



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 33, No. 5
January, 2017

In this edition:

- the **next program** and the up-coming schedule,
- a **field trip report** and the **Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule**, and
- a few other odds and sods.

Hope you find some of it useful.

NEXT PROGRAM
Monday, January 9 at 7:15 p.m.
Connie Sanchez

looks at the links between

Conservation and Art: The Federal Duck Stamp Program

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, requiring all waterfowl hunters to buy and carry a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Today this stamp is better known as the Federal Duck Stamp. The Duck Stamp Program has evolved through the years, bringing together hunters, stamp collectors, and conservationists, and has contributed significantly to wetlands conservation over the years. In this evening presentation, you'll hear about the history and conservation value of the Federal Duck Stamp Program, a program that has raised funds to protect more than 5.7 million acres of habitat. You'll learn about the Federal Duck Stamp Art contest and get a glimpse of the selection process from Connie Sanchez, who served as a judge for the 2015 contest.

Constance Chen Sanchez is the Director of the Important Bird Areas Program for National Audubon Society. Since 2002, Connie has been involved in national-level coordination of this habitat conservation program, part of a global initiative aimed at conserving sites critical to birds throughout their life cycle. As director of the U.S. program, Connie focuses on facilitating communications, creating linkages across local conservation efforts, developing strategies for the protection of these priority places, and the engagement of local communities and conservation partners in maintaining and protecting this network. In addition to her efforts in conservation, Connie has served as an educator, teaching science and technology to various age groups. She holds a M.S. in Biology from Fort Hays State University in Kansas and a B.S. in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Rochester in New York. In 2015, Connie served as a judge for the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest.

COMING PROGRAMS

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

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

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

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Moran WMA and environs. Sunday, December 4, 2017

Mike Locher and **Josh Rose** led a group led a trip into the Berkshires and batted a thousand despite the notorious bleakness of the area in winter. The main goal was to visit Moran WMA in Windsor for shrikes and other visitors from the boreal. On our way in, we failed to find a shrike, but Jonathan Pierce was there and assured us that he had seen one before we arrived. We wandered into the spruce forest, getting good looks at Red-breasted Nuthatch and hearing a Golden-crowned Kinglet, while a Common Raven or two called and flew over. On our way back out, a **Northern Shrike** appeared and, thanks to a couple of group members who had carried their scopes in, everyone had a decent look.

From there, we headed to Gael Hurley's neighborhood in Dalton. Gael herself joined us not long after we arrived. After a short stakeout, she helped get us on a **Harris' Sparrow**, which was ultimately very cooperative, providing great looks and photos. We also observed a Pileated Woodpecker flying over, and a Belted Kingfisher by the nearby Housatonic River.

While we were there, Jonathan posted via social media that he had found an Iceland Gull just a few miles away. After we had basked enough in the Harris', we drove over to the Pittsfield McDonald's, the best spot in Berkshire County for observing Fish Crows. No crows yesterday, but sure enough, a flock of roughly 100 gulls was there, mostly Ring-billed but a few Herring, and, with Gael's help yet again, we all had good looks at the **Iceland Gull**, an immature Kumlien's.

Josh Rose

COMING TRIPS

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At our January 9th gathering, the education committee will host a complete collection of federal duck stamps dating from 1934 to the present. This exhibit is in conjunction with the presentation by Connie Sanchez on the Federal Duck Stamp Program. Buying duck stamps is a simple but highly effective way of protecting habitat for birds and other wildlife. Ninety eight percent of all funds raised are used to acquire and protect wetland habitats and purchase easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Duck stamps can be purchased at the American Bird Association, select National Wildlife refuges, and post offices.

Bruce Hart

GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER PROGRAMS

Donald Kroodsma presents

Listening to a Continent Sing:

Birdsong by Bicycle from the Atlantic to the Pacific

Join birdsong expert Donald Kroodsma as he recounts the ten-week, ten-state bicycle journey he made from the Atlantic to the Pacific, lingering and listening to our continent sing as no one has before.

Saturday, January 21 at 1 PM. Great Falls Discovery Center. 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

For more information call 413 863 3221 or visit greatfallsdiscoverycenter.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

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Winter/Spring/Summer Field Trip Schedule, 2017

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.*

JANUARY

Saturday, January 21. Cape Ann Winter ducks. All day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths go to the chilly north 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 Aidan (413-323-8417 or aidan-underscore-griffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) or Devin (413-323-8417 or devingriffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) to register and get meeting information. (M)

Fort River Refuge. The Friends of the Fort River Refuge and the Hampshire Bird Club will again offer trips to the Fort River Refuge this spring. The dates are being finalized as the newsletter goes to press, but expect two per month (one Wednesday and one Saturday) except for May, when walks will be weekly. Check the HBC website and future newsletters for dates and times. (E/M)

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 4. Coastal Rhode Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron scours the shores of Rhode Island for winter ducks, marsh raptors, and other seasonal specialties on his annual all-day trip. Dress for the weather. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to get information, to register, and get meeting information as the date approaches. (M)

MARCH

Wednesday, March 15. Timberdoodles at the Abandoned Atkins Orchard. Evening. Join Jim Lafley on a ramble through the old Atkins Orchard on Sabin Street in Belchertown. Over the last 20 years this has been a good spot for observing the American Woodcock display along the edge of the orchard and the large open field. Also possible are flocks of migrating Robins; Great-horned, Barred, and Saw-whet Owls calling; Canada Geese settling in for the evening; and Whip-poor-wills a little later in the season. Come to see what's active on this evening walk. Meet at Jim Lafley's house, 28 Sabin St., Belchertown at 6 p.m. and take the quarter mile walk up to the old orchard for the show. (M)

APRIL

Sunday, April 9. Ashley Reservoir. Morning. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Louisiana 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).

Tuesday, April 11. Mt. Tom Reservation. Late morning. Join Tom Gagnon on a wildlife walk on Mt. Tom State Reservation in search of a few warblers and early season butterflies. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Bray Lake on Mt. Tom State Reservation off Route 5 in Holyoke. Contact Tom for details (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

Sunday, April 23. Whiting Reservoir. Morning. Continuing the “Reserv...” theme in April, Mike Locher returns to one of his breeding bird atlas sites, looking for spring migrants and possibly lingering ducks. Meet at the base of Mountain Park Road, in the parking area across the bridge, at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) for details. (M)

Monday, April 24. Hawkwatching at Mt. Tom. Morning. Join Tom Gagnon for a hawk watch at Bray Tower on Mt. Tom State Reservation. Meet at old park headquarters at 9:00 a.m. Contact Tom for details (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (E/M)

Saturday, April 29. Podick and Catherine Cole Conservation Areas. Morning. Mike Locher initiates new his “Neglected Amherst Conservation Areas” series by braving the mosquitoes to look for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking area off Route 116. Bring insect repellent. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) for details. (E/M)

Sunday, April 30. Quabbin Gate 5 and Lake Wallace. Full day. Aidan Griffiths leads birders to two of Belchertown’s prime locations, looking for both spring migrants and hangers-on from the long winter (like the Red-headed Woodpecker?). Meeting time will be 6:30 a.m., place to be determined. Contact Aidan (413-323-8417 or aidan-underscore-griffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) or Devin (devingriffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) for details. (M)

MAY

Wednesday, May 3. Whip-poor-wills at Montague Plains WMA. Evening. Al Richards heads to the Montague Sand Plains to listen for whip-poor-wills. As the sun sets, Eastern Towhees and Prairie Warblers may be singing. 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, May 6. Herman Covey WMA. Full day. Aidan Griffiths beats the bushes of Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area for spring migrants and local residents. This reserve has it all: fields, woods, wetlands. Meeting time will be 6:30 a.m. at a place to be determined. Contact Aidan (413-323-8417 or aidan-underscore-griffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) or Devin (devingriffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) for details. (M).

Saturday, May 13. East Quabbin Reservoir. Full day Tom Gagnon leads participants into the wilds east of the Quabbin. You MUST be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club to go on this trip. The trip will start at 7:00 a.m., and the meeting place will be decided later. Contact Tom to register and get information (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

Wednesday, May 17. Mt. Holyoke. Morning. Join Tom Gagnon for a hike from the main gate to the top of Mt. Holyoke via the road in search of migrant warblers and local nesting warblers (think Worm-eating and Cerulean). Meet at the main gate to Mt. Holyoke at 7:00 a.m. Contact Tom for more information (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

Sunday, May 21. Sweet Alice Conservation Area. Morning. Mike Locher leads the second “Neglected Amherst Conservation Area” trip, and this one shouldn’t have mosquitoes. Ticks, maybe, but no mosquitoes. Now that everybody is super-excited to come, I’ll mention that Sweet Alice CA is a low brushy habitat that won’t give you “warbler neck” when you look for the birds. Last year I saw Blue-winged Warblers, a Prairie Warbler, and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest. Meet at Atkins Farms side parking lot at 6:30 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) for details. (M/S)

Monday, May 29, Abandoned Atkins Orchard. Morning (7-9 a.m.) Jim Lafley leads a morning trip into an abandoned orchard with two distinct biozones. This is the site where the White-eyed Vireo was seen two years ago, and is a great habitat for a variety of species. 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 3. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Bob Bieda and Mike Locher host 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 fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

Sunday, June 4. Montague Plains WMA. Morning. Jeremy Coleman writes, “We will meet on West Mineral Rd just off Millers Falls Rd (this is just south of the Turner's Falls Airport) at 7 AM sharp! We will scout the adjacent field and then head over to the Sandplain by car. We will walk approximately 1 mile on flat terrain in the scrub oak section of the Sandplain, and then venture into the Pitch Pine forest for another mile or so of walking on flat terrain. Expected birds will be Prairie, Black and White, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided and Pine Warblers, Redstart, Ovenbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher, Grasshopper and Field Sparrow, and many other breeding species, with the possibility for late migrants such as Mourning or Canada Warbler. If it's cloudy we may hear Whip-poor-wills still singing, and we could flush a Woodcock or two. Of course we'll stay tuned to the possibility of Hooded Warbler, which has been observed here as a probable breeder in 2012, although not since. There should be opportunities for good looks at many of these birds.” For information, contact Jeremy (jcolemanarch-at-gmail-dot-com). (E/M)

Saturday, June 17. October Mountain. All day. Bob Bieda goes west in search of Mourning Warblers, but that’s not all. A Brookline Bird Club trip at this time last year netted 46 species! The date on this trip may change (to June 18) depending on the weather. Contact Bob (413-527-2623 or blbieda-at-gmail-dot-com) to register and get meeting information. (E/M)

Other trips are being planned, but were unready for publication. Check the website and newsletter for possible trips for Plum Island (March), waterfowl migration (March), boreal species in VT’s Northeast Kingdom (April), local trips to Look Park, Wentworth Farm, Mineral Hills, and other sites (April-May), Mount Mansfield, VT for Bicknell’s Thrushes (June) and others.

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 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.

5. Leaders of Overnight Trips shall:
 - a. Submit a trip plan to the Field Trip Committee, which must be approved by the Board at least 3 months in advance of the trip. The plan should describe in writing the nature of the trip as completely as possible. Include an itinerary, estimated cost, conditions of lodging and lead time needed for reservations, roughness of terrain, pace of the trip, extra costs not covered by the fee, date of deposit and final payment, date after which fee is not refundable, and provide a list of any specialized items that participants should take on the trip. Repeat trips led by the same leader need only submit necessary changes to the previous plan. The Board can waive the 3-month planning time if there is a special birding opportunity.
 - b. Consult with the membership secretary before the trip to make sure that all participants have signed the HBC Release Form and obtain a signed Medical Information Form from each participant.
 - c. Be reimbursed for all costs associated with planning (i.e. long-distance calls, postage), lodging, and transportation during the trip. The maximum reimbursement for automobile travel shall be one quarter of the costs incurred by a single vehicle under clause 4 of this policy.
 - d. Upon return, provide the HBC Board with an itemized account of all income and expenses related to the trip including receipts for major expenses.
6. The Field Trip Chair will send all participants in overnight trips the Field Trip Evaluation Form and a Medical Information Form. The completed evaluation form, to be returned to the Field Trip Chair, will help the Field Trip Committee plan future trips and provide feedback for leaders. Participants should give their signed Medical Information form to the trip leader prior to departure.
7. Leaders of both Day and Overnight Trips are asked to submit a Trip Highlights Report to the newsletter editor for publication in the next HBC newsletter.
8. HBC may ask professional bird touring organization to organize trips further away than the Overnight Trips. All responsibilities for planning the trip and all liability will be assumed by the touring organization. Such trips must be approved by the Board at least 6 months in advance.



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
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Volume 33, No. 6
February, 2017.

In this issue:

- the **next program** and **coming programs**,
- a **field trip** for the ages (the report is mediocre, the trip was not),
- **coming trips**,
- a **pelagic birding** opportunity,
- **Hitchcock** and **Arcadia** programs,
- **kestrel box** monitoring opportunities, and
- **Northampton Christmas Bird Count** results and a thank-you from the **potluck** organizers.

Hope you find some of it useful!

NEXT PROGRAM

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

Dave Wiley follows Great Shearwater Migrations

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

In 2013, a group of researchers began studying Greater Shearwaters in the waters of Stellwagen Bank, just off the tip of Cape Cod. The researchers looked at where Greater Shearwaters tend to spend most of their time and looked for any links with the topography of the sea floor and the distribution of the sand lance, an abundant potential prey species. The researchers also looked at how Greater Shearwaters are caught by accident in gillnets in the Gulf of Maine and found interesting patterns in where this occurs. Dr. Wiley will also touch on what the scientists learned about the remarkable navigational abilities of these birds, which allow them to find their way across vast expanses of open ocean, and between the northern and southern hemispheres.

Dr. David Wiley's 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

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

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

May 8, 2017. Andrew Vitz. Bird Conservation In Western Massachusetts

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Saturday, January 21. The Cape Ann Winter Ramble

Peter Gagarin, **Aiden Griffiths**, Carol Griffiths, **Devin Griffiths**, Lee Halasz, Mike Locher, Andrew Magee, David Peake-Jones and Al Richards set off from the Belchertown Common bright and early for a tour around this fabled north shore promontory.

Once in a while an HBC trip just clicks. The planets align, the storms happen just so, and an otherwise pleasant ramble can turn into a spectacular day. Who can forget the Poor Man's Monhegan trip some years ago when the group happened upon one of the biggest pelagic fall-outs in recent history on Plum Island? These things cannot be planned for, but when they happen they can be the experiences of a life-time. And so it was on this mild early winter day. The trip began conventionally enough at Jodrey Fish Pier in Gloucester. A nice selection of gulls and sea ducks were on hand to help us get acclimated, including an immature Iceland Gull which swept overhead as we arrived and then vanished amongst the moorings. Common Eiders and Red-breasted Mergansers were at their usual stations and a few scoters livened things up a bit. Al Richards has done this enough times to immediately spot the resident **Peregrine Falcon** surveying the harbor imperiously from a nearby spire. A Long-tailed Duck frolicked improbably in a little backwater. So far, so good. Ho hum.

The wide open spaces of the Bass Rocks shoreline were a bit more atmospheric. There were more scoters to mull over, and **Red-throated Loons** to disentangle from their more burly common brethren, but it was the little black and white things skittering along out beyond the surf zone that got us fired up. Most of us found ourselves wishing we could channel Rick Heil or some other vaunted sea-watcher for whom these distant blurs would be identifiable but, as the cumulative effect of eyeballs, expensive optics and rusty ID skills took effect, we started to hit our straps. One by one, closer birds in the (mercifully quite calm) surf zone gave up their gray-scale secrets to our blue-collar efforts. By the time we departed the Elks Club we had two (2) **Black Guillemots** and four (4) **Razorbills** to show for it!! Niles Beach yielded more sea ducks, Red-necked and Horned Grebes, and another Razorbill. At Front and Back Beaches in Rockport, we found **Harlequin Ducks** to add to the mix, yet one more Razorbill, and, bobbing at what would have been wading pool depth*, a nestle-in-your-hand little bundle of cuteness that is the Holy Grail of sea-watching in New England: **Dovekie**!! It was by now clear that we were part of an in-shore alcid extravaganza for the ages.

And so we rambled on and the coast, as it is wont to do, rewarded us in unforeseen ways. A routine bathroom stop in Rockport Harbor yielded two female **Northern Pintail** sitting (astonishingly) amongst a crown of shoreline Mallards. Granite Pier in Rockport had more Harlequin Ducks, two more Razorbills at absurdly close range, and an **adult Iceland Gull** which Andrew Magee picked out of the throng with nowt but his bins! From Loblolly Cove we tallied yet more Harlequin Ducks and, dismayed by the lack of alcids, the group stooped to terrestrial birding to try to pad the list, turning up a Cooper's Hawk and a Carolina Wren, amidst some more common fare. Cathedral Ledges played host to yet more Harlequin Ducks, two more Razorbills, another Dovekie, as well as a Red-throated Loon that had us dreaming of something more special for a few moments.

Andrew's Point, normally a banner stop, was strangely devoid of birds, so we hustled on toward Plum Cove, as the day began to go down in the west. The promised Barrow's Goldeneye was not in evidence there, but bobbing at speedo depth for the Polar Bear Club* was a Thick-billed Murre: the most astonishing look one is ever likely to get at this bird and Brant adorning the rocks.

*Alert and scientifically-astute readers may suspect an element of exaggeration in these depth estimates and may, in addition, question the legitimacy of bathymetric measurements made based on human bathing habits. All I can do in response is to blow you a literary raspberry and plead that I am just getting into the spirit of the times. Editor.

Continues next page ►

Cape Ann Winter Ramble (continued)

As darkness fell, we adjourned to nearby (and unfashionable for birders) Lane's Cove in hopes of the elusive Barrow's Goldeneye. The Barrow's still had other places to be, but there, a mere silhouette in the quiet dusk, was an unmistakable dumpy little figure in the water mere feet from the breakwater. The less fleet-of-foot contented ourselves with this distant view of what we thought was our last Dovekie of the day, but the more agile and, it turned out, enlightened, of the group hot-footed it out along the breakwater for a closer look at this tiny visitor. Imagine their delight when a SECOND dovekie appeared alongside the first and the two exchanged a series of high pitched squeals, a sound witnessed by few people, and certainly by even fewer from land. A marvelous trip that will live long in memory....

Editors note: In what must have been a second storm-related incursion of Dovekies, or perhaps an extension of the one we witnessed, dozens were found on land on Cape Cod after a nor'easter on January 24th.

Wildcare Inc., a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation program in Eastham, MA, spearheaded efforts to rehab and release many of these birds. You can read a story about the effort at

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/01/26/tiny-arctic-birds-battered-storm-rescued-cape-cod/yRbnidFOzPzORsOB6ZliCN/story.html>. (Hmm. P'raps just google something simpler)

David Peake-Jones

COMING TRIPS

Saturday, February 4. Coastal Rhode Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron scours the shores of Rhode Island for winter ducks, marsh raptors, and other seasonal specialties on his annual all-day trip. Dress for the weather. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to get information, to register, and get meeting information as the date approaches. (M)

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PELAGIC BIRDING ON STELLWAGEN BANK

Seven Seas Whale Watch, Gloucester MA

Saturday, March 11, 2017

8 AM to NOON

Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce is planning their 6th Winter Birding Cruise in partnership with 7 Seas Whale Watch and many of the area's top ornithologists!

The trip will be visiting Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, 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. This trip will focus primarily on the pelagic birds of the bank, but there is the possibility of non-marine wildlife as well, including whales just returning from the Caribbean!

You can get detailed information about registration, pricing, schedule and more at

<http://web.capeannvacations.com/events/Winter-Birding-Boat-Trip-2778/details>

KESTREL BOX WATCH

Volunteers Wanted

Since 2013, Kestrel Land Trust has maintained and monitored 20 nest boxes in our region to help conserve their eponymous bird, which is in decline in our state. Hampshire Bird Club members have been crucial partners in this effort to provide nest sites and collect data on kestrels' breeding habitat selection and reproductive success. Our boxes have housed 51 chicks so far!

The trust is seeking volunteers for the 2017 season to monitor boxes on a weekly basis and report observations to them. The minimum time commitment is a total of one (1) hour per week (observation time may be broken into shorter periods) from March through May. If you would like to help, please contact Kestrel Land Trust at chris-at-kestreltrust-dot-org or 413-549-1097.

A representative from the trust will join us at the February program if you want to connect in person.

POTLUCK THANK YOU!

A note of appreciation to everyone who donated their wonderful cookies from the December Members meeting for the Northampton CBC Pot Luck Dinner that wasn't. Everyone was so generous: it is so comforting to know folks like you are so willing to assist in important projects like this.

Sincere appreciation to all. Our best wishes for a wonderful, healthy new year ahead — the “elves”, Sally, Helga, Jan, Janice, Mary Alice & Bill, Sue & Wayne. Thinking ahead to 2017 with safer weather!

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Prowling For Owls: *Dan Ziomek*

with Dan Ziomek, local birder and naturalist

Saturday, January 28, 8pm-10pm

Saturday, February 11, 8pm -10pm

Saturday, March 4, 4:30am

Community Read

***The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert**

In collaboration with Jones Library “On the Same Page—Amherst” program. Shared reading and five (5) evening programs with renowned environmentalists, including Elizabeth Kolbert.

January 31 to February 28. To learn more, please go to joneslibrary.org/onthesamepage

Amherst's Famous Spotted Salamanders: *Ted Watt*

Thursday, February 9, 6:30 pm. FREE. Please register.

Salamander Tunnel Maintenance

A weekend day – timing depends on weather conditions and snow cover.

Call or [sign up online](#) to be notified.

THE MESSENGER Film Screening

Thursday, March 16, 7pm. FREE. Please register.

Citizen Science: Red-Backed Salamander Population Monitoring: *Ted Watt*

Saturday, March 18, 10 am-noon. FREE. Please register

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

Arcadia Family Bird Fun

A monthly series focusing on various aspects of birding for all ages.

Saturday, Feb 11, 9:00 am – Noon.

Eagles at the Quabbin

Meeting at Quabbin Visitor Center

Saturday, Feb 11, 10 am - 1pm,

February Vacation Days

During the week of February 20.

See the Arcadia website.

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.*

NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2016

Participants in the 83rd Northampton CBC started their field observations about 7 am in rain and fog. Our intrepid owlers, some who began at midnight, had to deal with an icy rain as well. Despite these less-than-ideal conditions, the owlers tallied **54 Eastern Screech-**, **16 Great Horned-** and **3 Barred Owls**. One of the six young field birders taking part spotted and photographed a Snowy Owl -- an exciting find for the entire Northampton team. Despite difficult weather which reduced the number of participants and field time, **168 counters** took part and tallied **79 species**.

There were new high counts for Wild Turkey (200) and Merlin (6). Unusual species included **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **American Pipit**, **Pine Warbler** and **Snow Goose**. Though winter finches were scarce this year, a **Purple Finch**, a **Common Redpoll** and two **Pine Siskins** were found.

The complete (but unofficial) results are appended to this newsletter and the official results (including historical data) can be viewed in a variety of formats online at hampshirebirdclub.org/cbc/cbcforms/

The MANO CBC Compilers

That's all for this month. The Northampton Christmas Count results are attached to this newsletter and the Quabbin Count results will be included in March.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

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Northampton Christmas Bird Count 2016 and Historical

High counts in bold

Unusual species in italics

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

Species	20116	High Year	High Count	Species	2015	High Year	High Count
Gr'ter Wh'-fr'ed Goose	0	n.a.t.		Bald Eagle (adult)	9	2015	13
Greylag Goose	0	n.a.t.		Bald Eagle (imm.)	3	2010	3
<i>Snow Goose</i>	1	2008	32	Northern Harrier	10	2010	11
Brant	0	n.a.t.		Sharp-s'd Hawk	12	2007	22
Canada Goose	1,938	1999	7, 977	Cooper's Hawk	29	2014	32
Cackling Goose	0	n.a.t.		Northern Goshawk	1	n.a.t.	
Mute Swan	14	2002	29	Red-s'd Hawk	cw	1957	4
Wood Duck	2	2010	19	Red-tailed Hawk	109	2014	187
Gadwall	0	2012	5	Rough-l'd Hawk	0	1989	12
American Wigeon	0	1999	10	American Kestrel	4	1974	31
Northern Shoveller	0			Merlin	6	2013	4
Am. Black Duck	162	1992	286	Gyr Falcon	0	n.a.t.	
Mallard	893	1994	1,338	Peregrine Falcon	7	2014	6
Northern Pintail	3	2014	54	American Coot	0	2014	1
Green-winged Teal	0	2015	3	Virginia Rail	0	n.a.t.	
Canvasback	0	n.a.t.		Killdeer	0	n.a.t.	
Ring-necked Duck	0	n.a.t.		<i>Wilson's Snipe</i>	0	n.a.t.	
Greater Scaup	0	n.a.t.		American Woodcock	0	n.a.t.	
Lesser Scaup	0	n.a.t.		Ring-billed Gull	132	2006	1,088
White-winged Scoter	0	n.a.t.		Herring Gull	9	1986	2,196
Long-tailed Duck	0	n.a.t.		Iceland Gull	0	n.a.t.	
Bufflehead	0	n.a.t.		Lesser Bl'-backed Gull	0	n.a.t.	
Common Goldeneye	103	1992	109	Glaucous Gull	0	n.a.t.	
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	n.a.t.		<i>Black-headed Gull</i>	0		
Hooded Merganser	52	2012	60	Great Bl'-b'd Gull	3	1994	367
Common Merganser	116	2012	227	Rock Pigeon	510	1988	2,778
Red-b'd Merganser	0	n.a.t.		Mourning Dove	1,905	1998	3,904
Ruddy Duck	0	n.a.t.		E. Screech-Owl	54	2006	82
Ring-n'd Pheasant	1	1960	196	Great Horned Owl	16	2014	68
Ruffed Grouse	0	1966	37	Snowy Owl	1	n.a.t.	
Wild Turkey	200	2010	187	Barred Owl	3	2012	19
<i>Red-throated Loon</i>	0	n.a.t.		<i>Long-eared Owl</i>	0	2004	3
Common Loon	0	n.a.t.		<i>Short-eared Owl</i>	1	n.a.t.	
<i>Pied-billed Grebe</i>	0	n.a.t.		N. Saw-whet Owl	0	2006	5
<i>Horned Grebe</i>	0	n.a.t.		Selasphorus sp.	0	n.a.t.	
<i>Do'-c'd Cormorant</i>	0	n.a.t.		Belted Kingfisher	14	2001	23
<i>(Great Cormorant)</i>	0	nrr		Red-headed Woodpecker	1	n.a.t.	
Great Blue Heron	0	2006	27	Red-b'd Woodpecker	172	2014	246
<i>Green Heron</i>	0	n.a.t.		Yellow-b'd Sapsucker	1	2007	22
<i>Turkey Vulture</i>	0	n.a.t.		Downy Woodpecker	237	2014	503
				Hairy Woodpecker	74	1974	192
				Northern Flicker	32	1998	77

Continues next page ►

Northampton Christmas Count, 2016 (continued)

Species	2015	High Year	High Count	Species	2015	High Year	High Count
Pileated Woodpecker	231	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	0	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	25	2000	46
Blue Jay	1,322	2014	1,722	Fox Sparrow	3	1943	20
American Crow	1,108	1997	5,836	Song Sparrow	194	1992	559
Fish Crow	cw	2008	6	Lincoln's Sparrow	0	n.a.t.	
Common Raven	12	2015	28	Swamp Sparrow	2	1992	23
Horned Lark	807	1993	2,504	White-t'd Sparrow	316	2009	1,008
Black-c'd Chickadee	1,251	2005	2,096	White-c'd Sparrow	7	2014	26
Tufted Titmouse	621	2006	894	Dark-e'd Junco (slate-col.)	2,318	2006	3,585
Red-b'd Nuthatch	16	1993	295	<i>Oregon Junco</i>	0	n.a.t.	
White-b'd Nuthatch	285	2015	644	<i>Pink-sided Junco</i>	0	n.a.t.	
Brown Creeper	8	1973	53	<i>Lapland Longspur</i>	0	1989	31
Carolina Wren	59	2014	175	Snow Bunting	11	1989	706
House Wren	0	n.a.t.		Northern Cardinal	640	2014	786
Winter Wren	1	2014	9	Indigo Bunting	0	n.a.t.	
Golden-c'd Kinglet	45	2001	332	Dickcissel	0	n.a.t.	
<i>Ruby-c'd Kinglet</i>	1	1973	6	Red-winged Blackbird	8	2008	304
Eastern Bluebird	199	2014	539	(Eastern Meadowlark)	0	nrr	
Hermit Thrush	1	2014	33	Rusty Blackbird	0	2008	100
American Robin	1,703	2013	9,899	Common Grackle	1	2006	501
Gray Catbird	3	2005	5	Brown-h'd Cowbird	6	2006	876
N. Mockingbird	92	1999	238	Baltimore Oriole	0	n.a.t.	
Brown Thrasher	1	n.a.t.		Pine Grosbeak	0	n.a.t.	
European Starling	5,732	1985	94,630	Purple Finch	1	1976	221
American Pipit	10	2015	129	House Finch	613	1994	2,215
(Bohemian Waxwing)	0	nrr		Red Crossbill	0	n.a.t.	
Cedar Waxwing	554	2007	2,194	White-w'd Crossbill	0	n.a.t.	
<i>Yellow-r'd Warbler</i>	0	2000	5	Common Redpoll	1	1959	1,069
Pine Warbler	1	n.a.t.		Hoary Redpoll	0	n.a.t.	
<i>Palm Warbler</i>	0	n.a.t.		Pine Siskin	2	1993	372
<i>Eastern Towhee</i>	0	n.a.t.		Amer. Goldfinch	649	2006	2,094
Amer. Tree Sparrow	452	1992	2,637	Evening Grosbeak	0	1969	3,000
<i>Chipping Sparrow</i>	0	1974	11	House Sparrow	2,420	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.
Amherst, Massachusetts
 www.hampshirebirdclub.org
 Volume 33, No. 7
March, 2017.

One of these things is not like the other ones:

- The **next program** and the **remaining programs** of this club year,
- An overblown **trip report**,
- A plan to rescue **American democracy**,
- The list of **coming trips**,
- **Hitchcock** and **Arcadia** programs
- **Quabbin Count** results from 2016.

Give up? OK. It was a tough one, I know. Here's the hint: five (5) of the items are in this edition of the newsletter. The remaining one is not. I will leave the rest up to you.

I hope you find some of it useful!

NEXT PROGRAM

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

Chris Fisher brings us **Images of Southern Africa**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

Amazing photographs of African wildlife, birds, flowers, culture and scenery are combined with music and narration in this multimedia presentation. We will tour Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa; fascinating and under-visited parts of Earth's second largest continent.

Chris Fisher is a retired physics teacher who has been working at his photography for almost 50 years. He is a long time member of the Simsbury Camera Club in Simsbury, CT and a member of Hartford Audubon. He was also a professional wedding photographer for many years. Since retiring, he and his wife Diane have traveled extensively both in the United States and abroad, providing ideal opportunities for Chris to indulge in photography. He particularly enjoys creating multimedia shows and sharing these images with others.

You can learn more about Chris and his work at Natural Expressions Photography:

<http://www.naturalexpressionsphotography.net>.

COMING PROGRAMS

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

May 8, 2017. Andrew Vitz. Bird Conservation In Western Massachusetts.

June 12, 2017. Dave Spector. Sam Peabody and Friends: A Look at Bird Song Interpretation.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Saturday, February 4, 2017. Coastal Rhode Island with Geoff LeBaron

Peter Allison, Stephen Baker, Carol & John Gabranski, Eileen Goldstein, Lee Halasz, Bruce Hart, Betsy Higgins, Janice Jorgensen, Mike Locher, David Peake-Jones, Debbie Phinney, Elaine Pourinski and Carol Wasserloos accompanied Geoff on this tour of our petit southern neighbor.

In a brisk breeze at Napatree Point we found a smattering of loons, eiders and some distant Canada Geese, while 13 **Sanderlings** played on the shore. Along the Misquamicut and Weekapaug shores we added a large group of Black Ducks, a few Great Cormorants, some Horned Grebes, and an unlikely **American Kestrel** teetering atop a spruce tree, and in the Weekapaug breach-way marsh we encountered a foraging **Northern Harrier**.

Meeting some of our group at the Kettle Pond Visitors Center (Ninigret Wildlife Refuge), we added some feeder birds, and then, in the bay off Grassy Point we located the resident **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. A petit **Bonaparte's Gull** foraged out over the bay with hordes of Hooded Mergansers and Bufflehead, and some **Dunlin** foraging on a far shore. At the Charlestown Senior Center we found a solitary **Red-shouldered Hawk** hunting the fallow vegetable gardens, a bird that gave us another look at it, perched in a tree, on the way back to our vehicles.

We found an **American Coot** lurking amongst the moorings at the Town Dock marina in Charlestown and watched about 130 American Robins flying from an unseen but evidently food-rich roost next to the water. From the breach-way at Charlestown, we found a few more Horned Grebes, a raft of 30 plus distant **Black Scoters**, two **Long-tailed Ducks** and two **Purple Sandpipers**.

In a biting wind at Point Judith Lighthouse, we found ten Common Goldeneye and a White-winged Scoter. Finally, from Beavertail State Park near Newport, in gathering dusk and brutal wind-chills, we spotted 42 **Brant** clustered on the rocks, 26 **Harlequin Ducks** being tumbled about in the surf, and, finally, a good look at a close **Razorbill** inshore and another further out.

And now, reviving an occasional tradition for winter shore trips, the **fast food nutritional round-up**. There were at least two (2) prominent fast-food chains visited during the trip. Whilst it seems there may have been some significant and probably pernicious under-reporting of consumption, the following totals are verifiable.

Calories consumed: 6, 210; **Saturated fat:** 114.5g; **Cholesterol:** 1, 765 mg; **Sodium:** 10, 060 mg

Clearly sub-par totals for this most important of trip activities. There was also a noticeable and inexplicable delay at one of the outlets in question. We, the people, demand to know:

- Did some participants decline to participate in the consumption of this material, which is, after all, part of who we are as a people?
- Were the non-participants secretly consuming un-American comestibles like whole grain muesli bars and yoghurt?
- Was there collusion between someone on the trip and the proprietor of the store to generate the delay?
- Was this a deliberate attempt to generate additional consumption and, if so, why was this not disclosed to the participants?
- If the delay was orchestrated, how come we still ended up with such mediocre totals?
- What did the trip leader know and when did he know it?

We also demand that the field trip chair recuse himself from the investigation.

David Peake-Jones with information from GL and ML

COMING TRIPS

Saturday, March 11. Plum Island, Newburyport, and Salisbury. All day. Geoff LeBaron heads to northeastern Massachusetts to find ducks, gulls, and other denizens of the shore at one of Massachusetts' premier birding locations. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register and get meeting information. (E/M)

Wednesday, March 15. Timberdoodles at the Abandoned Atkins Orchard. **CANCELLED** due to loss of habitat.

Wednesday, March 22. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and Nancy Goodman will look for early migrants along the boardwalk at the Fort River Division. This trip is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at the lower parking area at 8 a.m. (E/M)

Sunday, April 9. Ashley Reservoir. Morning. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Louisiana 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)

Tuesday, April 11. Mt. Tom Reservation. Late morning. Join Tom Gagnon on a wildlife walk on Mt. Tom State Reservation in search of a few warblers and early season butterflies. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Bray Lake on Mt. Tom State Reservation off Route 5 in Holyoke. Contact Tom for details (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Bird Camp at Arcadia.

June 26-30. Ages 12-16.

Arcadia Family Bird Fun

Saturday, March 18; 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Dance of the American Woodcock

Saturday, March 25; 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Bird Sounds: Songs and Calls

Wednesday, March 29; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Big Night

Saturday, April 1; 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bird Camp at Arcadia.

June 26-30. Ages 12-16.

For more details and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to www.massaudubon.org/arcadia. You may also contact Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary direct at 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027 or telephone (413) 584-3009.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Nature All Year Study Club 2017

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

Salamander Tunnel Maintenance

A weekend day – timing depends on weather conditions and snow cover.

Call or sign up online to be notified.

Screech Owls are Cool! *Ted Watt*

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Recommended for young people 4th grade and up.

Living Building Tour Program (of the Hitchcock Center)

Wednesday, March 15 at 12:00 p.m. Please register online.

THE MESSENGER Film Screening

Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

Citizen Science: Red-Backed Salamander Population Monitoring: *Ted Watt*

Saturday, March 18, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Senior Walk – Quabbin Park: *John Green*

Wednesday, March 22; 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Hampshire Woods Walk and Wildlife Sightings Database Update: *Ted Watt*

Saturday, March 25, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Youth Birding: *Dan Ziomek*

Six Saturdays from April 8 to May 13; 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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.

QUABBIN COUNT

December 31, 2016

The Quabbin Christmas counters tallied 63 species. We could not add any new species to the count list, but had new **High counts** for **Cooper's Hawk**, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **American Kestrel**, **Horned Lark** and **American Robin**. The weather was good, but a snowstorm on Thursday made access to some areas of the Quabbin a little more difficult. In fact, this was the first year of the count that our Area 1 team could not get down Prescott Peninsula.

Along with the birds we had 7 species of mammals; the highlights being two **bobcats** working on a deer carcass. Several of the groups reported fresh tracks of mink, fisher, more bobcat, coyote and rabbit.

Scott Sumner

That's all for this month.

The full Quabbin Count results are on the following pages.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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Quabbin Count 2016 and Historical

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

Species	2016	High Year	High Count	Species	2016	High Year	High Count
Snow Goose	0	2015	1	American Coot	0	unusual	
Canada Goose	0	2015	236	Black-headed Gull	0	unusual	
Mute Swan	0	unusual		Ring-billed Gull	52	2011	185
Wood Duck	0	unusual		Herring Gull	0	1990	280
American Wigeon	0	unusual		Glaucous Gull	0	unusual	
Black Duck	13	1993	349	Great Black-backed Gull	0	1990	47
Mallard	50	1994	975	Rock Pigeon	61	1999	339
Northern Pintail	1	unusual		Mourning Dove	266	1999	440
Green-winged Teal	0	unusual		Eastern Screech Owl	1	1989	4
Blue-winged Teal	0	unusual		Great Horned Owl	15	1994	24
Ring-necked Duck	0	(2 cw)	41	Snowy Owl	0	not yet	
Greater Scaup	0	(1 cw)	5	Barred Owl	4	1993	21
Lesser Scaup	0	unusual		Long-eared Owl	0	unusual	
White-winged Scoter	0	unusual		Saw-whet Owl	6	1994	61
Black Scoter	0	unusual		Belted Kingfisher	5	2010	6
Long-tailed Duck	0	unusual		Red-bellied Woodpecker	51	2010	35
Bufflehead	0	1994	28	Yellow-bell'd Sapsucker	0	unusual	
Common Goldeneye	2	1992	105	Downy Woodpecker	88	1994	169
Barrows Goldeneye	0	unusual		Hairy Woodpecker	31	2012	62
Hooded Merganser	23	2006	186	Northern Flicker	2	2010	10
Common Merganser	293	1999	1127	Pileated Woodpecker	15	2010	61
Red-breasted Merganser	0	unusual		Eastern Phoebe	0	unusual	
Ruddy Duck	0	unusual		Northern Shrike	0	1995	10
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	1994	16	Blue Jay	427	1993	1140
Ruffed Grouse	6	1994	42	American Crow	156	1995	395
Wild Turkey	70	2008	248	Common Raven	28	2013	62
Common Loon	5	2014	28	Horned Lark	95	1998	59
Horned Grebe	1	1997	195	Black-capped Chickadee	501	1993	2516
Red-necked Grebe	0	1995	2	Boreal Chickadee	0	unusual	
Double crested Cormorant	0	unusual		Tufted Titmouse	224	2015	298
Great Cormorant	0	unusual		Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	1993	1886
Great Blue Heron	0	1991	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	157	2001	303
Turkey Vulture	0	unusual		Brown Creeper	6	1996	82
Osprey	0	unusual		Carolina Wren	5	2011	12
Bald Eagle	18	1994	38	Winter Wren	2	1997	4
Northern Harrier	0	unusual		Golden-crowned Kinglet	23	1996	312
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	1993	12	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	1996*	3
Cooper's Hawk	7	2010	6	Eastern Bluebird	42	2014	88
Northern Goshawk	0	2007	3	Hermit Thrush	0	2006	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	unusual		American Robin	2624	2013	2501
Red-tailed Hawk	31	2014	32	Gray Catbird	0	2008	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	unusual		Northern Mockingbird	13	1991	45
Golden Eagle	1	1997	2	European Starling	848	1999	1690
American Kestrel	2	1998	1	Bohemian Waxwing		Not yet	
Merlin	0	unusual		Cedar Waxwing	44	1997	550
Peregrine Falcon	0	unusual		<i>(Continues next page)</i>			

Quabbin Count 2016 and Historical (continued)

Species	2016	High Year	High Count	Species	2016	High Year	High Count
Yellow-r'd Warbler	0	unusual		House Finch	12	1992	429
Pine Warbler	1	unusual		Red Crossbill	0	1993	240
Eastern Towhee	0	2009	3	White-winged Crossbill	0	1993	27
American Tree Sparrow	173	1998	611	Common Redpoll	0	1997	1357
Field Sparrow	0	1999	2	Hoary Redpoll	0	unusual	
Fox Sparrow	0	unusual		Pine Siskin	0	2008	137
Song Sparrow	14	1994	50	American Goldfinch	205	1994	664
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	Not yet		Evening Grosbeak	5	1989	413
Swamp Sparrow	1	2014	3	House Sparrow	920	2004	1032
White-throated Sparrow	32	2009	584				
White-crowned Sparrow	0	unusual					
D'-eyed (pink sided) Junco	0	unusual					
D'-eyed (slate-co') Junco	920	2009	2297				
Snow Bunting	29	2013	230	Write Ins			
Northern Cardinal	98	2005	123				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	unusual					
Red-winged Blackbird	38	2006	309				
Rusty Blackbird	0	2011	51				
Common Grackle	0	2006	100				
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	2006	553	Number of species this year			63
Pine Grosbeak	1	2007	154	# of <u>new</u> species this year			0
Purple Finch	3	1992	169	Cumulative # of Species (historically)			124

Species counted in fewer than five (5) years between 1989 and 2016 are described as "unusual."



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 33, No. 8
April, 2017.

In this edition:

- the **next program** and the remaining schedule for this year,
- a plethora of fabulous **field trips**,
- a great opportunity for **young birders at Fitzgerald Lake**,
- a suspect report from the **Nominating Committee**,
- **Birdathon 2017** with a new, greener mission,
- **Hitchcock and Arcadia** programs,
- the third annual **Valley Bird Festival**,
- a call for **risk takers**, and
- a few other tidbits.

I hope you find some of it useful.

NEXT PROGRAM
Monday, April 10 at 7:15 p.m.
Alyssa Rosemartin
explores the
Science of the Seasons: the National Phenology Network
Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

You may have already noticed that the seasons are changing, an observation that generates many questions. How fast? Are the seasons changing in the same ways everywhere? Why are they changing? What are the implications of these changes for plants and animals, and for us? We will explore what we know about the answers to these questions, and how we are trying to find out more, with a focus on birds and the northeastern United States.

Alyssa Rosemartin is the Partner and Application Specialist with the **USA National Phenology Network**, where she synthesizes data collected by citizen- and professional scientists, so that it can be used by researchers and decision-makers. Alyssa received a B.A. in Spanish and environmental science in 2000 from Smith College and an M.S. in wildlife conservation and management from the University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and the Environment in 2008, with a thesis focused on wetland birds of northwest Mexico.

COMING PROGRAMS

May 8, 2017. Andrew Vitz. Bird Conservation In Western Massachusetts
June 12, 2017. Dave Spector. Sam Peabody and Friends: A Look at Bird Song Interpretation

COMING TRIPS

Wow!! This is a bumper crop of trips with some old faves and some exciting new prospects. Let's get out there and revel in spring!!!

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.*

Sunday, April 9. Ashley Reservoir. Morning. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Louisiana 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)

Tuesday, April 11. Mt. Tom Reservation. Late morning. Join Tom Gagnon on a wildlife walk on Mt. Tom State Reservation in search of a few warblers and early season butterflies. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Bray Lake on Mt. Tom State Reservation off Route 5 in Holyoke. Contact Tom for details (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

Saturday, April 15. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and co-leaders look for early warblers, kinglets, and other neotropical migrants. This trip is co-sponsored by the FFRR. Meet at the lower parking lot at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Sunday, April 23. Whiting Reservoir. Morning. Continuing the "Reserv..." theme in April, Mike Locher returns to one of his breeding bird atlas sites, looking for spring migrants and possibly lingering ducks. Meet at the base of Mountain Park Road, in the parking area across the bridge, at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) for details. (M)

Monday, April 24. Hawkwatching at Mt. Tom. Morning. Join Tom Gagnon for a hawk watch at Bray Tower on Mt. Tom State Reservation. Meet at old park headquarters at 9:00 a.m. Contact Tom for details (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (E/M)

Wednesday, April 26. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and co-leaders seek out warblers, vireos, flycatchers and all the other migrants you've been waiting for. This trip is co-sponsored by FFRR. Meet at the lower parking lot at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, April 29. Podick and Catherine Cole Conservation Areas. Morning. Mike Locher initiates his new "Neglected Amherst Conservation Areas" series by braving the mosquitoes to look for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking area off Route 116. Bring insect repellent. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) for details. (E/M)

Continues next page ►

Sunday, April 30. Quabbin Gate 5 and Lake Wallace. Full day. Aidan Griffiths leads birders to two of Belchertown's prime locations, looking for both spring migrants and hangers-on from the long winter (like the Red-headed Woodpecker?). Meeting time will be 6:30 a.m., place to be determined. Contact Aidan (413-323-8417 or aidan-underscore-griffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) or Devin (devingriffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) for details. (M)

Saturday, May 6. Herman Covey WMA. Full day. Aidan Griffiths beats the bushes of Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area for spring migrants and local residents. This reserve has it all: fields, woods, wetlands. Meeting time will be 6:30 a.m. at a place to be determined. Contact Aidan (413-323-8417 or aidan-underscore-griffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) or Devin (devingriffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) for details. (M)

Saturday, May 13. East Quabbin Reservoir. Full day. Tom Gagnon leads participants into the wilds east of the Quabbin. You **MUST** be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club to go on this trip. The trip will start at 7:00 a.m., and the meeting place will be decided later. Contact Tom to register and get information (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

(Other trips in this time frame will be publicized in May and June)

Sign up deadline for the Westover trip is May 1.

Saturday, June 3. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Bob Bieda and Mike Locher host 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. You must register with Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) by May 1 to get the time and place for meeting. (E)

Check the Website and later newsletters for local trips to Look Park, Wentworth Farm, Mineral Hills, and other sites (April-May), Mount Mansfield, VT for Bicknell's Thrushes (June) and others.

Birding for Children at Fitzgerald Lake With Dan Ziomek and friends from HBC

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, Northampton

North Farms Road entrance.

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

Co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee and Broad Brook Coalition.

Fresh off his six-week Birding for Children program (see Hitchcock Programs), **Dan Ziomek** offers a one-day opportunity for young people to get a taste of birding in the company of one of the premier birding teachers in New England.

This program will support the growth of children's awareness of birding, habitat and the great outdoors. To enhance the experience, extra binoculars, a spotting scope, and other technical resources will be available.

Please come along to provide co-leadership if you can, and please publicize this event to groups and organizations who may be able to attract interested young people.

For further information, please contact Bruce Hart at 413-320-2841 or bhart2000@aol.com.

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 to attract more young people to birding? How do we get kids out into the field? What to do when physical issues won't allow one to participate at meetings or in the field as before?

The Education Committee continues its financial support of the children's birding summer camp program at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, and is a sponsor of the 2017 Bird Festival.

School presentations, senior walks and programs, live bird interactions (captive and wild), visits to raptor centers, learning about falconry, organizing boy & girl scout merit badges. These are just a few of the ideas on the table. You can donate to support the work of the committee via your membership form, but just as importantly, we need your ideas and energy.

Also, if you know of any interested children or children's group, class, school, religious institution, or club, please let us know and we'll try to inform them of the events and our interest in supporting children's programs.

Contact the committee at education@hampshirebirdclub.org

BIRD-A-THON 2017 MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY SANCTUARIES

Bird-a-thon Supports Arcadia's Climate Change Center

Climate change is the biggest environmental threat to both people and wildlife. Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary will be one of three statewide pilot Climate Action Center sites. As a Climate Action Center, Arcadia will expand our education for youth and provide a speakers series on climate change for adults. The center will also feature interpretation, and networking on the topic. There has never been a better time to support this effort as a booster or an individual contributor.

For more information or to give, please go to www.massaudubon.org/Arcadia, then look for Bird-a-thon 2017.

Alternatively, you can simply write out a check to Mass Audubon with a memo "Arcadia Bird-a-thon 2017" and send it to "Jonah Keane, Arcadia Sanctuary, Mass Audubon, 127 Combs Road, Easthampton, MA 01027".

Bird-a-thon Birding, Saturday, May 12

To reduce our carbon footprint, we are birding just the three CRV Sanctuary counties. Beginning birders are encouraged to join us. We will try to saturate Hampshire County, but we will also need data from Franklin and Hamden Counties. Please contact one of our Bird-a-thon team leaders if you would like to participate. It has always been a fun day of birding.

Birdathon team leaders (alphabetically): Phil Doyle, Chuck Horn, Janice Jorgenson, Jonah Keane, Anne Lombard, and Patti Steinman.

I will have pamphlets with more detailed information at the April and May Hampshire Bird Club Meetings.

Chuck Horn

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

This is just a selection. For more, go online to www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Skydancer (The American Woodcock): *Dan Ziomek*

Friday, April 7: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Youth Birding: *Dan Ziomek*

For young people ages 8-13

Six Saturdays: April 8 to May 13: 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. each day.

Fee. Registration required.

Second Saturday Science-Energy is Electrifying

Designed for children and their parents to explore cool topics in nature.

Saturday, April 8: 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Living Building Tours

Friday, April 7 at 4:00 p.m.

Friday, May 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday April 19 at 12:00 noon

FREE but please register online.

Please note that **registration is still open** for the exciting **Birding for Children** program (see above). This is a potentially life-changing six-weekend opportunity for that young person you may know with a developing interest in birds and the environment. You can get details 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.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

This is just a selection. For more, go to www.massaudubon.org/arcadia

Bird Walks: *George Regmund*

Meeting at Arcadia

Saturdays; April 1, 22: 7-9:00 a.m.

Bird Walk at Graves Farm: *John Greene*

Saturday, April 8; 7-10 a.m.

Birds, Wildflowers, and Ferns of Bartholomew's Cobble

Sunday, April 30, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Meet at Arcadia, van transportation included.

*For more details and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to www.massaudubon.org/arcadia. You may also contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** direct at 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027 or telephone (413) 584-3009.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has done its work and we can present a provisional slate of nominees for the 2017-2018 year.

They are as follows:

President: Vladimir Birdispantsov

Program Chair: Irina Politelyspekin

Treasurer: Ekaterina Putyermoneyin

Membership Secretary: Ivan Yutojoinin

Communications Secretary: Leonid Andropov

Members at Large:

Olga Lackimaginashin, Sergei Lackimaginashin, Natalya Lackimaginashin, Boris Lackimaginashin, and Yaroslav Lackimaginashin.

Never let it be said that the Hampshire Bird Club electoral process is subject to any foreign influence or nepotism.

I wrote this on April first. The official slate will be issued in the May edition, ONE HOPES!

The Annual General Meeting, to elect the board for 2017-2018 will occur immediately prior to the program on May 8.

David Peake-Jones

The rest of the Nominating Committee are blameless.

Risk-Takers Wanted

These late winter nights, folks in the area of Mitch's Marina report a spectral, pajama-clad form pacing amidst the campsites and shrink-wrapped vessels, muttering things like "confusing fall warblers: what rubbish" and "what's so scary about the east meadows, I wanna know?" The somnambulist is none other than our field trip chair, Mike Locher. He does not obsess about the Winter-Spring Summer Field trip schedule, for that is already published and replete with a great selection of trips for every taste. Neither is he worried about last year's field trip schedules, since that is water under the bridge. No, dear reader, Mike's preoccupation is with a trip schedule that is yet to take form, save in his fevered imagination: the dreaded **Fall Field Trip Schedule**.

While we all revel in spring birding, Mike must find a way to match the eclectic fall trips of past years with this year's autumn offerings. This is where you come in, dear member. Perhaps, like most, when you think of a leader, you think of an elite birder. However, a field trip leader does not HAVE to pick the Cackling Goose from amidst the 1,223 Canada Geese on the power canal, or to pull a Connecticut Warbler from some anonymous thicket, though no-one will complain if you can do either. A good trip leader has a passion for a place and time of year and gets other birders there to experience it. Provided the trip is safe and well-organized, responsibility for success rests with the group and, of course, lady luck. So if you have a birding location and time to share, take the leap of faith and drop Mike a line. You may be surprised at the magic that can happen.

That's all for this month.

Two (2) copies of a flyer for the **Valley Bird Festival** follow. The one with the volunteer info at the bottom is for your personal use. The other is to distribute or post where the public can see it, though note that most jurisdictions frown on papering power poles.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor
newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 33, No. 9
May, 2017.

On a recent day, I was birding one of my typical haunts. As usual, I got out way too late. A biting wind thrashed the tree tops and dispersed what song there was, and I had managed to rub the top off a heel blister from yesterday. Piled on top of those irritants was the fact that overnight northerlies had meant a relatively quiet morning. It was all set to be an inauspicious morning. But birding at this time of year has a way of giving you things, even when you are unprepared for, and undeserving of, them.

Within minutes, the first Common Yellowthroat of my year had announced itself, along with a tentative Chestnut-sided Warbler and a querulous Nashville buried deep in a flowering crab. An Orchard Oriole attracted my attention because I can never get that song so I guess, in a way, I “got” that song. A Pine Warbler sang from the tippy-top of the same pine where I had heard it all week, and I reflected on the miracle of neo-tropical migration. This might be the same bird that had nested in this pine last year and it may well continue to do so for years. For a moment, I thought the miracles of the morning were spoiled by a quartet of Brown-headed Cowbirds, displaying avidly for one another. After I had hissed the villain for a moment, it suddenly struck me that here too was a miracle. How does a bird that has never seen its biological parents and has been raised by another species, know how to speak cowbird, and to court its own kind? Let’s face it folks, it is a month of miracles and we just have to get out there and let them wash over us. I think I even forgot about the blister.....

In this edition you will find an introduction to the next program, a reminder about the last program of the year, and the (real) slate for Board of Directors, 2017-2018. Mostly, however, you can peruse a staggering range of opportunities to revel in the migration of May, namely:

- our own **coming trips**,
- a couple of offerings from the **Education Committee**,
- the **Mass Audubon Bird-a-thon**, and
- **Valley Bird Days**, an eclectic week of programs including the annual **Bird Festival**, aimed at bringing birding to a wider audience.

I hope you find some of it useful!

NEXT PROGRAM

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

State Ornithologist **Andrew Vitz** looks at

Bird Conservation in Western Massachusetts: from Cranes to Sparrows

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

COMING PROGRAMS

June 12, 2017. David Spector. Sam Peabody and Friends: A Look at Bird Song Interpretation.

COMING TRIPS

A BEWILDERING array of interesting outings this month....

Saturday, May 6. Herman Covey WMA. Full day. Aidan Griffiths beats the bushes of Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area for spring migrants and local residents. This reserve has it all: fields, woods, wetlands. Meeting time will be 6:30 a.m. at a place to be determined. Contact Aidan (413-323-8417 or aidan-underscore-griffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) or Devin (devingriffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) for details. (M)

Saturday, May 13. East Quabbin Reservoir. Full day. Tom Gagnon leads participants into the wilds east of the Quabbin. You MUST be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club to go on this trip. The trip will start at 7:00 a.m., and the meeting place will be decided later. Contact Tom to register and get information (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

Sunday, May 14. Mineral Hills Conservation Area. Half day. Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins reprise their trip to Mineral Hills. The highlights from last year's trip include calling Barred Owls, a Louisiana Waterthrush, and Prairie Warblers (who are regular there). For those of you who haven't been there, expect wooded trails over moderate terrain. Meet at JFK Middle School parking lot on 100 Bridge Road (Florence, MA) at 7:00 a.m. or in the parking area at the end of Turkey Hill Road at 7:15. Contact Marcia with questions: 413-896-9539. (E/M)

Tuesday, May 16. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and Henry Lappen welcome the migrants to Fort River. This is a great time for warblers, flycatchers, tanagers, and grosbeaks. Meet at the lower parking area at 7 a.m. (E/M)

Wednesday, May 17. Mt. Holyoke. Morning. Join Tom Gagnon for a hike from the main gate to the top of Mt. Holyoke via the road in search of migrant warblers and local nesting warblers (think Worm-eating and Cerulean). Meet at the main gate to Mt. Holyoke at 7:00 a.m. Contact Tom for more information (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

Sunday, May 21. Sweet Alice Conservation Area. Morning. Mike Locher leads the second "Neglected Amherst Conservation Area" trip, and this one shouldn't have mosquitoes. Ticks, maybe, but no mosquitoes. Now that everybody is super-excited to come, I'll mention that Sweet Alice CA is a low brushy habitat that won't give you "warbler neck" when you look for the birds. Last year I saw Blue-winged Warblers, a Prairie Warbler, and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest. Meet at Atkins Farms side parking lot at 6:30 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) for details. (M/S)

Tuesday, May 23. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and Mary Alice Wilson find the migrants at Fort River. This is a great time for warblers, flycatchers, tanagers, and grosbeaks. Meet at the lower parking area at 7 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, May 27. Knightville Dam. Half day or longer. Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins lead their trip to Knightville Dam. Highlights from last year's trip include Bank Swallows, 5 species of flycatcher, and a Yellow-throated Vireo. Expect walking and driving on dirt roads. Meet at JFK Middle School parking lot on 100 Bridge Road (Florence, MA) at 7:00 a.m. Contact Marcia with questions: 413-896-9539. (E)

Monday, May 29. Abandoned Atkins Orchard. CANCELLED

Tuesday, May 30. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and co-leaders close out the May weekday walks at Fort River. This is a great time for warblers, flycatchers, tanagers, and grosbeaks. Meet at the lower parking area at 7 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, June 3. Westover Air Reserve Base. Half day. Bob Bieda and Mike Locher host 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. You must register with Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) by May 1 to get the time and place for meeting. (E)

Sunday, June 4. Montague Plains WMA. Morning. Jeremy Coleman writes, "We will meet on West Mineral Rd just off Millers Falls Rd (this is just south of the Turner's Falls Airport) at 7 AM sharp! We will scout the adjacent field and then head over to the Sandplain by car. We will walk about 2 miles through sandplain and pitch pine habitats, looking for Prairie, Black and White, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided and Pine Warblers, Redstart, Ovenbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher, Grasshopper and Field Sparrow, and many other breeding species, with the possibility for late migrants such as Mourning or Canada Warbler. If it's cloudy we may hear Whip-poor-wills still singing, and we could flush a Woodcock or two." For information, contact Jeremy (jcolemanarch-at-gmail-dot-com). (E/M)

Wednesday, June 7. Whip-poor-wills at Montague Plains WMA. Evening. Al Richards heads to the Montague Sand Plains to listen for Whip-poor-wills. As the sun sets, Eastern Towhees and Prairie Warblers may be singing. 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 10. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and co-leaders look for late migrants and resident nesters at Fort River. Meet at the lower parking area at 7 a.m. (E/M)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Hampshire Bird Club Incorporated** will be held on **Monday, May 8, 2017** at the **Immanuel Lutheran Church** (867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst) at **7:15 p.m.** The meeting will immediately precede the May program.

The agenda for the meeting is to elect the Board of Directors for 2017-2018.

The **Nominating Committee** includes **Bill Benner, Lissa Ganter and David Peake-Jones** and has nominated the following for election to the Board of Directors for 2017-2018:

President: Scott Surner

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

If this looks suspiciously like the slate for 2016-2017 it is because it is, in fact, identical. Every one of this stalwart group has opted for another year on the board.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Two walks co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee and Broad Brook Coalition.

Mother's Day Bird Walk: Laura Beltran

Sunday, May 14: 7:30–9:30 a.m.

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, Florence, MA, North Farms Rd. entrance

This will be a beginner/intermediate bird walk at the height of songbird migration. Join Laura Beltran, long-time birder and an educator at Arcadia Wildlife Refuge, as we walk the woodland and lakeside trails at Fitzgerald Lake, looking for warblers, thrushes, vireos, swallows, and herons. We will continue on to the dam and Cooke's Pasture, where orioles, tanagers, bluebirds, and hummingbirds are likely. All ages are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Birding for Children at Fitzgerald Lake With Dan Ziomek and friends from HBC

Saturday, May 20, 2017: 8:30 a.m.

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, Northampton, North Farms Rd entrance

Fresh off his six-week Birding for Children program (see below) Dan Ziomek offers a one-day opportunity for young people to get a taste of birding in the company of one of the premier birding teachers in New England.

This program will support the growth of children's awareness of birding, habitat and the great outdoors. To enhance the experience, extra binoculars, a spotting scope, and other technical resources will be available.

Co-Leaders and Publicity Wanted

If you would like to accompany Dan and the group as a co-leader for this experience, please contact Bruce Hart at the number below.

Please publicize this event with any children's groups or educational institutions you think might include interested children.

For further information, please contact Bruce Hart at 413-320-2841 or bhart2000@aol.com.

The Education Committee continues its financial support of the children's birding summer camp program at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, and has made another generous contribution to the 2017 Bird Festival.

The Beat Goes On (Non-bird humor)

In 2009, a passenger on the New York subway collapsed and was kept alive for over twenty minutes by two co-passengers who performed CPR until emergency medical responders could reach him. In the wake of these events, New York Presbyterian founded a website to increase community awareness and capability in CPR. One of the biggest questions people have when they are trying to decide whether or not to administer chest compressions is, "How fast?" The answer, according to New York Presbyterian, is about 100 beats per minute. The hospital started a list of popular songs which have 100 beats per minute, and suggest that people imagine the songs playing in their head to achieve the correct rhythm.

The website includes a very moving account of the rescue and is a fabulous resource for people wanting to learn more about CPR. You can find the song list at <http://www.nyp.org/cpr/para/#cprsongs>. The list is well suited for folks with a well-developed sense of irony. It features the unquestionably apt, "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees. It also includes "Heartbreaker" (Mariah Carey), "Quit Playin' Games with my Heart" (the Backstreet Boys) and, my personal favorite, "Another One Bites the Dust" (Queen).

MassAudubon Bird-a-thon, 2017

Support Arcadia's new Climate Action Center: The Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries has built a reputation for quality environmental education in the Pioneer Valley for over 70 years. We have now been selected as one of three pilot Mass Audubon Climate Action Centers. For more information or to give using your credit card, please go to www.massaudubon.org/Arcadia, then look for Bird-a-thon 2017. Or send checks made out to Mass Audubon, with memo: Arcadia Bird-a-thon 2017 to Jonah Keane, Arcadia Sanctuary, Mass Audubon, 127 Combs Road, Easthampton, MA 01027.

Bird-a-thon Birding, Friday 5/12 6:00 PM - Saturday 5/13 6:00 PM:

To reduce our carbon footprint, we are birding ONLY HAMPSHIRE COUNTY. (This is a simplifying change from the April Newsletter where we mentioned doing three counties.) Please contact one of our Bird-a-thon team leaders(see below) if you would like to participate as a birder or if you have questions about reporting your findings. For more information about the actual birding go to www.massaudubon.org, then Search Bird-a-thon Resources. Unlike the Christmas Count, overlapping of territories is fine since we are looking for as many species as possible. If you see a rare bird, you may be asked for ID details, so please have at least one other birder with you when birding. Enjoy. It has always been a fun day of birding!

I'll have more Arcadia Bird-a-thon 2017 pamphlets with more detailed information at the May Hampshire Bird Club Meeting. The Bird-a-thon team includes: Phil Doyle, Chuck Horn, Janice Jorgenson, Jonah Keane, Anne Lombard, and Patti Steinman.

Thank you for your interest in birds, our climate, and our natural world,
Chuck Horn.

Bobolinks and Poetry

David Spector will give a talk on Bobolinks and poetry at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead on Sunday, May 21.

For more details visit <http://www.thetrustees.org/things-to-do/pioneer-valley/event-31705.html>

That's all for this month.

Two flyers for Valley Bird Days follow: one for you and one to distribute for maximum visibility.

You can also get the same information online with nicer formatting at:

valleybirddays.wixsite.com/valley-bird-days/day-by-day

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

VALLEY BIRD DAYS

May 5-13, 2017

Details at: valleybirddays.wixsite.com/valley-bird-days/day-by-day

Springfield's Urban Bird Treaty City Designation Celebration

Friday May 5; 10:00 a.m.

Springfield Museum Quadrangle Green, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA

This unique partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Springfield and ReGreen Springfield will help birds and people by creating bird friendly and healthy habitats throughout Springfield.

Featured Presentation: Tom Ricardi's Live Birds of Prey.

Questions: Daniel Agustino, Museum Aquarist, Springfield Museums, 413/263-6800, ext. 404

Bird Festival

Saturday, May 6: 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

127 Coombs Road, Easthampton, MA

Feature Presentations:

11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.: **Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey**

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (ongoing)

- Bird Banding with Neighborhood Nest Watch
- Stories, Games and Art
- Guided Bird Walks
- Bird camera Viewing.

Bring a picnic or a snack and make a day of it.

Sunday, May 7: 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Bird Walk at the Fort River Wildlife Refuge with Ted Watt

69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley, MA. (Accessible trail)

Mist or drizzle we proceed. Heavy rain cancels.

Daily Early Morning Bird Walks at Arcadia Sanctuary

Monday, May 8 – Friday May 12

127 Coombs Road, Easthampton, MA.

Ages 16 and up. Binocular, field guide if you have them. Prepare for the weather and insects.

Free for members. \$5 for non-members.

Saving American Kestrels and other Avian Migrants to the Valley with Dave King

Tuesday, May 9: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Hitchcock Center for the Environment; 845 West Street, Amherst, MA

Suggested donation \$5. Pre-registration with Hitchcock is appreciated.

Montague Plains Wildlife and Ecology Walk (evening) with MassWildlife

Friday, May 12: 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Ages 16 and up.

Learn about this unique area and how fire is used as a management tool.

A chance to hear whippoorwills and woodcocks as dusk descends.

Please pre-register with Arcadia. \$8 members. \$10 non-members.

Welcome to the Warblers (Walk and Talk) with Geoff LeBaron

Saturday, May 13: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

At Fort River Wildlife Refuge; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley, MA

Presented by Kestrel Land Trust.

Pre-registration required at <http://www.kestreltrust.org/calendar/warblers-walk/>. Meeting time will be sent to you upon registration.

Bluebirds and Bluebird House Building with Ted Watt and David Dunn.

Saturday, May 13: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Presented by and at Hitcock Center: 845 West Street, Amherst, MA

Bring your own Phillips-head screwdriver and come prepared to take notes!

Recommended for adults and families including young people 4th grade and up

Pre-registration required; limited to 20 families. Members \$20 per family/per house/Non-members \$30. \$5 additional fee for walk-ins; all materials included.

VALLEY BIRD DAYS

May 5-13, 2017

Details at: valleybirddays.wixsite.com/valley-bird-days/day-by-day

Springfield's Urban Bird Treaty City Designation Celebration

Friday May 5; 10:00 a.m.

Springfield Museum Quadrangle Green, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA

This unique partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Springfield and ReGreen Springfield will help birds and people by creating bird friendly and healthy habitats throughout Springfield.

Featured Presentation: Tom Ricardi's Live Birds of Prey.

Questions: Daniel Agustino, Museum Aquarist, Springfield Museums, 413/263-6800, ext. 404

Bird Festival

Saturday, May 6: 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

127 Coombs Road, Easthampton, MA

Feature Presentations:

11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.: **Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey**

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (ongoing)

- Bird Banding with Neighborhood Nest Watch
- Stories, Games and Art
- Guided Bird Walks
- Bird camera Viewing.

Bring a picnic or a snack and make a day of it.

Sunday, May 7: 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Bird Walk at the Fort River Wildlife Refuge with Ted Watt

69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley, MA. (Accessible trail)

Mist or drizzle we proceed. Heavy rain cancels.

Daily Early Morning Bird Walks at Arcadia Sanctuary

Monday, May 8 – Friday May 12

127 Coombs Road, Easthampton, MA.

Ages 16 and up. Binocular, field guide if you have them. Prepare for the weather and insects.

Free for members. \$5 for non-members.

Saving American Kestrels and other Avian Migrants to the Valley with Dave King

Tuesday, May 9: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Hitchcock Center for the Environment; 845 West Street, Amherst, MA

Suggested donation \$5. Pre-registration with Hitchcock is appreciated.

Montague Plains Wildlife and Ecology Walk (evening) with MassWildlife

Friday, May 12: 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Ages 16 and up.

Learn about this unique area and how fire is used as a management tool.

A chance to hear whippoorwills and woodcocks as dusk descends.

Please pre-register with Arcadia. \$8 members. \$10 non-members.

Welcome to the Warblers (Walk and Talk) with Geoff LeBaron

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At Fort River Wildlife Refuge; 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley, MA

Presented by Kestrel Land Trust.

Pre-registration required at <http://www.kestreltrust.org/calendar/warblers-walk/>. Meeting time will be sent to you upon registration.

Bluebirds and Bluebird House Building with Ted Watt and David Dunn.

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Bring your own Phillips-head screwdriver and come prepared to take notes!

Recommended for adults and families including young people 4th grade and up

Pre-registration required; limited to 20 families. Members \$20 per family/per house/Non-members \$30. \$5 additional fee for walk-ins; all materials included.



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 33, No. 10
June, 2017.

This month:

- Just the basics you need to get you to the end of June, dear reader.
I hope you find some of it useful!

NEXT PROGRAM

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

David Spector (with help from Sam himself)
introduces us to

Sam Peabody and Friends: A Look at Bird Song Interpretation
Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Transliterations, mnemonics, transcriptions—whatever you call them, this program might help you “cheer up cheerily,” as David, a “teacher, teacher, teacher,” tells the club that we can always look forward with the chickadees to “spring soon, spring’s coming.” Did Sam Peabody 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 Spector has been a member of the club since its first meeting and has given approximately umpteen club programs. The identity of his co-presenter is a bit obscure.

COMING PROGRAMS

Young Frankenstein, Doctor No, Grandpa in the Munsters, Geoff LeBaron. What do they all have in common?

No it is not their universal critical acclaim. Each, dear reader, has a LABORATORY. In the case of Grandpa, it is pronounced “Laboaratoary.” Young Frankenstein’s lab includes various high voltage equipment designed to animate his monster. Doctor No’s underground lair includes an atomic-powered radio beam, and Grandpa’s cellar contains a bunch of fake chemicals and spider webs (animated by the genius of Al Lewis).

The Lebaron laboratory is more virtual than physical. Using contacts built up over the years (inscribed, no doubt, on index cards), a strange, ancient device called a land line telephone, and the wonders of the internet (with some dry ice thrown in for effect), our Program Chair Geoff LeBaron is in the lab now, feverishly concocting the same kind of eclectic blend of the sublime and the ridiculous which has kept us intrigued, enthused and amused, lo these many years!

The program for next year is still embryonic at this time. Check the September newsletter for the birth announcement.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Sunday, June 4. Montague Sand Plains with Jeremy Coleman.

On June 4, Ray Chapin, Gail Demers, Howie Faerstein, Jan Lamberg, Mike Locher, Dave Maxcy, Marianna McKim, Naila Moreira and David Peake-Jones accompanied leader **Jeremy Coleman** to a truly unique and under-appreciated ecosystem.

We met just south of the Turners falls airport, where Jeremy alertly located a **Grasshopper Sparrow** (without the aid of song), spending time in an overgrown field at the foot of West Mineral Road.

Blue-winged Warblers sang in this prime habitat and, though none were seen, it was lucky we did hear them since they were barely evident in the rest of the sandplain habitats we visited later. A Chestnut-sided Warbler singing a truncated song teased us from a grove of sumac. However, it was time to move on.

We travelled in convoy into the depths of the sandplain, eventually getting out on Old Northfield Road for a walk in along a power-line access. **Prairie Warblers** were immediately evident in numbers, as were **Eastern Towhees** singing every variation of the tea-drinking invitation one can imagine. Several cooperated visually as well. **Field Sparrows** popped up in the brushy sections of the power-line access, too preoccupied with eggs and young to give us much song, but treating us to their beautiful pale faces and pink bills. Eastern Kingbirds gave their usual extroverted performances. Scarlet Tanagers and a Baltimore Oriole demonstrated their versatility in this pine-oak-dominated community. An Indigo Bunting finally cooperated from the edge of the woods. We had cameo performances from Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Raven, Eastern Wood Peewee, Northern Flicker and Least Flycatcher.

After a brief drive across the sandplain to another corner of the plain, we went in off Plains Road to a slightly more closed forest. Pine Warblers sang here, predictably duelling with Chipping Sparrow and a dark-eyed Junco. The three trills had us staring into the Pitch Pine canopy for extended periods. Resulting satisfaction levels ranged from ‘Yep, a nice bright Pine’ to ‘Well, sometimes it’s more interesting not to know*.’ At least one pair of Pileated Woodpeckers trumpeted and flashed, pterodactyl-like through the trees. Red-breasted Nuthatches lorded it (numbers-wise) over their White-breasted cousins. Several Brown Thrashers belted out their duplex phrases from (sadly distant) corners of the woodland. Hermit Thrushes did the ‘I’ll fly in front of you then hide behind a tree’ schtick, but we were equal to the task. Ovenbirds sang in the denser sections, and a few Red-tailed Hawks forced us to dust off our ‘hawks at distance’ skills.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the morning for most came as we extended our morning a little. An inauspicious bird flying into a tree proved to be one of a group of about half a dozen **Red Crossbills** which clambered about among the cones of several Pitch Pines for just long-enough to give everyone a decent look before mysteriously vanishing, as they are wont to do.

It’s been a while since we did an organized day trip into this remarkable and eminently bird-able environment. Al Richards goes on Wednesday June 7 in the evening for the crepuscular version of the trip. I hope we as a club will make a concerted effort to get to the plains more regularly as time goes on.

David Peake-Jones

*This is the polite birding equivalent of an expletive.

COMING TRIPS

Wednesday, June 7. Whip-poor-wills at Montague Plains WMA. Evening. Al Richards heads to the Montague Sand Plains to listen for Whip-poor-wills. As the sun sets, Eastern Towhees and Prairie Warblers may be singing. 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 10. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and co-leaders look for late migrants and resident nesters at Fort River. Meet at the lower parking area at 7 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, June 17. October Mountain. All day. Bob Bieda goes west in search of Mourning Warblers, but that's not all. A Brookline Bird Club trip at this time last year netted 46 species! The date on this trip may change (to June 18) depending on the weather. Contact Bob (413-527-2623 or blbieda-at-gmail-dot-com) to register and get meeting information. (E/M)

Wednesday, June 21. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and Josh Rose close out the spring walks at Fort River. There will be warblers in the brush, bobolinks in the field, and dragonflies everywhere. Meet at the lower parking area at 7 a.m. (E/M)

FALL FIED TRIP SCHEDULE

Risk-Takers Wanted

Somewhere in Hadley, a man is tossing and turning in his sleep and if you staked out the road to the top of Mt Hitchcock some night, you might see a spectral, pajama clad form clambering up through the hairpins muttering stuff about confusing fall warblers and why leaders can't make up their minds. Sources close to the Hampshire Bird Club report that the man behind these stories is Mike Locher. Mike, for those who may not know, is our Field Trip Chair and the source of his restlessness may not be immediately apparent to you. He does not obsess about the Winter-Spring Summer Field trip schedule, for that is already published and replete with a great selection of trips for every taste. Neither is he worried about last year's field trip schedules, since that is water under the bridge and there is no use crying over spilt milk (or mixed metaphors, for that matter). No, dear reader, Mike's preoccupation is with a trip schedule that is yet to take form, save in his fevered imagination.

I refer, of course, to the Fall Field Trip Schedule. While the rest of us (and, in fact, Mike himself) are dodging the showers in this aqueous spring, midst breeding warblers in full summer finery and in full breeding song, Mike must find a way to match the eclectic trips of past years with this year's autumn offerings. This is where you come in.

We need leaders. Not necessarily hot-shots, but common and garden-variety birders who are willing to take a chance. A field trip leader does not HAVE to pick the Cackling Goose from amidst the 1,223 Canada Geese on the power canal, or to pull a Connecticut Warbler from some anonymous thicket, though no-one will complain if you can do either. A good trip leader has a passion for a place and time of year and gets other birders there to experience it. Provided the trip is safe and well-organized, responsibility for success rests with the group and, of course, lady luck.

So if you have a birding location and time to share, take the leap of faith and drop Mike a line at fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org. You may be surprised at the magic that can happen.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Hampshire Bird Club Incorporated** took place on **Monday, May 8, 2017** at the **Immanuel Lutheran Church** (867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst).

At the meeting, the **Board of Directors** for 2017-2018 was elected. The following will officially take up the cudgels for next year on June 12.

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

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

What Can YOU Do About Climate Change?

June 10, 2017 1:00- 4:30pm FREE

Our Living Building Tour Program

Wednesday, June 21 at 12 Noon.

Tree and Wildflower Nature Walk: *Nancy Goodman and Ted Watt*

Saturday, June 24, 9 am to noon

The Hawley Bog! *Glenn Motzkin*

July 1, 8:30 am – noon

Ants in Your Plants: *Elizabeth Farnworth*

Saturday, July 15, 2017, 1:00-3:30 pm

Fun with Ferns: *Elizabeth Farnworth*

Thursday, July 20, 2017, 10:00am – 2:30 pm

River Flood Plain Explorations: *Ted Watt*

Saturdays, July 22, August 5 & August 26, 9am-noon

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

Arcadia Bird Camp

For young people ages 11-16. Financial aid available.
June 26-30.

For more details and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to

www.massaudubon.org/arcadia

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

LIBRARY

If you need some light reading to while away the long summer days, HBC has a substantial library at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst.

Hours are those of the Center: Tuesday – Thursday 9AM-5:30PM, Friday 9AM-5PM, and the second and third Saturdays 9AM-1PM. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. **Henry Lappen** is happy to bring items to meetings, given a few days notice! Call him at **(413) 549 3722** or email **library-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org**.

OK. That's it for a while. The club goes on summer recess for July and August, but please note the last program for this year on June 12 and the remaining field trips.

You will be hearing from us again in preparation for the new club year which starts in September.

Until late August, talk softly and carry a big scope!

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



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 34, No. 1
September, 2017.

I have had the pleasure, in recent years, to bird on occasion with a young person who might otherwise be tempted to think of me only as a creepy uncle. On a family camping trip recently, I was doing the sausage and coffee prep one morning when I was suddenly forced to drop everything and rouse my poor niece from slumber. Despite it being before 10 AM, she groggily threw on a pair of flip-flops and joined me on a brisk walk toward an ethereal sound that intermittently cut through the mundane stirrings of humans at camp. Soon enough, we struck off the camp road into a deep, dark stand of hemlock, leaving the sunlight and human noise behind. Here, more of the sound was discernible and, like hounds on a scent, we tried to track the source. Every minute or so we paused, spellbound, as a series of bubbly, cascading, bird songs beckoned us ever further into the shadowy woods. I was at pains to whisper, during the silences in between soliloquies, that we might never catch a glimpse of the singer, Winter Wrens being what they are. After half an hour of quartering back and forth this turned out to be the truth. We retreated back to the sunlight and (mercifully), the breakfast someone else had prepared.

To find the magic in the lives of Winter Wrens, we need look no further than the extraordinary contrast between their physical secretiveness and vocal exuberance, and the fact that males build several nests each season, from which the female chooses. But almost every bird out there carries mystery of some kind beneath its wings. Our bird club is, above all else, a way to help each of us explore these mysteries, whether through the great speakers who come our way each month, or the quiet assistance we get with that tricky call note during a club trip. I hope you will **renew your membership** promptly, or perhaps **join us for the first time** and that this year may bring you magic, courtesy of the birds and Hampshire Bird Club. Sorry, we can't help you with sausages and coffee!

Please Renew Your Membership NOW (or join us for the first time).

- ☐ Your **membership status** is shown on the cover page. Check to see if you owe dues this year.
- ☐ 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. Please note that even if you got the ONLINE newsletter last year we ask all members to make a choice of newsletter options on the membership form this year as well.
- ☐ Fill out the reverse side of the Membership Form, which includes 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 as shown on the Membership Form, or bring them to the first program.

Our first program for this year is on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 (details p. 2)
The Fall Field Trip Schedule is enclosed, too!!

NEXT PROGRAM

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

Richard Prum delves into

The Evolution of Beauty:

How Darwin's Forgotten Theory of Mate Choice Shapes the Natural World—and Us

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Few of us would be birders if it were not for sexual selection. I am not, dear reader, referring to the mysterious forces which may have drawn our (more or less) eccentric parents together. Darwin famously came to his understanding of evolution, in part, by examining the beak characteristics of an obscure group of “little brown jobs” in the Galapagos. However, if birding was all about variations in bill length, most of us would be butterflying instead. Darwin's finches notwithstanding, even the great naturalist himself understood that, when it comes to evolution, sex is always, if not the culprit, certainly a willing accomplice.....

The bewildering range of colors, mating behavior and songs that draw us to them owe their origins to a mode of natural selection called **sexual selection** which has been a prime factor in driving the evolution of many bird species. Based upon his recent book of the same name, **Richard Prum** will look at how “a taste for beauty” has guided the development of the extraordinary ornamentation we see in the natural world.

Dr. Prum received an A.B. (1982) from Harvard University and a Ph.D. (1989) from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He is the William Robertson Coe Professor of Ornithology, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University, where he also serves as curator of ornithology and head curator of vertebrate zoology at the Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Collaborating with scientists from many disciplines, Dr. Prum is responsible for some of the most respected theories on how feathers evolved, and for the discovery that blue coloration in birds is due to structural, not chemical properties of their feathers. Dr. Prum has also shown that the behavior of birds sheds light on their evolutionary relationships, and that variation in vocal apparatus between different groups of birds gives rise to different singing behavior.

COMING PROGRAMS

October 16, 2017. John van de Graaff. Beautiful Birds.

November 13, 2017. Brooke Bateman. Audubon's Climate Watch.

December 11, 2017. Members' Meeting.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Mission

The Education Committee is looking to develop school presentations, senior walks and programs, live bird interactions (captive and wild), visits to raptor centers, falconry demonstrations, boy & girl scout merit badge events, member workshops; in fact ANY activities that will bring the wonder of birds to new people. You can contribute with your donation (via the Membership Form) and by sharing your ideas with the committee. You can reach them at education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

That's all for this month. **Please send us your membership renewal NOW!**

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

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

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2017-2018

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

Name(s):	How would you like to get the HBC newsletter? (For the "online" version, we need to have an email address for you). <input type="checkbox"/> Download from the HBC Website (club will send reminders), OR <input type="checkbox"/> Send me the newsletter via US mail				
Address:					
City:					
State: _____ ZIP: _____					
Home phone: _____					
Other phone (whose?): _____					
E-mail(s) (Please print clearly in CAPS)	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) _____				
May we publish your contact information in the annual club membership list (sent to members)? <table> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		Yes	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes		No			
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips etc.? <table> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Yes	No				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please choose a level of membership below. **All membership contributions are tax deductible.**

MEMBERSHIP - REGULAR: Tax deductible

Student @ \$5.00	\$ _____
Individual @ \$18.00	\$ _____
Family @ \$30.00	\$ _____

MEMBERSHIP – SUPPORTING: Tax deductible

Downy Woodpecker @ \$40.00	\$ _____
Northern Flicker @ \$60.00	\$ _____
Red-bellied Woodpecker @ \$100.00	\$ _____
Pileated Woodpecker @ \$250.00 or more	\$ _____

OUTREACH ACTIVITY

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

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 34, No. 2
October, 2017.

There is so much stuff going on in this club at the moment I have to leave things out of this newsletter for space! Feast your eyes on the (now complete) **program schedule** ("Coming Programs") hot off the press, and the plethora of **field trips** ("Coming Trips") going hither and yon. Things to be proud of!!

If you have renewed your membership this year, THANK YOU. If, however, there is a membership form with this newsletter, we need your renewal as soon as possible. Just send it in via the post office or bring it along on October 16. This is the only way we can bring powerful programs and great trips to the valley.
Thanks!

NEXT PROGRAM

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

John Van de Graaff brings us Birds of the American West

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

As many of you may recall, at the June meeting I polled your preferences for this presentation. Among locations, the West clearly came first and among species, raptors seemed the favorites. I'll include as many as possible. Marylee and I have taken many trips to California since we met in 1994, including ten since 2003, when I switched to digital. I've looked through all of those, day by day, as well as trips to other western states. Many wonderful images have turned up, and I've enjoyed preparing them. If you haven't headed West recently, I hope this show will tempt you!

A native of Boston, **John Van de Graaff** has photographed birds since 2001, often while travelling. He migrated from New York City to Northampton in 2003 with his wife Marylee Bomboy. Mass Audubon has used his photos extensively, especially those from the Massachusetts coast. He has given over four dozen presentations of his images--many to children. He's a member of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (PVPA). John's website is: www.birdsbyjohn.com. Daily images are at blipfoto.com/vandegraaff.

COMING PROGRAMS

The 2017-2018 Hampshire Bird Club Special Reserve Vintage Program Schedule.

November 13, 2017. Brooke Bateman. Audubon's Climate Watch.

December 11, 2017. Members' Meeting.

January 8, 2018. Don Kroodsma. Birdsong Alaska (Or Somewhere)

February 12, 2018. Keenan Yakola. Seabird Research at Seal Island.

March 12, 2018. Dave Wiley. Great Shearwaters on Stellwagen Bank.

April 9, 2018. Shawn Carey. A Wing and a Care.

May 14, 2018. Sam Fried. Adventures from the Field.

June 11, 2018. Lois & Alan Richardson Adventures in Papua-New Guinea.

We warned you it was like a fine wine!

COMING TRIPS

***Saturday, October 14. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Jim Lafley, and Janice Jorgensen lead birders through the refuge to find late fall migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

Saturday, October 14 or Sunday, October 15. Hawks at Lighthouse Point, New Haven. Three quarter day. Accipiters, falcons and other fall migrants. Bring sunscreen, protective clothing, food, and water. We will be leaving the valley at 6 a.m. sharp. Registration is required. The final date will be confirmed on the evening of October 11 (Wednesday). Contact David newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) to register and for details of meeting time and place.(E)

Sunday, October 15. Sparrows. Half day. Scott Sumner looks for sparrows around Hampshire County. Meet at Stop and Shop in Hadley (440 Russell St. in Hadley) at 7:15 a.m. Contact Scott (president@hampshirebirdclub.org or 413-427-8896) for further information. (M)

Sunday, October 22. The Annual Halloween Adventure: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more. All day. Joshua Rose birds Massachusetts' northern stretches of the Connecticut River Valley from Northfield to Turner's Falls in his annual Halloween trip. Meet at 7:00 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)

***Wednesday, October 25. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund, Stephen LaValley, Nancy Goodman, and Janice Jorgensen lead birders through the refuge to find late fall migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

Sunday, October 29. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley. All day. Mike Locher heads north for the spectacle of hundreds of Snow Geese rising into the sun as a Rough-legged Hawk cruises by them. In addition to the geese and raptors, we'll look for ducks on Lake Champlain and late shorebirds on the muddy banks of the streams. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 5:30 a.m. for carpooling. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org) for further details. (E/M)

Saturday, November 4. Newburyport and Plum Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron heads to the northeastern extreme of Massachusetts, where rarities drip off the tree branches and lounge along the beaches. Seabirds, waterfowl, early winter birds: you'll have to be prepared for anything. Dress for the weather. Contact Geoff (413-268-9281) for further information. (M)

***Sunday, November 5. Ducks on the Berkshire Lakes.** All day. Al Richards and Bob Bieda visit the lakes and ponds of western Massachusetts to look for southbound waterfowl and anything else they can find. There will be a stop for cider donuts. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 6 a.m. for carpooling. (Remember to set your clocks back!) Questions? Call Al (413-665-2761). (M)

CHRISTMAS COUNT

Reminder: The Northampton Christmas Bird Count is Sunday, December 17, 2017. If you want to participate please contact cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Leader's Choice with Aiden and Devin Griffiths.

Sunday, September 10.

The choice for **Aiden and Devin Griffiths** this morning turned out to be the almost-always-hot **Amherst Rail Trail** from Station Road. A large but generally well-behaved group assembled and set out past the White Wolf porta-potties toward whatever the trail might bring. Early song was quiet, but, as the sun hit the trees, things started to warm up. Soon, cyclists and other more athletic users of the trail were dealing with a full-blown fall birding trip, with a legion of athletically-challenged people wearing weird optics spiraling about across the trail, craning their necks toward obscure feathered shapes flitting about the tree-tops, gesticulating and blurting out strange coded messages toward one another. A first cluster of warblers included, as I recall, **Tennessee** and **Cape May**, **Blackburnian** and **Prairie** in quick succession, all in great light and, as is always the case, in varying degrees of detail according to the luck of the draw. The marsh to the north provided a staple diet of fall staples like Northern Flicker, Green Heron, a multitude of Eastern Phoebes and a mysterious distant raptor.

After the initial high-rolling birds had drifted off to cause consternation somewhere else, we drifted along the bike path racking up some more subtle fall delicacies at a more measured pace. Turning onto the Keith Cubbison Trail (I think), we made our way in single file through dense birch, juniper and cottonwood, turning up birds, including several more Cape May warblers at every turn. The warbler list included fourteen species by the time we were done, including such respectables as B-t Green, B-t Blue, Nashville and Blackpoll. Finally, with the day getting hot and things quietening down, we took a spin along the Harvey Allen trail in the company of Harvey himself, always a delight. The open fields allowed us great looks at a group of at least four (4) **Black Vultures**, plus Sharp-shinned- and Broad-winged Hawks, plus a late and very unexpected Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. By the time we straggled back to the parking lot, the unofficial count included 52 species and a good day was had by all.

David Peake-Jones



Hawks from Mt. Tom

Saturday, September 16.

Saturday, September 16 was HBC's annual hawkwatching trip to Mount Tom, led by arch hawk pretender **David Peake-Jones**. He led the trusting group to Goat Peak Tower, which offers the best view in the valley of the southward migration. Unless, of course, the mountain is swathed in clouds, as it was until nearly 11 a.m. And although causality cannot be definitely established here, the arrival of Mike Locher at the tower, just before 11, started the gradual clearing of the skies.

David chose the time of the lifting fog to tell the story of the unfortunate hawk-watcher who saw a hatch of flying insects from the nearby treetops, and mistook the insects for the world's largest kettle of hawks. All of us, straining to see, got very quiet. But then, a falcon appeared out of the haze (almost certainly a Merlin, but hard to call); then a Sharp-shinned Hawk; an Osprey; a Bald Eagle; another Osprey; more Sharpies; and the day was rolling. Small kettles of Broad-winged Hawks started to appear over Mount Holyoke, then bigger groups rode the thermals in the distance over Westover. A Merlin circled less than 20 meters above the tower (the highlight of the day); a pair of Black Vultures cavorted in the updrafts (can vultures cavort?); a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk soared side-by-side allowing careful study.

By the end of the expedition, the group had tallied 7 American Kestrels, 5 Merlins, 2 Black Vultures, 4 Bald Eagles, 1 Northern Harrier, 23 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 7 Cooper's Hawks, 3 unidentified accipiters, and the *raison d'être* for the timing of the trip, **223 Broad-winged Hawks**. All between noon and 3 p.m.

Mike Locher

Only one alternative fact has been corrected in the telling of this story. However, I let the alternative grammar go just for spite.

Editor.

(Note: the Southwick trip report will appear in the November issue)

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS (A Sampler)

The “Environmental Canon” Book Club – *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold : Rae Griffiths

First half of book: Sunday, November 5, 2pm-3:30pm OR Thursday, November 16, 6pm-7:30pm

Second half of book: Wednesday, January 10, 6pm-7:30pm OR Sunday, January 21, 2pm-3:30pm

Viewing the Night Sky: *James Lowenthal*

Saturday, October 21, 7:00pm

Friday, November 10, 6:30pm

Saturday, December 2, 6:30pm. FREE. Registration Appreciated

Morning Nature Walks for Seniors: *John Green*

Thursday, October 12, 9am-11am – Hadley

Thursday, November 9, 9am-11am – Quabbin in New Salem.

Exploring for Mushrooms: *Diana Smith*

Saturday, October 14, 9am – 12pm, Mt Toby State Reservation.

“Holey Basalt”: Amazing Geologic Stories in the Holyoke Range: *Richard Little*

Friday, November 3, 7pm – 8:30pm (indoor presentation).

Saturday, November 4, 9am – 12pm (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.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS (A Sampler)

Photographing Fall Colors at Graves Farm with John Green

October 14, 8-11am.

Canoeing the Arcadia Marsh

October 15, 9-noon.

Peak Foliage Nature Walk on the Holyoke Range with John Green

October 15, 9-noon.

Nature Festival at Laughing Brook, includes Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey

October 21, 10am-2pm.

Arcadia October Program Highlights - find a full list of programs and register at www.massaudubon.org/arcadia or call 413.584.3009

That's all for this month.

The HBC Field Trip Guidelines for Participants and Drivers are attached to this newsletter. There will be a quiz at the October meeting!

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 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 34, No. 3

November, 2017.

This balmy November may be pleasant to bird in but, lest we forget, global warming poses a serious challenge to all bird species and a dire threat to many of them. This month we bring you one of our more timely programs, as well as our usual rich offering of field trips.

NEXT PROGRAM

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

Brooke Bateman introduces us to

Climate Watch

Audubon's Newest Citizen Science Program

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

To prepare for an uncertain future, we must be able to both forecast and monitor how species are responding to climate change. To track climate effects throughout species' ranges requires a landscape-scale coordinated and structured effort. Audubon's Climate Watch program integrates climate projections with community scientists' local knowledge to track how birds are responding to climate change. Skilled volunteers from across the U.S. collaborate with Audubon scientists by testing the predictions of target species' mid-2020s climate model projections through on-the-ground monitoring of bluebirds and nuthatches. Here we will provide an overview of the science behind the program, the general protocol, key resources available, and how to get involved in Climate Watch. We will also highlight how we can directly test hypotheses about bird climate change responses and present preliminary results from the program.

Brooke Bateman is the Director of Climate Watch in the Science Division at the National Audubon Society, and received her Ph.D. in Zoology and Tropical Ecology at James Cook University in Australia in 2010. Brooke conducted postdoctoral research with James Cook University, the University of Tasmania, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia and later, as a postdoctoral associate and assistant scientist on a NASA funded project with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Brooke's research focuses on spatial ecology and species distribution modeling, with emphasis on the effect that extreme weather events and climate change have on biodiversity. Since 2010, Brooke has led or contributed to 22 peer-reviewed publications and works closely with on-the-ground practitioners and stakeholders to link research to on-the-ground conservation and management actions. As the Director of Climate Watch, Brooke works with community volunteers to better understand how North American birds are being affected by climate change. In addition, Brooke collaborates with scientists from universities, government agencies and within the National Audubon Society's Science team to develop research focused on climate, citizen science, and conservation of birds.

COMING PROGRAMS

December 11, 2017. Members' Meeting.

January 8, 2018. Don Kroodsma. Birdsong Alaska (Or Somewhere)!

February 12, 2018. Keenan Yakola. Seabird Research at Seal Island.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Southwick Wildlife Management Area, Southwick, MA

Saturday, September 23

Geoff LeBaron and David Peake-Jones spent the morning on a pleasant ramble through a very impressive and developing grassland in the border with Connecticut. As we walked into the grassland we were almost instantly aware of the gradual but cumulative departure of hundreds of Savannah Sparrows from a corner of it. We also enjoyed a little knot of migrating warblers in the forests on the edge of the area, including **Cape May-**, **Palm-**, **Prairie-** and **Pine-** in good numbers. There is an area being kept under scattered trees at present (almost like a brushy savannah) which was loaded with Eastern Towhees and may become good for other early successional shrubland breeders. One fleeing small brown job was almost certainly a **Grasshopper Sparrow** but whatever grassland birds bred here this season seem have dispersed for the season. The habitat is expansive, and contiguous enough to be an exciting prospect as management continues and local grassland specialists discover it.

Drew Vitz advised us, when he spoke to the club, to keep an eye on this grassland, which is being managed to rival the great but difficult-to-access expanses of Westover as a conservation resource for large-area grassland nesters. Our verdict, slumping back into the car after tallying 39 species is: WE AGREE!

David Peake-Jones



The Annual Halloween Adventure: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen and More

Sunday, October 22

With Josh Rose at the helm, we assembled at the power canal where we had very atmospheric looks at good numbers of Canada Geese and a few Common Mergansers in rising wreaths of mist off the water. Striking off to the north, through the scenic by-ways of Gill, we took in the dual wetlands of Hell's Kitchen and Satan's Kingdom, each of which could not have been less aptly named on what was tuning out to be a balmy fall day. Goodly numbers of land-birds chipped away from the lingering deciduous foliage and we were able to enjoy **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, Yellow-rumped Warblers, **Brown Creepers** and even a **Common Yellowthroat** which eventually gave up its secrets after leading us a merry dance in the pond-side vegetation. Sixteen **Wood Ducks** almost missed our gaze, lurking amidst the waning water lilies. A particularly wonderful and expansive muddy wetland yielded four **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and 16 **Killdeer**. When all hope of further waterfowl seemed lost, we turned up seven **Green-winged Teal**, briefly joined in a secluded end of the wetland by a transient **Red-shouldered Hawk**.

River Road in Northfield yielded some sparrows, a fly-by Sharp-shinned Hawk, and a distant soaring **Peregrine Falcon** to test out silhouette skills. Great Meadow Road was pregnant with possibilities but, in the gathering heat of the day, sadly devoid of actual birds.

It was at this point in the day that we became thankful for Josh's access to the internet in the field. Other birders reported a collection of five (5) Cattle Egrets in Gill and we found them, obediently hanging out where reported with some entirely unimpressed cattle in a picturesque field within easy scope view of the road. As the shadows grew longer, we paid last visits to Barton's Cove and the Rod and Gun Club, without adding anything of note.

All in all a very pretty day and a very pleasant jaunt through some really nice birding areas.

David Peake-Jones

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 11. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin. All day. Craig Allen leads our annual trip to the east side of the reservoir to look for waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Mike Locher (mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org or 413-585-5864) by November 4 to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

Coming Field Trips (continued)

Saturday, November 11. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund, Jim Lafley, Stephen LaValley, Nancy Goodman, and Janice Jorgensen search the refuge for whatever happens to be around. Meet at 7 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

Sunday, November 12. Valley Waterfowl. Three quarter day. David Peake-Jones will travel northward up the Connecticut River valley, looking for migrating waterfowl. Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops parking lot (Rt 9, just east of the Calvin Coolidge Bridge at 41 Russell Street in Hadley) at 6:30 a.m. for carpooling. Please contact David (davidpj@the-spa.com) to register. (E/M)

Wednesday, November 15. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund, Nancy Goodman, and Janice Jorgensen seek out lagging migrants and early winter birds. Meet at 7 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

Saturday, December 2. Owls. Evening. Mike Locher and David Peake-Jones try to locate a few of our nocturnal avian denizens. Note: if you're opposed to the use of audio devices to attract birds, this isn't the trip for you. Dress for the cold. Contact Mike (mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org or 413-585-5864) or David (davidpj@the-spa.com) for further information. (E/M)

Saturday, December 9. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund, Jim Lafley, Nancy Goodman, Laura Beltran, and Janice Jorgensen lead birders through the refuge to warm up for the Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

Sunday, December 17, 2017. Northampton Christmas Count
Contact Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz (cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org) to participate.

Saturday, December 30, 2017. Quabbin Count.
Contact Scott Sumner (president@hampshirebirdclub.org) to participate.

The Winter-Spring Summer Field Trip Schedule

Is beginning to take shape, yes. In his fevered imagination, our field trip chair, Mike Locher, is already contemplating the offerings for next year. If you are willing to lead a trip or trips, please get in touch with Mike (fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) and let him know.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

We have close ties with two (2) local Christmas Counts. If you would like to participate in either of these and do not yet have a team, please contact the organizers.

Northampton Christmas Count: Sunday, December 17, 2017
Contact cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

Quabbin Count: Saturday, December 30
Contact Scott Sumner: president@hampshirebirdclub.org

Christmas Count Potluck

A big reason to participate in the Northampton Christmas Count is the potluck that follows it. We need main courses, salads, desserts and beverages. If you can contribute food or drink, please contact **Sue Emerson** at spe33@charter.net or 413 588 6900. Cousin Vinnie will add his thoughts on this subject next month.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS (Some Highlights)

Trees at High Ledges

Saturday, November 11; 10 am – 1 pm.

Nature Odyssey Photo Presentation: *John Green*

Wednesday, November 15; 7 – 8:30 pm

For more details and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to www.massaudubon.org/arcadia

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

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS (Some Highlights)

What We Can Do About Light Pollution: *James Lowenthal*

Wednesday, November 8: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Viewing the Night Sky: *James Lowenthal*

Friday, November 10: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

ALSO Saturday, December 2: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Living Building Tours

Wednesday, November 15: 12:00 NOON to 1:00 pm

ALSO Friday, December 1: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Swallows in Massachusetts: How You Can Help: *Mara Silver*

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Many swallow species that breed in Massachusetts are in decline. The reasons are complex, but Mara will outline ways we can help these birds with that part of their lives they spend here in the valley.

The Environmental Canon Book Club

Thursday, November 16: 6-00 pm – 7:30 pm.

An Invisible Terror: Birds and Window Collisions: *Brandon Hedrick*

Friday, November 17: 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

Following deforestation, window collisions are the number one human-made cause of bird mortality, with estimates as high as 1 billion birds per year in the United States alone. Find out what types of windows create the highest risk and what can be done to reduce it.

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.

If you need to send us your renewal, please do so immediately to avoid a break in membership.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION CODE 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.

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 34, No. 4
December, 2017.

Just the facts this month. The annual Members Meeting, Christmas Count reminders, coming trips, leaders needed for spring trips, potluck plea, and Cousin Vinnie's December Refreshments message. The HBC Membership List has been mailed to all current members. See you Monday!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, December 11 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.

This month, the program is US!

We'd like to see and hear about something special you did this year. Not so much signing every on-line petition that landed in your inbox, but more like some natural history-related experience that might interest others in the club. A short, narrated slide selection is the norm, but any kind of audio-visual presentation that can hold the attention of our discerning audience is most welcome.

If you have slides or a power-point presentation to share

As in past years, please limit your show to 20 or fewer slides and you must be prepared to narrate your own stuff. Please contact either **Jaap van Heerden** (jvanheerden@hampshirebirdclub.org) or **Geoff LeBaron** (programs@hampshirebirdclub.org) by 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 12. 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 8, 2018. Don Kroodsmma. Birdsong Alaska (Or Somewhere)

February 12, 2018. Keenan Yakola. Seabird Research at Seal Island.

March 12, 2018. Dave Wiley. Great Shearwaters on Stellwagen Bank.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, December 9. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund, Jim Lafley, Nancy Goodman, Laura Beltran, and Janice Jorgensen lead birders through the refuge to warm up for the Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). (E/M)

Saturday, January 13. The Second Annual Cape Ann Winter Ramble. 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). Meeting time is 6 a.m.; contact Devin (413-323-8417) for the place, or further information. (M)

The Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule

Leaders Wanted

While the rest of us are finding creative ways to spend money in the run-up to the holiday season, Mike Locher spends endless hours in a drafty garret in Hadley, muttering to himself and scribbling endless iterations of the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule in crayon on old Dunkin Donuts bags.

The first prerequisite for a good trip is a willing leader! Not a hot-shot, just an organized person with knowledge of a destination and the ability to get a group of fellow HBC folks there and back again safely. What happens when the group is there is a kind of magic that can happen regardless of who is leading. Like the birds, we all need to get out on that limb. **Give it a shot.** Drop Mike a line at fieldtrips@hampshirebirdclub.org and throw him an idea for a trip, especially if you are willing to lead or co-lead. Mike may be able to link you up with another leader who can take a share of the responsibilities and he can help with suggestions as to dates, times etc. Please, please, please drop Mike a line soon. He has to get the schedule down before the end of December and he is down to the last stub of crayon.....

BIRDERS' HOROSCOPE FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

It's written in the stars. Today is for the birds!

The fates are throwing you an opportunity to participate in a traditional community project : the **84th Northampton Christmas Count** which takes place today from midnight to midnight. Join a team. Count and appreciate every bird you see. If you can't get outdoors today, enjoy the birds at the feeders in your yard. Focus on the birds but also give a nod to the other creatures there.

Embrace the chance to accompany an owling team during the wee hours and be resigned to the cold, moonless conditions and unpredictability of these mysterious creatures.

Pay extra attention to what look like white trash bags out in the open fields. They might be just that, or they might be the bird of the day since a Snowy Owl invasion is on the cards. Again, be open to the unexpected. After four o'clock, share a delicious potluck meal and report your tally for the day at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. It has nothing to do with your horoscope. It's just a no-brainer. Oh, and be especially kind to the Northampton CBC compilers today. Again, no brainer.

Janice Jorgensen

Jan Ortiz

cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

BIRDERS HOROSCOPE FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

You have been a very, VERY, **VERY** bad person and the only way you can fix this is to participate in the **Quabbin Count**.

No-one is keeping track of how many Quabbin Counts there have been, but the birds stubbornly hang on in those lonely, windswept wastes, so someone has to count 'em.

If it doesn't kill you, it will make you stronger.

If John Snow was a birder, he would be doing the Quabbin Count.

There is usually pizza.

Scott Sumner

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That's all for this month.

Pleas for food are on the back of the cover.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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