



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.

Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

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Dear reader, I recently spent a two-week “vacation” at my mother-in-law’s house in the Midwest. A substantial part of the visit was to celebrate her 95th birthday but a secondary part of the trip involved washing windows when the weather permitted. (Thus “vacation” in quotes.) On the drive out, we chose the Southern Tier Expressway that is much favored by us over the New York State Thruway to the north. For one thing the southern choice has much less traffic than the thruway. For another, the scenery is much, much better through the Southern Tier. At the far western end of the expressway one passes through the Allegany Indian Reservation which is wilder than other areas one passes through and is one of the territories of the Seneca Indian Nation. The expressway also crosses the lovely Chautauqua Lake near Jamestown, hometown of Roger Tory Peterson (see below) as well as Lucille Ball and Natalie Merchant. One of my favorite parts of the drive through the Seneca Nation are the road signs in both English and Seneca (*Onödowá’ga:*). You can read about the Nation at <https://sni.org/>. But I digress.

Along our Southern Tier Drive, on the north side of the road as we passed through Big Flats, NY (which, of course is near Horseheads, NY and Painted Post, NY), a Northern Goshawk sailed into and landed in a tree. I don’t see very many Northern Goshawks in my daily life, so I, of course, took notice. I duly reported the sighting to my birding buddies and immediately received a reply from noted ornerythologist (see below) David Spector who said “Great! That’s a safe way to see one, much safer than being attacked near a nest.” Not one to let an opening slip by, I replied “You clearly haven’t been driving in New York recently.” I should have known better. I quickly got a response that started “Yesterday I drove through New York on my way back from the Philadelphia area...” that continued on with terms including talons, scalp, blood, and “hit the ground.” I may never again venture into the woods.

NEXT PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 8 at 7:15 PM

David Spector presents

Western Massachusetts Ornithologists

Wesley United Methodist Church, 98 North Maple Street, Hadley

There is a long history of bird study here in Western Massachusetts, and in this program David discusses a few of the many people with local connections who have contributed to our knowledge of birds. What is an “ecological rule,” and which Springfield native has one named for him? Which graduate of a local college is incorrectly credited with producing the first field guide, and which two Western Massachusetts people published important pre-Peterson field guides? Which Amherst native had her book on Song Sparrow research illustrated by Roger Tory Peterson? These and other burning questions will be answered in this presentation.

David Spector, retired ornithologist (or ornerythologist) and former president of the Hitchcock Center, has been a member of the Hampshire Bird Club since the first meeting and has given, by exact count, umpteen talks to the club.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL UPDATE

As of this writing, the HBC Treasurer reports that dues are down 28% this year compared to last year. If you plan to renew your membership, now is the time to do it. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their HBC membership.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

Mike Locher offered a wonderful workshop on waterfowl identification. We learned all about the fall plumage of waterfowl as well as how to identify waterfowl in the field. Master gardener Larri Cochrane's "Leave the Leaves" workshop offered a guide on how to prepare our gardens for winter while supporting overwintering pollinators and birds.

In the works: We are developing a simpler form of one-step registration for Education Committee workshops through Google Forms. We will be rolling out the new forms after the first of the year.

Upcoming new member bird walks—open to all:

Directions to each meeting place will be posted on the Education page of the website

- Jan. 8, 2023 – 9-11 AM at the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Conservation Area parking lot
- April 23, 2023 – 7-9 AM at Lake Wallace, behind the Belchertown Police Station
- The fourth will be our usual new member bird walk before the June HBC picnic at Arcadia.

November workshops:

Monday, Nov. 7, 7-8 PM. Our next Do-It-Yourself Field Trip meeting will be 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 October field trip location was Great Pond in Hatfield, and the target birds were Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Swamp Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow. To join the November Zoom session to share your October sightings and learn about the upcoming DIY field trip, e-mail education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Date and time TBA: How you can be part of Hampshire County's Christmas Bird Count – Janice Jorgensen. Please check the Education Committee page on the HBC website where details will be posted.

To register for workshops, please email education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

Our programs are 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/>.

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 for 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! The online presentation requires no registration (check the website for the Zoom link). Those interested in attending the November walk can register at bit.ly/2022bfe.

- November 19, 10:00-11:00 AM: Owls (Online Presentation)
- November 26, 9:15-11:30 PM Owl Prowl (location TBD) (In-person walk/sit)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thank you to all of you who renewed your membership this year, whether online or through the mail! Your commitment and enthusiasm are very much appreciated. To those of you who joined during October, a warm welcome! Our newest members are Rachel Greenwood, Haydenville; Marsha Paine, Princeton; Soup Brinkley, Belchertown; Kathleen Doe, Florence; Lynn Gerlinger, Williamsburg; Jennie Oesterreicher, Palmer; and Elizabeth Trousdale of South Hadley.

Any questions? You can reach me at membership@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Donna Lee Ubertalli, Membership Secretary

FALL FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip Guidelines

1. Field trip participant numbers are determined by the field trip leader.
2. All field trip leaders and participants must be fully vaccinated, are required to wear a mask when asked and must be aware of maintaining a safe social distance during the event.
3. Participants should use the contact information in the trip 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 after they register.

Sunday, November 6. Ducks on the Berkshire Lakes. All day. Tom Gagnon leads this Berkshire trip in search of ducks and other waterfowl. Meet at the JFK Middle School in Northampton at **6:30 AM** for carpooling & directions. **Trip is limited to 12.** Contact Tom if interested at (413) 584-6353. Tom will not be available the week before so contact him on Saturday, **November 5**, the day before the trip. (E)

Saturday, November 12. Chris Ellison Memorial Trip to East Quabbin. All day. Our annual trip inside the gates of Quabbin is limited to **members only** and to 10 participants. Craig Allen will lead this trip for the club beginning at the Quabbin headquarters at Winsor Dam at **7:00 AM**. The group will travel from Gate 45 to Gate 35. If interested contact Craig at allenec2@juno.com (E)

Sunday, November 13. Dead Creek WMA and Lake Champlain Valley. All day. Mike Locher heads north for the spectacle of hundreds of Snow Geese rising into the sun as a Rough-legged Hawk cruises by them. In addition to the geese and raptors, we'll look for ducks, loons, gulls, and grebes on Lake Champlain and anything else that we can find. Meet at Stop & Shop in Northampton (228 King Street) at **5:30 AM** for carpooling. Contact Mike (413-585-5864 - landline) for further details and to register. (E/M)

Sunday, November 13. Pine Grove Conservation Area, Northampton. 8 to 10 AM. Laura Beltran will be searching for sparrows, finches, thrushes, raptors, and late warblers in this recently acquired conservation area. Meet along Old Wilson Road at the sign for the area. To register or for more information contact: lauraandnature@gmail.com (E)

Sunday, December 11. South Hadley along Connecticut River. 8 to 11 AM. Jim Lafley and Laura Beltran will lead birders to areas along the Connecticut River in South Hadley. We will explore McCray's Farm & River Lodge Road for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and Harriers, Brunelle's Marina for waterfowl and Bald Eagles and the Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Area. They are all within a mile of each other and there is a large parking lot at each site. This is a good trip to prepare for the CBC! Contact Jim at jimlafley@gmail.com (E)

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.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

DAR State Forest (September 10)

Eight birders and naturalists comprised the group led by Amanda Kallenbach on a gorgeous fall morning at DAR State Forest. We covered both lakes, the beach, the marsh and the Camp Howe trails. While not the birdiest outing, we managed to hit 28 species, including **Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers** (great looks at the Solitary), a Cooper's Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Black-and-white Warblers, Pines, Yellow-rumps, and a flyover **Red Crossbill**. We found loads of different mushrooms and interesting plants, including red cancer root, which is parasitic to certain oak species and emerges only once every four years! A really fun morning!

Amanda Kallenbach

Skinner Mountain Hawk Watching

Our experiment with stationing an HBC member on the porch at the Skinner Mountain House worked fairly well as I was up there 4 out of the 7 days we designated. Unfortunately for me I wasn't up there during the best days. We did see Broad-winged Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Kestrels, Merlins, **Peregrine Falcons**, Bald Eagles, **Harriers**, **Osprey**, and Turkey Vultures, just not in large numbers.

The best part about being up there was meeting a good number of new members who really appreciated the knowledge of a good hawk watching location and a prime time of year to be there to observe the migration. Janice Jorgensen was also actively recruiting new members for the CBC while we were hawk-watching!

Jim Lafley

Lake Wallace Trip (October 19)

For many members who joined this trip, we explored a new area for birding and an eBird Hot Spot they had read about, but not seen yet. It was fairly slow birding as the ducks weren't there in any numbers and many nesters and migrants had already moved on, but we were able to observe Canada Geese, Mallards, **Wood Ducks**, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, many Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows, Song and Swamp Sparrows, and a few Yellow-rumped Warblers. There were also plenty of other common species one might expect this time of year. Many attendees were excited to know of this place and they were looking forward to visiting later in the fall when more ducks might be resting there and in the spring for migration.

Jim Lafley

A CHAT WITH DEREK ALLARD

This continues the conversation I had with Derek Allard in August. Part one is in the October, 2022 newsletter. In part 2 here Derek describes his introduction to the natural world, his spark bird, and his plans for Presidential protection.

Newsletter: Obviously you are interested in nature and birding. What got you interested in the first place?

Derek Allard: I grew up in the country. My parents would just toss my brother and me outside and say "Go have fun. Don't come in until dinnertime." So we were outside a lot. For birding specifically, I remember that when I was in the Cub Scouts we had to build bird feeders as a project. With my dad I built a bird feeder that we put in the backyard. I really didn't know much about birds at that point, but I remember that that winter we had a huge flock of Evening Grosbeaks at the feed. They would just wipe out the sunflower seeds. People talk about "spark birds". The Evening Grosbeak is my spark bird because it was amazing to me to see them so colorful and big. [Ed note: If you go back and reread the interview with Scott Turner in the June 2020 issue of this newsletter, you'll find that the Evening Grosbeak was also Scott's spark bird.]

From there it just took off. I got field guides and I would go to wildlife sanctuaries to look for

birds. But then college and life happened that put birding on the back burner until, in the last decade or so, it has picked back up.

N: How old were you when the when the Evening Grosbeaks lit the spark.?

DA: It was probably around seven or eight. When I first saw them I didn't know what they were. I bought, or maybe for my birthday I got, the Audubon's field guide, the one with the green cover. It was fun because everything was new. There was a lot of "Oh my gosh. What is that?" The front half of the guide had photos and the back half was the description, so I'd look it up and then read about it.

N: To finish up here, let me ask this: If you had any place in the world that you could pick to go birding, where would that be.?

DA: People talk about Costa Rica where one can see a zillion birds, but if I had to pick just one place, I think it would be the walk up the road to the Summit House on Mount Holyoke during migration season. I say that because that is always my favorite time of the year when I usually go there least once or twice. On the walk

you're often above the trees, so the warblers are easier to see and sometimes a Mourning Warbler or a Blackburnian is there. I have never been disappointed there, so that would be my place.

N: Well, all right, thanks for taking the time to chat. Do you have anything else you'd like to add for the newsletter readers to hear or know about.?

DA: I'm going to be asking for secret service protection from the Board and I expect the membership to get on board with that.

N: Yeah, given the way things are nowadays, that's probably not a bad idea. I'm trying to think who amongst the membership would be the obvious choice to be secret service agent for you. I need to think about that a little bit.

DA: That would be good. You probably know the membership better than I do. That's one of my challenges. I feel like I haven't been involved in the club a whole lot to know it well. I have bumped into handfuls of HBC members, but I haven't yet met most. I look forward to in-person meetings where I can meet more people.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

All programs require registration; more information can be found at [Arcadia events](#) where you can register.

Tracking Bird Migration – Online – Thursday, November 10, 7-8:30 PM

Scott Weidensaul and Scott Santino will discuss one of nature's most amazing spectacles, bird migration. A little more than 900 species of birds breed in North America and studies show nearly 40% are migratory. Discover the many ways birds migrate, why ornithologists think they migrate, and the extraordinary ways they've evolved for a life of almost constant motion.

Members: \$20; non-members: \$24

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/84670-tracking-bird-migration-online>

Birdwatching Around the World – Online – Tuesdays, November 15-December 13, 9-10 AM

Travel around the world learning about birds and other amazing animals from the comfort of your home. Immerse yourself in the incredible and diverse bird life found in Africa, Central Asia, Central America, and South America. Each of these areas are rich in avian biodiversity, supporting many species that can't be found anywhere else in the world.

Members: \$60; non-members: \$72

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/84989-birdwatching-around-the-world-series-online>

Massachusetts' State Bird: The Black-capped Chickadee – Online – November 17, 7-8 PM

Martha Gach will talk about Black-capped Chickadees and how they approach everything with gusto, no matter the season. Regular feeder visitors, chickadees can be found in almost every New England habitat, which may be why they are the Massachusetts state bird. Learn about this active little creature, how it manages winter, and how you can support chickadees with bird feeders and beyond.

Members: \$15; non-members: \$20

For more information and to register: <https://www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/mass-audubon-education/84310-massachusetts-state-bird-the-black-capped-chickadee-online>

National Audubon's 123rd Christmas Bird Count

It's never too early to think about the annual Audubon Christmas Counts. This winter, the MANO (Northampton) Christmas Bird Count will be held Sunday, December 18, 2022. More information will be forthcoming. If you have questions, email cbc@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor