

Brookline Bird Club Bulletin

November 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026



*America's Most
Active Bird Club*

brooklinebirdclub.org

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Seeking Board Candidates

The BBC is seeking members to join our Board of Directors and help with the club's mission. The club conducts birding trips in New England, offers and supports educational programs about birds and nature, and works to conserve birds and their habitats. If interested, please contact Thomas Michel, Nominating Committee Chair, at tmichel@brooklinebirdclub.org

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GREETINGS, BBC MEMBERS,

How do you bird?

Has anyone ever asked you this question?

Consider the many different ways there are to answer. Birding includes everything from being a homebody keeping an eye on a feeder to enjoying a walk or two at Mount Auburn Cemetery in the spring. You might birdwatch primarily in your neighborhood or you might travel to find birds. Your travels might bring you to Plum Island, the Rio Grande Valley, or as far away as Africa. You might keep an annual list, chasing rarities to reach that magical goal of 300 Massachusetts species in one year. You might use eBird. Perhaps your interest lies more in hawk-watching or survey work. Perhaps none of these describe you. What does birding mean to you?

For the BBC there is no “right way” to bird. Birding is whatever you want it to be. With that in mind the BBC — *your* club — offers trips near and far, short and long. You might only have time for a couple hours or for a morning spent near home. Maybe your interest is in exploring new places near and far. Perhaps what gets you excited is a few hours of high intensity birding at a hotspot like Parker River NWR. Then again you might want to combine scenery and birds during a daylong swing along the outer Cape. Or, you might watch birds, butterflies and dragonflies during a morning in Ashby.

Whatever your interest might be, we encourage you to join a BBC field trip. We offer over 300 trips a year and hope that there is one that dovetails with your interests. If not, please let us know.

One way to bird is to take part in a Big Day, where you take up to 24 hours to find as many species as

you can. The BBC held its first cooperative Big Day this spring. Despite miserable weather 40 members shared eBird lists totaling 186 species! From all reports, everyone involved had a great time. So, under the leadership of Club Statistician David Scott, we decided to participate in this year's October Big Day on October 11th. Once again, we invite you to join a BBC trip or bird on your own or with friends, then share your eBird lists with the account named "bbcbigday." Details from the results of the day's adventures will be posted on the club's website.

There have been some changes to the BBC board since I last wrote to you. We were sorry to see Abigail Young step down. We wish her well and hope that she will be able to join us again someday. As this message was heading off to the editor we also learned that Leslie Kramer has decided to step down from the Board. Leslie served for 15 years, including as Membership Secretary, Vice-President, and four years as President. Her work was essential in keeping the BBC on track through the pandemic, and I know I will feel her absence.

On a brighter note, join us in welcoming Eli Vivas! For the last couple years Eli has helped lead BBC trips around Boston. He has now joined the Board and taken on the role of Programming Coordinator, scheduling the club's webinar series.

That's all for now. See you in the field!

— *Cliff Cook, President, Brookline Bird Club*

ON THE WINGS OF MYSTERY

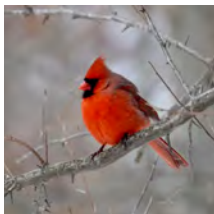
by David Clapp

Can you think of a question that has no answer, or maybe a hundred answers?

I posed a question to lots of like-minded folks and got mostly the same answer ...

“Really, hmmm, I don’t know.” That was often followed by comments about comfort, relaxation, isolation from the busy world, or just something about enjoying nature.

Yup, the question was “Why do you spend time looking at birds?”



What is your answer? For many it started with the first stunning look at a Northern Cardinal in the sunlight, or a Northern Flicker on the ground, or a swarm of fall Tree Swallows ripping the fruit from Bayberry bushes in

the dunes. Do you have a moment like that? Or perhaps it was one of your parents or grandparents who pointed you toward birds.

If you do have such a person or moment, does it remain your primary reason for birding? For listing birds? For wandering back to a favored place, binoculars in hand, hoping that the bird you saw there three years ago might show up again? Why do it again and again and again?

Many people mentioned being enthralled with the behavior seen while watching a bird gathering nesting material or creating a nest. Some people couldn’t believe





that a Brown Creeper could actually make a living skittering up a tree trunk. Others watched Black-capped Chickadees at a nest hole feeding young. Or perhaps it is your neighborhood walk, that one morning had almost no birds and the next morning was rich in color and song.

One of the overriding comments dealt with the peace and comfort gained from being out with nature. Nature is a catchall term that I felt meant one where the changing seasons were laid out in front of you like your own calendar pages, or perhaps just being able to relax outdoors.

One comment was that birding saved a workaholics from some sort of urban burnout. Happily I can report that that person is now a birdaholic and loving every minute of it. But, what is the difference? What differentiates a passion from an obsession, and both from work?

For many of us birding is terribly important. We want to see birds arrive and hate to see them go. We wait for migration, we watch the weather and wonder what tomorrow might bring us; perhaps the first oriole of the spring or the all-too-early departure of the martins.

Some of us have a month list, a yard list, a county list, a country list, a favored-patch list, and we all have a life list. What are we keeping track of? I wonder if it is really a list of personal highlights rather than bird highlights; highlights that are ours for sure, but brought to us on the wings of mystery.

There may be no reason that fits all of us with reference to our bird fixation. There probably shouldn't be. But what we do does help people keep track of the natural world, the real world, and hopefully that will play out down the road.

Our passion, our relaxation, and our contact with the natural world is important beyond what we get out of it. Our exuberance may help other people, those who are nonbirders, learn about the complexity, the beauty, the essence, and the similarities in life forms that are to be found outside the office, or the beltway, delivered in the form of more than 11,000 species of birds, feathered companions with whom we share the planet.



— *David Clapp worked for Massachusetts Audubon and the Smithsonian Institute for many years. He has always enjoyed nature.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Meeting with Amar Ayyash — Open to All **Exploring the Natural History of Gulls**

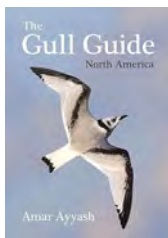
Friday, November 7, 2025

Harvard Geological Sciences Lecture Hall

24 Oxford Street, Cambridge

Free Parking at Harvard's 52 Oxford Street Garage

Join us to hear a talk by Amar Ayyash, author of [The Gull Guide](#). Amar joins us to talk about his favorite group of birds — GULLS. Gulls are sometimes perceived as second-class avian creatures. They present identification challenges and have a readiness to hybridize; this could explain why many birders have a love-hate relationship with gulls.



Yet some gull species are among the most coveted birds on any birder's list (think Ross's Gull and Ivory Gull). This makes for an interesting juxtaposition. Do we like some gulls and look past others?

Amar Ayyash will take us through an entertaining and intriguing exploration of the natural history of gulls, including their thorny taxonomy, and he'll share some of their lesser-known adaptations and quirky behaviors.

The author was awarded the American Birding Association's book-of-the-year award in 2024. Check out a wonderful review by Mark Wilson in the [April 2025 issue](#) of *Bird Observer*.

We have two gull-themed walks lined up. The 1st walk, inspired by this talk, is November 15th. The 2nd follows on December 6th. Put both trips on your calendar!

Audubon's 126th Christmas Bird Count December 14, 2025, to January 5, 2026!

The 126th Christmas Bird Count season begins December 14th. We encourage you to participate in this citizen science effort. We will make details available to club members when they become available.



*View Audubon's map
for locations expected in
126th CBC*

All Day December 6 Pelagic from Hyannis

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, the BBC will sponsor a full-day pelagic from Hyannis to Nantucket Shoals aboard the Helen H. We will leave the dock at 7:00 am and plan to return around 4:00 pm. The course will take us through Nantucket Sound to Nantucket Shoals. While pelagic birding is unpredictable, we have a good chance of seeing large aggregations of sea ducks, lingering shearwaters and storm-petrels...

[Sign up](#)

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

Cliff Swallow Support

The Club continues to support efforts to preserve the [Cliff Swallow colony on the Rowe town hall in Rowe, MA](#)—one of the last few Cliff Swallow colonies in the state. Town officials have resisted the idea of allowing the colony to remain at the town hall, and local birders are now looking into the possibility of building an alternative nest structure nearby. We have indicated our support by offering financial assistance, if needed. [Learn more about swallow conservation.](#)

“Dear town administrators of Rowe,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Association of Mass Bird Clubs—24 clubs across the state representing more than 7000 members—and our largest member club, the Brookline Bird Club. We are concerned about the Cliff Swallow colony nesting at the Rowe town hall—the second largest such colony in the state--and we urge the town of Rowe not to put up structures to prevent the swallows from nesting there next year. The swallow colony does not represent a threat to the building, and it is not feasible to move the colony, or any Cliff Swallow colony, to another location. A group of local volunteers, including Mara Silva, is dedicated to

—Photo courtesy of
Paul Sievert



keeping the nest site clean and safe. We respectfully ask the town of Rowe to help protect these swallows, which are cherished by countless birders and other people throughout Massachusetts. Thank you for your consideration.”

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

School Book Fund Donation

The BBC School Fund Committee is pleased to announce that we have donated just over \$600 for field guides and optical equipment to support bird and nature education at the Eagle Eye Institute in Peru, MA. The Institute has long dedicated itself to providing programs and opportunities for young people, especially children from urban areas, to experience well-being, belonging, and a sense of empowerment through a relationship with nature. Through hands-on, experiential programs, Eagle Eye is committed to cultivating healthier individuals, healthier communities, and a healthy environment.



National Audubon Scholarships

The BBC again plans to offer two scholarships in 2026 to the National Audubon's Coastal Maine Studies for Teens program at Hog Island. As soon as registration opens, we will try to reserve two slots for BBC scholarship recipients. Look for announcements in the BBC newsletter and website. Our 2025 recipients, Sydney Beard and Jonas Johnson, sent thank you notes to the BBC about their wonderful experiences at the 2025 camp.

Conservation Battles in the 1930s

The following excerpt is taken from a 2013 Brookline Bird Club article written by John Nelson, chair of the Conservation and Education Committee, in celebration of the Club's 100-year history.

“During the 1930s the BBC fought conservation battles on a wide variety of fronts. It argued for legal restrictions on billboards, opposed the practice of “duck-baiting,” proposed a tax on bird-killing housecats, and called attention to the damage done to shorebirds and seabirds by “waste pumped overboard from oil-burning vessels.” A 1930 bulletin listed by species the many oil-soaked dead birds found at Chatham Beach and Monomoy. Close to home, the club resisted a proposed highway with a toll bridge to connect Ipswich and Plum Island. Statewide and nationally, it embraced the campaign to stop the “wanton killing” of birds, especially birds of prey. In 1930, “standing four-square for the protection of birds of prey,” the club supported the federal Bald Eagle Protection bill, demanded enforcement of laws like the Migratory Bird Treaty, and resolved that “the names of all hawks and owls should be omitted from the list of birds not protected by law.”

*The club resisted a proposed
highway with a toll bridge to
connect Ipswich and Plum Island.*

What's In Effect Now and What's in Flux

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Legal opinions related to this act have been in play since 2017 (starting with the administrations of Obama, followed then by Trump, Biden, Trump). The issue hangs on whether “incidental takes” (human actions that kill wildlife) are authorized or not. Some of the activities and infrastructure that incidentally take migratory birds are oil pits and spills, high tension power lines, wind farms, and communication towers. At present the Department of Interior considers that “incidental takes” are no longer prohibited. *A bill was introduced in May to reconsider this latest position.*

Endangered Species Act of 2025, H.R. 845

- The final rules restoring protections, improving critical habitat designation, et cetera, are in effect. These provide stronger, clearer legal tools for protecting species and their habitats.
- The proposal to remove habitat as part of the “harm” definition is not yet in effect; it’s under public comment and has not been finalized.
- Congressional bills (if passed) could change how ESA works significantly, but right now they are proposals. Their fate *depends on legislative process and political weight.*

Environmental Protection Agency

On September 12, 2025, the EPA proposed to eliminate greenhouse-gas reporting requirements until 2034 for all oil and natural gas sources. *The proposed rule is open for public comment. The comment period ends November 3, 2025.*

“Hope” is the thing with feathers —

by Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –

And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
And sore must be the storm –
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land –
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet – never – in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of me.



IMPORTANT TRIP NOTICES

Trip Participant Tips

We stress the importance of good public relations. When attending trips, please be considerate of residents and locations. Park away from driveways and well off the road. Never block a road or gate (ticketing and towing may result). Respect guidelines at locations such as those at cemeteries and wildlife refuges. Don't enter private property without permission.

Please be a constructive participant. Pay attention to the leader. Help the group locate and identify birds. Be considerate of others in the group. Don't go ahead of the group (you may spook birds before others see them). If you want to chat, drop back out of hearing range. We encourage you to read our code of ethics on the BBC site for a refresher on responsible birding.

Some locations have entrance fees, and we note this in the trip description. At National Wildlife Refuges, we remind you that duck stamps or prepaid interagency passes will allow free entry.

Weather

Generally walks are cancelled for bad-enough weather but often do go in marginal conditions, such as intermittent drizzle. If unsure, check with the leader and also check the website.

Public Transportation

If you are planning to use public transportation and our directions are not helpful, feel free to contact us ahead of time at fieldtrips@brooklinebirdclub.org. We'd like to help.

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

Welcome New Members!

Thank you for your interest in the Brookline Bird Club! You are joining our 1,100 other members who have found a place to share their love of birds and birding. Get engaged! Attend a field trip (or several), watch a webinar, come to our fall meeting, volunteer for a project. However you choose to participate, you are sure to meet a great group of friendly, knowledgeable birders to help you get the most out of your membership experience!

— John Edmondson, Field Trip Coordinator



Iceland Gull

Photo courtesy of John Edmondson

Key to Field Trip Icons

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.



Each year, many participants enjoy birding with the BBC's loaner binoculars particularly at our urban walks. If you would like to borrow binoculars, look for the binocular icon in our field trip listings indicating walks for which loaners are available; contact the trip leader if you don't see the icon. If you have binoculars that you would like to donate to the BBC loaner box, please contact president@brooklinebirdclub.org.

TRIP SERIES

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

1st and 3rd Saturdays of the Month

2025: Nov 1, Nov 15, Dec 6, Dec 20

2026: Jan 3, Jan 17, Feb 7, Feb 21, Mar 7, Mar 21

8:00 – 9:30 am

Meet: Main parking lot, 1399 Bennington St., East Boston.

Description: Led by DCR staff. Expect to walk up to one mile on flat, easy terrain. Many possible cool birds. 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

Leaders: Matthew Nash, Matthew.Nash@mass.gov, (617) 721-4132; Heather Famico, heather.e.famico@mass.gov, (978) 979-9298

Public Transit: MBTA Blue Line to Suffolk Downs. Exit station onto Bennington St., cross street (crossing signal available at crosswalk outside of station), and turn left. Walk about five minutes, Entrance to the reservation will be on your right.

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

Cape Ann Seabirds
Winter Weekends from
Fisherman's Monument, Gloucester

Meet: Fisherman's Monument on Western Avenue, Gloucester, across from 57 Western Avenue.

Description: 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.



Saturday, November 29, 2025 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Leader: Peter Van Demark, phvand@icloud.com, (617) 386-3018 (txt ok)

Saturday, January 3, 2026 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

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

Saturday, January 24, 2026 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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

Saturday, January 31, 2026 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Leader: Peter Van Demark, phvand@icloud.com, (617) 386-3018 (txt ok)

Saturday, February 14, 2026 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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

Monday, February 16, 2026 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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

Midweek Hunt for Alcids and Seabirds
Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Leader: Barbara Volkle, barb620@theworld.com,
(508)410-6017 (please leave message)



— Photo courtesy of Michael Fager

From the BBC Bulletin Archives
October 1930 to January 1931
Mr. L. R. Talbot, President

When Winter Comes

Are you one of those people who go out frequently to look for birds during April and May? Do you become enthusiastic and tell your friends and neighbors how much birds mean in your life? Then when migration is over and hot weather comes does your interest lag? And on the cold days of late Autumn and winter do you stay at home by the open fire—or the radiator—and feel thankful that you do not have to leave the house? Maybe you read about birds then, but you do not go out and look for them.

If you are one of those people, this is written for you.

One of the greatest benefits that bird-study can bring to you is indirect: healthful, invigorating exercise in the open air. You need that exercise at least as much in winter as in the spring and summer. Another benefit comes through the beauty of the landscape; and winter in the country has a beauty all its own, whether the ground is blanketed with snow or is bare and brown. Do not deprive yourself of the pleasure which can come to you from a four- or five-mile walk across fields and woods or at the seashore in the cold, bracing air of a winter's day.

How many of these walks are you going to enjoy? Have we "sold" you the idea of winter walks for bird-study? Will you sit in your super-heated house Saturday afternoon and get dyspepsia, or will you come out with us, enjoy a bracing walk, and see birds? Put on your thick clothing and come along! Let's have at least twice as many persons as in the past enjoying the trips listed on the following pages.

DAY TRIPS

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:10 – 10:00 am

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

Meet: Meet inside the front gate on Mount Auburn St. Gates open at 8 am and parking is available inside.

Description: Late fall is often a time of year for fall lingerers, early winter arrivals, and a surprise or two.

Join us for a 2-mile walk around Mount Auburn over rolling terrain. Restrooms available. **Public Transit:**

From the 71 or 73 bus, get off by the main entrance to the Cemetery on Mount Auburn St.

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

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and Vicinity, Newbury

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Leaders: Linda Ferraresso,

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

Meet: Parking lot #1 on the Parker River NWR.

Description: We will explore various hotspots 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 the refuge.

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



← See also *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page 17.

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Horn Pond, Woburn

8:00 – 11:00 am

Leader: Ed Bogle, e.bogle@icloud.com, 508-308-7463

Meet: Meet at the Sturgis St. entrance near the boat ramp parking area. **Description:** Horn Pond is always a great place to bird. We'll explore the main trails and ponds and the adjacent community garden.

<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L251003>

New Hampshire Coast

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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

Meet: Hampton Beach State Park parking lot north of the Rte. 1A bridge in Hampton. **Description:** We will look for winter ducks, alcids, and gulls plus other late fall migrants. Contact leader for details

Fort Phoenix State Reservation, Fairhaven

8:00 – 10:00 am

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

Meet: Meet in the Fort Phoenix parking lot at the end of Green St. where it meets Beacon St. (near the water) in Fairhaven. **Description:** We will bird at historic Fort Phoenix, which dates back to the Revolutionary War, as we walk 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 of songbirds are commonly seen at this eBird hotspot. Cosponsored with the Paskamansett Bird Club.

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

The Lakes of Wakefield and Lynnfield

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leader: Dave Williams,

dave.williams6@gmail.com, (781) 439-

7187



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

Friday, November 7, 2025

Fresh Pond, Cambridge

7:00 – 9:00 am

Leader: Thomas Michel,

Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu, 617-365-1102



Meet: Meet in the parking lot of TD Bank at Fresh Pond Circle, intersection of Concord Ave. with Fresh Pond Prkwy. in Cambridge. If driving, please see the walk leader (Thomas Michel) when you arrive to get a parking permit to avoid being towed; then park in the Trader Joe's lot. Parking is also available at the Alewife T station. Limited street parking on Wheeler and Fawcett Sts. in Cambridge (metered) and on Concord Ave. in Belmont. **Description:** An easy 2-mile walk through pondside meadows and forest paths at Fresh Pond. Overwintering waterbirds will have started to arrive (Ring-necked and Ruddy ducks, both mergansers). Meadow and forest species too (residents and winter visitors). **Public Transit:** 74 or 78 bus to Fresh Pond (Concord Ave./Wheeler St.) stop; or Red Line to the Alewife T station, a 15-minute walk to the rendezvous point.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207370>

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Delaney WMA in Stow

8:00 – 11:00 am

Leader: Ed Bogle, e.bogle@icloud.com, 508-308-7463

Meet: Meet at the Delaney Project Boat Ramp on

Harvard Rd. in Stow. **Description:** Delaney WMA in

Stow is an Important Bird Area with a variety of

habitats, including a shallow lake, a slow-running

stream, and a marsh, all bordered by mixed

conifer/deciduous forest. We'll go for a slow-paced 2-

to-3-mile walk along trails with moderate terrain

changes to see how many species we can find.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207363>

Millennium Park, Boston

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leaders: Neil Calabro,

neil.calabro1@mac.com, (617) 947-9347; Michael

McCarthy



Meet: Go past the ball fields and bear left. Once you

arrive at the park, turn left and then you see a small

sign at the first left turn labeled Canoe Launch. Follow

that road to the end of the parking lot. We meet at the

end of the lot nearest the Canoe Launch and a small

rotary. **Description:** Join Mass. Audubon and the

Brookline Bird Club to look for birds in a unique urban

habitat that often draws numerous uncommon and

rare birds. Birders of all levels welcome. Trails are flat

and easy to walk. We may offer optional 30–60-minute

trip extensions to nearby locations. While the walk is

free of charge, preregistration is required. Please

preregister by emailing Correne George of Mass.

Audubon at cgeorge@massaudubon.org and cc'ing

neil.calabro1@mac.com. Be sure to wear a hat and

waterproof footwear and pack water. A jacket and

gloves are recommended. **Public Transit:** Closest MBTA bus stop is on bus Rte. 36., VA Hospital. About a 20-minute walk. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L350679>

Allens Pond, Dartmouth

8:30 – 11:00 am

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

Meet: Field Station lot which is near the south end of Horseneck Rd. (see BBC online event calendar for Google Maps GPS directions). **Description:** 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 thickets, forest, ocean, field, and marsh habitats.

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



Five Lesser Black-backed Gulls with Laughing Gulls.
Photo courtesy of Amar Ayyash, author of [The Gull Guide](#).
See the next page for details on a gull-focused field trip
inspired by his talk on November 7th (details on page 7.)

Saturday, November 15, 2025

Gulls at Revere Beach, Revere

10:00 am



Leaders: Soheil Zendehe,

sohzenh@gmail.com; Suzanne Sullivan; Justine Hanson, justinehanson@gmail.com, (617) 840-0832

Meet: Meet at the clock between two pavilions on the beach edge across the roads from 400 and 500 Ocean Ave. The online calendar listing has a Google point included. **Description:** Following the recent talk by Amar Ayyash, author of [The Gull Guide](#), we will have a gull-focused field trip at Revere Beach. Our trip will be about appreciating gulls, basic to advanced gull ID, and rare and unusual gulls. We may move to other locations based on recent reports but will start at the listed meeting spot. For those arriving by public transport, we expect there will be spontaneous carpooling to bring everyone along. **Public Transit:** A short walk from the Wonderland stop on the MBTA Blue line. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L453703>

← See also *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page 17.

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 – 10:00 am



Leader: James Meigs,

JMEIGS@mgh.harvard.edu, (857) 231-6578

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Ave., just off Rte.127. The Trustees members park free in season. **Description:** 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 the night before trip.

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

Franklin Park, Boston — Scarboro Pond

8:30 – 10:30 am

Leaders: Michealle Larkins,
mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org, 617-448-0796; Kat Hepburn,
khepburn16@gmail.com

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).

Description: 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. Cosponsored with the Franklin Park Coalition and Franklin Park Tennis Association. **Public Transit:** MBTA Orange Line Forest Hills stop with 20-minute walk. Also 16, 21, and 31 bus lines stop nearby.

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



Tuesday, November 18, 2025

North Shore Waterfowl Expedition

7:30 am – 12:00 pm

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

Meet: Topsfield Fair Grounds, Rte. 1, Topsfield.

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

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Drumlin Farm, Lincoln

7:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Ilija Dukovski, ilija.dukovski@gmail.com

Meet: Meet in the Drumlin Farm parking area at 208 S. Great Rd., Lincoln. **Description:** Let's explore the agricultural fields and adjacent woods for late fall residents and migrants. Fox Sparrow will be a target bird. Note that an admission fee is charged for non-members of Mass Audubon.

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Castle Island and Pleasure Bay, South Boston

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leaders: Neil Calabro, neil.calabro1@mac.com, (617) 947-9347; Michael McCarthy

Meet: 2080 William J. Day Blvd., South Boston (Sullivan's Castle Island parking lot). The group will be just in front of the restaurant. **Description:** Join Mass. Audubon and the Brookline Bird Club to look for birds in a unique urban habitat that often draws numerous uncommon and rare birds. Birders of all levels welcome. The trails are flat and easy to walk. Please preregister by emailing Correne George of Mass. Audubon at cgeorge@massaudubon.org and cc'ing neil.calabro1@mac.com. Be sure to wear a hat and waterproof footwear and pack water. A jacket and gloves are recommended. **Public Transit:** MBTA buses 9 and 11 stop near the location and run even on Sundays. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L452353>



**Great Meadows National Wildlife
Refuge, Concord**

8:00 – 11:00 am



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

Meet: Refuge parking lot on Monsen Rd. (off Rte. 62).

Description: Walking about 3 miles on flat easy trails, we will search for a variety of birds. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. If conditions have been cold, be prepared for ice on the trails.

Cosponsored with Menotomy Bird club.

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

Saturday, November 29, 2025

Leader's Choice, South of Boston

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

Meet: To be determined. **Description:** The trip leader will monitor recent sightings and select the birdiest spots. Contact leader after November 23rd for details on the meeting time and location. Cosponsored with the South Shore Bird Club.

← See also Cape Ann Seabirds on page 18.

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Belle Isle Marsh Marine Ecology Park

8:00 – 10:00 am



Leaders: Neil Calabro,
neil.calabro1@mac.com, (617) 947-9347;
Michael McCarthy

Meet: RPM Fitness lot, 120 Banks St., Winthrop. There is a chain-link fence (worn out, not easy to see) with signs authorizing public parking alongside the fence. Park in front of that fence. You'll see a sign in the far back of the lot that says Belle Isle Marsh Marine

Ecology Park. Meet in front of the sign. Please don't park in a spot that says for gym only. **Description:** Join us to look for birds in a unique urban habitat that often draws numerous uncommon and rare birds. Birders of all levels welcome. The trails are flat and easy to walk. We may offer optional 30–60 minute trip extensions to nearby locations. The walk is free but preregistration is required. Please preregister by emailing neil.calabro1@mac.com. Be sure to wear a hat and waterproof footwear and pack water. A jacket and gloves are recommended. **Public Transit:** Blue Line Orient Heights, then 1.4-mile walk. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L599123>

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Winthrop Beach, Gull Focus

7:30 – 10:00 am

Leader: Ilija Dukovski,
ilija.dukovski@gmail.com



Meet: Winthrop Beach. On the sidewalk across from 59 Winthrop Shore Drive, vicinity of Sturgis St. Best parking options should be along Winthrop Shore Drive on the beach side. **Description:** Let's explore Winthrop Beach for gulls and other birds. We'll focus on gull ID, including identification of subadult gulls and possible unusual winter visitors. **Public Transit:** MBTA bus 712 or 713 to Shirley St. at Washington Stop (in front of D'Parma Restaurant). Cross street, walk about 5 minutes on Sturgis St. to Winthrop Shore Drive (the beach). <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L514035>



*Two species.
What are they?*

Dunback Meadow, Lexington

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

Meet: Clark Middle School, at the end of Brookside Ave. **Description:** We will look for semi-hardy migrants and wintering birds including raptors. Fox Sparrows are often here at this time of year. Expect to walk about 3 miles on possibly muddy trails.

Cosponsored with Menotomy Bird Club.

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

Neponset River Greenway, Mattapan to Milton

8:30 – 11:00 am

Leaders: Michealle Larkins, mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org, 617-448-0796; Kat Hepburn, khepburn16@gmail.com; Elias Mendoza Vivas, eemvivas@gmail.com

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

Description: Enjoy about a 2-mile walk 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. Those with limited mobility are welcome but snow or ice may be present. **Public Transit:** Three options: Mattapan Station stop on Mattapan Trolley, MBTA bus 30 or 31 to Mattapan Station, or take Readville/Fairmount commuter rail to Blue Hill Ave. station then walk to Mattapan Station.

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



← See also *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page 17.

Thursday, December 11, 2025

← See *Cape Ann Seabirds* on page 19.

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Sconticut Neck and West Island, Fairhaven

8:00 – 11:00 am

Leader: Carol Molander,

cmolander@brooklinebirdclub.org, (508) 641-0991

Meet: Rocky's Hardware parking lot, 209 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven. **Description:** We will make several stops on the neck and then onto West Island to search for winter ducks, loons, grebes and shorebirds.

Saturday, December 20, 2025

← See *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page xx.

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Race Point Beach, Provincetown

7:00 – 11:00 am

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

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

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L489376>

New Year's Day Birding — Newburyport and Vicinity

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

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

Meet: Cashman Park, Sally Snyder Way, Newburyport.

Description: 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.

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Arnold Arboretum, Boston

9:00 – 10:30 am

Leaders: Judith Robichaud, juder811@gmail.com, (617) 319-3807; Rob Larsen, rob.react@gmail.com, (617) 216-9811



Meet: Meet at the Hunnewell Building inside the Arborway Gate (125 Arborway). Parking available nearby. **Description:** Start your 2026 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. We'll walk along paved and mulched paths. **Public Transit:** MBTA bus 39 from Forest Hills Orange Line Station bus stops 0.5 miles away.

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

← See also *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page 17.

← See also *Cape Ann Seabirds* on page 18.

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Dunback Meadow, Lexington

8:00 – 10:00 am

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

Meet: Clarke Middle School tennis court lot, at the end of Brookside Ave. **Description:** Dunback's grassy meadows, marsh, and woods provide excellent habitat for many less common winter species.

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

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

← See Cape Ann Seabirds on page 19.

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Milton Landing and Neponset River Greenway

8:30 – 11:00 am

Leaders: Michealle Larkins, mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org, 617-448-0796; Kat Hepburn, khepburn16@gmail.com; Elias Mendoza Vivas, eemvivas@gmail.com



Meet: Parking lot at Milton station on the Mattapan High Speed Line (trolley) at 88 Wharf St., Milton. **Description:** Enjoy about a 2-mile walk along the Neponset River Greenway bike path from Milton to Dorchester. We start at Milton's Landing, then walk along the Neponset River Greenway. Beginners as well as more experienced birders are welcome. Those with limited mobility are welcome but snow or ice may be present. **Public Transit:** Three options: Red Line to Ashmont Station, transfer to Mattapan trolley, then get off at Milton Station, Mattapan trolley to Milton station, or



MBTA buses 240 or 24 from Ashmont station to
Dorchester Ave. and Washington Street stop.

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

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Salisbury Beach State Reservation, Salisbury

7:30 – 10:00 am

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

Meet: Salisbury Beach State Park, 1
Beach Rd., Salisbury. Meet just inside the
turn into the campground. **Description:** 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.

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



Saturday, January 17, 2026

**Cumberland Farms Fields,
River Street Entrance, Halifax**

7:00 – 10:00 am

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

Meet: Small parking area on River St., Halifax, about
0.5 miles from Rte. 105 on right. **Description:** We will
walk about 1.5 miles on gravel, possibly icy, paths in
search of Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl,
Eastern Meadowlark, and other winter residents!
Arrive early and listen for owls.

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

Saturday, January 17, 2026 (cont.)

Charles River, Watertown

7:30 – 9:30 am

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



Meet: Watertown Square Station, at the entrance to the Charles River Greenway in Watertown. There are several public parking lots in and around Watertown Square. **Description:** An easy walk about 2 miles along the Charles River Greenway in Watertown, with a chance to see overwintering waterfowl on the river as well as wintertime resident birds. We are likely to see Common and Hooded mergansers as well as Buffleheads, plus the usual local woodpeckers and other hardy species. **Public Transit:** Watertown Square can be reached via multiple MBTA bus lines including the 70 and 71 bus lines.

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

← See also *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page 17.

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Peter Van Demark,
phvand@icloud.com, (617) 386-3018 (text ok)



Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Ave., just off Rte. 127. **Description:** 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 the night before trip. <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L374648>

Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:10 – 10:00 am

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



Meet: Meet inside the front gate on Mount Auburn St.
Gates open at 8 am and parking is available inside.

Description: 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 and Orange-crowned Warbler has become a yearly visitor. **Public Transit:** From MBTA 71 or 73 bus get off by the main entrance to the Cemetery on Mount Auburn St. <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L207391>

Saturday, January 24, 2026

← See Cape Ann Seabirds on page 18.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Deer Island and Boston Harbor, Winthrop

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leaders: Justine Hanson,
justinehanson@gmail.com, (617)
840-0832; John Edmondson,
johnhedmondson@gmail.com, (781) 859-9450



Meet: Parking lot at 180 Tafts Ave., Winthrop. If lot is full, proceed past the parking lot (toward water treatment plant) and park on the causeway. Accessible via MBTA bus. **Description:** 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. Portable toilets available midway. Beginners welcome and encouraged. Bad weather or poor walking conditions may cancel — email trip leaders if you are unsure. **Public Transit:** MBTA 712 or 713 bus to Deer Island stop. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L463985>

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Birding Sketch Crawl — Winter Series

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

Meet: To be determined. **Description:** 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 30th.

← See also *Cape Ann Seabirds* on page 18.

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Scituate to Plymouth

7:30 am – 4:00 pm

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

Meet: Stop & Shop parking lot at the intersection of Rtes. 3 and 139 in Pembroke. **Description:** 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.

BBC 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 discounts on binoculars, spotting scopes, and tripods. Bring a copy of this book to receive a discount.

Castle Island and Pleasure Bay, South Boston

8:00 – 11:00 am

Leaders: Justine Hanson, justinehanson@gmail.com, (617) 840-0832; John Edmondson, johnhedmondson@gmail.com, (781) 859-9450



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



Description: 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. Portable toilets should be available.

Public Transit: MBTA buses 9 and 11 stop near the location and run even on Sundays

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L452353>

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

← See Cape Ann Seabirds on page 19.

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Deer Island and Boston Harbor, Winthrop

8:00 – 11:00 am

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



Meet: Parking lot at 180 Tafts Ave., Winthrop. If lot is full, proceed past the parking lot (toward water treatment plant) and park on the causeway. Accessible via MBTA bus. **Description:** 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. Portable toilets available midway. Beginners welcome and encouraged. Bad weather or poor walking conditions may cancel — email trip leaders if you are unsure.

Public Transit: MBTA 712 or 713 bus to Deer Island stop. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L463985>

← See also *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page 17.

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Cape Cod Canal and Sandwich Hotspots

8:00 am

Leader: Mary Jo Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Meet: Take Scusset Beach Rd., Sagamore, to the main entrance. Parking is 0.25 miles past the entrance kiosk at the fish pier. **Description:** Offered by the Cape Cod Bird Club! and cosponsored by Brookline Bird Club.

We'll begin at the canal (Scusset Beach State Reservation is on the canal) and follow up with visits to the ponds, marshes, bays, and backwaters of the Upper Cape. These will include Scusset Beach, Town Neck Rd. Beach, Shawme Lake, and Greenbriar Nature Center. Nearby Sandy Neck Beach is also an option depending on time and energy level. You can carpool with friends/ family members or drive individually.

Saturday, February 14, 2026

← See *Cape Ann Seabirds* on page 18.

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 – 10:00 am



Leader: Caroline Haines,
carolinawrencarolinawren@hotmail.com, (978) 944-0906

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Ave., just off Rte. 127. **Description:** 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 the leader night before trip. <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L374648>

Monday, February 16, 2026

← See Cape Ann Seabirds on page 18.

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Newburyport and Vicinity

8:00 am – 1:00 pm



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

Meet: Cashman Park, Newburyport. **Description:** 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. Restrooms available at a couple of locations.

Saturday, February 21, 2026 (cont.)

Cohasset to Marshfield — Seabirds and Waterfowl

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Leaders: Sylvia Martin, sylvia.r.c.martin@proton.me, (617) 678-2338; Marilyn Tillinghast,

mtillinghast@brooklinebirdclub.org, (860) 729-0349

Meet: Ballfield parking near Wheelwright Park. Across from 186 N Main St., Cohasset. Opposite Ripley Rd. (another reference point). **Description:** We will be looking for seabirds and waterfowl as we work our way down the coast, driving from spot to spot with little walking. Your scope will be handy.

Charles River, Waltham

10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Leader: Emily Szczypek, plover08@yahoo.com

Meet: Meet at the entrance to the Riverwalk at Shaw's Supermarket on River St. in Waltham. **Description:** Join us for a 1.5-mile walk on paved paths. We hope to see diving ducks such as Bufflehead, Common and Hooded mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks. We will look and listen for perching birds too. Bald Eagle, Golden-crowned Kinglet are a couple of possibilities.

Cosponsored with Waltham Land Trust and Menotomy Bird Club. Trip cancelled in case of rain or snow.

Public Transit: Accessible via the MBTA 558 bus from the River St. and School Ave. stop (weekdays only). A longer walk from the MBTA 70 bus down Willow St. (weekdays and Saturdays).

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L838161>

← See also Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity on page 17.

Sunday, February 22, 2026

**Great Meadows National Wildlife
Refuge, Concord**

7:30 – 10:30 am



Leaders: John Edmondson,

johnhedmondson@gmail.com, (781) 859-9450; Cris Van Dyke, cris_vandyke@yahoo.com

Meet: Refuge parking lot on Monsen Rd. (off Rte. 62).

Description: Walking about 3 miles on flat easy trails, we will search for a variety of birds. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. If conditions have been cold, be prepared for ice on the trails.

Cosponsored with Menotomy Bird club.

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

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

← See *Cape Ann Seabirds* on page 19.

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Woodcocks at Meriam's Corner, Concord

5:15 – 6:30 pm



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

Meet: Minute Man NHP, Meriam's Corner lot, Concord. **Description:** 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 0.5 miles 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>

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newbury

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Leader: Matt Sabourin,

Accipiter22@gmail.com



Meet: Parking lot #1, Parker River

NWR. Check with leader in case of weather concerns.

Description: We will explore various hotspots on the refuge. Please check with leader before trip. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit the refuge.

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

← See also *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page 17.

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge,

Newbury

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast,

mtillinghast@brooklinebirdclub.org, (860) 729-0349

Meet: Parking lot #1, Parker River NWR. Check with

leader in case of weather concerns. **Description:** Join a fun, easy, and relaxed afternoon search for ocean

birds, winter shorebirds, raptors, and early migrants.

We will visit viewing areas along the ocean as well as

the Hellcat boardwalks. Leader will have scope and

hot chocolate! for sharing. Restrooms available. Note

that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit the

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



Woodcock Walk at Rock Meadow Conservation Area, Belmont

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Leader: Thomas Michel,

Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu,

617-365-1102



Meet: The Rock Meadow Conservation area is at 248 Mill St. in Belmont. We will meet by the Community Gardens, a short walk from the parking lot. For a map, see our online calendar listing. **Description:** 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 0.5 miles along paths to the best woodcock- viewing area. Be prepared for muddy ground and cool temps, and bring a flashlight or headlamp for the return walk to the parking lot.
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L593404>

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Pine Hill Road Grasslands, Lancaster

7:30 – 10:30 am

Leaders: John Edmondson,
johnhedmondson@gmail.com, (781) 859-9450; Cris Van Dyke, cris_vandyke@yahoo.com

Meet: Parking area near the gated end of Pine Hill Rd. Take Harvard Rd. off Rte. 117 in Lancaster. Follow Harvard Rd. until sharp right where it becomes Pine Hill Rd. Soon you cross train tracks (0.2 miles). A little over 0.1 miles past the tracks you reach the area of the gate on the left. Entry to the Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area is there. Take care not to block any gates in the area. **Description:** We will hike a sandy/gravelly field area for late winter and early spring sparrows and other birds living in this grassland habitat. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L937177>

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Peter Van Demark,

phvand@icloud.com, (617) 386-3018 (txt ok)

Meet: Parking lot for Halibut Point State Park on Gott Ave., just off Rte. 127. **Description:** 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 the night before trip. <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L374648>



Milton Landing and Neponset River Greenway

8:30 – 11:00 am

Leaders: Michealle Larkins,

mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org,

617-448-0796; Kat Hepburn,

khepburn16@gmail.com

Meet: Parking lot at Milton station on the Mattapan High Speed Line (trolley) at 88 Wharf St., Milton. **Description:** Enjoy about a 2-mile walk along the Neponset River Greenway bike path from Milton to Dorchester. We start at Milton's Landing, then walk along the Neponset River Greenway. Beginners as well as more experienced birders are welcome. Those with limited mobility are welcome but snow or ice may be present. **Public Transit:** same as trip on Jan. 10.

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



Woodcocks at Alewife, Cambridge

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Leader: Zack Weber,

birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

Meet: Alewife Station Access Rd. end of Fitchburg cutoff bike path. **Description:** 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. **Public Transit:** Reach Alewife station by Red Line or bus.

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Woodcocks at Alewife, Cambridge

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Leader: Zack Weber,

birdingwithzackweber@gmail.com

Meet: Alewife Station Access Rd. end of Fitchburg cutoff bike path. **Description:** 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. **Public Transit:** Reach Alewife station by Red Line or bus.

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

Friday, March 20, 2026

Timberdoodles in Sharon

6:30 – 8:30 pm

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

Meet: We will meet at Moose Hill Farm (Trustees), 396 Moose Hill St., Sharon, in the parking lot. **Description:** Come watch the American Woodcock's display behavior. Water-resistant shoes helpful, but not needed. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L562857>

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Vernal Equinox Walk, Leader's Choice

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

Meet: To be determined. **Description:** The trip leader will monitor recent sightings prior to meeting and then select the birdiest spots. Contact leader for details. Call or email no later than 7 pm on March 20th.

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newbury

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leader: Michael Pappone, mjpappone@gmail.com,
(617) 922-4554

Meet: Parking lot #1, Parker River NWR. Check with leader in case of weather problems. **Description:** We will explore various hotspots on the refuge. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required to visit the refuge. <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129046>

← See also *Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity* on page 17.

Woodcock Watch, Oxbow NWR, Harvard

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Leader: Don MacFarlane,

donjmacfarlane@gmail.com, (978) 505-1926

Meet: Partway down Still River Depot Rd. in Harvard at the big NWR sign on the right. **Description:** We will stay until it gets dark to watch for American Woodcock. Come early to enjoy other birds. Rain date Sunday, March 22nd, same time.

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

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Arlington Reservoir, Lexington

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: John Edmondson,

johnhedmondson@gmail.com, (781) 859-9450

Meet: Meet at the parking area adjacent to the reservoir off Lowell St. **Description:** Visit Arlington Reservoir and the adjacent Lexington Community Farm to search for late winter lingerers and early migrants. Cosponsored with Menotomy Bird club.

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



Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:10 – 10:00 am

Leader: Modar Sukkarieh,

Modar.Sukkarieh@childrens.harvard.edu

Meet: Meet inside the front gate on Mount Auburn St. Gates open at 8 am and parking is available inside.

Description: 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 (e.g., White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco). And our usual year-round resident species will



have just started to sing! **Public Transit:** From MBTA 71 or 73 bus, get off by the main entrance to the Cemetery on Mount Auburn St.

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

Friday, March 27, 2026

Woodcock Walk, North Easton

5:45 – 8:00 pm

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



Meet: Edwin A. Keach Park, next door to 55 Chestnut St., N. Easton. Park in the playground parking lot and meet in the playground. **Description:** 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 28, 2026

Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge

8:10 – 10:00 am

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



Meet: Meet inside the front gate on Mount Auburn St. Gates open at 8 am and parking is available inside.

Description: 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 (e.g., White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco). And our usual year-round resident species will have just started to sing! **Public Transit:** From the 71 or 73 MBTA bus, get off by main entrance to Cemetery on Mount Auburn St. <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L207391>

Franklin Park, Boston — Scarboro Pond

8:30 – 10:30 am

Leaders: Michealle Larkins,
mlarkins@brooklinebirdclub.org,
617-448-0796; Elias Mendoza Vivas,
eemvivas@gmail.com

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).

Description: 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. Cosponsored with the Franklin Park Coalition and Franklin Park Tennis Association.

Public Transit: MBTA Orange Line Forest Hills stop with 20-minute walk. Also 16, 21, and 31 bus lines stop nearby. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L797546>



Sunday, March 29, 2026

Weston Station Pond

7:30 – 10:30 am

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

Meet: Meet in back of the Biogen parking lot at 133 Boston Post Rd. in Weston. Enter at the first traffic light west of the Rte. 20/Rte. 128 intersection. Go around the building.

Take a left at the stop. Park at the trailhead visible in the back left corner of the lot. **Description:** Discover a Weston hotspot featuring a Great Blue Heron rookery accessible by public transportation. We will look for lingering winter birds, early spring arrivals, and year-round residents establishing breeding territories. We



Sunday, March 29, 2026 (cont.)

will walk up to 3 – 4 miles around the pond and through the adjacent Sears Land, bike path and solar farms. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3674978>

Blue Hills, Milton

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

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

Meet: Small parking lot on Chickatawbut Rd. in Milton just east of Randolph Ave. (Rte. 28). **Description:** 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.

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

Blue Hills Woodcock Walk in Fowl Meadow, Milton

6:30 – 8:00 pm

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

Meet: Small parking lot at Neponset Valley Pkwy. and Brush Hill Rd. in Milton. **Description:** We are usually successful in seeing the woodcock's mating flight, and sometimes its mating display. We will hike 1 mile on a flat trail that may be wet.

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

BBC 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 discounts on binoculars, spotting scopes, and tripods. Bring a copy of this book to receive a discount.

BIRDING ONLINE

Brookline Bird Club

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 mass.gov to learn more about MassWildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.
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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

Winter Finch Forecast Link

<https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast>



Photo courtesy of Jay Dia



Bird Observer is a New-England-based bimonthly journal for birders featuring original 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.

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Winter Morning Poem

Winter is the king of showmen,
Turning tree stumps into snow men
And houses into birthday cakes
And spreading sugar over lakes.
Smooth and clean and frosty white,
The world looks good enough to bite.
That's the season to be young,
Catching snowflakes on your tongue!
Snow is snowy when it's snowing.
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going.

— Ogden Nash



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To travel by public transportation visit <https://www.mbta.com/trip-planner/>

IN APPRECIATION

BBC Trip Leaders

November 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Thanks to all the leaders who make these trips possible.

Ray Bedard
Ed Bogle
Mark Burns
Neil Calabro
Cliff Cook
Glenn d'Entremont
Kathy Dia
Ilija Dukovski
Cris Van Dyke
John Edmondson
Heather Famico
Linda Ferraresso
Laura de la Flor
Mary Jo Foti
Caroline Haines
Justine Hanson
Susan Hedman
Kat Hepburn
Bobbie Hodson
Sebastian Jones
Michealle Larkins
Rob Larsen
Don MacFarlane
Sylvia Martin

Michael McCarthy
James Meigs
Thomas Michel
Steve Mirick
Carol Molander
Matthew Nash
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Steve Olanoff
Michael Pappone
Nick Paulson
Judith Robichaud
Matt Sabourin
Modar Sukkarieh
Suzanne Sullivan
Emily Szczypek
Marilyn Tillinghast
Peter Van Demark
Elias Mendoza Vivas
Barbara Volkle
Zack Weber
Dave Williams
Naeem Yusuff
Soheil Zendeh

We are also grateful to Eric Swanzey who administers the club's website as a volunteer behind-the-scenes.

Brookline Bird Club Membership Form—Join for 2026!

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 for the total amount due. Checks must be made out EXACTLY to **Brookline Bird Club, Inc.** (*not* BBC — our bank will not accept them). If you prefer you may renew or join online instead at our website brooklinebirdclub.org.

Name _____

• Family? Additional names _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

Amount Enclosed

2026 Annual Dues (\$20 Individual; \$30 Family; \$10 Youth)

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 decal (\$1.00 + SASE)

• ***Opt out of Printed Bulletin?*** TOTAL

