



South Shore Bird Club

of Massachusetts

— since 1946 —

Fall/Winter 2025/2026

President's Message

Summer is coming to an end and early Fall migration is already underway. Just like the birds, the South Shore Bird Club will be “migrating” through a few of our regular stopover sites. As a great spot for migrating shorebirds as well as landbirds, the Squantum area of Quincy has become our number one destination for this time of year. Some of our other favorite spots with trips coming up soon are Duxbury Beach and the Outer Cape.

We'll also be “dispersing” out to a few new spots. New trips this year include Borderland State Park in Easton and Gooseberry Neck in Westport. And we even have a few “vagrant” trips that will bring SSBC birders outside their normal range of Massachusetts. Nate Marchessault will be leading a hawk watch trip in New Hampshire and Noah Henkenius will be leading a hunt for rarities in the Providence, RI area. We're always on the lookout for new trip ideas, so please reach out if you have any suggestions.

In addition to these individual trips, some of our larger events are coming up soon too. The Fall Roundup is right around the corner and the Duck Count and Christmas Bird Counts won't be far behind. All of these events rely on volunteers to cover the survey routes, identify and count the birds, and submit their lists. Please consider signing up. Birders of all skill levels are welcome.

Brian

Note: You may notice our 2026 annual meeting is not included in this newsletter. We've decided to push it out a bit later in the year to avoid snowstorms and early sunsets. The meeting will be listed in our next newsletter and I'll also send out a separate announcement with the details.

<http://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc>
southshorebirdclub@hotmail.com
<http://southshorebirdclubma.blogspot.com/>



Pectoral Sandpiper, Burrage Pond, August 2024
Photo: Brian Vigorito

Field Trips

Below is the list of Fall/Winter trips. Unless indicated, field trips do not have a specific end time and often last much of the day. Bring lunch and water! Participants are welcome to leave early on any SSBC trip, but please let the trip leader know prior to doing so; if carpooling, leaders may try to arrange cars so that those leaving early are together.



Lincoln's Sparrow, Quincy, October 2024
Photo: Josh Bock

Egypt Lane & Carolyn's Pond - Fairhaven

Saturday, September 6, 2025, 7:30AM – morning
Carol Molander: (508) 641-0991, cmolander@gmail.com
Meet: Near 24 Egypt Lane (park on grass side of lane)

We will visit the thickets along the Phoenix Bike trail and walk the hurricane dike to view the marsh and Carolyn's Pond. The pond was recently named after Carolyn Longworth, Paskamansett Bird Club member and retired director of Millicent Library. 221 species have been documented at this eBird hotspot. *This trip is co-sponsored with the Paskamansett Bird Club.

Squantum Point Park and vicinity - Quincy

Sunday, September 14, 2025, 6:00AM – morning
Dan O'Brien: (781) 351-9444,
danielkobrien107@gmail.com
Meet: Moswetuset Hummock parking lot on East Squantum Street in the Squantum section of Quincy.

We will concentrate on shorebirds and southbound land migrants. We'll cover several spots, consisting of short walks. Be prepared for biting insects near the salt marshes.

Fall Roundup

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Brian Vigorito: (339) 235-8291, bmvig21@gmail.com

Join the Club for its long-term survey of the South Shore. You can make a difference, even if you can bird for only a few hours, but we know you will want to bird all day! Please contact Brian for areas to cover and to join a team.

Hopefully the weather will be better than last year!

Squantum Point Park and vicinity - Quincy

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 6:00 AM morning (feel free to join later, we will be lingering at the NW point for some time)
Dan O'Brien: (781) 351-9444,
danielkobrien107@gmail.com
Meet: Squantum Point Park, Haul Rd., Quincy

We will explore Squantum Point Park primarily looking for songbird migrants, especially warblers. With the right conditions we could see a "morning flight" of migrating birds as they attempt to cross over the Neponset River.

Weir River Farm, Hingham

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 7:30 AM morning
Kathy Rawdon: (617) 605-3773, rawdonk@comcast.net
Meet: Parking lot with hoop house on right at the end of Turkey Hill Lane, which is off Leavitt Street.

Open fields, stream, woodlands, possible fall migrants, reliable for bluebirds, and possible fall sparrows. This park is close to the ocean and could have some surprises.

Hawk Watch at Pack Monadnock - New Hampshire

Sunday, September 28, 2025 9:00AM-3:00PM

Nate Marchessault: natemarchessault@gmail.com and Pete

Jacobson: ejake4@aol.com

Meet: Pack Monadnock Mountain, Peterborough, NH

Come spend the day with the Harris Center hawkwatchers at the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory, keeping an eye out for all the hawks, eagles, vultures, falcons, and sometimes songbirds that blow by. The summit can be accessed by driving the auto road, and the hawkwatch is just a short walk from the parking lot. Bring a bag lunch, sunscreen, and layers! There is a \$4 fee to enter the park, and reservations for the auto road are suggested.

Contact Pete Jacobson, ejake4@aol.com to organize carpooling, if desired.

*This trip is co-sponsored by

Monadnock Bird and Nature Club.

Outer Cape Cod

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 6:00AM

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

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Meet at the commuter lot behind the McDonald's at the intersection of Rte. 3 & 6, the Scusset Road exit in Bourne.

We will carpool from there and go to the outer cape.

This trip usually tallies around 100 species from Canada Goose to House Sparrow, many times missing both!

*This trip is co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club.

Passanageset Park, Quincy

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 6:00 AM morning

Dan O'Brien: (781) 351-9444,

danielkobrien107@gmail.com

Meet: Parking lot next to Quincy Youth Hockey Arena, 60 Murphy Memorial Drive, Quincy

We will explore Passanageset Park looking for early Sparrow migrants, like Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrow, and other migrants that use the saltmarshes.

Borderland State Park, Easton/Sharon

Sunday, October 12, 2025, 7:30AM – morning

Karen Clifford: karen.j.clifford@gmail.com and

Carol Molander: (508) 641-0991

cbmolander@gmail.com

Meet: Small parking lot at the corner of Bay and Allen Roads, North Easton. (*Use 94 Bay Road as a reference).

Borderland has an extensive network of easy trails throughout its vast property. We'll start at Bob's Trail and head to one of the nearby ponds hoping to see waterfowl, resident birds, and perhaps a fall migrant or two.



Say's Phoebe, Allens Pond, January 2025

Photo: Bonnie Tate

Squantum & Passanageset Park, Quincy

Sunday, October 19, 2025, 7:00AM

Josh Bock: (773) 750-9860, jbock18@gmail.com

Meet: Moswetuset Hummock on E. Squantum St., Quincy

Explore the pockets of land and adjacent saltwater marshes and bays for fall migrants and lingering shorebirds in Squantum. Next, explore the open, weedy/grassland habitat of Passanageset Park during the peak of sparrow migration.

Duxbury Beach

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 8:00 AM

Brian Vigorito: (339) 235-8219, bmvig21@gmail.com

Meet: Parking lot near Powder Point Bridge guard house.

Continuing fall migrants and early wintering waterfowl should be present. We will make our way down the bay and then crossover and come back along the ocean. We will also check the fields across from Blakeman's for early Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs. *If time allows, we will also visit Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary which is just up the road.

Sandy Neck - Barnstable

Sunday, October 26, 2025, 7:00 AM (*feel free to join us later since we'll be near the parking lot)

Dan O'Brien: (781) 351-9444,
danielkobrien107@gmail.com

Meet: Sandy Neck Beach Parking lot, end of Sandy Neck Rd, Barnstable

We'll hope to strike it big with scoters and other seaducks that are traveling south. We should see at least some birds on the move, and depending on the wind and weather we could see a large flight of birds. We'll start out by scoping from the beach near the parking lot, and as the morning progresses, we'll venture out onto the beach and head back by the marsh trail (depending on weather conditions).

*This trip is co-sponsored with the Cape Cod Bird Club.

Provincetown

Sunday, November 2, 2025, 6:30 AM

Dan Burton: (781) 492-6070,
danielburton783@yahoo.com &
Rachel Baum: (631) 294-4248,
rachel.e.baum@gmail.com

Meet: The commuter lot behind McDonald's at the intersection of Rte. 3 & 6, the Scusset Road exit.

There should be a nice variety of migrant seabirds in the area. Birding will kick off at Race Point Beach in Provincetown for a solid few hours. Later stops will be made as we make our way back. Gulls, terns, ducks, loons, grebes, shearwaters, and alcids are possible.

Plum Island & vicinity

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 8:00 AM

Mike Emmons: (978) 694-4080,
michael.emmons@comcast.net

Meet: Parking lot 1 Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Expect to find a variety of waterfowl, raptors, and hopefully a few late migrants with the possibility for some winter finches.



Horned Lark, New Bedford, January 2024
Photo: Moe Molander

Urban Vagrants – Providence, RI/Seekonk, MA

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 7:00AM

Noah Henkenius: pvdbirds@gmail.com and Pete Jacobson: (508)208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

Meet: East Providence Park & Ride (618 Taunton Ave., East Providence, RI)

Birdwatching in urban areas can be a surprisingly exciting experience. As November arrives, the agricultural fields of Seekonk, MA and the parks of Providence, RI become prime locations for spotting vagrants. We will search areas such as the Doug Rayner Wildlife Refuge, Blackstone Park, and more. Historical vagrants that we'll be on the lookout for include Sedge Wren, MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Western Kingbird, and more. Join us on this exciting adventure where the possibilities are limitless!

Annual Plymouth County Duck Count

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Brian Vigorito: (339) 235-8219, bmvig21@gmail.com

&

Pete Jacobson: 508-208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

Let's fan out and count all the ducks in Plymouth County freshwater lakes and ponds. This count is planned when waterfowl are at their peak numbers and diversity. We will gather at the end of the day to compile like we do for CBCs and the Fall Roundup. Contact Brian by email no later than Nov. 13th so you can be assigned to a team and given a place to meet on Sunday.

Leader's Choice - South of Boston

Saturday, November 29, 2025

Glenn d'Entremont: (781) 344-5857

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Glenn will look at recent bird sightings and choose a venue. Contact leader for meeting time and place after Nov. 19th.

*This trip is co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club.

Gooseberry Neck - Westport

Sunday, November 30, 2025, 7:30AM

Jim Sweeney: (781) 975-8299,

assawompsett@yahoo.com

Meet: Main parking lot for Gooseberry Neck at the end of E. Beach Rd. (*or the lot near the gate to the causeway if the gate is not open)

We will walk to the southern tip of Gooseberry Neck to search for returning waterfowl, gulls, and lingering shorebirds. Late migrant perching birds are also possible in the thickets. Sturdy hiking shoes are recommended since there are some rocky sections of the beach at this location.

Westport

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 8:00AM

Jonathan Glover: (508) 813-8668,

jglover76@gmail.com

Meet: 638 Quequechan Street, Fall River, MA. Back of Walmart parking lot. We'll look to carpool from there.

We will look for ducks on Richmond Pond, semi-hardy birds in nearby thickets, and take a scan of the ocean as well. Richmond Pond has a history of being very productive for waterfowl viewing in the winter.

Quincy Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Brian Vigorito, (339) 235-8219, bmvig21@gmail.com

Please consider helping out with these annual counts. More people always needed. Contact Brian for more details.

Marshfield Christmas Bird Count

Chris Dalton: christopher.m.dalton@gmail.com

Please consider helping out with these annual counts. More people always needed. Contact Chris for more details.

Taunton/Middleboro Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Pete Jacobson: (508) 208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

Please consider helping out with these annual counts. More people always needed. Contact Pete for more details.

Plymouth Christmas Bird Count

Trevor Lloyd-Evans: (508) 224-6521

tlloyd-evans@manomet.org

*Call for an exact date.

Death March

Saturday, January 3, 2026, 7:30 AM

Vin Zollo: (508) 641-2523, vzollo1@yahoo.com

Meet: Commuter lot behind McDonald's at intersection of Rte. 3 & 6, Scusset Road exit, Bourne

Mid-winter is an ideal season to see a plethora of seafowl, unusual gulls, alcids, as well as traditional visitors such as Snow Bunting and possibly even a Northern Shrike or Snowy Owl. We will walk the traditional Death March hike to the rip at Race Point Beach in Provincetown. Later, we'll make our way back down the Cape birding as we go.



**Boreal Owl, Sax Sim Bog, MN,
February 2025
Photo: Bonnie Tate**

**Parker River National Wildlife Refuge –
Newburyport**

Saturday, January 10, 2026, 7:30AM

Bonnie Tate: (860) 287-9925, bonnietate8@gmail.com

Meeting place: Parking lot 1, Parker River NWR

We should expect to see wintering ducks, loons, and shorebirds, Snow Bunting, Horned Larks, and a few species of raptors. The trip may continue at Salisbury Beach depending on bird reports. Contact the trip leader if interested in carpooling from Joppa Flats.

Taunton River and environs – Dighton and Somerset

Sunday, January 11, 2026, 8:00AM

Jim Sweeney: (781) 975-8299, assawompsett@yahoo.com

Meeting place: Plaza parking lot located at 1901 County Street (Rt. 138) in Dighton

We will explore a number of sites on the Taunton River in search of waterfowl, raptors, and semi-hardy perching birds

Interior Plymouth County

Saturday, January 17, 2026, 8:00AM

Pete Jacobson: (508) 208-4702, ejake4@aol.com

Meeting place: Honey Dew Donuts, 1485 Pleasant St., Bridgewater (very near the junction of Rtes. 24 & 104 in front of Home Depot).

We will explore the area around Middleboro and Bridgewater and search for any rarities that had come up on the recent Christmas Bird Count.

**Exploring Wildlands Trust Preserves - Weymouth/
Rockland, Former Shea Naval Air Station**

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 8:00 AM morning

David and Julianne Mehegan: mehegan@comcast.net

Meet: Parking lot behind Radius Marketing Group, corner of Bill Delahunt Parkway and Weymouth St. For GPS use 160 Weymouth St., Rockland.

The trails are varied with grasslands, ponds, brooks, and forest. A variety of birds are here in fall/winter, including meadowlark, harrier, snow buntings, and sparrows. Good chance to practice sparrow ID.

Snowy Owl, Duxbury Beach, December 2024
Photo: Kathy Rawdon



Brant (Atlantic Brant & Black Brant), New Bedford, December 2024

Photo: Carol Molander

Plymouth Coast

Saturday, January 24, 2026, 8:00AM – morning

Brian Vigorito: (339) 235-8291, bmvig21@gmail.com

Meet: Ellenville Harbor State Park, outer parking lot near Rte. 3A, 1861 State Road, Plymouth

We'll explore the coast of Plymouth looking for waterfowl, gulls, and alcids. Locations include Shifting Lots Preserve, Manomet Point, Plymouth Beach, and downtown Plymouth.

Scituate to Plymouth

Sunday, February 1, 2026, 7:30AM

Glenn d'Entremont: (781) 344-5857

gdentremont1@comcast.net

Meeting place: Stop & Shop parking lot, Rte. 139 at Rte. 3, Pembroke.

A full day of exploring, starting with the thickets of Marshfield, then the coast from Scituate south to Plymouth to check out the ponds for wintering ducks, perhaps ending the day looking for owls. 70 species are possible. *This trip is co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club.



Hull

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 8:00 AM morning
Paul Fitzgerald: (781) 749-9712,
pfitzgerald17@verizon.net
Meet: Dunkin Donuts at 1 Bay Street in Hull.

A search for sea ducks, possibly Black Guillemot, and lingering/wintering land birds should make for an enjoyable trip.

Nut Island and Quincy Points

Saturday, February 14, 2026, 7:30 AM
Dan O'Brien: (781) 351-9444,
danielkobrien107@gmail.com

Meet: Nut Island parking lot (at the end of the road before the pier), Island Ave., Quincy (Hough's Neck)

We'll start at Nut Island, scoping for seaducks like Long-tailed Duck and Common Eider (in 2024 we had a King Eider!). If the weather is calm, we might get to witness eiders performing their unique courtship displays as they're generally close to shore when it's calm here. We'll then visit Passanageset Park and/or Wollaston Beach and Squantum, and be on the lookout for other wintering visitors including grebes, loons, scoters, and various gull species.

Fairhaven

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 8:00AM
Glenn d'Entremont: (781) 344-5857,
gdentremont1@comcast.net
Meeting place: McDonald's at the intersection of Rte. 6 (aka Huttleston Ave.) and Alden Rd. in Fairhaven, 14 Plaza Way (near Staples).

Explore the thickets and bays of Fairhaven. At this date we could see the beginnings of spring migration, as blackbirds should be back on the south coast of Massachusetts.



American Herring Gull with Tautog fish, Barnegat Lighthouse, NJ, February 2025
Photo: Dan O'Brien



Ferruginous Hawk, Morris Island, January 2025
Photo: Josh Bock



Snow Buntings, Salisbury SP, January 2021
Photo: Brian Vigorito

SOUTH SHORE BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Everyone interested in birds and wildlife is welcome to join the South Shore Bird Club by completing the form below with your name and email. Membership dues are **\$10 per household for 2025, increasing to \$15 for 2026**, but if you aren't able to contribute at this time, that's OK. Starting in 2025 we also have a **Lifetime Membership option - a one-time \$200 payment**. Additional contributions are welcome but please note that contributions are not tax-deductible. If you're not sure about the status of your dues payment, contact Pat Donahue at donahuep@msn.com

Checks payable to: South Shore Bird Club

Mail to: South Shore Bird Club c/o Pat Donahue, 30 Whaler Ln, Quincy, MA 02171

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal Membership

☐ Lifetime Membership - \$200

☐ Added Contribution \$ _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

☐ For continuing members please check if this is a new email.

Please make sure your email address is correct as SSBC newsletters are sent electronically.

****Thanks for your membership with SSBC!****

SSBC Google Group: Members are encouraged to join this web-based site, where impromptu birding trips are listed and bird-related updates and discussions are posted. Contact Brian to join.

Field Trips: Our outings try to acquaint birders with local birding areas and share the pleasures of finding and identifying birds throughout the year. The club takes pride in introducing new birders to the wonders of nature. The leader may cancel a trip due to unsafe weather conditions. Call the leader the night before if the forecast is for bad weather.

CLUB OFFICERS, 2024/2025

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978-682-9553



Please check the SSBC website for updates or weather cancellations before trips.

<https://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc>