



South Shore Bird Club

of Massachusetts

since 1946

President's Message

Spring Fever!

You open your eyes. Darkness. Silent. You look at the clock. Way earlier than any normal human has any desire to wake up. But this, this is what you live for. "As quick and easy as possible" is served for breakfast as you get yourself out the door. Between the car and the door Carolina Wrens and Chipping Sparrows are singing their predawn songs. Barely enough light to see, the slight chill in the air makes the warm weather later that much more satisfying. You know it's going to be a killer day of birding.

There are few things more enjoyable to the birder than the early morning excursion in spring and summer, when bird song and activity is at its peak. During the morning this message is being written, the nostalgia of this happening again builds. With the longer days and winter coming to a close the Song Sparrows, Carolina Wrens, chickadees, titmice, and cardinals are all practicing their solos for when the time comes to attract a mate and defend their territories. In a way, they're telling us that spring's not too far from now.

And while the bird songs during this early time of year are always a treat, you know that this is just an appetizer for what is to come. Though it happens every year, the nostalgia and excitement never fail. That thrill of seeing the first Osprey cannonball to grab a herring or hearing "Sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet" from within a thicket that leads to you tracking down your first Yellow Warbler never goes away.

As birders and naturalists, we're extremely lucky in that we have so many instances of this throughout the year by default. Nature is just doing its thing and we have the privilege of watching and being able to appreciate it. And personally, I think that's pretty awesome.

Best,

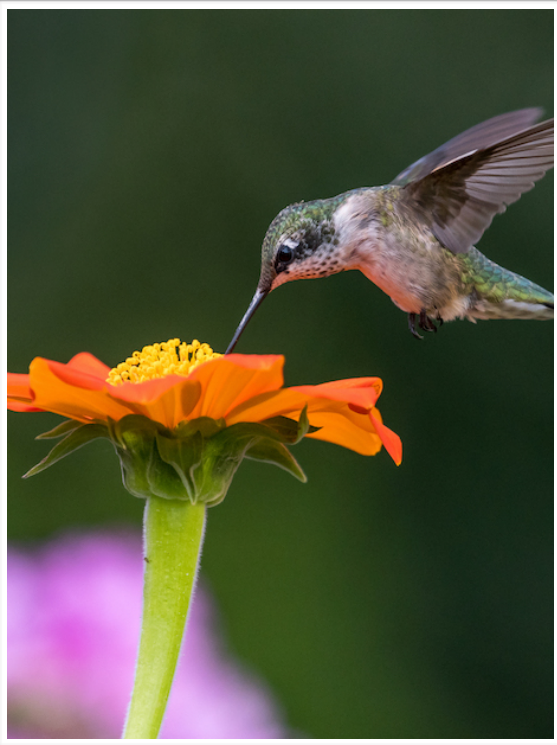
Nate

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



**Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Foss Woods,
Provincetown, May, 2020
Photo: Jim Sweeney**

Field Trips & Events



Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Mexican Sunflower, Hull, August, 2019

Photo: Sally Chisholm

Mass Audubon's Birders Meeting

March 7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th
(7:30 PM each night)

This year the Birders Meeting is going virtual! And, in light of the situation, the topic is on PATCH BIRDING! Come learn strategies on birding your patches from experts so you can beef up that patch list!

More information and how to sign up can be found here: <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/activities/birding/birders-meeting>



Pine Warbler, Nasketucket Bay State Reservation, Mattapoisett, May, 2020
Photo: Carol Molander

iNaturalist City Nature Challenge

Saturday, May 1, 2021

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

Each Spring, iNaturalist hosts an annual event known as the City Nature Challenge. This is essentially a bioblitz, with a goal of observing and identifying as many species as possible in and around urban areas. One of the competing regions is the Greater Boston Area, which includes most of eastern Massachusetts. We can participate by observing birds, reptiles, mammals, plants, insects, fungi, or any other organisms at some of our favorite south shore locations. Anyone unable to get out into the field that day can also help us by identifying photos taken by SSBC members or other participants.

Details to be announced closer to the event date. Brian will also be doing a presentation via Zoom on April 22, 2021 to go over the basics of how to use iNaturalist.

Mass Audubon's Bird-a-thon

Friday May 14th at 6:00PM to Saturday May 15th at 6:00PM

Year 2 of what has been dubbed by Mass Audubon "Bird-at-home-a-thon" will again feature birding in family groups only and carbon-free (bike and hike only). Dust off your hiking boots, oil your bike chain, and help Mass Audubon out during their largest annual fundraiser! More information and how to join a team can be found here: <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/activities/birding/bird-a-thon>

Hockomock Breeding Bird Survey

June 19th, 5 AM - 12 PM

Nate Marchessault, 508-304-3346

natemarchessault@gmail.com and

Pete Jacobson, ejake4@aol.com

The Hockomock Swamp is a place of eternal mystery. A huge area with many parts generally under-birded, historical reports have included many interesting breeders like King Rail, Black-throated Green and Canada Warblers. Let's see what we can dig up, and keep an eye out for Pukwudgies! In socially-distant fashion, each family/social pod/participant will be assigned an area to cover. Please sign up via our Events page prior to June 12th so we can allocate territories.



**American Bittern, Egypt Lane Ponds, Fairhaven
May, 2020**

Photo: Moe Molander

Myles Standish State Forest

Breeding Bird Survey with Manomet

June 26th and 27th (rain dates July 3rd and 4th)

5 AM - 12 PM

Nate Marchessault, 508-304-3346

natemarchessault@gmail.com

We are collaborating with Manomet to evaluate the status of breeding birds within the State Forest to see both what is utilizing the area as well as how these numbers have changed over time as a result of forest regrowth along with the DCR's management practices. In socially-distant fashion, each family/social pod/participant will be assigned an area to cover. Note that this survey is being run over two days and there will be separate event sign ups for each day (feel free to sign up for either or both!).

Please sign up via our Events page prior to June 19th so we can divide up the birding locations.

Wompatuck State Park

Breeding Bird Survey

July 3rd, 5 AM - 12 PM

Nate Marchessault, 508-304-3346

natemarchessault@gmail.com

Formally the Hingham Naval Ammunition Depot Annex, this massive parcel of relatively contiguous forest is now stockpiled with breeding birds and other critters. Some of the notable species include Winter Wren, Pileated Woodpeckers, Worm-eating Warblers, and Ruffed Grouse. Let's spread out and tally every bird in the State Park! In socially-distant fashion, each family/social pod/participant will be assigned an area to cover.

Please sign up via our Events page prior to June 26th so we can allocate territories accordingly.

Continuing Nature and Birding-based Zoom Presentations

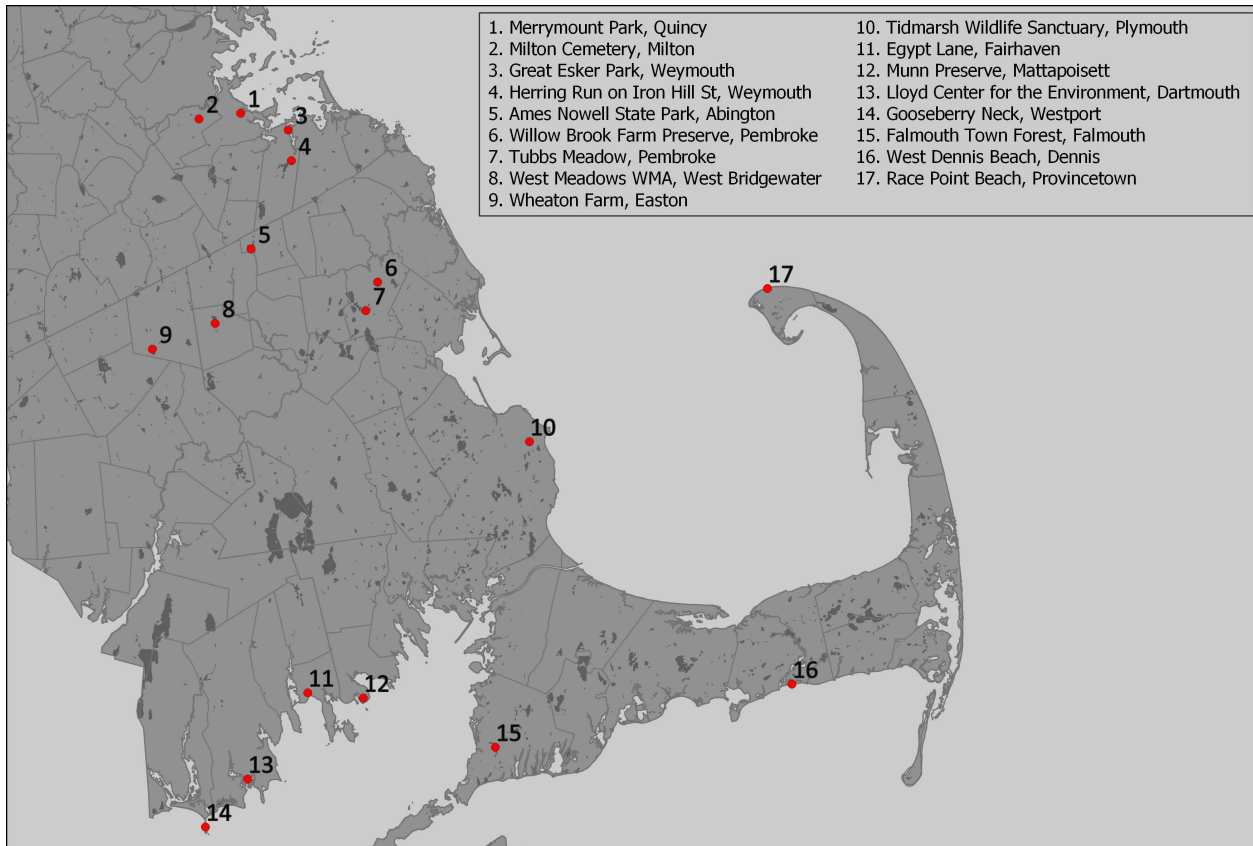
Bring your curiosity and knowledge, come learn and share

Register on our Events page:

(<https://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc/events>)

Birding Hotspots

Below are several birding locations throughout southeastern Massachusetts that can be productive in spring and summer, organized north to south, and a few on Cape Cod. GPS coordinates can be copied and pasted into Google Maps for directions to parking areas.



1. Merrymount Park, Quincy

Parking: Park either at the Fenno Street tennis courts (42.264232, -71.012590) and enter through the gate on the paved road or the parking area off Southern Artery at Mitchell McCoy field (42.262431, -71.009024) and walk up the hill.

Check the edges of the ball fields for Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrows. If coming from Fenno Street, stay on the paved road as the sun will hit the trees on the hillside and one can watch birds feeding on the top and edges of the oak trees. Then work the interior. Check the kettles especially if filled with water; birds come in to drink and bathe. Merrymount Park in Quincy is what appears to be a glacier esker landscape which runs roughly southeast to northwest. It is inland from Wollaston Beach and is the green spot amongst the sea of humanity which is Wollaston. The major feature of the park is its tall oaks which in middle to late May are in full "bloom" and attract migrants. The area is well used and is best birded a little later than the actual coast so around 8:00 or 9:00 is OK. Check the undergrowth for thrushes, the tops of the dead(er) trees can have Olive-sided Flycatchers, and the oaks can have just about anything: empids, warblers, vireos, sparrows, tanagers, orioles, cuckoos etc. It sometimes has birds when other areas are barren. Tennessee, Bay-breasted and Cape May are regular during the height of migration. Best time of year: Spring migration

Written by Glenn d'Entremont

2. Milton Cemetery, Milton

Parking: Pull in the front gate off Centre Street (42.256648, -71.067951) or park at the "back door" off Gun Hill Street which is off Randolph Street (42.251729, -71.065324).

Milton Cemetery is a migrant place rivaling Mt Auburn and Forest Hill's cemeteries. It has mighty oaks and pretty tall evergreens, a couple of ponds and a wooded strip between the cemetery and Gun Hill Road. There used to be a wooded pond in the northeast sector, but Google Earth is showing that has been sanitized, although it appears the very northeast section still could be a haven for thrushes and skulkers.

Best time of year: The area is good from mid-April through May. Orioles, Indigo Buntings, warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, sparrows, etc. With the pond, Green Heron, the occasional night-heron, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers are possible.

Written by Glenn d'Entremont

3. Great Esker Park, Weymouth

Parking: Free parking year round at 4 locations (off Rt. 3A, off Elva Rd., off Puritan Ave, Osprey Overlook Park lot). In my opinion Elva Rd. (42.236444, -70.931514) is quickest to the best areas.

Highlights include geologic features and scenery: eskers (glacial ridges) running N/S along the west side of scenic Back River, which is a tidal river. Top of "Great Esker" is paved the entire length of the park, passing through a narrow forested corridor. Many trails traverse other smaller eskers, moderate difficulty at times with leaf litter, snow, and ice. The herring run in Back River in March/April/May can attract large numbers of cormorants, gulls, and ducks.

Thicket area at trail junction at 42.240127, -70.932203 can be good for migrant songbirds in spring. Decent diversity of ducks found in fall/winter, including small numbers of "sea ducks" slightly inland.

Bird specialties: breeding Brown Thrashers, cormorants, egrets, multiple Osprey platforms.

Best time of year: spring and early fall

Written by Dan O'Brien

4. Herring Run on Iron Hill St., Weymouth

Parking: By open area on Iron Hill St., Weymouth (42.212858, -70.926526)

Herring start running in late April. Black-crowned and possibly Yellow-crowned Night Herons come in around 7 PM to this fish ladder adjacent to Whitman's pond. They fill up the trees over the ladder, are seen in the stream adjacent to the ladder and if you follow the water you will see an old stone house across from the ladder that has a stream to the left of it where they all congregate. This is a business but there is a sign where you can look down to stream. I have counted 27 herons at a time and you can watch them coming in and grabbing the herring through the month of May.

Best time of year: Late April- May

Written by Kathy Rawdon

5. Ames Nowell State Park, Abington

Parking: Free parking year round in the large parking lot at the end of Linwood St. in Abington (42.116011, -70.975602).

Two main habitat types: mature forest on east side of pond, younger forest with power line corridor running through on the west side. On the east side, two main trails run N/S along the pond, which form a 2 mile loop. Beware of many roots and rocks on the trail along the pond's eastern edge.

On the other side, the trail that starts by the bridge by the dam leads to a small boardwalk in a small bog (head straight/right at the junction just past the huge outcropping), and beyond that to a power line corridor. Corridor is used by ATV'ers, especially on weekends, but visibility with low vegetation levels means they're easy to avoid. Trails can be muddy after rain, but there are detours around most trouble spots. The two major trails don't form a loop around the entire pond, so you'll have to double back to visit both areas.

Bird specialties: Blue-winged Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Black-billed Cuckoo, and large numbers of Eastern Towhees in and around the power line corridor. Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks possible at north end of pond (visible from east side trails), mainly in fall. Additionally there are good numbers of common and uncommon Dragonflies, Butterflies, and Moths, especially in the boardwalk bog area.

Best time of year: Apr-June, Sept-Nov

Written by: Dan O'Brien



Camouflaged Least Tern Eggs, Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, Dartmouth, June, 2020

Photo: Carol Molander

6. Willow Brook Farm Preserve, Pembroke

Parking: 99 Barker St, Pembroke (42.081660, -70.795722)

Owned by Wildlands Trust, this former farm has about 3 miles of flat, easy trails that pass through fields, thickets, and forest. It also includes an observation tower looking out on a freshwater tidal marsh. See <https://wildlandstrust.org/willow-brook-farm> for a trail map.

Best time of year: May-June. In May, this area attracts a variety of songbird migrants. Breeding species here include Blue-winged Warbler, Scarlet Tanager and Veery. In March or April, the main field is also a good place to look for displaying American Woodcocks at dawn or dusk. For more information on birding the area, refer to my Where to Go Birding article on birding Pembroke in the April 2021 issue of Bird Observer.

Written by Brian Vigorito

7. Tubbs Meadow, Pembroke

Parking: 139 Monroe St, Pembroke (42.042295, -70.809546)

This area is made up of former cranberry bogs and has about 2 miles of broad, flat trails. Some of the bogs here are completely flooded and are now small ponds, while others have begun to return to forest. The dikes here are just wide enough to have a single row of trees and shrubs on either side of the trail, which makes it easy to spot birds up close and in the open. See <http://southshoretrails.com/tubbsmeadow/> for a trail map.

Best time of year: April-May. In early spring, look for dabbling ducks and herons in and around the ponds, as well as blackbirds and other early migrants. In May, look for orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and warblers. This area can also be good in late summer. The ponds start to dry up, leaving exposed mudflats for inland shorebirds.

For more information on birding the area, refer to my Where to Go Birding article on birding Pembroke in the April 2021 issue of Bird Observer.

Written By Brian Vigorito

8. West Meadows WMA, West Bridgewater

Parking: At the end of Spring Street in West Bridgewater (42.034902, -71.035840)

West Meadows Wildlife Management Area was created by damming West Meadow Brook, creating a freshwater impoundment; this WMA is part of the Hockomock Swamp Important Bird Area (IBA) and is mainly birded by scoping north from the dike. All manner of water birds can be seen here, generally at a fair distance. The woods and thickets are fun for general birding and a decent local place for migration. Perhaps the real “fame” of West Meadows is the large cattail marsh at the north end. While there is no opportunity for a land based exploration of the marsh, the intrepid birder may find a kayak trip to the marsh’s edge a worthwhile, albeit challenging trip. Most marsh breeding birds have been recorded here including marsh wrens, rails and bitterns. Perhaps the best part of birding West Meadows is a chance to see the ecological wonder that is the Hockomock Swamp.

Best time of year: spring and summer, late summer can be tough for kayaking/canoeing with dense aquatic vegetation and low water levels.

Written by Pete Jacobson

9. Wheaton Farm, Easton

Parking: On the west side of Bay Road south of the junction with Prospect St. in Easton (42.006013, -71.120772)

Wheaton Farm is a conservation area in the town of Easton. The area has a 2.5 mile loop trail that traverses a variety of habitats including pine/oak woodland, Red Maple swamp, ponds (and marsh), streams, and several small fields. In addition, there is a community garden near the main parking lot on Bay Road. The area is also contiguous with several other smaller conservation areas and all can be accessed by a network of trails starting at the main parking lot.

Birding at Wheaton Farm is most productive from late summer through fall, but it is worth a visit during the spring migration and breeding season too. The community garden hosts a diversity of sparrows and weedy field migrants in the fall. The adjacent agricultural fields can be productive. The water level at the pond near the parking area is low some years and shorebirds can be abundant here when conditions are optimal. A scope is required since most of the shorebirds are too far away to be observed from the main trail. The best way to access the shorebirds is to walk the trail on the eastern shore of the southern portion of Ward Pond until you reach a fence and an unobstructed view of the flats.

Some noteworthy species that have been observed at this location include Louisiana Waterthrush, Pileated Woodpecker, Vesper Sparrow (possibly breeding), Little Blue Heron and Sandhill Crane. In 2002, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was discovered foraging on the muddy flats with other migrating shorebirds.

Best time of year: spring, summer, and fall

Written by Jim Sweeney



Great Egrets, Sarah Island, Hingham Harbor, June, 2020

Photo: Sally Chisholm

10. Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Plymouth

Parking: Now open at 60 Beaver Dam Road (41.916565, -70.573034)

This sanctuary is nearly 500 acres of streams, ponds, forests, and wetlands on a former cranberry bog. This landscape underwent the largest freshwater ecological restoration completed in the Northeast. From the parking, the Entrance Trail leads through an area in flux with the main pond removed and the stream reformed. It will be curious to see how the landscape develops. After a mostly pine forest, this trail dramatically opens at 0.4 miles to a field with boulders deposited by receding glaciers. At the fork, you can go low through the Meadow Trail on a short path to wetlands and the intersection of the Volunteers' Trail and Farm Road Ramble, or climb up the Ridge Trail to the overlook—maybe the highlight of any visit as you see the length of Tidmarsh to the south, so I recommend starting there. Enjoy the view, then turn left at the platform to take the Forest Trail down to Red Maple Path. Looking left, you can see the southern tip of the red maple swamp.

Head right on Red Maple Path to approach the northern tip of the original cranberry bogs. Turn left, over the bridge to Farm Road Ramble and Madar Loop where the meandering brook creates patches of water at irregular intervals. Most water is hidden behind reeds and grasses, and the ducks are seen in glimpses, but at a couple of points stand quietly since ducks will float by. At the southernmost point of the Loop, you have the best view of the rest of the sanctuary from this side of Beaver Dam Brook. Look through the innumerable swallows that call Tidmarsh home in the summer. Shortly after the loop turns north, there is a spur trail on the right to the Tidmarsh Pond overlook, advance slowly as shorebirds and ducks might flush. Continuing north from the Madar Loop after the pond, leads to an unnamed trail to the right that is an access road that is not an official trail, but birders may walk the road.

The final area is the Volunteers' Trail, which begins at the end of the Meadow Trail and goes south along the western edge of the sanctuary. The thickets on the left are good for passerines and when the trail opens up there is an excellent cattail marsh. When you reach a bench overlooking the wetlands, you have found an excellent place to sit and quietly listen for rails. As the trail continues, the diversity of passerines decreases, but the ducks start drawing attention again. For the last 0.25 mile of the Volunteers' Trail, a stretch of open water is in view, often with ducks. At the end, the Volunteers' Trail rises to give a view of what was Beaver Dam Pond and is now a cattail marsh. This is an excellent spot to scan the southern half of the property. As of 2021, there is no complete loop around Tidmarsh and visitors are requested not to cross Beaver Dam Brook anywhere other than the bridge on the Farm Road Ramble, so most of the longer hikes are out and back.

Best time of year: spring for migrants, summer for interesting breeders, and fall for ducks

Written by Lisa Schibley

11. Egypt Lane, Fairhaven

Parking: Room for one or two cars on Egypt Lane just before dike, Fairhaven, MA (41.635896, -70.891685)

A Superfund site managed by the Army Corps of Engineers that the EPA has put significant effort into restoring, Egypt Lane is lined with thickets from the parking area to the bike path and a little beyond. In the fall and spring these thickets have produced Brown Thrashers and Yellow-breasted Chats. Walking the dike on either side of Egypt Lane affords views of the saltmarsh, one of the most reliable spots around for Clapper Rail which breed here and have persisted into winter. A short walk on the dike to the west of Egypt Lane brings you near a small freshwater pond (recently named "Carolyn's Pond"!). This pond has been a productive spot for dabbling ducks, some shorebirds, and Black-crowned Night Herons. For several years Pied-billed Grebe has bred here, and the emphatic "fitz-bew!" of Willow Flycatchers hopping along the fence between the pond and dike is always a welcome treat. In the spring someone always seems to track down a Least or American Bittern within the cattails.

Best time of year: April-August

Written by Jonathan Glover

12. Munn Reserve and Vicinity, Mattapoisett

Parking: Cul-de-sac at 124 Mattapoisett Neck Road, Mattapoisett (41.630686, -70.809043)

The Munn Preserve is at the end of Mattapoisett Neck Road with a circular parking area and is an easy walk through the woods to the eastern shore of Brandt Island Cove. Along the road are warblers, flycatchers, vireos and other songbirds. Low tide is best to walk along the beach. In spring through late summer, the air is full of the calls of resident osprey. There are many nest platforms and natural nests within sight. Common and rarer Roseate Terns nest on Ram island to the east. Oystercatchers, Willets and other shorebirds are commonly seen. In late summer, Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows are in the marsh grasses.

*For visitors from the Mattapoisett Land Trust: "When visiting the Munn Preserve, please respect the privacy of our neighbors to the south at the shoreline. These small lots are privately owned and used for camping by several families whose ownership and stewardship of the land has continued for many years."

There are several stops along Mattapoisett Neck Road to view the harbor and osprey nests:

1. The Mattapoisett Town Landing/Boat Ramp (Use 20 Old Mattapoisett Neck Road, (41.647390, -70.826340)
2. The Creek and Marsh at 65 Mattapoisett Neck Road Park by the guardrail (41.646962, -70.824325)
3. Molly's Cove and Marshes at 89 Mattapoisett Neck Road. Park by the granite marker (41.643823, -70.817576)

4. Under construction, the Phoenix Bike Trail at 24 Mattapoisett Neck Road will pass over the river and Eel Pond. These will be additional observation spots.

