

Brookline Bird Club Bulletin

November 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016



See back cover for membership details.

BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB HOME PAGE
www.brooklinebirdclub.org

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Cambridge, MA 02139
birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

THE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB, INC.

There are now more than 1100 members in the Brookline Bird Club (BBC). Membership is open to all who are interested in birds and nature. A membership form can be found at the end of the bulletin. Whether you are a member or not, you are invited to participate in our activities. All trips listed in this bulletin are free of charge, though some trips may specify costs for travel or admission.

The BBC stresses the importance of good public relations. When attending trips, you should park your vehicle off the road, away from driveways and posted areas, so that traffic can flow unimpeded. Respect special guidelines at birding locations such as cemeteries and national wildlife refuges. Most important, do not enter private property unless you have permission. For a refresher on responsible birding, see the BBC Code of Ethics posted on our website and published yearly in the spring bulletin.

Should weather conditions appear bad and driving hazardous, contact the leader, at whose discretion the trip may be postponed or canceled. Also, check MASSBIRD for trip updates.

Bring a lunch on all-day trips. Inform the leader if you need to leave early. Try to carpool whenever possible, not only to save costs and fuel, but also so that the leader can take everyone to limited-access places.

CLUB STATISTICIAN WANTED

After many years of dedicated service and hard work, Bob Stymeist is stepping down as club statistician. The statistician collects field reports from all BBC-led trips during the year. He or she also receives year totals from birders and writes an annual summary report for the bulletin and web site. If you are good with recordkeeping and interested in the position, please contact Bob at rstymeist@verizon.net.

NOTES TO LEADERS

If you cannot lead a scheduled trip, you are responsible for finding a substitute leader. If you must cancel due to bad weather or other emergency, use the BBC Email Hotline and MASSBIRD to get the word out. Reports are very important to the BBC. Leaders are sent in advance a copy of the Massachusetts checklist, which should be filled out as soon as possible and forwarded to the club statistician (see the first page for contact information).

If a leader records either a "write-in" or rarity on the Mass. Checklist (e.g., Sedge Wren, Barn Owl, Western Kingbird) he or she should call Bill Drummond at (978) 975-1167, Steve Grinley at Bird Watcher's Supply and Gift in Newburyport, (978) 462-0775, and Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) at (781) 259-2150. MAS can be phoned at any time.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

- **Massachusetts Voice of Audubon:** call (781) 259-8805 to hear a report on Eastern MA, Western MA, Nantucket, and Cape Cod bird sightings. Use the same number to report sightings for all but Eastern MA. To report Eastern MA sightings, phone Wildlife Information Line at (781) 259-2150.
- **BBC Rare Bird Email Hotline:** contact Barbara Volkle at barb620@theworld.com for details.
- **MASSBIRD email list:** see www.massbird.org for details on how to subscribe and how to view message archives.
- **BBC Website:** www.brooklinebirdclub.org
Webmaster: Jason Forbes, jason@brewsterslinnet.com
- **Family Radio Service (FRS) radios:** the BBC has adopted the American Birding Association standard channel 11/22. See www.americanbirding.org for more information.
- **Massbird.org:** for sightings, links to local bird clubs, and general information visit www.massbird.org

For general birding tips and information, call Bill Drummond at (978) 975-1167.

Young Birder Scholarship Update

Aidan Pavao, recipient of the BBC's first annual Young Birder's Scholarship, reports that he had a wonderful time at National Audubon's Hog Island camp in Maine and especially appreciated the "immersive experience in which [he] lived with people who dedicate their whole lives to birds." Aidan will appear at a future club meeting to present a report on his week at Hog Island.

The club will offer two scholarships for 2016. Visit www.brooklinebirdclub.org for the application form, instructions, and deadline. Thanks to the many members whose generous donations support these scholarships. To donate, you can go to the web site, click on the "Join" link on top, and enter an amount under "optional donation for BBC scholarship."

**Watch the BBC website
for information on the winter meeting!
www.brooklinebirdclub.org**

What Is Birding 101?

Trips designated Birding 101 are geared especially to beginning or young birders. The leader will focus on the basics of birding such as field marks, how to describe a bird's location, and ID tips. These trips are open to all, but are ideal if you are a beginner or have a nonbirding friend who might like to come along and see what it's all about. That's how most of us got started! Look for these trips in future bulletins as well. If you have a suggestion for a good spot for a beginners' walk, please contact the field trip coordinator.

BBC Book Fund: Recipients and Donations

The BBC, through the book fund program of the club's Conservation and Education Committee, has recently purchased and donated books about birds and nature to Kestrel Educational Adventures on Cape Ann and the Murkland Elementary School in Lowell. The book fund was established to promote bird and nature education for K-12 students. Kestrel Educational Adventures, annually serving over a thousand students in Essex County, provides students with "child-centered, inquiry-based explorations of the wild places in their own towns," including an Osprey program in conjunction with the Essex County Greenbelt Association. Students at the Murkland School visit the Assabet River NWR as part of the Urban Education program, designed to "bring awareness and knowledge of the natural world to children who do not have access to a protected natural environment." Students study mist-nest-ed birds, birds' nests, and the behavior of Great Blue Herons. Education is a vital part of the club's mission, and the BBC is proud to support the fine work of Kestrel Educational Adventures and the Urban Education program.

The book fund comes from member donations. Thanks to all club members who have contributed thus far. If you wish to donate, you can designate an amount on the "BBC School Book Fund" line on the back page of the club bulletin when you renew your membership or, especially for life members, at any time that you might wish to donate.

If you know of specific teachers or schools who might be suitable recipients for the fund, please contact John Nelson or Dave Williams:

jnelson@northshore.edu
dave.williams6@gmail.com

SUPPORT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AT TAX TIME

For over 25 years, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has been responsible for conserving and protecting hundreds of species that are not hunted, fished, trapped, or commercially harvested in the state. Its highest priority is protecting the 442 species of animals and native plants that are officially listed as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern in Massachusetts. But in 2004, the program was removed from the state's operating budget, leaving it to be funded by project-specific bond monies, fees, federal grants, voluntary contributions — and your voluntary donations on state income tax forms. Help support the NHESP and its work in natural community protection, rare species research, and restoration. Consider making a voluntary contribution to 'Endangered Wildlife Conserv.' on your state income tax form. See the NHESP website <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/> for more information.

SUPPORT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES THROUGH DUCK STAMPS, NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE BBC

You can now purchase your stamp through the BBC. We also have Brookline Bird Club Duck Stamp holders/keychains available for sale.

The current federal duck stamp costs \$25 and is valid from July 2015 to June 2016. Entrance to any national wildlife refuge in the United States is free when you show your stamp. As birders, we treasure our birding visits to national wildlife refuges locally and nationally. Of the 26 refuges in New England, 11 are in Massachusetts, including Parker River, Monomoy, Great Meadows, Oxbow, and Assabet River. In buying a duck stamp, we contribute to the purchase or leasing of newly protected lands.

Go to our web site, www.brooklinebirdclub.org, for details.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

Family membership is available. It entitles all members of a household to member benefits, including discounted costs for pelagic trips and workshops. It costs \$22 per year and comes with one family copy of the club bulletin. Look for the new family category on the Membership Renewal cards and on the form in the back of the bulletin and on the BBC website.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! RENEW OR JOIN VIA PAYPAL

You can join or renew your membership in the BBC by credit card or debit card via PayPal. If you choose to do so, go to www.brooklinebirdclub.org and click on **“Join”** in the top bar. Fill in the form and then choose *Credit Card* or *Debit Card*. Or, go directly to the membership form: www.brooklinebirdclub.org/p/join-bbc-html.

We will continue to process membership renewals by check as well.

We appreciate renewals by the end of December so that you will continue to receive meeting notices and blue books without interruption. Thank you for your membership support!

ALL-DAY PELAGIC TRIP

Register now for the November 14, 2015, pelagic trip to Nantucket Shoals and the NEW January 23, 2016, trip, also to Nantucket Shoals. See page 28 for details.

FIELD TRIP CANCELLATIONS

Field trips may be cancelled due to dangerous weather conditions or other emergencies. Cancellations will be posted on the web site (www.brooklinebirdclub.org), sent out via our Twitter feed (@bbcbirds), and posted to the Massbird listserv.

PROGRAM OF TRIPS
November 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

All trips free of charge unless otherwise indicated.
This list includes limited-participation trips not on website.



Watch for *Birding 101*
and *Limited Mobility* logos



Sunday, November 1

The Lakes of Wakefield and Lynnfield. Morning.

Meet behind the Clarion Inn Hotel on North Ave. in Wakefield.
8:00 a.m.

Dave Williams, Reading (781) 944-8118
dave.williams6@gmail.com

Fresh Pond, Cambridge. Morning.

This is roughly a two mile-walk on a level, paved path around the pond. Meeting place: TD Bank parking lot at Fresh Pond Circle, Routes 2-3, Concord Ave. and Fresh Pond Parkway, Cambridge. 8:00 a.m.

Bob Petersen, Cambridge (617) 492-0454
robert.petersen@childrens.harvard.edu

New Hampshire Coast. All day.

Call leader for details. Meeting place: McDonald's parking lot at 710 Lafayette Road (Route 1) in Seabrook, NH. This McDonald's is located on Route 1 just north of the intersection of Route 107 and Route 1 off Exit #1 of I-95 just north of the MA/NH border. 8:00 a.m.

Steve Mirick, Bradford (978) 374-0654
smirick@comcast.net

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

Meeting place: Newburyport District Courthouse, Route 1 traffic circle. 9:00 a.m.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772 ida8@verizon.net



Saturday, November 7

Essex to Plum Island. All day.

Meeting place: Intersection of Island Road and Route 133 in Essex. 8:30 a.m.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772 ida8@verizon.net



Sunday, November 8

Cape Ann. Morning to early afternoon.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 8:00 a.m.

Zack Weber, Cambridge
birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

Wednesday, November 11

Plum Island and Vicinity. Morning.

Meeting place: District Courthouse parking lot, Route 1 traffic circle, Newburyport. 8:00 a.m.

Dave Williams, Reading (781) 944-8118
dave.williams6@gmail.com

Saturday, November 14

Hyannis to the Nantucket Shoals Area. 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bad weather date: Sunday, November 15
Birds expected: Alcids, Gannets, Shearwaters, Phalaropes, Jaegers, Gulls, Fulmar, marine mammals and any rarities such as Skua.
Limit: 65 participants

Cost: BBC members \$100.00, non-members \$120.00

There may be a fuel surcharge. Jeremiah Trimble and other master birders will lead this trip. Our boat, the Helen H, is a very comfortable, fast, 100-foot fishing boat with a knowledgeable and enthusiastic captain and crew. There is a full galley with excellent food at reasonable prices. Parking is free. To reserve a space, send a check for the full amount made out to BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB AGENT along with a signed waiver to Ida Giriunas, 83 Summer Ave., Reading, MA, 01867 and include either your email or your postal address for confirmation and boarding instructions. For additional information and the waiver to be signed, contact Ida.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772 ida8@verizon.net

Sunday, November 15

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport. Morning.

Beginners encouraged. A two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. From Route 128 (Exit 9), take Route 127 north (Eastern Avenue) toward Rockport, 3 mi. At 5-way intersection, turn left onto Railroad Avenue (remains Route 127) and follow for 2.4 mi. Turn right onto Gott Avenue, then right into the state park's parking lot, which is the meeting place. 8:00 a.m.

Caroline Haines, Rockport (978) 546-2402
carolinawrencarolinawren@hotmail.com

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

Meeting place: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters/Visitors Center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike. 9:00 a.m.

Jonathan Center, Chelmsford (978) 866-7391
jbcenter@verizon.net

Saturday, November 21

Cape Ann. All day.

Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester at 8:00 a.m. If you are taking the train from North Station going to Cape Ann, meet at the Rockport Train Station at approximately 9:40 a.m. and I will meet you there. Call the leader 2-3 days in advance if taking the train.

William Drummond, North Andover (978) 975-1167
wcdrummond@verizon.net

Sunday, November 22

Newburyport and Vicinity.

Late morning to early afternoon. Meeting place: Commuter Rail Station off Parker Street in Newburyport at the southern parking lot on the west side of the tracks at 10:45 a.m. If you are coming on the train it usually gets in at 10:30 a.m. but if it is running late we will hold.

William Drummond, North Andover (978) 975-1167
wcdrummond@verizon.net



Wednesday, November 25

Great Meadows NWR, Concord. Morning.

This trip will be an easy walk that will search for bluebirds, raptors, and wintering waterfowl, as well as wild turkey that may be in the area. Meeting place: Refuge parking lot on Monsen Road (off Route 62). 8:30 a.m.

Clayton Swanson, Lexington (978) 395-7877
cas-swansong@comcast.net

Saturday, November 28

Leader's Choice--South of Boston. All day.

This trip is being co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club. Glenn will be checking the recent sightings and will choose the birdiest spots. Call leader after November 22 for details.

Glenn d'Entremont, Stoughton (781) 344-5857
gdentremont1@comcast.net

Saturday, December 5

Cape Ann. Morning to early afternoon.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 8:00 a.m.

Neil Hayward, Cambridge (617) 717-9969
neil.hayward@gmail.com

Sunday, December 6

Riverway, Brookline. Morning.

This walk is co-sponsored by the National Park Service and the Emerald Necklace Bird Club, and will focus on waterfowl and other winter species along this stretch of the Emerald Necklace. The 90-minute walk is suitable for beginning birders as well as more experienced birders. Meeting place: MBTA Longwood Green line parking lot off Chapel Street, Brookline. 9:00 a.m.

Bob Mayer, Jamaica Plain (617) 983-3330
rgmayer@comcast.net

Saturday, December 12

Cape Ann. All day.

Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 9:00 a.m.

Bob Petersen, Cambridge (617) 492-0454
robert.petersen@childrens.harvard.edu

Sunday, December 13

Plum Island. Morning.

Meeting place: Parking lot #1, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. 9:00 a.m.

Zack Weber, Cambridge
birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

Thursday, December 17

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds. Morning.

Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of bad weather, contact the leader. Meeting place: Halibut Point State Park parking lot. 9:00 a.m.

Barbara Volkle, Northborough (508) 393-9251
barb620@theworld.com

116th Annual Christmas Bird Count

BBC members are encouraged to participate in the 116th Christmas Bird Count, which will take place from December 14, 2015, through January 5, 2016. Sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. More than 30 count circles are located entirely or partly within Massachusetts. Count dates confirmed as of press time are listed below. Changes can happen, however, and participants should contact the count compiler at least a week in advance.

Date to Be Determined

Greenfield: Mark Fairbrother bogelfin@crocker.com
(413) 367-2695

Groton-Oxbow: Ron Lockwood ronlockwood@comcast.net
(978) 779-5367

Mid-Cape Cod: Peter Trimble merlin0426@comcast.net
and Jeremiah Trimble

Plymouth: Trevor Lloyd-Evans (508) 224-6521

Stellwagen Bank: Simon Perkins
simonperkins2010@yahoo.com (978) 369-1284

Tuckernuck: Simon Perkins
simonperkins2010@yahoo.com (978) 369-1284

Westminster: Charles Caron caronenv@aol.com

Monday, December 14

Sturbridge: Mark Lynch moa.lynych@verizon.net
snow/ice storm date December 15

Saturday, December 19

Andover: Donna Cooper (978) 470-2717

Athol: Dave Small (978) 413-1772 dave@dhsml.net

Buzzard's Bay: Jeremiah Trimble (508) 498-9646
jtrimble@oeb.harvard.edu

Millis: Elissa Landre elandre@massaudubon.org

Quincy: Glenn d'Entremont gdentremont1@comcast.net
(781) 344-5857

Springfield: George C. Kingston gcking@yahoo.com
(413) 525-6742

Sunday, December 20

Cape Ann: Jim Barber capeann@hotmail.com, Jim Berry jim.berry3@verizon.net

Cape Cod: Blair Nikula odenews@odenews.com

Central Berkshire: Tom Collins (413) 499-2799

Greater Boston: Robert Stymeist rstymeist@verizon.net

Newport County, RI/Westport, MA: Robert Emerson remerson@duffysweeney.com (401) 455-0700

Northern Berkshire: Pam Weatherbee (413) 458-3538

Northampton: Jan Ortiz jtortiz@aol.com

Worcester: John Liller john.liller@worcesteracademy.com

Saturday, December 26

Cobble Mountain: Seth Kellogg skhawk@comcast.net
(413) 569-3335

(continued on next page)

Christmas Bird Count (continued)

Sunday, December 27

Marshfield: Sue MacCallumm

smacallum@massaudubon.com (781) 837-9400

Nantucket: Ken Blackshaw kenandcindy1@comcast.net
(508) 238-0209

and Edy Ray ackbird@aol.com (meeting the night before)

Newburyport: Tom Young tomyoungnh@gmail.com
(603) 424-4512

Taunton/Middleboro: James Sweeney
assawompsett@yahoo.com

Friday, January 1

Truro: Tom Lipsky tlip1@comcast.net

Saturday, January 2

Quabbin: Scott Sumner ssumner@aol.com (413) 256-5438

Uxbridge: Strickland Wheelock skwheelock@yahoo.com

Sunday, January 3

Concord: Norman Levey norman.levey@gmail.com

<http://www.concordcbc.org> (preferred)

Friday, January 1

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

Come and join us on our annual New Year's Day birding trip! This trip may continue on to Cape Ann. Note the new meeting place: Newburyport Train Station parking lot at 25 Boston Way, near the Route 1 traffic circle, Newburyport. 9:00 a.m.

Laura de la Flor, Salem (978) 741-0897
anhinga3@comcast.net and **Mark Burns (978) 741-0897**
stormtracker16@comcast.net

Saturday, January 2

Cape Ann. Morning to early afternoon.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 8:00 a.m.

John Nelson (978) 283-6128 **jnelson@northshore.edu**
and **Susan Hedman** **winterwren2@comcast.net**

Wednesday, January 6

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds. Morning.

Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of bad weather, contact the leader. Meeting place: Halibut Point State Park parking lot. 9:00 a.m.

Barbara Volkle, Northborough (508) 393-9251
barb620@theworld.com

Saturday, January 9

Cape Ann. All day.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader by 6:00 p.m. the previous evening. Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 8:00 a.m.

Linda Ferraresso, Salem (978) 498-4352
tattler1@comcast.net

Sunday, January 10

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

Meeting place: Newburyport District Court House, Route 1 traffic circle. 9:00 a.m.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772
ida8@verizon.net



Arnold Arboretum, Boston. Morning.

This will be an easy 90-minute walk from the main gate to the ponds and back, focusing on winter birds as well as admiring the woody plant collection in winter. See the arboretum website at <http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu> for directions and a checklist of birds. Meeting place: Inside the main gate off the Arborway (parking along the Arborway). 9:00 a.m.

Bob Mayer, Jamaica Plain 617-983-3330
rgmayer@comcast.net

Saturday, January 16

**Birds Along the Merrimack River—
Newburyport to Salisbury. Afternoon.**

Eagles & Owls! We will carpool and search primarily for Bald Eagles along the Merrimack River as well as Snowy and Short-Eared Owls at Plum Island or Salisbury. Wintering ducks, gulls, and winter finches should also be observed. Beginners are welcome! Meet at the Birdwatchers Supply & Gift, Route 1 traffic circle, Newburyport. 1:00 p.m.

Steve Grinley, Amesbury (978) 462-0775
birdwsg@comcast.net



Sunday, January 17

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport. Morning.

Beginners encouraged. A two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. From Route 128 (Exit 9), take Route 127 north (Eastern Avenue) toward Rockport, 3 mi. At 5-way intersection, turn left onto Railroad Avenue (remains Route 127) and follow for 2.4 mi. Turn right onto Gott Avenue, then right into the state park's parking lot, which is the meeting place. 8:00 a.m.

Jim Berry, Ipswich (978) 356-5505
jim.berry3@verizon.net



Monday, January 18

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

Meeting place: Newburyport District Court House, Route 1 traffic circle. 9:00 a.m.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772
ida8@verizon.net



Saturday, January 23

Dunback Meadow, Lexington. Morning.

Meeting place: Allen Street entrance to Dunback Meadow. 8:00 a.m.

Bobbie Hodson (781) 861-9421
robertahodson@comcast.net

Cape Ann. All day.

Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester at 8:00 a.m. If you are taking the train from North Station going to Cape Ann, be at the Rockport Train Station at approximately 9:40 a.m. and I will meet you there. Call the leader 2–3 days in advance if taking the train.

William Drummond, North Andover (978) 975-1167
wcdrummond@verizon.net

Hyannis to the Nantucket Shoals Area. 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(bad weather date: Sunday, January 24)

Birds Expected: FULMAR, Alcids, Gannets, Phalaropes, Shearwaters, Jaegers, Several gulls, sea ducks, mammals, any rarities. Maximum Participation: 65 People

Cost: BBC members \$100.00, non-members \$120.00

There may be a fuel surcharge. We have master birders leading these trips. Our boat, the *Helen H*, is a very comfortable, fast 100-foot fishing boat with a knowledgeable and enthusiastic captain and crew. We use gallons of chum to attract the birds. Parking is free. To reserve a space, send a check for the full amount made out to BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB AGENT along with a signed waiver to: Ida Giriunas, 83 Summer Ave., Reading, MA, 01867 and include either your email or your postal address for confirmation and boarding instructions. For additional information and the waiver to be signed, contact Ida.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772
ida8@verizon.net

Sunday, January 24

Newburyport and Vicinity. Late morning to early afternoon.

Meeting place: Commuter Rail Station off Parker Street in Newburyport at the southern parking lot on the west side of the tracks at 10:45 a.m. If you are coming on the train it usually gets in at 10:30 a.m. but if it is running late we will hold.

William Drummond, North Andover (978) 975-1167
wcdrummond@verizon.net

Saturday, January 30

Cape Ann. Morning to early afternoon.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 8:00 a.m.

Neil Hayward, Cambridge (617) 717-9969
neil.hayward@gmail.com

Sunday, January 31

Newburyport and Vicinity. All Day.

Meeting place: Meet at the municipal parking lot on Merrimac Street. 9:00 a.m.

Bob Petersen, Cambridge (617) 492-0454
robert.petersen@childrens.harvard.edu

Saturday, February 6

Birding Sketchcrawl--Winter Series. Morning.

Join me as we bird and sketch favorite patches on Cape Ann. All artistic levels welcome. Bring your own sketching materials and other creature comforts. Meeting place: At the end of the Jodrey State Fish Pier, Gloucester. 8:00 a.m.

Laura de la Flor, Salem (978) 741-0897
anhinga3@comcast.net

Sunday, February 7

Cape Ann. All day.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting place: Jodrey State Fish Pier off Parker Street in Gloucester. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader before 6:00 p.m. on the previous evening. 9:00 a.m.

Linda Pivacek, Nahant (781) 581-1114
lpivacek@comcast.net

Monday, February 8

Nahant and Vicinity. Morning.

We will explore Nahant and possibly Revere and Winthrop searching for sea ducks, loons, gulls, Purple Sandpipers, Black Guillemots, Brant and other wintering birds. Meeting place: the Dunkin' Donuts on the left at the end of the Nahant Causeway. 8:00 a.m.

Donald Wilkinson, Nahant (617) 201-5308
singingbird@yahoo.com

Wednesday, February 10

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds. Morning.

Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of bad weather, contact the leader. Meeting place: Halibut Point State Park parking lot. 9:00 a.m.

Barbara Volkle, Northborough (508) 393-9251
barb620@theworld.com

Saturday, February 13

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

We will drive to promising sites, including those along the Merrimack River, Plum Island, Salisbury Beach, and possibly others. Meeting place: District Courthouse parking lot, Route 1 traffic circle, Newburyport. 9:00 a.m.

Jonathan Center, Chelmsford (978) 866-7391
jbccenter@verizon.net

Cape Ann. All day.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 9:00 a.m.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772 ida8@verizon.net



Sunday, February 14

Scituate to Plymouth. All day.

A total of 70 species is routine on this trip. A combination of land birds, freshwater ducks, and ocean birds with relatively little driving. This trip is being co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club. Meeting place: Stop & Shop parking lot at the intersection of Routes 3 & 139 in Pembroke. 7:30 a.m.

Glenn d'Entremont, Stoughton (781) 344-5857
gdentremont1@comcast.net

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport. Morning.

Beginners encouraged. A two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. From Route 128 (Exit 9), take Route 127 north (Eastern Avenue) toward Rockport, 3 mi. At 5-way intersection, turn left onto Railroad Avenue (remains Route 127) and follow for 2.4 mi. Turn right onto Gott Avenue, then right into the state park's parking lot, which is the meeting place. 8:00 a.m.

Peter Van Demark, Rockport (978) 546-2402
peter@caliper.com



Monday, February 15

Ipswich and Vicinity. Morning.

Target birds are waterfowl, raptors, and wintering boreal songbirds. Limited walking. Carpooling is essential from the meeting place. Co-sponsored by the Essex County Ornithological Club. Meeting place: Former Town Hall parking lot next to the war memorial in downtown Ipswich on Routes 1A/133, 100 yards south of the famous Choate Bridge. 8:00 a.m.

Jim Berry, Ipswich (978) 356-5505
jim.berry3@verizon.net

Saturday, February 20

**Birds Along the Merrimack River—
Newburyport to Salisbury. Afternoon.**

Eagles & Owls! We will carpool and search primarily for Bald Eagles along the Merrimack River as well as Snowy and Short-Eared Owls at Plum Island or Salisbury. Wintering ducks, gulls, and winter finches should also be observed.



Beginners are welcome! Meet at the Birdwatchers Supply & Gift, Route 1 traffic circle, Newburyport. 1:00 p.m.

Steve Grinley, Amesbury (978) 462-0775
birdwsg@comcast.net

Cohasset to Marshfield. All Day.

We will focus on waterfowl and seabirds as we work our way down the coast. Meeting place: Entrance to Wheelwright Park, North Main Street, Cohasset. 8:30 a.m.

Sylvia Martin, Waltham (857) 756-7981
smartin@brooklinebirdclub.org

Sunday, February 21

Cape Ann. All day.

We will search for alacids and other wintering seabirds. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader by 6:00 p.m. the previous evening. Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 8:00 a.m.

Linda Ferraresso, Salem (978) 498-4352
tattler1@comcast.net

Saturday, February 27

MASS Waterfowl Prowl. All day.

We will cover the ponds, marshes, bays, and backwaters of the Upper and Lower Cape and other areas in our search for 25 or more species of ducks, as well as loons, grebes, swans, and geese. This trip will be canceled in the event of rain. Meeting place: Sagamore Park-and-Ride Lot on Canal Road. Meet in the parking lot at the end closest to Friendly's. 7:30 a.m.

Eddie Giles, East Bridgewater (508) 378-3370
egiles@brooklinebirdclub.org

Plum Island. Morning.

Meeting place: Parking lot #1, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. 9:00 a.m.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772
ida8@verizon.net



Wednesday, March 2

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds. Morning.

Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of bad weather, contact leader. Meeting place: Halibut Point parking lot. 9:00 a.m.

Barbara Volkle, Northborough (508) 393-9251
barb620@theworld.com

Sunday, March 5

Cape Ann. Morning to early afternoon.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting place: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester. 8:00 a.m.

John Nelson (978) 283-6128 jnelson@northshore.edu

Saturday, March 12

Dunback Meadow, Lexington. Morning.

Meeting place: Allen Street entrance to Dunback Meadow. 8:00 a.m.

Bobbie Hodson (781) 861-9421
robertahodson@comcast.net

Sunday, March 13

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport. Morning.

Beginners encouraged. A two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. From Route 128 (Exit 9), take Route 127 north (Eastern Avenue) toward Rockport, 3 mi. At 5-way intersection, turn left onto Railroad Avenue (remains Route 127) and follow for 2.4 mi. Turn right onto Gott Avenue, then right into the state park's parking lot, which is the meeting place. 8:00 a.m.

Peter Van Demark, Rockport (978) 546-2402
peter@caliper.com



Saturday, March 19

Vernal Equinox Walk. Leader's Choice. All day.

Contact leader for details. Call or e-mail no later than 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18.

Laura de la Flor, Salem (978) 741-0897
anhinga3@comcast.net

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Concord. Morning.

We will look for early migrants, waterfowl, and waders. Conditions may be wet; bring wellies. Meeting place: Refuge parking lot off Monsen Road, Concord. 8:00 a.m.

Sylvia Martin, Waltham (857) 756-7981
smartin@brooklinebirdclub.org

Sunday, March 20

Plum Island. Morning.

Meeting place: Parking lot #1, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. 9:00 a.m.

Ida Giriunas, Reading
(781) 929-8772 ida8@verizon.net



Wednesday, March 23

Woodcock Walk at the Bare Meadow Conservation Land in Reading. Evening.

Please call leader for directions and meeting time.

Dave Williams, Reading (781) 944-8118
dave.williams6@gmail.com

Saturday, March 26

Blue Hills. Morning.

This trip consists of several short (1-mile) hikes, the first of which is rather steep. We will look for Turkey Vulture, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, and just-arriving Eastern Phoebe and Pine Warbler. Meeting place: Small parking lot on Chickatawbut Road in Milton just east of Randolph Avenue (Route 28). 8:00 a.m.

Steve Olanoff, Westwood (781) 326-6585
olanoff@aol.com

(Saturday, March 26 continued on next page)

(Saturday, March 26 continued)

Blue Hills Woodcock Walk in Fowl Meadow. Evening.

We will hike 1 mile on a flat trail that may be wet. Meeting place: Small parking lot at Neponset Valley Parkway and Brush Hill Road in Milton. 6:00 p.m.

Steve Olanoff, Westwood (781) 326-6585
olanoff@aol.com

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

Meeting place: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters/Visitors Center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike. 8:30 a.m.

Jonathan Center, Chelmsford (978) 866-7391
jbcenter@verizon.net

Sunday, March 27

Woodcocks at Alewife. Evening.

We will search the northwest corner of Cambridge in hopes of seeing, or at least hearing, the American Woodcock's mating display, a traditional New England rite of spring. Meet just outside the Russell Field Alewife exit (not the larger, busier Alewife exits near the buses) at 7:00 p.m. With some luck, we will only be using paved and smooth, flat gravel paths. Participants may want to bring a flashlight and mud/water resistant shoes in case we decide to venture across unpaved terrain.

Zack Weber, Cambridge
birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

Friday, April 1

Timberdoodles in Stoughton. Evening.

Come watch American Woodcock display behavior. Meet at the Bird Street entrance to Bird Street Conservation Area in Stoughton. Water-resistant shoes helpful, but not needed. 6:00 p.m.

Glenn d'Entremont, Stoughton (781) 344-5857
gdentremont1@comcast.net

July 1-4, 2016 Weekend trip to the Machias area in Northern Maine.

We will visit Machias Seal Island for Puffins, Razorbills, Common Murres, and probable Arctic Terns and then beautiful, scenic Washington County for the northern boreal species (Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Gray Jay, possible Black-backed Woodpecker, Crossbills, Olive-sided Flycatcher, nesting warblers, etc.). Then to the marshes for nesting Black Terns and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Cost will be \$138 for the boat and welcoming cookout for BBC members, \$153 for non-members. Details sent in response to inquiries. Limited to 15 participants. This trip fills quickly, so sign up now.

Leader: David Ely, Salem 970-391-0432
davidely@comcast.net

Co-leader: Ida Giriunas, Reading 781-929-8772
ida8@verizon.net

BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB PELAGIC TRIPS 2016

Details are subject to change; please check future bulletins and www.brooklinebirdclub.org.

Saturday, January 23, 2016 7:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(bad weather date: Sunday, 1/24)

Hyannis to the Nantucket Shoals Area.

Birds expected: FULMAR, Alcids, Gannets, Phalaropes, Shearwaters, Jaegers, several gulls, sea ducks, mammals, any rarities.

Limit: 65 participants

Cost: BBC members \$100, non-members \$120

Saturday, July 16, 2016, 2 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Hyannis to the Hydrographer Canyon area for 4 Shearwater species (including Scopoli's), 3 Storm-petrel species, Gannets, 3 Jaeger species, terns, gulls, sea ducks, possible Black-capped Petrel, Bridled Tern, Skuas, and other rarities.

Limit: 50 participants

Cost: BBC members \$100, non-members \$120

Saturday–Sunday, August 20–21, 2016,

6:00 a.m. Saturday to 6 p.m. Sunday Hyannis to Hydrographer, Veach, and Atlantis Canyon area for White-Faced Storm Petrel, Band-Rumped and Leach's Storm-Petrel, 5 Shearwater species (including possible BAROLO), 3 Jaeger species, terns, gulls, sea ducks, possible Tropicbird, Bridled Tern, Skua or other rarities.

Limit: 50 participants

Cost: BBC members \$310, non-members \$330

Saturday–Sunday, September 24–25, 2016,

5:30 a.m. Saturday to 6 p.m. Sunday Hyannis to Hydrographer, Veach, and Atlantis Canyon area for White-faced Storm Petrels, other petrels, several species of shearwaters, jaegers, possible skua, terns and other seabirds and mammals.

Limit: 50 participants

Cost: BBC members \$310, non-members \$330

Saturday, November 12, 2016 7:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(bad weather date: Sunday 11/13)

Hyannis to Nantucket Shoals.

Birds expected: Alcids, Fulmar, Gannets, Phalaropes, Shearwaters, Jaegers, several gulls, hundreds of sea ducks, mammals, any rarities. Limit: 65 participants

Cost: BBC members \$100.00, non-members \$120.00

A fuel surcharge is possible. We have master birders Jeremiah Trimble, Nicholas Bonomo, and others leading these trips. Our boat, the *Helen H*, is a very comfortable, fast, 100-foot fishing boat with a knowledgeable and enthusiastic captain and crew. We use gallons of chum to attract the birds. There are 38 bunks aboard which will be available to the first 38 who sign up. There is a full galley with excellent food at reasonable prices. Parking is free.

To reserve a space, send a check for the full amount made out to Brookline Bird Club Agent along with a signed waiver to: Ida Giriunas, 83 Summer Ave., Reading, MA, 01867 and include either your email or your postal address for confirmation, boarding instructions, and other details. To register and to receive further information and a waiver form, contact Ida at 781-929-8772, ida8@verizon.net.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

The Board of Directors wants to ensure it is discussing ideas and addressing questions important to the club. Members are encouraged to forward issues to the board via a club officer or board member. The board meets three times a year—late winter, late spring, and early fall—to discuss various items related to club functions. For contact information for officers and board members, please see the front pages of the bulletin.

WEBSITE ACCESS TO TRIP LIST

As a convenience to members, we publish the schedule of club trips on the BBC website www.brooklinebirdclub.org. We do not list the limited-participation trips, however, so continue to check for them here in the hardcopy bulletin.

BBC MEMBER DISCOUNT

Steve Grinley, of Bird Watcher's Supply and Gift, is offering current BBC members a 10% discount on all books and ABA guides as well as substantial discounts on binoculars, spotting scopes, and tripods. Bring in your current BBC Blue Book to the store located on the Route 1 traffic circle in Newburyport. For more information, phone Steve at 978-462-0775 or toll-free at 877-289-2974.

BIRD CONSERVATION

The BBC encourages a commitment to bird conservation and participation in activities and organizations that promote conservation through collection of data, monitoring of populations, preservation of habitat, protection of at-risk species, political action, and education. Check our website for a list of conservation activities, resources, and organizations for birders.

ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-STATE TRIPS

The following birding tours are led by tour leaders who are long-term members of the BBC. Many of these tours are popular with club members and are listed for your convenience. The BBC does not sponsor nor is it responsible for any matter relating to these tours.

Don Wilkinson will be leading the following out-of-state trips in 2016:

Winter in New England (geared towards out-of-staters), January 6–11

South Texas, March 4–11

South Florida and the Dry Tortugas, April 20–27

Himalayan Snowcock in Nevada and Utah, July 13–18

All trips will be on the website.

Donald Wilkinson
Nahant MA 01908
(617) 201-5308 (cell)
singingbirder@yahoo.com
<http://donwilkinsonbirdingtours.com/>

2014 STATISTICAL AND YEAR-END REPORT

By Robert H. Stymeist, Statistician

During 2014, the Brookline Bird Club listed **301** species of birds on **218** reported trips. A total of **259** trips were scheduled, 16 trips were cancelled by weather, and **27** trips unfortunately went unreported which is more than 10% of the trips scheduled. In **Massachusetts** the club listed a total of **290** species. The additional 11 birds seen out of state were Ring-necked Pheasant and Bicknell's Thrush in Vermont, Spruce Grouse, Northern Goshawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Atlantic Puffin, Arctic Tern, and Red Crossbill from Maine, and Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee from both Vermont and Maine. Overall 2014 was about average in terms of the number of trips scheduled and a little less in the number of birds reported. In comparison last year the club celebrated its 100th year anniversary with an all-out effort for a big year; a total of 298 trips were scheduled with 19 impromptu trips added in search of rarities for a total of 317 trips, ironically the same number of species recorded in Massachusetts during 2013. In 2014 there were 45 all-day, 148 morning, 15 afternoon or evening, six pelagic, and four weekend trips. There were two impromptu trips organized, one to Cuttyhunk Island and one overnight pelagic.

One new species, **Red-billed Tropicbird**, was added to the overall Brookline Bird Club list of birds. This sighting on the August Hydrographer Canyon trip was just the sixth record for Massachusetts. The club recorded only its second **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** on May 14 at Mount Auburn Cemetery; the only other record was on Bill Drummond's 1994 big May Day trip when he extended his Plum Island trip to Kittery Point, Maine. Some of the more unusual species noted in 2014 included Ross's Goose and Cackling Goose in Ipswich, a Tri-colored Heron, a Gull-billed Tern and a Summer Tanager all from Plum Island, and from the extreme pelagic trips, besides the tropicbird the only sightings of White-faced, Leach's and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, Audubon's Shearwater, and South Polar Skua.

The club visited Essex County most often, with a total of 74 trips (39 to Newburyport and Plum Island area, 26 to Cape Ann, and trips to Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, three trips to Ipswich, three to Nahant, and visits to Boxford, Manchester,

and Topsfield). The trips in Essex County accounted for 224 species, which is 77% of all the birds reported on club trips. Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge was second with 35 trips totaling 110 species including 24 species of warblers. There were 27 trips scheduled in the metropolitan Boston area. Twenty-eight trips to Cape Cod and the South Shore recorded 214 species. There were 15 trips in the Sudbury River Valley area, which includes Great Meadows NWR, Oxbow NWR, and the Assabet NWR and ten trips to areas in both central and western Massachusetts. There were seven pelagic trips scheduled for a combined total of 71 species including ten species that were not found anywhere else but on the high seas.

Out-of-state trips included weekend trips to the Machias area and to the Rangeley Lakes region in Maine, and a weekend trip criss-crossing the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. The combined total number of species on the Maine trips was 149 and included some boreal birds such as **Spruce Grouse**, **Black-backed Woodpecker**, **Gray Jay**, and **Boreal Chickadee**. Ida Girunas led her 31st annual club trip to the Machias area, which includes the famous Machias Seal Island and recorded over 2,000 Atlantic Puffins! Ida and Eddie Giles have been leading these great trips for many years affording club members the opportunity to see some northern forest and ocean birds that don't nest in Massachusetts. A weekend trip to the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont was new this year after a hiatus of 29 years (for several years up until 1985 John Kennedy led our members to the famous Moose Bog). This year we recorded 108 species including the club's only **Bicknell's Thrush** and Ring-necked Pheasants. The Vermont trip logged in 18 different warblers, several Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and great looks at a close moose. There was just one trip scheduled in New Hampshire. On November 2 Steve and Jane Mirick led their annual late fall trip along the coast. Though the weather was miserable they found a very late Laughing Gull among the 38 species that day. Missing from the club list of routinely seen species in 2014 were Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black Vulture, Marbled Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Nighthawk, Connecticut and Cerulean Warblers, Dickcissel and Seaside Sparrow. Five other species, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Goshawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Arctic Tern, and Red Crossbill were not seen on any Massachusetts trip but were noted from Vermont and Maine.

Highlights from the 2014 Brookline Bird Club Year

Laura de la Flor and Mark Burns as always kicked off 2014 by leading their 18th annual January 1 birding trip. Thirty-five members bundled up for a cold New Year's Day of birding; after a welcoming toast of sparkling apple cider the group got down to birding and tallied a nice list of 62 species to start off the year. A **Ross's Goose** that was discovered in Ipswich on Christmas Day 2013 was the club's first target. Lucky for us the goose was not seen after the New Year. Other highlights included a Cackling Goose, a Black-headed Gull, eight Snowy Owls, and an adult Red-headed Woodpecker. January 2014 was the coldest in ten years with several big snowstorms, yet our club leaders recorded 88 species by the end of the month! The annual Owl Prowl was a victim of the snow and had to be cancelled as well as four other scheduled trips.

On February 9, Glenn d'Entremont led a trip throughout the south shore starting in Scituate with snow falling; they ended up in Middleboro with a total of 77 species. Highlights included a drake Barrow's Goldeneye, three Snowy and five Short-eared owls, and 13 Eastern Meadowlarks. In March the club scheduled Woodcock walks in Stoughton, Reading, and in the Blue Hills as well as the annual Massachusetts Waterfowl Prowl, this year just on Cape Cod.

The 2014 winter meeting of the club was on Friday, February 28, at the Bedford Middle School. Nearly 200 members packed the school auditorium to hear Norman Smith talk about his research on Snowy and Saw-whet Owls. Prior to that Shawn Carey presented his latest documentary on migrating shorebirds. After the talk Norman walked around the audience with a Snowy Owl. The spring meeting at the Harvard Museum of Natural History on April 11 featured our own Neil Hayward, who presented a fascinating and humorous account of his "Accidental Big Year"; Neil tallied an amazing 750 year birds during 2013. The guest speaker at the fall lecture meeting at Harvard on October 24 was Andrew Vitz, the Massachusetts State Ornithologist, who discussed bird conservation in the state focusing on Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Piping Plovers.

Seven pelagic trips recorded 71 species; the extreme pelagic trips are the most exciting. The July trip recorded eight **Band-**

rumped Storm-Petrels and a small shearwater that may have been Barolo's but the photos proved inconclusive. The August trip logged in **100 Audubon's Shearwaters**, the highest number for any effort in Massachusetts, and the first club record of **Red-billed Tropicbird**. To top it off the group enjoyed excellent looks at a Whale Shark and a Tiger Shark. The November trip to Nantucket Shoals witnessed an estimated 100,000 Long-tailed Ducks and 60,000 Common Eider feeding in the rips off Monomoy.

Summer trips were highlighted by evening trips to Plum Island searching for early migrating shorebirds and flocks of herons flying to roost. On July 14 on Plum the club recorded the only **American Avocet**, and other noteworthy shorebirds included a Baird's Sandpiper and the only Hudsonian Godwit on August 21. A **Gull-billed Tern** was found on Jonathan Center's Plum Island trip on August 30. Labor Day Weekend is the traditional time for Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher. The club recorded the Buffy but dipped on the dowitcher.

The fall migration started off with a two-day Cape Cod Blitz hitting the hot spots on the outer Cape from Wellfleet to Provincetown. A total of 103 species were seen including six Philadelphia Vireos, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and "thousands" of seabirds noted offshore. New this year was a Wednesday morning survey of Danehy Park in Cambridge led by Karsten Hartel and co-sponsored with the Menotomy Bird Club; they listed the only Nelson's Sparrow of the year. October brings the sparrows and frequent visits to community gardens in Wayland and Newton as well as Cumberland Farms and Bolton Flats.

November and December found our members visiting Cape Ann with six trips and six trips to the Plum Island and Newburyport area. On November 8, Ida had a bright and beautiful day with the first Snowy Owl of the season, as well as a Barred Owl and Rough-legged Hawks.

At the end of the year the club suspends scheduled trips so that our members can participate in the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). There are 34 count circles in Massachusetts.

A total of 62 leaders guided our members around the state

throughout the year. All of our dedicated leaders deserve a special thank-you including several leaders that deserve recognition for not only many years of leading but the number of trips each year they lead. Ida Giriunas and Glenn d'Entremont tied for the most with 20 trips, followed by Linda Ferrareso with 14, then Jonathan Center and Eddie Giles with 12. Bill Drummond, Bob Petersen, and Peter Van Demark each led 10 trips. Another 11 dedicated leaders accounted for six or more trips each.

The biggest trip list this year was Glenn d'Entremont's South Shore Century Run, recording 121 species on May 10. This trip, entirely within Plymouth County, recorded the club's only Worm-eating Warbler and Vesper Sparrows for 2014.

In the following table you can see which trip in each month recorded the most species; this may help in planning for a big year of birding.

Date	Location	Count	Leader
January 1	Essex County	62 species	Laura de la Flor
February 9	Scituate-Plymouth	77 species	Glenn d'Entremont
March 16	Waterfowl Prowl	44 species	Eddie Giles
April 27	Suffolk County	76 species	Bob Stymeist
May 10	South Shore Century Run	121 species	Glenn d'Entremont
June 21	Mt. Greylock area	72 species	Glenn d'Entremont
July 26	Plymouth Beach	49 species	Glenn d'Entremont
August 21	Plum Island	60 species	Bill Drummond
September 13	Wellfleet	87 species	Bob Stymeist
October 4	Outer Cape Cod	87 species	Glenn d'Entremont
November 5	Boston	51 species	Bob Stymeist
December 17	Cape Ann	40 species	Neil Hayward

According to ebird, a total of **369** species were observed and reported by birders across the state during 2014; the Brookline Bird Club recorded nearly 79% of that total—pretty impressive! No new birds were added to the official state list, but some highlights included just the second record of Pacific Golden Plover, the third record of Common Ringed Plover, and the fourth record of Cassin's Kingbird.

Weather-wise 2014 was the warmest year worldwide on record. Ironically, of the large inhabited land areas, only the

eastern half of the United States recorded below-average temperatures in 2014, a mirror image of the unusual heat in the west. January and February saw record snowfall, nearly 45 inches in Boston alone. March continued with cold temperatures. In the first week of spring Cape Cod was hit with a blizzard with gusts reaching 83 m.p.h. on Nantucket, which also recorded the most March snowfall ever with 9.5 inches! April finally saw some warm temperatures and May was nearly perfect for birding—no extreme heat, good southwest winds, and little rain. June was a great month for breeding birds with no cold spells and very little rain. July saw the first hurricane of the season when Arthur had winds of over 80 m.p.h. September and October saw several powerful thunderstorms including a nor'easter in late October that caused a great deal of coastal damage. November brought us the first major snowstorm with some areas receiving up to 16 inches the day before Thanksgiving. December was warmer than average and most Christmas Bird Counts experienced good weather.

AMERICAN KESTREL NESTING BOX PROGRAM

The American Kestrel is our smallest and certainly most colorful falcon. Found throughout North America, this valuable insect and rodent predator was formerly quite common. Numbers have declined significantly throughout the U.S. over the past decade, however. A shortage of nest sites is believed to be a major reason. The kestrel is our only hawk that nests primarily in tree cavities, such as old woodpecker holes. The felling of mature trees for firewood and construction has destroyed suitable sites in otherwise excellent habitat, producing a severe “housing” shortage.

The kestrel is a hawk of open country, preferring farmlands, meadows, and abandoned fields. It has also adjusted well to urban and suburban life, nesting in mature trees along highways and feeding along right of ways and parkland. New England has ample habitat to maintain a sizable kestrel population. What New England lacks is adequate nest sites. Fortunately, the kestrel will nest in artificial “holes”—nest boxes.

The Brookline Bird Club is sponsoring an American Kestrel nesting box program. The club provides complete information on how to build and place boxes and it has appropriated funds to help pay for construction materials. If you are interested in building kestrel boxes, or know of any organization that might be, please contact:

Paul M. Roberts - BBC
254 Arlington Street
Medford, MA 02155
phone: 781-483-4263 after 8 p.m.
email: phawk@comcast.net

Paul can provide complete construction directions as well as information on funding. Additional information on American Kestrels and nesting box programs is also available. If you don't have the time to build boxes but know of good locations for nesting boxes, please give Paul a call. Some volunteers plan to build additional boxes for distribution, so the club may be able to provide you with a ready-made box to place.

BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB PINS



The pins are gold and black with safety clasp.

Brookline Bird Club pins are now available. Buy them at the Bird Watcher's Supply and Gift at the Route One traffic circle in Newburyport, or send \$5 plus \$1 for mailing, each to:

Ms. Laura McCoy, 1021 Shawsheen St.
Tewksbury, MA 01876

You get one car window decal free with membership, but if you need another, just send \$1.00 and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Laura.

Bird Observer

The Birding Journal for Massachusetts

~Notes~



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Founded in Brookline in 1913

Name _____ Phone () _____

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Membership runs from JANUARY TO DECEMBER. For 2016 please complete this form and return
to Laura McCoy, 1021 Shawshen Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876.

Please enclose CHECK AS INDICATED BELOW made out to Brookline Bird Club or BBC.
Join or renew online via PayPal: www.brooklinebirdclub.org/gp/join-bbc.html.

Indicate amount enclosed:

2016 Annual Dues (\$15 individual, \$22 family) _____

Life Membership (\$200/person; includes BBC pin) _____

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BBC School Book Fund/Youth Scholarship (circle one; tax-ded.) _____

BBC Window Decals (\$1 + SASF*, free to new members) _____

BBC Pins (\$5 plus \$1 for mailing, each) _____

Total _____

*Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope

