

# The 2004 Big Day Report

This past year was active for Big Day fanatics, as 141 accounts were submitted. As I read each account I virtually coalesced into the Big Day as if I was one of the participants, except I was not deprived of sleep. From that conspectus, three main themes became apparent: 1) behind schedule, 2) poor weather, and 3) high gasoline prices. The first two have been known since the thought of a Big Day was conceived; the high gasoline prices was a new one to me, but may have affected the number or extent of some big days this past year.

Major Big Day achievements in 2004 were many. The most notable were new state Big Day records for Indiana (McCoy and Grube), Massachusetts (Trimble, Trimble, and Laux), and Vermont (Ward and Ward), and a new provincial high for Prince Edward Island (Cooke, Marcum, and Seeler). We have been waiting for birding pioneers to explore Nunavut and its intriguing bird life. Well, I'm proud to announce that Nunavut is no longer the sole province without a Big Day, as the team of Knapton, Sidler, Kersting, and Molter have set the benchmark for others to follow in that under-explored area. Outside the ABA area, new high totals were achieved for Brazil, El Salvador, Niger, Qatar, Spain, and Yemen.

New monthly records were obtained for many areas as well during this past year. Most noteworthy was that the team of Weeks and Lirette set a new North America December high when they tallied 176 species in Texas. On the state level, David Simpson of Florida continued his determined addiction by conducting 33 Big Days in 2004! That resolve did not go without rewards, however, as David was able to set new 9 new monthly totals for the Sunshine State. Birders of Hawaii joined the fray as well, submitted 12 accounts, of which 9 topped previous monthly highs. Competitive birding was hot and heavy in Ohio also, with 6 of the 8 Big Days conducted setting new monthly records.

I offer congratulations to all the tireless Big Day birding warriors who set out in 2004. I encourage you to read about the various accounts and trials and tribulations many endured, including the missed species, the lucky finds, the cars mired in mud, the snow, rain, wind, and fog, and especially the police! Here's to wishing you a successful and safe 2005 Big Day year.

## Pre-2003 Big Days

For the most part, this compilation is based on Big Day reports submitted in 2004. Big Days conducted in prior

years were submitted in 2004 and have been included within this report as well (see Manitoba #1, Hawaii #1, Indiana #1, New Hampshire #1, New Hampshire #2, Texas #1, Texas #2, Texas #3, Texas #4, Texas #5, and Brazil).

## Big Day Report Submissions Past Omissions

My apologies to the team of Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ross Silcock, and Aaron Brees, whose Big Day account was inadvertently, omitted from last year's Big Day report. The stellar team shattered the previous Nebraska state record when they tallied a total of 203 species for the Cornhusker State! For the 2003 standings, this total led the Contender's Table with a whopping percent total target of 116.00%! Nebraska has long been known for its diversity of avian life because of its east-meets-west longitude. Surpassing 200 species in a single day places Nebraska in the elite group of 12, non-coastal states and provinces to reach that mark. I encourage you to read the team's account in this report (Nebraska #1). Congratulations Stephen, Ross, and Aaron! You have really raised the bar for Nebraska this time!

Amends must also go to Dr. Bernard Master, who, in 2001, bested the Cayman Island high count by 18 species. His total has been added to the top listings for that locale. Congratulations Dr. Master!

## 2004 Big Day Contender's Table

% Target Total >95%

Listed in Descending Order

Area	Date	Total	Pct. TT	Rank
MA	22-May	185	114.20%	1
PEI	6-Jun	141	110.16%	2
VT	6-Jun	162	101.89%	3
IN	16-May	189	100.53%	4
HI	26-Sept	59	100.00%	5
MB	1-Jun	202	98.54%	6
WV	7-May	137	97.86%	7
FL	15-Apr	173	96.65%	8
HI	20-Nov	57	96.61%	9
FL	18-Apr	172	96.10%	10
FL	26-Apr	171	95.53%	11
WV	15-May	133	95.00%	12

## 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 usually 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 on 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 chance 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:

CA – Conservation Area  
Co – County  
CP – County Park  
Hr – Harbor  
Is – Island  
Mtn – Mountain  
NF – National Forest  
NP – National Park  
NWR – National Wildlife Refuge  
PP – Provincial Park  
Pt – Point  
R – River  
Res – Reservoir  
SF – State Forest  
SL – Sewage Lagoon/Pond/Plant  
SP – State Park  
SWA – State Wildlife Area  
WMA – Wildlife Management Area  
WR – Wildlife Refuge/Area/Sanctuary  
WTP – Water Treatment Plant

Lawrence S. Semo  
ABA Big Day Editor

## 2004 CANADIAN BIG DAYS

**ALBERTA #1** – 30 May 04- 0300 to 2400 Species Totals 163/157; (Team/Shared): Yousif Attia 161, Jody Allair 161, Pat Bulman 160. 980 Kilometers by car, 2 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Cold Lake Provincial Park and area, Jesse Lake, Dinosaur Provincial Park, Kinbrook Island Provincial Park, Lake Newell, Kinnivie Marsh. Species of note: White-rumped Sandpiper (R), Pied-billed Grebe (M), Common Merganser (M), Broad-winged Hawk (M), Merlin (M,S), Peregrine Falcon (M), American Golden-Plover (M), Pectoral Sandpiper (M), Herring Gull (M), Alder Flycatcher (M), Spotted Towhee (M), Bairds Sparrow (M).

The weather conditions were not favorable for the most part, with dawn bringing morning mist, fog, and drizzle, though bird song was good. The mid-day wind on the prairies was exceptionally bad, leading to numerous missed badland and prairie specialties. The car was stuck in the mud once as well.

**ALBERTA #2** – 30 May 04- 0700 to 1200 Species Totals 115/115; (Team/Shared): Curtis Manly 115, Michelle Manly 115. 280 Kilometers by car, 5 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Jesse Lake, Cold Lake, Cold Lake Provincial Park,

the Old Tea House. Species of note: Northern Pintail (M), Greater Yellowlegs (M), Mew Gull (R).

This was not a Big Day attempt at all, but a fairly productive Sunday drive from Spruce Grove to Cold Lake. Probably the highlight for us was a nesting pair of Brown Creepers at Cold Lake Provincial Park, a species that has eluded us for years in Alberta. Other highlights included Bay-breasted Warbler, 200 plus American Golden-Plovers, and very accommodating Soras, Swamp Sparrows, and LeContes Sparrows.

**MANITOBA #1** – 2 Oct 02- 0540 to 1930 Species Totals 105/105; (Team/Shared): Robert Parsons 105, Adam Walley 105. 450 Kilometers by car, 1.5 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Grand Beach, Grand Marais, Gull Lake, Patricia Beach, Oak Hammock Marsh, St. Ambroise, Delta, Portage La Prairie, Winnipeg. Species of note: Magnolia Warbler (L).

**MANITOBA #2** – 1 Jan 04- 0700 to 1630 Species Totals 31/29; (Team/Shared): Robert Parsons 31, Liis Veelma 30, Jo Swartz 29. 350 Kilometers by car, 0.5 kilometers by

foot. Visiting: Agassiz Provincial Forest, Elma, Seven Sisters Falls, Pinaw Lac du Bonnet, Brokenhead, Oak Hammock Marsh. Species of note: Canada Goose (L), Mallard (L), Northern Pintail (L,S), Short-eared Owl (L), Red-winged Blackbird (L).

This was not so much an attempt at a Big Day so much as a start on a year list. By mid-day, however, we realized it had been a really good day of birding in Manitoba in January. In addition to the lingering, out-of-season species noted, other highlights included two (!) Gyrfalcons, three species of grouse, and a curious interaction between two Common Ravens and a group of eleven Gray Partridges. One raven approached the partridges and was attacked by one of them, and to my surprise, the raven backed off. All birds then resumed feeding in the field near Brokenhead.

**MANITOBA #3** – 1 June 04- 0000 to 2230 Species Totals 202/198; (Team/Shared): Ken De Smet 198, Adam Walley 201. 860 Kilometers by car, 10 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Douglas Marsh, Riding Mountain NP, Brandon, Whitewater Lake, Poverty Plains, extreme southwest Manitoba. Species of note: Cattle Egret (R), Tundra Swan (L), Trumpeter Swan (V), Semipalmated Plover (M), Lesser Yellowlegs (M), Least Sandpiper (M), Barred Owl (M), Great Crested Flycatcher (M), Spragues Pipit (M), Bairds Sparrow (M).

#### *Quest for a North American Big Day Record*

On 26 May, we did our regular May Big Day and came up with a somewhat disappointing 184 species. An unusually late spring and occasional rains through the night, plus muddy roads that day, thwarted any possibility of getting 200 species (a long-time goal). It was then, however, that we hatched the idea of making a serious attempt at the continental June Big Day record of 191 species (set in southeastern Manitoba many years earlier).

Checking which species we would have a better chance of adding a week later, and which might have migrated through and would be difficult to get, left us with the impression that 191 species was definitely attainable. Our regular partner, Cal Cuthbert, was not available and we would have to do a lot of schedule juggling (plus some soul-searching to see if we could survive two Big Days in a week!). In the end, we had only one possible day to try it (1 June), and that would be only if the weather cooperated.

As 1 June approached, frequent wet weather made roads ever more impassable and until the final day the long-range forecast looked terrible. But, a slight change in the forecast on the afternoon was just the break we needed. Although some regular sites would be inaccessible, we decided to give it a go. After independently scouting potential sites in Brandon that evening, we met for coffee and to discuss last-minute revisions to the itinerary. At 2300, we headed to riparian areas along the Assiniboine River with hopes of scouting up either an Eastern Screech- or Northern Saw-whet Owl. The weather was holding, but we could not find either species in any of their haunts. With midnight rapidly approaching, we started back to the vehicle when suddenly an Eastern Screech-Owl began to call from across the river. This was followed almost immediately by the tooting of a Northern Saw-whet Owl. Looking at our watches, we realized that it was two minutes after

midnight and both species could be counted what an unbelievable start!

The evenings scouting had revealed that there were three very difficult species that used a dyke around the Brandon sewage lagoons as an overnight roost (Herring, California, and Bonapartes Gulls). We headed there next, hoping that maybe they could be identified in the headlights or heard at night. But the dyke was abandoned and only a few Ring-billed Gulls could be heard on the water. Our disappointment at missing all these species was magnified by increasing winds and rain at our next stop (Douglas Marsh). Though Virginia Rails and Marsh Wrens were calling, there was not a single Yellow Rail calling (where the previous week there had been several). We needed to get this rail here, and had hoped for Sedge Wren, LeContes and Nelsons Sharp-tailed Sparrow as well. Heading down side roads nearby, we finally encountered a few Yellow Rails calling west of Douglas and later picked up a single LeContes Sparrow singing in the rain the only one for the day! At one stop, a Short-eared or Long-eared Owl fluttered by, but it disappeared before we could identify it in the dark.

Behind schedule and fighting poor weather, we hurried up to Proven Marsh (near Riding Mountain). We were greeted by greatly improved weather conditions, two surprise Yellow Rails and a Virginia, but no hoped for Sedge Wrens or Nelsons Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Just east of Onanole on PR 262, a brief stop at Octopus Lake was rewarded with a pair of calling Sedge Wrens. The next stop at some heavy spruce produced a mewling pair of Long-eared Owls, along with the presumed begging calls of chicks. Even though wed never connected with Great Gray Owls on previous Big Days, the next stop was near a valley where wed heard that a pair might be nesting. We walked off the road a distance and proceeded to try something a little different squeaking and using playback. Minutes passed before a Great Gray began responding first with a couple of normal calls and then hooting more excitedly. We were certainly pumped as we pulled away and headed north into the park.

On Big Days, bad missed often counter great finds. Such would be the case with the Barred Owl — normally a reliable species, we wasted tons of time over the next hour stopping and calling, with no response. During this time stops along Highway 19 yielded several American Woodcock, but also no hoped for vocalizations from Solitary Sandpiper or Spruce Grouse. With dawn rapidly approaching, a couple quick stops at the eastern escarpment produced a chorus of Veerys (a late-arriving species we had missed a week ago), but there was no time to lose we needed to head 20 minutes or so north to the Agassiz ski hill. Arriving just after first light, the normal dawn chorus proved to be non-existent (a reflection of how late spring was this year), and hoped for Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-throated or Philadelphia Vireos were all absent. A number of interesting birds sang on occasion, however, including the days only Connecticut Warbler and Brown Creeper (both totally out of normal habitat and obviously passing through). Moving upslope to the old quarry, two frequently missed species were added — Eastern Towhee and Golden-winged Warbler. Continuing upslope, frequent stops were made hoping to find Indigo Bunting or Scarlet Tanager, but to no avail. A check for

Chimney Swifts at the end of the road also proved fruitless. We continued to make frequent stops on the way down and were rewarded with Orange-crowned Warbler, Evening Grosbeak, several Philadelphia Vireos (5-6 in a single tree!) and a cruising Bald Eagle.

Heading back around to the east gate of the park, a small flock of shorebirds in a flooded field was a challenge. Debating whether we could afford to pay attention to shorebirds at such a critical time of the day, it proved to be an important stop as we found two species that were not seen later (Red-necked Phalarope & Bairds Sandpiper). We also added a pair of Wild Turkeys west of McCreary (in the same area as the previous week) and detoured to Kelwood where a quick stop and playback produced the days only Red-headed Woodpecker.

Heading back up the parks east escarpment, we were about to stop and use playback for a Broad-winged Hawk when one flew across the road a difficult species that would be seen in three other spots that day! Next was Whirlpool Lake, but this normally productive spot proved to be a bit of a bust with only White-winged Crossbill coming from the stop. Clear Spring Bog provided a nice male Black-backed Woodpecker and Magnolia Warbler, but we were unable to find Solitary Sandpiper here or elsewhere during the day. The S-curves on Highway 19 were our next destination; a Golden-crowned Kinglet responded almost immediately to playback and a long walk in the spruces finally yielded a roosting male Spruce Grouse. A brief stop at Whirlpool Creek gave us Hooded Merganser, Pine Siskin, and Cedar Waxwing. Later, a few scolding Blue Jays keyed us to a real nice find — a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Our final stop along Highway 19 was at Lake Katherine where some chickadees that were probably Boreal called briefly, but never gave a positive identification.

Back on time and with fairly calm weather, things were really looking up as we headed north up Highway 10. A stop by Clear Lakes north shores came through with a calling Pileated Woodpecker the first of four of this rather difficult species that would be found. Just past the Lake Audy turnoff a Lincolns Sparrow was finally added, a pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers flew in to a nest, but even more amazing was a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers in the same vicinity. This had also been a good area for Winter Wren, but we would strike out here and elsewhere. Having yet to see an Osprey, we committed to a 30-minute round trip to Bead Lakes where a nesting adult was added (as well as a second Osprey on nearby Grayling Lake). Back along the north shore of Clear Lake, Common Mergansers were added and a flock of migrant warblers included a couple Cape Mays and a Wilsons Warbler.

Two more stops would complete our morning in the park. In the town of Wasagaming, Boreal Chickadees, a Merlin, and two more Pileateds were added. Our final stop was the South Lake Trail, where we had allotted a full hour in the hopes of adding migrants. This narrow strip of land between two large lakes would not disappoint, as we quickly recorded Bay-breasted Warbler followed by Olive-sided and Alder Flycatchers. By the end of the strip we had still not encountered any Blackpoll Warblers, so we were quite surprised when two showed up on the jog back to the vehicle. That completed a warbler sweep of

23 species something we had never accomplished on a Big Day before.

Leaving the park on schedule at 1130, we felt we had done a superlative job on the parks specialties. On the way back to Brandon, a detour to Proven Marsh produced several Black-crowned Night-Herons and American White Pelicans. This stretch of Highway 10 is also critical for Turkey Vultures, but today we did not even have to stop and scan as several were readily seen. South of Minnedosa, a staked out Horned Grebe pair was added and a circling accipiter near Brandon proved to be a Coopers Hawk the days only one.

Buoyed by the mornings success, we veered off schedule slightly in Brandon adding in the agricultural research grounds (a virtual bust), and looked briefly for the downtown Peregrines. A second nesting pair of Peregrines at the north end water tower were more cooperative, however, as both adults were perched on a railing. Heading back to the sewage lagoons, a male Eastern Bluebird was added a good bird to get since bluebirds had become really scarce following an extended mid-May snowstorm. The sewage lagoons proved quite disappointing for the second time in just over 12 hours, although Western Grebe and an injured Snow Goose were added. On the way out of Brandon, we decided to drive by the Brandon garbage dump, which was reportedly no good for gulls. Encouraged by a few gulls circling around, we quickly obtained permission to enter and within minutes had added two very difficult gulls to get on a southwest Manitoba Big Day — California and Herring!

Despite being well behind schedule again, we decided to try a few stops in the Brandon Hills for aspen parkland specialties that were missing. Although most were not found (i.e., Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Great Crested Flycatcher, etc.), some solace was taken in adding the days only Hairy Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. While cruising to make up time from there to Whitewater, an interesting looking larid by Boissevain turned out to be a Common Tern.

Shorebirds were few and far between at the Whitewater Lake mound, with only Stilt Sandpiper being added. Hoped-for Cattle Egrets and White-faced Ibises did not pan out either, but we did add several Forsters Terns and Tundra Swans (the latter unusually late). At the next stop along the lake, west of the town of Whitewater, a few Black-bellied Plover and Dunlin were present, a handful of Cattle Egrets were spotted in the distance, a Nelsons Sharp-tailed Sparrow was heard, and a nesting Ferruginous Hawk was added. Although roads at the west end of the lake were impassable, we accessed the lake through a very wet pasture. In distant flocks of shorebirds, we identified Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, and Ruddy Turnstone, but most were too far to identify. Surprisingly, a couple of Bonapartes Gulls were flying around, resulting in our first gull sweep for this count. A few trees there also harbored a singing Orchard Oriole getting that southwest specialty out of the way.

Though we were hurting pretty badly on shorebirds (not even having a Least Sandpiper!), we needed to carry on. But an initial species tally while driving to Melita revealed a surprising 185 species barring the unforeseen, we were

definitely poised to beat the record. A brief stop at the river motel at Melita did not add any unusual species, but heading south of town we quickly added Ring-necked Pheasant, Lark Sparrow (another species that had been greatly affected by the May storm), and a staked out Says Phoebe. At the first Souris River crossing, Belted Kingfishers were present in the same site as theyd been the week previous, a few Northern Rough-winged Swallows were identified, and river bottom forest here contained a singing Warbling as well as a Yellow- throated Vireo. The former vireo turned out to be species # 192 for the day, the latter completed a difficult vireo sweep! Before leaving the Souris River, one more crossing at Coulter Park was checked, finally yielding a few drake Wood Ducks.

Although we did not realize that wed already broken the record, nearly three hours of daylight and a host of grassland birds lie ahead of us. Proceeding north to the Poverty Plains, a pair of Gray Partridges were spotted followed shortly afterwards by some Sharp-tailed Grouse (another difficult sweep — upland game birds). Grasslands of the Poverty Plains quickly yielded Chestnut- collared Longspur, but we spent nearly an hour fruitlessly searching for Grasshopper and Bairds Sparrow, and Spragues Pipit (the latter was particularly frustrating as they had been heard here earlier in the week in several spots, but none would sing or respond to tapes). Disappointed with the most recent turn of events, we headed for the extreme southwest corner but not before connecting on a long shot (when playback at a willow-lined creek generated a response from an early-returning Willow Flycatcher).

South of Pierson, we counted on some nest-boxes where Mountain Bluebird had been seen the previous week to produce and they did. At Ralph & Mary Wangs yard (a nice feeder and Ducks Unlimited wetland set-up), a scope of the marsh produced an immature Trumpeter Swan — a bird that had been present there a couple weeks before but had disappeared in the interim. As we headed towards Lyleton, and with daylight rapidly fading, we rechecked a native pasture that had been checked an hour earlier this time two Grasshopper Sparrows were singing! Last on the days agenda was an area where we had seen Short-eared Owl the week previous. Although none was obvious, continued scanning finally yielded a pair flapping low over a marsh nearly a mile away.

Driving back to Melita, the list was rechecked. We knew that the old record had been broken, but had we exceeded 200 species? A quick tally suggested yes, but it was so close that we thought it advisable to revisit riparian areas south of Melita (perhaps a Black-billed Cuckoo or something else might be calling). But we soon gave that up as well and, realizing that the gas gauge was very low, scrambled into Melita only to find all gas stations had closed! Proceeding on fumes for another 20 miles, we finally made it to a friends place where we could crash for the night. Over coffee, we carefully perused the list, realizing a final total of 202 species. It had been a fantastic day. Still, we know we can do better, perhaps much better! Stay tuned.

**MANITOBA #4** – 1 Nov 04- 0515 to 1615 Species Totals 73/71; (Team/Shared): Robert Parsons 72, Adam Walley 72. 320 Kilometers by car, 1.5 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Victoria Beach, Grand Beach, Grand Marais, Gull Lake,

Patricia Beach, Oak Hammock Marsh, Winnipeg. Species of note: Wood Duck (L), Blue-winged Teal (L), Surf Scoter (R), Ruddy Duck (L), American Kestrel (L).

**NEW BRUNSWICK** – 20 Jan 04- 1000 to 1700 Species Totals 22/22; (Team/Shared): Terrie Woodrow 22. 280 Kilometers by car, 0 miles by foot. Visiting: Mirimahi, Tracadie-Sheila, Miscou Island, Bathurst. Species of note: none.

This was not a chaffin day horrendous winds and snow drifts.

**NUNAVUT** – 10 July 04- 0700 to 1900 Species Totals 36/35; (Team/Shared): Richard Knapton 36, Christine Sidler 36, Cecil Kersting 35, Tim Molter 36. 30 Kilometers by car, 3 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Cambridge Bay (Ikaluktutiak) and surroundings, Mount Pelly, Grenier Lake, Cam Main. Species of note: Common Loon (V).

This was an impromptu Big Day! Out of 40 species we saw or heard during our tour to Victoria Island I the Canadian Arctic, we tallied 36 on one day. Collared Lemming populations were on the rebound, hence Snowy Owls and Pomarine Jaegers were present. Both Long-tailed (by far the most common) and Parasitic Jaegers were cruising the tundra, as well as Rough-legged Hawks. Only five passerines were found, predictably low; however, we found one target bird, American Pipit at Mount Pelly. Shorebirds, gulls (especially Sabines and Thayers) and waterfowl were in good numbers, and four species of loons, including Yellow-billed and Common, were very welcome. Musk ox, Arctic Hare, and Arctic Fox kept us company for much of the day.

**ONTARIO** – 27 April 04 0530 to 1430 - Species total 102/100; (Team/shared): Scott Shaum 102; Dan Bennett 100. 55 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: St Clair Marsh, Two Creeks Conversation Area, Wheatly Harbor, Hillman Marsh, Point Pelee NP. Species of note: Willet, American Avocet (R), Cerulean Warbler (E).

This is evidence that accidental Big Days can happen. With evening commitments, we were just out for a nice birding day knowing we better be on the road for home by 1500. It was only after I returned home and looked up Ontarios meager April record of 34 species that I realized we had something to enter. I have done this route many times in April over the years getting over 90 birds several times, but never cracking the 100 barrier. I wonder how many others out there have not entered on April sightings lists. In the end it was the great shorebird sights coupled with some early migrants that gave us our fine Southwest Ontario list.

It was not a very auspicious start. We began the day at St Clair Marsh with very strong wind gusts over 20 mph and temperatures in the 30s at sunrise leaving us muttering about how there is only bad weather on the days we are able to sneak out for some birding. The wind made it impossible to hear any distant vocalizations. Our hoped-for rails and bitterns left us with only Sora to show for our early start. Yet we picked up many of the reliable birds of this marsh including Great Horned Owl with a Red-winged Blackbird in its talons ready to feed its two downy young. We were searching in vain for the regular

Yellow-headed Blackbird that can be found at this location when a single male obliged us by flying by the observation tower. Scanning the marsh produced 17 species of waterfowl.

The trees and fields bordering the marsh area can be a real boon during ideal migration conditions. We added the expected Palm and Yellow-rumped warblers and common sparrows. But the fields to the east produced one of the wonderful sights of the day. A single field held 350 Black-bellied Plovers, 25 American Golden Plovers, estimates of 600 Pectoral sandpipers, and 25 Dunlin thrown in for an amazing display of shorebird activity. This was the beginning of an excellent day of shorebird sightings.

We headed south toward Lake Erie with 63 species on our list. At Two Creeks Conversation area we picked up expected open area species and quickly headed for Wheatly Harbor hoping for migrating loons and other waterfowl. While scanning Lake Erie we had the great fortune of ten Willets fly in off of the lake and land 100 yards down the beach from us. Other expected birds (but no unusual gulls) brought our list up to 81.

On to famed Point Pelee where reports of early warbler migrants had been heard over the past week. The woods were quiet compared to what was to come in the flurry of peak migration weeks of May, but we found a nice mixed flock that produced the surprising male Cerulean Warbler, along with Pine and Black-throated Green making our days warbler species list six. We added Brown Creeper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, and a lingering Purple Finch. With the wind still blasting in from the west, the eastside of the tip was the place to find refuge, and bugs. At the tip, we walked down the beach amidst an amazing swallow mass of 1000s of birds where we found all five species giving us the coveted swallow slam (only one Cliff Swallow present, which is the first I personally had ever seen this species in April at this latitude). Masses of swooping and diving swallows were

like walking in a blender. To add to the surreal ness was that not a single swallow made a sound other than the occasion snap of a wingtip. Some flew within inches of us as they flew up and down the beach below treetop level.

As our permitted time drew to a close we drove over to the shorebird habitat at Hillman Marsh where 14 butterscotch-headed American Avocets foraged alongside other more expected shorebird species giving us nine shorebird species for the day. We added Northern Shoveler to bring our waterfowl list to 22 species. With our list at a satisfying 102 we headed for home having had a great day without any scouting or extra planning. Clearly this total could be easily surpassed with this Provinces many amazing birding areas.

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** – 6 June 04- 0001 to 2100 Species Totals 141/139; (Team/Shared): Ray Cooke 141, Eric Marcum 140, David Seeler 140. 471 Kilometers by car, 3 kilometers by foot. Visiting: East Point, Prince Edward Island NP. Species of note: Eastern Screech-Owl (V), Cliff Swallow (V), Little Blue Heron (V), Common Loon (L), Philadelphia Vireo (R).

**QUEBEC** – 25 April 04 0520 to 2010 Species Totals - 77/76; (Team/Shared): Olivier Barden 77, Philippe Gagnier 76, Philippe Gaudet npc. 259 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Sainte-Foy, Portneuf pier, Saint-Barthlmy WR, Baie-du- Febvre WR, Sillery, Beauport bay. Species of note: Plegadis Ibis (V), Wood Duck (M).

A nice day overall, unfortunately very slow for migrants, so we had virtually no woodland species. A flyby Ibis (probable Glossy) at Saint-Barthlmy was quite a surprise, making us forget about our bad luck at finding pure Ross Geese amongst the 25,000+ Snow Geese seen along our route. Two Bald Eagles, four Peregrine Falcons, and 20 Lapland Longspurs were interesting highlights. The weather became inclement late in the day, so adding new species became much harder than expected.

## 2004 UNITED STATES BIG DAYS

**ALABAMA** – 31 Dec 04 0515 to 1915 hours Species Totals 89/89; (Team/Shared): Jim Hiatt 89, Sharon Hiatt 89; Pam Lasley 89; Steve Lasley 89. 279 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Wilson Dam, Wheeler Dam, Wheeler NWR. Species of Note: Western Sandpiper(R), Green winged Teal (M), Hooded Merganser (M), Hermit Thrush (M), Pine Warbler (M), Brown-headed Cowbird (M), Field Sparrow (M).

We bested last years record of 84 but still missed the goal of 100 with more than a dozen Big Misses. The errant Whooping Crane was there in the morning and the day after, but we were not. And there had to be a Cackling Goose in that gaggle of five hundred, but not for us. Next year.

**ALASKA #1** –5 Aug 04- 0630 to 2300 Species Totals 72/71; (Team/Shared): Sean Fitzgerald 72, Luke DeCicco 71. 140 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. Visiting: Anchorage: Glen Alps Hiking Area, Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, Potter Marsh, suburban Anchorage; Seward: Harbor and docks,

airport ponds, Town of Seward. Species of note: Great Blue Heron (R), Osprey (R), Gyrfalcon (R), Solitary Sandpiper (R), Olive-sided Flycatcher (R), Western Wood-Pewee (R), Stellers Jay (M), Northwestern Crow (M), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (M), Townsends Solitaire (R), European Starling (R).

**ALASKA #2** – 5 Sept 04- 0330 to 2330 Species Totals 63/63; (Team/Shared): Luke DeCicco 63. 150 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Fairbanks - Standard Creek Road, Creamers Field, South Cushman, Airport ponds, Delta Agricultural Fields, Clearwater Lake, Harding Lake, Quartz Lake. Species of note: Green-winged Teal (L), Osprey (R), Semipalmated Plover (L), Lesser Yellowlegs (L), Herring Gull (L), Boreal Owl (R), Black-backed Woodpecker (R), Red-breasted Nuthatch (R), Swainsons Thrush (L), Yellow Warbler (L), Blackpoll Warbler (L).

**ALASKA #3** – 3 Oct 04- 0630 to 1730 Species Totals 29/29; (Team/Shared): Luke DeCicco 29. 43 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Fairbanks - Standard Creek Road,

Airport ponds, Lakeview Terrace subdivision, South Cushman, Great Northwest Peat Pits. Species of note: American Wigeon (L), Red-tailed Hawk (L), Black-backed Woodpecker (R), American Robin (L), Pine Grosbeak (E).

**ARKANSAS #1** – 27 Jan 04- 0700 to 1600 Species Totals 64/64; (Team/Shared): Maren Gimpel 64, Annie Schultz 64. 170 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: North Little Rock area, Lake Dardanelle, Holla Bend NWR. Species of note: none.

**ARKANSAS #2** – 28 Feb 04 0700 to 2000 Species Totals 86/82; (Team/Shared): A. McAndrews 85, Dan Small 84, Peter Doherty 82. 165 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, Dardanelle Lake/Dam. Species of note: Laughing Gull (V,S), Rock Wren (V,S), Orange-crowned Warbler (E).

We beat the old February record by 86 species.

**ARKANSAS #3** – 8 Mar 04 0800 to 1830 Species Totals 64/63; (Team/Shared): Peter Doherty 64, A. McAndrews 63, Dan Small 63. 65 Miles by Car, ~1 mile by foot. Visiting: Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, prairie north of Charleston. Species of note: Eastern Towhee (M).

We beat the old March record by 64 species.

**CONNECTICUT** – 28 March 04- 0255 to 1845 Species Totals 112/108; (Team/Shared): Ed Hasen 109, Mark Szantyr 110, Dave Tripp, Jr. 111, Fran Zygmunt 111. 248 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield, Old Saybrook, Hammonasset SP, New Haven, West Haven, Milford Point, Lordship. Species of note: two Green-winged (Common) Teal (V), Barrows Goldeneye (V,S), Rough-legged Hawk (R), Iceland Gull (R), Pine Warbler (E), Chipping Sparrow (E), Eastern Meadowlark (R), Common Redpoll (V), Pine Siskin (R).

This is the first March Big Day for Connecticut. We found a likely (to be confirmed) Long-eared Owl nest at Shore.

**DELAWARE #1** –31 Jan 04- 0730 to 1800 Species Totals 90/90; (Team/Shared): Colin Campbell 90, Alison Ellicott 90, Scott Henderson 90. 250 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Indian River Inlet, Rehoboth Bay, Silver Lake, Henlopen Acres, Cape Henlopen SP, Red Mill Road, Prime Hook NWR, Port Mahon, Cartinza Road, Bombay Hook NWR. Species of note: Double-crested Cormorant (M), Harlequin Duck (R), Bald Eagle (M), Winter Wren (R), Eastern Bluebird (M), Field Sparrow (M).

**DELAWARE #2** – 22 Feb 04- 0700 to 1800 Species Totals 90/90; (Team/Shared): Colin Campbell 90, Alison Ellicott 90, Scott Henderson 90, Jeff Holt 90. 240 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Cedar Creek Mill Road, Spring Lake, Rehoboth Bay, Indian River Inlet, Cape Henlopen SP, Prime Hook NWR, Shorts Beach, Ted Harvey WMA, Little Creek WMA, Bombay Hook NWR. Species of note: Pied-billed Grebe (M), Osprey (E), Bald Eagle (M), American Avocet (E), American Woodcock (R), Iceland Gull (R), Razorbill (R), American Goldfinch (M).

**FLORIDA #1** – 17 Jan 04- 0430 to 1900 - Species Totals 153/150; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 152, Andy Bankert 151. 514.1 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot.

Visiting: Lake Poinsett, Mims groves, Merritt Island NWR, Meyer's Park, Springhill WTP, St. Mark's NWR, Alligator/Bald Points, Bottoms Road, Otter Creek Tract of SMNWR. Species of note: Ross' Goose (R?), Yellow-breasted Chat (R).

This route was much better scouted and planned than the last six of 2003. Scouting pays. We set a new record in 2004. One down, 11 to go.

**FLORIDA #2** – 19 Jan 04- 0430 to 1640 - Species Totals 159/158; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 159, Andy Bankert 158. 478.3 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Tall Timbers Research Station, Meridan Road swamp, Rutkovsky residence, Meyer's Park, St. Mark's NWR, Mims groves, Merritt Island NWR, Lake Poinsett. Species of note: Yellow-breasted Chat (R,S).

Bad weather in the morning caused a delay in dawn chorus and potentially a disaster for the Big Day. We had the January record in hand, but we felt we could improve on it. An alternate plan and good traffic despite poor weather conditions allowed us to beat our own record. This is my second best day personally and Andy's best. We both hope to improve in this in the future.

**FLORIDA #3** – 03 Feb 04- 0320 to 2030 - Species Totals 152/152; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 152. 639.3 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Orlando Wetlands Park, Viera, Jetty Park, Merritt Island NWR, Mims Groves, Tallahassee, St. Mark's NWR, Alligator/Bald Points, Bottoms Road. Species of note: Common Ground-Dove (M), Tree Swallow (M), Sedge Wren (M).

Lack of recent scouting definitely hurt this Big Day. Waterfowl numbers were down more than expected in the panhandle. Over the next couple weeks, I would tweak the Brevard County end of the route

**FLORIDA #4** – 04 Feb 04- 0430 to 1700 - Species Totals 132/132; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 132. 472.9 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Alligator/Bald Points (dark), St. Mark's NWR, Tallahassee, Mims, groves, Merritt Island NWR, Jetty Park. Species of note: Reddish Egret (M), Hooded Merganser (M), White-eyed Vireo (M), Brown-headed Nuthatch (M), Savannah Sparrow (M).

This was a rare instance where I ended the Big Day in the daylight. The day was going badly. There were many misses. Any chance to beat the record rested with a successful stop at Jetty Park. When the hoped for target species did not materialize, I made the decision to regroup for the next day. I failed to find the Glaucous and Iceland gulls for the second of seven attempts this month. There were no Common Terns, Lesser Black-backed Gulls or even Sandwich Terns when I arrived at the beach. I needed to pick up all of my targets in order to have a chance. Big Day success is a matter of playing percentages. My best percentage lay in and early departure from this Big Day and a gathering of energy for a third day in a row.

**FLORIDA #5** – 05 Feb 04- 0500 to 1915 - Species Totals 154/154; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 154. 585.3 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Lake Poinsett, Orland Wetlands Park, Tosahatchee State Reserve, Lake

Poinsett, Viera, Jetty Park, Merritt Island NWR, Mims groves, Tallahassee, St. Mark's NWR, Bottom's Road, Alligator/Bald Points. Species of note: Horned Grebe (M), Northern Pintail (M), Redhead (M), House Wren (M).

Again, a very frustrating day. How can you miss House Wren, Horned Grebe, Northern Pintail, and Redhead in February? I came within one of beating my own record. I ran out of time and light at Bald Point. Lack of scouting and fatigue were taking their toll. I limped back home that night and prepared for another week of work.

**FLORIDA #6** – 15 Feb 04- 0330 to 1925 - Species Totals 153/153; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 149. 374.5 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: T. M. Goodwyn Waterfowl Mgmt. Area, St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve, Viera, Lake Poinsett, Jetty Park, Merritt Island NWR, Mims area, Orlando Wetlands Park, Tosahatchee State Reserve, Hatbill Road. Species of note: Short-tailed Hawk (R), Wilson's Snipe (M), Black-throated Green Warbler (R), Louisiana Waterthrush (E), American Goldfinch (M).

Once again I was frustrated in my attempts at the record. I decided to stay local since it was a local route that set the record. A few bad decisions in the end led to missing the few species that would have eased the burden. I would head home to regroup and try again the next day.

**FLORIDA #7** – 16 Feb 04- 0330 to 1945 - Species Totals 149/149; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 149. 346.3 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: T. M. Goodwin WMA, St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve, Lake Washington, Viera, Jetty Park, Merritt Island NMWR, Orlando Wetlands Park, Tosahatchee State Reserve, Mims area, groves, Merritt Island NWR. Species of note: Chipping Sparrow (M).

Again I stayed local and again I came up short. This time I did not even beat the old pre-2003 record of 150. Another week of work and another chance to plan the next attack.

**FLORIDA #8** – 21 Feb 04- 0315 to 2230 - Species Totals 154/154; (Team/Shared): David Simpson (154). 572.5 Miles by car, 1.5 miles by foot. Visiting: T. M. Goodwin WMA, St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve, Viera, Jetty Park, Merritt Island NWR, Titusville, Tallahassee, Springhill WTP, St. Mark's NWR, Wakulla Springs, Tall Timbers. Species of note: Northern Pintail (M), Great Black-backed Gull (M), LeConte's Sparrow (R), American Goldfinch (M).

Another frustrating day ended while listening unsuccessfully for Barred Owls at Tall Timbers. I ended up with 154 species for the "official" total. I did not think to recheck the totals. Too tired I guess. I got in late and set out for a final attempt at the record the next day.

**FLORIDA #9** – 22 Feb 04- 0500 to 0000 - Species Totals 156/156; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 156. 760 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: St. Mark's NWR, Springhill WTP, Tallahassee, Mims Groves, Merritt Island NWR, Jetty Park, Viera, St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve, T.M. Goodwin WMA, FAU campus Boca Raton, Florida City, Everglades NP (Royal Palm, Long Pine Key.) Species of note: Common Ground-Dove (M), Pileated Woodpecker (M).

A total of 150 species was a respectable effort. Not bad for the last attempt of February. I was scheduled to work the rest of the month, so I would not have another shot at the record. My goal of breaking every month in one year had evaporated. I was exhausted. I gave it my best shot. That was how I tried to console myself.

I sat down at my trusty laptop and entered the list. I found a few species that I omitted in the course of the day. Four species to be exact. Once again, I was on the threshold of the record. A surge of energy hit me. A plan quickly formulated. The time was just shy of 2000. I had four hours left. I was missing Burrowing and Barn owl as well as Whip-poor-will. Whip can be found along the road at Royal Palm. Barn Owl may be seen in the back roads leading from US 1 to Everglades NP in Florida City. Are the Burrowing Owls still present at FAU in Boca Raton? I was off like a shot. A couple hours later, I picked up Burrowing Owl in Boca Raton. I headed to Royal Palm, confident I would net a Whip along the road. At about 2330, I spied a Barn owl on a fence near 217th Ave, west of Florida City. What a relief. I decided to head on into the park to end the day. No sense in quitting now. It was good that I got the Barn Owl; I dipped on the Whip. I ended the day in the parking lot at Long Pine Key. I Drove a around the loop at the end a few times to get the ending mileage to exactly 760. I spent 19 hours birding for an average speed of 40.0 MPH. Now if only I had checked the previous day's list and realized that I had actually beaten the record the day before and was only tying the record this day. I could have used the rest. Alas, the memories and the stories are much better per my mistake.

**FLORIDA #10** – 26 Mar 04- 0400 to 2000 - Species Totals 154/154; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 154. 481 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Brevard County to Tallahassee area. I lost my notebook containing the details of this Big Day. Species of note: Ring-billed Gull(M), Red-eyed Vireo(M), White-throated Sparrow (M).

This was my first Big Day after the accident one month earlier. I was still not cleared for work, but that left me with lots of time to plan my next Big Day attempt. I decided to run a Brevard to Tallahassee route, since that was what I was most familiar with. I did not have much time to scout the route, so this would serve as a scouting Big Day for the next day.

**FLORIDA #11** – 27 Mar 04- 0400 to 2000 - Species Totals 163/163; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 163. 632.8 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Tallahassee to Brevard. I lost my notebook containing the details of this Big Day. Species of note: Wood Stork (M), Red-shouldered Hawk (M).

How do you miss Wood stork and Red-shouldered hawk on a Florida Big Day? Somehow I managed to do it this day. Despite these glaring misses, I easily set a new record for March.

**FLORIDA #12** – 13 Apr 04- 0400 to 2000 - Species Totals 166/166; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 166. 611.1 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Viera (Brevard) to Tallahassee and Alligator Point. I lost my notebook, so I do not have the details. Species of note: Mississippi Kite

(M), Red-shouldered Hawk (M), Black Rail (R), Song Sparrow (M).

This was a scouting run for trips to come. I was not able to access Fort DeSoto this day, thus I ran the route from the east coast to Tallahassee. In the coming days I would scout the west coast with much more success. The total of 166 species was a new personal high and was the first time this year that I broke the 95% threshold for Florida's Target Total of 172.3.

**FLORIDA #13** – 15 Apr 04- 0400 to 2100 - Species Totals 173/173; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 173. 580.3 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Tallahassee to Punta Gorda via Fort DeSoto. I lost my notebook with the details. Species of note: Caspian Tern (M), Red Knot (M), American Oystercatcher (M), Fulvous Whistling-Duck (R).

This was to be my best effort of the year. I was too tired to get out and find an Eastern Screech-Owl at the end of the day. I fared poorly at Fort DeSoto due to the time of day. That cannot be helped on this long distance route. This Big Day should qualify as #2 all time in Florida. Later, I would realize that this week was my best shot at breaking the record of 179.

**FLORIDA #14** – 18 Apr 04- 0200 to 2200 - Species Totals 172/172; (Team/Shared): David Simpson (172) 750 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Florida City, Palm Beach County, Celery Fields to Tallahassee via Fort DeSoto. I lost my notebook with the details. Species of note: White-rumped sandpiper (E), Mangrove Cuckoo (R), Eastern Wood-Pewee (M), Acadian Flycatcher (M), Yellow-throated Vireo (M), Blue-winged Warbler (R).

I spent too much time scouting the Miami area before I realized that there was too little daylight to make a Miami to Tallahassee run. Perhaps, if I had learned this lesson sooner, this would have been the day. As it is, I got 172 species for #3 all time and a third spot in the Target Totals table.

**FLORIDA #15** – 24 Apr 04- 0500 to 2100 - Species Totals 163/163; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 163, Andy Bankert 163. 566.6 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Brevard to Tallahassee. I lost my notebook with the details. Species of note: Lesser Scaup (M).

This was not the ideal route, but because I had to work late the night before and I had school boy Andy Bankert with me, we decided to run a route from Brevard to Tallahassee. We could have picked up a few more owls after dark. The stresses of the year were beginning to mount.

**FLORIDA #16** – 26 Apr 04- 0200 to 2100 - Species Totals 171/171; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 171. 774.1 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Clewiston, Cape Coral, Celery Fields, Fort DeSoto, Tallahassee area, Alligator/Bald Points. Species of note: Crested Caracara (S).

Winter birds are slipping away as the breeders finally settle in. Not a bad day, tied for #4 overall behind two of my own efforts this month. But alas, the record still eludes me.

**FLORIDA #17** – 29 Apr 04- 0200 to 2100 - Species Totals 164/164; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 164. 770 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Clewiston, Cape Coral, Celery Fields, Fort DeSoto, Tallahassee, Alligator/Bald Points. Species of note: Glossy Ibis (M), Blue-winged Teal (M).

Winter birds are gone. Migrants and breeder were not enough. This, the last attempt of the month fell way short of the record. Now, all that is left is to contemplate where I went wrong and set my sights on the consolation prize of May.

**FLORIDA #18** – 02 May 04- 0430 to 1900 - Species Totals 144/144; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 144. 558 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Cape Coral, Celery Fields, Fort DeSoto, Tallahassee, Alligator/Bald Points. Species of note: none.

I could not find a place to sleep until late last night. I had visions of an early bed and a good night's rest. Due to the Sugar Festival in Clewiston, I was displaced as far as Ft. Meyers. That left me without Barn Owl and several hours of sleep. Later in the day I was met by a fierce rain storm as the front approached. I was not sure if the rental car would make it up Tiger Hammock Road as I drove around the fallen trees and mud slides. I limped into Tallahassee that night with a miserable total and a defeated outlook. The trials of the year, the accident, the six failed Big Days in April, the short night's rest the night before, all weighed heavily on my shoulders. I thought of abandoning the attempts this year and pursuing other goals. Certainly that would be the sensible course. A good Chinese dinner, a shower and time to contemplate the meaning of Big Days, led me down a less sensible path.

**FLORIDA #19** – 03 May 04- 0500 to 2200 - Species Totals 170/170; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 170. 500 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Bottoms Rd., St. Mark's NWR, Tallahassee, Hernando Beach, Fort DeSoto, Celery Fields. Species of note: Yellow-billed Cuckoo (M), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (M), Black-throated Green Warbler (L), Lincoln's Sparrow (L).

Today was Sunday. Tomorrow I have to return to work. I already failed in April. Why torture myself? Take the day to rest and wander back home. Don't run a Big Day down the west coast and get home at 0200 after all of this. Who's is that voice? The Voice of Reason? Since when do I listen to that voice? The weather was terrible yesterday. Terrible due to a cold front in early May. And what does that mean? FALLOUT! And what a fallout! I never made it past Fort DeSoto in the daylight. There were birds everywhere. Strangely enough, I missed Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. I could have picked up Burrowing Owl and Eastern Screech-Owl and maybe the missing night-heron. Alas, the Voice of Reason convinced me to head home after picking up Sandhill Crane and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in the dark at Celery Fields.

**FLORIDA #20** – 02 Jun 04- 0220 to 2000 - Species Totals 135/135; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 135, Andy Bankert 135. 834.1 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Celery Fields, STA 5 (South of Clewiston), Hendry County, Babcock Webb WMA, Port Charlotte, Celery Fields, Fort DeSoto, Hernando Beach, St. Mark's NWR, Tiger

Hammock Rd., Tall Timbers. Species of note: Common Moorhen (M).

Afternoon thundershowers, a side effect of summer Big Days in Florida, hampered our efforts at the end of the day. Many of the breeders did not show for us. We actually decided to cut our losses and regroup before daylight ended. We planned reverse run the next day.

**FLORIDA #21** – 03 Jun 04- 0400 to 2048 - Species Totals 142/142; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 142, Andy Bankert 142. 725.9 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Bottoms Road, Wakulla Springs, Tiger Hammock Rd, St. Mark's NWR, Tallahassee, Fort DeSoto, Mims groves, Merritt Island NWR, Viera, St. Sebastian River State Buffer Preserve, T.M. Goodwyn WMA. Species of note: Semipalmated Sandpiper (M), Wilson's Phalarope (E),

This was a much better run than yesterday. We barely managed to eek by our own record of a year ago with 142 species. We have a day to rest and relocate before running the entire state from Tallahassee to the keys.

**FLORIDA #22** – 05 Jun 04- 0315 to 0000 - Species Totals 144/139; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 142, Andy Bankert 141. 972.6 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Bottoms Rd., Wakulla Springs, Tiger Hammock Rd., St. Mark's NWR, Tallahassee, Merritt Island NWR, Mims Groves, Viera, Miami Shores, Kendall, Homestead, Card Sound Road, Islamorada, Key Largo, Lucky Hammock, Palm Beach muck farms (South Bay.) Species of note: Semipalmated Sandpiper (M), Least Sandpiper (M), Western Sandpiper (L).

This route ran extremely well. In retrospect, we could have headed to Marathon by dusk and picked up Antillean nighthawk at the airport as well as the nearby Roseate Terns. Maybe next year. We wasted too much time at Lucky Hammock and did not have time to pick up Barn Owl later. The last two species were added at 2358 in a flooded field where we hoped for Fulvous Whistling-Ducks. Next year, we are heading to Marathon and maybe Key West.

**FLORIDA #23** – 17 Jul 04- 0300 to 2100 - Species Totals 122/122; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 122. 772.7 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Flamingo, Everglades NP, Miami, Palm Beach County muck fields, Brevard County area, Tallahassee area. Species of note: none.

This was an experimental route running from Flamingo to Tallahassee, via Brevard County. It did not do very well due in part to the length of the route versus the hours of daylight. Later in the month, I will likely shorten the route and increase the amount of time spent actually birding.

**FLORIDA #24** – 18 Jul 04- 0400 to 0000 - Species Totals 125/125; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 125. 917.9 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: St. Mark's NWR, Old Plank Rd., Tiger Hammock Rd., Tallahassee area, Brevard area, Miami area. Species of note: Black-crowned Night-Heron (M), Caspian Tern (M), Indigo Bunting (M).

This was yet another experimental route that failed to produce. Yesterday and today's routes will serve to plan for the real Big Days at the end of the month.

**FLORIDA #25** – 29 Jul 04- 0345 to 2100 - Species Totals 148/148; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 148. 701.2 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: St. Mark's NWR, Tallahassee area, Fort DeSoto, Celery Fields, Port Charlotte, Palm Beach muck fields, Miami area, Card Sound Road. Species of note: Sandhill Crane (M).

This was the best route by far. Despite week day traffic, I was still able to bird the Miami area effectively. The weather cooperated. I came ever so close to the 150 mark. Maybe Saturday I can hit the mark on a return trip to the panhandle. At any rate, I should do well on Sunday when I repeat this route and beat the August record of 129.

**FLORIDA #26** – 31 Jul 04- 0445 to 2100 - Species Totals 131/131; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 128. 660.3 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Key Largo Botanical SP, Kendall, Palm Beach County muck fields, Fort DeSoto, St. Mark's NWR, