



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 34, No. 8
April, 2018.

In this edition:

- The usual news about **programs** and **trips**,
- The (now official) **Nominating Committee** and some proposed **By-law amendments**,
- **Education Committee** news,
- Another reminder about the **Bird Festival** at Arcadia,
- A **Birdathon** prompt,
- **Hitchcock** and **Arcadia** programs,
- A fascinating **conference on insectivorous birds** in Ware,
- **Help Wanted** with the Amherst Breeding Bird Survey,
- A **Broad Brook Coalition** event, and

Maybe even more. I can't keep track of it all.
I hope you find some of it useful!

NEXT PROGRAM
Monday, April 9 at 7:15 p.m.
Shawn Carey and Devin Griffiths present
A Wing and a Care

Immanuel Lutheran Church; 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Snowy Owls, **Atlantic Puffins**, and **American Kestrels** are connected by more than simply a resemblance of form or function. A crucial thread ties them together: each one has an advocate committed to protecting it and educating others about its plight. Migration Productions' latest work, "A Wing And A Care," opens a window onto the lives of these three birds, and introduces you to the men dedicated to their preservation and survival.

"A Wing And A Care" follows the stories of three men as they work to protect the birds they love, and shows how a single individual can make a world of difference in the life of a bird. The presentation asks a critical question: how can each one of us get involved and help build a better future for these incredible birds?

COMING PROGRAMS

May 14, 2018. Sam Fried. The Latest from Flights of Fancy.

June 11, 2018. Lois & Alan Richardson. Adventures in Papua-New Guinea.

COMING TRIPS

Coming Trips are listed on the next page. Note that Ted Gilliland has a previously unpublished trip on April 21st and that the Griffiths April 28 trip now has a "leaders choice" destination.

***Saturday, April 7. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and Leslie Hoffman look for early migrants, hangers-on, and residents. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

***Sunday, April 8. Ashley Reservoir: Early Warblers.** Half day. 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. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 or fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org) for more information. (E/M with one optional S section)

Thursday, April 12. QDMB: Hadley Reservoir. Morning. Mike Locher looks for early migrants along Bay Road. Meet at the dirt access road to the reservoirs (Reservoir Road, Hadley) at 6 a.m. (E/M)

***Wednesday, April 18. Fort River Refuge.** Morning. George Regmund and Marcia Merithew look for early warblers and other spring migrants. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:30 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, April 21. PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED Station Road Rail Trail: Early Migrants. Half day. Ted Gilliland seeks out early migrants along the rail trail. Meet at the Station Road parking area at 7 a.m. Contact Ted at 480-381-5617 or tgillila-at-mtholyoke-dot-edu for more information. (M)

Tuesday, April 24. Mount Tom. Morning. Tom Gagnon looks for migrating hawks and early-season butterflies at Mount Tom State Reservation. Meet at Bray Lake parking area at 8:30 a.m. From there the group will drive up to the old park headquarters and walk to Goat Peak tower. Contact Tom (413-584-6353) for more information. (Rain date: Wednesday, April 25.) (M)

Wednesday, April 25. QDMB: Aqua Vitae Road. Morning. Mike Locher looks for migrants, and with luck, there may be a few ducks and shorebirds. Meet near the entrance furthest from the bridge at 6:00 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, April 28. NEW DESTINATION. Coastal Leader's Choice. All day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths go to the shore somewhere. They'll make their decision based on where the best sightings are. Meeting time is 6 a.m. at a place to be determined. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) to register and for information on the destination. (M)

***Tuesday, May 1. Fort River Refuge. Morning.** George Regmund, Ted Gilliland, and Laura Beltran look for warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, tanagers, flycatchers, and other spring migrants. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and occasional benches for resting. Meet in the lower parking lot at the refuge (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley) at 7:00 a.m. (E/M)

Saturday, May 5. Station Road Rail Trail. Half day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths walk the rail trail with a possible extension to Wentworth Farm in Amherst. Meet at the rail trail parking area on Station Road at 6:30 a.m. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for more information. (M)

Sunday, May 6. Quabbin Gate 5 and Lake Wallace. Full day. Aidan and Devin Griffiths visit two Belchertown hotspots, looking for spring migrants and anything else they can find. Meet at Gate 5 at 6:30 a.m. Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for more information. (M/S)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The committee this year includes **Mike Locher** (chair), **Marcia Merithew** and **Scott Sumner**. They will be charged with nominating replacements for any existing board members who choose to leave the board at the end of this year (June, 2018). If you have interest in serving on the board, please contact Mike at fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org.

BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

There will be three (3) By-Law Amendments presented for a vote at the Annual General Meeting on May this year.

By-Law Amendment 1 was presented in the March newsletter and at the March meeting. It would establish conservation of birds and bird habitats as one of the stated goals of the club.

By-Law Amendment 2 was presented in the March newsletter and at the March meeting. It would require the Nominating Committee to consider diversity when compiling a slate of nominees for vacancies on the Board of Directors each year.

By-Law Amendment 3 will be presented here and at the April meeting. It would provide a viable channel for any club member to run against the Nominating Committee's nominee for any club position.

The present HBC By Laws state that a Nominating Committee shall be appointed each year to select a slate of nominees for the Board of Directors in the following year. In addition to outlining this process the By Laws then state that, (at the AGM), "Nominations will be accepted from the floor, if seconded." In the history of the club there has not yet been a nomination made from the floor at the AGM. However, if this were to occur:

- 1) There would be serious procedural difficulties in holding a vote without notice for some positions, and
- 2) Given that the members present would be taken unawares, the likelihood that the challenge would be taken seriously is very slim.

The board believes the founders intended that there be a procedure for a member to mount a viable challenge to a Nominating Committee candidate, but that such a procedure is not allowed by the current By-Laws. The amendment creates an alternative procedure whereby a challenger would be nominated early in the electoral process and be presented to the membership as an alternative to the Nominating Committee candidate throughout the electoral process. The amendment also allows for a secret ballot at the AGM in the event of any contested position.

It is impossible to consider By-Law changes 2 and 3 in isolation, since they both affect the same clause of the By Laws. Consequently, what follows is a comparison of the existing language pertaining to elections in the Bylaws, with the new language that would apply if either one or both of amendments 2 and 3 pass.

Current By-Law language: Article X

10.1 In consultation with the Board, the President shall appoint a nominating committee at the March program meeting each year. The nominating committee shall be composed of three members of the HBC. At least one member of this committee shall be a member of the Board and at least one shall be a person who is not on the Board, but from the membership at large. The nominating committee shall present a slate of officers and other board members to be voted on at the annual meeting in May. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, if seconded.

If ONLY Amendment 2 (Board diversity) passes, Article X would read as follows:

10.1 In consultation with the Board, the President shall appoint a nominating committee at the March program meeting each year. The nominating committee shall be composed of three members of the HBC. At least one member of this committee shall be a member of the Board and at least one shall be a person who is not on the Board, but from the membership at large. The nominating committee shall present a slate of officers and other board members to be voted on at the annual meeting in May. To the extent possible, this slate shall fully represent the diversity of the HBC membership, e.g. in gender, age etc. and shall reflect any specific directions from the board with respect to diversity. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, if seconded.

If ONLY Amendment 3 passes, Article X would read as follows.

10.1.a. In consultation with the Board, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the January program meeting each year. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three members of the HBC. At least one member of the committee shall be a member of the Board and at least one shall be a person who is not on the Board, but from the membership at large. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers and other board members for the following year and shall present this slate in writing to the membership before the March meeting and at the meeting. Additional nominations to contest any Board position against the Nominating Committee candidate must be seconded and shall be accepted by the Nominating Committee up until March 25.

10.1.b. In the event that any board position is to be contested, the following shall occur:

- *The Nominating Committee shall present the Nominating Committee slate and any additional nominations in writing to the membership before the April meeting and at the meeting. All candidates for any contested position may present a case for their election to the membership in writing before the April meeting and at the April meeting.*
- *A secret paper ballot for any contested positions shall be held at the May meeting, and*
- *Ballots shall be counted by the Nominating Committee and the results communicated to the membership in writing before the June meeting and at the June meeting.*

If BOTH Amendments 2 and 3 pass, Article X would read as follows:

10.1.a. In consultation with the Board, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the January program meeting each year. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three members of the HBC. At least one member of the committee shall be a member of the Board and at least one shall be a person who is not on the Board, but from the membership at large. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers and other board members for the following year and shall present this slate in writing to the membership before the March meeting and at the meeting. To the extent possible, this slate shall fully represent the diversity of the HBC membership, e.g. in gender, age etc. and shall reflect any specific directions from the board with respect to diversity. Additional nominations to contest any Board position against the Nominating Committee candidate must be seconded and shall be accepted by the Nominating Committee up until March 25.

10.1.b. In the event that any board position is to be contested, the following shall occur:

- *The Nominating Committee shall present the Nominating Committee slate and any additional nominations in writing to the membership before the April meeting and at the meeting. All candidates for any contested position may present a case for their election to the membership in writing before the April meeting and at the April meeting.*
- *A secret paper ballot for any contested positions shall be held at the May meeting, and*
- *Ballots shall be counted by the Nominating Committee and the results communicated to the membership in writing before the June meeting and at the June meeting.*

The HBC Board of Directors recommends a YES vote on each of Amendments 1, 2 and 3.

Our Aerial Insectivorous Birds: Current Conservation Issues

An All-Day Conference

Saturday April 28, 2018. 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Harvard Forest, Petersham

\$35 Members*/ \$45 Non-members. Lunch Included

The guild of northeastern avian insectivores—birds that specialize in feeding on flying insects—includes Whip-poor-wills, Common Nighthawks, Chimney Swifts, several species of swallows and flycatchers, and Purple Martins. Most of these species are experiencing dramatic population declines and range contraction. The magnitude of the declines over the past 25 years has been alarming. For that reason the plight of aerial insectivores is gaining increasing attention among biologists in New England.

Numerous speakers will address the ecology and current status of many of these species, particularly in New England; present theories regarding population decline; summarize recent research strategies and findings; and explore citizen science opportunities. Margaret Rubega of UConn will give the keynote address on Chimney Swifts.

You can download a printable registration form at:

<http://www.warerrivernatureclub.org/avian-aerial-insectivore-conference.html>

or contact: warerrivernatureclub@yahoo.com

DON'T MISS THE

Fourth Annual Family Bird Festival

Saturday, May 5: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Arcadia Sanctuary: 127 Coombs Road, Easthampton, MA 01027

Join environmental organizations from around the Valley for the Fourth Annual Family Bird Festival. The event features:

- Morning **bird walks** at Arcadia led by members of the Hampshire Bird Club,
- **Live birds of prey** with Tom Ricardi (shows at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.),
- **Bird-watching tips**,
- **Bird-feeding information**, and
- **Activities** for all ages.

Sponsors include the Hampshire Bird Club, Mass Audubon, Springfield Naturalists Club and SWCA Environmental Consultants.

Heroes or Heroines Wanted

The **Amherst Breeding Bird Survey** has provided data along 16 routes (99 sites) in the Amherst area for twenty eight (28) years. Breeding Bird Surveys typically involve skilled observers travelling fixed routes, listening for breeding bird song and perhaps making other observations that indicate the distribution of breeding species in our region. You can take a look at some of the results at (<https://gis.amherstma.gov/bbs/>) (check “About” and “Help”). It is an extraordinarily valuable database, probably unique over much of the country, especially since it does not have the backing of a major organization to maintain the records etc.

Help is needed to coordinate this noble work. If you have anything to offer, please contact maryalice1936@gmail.com

Mass Audubon Bird-A-Thon

Friday, May 11 6:00 PM to Saturday, May 12: 6:00 PM

Once again, this year, the **Arcadia** team will be focusing our efforts on Hampshire County in order to minimize the carbon footprint of our efforts. Each birding team will record as many species as they can and email their results to me, charleshorn66@gmail.com, or Patti, psteinman@massaudubon.org. Bird with what time you have available. Raise what funds you can; small amounts add up quickly. Make it a fun time, and remember that the money goes to Arcadia's public school environmental programs (1700 students last year!) and the Western Mass Youth Climate Summit.

For more details, copy/paste <http://web.massaudubon.org/goto/ArcadiaBAT> into your browser, ask one of our participants, or simply get on our Bird-a-thon 2018 email list via my above gmail address. (We email via Bcc). Find online giving a problem? You can make a check to Mass Audubon with memo, "Arcadia BAT 2018". Mail to attn.: Jonah Keane, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, 127 Combs Road, Easthampton, MA 01027. Thank you for your time.

Chuck Horn and the Bird-a-thon Team: Phil Doyle, Chuck Horn, Janice Jorgensen, Anne Lombard, and Patti Steinman.

HITCHCOCK PROGRAMS (selected)

Nature All Year Study Club 2018

April to July, various dates.

Attracting Pollinators Workshop

Thursday, April 6: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Saturday, April 7, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Woodcock: Skydancer

Friday, April 6, 8-10 pm

Henry Street Spotted Salamander Egg Mass Count

A weekend afternoon in April, depending on weather.

Timber Rattlesnakes in Massachusetts

Thursday, April 12, 7-8pm

Nature Photography: Rock, Flower, Water

Sunday, April 29, 9-11:30am at the Holyoke Range

Sunday, May 20, 9-11:30am at Mt. Toby

Sunday, June 10, 9-11:30am at Sunderland Water Falls

Bird Migration

Saturday, May 5, 7-10 am

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.

ARCADIA PROGRAMS (Selected)

Bird Sounds: Songs and Calls,

April 5, 7:00-9:00pm

Bird Walk at Graves Farm,

April 7, 7:00-10:00am

Pioneer Valley Ecological Research and Management Symposium,

April 7, 9:00am-noon

Earth Day Weekend Floodplain Canoe Paddle,

April 21, 10:00am-1:00pm

All About Gardening for Pollinators,

April 22, 1:00-3:00pm

Arcadia Family Bird Fun,

April 28, 8:00 to 10:00am

*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.*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee is looking for the following:

- Expressions of interest in a Decoy Construction program led by an expert club member. There would be a fee, but the event would be subsidized by the committee. We would appreciate knowing if you might participate or have other feedback, (we do not need a firm commitment at this time),
- Leaders for a beginning birder program that would focus on helping those new to birding to learn common birds, use of scopes and binoculars, become familiar with birding apps, learn about bird habitats, and
- Names and contacts for groups that might be interested in Education Committee programs.

If you have anything to share on these topics, please contact bhart2000@aol.com or call 413 320 2841.

Remembering Bill Buchanan

Long-time club member Bill Buchanan passed away on March 22. He was a regular at meetings and on club trips for many years. Birding was but one part of his fascinating and highly accomplished life. We will miss him. His obituary is at <http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com/notices/William-BuchananJr>.

That's all for this month.

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

David Peake-Jones, Editor
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