



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)  
Volume 35, No. 5  
**January 2019**

January is a great time to be a birder (really, though, when isn't it?); we review the previous year, celebrating the birds we saw and lamenting those who got away. And we get to start anew, clearing our year lists and beginning again, tabula rasa, the new year rife with possibility. Never again will we find Chickadees, House Sparrows, Starlings, and Titmice so exciting.

But perhaps we should. After all, all of these birds—and dozens more of our yearly regulars—are lives full of vitality and promise, each one a triumph and all deserving of recognition and respect. A Chickadee in April, a House Finch in September, a Canada Goose in December... all these are testaments to survival, to the continued primacy of life over death. That we should chance to cross paths with them is cause for celebration indeed, and perhaps a moment's reflection as well. In our excitement to pad our lists, we would do well to pause and appreciate the lives before us and remind ourselves that, rather than tally marks on paper, it's the love of birds that drives us.

**NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, January 14 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Fred Baumgarten presents**

**Who's Buried in Audubon's Tomb? The Artist, the Musician, and the  
Birds of America**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

John James Audubon (1785-1851), the self-described "American Woodsman," became a legend in his lifetime, chiefly on the merits of his massive volume of illustrations, *The Birds of America*. His legacy lives on in the many Audubon Societies dedicated to the protection of birds. Anthony Philip Heinrich (1781-1861), called "the Beethoven of America" by an early admirer, composed an impressive corpus of works, helped found the New York Philharmonic—and died in almost total obscurity, his music known by only a few aficionados.

What did the two men have in common? Lots, as it turns out. Audubon and Heinrich were fascinating, eccentric characters—both immigrants—whose lives were full of false starts and humorous, sometimes heartbreaking anecdotes. Above all, they made themselves into American originals. This presentation is accompanied by Audubon images, rarely heard music by Heinrich, and a trip to the Bourbon Capital of the World.

Fred Baumgarten is a recent immigrant to the Pioneer Valley. He spent 20 years on the staff of the National Audubon Society, where he helped establish the U.S. Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program. A lifelong birder and musician, Fred is currently director of foundation relations and sponsored research at Mount Holyoke College.

## COMING PROGRAMS

**February 11, 2019. Bruce Beehler.** North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring.

**March 11, 2019. Isabel Brofsky, M.Sc. candidate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.** Farmland Bird Research in the Connecticut River Valley.

**April 8, 2019. Sam Fried.** Birding Honduras.

**May 13, 2019. John Van de Graaff.** Spirits of Spring: Warblers and More.

**June 10, 2019. Tom Ricardi.** Raptor Rehabilitation. Our local raptor rehab expert brings his knowledge, his experiences, and his raptors!

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please contact leaders if a phone number or email is listed at least *two days* in advance of the trip to register *and* if you have any questions. Activity level is indicated as E/easy, M/moderate, S/strenuous. It's always wise to bring snacks and dress appropriately. If you want to keep a list of birds seen during the field trips, Mass Audubon has checklists for each of their sanctuaries and these can also be used as trip lists (<https://massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/birds-birding/bird-checklists>). Finally, at all times, whether on a trip with or without a leader, please follow the American Birding Association guidelines dictating ethical birding behavior (<https://hampshirebirdclub.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>) and those on our website regarding field trips (<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/>). Thank you. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator

### January

**Sunday, January 13, 6:00 a.m. The Third Annual Cape Ann Winter Ramble.** All day. Aidan Griffiths makes his triumphant return from the halls of higher learning to co-lead the HBC to birding greatness on the chilly shores of Cape Ann. Join Aidan and Devin for a day of searching the coast for ducks, alcids, gulls, and the near-certain appearance of something odd, unusual, or downright rare. Bring snacks/lunch and dress for the weather (many layers). Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting place or further information. **Note:** This trip is limited, so please get in touch ASAP if you're interested. (M)

### May

**Thursday, May 23-Sunday, May 26. Monhegan Island. THREE NIGHTS.** Scott Surner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to 12 Hampshire Bird Club members. Contact Scott (413-256-5438) for information, and Carol Mardeusz (413-467-7279 or [camardeusz@yahoo.com](mailto:camardeusz@yahoo.com)) to register or for questions about the cost of the trip. (E/M/S).

## FIELD TRIP LEADERS WANTED

Do you like to go birding and have company while doing so? If you've never led a field trip but like to bird and wonder what it takes to become a trip leader, please consider attending a meeting where all of this information will be revealed. Please remember that you don't need to be an expert birder; the only requirement is leading some of us to your favorite birding locations. Once I know who would be interested in this endeavor, I'll set up a meeting. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator ([camardeusz@yahoo.com](mailto:camardeusz@yahoo.com) or 413-467-7279).

## FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

If you are interested in being on this committee, please let me know so that I can set up a time to meet. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator ([camardeusz@yahoo.com](mailto:camardeusz@yahoo.com) or 413-467-7279).

## HBC CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The newly-formed Conservation Committee recently held its second meeting on December 17 at the Hitchcock Center. During the meeting, a draft mission statement was proposed—To identify and develop projects to preserve and restore bird habitat in Hampshire County—as well as an initial focus **to preserve and improve habitat for grassland birds in Hampshire county**. Committee members are: Harvey Allen, Denny Baker, Fred Baumgarten, Sharon Dombeck (chair), Rachel Greenwood (currently on hiatus), Susan Hawes, Jan Lamberg, Marcia Merithew, Jeri Moran, Al Richards, Helen Symons, Blythe Wilde, and Fianna Wilde.

The Committee's next meeting is **Monday, January 21, 7 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center**. If you have questions or ideas, you can reach the committee at [conservation@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:conservation@hampshirebirdclub.org).

## VALLEY FAMILY BIRD FESTIVAL

This year's Festival takes place on Saturday, May 4 at MAS Arcadia Sanctuary in Easthampton from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Festival is co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club. Tom Ricardi will be offering a program and there will also be bird banding, bird walks, bird crafts, and activities. Contact Patti Steinman at 413-584-3009 or [psteinman@massaudubon.org](mailto:psteinman@massaudubon.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY PLANNING HELP

This spring marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hampshire Bird Club and we hope to celebrate with an anniversary party free for the Membership. It's certain to be a good time, but we could use some help planning the event. If you have experience or just would like to have fun helping out we welcome you to join us. Contact Stephen Baker at [treasurer@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:treasurer@hampshirebirdclub.org) to join our party committee.

## 85<sup>th</sup> NOHO CBC POT LUCK

Thanks abound to the *many* HBC members and friends who contributed to making this year's CBC Pot Luck another success. We're grateful for those who came on Saturday to help with set up, including the Hitchcock Center staff; for those who brought the varied and delicious array of foods & beverages; and for those who helped wrap it all up at the end of the day. Thank you!

That's all for this month.

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

Devin C. Griffiths, Editor

323-8417

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

# 85<sup>th</sup> MANO CBC RESULTS

Number		Species
4888		Canada Goose
6		Mute Swan
1		Wood Duck
4		dabbling duck sp
190		American Black Duck
927		Mallard
1		Northern Pintail
165	HC	Common Goldeneye
51		Hooded Merganser
228	HC	Common Merganser
4		Ring-necked Pheasant
235	HC	Wild Turkey
628		Rock Pigeon
1573		Mourning Dove
248		Ring-billed Gull
15		Herring Gull
32		gull sp
14		Great Blue Heron
12		Bald Eagle adult
6	HC	Bald Eagle immature
2		Northern Harrier adult
2		Northern Harrier-imm
13		Sharp-shinned Hawk
26		Cooper's Hawk
125		Red-tailed Hawk
57		Eastern Screech-Owl
15		Great Horned Owl
26		Barred Owl
14		Belted Kingfisher
170		Red-bellied
4		Yell-bellied Sapsucker
340		Downy Woodpecker
99		Hairy Woodpecker
55		Northern Flicker
28		Pileated Woodpecker
4		American Kestrel
7		Peregrine Falcon
690		Blue Jay
2183	HC	American Crow
7	HC	Fish Crow
33		Common Raven
163		Horned Lark
1434		Black-capped
426		Tufted Titmouse
11		Red-breasted Nuthatch
368		White-breasted
30		Brown Creeper
8		Winter Wren

Number		Species
74		Carolina Wren
56		Golden-crowned Kinglet
206		Eastern Bluebird
4		Hermit Thrush
905		American Robin
1		Grey Catbird
74		Northern Mockingbird
6456		European Starling
496		Cedar Waxwing
1348		House Sparrow
652		House Finch
31		Purple Finch
834		American Goldfinch
499		American Tree Sparrow
3		Field Sparrow
6		Savannah Sparrow
2		Fox Sparrow
296		Song Sparrow
4		Swamp Sparrow
679		White-throated Sparrow
12		White-crowned Sparrow
1511		Dark-eyed Junco
8		Red-winged Blackbird
5		Common Grackle
153		Brown-headed Cowbird
596		Northern Cardinal

Unusual Species		
3		Snow Goose
1		Red-breasted
cw		Turkey Vulture
1		<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>
1		<b>Northern Shrike</b>
1		Ruby-crowned Kinglet
1		<b>Common Redpoll</b>
21		Pine Siskin
cw		Evening Grosbeak
1		Lapland Longspur
1		<b>Palm Warbler</b>
4	HC	Yellow-rumped Warbler

CW-species recorded during Count week.  
US-Unusual  
species are boldfaced - number and  
name. LC-low count HC-Highest Count  
ever

Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz, Compilers

Number	Mammals
5	Eastern Cottontail
18	Coyote
58	White-tailed Deer
44	Red Squirrel
348	Gray Squirrel (Gray morph
2	Opossum
1	Chipmunk
19	Gray Squirrel (Black Morph)
2	Beaver
2	Red Fox
1	River Otter
1	Vole
1	Spotted Salamander ...walking
1	Tick

MANO SUMMARY	
Individual birds	
78	Species not including CW birds
30,522	Total Birds
Observers	
153	Observers in the field
50	Observers at feeders
27	Owlers
196	Participants (Participants are only counted once regardless of what they did: owling and feeder)
Daytime:	
54	Parties
208.85	Hours on Foot
113.2	Hours by car
322.05	Total Party Hours
187.00	Total Miles on Foot
713.45	Total Miles by Car
900.45	Total Party Miles by Foot & by Car
Feeders	
86.1	Feeder Hours
27	Feeders observed
Owling	
11	Owling parties
30.82	Owling Hours
156.9	Owling Miles
Midnight	Starting Time
6:30 p.m.	Ending Time
Next MANO CBC -- Sunday, December 15, 2019	

Save the date: **December 15, 2019** is the next MANO Christmas Bird Count.



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Volume 35, No. 6  
**February 2019**

With the release of the latest batch of field trips (Feb. through May) there just isn't space for my usual editorial. It will return next month, however. In the meantime, enjoy exploring the list of upcoming programs and trips, and start planning your local birding adventures for the soon-to-be-arriving spring season.

**NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, February 11 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Bruce Beehler presents**

**North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

In late March 2015, ornithologist Bruce M. Beehler set off on a solo four-month trek to track songbird migration and the northward progress of spring through America. Traveling via car, canoe, and bike and on foot, Beehler followed woodland warblers and other Neotropical songbird species from the southern border of Texas, where the birds first arrive after their winter sojourns in South America and the Caribbean, northward through the Mississippi drainage to its headwaters in Minnesota and onward to their nesting grounds in the north woods of Ontario. In *North on the Wing*, Beehler describes both the epic migration of songbirds across the country and the gradual dawning of springtime through the U.S. heartland—the blossoming of wildflowers, the chorusing of frogs, the leafing out of forest canopies—and also tells the stories of the people and institutions dedicated to studying and conserving the critical habitats and processes of spring songbird migration. Inspired in part by Edwin Way Teale's landmark 1951 book *North with the Spring*, this book—part travelogue, part field journal, and part environmental and cultural history—is a fascinating first-hand account of a once-in-a-lifetime journey. It engages readers in the wonders of spring migration and serves as a call for the need to conserve, restore, and expand bird habitats to preserve them for future generations of both birds and humans.

Bruce M. Beehler is an ornithologist, naturalist, conservationist, author, and lecturer. He is a research associate in the division of birds at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. He is best known for coleading a survey of biological diversity in the Foja Mountains of Papua New Guinea in 2005, during which the Wattled Smoky Honeyeater was discovered and the Bronze Parotia and Golden-fronted Bowerbird were photographed for the first time. He has published eleven books about nature, most recently *Birds of New Guinea*.

**COMING PROGRAMS**

**March 11, 2019. Isabel Brofsky, M.Sc. candidate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.** Farmland Bird Research in the Connecticut River Valley.

**April 8, 2019. Sam Fried.** Birding Honduras.

**May 13, 2019. John Van de Graaff.** Spirits of Spring: Warblers and More.

**June 10, 2019. Tom Ricardi.** Raptor Rehabilitation. Our local raptor rehab expert brings his knowledge, his experiences, and his raptors!

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please contact leaders if a phone number or email is listed at least *two days* in advance of the trip to register *and* if you have any questions. Activity level is indicated as E/easy, M/moderate, S/strenuous. It's always wise to bring snacks and dress appropriately. If you want to keep a list of birds seen during the field trips, Mass Audubon has checklists for each of their sanctuaries and these can also be used as trip lists (<https://massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/birds-birding/bird-checklists>). Finally, at all times, whether on a trip with or without a leader, please follow the American Birding Association guidelines dictating ethical birding behavior (<https://hampshirebirdclub.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>) and those on our website regarding field trips (<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/>). Thank you. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator

**Illustrated Owls: A Who's Hoo from the Museums's Vault. Eric Carle Museum, Central Gallery, through April 21.** Take an indoor field trip with or without your children and/or grandchildren to the Museum (125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA) to view this delightful exhibit depicting some of our famous owl characters in children's books. You will find illustrations from Beatrix Potter and A.A. Milne among other favorites. Admission is \$9.00 for Adults and \$6.00 for Seniors (free with a pass from your local library).

**Date TBD. Westover Air Force Base. Half Day.** Mike Locher will coordinate and lead 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) **by May 1** to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E/M)

**Sunday Morning, March 10, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Connecticut River Waterfowl.** Join Mike Locher as he looks for ducks and geese migrating up the Connecticut River to their breeding grounds. We'll start in the south (Holyoke Dam and Canal Park in South Hadley) and then head north (Hadley Cove, Great Pond, Turner's Falls Power Canal, and Barton's Cove). Contact Mike (413-585-5864) for further information. Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops (41 Russell St., Hadley) at 7 am. (E/M)

**Wednesday Morning, April 10, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** Check out the centrally located Fort River Division of the Conte NWR in Hadley which can produce a wonderful variety of early Spring migrant species, including American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, and Rusty Blackbird—plus Fox and Chipping Sparrows, among others. The 1.2 mile Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks, and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628) in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley. You may also contact Janice Jorgensen (413-585-0145) for details. (E/M)

**Saturday, April 13, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Ashley Reservoir.** Join Mike Locher as he 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. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) for more information. (E/M with one optional S section)

**Saturday Morning, April 27, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** Check out the centrally located Fort River Division of the Conte NWR in Hadley which can produce a wonderful variety of early Spring migrant species including American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Rusty Blackbird, plus Fox  
Hampshire Bird Club. February, 2019. Page 2 of 4.



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**Sunday, May 12, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Mineral Hills Conservation Area.** Join Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins as they lead birders through one of the lesser-known Northampton conservation areas. This has been a consistent place for Prairie Warblers over the past several years. For information, contact Marcia (413-896-9539 or [mmerithew@comcast.net](mailto:mmerithew@comcast.net)). Meet at the JFK Middle School parking lot (100 Bridge Road, Florence, MA) at 7 a.m. (E/M)

**Saturday Morning, May 18, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** May is a great birding month at the centrally located Fort River Division of the Conte NWR in Hadley. A nice variety of Spring migrants and breeding species are possible including Northern Harrier, Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow, Least and Great-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Barn Swallow, Wood and Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Brown Thrasher, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Indigo Bunting and numerous warbler species. The 1.2 mile Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks, and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628) in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley. You may also contact Janice Jorgensen (413-585-0145) for details. (E/ M)

**Sunday, May 19, 6:00 a.m., Half Day, Mt. Holyoke.** Join Mike Locher as he hikes up the park road to the top of this local peak hoping for some later Spring migrants and deep-woods breeding specialties including Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers (both quite reliable in recent years). Meet at the (gated) entrance to Skinner State Park (at the end of Old Mountain Road in Hadley) at 6:00 a.m. This is an occasionally steep hike on a paved road. For more information contact Mike (413-585-5864). (M/S)

**Thursday-Sunday, May 23-26, Monhegan Island.** Scott Sumner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. This charming island and the variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. The weekend promises to be memorable and enjoyable. The trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members and is currently filled. However, if you would like to be put on a waiting list, contact Carol Mardeusz ([camardeusz@yahoo.com](mailto:camardeusz@yahoo.com)). Contact Scott (413-256-5438) for further information.

**Saturday, May 25, 6:30 a.m., All Day, Hilltown Rambles.** Join Dave Gross and Bob Zimmermann as they ramble around the Berkshire hilltowns to look for those migrants that prefer higher elevations than the valley provides. We'll be on the lookout for American Bittern, Sandhill Cranes, Blackburnian Warblers, and Spotted Sandpipers along with anything else we can turn up. There will be a bit of hiking at the Moran Wildlife Area. Meet at the *Northampton Stop & Shop parking lot* at 6:30 a.m. Pack a lunch or pick one up at our stop at the Cummington Creamery. For information or to sign up contact Dave ([djgross@gmail.com](mailto:djgross@gmail.com) 413-687-8161) or Bob ([zimmermann@biochem.umass.edu](mailto:zimmermann@biochem.umass.edu) 413-626-3381). (E/M/S)

**Sunday, May 26, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Knightville Dam.** Join Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins as they visit Knightville Dam looking for Spring migrants and local residents. Contact Marcia (413-896-9539 or [mmerithew@comcast.net](mailto:mmerithew@comcast.net)) for details. Meet at 7 a.m. at the John F. Kennedy Middle School (100 Bridge Road, Florence, MA). (E/M)

**Wednesday Morning, May 29, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** May is a great birding month at the centrally located Fort River Division of the Conte NWR in Hadley. A nice variety of Spring migrants and breeding species are possible including Northern Harrier, Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow, Least, and Great-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Barn Swallow,

Wood and Swainson's Thrushes, Veery, Brown Thrasher, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Indigo Bunting and numerous warbler species. The 1.2 mile Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks, and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628) in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley. You may also contact Janice Jorgensen (413-585-0145) for details. (E/ M)

## **VALLEY FAMILY BIRD FESTIVAL**

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## **35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY PLANNING HELP**

This spring marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hampshire Bird Club and we hope to celebrate with an anniversary party free for the Membership. It's certain to be a good time, but we could use some help planning the event. If you have experience or just would like to have fun helping out we welcome you to join us. Contact Stephen Baker at [treasurer@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:treasurer@hampshirebirdclub.org) to join our party committee.

## **Call for Help – AV and Meeting Setup**

Are you a birder and a techie? After many years of providing AV and practical operations for HBC meetings, the retirement of Jaap Van Heerden has left us in need of a Coordinator (or Co-Coordinators) to carry on this important function. Our speakers need good technical support, and we all enjoy arriving to a welcoming array of places to sit!

What's needed:

- Coordinator(s) with technology skills to oversee the setup of our excellent audio-visual equipment, and with the computer knowledge to assist speakers in hooking up to our system.
- A pool of non-technical volunteers who will come early to set up chairs and clean up after the meeting. The post-meeting pickup goes very quickly because our HBC membership is wonderfully helpful. Several current volunteers, including the refreshments committee, will continue to help but we need more people.

These operations begin shortly after 4:00 p.m. on meeting day, with everything ready to go by 5:30 (if the speaker is coming for dinner beforehand; if not, set up can begin later, ready to go by 6:30). With 3-4 people, setting up the chairs takes about ½ hour. Full details about the AV setup and the other practical operations are available. With enough volunteers in the pool, not everyone will need to respond at every meeting. If you're interested and able, please email the HBC Board at [board@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:board@hampshirebirdclub.org). We hope to hear from you!

That's all for this month.

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

Devin C. Griffiths, Editor

323-8417

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





## **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts**

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

Volume 35, No. 7

**March 2019**

Can you sense it? It's faint, but it's unmistakable. On a good day, the air's clearer, the chill a *little* less biting. You can see it in the quality of the light, feel it in the gradual lengthening of the days. At 5:30 in the evening, there's still enough sunlight to identify the gulls and waterfowl coming in to roost at Turner's Falls, appreciate the subtleties of a Savannah Sparrow's plumage, or mark the features separating a Hoary from a Common Redpoll. Though there are days when it still feels far off, spring is coming.

You know what that means: time to warm up the shoulders, loosen up the neck, and prepare for staring straight up into the canopy for a glimpse between the leaves of an elusive Blackburnian or Bay-breasted Warbler—or any of their colorful cousins. Yes, the season of warblers—and the concomitant affliction we all affectionately know as “warbler neck”—is nigh.

But we live in New England, land of notoriously fickle weather. Before we bid Old Man Winter adieu, there's still time enough for a snowy deluge or two (or a half-dozen. I mean, who are we kidding?). And while that means wielding a shovel a few more times, it also allows we intrepid birders to get our last looks at wayfaring waterfowl, roving Redpolls, jaunting Juncos, trekking Tree Sparrows, and all the other wonderful birds that get us through the winter. As much as I thrill to the advent of spring and joyfully anticipate the arrival of our warm-weather migrants, I'll miss these endearing characters. Myself, I'll get out a few more times and, with tingling toes and frozen fingers, bid them a fond farewell. And when spring finally breaks upon us, I'll greet its feathered flood with warmth, with joy, and with shoulders and neck loose, stretched, and ready for the challenge.

### **NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, March 11 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Isabel Brofsky presents**

**Farmland Bird Research in the Connecticut River Valley**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

Isabel Brofsky. M.Sc. candidate at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has spent the last few years exploring many of the Valley's local farms and studying the birds she's encountered on them. Join us as she takes us on a tour of these farms and provides some insight into her research—the birds she found, how they use the farmland, and why they're there.

### **COMING PROGRAMS**

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**May 13, 2019. John Van de Graaff.** Spirits of Spring: Warblers and More.

**June 10, 2019. Tom Ricardi.** Raptor Rehabilitation. Our local raptor rehab expert brings his knowledge, his experiences, and his raptors!

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please contact leaders if a phone number or email is listed at least *two days* in advance of the trip to register *and* if you have any questions. Activity level is indicated as E/easy, M/moderate, S/strenuous. It's always wise to bring snacks and dress appropriately. If you want to keep a list of birds seen during the field trips, Mass Audubon has checklists for each of their sanctuaries and these can also be used as trip lists (<https://massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/birds-birding/bird-checklists>). Finally, at all times, whether on a trip with or without a leader, please follow the American Birding Association guidelines dictating ethical birding behavior (<https://hampshirebirdclub.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>) and those on our website regarding field trips (<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/>). Thank you. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator

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**Date TBD. Westover Air Force Base. Half Day.** Mike Locher will coordinate and lead 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) by **May 1** to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E/M)

**Sunday, March 10, 7:00 a.m., Half Day, Connecticut River Waterfowl.** Join Mike Locher as he looks for ducks and geese migrating up the Connecticut River to their breeding grounds. We'll start in the south (Holyoke Dam and Canal Park in South Hadley) and then head north (Hadley Cove, Great Pond, Turner's Falls Power Canal, and Barton's Cove). Contact Mike (413-585-5864) for further information. Meet at the Hadley Village Barn Shops (41 Russell St., Hadley) at 7 am. (E/M)

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## VALLEY FAMILY BIRD FESTIVAL

This year's Festival takes place on Saturday, May 4 at MAS Arcadia Sanctuary in Easthampton from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Festival is co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club. Tom Ricardi will be offering a program and there will also be bird banding, bird walks, bird crafts, and activities. Contact Patti Steinman at 413-584-3009 or [psteinman@massaudubon.org](mailto:psteinman@massaudubon.org) for more information or to volunteer.

## RESPIRE FOR A WEARY (BIRD CLUB) LIBRARIAN

The bird club library will not be at this month's meeting as your trusted librarian will be in Patagonia working on his member's meeting slides for December. You may still bring book returns to the meeting where they will be duly returned to the Hitchcock Center, or you can hold onto any due or overdue books for another month. The library is still available at the Hitchcock Center whenever it is open.

That's all for this month.

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

Devin C. Griffiths, Editor

323-8417

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



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
Volume 35, No. 8  
**April 2019**

Chipping and Fox Sparrows are returning; Tree Sparrow, Junco, and White-throated Sparrow numbers have dwindled. The large, heavy bodies of Turkey Vultures increasingly dot the sky, along with their more delicate Black Vulture cousins. Pine and Palm Warblers—the vanguard of the Great Feathered Invasion—have made their first appearances, while waterfowl are giving the season’s final hurrah. And Grackles and Blackbirds are everywhere. It’s official: spring is here—and it’s all I can do to stop myself from donning my best Colonial garb, jumping on a horse, and racing through the Valley screaming “The migrants are coming! The migrants are coming.”

So in light of that, consider yourselves warned. They’re on their way, and they could show up anywhere. Like those renowned Minutemen of Bay State history, we must be prepared to greet the invasion on a moment’s notice, ready with all manner of guidebooks and gear and optical gadgetry. We may not all survive, my brothers and sisters, but we will bird nobly and with honor, and those who are able will carry the fallen away on a stack of Sibley guides, listening to them as they feebly protest: “Just one more warbler.”

When the call comes, will you answer?

**NEXT PROGRAM**  
**Monday, April 8 at 7:15 p.m.**  
**Sam Fried presents**  
**Birding Honduras**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

At the crossroads of the Americas, Honduras offers an amazing array of habitats, including Caribbean coastline, mangrove swamps, lowland dry forests, and mountainous cloud forest. As a result, the variety of bird species is astonishing. On this tour, we visit the mountains of western Honduras near the capital city of Tegucigalpa, the ancient Maya city of Copan, the central Blue Mountains, and world famous Pico Bonito Lodge along the Caribbean in the east. The birding is extraordinary and the scenery is no less spectacular.

Sam Fried is a photographer, writer, and birding tour guide with over 1000 photographs and 56 feature articles published in field guides, books, newspapers, and magazines worldwide—including National Audubon, National Geographic, Birder’s World, Bird Watcher’s Digest, Birding, and Living Bird Quarterly, as well as various golf magazines. Sam wrote several chapters of the Insight Guides book on birding in North America, published by The Discovery Channel; has given approximately 500 photo presentations to a wide variety of organizations; is a regular speaker and field trip leader at The Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival; and is founder of Flights of Fancy Adventures, LLC, a birding, photography, and natural history travel company offering small group, low cost, high quality birding trips. He’s also a past President of Hartford Audubon Society. When not involved in all things birds, he’s been known to eat and sleep. Occasionally. Please join us for what will be a wonderful journey!



## COMING PROGRAMS

**May 13, 2019. John Van de Graaff.** Spirits of Spring: Warblers and More.

**June 10, 2019. Tom Ricardi.** Raptor Rehabilitation. Our local raptor rehab expert brings his knowledge, his experiences, and his raptors!

## HBC 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forming of the Hampshire Bird Club. To celebrate this milestone, the club will be hosting a catered buffet dinner at the Northampton Country Club for members and their guests. We will commemorate our club's history, honor our wonderful members and volunteers, and toast to the future of the club. There will be a small donation requested for each adult and half for children.

The celebration will take place on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM for ticketed attendees, and then the venue will be open to all for our final club meeting of the program year at 7:15—which features Raptor Rehabilitator Tom Ricardi, who will give a presentation with live birds of prey.

You will be contacted by email in the near future with more details about the event and to obtain tickets.

Stephen Baker, for the Board

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Hampshire Bird Club has been asked by MAS Arcadia to display photographs of birds taken by club members. The exhibit will be in the Arcadia Visitor Center for the month of May. If interested please submit an 8"x10" framed photograph by April 24, 2019. Photographs can be dropped off at Arcadia by that date. Also, Jim is willing to collect them at a meeting or make arrangements to get them from the member.

If you would like to submit a photograph, please contact Jim Lafley at [jimlafley@gmail.com](mailto:jimlafley@gmail.com) or 413-221-1941.

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## MASS AUDUBON WANTS YOU!

That's right, intrepid birder: You can be a force for good! The 2019 Mass Audubon Bird-a-thon runs from 6:00 PM on Friday, May 10 to 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 11. MAS Arcadia will be using the money raised this year for protection of natural habitats—from grasslands to wetlands to forests—at the various Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries. The protection effort benefits the birds, supports great places to birdwatch, and helps address climate change. It's 24 hours of birding for a worthy cause.

You can volunteer to be part of this process, not only financially but also in the field. The Arcadia birding teams plan to find all the species they can in Hampshire County and retain first place in the statewide County contest. To learn more about Bird-a-thon or make a secure on-line donation, please visit the MAS website at <http://web.massaudubon.org/goto/ArcadiaBAT>. You can join a team or create your own team by contacting Jim Lafley at [jimlafley@gmail.com](mailto:jimlafley@gmail.com) or Patti Steinman at [psteinman@massaudubon.org](mailto:psteinman@massaudubon.org). I will be at the April Hampshire Bird Club meeting if you would like to learn more about the local event.

If you would like to donate by check instead of through the website, please write the check to Mass Audubon with a memo, "Arcadia Bird-a-thon 2019" and mail to:

Jonah Keane  
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary  
127 Combs Road  
Easthampton, MA 01027.

Thank you, Jim Lafley

## HBC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee nearly has a full slate of officers to present to the April meeting, thanks to several club members who have volunteered to join the board. We don't have a president yet—the president must be someone who has served on the board—but we're working on it.

If you think you may be interested in joining the board for a future year, please get in touch. It's a good way to get to know fellow club members, you'll have the opportunity to have dinner with monthly speakers—and, with eleven members, it's a pleasant job.

The slate so far is:

President: TBD

Vice President and Program Director: Josh Rose

Treasurer: Stephen Baker

Membership Secretary: Lissa Ganter

Communications Secretary: Elaine Reilly

Members-at-large: Carol Mardeusz, Devin Griffiths, Helen Symons, Sharon Dombeck, Bruce Hart, Janet Howard

See you in April,

Your nominating committee: Scott Turner, Jan Ortiz, Jan Howard

That's all for this month.

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

Devin C. Griffiths, Editor

323-8417

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



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
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Volume 35, No. 9  
**June 2019**

Many of you may be wondering what happened to May's newsletter. Perhaps you thought that an encounter with some feathered wonder had so consumed me that I simply ran out of time, or that, like King Pellinore's Questing Beast, some creature had led me on a chase deep into the woods, and I've only now emerged. Or maybe you attributed the oversight to something more sinister, some dark force at work. All plausible scenarios, to be sure, and in the face of my absence, I can hardly take you to task for entertaining such notions.

Fear not, gentle readers. I am quite well—though in the spirit of candor, I must confess to being led into the thickets on more than one occasion of late. No, the reason is far simpler: I was caught off-guard by an incredible opportunity, and after 17 years of calling western Mass home, I'm departing the Bay State for the birding Mecca that is Cape May. I've taken over the position of Marketing and Communications Specialist at The Wetlands Institute, a non-profit research and conservation organization dedicated to protecting the wetlands and shoreline ecosystems of the Delaware Bay and mid-Atlantic coast. It is, for me, the perfect job; in my wildest imaginings, I could hardly have concocted better. But taking it on brings with it a heavy cost: leaving a place I've called home for nearly two decades, and many people who I sincerely love.

Every adventure begins with an ending, closing one chapter and opening another. Cape May worked its magic on our family years ago; I saw my first Northern Wheatear at the state park at the tender age of eight, and a family trip in 2009 firmly set nine-year-old Aidan on his path to birding obsession (much to the eventual dismay of many reputable long-time birders). We've visited Cape May every year since, and it's become a special place for us—one that we've longed to make our home. That dream is now a reality, and we're thrilled.

But this moment is bittersweet, for the Pioneer Valley is another truly special place—one that also worked its magic on us, and that is very difficult to leave. And though I will step boldly, happily into this new adventure, part of me will always remain here among the wonderful birds of western Mass, and with all of you who've made birding—and living—here a pleasure, an honor, and a joy. Thank you for all your kindness, generosity, and support. I will truly miss you all.

And now the siren song of Cape May calls me, at last, home. Listen closely, and you'll hear it too.

Farewell, and good birding. Until we meet again...

**NEXT PROGRAM**  
**Monday, June 10 at 7:15 p.m.**  
**Tom Ricardi presents**  
**Raptor Rehabilitation... with live raptors!**  
 Northampton Country Club, 135 Main Street  
 Leeds, MA 01060

After more than 30 years as a Fish and Wildlife Game Warden, Tom Ricardi launched his western Massachusetts-based raptor rehabilitation facility where he cares for a wide variety of injured birds of prey. A licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Ricardi gives some of our region's most majestic birds a second chance, rehabbing and releasing those he can back into the wild. The birds he can't release become animal ambassadors, traveling with Tom throughout the region as he teaches people of all ages about them, what they need to survive, and why it's critical that we protect them and the habitats in which they live. Join us for what will be an exciting and educational event.

But before that, it's...

## **HBC 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forming of the Hampshire Bird Club. To celebrate this milestone, the club is hosting a catered buffet dinner at the Northampton Country Club for members and their guests. We will commemorate our club's history, honor our wonderful members and volunteers, and toast to the future of the club. There will be a small donation requested for each adult and half for children.

The celebration happens on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM for ticketed attendees, and then the venue will be open to all for our final club meeting of the program year at 7:15—featuring the above-mentioned raptor rehabilitator Tom Ricardi, who will give a presentation with live birds of prey.

We look forward to seeing you!

## **FIELD TRIP NEWS**

**Monday-Tuesday, September 16-17, 2019.** Join Carol Mardeusz on a field trip to the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York for an overnight adventure. Highlights include a tour of the Visitors Center, birding Sapsucker Woods, and a visit to the University's Museum of Vertebrates. You must be a member of Hampshire Bird Club and have signed the Field Trip waiver for the 2019-2020 dues year in order to participate. Contact her after July 1 via email ([camardeusz@yahoo.com](mailto:camardeusz@yahoo.com) and note "Cornell" in the subject line) if you are interested in going and for further information. A minimum of four people will make this trip a go, but with a maximum of twelve participants.

Please watch the HBC Website for field trips news until we have a new Editor.



## **LEADERS NEEDED NOW FOR THE FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE! (An Appeal from Carol)**

If you are willing to lead a field trip between August 2019 and December 2019, please email Field Trips Coordinator Carol Mardeusz ([fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org)) with the date, time, destination, types of birds you are hoping to find, and the maximum number of participants if there is a maximum. Also, please rank it as an easy, moderate, or strenuous day of birding. Finally, please also include your phone number and/or email if you would like members to notify you of their desire to attend.

Alternatively, email me your phone number and we can discuss planning over the phone.

If you would like to join the committee to help organize field trips, please email me at the address above indicating your interest and I will get back to you on a date, time and place to meet to plan for the upcoming field trips. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

## **CALLS FOR HELP**

### **Newsletter Editor**

With the rather unexpected departure of our current newsletter editor, the Hampshire Bird Club is looking for a replacement. If you're interested in taking on this role, please email the board at [board@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:board@hampshirebirdclub.org) and let us know. There's plenty of support available for compiling and mailing, and you get a forum for airing your thoughts, philosophies, or general ramblings, so give it a shot!

