



NANTUCKET BIRDING WEEKEND OCTOBER 16-18, 2015

Join us for some birding fun! The LLNF presents the Nantucket Birding Weekend as the perfect venue for both novice and experienced birders to hone their birding skills on the captivating island of Nantucket. You will enjoy some of the finest birding on the eastern seaboard, in an intimate setting, with knowledgeable leaders. The exclusive Westmoor Club will once again be our base for the weekend.

Linda Loring Nature Foundation
110 Eel Point Road
PO Box 149
Nantucket, MA 02554
508-325-0873

www.llnf.org



Keynote Speaker

MARK ROBBINS

**“Mount Ayanganna to Mount
Cameroon: Documenting the Avifauna
in Remote Regions ”**

Mark Robbins, Collection Manager at KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, became an avid birder at a very young age. His lifelong passion for avifauna has taken him on an amazing journey to the University of Arizona where he birded with Peter Alden, Ted Parker, Kenn Kaufmann, and our own Vern Laux. From there he headed to Louisiana State University and graduate work that took him to the avian mecca of South America to study the social system of the Band-tailed Manakin.

From 1982 - 1993, under the tutelage of Frank Gill and Robert Ridgely, he was ornithology collection manager at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Since then he has been at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute where he has worked with ornithological wunderkinds Rick Prum (Keynote Speaker in 2013) and Town Peterson.

His varied research interests lie in the evolution, biogeography, and conservation of Neotropical birds as well as local species in the mid-western United States. For over 35 years he has conducted avifaunal inventories in remote, interesting, and dangerous locations around the world, especially in South America. These inventories have elucidated the distribution and status of many poorly-known species and have been used for delineating priority areas for the preservation of biological diversity. He has used and morphological data from these surveys to clarify alpha-level taxonomy in a number of groups, with four new species described to science. He has served on the AOU South American Classification and the Missouri Bird Records committees since their inception and is senior author of *Birds of Missouri*.

He talk will feature recent expeditions to the Solomon Islands and Cameroon.



SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION AT A GLANCE

Friday, October 16:

- 1:00 – 2:30 pm: “Little Brown Jobs” workshop at the LLNF
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm: “The Marsh Wren” workshop at the LLNF
- 5:30 – 7:00 pm: Registration and Social Hour at The Westmoor
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm: Welcome Dinner at The Westmoor

Saturday, October 17:

- 8:00 – 11:00 am: Concurrent Field Trips: *West End Wonders*
- 11:15 am – 12:45 pm: Morning recap, lunch, and free time at The Westmoor
- 1:00 – 4:00 pm: Concurrent Field Trips: *East End Extravaganza* or *Great Point*
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm: Afternoon recap and Social Hour at The Westmoor
- 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Dinner at the Westmoor Club
- 8:00 pm: Keynote Address: **“Mount Ayanganna to Mount Cameroon: Documenting the Avifauna in Remote Regions”**

Sunday, October 18:

- 8:00 – 11:00 am Concurrent Field Trips: *Exploring the Island*
- 11:15 – 12:15 pm: Morning recap and lunch at The Westmoor Club
- 12:30 – 3:00 pm: Birding Mystery Tours: *Rarity Round-up*

YOUR FESTIVAL REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Registration fee
- Field trip transportation (except for Great Point Trip) departing from The Westmoor
- Introduction to natural history of the island and highlights of previous weekends
- Morning coffee before the first field trip
- Lunch on Saturday and Sunday at The Westmoor
- Dinner on Friday and Saturday at The Westmoor
- Keynote Speaker *Mark Robbins* at The Westmoor
- Bird banding demonstrations

YOUR FESTIVAL REGISTRATION DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Friday afternoon workshops additional fee: \$20 @
- Great Point field trip with TTOR additional fee: \$60
- Travel to Nantucket
- Housing
- Cash bar
- Breakfasts

HOW TO GET HERE:

- Hy-Line Cruises is offering discounted ticket prices for Birding Festival participants
- **Adult: \$61 RT or \$36 OW; Child: \$43 RT or \$28 OW.**
- Park at the ferry terminal for \$5 a day
- To make reservations call **800-492-8082** and tell them you are a part of the **Linda Loring Nature Foundation Nantucket Birding Weekend.**



FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

Fall Birding on Nantucket

Nantucket's small size and lack of vegetative cover concentrates the overshooting nocturnal migrant birds that move along the coast in the fall. On nights with cool temperatures the northwest winds aid the southbound exodus from the north woods and "pushes" birds out to the coastline and beyond. On some days, after large nocturnal migrations, birds continue to arrive on the island's shores at all hours. Literally anything might turn up anywhere.

The birding can be good at any location around the island; conversely you might hit a day when all the birds left the evening before and were not replaced by new migrants. There are no guarantees but you won't go home disappointed and every field trip is exciting. Come to Nantucket, have fun, and be amazed by the birding.

WORKSHOPS

Little Brown Jobs: Mark Faherty will teach you to wow your friends at your next cocktail party with your ability to effortlessly pick a Dickcissel from a flock of House Sparrows! This workshop will help you appreciate and identify those much maligned and often ignored "Little Brown Jobs" so prevalent during fall migration. We'll start with some universal rules of bird identification, then go species by species through the various expected sparrows, buntings, blackbirds, and finches. If it's brown, gray, and confusing, we'll cover it. He'll even throw in some "confusing fall warblers" at no extra cost.

The Marsh Wren: Join Keynote Speaker, Mark Robbins, to learn some unique facts about this interesting genus. The Marsh Wren that occurs across much of North America during the breeding season is currently considered a single species. However, new genetic insights by Keith Barker et al. coupled with prior vocal work by Don Kroodsma indicate that there is more than one species. Moreover, apparently Midwest breeding populations of the eastern North American Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus p. palustris*) perform intra-summer movements presumably to breed at two different locations during the same summer. It appears that birds that initially breed during May and June move south to breed again during mid-July through August. Because this unique behavior is shared with its closest living relative, the North American Sedge Wren (*C. stellaris*), it may be an ancestral trait of the genus *Cistothorus*.

FIELD TRIPS

Bird Banding Demonstration: Saturday and Sunday Mornings

Dr. Richard Veit will open the mist nets at the Ice House Pond banding lanes located at Edith and Ginger Andrews property in Madaket. This is an opportunity to see birds up close and personally learn how they are mist-netted, measured, weighed, banded and released. In the process you will learn a lot about their identification and biology. Most morning field trips will stop at the Banding Station.

Saturday Morning: West End Wonders

Trip 1: Travel to the west end and check on the nocturnal migration from the night before. Stops include Millie's Bridge, Jackson Point, and the Banding Station. Birds likely to be seen include White-crowned Sparrow, Merlin, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Oriole, and more.

Trip 2: Stop at the Banding Station before going to Steve's Woods and the Head of the Plains where you are likely to see Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Red-tailed Hawk and Peregrine Falcon.

Trip 3: Explore Eel Point Road, North Cambridge Street, Madaket Harbor and the Banding Station looking for Orange-crowned Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Indigo Bunting and Brant.

Saturday Afternoon: East End Extravaganza

Trip 1: Visit Tom Nevers Field, Atlantic Ocean, and Low Beach. Birds hopefully seen may include Clay-colored Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Merlin and Red-throated Loon.

Saturday Afternoon: East End Extravaganza, continued

Trip 2: Wander the Sconset Bluff and enjoy this remarkable walking path that meanders along overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Possible birds seen include a wide variety of land birds flying in off the ocean, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, a variety of seabirds and this is perhaps the best single location in the US for finding and seeing numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Trip 3: Explore Wauwinet, Squam, Pocomo, and Sesachacha. This area is probably least birded on the island although every time we visit there it is loaded with landbirds in migration. Lots of thickets and ponds anything is possible. Possible encounters with Scarlet Tanager, Cedar Waxwing, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Eastern Towhee and many others are possible.

