



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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December. Birds that, a week ago were scattered across the tawny landscapes of late fall, now eking out a living at feeders and along plough-scarred roadsides. Waterfowl, until recently migrating across our landscape, now bobbing on the billows off the New England coast, accessible only to those of us who are willing to make the trek eastward amidst the frantic rush to prepare for the holidays. This month, we take a break from the high-profile speakers who typically come to our meetings and, instead, take a month to revel in the experiences of our very own members.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, December 8 at 7:15 p.m.

HBC Members Meeting

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Weather-related cancellations announced via the HBC email list and local media.

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) or **Geoff LeBaron** (programs@hampshirebirdclub.org) by 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 8. Please let them know:

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

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

COMING PROGRAMS

January 12, 2015. Don Kroodsma. Birdsong: The Hour Before Dawn.

February 9, 2015. Scott Sumner. The Big Chicken Run.

March 9, 2015. David Sibley. The New Sibley Guide to the Birds.

Not much room this month. Enclosed, in print only, is the HBC Membership Contact list. This allows our members to make contact with one another in pursuit of birds and birding. Please use the list appropriately, and certainly NOT in pursuit of any commercial objective.

Other than the list there are a few reminders about the upcoming club events, and that's it.

NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The National Audubon Society's analysis of 40 years of Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data has revealed alarming declines in the populations of many bird species. During the annual CBC volunteers across the United States, Canada and other Western Hemisphere countries count birds over any 24-hour period from late December through early January and submit the data to the Audubon Society to be compiled.

Join the 81st Northampton (MANO) CBC December 14, 2014. We have 36 teams during the day and about 10 Owling teams. 91 species is our high and this year we expect to beat that. After a great day in the field we sit down to a yummy potluck at the Hitchcock Center and finalize our compilations. Be there or be square. To join a team or be a feeder counter contact Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org

The Feeder Watch

The organizers ESPECIALLY want to increase participation in the feeder watch part of the CBC. If you'd like to be part of the Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 14 but aren't able to be in the field and are within our count area, your help would be appreciated. Please email the compilers at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org or Sally Hills at sara09@charter.net.

Christmas Count Potluck *Food Contributions Needed!*

It is NOT too late to pledge a contribution to the culinary extravaganza that is the potluck. Please email or call Sue Emerson if you can chip in. Whatever you can provide, we, I assure you, can consume! HBC and all volunteer counters thank you!!

QUABBIN COUNT

The Quabbin Count this year is on December 27.

If you would like to participate, please contact Scott Sumner: ssurner@aol.com or 413 256 5834

FIELD TRIPS Trips and Leaders Needed

Right now, the Winter-Spring-Summer Field trip list for 2015 is an embryonic document, gestating in the fevered mind of our Field Trip Chair, Mike Locher. Our trips are one of the basic components that make this club so vibrant. Twice a year, Mike has to wheedle, cajole, and bribe us all to consider going just that little bit beyond the comfort zone to plan and lead trips. Our trips are one of the three basic components that make this club so vibrant. We have to take COLLECTIVE responsibility for keeping out trip offerings creative and engaging.

If you have an area that you love to bird, or some wonderful birding niche that others would appreciate sharing, please consider leading a trip. We all know the time-honored HBC standards. Your new trip could be the next chapter in that wonderful tradition, but only if you take the plunge and give it a shot! If you have ideas for new trips, please contact Mike Locher: fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org or 413 585 5864. We have to have the schedule set for the January newsletter!!

That's all for this month.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor
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