

Brookline Bird Club Bulletin

October 31, 2021 – March 31, 2022



brooklinebirdclub.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CORPORATE OFFICERS

President

Leslie Kramer

lkramer@brooklinebirdclub.org

Vice President

Treasurer

Mark Nelson

mnelson@brooklinebirdclub.org

Recording Secretary/Clerk

David Williams

dave.williams6@gmail.com

OPERATIONAL OFFICERS

Chief Technologist

Eric Swanzey

eric@swanzey.com

Membership Coordinator

Jill Mathieu

jjmathieu01@hotmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Cliff Cook

ccook13@gmail.com

Statistician

David Scott

davidscott6@yahoo.co.uk

Bulletin Editor

Leslie Wittman

lesliewittman99@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Kathy Dia
katbirder@gmail.com

Glenn d'Entremont
gdentremont1@comcast.net

Linda Ferraresso
tattler1@comcast.net

Diana Fruguglietti
diana.fru@gmail.com

Justine Hanson
justinehanson@gmail.com

Neil Hayward
neil.hayward@gmail.com

Bobbie Hodson
robertahodson@comcast.net

Sebastian Jones
sebastianojones@gmail.com

John Nelson
jnelson@northshore.edu

Barbara Volkle
barb620@theworld.com

Naeem Yusuff
naeem.yusuff@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Members,

As of this writing, shorebird migration is delighting us with sightings at Plum Island, Allens Pond, and other locations. Red Knots, dowitchers, Least, Semipalmated, White-rumped, and Baird's sandpipers, godwits, yellowlegs, and other shorebirds are making their way south from northern breeding grounds. Thousands of swallows have been staging at Parker River; warblers are beginning to pass through western and central Massachusetts.

This summer we were cautioned by Mass Wildlife, Mass Audubon, and other organizations to take down our bird feeders and empty bird baths due to an unknown affliction. Was it really due to the seventeen-year cicada cycle? Since refilling feeders, American Goldfinches are bringing their young to dine and hummingbirds have returned to slurp with their typical territorial gusto.

Despite ongoing pandemic challenges, the club ran an impressive number of summer and early fall walks. We also enjoyed a highly successful overnight pelagic trip out of Hyannis, as well as a few day trips from Gloucester. We look forward to exciting fall and winter trips: visiting some tried-and-true favorite places and exploring habitats new to the BBC. Will this coming winter bring cherished finches and other rarities to our part of New England? At least one club trip is scheduled to target these winter visitors. Make sure to check this Blue Book, Massbird, our Facebook page, and the BBC website for specifics.

The club will return to offering 3–4 workshops per year, offering an engaging and informative variety of topics for both newer and experienced birders. Unless otherwise noted, they will be virtual. Our next three Members meetings will also be virtual: author Rosemary Mosco on Wednesday, October 27, followed by speakers in February and April 2022. Watch for emails, website, Massbird, and postcard announcements.

BBC committees continue to meet to ensure the club's organizational and fiscal strengths and action-based voice for birds and the environment remain strong. The club's newly founded Community and Culture Committee mission statement reflects our commitment to inclusion and diversity. We hope you will continue to welcome and mentor those who wish to learn about birds and participate in our walks and activities. Many of us began birding this way, with support from a birder who embodies the BBC's core values. We encourage club members to join committees. Please contact the appropriate committee chair for information! You can find them listed on the Get Involved page of our website, brooklinebirdclub.org/about/get-involved.

What lies ahead? We continue to bring masks and practice safe participation during walks and other club events. We always welcome new trip leaders and committee participants. We are grateful for the focus and dedication of our Board members and leaders, and appreciate the ongoing support of our members.

Be well and good birding!

Leslie Kramer
President

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Addressing ideas and issues that are important to club members is our top priority. The board meets four times a year to discuss club-related items. Members are encouraged to reach out to officers and directors with thoughts and suggestions. You can also email us at webmaster@brooklinebirdclub.org.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

We encourage you to renew and feel pride in being a part of an amazing network of dedicated birders. You can renew your membership (or join!) by credit/debit card or PayPal on brooklinebirdclub.org, or by filling out the form on the back cover of this bulletin.

We recommend renewing by the end of December so you can continue to receive meeting notices and bulletins without interruption. Thank you for your membership support!

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

The club continues to offer virtual workshops and webinars. Registration is required and limited to BBC members. Workshop topics have ranged from audio birding to bird identification to nature photography. See the BBC website for current listings and registration ([brooklinebirdclub.org/tripsevents/workshops/.](http://brooklinebirdclub.org/tripsevents/workshops/))

2021 VIRTUAL FALL MEETING

Rosemary Mosco

“Cartooning for Bird Conservation”

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

A link will be sent to all members.

Join Rosemary Mosco, science author and creator of Bird and Moon Comics, for an evening of science, art, and fun. Learn how Rosemary built a career that blends art and science, and why this combination can help people understand and conserve birds and other wildlife.

rosemarymosco.com

2022 MEMBERS MEETINGS

February 9, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Steve Kress and Derrick Jackson

**“The Puffin Plan: Restoring Seabirds
to Egg Rock and Beyond.”**

April 14, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Paul Baicich

“Birding and Beyond in Cuba.”

BBC Donation to Wildlands Trust

By John Nelson

The BBC, through our Conservation and Education Committee, is pleased to donate \$250 to Wildlands Trust, a regional land trust working to conserve native habitats and lands of high ecological value in southeastern Massachusetts. As part of a unified effort by the Association of Mass Bird Clubs, the BBC recently appealed to Wildlands Trust to help prevent development at Cumberland Farms in Middleborough and Halifax, one of the prime grassland properties in our state. The Trust has long been working to conserve habitat at Cumberland Farms, and in the face of an upcoming land auction, it is now partnering with other conservation groups, as well as Mass Fish and Wildlife, to protect Cumberland Farms in the future. President Karen Gray graciously thanked the BBC for our donation, while donation director Sue Chamberlain noted that the “BBC was instrumental in moving the protection of this valuable habitat forward.” This is a worthy organization, and we hope that individual BBC members will consider donations to Wildlands Trust.

IDA GIRIUNAS MEMORIAL GARDEN

By Linda Ferraresso

It's hard to believe that Ida Giriunas, well known Massachusetts birder and long-time director of the Brookline Bird Club (BBC), passed away two years ago on August 20. We wanted to update friends and the birding community on the status of the expansion of the Mass Audubon Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary's bird habitat garden area in her name, funded by your generous contributions. Despite the uncertainty created by the pandemic for the last year and a half, IRWS has been busy adding to the gardens and they are filling out beautifully. A sanctuary volunteer is in the process of creating a guide to the plants including their names and benefits to the birds. Additional plants will be added this fall, and a location for a plaque will be evaluated. While we hoped to have a formal dedication, that is on hold till the current public health situation is resolved to satisfactory levels of safety for Mass Audubon Society staff and visitors. Please stop by to see the gardens! But remember to go online beforehand and reserve a parking spot. And visit our website for photos and more details, as well as future updates

SUPPORT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES THROUGH DUCK STAMPS

By Barbara Volkle

As birders, we treasure our 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.

One of the easiest ways to support bird habitat conservation is by buying Federal Duck Stamps, which are among the most successful conservation tools ever created.

In August 2021, the Federal Duck Stamp Contest rules were changed. Starting in 2022, they will remove the “celebrating out waterfowl hunting heritage” theme, eliminate the mandatory inclusion of an appropriate hunting element, change the judging requirements, and revise the qualifications for judge selection. Thanks to all who submitted comments during the public comment period.

For every dollar you spend on a duck stamp, ninety-eight percent goes toward protecting vital wetland habitat. Your stamp also provides free admission to refuges. The 2021–2022 Federal Duck Stamp went on sale in June. Buy your stamp at refuge offices and admission booths, the post office, on the BBC website, or at duckstamp.com.

SEABIRDS — BOOK REVIEWS

By Sebastian Jones

When Peter Harrison's *Seabirds: An Identification Guide* (Houghton Mifflin, 1983), the first comprehensive modern guide to pelagic species, was published, famed naturalist Roger Tory Peterson heaped praise on the book and called the ocean "the great frontier" for birders. Four decades later, oceanic birds remain among the most mysterious, most sought after, and most difficult to identify species. Thankfully, two recently published field guides comprehensively explore this great frontier and help prepare birders for their next offshore adventure or visit to Race Point: Howell and Zufelt's *Oceanic Birds of the World: A Photo Guide* (Princeton University Press, 2019) and Harrison, Perrow, and Larsson's *Seabirds: The New Identification Guide* (Lynx Editions, 2021).

Seabirds: The New Identification Guide is a top-to-bottom redesign of the 1983 classic. Lavishly illustrated by Harrison and Larsson, it covers 433 species in granular detail that is as impressive as it is useful in the field. Emphasis is given to real world identification situations and dilemmas, with helpful comparative illustrations and notes included for sorting through similar species. While the guide is primarily intended for pelagic encounters, I suspect I'll be reaching for it the next time there's a tricky gull or tern to identify, as Larsson's illustrations of these species are excellent. Overall, this stands as the current authoritative treatment of ocean birds, delivered in a stylish, intelligently organized manner.

Oceanic Birds of the World: A Photo Guide takes a different approach by opting for photographs and focusing on the 270 species that would likely be seen

on an offshore pelagic trip (at the expense of sea ducks and many species of terns and gulls). It follows a similar philosophy to *Seabirds* in terms of anticipating the challenges of identifying these species in the field and focusing on the field marks and behaviors that are most likely to clinch an identification. Photographs are used strategically: for every stunning shot of an adult albatross or penguin, attention is given to photos of birds at varying ages and from varying angles that help underline key field marks and give the reader a sense for how these birds might look as they zip by at sea. It's a worthy entry that emphasizes practicality and utility in the field, and given the smaller number of species covered, a more portable volume.

One final option to consider, especially for those looking to dip their toes in the water, is picking up a used copy of the original 1983 *Seabirds*. It's outdated by today's standards but goes into more detail than generalist regional field guides and can be picked up on the cheap.

It's hard to pick a favorite between these books, and certainly one's preference for illustrations or photographs could help sway the decision. For me, it would have to be the 2021 edition of *Seabirds: The New Identification Guide*. It is a monumental work.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

National Audubon is evaluating options for the 2021 Christmas Bird Counts, **December 14, 2021 through January 5, 2022**. For updated information, please check back to our website brooklinebirdclub.org. Thanks for your understanding as we all navigate our new normal.

NOTES TO TRIP PARTICIPANTS

As the pandemic continues to evolve, the BBC may need to make adjustments to trip rules and expectations. Please check the website for current updates.

Whether you are a member or not, you are invited to participate in our trips and activities free of charge, though there may be costs for travel or admission for trips farther afield.

The BBC stresses the importance of good public relations. When attending trips, please park your vehicle off the road, away from driveways and posted areas, so as not to impede traffic. Respect guidelines at birding locations such as cemeteries and national wildlife refuges.

Most importantly, please do not enter private property unless you have permission. For a refresher on responsible birding, visit our updated Code of Ethics on the BBC website.

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

Bring a lunch on all-day trips. Please inform the trip leader if you need to leave early. Try to carpool whenever possible since it not only saves costs and fuel but it also allows the leader to take groups to locations with limited access.

PROGRAM OF TRIPS

October 31, 2021 – March 31, 2022

NOTE: These trips are provisional and are subject to change based on public health guidelines. Please check the club web site for current information. All trips are free of charge unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday, October 31

New Hampshire Coast

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will look for winter ducks, alcids, gulls, and Snowy Owls, plus other late fall migrants. Contact leader for details. Meeting location: McDonald's parking lot at 710 Lafayette Road (Route 1) in Seabrook NH, just north of the MA/NH border.

**Trip leader: Steve Mirick, (603) 661-7703
smirick@comcast.net**

Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Late October is often a time of year for fall lingerers, winter arrivals, and often a surprise or two. Join us for an approximately two-mile walk around Mt. Auburn over rolling terrain. Restrooms available. Meeting location: Inside the front gate on Mount Auburn Street.

**Trip leader: Cliff Cook, (339) 222-4518
ccook13@gmail.com**

Saturday, November 6

Fresh Pond, Cambridge

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

An easy two-mile walk through pondside meadows and forest paths at Fresh Pond. The over-wintering waterbirds have started to arrive, and we may see Ring-necked Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, and both Hooded and Common mergansers. Meadow and forest species may include year-round residents as well as seasonal visitors from the north (e.g. White-throated Sparrows, juncos). Meeting location: TD Bank parking lot, 211 Alewife Brook Parkway, Fresh Pond.

Trip leader: Thomas Michel, (617) 365-1102

Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu

Essex to Plum Island

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will check out various spots from Essex to Plum Island looking for fall migrants. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader by 6:00 p.m. the previous evening. Meeting location: Intersection of Island Road and Route 133 in Essex.

Trip leaders: Linda Ferraresso, (617) 755-1851

tattler1@comcast.net

Nick Paulson, (508) 330-4401

grendelpgill@yahoo.com

Sunday, November 7

The Lakes of Wakefield and Lynnfield

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We will visit several different lakes and ponds in Wakefield and Lynnfield primarily looking for waterfowl. Meeting location: Behind the Lakeside Inn on North Ave. in Wakefield.

Trip leader: Dave Williams, (781) 439-7187
dave.williams6@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 16

North Shore Waterfowl Expedition

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We will visit several different water bodies in Essex County, attempting to see as many as 25 different species of ducks and geese. We will end up at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Meeting location: Topsfield Fair Grounds, Rt.1, Topsfield.

Trip leader: Dave Williams, (781) 439-7187
dave.williams6@gmail.com

Sunday, November 21

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A two-hour walk, about 1.5 miles, over easy-to-moderate gravel roads and trails in search of seasonal specialties.

Boots advisable. Restrooms are available. Meeting location: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. The Trustees



members park free in season. On CATA's Lanesville bus route from the Rockport Train Station.

**Trip leader: Peter Van Demark, (978) 546-2402
phvand@icloud.com**

Saturday, November 27

Leader's Choice—South of Boston

The trip leader will monitor recent sightings and select the birdiest spots. Contact leader after November 24 for details on the meeting time and location. Co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club. Meeting location: To be determined.

**Trip leader: Glenn d'Entremont, (781) 267-0442
gdentremont1@comcast.net**

Tuesday, November 30

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Concord

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

On this easy walk we will search for bluebirds, raptors, and wintering waterfowl, as well as wild turkeys that may be in the area. Meeting location: Refuge parking lot on Monsen Road (off Route 62).

**Trip leader: Clayton Swanson, (978) 395-7877
cas-swansong@comcast.net**



Saturday, December 4

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

This DCR Massachusetts State Park is a birding hotspot (along the Atlantic Migratory flyway) with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to move to different locations by car or bicycle and on foot. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by DCR. Meeting location: Main Entrance in or near the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

Trip leaders: Matthew Nash, (781) 656-1485

Matthew.Nash@mass.gov

Sean Riley

sean.m.riley@mass.gov

Cape Ann

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. Meeting location: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester.

Trip leader: Peter Van Demark, (978) 546-2402

phvand@icloud.com

Sunday, December 5

Dunback Meadow, Lexington

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We will look for wintering birds, including raptors, and may travel to nearby areas in Waltham, Lexington, and Belmont depending on recent reports. Expect to walk about three miles on trails. Meeting location: Clark Middle School, at the end of Brookside Avenue.

Trip leader: Cliff Cook, (339) 222-4518
ccook13@gmail.com

Emerald Necklace Ponds, Boston/Brookline

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

We will search for waterfowl and other winter species on the ponds and in the adjacent woods. Co-sponsored by the Brookline Greenspace Alliance and the Emerald Necklace Bird Club. Meeting location: Parking lot for Daisy Field, Olmsted Park on Willow Pond, between Pond Avenue and the Jamaicaaway.

Trip leader: Bob Mayer, (617) 522-0157
rgmayer38@gmail.com

Thursday, December 16

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a mid-week hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. Meeting location: Halibut Point State Park parking lot.

Trip leader: Barbara Volkle, (508) 393-9251
barb620@theworld.com

Saturday, December 18

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

This DCR Massachusetts State Park is a birding hotspot (along the Atlantic Migratory flyway) with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to move to different locations by car or bicycle and on foot. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by DCR. Meeting location: Main Entrance in or near the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

Trip leaders: Matthew Nash, (781) 656-1485

Matthew.Nash@mass.gov

Sean Riley

sean.m.riley@mass.gov

January/February TBD

Quabbin Winter Finch Expedition

We will search for winter finches and other seasonal specialties in the Quabbin region. Date and locations to be determined based on current reports. Dress warmly. Meeting location, date, and time to be determined.

Trip Leader: Leslie Kramer

lkramer@brooklinebirdclub.org

Saturday, January 1

Newburyport and Vicinity

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Join us on our annual New Year's Day birding trip! We may also venture on to Cape Ann. Co-sponsored with the Essex County Ornithological Club. Meeting location: Cashman Park, Sally Snyder Way, Newburyport.

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

Sunday, January 2

Arnold Arboretum, Boston

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Start your 2022 year list off on this easy 90-minute walk from the main gate to the ponds and back.

In addition to looking for winter birds we will admire the Arboretum's impressive woody plant collection. See the arboretum website at arboretum.harvard.edu for directions and a checklist of birds. Meeting location: Inside the main gate off the Arborway. Parking available on nearby side streets.

**Trip leader: Bob Mayer, (617) 522-0157
rgmayer38@gmail.com**



Wednesday, January 5

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a midweek hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of bad weather, contact the leader the day before the trip. Meeting location: Halibut Point State Park parking lot.

**Trip leader: Barbara Volkle, (508) 393-9251
barb620@theworld.com**

Saturday, January 8

Cape Ann

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting location: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester.

**Trip leader: Susan Hedman, (978) 325-6226
2winterwren@gmail.com**

Saturday, January 15

Charles River, Watertown

7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

An easy, approximately two-mile walk along the Charles River Greenway in Watertown, with a chance to see over-wintering waterfowl on the river as well as winter-time resident birds. We are likely to see Common and Hooded mergansers as well as Buffleheads, plus the usual local woodpeckers and



other hardy species. Meeting location: Watertown Square Station, at the entrance to the Charles River Greenway in Watertown.

Trip leader: Thomas Michel, (617) 365-1102
Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

This DCR Massachusetts State Park is a birding hotspot (along the Atlantic Migratory flyway) with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to move to different locations by car or bicycle and on foot. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by DCR. Meeting location: Main Entrance in or near the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

Trip leaders: Matthew Nash, (781) 656-1485
Matthew.Nash@mass.gov

Sean Riley
sean.m.riley@mass.gov

Sunday, January 16

Salisbury to Newburyport

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We will start at Salisbury State Park, then bird along the Merrimack River, and end up on the Parker River NWR. Meeting location: The District Courthouse parking lot, Route 1 traffic circle, Newburyport.

Trip leader: Dave Williams, (781) 439-7187
dave.williams6@gmail.com

Sunday, January 16

Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A peaceful winter walk in Mount Auburn is always a pleasure and you never know what you might see. Sapsuckers and Red-breasted Nuthatches are regulars. Meeting location: Inside the front gate on Mount Auburn Street.

Trip leader: Kathy Dia, (617) 480-5103
katbirder@gmail.com

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A two-hour walk, about 1.5 miles, over easy to moderate gravel roads and trails in search of seasonal specialties.

Boots advisable. Restrooms are available. Meeting location: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. The Trustees members park free in season. On CATA's Lanesville bus route from the Rockport Train Station.

Trip leader: Peter Van Demark, (978) 546-2402
phvand@icloud.com



Saturday, January 22

Cape Ann

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

Trip leader: Linda Ferraresso, (617) 755-1851
tattler1@comcast.net

Dunback Meadow, Lexington

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

We will look for wintering birds, including raptors.
Meeting location: Allen Street entrance to Dunback Meadow.

Trip leader: Bobbie Hodson, (781) 861-9421
robertahodson@comcast.net

Sunday, January 23

Deer Island & Boston Harbor, Winthrop

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We will search for wintering seabirds, alcids, and Iceland Gulls. Be prepared for cold and wind and dress very warmly. Depending on conditions, we will walk up to 2.6 miles on paved paths. Port-a-potties available midway. Loaner binoculars available upon request — please contact the leader at least 48 hours in advance. Beginners welcome and encouraged. Meeting location: Parking lot at 180 Tafts Ave, Winthrop, MA 02152. If lot is full, proceed past the parking lot (toward water treatment plant) and park on the causeway. Accessible via MBTA bus.



Trip leader: Justine Hanson, (617) 840-0832
justinehanson@gmail.com

Monday, January 24

Newburyport and Vicinity

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will visit Salisbury State Park, the Merrimack

River, Plum Island or, possibly, Hampton Beach, NH. Check with leader in case of weather problems. Meeting location: Newburyport District Court House, Route 1 traffic circle.



Trip leader: Pete Gilmore, (617) 610-2477
petegilmore79@gmail.com

Wednesday, February 2

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a midweek hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of bad weather, contact the leader the day before the trip. Meeting location: Halibut Point State Park parking lot.

Trip leader: Barbara Volkle, (508) 393-9251
barb620@theworld.com

Saturday, February 5

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

This DCR Massachusetts State Park is a birding hotspot (along the Atlantic Migratory flyway) with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to

move to different locations by car or bicycle and on foot. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by DCR. Meeting location: Main Entrance in or near the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

Trip leaders: Matthew Nash, (781) 656-1485
Matthew.Nash@mass.gov
Sean Riley
sean.m.riley@mass.gov

Birding Sketchcrawl — Winter Series

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Come and bird/sketch in locations around Essex County. All artistic levels welcome. Bring your own sketching materials and other creature comforts. Contact leader for details no later than 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 3. Meeting location: To be determined.

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

Cape Ann

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Meeting

location: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester.

Trip leader: Peter Van Demark, (978) 546-2402
phvand@icloud.com



Sunday, February 6

Scituate to Plymouth

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A total of 70 species is routine on this trip. We should be able to find a combination of land birds, freshwater ducks, and ocean birds with relatively little driving.

Co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club.

Meeting location: Stop & Shop parking lot at the intersection of Routes 3 and 139 in Pembroke.

**Trip leader: Glenn d'Entremont, (781) 267-0442
gdentremont1@comcast.net**

Newburyport and Vicinity

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will visit Salisbury State Park, the Merrimack River, Plum Island or, possibly, Hampton Beach, NH. Check with leader in case of weather problems.

Meeting location: Newburyport District Court House, Route 1 traffic circle.

**Trip leader: Pete Gilmore, (617) 610-2477
petegilmore79@gmail.com**

Wednesday, February 9

Virtual Members Meeting

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Steve Kress and Derrick Jackson:

“The Puffin Plan: Restoring Seabirds to Egg Rock and Beyond.”

Saturday, February 12

MA Waterfowl Prowl

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

Trip leader: Eddie Giles, (508) 378-3370
emgiles62@comcast.net

Sunday, February 13

Cape Ann

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

Trip leader: Linda Ferraresso, (617) 755-1851
tattler1@comcast.net

Saturday, February 19

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

This DCR Massachusetts State Park is a birding hotspot (along the Atlantic Migratory flyway) with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to move to different locations by car or bicycle and on foot. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by DCR. Meeting location: Main Entrance in or near the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

Trip leaders: Matthew Nash, (781) 656-1485

Matthew.Nash@mass.gov

Sean Riley

sean.m.riley@mass.gov

Newburyport and Vicinity

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The middle of winter is often a good time for hawks, owls and waterfowl.

We may visit Salisbury Beach, Parker River, areas along the Merrimac River, or other locations depending on recent sightings. In case of weather problems, please check with leader by February 18 at 7 p.m.. Meeting location: Parking lot 1, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge.

Trip leader: Cliff Cook, (339) 222-4518

ccook13@gmail.com



Sunday, February 20

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A two-hour walk, about 1.5 miles, over easy to moderate gravel roads and trails in search of seasonal specialties.

Boots advisable. Restrooms are available. Meeting location: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. The Trustees members park free in season. On CATA's Lanesville bus route from the Rockport Train Station.

Trip leader: Peter Van Demark, (978) 546-2402
phvand@icloud.com



Monday, February 21

Cape Ann

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather.

Meeting location: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester.

Trip leaders: Dave Williams, (781) 439-7187
dave.williams6@gmail.com

Mark Nelson, (781) 258-6421
mnelson@brooklinebirdclub.org

Saturday, February 26

Cohasset to Marshfield

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We will be seabirding and looking for waterfowl as we work our way down the coast, driving from spot to spot with little walking. Meeting location: Entrance to Wheelwright Park, North Main Street, Cohasset.



Trip leader: Sylvia Martin, (617) 678-2338
warbler@neomailbox.ch

Wednesday, March 2

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a midweek hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of bad weather, contact the leader the day before the trip. Meeting location: Halibut Point State Park parking lot.

Trip leader: Barbara Volkle, (508) 393-9251
barb620@theworld.com

Saturday, March 5

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

This DCR Massachusetts State Park is a birding hotspot (along the Atlantic Migratory flyway) with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to

move to different locations by car or bicycle and on foot. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by DCR. Meeting location: Main Entrance in or near the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

Trip leaders: Matthew Nash, (781) 656-1485
Matthew.Nash@mass.gov
Sean Riley
sean.m.riley@mass.gov

Dunback Meadow, Lexington

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

We will look for wintering birds, including raptors. Meeting location: Allen Street entrance to Dunback Meadow.

Trip leader: Bobbie Hodson, (781) 861-9421
robertahodson@comcast.net

Newburyport and Vicinity

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will visit Plum Island, areas along the Merrimack River, and Salisbury. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader by 6:00 p.m. the previous evening. Meeting location: Newburyport District Court House, Route 1 traffic circle.

Trip leader: Sylvia Martin, (617) 678-2338
warbler@neomailbox.ch

Sunday, March 6

**Castle Island & Pleasure Bay,
South Boston**

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

We will search for wintering seabirds, Purple Sandpipers, and Snowy Owls.

Be prepared for cold and wind. Expect to walk two-three miles on paved paths. Port-a-potties available midway. Loaner binoculars available upon request — please contact the leader at least 48 hours in advance. Beginners welcome and encouraged. Meeting location: The war memorial next to the parking lot at 1911 William J Day Blvd, Boston, MA. Accessible via MBTA bus.



**Trip leader: Justine Hanson, (617) 840-0832
justinehanson@gmail.com**

Thursday, March 10

**Woodcocks at Meriam's
Corner, Concord**

5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

American Woodcocks are regular visitors to the fields

of Minute Man NHP each spring. Listen and watch for this unusual bird's courtship display. We will walk about a half mile on boardwalk and wide trail, but woodcocks can often be heard and seen from the parking lot and participants may elect to stay in that area. Meeting location: Minute Man NHP, Meriam's Corner lot, Concord.



**Trip leader: Kathy Dia, (617) 480-5103
katbirder@gmail.com**

Wednesday, March 16

Woodcock Walk at Nahanton Park, Newton

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Join us at sunset to hopefully hear and see the mating sky dance of the American Woodcock. Activity should begin around 7:15 p.m. and last for about an hour. Call trip leader if there's rain or snow cover.

Very little walking required, flashlight recommended; no dogs. Meeting location: Park in the Nature Center lot just east (~50 feet) of the Charles River off Nahanton St. We will begin near the two benches at the north end of the park's "Woodcock Meadow" and move into the meadow once calling begins.

**Trip leader: Pete Gilmore, (617) 610-2477
petegilmore79@gmail.com**

Saturday, March 19

Vernal Equinox Walk. Leader's Choice

The trip leader will monitor recent sightings prior to meeting and select the birdiest spots. Contact leader for details. Call or email no later than 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16 for details. Meeting location: To be determined.

**Trip leader: Laura de la Flor, (978) 741-0897
anhinga3@comcast.net**

Saturday, March 19

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

This DCR Massachusetts State Park is a birding hotspot (along the Atlantic Migratory flyway) with a total yearly bird count of about 265 species. We will search for Snowy Owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, and waterfowl. Expect to move to different locations by car or bicycle and on foot. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by DCR. Meeting location: Main Entrance in or near the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

Trip leaders: Matthew Nash, (781) 656-1485

Matthew.Nash@mass.gov

Sean Riley

sean.m.riley@mass.gov

Sunday, March 20

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A two-hour walk, about 1.5 miles, over easy to moderate gravel roads and trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. Restrooms are available. Meeting location: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. The Trustees members park free in season. On CATA's Lanesville bus route from the Rockport Train Station.

Trip leader: Peter Van Demark, (978) 546-2402

phvand@icloud.com



Woodcocks at Alewife

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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. Meeting location: Alewife Station Access Road end of Fitchburg cutoff bike path.

Trip leader: Zack Weber,
birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

Thursday, March 24

Woodcocks at Alewife

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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. Meeting location: Alewife Station Access Road end of Fitchburg cutoff bike path.

Trip leader: Zack Weber,
birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

Friday, March 25

Woodcock Walk at Bird Street Conservation Area, Stoughton

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Boots recommended. Meeting location: Bird Street entrance to Bird Street Conservation Area

Trip leader: Glenn d'Entremont, (781) 267-0442
gdentremont1@comcast.net

Saturday, March 26

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Concord

7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

We will look for early migrants, waterfowl, and waders. Conditions may be wet; boots advised. Meeting location: Refuge parking lot off Monsen Road, Concord.

**Trip leader: Sylvia Martin, (617) 678-2338
warbler@neomailbox.ch**



Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Mount Auburn Cemetery is lovely in all seasons. In late March, we may see the very earliest migrants from the south (Red-winged Blackbird and others) as well as the remaining seasonal visitors from the north (e.g. White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco). And our usual year-round resident species will have just started to sing! Meeting location: Meet at the entrance to the cemetery.

**Trip Leader: Thomas Michel, (617) 365-1102
Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu**

Newburyport and Vicinity

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We will visit Plum Island, areas along the Merrimac River, and West Newbury in pursuit of early migrants. Meeting location: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters/Visitors Center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike.

**Trip leader: Jonathan Center, (978) 866-7391
jbcenter@verizon.net**

Woodcock Watch, Oxbow NWR, Harvard

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Join us to watch for American Woodcock. We will stay until it gets dark. Come early to enjoy other birds. Rain date Sunday, March 27, same time.

Meeting location: Part way down Still River Depot Road in Harvard at the big NWR sign on the right.

Trip leader: Don MacFarlane, (978) 897-7567

Sunday, March 27

Blue Hills

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This trip consists of several short one-mile hikes (the first is rather steep) to look for Turkey Vultures, Pileated Woodpeckers, Eastern Bluebirds, and early-arriving Eastern Phoebes and Pine Warblers. Meeting location: Small parking lot on Chickatawbut Road in Milton just east of Randolph Avenue (Route 28).

**Trip leader: Steve Olanoff, (781) 326-6585
olanoff@aol.com**

Blue Hills Woodcock Walk in Fowl Meadow

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We are usually successful in seeing the American Woodcock's mating flight, and last year saw its mating display. We will hike one mile on a flat trail that may be wet. Meeting location: Small parking lot at Neponset Valley Parkway and Brush Hill Road in Milton.

**Trip leader: Steve Olanoff, (781) 326-6585
olanoff@aol.com**

Thursday, June 23

25th Annual Weekend Trip to the Rangeley Lakes Region, Maine

Join us for a special celebration of this trip's 25th anniversary! As always, this trip will concentrate on Maine's boreal specialties including Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Bicknell's Thrush, and 20+ species of warbler. Time will also be taken to observe and enjoy the flora and fauna along the way. Participants can expect to do some moderate hiking and optional canoeing. Limited participation. Please contact leader for additional information and reservations at least one month in advance.

Trip leaders: Eddie Giles, (508) 807-2338
emgiles62@comcast.net

Glenn d'Entremont, Home: (781) 344-5857

Cell: (781) 267-0442

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Thursday, June 30

Machias, Maine & Vicinity

Four-day trip to the Machias area in downeast Maine. Cost to be determined. Details sent in response to inquiries. Limited to 15 participants.

Trip leader: Deb and Henry Mauer, 508-308-8050

Arcticwarbler1@gmail.com

MEMBER DISCOUNT

Bird Watcher's Supply & Gift in Newburyport offers current BBC members a 10% discount on all books and ABA guides, as well as substantial discounts on binoculars, spotting scopes, and tripods. Bring a copy of this book to receive a discount.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Visit brooklinebirdclub.org for information on club activities and additional bird trips in MA and beyond.

Visit massbird.org to find a listing of local bird clubs and subscribe to the Massbird Listserv.

Visit ebird.org/subnational1/US-MA to find birds and hotspots in Massachusetts, report sightings, submit checklists, and sign up for Massachusetts Rare Bird Alerts.

Visit birding.aba.org for up-to-the-minute news on bird sightings across New England.

To report bird sightings in Western Massachusetts, Nantucket, and Cape Cod, call **Voice of Audubon:** (781) 259-8805.

To report sightings in Eastern Massachusetts, call the **Wildlife Information Line:** (781) 259-2150.

ONLINE STORE

We have new apparel offerings on our website! Visit brooklinebirdclub.qbstores.com for hats, outerwear, shirts, and more.

NOTES TO TRIP LEADERS

Important: Please read the updated “Guidelines for Trip Leaders” document on our website, brooklinebirdclub.org/tripsevents/field-trips-about/.

- If you are unable to lead a trip you are scheduled to lead, you are responsible for finding a substitute. We encourage you to email fieldtripleaders@brooklinebirdclub.org and use your personal network to find a substitute who is familiar with the area where the trip is taking place.
- The minimum time for cancellations is 24 hours before the start time of the trip. If you know you must cancel a trip further in advance, email Massbird and Trips Coordinator Cliff Cook (ccook13@gmail.com) three to four days prior to the trip date. If you must cancel due to weather or an emergency, be sure to post to massbird@theworld.com and email Cliff Cook to update our website.
- Trip reports are an important part of promoting and documenting BBC trips. These trip reports are helpful to participants, and we hope that our sightings will benefit future conservation efforts as well as to help us better understand the population dynamics of the birds. Be sure to record the number of participants on the trip. You're also encouraged to provide photos in your trip report.
- Trip leaders should report their trip's sighting to eBird and share with the club eBird account (username: BrooklineBirdClub). Detailed instructions to create and share an ebird checklist can be found on brooklinebirdclub.org/field-trips-about.

- If you are unable to submit your report on eBird, contact Dave Williams (dave.williams6@gmail.com) for a field card.
- If possible, also send your report to Massbird and other local listservs and Facebook pages.
- If you record a rarity or a write-in on the Mass Checklist (e.g. Sedge Wren, Western Kingbird), please also post it to Massbird.



Bird Observer is a New England-based journal for birders featuring articles on birding locations, avian populations, and natural history, as well as book reviews, field notes, photographs, artwork, and more.

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Annual memberships run from January–December. Please complete this form and return to Jill Mathieu, BBC Membership, 182 N Worcester St., Norton, MA 02766. Please include a check made out to Brookline Bird Club for the total amount due — or renew or join online at [our website brooklinebirdclub.org](http://ourwebsite.brooklinebirdclub.org).

Name _____

Family Additional names _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this a new membership? Yes (Includes free BBC window decal)

Amount Enclosed

2022 Annual Dues (\$15 individual; \$22 family) _____

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