



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 32, No. 5
January, 2016.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, January 11 at 7:15 p.m.

Dave Wiley takes us **Tracking Great Shearwater Migrations**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Weather-related cancellations announced via the HBC email list and local media.

Greater Shearwaters ply their trade over the interface between the endless expanses of the ocean and the equally endless skies that overly them. It is a world we find inscrutable, unfathomable, perhaps even forbidding in its strangeness. But to a shearwater, the rolling billows of the Gulf of Maine are as navigable as the streets of a familiar city, as full of sustenance as a favorite salad bar, and as comforting, perhaps, as the rolling fields of Hadley are for us.

Shearwaters, named for their habit of gracefully trailing a wind tip through the waves, spend their lives at sea, coming to land only when they nest in giant colonies in the tiny Tristan Da Cunha Islands almost exactly midway between southernmost Argentina and South Africa. When winter comes to the southern hemisphere, they migrate north more than 6,000 miles to the rich waters of Stellwagen Bank five miles off Gloucester. Some of the long-lived birds that we see only during our summer have made the round trip between hemispheres for more than 60 years.

Beginning in 2013, **David Wiley** and other researchers used tiny transmitters, along with analysis of feathers and exhaled gases, to track the seabirds' movements and to learn more about the relationship between great shearwaters and sand lance, the main food source for the birds as well as the humpback whales that frequent the sanctuary.

The researchers found great shearwaters are capable of remarkably precise long-distance navigation, including the ability to repeatedly retrace migratory paths less than 30 miles wide and more than 1,800 miles long during their seasonal trek. And their current work now includes trying to better understand the shearwaters' navigation, including how they compensate for wind drift while beating their way across the seas.

Dr. David Wiley is the current Director of Research at the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. His research has appeared in many scientific journals such as *Behaviour*, *Animal Behavior*, *Biological Conservation* and *Conservation Biology*. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the Department of Commerce's Gold Medal for scientific leadership, an Ian Axford (Fulbright) Fellowship in Public Policy, a NextGov Bold Award for scientific innovation and the Society for Marine Mammalogy's award for Excellence in Scientific Communication.

COMING PROGRAMS

February 8, 2016. David Spector. Sam Peabody and Friends - A Look at Bird Song Interpretation.

March 14, 2016. Scott Surner. The Big Chicken Run.

April 11, 2016. Gary Langham. Climate Study.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

The cooks amongst us sprang to the fore TWICE over this holiday season: the first time when the table at the December members meeting fairly groaned with a wonderful assortment of goodies. Cousin Vinnie is still recovering on the couch but waves a hand with a gesture of post-prandial acknowledgement.

And again at the Northampton Christmas Count Potluck

“Thanks to all who generously contributed a special dish to our compilation “pot luck” dinner. It is such a wonderful feeling to have everyone so helpful. The “elves” were so pleased with all the assistance that we wish to send our thanks and greetings for a wonderful New Year.

Our Best Wishes --- Sally Hills, Helga Beatty, Merry Cushing, Elaine Reilly, Jan Howard, Lisa Ganter, Sue & Wayne Emerson.”

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The Halloween Extravaganza; Satan’s Kingdom, Hell’s Kitchen etc. with Josh Rose Saturday, October 31

Harvey Allen, Eric Huston, Tim Carter, and Bob Olson joined me for the annual Hampshire Bird Club Halloween birding expedition to the dark side of Franklin County. We tallied 52 species (give or take a few), including 14 species of waterfowl (not too bad for the state’s second-furthest-from-the-coast county). Satan’s Kingdom was actually almost devoid of birds, but Hell’s Kitchen was much better, and we did fairly well in some other parts of Northfield and Turners Falls. The dense fog in the morning felt appropriate for the occasion, as did the Witch Hazel in bloom. Some of the day’s highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Greater- and Lesser-Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded- and Common-Merganser and late Double-crested Cormorant. Some other interesting offerings included American Coot, Solitary Sandpiper, Horned lark, American Pipit, American Tree Sparrow and Fox Sparrow.

Josh Rose



Leaders Choice: Plum Island with Geoff Lebaron Saturday, November 7, 2015

Laura Beltran, Tim Carter, Andre Charron, Aidan Griffiths and Devin Griffiths joined Geoff for this trip to the birding jewel of Massachusetts. The day was sunny to start with a nippy wind, increasingly overcast as time progressed. The group started by scoping the bay from **Joppa Flats**, finding lots of Bufflehead dotting the water and skein after skein of migrating Double-crested Cormorants passing overhead, as they would all day.

The Griffiths’ vehicle struck it rich at **Parker River NWR** with an obliging **Dicksissel** just inside the entrance station. The ocean at Lot 1 was studded with loons including a number of Red-throated and a real find: a **Pacific Loon** viewed in direct comparison with its Red-throated and Common cousins. There were also a few Red-necked Grebes but no Horned Grebes. At the salt pannes, a stunning drake **Eurasian Widgeon** accompanied its American brethren and some lovely **Northern Pintail**. As we finally approached the far end of the island, we found a flock of **Snow Buntings** coursing around a mud-flat.

The group managed to get across to **Salisbury Beach State Park** in hopes of some crepuscular action. It was an owl-less but nonetheless atmospheric end to the day.

Geoff LeBaron

We will try to get the **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule** to press for the February edition. Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor
529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC.

FIELD TRIP POLICY

Last Amended February 2, 2012

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.

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HBC Field Trip Policy (continued)

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.

Bird Sightings in Western Massachusetts

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

- birding
- talking with other birders
- using on-line resources, including some accessible through the HBC Website
- calling the Voice of Audubon or reading "The Voice" in the newspaper
- joining the Rare Bird Alert (for those interested in unusual species).

At **hampshirebirdclub.org**, you will find the following:

- **BirdTrax**, (at the foot of the homepage) is a compilation of sightings from Hampshire County, extracted from eBird checklists (and updated as checklists are filed)
- Links to some other bird-finding resources from the **Resources** page.

To check various sources **on the web**:

Try **Massbird.org** for local and statewide birding listservs

To share local sightings with other valley birders **via email**:

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

To check **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. (The transcript also appears weekly in most of our local papers).

To join the **HBC Rare Bird Alert (RBA)**.

See the instructions below.

RARE BIRD ALERT: Optional

The HBC Rare Bird Alert is an email-only alert system that informs you when and where rare birds are sighted in the valley, or, in some cases, the broader region.

To Join

Provide name/s and email address/es to membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

Participants **will need to provide us with at least one (1) active email address**. You may provide as many email addresses as you like (within reason, please). **Rare Bird Alert subscribers** automatically receive all RBA announcements. Please email membership@hampshirebirdclub.org if your email changes.



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 32, No. 6
February, 2016.

In this edition:

- the **program** for this month and **coming programs**,
- the **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**,
- the first announcement of **Monhegan Island 2016**,
- the 24th annual **MassAudubon Birders Meeting**,
- **Northampton Christmas Count** results, and
- The **2016 Valley Birding Festival**.

I hope you find some of it useful.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, February 8 at 7:15 p.m.

David Spector introduces us to

Sam Peabody and Friends: A Look At Bird Song Interpretation

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Weather-related cancellations announced via the HBC email list and local media.

Transliterations, mnemonics, transcriptions—whatever you call them, this program might help you “*cheer up cheerily*.” David, a “*teacher, teacher, teacher*,” tells the club that even in February we can look forward with the chickadees to “*spring soon, spring’s coming*.” Who was Sam Peabody? Did he ever meet Miss Beecher? Will the club refreshment table have “*potato chips*” or a “*tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle*”? David probably won’t answer these questions, but he will discuss the history and context of some of the transliterations that many of us use to remember bird songs. David has been a member of the club since its first meeting and has given approximately umpteen club programs.

COMING PROGRAMS

March 14. Scott Sumner. The Big Chicken Run.

April 11, 2016. Gary Langham. Audubon’s Climate Study: Version 2.0.

May 9, 2016. Andrea Jones. A Perspective on Bird Conservation in California.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Saturday, December 5. Connecticut River Meadows with Josh Rose

This report will appear in the March edition due to space limitations this month.

COMING TRIPS

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

Monhegan Island, 2016 with Scott Sumner

Friday, May 20 to Monday, May 23

Please note that this is the weekend BEFORE Memorial Day weekend. Mon 5/23 is NOT a holiday.

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

We will travel to Port Clyde, Maine on Friday morning, take the ferry during the mid – afternoon (without vehicles), and arrive on the island in time to get a taste of the birds already there. From here on, we immerse ourselves in the gentle rhythms of island life. We'll find migrant songbirds throughout the tiny village of Monhegan, sheltering in the numerous apple trees, sometimes picking through the sea wrack on the town beach for sand fleas, or even hiding in the lobster pots piled almost everywhere. Each day will bring fresh migrants to the island, and a storm could even produce one of the fallouts of birding legend. When the birding slows down, we can venture off on any of the island's numerous walking trails to Lobster Cove, the stupendous seaward cliffs, the Seal Rocks (aptly named), or the Enchanted Forest.

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

This trip is open only to members of the Hampshire Bird Club. Registration is by deposit. For further details about the trip, contact **Scott Sumner** (president@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 256 5438). For cost information and/or to register, contact **Mike Locher** (fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 585 5864). Registration opens Saturday, Feb. 6 at 6:00 p.m.

24th Annual MassAudubon Birders Meeting

Seabirds: Divers and their Drivers

Speakers will include:

- **David Wingate** (savior of the Bermuda Petrel),
- **Stephen Kress** and **Derrick Jackson** (Puffin Restoration in the Gulf of Maine),
- **Sophie Webb** (acclaimed artist, author and student of seabirds), and
- other speakers about seabird ID, research and conservation.

In addition to a full speaker program, lunch will be provided and there will be an extensive vendor area with exhibits and tables featuring a variety of birding materials, T-shirts, raffles, and book signings. Whether you are a seabird junkie or not, you may well be after attending this event! Registration and full details about the program can be found at

<http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/birds-birding/birders-meeting>

Tacked onto the newsletter this month are the:

- final results of the **2015 Northampton Christmas Bird Count**, and
- the **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**, and
- details of the **2016 Valley Bird Festival**.

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

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

2015 Northampton Christmas Count

It was a warm and sunny day for birding. With no snow and open water, birds were dispersed. Most of the day was slightly breezy and in the 30's. In addition to our 186 participants, a two-hour feeder watching session was held at the Arcadia Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary with 37 children and adults. In the 186 participants were 11 youth birders on 4 teams. Additionally, nine participants from a senior living center did a walk and a feeder count at their facility and arboretum.

The Highlights

High Counts

Bald Eagle
Common Raven

White-breasted Nuthatch

Unusual Species

Snow Goose,
Gadwall,
Common Loon,
Short-eared Owl,
Brown Thrasher,

Barrow's Goldeneye,
Pink-sided Junco,
Green-winged Teal,
American Pipit (almost double prev. high)

And to Impress at Your Next Party....

Non-Avian Vertebrates

| Species | Number | Species | Number |
|---------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Beaver | 1 | River Otter | 2 |
| Red Fox | 1 | Gray Treefrog | 2 |
| Bobcat | 1 | Coyote | 5 |
| Short-tailed Weasel | 1 | Muskrat | 6 |
| Spring Peeper | 1 | Gray Squirrel (black morph) | 10 |
| Meadow Vole | 1 | White-tailed Deer | 17 |
| Fisher | 1 | Eastern Cottontail | 18 |
| Chipmunk | 1 | Red Squirrel | 48 |
| Peromyscus Sp. | 1 | Gray Squirrel (gray morph) | 413 |

Effort Data

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Number of species (+ 2 count wk) | 80 | Miles on foot | 176.24 |
| Observers in the field | 165 | Miles by car | 684.73 |
| Observers at feeders | 27 | Total Party Miles | 860.97 |
| Owlers | 25 | Feeder hours | 62.5 |
| Total participants | 186 | Feeders observed | 21 |
| Daytime parties | 56 | Owling parties | 13 |
| Daytime hours on foot | 205.68 | Owling hours | 36.53 |
| Hours by car | 115.12 | Owling miles | 122.4 |
| Total party hours | 320.80 | | |

Detailed results follow on the next 2 pages.

Data compiled by **Janice Jorgensen** and **Jan Ortiz**. Both have been sacked out on the couch since December. They need **HELP** with publicity, the CBC webpages, area data gathering, and working beginning birders into the mix. More details in March, but if you want to volunteer NOW, contact them at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

Northampton Count 2015 and Historical

High counts in bold

Unusual species in italics

(Name) = no recent records, hopeful...

| Species | 2015 | High Year | High Count | Species | 2015 | High Year | High Count |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| Gr'ter Wh'-fr'ed Goose | 0 | n.a.t. | | Bald Eagle (adult) | 13 | 2014 | 12 |
| Greylag Goose | 0 | n.a.t. | | Bald Eagle (imm.) | 1 | | |
| <i>Snow Goose</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>n.a.t.</i> | | Northern Harrier | 6 | 2010 | 11 |
| Brant | 0 | n.a.t. | | Northern Harrier (imm.) | 4 | | |
| Canada Goose | 2,197 | 1999 | 7, 977 | Sharp-s'd Hawk | 13 | 2007 | 22 |
| Cackling Goose | 0 | n.a.t. | | Cooper's Hawk | 25 | 2014 | 32 |
| Mute Swan | 2 | 2002 | 29 | Northern Goshawk | 1 | n.a.t. | |
| Wood Duck | 2 | 2010 | 19 | Red-s'd Hawk | 0 | 1957 | 4 |
| <i>Gadwall</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>2012</i> | <i>6</i> | Red-tailed Hawk | 161 | 2014 | 187 |
| American Wigeon | 0 | 1999 | 10 | Rough-l'd Hawk | 0 | 1989 | 12 |
| <i>Northern Shoveller</i> | 0 | | | American Kestrel | cw | 1974 | 31 |
| Am. Black Duck | 87 | 1992 | 286 | Merlin | 1 | 2013 | 4 |
| Mallard | 467 | 1994 | 1,338 | Gyr Falcon | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Northern Pintail | 1 | 2014 | 54 | Peregrine Falcon | 5 | 2014 | 6 |
| Green-winged Teal | 3 | 2016 | 3 | American Coot | 0 | 2014 | 1 |
| Canvasback | 0 | n.a.t. | | Virginia Rail | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Ring-necked Duck | 0 | n.a.t. | | Killdeer | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Greater Scaup | 0 | n.a.t. | | <i>Wilson's Snipe</i> | <i>0</i> | n.a.t. | |
| Lesser Scaup | 0 | n.a.t. | | American Woodcock | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| White-winged Scoter | 0 | n.a.t. | | Ring-billed Gull | 193 | 2006 | 1,088 |
| Long-tailed Duck | 0 | n.a.t. | | Herring Gull | 5 | 1986 | 2,196 |
| Bufflehead | 0 | n.a.t. | | Iceland Gull | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Common Goldeneye | 62 | 1992 | 109 | Lesser Bl'-backed Gull | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | 1 | n.a.t. | | Glaucous Gull | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Hooded Merganser | 78 | 2012 | 60 | <i>Black-headed Gull</i> | <i>0</i> | | |
| Common Merganser | 95 | 2012 | 227 | Great Bl'-b'd Gull | 1 | n.a.t. | |
| Red-b'd Merganser | 0 | n.a.t. | | Rock Pigeon | 612 | 1988 | 2,778 |
| Ruddy Duck | 0 | n.a.t. | | Mourning Dove | 1,301 | 1998 | 3,904 |
| Ring-n'd Pheasant | 5 | 1960 | 196 | E. Screech-Owl | 58 | 2006 | 82 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 3 | 1966 | 37 | Great Horned Owl | 11 | 2014 | 68 |
| Wild Turkey | 79 | 2010 | 187 | Snowy Owl | 0 | n.r.r | |
| Red-throated Loon | 0 | n.a.t. | | Barred Owl | 4 | 2012 | 19 |
| <i>Common Loon</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>n.a.t.</i> | | <i>Long-eared Owl</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>2004</i> | <i>3</i> |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 0 | n.a.t. | | <i>Short-eared Owl</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>n.a.t.</i> | |
| Horned Grebe | 0 | n.a.t. | | N. Saw-whet Owl | 0 | 2006 | 5 |
| <i>Do'-c'd Cormorant</i> | <i>0</i> | <i>n.a.t.</i> | | Selasphorus sp. | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| (Great Cormorant) | 0 | nrr | | Belted Kingfisher | 14 | 2001 | 23 |
| Great Blue Heron | 7 | 2006 | 27 | Red-b'd Woodpecker | 203 | 2014 | 246 |
| Green Heron | 0 | n.a.t. | | Yellow-b'd Sapsucker | 4 | 2007 | 22 |
| Turkey Vulture | 0 | n.a.t. | | Downy Woodpecker | 377 | 2014 | 503 |
| | | | | Hairy Woodpecker | 115 | 1974 | 192 |
| | | | | Northern Flicker | 76 | 1998 | 77 |
| | | | | (Continues next page ►) | | | |

| Species | 2015 | High Year | High Count | Species | 2015 | High Year | High Count |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Pileated Woodpecker | 31 | 2010 | 34 | <i>Clay-c'd Sparrow</i> | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Eastern Phoebe | 0 | n.a.t. | | Field Sparrow | 0 | 1982 | 58 |
| Northern Shrike | 2 | 1995 | 15 | Vesper Sparrow | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| (White-eyed Vireo) | 0 | nrr | | Harris's Sparrow | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 0 | n.a.t. | | Savannah Sparrow | 39 | 2000 | 46 |
| Blue Jay | 1,488 | 2014 | 1,722 | Fox Sparrow | 3 | 1943 | 20 |
| American Crow | 2,776 | 1997 | 5,836 | Song Sparrow | 310 | 1992 | 559 |
| Fish Crow | cw | 2008 | 6 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Common Raven | 26 | 2010 | 13 | Swamp Sparrow | 3 | 1992 | 23 |
| Horned Lark | 280 | 1993 | 2,504 | White-t'd Sparrow | 497 | 2009 | 1,008 |
| Black-c'd Chickadee | 1,680 | 2005 | 2,096 | White-c'd Sparrow | 7 | 2014 | 26 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 704 | 2006 | 894 | Dark-e'd Junco (sla-col.) | 2,403 | 2006 | 3,585 |
| Red-b'd Nuthatch | 7 | 1993 | 295 | <i>Oregon Junco</i> | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| White-b'd Nuthatch | 644 | 2014 | 571 | <i>Pink-sided Junco</i> | 1 | n.a.t. | |
| Brown Creeper | 16 | 1973 | 53 | <i>Lapland Longspur</i> | 0 | 1989 | 31 |
| Carolina Wren | 46 | 2014 | 175 | Snow Bunting | 0 | 1989 | 706 |
| House Wren | 0 | n.a.t. | | Northern Cardinal | 491 | 2014 | 786 |
| Winter Wren | 2 | 2014 | 9 | Indigo Bunting | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Golden-c'd Kinglet | 43 | 2001 | 332 | Dickcissel | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| <i>Ruby-c'd Kinglet</i> | 0 | 1973 | 6 | Red-winged Blackbird | 48 | 2008 | 304 |
| Eastern Bluebird | 350 | 2014 | 539 | (Eastern Meadowlark) | 0 | nrr | |
| Hermit Thrush | 7 | 2014 | 33 | Rusty Blackbird | 0 | 2008 | 100 |
| American Robin | 4,256 | 2013 | 9,899 | Common Grackle | 1 | 2006 | 501 |
| Gray Catbird | 3 | 2005 | 5 | Brown-h'd Cowbird | 42 | 2006 | 876 |
| N. Mockingbird | 119 | 1999 | 238 | Baltimore Oriole | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Brown Thrasher | 1 | n.a.t. | | Pine Grosbeak | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| European Starling | 4,910 | 1985 | 94,630 | Purple Finch | 8 | 1976 | 221 |
| American Pipit | 129 | 2010 | 66 | House Finch | 690 | 1994 | 2,215 |
| (Bohemian Waxwing) | 0 | nrr | | Red Crossbill | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| Cedar Waxwing | 457 | 2007 | 2,194 | White-w'd Crossbill | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| <i>Yellow-r'd Warbler</i> | 0 | 2000 | 5 | Common Redpoll | 0 | 1959 | 1,069 |
| <i>Palm Warbler</i> | 0 | n.a.t. | | Hoary Redpoll | 0 | n.a.t. | |
| <i>Eastern Towhee</i> | 0 | n.a.t. | | Pine Siskin | 4 | 1993 | 372 |
| Amer. Tree Sparrow | 631 | 1992 | 2,637 | Amer. Goldfinch | 1,246 | 2006 | 2,094 |
| <i>Chipping Sparrow</i> | 0 | 1974 | 11 | Evening Grosbeak | 0 | 1969 | 3,000 |
| | | | | House Sparrow | 2,351 | 1961 | 2,662 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

In the event of equal high years, the most recent is shown.

For High counts in 2015, the previous high count and year are shown.

n.a.t. = now and then. Recorded in fewer than five (5) years between 1999 and 2015.

Some species seen extremely rarely have been excluded in the interests of space.

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, 2016
1.31.2016

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 to give an idea of the pace and/or terrain:*

"A" Accessible - suitable for people with limited mobility,

"E" Easy - suitable for people who can walk on level ground at a relaxed pace,

"M" Moderate - suitable for people who can walk over uneven ground at a relaxed pace, or

"S" Strenuous - suitable only for people who can walk over uneven or difficult terrain at a quick pace.

Please check all information with the trip leaders.

FEBRUARY

***Wednesday, February 10. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and other leaders explore the trails of the Fort River Refuge. Be prepared for snow and ice on the trails. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8:00 a.m. This trip is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. (E/M)

***Saturday, February 20. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and other leaders explore the trails of the Fort River Refuge. Be prepared for snow and ice on the trails. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8:00 a.m. This trip is co-sponsored by the FFRR. (E/M)

***Saturday, February 27. Leader's Choice.** All day. Josh Rose looks for winter irruptives or other seasonal rarities, depending on what's being reported in the area. Contact Josh (413-835-0093 or jrose@hampshirebirdclub.org) for information about the trip. Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops, (41 Russell St., Hadley) at 7 a.m. This trip is co-sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club. (M)

Sunday, February 28. Mitch's Way: Winter. Morning. Mike Locher explores the fields beyond Mitch's Marina for any hardy birds that happen to be there. Walking conditions are likely to be difficult (either snow and ice or frozen mud), so wear suitable footwear (including snowshoes or traction devices). Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for more information. Meet at Mitch's Marina parking area, near the gate, at 7:30 a.m. (S)

MARCH

***Wednesday, March 9. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and other leaders explore the trails of the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8:00 a.m. This trip is co-sponsored by the FFRR. (E/M)

Saturday, March 19. Plum Island, Newburyport, and Salisbury. All day. Geoff LeBaron looks for migrants and residents at one of Massachusetts' premier birding locations. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register. Meet at Northampton Stop & Shop (228 King St.) at 6:30 a.m. (E)

***Sunday, March 20. Connecticut River Waterfowl.** Half day. Josh Rose seeks out the ducks and geese migrating up the Connecticut River to their breeding grounds. Contact Josh (413-835-0093 or jrose@hampshirebirdclub.org) for more information. Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops, (41 Russell St., Hadley) at 7 a.m. This trip is co-sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club. (E/M)

***Saturday, March 26. Fort River Refuge: Really Early Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and others lead birders in looking for avian signs of spring at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8 a.m. (E/M)

APRIL

***Saturday, April 9. 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 Holyoke Elks parking lot (250 Whitney Ave.), near Exit 15 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7 a.m. (E/M with one optional S section)

***Sunday, April 10. Look Park.** Half day. Betsy Higgins (413-586-7585) reprises her annual spring trip to Look Park to find warblers and other early migrants, including Louisiana Waterthrushes. Meet at the JFK Middle School parking lot (100 Bridge Road, Florence) at 7 a.m. (E/M)

***Wednesday, April 13. Fort River Refuge: Early Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and others lead birders in looking for early migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8 a.m. (E/M)

***Saturday, April 23. Fort River Refuge: Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, and other neotropical migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8 a.m. (E/M)

***Sunday, April 24. Mitch's Way: Spring.** Morning. Mike Locher continues with the second of his seasonal series to Mitch's Way, this time looking for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, all the local woodpeckers, and other spring migrants. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for more information. Meet at Mitch's Marina parking area, near the gate, at 7:00 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, April 30. Quabbin Gate 5 and Lake Wallace. Full day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths visit two Belchertown hotspots, looking for spring migrants and anything else they can find. Meet at Gate 5 at 6:30 a.m. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for more information. (M/S)

MAY

Sunday, May 8. Belchertown Ramble: Herman Covey WMA, Reed Conservation Area, Scarborough Brook. Full day. Aidan and Devin explore Herman Covey WMA and introduce the uninitiated to several other Belchertown birding spots. Be prepared for migrants galore, and Blue Jays with unusual talents as ventiloquists. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) to get meeting details and for more information. (M/S)

Friday-Tuesday, May 20-23. Monhegan Island. Overnight. Scott Sumner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, but the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to 12 Hampshire Bird Club members. Price will depend upon the number of participants. Contact Scott (413-256-5438) for information, and Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) to register or for questions about the cost of the trip. Registration opens Saturday, Feb 6 at 6:00 p.m. (E/M/S)

***Sunday, May 22. Mount Holyoke.** Half day. Mike Locher leads a hike up Mt. Holyoke in search of Cerulean Warblers, other spring migrants, and great views. Meet at 7 a.m. at the gate of Mt. Holyoke. For information contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org). (M/S)

***Saturday, May 28. Fort River Refuge: Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Monday, May 30. Abandoned Atkins Orchard. Morning. Jim Lafley leads a new club trip into the wilds of Belchertown. This is the site where the White-eyed Vireo was seen last spring, and is a great habitat with at least two distinct biozones. Meet at Jim's house (28 Sabin St., Belchertown) at 7 a.m. For information, contact Jim (413-323-5892). (M/S)

JUNE

Saturday, June 4. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Mike Locher hosts the HBC's annual trip to 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. Contact Mike 413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

***Monday, June 6. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Wednesday, June 15. Montague Plain: Whip-poor-wills. Evening. Al Richards searches the unique habitat around the Montague Plain for whip-poor-wills and other local specialties. Meet at Al's house (7 South Main St., Sunderland) at 7:30 p.m. Contact Al (413-665-2761) for further information. (E)

***Saturday, June 25. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Check the website and newsletter for possible additions to the schedule, including Knightville Dam, Mineral Hills, Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, Mount Mansfield, and Milford Point, CT, among other possibilities.

CELEBRATE BIRDS

The 2016 Valley Bird Festival

Saturday, May 7, from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join environmental organizations from throughout the valley for a fun-filled and family-oriented day of learning about our feathered friends. The festival will feature events at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)* in Hadley and then later at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** in Easthampton. Both venues are **accessible** to all.

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

- **Early morning bird walk with George Regmund of Friends of Fort River**

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- a **bird banding** demonstration, and
- a **falconry** demonstration by Chris Davis

At Arcadia Sanctuary from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

- **games, information and activities** for all ages, and
- **“Eyes on Owls.”** 11 a.m. AND 1 p.m.

This wonderful demonstration of six (6) species of **live owls** from New England and beyond will occur at 11:00 a.m. and AGAIN at 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about these amazing birds.

The venues are:

*The Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)

69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley

AND

**Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts Audubon Society)

127 Coombs Road, Easthampton.

Festival organizers include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ◆ Hampshire Bird Club, | ◆ Massachusetts Department of |
| ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, | Conservation and Recreation, |
| ◆ Mass Audubon, | ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment, |
| ◆ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & | ◆ Friends of the Fort River Division and |
| Wildlife (MassWildlife), | ◆ Northfield Mountain Recreation and |
| ◆ Kestrel Trust | Environmental Center. |

Help Wanted

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Jim Lafley through the Hampshire Bird Club.



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 32, No. 7
March, 2016.

This month:

- The **program** for this month and the **upcoming offerings**,
- **Field trip reports** and a packed schedule for the spring including **Monhegan 2016**,
- The 2015-2016 **Nominating Committee** and **CBC Help Wanted**,
- A **pelagic birding opportunity**,
- A flyer for the 2nd annual **Valley Birding Festival**,
- **Quabbin Count** results from 2015, and
- remembering **Ann Kearns**.

Monday, March 14 at 7:15 p.m.

Scott Sumner scampers around on the **Big Chicken Run**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Weather-related cancellations announced via the HBC email list and local media.

Scott was first scheduled to present this program in February of 2015. A snowstorm put paid to that meeting. Thirteen months later, in a winter that is so far almost snow-free, but which has already seen two programs cancelled, Scott once more steps up to the plate. Self-effacing as he is, the program information Scott gave us is about the same length as the printable portion of the last GOP debate, so here is a reprise of last years introduction.

Otherwise known as the **Grouse Grand Slam**, the trip Scott will be describing generally takes about ten days, spent quartering the windswept prairies in Colorado and Kansas for Greater and Lesser Prairie Chickens, Greater and Gunnison's Sage Grouse, and Sharp-tailed Grouse. These are all lekking species, meaning that males display in mysteriously well-defined areas, where their (often bizarre) displays are perused by visiting females. The grand slam trips involve grueling travel itineraries and a lot of huddling in blinds near the leks in the pre-dawn. A trip to make (or break) friendships.....

Scott Sumner is a founding member of the Hampshire Bird Club and has had more terms as president than the Bush and Clinton families combined, (though the math may need to be re-checked in 2016.....). He has led wonderful trips both locally and across the country for HBC and is the current teacher of the annual Hitchcock Birding Class, which brings many new people to birding every year. Scott is a long-time valley resident (actually grew up here), small business owner, master-birder, and, recently, star of local radio. He has a genial style and tons of great photos! Second time is a charm! Hope to see you there!

COMING PROGRAMS

April 11, 2016. Gary Langham. Audubon's Climate Study: Version 2.0.

May 9, 2016. Andrea Jones. A Perspective on Bird Conservation in California.

June 13, 2016. Mike Braun. The Red Siskin Project.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Connecticut River Meadows. Saturday, December 5 with Josh Rose

This trip focused on fields near the Connecticut River. We started on Aqua Vitae Road, where we saw two Red Foxes and 20 bird species including flyovers of **American Pipit** and **Horned Lark**.

Next was the Hadley Honeypot. The area seemed pretty blank from the car, except for another flock of Horned Larks that flew across the road. But once we parked the car and went for a walk at *That's A Plenty Farm*, we noticed a LOT more activity. The most noteworthy single bird was an immature **White-crowned Sparrow** but the most shocking sight was probably a flock of over 150 House Finches that we flushed, the largest number I have ever seen together. We spent some time looking for other birds in the group, but its only other members were about 40 Goldfinches.

After a pit stop we crossed the river to check out the Hatfield Great Meadow. It was disappointing for meadow birds, though we did have another pipit and a few more larks fly over. The main excitement here was on the river, where a flock of at least 33 Common Goldeneye was feeding.

Josh Rose



Coastal Rhode Island. Saturday, January 30, 2016.

Geoff LeBaron led Tim Carter; Andre & Laura Charron; Aidan & Devin Griffiths; Sally Hills, and Scott Schwenk on this annual favorite. Temperatures varied between the mid-twenties and thirties with light but increasing breezes and generally cloudy skies.

Napatree Point extends enticingly into Long Island Sound and its windswept beaches and dunes offer the prospect of great birds in return for effort. This year the weather and the group dynamic led us to do the entire hike to the tip. We were rewarded with close looks at a **Red-throated Loon** feeding in the surf, spectacular close-range views of **Sanderlings** and **Purple Sandpipers** at the water's edge, a lovely immature Bonaparte's Gull and adult Great Cormorants.

The breakers were rather bare at East Beach, Charlestown, but Ninigret Pond boasted a dense flock of around one thousand (!) **Greater Scaup**, seasoned with four (4) **Redhead** and one **Lesser Scaup**. Ninigret Wildlife Refuge is still host to its resident **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and Scarborough beach sported not the reported one, but **TWO Black-headed Gulls** in flight.

Sachuest Point near Newport was sadly and inexplicably devoid of Harlequin Ducks, but we were compensated by a glorious sunset and a group of unusually confiding White-tailed Deer at close range. A most respectable tally of 57 species for the day.

Geoff LeBaron

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At this time each year, the Nominating Committee assembles. Their task is to make sure that any vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors at the end of this year can be duly filled, ensuring the viable management of the club for 2016-2017. The Committee must first establish whether any current Board members are stepping down at the end of this board year, and then locate willing nominees for those positions.

The confirmed members of the Nominating Committee so far are **Bruce Hart** (brucehart-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org) and **David Peake-Jones** (newsletter-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org). There are a number of other volunteer inquisitors who shall be identified in due time. For now, if you are eager to serve on the board starting in June 2016, please contact Bruce or David.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

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Monhegan Island, 2016 with Scott Sumner

Memorial Day Weekend (Friday, May 20 to Monday, May 23)

Please note that this is the weekend BEFORE Memorial Day weekend. Mon 5/23 is NOT a holiday. You can see the spring migration almost anywhere, but if you have ever wanted to steep yourself in the glorious warblers of May, while losing yourself in the gentle rhythms of an idyllic island, Monhegan is for you.

We will travel to Port Clyde, Maine on Friday morning, take the ferry during the mid – afternoon (without vehicles), and arrive on the island in time to get a taste of the birds already there. From here on, we immerse ourselves in the gentle rhythms of island life. We'll find migrant songbirds throughout the tiny village of Monhegan, sheltering in the numerous apple trees, sometimes picking through the sea wrack on the town beach for sand fleas, or even hiding in the lobster pots piled almost everywhere. Each day will bring fresh migrants to the island, and a storm could even produce one of the fallouts of birding legend. When the birding slows down, we can venture off on any of the island's numerous walking trails to Lobster Cove, the stupendous seaward cliffs, the Seal Rocks (aptly named), or the Enchanted Forest.

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

Registration is by deposit. For further details about the trip, contact **Scott Sumner** (president@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 256 5438). For cost information and/or to register, contact **Mike Locher** (fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 585 5864)

Northampton Christmas Count Help Wanted

The MANO CBC team is expanding. Jan Ortiz and Janice Jorgensen are looking for team members to assist with the following tasks:

Publicity—Help sending notices get sent to 10+ police departments, some newspaper blurbs about the CBC and how to participate, and creating and maintaining a MANO Facebook page.

The MANO webpage. Currently have three pages within the HBC website, however Jan and Janice are not WordPress savvy and need someone to keep those pages current. Most of the work is done right before and after the CBC.

MANO area data. We want to begin to collect notes; maps or whatever leaders and participants have about their area. When a leader is not able to participate; it becomes much easier to hand over the area when there is that data we can pass on.

MANO CBC beginning birders. We are hoping to expand and introduce more new birders to the CBC, but continue to do it in a controlled way so as to not interfere with existing areas and teams counting. We need to brainstorm and make a plan to do this.

If you can help, please contact Jan and Janice. You can reach them at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

FALL FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS

Spring is almost upon us and we are just getting into the heart of the birding year. However, **Mike Locher** continues to lie awake at nights thinking about the NEXT field trip schedule. That's right, come the summer, Mike will need to put together the FALL field trip schedule. It's never too early to come up with something new and different to add to our schedule. It might even become the next annual HBC favorite. If you have ideas for field trips in the fall of 2016, especially if you are prepared to lead them, please contact Mike at fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org.

CAPE ANN WINTER BIRDING CRUISE

Saturday, March 12, 2016. 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Presented by the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce

Conducted by 7 Seas Whale Watch; 63 Rogers Street, Gloucester.

Stellwagen Bank is probably best known for its large concentrations of whales (Humpback and Finback especially) which attract tens-of-thousands of eager whale watchers each Spring through Fall. But the activity continues all year long! Even in winter many species of marine wildlife can be seen, and while this trip will focus primarily on the birds of Stellwagen Bank, the possibility of marine mammals including returning whales is certainly there.

Highlights of this trip in recent years include:

Black-legged Kittiwakes, Iceland gulls, Glaucous gulls, Razorbills, Dovekies, Common Murres, Thick-billed Murres, Atlantic Puffins, Common Eiders, King Eiders, Long-tailed Duck, all three scoter species, Greater Scaup, Northern Gannet, Bufflehead, Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebes, Red-necked Grebes, and even a Snowy Owl.

Details

Cost: \$75

More Information: Call Kerry at the Chamber: 978 283 1601

You can register at <http://web.capeannchamber.com/events/Winter-Birding-Boat-Trip-2238/details>

Remembering Ann Kearns

Hampshire Bird Club mourns the passing of Ann Kearns, who died on March 2. Ann was a long-time HBC member, active both at meetings and in the field. She was also a passionate conservationist and an extraordinary musician. She will be sadly missed by our birding community and our deepest condolences to her family.

That is all for this month.

The Quabbin Count results for 2015 are attached, as is a flyer for the 2016 Valley Birding Festival.

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Quabbin Count 2015 and Historical

Species with high counts this year are listed in **bold** and the previous high count is also listed

| Species | 2015 | High Year | High Count | Species | 20135 | High Year | High Count |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Snow Goose | 1 | new | | American Coot | 0 | unusual | |
| Canada Goose | 236 | 1999 | 193 | Black-headed Gull | 0 | unusual | |
| Mute Swan | 0 | unusual | | Ring-billed Gull | 153 | 2011 | 185 |
| Wood Duck | 0 | unusual | | Herring Gull | 7 | 1990 | 280 |
| American Wigeon | 0 | unusual | | Glaucous Gull | 0 | unusual | |
| Black Duck | 76 | 1993 | 349 | Great Black-backed Gull | 0 | 1990 | 47 |
| Mallard | 49 | 1994 | 975 | Rock Pigeon | 192 | 1999 | 339 |
| Northern Pintail | 0 | unusual | | Mourning Dove | 283 | 1999 | 440 |
| Green-winged Teal | 0 | unusual | | Eastern Screech Owl | 2 | 1989 | 4 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 1 | new | | Great Horned Owl | 2 | 1994 | 24 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 3 | 2001 | 41 | Snowy Owl | 0 | not yet | |
| Greater Scaup | 0 | 2001 | 5 | Barred Owl | 5 | 1993 | 21 |
| Lesser Scaup | 0 | unusual | | Long-eared Owl | 0 | unusual | |
| White-winged Scoter | 0 | (10 cw) | | Saw-whet Owl | 7 | 1994 | 61 |
| Black Scoter | 0 | unusual | | Belted Kingfisher | 3 | 2010 | 6 |
| Long-tailed Duck | 2 | unusual | | Red-bellied Woodpecker | 41 | 2010 | 35 |
| Bufflehead | 3 | 1994 | 28 | Yellow-bell'd Sapsucker | 0 | occ. | |
| Common Goldeneye | 2 | 1992 | 105 | Downy Woodpecker | 59 | 1994 | 169 |
| Barrows Goldeneye | 0 | unusual | | Hairy Woodpecker | 17 | 2012 | 62 |
| Hooded Merganser | 82 | 2006 | 186 | Northern Flicker | 5 | 2010 | 10 |
| Common Merganser | 231 | 199 | 1127 | Pileated Woodpecker | 19 | 2010 | 61 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 0 | unusual | | Eastern Phoebe | 0 | unusual | |
| Ruddy Duck | 0 | unusual | | Northern Shrike | 1 | 1995 | 10 |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | 0 | 1994 | 16 | Blue Jay | 436 | 1993 | 1140 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 8 | 1994 | 42 | American Crow | 192 | 1995 | 395 |
| Wild Turkey | 38 | 2009 | 248 | Common Raven | 20 | 2013 | 62 |
| Common Loon | 16 | 2014 | 28 | Horned Lark | 0 | 1998 | 59 |
| Horned Grebe | 2 | 1997 | 195 | Black-capped Chickadee | 849 | 1993 | 2516 |
| Red-necked Grebe | 0 | 1995 | 2 | Boreal Chickadee | 0 | unusual | |
| Double crested Cormorant | 0 | unusual | | Tufted Titmouse | 298 | 1998 | 297 |
| Great Cormorant | 0 | unusual | | Red-breasted Nuthatch | 63 | 1993 | 1886 |
| Great Blue Heron | 0 | 1991 | 2 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 199 | 2001 | 303 |
| Turkey Vulture | 0 | unusual | | Brown Creeper | 14 | 1996 | 82 |
| Osprey | 0 | unusual | | Carolina Wren | 5 | 2011 | 12 |
| Bald Eagle | 16 | 1994 | 38 | Winter Wren* | 0 | 1997 | 4 |
| Northern Harrier | 1 | unusual | | Golden-crowned Kinglet | 28 | 1996 | 312 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | 1993 | 12 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 0 | 1996* | 3 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 3 | 2010 | 6 | Eastern Bluebird | 54 | 2014 | 88 |
| Northern Goshawk | 0 | 2007* | 3 | Hermit Thrush* | 2 | 2006 | 4 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 2 | unusual | | American Robin | 121 | 2013 | 2501 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 22 | 2001 | 28 | Gray Catbird | 0 | 2008* | 1 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 0 | unusual | | Northern Mockingbird | 9 | 1991 | 45 |
| Golden Eagle | 0 | 1997* | 2 | European Starling | 397 | 1999 | 1690 |
| American Kestrel | 0 | unusual | | Bohemian Waxwing | | Not yet | |
| Merlin | 0 | unusual | | Cedar Waxwing | 134 | 1997 | 550 |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | new | | <i>(Continues next page)</i> | | | |

Quabbin Count 2015 and Historical (continued)

| Species | 2015 | High Year | High Count | Species | 2015 | High Year | High Count |
|----------------------------|------|-----------|------------|--|------|-----------|------------|
| Yellow-r'd Warbler* | 0 | unusual | | House Finch | 25 | 1992 | 429 |
| Pine Warbler | 0 | unusual | | Red Crossbill | 0 | 1993 | 240 |
| Eastern Towhee | 0 | 2009 | 3 | White-winged Crossbill | 0 | 1993 | 27 |
| American Tree Sparrow | 41 | 1998 | 611 | Common Redpoll | 0 | 1997 | 1357 |
| Field Sparrow | 0 | 1999 | 2 | Hoary Redpoll | 0 | unusual | |
| Fox Sparrow | 0 | unusual | | Pine Siskin | 7 | 2008 | 137 |
| Song Sparrow | 16 | 1994 | 50 | American Goldfinch | 202 | 1994 | 664 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 0 | Not yet | | Evening Grosbeak | 0 | 1989 | 413 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 1 | 2014 | 3 | House Sparrow | 641 | 2004 | 1032 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 29 | 2009 | 584 | | | | |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 0 | unusual | | | | | |
| D'-eyed (pink sided) Junco | 0 | unusual | | | | | |
| D'-eyed (slate-co') Junco | 791 | 2009 | 2297 | | | | |
| Snow Bunting | 0 | 2013 | 230 | Write Ins | | | |
| Northern Cardinal | 95 | 2005 | 123 | | | | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 0 | unusual | | | | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 0 | 2006 | 309 | | | | |
| Rusty Blackbird | 0 | 2011 | 51 | | | | |
| Common Grackle | 0 | 2006 | 100 | | | | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 0 | 2006 | 553 | Number of species this year | | | 64 |
| Pine Grosbeak | 0 | 2007 | 154 | # of <u>new</u> species this year | | | 2 |
| Purple Finch | 13 | 1992 | 169 | Cumulative # of Species (historically) | | | 120 |

Species counted in fewer than five (5) years between 1988 and 2015 are described as "unusual."

On January 2, 2016 forty-two (42) observers took part in the 2015 Quabbin CBC. Overall the weather was pretty good and just about every bit of water was open, but a snow/ice storm from the previous Monday made for icy conditions on most of the roadways inside the gates. Some roads were completely impassable, and to venture from the car was to risk slipping on sheer ice in many areas. Observers who had brought along their Yaktrax's got their money's worth this day. We recorded 64 species, including three (3) that were new to the count and five (5) others that were high counts for the history of this circle.

Species observed for the **first time** this year included **Snow Goose, Blue-winged Teal and Peregrine Falcon**. Other **high counts** (including tied high counts) included **Canada Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse**.

CELEBRATE BIRDS

The 2nd Valley Bird Festival

Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join environmental organizations from throughout the valley for a fun-filled and family-oriented day of learning about our feathered friends. The festival will feature events at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)* in Hadley and then later at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** in Easthampton. Both venues are **accessible** to all.

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

- **Early morning bird walk with George Regmund of Friends of Fort River**

At Conte Refuge (Fort River)

69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- a **bird banding** demonstration, and
- a **falconry** demonstration by Chris Davis

At Arcadia Sanctuary

127 Coombs Road, Easthampton

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

- **games, information and activities** for all ages, and
- **“Eyes on Owls.** 11 a.m. AND 1 p.m.

This wonderful demonstration of six (6) species of **live owls** from New England and beyond will occur at 11:00 a.m. and AGAIN at 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about these amazing birds.

Festival Organizers include:

- ◆ Hampshire Bird Club,
- ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
- ◆ Mass Audubon,
- ◆ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife),
- ◆ Kestrel Trust
- ◆ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation,
- ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment,
- ◆ Friends of the Fort River Division and
- ◆ Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environment Center

Help Wanted

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Jim Lafley through the Hampshire Bird Club.



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 32, No. 8
April, 2016.

Please note that the **date** of the **May program** has **changed** since it was initially published. Andrea Jones will be joining us to talk about bird conservation in California on **Monday, May 16** (third Monday in May), instead of on the ninth. We apologize for any inconvenience.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, April 11 at 7:15 p.m.

Gary Langham looks into Audubon's Climate Modeling Project

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Everyone reading this knows, by now, that climate change is going to affect every bird species on the continent to some extent. But understanding the details and how to be a bird-lover during a time of such daunting change is confusing and even demoralizing. Do not despair!

The National Audubon Society, with its access to vast amounts of citizen science, is at the forefront of attempts to pin down these effects and translate general concerns into specific research and conservation priorities. Audubon's latest study encompasses 588 species of North American birds. For each of these, researchers have first attempted to nail down the relationship between climate and the distribution of the bird. From this starting point, the study makes startling conclusions about:

- The impact of projected climate change on overall bird diversity in North America,
- The locations of "stronghold" sites: areas which will remain habitable for key species and bird communities through 2080, and
- The impact of projected climate change on individual priority species.

If we are serious about our love for birds, we must at least attempt to understand this, one of the most daunting challenges faced by all bird species in our time. Gary Langham is as well placed as anyone to help us do that.

Gary Langham, Ph.D., is the Vice-President and Chief Scientist for the National Audubon Society.

Gary directs Audubon's wide-reaching scientific initiatives and studies, including innovative climate modeling, extensive avian research and high-priority bird conservation. His work connects Audubon's extensive network of supporters by creating free digital citizen science avenues, authoring local and state-specific reports and producing cutting edge climate science to be leveraged by Audubon's policy advocates. Langham's background in local conservation drives his commitment to grassroots-level conservation science.

Before joining the National Audubon Society, Langham served as the lead scientist for Audubon California for almost five years. In that role he supervised many state programs, including Important Bird Areas, Migratory Bird Conservation Program, Seabird Conservation, Landowner Stewardship Program, Kern River Preserve, Starr Ranch Sanctuary and Audubon Bobcat Ranch. Previously he taught Ornithology at UC Berkeley, completed postdoctoral research through an NSF grant at Berkeley, and founded the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University.

COMING PROGRAMS

Please note that the **date** of the **May program** has **changed** since it was initially published. Andrea Jones will be joining us to talk about bird conservation in California on **Monday, May 16** (third Monday in May), instead of on the ninth. We apologize for any inconvenience.

May 16, 2016. Andrea Jones. A Perspective on Bird Conservation in California.

June 13, 2016. Mike Braun. The Red Siskin Project.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Connecticut River Valley (Leader's Choice). Saturday, February 27

Josh Rose led this joint venture with the Athol Bird and Nature Club. The group started out in Hadley and worked its way as far north as Greenfield during the course of the day. Highlights included:

- a **Pine Siskin** at Pete Yeskie's feeders in far western Hadley,
- two Horned Larks flying over Aqua Vitae Road,
- several early migrants including Common Grackles along Aqua Vitae Road, a Red-winged Blackbird at the USF&WS offices in Hadley, a Northern Flicker at That's A Plenty Farm, and a Turkey Vulture over the Meadow St Fields in north Amherst,
- the continuing Snow Goose at the UMass campus pond,
- a **Peregrine Falcon** perched on the UMass library,
- a stonking drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** at the Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club (found by Scott Sumner about 2 hours earlier) with a drake Bufflehead and several Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers,
- at least 6 Bald Eagles, scattered widely up and down the valley,
- a Sharp-shinned Hawk streaking through the residential neighborhood near Riverview Drive, and
- four drake Ring-necked Ducks near Riverview Drive on the Gill side of Barton Cove.

Josh Rose



Connecticut River Waterfowl. Sunday, March 20.

Josh Rose led a joint Hampshire Bird Club/Athol Bird & Nature Club trip with an emphasis on finding migratory waterfowl.

We started on Aqua Vitae Road, which had very little in the waterfowl department beyond a few Common Mergansers on the adjacent river, but we enjoyed seeing an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk streak across the road knee-high just in front of our car, and not far away a swarm of sparrows which was mostly Song- but included some Tree- and Savannah-.

Our next stop was the Norwottuck Rail Trail. We were totally oblivious to the rail report from there, hearing about it only just before we left the location. The wetlands along Hop Brook harbored a half-dozen **Green-winged Teal** and a drake Wood Duck among several other waterfowl. Early-returning migrants included a pair of **Tree Swallows**, 3 **Eastern Phoebe**s, and 2 high-flying **Belted Kingfishers**. We had a nice close encounter with a **Brown Creeper** here as well. A striking adult Cooper's Hawk was perched in a tree along Station Road nearby.

Volunteers Needed: 2016 Valley Bird Festival (see page 4)

Please contact Jim Lafley, 413-323-5892 home; 413-221-1941 cell; jimlafley-at-gmail-dot-com if you can help and/or if you need more information.

Continues next page ►

Connecticut River Waterfowl. (continued)

We could not add any new waterfowl at UMass Campus Pond, but the resident Peregrine Falcon pair put on a great show, flying around the top of the library, vocalizing, going in and out of the nest box, and generally making a high-altitude public spectacle of themselves. An American Kestrel was perched on a road sign right at the side of Route 47 in Sunderland. Tri-town Beach harbored at least 24 Common Mergansers.

A drake Bufflehead was the highlight at the Rod & Gun Club in Turners Falls. From the boat ramp in Gill we saw about 20 Cedar Waxwings in the trees, and at least 5 Bald Eagles and 30-plus Tree Swallows over Barton Cove. This was also the only place we recorded a Carolina Wren all day. We left that area and headed east into Wendell State Forest to check the neighborhood Great Blue Heron rookery. One heron was present here, along with 4 Hooded Mergansers, 4 Black Ducks, and at least 14 Wood Ducks. We also heard a Barred Owl hooting in the distant woods.

Acting on local intelligence, we visited the Branch Bridge Road crossing on Lake Rohunta in New Salem. We tallied 173 Ring-necked Ducks, exceeding the original report. The hike from Gate 33 to Bassett pond yielded 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Brown Creepers and some more ducks. Several Common Goldeneye and some previously-seen waterfowl graced Harvard Pond toward the close of the day.

Josh Rose

COMING TRIPS

***Saturday, April 9. 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 Holyoke Elks parking lot (250 Whitney Ave.), near Exit 15 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7 a.m. (E/M with one optional S section)

***Sunday, April 10. Look Park.** Half day. Betsy Higgins (413-586-7585) reprises her annual spring trip to Look Park to find warblers and other early migrants, including Louisiana Waterthrushes. Meet at the JFK Middle School parking lot (100 Bridge Road, Florence) at 7 a.m. (E/M)

***Wednesday, April 13. Fort River Refuge: Early Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and others lead birders in looking for early migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8 a.m. (E/M)

***Saturday, April 23. Fort River Refuge: Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, and other neotropical migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 8 a.m. (E/M)

***Sunday, April 24. Mitch's Way: Spring.** Morning. Mike Locher continues with the second of his seasonal series to Mitch's Way, this time looking for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, all the local woodpeckers, and other spring migrants. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for more information. Meet at Mitch's Marina parking area, near the gate, at 7:00 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, April 30. Quabbin Gate 5 and Lake Wallace. Full day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths visit two Belchertown hotspots, looking for spring migrants and anything else they can find. Meet at Gate 5 at 6:30 a.m. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for more information. (M/S)

Continues over ►

Coming Trips (continued)

Sunday, May 8. Belchertown Ramble: Herman Covey WMA, Reed Conservation Area, Scarborough Brook. Full day. Aidan and Devin explore Herman Covey WMA and introduce the uninitiated to several other Belchertown birding spots. Be prepared for migrants galore, and Blue Jays with unusual talents as ventiloquists. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) to get meeting details and for more information. (M/S)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2016-2017 Board will take up their exalted positions officially on June 14, 2016.

There are two (2) positions that will fall vacant before that date and the Nominating Committee is charged with finding qualified and willing candidates for those positions.

If you are eager to serve on the Board, please contact any member of the committee.

Here are their contact details:

Bill Benner: billb55-at-aol-dot-com

Bruce Hart: brucehart-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org

Ann Lombard: aslombard-at-comcast-dot-net

David Peake-Jones (Chair): newsletter-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org

Valley Bird Festival Help Wanted, Urgent

We need volunteers for the 2nd annual Valley Bird Festival on May 7. See the enclosed flyers for details.

We urgently need folks to help with:

- **parking,**
- **the HBC information tent,**
- **assisting families with bird crafts,**
- **explaining and directing participants to the Wood Thrush story walk.**

Please contact Jim Lafley, 413-323-5892 home; 413-221-1941 cell; jimlafley-at-gmail-dot-com if you can help and/or if you need more information.

Kestrel Trust Help Wanted American Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring

Enhance your spring birding by giving a few hours in support of the American Kestrel! Volunteer Nest Box Monitors spend one hour per week observing bird activity at assigned box(es) to determine which are being used by breeding pairs. Monitoring begins now and can run into May or June, depending on what you see! Your data will contribute to an ongoing project that has welcomed more than 30 kestrels into the world and contributes to a statewide study of this species.

You can read details of what is required at:

http://kestreltrust.org/PDF/436/Kestrel_Nest_Box_Monitor.pdf.

For more information, contact Kestrel Land Trust: chris@kestreltrust.org or call 413-549-1097

Did we mention that the **May program** will be on the **THIRD Monday** of the month? Andrea Jones will be joining us to talk about bird conservation in California on **Monday, May 16**, instead of on the ninth. We apologize for any inconvenience.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Exploring Larch Hill – All Welcome Monthly Sunday Nature Walk

April 24: 1-3 p.m. Pete Westover

May 22: 1-3 p.m. John Green

Morning Nature Walk for Seniors: John Green

At Silvio Conte NWR: Fort River Division: 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley

Thursday, April 14, 9-11 a.m. Free. Registration required.

Spring Fling – Mitch's Way, Hadley: Nancy Goodman

Saturday, April 30, 12-3 p.m. Fee. Registration Required.

Beginning Birding for Youth and Families: Dan Ziomek

For young people ages 8-13

Saturdays, April 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 14

7:30a.m.-10 a.m. Fee. Registration Required.

Birding By Ear: Rattlesnake Gutter: John Green

Saturday, April 23, 7 a.m.-10 a.m. Fee. Registration Required

Opening to the World of Birds: Pete McLean

Saturdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Book & Plow Farm – 425 South East St., Amherst. Fee. Registration Required.

Low Maintenance Design with Native Plants: Owen Wormser

Saturday, April 30, 1-4 p.m. at Nasami Farm Nursery, Whately. Fee. Registration Required.

Understanding Residential Solar Options: Sally Pick

Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m. Free. Registration Required.

Hitchcock's new "living" building site tour

Fridays, April 1, May 6, June 3. 12:30p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meet at Red Barn Parking Lot, Hampshire College .

Net Zero Water and the Living Building Challenge: Chris Chamberland

Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m. Free. Registration Required.

Explore a Vernal Pool: Ted Watt

Saturday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. – noon. Fee. Registration Required.

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.

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area Programs

Spring Birding at FLCA: Mike Locher

Saturday, April 30: 7:00–10:00 am (rain date: May 1). Free.

North Farms Rd. entrance. Further information: fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org.

The Bobolink Project

Wanna put your money where your mouth is, or use your network of contacts with local farmers to promote bird conservation? **MassAudubon** has a way for you to do one or both of these things!!

The majority of grasslands in New England are hay fields. In many cases, these fields are cut for hay before nestling Bobolinks and other grassland birds can fledge. Many farmers want to assist in the conservation of grassland birds, but those who delay their harvests long enough to allow Bobolinks to successfully nest will lose money. The Bobolink Project collects donations from conservationists and distributes those funds to cooperating farmers, allowing these farmers to delay their harvests, thus “buying” the precious few weeks needed by grassland birds to complete their nesting cycle.

While we certainly welcome any financial contributions you might wish to make, **just as important is your help in getting the word out to regional farmers who might be interested in participating.** If you know farmers who work fields that support Bobolinks or other grassland birds, please ask them to consider whether they might want to participate (<http://www.bobolinkproject.com/farmers.php>).

Our deadline to receive donations and identify cooperating farmers this year is April 22. Go to: <http://www.bobolinkproject.com/> to participate. Thanks.

Monhegan Island, 2016 with Scott Surner Memorial Day Weekend (Friday, May 20 to Monday, May 23) The WAIT LIST!!

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

We will travel to Port Clyde, Maine on Friday morning and take the ferry during the mid – afternoon. From here on, we immerse ourselves in the gentle rhythms of island life. We’ll stay at the rustic Trailing Yew, which will lay on breakfast and dinner each day, including a local lobster dinner. This is the perfect opportunity to slow down, REALLY learn the birds, and remember what life *should* be about. A week-end out of time, and one you may remember for a life-time.

The trip is FULL, but we are looking for some folks to be on the wait-list in case of cancellations. If you have flexibility and could jump in at the last moment, contact **Mike Locher** (fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 585 5864)

That’s all for this month. Two flyers for the **Valley Birding Festival** are enclosed. One is for you and one is to post or distribute anywhere you think it might catch the attention of others.

You can print a much nicer looking flyer with groovy graphics etc. from the festival blurb on the HBC homepage at hampshirebirdclub.org/

Don’t forget that the **May program** has been moved to **May 16**.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor
529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

CELEBRATE BIRDS

The 2nd Valley Bird Festival

Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join environmental organizations from throughout the valley for a fun-filled and family-oriented day of learning about our feathered friends. The festival will feature events at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)* in Hadley and then later at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** in Easthampton. Both venues are **accessible** to all.

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

- **Early morning bird walk with George Regmund of Friends of Fort River**

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- a **bird banding** demonstration, and
- a **falconry** demonstration by Chris Davis

At Arcadia Sanctuary from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

- **games, information and activities** for all ages, and
- **“Eyes on Owls.** 11 a.m. AND 1 p.m.

This wonderful demonstration of six (6) species of **live owls** from New England and beyond will occur at 11:00 a.m. and AGAIN at 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about these amazing birds.

The venues are:

*The Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)
69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley
AND

**Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts Audubon Society)
127 Coombs Road, Easthampton.

Festival organizers include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◆ Hampshire Bird Club, | ◆ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, |
| ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, | ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment, |
| ◆ Mass Audubon, | ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment, and |
| ◆ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), | ◆ Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. |
| ◆ Kestrel Trust | |

Hope to see you there!

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| ◆ Mass Audubon, | ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment, and |
| ◆ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), | ◆ Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. |
| ◆ Kestrel Trust | |

Hope to see you there!



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 32, No. 9
May, 2016.

In this edition:

- Our **program** this month and the (one) **remaining program** before our summer recess,
- A delightful **trip report** from someone who is NOT me,
- The burgeoning May **field trip schedule**,
- **Nominating Committee** news and the **AGM** announcement (woo-hoo),
- a **new birding hot-spot** in need of eyes and ears,
- **Hitchcock programs**,
- a program for **budding birders** at Fitzgerald Lake, and
- one last reminder about and a plea for help from the **Valley Bird Festival**.

Yikes. I will just get out of the way and let you read on.....

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, May 16 at 7:15 p.m.

Andrea Jones gives us some **Perspectives on Bird Conservation in California**
Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Andrea will share her experiences as a transplanted New Englander in the complex world of conservation in California. She has traveled widely across the state and will share her knowledge of places, people and issues she has encountered along the way. Specifically, she will explore some of Audubon's primary bird conservation projects in California and how Audubon approaches daunting conservation challenges such as climate change, logging, fire management and development. She will give us cause for hope, as she describes progress with individual species such as Tricolored Blackbirds, and success stories such as birds and rice cultivation, the avifauna of saline lakes, and coastal bird conservation.

Andrea Jones is the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California and has worked for that organization for ten years. She coordinates with staff and the network of Audubon chapters across the state to implement conservation projects at high priority Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and spearheads efforts to protect crucial coastal ecosystems. She focusses special attention on priority bird species and serves as a spokeswoman for bird conservation across California. Andrea has roots right here in New England. Before moving to the left coast, she served as the Director of the Coastal Water-Bird and Grassland Conservation programs for Mass Audubon. Andrea received her M.S. in Wildlife Conservation/Ornithology and her B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

COMING PROGRAMS

June 13, 2016. Mike Braun. The Red Siskin Project.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Look Park, Northampton. Sunday, April 10.

On a clear, breezy Sunday, trip leader **Betsy Higgins** and seven other birders patrolled Look Park and beyond.

Bird Highlights

Amid 35 species, we had 1 Hermit Thrush, 2 male Common Mergansers, 1 Pine Warbler, 9 Cedar Waxwings, 1 Red-tailed Hawk (eye-level look), a Pileated Woodpecker, and the world's blue-est Eastern Bluebird.

Tidbits

Getting great looks from all sides of a cooperative **Hermit Thrush**; watching a **Pine Warbler** vocalize in the open; discovering that the pale -yellow/buff bellies of 9 birds in a tree above us were **Cedar Waxwings**; hearing the irregular hammering of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**; watching the brief **dust-up** between the **male Mergansers**; beginning the trip with **3 Northern Mockingbirds** in the parking lot and ending in the same place with a **Killdeer** vocalizing overhead. Fantastic!

Deb Oakley

COMING TRIPS

First Announcement

Tuesday, May 3. Fort River Refuge I with George Regmund and Mary Alice Wilson.
Meet at the refuge parking lot; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley at 6:30 AM.

First Announcement

Saturday, May 7, 2016. Mineral Hills Conservation Area. Half Day.
Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins lead birders through one of the less-known Northampton conservation areas. This has been a consistent place for Prairie Warbler over the past several years. For information, contact Marcia (413-896-9539 or mmerithew-at-comcast-dot-net). Meet at the JFK Middle School parking lot (100 Bridge Road, Florence) at 7 a.m. (E/M)

Sunday, May 8. Belchertown Ramble: Herman Covey WMA, Reed Conservation Area, Scarborough Brook. Full day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths explore Herrnan Covey WMA and introduce the uninitiated to several other Belchertown birding spots. Be prepared for migrants galore, and Blue Jays with unusual talents as ventriloquists. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) to get meeting details and for more information. (M/S)

First Announcement

Tuesday, May 10. Fort River Refuge II with George Regmund and Elissa Rubinstein.
Meet at the refuge parking lot; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley at 6:30 AM.

First Announcement

Tuesday, May 17. Fort River Refuge III with George Regmund, Janice Jorgensen and others.
Meet at the refuge parking lot; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley at 6:30 AM.

Continues next page ►

Coming trips (continued)

Friday-Tuesday, May 20-23. Monhegan Island. Overnight. Scott Sumner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's somewhat-annual pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. This trip is FULL and registration is CLOSED. (E/M/S)

***Sunday, May 22. Mount Holyoke.** Half day. Mike Locher leads a hike up Mt. Holyoke in search of Cerulean Warblers, other spring migrants, and great views. Meet at 7 a.m. at the gate of Mt. Holyoke. For information contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org). (M/S)

First Announcement

Tuesday, May 24. Fort River Refuge IV with George Regmund and others. Meet at the refuge parking lot; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley at 6:30 AM.

***Saturday, May 28. Fort River Refuge: Spring Migrants.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Monday, May 30. Abandoned Atkins Orchard. Morning. Jim Lafley leads a new club trip into the wilds of Belchertown. This is the site where the White-eyed Vireo was seen last spring, and is a great habitat with at least two distinct biozones. Ticks (the nasty, disease carrying kind, not the life-list kind) will be an issue here, so come prepared with adequate clothing and repellent. Meet at Jim's house (28 Sabin St., Belchertown) at 7 a.m. For information, contact Jim (413-323-5892). (M/S)

Saturday, June 4. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Mike Locher hosts the HBC's annual trip to 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. Contact Mike 413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

***Monday, June 6. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area Programs

Children's Bird Walk: *Bruce Hart, David Pritchard, and others*

Saturday, May 14: 9:00–11:00 am.

Cooke Ave. entrance (at the former Moose Lodge; park to the right)

Co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee

Encourage a love of the natural world in children by joining us on this short walk along Boggy Meadow Rd. to look for spring birds. We'll complement the program with photos of some of the birds we see, in order to help children focus on what is being observed, and will point out fun facts of bird behavior. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them, but we'll have some extras on hand to share. The road could be muddy in spots, so water-resistant footwear is advised, as is your favorite bug repellent. Contact Bruce Hart (413-584-4176, bhart2000@aol.com) with any questions.

Cave Hill Conservation Area eBirders Needed.

The 102-acre **Cave Hill Conservation Area** in Leverett is a wonderful place for birds. In fact, it also supports vernal pools, wonderful rock formations and a variety of other interesting ecological features. Until the town purchased it using CPA and private contributions, only a few folks knew how special this land was. Now it is open to the public and has an extensive new trail network. It is an **eBird hotspot** meaning you can record all the birds you detect and help create a database of how birds use this property throughout the year.

For a trail map, go to rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/trail-map

You can also scroll down the map page to "Special Resources" to print out "Birds of Leverett."

Of course, we hope you will not be constrained by the existing bird list. The whole point is to get birders engaged in adding more birds to the list of those already seen!

If you want to contribute your data but don't do eBird, we can find you a secretary. Send a note to birdlist@rattlesnakeguttertrust.org

Mary Alice Wilson, translated into English by the editor.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Hampshire Bird Club Incorporated** will be held on **Monday, May 16, 2015** at the **Immanuel Lutheran Church** (867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst) at **7:15 p.m.** The meeting will immediately precede the May program.

I don't think we are going to match the spectacle of this year's presidential elections, but our brief and fuss-free AGM has one agenda item, and one only. It is to elect the Board of Directors for 2016-2017. The **Nominating Committee** this year includes: **Bill Benner, Bruce Hart, Anne Lombard and David Peake-Jones**. They have prepared the following slate of nominees for the coming year:

President: Scott Turner

Vice-President/Program Chair: Geoff LeBaron

Treasurer: Stephen Baker

Membership Secretary: Lissa Ganter

Communications Secretary: Sharon Dombeck

Board Members at large:

Bruce Hart
Mike Locher
Carol Mardeusz
David Peake-Jones
Josh Rose
Jaap van Heerden

Other nominations for the board may be sent to the nominating committee (David Peake-Jones, newsletter-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org, or (413) 529 9541) or presented at the meeting. At-meeting nominees must be present at the meeting so as to verify their consent.

Stepping down from the board this year are **Sue Emerson**, after years of service as Membership Secretary, and **Jan Ortiz**, whose most recent of many stints on the BOD was as a Member-at-Large. Thank you Jan and Sue!

THE 2ND ANNUAL VALLEY BIRD FESTIVAL

The festival promises to be even bigger and brighter this year than last, so come along if you can. Jim Lafley has been slaving away to get all the pieces in place and he still needs some **volunteers** to **coordinate parking**.

OK, it's not glamorous, but if the visitors end up parking on the first Bobolink nests of the year, it kinda puts a damper on the whole affair (especially for the Bobolinks).

Basic dexterity and a healthy caution around lethal four-wheeled metallic objects are recommended prerequisites.

So, to do your part to keep cars where they belong and contribute to a trouble free experience for all. Contact Jim if you can help: jimlafley-at-gmail-dot-com; or 413 323 5892.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Understanding Residential Solar Options: *Sally Pick*

Thursday, May 5; 7 pm. Free. Call to Register.

Hitchcock's new "living" building site tour

Fridays, May 6, June 3; 12:30 – 1:00 pm. Free.

Opening to the World of Birds: *Pete McLean*

Saturdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28; 7 am – 9 am

Book & Plow Farm – 425 South East St., Amherst. Fee. Call to register.

Exploring Larch Hill - Monthly Sunday Nature Walk: *John Green*

Sunday, May 22; 1 – 3 pm. Free. Call to register.

Wildflowers at Cave Hill: *Nancy Goodman*

Saturday, June 12, 9 am - 12 pm. Fee. Call to register.

Explore the Hitchcock Center's New Grounds: *Pete McLean and Ted Watt*

A bioblitz-style experience!

Saturday, June 18; 9 am-noon. Fee. Call to Register.

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.

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

CELEBRATE BIRDS

The 2nd Valley Bird Festival

Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join environmental organizations from throughout the valley for a fun-filled and family-oriented day of learning about our feathered friends. The festival will feature events at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)* in Hadley and then later at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** in Easthampton. Both venues are **accessible** to all.

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

- **Early morning bird walk with George Regmund of Friends of Fort River**

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- a **bird banding** demonstration, and
- a **falconry** demonstration by Chris Davis

At Arcadia Sanctuary from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

- **games, information and activities** for all ages, and
- **“Eyes on Owls.** 11 a.m. AND 1 p.m.

This wonderful demonstration of six (6) species of **live owls** from New England and beyond will occur at 11:00 a.m. and AGAIN at 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about these amazing birds.

The venues are:

*The Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)

69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley

AND

**Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts Audubon Society)

127 Coombs Road, Easthampton.

Festival organizers include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hampshire Bird Club, ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ◆ Mass Audubon, ◆ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment, ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment, ◆ Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. ◆ Kestrel Trust |
|--|---|

Hope to see you there!



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 32, No. 10
June, 2016.

In this, our last edition of 2015-2016, we have:

- the introduction to this month's **program**,
- some engaging **trip reports** on the spring offerings, including high drama in Maine,
- the remaining **trips** of the summer,
- **election results** (no, not THOSE election results),
- your call to think about the **Fall Field Trip Schedule**, and
- some **Hitchcock** and **Fitzgerald Lake** programs.

We hope you find some of it useful.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, June 13 at 7:15 p.m.

Mike Braun looks at a **Bird on the Brink: The Story of the Red Siskin**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

The Red Siskin, a beautiful red and black songbird of northern South America, became endangered due to many decades of intense trapping for the cage-bird trade, which continues today. Discovery of a previously unknown population of these birds in 2000 rekindled hope for its survival in the wild. This talk will review the curious history of the siskin's endangerment, the scientific data needed for its recovery, and the comprehensive conservation action plan being implemented to bring about its recovery in the complex natural and political landscape of South America. More information on the Red Siskin Initiative may be found at www.redsiskin.org.

We are arguably in the midst of the greatest mass extinction in the history of planet earth, caused by the exploding human population of planet earth and the wide variety of ways in which we affect other species. Efforts like the Red Siskin Initiative are attempts to stem the loss of species, one creature at a time.

Mike Braun grew up in Houston enthralled by the natural wonders of the Texas Gulf Coast and Hill Country. He began birding in high school, and roamed Texas and Mexico with family and friends of the Texas birding community. His love of nature led him to study science as an undergraduate at Cornell University, and to pursue a doctorate on the evolutionary genetics of birds at Louisiana State University. After postdoctoral studies at the National Cancer Institute and a year on the faculty of the University of Cincinnati, Mike moved to the Smithsonian Institution where he founded the Laboratory of Molecular Systematics. His research employs genomic tools to explore the evolutionary relationships, diversification processes and conservation biology of birds and other organisms. Mike has led bird tours to North and South America since his days in graduate school, and loves to share his knowledge of nature and science with others. He lives in Washington DC

COMING PROGRAMS

In preparation. Stay tuned.....

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Holyoke. May 21.

On May 21, **Mike Locher** led six other birders up to the heights of Mt. Holyoke and, for once, the birds cooperated*. All told, we tallied 32 species, including the much-coveted **Cerulean Warbler** (two males singing near the upper parking lot, and what was probably a third on the road below). We also got good looks at a **Worm-eating Warbler** near the summit, and a nice sampling of other migrants: **Swainson's Thrush** (posing on the road for all to see), **Indigo Buntings** (now regular at the summit), **Baltimore Orioles** (including a first-year male collecting nesting material), a single **Blackburnian Warbler**, several **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, many **Scarlet Tanagers**, uncountable Ovenbirds and Red-eyed Vireos, and the local Common Ravens sounding off near the main gate. Pink Lady's Slippers and Columbine were in bloom near the summit, and a single Red Eft** was spotted.

Mike Locher

**This harsh indictment of our feathered friends could use a little softening. I think we should acknowledge that, throughout recorded history, there may have been one or two occasions when the birds have been somewhat cooperative. ed.*

***Again, let's stick to the facts. Marital status of the eft is indeterminate and none of our business. ed.*



Knightville Dam. Sunday, May 22 with Betsy Higgins

On Sunday, May 22, eight of us made our way to Knightville Dam in Huntington. While we did not find anything out of the ordinary, we did find many of the local breeders, including Bank Swallow, Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-throated Vireo, as well as Willow-, Alder- and Least Flycatchers. We enjoyed looks at some of the more colorful of our local species including Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow Warbler and more, and heard **Black-billed Cuckoo** and Barred Owl. We found nests of Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Grackle (feeding young), American Redstart, and Song Sparrow. All good, but the highlight of the trip for me was the **porcupine** trundling across the parking lot at the top of the dam! A nice day, nice birds and as always, great company.

Betsy Higgins



Monhegan Island. May 20 to 23 with Scott Surner

The Hampshire bird club trip to Monhegan Island was met with outstanding weather and a great flow of birds! The trip actually began on Friday at Weskeag Marsh just thirty minutes from Port Clyde. I had alerted members of the group that a male **Ruff** had been found there the day before our trip. As luck would have it, we arrived on Friday to get great looks at the Ruff along with several stunning male **Northern Shovelers**, **Green-winged Teal** and a handful of **Least Sandpipers**. After that it was off to catch the boat, especially since it was the only boat of the day! We learned later during the trip that the Ruff was not seen after Friday! We took advantage of a very calm crossing to tally 7 Surf Scoters, **Razorbill**, many Black Guillemots, 3 **Common Murres**, **Northern Gannet** and 4 Bald Eagles on the trip from Port Clyde.

Once we got everyone checked into the Trailing Yew, we headed out for some nice afternoon birding. Both Friday and Saturday were quite busy on the Island. Sunday was noticeably quieter, but a new wave of birds arrived Monday. There was nothing rare, but we had great looks at a number of warblers, Orioles (Baltimore & Orchard), Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo bunting, Scarlet Tanager and more. Perhaps the most unusual birds on Monhegan were some elusive **Clay-colored Sparrows** and a slightly more cooperative **Lark Sparrow**.

Continues over ►

► Monhegan Island (continued)

We also made a trip out to Eastern Egg Rock on the Hardy Boat. We were delighted to find out that there are about 140 nesting pairs of **Atlantic Puffins** now nesting on Egg Rock, along with 2,000-3,000 pairs of Laughing Gulls, and three species of Terns (Common, Roseate and Arctic). During our 45 minute trip circling the Island we easily had 50-60 Puffins, 2 Razorbills, 60-70 Black Guillemots, and many Laughing Gulls (if you ever wondered where they got their name....spend a few minutes at a Laughing Gull Colony). We also had all three Terns, 4 Ruddy Turnstones, about 20 Purple Sandpipers, and a few Common Loons.

We ended the trip with 102 species. Some of the noteworthy items that I haven't mentioned included **Great Cormorant** and **Sora** (three birds calling all night throughout the weekend, driving the islanders that live near the marsh crazy)! We also had **American Woodcock** (3), a large owl species encountered by a couple while hiking in the interior of the Island, and a **Merlin** dashing through the village bent on murder on several occasions. There were a few flycatchers, including Eastern Wood-Pewee and Least-, four species of Vireo, including Philadelphia-; a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, (one) **Swainson's Thrush**, and 18 species of warblers. The most common were Black & White (20+), Common Yellowthroat (50+), American Redstart (60), Northern Parula (50+), and Magnolia (30+). The numbers of the other warblers were lower, but still gave everyone awesome looks. These included **Bay-breasted**, Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Black-throated Green and **Canada**. Besides the Clay-colored- and Lark- Sparrows, we also had really nice looks at White-throated-, Savannah- and Lincoln's Sparrows at Donna Cundy's feeding station. Also a good number of **Pine Siskins** at her thistle feeder.

Certainly one of the highlights, if in fact not the highlight for everyone on the trip came as we were returning to Port Clyde. The morning boat coming in the other direction had observed a **Humpback Whale**. This was the first time in the last 7-8 years of crossings where the boat captain had seen one. Despite doubting that we could repeat the feat twice in one day, we were staggered to see a spout dead ahead 15-20 minutes into the return trip. Observers out on the bow observed the whale ahead for several minutes, and everyone was trying to keep an eye on where it was heading. As we continued heading to Port Clyde the Humpback would surface and show us his/her fluke and then disappear and then come up again and then dive. This happened a few times and then we lost sight of the Whale....ok, perhaps show over, right.....not yet.

Everyone was still hoping for another or even a slightly closer view, when all of a sudden the whale came right up next to the port side of the boat and appeared to be on a collision course with the Elizabeth Ann!!! The captain alertly cut the engines and avoided a disaster. Everyone got amazing looks at this animal and I've sent of a couple photos of the fluke hoping we might be able to identify this particular Humpback...stay tuned.

Scott Sumner



Westover Air Force Base Grasslands. Saturday, June 4 with Mike Locher.

As a moist, foggy morning quickly gave way to a hot and muggy day, Hampshire Bird club joined the Allen and Brookline clubs at Westover Air Force base for a rare look inside the gates at the north-east's premier grassland. The base was kind enough to lay on a bus for us, and even to get another one at short notice when the first was too small for the assembled multitudes. After boarding, and a quick rest stop at a visitor's center, we set off around the perimeter road, parking by the firing ranges for a walk out into the middle of the expansive grassland. There was action aplenty immediately. Several Field Sparrows were spotted in the shrubby areas near the road, and a chorus of jangling Bobolinks and more elusive insect-like trills could be heard from the interior meadow.

Continues next page ►

► Westover AFB (continued)

Over the next two hours, the three clubs intermingled in the meadow. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were everywhere, often teeing up helpfully on emergent weeds and throwing back their heads to sing. **Bobolinks** frolicked and sang exuberantly in every direction, and it was not long before we also heard “Spring of the Year” calls from breeding **Eastern Meadowlarks** (along with their more common but under-known territorial chatter). But, of course, the real treats were displaying **Upland Sandpipers**, buzzing us overhead with their curious fluttering flight, landing and running about in the grass, and filling the air with their gorgeous, plaintive cries. By the time our hosts began signaling for us to return to the bus, we had recorded (conservatively) at least two dozen Bobolinks, 14 Grasshopper Sparrows, 14 Eastern Meadowlarks and six (6) Upland Sandpipers. We had a brief extension to the old cranberry bog on base, where we got some last looks at meadowlarks and a couple of **American Kestrels**, before saying goodbye to the base for the year.

The Westover grasslands are a jewel in the north-east that is right on our doorstep. The base is working hard to protect these grasslands from the ever-present threats from invasive species, and also working diligently to manage the grasslands in a way that allows breeding birds to survive and thrive. Our deepest thanks to Jack Moriarty, base PR liason, who made our visit possible and who is working actively to allow access for birders and, more importantly, researchers. Also thanks to Colonel Bishop, who accompanied us and is clearly a friend to birds and birders. We should all keep our eyes on Westover in the news and do all we can to make sure that conservation interests remain in focus in the management of these grasslands.

The FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

We have had a fantastic line-up of spring offerings and after a brief quietus over the summer, I, for one, will want to savor the fall migration just as much (albeit with the confusing fall plumages to contend with). Mike Locher will be tossing and turning through the hot summer nights dreaming of the creative and out-of-the-box trip ideas that could make the difference between a ho-hum fall field trip schedule and a crackerjack set of trips to remember. You, dear reader, hold the key. If you can come up with an innovative idea for a fall trip, especially if you can lead it, contact Mike and help bring the FFT schedule to fruition.

COMING PROGRAMS

***Monday, June 6. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Wednesday, June 15. Montague Plain: Whip-poor-wills. Evening. Al Richards searches the unique habitat around the Montague Plain for whip-poor-wills and other local specialties. Meet at Al’s house (7 South Main St., Sunderland) at 7:30 p.m. Contact Al (413-665-2761) for further information. (E)

***Saturday, June 25. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and others seek out warblers, vireos, orioles, and other migrants at the Fort River Refuge. Contact George (413-255-0628) for information. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SuperPACs, attack ads, spurious voter fraud, voter disenfranchisement, gerrymandering, dark money and CRAZY PEOPLE were all mercifully absent from the HBC Annual General Meeting on May 16, right before the May program. In a process notable for its civility and lack of drama, the following were elected to carry the club through the 2016-2017 year. (see next page).

The Board: 2016-2017

President: Scott Sumner

Vice-President/Program Chair: Geoff LeBaron

Treasurer: Stephen Baker

Membership Secretary: Lissa Ganter

Communications Secretary: Sharon Dombeck

Board Members at large:

Bruce Hart
Mike Locher
Carol Mardeusz
David Peake-Jones
Josh Rose
Jaap van Heerden.

These folks will officially take up the cudgels right after the June program.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Explore the Hitchcock Center's New Grounds: *Pete McLean and Ted Watt*

A bio-blitz event.

Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m.- noon. Fee.

Wildflowers at Cave Hill: *Nancy Goodman*

Saturday, June 12, 9 a.m.-noon. 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.

FITZGERALD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA PROGRAMS

Beavers at Nightfall: Gini Traub

Friday, June 17: 7:00-8:30 pm

Cooke Ave. entrance (at the former Moose Lodge; park to the right)

Call (413) 584 6788) with questions

Butterfly Walk: *Tom Gagnon*

Wednesday, July 6: 10:00 am to noon (rain date: July 7), North Farms Rd. entrance.

Contact (413) 584 4176; bhart2000@aol.com with questions.

Summer Hike to the Dam: *Connie Parks*

Sunday, July 17: 10:00 am to noon

Cooke Ave. entrance (at the former Moose Lodge; park to the right)

Call 413 268 3668; SunkenScow@aol.com with questions.

That's it until August when we fire up for the fall season.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 33, No. 1
September, 2016.

With the Olympics in the rear-view mirror, the Patriots holding tutorials on Boyle's Law, and some minor electoral events on the horizon, HBC is gearing up for another year of great birding fellowship. I pause in preparations for emigrating to Canada to see to this, the first newsletter of the year.

Geoff LeBaron is tunneling through years of hard-won ornithological contacts and turning up some great speakers. The program schedule (so far) follows. Mike Locher has used all the leverage he can muster to put together the Fall Field Trip Schedule, replete with some old faves and a sprinkling of innovation. The Education Committee plans to follow up on last year's banner season with more outreach to new birders.

You, dear reader, may be preparing to put some (physical or digital) marks on paper in helping to decide the future of our democracy, and these should be placed, no doubt, with some deliberation. However, before September is out, you can make some very simple marks on some very simple bits of paper which require little thought and will make sure the HBC stays in business. I refer, of course to **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**, which are due **before October 1**.

Everyone who was a member last year has been sent hard copies of the newsletter and membership forms in the mail. If you want to use the forms included with this, the online newsletter, please feel free.

Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW

If you printed this online newsletter and want to join or renew, your checklist follows:

- ☐ Complete the **Membership Form**. This will involve deciding on your membership contribution for this year, any additional support you may want to provide for the Education Committee, and also keeping us updated with important information about your membership.
- ☐ Fill out the **Field Trip Release Form** and **Rare Bird Alert** sign up,
- ☐ Fill out the **HBC Member Skills Survey**,
- ☐ Write a **check** for the required funds (if any), and
- ☐ **Mail** the forms and check to the address on the Membership Form, or bring them along on September 12.

COMING PROGRAMS

September 12. Randy Dettmers. Monitoring and Conservation of Bicknell's Thrush: From Mountain Birdwatch to Sierra de Batoruco. (see details on page 2).

October 17, 2016. Zeke Jacob. Glow-throated Hummingbirds of Costa Rica.

November 14, 2016. John Van de Graaff. Birds of Europe.

December 12, 2016. Members' Meeting.

January 9, 2017. Connie Sanchez. Judging the Duck Stamp Competition.

February 13, 2017. Dave Wiley. Great Shearwater research.

March 13, 2017. Chris Fisher. Images of South Africa.

April 10, 2017. Alyssa Rosemartin. The National Phenology Network.

May 8, 2017. David Spector. A Look at Bird Song Interpretation.

June 12, 2017. (to be determined)

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, September 12 at 7:15 p.m.

Randy Dettmers

looks into

Mountain Birdwatch and Conservation of Bicknell's Thrush:

From Mountain Birdwatch to Sierra del Batoruco

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Montane spruce-fir forests in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada support a unique suite of breeding birds, including the Bicknell's Thrush. However, until the last 15 years, the birds breeding in this ecosystem were not well monitored due to inaccessibility. Mountain Birdwatch, founded in 2001, is a citizen science program designed to assess how climate, competition, and habitat factors influence the abundance of a set of focal bird species for this ecosystem over time, with an emphasis on Bicknell's Thrush. Dr. Dettmers will describe how Mountain Birdwatch data are illuminating the life histories of five focal birds: Bicknell's Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Winter Wren.

For migratory birds it is all about the breeding range, the wintering range, and the often hazardous journey between the two. 80% of all Bicknell's Thrushes overwinter in the Greater Antilles islands of the Caribbean, particularly in the Dominican Republic. In October 2015, Randy participated in a site visit to the Sierra de Batoruco National Park, the second-largest patch of quality winter habitat remaining for Bicknell's Thrush in the Dominican Republic. Randy will share insights he learned from this trip regarding the opportunities and challenges related to forest habitat conservation on the wintering grounds for Bicknell's Thrush and other associated migrant and resident birds.

Dr. Randy Dettmers grew up on a small farm in southern Wisconsin where he developed a strong appreciation of the natural world, which later developed into a keen interest in the study and conservation of birds. He earned a B.S. in zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to graduate school at Ohio State where he received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the Zoology Department. After postdoctoral work in the southern U.S., Randy joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1999 and is now a Senior Biologist with the Northeast regional office, and is based in Hadley, MA.

Randy's work focuses on reviewing the status of nongame bird populations, identifying the species most in need of conservation attention, and developing and implementing conservation plans for those species of conservation concern. This work includes facilitating research and monitoring efforts to track bird population trends and understand limiting factors, as well as developing conservation partnerships that can address issues impacting bird populations in decline.

LIBRARY

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

Hours are those of the Hitchcock Center:

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT: 2016-2017

The Education Committee works on bringing the magic of birds and bird habitats to people who might otherwise not experience them. The Committee really hit its straps this year with some innovative educational programs, scholarship support for local students and important investments in equipment to further the committee mission.

The committee has long recognized a need to have optics available for program participants who do not own them. We took a big step forward this year in acquiring **six pairs of Kingbird 6 x 35 binoculars** from Eagle Optics, following suggestions from Pat McGinnis of Backyard Birds in Northampton. Using funds donated by club members, HBC purchased three pairs and Eagle Optics were kind enough to donate the other three sets. Thank you Eagle Optics!!!

HBC, through the Education Committee, was a major player in the second annual **Valley Bird Festival**, held at various locations on May 7. HBC members volunteered in various capacities while Sue Emerson, Sally Hills, and Betsy Higgins manned a table for the HBC. We sponsored a falconry demonstration presented by Chris Davis of New England Falconry, as well as donating funds for general activities.

The Education Committee **sponsored** one student to attend a Hitchcock Center camp during the summer and a grant was given to the Common School Elementary One Classroom for a feeder watch project supervised by Rae Griffiths.

The committee offered a number of **programs** on birds and bird habitats. David Pritchard, Ilene Goldstein and Bruce Hart led two field bird walks for 40 students from Williston Northampton School at Warm Colors Apiary in Deerfield. George Regmund, Ilene Goldstein and Bruce Hart led a children's bird walk at Fitzgerald Lake Conservation area in Northampton. Jim Lafley offered two programs to seniors at the Loomis House in Holyoke on the Bald Eagles at Quabbin. Laura Beltran led a week of Bird Camp for teens at MAS - Arcadia with assistance from Jim Lafley, making good use of the new club binoculars. John Van de Graaff gave six presentations during the year of his bird photography to various groups including the summer nature campers at the Hitchcock Center. If anyone would like John to give a photography program, please contact him.

Special Thanks

Eagle Optics for the donation of three sets of binoculars.

Pat McGinnis of Backyard Birds for advice on purchasing binoculars.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Mission

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

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

School presentations, senior walks and programs, live bird interactions (captive and wild), visits to raptor centers, learning about falconry, organizing boy & girl scout merit badge events, member workshops, purchasing and/or reading natural history and bird books to children: these are just a few of the ideas on the table. The Education Committee currently includes **Bruce Hart, Carol Mardeusz, Jan Ortiz, Scott Surner and John Van de Graaff**.

Contact us at education@hampshirebirdclub.org
Hampshire Bird Club. September, 2016. Page 3 of 8.

HBC BINOCULARS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

HBC now owns six (6) pairs of 6x35 binoculars, primarily intended for outreach to folks who do not own their own equipment.

The binoculars can be used by any club member for a period of up to one week. The sign-out book and binoculars are housed at Sumner Heating in Amherst. You can contact Scott Sumner at Sumner Heating (413 253 5999) to check on availability, and you can collect binoculars from the Sumner Heating office (60 Shumway Street, Amherst) from Monday to Friday during business hours. Please note that there is a charge of \$100 for any binoculars that do not come back!

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

The membership form 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.

“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 and are accustomed to downloading content from the Internet. 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 .pdf-reading software on your system. If you do not have it already, Adobe Acrobat is available FREE via a link at the club Website.

“How do I sign up?”

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

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

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! Thank you!

LIBRARY

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

Hours are those of the Hitchcock Center:

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

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

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

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

That’s all for this month. **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ASAP, PLEASE!!**

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Fall Field Trip Schedule, 2016

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 – mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) 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), Moderate (M), or Strenuous (S) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders, and look for updates on our website.*

SEPTEMBER

***Wednesday, September 7. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. Elissa Rubinstein, Nancy Goodman, George Regmund. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

Sunday, September 11. Mitch's Way – Late Summer. Mike Locher. Half day. Meet at the gate at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for further information. (M)

***Saturday, September 17. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

Sunday, September 25. Herman Covey WMA. Aidan and Devin Griffiths. Call Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting details and other information. (M)

Date TBD. Quabbin Reservoir: Fall Migrants. All day. Tom Gagnon and Craig Allen. Late season flowers, butterflies, and mammals. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Participation is limited to 12 people in 3 cars, so carpooling is a necessity. Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

OCTOBER

***Wednesday, October 5. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. Nancy Goodman, George Regmund. Late fall migrants (especially sparrows). Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

Saturday, October 8. Orchard Hill/UMass. Aidan and Devin Griffiths explore UMass campus and look for fall migrants. Call Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting details and other information. (M)

Thursday, October 13 and Saturday, October 15. Sparrow Workshop. Evening and half day. Scott Sumner reprises his sparrow identification workshop from two years ago. Thursday evening (6:30-?) indoor session, then head into the field on Saturday morning (location TBA). This workshop is limited to 12 birders, and there is a \$15 fee. Contact Scott (ssurner@hampshirebirdclub.org) to register and get more information.

Fall Field Trip Schedule (Page 2 of 2)

***Saturday, October 15. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund. Late fall migrants (especially sparrows). Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

Sunday, October 23. Mitch's Way – Autumn. Half day. Mike Locher. Meet at the gate at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for further information. (M)

Sunday, October 30. The Annual Halloween Adventure: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more. All day. Joshua Rose. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking area for the Power Canal on Migratory Way in Turners Falls. Call or e-mail Josh (413-835-0093; opihi@mindspring.com) for further details. (E/M)

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 5. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley. All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org). Snow Geese, raptors etc. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 5:30 a.m. for carpooling. (E/M)

***Sunday, November 6. Ducks on the Berkshire Lakes (or, Donuts and Ducks).** All day. Al Richards and Harvey Allen. Waterfowl. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 6:15 a.m. (Remember to set your clocks back!) Questions? Call Al (413-665-2761). (M)

Wednesday, November 9. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

Date TBD. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin. All day. Tom Gagnon and Craig Allen. Waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

Saturday, November 19. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 4. Moran WMA. Half day (or more). Josh Rose and Mike Locher. Shrikes and winter finches. Get warmed up for the CBC! Dress for the weather and choose your footwear wisely; snowshoes may be useful. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for further information and meeting details. (M)

Wednesday, December 10. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

JANUARY

Saturday, January 28. Cape Ann Winter ducks. All day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths go to the chilly shore to look for ducks, alcids, gulls, and all the other good birds of winter. Dress for the weather (many layers). The inclement weather date is Saturday, February 11. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting information. (M)

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For administrative purposes only

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2016-2017

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Name(s): Address: City: State: ZIP: Home phone: Other phone (whose?): E-mail(s): <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">May we publish your contact information in the annual club membership list (sent to members)?</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | May we publish your contact information in the annual club membership list (sent to members)? | Yes | No | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.? | Yes | No | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | How would you like to get the HBC newsletter? (For the "online" version, we need to have an email address for you). <input type="checkbox"/> Download from the HBC Website (club will send reminders), OR <input type="checkbox"/> Send me the newsletter via US mail Please check any activities listed below which you would like to participate: <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) |
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| | <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) | \$ |
|--|----|

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.

(Office Only) Exp. _____

FIELD TRIP RELEASE FORM.

Required if you will participate in field trips.

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/we 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/we may incur, directly or indirectly, while on field trips run by HBC within one (1) year of the date below.

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

All participating family members, please sign and print name:

- 1)..... print name▶
- 2)..... print name▶
- 3)..... print name▶

RARE BIRD ALERT FORM: Optional

The Rare Bird Alert is an optional email-only alert system that informs you when and where rare birds are sighted in the valley, or, in some cases, the broader region.

To join via this form

Complete the form and return it with your membership form or turn it in at the Sept./Oct. meetings.

To join online:

Provide name/s and email address/es to membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

You may provide as many email addresses as you like (within reason, please). Participants **will need to provide us with at least one (1) active email address**. automatically receive all RBA announcements. Please email membership@hampshirebirdclub.org if your email changes.

I would like to receive RBA alerts ☐. email address/es (1) _____

(2) _____

| |
|--|
| Return with membership form to HBC, P.O. Box 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716 or turn in at the September/October meetings. |
|--|



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 33, No. 2

October, 2016.

Birds are not supposed to sing in the fall. They typically abandon the exuberant advertisements of the spring for the chips and cheeps that leave them anonymous to all but the best “ears” among us. No doubt about it, spring song is a proclamation of promise, a reckless embrace of the procreative imperative, a celebration of the wide open boreal expanses of the breeding range. The same birds in fall seem, for the most part, to be determinedly taciturn as they contemplate the long march to the crowded tenements of the tropics. Amidst the subdued mutterings of Song Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers in the west meadows last week, I heard an unmistakable song which normally heralds the spring. The first time through the tune was fragmented, halting. The second verse was a seemed a little more confident, but still quavering and uncertain. Finally, third time through, I could make out the pure, cascading song of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, so quiet that I almost felt this diminutive creature was whispering to me.

Why would this tiny bird sing when all others stay secret? The words, for me at least, are unmistakable. “I must leave now, with no companions but the perils of frost and glass and prowling hawk. But I will return, and I will sing again.”

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, October 17 at 7:15 p.m.

Zeke Jakub

sheds light on

The Glow-throated Hummingbird: Panama’s Endangered Endemic

(Adventures of a crazy gringo)

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

The **Glow-throated Hummingbird**, *Selasphorus ardens*, is one of Panama’s only endangered endemics. It exists within a remote and difficult to access indigenous reserve called a Comarca. With minimal current research on this species since the turn of the century, little is known about its life-history, annual cycle, and even where it currently exists. Simple questions about this “Pica flor” have not been answered and some have changed in the last 100 years.

Over the last year, Greenfield native Ezekiel “Zeke” Jakub has been traveling to remote areas in western Panama, trying to answer a simple question to start with: “Where are they?”

Imagine yourself traveling in the cloud forests and semi-paramo highland habitat by horseback for days at a time, braving extreme inclement weather, raging rivers, and high winds. This has been Zeke’s “laboratory” and will continue to be his primary focus of research for 2017. Zeke is the Director of Ornithology at Conservación Panamá Inc., a U.S.-based academic research NGO.

Learn about what we know, what we don't know, and what challenges face the Glow-throated Hummingbird during one hour of pictures, video, and sound. Prepare to be transported into the world of a neotropical bird researcher!

COMING PROGRAMS

November 14, 2016. John Van de Graaff. Birds of Europe.

December 12, 2016. Members' Meeting.

January 9, 2017. Connie Sanchez. Judging the Duck Stamp Competition.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Central Quabbin. Saturday, September 24 with Tom Gagnon.

Tom describes the group as small and eager. Eager enough, it seems, to come up with 77 species for the day including 17 Common Mergansers, 2 Northern Goshawks, 13 Broad-winged Hawks, 7 Ruffed Grouse, 3 Golden Plovers, 3 Spotted Sandpipers, 11 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Barred Owl, 45 Northern Flickers, 35 Eastern Phoebe, 4 Swainson's Thrushes and two Scarlet Tanagers. Oh, and a partridge in a pear tree! Other botany and wildlife included three (3) otters, 6 Variegated Fritillaries and one small clump of Beech Drops.

Tom Gagnon

COMING TRIPS

Thursday, October 13 and Saturday, October 15. Sparrow Workshop. Evening and half day. Scott Sumner reprises his sparrow identification workshop from two years ago. Thursday evening (6:30-?) indoor session, then head into the field on Saturday morning (location TBA). This workshop is limited to 12 birders, and there is a \$15 fee. Contact Scott (ssurner@hampshirebirdclub.org) to register and get more information.

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Date TBD. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin. All day. Tom Gagnon and Craig Allen. Waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

Saw Whet Banding. Uxbridge, Massachusetts
Saturday, October 29.
 Trip limited to ten (10) people.

We will depart the valley at between 4:30 and 5 p.m. and, after a bathroom/snack break on the pike, arrive in Uxbridge, MA after a 90 minute drive, and as darkness descends. October 29 is a New Moon, when the sky is darker during banding hours, and this tends to mean more owls flying into the nets during several hours of banding.

Participants will be walking woodland trails at night. You should plan to bring a working flashlight or headlamp, sturdy shoes and be prepared for chilly temperatures.

Transportation

Six (6) of the group will travel in a van provided in partnership with Arcadia Sanctuary. There are, at press time, a few slots left in this vehicle. The remaining participants will get to Uxbridge under their own steam from a meeting point somewhere in the Amherst/Northampton area. (You may carpool at your discretion). Meeting time and place will be communicated to you if you register.

Participants will be walking woodland trails at night. You should plan to bring a working flashlight or headlamp, sturdy shoes and be prepared for chilly temperatures.

Costs

All participants will make a donation of \$20 per adult and \$10 per child to the banding project, payable upon arrival. The donation helps fund the mist nets and audio equipment used, and refreshments for the banders and visitors. Riders on the Arcadia van will pay \$15 for the van, in addition to the banding donation.

Registration is Required

Email Sue Emerson at spe33-at-charter-dot-net and tell her how many are going and if you want to go on the van by October 23.

LIBRARY

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

The library contains birding resources in various media, including field guides, bird-finding guides to almost every major birding destination in the U.S., and overseas, natural histories, periodicals and videos. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement.

Our librarian, Henry Lappen, notes that the “old” Hitchcock Center is presently closed, along with general access to our collection. Until the library is once again publicly accessible, the only way to borrow items is to have Henry bring them to meetings. He’d like at least 24 hours notice if possible!
 You can reach him at (413) 549 3722 or library-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee will have a display of **Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp** artwork at the October meeting. If you would like to see more of the young people's artwork there is currently a display at Massachusetts Audubon's Arcadia Sanctuary on Combs Road in Easthampton.

CHRISTMAS COUNT

The 83rd Annual Northampton (MANO) Christmas Bird Count takes place on Sunday, December 18. Teams of birders will take to the fields, woods and environs of the towns in our area to count and then tally all the birds they hear and/or observe. You are welcome to take part regardless of your birding expertise. If you are confident birding on your own or more comfortable as part of a team, we will find a place for you.

The enduring value of this event is that it provides a history that suggests trends in the population, occurrence and distribution of resident, common, uncommon and rare winter birds.

After the count there is a potluck and compilation at the Hitchcock Center on the Hampshire College campus in Amherst beginning at 4:30.

To find out more, you can visit: www.hampshirebirdclub.org/cbc/

To sign up for the event, contact Jan Ortiz and/or Janice Jorgensen at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Sandhill Cranes: *Andrew Vitz*

Thursday, October 20, 7 p.m.

Sandhill Cranes were first documented nesting in Massachusetts in 2007, and after some very lean years, their numbers are slowly increasing in the Commonwealth.

For more details of these and other programs go to 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.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Hitchcock has a new home, on the campus of Hampshire College!

Amazing Local Geology: A class and field experience: *Richard Little*

Saturdays, October 22, 29, and November 5: 10 – 4 pm

Explore the New Hitchcock Center's grounds: *Ted Watt*

Sunday, October 30, 9:30-12:30

Red, Black and Scarlet – Identifying The Oaks: *Ted Watt, Nancy Goodman, Kim Noyes & Patti Steinman.*

Thursday, November 10, 7- 8:30 pm (at the new Hitchcock Center)

Sunday, November 13, 9:00 am – noon (field trip)

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 845 West St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

That's all for this month.

Please renew if membership materials are included with this newsletter. Thank you.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

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| 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: 2016-2017

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | <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) | \$ |
|--|----|

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.

FIELD TRIP RELEASE FORM.

Required if you will participate in field trips.

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/we 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/we may incur, directly or indirectly, while on field trips run by HBC within one (1) year of the date below.

EXECUTED freely and voluntarily this day:.....,,

(month) (day) (year)

All participating family members, please sign and print name:

- 1)..... print name▶
- 2)..... print name▶
- 3)..... print name▶

RARE BIRD ALERT FORM: Optional

The Rare Bird Alert is an optional email-only alert system that informs you when and where rare birds are sighted in the valley, or, in some cases, the broader region.

To join via this form

Complete the form and return it with your membership form or turn it in at the Sept./Oct. meetings.

To join online:

Provide name/s and email address/es to membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

You may provide as many email addresses as you like (within reason, please). Participants **will need to provide us with at least one (1) active email address.** automatically receive all RBA announcements. Please email membership@hampshirebirdclub.org if your email changes.

I would like to receive RBA alerts ☐. email address/es (1) _____

(2) _____

Return with membership form to HBC, P.O. Box 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716 or turn in at the September/October meetings.

Hampshire Bird Club Inc. Field Trip Guidelines for Participants and Drivers

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. Carpooling from the valley is best. Carpooling once the trip location is reached is the next best option.

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. Please note that HBC liability insurance does NOT cover individuals who drive or allow the use of their own vehicles on club trips.
2. Please fill up your tank before the trip and set your odometer at the beginning of the trip.
3. If the trip is going to caravan, follow common sense rules to make sure no one is put in danger or lost.
 - Stay in the same order so that you know which car is in front of you and which car is behind you.
 - If the car behind you is stopped by a light, pull safely to the side of the road so that you can wait until that car catches up.
 - If you are driving the car or cars catching up with the group, slow down so that the lead/stopped cars can pull in front of you.
 - It is a good idea for all caravan drivers to have their lights on.
4. Always have a description of the next major stop from the trip leader so that, should the caravan become separated, you can join the group at the next major stop.



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 33, No. 3
November, 2016.

OK. I will spare you my typical November editorial about the Dead Creek trip. I shall refrain from yet more tedious descriptions of what it is like to watch twenty four hundred Snow Geese swirling over an autumn field. Let us avoid yet another breathless description of a male Northern Harrier quartering a corn field at dusk. I can leave the image of a massive Rough-legged Hawk hovering like a kestrel entirely to your own imagination. I will ask you to trust, without elaboration, that the thirteen sandpipers we found scuttling about in the weedy margins of an anonymous north-country creek were, in fact, White-rumps, and not just Killdeer in drag. Yes, dear reader, these musings will remain only in my fevered mind, for now.

Let me content myself with thanking you for joining or renewing with the Hampshire Bird Club. As we push into the cold season, there are plenty of fall and winter trips to consider and our monthly programs will continue right through until the spring. Mike Locher is working on the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip schedule. If you have an idea for an old favorite to resurrect, or some brand new place we could visit, please contact him, especially if you can lead the outing. It takes a village.....

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, November 14 at 7:15 p.m.

John Van de Graaff recounts his adventures while
Roaming for Birds In Europe: 2011-2016

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Marylee and I took our first European birding trip to Spain in 2001, barely three months after I started photographing birds. We've been birding in Europe nearly every year since, especially in France; and particularly the Carmargue region of that country.. We have seen a number of locations in Britain. In Eastern Europe, we've been to Estonia, Hungary, and Bulgaria. Our most northern ventures were to Swedish Lapland and Norway; more recent forays took us into Belgium, Portugal and the Italian Alps. As for species; flamingos, Eurasian cranes and white storks appear frequently, but there are numerous smaller birds and raptors as well. If you haven't yet birded in the Old World, I hope this show will tempt you.

A native of Boston, **John Van de Graaff** has been photographing birds virtually full-time since 2001 and particularly enjoys traveling to do so. He migrated from New York City to Northampton in 2003 with his wife Marylee Bomboy. In addition to the exploits described above, he has photographed extensively on the Massachusetts coast, capturing images which have been used by Mass Audubon to support their IBA and Coastal Waterbird Programs. He's an active member of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (PVPA) and the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA). John's website is easily remembered:
www.birdsbyjohn.com.

Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW if you have yet to do so.

- ☐ Complete the **Membership Form**, with the **Field Trip Release and RBA sign up** on the back.
- ☐ Write a **check** for the required funds (if any), and
- ☐ **Mail** the forms and check to the address on the Membership Form, as soon as possible.

COMING PROGRAMS

December 12, 2016. Members' Meeting.

January 9, 2017. Connie Sanchez. Judging the Duck Stamp Competition.

February 13, 2017. Dave Wiley. Great Shearwater Migration.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Saw Whet Owl Banding. Saturday, October 12 in Uxbridge, Massachusetts.

Hampshire Bird Club and Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary partnered for this memorable trip to Look Out Rock, just south-east of Worcester, MA. We witnessed the banding of five Saw Whet Owls. Two were hatchlings, one a second year bird and the other two had been previously banded earlier in October at the same location. It was a fantastic evening: warm and with little wind, which helped make for a great experience for the 12 participants.

Sue Emerson & Janice Jorgensen

COMING TRIPS

Wednesday, November 9. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

Sunday, November 12. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin. All day. Craig Allen.

Waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Craig Allen (413-467-3028; allenec2-at-juno-dot-com) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

Saturday, November 19. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

Sunday, December 4. Moran WMA. Half day (or more). Josh Rose and Mike Locher. Shrikes and winter finches. Get warmed up for the CBC! Dress for the weather and choose your footwear wisely; snowshoes may be useful. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for further information and meeting details. (M)

Wednesday, December 10. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

LIBRARY

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.

The collection catalog is available on-line at:

<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/hampshire-bird-club-library/>

Our collection continues to be temporarily without a home that is accessible to the public and to between-meeting walk-ins. However, you can still get our librarian, Henry Lappen, to bring items to meetings, especially if you let him know a few days in advance. You can reach him at library@hampshirebirdclub.org or (413) 549 3722.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Contact the committee at education@hampshirebirdclub.org

CHRISTMAS COUNT

Sunday, December 18

The 83rd Annual Northampton (MANO) Christmas Bird Count involves teams of intrepid (other adjectives may also apply) teams of birders taking to the fields, woods and environs of the towns in our area to count and then tally all the birds they hear and/or observe. You are welcome to take part regardless of your birding expertise. If you are confident birding on your own or more comfortable as part of a team, we will find a place for you.

The enduring value of this event is that it provides a history that suggests trends in the population, occurrence and distribution of resident, common, uncommon and rare winter birds.

After the count there is a potluck and compilation at the Hitchcock Center on the Hampshire College campus in Amherst beginning at 4:30 p.m.

To find out more, you can visit: www.hampshirebirdclub.org/cbc/

To sign up for the event, contact Jan Ortiz and/or Janice Jorgensen at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Four Seasons of Quabbin Reservoir: *Dale Monette*

Friday, November 4: 7:00-9:00 pm. Fee.

The North American Fur Trade: *Fran Ryan*

Wednesday, November 9: 7:00-9:00 pm. Fee.

Plant Vandals: *Todd Lynch*

Thursday, November 17: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at Acadia, and

Sunday, November 20: 10 am - 11:30 am at Graves Farm. Free but registration required.

*For more details of and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to www.massaudubon.org. In the "Choose a Wildlife Sanctuary" pull-down menu, select "Arcadia". You may also contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** direct at 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027 or telephone (413) 584-3009.*

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Red, Black and Scarlet – Identifying The Oaks: *Ted Watt, Nancy Goodman, Kim Noyes & Patti Steinman*

Thursday, November 10, 7- 8:30 pm

Sunday, November 13, 9:00 am – noon (field trip)

Explore Trees of the Connecticut River Flood Plain: *Ted Watt*

at Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area in Northfield .

Sunday, December 11, 10am- 12pm. Fee.

Nature All Year Study Club 2017

Sundays once per month, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon (some class times may vary depending on topics). Fee.

Our Living Building Tour Program

Wednesdays at 12 pm – September 14, 28, October 19, November 16

Fridays at 4 pm – September 23, October 7, November 4, December 2. Free but please register online.

Hot Water Issues Symposium: Global, National & Valley Perspectives – Problems, Solutions, and the Challenges Ahead

Saturday, November 19, 12pm- 3pm. Free but please register online.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 845 West St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Winging and Singing: Songs for the Birds

Westhampton Public Library

Tuesday, November 15 at 3 p.m.

Kate O'Connor and **Rico Spence** perform a diverse array of popular songs with birds in the lyrics, backed by projected images of birds by **John Van de Graaff** and commentary by **David Spector**. The event is free. Hope to see you there?

Ten Months on the Wing

Which bird spends the longest periods on the wing without ever touching down? I suppose I have always assumed that the mantle would be held by one of the albatrosses, but I never really thought about it. Anders Hedenstrom and others, writing in the journal *Current Biology*, find that Common Swifts, *Apus apus*, may remain in flight for 99% of the time during an arduous migration from breeding grounds in Europe to sub-Saharan Africa and back, with some individuals apparently never landing at all outside the breeding season. These are some of the incredible insights we are gathering from the use of increasingly tiny date loggers which can be attached to even the smallest birds with minimal impacts on behavior and survival. The discoveries are just beginning....

You can read more about this at:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/10/27/499635084/this-bird-can-remain-airborne-for-10-months-straight?ft=nprml&f=1001>. It might be easier to type “this bird can remain airborne for ten months straight” into your friendly neighborhood search engine.

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

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
Volume 33, No. 4
December, 2016.

The main thing to remember this month is that we need to get our aprons on and contribute food for both the December meeting AND the Christmas Count Potluck. Cousin Vinnie's exhortation is on the back of the cover sheet. We also need to help Mike Locher put together a dazzling array of trips for the new year.

Also, the club Membership Directory is on its way to you via the USPS. It is our very own "Who's Who" of birding in the Pioneer Valley. We hope you will use it to facilitate birding and conservation-related activity with other members of our club. We trust you will NOT use it for any commercial purpose or distribute any information from the list to anyone else. Please respect the privacy of our members.

Please note that the directory of club officers and other official contacts IS available online at hampshirebirdclub.org. Follow the "All HBC Contacts" link at the foot of the home page.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, December 12 at 7:15 p.m.

HBC Members Meeting

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Weather-related cancellations announced via the HBC email list and local media.

Please bring some slides to share.

As in past years, please limit your show to 15 or fewer slides and you must be prepared to narrate your own stuff. Please contact either **Jaap van Heerden** (jvanheerden@hampshirebirdclub.org) or **Geoff LeBaron** (programs@hampshirebirdclub.org) by 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 11. Please let them know:

- Are your slides digital or 35 mm format?
 - If digital, are the images in Powerpoint format or stand-alone images?
- If you bring digital images, please have them on a memory stick or CD-ROM disk.

COMING PROGRAMS

January 9, 2017. Connie Sanchez. Judging the Duck Stamp Program.

February 13, 2017. Dave Wiley. Great Shearwater Migrations.

March 13, 2017. Chris Fisher. Images of South Africa.

COMING TRIPS

Saturday, December 10. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

Saturday, January 28. Cape Ann Winter ducks. All day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths go to the chilly shore to look for ducks, alcids, gulls, and all the other good birds of winter. Dress for the weather (many layers). The inclement weather date is Saturday, February 11. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting information. (M)

LIBRARY FINDS A HOME

After some anxious moments, the bird club library is now all set up in the **new** Hitchcock Center for the Environment at 845 West Street, Amherst, MA. To find it, go through the lobby to the back hallway and take a right. It's down toward the end on the left. Hitchcock hours are Tuesday – Thursday 9AM – 5:30PM and Friday 9PM – 5PM. As usual, I will bring a selection of books to our meetings, and you can contact me beforehand if you need something in particular.

Our grateful thanks to the **Hitchcock Center** for again finding a home for our collection.

Henry Lappen

FIELD TRIP IDEAS NEEDED

*When the field trip chair's not padding up his trip list (up his trip list),
Or throwing mud upon his Subaru (Subaru),
He loves to dream of strange new trip locations (trip locations)
And strange new folks to lead the darn things, too! (darn things too!)*

Mike Locher is our field trip chair (fieldtrips@hampshirebirdclub.org). In the midst of the holiday season he has the unenviable task of compiling a diverse and evolving set of trips for the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, due out early in the new year.

HBC, of course, has a series of old favorites: well-established trips which tend to be well attended and self-sustaining. But, as with a good sports team, over-reliance on experienced veterans can lead to stagnation and decline. Every one of our “old favorite” trips started as a bold experiment. Some-one had to say, ‘What if we tried going there?’

So ask that question. If you know a birding location well enough to lead a trip there, or are willing to do some research to develop that expertise, please chat with Mike. He may be able to provide some suggestions, look for a co-leader, or grease the wheels of progress in other ways.

Northampton Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 18

Join the 84th **Northampton Christmas Bird Count**. We have 36 teams during the daylight hours and about 10 owling teams. At dusk we sit down to a yummy potluck at the Hitchcock Center to compile the results and share the thrills and spills of the day. Be there or be square. To join a team or be a feeder counter contact Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

Quabbin Count Saturday, December 31

Quabbin Count stalwarts please note that keys and permits for each area leader at the Quabbin Christmas Bird Count will be available at the December meeting. Jim Lafley will have them and will endeavor to track down each leader. If you are leading an area for the QC but will NOT be at the December meeting, please contact Jim to arrange an alternate key transference mechanism.

Also, Jim has a list of the birds recorded on the Quabbin Count by year from 1988 to 2015 and can send you a copy electronically if you contact him at Jim.Lafley@state.ma.us If you would prefer a hard copy he can bring some to the December meeting.

If you are not yet signed up for the Quabbin Count and would like to give it a whirl, please contact Scott Sumner (ssurner-at-aol.com).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Duck Stamp Show

Our January program features Connie Sanchez describing her experiences in judging the national Duck Stamp Competition. To complement the program, the Education Committee is arranging a display of the complete series of Duck Stamps from 1934 to the present. The stamps will be on display at our December 12 meeting. Some of the art-work involved is truly outstanding.

The Duck Stamp program functions as an ongoing source of revenue for the purchase and protection of wetland habitats and easements for the National Wildlife Refuge system. Ninety eight (98) percent of all revenues raised go directly toward this goal. Duck stamps can be purchased at the American Bird Association, select National Wildlife refuges, and post offices.

Bruce Hart

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Explore Trees of the Connecticut River Flood Plain: *Ted Watt*

at Bennett Meadows Wildlife Management Area in Northfield.

Sunday, December 11, 10am- 12pm. Fee.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 845 West St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at

www.hitchcockcenter.org.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Solstice Celebration

Bonfire, hot cider, music.

Wednesday, December 21: 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Free.

Owl Moon

Puppet show presentation of the classic story written by Jane Yolen.

Saturday, January 21: 8:00 – 10:00 pm.

For more details of and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to www.massaudubon.org. In the “Choose a Wildlife Sanctuary” pull-down menu, select “Arcadia”.

*You may also contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** direct at 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027 or telephone (413) 584-3009.*

That's all for this month.

Make sure you have FUN on the Christmas Count

Don't forget Cousin Vinnie's Refreshment message on the next page.

My, what a bossy newsletter this is.

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

Happy Holidays!

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Cousin Vinnie's December Refreshments Message

*Cousin Vinnie's words of wisdom can best be understood if you imagine him standing before you. Please envisage a portly gentleman in a pinstripe suit with a carnation in the lapel and a comb-over. His voice is a high pitched cross between the Godfather and Corporal Klinger from M*A*S*H. Hope that helps.*

"Hey dere, Vinnie again.

We tawked (well, I tawked, and dose who knew what's good for dem listened) last December when it became clear that youse needed a little incentive in the area of refreshments.

Yeah, see, dere's dis bunch of unsung heroes called de Refreshment Committee. Know who dey are? No? Well I refer of course to Helga "Knuckles" Beatty, Lissa "Hacksaw" Ganter, Jan "Slasher" Howard and Elaine "Make it Stop" Reilly.

Dey's been woyking dey fingers to da bone an dey's taking a break dis month. So if youse wanna eat at the **December program**, you gonna hafta pony up yaselves.

And wid da Committee soaking up the sun in the Med., me an' Gino will be here on December 12 just to, ya know, check for compliance.

Oh, and when Gino an' I come in from the cold after the **Christmas Count**, we's gonna need some nourishment, so contact Sue Emerson as soon as possible to make your promises.

Gino and I like promises, specially when dey include hearty main courses, tasty salads, nourishing soups and delectable desserts.

Once again, as long as the food shows up, nobody goes hungry and nobody gets hoyt."

Buon natale,
Vincenzo.

In case Vinnie's message is in any way unclear,

1) Everyone please bring some goodies to share for the December meeting, lest we go hungry and

2) Please contact Sue Emerson and commit to bringing a dish for the Christmas Count Potluck. You can reach her at spe33@charter.net.

Let's make sure Vinnie stays happy!