



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
Volume 33, No. 1  
**September, 2016.**

With the Olympics in the rear-view mirror, the Patriots holding tutorials on Boyle's Law, and some minor electoral events on the horizon, HBC is gearing up for another year of great birding fellowship. I pause in preparations for emigrating to Canada to see to this, the first newsletter of the year.

Geoff LeBaron is tunneling through years of hard-won ornithological contacts and turning up some great speakers. The program schedule (so far) follows. Mike Locher has used all the leverage he can muster to put together the Fall Field Trip Schedule, replete with some old faves and a sprinkling of innovation. The Education Committee plans to follow up on last year's banner season with more outreach to new birders.

You, dear reader, may be preparing to put some (physical or digital) marks on paper in helping to decide the future of our democracy, and these should be placed, no doubt, with some deliberation. However, before September is out, you can make some very simple marks on some very simple bits of paper which require little thought and will make sure the HBC stays in business. I refer, of course to **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**, which are due **before October 1**.

**Everyone who was a member last year has been sent hard copies of the newsletter and membership forms in the mail. If you want to use the forms included with this, the online newsletter, please feel free.**

**Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW**

**If you printed this online newsletter and want to join or renew, your checklist follows:**

- Complete the **Membership Form**. This will involve deciding on your membership contribution for this year, any additional support you may want to provide for the Education Committee, and also keeping us updated with important information about your membership.
- Fill out the the **Field Trip Release Form** and **Rare Bird Alert** sign up,
- Fill out the **HBC Member Skills Survey**,
- Write a **check** for the required funds (if any), and
- Mail** the forms and check to the address on the Membership Form, or bring them along on September 12.

**COMING PROGRAMS**

**September 12. Randy Dettmers.** Monitoring and Conservation of Bicknell's Thrush: From Mountain Birdwatch to Sierra de Bahoruco. (see details on page 2).

**October 17, 2016. Zeke Jacob.** Glow-throated Hummingbirds of Costa Rica.

**November 14, 2016. John Van de Graaff.** Birds of Europe.

**December 12, 2016. Members' Meeting.**

**January 9, 2017. Connie Sanchez.** Judging the Duck Stamp Competition.

**February 13, 2017. Dave Wiley.** Great Shearwater research.

**March 13, 2017. Chris Fisher.** Images of South Africa.

**April 10, 2017. Alyssa Rosemartin.** The National Phenology Network.

**May 8, 2017. David Spector.** A Look at Bird Song Interpretation.

**June 12, 2017.** (to be determined)

## NEXT PROGRAM

**Monday, September 12 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Randy Dettmers**

looks into

**Mountain Birdwatch and Conservation of Bicknell's Thrush:**

**From Mountain Birdwatch to Sierra del Batoruco**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Montane spruce-fir forests in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada support a unique suite of breeding birds, including the Bicknell's Thrush. However, until the last 15 years, the birds breeding in this ecosystem were not well monitored due to inaccessibility. Mountain Birdwatch, founded in 2001, is a citizen science program designed to assess how climate, competition, and habitat factors influence the abundance of a set of focal bird species for this ecosystem over time, with an emphasis on Bicknell's Thrush. Dr. Dettmers will describe how Mountain Birdwatch data are illuminating the life histories of five focal birds: Bicknell's Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Winter Wren.

For migratory birds it is all about the breeding range, the wintering range, and the often hazardous journey between the two. 80% of all Bicknell's Thrushes overwinter in the Greater Antilles islands of the Caribbean, particularly in the Dominican Republic. In October 2015, Randy participated in a site visit to the Sierra de Batoruco National Park, the second-largest patch of quality winter habitat remaining for Bicknell's Thrush in the Dominican Republic. Randy will share insights he learned from this trip regarding the opportunities and challenges related to forest habitat conservation on the wintering grounds for Bicknell's Thrush and other associated migrant and resident birds.

**Dr. Randy Dettmers** grew up on a small farm in southern Wisconsin where he developed a strong appreciation of the natural world, which later developed into a keen interest in the study and conservation of birds. He earned a B.S. in zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to graduate school at Ohio State where he received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the Zoology Department. After postdoctoral work in the southern U.S., Randy joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1999 and is now a Senior Biologist with the Northeast regional office, and is based in Hadley, MA.

Randy's work focuses on reviewing the status of nongame bird populations, identifying the species most in need of conservation attention, and developing and implementing conservation plans for those species of conservation concern. This work includes facilitating research and monitoring efforts to track bird population trends and understand limiting factors, as well as developing conservation partnerships that can address issues impacting bird populations in decline.

## LIBRARY

HBC has a substantial library, located at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst.

Hours are those of the Hitchcock Center:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday, and

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

*The collection is catalogued on-line at [www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org).*

The library contains birding resources in various media, including field guides, bird-finding guides to almost every major birding destination in the U.S., and overseas, natural histories, periodicals and videos. Items can be signed out and borrowed for a period of up to one month, or longer by arrangement. **Henry Lappen**, the librarian, is happy to bring items to meetings, if you give him a few days in advance. You can reach him at **(413) 549 3722 or [library-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org](mailto:library-at-hampshirebirdclub-dot-org)**.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT: 2016-2017

The Education Committee works on bringing the magic of birds and bird habitats to people who might otherwise not experience them. The Committee really hit its straps this year with some innovative educational programs, scholarship support for local students and important investments in equipment to further the committee mission.

The committee has long recognized a need to have optics available for program participants who do not own them. We took a big step forward this year in acquiring **six pairs of Kingbird 6 x 35 binoculars** from Eagle Optics, following suggestions from Pat McGinnis of Backyard Birds in Northampton. Using funds donated by club members, HBC purchased three pairs and Eagle Optics were kind enough to donate the other three sets. Thank you Eagle Optics!!!

HBC, through the Education Committee, was a major player in the second annual **Valley Bird Festival**, held at various locations on May 7. HBC members volunteered in various capacities while Sue Emerson, Sally Hills, and Betsy Higgins manned a table for the HBC. We sponsored a falconry demonstration presented by Chris Davis of New England Falconry, as well as donating funds for general activities.

The Education Committee **sponsored** one student to attend a Hitchcock Center camp during the summer and a grant was given to the Common School Elementary One Classroom for a feeder watch project supervised by Rae Griffiths.

The committee offered a number of **programs** on birds and bird habitats. David Pritchard, Ilene Goldstein and Bruce Hart led two field bird walks for 40 students from Williston Northampton School at Warm Colors Apiary in Deerfield. George Regmund, Ilene Goldstein and Bruce Hart led a children's bird walk at Fitzgerald Lake Conservation area in Northampton. Jim Lafley offered two programs to seniors at the Loomis House in Holyoke on the Bald Eagles at Quabbin. Laura Beltran led a week of Bird Camp for teens at MAS - Arcadia with assistance from Jim Lafley, making good use of the new club binoculars. John Van de Graaff gave six presentations during the year of his bird photography to various groups including the summer nature campers at the Hitchcock Center. If anyone would like John to give a photography program, please contact him.

### Special Thanks

**Eagle Optics** for the donation of three sets of binoculars.

**Pat McGinnis** of **Backyard Birds** for advice on purchasing binoculars.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Mission

*"The purpose of the HBC is to help members and the general public enjoy birding and to educate them about birds, bird watching, and bird habitats."* (HBC Bylaws)

How do we attract more young people to birding? Do most HBC presentations really hold a child's interest? How do we get kids out into the field? What to do when physical issues due to aging, illness or accident won't allow one to participate at meetings or in the field as before?

