



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
www.hampshirebirdclub.org
Volume 36, No. 1
September 2019

Dear reader, I find myself writing this brief editorial on a gloomy, humid day in late August. The Rubythroats have been chattering outside, chasing each other in preparation, no doubt, to take off on their long journey south in another few weeks. Another end, and beginning, to the cycle of life that has been unfolding long before me and will continue long after. At least that's the hope. I saw in today's newspaper that last year ABC World News Tonight had more coverage of the first week of Prince Archie Mountbatten-Windsor's life than it had in covering the looming climate catastrophe in all of 2018. We need to do better than that. And to that end, numerous newspapers, magazines, radio and TV news programs, and blogs around the country and the world will have a week of climate coverage in a collective effort called Covering Climate Now. So pick up the newspaper, listen to NPR, tune in to CBS News, or read The Nation during the week of September 16-23 to join the 100 million+ consumers of this important reporting. And then let our politicians know that things need to change now!

In case you hadn't noticed, the group of volunteers that cheekily calls itself the HBC Board has undergone substantial change since last club year. There are several new officers who were identified in the June, 2019 newsletter. That you can find at the club's website (hampshirebirdclub.org/newsletter/). Please let one of the board members know if you are interested in helping out with club activities. And don't forget to have some fun searching for our avian buddies while you are doing all this other stuff.

Desperately seeking Jaap 2.0!

As you may know, our dedicated AV specialist Jaap Van Heerden has hung up his audio cables and no longer is available to set up the HBC sound system prior to our meetings. The HBC Board is in great need of assistance from someone with some AV experience (or someone who is willing to learn) to take over for Jaap. The job entails pre-meeting set up (usually around 4:30 PM on the day of the meeting), help at the start of the meeting, and post-meeting break down of the equipment. If you are willing and able to help the HBC, please contact the HBC Board at board@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Please Join or Renew Your Membership NOW.

- Your **membership status** is shown on the cover page. Check to see if you owe dues this year.
- Complete the **Membership Form (both sides)**: your contact details, dues level (if owed), Newsletter delivery preference, participation interests, Field Trip Agreement, and Rare Bird Alert sign up (latter optional). Don't forget the Field Trip Agreement and Rare Bird Alert (optional) on the reverse side.
- Mail Form** with check enclosed for dues and/or donation (if applicable) to the address on the Membership Form,
- Online Renewal** is an option should you owe dues this year. Go to the secure HBC website, <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/shop/>, select your dues level, and proceed to checkout where you will complete the Membership Form and make payment.

**Our first program for this year, featuring DAVID SIBLEY, is on MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9 (details p. 2)
The Fall Field Trip Schedule is enclosed, too!**

NEXT PROGRAM
Monday, September 9 at 7:15 p.m.
David Sibley tells us about
Birds Being Birds

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

We watch birds because of their intrinsic appeal, but the hobby of birding tends to be superficial. We identify birds and admire their appearance and sounds. In this talk, author and artist David Sibley goes beyond identification to focus on the incredible adaptations that help birds survive each day. Their abilities border on magical. Birds can balance on an unsteady twig even while they sleep. They can fly over the Himalayas. They “see” the earth’s magnetic field. In some ways their experiences are beyond our comprehension, but there is also a lot that we share. Even a small glimpse of the world from a bird’s perspective can help us go beyond appreciation and towards an understanding of its life.

Among birders [David Sibley](#) needs little introduction. The son of an academic ornithologist, he has been studying, drawing, and painting birds since his age was in single digits. He wrote and illustrated the [Sibley Guide to Birds](#), considered by many the premier field guide to the birds of the US and Canada. He has authored or contributed to many other books including [Sibley’s Birding Basics](#) and [The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior](#). He delivered the talk “Birds Being Birds” this past May at The Biggest Week in American Birding to a sold-out crowd.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 21, 2019. Laura Erickson. Winter Survival.

November. TBA.

December 9, 2019. HBC Members’ Meeting. Celebrate the Christmas Bird count with photos of the birds we’ve found both far and wide and right here at home.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Update

HBC’s Conservation Committee has been on hiatus for the summer, waiting for this moment to resurrect new interest and enthusiasm from new members. The committee formed last Fall after the new By-law changed our mission statement to include the goal of conserving birds and bird habitat in addition to the enjoyment of birding. The two are linked of course.

During this short time, the committee sent a letter supporting the efforts of Fort River’s Save Our Swallows (SOS) that was shared with our state politicians as well as the Association of Massachusetts Bird Clubs (18 state-wide, meeting 3 times a year) who in turn also endorsed SOS’s efforts to save the stables for the swallows, sending the committee’s letter to their club members and those in positions of decision-making.

The committee also passed a mission statement to work for the benefit of Hampshire County’s grassland birds. The intention is to continue this effort both with advocacy and hands-on projects. Contact was made with Amherst’s Conservation Commission and Audubon’s Arcadia to explore working collaboratively with them and other local like-minded groups. Hopefully this effort will now go forward. The wet spring did put a damper on some of the committee’s hands-on projects.

If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Sharon Dombeck, the current committee facilitator at sdombeck@hampshirebirdclub.org. A sign-up sheet will also be available at the program meeting on Sept. 9. Feel free to ask questions.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Mission

The Education Committee is looking to develop school presentations, senior walks and programs, live bird interactions (captive and wild), visits to raptor centers, falconry demonstrations, boy & girl scout merit badge events, member workshops... in fact ANY activities that will bring the wonder of birds to new people. You can contribute with your donation (via the Membership Form) and by sharing your ideas with the committee. You can reach them at education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Sally Venman was the first HBC newsletter editor and a co-founder of the club. She had a sharp sense of humor and was a great birder. This short, one-act play is a remembrance of Sally, based on an actual conversation in the field on an HBC trip to Cape May about two decades ago. (At least how I remember the conversation.)

A group with the trip co-leaders Scott and Tom is staring at the ground on a path at the edge of a field. Sally walks up to the group.

Sally: What are you looking at?

Tom: A hawk-kill.

There are a few feathers and a bit of gore on the ground. The group peers intently at the mess.

Scott: We're trying to figure out what the bird is.

Tom pokes at the remains.

Tom: I think it's a Flicker.

The group peers in closely and nods in approval.

Sally: Yes, but what was the species of hawk?

Curtain down.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Hawk Watch

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Skinner State Park

Join Dave King, U.S. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, and Dan Ziomek, host of the long-running show "Bird Songs" on 93.9 The River, for this year's Hawk Watch on the summit of Mount Holyoke.

Dave and Dan will provide an introduction to the hawks and other raptors that we see in our region and how to identify them. They will also discuss the ecology of hawks from nesting to migration, as well as about conservation efforts that aim to support hawks and other bird species, including the American kestrel. Heavy rain cancels. This event is co-hosted by Kestrel Land Trust.

Second Annual Pollinator Celebration Day

Saturday, September 14, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Events and activities for the whole family will include a pollinator scavenger hunt and a monarch migration obstacle course. Jennifer Unkles' monarch butterfly citizen science program will teach you to tag monarchs, keep track of them and contribute to a growing body of data that helps us understand monarch migration.

Monarch Tagging

Thursday, September 19, 4:00 - 6:00 pm and Friday, September 20, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Help with this ongoing citizen science project and get up close and personal with Monarch butterflies. The last 2 years have been good for Monarchs! Fun for all ages. with Jennifer Unkles, Monarch tagger since 1997. May go offsite on Sunday.

Fall Birding Class

September 25—6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Join Scott Sumner in all his favorite fall birding spots. This course will consist of 4 Wednesday evening classes and 10 field trips to exciting spots locally and throughout New England. The four evening classes will be held on Wednesday evenings at the Hitchcock Center, starting at 6:30 pm and generally end around 8pm. Dates: September 25, October 16, October 30, and November 13. Field trips will be held on Saturdays, times vary, September 28-November 24.

Broad Brook Coalition

Insect Tracks and Signs

Charley Eiseman

Saturday, Sept. 21 (rain date Sun. 9/22), 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area, North Farms Road entrance.

Insects are extremely specialized in their habits, and because of this it is often possible to learn which ones are around us just by noticing the characteristic patterns and objects they create as they go about their lives. Participants will search for signs such as egg cases, cocoons, webs, burrows, droppings, galls, leaf mines, and the various ways insects nibble, fold, roll, and tie leaves. Learning about insects through studying these signs will give participants a new appreciation for their complexity, diversity, and interrelationships with other living things.

Charley is a freelance naturalist based in western Massachusetts and conducts plant and wildlife surveys throughout New England. He is the lead author of the field guide *Tracks & Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates* and writes an insect themed blog, “BugTracks.”

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Hilltown Rambles. May 25 with Bob Zimmermann and Dave Gross

Bob and Dave went with seven other birders to several locations around the Hilltowns. Though the morning was cool, the day quickly warmed to shirtsleeve weather. At the first stop at Graves Farm in Williamsburg we saw 42 avian species including 9 of warblers. A **Scarlet Tanager** was particularly difficult to see (think warbler neck times ten), and a very vocal **Winter Wren** sang to us while we were watching Barn and Tree Swallows flycatching in a nearby field. Other stops on the trip included one in Worthington on Radiker Road where we didn't see the resident Sandhill Cranes, but where we did see a nice group of Common Mergansers. Later at the Cummington marsh we saw a Sharp-shinned and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** along with Swamp and, surprisingly, **Chipping Sparrows**. Near the Cummington Fairground we heard and the saw an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**. After a lunch/coffee break at the Cummington Creamery, we toodled up Spruce Corner Road for Alder Flycatcher and then headed on out to the Moran Wildlife Refuge in Windsor, but by then the birds had settled in for their afternoon siesta. For the day we saw or heard 69 species and had a lovely time rambling through the Hilltowns.

Dave Gross

That's all for this month. **Please send us your membership renewal NOW!**

Dave Gross, Editor

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Field Trips September 2019—December 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

Monday/Tuesday, September 16-17, Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Trip postponed to Spring 2020.

Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 a.m., Sparrows in Hadley and Environs. Join Scott Sumner (ssurner@aol.com) as he looks for sparrows in and around Hadley, Amherst, and Northampton. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

Saturday Morning, October 19, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), 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)

Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 a.m., Leader's Choice. Join Scott Sumner (ssurner@aol.com) as he looks for Fall migrants. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

Wednesday, October 23, 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fort River Refuge. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and has occasional benches for resting. Meet George Regmund (413-255-0628), 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 All Day, October 27, 7:15 a.m., Turners Falls Halloween Birding Trip. Join Josh Rose as he leads his annual trip to Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and other birding spots in the area of Northfield to Turners Falls in his annual trek through the northern Connecticut River Valley. Meet at the parking area for the Power Canal on Migratory Way in Tuners Falls. Please email Josh (jrose@hampshirebirdclub.org) to register. (E/M)

Saturday, November 2, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Fort River Refuge. The entire Fort River Trail is fully accessible, including boardwalks and has occasional benches for resting. 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 Sumner (ssurner@aol.com) as he looks for Fall migrants. Meet at Stop & Shop (456 Russell St., Hadley). Registration required. (E)

Sunday, December 15, MANO Northampton Christmas Count. Contact Janice Jorgensen (cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org) if you would like to participate in this yearly event. Contribute to science and enjoy the company of fellow birders. (E/M)

As of August 2 through the end of October there will not be public access for birders or photographers to That's A Plenty Farm in Hadley as they are conducting a bumble bee study at the location in conjunction with UMass. Please honor the request to avoid the site so that we as a group do not negatively impact the study or jeopardize access to this great spot in the future.

Date Received	Payment: ___cash ___check ___online	Trip Release?	Newsletter Del.	Date Entered
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HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2019-2020

Use this form to join, renew, or update. The club membership year is October 1 – September 30.

If you wish to pay by credit card, you may join or renew online at our secure site, <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/shop/>

For questions, please contact: membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

Please note that contact information may be shared with other members of the club, unless you request otherwise.

CONTACT INFORMATION	NEWSLETTER: How do you want to receive your issues?
Name(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> By email link to download from HBC website.
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> By U.S. postal mail.
City, State, Zip:	PLEASE CHECK ANY ACTIVITIES OR WAYS IN WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE (THANK YOU!)
Home Phone: Cell/Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally provide refreshments
Email(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Field Trips
May we publish your contact information in the fall club directory sent to other members?	<input type="checkbox"/> Share information on birding locations/networks
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Serve on a committee:
May we contact you via email with time-sensitive information such as cancellations, impromptu trips, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments committee
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> Education committee
	<input type="checkbox"/> Field trips committee
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation committee
	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting room (chairs) set up committee
	<input type="checkbox"/> Share your skills (Financial or database management; AV, computer or web technology; editorial; graphics; ornithology; environmental education; consider serving on the HBC Board) Other? Please specify:

Please choose a level of membership below. All membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

MEMBERSHIP – REGULAR	
Student @ \$ 5.00	\$
Individual @ \$ 18.00	\$
Family @ \$ 30.00	\$
MEMBERSHIP – SUPPORTING	
Downy Woodpecker @ \$ 40.00	\$
Northern Flicker @ \$ 60.00	\$
Red-Bellied Woodpecker @ \$ 100.00	\$
Pileated Woodpecker @ \$ 250 or more	\$
OUTREACH ACTIVITY (Optional)	
Donate to Education Activity (Optional)	\$

Please make checks payable to the **Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.** Bring to the next meeting, or mail to:
Hampshire Bird Club, P.O. Box 716, Amherst MA 01004-0716

On reverse side: Field Trip Release (required for away trips); and Rare Bird Alert sign-up (optional) →

FIELD TRIP RELEASE AGREEMENT

Required if you will participate in field trips.

We need members to share responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others during field trips. The signed release will be filed with the club secretary. For family memberships, all participating members should sign.

Release Of All Demands - Hold Harmless

I hereby acknowledge that as a participant in field trips with the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. (HBC) I may be exposed to significant risks. These may include, but are not limited to, vehicular travel over land and water, foot travel over difficult terrain, and hazardous weather conditions. I may also encounter poisonous plants, dangerous wildlife, and/or disease-carrying insects. In the event of injury, I understand that I may face considerable delays in reaching professional medical help.

I/we fully accept these risks and agree to hold the Hampshire Bird Club, Inc., its officers, directors, volunteers, employees, and agents free from any and all liability for injuries and/or loss which I/we may incur, directly or indirectly, while on field trips run by HBC within one (1) year of the date below.

EXECUTED freely and voluntarily this day:,,
(day, month, year)

All participating family members, please sign and print name:

- 1) *Signature* *print name*
- 2) *Signature* *print name*
- 3) *Signature* *print name*

RARE BIRD ALERT SIGN UP: Optional

The Rare Bird Alert is an optional email-only alert system for members that informs you when and where rare birds are sighted in the valley, or, in some cases, the broader region. To automatically receive all RBA announcements, participants must provide at least one (1) active email address. And please also let us know if your email changes! Thank you.

To join here:

I would like to receive RBA alerts . Email address/es (1) _____
(2) _____

To join online:

Provide your name/s and email address/es to membership@hampshirebirdclub.org