



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

[www.hampshirebirdclub.org](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org)

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**June 2019**

Many of you may be wondering what happened to May's newsletter. Perhaps you thought that an encounter with some feathered wonder had so consumed me that I simply ran out of time, or that, like King Pellinore's Questing Beast, some creature had led me on a chase deep into the woods, and I've only now emerged. Or maybe you attributed the oversight to something more sinister, some dark force at work. All plausible scenarios, to be sure, and in the face of my absence, I can hardly take you to task for entertaining such notions.

Fear not, gentle readers. I am quite well—though in the spirit of candor, I must confess to being led into the thickets on more than one occasion of late. No, the reason is far simpler: I was caught off-guard by an incredible opportunity, and after 17 years of calling western Mass home, I'm departing the Bay State for the birding Mecca that is Cape May. I've taken over the position of Marketing and Communications Specialist at The Wetlands Institute, a non-profit research and conservation organization dedicated to protecting the wetlands and shoreline ecosystems of the Delaware Bay and mid-Atlantic coast. It is, for me, the perfect job; in my wildest imaginings, I could hardly have concocted better. But taking it on brings with it a heavy cost: leaving a place I've called home for nearly two decades, and many people who I sincerely love.

Every adventure begins with an ending, closing one chapter and opening another. Cape May worked its magic on our family years ago; I saw my first Northern Wheatear at the state park at the tender age of eight, and a family trip in 2009 firmly set nine-year-old Aidan on his path to birding obsession (much to the eventual dismay of many reputable long-time birders). We've visited Cape May every year since, and it's become a special place for us—one that we've longed to make our home. That dream is now a reality, and we're thrilled.

But this moment is bittersweet, for the Pioneer Valley is another truly special place—one that also worked its magic on us, and that is very difficult to leave. And though I will step boldly, happily into this new adventure, part of me will always remain here among the wonderful birds of western Mass, and with all of you who've made birding—and living—here a pleasure, an honor, and a joy. Thank you for all your kindness, generosity, and support. I will truly miss you all.

And now the siren song of Cape May calls me, at last, home. Listen closely, and you'll hear it too.

Farewell, and good birding. Until we meet again...

**NEXT PROGRAM**  
**Monday, June 10 at 7:15 p.m.**  
**Tom Ricardi presents**  
**Raptor Rehabilitation... with live raptors!**  
 Northampton Country Club, 135 Main Street  
 Leeds, MA 01060

After more than 30 years as a Fish and Wildlife Game Warden, Tom Ricardi launched his western Massachusetts-based raptor rehabilitation facility where he cares for a wide variety of injured birds of prey. A licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Ricardi gives some of our region's most majestic birds a second chance, rehabbing and releasing those he can back into the wild. The birds he can't release become animal ambassadors, traveling with Tom throughout the region as he teaches people of all ages about them, what they need to survive, and why it's critical that we protect them and the habitats in which they live. Join us for what will be an exciting and educational event.

But before that, it's...

## **HBC 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forming of the Hampshire Bird Club. To celebrate this milestone, the club is hosting a catered buffet dinner at the Northampton Country Club for members and their guests. We will commemorate our club's history, honor our wonderful members and volunteers, and toast to the future of the club. There will be a small donation requested for each adult and half for children.

The celebration happens on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM for ticketed attendees, and then the venue will be open to all for our final club meeting of the program year at 7:15—featuring the above-mentioned raptor rehabilitator Tom Ricardi, who will give a presentation with live birds of prey.

We look forward to seeing you!

## **FIELD TRIP NEWS**

**Monday-Tuesday, September 16-17, 2019.** Join Carol Mardeusz on a field trip to the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York for an overnight adventure. Highlights include a tour of the Visitors Center, birding Sapsucker Woods, and a visit to the University's Museum of Vertebrates. You must be a member of Hampshire Bird Club and have signed the Field Trip waiver for the 2019-2020 dues year in order to participate. Contact her after July 1 via email ([camardeusz@yahoo.com](mailto:camardeusz@yahoo.com) and note "Cornell" in the subject line) if you are interested in going and for further information. A minimum of four people will make this trip a go, but with a maximum of twelve participants.

Please watch the HBC Website for field trips news until we have a new Editor.

## **LEADERS NEEDED NOW FOR THE FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE! (An Appeal from Carol)**

If you are willing to lead a field trip between August 2019 and December 2019, please email Field Trips Coordinator Carol Mardeusz ([fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org)) with the date, time, destination, types of birds you are hoping to find, and the maximum number of participants if there is a maximum. Also, please rank it as an easy, moderate, or strenuous day of birding. Finally, please also include your phone number and/or email if you would like members to notify you of their desire to attend.

Alternatively, email me your phone number and we can discuss planning over the phone.

If you would like to join the committee to help organize field trips, please email me at the address above indicating your interest and I will get back to you on a date, time and place to meet to plan for the upcoming field trips. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

## **CALLS FOR HELP**

### **Newsletter Editor**

With the rather unexpected departure of our current newsletter editor, the Hampshire Bird Club is looking for a replacement. If you're interested in taking on this role, please email the board at [board@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:board@hampshirebirdclub.org) and let us know. There's plenty of support available for compiling and mailing, and you get a forum for airing your thoughts, philosophies, or general ramblings, so give it a shot!

### **AV and Meeting Setup**

Are you a birder and a techie? After many years of providing AV and practical operations for HBC meetings, the retirement of Jaap Van Heerden has left us in need of a Coordinator (or Co-Coordinators) to carry on this important function. Our speakers need good technical support, and we all enjoy arriving to a welcoming array of places to sit!

What's needed:

- Coordinator(s) with technology skills to oversee the setup of our excellent audio-visual equipment, and with the computer knowledge to assist speakers in hooking up to our system.
- A pool of non-technical volunteers who will come early to set up chairs and clean up after the meeting. The post-meeting pickup goes very quickly because our HBC membership is wonderfully helpful. Several current volunteers, including the refreshments committee, will continue to help but we need more people.

These operations begin shortly after 4:00 p.m. on meeting day, with everything ready to go by 5:30 (if the speaker is coming for dinner beforehand; if not, set up can begin later, ready to go by 6:30). With 3-4 people, setting up the chairs takes about ½ hour. Full details about the AV setup and the other practical operations are available. With enough volunteers in the pool, not everyone will need to respond at every meeting. If you're interested and able, please email the HBC Board at [board@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:board@hampshirebirdclub.org). We hope to hear from you!

## Summer Storage for AV Equipment

As the 2018-2019 HBC season draws to a close, we're in need of a safe and dry place to store our club's A/V equipment. If you've got some space and would like to help out, get in touch with the board at [board@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:board@hampshirebirdclub.org). Thanks!

## BOARD of DIRECTORS, 2018-2019

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Hampshire Bird Club Incorporated** was held on **Monday, May 13, 2019** at the **Immanuel Lutheran Church** in Amherst, MA.

The following were elected at that meeting:

**President:** Bob Zimmerman

**Vice President and Program Director:** Josh Rose

**Treasurer:** Stephen Baker

**Membership Secretary:** Lissa Ganter

**Communications Secretary:** Elaine Reilly

**Members-at-large:** Carol Mardeusz, Devin Griffiths, Helen Symons, Sharon Dombeck, Bruce Hart, Janet Howard

However, after the May meeting, Devin Griffiths's (again) sudden departure leaves one (1) Member-At-Large position vacant. Thus, the current composition of the board is as follows:

**President:** Bob Zimmerman

**Vice President and Program Director:** Josh Rose

**Treasurer:** Stephen Baker

**Membership Secretary:** Lissa Ganter

**Communications Secretary:** Elaine Reilly

**Members-at-large:** Carol Mardeusz, Helen Symons, Sharon Dombeck, Bruce Hart, Janet Howard, (Member-at-Large vacancy).

That's all for this season.

Thanks again for a great run.

Signing off and wishing you all well.

Good birding!

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