



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
Amherst, Massachusetts
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January is a great time to be a birder (really, though, when isn't it?); we review the previous year, celebrating the birds we saw and lamenting those who got away. And we get to start anew, clearing our year lists and beginning again, tabula rasa, the new year rife with possibility. Never again will we find Chickadees, House Sparrows, Starlings, and Titmice so exciting.

But perhaps we should. After all, all of these birds—and dozens more of our yearly regulars—are lives full of vitality and promise, each one a triumph and all deserving of recognition and respect. A Chickadee in April, a House Finch in September, a Canada Goose in December... all these are testaments to survival, to the continued primacy of life over death. That we should chance to cross paths with them is cause for celebration indeed, and perhaps a moment's reflection as well. In our excitement to pad our lists, we would do well to pause and appreciate the lives before us and remind ourselves that, rather than tally marks on paper, it's the love of birds that drives us.

NEXT PROGRAM

Monday, January 14 at 7:15 p.m.

Fred Baumgarten presents

Who's Buried in Audubon's Tomb? The Artist, the Musician, and the Birds of America

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

John James Audubon (1785-1851), the self-described "American Woodsman," became a legend in his lifetime, chiefly on the merits of his massive volume of illustrations, *The Birds of America*. His legacy lives on in the many Audubon Societies dedicated to the protection of birds. Anthony Philip Heinrich (1781-1861), called "the Beethoven of America" by an early admirer, composed an impressive corpus of works, helped found the New York Philharmonic—and died in almost total obscurity, his music known by only a few aficionados.

What did the two men have in common? Lots, as it turns out. Audubon and Heinrich were fascinating, eccentric characters—both immigrants—whose lives were full of false starts and humorous, sometimes heartbreaking anecdotes. Above all, they made themselves into American originals. This presentation is accompanied by Audubon images, rarely heard music by Heinrich, and a trip to the Bourbon Capital of the World.

Fred Baumgarten is a recent immigrant to the Pioneer Valley. He spent 20 years on the staff of the National Audubon Society, where he helped establish the U.S. Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program. A lifelong birder and musician, Fred is currently director of foundation relations and sponsored research at Mount Holyoke College.

COMING PROGRAMS

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!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please contact leaders if a phone number or email is listed at least *two days* in advance of the trip 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

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)

May

Thursday, May 23-Sunday, May 26. Monhegan Island. THREE NIGHTS. Scott Sumner leads the Hampshire Bird Club's pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to 12 Hampshire Bird Club members. Contact Scott (413-256-5438) for information, and Carol Mardeusz (413-467-7279 or camardeusz@yahoo.com) to register or for questions about the cost of the trip. (E/M/S).

FIELD TRIP LEADERS WANTED

Do you like to go birding and have company while doing so? If you've never led a field trip but like to bird and wonder what it takes to become a trip leader, please consider attending a meeting where all of this information will be revealed. Please remember that you don't need to be an expert birder; the only requirement is leading some of us to your favorite birding locations. Once I know who would be interested in this endeavor, I'll set up a meeting. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator (camardeusz@yahoo.com or 413-467-7279).

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

If you are interested in being on this committee, please let me know so that I can set up a time to meet. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Carol Mardeusz, Field Trip Coordinator (camardeusz@yahoo.com or 413-467-7279).

HBC CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The newly-formed Conservation Committee recently held its second meeting on December 17 at the Hitchcock Center. During the meeting, a draft mission statement was proposed—To identify and develop projects to preserve and restore bird habitat in Hampshire County—as well as an initial focus **to preserve and improve habitat for grassland birds in Hampshire county**. Committee members are: Harvey Allen, Denny Baker, Fred Baumgarten, Sharon Dombeck (chair), Rachel Greenwood (currently on hiatus), Susan Hawes, Jan Lamberg, Marcia Merithew, Jeri Moran, Al Richards, Helen Symons, Blythe Wilde, and Fianna Wilde.

The Committee's next meeting is **Monday, January 21, 7 p.m. at the Hitchcock Center**. If you have questions or ideas, you can reach the committee at conservation@hampshirebirdclub.org.

VALLEY FAMILY BIRD FESTIVAL

This year's Festival takes place on Saturday, May 4 at MAS Arcadia Sanctuary in Easthampton from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Festival is co-sponsored by the Hampshire Bird Club. Tom Ricardi will be offering a program and there will also be bird banding, bird walks, bird crafts, and activities. Contact Patti Steinman at 413-584-3009 or psteinman@massaudubon.org for more information or to volunteer.

35th ANNIVERSARY PARTY PLANNING HELP

This spring marks the 35th anniversary of the Hampshire Bird Club and we hope to celebrate with an anniversary party free for the Membership. It's certain to be a good time, but we could use some help planning the event. If you have experience or just would like to have fun helping out we welcome you to join us. Contact Stephen Baker at treasurer@hampshirebirdclub.org to join our party committee.

85th NOHO CBC POT LUCK

Thanks abound to the *many* HBC members and friends who contributed to making this year's CBC Pot Luck another success. We're grateful for those who came on Saturday to help with set up, including the Hitchcock Center staff; for those who brought the varied and delicious array of foods & beverages; and for those who helped wrap it all up at the end of the day. Thank you!

That's all for this month.

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

Devin C. Griffiths, Editor

323-8417

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

85th MANO CBC RESULTS

| Number | | Species |
|--------|----|------------------------|
| 4888 | | Canada Goose |
| 6 | | Mute Swan |
| 1 | | Wood Duck |
| 4 | | dabbling duck sp |
| 190 | | American Black Duck |
| 927 | | Mallard |
| 1 | | Northern Pintail |
| 165 | HC | Common Goldeneye |
| 51 | | Hooded Merganser |
| 228 | HC | Common Merganser |
| 4 | | Ring-necked Pheasant |
| 235 | HC | Wild Turkey |
| 628 | | Rock Pigeon |
| 1573 | | Mourning Dove |
| 248 | | Ring-billed Gull |
| 15 | | Herring Gull |
| 32 | | gull sp |
| 14 | | Great Blue Heron |
| 12 | | Bald Eagle adult |
| 6 | HC | Bald Eagle immature |
| 2 | | Northern Harrier adult |
| 2 | | Northern Harrier-imm |
| 13 | | Sharp-shinned Hawk |
| 26 | | Cooper's Hawk |
| 125 | | Red-tailed Hawk |
| 57 | | Eastern Screech-Owl |
| 15 | | Great Horned Owl |
| 26 | | Barred Owl |
| 14 | | Belted Kingfisher |
| 170 | | Red-bellied |
| 4 | | Yell-bellied Sapsucker |
| 340 | | Downy Woodpecker |
| 99 | | Hairy Woodpecker |
| 55 | | Northern Flicker |
| 28 | | Pileated Woodpecker |
| 4 | | American Kestrel |
| 7 | | Peregrine Falcon |
| 690 | | Blue Jay |
| 2183 | HC | American Crow |
| 7 | HC | Fish Crow |
| 33 | | Common Raven |
| 163 | | Horned Lark |
| 1434 | | Black-capped |
| 426 | | Tufted Titmouse |
| 11 | | Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| 368 | | White-breasted |
| 30 | | Brown Creeper |
| 8 | | Winter Wren |

| Number | | Species |
|--------|--|------------------------|
| 74 | | Carolina Wren |
| 56 | | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 206 | | Eastern Bluebird |
| 4 | | Hermit Thrush |
| 905 | | American Robin |
| 1 | | Grey Catbird |
| 74 | | Northern Mockingbird |
| 6456 | | European Starling |
| 496 | | Cedar Waxwing |
| 1348 | | House Sparrow |
| 652 | | House Finch |
| 31 | | Purple Finch |
| 834 | | American Goldfinch |
| 499 | | American Tree Sparrow |
| 3 | | Field Sparrow |
| 6 | | Savannah Sparrow |
| 2 | | Fox Sparrow |
| 296 | | Song Sparrow |
| 4 | | Swamp Sparrow |
| 679 | | White-throated Sparrow |
| 12 | | White-crowned Sparrow |
| 1511 | | Dark-eyed Junco |
| 8 | | Red-winged Blackbird |
| 5 | | Common Grackle |
| 153 | | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 596 | | Northern Cardinal |

| Unusual Species | | |
|-----------------|----|------------------------------|
| 3 | | Snow Goose |
| 1 | | Red-breasted |
| cw | | Turkey Vulture |
| 1 | | Northern Saw-whet Owl |
| 1 | | Northern Shrike |
| 1 | | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| 1 | | Common Redpoll |
| 21 | | Pine Siskin |
| cw | | Evening Grosbeak |
| 1 | | Lapland Longspur |
| 1 | | Palm Warbler |
| 4 | HC | Yellow-rumped Warbler |

CW-species recorded during Count week.
US-Unusual
species are boldfaced - number and
name. LC-low count HC-Highest Count
ever

Janice Jorgensen and Jan Ortiz, Compilers

| Number | Mammals |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 5 | Eastern Cottontail |
| 18 | Coyote |
| 58 | White-tailed Deer |
| 44 | Red Squirrel |
| 348 | Gray Squirrel (Gray morph |
| 2 | Opossum |
| 1 | Chipmunk |
| 19 | Gray Squirrel (Black Morph) |
| 2 | Beaver |
| 2 | Red Fox |
| 1 | River Otter |
| 1 | Vole |
| 1 | Spotted Salamander ...walking |
| 1 | Tick |

| MANO SUMMARY | |
|--|--|
| <u>Individual birds</u> | |
| 78 | Species not including CW birds |
| 30,522 | Total Birds |
| <u>Observers</u> | |
| 153 | Observers in the field |
| 50 | Observers at feeders |
| 27 | Owlers |
| 196 | Participants (Participants are only counted once regardless of what they did: owling and feeder) |
| <u>Daytime:</u> | |
| 54 | Parties |
| 208.85 | Hours on Foot |
| 113.2 | Hours by car |
| 322.05 | Total Party Hours |
| 187.00 | Total Miles on Foot |
| 713.45 | Total Miles by Car |
| 900.45 | Total Party Miles by Foot & by Car |
| <u>Feeders</u> | |
| 86.1 | Feeder Hours |
| 27 | Feeders observed |
| <u>Owling</u> | |
| 11 | Owling parties |
| 30.82 | Owling Hours |
| 156.9 | Owling Miles |
| Midnight | Starting Time |
| 6:30 p.m. | Ending Time |
| Next MANO CBC -- Sunday, December 15, 2019 | |

Save the date: **December 15, 2019** is the next MANO Christmas Bird Count.