



HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, INC. • AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

January 10, 2011

Dear Northampton Christmas Bird Count Participants,

This 77th Northampton CBC was dedicated to the memory of Chris Ellison and Terry Blunt. We think both of these long-time and dedicated participants would have appreciated this year's effort.

What a good year. No major storm, no major wind, a "skiff" of snow to quote one of the reports. Lots of people (at 130 participants, we broke our previous record of 129.) Lots of parties (again, breaking a previous record of 49 with 55 groups out there.) Serious numbers!

And, all that effort created a great list (87 species.) For a list of the high counts (HC= 11), low counts (LC = 2) and unusual species (US =16), turn to the "2010 Tally all Years." (Which is enclosed if you are reading this in print or is on the same web page as this letter.)

The mammal list is below the bird list on the tally pages. No record-breaking numbers, and although it is not our usual practice to include dead critters, it was just too tempting not to add the 3 reports of dead possums. (As John Green said, "How would you know?")

Two bits still to be done:

If you do NOT want to receive your own private copy of *American Birds: Christmas Bird Count* (i.e. want to borrow someone else's copy), let Mary Alice know so she can click the "opt out" button in the database. The entry should be finished in the next week, so let her know soon.

Owlers. It has become painfully obvious that we are not completely sure where you owl! When we get new folks who want to owl, we have no idea where to put them. Please complete the map you have been sent and return to Mary Alice so that she can create an owl-route-map. This year we matched our 2006 record of 17 owling parties..

And, as always, thanks to Sue Emerson and the potluck elves (and cooks), to Dave Gross for the computer tallying, to John Green for keeping us focused at the end of a long day, to the Hampshire Bird Club for copying and mailing costs, to the Hitchcock Center for hosting the potluck & compilation and to each of you for your good work, both the count and all the exciting paper work that goes with it. Next year's date is **Sunday, December 18, 2011** – see you then.

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