(41.650320, -70.832255)

Best time of year: May - August

Written by Carol Molander

13. Lloyd Center for the Environment, Dartmouth

Parking: 430 Potomska Road, Dartmouth - Park on left after entering dirt driveway. (41.541145,-70.978187)

With a map that resembles a ski resort (seven color-coded trails!), this 82-acre reserve offers varied coastal birding habitat and several spots to sit and admire the views. For a 2+ mile loop, start at the feeders (above parking via dirt road), where a stream of birds will waken your senses. Listen for an owl, or wood frogs quacking from the vernal pool. Pick up the Hardscrabble Farm Loop Trail and wind down through the forest, stopping at the bird blind by a freshwater kettle hole. Scan the shores of the Slocum River Estuary and pause at the muddy cove where shorebirds, Osprey or Belted Kingfisher are likely. Continue straight to the spit and grab a seat on the now (!?) sun-warmed pier that overlooks Demarest Lloyd State Park. Chock up a few more birds before heading back, by taking a right past the open-air pavilion and up into the forest (along the Old Cart Path then right on Hardscrabble) while listening for a vireo, oriole or tanager as you approach your car.

Just before the parking, cross Potomska Road and keep left on the Lloyd Woods Trail with views over the marsh to Little River. Listen for the buzzy song of a possibly breeding Blue-winged Warbler and the more raucous call of the Willet. A secluded bench reached via a spur trail at the southern end offers a serene spot to crack open your thermos. Head back to the main driveway and pick up the West Swamp Trail on the right (across from your car) with hopes of seeing more woodland warblers. This connects to Osprey Point Trail and down to the water's edge, providing another opportunity to find that secretive marsh bird before heading back.

Best time of year: early morning, April-June, August-October

Written by Kim Wylie

14. Gooseberry Neck, Westport

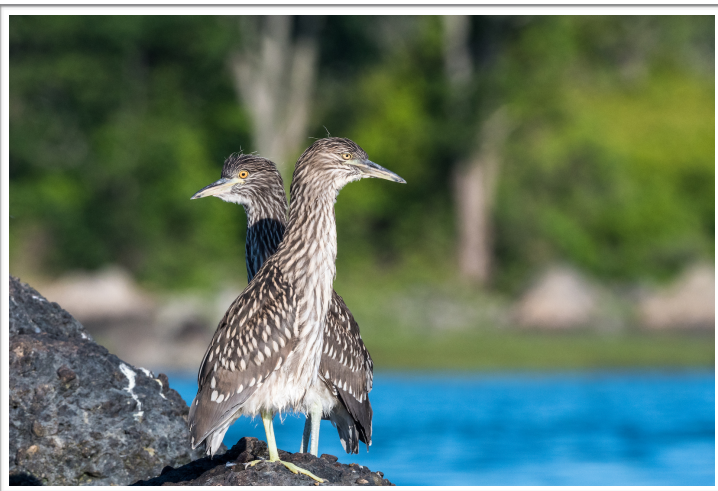
Parking: Over the causeway on Gooseberry Island: (41.494537, -71.038329)

A favorite spot of mine and for many birders on the south coast is Gooseberry Neck in Westport, part of Horseneck Beach State Reservation. Why Gooseberry? For me, there are two reasons. The first is that the island is surrounded by beautiful Buzzards Bay, which attacks all of your senses. And the second is simple-the birds! With 283 species documented on eBird, birding is great in all four seasons. In spring, as migration begins, the songbirds arrive including vireos, 35 plus species of warblers, orioles, five species of swallows. "Goose" is beautiful at sunrise as the birds fly over your head crossing the causeway after spending a night roosting in the Rosa rugosa, bayberry or sumac bushes. In summer, the Osprey circle around fishing to feed their young chicks, as a massive colony of 100 nests is close by along the Westport River. Eight species of tern show up filling the air with their calls, as summer continues with the breeding season. Gray Catbird's mews fill the air along the center one mile long trail and sandpipers can be viewed along the shoreline. The raptors: Merlin, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Turkey Vultures and Bald Eagles take advantage of the numbers of prey on the island.

I know many of us love birding at Gooseberry, too. If you are a newcomer, it is definitely a place to experience. Go early, as the parking lots fill fast, especially on warm summer days. There is free parking. Bring a scope, if you have one. If you still have more energy to bird, then Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary is close-by. I suggest having breakfast or lunch at Bayside Restaurant across the street from Allen's Pond... it's a must!

Best time of year: Spring migration

Written by Carol Molander



Immature Black-crowned Night Herons, Sarah Island, Hingham Harbor, June, 2020

Photo: Sally Chisholm

15. Falmouth Town Forest (also known as Long Pond), Falmouth

Parking: There are several parking areas, the main lot can be accessed from Route 28 or Gifford Street (41.569505, -70.607342). It is gated and if arriving early there are few spots near the gate one can park (do not block them). The northern end has an entrance that can be accessed by parking at a pulloff on Brick Kiln Rd (41.587993, -70.613385), and carefully crossing the street (the road is busy and cars drive pretty fast).

Down Route 28 headed towards Woods Hole lies a magical place, seemingly transplanted from environs off-Cape from places sufficiently distant from the other side of the bridge. It can be an OK spot to check in spring, mostly for early breeders as the area lacks any significant migrant trap characteristics or the sheer volume of migrants like in areas west of the bridge. The breeding season, however, is when this location shines. This area hosts breeding species rare in Eastern Massachusetts such as Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Parula and not just one but several pairs each of Worm-eating Warblers and Golden-crowned Kinglets, as well as species that are rare breeders on Cape such as Wood Thrushes, Warbling Vireos, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (as a Cape Codder these are now a treat to run into!). The walk around the Long Pond is about 3 miles, with a few offshoot trails as well as an old gravel pit near the main parking area. The hilly northern end and old sandpit are generally the most productive for unusual breeders although the entire area is pretty good. It's worth waiting a few moments at each mature Norway spruce patch you bump into to listen for the high-pitched calls and song of Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Best time of year: Late May to early July

Written By Nate Marchessault

16. West Dennis Beach, West Dennis

Parking: Plenty of parking on the mile long beach (41.650572, -70.179409). Can be crowded in summer and a parking pass is required during the summer months.

This is a mile long beach backed by areas of dunes and a good size salt marsh. There are a few small patches of thicket in the area as well. A scope is recommended here as some of the views can be long. The dunes are roped off for nesting Least Terns and Piping Plovers. The saltmarsh here has rail potential. In spring and fall it is worth checking through the gulls as Lesser Black-backed Gulls seem to be regular here and Black-headed Gulls have made appearances, as well. Weir Creek between West Dennis Beach and Lower County Road is worth checking for dabbling ducks like American Wigeon and Gadwall.

Best time of year: Typical of local patterns. Gulls, ducks, and shorebirds in the early spring and fall.

Written by Jonathan Glover

17. Race Point Beach, Provincetown

Parking: End of Race Point Rd, Provincetown, MA (42.079373, -70.219239)

Parking fees begin Memorial Day weekend. Bird from the parking lot or walk westward ~2 miles to get to the "rip". Can be a long walk over loose sand, bring water and depending on the season warm clothing or sunscreen. Scope recommended. Premier hotspot for terns, gulls, waterfowl, seabirds, and alcids. In March and April, Northern right whales can occasionally be seen only several hundred feet from shore, other marine mammals possible.

Best time of year: Productive March-May, July-Aug, specialty species vary by season

Written by Nate Marchessault

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** but if you aren't able to contribute at this time, that's OK. 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 Mike Nolan at menolan1700@gmail.com

Checks payable to: South Shore Bird Club

Mail to: South Shore Bird Club c/o Mike Nolan, 30 Rockland St. Dartmouth, MA 02748

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal Membership

☐ Check Enclosed

☐ 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!****

Annual Conservation Contributions

At the January, 2021 Annual Meeting, members voted to provide a total of \$1,000 in donations to five local conservation organizations: Buzzards Bay Coalition, Keeping Company with Kestrels, Manomet, Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Snowy Owls/Raptor Research and Wildlands Trust. These contributions, on behalf of birds and bird habitat, are made possible, with thanks, by the generosity of SSBC members.

[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.

All field trips are currently canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Any updates to this situation will be announced via the Google Group and the SSBC website.

CLUB OFFICERS, 2021

Nate Marchessault, President
25 Popmunet Rd., East
Falmouth, MA 02536
508-304-3346
natemarchessault@gmail.com

Vin Zollo, Field Trip Coordinator
1219 Washington St., Walpole, MA 02081
508-641-2523
vzollo1@yahoo.com

Kim Wylie & Mike Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer
30 Rockland St. Dartmouth, MA 02748
347-449-2458
wyliekim@hotmail.com
menolan1700@gmail.com

Robert P. Fox, Recorder
44 Old Village Lane, North Andover, MA 01845
978-682-9553
danafox@comcast.net



Please check the SSBC website for updates.
<http://southshorebirdclub.wixsite.com/ssbc>