



**Hampshire Bird Club, Inc.**  
**Amherst, Massachusetts**  
www.hampshirebirdclub.org  
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**May 2024**

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[Ed. note: A linked table of contents was requested by a reader. Here it is. You can skip to the next page for the newsletter as it has been looking. Send note to [newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org) if you have suggestions about this or anything else newsletter-related.]



# Hampshire Bird Club, Inc. Amherst, Massachusetts

www.hampshirebirdclub.org

Volume 40, No. 9

**May 2024**

Dear reader, I've mentioned before, possibly to your increasing exasperation, that the 2023–24 HBC club year is our 40<sup>th</sup>. I have droned on about the Great Grey Owl incursion into the Valley in the winter of 1984 that caused Scott Sumner and Sally Venman to be so encouraged by the great bird watcher turnout to think that a new bird club would be a good idea. Well, here we are nearing the end of our midlife-crisis year. The HBC board has come up with a plan to celebrate this round-number anniversary: a picnic with a roast and a raffle. This extravaganza is planned for Tuesday, June 11, at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton. This will be a bring-your-own-comestibles sort of affair. The roast will be for Geoff LeBaron, longtime HBC Vice President and Program Chair. The roaster will be none other than Scott Sumner, even longer-time President of the club. (By my count, Scott was not only the first President, he was in the hot seat for fifteen of the club's forty years.)

If you would like to celebrate the club's 40<sup>th</sup>, let me suggest a few ways to do that. Go to the June meeting/picnic. Go on an HBC field trip. Do the Education Committee's Do It Yourself field trip. Help the Conservation Committee count breeding birds. Put up a bird box. Participate in or help with the Birding For Everyone program. Just get out there and look at the spring migrants. And, if you are so inclined, buy a raffle ticket or five for either or both of Joe Oliverio's lovely photo prints of a Bald Eagle and a Prairie Warbler. The prints will be on display at the next two club meetings, and you can get an idea of what they look like at the HBC website store (HBC website > About > Boutique; <https://hampshirebirdclub.org/shop>). You can purchase raffle tickets at the online store or in person at the May and June meetings. The raffle drawings will happen at the June picnic/meeting.

## **NEXT PROGRAM**

**Tuesday, May 14, at 7:15 PM**

**Curt Griffin presents**

**On Safari in Botswana**

Wesley United Methodist Church

Curt Griffin will deliver a bit of a travelogue of a wilderness safari experience in northern Botswana, perhaps with a dash of conservation science thrown in. Expect to see a few mammals in addition to birds. At least one HBC member participated in a safari led by Professor Griffin and came home raving about it.

Dr. Curtice Griffin has directed research and conservation work on five continents. He has worked with elephants in Africa and southeast Asia, with sea turtles and Whale Sharks in the Caribbean, and with birds and salamanders here in Massachusetts. He and his students in the Department of Environmental Conservation at UMass Amherst are investigating the impacts of climate change, offshore wind development, and ecotourism on their focal species.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

- June 11, 2024. Time TBA. **Club picnic.** We hope.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**

The annual election for the HBC board will be held from May 15 through May 21 online at the HBC website. All HBC members will receive an email announcement of the election on May 15 and a reminder two days

prior to the end of the election. Members who have not yet activated their online memberships at the HBC website will need to do so prior to voting.

There are ten candidates to fill seven open board positions. The new board will meet in June to select the officers (President, Vice President/Program Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Communications Secretary) from among the returning and new board members. The candidates for the election include

Julie Blue	Carol Fournier	Amy Shamansky
Mary Cowhey	Dave Gross	Steve Winn
Chantelle Davis-Gray	Hobie Iselin	
Monique Dumais	Lisa McDaniels	

Board members continuing on the board include Derek Allard, Cory Elowe, Michealle Larkins, and Josh Rose. Astute readers who attended the March club meeting will note that Steve Winn's name did not appear in the Nominating Committee's original list. Steve's two-year term is up this year, and he is willing to stand for re-election. He will be nominated from the floor at the May club meeting. You sharp-eyed readers will have noted that Bill Randolph's name does not appear among the ten above. His name was announced at the April club meeting, but he has since withdrawn. Statements from the candidates can be found at [hampshirebirdclub.org/resources/HBC%202024%20Board%20nominee%20statements.pdf](http://hampshirebirdclub.org/resources/HBC%202024%20Board%20nominee%20statements.pdf).

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT AND WORKSHOPS

Dana and Bob Fox offered us another fascinating workshop, this time on Loons. We learned about the taxonomy and history of loons, and their behavior and life cycles. If you missed the workshop, be sure to go to EVENT VIDEOS, under EVENTS on the Hampshire Bird Club website, and watch the recording.

**May 6, 7–8 PM. Do It Yourself** with Brian and guest co-hosts. Are you new to the area? New to birding? Do you want to know where to go and what to look for, or maybe just want to connect with other HBC birders? Come to a Zoom meeting of the DIY Field Trip. Each month we select a local hot spot and five target birds that can be seen at that location. During our zoom meeting we give directions to the month's location and offer ID information for the target birds. Join us!

**May 21, 7–8 PM. Herps—The Other Birds with Joe Wicinski and Bill Benner.** May is one of the most exciting birding months of the year, with all of the returning residents and northbound migrants in their spring finery. Did you know that May is also the best month of the year to see most of our local reptiles and amphibians? Join veterinarians Bill Benner and Joe Wicinski as they show us how to look down as well as up for a closer look at some of these other interesting animals we see when we're out birding.

The **Zoom link for both workshops** is on the Education Workshop page of the Hampshire Bird Club website. Login information is Meeting ID: 822 7788 5665, Passcode: Education.

**May 19, 7–9 AM. New Member Bird Walk—open to all** at the Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge in Hadley, focusing on spring migrants. We'll meet in the parking lot.

**Want to brush up on your warbler IDs?** Check out the videos of past warbler workshops by Scott Sumner (April 2022) and D. J. McNeil (May 2021) by going to the HBC home page, clicking on Events, then on Event Videos in the drop-down menu.

**Did you miss a workshop last year?** Our recorded programs are available on the [Hampshire Bird Club website](http://Hampshire Bird Club website). You can find the links under PROGRAMS or on the EDUCATION page. Scroll down to the bottom of the videos page to find Education workshops. If you have an idea for a workshop, email us at [education@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:education@hampshirebirdclub.org). **We are looking for new members!** If you would like to join the Education Committee, please email us.

I knew a guy who, when he was young, was very poor. After years of struggle, he's no longer young.

Did you hear about the guy who did a DNA test on a garden frog to check its identity? It was 70% British, 20% French, 7% Italian, 2% Lithuanian, and a tad Pole.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please register *online* at least **two days** in advance of the trip at the HBC website ([hampshirebirdclub.org](http://hampshirebirdclub.org), go to EVENTS → FIELD TRIPS). Contact leaders (if a phone number or email is listed) if you have questions. It's always wise to bring snacks and dress appropriately. Whether with or without a leader, please follow the HBC's guidelines for ethical birding and conduct ([hampshirebirdclub.org/hbc-code-of-ethics-and-conduct/](http://hampshirebirdclub.org/hbc-code-of-ethics-and-conduct/)) and those on our website regarding field trips ([hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/](http://hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips/guidelines/)). For the most up to date list of trips, visit [www.hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips](http://www.hampshirebirdclub.org/field-trips).

*Remember that we encourage carpooling. We ask that riders share costs with drivers as a matter of courtesy. The HBC recommends the current federal mileage reimbursement rate, shared by all occupants, but the rate for a vehicle is entirely up to the driver and passengers and should be determined before leaving. Note that sign-ups for field trips are now online at the HBC website, not through trip leaders.*

**Sunday, May 5. Quabbin Park.** 7 to 10 AM. Join Craig Allen and Brian Zylich for an outing around the south end of the Quabbin reservoir searching for spring migrants and waterfowl. We'll look and listen for birds on land and on the water. Meet at the Quabbin Visitor Center at 7 AM for a walk along the dam and various other parts of Quabbin Park. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, appropriate footwear, and outerwear. Note: there is usually a porta-potty at the parking lot, but this is not guaranteed. Questions? Contact [brian.zylich@gmail.com](mailto:brian.zylich@gmail.com). Limited to 10 participants. Register online. (E)

**Friday, May 10. Sweet Alice Conservation Area (Kestrel Land Trust).** 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Join Bill Randolph and explore this diverse habitat with chances to see herons, warblers, thrushes, and waterfowl. Plan on walking 1–2 miles on mostly flat, uneven terrain through mixed conifer and deciduous forest, to Plum Brook which creates a one acre beaver pond. It's a good idea to bring repellent for ticks and mosquitos. We will meet at 9 AM in the parking area at 59 Bay Road in Amherst. Limited to 12 participants. Register online. (E/M)

**Saturday, May 11. Mineral Hills Conservation Area.** 7 to 10 AM. Join Marcia Merithew and Betsy Higgins and travel around and into the quarry surrounded by woods and along the dirt road if time allows. This outing can feature Prairie Warblers, Eastern Towhees, Common Ravens, and Red-shouldered Hawks, as well as a variety of warblers and vireos. This will be a moderate walk on uneven ground with some slight inclines and declines. Meet in the parking area at the end of Turkey Hill Road in Northampton. Please note there are no facilities available. Questions? Contact [mmerithew@comcast.net](mailto:mmerithew@comcast.net). Limited to 10 participants. Register online. (M)

**Sunday, May 12. Wildwood Cemetery, Amherst.** 8 to 11 AM. Join avid bird watcher and wildlife biologist Dave King for a trip through the Wildwood Cemetery grounds. We will likely see a variety of migrant birds returning from their winter homes in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Spring migration is a distinct season, after a winter of monastic foraging and thousands of miles of travel, birds are on the breeding grounds for a few months of romance, all at the height of their plumage and while pouring forth their joyful song. Highlights will be the colorful and vociferous warblers, but vireos, buntings, and thrushes are all possibilities. The terrain is a mix of dirt roads and woodland paths, including some gentle hills. Meet at the cemetery office in the brick Dickinson Farmhouse. Parking is available at the Wildwood Farmhouse (cemetery business entrance is across from the Wildwood Elementary School) and the Main Entrance (top of Strong Street). Please do not park on the grass and be respectful of the grounds and the people who come to mourn. Bathroom facilities are available at the start/end point. Questions? Contact Rebecca Fricke, General Manager, at [amherst.cemetery@verizon.net](mailto:amherst.cemetery@verizon.net). Limited to 15 participants. Register online. (E)

**Friday, May 17. Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area.** 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Join Bill Randolph to explore the mixed conifer and deciduous forest, flooded forest wetland, and marshes in anticipation of songbirds and warblers, nesting herons, and waterfowl. This outing will highlight how bird life changes with the warming of spring. Plan on walking 2–3 miles on fairly flat, uneven terrain with some muddy areas depending upon recent rainfall. There is an option to climb up to a bird observatory overlooking the marsh. It's a good idea to bring repellent for ticks and mosquitos. We will meet at 9 AM in the parking lot at the end of Cooke Ave. (former Moose Lodge) in Northampton. Limited to 12 participants. Register online. (E/M)

**Saturday, May 18. EQLT Rail Trail in Ware.** 7:30 to 10:30 AM. Join Cory Elowe for an easy stroll along the flat, hard-packed, crushed stone rail trail in Ware that is suitable for all abilities. This trail at the eastern edge of Hampshire County, newly renovated by the East Quabbin Land Trust (EQLT), is under-birded, but it traverses diverse habitats that are excellent for migratory warblers and breeding Eastern Towhees, Field Sparrows, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Depending on conditions and abilities, we will complete an out-and-back of likely no more than 2 miles total. However, as this is also a lovely place to ride a bike, feel free to bring yours to explore more of the ~3 miles of trail than we can cover! Recent rain can leave puddles and mud, so please wear appropriate footwear. We will meet at 7:30 AM at the Mass Central Rail Trail parking area along Upper Church Street just prior to crossing the Ware River and intersecting with Route 32. Northampton-area participants can meet at Sheldon Field, 26 Old Ferry Road, at 6:45 AM if they wish to arrange their own carpooling, as it is about a 40 minute drive to reach the rail trail. Questions? Contact [coryelowe@gmail.com](mailto:coryelowe@gmail.com). Limited to 12 participants. Register online. (E)

**Sunday, May 19. Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.** 6:30 to 11:00 AM (plus travel time; ending time is flexible). Join Peggy MacLeod at this hot spot known as one of spring's best land bird migrant traps in eastern Massachusetts, where the numbers and diversity of songbirds and surprise semi-rare migrants can be staggering. Both a wildlife sanctuary and stunning arboretum of native pines, oaks, and beeches, the cemetery is laid out in a network of ponds, wetlands, and dozens of winding avenues and paths. Accessible to individuals of all abilities, one can drive or walk to most areas as needed. While visiting the cemetery's diverse habitats over 1+ miles, the group will focus on helping all participants get eyes and ears on identified species, as well as checking in with other visitors about where to find the day's best encounters. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, and lunch. Note: Mount Auburn is still an active cemetery—please review their guidelines for birding etiquette: [www.mountauburn.org/birding-at-mount-auburn-2/](http://www.mountauburn.org/birding-at-mount-auburn-2/). Restrooms are available at the entry gate. A lunch stop is possible on the return. We will meet at 6:30 AM to carpool from Sheldon Field Park and Ride, 26 Old Ferry Road in Northampton, and we will coordinate a meeting place at Mount Auburn. Questions? Contact [sunraven99@gmail.com](mailto:sunraven99@gmail.com). Limited to 15 participants. Register online. (E)

**Wednesday, May 22. Wildwood Cemetery, Amherst.** 7 to 10 AM. Join Steve Winn, Lesley Farlow, and Aaron Hulsey for a trip through the historic Wildwood Cemetery grounds. We will likely see a variety of warblers, thrushes, and other spring migrants. The terrain is a mix of dirt roads and woodland paths, including some gentle hills. Meet at the cemetery office in the brick Dickinson Farmhouse. Parking is available at the Wildwood Farmhouse (cemetery business entrance is across from the Wildwood Elementary School) and the Main Entrance (top of Strong Street). Please do not park on the grass and be respectful of the grounds and the people who come to mourn. Bathroom facilities are available at the start/end point. Questions? Contact [lesley-farlow115@gmail.com](mailto:lesley-farlow115@gmail.com). Limited to 20 participants. (E)

**Saturday, May 25. 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 may 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. Plan for the weather and insect pests. We aim to return to Northampton by 4 PM. Questions? Contact Dave ([djgross@gmail.com](mailto:djgross@gmail.com) or 413-687-8161) or Bob ([raz@umass.edu](mailto:raz@umass.edu) or 413-585-0405). Limited to 10 participants. Register online. (E/M/S)

**Saturday, June 1. Station 43, South Windsor, CT.** 7:00 to 11:30 AM (ending time is flexible). Join Peggy MacLeod at one of the most productive inland bird watching sites in Connecticut to enjoy seasonal birding for rails, herons, songbirds, ducks, sora, bitterns, and flycatchers. Station 43, a wetland bordered by farmland and wooded areas, is owned by Hartford Audubon and comprises a shallow pond and extensive marsh and with reported sightings of 229 bird species. Although the trail is flat, the unavoidable muddy areas make the site not handicap accessible. Preparation: Because water often covers parts of the path, fully waterproof high boots are required to bird at this location. Bring binoculars, a scope if possible, bug repellent, water, and snacks. We will meet at 7:00 AM to carpool from Sheldon Field Park and Ride, 26 Old Ferry Road in Northampton. Sta-

tion 43 is located at 953 Main Street (corner of Newberry Road and Main Street), South Windsor, CT. We will park on the east side of Main Street, not blocking any driveways or mailboxes, and walk west from the intersection on what starts as a rutted driveway to the right side of a private yard. Please note that there are no restrooms at this location. Questions? Contact [sunraven99@gmail.com](mailto:sunraven99@gmail.com). Limited to 12 participants. Register online. (M)

**Saturday, June 1. DAR State Forest.** 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Join Amanda Kallenbach for a slow birding trip, exploring the summer wonders of this amazing spot. You'll get an overview of the 1,700-acre tract comprising two lakes, a couple of beaches, a large swath of marshland, camp sites, hiking trails, and the Goshen fire tower (elev. 1,575 ft.). Expect all the usual forest denizens, along with migrating warblers and more. We'll be walking on pavement and sand, doing some hiking on uneven terrain, and a bit of caravanning. Meet at the main gate house lot (78 Cape St., Goshen, off Route 112). Entry fee for MA residents without a MA State Park pass is \$8. Rain date Sunday, June 2. Questions? Contact [amanda.kallenbach@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.kallenbach@gmail.com). Limited to 10 participants. Register online. (M)

**Saturday, June 8. Knightville Dam.** 7 AM to noon. Join Betsy Higgins and Marcia Merithew on a trip exploring the Knightville Dam area in Huntington. The trip starts with an exploration at the top of the dam followed by 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 possibly cuckoos. Meet in the JFK Middle School parking lot on Bridge Road in Northampton at 7 AM. It's about a 20-minute drive to the Knightville area. There will be a combination of walking and possible driving on dirt roads over moderately uneven terrain. The road at the lower part may not be open but we will park and walk in as far as the group wants. End time depends on how much driving vs. walking we do but we will end by noon. Porta Potties available only before we drive to the lower portion. Questions? Contact [mmerithew@comcast.net](mailto:mmerithew@comcast.net). Limited to 10 participants. Register online. (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 toward beginner birders and those who, historically, have not been included in the birding community: people young in age, from underrepresented minority groups, or who have disabilities that make birding difficult. All events are free and open to the public. Please help spread the word! The online presentation requires no registration (check the HBC website for the Zoom link). Those interested in attending the beginner bird walk can register at [bit.ly/2024bfe](https://bit.ly/2024bfe).

**May 16, 2024, 7–8 PM:** Warblers and the Importance of Focusing on One Bird at a Time (Talk)

**May 18, 2024, 8:45–11:00 AM:** Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton (Walk)

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Grasslands and Grassland Birds at a Glance

by Isabel Bronson, The Trustees TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator

Each spring, after traveling nearly 6,000 miles from their wintering grounds in South America, Bobolinks arrive back at their nesting territories across the U.S. and Southern Canada. Here in New England, after a long winter, their arrival awakens our hayfields, pastures, and meadows, filling them once again with bobbling electronic songs, breeding displays, and nest-building activity.

The Bobolink is one of 24 grassland obligate bird species in North America that are an incredible suite of species whose natural histories are intimately tied to habitats dominated by grasses and forbs. Unfortunately, according to the 2022 State of the Birds Report published by The North American Bird Conservation Initiative, as a group, grassland birds have experienced the largest declines of terrestrial birds in any biome since the 1970s. One-quarter of this group,

including the Bobolink, are Tipping Point species, defined as having lost 50% of their population in the past 50 years, and are projected to lose another 50% in the next 50 years unless significant conservation action is taken. Within North American breeding grounds, populations of Bobolinks have declined upwards of 60% in the past 50 years.

These declines can largely be attributed to habitat loss, fragmentation, degradation, and significant land use changes. The U.S. was once home to a mosaic of grasslands. The tall grass, mixed grass, and short grass prairies in the Great Plains and Midwest provided an expanse of habitat, allowing grassland birds with diverse habitat requirements to flourish. Today, however, grasslands are America's most endangered ecosystem, with 60% of our native grasslands having been lost to or degraded by industrial agriculture, urban development, fire exclusion, and more. This large-scale habitat loss in the Midwest continues to put increasing importance on protecting the remaining grassland habitats we have here in the Northeast.

In New England, and zooming in to focus on Massachusetts, the dominant natural habitat type is forest. Native grasslands, however, have historically been and continue to be present in the form of river flood plains, beaver meadows, and sandplain grasslands. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, European colonization led to the clearing of almost 80% of Massachusetts forests for agriculture, dramatically increasing the amount of grassland habitat available for both grassland and shrubland birds. Much of this land has since reverted to forest, but the hayfields and pastures found within the remaining New England agricultural landscape continue to be our dominant grassland habitat type. Declines in the local small-scale agricultural industry, causing farm abandonment, threaten a large portion of our remaining grassland habitat. Abandoned farms experience forest succession or land use changes fueled by development. This has created an increasingly fragmented grassland landscape in the Northeast, with numerous habitat patches that are too small for some grassland obligate birds (Bobolinks require a minimum field size of 6–10 acres and Grasshopper Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks require fields 60 acres or greater) and decreased habitat quality due to more edges, non-native species, and greater predation pressure.

In addition to concerns raised through farm abandonment, the timing, intensity, and frequency of management across all grassland habitat types can

greatly impact grassland bird nesting success. It's important to note that while all our grasslands require some form of active management to remain open, whether that be through prescribed fire, mowing, haying, or grazing livestock, management regimes must consider the grassland bird nesting/breeding season timeline.

