



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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www.hampshirebirdclub.org

In this edition:

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- field trip reports and a coming trip,
- **Monhegan Island** 2009 trip announcement (**page 4**),
- **Anniversary** information (the Big Sit, our own economic stimulus package, and photographs wanted),
- Hitchcock programs,
- **Breeding Bird Atlas**, Year 3,
- Chapter 5 of the **HBC History** by Trudy Tynan, and
- some other tid-bits. I hope you find some of it useful!

***Provenance.** It can make the difference between an interesting picture and a priceless work of art. A bold and whimsical painting of the night sky might be just that. Yet van Gogh painted “Starry Night” as part of a desperate, life-long search for joy which ended all too soon but has inspired generations. Sometimes, the life of the artist is as important as the brushwork. Without the provenance, it is just a picture.*

Sometimes, it is provenance that makes a bird special. On January 17, a friend and I drove slowly into a cramped gravel clearing at Eastern Point, Gloucester. There, standing improbably on the icy shore of an inlet, was a small gull: dainty, petite, and as white as snow. We had driven for over four hours through a snow storm to reach this point, and to have the bird waiting next to the parking lot was serendipitous almost to the point of anticlimax. We spent almost an hour with this creature, watching it alternately standing pertly amongst its larger brethren, mincing about amongst the icy boulders of the beach, and even winnowing through the seaweed-laced shallows in search of food.

Ivory Gulls make a living at the margins of the arctic pack ice, where the melting sea-ice sustains a plankton-driven food chain of extreme intricacy and fragility. This bird had strayed an almost impossible distance from its world of ice, water and krill. What was it thinking as it flew first over the unaccustomed dark solidity of the tundra, and then the otherworldliness of human habitat? What was it thinking now, as it surveyed us with inscrutable jet-black eyes? What might it tell us about the oceans, the ice, and its future?

I suppose as birders we should simply marvel at this emissary from a world most of us will never see. The perils and privations (as well as the abbreviated species list) are enough to keep most birders to the south of the magical world of the arctic, so an Ivory Gull less than mile and a half from the nearest Dunkin’ Donuts, is a lister’s dream. However, the experience of my first Ivory Gull is imbued with majesty and sadness, as well as joy. Needless to say, as the polar icecaps retreat, Ivory Gull habitat is shrinking at a catastrophic rate. This bird could be one of the last of its kind.

So I am hoping for Ivory Gulls this winter. I am hoping first that this lonely wanderer may somehow find its way back to the arctic circle. And I am hoping that there will always be a place where ice meets water, where Ivory Gulls belong.

PROGRAMS

Monday, February 9 at 7:30 PM

Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll speak about Birds and Ahrt.

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Should bad weather force a cancellation, it will be announced on WHMP 1400 AM radio.

Debauchery, Drunkenness, Owls and Bitterns: Bird Symbolism in Hondius' "Rest on the Hunt".

By examining a single work in the Worcester Art Museum (OK, we will show some others too), we will reveal how a single culture used birds as hidden codes for complex moral, ethical and environmental beliefs. It is also my firm belief that we never get to talk about "debauchery" enough in bird club lectures.

Mark Lynch

Mark Lynch teaches advanced level birding classes at Broad Meadow Brook MAS, where he is also an ecological monitor. He is the book review editor for Bird Observer and was the regional editor of the Worcester County section of The Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts. Along with his partner in crime, Sheila Carroll, he is a Regional Coordinator for the Worcester County section of the current Breeding Bird Atlas. Author of a number of Bird Observer "where to go" pieces on Worcester County, currently Mark is working on an ornithogeography of the Blackstone National Corridor. Mark is also a teacher and docent at the Worcester Art Museum, leading the annual Birder's Tour of the Collection. Mark hosts INQUIRY on WICN (90.5FM), an interview show that focuses on the arts and sciences and a good deal of topics of interest to birders.

Sheila did not send us a biography.

Coming Programs

March 9, 2009. Scott Weidensaul. *Return to Wild America.*

April 13, 2009. John Van de Graaff. *The Galapagos Islands: A Photographic Celebration.*

May 11, 2009. Susan Smith. *Chickadee Research.*

June 8, 2009. Kenn Kaufman. *Wings of the Imagination; Why We Need Birds.*

FIELD TRIPS

Reports

Moran WMA and Vicinity.

On **January 11**, **Mike Locher** headed out to Moran WMA to try to confirm a sighting of a Gray Jay, and to see what else was up in the hills. Unfortunately, no Gray Jay was seen, although a young **Northern Shrike** was spotted (across the road from the main parking area), along with a few Black-capped Chickadees and a single desultory Song Sparrow. The going was tough through the fresh snow, so I decided to bird the surrounding roads.

On the roads to the west of Moran were several small flocks of **Common Redpolls**, perhaps 50 individuals in all, but no other winter finches. The only other birds of note were three Pileated Woodpeckers, half a dozen Red-tailed Hawks, and lots of male Northern Cardinals posing against the white snowy background. It was a beautiful winter day, but I couldn't find many birds.

Mike Locher



North Shore. Saturday, January 10, 2008.

Bob Bieda, Al Richards, Andrew Magee, Joan Dupre, Larry Dupre, and David Peake-Jones ventured to the Salisbury area and Cape Ann. The experience was upgraded from excruciating to merely frigid by the merciful absence of wind. In fact, as the sun peered out at us during the afternoon, we briefly felt almost comfortable.

The portents looked bleak when Al found only one (1) penny at the first McDonalds on the itinerary. However, when Bob presciently turned back to find Al's lost glove at a rest area, the fates were looking kinder. We made an auspicious start to a day's birding in Salisbury, when we went for the **Yellow-headed Blackbird** which had been reported from a feeder. We were amongst the group of patient observers who witnessed the bird appear amongst a mass of House Sparrows and cowbirds.

Moving on, we cruised the frigid pine barrens of Salisbury State Park, providing a breath-by-breath account of our movements for Bill Drummond. Using the age-old technique of following other birders, we soon located a group of **White-winged Crossbills** feeding industriously in a Pitch Pine, apparently oblivious to our presence. Nearby, we found a group of (**Ipswich**) **Savannah Sparrows** feeding on the ground. We spent quite some time watching a **Short-eared Owl** hunting the dunes, no doubt struggling to find enough calories to fend off the cold. One typically sees these beautiful creatures dancing on the wind in poor light, but every feature of this bird was vividly illuminated by the crisp, clear light of a sunny winter's day. A rare treat!

We were not so lucky in locating a Snowy Owl that had been reported close by, but chose not to reveal itself to us. We found a **Glaucous Gull** at Blake's Cove in Gloucester, and a nice selection of usual winter suspects on the calm waters around Cape Ann. Towards the end of the day, we pulled into the parking lot at Safe Harbor near Rockport, searching for one last good bird for the day. To our delight, a **Northern Shrike**, teed up in a tree, was doing the same thing!! Fifty species in the dead of winter left us quite satisfied!!

David Peake-Jones

Coming Trips

Saturday, February 21. South Shore: Plymouth and Falmouth. All day. Al Richards leads birders to the coast south of Boston to find ducks, gulls, owls, and whatever happens to be around. Dress warmly. Call Al (413-665-2761) for meeting information. (E)

Please see also the **Monhegan Island** announcement under "Overnight Trips" on Page 4

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS, YEAR 3

Some ways to help (alone or with friends):

1. Start an unassigned block.

In Hampshire County, Blandford 10 is available (in Southampton, has a reservoir, ponds and wetlands). There are more blocks in counties to the west, east, and south.

2. Help finish a block - looking for additional species and confirmations.

3. Species-focused trips across blocks - searching for the more difficult-to-find characters.

Contact **Mary Alice** (mwilson@umassk12.net, 413-548-9078) for more information. If you don't she will contact you anyway, so you might as well call early to get the best sites!

Overnight Trips

Sign Up Now for

MONHEGAN ISLAND

Memorial Day Weekend (May 22-25), 2009

If you have ever wanted to steep yourself in the spring migration, to relish every sighting, to see birds at absurdly close range, Monhegan Island is for you. This is our flagship field trip, and one you should experience if you have not yet done so, or go again if it has been too long.....

During the Spring, migrant songbirds moving northward up the Atlantic seaboard are sometimes pushed out over the ocean by storms, and have to fight their way back toward the safety of land. Monhegan Island lies about twelve miles off the coast of Maine and is often a haven for exhausted birds to recuperate before resuming the perilous journey northward. We will arrive on the island on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, without vehicles, and immerse ourselves in the gentle rhythms of island life. We'll find migrant songbirds throughout the tiny village of Monhegan, sheltering in the numerous apple trees, sometimes picking through the sea-wrack on the town beach for sand-fleas, or even hiding in the lobster pots piled almost everywhere. Each day will bring fresh migrants to the island, and a storm could even produce one of the fallouts of birding legend. When the birding slows down, we can venture off on any of the island's numerous walking trails to Lobster Cove, the stupendous seaward cliffs, the Seal Rocks (aptly named), or the Enchanted Forest.

We'll stay at the rustic Trailing Yew, which will lay on breakfast and dinner each day, including a local lobster dinner. This is the perfect opportunity to slow down, REALLY learn the birds, and remember what life *should* be about. This trip is open only to members of the Hampshire Bird Club. **To sign up, or for further details, including an estimation of costs, contact Betsy Higgins (hignik@comcast.net; 586 7585) or Andrew Magee (andrewfmagee@gmail.com; 586 1509).**

Call for Volunteers

The HBC will again take a group to help our local NPR station, WFCR, during its February fund drive. We will be taking calls at the station on Saturday, February 7, from 8-11 AM. It's easy (training is provided). It's fun (you get to see radio behind-the-scenes). It's exciting (watching the drive totals increase is great motivation). Breakfast in the form of goodies from Henion Bakery is provided; all you need to do is bring yourself (and friend if you wish) and answer pledge calls as they come in. If you'd like to join the fun, sign up by calling or emailing Dave Gross at 253-2897 or dgross@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Date: *Saturday, February 7*

Time: *8-11 A.M.*

Location: *WFCR studios, Hampshire House, UMass campus*

LIBRARY

The HBC Library is located at the **Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst.**

Hours are those of the Hitchcock Center:

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

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

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

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

25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

HBC Announces Economic Stimulus Package

Don't wait for Congress! Take a chance today! Raffle tickets on a rare Audubon print drop to \$5 each or three for \$10!

Donated by an HBC member, this circa 1845 hand colored lithograph, of a Townsend's Cormorant, (Plate 418 from *Birds of America*) was part of a series by James Bowen who received permission from John James Audubon to reproduce his engravings in lithography in a smaller size. A representative from Christie's has valued this print at \$500. Proceeds from the April raffle will go towards purchase of new audiovisual equipment for the club.

The print will be available for viewing at all HBC meetings and tickets can be purchased at meetings or by contacting Betsy Higgins at 586-7585.

Big Sit.

May 17: 6 AM to 6 PM

Two organizers are needed for the event.

The YUMMY leader will organize food and beverages for the event. The EARS leader will organize and recruit a set of folks to help visitors throughout the day.

*Please contact **Sue Emerson** (membership@hampshirebirdclub.org; 584 6736) or **Janice Jorgenson** (treasurer@hampshirebirdclub.org; 585 0145) if you can fill either of these positions.*

Photographs Wanted!

If you have **photographs from HBC trips** (especially less recent ones), we are looking to have a showing of these at the April and May meetings. Ideally, they should be mounted on a board that can be stood up for easy viewing, and labeled with the location and year. If you are unable to do this, Trudy Tynan can do it for you.

Obviously, the photos will be returned to you after the May meeting.

If you are willing to contribute photographs for the show, please let Trudy Tynan know at the February/March meetings or contact her: publicity@hampshirebirdclub.org; 348 2037

MassAudubon 17th Annual Birders Meeting

“Birds and Birders on our National Wildlife Refuges”

Saturday, March 7, 2009. Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, MA

This year's Birders Meeting, co-sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, offers anyone with an interest in birds the opportunity to learn more about the rich resources that comprise the National Wildlife Refuge System, along with some of the challenges and opportunities constantly facing resource managers.

Also, in recognition of the 100-year anniversary of the birth of Roger Tory Peterson (“America's greatest naturalist”) this year's Birders Meeting will feature reflections by Lee Allen Peterson, son of the late RTP. Well-known birder and author, Kenn Kaufman, will also be making a presentation.

For more information on the schedule or to register, go to: <http://massaudubon.org/birdersmeeting> or call Linda Cocca at 781-259-2150.

Co-sponsored by Mass Audubon and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with support from Houghton Mifflin Company and Birds & Beans Coffee.

Birds of North America On-Line

Hampshire Bird Club members are eligible for a reduced-rate subscription to Cornell's *Birds of North America On Line* - the most complete/updated set of background papers on North American birds around. (For subscription information contact David Gross.)

For those wanting less complete information, go to Cornell's All About Birds, (free) <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/birding123/>. The site contains selected information on 500 species from Birds of North America On-Line, but is nevertheless remarkably comprehensive.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

In Praise of the Earth: The Poetry of Wally Swist (film screening): *Wally Swist and Elizabeth Wilda*
Thursday, February 5, 2009. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Clara Gardner

Quabbin Winter Walk: *John Green*
Saturday, February 7, 2009. 8 to 10 a.m.

The Voyage of Charles Darwin: How an Expedition, Scientific Collecting, and Keen Observations Changed the World: *Steve Sauter and Kate Wellspring*
Thursday, February 12, 2009. 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Amherst College Natural History Museum

The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil (film viewing & discussion): *Hitchcock Staff*
Tuesday, February 24, 2009. 7 to 9 p.m.

Spring Birding Course: *Scott Surner*
Evening Classes: Thursday, February 26; Wednesdays, March 11, 25, April 8, 15, 22, May 13, 27. All classes run from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Field Trips: February 28, March 21, 28, April 18, 25, May 2, 10, 16, 30, June 6. Start times vary between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Tracking Predators and Prey: Coyotes and Turkeys: *Alan Emond*
Saturday, February 28, 2009. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Snow day: Saturday, March 7, 2009)

Writing from Your Senses: A Winter Writing Experience: *Kathryn Good-Schiff*
Sunday, March 1, 2009. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Snow day: Sunday, March 8, 2009)

What Would Nature Do? An Evening of Biomimicry: *Tim McGee*
Monday, March 9, 2009. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The People's Pint: A Model of Sustainable Business: *Alden Booth, Co-owner*
Wednesday, February 25. 7:00 p.m. This is a Valley Environmental Education Collaborative Program.

For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 525 South Pleasant St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Now it's over to Trudy for more HBC History. Till next month, walk softly and carry a big scope.

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB HISTORY

CHAPTER Five: Pete and Jon to Young and Younger Birders:1996-2000

By Trudy Tynan

I have Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at my feeder. I have Common Yellowthroats and Black-throated Blues at my birdbath. I am awakened each morning by the singing of the Baltimore Oriole. Truth? Fiction? Hallucinations?—Only the analyst knows. — Oh, the sad plight of the aging, snow-bound, winter weary birder. —Sally Venman, HBC Newsletter, March 1997

In **1996-97** Shirley Hilborn became president, Dennis McKenna moved into the vice presidency, Mark Mount took over as treasurer and Dianne Quilty as membership secretary. Sally Venman continued as communications secretary and Bob Bieda, Sue Emerson, Pat Lynch, David Norton, Jan Ortiz, and Scott Sumner served on the board.

Ann Lombard stayed on as conservation chair and Anne Cann took over the library.

Don Kroodsma opened the year's programs with a presentation on the Falkland Islands, and in October, the club and the Allen Bird Club cosponsored a program by author Pete Dunn, director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, and noted author of *Tales of a Low Rent Birder* and other books.

November featured David Spector on the "Evolution of Field Guides," and January brought photographer Les Campbell with a presentation on the Quabbin. He was followed by Scott Hall, a UMass grad student working on Puffin restoration in the Gulf of Maine, Ethan Temeles of Amherst College, who spoke on his hummingbird research, Jonathan Atwood, director of endangered species at Manomet, on the listing of the California Gnatcatcher, and Geoff LeBaron, editor of the national Audubon Society's Christmas Count on the annual count.

Sally raised such weighty bird and non-bird questions in the newsletter as: *If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages? When it rains, why don't sheep shrink? Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii.* To help us get through the winter doldrums she challenged members to change a letter in a non-English phrase and redefine it: *Cogito eggo sum. (I think, therefore I am a waffle.) Rigor morris. (The cat is dead.) Pro bozo publico (Support your local clown.) Apres Moe le deluge (Larry and Curly got wet.)*

And, without even a twinge of conscience, she introduced us to the woman who entered a local pun contest: *She sent in ten different puns in the hope that at least one would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.*

Birding Western Massachusetts: the Central Connecticut Valley, written mostly by club members, was published. Past president Jan Ortiz was named to the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. The club contributed \$100 to help 16-year-old Zeke Jakub, a sophomore at Greenfield High School, whose crow research won the top prize at the UMass Science Fair and a grand prize at the state Science Fair, attend Camp Chan Chich in Belize. The club also helped gather data for Cornell's "Birds in Forest Landscapes" project.

1997-98 saw a dues increase to \$12 for individuals and \$19 for families. Shirley Hilborn and the other officers were re-elected and Elaine Pourinski replaced Pat Lynch on the board.

Internationally known photographer and author Arthur Morris opened the year's programs at the Amherst Middle School with a presentation on ecotourism. The club, having outgrown the available space at the Hitchcock Center, met for the first time in October at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Amherst where 160 people heard Marcia and Mark Wilson's program on owls.

Charlie Duncan, founder of the Institute of Field Ornithology at the University of Maine at Machias spoke on Red-necked Phalaropes. He was followed by Kent McFarland of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science on Bicknell's Thrush, Clif Read on Bald Eagle restoration at the Quabbin, Tom Martin, master die maker and photographer on Monhegan Island, Jennifer Megyesi, of the US Fish and Wildlife Service on seabirds of the northwest Hawaiian Islands, and Al Hinde, who launched raptor banding in Israel, on monitoring the world's largest flyway at Elliat on the Red Sea.

Tom Army set up the club's first Web page in October. Sally got an email account in February, but promised she would still answer the telephone, and Merry Cushing took over the Web page in April. Margaret Brown's daughter donated her late mother's library to the club. A nest box was set up on the roof of the UMass library in hopes of interesting peregrine falcons, and some Northampton members adopted the Lake Trail at Fitzgerald Lake.

1998-99 saw Jim Marcum take over as president and Mary Alice Wilson move into the vice presidency. Mark Mount continued as treasurer, Dianne Quilty as membership secretary and Sally Venman as communications secretary. Sue Emerson, Shirley Hilborn, Dennis McKenna, Jan Ortiz, Elaine Purinski and Scott Sumner served on the board, while Ann Lombard and Anne Cann continued as conservation chair and librarian, respectfully.

David Holmes of Johns Hopkins, one of the first trainers for the North American Banding Council, launched the year's programs with a program on Maine's Appledore and California's South-East Farallon islands, followed by noted field guide author Jon Dunn on "New England Sparrows." Dan Albano, a doctoral student at UMass, and consultant to David Attenborough's BBC bird programs, spoke on the belted kingfisher, followed by Jan Ortiz on birding southeastern Arizona, Mass Audubon's Wayne Petersen on Trinidad and Tobago, and author Julio de la Tores on "New Perspectives on North American Owls." Sylvia Halkin of Central Connecticut State gave an April program on her Northern Cardinal research, Mark and Marcia Wilson returned with a program on Arctic Summer, and Mass Audubon's Jackie Sones, coeditor of Ode News, finished the year with a program on "Dragonflies and Birds."

In November, Sally traded her Apple II for a Windows 95 machine (October was Jon Dunn. Today is chaos.) Surprisingly, the newsletters continue without interruption. The boutique added heavyweight sweatshirts and "Brakes for Birds" bumper stickers. The club gathered data for a third year for Cornell's "Birds in Forest Landscapes" research, assisted Mass Audubon's Andrea Joyce with point counts in Northampton's West Meadows, and helped the Green River and Deerfield River watershed associations with marsh bird monitoring in the Deerfield watershed.

The **1999-2000** annual Monhegan Island trip tallied 124.5 species (a male Black Duck-Mallard hybrid made it .5). Jim and Mary Alice were re-elected as president and vice president, respectfully. Mark returned as treasurer. Dorothy Barnes took over as Membership Secretary and Sue Fletcher as Communications Secretary with Sally remaining as Newsletter Editor. David Peake-Jones joined the board, replacing Elaine Pourinski.