### **AV and Meeting Setup**

Are you a birder and a techie? After many years of providing AV and practical operations for HBC meetings, the retirement of Jaap Van Heerden has left us in need of a Coordinator (or Co-Coordinators) to carry on this important function. Our speakers need good technical support, and we all enjoy arriving to a welcoming array of places to sit!

What's needed:

- Coordinator(s) with technology skills to oversee the setup of our excellent audio-visual equipment, and with the computer knowledge to assist speakers in hooking up to our system.
- A pool of non-technical volunteers who will come early to set up chairs and clean up after the meeting. The post-meeting pickup goes very quickly because our HBC membership is wonderfully helpful. Several current volunteers, including the refreshments committee, will continue to help but we need more people.

These operations begin shortly after 4:00 p.m. on meeting day, with everything ready to go by 5:30 (if the speaker is coming for dinner beforehand; if not, set up can begin later, ready to go by 6:30). With 3-4 people, setting up the chairs takes about ½ hour. Full details about the AV setup and the other practical operations are available. With enough volunteers in the pool, not everyone will need to respond at every meeting. If you're interested and able, please email the HBC Board at [board@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:board@hampshirebirdclub.org). We hope to hear from you!

## Summer Storage for AV Equipment

As the 2018-2019 HBC season draws to a close, we're in need of a safe and dry place to store our club's A/V equipment. If you've got some space and would like to help out, get in touch with the board at [board@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:board@hampshirebirdclub.org). Thanks!

## BOARD of DIRECTORS, 2018-2019

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Hampshire Bird Club Incorporated** was held on **Monday, May 13, 2019** at the **Immanuel Lutheran Church** in Amherst, MA.

The following were elected at that meeting:

**President:** Bob Zimmerman

**Vice President and Program Director:** Josh Rose

**Treasurer:** Stephen Baker

**Membership Secretary:** Lissa Ganter

**Communications Secretary:** Elaine Reilly

**Members-at-large:** Carol Mardeusz, Devin Griffiths, Helen Symons, Sharon Dombeck, Bruce Hart, Janet Howard

However, after the May meeting, Devin Griffiths's (again) sudden departure leaves one (1) Member-At-Large position vacant. Thus, the current composition of the board is as follows:

**President:** Bob Zimmerman

**Vice President and Program Director:** Josh Rose

**Treasurer:** Stephen Baker

**Membership Secretary:** Lissa Ganter

**Communications Secretary:** Elaine Reilly

**Members-at-large:** Carol Mardeusz, Helen Symons, Sharon Dombeck, Bruce Hart, Janet Howard, (Member-at-Large vacancy).

That's all for this season.

Thanks again for a great run.

Signing off and wishing you all well.

Good birding!

Devin C. Griffiths, Editor  
323-8417  
[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
Volume 36, No. 1  
**September 2019**

Dear reader, I find myself writing this brief editorial on a gloomy, humid day in late August. The Ruby Throats have been chattering outside, chasing each other in preparation, no doubt, to take off on their long journey south in another few weeks. Another end, and beginning, to the cycle of life that has been unfolding long before me and will continue long after. At least that's the hope. I saw in today's newspaper that last year ABC World News Tonight had more coverage of the first week of Prince Archie Mountbatten-Windsor's life than it had in covering the looming climate catastrophe in all of 2018. We need to do better than that. And to that end, numerous newspapers, magazines, radio and TV news programs, and blogs around the country and the world will have a week of climate coverage in a collective effort called Covering Climate Now. So pick up the newspaper, listen to NPR, tune in to CBS News, or read The Nation during the week of September 16-23 to join the 100 million+ consumers of this important reporting. And then let our politicians know that things need to change now!

In case you hadn't noticed, the group of volunteers that cheekily calls itself the HBC Board has undergone substantial change since last club year. There are several new officers who were identified in the June, 2019 newsletter. That you can find at the club's website ([hampshirebirdclub.org/newsletter/](http://hampshirebirdclub.org/newsletter/)). Please let one of the board members know if you are interested in helping out with club activities. And don't forget to have some fun searching for our avian buddies while you are doing all this other stuff.

**Desperately seeking Jaap 2.0!**

As you may know, our dedicated AV specialist Jaap Van Heerden has hung up his audio cables and no longer is available to set up the HBC sound system prior to our meetings. The HBC Board is in great need of assistance from someone with some AV experience (or someone who is willing to learn) to take over for Jaap. The job entails pre-meeting set up (usually around 4:30 PM on the day of the meeting), help at the start of the meeting, and post-meeting break down of the equipment. If you are willing and able to help the HBC, please contact the HBC Board at [board@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:board@hampshirebirdclub.org).

**Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW.**

- ☐ Your **membership status** is shown on the cover page. Check to see if you owe dues this year.
- ☐ Complete the **Membership Form (both sides)**: your contact details, dues level (if owed), Newsletter delivery preference, participation interests, Field Trip Agreement, and Rare Bird Alert sign up (latter optional). Don't forget the Field Trip Agreement and Rare Bird Alert (optional) on the reverse side.
- ☐ **Mail Form** with check enclosed for dues and/or donation (if applicable) to the address on the Membership Form,
- ☐ **Online Renewal** is an option should you owe dues this year. Go to the secure HBC website, <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/shop/>, select your dues level, and proceed to checkout where you will complete the Membership Form and make payment.

**Our first program for this year, featuring DAVID SIBLEY, is on MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 9 (details p. 2)  
The Fall Field Trip Schedule is enclosed, too!**

**NEXT PROGRAM**  
**Monday, September 9 at 7:15 p.m.**  
**David Sibley tells us about**  
**Birds Being Birds**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

We watch birds because of their intrinsic appeal, but the hobby of birding tends to be superficial. We identify birds and admire their appearance and sounds. In this talk, author and artist David Sibley goes beyond identification to focus on the incredible adaptations that help birds survive each day. Their abilities border on magical. Birds can balance on an unsteady twig even while they sleep. They can fly over the Himalayas. They “see” the earth’s magnetic field. In some ways their experiences are beyond our comprehension, but there is also a lot that we share. Even a small glimpse of the world from a bird’s perspective can help us go beyond appreciation and towards an understanding of its life.

Among birders [David Sibley](#) needs little introduction. The son of an academic ornithologist, he has been studying, drawing, and painting birds since his age was in single digits. He wrote and illustrated the Sibley Guide to Birds, considered by many the premier field guide to the birds of the US and Canada. He has authored or contributed to many other books including Sibley’s Birding Basics and The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior. He delivered the talk “Birds Being Birds” this past May at The Biggest Week in American Birding to a sold-out crowd.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**October 21, 2019. Laura Erickson.** Winter Survival.

**November.** TBA.

**December 9, 2019. HBC Members’ Meeting.** Celebrate the Christmas Bird count with photos of the birds we’ve found both far and wide and right here at home.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Update**

HBC’s Conservation Committee has been on hiatus for the summer, waiting for this moment to resurrect new interest and enthusiasm from new members. The committee formed last Fall after the new By-law changed our mission statement to include the goal of conserving birds and bird habitat in addition to the enjoyment of birding. The two are linked of course.

During this short time, the committee sent a letter supporting the efforts of Fort River’s Save Our Swallows (SOS) that was shared with our state politicians as well as the Association of Massachusetts Bird Clubs (18 state-wide, meeting 3 times a year) who in turn also endorsed SOS’s efforts to save the stables for the swallows, sending the committee’s letter to their club members and those in positions of decision-making.

The committee also passed a mission statement to work for the benefit of Hampshire County’s grassland birds. The intention is to continue this effort both with advocacy and hands-on projects. Contact was made with Amherst’s Conservation Commission and Audubon’s Arcadia to explore working collaboratively with them and other local like-minded groups. Hopefully this effort will now go forward. The wet spring did put a damper on some of the committee’s hands-on projects.

If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Sharon Dombeck, the current committee facilitator at [sdombeck@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:sdombeck@hampshirebirdclub.org). A sign-up sheet will also be available at the program meeting on Sept. 9. Feel free to ask questions.

## 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](mailto:education@hampshirebirdclub.org).

Sally Venman was the first HBC newsletter editor and a co-founder of the club. She had a sharp sense of humor and was a great birder. This short, one-act play is a remembrance of Sally, based on an actual conversation in the field on an HBC trip to Cape May about two decades ago. (At least how I remember the conversation.)

*A group with the trip co-leaders Scott and Tom is staring at the ground on a path at the edge of a field. Sally walks up to the group.*

**Sally:** What are you looking at?

**Tom:** A hawk-kill.

*There are a few feathers and a bit of gore on the ground. The group peers intently at the mess.*

**Scott:** We're trying to figure out what the bird is.

*Tom pokes at the remains.*

**Tom:** I think it's a Flicker.

*The group peers in closely and nods in approval.*

**Sally:** Yes, but what was the species of hawk?

*Curtain down.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Hitchcock Center for the Environment

#### Hawk Watch

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### Skinner State Park

Join Dave King, U.S. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, and Dan Ziomek, host of the long-running show "Bird Songs" on 93.9 The River, for this year's Hawk Watch on the summit of Mount Holyoke. Dave and Dan will provide an introduction to the hawks and other raptors that we see in our region and how to identify them. They will also discuss the ecology of hawks from nesting to migration, as well as about conservation efforts that aim to support hawks and other bird species, including the American kestrel. Heavy rain cancels. This event is co-hosted by Kestrel Land Trust.

#### Second Annual Pollinator Celebration Day

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

#### Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Events and activities for the whole family will include a pollinator scavenger hunt and a monarch migration obstacle course. Jennifer Unkles' monarch butterfly citizen science program will teach you to tag monarchs, keep track of them and contribute to a growing body of data that helps us understand monarch migration.

#### Monarch Tagging

Thursday, September 19, 4:00 - 6:00 pm and Friday, September 20, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

#### Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Help with this ongoing citizen science project and get up close and personal with Monarch butterflies. The last 2 years have been good for Monarchs! Fun for all ages. with Jennifer Unkles, Monarch tagger since 1997. May go offsite on Sunday.

#### Fall Birding Class

September 25—6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Join Scott Sumner in all his favorite fall birding spots. This course will consist of 4 Wednesday evening classes and 10 field trips to exciting spots locally and throughout New England. The four evening classes will be held on Wednesday evenings at the Hitchcock Center, starting at 6:30 pm and generally end around 8pm. Dates: September 25, October 16, October 30, and November 13. Field trips will be held on Saturdays, times vary, September 28-November 24.

#### Broad Brook Coalition

##### Insect Tracks and Signs

Charley Eiseman

Saturday, Sept. 21 (rain date Sun. 9/22), 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, North Farms Road entrance.

Insects are extremely specialized in their habits, and because of this it is often possible to learn which ones are around us just by noticing the characteristic patterns and objects they create as they go about their lives. Participants will search for signs such as egg cases, cocoons, webs, burrows, droppings, galls, leaf mines, and the various ways insects nibble, fold, roll, and tie leaves. Learning about insects through studying these signs will give participants a new appreciation for their complexity, diversity, and interrelationships with other living things.

Charley is a freelance naturalist based in western Massachusetts and conducts plant and wildlife surveys throughout New England. He is the lead author of the field guide *Tracks & Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates* and writes an insect themed blog, “BugTracks.”

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

### Hilltown Rambles. May 25 with Bob Zimmermann and Dave Gross

Bob and Dave went with seven other birders to several locations around the Hilltowns. Though the morning was cool, the day quickly warmed to shirtsleeve weather. At the first stop at Graves Farm in Williamsburg we saw 42 avian species including 9 of warblers. A **Scarlet Tanager** was particularly difficult to see (think warbler neck times ten), and a very vocal **Winter Wren** sang to us while we were watching Barn and Tree Swallows flycatching in a nearby field. Other stops on the trip included one in Worthington on Radiker Road where we didn't see the resident Sandhill Cranes, but where we did see a nice group of Common Mergansers. Later at the Cummington marsh we saw a Sharp-shinned and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** along with Swamp and, surprisingly, **Chipping Sparrows**. Near the Cummington Fairground we heard and saw an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**. After a lunch/coffee break at the Cummington Creamery, we toodled up Spruce Corner Road for Alder Flycatcher and then headed on out to the Moran Wildlife Refuge in Windsor, but by then the birds had settled in for their afternoon siesta. For the day we saw or heard 69 species and had a lovely time rambling through the Hilltowns.

Dave Gross

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

Dave Gross, Editor

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



## Field Trips September 2019—December 2019

Please contact leaders if a phone number or email is listed at least two days in advance of the trip if possible to register and if you have any questions. Activity level is indicated as E/easy, M/moderate, S/strenuous. It's always wise to bring snacks and dress appropriately. If you want to keep a list of birds seen during the field trips, Mass Audubon has checklists for each of their sanctuaries and these can also be used as trip lists (<https://massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/birds-birding/bird-checklists>). Finally, at all times, whether on a trip with or without a leader, please follow the American Birding Association guidelines dictating ethical birding behavior (<https://hampshirebirdclub.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>) and those on our website regarding field trips (<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/>). Thank you. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator

**Monday/Tuesday, September 16-17, Cornell Lab of Ornithology.** Trip postponed to Spring 2020.

**Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 a.m., Sparrows in Hadley and Environs.** Join Scott Sumner ([ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com)) as he looks for sparrows in and around Hadley, Amherst, and Northampton. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

**Saturday Morning, October 19, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), Jim Lafley and Janice Jorgensen in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley to look for late Fall migrants. (E/M)

**Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 a.m., Leader's Choice.** Join Scott Sumner ([ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com)) as he looks for Fall migrants. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

**Wednesday, October 23, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), Jim Lafley and Janice Jorgensen in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley to look for late Fall migrants. (E/M)

**Sunday All Day, October 27, 7:15 a.m., Turners Falls Halloween Birding Trip.** Join Josh Rose as he leads his annual trip to Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and other birding spots in the area of Northfield to Turners Falls in his annual trek through the northern Connecticut River Valley. Meet at the parking area for the Power Canal on Migratory Way in Turners Falls. Please email Josh ([jrose@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:jrose@hampshirebirdclub.org)) to register. (E/M)

**Saturday, November 2, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), Laura Beltran, Jim Lafley and Janice Jorgensen in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley to look for late Fall migrants. (E/M)

**Sunday, November 3, 6:30 a.m., DONUT RUN TO THE BERKSHIRE LAKES.** We will hit most of the lakes in Berkshire County. Leave Stop and Shop in NORTHAMPTON (228 King Street) at 6:30 a.m. We will try to be back about 4:15 p.m. LEADER Tom Gagnon 413-584-6353. Registration required. (E)

**Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 a.m., Leader's Choice.** Join Scott Sumner ([ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com)) as he looks for Fall migrants. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

**Sunday, December 15, MANO Northampton Christmas Count.** Contact Janice Jorgensen ([cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org)) if you would like to participate in this yearly event. Contribute to science and enjoy the company of fellow birders. (E/M)

*As of August 2 through the end of October there will not be public access for birders or photographers to That's A Plenty Farm in Hadley as they are conducting a bumble bee study at the location in conjunction with UMass. Please honor the request to avoid the site so that we as a group do not negatively impact the study or jeopardize access to this great spot in the future.*

Date Received	Payment: ___cash ___check ___online	Trip Release?	Newsletter Del.	Date Entered
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## HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2019-2020

Use this form to join, renew, or update. The club membership year is October 1 – September 30.

If you wish to pay by credit card, you may join or renew online at our secure site, <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/shop/>

For questions, please contact: [membership@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:membership@hampshirebirdclub.org)

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

<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER:</b> How do you want to receive your issues?
Name(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> By email link to download from HBC website.
Address		<input type="checkbox"/> By U.S. postal mail.
City, State, Zip:		<b>PLEASE CHECK ANY ACTIVITIES OR WAYS IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE (THANK YOU!)</b>
Home Phone: Cell/Other:		<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally provide refreshments
Email(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Field Trips
<b>May we publish your contact information</b> in the fall club directory sent to other members?		<input type="checkbox"/> Share information on birding locations/networks
<b>May we contact you via email</b> with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips, etc.?		<input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a committee: <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments committee <input type="checkbox"/> Education committee <input type="checkbox"/> Field trips committee <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting room (chairs) set up committee
		<input type="checkbox"/> Share your skills (Financial or database management; AV, computer or web technology; editorial; graphics; ornithology; environmental education; consider serving on the HBC Board) Other? Please specify:

Please choose a level of membership below. All membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

<b>MEMBERSHIP – REGULAR</b>	
Student @ \$ 5.00	\$
Individual @ \$ 18.00	\$
Family @ \$ 30.00	\$
<b>MEMBERSHIP – SUPPORTING</b>	
Downy Woodpecker @ \$ 40.00	\$
Northern Flicker @ \$ 60.00	\$
Red-Bellied Woodpecker @ \$ 100.00	\$
Pileated Woodpecker @ \$ 250 or more	\$
<b>OUTREACH ACTIVITY (Optional)</b>	
Donate to Education Activity (Optional)	\$

Please make checks payable to the **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.** Bring to the next meeting, or mail to:  
Hampshire Bird Club, P.O. Box 716, Amherst MA 01004-0716

On reverse side: **Field Trip Release (required for away trips); and Rare Bird Alert sign-up (optional)** →

# FIELD TRIP RELEASE AGREEMENT

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: ....., ....., .....  
(day, month, year)

All participating family members, please sign and print name:

1) *Signature* ..... *print name* .....

2) *Signature* ..... *print name* .....

3) *Signature* ..... *print name* .....

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## RARE BIRD ALERT SIGN UP: Optional

The Rare Bird Alert is an optional email-only alert system for members that informs you when and where rare birds are sighted in the valley, or, in some cases, the broader region. To automatically receive all RBA announcements, participants must provide at least one (1) active email address. And please also let us know if your email changes! Thank you.

To join here:

I would like to receive RBA alerts ☐. Email address/es (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_

To join online:

Provide your name/s and email address/es to [membership@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:membership@hampshirebirdclub.org)



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

## Amherst, Massachusetts

[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)  
Volume 36, No. 2  
**October 2019**

Dear reader, mid-September brought reports of massive avian mortality to the mainstream media. Reports told of the loss of nearly 3 billion birds from North America since 1970. These reports were triggered by the publication in the journal *Science*, a highly respected, high-profile, peer-reviewed scientific periodical, of a relatively short but data-rich paper (“Decline of North American Avifauna”, Rosenberg et al., *Science* [2019] **366**, 120-124). I spent some time reading this paper. There are some important points that I want to share.

The first point is that the authors are very clear to point out that the data are collected for birds present during breeding season, not throughout the whole year. The authors say about this that “*our population loss estimates are conservative since we estimated loss only in breeding populations. The total loss and impact on communities and ecosystems could be even higher outside the breeding season if we consider the amplifying effect of “missing” reproductive output from these lost breeders.*” This worrisome comment is reminiscent of those about Arctic ice loss in which decreasing ice mass there enhances further ice loss.

A second point is that not all North American bird species are in decline. The data point to large increases in raptor populations, which are up nearly twofold over the past 50 years. Also up are populations of waterfowl, turkeys and grouse,

gnatcatchers and vireos. These increases are totally swamped by the large net declines in native sparrows (accounting for over one quarter of the total losses), wood-warblers and blackbirds. These three groups comprise over half of the birds that have disappeared.

As discussed by Brian McGill of the University of Maine in his blog (see the end of this article for web address) discussing his analysis of this paper, these seeming horrific losses that have produced apocalyptic reports in the press are perhaps not as bad as they seem. The very large numbers of individual birds lost come from the species that have the greatest populations. McGill notes that these species are not close to extirpation, though to be sure their numbers bear watching. He also emphasizes that the most worrisome species, the ones with small numbers of individuals, were not included in the data simply because their small numbers made for unreliable statistical analysis.

The fractional losses across all species in the US is highest in the New England region where those losses are near 5% per year between 2007 and 2017 at a number of locations. The fractional losses through the Mississippi River flyway in the US are not quite so high, but the much higher bird density there accounts for the geographic peak in Iowa of loss of birds per square kilometer. Neither the Central or Pacific flyways showed a consistent change in bird numbers.

(continued on page 2)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have renewed your membership this year, THANK YOU. If, however, there is a membership form included with this newsletter, we need your renewal as soon as possible. Just send it in via the post office or bring it along to the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Membership funds allow the club to bring powerful programs and great trips to the valley.

## NEXT PROGRAM

### Monday, October 21 at 7:15 p.m.

### Laura Erickson tells us about Winter Survival

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

Laura lives in northern Minnesota, where winter night temperatures frequently drop to below zero, occasionally reach 20 or 30 below, and once even dropped to 60 below. What adaptations do northern birds have that allow them to survive and even thrive in those harsh conditions? And how are milder winters already hurting such species as Gray Jays and Great Gray Owls? Laura will address these and other aspects of birds' strategies that help them survive through the long winter that is coming. Note that this program is on the third Monday of the month.

[Laura Erickson](#) is one of the American birding community's most prolific writers and speakers. She has authored and co-authored a number of books including *101 Ways to Help Birds*, *The Bird Watching Answer Book*, *Sharing the Wonder of Birds with Kids*, *Birds of North America: the National Geographic Pocket Guide*, *Identifying Birds of Prey*, and several others. She is an editor and columnist for *Bird Watching* magazine as well as the science editor for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Laura hosts the long-running radio program "For the Birds", and has won the National Outdoor Book Award and the American Birding Association's Roger Tory Peterson Award.

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(Avifauna decline, from page 1)

The bird count data were collected by observer reports and by NEXRAD biomass passage, the latter accounting for the date range start in 1970. The statistical analysis of these data finds that, to a 95% confidence level, between 2.7 and 3.1 billion breeding birds have disappeared since 1970, which is a loss of between 27 and 30% of the population. These numbers are startling, and are consistent with anecdotal evidence that our local birders have noted – there just aren't as many birds around as there used to be.

An interesting aspect of the data is that non-native species like Old World sparrows and Starlings have the highest levels of decline, 75% and 50% respectively, since 1970. Though that might not be bad news for North America, the authors note that these losses mirror population declines of these groups in their native habitats. Though the thrust of the article is to report on avian population changes since 1970, the authors suggest that the reason behind these massive losses is due to

human activity. They reference other research that points to habitat losses, urbanization, and the agricultural use of toxic pesticides as likely causes. They close the article with a note of hope and a dark prediction: "*History shows that conservation action and legislation works. Our results signal an urgent need to address the ongoing threats of habitat loss, agricultural intensification, coastal disturbance, and direct anthropogenic mortality, all exacerbated by climate change, to avert continued biodiversity loss and potential collapse of the continental avifauna.*"

Should you be inclined to read more, Laurie Larson has posted on the American Birding Association website a link to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's preprint of the paper plus links to several analyses of the paper's data, including the one by Brian McGill quoted above :

<http://birding.aba.org/message.php?mesid=1596352&MLID=BC&MLNM=BirdChat>.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**November 11, 2019. Heidi Stemple.** Kids, Birding, and the Christmas Bird Count.

**December 9, 2019. HBC Members' Meeting.** Celebrate the season with photos of the birds we've found both far and wide and right here at home. (And plan for the CBC.) (And eat cookies.)

**January 13, 2020. Brian Rusnica.** Mount Watatic Hawkwatching.

**February 10, 2020. Susannah Lehrman.** Topic to be announced.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, October 19, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), Jim Lafley and Janice Jorgensen in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley to look for late Fall migrants. Easy/Medium effort (E/M)

**Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 a.m., Leader's Choice.** Join Scott Sumner ([ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com)) as he looks for Fall migrants. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

**Wednesday, October 23, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), Jim Lafley and Janice Jorgensen in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley to look for late Fall migrants. (E/M)

**Sunday All Day, October 27, 7:15 a.m., Turners Falls Halloween Birding Trip.** Join Josh Rose as he leads his annual trip to Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and other birding spots in the area of Northfield to Turners Falls in his annual trek through the northern Connecticut River Valley. Meet at the parking area for the Power Canal on Migratory Way in Turners Falls. Please email Josh ([jrose@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:jrose@hampshirebirdclub.org)) to register. (E/M)

**Saturday, November 2, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), Laura Beltran, Jim Lafley and Janice Jorgensen in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley to look for late Fall migrants. (E/M)

**Sunday, November 3, 6:30 a.m., Donut Run to the Berkshire Lakes.** We will hit most of the lakes in Berkshire County. Leave Stop and Shop in NORTHAMPTON (228 King Street) at 6:30 a.m. We will try to be back about 4:15 p.m. For information and to register contact trip leader Tom Gagnon 413-584-6353. Registration required. (E)

**Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 a.m., Leader's Choice.** Join Scott Sumner ([ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com)) as he looks for Fall migrants. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

**Saturday, November 16, 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Chris Ellison Memorial East Quabbin Reservoir Trip.** This late season trip will search for ducks, loons, and northern finches. LIMITED participation. Please sign up early. Dress for cold weather. You MUST be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club. Contact Craig Allen 413-467-3028 or [allenec2@juno.com](mailto:allenec2@juno.com) to sign up and learn the meeting place. (M)

*Through the end of October there will be no public access for birders or photographers to That's A Plenty Farm in Hadley as they are conducting a bumble bee study at the location in conjunction with UMass. Please honor the request to avoid the site so that we as a group do not negatively impact the study or jeopardize access to this great spot in the future.*



## FIELD TRIP REPORT

### Quabbin Resevation with Tom Gagnon and Craig Allen

Tom, Craig and six hardy HBC members traveled the wilds of the Quabbin reservation behind the gates on Saturday, October 5. It was a beautiful fall day, with clear blue skies all day long, if a bit cool (it was 31° F at the start of the trip, and, yes, there was frost on the pumpkins). Driving along route 202 toward our first stop, a moose cow crossed the road ahead of us and slipped off into the woods. Tom checked off one of his target species for the day. The early morning chill kept the birds down for a while, but the sun soon warmed things up and the birds came out. Two early stops on the trip were at the Quabbin reservoir shore. The warm water plus cold air produced waves of fog that glowed bright in the morning sunshine. Through the fog we found four Common Loons, one or two Double-Crested Cormorants and four Bald Eagles of the eight or more, both immature and mature, seen over the course of the day. While searching the water, the sharp-eyed Andrew Magee located a full-rack bull moose on a sand spit peninsula on the far side of the reservoir. It was quite a sight to see the moose silhouette shift from full side view to rear view through the misty fog as the moose walked about. The moose slowly disappeared through the fog and we moved on to look for land birds. Among the species we found was a **Grey-Cheeked Thrush** which was a season bird for many of us. At a nearby pond we found three immature **Red-Shouldered Hawks** moving from snag to snag along with a mature one not far away. At the Four Corners, a perfect V of 100 Canada Geese flew over heading south, where the group also located 7 species of butterflies, White-Throated and Chipping Sparrows, half a dozen Bluebirds and Yellow-Rumped Warblers. At one stop we were lucky enough to see at least three **Philadelphia Vireos** working their way through an alder loaded with seed cones, which I later learned are called strobiles. We saw a number of Blue-Headed and a couple of Red-Eyed Vireos during the day along with Palm, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat and Blackpoll Warblers and Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows. Near the end of the day we located one **Brown Creeper** creeping up the side of a white pine. Over the course of the day we saw or heard a total of 53 avian species, 3 mammal species (moose, deer and chipmunk) and some lovely blooming wildflowers including **Fringed Gentian**, Cardinal Flower, Nodding Ladies' Tresses, and both white and blue Asters.

Dave Gross

## CHRISTMAS COUNT

If you haven't already, mark your calendars now! The [Northampton Christmas Bird Count](#) is **Sunday, December 15**. It's a great day of birding followed by a wonderful feast among friends, with plenty of time to regale each other with the day's triumphs and share tales of the ones that got away. If you want to participate please contact [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org).

## ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS BIRD CLUBS

The Hampshire Bird Club is a member of the Association of Massachusetts Bird Clubs (AMBC), a group of 19 clubs state-wide. The AMBC's mission is to (1) promote club birding across Massachusetts, (2) encourage and facilitate communication among member clubs, (3) provide opportunities for exchanges of ideas and collaborative efforts that will help member clubs fulfill their respective missions, and (4) support conservation of birds and their habitats in Massachusetts.

The AMBC meets three times per year to exchange information and make plans. Any HBC club member is welcome to attend these meetings. Contact Sharon Dombeck [sdombeck@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:sdombeck@hampshirebirdclub.org) for more information.

## MEETING SET UP HELP NEEDED

Our thanks go out to the several members who have volunteered to help set up chairs, food and equipment prior to our monthly meetings. We would love to hear from a few more of you so that the set up tasks can be shared by teams and not necessarily the same people each time.

A few basic set up functions help to make our monthly programs so excellent and enjoyable, providing us with: welcoming chairs to *sit* on, an audio system that allows us to *hear* the speaker, projection ability for all the great photographs we get to *see*, and fine comestibles for us to *eat*. The set up itself does not require technical skills.

We are still in need of someone(s) with sufficient technical expertise to troubleshoot projector-computer interface issues prior to and during the presentation. In addition, we need someone who has space to store our audio and projection equipment between meetings.

If you are willing to help with meeting and/or equipment set up, please email Lissa Ganter at [membership@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:membership@hampshirebirdclub.org) or speak with any member of the HBC Board. Thank you!

## HBC LIBRARY

Did you know that the Hampshire Bird Club has a large collection of materials related to birding? Our collection consists of hundreds of books, videos, audio tapes, periodicals, DVDs and even vinyl LPs, all housed at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst and available for loan by members.

The entire library is accessible any time the Hitchcock Center is open ([Hitchcock Center hours](#)), and you can use our honor system to borrow. If, however, your busy schedule precludes browsing the shelves at Hitchcock, you can just email our librarian, Henry Lappen ([library@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:library@hampshirebirdclub.org)), who will bring a volume or two of your choice to the next HBC meeting for you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Hitchcock Center for the Environment

#### *Our Living Building Tour Program*

with Jessica Schultz

First Fridays at 4pm: October 4, November 1, December 6

Third Wednesdays at 12pm: November 20, December 18 (no tour in October)

FREE but please [register online](#)

Come meet our newest educator – our Certified Living Building! It is designed to model systems in nature, it is net zero energy, net zero water, has composting toilets, and has been made with responsibly sourced non-toxic materials, come check it out at one of our bi-monthly tours. Tours typically last from 1-1.5 hours.

#### *Explore an Old Growth Habitat*

with Bob Leverett

Sunday, November 3, 10am-1pm

\$30/person

[Registration required](#)

Join our Valley's old-growth forest expert, Bob Leverett, on a walk at the Mohawk Trail State Forest. Come learn what old-growth trees of a variety of species really look like and how their appearance depends partly on their habitat and growing conditions. We will stroll leisurely on graded roads and trails with our eyes trained to the heights as we explore the fascination of these trees. We will visit the Elder Grove to pay our respects to some of these ancient residents. Bob will explain how he measures the trees and update us on the tallest trees. Co-founder of the [Eastern Native Tree Society](#), Bob is brimming with fascinating information!

Meet at the Mohawk State Forest Headquarters building, just off Rt. 2 in Charlemont at 10:00 am. We will finish around 1:00 pm. Dress for weather and bring snacks and water.

*Landscape and Infrastructure: Re-imagining the Pastoral Paradigm Book Release*

with author Meg Vickery

Thursday, November 7, 7 – 8:30pm

Light refreshments served

FREE, [registration appreciated](#)

In her new book local author and lecturer of the History of Art and Architecture Meg Vickery traces the roots and uncovers the significance of the productive activities and elements of pastoral traditions in art and designed landscapes, clearly documenting the persistent and sometimes difficult relationship of aesthetics and production. With rising demand for clean energy, clean water, and locally-grown food, this study offers a historical perspective on how such systems can be integrated into our suburban and urban areas. Vestigial elements of the pastoral tradition have long held aesthetic sway in our suburbs, cities and national parks, both in Britain and America. Now, as new energy- and water-related projects encroach on these spaces, remnants of the pastoral play a crucial role in convincing neighborhood residents, municipal leaders, and energy companies or water authorities of the benefits of a neighboring infrastructure. This book investigates the history of that tradition and highlights the advantages it brings as we re-imagine infrastructure in the twenty-first century.

### Broad Brook Coalition

Annual Meeting

Florence Civic Center

November 3, 2019 at 5 p.m.

Speaker: Toni Lyn Morelli, Research Ecologist

Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Title: *Climate Change in Your Backyard*

Learn about the ways in which climate is changing in Western Massachusetts and the ecological consequences of those changes, including more pests and less maple syrup.

Dr. Toni Lyn Morelli works for the U.S. Geological Survey Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center and is Adjunct Assistant Professor at University of Massachusetts. She uses modeling, genetics, and field methods to understand and facilitate natural resource management and conservation efforts in the face of climate and land use change, especially in New England. Previously she did work on climate change adaptation and conservation in the Sierra Nevada, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Madagascar.

That's all for this month. **Please send us your membership renewal NOW if you haven't yet done so!**

Dave Gross, Editor

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



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
Volume 36, No. 3  
**November 2019**

Dear reader, I received an email from a friend a couple of weeks ago. He wrote to tell me about a wonderful gift from the National Audubon Society of which I was unaware. On the society's website one can download high-resolution scans of all of the 435 prints in the Havell edition of John James Audubon's *Birds of America*. Not only are the images available, but also are the descriptions written by Audubon about his illustrations. His text is florid in the style of a 19<sup>th</sup> century naturalist.

The image to the right is a small piece of Audubon's illustration of the Eastern Bluebird (or Blue-bird as he called it). I hope you can see the detail that is available, down to fine pen and brush strokes. About the Blue-bird Audubon writes "This lovely bird is found in all parts of our country, and is generally a permanent resident of the Southern States. It adds to the delight imparted by spring, and enlivens the dull days of winter. Full of innocent vivacity, warbling its ever pleasing notes, and familiar as any bird can be in its natural freedom, it is one of the most agreeable of our feathered favourites." He has much more to say and he even includes information about the Great Mullein that he includes in his illustration. You can see a bit of it just below the male's throat.



To access the digital version of *Birds of America*, visit <https://www.audubon.org/birds-of-america>. Enjoy!

**NEXT PROGRAM**  
**Monday, November 11 at 7:15 p.m.**  
**Heidi Stemple tells us about**  
**Counting Birds: Introducing Kids to the CBC**  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

Heidi Stemple is an author and the daughter of a birder—both of which are equally important. Early on, she was in the woods with her father David Stemple. She participated in the CBC with him and took over his owling territory after his death. She writes for children, often about nature and birds. Her new book *COUNTING BIRDS* follows the Audubon Christmas Bird Count from its first year through today. Join Heidi as she talks about writing about birds for kids, the importance of exploring nature with children, even ones who don't have a yard or a trusted adult to bring them out into it, and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. This talk is appropriate for adults and children. Books will be available for purchase.

Heidi lives and writes on a big old farm in Massachusetts that she shares with two cats who live inside, and a dozen deer, a family of bears, three coyotes, two bobcats, a gray fox, tons of birds, and some very fat groundhogs who live outside. Once a year she calls owls for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**December 9, 2019. HBC Members' Meeting.** Celebrate the season with photos of the birds we've found both far and wide and right here at home. Bring your photos to share with other club members who will be munching on cookies and other goodies.

**January 13, 2020. Brian Rusnica.** Mount Watatic Hawk Watching.

**February 10, 2020. Susannah Lehrman.** Topic to be announced.

**March 9, 2020. Joan Walsh.** Topic to be announced.

## NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Established in 1900, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the *longest running citizen science survey in North America*. The Northampton CBC count circle (MANO) has had participants counting birds for nearly nine decades and the HBC has been part of the count over its own 35 year history! In recent years approximately 200 volunteers have surveyed the MANO circle that is 15 miles in diameter centered in Hadley, to identify and count anything with feathers and a pulse. There are 36 separate areas within the Northampton count circle, each of which is covered by one or multiple teams of volunteers. All results are tallied by count compilers and submitted to the National Audubon Society. These data are incorporated into a comprehensive data base that supports very important research like the [State of the Birds](#) report and the National Audubon Society's [Birds and Climate Change](#) report.

The 2019 Northampton (MANO) Christmas Bird Count will take place on **December 15, 2019**. If you would like to participate in the count, please contact the MANO organizers Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz at [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org). You can join a team in the field or do a feeder count if the feeder is within the count circle. Anyone can participate.

The CBC is a fun day of birding. Every bird you hear and see counts. Our overall goal for the day is to count at least 89 species.

**We need a leader for Area 35!** Each area leader must be a very good birder, be organized to direct the team to cover all sections of the area, enjoy birding with companions, be willing to complete the required forms for the area, and be able to submit the forms during the compilation at the end of the day of the count. Area leaders help participants who are new to the CBC to participate in the count.

So what is next? Email [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.com](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.com) about your interest in joining the CBC or leading Area 35. We welcome all who are interested.

Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz

## CHRISTMAS COUNT POTLUCK

After the Northampton Christmas Count, please gather for a hearty and delicious potluck dinner, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. It's a fun time, fine food, and we get to hear the reports from all the teams. For the potluck, we need main courses, salads, desserts, and beverages. If you can contribute food or drink, please contact Lissa Ganter, [lissa.ganter@gmail.com](mailto:lissa.ganter@gmail.com), or 413-253-1337. We also need a few helpers for an hour or so the day before (Saturday) to help set up the tables. Hope to hear from you!



## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, November 2, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), Laura Beltran, Jim Lafley and Janice Jorgensen in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley to look for late Fall migrants. (E/M)

**Sunday, November 3, 6:30 a.m., Donut Run to the Berkshire Lakes.** We will hit most of the lakes in Berkshire County. Leave Stop and Shop in NORTHAMPTON (228 King Street) at 6:30 a.m. We will try to be back about 4:15 p.m. LEADER Tom Gagnon 413-584-6353. Registration required. (E)

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## FIELD TRIP REPORT

**Fort River Refuge with George Regmund, Jim Lafley, Janice Jorgensen, and Laura Beltran.**

On October 19, 18 participants joined the leaders on a trip through the Sylvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge at Fort River in Hadley. The temperature was in the 30's in the morning with fog in the air, but the fog cleared and the sun came out just as we started down the trail. Our group found 33 bird species including five Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, 22 White-Throated Sparrows and one Savannah Sparrow. The highlight was a nice, clear, open group view of a late migrant, a **Black-Throated Green Warbler**. The full species list for the trip can be found at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60753719>.

Stephanie Chapko

## HELP WITH HBC MEETINGS SETUP

We are grateful for the many members who, over the years, have volunteered to help get the room in shape before and after our monthly meetings! Our thanks to several new members, Tom, Ruth, and Ellie, who have come forward this year to help with chairs setup and the refreshment table. And thanks especially to Meghadeepa, another new member, who provides AV technical support. We are still seeking storage space between meetings for our AV equipment. If you can offer space, or if you would like to be part of the set up team, please contact Lissa Ganter, [liissa.ganter@gmail.com](mailto:liissa.ganter@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

*Our Living Building Tour Program*

with Jessica Schultz

Fridays at 4pm: November 1, December 6

Wednesdays at 12pm: November 20, December 18

FREE but please [register online](#)

Come meet our newest educator – our Certified Living Building! It is designed to model systems in nature, it is net zero energy, net zero water, has composting toilets, and has been made with responsibly sourced non-toxic materials, come check it out at one of our bi-monthly tours. Tours typically last from 1-1.5 hours.



*Landscape and Infrastructure: Re-imagining the Pastoral Paradigm Book Release*

with author Meg Vickery

Thursday, November 7, 7 – 8:30pm

Light refreshments served

FREE, [registration appreciated](#)

In her new book local author and lecturer of the History of Art and Architecture Meg Vickery traces the roots and uncovers the significance of the productive activities and elements of pastoral traditions in art and designed landscapes, clearly documenting the persistent and sometimes difficult relationship of aesthetics and production. With rising demand for clean energy, clean water, and locally-grown food, this study offers a historical perspective on how such systems can be integrated into our suburban and urban areas. Vestigial elements of the pastoral tradition have long held aesthetic sway in our suburbs, cities and national parks, both in Britain and America. Now, as new energy- and water-related projects encroach on these spaces, remnants of the pastoral play a crucial role in convincing neighborhood residents, municipal leaders, and energy companies or water authorities of the benefits of a neighboring infrastructure. This book investigates the history of that tradition and highlights the advantages it brings as we re-imagine infrastructure in the twenty-first century.

*November: The Subtle One — Slideshow and Nature Walk*

with John Green

Sunday, November 10, 1 – 3pm

Space is limited, \$8 suggested donation.

[Register at the HCE website](#)

Naturalist and photographer John Green loves November, sees beauty in the month of fallen leaves and temperatures. Come join him for his slideshow “November: The Subtle One” followed by a nature walk seeking the little marvels that still abound in the lessening light.

*New England Forests Film: Eastern White Pine – The Tree Rooted in American History*

Wednesday, December 4, 7 – 8:30pm,

Screening followed by panel with filmmakers Ray Asselin and Bob Leverett, [registration appreciated](#)

In colonial American times, stately eastern white pines were among the most valuable trees on the planet. They were an imposing presence in the primeval forests of eastern North America. This new documentary film tells the story of our native white pine, and the significant part it played in America’s founding and history, using archival footage, stunning photography, and aerial views. It also answers such questions as:

- Why *were* these pines so valuable?
- How were these pines important to the lives of the first settlers?
- What role did they play in the the American War of Independence, and founding of the US?
- What is the status of this great tree species today?
- How is it important to wildlife?
- Why is walking among white pines in the forest *good for you*?
- What is the tallest living thing in the northeastern United States?
- Is there any hope of seeing these trees as they once were, 400 years ago?

Find the answers to these questions and more in the newest film by the makers of The Lost Forests of New England, *Eastern White Pine ... the tree rooted in American history*. [Learn more](#) and [watch the trailer](#).

That’s all for this month. **Please send us your membership renewal NOW if you haven’t yet done so!**

Dave Gross, Editor

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



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
Volume 36, No. 4  
**December 2019**

Dear reader, with sincere apologies to Clement Moore or Henry Livingston, I give you “A Visit From St. Nicholas (revised)”:

‘Twas Christmas Count night, when along thro’  
the wood  
No creature was stirring, so long as we stood.  
Wool stockings on feet and muffler on ear,  
In hopes that an owl hoot soon would we hear.  
The day birds were nestled all snug in their beds  
While visions of sugar plums danc’d in our  
heads.  
The north wind it blew cold and started to howl  
And still we heard nothing, not even an owl.  
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.  
The wind knifed us harder and clouds could be  
seen,  
The day broke o’re us with a small sun, and  
mean.  
It’s time to move on our dear leader did say;  
Get into the car, now we must be away.  
Ahead on a long walk we marched through the  
field,  
We beat on the bushes and nought did they yield.  
No sparrow, no bluebird, no junco, no finch,  
We counted no eagles; it must be the Grinch.  
And then in the distance, with accent so thick  
We heard a voice echo, it must be St. Nick!  
“Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and  
Vixen,

“On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Donder and Blitzen;  
“To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
“Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!”  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of toys - and St. Nicholas  
too.  
We counted them one and we counted them all  
We marked in our checklist, Rare Bird was the  
call.  
No more did we find, try as hard as we might  
‘Fore long it got dim and our thoughts turned  
toward night,  
And compiling went we with a wink and a toast  
To upstage the hot shots who find birds the most.  
“How many birds found you?” we ever were  
asked;  
We shook our heads no, and we dropp’d back to  
last.  
So then came rare birds and off to the races:  
We had a good one, and smiles lit our faces.  
We were second to last; our sighting we said  
Was a first for the count, and put us ahead.  
The last group looked on, and with grin and with  
glee  
They said that they found, well, the Easter  
Bunny.

### **CHRISTMAS COUNT POTLUCK**

After the Northampton Christmas Count on December 15, please gather for a hearty and delicious potluck dinner, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. It’s a fun time, fine food, and we get to hear the reports from all the teams (including the rare birds). For the potluck we need **main courses, salads, desserts, and beverages**. If you can contribute food or drink, please contact Lissa Ganter, [lissa.ganter@gmail.com](mailto:lissa.ganter@gmail.com), or 413-253-1337. We also need a few helpers for an hour or so the day before (Saturday) to help set up the tables. Hope to hear from you!

## **NEXT PROGRAM**

### **Monday, December 9 at 7:15 p.m.**

### **Members' Meeting**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

This is the one you've been waiting for since last December. It's the HBC Members' Meeting where you get to show off your photographs and tell the story behind them. There will be goodies to eat, lots of fellowship, and planning for the December 15 Northampton Christmas Count. Please bring your pictures, up to about 10 in number, in standard digital format (JPG, TIFF, etc.) compatible with the club's Windows computer on a thumb drive. Pictures embedded in Powerpoint presentations are also fine.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**January 13, 2020. Brian Rusnica.** Mount Watatic Hawk Watching.

**February 10, 2020. Susannah Lehrman.** Topic to be announced.

**March 9, 2020. Joan Walsh.** Topic to be announced.

**April 13, 2020. Ashley Green.** MAPS Banding Stations

**May 11, 2020. Matt Kelly.** Trinidad & Tobago

**June 8, 2020. Chris Fisher.** Topic to be announced.

## **NEWS FROM THE HBC BOUTIQUE**

Hi from the HBC Boutique! Christmas and Hanukkah are just around the corner... The boutique is freshly stocked with new hats and has other HBC-themed goodies. What better stocking stuffer than an HBC hat in another color? See you at the meeting!

## **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Anyone interested in forming and participating in the HBC Conservation Committee please contact Sharon Dombeck at [sdombeck@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:sdombeck@hampshirebirdclub.org). Currently the committee's focus is on conserving and protecting habitat for grassland birds.

## **NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

In recent years approximately 200 volunteers have surveyed the Northampton (MANO) circle, which is 15 miles in diameter, centered in Hadley, to identify and count anything with feathers and a pulse. There are 36 separate areas within the MANO count circle, each of which is covered by one or multiple teams of volunteers. All results are tallied by count compilers and submitted to the National Audubon Society. These data are incorporated into a comprehensive data base that supports research like the [State of the Birds](#) report and the National Audubon Society's [Birds and Climate Change](#) report.

The 2019 Northampton (MANO) Christmas Bird Count will take place on **December 15, 2019**. If you would like to participate in the count, please contact the MANO organizers Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz at [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org). You can join a team in the field or do a feeder count if the feeder is within the count circle. Anyone can participate.

The CBC is a fun day of birding. Every bird you hear and see counts. Our overall goal for the day is to count at least 89 species. Come and join us.

Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz

## CBCs AROUND THE AREA

There are a number of counts happening in Western Massachusetts during the CBC count period. An interactive map of count circles with contact information and in some cases count date is at the National Audubon CBC [website](#). For more information on local counts, contact the compilers listed below.

**Saturday, December 14**, *Athol* (MAAT, Dave Small, [dave@dhsmall.net](mailto:dave@dhsmall.net)); *Central Berkshire* (MACB, Holly Higinbotham, [higinbo@hotmail.com](mailto:higinbo@hotmail.com)); *Springfield* (MASP, George Kingston, [gcking@yahoo.com](mailto:gcking@yahoo.com))

**Sunday, December 15**, *Northampton* (MANO, Jan Ortiz & Janice Jorgensen, [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org)); *Kid's CBC* at Hitchcock Center and Arcadia (see Events of Interest)

**Tuesday, December 17**, *Sturbridge* (MAST, Mark Lynch, [moa.lynch@charter.net](mailto:moa.lynch@charter.net))

**Saturday, December 21**, *Northern Berkshire* (MANB, Pam Weatherbee, [pambweath@gmail.com](mailto:pambweath@gmail.com))

**Saturday, December 28**, *Quabbin* (MAQB, Scott Turner, [ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com))

**Sunday, December 29**, *Greenfield* (MAGR, Mark Fairbrother, [bogelfin@crocker.com](mailto:bogelfin@crocker.com))

**Saturday, January 4**, *Westminster* (MAWE, Chuck Caron, [caronenv@aol.com](mailto:caronenv@aol.com))

**Dates not yet known:** *Cobble Mountain* (Westfield), (MACM, Seth Kellog, [skhawk@comcast.net](mailto:skhawk@comcast.net)); *Southern Berkshire* (MASB, Rene Wendell, [renewendell@hotmail.com](mailto:renewendell@hotmail.com))

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

**Turners Falls Halloween Birding Trip with Josh Rose.**

Heading into my October 27 Halloween trip, I had two concerns. First, the weather forecast was for rain all day and temperatures below 40. Second, I was expecting the largest turnout ever. In the end, Harvey Allen, Peter Gagarin, and I met up at the power canal in Turners Falls. The birds there were unremarkable, but at least it was not raining much... yet.

Our next stop was a little roadside marsh in Northfield. This place had an astounding number of sparrows, mostly Song, a few White-throats, a Chipping just as we arrived, a Field which appeared near the end, and several Swamp, one surprisingly approachable. The rain picked up and was chasing us back to the car when I saw a bird pop up, which turned out to be a **Palm Warbler**. As we pursued the warbler, we came across something even more noteworthy, a late **Blue-headed Vireo**.

A quick visit to Sawyer Ponds yielded a couple of dozen Wood Ducks before we continued to Hell's Kitchen. We failed to find a Pectoral Sandpiper, a species that this trip had observed three years in a row. However, we did find one each of **Solitary** and **Least Sandpiper**, both flagged as unusually late by eBird. The place was alive with Green-winged Teal, at least two dozen of them, and an even larger number of Wood Ducks. After this stop we were thoroughly cold and wet. We broke for lunch, and with the rain letting up a bit we continued to Pauchaug Brook WMA. We found a flock of blackbirds in the trees along the field edge; and while most were Red-winged, a few **Rustys** popped up for some nice spotting scope views! We finished the day with 47 species, not too bad for a day of rain and mud.

Josh Rose

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

**Saturday, May 23, All Day, Hilltown Rambles.** Join Dave Gross and Bob Zimmermann as they ramble around the Berkshire hilltowns to look for those migrants that prefer higher elevations than the valley provides. We'll be on the lookout for American Bittern, Sandhill Cranes, Blackburnian Warblers and Spotted Sandpipers along with anything else we can turn up. There will be a bit of hiking at the Moran Wildlife Area. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop parking lot at 6:30 am. Pack a lunch or pick one up at our stop at the Cummington Creamery. For information or to sign up contact Dave ([djgross@gmail.com](mailto:djgross@gmail.com) 413-687-8161) or Bob ([zimmermann@biochem.umass.edu](mailto:zimmermann@biochem.umass.edu) 413-626-3381). (E/M/S)

*(Note: This is the ONLY field trip so far for Spring 2020. Leaders for trips are needed!)*

## THE HADLEY PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> I was wrapping up a routine birding mission checking out various farm fields in Hadley. Often one of the stops I make when I'm on route 47 is a little, seldom-birded path that leads down to a nice river view. Even though I'd never had the super find I'd hoped for drifting down the river, I kept going back because I figured I was due! On this day though, before I made it down to the water, I stopped and watched birds cross the path and land all in the same tree decked out in fall foliage. After a couple of sparrows I locked in on a Blue Headed Vireo and took a couple of pictures. Another bird popped in a couple of feet away and I snapped a bunch of pics while my brain tried to ID it.

I cycled through the flycatcher possibilities and got excited that I had finally found my first Hampshire county Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher. Then my excitement faded because the eye ring just didn't look right and it just didn't look like other Yellow-Bellieds I'd seen elsewhere. When I got back to my car I typed flycatcher into my iBird app and looked at photos of every possible one. When I got to a picture of the Pacific Slope Flycatcher it matched my photo better than any of the others, which gave me assurance that I was fully unqualified to figure out what it was. I didn't even consider for a second that it would be a such a rarity since I've never found anything close to that rare.

I sent pics out to friends for input and filed my eBird list intending to sort the bird out later. eBird flagged it and at that point I realized that any flycatcher is rare for the date. Not long after filing it (with a note that photos would follow), Larry Therrien contacted me wanting to see the photos. He thought right off it looked like a western flycatcher. I gave him the exact location where I had viewed the bird (it did not call while I was looking at it). Larry went back there on the 24<sup>th</sup> and was able to nab a distant but promisingly clear recording of the PSFC ch-wee sounding call. I then spoke to Scott Sumner about it and he suggested filing a report with the MARC (Mass Avian Records Committee). I did, and right away was contacted by Sean Williams on the MARC who wanted to come out with Maili Waters the next morning, Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>, and try to re-locate the bird. Not long after they arrived Maili spotted it and more folks got pics and recordings. All of the experienced birders there at the time were convinced that it was in fact a Pacific-Slope Flycatcher. And, I became much less sad at my failure to get a Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher.

The whole experience has been a lot of fun and somewhat unbelievable. I looked at the list of the top 100 birders in Massachusetts in the days following the confirmation of this bird and about 40 of them had come to see it. The only disconcerting aspect is knowing the little celebrity is facing tough odds this winter with its internal compass all goofed up. I wish it was feasible to take it on a road trip south but apparently that is neither legal or likely to succeed. I will forever be reminded of the bird because my former eBird non-hotspot is now labeled "Pacific Slope Stakeout".

Joe Oliverio

## MASS AUDUBON'S "TAKING FLIGHT"

Dan Boudreau is the youth education coordinator for Mass Audubon's Museum of American Bird Art (MABA) in Canton, Massachusetts. Each year, MABA hosts a juried youth bird art exhibition for children ages 4-18 called "Taking Flight". MABA receives submissions from all over the United States and has even had a few international entries. This is the fifth year for MABA hosting the exhibit, and a goal is to have even broader participation than in previous years. The exhibition will be on display at the MABA and the hope is that it will foster the next generation of artists who love birds and wildlife.

If you know of any young artists who might be interested in submitting, Dan would really appreciate it if you could pass this information along to them and share it with others. This year's theme is "Your favorite bird, or what birds mean to you," and most non-digital media are allowed. MABA will be accepting entries from January 15 through June 15, 2020. The show will be exhibited at the museum in the fall of 2020. More information and application instructions can be found on the [Taking Flight](#) page of the MABA [website](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

#### *Arcadian Rhythms: Reflections on a Year at Arcadia*

Wednesday, December 4, 7 – 8:30 pm,

[Online](#) or phone (413-584-3009) registration is required.

Arcadian Rhythms is a reflection on time, place and connection from a year at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Join local artist and naturalist Claire Dacey as she shares the fruits of her year of daily visits to the same patch of woods. Celebrate the intricate beauty of our local landscape, and 75 years of stewardship by Mass Audubon's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Free, with suggested donation of \$10.

#### *Holiday Craft Workshop*

Saturday, December 7, 9 am – 12 pm,

[Online](#) or phone (413-584-3009) registration is required.

Join us for a morning of holiday gift making. Children, accompanied by an adult, will make two nature crafts that will make ideal gifts for parents, siblings, grandparents or friends. All materials included and we try to use as many recycled, non-plastic materials as possible. Bring your imagination and we'll supply the rest! Adults are free, children \$10 (member), \$12 (nonmember).

#### *Christmas Bird Count for Kids and Families* (see also CBC for Kids in the Hitchcock list below)

Sunday, December 15, 10 am – 2 pm.

Short bird walks will take place at 10:30 and 12:30. We will also be watching birds at our feeders from indoors, see the different types of feeders and food, have bird activities, and hot chocolate for all! This is a free event. No registration required, just stop by. As with the HCE program, this one is also supported by the Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee.

#### *Winter Solstice Celebration*

Saturday, December 21, 5:30– 8:30 pm,

[Online](#) or phone (413-584-3009) registration is required.

People have celebrated the shortest day of the year and the start of longer days for ages. In the Valley, people have celebrated the winter solstice at Arcadia for decades. Join us for candle-lit trails, music, fire, kids' crafts and community togetherness. Free.

### Hitchcock Center for the Environment

#### *New England Forests Film: Eastern White Pine – The Tree Rooted in American History*

Wednesday, December 4, 7 – 8:30 pm,

Screening followed by panel with filmmakers Ray Asselin and Bob Leverett, [registration appreciated](#)

In colonial American times, stately eastern white pines were among the most valuable trees on the planet. They were an imposing presence in the primeval forests of eastern North America. This new documentary film tells the story of our native white pine, and the significant part it played in America's founding and history, using archival footage, stunning photography, and aerial views. It also answers such questions as:

- Why *were* these pines so valuable?
- How were these pines important to the lives of the first settlers?
- What role did they play in the the American War of Independence, and founding of the US?
- What is the status of this great tree species today?
- How is it important to wildlife?
- Why is walking among white pines in the forest *good for you*?



- What is the tallest living thing in the northeastern United States?
- Is there any hope of seeing these trees as they once were, 400 years ago?

Find the answers to these questions and more in the newest film by the makers of The Lost Forests of New England, *Eastern White Pine ... the tree rooted in American history*. [Learn more](#) and [watch the trailer](#).

*Natural History Hike in the Quabbin* with Ted Watt

Sunday, December 8, 9 am – 12 pm.

[Registration](#) required, \$30.

We'll hike into the Quabbin wilderness, getting a deeper understanding of the habitats that are preserved there, and the plants and animals that live there. If there is snow we will follow some of the creatures moving through and learn more about their lives.

*Christmas Bird Count for Kids and Families* (see also CBC for Kids in the Arcadia list above)

Sunday, December 15, 1 – 3 pm.

[Registration](#) appreciated.

At this program, we'll meet at the Hitchcock Center for an indoor program about how to recognize common birds, followed by an outdoor bird count. Educator Katie Koerten will facilitate a bird count for kids and their families on the grounds of the Hitchcock Center – we'll count every bird we see! Stay as long as you wish. Later that evening Katie will report the data we collect at the official CBC compilation meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to a real bird census! This event happens rain, snow, sleet or shine. Families may stay for as long as they wish but we recommend that you come for the indoor portion in order to get introduced to the common winter species we are likely to see. Binoculars welcome but not required. Thanks to the Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee for its generous support of this program!

*Nature Study Club 2019*

Sundays, once per month, 9 am – 12 pm

[Registration](#) required. Sign up for the year: \$140 members/\$170 non-members or \$30 per session.

January 13: *Bark: Getting to Know Trees in Winter* with Michael Wojteck. Michael will help us look more closely at the bark of local tree species. Furrows, ridges, plates and more will provide a vocabulary and train your eye for these characters. You'll gain confidence in your skills at identifying trees without their leaves. Michael is the author of *Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast* and has lots to share about these wonderful plants!

## HELP WITH HBC MEETINGS SETUP

We are grateful for the many members who, over the years, have volunteered to help get the room in shape before and after our monthly meetings! Our thanks to several new members, Tom, Ruth, and Ellie, who have come forward this year to help with chairs setup and the refreshment table. And thanks especially to Meghadeepa, another new member, who provides AV technical support. We are still seeking storage space between meetings for our AV equipment. If you can offer space, or if you would like to be part of the set up team, please contact Lissa Ganter, [lissa.ganter@gmail.com](mailto:lissa.ganter@gmail.com).

That's all for this month. The 2019-2020 HBC membership list is included with mailed copies. Be safe when you go out birding during this winter season!

Dave Gross, Editor  
[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)