Dear reader, after that string of groaner corny jokes last issue, I think I should be somewhat circumspect this month. In the remote chance that you don’t read every word of this fine document from start to finish, I point out a couple of essential reads. Page four has a report from the Nominating Committee on the slate of candidates who will be on the ballot for the HBC Board election later this month. Page five describes a remarkable opportunity to go birding with David Sibley and Joan Walsh. And page three has a description of this month’s Birding For Everyone offering by Derek Allard and company.

I’m on the road this week so that’s it from me. Enjoy those migrants as they flood the airways in May! Spoil a good walk: go birding!

NEXT PROGRAM
Monday, May 9 at 7:15 pm via Zoom
Dana Grayson presents
Bluebirds

Bluebirds are among North America’s most popular and charismatic species. This program will cover many aspects of them, including:
- The three species
- Their habitat and how a great deal of it was lost
- Their diet
- Their nesting behaviors, patterns, and timelines (including photos of nesting development)
- How to attract bluebirds and provide safe, predator-resistant housing
- Monitoring, data collection and reporting/citizen science
- Non-native competitors and predators (House Sparrows and European Starlings)
- Other native cavity nesters that may inhabit nest boxes
- Other resources for learning more

Dana Grayson serves on the board of directors of the North American Bluebird Society. Dana grew up surrounded by countryside and farmland, and this is where she first gained her love of nature and animals of all kinds. When she began working from home full-time, Dana had more opportunities to witness nature in her own backyard, especially the birds. She was most captivated by the beauty and personalities of Eastern Bluebirds, and installed nestboxes for them and other native cavity nesters. In a relatively short time since beginning her landlord journey, managing and monitoring nestboxes on her own property and several other private properties, she has helped fledge over 75 native cavity nesters. Dana also serves as a co-coordinator for Frederick County, providing advice, guidance, and best practices to other local bluebird landlords. Dana enjoys using her skills as a marketer to attract more people to birding and caretaking of bluebirds by engaging people through social media, creating online content, virtual events, newsletters, and more. She currently works as a marketing manager for a software company serving non-profit organizations, and lives in Frederick County, Maryland, with her husband and dogs.

UPCOMING PROGRAM

June 13, 2022. TBA.
MAY–JUNE FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines
All trips will be limited to ten participants unless otherwise noted and up to two leaders.
The following additional rules will apply this spring due to the continuing COVID-19 situation:
1. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated and boosted, are required to wear a mask when asked (possibly in carpool situations) and should maintain social distancing.
2. Field Trips are for Hampshire Bird Club Members only.
3. Members should use the contact information in the description if they have any questions or would like to register for the trip.
4. Participants will receive specific information about their trip directly from the leader once they register.

Thursday, May 5. Wildwood Cemetery. 6:30 to 10:00 am.
Scott Surner will be looking for warblers, vireos and other early May migrants. Please contact Scott (ssurner@aol.com) to sign up. (E*)

Join Laura Beltran and Jim Lafley as we walk along Boggy Meadow Road through mixed hardwood forest, past a large beaver swamp, and to the wildlife blind overlooking a freshwater marsh. We will have an opportunity to observe a large variety of warblers and other songbirds, as well as wetland species like Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, and American Bittern. The 3-mile round-trip walk is flat, but some areas have large roots and uneven terrain. Also, the trails are often muddy. Meet at the Cooke Avenue entrance (the former Moose Lodge) parking area. Contact Laura Beltran at lauraandnature@gmail.com. (E/M*)

Betsy Higgins and Marcia Merithew will co-lead a walk at this conservation area which can feature Prairie Warblers, Eastern Towhees, Ravens and Red-shouldered Hawks, as well as a variety of warblers and vireos. Meet in the parking area at the end of Turkey Hill Road. This will be a moderate walk on uneven ground with some slight inclines/declines. We'll walk the trails around and into the quarry and along the dirt road if time allows. To sign up email mmerithew@comcast.net. (M*)

Sunday, May 15. Fort River. 6:30 – 8:30 am.
Join Laura Beltran and Steve Winn at the USFWS Moody Bridge Road parking lot near the small pond. We’ll search for Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Barn Swallows, Northern Harriers and more. Continuing along the all-persons trail loop through second growth forest, marshy areas, and along the river’s edge we’ll search for songbirds including warblers, Brown Thrashers, Field Sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and more. The accessible trail is 1.3 miles long with benches to stop and rest along the way. Contact Laura Beltran at lauraandnature@gmail.com (E*)

Saturday, May 21. Mount Tom. 6:30 to 9:30 am.
Join Derek Allard on the (mostly) flat, paved road below the Mt. Tom ridge, which includes the microburst blow down area that has become a favorite spot of Prairie Warblers, Winter Wrens, and Eastern Towhees. Other likely suspects we may encounter include Worm-eating Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, Tennessee Warblers, and Peregrine Falcons. Meet at the west gate on route 141 (opposite the Tavern on the Hill restaurant). We will walk about 4 miles, so please plan accordingly. For information and to register contact derekallard73@gmail.com (E*)

Sunday, May 22. Mount Holyoke. 6:00 am. Half day.
Mike Locher hikes up the park road to the top of this local peak hoping for some later migrants and deep-woods breeding specialties including Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers and Yellow-throated Vireos. Meet at the (gated) entrance to Skinner State Park (at the end of Old Mountain Road in Hadley) at 6:00 am. This is an occasionally steep hike on a paved road. For more information or to register contact Mike (413-585-5864). (M/S*)

Saturday, May 28. Hilltown Rambles. 6:30 am. All day.
Join Bob Zimmermann and Dave Gross as they ramble around the Berkshire hilltowns to look for those migrants that prefer higher elevations than the valley provides. We’ll be on the lookout for American Bittern, Sandhill Cranes, Blackburnian Warblers and Spotted Sandpipers along with anything else we can turn up. There will be a bit of hiking at the hilly Moran Wildlife Area. Meet at the Northampton Stop & Shop parking lot at 6:30 am. Pack a lunch or pick one up at our stop at the Cummington Creamery. For information and to sign up, please contact Dave (djgross@gmail.com, 413-687-8161) or Bob (raz@umass.edu, 413-585-0405). (E/M/S*)

Sunday, May 29. Nonotuck Park. 6:30 to 9:30 am.
Join Derek Allard for a tour of Nonotuck Park in search of Blue-headed Vireos, Canada Warblers, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers and Veerys as they sing their sweet song. This walk is about 4 miles and will go through both hilly and potentially muddy terrain. Mud boots are recommended. Meet at the back of the Easthampton High School parking lot. For information and to register contact derekallard73@gmail.com (E/M*)

Wednesday, June 1. Southwick Wildlife Management Area. 5:30 am to noon
Join Scott Surner in his search for Grasshopper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Prairie Warbler and Eastern Meadowlark. Last year this location had nesting Dickcissel and possible Blue Grosbeak. Contact Scott to Sign up: ssurner@aol.com.

Saturday, June 4. Knightville Dam. 7:00 am. Long Half Day, often past noon.
Betsy Higgins and Marcia Merithew will co-lead a walk at the Knightville Dam area. The trip starts with an exploration at the top of the dam, then a drive down to the road along the East Branch of the Westfield River. Highlights include flycatchers, Bank Swallows, Spotted Sandpipers, several species of warblers, and cuckoos. Meet in the JFK Middle School parking lot on Bridge Road at 7:00 am. It's about a 20-minute drive to the Knightville area. It will be a combination of walking and driving on dirt roads, moderately uneven terrain. To sign up email mmerithew@comcast.net. (E/M*)

Sunday, June 5. Quabbin Reservoir, Gate 8. 6:00 am. Half day.
Mike Locher leads a trip down to the edge of the reservoir. Target birds include Acadian Flycatcher (regular here in recent years) and a variety of warblers (more Ovenbirds than you can count and Blackburnian Warblers, which can be difficult to find). Meet at the parking area outside Gate 8 off Route 202 at 6:00 am. We will walk from the gate to the water and back which is 5 miles round trip, so bring water, a snack and wear suitable shoes. For more information and to register contact Mike (413-585-5864 (M*)

*Field Trip designations:
(E) – Easy walking conditions, fairly accessible for most, usually flat terrain on improved trails or roads.
(M) – Moderately difficult, more challenging trail conditions, short steep sections, longer hikes involved.
(S) – Strenuous conditions, muddy or rocky trails, steep sections, difficult footing in part.

BIRDING FOR EVERYONE
The Birding For Everyone (BFE) program is geared towards beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: young people, minorities, the disabled. On the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 am there is a one hour online educational session (half presentation, half discussion) and on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:00 am there is a two hour, in-person, beginner bird walk at an accessible location. All events are free and open to the public. Please help spread the word! Those interested in the May offerings should email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org to register. Registration is required.
May 21, 10 -11 am: Warblers and the Importance of Focusing on One Bird at a Time (Online Presentation)
May 28, 8 -10 am: Saint Brigid’s Cemetery, Easthampton (In-person walk/sit)
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
The 2022 Nominating Committee (Derek Allard, Lissa Ganter, and Janice Jorgensen) has assembled a group of candidates for the upcoming board election. According to the new bylaws passed last year, HBC board members now serve two-year, renewable terms. The committee’s process included sending a call for nominations to all HBC members on March 17, and then writing and talking to numerous individuals over the past six weeks.

Four candidates for a first term are Gregory Brown, Annemarie Chapdelaine, Kalpesh Krishna, and Donna Lee Ubertalli. Current board members who have completed their two-year terms and are up for re-election include Laura Beltran, Dave Gross, and Steve Winn. The ballot will include these seven candidates, plus any additional candidates nominated (or who self-nominate) from the floor at the May 9 General Meeting. Voting procedures will also be announced at the meeting. Continuing board members in the second year of their terms (and thus not on the ballot) include Derek Allard, Ruth Garbett, Jim Lafley, and Josh Rose. Departing the board this year are Lissa Ganter, Val Miller, Helen Symons, and Bob Zimmermann. The new board members will take office in June.

Respectfully submitted, Derek, Lissa, and Janice

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS
We are continuing our DIY trips and gearing up for warblers in May! Join us on May 1st. See below.

Derek Allard’s **Birding for Everyone** program, which includes both virtual workshops and field trips, is attracting a large number of participants. There is more on this exciting new program on page three. For more information email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org

**Birding Apps Survey**: Thank you to all of you who have completed and submitted this very short survey on which birding apps you would like to know more about. We are hoping to organize this workshop for May, but it may wait until June. So, if you haven’t had a chance to make your request—please do so! Email education@hampshirebirdclub.org if you want more information and/or the link.

As of this writing, our May workshops are not fully in place, so please keep checking the education page on the website. We will post the workshops as soon as they are confirmed. Emails will also go out with descriptions and reminders.

**Reminder**: our programs are now recorded and available at the Hampshire Bird Club website. You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page. [https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/](https://hampshirebirdclub.org/program-videos/).

May workshops:
Once the workshops have been posted on the website, please register by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line. Keep checking the Education page on the Hampshire Bird Club website for more workshops.

**Monday, May 1, 7-8 pm. May DIY**
Our next Do-It-Yourself Field Trip will be on Monday, May 1, 7 pm on Zoom. Each month an area is chosen, and a leader describes the location and five target species for that area. Anyone interested has a month to visit the area on their own, record the species they see, and report back at the Zoom meeting the following month. Our April field trip location was the Mineral Hills Conservation Area, and the target birds were Broad-winged Hawk, Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Eastern Towhee. If you'd like to join the May Zoom to share your sightings and learn about the upcoming field trip, email education@hampshirebirdclub.org.
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join in welcoming these new members in the past month: Annemarie Chapdelaine, Easthampton; Ellen & Colin Cool, Granby; Miriam Fliegner, Amherst; Rebecca Kern, Greenfield; Amy Shamansky, Greenfield; and Amy Woolf, Northampton.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for Sunday, June 5, 11 am – 1 pm. That is the day of the All-Member Picnic (bring your own) at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, preceded by bird walks for new members.

Lissa Ganter, membership@hampshirebirdclub.org

OUTING WITH DAVID SIBLEY

The Bird-a-thon, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary’s largest community fundraiser, is underway. Funds raised make possible the protection of resilient, bird-friendly landscapes, increasing access to nature and environmental education, and mobilizing to fight climate change in the Valley and throughout Western Massachusetts. This year’s 24 hours of birding is from 6 pm on Friday, May 13, to 6 pm on Saturday, May 14. **There is a very special reward for those who raise $500: an outing with David Sibley, author and illustrator of the *Sibley Guides*, and Joan Walsh, Mass Audubon’s Bertrand Chair of Field Ornithology & Natural History.** Mass Audubon invites Hampshire Bird Club members to join the West Region Team on the Mass Audubon website.

PIOioneer Valley Birding History

I'm helping out on a little project with a professor from Chicago who is doing some research that tangentially involves 19th century birds of the Connecticut River Valley. It’s hard to explain what it is exactly, but suffice it to say that it is a multidisciplinary “radical ecology” project. What I am looking for are personal field journals/notes that might have been donated to bird clubs and/or avian records, archives, museum matrials and such that describe, in a first-hand way, what a birder saw or observed. I'm looking for background stories, sketches, annotations about song, and details, mostly on paper.

These materials are from a fascinating period: Farmland coming back to early succession during the industrial revolution. The end of the passenger pigeon. The beginning of a conservation mindset. The Victorian natural history/collecting impulse. The thought is that birding journals might help us better root the history in real lives and real birds. The project is specific to the Pioneer Valley around Amherst.

When this gets a little further down the line, I’d be delighted to share more about the project. If you have suggestions for others I might connect with, I’d be grateful! Thanks!

Mari Badger, Boston Birding Festival, mari@bostonbirdingfestival.org

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

**Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary**

The following in-person, outdoor programs are being offered through Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, Mass Audubon is offering many on-line programs about birds throughout this spring. All programs require registration and more information can be found at Arcadia events.

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<tr>
<th>Saturday Morning Bird Walks</th>
<th>Spring Migration Bird Walks</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton</td>
<td>Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 7, 14, and 21; 7:00-9:00 am</td>
<td>May 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13; 6:30-8:00 am</td>
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Spoil a good walk: go birding! newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor