



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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“Just the facts, ma’am!”

Many of you will be relieved to hear that this edition is going to be very much the bare bones. Time is short owing to the unusually small gap between our last meeting and the next, and space is short owing to the inclusion this month of the HBC membership contact list. The editorial staff will content itself with letting you know about the November meeting, our field trips this month, and precious little else. Rejoice in this brevity: literary self-indulgence could rear its ugly head again any time.

Please note: the membership contact list is included to facilitate birding-related contact between our members. PLEASE make sure the list is not used for any commercial or intrusive purpose.

Thanks!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, November 8 at 7:30 PM

Josh Rose visits with the **Birds of the Lower Rio Grande Valley**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Josh is a relative newcomer to our club, and he brings some awesome birding skills and enthusiasm.

The Rio Grande Valley is a fascinating place to bird, being on the margin between our familiar North American birding region, and the alluring central American tropics. All sorts of things can show up, and probably did during the years Josh spent in the Lower Rio Grande Valley as an interpretive naturalist. We can expect an insider’s insight into this intriguing region!

COMING PROGRAMS

Dec 13, 2010. Members’ Meeting. Members Slide Show.

Jan 10, 2011. Joanna Bailey-Hodgman & Jo Miles Shuman. A Spicing of Birds: Poems by Emily Dickinson.

Feb 14, 2011. Tom Bancroft. FL avian research/White-crowned Pigeons.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Falconry Up Close: *Chris Davis, Master Falconer*

Sunday, November 7, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

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.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

(Please see also the Fall Field Trip Schedule)

Sunday, November 7. Berkshire Lakes: Migrating Waterfowl. All day. Tom Gagnon goes to the lakes and ponds of Berkshire County to find ducks and other migrating waterfowl. There may be a side trip to Blueberry Hill if hawk-watching conditions seem favorable. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton at 6:15 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) to register and get more information. (E)

Saturday, November 13. November. Plum Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron heads to one of Massachusetts' premier birding spots to see what's flying along the coast. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register and get meeting information as the date approaches. (E)

Saturday, November 20. East Quabbin. All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien go to the east side of the reservoir to see what they can find. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well in advance to register and to get meeting information. The rain/snow date is Sunday, November 21. (M)

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

If you want to contribute to one of the most important (and certainly the largest) research efforts into bird distribution world-wide, the Christmas Count may be for you. There are several counts in this region every December, and HBC plays a key role in the Northampton and Quabbin counts.

Every December, we get together to count all the birds in a **BIG**** circle around some point in Hadley. The count circle is divided up into smaller areas, each counted by an experienced leader or leaders, with assistants. Groups plan who will participate, for how long, and how to divide up the count area.

Believe it or not, there is also a count in the Quabbin region for those who want better birds and cushy weather! ** Oh, and if you need to know what 'BIG' really means, drop Mary Alice a line. She is itching to fill you in!

Details!!

Northampton Count: Sunday, December 19. *Mary Alice Wilson* (413 548 9078; mwilson@k12.phast.umass.edu),

Quabbin Count: Saturday, January 1. *Scott Surner* (413 253 5999; ssurner@aol.com)

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

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