In recognition of this grassland habitat loss and the subsequent declines in grassland bird populations, The Trustees seek to manage over 1,000 acres of grassland habitat to support breeding populations of ground-nesting grassland birds. To work toward this vision, we launched a community science grassland bird monitoring program. Now entering its 14<sup>th</sup> monitoring season, a dedicated group of 70 volunteers conducts avian point count surveys and photo monitoring at 28 Trustees properties during the nesting season in May, June, and July. The data collected by volunteers has been a tremendous help in determining which properties and fields support grassland birds, what species are using our grasslands, and the relative abundance of each species. The program has also been integral in helping us evaluate existing grassland habitat management regimes and aids in informing new management plans. For example, photo monitoring helps track invasive species presence and can guide stewardship activities. It has also highlighted fields that need more comprehensive plant composition assessments, soil assessments, and restoration efforts to increase habitat quality. Grassland bird field-usage data collected by our volunteers has been extremely beneficial for our agroecologist in supporting our livestock managers as they develop rotational grazing regimes on our farm properties that should support both our livestock and our grassland birds.

While grassland obligate birds, and specifically the Bobolink, are a focal species for the Trustees, they are not our only priority when managing our fields. We continue to work toward broadening our bird conservation efforts within grassland habitats and have expanded our nest box program that supports populations of secondary cavity-nesting bird species such as Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and American Kestrels. We also continually take management and restoration action to enhance pollinator habitat, protect foraging grounds for wood turtles, and support populations of rare plants.

Grasslands are unique and complex habitats that support a wide array of biodiversity. This spring I hope you all take to the trails and experience their

beauty firsthand. Keep an eye out for our finely feathered Bobolink friends, sporting their backward tuxedos, and listen for their bobbling electronic song alongside whistling Eastern Meadowlarks and tiny buzzing Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows.

## THE HBC PUZZLE

Here are some more bird questions, some silly, some trivial, most obscure. [Ed. note: This is the last of them. I bet you're glad to know that.]

45. In the situation comedy "Are You Being Served" what is the subject of the book that young Mr. Grace is writing?
46. What wine grape variety gets its name from a similar color to that of the European Blackbird?
47. What specialized bandage gets its name from a group of birds?
48. If someone is "gleg as a gled" what are they?

Answers to last month's questions:

40. All were known by avian names: "Piaf," Parisian slang for a sparrow, was Édith Giovanna Gassion's stage name. Lind, whose 1851 Northampton performance was described by Emily Dickinson, was known as the "Swedish Nightingale." Parker was known as "Bird," with various stories in circulation explaining his connection to yardbirds (chickens).
41. Red Jungle-Fowl, better known in its domesticated form as the chicken. The most abundant bird in the wild is probably the Red-billed Quelea.
42. Percy Bysshe Shelley in his "Ode to a Skylark." (The bird, despite Shelley's assertion, is a real bird, not a spirit, blithe or otherwise!)
43. In a Christmas goose in "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle."
44. The Elephant Bird of Madagascar was almost certainly the most massive bird ever seen by humans; the bird went extinct after humans arrived on the island. Early human arrivals in the western Americas might have seen teratorns with much larger wingspans than any currently living species.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

The following programs are offered by Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton. Sign up online. More programs can be found at [www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/arcadia](http://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/arcadia).

### **Spring Migration Bird Walks at Arcadia—Weekdays, May 6–10, 6:30–8:00 AM**

Discover the birds that migrate, breed, and stay all year as we take an early morning leisurely walk through different areas of Arcadia. We'll learn how to identify birds by sight and sound. We'll also explore the resiliency and adaptations of some birds in response to our changing climate.

### Kestrel Land Trust

**Breakfast and Birding at Foxcroft Farm—Saturday, May 11, 7–10 AM.** Celebrate spring with birdsong, good company, and nourishing food! Join Kestrel on **World Migratory Bird Day at Foxcroft Farm** in Amherst to explore and learn about migratory and resident birds. Your guide to the season's avian visitors will be Katie Schroeder, a PhD candidate at UMass studying communication in songbirds. She will lead us around fields and ponds to identify some of the extraordinary bird diversity on Foxcroft Farm. After the bird walk, we'll return to the majestic post-and-beam farm to enjoy a breakfast spread as well as plenty of birding conversation! Jim Hoerle, co-owner of Foxcroft, will provide a tour of the barn and share his journey to restore this farm to productivity. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.kestrreltrust.org/calendar/breakfast-birding-foxcroft-farm/](http://www.kestrreltrust.org/calendar/breakfast-birding-foxcroft-farm/).

Spoil a good walk: go birding! [newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org](mailto:newsletter@hampshirebirdclub.org)

Dave Gross, Editor