Contents

Editorial ................................................................................................................................................................ 1
June meeting/picnic/walk description .................................................................................................................. 1
40th Anniversary raffle........................................................................................................................................ 1
Birding for Everyone ........................................................................................................................................... 2
Results of board elections ................................................................................................................................ 2
Education Committee report ............................................................................................................................... 2
Upcoming field trips ............................................................................................................................................. 3
Training for field trip leaders ............................................................................................................................... 4
Conservation Corner: Committee updates ........................................................................................................... 4
Help with nest box construction .......................................................................................................................... 5
HBC Puzzle .......................................................................................................................................................... 5
Upcoming events of interest ................................................................................................................................. 6
Last things ............................................................................................................................................................ 6
Dear reader, I have been thinking about this editorial for two weeks. By now you likely know that Bob Zimmerrmann, HBC member and former president, leader of bird walks, Conservation Committee chair, and colleague, mentor, and friend to me, died on May 9. It’s difficult for me to write that because I have known Bob for many years in lots of different capacities, and I’ve grown accustomed to having him in my life.

Bob and I were in the same department at UMass. He was one of the first people that I met when I interviewed for a faculty job 38 years ago. Bob was a molecular biologist, studying the structure of the ribosome, the molecular complex that “reads” the genetic message encoded in mRNA and that produces the protein corresponding to the genetic code from which the mRNA was produced. This remarkable molecular machine does this constantly in each of the cells that make up all organisms. Bob was at the forefront of the work that has led to our in-depth understanding of this core process that is fundamental to life itself.

I knew Bob for almost two decades before we mutually discovered our joy of the avian world—the topic simply never came up. In retrospect, it’s hard for me to understand how it could be that it took so long for us to connect over birds, but there it is. By the time that I learned that Bob was a birder, I had joined the HBC board, and I suggested that he might want to join, too. He did that in 2002. He was on the board with me for six years, then stepped away until 2019 when he agreed to become HBC president, a job that he did admirably for three years. Among his earliest tasks was to replace the newsletter editor, Devin Griffiths, who had moved away from the area and had resigned a month before the new club year was to start. I was having an ice cream when my phone rang in early August 2019. It was Bob. He needed a newsletter editor. I’m still at it.

I can’t recall my first birding trip with Bob. It likely was either the Northampton Christmas Count or the Mass Audubon Birdathon. We joined up for both events many times over the years. There were Christmas Counts where it was so cold that we couldn’t feel our fingers and so wet that I had an inch of water in my rubber boots after hours hiking around Fitzgerald Lake and surrounds. I think my strongest memories are from the Birdathon. Bob and I went as a duo, covering territory around Northampton into the northern hilltowns of the Berkshires. We would often find ourselves at the Moran Wildlife Management Area in Windsor around the same time that another duo of two older white guys were there. The two teams would chat with each other, knowing fully well that each team was holding back on the really great bird that would help with the other team’s count numbers. I’m pretty sure that Bob felt the same way that I did, that those guys from the BBC were poaching our birds. Those were some of the best birding days I’ve ever had. We saw a tree full of Blackburnian Warblers. We saw a Barred Owl and a Red-tailed Hawk linked talon-to-talon spiraling down and screeching at each other. We hunted and hunted for a Rock Pigeon to add to our list, and finally lucked out in Florence at the end of a long Birdathon day, overjoyed at sighting a pigeon. I’ll miss Bob.

NEXT PROGRAM
Tuesday, June 11, at 6 PM
The 40th Birthday Picnic!
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton
We will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the HBC at the picnic/walk/get-together. This is a BYO event, so bring your own. Scott Surner, who has been HBC president for about 100 years and who was a founder of the club, will say a few words about Geoff LeBaron, who was vice president and program chair for about 90 years and who is retiring as National Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count Director since 1987 as part of the festivities. There will be a bird walk around Arcadia at 5 PM prior to the picnic. Meet at the pavilion.
THE BIG RAFFLE

The two raffles for a chance to win a Joe Oliverio print of either a Bald Eagle or a Prairie Warbler will continue until the winners are drawn at the 40th birthday picnic. You can purchase raffle tickets at $5 each from the boutique at the picnic or at the online store (HBC website > About > Boutique; https://hampshire-birdclub.org/shop). You can get an idea of the stunning images at the online store. All proceeds go to the HBC. Be sure to get your raffle tickets for both prints!

BIRDING FOR EVERYONE

The Birding For Everyone (BFE) program is geared toward beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: people young in age, from underrepresented minority groups, or who have disabilities that make birding difficult. 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 walk can register at bit.ly/2024bfe.

- June 13, 2024, 7–8 PM: Herons (Talk)
- June 15, 2024, 8:45–11:00 AM: Quabbin Park, Goodnough Dike, Ware MA (Walk)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The annual election for the HBC board was held from May 15 through May 21 online at the HBC website. There were ten candidates for seven open positions on the board. The new and re-elected board members are Julie Blue, Monique Dumais, Carol Fournier, Dave Gross, Hobie Iselin, Lisa McDaniels, and Steve Winn. Continuing on the board are Derek Allard, Cory Elowe, Michealle Larkins, and Josh Rose. At its June meeting, the new board will elect officers. Those officers will be announced at the June picnic and will be published in the September newsletter that marks the start of the next club year’s activities.

Thanks to HBC members who served on the board last year and who are not continuing into the new club year: Laura Beltran, Greg Brown, Annemarie Chapdelaine, Kalpesh Krishna, and Donna Lee Ubertalli. A special thanks is due to Donna Lee, the current Membership Secretary, who did yeowoman’s work in porting the membership system from a difficult-to-edit Excel file to the current mostly automated system built into the club website.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

At our May meeting we were delighted to welcome a new Education Committee member: Amy Shamansky. She brings her teaching experience as well as her knowledge of birds and wildlife to the committee.

- June 3, 7–8 PM. Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Field Trip with Brian and guest co-hosts. Are you new to the area? New to birding? Would you like to know where to go and what to look for? Or do you just want to connect with other HBC birders? Come to a Zoom meeting of the DIY Field Trip. Each month we select a local hot spot and five target birds that can be seen at that location. During our Zoom meeting we give directions to the month’s location and offer ID information for the target birds. Join us!
- June 13, 7–8 PM. Join Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee members Monique Dumais and Melissa Aldrich for a discussion about spreading the love of birdwatching with anyone and everyone. We'll explore the histories of people who inspired us as well as equipment for beginners and techniques to share the love of birding with others.

The Zoom link for both workshops is on the Education Workshop page of the Hampshire Bird Club website. Login information is Meeting ID: 822 7788 5665, Passcode: Education.

Did you miss a workshop last year? Our recorded programs are available on the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page. Scroll down to the bottom of the videos page to find Education workshops. If you have an idea for a workshop, email us at education@hampshirebirdclub.org. We are looking for new members! If you would like to join the Education Committee, please email us.
UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please register online at least two days in advance of the trip at the HBC website (hampshirebirdclub.org, go to EVENTS → FIELD TRIPS). Contact leaders (if a phone number or email is listed) if you have questions. It’s always wise to bring snacks and dress appropriately. Whether with or without a leader, please follow the HBC’s guidelines for ethical birding and conduct (hampshirebirdclub.org/hbc-code-of-ethics-and-conduct/) and those on our website regarding field trips (hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/). For the most up to date list of trips, visit www.hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips.

Remember that we encourage carpooling. We ask that riders share costs with drivers as a matter of courtesy. The HBC recommends the current federal mileage reimbursement rate, shared by all occupants, but the rate for a vehicle is entirely up to the driver and passengers and should be determined before leaving. Note that sign-ups for field trips are now online at the HBC website, not through trip leaders.

Saturday, June 1. Station 43, South Windsor, CT. 7:00 to 11:30 AM (ending time is flexible). Join Peggy MacLeod at one of the most productive inland bird watching sites in Connecticut to enjoy seasonal birding for rails, herons, songbirds, ducks, Sora, bitterns, and flycatchers. Station 43, a wetland bordered by farmland and wooded areas, is owned by Hartford Audubon and comprises a shallow pond and extensive marsh, with reported sightings of 229 bird species. Although the trail is flat, the unavoidable muddy areas make the site not accessible. Preparation: Because water often covers parts of the path, fully waterproof high boots are required to bird at this location. Bring binoculars, a scope if possible, bug repellent, water, and snacks. We will meet at 7 AM to carpool from Sheldon Field Park and Ride, 26 Old Ferry Road in Northampton. Station 43 is located at 953 Main Street (corner of Newberry Road and Main Street), South Windsor, CT. We will park on the east side of Main Street without blocking any driveways or mailboxes and walk west from the intersection on what starts as a rutted driveway to the right side of a private yard. Please note there are no restrooms at this location. Questions? Contact sunraven99@gmail.com. Limited to 12 participants. (M)

Saturday, June 1. DAR State Forest. 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Join Amanda Kallenbach for a slow-paced birding trip, exploring the summer wonders of this amazing spot. You’ll get an 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. Meet at the main gate house lot (78 Cape Street, Goshen, off Route 112). Entry fee for MA residents without a MA State Park pass is $8. Rain date is Sunday, June 2. Questions? Contact amanda.kallenbach@gmail.com. Limited to 10 participants. (M)

Friday, June 7. William Cullen Bryant Homestead, Cummington, MA. 8:30 to 11:00 AM. The Trustees manage this 200-acre site for nesting grassland birds and rare, old growth forest. Join Bill Randolph as we meander through different habitats looking and listening for birds including swallows, Chimney Swifts, Bobolinks, meadowlarks, warblers, and Winter Wrens. Plan on walking 1.5–2 miles on uneven trails with a maximum of 300-foot gain in elevation. It’s a good idea to bring repellent for ticks and mosquitoes. We will meet at the Homestead, located at 207 Bryant Road in Cummington, MA. (A donation of $2 per non-Trustee member is appreciated at any Trustee property.) Limited to 12 participants. (M)

Saturday, June 8. Knightville Dam. 7 AM to noon. Join Betsy Higgins and Marcia Merithew on a trip exploring the Knightville Dam area in Huntington. 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 possibly cuckoos. Meet in the JFK Middle School parking lot on Bridge Road in Northampton at 7 AM. It's about a 20-minute drive to the Knightville area. There will be a combination of walking and possible driving on dirt roads over moderately uneven terrain. The road at the lower part may not be open but we will park and walk in as far as the group wants. End time depends on how much driving vs. walking we do, but we will end by noon. Porta Potties are available only before we drive to the lower portion. Questions? Contact mmerithew@comcast.net. Limited to 10 participants. (M)
**Sunday, June 9. Montague Sandplains and More.** 7:30 AM to noon. Join Brian Zylich and Julie Blue on a half day trip to multiple hot spots in Franklin County. We will drive between a number of locations (Montague Sandplains, Barton Cove, Turners Falls Airport, etc.) and go for short walks on dirt/paved roads at each stop. We expect to see a wide variety of breeding birds since we will cover a variety of productive habitats. Birds may include warblers, vireos, finches, sparrows, thrushes, waterfowl, and others. We will meet at the Montague Sandplains parking area at the intersection of Bartlett Road and Lake Pleasant Road (42°34'09.1"N 72°30'51.0"W). Questions? Contact brian.zylich@gmail.com. Limited to 10 participants. (E)

**Thursday, June 13. Notchview Reservation, Windsor, MA.** 8:30 to 11:00 AM. The Trustees manage this 3,000 acre biologically diverse property which is located 2,000 feet above sea level allowing for examples of the boreal forest (red spruce) community, along with mixed hardwoods and grasslands. Join Bill Randolph as we look and listen for warblers, vireos, Ruffed Grouse, and nesting Bobolinks. Be prepared to walk 3–3.5 miles at a moderate pace on flat hiking trails with slight elevation. It's a good idea to bring repellant for ticks and mosquitos, and wear clothes to minimize bites. Some of the trails can be quite soggy, so plan appropriate footwear. We will meet at Notchview, located at 83 Old Route 9 in Windsor, MA. (A donation of $2 per non-Trustee member is appreciated at any Trustee property.) Limited to 12 participants. (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.

**TRAINING FOR FIELD TRIP LEADERS**
The Field Trip and Education Committees will be presenting a Field Trip Leader Workshop this June on Zoom at a date to be determined. Anyone interested in leading an HBC field trip, even if you have led a trip in the past, should attend. We will share and learn different strategies that can be implemented when you volunteer as a field trip leader for the HBC. This session will supply some helpful strategies for trip leaders, will build consistency in our messaging to trip participants, and will serve as an introduction to anyone considering leading or co-leading a trip for the first time. Stay tuned for details—watch the HBC website and your inbox for updates.

**CONSERVATION CORNER**
This summary of Conservation Committee work is offered in honor of Conservation Committee Chairperson, Robert “Bob” Zimmermann, who passed away unexpectedly on May 9, 2024. Respectfully submitted by Carol A. Fournier including excerpts from Bob’s notes.

The HBC Conservation Committee was created anew in 2023 with the guidance of committee chairperson Robert “Bob” Zimmermann. Since then, committee members have shared inspirations and worked diligently to identify various areas of focus that support and enhance bird habitats and contribute to community awareness and engagement while supporting conservation initiatives in cooperation with Mass Audubon, The Trustees (TTOR), Smith College, local communities, and other organizations. Some of our many emerging initiatives are below.

**Encouraging Ecosystem Awareness and Action**
Gardening season coincides so beautifully with peak bird migration. One aspect of gardening that supports bird migration is to grow and maintain healthy ecosystems. One can enhance their garden ecosystem by avoiding fertilizers, pesticides, and rodenticides while planting native species. These simple efforts are cumulative and make a significant difference for birds, bees, and butterflies.

**Collaborating to Protect and Enhance Grassland Bird Nesting Sites**
*Monitoring grassland birds at The Trustees properties*
This nesting season marks the second year that members of the Conservation Committee are working with Isabel Bronson of The Trustees to monitor bobolink, meadowlark, savannah sparrows, and other selected species for nesting site activity as well as presence at selected locations.
Grassland bird nesting sites in Hampshire County

The committee is identifying the feasibility of a survey of grassland bird nesting sites in Hampshire County with the help of Dave King to discuss the necessary methodology. The focus of the survey will be on the 40 or so locations in Hampshire County where grassland birds have been reported on eBird. Observations from the survey would then be passed along to Jeff Ritterson at Mass Audubon so that their staff can contact the relevant landowners to request appropriate action. Volunteer training and the first survey is being planned for Spring 2025.

Rescue Raptors with Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon is launching a new statewide program that is aimed at reducing or eliminating the use of rodenticides. When hawks and owls consume rodents that have been poisoned with these agents, they are at least weakened and at worst killed. Arcadia's Jonah Keane is organizing an inaugural meeting of individuals in Western Massachusetts who are interested in learning more about the Rescue Raptors program. Harvey Allen will represent the Conservation Committee at this meeting.

Bird Survey at MacLeish Field Station, Smith College

Committee members are conducting a breeding bird survey at the MacLeish Field Station this spring that is aimed at compiling a list of birds that use the property. A proposed survey protocol uses eBird to record results with evidence of breeding being noted.

Chimney Swift Nesting Towers

We’re working to identify sites to construct Chimney Swift towers for roosting and nesting. These efforts include placing an educational placard that will be part of a kiosk in Williamsburg along with explorations of a second tower site in Belchertown. We hope to partner with a local Boy Scout troop to plan and construct the towers.

Motus Wildlife Tracking Tower

Although one site in Worthington previously identified for a Motus tower is not available, through supplemental research additional sites for tower placements have been identified at an Aruna Hill Science Center property in Cummington, a cidery and apple orchard in Hawley, a Bed and Breakfast property in Worthington, and town property in Belchertown.

The next meeting of the Conservation Committee is Monday, June 10. If you are interested in joining our engaging group, please send a message to Marcia Merithew at mmerithew@comcast.net.

HELP WITH TREE SWALLOW RESEARCH

Ethan Clotfelter of the Departments of Biology and Environmental Studies at Amherst College and the HBC’s May meeting speaker is looking for someone able to assist with the construction of nest boxes for an ongoing study of Tree Swallow breeding ecology in the Valley. He wants to replace approximately 130 nest boxes over the next two to three years. He can pay for all materials and can offer modest compensation for the work. Please feel free to contact him directly at edclotfelter@amherst.edu if you are interested.

THE HBC PUZZLE

Answers to last month’s questions:

45. Young Mr. Grace in “Are You Being Served” (series 8, episode 1) was writing a book about ornithology (is there any other subject worth a book?).

46. Merlot.

47. An accipiter bandage for the nose grips the nose like a hawk’s talons grip prey.

48. “Gleg as a gled” is hungry as a kite. If someone is gleg as a gled they are hungry enough to eat carrion.

A Reminder About Scoring: Give yourself some points for each correct answer (and, if you want, points for effort or for anything else that strikes your fancy). If you get a bunch of points and/or enjoyed the quiz you win. If you disagree with any of the answers let us know, but you might have points deducted for insubordination.
UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary
The following program is offered by Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton. Sign up online. More programs can be found at www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/arcadia.

Parking Lot Birding—Sundays, June 23, July 7, and July 21, 7:30–8:30 AM
The Arcadia parking lot is a surprisingly good place to look for birds. With the red mulberry trees and woodland edge on one side and an open field on the other, we see an unusual mix of forest and open country birds. Bring your binoculars, a chair, and coffee or tea if you choose - we won't be going far.

Mass Audubon

Birder’s Certificate Program—August 17, 2024 to June 8, 2025
The Birder’s Certificate Program (BCP), offered annually by Mass Audubon since 2004, is a key component in Mass Audubon’s ongoing efforts to provide the finest educational programs to the birdwatching community. In this 11-module program, you'll learn avian systematics, biology, field identification, physiology, behavior, vocalization, ecology, and conservation. Course goals include:

- Developing an ornithological knowledge base
- Contributing to the conservation of native bird life
- Empowering birders to contribute to the scientific studies
- Encouraging collaboration between recreational birders and professional ornithologists

The BCP is equivalent to an undergraduate-level ornithology course; students who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate of achievement. More information at www.massaudubon.org/programs-events/adult-learning/birder-s-certificate-program.

SOME LAST THINGS

♫ When an eel has a maw with a pharyngeal jaw, that’s a moray (that’s a moray).
When the jaws open wide and there’s more jaws inside, that’s a moray (that’s a moray).
When it sulks in a reef and has two sets of teeth, that’s a moray (that’s a moray).
When the moon’s in the sky and an eel bites your thigh, that’s…a….moray. ♫

Sing it along with Deano: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnFlx2Lnr9Q.

And here’s an alternative for the chorus:

♫ When the moon hits your knees
And you mispronounce trees,
Sycamore ♫

And for Father’s Day, June 16:

Knock knock.
Who’s there?
Hike.
Hike who?
Unsuspecting son.
Dad waiting with bated breath.
Sets the perfect trap.

Talk to you again in September. Happy summer!

Spoil a good walk: go birding! newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org Dave Gross, Editor