

# Hoffmann Bird Club 2014-2015 Schedule

The **Hoffmann Bird Club** is Berkshire County's premier ornithological organization. It was established in 1940 with a mission of promoting the study of birds in the county. The club was founded under the auspices of the Berkshire Museum and is named in honor of Ralph Hoffmann, a naturalist born in Berkshire County.

**Monthly Meetings** are held at Berkshire Life Insurance, 700 South St., Pittsfield, MA or Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, 427 W. Mountain Rd., Lenox, MA. See the schedule for specific dates and locations. Most meetings begin at 7:00PM. **They are free and open to everyone interested in birds.** Come enjoy the scheduled program and light refreshments. Bring a friend.

**Field Trips:** Times listed are departure times; please arrive a few minutes early to meet the leader(s) and carpool when possible. When carpooling, participants are expected to contribute to gas expenses. Local trips generally last until lunch, unless otherwise noted. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Dress for the weather, wear proper footwear, and bring binoculars (if you have them). **Please contact the Trip Leader to let her/him know you are coming.**

Our **Birding Beyond Your Backyard** trips will continue this year. Call Dave Monk at 655-8594 or email him at [outreach@hoffmannbirdclub.org](mailto:outreach@hoffmannbirdclub.org) to learn how they can expand your birding enjoyment. Check our website or The Berkshire Eagle for details.

**Unless otherwise noted, all telephone numbers are in area code 413**

## Important Trip Tips

1. It is recommended that you contact trip leaders in advance to let them know you are coming so they are aware of how many people to expect. Due to unforeseen circumstances, there are occasional changes in the trip schedule. Check eNews, website or contact leader(s) for updates. The eNews is an electronic newsletter for club members.
2. If you are taking a trip where some details are TBA, contact the leader by phone or email or check eNews for more details as the date nears.
3. If you plan to take the overnight trip scheduled for 10/18-19, please make hotel reservations at least a month or two in advance. Be sure to make refundable reservations.

## *September 2014*

**Fri 9/5 Potluck and Monthly Meeting 5:00PM**

Bring a dish to share, and please bring your own place settings and utensils so we can lighten the impact on the Sanctuary.

**“Gallery of Berkshire Birds”**

Mark Thorne  
HBC Member and Wildlife Photographer  
Pleasant Valley Sanctuary  
427 W. Mountain Rd., Lenox 01240

**Sat 9/6 Explore Lanesborough 7:30AM**

We'll explore some of Lanesborough's many back country roads. The locations will be "Leader's Choices". Meet at the Lanesborough Post Office at 7:30 AM, Lanesborough. Leader: Matt Kelly 458-3664 (W) / [518-686-9005](tel:518-686-9005) (H) / 329-9446 (C), [veganpeace2@gmail.com](mailto:veganpeace2@gmail.com)).

**Wed 9/10 Springside Park 7:30AM**

Meet at the playground parking lot off of North St. (Rte. 7), Pittsfield to look for migrating songbirds and sparrows. Leader: Noreen Mole (442-6327, [smole@berkshire.rr.com](mailto:smole@berkshire.rr.com)).

**Sat 9/13 Blueberry Hill Hawk Watch 7:30AM**

(Combined event with the Allen Bird Club.) Look for raptors and migrants at Blueberry Hill Hawk Watch in West Granville. Bring a dish to share. Meet Tom Begley (655-0112, [AT8395@aol.com](mailto:AT8395@aol.com)) at Price Chopper parking lot on the Pittsfield-Lenox Rd., Lenox to carpool. Rain date 9/14.

**Wed. 9/24 A Walk in the Woods 7:30 AM**

A morning walk at a location of the leader's choice. Beginners encouraged. Meet at the Lanesborough Post Office on Rte. 7. Leader Noreen Mole (442-6327, [smole@berkshire.rr.com](mailto:smole@berkshire.rr.com)).

**Sun 9/28 Wild Acres/Pittsfield Airport 7:30 AM**

Search for sparrows and other migrants. Meet at Price Chopper parking lot on Pittsfield/Lenox Rd. Leader: Gael Hurley (281-1017, [gael19@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gael19@nycap.rr.com)).

**October 2014**

**Mon 10/6 Monthly Meeting 7:00PM**

Berkshire Life Insurance, 700 South St. Pittsfield  
**“50 Years of Osprey Monitoring in Southeast Mass”**  
**Becky Cushing, Sanctuary Director**  
**Mass Audubon’s Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries**

**Sun 10/5 Leaders Choice TBA**

Destination, time and meeting place are to be determined. Contact leaders Bob Wood & Holly Higinbotham (684-3724, higinbo@hotmail.com) for details.

**Wed 10/8 Springside Park 7:30 AM**

Meet at the playground parking lot off North St. (Rte. 7), Pittsfield. We will look for migrant songbirds and sparrows in a variety of habitats. Leader: Noreen Mole (442-6327, [Smole@berkshire.rr.com](mailto:Smole@berkshire.rr.com)).

**Sun 10/12 Leader’s Choice TBA**

A trip, possibly out of town, to look for sparrows, shore birds, and other late migrants. Contact leader Ed Neumuth (884-4961, [eneumuth@gmail.com](mailto:eneumuth@gmail.com)) for details.

HBC Members are welcome at the Hopkins Forest **Saw-whet Owl Banding Program** that runs mid-October to early November. Weather permitting, it is open evenings at the Owl Banding Station at Hopkins Forest in Williamstown. Call Drew Jones (413-597-4353) before you go for further details.

**Sat 10/18-Sun 10/19 Rhode Island Coast**

Town Hall Hinsdale **6:30AM**

or McDonalds in Lee **7:00AM**

Overnight trip to the Rhode Island coast in search of migrating shorebirds, passerines, ducks and hawks. For reservations see website of Scarborough Beach Motel in Narragansett. Register

with Dave Monk by 10/15.(655-8594,  
[mamonks60@gmail.com](mailto:mamonks60@gmail.com)).

**Sat 10/25 Constitution Hill 8:00 AM**

This Reserve has hay fields, shrub fields, large wetland, and mature hardwood forest. Meet at the BNRC parking area at the end of Bridge St. in Lanesboro; park at map kiosk. Contact Doug Bruce (499-0596; [dbruce@bnrc.net](mailto:dbruce@bnrc.net)) for details.

**November 2014**

**Sun 11/2 68th Bartlett Hendricks 7:00AM**

**Memorial Waterfowl Census**

Join the annual census of central Berkshire lakes and wetlands. Meet at Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield. Bring lunch and a scope. Trip ends around 3:00PM. Coordinator: Tom Tying (236-4502, [tyning@berkshirecc.edu](mailto:tyning@berkshirecc.edu) )

**Mon 11/3 Monthly Meeting 7:00PM**

Berkshire Life Insurance, 700 South St., Pittsfield  
**“Rebuilding Local Populations of the American Kestrel One Box at a Time”**  
**Tom Sayers**  
**Northeast CT Kestrels**

**Sat 11/8 NW CT Waterfowl Census 8:00AM**

Meet at Bartholomew’s Cobble. Bring lunch and a scope. Trip ends about 2:00PM. Co-leaders: Kate Ryan (528-4355, [DivinDucky@aol.com](mailto:DivinDucky@aol.com)) and Rene Wendell (229-6600, [rwendell@ttor.org](mailto:rwendell@ttor.org)).

**Sun 11/9 Tomhannock Reservoir 7:30AM**

A morning trip in search of waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet at Stewart’s Shop on Rte. 7 in Pownal, Vt. Leader: Matt Kelly (458-3664, 329-9446, [veganpeace2@gmail.com](mailto:veganpeace2@gmail.com)).

**December 2014**

**Mon 12/1 Monthly Meeting 7:00PM**

Berkshire Life Insurance 700 South St., Pittsfield  
"HBC Member's Night"

Bring 10 digital images or slides and holiday sweets to share, and sign up for the Christmas Count!

**Sat 12/13 Central Berkshire Christmas Count**

Join a team and keep the tradition going. Sign up at Members Night (12/1), or contact count leaders Holly Higinbotham and Bob Wood (684-3724, higinbo@hotmail.com). Blizzard date:12/14

**January 2015**

**Thu 1/1 South Berkshire Christmas Count**

Join a team and welcome the new year with some winter birding. Contact René Laubach (623-8803, renelaubach@gmail.com) to sign up or for more information about time and place.

**Sat 1/10 Fairhaven TBA**

A trip to SE Mass & Buzzards Bay to search for wintering waterfowl, loons, grebes, and passerines. Bring lunch and a scope. Contact leader: Kathy Mills (gkmills@charter.net) for carpool details.

**Sat. 1/17 North Shore TBA**

Sea ducks, gulls and alcids. Trip limited to 12, contact leader early. Bring lunch and scope if you have one. Leader: Ed Neumuth (884-4961, [eneumuth@gmail.com](mailto:eneumuth@gmail.com))

**Sat 1/31 Breakfast and Winter Birds 7:30AM**

Meet at Ozzie's Restaurant, Maple St., Hinsdale at 7:30AM for breakfast. We will then look for wintering birds around Hinsdale and nearby towns. Mostly roadside birding. Leader Tom Begley (655-0112, AT8395@aol.com).

**February 2015**

**Sat 2/7 CT River Valley 7:00 AM**

A trip for wintering birds, locations dependent on recent sightings. Meet at The Creamery on Rte. 9

in Cummington. Leaders: Sue & Ed Lewis  
(ed.lewis@enlewis.com, suzi\_q1@verizon.net,  
238-4406

### ***March 2015***

#### **Tues 3/3 Monthly Meeting 7:00PM**

Berkshire Life Insurance, 700 South St. Pittsfield  
“**Birding Mongolia, the Last Wilderness Nation**”  
**Chris Leahy**  
**Gerard A. Bertrand Chair of Natural History**  
**and Field Ornithology at Massachusetts**  
**Audubon Society**

#### **Sat 3/7 Cape Ann 6:00AM**

All day trip to look for sea ducks, gulls, and  
alcids. Bring lunch and scope if you have one.  
This trip will be limited to 12 individuals so  
contact leaders early. Car pool from Price  
Chopper on Pittsfield/Lenox Rd. Leaders Ed  
Neumuth (884-4961, [eneumuth@gmail.com](mailto:eneumuth@gmail.com)) or  
Tom Tynning (236-4502,  
[ttynning@berkshirecc.edu](mailto:ttynning@berkshirecc.edu)).

Our spring **Birding Beyond Your Backyard** walks  
will begin soon. For dates & places contact Dave  
Monk at ([outreach@hoffmannbirdclub.org](mailto:outreach@hoffmannbirdclub.org),  
655-8594) or [hoffmannbirdclub.org/beyond/html](http://hoffmannbirdclub.org/beyond/html)

### ***April 2015***

#### **Sun 4/5 Leaders Choice 7:30AM**

A search for signs of spring in Berkshire County.  
Meet at the Price Chopper parking lot on the  
Pittsfield/Lenox Rd.. Leader: Jonathan Pierce  
(281-2398, [rthprc@netscape.net](mailto:rthprc@netscape.net)).

#### **Mon 4/6 Monthly Meeting 7:00PM**

Berkshire Life Insurance, 700 South St. Pittsfield  
“**Kilimanjaro--Trekking to the Roof of Africa**”  
**Rene Laubach**  
**Past Sanctuary Director**  
**Mass Audubon’s Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries**

**Sat 4/11 Birding Stockbridge 7:30 AM**

Search for early spring migrants in Stockbridge.  
Meet on Rte. 7 in Stockbridge across from the Red  
Lion Inn. Contact Kate Ryan (528-4355,  
[divinducky@aol.com](mailto:divinducky@aol.com)) for details.

**Sun 4/26 Birding Williamstown 7:30AM**

A leisurely morning walk looking for birds in  
Williamstown & South Williamstown. Meet at Field  
Farm on Sloan Rd., S. Williamstown. Contact Carrie  
Jones (884-2661, [carriejones2011@aol.com](mailto:carriejones2011@aol.com)).

**May 2015**

**Fri 5/1 Annual Meeting and Banquet 5:00 PM**

Join club members for a brief meeting  
to elect officers followed by:

**"Neil's Big Year"**

**Neil Hayward**

**Big Year Birder**

**Mazzeo's Ristorante**

1015 South Street, Pittsfield, Ma.

Members will receive menu and reservation details  
thru eNews. **Reserve early!**

**Sat 5/2 Warner Farm, Cummington 7:30AM**

Search for American Bittern, Waterthrushes,  
Virginia Rails, Cuckoos & more! Meet at The  
Creamery on Route 9 in Cummington. Leader:  
Charles Quinlan: (413-634-0334). Email contact:  
Matt Kelly ([veganpeace2@gmail.com](mailto:veganpeace2@gmail.com)).

**Sun 5/3 Steepletop 7:30AM**

A ½ day ramble through BNRC's Steepletop  
Reserve in New Marlboro. Waterproof boots  
recommended. Meet at the Old Inn on the Green,  
134 Hartsville-New Marlboro Road, New Marlboro.  
Contact leader Doug Bruce (499-0596;  
[dbruce@bnrc.net](mailto:dbruce@bnrc.net)) in advance for directions.

**Fri 5/8 Mt Auburn Cemetery TBA**

This trip will be limited to 2 cars/8 people so be sure

to contact the leader early if you plan to attend.  
Leader: Chris Blagdon (684-1808,  
[ceblagdon@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ceblagdon@nycap.rr.com)).

#### **Sat 5/9 Connecticut Coastal Caravan 7:00AM**

A 3/4 day trip to the Connecticut shore in the Milford - New Haven area to look for wintering waterfowl. Bring a scope. Lunch optional. Leave CT for MA about 2:30PM. Contact Dave Monk in advance (655-8594, [mamonks60@gmail.com](mailto:mamonks60@gmail.com)) to arrange carpools.

#### **Sun 5/10 Post Farm and Woods Pond 7:30AM**

Morning walk in search of spring migrants and rails. Meet at the Price Chopper parking lot on the Pittsfield-Lenox Rd., Lenox. Leader Gael Hurley (281-1017, [gael19@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gael19@nycap.rr.com)).

#### **Thu 5/14 Hand Hollow Conservation Area 7:00AM and Ooms Pond, East Chatham, NY**

Target species are Mourning, Bay-breasted, and Canada Warblers. Hand Hollow portion is an easy 2 hour walk. Contact Clellie Lynch (518-794-9063, [ClellieL@aol.com](mailto:ClellieL@aol.com)) for directions and details.

#### **Fri/Sat 5/15-16 Birdathon/Century Run TBA**

Join a team and continue the tradition, and support Mass Audubon's annual Birdathon to benefit our local sanctuary. Contacts, count format and other details will be announced in the Hoffmann eNews. Coordinators: Jonathan Pierce (281-2398 [rthprc@netscape.net](mailto:rthprc@netscape.net)) and Gael Hurley (281-1017, [gael19@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gael19@nycap.rr.com)).

#### **Fri 5/22 Quabbin Reservoir 7:00AM**

A 3/4 day trip to the Quabbin Reservoir and area. Bring lunch and snacks. Leaders: Noreen Mole (442-6327, [Smole@berkshire.rr.com](mailto:Smole@berkshire.rr.com)) and Tom Begley (655-0112, [AT8395@aol.com](mailto:AT8395@aol.com)). Contact leader for meeting place.

#### **Sat 5/23 New Ashford/Mount Greylock 7:00AM**



We will walk about 4 miles at a birding pace along various trails at the base of Mt. Greylock. The terrain is a bit strenuous. Meet at JW Kelly's Real Estate, Rte. 7, New Ashford. Leader: Matt Kelly (458-3664, [veganpeace2@gmail.com](mailto:veganpeace2@gmail.com)).

**Sun 5/24 Hilltown Ramble 6:30AM**

A search for migrating song birds. We'll start in Windsor and make our way to Hawley Bog. Meet at Moran Wildlife Management Area, Rt.8A in Windsor. Contact Leaders Bob Wood and Holly Higinbotham (684-3724, [higinbo@hotmail.com](mailto:higinbo@hotmail.com)).

**Wed 5/27 Tyringham 7:00AM**

Search for summer residents at several sites in the Tyringham Valley. Meet at the BigY on Rte.102 in Lee. Contact leader Ed Neumuth (884-4961, [eneumuth@gmail.com](mailto:eneumuth@gmail.com)) for additional details.

**Sun 5/31 October Mountain 6:00AM**

Join our annual trip to October Mountain State Forest. Meet at Washington Town Park on Rte. 8 in Washington. Contact leader Ed Neumuth (884-4961, [eneumuth@gmail.com](mailto:eneumuth@gmail.com)).

**June 2015**

**Fri 6/5 Tamarack Hollow 6:30 AM**

Breeding bird survey of upland, woodland birds. Meet at Notchview Visitor Center, Rte. 9, Windsor. Leader: Ed Neumuth (884-4961, [eneumuth@gmail.com](mailto:eneumuth@gmail.com)).

**Sat 6/6 South County Leaders Choice 7:30AM**

Meet Kate Ryan at the Wild Bird Store on Rt. 7 in Great Barrington to explore some of the busy bird sites of the southern Berkshires. Contact Kate at (528-4355, [DivinDucky@aol.com](mailto:DivinDucky@aol.com)) for details.

**Sun 6/7 Springside Park 7:00AM**

Meet at the playground parking lot off North St. (Rte. 7), Pittsfield to look for resident songbirds and sparrows in a variety of habitats. Leader: Noreen

Mole (442-6327, [Smole@berkshire.rr.com](mailto:Smole@berkshire.rr.com)).

### **Sat 6/13 Berkshire Breeding Bird Survey TBA**

Teams will search IBAs and hot spots for rare Berkshire county breeders. Details to follow on eNews. Results will be discussed at the annual picnic

### **Sat 6/13 Picnic & Birding at Pleasant Valley**

427 West Mountain Road, Lenox

5:00 PM Birding-6:00 PM Picnic

Main courses and beverages are provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please bring your own place setting to help lighten the impact on the Sanctuary. We will discuss the results of the day's breeding bird survey.

### **July 2015**

### **Sat 7/11 Leaders Choice 7:00AM**

A walk through several birding locations in the Williamstown area looking for nesting summer residents. Meet at the Nature Center at Field Farm, Sloan Rd., Williamstown. Leaders: Marina Brodskaya (458-0309, [marinbrod@roadrunner.com](mailto:marinbrod@roadrunner.com)) and Katharine Wiencke (458-1846, [kwiencke@verizon.net](mailto:kwiencke@verizon.net))

Our walks and other events are greatly enhanced by our associations with the **Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC), Mass Audubon, the Allen Bird Club and Trustees of Reservations.** Each of these organizations has similar events that may be open to the public. We try to alert you to these additional events on the HBC eNews. The Berkshire Life Insurance Co. graciously provides us with excellent meeting facilities equipped for making outstanding presentations. The club's monthly meetings are suspended for the summer. They will resume in september. Field trips and outings will continue through the summer months.

The trips listed in this guide are those confirmed at press time in July. During the year, other walks

may be offered. Check for additional trips and events in HBC eNews or on our website at [www.hoffmannbirdclub.org](http://www.hoffmannbirdclub.org). The eNews is an electronic newsletter sent to HBC members.

### **Join The Hoffmann Bird Club**

The Hoffmann Bird Club is Berkshire County's premier ornithological organization. It was established in 1940 with a mission of promoting the study of birds in the county.. The club was founded under the auspices of the Berkshire Museum and was named in honor of Ralph Hoffmann, a naturalist born in Berkshire county.

Meetings are held from September through May and are open at no charge to anyone interested in birds and bird study.

Field trips are led by experienced birders, and everyone, including beginners, is welcome. Field trips offer an excellent opportunity to explore first hand the bountiful nature and natural history of the Berkshire region.

**The Marilyn Flor Day Camp Scholarship Fund is sponsored by the Hoffmann Bird Club. Annually, the club supports scholarships for aspiring young local naturalists to Mass Audubon's Summer Camp Program at Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox.**

Check [www.hoffmannbirdclub.org](http://www.hoffmannbirdclub.org) for updates and more detailed information on field trips and presentations in this schedule, along with links to birding-related sites on the Web.

**Membership in Hoffmann Bird Club is open to anyone interested in birds and bird study.**

The membership year is September, 2014 thru August, 2015. If you join after April 1, 2015 your membership is extended through August 2016.

See our website for a membership form:

<http://www.hoffmannbirdclub.org/hoff7.html>