



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
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Dear reader, December is a month filled with holidays and celebrations. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Festivus and New Year's Eve are the big ones. And for bird watchers there are the two weeks of Christmas Bird Counts. There are many, many more lesser-known official holidays, observations and celebrations in December. (These are all legitimate. If you don't believe me, look them up.) For example, December 1 is Bifocals at the Monitor Liberation Day, something near and dear to my heart (and my eyes). Also, December 4 is both National Cookie Day as well as Wear Brown Shoes Day. Happily, December 4 is also National Sock Day, so we're good to go as far as feet go. And in a clever joint effort by the cookie and kitchen tools lobbies, December 4-10 is National Cookie Cutter Week.

Did you know that December is Bingo's Birthday Month? I sure didn't. (It's the game, not somebody's name.) It turns out that December is National Tie Month as well as Buckwheat Month. (I personally prefer the latter over the former.) December has its share of sweet days: the aforementioned National Cookie Day, National Pie Day (Dec. 1), National Sacher Torte Day (Dec. 5), National Cotton Candy Day (Dec. 7, a day that will live in infamy, clearly for more than one reason), National Brownie Day (Dec. 8, a very good day), National Pastry Day (Dec. 9), Gingerbread House Day (Dec. 12), National Ambrosia Day (also on Dec. 12), National Cocoa Day (Dec. 13), National Cupcake Day (Dec. 15), National Chocolate Covered Anything Day (Dec. 16, another day that might well live in infamy), National Maple Syrup Day (Dec. 17), National Hard Candy Day (Dec. 19), National Oatmeal Muffin Day (also on Dec. 19), National Cookie Exchange Day (Dec. 22 – my address is available on request), National Date Nut Bread Day (also on Dec. 22), National Pfeffernusse Day (Dec. 23), National Eggnog Day (Dec. 24), National Pumpkin Pie Day (Dec. 25), National Candy Cane Day (Dec. 26), and National Chocolate Candy Day (Dec. 28, another very good day). It's no coincidence that National Bicarbonate of Soda Day falls on December 30.

And should you be wondering, National Dentist's Day is March 6, 2023. Happy Holidays!

NEXT PROGRAM

Tuesday, December 13 at 7:15 PM

The Annual Members' Meeting on Zoom

It's that time of year again! Do you have some old photos that you've wanted to share but never gotten around to doing it? How about some new ones taken on a trip last winter, or over the summer? Have you always wanted to show some of your photos to the club but didn't feel like you had enough to fill an entire 45-minute program? Then the Members' Meeting is just for you!

On December 13, club members can present a mini-program, as short as 5 or 10 minutes, no more than 10 slides long. Because we are doing this via Zoom, it is the perfect opportunity for club members who have moved away, and those who have a hard time travelling to in-person meetings, to show the rest of us what you've been up to. If you would like to be one of our presenters, please send your slides in an email attachment to Laura Beltran at lauraandnature@gmail.com by December 7 (one week before the meeting).

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 10: TBA (via Zoom)

February 14: John Kircher, *Galapagos, Darwin, and Biology's Biggest Discovery* (via Zoom)

March 14: Nathan Senner, TBA (via Zoom)

April 11: Joan Walsh, *Full Life Cycle Conservation of Roseate Terns* (Wesley Church, also via Zoom)

May 9: Matt Kelly, *TnT: Where Birding is Dy-No-Mite!* (Wesley Church, also via Zoom)

June 13: BYO Picnic (Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

Jim Lafley's popular "Birds at Your Feeder" workshop was very informative. In addition to providing clear ID information for the birds we typically see at our feeders, Jim offered guidance on how to identify the several varieties of finches that we have in this area, especially those we hope to see during this irruptive year. And, for those of you who might not know, we typically invite the Allen and Hoffman Bird Clubs to attend our Education workshops, and quite a few of their members attend.

In the works: We are developing a more straightforward one-step registration form for Education Committee workshops through Google Forms. These will be very similar to the forms used for Birding for Everyone. We will be rolling out the new forms after the first of the year.

Upcoming new member bird walks—open to all:

Directions to each meeting place will be posted on the Education page of the website

- Jan. 8, 2023 – 9-11 AM at the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Conservation Area parking lot
- April 23, 2023 – 7-9 AM at Lake Wallace, behind the Belchertown Police Station
- The fourth will be our usual new member bird walk before the June HBC picnic at Arcadia.

Upcoming workshops:

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7-8 PM – *Feeder Watching for the Christmas Bird Count* with Janice Jorgensen

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7-8 PM – *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Christmas Bird Count* with Lesley Farlow

Monday, Jan. 2, 7-8 PM Our next *Do-It-Yourself Field Trip* meeting will be on Zoom as usual, but NOT in December. We are in the middle of a two-month DIY. For DIY an area is chosen and a leader describes the location and five target species for that area. Anyone interested has time to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the next DIY Zoom meeting. Our November and December field trip location is Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke, and the target birds are Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Osprey, Ring-billed Gull, and Herring Gull. Join the January Zoom to share your November and December sightings and learn of the upcoming field trip.

To register for workshops, please email education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line. Our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page at <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>

BIRDING FOR EVERYONE

Birding for Everyone will be on hiatus this month as we work on the Christmas Bird Count. A huge thank you to everyone who attended online discussions and/or in person walks. This was the first year for BFE and the response has been far greater than expected. We will be back in action in January, so stay tuned!

[Ed. note: The following unsolicited comment on the Nov. 26 BFE trip tells you all you need to know.]

"Our owl prowl last night at Quabbin Reservoir was such a very special event – the beauty of the evening, the location and the learning shared, it was truly a wonderful gift to be able to be there. Thank you for making the arrangements at Quabbin in the evening (so special), teaching us about 'red lights' – who knew (I didn't) – showing us how to do an owl prowl and sound the calls so they can be heard, giving us the opportunity to stand in the darkness and silence together and patiently wait, learning about owl habitat, behavior and significant species in our area.... all so special. Not to mention the kindness and presence of all who attended, the encouragement and sense of humor of those wearing their 'owl gear', as well as Maria's gift of time from DCR and presence in caring for the group. Plus of course introducing us to the owls of the night! THANK YOU! – Carol"

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Many thanks to all of you who renewed your membership this month and welcome to our newest members who joined in November! Please give a warm welcome to Juliana Vanderwielen of Belchertown; Carol Smith of Southwick; Stephanie Railsback, Shutesbury; Susan Macrae, Florence; Ron Geisinger, Chicopee; and Dana Buxton of Pittsfield. See you on the birding trail!

Any questions? You can reach me at membership@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Donna Lee Ubertalli, Membership Secretary

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

The winter and spring field trips will be listed in the January newsletter as they are still being organized and arranged. Please note that most trips will be open to non-members while others will be restricted to HBC members such as the Westover base trip for Upland Sandpipers, Grasshopper Sparrows and other species due to the requirement of vetting through the Federal Government, the Quabbin Reservoir trips, and any overnight trips.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more (October 30)

Josh Rose resurrected HBC's annual Halloween birding adventure returned after its eight-consecutive-year run was interrupted by a two year Covid hiatus. Six of us gathered at the power canal in Turners Falls, where we found two Bufflehead and four Hooded Mergansers on the water and an immature Bald Eagle winging overhead. Then it was on to Northfield, where our first Wood Ducks of the day were skulking in back corners of East Sawyer Pond. Hell's Kitchen was sadly lacking in shorebirds but we saw some Green-winged Teal and heard a Winter Wren calling. At Satan's Kingdom we enjoyed a very active and vocal Belted Kingfisher, a nice adult Red-shouldered Hawk, two lollygagging beavers, and a number of dragonflies. Just outside the Kingdom, another immature eagle flew over Caldwell Road, and a few Savannah Sparrows popped up at the edge of River Road. The Wagon Wheel in Gill provided not only a delicious lunch but also a pair of Purple Finches eating the seeds of a tree over one of the picnic tables. After lunch, a late Osprey splashed down in Barton Cove. We ended the trip back where we started at the power canal, where that morning's birds had been joined by a trio of Ring-necked Ducks and our only butterfly of the day, a Clouded Sulphur. A beautiful day with 42 bird species.

Josh Rose

Pine Grove Conservation Area (November 13)

A gaggle of HBCers joined Laura Beltran and walked about 1.5 miles past the former golf course's old greens and along the edge of the woods searching for November birds. Although it drizzled and only 18 species were found, the group had wonderful views of Red-breasted Nuthatches, which have been plentiful throughout our area since July.

Laura Beltran

Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley (November 13)

I know, you're probably thinking, "Gee. It seems like an interesting trip, but the drive is so long and I'd be away from my beloved Hampshire County for a whole day!" And you're probably thinking, "And it will be cold and wet and I've already seen Snow Geese." Both of these are undoubtedly true. At 3+ hours from Northampton to the Snow Goose fields (and 3+ more back), and cold drizzle from late morning through mid-afternoon (just another day on Lake Champlain in November), you're probably feeling pretty smug right now.

But here's what you missed: scintillating conversation, astute political analysis, poignant conservation op-eds, and a non-stop Abbott and Costello routine courtesy of me (Mike Locher) and my trusty sidekick (Andrew Magee). And you missed 850+ Snow Geese taking off and circling in front of the dark hillsides east of the fields, which Andrew aptly described as "dreamlike" and another birder said was "like a mystical dance." And you missed a flotilla of 30+ Common Loons (with a lone Red-throated Loon

in their midst) cruising past the Champlain Bridge. And you missed a tight flock of 20+ Snow Buntings that we flushed from the road to the Button Bay State Park overlook. And you missed the close looks at 45+ White-winged Scoters (with a few Black Scoters mixed in for variety) at the Tri-Town Water District HQ. And you missed the A+ scenery of the Lake Champlain Valley, which never disappoints, no matter the weather.

All told we saw 38 species, didn't get either wet or cold enough that it bothered us, and, speaking for myself, my butt doesn't hurt that much. (Full disclosure: I slightly edited the comment by "another birder" above. I added the adjective, but she wasn't a poet, and she might have said this had she known that her words were to be quoted.)

Mike Locher

NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Northampton (MANO) Christmas Bird Count will be held on **Sunday, December 18**. Despite the pandemic challenges of the last two years, our MANO group had some of its best counts ever. This year looks equally promising, even with continued Covid hurdles. Once again we need your help! Even if you haven't previously participated, please consider participating in this huge citizen science project. It's fun! Let us know if you'd like to participate by sending us an email at CBC@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Even if you don't join one of the count groups, you can still count birds in your yard or take a walk around your neighborhood! We're delighted to welcome feeder-watchers and new count participants, to explain how the CBC works, and to answer all your questions. As noted in the Education Committee report above, we'll have Zoom orientation meetings for leaders, participants, and feeder-watchers. As in last year's pre-count sessions, we'll cover how the CBC works and provide instructions on filling out the forms. Plans for the count compilation have not been finalized. More on this to come soon.

Please feel free to contact the team with questions at CBC@hampshirebirdclub.org. You can view our count circle at <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/Northampton-MANO-Christmas-Bird-Count-Areas.pdf>.

Did we mention it's fun???

Check the HBC website (hampshirebirdclub.org/cbc) and HBC's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/HampshireBirdClub) for updates.

CHECKLIST TO SEE IF YOU ARE READY TO GO FOR THE CBC

Performance Factor	Far Exceeds Norm	Exceeds Norm	Meets Norm	Needs Improvement	Does Not Meet Minimal Standard
Pursuit Ability	Leaps trees with a single bound	Needs a running start to leap trees	Can leap large bushes	Crashes into bush when attempting to leap over it	Catches poison ivy
Locating Birds with Binoculars	Faster than a Peregrine Falcon	Fast as a Chimney Swift	Not quite as fast as a Chimney Swift	Would you believe a slow Chimney Swift?	Has trouble locating chimneys
Field Work	Walks on water consistently	Walks on water in emergencies	Needs log to get over water	Drinks water	Spills water
Credibility	Talks with God	Talks with Roger Torey Peterson	Talks with self	Argues with self	Loses argument
Sight Identification	Eyes of an eagle	Eyes of a Blue Jay	Needs binoculars	Needs binoculars and good light	Can't find binoculars
Sound Identification	Can recognize birds from a single chip	Can recognize birds by song	Can identify birds by song using Merlin	Can hear songs	Eh?

[Ed. note: This chart, with only a slight modification, first appeared in the HBC newsletter in April 1994. The editor at the time was Sally Venman.]

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

All programs require registration.

Birdwatching Around the World: Mongolia – Online – December 6, 9 – 10 AM

Chris Leahy first visited Mongolia in 1982 and has been making almost annual visits since 1994. Take a virtual trip with Chris to the other side of the world as we explore the nature of Mongolia.

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/84994-birdwatching-around-the-world-mongolia-online>

Birdwatching Around the World: Trinidad & Tobago – Online – Dec. 13, 9 – 10 AM

If you're interested in learning more about birds found throughout the neotropics, there's no better place to start than Trinidad and Tobago. Explore this area virtually with Scott Santino, Mass Audubon's Statewide Trips, Travel and Certificate Programs Manager.

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/84993-birdwatching-around-the-world-trinidad-tobago-online>

Winter Crows – Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary – Jan. 8, 2:00 – 5:30 PM

Join Patti Steinman to learn about the habits of the American Crow, a common bird with uncommon intelligence. We'll start with a presentation about crows, then head to Springfield in search of a nighttime roost. If we're lucky, we'll observe crows congregating by the thousands - a spectacular winter natural event. We'll watch the skies "as the crows fly," and follow them as they change location.

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/arcadia/84944-winter-crows>

Winter Birding Class at Arcadia – Sundays, January 22 – February 19, 9 AM - noon

What is an irruptive bird species and is this an irruptive year? What birds are at the feeders and how can we learn to identify them? Join naturalist John Green for this three-session indoor/outdoor class. Each class will include an indoor learning session, followed by outdoor time looking for birds.

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/arcadia/85038-winter-birding-class>

THE HBC QUIZ RETURNS

As promised in the December 2021 newsletter, there are more HBC quiz questions courtesy of our quizmaster David Spector. There are no prizes, no fanfare, just the glowing self-recognition of a job well done. Now on with the quiz... The topic for this set of questions is "Local Connections." If you attended the November HBC meeting, you will know the answer to some of these questions.

- 11) What Northampton native has the Latin name of a North American owl named for him?
 - 12) According to Amherst's Emily Dickinson, what bird is the "Rowdy of the Meadow"?
 - 13) What bird is the subject of Cummington native William Cullen Bryant's poem "Robert of Lincoln"?
 - 14) According to poet Dora Read Goodale of Mount Washington, Massachusetts, what bird is a "merry white-capped darling, With his mate so quaint and brown"?
 - 15) Amherst native and pioneer of the study of bird behavior Margaret Morse Nice published research on many species, but she is best known for her ground-breaking long-term study of what species?
- extra credit: Who was the most famous of her father's Amherst College students?

Quiz answers will be in the January newsletter.

Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor



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November 2022

Dear reader, I recently spent a two-week “vacation” at my mother-in-law’s house in the Midwest. A substantial part of the visit was to celebrate her 95th birthday but a secondary part of the trip involved washing windows when the weather permitted. (Thus “vacation” in quotes.) On the drive out, we chose the Southern Tier Expressway that is much favored by us over the New York State Thruway to the north. For one thing the southern choice has much less traffic than the thruway. For another, the scenery is much, much better through the Southern Tier. At the far western end of the expressway one passes through the Allegany Indian Reservation which is wilder than other areas one passes through and is one of the territories of the Seneca Indian Nation. The expressway also crosses the lovely Chautauqua Lake near Jamestown, hometown of Roger Tory Peterson (see below) as well as Lucille Ball and Natalie Merchant. One of my favorite parts of the drive through the Seneca Nation are the road signs in both English and Seneca (*Onödowá’ga*). You can read about the Nation at <https://sni.org/>. But I digress.

Along our Southern Tier Drive, on the north side of the road as we passed through Big Flats, NY (which, of course is near Horseheads, NY and Painted Post, NY), a Northern Goshawk sailed into and landed in a tree. I don’t see very many Northern Goshawks in my daily life, so I, of course, took notice. I duly reported the sighting to my birding buddies and immediately received a reply from noted ornerythologist (see below) David Spector who said “Great! That’s a safe way to see one, much safer than being attacked near a nest.” Not one to let an opening slip by, I replied “You clearly haven’t been driving in New York recently.” I should have known better. I quickly got a response that started “Yesterday I drove through New York on my way back from the Philadelphia area...” that continued on with terms including talons, scalp, blood, and “hit the ground.” I may never again venture into the woods.

NEXT PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 8 at 7:15 PM

David Spector presents

Western Massachusetts Ornithologists

Wesley United Methodist Church, 98 North Maple Street, Hadley

There is a long history of bird study here in Western Massachusetts, and in this program David discusses a few of the many people with local connections who have contributed to our knowledge of birds. What is an “ecological rule,” and which Springfield native has one named for him? Which graduate of a local college is incorrectly credited with producing the first field guide, and which two Western Massachusetts people published important pre-Peterson field guides? Which Amherst native had her book on Song Sparrow research illustrated by Roger Tory Peterson? These and other burning questions will be answered in this presentation.

David Spector, retired ornithologist (or ornerythologist) and former president of the Hitchcock Center, has been a member of the Hampshire Bird Club since the first meeting and has given, by exact count, umpteen talks to the club.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL UPDATE

As of this writing, the HBC Treasurer reports that dues are down 28% this year compared to last year. If you plan to renew your membership, now is the time to do it. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their HBC membership.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

Mike Locher offered a wonderful workshop on waterfowl identification. We learned all about the fall plumage of waterfowl as well as how to identify waterfowl in the field. Master gardener Larri Cochrane's "Leave the Leaves" workshop offered a guide on how to prepare our gardens for winter while supporting overwintering pollinators and birds.

In the works: We are developing a simpler form of one-step registration for Education Committee workshops through Google Forms. We will be rolling out the new forms after the first of the year.

Upcoming new member bird walks—open to all:

Directions to each meeting place will be posted on the Education page of the website

- Jan. 8, 2023 – 9-11 AM at the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Conservation Area parking lot
- April 23, 2023 – 7-9 AM at Lake Wallace, behind the Belchertown Police Station
- The fourth will be our usual new member bird walk before the June HBC picnic at Arcadia.

November workshops:

Monday, Nov. 7, 7-8 PM. Our next Do-It-Yourself Field Trip meeting will be on Zoom. Each month an area is chosen and a leader describes the location and five target species for that area. Anyone interested has a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the Zoom meeting the following month. Our October field trip location was Great Pond in Hatfield, and the target birds were Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Swamp Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow. To join the November Zoom session to share your October sightings and learn about the upcoming DIY field trip, e-mail education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Date and time TBA: How you can be part of Hampshire County's Christmas Bird Count – Janice Jorgensen. Please check the Education Committee page on the HBC website where details will be posted.

To register for workshops, please email education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

Our programs are recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page. <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>.

BIRDING FOR EVERYONE

The Birding For Everyone (BFE) program is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. On the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM there is a one hour online educational session (half presentation, half discussion) and on the fourth Saturday of the month for a two hour, in-person, beginner bird walk at an accessible location. All events are free and open to the public. Please help spread the word! The online presentation requires no registration (check the website for the Zoom link). Those interested in attending the November walk can register at bit.ly/2022bfe.

- November 19, 10:00-11:00 AM: Owls (Online Presentation)
- November 26, 9:15-11:30 PM Owl Prowl (location TBD) (In-person walk/sit)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thank you to all of you who renewed your membership this year, whether online or through the mail! Your commitment and enthusiasm are very much appreciated. To those of you who joined during October, a warm welcome! Our newest members are Rachel Greenwood, Haydenville; Marsha Paine, Princeton; Soup Brinkley, Belchertown; Kathleen Doe, Florence; Lynn Gerlinger, Williamsburg; Jennie Oesterreicher, Palmer; and Elizabeth Trousedale of South Hadley.

Any questions? You can reach me at membership@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Donna Lee Ubertalli, Membership Secretary

FALL FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines

1. Field trip participant numbers are determined by the field trip leader.
2. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated, are required to wear a mask when asked and must be aware of maintaining a safe social distance during the event.
3. Participants should use the contact information in the trip description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader after they register.

Sunday, November 6. Ducks on the Berkshire Lakes. All day. Tom Gagnon leads this Berkshire trip in search of ducks and other waterfowl. Meet at the JFK Middle School in Northampton at **6:30 AM** for carpooling & directions. **Trip is limited to 12.** Contact Tom if interested at (413) 584-6353. Tom will not be available the week before so contact him on Saturday, **November 5**, the day before the trip. (E)

Saturday, November 12. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to East Quabbin. All day. Our annual trip inside the gates of Quabbin is limited to **members only** and to 10 participants. Craig Allen will lead this trip for the club beginning at the Quabbin headquarters at Winsor Dam at **7:00 AM**. The group will travel from Gate 45 to Gate 35. If interested contact Craig at allenec2@juno.com (E)

Sunday, November 13. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley. All day. Mike Locher heads north for the spectacle of hundreds of Snow Geese rising into the sun as a Rough-legged Hawk cruises by them. In addition to the geese and raptors, we'll look for ducks, loons, gulls, and grebes on Lake Champlain and anything else that we can find. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at **5:30 AM** for carpooling. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 - landline) for further details and to register. (E/M)

Sunday, November 13. Pine Grove Conservation Area, Northampton. 8 to 10 AM. Laura Beltran will be searching for sparrows, finches, thrushes, raptors, and late warblers in this recently acquired conservation area. Meet along Old Wilson Road at the sign for the area. To register or for more information contact: lauraandnature@gmail.com (E)

Sunday, December 11. South Hadley along Connecticut River. 8 to 11 AM. Jim Lafley and Laura Beltran will lead birders to areas along the Connecticut River in South Hadley. We will explore McCray's Farm & River Lodge Road for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and Harriers, Brunelle's Marina for waterfowl and Bald Eagles and the Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Area. They are all within a mile of each other and there is a large parking lot at each site. This is a good trip to prepare for the CBC! Contact Jim at jimlafley@gmail.com (E)

Field Trip designations:

- (E) – Easy walking conditions, fairly accessible for most, usually flat terrain on improved trails or roads.
(M) – Moderately difficult, more challenging trail conditions, short steep sections, longer hikes involved.
(S) – Strenuous conditions, muddy or rocky trails, steep sections, difficult footing in part.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

DAR State Forest (September 10)

Eight birders and naturalists comprised the group led by Amanda Kallenbach on a gorgeous fall morning at DAR State Forest. We covered both lakes, the beach, the marsh and the Camp Howe trails. While not the birdiest outing, we managed to hit 28 species, including **Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers** (great looks at the Solitary), a Cooper's Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Black-and-white Warblers, Pines, Yellow-rumps, and a flyover **Red Crossbill**. We found loads of different mushrooms and interesting plants, including red cancer root, which is parasitic to certain oak species and emerges only once every four years! A really fun morning!

Amanda Kallenbach

Skinner Mountain Hawk Watching

Our experiment with stationing an HBC member on the porch at the Skinner Mountain House worked fairly well as I was up there 4 out of the 7 days we designated. Unfortunately for me I wasn't up there during the best days. We did see Broad-winged Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Kestrels, Merlins, **Peregrine Falcons**, Bald Eagles, **Harriers**, **Osprey**, and Turkey Vultures, just not in large numbers.

The best part about being up there was meeting a good number of new members who really appreciated the knowledge of a good hawk watching location and a prime time of year to be there to observe the migration. Janice Jorgensen was also actively recruiting new members for the CBC while we were hawk-watching!

Jim Lafley

Lake Wallace Trip (October 19)

For many members who joined this trip, we explored a new area for birding and an eBird Hot Spot they had read about, but not seen yet. It was fairly slow birding as the ducks weren't there in any numbers and many nesters and migrants had already moved on, but we were able to observe Canada Geese, Mallards, **Wood Ducks**, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, many Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, Song and Swamp Sparrows, and a few Yellow-rumped Warblers. There were also plenty of other common species one might expect this time of year. Many attendees were excited to know of this place and they were looking forward to visiting later in the fall when more ducks might be resting there and in the spring for migration.

Jim Lafley

A CHAT WITH DEREK ALLARD

This continues the conversation I had with Derek Allard in August. Part one is in the October, 2022 newsletter. In part 2 here Derek describes his introduction to the natural world, his spark bird, and his plans for Presidential protection.

***Newsletter:** Obviously you are interested in nature and birding. What got you interested in the first place?*

Derek Allard: I grew up in the country. My parents would just toss my brother and me outside and say "Go have fun. Don't come in until dinnertime." So we were outside a lot. For birding specifically, I remember that when I was in the Cub Scouts we had to build bird feeders as a project. With my dad I built a bird feeder that we put in the backyard. I really didn't know much about birds at that point, but I remember that that winter we had a huge flock of Evening Grosbeaks at the feed. They would just wipe out the sunflower seeds. People talk about "spark birds". The Evening Grosbeak is my spark bird because it was amazing to me to see them so colorful and big. [Ed note: If you go back and reread the interview with Scott Turner in the June 2020 issue of this newsletter, you'll find that the Evening Grosbeak was also Scott's spark bird.]

From there it just took off. I got field guides and I would go to wildlife sanctuaries to look for

birds. But then college and life happened that put birding on the back burner until, in the last decade or so, it has picked back up.

***N:** How old were you when the when the Evening Grosbeaks lit the spark.?*

DA: It was probably around seven or eight. When I first saw them I didn't know what they were. I bought, or maybe for my birthday I got, the Audubon's field guide, the one with the green cover. It was fun because everything was new. There was a lot of "Oh my gosh. What is that?" The front half of the guide had photos and the back half was the description, so I'd look it up and then read about it.

***N:** To finish up here, let me ask this: If you had any place in the world that you could pick to go birding, where would that be.?*

DA: People talk about Costa Rica where one can see a zillion birds, but if I had to pick just one place, I think it would be the walk up the road to the Summit House on Mount Holyoke during migration season. I say that because that is always my favorite time of the year when I usually go there least once or twice. On the walk

you're often above the trees, so the warblers are easier to see and sometimes a Mourning Warbler or a Blackburnian is there. I have never been disappointed there, so that would be my place.

N: Well, all right, thanks for taking the time to chat. Do you have anything else you'd like to add for the newsletter readers to hear or know about.?

DA: I'm going to be asking for secret service protection from the Board and I expect the membership to get on board with that.

N: Yeah, given the way things are nowadays, that's probably not a bad idea. I'm trying to think who amongst the membership would be the obvious choice to be secret service agent for you. I need to think about that a little bit.

DA: That would be good. You probably know the membership better than I do. That's one of my challenges. I feel like I haven't been involved in the club a whole lot to know it well. I have bumped into handfuls of HBC members, but I haven't yet met most. I look forward to in-person meetings where I can meet more people.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

All programs require registration; more information can be found at [Arcadia events](#) where you can register.

Tracking Bird Migration – Online – Thursday, November 10, 7-8:30 PM

Scott Weidensaul and Scott Santino will discuss one of nature's most amazing spectacles, bird migration. A little more than 900 species of birds breed in North America and studies show nearly 40% are migratory. Discover the many ways birds migrate, why ornithologists think they migrate, and the extraordinary ways they've evolved for a life of almost constant motion.

Members: \$20; non-members: \$24

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/84670-tracking-bird-migration-online>

Birdwatching Around the World – Online – Tuesdays, November 15-December 13, 9-10 AM

Travel around the world learning about birds and other amazing animals from the comfort of your home. Immerse yourself in the incredible and diverse bird life found in Africa, Central Asia, Central America, and South America. Each of these areas are rich in avian biodiversity, supporting many species that can't be found anywhere else in the world.

Members: \$60; non-members: \$72

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/84989-birdwatching-around-the-world-series-online>

Massachusetts' State Bird: The Black-capped Chickadee – Online – November 17, 7-8 PM

Martha Gach will talk about Black-capped Chickadees and how they approach everything with gusto, no matter the season. Regular feeder visitors, chickadees can be found in almost every New England habitat, which may be why they are the Massachusetts state bird. Learn about this active little creature, how it manages winter, and how you can support chickadees with bird feeders and beyond.

Members: \$15; non-members: \$20

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/84310-massachusetts-state-bird-the-black-capped-chickadee-online>

National Audubon's 123rd Christmas Bird Count

It's never too early to think about the annual Audubon Christmas Counts. This winter, the MANO (Northampton) Christmas Bird Count will be held Sunday, December 18, 2022. More information will be forthcoming. If you have questions, email cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org.



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 39, No. 2
October 2022

Dear reader, did you ever see a Mourning Dove wash its armpits? I have. There are two Mourning Doves that frequent my driveway up on the hill in Pelham. Back in early August, when it was dry as dust and had been for weeks, the two doves were picking around in the driveway for grit or seeds, I imagine. And then it started to sprinkle. I was at the kitchen window at the time and happened to look out at the miracle of water from the sky. I couldn't quite figure out what was wrong with the doves. They were on their sides with one wing flat out on the driveway. Both of them were thrashing about, and my first thought was that they were doing some sort of broken-wing display, but I couldn't imagine why. Then they flopped over, stretched out the other wing, and squirmed some more.

They actually looked giddy, these two birds, based on their body language. And then it hit me: this was the first chance they'd had in weeks to have a bath – well a shower, really. There they were, happily washing their armpits much the way that I do in the shower. After about 2 minutes they righted themselves, shook a bit, and took off for the trees to the north. And the rain stopped. (All in all an enjoyable mourning. Ouch. Apologies for that.)

NEXT PROGRAM

Tuesday, October 11 at 7:15 PM

Connie Lentz and Bart Bouricius present

Birds, Ants, and Plants of Costa Rica

Wesley United Methodist Church, 98 North Maple Street, Hadley

Army ants not only are among the most famous organisms of the tropics, they also play a major role in the ecology of the forests that they inhabit. Many tropical birds follow army ant swarms, feeding on small animals as they attempt to escape the ants. Some bird species are so tightly associated with these ants that the relationship is featured in their names: antpittas, antwrens, antshrikes and more. A number of bird species that breed in the USA or Canada and migrate to the tropics for the winter also appear in ant-following flocks. Join HBC members Connie Lentz and Bart Bouricius for an exploration of Costa Rica's bird diversity, their symbiotic relationships with army ants, and how this influences the rest of the birds' ecosystem.

Connie and Bart are nature photographers, HBC members, and Amherst residents who lived in Costa Rica for 6 winters. They belonged to the Birding Club of Costa Rica and participated in many of that group's trips, often roaming off the beaten path and away from the well-known, popular destinations for birding tourists.

FALL FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines

1. Field trip participant numbers are determined by the field trip leader.
2. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated, are required to wear a mask when asked and must be aware of maintaining a safe social distance during the event.
3. Participants should use the contact information in the trip description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader once they register.

Wednesday, October 19. Lake Wallace, Belchertown 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Meet Jim Lafley at the new Lake Wallace observation deck to scan the marsh and open water for late shorebirds and waders as well as ducks, geese, and other denizens of the area. We will also explore the back area of the lake and the woods near the athletic fields. To register or for more information email jimlafley@gmail.com. (E)

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

Sunday, November 6. Ducks on the Berkshire Lakes. All day. Tom Gagnon leads this Berkshire trip in search of ducks and other waterfowl. Meet at the JFK Middle School in Northampton at 6:30 AM for carpooling and directions. **The trip is limited to 12.** Contact Tom if interested at (413) 584-6353. Tom will not be available the week before so contact him soon or on Saturday, **November 5**, the day before the trip. (E)

Saturday, November 12. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to East Quabbin. All day. Our annual trip inside the gates of Quabbin is limited to **HBC members only** and to 10 participants. Craig Allen will lead this trip beginning at Quabbin Headquarters at Winsor Dam at 7:00 AM. The group will travel from Gate 45 to Gate 35. If interested contact Craig at allenec2@juno.com. (E)

Sunday, November 13. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley. All day. Mike Locher heads north for the spectacle of hundreds of Snow Geese rising into the sun as a Rough-legged Hawk cruises by. In addition to the geese and raptors, we'll look for ducks, loons, gulls, and grebes on Lake Champlain and anything else that we can find. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 5:30 AM for carpooling. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) for further details and to register. (E/M)

Sunday, November 13. Pine Grove Conservation Area, Northampton. 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Laura Beltran will be searching for sparrows, finches, thrushes, raptors, and late warblers in this recently acquired conservation area. Meet along Old Wilson Road at the sign for the area. To register or for more information contact Laura at lauraandnature@gmail.com. (E)

Sunday, December 11. South Hadley along Connecticut River. 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Jim Lafley and Laura Beltran will lead birders to areas along the Connecticut River in South Hadley. We will explore McCray's Farm & River Lodge Road for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and Harriers; Brunelle's Marina for waterfowl and Bald Eagles; and the Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Area. This is a good trip to prepare for the CBC! Sites are all within a mile of each other and there is a large parking lot at each one. Contact Jim at jimlafley@gmail.com. (E)

Field Trip designations:

- (E) – Easy walking conditions, fairly accessible for most, usually flat terrain on improved trails or roads.
(M) – Moderately difficult, more challenging trail conditions, short steep sections, longer hikes involved.
(S) – Strenuous conditions, muddy or rocky trails, steep sections, difficult footing in part.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

New Member Bird Walks

Our first new member bird walk at the Quabbin Gate 35 went very well, attended by both new and old members, as well as members of the Education Committee. We have a new HBC and Education Committee member from Amherst College who has started a bird club there and brought several Amherst College birders to the walk. We were also joined by another new HBC and Education Committee member, a visiting research professor at UMass, who offered us her expertise in herpetology and ornithology.

Upcoming new member bird walks—open to all: *Directions to each meeting place will be posted on the Education page of the HBC website*

- Jan. 8, 2023 – 9-11 AM at the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Conservation Area parking lot
- April 23, 2023 – 7-9 AM at Lake Wallace, behind the Belchertown Police Station
- The fourth one will be our usual new member bird walk before the June HBC picnic at Arcadia.

HBC member Dr. Dan Russell gave an incredibly informative and useful workshop on Hawk Identification on September 14, just in time for hawk migration. Many of us have been able to refer to his silhouette images of hawks and falcons in flight when making identifications in the field. Our **DIY** workshops continue with Laura and Lesley. There is more on those in the DIY section of the newsletter.

Derek Allard's **Birding For Everyone** (BFE) program is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. On the third Saturday of each month at 10 AM there is a one hour online educational session (half presentation, half discussion) and on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8 AM a two hour, in-person, beginner bird walk at an accessible location. All events are free and open to the public. Please help spread the word! The online presentation requires no registration (check the website for the Zoom link). Those interested in attending the October walk can register at bit.ly/2022bfe.

October 15, 10-11 AM: Bird Feeders (Online Presentation)

October 22, 7:45-10:00 AM: Ashley Reservoir, Holyoke (In-person walk)

For more information, email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org

October workshops

- **Monday, Oct. 3, 7-8 PM. DIY on Zoom**

Each month a leader describes a location and five target species for that area. Anyone interested has a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the Zoom meeting the following month. Our September field trip location was the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail and the target birds were Blue-winged Teal, Green Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Warbler. If you'd like to join the October Zoom to share your September sightings and learn of the upcoming field trip, e-mail education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

- **TUESDAY, Oct. 4, 7-8 PM. Waterfowl Identification with Mike Locher**

- **Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7-8 PM., Leave the Leaves -- Fall Clean Up to Support Overwintering Pollinators and Birds with Larri Cochran**

As the growing season ends in New England, gardeners and homeowners race to "clean up" fallen leaves and dying-back plants from their gardens and lawns. But all those things that humans have been taught to see as "debris" are, in fact, an essential part of Nature's cycle of life. Fallen leaves and retreating plants provide critical safe harbor, nesting places, and even nutrients for our native pollinators, insects, birds, and other wildlife.

This talk will focus on those butterflies, moths, and bees who quietly overwinter in our gardens and what we need to do to support them while still keeping our gardens and properties aesthetically pleasing. We'll also talk about things that can still be planted in early October to support next spring's early emerging pollinators who are critical for spring and summer nesting birds.

Please register for any of these by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

Reminder: our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page. <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>.

REMEMBERING BRUCE CALLAHAN

Long time HBC member Bruce Callahan died on August 14, 2022. Bruce was a fixture at our in-person meetings, always chatting at the cookie table, always sitting at the back of the room with Tom for the presentation. Bruce was ruthless in wrangling chairs being stored on the cart at the back of the room, directing us with precision to fill the cart with chairs in the proper orientation. I remember many a field trip led by Tom, who sat in the passenger seat scoping the roadside for birds, while Bruce drove and made wisecracks. Those were the days. Rest in peace, friend.

A CHAT WITH DEREK ALLARD

In mid August I Zoom-chatted with Derek Allard, current president of the HBC Board. In this first part of our chat Derek talks about his background and vision for the HBC. Part two will follow next month.

***Newsletter:** Given that you are now president of the HBC Board and many folks in the HBC haven't met you, tell me a bit about yourself.*

Derek Allard: Let me think. I do a lot of reading, a lot of writing, and a lot of hiking. And I spend time with our dog and spend time with family. I recently received my MFA degree in fiction writing; a lot of my efforts are there, trying to get that work published. I've always loved words and reading, and nature and birding too, obviously.

***N:** When we were arranging this chat you said that you had a deadline to finish a short story. Is that what you're currently doing, writing short stories or are you writing other kinds of things.?*

DA: My thesis was a short story collection and now that I have graduated, I have been sending stories out to different literary journals. One is interested in one of the stories and has requested some revisions, so I have a deadline of Friday to get the next draft to them. I've been working on that for about a week and a half. [Ed note: This chat happened on a Wednesday afternoon.]

***N:** You are now President of the HBC Board. How did you find the HBC or how did it find you?*

DA: I've always been aware of the HBC. Prior to going back to school I owned my own web design business and I didn't have a lot of free time, so I wasn't much involved with the HBC. Around 2018 or 2019 Jim Lafley reached out to me about getting involved with the Board. At the time I just didn't have any bandwidth for it, but he was persistent and then when I went back to school I did have a little more time because I wasn't running the business anymore, so I did join the Board.

I've been on the Board for a couple of years, so Jim Lafley, depending on your perspective, is to blame or to thank for my being here as President now.

***N:** You said that you were always aware of the HBC, so did you grow up in the Valley?*

DA: Yes, I grew up in Ware. My parents still live there and my brother has moved out near Boston in Hopkinton with his family. I grew up

here and then I went to college in New Hampshire. I lived in Arizona for a while and then came back to the Valley because Arizona was too hot.

***N:** Certainly, one thing you are well known for in the club is the Birding For Everyone program. What prompted you to create that?*

DA: Honestly, it was a bad experience I had on a birding walk about eight or nine years ago. I was just starting at birding. I know it wasn't an HBC walk. I remember that it was a walk at Arcadia but I am not sure who was putting it on. I remember that I said "pill-e-ated" instead of "pie-lee-ated" and one person corrected me in a very "What are you doing?" way. That was not very inviting and that always stuck with me. It definitely wasn't everyone on the walk, but that one particular person.

I have always had that in the back of my head. Later, as I was doing volunteer work with Arcadia for the Birdathon, the question collectively came up about keeping these people involved. Many of them were new to bird watching and many of them were young, so I started Birding For Everyone in conjunction with Arcadia but they just didn't have the bandwidth to keep it going and I didn't either. When I got involved with the Hampshire Bird Club, I pitched the idea and fortunately people were open to it. It's been going pretty well actually, and I hope we can keep it going.

***N:** Did you pitch it to the Education Committee?*

DA: I think I pitched it to former president Bob Zimmermann and I think that the Education Committee was involved too. Bob was excited about the idea. I didn't know what his reaction would be, so it was nice that he was enthusiastic.

***N:** Yes, I think everybody's pretty excited about the program because, even if it only brings in a few new HBC members, some of them will eventually become leaders, which is important for the club's future.*

DA: That's one of the hopes. Every bird club is challenged to get younger people involved. That's tricky because younger people have families, they work, and they don't have a lot of

free time. It's easy to see why they aren't too involved, but I think that the more inviting we can make it, the easier it will be for them to take that jump.

N: I have a friend who has a two-and-a-half year old who I've got my eye on. We've been on a "bird" walk that involved mostly dandelion picking, feather retrieval and frog watching, but maybe over time she'll get more interested in the pretty birds.

DA: I have two nieces, one eleven and one five. I'm always taking them outside to look up and say "Oh, that's such-and-such's call, I've given them field guides and binoculars. They are somewhat resistant, but every now and then they'll tell me that they saw such-and-such. Planting the seeds...

N: You have made some changes in the way Board meetings are run. What other goals do you have for the HBC?

DA: I think there's a lot of momentum that the club has from its response to the pandemic. The online education efforts are a good example. I want the club to keep those going. I want to involve more people in club activities like Birding For Everyone. I would like to get newer members involved. I hope to make club meetings as efficient as possible, both for the Board and for membership meetings to be as respectful of time as possible. I've made a commitment to

holding Board meetings to one hour, and so far that has been possible. I expect that there are things that I will screw up and there will be some push-back. That will be completely fine and an expected part of the process.

I want to make the club as inviting as possible to anyone who has an interest in birding and nature. That's the big picture. I would like the HBC to partner more with related organizations like Arcadia and Latino Outdoors to make ourselves as open and inclusive as we possibly can be. One of the tasks ahead is to find related organizations and reach out to them and there's definitely a lot more work to be done on that front.

N: Are you aiming to do this by yourself or are you hoping to get together a group like a subcommittee?

DA: I definitely need to get more people involved. I have a bad habit of taking everything on myself. Birding For Everyone is a good example. Now there are six or seven people who are interested in giving a presentation. Next month I think I have somebody besides myself lined up to talk about hawks.

We have a great board and we have a lot of great members, so why not lean on them a little bit for these types of things? Going it alone doesn't work super well. It mostly leads to me getting grumpy and people feeling left out.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Derek Allard led a couple of field trips in September. Here are the highlights:

Arcadia Meadows, September 18

It was a foggy morning in the Arcadia Meadows but that did not dampen the spirits of those who went in search of fall migrants. The fog must have tricked the Great Horned Owl into thinking it was still dawn because the bird hooted several times as we began. The trolley line, long a hot spot for fall warblers, remained quiet this morning as well. Perhaps it was the fog or the early cutting of the nearby corn field that has kept this location quieter than usual this fall. We did find a very nice mixed warbler flock along Ned's Ditch, including a Tennessee Warbler and a Northern Parula. In the fields we were able to locate both Lincoln's and Savannah Sparrows (the prior, by request) and we were treated to great looks at a Northern Harrier and a Red-shouldered Hawk who were vying for the same airspace. Despite the slow start, we ended with forty-five species of birds for the morning.

Goat Peak, September 25

Hawk watches can be a bit hit or miss. With an increasing north wind and cool, cloudy conditions, sightings from Goat Peak Tower were few. We did see what we thought were a pair of American Crows flying over until they dove into the forest much faster than a crow ever would and we all saw flashes of white during the dive. Accipiters were suspected but that's the best we could do. We did have a long line of Canada Geese flying south just above an airplane from the Northampton Airport moving at about the

same speed, which was neat to watch. A Common Raven could also be heard calling. We did come across three different species of warblers (Black-and-white, American Redstart, Northern Parula) as well as a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, who was doing his/her best warbler impersonation. A Blue-headed Vireo sang briefly, too. Although it was quieter than we'd have preferred, we all had an enjoyable morning.

DO YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE AN HBC LIBRARY?

I joined the HBC shortly after moving to Amherst 28 years ago. I don't know when the bird club library was started, but it was in existence back then and I was a big user of the material. When Anne Cann, the librarian at that time, wanted to retire, she asked me to take over and I've done the job ever since.

The library's focus is on bird finding books and ID books for locations around the world, from Cape Town to Cape Horn to Cape Cod. We also have natural history books, bird adventure stories and even bird murder mysteries! There are also bird sound CDs and cassettes and more. The material is held at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment and can be accessed whenever the center is open. The list of books can be found at <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/HBC-Library-2020-July-PDF.pdf>.

I'm also happy to pick up books for you and bring them to in-person meetings or to arrange a way to get them to you.

If you have **recent** editions of books in good shape, I'd be happy to look at them, but please contact me first. We have limited space and already have most of the books I get offered. If you have ideas for new books, please write to me with suggestions. You can reach me at library@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Henry Lappen, HBC Librarian

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest members! From Amherst, Joan Milam, Wendy McDowell, Jody Pozar, Lara Sabra, and James R. Suprenant; Emma St. John and Lee Pollock from South Hadley; William Randolph of Westhampton; Heather Bateman, Mesa, AZ; Cheryl Funk & Bill Young, Granby; Shane Connolly, Scituate; Mark Ketchen and Dave Dersham of Northampton; Karen Lombard, Florence; Brittany Maldonado, Ware; Jacqueline & Warren Odess-Gillet, Agawam; Jeanne Paine, Boston; and Wiljo Doelerman of Easthampton.

A friendly reminder: renewals continue! You can renew online at the HBC website with PayPal, mail a check to our new PO Box or hand your form and check to me in person at the October 11th meeting at Wesley church! Don't forget to include the field trip release which is part of the renewal form! Any questions? You can reach me at membership@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Donna-Lee Ubertalli, Membership Secretary

UPDATE ON REPAIRS AT BIRDS OF PREY REHAB

Even though work wrapped up a while ago at Birds of Prey Rehab in Conway, donations continued to trickle in. The fundraising goal of \$3,500 to repair raptor enclosures did not take into account the extraordinary generosity of you, a community that embraces Tom Ricardi's critically important work to ensure a healthy and enduring population of raptors. Donations as of mid-September neared \$17,000.

The balance of donations is in a bank account, poised for phase two. Tom walked the property with Hobie Iselin recently, eager to repair another bank of enclosures in the spring. Hobie is recruiting and evaluating lumber costs already!

Tom expressed gratitude for the work accomplished by a dedicated group of volunteer carpenters and painters. The double-wide enclosure will give recovering raptors more room to fly, while the isolated pen will allow birds to reacclimate to the wild as Tom removes the human element by feeding them through a blind hole. Another large enclosure now is braced and secure.

Good thing, too. Right now, he is caring for some 60 raptors. "Most of them are starving," he said. When Hobie and I drove up recently, Tom had just returned with several injured birds. Despite possessing the necessary fortitude to do what he does, he was visibly upset as he showed us an adult Barred Owl

lying quietly in a crate and a Red-tailed Hawk in another crate. The Red-tail took his finger gently in its beak before falling off its perch.

At the same time, seven Red-tails are bouncing off the walls in the pre-release enclosure and will be let go soon. Several Barred Owls also will return to the wild, along with some Great-Horned Owls. An owl that likely had been poisoned has healed, and like so many raptors in Tom's care, will get a second chance.

Deb Oakley

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Christmas Counting

It's never too early to think about the annual Audubon Christmas Counts. This winter, the MANO (Northampton) Christmas Bird Count will be held Sunday, December 18, 2022. More information will be forthcoming. If you have questions, email cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

All programs require registration at [Arcadia events](#) where you can find more information.

Birdwatching Basics Series – Online – Tuesdays from 7-8 PM, October 11 – November 29

This eight-part online series will introduce you to the birdwatching basics, from how to identify different bird families to various tools and resources at your disposal. Find out what makes birds unique in the animal kingdom; where and how to locate birds in urban, suburban, and rural communities; and learn about basic bird biology and behavior. Learn from the experts at Mass Audubon so you can join one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America.

Autumn Migration Midweek Bird Walk – Thursday, October 13, 7:30-9:30 AM

Join teacher/naturalist Laura Beltran to search for songbirds as we walk the trails through the various habitats at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. We'll watch for behavior, search for migrants and residents, and learn how to submit our data to eBird, one of the largest wildlife databases in the world. We'll also explore the resiliency and adaptations of some birds to our changing climate. Bring binoculars if you have them, although we have a few pairs to lend. All skill levels are welcome.

New York's Finger Lakes and Sapsucker Woods – Thursday, November 3 - Sunday, November 6

Enjoy the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York and visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We will explore the woodland trails of Sapsucker Woods and take a private, behind-the-scenes tour of the Macaulay Library. We will visit Skaneateles and Cayuga Lakes that have a diversity of migrating waterfowl and other wetland birds including loons and grebes as well as migrating songbirds. The finale of the weekend will include an extended look at the beautiful Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, a migratory stopover for Sandhill Cranes, Trumpeter and Tundra swans, large flocks of Snow Geese, up to 20 duck species, and more!

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

First Thursday Gentle Nature Walks – Thursdays, October 6 & November 3, 8 – 10 AM

Join naturalist and birder John Green for leisurely nature walks on some of our more accessible trails in the valley and see what you find. October 6 is at Quabbin Visitor Center and November 3 is at the Notch Visitor Center. Space is limited and registration is required. Sliding scale fee \$14, \$24, \$34 per class. Register at the Hitchcock Center website.

Forest Bathing – Sundays, October 30 & November 13, 2– 4 PM, Hitchcock Center

Come experience this changing of the seasons on a Forest Bathing walk with Todd Lynch, certified ANFT Forest Bathing guide. Forest Bathing offers the opportunity to slow down. It re-aligns our rhythms with the landscape, allowing our senses a respite from everyday demands and uncertainties, and gives us a template to practice on our own time at home. It's a chance to remember ourselves and the joyful relationships that await us outside. Sliding scale: \$25, \$30, \$35 per class. Register at the Hitchcock Center website.

Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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Dear reader, it was the life bird that wasn't. Last June I wrote an ode to Monhegan Island, Maine, where I got to spend several days of birding in May 2022. I wrote about one particular hour of birding, but what I didn't write about was a life bird I saw when I was out by myself. For those of you who know Monhegan, I was walking down the road to the pump house, listening and watching the mobs of Savannah Sparrows that were on-island at the time. At a slight bend just before the pump house, I saw a flash of rose color that turned into a Pine Grosbeak. I had several minutes to watch the bird pull and eat dandelion seeds before it flew off across the marsh toward the library.

Of course I immediately told my birding companions what I had found and that it was a life bird for me. A couple of days later, back home, I dutifully pulled out my dusty *Birder's Life List & Diary, revised edition* that I had received as a birthday gift in mid-June, 2000 to enter my new life bird. I went to the Grosbeak, Finches, Crossbill pages to write down the particulars and, lo-and-behold, there was already an entry for the Pine Grosbeak. Apparently, I saw one in my own front yard on December 23, 2007. According to my notes, that year saw a finch irruption and my bird was one of the irrupters. I suppose the moral to the story has something to do with checking facts before bragging about life birds.

Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW

- Our membership year runs September-August, so unless you have reupped already, you should **renew your HBC membership** now.
- Complete the **Membership Form (both sides)** either online or on pages 5 and 6 inside. We need your contact details, dues level (if owed), opt-in for USPS newsletter delivery, participation interests, Field Trip Agreement, and Rare Bird Alert sign up (the last being optional). Don't forget to complete both sides.
- Note that the newsletter delivery is now **opt-in** for a printed copy. We hope that you will consider reading the newsletter online (or printing out your own copy) rather than having us send you one. It costs about \$2500 per year to send out newsletters. Please consider it if you don't do that already.
- Use the **Online Renewal procedure** should you owe dues this year or wish to donate money. 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, **or, alternately,**
- **Mail Form** from the newsletter with your check enclosed for dues and/or donation (if applicable) to the address on the Membership Form.
- And **thank you** for getting this done by the end of September.

NEXT PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 13 at 6 PM at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

The first in-person meeting of the HBC for 2022-2023 will be a big sit and bring-your-own-meal at Arcadia. Two things to note besides the location are the day of the week, Tuesday, and the time, earlier than our usual meeting time. Club members will do bird watching for an hour or so, and then everyone will be invited to picnic with other participants. See the program dates on the next page for more information about HBC programs (many of which will be in-person this year), our new venue, and the new meeting day of the week.

HBC PROGRAM DATES FOR 2022-2023

HBC programs will be back in person. Well almost. The HBC Board has decided to have in-person meetings for the months of September, October and November, then switch to Zoom for the December, January and February meetings, and then back to in-person from March to June 2020. In-person meetings will be offered in a hybrid format when possible, meaning that the speaker and audience will be live in person and a video feed on Zoom will be available to those who can't come to the in-person meeting.

The Board also decided that club meetings will be held on the **second TUESDAY** of the month at the usual time of 7:15 PM unless otherwise noted. This change was made 1) to avoid conflicts with national holidays and 2) because the new venue for in-person meetings was not available in the fall on Mondays. Speaking of the venue, we will now be meeting at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 98 North Maple Street, Hadley. That's across the street from the UMass horse farm if you aren't familiar with the location.

September 13, 2022: Big sit/potluck, Arcadia
October 11, 2022: TBA, Wesley
November 8, 2022: TBA, Wesley
December 13, 2022: Members' Meeting, Zoom
January 10, 2023: TBA, Zoom

February 14, 2023: TBA, Zoom
March 14, 2023: TBA, Wesley
April 11, 2023: TBA, Wesley
May 16, 2023: TBA, Wesley
June 13, 2023: Picnic, Arcadia

HBC BOARD NEWS

At its June 2022 meeting, the newly constituted HBC Board elected officers as required by the revised bylaws adopted in March 2021. The officers for this club year are

President – Derek Allard

Vice President/Program Chair – Josh Rose

Treasurer – Steve Winn

Communications Secretary – Ruth Garbett

Membership Secretary – Donna Lee Ubertaini

Also elected to two-year board terms were Laura Beltran, Greg Brown, Anne-Marie Chapdelaine, David Gross, Kalpesh Krishna and Steve Winn. Board members continuing for the second year of their terms are Derek Allard, Ruth Garbett, Jim Lafley and Josh Rose.

The board meets monthly from August to June on the first Thursday of the month at 6 PM. Meetings feature brief officer, newsletter and field trip reports as well as general club business. The aim of the board is to keep each meeting to one hour. Interested individuals are welcome to attend board meetings that are currently being held via Zoom.

The HBC Board wishes to recognize and thank Bob Zimmermann, Helen Symons, Val Miller, and Lissa Ganter all of whom departed the board at the end of the last club year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

New Member Bird Walks

This is a new initiative from the Education Committee. We will offer new member bird walks, open to anyone with any level of experience, once each season. They will be led by members of the Education Committee.

The list of walks for each season is below. Directions to each meeting place will be posted on the Education page of the website

- Sept. 11, 2022 – 8-10 AM at the Quabbin, Gate 35
- Jan. 8, 2023 – 9-11 AM at the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Conservation Area parking lot
- April 23, 2023 – 7-9 AM at Lake Wallace, behind the Belchertown Police Station
- The fourth one will be our usual new member bird walk before the June HBC picnic at Arcadia.

Derek Allard's **Birding for Everyone** program is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. On the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM there is a one hour online educational session (half

presentation, half discussion) and on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:00 AM a two hour, in-person, beginner bird walk at an accessible location. All events are free and open to the public. Please help spread the word! The online presentation requires no registration (check the HBC website for the Zoom link). Those interested in attending the September walk can register at bit.ly/2022bfe.

September 17, 10:00-11:00 AM: Hawks (Online presentation)

September 24, 9:15-11:30 AM: Mount Holyoke Summit House, Hadley (In-person walk/sit)

September workshops

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 7-8 PM. DIY. Our next Do-It-Yourself Field Trip will be on TUESDAY, September 6, 7 PM on Zoom. Each month an area is chosen, and a leader describes the location and 5 target species for that area. Anyone interested has a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the DIY Zoom meeting the following month. Our July-August field trip was at the East Meadows area of Northampton and the target birds were Sora, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, and Least Sandpiper. If you'd like to join the September Zoom to share your sightings and learn of the upcoming field trip, e-mail education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7-8 PM. Hawk Migration ID Tips with Dan Russell. We'll study how to ID hawks as they travel south over (sometimes way over) our heads. We'll share the best techniques to meet this challenge. Dan Russell is a retired Social Science Professor from Springfield College and a volunteer educator at Arcadia. He's conducted workshops and hawkwatches for a number of years.

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 7-8 PM. Bird Banding at Fort River. Ornithologist Randy Dettmers will be discussing the research and banding efforts that have been on- going at Silvio O Conte Wildlife Refuge - Fort River division. He has been banding birds at Fort River for several years during the nesting season. To register for this Zoom presentation, please email education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Please register for any of these workshops by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

Reminder: our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page. <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>.

FALL FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines

1. Field trip participant numbers are determined by the field trip leader.
2. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated, are required to wear a mask when asked (possibly in carpool situations), and must be aware of maintaining a safe social distance during the event.
3. Participants should use the contact information in the trip description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader once they register.

Saturday, September 10. DAR State Forest. 8:00 to 11:30 AM. Explore the late summer wonders of this amazing spot with Amanda Kallenbach. You'll get a comprehensive overview of the 1,700-acre tract comprising two lakes, a couple of beaches, a large swath of marshland, camp sites, hiking trails, and the Goshen fire tower (elev. 1,575 ft.). Expect all the usual forest denizens along with migrating warblers and more. We'll be walking on pavement and sand, doing some hiking on uneven terrain, and a bit of caravanning. There are no entry fees after Labor Day. Meet at the main gate house lot (78 Cape St., Goshen off Route 112) at 8:00 AM. Email for more information: amanda.kallenbach@gmail.com. Heavy rain postpones to Sunday, September 11th. (M)

Thursday, September 15 through Wednesday, September 21. Mountain House, Skinner State Park. 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This is prime hawk watching from the Holyoke Range. We will attempt to have

a knowledgeable Hampshire Bird Club member on the Mountain House porch during this time to assist with identification of the hawks migrating along the range. Just show up with your binoculars. (E)

Sunday, September 18. Arcadia Meadows. 6:30 to 10:00 AM. Join Derek Allard and Steve Winn as they explore the meadows at Arcadia. The area offers a variety of habitats including open water, fields, woods, and a swamp. This is a great time for fall warblers, sparrows, possible shore birds and a possible Dickcissel. As the morning warms, we'll scan the sky for Broad-winged Hawks and other raptors. Most of the trip will be walking along the roads in the meadows. To register and for more information contact Derek at derekallard73@gmail.com. (E)

Sunday, September 25. Goat Peak on Mount Tom. 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Derek Allard will meet birders at the stone house near the playground on Reservation Road and walk the broken pavement road to Goat Peak. We'll keep our fingers crossed for southern winds and migrating hawks. Other fall migrants, of course, are also possible. There will be some moderate climbing to the peak, though we will take the less steep route. Brave folks can go up the tower! To register, email derekallard73@gmail.com. (M)

Sunday, September 25. Fort River Wildlife Refuge. 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Lesley Farlow and Laura Beltran will co-lead a "sit" field trip at the Conte Refuge site on 69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley. We will sit at the large pavilion right off the main parking lot which overlooks a pond and large fields. Bring your chair and binoculars. This is an accessible field trip, and all birding skill levels are welcome. No need to pre-register for this trip. For more information email education@hampshirebirdclub.org. (E)

Saturday, October 8. Birds & Brews Walk, Mill River Park, Easthampton. 10:00 AM to noon. Jim Lafley and Mike Locher are trying something different for the club by leading a bird walk along the rail trail near Lower Mill Pond in Easthampton. After the walk we will visit the Abandoned Building Brewery to relax and debrief the walk while sampling their brews. Bringing your lunch or a substantial snack would be advisable as the food options are limited in the area. To register or for more information email Jim at jimlafley@gmail.com. (E, especially the second part)

Wednesday, October 19. Lake Wallace, Belchertown. 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Meet Jim Lafley at the new Lake Wallace observation deck to scan the marsh and open water for late shorebirds and waders as well as ducks, geese, and other denizens of the area. We will also explore the back area of the lake and the woods near the athletic fields. To register or for more information email jimlafley@gmail.com. (E)

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

Sunday, November 13. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley. All day. Mike Locher heads north for the spectacle of hundreds of Snow Geese rising into the sun as a Rough-legged Hawk cruises by them. In addition to the geese and raptors, we'll look for ducks, loons, gulls, and grebes on Lake Champlain and anything else that we can find. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 5:30 AM for carpooling. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 - landline) for further details and to register. (E/M)

Sunday, December 11. South Hadley along the Connecticut River. 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Jim Lafley and Laura Beltran will lead birders to several areas along the Connecticut River in South Hadley. We will explore McCray's Farm & River Lodge Rd. for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and Harriers, Brunelle's Marina for waterfowl and Bald Eagles and the Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Area. This will be a good trip to prepare for the CBC! They are all within a mile of each other and there is a large parking lot at each site. Contact Jim at jimlafley@gmail.com. (E)

Field Trip designations:

- (E) – Easy walking conditions, fairly accessible for most, usually flat terrain on improved trails or roads.
- (M) – Moderately difficult, more challenging trail conditions, short steep sections, longer hikes involved.
- (S) – Strenuous conditions, muddy or rocky trails, steep sections, difficult footing in part.

Date	Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> cash <input type="checkbox"/> check <input type="checkbox"/> online	Sign Trip Release?	News Preference?	Date Entered
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HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2022-2023

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

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

The first year is free for first-time members. For questions, please contact: membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

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

CONTACT INFORMATION [Optional: include gender pronouns if you wish.]		Email is the default delivery for the newsletter. CHECK here for postal delivery instead: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name(s)		Gender pronoun(s)	
Address		OPTIONAL WAYS TO PARTICIPATE – PLEASE CHECK (For questions, contact: membership@hampshirebirdclub.org)	
City, State, Zip		<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally provide refreshments <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Field Trips <input type="checkbox"/> Share information on birding locations/networks Serve on a Committee: <input type="checkbox"/> Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Refreshments set up <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Room (chairs & AV) set up <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:	
Phone(s)			
Email(s)			
May we publish your contact information in the fall club directory? [Published only in hard copy, provided only to members.]		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, field trips, or educational and other opportunities?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

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

First-time members may ignore this section unless they wish to contribute anyway.

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

Please make checks payable to the **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.** Bring to the next meeting, or mail to:
Hampshire Bird Club, P.O. Box 3637, Amherst MA 01004-3637

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 membership 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▶

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It's with great pleasure that we welcome the following new members who joined us over the summer - Michael Greenwald, Amherst; Mia LeBlanc, South Hadley; Brittany Maldonado, Ware; Wendy McDowell, Amherst; Jacqueline & Warren Odess-Gillett, Hadley; Lara Sabra, Amherst; and Julius Tyson, San Rafael, CA. We look forward to warmly greeting you at the first meeting of the season at Arcadia on September 13.

Please note our **new mailing address**: PO Box 3637, Amherst, MA 01004-3637. We've moved to the University Drive location which has more flexible hours. And it's renewal time! See the reminder on the front page of this newsletter. Any questions? Don't hesitate to reach out.

Donna Lee Ubertelli, membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

Dana Grayson of the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) generously presented two programs to the club this past May (both available on video via the HBC website under 'Programs'). NABS and a fellow club member are now offering a reduced subsidized rate of \$15 to HBC members. (Feel free to pitch in and help bluebirds at even a more generous level if you decide to join NABS.)

This special offer is available via a printable form only. Go to nabluebirdsociety.org, click on 'Membership', scroll down to the bottom of the first paragraph and click on 'click here for a printable form'. Fill out the printed form and check A+, \$15, and add the club name. Send in your check and form.

If you have questions or concerns contact Bruce Hart at bjhart1949@gmail.com.

THE HBC WANTS YOU!

The club is currently looking for a few members who would be excited to help with our social media presences. We are on Facebook, Twitter, and now Instagram! Photographers would be a great fit for Instagram, in particular. Similarly, we are looking for field trip leaders for upcoming trips. No need to be an expert (leaders often pair up for walks), just have an interest. The club is actively looking to involve folks who haven't been involved previously but who want to participate. Interested? Email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

The following in-person, outdoor programs and one online program are being offered through Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. All programs require registration; more information can be found at [Arcadia events](#) where you can register.

Autumn Migration Mid-week Bird Walks

September 1, 2022 (Thursday) 7:30-9:30 AM at Arcadia. For information and registration:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/arcadia/84290-autumn-migration-mid-week-bird-walk>

September 15, 2022 (Thursday) 7:30-9:30 AM at Arcadia. For information and

registration: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/arcadia/84384-autumn-migration-mid-week-bird-walk>

September 29, 2022 (Thursday) 7:30 - 9:30 AM at Arcadia. For information and registration:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/arcadia/84385-autumn-migration-mid-week-bird-walk>

Identifying Hawks in Flight – Online program, September 8, 2022 (Thursday) 7:00-8:30 PM

For information and registration: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/83694-identifying-hawks-in-flight-online>

Hawk Watch at Blueberry Hill – September 11, 2022 (Sunday) 10 AM - 12 PM

For information and registration: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/arcadia/84442-hawk-watch-at-blueberry-hill>

Spoil a good walk: go birding! newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 38, No. 10
June 2022

Dear reader, along with four birding friends I spent five days in mid-May on Monhegan Island. I find Monhegan to be a perfect place to relax so long as the visit is not so short that constant, hectic birding is the top order of business. It's nice to have a relaxed pace with sensible breaks, and to spend more time in one spot. One morning I decided to keep track of the birds I saw and/or heard for the first hour that I was out. On May 20 I walked out the door alone at 5:56 am and immediately heard one of the several Black-billed Cuckoos that were on the island for a few days. As I walked down Main Street past the marsh there were several Virginia Rails calling, a call that I heard so frequently in my five days that I will never lose track of it. A bit farther on, near a small grove of flowering apple trees I heard a Ring-necked Pheasant, a Sora, Herring Gulls, a Gray Catbird, a Song Sparrow, several Red-winged Blackbirds, and a few warblers, all while standing in one spot. Farther down the road were a Great Black-backed Gull, a Warbling Vireo, a Least Flycatcher, a Green Heron, a Brown Thrasher, and a group of Cedar Waxwings so close that I was listening to their wing beats. At the end of my hour I had walked 0.84 miles and seen or heard 34 species without really trying to push up the numbers. Monhegan is a treasure.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, June 13 at 7:15 pm via Zoom

Henry Stevens presents

Project Redstart: A full annual cycle approach to studying migratory birds

Birds are in trouble, with migratory species exhibiting the steepest annual population declines. However, the culprits explaining these declines remain largely unknown. This is likely due to the fact that most ornithological research in North America has focused on the breeding grounds, overlooking crucial events that take place during migratory and nonbreeding periods. If we hope to elucidate the drivers of declines for migratory species, we must first understand their migratory connectivity, or the degree to which populations of a species remain together throughout the full annual cycle. With these temporal and spatial data, we can begin to tease apart how different factors may be limiting populations of migratory species across their annual cycles. I'm using this exact approach with the American Redstart, an acrobatic wood-warbler in decline.

Henry graduated from Tufts University in 2019 with a joint BS in Biology and Environmental Science. He grew up in Exeter, NH, where he discovered his passion for ornithology. He LOVES birds, and his desire to understand their ecology is what gets him out of bed in the morning (#ForTheBirds). Henry's research interests lie at the intersection of conservation ornithology and tropical ecology, and his past research has focused on the breeding biology and dispersal of Gray Vireos (*Vireo vicinior*) in New Mexico, the use of remote audio recorders for surveying cryptic species in the Amazon, improving the conservation site network for migratory shorebirds in the Americas, and uncovering the life histories of Andean Cock-of-the-rocks (*Rupicola peruvianus*) and other understudied species in the cloud forests of Ecuador. At Georgetown, Henry plans to study the full annual cycle of Neotropical migratory wood-warblers, and use integrated population models to pinpoint factors driving their declines. With over 3.2 billion individual birds lost in North America since 1970, understanding and addressing the threats faced by these species is paramount for mitigating further declines.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

We've had a number of field trips over the past month. Here are reports from some of them.

April 27, Thursday – Jim Lafley led ten early rising birders on a trip around Park Hill Orchard in search of early migrants. Although it was a beautiful day for walking at the orchard, including the abandoned section, the birds were less than cooperative. **Pine Warblers**, Blue-headed Vireos, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, Field Sparrows, Tree Swallows, an Eastern Towhee, and a pair of **American Kestrels** were the only migratory species in evidence during our walk. The Kestrels did copulate twice. The other 30 species we found were ones that are often listed on the area Christmas Bird Counts. It was good to get out with a friendly group of birders and increase our binocular and identification skills while socializing.

May 8, Sunday – Laura Beltran greeted the group in the parking lot of the old Moose Lodge on Cooke Ave. in Northampton for the walk into the Pines Edge section of Fitzgerald Lake. Some of the birders were there celebrating Mothers' Day with their mother! They viewed and heard many **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** and some warblers and vireos along the trail toward the marsh including a great view of a **Blackburnian Warbler** and a Blue-headed Vireo. At the section along the marsh Wood Ducks perched on logs and Great Blue Herons on nests were very accommodating. All possible woodpeckers were noted including watching a pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers building a nest. A pair of American Goldfinches put on quite a courtship display. Altogether there were 54 species recorded by the group including ten warbler species.

May 15, Sunday – Thirteen people enjoyed a field trip at Fort River led by Laura Beltran and Steve Winn. We observed 48 species. A **Purple Martin** was observed at the martin box and at the very end of the trip, some of us heard the **Sora** which had been observed there the prior week. There were not many warblers but it was a lovely morning to be out.

May 21, Saturday – Arriving at Mount Tom in dense fog, the group led by Derek Allard didn't have high hopes for the morning. We were happy to be wrong. We walked the paved road from the Mount Tom entrance at Route 141 and in the opening minutes the warblers were in good numbers. True, they were often high up in trees, which in the fog made it difficult to determine exact species but this was a very birdy morning. Multiple **Tennessee Warblers** were singing their three-part song, Worm-eating Warblers, Prairie Warblers, Black-throated Blue and Black Throated Green Warblers were all heard. However, the highlights of the morning were a **Bay-breasted Warbler** that emerged from the fog without giving a sound and, on the way out, a **Canada Warbler** that sang loudly on our way out and allowed exactly one of our group see it, which is proper Canada Warbler behavior. We ended with thirteen species of warblers as well as great looks at a Scarlet Tanager, always a show stopper.

May 22, Sunday – Mike Locher led this trip up Mt. Holyoke. Seven intrepid birders braved the weather forecast (very hot) and hiked up the slope in search of its avian treasures. To the Mike's relief, we got looks at most of the target birds. Between the gate and the Halfway House, we found a **Swainson's Thrush**, which seems regular on the mountain in May. It was a little distant for great looks, but a birder with a camera took a picture that clinched the identification. Soon after we saw a brilliant male **Scarlet Tanager**, one of several that we found, and the first of the many Ovenbirds. After passing the Halfway House we heard our first **Worm-eating Warbler**, and although we had to look up at an angle that human necks aren't meant to attempt, we got good looks at it. **Winter Wrens** were singing at several points between the gate and Taylor Notch, although we didn't get views of any. Uphill from Taylor Notch we got **Blackpoll Warbler**, Blackburnian Warbler, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, many American Redstarts, even more Red-eyed Vireos, and several Pink Ladyslippers (which I identified by song, impressing the group immensely). [Ed. note: I presume the song was "I Could Have Danced All Night" from *My Fair Lady* as that is the best-known song of the Pink Ladyslipper.] As we approached the first upper parking lot we heard our first **Cerulean Warbler**, and the whole group got decent looks. And, from the Summit House (now open!), we heard and saw a male Indigo Bunting in great light. In all we had 38 species listed on eBird for Skinner State Park, May 22, starting at 5:55 am.

May 28, Saturday – Despite threatening weather, four hardy HBCers joined Bob Zimmermann and Dave Gross on the Hilltowns Ramble around Williamsburg, Cummington, Worthington, Ashfield, and Windsor. Overall 60 species were found at the eight primary stops on the trip. Highlights included a **Spotted Sandpiper** on Old Post Road in Worthington, Belted Kingfishers and great looks at a Great-crested Flycatcher at the Adams Road wetland, a calling **Virginia Rail** at the Flat Iron Road Marsh in Cummington, and a pair of adult **Sandhill Cranes** with their two chicks on Ranney Corner Road in Ashfield. Rain fell on and off during the day, and most of the birds we identified were from vocalizations. We found five species of flycatcher, seven of warbler and four of thrush. We also had some luck with wildflowers near the Cummington Fairground: Painted Trillium, Canada Mayflower, Starflower, Clintonia and Pinkster were all in bloom. A Red Fox was seen crossing Spruce Corner Road in Ashfield. [Ed. note: This, of course, begs the question “Why did the fox cross the road?”] The day was cut short at the Windsor Pond stop when rain became heavy enough to convince the group that it was time to head for home.

May 29, Sunday – The morning began with foggy conditions, but, thankfully, the birds didn't sleep in. Led by Derek Allard, the group traversed a four-mile loop around Nonotuck Park checking habitats from swamps to hemlock forests. The warblers were a bit quiet already here at the end of May, though we did have a **Blackburnian Warbler** singing just above our heads that none of the thirteen of us could get eyes on. Later in the walk we heard and staked out a **Canada Warbler** that flew up to an exposed branch ever so briefly and allowing only a few of our group to have a good look before flying away. On the non-warbler front the highlight was a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** that was perched on a lowish branch and was much more cooperative than the Canada Warbler. Everyone had good looks at this bird, which isn't often seen in the park. We also had a very cooperative Veery that posed for binoculars. By the end of the day we had fifty-three species of birds and not one person was lost in the swamp. Success!

BIRDING FOR EVERYONE

The Birding For Everyone (BFE) program is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. On the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 am there is a one hour online educational session (half presentation, half discussion) and on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:00 am a two hour, in-person, beginner bird walk at an accessible location. All events are free and open to the public. Please help spread the word! Those interested should email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org to register. Registration is required.

June 18, 10:00-11:00 am: Herons (Online Presentation)

June 25, 8:00-10:00 am Paradise Pond, Northampton (In-person walk)

July 16, 10:00-11:00 am: Apps, Field Guides, and eBird (Online Presentation)

July 23, 8:00-10:00 am: Pulaski Park, Holyoke (In-person walk)

August 20, 10:00-11:00 am: Sparrows (Online Presentation)

August 27, 8:00-10:00 am: Station Road Rail Trail, Amherst (In-person walk)

HBC BOARD ELECTIONS

The 2022 HBC Board election was held online between May 10 and 22. A total of 63 votes were recorded, all from HBC members. The candidates on the ballot and the votes received by each were Anne-marie Chapdelaine (63), Dave Gross (61), Donna Lee Ubertalli (63), Gregory Brown (63), Kalpesh Krishna (63), Laura Beltran (62) and Steve Winn (62). Continuing on the Board for the second year of their terms are Derek Allard, Ruth Garbett, Jim Lafley and Josh Rose. Thanks to Harlee Strauss and Dave Pritchard for serving as election monitors, ensuring the integrity of the election.

By the HBC bylaw enacted last year, the new board will be convened at its June 2022 meeting by the outgoing President, Bob Zimmermann, and the first order of business for the new board will be to elect officers (President, Vice President/Program Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Communications Secretary). The new set of officers will be announced in an email and in the September 2022 issue of the newsletter.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

Dana Grayson's workshop on bluebird nest boxes was a well-attended and much-appreciated follow-up to her excellent presentation on bluebirds for our May monthly meeting. She has been kind enough to extend an invitation to anyone working on nest boxes to contact her. Her email address: danag@nabluebirdsociety.org.

Our May 24th workshop on volunteer opportunities was cancelled and will be rescheduled at some point next year.

DIY will meet Monday, June 6th, before we take a break for July and August. There is more information under DIY in this newsletter. The September DIY date will be in the September newsletter and will also arrive via an email reminder.

Derek Allard's **Birding For Everyone** program, which includes both virtual workshops and field trips, is attracting a large number of participants. There is more on this exciting new program above in this newsletter. As the newsletter will be on hiatus for July and August, the BFE events for the next three months are listed. For more information, email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org

Reminder: our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page: <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>

June workshops:

Monday, June 6, 7-8 pm. **June DIY**

Wednesday, June 15, 7-8 pm. **Garden Design to Support Pollinators and Birds with Larri Cochran**

Birds feed on native insects; native insects feed on native plants; and native plants rely on insect pollination to survive. Estimates are that over ninety percent of native plants have unique relationships with specific insects for pollination - without whom they would not be able to reproduce. The pollinator/plant relationship is not only critical for those plants and insects - but also for the web of bird & animal life they support.

This talk will use two examples of local plant/pollinator relationships to discuss this topic: monarchs with milkweed and swallowtails with their species-specific host plants. I'll leave ample time for question and answers to help everyone in the audience better understand why we need to use native plants and how to use them in traditional lawn and garden environments to best support pollinators and birds.

Please register by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

We may be able to schedule a workshop on Birding Apps for late June. Watch for more information on the Education Workshops webpage.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join in welcoming these new HBC members in the past month: Margaret Boone, Greenfield; Lori Eldridge, South Hadley; Anna Foster, Leverett; Nari Horton, Northampton; Michealle Larkins, Dorchester; Mariah Mason, Shutesbury; Mary Jane McGuire, Holyoke; Sam Moore, Turners Falls; and Jordy Rosenberg, Northampton.

I hope to see many of you in person at the all-club picnic on June 5 at Arcadia, and again at our final member meeting for the year on Zoom on June 13.

And here's a happy bit of news, albeit not member-related: the injured bird I brought to the Tufts Wildlife Clinic on April 3 has recovered. "Male American Robin, Case 285" was released to the wild about a week ago.

Here's wishing you all a great summer ahead. I hope you get to spend a lot of it out in the wild also!

Lissa Ganter, membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

The following programs are being offered through Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. All programs require registration and more information can be found at [Arcadia events](#).

Breeding Birds – Online, Tues, June 28, 7:00-8:30 pm, Kathy Seymour & Jane Sender

Summer is the perfect time to watch Massachusetts birds pair up, build nests, and fledge their young. In this course, you will explore the elaborate displays and songs male birds use to attract a mate and defend territory and the subsequent intricacies of nest building, incubation, parental care, and fledging. You will learn how to find breeding birds near you, how to observe without disturbing them, and how to understand the fascinating behaviors you see.

Intro to Summer Wading Birds – Online, Tues, July 19, 7:00-8:30 pm, Kathy Seymour & Jane Sender

Wade into the world of herons, egrets, ibis and bitterns. These long-legged, colorful, graceful birds found in coastal and inland wetlands are especially adapted to hunt on the water's edge. You'll discover their fascinating natural history, including foraging strategies, elaborate courtship displays, and breeding rookeries, as well as what Mass Audubon's research at coastal breeding colonies can tell us. Learn wading bird identification tips and the best places to view them in Massachusetts and beyond.

Bird Photography – Online, Thursdays, July 28-August 11, 6:30-8:30 pm, Eduardo del Solar

This hands-on, online series is designed to hone your photography skills in the context of capturing images of beautiful, and sometimes elusive, birds. We will explore documentary, abstract, color, and black and white image-making just in time to capture the migrants returning to our fields and seashore. Appropriate for all skill levels; instructor will individualize lessons based on the skill set of each participant.

Each week will include a two-hour online classroom session, weekly assignments to practice skills and strategies covered that week, and the sharing of three images from each assignment with the group for constructive feedback and reflection. The instructor will use student work to demonstrate basic post-processing techniques, including integration of the digital flow including processing and editing images using a raw converter such as Adobe Lightroom for publishing or printing.

DSLR and mirrorless cameras with full auto and manual functions and wide, telephoto, and close focus capabilities are ideal for this class. While all levels of skill are accepted in this class, all students need to be familiar with their camera functions. In addition to 6 hours of online instruction, each student will receive one hour of individual instruction via email, phone, video chat, or in-person field instruction (adhering to current COVID safety requirements).

Massachusetts Shorebirds – Online, Wed, August 3, 7:00-8:30 pm, Douglas Lowry & Scott Santino

Shorebirds are avian superstars with Herculean migrations, unique feeding adaptations, and elaborate courtship displays. This online presentation will enrich your appreciation of these incredible birds, as we discuss several species that are currently passing through on both ends of migration, or settling in seasonally for nesting. Learn their unique and specialized features which support their ability to thrive in distinct but interconnected coastal/wetland environments. Once decimated by market hunting, shorebirds have shown remarkable resiliency as they populate ever decreasing habitats. Presently, they provide important metrics in our understanding of the effects of climate change and sea level rise. After this presentation, you'll know where and when to observe shorebirds, and tips on visual and vocal identifications.

We will soon be starting our summer hiatus. No more newsletters until September. Hasta la vista!
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Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 38, No. 9
May 2022

Dear reader, after that string of groaner corny jokes last issue, I think I should be somewhat circumspect this month. In the remote chance that you don't read every word of this fine document from start to finish, I point out a couple of essential reads. Page four has a report from the Nominating Committee on the slate of candidates who will be on the ballot for the HBC Board election later this month. Page five describes a remarkable opportunity to go birding with David Sibley and Joan Walsh. And page three has a description of this month's Birding For Everyone offering by Derek Allard and company.

I'm on the road this week so that's it from me. Enjoy those migrants as they flood the airways in May! Spoil a good walk: go birding!

NEXT PROGRAM
Monday, May 9 at 7:15 pm via Zoom
Dana Grayson presents
Bluebirds

Bluebirds are among North America's most popular and charismatic species. This program will cover many aspects of them, including:

- The three species
- Their habitat and how a great deal of it was lost
- Their diet
- Their nesting behaviors, patterns, and timelines (including photos of nesting development)
- How to attract bluebirds and provide safe, predator-resistant housing
- Monitoring, data collection and reporting/citizen science
- Non-native competitors and predators (House Sparrows and European Starlings)
- Other native cavity nesters that may inhabit nest boxes
- Other resources for learning more

Dana Grayson serves on the board of directors of the [North American Bluebird Society](#). Dana grew up surrounded by countryside and farmland, and this is where she first gained her love of nature and animals of all kinds. When she began working from home full-time, Dana had more opportunities to witness nature in her own backyard, especially the birds. She was most captivated by the beauty and personalities of Eastern Bluebirds, and installed nestboxes for them and other native cavity nesters. In a relatively short time since beginning her landlord journey, managing and monitoring nestboxes on her own property and several other private properties, she has helped fledge over 75 native cavity nesters. Dana also serves as a co-coordinator for Frederick County, providing advice, guidance, and best practices to other local bluebird landlords. Dana enjoys using her skills as a marketer to attract more people to birding and caretaking of bluebirds by engaging people through social media, creating online content, virtual events, newsletters, and more. She currently works as a marketing manager for a software company serving non-profit organizations, and lives in Frederick County, Maryland, with her husband and dogs.

UPCOMING PROGRAM

June 13, 2022. TBA.

MAY– JUNE FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines

All trips will be limited to ten participants unless otherwise noted and up to two leaders.

The following additional rules will apply this spring due to the continuing COVID-19 situation:

1. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated and boosted, are required to wear a mask when asked (possibly in carpool situations) and should maintain social distancing.
2. Field Trips are for Hampshire Bird Club Members only.
3. Members should use the contact information in the description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader once they register.

Thursday, May 5. Wildwood Cemetery. 6:30 to 10:00 am.

Scott Sumner will be looking for warblers, vireos and other early May migrants. Please contact Scott (ssurner@aol.com) to sign up. (E*)

Sunday, May 8. Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. 6:30 – 9:30 am.

Join Laura Beltran and Jim Lafley as we walk along Boggy Meadow Road through mixed hardwood forest, past a large beaver swamp, and to the wildlife blind overlooking a freshwater marsh. We will have an opportunity to observe a large variety of warblers and other songbirds, as well as wetland species like Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, and American Bittern. The 3-mile round-trip walk is flat, but some areas have large roots and uneven terrain. Also, the trails are often muddy. Meet at the Cooke Avenue entrance (the former Moose Lodge) parking area. Contact Laura Beltran at lauraandnature@gmail.com. (E/M*)

Sunday, May 8. Mineral Hills Conservation Area, Florence. 7:00 am. Half day.

Betsy Higgins and Marcia Merithew will co-lead a walk at this conservation area which can feature Prairie Warblers, Eastern Towhees, Ravens and Red-shouldered Hawks, as well as a variety of warblers and vireos. Meet in the parking area at the end of Turkey Hill Road. This will be a moderate walk on uneven ground with some slight inclines/declines. We'll walk the trails around and into the quarry and along the dirt road if time allows. To sign up email mmerithew@comcast.net. (M*)

Sunday, May 15. Fort River. 6:30 – 8:30 am.

Join Laura Beltran and Steve Winn at the USFWS Moody Bridge Road parking lot near the small pond. We'll search for Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Barn Swallows, Northern Harriers and more. Continuing along the all-persons trail loop through second growth forest, marshy areas, and along the river's edge we'll search for songbirds including warblers, Brown Thrashers, Field Sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and more. The accessible trail is 1.3 miles long with benches to stop and rest along the way. Contact Laura Beltran at lauraandnature@gmail.com (E*)

Saturday, May 21. Mount Tom. 6:30 to 9:30 am.

Join Derek Allard on the (mostly) flat, paved road below the Mt. Tom ridge, which includes the microburst blow down area that has become a favorite spot of Prairie Warblers, Winter Wrens, and Eastern Towhees. Other likely suspects we may encounter include Worm-eating Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, Tennessee Warblers, and Peregrine Falcons. Meet at the west gate on route 141 (opposite the Tavern on the Hill restaurant). We will walk about 4 miles, so please plan accordingly. For information and to register contact derekallard73@gmail.com (E*)

Sunday, May 22. Mount Holyoke. 6:00 am. Half day.

Mike Locher hikes up the park road to the top of this local peak hoping for some later migrants and deep-woods breeding specialties including Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers and Yellow-throated Vireos. Meet at the (gated) entrance to Skinner State Park (at the end of Old Mountain Road in Hadley) at 6:00 am. This is an occasionally steep hike on a paved road. For more information or to register contact Mike (413-585-5864). (M/S*)

Saturday, May 28. Hilltown Rambles. 6:30 am. All day.

Join Bob Zimmermann and Dave Gross 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 hilly 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 and to sign up, please contact Dave (djgross@gmail.com, 413-687-8161) or Bob (raz@umass.edu, 413-585-0405). (E/M/S*)

Sunday, May 29. Nonotuck Park. 6:30 to 9:30 am.

Join Derek Allard for a tour of Nonotuck Park in search of Blue-headed Vireos, Canada Warblers, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers and Veerys as they sing their sweet song. This walk is about 4 miles and will go through both hilly and potentially muddy terrain. Mud boots are recommended. Meet at the back of the Easthampton High School parking lot. For information and to register contact derekallard73@gmail.com (E/M*)

Wednesday, June 1. Southwick Wildlife Management Area. 5:30 am to noon

Join Scott Sumner in his search for Grasshopper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Prairie Warbler and Eastern Meadowlark. Last year this location had nesting Dickcissel and possible Blue Grosbeak. Contact Scott to Sign up: ssurner@aol.com.

Saturday, June 4. Knightville Dam. 7:00 am. Long Half Day, often past noon.

Betsy Higgins and Marcia Merithew will co-lead a walk at the Knightville Dam area. The trip starts with an exploration at the top of the dam, then a drive down to the road along the East Branch of the Westfield River. Highlights include flycatchers, Bank Swallows, Spotted Sandpipers, several species of warblers, and cuckoos. Meet in the JFK Middle School parking lot on Bridge Road at 7:00 am. It's about a 20-minute drive to the Knightville area. It will be a combination of walking and driving on dirt roads, moderately uneven terrain. To sign up email mmerithew@comcast.net. (E/M*)

Sunday, June 5. Quabbin Reservoir, Gate 8. 6:00 am. Half day.

Mike Locher leads a trip down to the edge of the reservoir. Target birds include Acadian Flycatcher (regular here in recent years) and a variety of warblers (more Ovenbirds than you can count and Blackburnian Warblers, which can be difficult to find). Meet at the parking area outside Gate 8 off Route 202 at 6:00 am. We will walk from the gate to the water and back which is **5 miles** round trip, so bring water, a snack and wear suitable shoes. For more information and to register contact Mike (413-585-5864 (M*))

***Field Trip designations:**

(E) – Easy walking conditions, fairly accessible for most, usually flat terrain on improved trails or roads.

(M) – Moderately difficult, more challenging trail conditions, short steep sections, longer hikes involved.

(S) – Strenuous conditions, muddy or rocky trails, steep sections, difficult footing in part.

BIRDING FOR EVERYONE

The Birding For Everyone (BFE) program is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. On the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 am there is a one hour online educational session (half presentation, half discussion) and on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:00 am there is a two hour, in-person, beginner bird walk at an accessible location. All events are free and open to the public. Please help spread the word! Those interested in the May offerings should email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org to register. *Registration is required.*

May 21, 10 -11 am: Warblers and the Importance of Focusing on One Bird at a Time (Online Presentation)

May 28, 8 -10 am: Saint Brigid's Cemetery, Easthampton (In-person walk/sit)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2022 Nominating Committee (Derek Allard, Lissa Ganter, and Janice Jorgensen) has assembled a group of candidates for the upcoming board election. According to the new bylaws passed last year, HBC board members now serve two-year, renewable terms. The committee's process included sending a call for nominations to all HBC members on March 17, and then writing and talking to numerous individuals over the past six weeks.

Four candidates for a first term are Gregory Brown, Annemarie Chapdelaine, Kalpesh Krishna, and Donna Lee Ubertaini. Current board members who have completed their two-year terms and are up for re-election include Laura Beltran, Dave Gross, and Steve Winn. The ballot will include these seven candidates, plus any additional candidates nominated (or who self-nominate) from the floor at the May 9 General Meeting. Voting procedures will also be announced at the meeting. Continuing board members in the second year of their terms (and thus not on the ballot) include Derek Allard, Ruth Garbett, Jim Lafley, and Josh Rose. Departing the board this year are Lissa Ganter, Val Miller, Helen Symons, and Bob Zimmermann. The new board members will take office in June.

Respectfully submitted, Derek, Lissa, and Janice

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

We are continuing our **DIY** trips and gearing up for warblers in May! Join us on May 1st. See below.

Derek Allard's **Birding for Everyone** program, which includes both virtual workshops and field trips, is attracting a large number of participants. There is more on this exciting new program on page three. For more information email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org

Birding Apps Survey: Thank you to all of you who have completed and submitted this very short survey on which birding apps you would like to know more about. We are hoping to organize this workshop for May, but it may wait until June. So, if you haven't had a chance to make your request—please do so! Email education@hampshirebirdclub.org if you want more information and/or the link.

As of this writing, our May workshops are not fully in place, so *please keep checking the education page on the website*. We will post the workshops as soon as they are confirmed. Emails will also go out with descriptions and reminders.

Reminder: our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page. <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>.

May workshops:

Once the workshops have been posted on the website, please register by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line. Keep checking the Education page on the Hampshire Bird Club website for more workshops.

Monday, May 1, 7-8 pm. May DIY

Our next Do-It-Yourself Field Trip will be on Monday, May 1, 7 pm on Zoom. Each month an area is chosen, and a leader describes the location and five target species for that area. Anyone interested has a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the Zoom meeting the following month. Our April field trip location was the Mineral Hills Conservation Area, and the target birds were Broad-winged Hawk, Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Eastern Towhee. If you'd like to join the May Zoom to share your sightings and learn about the upcoming field trip, email education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join in welcoming these new members in the past month: Annemarie Chapdelaine, Easthampton; Ellen & Colin Cool, Granby; Miriam Fliegner, Amherst; Rebecca Kern, Greenfield; Amy Shamansky, Greenfield; and Amy Woolf, Northampton.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Sunday, June 5, 11 am – 1 pm. That is the day of the All-Member Picnic (bring your own) at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, preceded by bird walks for new members.

Lissa Ganter, membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

OUTING WITH DAVID SIBLEY

The Bird-a-thon, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary's largest community fundraiser, is underway. Funds raised make possible the protection of resilient, bird-friendly landscapes, increasing access to nature and environmental education, and mobilizing to fight climate change in the Valley and throughout Western Massachusetts. This year's 24 hours of birding is from 6 pm on Friday, May 13, to 6 pm on Saturday, May 14. **There is a very special reward for those who raise \$500: an outing with David Sibley, author and illustrator of the *Sibley Guides*, and Joan Walsh, Mass Audubon's Bertrand Chair of Field Ornithology & Natural History.** Mass Audubon invites Hampshire Bird Club members to join the [West Region Team](#) on the Mass Audubon website.

PIONEER VALLEY BIRDING HISTORY

I'm helping out on a little project with a professor from Chicago who is doing some research that tangentially involves 19th century birds of the Connecticut River Valley. It's hard to explain what it is exactly, but suffice it to say that it is a multidisciplinary "radical ecology" project. What I am looking for are personal field journals/notes that might have been donated to bird clubs and/or avian records, archives, museum materials and such that describe, in a first-hand way, what a birder saw or observed. I'm looking for background stories, sketches, annotations about song, and details, mostly on paper.

These materials are from a fascinating period: Farmland coming back to early succession during the industrial revolution. The end of the passenger pigeon. The beginning of a conservation mindset. The Victorian natural history/collecting impulse. The thought is that birding journals might help us better root the history in real lives and real birds. The project is specific to the Pioneer Valley around Amherst

When this gets a little further down the line, I'd be delighted to share more about the project. If you have suggestions for others I might connect with, I'd be grateful! Thanks!

Mari Badger, Boston Birding Festival, mari@bostonbirdingfestival.org

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

The following in-person, outdoor programs are being offered through Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, Mass Audubon is offering many on-line programs about birds throughout this spring. All programs require registration and more information can be found at [Arcadia events](#).

Saturday Morning Bird Walks

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton
Saturday, May 7, 14, and 21; 7:00-9:00 am

Spring Migration Bird Walks

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton
May 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13; 6:30-8:00 am

Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 38, No. 8
April 2022

Dear reader, while we are still in a worldwide SARS-CoV-2 pandemic with new variants appearing with regularity, our avian friends are also dealing with a viral plague: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). In mid-March HPAI was detected in Massachusetts. It has also been found in several locations across the US including Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Connecticut. This outbreak is of the Eurasian H5 viral strain. Waterbirds including shorebirds, gulls and waterfowl, especially geese and dabbling ducks like Mallards, are most likely to carry the HPAI virus. Sick or dead wild birds should be reported to the Department of Fish and Game Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) at 508-389-6300 or Mass.Wildlife@mass.gov. To learn more about HPAI you can do an internet search on “highly pathogenic avian influenza.” You will find that much of the information focuses on commercial or domestic poultry, but there are data on the distribution of infection across the US.

After that slug of bad news which is on top of a lot of other bad news that's been in the media of late, here's some good news: HBC field trips are storming back! The list in this newsletter for trips from early April through early June is no less than 14! And those are just the in-person trips. Also, the HBC Board is working on a viable venue for monthly club meetings for the 2022-2023 season. Let's hope that we are finally on the downward side of this seemingly perpetual pandemic. We truly do deserve it. Last, and certainly least, this is the April issue of the newsletter. There are jokes. Unlucky you.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, April 11 at 7:15 pm via Zoom

Susan Fox Rogers presents

Learning the Birds: A presentation and reading

At the age of 49, avid outdoorswoman Susan Fox Rogers fell for the birds. She took to birding with the energy of a convert, learning not just the birds, but the history of birders like Florence Merriam Bailey and the notorious murderer Nathan Leopold. She reveled in the history and natural history, environmental and ethical issues to which the birds led her. Her new memoir *Learning the Birds* chronicles the first three years Rogers adventured from her home in the Hudson Valley to the Everglades, the desert Southwest, and Alaska in search of winged friends. Susan Fox Rogers will talk of the joys and challenges of becoming a birder mid-age and will show images of the remarkable birds she found—Long-eared Owl, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Baby Boreal Owls—and will read from *Learning the Birds*.

[Susan Fox Rogers](#) is the author of [Learning the Birds: A Mid-Life Adventure](#), and [My Reach: A Hudson River Memoir](#), which explores the Hudson River from the perspective of her kayak. She is the editor of eleven anthologies, including [Solo: On Her Own Adventure](#) and [Antarctica: Life on the Ice](#). Her most recent collection, [When Birds Are Near: Dispatches from Contemporary Writers](#), celebrates the birding life. Rogers has taught the creative essay, nature writing and bird-related classes as [Writer-in-Residence at Bard College](#) since 2001.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 9, 2022. **TBA.**

June 13, 2022. **Amar Ayyash.** Gulls.

APRIL – JUNE FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines

All trips will be limited to ten participants unless otherwise noted and up to two leaders. Note the new trips added since the last newsletter (April 27, May 5 and June 1).

The following additional rules will apply this spring due to the continuing COVID-19 situation:

1. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated and boosted, are required to wear a mask when asked (possibly in carpool situations) and should maintain social distancing.
2. Field Trips are for Hampshire Bird Club Members only.
3. Members should use the contact information in the description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader once they register.

Sunday, April 10. Ashley Reservoir. 7:00 am. Half day.

Mike Locher looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and maybe holdover ducks. Meet in the Holyoke Elks parking lot (250 Whitney Ave.), near Exit 12 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7 am. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) for more information or to register. **Note** - The Elks have a "donate to park" policy, so it would be good if you could throw a dollar in their box. (M* with one optional S* section to listen for the waterthrushes)

Wednesday, April 27. Park Hill Orchard. 6:30 to 8:30 am.

Join Jim Lafley on a walk around the Park Hill Orchard fields and woods to encounter early arriving migrants, singing resident birds and any others passing through the area. Pine Warblers, Palm Warblers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and kinglets are some of the possibilities. We will meet at the Park Hill Orchard store parking lot and walk from there. It is a flat walk, but wear footwear for wet grass and some muddy spots. Contact Jim Lafley if interested at jimlafley@gmail.org or 413-221-1941 (mobile). (E*)

Wednesday, April 27. Bird Photography Trip. 6:30 to 10:00 am.

We'll bird and photograph late April migrants at a location to be determined. This is a photography trip, so a camera is required. We may stay in one area or move around. Contact Scott Sumner to sign up. ssurner@aol.com. *Limit of six participants.*

Thursday, May 5. Wildwood Cemetery. 6:30 to 10:00 am.

Scott Sumner will be looking for warblers, vireos and other early May migrants. Please contact Scott (ssurner@aol.com) to sign up. (E*)

Sunday, May 8. Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area. 6:30 – 9:30 am.

Join Laura Beltran and Jim Lafley as we walk along Boggy Meadow Road through mixed hardwood forest, past a large beaver swamp, and to the wildlife blind overlooking a freshwater marsh. We will have an opportunity to observe a large variety of warblers and other songbirds, as well as wetland species like Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, and American Bittern. The 3-mile round-trip walk is flat, but some areas have large roots and uneven terrain. Also, the trails are often muddy. Meet at the Cooke Avenue entrance (the former Moose Lodge) parking area. Contact Laura Beltran at lauraandnature@gmail.com. (E/M*)

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Join Laura Beltran and Steve Winn at the USFWS Moody Bridge Road parking lot near the small pond. We'll search for Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Barn Swallows, Northern Harriers and more. Continuing along the all-persons trail loop through second growth forest, marshy areas, and along the river's edge we'll search for songbirds including warblers, Brown Thrashers, Field Sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and more. The accessible trail is 1.3 miles long with benches to stop and rest along the way. Contact Laura Beltran at lauraandnature@gmail.com (E*)

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Mike Locher hikes up the park road to the top of this local peak hoping for some later migrants and deep-woods breeding specialties including Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers and Yellow-throated Vireos. Meet at the (gated) entrance to Skinner State Park (at the end of Old Mountain Road in Hadley) at 6:00 am. This is an occasionally steep hike on a paved road. For more information or to register contact Mike (413-585-5864). (M/S*)

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Join Bob Zimmermann and Dave Gross 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 hilly 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 and to sign up, please contact Dave (djgross@gmail.com, 413-687-8161) or Bob (raz@umass.edu, 413-585-0405). (E/M/S*)

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Wednesday, June 1. Southwick Wildlife Management Area. 5:30 am to noon

Join Scott Sumner in his search for Grasshopper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Prairie Warbler and Eastern Meadowlark. Last year this location had nesting Dickcissel and possible Blue Grosbeak. Contact Scott to Sign up: ssurner@aol.com.

Saturday, June 4. Knightville Dam. 7:00 am. Long Half Day, often past noon.

Betsy Higgins and Marcia Merithew will co-lead a walk at the Knightville Dam area. The trip starts with an exploration at the top of the dam, then a drive down to the road along the East Branch of the Westfield River. Highlights include flycatchers, Bank Swallows, Spotted Sandpipers, several species of warblers, and cuckoos. Meet in the JFK Middle School parking lot on Bridge Road at 7:00 am. It's about a 20-minute drive to the Knightville area. It will be a combination of walking and driving on dirt roads, moderately uneven terrain. To sign up email mmerithew@comcast.net. (E/M*)

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2022 HBC Nominating Committee (Derek Allard, Lissa Ganter and Janice Jorgensen) is working on a group of candidates for the upcoming board election. The slate will be announced at the April club meeting. A call for additional nominees from the floor will be made at the April and May meetings. The voting procedure will be announced at the May club meeting and in the May newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join me in welcoming these new members who have joined since last month: Gail Bielizna, South Hadley; Veronica Bobskill, Agawam; Monique Dumais, West Springfield; Carolyn and John Friedman, Philadelphia PA; Jeff Novick, Northampton; Joseph Seftor, Wilbraham; and Eden Smith, Newton.

Lissa Ganter, membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

BIRD OF PREY REHAB FACILITY

As you may know, Tom Ricardi of Conway, a former Environmental Police officer, is a true hero to birds of prey. At any given time, he cares for some 45 to 50 injured and sick birds at his *Bird of Prey Rehab Facility*. It is not rare for Tom to be called out in the middle of the night to retrieve a Great-Horned Owl with a wing broken in a collision with a vehicle or to travel long distances to collect a starving Snowy Owl. His goal is to nurse as many birds as possible back to health and release them. (In the 1970s, when Bald Eagles became endangered due to pesticides, Tom aided recovery efforts by successfully breeding them in a captive environment and releasing them.)

