



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 29, No. 4

**December, 2012.**

## NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, December 10 at 7:30 PM**

### **The Members' Meeting**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

### ***This month the entertainment is US!!***

**Please bring some sort of snack to share.**

Sally and Helga are taking a well-earned break this month. If we don't bring stuff, we will go hungry!!

**AND**

**Please bring some slides to share.**

They can be of birding exploits, other adventures in natural history, or even just some scenic wonders you visited during the year. As in past years, please limit your show to 15 or fewer slides and you must be prepared to narrate your own stuff. Please contact either **Jaap van Heerden** ([jvanheerden@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:jvanheerden@hampshirebirdclub.org)) or **Geoff LeBaron** ([programs@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:programs@hampshirebirdclub.org)) by 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 9. Please let them know:

- Are your slides digital or 35 mm format?
- If digital, are the images in Powerpoint format or just stand-alone images?

If you bring digital images, please have them on a memory stick or CD-ROM disk.

## COMING PROGRAMS

**January 14, 2013. Chris Rimmer.** Bicknell's Thrush.

**February 11, 2013. Shawn Carey.** Shorebird Migration Hotspots.

**March 11, 2013. Mara Silver.** Swallows in the Connecticut River Valley.

## LIBRARY

The library has a **new book**:

*FEATHERS, the Evolution of a Natural Miracle*, by Thor Hanson.

It's very interesting and easy to read.

HBC has a substantial library at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst. **Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Items are catalogued in the "About" section of the HBC Website and can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. **Henry Lappen** is happy to bring items to meetings, given a few days notice! Contact him at [library@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:library@hampshirebirdclub.org) (413) 549 3722.

Henry Lappen

## CHRISTMAS COUNTS

### The 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Northampton Christmas Bird Count

#### Take part on Sunday, December 16

Every bird counts and is counted -- every chickadee, even every starling. Join one of the 35 teams in the field or if you live within the count circle, count the birds at your feeder. Proud to be one of the oldest New England CBCs, we continue to grow in participants and species recorded. Last year we tallied 83 species, eight below our record high. Will any of this fall's many rarities linger or wander our way? How many winter finches will continue to be seen by the 16<sup>th</sup>? How many Eastern Screech-Owls will our energetic late night teams discover? Will they top last year's total of 78? These possibilities help fuel the counters' enthusiasm. However, the enduring value of this event is that it provides us with a history that suggests trends in the population, occurrence and distribution of resident, common, uncommon and rare winter birds.

You are welcome to take part regardless of your birding expertise! Whether you are confident birding on your own or are more comfortable birding as part of a team, we will find a place for you. Join us after the count for a **potluck** and the **compilation** at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst.

For more information contact:

**Jan Ortiz**, Co-compiler: 413-549-1768; [jtortiz@aol.com](mailto:jtortiz@aol.com), or

#### The Quabbin Christmas Bird Count

This perennial fair weather favorite will be held this year on Saturday, December 29. Please contact Scott Sumner (413 256 5438; [ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com)) if you would like to help out.

#### Some Other Local Christmas Bird Counts

**Athol**, December 15, contact Dave Small <[Dave@dhsml.net](mailto:Dave@dhsml.net)>

**Sturbridge**, December 18, contact Mark Lynch <[moa.lynch@verizon.net](mailto:moa.lynch@verizon.net)>

**Westminster**, December 23, contact Chuck Caron <[caronenv@aol.com](mailto:caronenv@aol.com)>

**Greenfield**, December 30, contact Mark Fairbrother <[bogelfin@crocker.com](mailto:bogelfin@crocker.com)>

#### Northampton CBC Pot Luck

### Hitchcock Center, Amherst. December 16 at 4:30 pm

#### Contributions Needed

We are looking for:

- main (hot or vegetarian) dishes,
- salads, and
- desserts.

You can arrange with Sue Emerson for a drop off or call if you will be out in the field until 4 p.m. Her NEW phone numbers are 413-588-6900 (home), 413-336-3535 (cell). You can also reach her by email (unchanged): [spe33@charter.net](mailto:spe33@charter.net)

Oy. And don't forget to bring some din-dins to the December meeting, or else me 'n' the lads 'll be over to sort you out. Know wot I mean?

Refreshment Committee enforcer

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### East Quabbin. November 24, 2012.

Led by **Tom Gagnon**.

52 Black Duck

30 Green-winged Teal

102 Ring-necked Duck

16 Common Merganser

91 Hooded Merganser

1 Ruffed Grouse

5 Common Loon

3 Horned Grebe

3 Great Blue Heron

6 Bald Eagle

A good time was had by all who participated!

1 Killdeer

**7 Greater Yellowlegs**

**25+ Red-breasted Nuthatch**

**1 Northern Shrike**

**1 Hermit Thrush**

**7 Snow Bunting**

**6 Pine Grosbeak at Headquarters**

**47 White-winged Crossbill**

Only ONE Blue Jay

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Please note that, because of limited space, the following trip reports have been deferred to future editions:

- **Beelzebub's Birding Bash** (October 27th),
- **Berkshire Lakes** (November 4<sup>th</sup>),
- **Champlain Valley** (November 10<sup>th</sup>), and
- **The Turkey Trot to Cape Ann** (November 23<sup>rd</sup>). An embarrassment of riches, to be sure

## COMING TRIPS

**Saturday, January 5, 2013. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island.** All day. Bob Bieda goes east to the coast on his annual New Year's migration 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)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### HBC Apps Information Course

**Re-scheduled to Thursday, December 13, 6:00-8:00 P.M.**

**Hitchcock Center for the Environment,  
525 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA.**

Apps we will be featuring:

(\*) **FIELD GUIDES:** *Sibley's Field Guide to Birds*, *Peterson's Field Guide to Birds*, *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds*,

(\*) **BIRD FINDING:** *Birds Eye* (eBird), and

(\*) **BIRD REPORTING:** *Birders Diary*, *BirdLog* (eBird)

Bring your smart phone, iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, or Android. To register, please email **Zeke Jakub**, [ezekieljakub@gmail.com](mailto:ezekieljakub@gmail.com). If you are planning to attend, Zeke would like to review what would be helpful for the program. Phone call at 413 773 7906 before 8PM is also OK.

That's it for this month.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

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