In this edition;
- Crown of Maine trip announcement. Sign up opens January 17,
- Chapter 4 of the HBC Anniversary History with Trudy Tyning, and
- the Winter-Late Summer Field Trip schedule.

I hope you find some of it useful!

PROGRAMS

Monday, January 12 at 7:30 PM
Don Kroodsma delves into Birding By the Seasons
Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.
Should bad weather force a cancellation, it will be announced on WHMP 1400 AM radio.

When I left the university in January of 2004, I looked into the future and liked what I saw. I was "retired," free to be and free to go. What I planned was a year-long celebration of bird song, beginning on January 1 and continuing through the winter solstice. And I would write, because "We write to know ourselves," as Jane Yolen concludes in Take Joy. A Book for Writers, and I wanted to find out who I was. For this "year" (which stretched to three), I picked about 50 places or events or birds that I hoped to experience. For 24 of them, I captured what I could in writing. Those stories will appear next spring in the book Birdsong by the Seasons (with 2 CDs!).

For now, come celebrate with me as we bird through the seasons in North America. Spend a night in January among wading birds in the Everglades! In February it is limpkins and anhingas in south Florida; in March: cranes in Nebraska. Make an April pilgrimage to the tropics. During May and June, listen to the peak of birdsong across North America! In July, stand beneath a Scarlet Tanager as he awakens and sings at dawn! In early September, hear a wood thrush tut and whit as he goes to roost! In November, listen to the aggressive mockingbirds growl as they defend their winter food supply, and keep smiling through the winter solstice, when the sun begins its comeback, because here it all comes again!

Don Kroodsma discovered birds during his last semester in college, back in 1968, and that summer learned how to tape record them. For a Ph.D. at Oregon State, he studied where and when young Bewick's wrens learn their songs. He then spent eight years at Rockefeller University before coming to UMass, Amherst in 1980. Forty years of birdsong pretty well sums it all up—first in an academic setting and publishing in obscure scientific journals, now free and at large, writing for a broader audience and sharing the joy of birdsong (and sonagrams, of course).

Coming Programs
March 9, 2009. Scott Weidensaul. Return to Wild America

FIELD TRIPS

Please see the Winter-Late Summer Field Trip Schedule (attached).
Overnight Trip: The Crown of Maine
Thursday, June 18th, 2009 through Monday, June 22nd, 2009
Leaders: Geoff LeBaron and Bill Sheehan (of Woodland, ME, our local expert).
You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip.

This new HBC field trip will bird the Crown of Maine region, a wonderful area of mixed boreal and agricultural habitats. There is much boreal forest, wooded bogs, farmland, riparian woodlands, human-made ponds that attract unusual breeding waterfowl, and the Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge—the former Loring Air Force Base—complete with large expanses of grassland and shrub land habitat.

We will spend one full day driving to Caribou, Maine, which will be our base of operations. From there we will spend one day in the New Sweden-Woodland-Caribou area, one day at Presque Isle and the Aroostook N.W.R., and the third day birding the Maine North Woods boreal timber forest lands west of Fort Kent, Maine.

Target bird species will include boreal forest specialties around New Sweden (Black-backed and American Three-toed woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided flycatchers, Gray Jay, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Cape May, and Blackpoll warblers, etc), wetland, grassland, and shrubland species around Presque Isle and Aroostook N.W.R. (nesting Redhead and Ruddy Ducks amid a myriad of other waterfowl, American Bittern, Upland Sandpiper, and Mourning Warbler), and especially Spruce Grouse among other boreal species in the Maine North Woods. Other wildlife likely to be encountered will be moose, black bear, coyote, and voracious black flies and mosquitoes (the latter two an overwhelming guarantee). Our visit will also likely coincide with the peak of wildflower (and biting insect…) bloom; lupines will be in bloom everywhere, and we have a good chance of seeing up to four species of lady-slipper orchids.

Lodging: Participants should make their own room arrangements, and maximize sharing rooms. Preferred lodging is the Russell’s Motel in Caribou (207) 493-4658. Donna Murchison, Prop. Rates will vary according to room sharing arrangements. Russell’s fills up quickly, so we should make reservations before the end of February.

Travel: 500 miles each way to Caribou via I-95; 1000 miles round trip minimum; an additional 250-300 miles birding during the three days. Total trip mileage around 1500.

HBC Cost Estimates: $6/person entry fee to North Maine Woods; $30/person for HBC trip insurance (based upon $6 per day per person); $50/person for leader fees ($200 for Bill Sheehan; $35.75/person for GSL)

Additional Costs:
• lodging (likely $120 - $200 per person for the trip, depending on the room sharing arrangements),
• meals, and
• transportation (car pooling highly recommended)

Registration Period: Trip pre-registration opens Saturday, January 17th, 2009 at 6 PM. Please call or email Geoff, 413 269-9281 or glebaron@comcast.net. The trip will be first come, first served after 6pm on 17 January 2009, and participants after 14 will be wait-listed. Full HBC payment will be required by January 31st for pre-registrants or wait-listed people (in order of request) will be added.

If you need further information prior to registering, please contact the following:
Geoff LeBaron: programs@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 269 9281; or
David Peake-Jones: newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 529 9541. (David is a contact till Jan 31 only)
We can either email (preferred) or mail you a full version of this trip introduction.
Northampton Christmas Count. December 14, 2008

Species shown are:
- those regarded as “unusual” (bold and italics),
- those for which high counts were recorded this year, and
- some other species the editor regards as groovy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>2008 Count</th>
<th>Historical High Count</th>
<th>Year of Historical High Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater White-fronted Goose</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2004, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Goose</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cackling Goose</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Duck</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1990+96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Pintail</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green-winged Teal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1990, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bufflehead</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Goldeneye</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double-crested Cormorant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper's Hawk</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough-legged Hawk</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlin</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2004, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Screech-Owl</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Horned Owl</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barred Owl</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Saw-whet Owl</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2003, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Shrike</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Crow</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Raven</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Wren</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1967+73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Pipit</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Warbler</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chipping Sparrow</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Sparrow</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-crowned Sparrow</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapland Longspur</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snow Bunting</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-winged Blackbird</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusty Blackbird</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Grackle</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Finch</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-winged Crossbill</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Siskin</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of species (diversity) | 91 | 91 | 1999+2008 |
| Number of individual birds   | 39,769 |    |           |

Worthy of note: this year’s species diversity ties the historical high recorded in 1999.
Quabbin Count
The Quabbin CBC was held on Saturday December 27th under less than ideal conditions. The pre dawn hours consisted of light freezing rain, followed by a steady and at times heavy rain. The rain subsided around noon only to be followed by fog. The only weather highlight was the temperature – peaking close to 50 degrees. Access to much of interior Quabbin was restricted due to the ice- and snow-storms of the last couple of weeks. The count did not add any new species, but had a couple of new high counts. Many, many thanks to the observers who braved and battled the elements. Some highlights are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife/Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood Duck (1) 2nd record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring-necked Duck (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Turkey (248) New High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Horned Owl (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barred Owl (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Saw-whet Owl (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Phoebe (1) 4th record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Wren (8) New High.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Finch (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-winged Crossbill (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Siskin (137)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POTLUCK THANK YOU!
Sue Emerson and her wonderful "elves" thank you all very much for all the "pot lucks" that you brought to the compilation count. It was a great event and could not have been done without all you wonderful cooks and counters. Looking forward to another great year of birding and next years count. Sincerely, Sue Emerson.

MEMBERSHIP
Hello to everyone. HBC is still accepting memberships if you know of anyone who would like to join. Anyone who joins for the first time between now and September 1 has their membership paid up till September 2010 for the cost of a single year. You can be added to the Rare Bird Alert anytime: just email webmaster@hampshirebirdclub.org.

VALLEYENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS
Comprehensive Sustainability from the Crop to the Cup
Dean Cycon (founder and owner of Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee Company)
Thursday, January 29: 7:00 PM at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rt 9, Hadley
Free and open to the public For more information call 413-253-8303.

Backyard Birds
17 Strong St., Northampton (near Eastside Grill). Phone 586 3155
Your local source for birding and bird-feeding supplies, including feeders, optics, gifts, written and audio-matertials. Ten percent discount for members of the Hampshire Bird Club. Remember, with local merchants, your dollar stays here!

That’s it for this month.
Please enjoy Chapter 4 of Trudy’s masterful HBC history, then browse the Winter-Late Summer Field Trip Schedule to plan your birding exploits for the year!
Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor
529 9541
newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org
The Hampshire Bird Club Anthem

HBC we — HBC
Where's a rarity — we shall be
Be it hawk or kite — ruff or reeve
We'll be there — HBC

Praise our visual — acuity
And we document — all we see.
We are sharp and fast — as can be
That's us — HBC

We will journey — o'er the sea.
And we have a cute — auxiliary.
All are welcome — for a fee.
Gosh we're great — the HBC.

We bring cowbirds— to their knees.
Vireos, to us — are a breeze.
From our spotting scopes — shorebirds flee.
We’re stupendous — we’re HBC.

Composed on Monhegan Island by spirited members, some of whom were more under the influence of spirits than others. It is sung, usually off-key, to the tune of Kumbaya

1993-94 saw the dues raised to $10 for individuals and $17 for families. The club library was moved to the Hitchcock Center and Shirley Hillborn took over as librarian. The club got its first iron-on patch, and the by-laws were changed to expand the board to 11 and split the secretary’s job into membership and communications. The club also began studying 13 breeding sites in Amherst as part of Cornell University’s Project Tanager.

Jan Ortiz continued as president with Pat Lynch as vice president, Al Richards as treasurer, and Sally Venman as secretary. Serving on the board were Bob Bieda, Paul Champlin, Morris Lainer, Jim Marcum, and Scott Surner.

Nationally known photographer Arthur Morris kicked off the year’s programs with “Birds as Art” featuring the best of 10,000 images he has taken on cross-continental trips. Noble Proctor gave a presentation on Costa Rica, followed by John Hutchinson on the “Changing Bird Demographics in western Mass.,” environmental police officer and rehabilitator Tom Riccardi on raptors, Mark Lynch and Sheila Carrol on Trinidad and Tobago, Shadowbirds author Bill Burton on rails, Alvah Sanborn on Sanibel, and Mount Holyoke’s Susan Smith on Antarctica. Tom French, who heads the program, concluded the year’s presentations with a discussion of the state’s endangered species program.

In 1994-95 the club celebrated a decade of annual trips to Monhegan Island with a reunion party. All officers were re-elected. Tom Carpenter was added as membership secretary. Pat Lynch and Mark Mount joined the expanded board.


In April, Sally noted the following, which be of special interest to those born between March 21 and April 19: In 1967, the longest flight by a chicken, 302 feet, was accomplished by a hen born under the sign of Aries.

1995-96 opened with Wayne Petersen, field ornithologist for MassAudubon, returning to speak on patterns in migration. October featured popular field guide author Jon Dunn, cosponsored with the Athol Bird Club. State Ornithologist Scott Melvin spoke on the recovery of piping plover as well as grassland bird management at Westover Air Reserve Base and Beth Goettel, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the newly created Silvio Conte National Refuge. Jan Ortiz and Chris Page described their trip to Baffin Island, master bander and Lyme disease researcher Mark Blazis spoke on "Birds of the Forest Islands of Bolivian Amazonia," and Seth Kellogg, editor of Bird News of Western Mass. and a member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, spoke on breeding birds in Granville. Mount Holyoke’s Susan Smith returned to give a program on Alaska and Bob Prescott, director of the Wellfleet Sanctuary spoke on Birds of Cape Cod.
All of the officers and board members were returned for another term in 1995-96. The Forestry and Wildlife Management Department at UMass asked the club’s help in collecting data on Canada geese. The club contributed $100 to help sponsor Blake Geryk, a 14-year-old HBC member from Hatfield, to attend Camp Tejano in Texas, run by the ABA for young birders, and, in a June ceremony, honored Rud Stone and Gerry Bozzo with life memberships for their role in introducing many young people to birdwatching. (Rud was actually granted a life membership earlier, but had been unable to attend then.)

**OUR INSPIRATION**

Before there was a Hampshire Bird Club there was an Amherst Bird Club and a Holyoke Wildlife Club and two men — Gerry Bozzo and Rud Stone — with an interest in youngsters that was matched only by their interest in birds.

Harvey Allen calls Gerry Bozzo “the godfather of the Hampshire Bird Club.” Born in Northampton, Gerry taught science at Amherst Regional Junior High School for 32 years and birding was part of his science lessons. Among the youngsters who found a lifelong interest in those classes were Scott Surner and Pete Westover just to name a couple HBC charter members. And he didn’t stop with students. “That’s when I became very interested in birds,” recalls Elissa Rubinstein, a fellow teacher, whose duties to a special needs student took her into Gerry’s science class. Before long, she was heading out with the youngsters and Gerry, who often drove his good friend Samuel Elliot, a Smith College professor and coauthor of *Birds of the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts*.

“He’d be walking along identifying birds by their song with 20 kids, all with cheap binoculars, trailing after him,” Elissa said, adding that Gerry hardly fit the popular image of a birder. “He was this roly-poly Italian guy, who always called Northampton ‘Hamp,’ and whose other passion was gambling. He loved the horses, but he had a way of getting kids to be passionate about birding.”

“We were lucky,” said Scott, pointing out that in addition to teaching an appreciation of nature, Gerry’s influence made it socially acceptable for Amherst teens to be birders in the 1960s and 1970s.

“He was very patient,” said Elissa, who still has some of the mimeographed sheets and hand-drawn maps that Gerry handed out with directions to hot spots such as the East Meadows, Barton’s Cove and the Rail Trail — when it boasted tracks, not bicycles. And gracious. The elderly Eliot always insisted on paying for the gas. “No matter where they went Sam always gave him a $1 bill,” Elissa recalled. “It probably had paid for the gas when he started driving Sam. By the 1970s it no longer did, but Gerry never said anything.” Gerry died in October 1996 at the age of 65.

At the same time, Rud, renowned for his ability to identify bird song, his dreadful driving and his inedible (to anyone else) concoctions, was inspiring youngsters at the Holyoke-Springfield end of the Valley. Still, Rud always had his own priorities. According to one often-told story, after rolling his car on River Road in South Hadley, Rud carefully passed a wood turtle that he had in the vehicle to the rescuers who dashed to his aid. Only then did he begin to extricate himself.

“Rud Stone was a hoot, a kook, a fabulous birder-naturalist, and a joyful mentor,” wrote Andrew Magee in a tribute following Stone’s death in 2003. “He was also a truly erudite and liberally enthusiastic man.”

“By the time I was ten, in 1957, Rud was already picking me up in the dark to go all-day birding, often with one or two other boys in tow,” he recalled. “We were often accompanied by a venerable doyen of Valley birding: the famous, and by then quite elderly, Professor Eliot … Eliot never did learn to drive, so we boys got the continuous benefit of his enthusiasm, knowledge, and eccentricity on top of Rud’s. Further, we all benefited from Sam’s absolute need to get his bird, and Rud’s (terrible) driving to get to it.” Rud even inspired verse. Andrew recalled a limerick composed by a boyhood friend, John Briotta, around 1960:

There once was a birder named Stone,
Who got lost in the woods all alone,
Not a problem existed,
For he nicely subsisted,
On pea juice and extract of bone.

Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.  
Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, 2009

Please register with the field trip leader(s) and check this schedule’s information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher – 413-585-5864) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders.

The Hampshire Bird Club recommends carpooling whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the “Field Trip Guidelines for Participants” (September newsletter or on the Website).

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (*), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as Easy (E) or Moderate (M) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 10. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island. All day. Bob Bieda leads his annual New Year’s pilgrimage to the coast in search of wintering specialties like Eared Grebes, Barrow’s Goldeneyes, Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, and much more. Dress for cold weather. For meeting information call Bob at 413-527-2623. (E)

Sunday, January 11. Around Moran Wildlife Management Area. Half day. Mike Locher goes to the almost-boreal habitat in Moran WMA and the surrounding roads to look for Northern Shrikes, crossbills, and other northern species. In the event of difficult snow conditions, the site may be changed. Wear boots, and dress warmly. Call Mike (413-585-5864) to register, and get meeting information and details. (M)

FEBRUARY

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)

MARCH

Saturday, March 21. Connecticut River Waterfowl. Half day. Al Richards looks for waterfowl migrating through the valley along the Connecticut River. Call Al (413-665-2761) for meeting information as the date approaches. (E)

APRIL

*Saturday, April 11. Early Migrants. Half day. Betsy Higgins (413-586-7585) looks for migrants, starting around Look Park in Northampton. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the JFK Middle School on Bridge Street in Northampton. (E)

*Sunday, April 12. Ashley Reservoir: Early Warblers. Half day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) hopes to find Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and other early migrants. Meet in the Friendly’s parking lot, near the Holiday Inn, close to Exit 15 (“Holyoke Mall”) off Rt. 91 at 7:00 a.m. (E)

*Sunday, April 12. Timberdoodles. Evening. Mike Locher looks and listens for woodcocks, probably at the Podick Conservation Area in Amherst. Contact Mike (413-585-5864) the week before the trip to get a definite meeting time and place. (E)
*Wednesday, April 15. Ashley Reservoir II.* Half day. Tom Gagnon celebrates tax day with a morning walk looking for warblers and waterfowl. The walk will start at 7:30 a.m.; call Tom (413-584-6353) for the meeting place. (E)

**Wednesday, April 22. Goat’s Peak.** Half day. Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353) commemorates Earth Day by looking for the first Broad-winged Hawks and butterflies of the spring. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the old Mt. Tom State Reservation park headquarters. Rain will cancel this trip. (M)

**MAY**

**Friday, May 8. South Quabbin Park.** Half day. Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353) birds the southern end of the reservoir for vireos, warblers, and whatever else shows up. Meet at the Quabbin Visitor’s Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. (E)

**Saturday, May 9. Spring Migration in the East Quabbin.** All day. Tom Gagnon guides birders through the Quabbin woods in search of its migrants. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well ahead of time for meeting information and to register, since participation is limited. (M)

**Sunday, May 10. Connecticut River to Mt. Sugarloaf.** Half day. Dave Mako explores the fields and hills around Mt. Sugarloaf looking for migrants and a few local specialties, including Common Ravens, Peregrine Falcons, and Worm-eating Warblers. Call Dave (413-665-2999) for meeting time and place. (M)

**Saturday, May 16. Mt. Auburn Cemetery.** All day. David Peake-Jones goes to Boston’s most historic cemetery, which is also one of the Eastern Massachusetts’ birding hotspots, to see what happens to fly in. The numbers and variety beggar the imagination. Call David (413-529-9541) for meeting information. (E)

**Sunday, May 17. Hampshire Bird Club Big Sit.**
Please check newsletters and listen at meetings for details.

**Friday, May 22 – Monday, May 25. Monhegan Island.** Overnight trip. Betsy Higgins leads the Hampshire Bird Club’s annual pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, but the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) to register. (E/M)

**Saturday, May 23. Poor Man’s Monhegan.** All day. Bob Bieda takes birders to Plum Island. Past trips have found Wilson’s Phalaropes, Piping Plovers, Seaside Sparrows, Orchard Orioles, and Evening Grosbeaks. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register and get meeting information. (E)

**JUNE**

**Wednesday, June 3. Mt. Greylock – Birds and Butterflies.** All day. Tom Gagnon hikes around the highest peak in Massachusetts looking for birds and butterflies. Meet at Mt. Greylock State Reservation Headquarters building at 8:00 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) with any questions. (M)

**Saturday, June 6. Westover Air Force Base.** Half day. Pending permission, Bob Bieda will lead his annual trip into New England’s premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E/A)
Saturday, June 13. Hammonasset Beach State Park, CT. All day. Betsy Higgins goes to the coast of Connecticut to find sparrows, rails, and other seaside denizens. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting time and place as the date approaches. (E)

Thursday, June 18 – Monday, June 22. The Crown of Maine. Overnight trip. Geoff LeBaron leads this special 25th anniversary HBC field trip to the mixed boreal and agricultural habitats of far northern Maine. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Geoff (413-269-9281) to register or for information. (M)

JULY
Tuesday, July 21 – Thursday, July 31. Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Overnight trip. Join Tom Gagnon and Scott Surner on this special 25th anniversary HBC field trip. The trip will look for birds, mammals, butterflies, wildflowers, and whatever else this amazing ecosystem has to offer. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only and registration has closed at the time of publication. (M)

AUGUST
Hitchcock Center, Amherst. 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Saturday, August 15. Shore Bird Workshop Field Session with Wayne Peterson.
New South Beach, Chatham, MA. Please contact David Peake-Jones (413 529 9541; newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) to register and for meeting place and time.

SEPTEMBER
Saturday, September 5. New South Beach, II. All day. Bob Bieda leads birders in their quest for late shorebird migrants, including Curlew Sandpipers and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. Bring a lunch, a jacket, and $20 for the boat ride. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register. (M)