings. In fact, it was due to the persistent offerings of Joe and a few others that the board meetings became the gourmet affairs they are today.

More seriously, Joe brought something to our meetings that is beyond price and not always present: the Voice of Reason. Amid sometimes-contentious debate on financial and policy matters, Joe would wait patiently while hotter heads laid out their positions. Then, and without a hint of rebuke, he would quietly chime in with a simple and common-sense contribution to allow a way forward.

We’ll miss Joe’s gastronomic and intellectual contributions and hope that perhaps he may serve on the board again (down the road).....

Hampshire Bird Club

Sallymeandering

*Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft it sank, proving **you can’t have your kayak and eat it too.***

*Samuel Langhorne Clemens went to the bakery to buy bread. He found that the baker had mistaken shredded lemon peel for leavening and had produced an uneatably sour and dense bread. Clemens then told the baker, **“Remember that yeast is yeast and zest is zest or never Mark Twain shall eat.”***

LIBRARY

Henry Lappen, our esteemed librarian, informs me that there are some (rather wonderful) additions to our collection, housed at the Hitchcock Center. Remember, Henry always brings a selection of titles to meetings, and can find something specific for you, given a day or two's notice. You can find him online at library@hampshirerebirdclub.org. The collection is catalogued online: see hampshirebirdclub.org. The **new titles** are:

Birds of Australia, Eighth Edition. *Princeton Field Guides/Simpson and Day.*

A Neotropical Companion: Introduction to the Animals, Plants and Ecosystems of the New World Tropics. *John Kricher.*

Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Eastern and Western Box Set (CD).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The HBC Education Committee is up and running and we welcome any members who would like to get involved in this part of our club. We clearly would like to focus on attracting young folks to birding and also seniors in need of support for their interest in birding. Generous contributions have been made to the committee and we are currently formulating an application for young birders who would like to be funded in an activity related to birding.

Sally has led two bird walks for seniors in the area and we are in discussion with Tom Ricardi about a live bird program for HBC families. This summer, we are working on a program to introduce members to applications (or “apps”) on birding for their computers or smart phones and also are planning an introduction to E-Bird. Janice is tentatively planning the “Apps” program for June and would be happy to send you information on the program.

A long standing problem has been finding children who would like to grow in this activity or introducing this love of our lives to the young neophyte. We would especially like to hear about your recommendations of young birders who could use some support with their interest in birding. We plan to have specific programs for them and their families.

That's just a part of what we've been considering and other activities are being explored. Feel free to contact an Education Committee member (like Bruce Hart: bhart@hampshirebirdclub.org) or board member if you'd like to join us or offer a suggestion.

Bruce Hart

Sallymeandering

*A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. “But why?” they asked as they moved off. “Because I can’t stand **chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!**”*

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

New England Mammal Ecology: *John Foster*

New England Naturalist Training Center Indoor Introduction and Slideshow: Saturday, June 11, 9-11 a.m.
Field Sessions: Sunday, June 12, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, July 9, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, July 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fee.

Field Botany Course: *Ted Watt*

Saturdays, June 18, July 9, 23, August 6, 20, and September 10, 9 a.m.-noon. Fee.

Plum Island Natural History: *Ted Watt, Edward Belt*

Wednesday, August 24, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. (Rain Date: Thursday, August 25. Fee.

Fort River Celebration Day

Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Please visit www.fortriverdiscovery.org for more information and further program and event listings.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Trustees Of Reservations Programs

Bobolinks at the Bullitt Reservation

Saturday, June 18, 10 AM.

Time with the bobolinks in the meadow and discussion of their nesting needs and ways to manage fields for bobolinks. To register or for more information please contact Layla Hazen, lhazen@ttor.org, 413-628-4485.

Wood Thrush Nests Wanted!!

David King, Scott Schlossber, Steve DeStefano, of [the USGS Coop Unit](#) and **Mitch Harley** of the USFWS Hadley are doing a **Wood Thrush** survey throughout Franklin and Hampshire Counties. They are especially interested in following up on Wood Thrush nests in areas of extensive housing. If you come upon Wood Thrush nests, please send Dave the location and date of observation. A selected number of nests will be monitored, with the young radio-tagged. Contact Dave at dking@fs.fed.us – thank you.

Backyard Birds

17 Strong St., Northampton (near Eastside Grill). Phone 586 3155

Your local source for birding and bird-feeding supplies, including feeders, optics, gifts, written and audio-materials. Ten percent discount for members of the Hampshire Bird Club. Remember, with local merchants, your dollar stays here!

The Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts.

UMass Extension (the Center for Agriculture) announces perhaps the **last opportunity** to get a copy of this wonderful local birding resource.

Of the three thousand copies of this book printed, one thousand remain unsold. The manufacturer would like to sell the remainder and there are no current plans for a reprint.

Accordingly, the book is being made available at the following rates:

- **Bulk Purchases: (five copies or more) : \$9.00 (reduced from \$17.97).** (All bulk sales are final).
- **Single copies : \$20.00 (reduced from \$29.00).**

You can order as follows:

- a) Online at <http://umassexextensionbookstore.com/catalog>
- b) By Phone at 413 545 5537.
- c) Shipping and handling costs apply. You may avoid these by picking orders up directly at 101 university Dr., Suite A4, Amherst, MA 01002.

For more information:

UMass Extension (Center for Agriculture)
101 University Drive, Suite c-1.
Amherst, MA 01002.

Phone 413 545 4764. Fax: 413 545 6555. Email: <http://extension.umass.edu> (contact).

Atlas-Related Research

Recent advances in sound recording and translation has allowed researchers to convert Blackpoll Warbler song into English. When high-pitched song was converted into “stupid safe date, I’m out of here,” \ the team wondered if it was a software glitch until one of the team, who is also an BBA2 Atlaser, explained that Blackpoll Warblers and Cedar Waxwings are the last two birds to reach safe date status (June 10th). Those blackpolls were clearly insulted. Thank goodness for the few, patient blackpolls who stay to nest on Mt. Greylock – the only confirmed nesting area in the state.

The same researchers were unable to interpret the Cedar Waxwings’ voices, possibly because the waxwings were too busy stealing nesting materials from orioles to sing in complete sentences. All the other breeding birds appear to have adjusted to their summer job as atlas data points – although the team suspects that some of the unexpected birds recently seen in the area are planning to nest here as soon as the atlas is over. Their songs included something about “just wait until next year, won’t those atlasers be mad!”

Mary Alice Wilson

Sallymeandering

Here is how Sally closed her last newsletter to the club in June of 2001.

“Word Botcher turns Bird Wotcher

A bus station is where a bus stops

A train station is where a train stops, and on my desk I have a work station....

The time has come for me to stop, hang my HBC Word files out to dry, and move on to the next challenge. I have been doing this for a long, long time. My first letter was prior to the first HBC meeting on April 26, 1984. This, my last, makes a total of somewhere in the vicinity of 165 communications (or 153 short of Bob Bieda’s 318 species seen in one year, for those who count).

For the most part, it has been a wonderful experience, one that has enriched my life beyond imagination. I have learned much about the beauty and mystery of birds and the natural world. I have been to amazing places. I have had the privilege of meeting with and learning from really special people who have given me support, insight, and lots of laughs. And I have learned what great fun putting words together can be. Not bad for having started out not knowing the difference between a word processor and a food processor!...

The birds and the words are calling me. Thanks for the years of encouragement and support and terrible puns! Thanks to all those really special people who have been my teachers and have held my hand along the way!

But...I have to admit to having mixed feelings right now.

I believe I have said before, “A pun is its own reward.” But have you ever noticed that pun spelled backward is NUP. Well....a nup is a nup is a nup. I’m out of here! See you in the field.”

Sally Venman. Editor at HBC from 1984 to 2001.

That’s it for me as well, till the next club year begins in the fall. Enjoy your summer!

Until August, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 28, No. 1

September, 2011.

Red Phalarope here, reporting live from the Hampshire Bird Club Board meeting.

It's been another heated and contentious meeting. The two factions sat on opposite sides of the table this evening and there seems little prospect of a resolution to the debt ceiling crisis any time soon.

Les Seryellowlegs, speaking for the hard line Revitalists, continued to insist that increasing membership dues on the wealthy would be like *'hanging a phone book around a hummingbird's neck'*. He went on to say,

"Low dues are the engine that gets people to pony up every September. Increase dues and people will stay home updating their Facebook pages on Monday nights. The only answer is to reduce entitlements. Why do we need ten newsletters? A simple daily tweet would do just fine. Field trips? Wet, cold and messy, with no guarantee of birds. We should do a live Skype feed from the Museum of Natural History and people can post their ID's to the Facebook page."

Bart Ailedgodwit, from the minority Demagogues, was on his feet instantly with this retort.

"Our friends on the other side of the six packs and nachos would like us to balance the HBC budget on the backs of everyday birders, folks who are struggling to distinguish between a Semi-pal and a Sanderling. Put them on Goat Peak with a Sharpy and a Cooper's Hawk, and they need some assistance. Podcast the monthly program? What about those who still can't tell an ipad from an ibath? It's time for the birding elites to pay their fair share. Anyone with a life-list above a thousand should be paying extra. We can name a field trip after them if it will make them feel better."

And so it goes. Caught in the middle of all this uproar are the long-suffering HBC members, who are left wondering, as usual, whether they should pony up their dues this year, or just sit at home watching Nature re-runs. From the Hitchcock Center in Amherst, this is Red Phalarope signing off.



Thankfully, the above is a complete FICTION. HBC continues to offer fantastic programs and stimulating field trips throughout the year, and our treasury has a modest but healthy positive balance! However, we do depend entirely upon your contributions to sustain our programs, field trips, and the other membership benefits we offer. Our basic membership rate is unchanged this year, and, if you so choose, you can contribute at a higher membership rate and/or contribute additionally toward the work of the Education Committee.

Please Renew Your Membership NOW using this handy-dandy checklist

- ☐ Choose your membership contribution for this year,
- ☐ Make a donation for the work of the Education Committee if you wish,
- ☐ Complete the Membership Form and the Field Trip Release Form on the back,
- ☐ Check the "Bird Finding In Western MA" form (sign up for the Rare Bird Alert if you wish), and
- ☐ Mail the above (with your check if needed) to the club, or bring them along on Sept. 12.

Your membership status is shown on the cover page. Please renew before October 1 by mail, or at the September meeting. Thanks!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:30 PM. Paul Sievert discusses Earthquakes, Tsunamis, and Other Challenges for North Pacific Albatrosses

Populations of North Pacific albatross were decimated by feather-hunters in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and have recently suffered due to high rates of bycatch in longline fisheries. In addition to these human-induced stressors, albatross colonies can also be at risk from volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tsunamis. This past year, the earthquakes in Japan affected albatross colonies as far away as Hawaii, and demonstrated how natural disasters can have major effects on albatross populations. This program will update us on the status of North Pacific albatross populations, describe the influence of the 2011 Japanese earthquakes and associated tsunamis, and provide results from the first 4 years of chick translocations aimed at re-establishing a historic Short-tailed Albatross colony.

Paul Sievert is Assistant Unit Leader for the USGS, Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His first studies of Pacific albatrosses began 24 years ago when he examined the effect of plastic ingestion on Laysan and black-footed albatrosses in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Since then, he has been involved in studies of the movements of North Pacific albatross, modeled their population growth, and collaborated with the Yamashina Institute of Ornithology, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to re-establish an extirpated colony of short-tailed albatross.

COMING PROGRAMS (The schedule for this year...)

October 17, 2011. Sam Fried. Warblers and Vireos.

November 14, 2011. John Cecil. IBAs from Top to Bottom.

December 12, 2011. Members Meeting.

January 9, 2012. Geoff LeBaron. Panama and Costa Rica.

February 13, 2012. John Nove. A Tale of Two Scottish Isles: Adventures in Orkney.

March 12, 2012. Jeff Boettner. Birds & Bugs.

April 9, 2012. Gina Nichol. Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems.

May 14, 2012. Bret Whitney. Birds of Brazil.

Jun 11, 2012. Scott Surner. Birding Alaska.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Hammonasset Beach State Park. Saturday, June 11.

Betsy Higgins, Andrew Magee, Sarah LaPointe, Elaine Pourinski, and Joan and Larry Duprey left the valley expecting precipitation, and drove through some heavy rain on the way down. It was very cool, damp and windy all day, but fortunately, we only got poured on for a few moments, and really did not have much rain for the day. The colors of the salt marshes and the ocean were beautiful and the weather kept the crowds down.

We totaled 51 species. All of the stars were in attendance. The wind kept the birds hunkered down some, but we still had reasonably good looks at Seaside Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Little Blue Heron and Glossy Ibis were in their full, rich breeding plumages. Clapper Rail and Marsh Wren were heard. Other highlights were Least Tern, Piping Plover, Brown Thrasher, many Osprey, Purple Martins in the nest boxes, and a Monk Parakeet working on nest building.

Finally, we saw a doe circling around the trees in the marsh, with a tiny spotted fawn bounding after her. A 10 on the cuteness scale! We did NOT swim!

Betsy Higgins

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER: Please read this!!

The club offers an on-line (or “electronic”) version of the newsletter, as an alternative to the “hard copy” delivered via USPS. Last year, about half our membership received most of the newsletters this way, saving us considerably on labor and postage. Please consider getting the newsletter this way if you are comfortable accessing the Internet.

“How does that work?”

The newsletter is posted on the HBC website. Participants receive an email notification, whereupon they can view and/or download the newsletter from the website at their leisure.

“What’s in it for me?”

Well, to be honest, this is mostly designed to reduce wear and tear on the editorial staff and keep costs down, but you can file the newsletters digitally, if you wish, to reduce paper clutter. Also, there are sometimes additions or corrections that get made to the on-line version that don’t get into the paper version.

What if I encounter technical difficulties?

Most users last year had no difficulty. In the event that you find the system does not work for you, a simple communication with the Membership Secretary will get you back on the “Hard Copy” mailing list.

What are the computer/software requirements?

The newsletter will be posted on the Website in PDF format. This means you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader software (version 5.0 or later) on your system. If you do not have it already, this software is available FREE via a link at the club Website.

How do I sign up?

Sign up in the upper right hand corner of the Membership Form. To get the online newsletter, we need an email address on file to send you the monthly reminders.

I signed up last year. Do I need to sign up again?

We ask all members to decide each year how they want to receive the newsletter. Regardless of how you got the newsletter last year, please make your choice of how to receive the newsletter this year on this year’s membership form.

How come I got a paper copy of this newsletter?

We send the September and October newsletters to all members via USPS (paper version) because there are multiple forms associated with them, and we want to make sure that everyone gets these letters. The newsletters from November to June are available on line for all those who choose on-line delivery.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Please see the enclosed Fall Field Trip Schedule.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE GATHERS STEAM

How to attract more young people to birding? Do most HBC presentations really hold childrens' interest? How do we get kids out into the field? What to do when physical issues due to aging, illness or accident won't allow one to participate at meetings or in the field as before?

In answer to these troubling questions, the HBC board has created an Education Committee to function in an outreach capacity. We hope that, through innovative, targeted programming and collaboration with other organizations, we can help address these issues.

School presentations, senior walks and programs, live bird interactions (captive and wild), visits to raptor centers, learning about falconry, organizing boy & girl scout merit badge events, member workshops, purchasing and/or reading natural history and bird books to children, these are just a few of the ideas on the table. You can donate to support the work of the committee via your membership form, but just as importantly, we need your input and energy. What ideas do you have? Let us know! Or better still, join the committee!

Contact **Bruce Hart**: bhart@hampshirebirdclub.org or call 584-4176.

“The purpose of the HBC is to help members and the general public enjoy birding and to educate them about birds, bird watching, and bird habitats.”
(HBC Bylaws)

2nd Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas. 2006-2011

It's OVER (well, almost)!! A few last bits of data need to be entered/finalized/reviewed, but mostly it is time to celebrate 5 years of incredible atlas work all over the state (but especially – of course - here in Hampshire and Franklin Counties). The number of species, levels of confirmation, etc. aren't available in time for this newsletter. However, it is time to thank the 80 local birders (and another 10 living in other counties) for their elegant work. All 143 blocks had many hours beyond the 20 hours minimum. Thanks to each and every atlaser not only for work in Hampshire/Franklin Counties, but in other parts of the state. And special thanks to the Hampshire Bird Club for funding training workshops and administrative costs and being so supportive – carrying the atlas in the newsletter and giving time at every meeting.

Now, listen carefully to the tentative clicking sounds from outside. These are not the tiny ticks of Black-throated Blue Warblers taking care of their young, they are the sounds of atlasers trying to remember how to make loud noises after 5 years of creeping around every summer! First you will hear a little yip and maybe a tiny song, then a loud yell, then honking the horns of their atasmobiles, and, then, the shouting and yelling and singing and dancing! Hooray!!!!

Mary Alice Wilson

An Atlas Tribute

It is, indeed, over, and Mary Alice is accurate in describing a certain sense of relief some of us are feeling, in some cases along with the inevitable guilt about not having done as much as we might have wished to. However, it is all water under the bridge, now.

