



# **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**

## **Amherst, Massachusetts**

[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)

Volume 28, No. 5

**January, 2012.**

Peregrine Falcons have tiny hair-like structures growing from the yellow skin of the cere which partially obstruct the nostrils or nares. Hard to see the point of this, until you realize that while diving at close to 200 miles per hour in pursuit of prey, air driven into the lungs through the nares would burst them if not for the interference created by these tiny projections. The dark teardrop on the face of a peregrine acts, like the dark paint footballers use for night games, to reduce visual interference from light reflecting off the cheek. If human eyes were comparatively as large as those of a peregrine, they would weigh four pounds. This explains, in part, why peregrines can see at least 8 times as well as humans, especially in low light.

These are but a few of the things that make the Peregrine Falcon so special. Hawkwatchers and ornithologists speak about it in reverential tones, and there was a time when it was so rare and threatened that a sighting was truly a miraculous experience. So how on earth could my birding partner and I be looking at one perched on a light pole in Hadley during the Christmas Count? That is what makes the count so special. We humble citizens can find not only working class birds of field and hedgerow (dare I say the ornithological 99%), but we can rub shoulders with avian royalty, and leave a record of the meeting for posterity.

### **NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, January 9 at 7:30 PM**

**Geoff LeBaron** takes us birding in **Panama and Costa Rica**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

Join us for the first meeting of 2012, when we'll take a journey to Costa Rica and Panama. This expedition was an "interesting" one as it coincided with "Operation Just Cause"--the US invasion of Panama to capture Manuel Ortega Noriega. We'll experience the splendors of the Panama Canal and the Panamanian and Costa Rican rainforests, as well as the excitement of being caught in the middle of an international skirmish.

**Geoff LeBaron** has a B.Sc. from the University of Miami in Florida, and a master's degree in Zoology from the University of Rhode Island. He has been the Christmas Bird Count Director for the National Audubon Society since 1987. Prior to that, he has worked for the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, where he was Curator of Collections at Vireo.

Geoff has done field work on birds for Audubon in New Hampshire and Rhode Island, and spent over 3,000 hours documenting marine mammals, turtles, and birds off the eastern coast of North America. He has been an environmental educator in Rhode Island, and led seabird/whale watches off Cape Cod for three years.

Geoff has led natural history tours to Alaska; Big Bend and the Texas Hill Country; Baja California; Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; Panama and Costa Rica; the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador; Argentina, the Falkland Islands, and Antarctica; and Australia and New Zealand. We know him best as an energetic and committed field trip leader, and our outstanding Program Chair.

## COMING PROGRAMS

**February 13, 2012. Scott Sumner.** Birding Alaska.

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

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

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

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

## LIBRARY

The HBC Library is 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](http://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. Our librarian, **Henry Lappen**, is happy to bring items to meetings, if you give him a few days in advance. You can reach him at [library@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:library@hampshirebirdclub.org) or (413) 549 3722.

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

**Through the Seasons With Wildflowers Slideshow:** *Ted Watt*

Wednesday, February 1, 7-8:30 p.m. Fee.

**Honeybees And Beekeepers—Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions:** *Dan Conlon*, (Beekeeper)

Tuesday, February 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation Requested.

**Hardworking Native Perennials:** *Melinda Reid*, *Landscape Designer*.

Saturday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Snow Date: Sunday, February 12). Fee.

Co-Sponsored with New England Wildflower Society

*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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

## Singers Needed!

HELP WANTED, finding singing birds. I'm starting a project for which I need lots of birdsong from lots of local species. The species I'm after are common, yet finding a good recording location in a quiet setting can often be a challenge. Maybe you know of a nice grackle colony, for example, or where swallows breed in the valley. I'd be grateful for any help HBC members could provide. If you're willing to help, please send me an email ([dekroodsma@yahoo.com](mailto:dekroodsma@yahoo.com)), and I'll be in touch this spring when the birds begin to sing.

Thank you! . . . Don Kroodsma

## Christmas Count Potluck Thank You

Many thanks to all who generously contributed a special dish to our fun filled evening. The "elves" were so pleased with all the assistance that we wish to send our thanks and greetings for a wonderful New Year.

Best wishes from Sally Hills, Helga Beatty, Merry & John Cushing, Jan & Carlos Ortiz, Mary Alice & Bill Wilson, Sue & Wayne Emerson. Oh, AND ALL THE COUNTERS!!!!

## Northampton Christmas Bird Count

### Sunday, December 18, 2011

The Northampton CBC was held on a chilly, clear day with moderate winds. Low overnight temperatures and wind reduced the owl count somewhat, and the overall numbers of birds were on the low side, despite a generally mild December. However, the overall diversity was quite good, and though there were only five high counts, two of these were new species for this count circle.

High counts were recorded for **Hooded Merganser**, **Peregrine Falcon** (equal high), **Rusty Blackbird**, **Indigo Bunting** (new bird for the count), and **Pied-billed Grebe** (new bird for the count).

33, 094 individual birds were counted, representing 83 species, by 36 teams, consisting of 114 people.

Provisional results are shown below. **High or equal high counts are in bold type.** *Unusual species are in italics.*

Species	Number	Species	Number	Species	Number
Canada Goose	4,745	Red-bellied Woodpecker	157	Fox Sparrow	7
Mute Swan	3	Yell.-b'ied Sapsucker	6	Song Sparrow	226
Wood Duck	1	Downy Woodpecker	249	Swamp Sparrow	1
American Black Duck	96	Hairy Woodpecker	58	Wh.-throated Sparrow	481
Mallard	528	Northern Flicker	46	Wh.-crowned Sparrow	2
Common Goldeneye	17	Pileated Woodpecker	20	Dark-eyed Junco	2,392
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>	<b>55</b>	Northern Shrike	3	Northern Cardinal	489
Common Merganser	66	Blue Jay	1,000	Red-winged Blackbird	213
Ruffed Grouse	3	American Crow	2,637	<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>	<b>189</b>
Wild Turkey	85	Common Raven	11	Br.-headed Cowbird	116
Great Blue Heron	1	Horned Lark	221	House Finch	485
Bald Eagle (adult)	4	Black-capped Chickadee	1,100	Common Redpoll	2
Northern Harrier (adult)	2	Tufted Titmouse	470	American Goldfinch	878
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	House Sparrow	1,659
Coopers Hawk	15	White-breasted Nuthatch	295		
Red-tailed Hawk	85	Brown Creeper	16	<i>Unusual Species</i>	
American Kestrel	2	Carolina Wren	52	<i>Red-shouldered Hawk</i>	1
Merlin	2	Winter Wren	4	<i>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</i>	1
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<b>4</b>	Golden-crowned Kinglet	63	<i>Red-br. Merganser</i>	1
Ring-billed Gull	228	Eastern Bluebird	298	<i>Eastern Meadowlark</i>	4
Herring Gull	10	Hermit Thrush	8	<i>Eastern Towhee</i>	1
Gull sp.	1	American Robin	4,316	<i>Dickcissel</i>	1
Great Bl.-backed Gull	1	Grey Catbird	2	<i>Yell.-rumped Warbler</i>	1
Rock Pigeon	797	Northern Mockingbird	133	<b><i>Indigo Bunting (new)</i></b>	1
Mourning Dove	1,855	European Starling	4,732	Chipping Sparrow	1
Eastern Screech Owl	74	Cedar Waxwing	798	Green-winged Teal	2
Great Horned Owl	15	American Tree Sparrow	524	<b><i>P-billed Grebe (new)</i></b>	1 (cw)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Field Sparrow	3		
Belted Kingfisher	11	Savannah Sparrow	29		

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](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule. January 1, 2012.

*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.*

### JANUARY

**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)

### FEBRUARY

**\*Saturday, February 11. Coastal Rhode Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron repeats his annual cold-weather trip to the coast of Rhode Island, looking for gulls, ducks, Short-eared Owls, and whatever else may be there. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) for information and meeting details. (E)

### MARCH

**\*Sunday, March 18. Connecticut River Waterfowl I.** Half day. Mike Locher travels from Holyoke to Hatfield looking for any 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 a.m. (E)

**\*Saturday, March 24. Connecticut River Waterfowl II.** All day. Joshua Rose scours the Turner's Falls environs for waterfowl bound northward and late gulls. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 7 a.m.. (E)

**\*Saturday, March 31. Plum Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron braves the weather along the coast to find you the birds! Call Geoff (413-268-9281) for information about when the trip will leave, and where people should meet. (M)

### APRIL

**\*Sunday, April 15. 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 29. 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)

## MAY

**\*Saturday, May 5. Forest Park/Fannie Stebbins, Springfield.** Half to  $\frac{3}{4}$  day. David Peake-Jones leads a new HBC trip to what is generally considered to be “the Central Park of Springfield.” There is a possibility of an extension to the Stebbins refuge depending on interest and what’s being seen. Call David (413-529-9541) for meeting time and place. (E)

**Sunday, May 6. MacLeish Field Station, Northampton.** Half day. In a new trip for the HBC, Bill Benner explores a newly-opened property managed by Smith College. Call Bill (413-320-4422) as the date approaches for meeting information. (E)

**Saturday, May 12. East Quabbin Reservoir.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien lead 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 13. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Watertown, MA.**  $\frac{3}{4}$  day. David Peake-Jones will again lead birders through this historic and beautiful garden cemetery which is also a fabled migrant trap. Call David (413-529-9541) to register. (E)

**Wednesday, May 16. Mount Holyoke.** Half Day. Tom Gagnon hikes up Mt. Holyoke looking for birds (think Cerulean Warbler) and wildflowers. Meet at the LOWER parking lot near the entrance at 7 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) to register. (M)

**\*Sunday, May 20. Moody Bridge Road, Hadley.** Half day. Josh Rose explores the Fort River Division of the Silvio Conte NWR by looking for migrants of all sorts in this recently-acquired parcel. Meet at 6 a.m. at the former Bri-Mar Stables on Moody Bridge Road, west of South Maple Street, in Hadley. (E)

## JUNE

**Saturday, June 2. Mount Greylock.** All day. David Peake-Jones explores the only Blackpoll Warbler breeding habitat in Massachusetts. Mourning Warbler is also a possibility as well as a number of mountain specialties. Be prepared for a mile or two of hiking on rough trails. Call David (413-529-9541) to register. (M)

**Sunday, June 3. 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)

**Saturday, June 9. 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)

**Sunday, June 10. October Mountain State Forest.** All day. Ed Neumuth explores the habitat on October Mountain and ventures to surrounding areas like Post Farm and Tyringham Valley. October Mountain has recently been a fairly reliable spot for Mourning Warblers, as well as a number of other unusual species. Call Ed (413-884-4961) around trip time for meeting time and place. (E)

## **JULY**

**Saturday, July 28. New South Beach.** 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 11. 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](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)

Volume 28, No. 6

**February, 2012.**

I'm taking a brief break from cleaning up after the post-Super Bowl unrest in our living room to bring you some odds and ends from your friendly neighborhood bird club.

This month we have news of our second overnight field trip to the Crown of Maine: a boreal wonderland not to be missed! We also welcome the dawn of a new age as the HBC Facebook page launches! There are also volunteer opportunities, and host of programs of interest to many, if not all of us, not to mention our customary details about club programs and trips.

So read on and try to pay attention!

In this month's edition:

- The February program and the upcoming schedule,
- February and March field trips,
- Sign up for the second **Crown of Maine trip** with **Geoff LeBaron**,
- HBC ventures into the world of **Facebook**,
- **Volunteering at WFCR**,
- The Mass Audubon Annual Birders Meeting,
- National Audubon's Hog Island camps this summer,
- A worthy home for old but serviceable optics, and homes sought for birding magazines,
- Hitchcock and Arcadia programs.

*I hope you find some of it useful!*

### **NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, February 13 at 7:30 PM**

**Scott Sumner** gives his unique take on **Birding Alaska**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

Scott Sumner is a founding member and current president of the Hampshire Bird Club, past member of the Massachusetts Avian Records committee and was, for sixteen years, the voice of Audubon for Western Massachusetts. He is the current leader of the Hitchcock Center's annual Spring Birding class and a beloved field trip leader for HBC. In recent years, Scott has begun to take some disturbingly good photographs, some of which will be the centerpiece of this program. Scott's travels have taken him to Alaska, California, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, and too many of the Canadian Provinces. He is neither a Board member, nor a client, of Hair Club for Men.

### **COMING PROGRAMS**

**March 12. Jeff Boettner.** Birds & Bugs.

**April 9. Gina Nichol.** Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems.

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

## COMING TRIPS

*(See also the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule)*

*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 cost of travel.*

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*"Crown of Maine" trip promo appears on the next page!!*

## HBC at WFCR

A group from the HBC will again help our local NPR station, WFCR, during its Spring fund drive. We will be taking calls at the station on Saturday, March 3, from 8-11 AM. It's easy (training is provided). It's fun (you get to see radio behind-the-scenes). It's exciting (watching the drive totals increase is great motivation). Breakfast in the form of goodies from Henion Bakery is provided; all you need to do is bring yourself (and friend if you wish) and answer pledge calls as they come in. *If you'd like to join the fun, sign up by calling or emailing Dave Gross at 253-2897 or [dgross@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:dgross@hampshirebirdclub.org).*

*Date: Saturday, March 3*

*Time: 8-11 A.M.*

*Location: WFCR studios, Hampshire House, UMass campus*

*"The wrinkles of your mind are more important than the wrinkles of your skin."*

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon, India.



## The Crown of Maine

*Friday, June 15th, 2012 through Tuesday, June 19th, 2012*

*Leaders: Geoff LeBaron and Bill Sheehan (of Woodland, ME, our local expert).*

You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip.

This wonderful HBC field trip will bird the Crown of Maine region, a diverse area of mixed boreal and agricultural habitats. There is much boreal forest, wooded bogs, farmland, riparian woodlands, human-made ponds that attract unusual breeding waterfowl, and the Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge—the former Loring Air Force Base—complete with large expanses of grassland and shrub-land habitat.

We will spend one full day driving to Caribou, Maine, which will be our base of operations. From there we will spend one day in the New Sweden-Woodland-Caribou area, one day at Presque Isle and the Aroostook N.W.R., and the third day birding the Maine North Woods boreal timber forest lands west of Fort Kent, Maine.

**Target bird species** will include boreal forest specialties around New Sweden (**Black-backed- and American Three-toed woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided flycatchers, Gray Jay, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee-, Bay-breasted-, Cape May-, and Blackpoll warblers**, etc), wetland, grassland, and shrub-land species around Presque Isle and Aroostook N.W.R. (nesting **Redhead and Ruddy Ducks** amid a myriad of other waterfowl, **American Bittern, Upland Sandpiper, and Mourning Warbler**), and especially **Spruce Grouse** among other boreal species in the Maine North Woods. We hope to immerse ourselves in the famous dawn chorus of breeding songbirds during our time in New Sweden. Other wildlife likely to be encountered will be moose, black bear, and coyote. Our visit will also likely coincide with the peak of wildflowers; lupines will be in bloom everywhere, and we have a good chance of seeing up to four species of lady-slipper orchids.

**HBC Cost Estimate:** Participants will pay HBC a trip fee of approximately \$90, depending on how many people sign up. This fee covers the leader fee for Bill Sheehan, a share of leader's costs for Geoff, and the club insurance contribution. Additional costs include lodging, meals and transportation. The cost may drop by up to \$20 as more people sign up.

### **Additional Costs:**

#### Accommodation

You will be responsible for booking and paying for accommodation, which is economical, provided you sign up early. Costs start from around \$30 + tax per night for shared accommodation, or around \$50 single occupancy at the most affordable motel: Russell's in Caribou. Lodging at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center may be at least twice as expensive. *Russell's may fill up by early March, so it is imperative that you act NOW if you are cost-conscious.* Look to be spending between \$120 and \$200 for the four nights, for accommodations at Russells. See also "Further Information."

#### Transportation

We will travel independently to- and from Caribou, Maine. The round trip is approximately 1,000 miles, and we will add an additional 250 miles or so per car while we are up there. Again, to keep costs down, it's important to car-pool and share costs, which will depend on your vehicle and the number of people you share with. See also "Further Information."

Continues on the next page ►

## Crown of Maine (continued)

Food and Sundries

Individuals will be responsible for all food costs during the trip, though Bill has a delightful habit of laying on coffee and snacks in the field. Breakfasts can be either in-motel (fridges, microwaves etc. in all rooms) or at well-stocked local stores. Restaurants will be available for some lunches, but sack lunches on the road will be the norm. Dinners will be at home-style restaurants in Caribou, though eating-in at the motel is always an option if your budget is really tight.

There is a small entry fee to the Maine North Woods (private land) which individuals will pay. See also "Further Information."

**Registration.** *Registration begins at the HBC program on February 13.* Either speak with Mike Locher at the meeting or contact him as follows: [fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) or 585 5864. Again, accommodation becomes problematic if you wait till March, so register as soon as possible!

**Payments and Cancellations**

To ensure your place, you need to register and pay the HBC trip fee (approx. \$90) BY April 30.

The minimum number of people (6) must have PAID by this date for the trip to take place. Fourteen (14) is the maximum trip capacity.

Trip fees may be partially or fully refundable after April 30, depending on the circumstances. Full details are available in the trip information on our Website or from the Field Trip Chair.

**Further Information**

A detailed trip description is posted on our Website: [www.hampshirebirdclub.org/trips](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org/trips).

You may also contact Geoff LeBaron: [programs@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:programs@hampshirebirdclub.org); 413 268 9281.

**Binoculars Wanted**

Club member Zeke Jakub is doing research on bird conservation in urban central America (Panama City, Panama), along with Panamanian high school and college students. Together, they are looking at the viability of urban areas as conservation zones for migratory and resident birds through species richness surveys and landscape/patch analyses. Zeke and *Conservación de Aves Tropicales* (Panamá) are looking for 4-6 pairs of binoculars (in working condition) for the observers to use. If you can help, please contact Zeke care of:

*Conservación de Aves Tropicales* (Panamá)

U.S. Ph: (413)773-7906

Panama Cell Ph: (507) 6718-9397

Panama Home Ph: (671) 89397

[ezekieljakub@gmail.com](mailto:ezekieljakub@gmail.com) or [ejakub@antioch.edu](mailto:ejakub@antioch.edu)

*"Success is about going from failure to failure without giving up."*

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon, India.

## HBC ON FACEBOOK!!

### HBC online news



**Find the  
HBC on  
Facebook**

HBC is, above all else, a community of people. As such, the most essential element of our organization is that we INTERACT. Now, thanks to the efforts of Zeke Jakub, Josh Rose, and others, we have an exciting new way to do it!

Did you ever want to:

- Show off a beautiful picture you took at your feeder?
- Ask an ID question to a friendly *local* audience? Or
- Check with others in the club on what optics to buy when the aging Bausch and Lomb finally give out?

All these and more are now much easier to do because

### ***HBC has a Facebook page!***

It features:

- the **“Wall.”** Post messages, pictures, video, Internet links and RESPOND to the postings of others. Currently there is a great video Merry Cushing posted of a Hooded Crow being zany, and Janice’s now-famous Ruffed Grouse shot. A great spot to air that tough ID question.
- **“Notes.”** Announcements for the club and other local groups. Already includes Don Kroodsma trolling for bird-song snitches.
- **“Photos.”** Post your own and share those of others, includes monthly bird ID quizzes. HBC membership forms are posted here which gives us an easy way to ~~ensure~~ recruit new members for the club.
- **“Events.”** Programs and field trips for HBC and other local outfits.
- **“Discussions.”** A place to start and take part in conversations on a whole range of things birdy. Currently some great optics links courtesy of Eagle Optics.

The Facebook page will not replace either the newsletter or the Website. It will simply add a new dimension to communication within our club.

### **So how do I get this Facebook thingy? (We hear you cry).**

To simply take a look at the Facebook page, you can hit the Facebook symbol on the HBC Website at [www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)

To begin to interact with the HBC Facebook community, (post, comment etc.) you need to become a member of Facebook, which you can do at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). If you are a member, just search for “Hampshire Bird Club” and press the “Like” button when you get to our page.

### **Do We Really Need It?**

Well, do we really need the automobile?

Zeke says, “Give it a try and I think you will find it helpful.”

Oh, and don’t forget, Facebook is PUBLIC. Please do not post member addresses or anything else which would compromise the privacy of others.

Thanks to Zeke Jakub and Dave Gross for help with this announcement.

## **Welcome, New Members!**

**Ralph Hewes** of Amherst,  
**Eric Huston** of Greenfield,  
**Lora Saltis** of Westhampton, and  
**Christine Volonte** of Greenfield.

We’re glad to have you!

## MASS AUDUBON BIRDERS MEETING

The **Annual Massachusetts Birders Meeting** will be held this spring on **Saturday, 3 March at Bentley University** in Waltham. This event will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Birders Meeting, and also that of its co-host in 2012, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The 2012 program is entitled ***Birds, Baleen, and 20 Years of Marine Conservation***. Among the familiar names on the program are:

- Dr. Steven Kress, well-known for his efforts to re-establish breeding Atlantic Puffins in the Gulf of Maine;
- Debi Shearwater, founder of the well-known California tour company, Shearwater Journeys, Inc.;
- Dr. David Wiley, Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary scientist highly acclaimed for his underwater studies of humpback whale foraging behavior;
- Shawn Carey and Jim Grady (Migration Productions), professional nature photographers and videographers who will premier their new shorebird video, *Epic Journeys*;
- Anne-Marie Runfol, Stellwagen Sanctuary Volunteer Coordinator who developed the highly successful Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards volunteer program;
- Dr. Julie C. Ellis, professor at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and Executive Director of the Seabird Ecological Assessment Network (SEANET) who has been studying breeding gulls at the Isles of Shoals for many years;
- Brian Harrington, retired shorebird biologist at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences who has studied Red Knots for most of his professional career; and
- Joan Walsh, Director of Bird Monitoring at Mass Audubon and Coordinator of the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2 sharing findings from the recently released *State of the Birds of Massachusetts* report.
- 

The Birders Meeting also **includes lunch, vendors, and a variety of tantalizing raffle prizes**. Proceeds from the Birders Meeting go toward supporting the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program.

To register, please go to

- [www.massaudubon.org/birdersmeeting](http://www.massaudubon.org/birdersmeeting)

## 2012 Audubon Camp at Hog Island

Registration is open for the legendary 6-day residential birding and environmental education programs at the historic Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Programs are for adult birders, teens, families, educators, and Audubon Chapter leaders. Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, Lang Elliott, Don Kroodsma, Bill Thompson III and many more expert ornithologists, naturalists, educators and authors will be in residence during the 2012 sessions. All summer programs include field trips to nearby Eastern Egg Rock, where Dr. Steve Kress and his team of biologists have successfully restored an island colony of Atlantic Puffins, and Roseate, Arctic and Common Terns.

Roger Tory Peterson was the camp's first bird instructor in 1936 and many of America's finest naturalists, including Rachel Carson, have spent time on the 330-acre wildlife sanctuary, located in mid-coast Maine, on Muscongus Bay. Participants live in restored wooden buildings dating back to the early 1900's and are treated to three fabulous meals each day, prepared by chef extraordinaire Janii Laberge. Scholarships available.

For more information on the programs, visit <http://hogisland.audubon.org>. For questions, contact the Hog Island registrar, Erica Marx (VanEtten), at [evanetten@audubon.org](mailto:evanetten@audubon.org) or (607) 257-7308 ext 14.

## ARCADIA PROGRAMS

### **Predator Ecology.** *David McLain*

Saturday, February 4 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Fee

### **Winter Crows:** *Patti Steinman*

Sunday, February 5 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Fee.

### **Evening at the Galápagos:** *Anne Lombard and Janet Bissell*

(Slide Presentation). Tuesday February 7 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### **Project Wild: Mammal Tracking and Mammal Sounds:** *Kim Noyes and Patti Steinman*

At Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center., for K-12 teachers.

Saturday, February 11 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Fee.

Register by contacting Northfield Mountain at 1-800-859-2960.

### **Eagles at Quabbin:** *Patti Steinman*

At Quabbin Reservoir

Saturday, February 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For more details of these and other programs go to [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) (select “Sanctuaries”, then “Choose a Sanctuary: Arcadia”) or call the sanctuary at the number below. To register for programs contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary**, 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027. Telephone **(413) 584-3009**.

## **Sally Venman’s Bird Magazines and Videos.**

Sally was one of our founders and the beloved editor of this newsletter for over fifteen years.

When she died in 2010, Sally left, amongst many less tangible things, a large collection of birding magazines and some videos. Her family would very much like it if members of HBC could find uses for these items, perhaps as resources for teachers, schools etc. Here is the list of items.

### Magazines

*Bird Observer* --- 1987-1999

*Birding* --- 1985-2000

*Living Bird* --- 1985-2000

*Birders’ World* --- 1985-2000

*Wildbird* --- 1999-2000

*Winging It* --- 1989-2004

*American Birds* --- 1984-1994

*Sanctuary* --- 1985-1998

*North American Birds* 1994-1997

### VHS Collection

*Life of Birds* (6 Tape set)

*Common Butterflies*

*Nat’l Audubon: Messages from the Birds* 7/25/88

*“The Man who Loved Birds.” The story of John Box*

*Nature: Flight / Hummingbirds*

*Fascination with Birds*

*Bird Watch: Don and Lillian Stokes*

*The Okefenoke Swamp* --- PBS 5/19/86

*Live Florida Birdwatch* --- PBS 5/3/86

*Audubon Society’s Video Guide* --- 4 Tapes

If you are interested in any of these items, you may contact Bill Venman as follows:

[wcvenman@gmail.com](mailto:wcvenman@gmail.com) or 413 549 1098

We will bring any remaining items to the HBC meeting on February 13, and you may choose items from there.

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

### **Honeybees and Beekeepers - Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions:** *Dan Conlon*

Tuesday, February 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation requested.

### **Hardworking Native Perennials:** *Melinda Reid*

Saturday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Snow Date: Sunday, February 12). Fee.

Co-Sponsored with New England Wildflower Society.

### **The Secret Life Of Black-Capped Chickadees:** *Susan Smith*

Thursday, February 16, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation requested.

### **Spring Birding Course:** *Scott Surner, Birder Extraordinaire*

Evening Classes: Wednesdays, February 22, March 7, 14, April 25, May 2, 9, 23, 30, 6:30-8 p.m.

Field Trips: Saturdays, February 25, March 17, 24, April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, start times vary between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Members: \$215 / Non-members: \$235

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 and Plum Island, the Southern Berkshires and even Westover Air Force Base. All field trips and classes meet at the Hitchcock Center. Registration is limited to 20.

### **Nature's Odyssey Slideshow:** *John Green*

Tuesday, February 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Fee.

### **Electric Vehicles For The Pioneer Valley:** *Watson Collins*

Thursday, March 1, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation Requested.

### **Where Does Our Recycling Go? MRF Tour:** *Justin Fallon*

Tuesday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Meet at Hitchcock Center to carpool to Springfield.

### **The Health of Our Massachusetts Forests:** *Ken Gooch*

Tuesday, March 6, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation requested.

*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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

***Backyard Birds*** (on Strong St. in Northampton) offers a wide range of birding books, audio resources, gifts, feeders, and other paraphernalia at a 10% discount to HBC Members.

## None the Wiser??

Now, in case you were overwhelmed by the plethora of important information in the preceding pages, first take a deep breath and remember that, despite the total chaos which passes for your life, the universe is, on the whole, unfolding as it should.

Now, if you are breathing normally again, here is a newsletter post-test which, if followed, will ensure you did not miss anything.

- ☐ Did you note that the next program is at the usual time and place on FEBRUARY 13?
- ☐ Did you decide to sign up for at least one of the fantastic field trips this month?
- ☐ Did you seriously consider a sojourn in the north Maine Woods in June with the Crown of Maine trip?
- ☐ Did you sign up to volunteer at WFCR on March 3 or are you going to the Mass Audubon Birders Meeting?
- ☐ Did you donate your aging Bausch and Lomb's to Zeke and his volunteers in Panama?
- ☐ Did you decide that your rambunctious third graders could really use some access to quality bird photographs from Sally's collection?
- ☐ Did you check out the HBC Facebook page and post something?
- ☐ Did you retract all those bad things you said about the editor under your breath on about p. 6?

Now, in theory, you may be forgiven for having answered "No" to some of these questions (party-poopers!), but if you find yourself answering "What's that all about?" with respect to any item, you will have to read the entire rag over again. Sorry, and good luck the second time through!

Mercifully, that is all the space we have this time!  
Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor  
529 9541  
newsletter@hampshirebirdclub



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

## Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
Volume 28, No. 7  
**March, 2012.**

Oh, g'day! Better take a brief break from planning my right-of-center third party presidential candidacy to bring you the latest from your friendly neighborhood bird club.

In this edition:

- the **program** for this month and the **upcoming schedule**,
- an absurdly verbose **trip report**, and coming trips,
- **sign up for the Crown of Maine trip NOW**,
- a proposed **By-Law amendment**,
- a request from the **Conte Refuge**,
- **Hitchcock, Arcadia, and Athol BNC** programs,
- a joke, plus
- a few other tid-bits.

I hope you find some of it useful!

### NEXT PROGRAM

#### Monday, March 12 at 7:30 PM

**Geoff Boettner** explores the amazing relationships between **Birds and Bugs**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

In the past 125 years Massachusetts has accidentally added over 360 new species of insects, (and purposely released an additional 155 other insects to control those pests). More accidental insects arrive every year, and some, like the emerald ash borer, will likely arrive in the next few years. This talk will explore 25 years in the field studying the ecology of 3 different defoliators (and what drives their populations). I will also discuss what roles birds will play in controlling some of these pests in the future. I hope to generate some fun discussions on what E. O. Wilson calls the "little things that run the world."

**Jeff Boettner** has a B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He has been a lab manager/field technician for Dr. Joe Elkinton at UMASS-Amherst for 26 years. Together they have carried out research which ranges from insect conservation (butterflies and moths) to insect control (gypsy moth, browntail moth, winter moth and hemlock adelgid). Their primary interests are in what causes the fluctuations in insect populations (everything from bird and mammal predation to parasites and diseases) and how to use these agents to control insect outbreaks or to benefit rare insect survival. Jeff has banded birds in Michigan and Massachusetts, tagged thousands of small mammals, and rears tens of thousands of caterpillars each year to study parasites. Jeff's current research is toward the goal of controlling winter moth in New England.

Jeff's work has been published in numerous scientific journals, newspapers, and magazines. Some of it has even been translated into Chinese and Spanish.



## COMING PROGRAMS

**April 9. Gina Nichol.** Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems.

**May 14. Bret Whitney.** Birds of Brazil.

**June 11. John Van de Graaff.** (to be announced).

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**Saturday, January 7, 2012. North Shore. Cape Ann to (Almost) Plum Island!**

**Participants:** Bob Bieda, Sue Emerson, Elaine Pourinski, Joe Wicinski, Harvey Allen, Ed Neumuth, Nidhin Joseph, Eric Huston, Al Richards, David Peake-Jones.

From the Jodrey Fish Pier in Gloucester, we scanned the green sward of nearby warehouse roofs and were rewarded with an **Iceland Gull** and some nice Surf Scoters in the harbor. From Niles Beach we were able to find some Horned Grebes to add to the total as well as a couple of Black Guillemots, a Gadwall, and scatterings of Bufflehead and Long-tailed Ducks far out in the bay. The brave and visually acute amongst us managed to make **Razorbills** out of three plump black-and-white specks far out on the water.

There were an assortment of birds on the shrinking open water at Niles Pond, including American Coot and another Iceland Gull. A burly bird standing on the ice (steadfastly refusing to reveal its wings) turned out to be the first **Glaucous Gull** of the day.

After pressing through an insane parking situation at Brace's Cove, we were rewarded with ultimately good looks at **Black-headed Gull**, another Glaucous Gull, as well as a **Northern Pintail** and several **Bonaparte's Gulls** plying the shallows with their dainty high prows and sterns.

From Granite Pier in Rockport, we were able to make out a Red-throated Loon, some nice **Harlequin Ducks**, and some **Purple Sandpipers** which were at the "limits of conjecture" even for resident conjecturalist Ed Neumuth. Ed, showing a humbling command of winter waterfowl for one from the most western extremes of the state, also found a **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Andrews Cove, where a Black Scoter gave us a clean scoter sweep for the trip.

Abandoning the shore for the 'burbs of Ipswich, we paid a visit to Jim Berry's home, where a **Townsend's Warbler** has been visiting a feeder. Jim, despite having been awoken from a nap by the horde of birders occupying his driveway, was kind enough to spread mealworms on his porch railing. These tidbits eventually did the trick, and the warbler dazzled us for a few minutes while it darted back and forth from a sheltering spruce to the wriggly smorgasbord on the railing.

As the day waned, we made a twilight visit to Cherry Hill Reservoir. Here we found a single **Canvasback**, Hooded Mergansers, a bevy of **Ruddy Ducks**, a Ring-necked Duck, a **Red-winged Blackbird** lingering in the balmy conditions, and a Belted Kingfisher. We failed to locate the Cassin's Kingbird which was the main motivator for our visit. For the day we tallied 65 species.

None of this would have been possible without some quality fuel. For the day, we consumed the following comestibles courtesy of McDonalds Corporation:

Six (6) Fillets of Fish

One Double Quarter Pounder with Cheese

Four (4) McChicken Sandwiches

Three (3) Egg McMuffins

One (1) Sausage McMuffin

Four (4) Sausage Burritos

Two (2) Bacon, Egg and Cheese Biscuits (sans Bacon)

One (1) Hash Brown

Three (3) Medium Fries

Three (3) Large Fries, and

One (1) .salad

This means we stoked up with a total of 10,430 calories, 1645 mg of cholesterol and 19, 845 mg of salt! If you listen hard on some still night, you may hear the collective weeping of participants over the rejoicing of local cardiologists (not to mention the persistent echoes of Dave Spector's Xmas Count owl tapes).

David Peake-Jones

## COMING TRIPS

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

*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 cost of travel.*

*\*marks 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.*

**\*Sunday, March 18. Connecticut River Waterfowl I.** Half day. Mike Locher travels from Holyoke to Hatfield looking for any 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 a.m. (E)

**\*Saturday, March 24. Connecticut River Waterfowl II.** All day. Joshua Rose scours the Turner's Falls environs for waterfowl bound northward and late gulls. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 7 a.m.. (E)

**\*Saturday, March 31. Plum Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron braves the weather along the coast to find you the birds! Call Geoff (413-268-9281) for information about when the trip will leave, and where people should meet. (M)

**\*Sunday, April 15. 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)

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE CHANGES

There have been some changes that will affect the schedule later in the summer.

Betsy Higgins will now be venturing into the wilds of Knightville Dam on August 18. The latest field trip schedule (Mark 3) is dated March 1, 2012, and is posted at [www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org) under "trips."

## Welcome, New Members!

**Tim Corbin**

**Paul and Maureen Kane**

**Janet Lansberry**

**Susan Tyler**

Granby.

Westfield.

Amherst.

Amherst.

We're happy to have you!

Alf snuck off during his lunch break to get a haircut. It took longer than usual and the boss caught him sneaking back in to the office. The boss challenged him, "What, getting a haircut on the company time, Alf?" Alf replied, "Well, it grew on company time, boss."

The boss retorted, "Not all of it did!"

Alf was ready for this and responded, "So that's why I didn't get it all cut off!"

# The Crown of Maine

Friday, June 15th, 2012 through Tuesday, June 19th, 2012

Leaders: Geoff LeBaron and Bill Sheehan (of Woodland, ME, our local expert).

You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip.

Excitement is building for this summer overnight trip, and wonderful weather has already been ordered! The registration window may close as early as APRIL, so ACT NOW!!

**Target bird species** will include boreal forest specialties around New Sweden (**Black-backed- and American Three-toed woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided flycatchers, Gray Jay, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee-, Bay-breasted-, Cape May-, and Blackpoll warblers**, etc), wetland, grassland, and shrub-land species around Presque Isle and Aroostook N.W.R. (nesting **Redhead** and **Ruddy Ducks** amid a myriad of other waterfowl, **American Bittern, Upland Sandpiper, and Mourning Warbler**), and especially **Spruce Grouse** among other boreal species in the Maine North Woods. We also hope to encounter wonderful wildflowers, intriguing large mammals, (editor not included) and the boreal dawn chorus.

**HBC Cost Estimate:** Participants will pay HBC a trip fee of approximately \$90, depending on how many people sign up. The cost may drop by up to \$20 as more people sign up.

## Additional Costs:

### Accommodation

Look to be spending between \$120 and \$200 for the four nights, for accommodations at at the most affordable motel: Russell's in Caribou. Russell's may fill up by mid-March, so it is imperative that you act NOW if you are cost-conscious. See also "Further Information."

### Transportation

We will travel independently to- and from Caribou, Maine. The round trip is approximately 1, 000 miles, and we will add an additional 250 miles or so per car while we are up there. Again, to keep costs down, it's important to car-pool and share costs, which will depend on your vehicle and the number of people you share with. See also "Further Information."

### Food and Sundries

Individuals will be responsible for all food costs during the trip, though Bill has a delightful habit of laying on coffee and snacks in the field. Breakfasts in-motel (fridges, microwaves etc. in all rooms) or at local convenience stores. Sack lunches/restaurants for lunches. Dinners will be at home-style restaurants in Caribou. See also "Further Information."

## Further Information

A detailed trip description is posted on our Website: [www.hampshirebirdclub.org/trips](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org/trips).

You may also contact Geoff LeBaron: [programs@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:programs@hampshirebirdclub.org); 413 268 9281.

**Registration. Registration is open.** Contact Mike Locher at [fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) or 585 5864. Again, accommodation becomes problematic if you wait till March, so register as soon as possible!

## Payments and Cancellations

To ensure your place, you need to register and pay the HBC trip fee (approx. \$90) BY April 30.

At least six (6) people must have PAID by this date for the trip to take place. Fourteen (14) is the maximum trip capacity. Trip fees may be partially or fully refundable after April 30, depending on the circumstances. Full details are available in the trip information on our Website or from the Field Trip Chair.

## BY-LAW CHANGE

The Board proposes an amendment to the club by-laws.

At present, the club has a number of membership categories, which do NOT include any specific outreach toward students. We would like to do all we can to attract younger folks to our ranks, and as part of this effort, we would like to offer a new membership category with a discounted rate for students.

Article 3.2 of the present By-Laws reads as follows:

“3.2 There are five membership classes:

- a) Individual - single person
- b) Family - two or more persons of the same household
- c) Supporting - an individual or family member making a contribution at or above a minimum level determined by the Board of Directors of the HBC.
- d) Complimentary - conferred annually by the Board to individuals who through their professional activities directly contribute to HBC.
- e) Honorary - lifetime membership conferred by the Board to recognize extraordinary contributions to the HBC or its stated purpose.”

The Board proposes that section 3.2 be amended to read as follows (deleted language ~~struck through~~, new language underlined).

3.2 There are ~~five~~ six membership classes:

- a) Student – a person who is currently a full-time student.
- b) Individual - single person.

etc.

The membership will be asked to vote on this amendment at the April meeting.

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

**Where Does Our Recycling Go? MRF Tour:** *Justine Fallon, Mass DEP*

Tuesday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Meet at Hitchcock Center to carpool.

**The Health Of Our Massachusetts Forests:** *Ken Gooch, Mass DCR*

Tuesday, March 6, 7-8:30 p.m. *Donation Requested.*

**Native New England Orchids Slideshow:** *Nancy Goodman*

Thursday, March 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Fee.

**Nature Drawing For The Non-Artist:** *Elizabeth Farnsworth*

Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m.-1 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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

## ATHOL BIRD AND NATURE PROGRAMS

### **Butterflies Near and Far:** *Sue Cloutier*

Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m.

### **The Wolves of New England:** *Michael LeBlanc*

Wednesday, April 11, 7 p.m.

Accompanying LeBlanc will be Denahee, a wolf he has raised since birth.

Note: This monthly meeting will be held at Liberty Hall at the Athol Town Hall (584 Main St.)

For more details, go to [www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net) or call (978) 248 9491.

Unless otherwise noted, programs meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. If weather is questionable on a field trip day, please call the trip leader at least an hour before the scheduled meeting time.

## **Wildlife Sightings at the Conte Refuge (Moody Bridge Road)**

Do you list your bird and other species when you go out on field trips? The staff at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge would be grateful for documentation of your sightings on refuge lands and other nearby conservation lands of its **Fort River Division**. This division of the refuge is a patchwork of conserved lands including and centered around the **Bri-Mar Stables** property at **69 Moody Bridge Rd.** and is open to the public. It is comprised of hay fields, old field, riverine and forest habitat.

Sightings include Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel and Bobolink. During the Christmas Bird Count Joshua Rose documented Hermit Thrush, Horned Larks, Belted Kingfisher and even late Eastern Meadowlarks. In May of 2010, Mary Alice Wilson saw, among a list of 47 species, Wilson's Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Cooper's Hawk and Orchard Oriole.

If you would like to contribute to our knowledge of the area, please send sightings to refuge biologist **Cynthia Boettner**, ([cynthia\\_boettner@fws.gov](mailto:cynthia_boettner@fws.gov)). Eventually, an official system of reporting will be developed, but until then, please send a list that includes your name and contact information, the date of observation and notes about the location of the sightings. If you have questions or would like a map of the area, feel free to email a request or call 413-548-8002 ext. 115. Thank you!

Cynthia Boettner

## **Binoculars Wanted**

Club member Zeke Jakub is doing research on bird conservation in urban central America (Panama City, Panama), along with Panamanian high school and college students. Together, they are looking at the viability of urban areas as conservation zones for migratory and resident birds through species richness surveys and landscape/patch analyses. Zeke and *Conservación de Aves Tropicales* (Panamá) are looking for 4-6 pairs of binoculars (in working condition) for the observers to use. If you can help, please contact Zeke care of *Conservación de Aves Tropicales* (Panamá)

U.S. Ph: (413)773-7906

Panama Cell Ph: (507) 6718-9397

Panama Home Ph: (671) 89397

[ezekieljakub@gmail.com](mailto:ezekieljakub@gmail.com) or [ejakub@antioch.edu](mailto:ejakub@antioch.edu)

## HBC ON FACEBOOK!!

### HBC online news



**Find the  
HBC on  
Facebook**

HBC is, above all else, a community of people. As such, the most essential element of our organization is that we INTERACT. Now, thanks to the efforts of Zeke Jakub, Josh Rose, and others, we have an exciting new way to do it!

Did you ever want to:

- Show off a beautiful picture you took at your feeder?
- Ask an ID question to a friendly *local* audience? or
- Check with others in the club on what optics to buy when the aging Bausch and Lomb finally give out?

All these and more are now much easier to do because

### ***HBC has a Facebook page!***

It features:

- the **“Wall.”** Post messages, pictures, video, Internet links and RESPOND to the postings of others. Currently there is a great video Merry Cushing posted of a Hooded Crow being zany, and Janice’s now-famous Ruffed Grouse shot. A great spot to air that tough ID question.
- **“Notes.”** Announcements for the club and other local groups. Already includes Don Kroodsma trolling for bird-song snitches.
- **“Photos.”** Post your own and share those of others, includes monthly bird ID quizzes. HBC membership forms are posted here which gives us an easy way to ~~ensure~~ recruit new members for the club.
- **“Events.”** Programs and field trips for HBC and other local outfits.
- **“Discussions.”** A place to start and take part in conversations on a whole range of things birdy. Currently some great optics links courtesy of Eagle Optics.

The Facebook page will not replace either the newsletter or the Website. It will simply add a new dimension to communication within our club.

### **So how do I get this Facebook thingy? (We hear you cry).**

To simply take a look at the Facebook page, you can hit the Facebook symbol on the HBC Website at [www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org).

To begin to interact with the HBC Facebook community, (post, comment etc.) you need to become a member of Facebook, which you can do at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). If you are a member, just search for “Hampshire Bird Club” and press the “Like” button when you get to our page.

Oh, and don’t forget, Facebook is PUBLIC. Please do not post member addresses or anything else which would compromise the privacy of others.

Thanks to Zeke Jakub and Dave Gross for help with this announcement.

### **Helping Out at WFCR**

**Dave Gross** (organizer and *Keeper of the Numbers*, oooohhh.....), **Ann Brooks**, **Sue Emerson**, **Sally Hills**, **Marcia Merithew**, **Elizabeth McAnulty**, **David Peake-Jones** and **Sandy Woodrow** represented HBC, answering phones at the WFCR/WNNZ fund drive on Saturday, March 3. As always, there were thrills and spills, wonderful baked goods, adequate coffee, lots of fun and fellowship in a good cause. We do this annually, so look for Dave’s plaintive appeals again next year!

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](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)



## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)

Volume 28, No. 8

**April, 2012.**

*Those who want bird-related material and have no interest in horticulture and juvenile criminology may wish to skip to page 2.*

What is it with kids and daffodils? Both are, for the most part, symbols of renewal and innocence, yet they are about as compatible as bears and bird feeders.

Just this week, I wandered out into the back yard to survey the burgeoning buds and delicate blossoms of spring. One of the neighbors' little bundles of joy, dressed in the cutest little pink jumpsuit was sharing the bounty of the season, kneeling down next to one of the clumps of daffodils that bedeck the lawn at this time of year. Since I had apparently forgotten the experience of past years, my mind immediately leapt to noble thoughts about the joys of youth and the gentle curiosity of young people. I was only slightly perturbed when she reached out and delicately plucked one of the blossoms from its stalk. I approached, with a careful greeting, and we marveled together at the delicacy and perfection of this flower. I graciously suggested that, since she had now picked this one, she could keep it but leave the rest for others to enjoy. She murmured in what I took to be agreement, and wandered off on one of those trails of wonder and inquiry we all remember from our early years. As she knelt down in front of our largest clump of bi-colored daffs and bent to sniff the fragrance, I reflected proudly that I had managed to instill a little respect for nature and personal property in one so young, without destroying the curiosity of youth.

Then she reached out, grabbed the entire flowering mass with both hands, and pulled them from their stems.

The above turned out to be this year's prelude to the annual assault on all things botanical in our yard by local youth. Later the same day, I responded to a rhythmic thumping from the yard to find pink jumpsuit's brother having at one of our apple trees with a badminton racquet. He had found me working on said apple tree the previous day and asked what I was doing. I foolishly told him that I was helping the tree by taking small pieces off it – a process known as “pruning.” Racquet boy now proudly informed me that he was “runing” the tree, which, judging by the pile of buds and twigs accumulating underneath, was quite literally true.

It was only after I came across pink jumpsuit's sister and racquet boy absconding with about half the foliage from a 15 foot *arbor vitae* for their tree fort that my voice rose a notch and I was forced to place some prohibitions on the traffic in vegetation from what I selfishly like to think of as “my” land.

So, for those of you battling with invasives, weeds, or other unwanted plants (like the soon-to-be-world-dominating *hostas*), I have a suggestion. Invite the neighbor kids over, show them the wonders of nature right there in your own back yard, then tell them not to touch! Happy spring!

Well, it's all business from here on! In this edition we have:

- This month's **program** and the schedule for the remainder of the year,
- **Trip reports and coming trips,**
- **Last chance** to sign up for the **Crown of Maine** overnight trip,
- A by-law amendment (woo-hoo!),
- **Programs from other organizations,** and
- A few sundry items of general interest.

I hope you find some of it useful!

## NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, April 9 at 7:30 PM**

**Gina Nichol** looks into the lives of **Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

With 340 species known in the world, hummingbirds are the second largest family of birds after flycatchers. These tiny aeronautic marvels have the ability to hover, fly backward, and migrate long distances. The physiological capacity of hummingbirds to raise and lower their heart rate and body temperature to survive cold nights is unmatched in the animal world. This program illustrates the amazing adaptations of these glittering gems and describes their fascinating life histories. Vivid photographs of hummingbirds in North, Central, and South America tell the story of how these birds survive in habitats that range from tropical forests to the forests of the Andes.

**Gina Beebe Nichol** has been a naturalist and birder for thirty years. After receiving her B.S. in Environmental Education from Cornell University and her M.A. in Educational Technology from Fairfield University, she began leading wildlife tours for Audubon Nature Odysseys in the early 1990's in Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, the Pacific Northwest, and Baja California.

Gina's avid interest in wildlife biology led her to the Yellowstone Institute in Wyoming where she studied animal behavior and methods for tracking animal movements. She also worked on a research projects investigating habitat requirements of Eurasian Otters in Scotland and Mountain Lions in the Jim Sage Mountains in Idaho.

Gina has led bird watching tours in Alaska, Antarctica, China, Kenya and countless countries in between. In 2005, she founded **Sunrise Birding LLC**, based in **Connecticut** to offer personalized, authentic, affordable private and small group bird watching and wildlife tours around the world.

## COMING PROGRAMS

**May 14. Bret Whitney:** Birds of Brazil.

**June 11. John Van de Graaff:** Peregrinations 2 - Adventures of a Wildlife Photographer.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**Connecticut Valley Waterfowl 1. Sunday, March 18.**

Mike Locher led a contingent of folks through the lower valley looking for waterfowl. We had a few Wood Ducks at Hadley Cove, a nice encounter with a Bald Eagle on the Route 202 bridge in Holyoke, a pleasant but unbirdy stop at the dinosaur footprints, and some Rusty Blackbirds on the shores of Great Pond in Hatfield. A nice trip in good company. The waterfowl, though, seem to have made it to the prairie potholes without even a brief stop around here.

David Peake-Jones





## Field Trip Reports (continued)

### Connecticut River Waterfowl 2. Saturday, March 24.

Josh Rose and one (mystery) birder toured the northern part of the valley looking for all the waterfowl Mike missed the previous week.

We started at the Turners Falls power canal, then checked the TF Rod & Gun Club and Barton Cove. We stopped briefly in downtown Turners Falls to check the crabapples (all the waxwings there were Cedar), then returned to the opposite side of the canal via Depot Road and walked the powerline cut down to the little marsh there. Our final stop for the official trip was the fields near the Bement School in Deerfield, but I did a little on my own afterwards.

The total tally was 48 species. Highlights included an **Eastern Meadowlark**, singing near the runway of the Northampton Airport in East Meadows; an early Double-crested Cormorant on a buoy in Barton Cove, a Field Sparrow at the wet end of the powerline cut south of the power canal (where we had several of them during the Greenfield CBC); a gull on the power canal, (tentatively identified at 2nd-year Great Black-backed); an American Kestrel on Mill Valley Road in Hadley; a crowing Ring-necked Pheasant somewhere between the power canal and the river, and my first-of-the-year Fish Crows.

The only diving ducks of the day were a drake Ring-necked Duck at the TF Rod & Gun Club, and some Common Mergansers.

Josh Rose

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

(See also the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule)

*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 cost of travel.*

*\*marks 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.*

**\*Sunday, April 15. 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 29. 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 5. Forest Park/Fannie Stebbins, Springfield.** Half to  $\frac{3}{4}$  day. David Peake-Jones leads a new HBC trip to what is generally considered to be "the Central Park of Springfield." There is a possibility of an extension to the Stebbins refuge depending on interest and what's being seen. Call David (413-529-9541) for meeting time and place. (E)

**Sunday, May 6. MacLeish Field Station, Northampton.** Half day. In a new trip for the HBC, Bill Benner explores a newly-opened property managed by Smith College. Call Bill (413-320-4422) as the date approaches for meeting information. (E)

## The Crown of Maine

*Friday, June 15th, 2012 through Tuesday, June 19th, 2012*

*Leaders: Geoff LeBaron and Bill Sheehan (of Woodland, ME, our local expert).*

You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip.'

Registration closes on APRIL 30, so ACT NOW!!

**Target bird species** will include boreal forest specialties around New Sweden (**Black-backed- and American Three-toed woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided flycatchers, Gray Jay, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee-, Bay-breasted-, Cape May-, and Blackpoll warblers**, etc.), wetland, grassland, and shrub-land species around Presque Isle and Aroostook N.W.R. (nesting **Redhead and Ruddy Ducks** amid a myriad of other waterfowl, **American Bittern, Upland Sandpiper, and Mourning Warbler**), and especially **Spruce Grouse** among other boreal species in the Maine North Woods. We also hope to encounter wonderful wildflowers, intriguing large mammals, (editor not included) and the boreal dawn chorus.

**HBC Cost Estimate:** Participants will pay HBC a trip fee of approximately \$90, depending on how many people sign up. Additional costs include lodging, meals and transportation. The cost may drop by up to \$20 as more people sign up.

### **Additional Costs:**

#### Accommodation

Look to be spending between \$120 and \$200 for the four nights, for accommodations at Russell's in Caribou. Prices will be higher if Russell's is full. See also "Further Information."

#### Transportation

We will travel independently to- and from Caribou, Maine. The round trip is approximately 1, 000 miles, and we will add an additional 250 miles or so per car while we are up there. Again, to keep costs down, it's important to car-pool and share costs, which will depend on your vehicle and the number of people you share with. See also "Further Information."

#### Food and Sundries

Individuals will be responsible for all food costs during the trip, though Bill has a delightful habit of laying on coffee and snacks in the field. Breakfasts in-motel (fridges, microwaves etc. in all rooms) or at local convenience stores. Sack lunches/restaurants for lunches. Dinners will be at home-style restaurants in Caribou. See also "Further Information."

### **Further Information**

A detailed trip description is posted on our Website: [www.hampshirebirdclub.org/trips](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org/trips).

You may also contact Geoff LeBaron: [programs@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:programs@hampshirebirdclub.org); 413 268 9281.

**Registration. *Registration is open.*** Contact Mike Locher at [fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) or 585 5864.

### **Payments and Cancellations**

To ensure your place, you need to register and pay the HBC trip fee (approx. \$90) BY April 30. Fourteen (14) is the maximum trip capacity. Trip fees may be partially or fully refundable after April 30, depending on the circumstances. Full details are available in the trip information on our Website or from the Field Trip Chair.

## A WORD FROM MISS MANNERS!

*As the field trip season ramps up, our field trip leaders need your help. At the best of times, there are plenty of things that can take the gloss off a day of birding. These might include inclement weather, the State Police, a recalcitrant spouse, or the newsletter editor hovering at the back of the group documenting the dearth of birds. Notwithstanding these vagaries of fate, we can all do our part to make sure trips go as smoothly as possible. Here are a few items adapted from the HBC Field Trip Guidelines....*

- 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.
- Carpooling is essential to allow the group to park when space is limited, reduce delays, minimize the likelihood of auto accidents and to help keep the group together. If possible, carpool from the valley. If you do meet the group at the birding location or en-route, please be willing to carpool while birding is in progress. The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making all carpool arrangements.
- Be on time at the meeting place. If you need to meet the group at the birding location or *en route*, agree on an easily-located meeting point (preferably doubling as a “pit stop”) and arrive there early so as not to delay the group. Every stop *en route* to the birding location extends travel time and reduces birding time.

*Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation!*

## Wildlife Sightings at the Conte Refuge (Moody Bridge Road)

Do you list your bird and other species when you go out on field trips? The staff at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge would be grateful for documentation of your sightings on refuge lands and other nearby conservation lands of its **Fort River Division**. This division of the refuge is a patchwork of conserved lands including and centered around the **Bri-Mar Stables** property at **69 Moody Bridge Rd.** and is open to the public. It is comprised of hay fields, old field, riverine and forest habitat.

If you would like to contribute to our knowledge of the area, please send sightings to refuge biologist **Cynthia Boettner**, ([cynthia\\_boettner@fws.gov](mailto:cynthia_boettner@fws.gov)). Eventually, an official system of reporting will be developed, but until then, please send a list that includes your name and contact information, the date of observation and notes about the location of the sightings. If you have questions or would like a map of the area, feel free to email a request or call 413-548-8002 ext. 115. Thank you!

Cynthia Boettner

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Tina Barsby	Amherst
Ann & Michael Brooks	Northampton
Ethan Carr	Amherst
Tim Corbin	Granby
Stephanie Chapko & George Regmund	Amherst
Janet Lansberry	Amherst
Caitlin McKinnell & Dan & Henry Klatz	Northampton
Susan Tyler	Amherst

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

**An Artist In Antarctica:** *Bob Marstall*

Thursday, April 12, 7-9 p.m. Free.

**Volunteer Citizen Scientists Wanted: Henry Street Salamander Egg Mass Survey**

Date TBA: a sunny afternoon in April. Free.

**Amherst Sustainability Festival :** *Held on the Amherst Town Common and around town*

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Birding By Ear:** *John Green*

Saturday, April 21, 7-10 a.m.: Quabbin, New Salem

Saturday, May 26, 7-10 a.m.: Graves Farm, Williamsburg

Saturday, June 23, 7-10 a.m.: Fitzgerald Lake, Northampton . Fee.

**The Shortest Route From The Sun To Fuel: Microbial Electrosynthesis :** *Kelly Nevin*

Tuesday, April 24, 7-8:30 p.m. Donations appreciated.

**Pruning Fundamentals :** *Jim McSweeney*

Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Held in Chesterfield. Fee.

**Low-Maintenance Design With Native Plants :** *Owen Wormser*

Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Held at the New England Wild Flower Society's Nasami Farm in Whately. Fee.

**Birds And Breakfast At Brookfield Farm:** *Peter McLean*

Sundays, April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 7-10 a.m. Held at the Brookfield Farm, Hulst Road, Amherst. Fee.

**Native Bee Pollinators:** *Joan Milam and Tom Sullivan*

Tuesday, May 1, 6:30-8:30 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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

### Binoculars Wanted

Club member Zeke Jakub is doing research on bird conservation in urban central America (Panama City, Panama), along with Panamanian high school and college students. Together, they are looking at the viability of urban areas as conservation zones for migratory and resident birds through species richness surveys and landscape/patch analyses. Zeke and *Conservación de Aves Tropicales* (Panamá) are looking for 4-6 pairs of binoculars (in working condition) for the observers to use. If you can help, please contact Zeke care of

*Conservación de Aves Tropicales* (Panamá)

U.S. Ph: (413)773-7906

Panama Cell Ph: (507) 6718-9397

Panama Home Ph: (671) 89397

[ezekiellakub@gmail.com](mailto:ezekiellakub@gmail.com) or [ejakub@antioch.edu](mailto:ejakub@antioch.edu)

## ARCADIA PROGRAMS

**Bear Swamp Reservation Discovery Hike:** *Mike Whalen*

At Bear Swamp Reservation, Ashfield. Saturday, April 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fee.

**Ducks in the Valley:** *Peter Redfern*

Saturday, April 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fee.

**Bird Sounds....Songs and Calls:** *John Green and Patti Steinman*

Wednesday, April 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fee.

**Beyond Novice Digital SLR and Photoshop Nature Photography:** *Robert Floyd*

Fridays, April 13, 20, 27 and May 4. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Fee.

**Keystone Arch Bridges Trail Hike:** *Mike Whalen.*

At Keystone Arches, Chester. Saturday, April 14 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Fee.

**Intensive Field Study Program:** *John Foster.*

11 sessions various times. Saturdays and Sundays from April-September

Co-sponsored with the New England Naturalist Training Center.

Details and application: [www.nentc.com/courses.htm](http://www.nentc.com/courses.htm).

**Great Blue Herons:** *Patti Steinman*

Saturday, April 14 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Fee.

**Hallockville Pond Mill Trail Walk:** *Mike Whalen*

At Hawley, MA. Saturday, April 21 from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fee.

**Birding the Amherst Rail Trail:** *John Green*

Saturday, April 27 from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. Fee.

**All State Volunteer Day at Laughing Brook Sanctuary, Hampden, MA**

Saturday, April 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Windsor Bush Discovery Hike:** *Mike Whalen*

At Windsor Jambs State Forest. Saturday, April 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fee.

For more details of these and other programs go to [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) (select “Sanctuaries”, then “Choose a Sanctuary: Arcadia”) or call the sanctuary at the number below. To register for programs contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary**, 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton, MA 01027. Telephone **(413) 584-3009**.

## BROAD BROOK COALITION PROGRAMS

**Lives and Loves Amid the Vernal Pools:** *Brandon Abbott*

Saturday, April 7, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. North Farms Road entrance. Free.

**Broad Brook Coalition (BBC)** is a non-profit, all-volunteer community organization dedicated to the preservation of open space and the promotion of affordable housing. Amongst other things, the coalition helps manage the 646-acre **Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area** in Northampton. For details of this and other programs, and all you could want to know about BBC, please visit [www.broadbrookcoalition.org](http://www.broadbrookcoalition.org).

## BY-LAW CHANGE

The Board proposes a change to the club by-laws.

We would like to do all we can to attract students to our ranks, and as part of this effort, we would like to offer a new membership category with a discounted rate for students.

Article 3.2 of the present By-Laws reads as follows:

**“3.2 There are five membership classes:**

- a) Individual - single person**
- b) Family - two or more persons of the same household**
- c) Supporting - an individual or family member making a contribution at or above a minimum level determined by the Board of Directors of the HBC.**
- d) Complimentary - conferred annually by the Board to individuals who through their professional activities directly contribute to HBC.**
- e) Honorary - lifetime membership conferred by the Board to recognize extraordinary contributions to the HBC or its stated purpose.”**

The Board proposes that section 3.2 be amended to read as follows (deleted language ~~struck through~~, new language *in italics*).

**3.2 There are ~~five~~ *six* membership classes:**

- a) *Student – a person who is currently a full-time student.***
- b) Individual - single person.**

etc.

There will be a vote on this proposed amendment at the April club meeting.

## ATHOL BIRD AND NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

**Early Birding with Jeff Johnstone**

Sundays April 8, 15, 22, 29 from 7-10 a.m.

**The Quest for the Eastern Cougar:** *Robert Tougias*

April 12, 7 – 9 p.m. Athol Town Hall. Free.

**Asian Long-horned Beetle Workshop**

April 14, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Mt Auburn Cemetery:** *Joan and Larry Duprey*

April 28, 6 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Northfield Birding:** *Bob Coyle*

May 5, 6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

For more details, go to [www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net) or call (978) 248 9491.

Unless otherwise noted, programs meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

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](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)



## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)

Volume 28, No. 9

**May, 2012.**

Oh, g'day! I'm taking a moment from filling out my Secret Service application to bring you some news from the bird club. Plus a bit of self indulgence on page 1. Those who do not want to enable my literary fantasies may want to skip to page 2.

*May 3 dawned damp and cool, as had the previous few days. I had vowed to get up early and go out before work in search of migrants. As it turned out, I got up moderately early and got to Arcadia just before I was due at work, but we need not dwell on such details.*

*I was surprised to find the area around the Arcadia education center rather quiet. In fact, as I did a quick circuit of the meadow, the trees and understory were devoid of anything except some residents, and a single Black and White Warbler who obviously hadn't got the memo. So it was with some rather uncharitable mutterings that I stomped off through the orchard and along the shore of the marsh, both of which were also entirely free of any avian interest. I remembered that, sometimes, the birding can be good at the Iron Bridge, where the Mill River flows into the Oxbow. As I approached, the silence gave way to the sound of birds. As I drew nearer, the volume of their voices grew, but it was not the discrete singing we typically listen for at this time of year, nor the muted chips and call notes of fall or evening. I can only describe it as a sort of conversational hubbub, like humans might make at a charity auction. It turned out I was hearing hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers, their rather weak trills rolling together to make an exhilarating tribute to migration. As I emerged at the bridge, it was as if I were treading water in a sea of birdsong. The trees along the southern shore of the Oxbow were literally crawling with birds!*

*We all know that the migration is patchy. We talk about hitting a "pocket" or a "wave" of songbirds as we are out birding, and we all know these can be here one moment, and gone the next. But how could one whole section of the sanctuary be entirely devoid of warblers, and this part so alive with them? My guess is that these birds, foraging after an extended night-flight, are those that encountered the Oxbow, surely not a large enough body of water to give them pause during a high-altitude flight, but certainly not good foraging habitat for tired birds trying to refuel. Hence, they became concentrated along the shore. Or p'raps they liked the bugs in silver maples! Truth is, I have no idea why these multitudes were where they were. In birding, as in life, joy is most often found where not all is known.*

We are in the last two months of the club year, and we are at the height of the spring migration. Every day brings new arrivals and friends we haven't seen since last year. I hope you can find a way to be part of it! There's a whole bunch of stuff in this month's newsletter that might help.

I hope you find some of it useful!



## NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Brett Whitney** explores **Brazil and Peru: New Birds in Old Places**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

The vast Amazon basin harbors the highest diversity of birds on Earth, and it appears that the age of discovery is far from over! Learn how ornithologist and tour guide Bret Whitney combines his knowledge of bird sounds and the lay of the land with NASA technology to sleuth out ancient avian hideaways in Amazonian Brazil and Peru. Bret has discovered and described several species of birds new to science and is working on several more.

**Bret Whitney** must be at least half Brazilian by now. It all began when he was born, birding in the wild Midwest, mostly in Indiana, where he was narrowly overlooked by his high school baseball team but did, in fact, graduate from Earlham College. He is known for his ability to identify birds by their calls and songs, which has led to his discovering multiple species new to science. Bret is one of the founders of *Field Guides Incorporated* ([www.fieldguides.com](http://www.fieldguides.com)), a Research Associate at the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, an Associate of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell, 2004 recipient of the American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom award, and an eternal optimist about everything except Ivory-billed Woodpeckers!

## COMING PROGRAMS

**June 11. John Van de Graaff.** Peregrinations II: Six Years More.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**Ashley Ponds. Sunday, April 15, 2012.**

Harvey Allen, Sue Emerson, Henry Klatz, Mike Locher, Maryanne McKim, Caitlin McKinnell, and David Peake-Jones accompanied **Mike Locher** for a stroll through the pine-clothed environs of these attractive reservoirs in Holyoke. Right out of the gate at the Elks we had a nice smattering of birds singing, including Pine Warbler, though we would not glimpse one till later in the day. The water was empty of birds bar some Canada Geese, Mallards, a few pairs of Wood Ducks, and a lone Hooded Merganser. When we chanced to look up, it was often to find hawks in migration. Though the numbers were not huge, we did find a **Broad-winged Hawk**, several **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, a **Coopers Hawk**, an **Osprey** (perhaps more than one), and a **Northern Harrier**.

As we made our way around the reservoir, we compared and tried to contrast the dozens of trilling songbirds, seeking to pick the Chipping Sparrows from the Pine Warblers. By the end of the walk we were pretty darn good at it. Hopefully the birds are too! Adding some variety to the constant chipping were the calls of a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, and the ethereal spring-specialties: Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers. Around the back of the reservoir we found a fly-over Barn Swallow, a Swamp Sparrow in a puddle, a Rough-winged Swallow eyeing the drain pipes at the outflow, a Great Horned Owl being mobbed by crows, a Palm Warbler or two bobbing and weaving and, finally, the peevish song of a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, which proved to be the first of many.

(continues on page 3)



### Ashley Ponds (continued)

Following a series of unmistakable strident whistles, we walked along the train tracks for a while in search of a Louisiana Warbler. For a time, it seemed the increasing heat of the day, and the roar of the nearby ATV crowd might thwart the effort, but, just when all seemed lost, we got great looks at a singing male up close, and, in fact, observed the bird chasing another male. Finally, on the way back to our cars, we found a **Hermit Thrush** to complete the target list for the day.

Reptile-wise, it was an interesting walk. We found a knot of nesting water snakes at the outflow, and came across the largest aggregation of Painted Turtles any of us had ever seen near the alternate entrance. Basking space was apparently at such a premium, we saw one Painted Turtle riding on the back of a massive Alligator Snapping Turtle as it cruised menacingly through the shallows!

David Peake-Jones



### Look Park. Sunday, April 28.

Sue Emerson, Jeff Traft, Hank and Shirley Atwood, Nidhin Joseph, Carol Gabranski, Caitlin McKinnell, Anne Lombard, Bruce Hart, Ilene Goldstein, and Mary Lou Splain were hoping to accompany Betsy Higgins on her annual loop around the park. Betsy having been detained by the arrival of a grand-daughter in San Diego, David Peake-Jones made a gallant but ultimately pale attempt to match her extraordinary ear in the leadership role.

We assembled in the parking lot of the JFK Middle School on a chilly but clear morning. After listening to our first Chipping Sparrows of the day, we set off into the park. Once inside, we made the traditional circuit, commencing with the first of many Yellow-rumped Warblers. Above the little pond right inside the entrance we found the first of two young Red-tails, impersonating Red-shouldered Hawks. About a quarter of the way around, we finally found a **Pine Warbler** to contrast with the multitudes of Chipping Sparrows. Further around the circle, we managed to find a quiet **Black-and White Warbler**, watched Hairy Woodpeckers carrying food in and out of a nesting cavity, were treated to a **Palm Warbler** teetering in a little bush, and tried in vain to locate a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** singing ventriloqually from, well, we will never know where! We did eventually track one down a little further along.

Branching off the main track we made a detour in the far corner of the park along the banks of the Mill River. A Bald Eagle sailed improbably upstream at eye level toward the distant dam, and by following a series of clear, sweet notes, we eventually had best-ever views of two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** foraging along the far bank. Back on the main circuit, rising wind and late-morning heat made birds tough to come by, but did not prevent us from finding another singing Louisiana, nor did they stop us rampaging through a stand of garlic mustard in a frenzy of community-minded invasive control. We wrapped up the morning, content with some hard-won finds and a fine day with good company.

David Peake-Jones

### Out of the Mouths of Babes

After my slightly embarrassing episode with the word “racquet” in the last edition, I went searching for other examples of folks who got it wrong. Hereafter are a few actual test responses from English primary (grade) school students.

*“Crabs and creatures like them all belong to a family of crushed asians.”*

## ANOTHER WORD FROM MISS MANNERS

*As the field trip season ramps up, our field trip leaders need your help. At the best of times, there are plenty of things that can take the gloss off a day of birding. These might include inclement weather, the State Police, a recalcitrant spouse, or the newsletter editor hovering at the back of the group documenting the dearth of birds. Notwithstanding these vagaries of fate, we can all do our part to make sure trips go as smoothly as possible. Here are a few items adapted from the HBC Field Trip Guidelines....*

1)..PLEASE CONTACT THE TRIP LEADER SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE TRIP. Calling the night before really puts the leader on the spot. We need to do better on this one. If you aren't sure, register early and cancel later.

2) 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.

3) 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.

Your field trip leaders thank you, in anticipation....

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Hampshire Bird Club Inc. will take place on Monday, May 14, 2012 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 2012-2013 club year. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for next year:

**President:** Scott Surner

**Vice-President/Program Chair:** Geoff Lebaron

**Treasurer:** Janice Jorgensen

**Membership Secretary:** Sue Emerson

**Communications Secretary:** Donna Rickerby

**Members-at-Large:**

Bruce Hart

Mike Locher

Jan Ortiz

David Peake-Jones

Jaap van Heerden

Josh Rose

Further nominations will be accepted from the floor.

HBC would like to express our gratitude to our departing Communications Secretary, **Elissa Rubinstein**. Elissa has diligently recorded the minutes of countless Board meetings over a number of years, and has communicated with various individuals and organizations on our behalf with clarity and diplomacy. She always seems able to steer the Board back towards its proper course with gentleness and quiet wit. We will miss you Elissa!

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Families and Falconry

Saturday, June 9, 10 – 11:30 am at New England Falconry on River Drive, Hadley, MA.

This club program directed towards young people will give each participant the unique opportunity to learn about the art of falconry, the special adaptations of raptors, and the need for their conservation as well as to experience the thrill of a free-flying trained Harris Hawk landing on their gloved hand.

The group size will be limited. In keeping with the goals of the Education Committee, priority on sign up will be given to those 5 – 18 yrs. old. (Chris will allow participants as young as five years of age but he must be the one supporting the child's arm as the hawk is flying to the glove.)

Chris Davis, Master Falconer, has been a licensed falconer since 1979. He is the first Master Falconer permitted in this country to offer hands on falconry education. Chris received a Masters Degree in Resource Management and conducts research on threatened species for Federal and State wildlife agencies.

Donations will be gratefully accepted to help cover the cost of the program.

To sign-up contact Jan Ortiz at [jtortiz@aol.com](mailto:jtortiz@aol.com), or 413-549-1768.

### Hampshire Bird Club Scholarships

The Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee will accept requests from young people ages 12 to 18 years old for monetary donations to aid them in attending a birding or natural history camp or conference.

To be considered for aid, applicants must fill out an application form supplied by the Committee. It must be submitted at least 8 weeks prior to the start of the camp or conference.

Subject to the review and approval of a majority of the Committee, the Committee may grant the applicant what they consider an appropriate amount drawn from the Education Committee funds.

## LIBRARY

The HBC Library is 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](http://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. Our librarian, **Henry Lappen**, is happy to bring items to meetings, if you give him a few days in advance. You can reach him at [library@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:library@hampshirebirdclub.org) or (413) 549 3722.

### Out of the Mouths of Babes

*“A mosque is a sort of church. The main difference is that its roof is doomed.”*

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

**Chilean Patagonia: Rivers In Peril and Power:** *Brian Reid*

Tuesday, May 8, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation requested.

### **Biothon 2012**

Any 24-hr period during May 11–13 or May 18–20

**Names & Categories: An Introduction to the Classification of Life:** *David Spector*

Thursday, May 17, 7-8:30 p.m. Fee.

**Spring Wildflowers at High Ledges:** *Connie Parks*

Co-sponsored with Arcadia. Saturday, May 19; 9 a.m.-noon. Fee.

**Native Wildflowers of The Valley:** *Nancy Goodman*

Saturday, June 2: Station Road, Amherst, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fee.

Two (2) walks later in the season.

*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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

## BROAD BROOK COALITION PROGRAMS

**Experience the Dawn Chorus Crescendo:** *Frank Bowrys*

Saturday, May 12, 4 a.m.. FLCA Moose Lodge entrance.

Contact Bruce hart: [bhart2000@aol.com](mailto:bhart2000@aol.com) for possible second start time at 7 AM.Saturday, June 2. 7-9 a.m. or 10 a.m.

### **Annual Cleanup**

Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.. FLCA North Farms Road entrance.

Contact Bruce Hart at 584 4176.

**Breeding Birds – Varied Habitats:** *Andrew Finch Magee*

Saturday, June 2, 7-9 a.m. or 10 a.m. FLCA North Farms Road entrance.

**Shrubland Habitats and Native Plants:** *Bob Zimmermann*

Saturday, June 2, 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Contact Bob Zimmermann at 585 0405.

**Broad Brook Coalition (BBC)** is a non-profit, all-volunteer community organization dedicated to the preservation of open space and the promotion of affordable housing. Amongst other things, the coalition manages the 646-acre **Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area (FLCA)** in Northampton where most programs are held. For details of this and other programs, and all you could want to know about BBC, please visit [www.broadbrookcoalition.org](http://www.broadbrookcoalition.org).

### **Out of the Mouths of Babes**

“Then Joan of Arc met her end. She was burned as a steak.”

## ARCADIA PROGRAMS

### **Early Morning Birding:** *Guest Leaders.*

Monday - Friday, May 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. 6:30 – 8:00 am

Saturdays, May 12 and 26. 7:00 – 8:30 am

At Graves Farm. Saturday, May 12. 7:00 – 8:30 am

At Laughing Brook. Saturday, May 19. 7:30 am.

### **Spring Wildflowers at Marion Sherman Lynes Sanctuary:** *Connie Parks and Janet Bissell.*

Wednesday, May 9. 9:00 am – 12 noon.

### **Birding By Canoe:** *David McLain*

Friday, May 11. 6 – 8 am.

### **Quabbin Park Bird Walk:** *John Green*

Saturday, May 19. 7 – 10 am.

### **Spring Wildflowers at High Ledges:** *Connie Parks*

Saturday, May 19. 9 am – 12 noon.

*All programs require a fee unless otherwise stated. For more details of these and other programs go to [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) (select “Sanctuaries”, then “Choose a Sanctuary: Arcadia”) or call the sanctuary at the number below. To register for programs contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary**, 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027. Telephone **(413) 584-3009**.*

## ATHOL BIRD AND NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS

### **Friday Mornings with Earle. (Birding).** Free.

Friday, May 11, 8:45 a.m.

Friday, May 18, 8:45 a.m.

Friday, May 25, 8:45 a.m.

### **“Early Bird” Birding with Jeff (Johnstone).** Free.

Sunday, May 13, 7 a.m.

### **Aquatic Invasives:** *Paula Packard (Quabbin).* Wednesday, May 9, 7 – 9 p.m. Free.

### **7th Annual Plant Sale.** Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### **Bearsden: Round Top and Sheep Rock (Hike).** *Dan Bolton.*

Saturday, May 12, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.

### **Reception, Book Signing & Moths.** *Seabrooke Leckie.*

Saturday, May 12, 7 p.m, - late night.

### **Birds of Athol.** Free.

*Joan and Larry Duprey.* Saturday, May 19, 7 a.m.

*Jeff Johnstone.* Sunday, May 20, 7 a.m.

*For more details, including meeting places, go to [www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net) or call (978) 248 9491.*

*Unless otherwise noted, indoor programs meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.*

## SAVE BIRDS WITH WINDOW TAPE

A new, translucent adhesive tape, which tests show can significantly reduce bird collisions with glass windows and doors, is now available to the public. Birds can't see glass and don't understand the architectural cues, such as window frames, mullions, and handles, that alert people to the hazard. Experts estimate that up to one billion birds may die each year from resulting collisions. Unlike some sources of bird mortality that predominantly kill weaker individuals, there is no distinction among victims of glass. Because glass is equally dangerous for strong, healthy, breeding adults, it can have a particularly serious impact on populations. Studies have shown that even small windows can be dangerous to birds that are accustomed to flying through gaps between trees and shrubs.

**The American Bird Conservancy is marketing a clear tape which is reflective in the ultraviolet (UV) spectrum, but essentially transparent in the “visible” spectrum. Birds, like many other animals, can detect UV light, and, provided the tape has been properly applied, will avoid windows treated with it. To learn more about ABC Bird Tape, go to: [www.abcbirdtape.org](http://www.abcbirdtape.org). ABC has produced a video that demonstrates how to install the bird tape.**

## How the Brits Deal with Pigeons...

A few weeks ago I was in London and we were walking in the Kensington area of the city. We passed a beautiful new glass and steel high rise building with an expensive car display show room and nice landscaping in front of it, covered by a curved glass roof. A young man with a Harris Hawk walked around in front of it and of course I had to chat with him. It turns out he is hired with his hawk to keep the pigeon population under control around buildings and he has several contracts. Perhaps this is also happening in our cities, but I am not aware of it.

Helga Beatty.

***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. Stop reading and get out birding!  
Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor  
529 9541  
[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## Out of the Mouths of Babes

(One more from the field of mathematics)

*“If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel.”*



## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 28, No. 10

**June, 2012.**

In this edition we have:

- details about the last **program** of the year and the slate for next season,
- **field trip reports** and the **summer field trip schedule**,
- some well-deserved **thanks**,
- the **Education Committee** annual report,
- a new opportunity for **citizen scientists**,
- programs from other organizations, and, to close on a high note,
- news of lasting **memorials** to **Sally Venman** and **Deedee Minear**,

I hope you find some of useful!

### NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, June 11 at 7:30 p.m.**

**John Van de Graaff** brings us **Peregrinations II. Six Years More.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

*Here's what John has to say about the program.*

"I titled my first presentation to the HBC 'Peregrinations of a Bird Photographer.' That was May 2006, six years after I began seriously photographing birds in 2001, and three years after we moved to Northampton from New York in 2003. This club has been wonderfully welcoming and here we are, six years further on. This show includes a wide range of species and various bird behaviors. Like the first one, it will be organized geographically, comprising the United States (New England, Florida); several areas west from there (all the way to California and Alaska); Latin America (Galapagos and Costa Rica); Canada (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Point Pelee); and Europe (especially France). The work of putting it together has been both demanding and fun. I am really looking forward to actually presenting it to all of you."

"Photographing birds seriously has been, at times, an all-encompassing activity, with frequent travel. I've made frequent digital slide presentations to birding and photography groups, including the CCBC and other major bird clubs in Massachusetts. My images have been widely used by Mass Audubon in support of their activities. I am a member of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (PVPA). My website is easily remembered: [www.birdsbyjohn.com](http://www.birdsbyjohn.com)."

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Alice Wilder**, Amherst.

**Jane Mildred**, Amherst.

**Ximena Zuniga**, Amherst.

**Judith Perera**, Leeds.

**Mikkel Thorup**, Shutesbury

**Carolyn & John Friedman**, Philadelphia, Pa.

**Bonnie Krotkov**, Hadley.

**Devin, Rachel & Aidan Griffiths**, Belchertown.

**John Worrell & Linda Ammos**, Brimfield.

**Linda McCarthy**, Belchertown.

## COMING PROGRAMS: 2012-2013

**September 10, 2012. Marshall Iliff.** eBird.

**October 15, 2012. John Nove.** A Tale of Two Scottish Isles: Adventures in Orkney.

**November 12, 2012. Don Kroodsma.** (Something vocal...)

**December 10, 2012. HBC Members.** Members' meeting.

**January 14, 2013. Chris Rimmer.** Bicknell's Thrush.

**February 11, 2013. Shawn Carey.** Shorebird Migration Hotspots.

**March 11, 2013. Joey Mason.** Kestrels.

**April 8, 2013. Joan Walsh.** Breeding Bird Atlas II – the Next Steps.

**May 13, 2013. David Spector?** (To be determined...).

**June 10, 2013. Mara Silver.** Swallows in the Connecticut River Valley.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### MacLeish Field Station, Sunday, May 7.

Ten of us met on a beautiful spring morning and had a great hike through the oak/hemlock forest, fields, and second growth in Smith College's field station. The Bird of the Day had to be **Blackburnian Warbler**. We saw and heard multiple individuals, singing multiple song variations, including great looks at a male on a low song perch for as long as cared to study him. What a breathtaking bird! Altogether we had twelve other confirmed warbler species, (some heard-only): Black-and-White, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, Magnolia, Pine, Northern Parula, Wilson's, Ovenbird, Black-throated Blue, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided, and Yellow. We also heard possible Bay-breasted and Nashville, and for those of you that came back to our house after the walk, there was a **Prairie Warbler** that spent the afternoon there as well.

Other highlights included a flyover Common Loon; beautiful first-of-year **Scarlet Tanagers**; both Sharp-shinned and **Red-shouldered Hawks**; and the loudest Pileated Woodpecker drumming I've ever heard! Those who came back to our house also were treated to a beautiful male **Indigo Bunting**, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at the feeders. A great May morning with a very congenial group--thanks to all who participated.

Bill Benner



### East Quabbin. Saturday, May 12.

**Tom Gagnon** and **Larry Therrien** led a goodly contingent on the annual foray into the beautiful interior of the eastern Quabbin. It was a beautiful day, and it started auspiciously with a Prairie Warbler calling from the power cut near the spillway, and a nice flurry of warblers in the trees overhanging it. The regular nesting Common Ravens entertained us near their nest (without ever actually divulging its whereabouts), and the columbines put on a beautiful show by the road.

As we moved through the closed area, we came across sixteen species of warbler, including Nashville and Canada. Recently-arrived Least Flycatchers were vocal and we spied a pair building a nest at close range. The birds of the day were, without question, the gorgeous **Black-billed Cuckoo** which po-po-poed at us in full view for 20 minutes, and the **Yellow-throated Vireos** at close range and in beautiful light, a bird which has become quite the trip specialty.

David Peake-Jones with help from Larry Therrien



### **Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Sunday, May 13.**

Carol and John Gabranski, Bruce Hart, Betsy Higgins, Nidhin Joseph, Elaine Pourinski and Donna Rickerby accompanied **David Peake-Jones** to America's oldest garden cemetery on a pretty day. Starting out along the Indian Ridge path, past Longfellow's sublime resting place, we spent a good ten minutes trying to spy out a Black-throated Blue Warbler singing invisibly in a Yew tree. It was immediately apparent that we would have to work for birds today, and this proved entirely the case. Around Halcyon Pond we picked up a few more "usual suspects," and were treated by a friendly birder to scope views of a nesting Warbling Vireo. However, it was not until the morning was well advanced, and we were rounding out of Auburn Lake toward the Dell, that we found **Blackburnian-** and **Blackpoll** warblers in the same tree. Scarcely had we savored these gems for a few moments, than we found ourselves scampering across the Willow path toward a strident "Chicka-, chicka-, chicka, swee-, swee-, swee-, che-. che-, che-. We were the founding members of one of those knots of excited birders that can occur anywhere there is a special bird, and the whole amoeboid mass of humanity flowed frantically from tree to tree as the bird played ventriloquial tag with us for at least half an hour. When the hubbub finally died down, we could boast at least brief glimpses of this (now hard-to-find) **Tennessee Warbler**, and we were well pleased.

On the way home, we stopped at the Westboro WMA to try to pad the list a little. We were able to add Yellow Warbler, and a pair of courting Eastern Kingbirds, but the habitat and the now oppressively hot day gave us little to cheer about. Overall, a good day. Not historic, but certainly worth the time.

David Peake-Jones



### **Mt Holyoke. Wednesday, May 16.**

**Tom Gagnon** took a group of stout-legged birders up the hill at Mt Holyoke on a cloudy day with some sprinkles (I think these were the meteorological, not culinary, variety). The group was delighted to find a female **Cerulean Warbler** building a nest near the summit, with the male bird singing nearby!

David Peake-Jones from a conversation with Tom.



### **Fort River Division: Silvio Conte NFWR, Hadley, MA. Sunday, May 20. Josh Rose.**

Eleven birders joined me (a far cry from the one who showed up for my last trip!) at the new Fish & Wildlife Service property off Moody Bridge Road. Numerous Barn Swallows were on, in, and all around the former Bri-Mar Stables buildings, and a **Blackpoll Warbler** sang from the roadside trees; a **Northern Parula** later sang in this vicinity as well.

The headline attraction here at this time of year is the Bobolink show, and they did not disappoint, with at least 20 birds swirling around the top of the hill, singing and chasing and making a spectacle of themselves. Savannah Sparrows were behaving much more subtly in the grassland habitat. A quartet of Wild Turkey stalked through the grass later. A badly damaged road kill near the top of the hill turned out to have been a **Common Nighthawk**. We walked up the road to the woods and shrubs there and were entertained by American Redstarts, Yellow Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a Baltimore Oriole, and a **Wilson's Warbler**, among others.

As traffic on the road picked up, we walked a trail behind the stables downhill toward the river and around the old riding loop, where we heard (but never saw) several **Blue-winged Warblers** and had good looks at a Chestnut-sided. We also encountered several **Brown Thrashers** and **Field Sparrows**, heard a few Willow Flycatchers singing and, maybe the most noteworthy bird of the day, an **Alder Flycatcher**. After four hours and change, we had tallied 57 species.

Josh Rose

## COMING TRIPS

(See also the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule)

*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 cost of travel.*

*\*marks 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.*

### JUNE

**Saturday, June 9. Westover Air Force Base.**

Registration is closed.

**Sunday, June 10. October Mountain State Forest.** All day. Ed Neumuth explores the habitat on October Mountain and ventures to surrounding areas like Post Farm and Tyringham Valley. October Mountain has recently been a fairly reliable spot for Mourning Warblers, as well as a number of other unusual species. Call Ed (413-884-4961) around trip time for meeting time and place. (E)

**Friday, June 15 – Tuesday, June 19. The Crown of Maine  
Geoff LeBaron and local guide Bill Sheehan.**

Registration is closed.

### JULY

**Saturday, July 28. New South Beach.** 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 18. Knightville Dam.** Half day. Betsy Higgins repeats her trip to Knightville 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 Board of Directors: 2012-2013.

The following will serve from June 11, 2012 until June 10, 2013.

**President:** Scott Surner

**Vice-President/Program Chair:** Geoff Lebaron

**Membership Secretary:** Sue Emerson

**Communications Secretary:** Donna Rickerby

**Treasurer:** Janice Jorgensen

**Members-at-Large:**

Bruce Hart

Mike Locher

David Peake-Jones

Jaap van Heerden

Jan Ortiz

Josh Rose.

Our thanks again to out-going Communications Secretary Elissa Rubinstein.

## THANK YOU

It's June, and time to thank the many people who have kept our club not only going, but going **STRONG** this year. Take a deep breath. Here we go.

### The Board

**Scott Sumner** makes sure we meet and that some sort of order prevails.

**Geoff LeBaron** brings an exciting diversity of wonderful speakers to the club, and handles all the logistics associated with hosting them.

**Janice Jorgensen** not only appears to understand our increasingly complicated finances, but she also manages to help the rest of us do so too.

**Sue Emerson** somehow keeps track of our peripatetic membership and the never-ending changes in their email addresses.

**Elissa Rubinstein** has been doing our minutes and other communications. With a sigh of relief she now hands the baton to **Donna Rickerby**.

Our members-at-large (in ascending order of size) serve to keep the officers honest. They include **Jan Ortiz**, **Jaap van Heerden**, **Mike Locher**, **Josh Rose**, **Bruce Hart**, and **David Peake-Jones**.

### Field Trips

**Mike L.** also coaxes and cajoles our field trip leaders to keep the field trip program vibrant.

Just this year, the following richly talented people have led or will lead trips for us:

**Bob Bieda**, **Bill Benner**, **Chris Beulow**, **Sue Emerson**, **Tom Gagnon**, **Betsy Higgins**, **Janice Jorgensen**, **Henry Lappen**, **Geoff LeBaron**, **Mike Locher**, **Ed Neumuth**, **David Peake-Jones**, **Josh Rose**, **Bill Sheehan**, and **Scott Sumner**.

**Bruce Hart**, **Janice Jorgensen**, and **Jan Ortiz** (with help from **Harvey Allen** and **Tom Gagnon**) are the Education Committee, reaching out to the community with learning opportunities about birds and habitats.

**Betsy Higgins** lugs a suitcase into every single meeting. It contains not her worldly possessions, but the bewildering array of handy paraphernalia which makes up the boutique.

**Henry Lappen** not only maintains our lending library, but schlepps selected bits of it to meetings to increase our access and convenience.

Just for the record, I am running out of verbs to describe folks trudging into club events bearing heavy burdens.

**Sally Hills** and **Helga Beatty** somehow find ways to provide delectable refreshments at every meeting.

**Bob Bieda**, **Geoff LeBaron**, **Scott Sumner**, and **Jan Ortiz** are our Rare Bird Alert Gatekeepers.

**Dave Gross** is truly the Master of our Website.

**Mary Alice Wilson** is the officially designated Provider of Mysterious Assistance in almost all things.

Oh, and I think someone is supposed to be in charge of the newsletter.

We thank the Immanuel Lutheran Church for providing our meeting venue, and the Hitchcock Center in Amherst for their on-going support and collaboration.

Last, but certainly not least, thank **YOU**, our members. Whether it is by paying dues, coming to meetings, attending field trips, **BRINGING REFRESHMENTS** (especially you folks!!), buying yet another T-shirt, or in whatever other ways you contribute to our community, you **ARE** our community. **Thank you!**

## Whoops!

In the Ashley Ponds trip report from the May edition we referred to a Painted Turtle riding on the back of a larger turtle. An alert reader has pointed out that the beast of burden could hardly have been an "Alligator Snapping Turtle" as we claimed, since this is a southern species not found in these latitudes (except, apparently, in erroneous trip reports). The larger reptile in the piece was, most likely, a **Common Snapping Turtle**. The offending reporter has been suitably chastised.

## LIBRARY

If you need some light reading to while away the long summer days, HBC has a substantial library at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. **Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. **Henry Lappen** is happy to bring items to meetings, given a few days notice! Call him at **(413) 549 3722**.

### Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts

Recently, the Hampshire Bird club obtained a number of copies of the *Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts*, originally published in 2003. The book retails for \$29.95 but can be purchased from HBC for \$ **12.00!** This volume is not currently in print and is unlikely to be reprinted.

Perhaps you may be new to this area and are unaware of this great guide written by our local birders and illustrated by local artist and club member **Andrew Finch Magee**. If you don't yet have a copy, it is an indispensable companion to birding in our part of the world. Look for it at the HBC Boutique at the June meeting!

### NATURE'S NOTEBOOK – Citizen Science About Birds and More

Do you enjoy contributing data to citizen science projects? I've participated in a few and recently discovered Nature's Notebook which is my favorite. Hence, I'm letting HBC members know about the opportunity. For birds, data are collected about whether you saw or heard a species, was it eating fruit or insects, was it nesting, and a bit more.

The project is administered by the USA National Phenology Network to monitor the influence of climate change on the phenology of plants, animals, and landscapes. A contributing citizen scientist selects plants and/or animals from an extensive list and defines her or his location.

You can check it out at <http://www.usanpn.org/participate/observe>.

Janice Doppler

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

**Firefly Watch:** *Ted Watt*

Wednesday, June 13, 7-9:30 p.m.

**That Rowdy Bird of Birds, the Poet's Bobolink:** *David Spector*

Thursday, June 14, 7-9 p.m.

**Birding By Ear:** *John Green*

Saturday, June 23, 7-10 a.m.: Fitzgerald Lake, Northampton

**Native Wildflowers of the Valley:** *Nancy Goodman*

Saturday, July 21: Mt. Norwottock, Amherst, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Wednesday, August 22: Podick Swamp, Amherst, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

*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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

## BROAD BROOK COALITION PROGRAMS

**Dragonflies, Damselflies, Beetles and Bugs:** *Josh Rose*

Saturday, June 30, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. FLCA North Farms Road Entrance.

**Water Color Sketching:** *Betty Wolfson*

Saturday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (rain date Sunday, July 15). FLCA North Farms entrance.

Call 548 1470 to pre-register and for details.

**Water Chestnut Removal from Fitzgerald Lake.**

Sunday, July 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.. Contact Bruce Hart at 584 4176.

**It's All About Habitat:** *Molly Hale*

Saturday, July 21, 9 a.m. FLCA North Farms entrance.

**Broad Brook Coalition (BBC)** is a non-profit, all-volunteer community organization dedicated to the preservation of open space and the promotion of affordable housing. Amongst other things, the coalition manages the 646-acre **Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area** in Northampton. For details of this and other programs, and all you could want to know about BBC, please visit [www.broadbrookcoalition.org](http://www.broadbrookcoalition.org).

## ARCADIA PROGRAMS

**Bike with Mike at the Deerfield River Rail Trail:** *Mike Whalen*

June 9, 10 am – 2 pm

**Birding at Rattlesnake Gutter:** *John Green*

June 16, 7 – 10 am

**Remedy for Craziness:** *Boot Boutwell*

June 24, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Hawley Bog:** *Nan Childs and Patti Steinman*

July 8, 10 am – noon

**Water Chestnut Removal at Arcadia:** *Dave McLain*

July 14, p am – noon

**Dragonflies in the Field:** *David McLain*

July 21, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Boreal Forest Ecology Hike (Windsor):** *Aimee Gelinis*

July 28, 10 am – 1 pm

And lots more.....

For more details of these and other programs go to [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org) (select “Sanctuaries”, then “Choose a Sanctuary: Arcadia”) or call the sanctuary at the number below. To register for programs contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary**, 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027. Telephone **(413) 584-3009**.

## HBC Education Committee Annual Report: 2011-2012

The Education Committee exists to bring knowledge about birds to HBC and the wider community. The primary focus is on youth and under-served populations in the area. The committee currently consists of Janice Jorgensen, Scott Sumner, Jan Ortiz, Bruce Hart, and Tom Gagnon.

### Scholarships

The committee is now accepting applications for scholarships to support youth up to 18 years in pursuing bird-related educational opportunities. Details will be on the Website this month and were posted in the newsletter in May. The scholarship program is in its infancy, so we anticipate a lot of growth in this area.

### Programs

Janice organized a well-attended program on the new eBird technology, and Scott followed up with a second complementary presentation on the same topic.

Bruce, assisted by Nidhin Joseph, conducted a birding program for 42 Williston-Northampton Middle School students at Warm Colors Apiary.

John Van de Graaff wowed a group of over 20 seniors at the Lathrop Community in Northampton.

In June, Jan will be introducing Chris Davis and his falcons to a packed house of young people and their parents.

### The Future

Coming plans include a dawn chorus walk, possibly at the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, birding-by-ear with Don Kroodsma, an Education Committee page on the Website, a possible bird-banding demonstration, more presentations by John Van de Graaff, and many other ideas.

The Committee incurred NO EXPENSES this past year, and has a total of \$1, 521 in reserve for coming events, some of which is already committed for the falconry program.

The Education Committee welcomes your participation and suggestions.

Bruce Hart

***Backyard Birds*** (on Strong St. in Northampton) offers a wide range of birding books, audio resources, gifts, feeders, and other paraphernalia. I was in there this past month to buy a replacement for my aging Sibleys, and the owner gave me a 10% discount without my even asking for it!! (The discount is current for all HBC members). It's a great, locally-owned company, and when you shop locally, your money stays here!

That's about all for this month.

The club takes a break from programs until September, but don't forget the field trips which continue through the summer. You can look for another communication from us in mid-August, when we will be asking you to pony up your dues for another year. That is, of course, unless you joined the club for the first time since January, 2012, in which case you get the 2012-2013 season dues free!!

We close this month with a remarkable story about a lasting tribute to Deedee Minear and Sally Venman, which follows on the last page.

So, until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

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

## The Deedee and Sally Sitting Stones

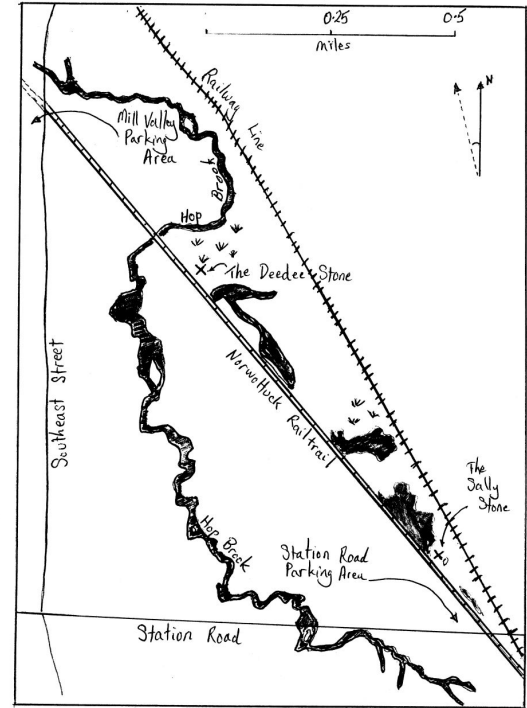
On May 22, two sitting stones were placed along the Lawrence Swamp section of the Norwottuck Rail Trail. The stones are unmarked, but they are in memory of Deedee Minear and Sally Venman. Both women were prominent members of HBC and contributed powerfully to both the birding and broader local communities.

The Sally stone is located about 1/8 mile NW of the Station Road parking lot. It overlooks the southern margins of the first large beaver marsh you encounter as you make your way northwest along the trail from the Station Road intersection. The Deedee stone is about 0.9 miles NW of the Station Road parking lot, and just before you reach the bridge over Hop Brook. From the other direction, the Deedee stone is about 0.5 miles southeast of the Mill Lane parking lot, just after you cross Hop Brook, and overlooks the marshes of that stream.

The stones could not have been placed without the determined advocacy of a number of people and the good will of many. The Department of Conservation and Recreation, which controls the bike path, graciously allowed the installation. The Town of Amherst (Department of Public Works) donated the stones. Two local companies, R.H. Roberts and Landscaping by Earthcare Inc., moved them to their final locations on the trail and installed them.

Richard Minear, Deedee's husband, has worked tirelessly to bring the project to fruition. He has been assisted by many, including Mary Alice Wilson, Harvey Allen, Bill Venman and Elissa Rubinstein. Funds for the project have come from a number of sources, including HBC members who donated through the club.

HBC played a role in advocating for this project, and we are delighted that our friends Deedee and Sally can be remembered in this way. We encourage you to visit the Deedee and Sally sitting stones this year and through the years to come. Enjoy the birds, marvel at the effort involved to get the stones in place, and spend some time with Deedee and Sally.



The Deedee Stone



The Sally Stone





# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 29, No. 1

## September, 2012.

Oh, g'day!

The board insists that I take a moment away from writing mocking letters to the Australian national swim team to send out the first bird club newsletter of the year.

The new bird club year begins as the fall migration begins to get into gear. Shorebirds are braving the beaches and tidal flats of the east coast in search of their wintering grounds. Nighthawks are migrating southward and, before we know it, the hawks, songbirds and waterfowl will join the parade. The club will be offering an eclectic mix of **monthly programs** over the next ten months, as well as **field trips for birders at all skill levels**, to destinations throughout the local region and even points further afield. Our newly-fledged **Education Committee** is spreading its wings to bring a love of birds and birding to the broader community. We *invite* you to take part in all this, and we *entreat* you to contribute to the club by **JOINING US IN MEMBERSHIP** or **RENEWING your MEMBERSHIP**.

Attached to this newsletter you will find the Membership Form, the Meeting Time Survey/Field Trip Release Form, and the RBA form. I hope some of it will be useful!

### THE ON-LINE NEWSLETTER PLUG

The membership forms asks you to select either “on-line” access to the newsletter this year, or the tried-and-true “hard copy,” delivered to you via the United States Postal Service. Of course, choose what works for you but, that said....

#### “Why choose “on-line?”

You can archive our publication digitally, without accumulating paper files, or print at home if you like. You reduce postage and printing costs for HBC, which keeps dues down for all of us.

#### “How does on-line access 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 if I encounter technical difficulties?”

The system is pretty easy to use if you have email access, are accustomed to using the Internet and/or downloading content. 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 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.

#### “Do I get all newsletters on-line?”

Well, yes and no. Some newsletters (including the September edition) go out in paper form to all members to ensure universal reception and/or because of sensitive content. They are also posted on the Website, minus the private bits.

#### “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?”

Yes, please! 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.



## MEETING TIME SURVEY: Your Opinion Needed

The board has observed that some folks have been leaving our monthly program meetings while the presentation is still in progress. Assuming folks would prefer to see the program to its conclusion, it seems that, at least for some, our programs may be starting too late.

**Should we switch to a slightly earlier start time?** On the plus side, this would allow all of us to get home a little earlier, and this might mean the difference between attending and not attending for some members. On the down side, there may be some who cannot get to the meetings before the current start time of 7:30 p.m.

### How about starting at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30?

Since we are trying to make meetings as accessible as possible for ALL our members, it is essential that we have YOUR input on this. ***On the back of the membership form (sharing space with our hallowed Field Trip Release form), there is a single-question survey on this subject. PLEASE take time to complete the survey when you complete your membership form.***

## NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Marshall Iliff** sheds light on the emerging phenomenon of **eBird**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

On August 13, 2012, Liron Gertsman, aged 12, submitted the 100 millionth observation record to eBird. eBird is a real-time, on-line checklist program. It was founded in 2002 by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon, and is already one of the largest and fastest-growing biodiversity databases in the world. eBird aims to record and make accessible the every-day activity of anyone who birds and is willing to submit data. Many birders routinely submit their daily observations, and it is now possible to do this from the field using mobile apps. eBird not only provides a potent database for use by ornithologists, land managers, and conservationists, but also offers powerful ways for individuals to better keep track of their own birding.

Like any relatively new technology, eBird can be a little daunting for those of us yet to embrace it. Marshall Iliff will attempt to dispel some of the strangeness and illuminate some of the potential wonders of this new tool. You can find out all you want to know about eBird at [eBird.org](http://eBird.org).

## COMING PROGRAMS

**October 15, 2012. John Nove.** A Tale of Two Scottish Isles: Adventures in Orkney.

**November 12, 2012. Don Kroodsma.** (Something vocal...)

**December 10, 2012. HBC Members.** Members' meeting.

**January 14, 2013. Chris Rimmer.** Bicknell's Thrush.

**February 11, 2013. Shawn Carey.** Shorebird Migration Hotspots.

**March 11, 2013. Joey Mason.** Kestrels.

**April 8, 2013. Joan Walsh.** Breeding Bird Atlas II – the Next Steps.

**May 13, 2013. David Spector?** (To be determined...).

**June 10, 2013. Mara Silver.** Swallows in the Connecticut River Valley

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Mount Greylock. Sunday, June 3. (Rescheduled from June 2).

Carol and John Gabranski and Nidhin Joseph accompanied **David Peake-Jones** to the roof of the state. We headed off up-country on a very atmospheric Sunday morning, driving through rising wreaths of early fog as we climbed Route 2 toward North Adams. Starting up Notch Road, we warmed up with the songs of Blackburnian Warbler, Wood Thrush, Veery, American Redstart, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Peewee, and a distant Swamp Sparrow speaking of water. American Goldfinches, Common Yellowthroats, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and a couple of Pileated Woodpeckers rounded out our lowland list. A little higher, and inside the park, there were Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and a pair of Ovenbirds conspiring to keep us guessing about the position of their nest.

Proceeding on further, we were clearly coming to the high part of the reservation. The air was filled with the effervescent tinkling of breeding Dark-eyed Junco, and the Blackburnians we were hearing now were nesting in natural spruce. At the Saddleball Mountain trailhead we heard a **Swainson's Thrush** in the same place it has been for three seasons. Car-shuttling to the summit, we watched and listened to several pairs of **White-throated Sparrows** sporting amongst the low spruce, and found a remarkable Dark-eyed Junco nest only ten feet from the back door of Bascom Lodge, revealed only when one of the breeding pair seemed quite literally to disappear into the ground. Descending down the AT, we came across **Blackpoll Warblers** breeding in the stunted spruce less than 50 feet below the summit. Nidhin alertly realized that a **Blue-headed Vireo** was just too slow to be a Red-eyed, and we chanced across a glossy male **Purple Finch** feeding either a fledgling or a female.

Saddleball Trail proved to be a disappointment this year, except for the Red-breasted Nuthatch we heard here, inexplicably absent from its stronghold higher on the mountain. On the open landscapes around Jones Nose we had nice looks at **Indigo Bunting** and **Field Sparrow**. It was a gorgeous day, and it is hard to beat the sound and spectacle of birds against the stillness and big sky of the Bay State's highest peak.

David Peake-Jones



### Westover Air Force Base. Saturday, June 9.

Mary Lou and Jim Splain, Mary Alice Wilson, Nidhin Joseph, Mikkell Thorup, Timothy Corbin, David Peake-Jones and Lura Bieda accompanied **Bob Bieda** on a visit to the largest contiguous grassland in the north-east. We were not disappointed. A Prairie Warbler heralded our departure from the familiar woods of New England into the closest thing to a prairie in this neck of the woods. Our guide, Drew, tried in vain to begin giving us some of the fascinating history of land management on base, but he was repeatedly interrupted as we heard first a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at close range (it was carrying food and performing a distraction display!), then an **Eastern Meadowlark**.... All quite normal for a base naturalist but exciting enough for us to be pointing and exclaiming like school kids in a cell phone store.

Further into the grassland, things got even better. A few were lucky enough to see a likely **Sora** which flushed from an almost indiscernible wetland. We finally heard the querulous calls of displaying **Upland Sandpipers** and saw several individuals, both in their display flights and foraging on the ground. Uplands have a remarkable way of rearing up on their haunches IN FLIGHT (I know that stretches the imagination, but it is what they do) and they have a wonderful way of snapping their wrists at the end of the power stroke in flight. The developing day brought more meadowlarks, demonstrating not only their characteristic "spring of the year" songs, but also a peent-chatter style of call which I had never heard before. Lots more Grasshopper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Willow Flycatchers, a singing **Orchard Oriole** visiting a nest, and a couple of encounters with a female American Kestrel. Rounding out the day, we had our first Indigo Bunting of the day as we returned to the cars.

On a not -so-happy note, Drew spoke about a number of threats to this unique and irreplaceable grassland habitat. Spotted Knapweed is invading the grassland, and has resisted efforts at biological control. Its rate of encroachment is quite frightening. Plans are also afoot to alter the mowing regime at the base in ways that might have profound implications for breeding birds.

However, troubling future notwithstanding, we were truly blessed with a marvelous glimpse of breeding grassland birds in their element. As always we thank Westover and our guide Drew for the opportunity.



The Crown of Maine report will be in the October edition

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

Please see the attached Fall Field Trip Schedule

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee is really rounding into form. There were a number of community events last club year, and there's a lot on the slate for this year.

The committee is now accepting applications for scholarships to support youth up to 18 years in pursuing bird-related educational opportunities. The scholarship program is in its infancy, so we anticipate a lot of growth in this area.

Coming plans include a dawn chorus walk, possibly at the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, birding-by-ear with Don Kroodsma, an Education Committee page on the Website, a possible bird-banding demonstration, more presentations by John Van de Graaff, and many other ideas.

If you want to participate in the Committee, contact any one of its members: **Janice Jorgensen, Scott Sumner, Jan Ortiz, Bruce Hart, and Tom Gagnon**. If you want to contribute financially to its work, you can do so via the membership form.

## BOARD

Board meetings of the Hampshire Bird Club are open to the membership and the general public. The next board meeting will be on Thursday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA.

### **Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW** using this handy-dandy checklist

- ☐ Grab a hold of the enclosed membership form and choose your membership contribution for this year,
- ☐ Make a donation for the work of the Education Committee if you wish,
- ☐ Complete the Membership Form,
- ☐ The Meeting Time Survey, and the Field Trip Release Form,
- ☐ Check the "Bird Finding In Western MA" form (sign up for the Rare Bird Alert if you wish), and
- ☐ Mail the above forms (with your check if needed) to the club, or bring them along on Sept. 10.

**Please renew before October 1 by mail, or at the September meeting. Thanks!**

That's all for now.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto: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: 2012-2013

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

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

Student @ \$5.00	\$ _____
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)	\$ _____
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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.**

**If monthly meetings were to start at 7:00 p.m. (half an hour EARLIER), I/we would be (please choose one response only):**

- ☐ **MUCH LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND** (really don't like this idea)
- ☐ **A LITTLE LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND** (it would be a bit of a hassle)
- ☐ **NO MORE OR LESS LIKELY TO ATTEND** (doesn't matter)
- ☐ **A LITTLE MORE LIKELY TO ATTEND** (it would help a bit)
- ☐ **MUCH MORE LIKELY TO ATTEND** (really love this idea)

### Comments (optional)

# Thanks!

**RELEASE FORM: 2012-2013**

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, 2012 and October 1, 2013.

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

(Signatures of all participating family members)

Please print names:

# HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC.

## FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE, 2012

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Published 8/27/2012

*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.*

#### SEPTEMBER

**\*Monday, September 17. Mount Tom: Hawk Migration.** Half day. Tom Gagnon goes hawk watching at Goat's Peak, at the Mt. Tom State Reservation. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the old park headquarters, and expect a 20 minute walk to the tower. If hawks are moving, the trip could last until 3 p.m., but participants may leave earlier on their own. Bring lunch if you plan to stay, and dress for the weather. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for information and to register. Rain date – Sunday, September 18. (E)

**Saturday, September 30. Quabbin Reservoir: Fall Migrants.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien lead this annual trip to the Quabbin to see southbound birds, late season flowers, butterflies, and mammals. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well in advance to register, because participation is limited to twelve participants, and to get meeting information. Rain date – Sunday, October 7. (M)

#### OCTOBER

**\*Saturday, October 13. Saw-whet Owls.** Evening. Janice Jorgensen 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 per person. 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)

**\*Sunday, October 14. Connecticut Valley Sparrows.** Half day. David Peake-Jones will stomp around in some of the weedy fields in the east and west meadows of Northampton, looking for Little Brown Jobs and maybe some late warblers. Northampton Bowling Alley, 6:30 A.M. Contact David [newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) (preferred) or 413 529 9541 to register. (E)

**\*Saturday, October 20. Coastal Rhode Island.** All day. Join Geoff LeBaron on this trip to Rhode Island to see what's flying along the coast. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop at 6:30 a.m. Call Geoff (413-2689281) to register as the date approaches. (E)]

**\*Saturday, October 27. Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and other more prosaically-named sites.** All day. Joshua Rose (413-835-0093) explores the northern reaches of the valley from Northfield to Turner's Falls. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop on King Street at 7:00 a.m. to organize carpools. (E)

## NOVEMBER

**\*Sunday, November 4. Berkshire Lakes: Southbound Waterfowl.** All day. Tom Gagnon goes to the lakes and ponds of western Massachusetts to find ducks and other migrating waterfowl. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 6:30 a.m. for carpooling (be sure to set your clocks back). Tom promises a donut stop at Bartlett's Orchard. (E)

**\*Saturday, November 10. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain.** All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) and David Peake-Jones (413-529-9541) hope Snow Geese show up late this year and look for other seasonal specialties along the shore of Lake Champlain. Meet at Stop & Shop on King St. in Northampton at 5 a.m. for carpooling. (E)

**Friday, November 23. Cape Ann: Turkey Trot.** All day. Al Richards comes off the DL in style, leading his traditional trip to the east coast. Expect sea ducks, Purple Sandpipers, a few alcids, and a cool breeze. Bring snacks and warm clothing. Call Al (413-665-2761) to register and get meeting information. (E)

**Saturday, November 24. East Quabbin.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien lead their annual trip to the east side of the reservoir to look for water fowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well in advance to register, because participation is limited to twelve participants, and to get meeting information. (M)

## JANUARY

**Saturday, January 5. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island.** All day. Bob Bieda goes east to the coast on his annual New Year's migration 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)

## 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](mailto:skhawk@comcast.net)

### To check various sources on the web:

Go to the HBC website: [www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://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](mailto:webmaster@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## Rare Bird Alert (RBA) Form: 2012-2013

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. Amherst, Massachusetts**

[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)

Volume 29, No. 2

**October, 2012.**

Oh, g'day! Thought I'd take a moment away from my Super PAC responsibilities to bring you some news from the bird club.

Aaahh, fall. The house, having been an intolerable sweat box for the entire summer is once again inhabitable. Mornings and evenings are crisp. Air is once again our friend. For those willing to get dewy feet, the woods and fields once again have a shifting cast of characters alongside the ratty post-breeding characters who have been here all summer. The fall migration is different somehow. I was reminded of this while camping up in the Berkshires with family. My brother-in-law called out to me one morning as we breakfasted, "Hey, what's that one. It's got wings like a fighter plane."

There was, indeed, a falcon flying over the campground. The place, the time, and gut-feeling said Merlin, and the binoculars confirmed it. This was not the one-glance-is-all-you-get Merlin we must mostly be content with. The bird teed up repeatedly on a dead snag, and made a series of breath-taking runs at a group of Northern Flickers who were hanging out on a mowed patch. Time and again, the little falcon returned to its launching place, and time and again it dove at the befuddled flickers before departing, looking suspiciously double-chinned. Then it was gone, fueled enough for now, perhaps, to make the next leg of an incredible journey to points south.

Our favorite words to describe birds are usually the most anthropomorphic of those that apply. Merlins, for example, are always being called things like "ferocious," "feisty," "belligerent," "fearless," and "reckless." Our reasons for assigning grace to a Great Blue Heron and royalty to a raptor may have a lot more to do with human culture than with the lives of birds, yet what would our passion be without this indulgence? Could we really be content to describe a Merlin as an agile hunter with a high wing aspect ratio? I, for one, cannot be satisfied with the facts alone. The bird we saw was an indomitable soul, as regal as they get, and I feel blessed to have had a brief audience with it.

### **NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m.**

**John Nove tells A Tale of Two Scottish Isles. Adventures in Orkney**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

John Nove fled the coast of Massachusetts four years ago and now lives here in the Pioneer Valley. He led trips for the Brookline Bird Club for 25 years, and was the compiler of the Cape Ann Christmas Bird Count for 15 years. He owns a house in the Orkneys, and has been going there for 22 years. Further enlightenment awaits those who come to the meeting.....

### **COMING PROGRAMS**

**November 12, 2012. Don Kroodsma.** (Something vocal...)

**December 10, 2012. HBC Members.** Members' meeting.

**January 14, 2013. Chris Rimmer.** Bicknell's Thrush.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### Crown of Maine. June 14 – June 19, 2012

After a fallow year last year, HBC once again pushed into the northern-most reaches of Maine, a landscape where lobsters are as alien as alligators, and Canada is, well, close, eh!

Those who braved the wilds included Harvey Allen, Ann & Mike Brooks, Ethan Carr, Kenley Clark & Laura Davenport, Katie Fox, Bruce Hart & Ilene Goldstein, Nidhin Joseph, **Geoff LeBaron** and David Peake-Jones.

Our first day of birding began, as threatened, at 4:30, with the assistance of the local Tim Horton's. Our guide, the redoubtable **Bill Sheehan**, led us into the eerie landscape of the former Loring Air Force Base, still closed to the public, but in process of becoming more accessible. Inside the gates, the mosquitoes took a little getting used to, but in the mosaic of fields, spruce bogs, and mixed woods, we found treasures worth the donation of a little blood. We found displaying **Upland Sandpipers** in the same field that hosted them two years ago, but this year, for an encore, we surprised a family with fuzzy young in an adjacent field! A female white-tailed deer touched our hearts with the veracity of her distraction display (to protect a suckling fawn), and we found **Wilson's Snipe** winnowing over the old missile silos, so close we could make out the configuration of the tail feathers when the male spread them in the dive.

For the afternoon, we adjourned to the dikes around Lake Josephine, a former potato chip waste dumping ground, now past it's sludgy hey-day, but still a rich environment for breeding **Redhead**, **Ruddy Duck**, **Green-winged Teal**, **American Wigeon**, **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveller** and other ducks, none of which were shy about showing themselves. We caught glimpses of **Virginia Rail**, but spent almost an hour within ten feet of one individual which remained hidden for the entire time!!

On June 17, we drove northward through fog-blanketed forests toward Square Lake. Hiking in along a beaver swamp, we were surrounded by iconic elements of the boreal forest. Mink frogs provided a constant chorus and covered every patch of water. Swainson's Thrushes called from the surrounding spruces. Snipe flushed from underfoot, Osprey patrolled the marsh from a huge nest close to the trail, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were their typical rowdy selves, and a Pileated Woodpecker made several eye-catching excursions into the open from a likely nest site. But the real reason for being here revealed itself when we finally managed to triangulate the source of woodpecker nestling begging calls. They were coming from a nest hole close to the road and we witnessed the frenetic activity of male and female **Black-backed Woodpeckers** foraging though the marsh and returning to their demanding offspring. Great looks at one of our target species!

After a challenging but ultimately successful encounter with a **Mourning Warbler** at a roadside logging cut, we continued on to walk through another flooded forest environment (a sort of miniature northern Everglades), and many of us began to droop a little in the gathering heat. We should have remained more alert, for starting up from the roadside ditch and making a wary retreat into the forest was a bird we had promised ourselves we would NOT see: a female **Spruce Grouse**, with three chicks! Foraging **Gray Jays** at close range were yet another reward for a long day!

On June 18 we had a splendid walk on a cool, sunny morning along the Moscovic Road, once again being treated to the essence of the north woods. Northern Waterthrushes were in good voice, along with a calling Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a gorgeous **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, and an elusive Winter Wren. Another Black-backed Woodpecker led us a merry dance before finally giving us great looks. On a woods road in New Sweden, we found the white variety of Pink Lady's Slipper, as well as the Yellow species of same. A **Canada Warbler** grudgingly offered us one of our few somewhat satisfactory looks at warblers, but the highlight of the day was a big **bull moose** which wandered out into the path and struck awe into our hearts on our way back to the cars. We did some hard sledding in the evening on the margins of the Aroostook refuge, but managed to add only a few more "heard only" birds., including **Bay-breasted Warbler** and **American Bittern**, the latter our reward for venturing onto a mosquito-ridden roadside at dusk. Interestingly, our playing Bay-breasted

Warbler song at one stop was immediately followed by a burst of semi-automatic weapons fire from a nearly firing range. Coincidence, or the birding police in full force? More moose and bear highlights in the gathering dusk as we returned to Russell's Motel: a fitting last evening of a splendid trip!!

David Peake-Jones with help from Geoff.



### **Knightville Dam. Saturday, August 18.**

Betsy Higgins, ably assisted by Marcia Merrithew, lead 7 of us to the Knightville Dam WMA, and the Westfield River. The river is designated as a Wild and Scenic River by the federal government, and the seemingly under-appreciated and under-utilized seven-nine mile stretch up to Chesterfield Gorge is a treat for birders, bikers and hikers alike. Mile upon mile of river bank and no development at all. Betsy and Marcia know the Knightville Dam area especially well, having perused the area over many seasons of the MA Breeding Bird Atlas. Thanks also to a new member who was a big help with bird id.: Eric Huston.

Highlights included an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 14 Bobolinks, 5 Indigo Buntings, a **Baltimore Oriole** and a **Red-shouldered Hawk**, among a total complement of 26 species.

A few of us were also treated to a tour of the Higgins estate where we got to watch a Grey Hairstreak emerge from a chrysalis and take first flight. It affixed itself to Betsy's car, knowing, perhaps, her reputation for sedate driving. Separation anxiety, eh Betsy?

Bruce Hart

## **COMING FIELD TRIPS**

Please see the New, Improved and FINAL (third) version of the Fall Field Trip List!! Ta dah!

## **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](http://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**.

## **NEWS FROM THE BOUTIQUE**

We have beautiful new shirts in lots of nice colors just in! I'll have them at the next meeting. Just because of money constraints and complexity of ordering so many shirts in so many sizes, I do not have every shirt, in every color, in every size. So if you want the best selection, come early! The early bird gets the worm and all of that stuff.

Also, hopefully by the next meeting I'll have updated ABA Daily Field Cards.

And....if you have not checked out the new harnesses, come take a look. They are really nice.

Betsy Higgins, Proprietor

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Environmental Film Series

**Dirt! The Movie with Peter McLean of Brookfield Farm**

Wednesday, October 10, 7–9pm at Amherst Cinema.

**Green House Tour with Jonathan and Meg Wright**

Saturday, October 13, 10am–12pm

**Bark for Beginners at Mount Sugarloaf with Nancy Goodman**

Saturday, October 20, 10am–2pm

**Green Business Tour at the new Atkinson Family Practice**

Sunday, October 21, 2–4pm

**Cultural Entomology: How Insects Have Impacted Human Societies with John Stoffolano**

Tuesday, October 23, 7–9pm

**Quebec's Plan Nord: Towards a New Global Model for Sustainable Development**

*with Mathew Jacobson*

Thursday, November 8, 7–8:30pm

*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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

## Christmas Count: Mark Your Calendars!

The Northampton Christmas Count will be on Sunday, December 16.

## Kaufman Comes to Town

Kenn and Kim Kaufman: the Kaufman Field Guide to the Nature of New England

Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Odyssey Bookshop, 9 College Street, South Hadley (right in the center of town)

Phone 413 524 7307

Naturalists Kenn and Kim Kaufman will discuss their Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of New England. This event requires the purchase of the book or a \$5 event ticket.

## Birds In Holyoke

I have just been introduced to [birdsdowntown.wordpress.com](http://birdsdowntown.wordpress.com)

It is a very nice blog about birds in downtown Holyoke. The writer is a reporter for the Springfield Union who came to a Kestrel release at the East Leverett Meadow.

What pleases me is that it is (a) good and (b) city birding.

Mary Alice Wilson (I think...)

This month we are sending the latest version of the **Fall Field Trip Schedule**, which has been messed with more times than Atkins Corner, the **Field Trip Policy**, and the **Field Trip Guidelines**.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. FIELD TRIP POLICY 2012-2013

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** (one or more nights, 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 twenty dollars (\$20) 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 ►►

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: 2012-2013

Field trips are one of the best ways to help the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC) achieve its purpose: "to help its members and the general public enjoy birding and to educate them about birds, bird watching and bird habitats."

### 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.

## FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE, 2012

### 3rd Edition. Published 9/10/2012

*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.*

#### SEPTEMBER

**\*Monday, September 17. Mount Tom: Hawk Migration.** Half day. Tom Gagnon goes hawk watching at Goat's Peak, at the Mt. Tom State Reservation. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the old park headquarters, and expect a 20 minute walk to the tower. If hawks are moving, the trip could last until 3 p.m., but participants may leave earlier on their own. Bring lunch if you plan to stay, and dress for the weather. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for information and to register. Rain date – Tuesday, September 18. (E)

**Sunday, September 30. Quabbin Reservoir: Fall Migrants.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien lead this annual trip to the Quabbin to see southbound birds, late season flowers, butterflies, and mammals. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well in advance to register, because participation is limited to twelve participants, and to get meeting information. Rain date – Sunday, October 7. (M)

#### OCTOBER

**\*Saturday, October 13. Saw-whet Owls.** Evening. Janice Jorgensen 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 per person. 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)

**\*Sunday, October 14. Connecticut Valley Sparrows.** Half day. David Peake-Jones will stomp around in some of the weedy fields in the east and west meadows of Northampton, looking for Little Brown Jobs and maybe some late warblers. Northampton Bowling Alley, 6:30 A.M. Contact David [newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) (preferred) or 413 529 9541 to register. (E)

**\*Saturday, October 20. Coastal Rhode Island.** All day. Join Geoff LeBaron on this trip to Rhode Island to see what's flying along the coast. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop at 6:30 a.m. Call Geoff (413-2689281) to register as the date approaches. (E)]



**\*Saturday, October 27. Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and other more prosaically-named sites.** All day. Joshua Rose (413-835-0093) explores the northern reaches of the valley from Northfield to Turner's Falls. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop on King Street at 7:00 a.m. to organize carpools. (E)

## NOVEMBER

**\*Sunday, November 4. Berkshire Lakes: Southbound Waterfowl.** All day. Tom Gagnon goes to the lakes and ponds of western Massachusetts to find ducks and other migrating waterfowl. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 6:30 a.m. for carpooling (be sure to set your clocks back). Tom promises a donut stop at Bartlett's Orchard. (E)

**\*Saturday, November 10. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain.** All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) and David Peake-Jones (413-529-9541) hope Snow Geese show up late this year and look for other seasonal specialties along the shore of Lake Champlain. Meet at Stop & Shop on King St. in Northampton at 5 a.m. for carpooling. (E)

**Friday, November 23. Cape Ann: Turkey Trot.** All day. Al Richards comes off the DL in style, leading his traditional trip to the east coast. Expect sea ducks, Purple Sandpipers, a few alcids, and a cool breeze. Bring snacks and warm clothing. Call Al (413-665-2761) to register and get meeting information. (E)

**Saturday, November 24. East Quabbin.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien lead their annual trip to the east side of the reservoir to look for water fowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well in advance to register, because participation is limited to twelve participants, and to get meeting information. (M)

## JANUARY

**Saturday, January 5. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island.** All day. Bob Bieda goes east to the coast on his annual New Year's migration 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)



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)  
**Volume 29, No. 3**  
**November, 2012.**

Included this month:

- an introduction to the **next program** and the upcoming schedule,
- two groovy **trip reports** (neither by the editor)!,
- **coming trips**,
- announcing the **HBC Apps Information Course**, brought to you by the **Education Committee**,
- **Christmas Counts**,
- a **Hitchcock program**,
- a musing on the hurricane, and
- a locator for **bird rehabilitators** in Western Massachusetts

I hope you find some of it useful!!

**NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Don Kroodsma brings us Bird By Bird By Bike. Part 2: The West**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Bicycling across America is taking a small bite out of the continent each day, for 4500 miles over 10 weeks, listening to bird after bird after bird (among other things), and it's all good -: life-transforming, in fact. In an HBC talk some years ago, I managed to take us from the Atlantic to the prairies, so this time we'll pick up in Missouri and head west. Come celebrate life on back roads and blue highways, riding each wrinkle of the landscape through the Great Plains, up and over the Rockies, through the Tetons and Yellowstone, dipping into Hell's Canyon and then ascending into Oregon, trying to fathom how so fantastic a land could have been formed, and listening to just a few of the birds no respectable birder would count on any list unless the bird was also heard to speak its mind. And, yes, drum roll . . . by popular demand there will be for "seeing birders" a challenging western edition of *Name that Roadkill*.

**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**

**December 10, 2012. HBC Members.** Members' meeting.

**January 14, 2013. Chris Rimmer.** Bicknell's Thrush.

**February 11, 2013. Shawn Carey.** Shorebird Migration Hotspots.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### **Saw Whet Owl Banding. Northbridge, MA. October 13.**

As they say, "the frost was on the pumpkin". On Saturday, October 13, 20 hearty folks (including 5 youngsters aged 9 - 12) set out to observe the capture and banding of elusive saw-whet owls at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, Ma. Although the weather hovered around 28 degrees, this intrepid group (fortified with hot drinks) braved the cool and still night air to witness the capture, banding and release of 3 tiny saw-whets, each not much larger than a tennis ball. It was an experience that we all shall remember and treasure – although perhaps the owls might feel differently. The children were selected to hold and release the owls, but not before they had named each one: "Sue," "Lou" and "Sally." Many thanks are due to Strickland Wheelock and his crew --Beth, Paul & Bob who made this outing such a success. It should be noted that HBC's newly formed (last year) **Education Committee** sponsored the children. We wished bon -voyage to the owls, wishing for their return next year.

Sue Emerson & Janice Jorgensen.



### **Coastal Rhode Island. October 20, 2012**

Tim Carter, Sue Emerson, Carol & John Gabranski, Betsy Higgins, Andrew Magee and Elissa & Bernie Rubinstein accompanied **Geoff LeBaron** along the coast of Rhode Island.

Tackling first things first, the group made a stop at marsh Meadows Preserve in Jamestown, and were immediately rewarded with views of the **Wood Sandpiper** which has been causing such excitement this fall. The bird was nice and close, at first feeding voraciously on large horsefly larvae, and then settling down for a nap.

As the fog lifted at Point Judith, we had wonderful views of **Northern Gannet** going by (apparently in pairs) and huge skeins of Double-crested Cormorants.

At Succotash Marsh in Jerusalem, RI, we found roosting Greater Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper. At Trustom Pond N.W.R. we enjoyed an encounter with a **Northern Goshawk** as well as a **Snow Goose** and other nice waterfowl. The day ended at Ninigret N.W.R. where there were a mystery boat and a mystery bat to entertain us, as well as patrolling **Merlins** and some Great Blue Herons as the sun set.

Geoff LeBaron

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

(See also the Fall Field Trip Schedule)

**\*Saturday, November 10. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain.** All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) and David Peake-Jones (413-529-9541) hope Snow Geese show up late this year and look for other seasonal specialties along the shore of Lake Champlain. Meet at Stop & Shop on King St. in Northampton at 5 a.m. for carpooling. (E)

**Friday, November 23. Cape Ann: Turkey Trot.** All day. Al Richards comes off the DL in style, leading his traditional trip to the east coast. Expect sea ducks, Purple Sandpipers, a few alcids, and a cool breeze. Bring snacks and warm clothing. Call Al (413-665-2761) to register and get meeting information. (E)

**Saturday, November 24. East Quabbin.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien lead their annual trip to the east side of the reservoir to look for water fowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well in advance to register, because participation is limited to twelve participants, and to get meeting information. (M)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### HBC Apps Information Course

HBC members!! Do you have a fancy smart phone? A iPad or iPod Touch? If you have and are not using these type of devices to their full measure when birding ... its time you do! Spend an evening "wired into" the Hitchcock Center and learn how to use Field Guides, Bird Finders and even Bird Reporting Apps to your benefit in our wonderful world of birds! Apps we will be featuring:

(\*) **FIELD GUIDES:** *Sibley's Field Guide to Birds*, *Peterson's Field Guide to Birds*, *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds*,

(\*) **BIRD FINDING:** *Birds Eye* (eBird), and

(\*) **BIRD REPORTING:** *Birders Diary*, *BirdLog* (eBird)

**Saturday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Hitchcock Center for the Environment,**  
**525 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA.**

Bring your smart phone, iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, or Android.  
 Please email **Janice Jorgensen** if you are planning to attend by 11/26 at  
[jjpcpanama@gmail.com](mailto:jjpcpanama@gmail.com)  
 Tell Janice what apps you have and which of the above 3 areas are of interest.

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

**Quebec's Plan Nord: Towards a New Global Model for Sustainable Development: Mathew Jacobson**

Thursday, November 8, 7–8:30pm

*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](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

## 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!

### Details!!

**Northampton:** Sunday, December 16.

**Jan Ortiz**, 413 549 1768, [jtortiz@aol.com](mailto:jtortiz@aol.com), OR

**Janice Jorgensen**, 413 585 0145, [janicejorgensen@charter.net](mailto:janicejorgensen@charter.net)

**Quabbin:** To Be Announced. **Scott Sumner** (413 253 5999; [ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com))

## Christmas Count Potluck!!

Just a quick "heads-up" that we will be requesting volunteers to assist us with snacks and real food, like main dishes, salads and desserts for the gathering after the count on December 16th at the Hitchcock center. I'll be seeking donations at the November meeting and reminders at the December one. Thank you in advance -- making our job "lighter"!!! Sue Emerson & elves.

## On the Wings of a Hurricane

Hurricanes fling countless thousands of pelagic birds onshore, whence some of them may find their own way back to sea and some are rescued and rehabilitated. Most, however, probably die from exhaustion and storm-related injury (witness the storm petrel found dead in Florence, MA by Betsy Higgins after Irene). Birders, in our somewhat macabre fascination with rarity, whatever the cause, comb the shores of hurricane-affected areas after storms, and there are usually some gems to be found amongst the avian survivors.

Sandy was no exception, and though there were no (reported) tropicbirds plying the breezes over Quabbin reservoir this year, New England saw its share of storm-carried birds. On October 31, three **Brown Pelicans** were observed off Nantucket, and on October 30, there were two separate sightings of **Northern Lapwings**. Of the latter, two individuals were found on Nantucket, and one was photographed from First Encounter Beach at Eastham, Cape Cod. Both these species are somewhat regular vagrants in the New England area. The lapwings are especially intriguing, since this species is associated entirely with terrestrial habitats in Eurasia!

Of all the climatological phenomena affected by climate change, hurricanes and tornadoes remain amongst the most controversial. We're not going to dive too deeply into those waters here, but there is at least one (albeit distant) connection between climate change and the birds that showed up in the last days of October. Read this fascinating tidbit about the Northern Lapwing, also known in Europe as the "peewit"!

"In the Netherlands there is a cultural-historical competition to find the first peewit egg of the year (*het eerste kievitsei*). It is especially popular in Friesland province, but there are also regional competitions. The gathering of peewit eggs is prohibited by the European Union, but Friesland was granted an exception for cultural-historical reasons. The Frisian exception was removed in 2005 by a court, which determined that the Frisian executive councilors had not properly followed procedure. As of 2006 it is again allowed to look for peewit eggs between 1 March and 9 April, though the actual harvest of those eggs is now forbidden. *Over the last century, the first peewit egg is found earlier and earlier. This is caused both by increased use of fertilizer and climate change.*"

(from Wikipedia, "Northern Lapwing." Emphasis mine, spelling Americanized. Grammar left intact because, well, just because...)

## Welcome New Members

<b>Tim Carter</b>	Belchertown	<b>Patricia Lynch</b>	South Hadley
<b>Kathy Davis</b>	South Hadley	<b>Kelly Manson</b>	Sunderland
<b>Lee Halasz</b>	Pelham	<b>Betzi Sylvan</b>	Florence
<b>Laura Hilberg</b>	Northampton		

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor  
529 9541

[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## **Bird Rehabilitators in Western Massachusetts**

### **Songbirds and other Non-Raptors**

**Lynne Bodon, *Williamsburg*.** (413) 628 4560

**Nancy and Kathleen Bordewieck, *Bernardston*.** (413) 648 9293, (songbirds including nestlings)

**Judith Pasko, *Cummington*.** (413) 695 6854, background info. at [www.cummingtonwildlife.com](http://www.cummingtonwildlife.com)

### **Raptors Only**

**Julie Anne Collier, *Leverett*,** (413) 628 4560, background info. at [www.wingmasters.net](http://www.wingmasters.net)

**Tom Ricardi, *Conway*,** 413 369 4072

### **General Resources**

A list of wildlife rehabilitators for birds, mammals, reptiles, and bats is available at

[http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/rehab/wildlife\\_rehab\\_index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/rehab/wildlife_rehab_index.htm)

Tufts University: The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, North Grafton. (508) 839-7918, (all kinds of rehabilitation) <http://vet.tufts.edu/wildlife/research.html>

Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts. General information at [www.wraminc.org](http://www.wraminc.org)

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## American Birding Association's PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

### CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

#### **1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.**

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

#### **2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.**

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practise common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

#### **3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.**

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

#### **4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.**

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a **Group Member**.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

**Group Leader Responsibilities** [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practises this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS CODE AND DISTRIBUTE AND  
TEACH IT TO OTHERS



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)

Volume 29, No. 4

**December, 2012.**

## NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, December 10 at 7:30 PM**

### **The Members' Meeting**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

### ***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](mailto:jvanheerden@hampshirebirdclub.org)) or **Geoff LeBaron** ([programs@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:programs@hampshirebirdclub.org)) by 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 9. Please 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 14, 2013. Chris Rimmer.** Bicknell's Thrush.

**February 11, 2013. Shawn Carey.** Shorebird Migration Hotspots.

**March 11, 2013. Mara Silver.** Swallows in the Connecticut River Valley.

## LIBRARY

The library has a **new book**:

*FEATHERS, the Evolution of a Natural Miracle*, by Thor Hanson.

It's very interesting and easy to read.

HBC has a substantial library at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. **Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Items are catalogued in the "About" section of the HBC Website and can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. **Henry Lappen** is happy to bring items to meetings, given a few days notice! Contact him at [library@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:library@hampshirebirdclub.org) (413) 549 3722.

Henry Lappen



## CHRISTMAS COUNTS

### The 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Northampton Christmas Bird Count

#### Take part on Sunday, December 16

Every bird counts and is counted -- every chickadee, even every starling. Join one of the 35 teams in the field or if you live within the count circle, count the birds at your feeder. Proud to be one of the oldest New England CBCs, we continue to grow in participants and species recorded. Last year we tallied 83 species, eight below our record high. Will any of this fall's many rarities linger or wander our way? How many winter finches will continue to be seen by the 16<sup>th</sup>? How many Eastern Screech-Owls will our energetic late night teams discover? Will they top last year's total of 78? These possibilities help fuel the counters' enthusiasm. However, the enduring value of this event is that it provides us with a history that suggests trends in the population, occurrence and distribution of resident, common, uncommon and rare winter birds.

You are welcome to take part regardless of your birding expertise! Whether you are confident birding on your own or are more comfortable birding as part of a team, we will find a place for you. Join us after the count for a **potluck** and the **compilation** at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst.

For more information contact:

**Jan Ortiz**, Co-compiler: 413-549-1768; [jtortiz@aol.com](mailto:jtortiz@aol.com), or

#### The Quabbin Christmas Bird Count

This perennial fair weather favorite will be held this year on Saturday, December 29. Please contact Scott Sumner (413 256 5438; [ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com)) if you would like to help out.

#### Some Other Local Christmas Bird Counts

**Athol**, December 15, contact Dave Small <[Dave@dhsml.net](mailto:Dave@dhsml.net)>

**Sturbridge**, December 18, contact Mark Lynch <[moa.lynch@verizon.net](mailto:moa.lynch@verizon.net)>

**Westminster**, December 23, contact Chuck Caron <[caronenv@aol.com](mailto:caronenv@aol.com)>

**Greenfield**, December 30, contact Mark Fairbrother <[bogelfin@crocker.com](mailto:bogelfin@crocker.com)>

### Northampton CBC Pot Luck

#### Hitchcock Center, Amherst. December 16 at 4:30 pm

#### Contributions Needed

We are looking for:

- main (hot or vegetarian) dishes,
- salads, and
- desserts.

You can arrange with Sue Emerson for a drop off or call if you will be out in the field until 4 p.m. Her NEW phone numbers are 413-588-6900 (home), 413-336-3535 (cell). You can also reach her by email (unchanged): [spe33@charter.net](mailto:spe33@charter.net)

Oy. And don't forget to bring some din-dins to the December meeting, or else me 'n' the lads 'll be over to sort you out. Know wot I mean?

Refreshment Committee enforcer

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### East Quabbin. November 24, 2012.

Led by **Tom Gagnon**.

52 Black Duck  
30 Green-winged Teal  
102 Ring-necked Duck  
16 Common Merganser  
91 Hooded Merganser  
1 Ruffed Grouse  
5 Common Loon  
3 Horned Grebe  
3 Great Blue Heron  
6 Bald Eagle

1 Killdeer  
7 Greater Yellowlegs  
25+ Red-breasted Nuthatch  
1 Northern Shrike  
1 Hermit Thrush  
7 Snow Bunting  
6 Pine Grosbeak at Headquarters  
47 White-winged Crossbill  
Only ONE Blue Jay

A good time was had by all who participated!

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note that, because of limited space, the following trip reports have been deferred to future editions:

- **Beelzebub's Birding Bash** (October 27th),
- **Berkshire Lakes** (November 4<sup>th</sup>),
- **Champlain Valley** (November 10<sup>th</sup>), and
- **The Turkey Trot to Cape Ann** (November 23<sup>rd</sup>). An embarrassment of riches, to be sure

## COMING TRIPS

**Saturday, January 5, 2013. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island.** All day. Bob Bieda goes east to the coast on his annual New Year's migration 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)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### HBC Apps Information Course

**Re-scheduled to Thursday, December 13, 6:00-8:00 P.M.**

**Hitchcock Center for the Environment,  
525 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA.**

Apps we will be featuring:

(\*) **FIELD GUIDES:** *Sibley's Field Guide to Birds*, *Peterson's Field Guide to Birds*, *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds*,

(\*) **BIRD FINDING:** *Birds Eye* (eBird), and

(\*) **BIRD REPORTING:** *Birders Diary*, *BirdLog* (eBird)

Bring your smart phone, iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, or Android. To register, please email **Zeke Jakub**, [ezekieljakub@gmail.com](mailto:ezekieljakub@gmail.com). If you are planning to attend, Zeke would like to review what would be helpful for the program. Phone call at 413 773 7906 before 8PM is also OK.

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](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)