Trip 4: Great Point: Limited to 7 participants; additional \$60 fee

Venture down this scenic beach, accessible only by 4-wheel drive vehicle, and bird at the protected beach habitat of the Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge, protected by The Trustees of Reservations. Mile after mile of remote beach, marsh, and ocean roll by capped by the sight of the Great Point Lighthouse. This is a very special trip to one of Nantucket's special places where you can see marauding falcons, jaegers, sea ducks, gray seals and more.

Sunday Morning: Exploring the Island

Trip 1: Head to Smith's Point and Madaket harbor looking for shorebirds and newly-arrived nocturnal migrants. Birds we may encounter include American Oystercatcher, Bufflehead, Red-headed woodpecker, Cape May Warbler and Dickcissel along with many others. *NOTE: This trip is the most strenuous trip and may involve walking on soft sand. Be prepared with proper footwear*

Trip 2: Visit Bartlett's Farm's fields, Hummock Pond, Community Garden, Miacomet Pond. This area has unlimited potential and on past weekends has turned up Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, several Western Kingbirds, a Calliope Hummingbirds and loads of lesser rarities. Other birds we might turn up include Vesper Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Eurasian Wigeon.

Trip 3: Explore Lily Pond and Capaum Pond and then visit the Banding Station. The potential for birds like Yellow-breasted Chat, Virginia Rail, Ruddy Duck, a slew of warblers and vireos as well as another stop at the banding station make this another excellent field trip.

Sunday Afternoon: Birding Mystery Tours

Wrap up your birding weekend with a chase for the rarities

Trip 1: Return to Sconset for the Bluff Walk to Low Beach, chance to visit this lovely, scenic and very birdy southeast section of the island. Peregrine Falcon and Merlin, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eastern Phoebe and Northern Flicker are just some of the birds you are likely to see.

Trip 2: Leaders Choice!

Trip 3: Rarity Round-up!

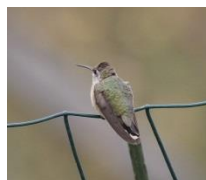
Some rarities spotted on previous Nantucket Birding Festivals



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher '11



Gray-tailed Tattler '12



Calliope Hummingbird '13

Photos, l-r: E. Vernon Laux, Eric Savetsky, E. Vernon Laux



LEADER BIOGRAPHIES

Our trip leaders bring vast experience and national reputations combined with local knowledge. They will show you around the island and explain what you are seeing and hearing. Late October is a time to find lots of common species as well as migrants, and perhaps that rare vagrant visitor. Small group size and a low ratio of leaders to attendees make this a not-to-be-missed opportunity to visit this beautiful island for some birding pleasure.



GINGER ANDREWS is a passionate advocate for birds and all things in the natural world. Her knowledge of the island, its microhabitats and plant life is unparalleled. Ginger and her mother Edith, who is a legend on Nantucket, in the birding world, and the Grand Dame of Nantucket ornithology write the very popular and widely read bird column in the *Inquirer and Mirror*, Nantucket's weekly newspaper.



SARAH BOIS, PHD, is Director of Research and Education for the Linda Loring Nature Foundation. Sarah received her PhD in Ecology from the University of Connecticut (2012) where her research focused on invasive species population dynamics linking vital rates of three signature invasive plants to climatic and environmental variation in an effort to prioritize species management. She has worked with California Condors and enjoys birding.



JEFF CARLSON is the Natural Resources Coordinator for the Town of Nantucket. A lifelong birder, he has led birding trips to the Ruby Mountains looking, successfully, for Himalayan Snowcock and also conducted breeding bird studies in Texas.



MARK FAHERTY IS the Science Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. He has studied bird ecology for the last 17 years, working on birding research projects in Africa and across the US. He is past president and current board member of the Cape Cod Bird Club, and is a member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee and the LLNF's Birding Advisory Board.



VERNON LAUX is Senior Naturalist at the Linda Loring Nature Foundation. He has led natural history tours on all 7 continents; is the author of *Bird News*, *Vagrants and Visitors on a Peculiar Island*, a columnist for the Cape Cod Times, and has a weekly commentary called "The Bird Report" on the local Cape and Island NPR stations. He is passionate about birds, photography and natural history-especially on the Cape and Islands.



KITTY POCHMAN is Executive Director of the Linda Loring Nature Foundation on Nantucket. She started working with Edith Andrews at her banding station in the 1980s. She is adept at extracting the birds from mist nets and will be assisting Dick Veit working the nets at the Andrews property in the mornings.



EDIE RAY lives on Nantucket and is out in the field perhaps more than anyone on the island. A long-time active birder, during the warmer months she spends her time studying and protecting terns, plovers and oystercatchers among other island birds. She has extensive knowledge of birdlife all over the country, is the co-compiler of the Nantucket Christmas Bird Count and is a Trustee of the Linda Loring Nature Foundation.



MARK ROBBINS is the Collection Manager at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum. His research in the evolution, biogeography and conservation of Neotropical birds has been used to delineate priority habitats for conservation of avian diversity. Mark is the Keynote Speaker for this year's Birding Festival



JEREMIAH TRIMBLE is the Ornithology Collections Manager at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. He is a renowned field expert, an expert on New England and North American birds who has fabulous field skills, not only with birds but with dragonflies and butterflies as well. He has traveled extensively around the world, spending lots of time in the neotropics and is an accomplished photographer. He loves to share his passion and knowledge of birds, dragonflies and butterflies with anyone who has an interest.



PETER TRIMBLE is a past president of the Cape Cod Bird Club, a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, a compiler for many years of the Mid-Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count, and the Ornithologist for the Massachusetts Military Reservation. He has had a lifelong birding affliction and is a gifted field observer. He is an active and persistent photographer of birds, wildlife and scenery. An educator during the school year, he loves to share his passion and knowledge of birds, dragonflies and butterflies with anyone who has an interest.

