# Brookline Bird Club Bulletin

November 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



brooklinebirdclub.org

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# AT A GLANCE

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#### PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Greetings BBC Members,

We always look forward to winter birding! November has a well-deserved reputation for being a month of rarities, and this late fall and winter may be no exception. Wildfires burning in northern and western Canada might produce irruptions of winter finches, crossbills, owls, and raptors.

Some of our favorite winter BBC trips on the coast include Cape Ann, where we offer many walks, and Newburyport and vicinity, another coastal hotspot we visit. The club partners with the DCR to offer a good number of walks at Belle Isle Marsh, Boston's only remaining saltmarsh.

Inland walks include Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord and Dunback Meadow in Lexington, both great areas to look for waterfowl, raptors, and more. We search for wintering land birds at Boston's Franklin Park in partnership with the Franklin Park Coalition and Franklin Park Tennis Association and visit the Arnold Arboretum, a 281-acre preserve in the heart of Boston. Both of these Boston treasures can be reached by public transportation.

This season's club trips end with the arrival of the woodcock in March and a series of walks at dusk when we hope to hear and see their captivating springtime display.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support of the club. Thank you.

— Leslie Kramer, President, BBC

#### **FOCUS ON WINTER**

#### Fall 2023 Members Meeting

Please join us Friday, October 20, 2023, @ 7 pm–9 pm when American Bird Conservancy's John Mittermeier will present: "Searching for Lost Birds: How Rare Birds Can Inspire Exploration and Conservation in the Age of Extinction." John will share some of his experiences searching for lost birds and explore why these efforts are important for conservation.

Attend live at Harvard University's Geological Hall, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge. Accessible by the T. Free parking in Oxford Street Parking Garage, 52 Oxford St., Cambridge. Alternatively attend remotely via Zoom. Register to attend remotely. You will find the Zoom link at https://www.brooklinebirdclub.org/tripevent/fall-2023-members-meeting

## Audubon's 124th Christmas Bird Count Dec 14, 2023-January 5, 2024

Check National Audubon Society's website for details. audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count

#### Winter 2024 Members Meeting

Plans for our 2024 Winter Members are underway. Please check our BBC web site for details.

#### Warm Outerwear for Winter

Will this winter's jet stream put a chill in your winter birding? Protect yourself from cold weather with warm outerwear while supporting the BBC. The online BBC shop offers warm winter outerwear, embroidered with our club's logo, the Black-capped Chickadee! Visit https://brooklinebirdclub.qbstores.com to place your order.

#### Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

The Brookline Bird Club is pleased to collaborate with the DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) to offer two walks a month at Belle Isle Marsh. Managed by the DCR, this 152-acre property is a critical habitat for many salt-marsh species and is Boston's last remaining salt marsh.

Walks are led by DCR staff. We search on foot up to one mile, on flat, easy terrain for snowy owls and other raptors, finches, and waterfowl. We also typically see native sparrows from November through the end of January. They reappear in March, along with Redwinged Blackbirds.

Walks occur on the following Saturday mornings at 7:30 am – 8:30 am.

These trips are also listed in chronological sequence in the Program of Trips section starting on page 19.

Saturday, November 4, 2023 Saturday, January 20, 2024 Saturday, November 18, 2023 Saturday, February 3, 2024 Saturday, December 2, 2023 Saturday, February 17, 2024 Saturday, January 6, 2024 Saturday, March 2, 2024 Saturday, January 6, 2024 Saturday, March 16, 2024

Expect to move to different locations by car or bicycle. Prepare for ticks in November and March. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities available upon request. Ages: Adults and kids 8 years+ with adult chaperone. Binoculars recommended.

*Meeting location:* Main Entrance in the vicinity of the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston.

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

#### WINTER BIRDING ON CAPE ANN

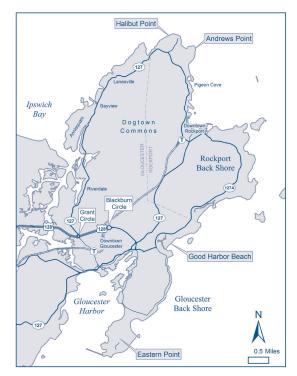
Each winter, from November into March, the Brookline Bird Club offers regular field trips to one of the Northeast's prime destinations for winter birding, Cape Ann.

Searching Cape Ann follows a time-tested route that begins at Gloucester Harbor and ends at Cape Ann's most distinctive geological feature, a granite outcrop jutting into the Atlantic, sometimes called the Rockport Headlands. The focus for Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds and Sunday Walks at Halibut Point State Park is the Rockport Headlands—a collective term for Halibut Point, Andrews Point, and Cathedral Ledge.

We start the *Searching Cape Ann* trips at the Fisherman's Monument, searching for seabirds, mostly ducks, in Gloucester's outer harbor. At Jodrey State Fish Pier, in Gloucester's inner harbor, we scan for ducks and gulls, Common Loons, uncommon alcids like Dovekie and murres, or maybe a Peregrine Falcon atop the towers of City Hall.

We also look out for uncommon "white-winged" gulls like the imposing Glaucous or an Iceland gull at the southern end of its winter range, and extremely rare gulls, like Slaty-backed and Ivory, that have been found over the years on BBC trips. It takes amazing good fortune to find any of these gulls, but we keep scoping and hoping.

Niles Beach, at the entrance to Eastern Point, is a good place to search for grebes (Horned, Red-necked, and, rarely, Eared), all three scoter species, as well as Longtailed Ducks. The tip of Eastern Point offers another chance for these birds along with Gadwall which gather in the inlet and Purple Sandpipers which rest on the seawall. We also check Niles Pond, even when frozen over, since the Slaty-backed Gull found here in January



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2008 was identifiable in part because it was standing on the ice, its diagnostic leg color easily visible.

Bass Rocks, a long stretch of rocks with an open view of the Atlantic, is a fine area for Black Guillemots, scoters, goldeneyes, grebes, loons, Great Cormorants drying out on offshore rocks, and Purple Sandpipers flocking along this rocky Back Shore of Gloucester. We might also check the parking lot at nearby Good Harbor Beach for Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, the occasional Lapland Longspur, and sparrows in the thickets.

At the Rockport Headlands (where *Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds begins*), main attractions are seabirds: ducks, loon, grebes, alcids, and gulls. Duck possibilities range from usually reliable beauties like the torrent-feeding Harlequin Ducks to much scarcer species like the stunning King Eider. Over the open ocean we watch for plunging Northern Gannets and alcids swimming or flying in lines. Six alcid species are possible, from the probable Razorbill and Black Guillemot to murres and even the very rare Atlantic Puffin.

On the *Sunday Walks at Halibut Point State Park* we roam its 70 acres, searching the heathlands and woodlots for songbirds, including rare irruptive or vagrant species like Bohemian Waxwing or Townsend's Solitaire.

Cape Ann is a place of great natural beauty. Here ocean meets rock, shaping coves, inlets, promontories, and crenulations, along with ledges and rocky islands and a wealth of birds that feed in these places. Don't miss out on the pleasures of Cape Ann winter birding: the wild sea, the crisp air, and the plucky camaraderie of BBC groups who brave cold or wind to find some wonderful birds. We hope you'll bundle up and join us.

— John Nelson, Chair, BBC Conservation and Education Committee

### Searching Cape Ann

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of inclement weather, check with leader by 6:00 p.m. the previous evening. *Meeting location:* Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester, across from 59 Stacy Boulevard

We have consolidated these Cape Ann trips for your convenience. A reference to each trip also appears chronologically in the Program of Trips section, starting on page 19, as well as on the inside back cover.

age 19, as well as on the inside The 11/25 trip is Birding 101.



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Trip Leader	Dates	Time	Phone	Email
Gino Ellison	11/25/2023	8:00 am-12 pm	(781) 334-3352	TBM2126@outlook.com
Peter Van Demark	12/2/2023	9:00 am-2 pm	(978) 546-2402	phvand@icloud.com
Shilo McDonald	12/23/2023	8:30 am-1 pm	(617) 513-6284	smacdonald@brooklinebirdclub.com
Susan Hedman	1/6/2024	8:30 am-1 pm	(978) 325-6226	2winterwren@gmail.com
Linda Ferraresso	1/20/2024	8:00 am-2 pm	(617) 755-1851	tattler1@comcast.net
Linda Ferraresso	2/10/2024	8:00 am-2 pm	(617) 755-1851	tattler1@comcast.net
Dave Williams & Mark Nelson	2/19/2024	8:00 am-2 pm	(781) 439-7187 (781) 258-6421	dave.williams6@gmail.com marknelsonre@gmail.com

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#### Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

https://thetrustees.org/place/halibut-point-reservation/

#### 

A two-hour walk, about 1.5 miles, over easy to moderate gravel roads and trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. *Meeting location:* Halibut Point State Park parking lot, Rockport.

Peter Van Demark 11/19/2023

(978) 546-2402 phvand@icloud.com

Eric Hutchins 1/14/2024

(917) 991-3302 erichutchins27@gmail.com

Chris Leahy 2/18/2024

(978) 283-5725 cwrenleahy@gmail.com

Susan Yurkis 3/17/2024 (617) 686-2273 syurkus@aol.com



All four Sunday walks are Birding 101.

#### Parking at Halibut Point State Park

The parking lot is on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. Trustees members park free year-round with membership card on dashboard. Lot is on CATA's Lanesville bus route from the Rockport Train Station.

# Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds ————9 am-1 pm

Join us for a mid-week hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. *Meeting location:* Halibut Point State Park parking lot, Rockport.

Trip Leader: Barbara Volkle, (508) 393-9251 Barb620@theworld.com

Dates: 12/14/23, 01/03/24, 02/07/24, 03/06/24



Photo by Marilyn Tillinghast

#### Weather at Halibut Point State Park

Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of inclement weather, check with leader by 6:00 p.m. the previous evening.



#### **Dust of Snow**

Robert Frost

The way a crow Shook down on me The dust of snow From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart A change of mood And saved some part Of a day I had rued.

"Dust of Snow" (1920) by Robert Frost is in the public domain.

## **Pelagic Trip to Nantucket Shoals**

Please visit the BBC website to find out about a possible one-day pelagic trip in mid-November to Nantucket Shoals. Date of trip yet to be determined.

# Winter Reading to Consider Adult Nonfiction

Bernd Heinrich. Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival. Harper Collins Publishers, Inc.: 2009

Dennis, Roy. Mistletoe Winter. Saraband: 2022

Lipsky, David. *The Parrot and the Igloo: Climate and the Science of Denial*. W. W. Norton & Company: 2023

May, Katherine. Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times. Riverhead Books: 2020

Pasquier, Roger F., La Farge, Margaret (Illustrator). *Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season.* Princeton University Press: 2019

Stokes, Donald and Stokes, Lillian. *Stokes Guide to Nature in Winter*. Little, Brown and Company: 1979

Teale, Edwin Way and Zwinger, Ann H. Wandering Through Winter: A Naturalist's Record of a 20,000-Mile Journey Through the North American Winter. Dodd, Mead & Co.: 1965

#### Adult Fiction

Steinbeck, John. *The Winter of Our Discontent*. Penguin Classics: 2008

#### Children

Baker, Keith. No Two Alike. Little Simon: 2014

Pak, Kenard. *Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter.* Henry Holt and Co.: 2017

#### Winter Crow Trip And Webinar January 10, 2024, online webinar January 13, 2024, trip at Lawrence roost

Every winter thousands of crows pour into Lawrence at dusk to roost. Witness this annual event live with the BBC. Attend an online webinar ahead of time to learn about this phenomenon. Details appear on page 27.

#### **Finches**

What finches will this winter bring? Evening and Pine grosbeaks, Red and White-winged crossbills, Pine Siskins, Redpolls? Bundle up and join us for a winter finch walk! Dates and locations TBD, so check the BBC website.

**Trip Leader:** Leslie Kramer lkramer@brooklinebirdclub.org

#### **Woodcock Walks**

The male woodcock's display flights at dusk are one of the magical natural sights of the spring. Each spring we offer several family-friendly woodcock walks to enjoy this annual performance. (See pages 36–40 for further details.)

3/7/2024	Meriam's Corner, Concord
3/17/2024	Alewife, Cambridge
3/19/2024	Ipswich River Park, North Reading
3/21/2024	Alewife, Cambridge
3/22/2024	Bird Street Conservation Area, Stoughton
3/23/2024	Oxbow NWR, Harvard

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

# Exploring with the BBC and Outside Mind

On May 20 John Nelson and teen birder Johnny Owens led a Brookline Bird Club walk at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary co-sponsored by Outside Mind, a nonprofit founded to provide outdoor access and opportunity for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities on the North Shore. This was a new kind of experience for many of the 17 participants, including four children, and the group had fun finding birds, turtles, and frogs and feeding the birds out of their hands. John asked one little girl if she liked walking in the woods, and she answered, "I love it!" Thanks to Outside Mind's dynamic founder Jireh Ishaazi, photographer Thomas Townsend, and Mass Audubon's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### Bonanza of School Book Fund Donations

The BBC Conservation and Education Committee is pleased to announce an extraordinary run of six Book Fund donations, totaling around \$4000, to schools and educational programs from around and beyond Massachusetts. This surge in donations resulted from more extensive outreach, especially to the Association of Massachusetts Bird Clubs, and a revision of guidelines to allow up to \$750 for a single donation, to include optics as educational materials; and to include pre-K programs.

Historically, all donations had been within Massachusetts, but our guidelines do not specify any geographical restrictions, and we took advantage of a unique opportunity to provide binoculars for the Beverly School of Kenya Young Birders Club. We

also supported a library program in Northampton that offered a live-bird presentation for families in conjunction with the purchase of "birding kits" that patrons can borrow — a growing trend in libraries across the country. Our first preschool donation, for field guides and children's binoculars, went to the Boston Outdoor Preschool Network. Other recipients include the Pine Hill Elementary School in Sherborn, the Village School in Royalston, and Cambridge Community Education at Mass Audubon in Cambridge. Thanks go to our generous members and the hard work of the Book Fund Subcommittee: John Nelson, Leslie Kramer, and, especially, Dave Williams, who took over as subcommittee chair in early 2023.

The Book Fund is supported entirely by member donations. 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 you wish to donate. To donate online, click on "Join/Renew" on the BBC home page and designate an amount under "Additional Donation to the School Book Fund" when you fill out the membership form. For inquiries or applications to the Book Fund, contact Dave Williams at dave.williams6@gmail.com.

#### 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.

# Support National Wildlife Refuges Through Duck Stamps

The BBC is again selling the Federal Migratory Bird Conservation and Hunting Stamp. We are doing this in support of the National Wildlife Refuge System and to support conservation of federal lands. Ninety-eight cents of every Stamp dollar goes to land acquisition from willing sellers through purchase or easements. The new Stamp is good from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.



You can purchase a stamp directly from the BBC: https://brooklinebirdclub.org/programs/duck-stamps/ or at duckstamp.com.

You can also purchase stamps at any refuge. Get your Stamp now and go visit any one of the 567 national wildlife refuges open to the public!

#### **Looking for New Trip Leaders**

Is there a place you love to go birding that you'd like to share with others? Whether it's a well-known spot or new location, we invite you to lead a trip there for the BBC! The club is always looking for new leaders and new places to bird. Whether it's a trip for beginners to a local park or a longer expedition further afield we would love to hear from you. For additional information please contact field trip coordinator Cliff Cook at ccook@brooklinebirdclub.org.

#### **Notes to Trip Participants**

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.

Some areas where the BBC schedules trips have entrance fees per vehicle, including many national wildlife refuges. Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) charges a \$5 entrance fee at the gatehouse. Great Meadows NWR charges a small fee to enter the refuge at the Concord Unit on Monson Road. In both cases a Duck Stamp and other interagency prepaid passes will cover the cost of admission.

#### **PROGRAM OF TRIPS**

#### November 1 - March 31, 2024

Please remember to check the website for additional trips not listed here and to check for cancellations before attending. 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.

All trips are free of charge unless otherwise indicated. From time to time the BBC may need to adjust trip rules and expectations based on public health and other considerations. Bring a lunch on all-day trips. Please inform the trip leader if you need to leave early.

#### Saturday, November 4

#### Parker River NWR and Vicinity

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

We will explore various hot-spots on the refuge for fall migrants. The walk will then continue to other nearby locations based on current reports. Anything is possible during fall migration! Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to enter Parker River NWR. *Meeting location:* Lot 1 on the Parker River NWR.

Trip leaders: Linda Ferraresso, (617) 755-1851 tattler1@comcast.net Nick Paulson, (508) 330-4401 grendelpgill@yahoo.com

**◄** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.

#### Sunday, November 5

#### Franklin Park — Scarboro Pond

8:00 am - 10:00 am

We will look for late fall migrants and new winter arrivals in Franklin Park. Beginners welcome and encouraged.



Expect to walk up to 2 miles on paved paths. *Loaner binoculars available*. Co-sponsored with the Franklin Park Coalition and Franklin Park Tennis Association. *Meeting location:* By the tennis courts next to the Shattuck Picnic Grove on Circuit Drive, Boston. Street parking available and accessible via bus and subway (Forest Hills stop on Orange Line).

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

#### **New Hampshire Coast**

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

We will look for winter ducks, alcids, and gulls plus other late fall migrants. Contact leader for details. *Meeting location:* McDonald's parking lot at 710 Lafayette Road (Route 1) in Seabrook NH. This is just north of the intersection of Route 107 and Route 1 off exit #1 of I-95 just north of the MA/NH border.

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

#### Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Late Fall is often a time of year for fall lingerers, winter arrivals and often a surprise or two. Join us for an approximately 2 mile walk around Mt. Auburn over rolling terrain. Restrooms available. *Meeting location:* Meet inside the front gate on Mount Auburn Street.

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

## The Lakes of Wakefield and Lynnfield

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will visit several different lakes and ponds in Wakefield and Lynnfield primarily looking for waterfowl. There will be some walking. *Meeting location:* Behind the Lakeside Inn at 599 North Avenue in Wakefield.

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

#### Saturday, November 11

## Fresh Pond, Cambridge

7:00 am - 9:00 am

An easy 2-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

#### Saturday, November 18

## **◄** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.

# Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

6:45 am - 9:45 am

Slow walk of about two miles on slightly hilly trails to check out year-round resident species in the Sanctuary's woodlands, wetlands and fields. With leaves off the trees, it should be easy to spot the birds that haven't headed south, and perhaps some winter visitors. Restrooms open from 8:00 am. Drizzly conditions okay, heavier rain cancels. *Meeting location:* Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary at 87 Perkins Row, Topsfield. Meet at the information board near the main parking lot.

Trip leader: Bruce Bolnick, (571) 340-1629 bbolnick@gmail.com

## Sunday, November 19

**■** Sunday Walk at Halibut Point State Park described on page 10.

#### Tuesday, November 21

## **North Shore Waterfowl Expedition**

7:30 am - 12:00 pm

We will visit several different water bodies in Essex County in attempting to see as many as 25 different species of ducks and geese. There will be some walking. We will end up at the Parker River NWR.

Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR. *Meeting location:* Topsfield Fair Grounds. Rt.1, Topsfield.

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

#### Saturday, November 25

#### Leader's Choice — South of Boston

The trip leader will monitor recent sightings and select the birdiest spots. Contact leader after November 19 for details on the meeting time and location. Co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club. *Meeting location and time:* To be determined.

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

**◄** Cape Ann trip described on page 8.

#### Tuesday, November 28

#### Great Meadows NWR, Concord

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

On this easy walk we will search for bluebirds, raptors, and wintering waterfowl, as well as wild turkeys that may be in the area. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. *Meeting location:* Refuge Concord Unit parking lot at 179 Monsen Road, Concord (off Route 62).

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

## Saturday, December 2

- **◄** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.
- **◄** Cape Ann trip described on page 8.

#### Sunday, December 3

#### **Dunback Meadow, Lexington**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

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 3 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 am - 10:30 am

We will search for waterfowl and other winter species on the ponds and in the adjacent woods. Cosponsored 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 Jamaicaway.

Trip leader: Bob Mayer, (617) 515-7304 rgmayer38@gmail.com

## Thursday, December 14

**■** Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds described on page 11.

## Saturday, December 16

**◄** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.

#### Saturday, December 23

**◄** Cape Ann trip described on page 8.

## Monday, January 1

#### Race Point Beach, Provincetown

7:00 am - 11:00 am

Let's start the year with some awesome birds! We will bird from the beach close to the parking lot. We may walk the beach depending on participants interest. Several species of alcids are possible as well as gannets, Iceland and Glaucous gulls and three loon species. Dress for cold windy weather. We may try other nearby locations depending on recent reports. *Meeting location:* Race Point Beach at east end of the top parking lot near the white house.

Trip leader: Ray Bedard, (978) 394-3959 rayray5x@yahoo.com

## **Newburyport and Vicinity**

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Join us on our annual New Year's Day birding trip! We may also venture on to Cape Ann. Cosponsored with the Essex County Ornithological Club. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR. *Meeting location:* Cashman Park, Sally Snyder Way, Newburyport

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

## Wednesday, January 3

**■** Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds described on page 11.

#### Saturday, January 6

- **◄** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.
- **◄** Cape Ann trip described on page 8.

#### Arnold Arboretum, Boston

9:00 am - 10:30 am

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. Bus #39 on MBTA bus line.

Trip leader: Bob Mayer, (617) 515-7304 rgmayer38@gmail.com

#### Saturday, January 13

#### Winter Island Park, Salem

9:00 am - 11:30 am

We will walk approximately 1.5 to 2 miles exploring this corner of historic Salem on a few woodland trails for land birds and various sea vantages for winter ducks. May include a little history tour as well! Public restrooms not opened but free parking. *Meeting location:* Main parking lot (go past the unattended kiosk).

Trip leaders: Linda Ferraresso, (617) 755-1851 tattler1@comcast.net Maryellen Dolan, maryellen.dol@comcast.net

# Winter Crows in the Thousands, Lawrence 3:30 pm

Lawrence is well known for its winter crow roost, with thousands of birds pouring in from every direction. Join a late afternoon trip on January 13 to witness this spectacle. (Bad weather date January 14, same time). Participants will meet an hour before sunset (3:30 pm). *Meeting location:* Site of Lawrence roost can change nightly. Contact the leader in advance for details.

During a pre-trip online webinar on Wednesday, January 10, the leaders will share their experiences and present research about these crows.

Contact leaders by email to inquire and/or register. Participation in the combined workshop and trip is limited.

Trip leaders: Dana and Bob Fox, (978) 886-2330 dana.fox1939@gmail.com

#### Charles River, Waltham

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Join us for a 1.5 mile walk on paved paths. We hope to see diving ducks such as Bufflehead, Common and DING We will

Hooded mergansers, Ringed-neck Duck. We will look and listen for perching birds too. Bald Eagle and

Golden-crowned Kinglet are a couple of possibilities. Cosponored with Waltham Land Trust. Trip cancelled in case of rain or snow. *Meeting location:* Meet at the entrance to the Riverwalk at Shaw's Supermarket on River St. in Waltham.

Trip leader: Emily Szczypek, plover08@yahoo.com

## Sunday, January 14

#### **Salisbury Beach State Reservation**

7:30 am - 10:00 am

We will bird the Salisbury Beach State Reservation. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip. There will be some walking. Restrooms available. *Meeting location:* Salisbury Beach State Reservation, 1 Beach Rd, Salisbury, MA. Meet just inside the turn into the campground.

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

#### Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:00 am - 10:00 am

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:* Meet inside the front gate on Mount Auburn Street.

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

**■** Sunday Walk at Halibut Point State Park described on page 10.

## Saturday, January 20

# **Cumberland Farms Fields River St. Entrance, Halifax**

7:00 am - 10:00 am

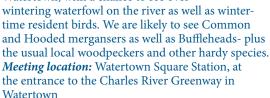
We will walk about 1.5 miles on gravel, possibly icy, paths in search of Rough-legged Hawk and Shorteared Owl as well as other winter residents including Eastern Meadowlarks! Arrive early and listen for owls. *Meeting location:* Small parking area on River Street, Halifax about 1/2 mile from Rt. 105

Trip leader: Ray Bedard, (978) 394-3959 rayray5x@yahoo.com

**◄** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.

#### Charles River, Watertown

7:30 am – 9:30 am
An easy ~2-mile walk along
the Charles River Greenway in
Watertown, with a chance to see over-



Trip leader: Thomas Michel, 617-365-1102 Thomas\_Michel@hms.harvard.edu

**◆** Cape Ann trip described on page 8.

## Saturday, January 20

#### **Dunback Meadow, Lexington**

8:00 am - 10:00 am

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 21

#### **Newburyport and Vicinity**

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

We will search for raptors, waterfowl, finches if present, and other winter specialties stopping at various spots in Salisbury, Newburyport, and Plum Island. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR. *Meeting location:* Cashman Park, Sally Snyder Way, Newburyport.

**Trip leader:** Shilo McDonald, (617) 513-6284 smcdonald@brooklinebirdclub.org

## Sunday, January 28

# Deer Island & Boston Harbor, Winthrop

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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. Porta-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

## Saturday, February 3

**■** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.

## Birding Sketch crawl — Winter Series

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

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 1. *Meeting location:* To be determined.

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

#### Sunday, February 4

## **Scituate to Plymouth**

7:30 am - 4:00 pm

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.

Continued on page 32.

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

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

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

9:00 am – 11:30 am

We will search for wintering ducks, shorebirds, and Snowy Owls. Dress warmly and be prepared for cold and wind. Expect to walk up to 2 miles on paved paths. Beginners welcome and encouraged. Loaner binoculars available upon request — please contact the leader at least 48 hours in advance.

Port-a-potties should be available. Meeting location:

2080 William J Day Blvd, South Boston, MA 02127 (Sullivan's Castle Island parking lot; new location). Accessible via MBTA bus.

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

## Wednesday, February 7

**■** Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds described on page 11.

# Saturday, February 10

**◆** Cape Ann trip described on page 8.

## Sunday, February 11

#### **MA Waterfowl Prowl**

8:00 am – 4:00 pm 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. Cosponsored by Cape Cod Bird Club. *Meeting location:* Take Scusset Beach Road to the main entrance, Sagamore. Parking is .25 miles past the entrance kiosk at the fish pier.

Trip leader: Mary Jo Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com

## Saturday, February 17

**◄** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.

#### **Ipswich and Vicinity**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

We will search for waterfowl, raptors, and wintering boreal songbirds. Limited walking. Carpooling from the meeting location will be essential. Co-sponsored by the Essex County Ornithological Club. *Meeting location:* The 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.

Trip leader: Shilo McDonald, (617) 513-6284 smcdonald@brooklinebirdclub.org

#### Sunday, February 18

**◄** Sunday Walk at Halibut Point State Park described on page 10.

#### Monday, February 19

**◆** Cape Ann trip described on page 8.

## Saturday, February 24

### Newburyport and Vicinity

8:00 am – 1:00 pm The middle of winter is often a good time for hawks, owls and waterfowl. We may visit Salisbury Beach, Parker



River NWR, areas along the Merrimac River, or other locations depending on recent sightings. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR. *Meeting location:* Cashman Park, Newburyport.

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

ccook13@gmail.com

# Winter Birds along the Concord River Greenway, Lowell

9:00 am – 10:30 am The Concord River in winter can be a rich spot for birds as it tumbles and





meanders toward its confluence with the Merrimack. We will look for wintering ducks and gulls that use the open water for feeding and we might even see a Bald Eagle. This 90-minute walk is suitable for beginners and those with limited mobility as the path is flat and paved but as this is winter, be prepared for the weather and potentially icy/snowy footing. Cosponsored by Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust and limited to 20 participants.

Preregister at: https://lowelllandtrust.org/duck-walk-at-the-concord-river-greenway/. *Meeting location:* Just inside the Lawrence Street gate of the Lowell Cemetery, Lowell.

Trip leader: Mike Baird, (978) 551-3504 rkramden1994@gmail.com

## Saturday, March 2

## **■** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.

## **Dunback Meadow, Lexington**

8:00 am - 10:00 am

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 am - 2:00 pm

We will visit Parker River NWR, areas along the Merrimack River, and Salisbury. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR. *Meeting location:* Meet at the MBTA commuter parking lot at the end of Boston Way off Parker Street.

Trip leader: Shilo McDonald, (617) 513-6284 smcdonald@brooklinebirdclub.org

## Wednesday, March 6

**■** Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds described on page 11.

#### Thursday, March 7

#### Woodcocks at Meriam's Corner

5:15 pm – 6:45 pm 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 1/2 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

## Sunday, March 10

#### Vernal Equinox at Parker River NWR

9:00 am – 1:00 pm We will explore various hotspots on the refuge. Check with leader before trip in case of weather problems.



Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR. *Meeting location:* Parking lot #1, Parker River NWR.

Trip leader: Matt Sabourin, (413) 575-9528 Accipiter22@gmail.com

## Saturday, March 16

#### 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 e-mail no later than 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13. *Meeting location:* To be determined

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

**◄** Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 4.

## Sunday, March 17

**■** Sunday Walk at Halibut Point State Park described on page 10.

## **Arlington Reservoir, Arlington**

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Visit Arlington Reservoir and the adjacent Lexington Community Farm to search for late winter lingerers and early migrants. *Meeting location*: Meet at the Reservoir beach parking area off 210 Lowell Street.

Trip leader: John Edmondson, (781) 859-9450 johnhedmondson@gmail.com

#### Woodcocks at Alewife, Cambridge

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

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. Walk of less than a mile mostly or entirely on flat, paved walkways. No

restrooms. Easily accessible from the Alewife MBTA station. *Meeting location:* Alewife Station Access Road end of Fitchburg cutoff bike path

Trip leader: Zack Weber, birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

## Tuesday, March 19

# Woodcock Walk at Ipswich River Park, North Reading

6:15 pm - 7:15 pm

Join us at sunset to hopefully hear and see the mating sky dance of the Woodcock. *Meeting location:* Kiosk at the Ipswich River Park, 15 Central St., North Reading.

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

## Wednesday, March 20

## Vernal Equinox at Parker River NWR

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Kick off spring birding adventures on the vernal equinox! We will search for ocean birds (ducks, loons, grebes, alcids), winter shorebirds (Dunlin, Purple Sandpipers, Sanderlings), raptors (Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl), and early migrants. We will visit viewing areas along the ocean as well as the Hellcat boardwalks. Leader will have scope for sharing. Restrooms available. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR. *Meeting location:* Parking lot #1, Parker River NWR.

Trip leader: Marilyn Tillinghast, (860) 729-0349 marilyntillinghast@gmail.com

#### Thursday, March 21

## Woodcocks at Alewife, Cambridge

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

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. Walk of less than a mile mostly or entirely on flat, paved walkways. No restrooms. Easily accessible from the Alewife MBTA station. *Meeting location:* Alewife Station Access Road end of Fitchburg cutoff bike path

Trip leader: Zack Weber

birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

## Friday, March 22

## **Timberdoodles in Stoughton**

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Come watch American Woodcock display behavior. Water-resistant shoes helpful, but not needed. *Meeting location:* Bird Street entrance to Bird Street Conservation Area in Stoughton.

Trip leader: Glenn d'Entremont, (781) 267-0442

gdentremont1@comcast.net

#### Saturday, March 23

#### Woodcock Watch, Oxbow NWR, Harvard

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

We will stay until it gets dark to watch for American Woodcock. Come early to enjoy other birds. Rain

date Sunday, March 24, 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 donjmacfarlane@gmail.com

## Sunday, March 24

#### Blue Hills, Milton

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

This trip consists of several short (1-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, Milton

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

We are usually successful in seeing the Woodcock's mating flight, and on one occasion saw its mating display. We will hike 1 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

## Saturday, March 30

#### Great Meadows NWR, Concord

7:30 am – 10:00 am We will look for early migrants, waterfowl, and waders. Conditions

Road, Concord off Route 62.

waterfowl, and waders. Conditions may be wet; boots advised. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. *Meeting location:* Refuge Concord Unit parking lot at 179 Monsen

Trip leaders: Kathy Dia, (617) 480-5103 katbirder@gmail.com Cris Van Dyke, cris\_vandyke@yahoo.com

#### Franklin Park — Scarboro Pond, Boston

8:00 am - 10:00 am

We will look for early spring migrants in Franklin Park. Beginners welcome and encouraged. Expect to walk up to 2 miles on paved paths. *Loaner* 



binoculars available. Co-sponsored with the Franklin Park Coalition and Franklin Park Tennis Association. *Meeting location:* By the tennis courts next to the Shattuck Picnic Grove on Circuit Drive, Boston. Street parking available and accessible via bus and subway (Forest Hills stop on Orange Line).

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

#### Sunday, June 23

# 27th Annual Trip to the Rangeley Lakes Region, Maine

Join us for a 7-day exploration of the mountains and lakes of western Maine! As always, this trip will concentrate on Maine's boreal specialties including Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Olivesided 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 after November 1st, 2023. *Meeting location*: TBD.

Trip leaders: Eddie Giles, (508) 378-3370 emgiles62@comcast.net Glenn d'Entremont, (781) 267-0442 gdentremont1@comcast.net

## Friday, June 28

#### Machias, Maine & Vicinity

Four-day trip to the Machias area in downeast Maine. Cost to be determined for BBC members and nonmembers. Details sent in response to inquiries. Limited to 15 participants. *Meeting location:* TBD

Trip leaders): Deborah Mauer, (203) 249-3015 arcticwarbler1@gmail.com Henry Mauer, (508) 308-8050 Henryd.mauer@gmail.com

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### It's Renewal Time!

We encourage you to renew your membership and be 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 and commitment to "America's Most Active Bird Club" as we change and grow.

#### **Member Discount**

Bird Watcher's Supply and Gift in Newburyport offers current BBC members a ten percent 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.

#### Gift for New Lifetime Members

The club wishes to recognize the commitment of new lifetime members with our new gift to them, a BBC logo-imprinted microfiber screen-cleaning cloth in a pouch on a key chain that helps you keep track of your lens cloth.

#### **INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

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

Visit https://www.instagram.com to view and share photos. Once logged into your account, search for "brooklinebirdclub." 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.



*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.

Subscriptions are \$25 for six issues or \$48 for two years. New subscribers who are also BBC members receive a free copy of the current issue.

## **UPCOMING TRIPS, NOV 1, 2023 – MARCH 31, 2024**

DATE	TRIP	PAGE	DATE	TRIP PA	AGE
11/4	Parker River NWR and Vicinity	19	1/20	Dunback Meadow, Lexington	30
11/4	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4	1/21	Newburyport and Vicinity	30
11/5	Franklin Park — Scarboro Pond	20	1/28	Deer Island & Boston Harbor	30
11/5	New Hampshire Coast	20	2/3	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4
11/5	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambrid	ge20	2/3	Birding Sketch Crawl—Winter Serie	es
11/5	The Lakes of Wakefield and Lynnfie	eld21			31
11/11	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	21	2/4	Scituate to Plymouth	31
11/18	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4	2/4	Castle Island & Pleasure Bay	32
11/18	Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary	22	2/7	Midweek Hunt for Alcids, Seabirds	11
11/19	Sunday Walk at Halibut Point SP	10	2/10	Cape Ann	8
11/21	North Shore Waterfowl Expedition	22	2/11	MA Waterfowl Prowl	32
11/25	Leader's Choice—South of Boston	23	2/17	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4
11/25	Cape Ann	8	2/17	Ipswich and Vicinity	33
11/28	Great Meadows NWR, Concord	23	2/18	Sunday Walk at Halibut Point SP	10
12/2	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4	2/19	Cape Ann	8
12/2	Cape Ann	8	2/24	Newburyport and Vicinity	34
12/3	Dunback Meadow, Lexington	24	2/24	Winter Birds along Concord River	34
12/3	Emerald Necklace Ponds	24	3/2	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4
12/14	Midweek Hunt for Alcids, Seabirds	11	3/2	Dunback Meadow, Lexington	35
12/16	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4	3/2	Newburyport and Vicinity	35
12/23	Cape Ann	8	3/6	Midweek Hunt for Alcids, Seabirds	11
1/1	Race Point Beach	25	3/7	Woodcocks at Meriam's Corner	36
1/1	Newburyport and Vicinity	25	3/10	Vernal Equinox at Parker River NWR	36
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1/6	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4	3/16	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4
1/6	Cape Ann	8	3/17	Sunday Walk at Halibut Point SP	10
1/6	Arnold Arboretum, Boston	26	3/17	Arlington Reservoir	37
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1/13	Winter Crows in the Thousands	27	3/19	Woodcock Walk, N Reading	38
1/13	Charles River, Waltham	27	3/20	Vernal Equinox at Parker River NWR	38
1/14	Salisbury Beach State Reservation	28	3/21	Woodcocks at Alewife	39
1/14	Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambrid	ge28	3/22	Timberdoodles in Stoughton	39
1/14	Sunday Walk at Halibut Point SP	10	3/23	Woodcock Watch, Oxbow NWR	39
1/20	Cumberland Farms Fields	29	3/24	Blue Hills, Milton	40
1/20	Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity	4	3/24	Blue Hills Woodcock Walk	40
1/20	Charles River, Watertown	29	3/30	Great Meadows NWR, Concord	41
1/20	Cape Ann	8	3/30	Franklin Park — Scarboro Pond	41

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