

Brookline Bird Club Bulletin

July 1, 2026 – October 31, 2026



*America's Most
Active Bird Club*

brooklinebirdclub.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bring Back Bobolinks!

This has been a busy spring for your club. We scheduled over 180 field trips, ran our Massachusetts Big Day count, sponsored the Migration Madness membership drive, and held three webinars as well as our annual spring lecture. In addition to the usual program of land-based trips, we have scheduled a number of pelagic trips and marsh cruises.

During my first year as president of the Brookline Bird Club, we heard from you, our members, that you want your club to renew our focus on bird conservation. Keeping this in mind, the BBC has introduced a new initiative, our new Endangered Species Program. Each year we plan to highlight a single bird species facing serious threats in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

Our initial focus is the charismatic Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), a grassland nester whose numbers have declined largely due to agricultural practices and the succession of open fields to brush and forest. We are excited to announce several Bobolink-related activities.

At our spring lecture Hyla Howe of Mass Audubon gave a presentation on Bobolinks on the Brink. She discussed ongoing efforts to work with farmers and other landowners to modify management practices to support breeding Bobolinks.

The BBC is fundraising to support these projects. Thanks to a generous donation by the artist, we are pleased to offer everyone a chance to own an

attractive original watercolor artwork of Bobolinks by artist Barry Van Dusen. Learn more about this raffle and how to enter on the website.

This spring and early summer your club has offered events to find, observe, and learn about Bobolinks. We distributed nifty Bobolink stickers at grassland walks.

We encouraged members to survey breeding Bobolinks by volunteering with Mass Audubon's Bobolink Project or as Grassland Bird Monitors for the Trustees of Reservations.

In closing, keep an eye out for more Bobolink-themed activities over the summer and fall. Let's share ways we can participate in the protection of this special species.

See you in the field,
Cliff Cook, President, Brookline Bird Club

Bobolink

"On the wing his song is at the best. He rises in irregular circles or progresses in a horizontal plane on rapidly vibrated down-curved wings. His flight often concludes by a descent with wings pointing obliquely upward.

— Charles Wendell Townsend, 1920

REPORTS

Brookline Bird Club 2025 Statistical and Year-End Report

— *David Scott, Club Statistician*

The Brookline Bird Club (BBC) recorded 284 species for 2025, with 275 species in Massachusetts (one more than last year) and nine additional species reported from New Hampshire and Maine. These totals were based upon 304 trips for which checklists were submitted, a new record for the club, as well as the out-of-state overnight trips. This represents a significant increase upon last year's total of 262 trips, itself a club record, and the 200 trips reported in 2023.

The overnight pelagic trips scheduled for August were cancelled due to Hurricane Erin, but the club rescheduled for September 29th and 30th. Pelagic birds included Barolo Shearwater, Sargasso Shearwater, Long-tailed and Pomarine jaegers and over 400 Red-necked Phalaropes. Marine wildlife included Sperm, Humpback and Fin whales, Common, Bottlenose and Risso's dolphins, a Leatherback Sea Turtle and several Mola Mola. Perhaps most remarkable of all, however, was the nocturnal spectacle of passerines and other species on their Fall migration, some of which took the opportunity to rest on the boat. After analyzing photos and sound recordings, the club compiled 17 species of warblers including Prothonotary, Connecticut and Hooded, as well as Cliff Swallow, Bobolink, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, and an American Bittern which circled the boat a few times. The club has now seen a Prothonotary Warbler at sea in three of the last four years, an achievement that may be unmatched in the history of North American birding.

A December 6 pelagic was also a great success, departing from Hyannis to venture out east of Nantucket and Chatham. We came across a dead Minke Whale, where we had brief looks at a Great Skua, and throughout the trip there were good numbers of Dovekies, Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Northern Fulmars. The trip returned home past Monomoy where we witnessed the great assembly of sea ducks, including an estimated 20,000 Common Eiders, thousands of scoters and hundreds of Northern Gannets.

There were many other highlights in Massachusetts: Glaucous Gull and Pacific Loon (Race Point, January 1, with another Glaucous Gull at Castle Island on January 12), Short-eared Owl (Newburyport trip, January 1), Western Tanager (Provincetown, January 1), King Eider (Halibut Pt, January 25), Thick-billed Murre (Eastern Point, February 5), Swainson's Hawk (Good Harbor Beach, February 5), Long-eared Owl (Salisbury, February 22 and March 22), Red-headed Woodpecker (Franklin Park, April 27), Sandhill Crane (Burrage Pond, April 27 and Cumberland Farms, October 26), Hooded Warbler (Mt. Auburn, May 13), Seaside Sparrow and Golden-winged Warbler (Allens Pond, June 1), Black-necked Stilt (Plum Island, June 10), Blue Grosbeak (Southwick WMA, July 13), Tricolored Heron (Plum Island, August 20 and September 14), Trumpeter Swan (Delaney WMA, August 24 and September 21), Caspian Tern (Winthrop Beach, September 28), and Summer Tanager (Mt. Auburn, November 1).

Rarities seen by many birders last year which would have been new for the club included the Ferruginous Hawk on Monomoy, the Roseate Spoonbill in Marshfield, the Limpkin in Scituate, and the Chestnut-collared Longspur in Fitchburg.

More common species we missed in Massachusetts included Blue-winged Teal, Black-billed Cuckoo, Redpoll, Black Vulture, Snow Goose, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Blue Heron, Redhead, Vesper Sparrow, Worm-eating Warbler, the Canvasback (a continuing club nemesis last recorded by us in 2014), Northern Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Outside of Massachusetts, we added Black-backed Woodpecker, Bicknell's Thrush, Canada Jay, and Boreal Chickadee on the Lake Umbagog trip in New Hampshire. In Maine, we recorded Vesper Sparrow and Black-billed Cuckoo on the way up to Rangeley Lakes and Nelson's Sparrow, Common Nighthawk and Arctic Tern on the Downeast/Machias trip.

There were 381 species reported in eBird in 2025 for Massachusetts, of which the club's total of 275 represented 72 percent. The club reported the most species in Essex County (213), followed by Suffolk (182), Middlesex (170), Plymouth (146), Worcester (142), Norfolk (136), Barnstable (134) and Bristol (102). The total for Suffolk is notable, by far the highest the club has achieved, reflecting the increased number of trips in the Boston area. The previous highest for Suffolk County was 157, in 2001. Our total of 213 in Essex County is about average for the club over the last 10 years, but in the 1980s and 1990s we routinely recorded over 250 species there, with a high of 277 in 1980. Trips to Mt. Auburn Cemetery recorded 113 species this year, including 23 species of warblers.

