



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
 www.hampshirebirdclub.org
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March, 2017.

One of these things is not like the other ones:

- The **next program** and the **remaining programs** of this club year,
- An overblown **trip report**,
- A plan to rescue **American democracy**,
- The list of **coming trips**,
- **Hitchcock** and **Arcadia** programs
- **Quabbin Count** results from 2016.

Give up? OK. It was a tough one, I know. Here's the hint: five (5) of the items are in this edition of the newsletter. The remaining one is not. I will leave the rest up to you.

I hope you find some of it useful!

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, March 13 at 7:15 p.m.

Chris Fisher brings us **Images of Southern Africa**

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

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

Amazing photographs of African wildlife, birds, flowers, culture and scenery are combined with music and narration in this multimedia presentation. We will tour Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa; fascinating and under-visited parts of Earth's second largest continent.

Chris Fisher is a retired physics teacher who has been working at his photography for almost 50 years. He is a long time member of the Simsbury Camera Club in Simsbury, CT and a member of Hartford Audubon. He was also a professional wedding photographer for many years. Since retiring, he and his wife Diane have traveled extensively both in the United States and abroad, providing ideal opportunities for Chris to indulge in photography. He particularly enjoys creating multimedia shows and sharing these images with others.

You can learn more about Chris and his work at Natural Expressions Photography:

<http://www.naturalexpressionsphotography.net>.

COMING PROGRAMS

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

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.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Saturday, February 4, 2017. Coastal Rhode Island with Geoff LeBaron

Peter Allison, Stephen Baker, Carol & John Gabranski, Eileen Goldstein, Lee Halasz, Bruce Hart, Betsy Higgins, Janice Jorgensen, Mike Locher, David Peake-Jones, Debbie Phinney, Elaine Pourinski and Carol Wasserloos accompanied Geoff on this tour of our petit southern neighbor.

In a brisk breeze at Napatree Point we found a smattering of loons, eiders and some distant Canada Geese, while 13 **Sanderlings** played on the shore. Along the Misquamicut and Weekapaug shores we added a large group of Black Ducks, a few Great Cormorants, some Horned Grebes, and an unlikely **American Kestrel** teetering atop a spruce tree, and in the Weekapaug breach-way marsh we encountered a foraging **Northern Harrier**.

Meeting some of our group at the Kettle Pond Visitors Center (Ninigret Wildlife Refuge), we added some feeder birds, and then, in the bay off Grassy Point we located the resident **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. A petit **Bonaparte's Gull** foraged out over the bay with hordes of Hooded Mergansers and Bufflehead, and some **Dunlin** foraging on a far shore. At the Charlestown Senior Center we found a solitary **Red-shouldered Hawk** hunting the fallow vegetable gardens, a bird that gave us another look at it, perched in a tree, on the way back to our vehicles.

We found an **American Coot** lurking amongst the moorings at the Town Dock marina in Charlestown and watched about 130 American Robins flying from an unseen but evidently food-rich roost next to the water. From the breach-way at Charlestown, we found a few more Horned Grebes, a raft of 30 plus distant **Black Scoters**, two **Long-tailed Ducks** and two **Purple Sandpipers**.

In a biting wind at Point Judith Lighthouse, we found ten Common Goldeneye and a White-winged Scoter. Finally, from Beavertail State Park near Newport, in gathering dusk and brutal wind-chills, we spotted 42 **Brant** clustered on the rocks, 26 **Harlequin Ducks** being tumbled about in the surf, and, finally, a good look at a close **Razorbill** inshore and another further out.

And now, reviving an occasional tradition for winter shore trips, the **fast food nutritional round-up**. There were at least two (2) prominent fast-food chains visited during the trip. Whilst it seems there may have been some significant and probably pernicious under-reporting of consumption, the following totals are verifiable.

Calories consumed: 6, 210; **Saturated fat:** 114.5g; **Cholesterol:** 1, 765 mg; **Sodium:** 10, 060 mg

Clearly sub-par totals for this most important of trip activities. There was also a noticeable and inexplicable delay at one of the outlets in question. We, the people, demand to know:

- Did some participants decline to participate in the consumption of this material, which is, after all, part of who we are as a people?
- Were the non-participants secretly consuming un-American comestibles like whole grain muesli bars and yoghurt?
- Was there collusion between someone on the trip and the proprietor of the store to generate the delay?
- Was this a deliberate attempt to generate additional consumption and, if so, why was this not disclosed to the participants?
- If the delay was orchestrated, how come we still ended up with such mediocre totals?
- What did the trip leader know and when did he know it?

We also demand that the field trip chair recuse himself from the investigation.

David Peake-Jones with information from GL and ML

COMING TRIPS

Saturday, March 11. Plum Island, Newburyport, and Salisbury. All day. Geoff LeBaron heads to northeastern Massachusetts to find ducks, gulls, and other denizens of the shore at one of Massachusetts' premier birding locations. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) to register and get meeting information. (E/M)

Wednesday, March 15. Timberdoodles at the Abandoned Atkins Orchard. CANCELLED due to loss of habitat.

Wednesday, March 22. Fort River Refuge. Morning. George Regmund and Nancy Goodman will look for early migrants along the boardwalk at the Fort River Division. This trip is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Fort River Refuge. Meet at the lower parking area at 8 a.m. (E/M)

Sunday, April 9. Ashley Reservoir. Morning. Mike Locher (413-585-5864 or 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). (M)

ARCADIA PROGRAMS

Bird Camp at Arcadia.

June 26-30. Ages 12-16.

Arcadia Family Bird Fun

Saturday, March 18; 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Dance of the American Woodcock

Saturday, March 25; 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Bird Sounds: Songs and Calls

Wednesday, March 29; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Big Night

Saturday, April 1; 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bird Camp at Arcadia.

June 26-30. Ages 12-16.

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

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS

Nature All Year Study Club 2017

Sundays once per month, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon (class times may vary depending on topics)

Salamander Tunnel Maintenance

A weekend day – timing depends on weather conditions and snow cover.

Call or sign up online to be notified.

Screech Owls are Cool! *Ted Watt*

Saturday, February 18, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Recommended for young people 4th grade and up.

Living Building Tour Program (of the Hitchcock Center)

Wednesday, March 15 at 12:00 p.m. Please register online.

THE MESSENGER Film Screening

Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

Citizen Science: Red-Backed Salamander Population Monitoring: *Ted Watt*

Saturday, March 18, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Senior Walk – Quabbin Park: *John Green*

Wednesday, March 22; 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Hampshire Woods Walk and Wildlife Sightings Database Update: *Ted Watt*

Saturday, March 25, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Youth Birding: *Dan Ziomek*

Six Saturdays from April 8 to May 13; 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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.

QUABBIN COUNT

December 31, 2016

The Quabbin Christmas counters tallied 63 species. We could not add any new species to the count list, but had new **High counts** for **Cooper's Hawk**, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **American Kestrel**, **Horned Lark** and **American Robin**. The weather was good, but a snowstorm on Thursday made access to some areas of the Quabbin a little more difficult. In fact, this was the first year of the count that our Area 1 team could not get down Prescott Peninsula.

Along with the birds we had 7 species of mammals; the highlights being two **bobcats** working on a deer carcass. Several of the groups reported fresh tracks of mink, fisher, more bobcat, coyote and rabbit.

Scott Sumner

That's all for this month.

The full Quabbin Count results are on the following pages.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor

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Quabbin Count 2016 and Historical

Species with high counts this year are listed in **bold** and the previous high count is also listed

Species	2016	High Year	High Count	Species	2016	High Year	High Count
Snow Goose	0	2015	1	American Coot	0	unusual	
Canada Goose	0	2015	236	Black-headed Gull	0	unusual	
Mute Swan	0	unusual		Ring-billed Gull	52	2011	185
Wood Duck	0	unusual		Herring Gull	0	1990	280
American Wigeon	0	unusual		Glaucous Gull	0	unusual	
Black Duck	13	1993	349	Great Black-backed Gull	0	1990	47
Mallard	50	1994	975	Rock Pigeon	61	1999	339
Northern Pintail	1	unusual		Mourning Dove	266	1999	440
Green-winged Teal	0	unusual		Eastern Screech Owl	1	1989	4
Blue-winged Teal	0	unusual		Great Horned Owl	15	1994	24
Ring-necked Duck	0	(2 cw)	41	Snowy Owl	0	not yet	
Greater Scaup	0	(1 cw)	5	Barred Owl	4	1993	21
Lesser Scaup	0	unusual		Long-eared Owl	0	unusual	
White-winged Scoter	0	unusual		Saw-whet Owl	6	1994	61
Black Scoter	0	unusual		Belted Kingfisher	5	2010	6
Long-tailed Duck	0	unusual		Red-bellied Woodpecker	51	2010	35
Bufflehead	0	1994	28	Yellow-bell'd Sapsucker	0	unusual	
Common Goldeneye	2	1992	105	Downy Woodpecker	88	1994	169
Barrows Goldeneye	0	unusual		Hairy Woodpecker	31	2012	62
Hooded Merganser	23	2006	186	Northern Flicker	2	2010	10
Common Merganser	293	1999	1127	Pileated Woodpecker	15	2010	61
Red-breasted Merganser	0	unusual		Eastern Phoebe	0	unusual	
Ruddy Duck	0	unusual		Northern Shrike	0	1995	10
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	1994	16	Blue Jay	427	1993	1140
Ruffed Grouse	6	1994	42	American Crow	156	1995	395
Wild Turkey	70	2008	248	Common Raven	28	2013	62
Common Loon	5	2014	28	Horned Lark	95	1998	59
Horned Grebe	1	1997	195	Black-capped Chickadee	501	1993	2516
Red-necked Grebe	0	1995	2	Boreal Chickadee	0	unusual	
Double crested Cormorant	0	unusual		Tufted Titmouse	224	2015	298
Great Cormorant	0	unusual		Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	1993	1886
Great Blue Heron	0	1991	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	157	2001	303
Turkey Vulture	0	unusual		Brown Creeper	6	1996	82
Osprey	0	unusual		Carolina Wren	5	2011	12
Bald Eagle	18	1994	38	Winter Wren	2	1997	4
Northern Harrier	0	unusual		Golden-crowned Kinglet	23	1996	312
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	1993	12	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	1996*	3
Cooper's Hawk	7	2010	6	Eastern Bluebird	42	2014	88
Northern Goshawk	0	2007	3	Hermit Thrush	0	2006	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	unusual		American Robin	2624	2013	2501
Red-tailed Hawk	31	2014	32	Gray Catbird	0	2008	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1	unusual		Northern Mockingbird	13	1991	45
Golden Eagle	1	1997	2	European Starling	848	1999	1690
American Kestrel	2	1998	1	Bohemian Waxwing		Not yet	
Merlin	0	unusual		Cedar Waxwing	44	1997	550
Peregrine Falcon	0	unusual		<i>(Continues next page)</i>			

Quabbin Count 2016 and Historical (continued)

Species	2016	High Year	High Count	Species	2016	High Year	High Count
Yellow-r'd Warbler	0	unusual		House Finch	12	1992	429
Pine Warbler	1	unusual		Red Crossbill	0	1993	240
Eastern Towhee	0	2009	3	White-winged Crossbill	0	1993	27
American Tree Sparrow	173	1998	611	Common Redpoll	0	1997	1357
Field Sparrow	0	1999	2	Hoary Redpoll	0	unusual	
Fox Sparrow	0	unusual		Pine Siskin	0	2008	137
Song Sparrow	14	1994	50	American Goldfinch	205	1994	664
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	Not yet		Evening Grosbeak	5	1989	413
Swamp Sparrow	1	2014	3	House Sparrow	920	2004	1032
White-throated Sparrow	32	2009	584				
White-crowned Sparrow	0	unusual					
D'-eyed (pink sided) Junco	0	unusual					
D'-eyed (slate-co') Junco	920	2009	2297				
Snow Bunting	29	2013	230	Write Ins			
Northern Cardinal	98	2005	123				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	unusual					
Red-winged Blackbird	38	2006	309				
Rusty Blackbird	0	2011	51				
Common Grackle	0	2006	100				
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	2006	553	Number of species this year			63
Pine Grosbeak	1	2007	154	# of <u>new</u> species this year			0
Purple Finch	3	1992	169	Cumulative # of Species (historically)			124

Species counted in fewer than five (5) years between 1989 and 2016 are described as "unusual."