



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 28, No. 6

February, 2012.

I'm taking a brief break from cleaning up after the post-Super Bowl unrest in our living room to bring you some odds and ends from your friendly neighborhood bird club.

This month we have news of our second overnight field trip to the Crown of Maine: a boreal wonderland not to be missed! We also welcome the dawn of a new age as the HBC Facebook page launches! There are also volunteer opportunities, and host of programs of interest to many, if not all of us, not to mention our customary details about club programs and trips.

So read on and try to pay attention!

In this month's edition:

- The February program and the upcoming schedule,
- February and March field trips,
- Sign up for the second **Crown of Maine trip** with **Geoff LeBaron**,
- HBC ventures into the world of **Facebook**,
- **Volunteering at WFCR**,
- The Mass Audubon Annual Birders Meeting,
- National Audubon's Hog Island camps this summer,
- A worthy home for old but serviceable optics, and homes sought for birding magazines,
- Hitchcock and Arcadia programs.

I hope you find some of it useful!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, February 13 at 7:30 PM

Scott Sumner gives his unique take on **Birding Alaska**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

Scott Sumner is a founding member and current president of the Hampshire Bird Club, past member of the Massachusetts Avian Records committee and was, for sixteen years, the voice of Audubon for Western Massachusetts. He is the current leader of the Hitchcock Center's annual Spring Birding class and a beloved field trip leader for HBC. In recent years, Scott has begun to take some disturbingly good photographs, some of which will be the centerpiece of this program. Scott's travels have taken him to Alaska, California, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, and too many of the Canadian Provinces. He is neither a Board member, nor a client, of Hair Club for Men.

COMING PROGRAMS

March 12. Jeff Boettner. Birds & Bugs.

April 9. Gina Nichol. Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems.

May 14, 2012. Bret Whitney. Birds of Brazil.

COMING TRIPS

(See also the Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule)

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 cost of travel.

**marks 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.*

Saturday, February 11. Coastal Rhode Island. All day. Geoff LeBaron repeats his annual cold-weather trip to the coast of Rhode Island, looking for gulls, ducks, Short-eared Owls, and whatever else may be there. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) for information and meeting details. (E)

***Sunday, March 18. Connecticut River Waterfowl I.** Half day. Mike Locher travels from Holyoke to Hatfield looking for any waterfowl migrating through the valley along the Connecticut River. Call Mike (413-585-5864) for information, or just meet at the Hadley Elementary School parking lot (on Route 47, about a mile north of the Route 9 intersection) at 7 a.m. (E)

***Saturday, March 24. Connecticut River Waterfowl II.** All day. Joshua Rose scours the Turner's Falls environs for waterfowl bound northward and late gulls. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 7 a.m.. (E)

***Saturday, March 31. Plum Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron braves the weather along the coast to find you the birds! Call Geoff (413-268-9281) for information about when the trip will leave, and where people should meet. (M)

"Crown of Maine" trip promo appears on the next page!!

HBC at WFCR

A group from the HBC will again help our local NPR station, WFCR, during its Spring fund drive. We will be taking calls at the station on Saturday, March 3, 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, March 3

Time: 8-11 A.M.

Location: WFCR studios, Hampshire House, UMass campus

"The wrinkles of your mind are more important than the wrinkles of your skin."

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon, India.

The Crown of Maine

Friday, June 15th, 2012 through Tuesday, June 19th, 2012

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 wonderful HBC field trip will bird the Crown of Maine region, a diverse 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 shrub-land 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. We hope to immerse ourselves in the famous dawn chorus of breeding songbirds during our time in New Sweden. Other wildlife likely to be encountered will be moose, black bear, and coyote. Our visit will also likely coincide with the peak of wildflowers; lupines will be in bloom everywhere, and we have a good chance of seeing up to four species of lady-slipper orchids.

HBC Cost Estimate: Participants will pay HBC a trip fee of approximately \$90, depending on how many people sign up. This fee covers the leader fee for Bill Sheehan, a share of leader's costs for Geoff, and the club insurance contribution. Additional costs include lodging, meals and transportation. The cost may drop by up to \$20 as more people sign up.

Additional Costs:

Accommodation

You will be responsible for booking and paying for accommodation, which is economical, provided you sign up early. Costs start from around \$30 + tax per night for shared accommodation, or around \$50 single occupancy at the most affordable motel: Russell's in Caribou. Lodging at the Caribou Inn and Convention Center may be at least twice as expensive. *Russell's may fill up by early March, so it is imperative that you act NOW if you are cost-conscious.* Look to be spending between \$120 and \$200 for the four nights, for accommodations at Russells. See also "Further Information."

Transportation

We will travel independently to- and from Caribou, Maine. The round trip is approximately 1,000 miles, and we will add an additional 250 miles or so per car while we are up there. Again, to keep costs down, it's important to car-pool and share costs, which will depend on your vehicle and the number of people you share with. See also "Further Information."

Continues on the next page ►

Crown of Maine (continued)

Food and Sundries

Individuals will be responsible for all food costs during the trip, though Bill has a delightful habit of laying on coffee and snacks in the field. Breakfasts can be either in-motel (fridges, microwaves etc. in all rooms) or at well-stocked local stores. Restaurants will be available for some lunches, but sack lunches on the road will be the norm. Dinners will be at home-style restaurants in Caribou, though eating-in at the motel is always an option if your budget is really tight.

There is a small entry fee to the Maine North Woods (private land) which individuals will pay. See also "Further Information."

Registration. *Registration begins at the HBC program on February 13.* Either speak with Mike Locher at the meeting or contact him as follows: fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org or 585 5864. Again, accommodation becomes problematic if you wait till March, so register as soon as possible!

Payments and Cancellations

To ensure your place, you need to register and pay the HBC trip fee (approx. \$90) BY April 30. The minimum number of people (6) must have PAID by this date for the trip to take place. Fourteen (14) is the maximum trip capacity.

Trip fees may be partially or fully refundable after April 30, depending on the circumstances. Full details are available in the trip information on our Website or from the Field Trip Chair.

Further Information

A detailed trip description is posted on our Website: www.hampshirebirdclub.org/trips. You may also contact Geoff LeBaron: programs@hampshirebirdclub.org; 413 268 9281.

**Binoculars Wanted**

Club member Zeke Jakub is doing research on bird conservation in urban central America (Panama City, Panama), along with Panamanian high school and college students. Together, they are looking at the viability of urban areas as conservation zones for migratory and resident birds through species richness surveys and landscape/patch analyses. Zeke and *Conservación de Aves Tropicales* (Panamá) are looking for 4-6 pairs of binoculars (in working condition) for the observers to use. If you can help, please contact Zeke care of:

Conservación de Aves Tropicales (Panamá)

U.S. Ph: (413)773-7906

Panama Cell Ph: (507) 6718-9397

Panama Home Ph: (671) 89397

ezekieljakub@gmail.com or ejakub@antioch.edu

"Success is about going from failure to failure without giving up."

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Chairman and Managing Director, Biocon, India.

HBC ON FACEBOOK!!

HBC online news



Find the
HBC on
Facebook

HBC is, above all else, a community of people. As such, the most essential element of our organization is that we INTERACT. Now, thanks to the efforts of Zeke Jakub, Josh Rose, and others, we have an exciting new way to do it!

Did you ever want to:

- Show off a beautiful picture you took at your feeder?
- Ask an ID question to a friendly *local* audience? Or
- Check with others in the club on what optics to buy when the aging Bausch and Lomb finally give out?

All these and more are now much easier to do because

HBC has a Facebook page!

It features:

- the **“Wall.”** Post messages, pictures, video, Internet links and RESPOND to the postings of others. Currently there is a great video Merry Cushing posted of a Hooded Crow being zany, and Janice’s now-famous Ruffed Grouse shot. A great spot to air that tough ID question.
- **“Notes.”** Announcements for the club and other local groups. Already includes Don Kroodsma trolling for bird-song snitches.
- **“Photos.”** Post your own and share those of others, includes monthly bird ID quizzes. HBC membership forms are posted here which gives us an easy way to ~~enlarge~~ recruit new members for the club.
- **“Events.”** Programs and field trips for HBC and other local outfits.
- **“Discussions.”** A place to start and take part in conversations on a whole range of things birdy. Currently some great optics links courtesy of Eagle Optics.

The Facebook page will not replace either the newsletter or the Website. It will simply add a new dimension to communication within our club.

So how do I get this Facebook thingy? (We hear you cry).

To simply take a look at the Facebook page, you can hit the Facebook symbol on the HBC Website at www.hampshirebirdclub.org

To begin to interact with the HBC Facebook community, (post, comment etc.) you need to become a member of Facebook, which you can do at www.facebook.com. If you are a member, just search for “Hampshire Bird Club” and press the “Like” button when you get to our page.

Do We Really Need It?

Well, do we really need the automobile?

Zeke says, “Give it a try and I think you will find it helpful.”

Oh, and don’t forget, Facebook is PUBLIC. Please do not post member addresses or anything else which would compromise the privacy of others.

Thanks to Zeke Jakub and Dave Gross for help with this announcement.

Welcome, New Members!

Ralph Hewes of Amherst,
Eric Huston of Greenfield,
Lora Saltis of Westhampton, and
Christine Volonte of Greenfield.

We’re glad to have you!

MASS AUDUBON BIRDERS MEETING

The **Annual Massachusetts Birders Meeting** will be held this spring on **Saturday, 3 March at Bentley University** in Waltham. This event will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Birders Meeting, and also that of its co-host in 2012, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The 2012 program is entitled *Birds, Baleen, and 20 Years of Marine Conservation*. Among the familiar names on the program are:

- Dr. Steven Kress, well-known for his efforts to re-establish breeding Atlantic Puffins in the Gulf of Maine;
- Debi Shearwater, founder of the well-known California tour company, Shearwater Journeys, Inc.;
- Dr. David Wiley, Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary scientist highly acclaimed for his underwater studies of humpback whale foraging behavior;
- Shawn Carey and Jim Grady (Migration Productions), professional nature photographers and videographers who will premier their new shorebird video, *Epic Journeys*;
- Anne-Marie Runfola, Stellwagen Sanctuary Volunteer Coordinator who developed the highly successful Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards volunteer program;
- Dr. Julie C. Ellis, professor at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and Executive Director of the Seabird Ecological Assessment Network (SEANET) who has been studying breeding gulls at the Isles of Shoals for many years;
- Brian Harrington, retired shorebird biologist at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences who has studied Red Knots for most of his professional career; and
- Joan Walsh, Director of Bird Monitoring at Mass Audubon and Coordinator of the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2 sharing findings from the recently released *State of the Birds of Massachusetts* report.
-

The Birders Meeting also **includes lunch, vendors, and a variety of tantalizing raffle prizes**. Proceeds from the Birders Meeting go toward supporting the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program.

To register, please go to

- www.massaudubon.org/birdersmeeting

2012 Audubon Camp at Hog Island

Registration is open for the legendary 6-day residential birding and environmental education programs at the historic Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Programs are for adult birders, teens, families, educators, and Audubon Chapter leaders. Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, Lang Elliott, Don Kroodsma, Bill Thompson III and many more expert ornithologists, naturalists, educators and authors will be in residence during the 2012 sessions. All summer programs include field trips to nearby Eastern Egg Rock, where Dr. Steve Kress and his team of biologists have successfully restored an island colony of Atlantic Puffins, and Roseate, Arctic and Common Terns.

Roger Tory Peterson was the camp's first bird instructor in 1936 and many of America's finest naturalists, including Rachel Carson, have spent time on the 330-acre wildlife sanctuary, located in mid-coast Maine, on Muscongus Bay. Participants live in restored wooden buildings dating back to the early 1900's and are treated to three fabulous meals each day, prepared by chef extraordinaire Janii Laberge. Scholarships available.

For more information on the programs, visit <http://hogisland.audubon.org>. For questions, contact the Hog Island registrar, Erica Marx (VanEtten), at evanetten@audubon.org or (607) 257-7308 ext 14.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Predator Ecology. *David McLain*

Saturday, February 4 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Fee

Winter Crows: *Patti Steinman*

Sunday, February 5 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Fee.

Evening at the Galápagos: *Anne Lombard and Janet Bissell*

(Slide Presentation). Tuesday February 7 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Project Wild: Mammal Tracking and Mammal Sounds: *Kim Noyes and Patti Steinman*

At Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center., for K-12 teachers.

Saturday, February 11 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30- p.m. Fee.

Register by contacting Northfield Mountain at 1-800-859-2960.

Eagles at Quabbin: *Patti Steinman*

At Quabbin Reservoir

Saturday, February 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For more details of these and other programs go to www.massaudubon.org (select “Sanctuaries”, then “Choose a Sanctuary: Arcadia”) or call the sanctuary at the number below. To register for programs contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary**, 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027. Telephone **(413) 584-3009**.

Sally Venman’s Bird Magazines and Videos.

Sally was one of our founders and the beloved editor of this newsletter for over fifteen years.

When she died in 2010, Sally left, amongst many less tangible things, a large collection of birding magazines and some videos. Her family would very much like it if members of HBC could find uses for these items, perhaps as resources for teachers, schools etc. Here is the list of items.

Magazines

Bird Observer --- 1987-1999

Birding --- 1985-2000

Living Bird --- 1985-2000

Birders’ World --- 1985-2000

Wildbird --- 1999-2000

Winging It --- 1989-2004

American Birds --- 1984-1994

Sanctuary --- 1985-1998

North American Birds 1994-1997

VHS Collection

Life of Birds (6 Tape set)

Common Butterflies

Nat’l Audubon: Messages from the Birds 7/25/88

“The Man who Loved Birds.” The story of John

Box

Nature: Flight / Hummingbirds

Fascination with Birds

Bird Watch: Don and Lillian Stokes

The Okefenoke Swamp --- PBS 5/19/86

Live Florida Birdwatch --- PBS 5/3/86

Audubon Society’s Video Guide --- 4 Tapes

If you are interested in any of these items, you may contact Bill Venman as follows:

wcveman@gmail.com or 413 549 1098

We will bring any remaining items to the HBC meeting on February 13, and you may choose items from there.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Honeybees and Beekeepers - Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions: *Dan Conlon*

Tuesday, February 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation requested.

Hardworking Native Perennials: *Melinda Reid*

Saturday, February 11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Snow Date: Sunday, February 12). Fee.

Co-Sponsored with New England Wildflower Society.

The Secret Life Of Black-Capped Chickadees: *Susan Smith*

Thursday, February 16, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation requested.

Spring Birding Course: *Scott Sumner, Birder Extraordinaire*

Evening Classes: Wednesdays, February 22, March 7, 14, April 25, May 2, 9, 23, 30, 6:30-8 p.m.

Field Trips: Saturdays, February 25, March 17, 24, April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, start times vary between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Members: \$215 / Non-members: \$235

Scott has taught this course for many years and is accomplished at gearing instruction for beginners and experienced birders alike. Evening classes preview species expected on the Saturday field trips using slides, stories from the field, and life history details. Field trips are planned to varied locations around the state, including Cape Ann and Plum Island, the Southern Berkshires and even Westover Air Force Base. All field trips and classes meet at the Hitchcock Center. Registration is limited to 20.

Nature's Odyssey Slideshow: *John Green*

Tuesday, February 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Fee.

Electric Vehicles For The Pioneer Valley: *Watson Collins*

Thursday, March 1, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation Requested.

Where Does Our Recycling Go? MRF Tour: *Justin Fallon*

Tuesday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Meet at Hitchcock Center to carpool to Springfield.

The Health of Our Massachusetts Forests: *Ken Gooch*

Tuesday, March 6, 7-8:30 p.m. Donation requested.

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.

***Backyard Birds** (on Strong St. in Northampton) offers a wide range of birding books, audio resources, gifts, feeders, and other paraphernalia at a 10% discount to HBC Members.*

None the Wiser??

Now, in case you were overwhelmed by the plethora of important information in the preceding pages, first take a deep breath and remember that, despite the total chaos which passes for your life, the universe is, on the whole, unfolding as it should.

Now, if you are breathing normally again, here is a newsletter post-test which, if followed, will ensure you did not miss anything.

- Did you note that the next program is at the usual time and place on FEBRUARY 13?
- Did you decide to sign up for at least one of the fantastic field trips this month?
- Did you seriously consider a sojourn in the north Maine Woods in June with the Crown of Maine trip?
- Did you sign up to volunteer at WFCR on March 3 or are you going to the Mass Audubon Birders Meeting?
- Did you donate your aging Bausch and Lomb's to Zeke and his volunteers in Panama?
- Did you decide that your rambunctious third graders could really use some access to quality bird photographs from Sally's collection?
- Did you check out the HBC Facebook page and post something?
- Did you retract all those bad things you said about the editor under your breath on about p. 6?

Now, in theory, you may be forgiven for having answered "No" to some of these questions (party-pooper!), but if you find yourself answering "What's that all about?" with respect to any item, you will have to read the entire rag over again. Sorry, and good luck the second time through!

Mercifully, that is all the space we have this time!
Until next month, talk softly and carry a big scope!

David Peake-Jones, Editor
529 9541
newsletter@hampshirebirdclub