However, there is one person here in Western Massachusetts for whom the work is not over yet. This is the same person who began working over a year before the Atlas field period even started, to recruit volunteers for the 143 Atlas blocks in this region, see to their training, answer their queries, patiently prompt them for late data, organize block-busting trips to points near and far, and stand up again and again at meetings in search of even a single extra hour in the field. I cannot imagine how many hours of poring over computer files and data it has taken for her to coordinate all our efforts.

I refer, of course, to **Mary Alice Wilson**, Connecticut River Valley Regional Coordinator for the Atlas effort. As we have seen over the years through the Northampton Christmas Count, this is a woman who believes that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well, and if a few feathers are ruffled along the way, well so be it! There is probably no-one else they COULD have approached to coordinate the atlas effort in the Pioneer Valley, and certainly no-one else crazy enough to have taken it on! She is thorough, persistent, resilient, and not above stirring the pot when it needs to be stirred, but above all, always there with a smile and an anecdote, getting things done and helping the rest of us do so also.

I hope you will join me in thanking Mary Alice for helping all of us contribute to the most important citizen science effort in Massachusetts in many decades.

Thank you, Mary Alice!!!

Enclosed with this newsletter are the Membership and Field Trip Release forms, the Fall Field Trip Schedule, and the Bird Finding/RBA form.

That's it for now.

Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Date received:	Payment: __ cash, __ check, \$ _____	Release Form signed?	Newsletter Choice?	Data entered:
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For administrative purposes only

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2011-2012

Please note that contact information may be shared with other members of the club, unless you request otherwise below.

Name(s):	How would you like to get the HBC newsletter? (For the "online" version, we need to have an email address for you.) <input type="checkbox"/> Download from the HBC Website (club will send reminders), OR <input type="checkbox"/> Send me the newsletter via US mail						
Address:							
City:							
State: _____ ZIP: _____							
Home Phone(s):							
Work Phone(s):							
E-mail(s):							
May we publish your contact information in the annual club membership list (sent to members)? <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		Yes	No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please check any activities listed below which you would like to participate: <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally provide refreshments <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trip Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Lead field trips <input type="checkbox"/> Share info. on birding locations <input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
	Yes	No					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.? <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		Yes	No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Yes	No					
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Please choose a level of membership below. Our supporting membership categories are essential in financing our outstanding programming. **All membership contributions are tax deductible** (if you itemize your deductions).

MEMBERSHIP - REGULAR: Tax deductible

Individual @ \$18.00

\$

Family @ \$30.00

\$

MEMBERSHIP – SUPPORTING: Tax deductible

Downy Woodpecker @ \$40.00

\$

Northern Flicker @ \$60.00

\$

Red-bellied Woodpecker @ \$100.00

\$

Pileated Woodpecker @ \$250.00 or more

\$

OUTREACH ACTIVITY

Donation to Education Committee (Optional)

\$

Please make checks payable to the **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.** and send (with this form) to:
Hampshire Bird Club, P.O. Box 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716.

RELEASE FORM: 2011-2012

Please complete the release form below if you intend to go on field trips or think you might participate in the future. We need members to share responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others during field trips. The signed release will be filed with the club secretary. For family memberships, all participating members should sign.

RELEASE OF ALL DEMANDS - HOLD HARMLESS

I hereby acknowledge that as a participant in field trips with the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC) I may be exposed to significant risks. These may include, but are not limited to, vehicular travel over land and water, foot travel over difficult terrain, and hazardous weather conditions. I may also encounter poisonous plants, dangerous wildlife, and/or disease-carrying insects. In the event of injury, I understand that I may face considerable delays in reaching professional medical help.

I fully accept these risks and agree to hold the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc., its officers, directors, volunteers, employees, and agents free from any and all liability for injuries and/or loss which I may incur, directly or indirectly, while on field trips run by HBC between August 31, 2011 and October 1, 2012.

EXECUTED freely and voluntarily this day:.....,,
(month) (day) (year)

(Signatures of all participating family members)

Please print names:

Bird Sightings in Western Massachusetts

All of us are interested in knowing what birds are in our area each day. We do this by:

- birding
- talking with other birders
- calling the Voice of Audubon or reading "The Voice" in the newspaper
- checking the Web
- joining the Rare Bird Alert (for those interested in unusual species)

To check The Voice of Audubon:

Call toll free **1-781 259 8805**

Follow the directions (press 2 to listen to Seth Kellogg, the Western Mass voice). Seth updates The Voice once a week - more often when necessary - so check regularly. (Thanks to Trudy Tynan, the transcript also appears weekly in most of our local papers.)

To share local sightings with other valley birders via email:

You may wish to join the Allen Bird Club "*Bird News of Western Massachusetts*" network. To join, email Seth Kellogg at skhawk@comcast.net

To check various sources on the web:

Go to the HBC website: www.hampshirebirdclub.org. From the **Related Links** section on the Home Page, you can go to **the Voice** and/or to **Massbird**

To join the HBC Rare Bird Alert (RBA).

This operates by email ONLY. You will need at least one active email address.

To join before October 11:

Fill in the form below. Return it with your membership form or turn it in at the Sept./Oct. meetings.

To join anytime:

Provide name/s and email address/es to the HBC Webmaster at webmaster@hampshirebirdclub.org

Rare Bird Alert (RBA) Form: 2011-2012

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

You may provide as many email addresses as you like (within reason, please). Participants automatically receive all RBA announcements.

email address/es (1) _____

(2) _____

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Fall Field Trip Schedule, 2011

Please register with the field trip leader(s) and check this schedule's information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher – 413-585-5864) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders.

The Hampshire Bird Club recommends carpooling whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (September newsletter or on the Website).

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as Easy (E) or Moderate (M) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. However, check all information with the trip leaders.*

AUGUST

Saturday, August 27. New South Beach (Late). All day. Bob Bieda leads birders in their quest for late shorebird migrants, including Curlew Sandpipers and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. Bring a lunch, a jacket, and \$20 for the boat ride. Note: the date may change depending on the tides. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register. (M)

SEPTEMBER

***Saturday, September 10. Knightsville Dam.** Half day. Betsy Higgins repeats her trip to Knightsville Dam WMA looking for early southbound migrants and other species. This is a rich habitat where almost anything could turn up. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting details. (E)

Friday, September 16. Mt. Tom State Reservation. Half day. Join Tom Gagnon for hawk watching at Goat's Peak. Meet at the gate near the old park headquarters at 9:00 a.m. If the hawks are moving we can stay till early afternoon. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for details. (E)

***Saturday, September 17. East Meadows: Migrating Warblers.** Morning. Bob Bieda looks for fall migrants (including the elusive Connecticut Warbler) in Northampton's East Meadows. Meet at the commuter parking lot off Rte. 9 (Old Ferry Hill Rd.) 1/2 mile west of Exit 19 off I-91 at 7:30 a.m. Call Bob (413-527-2623) for more information. (E)

***Saturday, September 24. Hadley/Northampton.** Half day. Join Scott Sumner looking for warblers and shorebirds in the local towns. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for information and meeting time; meet at Stop & Shop on Route 9 in Hadley. (E)

***Sunday, September 25. Hardwick.** Half day. Join Chris Beulow on a visit to some of the East Quabbin's best birding spots. From Hardwick Common, we will visit Mandell Hill to see the Chris Ellison Memorial Bird Blind (under construction), Moose Brook Valley, and the Winimuset Wildlife Area (looking especially for migrating sparrows and waterfowl). Meet at the Hadley Stop & Shop Parking Lot (TJMaxx end) at 7 a.m. to carpool. We will meet Chris at the Hardwick Common at 8. For questions, contact Chris by email (dryoptera-at-yahoo-dot-com) or phone (413-477-6343). (E)

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1. Quabbin Reservoir I. All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien co-lead an early version of their annual fall trip into the wilds around the reservoir. You must be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club to participate in this trip. Participation is strictly limited, so call Tom Gagnon early to sign up (413-584-6353). (M)

***Saturday, October 8. Middleboro.** All Day. Explore the Cumberland Farms Fields in Middleboro with Scott Sumner, looking for shorebirds, sparrows, and late warbler migrants. Meet at Sumner Heating at 60 Shumway Street in Amherst at 5:30. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for details. (E)

***Saturday, October 15. Coastal Rhode Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron leads his annual trip to the southeast to see what's flying along the coast. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register and get meeting information as the date approaches. (E)

***Saturday, October 29. Saw-whet Owls.** Evening. Janice Jorgensen and Sue Emerson will join Strickland Wheelock and his crew at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, MA for an evening of netting and banding Saw-whet Owls. Visitors help check the nets for owls every 45 minutes, then observe as crew members weigh, measure, and band the owls. Visitors often participate in releasing the owls. Bring a camera to record a great evening in the outdoors and, with luck, an owl or two. More information will be available at the September meeting. This trip is limited to 12 participants and costs \$20. (If participants want to jointly rent a van with a driver, there will be an additional \$15 charge.) For information and to register call Sue Emerson (413-584-6736) and to reserve a place send a non-refundable check for \$20 payable to "HBC" to Janice Jorgensen (HBC; 150 River Drive; Hadley, MA 01035). (E)

NOVEMBER

***Saturday, November 5. Champlain Valley, VT.** All day. Geoff LeBaron heads north to the shores of Lake Champlain looking for Snow Geese and perhaps a Ross' Goose or two (around Dead Creek WMA), as well as other winter specialties for the area (Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Rough-legged Hawks, etc.). As the date approaches, call Geoff (413-268-9281) for details and meeting information. (E)

Sunday, November 6. Berkshire Lakes. All day. Join Tom Gagnon for his annual trip seeking out migrating water fowl and donuts. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 6:15 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for further details. (M)

***Week of November 14-18. Connecticut.** $\frac{3}{4}$ day. Henry Lappen leads a new trip looking for unusual species in our southern neighbor. In the last few years, these have included Calliope Hummingbird, Northern Lapwing, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Barnacle Goose, and more. The actual date depends on weather, birds, and Henry's schedule. Call Henry (413-549-3722) well in advance to register, or to get more information. (E)

***Saturday, November 19. Cape Ann/Plum Island.** All Day. Join Scott Sumner for a pre-Thanksgiving trip to Cape Ann and Plum Island. Work off those Thanksgiving calories before they happen. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for meeting time. The trip will leave from Sumner Heating at 60 Shumway Street St. in Amherst. (M)

Sunday, November 20. Quabbin Reservoir II. All day. If you thought the first trip was good, wait until you go on the sequel. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien go back to the Quabbin, and this time, the birds don't stand a chance. You must be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club to participate. Participation is limited, so call Tom early to sign up (413-584-6353). (M)

END



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 28, No. 2

October, 2011.

RENEW! (please)

If you have not already renewed your membership for this year, please do so NOW using this handy-dandy checklist:

- ☐ Dig up the membership form that was delivered with the September newsletter (I believe it was "Salmon" colored) or download one from hampshirebirdclub.org/join
- ☐ Choose your membership contribution for this year,
- ☐ Make a donation for the work of the Education Committee if you wish,
- ☐ Complete the Membership Form and the Field Trip Release Form,
- ☐ Mail the above (with your check if needed) to the club, or bring them along on October 17.

Note: The newsletter takes up pages 1-6 of this document. Pages 6-9 are the **HBC Field Trip Policy and Guidelines**.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, October 17 at 7:30 PM

Sam Fried looks a little deeper at **Warblers and Vireos**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Sam Fried will be taking us on a journey through warbler land, with a close look at all 38 species of eastern wood warblers. He'll explore life histories, migration routes, wintering grounds and breeding locations throughout the western hemisphere. This will be a fun and fascinating look at these jewels of the North American birding kingdom!

Sam Fried is a past president of Hartford Audubon Society. He has had hundreds of photographs and over 50 feature articles published in field guides, books, newspapers and magazines worldwide, including *National Audubon*, *Birder's World*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Birding* and *Living Bird Quarterly* magazines. He wrote several chapters of the Insight Guides book *Birding in North America*, and is now a golf and fishing writer as well. Sam founded Flights of Fancy Adventures, LLC, a birding, photography, natural history and golf travel company offering small group, low cost, high quality trips to North, Central and South American destinations.

COMING PROGRAMS

November 14, 2011. John Cecil. IBAs from Top to Bottom.

December 12, 2011. Members Meeting.

January 9, 2012. Geoff LeBaron. Panama and Costa Rica.

Welcome New Members

Betsy Atkins
Catherine "Katie" Fox
Eugenie Harvey

South Hadley
Sunderland
Amherst

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

The club offers an on-line (or “electronic”) version of the newsletter, as an alternative to the “hard copy” delivered via USPS.

“How does that work?”

The newsletter is posted on the HBC website. Participants receive an email notification, whereupon they can view and/or download the newsletter from the website at their leisure. You need to give us an email address on the membership form in order to get the on-line version.

“What’s the point?”

You can archive our publication electronically, without accumulating paper files. You reduce postage costs for HBC, which keeps dues down for all of us.

What if I encounter technical difficulties?

Most users last year had no difficulty. In the event that you find the system does not work for you, a simple communication with the Membership Secretary will get you back on the “Hard Copy” mailing list.

What are the computer/software requirements?

The newsletter will be posted on the Website in PDF format. This means you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader software (version 5.0 or later) on your system. If you do not have it already, this software is available FREE via a link at the club Website

How do I sign up?

Sign up in the upper right hand corner of the Membership Form.

I signed up last year. Do I need to sign up again?

We ask all members to decide each year how they want to receive the newsletter. Regardless of how you got the newsletter last year, please make your choice of how to receive the newsletter this year on this year’s membership form.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

New South Beach, Chatham, MA. Saturday, July 30.

Sally Hills, Helga Beatty, Sue Emerson, Juliana Vanderwielen, and **David Peake-Jones** strolled South Beach in Chatham, Massachusetts for the early shorebird migration. A bevy of Osprey greeted us as we arrived at the dock, and we the enjoyed a brief ride out to the beach. We made our way slowly eastward, gradually acclimating our sullen senses to the nuances of shape and form which are crucial in shorebird ID. We found pleasing numbers of the usual suspects: lots of Short-billed Dowitchers, peeps, Piping Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings. When finally we reached the cul-de-sac which exists where once the waters of the Atlantic flowed between South Beach and North Monomoy, we were greeted by a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, and a raft of Common Terns. But the jewels on offer here were no fewer than 26 **Hudsonian Godwits** (in a bewildering array of plumages), and a scattering of **Red Knots**, always reassuring to see.

After pausing for a lunch break, we then began to work our way back up the beach toward the distant pick-up point. Forced up against the beds of grass by the rising tide, we found a number of **Whimbrel**, and got a brief and all-too-unsatisfying glimpse of a **Marbled Godwit** lurking amongst its curvi-rostral brethren. There were plenty of birds, including more Red Knots, to tantalize us with the prospect of a rarity, but none that actually rose to that challenge. Nevertheless we savored these enigmatic citizens of sand and shore for too long, and found ourselves on a death march to the pick-up point at the end of the day, by which time the finer points of pinion and call were forgotten in the need to get off the beach. Sue was so eager to get on the boat that she threw herself headlong into the shallows, in front of a bemused audience of swimmers who had trekked all of 200 measly yards from the beach. Fortunately, our beloved Membership Secretary is made of stern stuff and sustained no injury other than a little crumpled pride. It’s always a great day on the beach, and today was no exception.

David Peake-Jones

Knightville Dam. Saturday, September 10.

Betsy Higgins led Leslie Hoffman, David Peake-Jones, Elissa & Bernie Rubenstein, Helga Beatty, Jacob Drucker, Marcia Merithew, Mary Alice Wilson, and Andrew Magee on a very pleasant day out to Knightville Dam and the east meadows of Northampton. Most noteworthy to me and I suspect others were the absolutely raging mosquitos thanks to Irene, Lee, and Katia (the fiercest ,most numerous mosquito hordes of my year), a very swollen brown river coming out from below the dam ("torrent ducks"?, asked Jacob), and a look for everyone at Betsy's pulled-out-of-the-freezer Wilson's Petrel she found, after Hurricane Irene, right in her Florence (Northampton) neighborhood. IMAGINE this thing, weighing about as much as an oak leaf, born at the sea-edge in the Falklands, or South Georgia, or the Antarctic continent itself, hurtled to its demise WAY up inland into a leafy, sort of John Updike, north-west Atlantic, New England suburb. What a magnificent and ultimately untoward journey, poor thing! Noteworthy as well were a couple of more normal but also very far-flung travelers: 2 apparently juvenal **Golden Plovers** winging over the Meadows looking for a safe landing.

Also pleasing were a surprisingly few, distant, mostly probably migrating raptors, including a majority-but-not-exclusively-decided Red-Shoulder, and a Sharpie-(approximately 1400 LESS raptors than were seen at Mt. Watatic on the same day); and a nice, normal, Confusing, Hiding in-and-zipping-through-the-leaves fall-warbler-run, including B-and-W, Red -(and Yellow-)starts, Pine, Blackpoll, Magnolia, Canada, B-t Green, and a whole lotta Northern Parula. And Red-eyed Vireos. I had to add that, because I was kind of a pooped-out red-eyed Virgo, myself. Good vibes, nice day, not too exciting. Thanks, Betsy! And Betsy reminds me not to forget the beaver we saw swimming in Knightville Dam.

