



Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.
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Dear reader, did you ever see a Mourning Dove wash its armpits? I have. There are two Mourning Doves that frequent my driveway up on the hill in Pelham. Back in early August, when it was dry as dust and had been for weeks, the two doves were picking around in the driveway for grit or seeds, I imagine. And then it started to sprinkle. I was at the kitchen window at the time and happened to look out at the miracle of water from the sky. I couldn't quite figure out what was wrong with the doves. They were on their sides with one wing flat out on the driveway. Both of them were thrashing about, and my first thought was that they were doing some sort of broken-wing display, but I couldn't imagine why. Then they flopped over, stretched out the other wing, and squirmed some more.

They actually looked giddy, these two birds, based on their body language. And then it hit me: this was the first chance they'd had in weeks to have a bath – well a shower, really. There they were, happily washing their armpits much the way that I do in the shower. After about 2 minutes they righted themselves, shook a bit, and took off for the trees to the north. And the rain stopped. (All in all an enjoyable mourning. Ouch. Apologies for that.)

NEXT PROGRAM

Tuesday, October 11 at 7:15 PM

Connie Lentz and Bart Bouricius present

Birds, Ants, and Plants of Costa Rica

Wesley United Methodist Church, 98 North Maple Street, Hadley

Army ants not only are among the most famous organisms of the tropics, they also play a major role in the ecology of the forests that they inhabit. Many tropical birds follow army ant swarms, feeding on small animals as they attempt to escape the ants. Some bird species are so tightly associated with these ants that the relationship is featured in their names: antpittas, antwrens, antshrikes and more. A number of bird species that breed in the USA or Canada and migrate to the tropics for the winter also appear in ant-following flocks. Join HBC members Connie Lentz and Bart Bouricius for an exploration of Costa Rica's bird diversity, their symbiotic relationships with army ants, and how this influences the rest of the birds' ecosystem.

Connie and Bart are nature photographers, HBC members, and Amherst residents who lived in Costa Rica for 6 winters. They belonged to the Birding Club of Costa Rica and participated in many of that group's trips, often roaming off the beaten path and away from the well-known, popular destinations for birding tourists.

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 once they register.

Wednesday, October 19. Lake Wallace, Belchertown 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Meet Jim Lafley at the new Lake Wallace observation deck to scan the marsh and open water for late shorebirds and waders as well as ducks, geese, and other denizens of the area. We will also explore the back area of the lake and the woods near the athletic fields. To register or for more information email jimlafley@gmail.com. (E)

Sunday, October 30. The Annual Halloween Adventure: Satan's Kingdom, Hell's Kitchen, and more. All day. Meet Joshua Rose at 7:30 AM at the parking area for the Power Canal on Migratory Way in Turners Falls. Call or email Josh (413) 835-0093; opihi@mindspring.com for details. (E/M)

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 and directions. **The trip is limited to 12.** Contact Tom if interested at (413) 584-6353. Tom will not be available the week before so contact him soon or 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 **HBC members only** and to 10 participants. Craig Allen will lead this trip beginning at Quabbin Headquarters at Winsor Dam at 7:00 AM. The group will travel from Gate 45 to Gate 35. If interested contact Craig at allene2@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. 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) for further details and to register. (E/M)

Sunday, November 13. Pine Grove Conservation Area, Northampton. 8:00 to 10:00 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 Laura at lauraandnature@gmail.com. (E)

Sunday, December 11. South Hadley along Connecticut River. 8:00 to 11:00 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. This is a good trip to prepare for the CBC! Sites are all within a mile of each other and there is a large parking lot at each one. 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.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

New Member Bird Walks

Our first new member bird walk at the Quabbin Gate 35 went very well, attended by both new and old members, as well as members of the Education Committee. We have a new HBC and Education Committee member from Amherst College who has started a bird club there and brought several Amherst College birders to the walk. We were also joined by another new HBC and Education Committee member, a visiting research professor at UMass, who offered us her expertise in herpetology and ornithology.

Upcoming new member bird walks—open to all: *Directions to each meeting place will be posted on the Education page of the HBC 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 one will be our usual new member bird walk before the June HBC picnic at Arcadia.

HBC member Dr. Dan Russell gave an incredibly informative and useful workshop on Hawk Identification on September 14, just in time for hawk migration. Many of us have been able to refer to his silhouette images of hawks and falcons in flight when making identifications in the field. Our **DIY** workshops continue with Laura and Lesley. There is more on those in the DIY section of the newsletter.

Derek Allard's **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 AM there is a one hour online educational session (half presentation, half discussion) and on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8 AM 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 October walk can register at bit.ly/2022bfe.

October 15, 10-11 AM: Bird Feeders (Online Presentation)

October 22, 7:45-10:00 AM: Ashley Reservoir, Holyoke (In-person walk)

For more information, email dallard@hampshirebirdclub.org

October workshops

- **Monday, Oct. 3, 7-8 PM. DIY on Zoom**

Each month a leader describes a 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 September field trip location was the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail and the target birds were Blue-winged Teal, Green Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Warbler. If you'd like to join the October Zoom to share your September sightings and learn of the upcoming field trip, e-mail education@hampshirebirdclub.org.

- **TUESDAY, Oct. 4, 7-8 PM. Waterfowl Identification with Mike Locher**

- **Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7-8 PM., Leave the Leaves -- Fall Clean Up to Support Overwintering Pollinators and Birds with Larri Cochran**

As the growing season ends in New England, gardeners and homeowners race to "clean up" fallen leaves and dying-back plants from their gardens and lawns. But all those things that humans have been taught to see as "debris" are, in fact, an essential part of Nature's cycle of life. Fallen leaves and retreating plants provide critical safe harbor, nesting places, and even nutrients for our native pollinators, insects, birds, and other wildlife.

This talk will focus on those butterflies, moths, and bees who quietly overwinter in our gardens and what we need to do to support them while still keeping our gardens and properties aesthetically pleasing. We'll also talk about things that can still be planted in early October to support next spring's early emerging pollinators who are critical for spring and summer nesting birds.

Please register for any of these by emailing education@hampshirebirdclub.org with the name of the workshop in the subject line.

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/>.

REMEMBERING BRUCE CALLAHAN

Long time HBC member Bruce Callahan died on August 14, 2022. Bruce was a fixture at our in-person meetings, always chatting at the cookie table, always sitting at the back of the room with Tom for the presentation. Bruce was ruthless in wrangling chairs being stored on the cart at the back of the room, directing us with precision to fill the cart with chairs in the proper orientation. I remember many a field trip led by Tom, who sat in the passenger seat scoping the roadside for birds, while Bruce drove and made wisecracks. Those were the days. Rest in peace, friend.

A CHAT WITH DEREK ALLARD

In mid August I Zoom-chatted with Derek Allard, current president of the HBC Board. In this first part of our chat Derek talks about his background and vision for the HBC. Part two will follow next month.

Newsletter: Given that you are now president of the HBC Board and many folks in the HBC haven't met you, tell me a bit about yourself.

Derek Allard: Let me think. I do a lot of reading, a lot of writing, and a lot of hiking. And I spend time with our dog and spend time with family. I recently received my MFA degree in fiction writing; a lot of my efforts are there, trying to get that work published. I've always loved words and reading, and nature and birding too, obviously.

N: When we were arranging this chat you said that you had a deadline to finish a short story. Is that what you're currently doing, writing short stories or are you writing other kinds of things.?

DA: My thesis was a short story collection and now that I have graduated, I have been sending stories out to different literary journals. One is interested in one of the stories and has requested some revisions, so I have a deadline of Friday to get the next draft to them. I've been working on that for about a week and a half. [Ed note: This chat happened on a Wednesday afternoon.]

N: You are now President of the HBC Board. How did you find the HBC or how did it find you?

