

Brookline Bird Club Bulletin

November 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015



See back cover for membership details.

BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB HOME PAGE
www.brooklinebirdclub.org

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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.



SEND US YOUR 2014 MASSACHUSETTS LIST TOTALS

If you would like your total of Massachusetts birds for 2014 listed in the spring bulletin, send it to Bob Stymeist, 36 Lewis Avenue, Arlington, MA 02472 NO LATER THAN February 1, 2015. Include interesting facts such as your best bird, your worst miss, a great birding experience, or a special trip. We will post the birding tales we receive in the spring blue book and on the web site.

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 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.

Announcing the BBC Young Birder Scholarship

The BBC is pleased and proud to announce that it has established an annual Young Birder Scholarship to nurture interest in bird study and conservation. The 2015 scholarship will cover the full cost (\$995) of the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program at National Audubon's Hog Island camp during the week of June 21–26, 2015. The cost includes housing, boat travel, and all meals. The scholarship recipient will be responsible for the cost of transportation to and from the camp.

Applicants must be New England residents, ages 14–17, and must submit a written application and two letters of reference. Preference will be given to applicants with individual or family BBC memberships. To be considered a member, an applicant may join the club at the time of application.

Completed applications must be received by the BBC by January 10, 2015. The selection and notification of the recipient will be completed by February 15, 2015. For complete application instructions and an application form, visit the BBC web site at <http://www.brooklinebirdclub.org/>.

The scholarship fund will be supported through member donations. To donate, you can designate an amount on the “BBC Young Birder Scholarship” line on the back page of the club bulletin when you renew your membership or, especially for life members, at any other time you might wish to donate.

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

BBC Book Fund: New 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-nested 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.

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.

DATE CHANGE!

ALL-DAY PELAGIC TRIP

This dedicated pelagic trip to **Nantucket Shoals on Saturday, November 22 costs \$95 per BBC member, \$110 per non-member** and is limited to 65 people. Spaces are still available. See trip description on page 10 for details.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

RENEW OR JOIN VIA PAYPAL

We are pleased to announce that you can now 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!

PROGRAM OF TRIPS
November 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015

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



Saturday, November 1

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

Sunday, November 2

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



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

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

Saturday, November 8

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 9

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

Tuesday, 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

Sunday, November 16

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. Entrance is opposite the state park's parking lot. This walk is co-sponsored by the Trustees of Reservations. Meeting place: Parking lot. 8:00 a.m.

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



(Sunday, November 16 continued on next page)

(Sunday, November 16 continued)

Newburyport and Vicinity. All Day.

Meeting place: Municipal parking lot on Merrimac Street, Newburyport. 9:00 a.m.

Jonathan Center, Chelmsford (978) 256-4489
jbcenter@verizon.net

New Date!

Saturday, November 22

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

Birds expected: Alcids, Gannets, Shearwaters, Phalaropes, Jaegers, Gulls, Fulmar, marine mammals and any rarities such as Skua.

Limit: 65 Participants

Cost: BBC members \$95.00
non-members \$110.00

Please be advised that there may be a fuel surcharge. Jeremiah Trimble, Mark Faherty, 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, boarding instructions, and further information. For additional information and the waiver to be signed, contact Ida.

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772
ida8@verizon.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, meet at the Rockport Train Station at approximately 10 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 23

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 26

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-swanson@comcast.net

Saturday, November 29

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

Sunday, November 30

Birding Boston. All day.

This trip will focus on downtown parks of Boston; hopefully some areas will still be FROST-FREE. Please contact leader for meeting place and time.

Robert Stymeist, Arlington rstymeist@verizon.net

Saturday, December 6

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 7

Leverett Pond and Olmsted Park, 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 on Leverett Pond and adjacent areas of Olmsted Park. The 90-minute walk is suitable for beginning birders as well as more experienced birders. Meeting place: parking lot on Pond Avenue near Brook House on the Brookline side of Leverett Pond, just off Route 9. 9:00 a.m.

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

Thursday, December 11

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, December 13

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 14

Plum Island. Morning.

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

Zack Weber, Cambridge
birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

115TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

BBC members are encouraged to participate in the 115th Christmas Bird Count, which will take place from December 14, 2014, through January 5, 2015. 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, so participants should contact the count compiler at least a week in advance.

Date to be Determined

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

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

Cape Cod: Blair Nikula odenews@odenews.com

Central Berkshire: Tom Collins (413) 499-2799

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

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

Marshfield: Sue MacCallum
smacallum@massaudubon.com (781) 837-9400

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

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

Northampton: Jan Ortiz jtortiz@aol.com

Northern Berkshire: Pam Weatherbee (413) 458-3538

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

Quabbin: Scott Surner ssurner@aol.com (413) 256-5438

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

(continued on next page)

Date to be Determined (continued)

Taunton/Middleboro: James Sweeney
assawompsett@yahoo.com
Truro: Tom Lipsky tlip1@comcast.net
Tuckernuck: Simon Perkins
simonperkins2010@yahoo.com (978) 369-1284
Westminster: Charles Caron caronenv@aol.com
Worcester: John Liller john.liller@worcesteracademy.com

Saturday, December 13

Andover: Donna Cooper (978) 470-2717

Sunday, December 14

Cape Ann: Jim Barber capeann@hotmail.com, Jim Berry
jim.berry3@verizon.net
Greater Boston: Robert Stymeist rstymeist@verizon.net

Tuesday, December 16

Sturbridge: Mark Lynch moa.lynch@verizon.net
snow/ice storm date December 17

Saturday, December 20

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 21

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

Saturday, December 27

Cobble Mountain: Seth Kellogg skhawk@comcast.net
(413) 569-3335
Uxbridge: Strickland Wheelock skwheelock@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 28

Concord: Norman Levey norman.levey@gmail.com,
http://www.concordcbc.org (preferred)
Nantucket: Ken Blackshaw kenandcindy1@comcast.net
(508) 238-0209 and Edy Ray ackbird@aol.com (meeting
the night before)

Thursday, 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 meet-
ing place: Newburyport Train Station parking lot at 25
Boston Way, near the Route 1 traffic circle, Newburport.
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 3

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

Sunday, January 4

Birding Boston. All day.
The trip will focus on coastal and inland parts of Boston.
Please contact leader for meeting place and time.
Robert Stymeist, Arlington rstymeist@verizon.net

Wednesday, January 7

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 10

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 10 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, January 11

Arnold Arboretum, Boston. Morning.

This will be an easy two-hour walk from the main gate to Bussey Hill 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

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 17

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

Eagles & Owls! We will pool 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, Rte. 1 traffic circle, Newburyport. 1:00 p.m.

Steve Grinley, Amesbury (978) 462-0775

birdwsg@comcast.net



Sunday, January 18

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. Entrance is opposite the state park's parking lot. This walk is co-sponsored by the Trustees of Reservations. Meeting place: Parking lot. 8:00 a.m.

Peter Van Demark, Rockport (978) 546-2402

peter@caliper.com



Monday, January 19

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 24

Cape Ann. All day.

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

Linda Ferrarresso, Salem (978) 498-4352

lferrarresso@brooklinebirdclub.org

(Saturday, January 24 continued on next page)

(Saturday, January 24 continued)

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, January 25

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, January 31

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, February 1

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

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

Ida Giriunas, Reading (781) 929-8772

ida8@verizon.net



Wednesday, February 4

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 7

Birding Sketchcrawl--Winter Series. Morning.

Join me as we bird and sketch favorite patches in the Newburyport/Salisbury area. All artistic levels welcome. Bring your own sketching materials and other creature comforts. Meeting place: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters/Visitors Center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike. 8:00 a.m.

Laura de la Flor, Salem (978) 741-0897

anhinga3@comcast.net

Sunday, February 8

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

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

Monday, February 9

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

singingbirder@yahoo.com

Saturday, February 14

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: Municipal parking lot on Merrimack Street, Newburyport. 9:00 a.m.

Jonathan Center, Chelmsford (978) 256-4489
jbcenter@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 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. Entrance is opposite the state park's parking lot. This walk is co-sponsored by the Trustees of Reservations. Meeting place: Parking lot. 8:00 a.m.

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



Monday, February 16

Ipswich and Vicinity. Morning.

Target birds are waterfowl, raptors, and wintering boreal songbirds. Very 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 21

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, February 22

Cape Ann. All day.

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

Linda Ferraresso, Salem (978) 498-4352
lferraresso@brooklinebirdclub.org

Saturday, February 28

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 4

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

Saturday, March 7

Newburyport and Vicinity. All day.

This can be an interesting time of year with a mix of winter birds and early spring migrants occurring at the same time and place. We will travel mainly by car with some brief strolls, weather permitting. Meeting place: Municipal parking lot on Merrimac Street, Newburyport. 8:30 a.m.

Jonathan Center, Chelmsford (978) 256-4489
jbcenter@verizon.net

Sunday, March 8

Cape Ann. All day.

We will search for alcid 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



Saturday, March 14

Dunback Meadow, Lexington. Morning.

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

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

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

Sunday, March 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. Entrance is opposite the state park's parking lot. This walk is co-sponsored by the Trustees of Reservations. Meeting place: Parking lot. 8:00 a.m.

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



Friday, March 20

Timberdoodles in Stoughton. Evening.

Come watch American Woodcock display behavior at Bird Street Conservation Area. 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

Saturday, March 21

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 20.

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

Sunday, March 22

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 25

**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 28

**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 (781) 373-5496
warbler@neomailbox.ch**

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**

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**

Sunday, March 29

Woodcocks at Alewife. Evening.

Contact leader for time and location.

**Zack Weber, Cambridge
birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com**

**Weekend trip to the Machias area in Northern Maine.
July 3–6, 2015**

We will visit Machias Seal Island for Puffins, Razorbills, Common Murres, and possible 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. Many of the boreal species have become very difficult to find so we will have a local guide help us to find them. Cost will be \$138 for the boat and guide 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.

**Ida Giriunas, Reading 781-929-8772, ida8@verizon.net
or co-leader David Ely 970-391-0432
davidely@comcast.net**

**TENTATIVE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB PELAGIC
SCHEDULE FOR 2015**

*Dates and costs subject to change; check the web site and
future blue books.*

**Saturday, July 18, 2015, 2 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Hyannis to the Hydrographer Canyon area.**

Birds expected: 4 or 5 species of Shearwaters, Leach's and Wilson's Storm-petrels, Jaegers, Gannets, Terns, and several marine animals. We hope to see Band-rumped Storm-petrel, Bridled Tern, Skuas and other rarities. Anything is possible.

Limit: 50 participants

Cost: BBC members \$185, non-members \$200

**Saturday-Sunday, August 22-23, 2015
5:30 a.m. Saturday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday
Hyannis to the Hydrographer, Veatch, and Atlantis
Canyon areas.**

Birds expected: White-faced Storm-Petrels (22 were seen in August 2010), 4 species of Shearwaters, Jaegers, Gannets, Gulls, Terns, and several species of marine mammals. We hope to see Skuas, Bridled Tern, and other rarities. In 2007 and 2012 we found a Little Shearwater, so anything is possible.

Limit: 50 participants

Cost: BBC members \$295, non-members \$310

**Saturday-Sunday, September 26-27, 2015
5:30 a.m. Saturday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday
Hyannis to the Hydrographer, Veach, and Atlantis
Canyon areas.**

Birds expected: As for August trip above.

Limit: 50 participants

Cost: \$300 for BBC Members- \$315 for non-members

**TENTATIVE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB PELAGIC
SCHEDULE FOR 2015 (continued)**

**Saturday, November 7, 2015, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Hyannis to the Nantucket Shoals area.**

Birds expected: Alcids, Gannets, Shearwaters, Phalaropes, Jaegers, sea ducks, Gulls, Fulmar, and rarities such as Skua. Marine mammals also expected.

Limit: 65 participants

Cost: BBC members: \$TBD, non-members \$TBD

Please be advised that 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. 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, any changes in cost and any further details. For additional information and the waiver to be signed, contact Ida at (781) 929-8772 or 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.

As a service to members, Bill Drummond will lead an Alaska trip in June 2015 including Nome, Barrow, St. Paul and the Pribilofs, Kenai Fjords National Park, and Denali National Park.

For details, please contact him at:

Bill Drummond
(978) 975-1167
159 Appleton Street
North Andover, MA 01845
wcdrummond@verizon.net

Don Wilkinson will be leading the following out-of-state trips in 2015:

Winter in New England (geared towards out-of-staters) (Dec.-Jan.)
South Florida and the Dry Tortugas (late April)
North Carolina Pelagics and Land Specialties (late May)
Himalayan Snowcock in Nevada and Utah (July)
California Pelagics, Yosemite and CA Condors (early Sept.)

All trips will be on the website.

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

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.

Coming up: the Superbowl of Birding,
January 24, 2015 (www.massaudubon.org)
and
the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 13–16, 2015
(www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

Bird Observer

The Birding Journal for Massachusetts

~Notes~



Have you looked at *Bird Observer* lately? We have a new look, with new features, expanded coverage, and more art!

Read about birding spots, natural history, field notes, regional rarities, and sighting records for the entire state.

If birding in Massachusetts is really important to you, you cannot afford to miss *Bird Observer*. It will become your most important birding tool after your binoculars.

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Send a check to Bird Observer, Dept. B,
P.O. Box 236, Arlington, MA 02476-0003.

<http://massbird.org/BirdObserver/>

ENJOY THE BROOKLINE BIRD CLUB, INC.
Founded in Brookline in 1913

Name _____ Phone () _____

Family Additional Names _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this a new membership? Yes E-mail address _____

Membership runs from JANUARY TO DECEMBER. For 2015 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:

2015 Annual Dues (\$15 individual, \$22 Family)

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

Gift (tax-deductible)

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

