



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 35, No. 4
December 2018

As per usual, the December newsletter is too chock-full to allow for the literary ramblings of this itinerant birder: The extravaganza that is the annual members' meeting, the high adventure of the 85th Christmas Bird Count, the HBC member directory, a call for trip leaders, a potluck plea, and the third edition of the Cape Ann Winter Ramble... I'm exhausted just thinking about it all. But fear not: For those enquiring minds, the details are all here. Read on, gentle readers, read on.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, December 10 at 7:15 p.m.

The Hampshire Bird Club presents

The Annual Members' Meeting

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

Join the Hampshire Bird Club for an evening of planning for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count season, plus a series of mini-presentations from members about recent (or not so recent!) interesting experiences from hither and yon, for the most part bird-related.

If you're a member and want to present at the meeting, please keep your presentations to 10-20 images, in PowerPoint format on a flash drive, and contact Geoff LeBaron/Program Chair in advance.

COMING PROGRAMS

January 14, 2019. Fred Baumgarten, Mount Holyoke College. Who's Buried in Audubon's Tomb? The Artist, the Musician, and the Birds of America.

February 11, 2019. Bruce Beehler. North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring.

March 11, 2019. Isabel Brofsky, M.Sc. candidate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Farmland Bird Research in the Connecticut River Valley.

April 8, 2019. Sam Fried. Birding Honduras.

May 13, 2019. John Van de Graaff. Spirits of Spring: Warblers and More.

June 10, 2019. Tom Ricardi. Raptor Rehabilitation. Our local raptor rehab expert brings his knowledge, his experiences, and his raptors!

Field Trips December 2018 – January 2019

Please contact leaders if a phone number or email is listed at least two days in advance of the trip (if possible) to register and if you have any questions. Activity level is indicated as E/easy, M/moderate, S/strenuous. It's always wise to bring snacks and dress appropriately. If you want to keep a list of birds seen during the field trips, Mass Audubon has checklists for each of their sanctuaries and these can also be used as trip lists (<https://massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/birds-birding/bird-checklists>). Finally, at all times, whether on a trip with or without a leader, please follow the American Birding Association guidelines dictating ethical birding behavior (<https://hampshirebirdclub.org/aba-code-of-ethics/>) and those on our website regarding field trips (<http://hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/>). Thank you.
Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator

December

Sunday, December 16. The 85th Annual MANO Christmas Bird Count. All day. Join area birders today to count as many species of birds as possible from midnight to midnight December 16, 2018. You can spend the entire day or part of the day looking for our feathered friends. Beginners are welcome and age is no barrier for enjoying being in the outdoors. You can even participate by counting birds at your feeder as long as it is within the CBC circle. If you have not already signed up, please contact Janice Jorgensen or Jan Ortiz at cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org to be included.

At the end of the day, bring a dish to share at the Potluck Dinner to be held at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, 845 West Street, Amherst, MA beginning at 4:30 p.m. After enjoying the good food and camaraderie of fellow participants, we will tally the species discovered. With luck, maybe one (or more) of our teams will have found a rare bird!

For more information go the CBC section on our website; it's under field trips.

January

Sunday, January 13, 6:00 a.m. The Third Annual Cape Ann Winter Ramble. All day. Aidan Griffiths makes his triumphant return from the halls of higher learning to co-lead the HBC to birding greatness on the chilly shores of Cape Ann. Join Aidan and Devin for a day of searching the coast for ducks, alcids, gulls, and the near-certain appearance of something odd, unusual, or downright rare. Bring snacks/lunch and dress for the weather (many layers). Contact Devin (413-323-8417) for meeting place or further information. **Note:** This trip is limited, so please get in touch ASAP if you're interested. (M)

Call for field trips

If anyone is willing to lead a field trip during the January to April months, please let me know at carardeusz@hampshirebirdclub.org. If you include your phone number, I will call you for information about the day. Otherwise, please include date, start and end time, meeting place, how strenuous the trip is, target birds, birding locations to cover, and if it's limited to HBC members. At this point, nothing is scheduled. Please include FIELD TRIPS in the Subject line so your email doesn't get deleted. Thank you.

THE 85th ANNUAL MANO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The hour grows late; the CBC is almost upon us. There are birds, and they must be counted. As part of an elite team of dedicated birders, your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to scour the greater Northampton area and surrounding environs for those hardiest of birds that thrive in the icy grip of a New England winter. This mission is fraught with peril: You may face extreme cold, birder-swallowing snow drifts, flocks of silhouetted songbirds flying away from you into the sun, and countless inanimate objects posing as count-circle rarities. Not all of you will make it, but those who do will be rewarded with a sumptuous feast, the chance to regale fellow survivors with tales of bravery and triumph, and the right to tell generations of younger birders that yes, you were there for the 85th Annual MANO CBC.

CBC ROUND-UP

The Christmas Bird Count is too grand to be contained within a single day. For those who want to take on the ultimate challenge, a week of bird counting awaits.

Saturday 12-15, Athol (Dave Small, Dave@dhsml.net) & Springfield (George Kingston, gcking@yahoo.com); Berkshire North (Pam Weatherbee, pambweath@gmail.com) & Central (Holly Higinbotham, higinbo@hotmail.com)

Sunday 12-16, NoHo (Jan Ortiz & Janice Jorgensen, cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org)

Tuesday 12-18, Sturbridge (Mark Lynch, moa.lynch@verizon.net)

Saturday 12-22, Cobble Mountain (Westfield), (Janice Zepko, jzepko@comcast.net)

Saturday 12-29, Quabbin (Scott Surner, ssurner@aol.com)

Sunday 12-30, Greenfield (Mark Fairbrother, bogelfin@crocker.com)

Tuesday 1-1, Berkshire South (Rene Wendell, renewendell@hotmail.com)

Saturday 1-5, Westminster (Chuck Caron, caronenv@aol.com)

CHRISTMAS COUNT POTLUCK

After the Northampton Christmas Count, please gather for a hearty and delicious potluck, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center. It's a fun time, fine food, and we get to hear the reports from all the teams. We still need items in all categories: main dishes, salads, desserts, and beverages. If you can contribute food or drink, please contact Lissa Ganter, lissa.ganter@gmail.com, or 413-253-1337. We also need a few helpers for an hour or so the day before (Saturday), to help set up the tables. Hope to hear from you!

HBC CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The newly-formed Conservation Committee held its first meeting on Monday, November 26 at the Hitchcock Center. Eleven of 14 members were in attendance; initial goals of the committee are to develop a mission statement, identify areas of concern/priority, and outline necessary tasks or actions that may be helpful in our conservation efforts. If you have questions or ideas, you can reach the committee at conservation@hampshirebirdclub.org.

HMANA NEEDS YOU!

The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) is looking for birders with an interest in and ability to identify raptors who want to take on annual winter driving surveys looking for raptors. Nora Hanke, previously of Southampton, founded a survey in the Connecticut River Valley of Western Mass. in the winter of 2013-2014 and conducted 3-4 surveys per season through last year. Having left the state, she is looking for a person to take ownership of this survey. The route is 49 miles long, starting in Northampton and finishing in Hatfield. She conducted it on dates from early December through February, each survey taking a full day. The survey is run along the same route, in the same direction, in weather conducive to observations: no persistent fog or precipitation, for example. Ideally the same group of 2-4 persons conducts each survey, and for a person wishing to perform only 1 survey/year, HMANA requests a January date is selected. To participate, at least the leader must be a HMANA member, which involves modest annual dues and entitles the member to a number of resources including their twice-yearly print journal, Hawk Migration Studies. Nora is available to provide assistance and answer questions regarding this project: nhanke@mail.com, 413-219-7584.

That's all for this month.

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

Devin C. Griffiths, Editor

323-8417

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