School presentations, senior walks and programs, live bird interactions (captive and wild), visits to raptor centers, learning about falconry, organizing boy & girl scout merit badge events, member workshops, purchasing and/or reading natural history and bird books to children: these are just a few of the ideas on the table. The Education Committee currently includes **Bruce Hart, Carol Mardeusz, Jan Ortiz, Scott Surner and John Van de Graaff.**

Contact us at [education@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:education@hampshirebirdclub.org)  
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## HBC BINOCULARS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

HBC now owns six (6) pairs of 6x35 binoculars, primarily intended for outreach to folks who do not own their own equipment.

The binoculars can be used by any club member for a period of up to one week. The sign-out book and binoculars are housed at Sumner Heating in Amherst. You can contact Scott Sumner at Sumner Heating (413 253 5999) to check on availability, and you can collect binoculars from the Sumner Heating office (60 Shumway Street, Amherst) from Monday to Friday during business hours. Please note that there is a charge of \$100 for any binoculars that do not come back!

## ONLINE NEWSLETTER

The membership form asks you to select either “on-line” access to the newsletter this year, or the tried-and-true “hard copy” delivered to you via the United States Postal Service.

### “Why choose “on-line?”

You can archive our publication digitally, without accumulating paper files, or print at home if you like. You reduce postage and printing costs for HBC, which keeps dues down for all of us.

### “How does on-line access work?”

The newsletter is posted on the HBC website. Participants receive an email notification, whereupon they can view and/or download the newsletter from the website at their leisure. You need to give us an email address on the membership form in order to get the on-line version.

### “What if I encounter technical difficulties?”

The system is pretty easy to use if you have email access and are accustomed to downloading content from the Internet. In the event that you find the system does not work for you, a simple communication with the Membership Secretary will get you back on the “Hard Copy” mailing list.

### “What are the software requirements?”

The newsletter will be posted on the Website in PDF format. This means you will need to have .pdf-reading software on your system. If you do not have it already, Adobe Acrobat is available FREE via a link at the club Website.

### “How do I sign up?”

Sign up in the upper right hand corner of the Membership Form.

### “I signed up last year. Do I need to sign up again?”

Yes, please! We ask all members to decide each year how they want to receive the newsletter. Regardless of how you got the newsletter last year, please make your choice of how to receive the newsletter this year on this year’s membership form! Thank you!

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That’s all for this month. **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ASAP, PLEASE!!**

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

529 9541

[newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

## Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Fall Field Trip Schedule, 2016

*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 – [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)) 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 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), Moderate (M), or Strenuous (S) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders, and look for updates on our website.*

### SEPTEMBER

**\*Wednesday, September 7. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. Elissa Rubinstein, Nancy Goodman, George Regmund. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

**Sunday, September 11. Mitch's Way – Late Summer.** Mike Locher. Half day. Meet at the gate at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)) for further information. (M)

**\*Saturday, September 17. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

**Sunday, September 25. Herman Covey WMA.** Aidan and Devin Griffiths. Call Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting details and other information. (M)

**Date TBD. Quabbin Reservoir: Fall Migrants.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Craig Allen. Late season flowers, butterflies, and mammals. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Participation is limited to 12 people in 3 cars, so carpooling is a necessity. Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or [tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com](mailto:tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com)) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

### OCTOBER

**\*Wednesday, October 5. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. Nancy Goodman, George Regmund. Late fall migrants (especially sparrows). Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

**Saturday, October 8. Orchard Hill/UMass.** Aidan and Devin Griffiths explore UMass campus and look for fall migrants. Call Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting details and other information. (M)

**Thursday, October 13 and Saturday, October 15. Sparrow Workshop.** Evening and half day. Scott Sumner reprises his sparrow identification workshop from two years ago. Thursday evening (6:30-?) indoor session, then head into the field on Saturday morning (location TBA). This workshop is limited to 12 birders, and there is a \$15 fee. Contact Scott ([ssurner@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:ssurner@hampshirebirdclub.org)) to register and get more information.

### Fall Field Trip Schedule (Page 2 of 2)

**\*Saturday, October 15. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund. Late fall migrants (especially sparrows). Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

**Sunday, October 23. Mitch's Way – Autumn.** Half day. Mike Locher. Meet at the gate at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)) for further information. (M)

**Sunday, October 30. The Annual Halloween Adventure: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more.** All day. Joshua Rose. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking area for the Power Canal on Migratory Way in Turners Falls. Call or e-mail Josh (413-835-0093; [opihi@mindspring.com](mailto:opihi@mindspring.com)) for further details. (E/M)

### NOVEMBER

**Saturday, November 5. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley.** All day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)). Snow Geese, raptors etc. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 5:30 a.m. for carpooling. (E/M)

**\*Sunday, November 6. Ducks on the Berkshire Lakes (or, Donuts and Ducks).** All day. Al Richards and Harvey Allen. Waterfowl. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at 6:15 a.m. (Remember to set your clocks back!) Questions? Call Al (413-665-2761). (M)

**Wednesday, November 9. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

**Date TBD. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to the East Quabbin.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Craig Allen. Waterfowl and winter finches. You must be a Hampshire Bird Club member to go on this trip. Contact Contact Tom (413-584-6353 or [tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com](mailto:tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com)) well in advance to register, and to get meeting information. (M)

**Saturday, November 19. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E/M)

### DECEMBER

**Sunday, December 4. Moran WMA.** Half day (or more). Josh Rose and Mike Locher. Shrikes and winter finches. Get warmed up for the CBC! Dress for the weather and choose your footwear wisely; snowshoes may be useful. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or [mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:mlocher@hampshirebirdclub.org)) for further information and meeting details. (M)

**Wednesday, December 10. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the lower parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road in Hadley). This trip is co-sponsored by the HBC and the FFRR. (E)

### JANUARY

**Saturday, January 28. Cape Ann Winter ducks.** All day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths go to the chilly shore to look for ducks, alcids, gulls, and all the other good birds of winter. Dress for the weather (many layers). The inclement weather date is Saturday, February 11. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting information. (M)



(Office Only) Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

## FIELD TRIP RELEASE FORM.

### Required if you will participate in field trips.

We need members to share responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others during field trips. The signed release will be filed with the club secretary. For family memberships, all participating members should sign.

### Release Of All Demands - Hold Harmless

I hereby acknowledge that as a participant in field trips with the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC) I may be exposed to significant risks. These may include, but are not limited to, vehicular travel over land and water, foot travel over difficult terrain, and hazardous weather conditions. I may also encounter poisonous plants, dangerous wildlife, and/or disease-carrying insects. In the event of injury, I understand that I may face considerable delays in reaching professional medical help.

I/we fully accept these risks and agree to hold the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc., its officers, directors, volunteers, employees, and agents free from any and all liability for injuries and/or loss which I/we may incur, directly or indirectly, while on field trips run by HBC within one (1) year of the date below.

EXECUTED freely and voluntarily this day:....., ....., .....  
(month) (day) (year)

All participating family members, please sign and print name:

- 1)..... print name▶ .....
- 2)..... print name▶ .....
- 3)..... print name▶ .....

## RARE BIRD ALERT FORM: Optional

The Rare Bird Alert is an optional email-only alert system that informs you when and where rare birds are sighted in the valley, or, in some cases, the broader region.

To join via this form

Complete the form and return it with your membership form or turn it in at the Sept./Oct. meetings.

To join online:

Provide name/s and email address/es to [membership@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:membership@hampshirebirdclub.org)

You may provide as many email addresses as you like (within reason, please). Participants **will need to provide us with at least one (1) active email address.** automatically receive all RBA announcements. Please email [membership@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:membership@hampshirebirdclub.org) if your email changes.

I would like to receive RBA alerts . email address/es (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Return with membership form to HBC, P.O. Box 716, Amherst, MA 01004-0716 or turn in at the September/October meetings.