



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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October, 2013.

I recently spent a Saturday at a wonderful event: *Hawks on Mount Tom*. The organizers had somehow become convinced that I knew something about birds of prey and asked me to be atop Goat Peak during a family-oriented education day at Mt. Tom State Park. While Tom Ricardi, the Eyes on Owls folks and the Conti Reserve traveling classroom held court at the visitor's center, Dan Russell and I interpreted the hawk migration from Bray and Goat Peak Towers. And here is the thing: over 1,000 people attended this event in some way, shape or form! By three o'clock we had attempted to show dozens of people how to pick a sharpie from a kestrel, and a broad-wing from a red-tail. Can't vouch for the quality of the instruction, but there was no shortage of enthusiasm!

It is startling to discover, in these days of personal communication devices and the creation of virtual reality in so many pervasive forms, that people are increasingly driven to try to find some real connection to the natural world. Whether it is our education committee organizing exciting presentations or we as individuals answering that question at the roadside, "What are you guys looking at?" we in the Hampshire Bird Club are constantly presented with opportunities to share our love for birds and their habitats with people who want to be part of it at some level. I hope we can all find a moment or two for this essential (and enjoyable) mission.

I hope many of you have already **renewed your membership** for the coming year. If not, let me exhort you with as much sincerity as my Shiraz-addled brain can muster to get this pesky but VITAL chore out of the way as soon as possible so we can all focus on birds and birding. The "Bird Sightings" resource sheet is included with this edition. Feel free to sign up for the **Rare Bird Alert** on the form if you would like. The Field Trip Policy is also included for your perusal.

Your membership status is shown on the back of the cover sheet.

PLEASE

RENEW NOW IF YOU NEED TO

using the checklist on page 3 of this rag, lest I be forced to declare a NEWSLETTER SHUTDOWN.

Don't say I didn't warn you.

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER, ANYONE?

If you have not yet sent in your membership form and dues this year, why not consider the on-line newsletter? It is 2013, so anything with the words "on-line" in the title is automatically the best choice, right? It means the club sends less of our hard-earned geld to the USPS, and the newsletter-distribution staff deposit fewer of our skin cells in the folds of the paper newsletters. We editorial minions also have more time for watching reality TV, or whatever other guilty pleasures take the place of "newsletter night".

It means you get a reminder every month to download the newsletter from the HBC Website in .pdf format. There are now more on-line users than paper recipients, and, as far as I know, the online folks are no more unhappy with the newsletter than the traditionalists. Well, think about it and sign up on the membership form if you like! You can always retreat back to the good old paper newsletter if it doesn't work out.

You can read about the next program on page 2.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, October 21 at 7:15 p.m.

Shawn Carey presents Epic Journeys:

Tracking the Migrations of Shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Each year, millions of shorebirds make an amazing round-trip journey between the northern and southern hemispheres. Migration Productions' newest video, "Epic Journeys," looks at three shorebird species—Red Knot, Piping Plover and Semi-palmated Sandpiper—and the challenges these species face during each of their monumental annual treks.

Shawn Carey and Jim Grady work together as *Migration Productions* to present multi-media presentations, videos, and photographic workshops which have been presented all over the U.S. Shawn moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1986, and started watching birds in 1988. In 1991, he began to combine his love of birds with an interest in photography, and, with Jim, founded Migration Productions in 1994. Shawn's photographs have been published in the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, *Sanctuary* (Mass Audubon), *Science*, *Hawk Mountain Sanctuary* and many other outlets over the past 15 years. In 1997 he started teaching photography workshops (*Fundamentals of Bird Photography*) for Mass Audubon.

COMING PROGRAMS

November 11, 2013. John Van de Graaff. Birds across Europe II.

December 9, 2013. Members' Meeting.

January 13, 2014. Don Kroodsma. Bird by Bird by Bike 3.

COMING FIELD TRIPS

(See also the Fall Field Trip Schedule)

Saturday, October 12. Quabbin Reservoir: Fall Migrants. All day. Tom Gagnon leads his annual fall trip to the Quabbin to see southbound birds, late season flowers, butterflies, and mammals. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) to register (well in advance, please, because space is limited) and to get meeting information. Rain date – Sunday, October 13. (M)

***Sunday, October 13. Sparrows, sparrows, and more sparrows!** Half day. Scott Sumner beats the bushes of Hadley and Northampton to find migrating and resident sparrows (everybody's favorite little brown birds). Call Scott (413-256-5438) for meeting time and place. (E)

***Saturday, October 26. Coastal Rhode Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron travels to Rhode Island to look for migrants, waterfowl, and seabirds along the coast. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register and get meeting information as the date approaches. (E)

***Sunday, October 27. Halloween Extravaganza: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more.** All day. Joshua Rose birds the northern reaches of the valley from Northfield to Turner's Falls. Call Josh (413-835-0093) for meeting information. (E)

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Coming Field Trips (continued)

***Saturday, November 2, Saw-whet Owls.** Evening. Janice Jorgensen and Sue Emerson join Strickland Wheelock and his crew at Lookout Rock in Northbridge, MA for an evening of netting and banding Saw-whet Owls. This trip is limited to 7 birders (first-time participants get preference) and costs \$20 per person. For information and to register call Sue Emerson (413-588-6900) and to reserve a place send a non-refundable check for \$20 payable to "HBC" to Stephen Baker (HBC Treasurer; 287 Williamsburg Road; Williamsburg, MA 01096). (E)

***Sunday, November 3. The Apple Cider Donut Field Trip.** All day. Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com) goes into the hills to find the best cider donuts in Berkshire County and also visits the lakes and ponds of western Massachusetts to look for ducks and other migrating waterfowl. Meet at Stop & Shop on King Street in Northampton at 6:15 a.m. for carpooling. Dress warmly and bring food and water. (M)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: A Special Program for (Almost) All Ages

Raptors with Julie Collier

Sunday, November 10 at 3 P.M.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amherst

HBC Education Committee presents Julie Collier and six of her raptors for a special education program for the club, designed for ages 6 and up.

Julie is licensed both by the federal government and by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to take care of raptors that can't take care of themselves. The program incorporates live birds of prey that are held under her rehabilitation and education permits. They are handled only by the Julie, and are never flown for demonstration. The presentation will last about an hour. We hope to see you there!

BROAD BROOK COALITION: 2013 Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 17 at Florence Community Center, Florence, MA

with

Dr. Robert Askins, Director of the Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology at Connecticut College

who will present

Restoring North America's Birds: Lessons from Landscape Ecology.

HBC members are cordially invited.

Time and other details are to be announced. Please see the next edition of this newsletter.

You may contact Bruce Hart: bhart2000-at-aol-dot-com, 584 4176

Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW if you need to:

- Your membership status is shown on the cover page. Check to see if you owe dues this year.
- Grab a hold of the enclosed membership form and choose your membership contribution for this year,
- Make a donation for the work of the Education Committee if you wish,
- Complete the Membership Form, and its reverse side (the Field Trip Release Form),
- Check the "Bird Finding In Western MA" form (sign up for the Rare Bird Alert if you wish), and
- Mail the above forms (with your check if needed) to the club, or bring them along on Sept. 10.

Please renew before immediately by mail, or at the October meeting. Thanks!

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

New England National Scenic Trail Hike along the Holyoke Range: *Ted Watt*

Saturday, October 12, 9 am- noon.

Fall Foliage Walk at Bear Swamp: *John Green*

Saturday, October 19, 8:30am-11:30 am

Fungi Field Trip: *Dianna Smith*

Saturday, October 19, 2 pm-4pm

Bray Lake and Mt. Tom: Tree ID Using Bark and Habitat Clues: *Nancy Goodman*

Saturday, November 2, 10am-3pm

Morning Nature Walk for Seniors: *John Green*

Wednesday, November 6, 9am-11am

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.

LIBRARY: New Books!

The Crossley ID Guide to Raptors breaks new ground in the identification of birds of prey. Mark Lynch recently wrote a rave review in the August 2013 edition of *Bird Observer*.

Bird Song Defined, Decoded, Described is a new way to look at bird song.

The Unfeathered Bird is a new way to see what is underneath (amazing photographs)!

The Birds of Borneo is a new locality guide to a place you may not have thought to bird!

Henry says there are more new books to come!

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

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

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.

My thanks to **Sue Emerson** and **Sally Hills** for their help with assembling the September edition.

That's all we got room for right now.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. FIELD TRIP POLICY 2013-2014

1. Field trips are an essential activity of the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC). They are an important way to increase members' interest in and knowledge of birds, birding, and bird habitat. Field trips are announced in the HBC newsletter, on the website and at monthly meetings.
2. Each year, all HBC members are asked to sign the HBC Release Form. Minor children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or another adult who has written authorization to be responsible for the child's care and conduct. Please request a form from HBC if you want to authorize another adult to accompany your child.
- 3 The HBC conducts two different types of field trips: Day Trips and Overnight Trips.

Day Trips are planned by the Field Trip Committee, who prepare the schedule and select leaders. Day Trips generally do not require extensive planning by the trip leader. No costs other than travel (see #4 below), meals, and incidental fees will be involved. If requested to do so in the newsletter, participants must call the trip leader in advance to express interest in the trip. This allows the leader more flexibility and the opportunity to change the trip itinerary should that seem desirable. Day trips are open to both HBC members and non-members unless restricted to members by the host site.

Overnight Trips (one or more nights, reasonable driving distance) are planned by the Field Trip Committee and approved by the HBC Board at least 3 months in advance (see #5 below). Such trips generally require more planning by the trip leader, including, for example, arranging for lodging and travel. Participants will be charged an amount equal to actual predetermined costs (including liability insurance) plus a prorated amount to cover reimbursement of the leader's expenses (see #5 below). All fees, including the trip deposit, shall be paid to the HBC Treasurer. In the event of a cancellation, if the vacancy can be filled, the trip fee will be refunded, less a 10% processing charge. If the vacancy cannot be filled, the trip fee will be refunded, with the following exceptions:

- a) the portion of the trip fee that covers a share of the leaders costs,
- b) the portion of the fee that covers the insurance charge, and
- c) any portion of the fee which has already been paid to another party and cannot be recovered by the club.

Any excess fees remaining after costs have been met will be refunded, unless they are less than twenty dollars (\$20) per person, in which case they will revert to the HBC treasury. Overnight trips are open only to HBC members who have signed a release form and who have completed a medical information form.

4. The HBC Board recommends that passengers reimburse owners of vehicles used on HBC trips for costs associated with vehicle operation. The maximum recommended reimbursement is the federal government employee mileage reimbursement rate, rounded down to the nearest 10 cents, plus tolls and parking to be shared equally by all persons in the car including the driver. The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making carpool arrangements.

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HBC Field Trip Policy 2013-2014. Continued

Leaders of Overnight Trips shall:

- a. Submit a trip plan to the Field Trip Committee, which must be approved by the Board at least 3 months in advance of the trip. The plan should describe in writing the nature of the trip as completely as possible. Include an itinerary, estimated cost, conditions of lodging and lead time needed for reservations, roughness of terrain, pace of the trip, extra costs not covered by the fee, date of deposit and final payment, date after which fee is not refundable, and provide a list of any specialized items that participants should take on the trip. Repeat trips led by the same leader need only submit necessary changes to the previous plan. The Board can waive the 3-month planning time if there is a special birding opportunity.
 - b. Consult with the membership secretary before the trip to make sure that all participants have signed the HBC Release Form and obtain a signed Medical Information Form from each participant.
 - c. Be reimbursed for all costs associated with planning (i.e. long-distance calls, postage), lodging, and transportation during the trip. The maximum reimbursement for automobile travel shall be one quarter of the costs incurred by a single vehicle under clause 4 of this policy.
 - d. Upon return, provide the HBC Board with an itemized account of all income and expenses related to the trip including receipts for major expenses.
6. The Field Trip Chair will send all participants in overnight trips the Field Trip Evaluation Form and a Medical Information Form. The completed evaluation form, to be returned to the Field Trip Chair, will help the Field Trip Committee plan future trips and provide feedback for leaders. Participants should give their signed Medical Information form to the trip leader prior to departure.
7. Leaders of both Day and Overnight Trips are asked to submit a Trip Highlights Report to the newsletter editor for publication in the next HBC newsletter.
8. HBC may ask professional bird touring organization to organize trips further away than the Overnight Trips. All responsibilities for planning the trip and all liability will be assumed by the touring organization. Such trips must be approved by the Board at least 6 months in advance.

Bird Sightings in Western Massachusetts

All of us are interested in knowing what birds are in our area each day. We do this by:

- birding
- talking with other birders
- calling the Voice of Audubon or reading "The Voice" in the newspaper
- checking the Web
- joining the Rare Bird Alert (for those interested in unusual species).

To check The Voice of Audubon:

Call toll free **1-781 259 8805**

Follow the directions (press 2 to listen to Seth Kellogg, the Western Mass voice). Seth updates The Voice once a week - more often when necessary - so check regularly. (Thanks to Trudy Tynan, the transcript also appears weekly in most of our local papers).

To share local sightings with other valley birders via email:

You may wish to join the Allen Bird Club "*Bird News of Western Massachusetts*" network. To join, email Seth Kellogg at skhawk@comcast.net

To check various sources on the web:

Go to the HBC website: www.hampshirebirdclub.org. From the **Related Links** section on the Home Page, you can go to **the Voice** and/or to **Massbird**.

To join the HBC Rare Bird Alert (RBA).

This operates by email ONLY. You will need at least one active email address.

To join before October 11:

Fill in the form below. Return it with your membership form or turn it in at the Sept./Oct. meetings.

To join anytime:

Provide name/s and email address/es to the HBC Webmaster at webmaster@hampshirebirdclub.org

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Rare Bird Alert (RBA) Form: 2013-2014

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

You may provide as many email addresses as you like (within reason, please). Participants automatically receive all RBA announcements.

email address/es (1) _____

(2) _____