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Cover Illustration: Atlantic Puffin by Paul Donahue	

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## COUNTING CLIFF SWALLOWS

Do you know the location of any Massachusetts Cliff Swallow colonies? As part of a statewide survey, the Massachusetts Audubon Society is seeking information on the whereabouts of Cliff Swallow nesting sites in the state. This species appears to be seriously declining as a breeder in the Commonwealth. Competition from House Sparrows, deteriorating local habitat conditions, and a shortage of suitable nesting structures have all been proposed as possible explanations for the decline.

Readers able to provide information about the specific location of current nesting sites are encouraged to contact: Mara Silver, P.O. Box 60231, Florence, MA 01060.

# Summer-Fall Workshops

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## *Seabirds and Whales — a workshop for pelagic birders*

Marine birds and mammals are some of the most remarkable creatures that occur in the ocean environment. Their adaptations and specialized life style make them particularly interesting to observe and to study.

This workshop will describe some of the factors that affect the distribution of marine birds and mammals, as well as providing useful hints on identifying and locating sea birds and whales while they are in Massachusetts waters. A field trip aboard a whalewatching boat will allow participants to observe some of these birds and mammals in their marine environment..

Seminar: Friday, July 24, 1992 (7:30-9:30 P.M.).

Field Trip: Sunday, July 26, 1992

Cost: \$35 (Plus the cost of a half-day whalewatch, about \$20, to be paid directly to the whalewatch).

## *Shorebirds — a workshop for birders*

Every summer thousands of shorebirds move through Massachusetts as they travel to wintering quarters in South America. With approximately thirty-five species occurring annually in the state, shorebirds offer the birder a perplexing assortment of identification difficulties. Most species tend to be nondescript in coloration, and often they closely resemble one another in size and form. Fortunately, the behavior, habitat, and vocalizations of many shorebirds can be used in the identification process.

In this workshop, the emphasis will be on learning to identify various confusing species of shorebirds by using a combination of features. Some general background on the biology of shorebirds will supply useful information that can often be applied to problems in field identification.

Seminar: Friday, August 7, 1992 (7:30-9:30 P.M.).

Field Trip: Saturday, August 8, 1992 (Plum Island).

Cost: \$35.

## *Fall Warblers — a workshop for confused birders*

Consistently, fall warblers puzzle, confound, and demoralize birders. Their indistinct and confusing plumages, animated behavior, and often irregular appearance make them among the most challenging of birds to study and identify.

In this workshop, field identification, behavior of fall warblers, and fall warbler migration will all be described in the context of a New England setting. An early fall field trip should offer the possibility of seeing a variety of fall migrants.

Seminar: Friday, September 11, 1992 (7:30-9:30 P.M.).

Field Trip: Sunday, September 13, 1992 (Essex County).

Cost: \$35.

These workshops are cosponsored by *Bird Observer* and the Needham Bird Club and will be presented by Wayne R. Petersen. Seminar sessions will be held in Needham, MA, from 7:30-9:30 P.M. Directions to the seminars will be sent to registrants. Details about the field trips will be announced at the seminars preceding them. If you have questions, please call 617-666-8934 (evenings). Preregistration is required.

To register, send your name, address, and phone numbers with your check (payable to *Bird Observer*) to Bird Observer Workshops, c/o H. D'Entremont, 45 Montrose Street, Somerville, MA 02143.