

EDITOR'S PAGE

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We deeply regret that it has been necessary for George Gavutis, Manager of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, to write the letter published on page 232 of this issue. Over the past eighteen months there has been much public discussion of birders' conduct in the pages of publications ranging from the Bird Observer to the New York Times. We have recently heard strong criticism of birders' behavior at Corn Hill, Truro, as well as at Plum Island. Birders are not by nature irresponsible, but sometimes the desire to see a bird better causes a birder to forget to respect public regulations and private property rights. Knowing that most of us have been guilty of this thoughtlessness at one time or another, if you see a birder acting thoughtlessly, gently remind that person to be considerate of the bird sought and the property on which it is sought. This is especially important when pursuing a rarity frequenting a house feeder. Rarities often go unreported because homeowners fear hordes of birders will be trampling across their yards and through their gardens at all times of day. If birders treat public and private property with respect, more people will respect birders and our desire to look for birds.