All these birds require food, shelter and medical care. The most pressing need at present is the repair and, in some cases, replacement of several shelters and enclosures. Despite Tom's continuous efforts, time and the elements have taken a toll. Some enclosures are the size of a one- or two-car garage, which allow the birds to fly and regain strength. Birds unable to make a complete recovery have a permanent home at the center. Some become integral to Tom's extensive educational efforts.

The materials needed for immediate needs range from pressure-treated lumber to wire fencing to simple hardware and locks for new doors. We anticipate a total cost of \$4,500 to \$5,000 in materials to do the work. A generous donation of \$1,000 from rkMILES of Hatfield will allow one major enclosure to be rebuilt along with nest boxes, perches and platforms. Other smaller repairs are needed around the facility.

Can you help us help these birds of prey? The rehab facility needs \$3,500 in donations from citizens, businesses, and birding enthusiasts throughout the region to complete repairs. Hobie Iselin, George Regmund and Jim Lafley will provide the carpentry work along with Tom's sons, Tom and Steve. Deb Oakley will chronicle the effort.

The Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehab Facility is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax-deductible charity. Please send donations to: Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehab Facility, P.O. Box 26, Conway, MA 01341.

Hobie Iselin and Deb Oakley

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

Our **Do-It-Yourself** trip for March took us to the Sweet Alice Conservation Area in Amherst with target birds Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Robin, and Eastern Bluebird. We'll find out what people saw and announce the next DIY location and target birds at the April 4 Zoom meeting.

Derek Allard's **Birding for Everyone** March program offered a virtual workshop on identifying ducks and a trip to the Quabbin. There is more on this exciting new program below.

March Education Committee workshops included an outstanding presentation on "Birding the Rhode Island Coast" with wildlife biologist and birder Matt Schenck. The workshop sparked interest in organizing a trip for HBC down to Rhode Island sometime this spring or next fall when Matt will be around. We will consult with the Field Trip Committee about that idea. On March 16 Bob Stevens offered a fascinating workshop on "Getting to Know the Saw-whet Owl." We learned about the Saw-whet's migratory patterns and its physiological features that enable the owls to thrive.

In addition to currently scheduled April workshops, we plan to offer workshops on Pollinator gardens, bird banding, and volunteer opportunities in the Valley.

Reminder: Our programs are now recorded and available on the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page. <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>.

April workshops:

Please register by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

Monday, April 4, 7-8 pm. Our next Do-It-Yourself Field Trip will be on Zoom. Each month an area is chosen, and a leader describes the location and five target species for that area. Anyone interested has a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the Zoom meeting the following month. If you'd like to join the April meeting to share your March sightings and learn of the upcoming field trip, e-mail education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Tuesday, April 19, 7-8 pm. Spring Warblers with Scott Surner. Scott will again provide tips to Spring Warbler identification, habitat, and ID tips.

Wednesday, April 27, 7-8 pm. Black Vultures with Bracken Brown. Bracken Brown, a naturalist at Hawk Mountain, will give a presentation on the Black Vulture study in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Birding For Everyone:

The Birding For Everyone (BFE) program is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. All events are open to the public and are held on Saturdays. Please spread the word! Those interested in the April offerings should email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org to register.

April 16, 10-11 am: Warbler Identification (Online; 15 minute presentation, 45 minutes for questions, bird ID help, etc.)

April 23, 8: 8-10 am: Fort River National Wildlife Refuge, Hadley (In-person accessible walk/sit)

Keep checking the Education page on the Hampshire Bird Club website for more April workshops. We'll post them as soon as they are confirmed.

Q: How many birders does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Four. One to first spot the bulb, one to identify it, one to change it, and one to report it on eBulb.

Did you hear about the guy who went totally bald? He liked his favorite comb so much that he just couldn't part with it.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

The following in-person, outdoor programs are being offered through Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, Mass Audubon is offering many on-line programs about birds throughout this spring. All programs require registration and more information can be found at [Arcadia events](#).

Dance of the American Woodcock

Park Hill Orchard, Easthampton

Saturday, April 9, 7 – 8:30 pm

Birding By Ear Series

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton

Saturday, April 9, 23 & 30, 9:00 am - noon

Saturday Morning Bird Walks

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton

Saturday, May 7, 14, and 21; 7:00-9:00 am

Spring Migration Bird Walks

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton

May 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13; 6:30-8:00 am

Registration for Mass Audubon's 39th annual Bird-a-thon opened on March 30. The Bird-a-thon is Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary's largest community fundraiser that makes possible the protection of resilient, bird-friendly landscapes, increasing access to nature and environmental education, and mobilizing to fight climate change in the Valley and throughout Western Massachusetts. This year's 24 hours of birding is from 6 pm on Friday, May 13, to 6 pm on Saturday, May 14. New for this year: Participants who raise \$125 by April 20 will get this year's fabulous lavender T-shirt in time to wear it on Bird-a-thon day! We invite Hampshire Bird Club members to join the [West Region Team](#).

The World According to Sound

On April 24th, *The World According to Sound* is going to take you on a sonic exploration of all things avian. You will hear the world's most complex songs, a series of antiphonal duets, slowed down birds, extinct birds, loud birds, quiet birds, and birds that sound like laughter. We will also listen to the human side of things and what makes our relationship to birds so unique. There are over 10,000 bird species and this audio event pays homage to that.

The show is 80 minutes long and live-streamed to people all over the country. Everyone who gets a ticket is mailed an eye mask to wear during the show, which helps focus your attention on the sounds. The program is designed for headphone listening and engineered so you will be totally immersed in the sounds, whether it be a flock of birds taking off all around you or a mated pair duetting back and forth off in the distance. To make this show *The World According to Sound* teamed up with *BirdNote* and Cornell's Lab of Ornithology. After the program, there will be a live Q&A with a member of the lab who will answer any questions you have about birds and sound.

The World According to Sound has shared a discount code with us to get a 25 percent discount on tickets. (The standard ticket price is \$25, thus \$18.75 with the discount.) Enter the code "BirdsEncore25" when you purchase tickets at [The World According to Sound website](#) for the discount. And for a sneak listen to some of the sounds you will hear in the show, listen to any of [these radio episodes](#) that *The World According to Sound* made with *BirdNote*. Tickets are available at <https://www.theworldaccordingto-sound.org/tickets/birds-5rn2x>.

IT'S BEEN A COLD WINTER!

Wow, it was so cold this winter that my dog got stuck to a fire hydrant.

And speaking of cold, it was so cold that we chopped up the piano for firewood. It made two chords.

Q: How do you know that it's really cold in Washington, DC? A: The politicians put their hands in their own pockets.

Even though I used to eat a lot of cold meats, I quit cold turkey.

Dan the gardener got so excited about the upcoming spring blooms that he wet his plants.

AGE-APPROPRIATE JOKES

- Age 5: Q: What's brown and sticky? A: A stick.
- Age 10: Q: Why do ducks have flat feet? A: To stamp out forest fires. Q: Why do elephants have flat feet? A: To stamp out burning ducks.
- Age 20: Guy walks into a bar and asks the bartender for a fruit punch. The bartender says "Sure, get in line." Guy says "But there is no punch line."
- Age 30: Past, Present and Future walk into a bar. The bartender says "Hi folks. Why so tense?"
- Age 40: Q: Why do all Swedish boats have a bar code on them? A: So when they get to port, they can scan da navy in.
- Age 50: Did you hear about the dyslexic Satanist? He sold his soul to Santa.
- Age 60: Did you hear that the man who invented Velcro died? RIP.
- My age: Q: What's brown and sticky? A: A stick.

JUST PLAIN OLD BAD JOKES

The twelve seasons of New England:

Winter
Fool's Spring
Second Winter
Spring of Deception
Mud Bath ← You are here.
The Pollening
Actual Spring
Summer
Hell's Front Porch
False Fall
Second Summer
Actual Fall

An older lady was serving dinner to a guest and she encouraged him to eat as much as he wanted. In response he said, "I have dined sufficient."

The lady asked, "Say you went a-fishin'?"

So the gentleman clarified. "I have eaten plenty."

She said, "And you caught twenty?"

The gentleman shook his head and said, "Why you old fool!"

And the lady said, her voice filled with sympathy, "And broke your pole."

The guest said with some disgust, "Well Jesus Christ!"

The lady replied, "And broke it twice!"

Ed note: This was told to me at age 10 by my grandmother. To my recollection it's the only joke she ever told. She was a lifelong Evangelical Lutheran. There must have been more to her than I realized at the time.

In an effort to keep my mind sharp, I ask myself tough questions such as "What day is it today?" and "Now where did I put that cup?"

The cashier said "Strip down, facing me." By the time I realized she meant my debit card, it was too late.

Q: What did the zero say to the eight? A: "Nice belt!"

I got a very scary prediction from a fortune teller: "You will have a long life."

My niece's Chihuahua had to have 13 teeth pulled. I hope they didn't take his canines.

Ed. note: True story!

Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
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March 2022

Dear reader, there is a wonderful article by Jonny Diamond in the January 2022 *Smithsonian Magazine* entitled "The Old Man and the Tree." The referenced old man is none other than Bob Leverett from Northampton and, as you are probably aware, the tree reference is about old growth forests, particularly those in the Berkshires. If you don't know about Bob and his work, or even if you do, this is a must-read. You can find the article at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-old-man-and-the-tree-180979242/>.

Several years ago I was fortunate to go on a field trip sponsored by the Hitchcock Center that Bob led. We visited old growth sites around Rowe, MA, most of which were nearly inaccessible. It was a fabulous trip. Two things that stick in my mind about that trip were a ginormous Mountain Laurel with a trunk that was bigger around than my leg and sliding down very steep hillsides on backsides. Seriously, many of the participants had to resort to sledding down on their bottoms in order to be able to follow Bob as he practically ran through the very steep terrain. As he pointed out, such is the way of much of the old growth forest in this part of world since all of the easier terrain was logged in the 18th and 19th centuries.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, March 14 at 7:15 pm via Zoom

Holly Jones presents

Seabird Island Restoration and Recovery

Professor Jones will describe the unique ecosystem-engineering role seabirds play on the islands on which they breed, as well as their conservation plight given global threats, in particular threats due to invasive species. She will discuss how seabirds drive recovery on islands after invasive mammals are removed and ways to increase seabird populations.

Dr. Holly Jones is an Associate Professor in Biology at the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability, and Energy at Northern Illinois University. She is a National Geographic Explorer and Lead Editor of *Ecological Solutions and Evidence*. She is a conservation/restoration ecologist and uses interdisciplinary, cross-scale methods to answer applied biological research questions both domestically and internationally.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 11, 2022. **Susan Fox Rogers.** Learning the Birds

May 9, 2022. **TBA.**

June 13, 2022. **TBA.**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome these new members who have joined in since last month: David Chapman, Pittsfield; Ellen Finkelstein, Northampton; Ruth Green, Monterey; Jerry Hillman & Donna Lynn, Southampton; Harrison Raycroft, Amherst; Jillian & JP Reardon, Easthampton; Eileen Rice, Easthampton; and Jacob Robinson, Belchertown.

Anxious to get out and enjoy the summer breezes? Then join us for the Hampshire Bird Club spring picnic at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary's pavilion on Sunday, June 5, 11 am - 1 pm. Bring your own food, a chair, and binoculars. Bathrooms are available in the main building and note that masks are required to be worn indoors. Come early to go birding at Arcadia prior to the picnic. We hope to see you there!

Lissa Ganter, membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

APRIL – JUNE FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines

All trips will be limited to 10 participants and up to 2 leaders

The following additional rules will apply this spring due to the continuing COVID-19 situation:

1. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated and boosted, are required to wear a mask when asked (possibly in carpool situations) and should maintain social distancing during the event.
2. Field Trips are for Hampshire Bird Club Members only.
3. Members should use the contact information in the description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader once they register.

Sunday, April 10. Ashley Reservoir. 7:00 am. Half day.

Mike Locher looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and maybe holdover ducks. Meet in the Holyoke Elks parking lot (250 Whitney Ave.), near Exit 12 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7 am. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) for more information or to register. **Note** - The Elks have a "donate to park" policy, so it would be good if you could throw a dollar in their box. (M* with one optional S* section to listen for the waterthrushes)

Wednesday, April 27. Park Hill Orchard. 6:30 to 8:30 am.

Join Jim Lafley on a walk around the Park Hill Orchard fields and woods to encounter early arriving migrants, singing resident birds and any others passing through the area. Pine Warblers, Palm Warblers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and kinglets are some of the possibilities. We will meet at the Park Hill Orchard store parking lot and walk from there. It is a flat walk, but wear footwear for wet grass and some muddy spots. Contact Jim Lafley if interested at jimlafley@gmail.org or 413-221-1941 (mobile). (E*)

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

As always, we offered our DIY workshop at the beginning of February. The location was any local wooded area and people found many of the target birds. For more information, see the DIY report below.

Sara Griesemer's workshop on eBird was well attended. Sara offered guidance on navigating the eBird site online, as well as how to use specific features on both the mobile app and the online site. It was enormously helpful, and we are thinking this might be an annual event.

Derek Allard's **Birding for Everyone** program continued this month with a virtual workshop on birding by ear and a trip to Holyoke. There is more on this exciting new program below in this newsletter. For more information, email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Reminder: Our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page: hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/.

March workshops

Please register by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

Wednesday, March 2, 7-8 pm. Birding the Rhode Island Coast with Matt Schenck From wave battered rocky coasts to sheltered saltmarshes Rhode Island's South County coastline delivers a big coastal birding experience in a small package. Join naturalist and educator Matt Schenck for an informative talk covering what species can be found and where you might find them along this 30 mile stretch of the Ocean State.

Monday, March 7, 7-8 pm. March Do-It-Yourself Our next Do-It-Yourself Field Trip session is on Zoom. Each month an area is chosen, and a leader describes the location and five target species for that area. Anyone interested has a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the Zoom meeting the following month. Our February field trip was any place in the woods to find a winter flock, and the target birds were Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet and an extra bird, Brown Creeper. If you'd like to join the March Zoom session to share your sightings and learn of the upcoming field trip, e-mail education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Wednesday, March 16, 7-8 pm. Getting to Know the Saw-whet Owl with Bob Stevens. The Northern Saw-whet Owl is one of the most elusive birds to see in the wild. They are small, well camouflaged, very nocturnal, and live in oak/pine forests. We will discuss the Saw-whet Owl and its migration, including understanding where it lives and the special features it employs to survive and hunt in the dark forests. We will go over its migration habits which are entirely different than the migrations we are used to seeing, such as that of Canada Geese, and what we have learned by understanding the Saw-whet migration. We also will discuss how we, as birders and citizens, can help our Saw-whets survive.

Check the Education page on the Hampshire Bird Club website for April workshops. We'll post them as soon as they are confirmed.

BIRDING FOR EVERYONE

The club's new Birding For Everyone (BFE) program is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. Each month there is a one-hour online educational session (15 minute presentation, 45 minutes for questions, bird ID help, etc.) and a two-hour, in-person, beginner bird walk at an accessible location. The online sessions take place on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 am; the in-person walks occur on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. Please spread the word. Those interested should email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org to sign up for the March offerings:

March 19, 10:00-11:00 am: Identifying Ducks (online presentation)

March 26, 8:00-10:00 am: Winsor Dam, Belchertown (in-person walk/sit)

A CHAT WITH HENRY LAPPEN

I had a chat with Henry Lappen in mid-February 2022. Here's what he had to say about his beginnings in bird watching, some fun trips that he has taken, being the HBC librarian and, of course, juggling.

Newsletter: *What brought you to the Hampshire Bird Club?*

Henry Lappen: I had been birding for a while. I was part of a group in Burlington Vermont when I lived there, then Audubon Society of Portland [Oregon] and then Southeastern Vermont Audubon in Brattleboro. Then I moved down here to live in co-housing. I just looked for a group and found the club.

N: *So going back a little further, what was it that originally got you interested in nature, and particularly in bird watching?*

HL: I've always been into nature. I spent lots of time as a kid running through the woods where I grew up near the Blue Bills south of Boston. As I got older I did a lot of camping. Then my sister got into birds. I guess it was the late 70s when I was living in Boston and she took me to the Arnold Arboretum to see a Barred Owl. When we got to the tree with the Barred Owl and I was looking through the binoculars, she described it and said that it didn't have horns. I said "This owl has horns." She said "No, no, it's a Barred Owl. It doesn't have horns." I said "Jacki, take a look. This owl has horns." Sure enough, it was a Great Horned Owl. It had ousted the Barred Owl from that location. Same tree, same spot. That was pretty intriguing.

N: *So was that the bird that really got you into birding?*

HL: Yeah, and my sister was birding so that started my birding that has lasted to today. Soon after that I moved to Burlington, Vermont and then I did a lot of birding up there.

N: *So I know you've been on foreign trips and also trips around the US. Can you tell me about one or more of those?*

HL: Well, wherever I've gone, since I started birding, I've brought binoculars. Probably the best trip was when I went to South Africa, about eight years ago. I went to perform with Clowns Without Borders South Africa [<https://www.facebook.com/ClownsWithoutBordersSouthAfrica>] and ended up doing 20 shows for schools and all kinds of community centers in a very rural part of South

Africa, which was right next to Kruger National Park. Through birdingpal.org I found a guide who took me into the park. He knew all the birds in South Africa. I got incredible sightings from the day I arrived.

I arrived in South Africa late and got to the place I was staying very late at night, not sleeping the night before on the overnight flight. The guide picked me up at four the next morning, so now it was two nights without sleep. He took me to this amazing place near Johannesburg, a marsh that he knew about. I didn't even know the families the birds were in. I've been to Europe and I can figure out what the birds are there from what I know of birds here. But in South Africa I had no idea what a lot of those birds were.

Then we went on to Kruger and spent three days there. There were crazy birds there and, of course, the mammals were just astounding.

The culture and the people were also amazing., I spent a month in South Africa, and it was one of the best months of my life.

N: *That does sound like quite a trip. What about around here? Are there particular places you go back to all the time or are you a "whatever shows up" type?*

HL: I do less chasing now than I used to. I don't do a lot in this area. I've already seen a lot of the birds. In the spring I like the core of the migration and in the fall hawk watching is still my favorite. Going anywhere for fall hawk watching is tops for me.

I bird more when I'm on the road like to the Boston area or upstate New York to do shows or when traveling. Right before Covid started my partner and I went to Cuba. That was fantastic birding.

N: *Is that something you can just do on your own, or do you have to have a guide?*

HL: You have to hire a guide to go into the national parks. I found a guide, again through birdingpal.org, but he didn't respond to my inquiries. I knew I wanted to go to Zapata Swamp, which is the big place for birds in Cuba. There are something like 20 birds named for the swamp like the Zapata Rail and Zapata Sparrow. So we booked an Airbnb and I asked the host before we went if she knew

about bird guides. She said that she knew a guy that could take me who was her next door neighbor. He was a guide, probably the best guide to the area, and we just accidentally lucked into him,

When I got there, before I could even unpack, he said “You want to see a Bee Hummingbird?” That’s the smallest bird in the world and one of the target birds of Cuba. He took me out in the backyard and there were all kinds of feeders including sugar water feeders. There were all kinds of bushes with berries. There were six Black-throated Blue Warblers and six Yellow-throated Warblers and eight Cape May Warblers. I was in heaven. But he was saying “No, no, no, the Bee Hummingbirds are over here.”

We got to see amazing birds, and then he took us into the swamp. I paid him for that, but he also took us to other places to look for other specialties such as a Bare-legged Owl. It's hard to come back from seeing so many warblers six to eight feet away or two Ovenbirds under our feet while we were eating breakfast. Back here spring migration is fun, but it pales, you know.

N: You've been the librarian for the HBC for a long time. Are you a reader, are you a collector of books, or do you have a secret desire to be a professional librarian?

HL: Well, Anne Cann was the librarian before me. She was retiring from the position and she asked if I would do it. I said “Sure.” I like libraries and I don't really buy books. It seems like waste of paper and money. Libraries have all the books anyone needs. I had no secret desire to be a librarian. When I became the club librarian though, I could buy interesting books about the places I was going and then give them to the library

N: So speaking of work, I know that you are a professional juggler. How did that come to be? How do you become a professional juggler?

HL: It's like most things in my life: it was almost accidental, like me becoming a birder because my sister was a birder. I became a juggler after I learned how to juggle in college. When I moved to Burlington, Vermont I was juggling in the park one day. I didn't have a job at the time and this guy came up and said “Oh, we need a juggler for the opening of a new shopping center.” He hired me and then a week or less later another guy showed up and said, “Hey I need a juggler for my daughter's

birthday party.” That’s how it started. I’ve been performing for about 40 years now.

I developed a show on birds using masks of birds. The idea was to do shows in schools, because a lot of schools said that they needed curriculum-based material. I never did the bird show much in schools, though. I still do my juggling show in schools. I have retired the bird mask show now because during the show the masks are shared between the kids and that won't work since Covid showed up.

N: How do you get most of your bookings, word of mouth or through your website?

HL: It varies. I do get some booking inquiries through my website, henrylappen.com, but probably more word of mouth. A couple agents occasionally get me jobs and then I do some marketing by emailing or calling people.

N: So how do you get gigs in foreign countries? It seems like you do a fair number.

HL: I haven't done a lot of them. There was South Africa and I have performed in Panama, the latter being courtesy of Zeke Jakob. [Ed. note: Zeke was a young member of the HBC for several years. He received a scholarship from the club that helped get him started in his work in Panama on hummingbirds.] I knew him from the club and I had taught him and his siblings to juggle many, many years ago. I saw him at a club meeting. He was living in Panama at the time and he asked me to come down to Panama and do some shows. He did all the arranging.

The South Africa job came through tango dancing. That’s something I do, and through that I met a woman from South Africa whose son went to the same school I went to called *The Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre*, a school for physical comedy that you’ve probably never heard of. The fact that her son and I had both gone to this obscure school allowed me to meet him. He was running Clowns without Borders South Africa and he invited me to come to perform. I got a grant from a charity that sponsors performers, and I did some fundraising. I wasn't actually paid to go there, but the trip was paid for.

Wherever I travel I give shows. When I was in Cuba I did a show for my Airbnb host and my guide. It's nice to be able to give something back.

N: It sounds like a great job, actually.

HL: When I am performing it's great. Hustling for work on the computer or driving hours to do one show takes most of my time and that's not much fun.

N: In medieval times what you do for a job might have been called being a fool. And then club member Chris Yerlig who is a mime-clown also could fit in that same category. Can you think of any other bird club in the world that has two professional fools within its membership?

HL: No, I can't. I met Chris at a county fair in Vermont. We were both performing there, and while we were chatting during a break, a hawk flew over. We both looked up and then we looked at each other and said, "You're a birder?" That's how we became friends.

N: You've already said a little about this already, but when you're not birding or juggling, what is it that occupies your time?

HL: The main thing is tango right now. That's why I am doing less birding because I'm up late dancing so I'm not getting up at the crack of dawn to bird. That's why I love hawk watching because I don't need to get up so early.

I have an orchard in my cohousing community that I take care of. I'm on the Amherst tree committee, so I do a lot of tree planting and educating people about trees. Right now I am making

maple syrup and I also have nut trees. I love trees, and I have since before my love of birds.

N: Are there other things that the newsletter readers might be amused by or would like to know about you.?

HL: I thought you would ask about my favorite bird.

N: I hadn't planned on that, but I am happy to know what it is.

HL: It has to be a Wall Creeper.

N: OK, go ahead.

HL: A Wall Creeper is a European bird that hangs out on rock faces. It is a drab grey bird with a long, skinny beak. It flicks its wings every now and then and underneath it is bright scarlet. It's a very unusual bird. I spent a semester in Spain – I did a house swap with a Basque family. The whole time I searched for Wall Creepers and didn't see them; they're very hard to find. I even offered to pay my son and his friend who were there with me to find one. I had to offer five euros for a bird because they were getting tired of me stopping every time we passed a rock face. We hadn't found one, and then the last day I was there, I decided to go for a walk on the beach. I expected no birds on the beach, but it was lovely. Sure enough, there was a Wall Creeper on a rock face next to the beach, and I got to see it!

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

The following in-person, outdoor programs are being offered through Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, Mass Audubon is offering many on-line programs about birds throughout this spring. All programs require registration; more information can be found at [Arcadia events](#) where you can register.

Dance of the American Woodcock

Park Hill Orchard, Easthampton
Saturday, March 19, 6:30-8:00 pm
Saturday, April 9, 7 – 8:30 pm

Waterfowl Migration

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton
Saturday, March 26, 9:00-11:00 am

Saturday Morning Bird Walks

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton
Saturday, May 7, 14, and 21; 7:00-9:00 am

Spring Migration Bird Walks

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton
May 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13; 6:30-8:00 am

A wise person told me that there are just enough of the letter "h" in the Valley: Amherst has one too many, Northampton one too few, and Hadley has just the right number.

Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 38, No. 6
February 2022

Dear reader, have you become enamored of Wordle? I have. In the slim chance that you are asking yourself “What in the world is he on about now?”, let me assure you that Wordle is THE NEW BIG THING. It’s an online word-guess game that one can play for free one time per day. It scratches the itch for a word game without the allure of an hours-long dive into game play. The gist is that you guess a five-letter word. The game tells you which of the letters are in the day’s word and if a letter is in the correct position. You get a maximum of six tries to get the day’s word correctly entered. Wordle combines vocabulary with logic. I am proud to have a three-week streak going with only two of my entries requiring six entries. The link to Wordle is <https://www.powerlanguage.co.uk/wordle/>.

Doing the five-letter word game got me to thinking about something similar but with birds. There are a lot of bird names in five letters. I haven’t come up with a way to parlay that into a game that would work in the newsletter, but stay tuned. I’ll keep thinking.

And in a coincidence (are there really ever any coincidences?) my yearly yard list got a good five-letter bird just last week: eagle. The Quabbin is across the street from my house, and once in a great while a Bald Eagle will fly over even though we are about a mile west of the reservoir. So far the only other five-letter birds in my yard have been two finch species. How about for you?

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, February 14 at 7:15 pm via Zoom

Natasha Vanderhoff presents

The American Robin and How It Has Adapted to Put Up with Humans

Dr. Natasha Vanderhoff is Associate Professor of Biology and Marine Science at Jacksonville University. Her core area of interest is behavioral ecology, a discipline within animal behavior that seeks to find evolutionary explanations for behavior. She has a passion for natural history and her best work has been inspired by her observations in the field. She has worked with birds, spiders, monkeys and cats, in both North and South America. Most of her research has focused on communication and foraging behavior. She also has an interest in tropical ecology and conservation.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 14, 2022. **Holly Jones**. Island bird population responses to the eradication of non-native mammals

April 11, 2022. **Susan Fox Rogers**. Learning the Birds

May 9, 2022. **TBA**.

June 13, 2022. **TBA**.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

As in the past 20-plus years the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society and Birds Canada/Oiseaux Canada have joined forces to host the Great Backyard Bird Count for the four days of February 18-21. Information on participation, observation protocols, reporting and the importance of citizen science can be found at www.birdcount.org.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome these new members who have joined in January: Hany Aziz, West Springfield; Jonathan Dean, Sanibel FL; Emily DeMartino, Northampton; Wesley Fleming, Holyoke; Carol Fournier, Chicopee; Sally Galman, Amherst; Peter & Anna Jacke, Belchertown; JuPong Lin, Amherst; Micky McKinley, Northampton; Heather Oliphant, Agawam; Fred Perkins, Becket; Dianne Quilty, Port Charlotte FL; Issa Revell & Jack Byerly, Florence; Linda C. Smith, Hatfield; and Carol & Renato Wendel, Conway. We also continued to welcome back returning members in the past month – it's never too late to renew.

The HBC Nominating Committee will be active over these next few months, seeking candidates to run for Board positions in the May election. Committees are another way to volunteer, so please consider getting involved. The club thrives because of membership participation!

Lissa Ganter, membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Field Trip Guidelines

All trips will be limited to 10 participants and up to 2 leaders.

The following additional rules will apply this winter due to the continuing COVID-19 situation:

1. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated (including a booster) and required to wear a mask when asked (possibly in carpool situations) and be aware of maintaining a safe social distance during the event.
2. Field Trips are for Hampshire Bird Club Members only.
3. Members should use the contact information in the description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader once they register.

Upcoming Field Trips

Friday, March 18. American Woodcock Display – Easthampton Community Garden. 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Jim Lafley will meet participants at the Garden and bring them to a site that has been reliable over the years for observing the mating sounds and displays of the American Woodcock. It will be a very short walk from the car but be dressed in subdued colors for camouflage and for warmth and in tick discouraging clothing. Binoculars are helpful. Please contact Jim Lafley at jimlafley@gmail.com or 413-221-1941 with questions or to sign-up.

Thursday, March 31. Waterfowl & Early Migrants – MAS Arcadia & West Meadows. 6:30 – 10:30 am
Ted Gilliland will meet participants at the Mass Audubon Arcadia Sanctuary parking lot. This is a walk from the parking lot through the sanctuary and out to West Meadows over moderate terrain. Boots and clothing appropriate for the weather outside for 4 hours are recommended. Binoculars needed. To sign-up contact Ted Gilliland at tgillila@mholyoke.edu or 480-381-5617.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

On Sunday, January 16 around 4:15 pm Jim Lafley and Patti Steinman met a hardy group of 6 members at the Valley View School in Chicopee because the night before it was a major staging area for American Crows. Although we did observe streams of incoming crows, they decided not to land in the surrounding trees. We followed them down to Van Horn Park in Springfield where they had roosted on Saturday night. We were able to see many perched American Crows there and we heard a couple of Fish Crows. The crows seemed restless as they flew around us by the thousands before many finally settled in the adjoining neighborhood. It was, once again, a spectacular avian event enjoyed by all.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

Mike Locher's enjoyable January 26 workshop, Waterfowl of Coastal Massachusetts, was attended by over fifty people. Mike showed us field marks and described the behavior and habitat of Common Eiders, White-winged Scoters, Black Scoter, Surf Scoters and Harlequin Ducks. He also included a short quiz to be sure we all got it! Several of the participants were from the Allen and Hoffmann Bird Clubs, and we have received emails from a number of people thanking us for including them.

Birding For Everyone:

The club's new *Birding For Everyone* (BFE) program is underway! This group is geared towards beginner birders and those who historically have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. Each month there will be a one-hour online educational session (15 minute presentation, 45 minutes for questions, bird ID help, etc.) and a two-hour in-person beginner bird walk at an accessible location. The online sessions will take place on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 am and the in-person walks will occur on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. Please spread the word! Those interested should email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org to sign up for the February offering:

February 19, 10-11 am: Learning Bird Song (online presentation)

February 26, 8-10 am: Heritage State Park, Holyoke (in-person walk/sit)

February workshops:

Please register for these workshops by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

Monday, February 7, 7-8 pm. *February Do-It-Yourself.*

Our next Do-It-Yourself Field Trip will be on Monday, February 7, 7 pm on Zoom. Each month an area is chosen and the leaders describe the location and five target species for that area. Participants have a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the Zoom event the following month. To find out the target species and the location for February please register for the Zoom by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org. January's location was Paradise Pond in Northampton and the target birds were Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, Belted Kingfisher, Hooded Merganser, and Common Merganser.

Wednesday, February 23, 7-8 pm. *Advancing Your eBird Skills and Effectiveness.*

Sara Griesemer will offer an interactive workshop on eBird. Send your questions directly to education@hampshirebirdclub.org **before the workshop**. How do you change locations? How do you find a new location? Can you link several lists together on a single birding trip? Whatever questions you have, let us know!

Coming up on **Wednesday, March 2, 7-8 pm.** *Birding the Rhode Island Coast.*

Naturalist and educator Matt Schenck will offer a program on birding the Rhode Island coast. He leads birding trips in Rhode Island and southern New England, as well as an annual pelagic trip. Be sure to sign up by the end of February.

Also coming up, on **March 16:** *Getting to Know the Saw-whet Owl* by Bob Stevens.

Details will be forthcoming in the March newsletter.

Reminder: Our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the link under PROGRAMS or under EDUCATION on the Education Committee Goals page: <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>.

HBC CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS AND CONDUCT

The HBC Board of Directors adopted at its January meeting a new Code of Conduct for the club, which is found below. Included in the code is a mechanism to report concerns about violations of the code to two Community Conduct volunteers. Ruth Garbett and Jim Lafley have agreed to be the initial pair of volunteers.

Adapted from the American Birding Association, with thanks to the Brookline Bird Club

The Hampshire Bird Club expects that members, field trip leaders, and participants at HBC events will follow this Code in the interest of respectful, enjoyable, and thoughtful birding for all.

Respect and promote birds, their welfare, and their environment

- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Be particularly cautious around active nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display sites and feeding sites.
- Limit the use of recordings and other audio methods of attracting birds, particularly in heavily birded areas, for species that are rare in the area, and for species that are threatened or endangered.
- Always exercise caution and restraint when photographing, recording, or otherwise approaching birds.
- Be mindful of your movements and minimize habitat disturbance.
- Support and promote the conservation of birds and their habitats.

Respect and promote the birding community by positive example.

- Be an exemplary ethical role model by following this Code and leading by example.
- Never enter private property without the landowner's permission.
- Be cognizant of the laws, rules, and regulations governing activities at your birding location.
- Be considerate of and interact positively with other people you may encounter when on field trips with the club. Be good ambassadors for birding and for HBC.
- Share bird observations, provided it does not put birds or their habitat at risk.
- Report with honesty and integrity.

Respect fellow birders and others.

- Welcome fellow birders and other participants at HBC events with kindness and respect, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, color, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, political affiliation, level of birding knowledge or experience.
- Please know that HBC does not tolerate behavior that disrespects or threatens the rights and safety of others, whether through verbal, physical, or other inappropriate behaviors, including online interactions.

Two HBC members have volunteered to respond to the concern of any person about behavior inconsistent with the HBC Code of Conduct. If you are aware of such behavior at an HBC-sponsored activity or event, please send a message to conduct@hampshirebirdclub.org. Your message will be acknowledged within 48 hours and held in confidence to the extent possible. HBC will make every effort to address your concerns promptly. Others will be brought into the discussion only with your express agreement except in cases where there appears to be clear evidence of an infraction of law.

QUABBIN CHRISTMAS COUNT 2021

First and foremost, thanks to everyone who participated in the Quabbin Christmas Bird Count this year. The weather forecast heading towards count day looked marginal to say the least, with talk of freezing rain, but happily that didn't come to pass. Instead, we endured fog, light rain at times and temperatures that reached to 51 degrees. Nearly every bit of water was open. We tallied 61 species with five new high counts: Ring-necked Duck (54), Belted Kingfisher (9), Red-bellied Woodpecker (69), Carolina Wren

(38), and Eastern Bluebird (136). The owling teams had great success this year, tallying four species including 22 Northern Saw-whet Owls. Other highlights included three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, one Merlin (only the fifth recorded sighting), one Ruby-crowned Kinglet, four Hermit Thrush (tied high count), one Gray Catbird, and an Eastern Towhee. There were three unusual count week birds: American Wigeon, Northern Pintail and a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers. During the count ten species of mammals were reported.

Scott Surner

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Winter Tracking with Kathy Dean

Saturday, February 19, 9 am – noon in Buckland

Please [register online](#) or call 413-256-6006

Join us for a winter morning exploring the tracks and sign that animals have left behind in the woodlands and wetlands surrounding Kathy's home in western Massachusetts. All levels welcome. Cost is \$30.

Kathy Dean has worked in the field of outdoor education since 1983 as a wilderness guide, rock climbing instructor and teacher of animal tracking, bird language and nature awareness. In addition to working with several nature education centers, she offers wildlife tracking, bird language and custom-tailored nature programs through Trotting Fox Programs. Kathy is the author of *Abbreviated Field Guide to Mammal Behavior: New England Region*. She lives in a small hill town in western Massachusetts and is blissfully surrounded by woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife.

The Odyssey Bookshop

On Monday, February 21 at 6 pm Jonathan Meiburg will discuss his book *A Most Remarkable Creature: The Hidden Life of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey*. The discussion will be on Zoom, hosted by the Odyssey Bookshop in South Hadley. The book provides an account of a modern voyage of discovery of the clever, social birds of prey called caracaras, which puzzled Darwin, fascinate modern-day falconers, and carry secrets of Earth's past in their family history. The author received a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to travel to remote communities around the world, a journey that sparked his enduring fascination with islands, birds, and the deep history of the living world. Further information on the program can be found at <https://www.odysseybks.com/event/jonathan-meiburg>.

WORDS FOR OUR TIMES

Flapdoodle — Foolish and blatantly false ideas or words

Humbuggery — Nonsense or deceitful language or ideas

Humgruffin — An appalling, hideous repulsive person

Mumpsimus — A stubborn person who refuses to change their mind despite being proven wrong

Smatchet — An ill-mannered despicable person

Ultracrepidarian — A person with opinions beyond their knowledge




Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 38, No. 5
January 2022

Dear reader, oh dear reader, here we are, months and months into the Coronavirus pandemic and still we are meeting remotely. Our in-person meetings are via Zoom. We have remote field trips. Our in-person field trips take into account vaccination status. Remember when we didn't have any idea what KN95 meant? Remember when we used to be able to read people's expression when we were out and about? Remember the days when we could meet at Immanuel Lutheran for our second-Monday-in-the-month programs? Ah, the good old days.

The HBC Board has thought long and hard about restarting our in-person meetings, and it came close to doing that for this month. That was before the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant came to town. But before Omicron the board had already decided to stay with Zoom for the next few meetings. Our previous meeting space at Immanuel Lutheran is now occupied by Craig's Doors, leaving us without a venue until we can identify an appropriately large space to keep attendees separated, well ventilated, and with adequate night time parking. Once the board finds a place that fits the bill and the pandemic feels less threatening, we should be back in business.

NEXT PROGRAM
Monday, January 10 at 7:15 pm via Zoom
Presenter and topic to be announced

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 14, 2022. **TBA.** 
March 14, 2022. **TBA.**
April 11, 2022. **TBA.**
May 9, 2022. **TBA.**
June 13, 2022. **TBA.**

BIRDING FOR EVERYONE

Starting in January, the club will begin a new Birding For Everyone (BFE) program. This group is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, members of underrepresented groups, and the disabled. Each month there will be a one hour online educational session (a-15 minute presentation followed by 45 minutes for questions, bird ID help, etc.) and a two-hour, in-person, beginner bird walk at an accessible location. The online sessions will take place on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 am while the in-person walks will occur on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:00 am. Please spread the word. Anyone interested should email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org to express interest or to sign up for the January offerings:

January 15, 10:00-11:00 am: What gear do I need for birding? (online presentation)
January 22, 8:00-10:00 am: Arcadia Visitor's Center (in-person walk/sit)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Greetings! Please join me in welcoming these new members who joined the HBC in December: Sara Israelson, Easthampton; Daniel O'Donoghue, Easthampton; and Richard & Kirsten Taranto, Northampton. Unrenewed members should note that even though they may still get announcements via Mailchimp, they are not eligible for members-only club events, which include in-person field trips. Confused about your membership status? We're an email away, and can let you know in a flash!

Lissa Ganter, membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines

All HBC field trips will be limited to 10 participants and up to 2 leaders.

The following additional rules apply this winter due to the continuing COVID-19 situation:

1. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated with booster, are required to wear a mask when asked (possibly in carpool situations) and should maintain a safe social distance during the event.
2. Field trips are for Hampshire Bird Club Members only.
3. Members should use the contact information in the description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader once they register.

Winter Field Trips

Sunday, January 16. Springfield Crows – specific location to be determined. 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

Jim Lafley and Patti Steinman will bring participants to the annual Springfield winter crow roost for this spectacular avian event. Each year Common Crows and some Fish Crows find a suitable site in Springfield to roost for the night. With thousands of birds gathering at various staging sites and at the final roost, a variety of behaviors and vocalizations can be witnessed. There is no walking involved. Dress for cold weather as we will be standing around outside. Binoculars are helpful. Please contact Jim Lafley at jimlafley@gmail.com or 413-221-1941 with questions or to sign-up.

Friday, March 18. American Woodcock Display – Easthampton Community Garden. 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

Jim Lafley will meet participants at the garden and bring them to a site that has been reliable over the years for observing the mating sounds and displays of the American Woodcock. It will be a very short walk from the car but be dressed in subdued colors for camouflage and warmth and in tick-discouraging clothing. Binoculars are helpful. Please contact Jim Lafley at jimlafley@gmail.com or 413-221-1941 with questions or to sign-up.

Thursday, March 31. Waterfowl & Early Migrants – Arcadia & West Meadows. 6:30 am - 10:30 am.

Ted Gilliland will meet participants at the Arcadia Sanctuary parking lot. This is a walk from the parking lot through the sanctuary and out to West Meadows over moderate terrain, approximately three miles in length. Boots and clothing appropriate for the weather outside for 4 hours are recommended. Binoculars needed. To sign-up contact Ted Gilliland at tgillila@mholyoke.edu or 480-381-5617.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

On December 15th Jim Lafley offered his popular “Birds on Your Feeder” workshop with 30 attendees. In addition to offering identification information on the various feeder visitors in our area, Jim helped participants get a jump start on preparing for the Christmas Bird Count feeder watch. Additional Education Committee workshops, organized by Janice Jorgensen, focused on specific aspects of the Christmas Bird Count participation.

Reminder: our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. Look under PROGRAMS for the link: <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/>.

Upcoming workshops

On February 23rd, 7-8 pm, Sara Griesemer will do an interactive workshop on eBird. Send your questions directly to education@hampshirebirdclub.org. How do you change locations? How do you find a new location? Can you link several lists together on a single birding trip? Whatever questions you have, let us know! Please register by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

We are hoping to have a workshop on the great birding locations for winter waterfowl in coastal Rhode Island. Stay tuned for more information on that.

Do-It-Yourself Field Trip

Our next Do-It-Yourself field trip December report and January orientation will be on Monday, January 3 at 7 pm on Zoom. Each month an area is chosen, a leader describes the location and five target species are identified. Anyone interested in participating has a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the Zoom event the following month. Our December field trip location was the Honeypot in Hadley, and the target birds were Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark, American Tree Sparrow and Snow Bunting. If you'd like to join the January Zoom session and learn more about the upcoming field trip e-mail education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

A CHAT WITH GEOFF LEBARON

This is the second half of my chat with Geoff LeBaron in November 2021. The first half of the chat, found in last month's newsletter, was about his role as the Director of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. In the second half of the chat Geoff talks about his introduction to the natural world, his time as Program Chair for the HBC, and his leading of international nature trips.

Newsletter: What got you interested in nature, birds and bird watching?

Geoff LeBaron: My parents were birders. And my grandparents at least appreciated birds. My grandmother was a real birder.

N: "Real" meaning birding with binoculars?

GL: Yes, and going out on bird walks and stuff like that. My family history has always been quite nature-oriented. I've never not watched birds. I grew up in Eastern Massachusetts and then we moved to New Mexico when my father was headhunted to start the Department of Biochemistry for the University of New Mexico Medical School when it opened. My mother was a microbiologist.

We would drive across the country every summer to come back to visit family in New England since we were on an academic schedule. Our family has a place on Squam Lake so I grew up spending a lot of time in the summers in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Often people want to know what's your favorite bird. I usually say it's whatever bird I'm

looking at at the time. I have a number of early vivid memories of birds. I remember American Goldfinches landing all over my mother every time she went out to fill the feeders in the winter. And the Common Loon: When I was little my uncle took me to a loon's nest. The bird looked like it was dead since it was quiet on the nest, and we could motor up to it. That was memorable. There are a dozen pairs of loons on Squam Lake and they are part of the summer up there, so I've always loved them.

In our backyard in Needham there were a few apple trees from an old orchard on a hillside. One day when I was about seven I saw a chipmunk go up one of the apple trees and it fell out. That repeated a few times. I went inside and told my mom that a chipmunk keeps falling out of a tree. She thought I was nuts. We went back to look at the apple tree, and the chipmunk would go up the main trunk and out the first main branch where there was male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Every time the chipmunk went down the branch, the grosbeak would whack the chipmunk and knock it

out of the tree. There was a female on the nest at the end of the branch.

N: I can see where that would be memorable.

GL: I also had an early up-close and very in-your-face experience. I was even younger than for the chipmunk incident. Maybe I was five. I was little and we were walking in the shrubby areas near the Norwood airport. It must have been in mid-June. A male Chestnut-sided Warbler flew out right up to my face and started scolding me, probably because there was a nest there. And again, for a little kid to have this little bird trying to chase you off was pretty memorable.

Another was with Bobolinks. I was walking our dog in a field one spring when we were driving up to New Hampshire before the interstates were built there. We'd stopped for lunch, I think. I was walking the dog in a small field and this Bobolink popped up right in front of us. It was pretty cool.

N: You were HBC Program Chair for a long time. What can you say about that?

GL: I think I did that for 19 years. Jan Ortiz recruited me. I know it was after I started working full time at home because before that I always had to be away on Monday night, so I could never come to bird club meetings before then. She recruited me to the Board and then said "Oh, by the way, will you be Program Chair?"

N: During your tenure there were a lot of speakers who you brought in. Do any of them especially stand out in your memory?

GL: The program that absolutely blew me away was Rick Prum's. It's Richard, actually. I think he must be the most brilliant person I have ever met. He's just a fun guy to talk to, and he gives a fantastic program. His program for us was on the evolution of color in social attraction in birds. He had a better title than that. He had done a lot of really deep research on pigmentation and the way the way color is presented in bird plumage.

He talked about "super black" where the feathers actually absorb light and they don't reflect anything back. There are videos of a Superb Bird-of-Paradise (now called Greater Lophorina) displaying its black hood thing that is super black. It's especially startling because the bird also has a yellow gape and white eyes. The bird in the video dances around and he's got the little things over his

head, and it's just dramatic. [Ed. note: Here's such a video: <https://youtu.be/1ere9BjJuVg>.] Rick is relatively local, so we could get him back.

I always enjoyed Don Kroodsmas's talks. He does such a good job of bringing sonograms to the real world. It's always fun to highlight up and coming ornithologists, both local and less than local. And it's always fun to bring in speakers like David Sibley and Kenn Kaufman who attract a lot of people. I think that the most people we ever had in the church was for Kenn's second talk. I think we had almost 200 people for that one.

N: I am actually surprised that, after 19 years, you can pare it down to such a small number of talks.

GL: There were many other good ones. Margaret Rubega's talk about the feeding adaptations in hummingbirds is one. [Ed. note: The April 2005 newsletter describes this talk in some detail. Apparently David Peake-Jones liked this talk, too.] Her grad student came up later and showed super slow motion of hummingbirds fly-catching and drinking. It was really fun stuff, and he was a really good presenter. For a club, that aspect is pretty important. I always tried to have a whole range of presenters to keep up the interest. I think of David Spector and his talks that have birds, music, and literature crossovers as an example.

N: You have led a number of bird adventures worldwide. Is there one that sticks in your mind?

GL: Two stick in my mind: the first one I did and the last one I did. The first one was a Panama and Costa Rica trip that happened to coincide with Operation Just Cause. I did an HBC program about this several years ago. When we were in the Panama Canal the US Air Force was bombing Panama City. On that trip we didn't get to go ashore because of the military action.

The last trip was in 2009 that went from Argentina to the Falklands to South Georgia and then across the South Atlantic up to Tristan da Cunha and on to Cape Town, South Africa. We sailed 4600 nautical miles across the widest part of the South Atlantic with a pretty amazing variety of seabirds.

I've done trips to Panama, Costa Rica, the Galapagos, Antarctica, Australia, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Baja California, many of these multiple times. I've been able to go to all seven continents if you include Kamchatka as part of Asia. And

thinking about it, I've sailed on a vessel across the international dateline, across the equator, across the Tropic of Capricorn and across the prime meridian. To be able to say that I experienced going across all those geographic benchmarks on a ship is interesting. This was possible because most of the trips I did for Audubon were ship-based expedition cruising.

N: I know you have an interest in flying things besides birds. Care to share that with the newsletter readers?

GL: Sure. For one thing I've always loved butterflies and moths. I never got as much into dragonflies as my parents did. I'm not as interested as some birders are, though. It seems that as they have fewer and fewer new birds to find, they evolve into looking for butterflies.

But I assume that you're referring to aviation and aircraft.

N: Yes, you got me there.

GL: I've always loved aviation. If my vision without glasses had been better I probably would have gone into a career involving flying. So I got my airplane fix via photography, especially of military aircraft. I'm a known quantity with the Department of Defense as an aviation hobbyist. A friend of mine used to have high level clearance and he told me one time that I was on the "good list." That enabled me to get permission to photograph things

that some other people wouldn't be able to. It's one thing to go to air shows and such, when the whole world is there, but going to a base and photographing their aircraft, that requires permission.

So I would write a letter and then make some phone calls if they gave me permission. I would be very gracious if they told me that I couldn't photograph certain things. I wouldn't do it even though I knew perfectly well there was no good reason because, if it's outside in the daytime, it's being imaged much more intensively from overhead than anything I could ever get with a camera. For any place that I got permission to photograph I always made up large color prints of the slides I took and sent them off with a thank you letter.

During and after graduate school I did over-water aerial survey work. I was flying as an aerial observer somewhere around 3000 hours over water looking at marine mammals, turtles and birds. I've been able to see the entire East Coast from 500 feet or below from Key West up to the tip of Nova Scotia and also out to about 250 or 300 miles offshore.

My passion for aviation now is trying to find slides that I know I have because long ago I ran out of room for filing and storing my slides. I was a diehard Kodachrome user. The last Kodachrome slide I ever took was of a polar bear in Churchill, Manitoba. It's actually a really crappy picture, but I've kept it because it's the last one.

NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS COUNT 2021

The year's last full moon lit up the early morning sky on December 19th; fast-moving clouds cast a spooky haze. The owlers had been out in the rain, and we were off to the races. The day remained overcast and windy for the most part, with spots of sun here and there; temps hovered in the mid-30s. Luckily it hadn't dropped below freezing the night before... we all had open water.

MANO's 255 participants counted 44,259 birds (a few reports are still coming in, but we had at least 7,500 individual birds more than last year). Feeder watchers counted in excess of 1,200 birds. The final total of 88 species was two shy of our record. No new species were found on count day, but a lingering Western Meadowlark was a count week bird. And we had new record-high numbers for Northern Harriers, Bald Eagles, Ravens, Catbirds, Cackling Geese, Black Vultures, Ring-billed Ducks, and Grackles.

Despite another challenging pandemic year, it was a very successful day for the MANO (Northampton) CBC's 88th year. The final tallies for the count are on the next page. Many thanks to everyone who pitched in! Next year's CBC will fall on Sunday, December 18th. Please save the date!

Amanda Kallenbach and Janice Jorgensen

NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Species	2021	Highest	Year
Snow Goose		32	2008
Greater White-fronted Goose		1	04, 08
Brant		1	1989
Cackling Goose	2	1	2014
Canada Goose	5151	7977	1999
Mute Swan		29	2002
Wood Duck	1	19	2010
Northern Shoveler	1	1	2014
Gadwall		5	2012
American Wigeon		10	1999
Mallard	525	1338	1994
American Black Duck	167	500	1953
Northern Pintail		54	2014
Green-winged Teal		3	2015
Canvasback		3	1977
Ring-necked Duck	71	5	2021
Bufflehead		3	2008
Duck (sp)		8	2015
American Black Duck x Mallard (hybrid)	1	1	2021
Greater Scaup		1	1981
Lesser Scaup		5	1974
White-winged Scoter		1	1938
Long-tailed Duck		1	1989
Common Goldeneye	2	112	2018
Barrow's Goldeneye		1	2015
Hooded Merganser	92	92	2014
Common Merganser	108	227	2018
Red-breasted Merganser		3	1991
Ruddy Duck		2	2012
Northern Bobwhite		5	1970
Wild Turkey	88	200	2018
Ruffed Grouse		37	1965
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	196	1960
Pied-billed Grebe		2	1991
Horned Grebe		2	2000
Rock Pigeon	412	2778	1988
Mourning Dove	1517	3904	1998
Selasphorus Hummingb.sp		1	2010
Virginia Rail		1	2000
Sora		1	1989
American Coot		1	2014
Killdeer		7	99, 71, 52
American Woodcock		1	19, 12, 65,
Wilson's Snipe		12	1990
Gull (sp)	19	95	2014
Black-headed Gull		29823	2014
Ring-billed Gull	108	1088	2006
Herring Gull	2	2196	1986
Iceland Gull		4	17, 05
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1	2000
Glaucous Gull		2	1986
Great Black-backed Gull		367	1994
Red-throated Loon		1	2012
Common Loon		1	15, 14, 12
Great Cormorant		1	2000
Double-crested Cormorant		1	08, 12
American Bittern		1	1978
Great Blue Heron	12	27	2006
Green Heron		1	2004
Black Vulture	15		2019
Turkey Vulture	1	2	19, 10
Osprey		1	1991
Bald Eagle:	34	17	2021
adult	21	15	2021
immature	13	6	2021
Next MANO Christmas Bird Count 12/18/22			

Species	2021	Highest	Year
Northern Harrier	36	11	2021
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18	22	05, 07
Cooper's Hawk	37	41	2020
Northern Goshawk	1	4	1985
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	9	2020
Red-tailed Hawk	221	208	2020
Rough-legged Hawk	1	12	1989
Barn Owl		cw	1959
Eastern Screech-Owl	39	108	2017
Great Horned Owl	9	68	2014
Snowy Owl		2	49, 78
Barred Owl	6	19	2018
Long-eared Owl		3	2004
Short-eared Owl		4	1960
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	5	03, 06
Belted Kingfisher	21	24	2012
Red-headed Woodpecker		1	2017
Red-bellied Woodpecker	304	340	2020
Black-backed Woodpecker		1	1956
Downy Woodpecker	327	503	2014
Hairy Woodpecker	131	192	1974
Northern Flicker	61	76	19, 98
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	14	6	2007
Pileated Woodpecker	42	70	2020
American Kestrel	5	31	1974
Merlin	5	8	2020
Gyr Falcon		cw	2012
Peregrine Falcon	5	7	16/18
Western Kingbird		cw	2004
Eastern Phoebe		2	1990
Loggerhead Shrike		2	1955
Northern Shrike		15	1995
White-eyed Vireo		1	1984
Blue-headed Vireo		1	2012
Canada Jay		cw	1973
Blue Jay	1317	1791	2020
American Crow	848	5836	1997
Fish Crow	2	6	2018
Common Raven	46	42	2021
Horned Lark	962	3222	2012
Black-capped Chickadee	1097	2096	2005
Boreal Chickadee		12	1961
Tufted Titmouse	708	894	2006
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	295	1993
White-breasted Nuthatch	502	667	2020
Brown Creeper	36	53	1973
House Wren		1	06, 82
Winter Wren	5	9	14, 13
Sedge Wren		1	1996
Marsh Wren		4	1958
Carolina Wren	165	219	2020
Golden-crowned Kinglet	106	332	2001
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	6	73, 67
European Starling	11501	94630	1985
Bohemian Waxwing		1	1993
Cedar Waxwing	317	2194	2007
Eastern Bluebird	437	539	2014
Hermit Thrush	8	33	2014
American Robin	8338	9902	2013
Varied Thrush		1	1981
Gray Catbird	8	5	21, 17, 05
Brown Thrasher		2	1975
Sage Thrasher		1	2020
Northern Mockingbird	98	238	1999
Thank you for supporting MANO CBC--next one is 12/18/22			

Species	2021	Highest	Year
House Sparrow	1357	2662	1961
American Pipit		129	2015
Brambling		1	1961
Evening Grosbeak	1	3000	1969
Pine Grosbeak		217	1954
House Finch	614	2215	1994
Purple Finch	12	221	1976
Dark-eyed Junco	2434	3585	2006
Oregon Junco		3	1969
Pink-sided Junco		1	2015
Common Redpoll		1069	1959
Hoary Redpoll		2	402
Red Crossbill		25	1969
White-winged Crossbill		98	1977
Pine Siskin	6	372	1993
American Goldfinch	1152	2094	2006
Lapland Longspur		31	1989
Snow Bunting	7	706	1989
Yellow-headed Blackbird		1	1974
Chipping Sparrow	cw	11	2013
Clay-colored Sparrow	3	1	2021
Field Sparrow	5	58	1992
Fox Sparrow		20	69, 39
American Tree Sparrow	418	2637	1991
White-crowned Sparrow	29	30	1943
Harris's Sparrow		1	1992
White-throated Sparrow	577	1008	2010
Vesper Sparrow		2	1992
LeConte's Sparrow		cw	2009
Savannah Sparrow	16	61	2013
Ipswich Savannah Sparrow		1	1952, 2011
Song Sparrow	345	559	2020
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1	2012
Swamp Sparrow	16	23	1946
Green-tailed Towhee		cw	1999
Spotted Towhee		1	1963
Eastern Towhee	1	2	1961
Eastern Meadowlark	2	98	19, 97
Western Meadowlark	cw		2021
Bullock's Oriole		1	1998
Red-winged Blackbird	205	304	1979
Brown-headed Cowbird	80	876	2017
Rusty Blackbird	2	189	2016
Brewer's Blackbird		1	1982
Common Grackle	808	501	2021
Ovenbird		1	2020
Orange-crowned Warbler		1	2020
Nashville Warbler		1	2020
Common Yellowthroat		2	1990
Black-throated Blue Warbler		1	1979
Baltimore Oriole		3	1976
Palm Warbler		1	2021
Pine Warbler		1	1952
Yellow-rumped Warbler	cw	9	2008
Wilson's Warbler		2	2006
Northern Cardinal	495	820	2011
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		1	1980
Indigo Bunting		1	2006
Dickcissel	1	3	1969
Most species ever 91 1999, 2008			
2021 species 88			
2021 Individual birds 44722			
Field Participants 250+			
Feeder Watchers 31			
Miles Walked A LOT			

compiled by Janice Jorgensen and Amanda Kallenbach and all the Leaders, Participants and Feeder Wat

EXOTIC ECO-TOURISM

Our sharp-eyed friend-of-the-newsletter David Spector found an exotic destination wildlife tour for those who can afford the travel: “Our base for this new tour – in the wildlife-rich US state of Connecticut – lies only two hours from New York City, yet could be a world away from this crowded east coast metropolis. Within Connecticut’s vast woodlands (over 60% of the state is forested) lives a wonderful variety of mammals and birds, including two of the region’s most iconic species, the Bobcat and Black Bear. During this unique, single-centre, holiday we will join expert local guides and aim to offer intimate encounters with these two elusive predators. The photographic opportunities should be outstanding, as will the birding with a host of exciting species to look out for, from majestic Bald Eagles to colourful Baltimore Orioles.” The cost is only £3,495 (excluding airfare). Other highlights of this spectacular nine-day trip include “such striking birds as Scarlet Tanager, Black-and-White Warbler, Indigo Bunting and the exquisite Ruby-throated Hummingbird. We also stand a very high chance of finding North American Beaver during the tour.”

As you may well surmise, this is a trip offered to Brits, who, from the sound of it, may be a rather gullible bunch. So that sets me to thinking that the HBC may well be missing a lucrative fund-raising scheme. I have a lovely barn that could be used to house at least two dozen eco-tourists, sleeping on the floor and in the two lofts, who would be willing to inhabit a space with no central heat and zero insulation. That seems no barrier for a British tourist. And for the trip there is the option of motor boating on the expansive Quabbin Reservoir. (Quabbin really sounds exotic, now doesn’t it? The ad copy practically writes itself!) And for a small upcharge (£495?), there could be a short side trip to the spectacular, wind-swept Mount Sugarloaf in remote Sunderland, MA (both of which sound like something out of the Sound of Music) where sightings of the occasional Peregrine Falcon accompany magnificent views of the mighty Connecticut River. We’ll make a bundle.

And should you think that we are hosing you along the lines of the April 2021 newsletter, think again. Here’s the proof: <https://www.naturetrek.co.uk/tours/usa-bobcats-and-bears>.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Winter Tracking with Kathy Dean

Saturday, February 19, 9 am – noon in Buckland

Please [register online](#) or call 413-256-6006

Join us for a winter morning exploring the tracks and sign that animals have left behind in the woodlands and wetlands surrounding Kathy's home in western Massachusetts. All levels welcome. Cost is \$30.

Kathy Dean has worked in the field of outdoor education since 1983 as a wilderness guide, rock climbing instructor and teacher of animal tracking, bird language and nature awareness. In addition to working with several nature education centers, she offers wildlife tracking, bird language and custom-tailored nature programs through Trotting Fox Programs. Kathy is the author of *Abbreviated Field Guide to Mammal Behavior: New England Region*. She lives in a small hill town in western Massachusetts and is blissfully surrounded by woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife.

Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor