

TAKE A SECOND LOOK

For decades eastern Massachusetts has been heavily birded, and extensive records have been accumulated. However, though diligent counts have been taken, little attention has been given to observing the habits of indigenous species. Always, there seems to be too little time to take a second look--to try to understand the interrelationships between the birds and their environment.

From participation in the Massachusetts Audubon Society Breeding Bird Census, many observers have started to understand better the habitat requirements of many species. Through intensive study of "unbirded" or "underbirded" areas, we are better able to document the widespread habitat usage of our avifauna and to draw tentative conclusions regarding its needs. Also, through programs like the New England Hawk Watch, we have begun to ask questions (and perhaps find answers) concerning the behavior of birds. Hoping not only to continue these investigations, but also to further understand the dynamics of bird behavior, B.O.E.M. is announcing a new series of field trip/seminars designed to "Take A Second Look."

Each trip will be led by someone familiar with a particular habitat or other facet of bird life. Field notes and observations will be shared and discussed. If appropriate, follow-up studies may be proposed or a written report may be made.

As participation will be limited, anyone who is interested in one of these field trips should contact the leader several weeks in advance. Leaders will be able to provide exact details at that time, as well as preview what they expect to observe.

Following is a list of proposed field trip/seminars for the remainder of the year.

March 25	"Waterfowl Movements in Boston Harbor"		Soheil Zende (628-8990)
April 8	"Territorial and Courtship Behavior of Permanent Residents and Early Migrants"	Breakheart Reservation	Craig Jackson (864-1917)
April 29	"Understanding Spring Migration"		Bob Stymeist (891-7313)
June 3	"Survey of Nesting Birds in Lynn Woods"	Lynn Woods	Rick Heil (531-7790)
June 24	"Nesting Ground Birds and Raptors in a Sub- urban Habitat"	Weston	Leif Robinson (864-7360)
July 29	"Wading and Shorebirds in a Local Salt Marsh"	Belle Isle Marsh	Soheil Zende (628-8990)

August 26	"Fulfillment of Resting and Feeding Requirements of Shorebirds with respect to tides in South Boston"	Squantum	Dave Brown (328-3553)
Sept. 15	"Analysis of Broad-wing Flight"	Mt. Wachusett	Paul Roberts (776-8566)
Oct. 6 or 7	"Coastal Movements of Accipiters and Falcons"	Plum Island	Nancy Claflin (484-5651)
Nov. 11	"Raptor Winter Ranges and Lexington Territories"		John Andrews (862-6498)

For further general information about these field trips contact Craig Jackson (864-1917).

SPRING HAWK WATCH

The EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HAWK WATCH will be in two parts this spring. There will be a coordinated weekend watch throughout New England on April 21-22, and a consecutive-day watch on Plum Island from April 11-May 2. Volunteer observers are needed for all dates.

Don't hesitate to participate if you don't feel confident about your ability to identify hawks. The watch attempts to have two or more people at each site. If you wish, you can be stationed with more experienced observers who will be able to help you learn to identify the hawks while you help spot the birds. Studying hawks during migration is the best way to become familiar with them. Even if you are unable to identify some of the hawks you see, it is important for the watch to learn if there was any hawk activity at your site.

Volunteers are needed for both inland and coastal sites for April 21-22. If you don't have a preferred site, please ask Paul to recommend one to you. If you are interested in participating, even if for only a half-day, please contact:

Paul M. Roberts
24 Pearson Road
Somerville, MA 02144 (617) 776-8566

Any birders who observe significant hawk flights or uncommon individuals during the season are also asked to report them to Paul. Please send him a brief note describing what species were seen, how many of each, in which direction they were flying, where they were observed, and what the weather conditions were. If you observed a sustained flight, please specify the time spent looking for hawks. We are particularly interested in incidental reports from Plum Island, the Buzzards Bay area, and Cape Cod.