



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 31, No. 9

May, 2015.

In this edition:

- The **program** this month, and the last remaining program for the year,
- **field trip reports** and the crowded **trip schedule** for the next month,
- some great offerings from the **Education Committee**,
- the **Annual General Meeting** announcement,
- a call-to-arms from the **Refreshment Committee**,
- **Celebrate Birds**: a family birding festival in the valley,
- **Hitchcock** and **Broad Brook Coalition** programs, and
- a plea on behalf of the **Worthington cranes**.

I hope you find some of it useful.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, May 11 at 7:15 p.m.

Jonah Keane joins us to shed light on

Arcadia: The Past, Present and Future of Mass Audubon in the Pioneer Valley

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Jonah Keane will discuss the work of the country's oldest Audubon society. Mass Audubon has been active in the Valley for over 70 years, though questions exist about how they function, the breadth of their work, and what their connection to birds is in the 21st century. Jonah will answer these questions as well as outline their vision locally for the coming years. He'll also describe the birds and habitat management that occur at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary and why Arcadia is one of the Valley's natural gems.

Jonah is the Sanctuary Director for Mass Audubon's Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries and is based at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton and Northampton. He started in his position in January 2014 after nine years managing programs with the Student Conservation Association. He received a MS in Forest Ecology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a BS in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont. Jonah served as an environmental educator and volunteer coordinator with the Peace Corps in Bolivia for three years. He enjoys spending time in the woods year round.

COMING PROGRAMS

June 8, 2015. Mario Cohn-Haft. What's so Special about Amazonian Birds?

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Hawk Watch at Goat Peak: Wednesday, April 22

Nine people hiked with **Tom Gagnon** to the venerable fire tower at the summit of Goat Peak and got great looks at (at least) **163 Broad-winged Hawks** and a smattering of other species, including one Bald Eagle. Elsewhere on the reservation, the group heard a wonderful singing **Winter Wren** and watched honey bees coming and going from a colony at least 50 feet off the ground in a White Pine*. No-one was stung!

Tom Gagnon

*This story bears a striking resemblance to one of my favorite Winnie the Pooh stories, but it appears no-one thought of using a balloon to get to the hunny. *Ed.*

COMING TRIPS

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 per-car cost of 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (September newsletter or on the Website).

Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (), which indicates that they are 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. Please check all information with the trip leaders.*

Every Tuesday in May, field walks will take place at the Fort River Division of the Conte NWR, 6:30 a.m..

May 5, George Regmund;

May 12, Bob Bieda;

May 19, Mike Locher;

May 26, George Regmund.

Meet at the refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley). These walks are co-sponsored by the HBC and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. (E)

***Saturday May 9. Mitch's Way.** Half day. Josh Rose takes a walk along the river looking for neotropical migrants. Depending on interest, a more challenging walk into adjacent Skinner State Park to look for Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers could be arranged. Lunch and ice cream will be at the Barstow Creamery. Meet at 6 a.m. at the parking lot of the Hadley Village Barn Shops, (41 Russell St., Hadley), near the Ecuador Andino store. Any questions, contact Josh (413-835-0093 or opihi-at-mindspring-dot-com). (E/M)

Saturday, May 9. Quabbin Park and East Quabbin. All day. Tom Gagnon leads his annual spring trip to the eastern side of the reservoir in search of spring migrants. Participation is limited and you must be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club to participate. To register, contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). Please register early. (M)

Thursday, May 14. Mount Holyoke. Half day. Tom Gagnon leads a hike up Mt. Holyoke in search of Cerulean Warblers and other spring migrants. Plan to stop along the way to look at some of the flora of Mt. Holyoke. Meet at 7 a.m. at the gate of Mt. Holyoke. For information contact Tom (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

Coming trips continues next page ►

(Coming Trips, continued)

Saturday, May 16. Bartholomew's Cobble. All day. Mike Locher travels to the southwest corner of the state to the unique habitat of Bartholomew's Cobble. There should be Bobolinks in the fields and woodland migrants in the forests around the cobble. The cobble is a haven for ferns and wildflowers found nowhere else in the state. Meet at Northampton Stop & Shop (228 King Street) at 6 a.m. and bring a lunch. Call Mike (413-585-5864) for further details. (M)

***Saturday, May 30. Wentworth Farm.** Half day. Josh Rose leads an easy walk looking for breeding Orchard Orioles, Brown Thrashers, Bobolinks, Green Herons, and whatever else he can find. If the weather is suitable we will also probably look at butterflies and dragonflies. Meet at 6 a.m. at the Stanley St. trailhead in Amherst. Any questions, contact Josh (413-835-0093 or opihi-at-mindspring-dot-com). (E)

Sunday, May 31. Grace Robson State Wildlife Sanctuary. Half day. Mike Locher goes in search of Hooded Warblers, who have been singing here for several years, but will stop for any of the numerous warblers that haunt this little-known reserve. If time and energy permit, we could extend the trip to bird around Mt. Tekoa. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop (228 King Street) at 6:30 a.m. Call Mike (413-585-5864) for further details. (M)

Saturday, June 6. Westover Air Force Base. Half day. Bob Bieda hosts the HBC's annual trip to New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Bob (413-527-2623) at least two weeks ahead of time to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

***Sunday, June 7. Knightville Dam.** Half day. Betsy Higgins and Marcia Merithew explore Knightville Dam for spring migrants and local residents. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for details. Meet at 7 a.m. at the John F. Kennedy Middle School (100 Bridge Road; Florence, MA). (E)

Ahem! A Word from Miss Manners on Field Trip Etiquette

With so many trips in the offering over the next month or so, a few gentle words on basic courtesies. Please look after our trip leaders and ensure that they feel like staying with the field trip program by following the Field Trip Guidelines. Here are some excerpts from the guidelines: the full version is at

<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/>

- ♥ *Please call the trip leader at least a few days before the trip. It helps the leader plan the trip and you learn about any special arrangements or any change of plans.*
- ♥ *Carpooling is essential to allow the group to park when space is limited, reduce delays, reduce the likelihood of auto accidents and to reduce the chances of the group becoming separated. Carpooling from the valley is best. Carpooling once the trip location is reached is the next best option. The participants (not the leader) are responsible for making all carpool arrangements.*
- ♥ *Please share costs with courtesy. We recommend a cost of \$0.50 cents per mile plus tolls and parking to be shared equally among the driver and all passengers, but the rate for your vehicle is entirely up to the driver and passengers. Agree on a mileage rate or flat contribution **BEFORE** the trip leaves to avoid misunderstandings. Bring cash or checks and be prepared to reimburse the driver at the time of the trip.*

Thank you for your cooperation!

FALL FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS

Our Field Trip Chair, **Mike Locher** cannot afford to be distracted by the gaudy arrivals of Spring. He is hard at work on the **Fall Field Trip Schedule**. If you have **new ideas** for trips to be done between September and the new year, especially if you are prepared to lead these trips, please let Mike know. You can find him at fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org or by phone at (413) 585-5864.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Hampshire Bird Club Incorporated** will be held on **Monday, May 11, 2015** at the **Immanuel Lutheran Church** (867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst) at **7:15 p.m.** The meeting will immediately precede the May program.

The agenda for the meeting is to elect the Board of Directors for the year from May 11, 2015 to May 11, 2016. The Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate of nominees, which is subject to change prior to and at the AGM.

President: Scott Sumner

Vice-President/Program Chair: Geoff LeBaron

Treasurer: Stephen Baker

Membership Secretary: Sue Emerson

Communications Secretary: Sharon Dombeck

Board Members at large:

Bruce Hart
Mike Locher
Jan Ortiz
David Peake-Jones
Josh Rose
Jaap van Heerden

Hampshire Bird Club WELCOMES and encourages other nominations for ANY and ALL of the above positions. These may be sent to any member of the Nominating Committee or presented from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. At-meeting nominees must be present at the meeting so as to verify their consent.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Plants Birds Love and Where to Put Them in Your Yard

May 14, 2015. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Hadley Garden Center

HBC member **Dan Ziomek** will host this workshop which is sure to give you some wonderful gardening ideas. Attendees are asked to make a donation so we may buy a tree that birds will love and plant it in Amherst. Rain date is May 21. Open for all Hampshire Bird Club members.

Spring Bird Photography Workshop: FULL

John Van de Graaff's photography workshop is booked up.

Contact Janice Jorgensen (education@hampshirebirdclub.org) to be wait-listed.

Education Committee continues next page ►

(Education Committee Programs, continued)

The Dawn Chorus: *Don Kroodsma*

Saturday, June 6, 2015 4:15 a.m. (Yup, that's when it all begins)

Mass Audubon's Graves Farm, Williamsburg, MA* (directions below)

Join us as we listen to the world awake, or join us when the spirit moves you, as we will be in the area listening until 9 a.m., or whenever all participants have departed, whichever happens first. We will listen with unaided and aided (parabolic reflector, headphones, etc.) ears, recording whatever we hear so that it is available for possible later study indoors (but not the same day). Bring a chair.

Register DIRECT with Don Kroodsma (dekroodsma@yahoo.com) in advance, as we may adjust the meeting place depending on bird activity. Expect an informational email from Don by Friday, June 5 at 6 p.m.

Co-sponsors: **Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee,**
Mass Audubon Connecticut River Sanctuaries,
Allen Bird Club

Further information: Bruce Hart, bhart2000@aol.com, 584-4176

***DIRECTIONS TO GRAVES FARM:**

Mileages are included as well as landmarks, 'cause its gonna be PITCH DARK.

From Amherst/Hadley

Rt 9 towards Northampton, cross Calvin Coolidge Bridge.

Immediately across the bridge (it will feel more civilized), RIGHT onto Damon Road.

POINT A is here.

Continue on Damon Road and CROSS King Street (Rt 5) onto Bridge Road after 1 mile.

Continue on Bridge Road for 2.3 miles to the Look Park Rotary. Take the 1st exit off rotary onto Rt 9 West.

Continue on Rt 9 West for 3.9 miles, RIGHT onto Depot Road, just past Lashway Lumber.

POINT B is here.

Continue on Depot Road for 1.1 miles, RIGHT onto Adams Road.

Continue past the farmhouse on the left, across the brook, up the hill to the parking lot on the RIGHT.

From points South.

I-91 North to Exit 18. At the foot of ramp (LIGHT) straight onto Damon Road.

Now follow directions from POINT A above.

From the boonies (points west)

Take Rt 9 toward Northampton.

About 0.7 miles past the Williamsburg General Store, LEFT onto Depot Road.

Now follow directions from POINT B above.

If you are interested in other educational workshops like, say, bird nest box building, choosing optics, hawk ID, warbler ID, shorebird ID, Freudian ID*....whatever! Contact the education Committee with your ideas.

education@hampshirebirdclub.org

*OK, we can't do Freudian ID.

REFRESHMENTS: Help Wanted!!

I am **retiring** from the refreshment table in June and am hoping that someone, or a group of folks willing to share the responsibility, will take over. I know everyone enjoys the food and the sociability it provides and it would be disappointing to have this disappear. Please contact me or any board member if you are interested.
Sally Hills: sara09-at-charter.net.

Yikes. HBC without the refreshment table would be like pancakes without maple syrup. JUST UNTHINKABLE. Need someone to step up.....

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Tour the Orchard Arboretum at Applewood: *Dan Ziomek and Ann Cann*

May 6: 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Biothon 2015

May 8 - May 10.

Tour of Amherst Wastewater Treatment Facility

May 20: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Morning Nature Walk for Seniors: *John Green*

May 25: 9:00 am - 11:00 am. FREE. At Fort River Division, Conte NWR. Space limited.

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.

Broad Brook Coalition Programs

Birding for Children: Marcia Merithew and Bruce Hart

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, Northampton.

Saturday, May 9, 9-11 a.m.

Please help to spread the word about this birding program meant to help introduce children to the wonders of birding and the outdoors and fuel the fires for those already engaged. We'll have a few leaders and extra binoculars and we'll complement the program with 'live' photographs of some of the birds we see.

Meet at the old Moose Lodge entrance, (Boggy Meadow Road, top of Cooke Ave., off Hatfield Street).

Birding: Bob Zimmermann

Saturday, May 23, 7-9 a.m.

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, Northampton. North Farms Rd. entrance

As migrating songbirds return from Central and South America, they busy themselves with staking out territories, finding mates and building nests. We'll use sight and sound to see who's returned to the FLCA as we walk along the Lake Trail from North Farms Road to the lake, the dam and Cooke's Pasture.

The group will meet at the North Farms Rd. entrance.

The Worthington Cranes Ethical Role Models Needed

Sadly, some of the people who are visiting Worthington (western Hampshire County) have been walking out into the fields to get close-up photos of the Sandhill Cranes which have been residing there for the past few summers.

The landowners have contacted HBC, and are extremely concerned for the continued well-being of the birds on their property as well as their own privacy.

This is a working farm, posted private property, and the landowners do NOT approve of anyone entering their fields. Repeated bothering of the cranes over the past two seasons has likely contributed to their lack of reproductive success to this point. When present, the birds are easily visible from the roadways, and birders should observe from the road (taking care to not block driveways, access to the fields by landowners, or any other traffic), but anyone entering the fields WILL be prosecuted for trespassing to the full extent of the law. If trespassing continues the landowners and local authorities will stop tolerating roadside observation.

If you are in Worthington and observe someone trespassing, please communicate with the person that the landowners will not tolerate such behavior and that they should leave the posted property, not only for the benefit of the cranes but as well as to avoid prosecution for trespassing.

The HBC website has a copy of the ABA Code of Ethics if such individuals require further information.

That's all for this month.

On the following pages we have two flyers for the Celebrate Birds event. Please pass the second one (no volunteer pleading) along to someone else to help spread the word.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

CELEBRATE BIRDS

The first Valley Birding Festival for Families Saturday, May 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join environmental organizations from throughout the valley for a fun-filled and family-oriented day of learning about our feathered friends. The festival will feature events at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Fort River Division)* in Hadley and then later at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** in Easthampton. Both venues are **accessible** to all.

At Conte Refuge (Fort River) from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

- **bird walks**,
- a **bird banding** demonstration, and
- a **falconry** demonstration by Chris Davis

At Arcadia Sanctuary from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

- **games, information and activities** for all ages, and
- **“Eyes on Owls.** 11 a.m. AND 1 p.m.

This wonderful demonstration of six (6) species of **live owls** from New England and beyond will occur at 11:00 a.m. and AGAIN at 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about these amazing birds.

The **venues** are:

*The Silvio Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge
(Fort River Division)
69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley

**Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Massachusetts
Audubon Society)
127 Coombs Road, Easthampton.

Festival **partners** include

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hampshire Bird Club, ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ◆ Mass Audubon, ◆ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, ◆ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hitchcock Center for the Environment, ◆ Friends of the Fort River Division and ◆ Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. |
|--|---|

Festival **sponsors** include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Hampshire Bird Club ♣ Backyard Birds ♣ Springfield Naturalists Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ Hadley Garden Center. ♣ U.S Fish and Wildlife Service |
|---|--|

Help Wanted

We are looking for **volunteers** from HBC to help out on the day. Please contact **Jim Lafley** at Jim.Lafley@state.ma.us or at 413 221 1941 to help or find out more.

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| ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, | ◆ Friends of the Fort River Division and |
| ◆ Mass Audubon, | ◆ Northfield Mountain Recreation and |
| ◆ Massachusetts Department of Conservation and
Recreation, | Environmental Center. |
| ◆ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
(MassWildlife), | |

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ♣ Hampshire Bird Club | ♣ Hadley Garden Center. |
| ♣ Backyard Birds | ♣ U.S Fish and Wildlife Service |
| ♣ Springfield Naturalists Club | |