

THE EXTRAORDINARY AUGUST 25, 26, 2012 BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB EXTREME PELAGIC BIRDING TRIP

The Aug 25-26 Brookline Bird Club pelagic trip to Dogbury, Oceanographer, and Welker Canyons was beyond all expectations. We saw all the shearwaters and storm-petrels currently on the MA state list. The trip was undoubtedly the best New England pelagic ever with good weather and fairly calm seas with excellent leaders and spotters (Marshall Iliiff, Steve Mirick, Jeremiah Trimble, James P. Smith, Ida Giriunas, Naeem Yusuff) and our outstanding captain, Joe Huckenmeyer's ability to position the birds for viewing. All the expected hoped for rarities at this time of year plus real rarities including Red-billed Tropicbird, 2 Barolo Shearwaters and Bridled Tern were seen. The trip was orchestrated by the Brookline Bird Club flawlessly and we even had some take home Tuna Steaks.

As has already been mentioned, this BBC pelagic was one to remember. Posted below are some links to photos of the greatest highlights.

To put this in perspective, even if you take away these three species (Barolo Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, White-faced Storm-petrel), I think most participants would still have considered it a successful trip! Birds such as Bridled Tern, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Band-rumped Storm-petrel would have highlighted the average trip to these waters but instead were overshadowed by the multiple megas we encountered.

The rough totals and highlights-

Barolo Shearwater- 2 birds seen on our chumstick at Oceanographer Canyon, about two hours apart. .

Red-billed Tropicbird- 1 juvenile

Bridled Tern- 1

White-faced Storm-petrel- 7

Band-rumped Storm-petrel- 9

Audubon's Shearwater - 3

Leach's Storm-petrel- dozens

Long-tailed Jaeger – 1

Pomarine Jaeger – 4

Black Terns – many

Red-necked Phalarope – 100 +

Red Phalarope – 2

Migrating Hudsonian Godwits – 10

Mammals and other critters: Finback whale 1, Common Dolphins, Mola-mola, Sharks, Loggerhead Sea-turtles 2, Leatherback Sea Turtle - 1, Portuguese Man-O-War, Flying Fish

http://www.flickr.com/photos/jeff_offermann/sets/72157631296282732/

<http://www.shorebirder.com/2012/08/aug-25-26-bbc-pelagic-mega-rarities.html>

<https://picasaweb.google.com/101375529793030642051/RecentlyUpdated?authuser=0&feat=directlink>

<https://picasaweb.google.com/101375529793030642051/20120829?authuser=0&feat=directlink>

<https://picasaweb.google.com/108051340648946339886/ExtremePelagic#>

<http://home.comcast.net/~smirick/ExtremePelagic08252612.jpg>
<https://picasaweb.google.com/108051340648946339886/ExtremePelagic#>

<http://naturescapeimages.wordpress.com/2012/09/09/1134/>

Look for our 2013 Pelagic Trips to be scheduled on:

June 23, July 20, August 24, 25 and November 9, 2013