DA: I've always been aware of the HBC. Prior to going back to school I owned my own web design business and I didn't have a lot of free time, so I wasn't much involved with the HBC. Around 2018 or 2019 Jim Lafley reached out to me about getting involved with the Board. At the time I just didn't have any bandwidth for it, but he was persistent and then when I went back to school I did have a little more time because I wasn't running the business anymore, so I did join the Board.

I've been on the Board for a couple of years, so Jim Lafley, depending on your perspective, is to blame or to thank for my being here as President now.

N: You said that you were always aware of the HBC, so did you grow up in the Valley?

DA: Yes, I grew up in Ware. My parents still live there and my brother has moved out near Boston in Hopkinton with his family. I grew up

here and then I went to college in New Hampshire. I lived in Arizona for a while and then came back to the Valley because Arizona was too hot.

N: Certainly, one thing you are well known for in the club is the Birding For Everyone program. What prompted you to create that?

DA: Honestly, it was a bad experience I had on a birding walk about eight or nine years ago. I was just starting at birding. I know it wasn't an HBC walk. I remember that it was a walk at Arcadia but I am not sure who was putting it on. I remember that I said "pill-e-ated" instead of "pie-lee-ated" and one person corrected me in a very "What are you doing?" way. That was not very inviting and that always stuck with me. It definitely wasn't everyone on the walk, but that one particular person.

I have always had that in the back of my head. Later, as I was doing volunteer work with Arcadia for the Birdathon, the question collectively came up about keeping these people involved. Many of them were new to bird watching and many of them were young, so I started Birding For Everyone in conjunction with Arcadia but they just didn't have the bandwidth to keep it going and I didn't either. When I got involved with the Hampshire Bird Club, I pitched the idea and fortunately people were open to it. It's been going pretty well actually, and I hope we can keep it going.

N: Did you pitch it to the Education Committee?

DA: I think I pitched it to former president Bob Zimmermann and I think that the Education Committee was involved too. Bob was excited about the idea. I didn't know what his reaction would be, so it was nice that he was enthusiastic.

N: Yes, I think everybody's pretty excited about the program because, even if it only brings in a few new HBC members, some of them will eventually become leaders, which is important for the club's future.

DA: That's one of the hopes. Every bird club is challenged to get younger people involved. That's tricky because younger people have families, they work, and they don't have a lot of

free time. It's easy to see why they aren't too involved, but I think that the more inviting we can make it, the easier it will be for them to take that jump.

N: I have a friend who has a two-and-a-half year old who I've got my eye on. We've been on a "bird" walk that involved mostly dandelion picking, feather retrieval and frog watching, but maybe over time she'll get more interested in the pretty birds.

DA: I have two nieces, one eleven and one five. I'm always taking them outside to look up and say "Oh, that's such-and-such's call, I've given them field guides and binoculars. They are somewhat resistant, but every now and then they'll tell me that they saw such-and-such. Planting the seeds...

N: You have made some changes in the way Board meetings are run. What other goals do you have for the HBC?

DA: I think there's a lot of momentum that the club has from its response to the pandemic. The online education efforts are a good example. I want the club to keep those going. I want to involve more people in club activities like Birding For Everyone. I would like to get newer members involved. I hope to make club meetings as efficient as possible, both for the Board and for membership meetings to be as respectful of time as possible. I've made a commitment to

holding Board meetings to one hour, and so far that has been possible. I expect that there are things that I will screw up and there will be some push-back. That will be completely fine and an expected part of the process.

I want to make the club as inviting as possible to anyone who has an interest in birding and nature. That's the big picture. I would like the HBC to partner more with related organizations like Arcadia and Latino Outdoors to make ourselves as open and inclusive as we possibly can be. One of the tasks ahead is to find related organizations and reach out to them and there's definitely a lot more work to be done on that front.

N: Are you aiming to do this by yourself or are you hoping to get together a group like a subcommittee?

DA: I definitely need to get more people involved. I have a bad habit of taking everything on myself. Birding For Everyone is a good example. Now there are six or seven people who are interested in giving a presentation. Next month I think I have somebody besides myself lined up to talk about hawks.

We have a great board and we have a lot of great members, so why not lean on them a little bit for these types of things? Going it alone doesn't work super well. It mostly leads to me getting grumpy and people feeling left out.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Derek Allard led a couple of field trips in September. Here are the highlights:

Arcadia Meadows, September 18

It was a foggy morning in the Arcadia Meadows but that did not dampen the spirits of those who went in search of fall migrants. The fog must have tricked the Great Horned Owl into thinking it was still dawn because the bird hooted several times as we began. The trolley line, long a hot spot for fall warblers, remained quiet this morning as well. Perhaps it was the fog or the early cutting of the nearby corn field that has kept this location quieter than usual this fall. We did find a very nice mixed warbler flock along Ned's Ditch, including a Tennessee Warbler and a Northern Parula. In the fields we were able to locate both Lincoln's and Savannah Sparrows (the prior, by request) and we were treated to great looks at a Northern Harrier and a Red-shouldered Hawk who were vying for the same airspace. Despite the slow start, we ended with forty-five species of birds for the morning.

Goat Peak, September 25

Hawk watches can be a bit hit or miss. With an increasing north wind and cool, cloudy conditions, sightings from Goat Peak Tower were few. We did see what we thought were a pair of American Crows flying over until they dove into the forest much faster than a crow ever would and we all saw flashes of white during the dive. Accipiters were suspected but that's the best we could do. We did have a long line of Canada Geese flying south just above an airplane from the Northampton Airport moving at about the

same speed, which was neat to watch. A Common Raven could also be heard calling. We did come across three different species of warblers (Black-and-white, American Redstart, Northern Parula) as well as a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, who was doing his/her best warbler impersonation. A Blue-headed Vireo sang briefly, too. Although it was quieter than we'd have preferred, we all had an enjoyable morning.

DO YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE AN HBC LIBRARY?

I joined the HBC shortly after moving to Amherst 28 years ago. I don't know when the bird club library was started, but it was in existence back then and I was a big user of the material. When Anne Cann, the librarian at that time, wanted to retire, she asked me to take over and I've done the job ever since.

The library's focus is on bird finding books and ID books for locations around the world, from Cape Town to Cape Horn to Cape Cod. We also have natural history books, bird adventure stories and even bird murder mysteries! There are also bird sound CDs and cassettes and more. The material is held at the Hitchcock Center for the Environment and can be accessed whenever the center is open. The list of books can be found at <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/wp-content/uploads/HBC-Library-2020-July-PDF.pdf>.

I'm also happy to pick up books for you and bring them to in-person meetings or to arrange a way to get them to you.

If you have **recent** editions of books in good shape, I'd be happy to look at them, but please contact me first. We have limited space and already have most of the books I get offered. If you have ideas for new books, please write to me with suggestions. You can reach me at library@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Henry Lappen, HBC Librarian

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our newest members! From Amherst, Joan Milam, Wendy McDowell, Jody Pozar, Lara Sabra, and James R. Suprenant; Emma St. John and Lee Pollock from South Hadley; William Randolph of Westhampton; Heather Bateman, Mesa, AZ; Cheryl Funk & Bill Young, Granby; Shane Connolly, Scituate; Mark Ketchen and Dave Dersham of Northampton; Karen Lombard, Florence; Brittany Maldonado, Ware; Jacqueline & Warren Odess-Gillet, Agawam; Jeanne Paine, Boston; and Wiljo Doelerman of Easthampton.

A friendly reminder: renewals continue! You can renew online at the HBC website with PayPal, mail a check to our new PO Box or hand your form and check to me in person at the October 11th meeting at Wesley church! Don't forget to include the field trip release which is part of the renewal form! Any questions? You can reach me at membership@hampshirebirdclub.org.

Donna-Lee Ubertalli, Membership Secretary

UPDATE ON REPAIRS AT BIRDS OF PREY REHAB

Even though work wrapped up a while ago at Birds of Prey Rehab in Conway, donations continued to trickle in. The fundraising goal of \$3,500 to repair raptor enclosures did not take into account the extraordinary generosity of you, a community that embraces Tom Ricardi's critically important work to ensure a healthy and enduring population of raptors. Donations as of mid-September neared \$17,000.

The balance of donations is in a bank account, poised for phase two. Tom walked the property with Hobie Iselin recently, eager to repair another bank of enclosures in the spring. Hobie is recruiting and evaluating lumber costs already!

Tom expressed gratitude for the work accomplished by a dedicated group of volunteer carpenters and painters. The double-wide enclosure will give recovering raptors more room to fly, while the isolated pen will allow birds to reacclimate to the wild as Tom removes the human element by feeding them through a blind hole. Another large enclosure now is braced and secure.

Good thing, too. Right now, he is caring for some 60 raptors. "Most of them are starving," he said. When Hobie and I drove up recently, Tom had just returned with several injured birds. Despite possessing the necessary fortitude to do what he does, he was visibly upset as he showed us an adult Barred Owl

lying quietly in a crate and a Red-tailed Hawk in another crate. The Red-tail took his finger gently in its beak before falling off its perch.

At the same time, seven Red-tails are bouncing off the walls in the pre-release enclosure and will be let go soon. Several Barred Owls also will return to the wild, along with some Great-Horned Owls. An owl that likely had been poisoned has healed, and like so many raptors in Tom's care, will get a second chance.

Deb Oakley

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Christmas Counting

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.

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

All programs require registration at [Arcadia events](#) where you can find more information.

Birdwatching Basics Series – Online – Tuesdays from 7-8 PM, October 11 – November 29

This eight-part online series will introduce you to the birdwatching basics, from how to identify different bird families to various tools and resources at your disposal. Find out what makes birds unique in the animal kingdom; where and how to locate birds in urban, suburban, and rural communities; and learn about basic bird biology and behavior. Learn from the experts at Mass Audubon so you can join one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America.

Autumn Migration Midweek Bird Walk – Thursday, October 13, 7:30-9:30 AM

Join teacher/naturalist Laura Beltran to search for songbirds as we walk the trails through the various habitats at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. We'll watch for behavior, search for migrants and residents, and learn how to submit our data to eBird, one of the largest wildlife databases in the world. We'll also explore the resiliency and adaptations of some birds to our changing climate. Bring binoculars if you have them, although we have a few pairs to lend. All skill levels are welcome.

New York's Finger Lakes and Sapsucker Woods – Thursday, November 3 - Sunday, November 6

Enjoy the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York and visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We will explore the woodland trails of Sapsucker Woods and take a private, behind-the-scenes tour of the Macaulay Library. We will visit Skaneateles and Cayuga Lakes that have a diversity of migrating waterfowl and other wetland birds including loons and grebes as well as migrating songbirds. The finale of the weekend will include an extended look at the beautiful Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, a migratory stopover for Sandhill Cranes, Trumpeter and Tundra swans, large flocks of Snow Geese, up to 20 duck species, and more!

Hitchcock Center for the Environment

First Thursday Gentle Nature Walks – Thursdays, October 6 & November 3, 8 – 10 AM

Join naturalist and birder John Green for leisurely nature walks on some of our more accessible trails in the valley and see what you find. October 6 is at Quabbin Visitor Center and November 3 is at the Notch Visitor Center. Space is limited and registration is required. Sliding scale fee \$14, \$24, \$34 per class. Register at the Hitchcock Center website.

Forest Bathing – Sundays, October 30 & November 13, 2– 4 PM, Hitchcock Center

Come experience this changing of the seasons on a Forest Bathing walk with Todd Lynch, certified ANFT Forest Bathing guide. Forest Bathing offers the opportunity to slow down. It re-aligns our rhythms with the landscape, allowing our senses a respite from everyday demands and uncertainties, and gives us a template to practice on our own time at home. It's a chance to remember ourselves and the joyful relationships that await us outside. Sliding scale: \$25, \$30, \$35 per class. Register at the Hitchcock Center website.

Spoil a good walk: go birding!

newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org

Dave Gross, Editor