

SURVIVAL TIPS FOR BIRDERS AT SEA

by Paula Butler, Belmont

CLOTHING

The "layered look" may be fashionable in Vogue, but it is essential for the comfort of the birder at sea. It may be a hot, calm, August day in Rockport Harbor, but a few miles out, a cold wind can pick up and the water can get choppy. Long pants, rubber soled shoes are basic. A light shirt, light sweater, heavy sweater, windbreaker, waterproof jacket and possibly a hat should be taken along. Better to look like an overstuffed penguin than spend your day shivering. And speaking of shivering, in winter months add "long johns", heavy boots, wool socks, water and wind proof gloves, a warm hat and water-proof pants and jacket. Face masks are a practical item, also. Don't forget lotion for sun and wind burn and a box of tissues either!

MAL DE MER

So you never get seasick? Such boasts are fool hardy. Several birders I know can testify to that. Dramamine before sailing can save you many hours at the rail and spare others from a similar fate. Mal de mer can be quite contagious!

FOOD

Most birders I know eat constantly while practicing their craft. Korn Kurls, chips, Crunchies, donuts, candy bars and too much coffee are not good stomach stabilizers. Meat and cheese sandwiches travel well. So do apples, pears, grapes, pickles, hard-boiled eggs, cheddar cheese, celery and carrot sticks. Hot soup or bouillon makes a refreshing substitute for coffee. From experience, the poorest choice of sandwich is egg salad on soft white bread. With all the gear that is carried and the lack of storage and seating space in the cabin, salad sandwiches fare badly and are most unappetizing after being sat upon. Also, it is a good idea to take a little extra lunch as someone usually forgets his/her lunch.

LET'S GO TO SEA

BY HERMAN D'ENTREMONT, NEWTON CENTER

One of the things I like about living in eastern Massachusetts is the proximity of the sea. Each year we enjoy a migrational parade of shorebirds, sea ducks and pelagics, which roughly extends from May through November. Perhaps one of the real highlights comes with a Nor'easter in September. When pelagic birds are blown toward shore, one can conjure up visions of the rarities beyond visibility! Are the birds only there during storms? The answer is no. To see them, however, the best approach is to take to the sea in ships.

Appended is a table of pelagic birds seen on sea trips during the last twenty-five years in Massachusetts and adjacent New Hampshire waters. While by no means a complete list of boat trips or species observed, it does provide a good variety of pelagic bird records. Wo why not join the Brookline Bird Club on one of its sea trips? Not only can you see pelagic birds to best advantage, but also the possibility exists of observing whales, dolphins and other interesting marine species.

The information for the chart was gathered from the data of the Brookline Bird Club, the late Ludlow Griscom, the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Special thanks go to Mrs. Richard Barnett, BBC statistician; the Peabody Museum of Salem for access to Ludlow Griscom's records; and Betty Phinney for access to New Hampshire Audubon records. Massachusetts Audubon Society records were taken from the Records of New England Birds.

MASSACHUSETTS

	01.02.50	05.27.50	05.27.51	08.25.51	08.09.52	09.01.52	09.13.52	07.12.53	07.28.53	08.13.53	08.29.53	09.01.53	09.12.53	05.30.54	08.15.54
Northern Fulmar				1	12	51	22			51	3	1	33		
Cory's Shearwater				1	2	170	138	46	50	30	78	36	108		
Greater Shearwater		12	32		4	4		108	30	140	7	1	15	4	100
Sooty Shearwater								1		1					450
Manx Shearwater															400
Leach's Storm-Petrel			1												
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			280	135		400		5	50	1				149	125
Gannet	22	25	100		1	10	1			1				2	15
Red Phalarope		1		1	3	2		3				6			
Northern Phalarope		41			10	28	60	4			8	30	58		1
Pomarine Jaeger					3	1		7	3	3	2	3	7	1	3
Parasitic Jaeger			3	1	5	14	9	2		20	9	1	4	5	32
Long-tailed Jaeger			1	1	1	1		1						1	1
Unidentified Jaeger															2
Skua															
Sabine's Gull					1						1	1			
Razorbill Auk	1														
Common Murre															
Thick-billed Murre															
Dovekie	1														
Black Guillemot															
Common Puffin															
Location	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Observer	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG	LG
Data from locations as indicated above:	C = Chatham H = Hyannis N = Newburyport														
	B = Boston-P-town boat R = Rockport P = Provincetown HP = Harwichport														

NEW HAMPSHIRE

	5.30.67	5.30.68	6.1.69	6.7.70	5.2.71	6.6.71	6.4.72	6.3.73	6.2.74	6.1.75	9.17.67	9.8.68	9.13.70	9.19.71
Fulmar									2					10
Greater Shearwater				1			3						39	300
Sooty Shearwater	12													250
Manx Shearwater							1							
Leach's Storm-Petrel				3										
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	41	100	250	250		500	3000	1000	100	2		11	64	250
Red Phalarope	5	1												
Northern Phalarope	373	1600	40			25	5	22				4	53	10
Parasitic Jaeger							1		1			1	2	
Sabine's Gull														
Razorbill Auk				2				1						
Common Murre			1											
Thick-billed Murre														
Dovekie														
Black Guillemot	2	2	2	4	6			1	3	1				
Common Puffin														

SPRING

FALL

Data from Isles of Shoales-Jeffries Ledge boat trips

07.04.54	08.20.55	05.30.57	08.11.57	08.23.58	09.13.58	07.30.61	08.18.62	08.10.63	08.17.63	08.08.64	08.15.64	09.13.64	08.14.65	09.11.65	08.13.66	09.10.66	08.12.67	08.19.67	08.17.68	09.08.68	08.16.69	08.15.70	08.14.71	11.06.71	08.12.72	09.16.72	10.28.72	08.12.73	09.29.73	10.27.73	08.10.74	10.36.74	06.21.75	09.27.75	
10	75	30	5000	30			16	12	30	31		77	200	7		127	40	108	850	225	250	300		475	3	1	160	25	2	500	100				
	10	1	1	2	1				1	16		3	2	5	2	4		11	2	1			500	2	4	20	2	2000		5					
9	40		4	1	30		1	5	1	400	75	10	241	4	2000	42	25	125	143	126	1000	32	80	3	120	3		40		5		2		8	
	25		1	4	19		4				4	3												1			1		13		150	1		15	

7.10.72	4.9.73	4.8.74	9.2.75		11.14.71	11.11.72	11.17.73	11.18.73	11.10.74	11.16.75			3.4.68	1.26.69	2.1.70	2.7.71	1.30.72	2.2.72	3.12.72	1.27.73	1.38.73	2.19.73	1.19.74	1.27.74	1.26.75	1.25.76									
0					15	20	3		2																										
175	100																																		
3	45	14	1		1	10			1																										
					2	30	2						11	25	✓	40	3	1		3	2														
					1	3	2						8	1	✓	40	9	10		1															
						3	2						434	20	✓	200																			
						1	14						21	25	✓	25	49	50	2	30	10	20	50	20	50	20	50	3	8						
																3	7			1															

WINTER