Andrew Magee

East Meadows. Saturday, September 17

Bob Bieda led eight folks to survey the East Meadows of Northampton. Most of Irene's flood waters had receded leaving a silt line on vegetation that indicated the water level had been well over our heads in some areas. The lowest part of the meadows was still flooded and this area contained a surprising number of ducks, including about twenty **Blue-winged Teal**, ten **Green-winged Teal**, a few Wood Ducks, Black Ducks and dozens of Mallards. Blue-winged Teal in any numbers is an uncommon bird in our area. Other highlights included a pair of **American Kestrels**, often sitting side by side, allowing a nice size comparison between male and female. There were also several **Indigo Buntings**. We saw about 35 species.

The recent flooding has apparently created conditions good for producing an amazing number of mosquitoes.

Bob Bieda

Hardwick and Environs. Sunday, September 25.

About a dozen birders, a mixture of the Hampshire and East Quabbin Bird Clubs, met **Chris Beulow** at Hardwick Town Common on September 25. The birding started before we even got into the field, as some potted Scarlet Sage next to our meeting place attracted a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Chris led us from there to Pine Island, a private tract where he had been birding for many years:

http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/pineislandhardwick_8.html

This area was amazingly birdy, to the point that we often did not know which way to look! We noted at least seven species of warbler, two vireo species, and seven sparrows. Nashville and Palm Warblers, Blackpoll, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Blue-headed Vireo, and Lincoln's Sparrow were some of the highlights; a Brown Creeper was heard but not seen, and a Dark-eyed Junco was a first of the year for the one birder who spotted it. As we were leaving, a horde of Cedar Waxwings, Savannah Sparrows, and American Goldfinches escorted us back to our cars.

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Hardwick and Environs. September 25 (continued)

Next we headed to Winimusset Wildlife Management Area:

http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/winimussetbraintree_11.html

Our visit there started slowly, but as we trekked through an agricultural field we flushed five **Wilson's Snipe** at close range, and when we got closer to the water a Belted Kingfisher perched up and a Double-Crested Cormorant circled high overhead. We also had a good time looking at insects and wildflowers, highlighted by a Black Saddlebags (dragonfly).

From another vantage point in Winimusset (one of the favorite hang-out spots of the late, great Chris Ellison) we had a Great Blue Heron, then two Blue-winged Teal. Wood Ducks (and Painted Turtles) were scattered all across the wetland. As the sun peeked out and warmed things up, raptors started appearing in the sky, including an American Kestrel and a distant Peregrine Falcon. One carload of people left a bit early; they must have functioned as the sacrificial birders, because a Pied-billed Grebe appeared just after they left!

Our final stop was Mandell Hill, a preserve owned and managed by the East Quabbin Land Trust:

http://eastquabbinbirdclub.com/mandell_hill_hardwick_6.html

Chris filled us in on the history of the site, including the former 30-acre tangle of Multiflora Rose and Asiatic Bittersweet that has been transformed by grazing Devon cattle into a pasture populated by Meadowlarks and Bobolinks, with some previously undetectable stone walls across it. We also saw the newly installed footings for the Chris Ellison memorial birding platform that is being built on the Hill, in a spot noted for good nighthawk flights. Just to confirm that the tower is being well placed, we saw two Cooper's Hawks soar overhead within our first few minutes there, followed by a Red-tailed Hawk being repeatedly dive-bombed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a mob of Chipping Sparrows and Eastern Bluebirds working their way across the meadow. I'm sure that Chris would approve... and that the rest of us will return!

Josh Rose

COMING TRIPS

(see also the **Fall Field Trip Schedule**)

***Saturday, October 8. Middleboro.** All Day. Explore the Cumberland Farms Fields in Middleboro with Scott Turner, looking for shorebirds, sparrows, and late warbler migrants. Meet at Turner Heating at 60 Shumway Street in Amherst at 5:30. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for details. (E)

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Coming Trips (continued)

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LIBRARY

HBC has a substantial library, located at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst.

Hours are those of the Hitchcock Center:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday, and

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The collection is catalogued on-line at www.hampshirebirdclub.org.

The library contains birding resources in various media, including field guides, bird-finding guides to almost every major birding destination in the U.S., and overseas, natural histories, periodicals and videos. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. Henry Lappen, the librarian, is happy to bring items to meetings, if you give him a few days in advance. You can reach him at (413) 549 3722.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Mole Salamanders of the Connecticut River Valley: *Noah Charney*

Thursday, October 6, 7-9 p.m. Fee.

Photographing Fall Colors At The Quabbin: *John Green,*

Sunday, October 16, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Fee.

Studying Mountain Lions With Mark Elbroch: *Mark Elbroch,*

Wednesday, October 26, 7-9 p.m. Fee. Location to be determined.

Introduction To The Geology Of The Connecticut River Valley: *Richard Little*

Evening Presentation: Friday, October 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Field Trip: Saturday, October 29, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

(Rain Date for Field Trip: Sunday, October 30). Fee.

7th Annual :Larch Hill English-Style X-Country Classic

Saturday, October 29, at Bramble Hill Farm in Amherst, adjacent to the Hitchcock Center.

Deep-Energy-Retrofitting Your Home: *Bick Corsa*

Sunday, November 6, 2-4 p.m. Free.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

CHRISTMAS COUNT

Save the Date: Northampton Christmas Count
Sunday, December 18. Potluck to follow.

Big Sit

This year's edition of the **Big Sit** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 9**. For anyone not familiar with the event, it is a hybrid of a birding contest and a tailgate party. The rules are, each team declares a location, and during the day of the Sit, can only count birds from within a 17-foot diameter circle at that location. Number of participants is limited only to how many can fit in the circle; people often come and go through the day, and coolers or delivery of food and drink are customary. Counters can leave the circle but not count birds unless they see them from within the circle. Participation is free; the only prize for the team with the most species is bragging rights, though there is a Golden Bird Award, decided more or less by random drawing, which could be won by any team regardless of how many species they saw, with the winner getting to donate \$500 to the environmental nonprofit group of their choice.

For complete details, see <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/index.php>

I have been participating in the Big Sit for several years, mostly from south Texas on behalf of the World Birding Center. Two years ago, I moved to Massachusetts, and teamed with Chris Ellison to do the Big Sit from Windsor Dam on the Quabbin Reservoir. We were the only team in the state to enter and recorded 42 species. Last year, I teamed with Chris Ciccone and Jason Forbes for a Big Sit on Plum Island; two other teams entered from Massachusetts, but we finished first in the state and 25th in the country with 68 species. This year, I will be part of the **Chris Ellison All-Stars** (currently numbering three). We will be sitting for the day at **Stage Island Pool in the Parker River NWR (Plum Island)**. Anyone else interested in teaming up with me, send me an e-mail or find me on FaceBook. Anyone wanting to declare their own Big Sit circle and enter the competition, bring it on! See the website above to register.

Josh Rose, opihi@mindspring.com, <http://www.facebook.com/opihi>

The Big Year

"The Big Year" hits theaters on October 14. This movie is based on the wonderful 2004 book by Mark Obamasik. The book follows the history of Big Years, all the way back to Roger Tory Peterson, but the movie is focused (like the majority of the book) on the competition that arose in 1998 when Sandy Komito, Greg Miller, and Al Levantin all tried to break the US Big Year record simultaneously. Owen Wilson, Jack Black, and Steve Martin are playing the three birders, with Angelica Huston, Brian Dennehy, and an astounding list of other recognizable actors lined up in support. Hollywood is not usually kind to our pastime, but the book was excellent, so hopes are high for the movie to be as well. See you there!

Josh Rose

Backyard Birds (on Strong St. in Northampton) offers a wide range of birding books, audio resources, gifts, feeders, and other paraphernalia. They also offer a 10% discount to Hampshire Bird Club Members. Remember, when you shop locally, your money stays here!

That's all for this month
Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor
529 9541
newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. FIELD TRIP POLICY 2010-2011

1. Field trips are an essential activity of the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC). They are an important way to increase members' interest in and knowledge of birds, birding, and bird habitat. Field trips are announced in the HBC newsletter, on the website and at monthly meetings.
2. Each year, all HBC members are asked to sign the HBC Release Form. Minor children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or another adult who has written authorization to be responsible for the child's care and conduct. Please request a form from HBC if you want to authorize another adult to accompany your child.
- 3 The HBC conducts two different types of field trips: Day Trips and Overnight Trips.

Day Trips are planned by the Field Trip Committee, who prepare the schedule and select leaders. Day Trips generally do not require extensive planning by the trip leader. No costs other than travel (see #4 below), meals, and incidental fees will be involved. If requested to do so in the newsletter, participants must call the trip leader in advance to express interest in the trip. This allows the leader more flexibility and the opportunity to change the trip itinerary should that seem desirable. Day trips are open to both HBC members and non-members unless restricted to members by the host site.

Overnight Trips (2 or more days, reasonable driving distance) are planned by the Field Trip Committee and approved by the HBC Board at least 3 months in advance (see #5 below). Such trips generally require more planning by the trip leader, including, for example, arranging for lodging and travel. Participants will be charged an amount equal to actual predetermined costs (including liability insurance) plus a prorated amount to cover reimbursement of the leader's expenses (see #5 below). All fees, including the trip deposit, shall be paid to the HBC Treasurer. In the event of a cancellation, if the vacancy can be filled, the trip fee will be refunded, less a 10% processing charge. If the vacancy cannot be filled, the trip fee will be refunded, with the following exceptions:

- a) the portion of the trip fee that covers a share of the leaders costs,
- b) the portion of the fee that covers the insurance charge, and
- c) any portion of the fee which has already been paid to another party and cannot be recovered by the club.

Any excess fees remaining after costs have been met will be refunded, unless they are less than ten dollars per person, in which case they will revert to the HBC treasury. Overnight trips are open only to HBC members who have signed a release form and who have completed a medical information form.

4. The HBC Board recommends that passengers reimburse owners of vehicles used on HBC trips for costs associated with vehicle operation. The maximum recommended reimbursement is the federal government employee mileage reimbursement rate, rounded down to the nearest 10 cents, plus tolls and parking to be shared equally by all persons in the car including the driver. The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making carpool arrangements.

Continues on Page 2 ►►

Hampshire Bird Club Field Trip Policy (continued) Page 2 of 2**5. Leaders of Overnight Trips shall:**

- a. Submit a trip plan to the Field Trip Committee, which must be approved by the Board at least 3 months in advance of the trip. The plan should describe in writing the nature of the trip as completely as possible. Include an itinerary, estimated cost, conditions of lodging and lead time needed for reservations, roughness of terrain, pace of the trip, extra costs not covered by the fee, date of deposit and final payment, date after which fee is not refundable, and provide a list of any specialized items that participants should take on the trip. Repeat trips led by the same leader need only submit necessary changes to the previous plan. The Board can waive the 3-month planning time if there is a special birding opportunity.
- b. Consult with the membership secretary before the trip to make sure that all participants have signed the HBC Release Form and obtain a signed Medical Information Form from each participant.
- c. Be reimbursed for all costs associated with planning (i.e. long-distance calls, postage), lodging, and transportation during the trip. The maximum reimbursement for automobile travel shall be one quarter of the costs incurred by a single vehicle under clause 4 of this policy.
- d. Upon return, provide the HBC Board with an itemized account of all income and expenses related to the trip including receipts for major expenses.

6. The Field Trip Chair will send all participants in overnight trips the Field Trip Evaluation Form and a Medical Information Form. The completed evaluation form, to be returned to the Field Trip Chair, will help the Field Trip Committee plan future trips and provide feedback for leaders. Participants should give their signed Medical Information form to the trip leader prior to departure.**7. Leaders of both Day and Overnight Trips are asked to submit a Trip Highlights Report to the newsletter editor for publication in the next HBC newsletter.****8. HBC may ask professional bird touring organization to organize trips further away than the Overnight Trips. All responsibilities for planning the trip and all liability will be assumed by the touring organization. Such trips must be approved by the Board at least 6 months in advance.**

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Field Trip Guidelines for Field Trip Participants and Drivers: 2011-2012

All Participants:

All HBC members are asked to sign the HBC Release Form each year. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the Membership Secretary or check the "Join" section of the HBC Website.

Please call the trip leader at least a few days before the trip. It helps the leader plan the trip and you learn about any special arrangements or any change of plans.

Please do not bring pets and check with the leader before bringing children on a trip. Many of the trips are not appropriate for children. (All minor children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or an adult who has written authorization to be responsible for the child's care and conduct. See the Field Trip Policy for more information.)

Be on time at the meeting place. If you need to meet the group at the birding location, please offer to be early so the group can start promptly upon arrival. If you plan to leave the trip early, you must inform the leader in advance.

Carpooling is essential to allow the group to park when space is limited, reduce delays, reduce the likelihood of auto accidents and to reduce the chances of the group becoming separated. If possible, carpool from the valley. If the caravan has to pause multiple times en route to the birding location to collect participants, this tends to create delays.

Even if you meet the group at the birding location, PLEASE be willing to carpool while birding is in progress.

The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making all carpool arrangements.

Be prepared with binoculars, appropriate clothing (including protection from ticks), food and water. Assume the weather will be more extreme on the trip than at home and prepare accordingly.

Please share costs with courtesy. We recommend a cost of \$0.50 cents per mile plus tolls and parking to be shared equally among the driver and all passengers, but the rate for your vehicle is entirely up to the driver and passengers. Please agree on a mileage rate or flat contribution BEFORE the trip leaves to avoid misunderstandings. Please bring cash or checks and be prepared to reimburse the driver at the time of the trip.

HBC always encourages new birders to participate in trips. It is the responsibility of all trip members, leader and participants, to help new birders learn both identification techniques and bird observing skills.

While birding, please stay close to the group unless you have some specific reason to separate, and inform the leader if you are doing so. This reduces delays and distractions for the entire group.

All participants are responsible for their own safety. Use common sense if you feel that any part of the trip is too arduous for you. Always check with the trip leader if you have any questions or medical concerns about the trip.

Drivers:

1. It is the responsibility of the car owner to meet all registration, insurance, and inspection regulations.
2. Please fill up your tank before the trip and set your odometer at the beginning of the trip.
3. If the trip is going to caravan, follow common sense rules to make sure no one is put in danger or lost.
 - Stay in the same order so that you know which car is in front of you and which car is behind you.
 - If the car behind you is stopped by a light, pull safely to the side of the road so that you can wait until that car catches up.
 - If you are driving the car or cars catching up with the group, slow down so that the lead/stopped cars can pull in front of you.
 - It is a good idea for all caravan drivers to have their lights on.
4. Always have a description of the next major stop from the trip leader so that, should the caravan become separated, you can join the group at the next major stop.



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 28, No. 3

November, 2011.

There seems no end to the string of natural calamities we have endured in the north-east this year. I sincerely hope that, as you read this, you have heat and light in your home, water flowing from your faucets, and have not sustained major damage to life and limb from the latest manifestation of nature's.....

I was going to say "wrath," until I realized that the clichéd term "nature's wrath" is hardly correct. Nature is no more showing anger in the course of an early snowstorm than she is being benevolent in the course of a gently sunny fall day. (I hope we can let my use of "she" in reference to nature stand for now). However, there certainly seemed to be some malevolent force at work as we watched and heard limbs from the massive silver maple two doors down come crashing, one by one, to the ground, taking down power lines as they went, and listened to similar sounds echoing up and down the street throughout the night of the storm.

It was interesting to muse on how the birds may interpret the vagaries of climate. I wonder whether the tropicbirds and petrels so cruelly cast upon shore during Irene had any sense of being singled out or mistreated. Ironically, as I began the forlorn task of clearing up the remnants of my willow trees, there were quite a few White-throated Sparrows larking about in the neighborhood's largest brush pile who seemed quite cheerful about the whole thing, perhaps feeling the equivalent of having won the lottery!

Anyway, and idle musing aside, I hope you will enjoy good birds this fall and that we can be spared any more climatic fireworks for a little while, at least!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, November 14 at 7:30 PM

John Cecil looks at Important Bird Areas from Top to Bottom

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Should bad weather force a cancellation, it will be announced on WHMP 1400 AM radio.

John Cecil is Director of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program for the National Audubon Society, where his responsibilities include working with Audubon staff and partners to identify and conserve the most important places for birds throughout the U.S. In addition, John is the current chair of the U.S. Shorebird Council and is Audubon's representative on the U.S. National Ramsar Committee. Before joining Audubon in 2001, he worked for several state wildlife agencies, including two years with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Non-game Wildlife Program. John received an M.S. in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Frostburg State University in western Maryland. Through his professional and academic experiences John has been involved in conservation activities benefiting a wide variety of wildlife including freshwater mussels, American Alligators, Bog Turtles, Southern Appalachian and Allegheny Woodrats, Northern Flying Squirrels, Wood Ducks, Mottled Ducks, Peregrine Falcons, Piping Plovers, Wilson's Plovers, songbirds and numerous colonial waterbirds. John's conservation and birding interests have led him to travel extensively throughout the U.S. and the Americas.

In a recent contest in the *Washington Post*, readers were asked to provide evidence for the notion that English nouns, like German ones, should be assigned a gender. Look for some of their submissions on the next few pages!

COMING PROGRAMS

Dec 12, 2011. HBC Members and Friends. The Members' Meeting.

Jan 9, 2012. Geoff LeBaron. Panama and Costa Rica.

Feb 13, 2012. Scott Sumner. Birding Alaska.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Northampton Meadows. Saturday, September 25

Three hardy souls threw caution into the wind, along with the forecast, and joined **Scott Sumner** for a morning of birding in the East & West Meadows. The rains from the night before put down a number of shorebirds in the recently-plowed fields. After navigating a few large pools we made it out past the end of the runway and found our first shorebirds of the day. Highlights in the East Meadows included **(6) American Golden-Plovers** –molting adults and juveniles, **(18) Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **(6) Least Sandpipers**, **(1) Pectoral Sandpiper**, and a beautiful **Buff breasted-Sandpiper**. Other meadow notables were **(5) Blue-winged Teal**, **Osprey**, **Northern Harrier**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **(3) American Pipits**, **(27) Savannah** and **(3) Lincoln's Sparrows** rounded out the early morning.

By late morning we migrated across Rte. 5 to the West Meadows, our goal was to scan another field that had been pretty good for shorebirds the week before. Unlike the shorebirds in the east meadows (fairly vocal) the west meadow birds were very quiet and harder at first to locate. After a while we came across six species and were treated to excellent views of **(5) Semipalmated Plovers**, **(3) Killdeer**, **(2) Solitary Sandpipers**, **(2) Semipalmated Sandpipers**, **(8) Least Sandpipers** and **(6) Pectoral Sandpipers**. Other highlights included **Double-crested Cormorant**, **Bald Eagle** and an **American Kestrel**.

Scott Sumner

Cumberland Farms IBA. October 8, 2011.

Scott Sumner, **Nidhin Joseph**, **Donna Rickerby**, **Carol** and **John Gabranski** and **David Peake-Jones** made the long journey to this fabled south-eastern birding destination on an absurdly benign fall Saturday. Many of us westerners have little or no familiarity with the area, but it is well visited by our eastern brethren, and for good reason. Leaving our vehicle at the edge of the fields, we made our way on foot between alternating fields of weeds and corn toward the interior. Things were quiet early, and only Scott's keen ear picked out the Swamp Sparrows chipping from weedy depths to either side and Bobolinks cavorting overhead. Along the weedy edges of mown hayfields, we had an embarrassment of Savannah Sparrows, and several distant Northern Harriers hunted a wet swale.

Moving further in to the manure pile, we found more sparrows, including a couple of Lincoln's, and found a dead tree serving as a roost for many swallows, resting between foraging flights. After painstaking work we found 2 Bank-, 10 Barn-, and 1 Northern Rough-winged individual amongst the multitudes of Tree Swallows. We spent some time admiring two Least Sandpipers and a couple of Lesser Yellowlegs in a puddle but, with the day hotting up and the birds quieting down, we decided we had done all we could for the day. Back at the cars, we were saddling up to head home when a **Sandhill Crane** casually cruised over our heads and disappeared in the direction of the interior fields. Off we went, helter-skelter back to the manure pits and watched this gorgeous creature meander about over the fields for a time, before soaring up and out of sight to the north.

We found ourselves back at the puddle, which since our departure had attracted **White-rumped Sandpipers**, **Pectoral Sandpipers**, Semi-palmated Sandpipers and **American Pipits** in addition to the earlier birds. They were extremely tolerant of our approach and put on quite a shorebird clinic, of which we made good use. The crane made a surprising encore before we departed and, after an interesting but unproductive journey around the greater fields, we set off home.

David Peake-Jones

Coastal Rhode Island. October 15, 2011.

Geoff LeBaron, Nancy and Denny Baker, Ron Bussian, Larry & Joan Duprey, Betsy Higgins, Andrew Magee, and Al Richards toured our petite southern neighbor on a windy but dry day. Here, mercifully free of editing niceties, are the highlights.

Avondale Farm Preserve, Westerly: windy and blustery, with birds hunkered down. Hard to find sparrows or any landbirds, but one gaggle contained frustratingly fleeting views of **Philadelphia Vireo** and **Orange-crowned Warbler**. Good raptor show!

Misquamicut: no sparrows and only one egret—a Great—but a tremendous flock (5000++) of Tree Swallows enveloped us with amazing sights and sounds!

Ninigret N.W.R.: Lunch in the parking lot, lots of wind, and birders returning from Sandy Point reported no gulls or any other birds. We saved our efforts for Trustom, but stumbled upon two Common Ravens in Charlestown.

Firehouse Pond, Charlestown: a Wood Duck, an elusive Pied-billed Grebe, a couple of American Wigeon, and the biggest, baddest Cooper's Hawk we'd ever seen.

Trustom Pond N.W.R.: amazingly few landbirds (though we did scrounge up two **Blackpolls** among a gaggle of Butterbutts), but a nice assortment of waterfowl greeted us at Osprey Point, including a distant **Cackling Goose** and five Snows among hundreds of Canadas, a bevy of Ruddy Ducks, and both Lesser and Greater Scaup. Plus a fantastic Marbled Orb Weaver spider that Larry picked up!

Matunuck area: another flock of Canadas included five more Snow Geese, plus not one but **two** adult **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**! Maybe one of these was our old friend from Ninigret in past years....

Richmond Turf Farms: nothing awaited us in the turf fields and we couldn't get down the flooded road into Peckham Farm for sparrows, so made a beeline for Pt. Judith.

Point Judith: despite the parking area at the point being posted as "Closed—No Trespassing" we walked in (with a constant parade of locals) and were treated to a blustery, exciting view of the crashing waves and dramatic sunset. Flyby Forster's Terns were our only "seabird" catch, but the sunset was incredible.

Geoff LeBaron

COMING TRIPS

***Week of November 14-18. Connecticut.** $\frac{3}{4}$ day. Henry Lappen leads a new trip looking for unusual species in our southern neighbor. In the last few years, these have included Calliope Hummingbird, Northern Lapwing, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Barnacle Goose, and more. The actual date depends on weather, birds, and Henry's schedule. Call Henry (413-549-3722) well in advance to register, or to get more information. (E)

***Saturday, November 19. Cape Ann/Plum Island.** All Day. Join Scott Sumner for a pre-Thanksgiving trip to Cape Ann and Plum Island. Work off those Thanksgiving calories before they happen. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for meeting time. The trip will leave from Sumner Heating at 60 Shumway Street St. in Amherst. (M)

Sunday, November 20. Quabbin Reservoir II. All day. If you thought the first trip was good, wait until you go on the sequel. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien go back to the Quabbin, and this time, the birds don't stand a chance. You must be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club to participate. Participation is limited, so call Tom early to sign up (413-584-6353). (M)

"Kidneys" should be a female noun, because they always go to the bathroom in pairs.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Deep Energy Retrofitting Your Home: *Bick Corsa*

Sunday, November 6, 2-4 p.m. Free.

Photographing Larches: *John Green*

Saturday, November 12, 9-11 a.m. (Rain Date: Sunday, November 13. Fee.

Further Adventures of an Invertebrate Explorer: *Charley Eisenman*

Tuesday, November 15, 7-9 p.m. Fee.

White Nose Syndrome and Our Bat Populations: *Ann Froschauer*

Thursday, November 17, 7-9pm. Donation requested. (All donations go to research the white nose syndrome.)

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

STATE OF THE BIRDS 2011

Documenting Changes in Massachusetts Birdlife.

- Get your (free) copy at the November HBC meeting
- Read the results of all your work; the report uses data from the many years of Christmas Count and the Massachusetts routes in the USGS Breeding Bird Survey, and the first four years Breeding Bird Atlas.
- Take a copy home to read yourself - and then, if you don't want to keep it (but you probably will), pass it along to a birding friend, your local library, land trust, or school.

Thanks

"Hammer" should be a male noun because it has evolved little over many centuries.

DOCUMENTING RARE BIRDS

In the course of the recent Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas field work period, a number of rare marsh birds have been seen and well-documented in Massachusetts. These include Least Bittern at Post Farm, as well as both Least Bittern and King Rail at Belle Island Marsh. I want to remind birders of the importance of submitting Rare Species Observation forms to the **Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program**. NHESP has very few field staff, and therefore relies upon good records from the birding and naturalist community.

This is an easy and effective way of having a direct conservation impact on the rare species that you're seeing in any part of the state.

A properly documented observation will result in regulatory protection of the species and its habitat under the **Massachusetts Endangered Species Act**, and will also inform conservation and management decisions on both the local and statewide level. However, if rare bird sightings are not documented with NHESP, the site cannot receive legal protection under the Endangered Species Act. From a legal perspective, it's as if the bird was never seen.

Continues on the next page ►

A list of the state's rare species can be found here:

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/mesa_list/mesa_list.htm

A link to the rare species observation form can be found at the bottom of this page:

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/report_rare_species.htm

Some especially under-reported species include American Bittern, Sora, Whip-poor-will, and Mourning Warbler.

I don't mean to preach, but I do want to get the reminder out - your submitted records really do make a big difference. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Chris Buelow: NHESP Restoration Ecologist, Hardwick, MA.
dryoptera@yahoo.com - www.eastquabbinbirdclub.com

“Conservative-voter” should be a female noun because they get more right every time you turn around.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

If you want to contribute to one of the most important (and certainly the largest) research efforts into bird distribution world-wide, the Christmas Count may be for you. There are several counts in this region every December, and HBC plays a key role in the Northampton and Quabbin counts.

Every December, we get together to count all the birds in a **BIG** circle around some point in Hadley. The count circle is divided up into smaller areas, each counted by an experienced leader or leaders, with assistants. Groups plan who will participate, for how long, and how to divide up the count area.

Believe it or not, there is also a count in the Quabbin region for those who want better birds and cushy weather!

Christmas Counts!!

Northampton: Sunday, December 18.

Jan Ortiz, 413 549 1768, jtortiz@aol.com, OR

Janice Jorgensen, 413 585 0145, janicejorgensen@charter.net

Quabbin: Saturday, December 31.

Scott Sumner (413 253 5999; ssurner@aol.com)

“Shoes” should be a male noun because they are generally unpolished and may often be found with their tongues hanging out.

That's all for this month.

Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor
 529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 28, No. 4
December, 2011.

I am taking a moment away from the Occupy Clark Street sit-in to bring you some news from HBC. This edition is almost entirely given over to the club membership list. It is a valuable resource to help us keep in touch, and the sheer size of the document (despite the Lilliputian font size) attests to the healthy number of folks who call us their bird club. **Thanks to Mary Alice Wilson and Sue Emerson** for the painstaking work of bringing it to print.

Remember: the membership list is to be used exclusively for birding-related communications amongst our members, and is not to be shared outside the club, or used for any other purpose.

There is also room this month to tell you about:

- The **program for December**, and the upcoming schedule,
- Some **field trip reports**, and a description of the lone trip in January,
- **Christmas Count** reminders, and
- A call for help with the **Christmas Count Potluck**.

I hope you find some of it useful.

NEXT PROGRAM
Monday, December 12 at 7:30 PM
HBC Members Share Images and Tales from the Past Year

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Should bad weather force a cancellation, it will be announced on WHMP 1400 AM radio.

This month the entertainment is US!!

Please bring some sort of snack to share.

Sally and Helga are taking a well-earned break this month. If we don't bring stuff, we will go hungry!!

AND

Please bring some slides to share.

They can be of birding exploits, other adventures in natural history, or even just some scenic wonders you visited during the year. As in past years, please limit your show to 15 or fewer slides and you must be prepared to narrate your own stuff. Please contact either **Jaap van Heerden** (jvanheerden@hampshirebirdclub.org) or **Geoff LeBaron** (programs@hampshirebirdclub.org) by 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 12. Let them know:

- Are your slides digital or 35 mm format?
- If digital, are the images in Powerpoint format or just stand-alone images?

If you bring digital images, please have them on a memory stick or CD-ROM disk.

COMING PROGRAMS

January 9, 2012. Geoff LeBaron. Panama and Costa Rica.

February 13, 2012. Scott Surner. Birding Alaska.

March 12, 2012. Jeff Boettner. Birds & Bugs.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Champlain Valley, Vermont. Saturday, November 5, 2011.

Geoff LeBaron accompanied Harvey Allen, Peter Allison, Nidhin Joseph, Andrew Magee and Josh Rose to Addison County in Vermont on a sunny, calm day. Intelligence reports indicated that good numbers of geese were present at Dead Creek WMA this year and that there were both Ross's and Greater White-fronted individuals with them.

To our relief, there were many geese within close range of the parking area (albeit in corn stubble) when we arrived, and we were able to find the young **Greater White-fronted Goose** among them, though it was frustratingly hard to find amid a sea of Greater Snow Geese. After a brief look the White-front disappeared into the flock, and before we were able to locate the Ross's Geese, the group moved too far off for us to have any chance at finding them. We did, however, find an unexpected smattering of shorebirds including four (4) **American Golden Plovers** and four (4) **Pectoral Sandpipers**. There were a number of other visitors from the tundra including **Snow Buntings**, **Lapland Longspurs**, **American Pipits**, and **Horned Larks**, as well as an impressive young female **Peregrine Falcon**. We had a great day with all these, and especially with the Snow Geese, capped off with a spectacular flight of Snows at sunset from the surrounding fields to the ponds of the refuge.

Geoff Lebaron



Berkshire Lakes. Sunday, November 6 with Bob Bieda.

Moran WMA: **Northern Shrike** (1), Snow Bunting (1).

Cheshire Reservoir: American Wigeon (1), Northern Pintail (2) and Bufflehead (3).

Pontoosuc Lake: American Wigeon (1), **Northern Shoveller** (3), Greater Yellowlegs (1).

Onota Lake: **Red-breasted Merganser** (3), Horned Grebe (5), and **Red-necked Grebe** (2).

Richmond Pond: American Coot (206).

Stockbridge Bowl: **Ruddy Duck** (36)

No mention of the donuts at Bartletts.

Thanks to Jacob Drucker for record keeping.

Bob Bieda



Quabbin 2. Sunday, November 20 with Larry Therrien.

Our trip on the east side of the Quabbin began at the meeting spot at Winsor Dam. I arrived around 6:30 and was quickly joined by a few other early participants. The breeze was already up a bit but didn't stop us from seeing a few species of waterfowl here including a group of four Common Goldeneye flying by as well as a few Common Mergansers. A couple of flyby Pine Siskins including one doing an odd display type flight added some excitement, as did several hundred American Robins leaving their roost in the early AM. A few other lucky participants saw a **Barred Owl** pass by on their way into the driveway at Quabbin.

Once everyone else arrived we entered the restricted area at Gate 45. Checking the interior small ponds gave us a nice view of a **River Otter** on top of a beaver lodge. This stop also heralded the start of our contest to see who could pick up the most ticks! The competition continued hot and heavy throughout the day with several people exceeding the 20-tick mark. The birds were few and far-between at times, but the ticks never wavered! We picked up some good birds at the fishing area, including a Belted Kingfisher, a late Yellow-rumped Warbler and an adult male Northern Harrier heading south in spite of the strong southerly winds. We managed a few other new species around Dana Common including an American Tree Sparrow and Eastern Bluebirds.

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Quabbin 2. November 20. (continued)

We then stopped at Pottapaug Pond and found a group of Black Ducks on the water with a few Mallards mixed in. A little additional scanning turned up a distant **Pied-billed Grebe** and a few more Hooded Mergansers, but not the binoculars one of us had lost earlier.

We continued our journey north coming out along the Gate 35 road and found several Horned Grebes, a few Common Loons and a cooperative adult Bald Eagle perched on a small tree. The winds had lightened up considerably by late in the day and the water was fairly calm. Despite the lower-than-normal number of waterfowl around, we had a very enjoyable day with pleasant weather for late November. The totals for the trip included 46 species of bird, five species of mammal, and one species of butterfly, as well as a basking turtle taking advantage of the warmth! This was the first November trip to Quabbin in many, many years that Tom Gagnon was unable to make but I'm sure he will be back for next year's trip.

Larry Therrien.

COMING TRIPS

The Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule will be coming out with the January newsletter.

Saturday, January 7. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island. All day. Bob Bieda leads his annual New Year's pilgrimage to the coast in search of wintering specialties like Eared Grebes, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, and much more. Dress for cold weather. For meeting information call Bob at 413-527-2623. (E)

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Northampton: Sunday, December 18.

Jan Ortiz, 413 549 1768, jtortiz@aol.com, OR

Janice Jorgensen, 413 585 0145, janicejorgensen@charter.net

Quabbin: Saturday, January 1.

Scott Turner (413 253 5999; ssurner@aol.com)

Northampton CBC Pot Luck

Hitchcock Center, Amherst. December 18 at 4:00 PM

Contributors Needed!!

Those who have been reading this rag for a while will be familiar with my theory that the whole Christmas Count thing is simply an excuse to enjoy a potluck dinner in good company on a cold winter's day! True to form, Sue Emerson and her elves will be putting on a pot-luck this year at the Hitchcock Center on count day, immediately prior to the compilation of count results.

Please contact her if you can bring a **main (hot) dish**, a **salad**, or a **dessert**. You can arrange with her to drop it off somewhere before-hand if you plan to be out in the field till 4.

You can reach her as follows:

Sue Emerson: 413 584 6736, or via email at spe33@charter.net

That's all for now.

Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

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