Tom Alworth, author and executive director of the Hitchcock Center, led off the year's programs with a presentation on House Wrens, followed by internationally recognized artist Barry Van Dusen, on "Travels of a Bird Artist." Our own bird song expert Don Kroodsma, recently returned from Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Brazil, treated us to "Songs and Stories from the Neotropics." James Baird, Mass Audubon's representative to Belize spoke on "Birding Belize." Naturalists and authors Clay and Patricia Sutton, who live near Cape May, gave us hints on "How to Spot Hawks." Mt. Holyoke College's Susan Smith described "Traveling and Birding Papua New Guinea." Bill Barber, columnist and past president of the West Chester, Pa., Bird Club, spoke on birding the Adirondacks, Mark Lynch and Sheila Carroll returned with a presentation on "Worcester: Birding an Urban Environment," and Pete Westover, Amherst's conservation director, described some of the "Special Habitats and Open Space in Amherst and Surrounding Towns."

Mary Alice Wilson launched a new field trip series: "Leisurely and Local Saturday Morning Birding" on Jan. 29. The temperature was 2-degrees. Chilled participants tallied 21 species, including a flock of common redpolls in the Hadley honeypot that were being harassed by a male harrier, who, in turn, was harassed by a peregrine falcon.

The club gained 501(c) status from the IRS, thanks to the efforts of Jan Ortiz, Elaine Pourinski and Mark Mount, and a descriptive brochure, thanks to Nancy Buchanan's committee. We also helped promote the state's first Junior Duck Stamp competition, coordinated by Walt Tynan. The club's RBA went digital for the first time with 27 members on the email list and 25 on the telephone tree, and young member Zeke Jakub launched a Greenfield area listserv.

Bluebird enthusiast Haleya Priest completed a 23-nestbox Bluebird Trail from North Amherst to Hadley. Shawn Smolen-Morton took over as Field Trip Chair from Scott Sumner. Sally introduced a newsletter feature on what is being done to encourage young birders with a story on Patricia Redfern's Holyoke Fourth Graders participating in Cornell's Classroom FeederWatch. Other stories highlighted the Rowe Elementary School where bird identification and behavior are part of the science curriculum in grades 4-6, a 4-H Nature Club for 9-11-year-olds in Amherst, and HBC member Betsy Higgins' daycare where even 2-year-olds are introduced to bird identification.

The board voted in April to have HBC be the official sponsor of the Northampton and Quabbin area Christmas Bird Counts. Long-time member Judy Smith answered the board's call for advice on setting up a new bookkeeping system. Marsh bird monitoring continued with 20 wetlands surveyed for birds. Club members also helped census species in South Hadley and Hadley as part of Biodiversity Days. And members Bob Bieda and Harvey Allen were featured on WFCR on their quest to see as many species as possible in Massachusetts.

And that's not all folks. To quote Sally: *Oops—you're not done yet—you need some imagination nudging before you are excused.*

She told us about the busy woman who decided to clone herself so that she could get twice as much work done. *The clone helped a lot, but also gave her a bad reputation because the clone constantly swore. One day, the woman couldn't take her clone's foul mouth anymore, so she took it to the top of a building and pushed it off. Soon after, the woman was arrested for making an obscene clone fall. (Oct. 1999)*

And so the HBC newsletter opunned a new century....

A large pizza chain opened a franchise in northern New England. Unfortunately, the grain used to make the pizzas was infected with an insect pest. Surprisingly, the Mainers enjoyed the antics of the frolicsome insect, so that now Uno's what weevil larks in the hearts of Maine. (April 2000)

Not with a bang, but

Should Federal Express and UPS merge would we be Fed UP? (Feb. 2000)

Two robins flew to the ground and found a nice lot of worms. They ate and ate until they could eat no more. "I'm so full I don't think I can fly back up to the tree," said the first one. "Me neither", said the second. "Let's just lie here in the warm sun". They plopped down basking in the sun. No sooner had they dozed off, when a big fat tomcat pounced on them and gobbled them both up. As he sat washing his face after his meal, he said to himself "I just love baskin' robins." (May 2000)

Suppose Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush and WR Grace Co. merge. The resultant name? Hale Mary Fuller Grace. (Feb. 2000)