The club initiated two Big Days in 2025, aligned with the global efforts of the Cornell Lab. The objective was to find as many species as possible throughout Massachusetts, and to encourage club members to get out birding and share the activity with friends. On May 10, despite some terrible weather, club members

Trips Reporting Highest Number of Species by Month

Date	Location	#	Leader
1/1	Newburyport & vicinity	64	Laura de la Flor / Mark Burns
2/2	Scituate to Sandwich	56	Glenn d'Entremont / SSBC
3/22	Newburyport & vicinity	64	Laura de la Flor
4/27	Burrage Pond	51	Ray Bedard
5/3	South Shore	110	Glenn d'Entremont
6/15	Housatonic River, Oct Mt	71	Glenn d'Entremont / SSBC
7/12	Winchenden/Royalston	63	Glenn d'Entremont
8/31	Plum Island	54	Nick Paulson
9/21	Delaney WMA	52	Cliff Cook
10/4	Outer Cape Cod	80	Glenn d'Entremont / SSBC
11/2	NH Seacoast	66	Steve Mirick
12/6	Nantucket Shoals Pelagic	39	Peter Flood, Liam Waters

recorded 186 species across the state. On October 11th we found 146. We hope to improve on this in 2026!

Thanks to all our trip leaders, especially those who led 10 or more trips in 2025: Cliff Cook, Kathy Dia, Glenn d'Entremont, Linda Ferraresso, Leslie Kramer, Michealle Larkins, Thomas Michel, Nick Paulson, David Scott, and Dave Williams.

Thanks also to the organizations with whom the club co-sponsors trips. These include Menotomy Bird Club, South Shore Bird Club, Cape Cod Bird Club, the Charles River Esplanade Association, Boston Nature Center, Athol Bird and Nature Club, Boston Birding Festival, Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, Mass Audubon, Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, Boxborough Birders, Dracut Open Space Committee, Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation, Franklin Park Coalition, Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, Nasketucket Bird Club, and Paskamansett Bird Club.

Excluding the three multi-checklist pelagic trips, there were 454 eBird checklists associated with 301 trips in Massachusetts. American Robin remained the most

frequently reported species, appearing on 280 checklists, but was only narrowly ahead of Song Sparrow (278), with Blue Jay (272) in third. Northern Cardinal (246) moved up one place to fourth, with Mallard (243) moving up four places to fifth. Black-capped Chickadee (240) and American Goldfinch (236) remained in sixth and seventh. Mourning Dove (232) dropped four places to eighth. Canada Goose (230) was ninth and Herring Gull (226) was tenth. The next five were Downy Woodpecker (216), Red-winged Blackbird (212), Common Grackle (209), American Crow (188) and Red-bellied Woodpecker (186).

Do you have a favorite Bobolink photo, poem, piece of writing, or artwork to share? Celebrate this unique grassland bird creatively and help raise awareness about how to protect its habitat. Submit your work to socialmedia@brooklinebirdclub.org for a chance to be featured in our newsletter and social media!

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

Bobolink Raffle

Donate to Win Barry Van Dusen Painting



Help us raise \$1000 and more to support the Bobolink Project and the Trustees Grassland Birds Monitoring Project! In support of the cause wildlife artist Barry Van Dusen has generously donated a beautiful, signed original watercolor, "Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield, MA."

\$10 = 1 ENTRY

\$25 = 3 ENTRIES

\$50 = 7 ENTRIES

\$100 = 15 ENTRIES



Now Through September 1st

Purchase raffle tickets for our Bring Back the Bobolinks campaign.

brooklinebirdclub.org/civicrm/contribute/transact/?reset=1&id=6

The drawing will be held on September 7th. The winner will be announced in our Brookline Bird Club newsletter.

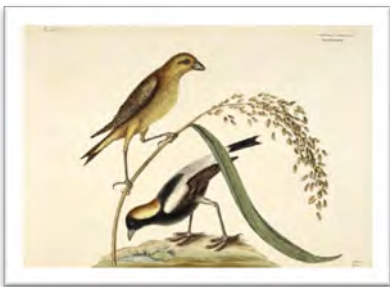
Bobolink Song and Flight

During spring courtships, males often sing a bubbly, metallic song continuously as they display.

This is when they can be easy to spot as they hover buoyantly and flutter low over meadows and hayfields. But then, outside breeding season, they fly more directly in flocks as they migrate south.

Bobolinks are remarkable long-distance migrants, traveling roughly 12,500 miles round-trip between North American grasslands and southern South America each year. Their migration is *one of longest annual migrations of any New World passerine*.

During southbound migration, the birds stop for several weeks in the Llanos grasslands of Venezuela or Colombia. They then make another stop in the lowlands of eastern Bolivia. Some birds stay there for the rest of the winter, while others continue farther south to Paraguay or, more commonly, northeastern Argentina. Northbound migration begins in late March and early April when birds return to their breeding grounds in the United States and Canada.



*The Ricebird (Bobolink) plate from
Catesby's Natural History*

BOBOLINK

You rise from dry meadowgrass
With a laborious flutter, more
Wing-action than the shortness of your flight
Would seem to call for
And so it seems obvious
Flying for you is a steep effort
Nature exacts, though not without amends,
Bobolink, reedbird;
The wiry tones of your song
Set forth a waltz in clear whistles
At first, so well-sustained! But then you break
Down the bars, stampede
Your notes into a reckless
Song fantasia piped at lightning speed
No one can follow—not the barn swallow
Who soars with such grace,
Not the bird-watcher stalking
The field, not blind Tom with all his skill
At sound-catching, his passion for filling
Darkness with music.
Ricebird, reedbird, bobolink,
Your song is the strained apology
For all of the weak-winged, condemned to sing,
Because we cannot fly.

— DANIEL MARK EPSTEIN

This poem is reprinted here in memory of David Ludlow (1957-2026) of Mass Audubon. A gifted local naturalist, David tended fields filled with Bobolinks at Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield, for 40 years.

2026 BBC Teen Birder Scholarship Awards

The Conservation and Education Committee is pleased to announce our two annual Bill Drummond Young Birder Scholarship recipients, Lily Rogers of Brimfield and Gwyn Robertson-DuBois of Northfield. These scholarships cover the full cost (\$1725) of the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program at National Audubon's Hog Island camp on June 21–26, 2026. We thank all the applicants for their interest. Lily is passionate about bird conservation and hopes to become a field ornithologist. She is an avid hiker, photographer, and painter of birds, who has worked as a summer camp counselor and volunteers for her town's recreation center. Gwyn shares her dedication to bird conservation and interest in field ornithology. She enjoys conducting research on birds and is fascinated by coastal ecology. Congratulations, Lily and Gwyn!



Lily



Gwyn

Scholarships are supported through the generous donations of club members. To donate, you can designate an amount on the “Bill Drummond Young Birder Scholarship” line on the back page of the club bulletin when you renew membership or donate online by clicking the Donate link on the BBC home page and entering an amount in the box for “Young Birder Scholarship.”

WEBINARS

A Forgotten Kinship

**Dr. Sea McKeon, Marine Program Director,
American Bird Conservancy**

Thursday August 13, 7:00 pm

Hosted by Naeem Yusuff

Seabird populations have dropped 70% over the past 60 years due to factors such as invasive species, unsustainable fisheries, and pollution. Explore the ecological importance of seabirds from coral reefs to mountaintops, their role in maritime cultures, and efforts to conserve and protect seabird populations. Check the BBC web site for future webinar details, including registration.

<https://brooklinebirdclub.org/tripsevents/speakers-and-webinars/>

Virtual Pelagic Trip Webinar

Brush up on your pelagic bird ID skills with Naeem Yusuff! Watch a replay of his *Virtual Pelagic 2024* webinar. This webinar covers all the best offshore locations in Massachusetts, including opportunities for seeing pelagic birds on whale watches. There are ID tips and an overview of what to expect offshore, including rarities. Find the webinar posted on the BBC website under Member Resources/2024 Recordings. To replay this webinar you must be a member. We welcome all new members! To join, visit the brooklinebirdclub.org home page and select [Join / Renew](#).



BBC Webinars in 2025

Did you know that these webinars are available to members online? Go back and watch them on your own schedule.

Man & Gull — A Complex Relationship

with Amar Ayyash

Sparrow Identification

with Glenn D'Entremont

Birds at Rest: The Behavior and Ecology of Avian Sleep

with Roger Pasquier

The Art and Craft of Shorebird Identification

with Lisa Schibley, Soheil Zendehe

Wood Warblers with Bill Gette

South Asian Vultures: Crisis & Conservation with Meera Subramanian

The Corvid's World

with John Marzluff

At Sea in the Humboldt Current — Ship Life, Pelagic Birds, and Deep Sea Creatures

with Scott Wieman

Welcome New Members!

Thank you for your interest in the Brookline Bird Club! You are joining our 1,150 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 meetings, 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.

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 [Federal Duck Stamps](#) or prepaid interagency passes will allow free entry.

Weather

Walks may be cancelled for bad-enough weather but often go in marginal conditions, such as intermittent drizzle. If unsure, check with the leader and 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. See the [Field Trip FAQ](#) for answers to general questions. Contact leaders for more details about specific trips.

TRIP SERIES*

Belle Isle Marsh and Vicinity

An Oasis for Birds at Belle Isle Marsh

All walks are 8 am – 9:30 am

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

Description: Join DCR park staff for a relaxed, one-mile bird walk through flat, easy terrain at this Massachusetts State Park and birding hotspot, as well as other nearby locations we'll visit.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation between locations (by car or bike). Binoculars are recommended, and don't forget to protect yourself from ticks and mosquitoes. Suitable for adults and children ages 8 and up (with accompanying adult). Sponsored by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Brookline Bird Club, and Friends of Belle Isle Marsh.

Meet: DCR's Belle Isle Marsh Reservation parking lot, 1399 Bennington St., East Boston. Program will also go to nearby locations. **Pub. 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>

[Birding 101] [Public Transport]

** Trips grouped as a series are also listed with Day Trips chronologically, starting on page 26.*

Saturday, July 18, 2026

In July at Belle Isle and at additional nearby locations, we'll search for osprey, flocks of egrets, piping plover, migrating shorebirds, meadow and grassland nesting birds.

Saturday, August 1, 2026

Saturday, August 15, 2026

In August at Belle Isle and at additional nearby locations, we'll search for large groups of herons and egrets, and shorebird rarities.

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Saturday, September 19, 2026

In September at Belle Isle and at additional nearby locations, we'll search for shorebirds during their peak in migration and passerines that are beginning their southerly migration.

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Saturday, October 17, 2026

In October at Belle Isle and at additional nearby locations we'll search for raptors, native sparrows, finches, herons, and egrets.



ADA/Reasonable Accommodations
(617) 645-0358

Moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov

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.

Pelagic Trips

Join us on our summer pelagic trips this summer and fall. Please note that all these popular trips sell out quickly. Once sold out, we will keep a waitlist in the event anyone cancels.

Day Trips to Stellwagen Bank

Stellwagen Bank is the primary feeding grounds for the Humpback Whale, the endangered Right Whale, and other marine wildlife, including *seabirds*. Let's find pelagic birds *and* watch whales on these trips!

The BBC has reserved a limited block of discounted group tickets. These trips are open to all. Register and make payment online at brooklinebirdclub.org by July 8.

NB: Be sure you receive a system-generated confirmation email after registering. Confirmation and additional information will be provided to registrants.

Friday, July 17, 2026

7 Seas Whale Watch Cruise

8:30 am – 12:30 pm (meet at dock by 7:45 am)

Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast, (860) 729-0349,
vicepresident@brooklinebirdclub.org

Special BBC Rate: \$45

Meet: 63 Rodgers St., Gloucester (all-day paid parking at site) Website: 7seaswhalewatch.com/

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Captain John's Whale Watch Cruise

Co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club

2:00 – 6:00 pm (meet at dock by 1:30 pm)

Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast, (860) 729-0349,
vicepresident@brooklinebirdclub.org

Special BBC Rate: \$57

Meet: 10 Town Wharf, Plymouth (all-day paid parking in town with ~ 20-minute walk) Website: captjohn.com/

Overnight Trips to Hydrographer Canyon

August 22 – 23th and August 24 – 25th

The Brookline Bird Club will host our annual overnight pelagic trips in August 2026 on the Helen H from Hyannis to the Hydrographer Canyon area. We expect to reach warm Gulf Stream-influenced waters far offshore to see shearwaters, storm-petrels, jaegers, and more! Possible targets include White-faced Storm-petrels, Band-rump Storm-petrel, and Audubon's Shearwater, and hopefully a repeat of last year's sighting of a Barolo Shearwater!

These trips are limited in participation, with priority given to Brookline Bird Club members. Because of uncertainty in worldwide oil markets, a fuel surcharge may be added to the ticket cost. Members will receive an announcement for when registration opens and the ticket cost by email in the BBC newsletter. Details also will appear online at brooklinebirdclub.org.

Leader: Naeem Yusuff, bbcpelagics@gmail.com

NB: *Once registered, individual cancellation fees will apply regardless of weather, provided the captain determines that the trip is a go.* Further details will be provided to registrants prior to trip.

Upcoming Trips

We are planning a repeat of our popular late fall trips which depart from Gloucester and from Hyannis. Please watch for a coming announcement in our newsletter and online at brooklinebirdclub.org.

Webinars

Check out page 13 of this edition for details on two pelagic birding webinars.

Marsh Cruises

Based on the immense popularity of these trips last summer, we are planning three trips through the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and one **new** trip through the Essex River Marsh!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, August 8, 2026

7:15 – 9:45 am (meet by 6:45 am for boarding)

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

5:00 – 7:30 pm (meet by 4:30 pm for boarding)

Monday, August 24, 2026

8:00 – 10:30 am (meet by 7:30 am for boarding)

Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast, (860) 729-0349,
vicepresident@brooklinebirdclub.org

Explore the refuge from a new perspective cruising leisurely through the Parker River marshes on the Yankee Clipper out of Newburyport Harbor. On this tour enjoy close views of shorebirds, gulls, terns, and Saltmarsh Sparrow.

Special BBC Rate: \$38 per person. Tickets at this discounted rate are available by registering on the BBC website no later than July 15. These popular trips sell out quickly; seating is limited. **NB:** Be sure you receive a system-generated confirmation email after registering. Confirmation and additional information will be provided to registrants. Once sold out, we will keep a waitlist in the event anyone cancels.

Meet: Yankee Clipper, Waterfront Promenade Park, Merrimac St., Newburyport. Website: harbortours.com. Paid public parking options nearby but allow extra time to find parking especially in the afternoon.

NEW! Essex River

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

5:00 – 7:00 pm (meet by 4:30 pm for boarding)

Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast, (860) 729 -0349,
vicepresident@brooklinebirdclub.org

This narrated cruise is scenic, relaxing, and educational. Join us for a cruise along the Essex River as we glide past islands, historic mansions, wildlife, and stunning scenery. The marsh itself is part of the Essex River estuary, which serves as the feeding ground for many species of beautiful birds and abundant wildlife.

Special BBC Rate: \$38 per person. Tickets at this discounted rate are available by registering on the BBC website no later than July 15. These popular trips sell out quickly; seating is limited. **NB:** Be sure you receive a system-generated confirmation email after registering. Confirmation and additional information will be provided to registrants. Once sold out, we will keep a waitlist in the event anyone cancels.

Meet: Essex River Cruises, 35 Dodge St., Essex, MA 0192. Free parking available onsite. Website: essexcruises.com.



Established Fall Hawk Watches

Late August to Mid-November

This fall birders have an opportunity to participate in hawkwatches from several premier sites. Here we highlight three in Massachusetts: Pinnacle Rock, Wachusett Mountain, and Mount Watatic. Each of these locations (noted below) has a start and end date. Very weather-dependent, hawkwatches take place every day except in persistent rain, strong winds, or storms.

When the weather, wind, and time of year are right, and the hawks are on the move, you could be there to witness thousands of hawks traveling in waves, an extraordinary sight.

We recommend that you check the directions and information about a site ahead of time on <https://massbird.org/emhw/where-to-go-hawk-watching/> (Find and expand the section on a site under Fall Hawkwatch sites.) Another helpful website is hawkcount.org. (Click "Find a Hawkwatch" at left, mouse over the map, select Massachusetts, then choose your site.)



What Species Is This?

To identify a bird from a distance brings a certain joy. You see a bird approach from a distance. It's overcast so you focus on its outline as it flies. How would you describe its flight? Is it likely to be here on this date and at this location? Then you recognize it and can put a name to it! You chart it, look up again, and ... Wait. Here comes another.

Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, MA

This hotspot is one of the best fall hawkwatching sites in the state. Eastern Mass Hawk Watch will begin its 50th anniversary season of hawkwatching on the mountain on **Saturday, August 22, 2026**. We plan to have an official counter at the summit every day from then **until November 15**, weather permitting. The auto road to the summit is expected to be open through **Saturday, October 31**, starting at 9:00 am daily. After Oct 31, hawk watchers have to hike or bike up to the summit. Daily reports are posted on the Hawk Migration Association's website hawkcount.org/ "Wachusett Mountain" (*not* "Mount Wachusett") and include a forecast for the next day's watch (or its cancellation). For more site information including directions and parking fee information, visit the hawkcount.org page for Wachusett.

Mount Watatic in Ashburnham/Ashby, MA

This hotspot is a premier site for fall hawkwatching, especially for the Broad-winged Hawk migration mid-September. Eastern Mass Hawk Watch (EMHW) counters have been logging raptor migration data since 1988. In 2026, we expect formal hawkwatches to take place on dry days **from September 12th to September 27th**. We count from the East Summit, a moderate one-and-one-tenth-mile hike, gaining 650 feet of elevation, typically within 35 – 60 minutes. This rustic site has no water, restrooms, or on-site staff, so please plan accordingly. Be sure to review general directions and trail details beforehand at the EMHW site massbird.org/emhw/. Please contact site coordinator Brian Rusnica with questions at 14hawks8owls@gmail.com



Pinnacle Rock, Middlesex Fells Reservation

Invitation to Fall Hawk Watching

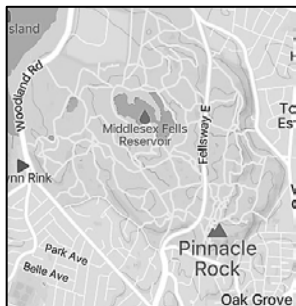
Pinnacle Rock is a large rock outcropping that overlooks the city of Boston and its skyline. Craig Jackson, who has been running the Pinnacle Rock hawkwatch site in "the Fells" for many years, is extending an invitation to BBC members to join him there this fall to count. Counting takes place many days from mid-September to mid-November.

Participants may call Craig the night before at 781-322-0306 (home, not cell) to check on plans. Okay to leave a message.

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 here does involve a moderately difficult uphill climb. The easiest route to the site is along 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).

https://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=239&year=2025&rmonth=10



Key to Day Trip [Tags]

Birding 101

These trips are geared especially to beginners or young birders. These trips are open to all, but are ideal if you are a beginner or have a nonbirding friend (a pre-birder!) who might like to come along and see what it's all about.

Limited Mobility

Trips designated limited mobility are geared especially to birders who are unable to walk/hike long distances. The leader will focus on going to areas where birds can be seen from the car or by taking short walks on easy terrain.

Conservation Series

Trips designated with this tag provide club members with a chance to experience endangered, threatened, and special concern birds on their breeding grounds.

Loaner Binoculars

Trips designated with loaner binoculars will include the use of loaner binoculars for your excursion.

Birding Boston

Trips designated with this tag are trips taking place in the City of Boston.

Public Transport

Trips designated with this tag are trips accessible by public transportation. Details are included with the trip description.

DAY TRIPS

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Quabbin Reservoir

7:00 am

Leader: Glenn d'Entremont, gdentremont1@comcast.net, (781) 267-0442 ◦ Join Glenn on a five-to-six mile walk through a very birdy area with species ranging from Broad-winged Hawk to Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, and lots of stuff in between. (Maybe a moose or a bobcat!) Co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club. **Meet:** Quabbin Gate 10 on Rt. 202 in Pelham. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1218639>

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Fruitlands Museum, Harvard

7:00 – 10:00 am

Leaders: Sandy Oxley, cassandra.oxley@gmail.com, (978) 270-1057; Rita Grossman, rgibegrossman@gmail.com, (978) 264-4077 ◦ Co-sponsored with Boxborough Birders. All the nesting birds will still be around, with good views of young that are out of the nest and being fed by parents: Veery, Indigo Bunting, Catbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Tree Swallow, Bobolink, Wood Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, and warblers. Expect to walk about two miles on trails through meadow and woods with some steep sections. Heavy rain cancels the trip. **Meet:** Top parking lot at Fruitlands Museum, 102 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard. For directions, see <https://thetrustees.org/place/fruitlands-museum/> <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4634696>

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Southwick WMA

7:30 am

Leader: Nick Paulson, grendelpgill@yahoo.com, (508) 330-4401 ◦ We will hike the fields focusing on grassland breeders, particularly Eastern Meadowlark and Grasshopper Sparrow. **Meet:** Suffield WMA parking lot off Babb Road in Connecticut right by the state line. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L820432>
[Conservation Series]

Friday, July 17, 2026

← Day Trip to Stellwagen Bank. See page 18.

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Birding Sketch Crawl – Summer Series

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leader: Laura de la Flor, anhinga3@comcast.net, (978) 741-0897 ◦ Come and bird/sketch favorite patches around Essex and Middlesex counties. **Meet:** Contact leader for details. Call or email no later than Thursday 7/16.

Saturday, July 18, 2026

← DCR Belle Isle. See page 16.

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Birch Hill WMA

7:00 am

Leaders: Glenn d'Entremont, gdentremont1@comcast.net, (781) 267-0442; Ernie LeBlanc ◦ Includes three to five miles of walking relatively flat terrain. Might include some bushwacking. Driving on hard packed dirt roads. Co-sponsored with the Athol Bird & Nature Club. **Meet:** First parking area about one-half mile on access road (New Boston Road on maps) off of Winchendon Road

in Royalston at the Royalston/Winchendon line.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L20119135>

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Peter Van Demark, phvand@icloud.com, (617) 386-3018 (txt ok) ◦ Beginners encouraged. A two-hour walk over easy-to-moderate trails in search of seasonal specialties. Chance of seeing nesting Green Herons. Boots advisable. Co-sponsored by DCR. **Meet:** Halibut Point State Park parking lot. From Rt. 128 (Exit 9), take Rt. 127 north (Eastern Ave.) toward Rockport, 3 miles. At five-way intersection, turn left onto Railroad Ave. (remains Rt. 127) and follow for 2.4 miles. Turn right onto Gott Ave. Turn right into the state park's parking lot. Trustee members park free in season.

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L374648> [Birding 101]

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Great Meadows NWR, Concord

7:00 – 10:00 am

Leaders: Cris Van Dyke, cris_vandyke@yahoo.com; Kathy Dia, katbirder@gmail.com, (617) 480-5103 ◦ We will walk easy trails looking for shorebirds, ducks, wading birds, rails, and nesting songbirds. This is also a great time to look for butterflies and other interesting insects. Note that entrance fee or pass is required. Loaner binoculars available; please email trip leader to reserve a pair! If the weather doesn't look good, contact the leaders to check status. **Meet:** Refuge parking lot at 179 Monsen Road in Concord. (Do not use GPS to find "Great Meadows" as this may take you to a different location.) <https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L208284>

[Loaner Binoculars]

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Shorebirds & More at Parker River NWR

7:30 – 11:00 am

Leader: Dave Williams, dave.williams6@gmail.com, (781) 439-7187 ◦ We will be looking for Shorebirds and other Refuge specialties. We will drive and walk to various places on the Refuge. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. Restroom available.

Meet: Parker River NWR parking lot #1.

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129046> [Birding 101]

Saturday, August 1, 2026

← DCR Belle Isle. See page 16.

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Forest Beach Conservation Area, Chatham

8:00 am

Leaders: Val Freysinger; (email BBC contact fieldtrips@brooklinebirdclub.org for further info) ◦ Co-sponsored with Cape Cod Bird Club. We'll walk the marsh trail to where it meets Mill Creek and return via the beach, less than a mile round trip. We'll then head towards the overlook where we'll likely view herons, egrets, shorebirds, passerines, gulls, osprey and Northern Harrier. This is another area with mixed habitat, a nice variety of bird species, and the occasional rarity. Waterproof footwear/hiking boots recommended. (low tide 11:01am) **Meet:** Take Rt. 6 to exit 85 and head South towards Rt. 28. Turn right on Rt.28 and a left turn at about one-half miles at Forest Beach Road. This will take you directly to the beach – parking is free of charge.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L779308>

Saturday, August 8, 2026

Squantum - Quincy

6:00 am

Leaders: Glenn d'Entremont,

gdentremont1@comcast.net, (781) 267-0442; Dan

O'Brien ◦ We'll check the marshes and the mudflats in Squantum for shorebirds, starting at Moswetuset Hummock and visiting other spots nearby. We'll try checking the high tide roosts for shorebirds as well.

Be prepared for the possibility of biting insects.

Co-sponsored with South Shore Bird Club. **Meet:**

Moswetuset Hummock parking area off East Squantum St., Quincy.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1135300>

Saturday, August 8, 2026

← Marsh cruises. See page 20.

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

← Marsh cruises. See page 20.

Saturday, August 15, 2026

← DCR Belle Isle. See page 16.

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Reggie Edmonds, plumcove@gmail.com, 978

902-8766 ◦ Beginners encouraged. A two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. Co-sponsored by DCR.

Meet: Halibut Point State Park parking lot. From Rt. 128 (Exit 9), take Rt. 127 north (Eastern Ave.) toward Rockport, 3 miles. At five-way intersection, turn left onto Railroad Ave. (remains Rt. 127) and follow for 2.4 miles. Turn right onto Gott Ave. Turn right into the

state park's parking lot. Trustee members park free in season. <https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L374648> [Birding 101]

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

← Marsh cruises. See page 20.

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Great Meadows NWR, Concord (evening)

5:45 – 7:45 pm

Leaders: Kathy Dia, katbirder@gmail.com, (617) 480-5103; Cris Van Dyke, cris_vandyke@yahoo.com ° We will walk slowly along the dike looking for rails, shorebirds, and wading birds. Then we will continue to an adjacent site where we have permission to enter private property, to look for Night-Herons. On our return, we will look for migrating Common Nighthawks! Note that entrance fee or pass is required. Loaner binoculars available; please email trip leader to reserve a pair! If the weather doesn't look good, contact the leaders to check status. **Meet:** Refuge parking lot at 179 Monsen Road in Concord. (Do not use GPS to find "Great Meadows" as this may take you to a different location.)

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L208284> [Loaner Binoculars]

Friday, August 21, 2026

Shorebirds, Herons, Swallows, & More at Parker River NWR (evening)

5:30 – 8:00 pm

Leader: Laura de la Flor, anhinga3@comcast.net, (978) 741-0897 ° Shorebirds, herons, and swallows. Bring a chair, bug spray, and water. Trip runs until dark. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. **Meet:** Meet at the Hellcat parking lot (Lot #4) on

Parker River NWR. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. Restroom available.

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129046> [Birding 101]
[Limited Mobility]

Saturday, August 22, 2026

Delaney WMA, Stow

7:00 am

Leader: Cliff Cook, ccook13@gmail.com, (339) 222-4518 ◦ We will spend the morning walking three to four miles through fields, forests and wetlands looking for post-nesting birds and early migrants. No restrooms are available. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent. Be prepared for poison ivy. Rain cancels.

Meet: Boat launch parking lot off Harvard Road in Stow. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207363>

Shore Birding around Boston

7:30 am – 12:00 pm

Leaders: Dave Williams, dave.williams6@gmail.com, (781) 439-7187; Linda Ferrarresso, tattler1@comcast.net, (617) 755-1851 ◦ Stops may include Belle Isle Marsh, The Key, Revere Beach, and Winthrop. Please be prepared for mosquitoes at our first two stops. **Meet:** Belle Isle Reservation main entrance parking lot: 1399 Bennington St., East Boston. **Pub. 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> [Birding Boston]
[Public Transport]

Saturday, August 22, 2026

← Overnight pelagics. See page 19

Monday, August 24, 2026

← Marsh cruises. See page 20

← Overnight pelagics. See page 19.

Thursday, August 27, 2026

← Day Trip to Stellwagen Bank. See page 18.

Saturday, August 29, 2026

Nighthawk Watch at Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge (evening)

5:30 – 7:45 pm

Leader: Don MacFarlane,

donjmacfarlane@gmail.com, (978) 505-1926 ◦ Join us for a pleasant evening of watching nighthawk migration along the Nashua River Valley. Bring a lawn chair or a camp stool. Rain date: Sunday, August 30.

Meet: Half-way down the hill (near Oxbow refuge sign) on Still River Depot Road in Harvard.

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

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Plum Island

9:00 am

Leader: Nick Paulson, grendelpgill@yahoo.com,

(508) 330-4401 ◦ Beginners and those with limited mobility welcome. There is an entrance fee for Parker River NWR. **Meet:** District Courthouse parking lot, Rt. 1 traffic circle, Newburyport.

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129046> [Birding 101]

[Limited Mobility]

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield

7:00 am

Leader: Glenn d'Entremont,

gdentremont1@comcast.net, (781) 267-0442 ◦ Co-

sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club. **Meet:**

Sanctuary parking area at the end of Winslow

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

Saturday, September 5, 2026

← DCR Belle Isle. See page 16.

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Fruitlands Museum, Harvard

7:00 – 9:30 am

Leaders: Rita Grossman,

rgibesgrossman@gmail.com, (978) 264-4077; Sandy

Oxley, cassandra.oxley@gmail.com, (978) 270-1057 ◦

Co-sponsored with Boxborough Birders. We will look

for warblers, thrushes, sparrows, and raptors, among

many other birds. Expect to walk about two miles on

trails through meadow and woods, with some steep

sections. Heavy rain cancels the trip. **Meet:** Top

parking lot at Fruitlands Museum, 102 Prospect Hill

Road, Harvard. For directions, see

<https://www.fruitlands.org/visit>

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4634696>

Cold Spring Park, Newton

8:00 – 9:30 am

Leader: Becky Briesacher,

becky.briesacher@gmail.com, (508) 981-6935 ◦ This

large multiuse city park offers an easy 1.4-mile loop

through mixed forest, open green areas, and red maple

swamplands, attracting a surprising array of resident

and migratory birds. Portable toilets available.

Meet: Use the Beacon St. entrance with parking and meet by the kiosk at the east end.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L633151>

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Plum Island

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leader: Leslie Kramer,

lkramer@brooklinebirdclub.org ° We will drive and

carpool down the Parker River Refuge in search of shorebirds and fall migrants. **Meet:** Parker River NWR parking lot #1, Newbury.

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

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Plum Island

7:00 – 11:00 am

Leader: Dave Williams, dave.williams6@gmail.com,

(781) 439-7187 ° We will be looking for shorebirds and fall migrants. We will drive and walk to various places on the Refuge. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. Restrooms available. **Meet:** Parker River NWR parking lot #1, Newbury.

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129046> [Birding 101]

Great Meadows NWR, Concord

7:30 – 10:30 am

Leaders: Chris Hughes,

chris@worldwidehughes.com, (781) 929-3179; Cris

Van Dyke, cris_vandyke@yahoo.com ° We will walk

easy trails looking for birds. This is a good time for raptors. Beginners welcome. Note that entrance fee or pass is required. **Meet:** Visitor parking lot off Monsen Road in Concord. (Do not use GPS to find "Great Meadows" as this may take you to a different location.) <https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L208284>

[Birding 101]

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Autumnal Equinox Walk

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Leader: Laura de la Flor, anhinga3@comcast.net, (978) 741-0897 ◦ Celebrate the beginning of the fall season by birding favorite patches, locally and beyond. **Meet:** Contact leader for details. Call or email no later than Thursday 9/17.

Saturday, September 19, 2026

← DCR Belle Isle. See page 16.

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Delaney WMA, Stow

7:00 am

Leader: Cliff Cook, ccook13@gmail.com, (339) 222-4518 ◦ We will spend the morning walking three to four miles through fields, forests and wetlands looking for post-nesting birds and early migrants. No restrooms are available. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent. Be prepared for poison ivy. Rain cancels.

Meet: Boat launch parking lot off Harvard Road in Stow. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207363>

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Caroline Haines, carolinawrencarolinawren@hotmail.com, (978) 944-0906 ◦ Beginners encouraged. A two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. Co-sponsored by DCR.

Meet: Halibut Point State Park parking lot. From Rt. 128 (Exit 9), take Rt. 127 north (Eastern Ave.) toward Rockport, 3 miles. At five-way intersection, turn left onto Railroad Ave. (remains Rt. 127) and follow for 2.4 miles. Turn right onto Gott Ave. Turn right into the

state park's parking lot. Trustee members park free in season. <https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L374648> [Birding 101]

Monday, September 21, 2026

Westboro Wildlife Management Area

6:30 am

Leader: Nick Paulson, grendelpgill@yahoo.com, (508) 330-4401 ◦ We will hike the north side of Big Chauncy Pond in search of migrant warblers. **Meet:** Lake Chauncy Trail Head. From Lyman St. take Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller Way (formerly Hospital Road), pass the fields, and take a left and follow to the yellow gate at the end.

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L464598>

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Fall migrants at Roslindale Wetlands Urban Park

7:30 – 8:30 am

Leader: Judith Robichaud, juder811@gmail.com, (617) 319-3807 ◦ A small but mighty urban wild that offers a variety of habitat. Expect to see a variety of woodpeckers, resident birds, warblers, and other migratory species, as well as a surprise or two. The path is flat with a mix of gravel and dirt surfaces with newly added boardwalks on the wetter sections. Boots are strongly advised. **Meet:** Coniston Road entrance in Roslindale. Parking on street. Bike racks available on Coniston and Selwyn St. entrances. **Pub.** **Transit:** Take MBTA 51 bus to either Weld St. and Wedgewood Road or Weld St. and Walter St. stops. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1171746> [Birding Boston] [Public Transport]

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Fresh Pond, Cambridge

7:00 – 9:00 am

Leader: Thomas Michel,

Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu, 617-365-1102 ◦ A two-mile walk on (mostly) paved paths around the pond. In addition to the “usual suspects”, we are likely to see some of the fall warblers, plus possibly a few of the Weird Ducks that have started to arrive.

Meet: We will meet in the parking lot of the TD Bank at Fresh Pond Circle, located at the intersection of Concord Ave. with Fresh Pond Parkway in Cambridge. If you are driving, please see the walk leader (Thomas Michel) when you arrive to get a parking permit to place on the dashboard of your car, and then park in the Trader Joe’s lot. If you don’t have a permit, your car may be towed. Parking is also available at the Alewife T station, and there is limited metered street parking on Wheeler and Fawcett Streets in Cambridge and on Concord Ave. in Belmont. Fresh Pond Reservation is also accessible by T (Red Line Alewife Station) or via MBTA #74 bus. **Pub. 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> [Public Transport]

Rock Meadow, Belmont

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Matt Sabourin, Accipiter22@gmail.com ◦

Come join us for a walk at scenic Rock Meadow and Beaver Brook North, home of open fields, wetlands, ample woods and edge habitat, and public gardens which attract a wide variety of migrating song birds. Hiking is relatively easy and should be a bit under two

miles total at most if we venture further into Beaver Brook North. Note that there are no public restrooms, but a portable toilet may be available. **Meet:** Meet at the lot at 248 Mill St. at 6:30AM.

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

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Arlington Reservoir

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: John Edmondson,

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

the fall water levels are lowered creating good conditions for ducks and shorebirds. We will also visit the adjacent Lexington community farm. Birds are found feasting on the remains of the crops planted there. We will walk about a mile on wide paths and some uneven ground (possibly muddy). Note that the reservoir area is a public park and people walk dogs here frequently. Co-sponsored with Menotomy Bird Club. **Meet:** Meet in the parking lot off Lowell St. in Arlington, directly across from Westmoreland Ave.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L358557> [Birding 101]

Monday, September 28, 2026

Westboro Wildlife Management Area

6:30 am

Leader: Nick Paulson, grendelpgill@yahoo.com,

(508) 330-4401 • We will hike the north side of Big Chauncy Pond in search of migrant warblers. **Meet:** Lake Chauncy Trail Head. From Lyman St. take Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller Way (formerly Hospital Road), pass the fields, and take a left and follow to the yellow gate at the end.

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L464598>

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Fall migrants at Roslindale Wetlands Urban Park
7:30 – 8:30 am

Leader: Judith Robichaud, juder811@gmail.com, (617) 319-3807 ◦ A small but mighty urban wild that offers a variety of habitat. Expect to see a variety of woodpeckers, resident birds, warblers, and other migratory species, as well as a surprise or two. The path is flat with a mix of gravel and dirt surfaces with newly added boardwalks on the wetter sections. Boots are strongly advised. **Meet:** Coniston Road entrance in Roslindale. Parking on street. Bike racks available on Coniston and Selwyn St. entrances. **Pub. Transit:** Take MBTA 51 bus to either Weld St. and Wedgewood Road or Weld St. and Walter St. stops. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1171746> [Birding Boston] [Public Transport]

Friday, October 2, 2026

Mount Auburn in Fall

8:15 – 10:30 am

Leader: John Edmondson, johnhedmondson@gmail.com, (781) 859-9450 ◦ Mount Auburn can offer good birding around this time of year. This particular date for a visit is new on our calendar and we'll see what we can find. Co-sponsored with Menotomy Bird Club. **Meet:** Meet inside the gates in front of the Story Chapel, the first major building inside the gates. The gates should open at 8 am and parking will be available inside the gates. **Pub. Transit:** From the 71 or 73 bus, get off by the main entrance to cemetery on Mount Auburn St., Cambridge. Also, the 75 bus runs nearby on Huron Ave.; get off at the Huron@Larchwood Dr stop and walk up Aberdeen Ave. <https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L207391> [Birding 101] [Public Transport]

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Outer Cape Cod

6:00 am

Leader: Glenn d'Entremont, gdentremont1@comcast.net, (781) 267-0442 ° All Day. This trip should record close to 100 species covering Canada Goose through House Sparrow, both of which might be missed. Co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club. **Meet:** Bourne commuter lot adjacent to the McDonalds at the intersection of Routes 3 & 6. Take the Scusset Beach Road exit.

Saturday, October 3, 2026

← DCR Belle Isle. See page 16.

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Fresh Pond, Cambridge

7:00 – 9:00 am

Leader: Thomas Michel, Thomas_Michel@hms.harvard.edu, 617-365-1102 ° A two-mile walk on (mostly) paved paths around the pond. In addition to the “usual suspects”, we are likely to see some of the fall warblers, plus possibly a few of the Weird Ducks that have started to arrive. **Meet:** We will meet in the parking lot of the TD Bank at Fresh Pond Circle, located at the intersection of Concord Ave. with Fresh Pond Parkway in Cambridge. If you are driving, please see the walk leader (Thomas Michel) when you arrive to get a parking permit to place on the dashboard of your car, and then park in the Trader Joe's lot. If you don't have a permit, your car may be towed. Parking is also available at the Alewife T station, and there is limited metered street parking on Wheeler and Fawcett Streets in Cambridge and on Concord Ave. in Belmont. Fresh Pond

Reservation is also accessible by T (Red Line Alewife Station) or via MBTA #74 bus. **Pub. 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> [Public Transport]

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Fall migrants at Roslindale Wetlands Urban Park

7:30 – 8:30 am

Leader: Judith Robichaud, juder811@gmail.com, (617) 319-3807 ◦ A small but mighty urban wild that offers a variety of habitat. Expect to see a variety of woodpeckers, resident birds, warblers, and other migratory species, as well as a surprise or two. The path is flat with a mix of gravel and dirt surfaces with newly added boardwalks on the wetter sections.

Boots are strongly advised. **Meet:** Coniston Road entrance in Roslindale. Parking on street. Bike racks available on Coniston and Selwyn St. entrances. **Pub.**

Transit: Take MBTA 51 bus to either Weld St. and Wedgewood Road or Weld St. and Walter St. stops.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1171746> [Birding Boston]

[Public Transport]

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Cold Spring Park, Newton

8:00 – 9:30 am

Leader: Becky Briesacher, becky.briesacher@gmail.com, (508) 981-6935 ◦ This large multiuse city park offers an easy 1.4-mile loop through mixed forest, open green areas, and red maple swamplands, attracting a surprising array of resident and migratory birds. Portable toilets available. **Meet:** Use the Beacon St. entrance with parking and meet by the kiosk at the east end.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L633151>

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Birding Sketch Crawl – Fall Series

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leader: Laura de la Flor, anhinga3@comcast.net, (978) 741-0897 ◦ Come and bird/sketch favorite patches around Essex and Middlesex counties. **Meet:** Contact leader for details. Call or email no later than Thursday 10/8.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Plum Island

7:30 – 11:00 am

Leader: Dave Williams, dave.williams6@gmail.com, (781) 439-7187 ◦ We will be walking the North Pool dike as well as visiting other spots. Note that an entrance fee or pass is required. Restrooms available.

Meet: Parker River NWR parking lot #1, Newbury.
<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129046> [Birding 101]

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Barretts Mill Farmland, Concord

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Kathy Dia, katbirder@gmail.com, (617) 480-5103 ◦ This is often a great place for fall sparrows including Savannah, Field, and White-crowned, as well as Pipit and occasional Dickcissel. Loaner binoculars available; please email trip leader to reserve a pair! If the weather doesn't look good, contact the leader to check status. **Meet:**

Conservation Area lot, just east of 363 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2415408>
[Loaner Binoculars]

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Hellcat at Parker River NWR

7:00 am

Leader: Nick Paulson, grendelpgill@yahoo.com, (508) 330-4401 ◦ During the past few years the Refuge has opened the dike to hiking during National Wildlife Refuge Week. We will plan to do that hike if the dike is again open this year. Otherwise we hike the boardwalk and normal dike area. **Meet:** Parking Lot #4 for Hellcat area at Parker River NWR, Newbury.

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

Arlington Reservoir

7:30 – 9:30 am

Leader: John Edmondson, johnhedmondson@gmail.com, (781) 859-9450 ◦ In the fall water levels are lowered creating good conditions for ducks and shorebirds. We will also visit the adjacent Lexington community farm. Birds are found feasting on the remains of the crops planted there. We will walk about a mile on wide paths and some uneven ground (possibly muddy). Note that the reservoir area is a public park and people walk dogs here frequently. Co-sponsored with Menotomy Bird Club. **Meet:** Meet in the parking lot off Lowell St. in Arlington, directly across from Westmoreland Ave. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L358557> [Birding 101]

Fruitlands Museum, Harvard

7:30 – 9:30 am

Leaders: Sandy Oxley, cassandra.oxley@gmail.com, (978) 270-1057; Rita Grossman, rgibesgrossman@gmail.com, (978) 264-4077 ◦ Co-sponsored with Boxborough Birders. We will look

for fall migrants and resident birds. Expect to walk about two miles on trails through meadow and woods, with some steep sections. Heavy rain cancels the trip. **Meet:** Top parking lot at Fruitlands Museum, 102 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard. For directions, see <https://www.fruitlands.org/visit>
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4634696>

Boston Nature Center, Mattapan

8:00 – 11:00 am

Leader: Linda Ferraresso, tattler1@comcast.net, (617) 755-1851 • Explore this urban oasis for sparrows and other possible fall migrants like Dickcissel and Blue Grosbeak. We will take an easy walk through varied habitats. Co-sponsored with the Boston Nature Center. **Meet:** Visitor's Center, 500 Walk Hill St.. **Pub. Transit:** Closest MBTA bus stops are Rt. 31, Morton St. at Courtland Road, and Rt. 32, Hyde Park Ave. and Florian St.. Both bus stops require a one-mile walk. <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L207424>
[Birding Boston] [Public Transport]

Saturday, October 17, 2026

← DCR Belle Isle. See page 16.

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Westboro WMA in Two Parts

7:30 am

Leader: Nick Paulson, grendelpgill@yahoo.com, (508) 330-4401 • Part 1: 7:30 – 10:15 am / Part 2: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm. We will hike at a slow pace through mild to moderate trails in search of sparrows and other migrants. For the first part we will hike the Eastern trails between Lake Chauncy and Little Chauncy (about three miles). Then we will again meet at the meeting location. From there we will go over to

the Wildlife HQs and hike the Western trails (about two miles). Join for either or both parts. **Meet:** Bartlett Pond / Watson Park, Lyman St., Northborough
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3120200>

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

8:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Peter Van Demark, phvand@icloud.com, (617) 386-3018 (txt ok) ◦ Beginners encouraged. A two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal specialties. Boots advisable. Co-sponsored by DCR. **Meet:** Halibut Point State Park parking lot. From Rt. 128 (Exit 9), take Rt. 127 north (Eastern Ave.) toward Rockport, 3 miles. At five-way intersection, turn left onto Railroad Ave. (remains Rt. 127) and follow for 2.4 miles. Turn right onto Gott Ave. Turn right into the state park's parking lot. Trustee members park free in season.

<https://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L374648> [Birding 101]

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Nahanton Park, Newton, and possible other nearby locations

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Leader: Linda Ferraresso, tattler1@comcast.net, (617) 755-1851 ◦ We will search for sparrows and other fall migrants at Nahanton Park and at another possible location (TBD as the date of the trip nears).

Meet: Nahanton Park parking area off Winchester St., Newton, one-half mile north of the junction with Nahanton St. Going up Winchester St. from Nahanton St., pass a turnout on the left with two very visible do-not-enter signs and look for a difficult-to-see park entrance on the left soon after that.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L458870>

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Cumberland Farms Fields, River Street Entrance

7:00 – 10:00 am

Leader: Ray Bedard, rayray5x@yahoo.com, (978) 394-3959 ◦ We will walk about one-and-a-half miles on gravel paths in search of late fall sparrows. This is usually a good spot for Lincoln's and Clay-colored sparrows. We never know what else might show up. I will arrive early to listen for Great Horned Owls. **Meet:** Small parking area on River St. in Halifax, about one-half mile from Rt. 105, at solar farm.
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L783779>

Visit

brooklinebirdclub.org

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



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 \$30 for six issues. Full access to online issues.

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

IN APPRECIATION

BBC Trip Leaders

July 1, 2026 to October 31, 2026

Thanks to all the leaders who make these trips possible.

Ray Bedard

Becky Briesacher

Cliff Cook

Laura de la Flor

Glenn d'Entremont

Kathy Dia

Reggie Edmonds

John Edmondson

Heather Famico

Linda Ferraresso

Val Freysinger

Rita Grossman

Caroline Haines

Chris Hughes

Leslie Kramer

Ernie LeBlanc

Don MacFarlane

Thomas Michel

Matthew Nash

Dan O'Brien

Sandy Oxley

Nick Paulson

Judith Robichaud

Matt Sabourin

Marilyn Tillinghast

Peter Van Demark

Cris Van Dyke

Dave Williams

Naeem Yusuff



Brookline Bird Club Membership Form

Are You a Member in 2026?

Join Here ↓



Annual memberships run from January through December. We encourage you to join or renew online at brooklinebirdclub.org.

If you prefer you may complete this form and return to Sophia Wong, BBC Membership Coordinator, 8 Bear Path Lane, Hudson, NH 03051 along with a check for total amount due. Checks must be made out EXACTLY to **Brookline Bird Club, Inc.** (*not* BBC — our bank will not accept these).

Name _____

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Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

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- 2026 Annual Dues
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 - o \$10 Youth _____
- Gift (tax deductible) _____
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- BBC School Book Fund (tax deductible) _____
- BBC lens cloth (\$5.00 + \$5.00 shipping fee per order) _____
- BBC window decal (\$1.00 + SASE) _____

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