

Brookline Bird Club Bulletin

November 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025



*America's Most
Active Bird Club*

brooklinebirdclub.org

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*Excerpted from Lawrence Talbot,
Brookline Bird Club President
1927 May – September Bulletin*

“You can do no finer bit of work for the cause you believe in than to take one or two or more children on a “bird walk.” If you are not known in your neighborhood as a bird-lover and one who is glad to help others to get acquainted with the birds, you are not “letting your light shine” as you should. The Officers and Directors of your Club urge you most earnestly to do all you can, in every way, to influence the boys and girls with whom you come into contact to love and protect the birds.”



A three-year-old child enjoys her first trail map at Eno River State Park, Durham, NC

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Greetings, BBC Members,

Winter birding has always brought residents and surprise visitors for birders. Snow? Ice? Storms? Canceled walks? Rescheduled? Bring it on! Better yet, bring along a young birder. It's the BBC way.

Ever since its founding in 1913, the club has mentored and supported young birders. In his written history of the club, long-time board member John Nelson noted that the "BBC established a constitution and set dues at 50 cents, 25 cents for 'juniors' — boys and girls under 14 but 'old enough to go alone on street cars.'"

This Youth Membership category, just recently reinstated, recognizes, honors, and supports young birders, the next generation of advocates for Earth's creatures.

Have you ever taken a young person outside to look for birds? or to turn over leaves and lift logs looking underneath for critters? If you have, you likely have witnessed that person's sheer wonder and glee.

As a decades-long middle-school teacher in urban schools, I have always understood that being outside for an avian search is a must for both kids and adults. We learned as well when inside the classroom. With the suet feeder hanging on the classroom window in winter and attracting Downy Woodpeckers, I knew that little Picoides was the lesson for the day.

Regardless of the season, take a young person birding. It's good for the planet, for youth, and for us "grown-ups."

— Leslie Kramer, President, Brookline Bird Club

FOCUS ON YOUNG BIRDERS

Bobolinks and Hayfields

A Young Birder Volunteers

In Farm Meadow, a hayfield near my home in Lincoln, Massachusetts, lives a small population of Bobolinks who nest there annually.

Bobolinks in Massachusetts have declined in recent years as a result of hayfields being converted for use by livestock and for other purposes. An agreement with a local farm, however, has kept a section of Farm Meadow protected for Bobolink nesting while the rest is grazed by cattle.

For years these Bobolinks were monitored by Norman Levey, a Lincoln resident and naturalist handed the project off to me this year. To continue the conservation effort he started, I visited the Bobolinks regularly this past spring and summer, witnessing much of the breeding cycle, from displaying males in May to parents visiting the nest in June and July.

I have been interested in Bobolinks since I began birding around six years ago at the age of ten. I had only ever read about them in field guides but their unique song, habits, and appearance have always fascinated me.



I never would have expected to get to know them like I did this summer. Through this project I was able to locate a nest and photograph the male bringing food to his mate.



Although this was a magical experience, the two to four Bobolinks seen this year pale in comparison to the 50+ Bobolinks gathered at Farm Meadow just ten years ago.

Declining species such as the Bobolink need volunteers monitoring their nesting to recognize possible dangers that they face and to notice trends in their population.

Given the small numbers of Bobolinks present, it was never guaranteed that I would get good views, and the flocks of invasive starlings didn't help. I was also busy with homework and final exams that made visiting the Bobolinks difficult. Despite these challenges, monitoring these Bobolinks was an unforgettable experience and I am looking forward to continuing this project next year.

I am thankful to Norm for allowing me to monitor Farm Meadow, and I am also thankful to BBC board member Kathy Dia who has taught me so much about birding since I joined the Drumlin Farm teen birders group four years ago and who encouraged me to co-lead my first walk for the Brookline Bird Club at Farm Meadow.

— *Mathias Bitter, active Brookline Bird Club member*
Photos courtesy of author

Sparking Children's Interest in Nature

Thoughts from an Educator

As birders, how do we inspire young people to discover the wonders of the natural world and interest them in birds? For me, the person who sparked my love of science was my fifth-grade teacher Miss Mary Harvey. In the spring our class gathered wildflowers, and Miss Harvey taught us how to use a wildflower field guide to identify them. Later that spring, I was awarded a wildflower field guide for winning the class contest. I cherished that guide, and I cherished her.

Years later I became an educator myself. Through the years I have taught children of all ages about the wonders of nature as a public-school teacher, teacher-naturalist, and volunteer. Now retired, I am still at it, conducting science workshops for kids.

We can all play a part in passing on our love of nature to the younger generation. To accomplish this, I offer the following suggestions.



Printed Materials

One way we can pass on our love of nature is to make use of books and other printed materials. Educators commonly utilize books to introduce, teach, and reinforce concepts. Stories and nonfiction books, including field guides with colorful photographs and illustrations, can help children learn about what is out there in nature. Children of any age will benefit when we give them books, read aloud to them, or accompany them on a visit to the library or a bookstore.

Digital Resources

Make use of digital resources. Children will find learning easy and fun using online nature-related games and puzzles. Older kids can utilize eBird, Merlin, Birda, Raptor ID, and other birding apps.

iNaturalist is another technological tool to help kids explore and identify their observations from the natural world. Geocaching can get kids outside to seek a hidden cache using coordinates on a smartphone.

Online live web cams can provide exposure to real-time science where kids can witness the behavior of birds and other animals, as well as virtually encounter places and people from all over the world. Watching bird cams on the classroom Smartboard, my Massachusetts students were able to connect with chat monitors who answered their questions about Ospreys in Maine and Bald Eagles in Florida.

Get Outdoors

Get outdoors. Author Richard Louv points out that limited outdoor time has a negative impact on children's overall well-being. Research shows that outdoor activities, such as birding, benefit children's physical, mental, and social health. I have witnessed these benefits firsthand. When we show children our own joy and enthusiasm for the great outdoors, they are more

likely to follow suit. A quote I have often shared with my students is, “Take time to observe the world around you—not just the obvious things, but the less obvious too.”

Volunteer

Participation in a bird club can inspire and encourage young, aspiring birders and help them develop all-around birding skills. We can volunteer as well or even launch a local young birder’s club. I was gratified when I assisted with such a club at Mass Audubon. Activities may include bird watching, studying bird biology, erecting nesting boxes, feeding birds, and helping kids to start a birding life list. Libraries and bird clubs often have child-sized binoculars to lend.

Also, you can contact your local scout troop and help scouts earn their birding merit badge. When my son was a scout I taught the members of his troop the basics of bird anatomy, did scavenger hunts with ID guides, and led the troop on bird walks. They finished their badge requirements by building a birdhouse. I admit I needed help from other adults for that task!

Support

And lastly, we can help young people to attend workshops, camps, and conventions to give them a unique opportunity to experience birding, learn about bird ecology and identification, and just have fun with friends. Each year, with generous donations, BBC awards scholarships which allow students to attend the Audubon camp at Hog Island, Maine.

Thus, young people can be inspired and nurtured to have a lifelong passion for learning about nature. We, as their mentors, can use numerous ways to help them to discover the wonders of the natural world, including its gems, the birds.

Suggested Resources

- *Book: Louv, Richard. Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, Algonquin Books, 2008*
- *Magazine: The Fledgling* is produced by and designed for young birders by the American Birding Association. aba.org/the-fledgling
- *Online Article: guloিন্নature.com/*
- *Live Cams*
 - Cornell allaboutbirds.org/cams/all-cams
 - American Eagle Foundation eagles.org
- *Multimedia/live cams: explore.org/livecams*
- *Geocaching: geocaching.com/play*
- *Mass Audubon: massaudubon.org/places-to-explore/activities/family-fun, an excellent resource with a wealth of activities for children*



— Carol Molander, M.Ed.
Brookline Bird Club board member
Photos courtesy of author

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

A New Generation of Birders

Young Birder Scholarships

The Bill Drummond Young Birder Scholarship program, established by the BBC to nurture interest in bird study and conservation among young birders, has proven to be a great success. We have now awarded 17 scholarships to cover the full cost of the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program at National Audubon's Hog Island camp, and all recipients have had tremendous, sometimes transformative, experiences at Hog Island.

"I truly had an unforgettable experience at the Hog Island camp," wrote 2018 recipient Sam Mroz in a thank-you note, "and I would not have been able to attend without your sponsorship."

*"I would not have been able to attend
without your sponsorship."*

2022 recipient Johnny Owens wrote: "It was so amazing to have the chance to meet highly influential researchers and conservationists, and to see the successfully restored puffin colony on Eastern Egg Rock up close. I loved spending time with birders my own age with whom I could relate. . . I am immensely thankful for this incredible opportunity."

Past recipients are now moving on to play significant roles in scientific research, nature education, and bird conservation. 2015 recipient Aidan Pavao, a Harvard Medical School student, recently co-authored a research study of host-microbe interactions. 2016 recipient Ben Peters leads BBC trips and serves on the board of the Essex County Ornithological Club. Fellow

2016 recipient Harry Wales has searched for bird nests for Florida Fish and Wildlife and acted as lead hawk watcher for Greenwich Audubon Society.

“It was so amazing to have the chance to meet highly influential researchers and conservationists.”

The 2018 recipient Isabel Rasmussen and Johnny Owens have both returned to Hog Island to serve as junior instructors. Johnny, in addition to leading BBC trips, has been joined by fellow 2022 recipient Jocelyn Pyne as the first teen birders to serve on the active BBC Conservation & Education Committee and scholarship evaluation subcommittee. We thank all our scholarship recipients for making the BBC proud.

The BBC again intends to offer two scholarships to Hog Island in 2025. Once we can reserve two slots through registration, we will announce the scholarship opportunities on the BBC website later this fall. We BBC members fully fund scholarships through our donations. We thank all donors for your incredible and continued generosity.

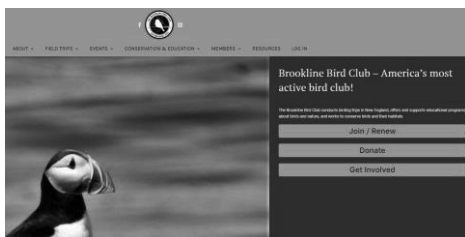
— John Nelson, Chair, Conservation and
Education Committee,
Brookline Bird Club

Educating and Nurturing Young People

BBC School Book Fund

After a bonanza year in 2023, the BBC school book fund subcommittee has had another productive year in 2024. We finalized a donation of \$650 for an after-school birding program for African-American and Latinx students at the Roland Hayes School in Brookline, and BBC board member Kathy Dia, former board member Naeem Yusuff, and “Nature Man” Mike Bryant have all been involved in leading field trips for the school.

In May we donated \$732 to the Clap Elementary School in Dorchester, which mostly serves students of color, including many students with disabilities. In July we donated \$92 to the Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester for two birding kits for children. In August we donated \$746 to support the Bird and Nature Watching Station at the McGlynn School Library in Medford. The subcommittee consists of chair Dave Williams, Leslie Kramer, and John Nelson.



The book fund, like our scholarship program, is funded entirely through donations by BBC members. We thank all donors for your continued generosity.

— *John Nelson, Chair, Conservation and Education Committee, Brookline Bird Club*

Support National Wildlife Refuges

Purchase Duck Stamps

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. For every dollar you spend on a duck stamp, 98 percent goes toward protecting vital wetland habitat for National Wildlife Refuges. Your stamp also provides free admission to refuges.

Buy your Federal Duck Stamp at post offices, refuge offices or admission booths, or at duckstamp.com. Duck stamps are issued once a year in July.



Adam Grimm of Wallace, South Dakota, won the 2024 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest with this oil painting of a Spectacled Eider.

*Behold the duck.
It does not cluck.
A cluck it lacks.
It quacks.
It is specially fond
Of a puddle or pond.
When it dines or sups,
It bottoms ups.*

— Ogden Nash

Young Birder Resources

Local Groups for Young Birders

- **Massachusetts Young Birders Club**

massyoungbirders.org

A space for young birders, **ages 10–17**, to connect and for young people who haven't birded before to discover a new passion alongside a community of their peers.

- **Mass Audubon Teen Birders**

massaudubon.org/teens

A group of young birders, photographers, and nature enthusiasts, **ages 12–17**, who meet once a month for birding adventures. Beginners are welcome! Contact dfteens@massaudubon.org for more information or check the program catalog for this month's program.

Awesome Apps

- **eBird**—Cornell's citizen science website. eBird is among the world's largest biodiversity-related science projects. It will also keep track of your life list and provides all kinds of learning tools.
- **Merlin** by eBird—great bird ID resource for beginners and experienced birders alike.
- **iNaturalist** and **Seek** by iNaturalist—great ID resource to identify both plants and animals.

Learning Games

- **Birdiegame** In this online game you must identify the bird in six tries with increasing pieces of the bird's image and sound. (Free) birdiegame.net
- **Wingspan** is a beautifully designed strategy board or app game in which players earn points by placing birds in their sanctuary.
- **Larkwire** is an online bird audio learning game. larkwire.com



Photo courtesy of Hog Island scholarship recipient Sam Poleretzky at Eastern Egg Rock

Camps

- ***National Audubon's Hog Island Camp**
hogisland.audubon.org
- **National Audubon Costa Rica Camp**
hogisland.audubon.org/programs/costa-rica-teen-camp
- **Victor Emanuel Nature Tours Camp Chiricahua and Camp Cascades** (ages 14–18)
[ventbird.com/tours#!p=1&dt=Youth Birding Camps](http://ventbird.com/tours#!p=1&dt=Youth+Birding+Camps)

Scholarship Opportunity

- ***Brookline Bird Club** offers two scholarships each year to Hog Island Camp for teens
brooklinebirdclub.org/programs/young-birder-scholarship-2

Additional Resources and Opportunities

- **eBird's Young Birders Resources page**
ebird.org/about/for-young-birders

This list was prepared by Kathy Dia, active Brookline Bird Club board member and trip leader. She is also a field teacher and birding guide for Mass Audubon and the Friends of Minute Man.

MEETINGS

South Asian Vultures: Crisis & Conservation

Presentation by Meera Subramanian

Hybrid Annual Meeting

April 25, 2025, 7:00-9:00 pm

Harvard University Geological Lecture Hall

Not too long ago, the millions of vultures in South Asia were so common that no one had bothered to count them. In the 1990s, however, populations of three Gyps vultures collapsed by more than 97 percent within a decade. It was the fastest avian decline ever recorded.

Conservationists scrambled to find the cause and started captive breeding programs. What happens when South Asia's essential clean-up crew vanishes? Massachusetts-based journalist and National Geographic Explorer Meera Subramanian has spent nearly twenty years searching for the answer to that question and discovered a story of conservation in a time of mass extinctions, a chronicle of biologists strategizing and cautiously celebrating.

Join her as she shares photos and stories from her coverage of the crisis in both India and Nepal, where the birds' absence has had ecological, cultural, and even religious implications.

More details to follow at brooklinebirdclub.org

Meera Subramanian has made multimedia presentations across the USA and India. She has been interviewed by PRI's Living on Earth, NPR's Travel with Rick Steves, and WNYC's Leonard Lopate Show.

Penguin Adventures in the Falklands

Presentation by Shawn Carey

January 30, 2025

Watertown Public Library, Watertown, MA



Travel virtually with Shawn Carey to the Falkland Islands where he recently ventured to see and photograph the thousands of birds that nest there, including five species of penguins: Southern Rockhopper, Macaroni, Gentoo, Magellanic, and King. Watch penguins as they ride the waves onto sandy shores. Enjoy the spectacle of oversized, brightly plumaged King Penguins on their breeding grounds.

Bird watchers and wildlife photographers will be transfixed by the wildlife here. You can see sixty-three species including nesting Black-browed Albatrosses, fourteen endemic subspecies, and two endemic species. Southern elephant seals and southern sea lions are seen in large numbers on the islands, while Killer Whales prowl the waters looking to feast on them. This presentation is not to be missed. Visit brooklinebirdclub.org for details.

Shawn Carey of Migration Productions presents programs about natural history and birding. His photos have been published in the Boston Globe, New York Times, and elsewhere.

WEBINARS

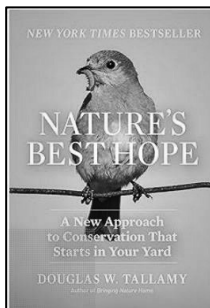
A Chickadee's Guide to Gardening

Webinar with Doug Tallamy

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 7-8:30 pm

How can we support birds and attract them to our yards? In the past we have designed our landscapes strictly for our own pleasure, with no thought to how they might impact the natural world around us. Such landscapes do not contribute much to local ecosystem function and support little life. Using chickadees and other wildlife as guides, Doug Tallamy will explain how plants that evolved in concert with local animals provide for their needs better than plants that evolved elsewhere. He will show how creating living landscapes (by sharing our spaces with other living things) will *not* reduce our pleasurable garden experiences. It will *enhance* them.

—Cosponsored with the
Athol Bird and Nature Club



Entomologist Douglas W. Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. He is THE go-to authority on the importance of native plants for the survival of birds, insects, and life forms in general.

BBC Webinars in 2024

Did you know that these webinars are available to members online? Watch them on your schedule!



Your Shorebirds Count, September 4, 2024

Manomet's Lisa Schibley discusses the International Shore-bird Survey and Manomet's work with shorebirds. Learn how shorebird enthusiasts can contribute data at some of the most important shorebird stopover locations in our region.

Virtual Pelagic 2024, August 13, 2024

Learn what common and rare pelagic birds to expect off-shore, the best offshore locations in MA to see them, and ID tips to put into practice on pelagic trips and whale watches.

Avian Flu, from the Global to Local Scene, March 19, 2024

Learn more about avian flu, why it is devastating birds, and what birders can do to help.

Peregrine Falcon Recovery & Conservation, Feb 8, 2024

Learn about the decline, recovery, and conservation of the peregrine in Massachusetts, a true success story.

Using eBird in the Field, March 14, 2024

Learn how to use this mobile app to sort and search species, modify GPS tracks, understand the "high count" and "rare" filters, and more.

The Lawrence Crow Roost, January 17, 2024

Thousands of birds pour into this crow roost from every direction. Learn why and more.

TRIP SERIES

Saturday Walks at Belle Isle Marsh

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, East Boston

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207348>

2024

November 2
November 16
December 7
December 21

2025

January 4
January 18
February 1
February 15
March 1
March 15

8:00 am – 9:30 am

Meet: Main entrance in the vicinity of the parking lot on 1399 Bennington Street, East Boston

Leaders: Matthew Nash, (617) 721-4132, Matthew.Nash@mass.gov; Heather Famico, heather.e.famico@mass.gov

Led by DCR staff. We will search on foot up to one mile, on flat, easy terrain for snowy owls and other raptors, native sparrows, finches, waterfowl, and other birds. This is a traveling program by car or bike. Prepare for ticks. Ages: Adults and kids 8 years+ with adult chaperone. Binoculars recommended.

ADA/Reasonable Accommodations
(617) 645-0358
Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov



Trips also referenced in sequence starting on page 28.

Sunday Walks at Halibut Point

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

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. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip. Cosponsored by DCR.



Date

November 17
January 19
February 16
March 16

Leader

Peter Van Demark
Susan Yurkus
Peter Van Demark
Peter Van Demark

Trips also described in sequence starting on page 28.

Time: 8:00 –10 am

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. Trustees members park free in season

Leaders: Peter Van Demark, (978) 546-2402, phvand@icloud.com; Susan Yurkus, (617) 686-2273, syurkus@aol.com



— Photo courtesy of Peter Van Demark

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

Join us for a midweek hunt on Wednesdays for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader by 6:00 pm the previous evening.

Time: 9 am – 1 pm

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. Trustees members park free in season.

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

Dates: December 12 February 5
January 8 March 5

Trips are also described in sequence starting on page 28.



— Photo courtesy of Michael Fager

Invitation to Pinnacle Rock Hawkwatch

Middlesex Fells Reservation

Craig Jackson, who has been running the Pinnacle Rock hawkwatch site in the Middlesex Fells Reservation for many years, is extending an invitation to BBC members to join him there this fall.

Hawkwatching is seasonal and very weather dependent. Counting takes place many days from mid-September to mid-November. Participants may call Craig the night before to check on his plans (home: 781-322-0306 - okay to leave a message - please avoid calling his cellphone).

Strong northwest winds provide the best conditions for hawk migration at this site. If the winds are strong, dress warmly in layers. Although the elevation is not great, hiking there does involve a moderately difficult uphill climb. The easiest route to the site is to follow the white-dot trail from the parking lot on Fellsway East. One can walk from Oak Grove Station on the MBTA Orange Line (15 to 30 minutes mostly uphill, using a different path than the one from Fellsway East).

We recommend that you get directions and information about the website ahead of time on massbird.org/emhw/where-to-go-hawk-watching (Find and expand the section on Pinnacle Rock under “Fall Hawkwatch Sites.”) Another helpful website is hawkcount.org. (Click “Find a Hawkwatch” and then select “Pinnacle Rock (Massachusetts)” from the drop-down list.

FEATURED EVENING TRIPS

Lawrence Winter Crow Roost

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Time: 3:30 pm (one hour before sunset)

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

Lawrence is well known for its winter crow roost, with thousands of birds pouring in from every direction. Join us for a late afternoon trip to witness this spectacle.

Participants will meet an hour before sunset at 3:30 pm. In case of bad weather, we will meet on Sunday, January 19th, same time.

Participation in this field trip is limited. Contact leaders by email to register and to inquire about details. Registrants will receive specific recommendations closer to the date. Meeting location will be decided at that time since the crows often choose different places to stage and roost

We do not know when this roost was established. Former Brookline Bird Club president Eliot Taylor first witnessed and described the phenomenon in February of 1989. On January 3, 2018, trip leaders Dana and Bob estimated 14,000 crows at the roost. How many will roost on January 18th? Join Dana and Bob to find out.



— *Photo courtesy of
Derek Hameister |
Macaulay Library at
the Cornell Lab*

Woodcock Walks

The male woodcock's display flights at dusk are one of the magical natural sights of spring. This spring we are offering nine family-friendly woodcock walks to enjoy this annual performance.

American Woodcock, July 2013



— *Photo Courtesy of Jay Dia*

03/6/25	Concord, Meriam's Corner, p. 48
3/12/25	Belmont, Rock Meadow, p. 49
3/16/25	Cambridge, Alewife, p. 51
3/18/25	North Reading, Ipswich River Park, p. 52
3/20/25	Cambridge, Alewife, p. 52
3/21/25	Sharon, Moose Hill Farm, p. 52
3/22/25	Harvard, Oxbow NWR, p. 53
3/28/25	North Easton, Edwin A. Keach Park, p.54
3/30/25	Milton, Fowl Meadow, p. 56

IMPORTANT TRIP NOTICES

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 locations to bird. For additional information, please contact field trip coordinator John Edmondson at jedmondson@brooklinebirdclub.org

NB

We are looking for a couple of new leaders to add to the roster of [Mount Auburn](#) leaders for late April and May. We would also like a few new leaders to add to the available leaders for [Parker River NWR](#). Please contact field trip coordinator John Edmondson (see his email above).

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 what responsible birding means, we encourage you to visit our updated Code of Ethics at brooklinebirdclub.org. Some BBC 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 at the Concord Unit on Monson Road. In both cases a Duck Stamp and other interagency prepaid passes will cover the cost. duckstamp.com

Key to Day Trip Icons

This key indicates icons used within the Day Trips section to indicate a feature of that specific trip. Find one of these series-related trips in the Day Trips section which begins on the next page.

Birding 101

Suitable for beginning and young birders and those working on their ID skills



Birding Boston

Trips taking place in the City of Boston



Conservation

Search for Massachusetts Endangered breeding birds



Family Friendly

Suitable for families with pre-teen children



Limited Mobility

Visit areas where birds can be seen from the car or on short walks on easy terrain



Loaner Binoculars

Loaner binoculars are available on request. Please email trip leader to reserve a pair.



Public

Transportation

Arrive by bus or train



eBird

Follow each trip's "Meeting location" instructions, not eBird directions. eBird links to current data on sightings (where the trip is birding) but not where the trip meets.

DAY TRIPS

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Inside front gate on Mount Auburn Street

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L207391>

Late Fall is often a time of year for fall lingerers, winter arrivals, and often a surprise or two. Join us for a walk (about two miles) around Mount Auburn over rolling terrain. Restrooms available



◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Parker River NWR and Vicinity, Newbury

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meet: Lot 1, Parker River NWR

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L129046>

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



Sunday, November 3, 2024

New Hampshire Coast

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meet: Hampton Beach State Park parking lot north of the Route 1A bridge in Hampton

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

We will look for winter ducks, alcids, and gulls plus other late fall migrants. Contact leader for details.

Sunday, November 3, 2024

The Lakes of Wakefield and Lynnfield

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meet: Behind the Lakeside Inn at 599 North Avenue in Wakefield

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



We will visit several different lakes and ponds in Wakefield and Lynnfield areas primarily looking for waterfowl. There will be some walking.

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Fresh Pond Reservation, Cambridge

7:00 am – 9:00 am

Meet: TD Bank parking lot at Fresh Pond Circle. If driving, be sure to see walk leader when you arrive for the parking details. Also accessible by T (Red Line Alewife Station) or via MBTA #74 or #78 bus. Details are also available online at brooklinebirdclub.org/tripsevents.



Leader: Thomas Michel, 617-365-1102,
Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207370>

An easy two-mile walk through pondside meadows and the forest paths. The overwintering waterbirds have started to arrive, and we may see Ring-necked Ducks, Ruddy Ducks and both Hooded and Common mergansers. Species may include year-round residents as well as seasonal visitors from the north (e.g., White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos).

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Franklin Park, Boston — Scarboro Pond

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: By the tennis courts next to the Shattuck Picnic Grove on Circuit Drive. Street parking available and accessible via bus and subway (Forest Hills stop on Orange Line).

Leaders: Michealle Larkins, mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org; Kat Hepburn, khepburn16@gmail.com; Elias Mendoza Vivas, eemvivas@gmail.com
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L797546>

We will look for late fall migrants and new winter arrivals in Franklin Park. Beginners welcome and encouraged. Expect to walk up to two miles on paved paths. Cosponsored with the Franklin Park Coalition and Franklin Park Tennis Association.



Millennium Park, Boston

8:00 am

Meet: 300 Gardner Street. Meet in the parking lot nearest the canoe launch. After entering the park, stay left (don't drive up the big hill). Immediately take another left. You may see signs for Canoe Launch. Follow that road to end of Canoe Launch parking lot.

Leader: Neil Calabro, (617) 947-9347, neil.calabro1@mac.com
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L350679>

Join us to observe resident birds and fall/early winter migrants in a unique urban habitat that is a favorite for many bird species, including uncommon and rare birds. A BNC naturalist



will help us find and identify birds through field marks, sounds, and behaviors. Birders of all levels will enjoy these guided walks; beginning birders are encouraged to come! The trails are flat and easy to walk. We recommend waterproof shoes, gloves, hat, and jacket, and bringing water.

The walk is free and open to all people but all participants must preregister by sending an email to cgeorge@massaudubon.org and also copying neil.calabro1@mac.com. Please note that participants must be at least 13 years of age and this outing is limited to 30 people.

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Allens Pond, Dartmouth

8:30 am – 11:00 am

Meet: Field Station lot which is near the south end of Horseneck Road. (See BBC online event calendar for Google Maps GPS directions.)

Leader: Nick Paulson, (508) 330-4401,
grendelpgill@yahoo.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2324116>

We will be birding the Beach Loop, Quansett Trail, and Allen's Neck Trails of Allen's Pond Wildlife Sanctuary in search of late migrants in a mix of thicket, forest, ocean, field, and marsh habitats.

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield

6:45 am – 9:45 am

Meet: Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary at 87 Perkins Row, Topsfield. Meet at the information board near the main parking lot.

Leader: Emily Szczypek, plover08@yahoo.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207439>

(continued)

Saturday, November 16, 2024 (cont.)

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. Canceled for rain.

New Member Walk at Draw 7 State Park, Somerville 7:30 am – 9:00 am

Meet: Parking lot next to the dam at Noonan Place



Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast, (860) 729-0349, mtillinghast@brooklinebirdclub.org
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L8043999>

Get to know your fellow club members on this walk at the mouth of the Mystic River spanning between Everett and Somerville. Draw 7 State Park consists of 9 acres of land along the Mystic River and is part of the Mystic River State Reservation. This is a short walk on flat, paved surfaces in search of wintering seabirds, gulls, raptors, and maybe a rarity! Dress warmly. Leader will have scope, but more are welcome! Public transportation and free parking available at location. Restrooms nearby at Assembly Square Mall.

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Sunday, November 17, 2024

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. Trustees members park free in season.



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

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. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip.
<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

Sunday, November 17, 2024

Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield

8:00 am – 10:30 am

Meet: Parking lot at end of Winslow Cemetery



Leaders: John Edmondson, (781) 859-9450,
johnhedmondson@gmail.com; Leslie Kramer,
lkramer@brooklinebirdclub.org

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207361>



Search for a variety of birds including water birds and raptors. Possibility of Eastern Meadowlarks.

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

North Shore Waterfowl Expedition, Topsfield

7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Meet: Topsfield Fair Grounds. Route 1, Topsfield

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L523700>

We will visit several different water bodies in Essex County in attempt 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 National Wildlife Refuge. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR.

Sunday, November 24, 2024

**Belle Isle Marsh Reservation,
East Boston**

8:00 am

Meet: 1399 Bennington Street. Meet
in main parking lot by bird feeders.

Leader: Neil Calabro, (617) 947-
9347, neil.calabro1@mac.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207348>



Join us to observe resident birds and fall/early winter migrants in a unique urban habitat that is a favorite for many bird species, including uncommon and rare birds. A BNC naturalist will help us find and identify birds through field marks, sounds, and behaviors. Birders of all levels will enjoy these guided walks; beginning birders are encouraged to come! The trails are flat and easy to walk. We recommend waterproof shoes, gloves, hat, and jacket, and bringing water.

Please note that participants must be at least 13 years of age and this outing is limited to 30 people. The walk is free and open to all. All participants must preregister by emailing cgeorge@massaudubon.org and copying neil.calabro1@mac.com.

Saturday, November 30, 2024

Cape Ann

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meet: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue,
Gloucester, across from 59 Stacy Boulevard

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

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip.

Saturday, November 30, 2024

Leader's Choice — South of Boston

Time, Meet: To be determined

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

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. Cosponsored with the South Shore Bird Club.

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Dunback Meadow, Lexington

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meet: Clark Middle School, at end of Brookside Avenue

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L357227>

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. Cosponsored with Menotomy Bird club.

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Neponset River Greenway, Mattapan to Milton

8:30 am – 11:00 am

Meet: 1674 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan.

Small building with a mural on Blue Hill Avenue near River Street and Mattapan Station, facing Kuizinn La Kay restaurant.

Leaders: Michealle Larkins,
mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org; Kat
Hepburn, khepburn16@gmail.com; Elias
Mendoza Vivas, eemvivas@gmail.com



(continued)

Saturday, December 7, 2024 (cont.)

Enjoy a nice walk (about two miles) along the Neponset River Greenway on an accessible boardwalk and bike path. Let's see what we can find together! Beginners encouraged as well as more experienced birders. Limited mobility welcome but snow or ice may be present. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L460940>

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Fort Phoenix State Reservation, Fairhaven

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Fort Phoenix parking lot at end of Green Street where it meets Beacon Street (near water)

Leader: Carol Molander, (508) 641-0991, cmolander@brooklinebirdclub.org

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L217786>

We will bird at historic Fort Phoenix, which dates to the Revolutionary War, walking along the hurricane barrier for a view of New Bedford Harbor and Buzzards Bay. Hundreds of Brant, nineteen species of ducks, as well as grebes, loons, and a variety songbirds are commonly seen at this eBird hotspot.

Squantum Point Park, Quincy

8:00 am

Meet: Very large parking lot at end of MWRA Haul Road. (Street signs may simply say "Haul Road.") Park at LEFT side of parking lot. Do not be concerned if parts of lot are closed with orange cones. Police may be using parking lot for training exercises.

Leader: Neil Calabro, (617) 947-9347, neil.calabro1@mac.com <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L621284>
Join us to observe resident birds and fall/early winter



migrants in a unique urban habitat that is a favorite for many bird species, including uncommon and rare birds. A BNC naturalist will help us find and identify birds through field marks, sounds, and behaviors. Birders of all levels will enjoy these guided walks; beginning birders are encouraged to come! The trails are flat and easy to walk. We recommend waterproof shoes, gloves, hat, and jacket, and bringing water.

The walk is free and open to all. All participants must preregister by emailing cgeorge@massaudubon.org and copying neil.calabro1@mac.com. Please note that participants must be at least 13 years of age and this outing is limited to 30 people.

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Emerald Necklace Ponds, Boston/Brookline

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Meet: Parking lot for Daisy Field, Olmsted Park, on Willow Pond, between Pond Avenue and Jamaicaaway

Leaders: Bob Mayer, (617) 515-7304, rgmayer38@gmail.com; Stephen Baird

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L248222>

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.



Thursday, December 12, 2024

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds, Rockport

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meet: Halibut Point State Park parking lot

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

(continued)

Thursday, December 12, 2024 (cont.)

Join us for a mid-week hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader by 6:00 pm the previous evening.

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Millennium Park, Boston

8:00 am

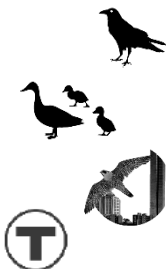
Meet: 300 Gardner Street. Meet in the parking lot nearest the canoe launch. After entering the park, stay left (don't drive up the big hill). Immediately take another left. You may see signs for Canoe Launch. Follow that road to end of Canoe Launch parking lot.

Leader: Neil Calabro, (617) 947-9347, neil.calabro1@mac.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L350679>

Join us to observe resident birds and fall/early winter migrants in a unique urban habitat that is a favorite for many bird species, including uncommon and rare birds. A BNC naturalist will help us find and identify birds through field marks, sounds, and behaviors. Birders of all levels will enjoy these guided walks; beginning birders are encouraged to come! The trails are flat and easy to walk. We recommend waterproof shoes, gloves, hat, and jacket, and bringing water.

The walk is free and open to all. All participants must preregister by emailing cgeorge@massaudubon.org and copying neil.calabro1@mac.com. Please note that participants must be at least 13 years of age and this outing is limited to 30 people.



Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Race Point Beach, Provincetown

7:00 am – 11:00 am

Meet: Race Point Beach at east end of the top parking lot near the white house

Leader: Ray Bedard, (978) 394-3959, rayray5x@yahoo.com
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L489376>

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.

New Year's Birding — Newburyport and Vicinity

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Meet: Cashman Park, Sally Snyder Way, Newburyport

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

Join us on our annual New Year's Day birding trip! We may also venture on to Cape Ann. 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.

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Cape Ann

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Meet: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester across from 59 Stacy Boulevard

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

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. If inclement weather, check with leader night before trip.

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Arnold Arboretum, Boston

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Meet: Inside main gate off Arborway.

Parking available on nearby side streets.

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L298629>

Start your 2025 year list off with this easy ninety-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.



Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds, Rockport

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meet: Halibut Point State Park parking lot

Leader: Barbara Volkle, (508) 393-9251,

barb620@theworld.com

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

Join us as we hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold, windy weather. If bad weather is predicted, contact leader by 6:00 pm previous evening.

Saturday, January 11, 2025

Milton Landing and Neponset River Greenway

8:30 am – 11:00 am

Meet: Parking lot at Milton station

on Mattapan High Speed Line

(trolley) at 88 Wharf Street

Leaders: Michealle Larkins,

mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org; Kat

Hepburn, khepburn16@gmail.com; Elias Mendoza

Vivas, eemvivas@gmail.com



Enjoy a nice walk (about two miles) along the Neponset River Greenway bike path from Milton to Dorchester. We begin at Milton's Landing to see waterfowl and gulls. Then we walk along Neponset River Greenway. Beginners as well as more experienced birders are welcome. Limited mobility welcome but snow or ice may be present.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L460940>

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Salisbury Beach State Reservation, Salisbury

7:30 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Salisbury Beach State Park, One Beach Road. Meet just inside turn into campground.



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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L129076>



We will bird the Salisbury Beach State Park. In case of inclement weather, check with leader night before trip. There will be some walking. Restrooms available.

Dunback Meadow, Lexington

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Clark Middle School, at the end of Brookside Avenue

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L357227>

Dunback's grassy meadows, marsh, and woods provide excellent habitat for many less common winter species. Possible species include Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets, Purple Finch, Gray Catbird, Swamp Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Barred Owl, and Winter Wren.

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Cumberland Farms Fields, Halifax

River Street Entrance

7:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Small parking area on River Street, about one-half mile from Route 105

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L783779>

We will walk about 1.5 miles on gravel, possibly icy, paths in search of Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl as well as other winter residents including Eastern Meadowlarks! Arrive early and listen for owls.

Charles River, Watertown

7:30 am – 9:30 am

Meet: Watertown Square Station, at entrance to Charles River Greenway in Watertown. There are several public parking lots in and around Watertown Square.

Leader: Thomas Michel, 617-365-1102,
Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L856171>

An easy walk (about two miles) along Charles River Greenway in Watertown, with a chance to see overwintering waterfowl on 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.



◀ **Lawrence Crow Roost trip described on page 24**

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Pont State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127.

Trustees members park free in season.

Leader: Susan Yurkus, (617) 686-2273, syurkus@aol.com

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

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. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip.



**Mount Auburn Cemetery,
Cambridge**

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Meet inside front gate on Mount Auburn Street

Leader: Kathy Dia, (617) 480-5103, katbirdier@gmail.com

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L207391>

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.



Saturday, January 25, 2025

Cape Ann

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meet: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester, across from 59 Stacy Boulevard

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

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 pm the previous evening.

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Deer Island and Boston Harbor, Winthrop

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meet: Parking lot at 180 Tafts Avenue. If lot is full, proceed past parking lot (toward water treatment plant) and park on causeway.

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L463985>



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. Beginners welcome and encouraged.

Saturday, February 1, 2025

Birding Sketch Crawl — Winter Series

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meet: To be determined

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

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 pm January 30.

Cape Ann

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meet: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester, across from 59 Stacy Boulevard

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

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip.

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Scituate to Plymouth

7:30 am – 4:00 pm

Meet: Stop & Shop parking lot at intersection of Routes 3 and 139 in Pembroke

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

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. Cosponsored with the South Shore Bird Club.

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds, Rockport

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meet: Halibut Point State Park parking lot

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

Join us for a midweek hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader by 6:00 pm the previous evening.

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Along the Concord River Greenway, Lowell

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Meet: Just inside the Lawrence Street gate of the Lowell Cemetery

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L252460>



(continued)

Saturday, February 15, 2025 (cont.)

The Concord River in the winter can be a rich spot for winter birds as it meanders toward its confluence with the Merrimack. We will look for wintering ducks and gulls that use the open water to feed. We may even see a Bald Eagle. Walk is suitable for beginners and those with limited mobility, as the path is flat and paved, but be prepared for the weather and potentially icy/snowy footing. Cosponsored by Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust. Trip is limited to 20 participants. Preregister at <https://lowelllandtrust.org/category/events/>

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Cape Ann

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meet: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester, across from 59 Stacy Boulevard

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

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. If bad weather forecast, contact leader by 6:00 pm previous evening.

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point SP on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. Trustees members park free in season.

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

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. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip.



Monday, February 17, 2025

Cape Ann

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meet: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester, across from 59 Stacy Boulevard

Leaders: Dave Williams, (781) 439-7187, dave.williams6@gmail.com; Mark Nelson, (781) 258-6421, marknelsonre@gmail.com

We will search for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip.

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Newburyport and Vicinity

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meet: Cashman Park, Newburyport

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



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 inclement weather check with leader night before trip. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR.

Cohasset to Marshfield — Seabirding and Waterfowl

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Meet: Entrance to Wheelwright Park on North Main Street, Cohasset

Leader: Sylvia Martin, (617) 678-2338, sylvia.r.c.martin@proton.me

We will be seabirding and looking for waterfowl as we work our way down the coast, driving from spot to spot with little walking. Your scope will be handy.

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Neponset River Greenway, Mattapan to Milton

8:30 am – 11:00 am

Meet: 1674 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan. Small building with a mural on Blue Hill Avenue near River Street and Mattapan Station, facing Kuizinn La Kay restaurant.

Leader: Michealle Larkins, mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org

Enjoy a nice walk (about two miles) along the Neponset River Greenway on an accessible boardwalk and bike path. Let's see what we can find together! Beginners encouraged as well as more experienced birders. Limited mobility welcome but snow or ice may be present.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L460940>



Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds, Rockport

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meet: Halibut Point State Park parking lot

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

Join us for a midweek hunt for alcids and other wintering seabirds. Be prepared for cold and windy weather. If bad weather is predicted, contact the leader by 6:00 pm the previous evening.

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Woodcocks at Meriam's Corner, Concord

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm

Meet: Minute Man NHP, Meriam's Corner lot

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



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 one-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.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L858741>

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Parker River NWR, Newbury

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Meet: Lot 1, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L129046>

We will explore various hotspots on the refuge. Please check with leader before trip in case of weather problems. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR.



Wednesday, March 12, 2025

**Woodcock Walk at Rock Meadow
Conservation Area, Belmont**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Meet: The Rock Meadow Conservation area is at 248 Mill Street in Belmont. Paths begin at parking lot. We will meet by Community Gardens, a short walk from the parking lot. For a map see <https://bit.ly/4eSJXxE>.

Leader: Thomas Michel, 617-365-1102, Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L593404>



(continued)

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 (cont.)

Join us at sunset to (hopefully) hear and see the mating sky dance of the American Woodcock. Activity typically begins around 7:15 pm and lasts for about an hour. Call the trip leader if there's rain or snow cover. We will walk about one-half mile along paths to the best woodcock view area. Be prepared for muddy ground and cool temps, and bring a flashlight or headlamp for the return walk to the parking lot.

◀ **Belle Isle Marsh trip described on page 20**

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Arlington Reservoir

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Parking area adjacent to reservoir off Lowell Street

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L358557>

Visit the Arlington Reservoir and the adjacent Lexington Community Farm to search for late winter lingerers and early migrants. Cosponsored with Menotomy Bird club.



Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Avenue, just off Route 127. Trustees members park free in season.

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

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L374648>

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. In case of inclement weather check with leader night before trip.



Sunday, March 16, 2025

**Milton Landing and Neponset
River Greenway**

8:30 am – 11:00 am

Meet: Parking lot at Milton station on Mattapan High Speed Line (trolley) at 88 Wharf Street

Leaders: Michealle Larkins, mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org; Kat Hepburn, khepburn16@gmail.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L460940>

Enjoy a nice walk (about two miles) along the Neponset River Greenway bike path from Milton to Dorchester. We will start at Milton's Landing to see some waterfowl and gulls. Then we will walk along the Neponset River Greenway. Beginners as well as more experienced birders are welcome. Limited mobility welcome but snow or ice may be present.



Woodcocks at Alewife, Cambridge

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Meet: Alewife Station access-road end of Fitchburg-cutoff bike path

Leader: Zack Weber, Birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L453924>

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 is less than a mile almost entirely on flat, paved walkways. No restrooms. Path is easily accessible from the Alewife MBTA station.



Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Woodcock Walk at Ipswich River Park, North Reading

6:15 pm – 7:15 pm

Meet: Kiosk at Ipswich River Park, 15 Central Street

Leader: Dave Williams, (781) 439-7187,

dave.williams6@gmail.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3541969>

Join us at sunset to hopefully hear and see the mating sky dance of the woodcock.



Thursday, March 20, 2025

Woodcocks at Alewife, Cambridge

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Meet: Alewife Station access-road end of Fitchburg-cutoff bike path

Leader: Zack Weber, birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L453924>

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 almost entirely on flat, paved walkways. No restrooms. Path is easily accessible from the Alewife MBTA station.



Friday, March 21, 2025

Timberdoodles in Sharon

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Meet: Parking lot, Moose Hill Farm (Trustees), 396 Moose Hill Street

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

gdentremont1@comcast.net

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L562857>

Come watch American Woodcock display behavior. Water-resistant shoes helpful, but not needed.

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Parker River NWR, Newbury

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meet: Lot 1, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Michael Pappone, (617) 922-4554,

mjpappone@gmail.com

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L129046>

We will explore various hotspots on the refuge. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit Parker River NWR. Check with the leader in case of weather problems.

Woodcock Watch, Oxbow NWR, Harvard

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Meet: Partway down Still River Depot Road at big NWR sign on right

Leader: Don MacFarlane, (978) 505-1926,

donjmacfarlane@gmail.com

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L1039319>

We will stay until it gets dark to watch for American Woodcock. Come early to enjoy other birds. Rain date Sunday, March 23rd, same time.

Vernal Equinox Walk — Leader's Choice

Time, Meet: To be determined

Leader: Laura de la Flor, (978) 741-0897,

anhinga3@comcast.net

The trip leader will monitor recent sightings prior to our meeting and select the birdiest spots. Contact the leader for details. Call or email no later than 7 pm on March 20th.

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Dunback Meadow, Lexington

7:30 am – 10:30 am

Meet: Clark Middle School, at end of Brookside Avenue

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L357227>

We will look for wintering birds and early migrants.
Cosponsored with Menotomy Bird club.

Friday, March 28, 2025

Woodcock Walk, North Easton

5:45 pm – 8:00 pm

Meet: Edwin A. Keach Park, next door to
55 Chestnut Street. Park in playground
parking lot and meet in playground.



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

From the playground, we will walk a short distance to an
open area where we can observe two fields for
woodcock. Sunset is around 6:30 pm so bring a camp
chair and relax for the woodcock flight.

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Great Meadows National Wildlife

Refuge, Concord

7:00 am – 9:30 am

Meet: Refuge Concord Unit parking lot
at 179 Monsen Road

Leaders: Kathy Dia, (617) 480-5103,
katbirder@gmail.com; Cris Van Dyke,
cris_vandyke@yahoo.com

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L208284>



We will look for early migrants, waterfowl, and waders.
Conditions may be wet; boots advised. Note that an
entrance fee or pass is required.

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

7:00 am – 9:00 am

Meet: Entrance to Cemetery

Leader: Thomas Michel, 617-365-1102,

Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu

<http://ebird.org/hotspot/L207391>

Mount Auburn Cemetery is lovely in all seasons. In late March, we may see the very earliest migrants from the south (Red-winged Blackbird, others) as well as the remaining seasonal visitors from the north (White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco). And our usual year-round resident species start to sing!



Franklin Park, Boston — Scarboro Pond

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Meet: By the tennis courts next to the Shattuck Picnic Grove on Circuit Drive. Street parking available and accessible via bus and subway (Forest Hills stop on Orange Line).

Leaders: Michealle Larkins,

mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org;

Kat Hepburn, khepburn16@gmail.com; Elias Mendoza

Vivas, eemvivas@gmail.com

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L797546>

We will look for early spring migrants in Franklin Park. Beginners welcome and encouraged. Expect to walk up to two miles on paved paths. Loaner binoculars available. Cosponsored with Franklin Park Coalition and Franklin Park Tennis Association.



Saturday, March 29, 2025

Blue Hills, Milton

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Meet: Small parking lot on Chickatawbut Road in Milton just east of Randolph Avenue (Route 28)

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207351>

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 Phoebe and Pine Warblers.

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Blue Hills Woodcock Walk in Fowl Meadow, Milton

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Meet: Small parking lot at Neponset Valley Parkway and Brush Hill Road in Milton

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L688957>

We are usually successful in seeing the woodcock's mating flight, and sometimes its mating display. We will hike one mile on a flat trail that may be wet.

Friday, June 27 – 30, 2025

Machias, Maine, and Vicinity

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

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

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

BBC Online

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

Visit <https://instagram.com/thebrooklinebirdclub> and share photos. You will be prompted to log into your account first if not already logged in.

Visit facebook.com/BrooklineBirdClub

Other Sites to Visit

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

Visit ebird.org/region/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.

These **Facebook** groups may also interest you:

- Eastern Massachusetts Birders
facebook.com/groups/181041298609271
- Birding Eastern Mass
facebook.com/groups/304929977442
- Birding in Massachusetts
facebook.com/groups/BirdingMA

Important Dates

2024



November 5 *United States Election*
One of the most important rights of American citizens is the right to vote. Voting gives you the opportunity to help shape your community. Visit vote.gov for more.

November 12 *Gardening Webinar (p. 18)*

November 23 *Youth Climate Summit*
Buttonwood Park Zoo, New Bedford.
Free. Ages 13 +
bit.ly/3BwgDyN

December 14 *Christmas Bird Counts start*

2025

January 1 *Annual BBC membership renews*

January 18 *Lawrence Crow Roost (p. 24)*

January 30 *Falklands Presentation (p. 17)*

March *Woodcock Walks (p. 25)*

April 25 *Annual BBC Members Meeting (p. 16)*

Visit brooklinebirdclub.org regularly for details on events and trips which are added as the season progresses.

Club Cosponsors

The Brookline Bird Club is pleased to offer walks together with these organizations for this coming season.

- Brookline Greenspace Alliance
- Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
of Massachusetts
- Emerald Necklace Bird Club
- Franklin Park Coalition and Franklin Park Tennis Association
- Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
- Menotomy Bird club
- South Shore Bird Club



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UPCOMING TRIPS, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

Date	Trip	Page	Date	Trip	Page
11/2	Mt Auburn Cemetery	28	1/19	Halibut Point, Rockport	43
11/2	Parker River NWR	28	1/19	Mt Auburn Cemetery	43
11/2	Belle Isle Marsh, E Bsn	20	1/25	Cape Ann	43
11/3	New Hampshire Coast	28	1/26	Deer Island, Bsn Harbor	44
11/3	Wakefld, Lynnfld Lakes	29	2/1	Birding Sketch Crawl	44
11/9	Fresh Pond, Cambridge	29	2/1	Belle Isle Marsh, E Bsn	20
11/10	Franklin Park	30	2/1	Cape Ann	44
11/10	Millennium Park	30	2/2	Scituate to Plymouth	45
11/10	Allens Pond, Dartmouth	31	2/5	Halibut Point, Rockport	45
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11/16	Belle Isle Marsh, E Bsn	20	2/16	Cape Ann	46
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11/19	N Shore Waterfowl	33	2/22	Newburyport	47
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12/7	Neponset River Grnway	35	3/9	Parker River NWR	49
12/8	Fort Phoenix, Fairhaven	36	3/12	AMWO, Belmont	49
12/8	Squantum Point Park	36	3/15	Belle Isle Marsh, E Bsn	20
12/8	Emerald Necklace	37	3/16	Arlington Reservoir	50
12/12	Halibut Point, Rockport	37	3/16	Halibut Point, Rockport	50
12/21	Belle Isle Marsh, E Bsn	20	3/16	Neponset Riv Grnway	51
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1/4	Belle Isle Marsh, E Bsn	20	3/22	Parker River NWR	53
1/4	Arnold Arboretum, Bsn	40	3/22	Oxbow NWR, Harvard	53
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1/11	Neponset River Grnway	40	3/23	Dunback Meadow	54
1/12	Salisbury Beach SP	41	3/28	AMWO Walk, N Easton	54
1/12	Dunback Meadow	41	3/29	Great Meadows NWR	54
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1/18	Cumberland Fields	42	3/29	Franklin Park	55
1/18	Charles Riv, Watertown	42	3/30	Fowl Meadow, Milton	56
1/18	Lawrence Crow Roost	24	3/30	Blue Hills, Milton	56
1/19	Halibut Point, Rockport	43	6/27	Machias, Maine	56

IN APPRECIATION

BBC Trip Leaders

November 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

The Brookline Bird Club would like to recognize the following people who are leading BBC walks for the club this winter. Thanks not only to those listed below but also to all our trip leaders who have preceded them.

Barbara Volkle
Bob Mayer
Carol Molander
Cliff Cook
Dave Williams
Don MacFarlane
Emily Szczypek
Glenn d'Entremont
Henry Mauer
John Edmondson
Kathy Dia
Laura de la Flor
Linda Ferraresso
Marilyn Tillinghast
Matt Sabourin

Matthew Nash
Michael Pappone
Michealle Larkins
Mike Baird
Neil Calabro
Nick Paulson
Peter Van Demark
Ray Bedard
Steve Mirick
Steve Olanoff
Susan Hedman
Susan Yurkus
Sylvia Martin
Thomas Michel
Zack Weber

Brookline Bird Club Membership Form — Join for 2025!

Annual memberships run from January – December. Please complete this form and return to Bob Parker, BBC Membership Coordinator, 60 Willow Ave #1, Somerville, MA 02144. Please include a check made out to Brookline Bird Club for the total amount due. If you prefer you may renew or join online instead at our website 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

2025 Annual Dues (\$20 individual; \$30 family; \$10 Youth) _____

Lifetime Membership (\$350/person; includes a BBC lens cloth) _____

Gift (tax deductible) _____

Bill Drummond Young Birder Scholarship (tax deductible) _____

BBC School Book Fund (tax deductible) _____

BBC lens cloth (\$5.00 + \$5.00 shipping fee per order) _____

or BBC window decal (\$1.00 + SASE) _____

☐ **Opt out of Printed Bulletin?** Total _____