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Time to Renew

You will be receiving your 1986 BIRD OBSERVER renewal notice in the mail soon. We would greatly appreciate your prompt response.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dates back to 1899 and has grown from a limited affair involving only a few people to an event in which tens of thousands of birders in Canada, United States, Mexico, Central and South America take part.

Each local CBC is a day-long census of all birds within a circular area 15 miles in diameter, and count compilers try to "field" as many competent birders as they can to cover the roughly 177 square miles of each count circle.

This year's count period is from Wednesday, December 18, 1985 through January 5, 1986. BIRD OBSERVER encourages anyone who wishes more information or who desires to participate to send a stamped and self-addressed envelope to Robert H. Stymeist, 98 Boylston Street, Watertown, MA 02172.

—Bird Observer Workshops of the Coming Season—

WINTER RAPTORS and the Role of Predation

The hibernal season is a time of hardship for animal populations, yet Massachusetts plays host in winter to as many as a dozen species of diurnal raptors. In this winter workshop, an examination of the role and dynamics of predation will be made with topics on the food and feeding habits of hawks, on hawk movements, and on some of the techniques used to study wintering raptors. The indoor discussion will also feature a segment on the identification of raptors likely to be encountered in Massachusetts during the winter.

Participants will receive handouts, view slides, and examine preserved specimens of local winter raptors. A field trip will include a half-day cooperative effort to census raptors wintering in a high-density raptor area.

SEMINAR: Friday, January 17, 1986, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.
Babson College, Forest Street, Wellesley, MA
Tomasso Hall, Room 209

FIELD TRIP: Saturday, January 18, 1986. Meet at 8:30 A.M.
COST: \$25 per person



OWLS - A Workshop on the Strigiformes

In this workshop the group will be introduced to the owl species of New England. There will be an emphasis on the many specialized adaptations of owls, owl feeding ecology, breeding biology, migration, interactions with humans, and the marvelous repertoire of owl vocalizations.

The lecture session will include handouts, slides, examination of study skins and owl pellets, and owl recordings, including some by the lecturer. A nocturnal field trip in search of owls will be followed by a group breakfast and a morning search for diurnal owls and other raptors.

SEMINAR: Friday, February 28, 1986, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.
Babson College, Forest Street, Wellesley, MA
Tomasso Hall, Room 209

FIELD TRIP: Saturday, March 8, 1986. Meet at 3:00 A.M.
COST: \$25 per person



Wayne R. Petersen will conduct both of these workshops.

TO REGISTER, send your name, address, and phone number(s) along with a check made payable to BIRD OBSERVER to Martha Vaughan, 15 Elmwood Park, Newton, MA 02160. Telephone: 244-0166. The locations of the field trips will be decided after wintering owl and raptor concentrations become established.
