

# The 2001 ABA Big Day Report

**H**ello and welcome to the 2001 Big Day Report. This is my first time so be gentle. With a little bit of time and a lot of help from the staff at ABA, I submit this report for your approval. You may notice some differences in style between this and previous reports. The introduction is a bit shorter. A big relief for those of you familiar with my writing style. My primary goal was to get the meat of the report (the actual reports) finished. Besides, who wants to hear the editor's comments anyway?

So, what has changed? Not much. I am mostly sticking with the status quo. Next year (if they'll have me again) I'll be able to make this report more my own.

## Pre-2001 Big Days

There aren't any. For those of you who submitted pre-2001 reports, sorry, but in the short time I had, I could not include them in this year's report.

## Big Day Report Submissions

I would like to reiterate the previous editor's comments is saying that I **prefer** to have Big Day reports submitted electronically. I would add to that, I prefer typed over hand written reports. Some errors in place names or spelling of names were a result of illegible or barely legible handwriting. One report was rejected since I could not decipher it. If you are going to hand write a report, I would prefer that you take the time to write slowly and clearly.

The exact format is not vital, but it helps to follow a standard, for example:

**Arizona** – 23 July 2001 – 0330 to 1945 – Species totals = 131/126; (Team/Shared): Ima Birder 130, Seymour Birds 128, Fred 126 ; 247,999 miles by car, 55½ miles by foot. *Visiting:* Here, There, and Everywhere. *Species of note:* House Sparrow (R), European Starling (L,S) , Rock Dove (V). *Comments:* It was really neat.

Then include the following statement:

"I affirm on my honor that this team has complied with all ABA Big Day Count Rules and with the ABA *Code of Ethics*."

Then include a species list. You do not have to use an electronic or hard copy form of the "Official Form." However, I would be prefer that you do.

## Big Day Narratives

This is often the best part of the report. It does not have to be a long dissertation, just a few thoughts and reflections of what you learned, how much fun you had, interesting things that happened, etc.

## In Closing

That is about all for my first introduction. I would like to thank Paul Green for giving me the opportunity to try my wings and Kurt Rademaker for passing the opportunity on to me. Everyone at ABA has been very supportive of this first (and rushed effort.) Next year, it will be even better.

Send comments, suggestions, etc. to

David Simpson  
ABA Big Day Editor  
PO Box 6599  
Colorado Springs, CO 80934  
c/o pubdir@aba.org



## 2001 Big Days Contenders' Table

% Target Total >95%

Listed in Descending Order

Here are the top counts from the ABA Area for 2001 as weighed against respective Target Totals. They include all 2001 Big Days with a %TT 95% of the 2001 Target Total, listed in Descending Order of %

Area	Date	% Target		Rank
		Total	Total	
TX	24-Apr	258	114.67%	1
AB	31-May	178	111.74%	2
LA	25-Apr	209	110.58%	3
OR	12-May	213	109.62%	4
UT	13-May	202	106.15%	5
VT	4-Jun	159	103.92%	6
TX	18-Apr	233	103.56%	7
OK	3-May	180	103.27%	8

## Explanation of Terms

**Species of Note:** A Species of Note is either one that you didn't expect to get but did, or one that you counted on but failed to see.

In the former category are birds you considered you had virtually no chance of seeing during your Big Day. A **Vagrant** (V) is any species which occurs less than annually in the state, province, or country of your Big Day; a **Rare** (R) species is less than annual along your chosen route, but may be more common elsewhere in your state, province, or country; an **Early** (E) or **Late** (L) species is one that is Rare due to being unusually tardy or early. An (S) in the accounts indicates that the rarity or vagrant had been **Staked-Out** prior to the Big Day. A (#) indicates an unusually high number of any particular species.

In the latter category are birds that you consider virtually guaranteed, such that you did not specifically plan for them in your Big Day. These are Code 2 birds (no one should ever miss a Code 1 bird). More quantitatively, a **Big Miss** (M) is a species you had a 95% or better of seeing along your route at that time of year (i.e., you expect to see the species on at least 19 attempts out of 20), but which you inexplicably missed.

**Target Totals:** To compare the relative result of each individual count, a TARGET TOTAL (TT) for each province and state is calculated. The TT is the average of the top three counts for a given region, up until the end of the previous year. They can be found in the Champion Big Day summary tables. TTs are not calculated for counts that are intrinsically uncompetitive due to imposed restrictions (single-county, walking, etc); that take place outside the "ideal" time of year; or whose Grand Total is less than 75% of the TT.

## Abbreviations:

Is - Island Pt - Point  
Hr - Harbor L - Lake  
Res - Reservoir R - River  
Mtn - Mountain PP - Provincial Park  
NP - National Park SP - State Park  
CP - County Park Co - County  
AFB - Armed Forces Base  
WR - Wildlife Refuge/Area/Sanctuary  
NWR - National WR  
NM - National Monument  
CA - Conservation Area  
MBS - Migratory Bird Sanctuary  
NF - National Forest  
PF - Provincial Forest  
SF - State Forest  
SL - Sewage Lagoon/Pond/Plant  
NRA - National Recreation Area  
SGA - State Game Area  
npc - non-participating companion

# 2001 Canadian Big Days

**ALBERTA** – 31 May 2001 – 0028 to 2353 hours – Species totals 178/174; (Team/Shared): Thomas Plath 175, Paul Pratt 177, Thomas Hince 178; 1,095 km by car, 3 by foot *Visiting*: Cold Lake area, Bonnyville, Hanna area, Bow Valley P.P, Banff Nat'l Pk. *Species of Note*: Ross' Goose (L), Snow Goose(L), Long-tailed Duck (R), Red-breasted Merganser (L), Peregrine Falcon (R), Red Knot (R), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (R), White-rumped Sandpiper (R?).

The last couple of years I was intent on doing a **real** Alberta Big Day. I was confident the record could be beaten easily. Simple, just include the boreal forest in the itinerary. When Tom informed me of his and Paul's interest and availability, I was stoked—these two high-powered pros of the Big Day would make the task much easier. Initially the plan was to work Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park and then head south through Elk Island National Park, by Beaverhill Lake and then to the prairie and mountains. After a review of birding areas I decided on a route that instead began in the Cold Lake area due to the greater potential for shorebirds and greater songbird diversity.

We picked Paul up from the Vancouver airport at 10 PM Monday, May 28, and headed for Cold Lake, Alta. Three hours later we were at the Coquihalla summit, stuck behind a stopped caravan of semi-trailers, in a snow blizzard. This was not a good sign. Areas on the way up were scouted in a sleep-deprived state, however, by Wednesday evening we were at the motel in Bonnyville ready for battle. The weather report showed a temperature of -5C wind chill factor at the Cold Lake airport with winds up to 30-35 knots. Not exactly ideal! Prior to leaving we agreed on two rules: 1. We would not use tapes; and 2. To count on the day's list **two** team members must **independently** identify the bird.

Owling, including visits to marshes and lake edge, between 0028 and 0250, was a total bust, producing nine species, the only bird of any consequence being LeConte's Sparrow. No owls and only one rail. It was time to rejuvenate and prepare for dawn chorus so a stop at the Tim Horton's in Grand Centre for coffee, donuts and gas was in order. After the half-hour break we were off for another quick attempt at marsh birds and owls, but once again lucked out—the wind was keeping everything silent. None of our target "night" birds were available this AM—Pied-billed Grebe, Night Heron, Bittern, any owl, Yellow and Virginia Rails or Sedge Wren. A

calling nighthawk offered a glimmer of hope. At 0415 it was time to put the show on the road so we headed for the west side of Cold Lake to begin the day's dawn chorus, en route picking up the Ross' Goose found the day before.

Dawn chorus was going to make or break the day—if we get enough birds to compensate for the time lost in huge driving distances we'll do okay. Overcast skies, cold weather and gusting winds reduced dawn chorus but with the excellent ears of Tom (and Paul) we managed to get most of our expected species. My ears were not so adept at sorting out the various songs and their patience was much appreciated. After 2½ hours of birding lakeshore, forest, and bog we were at 87 species with 18 species of warbler including Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Connecticut, Mourning, Nashville and Canada. Unfortunately no Palm or Blackpoll. Persistent scoping by Paul produced two breeding plumaged Long-tailed Ducks far out on the lake and Red-breasted Mergansers along shore. Other nice additions were White-winged Scoter, Broad-winged Hawk and Bonaparte's Gull.

We left the boreal forest on track at 0710 and pulled up to a small drying lake, which the day before held only a few shorebird species. Boom, we hit the jackpot. The low pressure system must have grounded shorebirds—in front of us were 15 species of shorebird including several American Golden and Black-bellied Plover, Red-necked Phalarope on the middle of the lake, a flock of Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, (30) White-rumped Sandpipers, and small flocks of Stilt, Least, Pectoral, Semipalmated and Baird's Sandpiper! Behind us a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was singing and on the far shore a Cooper's Hawk perched. We left the lake at 0735 with 104 species and uplifted spirits. We were beginning to rock!

The next stop, Jessie Lake, added a few more marsh birds and three more shorebirds—Red Knot, Sanderling and Short-billed Dowitcher. The Purple Martin was coaxed into showing itself at the nest box entrance. It was 0835 and we were up to 122 species.

Heading south to the Long Lake area for deciduous forest birds saw us in a snow-covered landscape! This was temporary as the weather was beginning to clear. Long Lake did not disappoint and we added our needed birds including Osprey on its nest, Forster's Tern, Veery, Philadelphia Vireo and Rose-breasted

Grosbeak. The Greater Scaup flock was not present. We by-passed a lake that had Herring Gull the day before and headed for our last stop of our northern section—another marsh-fringed lake. No yellowlegs; however, at 1000 hrs a perched Peregrine Falcon was bird #135, again thanks to the thorough scoping by Paul.

We were behind schedule but with a traffic-less, straight, and open highway to our next destination—the Hanna area for prairie birds. The 2½-drive south gave us five more species including a late Snow Goose occupying a beaver pond at the side of the highway. Our "prairie stop" was looking grim—no longspurs engaged in song flights, just wind and blowing grass. The birds were there, it was just going to take some effort. My two companions were reluctantly coaxed out of the car by me, first flushing a Chestnut-collared Longspur from one field, and then in another crazy "run through the rangeland", a Sprague's Pipit. They joined me and in short order we added Baird's Sparrow (several singing). Other prairie birds were quickly added in the next 40 minutes—Lark Bunting, Loggerhead Shrike and finally, after observing two Ferruginous Hawks (#150), a Swainson's was spotted! No Horned Larks yet but that was resolved when one flew across the highway as we approached Drumheller.

It was 1430 hrs and the next hour and a bit was focussed on badlands and cottonwood floodplain birds in the Drumheller area. It was a tough go with no thrasher, chat or rough-winged swallow though we managed to find other sought after species—Lark Sparrow, Say's Phoebe, Spotted Towhee, and a nice treat, Bullock's Oriole. A surprise was a Pileated Woodpecker. It took a lot of pishing and squeaking to get the Blue Jay to respond but it finally did for the only one of the day. At 1600 hrs (on the way out) a Violet-green Swallow was spotted along the bluffs for #164 breaking the old record.

Pied-billed Grebe and Cinnamon Teal were still blanks on the list, finally adding the latter on the way to the mountains. No idea why we still didn't have the grebe. You'd think that with all those lakes, marshes, and prairie sloughs checked we'd find one.

A very quick blast into Bow Valley P.P. at 1800 hrs added White-crowned Sparrow and saved time as we cut 30 minutes off. Like last year it was relatively dead with no hummingbirds or flycatchers. We hit Banff at 1850 hrs which didn't give us much time, however, Tom was pumped now and his energy really pushed us

forward. A few stops later (2010 hrs) our list was at 175 species having added Bald Eagle, Hammond's Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee, Wilson's Warbler, Solitary Sandpiper, Western Tanager, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cassin's Vireo and Townsend's Warbler. A coffee stop (and walk) at Johnston Canyon failed to produce a dipper today and so we were off to Lake Louise adding en route the Harlequins (2108 hrs) that Paul had GPS'd a couple of days earlier. A brief walk at the Chateau added the last birds of the day—Varied Thrush and (#178) Clark's Nutcracker—both observed in a spectacular panoramic back drop of a glacier fed lake encircled by mountains.

It always easier said than done but I really believe the effort could be improved upon with a few days scouting and a bit of luck with shorebirds. This is essentially a quest to get all the breeding birds and the weather did not cooperate. Doing it a bit later might maximize songbird potential. Flycatchers just weren't in—we only had one Alder Flycatcher despite being in all kinds of suitable habitat. Same with Least Fly—a common bird that we didn't pick up until 0900 hrs. The potential on this route is huge; however, as in all Big Days, time is a factor. It's hard to say what were bad misses due to time constraints. Missed birds include Barrow's Goldeneye, all hummingbirds and owls, Semipalmated Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Upland Sandpiper, Prairie Falcon, both yellowlegs, all grouse and others mentioned above. Having said that we did have 23 species of waterfowl, 10 raptors, 22 shorebirds, 20 warblers and 13 sparrows (does not include towhee, junco). An amazing day spent with great birders in a beautiful province—one could not ask for more.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA** – 30 April 2001 – 0400 to 2000 hrs – Species Totals 141/139; (Team/Shared): Thomas Plath 140, Jason Osterhold 140; 549 km driven, 2 km by foot. Visiting: Reifel Refuge, Cecil Green Pk, Queen Elizabeth Pk, Iona Island, Tsawassen Jetty, Boundary Bay, Manning P.P. August Lake, Old Iron Mountain Rd., Separation Lake. Species of note: Tundra Swan (L), Northern Pygmy Owl (R), Dusky Flycatcher (R), Townsend's Solitaire (R).

After seeing all the warblers being tallied in Pelee in late April, I got a bit worried with my challenge to Tom and set out to better the record by including the interior. Jason was keen so off we went.

We began at Reifel for American Bittern and succeeded, picking up Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Barn Owl, Greater

Yellowlegs, Varied Thrush and twenty other species in the process. We drove straight to UBC's Cecil Green Park and arrived at 0630 hrs hoping for migrants (and there were a bunch) though, birding was difficult due to strong winds. Forty minutes later we were up to 49 species with Cooper's Hawk, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Wilson's Warbler being our better birds. We decided to try our luck with more migrants and pulled into Queen Elizabeth Park at 0730. Another forty minutes produced some great birds this time—Dusky and Hammond's Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Townsend's Warbler and a lingering Fox Sparrow. Sea and Iona Islands were next. Despite spending two hours covering the area, nothing unexpected popped up and shorebirds were few. Tsawassen produced Brandt's Cormorant and Brant, however extreme winds prevented us from observing anything else. After picking up Black-bellied Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher from the fields of Boundary Bay it was time to head for the interior. We left at 1115 with 103 species.

Manning Park at 1325 was engulfed in heavy snows with low visibility. Whistling did produce a Northern Pygmy Owl and a Blue Grouse was heard through the falling snow. At 1430 hrs, we were off to the Princeton area to finish the day. An hour later, we arrived and added Wood Duck at the sewage ponds. Then we were up to August Lake where we added Ruffed Grouse, a flushed Great Horned Owl, Pygmy Nuthatch, Clark's Nutcracker, Red Crossbill and Cassin's Finch. We were down at the Similkameen River bridge at 1700, adding Common Merganser, Osprey and American Dipper. A drive to the bluffs overlooking the river added Lewis's Woodpecker and White-throated Swift. Next on the itinerary was Jerry Herzig's feeder. The subdivision along Old Hedley Road added a few more easy species including a Calliope Hummingbird. It was almost 2000 hrs, enough time to do Iron Mt. Road where we added Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and finally Separation Lake. The drive around Separation Lake gave us an unexpected Tundra Swan and our only Lesser Yellowlegs of the day. A Red-naped Sapsucker flying across the road was the last bird of the day for a total of 140 species equalling the record.

Poor weather conditions did not assist this effort. I'm still convinced up to 160 species is possible if the interior (perhaps Okanagan) is included on the Big Day route. Perhaps next year...

**Comments:** "Perhaps next year..." That's the beauty of Big Days, there's always next year.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** – 20 March 2001 – 0800 to 1430 – Species totals 20/20; (Team/Shared): Mr. Terrie Woodrow 20, Ms. Frankie Woodrow 20; 210 miles by car. Visiting: Dalhousie, Bathurst, Chatham, Bouctouche, base of Confederation Bridge.

Yet another horrible CD (Chaffin Day) to fill in an open spot.

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** – 22 March 2001 – 0900 to 1720 – Species totals 35/35; (Team/Shared): Mr. Terrie Woodrow 35, Ms. Frankie Woodrow 35; 384 km by car. Visiting: Summerside, Cavendish, St. Peter's Bay, East Point, Rollo Bay, Tracadie, Searletown.

**QUEBEC** – 25 March 2001 – 0800 to 1330 – Species totals 13/13; (Team/Shared): Mr. Terrie Woodrow 13, Ms. Frankie Woodrow 13; 250 miles by car. Visiting: St. Jean-Joli to Ontario border on the Trans-Canada Highway, stopping at a couple of rest areas.

A CD (Chaffin Day) of the most blatant kind. Herring Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark, American Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, European Starling, Snow Bunting, and Purple Finch.

## Workshops for Birders 2002

Field Study and Classroom Education

### FLYCATCHERS

Instructor: Chris Benesh  
July 20-25; Sierra Vista, Arizona

### WEST COAST SEABIRDS

Instructors: Debi Shearwater & Peter Pyle  
August 3-8; Central California Coast

### FALL WARBLERS

Instructors: Jon Dunn & Kimball Garrett  
August 26–September 1; Leamington, Ontario

### CURRENT TRENDS IN BIRD CONSERVATION

Instructors: David Davis & Paul Baicich  
October 5-11; Washington, DC

American Birding Association  
Institute For Field Ornithology  
[www.americanbirding.org/IFO](http://www.americanbirding.org/IFO)

# 2001 U.S. Big Days

**ALASKA** – 22 December 2001 – 0900 to 1500 – Species totals 42/42; (Team/Shared): Robert Scher (42) and Nathan Senner (42); 10 miles by car. *Visiting:* Seward. *Species of note:* Yellow-billed Loon (R), Varied Thrush (L), Golden-crowned Kinglet (M), Black-capped Chickadee (M).

The weather was just awful, with squaws blowing in off of the water every half hour. Very much limited the land birding that we could do. Winter big days are hard to figure out in AK. With so little light I can never decide if it is worth it to try and get out and walk places looking for things like grouse, or just driving all of the streets watching feeders and then checking out the water. I think the latter is probably better, certainly less time in the cold!

**ARIZONA #1** – 23 July 2001 – 0330 to 1945 Species totals 131/131; (Team/Shared): Bob Ambrose; 247 miles by car, 5½ miles by foot. *Visiting:* Madera Canyon, Patagonia RSR, Paton's Residence, Sonoita Creek Sanctuary, Patagonia Lake, Kino Springs, Avra Valley, Tucson. *Species of note:* Elegant Tern (R,S).

A followup to last years efforts. Alone (my brother having moved back to California). An early start and strong thunderstorms in mid-day were major changes from 2000.

**ARIZONA #2** – 06 October 2001 – 0400 to 1930 hours – Species totals 140/136 (Team/Shared); Jay Hand 139, Peter Salomon 138, Nick Laviola 137, Bill Scott 137; 259 miles by car, 2.5 by foot. *Visiting:* Reid Park, Patagonia Lake, Kino Springs, Patagonia Rest Stop, Patons, White Water Draw Wildlife Area, and Wilcox Twin Lakes. *Species of Note:* Lucifer Hummingbird (R), Common Tern(R), Green-winged Teal (M), Cactus Wren (M).

Jay Hand, Nick Laviola, Peter Salomon, and I decided to go after the Arizona October Big Day record, which, at 104 seemed rather low. Jay and I had run the route the week before and had some great birds and encouraging numbers. So, with a couple of changes to the route, we left Tucson at 4 AM and headed down to Patagonia Lake where we hoped to get Virginia Rail and if we were lucky a Least Bittern. On the way we picked up a Great Horned Owl and an unexpected Western Screech Owl along the Santa Cruz River. At Patagonia Lake we had no luck with the Least Bittern, but did get Virginia Rail. We

also missed a Tri-colored Heron and Forster's Tern [which] we'd seen here the week before. We did manage to pick up about 25 species though, including late White-winged Dove and Lucy's Warbler.

A week earlier at Kino Springs our luck had been great (62 species in about two hours,) and we were hoping for a repeat performance. We did almost as well, (52 species,) including Varied Bunting, Cassin's Vireo, and a nice male Painted Bunting, a rare SE Arizona bird. At this point with 77 species already, and the day not half over yet, the question was not could we beat the record, but by how many species.

A stop by the productive feeders at Paton's in Patagonia yielded the bird of the day, a gorgeous male Lucifer Hummingbird. We hadn't even gotten in the gate yet when Jay spotted the bird perched up in the top of a small tree in the backyard. The bird was very cooperative, sitting in full view doing a little preening and fly catching, giving us great looks.

A change in our route from last week to include Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area in the southern end of the Sulphur Springs Valley proved to be a very good strategy. We promptly broke the record with approximately three hundred Sandhill Cranes. We also saw four Common Terns and a 2nd winter California Gull, both great SE Arizona birds. The Sulphur Springs Valley is a very scenic place with sky islands (isolated mountain ranges) rising up out of the desert grasslands. Add in towering thunderheads over the mountains and you have awesome scenery. As we drove up through the valley we added a Merlin and a beautiful Ferruginous Hawk in a field along with lots of lingering Swainson's Hawks. As the daylight faded and the thunderstorms descended, we made a final stop at the Wilcox Twin Lakes Golf Course hoping to add a few more species. It was pretty quiet, but we managed to find a few shorebirds in a small shallow pond. We picked up a Stilt Sandpiper, rare this time of year, along with Baird's and Western sandpipers..

We ended up with 140 species for the day, breaking the October record by 36. All in all a mighty fine day of birding (in some pretty tall cotton), and good practice for some runs at some of the other Arizona Big Day records this coming year.

**CONNECTICUT** – 27 August 2001 – 0300 to 1930 – Species totals 132/129; (Team/Shared): Ed Hagen 130, Greg Hanisek 131, Dave Provecher 130, Mark Szantyr 131; 148 miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Lime

Rock, White Memorial Foundataion, Mohawk Mtn, Hammonasset S.P., Milford Pt., Lordship (Sikorsky Airport.) *Species of note:* 18 species of shorebirds and 16 species of warblers.

**DELAWARE** – 24 February 2001 – 0830 to 1700 – Species totals 71/69; (Team/Shared): Hayes Williams 69, Jayce Williams 69, Ben Copeland 71, Mary Copeland 71, Richard Bassete 69, Mary Lou Bassette 69; 55 miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* Bombay Hook. *Species of note:* Clark's Grebe (V). *Comments:* This was the best day of a four day trip covering three states.

**FLORIDA** – 1 Jan 2002 – 0550 to 0730 – Species totals 93/87 (Team/Shared); Sean McCool 92, L. McCool 89; 275 miles by car, 1 by foot. *Visiting:* "Church's Chicken Pond", St Marks NWR, Alligator Pt., St George Isl. SP. *Species of Note:* Red-throated Loon (R,S), Dunlin (M), Groove-billed Ani (R,S), Barred Owl (M), Tree Swallow (M), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (M), Chipping Sparrow (M).

While the official start time was 0550, the first bird of the new year was actually tallied just after midnight, when the fireworks apparently stirred up the Wood Ducks that roost in the forest behind our home.

Of note was a distinct lack of shorebirds. The only shorebirds we spotted at Saint Marks NWR were two pre-dawn Killdeer along Bottoms Road in Panaca, and one Common Snipe at East River Pool. Otherwise there was zilch! Another bummer was missing the Tropical Kingbird at SMNWR; it was seen two hours after we left!

The Bird of the Day was a tie. First, as we were going through the Apalachicola National Forest, we kept finding rabbit hunters at every turn. Normally I wouldn't mind, but please, NOT on my Big Day! At last, we came to the place where back in April I got my lifer Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and thankfully that was the one place a truck wasn't parked! After a few minutes (and a few Eastern Bluebirds), a RCW—maybe the same bird as in April!—stuck its head out of the hole, then flew out and posed!

The other was a last-minute addition, as on the way home we stopped again at Bottoms Rd to try one last time for rails and owls. We found neither, but a "blob" in the headlights in the water next to the road turned into an American Bittern!

**GEORGIA** – 23 September 2001 – 0015 to 1946 – Species totals 152/146; (Team/Shared): Giff Beaton 150, Jim Flynn 149, Malcolm Hodges 148, Shawn Reed 149; 655.9 miles by car, 5.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, E.L. Huie Land Application Facility/ Newman Wetlands Senter, lower Poplar Street, East Georgia Turf Farm, Savannah and Ogeechee Canal Park, Altamaha WMA, St. Saimons Island, Andrews Island, Jeckyll Island. *Species of note:* Ring-necked duck (E), Sora (M), Wilson's phalarope (R), Bank swallow (L), American robin (M), Prairie warbler (M).

If it's September, it must be time for a PRBO Birdathon, so we assembled the seasoned team of Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Mal Hodges, and Shawn Reed for another run at the Georgia September record of 158. The coast is so dry we knew it would be a real challenge, but we figured we couldn't lose by supporting PRBO so we set the date for Sep 23 and tried to do a little scouting.

We left my house at 2300 on Sat Sep 22 to be in position at midnight. We started the Big Day at 0015 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center for owls. We did not have any luck for Barn here, but got the other three and headed up to our reliable Ross' goose near Ila. This goose showed up a couple of falls ago and just stayed. It has become a Big Day fixture, especially since the landowner had been very accommodating about letting us come in at odd hours to spotlight the pond! We left there at 0321 with four species and headed back to Kennesaw, adding Common Nighthawk from a well-lit billboard long I-85.

We had park permission to hike up Kennesaw Mountain before the park opened, and got there at 0526. Along the way, we struck out on rails in a very dry marsh in Woodstock. We climbed to the top and quickly got all four migrant thrushes. In about an hour we logged almost 500 thrushes, mostly Swainson's. As dawn slowly came to Kennesaw, we started cruising the road migrant flocks. Since we can't spend much time here, we have to move around to see where we might run into some birds. We found only a few small flocks and we left with 47 species at 0912. We got most of the "needed" warblers, which would be those Trans-gulf migrants we were not likely to get later. Absolutely no surprises or even uncommon species. We missed Hairy Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch. Though we find them almost every day there, it seems you need most of a morning to run into one. Since Kennesaw

Marsh is almost dry now, we passed it up and headed south.

After a scouted stop along Tara Blvd. For House Sparrow, we arrived at E.L. Huie at 0956 and quickly scanned the ponds for ducks and shorebirds. We did well here, getting all the scouted species including the Ring-necked Duck; a great bird for September. No surprises here either except for an early Common Snipe, a few of the early ducks and some freshwater shorebirds. We headed for the Newman Wetlands Center at 1013 with 73 species. A quick run in to just the first section of the loop here gave us almost all of our needed species, including Red-headed woodpecker and Northern Flicker (but no Hairy), Red-shouldered Hawk, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and house finch. For many of these species, this would be our last chance. We headed farther south at 1030 with 77 species. We were on time, but a fairly low species count was already making the record seem difficult to attain.

We tried to make up for some lost migrants along the Lower Poplar Street in Macon. This ordinarily good spot was also fairly dry and pretty slow. We did pick up the mostly reliable Common Ground Doves; always a pain to get. We zipped out of here at 1146 with 83 species. In 1998, when we set the record, we had 95 at this point.

We then tried to make the long run to the East Georgia Turf Farm a little more interesting by scanning for kingbirds (unsuccessfully) and stopping at a combined gas station/sub place to grab some sandwiches. They were so slow that we lost 20 extra minutes we couldn't afford. Guess we won't be trying THAT again!

We got to the turf farm at 1351. We knew it would be fast since there is not only less sod than in years past, but it was also dry. We did find our scouted kestrel and cowbirds. At 1401, we bailed without any shorebirds or Horned Larks (last shot.) We now had 90 species.

Our first coast stop is a new addition to the route, the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Park off I-95. It has proved to be a good stop for migrants and coastal flood-plain residents. It paid off this time. There were lingering Acadian flycatcher, and both Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler. We also found several good migrants, including the expected Northern Waterthrush. There were also several good trans-gulf migrants not normally found in numbers on the coast: Golden-winged, Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers. The Canada was especially good. Our spirits buoyed, we headed south for the Altamaha WMA at 1521 with 99 species (still low.)

We picked up Bald Eagle for number 100 on the way, and arrived at the Altamaha WMA at 1605. There is very

little wet habitat now, but we had found some small areas with rails in scouting. We headed to them first. While we did get a surprising Virginia Rail, we did not get the expected King Rail and Sora. We picked up a couple of other scouted species here as well: Common Moorhen and Yellow Warbler. We were back on the road at 1634 with 112 species; still on time, but still low.

Our first beach spot was Gould's Inlet on St. Simon's Island. We arrived at 1702 during high tide. The birds were pushed so high on the beach it was tough to scope out the smaller species. We got a number of good birds here including both black-backed gulls and a lingering immature Reddish egret. With few small shorebirds, we headed for Andrews Island at 1717 with 128 species.

We had made arrangements to be let in the gate for time savings; we zipped right over to where the birds were roosting. We quickly scanned everything, picking up most of our scouted species including some good shorebirds like Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Stilt Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope. We also picked up most of the smaller shorebirds we lacked. We had great looks at a flock of 25 Roseate Spoonbills flying into the setting sun and both species of fast, while we still had light. We left Andrews with 146 species at 1838. We were just slightly behind schedule, but with virtually no chance for the record.

We got to the South Beach at Jeckyll at 1907. We picked up a couple more species on the drive over. We headed out to the beach through the swarms of mosquitoes. In the fading light, we found our last two species: American Oystercatcher and Red Knot. We lingered for a while enjoying the approaching dusk and the flocks of roosting shorebirds. Of course, we hoped for an interesting flyby. Finally, we trudged back to the car at 1946, exhausted. We had 152 species and considered trying for a couple we might still get. We were still missing some rails and the Barn Owl. After 23 straight hours and 655.9 miles (plus about 5.5 miles on foot) we decided to call it a night.

All in all, another rewarding, fun and yet draining day. We raised over \$800.00 for Point Reyes, learned a few more tricks about fall Big Days (including both "we won't do this again" as well as the "why didn't we do this" scenarios) and we just had a great day touring Georgia in fall migration. Thanks to everyone on the team, those that helped with scouting, and especially those supporters who pledged for the count. We are already planning for next year!

**Comments:** That last paragraph summed up Big Days perfectly. A great job for a great cause guys!

**IDAHO** – 9 June 2001 – 0320 to 2230 – Species totals 157/155; (Team/Shared): Marty Collar 156, Dave Mead 156, Jim Moodie 155, Chuck Trost 155; 358 miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* Scout Mountain, Cherry Springs, Wolverine Canyon, Market Lake, CAMAS NWR, Island Park, Henry's Lake, Sawtelle Peak. *Species of note:* Mammals seen: Moose (3), Pronghorn (4), Mule deer (3), White-tailed deer (2), Beaver(2), Pine marten (2). *Comments:* Most of these would be Life Mammals for this old Florida boy.

**IOWA #1** – 25 July 2001 – 0745 to 1815 – Species totals 99/99 (Team/Shared Pam Allen 99, Reid Allen 99; 224 miles by car, 1.25 by foot. *Visiting:* Brown's Woods, Walnut Woods SP, Hallett's Quarry, Maffitt Res, Raccoon River Regional Park, Saylorville Lake, Red Feather Prairie, Polk City WR, Sandpiper Beach (Saylorville Lake), Brenton Slough, Saylorville WR, Ledges SP, Harrier Marsh, Long Pond, Lakin Slough, Bay's Branch WR, and other locales. *Species of note:* Ruddy Turnstone (E), Horned Lark (M), Bobolink (M).

This Big Day will fill in one of the blanks for Iowa. We should have had 100, but staying out waiting for the Whip-poor-will to call fell victim to air-conditioning and bed!.

**IOWA #2** – 15 January 2001 – 0730 to 1430 – Species totals 36/36; (Team/Shared): Eugene Armstrong 36, Eloise Armstrong 36; 113 miles by car. *Visiting:* Our yard, Booneville Sandpit, Walnut Woods State Park, Des Moines River Sycamore Access, Saylorville Lake, Madison County County Roads.

**IOWA #3** – 2 June 2001 – 0630 to 2130 – Species totals 103/103; (Team/Shared): Eugene Armstrong 103, Eloise Armstrong 103; 270 miles by car. *Visiting:* Our yard, Badger Creek Lake, Brenton Slough, Ledges State Park, Boone Ponds, Harrier Marsh, Dunbar Slough, Madison County roads.

**IOWA #4** – 19 July 2001 – 0700 to 2110 – Species totals 103/103; (Team/Shared): Eugene Armstrong 103, Eloise Armstrong; 250 miles by car. *Visiting:* Our yard, Local road, Moore's Timber, Walnut Woods State Park, Brenton Slough, Harrier Marsh, Dunbar Slough, Bays Branch area. *Species of note:* 10 Species of shorebirds.

**IOWA #5** – 9 October 2001 – 0800 to 1545 – Species totals 72/72; (Team/Shared): Eugene Armstrong 72, Eloise Armstrong 72; 107 miles by car. *Visiting:* Our yard, Field Drive, Walnut Woods State Park, Saylorville Lake area, Jester Park, Big Creek State Park, Badger Creek Lake area.

Day of the Yellow-rumped Warblers. Nine species of sparrows.

**IOWA #6** – 4 November 2001 – 0700 to 1600 – Species totals 71/67; (Team/Shared): Eugene Armstrong 69, Eloise Armstrong 68, Dennis Thompson 70; 120 miles by car. *Visiting:* Our yard, Badger Creek Lake, Moffit Res., Walnut Woods State Park, Saylorville Lake area, Big Creek State Park, Jester Park.

Nine species of sparrows, 12 species of ducks. Lots of Harris Sparrows.

**IOWA #7** – 4 September 2001 – 0630 to 0830 – Species totals 112/108; (Team/Shared): Eugene Armstrong 110, Eloise Armstrong 109, Jim Sinclair 110; 230 miles by car. *Visiting:* Our yard, Badger Creek Lake, Moffit Res., Walnut Woods State Park, Saylorville Lake area, Jester Park, Ledges State Park, Harrier Marsh, Dunbar Slough, Moore's Timber.

10 species of warblers. 11 species of shorebirds. A multitude of Monarch butterflies.

Record high for the month of September in Iowa.

**IOWA #8** – 16 August 2001 – 0630 to 2100 – Species totals 109/107; (Team/Shared): Eugene Armstrong 109, Eloise Armstrong 107; 248 miles by car. *Visiting:* Our yard, Badger Creek Lake area, Walnut Woods State Park, Saylorville Lake, Harrier Marsh, Dunbar Slough, Madison County roads.

14 species of shorebirds.

**IOWA #9** – 15 September 2001 – 0500 to 2000 – Species totals 111/106; (Team/Shared): Rita Goranson 109, Curt Nelson 109, Paul Hertzell 107; 98 miles by car, 6.75 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Lime Creek Conservation Area, White Preserve, Shellrock Greenbelt, McIntosh State Park, Clear Lake, Ventura Marsh, union Hills WMA, Zirbel Slough, Mallard Marsh. *Species of note:* Ross' goose (E), Whip-poor-will (R), Yellow-throated warbler (R), Great-tailed grackle (R).

**KENTUCKY #1** – 24 December 2001 – 0300 to 0830 – Species totals 37/37;

(Team/Shared): Jim Hiett 37; 82 miles by car, 1 by foot. *Visiting:* Whitley Co. and Laurel Co., Daniel Boone National Forest, Cumberland Falls State Park, Laurel River Lake. *Species of Note:* (M) Eastern Towhee (M), Field Sparrow (M), Northern Cardinal (M).

(Northern Cardinal) Kentucky's State Bird; may be the only day have ever missed the Cardinal in Kentucky of thousands spent there. Missed the three expected owls, Great Horned, Barred and Eastern Screech, which were present the morning before, after three hard hours of owling.

**KENTUCKY #2** – 15 September 2001 – 0530 to 2030 – Species totals 81/79; (Team/Shared): Lee McNeely 80, Tommy Stephens 80; 98 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Camp Ernst Lake, Big Bone Lick State Park, Cinergy East Bend Power Plant. *Comments:* Single county (Boone) count.

**LOUISIANA #1** – 18 April 2001 – 0000 to 2200 – Species totals 193/186; (Team/Shared): Chris Witt 190, Dan Christian 191, Rob Moyle 189, Jason Weckstein 190; 600 miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Baton Rouge, Athafalaya, Kisatchie N.F., Old River Rd., Beaveryard Pariah, Alligator park, Rt. 108, rice fields, Rutherford Beach, Cameron, Johnson's Bayou, Sabine Pass. *Species of note:* Cave Swallow (S), Magnificent frigatebird (R).

Raised money for ornithology research at LSU Museum of Natural Science.

**LOUISIANA #2** – 25 April 2001 – 0000 to 2300 – Species totals 209/207; (Team/Shared): Chris Witt 209, Dan Christian 207, Jason Weckstein 208; 600 miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Baton Rouge, Lake Martin, Kisatchie N.F., River Rd in Calcasiev and Beaveryard Parishes, Vinton area, Rt. 397, Lionel Deroven Rd., Cameron, Johnson's Bayou, Sabine Pass. *Species of note:* American Oystercatcher (S), Black-billed Cuckoo (R), Cave Swallow (S), American redstart (M), Chuck-will's-widow (M).

Raised money for ornithology reserch at LSU Museum of Natural Science. Over \$10,000 raised and state Big Day Record!

**MAINE #1** – 20 October 2001 – 0500 to 1700 – Species totals 85/85; (Team/Shared): Barrett Lawson 85, Samuel Terry 85; 150 miles by car. *Visiting:* Biddleford Pool, Sanford Sewage Plant, Scarboro Marsh, Cape

Elizabeth, Portland area. *Species of note*: Northern Goshawk (R), Orange-crowned Warbler (R), Lapland longspur (R), Evening Grosbeak (E).

All three accipiters were observed within a 10-minute span. We also had amazing looks at 20–30 Sharp-tailed Sparrows of both species in some small shrubs at the edge of a marsh.

**MAINE #2** – 16 December 2001 – 0515 to 1650 – Species totals 61/60; (Team/Shared): Bob Lawson 60, Barrett Lawson 61; 100 miles by car. *Visiting*: Biddeford pool, Portland area, Scarborough Marsh, Sanford Sewage Ponds, Cape Elizabeth. *Species of note*: Snow Goose (R), Canvasback (R), Ruddy Turnstone (L).

Barred Owl in the daylight—huge flock of redpolls.

**MAINE #3** – 23 November 2001 – 0530 to 1615 – Species totals 74/74; (Team/Shared): Strickland Wheelock 74, Barrett Lawson 74, Bob Lawson 74; 85 miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Sanford Sewage Plant, Biddeford Pool, Portland, Marginal Way, Cliff house. *Species of note*: Sage Thrasher (V,S), King Eider (R), Common Redpoll (R), Snowy Owl (R), Pileated Woodpecker (R).

Eighteen species of ducks spearheaded our first attempt in Maine Big Days. The highlight of the day was the up-close looks at the Sage Thrasher at Nubble (sp?) Light.

**MAINE #4** – 24 May 2001 – 0400 to 1100 – Species totals 122/118; (Team/Shared): Robert M. Milardo 121, Bruce Baker 121, Judy K. Markowsky 120, Joni Dunn (Driver); 230 miles by car, 5 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Greater Bangor Area, Denjawoc Marsh, Frankfurt Marsh, Mt. Desert Island. *Species of note*: Merlin (R), Wood Thrush (M), White-winged Crossbill (R), Orchard Oriole (R).

This count was restricted to Penobscot and Hancock Counties. The White-winged Crossbills were noted as nesting. This was the seventeenth annual Big Day in this area.

**MARYLAND #1** – 15 September 2001 – 0530 to 1730 115/114; (Team/Shared): Kevin M. Krogh 114, Craig F. Richard 114; 220 miles by car, 2.5 by foot. *Visiting*: Assateague National Seashore, E. A. Vaughn Wildlife Management Area, Eagles Nest Campground, Ocean City Inlet, Salisbury Borrow Pit, Blackwater NWR, Elliot Island. *Species of Note*: Ruddy Duck (E), Lesser Black-backed Gull (R), Baird's Sandpiper (R),

Sandwich Tern (L), Northern Flicker (M), House Finch (M).

After several big day learning experiences, we finally posted results respectable enough to report. Yet even this big day was not without its complications and lessons to be learned. Highlights were two life birds for Kevin (Lesser Black-backed Gull and Baird's Sandpiper) and two for Craig (Baird's Sandpiper and Stilt Sandpiper).

Behind schedule from the start, we heading to a Barred Owl site that we had not scouted previously (Mistake #1) and found the road completely closed due to bridge work. Alternate locations did not work out. We had no owls staked out (Mistake #2) and came up short on pre-dawn attempts at Great Horned Owl and Screech Owl as well.

At Assateague, high winds conspired to keep us from finding many migrants. We finally came across a nice mixed flock of woodland birds and were rewarded by a Great Horned Owl that flushed right above our heads. By the time we left Assateague, we had tallied Tricolored Heron, Northern Pintail, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Brown Creeper, Palm Warbler, Baltimore Oriole and Boat-tailed Grackle along with more common fare. We then moved on to an area of E. A. Vaughn Wildlife Management Area that we had never birded before (Mistake #3). We spent too much time, found too few birds and almost lost Craig in the marsh when he sank into mud almost up to his waist. Our most unexpected find in this area was Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

We were more familiar with our next site but had timed the tide poorly (Mistake #4), such that the shorebird flats were almost completely covered. Remarkably, we found several key species including [Black] Skimmer, Sandwich Tern and Common Tern. At Ocean City Inlet we were unable to park because of traffic associated with a week-end beach festival (Mistake #5). We managed only a Ruddy Turnstone.

Enroute to Blackwater NWR, we stopped at a new (construction-related) pond near Salisbury and were rewarded with four new shorebird species (including Baird's Sandpiper which was a life bird for both of us) and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Blackwater NWR and vicinity also yielded several new species, such as Gadwall, Caspian Tern and three raptor species, but the stop was costly in terms of time (Mistake #6). We had just enough time to drive to Elliot Island before sunset, where we heard our only rail of the day, a Clapper, and picked up Moorhen, Snipe, Eastern Screech Owl, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Magnolia Warbler and Seaside Sparrow, if not the hoped for

Barn Owl. Our final railing spot on the way back to Ocean City proved fruitless, and we resigned ourselves to a final total of 115 species, 15 short of our goal for the day. However, given the weather conditions in the morning and the comedy of errors throughout the day, 115 was not an unreasonable tally for a couple of Virginia birders poking around the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

**Comments**: Thanks for the story, guys. I think most of us can relate to the "comedy of errors." That is just one of the things that keep us going, just thinking of how we can make the next attempt even better.

**MARYLAND #2** – 11 November 2001 – 0500 to 2230 hours – Species totals 120/114; (Team/Shared): Kevin M. Krogh 117, Craig F. Richard 117; 220 miles by car, 2.5 by foot. *Visiting*: E. A. Vaughn Wildlife Management Area, Eagles Nest Campground, Ocean City Inlet, Furnacetown, Deal Island Wildlife Management Area, Elliot Island, Assateague National Seashore. *Species of Note*: Tundra Swan (M), Mute Swan (R), Lesser Scaup (M), Little Blue Heron (L), Tricolored Heron (L), Harlequin Duck (R), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (R), Baltimore Oriole (L).

We began at 0500 listening for owls and rails. Although we missed Barred Owl, we still felt we had succeeded with a predawn tally of Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Clapper/King Rail species, Virginia Rail and Sora. We felt we would surely find a Barred Owl after dark (How wrong we were!).

By 0545 we were heading into E. A. Vaughn central on foot with the goal of covering the one mile distance to the marsh by first light. A Woodcock on our way to the marsh would be our only one for the day. An hour at the marsh yielded Marsh and Sedge Wren, Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows as well as more common birds. We stopped only twice on the way back to the car in an attempt to stay on schedule and were rewarded with excellent looks at a Purple Finch and a Baltimore Oriole. In hindsight, another hour at Vaughn central in the morning would have likely helped our species total. We struck out at another E.A. Vaughn stop in an attempt to find a LeConte's Sparrow that had been seen the previous day but managed Brown-headed Nuthatch and Wood Duck.

The wind had picked up considerably when we arrived at the farm fields along Ironshire Rd at 0945, and we managed only American Pipit. An abandoned farmhouse with hedgerows along the road did not produce the hoped for White-crowned Sparrow, but House Wren and

Palm Warbler instead. Enroute to Eagles Nest Campground to scan the mud flats at low tide, we happened upon a Mute Swan, relatively rare for this part of the state. The best birds at Eagles Nest and the nearby golf course were Semipalmated Plover, American Coot, Ruddy Duck and Gadwall.

Shortly after arriving at Ocean City Inlet at 1115, we saw a single Harlequin Duck on the south jetty. We noted several other key inlet species during the next half hour, but eventually pressed on without having found Bonaparte's Gull, Tundra Swan, White-winged Scoter, Eider, Great Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Oldsquaw or Scaup. This decision would prove costly, as we ended up missing all of those species. West Ocean City Pond had the standard ducks as well as Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron and Dowitcher species. The Tundra Swan present the day before was absent. Ocean Pines pond rounded out the duck species with Ring-necked and Wigeon in a very short stop around 1245.

Faced with more time on our hands than we had expected, we tried Ironshire Road again and this time saw both Horned Lark and American Pipit. The strategy for the remainder of the afternoon was to work our way across the county checking several inland sites along Nassawango Creek and Old Furnace Rd for land birds we had missed in the morning. We picked up several, including Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Eastern Phoebe, but missed Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Fox Sparrow.

At Deal we first scoped a Peregrine Falcon on the hack tower, then checked the bay for ducks. We ended the day in the marsh with several Harriers and a Short-eared Owl. The early sundown gave us plenty of time for additional owling, including a long and unsuccessful drive to Elliott for a shot at Barn Owl, a bumpy, unsuccessful and extremely frustrating drive down Colbourne Mill Rd looking for Barred Owl and a semi-productive and cold drive out to Assateague for Saw-whet Owls. In attempting to toot up the Saw-whets we did hear a barking response that resembled the vocalization described in Sibley, but having never heard that vocalization on tape or in real life we were not comfortable listing the owl. Thus we finished at 2230 with 120 species.

**MASSACHUSETTS** – 2 October 2001 – 0000 to 2259 hours – Species total 108; Russ Titus 108; 235 miles by car, 2 on foot. *Visiting:* Scusset Beach, Fort Hill, Race Point, Corn Hill, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. *Species of note:* Mute Swan (M),

Dark-eyed Junco (M), Snow Bunting (E).

It was not a great fallout day but I still thought I could beat the low October record. For daylight birding I started at Scusset Beach at the base of Cape Cod. Big numbers of a few species and a fair number of warblers, but nothing unexpected except an early Snow Bunting. Next I spent more time than planned waiting for the tide to come in at Fort Hill. It never reached the expected level but I added Virginia Rail and both sharp-tailed sparrows anyway. Instead of hitting shorebird spots I decided a seawatch at Race Point was in order. I did well here for shearwaters, but not so well at my next stop, Corn Hill. The only uncommon-rare fringillid I added was Blue Grosbeak. Near the end of the day things were looking gloomy. I had only added dowitcher sp. in the last 45 min when all of a sudden a near miracle happened. I stopped at a small pond where I had nothing earlier, and a Y-billed Cuckoo called from one side, a Y-crowned Night-Heron from the other and a Killdeer from the middle. Then a Winter Wren called from the back and finally I added Least Sandpiper out on the mud. Near midnight I added Snow Goose over my yard back on the mainland.

**MINNESOTA** – 1 January 2001 – 0500 to 1700 – Species totals 63/63; (Team/Shared): Jeff Stephenson 63, Chuck Krulas 63, Chuck Juhnke 63, John Hockema 63, Jerry Pruett 63; 400 miles by car. *Visiting:* Southeast Minnesota, open water areas. *Species of note:* Eastern Bluebird (L), Townsend's Solitaire (R), Varied thrush (R,S), Brown-headed Cowbird (L,S), American Robin (M), Pine Siskin (M), Cedar Waxwing (M).

On January 1, 2001 five hopeful birders set out to do the impossible. Beat the 42 species that was the current Minnesota record for a January big day. John Hockema, Chuck Juhnke, Chuck Krulas, Jerry Pruett, and I met at Hi-Vee at 5 AM to begin this record breaking day. We began by searching for three owls...Great Horned, Eastern Screech, and Barred. We got three Screech, about 10 GH, and just barely got a Barred. So then it was time for breakfast and the wait until sunrise. During this time I read the ABA Big Day rules to the group because one of the ABA Big Day rules is that I have to read the rules to the group. I had put together a minute by minute schedule of where we were going and what birds we would see. However my schedule seemed to be in jeopardy because the rules reading began generating lots of what if questions that required massive amounts of time to resolve. I thought maybe we would be into

lunch before we got to go out birding.

My schedule called for us to begin birding at 7:15 AM. When I created my schedule I picked this time because from my bed the in the morning it looked brighter outside so I assumed that this meant that the sun must be up. Well that was about 30 minutes too soon. So when we started birding we were already 30 minutes behind. After briefly cruising a back road we went to Leslie Kottke's house because she has birds that nobody else does in southern Minnesota. She has so many feeders with such a variety of food choices that I'm surprised that any one else in Rochester has any birds at all. She even has heated feeders with meal worms. It is a bird and birder's paradise. She met us when we arrived and told us which feeder to watch for each species we wanted. At the first feeder we saw White-throated Sparrow. She told us that that feeding station also had two Red-breasted Nuthatches. So we waited a short amount of time and sure enough a RB Nuthatch appeared. She also mentioned that when we were going into the back yard that a Cooper's Hawk would come in. Sure enough it flew right over our heads and landed in an Oak tree when we entered the back yard. I'm not sure whether she had given it a name but I did feel like she considered it one of her family. She said it flew in because when she walked around to the back she would flush up some birds and that made it easy pickings for the hawk. We also wound up getting Tufted Titmouse and Northern Flicker which we didn't find anywhere else that day. Thanks Leslie.

The next stops were really hurried and aimed to get specific species. Varied Thrush at my house, Common Grackle at the DNR building (missed), Song Sparrow at Quarry Hill, Brown-headed Cowbird at feeder found during the Rochester CBC, Red-headed Woodpecker at Wobig's. So by 11 AM we had around 40 species. We were really cooking. Our next stop was supposed to be in Houston County where Fred Leshar had reported Easter Bluebird. However, we were seriously behind schedule so we decided to change my schedule and skip Houston County and the Winona ponds and go directly to Whitewater State Park. Our first stop was the park headquarters. While there we saw some birders and in casual conversation I asked if they had seen any unusual birds. This was an extreme violation of the ABA Big Day rules. I was so accustomed to asking about good birds that I had completely forgotten about this rule. But since we had just gone over the rules that morning John Hockema pointed out what a cheater I was. I felt awful. We decided that if we saw the Northern Shrike at the

location that the person told us about we wouldn't count it. We didn't see the illegal Shrike but we did see a perfectly legal Townsend Solitaire and Eastern Bluebird. I decided not to talk to anyone the rest of the day just to avoid breaking any ABA rules.

After birding Whitewater we next headed out to Blue Lake Sewage and Black Dog Lake. Denny and Barb Martin had told me several days before (not a rule violation) what birds to expect at each place. Even though it was a 1½-hour drive it was well worth it. We got an additional 11 species for the days total.

The final total was 63!!! This even beat the biggest February big day (60). It was a great day. We did have some misses ....American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Pine Siskin but still not many got away.

**MISSOURI** – 9 June 2001 – 0130 to 2000 – Species totals 121/121; (Team/Shared): Matthew Gearhart 121, Alan Godwin 121, Mark Land 121, Roger McNeill 121; 540 miles by car, 5 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Jerry Smith Farm, Little Bean Marsh Conservation Area (CA), Montrose CA, Schell-Osage CA, Squaw Creek NWR, Taberville Prairie, Weston Pond State Park. *Species of note*: Hooded Merganser (L), White-rumped Sandpiper (L), Black Tern (L), Cerulean Warbler (R).

This long day was inspired by the huge lack of Missouri Big Days. Originally, we planned to do one each month. Instead we did one for the year. Eventually we may do one each month (only eleven years to go.) We had a fun time and kept each other excited about what could be seen at the next stop. To our surprise, nearly all our species found were summer residents. With a late push of spring migrants our mark of 121 could be beaten. Hopefully, our June Big Day will inspire others to get out there and find those Missouri birds.

**NEBRASKA #1** – 3 June 2001 – 0530 to 2015 hours – Species totals 133/133; (Team/Shared): Stephen J. Dinsmore (133); 270 miles by car, 2 by foot. *Visiting*: Lake Ogallala, Lake McConaughy, Clear Creek marshes, Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and Oliver Reservoir. *Species of Note*: Pacific Loon (L), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (R), Summer Tanager (R).

This was another Big Day that started out as a regular day of birding and was not a serious Big Day attempt. The cool, rainy weather allowed many migrants to linger later than normal, including many shorebirds, several species of Empidonax, and a few passerines. Exceptional for Nebraska in early June were totals of 15

waterfowl species and 13 shorebird species. The best birds were an unexpected Pacific Loon at Lake Ogallala (it subsequently remained there for several weeks) and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a Summer Tanager at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Other good June birds for Nebraska included two late Red-breasted Mergansers, a Mountain Plover, a Common Tern, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and a late Blackpoll Warbler.

**NEBRASKA #2**– 25 October 2001 – 0700 to 1830 hours – Species totals 102/102; (Team/Shared): Stephen J. Dinsmore (102); 215 miles by car, 2 by foot. *Visiting*: Oliver Reservoir, Ash Hollow State Park, Lake McConaughy, Lake Ogallala. *Species of Note*: Pygmy Nuthatch (R), White-eyed Vireo (V).

This really wasn't a serious Big Day attempt, but as the day wore on many species fell into place and it turned out to be my latest ever 100+ species day in Nebraska. The day was a success because of a good waterfowl list (18 species), many lingering shorebirds (13 species), and a nice mix of migrant passerines. The big highlights of the day were a White-eyed Vireo at Lake Ogallala (the latest fall record for Nebraska) and a Pygmy Nuthatch at Ash Hollow State Park (one of only a handful of state records away from the Pine Ridge). Other good birds included three Black Scoters (rare migrant), an American Golden-Plover (rare in western Nebraska), an Eastern Phoebe (late), and a Wilson's Warbler (late).

**NEW HAMPSHIRE** – 1 December 2001 – 0615 to 1630 hours – Species totals 57/57; (Team/Shared): Rob Woodward, Murray Jukes, Ken Jukes; ? miles by car, .5 mile by foot. *Visiting*: Plymouth, Manchester, Exeter SL, Great Bay, Durham, NH Seacoast. *Species of Note*: Bohemian Waxwing (R), "Audubon's" Warbler (R), Green-winged Teal (L), Greater Yellowlegs (L)

I checked the Big Day records for New Hampshire and determined that the December record of 64 appeared vulnerable. Unable to topple Pam Hunt's May record on an annual basis, I needed to break in somewhere. I pulled out a checklist and drew up a hypothetical list for a good day and came up with 80. Lowering my sights, I went back and culled out a few of the long shots. Now I was down to 70, so 64 seemed eminently beatable. We would set forth on the first day of December, the earliest possible day of the month.

I invited Murray Jukes to join me, a veteran of the Big Day and "Bird Race", as

it is called in Great Britain. Murray's father was in town visiting from the U.K., and the British Invasion was on! We decided to roll the dice and start up north in Plymouth where an irruption of Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings was in full swing. A long ways to go, perhaps, but you need every species.

We arrived at daybreak and soon realized those were not starlings on that wire but a flock of a dozen or so Bohemian Waxwings, with a few Cedars mixed in for good measure. "Jolly well done, 'ol chap!" The next hour was spent combing the town of Plymouth for a Pine Grosbeak, the normally easier species to find. No luck. We had to get going, as there was still the length of the state to cover in a short day. A staked-out Hooded Merganser in Ashland was the senior Jukes's first life bird of the day. "Quite alright, I say."

Dense fog above the interstate blanketed any hopes for a Raven on the way to Manchester, where two species awaited us. The now-resident Peregrine Falcon pair was nowhere to be found; the backup in Portsmouth would have to save us. The Carolina Wren that had been visiting a feeder was equally invisible, but a flock of Common Redpolls across the street lifted our spirits. Unable to pick out a siskin in the flock, we moved on to the Exeter Sewage Treatment Plant.

"Blimey!" A classic Big Day disaster struck and struck hard! Murray had trouble with his tripod. No, it went beyond trouble, the stupid bloody thing completely discombobulated and was rendered useless before it could be used a single time. It was the birding equivalent of Dunkirk. At that moment my dreams of a new record dramatically diminished. One scope for three birders does not add up to a Big Day record. Pressing on, we saw three late Green-winged Teal. "Well done, mate!"

More bad luck awaited us at Great Bay where the entire surface of the estuary was nearly devoid of waterfowl. Without at least American Widgeon we were doomed. A single Greater Scaup was seen on the other side of the bay but no widgeon.

Durham rekindled our hopes with a pair of Carolina Wrens; a good tick and my long-standing nemesis state life bird. "Good show, limey!" All things seemed possible now. On to Jackson Landing for an easy Lesser Black-backed Gull. Well, it was right there last week. We left Durham without Robin or Bluebird and only one scope to scan the ocean. "God Save the Queen!"

A recent report of a Baltimore Oriole in Portsmouth was too tempting to pass but it was long gone; the Peregrine was also among the missing. At Odiorne State Park we found the "Audubon's" Warbler that

had been discovered a few weeks before, too bad subspecies don't count. We added all the usual and ordinary assortment of gulls and sea ducks along the coast, including Velvet Scoter, Great Northern Diver, and even some Shore Larks. [White-winged Scoter, Common Loon, and Horned Lark for you Yanks] But without anything more than that we knew we would come up short. At the Hampton Harbor parking lot at sunset, the familiar but surprising call of Greater Yellowlegs was heard high overhead. Bit of a shame to waste a good twitch like that. The final tally of 57 meant the old "beatable" record would stand another year. "Time for a pint of bitter and eel pie, me lads".

**NEW JERSEY** – 12 September 2001 – 0600 to 1930 – Species totals 144/144; (Team/Shared): David B. Freeland 144; 247 miles by car, 6 miles by car. *Visiting*: Cape May, Brigantine NWR, Johnson Sod Farm, Great Swamp NWR. *Species of note*: Pacific Golden-Plover (V,S), American Avocet (R), Franklin's Gull (R), American Oystercatcher (M), Short-billed Dowitcher (M), Eastern Phoebe (M), House Wren (M), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (M), Swamp Sparrow (M).

The Pacific Golden-Plover was present for at least six days and represents the first record for New Jersey and the second North American record east of the Rockies.

**Comments**: This Big Day sets a new September record for New Jersey, beating the old record by 15 species.

**NEW MEXICO** – 2 July 2001 – 0410 to 2030 – Species totals 117/117; (Team/Shared): David Cleary 117; 161 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Sugarite Canyon State Park, Maxwell NWR and nearby lakes, Vermejo Park Ranch —from the highway.

I did this Big Day simply because I knew I could surpass the published high for New Mexico (99.) Also, I've only lived in Calix County for a month, but I suspect none of my 117 are surprises.

**NEW YORK** – 19 May 2001 – 0000 to 2115 – Species totals 171/168; (Team/Shared): Kevin C. Griffith 171, David Tetlow 170, Jessie Barry 169; 325 miles by car, 2 by foot. *Visiting*: Bergen Swamp, Hamlin Beach State Park, Iroquois NWR, Braddock Bay, Tonowanda WMA, Oak Orchard WMA, Batavia Sewage Treatment Ponds. *Species of note*: Virginia Rail (M).

It was generally a slow day which didn't provide us with much of a significant chance at a significant total.

**NORTH DAKOTA** – 29 April 2001 – 0630 to 2130 – Species totals 106/105; (Team/Shared): Jack P. Lefor ??? Corey D. Ellington ???; 225 miles by car, 1.5 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Sheyenne National Grasslands (Southeast ND), DeWald Slough (Kidder County), Highway 46 across the east half of the state. *Species of note*: Chimney Swift (E).

With a 40mph wind and 80 degrees, there was a big push of migrants seemingly overnight. What started out as a county birding trip, turned out to be a decent Big Day. No extra effort was made to achieve a Big Day, but with no current Big Day in April for ND, we decided to submit something to shoot for. Corey Ellington is hearing impaired, thus missed a Field sparrow. All others were ID by sight and sound. A total of 32 species were year "firsts" for the weekend.

**OKLAHOMA** – 3 May 2001 – 0000 to 2220 hours – Species totals 180/175; (Team/Shared): Jeff Cox 176, Jim Arterburn 178, Kenn Kaufman 179. 472 miles by car, 2 by foot. *Visiting*: Swan Lake (Tulsa), northern Tulsa County, Spavinaw Creek and Dam, Lake Hudson, Sooner Lake, I-35 sod farms, Great Salt Plains. *Species of Note*: Common Loon (L, S), Horned Grebe (L, S), Pied-billed Grebe (M), Greater Scaup (R, S), Common Merganser (L), Wilson's Plover (V), Short-billed Dowitcher (R), Bonaparte's Gull (L), Northern Flicker (M), House Wren (M).

A few minutes before midnight, almost Thursday, May 3, 2001. A group of three middle-aged men, ruggedly handsome and dressed in dark clothing, climb out of the new Toyota 4Runner in a genteel neighborhood in central Tulsa, Oklahoma. They whisper to one another as they approach the fence surrounding a pond. At the stroke of midnight, their voices resonate with excitement. "Hooded Merganser! Mallard! Red-winged Blackbird! American Coot! Gadwall! Wood Duck!" Having recorded six species of birds in six minutes, they dash back to the 4Runner and speed off into the darkness. "If we can keep up this rate, we'll have the record and be done at 3 AM! Woohoo!" Another Oklahoma Big Day is underway—2001: A Bird Oddity.

The planning had actually started five years before, when the team—Jim Arterburn, Kenn Kaufman, and me, Jeff Cox, had done another Big Day in Oklahoma. That time, on May 4, 1996, we established an Oklahoma Big Day record of 177 species. We had missed some common species (American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Loggerhead Shrike) and spent too much time in too many areas with too

few birds; with some changes to the route, we were sure we could do better. Our record was tied in 1999, but it had not been broken. Jim and I had many discussions over the next few years about how we could improve—the fruits of those discussions are seen below. We originally targeted May 5, 2001, as the date for our run for a new record, but when we learned there would be a birding festival at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge on May 5–6, we moved our planned date up to May 4.

Kenn arrived in Tulsa on Tuesday, May 1. That afternoon, we were able to visit several sewage ponds in north Tulsa Co. (Sperry, Skiatook, Collinsville) and concluded there was no point in visiting any of them on our Big Day. The next day, Kenn and I headed east to scout the area around Spavinaw. We found no Pine or Cerulean Warblers, but we did locate Wood Thrush, American Redstart, and Prairie Warbler. While Kenn and I were scouting around Tulsa and eastward, Jim Arterburn was at the Salt Plains. He determined that water was too high in Sand Creek Bay many shorebirds to be there, but he made arrangements for us to get keys to get into the Cherokee sewage ponds and a normally-closed area on the southwest side of the refuge that had thousands of shorebirds. We were all looking forward to a restful day of birding around town on Thursday, May 3, but after watching the local weather and checking every weather site we could find on the internet, we concluded that conditions would be better for a Big Day on Thursday than on Friday. No cold front that might bring down migrants was expected in eastern Oklahoma for several days, but a front was struggling to make its way into the western part of the state. We were hopeful that it would bring some migrants down in western Oklahoma that very evening, but more showers over the next couple of days could raise water levels even more at the Salt Plains, and make driving conditions hazardous. Thus, at 7 PM on Wednesday, May 2, we made the decision to do our Big Day on Thursday, May 3. In other words, we had five hours to get physically and mentally ready. Ahhh, what the heck. Who needs sleep? It's birding!

We rejoice our intrepid birders at Swan Lake, knowing that Jim had inquired ahead of time with the people in charge of Swan Lake to make sure which birds were wild—they confirmed that the ones we counted are indeed wild. As we drive around the lake, we spy a red fox scurrying off—the first of what will be several good mammals for the day. From Swan Lake, we head north on Utica Ave., hearing a Mockingbird singing loudly near 15th St. We make a quick stop at the Williams Center Green in downtown

Tulsa—sometimes a migrant trap, but empty in the middle of this night. Our next stop is some remnant prairie at 96th St. N and Sheridan, in northern Tulsa Co. Here we pick up Henslow's Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Yellow-breasted Chat by song or call. Driving slowly through Mack Taylor Park on the east side of the town of Sperry, we hear a Barred Owl. But a lengthy stop at Sperry Lake, using tapes, turns up nothing but a Common Nighthawk flying over. (Something has to live in all of those cattails—at least we should get the Least Bittern we had last time!) On up through Skiatook, then east on Hwy 20, where we fail to hear a Grasshopper Sparrow, but are able to get Jim some food at a convenience store. (One of the problems of making a snap decision to do your Big Day a day early is that you don't have time to stock up on the necessary array of convenience foods.) Up US Hwy 75 to 156th St. N., where we turn east. Kenn and Jim soon hear a Grasshopper Sparrow singing in the prairie, but my high-frequency hearing loss gets in the way (and not for the last time). Oh, well. Can't waste time. We flush a Killdeer from the edge of the road somewhere along here. On east to the marshes on the south side of the Collinsville sewage ponds. More tape playing, but all we get is a scared Great Blue Heron (not one of our target birds here). A few minutes later, we are heading for our next stop: the marshes at 145th E. Ave and Apache, where we ticked Sora and Virginia Rail in 1996. From US 169, we take Pine St. east to 145th E. Ave., then north. Uh oh. Bridge construction! This is one area we had not had time to scout beforehand, and the road is closed to through traffic. We park, and are able to walk through the construction (ever walk under the arm of a backhoe at 3:00 in the morning?) to the marsh. The edge of the marsh is dry—can't tell if there is any water at all. More tape playing, more silence. Where are the rails? Where are the bitterns? We've spent too much time on them; maybe we can get some tonight at the Salt Plains. Time to head east. Our species count is 15 at this time. Not a bad total, but too many are diurnal species we will see plenty of later. We do not feel good about the low number of night birds we have been able to find.

East on US Hwy 412 to Locust Grove, north on state Hwy 82 to Spavinaw, east on our old friend Hwy 20 and county roads to the Spavinaw Creek area between Lake Eucha and Lake Spavinaw. We drive the backroads some, listening and playing tapes for Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows. Nada. Nothing. Zilch. Where are the night birds? Can't waste any more time, need to get to where we want to be for the dawn chorus. We cross the low-water bridge over Spavinaw Creek

and drive the gravel road along the creek as far as we can go. At 5:30 AM, we close our eyes to try to catch a few winks, keeping the windows cracked open just in case. At 5:40, Jim and I hear Kenn mumble, "Chuck-will's-widow." Aaaargh! Can't a fellow get some sleep? In this case, no. We stumble out of the car, and in the distance we hear Kenn's chuck. Actually two or three chucks in the distance, and mixed in with them is an equally distant Whip-poor-will! Way to go, Kenn! As we stand listening, an Eastern Screech-Owl trills, almost overhead! Finally, some night birds! The sky is starting to lighten in the east by this time, so we give up completely on the idea of sleep. Oh well, who needs sleep when you've got birds all around? Spavinaw Creek is a wonderful place for landbirds. A tremendous variety of species can be found in a small area. In about two hours, we add over 60 species to our list along a couple of miles of the creek. There are some migrants around this day—Tennessee Warblers are abundant, we find one each of Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, and Blackpoll Warbler, a few Nashvilles, and Jim and Kenn hear two different Black-and-white Warblers. But the shrill "weesee weesee" song I remember so well from my misspent youth is beyond my hearing abilities on this day. I spend precious minutes trying to hear the high-pitched call before giving up on it. They seem to be mocking me today. Most of the resident warblers are easy to find—Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Kentucky, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, American Redstart—but no Ceruleans! Are they gone from this area this year? Also the resident vireos (Red-eyed, Warbling, White-eyed, and Yellow-throated), but none of the migrants. We add five woodpeckers (all of the expected ones except Northern Flicker, but we're sure to get that somewhere along the way), and a Belted Kingfisher (a big miss in 1996). We hear and see the local Fish Crows, and Jim spots a Black Vulture sitting in a tree along the creek. Kenn spots a Sharp-shinned Hawk overhead; I find it, but Jim cannot spot it in the small openings in the canopy. Along the road leaving Spavinaw Creek we see more evidence of migration—several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, more Tennessee and Nashville Warblers—but nothing to suggest a major fallout. Nevertheless, we continue to pick up species here and there—a Pine Warbler singing from a small group of pines, a Field Sparrow singing, a Chipping Sparrow in the road. Then, at least of one the minor gods of birding takes pity on me. A Black-and-white Warbler lands in a small tree beside the road, then drops onto the road directly in front of us to inspect some potential food item. I can SEE this one, even from the back seat. THANK YOU!

Back on Hwy 20, we pick up Mourning Dove and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near the small town of Topsy. We head south on Hwy 20/82 through the town of Spavinaw, stopping by Spavinaw Dam and hustling up the stairs to the top. The Common Loon that was there yesterday is nowhere in sight, but we quickly spot Spotted Sandpiper and Cliff Swallow. Then far out over the lake I see a flock of fairly shorebirds in flight (curlews? godwits?). Circling low over the lake several times, they gradually come close enough for us to see the bold black-and-white pattern and sharply upturned bills that identify them as American Avocets! A good find for Spavinaw, but a species we will in abundance later in the day. A quick spin through the campground below the dam yields what will prove to be our only Gray Catbird and Green Heron of the day (along with a nice view of a Pileated Woodpecker on a stump). Back on the highway, we cross Spavinaw Creek and stop briefly to listen for the Wood Thrush Kenn and I had heard there yesterday. It's a little farther away, but we can all hear it (although I have to strain a little). I catch a glimpse of a flycatcher—phoebe-sized—flying by the bridge we had just crossed over. As we start to back up or climb out to go verify it, Jim spots a phoebe nest—with a parent on it—placed atop the electric meter on a house just up the road! Let's move on! Still no flicker and no House Wren, but there's lots of time left.

A couple of miles down Hwy 20, we pull off at our designated Prairie Warbler spot. We hear it singing almost immediately, along with our first Brown Thrasher. In the town of Salina, we turn west towards Lake Hudson, stopping briefly next to the tiny sewage ponds. There are no birds on the ponds, but we see several House Finches in the lot next to them. We also add Chimney Swifts flying over the town. The Hwy 20 bridge across Lake Hudson has several pull-off areas for westbound traffic—I'm sure they were put there for the convenience of birders. Before we get to even the first one, I spot a Caspian Tern, then another. We pull into the first pull-off to scan for other waterbirds. Jim spots a sandbar with several more Caspian Terns, plus a few Forster's Terns and Ring-billed Gulls, and one late Bonaparte's Gull! Bonus! Once we get across Lake Hudson, we take backroads south to US Hwy 412, so we can check the spot where Kenn and I saw an American Kestrel yesterday. (After missing kestrels completely in 1996, we weren't taking any chances!) No kestrel today, but as we approach Tulsa a little later, Kenn spots one sitting on a wire. When we stop to get a look at it, a Cooper's Hawk flies over. Ah, serendipity!

We cruise on across Tulsa, passing just

north of downtown, waving at the city since we can't stop, and pick up the Cimarron Turnpike west of Lake Keystone. It is now 11:40 and we have 113 species so far. Not bad, but not great. Somewhere on the turnpike we add a Swainson's Hawk to the list, and clouds start to appear to the west. We exit on Hwy 177 to make a quick trip to Sooner Lake. From the public roads, we quickly find the Bald Eagle on its nest, with Tree Swallows nearby, and our first flocks of shorebirds—White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs—and a Loggerhead Shrike (another Big Miss in 1996). We add a handful of other species (Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Great-tailed Grackle, and some others) before we head through the gate and towards the spot where Jim had found a Piping Plover the day before. Piping Plover would be a good bird for the list, but it is not there today. In its place is a "Wilson's Plover!" Kenn and Jim call it out at the same time. Its identity is beyond doubt—the large, thick bill (large in plover terms, anyway) is unmistakable. We know we need to move on, but it is hard to leave this bird—it is only the second record of the species for Oklahoma. In the same area, we add American Pipit and Common Merganser (instead of the three Red-breasted Mergansers Jim had seen there previously). Now we head for the back pond, where Jim has staked out a Common Loon and a Horned Grebe. There's the loon in the southeast corner, and there's the grebe in the northwest corner. And we all hear the Bell's Vireo singing from the plum thickets as we drive past. Time to hit the road. The cloudless skies of the morning have been replaced by scattered clouds, building to the west and threatening rain. We leave Sooner Lake at 2:05 PM with 135 species on our list. No Northern Flicker, no Bobwhite, and no Pied-billed Grebe! Can we find 43 more to break the record?

Back to the Cimarron Turnpike, we head west, then north on I-35. The Love's Convenience Store at exit 211 has been demolished! But they are building a new one, and the sod farms on the northeast corner of the exit are active. In a steady rain, we pull into the graveled area on the east side of the sod farms. Shorebirds are scattered about where there are pools of water and, especially, where the sod has been harvested, leaving bare soil. I spot a Semipalmated Plover, but Kenn tops that with a Short-billed Dowitcher, and we get the hoped-for American Golden-Plovers and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, too. We head north on I-35 to the Hwy 11 exit, and head west through intermittent showers. Somewhere along Hwy 11 we add a Northern Harrier coursing over a field. At the Barn Owl house west of Medford, we find the Barn Owl, and hear a Yellow

Warbler singing from the small grove of small trees. Our first Western Meadowlark sings nearby, too. It is now 4:00 and our list stands at 149 species. Much work remains ahead of us, but in ponds along the road we add Green-winged Teal, Snowy Egret, and Wilson's Phalarope. A cattle-feeding area brings us our first Yellow-headed Blackbirds. We flush several Lark Sparrows from the edge of the road, and stop for a Bewick's Wren at the turnoff to the Byron Fish Hatchery.

Showers continue off and on, but the sun shines brightly as we enter the town of Cherokee. We drive around several blocks looking for the Eurasian Collared-Doves, with no luck. We stop briefly by the Chamber of Commerce office to get keys into different areas and caution Anne Wilber not to give us any information about recent bird sightings in town. Wouldn't do to break the rules on a day when we expect to break the record! At the Cherokee Nature Park, we quickly find the expected Harris's and White-crowned Sparrows, and the lingering Pine Siskins. Now I must be one of only about three birders in Oklahoma who did not have Eurasian Collared-Dove on his life list. Driving through Cherokee, I ask Jim and Kenn, "What's a Eurasian Collared-Dove sound like?" "Kuh-KOOOO-koo," one of my companions replies. "Then I just heard one." As we stop to look for it, Kenn spots one in flight. Not a great look, especially for a lifer, but let's move on. At least my low-frequency hearing is still okay. We catch a glimpse of a Mississippi Kite flying over town (they seem to have come back early this year), then head for the cemetery and sewage ponds east of town. We don't add any birds at the cemetery, but we do get a good (but very brief) look at a pair of collared-doves on the power line. On the way to the sewage ponds, Kenn notices me looking at a sparrow-sized bird (a Dickcissel or such) on the line as we drive past, and points out that "There is no bird that size that would be out here that we haven't already seen." Minutes later, a sparrow-sized bird flashes across the road ahead of us—jet-black with white wing-patches. "Lark Bunting!" I cry out. A bonus bird, and a beauty at that. What were you just saying, Kenn?

We have the key to the sewage ponds, so we save time and stay dry in the intermittent showers by driving in. From the 4Runner, we add Greater and Lesser Scaup, but we have to walk up the dikes to get views of a couple of ponds. I spot a bobcat at the edge of one of the ponds—another good mammal! The northeast pond has the most birds, and we approach it on foot in a stinging rain. Hurriedly we tick off Eared Grebe, Redhead, and Ruddy Duck, then dash back to the truck. "Say, that looks a lot like a wall cloud over there,

doesn't it?" If it isn't one, it's doing a pretty darn good impression of one, but it's moving away from us. For the next stop, we drive into a pasture next to a prairie dog town. There were Burrowing Owls in it last year, but the owner has been poisoning the dogs, and we see neither dogs nor owls. We do spot the Black-bellied Plovers that Jim had found there a couple of days ago, and on the way out, Kenn and Jim hear a skylarking Horned Lark—and then another. I strain my ears, but the birds are too high-pitched and too distant. The rain has made the unpaved roads as slick as grease. Even four-wheel drive isn't much help; the only solution is to drive slowly, so we lose precious time. But a stop by a small farm gains us our first Northern Bobwhite (finally!), numerous Clay-colored Sparrows, and the only Lincoln's Sparrow of the day. We take a few moments to admire several Upland Sandpipers in a newly mown hay field, but don't find anything new among them. We haven't tallied our list for a while, but Kenn has been keeping mental track, and thinks we must be in the mid-160s at this point. And still no flicker.

Our final key will get us into a normally-closed section on the SW side of the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. Jim had been in there two days before and found hundreds of shorebirds. Since the water is so high in Sand Creek Bay, we figure this is our best bet for shorebirds, maybe even the Tricolored Heron from two days ago! We stop at a gate while Jim lets us in. We drive in maybe 100 yards and stop by a brushpile that is hopping with sparrows, but none we haven't already seen today. The trail peters out, and Jim says, "Oh, no, we're supposed to go over there." We backtrack and go around the other side of the brushpile—still nothing new, and now I'm driving through a wheat field. "Oh, no, we're supposed to go in at the next gate." Thanks, Jim. Out the first gate, drive a hundred yards to the next gate and enter there. Now we are on—if not a thoroughfare—at least a well-defined track, mostly on a levee around the fields. As I drive through the old fields, Jim hollers, "Bobolink!" We stop and jump out, but I am on the wrong side, and by the time I get around the truck the bird has disappeared. Oh, well. We can't spare time to look for it, and we are pretty sure that all three of us have seen enough species that this partial miss won't hurt us. We drive on past a few birdless ponds and finally come to the end of the track, a small rise overlooking mudflats at the edge of the reservoir. Jim voices disappointment, "There were a lot more birds here two days ago." The lake has risen maybe only an inch, but on the nearly flat lakebed, that's enough to cover acres of mudflats. We can see a few birds fairly close in, but

most of them are off to the west—into the sun. Carrying our scopes, we hike as far we can in that direction, and see—trees and creeks. We are completely blocked from sight of the birds where we are, so we hike back to the truck, and begin the arduous task of peering through our scopes at distant shorebirds with the sun setting behind them. A heinous onus, but we are up to the task. Slowly we add species—Western Sandpiper (close-in), Hudsonian Godwit, Willet, Franklin's Gull, Least Tern, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher. A flock of White-faced Ibis flies overhead, towards the island where they will roost for the night, and four Black-crowned Night Herons come from the direction of the island and land on the near mudflats. A flock of Stilt Sandpipers lands just to the north of us, and we can hear the hoot of an early-rising Great Horned Owl to the south. Daylight is running out. We are tired, and we know that by the time we get back to the gate, it will be almost too dark to see. We discuss how many species we might have by that time, and finally I make a count. 179! Can it be? I count again. Still 179! Jim counts, and subtotals each page. He, too, comes up with 179! We did it! We broke the record! Yahoo! We haven't seen or heard any rails all day, and we think we have just enough energy to try for our 180th species (a nice round number, setting the bar for the next team just a little higher), so we load up and head for the so-called "Rail Marsh" north of Hwy 11. A little ways before we get back to the gate, we spy a badger running in the track ahead of us. We are having a good day with mammals, too! We stop in Cherokee to re-fuel and check into the motel, then head for the marsh. It's about 10:10 when we pull up and stop. We play the rail tape over and over, and just as we are about to call it a day, a lone Sora calls—just once—from the marsh. 180! Let's head for bed.

We all sleep soundly that night. Friday morning, we look around the refuge a little (adding a Broad-winged Hawk and Orange-crowned Warbler to our trip list), then head for home. We stop back by Sooner Lake to see if yesterday's find is still there. The Wilson's Plover is right where we left it (Jim would come back the next day to photograph it), and it has been joined by a Sanderling. We drive on home, and the first bird I see in the backyard is a Northern Flicker.

**OREGON #1** – 9 May 2001 – 0015 to 2330 – Species totals 208/202; (Team/Shared): Craig Miller 205, David Mandell 204, Tim Janzen 206; 472 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. *Visiting*: Siletz Bay, Yaguina Bay, Black Butte Ranch, Indian Ford, Squawback Road, Sawyer Park,

Hatfield Lakes, Cabin Lake, Fort Rock, Summer Lake. *Species of note*: Yellow-billed Loon (V), Tundra Swan (L), Say's Phoebe (M), Rock Wren (M), Fox Sparrow (M).

**Comments**: At the time this Big Day was run, it was the second highest Big Day for the state of Oregon, just three species shy of the record of 212. Just three days later Tim and a group of three other birders would set out and beat the Oregon Big Day Record by one species.

On May 9, 2001 David Mandell, Craig Miller, and I [Tim Janzen] ran a Big Day between Portland and Summer Lake. We found a total of 208 species, which is the third highest total ever for a Big Day in Oregon and only five less than the Oregon Big Day record. Birding conditions were probably about the best I have ever run a Big Day in, with little to no wind at night on both ends of the route and with little wind even east of the Cascades in the afternoon. We started in Clackamas Co. with owls and felt we were doing fairly well after finding three owl species including Barred Owl within the first 35 minutes. We then tried for N. Saw-whet Owl in the Coast Range, but were unsuccessful. After birding in the hills east of Siletz Bay we spent several hours covering the coast between Siletz Bay and Newport. We spent only about 20 minutes at Boiler Bay and had a respectable list of birds there, but not as impressive as Phil Pickering who had been doing an ocean watch there before we arrived. Our best find was a breeding plumage Yellow-billed Loon that David Mandell spotted among the hordes of migrating loons that were passing by. David picked up on the bird about 1/4 mile offshore after noting its large size and its bright yellow bill. Craig Miller, and I also were able to see the bird, but didn't get as good of looks at it as David did. We missed the Manx Shearwater, Sabine's Gulls, Arctic Terns, Marbled Godwits, Black Turnstones, Parasitic Jaeger, Red Phalaropes, Red Knot, and Herring Gull that Phil had seen earlier that morning. Still, we were pleased to find the impressive numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes, loons, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and other species that were present. Among the other more significant and difficult to find birds we found on the trip were a pair of Harlequin Ducks along the Santiam River east of Sweet Home, a Ash-throated Flycatcher at Hatfield Lake near Bend, a Black-chinned Hummingbird near Horse Ridge east of Bend, a late Tundra Swan at Summer Lake, and a Snowy Egret at Summer Lake. The remaining species we found can generally be found reasonably reliably along this route. Birds we didn't see but had a reasonable chance of finding included Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Red

Knot, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Wandering Tattler, Green Heron, Flammulated Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, accipiters, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pinyon Jay, Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, Varied Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Fox Sparrow, Lark Sparrow

**OREGON #2** – 12 May 2001 – 0010 to 2300 – Species totals 213/205; (Team/Shared): Tim Janzen 209, Tom Love 212, Floyd Schrock 209, Shawn Steinberg 205; 472 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Siletz Bay, Yaguina Bay, Black Butte Ranch, Indian Ford, Squawback Road, Sawyer Park, Hatfield Lakes, Cabin Lake, Fort Rock, Summer Lake. *Species of note*: Western Kingbird (M).

**Comments**: Using the same route as three days ago, Tim and a new crew set the new state record.

On May 12, 2001, Tom Love, Floyd Schrock, Shawn Steinberg, and I [Tim Janzen] ran a Big Day between Portland and Summer Lake. We found a total of 213 species which breaks by one species the previous Oregon Big Day record of 212 species set May 10, 1986 by Jeff Gilligan, Steve Heintz, Dave Irons, and David Fix on a route from Siletz Bay to Malheur NWR. Our team ran essentially the identical route that David Mandell, Craig Miller and I ran on May 9 when we found 208 species. The route involved about 472 miles of driving from start to finish. Weather conditions were relatively good with some high clouds most of the day, with some slight wind in the Cascade Mountains and east of the Cascades in the afternoon, and with no rain. We started in Clackamas County shortly after midnight with three owl species in the first 45 minutes and then tried unsuccessfully to get a Ring-necked Pheasant to call in various areas as we expected to have trouble finding this species during the day anywhere on our route. We then went to the Fernhill Wetlands where we were unsuccessful in seeing or hearing the Tricolored Blackbird which has been present there for some time. After some unsuccessful owling for Northern Saw-whet Owl at Hagg Lake we then went to an area near Yamhill where we were successful in finding a Yellow-breasted Chat.

For the dawn chorus we started in the foothills above Siletz Bay where we were successful in locating several somewhat more difficult to find birds including Mountain Quail and Olive-sided Flycatcher. We began birding at the mouth of the Siletz Bay in Taft at about 6:30 AM and were thrilled to see that offshore fog

seemed to be pushing pelagic species in close to the beach just off mouth of the Siletz Bay. We decided at that point to spend some time sorting through the birds migrating by and feeding off the mouth of the river which in retrospect was the right decision in that we found relatively large numbers of Sooty Shearwaters, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Bonaparte's Gulls, auklets, and loons in the group. We found most of the usual shorebirds around Siletz Bay including a Lesser Yellowlegs which only Tom Love and Floyd Schrock saw. Boiler Bay seemed to be much less active than it had been three days previously when David Mandell, Craig Miller, and I had been birding there so we glad to have found as many species off the mouth of Siletz Bay as we had. An American Pipit which flew over at Boiler Bay was an unexpected addition to our day list, however. Relatively few shorebirds were at Yaquina Bay, but we did find a Long-billed Curlew among the Whimbrels just north of the North Jetty while searching for other shorebirds. After picking up the generally expected species in the Philomath and Corvallis area including several Lesser Goldfinches we drove through Sweet Home and over the Cascades with a few stops for selected species such as Hammond's Flycatcher, American Dipper, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Blue Grouse. We made brief stops at Black Butte Ranch, Indian Ford, and Squawback Road near Sisters where we found most of the specialty birds we hoped to find there including a Calliope Hummingbird at Squawback Road. Tom Love also was able to see a lingering Golden-crowned Sparrow which I had located at Squawback Road while scouting that area two days earlier. After a brief stop at Sawyer Park in Bend for Anna's Hummingbird we birded Hatfield Lakes where we found most of the waterfowl species we needed. A Black Tern and two American Avocets were also present there. We made a number of unsuccessful stops near Horse Ridge hoping to find a Pinyon Jay or a Clark's Nutcracker but were able to find our only Townsend's Solitaire there.

We made brief stops at Cabin Lake and various areas near Fort Rock where we found most of the specialty species in those areas including White-throated Swift and Prairie Falcon at Fort Rock. Despite a light wind that was blowing in the Fort Rock area we were surprised to find all the regular desert sparrow species singing there, including a Lark Sparrow, a species we had never found in the evening before on previous Big Days. After missing Canyon Wren at Fort Rock I decided we would try another location near Anna Reservoir at Summer Lake where Craig Miller, David Mandell, and I had been successful in hearing one on May 9. We

were unsuccessful at finding a Canyon Wren but were thrilled to see and hear a Black-throated Sparrow, a species I had seen at this location while on Birdathon on May 6, but which Craig Miller, David Mandell, and I had failed to find on our Big Day on May 9. We then drove the tour loop on the wildlife refuge at Summer Lake. Our efforts were somewhat hampered by relatively high winds we encountered there which made it difficult to scope the marshes and alkali flats very efficiently in the fading light at sundown. Probably one of the most magical moments in the entire trip was when a flock of about 100 or so White-faced Ibis flew in from somewhere behind us and seemingly appeared out of thin air as they landed right in front of us while we were scoping the ponds and alkali flats. Shortly thereafter Tom Love spotted a Snowy Plover, a species which is possible at Summer Lake, but no where else on our route. We also saw many Black Terns, a species which had been absent from the area only two days previously. After finishing the tour loop we went to Craig Miller's house nearby where we hoped to find a Lincoln's Sparrow which Craig Miller, David Mandell, and I had heard singing there three days earlier. That effort was unsuccessful so we drove up to Winter Ridge where we hoped to find Hermit Thrush and Common Poorwill, species that Craig Miller, David Mandell, and I had heard there in the evening on our Big Day on May 9. Tom Love and Floyd Schrock were able to hear a Hermit Thrush singing immediately after we arrived there, but it then stopped singing before Shawn and I were able to hear it. Craig Miller happened to come by shortly thereafter and we all enjoyed hearing Common Poorwills calling as well as a Flammulated Owl which called right at dusk and again several times after that. This was my first experience hearing Flammulated Owl call at dusk, a species I usually hear calling only well after dark. We spent a little time listening for Northern Pygmy-Owl and Williamson's Sapsucker but were unsuccessful in finding either species. We then went back down to Summer Lake to pick up Virginia's Rail and American Bittern, two species we had missed while making the tour loop. I spent some time walking around the grassy areas near the Summer Lake Store, but was unsuccessful in flushing up or hearing a Ring-necked Pheasant. At this point our species total was 211 species and we felt confident we could break the Big Day record if we could locate a Northern Saw-whet Owl and a Clark's Grebe. We drove up to an area near Thompson Reservoir south of Silver Lake where Craig Miller, Dan van den Broek, and I found Northern Saw-whet Owls on a Big Day in 1997 and where I

have subsequently had them a number of times on Big Days and Birdathon trips. Fortunately for our team, a Northern Saw-whet Owl began calling immediately after I played a tape for it in the appropriate area. Shortly thereafter we drove to Thompson Reservoir where we heard both Western Grebes and Clark's Grebes calling in the still night air to give us our 213th species at 11 PM. At that point we considered making a mad dash to Ft. Klamath in hopes of finding a Yellow Rail to add to our total before midnight, but we realized that this was impractical due to the distance involved and thus ended our Big Day effort. Our Big Day effort produced no truly rare birds and almost all the species we found can generally be reliably found on this route at this time of year. A major key to our successful Big Day was the fact that we didn't miss very many species which were "target" species on our route. Probably our most glaring miss was Western Kingbird, a species we had fully expected to find and which have already been around in reasonably good numbers in the Summer Lake area this spring. Among the other species we had a reasonable chance of finding but didn't were Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Pheasant, Williamson's Sapsucker, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Canyon Wren, Varied Thrush, Nashville Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

This Big Day was the 12th serious Oregon Big Day effort in May that I have been involved in since 1995. After several reasonably successful but not record breaking runs from Siletz Bay to Malheur NWR in 1995 and 1996 I began looking more seriously at going to Summer Lake instead of going to Malheur NWR after discussions on this topic with Craig Miller since the driving distance is not as great and since there is considerable overlap between the species that can be reliably found in both areas. Since 1997 I have been running only a route that either starts or ends at Summer Lake. This year I became convinced that starting at the coast instead of at Summer Lake is the most efficient way to run this route on a Big Day even though I have been on some reasonably successful teams that started in Summer Lake and then came to the coast. I am convinced that a team of skilled birders on this route or possibly other routes could produce an Oregon Big Day record of 220 species or more if they had good weather, if they scouted the route very well beforehand, and if they were successful in locating enough difficult to find species along the route.

**PENNSYLVANIA #1** – 3 November 2001 – 0635 to 1720 – Species totals 43/41; (Team/Shared): Susan Young 42, George Young 42; 160 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Shavers Creek, Mothersbaugh Swamp, Canoe Creek S.P., Old Crow SWA, Ragstown Reservoir, Trough Creek S.P., Greenwood Furnace S.P. *Species of note:* Big misses on most waterfowl, most raptors, and winter finches.

Once more, power boats, drained lakes, and fantastic weather limited the bird numbers. 50% over this should be easy.

**PENNSYLVANIA #2** – 7 October 2001 – 0715 to 1820 – Species totals 53/48; (Team/Shared): George Young 51, Susan Young 50; 107 miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Scotia Barrens, Bald Eagle State Park, Cuyler Lake, Bear Meadows Natural Area, Allen Seeger Natural Area, Mothersbaugh Swamp, Stone Valley Recreation Area. *Species of note:* Northern Cardinal (M).

This count is dedicated to “Tommy” of the rock opera of the same name. Comparing our count to the total species possible for the date and location should explain why. A team with better weather and lakes without powerboats should do much better in October.

**PENNSYLVANIA #3** – 2 December 2001 – 0722 to 1744 – Species totals 33/32; (Team/Shared): George Young 33, Susan Young 32; 161 miles by car, 4 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Bald Eagle State Park, Clearfield County Strip Mines. *Species of note:* House Sparrow (M).

The reclaimed strip mines turned out to be a big mistake in winter despite the fine cone crop on the pines and spruces.

**RHODE ISLAND #1** – 15 January 2001 – 0615 to 1645 – Species totals 89/89; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 89, Dan Finizia 89; 140 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Pt. Judith, Succotash Marsh, Trustom Pond NWR, Beavertail Pt., Sachuest NWR. *Species of note:* Long-tailed Jaeger (V), Surf Scoter (M).

**RHODE ISLAND #2** – 23 February 2001 – 0600 to 1630 – Species totals 87/87; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 87, Dan Finizia 87; 125 miles Car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Pt. Judith, Galilee, Succotash Marsh, Thurston Pond NWR, Watchdog Pond, Ninigret SP, Beavertail Pt., Sachuest NWR. *Species of note:* Eurasian Wigeon (R,S), Bald Eagle (R), Black-headed Gull (R), Surf Scoter (M).

**RHODE ISLAND #3** – 19 March 2001 – 0630 to 1630 – Species totals 88/88; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 88, Dan Finizia 88; 135 miles by car, 2.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Napatree Pt., Ninigret SP, Trustom Pond NWR, Succotash Marsh, Charlestown Breachway. *Species of note:* Eurasian Wigeon (R,S) Rough-legged Hawk (R).

**RHODE ISLAND #4** – 30 April 2001 – 0530 to 2000 – Species totals 105/104; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 105, Dan Finizia 104; 140 miles by car, 4 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Great Swamp WMA, Pt. Judith, Trustom Pond NWR, Ninigret SP, Succotash Marsh. *Species of note:* Caspian Tern (R,S).

**Rhode Island #5** – 28 June 2001 – 0500 to 2000 – Species totals 113/109; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 113, Dan Finizia 109; 200 miles by car, 5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Great swamp WMA, Pt. Judith, Galilee, Succotash Marsh, Charlestown Breakway, Quanochohtaug Breachway. *Species of note:* Bald Eagle (R), Alder Flycatcher (R,S), Northern Flicker (M).

**RHODE ISLAND #6** – 20 July 2001 – 0500 to 2030 – Species totals 113/112; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 113, Dan Finizia 112; 140 miles by car, 5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Weekapaug, Quanochohtaug Breachway, Ninigret SP, Charlestown Breachway, Succotash Marsh, Middlebridge, Fisherville Brook WR. *Species of note:* Wilson’s Storm-Petrel (R), Northern Goshawk (R), King Rail (R,S), Alder Flycatcher (R,S).

**RHODE ISLAND #7** – 7 October 2001 – 0500 to 1700 – Species totals 106/102; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 106, Dan Finizia 102; 50 miles by car, five miles by foot. *Visiting:* Block Island, Ferry from Black Island to Galilee, Beavertail Pt., St. Mary’s Pond, Sisson Pond. *Species of note:* Orange-crowned Warbler (R), Yellow Warbler (L).

**RHODE ISLAND #8** – 7 November 2001 – 0530 to 1630 – Species totals 98/97; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 98, Dan Finizia 97; 150 miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Pt. Judith, Succotash Marsh, Tristom Pond NWR, Middlebridge, Beavertail SP, St. Mary’s Pond. *Species of note:* Little Blue Heron (L), Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S), White-rumped

Sandpiper (L), Long-billed Dowitcher (R), Forster’s Tern (L), Yellow Warbler (L), Prairie Warbler (L).

**RHODE ISLAND #9** – 31 December 2001 – 0630 to 1630 – Species totals 89/89; (Team/Shared): Christian Nunes 89, Dan Finizia 89; 142 miles by car, 4 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Pt. Judith, Galilee, Succotash Marsh, Trustom Pond NWR, Green Hill, Beavertail SP, Sachuest NWR. *Species of note:* Eurasian Wigeon (R,S), King Eider (R,S), Snowy Owl (R), Fish Crow (M).

**RHODE ISLAND #10** – 19 December 2001 – 0430 to 1630 – Species totals 90/90; (Team/Shared): Strickland Wheelbank 90, Barrett Lawson 90, Bob Lawson 90; 100 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Tiverton, Middletown, Trustom Pond, E. Providence. *Species of note:* Great egret (L), Red Knot (L), Eurasian Wigeon (R,S) Fox Sparrow (L), Common Redpoll (R), Palm Warbler (L).

Twenty-two species of ducks helped round out a productive day with no big misses (except owls.)

**TENNESSEE #1** – 30 September 2001 – 0600 to 1900 – Species totals 117/111; (Team/Shared): J. R. Wilson 114, Mike Todd 114; 103 miles by car, 3 by foot. *Visiting:* One County – Shelby, TN Ensley Bottoms, Rebco Lake, Mud Island, Shelby Farms *Species of note:* Least Tern (L) Great-crested Flycatcher (L).

**TENNESSEE #2** – 3 November 2001 – 0630 to 1930 – Species totals 102/102; (Team/Shared): J. R. Wilson 102, Larry Peavter 102; 102 miles by car, 3 by foot. *Visiting:* Parepoint – Paris Landing – Britton Ford – Port Rd – Trailer Rd. *Species of note:* Pacific Loon (R), Red-necked Grebe (R), American White Pelican (R), Surf Scoter (R), White-winged Scoter (R), Orange-crowned Warbler (L).

**TENNESSEE #3** – 22 September 2001 – 0530 to 1900 hours – Species totals 110/103; (Team/Shared): Jay Desgrosellier 107, Chris Sloan 108, Philip Casteel 108, Frank Fekel 104; 330 miles by car, 2 by foot. *Visiting:* Wiley Pardue Rd, Narrows of the Harpeth SP, Dyson’s Ditch, Cheatham Dam, Mud Island, Ensley Bottoms, and T.O. Fuller SP. *Species of Note:* Black-necked Stilt (L), Eastern Kingbird (L).

The September big day record of 106 species has long been in our sights as the

most likely for us to break. So, when late September rolled around, we assembled a team of Nashville birders consisting of Jay Desgrosellier, Chris Sloan, Philip Casteel and Frank Fekel and mapped our strategy. We decided to spend the morning surveying the best passerine habitats of Cheatham Co. (just west of Nashville, Davidson Co.), then head west to Memphis and "The Pits" to finish the day. The day proved to be a record breaking event, but not by as much as we'd hoped.

As the team assembled at 5:30 AM at Chris Sloan's apartment, we were quickly met by a hooting Great Horned Owl for our first bird of the day. We then set off to Wiley Pardue Road near the Cheatham WMA. After a couple of tries for Eastern Screech-owl we met with success and so we were off and rolling. First light saw the shadowy images of birds flitting about the trees all around us. However, the low light made it difficult to identify those birds that weren't calling. Those that were calling included Hooded Warbler, Wood Thrush, White-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Summer Tanager and Hairy Woodpecker.

As 7 AM Nearing We Headed To Narrows Of The Harpeth, One Of My Favorite Migrant Traps. I Was More Than A Little Nervous As The Itinerary Was My Idea And If It Didn't Produce I Would Be Looked Upon With Sour Faces For The Rest Of The Day. Fortunately, I Had Little To Fear As Immediately After Stepping Out Of The Car We Were Met By Yellow-throated Vireo, Eastern Phoebe, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-pewee And The First Of What We Soon Realized Was A Large Movement Of Downy Woodpeckers. After Making The Short Hike Up Onto The Ridge, We Encountered A Nice Flock Of Migrant Warblers And Vireos. Within Half An Hour We Found Red-eyed And White-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak As Well As American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler.

From the Narrows we proceeded to Cheatham Dam where we found both of our target species; Black-crowned Night-heron and Pine Warbler as well as an adult Sharp-shinned Hawk and A Belted Kingfisher as an added bonus. Dyson's Ditch was next on the agenda where we found Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk. On our way back to Ashland City along the Cumberland River, we found a flock of swallows consisting of Barn Swallows and Tree Swallows and Chris happened upon a Common Yellowthroat. A productive morning gave us 69 species when we hit the interstate at 11 AM heading

west to Memphis. Now it was up to "The Pits" to produce. Before heading to "The Pits" we stopped at Mud Island, where we only managed to find two Caspian Terns out on a sandbar as well as a House Wren, Palm Warbler and a Trail's Flycatcher in the willows. Upon arriving at "The Pits" hopes were high. We picked up Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Wood Duck And Canada Goose on our way in and quickly added several species of shorebirds and ducks including Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Greater And Lesser Yellowlegs, a single juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher, Least, Pectoral, Semipalmated, Western, Stilt, Spotted And Solitary Sandpipers, as well as four Black-necked Stilts and an American Coot. We also happened upon two Eurasian Collared Doves which we didn't realize were found around "The Pits". Despite adding several species, the low diversity of shorebirds was disappointing and terns were nowhere to be seen. Many of the shorebirds were hunkered down and nervous. Perhaps they had been spooked by something earlier in the day.

Nevertheless, we were still nearing the record and so we proceeded to T.O. Fuller State Park for some last minute passerines as dusk grew near. Morale was low, but there was still hope as we lured birds in with a screech-owl call. At first, it seemed bleak and we were close to leaving for the next spot when suddenly the first new bird appeared, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, then came an Orange-crowned Warbler and a calling Acadian Flycatcher and finally a Black And White Warbler to make for 17 species of warblers on the day. We were almost there, but with daylight fading fast we knew it wasn't going to be easy!

A quick trip back to the brushy area around the steam plant produced a Ruby-throated Hummingbird to tie the record, then finally a Graycatbird to guarantee our record breaking day. Icing on the cake was a flyover Common Nighthawk.

Although we ended the day at 110 species, the 95% rule meant that our seven unshared species would subtract two species from our official total. So, officially, the new September big day record stands at 108, just two over the old record of 106. This record proved more difficult to break than we expected, but it also proves that there's still room for improvement especially if a few additional shorebirds or terns had been present.

**TENNESSEE #4-** 26 August 2001 – 0545 to 1915 hours – Species totals 103/99; (Team/Shared): Jay Desgrosellier 99, Chris Sloan 101, Kevin Calhoon 100; 275 miles by car, 2 by foot. *Visiting:* Ensley Bottoms, T.O. Fuller SP, Mud Is, Black Bayou

and Reelfoot L. *Species of Note:* Northern Harrier (E), Willow Flycatcher (L), Dickcissel (L).

After a brief summer break, it was time for another big day for the team of Chris Sloan and Jay Desgrosellier from Nashville. This time our secret weapon was Kevin Calhoon from Chattanooga. Though he promised to finally put us over the top, we again fell short of the impressive records held by Jeff Wilson and Mark Greene. Given the lack of passerines typically found at this time of the year and our unfamiliarity with the area, we knew it was going to be a challenge, but we had a blast trying!

The day began at 5:30 am at T.O. Fuller State Park in Memphis. We were able to pick-up an Eastern Screech-owl, Barred Owl, and a few resident passerines such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, And Great Crested Flycatcher before heading down to the willow thickets adjacent to the TVA Allen Steam Plant. There we encountered Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Towhee, Indigo Bunting, White-eyed Vireo and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. We also had an unexpected fly-over by a Cattle Egret. At the steam plant pond itself, we found several Least Tern.

The ponds along the road into the steam plant and bottoms produced numerous Green Herons along with several Great Egrets, three Yellow-crowned Night-herons and three Little Blue Herons. We also found a few Baltimore Orioles and a Hairy Woodpecker using the trees around the ponds.

Back at the state park we picked up our only warblers of the day in two small feeding flocks. Totals include three Northern Parula, two Prothonotary Warbler and one Black And White Warbler. Hardly what we had hoped for and definitely below expectation. So, today wasn't going to be a day for warblers, so it would have to be a day for shorebirds if we were to have any hope of breaking the record.

So, to "The Pits" we went with high hopes of a plethora of sandpipers. What we found was just that, there were thousands of birds!! However, 99.9% of them were represented by just three species; Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper. We were also treated to Black-necked Stilt, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Also present were two Black Terns, a flock of Blue-winged Teal, a single Northern Shoveler and a Mississippi Kite. While we had certainly done well and had some fine looks, we had hoped for higher shorebird

diversity. In fact, we were more than a little unlucky in that we spent a considerable amount of time trying to pick out a Western Sandpiper and Baird's Sandpiper, but to no avail. Also, our forced march across the weedy edges of the stinky desert bore no fruit in the form of Upland Sandpiper.

Once again, off we went to view Mud Island for Wood Storks, only to come up empty handed. Feeling that Memphis was proving unlucky for us we decided to head north to the Reelfoot area. It was on our drive north of Dyersburg that we found our biggest surprise of the day. A female Northern Harrier coursed over a field. This bird would be an early migrant, but it's possible that it was resident. As we continued north to Reelfoot we added Snowy Egret and a drive through Ridgley produced numerous Eurasian Collared Dove. Swallows were particularly abundant as all of the regularly occurring swallows in Tennessee were found.

Black Bayou was slow, but still produced about eight Dickcissel, which was a little unexpected as they should disappear from the state very soon. Quite unexpectedly, we also found another female Northern Harrier hovering over the fields. Two birds in late August seems a bit early for a movement of this species into the area. Are they breeding or at least summering nearby? Also found at Black Bayou was a Grasshopper Sparrow and our only Greater Yellowlegs of the day. It was about this time that the thunderstorms began and our hope of breaking the record turned as bleak as the weather.

By heading south along the levees of the Mississippi we added Wild Turkey, Blue Grosbeak, and Caspian Tern to our list, but it was too little too late. Along the Tenn-Mo levee we added our last and possibly best bird. Two Willow Flycatchers chased each other among the trees uttering their "wit" call note. This species should also be absent from the state very shortly.

Our total for this August Big Day came up to 103. Far shy of the record of 114. Oh well, who knows what you're gonna find in August? Maybe next time.

**TEXAS #1** – 18 April 2002 – 0008 to 2200 – Species totals 233/230; (Team/Shared): Tom Hince 232, Paul Pratt 232, Bruce Di Labio 232; 771 miles by car, 5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Lower Rio Grande Valley (South Padre Island, Laguna Atascosa NWR, Santa Ana NWR, Bentsten-Rio Grande Valley State Park), Corpus Christi (Bulcher Park, Padre Island), And Hill Country NW of San Antonio (Concan and vicinity.) *Species of note:* Clay-colored robin (R).

The day began at midnight on South Padre Island coinciding with the arrival of

the cold front. Temperatures quickly dropped through the night from 73°F to 53°F degrees accompanied by strong northeast winds. Our first bird was a storm blown male Indigo bunting disoriented by the lights at the north end of town!

Those first few hours were "brutal." But the rain stopped around 3 AM when the crew pulled into El Canelo Ranch, a renowned birding site, known for the rare Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. The owners generously allowed the team access to the ranch; the visit was fruitful, netting the owl, and several other good finds including Wild turkey.

But then dawn arrived, the weather gods again struck a blow. Driving cold rain greeted the team at Santa Ana NWR along the lower Rio Grande Valley. Despite the almost total lack of bird song, we eventually found most of the key species, then heading north up the coast.

The sun finally made a brief appearance at 11:30 AM Migrant traps in Corpus christi produced enough birds to raise our hopes after a dreary morning. One vacant lot on Padre Island held 50 Orchard Orioles, 100+ Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Painted Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Eastern Kingbird and Gray Catbird while Blucher Park added eight new warblers and eight other migrants.

Designated driver Ethan Meleg kept the team on pace driving an incredible 771 miles during the 24-hour marathon, much of that negotiated during darkness. By the time we reached the Hill Country it was cool and sunny but little light remained. After a flurry of new birds the rate of new additions declined to a frightening trickle of two or three birds per stop. Our last diurnal species was a late calling Canyon wren at 8:20 PM An hour later, a Barred Owl hooting in the grounds of Neal's Lodge, near Concan, was the 233rd and final bird of a tough but exhilarating day.

**Comments:** This was a record breaking attempt that toppled the old record of 231 set in California 29 April 1979. The record-breaking team was comprised of four Canadians, all from Ontario: Tom Hince, Paul Pratt, Bruce Di Labio, and designated driver Ethan Meleg. I had the "honor" of meeting these guys some years ago during the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival (then known as the Flyway Festival) in Titusville, Florida. We (the local hotshot birding team) were confident that we could easily win the birding competition and walk away with an easy prize. There was a rumor about a Canadian team that had joined in, but what can an out of town team do? Well, we found out that we didn't know our area nearly as well as we thought. Neither did we know how to compete on a championship level. The Canadians (we have other names for them, but I can't print

them) were very gracious in letting us in on their secrets. They even seemed somewhat surprised that they won. Over the years, we have become friends and I have learned a tremendous amount about Big Day birding and birding in general. I can't say that I like being beaten by them, but it has certainly expanded my horizons and changed my entire approach to competitive birding.

Now, I see that they have raised the bar again for all of North America. The idea of connecting the plateau with the coast was conceived a year before, after the Texas Birding Classic. It was tried three times by two different teams this year, each time with record setting results. Over the next few years, the record will probably fall again and again until some lucky team hits it just right and sets the bar for another 23 years. OK, enough kissing up, here are some more comments from the team.

We self imposed tough personal guidelines for this Big Day. ABA Rules allow teams to add a bird even if only one observer identifies it. Because honor and integrity is so important in this type of event, we imposed a two-observer minimum. In addition, we chose not to use tapes since the trend in birding ethics is away from inducing a response by using recorded songs. Only three birds on the entire list were not seen (observed) by all of us.

**TEXAS #2** – 31 March 2001 – 0500 to 1930 hours – Species totals 213/210; (Team/Shared) Bob Kemp 213, Ron Weeks 210; 496 miles by car, 3.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Lost Maples SNA, Garner SP, Neal's Lodge, Corpus Christi, Mustang Island, Rockport, Calhoun County. *Species of Note:* Great Horned Owl (M), Ringed Kingfisher (R), Winter Wren (L), Townsend's Solitaire (R, L), Bronzed Cowbird (M)

This March effort was planned largely as a dry run for our planned April run at the national Big Day record. A new route linking the Hill Country with the coast looked great and was about to be field-tested...

After scouting the most of the route together from end to beginning over the previous two days, Bob and I entered Lost Maples State Natural Area at dusk on Friday, March 30th to find a camping spot and get some sleep before our upcoming Big Day. We had originally planned on owling, but decided the day ahead would be much more enjoyable if we simply slept in.

We awoke shortly before 0500 and apparently awakened our first birds of the day, Northern Cardinals. Next, Bob whistled us up some Eastern Screech-

Owls. But after that, all was quiet. So we walked up one of the canyons and waited for the dawn chorus. Things were quiet for a long time making us wonder if the steep canyon walls and the overcast skies would delay the morning chorus, but then it started. Our "daylight" birding started in earnest with a singing Golden-cheeked Warbler at 22 minutes before sunrise. Then just as we were about to start down the trail, I heard a familiar "chimp" call... a late Winter Wren! A moment later it and another began to sing away. Other surprises on the way back to camp included an early Scott's Oriole and a lingering Spotted Towhee. Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Black-and-white Warblers, Yellow-throated and White-eyed Vireos were added a short time later as we tallied some of the many park residents. We loaded our camping gear back into Bob's Cherokee and headed right for the picnic area where we immediately heard Common Raven. A short while later I spotted our biggest surprise of the day, a Townsend's Solitaire dancing in flight above us! We checked the campground and lucked into a Western Scrub-Jay dropping down onto the road in front of us before we quickly sped off at 0705.

As we left the park, we got Wild Turkey and soon after our only Red-shouldered Hawk of the day soared over. We quickly birded our way to Garner SP and found the gate already open. We went right to the river and clicked off a well-scouted Ringed Kingfisher along with a Black Phoebe. We next found Bushtit right where I had had them two weeks before. Green Kingfisher eluded us at its normal haunt, but we did find a Northern Rough-winged Swallow flying over the river. Our next stop was Neals' Lodge in Concan where our best adds were a wheezing Hermit Thrush and our only Black-capped Vireo of the day. We then wasted no time in heading south toward the coast. We were leaving the first section of the route 35 minutes behind schedule but with 89 species including many of the expected Hill Country specialties safely ours.

We did well in the brush country ticking most all of our needed sparrows and brush species and even adding Brewer's Blackbird and Cedar Waxwings along the way. As we entered the Corpus Christi area, we hit our only hawk kettle of the day adding Sharpie and Broad-winged. By now we were nearly 40 minutes behind and we decided to cut out several planned stops—an age-old Big Day tradition—to get back on schedule.

The water was way up at Tule Lake in Corpus meaning the shorebirds were close. We added all the small plovers except for Piping, Black-bellied Plovers, Gull-billed Terns and most of the expected peeps before driving onward to Blucher Park in

downtown Corpus Christi. We exited incorrectly for Blucher costing us a few minutes, but were quickly heartened when we added warblers even before we left the sidewalk. There we added Kentucky, Worm-eating, Hooded (many), Northern Parula, Orange-crowned, Tennessee, Wilson's and Nashville along with Chuck-will's-widow and Brown Thrasher. Across the street at the Audubon house, we added Black-throated Green Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. This would later be described as one of the best March fallouts in recent memory by birders all along the TX coast. We zipped away from Blucher somehow still 45 minutes behind but with 153 species under our belts already topping the former TX March record of 150.

Next up was Mustang Island and we hit the beach only to find it covered with beachgoers. It was a beautiful Saturday, so I guess we should have expected it. Bob carefully wove his way through the crowds and despite the masses we managed to get Least, Sandwich and Royal Terns along with some bonus Red Knots. At that point, we made the decision to skip the Port Aransas Jetty and once again get ourselves back on schedule. The Port Aransas Birding Center was great as usual. There we added Sora, Least Bitterns, Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal and our only Eared Grebe of the weekend. Next at Paradise Pond, we added a nighthawk species, Summer Tanager and Warbling Vireo within five minutes. At that point we were nearly back on schedule and up to 183 species—five above the old March record for North America! Then some more beach-related traffic put us behind again as we were about the 50th car in line for the ferries.

We decided to skip much of Rockport and just run the shore. Our first stop added a surprise drake Mallard, our first oystercatcher and our remaining herons. Rockport Beach Park was covered with people killing our chances for more shorebirds. The run along Little Bay added Redhead and we sped on to the Cayman House B&B. There we added Buff-bellied Hummingbird in about a minute and took off. Oystercatcher Point was our last Rockport area stop and there we added our only Red-breasted Merganser of the day. We were once again back on schedule with 196 species logged and potential for at least 20 more.

Up next were resident Cliff Swallows at Tivoli followed by Boat-tailed Grackles at the Guadalupe River mouth. We used the last light of the day in the fields and crawfish ponds of Calhoun County. There we added a few more ducks and shorebirds along with many calling Sedge Wrens and a King Rail. We tried owling on our way back west but had no luck. We

finished the day listening to our 213th and last bird of the day, Pauraque, call in the distance.

**Comments:** This new route was conceived the year before and promises to raise the bar for Big Day Birding in North America for years to come.

**TEXAS #3** – 24 April 2001 – 0000 to 2400 hours – Species totals 258/247 (Team/Shared) Adam Byrne 257, Giff Beaton 256, Dwight Peake 256, Ron Weeks 253, Bob Kemp 250; 757 miles by car, 6 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Lost Maples SP, Garner SP, Neal's Lodge, Corpus Christi, Mustang Island, Rockport, Calhoun County. *Species of Note:* Fulvous Whistling-Duck (M), Ring-necked Duck (L), Greater Scaup (L), Zone-tailed Hawk (R), Common Barn-Owl (M), Hutton's Vireo (R, S)

### **BIG DAY ACCOUNT**

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Our 2001 Big Day had been in the plans ever since the previous June when I read a trip list from Lost Maples State Natural Area posted to TexBirds, the Audubon-sponsored "listserv" dedicated to Texas birding. I was amazed at the number of birds listed (e.g. Eastern Phoebe, Canyon Wren, Golden-cheeked Warbler and Rufous-crowned Sparrow) that we had no chance for on our central coast-based runs of the previous four years. Not having been to Lost Maples in 15 years, I could not remember just where it was. A quick check of the map left me so excited I would have trouble sleeping for the next week. There was time to do the Hill Country and still work in many of our favorite coastal locations! It was then I knew, with any luck, the old national record of 231, set in California in 1978, would fall the next spring.

Next came the legwork. When my family left for California in late June, I spent three days finding out what birds were where and determining what roads would comprise our base route. After that step was finished, I spent the next ten months collecting every tidbit of information I could about the new extension to the Hill Country. I also recruited my former Great Texas Birding Classic teammates, Dwight Peake, Giff Beaton and Adam Byrne. However, the last and most important addition would come later in the form of Bob Kemp from Ohio. Bob could do what the rest of the team's jobs and families would not allow—extensive scouting. And that brings us to the real story...

We arose at 2330 on April 23rd, ready to undertake what we hoped would be a record-breaking day. The March dry run using the new "Hill-to-Bend" (Hill Country

to Coastal Bend) route had tallied a national March record of 213 species despite only two days of scouting. Bob's additional finds during mid-April left us full of hope as we added the first bird of the day, Killdeer, outside our hotel rooms shortly after midnight. Some of us tried to get some sleep as we moved from spot to spot checking off our night birds. We added Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill and finally Elf Owl, our first "blue chip" bird of the day. We moved onward to our next staked bird, but not before passing a local sheriff parked by the road. He pulled out behind us and tailed us for what seemed like an eternity. Finally, a highway intersection appeared. Dwight carefully stopped and turned right. The sheriff also turned right and turned on his lights. We kept our hands visible, stated our citizenship and gave him his laugh for the night before moving onward. A short while after our brush with the law, we happened upon our most unexpected sighting of the day when a rare jaguarundi crossed the road in front of us!

After adding a few more expected night birds, we moved to our dawn starting point at Lost Maples. About 20 minutes before sunrise, the pace of our day picked up. As the morning chorus commenced, we started briskly walking along the canyons...Ash-throated Flycatcher, Canyon Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and finally Golden-cheeked Warbler. The pace now picked up to slow run as Bob directed us from territory to territory adding species almost constantly. As we arrived at the Common Raven nest site, the bird called saving us precious time. The same was the case for the Western Scrub-Jay that Adam spotted. Soon we had clicked off almost all the expected residents and even some much-needed migrants like Spotted Sandpiper, House Wren and Nashville and Orange-crowned Warblers. We sped up as we saw our departure time approaching. After celebrating over a few more key species, we let our adrenaline push us back to the car at close to a dead run.

We loaded up and moved on to our next well-known location, Garner State Park, where we added Lesser Goldfinch, Field Sparrow and more expected residents. Then on to Neal's Lodge where we found Hooded Oriole, Long-billed Thrasher and Jon Dunn, the part-owner of the very record we were aiming to break. We briefly greeted Jon and June Osborne, the resident birder at Neal's who we had consulted during planning, before pushing onward. As we left, we reflected on the irony of meeting Jon and the impressiveness of our morning start. We were leaving the Hill Country with 129 species including such bonuses as Hutton's Vireo and Yellow-headed Blackbird and

only two irreparable misses, Bushtit and Red-shouldered Hawk. More importantly, we were right on schedule.

The long stretch of brush country on our route to Corpus Christi allowed a bit of relaxation, but there were still many birds to get along the way. Bob had carefully planned our stops where we could get migrant sparrows and bulk up on our brush country residents. We did well adding Clay-colored and Black-throated Sparrows, Cactus Wren and many others. Then Giff spotted what he thought were Lark Buntings on the fence—we turned around and proved he was right. At a later stop, I wandered back and spied a lone sparrow perched in the open—Vesper Sparrow! These were two lingering winter residents we had hoped for but not counted on. Other species surprised us by their mettle. Could we miss Roadrunner while driving through almost 200 miles of habitat? I began cooing at the next stop...and finally one called. The rest of the team is still debating whether I had anything to do with the bird vocalizing.

We quickly moved into Corpus Christi with all our brush country hopefuls in the bag, but now 15 minutes behind schedule. We spent only a few minutes at Joel & Vicki Simon's house adding our Buff-bellied Hummingbird for the day. We knew we had to cut some time, so we quickly sped on to Blucher Park, a lush green oasis amid the asphalt of downtown Corpus, dearly hoping that the front we had followed would have grounded some migrants. We arrived to the sight of fruiting trees exploding with color. There were Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. But where were the warblers? We searched desperately finding only a few warblers before moving across the street to the park proper. It was slower than we had hoped, but then it began to happen. Ovenbird, Swainson's Thrush... No, that's a Veery! They're both there! American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky... Our only problem was the unshared bird list (only 5% allowed by rule) had risen to double figures and we were still behind schedule. We pulled ourselves away and moved on toward Mustang Island.

We reached the island quickly realizing we could get right back on schedule if we simply bit the bullet and bypassed Packery Channel—which we did. We searched the island for Piping Plovers present the day before, but found only Wilson's and Snowies. We bypassed the planned beach run due to the large sargasso (seaweed) piles blocking our view of the edge and focused on raptors. Apparently, all the White-tailed Hawks were now on nest as we had no luck finding them or Peregrine. As we drove into Port Aransas, we did add some more

shorebirds at the Wetlands Park and gulls at the jetty, but still no Common Loon. We had high hopes for the Port Aransas Birding Center and were rewarded with our only Eared Grebes and Least Bitterns of the day and a nice bonus, a tardy drake Northern Pintail! Our stop at Paradise Pond was also a success as warblers had just started to drop in. Hooded, Yellow, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted and more were added. Better yet, we were back on schedule. Perhaps, I should not have mentioned this to the team as in a few minutes I was emotionally crushed. The intersection ahead was backed up and I knew why. We were facing a ferry wait of possibly an hour or more! We considered driving back through Corpus but realized that would be Big Day death. I was consoled by my teammates as they could see I needed it. We rated the merits of the two ferry operators over the next 45 minutes while we waited for our turn.

The ferry delay did allow me to plan our strategy (essentially cut the next four stops) with what little time remained. It also allowed Adam to count our birds. I felt a little better after he told us we already had 225 species in the bag! That was great, but I couldn't help but wonder what might have been if the ferry line had been typical for a weekday. It was now time to head for the rice fields of Calhoun County. We did add a few birds along the way spotting a recently-arrived Common Loon and a few shorebirds during our drive through Rockport. We later added our insurance White-tailed Hawk that our good friend, Michael Marsden, had found on a nest a few weeks earlier. By the time we reached the rice fields we had already broken the old record of 231 and the new record of 233 set the previous week unbeknownst to us at the time. In hindsight, it was Red-bellied Woodpecker that put us over the top at 234 species.

We began adding to the new record at a still-flooded rice field spotting Pectoral Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit and White-rumped Sandpiper in short order. Due to the fading light our second scheduled rice field had to be cut. Unfortunately, Baird's Sandpiper and American Golden-Plover would have to wait for another day. We hurried to our Seaside Sparrow spot and got it despite a stiff breeze. Our last dusk bird was a Clapper Rail that Dwight spurred into calling by slapping his boots together after he had changed out of them. Despite all of the stops cut due to the ferry wait, we started our second round of true night birding with an unprecedented total of 255 species. We labored until midnight adding Common Pauraque and King Rail. We never were able to locate a Barn Owl, so we ended up finishing our day with a Great Horned Owl on a nest at 2350.

**Comments:** What can I say? Tremendous

effort and a great day. Now let's see how high the bar will be raised as the route gets tweaked over the next few years.

**UTAH** – 13 May 2001 – 0000 to 0000 – Species totals 202/198; (Team/Shared): Mark Stackhouse 202, David Wheeler 201 Colby Neuman 198; 598.2 miles by car, 4 miles by foot. *Visiting*: St. George, Lytle Ranch, Pine Valley, Chicken Creek Res., Sundance, Heber Valley, Deseret Ranch. *Species of note*: Ring-necked Duck (M), Peregrine Falcon (M), Prairie Falcon (M), Hudsonian Godwit (V), Belted Kingfisher (M), Red-naped Sapsucker (M), Cassin's vireo (R), Black-capped Chickadee (M), Tennessee Warbler (V), Common Grackle (R).

**VERMONT #1** – 4 June 2001 – 0001 to 2145 – Species totals 159/157; (Team/Shared): Pat Wand 158 (missed E. screech owl), Ken Wand 158 (missed Great horned owl); 376 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Hawk View Rd., Brandon, High Pond Road, W. Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek WR, Champlain Islands, Mississquoi WR, Forest Road 32/ Brandon Gap, Goshen, Button Bay SP, Arnold District Road, RT 125 West, Market Street ext. *Species of note*: Little Blue Heron (V), Forster's Tern (R), Caspian tern (R), Red-breasted Nuthatch (M).

Seven species of shorebirds and a B.W. Teal in a wind caused overflow area above South Hero in Champlain Islands was the difference for the record. Over 60 Indigo buntings (males!) like House sparrows. A calling Long-eared owl was the first bird, opposite own home! We stayed in the western half of the state, mostly the Lake Champlain drainage area.

**Comment**: This is a new state record Big Day.

**VERMONT #2** – 30 April 2001 – 0530 to 1930 – Species totals 119/116; (Team/Shared): Pat Ward 117, Ken Ward 118; 197 miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Rt. 73 West, Arnold District Rd., Rt. 125 West, Shelburne Bay, Dead Creek WR, Lake Rd, Panston, Button Bay SP, W. Rutland Marsh. *Species of note*: Laughing gull (R), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (E), Indigo Bunting (E), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (E), Northern Shrike (L).

Anseriformes saved the day: very warm early. Two hours of owling produced on Barred owl calling. Six warbler species seen the day before had moved out.

**VERMONT #3** – 3 December 2001 – 0630 to 1830 – Species totals 74/74;

(Team/Shared): Pat Ward 74, Ken Ward 74; 201 miles by car, 2 ½ miles by foot. *Visiting*: Rt. 73 West, Rt. 325 West, Dead Creek WR, Shelburne Bay, Lake Rd, Panton, Home Area, Brandon. *Species of note*: Semipalmated Sandpiper (L), Northern Hawk Owl (V), Great Horned Owl (S), Common Redpoll (E), Song Sparrow (L), Swamp Sparrow (L).

Redpolls, siskins, and grosbeaks at the feeders, and a calling Barred Owl at 0630 got us going. Traditional spots yielded traditional birds. The hawk owl was sitting in a 6-ft. shrub at Dead Creek Rt. 17.

**WEST VIRGINIA #1** – 31 October 2001 – 0800 to 1730 – Species totals 44/44 (Team/Shared Carol Burroughs 44, Ed Burroughs 44; 261 miles by car, 2 by foot. *Visiting*: Pipestem State Park, Green Bottom WMA.

**WEST VIRGINIA #2** – 06 November 2001 – 0745 1945 – Species totals 51/50; (Team/Shared): Carol Burroughs 50, Ed Burroughs 51; 68 miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Pipestem State Park, New River Gorge.

**WEST VIRGINIA #3** – 07 December 2001 – 0740 to 1800 – Species totals 52/51; (Team/Shared): Carol Burroughs 52, Ed Burroughs 51; 112 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Pipestem Park, New River Gorge.

**WEST VIRGINIA #4** – 29 December 2001 – 0700 to 1600 – Species totals 40/39; (Team/Shared): Barry C. Williams 40, David P. Williams 39; 151 miles by car, ¼ mile by foot. *Visiting*: New River/Sandstone Falls, Hinton, Moncove Lake, Gap Mills. *Species of note*: Black-capped Chickadee (M), Turkey Vulture (M), Snow Goose (S).

**WYOMING #1** – 12 November 2001 – 0700 to 1630 – Species totals 70/70; (Team/Shared): Doug Faulkner 70, Chris Wood 70; 526 miles by car, One mile by foot. *Visiting*: Grayrocks Reservoir, Hawk Springs Reservoir, Glendo Reservoir, Guernsey Reservoir, Rawhide Wildlife Management Area, Bump Sullivan Lake. *Species of note*: Red-necked grebe (R), Clark's Grebe (L), American White Pelican (L), Rock Wren (L).

**WYOMING #2** – 25 May 2001 – 0130 to 2130 hours – Species totals 180/178; (Team/Shared): Stephen J.

Dinsmore (179), Joe Fontaine (179); 509 miles by car, 2 by foot. *Visiting*: Snowy Range Pass, Cheyenne, Vedauwoo area, Lake Hattie Reservoir, Laramie Plains, Grayrocks Reservoir, Table Mountain Wildlife Area. *Species of Note*: Pygmy Nuthatch (R), White-eyed Vireo (V).

On 25 May 2001, we ran a very successful Big Day in southeastern Wyoming. We finished the day with 180 species, topping the previous state record of 149 species. After waiting all week for strong N/NW winds to subside, we finally ran our route just before the Memorial Day weekend onslaught of vacationers. Fortunately, the weather was cooperative and we were able to find both shorebird and passerine migrants in decent numbers on the plains. Despite this success, our total could certainly be bettered due our lack of serious scouting. Missed species such as owls and low-density breeders (especially montane species) could have easily added ten or more species to this total.

We began the day at 1:30 AM at the Snowy Range Pass area in the Medicine Bow National Forest. At 2:10 AM we got our first bird of the day—a calling Boreal Owl. We both agreed this was a great way to start the day. We tried in vain for Northern Saw-whet Owl and finally had to leave at 3 AM without hearing one. On our way east, we had great looks at a porcupine in our headlights. Our next stop was near Vedauwoo in the Laramie Range where we added several Common Poorwills at 4 AM, but no owls. We then continued east to Cheyenne, finding many of the common species along the interstate as it was getting light.

Beginning at 5:30 AM we made several stops along Campstool Road southeast of Cheyenne, an area where the road passes through several thickets and by a couple of small lakes. Some of the birds we saw here included White-rumped Sandpipers, Franklin's Gulls, a Common Tern, and a male Chestnut-sided Warbler. Certainly the oddest sighting of the day was a Red-breasted Nuthatch perched on a fencepost more than a mile from the nearest tree. On the outskirts of the Wyoming Hereford Ranch, we found a male Chestnut-collared Longspur teed up on a yucca. We arrived at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch at 7 AM and it was obvious that there had been a minor fallout of migrants. We were already half an hour behind schedule, but we birded here for nearly an hour. Highlights here were a Broad-winged Hawk, a Northern Harrier (the only one for the day), Plumbeous and Red-eyed vireos, Veery, Clay-colored Sparrow (Joe only), and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We also managed to find most of the common plains breeding species and migrants.

Since we were already behind schedule, we decided to make an abbreviated stop at Lion's Park in Cheyenne. On the lake we added Clark's Grebe and Common Merganser and in the trees surrounding the lake we found a Cordilleran Flycatcher, a male Northern Parula, an Ovenbird, and a MacGillivray's Warbler. On our way out of town we added a Great Horned Owl near a nest we had staked out. When we left Cheyenne at 9 AM our list stood at an even 100 species.

After leaving Cheyenne, we headed west towards the Vedauwoo area, retracing our pre-dawn route. A couple of quick stops in the Medicine Bow National Forest produced our first montane birds of the day—Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker (Steve only), Hammond's Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Green-tailed Towhee, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco. We were fortunate to find all of our target species quickly and avoided falling further behind schedule.

After leaving Vedauwoo, we continued west towards Snowy Range Pass. We arrived in alpine habitat at 11:30 AM where we were hoping to round out our list of montane species, but the birding was very slow. An hour of birding along the highway produced Osprey, American Pipit, Fox Sparrow, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, Pine Grosbeak, and Cassin's Finch. Unfortunately, we missed many montane species; more scouting here would definitely have helped. After leaving the mountains, we made a side trip to some lakes at the eastern base of the Snowy Range. At Twin Buttes Lake we found a flock of Sanderlings and a Caspian Tern. At nearby Lake Hattie Reservoir we found the expected Common Loons and a surprise Horned Grebe, but the Red-throated Loon we saw here the day before was not to be found on the choppy waters. The short drive east to Laramie produced Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, and a Prairie Falcon. This was probably the low point of the day because we had missed several montane species and the winds were increasing, frustrating our birding on the plains.

We arrived in Laramie at 1:15 PM, about an hour behind our planned schedule, with 131 species. From here, our strategy was to bird a little on the Laramie Plains and then head east towards Torrington where we would finish the day. On the grasslands north of Laramie a few quick stops finally produced a Willet and several Brewer's Sparrows, but none of the other grassland birds we were hoping for (Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Plover, etc.). On our way east, we stopped a few times in Sybille Canyon and added Golden Eagle, Rock Wren, Sage Thrasher, Yellow-breasted

Chat, and Lazuli Bunting, bringing our list to 146 species. The canyon was exceptional for filling in several glaring misses such as Northern Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Black-billed Magpie, and Black-capped Chickadee, leading to several high-fives. We were hoping to find more migrant passerines at Grayrocks Reservoir, but it was very slow and crowded with RV's, jet skis, and people. The only birds of note were three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a male Orchard Oriole. Time was getting very tight now and we were forced to move quickly. North of the reservoir we found our first Say's Phoebe and two Cassin's Kingbirds (species #150, marked by another high-five). At Guernsey Reservoir we added the expected White-throated Swifts plus a bonus Cooper's Hawk and a Red Crossbill.

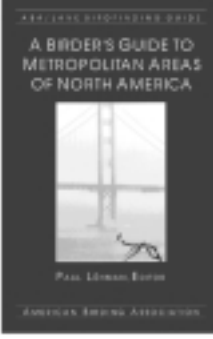
From Guernsey, we turned east along the North Platte River valley towards Torrington. A quick stop in Fort Laramie produced two staked-out Eurasian Collared-Doves as well as our first Blue Jay and Cedar Waxwing, both huge misses up to this point. At Rawhide Wildlife Area we added Wood Duck and Red-headed Woodpecker in a 10-minute stop. Farther east near Torrington we added a staked-out Burrowing Owl, but had no luck finding Grasshopper Sparrow.

At this point we had already broken the Wyoming Big Day record, but it seemed doubtful we would do much better than 165-170 species we had hoped for. Our strategy for the remaining two hours was to focus on missing waterbirds and grassland species. We headed south towards a small wetland where we had been seeing quite a few shorebirds all spring. On the way there we added our first Ring-necked Pheasant. At the wetland our hearts missed a beat when we found the small pond jammed full of shorebirds—3 American Golden-Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, a female Black-necked Stilt, four species of peeps (Semipalmated, Least, Baird's, and White-rumped), and two Pectoral Sandpipers. It

was now 6 PM and we decided to make a quick dash to Bump Sullivan Reservoir before ending the day as planned at Table Mountain Wildlife Area. On the way we finally found a Grasshopper Sparrow. Bump Sullivan was also loaded with shorebirds including our first Lesser Yellowlegs and Marbled Godwit mixed in with the carpet of Stilt Sandpipers and Red-necked Phalaropes. Amazingly, we had added seven species of shorebirds to our list in less than half an hour! After searching in vain for Upland Sandpiper, we arrived at Table Mountain at 7:45 PM, almost an hour behind schedule. As we left the parking lot Joe finally found a Brown Thrasher, saving us from an embarrassing miss. We walked and jogged the dikes until dark, making the most use of the limited daylight. Marsh Wrens sang along the dikes and a large flock of shorebirds contained a single Long-billed Dowitcher. A Common Nighthawk flew overhead and several Great-tailed Grackles were displaying along the main dike. The high-fives were really flying at this point! A few minutes later several Black-crowned Night-Herons flushed from the marsh and we found single Snowy and Cattle egrets. As we walked, several Virginia Rails called from the marsh. Careful scanning through the hordes of ducks produced a male Bufflehead and, finally, a single Snow Goose we had staked out, the final species of the day.

Although we managed to break the Wyoming Big Day record quite easily, we still had a number of big misses including American Bittern, Ferruginous Hawk, Wild Turkey, Mountain Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Screech- and Northern Saw-whet Owls, Least and Dusky flycatchers, Gray Jay, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Dipper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Solitaire, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Bobolink.

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# 2001 International Big Days

**CROATIA** – 16 April 2001 – 0800 to 1830 – Species totals 78/77; (Team/Shared): Steve Lister 77, Megan C. Hall 78; 312 km by car, 1 km by foot. *Visiting:* Nereta Delta, Cilipi Valley. *Species of note:* Nothings stands out, but Spotted redshank, Sandwich tern, and Common tern were seen at any other time of the week either side of the Big Day.

Birding is almost unknown in Croatia. Landmines are a potential hazard, uncleared after the conflict with Serbia. A write up of our trip will be logged with the filednotes in ABA Sales. The trip yielded 123 species.

**DJIBOUTI #1** – 1 September 2001 – Species Totals 85/85; (Team/Shared): Peter Kaestner 85; 160 miles, 2 by foot. *Visiting:* Djibouti City, desert East beyond the airport, roadside towards and forest above the Dittilou Tourist Camp, Foret de Day. *Species of Note:* Djibouti Francolin, Eleonora's Falcon, Levant Sparrowhawk, Bearded Woodpecker, Grey-headed Batis, Yellow-rumped (White-throated) Serin, and Somali Sparrow (in town).

A one-person effort. Got the target for the day, the critically endangered Djibouti Francolin about 45 minutes above the tourist camp. In the same area, I saw several Levant Sparrowhawks. In the what goes around, comes around category, I saw a Levant Sparrowhawk eating a White-throated Serin, and little while later I saw a vervet monkey eating the wing of a juvenile sparrowhawk!

**DJIBOUTI #2** – 2 September 2001 – Species Totals 95/95; (Team/Shared): Peter Kaestner 95; 160 miles, 7 by foot. *Visiting:* Roadside below the Dittilou Tourist Camp, Foret de Day and road to and mudflats around Djibouti City. *Species of Note:* Dideric Cuckoo, Sombre Chat.

A one-person effort. Essentially the reverse of the previous day's trip, but without the climb up to get the francolin. Walked 10 Kms down into the Toha River valley looking unsuccessfully for the "Toha Sunbird." Did get the bird of the trip, Sombre Chat, possibly a new bird for Djibouti, and a real rarity. It was seen about one mile below the Tourist Camp along the access road, near a place where the river that flows to the south of the road forms a gorge with steep, rocky cliffs over 150 feet high.

**ETHIOPIA #1** – 19 August 2001 – Species Totals 174/171; (Team/Shared): Peter Kaestner 173; Merid Gebremichael 172; 260 miles, 2 by foot. *Visiting:* Wondo Genet, Abijatta-Shala National Park, Lake Ziway, Addis Ababa. *Species of Note:* Clapperton's Francolin, White-cheeked Turaco, Brown Parisoma, all local.

A new Big Day record for Ethiopia on drive back to Addis from Shashememe. Thirteen "Abyssinian" endemics were found. Oddly, no larks were seen.

**ETHIOPIA #2** – 10 September 2001 – 0630 to 1630 – Species Totals 189/182; (Team/Shared): Peter Kaestner 189; Merid Gebremichael 182; 360 miles, 2 by foot. *Visiting:* Roadside highlands near Yirga Chefe, Abijatta-Shala National Park, Lake Langano, Lake Ziway, Addis Ababa. *Species of Note:* None.

A new Big Day record for Ethiopia on drive back to Addis from Yirga Chefe. The "Big" day was relaxed, starting at 6:30 AM and ending at 4:30 PM. Generous breakfast and lunch breaks added to lost time. A detour to Wondo Genet and a bit more work around Addis could have very easily netted over 200 species, especially a bit later in the season when more Palearctic migrants would be present.

**GUATEMALA #1** – 1 April 2001 – Species Totals 208/198; (Team/Shared): Peter Kaestner 207, Wouter Plomp 199; 208 miles by car, 1 by foot, 3 by boat. *Visiting:* Finca Las Nubes 20 Kms NE of San Jose Pinula, Lago de Pino, Cuilapa, Chiquimulilla, Puerto Ixtapa. *Species of Note:* Buffy-fronted Wood-Partridge, Highland Guan, Plain-breasted Ground Dove (R), Mountain Elaenia (Local), White-throated Flycatcher (Local), Purple Martin, Cedar Waxwing (interruption year).

## **A RECORD BIG DAY FOR GUATEMALA —ONE BIRD PER MILE**

*Peter Kaestner*

After our successful run at the Guatemala Big Day record last year, I opined that we could beat 175 if we could find some decent habitat between the high-altitude forest and the coastal areas. During the off season, I scouted a bit and found some good dry woods along the road from Cuilapa to Chiquimulilla. The problem was that the new route bypassed our only fresh-water lake and took us almost two hours out of our way. I needed to find a

short cut to the coast to make up one of the lost hours. The weekend before the big day, I went to the coast along a back road from the Safari Park down to Puerto Ixtapa. The road was so bad that I broke a shock on my Jeep, but there was some decent habitat. Amazingly, there was even a small patch of lowland humid forest, an unexpected treat.

So the big day dawned and I am again trying a new route that I have never birded all at once. My goal was just to break the old record of 178. When I added up the parts, however, I had recorded over 227 species on the route, raising expectations that a 200-day was possible. The weather was perfect, nearctic/neotropical migrants were plentiful, and local singing was at a fever pitch in anticipation of the rainy season. My companion was a Dutch diplomat, Wouter Plomp, whose solid birding skills were only surpassed by his excellent company. As it turned out, Wouter was suffering from a knee ailment that slowed him down all day. His indomitable spirit prevailed, however, and he made the entire day and was a real key to our success.

Like last year, we started off at 0400 from my house in Guatemala City. The night sky was clear, as usual, and a cool nip was in the air. Our run up to the mountains was uneventful, and we began spotlighting by 0430. The first bird was a (Mexican) Whip-poor-will sitting along the side of the road. When we arrived in the highland forest, there were no owl sounds (we don't use tapes), but we did spotlight a mammal (probably a opossum) high in a tree. Several satellites streaked across the starry sky. As the first light of dawn appeared in the east, we headed to Las Nubes, a new locality just ten minutes up the road. There we had fabulous luck hearing Buffy-fronted Wood-Partridge and White-faced Quail-Dove, two shy highland specialties. We quickly added more expected highland birds like Rufous-browed Wren, Black, Mountain, and Rufous-collared Robins, Blue-and-white Mockingbirds, Steller's Jays, and a fleeting flock of Cedar Waxwings that Wouter could not localize. One of the best birds at the first stop was the local Mountain Elaenia, which was very common. (I had found them previously there while studying the Wood-Partridge.)

Working back down the mountain, we noticed that one of the most productive areas from October had been clear-cut and was an ecological wasteland. Fortunately, there is plenty of other forest around, and we quickly started picking up the highland

stuff that record days are made of. We heard the recently split Guatemalan Pygmy Owl at one stop and Wouter evened the score with a Red-faced Warbler in the canopy that I missed. The regular highland warblers such as Olive, Hermit, Grace's, Golden-browed, and Townsend's all cooperated, however. One flock was full of vireos, and we added Hutton's, Brown-capped, Warbling, and Plumbeous to the list. The birding was so good that we were starting to get behind schedule. By the time we had gotten back to the spot where we had begun last year, we were over 30 minutes late. Oddly, the many hummingbirds that we had seen in October were completely absent. Our concern was alleviated, however, when we heard Mountain Trogon, Emerald Toucanet, and Highland Guan—quality birds all—from that spot. Feeling great, although somewhat behind schedule, we forced our way down the hill.

The first stop was the Parque Ecologico, where the Barred Antshrike and both White-throated and Buff-breasted Flycatchers cooperated. Our next stop was a field where I had hoped to get Tropical Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Kestrel, and Eastern Meadowlark. Sadly, in the meantime a huge gate had been erected and we were relegated to looking in from the outside. We struck out there, but got all four target species elsewhere. Our next stop was similarly gated, and we missed a chance to look for the Prairie Warbler that was the highlight of the October record big day. Our next, quick, stop had produced the local Rufous Saberwing the week before, but we were very pleasantly surprised to get Orange-crowned and Mourning Warblers as a consolation. (MacGillivray's is MUCH commoner here.) On the way back to the car, we had to scramble down a very steep but short slope. As I went down it, I kicked a rock out of the way so Wouter would not have to negotiate around it with his sore knee. Unfortunately, I slipped when I kicked, and tore my shirt on a nasty piece of rusty barbed wire that was next to me. I was cursing the loss of my new and favorite shirt when I reached into my pocket to grab my car keys. The keys were all bloody! I looked down as saw that my hand had been shredded by the same barbed wire that had caught the sleeve of my shirt! We lost about 15 more minutes as I cleaned up my hand, stopped the bleeding, and bandaged the wounds. (Living overseas, I keep current on tetanus shots.)

A bit chastened by the accident, we kept heading down the Caraterra El Salvador towards Lago de Pino. A quick roadside stop got us a Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Masked Tityra, and several swallows

including Bank. Lago de Pino was a substitute for Lake Amatitlan, which had given us our second best bird last year, Eared Grebe. Since the big day was being done on Sunday, we had the misfortune to run into a huge religious gathering at the lake, with about 100 people participating and witnessing a full-immersion Baptism—right in front of the reed beds where we usually got our best birds. Because of all the commotion, we missed the Limpkin that I had seen regularly, but two grebes, coot, American Widgeon, Common Moorhen, and a couple of orioles made up for it. By now, Wouter's knee was really slowing him down, and we had to keep it iced down. We must have looked a sight with Wouter limping and my hand all bandaged up!

Heading for the lowlands, we headed for the key Culilapa-Chiquimulilla road. It did not disappoint. Even though it was midday and the tropical sun was intense, we scored such goodies as White-bellied Chachalaca, Squirrel Cuckoo, Collared Aracari, three migrating hawks, and Yellow-breasted Chat. By the time we got to the end of the road we were almost an hour late and out of ice for Wouter's knee. We lost almost 20 minutes finding someone in Chiquimulilla who could sell us ice on a Sunday afternoon. Finally replenished, we continued down to the coastal plain and the remnant humid forest. Wouter, who had been spending our transit time tending his increasing swelling knees, finally had a chance to tally our count, and came up with about 140 species, a super result so far.

Because we were so late, we just stopped for a minute in the tiny patch of humid forest, and picked a couple of birds for the list, including Streak-headed Woodcreeper. Pushing ahead, we came to an area of wetlands near the coast that had to produce. At one drained shrimp pond we walked out to a new area and found a marvelous mudflat, which added some 25 species of water birds to the list. I had a hard time getting Wouter on a Snowy Plover because it was so flighty. I finally realized why when a Peregrine Falcon flew in and sat down on the mud!

Our next hurdle was logistical, as our new route put us on the wrong side of an important river near the coast. The week before I had found a small ferry, but I was not 100% sure that we'd be able to use it. As we approached the crossing, I quickly passed several cars on the dusty road to get first in line at the crossing. It turned out to be a good move since the ferry took forever. The river was so low that the ferry could hardly make it. The ferry looked like an oversized baking pan, a shallow metal contraption into which a single car was pushed across the 200meter-wide river by six men wading in the knee-deep water. As

it turned out, our car was too heavy and the ferry ran aground half way over. Once we hit bottom, I was instructed to move the car up to the far end of the craft. Then the free end was swiveled around in front of the end where the car was. Then I drove ten feet back to the other end of the vessel and the other end was pivoted around. In this way we were manhandled across the river in about 15 minutes! We added overhead Magnificent Frigatebird and Brown Pelicans while slowly spinning across the river.

The coast was excellent, as beautiful Franklin's Gulls in full breeding dress were migrating up the coast. They were joined by almost a half dozen other larids, making up for a huge gap in our October effort. Our final stop was the mangroves at Puerto Ixtapa, our traditional end. We were not disappointed. We completed our heron list with goodies like the Boat-billed and Yellow-crowned Night Heron. The usual Lesser Nighthawks were supplemented with a nice Chuck-Wills-Widow and a calling Ferruginous Pygmy Owl as it got dark. The most fun bird of the day was four Northern Potoos, sitting conspicuously on the tops of four separated trees. A lifer for Wouter, they were a fitting end to the super day. The day, however, was not yet over, as the boatmen ran out of gas in the middle of the mangrove swamp. But how we got out is another story...

At our wrap-up over dinner, we both felt that we had beaten the old record, but neither of us would have predicted that we had exceeded the magical 200 barrier. I'm sure we can do better, but I'll not predict how many more species we can find here. This day we added 50 species to my scouting lists, so there is clearly potential. Maybe we need to drive farther next time!

**GUATEMALA #2** – 18 November 2001 – Species Totals 193/183; (Team/Shared): Peter Kaestner 191, Jason Barry 185; 203 miles by car, 1 by foot, 3 by boat. *Visiting*: Road 20 Kms NE of San Jose Pinula, Lago Pino, Culilapa, Chiquimulilla, Puerto Ixtapa. *Species of Note*: Sungrebe (spotlighted sleeping in mangrove roots), Slender Sheartail, and Sedge Wren.

Same route as our April record attempt. (The day started as an outing to watch the Leonid Meteor Shower, which lived up to all expectations.) Though most early stops came up short of expected species (we were late for migration and it was cold and windy in the mountains), the total was only 15 short of the Guatemala Big Day record.

**HONDURAS** – 6 January 2001 – 0655 to 2200 hours – Species totals 149/149; (Team/Sahred); Peter Kaestner (149) 600 miles by car, ½ by foot.

*Visiting:* Copan, San Pedro Sula, Yoro, Coyales, Cofradia, Olanchito, Sava, La Cieba, Tela, El Progreso. *Species of note:* Reddish Egret (V), Lesser Black-backed Gull (V), Honduran Emerald (L – Endangered), Golden-cheeked Warbler (R).

This was a trip from Guatemala to Coyales to find the critically endangered Honduran Emerald. The bird cooperated and I found one easily a few minutes after arriving in the thorn scrub (with thick understory) habitat 15 Kms west of Coyales. The day began with a 2 hour-45 minute drive from Guatemala City to the Honduran border. The best birds (the Egret and gull) were seen in late afternoon at the mouth of the Congrejal River at La Cieba. This is a single observer effort.

**HUNGARY** – 13 May 2001 – 0015 to 2130 – Species totals 144/143; (Team/Shared): Gabor Magayar 143, Andras Schmidt 144, Endre Sos 143; 350 km by car, 10 kilometers by foot. *Visiting:* Borzsony Hills, Vac, Apas-Pulsta, Boddi-szek, Dunafolduar, Retskas. *Species of note:* Lesser spotted eagle, Ruddy Shelduck (V), Imperial eagle (R), White-backed woodpecker (R), Middle spotted woodpecker (M), Bluethroat (M), Temminck's stint (M).

**MEXICO** Navarit – 23 December 2001 – 0450 to 2100 – Species totals 201/193; (Team/Shared): Kenn Kaufman 199, Rick Taylor 199, Clive Green 194, Non-participating companions: Lynn Hassler Kaufman, Mary Jean Hage; 130 km by car, 5 km by foot. *Visiting:* Cerro San Juan area, Mecatan side road, Matanchen Bay, Camino Cocodrilo, San Blas lagoons, Singayta Jungle. *Species of note:* Anhinga (M), Tennessee Warbler (R), Ovenbird (R), Audubon's Oriole (R), House Sparrow (M).

The area of San Blas, Nayarit, on the west coast of Mexico, seems to have been more of a birding destination in the 1970s and 1980s than it is today. This is sort of odd, considering how the number of birders north of the border has increased. At any rate, there is still excellent habitat in the San Blas area. Great numbers of birds can still be found there, including winterers from the north, big concentrations of waterbirds, widespread tropical species, and many Mexican endemics.

Rick Taylor and Clive Green had done big days in the past on the Durango Highway in Sinaloa, but we were curious to see what might be possible in the San Blas area. The immediate environs of San Blas offer great birding; the drawback is that no true montane areas are within easy

reach. However, the middle-elevation habitats around Cerro San Juan, only a short distance inland, are high enough to add species not found on the coast, such as White-striped Woodcreeper, Slate-throated Redstart, Black-headed Siskin, and many others. We wondered if the relatively short driving distance involved, giving us more time for actual birding, might be enough to make up for the lack of great elevational range.

Our attempt this time was intended mainly as a dry run, an experiment with the route; but we did follow ABA Big Day rules very carefully, just in case the day's total turned out to be worth reporting. It did: we broke the previous Mexican record that Rick and Clive had set a few years before.

December 23rd happened to be the day that we were going from the highlands of Cerro San Juan back down to the coast at San Blas, so we did what we could with the day. In case anyone is wondering, a Sunday two days before Christmas is not the optimal time for such an attempt. The crowds on the beach cost us several birds that would have been easy on a weekday, such as Black-bellied Plover and American Oystercatcher. The day was also mostly overcast, and that probably cost us aerial species, such as Violet-green Swallow and Great Black-Hawk, that we saw repeatedly before or after the Big Day itself. The overcast also seemed to reduce vocal activity in the morning, and it made darkness fall early, so that in the late afternoon we were scrambling to find some "easy" lowland species like Rufous-backed Robin and Tropical Parula before we ran out of light.

Considering the challenges of this particular day, we were pleased to have broken 200. There is a lot of potential in this area and we suspect that, with some refinements and a more intense effort, the route could produce as many as 250 species.

*Kenn Kaufman*

**NICARAGUA** – 3 February 2001 – 0915 to 1500 hours – Species totals 56/51; (Team/Shared) (lowered to 53 in accordance with the 95% rule.) Peter Kaestner (55), Juan Carlos Martinez-Sanchez (52); 150 miles by car, ½ by foot. *Visiting:* Managua to Puerto Momotombo and return. *Species of Note:* American White Pelican, Nicaraguan Grackle.

This was conceived as a Big Day, but with the constraint that I was only in the country for about seven hours in transit to Costa Rica. The target for the day, the endemic grackle, cooperated. We saw 40 of their threatened birds in their preferred swamp habitat (with dead trees) near Puerto Momotombo.

**POLAND** – 25 June 2001 – 0320 to 2210 hours – Species totals 108/104; (Team/Shared): Steven J.C. Gaulin 105, Bill Hintze 107; 240 kilometers by car, 9 by foot. *Visiting:* (all places visited were within a 25 km radius of the city of Torun in north-central Poland on the Vistula river) Zebowo marsh, marsh and forest along the Drweca river near the village of Elgiszewo, Torun town dump, Piwnicki forest reserve, Vistula river at Kamieniec, twin lakes near Suchatowka *inter alia*. *Species of Note:* Spotted Redshank (E), Lesser Black-backed Gull (L), Serin (M)

Having birded together in the US and separately in Europe, we decided to undertake a joint European project and get Poland on the BD map despite having as our only available date 25 June and not having been able to do a trial run by car, our scouting having been done on foot—with assists from the local public transportation network as required. We decided on the locale of Torun as one of us (BH) had been living (and birding) there since the previous September. We were reasonably happy with our species total, although we feel that with a bit better plan and an earlier date we might have come up with one in the neighborhood of 125 or so.

The day started out well as we had a long list at Zebowo marsh which included Bittern, Redshank, Bearded Reedling, Water Rail, Crane, an unexpected Quail, and an early south-bound Spotted Redshank. At our second stop, although missing the hoped for White-tailed Eagles, we lucked into Thrush Nightingales feeding young, a secretive species that—although very common here—we didn't know whether we'd get or not as they'd completely stopped singing. A lingering Lesser Black-backed Gull was then found at the Torun town dump where the previous week there'd still been four or five, while a staked out Stonechat and Little Grebe dutifully turned up at a pond next to the dump. The Piwnicki forest reserve produced the hoped for Red-breasted Flycatcher, a Middle Spotted Woodpecker, and Ortolan Bunting (in a field on the edge of the forest). At Suchatowka we luckily spotted a Black Stork and a Wryneck; another short stop near the Vistula river produced a Corncrake.

Despite many such nice highlights, our list of misses was also very long. Leading it was a vagrant (but increasingly being seen here) Great Egret which was found the next morning at what would have been our last stop, had we been able to get to it, a stop which also would have added (at least) Greylag Goose and Black-tailed Godwit to our list. Many other misses were known to be present in the area but just

harder to find on such a late date: Barred Warbler, Wood Lark, Pied Flycatcher, Green and Black Woodpecker, Goosander, Garganey, Hoopoe, and Nightingale for example.

We wish to thank an undergrad at Torun's Uniwersytet Mikolaja Kopernika, Stanislaw Burdziej, for telling one of us (BH) months prior to our BD effort about four of the places we decided to stop at, and Prof. dr. hab. Andrzej Przystalski—also at UMK—for the loan of several field guides and CDs as well as other information about birding in the area.

**A note on Torun.** This city is on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites because of its very well preserved medieval town center. Although it was on the border between Prussia and Russia before World War I and is surrounded by a ring of Prussian forts, it miraculously last suffered war damage in the war with Sweden in 1703! Worth a visit.

**SAUDI ARABIA** (Yanbu area) – 6 September 2001 – 0800 to 1900 – Species totals 112/112; (Team/Shared): Gary Bletsch 112; 163 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Yanbu Dump; Lake Yanbu; Harbor Island; Zohoor Park; al-Gamrah Park; Conservation Area One; Shoreline between Yanbu al-Sinaiyah and Yanbu al-Bahr; Yanbu Granary; first village on unpaved road between Yanbu and Fiqrah; first oasis after village. *Species of note:* Goliath Heron (R), White Stork (R), Corncrake (R/under-reported), Hoopoe Lark (M).

#### **ANOTHER BIG DAY OF BIRDING IN YANBU, SAUDI ARABIA**

This year of 2001, I decided to do my Big Day on September 13. Thursday, September 6 was going to be a mellow start to the weekend, with a bit of birding in the morning, and a Quiz Night at the Arabian Homes compound at 1930. In between, maybe I would correct papers, or lounge at the pool, or go shopping.

Just as in 1999, a simple morning's bird walk turned into an all-day quest. This year, I drove out to the Yanbu Dump, leaving Arabian Homes at the leisurely hour of 0800 and arriving at 0825. Lately, the dump has supplanted the Wastewater Oasis as my favored patch. A complicated set of circumstances explains this change; political events hundreds of miles to the north have reached their insidious tentacles all the way down to sleepy Yanbu. Because the unrest in Israel and Palestine has increased the likelihood—or perceived likelihood—of attacks on Westerners in Yanbu, the police here began routine patrols around the compound about a year ago. This police presence has disrupted the truck drivers'

routines. It seems that the partially treated wastewater they deposit at the Wastewater Oasis is not really supposed to be dumped there. Formerly, the police had winked at the whole matter, but now there is such a police presence here that the truck drivers have moved on to other dumping grounds. Very few truckloads make it to the Wastewater Oasis now. Trees are dying and falling. Grassy patches are drying up and blowing away, and the puddles and marsh-like habitats are looking sere. Now only one permanent puddle remains, and the WWO is not the bird magnet it once was.

Approaching the Yanbu Dump, one can hardly ignore the truck traffic. This time, I slowed down and drove behind a wastewater truck, rather than take the routine risk of my life and pass it. As I trundled along behind the behemoth, I noticed a large bird gliding in toward the dump. The silhouette and impression seemed familiar, but I could not place it. Once I pulled in to the dump, however, I realized that a flock of White Storks was present. Although this species is said to be a regular migrant through the area in late August and early September, this was the first flock I had seen here since arriving in August of 1998. About fifty of the storks were feeding and drinking in some grassy pools, with a few sentinels posted atop some of the sandy knolls and ridges that have been bulldozed into place in this astonishingly ugly yet wonderfully birdy place.

Rather than disturb the storks in their transcontinental pit stop, I walked away from them. Immediately I could sense that there were a lot of birds around. Montagu's Harriers were coming down for drinks and scaring up hundreds of House Sparrows and other birds. Every little acacia tree had its Olivaceous Warbler going "chick-chick," and there were Acrocephalus warblers flushing out of every patch of grass. Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse were winging this way and that, giving their gentle contact calls. Within a few minutes, I had seen twenty species. With the temperature somewhere around 41° C, birds were hanging around the many puddles, getting drinks and clinging to whatever shade they could find. Two Corncrakes flushed out of the grass. There were at least ten species of warbler and nine of shorebird present. A Thrush Nightingale perched next to a Nightingale, making a nice comparison, and a couple of Glossy Ibises worked the trash-strewn, oily-black lagoons.

By 1115, I had found 57 species at the dump. I drove home, had a quick lunch, and decided I would "just drive over to Lake Yanbu and try to bump it up to 90."

At Lake Yanbu, I was shocked to find that ninety percent of the shrubbery had

been removed. The shores of the pond had received new borders of rounded cobbles, and part of the reedbed had been hacked away. Even so, Lake Yanbu is the only permanent body of fresh water for such huge distances that it remains an irresistible attraction to tired migrants. Furthermore, the heat seemed to have put a damper on the "hunting" that usually goes on this time of year, and this time there were no dead egrets floating in the water. A small flock of White-winged Black Terns skimmed along. A Squacco Heron joined some Little Egrets and a Grey Heron at water's edge, and two or three Western Reef Herons tried their luck away from their accustomed seaside haunts. A Wryneck worked the trees. All the while, I birded the area sans challenge; the policeman parked next to the lake was sound asleep in his patrol vehicle.

I left Lake Yanbu with a species count of 68, and headed over to Harbor Island. All of the expected gulls, terns, and shorebirds were there, and after a half an hour, the count had reached 81. At this point, I began having doubts about my limited objective. This was obviously going to be one of the best birding days of the year, but my Quiz Night team would be expecting me at 1930 at Arabian Homes. That was six hours away. What would be a good strategy—how could I have a century day and still make good on my social obligation?

I decided to hit tiny al-Zohoor Park. There are always a few migrants there, and it is probably the best place to look for the two key "junk bird species" of urban Yanbu al-Sinaiyah. As soon as I got out of the car, a Common Mynah flew up. Within minutes, I heard the grating screech of a Ring-necked Parakeet. In my two previous Yanbu big days, I had missed the parakeet, so things were looking up—it was turning into a de facto big day.

It had been a while since I had driven to Conservation Area One, and I had trouble finding my way. New houses had been built, new roads scraped into the coastal scrub. When I finally found my turnoff, I found a brand-new park. "Al-Gamrah Park," the sign said, in both Arabic and English. That means "Turtle Dove Park." A couple of workmen pulled up and entered the park, which was full of birds. They stood around inside the fence, leaning on their shovels in the shade. As I approached the chain-link, up hopped a couple of Tree Pipits. It was too early for Turtle Doves, but I made a mental note about this park, which has lots of grass, and lies within a few hundred yards of Conservation Area One and its mangroves.

In the Conservation Area, I was dismayed to find yet another building under construction, right in the middle of the mangrove and only yards from the

water. Luckily, no work was being done today, and the shoreline was teeming with birds. An Osprey perched on a signpost. Several Common Kingfishers plied the placid waters, and a flock of White-cheeked Terns roosted on the fringing reef. None of this prepared me for the surprise that lay just ahead, however.

Scanning the mangrove, I spied a Grey Heron. Then, out on the flats offshore, I saw another heron. This one was bigger, though. As it walked around on the coral, I fancied I could hear a godzilla-like thudding sound. Goliath Heron! This bird is said to occur regularly in these mangroves, but this was the first time I had seen one in the Middle East.

Now I had found about 90 species (in the heat it was getting a little hard to keep an accurate count). Onwards! In the eight or ten miles of coast between Yanbu al-Sinaiyah and Yanbu al-Bahr, most of the usual wading birds and gulls turned up, some in ones and twos, others in goodly flocks. I was disappointed to miss the oystercatcher and spoonbill, but the Broad-billed Sandpiper and Black-headed Gull made up for the disappointment. By the time I had finished the seaside birding, I had found a hundred or so species, give or take one or two. It was 1600.

The next two spots proved to be almost birdless. "Abandoned Park" has very little water any more, and a huge shopping center being built next door has probably doomed this little habitat patch. One lonely Garganey kept company there with a single stilt. Down the road, "The Dumpy Wetland," once a watering hole for hundreds of waders and ducks, had even less water, and a not single bird showed itself.

By now I was scratching my head. Go home? Continue? Rather than try to decide, I let the car drive itself to a spot behind a granary where Short-toed Larks hang out. Within a couple of minutes, the larks turned up behind a rusted-out car, and I figured my decision had been made for me. This was too good a day not to go for it.

At 1645 I was driving eighty-miles-an-hour up the Yanbu a'Nakhl Road, passing wastewater trucks and the Yanbu Dump again. Playing a Mozart tape loud enough to cover the roar of the overworked six-cylinder, I tried to decide on a location in the hinterlands where I could find some of the desert and mountain species I needed to reach 107, the Saudi Arabian Big-Day record. Or was it 108? That was another puzzle my brain could not quite decipher by that juncture.

Back in 1999, I had headed inland at about 1600, and wasted an hour birding the dusty villages around Yanbu a'Nakhl. In 2000 we had given ourselves much more time, but it had not been such a good

day for migrants; in any case, we had reached Mt. Fiqrah, only to have the car break down. This time I had to get it right—and be back in time for Quiz Night.

I decided to head up the Fiqrah road, but only a few miles, and then bird the villages, wells, and wadis along that first stretch. The

I would not need to bash the car to smithereens on the washboards, and could start birding before the quietude of dusk intruded. Passing the giant statue of the hands holding the Koran at 1710, I raced up the road, passing Bedouins' Toyota Hi-Luxes laden with hay, and keeping an eye out for the Hoopoe Lark that had eluded me all day.

By 1725 I had reached the village, which has very few houses, but straggles along for at least a mile of rocky road and parched-looking acacia "parkland." The Desert Lark showed itself immediately, as it almost always does. A mile or so up the road, I walked around the acacias, but saw very few birds. Then a White-crowned Black Wheatear zipped by. I wasted precious minutes tracking down some conversational chatter, only to find a party of the ubiquitous Yellow-vented Bulbuls mocking me from the safety of the thorns.

I drove on, looking for a little box canyon where scattered shreds of sheep offal usually attract flies and the birds that eat them. Arriving there, I found little sign of bird life. What to do? It was 1740. Did I have time to drive to "Yanbu Charlie Well," where we had seen so many birds last year? I doubted I could make it there and still leave time to bird. Plus, maybe that little cable (retail cost, 100 riyals) might snap as it had last year, leaving me and the car stranded in the boonies again (towing and transport charges, 700 riyals). Should I go into the heart of the village, where my binoculars would arouse who knows what response?

Luckily, my aversion to making decisions paid off again. I just drove onwards, until I came to "That Oasis Where They Always Give Me a Dirty Look." Oh yeah, that place. Nobody seemed to be around, so I parked and got out. The wells were brim full, and Yellow-vented Bulbuls and Desert Larks were constantly flitting down for drinks. A warbler wiggling its tail in an acacia turned out to be an Upcher's; that made 105, as far as I could figure; but where were the Blackstarts? Every time I thought I saw one, it was another Spotted Flycatcher. There were at least a dozen of them there. Finally, though, an old desert trick proved its worth once again. I relieved myself, and all the little birds came over to see where the water was coming from. A Blackstart fanned its tail reprovingly. An Arabian Babbler scolded me from the fence around the oasis. An

African Rock Martin zoomed in out of nowhere. That made at least 108 species. Then, friendly voices from inside the fence beckoned. No dirty looks this time! I walked around to go in the gate so I could talk to the men. There by the gate was a Common Redstart! That made at least 109. Inside, Abdullah showed me his date palms and mint garden. I chatted politely, with an eye to the skies once in a while. As we squatted under the trees, a bird flitted onto the fence—Little Green Bee-eater! When I finally bid Abdullah and his gardener good evening, I knew I had seen at least 110 species.

What a day! Not only did I make it back to Arabian Homes in time for Quiz Night without mechanical difficulty, I had enough time before Round One to do a quick recount of the species tally. I found I had forgotten to tick a couple, and so the final count was 112—not bad, considering I had started two hours after dawn, had not planned to do a big day, and had even taken a lunch break at home.

**TRINIDAD** – 23 September 2001 – 0300 to 1840 – Species totals 177/172; (Team/Shared): Martyn Kenefick 177, Floyd Hayes 174, Brett Hayes 173; 167 mi by car, 1 by foot. Visiting: Maracas Valley, Caroni Rice Fields, Wallerfield, Arima Valley, Brasso Seco Junction, Trincity Sewage Ponds, Caroni Rice Fields, Orange Valley, Waterloo, Caroni Swamp, Cumuto, Aripo Savannas. Species of Note: Gray Heron (V, S; 2nd for Trinidad), Maguari Stork (V, S; 1st for Trinidad), Snail Kite (R, S), Common Black-Hawk (M), Savanna Hawk (M), Upland Sandpiper (V, S), Marbled Godwit (R, S), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (R, S), Ruff (V), Lesser Black-backed Gull (R), Least Tern (R), Green-rumped Parrotlet (M), Short-tailed Swift (M), Scaled Antpitta (R, S), White-throated Spadebill (R, S), Turquoise Tanager (M). *Comments:* This is a new record from Trinidad.

Although pleased with last year's record-breaking attempt on 7 September 2000, we felt confident we could do even better this year, especially later in September when more migrants should be arriving. Plus we had staked out more rarities this year. Our previous teammate, Bryan Sanasie, had left the country and was replaced by my 9-year-old son, Brett.

At 0300, Martyn arrived at our house just in time to hear a whistling Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, our first bird of the day. Brett spotted a Barn Owl at the Caroni Rice Fields and at Wallerfield we spotlighted White-tailed Nightjars and Common Pauraques. In Arima Valley, two Spectacled Owls gurgled during a brief

stop in Temple Village and a Short-tailed Nighthawk fluttered past us at Morne Bleu. Surely, we thought, our improved success in nightbirding would be a harbinger of a bigger day.

We spent most of the morning steadily accumulating forest birds at hotspots in the Arima Valley of the Northern Range, including Las Lapas, Morne Bleu and the reknown Asa Wright Nature Centre. Our best bird was a Scaled Antpitta that had been calling consistently for a few years. A staked-out White-throated Spadebill also vocalized just when we needed it. Luckily the only rainstorm of the day passed over while we were sheltered on the nature centre's balcony, busily ticking new species at the feeders. By the time we left the Northern Range at 1110, we had tallied 95 species—16 species and nearly an hour ahead of last year's pace.

Because the Aripo Livestock Station had been closed in an effort to prevent hoof and mouth disease from infecting livestock, we hoped that the few species missed there could be compensated by others found during the extra time

available in other lowland habitats. At the Trincity Sewage Ponds, the Little Egret and Ringed Kingfisher present the day before failed to materialize, but we were pleased to find two Bank Swallows. We managed to relocate several key stake-outs in the amazingly productive Caroni Rice Fields, including an elusive Gray Heron, an Upland Sandpiper, one of several Buff-breasted Sandpipers and a Snail Kite. Unexpectedly we stumbled across a Ruff. When we left with 147 species at 1338, we were ten species and more than an hour ahead of last year's pace.

Our next stop was Orange Valley, along the west coast, where we eagerly scanned tidal mudflats for Trinidad's first Maguari Stork, which had been present for more than two months. But it wasn't there! When a mixed flock of gulls, terns and shorebirds suddenly spooked, I instinctively looked up to search for the cause of the commotion and spotted the stork spiralling downward onto the beach. Whew! We added two more stakeouts as well: a Marbled Godwit and a Wilson's Plover. At nearby Waterloo, Martyn found

an early Lesser Black-backed Gull—our third Eurasian vagrant of the day—and I found a Least Tern. We then sped to Caroni Swamp, where we added four new birds in the mangroves at about the hottest time of the day. At 1600 we left the swamp with 167 species—11 species and 45 minutes ahead of last year's pace, and only one species short of a new record.

Our next destination, Wallerfield, was inaccessible due to a major car-racing event that undoubtedly cost us a few birds. In nearby Cumuto, a Yellow-rumped Cacique broke the record. Along the fringes of Aripo Savannas we managed to add another nine species, including Red-bellied Macaw, before sunset. While driving home we frantically scanned darkening skies for a Short-tailed Swift—an unimaginable miss—as well as for Lesser Nighthawk and Nacunda Nighthawk, but to no avail. We were content to return home "early" at 1840 with 177 species, which will be hard to surpass. But given our many misses, we think 180–185 is possible on an incredibly good day.

## ABA Champion Top Ten Big Days Canadian Provinces and Territories

### ALBERTA (2001 Target Total = 159.7)

178	31 May 01	T. Plath, P. Pratt, T. Hince
163	24 May 96	B.Elder, B.Maybank, B.Storms
160	29 May 00	B.Carroll, B.Ritchie, T.Thormin
156	27 May 98	B.Carroll, B.Ritchie, P.Marklevitz, T.Thormin
156	28 May 99	B.Carroll, B.Ritchie, P.Marklevitz
155	27 May 95	R.Carroll, B.Ritchie, R.Chabayeo
153	24 May 98	B.Elder, B.Storms, C.Scialfa
150	01 Jun 95	B.Elder, M.Harrison, B.Storms
150	15 Jul 96	T.R.Kemp, M.Kemp
150	29 May 99	B.Elder, C.Scialfa

### BRITISH COLUMBIA (2001 Target Total = 187.6 for province, 166.6 for Okanagan)

196	23 May 95	R.Cannings, B.Maybank, A.Jaramillo, T.Plath
187	23 May 98	T.Plath, K.McPherson, M.Force, D.Tyson
180	12 May 97	T.Plath, M.Bentley
177	21 May 86	R.Cannings, M.Force
174	21 May 95	R.Cannings, B.Maybank, A.Jaramillo, G.Sirk (Okanagan)
168	19 May 96	R.Cannings, Russell Cannings, B.Maybank, F.Cooke, M.Force (Okanagan)
167	22 May 88	R.Cannings, M.Gebauer, X.Lambin, L.Rockwell (Okanagan)
164	26 May 85	R.Cannings, R.Howie, M.Collins (Okanagan)
163	21 May 00	R.Cannings, A.Bezener, L.Neish, R.Foxall
162	12 May 82	R.Cannings, S.Cannings, D.Kragh (Okanagan)

### MANITOBA (2001 Target Total = 200.3)

205	23 May 87	R.F.Koes, G.Grief, R.Tkachuk, G.Holland
198	21 May 88	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, P.Taylor, G.Holland
198	21 May 94	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grief, P.Taylor
198	28 May 94	R.F.Koes, G.Grief, P.Taylor, R.Tkachuk
196	27 May 89	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grief, P.Taylor
195	23 May 98	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grief, P.Taylor
194	29 May 82	D.Fast, P.Taylor, H.Lane, D.Hatch
193	24 May 80	R.F.Koes, G.Grief, G.Holland, I.Ward, P.Hamel
193	27 May 99	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grief
191	26 May 84	R.F.Koes, G.Grief, G.Holland, P.Hamel

### NEW BRUNSWICK (2001 Target Total = 130.0 [third place count not included])

136	06 Jun 92	J.Edsall, D.Gibson, D.Miles
124	01 Jun 91	J.Edsall, P.Pearce, D.Gibson
100	26 Aug 89	B.Maybank, B.Dalzell
75	13 Sep 98	T.Woodrow, F.Woodrow (single-island)
20	20 Mar 01	T.Woodrow, F. Woodrow

### NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (2001 Target Total = xxx.x)

106	02 Sep 84	B.Maybank, R.Burrows, M.Masse
93	17 Jul 98	C.Stevens II, L.Bateman, J.Briffett, M.Vassallo

78	20 May 84	B.Maybank, R.Burrows
78	13 Oct 85	B.Maybank, B.Mactavish
76	07 Jun 86	B.Maybank
64	29 Aug 87	B.Maybank
38	26 Mar 95	B.Maybank, B.Mactavish
31	26 Apr 97	B.Maybank, B.Mactavish, K.Knowles, J.Wells, P.Linegar
27	28 Feb 87	B.Maybank, B.Mactavish, J.Wells
27	18 Dec 85	B.Maybank, M.Dufresne

### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (2001 Target Total = 47.3)

64	18 Jun 98	P.Hamel, M.Hearne
54	18 Jun 95	R.Tymstra, D.Parsons
47	24 Jun 93	R.Tymstra, D.Parsons
41	18 Aug 91	D.M.Forsythe, D.D.Kersting
40	19 Aug 90	D.M.Forsythe, J.Lasley
40	13 Aug 98	E.Burroughs, C.Burroughs
37	18 Aug 88	R.M.Odear, C.Bender, P.Landry

### NOVASCOTIA (2001 Target Total = 143.0)

145	21 Jun 99	S.Yetman, C.Stevens Jr.
144	10 Jun 98	F.Lavender, C.Stevens Jr, S.Yetman
140	05 Jun 94	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Waldron
137	06 Jun 92	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Taylor, K.McKenna
137	05 Jun 93	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Taylor, K.McKenna, C.Brennan
135	01 Jun 91	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Taylor, B.Sarty
131	26 May 89	B.Maybank, F.Lavender

123 29 May 93 B.Maybank, R.Foxall  
 121 09 Jun 71 E.L.Mills, D.W.Finch  
 118 31 May 98 B.Maybank, M.Newell, W.Atwood

**NUNAVUT**

**ONTARIO (2001 Target Total = 193.3)**

200 29 May 99 T.Hince, P.D.Pratt  
 194 24 May 94 T.Hince, P.D.Pratt  
 186 11 May 79 A.Wormington, T.Hince, D.Sunderland, M.Runtz  
 181 28 May 94 M.Bain, D.Beadle, B.Henshaw (Durham region)  
 182 18 May 96 M.Bain, R.Tozer, D.Barry (Durham region)  
 180 17 May 80 A.Wormington, P.D.Pratt, D.McCorquodale  
 180 22 May 93 R.Tozer, D.Tozer, D.Barry, M.Carney (Durham region)  
 180 03 Jun 97 T.Hince, P.Pratt  
 178 20 May 95 M.Bain, D.Barry, M.Carney, P.Holder (Durham region)  
 173 22 May 77 R.Curry, A.Wormington, B.Wylie

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (2001 Target Total = 122.0)**

128 28 May 94 R.Cooke, D.G.Stewart, B.Maybank  
 121 29 May 93 R.Cooke, D.McAskill, B.Bowerbank, R.Palmer, L.Thomas, J.Watts  
 117 31 May 92 R.Cooke, D.McAskill, R.Palmer, S.Stevenson  
 109 03 Jun 95 R.Cooke, D.G.Stewart, G.MacDonald  
 108 02 Sep 91 R.Cooke, D.McAskill, B.Bowerbank  
 104 21 Aug 85 B.Maybank, S.Tingley  
 100 13 Aug 84 P.Lehman, J.Langham  
 51 16 Oct 97 B.Maybank  
 40 29 Nov 95 B.Maybank

**QUÉBEC (2001 Target Total = 156.0)**

158 28 May 88 G.Gendron, D.Ruest  
 155 22 May 93 J.Lachance, A.Côté, G.Lemelin  
 155 03 Jun 94 G.Gendron, D.Ruest  
 153 28 May 84 G.Gendron, Y.Gauthier, T.Rheinallt  
 152 31 May 85 G.Gendron, D.Ruest, Y.Gauthier, T.Rheinallt  
 151 27 May 86 C.Vachon, G.Bouchard, L.Messely  
 147 01 Jun 95 G.Gendron, D.Ruest  
 146 26 May 87 C.Vachon, G.Bouchard, L.Messely  
 143 31 May 92 G.Gendron, D.Ruest  
 142 23 May 81 P.Bannon, Y.Aubry, P.Chagnon, G.Sevtin

**SASKATCHEWAN (2001 Target Total = 166.6)**

174 21 May 88 R.Kreba, B.Ewart, T.Herriot, C.Pollock  
 165 23 May 87 R.Kreba, B.Ewart, T.Herriot, L.Bjorklund  
 161 05 Aug 99 P.A.Stutesman  
 160 01 Jun 86 C.Escott, H.Lane  
 141 26 May 95 T.Herriot, B.Maybank  
 78 04 Sep 90 B.Korol, G.Wapple  
 70 21 Jul 96 T.R.Kemp

**YUKON TERRITORIES (2001 Target Total = 73.0)**

82 23 Jun 92 T.Greenfield  
 71 25 Jun 99 P.Hamel, M.Hearne  
 67 22 Aug 92 R.Cannings  
 59 10 Aug 94 R.H.Johnson, S.Johnson  
 50 07 Jul 91 B.Maybank  
 40 26 May 92 R.H.Johnson, S.Johnson, L.Johnson  
 33 14 Aug 98 E.Burroughs, C.Burroughs  
 29 12 May 97 D.C.Chaffin

**ABA Champion Top Ten Big Days  
 US States**

**Explanations for the following table:** 2001 Target Total = the average of the three highest Big Day totals for each state up to the end of 2000. Totals have been adjusted in some cases to reflect the 95% rule.

**ALABAMA (2001 Target Total = 186.0)**

202 24 Apr 83 M.Brown, C.D.Cooley  
 181 23 Apr 91 G.D.Jackson, R.A.Duncan, W.J.Bremser, P.Tetlow  
 175 16 Apr 88 R.A.Duncan, P.Tetlow, J.Pfeiffer, K.Wright  
 172 16 Apr 84 M.Brown, C.D.Cooley, J.Tucker  
 171 22 Apr 83 G.D.Jackson, L.Peavler  
 170 24 Apr 85 G.D.Jackson, J.V.Peavy Jr.  
 167 30 Apr 83 G.D.Jackson, J.V.Peavy Jr.  
 166 16 Apr 82 M.Brown, C.D.Cooley  
 166 17 Apr 87 G.D.Jackson, J.V.Peavy Jr., C.D.Cooley  
 160 08 Apr 75 J.V.Peavy Jr., H.Einspahr, R.Manet, G.D.Jackson

**ALASKA (Aircraft Target Total = 117.3; non-aircraft = 106.3)**

110 16 May 98 G.J.Tans, R.Foley, D.F.Delap  
 105 18 May 96 G.J.Tans, R.Foley, H.H.S.Scott, J.Scott  
 104 22 May 94 G.J.Tans, R.Foley, H.H.S.Scott  
 104 22 May 93 G.J.Tans, R.Foley, H.H.S.Scott  
 102 19 May 95 G.J.Tans, R.Foley, H.H.S.Scott  
 98 24 May 86 D.F.Delap, S.Wulkowicz  
 98 27 May 87 M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith  
 98 21 May 97 G.J.Tans, R.Foley, D.F.Delap  
 92 21 May 90 D.F.Delap, P.Kline, C.Kline  
 88 15 May 99 D.F.Delap, P.Kline, C.Kline

**Using commercial aircraft**

125 04 Jun 93 M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith  
 119 06 Jun 92 M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith  
 108 23 May 89 M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith

**ARIZONA (2001 Target Total = 196.6)**

199 25 Aug 98 J.Withgott, J.Taylor, C.Gordon, G.Rosenberg  
 196 18 Aug 92 D.Stejskal, K.Kaufman, G.Rosenberg, C.Benesh, W.Russell  
 195 18 Aug 89 J.Coons, D.Stejskal, G.Rosenberg, J.Kingery  
 191 27 Apr 84 K.Kaufman, D.Stejskal  
 190 30 Apr 77 D.Stotz, T.Parker, S.Parker

185 28 Apr 90 S.Ganley, R.Ferguson, D.Stejskal, B.Norton  
 182 26 Apr 98 J.Withgott, J.Taylor, C.Gordon  
 178 04 May 97 J.Withgott, J.Taylor, F.Gallo  
 177 04 May 77 B.Bates, J.Bates, G.Baker, D.Stotz, D.Wharton  
 172 13 Aug 84 K.Kaufman, S.Suter, R.Taylor

**ARKANSAS (2001 Target Total = 164.3)**

168 09 May 99 K.Nichols, B.Verser  
 165 08 May 99 J.R.Wilson, M.Greene  
 160 09 May 92 G.Knight, S.Knight, J.R.Wilson  
 154 09 May 98 J.R.Wilson, M.Greene  
 153 08 May 99 K.Nichols, L.Nichols  
 150 02 May 92 G.Knight, J.R.Wilson  
 145 11 May 97 K.Nichols, B.Verser  
 142 05 May 92 J.Withgott  
 140 30 Apr 88 M.Davis, M.F.Hodges Jr, T.Schiefer  
 120 08 May 87 M.David, G.Knight

**CALIFORNIA (2001 Target Total = 216.0)**

231 29 Apr 78 J.Dunn, K.Garrett, V.Remsen, R.Webster  
 209 26 Apr 86 J.Parmeter, B.Keelan  
 208 01 May 99 J.Sterling, S.Terrill, S.Rovell (single-county)  
 207 25 Apr 76 J.Dunn, K.Garrett, P.Lehman, V.Remsen  
 202 01 May 82 D.Roberson, B.D.Parmeter, L.C.Binford, J.Parmeter, K. Van Vuren (single-county)  
 201 26 Apr 74 V.Remsen, L.C.Binford, K.Barrett, R.Stallcup  
 201 02 May 75 L.C.Binford, R.Stallcup, B.D.Parmeter, G.L.Bolander  
 200 25 Apr 78 J.Dunn, V.Remsen (single-county)  
 200 26 Apr 97 S.Rovell, S.Terrill, T.Easterla, J.Sterling (single-county)  
 197 27 Apr 96 S.Rovell, S.Terrill, T.Easterla (single-county)

**Using Chartered Aircraft/Helicopters**

243 28 Apr 84 D.Roberson, L.C.Binford, J.Langham, B.D.Parmeter, J.Parmeter  
 235 30 Apr 83 D.Roberson, L.C.Binford, J.Langham, B.D.Parmeter, J.Parmeter, R.T.Peterson

**COLORADO (2001 Target Total = 191.0)**

204 04 May 00 C.L.Wood, T.Leukering, L.Semo  
 192 10 May 97 S.J.Dinsmore, R.L.Bunn

177 15 May 94 J.Kellner, C.L.Wood  
 176 01 Aug 98 C.L.Wood, B.K.Percival, T.Leukering  
 174 13 May 89 W.Leitner, L.Halsey, C.Haynie, D.Nelson  
 174 06 May 95 P.Sandstrom-Smith, C.Smith  
 171 10 May 97 P.Sandstrom-Smith, C.Smith  
 166 13 May 95 R.L.Bunn, T.Leukering, B.Maynard  
 165 15 May 88 J.Cairo, B.Prather, J.Prather  
 163 18 May 95 J.F.Barber, W.Lisowsky

**CONNECTICUT (2001 Target Total = 177.0)**

186 20 May 94 E.Hagen, B.Devine, B.Root, M.Szantyr, C.Wood, G.Hanisek  
 173 19 May 92 E.Hagen, B.Devine, B.Root, M.Szantyr, D.Tripp  
 172 18 May 90 E.Hagen, B.Devine, B.Root, M.Szantyr  
 170 19 May 89 E.Hagen, B.Devine, B.Root, M.Szantyr, C.Wood  
 170 17 May 92 S.Mayo, T.McGrath, K.Murphy, D.Rosgen  
 168 21 May 93 E.Hagen, B.Devine, B.Root, M.Szantyr, C.Wood  
 167 22 May 88 F.W.Mantlik, F.Purnell, T.Baptist  
 164 18 May 86 S.Kellogg, C.Withgott, Jay Withgott, James Withgott  
 163 18 May 90 F.W.Mantlik, T.Baptist, L.Bevier  
 162 18 May 86 M.Szantyr, D.Varza, B.Devine, F.W.Mantlik

**DELAWARE (2001 Target Total = 194.7)**

199 15 May 97 D.Cutler, J.Armstead, C.Perry, H.Brokov  
 195 13 May 97 A.P.Ednie, J.White, E.Short, J.Gordon  
 190 16 May 95 D.Cutler, J.Armstead, C.Perry, H.Brokov  
 188 11 May 95 N.J.Pulcinella, A.N.Guarente, J.Lockyer, J.Ginaven  
 186 11 May 95 A.P.Ednie, J.White, K.Zeitler, M.Barnhill  
 186 14 May 81 C.Perry, H.Armistead, D.B&H Cutler, J.Gordon  
 182 15 May 96 N.J.Pulcinella, A.N.Guarente, J.Lockyer, J.Ginaven  
 172 14 May 93 N.J.Pulcinella, A.N.Guarente, J.Lockyer, J.Ginaven  
 172 14 May 96 A.P.Ednie, K.Zeitler, B.Lego, E.Short  
 166 10 May 93 A.P.Ednie, C.Campbell, J.Swertinski, J.White

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (2001 Target Total = 125.6)**

134 06 May 89 D.Czaplak, G.Gough, O.Janni, M.Jennison  
 126 02 May 81 D.Czaplak, F.Hayes, B.Hayes  
 117 03 May 86 D.Czaplak, G.Gough, M.O'Brien  
 116 05 May 84 D.Czaplak  
 113 01 May 93 O.Janni, M.O'Brien, G.Gough  
 112 02 May 92 O.Janni, G.Gough  
 111 09 May 87 D.Czaplak  
 106 07 May 88 D.Czaplak, G.Gough  
 102 04 May 85 D.Czaplak  
 102 19 May 84 D.Czaplak

**FLORIDA (2001 Target Total = 172.3)**

179 23 Apr 83 R.Carter, S.Howell, C.Nesmith, G.Graves  
 171 10 Apr 71 J.Edscorn, D.Edscorn, P.J.Fellers  
 167 21 Apr 87 R.A.Duncan, S.Duncan, L.Duncan, B.Bremser  
 166 14 Apr 73 J.B.Edscorn, P.J.Fellers, H.B.Herbert, K.Edscorn  
 163 18 Apr 81 R.Carter, T.Schulenberg, G.Graves, A.Capparella  
 157 25 Apr 71 J.B.Edscorn, P.J.Fellers, C.A.Saffell  
 156 02 May 81 R.Carter, G.Graves  
 156 01 Apr 98 L.S.Hopkins, K.Nelson, V.Morrison  
 154 22 Apr 93 R.A.Duncan, B.Bremser, P.Tetlow, K.Davis, M.Stangeland  
 153 09 Dec 95 R.W.Smith, L.Hopkins

**GEORGIA (2001 Target Total = 180.0)**

183 24 Apr 96 P.W.Sykes Jr., G.Beaton, M.F.Hodges Jr., B.Blakeslee  
 181 27 Apr 95 P.W.Sykes Jr., C.Perry, M.F.Hodges Jr.  
 176 27 Apr 94 P.W.Sykes Jr., C.Perry, M.F.Hodges Jr.  
 174 01 May 97 G.Beaton, J.F.Flynn, M.F.Hodges Jr.  
 173 30 Apr 93 P.W.Sykes Jr., C.Perry, T.Leukering  
 169 27 Apr 91 P.W.Sykes Jr., B.Dunning, C.Perry, P.Yaukey  
 168 24 Apr 00 G.Beaton, J.F.Flynn, P.W.Sykes Jr.  
 166 25 Apr 92 P.W.Sykes Jr., B.Dunning, C.Perry  
 157 24 Sep 98 G.Beaton, J.F.Flynn, M.F.Hodges Jr., S.Reed  
 156 06 May 87 R.Carter, D.Forsythe

**HAWAII (2001 Target Total = 62.3 multi-island with plane, 57.0 on O'ahu)**

**Multi-island, using commercial aircraft**  
 81 19 Oct 87 R.Pyle, R. David, A. Engilis  
**O'ahu only**  
 59 27 Oct 85 A.Engilis, A.Newman, B.Pitman, L.Spear

58 26 Sep 93 R.Pyle, A.Engilis, T.McCafferty  
 56 02 Feb 00 K.Pohlman  
 54 26 Sep 81 R.Pyle, P.Donaldson, M.Ord, C.Vinsonhaler  
 52 23 Oct 76 R.Pyle, M.Ord, R.Shallenberger  
 52 16 Sep 79 R.Pyle, M.Ord  
 50 20 Sep 80 R.Pyle, M.Ord, P.Donaldson, J.Brodie-Good  
 46 27 Sep 80 R.Pyle, P.Donaldson, G.Koss  
 44 28 Aug 00 K.Pohlman, H.King  
 43 14 Apr 99 K.Pohlman

**IDAHO (2001 Target Total = 172.6)**

176 11 Jun 99 J.F.Gatchet, T.Edwards  
 173 12 Jun 99 C.H.Trost, J.Paruk, M.Collar  
 169 12 Jun 98 C.H.Trost, W.E.Harper  
 168 06 Jun 98 C.H.Trost, J.Paruk, R.Clark, M.Collar  
 167 17 Jun 97 J.F.Gatchet, D.L.Edwards  
 158 18 Jun 91 W.E.Harper, C.H.Trost, S.M.Scott, J.Tinsley  
 158 21 Jun 97 W.E.Harper, C.H.Trost, S.M.Scott  
 157 07 Jun 98 J.F.Gatchet, D.Lawrence  
 157 09 Jun 01 M. Collar, D. Mead, J. Moodie, C. Trost  
 156 12 Jun 89 W.E.Harper, C.H.Trost, C.Webb

**ILLINOIS (2001 Target Total = 174.3)**

184 17 May 97 J.O'Brien, R.Hughes, D.Mandell, S.Bailey, S.Mlodinow, S.Patti  
 175 09 May 94 V.M.Kleen, H.D.Bohlen, R.Randall, M.Ward, P.M.Ward  
 175 05 May 97 K.A.McMullen, D.Kassebaum, J.DeNeal  
 175 13 May 97 V.M.Kleen, H.D.Bohlen, M.Ward, P.M.Ward, T.Ward  
 174 11 May 96 J.O'Brien, R.Hughes, D.Mandell, S.Bailey, S.Mlodinow, S.Patti  
 173 06 May 86 R.Q.Randall, H.D.Bohlen, P.M.Ward, R.Mudd  
 173 13 May 95 J.O'Brien, R.Hughes, D.Mandell, S.Patti  
 172 10 May 89 V.M.Kleen, H.D.Bohlen, P.M.Ward, S.Robinson  
 171 16 May 98 J.O'Brien, R.Hughes, D.Mandell, S.Bailey, S.Mlodinow, S.Patti  
 170 11 May 74 P.M.Ward, H.D.Bohlen, T.Crabtree, V.M.Kleen, W.V.O'Brien, R.Q.Randall

**INDIANA (2001 Target Total = 178.6)**

188 15 May 99 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, J.A.Haw, B.Jackson, J.Cassady  
 176 17 May 96 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, J.A.Haw, B.Jackson, J.Cassady  
 172 10 May 88 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, J.A.Haw, B.Jackson  
 170 17 May 93 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, J.A.Haw  
 166 14 May 90 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, J.A.Haw  
 165 10 May 79 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, T.T.Cable, A.Bruner  
 160 11 May 78 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, T.T.Cable, J.T.Underborn  
 158 11 May 89 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, J.A.Haw, B.Palmer-Ball Jr.  
 158 17 May 91 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, J.A.Haw  
 154 11 May 87 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, B.Jackson

**IOWA (2001 Target Total = 196.3)**

204 13 May 96 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins, D.Moeller  
 195 07 May 92 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins  
 190 11 May 95 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins, D.Moeller  
 186 11 May 93 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins, D.Moeller  
 183 10 May 94 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins, D.Moeller  
 182 11 May 90 S.J.Dinsmore, G.Brown, A.Fix  
 182 08 May 91 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins, D.Moeller  
 173 08 May 90 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins, D.Moeller  
 171 10 May 86 S.J.Dinsmore, G.Brown, E.Munson  
 171 11 May 96 S.J.Dinsmore, B.Engebretsen

**KANSAS (2001 Target Total = 206.3)**

210 10 May 00 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, M.D.Rader  
 205 14 May 96 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, T.Peterson, R.Prum  
 204 11 May 97 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, R.Prum, V.Laux  
 200 12 May 91 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh, S.Patti, G.L.Pittman  
 178 09 May 86 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh, M.Cooksy, K.Hollinga  
 172 11 May 84 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh  
 171 03 May 97 P.C.Wedge, D.Seibel, G.L.Pittman, M.McHugh  
 164 29 Apr 99 M.D.Rader, S.Seltman  
 158 28 Apr 90 D.Seibel, G.L.Pittman, P.Rasmussen, P.C.Wedge  
 155 20 Aug 98 M.D.Rader, T.T.Cable

**KENTUCKY (2001 Target Total = 169.0)**

171 07 May 97 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.Elmore  
 168 06 May 96 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., B.L.Monroe Jr., M.Monroe,  
 R.Healy Jr., D.Parker  
 168 06 May 99 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., B.L.Monroe Jr., M.Monroe,  
 D.Parker  
 165 07 May 92 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin, D.Parker, C.B.Elmore  
 165 06 May 00 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.Elmore, M.Monroe, D.Parker  
 162 07 May 90 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin, D.Parker  
 159 06 May 98 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.Elmore, D.Parker  
 156 05 May 88 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin, D.Parker  
 156 09 May 89 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin  
 151 05 May 82 B.L.Monroe Jr., L.D.Smith, B.Palmer-Ball Jr.,  
 A.Barron

**LOUISIANA (2001 Target Total = 189.0)**

209 25 Apr 01 C. Witt, D. Christian, J. Weckstien  
 202 21 Apr 87 V.Remsen, S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittmann, T.Parker  
 193 18 Apr 01 C. Witt, D. Christian, R. Moyle, J. Weckstien  
 183 26 Apr 80 P.MacKenzie, B.Crider  
 182 17 Apr 85 P.MacKenzie, M.Swan  
 178 27 Apr 96 S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittmann  
 176 18 Apr 84 P.MacKenzie, M.Swan, D.Krider  
 165 30 Apr 94 R.Breedlove, R.Bacon, C.Lyon  
 144 12 May 79 D.Engleke  
 143 01 Jun 99 S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittmann

**MAINE (2001 Target Total = 168.6)**

178 22 May 99 L.R.Brinker, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan, R.Lambert  
 165 19 May 96 L.R.Brinker, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan, R.Joseph  
 163 22 May 93 L.R.Brinker, R.Humphrey, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan  
 162 21 May 94 L.R.Brinker, R.Humphrey, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan  
 140 21 May 95 W.Howes, W.Sumner  
 140 28 May 00 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker  
 138 24 May 93 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker  
 133 25 May 90 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker  
 132 28 May 95 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker  
 131 28 May 72 W.C.Townsend

**MARYLAND (2001 Target Total = 201.6)**

206 18 May 96 M.O'Brien, J.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni  
 206 18 May 98 M.O'Brien, J.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni, W.Russell  
 193 26 May 99 M.J.Illiff, A.Farnsworth  
 189 06 May 95 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni  
 188 17 May 90 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano,  
 G.Gough  
 186 14 May 88 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano  
 185 12 May 89 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano,  
 G.Gough  
 182 18 May 91 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, G.Gough  
 181 10 May 86 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano,  
 G.Gough  
 177 01 Jun 92 M.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni

**MASSACHUSETTS (2001 Target Total = 156.6)**

161 25 May 87 G.d'Entremont, D.Brown, S.J.Dinsmore  
 155 15 May 99 S.Wheelock, Barrett Lawson, Bob Lawson,  
 K.Rodman  
 154 25 May 80 R.Stymeist, T.Lawrence  
 152 05 Jun 99 S.Wheelock, D.Furbish  
 138 25 May 87 J.Withgott, C.Withgott  
 128 25 Jul 99 S.Wheelock, Barrett Lawson, Bob Lawson  
 120 21 May 78 R.Prum, W.Ellison  
 116 18 May 96 F.Gardner  
 115 13 May 79 B.Cassie  
 108 02 Oct 01 R. Titus

**MICHIGAN (2001 Target Total = 193.0)**

203 26 May 95 R.J.Weeks, T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp  
 191 20 May 92 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp, T.Walsh, R.J.Weeks  
 189 06 Jun 00 K.S.Thomas, B.Murphy  
 185 27 May 93 R.J.Weeks, T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp  
 184 29 May 94 J.Reinoehl, B.Bouton, A.Byrne, J.Granlund  
 183 21 May 91 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp  
 182 21 May 89 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp  
 179 22 May 91 R.J.Weeks, T.Walsh  
 178 19 May 89 R.J.Weeks, T.Walsh, C.Francke  
 176 26 May 90 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp

**MINNESOTA (2001 Target Total = 185.6)**

192 21 May 83 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, T.Savaloja  
 184 23 May 85 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, P.Backstrom  
 183 19 May 73 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, T.Savaloja  
 182 27 May 86 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, F.Leshner  
 181 18 May 74 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, T.Savaloja,  
 K.Martell  
 181 23 May 81 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, S.Millard  
 181 18 May 99 P.Svingen, A.Hertzel (single-county)  
 179 22 May 76 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, T.Savaloja,  
 B.Jansen  
 178 25 May 84 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, K.Camburn  
 177 17 May 75 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyllingstad, T.Savaloja,  
 W.Pieper

**MISSISSIPPI (2001 Target Total = 172.6)**

175 16 Apr 89 T.Schiefer, M.F.Hodges Jr.  
 172 23 Apr 83 J.Toups, E.Johnson, C.Roemer  
 171 02 May 89 J.Toups, C.Cassibry, G.Morgan, J.Pennell  
 165 28 Apr 79 L.Gates, J.Toups  
 156 05 May 86 J.Toups, D.King, C.Roerner  
 153 04 May 78 L.Gates  
 140 28 Mar 85 J.Toups, M.F.Hodges Jr, D.Ruple  
 134 30 Apr 89 T.Schiefer, M.F.Hodges Jr.  
 132 03 May 86 M.Davis, G.C.Knight  
 122 01 May 89 G.C.Knight, V.Theobald  
 109 10 May 88 M.Davis, M.F.Hodges Jr.  
 74 11 Aug 96 A.M.Byrne, G.Beaton

**MISSOURI (2001 Target Total = 196.0)**

208 11 May 91 P.McKenzie, T.Barksdale  
 192 11 May 91 D.A.Easterla, M.B.Robbins, T.B.Easterla  
 188 11 May 90 D.A.Easterla, M.B.Robbins, T.B.Easterla  
 177 11 May 89 D.A.Easterla, M.B.Robbins, T.B.Easterla  
 174 14 May 88 T.Barksdale, M.Corder, R.Brundage, W.Leitner  
 169 15 May 79 D.A.Easterla, M.B.Robbins, T.Barksdale  
 166 15 May 75 D.A.Easterla, M.B.Robbins  
 166 11 May 78 D.A.Easterla, M.B.Robbins  
 164 16 May 78 D.A.Easterla, M.B.Robbins  
 164 09 May 00 D.A.Easterla, J.Hilsabeck, K.Goslee (single county)

**MONTANA (2001 Target Total = 174.3)**

175 10 Jun 00 J.Rogers, D.Casey, S.Jones, S.Casey, J.Marks,  
 B.Petty  
 174 06 Jun 92 J.Rogers, D.Casey, S.Jones, S.Casey  
 174 16 Jul 99 S.J.Dinsmore, A.S.Fix, T.Hanks  
 172 05 Jun 99 D.Casey, J.Marks, B.Petty, J.Rogers  
 170 06 Jul 98 S.J.Dinsmore, J.G.Jorgensen, J.Sullivan  
 162 09 Jul 91 W.E.Harper, S.M.Scott  
 161 08 Jun 96 D.Casey, S.Casey, A.Dumin, P.Bodewald  
 159 01 Jun 91 J.Rogers, D.Casey, S.Jones, S.Casey  
 157 04 Jun 89 J.Rogers, D.Casey, S.Jones, S.Casey  
 154 28 Jun 84 W.E.Harper, S.Cotterell

**NEBRASKA (2001 Target Total = 170.0)**

175 14 May 00 S.J.Dinsmore, J.Fontaine, R.Silcock  
 173 12 May 99 S.J.Dinsmore, J.Fontaine, D.C.Ely  
 162 15 May 93 M.A.Brogie, P.Wickham  
 157 20 May 89 S.J.Dinsmore, R.Silcock  
 150 12 May 90 M.A.Brogie, B.Huser  
 148 08 May 99 J.Sullivan, M.Orsag, E.Bachel  
 146 13 May 89 B.J.Rose, D.Rose, R.Rose  
 143 18 May 84 T.Bray, B.Padelford, T.Kent, R.Silcock  
 142 16 May 81 B.J.Rose, S.Rose  
 138 29 May 76 R.C.Rosche, D.J.Rosche, J.L.Mortimer

**NEVADA (2001 Target Total = 143.3)**

162 10 May 97 L.A.Neel, G.Chisholm, K.Geluso, B.Flores  
 150 03 May 96 L.A.Neel, G.Chisholm, K.Geluso, B.Flores  
 144 14 May 78 G.Clifton, K.Knittle  
 136 15 May 95 R.Schlageter, J.J.Eidel, S.Mills  
 133 19 Jun 77 E.W.Tillay, G.Clifton, K.Knittle  
 133 11 May 94 C.Titus, R.McArthur, R.Rucker (single-county)  
 132 08 May 93 C.Titus, R.McArthur, J.Kaplan, R.Rucker  
 129 04 May 96 J.J.Eidel, A.Gubanich, B.Moore, A.Gross  
 127 11 Jul 76 E.W.Tillay, G.Clifton, K.Knittle  
 126 12 May 95 C.Titus, R.McArthur

**NEW HAMPSHIRE (2001 Target Total = 163.0)**

170 27 May 97 P.D.Hunt, S.Mirick, A.Strong, D.Strong  
 163 24 May 96 P.D.Hunt, S.Mirick, M.Suomala  
 156 23 May 99 P.D.Hunt, A.Strong, D.Strong  
 156 21 May 00 R.Woodward, I.MacLeod, G.Robbins  
 151 26 May 94 P.D.Hunt, P.Marra, M.O'Brien  
 151 04 Jun 96 P.D.Hunt, T.Johansen, D.Strong  
 146 28 May 93 W.Ellison, D.Crook  
 145 26 May 95 P.D.Hunt, D.Crook, L.Bunten  
 143 23 May 93 P.D.Hunt, I.Lovette  
 142 16 May 92 S.Mirick, T.Arter, P.Lacourse, C.Barber

**NEW JERSEY (2001 Target Total = 221.3)**

225 13 May 95 T.Hince, P.D.Pratt, B.Dilabio  
 221 13 May 95 D.Womer, C.Aquila, D.Dendler  
 218 14 May 94 D.Womer, C.Aquila, D.Dendler  
 215 15 May 93 T.Hince, P.D.Pratt, B.Dilabio  
 211 10 May 97 D.Womer, C.Aquila, D.Dendler  
 210 19 May 90 P.Pacinski, P.Dunne, L.Dunne, R.Radis, D.Freiday  
 210 14 May 94 P.Pacinski, P.Dunne, L.Dunne, R.Radis, D.Freiday  
 210 14 May 94 T.Hince, P.D.Pratt, B.Dilabio  
 206 14 May 94 G.Hanisek, J.DeMarrais, J.Dowdell, J.Zamos  
 201 19 May 84 P.Pacinski, P.Dunne, R.Peterson, S.Sibley, W.Boyle

**NEW MEXICO (2001 Target Total = 192.3)**

200 03 May 97 B.R.Zimmer, J.Paton  
 198 06 May 99 B.R.Zimmer, J.Paton  
 179 11 May 96 B.Neville, D.Emkalns, J.Paton  
 177 31 Aug 92 B.R.Zimmer, J.Gordon  
 173 04 May 91 J.Parmeter, A.Kraynik, L.Gorbet  
 170 10 May 84 K.Zimmer, B.R.Zimmer  
 170 11 Sep 86 B.R.Zimmer, J.Donaldson  
 169 01 May 94 D.Emkalns, C.Rustay  
 167 03 Sep 87 B.R.Zimmer, G.W.Lasley, K.Kaufmann  
 162 02 May 83 K.Zimmer, B.R.Zimmer

**NEW YORK (2001 Target Total = 189.3)**

195 22 May 99 K.C.Griffith, K.Fox, D.Tetlow  
 192 25 May 97 B.E.Ewald, M.Davids, K.Fox, D.Tetlow  
 181 18 May 92 R.J.Kurtz, H.McGuinness, A.Baldelli  
 179 23 May 93 J.Skelly, D.Tetlow, M.Davids  
 173 19 May 74 T.Davis, P.Lehman, D.Finch, R.Smart  
 173 19 May 86 K.Griffith, M.Davids, C.Taylor  
 171 19 May 01 K.Griffith, D.Tetlow, J.Berry  
 170 15 May 99 M.Morgante, S.Taylor, M.Turisk, W.D'Anna  
 169 18 May 96 M.Morgante, S.Taylor, M.Turisk  
 168 18 May 92 N.Brinkley, C.R.Smith, A.Farnsworth, A.Byrne

**NORTH CAROLINA (2001 Target Total = 175.0)**

184 03 May 87 J.M.Lynch, D.Carter, J.Fussell, R.Davis, A.Bryan  
 174 06 May 93 S.J.Dinsmore, J.Nance  
 167 20 Apr 87 J.Nance, G.Massey  
 156 04 May 81 M.Tove, J.Fussell, R.Davis  
 151 07 May 99 C.A.Eley, G.Brown  
 140 06 May 80 S.Graves  
 126 08 May 76 R.Carter, C.M.Eastman, A.Capparella  
 120 23 Apr 77 R.Carter, S.Alford  
 120 08 May 99 R.W. Van Epps, T.Piephoff, D.Seriff (single-county)  
 120 27 Apr 00 C.H.Gambill, R.Gambill, L.Gambill

**NORTH DAKOTA (2001 Target Total = 158.0)**

167 17 May 81 D.O.Lambeth, S.O.Lambeth, G.S.Lambeth  
 154 23 May 92 D.O.Lambeth, S.O.Lambeth, P.Svingen, K.Risen  
 153 19 May 79 D.O.Lambeth, S.O.Lambeth, G.S.Lambeth  
 150 18 May 80 D.O.Lambeth, S.O.Lambeth, G.S.Lambeth, J.F.Kelly  
 127 14 May 78 D.O.Lambeth, S.O.Lambeth, G.S.Lambeth  
 122 23 Jul 77 K.J.Zimmer, B.R.Zimmer  
 118 23 May 76 K.J.Johnson, A.G.Johnson  
 118 07 Aug 99 P.A.Stutesman  
 115 11 May 75 R.Quanrud, J.C.Swanick & spouse  
 114 19 May 74 R.Quanrud, J.C.Swanick & spouse

**OHIO (2000 Target Total = 191.0)**

205 11 May 87 J.Pogacnik, J.K.Alexander  
 186 10 May 85 J.Pogacnik, J.K.Alexander, M.Anderson  
 182 16 May 92 T.R.Kemp, M.Anderson, E.Tramer, S.Lauer, C.Anderson  
 179 09 May 81 T.Bartlett, B.Peterjohn, D.Tumblin, E.Pierce

173 19 May 78 T.Thompson  
 173 14 May 97 B.F.Master, M.Dawson  
 172 14 May 96 B.F.Master, M.Dawson  
 171 13 May 95 B.F.Master, M.Dawson  
 170 14 May 94 B.F.Master, M.Dawson, S.Smith  
 167 16 May 81 H.Besser, C.Jocevar, D.Corbin, J.Cairo

**OKLAHOMA (2001 Target Total = 174.3)**

180 03 May 01 J. Cox, J. Arterburn, K. Kaufman  
 177 04 May 96 J.A.Cox, K.Kaufman, J.Arterburn  
 177 29 Apr 99 M.B.Kamp, J.Loyd, P.L.Seibert  
 169 02 May 96 M.B.Kamp, J.Loyd, P.L.Seibert  
 167 01 May 93 J.Woodard, T.Mitchell, B.Griffen  
 161 03 May 92 M.Droege, D.Verser, M.Vogh  
 160 05 May 90 G.Guinan, S.Metz  
 154 04 May 91 S.Metz, D.King, T.Moses  
 154 09 May 94 J.Withgott, J.Norman  
 152 11 May 91 S.Metz, D.Verser, G.Guinan  
 151 12 May 90 M.Droege, D.Verser, M.Gray

**OREGON (2001 Target Total = 194.3)**

213 12 May 01 T. Janzen, T. Love, F. Schrok, S. Steinberg  
 212 10 May 86 J.Gilligan, D.Fix, S.Hein, D.Irons  
 208 09 May 01 C. Miller, D. Mandell, T. Janzen  
 200 08 May 95 G.Gillson, T.Janzen  
 171 12 May 84 S.Summers, James Carlson, S.Gordon  
 169 09 May 82 S.Summers, James Carlson, S.Gordon, T.Finnell  
 168 21 May 78 T.Finnell, P.Donahue, M.Egger  
 165 27 May 78 G.Gillson, J.Evanich, D.Fix, A.Contreras  
 160 09 May 89 D.Rogers, S.Heinl  
 157 28 May 76 A.Contreras, C.Jobanek, S.Greenfield, M.Patterson

**PENNSYLVANIA (2001 Target Total = 170.3)**

178 15 May 99 J.G.Fedak; J.Horn  
 170 15 May 98 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp, G.M.Links  
 163 12 May 89 T.Amico, D.Heathcote, S.Santner, B.Schutsky, E.Witmer  
 161 16 May 87 J.D.Peplinski, B.Peplinski, T.Schiefer  
 159 17 May 97 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp, G.M.Links  
 157 12 May 78 D.Snyder, D.Steadman, J.Stull, S.Stull  
 157 07 May 83 G.Wilhelm, D.Hoskins, M.Starker  
 156 20 May 78 N.J.Pulcinella, J.Miller, C.Richards, K.Richards  
 154 12 May 90 J.D.Peplinski, B.Peplinski, T.Schiefer  
 151 19 May 83 F.Haas, B.Haas

**RHODE ISLAND (2001 Target Total = 152.3)**

159 19 May 84 R.M.Bushnell, R.A.Conway, H.Willoughby  
 151 15 May 83 R.M.Bushnell, R.A.Conway, H.Willoughby  
 147 17 May 80 R.M.Bushnell, R.A.Conway, H.Willoughby, G.Gerds  
 147 15 May 82 R.M.Bushnell, R.A.Conway, G.Gerds  
 144 12 May 79 R.M.Bushnell, R.A.Conway, H.Willoughby, G.Gerds  
 141 15 May 76 R.M.Bushnell, R.A.Conway, H.Willoughby  
 141 13 May 78 R.M.Bushnell, H.Willoughby, G.Gerds  
 132 17 May 77 S.C.Tsagarakis, H.Willoughby  
 131 14 May 77 R.M.Bushnell, R.A.Conway, H.Willoughby  
 123 15 May 80 R.Enser, C.Raithe

**SOUTH CAROLINA (2001 Target Total = 177.3)**

179 28 Apr 92 R.Carter, R.Clark  
 177 01 May 89 R.Carter, D.Forsythe, S.Thompson  
 176 26 Apr 98 R.Carter, D.Forsythe  
 175 30 Apr 88 R.Carter, D.Forsythe, B.Odear  
 175 01 May 96 R.Carter, D.Forsythe, K.Kaufman  
 173 26 Apr 86 R.Carter, D.Forsythe, B.Odear, K.Kaufman  
 172 22 Apr 90 R.Carter, S.Compton, R.Clark, D.Forsythe  
 172 04 May 92 R.Carter, D.Forsythe, T.Kalbach  
 172 01 May 95 R.Carter, C.M.Eastman  
 172 01 May 99 R.Carter, D.Forsythe

**SOUTH DAKOTA (2001 Target Total = 165.7)**

170 15 May 00 J.S.Palmer, R.F.Schenck  
 166 19 May 97 J.S.Palmer, O.Selchert, R.F.Schenck  
 161 14 May 99 J.S.Palmer, O.Selchert, R.F.Schenck  
 158 16 May 96 D.L.Swanson, K.Dean, S. Van Sickle, E.Liknes  
 155 16 May 96 J.S.Palmer, O.Selchert, C.Vande Voorde  
 154 08 Jul 93 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp, E.Durbin  
 151 19 May 98 J.S.Palmer, R.F.Schenck

- 149 16 May 95 J.S.Palmer, O.Selchert  
 147 17 May 94 D.L.Swanson, K.Dean, S. Van Sickle, E.Liknes  
 144 14 May 92 D.L.Swanson, K.Dean, S. Van Sickle

**TENNESSEE (2001 Target Total = 168.3)**

- 174 10 May 97 J.R.Wilson, M.A.Greene  
 169 07 May 94 J.R.Wilson, G.Knight, S.Knight, M.A.Greene  
 162 08 May 89 J.Drewry, M.Bierly, B.Palmer-Ball Jr.  
 161 08 May 98 J.R.Wilson, M.A.Greene  
 155 09 May 84 M.Bierly, B.Palmer-Ball Jr.  
 151 24 Apr 99 J.R.Wilson, M.A.Greene  
 148 04 May 81 C.Swofford, C.Haney  
 145 08 May 97 S.M.McConnell, J.Garner, D.Simbeck  
 144 29 Apr 89 M.Davis, K.Myers, D.Simbeck, J.Wilson  
 141 05 May 74 M.L.Bierly, B.Basham, J.Basham

**TEXAS (2001 Target Total = 225.0)**

**Land only**

- 258 24 Apr 01 A. Byrne, G. Beaton, D. Peake, R. Weeks  
 233 18 Apr 01 T. Hince, P. Pratt, B. DiLabio  
 230 27 Apr 98 O.Carmona, W.Carter, B.McKinney, W.Sekula  
 223 29 Apr 98 M.A.Elwonger, P.Petra-Hockey, B.Freeman  
 222 24 Apr 99 O.Carmona, W.Carter, B.McKinney, W.Sekula  
 215 09 Apr 00 O.Carmona, W.Carter, B.McKinney, W.Sekula  
 214 23 Apr 97 M.Cooksey, A.Cooksey, C.D.Hobbs  
 213 24 Apr 99 T.Hince, B.Dilabio, P.D.Pratt  
 213 31 Mar 01 B. Kemp, R. Weeks  
 212 24 Apr 91 J.Grantham, M.Farmer, D.C.O'Brien

**Using Chartered Aircraft/Helicopters**

- 244 01 May 85 V.Emanuel, R.T.Peterson, J.Tucker, G.W.Lasley  
 238 01 May 84 V.Emanuel, J.Rowlett, R.A.Rowlett, J.Tucker, J.Vardaman  
 234 27 Apr 82 V.Emanuel, R.T.Peterson, T.Parker, J.Rowlett  
 223 23 Apr 84 V.Emanuel, J.Rowlett, R.A.Rowlett, J.Tucker, J.Vardaman  
 221 25 May 90 V.Emanuel, K.Zimmer, G.W.Lasley, G.Plimpton

**UTAH (2001 Target Total = 190.3)**

- 202 13 May 01 M.A.Stackhouse, D.S.Wheeler, C. Neuman  
 200 16 May 99 M.A.Stackhouse, D.S.Wheeler  
 187 16 May 98 M.A.Stackhouse, D.S.Wheeler  
 184 19 May 96 M.A.Stackhouse, D.S.Wheeler, L.Lockhart  
 180 07 May 95 M.A.Stackhouse, D.S.Wheeler, L.Lockhart  
 178 18 May 97 M.A.Stackhouse, D.S.Wheeler  
 173 10 May 98 M.A.Stackhouse, D.S.Wheeler, A.Godwin  
 169 06 May 93 R.Bond, S.P.Hedges, T.Sadler  
 166 04 May 90 R.Bond, S.P.Hedges  
 165 01 May 98 R.Bond, G.Bond, T.Sadler

**VERMONT (2001 Target Total = 153.0)**

- 159 04 Jun 01 P. Wand, K. Wand  
 154 22 May 95 T.Johansson, D.Cooper, A.Farnsworth, W.Hutcheson  
 154 22 May 99 A.Strong, D.Strong  
 151 20 May 95 S.W.Morrison, J.Appleton, T.Hall, T.Murin  
 149 20 May 89 W.Ellison, N.L.Martin, D.H.Crook, S.J.Sangdahl  
 148 17 May 80 W.Ellison, G.Ellison, F.Oatman, W.Scott  
 144 21 May 77 W.Ellison, G.Ellison, F.Oatman, W.Scott  
 143 22 May 93 W.Ellison, N.L.Martin, D.H.Crook, S.J.Sangdahl  
 140 23 May 78 W.Ellison, G.Ellison, F.Oatman, W.Scott  
 122 21 May 79 W.Ellison, G.Ellison, F.Oatman, W.Scott

**VIRGINIA (2001 Target Total = 164)**

- 167 06 May 86 P.Bedell, W.Ealding, C.Foster, M.Iwanik, D.Peterson  
 164 10 May 86 T.Finnell, G.Stubbs  
 161 11 May 83 F.Day, P.Cabe, J.Garvin  
 152 05 May 74 W.W.Fogleman, R.L.Ake, G.S.Grant  
 147 21 Sep 96 E.S.Brinkley, T.M.Gwynn III, D.Schwab  
 143 08 May 76 B.W.Keelan, B.A.Lund, L.K.Malone  
 137 14 May 77 B.A.Lund  
 130 01 May 77 W.W.Fogleman, R.Anderson, M.Honick, D.Hughes  
 110 27 Dec 98 D.Schwab, T.M.Gwynn III (single-county)  
 106 04 Jun 96 T.Finnell

**WASHINGTON (2001 Target Total = 199.0)**

- 201 15 May 88 D.Hutchinson, D.Reusser, B.Tweit  
 198 16 May 86 B.Hayes, F.Hayes, D.Schmidt, D.Wright  
 198 16 May 89 D.Hutchinson, B.Tweit, S.Ray

- 195 05 May 87 D.Hutchinson, D.Reusser, B.Tweit  
 186 06 May 84 D.Paulson, J.Eckmann, J.Van Os  
 184 09 May 92 M.Denny, M.L.Denny, J.Nestler, J.Wasmer  
 180 13 May 89 J.F.Gatchet, K.Knittle, M.Denny, M.L.Denny  
 174 20 May 83 B.Hayes, M.Denny, P.Rasmussen  
 174 15 May 89 T.Hass, K.Aanerud, P.Cozens  
 169 08 May 81 W.Sumner, K.Knittle

**WEST VIRGINIA (2001 Target Total = 128.6)**

- 133 07 May 93 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp, E.Durbin  
 129 08 May 96 J.R.Blomberg, L.Barnhart, J.Beneditti, P.Calise, L.Rollefson  
 124 05 May 89 J.R.Blomberg, L.Barnhart, J.Beneditti  
 124 05 May 91 W.Argabrite, J.Fletcher, M.Griffith, A.Thorne  
 122 08 May 93 W.Argabrite, M.Griffith  
 121 02 May 92 W.Argabrite, M.Griffith, A.Thorne, L.Wilson  
 118 25 May 86 R.Carter, G.Graves  
 118 04 May 88 L.Barnhart, J.R.Blomberg, L.Rollefson  
 115 02 Jun 81 W.Scott, D.Kibbe, S.Brown  
 115 10 May 82 R.Dean, S.Corwin-Roach

**WISCONSIN (2001 Target Total = 208.0)**

- 210 20 May 00 R.Hoffman, A.Shea  
 208 17 May 97 R.Hoffman, A.Shea  
 206 17 May 99 R.Hoffman, A.Shea  
 193 16 May 98 R.Hoffman, A.Shea  
 191 22 May 97 J.L.Baughman, T.Schultz, S.Baughman, D.D.Tessen, C.Wood  
 187 26 May 00 R.Hoffman, D.Tessen, M.Peterson  
 185 21 May 90 J.L.Baughman, T.Schultz, W.Schultz, W.Stott  
 184 19 May 96 J.L.Baughman, T.Schultz, S.Baughman, D.D.Tessen  
 183 18 May 96 R.C.Mead, M.Reed, S.Reed  
 182 25 May 99 R.Hoffman, A.Shea

**WYOMING (2001 Target Total = 145.3)**

- 180 25 May 01 S. Dinsmoor, J. Fontaine  
 149 17 May 90 B.Hayes, J.Nestler, W.Bruce-Miller  
 146 20 May 89 M.Adams, S.Fitton, F.Luke, R.Steenberg, W.Bruce-Miller  
 141 21 Jul 86 W.E.Harper, S.Scott, B.Hallett  
 135 24 May 86 M.Adams, F.Luke  
 128 24 May 86 W.E.Harper, S.Scott  
 122 07 Jul 80 W.E.Harper, C.Harper  
 111 16 Jul 79 W.E.Harper, C.Harper  
 109 30 Jun 78 W.E.Harper  
 70 12 Nov 01 D. Faulkner, C. Wood

**North American Birds**

*Edited by Ned Brinkley*

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# ABA Top Three Champion Big Day — Countries/Regions

COUNTRY/ REGION	DATE # (d/m/y)	PARTICIPANTS
Antarctica	24 04 Dec 95	N.Brinkley, S.Tingley
	17 19 Dec 87	D.Paulson
	17 29 Jan 98	G.Lasley
Antigua	43 24 Jul 95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
Argentina	142 20 Jan 93	A.Jaramillo
Australia	249 13 Oct 96	A.P.Anderson, J.Grant, E.Sticklen, G.Holmes
	202 12 Dec 82	H.Beste, R.Dunkerton
	182 17 Jul 81	H.Beste, R.Dunkerton
Austria	108 06 May 90	W.Firbas, U.Firbas
Bahamas	74 12 Oct 99	B.Hallett, T.White, A.Bainton, W.Bracey
	71 10 Jan 00	S.L.Doud, J.E.Sweeten (Andros)
	65 08 Apr 99	T.Fitzpatrick, Shelley Creech
Barbuda	47 08 Dec 99	J.Marshall, M.Marshall
Belize	202 30 Apr 99	L.Jones, S.Tillett, M.England
	177 19 Mar 00	A.Guarente, G.Crawford, J.Ginaven, K.Loughlin, N.Pulcinella, D.Washabaugh
	133 26 Feb 00	J.Marshall
Bermuda	72 16 Oct 99	M.Allaire, A.Dobson, L.Walker
Bolivia	160 21 Dec 76	V.Remsen
Botswana	107 01 Nov 81	B.A.Allen, J.Wilson
Brazil	167 21 Nov 91	D.Stotz, W.Silva
	135 25 Feb 00	B.F.Master, P.Bono
Brunei	124 10 Nov 96	P.Kaestner
Bulgaria	49 05 Aug 92	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney
	97 13 May 97	H.Turner, D.Georgiev, R.Walton, J.Schmidt, F.Brazier
Cayman Is.	46 24 Jun 00	C.H.Gambill
	41 07 Mar 99	M.McHugh, L.Hart (Grand Cayman Is.)
	34 10 Nov 96	T.Fitzpatrick
Cameroon	121 12 Sep 94	P.D.Burtch, R.Quantril, B.Quantril
	135 11 Oct 97	P.Kaestner
Chile	62 10 May 90	B.Swift, A.Hade, M.Rodriguez
Colombia	144 03 Feb 84	S.Hilty, J.Vardaman
Comoros Is.	20 13 Feb 99	P.Kaestner
Costa Rica	308 02 Apr 00	D.Rogers, J.Vandergaast, J.Fossani
	306 08 Apr 99	D.Rogers, J.Zook, J.Vandergaast
	292 18 Apr 98	D.Rogers, J.Zook
	162 08 Oct 63	R.Ryan, N.Boyajian (on foot)
Croatia	78 16 Apr 01	S.Lister, M.Hall
Cuba	112 06 Apr 00	P.Kaestner
	87 05 Apr 00	P.Kaestner; H.Kaestner
	42 23 Dec 98	B.Maybank, J.Waldron
Cyprus	103 21 Apr 95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
	84 20 Apr 87	S.M.Lister
Djibouti	95 02 Sep 01	P.Kaestner
Dominica	85 01 Sep 01	P.Kaestner
	39 17 Jan 98	J.Meyer
	32 28 Apr 96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood
	66 10 Apr 95	B.F.Master, S.Master, A.Hill, A.Small, T.Eastman, B.J.Rose, S.Rose, Donald Traver, Donna Traver
Ecuador	181 13 Nov 96	P.Coopmans
Egypt	109 27 Jul 93	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Levy, A.Hill
	69 19 Apr 64	H.C.Kyillingstad
England	66 31 Dec 89	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
	147 11 May 96	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, M.Sutherland, B.Davison
	145 07 May 89	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, B.Bland, A.Henderson
	144 08 May 94	D.W.Taylor, B.Bland, A.Henderson, I.Hodgson
	115 11 May 96	J.Cantello, D.Wrathell, S.Wrathell, D.Allen (bicycle/foot)
	84 05 May 95	P.Larkin (Big Sit)
	77 10 May 99	D.Taylor, D.Wilson, B.Boleans (Big Sit)
	75 17 May 00	D.Taylor, R.Thompson, D.Wilson (Big Sit)
Estonia	109 07 Jun 94	B.F.Master, D.Master
Ethiopia	189 10 Sep 01	P.Kaestner, M.Gebremichael
	174 19 Aug 01	P.Kaestner, M.Gebremichael
France	181 07 May 94	J-P.Sibley, L.Spanneut, B.Bougeard
	153 15 May 93	J-P.Sibley, L.Spanneut, B.Bougeard, J- P.Delapré
	145 20 May 99	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, B.Bland, I.Hodgson
Galapagos	47 14 Aug 84	F.Hayes, W.Baker, G.Bennett, T.Rochester
Gambia	127 31 Mar 91	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, Y.Jaiteh
Germany	122 01 Jul 82	N.Brinkley
Grenada	36 18 Jul 95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
	30 21 Apr 96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood
Guadeloupe	29 30 Apr 96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood, B.Davidson
		R.Ryan
Guyana	150 06 Jan 99	R.Ryan
Guatemala	208 01 Apr 01	P.Kaestner, W.Plomp
	192 18 Nov 01	P.Kaestner, J.Barry
	164 22 Oct 00	P.Kaestner, D.Rogers, D.Klauber
Honduras	149 06 Jan 01	P.Kaestner
Hungary	144 13 May 01	G.Magavar, A.Schmidt, E.Sos
Iceland	49 27 Jul 95	N.Brinkley, B.Cary, J.Nussman, J.&M.Cressman.
		P.Kaestner, H.Kaestner
India	166 14 Nov 81	P.Kaestner, H.Kaestner
	161 21 Dec 94	B.F.Master, P.Holt, B.Behrstock, J.Bangma
	146 22 Feb 84	B.King, J.Vardaman
Indonesia	105 07 Jun 79	C.Escott
Ireland	122 29 Apr 89	C.Murphy, C.Brewster, D.Knight, S.Foster
	120 08 May 91	C.Murphy, S.McKee, R.Chambers, C.Mellon
Italy	64 23 Aug 95	W.Firbas, E.Mader
Ivory Coast	25 27 Nov 78	P.Kaestner
Jamaica	109 23 Mar 93	P.P.Marra, J.I.Lovette
	76 10 Mar 92	M.Lysinger, J.Arnett
	74 10 Mar 91	P.D.Hunt, P.Marra
Japan	148 10 Aug 64	C.R.Johnson, A.Sasaki
Kenya	290 25 Feb 84	D.Turner, T.Stevenson, D.Richards
	264 02 Dec 79	J.Gerhart, D.Turner
	248 19 Nov 78	J.Gerhart, J.Miskell, S.Wallace
	58 21 Dec 93	B.F.Master, B.Finch
Madagascar	58 21 Dec 93	B.F.Master, B.Finch
Mali	63 10 Aug 90	T.Cable, R.Marshall
Malaysia	73 16 Aug 99	S.Rajathurai (Big Sit)
Marianas Is.	23 15 Sep 82	P.Kaestner
Marshall Islands	1618 Feb 77	D.Anderson
	14 20 Apr 76	D.Anderson
	13 01 Apr 76	D.Anderson
Martinique	30 25 Apr 96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood
		K.Kaufman, R.Taylor, C.Green
Mexico	201 23 Dec 01	K.Kaufman, R.Taylor, C.Green
	191 16 Nov 89	R.Taylor, C.Green
	170 10 Nov 89	R.Ryan
Morocco	108 01 Jan 94	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney
	99 30 Dec 93	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney
Namibia	217 26 Nov 94	C.Hines, D.Farr, M.Paxton, P.Lane
Nepal	158 26 Feb 84	B.King, J.Vardaman, K.Ram
Netherlands	176 15 May 96	J.van der Laan, R.de Haas, L.Heemskerk, W.Leurs
	163 15 May 89	B.Pieterse, J.W.de Roever, W.E.M.van der Schot
	161 19 May 91	M.Berlign, T.Kompier, T.Luijendijk, A.Meijer
Nicaragua	56 12 Mar 98	M.E.Petrucha, G.R.Urquhart
	53 03 Feb 01	P.Kaestner, J. Carlos, M.Sanchez
Nigeria	61 05 Sep 87	P.Kaestner
N. Ireland	133 08 May 93	C.Murphy, S.McKee, C.Mellon, D.Hunter
	122 29 Apr 89	C.Murphy, C.Brewster, D.Knight, S.Foster
Oman	117 02 Nov 97	D.Sargeant, M.Sargeant
Panama	300 22 Mar 97	W.D.Robinson, D.Christian
	255 25 Jan 84	R.Ridgely, J.Vardaman
P.N. Guinea	215 07 May 83	P.Kaestner, B.Finch

Paraguay	208	13 Mar 83	P.Kaestner, B.Finch	South Africa	247	07 Nov 87	D.Cyrus, N.Robson, H.Chitenden, P.Outhwaite (Natal)
	180	21 Oct 89	F.Hayes, P.Scharf, J.E.Argana		232	11 Sep 85	D.Cyrus, G.Nichols, N.Robson (Natal)
	162	20 Oct 89	F.Hayes, P.Scharf, J.E.Argana		230	08 Nov 86	D.Cyrus, N.Robson, H.Chitenden, P.Outhwaite (Natal)
Peru	148	09 Dec 88	F.Hayes, D.Snider, T.E.Perrin	South Korea	42	03 Oct 81	H.H.Puppe, Y.Moo-boo
	331	05 Sep 82	T.Parker, S.Robinson		34	04 Oct 81	H.H.Puppe, Y.Moo-boo
Portugal	278	16 Oct 81	T.Parker, J.Vardaman	Spain	95	18 Jun 89	J.Parmeter, J.Strauss, E.Strauss
	113	14 Oct 96	M.Bolton, C.Beale, M.Roberts, G.Rawcliffe		74	21 Jun 85	D.Mark, B.Feltner
	108	24 Feb 96	G.Elias, C.C.Moore	Sri Lanka	85	10 Jul 97	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
Poland	104	02 Aug 96	G.Elias, J.Braga	Sudan	54	02 Apr 92	R.Holbrook, J.Lewis
	108	25 Jun 01	S.Gaulin, B.Hince	Suriname	173	02 Jan 84	R.Ridgely, J.Vardaman
Puerto Rico	94	23 Apr 74	H.Snyder, S.Den, P.Lehman	Switzerland	75	28 May 87	B.Swift, L.Maumary
	74	22 Jan 96	P.D.Hunt, S.Burson, B.Steele, L.Gates	Tanzania	146	28 Sep 98	P.Kaestner
Rwanda	41	06 Aug 86	N.Brinkely, D.Scotts	Thailand	180	02 Mar 84	B.King, P.Round, J.Vardaman
St. Kitts	33	24 Jul 99	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall	Trinidad	177	23 Sep 01	M.Kenefick, F.Hayes, B.Hayes
St. Lucia	43	24 Apr 96	B.F.Master, S.Master, L.John, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood		167	07 Sep 00	F.Hayes, M.Kenefick, B.Sanasie
	36	12 Jan 98	J.Meyer		151	25 May 77	J.Funk, R.Randall, D.Heller, L.Calderon
	31	16 Apr 95	B.F.Master, S.Master, A.Hill, A.Small, B.J.Rose, S.Rose	Tobago	100	16 Oct 00	F.Hayes, M.Kenefick, B.Sanasie, B.Hayes
St. Vincent	39	22 Apr 96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood, B.Davidson		86	26 Dec 93	B.Maybank, T.Yip-Hoi, J.Taylor, J.Waldron, K.&M. Allsebrook
Sao Tome & Principe	44	26 Sep 97	P.Kaestner, J.Gerhart	Turkey	129	29 Apr 95	J-P Sibley, B.Couronne
Saudi Arabia	112	06 Sep 01	G.Bletsch	Uganda	260	16 Nov 70	M.Fogden
	106	07 Apr 83	J.&T.Heindel, C.&W.Peterson		61	13 Aug 86	N.Brinkely, D.Scotts
	103	07 Sep 00	G.Bletsch, P.Webb, A.Webb	U.S. Virgin Is.	30	15 Nov 97	T.Fitzpatrick
Sechelles	33	22 Nov 98	B.F.Master, S.Master, A.Skerritt	Vanuatu	33	15 Jun 85	P.Kaestner
	32	03 Sep 99	K.Lefriede, K.Selima	Venezuela	192	30 Oct 85	C.Parrish, B.Swift
Senegal	105	31 Jan 93	B.Maybank, S.Finnegan		160	30 Aug 86	B.Swift, I.Branger, E.Cartaya
Singapore	129	30 Jan 99	S.Rajathurai, M.Landenburger	Vietnam	85	16 Sep 65	C.R.Johnson, R.DeWitt, D.Long
	128	01 Jan 99	S.Rajathurai, W.L.Keng	Zambia	288	06 Dec 75	R.Dowsett, D.Aspinwall, T.Osborne
	125	23 Oct 99	S.Rajathurai, B.McCartney, R.McCartney		273	02 Nov 74	R.J.Dewsett, D.R.Aspinwall, W.F.Bruce-Miller, T.O.Osborne
	59	02 Apr 99	S.Rajathurai, S.Subaraj (Big Sit)		273	30 Nov 75	R.J.Dowsett, T.O.Osborne
				Zaire	135	20 Jul 78	P.Kaestner
				Zimbabwe	196	30 Jan 88	S.L.James, B.Wright, L.Schwab

## Provincial and State Record Big Days by Month

Bold underlined entries indicate changes since last year

AREA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ABA	176	175	<b><u>213</u></b>	231	225	191	174	199	177	178	178	166
CAN	127	109	105	<b><u>140</u></b>	205	191	171	167	154	121	117	121
48	176	175	<b><u>213</u></b>	<b><u>258</u></b>	225	189	174	199	174	178	178	166
PROVS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
AB					<b><u>178</u></b>	150	150	80	88	80	56	41
BC	127	109	105	<b><u>141</u></b>	196	162	162	48	136	121	117	121
MB		31			205	191	171	167	154	91	61	33
NB			<b><u>20</u></b>			136		100	75			
NF	22	27	37	31	78	76	93	64	106	78		27
NT						64		41				
NS	39	80	72	72	131	145	93	106	101	85	62	70
NU												
ON	81	64	86	31	200	180	165	135	100	110	91	52
PI			<b><u>35</u></b>		128	109		104	108	51		
PQ			<b><u>13</u></b>	75	158	155	42	51	78			
SK					174	160	70	161				
YT					40	82	50	67				
STATE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
AL	128	129	132	202	157	112	114	95	151	131	140	
AK	39	40	54	63	110	125	61	42	42		60	48
AZ	101	107	126	191	178	136	<b><u>131</u></b>	199	158	<b><u>140</u></b>	100	84
AR				140	168		76	118				

CA	176	175	178	231	208	178	170	170	177	178	178	166
CO	98	100	100		204	128	82	176	151	110	105	90
CT				140	186	145		<b>132</b>	131		102	
DE		<b>71</b>		159	199				130	100		
DC		68	81	101	134						60	57
FL	132	150	142	179	156	130	130	128	130	142	147	153
GA	139	133	139	183	174	147	130	147	157	154	130	132
HI	27	18		43	43			44	58	81	22	
ID	75	93	102	125	156	176	132	105	90	75	81	80
IL	103	97	118	164	184	122	118	123	141	127	99	62
IN	73	77	86	125	188	139	119	107	125	121	81	72
IA	<b>36</b>	64	81	121	204	<b>103</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>71</b>	55
KS	83	101	118	164	210	139	146	155	135	144	103	103
KY	78			101	171	90	126		<b>81</b>	117		<b>37</b>
LA	119	125	141	<b>209</b>	144	143	131	110	118	126	112	95
ME					178	123	91	65	81	<b>85</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>61</b>
MD	135		136	108	206	177	174		<b>115</b>		<b>120</b>	
MA	77	91	101	101	161	151	128	98	102	<b>108</b>	94	90
MI	72	91	102	121	203	189	149	141	152	124	97	81
MN	<b>63</b>				192	151	69	148	136		46	
MS			140	175	171			74				
MO				102	208	<b>121</b>			59			
MT	40			91	147	175	174	128	75			
NE	83	79	98	129	175	<b>133</b>			135	115	97	86
NV				124	162	133	127	75	60		82	
NH	70	71	75	117	170	151	141	108	116	109	92	64
NJ	109	76	113	146	225	164	148	136	<b>144</b>	128	125	118
NM	116	77	72		200	111	<b>117</b>	177	170	98	93	100
NY	80	64	64	114	195	130	131	80	103	105	87	69
NC	71	71	70	167	184	93	106	100	809	97	113	56
ND				<b>106</b>	167	106	122	118				
OH	58	78	96	125	205	147	134	130	119	114	88	77
OK	85	95	104	177	<b>180</b>	78	76	105	87	117	92	75
OR				143	<b>213</b>	143	103	116	151			
PA					178	119	100	83	91	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>
RI	<b>89</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>105</b>	159	<b>113</b>	<b>113</b>	85	88	<b>106</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>90</b>
SC	121	110	141	179	177	148	129	131	134	137	128	126
SD	42	41	82	89	170	107	154	102	108	91	69	49
TN	90	94	110	151	174	104	116	114	<b>117</b>	117	<b>102</b>	100
TX	139	158	<b>213</b>	<b>258</b>	203	165	163	165	161	165	166	174
UT		84	89	117	<b>202</b>	148	147	128	92			
VT				<b>119</b>	154	<b>159</b>			132			<b>74</b>
VA	77	86	80	88	167	106	91	95	147	101	96	110
WA	105	104	121	143	201	157	119	120	121	113	100	102
WV	41	37	43		133	115	68	46	64	<b>44</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>
WI	76	57	91	123	210	147	125	170	163	158	137	93
WY	46	47	49		<b>180</b>	109	141			63	<b>70</b>	

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