



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

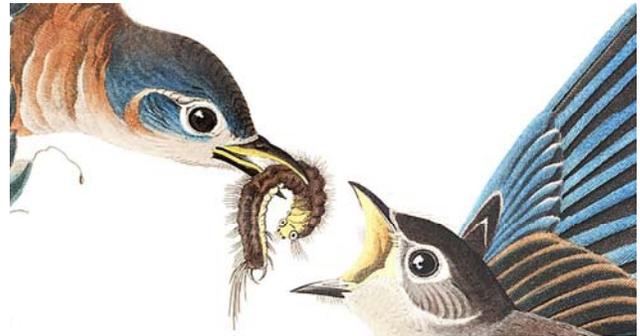
www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 36, No. 3

**November 2019**

Dear reader, I received an email from a friend a couple of weeks ago. He wrote to tell me about a wonderful gift from the National Audubon Society of which I was unaware. On the society's website one can download high-resolution scans of all of the 435 prints in the Havell edition of John James Audubon's *Birds of America*. Not only are the images available, but also are the descriptions written by Audubon about his illustrations. His text is florid in the style of a 19<sup>th</sup> century naturalist.

The image to the right is a small piece of Audubon's illustration of the Eastern Bluebird (or Blue-bird as he called it). I hope you can see the detail that is available, down to fine pen and brush strokes. About the Blue-bird Audubon writes "This lovely bird is found in all parts of our country, and is generally a permanent resident of the Southern States. It adds to the delight imparted by spring, and enlivens the dull days of winter. Full of innocent vivacity, warbling its ever pleasing notes, and familiar as any bird can be in its natural freedom, it is one of the most agreeable of our feathered favourites." He has much more to say and he even includes information about the Great Mullein that he includes in his illustration. You can see a bit of it just below the male's throat.



To access the digital version of *Birds of America*, visit <https://www.audubon.org/birds-of-america>. Enjoy!

## **NEXT PROGRAM**

**Monday, November 11 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Heidi Stemple tells us about**

**Counting Birds: Introducing Kids to the CBC**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

Heidi Stemple is an author and the daughter of a birder—both of which are equally important. Early on, she was in the woods with her father David Stemple. She participated in the CBC with him and took over his owling territory after his death. She writes for children, often about nature and birds. Her new book *COUNTING BIRDS* follows the Audubon Christmas Bird Count from its first year through today. Join Heidi as she talks about writing about birds for kids, the importance of exploring nature with children, even ones who don't have a yard or a trusted adult to bring them out into it, and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. This talk is appropriate for adults and children. Books will be available for purchase.

Heidi lives and writes on a big old farm in Massachusetts that she shares with two cats who live inside, and a dozen deer, a family of bears, three coyotes, two bobcats, a gray fox, tons of birds, and some very fat groundhogs who live outside. Once a year she calls owls for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**December 9, 2019. HBC Members' Meeting.** Celebrate the season with photos of the birds we've found both far and wide and right here at home. Bring your photos to share with other club members who will be munching on cookies and other goodies.

**January 13, 2020. Brian Rusnica.** Mount Watatic Hawk Watching.

**February 10, 2020. Susannah Lehrman.** Topic to be announced.

**March 9, 2020. Joan Walsh.** Topic to be announced.

## NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Established in 1900, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the *longest running citizen science survey in North America*. The Northampton CBC count circle (MANO) has had participants counting birds for nearly nine decades and the HBC has been part of the count over its own 35 year history! In recent years approximately 200 volunteers have surveyed the MANO circle that is 15 miles in diameter centered in Hadley, to identify and count anything with feathers and a pulse. There are 36 separate areas within the Northampton count circle, each of which is covered by one or multiple teams of volunteers. All results are tallied by count compilers and submitted to the National Audubon Society. These data are incorporated into a comprehensive data base that supports very important research like the [State of the Birds](#) report and the National Audubon Society's [Birds and Climate Change](#) report.

The 2019 Northampton (MANO) Christmas Bird Count will take place on **December 15, 2019**. If you would like to participate in the count, please contact the MANO organizers Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz at [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org). You can join a team in the field or do a feeder count if the feeder is within the count circle. Anyone can participate.

The CBC is a fun day of birding. Every bird you hear and see counts. Our overall goal for the day is to count at least 89 species.

**We need a leader for Area 35!** Each area leader must be a very good birder, be organized to direct the team to cover all sections of the area, enjoy birding with companions, be willing to complete the required forms for the area, and be able to submit the forms during the compilation at the end of the day of the count. Area leaders help participants who are new to the CBC to participate in the count.

So what is next? Email [cbc@hampshirebirdclub.com](mailto:cbc@hampshirebirdclub.com) about your interest in joining the CBC or leading Area 35. We welcome all who are interested.

Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz

## CHRISTMAS COUNT POTLUCK

After the Northampton Christmas Count, please gather for a hearty and delicious potluck dinner, 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. For the potluck, we need main courses, salads, desserts, and beverages. If you can contribute food or drink, please contact Lissa Ganter, [lissa.ganter@gmail.com](mailto: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!

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, November 2, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Fort River Refuge.** Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), Laura Beltran, Jim Lafley and Janice Jorgensen in the lower parking lot at the Refuge, 69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley to look for late Fall migrants. (E/M)

**Sunday, November 3, 6:30 a.m., Donut Run to the Berkshire Lakes.** We will hit most of the lakes in Berkshire County. Leave Stop and Shop in NORTHAMPTON (228 King Street) at 6:30 a.m. We will try to be back about 4:15 p.m. LEADER Tom Gagnon 413-584-6353. Registration required. (E)

**Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 a.m., Leader's Choice.** Join Scott Surner ([ssurner@aol.com](mailto:ssurner@aol.com)) as he looks for Fall migrants. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

**Saturday, November 16 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Chris Ellison Memorial East Quabbin Reservoir.** This late season trip will search for ducks, loons, and northern finches. LIMITED participation. Please sign up early. Dress for cold weather. You MUST be a member of the Hampshire Bird Club. Contact Craig Allen 413-467-3028 or [allenec2@juno.com](mailto:allenec2@juno.com) to sign up and learn the meeting place. (M)

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

**Fort River Refuge with George Regmund, Jim Lafley, Janice Jorgensen, and Laura Beltran.**

On October 19, 18 participants joined the leaders on a trip through the Sylvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge at Fort River in Hadley. The temperature was in the 30's in the morning with fog in the air, but the fog cleared and the sun came out just as we started down the trail. Our group found 33 bird species including five Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, 22 White-Throated Sparrows and one Savannah Sparrow. The highlight was a nice, clear, open group view of a late migrant, a **Black-Throated Green Warbler**. The full species list for the trip can be found at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S60753719>.

Stephanie Chapko

## HELP WITH HBC MEETINGS SETUP

We are grateful for the many members who, over the years, have volunteered to help get the room in shape before and after our monthly meetings! Our thanks to several new members, Tom, Ruth, and Ellie, who have come forward this year to help with chairs setup and the refreshment table. And thanks especially to Meghadeepa, another new member, who provides AV technical support. We are still seeking storage space between meetings for our AV equipment. If you can offer space, or if you would like to be part of the set up team, please contact Lissa Ganter, [lissa.ganter@gmail.com](mailto:lissa.ganter@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

*Our Living Building Tour Program*

with Jessica Schultz

Fridays at 4pm: November 1, December 6

Wednesdays at 12pm: November 20, December 18

FREE but please [register online](#)

Come meet our newest educator – our Certified Living Building! It is designed to model systems in nature, it is net zero energy, net zero water, has composting toilets, and has been made with responsibly sourced non-toxic materials, come check it out at one of our bi-monthly tours. Tours typically last from 1-1.5 hours.

*Landscape and Infrastructure: Re-imagining the Pastoral Paradigm Book Release*

with author Meg Vickery

Thursday, November 7, 7 – 8:30pm

Light refreshments served

FREE, [registration appreciated](#)

In her new book local author and lecturer of the History of Art and Architecture Meg Vickery traces the roots and uncovers the significance of the productive activities and elements of pastoral traditions in art and designed landscapes, clearly documenting the persistent and sometimes difficult relationship of aesthetics and production. With rising demand for clean energy, clean water, and locally-grown food, this study offers a historical perspective on how such systems can be integrated into our suburban and urban areas. Vestigial elements of the pastoral tradition have long held aesthetic sway in our suburbs, cities and national parks, both in Britain and America. Now, as new energy- and water-related projects encroach on these spaces, remnants of the pastoral play a crucial role in convincing neighborhood residents, municipal leaders, and energy companies or water authorities of the benefits of a neighboring infrastructure. This book investigates the history of that tradition and highlights the advantages it brings as we re-imagine infrastructure in the twenty-first century.

*November: The Subtle One — Slideshow and Nature Walk*

with John Green

Sunday, November 10, 1 – 3pm

Space is limited, \$8 suggested donation.

[Register at the HCE website](#)

Naturalist and photographer John Green loves November, sees beauty in the month of fallen leaves and temperatures. Come join him for his slideshow “November: The Subtle One” followed by a nature walk seeking the little marvels that still abound in the lessening light.

*New England Forests Film: Eastern White Pine – The Tree Rooted in American History*

Wednesday, December 4, 7 – 8:30pm,

Screening followed by panel with filmmakers Ray Asselin and Bob Leverett, [registration appreciated](#)

In colonial American times, stately eastern white pines were among the most valuable trees on the planet. They were an imposing presence in the primeval forests of eastern North America. This new documentary film tells the story of our native white pine, and the significant part it played in America’s founding and history, using archival footage, stunning photography, and aerial views. It also answers such questions as:

- Why *were* these pines so valuable?
- How were these pines important to the lives of the first settlers?
- What role did they play in the the American War of Independence, and founding of the US?
- What is the status of this great tree species today?
- How is it important to wildlife?
- Why is walking among white pines in the forest *good for you*?
- What is the tallest living thing in the northeastern United States?
- Is there any hope of seeing these trees as they once were, 400 years ago?

Find the answers to these questions and more in the newest film by the makers of The Lost Forests of New England, *Eastern White Pine ... the tree rooted in American history*. [Learn more](#) and [watch the trailer](#).

That’s all for this month. **Please send us your membership renewal NOW if you haven’t yet done so!**

Dave Gross, Editor

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