

Common Nighthawk Watches in Williamstown and Pittsfield

“On warm summer evenings, Common Nighthawks roam the skies over treetops, grasslands, and cities. Their sharp, electric *peent* call is often the first clue they’re overhead. In the dim half-light, these long-winged birds fly in graceful loops, flashing white patches out past the bend of each wing as they chase insects. Their range includes all of the continental United States. They have one of the longest migration routes over land through Mexico and Central America to the wintering grounds in southern South America..” [From All About Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology].

Bring your own chair. Parking for cars is available in fairly close proximity to where you may set up your chair; little walking is necessary. The terrain is grassy with dirt paths or roads, but may be uneven. Leaders record all nighthawks, other birds, and other natural history observations (Monarchs, other insects, flowers, etc.) for 15 nights, sending a final report to eBird and to Hoffmann Bird Club. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

- **Williamstown** – 8/19/23 thru 9/2/23 - From 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
 - 15 Evenings of birding at Cole Field, Williams College Campus. Parking is plentiful next to Eph Pond. Insect repellent might be needed, but last year we were fine.
- **Pittsfield** – 8/19/23 thru 9/2/23 – From 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
 - 15 Evenings of birding at the Williams Street Community Gardens, 350 Williams Street, Pittsfield (dirt driveway).

Wednesday Great Barrington Birding - 8:00 AM

A birding group meets regularly on Wednesdays to bird near Great Barrington. The location will vary, and our calendar on the website will list the locations. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Thursday 9/14/23 - Housatonic Flats - 7:30 AM

A flat, mowed 3/4 mile loop trail along the Housatonic River through floodplain forest and weedy meadows. Fairly narrow trails and possible tree roots in the portions of the trail through the forest. Meet at the parking lot, 439 Stockbridge Rd., Great Barrington. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

🍎 Saturday 9/16/23 - Blueberry Hill Hawkwatch - 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM **Joint Trip with the Allen Bird Club**

- Bring a lawn chair to the top of a grassy knoll in Granville, to count migrating hawks with the Allen Bird Club! Bring a picnic lunch or snacks and refreshments for yourself. You’re welcome to come for a short time or all day! The path is

somewhat steep with exposed rock and narrow in some places. The top of the hill is a grassy meadow with exposed rock.

- [Here is the Google link for directions](#)
 - To get there from points east, go west on Route 57 and turn right onto North Lane, 4 miles past the center of Granville. Go 1.4 miles and turn right to reach a small unpaved parking lot. Walk up the path for 5-10 minutes to the top of the hill.
 - From points west take Route 20 south to Route 8 south to New Boston. In New Boston go east on Route 57 for approx 6 miles, turn left on North Lane (marked), and go 1.4 miles, to a small unpaved parking lot on the right.
 - A great breakfast spot while driving down is the Farmington River Diner on Route 8 in Otis.
 - Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Sunday 9/17/23 - Springside Park - 7:00 AM

Look for migrating songbirds and sparrows at the largest municipal park in Pittsfield, there are many woodland trails on the 237 acres. Meet at 874 North Street at the park entrance. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

14'th Annual Berkshire Biodiversity Day- a "BioBlitz" – Bow Wow Woods and April Hill Education Center in South Egremont

Saturday 9/23 at noon to Sunday 9/24/23 at noon

Sponsored by Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) and

Greenagers – BEAT is a small non-profit located in Pittsfield that works with individuals and the community to protect the environment by supporting the natural world that sustains us all. Greenagers engages teens and young adults in meaningful work in environmental conservation, sustainable farming, and natural resource management.

Biological surveys will be conducted in Bow Wow Woods, a 55-acre parcel of land that "supports rare and uncommon species as well as calcareous rock outcrops, rich mesic woods, moderate-fertility wetlands, and potential vernal pools, all of which provide important habitats for species of conservation concern." April Hill will be the base of operations at 62 N Undermountain Rd, South Egremont, MA .

The public is welcome to participate in this 24 hour biological survey. Birders are encouraged to help with the avian census. In previous years, the event had 361 observations, 194 species, 154 identifiers and 78 observers.

Owl Prowl Walk - Saturday 9/23 - Plan is to walk along the road, not thru forest trails. 8:15- 9:00 pm

Early morning Bird Walk – Sunday 9/24 - 7:00 - 9:00 am

Other events include a Mistnetting and Bird Banding Demonstration –Led by Ben Nickley of Berkshire Bird Observatory, Herpetology, Fungi and Bees!

More details and directions at <http://www.berkshirebioblitz.org/>

Sunday 9/24/23 - Williamstown Area Leader's Choice - 7:30 AM

Join us as we search for migrating sparrows, raptors, and warblers for some fall birding. The trip will consist of visiting 3-4 birdy spots with easy to moderate walking on grassy or gravel paths or along the roadsides. Walking is easy but may be muddy. Meet at the Williamstown Public Library, 1095 Main Street, at the intersection of Routes 2 and 7. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 10/7/23 - Howden Farm, Sheffield - 7:30 AM

A walk along fields, wetlands, and hedgerows. Up to 2 mostly flat miles with some uneven terrain. This is restricted access property and not often open to the public. Meet at 303 Rannapo Road. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Sunday 10/15/23 - Leader's Choice, Williamstown - 7:30 AM

Join us as we search for migrating fall birds, but we will especially focus on sparrows. The trip will consist of visiting 2-4 birdy spots with easy to moderate walking on grassy or gravel paths or along the roadsides. Walking is easy. Meet at the Williamstown Public Library, 1095 Main Street, at the intersection of Routes 2 and 7. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 10/21/23 - Parson's Marsh, Lenox - 7:30 AM

Look for migrating fall birds, including waterfowl, along the .6-mile trail and boardwalk. The walk features a small meadow, woodlands, and an overlook at one of the largest marshes in the central Berkshires. ADA ACCESSIBLE. Meet at 170 Undermountain Road, Lenox (42.3644, -73.3049). Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 11/4/23 - Shared Learning Experience for Bird Photographers - 8:30 AM

This will be a collegial outing focusing on how to approach taking photos of a small number of species, especially waterfowl. We will start at Laurel Lake in Lee and move onto Stockbridge Bowl if time permits. Limited to 6 participants on a first-come basis. **Must sign up ahead of time.** Bring your equipment, including a long lens (or a zoom camera) if you have one. Meet at the causeway on Laurel Lake Road (between Summer St. in Lee and Plunkett St. in Lenox). Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

 Sunday 11/5/24- 78th Bartlett Hendricks Memorial Waterfowl Census - 7:00 AM

This event is an annual census of Central Berkshire lakes and wetlands. The trip involves driving in cars to many lakes, getting out, and counting every bird. Bring a scope and lunch, the trip ends at about 3:00 PM. There is very little walking on this trip. There will be a stop for apples at Bartlett's Orchard in Richmond! Meet at the Berkshire

Museum on South Street. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information. Be aware, today Daylight Savings Time Ends!

Saturday 11/11/23 - NW CT Waterfowl Census - 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

This trip is an annual census of Northwest Connecticut lakes. Bring lunch and a scope. The trip ends about 2:00 PM. Meet at Bartholomew's Cobble. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

**Saturday 11/18/23 - Annual Berkshire Natural History Conference
Hosted by the Berkshire School in Sheffield**

Come help celebrate the incredible diversity of Berkshire County, once again. The great mix of speakers, exhibitors, displays, and participants (you!) have come to make this enjoyable and educational. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information. [Here is the Conference website link](#)

Saturday, 12/2/23 — Laurel Lake, Lee/Lenox - 8:00 AM

Look for waterfowl, herons, and other birds on and around Laurel Lake. The group will be walking along Laurel Lake Road. Meet at the causeway on Laurel Lake Road, between Summer Street in Lee and Plunkett Street in Lenox. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 12/16/23 - Northern Berkshire Christmas Count

Join a team in the North Adams/Williamstown Count Circle. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Sunday 12/17/23 - Central Berkshire Christmas Count

Join a team and keep the tradition going. The Blizzard date is Saturday 12/16. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Monday 1/1/24 - South Berkshire Christmas Count

Join a team and welcome the new year with some winter birding. The first day of the year is a great way to start your annual bird list. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

 Sunday 2/4/24 - Hinsdale Breakfast and Winter Birds - 8:00 AM

We will start at Ozzie's Restaurant at 8:00 AM for breakfast. We will then look for wintering birds around Hinsdale and nearby towns. Mostly roadside birding. Meet at Ozzie's Restaurant, 26 Maple Street, Hinsdale, at 8:00 AM for breakfast. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 3/10 or 3/17 or 3/24/24 - Evening Trip – Williamstown - American Woodcock Aerial Display

We will visit 1-2 locations in Williamstown, listening to their nasal “*peent*” calls and watching the amazing aerial displays of the American Woodcock. Meet at the Williamstown Public Library, 1095 Main Street, at the intersection of Routes 2 and 7. Bring a headlamp or flashlight if you have one, as we may be walking into some fields; we hope to find some areas where we can view them from the road. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information. Location and time will be determined by scouting closer to the date.

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Sunday 3/24/24 - Spring Waterfowl Search - 7:30 AM

Spring is a great time to look for waterfowl on our local lakes wherever there is open water. This trip will involve driving to multiple lakes and wetlands. There is limited walking. Meet at Farnams Causeway (off of Rte. 8) on Cheshire Lake. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Sunday 4/21/24 - Leader’s Choice Williamstown - 7:30 AM

Join us as we look for arriving migrants at one or more hotspots in this birdy little town. The trip will consist of visiting 3-4 birdy spots with easy to moderate walking on grass or gravel paths, or along the roadsides. Meet at the Williamstown Public Library, 1095 Main Street at the intersection of Routes 2 and 7. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 4/27/24 - Cummington - 7:30 AM

Search for American Bittern, waterthrushes, Virginia Rails, cuckoos & more! This trip involves driving to 4-6 birding spots, some easy to moderate walking on grassy paths or along roadsides. Meet at The Creamery on Route 9 in Cummington. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 5/4/24 Birds and Blooms, Bartholomew’s Cobble - 7:00 AM

Join a naturalist for a guided walk along the Housatonic River looking for spring ephemerals and migrating warblers. Bartholomew's Cobble is famous for its spring wildflowers and is the top birding location in the Berkshires according to eBird. This joint program is offered by the Trustees in partnership with the Hoffmann Bird Club. Easy to moderate hiking, most likely we will be walking Ledges and Bailey Trails, down to the cottonwood. Expected birds: mergansers in the river, pine warblers in the trees, maybe a glimpse of a bald eagle or black vulture, shore birds on exposed mudflats, and returning tree/rough-winged swallows over Corbin’s Neck. Meet at Bartholomew’s Cobble, 105 Weatogue Road, Sheffield. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Sunday 5/5/24 - New Ashford - 7:00 AM

Join us to explore birding spots in the New Ashford area. Meet at JW Kelly's Real Estate, Route 7, New Ashford. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Thursday 5/9/24 - Hand Hollow Conservation Area and Ooms Pond, East Chatham, NY - 7:00 AM

Morning walk in search of warblers and other migrants. The Hand Hollow portion is an easy 2-hour walk. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 5/11/24 - Steepletop, New Marlborough - 8:00 AM

Steepletop is a Berkshire Natural Resource Council property in New Marlborough. The property consists of wood roads and trails through deciduous and mixed conifer forests. The terrain has easy, gentle grades with smooth footing. Meet at the Steepletop, 648 North Road, New Marlborough. For directions and more trail information follow [this link](#). Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Wednesday 5/15/24 - South Stream Road, Pownal, VT - 6:45 AM

Scope out waterfowl and bullfrogs at South Stream Pond, and stroll wooded paths searching for warblers and flycatchers. This trip is a great warbler tune-up before the Century Run trip. The birding takes place along a possibly muddy and grassy road, that skirts the pond, surrounded by deciduous trees. The trip ends before lunch. Meet at the Williamstown Public Library, 1095 Main Street at the intersection of Routes 2 and 7; We will carpool or caravan to the site from the library. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Friday/Saturday 5/17-18/24 - Century Run

Join a team and continue the tradition of a Big Day! The challenge of our Hoffmann Century Run is to try and see or hear 100 species of birds in Berkshire County in 24 hours! Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 5/18/24 - Bobolink Trip to Field Farm, Williamstown - 7:00 AM

Join leader Peter Rogers to view the breeding Bobolinks at the peak of their activity! This established seasonal community of birds has been monitored annually for over 15 years as part of a citizen science project. Easy walking on mowed paths around grassy fields and meadows. Field Farm is a Trustees of Reservations property at 554 Sloan Road in Williamstown. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Wednesday 5/22/24 - Tyringham - 7:00 AM

Search for spring migrating and resident warblers, flycatchers, swallows, and raptors at several sites in the beautiful Tyringham Valley. Fairly easy walking on roads and trails.

The trip will be approximately 3 hours. Meet at Lee's Big Y parking lot at 7 AM and plan to carpool. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Saturday 5/25/24 - October Mountain 7:00 AM

Join our annual trip to October Mountain State Forest. This trip involves driving to multiple birding spots with some walking along roadsides. One stop at the marsh involves walking on narrow grassy paths down to a marsh. Meet at Washington Town Park on Route 8 in Washington. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Friday 6/7/24 Mt. Greylock Trail, North Adams 7:00 AM

We'll bird the Mount Greylock State Reservation Bellow's Pipe trail. The trailhead is near the Notch Road / Reservoir Road intersection in North Adams. Park at the Notch Gate lot and we will walk together about 100 yards downhill on Notch Rd to the trailhead. The trail is wide, designed for both hiking and mountain biking. Terrain includes flat sections for the first quarter mile, followed by moderate inclines. We'll follow the trail approximately one mile, and return the same way. The city of North Adams plans to conduct forest management operations in this area, including logging, in the near future. Data gathered during this and subsequent trips will provide an important record of breeding birds that may be affected. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

🍎 Sunday 6/9/24 - Mount Greylock Birds & Breakfast - 6:30 AM

We will bird Rockwell Road, several stops driving up the mountain, and the summit. Breakfast at Bascom Lodge will follow the birding. Meet at the Greylock Visitor's Center on the Lanesborough side at the mountain's base. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Sunday 6/16/24 - "Top to Bottom" Walk - Williamstown - 7:00 AM

June is perfect for finding active family groups, parents feeding chicks, and fledglings begging for food. We will choose an active road, meet at the top, leave some cars at each end, then walk leisurely to the bottom while watching and listening to all of the rich activity taking place. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

🍎 Friday 6/21/24 - 11th Annual Hoffmann Hackers Golf Tournament and picnic for everyone - 4:00 PM

The event will occur at the Donnybrook Country Club, 775 Williamstown Road, Lanesborough, MA 01237, on Friday, June 21, 2024, starting with a "shotgun start" at 4:00 PM. The public is welcome to participate. The 9-hole golf tournament is a

fundraiser for Berkshire County's premier Ornithological Society. All proceeds will go to the Hoffmann Bird Club.

The format will be a "Captain and Crew" or "Best Ball", but comes with a twist; each team of four golfers is responsible for noting as many different bird species as possible during the tournament. The number of birds identified may be deducted from that team's final golf score! Special prizes will also be awarded for "birdies" and "eagles." **Contact:** 413-458-3664, donnybrookgolf@earthlink.net) for more info and to sign up for a team!

Saturday 6/22/24 - Greylock Glen, Adams - 7:00 AM

Focusing on 'Birding by Ear' and using the Merlin App

A walk along an even, gravel trail looking and listening for breeding birds in this lovely area on the slopes of Mount Greylock. The Glen Meadow Loop trail is a 1.7 ml loop trail near the Welcome Center of the Greylock Glen. The path leads us through the varied habitats of the Glen, including forests, meadows, and two ponds.

On this trip, we will focus on identifying birds through their song using the Merlin cell phone app and our own ears! Learn how to enhance your birding experience beyond identifying bird species and learn about the natural history of the birds we hear. The trip list from last year's walk is on [eBird](#) if you want to look at the species we saw and heard! Meet at the Adams Visitor's Center, 3 Hoosac Street, next to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, to carpool to the newly-constructed Greylock Glen Welcome Center. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information.

Berkshire Butterfly Counts - An Annual Event!

Three of the main goals of the North American Butterfly Association's Butterfly Count Program are to (1) gather data that will monitor butterfly populations, (2) give butterflyers a chance to socialize and have fun, and (3) raise public awareness by hosting events that will increase general interest in butterflies. Join a team and learn how to identify butterflies! 15 mile count circles are already established in our county. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information. Counts will take place in July.

Saturday 7/6/24 - Money Brook Trail, Williamstown - 7:00 AM

Meet to look for nesting and juvenile birds. We hope to see Bobolinks and many other species. We'll take an easy walk past fields along a grassy and rocky old road to the base of Money Brook Trail. Then there will be a moderate hike up this narrow trail with tree roots and rocks. The trip ends by 10 AM. Take Route 43 in Williamstown (=Green River Road) and turn onto Hopper Road. This is the entrance to Mount Hope Park, and you will see picnic tables near the bridge over the river. You will continue driving on this road for about 4 miles, as it turns from pavement to dirt, and rises in altitude. At a fork in the road, bear left. The road ends at a parking lot next to Haley Farm. There is a kiosk

and map in the parking lot. Please email hoffmannbirdclub@gmail.com to obtain more information. [Here's a link to more info about the Trail and directions](#)