



# South Shore Bird Club

## of Massachusetts

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since 1946

### President's Message

#### Transitions

When I was young, I would look at adults and assume that's who and what they are and nothing changes. I thought adults went to work in the morning, came home, went to bed, and woke up to do the same thing the next day. The older I get the more I have come to terms that life is never static. Life is busy, fluid, and forever-changing. There is always the end of something on the horizon, but by the time that comes something else comes in to take its place.

The same can be said about nature and birding. Winter gives way to spring which transitions to summer, then transcends into fall and we repeat the cycle again. Looking through a finer lens, though, there are changes almost constantly. Spring starts with blackbirds, followed by ducks, then all hell breaks loose when the warblers move through. The "breeding season" is the heat of the year where some birders put their binoculars down until "fall migration." But spring migration typically doesn't end until after the second week of June, and there are only about two weeks where bird song peaks until swifts, swallows, starlings, robins and blackbirds begin once again to utilize roosts. There's post-breeding dispersal of orioles and night-herons, shorebird migration after that, passerines following in waves, and as it gets colder we look for semi-hardies on Christmas Bird Counts and then first-of-years in January.

And then there's February....

But sometimes by slowing down we get the most satisfaction and make our own little discoveries: watching a Song Sparrow continuously grab bugs and hop into a bush, a robin grab way more worms in its bill than should be physically possible, noticing crows or blackbirds all heading in the same direction at dusk and trying to track down a roost. There are infinite "ornithological discoveries" to be made near and far, whether on a large scale involving migration or on a small scale like finding nests in the back yard. There are even some unexpected finds, like an Eastern Kingbird, a Tropical Kingbird, and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher all in the same tree! Life travels by fast, but one of the best aspects of nature is to be able to slow down, soak it in, and enjoy.

Nate

Nate Marchessault

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

[southshorebirdclub@hotmail.com](mailto:southshorebirdclub@hotmail.com)

<http://southshorebirdclubma.blogspot.com/>

# Field Trips

## **Plymouth Beach for Shorebirds**

Monday, September 9, 2019, 7:00AM

Lisa Schibley: lschibley@manomet.org

Meet: North end of Plymouth Beach Parking Lot off of Rte. 3A (Warren Ave)

Join Lisa to celebrate World Shorebirds Day! We will drive to the parking spaces just before the crossover, then walk to the point. The goal will be to scope roosting shorebirds on the beach at high tide (8:48), then watch the tide recede and see what comes into the exposed flats. After, we will complete the circuit around the point to find birds on the bayside. This trip is limited to 6 passengers unless we find another birder with an all-wheel-drive available to drive down Ryder Way. Please contact Lisa with interest.

## **Waders at Dusk Part 1**

Thursday, September 12, 2019, 5:30PM

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346, natemarchessault@gmail.com

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

This is the time of year when significant numbers of waders are moving through. We will spend the sunset watching the exchange of herons and egrets flying to roost and night-herons heading out to feed at Hemenway Landing.

## **Medfield & Dover**

Saturday, September 14, 2019, 7:30AM morning

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

Meet: Dunkin' Donuts, 563 Main St., Medfield

Spend the morning searching for migrants, with a focus on sparrows. We will comb through the Medfield State Hospital/McCarthy Park and Powisset Farm - both under-birded locations. In previous years these locations have held specialties including: Connecticut Warbler, Vesper, Clay-colored, and White-crowned Sparrows.

## **Waders at Dusk Part 2**

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 5:30PM

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346, natemarchessault@gmail.com

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

This is the time of year when significant numbers of waders are moving through. We will head to Orenda (Pogorelc) Wildlife Sanctuary to watch as herons and egrets fly into trees to roost, accompanying the night-herons that have spent the day there.

## **Fall Roundup**

Saturday, September 21, 2019

Christine Whitebread: 617-395-8006, standch@hotmail.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! Meet afterwards at the South Shore Sanctuaries office in North Marshfield for pizza and to tally with the other teams. Please contact coordinator for areas to cover and to join a team.



**Dovekie, Provincetown, January, 2018**

## **Turkey Hill, Hingham**

Saturday, September 28, 2019, 8:00AM, morning only

Sally Avery: 781-383-6043, dandsavery@comcast.net

Meet: Rte. 3A entrance to Trustees of Reservations, Turkey Hill

A morning walk through diverse habitat in search of migrants.

## **Cumberland Farm Fields, Halifax/Middleborough**

Sunday, September 29, 2019, 7:30AM, morning only

Pete Jacobsen: 508-208-4702, ejake4@aol.com & Nate Marchessault, natemarchessault@gmail.com

Meet: Large Sycamore tree on Rte. 105 (near 104 Thompson St.), Middleborough

Sparrows, warblers, if we're lucky a Dickcissel or Blue Grosbeak. This is a moderate walk through the cornfields and thickets. Rubber boots are highly recommended.

**Ocean Exploration Cruise Fundraiser with New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance (NECWA)**

Sunday, September 29, 2019, 7:00AM-1:00PM

Meet: Aboard the Privateer IV, Gloucester

Join NECWA staff and interns for a morning of viewing marine wildlife offshore. Our mission is to view and document the seabirds, whales, seals, sharks, and other marine wildlife in these areas. Guest naturalists include: Wayne Petersen (Mass Audubon), David Clapp (Natural History Services), Jim Sweeney (South Shore Bird Club), Thomas Robben (Hartford Audubon Society), and the NECWA crew. To learn more or to register for this exciting trip visit: [http://necwa.org/necwa\\_events.html](http://necwa.org/necwa_events.html)

**Outer Cape Cod**

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 6:00AM

Glenn d'Entremont: 781-344-5857, [gdentremont1@comcast.net](mailto:gdentremont1@comcast.net)

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

We will car pool 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!



**LeConte's Sparrow, Lakeville, January, 2019**

**Carver**

Sunday, October 6, 2019, 8:00AM

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

Meet: Dunkin' Donuts, 2 Montello St., Carver, near intersection of Rte. 44 & 58

Explore some lesser known, but very productive birding spots in Carver. We'll meet up with our knowledgeable, local guide and could visit places like the Carver Wastelands and Atwood Reservoir.

**Sneaky, Streaky, Brown Jobs-A Workshop on Sparrows**

Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 6:00-8:00PM

Presented by: Wayne R. Petersen,

[wpetersen@massaudubon.org](mailto:wpetersen@massaudubon.org)

Meet: Wildlands Trust, 675 Long Pond Rd., Plymouth

Sparrows constitute one of the most challenging groups of birds regularly encountered by Massachusetts birders. They often occur seasonally in large numbers in weed fields, garden plots, salt marshes, in thickets along woodland edges, and at winter bird feeders. Their conservative plumage and furtive habits make them both challenging to locate and to identify. Fortunately some of their songs are among the richest in the bird world. The emphasis of this program will be on providing participants with a general understanding of the habitats that sparrows prefer, the status of different sparrows in Massachusetts, and how to distinguish different species when they are encountered in the field. Field trips on Sunday, October 13th to Cumberland Farm Fields and the Marsh Stomp on Saturday, October 12th will give participants a chance to test identification techniques presented during the lecture.

**Marsh Stomp**

Saturday, October 12, 2019, 6:30AM

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346, [natemarchessault@gmail.com](mailto:natemarchessault@gmail.com)

Meet: Target Plaza, 44 Tobey Rd., Wareham

Let's spend the day working our way down Buzzards Bay in search of any marsh birds that may be using the area as a stopover site. Bitterns, rails, and Saltmarsh, Nelson's, and Seaside Sparrows are possible. Waterproof/knee-high boots recommended.

**Cumberland Farm Fields, Halifax/Middleborough**

Sunday, October 13, 2019, 7:30AM, morning only

Pete Jacobsen: 508-208-4702, [ejake4@aol.com](mailto:ejake4@aol.com) & Nate Marchessault, [natemarchessault@gmail.com](mailto:natemarchessault@gmail.com)

Meet: Large Sycamore tree on Rte. 105 (near 104 Thompson St.), Middleborough

This is a moderate walk through cornfields and thickets to look for sparrows, warblers, if we're lucky a Dickcissel or Blue Grosbeak. Rubber boots are highly recommended.

**Bare Cove Park, Hingham**

Monday, October 14, 2019, 8:00AM, morning only

Kathy Rawdon: 617-605-3773, [rawdonk@comcast.net](mailto:rawdonk@comcast.net)

Meet: Entrance to Bare Cove Park across from the West Hingham Greenbush Station on Fort Hill St.- drive in about .5 miles to parking lot

Several mile walk looking for late migrants. This park is close to the ocean and could have some surprises.



### **Squantum & Passanageset Park, Quincy**

Sunday, October 20, 2019, 8:00AM

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 lingering migrants and newly arriving wintering birds in Squantum. Next, explore the open, weedy/grassland habitat of Passanageset Park for sparrows.

### **Plymouth Coast**

Saturday, October 26, 2019, 8:00AM, morning only

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

Meet: Ellisville Harbor State Park (1861 State Rd., Plymouth) - Follow Rt. 3A north approx. 2 mi. from exit 2  
Spend the morning scouring the beaches and coastal ponds of Plymouth, including Ellisville Harbor State Park, Shifting Lots Preserve, Manomet Point, and Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary. We will look for sparrows, shorebirds, waterfowl, and any interesting rarities in the area.

### **Newburyport and Vicinity**

Saturday, November 9, 2019, 8:00AM

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

Meet: Lot 1 parking area, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newburyport  
Expect to find late migrants, wintering ducks and raptors.

### **Outer Cape, Collaborative Walk with Cape Cod Bird Club**

Sunday, November 10, 2019, 7:00AM

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346

natemarchessault@gmail.com & Mary Jo Foti: maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Meet: Commuter lot behind McDonald's, intersection of Rte. 3 & 6, Scusset Rd exit, Sagamore  
Early November has potential for a great diversity of seabirds and waterfowl on the Cape. We'll join up with the Cape Cod Bird Club to see how many geese, ducks, grebes, jaegers, alcids, gulls, terns, shearwaters, and Pelecaniformes we can come up with!

### **Annual Plymouth County Duck Count**

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Joe Scott: joescottbsn@hotmail.com

Let's fan out and count all the ducks in Plymouth County's 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 Christmas Bird Counts and the Fall Roundup. Contact Joe by email no later than Nov. 13th so you can be assigned to a team and given a place to meet on Saturday.

### **Leader's Choice - South of Boston**

Saturday, November 30, 2019

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. 20th.



**Northern Pintail, Rockport, February, 2018**

### **Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Rhode Island-A Walk In Remembrance of Patty O'Neill**

Sunday, December 1, 2019, 8:00AM

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346, natemarchessault@gmail.com

Meet: Sachuest Point NWR parking lot (769 Sachuest Point Rd.), Middletown, RI

Please join us on this walk which Patty was intending to lead, held in her honor and remembrance.

### **Christmas Bird Count**

Please consider helping out with these annual counts. More people are always needed.

### **Quincy Christmas Bird Count**

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Glenn d'Entremont: (781) 344-5857, gdentremont1@comcast.net

### **Taunton/Middleborough Christmas Bird Count**

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Jim Sweeney: 401-465-6668, assawompsett@yahoo.com

### **Marshfield Christmas Bird Count**

Sue MacCallum: (781) 837-9400, smacallum@massaudubon.org

Call for an exact date.

### **Plymouth Christmas Bird Count**

Trevor Lloyd-Evans: (508) 224-6521, tlloyd-evans@manomet.org

Call for an exact date.



### **SSBC Throwbacks: Buzzards Bay - The Betty Anderson Walk**

Saturday, January 4, 2020, 8:00AM

Nate Marchessault: 508-304-3346, natemarchessault@gmail.com

Meet: Buzzards Bay Recreation Area (at Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge), Canal St., Wareham

We will explore the Cape Cod Canal, Wareham, and Marion tracing the steps of this long-held tradition by Betty Anderson.

### **Interior Plymouth County**

Sunday, January 5, 2020, 8:00AM

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

Meet: 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 Middleborough and Bridgewater and search for any rarities found on the recent Christmas Bird Count.

### **Sea Birds in Winter- A Workshop**

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 6:00-8:00 PM

Presented by: Wayne R. Petersen, wpetersen@massaudubon.org

Meet: Wildlands Trust, 675 Long Pond Rd., Plymouth  
Winter seabirds include a rich assortment of waterbird species ranging from sea ducks, loons, and gulls, to fulmars, gannets, and alcids. Chilling winds, stormy seas, and blinding precipitation can sometimes make seabird identification challenging, and glare and lighting conditions can often distort viewing clarity. Despite these characteristics winter sea birding can be exciting and often rewarding, and the hardships of finding and viewing winter seabirds are often offset by the opportunity of seeing a variety of boreal species seldom found at any other time of the year. This workshop will focus on the characteristics of different groups of seabirds – their adaptations, breeding and feeding behaviors, the identification and status of species occurring in Massachusetts, and some of the conservation issues associated with seabirds. The Death March on January 11 will focus on finding and viewing a variety of seabird species described in the lecture.

### **Death March**

Saturday, January 11th, 2020, 8:00AM

Wayne Petersen: (781) 534-2046, wpetersen@massaudubon.org

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.

### **Plum Island & vicinity**

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 8:30AM

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

Meet: Lot 1 parking area, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Newburyport

Expect to find wintering ducks and raptors.

### **Annual Meeting and Potluck - Bridgewater**

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Meet: 50 School Street, Bridgewater (First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church)

All are welcome to join our open planning meeting @ 5PM, potluck supper @ 6PM and annual meeting @ 7:15PM, followed by guest speaker Brad Winn, director, Shorebird Habitat Management, Manomet.

### **Lawrence Crow Roost**

Saturday, January 25, 2020, late afternoon until dusk

Dana & Bob Fox: 978-886-2330, danafox@comcast.net

Contact leader for details.

### **North Quabbin**

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Ernie LeBlanc: (978) 249-4064, lebroyal@aol.com

Ernie will scout and the trip will go to places in the North Quabbin area with the most potential. We will look for wintering birds, hopefully including winter finches. Call for meeting place and time.

### **Hull**

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8:00 AM, morning only

Paul Fitzgerald: (781) 749-9712, pfitzgerald17@verizon.net

Meet: Dunkin' Donuts at 1 Bay Street, Hull

A search for sea ducks, possibly Black Guillemot and wintering land birds including Horned Lark should make this trip enjoyable.

### **Scituate to Plymouth**

Sunday, February 9, 2020, 7:30AM

Glenn d'Entremont: (781) 344-5857, gdentremont1@comcast.net

Meet: 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.



**Snowy Owl, Duxbury Beach, January, 2018**

### Mid-Cape Cod

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 8:00AM  
Brian Vigorito: 339-235-8291, bmvig21@gmail.com  
Meet: Commuter lot behind McDonald's at intersection of  
Rte. 3 & 6, Scusset Rd exit, Sagamore  
We will spend the day exploring the mid-Cape Cod area.  
Locations include: Craigville Beach, Bell's Neck  
Conservation Area, Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary and  
Sandy Neck Beach. We will look for gulls, sea ducks and  
any recent rarities seen in this area.



**Common Ringed Plover, Westport, September, 2017**

### Cape Ann

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 8:00AM morning  
Amy O'Neill & Liam Waters: (781) 793-9145,  
amyeau@gmail.com, youngeaglewaters@gmail.com  
Meet: Jodrey State Fish Pier, Parker St. Gloucester  
Join us as we search for the wintering birds of Cape  
Ann, including gulls, alcids, and sea ducks. If there are  
any rarities around efforts will be made to find them. We  
will explore Cape Ann, stopping at both known and  
poorly known birding locations.

### Fairhaven

Sunday, February 23, 2020, 8:00AM  
Carolyn Longworth: 508-992-5342,  
bvm1290@comcast.net &  
Glenn d'Entremont: 781-344-5857,  
gdentremont1@comcast.net  
Meet: McDonald's at intersection of Rte. 6 (aka  
Huttleston Ave.) and Alden Rd., Fairhaven, 14 Plaza  
Way (near Staples)  
Explore the thickets and bays of Fairhaven. We could  
see the beginnings of spring migration, as blackbirds  
should be back on the south coast of Massachusetts.

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## South Shore Bird Club Membership Form

Annual Membership for Jan-Dec is \$10 per household. If you are unsure if you have paid your 2019 dues, contact Sally Avery at [dandsavery@comcast.net](mailto:dandsavery@comcast.net). 2020 dues appreciated in January.

Payable to: South Shore Bird Club  
Mail to: South Shore Bird Club Membership  
22 Surrey Drive  
Cohasset, MA 02025

\_\_\_\_\_ New Membership                      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*South Shore Bird Club Membership:* Everyone interested in birds and wildlife is welcome to join the club. Annual dues are \$10.00 per address, payable to the secretary/treasurer in January. Please include address, zip code and email. Membership will terminate if dues are not paid by July 1.

*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.

*Field Trip Program:* An integral part of our outings is to acquaint birders with local birding areas and share the pleasures of finding and identifying birds throughout the year. The club also takes considerable pride in introducing new birders to the wonders of nature.

*To Participate in a Field Trip:* Check the trip schedule for where and when to meet. Trips are all day unless noted, so bring a lunch. Please notify the leader if you plan to leave early. Guests are invited to accompany members or to come on their own to both trips and meetings.

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#### **CLUB OFFICERS, 2019**

Nate Marchessault, President  
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Falmouth, MA 02536  
508-304-3346  
[natemarchessault@gmail.com](mailto:natemarchessault@gmail.com)

Vin Zollo, Field Trip Coordinator  
1219 Washington St., Walpole, MA 02081  
508-641-2523  
[vzollo1@yahoo.com](mailto:vzollo1@yahoo.com)

Sally and Dick Avery, Secretary/Treasurer  
22 Surrey Drive, Cohasset, MA 02025  
781-383-6043  
[dandsavery@comcast.net](mailto:dandsavery@comcast.net)

Robert P. Fox, Recorder  
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***Photos by Brian Vigorito***

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**South Shore Bird Club**

**22 Surrey Drive  
Cohasset, MA 02025**

**Please check the SSBC Homepage for updates and/  
or weather-related cancellations before trips.**  
<http://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc>