



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
Volume 33, No. 8  
**April, 2017.**

In this edition:

- the **next program** and the remaining schedule for this year,
- a plethora of fabulous **field trips**,
- a great opportunity for **young birders at Fitzgerald Lake**,
- a suspect report from the **Nominating Committee**,
- **Birdathon 2017** with a new, greener mission,
- **Hitchcock and Arcadia** programs,
- the third annual **Valley Bird Festival**,
- a call for **risk takers**, and
- a few other tidbits.

I hope you find some of it useful.

**NEXT PROGRAM**  
**Monday, April 10 at 7:15 p.m.**  
**Alyssa Rosemartin**  
explores the  
**Science of the Seasons: the National Phenology Network**  
Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

You may have already noticed that the seasons are changing, an observation that generates many questions. How fast? Are the seasons changing in the same ways everywhere? Why are they changing? What are the implications of these changes for plants and animals, and for us? We will explore what we know about the answers to these questions, and how we are trying to find out more, with a focus on birds and the northeastern United States.

**Alyssa Rosemartin** is the Partner and Application Specialist with the **USA National Phenology Network**, where she synthesizes data collected by citizen- and professional scientists, so that it can be used by researchers and decision-makers. Alyssa received a B.A. in Spanish and environmental science in 2000 from Smith College and an M.S. in wildlife conservation and management from the University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and the Environment in 2008, with a thesis focused on wetland birds of northwest Mexico.

**COMING PROGRAMS**

**May 8, 2017. Andrew Vitz.** Bird Conservation In Western Massachusetts

**June 12, 2017. Dave Spector.** Sam Peabody and Friends: A Look at Bird Song Interpretation

## COMING TRIPS

**Wow!! This is a bumper crop of trips with some old faves and some exciting new prospects. Let's get out there and revel in spring!!!**

*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.*

**Sunday, April 9. Ashley Reservoir.** Morning. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or [fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org)) looks for early migrants like Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Louisiana Waterthrushes. Meet in the Holyoke Elks parking lot (250 Whitney Ave.), near Exit 15 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7 a.m. (E/M with one optional S section)

**Tuesday, April 11. Mt. Tom Reservation.** Late morning. Join Tom Gagnon on a wildlife walk on Mt. Tom State Reservation in search of a few warblers and early season butterflies. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Bray Lake on Mt. Tom State Reservation off Route 5 in Holyoke. Contact Tom for details (413-584-6353 or [tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com](mailto:tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com)). (M)

**Saturday, April 15. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and co-leaders look for early warblers, kinglets, and other neotropical migrants. This trip is co-sponsored by the FFRR. Meet at the lower parking lot at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

**Sunday, April 23. Whiting Reservoir.** Morning. Continuing the "Reserv..." theme in April, Mike Locher returns to one of his breeding bird atlas sites, looking for spring migrants and possibly lingering ducks. Meet at the base of Mountain Park Road, in the parking area across the bridge, at 7 a.m. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or [fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org)) for details. (M)

**Monday, April 24. Hawkwatching at Mt. Tom.** Morning. Join Tom Gagnon for a hawk watch at Bray Tower on Mt. Tom State Reservation. Meet at old park headquarters at 9:00 a.m. Contact Tom for details (413-584-6353 or [tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com](mailto:tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com)). (E/M)

**Wednesday, April 26. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and co-leaders seek out warblers, vireos, flycatchers and all the other migrants you've been waiting for. This trip is co-sponsored by FFRR. Meet at the lower parking lot at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

**Saturday, April 29. Podick and Catherine Cole Conservation Areas.** Morning. Mike Locher initiates his new "Neglected Amherst Conservation Areas" series by braving the mosquitoes to look for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking area off Route 116. Bring insect repellent. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or [fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org)) for details. (E/M)

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**Sunday, April 30. Quabbin Gate 5 and Lake Wallace.** Full day. Aidan Griffiths leads birders to two of Belchertown's prime locations, looking for both spring migrants and hangers-on from the long winter (like the Red-headed Woodpecker?). Meeting time will be 6:30 a.m., place to be determined. Contact Aidan (413-323-8417 or aidan-underscore-griffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) or Devin (devingriffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) for details. (M)

**Saturday, May 6. Herman Covey WMA.** Full day. Aidan Griffiths beats the bushes of Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area for spring migrants and local residents. This reserve has it all: fields, woods, wetlands. Meeting time will be 6:30 a.m. at a place to be determined. Contact Aidan (413-323-8417 or aidan-underscore-griffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) or Devin (devingriffiths-at-yahoo-dot-com) for details. (M)

**Saturday, May 13. East Quabbin Reservoir.** Full day. Tom Gagnon leads participants into the wilds east of the Quabbin. You **MUST** be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club to go on this trip. The trip will start at 7:00 a.m., and the meeting place will be decided later. Contact Tom to register and get information (413-584-6353 or tombwhawk-at-aol-dot-com). (M)

(Other trips in this time frame will be publicized in May and June)

*Sign up deadline for the Westover trip is May 1.*

**Saturday, June 3. Westover Air Force Base.** Half day. Bob Bieda and Mike Locher host 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. You must register with Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) by May 1 to get the time and place for meeting. (E)

*Check the Website and later newsletters for local trips to Look Park, Wentworth Farm, Mineral Hills, and other sites (April-May), Mount Mansfield, VT for Bicknell's Thrushes (June) and others.*

**Birding for Children at Fitzgerald Lake  
With Dan Ziomek and friends from HBC**  
Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, Northampton  
North Farms Road entrance.

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

Co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club Education Committee and Broad Brook Coalition.

Fresh off his six-week Birding for Children program (see Hitchcock Programs), **Dan Ziomek** offers a one-day opportunity for young people to get a taste of birding in the company of one of the premier birding teachers in New England.

This program will support the growth of children's awareness of birding, habitat and the great outdoors. To enhance the experience, extra binoculars, a spotting scope, and other technical resources will be available.

Please come along to provide co-leadership if you can, and please publicize this event to groups and organizations who may be able to attract interested young people.

For further information, please contact Bruce Hart at 413-320-2841 or bhart2000@aol.com.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

“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 to attract more young people to birding? How do we get kids out into the field? What to do when physical issues won't allow one to participate at meetings or in the field as before?

The Education Committee continues its financial support of the children's birding summer camp program at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, and is a sponsor of the 2017 Bird Festival.

School presentations, senior walks and programs, live bird interactions (captive and wild), visits to raptor centers, learning about falconry, organizing boy & girl scout merit badges. These are just a few of the ideas on the table. You can donate to support the work of the committee via your membership form, but just as importantly, we need your ideas and energy.

Also, if you know of any interested children or children's group, class, school, religious institution, or club, please let us know and we'll try to inform them of the events and our interest in supporting children's programs.

Contact the committee at [education@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:education@hampshirebirdclub.org)

### BIRD-A-THON 2017 MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY SANCTUARIES

#### **Bird-a-thon Supports Arcadia's Climate Change Center**

Climate change is the biggest environmental threat to both people and wildlife. Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary will be one of three statewide pilot Climate Action Center sites. As a Climate Action Center, Arcadia will expand our education for youth and provide a speakers series on climate change for adults. The center will also feature interpretation, and networking on the topic. There has never been a better time to support this effort as a booster or an individual contributor.

For more information or to give, please go to [www.massaudubon.org/Arcadia](http://www.massaudubon.org/Arcadia), , then look for Bird-a-thon 2017.

Alternatively, you can simply write out a check to Mass Audubon with a memo "Arcadia Bird-a-thon 2017" and send it to "Jonah Keane, Arcadia Sanctuary, Mass Audubon, 127 Combs Road, Easthampton, MA 01027".

#### **Bird-a-thon Birding, Saturday, May 12**

To reduce our carbon footprint, we are birding just the three CRV Sanctuary counties. Beginning birders are encouraged to join us. We will try to saturate Hampshire County, but we will also need data from Franklin and Hamden Counties. Please contact one of our Bird-a-thon team leaders if you would like to participate. It has always been a fun day of birding.

Birdathon team leaders (alphabetically): Phil Doyle, Chuck Horn, Janice Jorgenson, Jonah Keane, Anne Lombard, and Patti Steinman.

I will have pamphlets with more detailed information at the April and May Hampshire Bird Club Meetings.

Chuck Horn

## HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

This is just a selection. For more, go online to [www.hitchcockcenter.org](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).

**Skydancer** (The American Woodcock): *Dan Ziomek*

Friday, April 7: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Youth Birding:** *Dan Ziomek*

For young people ages 8-13

Six Saturdays: April 8 to May 13: 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. each day.

Fee. Registration required.

**Second Saturday Science-Energy is Electrifying**

Designed for children and their parents to explore cool topics in nature.

Saturday, April 8: 10:00 a.m to 11 a.m.

**Living Building Tours**

Friday, April 7 at 4:00 p.m.

Friday, May 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday April 19 at 12:00 noon

FREE but please register online.

Please note that **registration is still open** for the exciting **Birding for Children** program (see above). This is a potentially life-changing six-weekend opportunity for that young person you may know with a developing interest in birds and the environment. You can get details online.

*For details and registration for all Hitchcock programs, please contact the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 845 West St., Amherst MA 01002. Telephone (413) 256 6006, or on the web at [www.hitchcockcenter.org](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org).*

## ARCADIA PROGRAMS

This is just a selection. For more, go to [www.massaudubon.org/arcadia](http://www.massaudubon.org/arcadia)

**Bird Walks:** *George Regmund*

Meeting at Arcadia

Saturdays; April 1, 22: 7-9:00 a.m.

**Bird Walk at Graves Farm:** *John Greene*

Saturday, April 8; 7-10 a.m.

**Birds, Wildflowers, and Ferns of Bartholomew's Cobble**

Sunday, April 30, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Meet at Arcadia, van transportation included.

*For more details and/or to register for all Arcadia programs, go to [www.massaudubon.org/arcadia](http://www.massaudubon.org/arcadia). You may also contact **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** direct at 127 Combs Rd., Easthampton MA 01027 or telephone (413) 584-3009.*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has done its work and we can present a provisional slate of nominees for the 2017-2018 year.

They are as follows:

**President:** Vladimir Birdspantsov

**Program Chair:** Irina Politelyspekin

**Treasurer:** Ekaterina Putyermoneyin

**Membership Secretary:** Ivan Yutojoinin

**Communications Secretary:** Leonid Andropov

**Members at Large:**

Olga Lackimaginashin, Sergei Lackimaginashin, Natalya Lackimaginashin, Boris Lackimaginashin, and Yaroslav Lackimaginashin.

Never let it be said that the Hampshire Bird Club electoral process is subject to any foreign influence or nepotism.

I wrote this on April first. The official slate will be issued in the May edition, ONE HOPES!

The Annual General Meeting, to elect the board for 2017-2018 will occur immediately prior to the program on May 8.

David Peake-Jones

The rest of the Nominating Committee are blameless.

## Risk-Takers Wanted

These late winter nights, folks in the area of Mitch's Marina report a spectral, pajama-clad form pacing amidst the campsites and shrink-wrapped vessels, muttering things like "confusing fall warblers: what rubbish" and "what's so scary about the east meadows, I wanna know?" The somnambulist is none other than our field trip chair, Mike Locher. He does not obsess about the Winter-Spring Summer Field trip schedule, for that is already published and replete with a great selection of trips for every taste. Neither is he worried about last year's field trip schedules, since that is water under the bridge. No, dear reader, Mike's preoccupation is with a trip schedule that is yet to take form, save in his fevered imagination: the dreaded **Fall Field Trip Schedule**.

While we all revel in spring birding, Mike must find a way to match the eclectic fall trips of past years with this year's autumn offerings. This is where you come in, dear member. Perhaps, like most, when you think of a leader, you think of an elite birder. However, a field trip leader does not HAVE to pick the Cackling Goose from amidst the 1,223 Canada Geese on the power canal, or to pull a Connecticut Warbler from some anonymous thicket, though no-one will complain if you can do either. A good trip leader has a passion for a place and time of year and gets other birders there to experience it. Provided the trip is safe and well-organized, responsibility for success rests with the group and, of course, lady luck. So if you have a birding location and time to share, take the leap of faith and drop Mike a line. You may be surprised at the magic that can happen.

That's all for this month.

Two (2) copies of a flyer for the **Valley Bird Festival** follow. The one with the volunteer info at the bottom is for your personal use. The other is to distribute or post where the public can see it, though note that most jurisdictions frown on papering power poles.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor  
newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org