

**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Winter-Spring-Summer Field Trip Schedule, 2010**  
(Revised. March 3, 2010)

*Please register with the field trip leader(s) and check this schedule's information when a phone number is given. The Field Trip Chair (Michael Locher – 413-585-5864) is always looking for new trip ideas and leaders.*

*The Hampshire Bird Club recommends carpooling whenever possible, and suggests that all riders share equally the per-car cost of 50¢ per mile, as well as tolls and parking. See also the "Field Trip Guidelines for Participants" (September newsletter or on the Website).*

*Some trips have been marked with an asterisk (\*), which indicates that they are good trips for beginning birders. All trips have been coded as Easy (E) or Moderate (M) to give a rough indication of the pace and/or terrain. Please check all information with the trip leaders.*

**JANUARY**

**\*Friday, January 1. New Year's Birding.** Half day. Scott Sumner leads the first trip of the year, looking for any birds that haven't been up too late the night before. The trip departs from the parking lot at Sumner Heating (60 Shumway St. in Amherst) at 7 a.m. (Yep, that's what he said.) For more information call Scott at 413-256-5438. (E)

**Saturday, January 9. North Shore: Cape Ann to Plum Island.** All day. Bob Bieda leads his annual New Year's pilgrimage to the coast in search of wintering specialties like Eared Grebes, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, and much more. Dress for cold weather. For meeting information call Bob at 413-527-2623. (E)

**Saturday, January 30. Leader's Choice.** All day. Geoff LeBaron chooses between Coastal Rhode Island, Plum Island, and other interesting locations for his annual winter outing. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) several days before the trip for more information. (E)

**FEBRUARY**

**Saturday-Sunday, February 6-7. Leader's Choice: Coast of Maine or Cape Cod.** Two days. Scott Sumner will lead a two-day trip to either the coast of Maine or Cape Cod, depending on which appears to be better. Overnight accommodations will be arranged by participants. Call Scott (413-256-5438) for details as the date approaches. (M)

**Saturday, February 20. South Shore: Plymouth and Falmouth.** All day. Al Richards leads birders to the coast south of Boston to find ducks, gulls, owls, and whatever happens to be around. Dress warmly. Call Al (413-665-2761) for meeting information. (E)

**MARCH**

**Saturday, March 13. Plum Island.** All day. Geoff LeBaron goes east to see what's around Plum Island. Dress for cold weather. Call Geoff (413-268-9281) for meeting time and information. (E)

**Saturday, March 20. Connecticut River Waterfowl.** Half day. Al Richards looks for waterfowl migrating through the valley along the Connecticut River. Call Al (413-665-2761) for meeting information as the date approaches. (E)

#### **APRIL**

**\*Sunday, April 11. Ashley Reservoir: Early Warblers.** Half day. Mike Locher (413-585-5864) hopes to find Pine and Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and other early migrants. Meet in the Friendly's parking lot, near the Holiday Inn, close to Exit 15 ("Holyoke Mall") off Rt. 91 at 7:00 a.m. (E)

**\*Saturday, April 17. Early Migrants.** Half day. Betsy Higgins (413-586-7585) looks for migrants, starting around Look Park in Northampton. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the JFK Middle School on Bridge Street in Northampton. (E)

#### **MAY**

**Sunday, May 2. Connecticut River to Mt. Sugarloaf.** Half day. Dave Mako explores the fields and hills around Mt. Sugarloaf looking for migrants and a few local specialties, including Common Ravens, Peregrine Falcons, and Worm-eating Warblers. Call Dave (413-665-2999) for meeting time and place. (M)

**Friday, May 7. South Quabbin Park.** Half day. Tom Gagnon (413-584-6353) birds the southern end of the reservoir for vireos, warblers, and whatever else shows up. Meet at the Quabbin Visitor's Center parking lot at 7:00 a.m. (E)

**Saturday, May 8. Spring Migration in the East Quabbin.** All day. Tom Gagnon and Larry Therrien guide birders through the woods of East Quabbin in search of spring migrants. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members. Call Tom (413-584-6353) well ahead of time for meeting information and to register, since participation is limited. (M)

**\*Sunday, May 16. Moody Bridge Road.** Half day. Mary Alice Wilson and Sally Hills explore new state land on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley. The site is great for grassland birds, and according a website, it hosts "federally endangered dwarf wedgemussels and other rare species. These include the bridle shiner dragonfly and several species of state-protected turtles." Call Mary Alice (413-548-9078) for meeting time and place. (E)

**Tuesday, May 18. Mount Holyoke.** Half day. Tom Gagnon leads a walk up the venerable old hill looking for spring warblers (think Cerulean) and wildflowers. Meet at the entrance at 7:30 a.m. Call Tom (413-584-6353) for more information. (M)

**Friday, May 28 – Monday, May 31. Monhegan Island.** Overnight trip. Betsy Higgins and Andrew Magee lead the Hampshire Bird Club's annual pilgrimage to Monhegan Island. Not only is the island charming, but the numbers and variety of migrating birds can be astonishing. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for further information, or contact Mike Locher ([fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:fieldtrip@hampshirebirdclub.org); 564 5864) to register. (E/M)

**Saturday, May 29. Poor Man's Monhegan.** All day. Bob Bieda takes birders to Plum Island. Past trips have found Wilson's Phalaropes, Piping Plovers, Seaside Sparrows, Orchard Orioles, and Evening Grosbeaks. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register and get meeting information. (E)

## JUNE

**Saturday, June 5. Westover Air Force Base.** Half day. Pending permission, Bob Bieda will lead his annual trip into New England's premier grassland habitat, looking for Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eastern Meadowlarks. This trip is limited to Hampshire Bird Club members only. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register and check on the date and time for meeting. (E)

**Sunday, June 6. October Mountain State Forest.** Half day. Ed Neumuth explores the habitat on October Mountain. Recent cutting has made the area a prime spot for Mourning Warblers, as well as a number of other unusual species. Call Ed (413-884-4961) around trip time for meeting time and place. (E)

**Saturday, June 12. Hammonasset Beach State Park, CT.** All day. Betsy Higgins goes to the coast of Connecticut to find sparrows, rails, and other seaside denizens. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting time and place as the date approaches. (E)

**Sunday, June 13. Blockbusting trip.** Half day. Join a team that spends the morning scouring one atlas block. Each trip will be led by a team leader who has already visited the block to determine prime habitats and how to divide the group for the most productive use of the morning. Detailed information on the block and team leader will be included in a later newsletter, or call Mike Locher (413-585-5864) as the date approaches. Block-busting provides both a great day of birding and a great contribution to the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas. (E)

**Saturday, June 26. Blockbusting trip.** Half day. Join a team that spends the morning scouring one atlas block. Each trip will be led by a team leader who has already visited the block to determine prime habitats and how to divide the group for the most productive use of the morning. Detailed information on the block and team leader will be included in a later newsletter, or call Mike Locher (413-585-5864) as the date approaches. Block-busting provides both a great day of birding and a great contribution to the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas. (E)

## AUGUST

**\*Saturday, August 7. Knightsville Dam.** Half day. Betsy Higgins leads a new trip to Knightsville Dam WMA. This is a rich habitat where almost anything could turn up. Call Betsy (413-586-7585) for meeting details. (E)

**Saturday, August 21. New South Beach.** All day. Bob Bieda leads birders in their quest for late shorebird migrants, including Curlew Sandpipers and Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits. Bring a lunch, a jacket, and \$20 for the boat ride. Note: the date may change depending on the tides. Call Bob (413-527-2623) to register. (M)