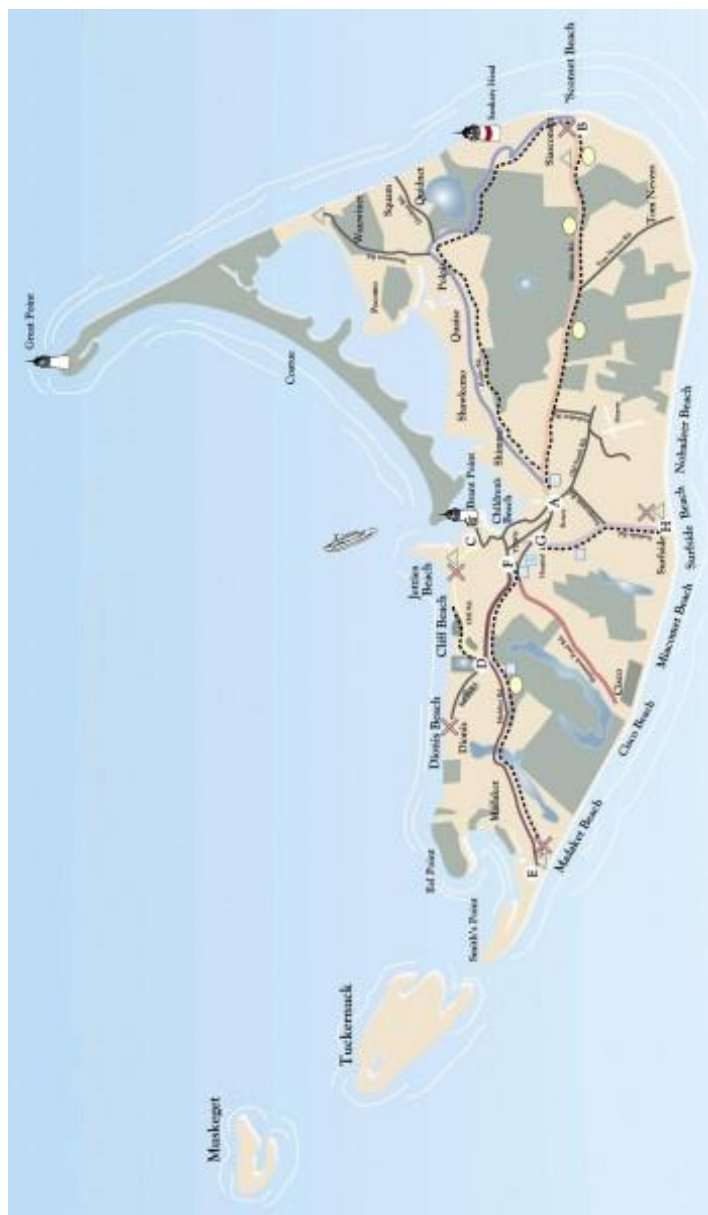


RICHARD VEIT, PHD, is Professor and Chair of the Biology Department of CUNY, Staten Island. He is the co-author of *The Birds of Massachusetts* (1993). He is broadly interested in the ecology of birds, with special emphasis on foraging behavior of seabirds and long-distance dispersal and vagrancy of birds in general. A master bird bander, he will be at the banding station mornings when it is open, ready to share his extensive knowledge of local and migratory birdlife. He has been birding Nantucket and the surrounding islands his entire life.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



LINDA LORING NATURE FOUNDATION 110 EEL POINT ROAD. PO Box 149
NANTUCKET, MA 02554 WWW.LLNF.ORG 308.325.0873





Please print and email to kpochman@llnf.org OR secure online registration will be available at www.llnf.org shortly.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Friday:

1:00 – 2:30 pm: Little Brown Jobs _____

3:00 – 4:00 pm: The Marsh Wren _____

Saturday:

8:00 – 11:00 am: West End Wonders

Trip 1; Jackson Pt area _____ Trip 2; Woods & Plains _____ Trip 3; Eel Pt area _____

1:30 – 4:00 pm: East End Extravaganza

Trip 1; Tom Nevers _____ Trip 2; Sconset Bluff _____ Trip 3; Ponds & Swamps _____

Great Point (additional cost) _____

Sunday:

8:00 – 11:00 am: Exploring the Island

Trip 1; Smith's Point _____ Trip 2; Fields & Ponds _____

Trip 3; Lily Pond & Capaum _____

12:30 – 3:00 pm: Birding Mystery Tours

Trip 1; Bluff Walk to Low Beach _____ Trip 2; Leaders Choice _____

Trip 3; Rarity Round-up _____

Please note: all trips are filled on a first come/first serve basis and locations are subject to change.

We will try to accommodate any dietary restrictions. Please note here: _____

Fees:

_____ MEMBER: \$375

_____ NON-MEMBER: \$475

_____ YEAR-ROUND RESIDENT OF NANTUCKET, MEMBER: \$350

_____ LITTLE BROWN JOBS WORKSHOP: \$20

_____ MARSH WREN WORKSHOP: \$20

_____ GREAT POINT TRIP: \$60

_____ NON-MEMBER? JOIN THE LLNF: \$50

_____ GUEST DINNER : \$50 A NIGHT _____ FRIDAY _____ SATURDAY

Payment:

_____ Credit Card # _____ exp. date _____ sec. code _____

_____ Check (enclosed)

Total Registration _____

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations made 15 days prior to the start of the festival will receive a 50% refund. Cancellations made less than 15 days prior to the start cannot be refunded.



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Nantucket

BIRDING WEEKEND



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Kitty Pochman, Executive Director
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Sarah Bois, PhD, Director of Research and Education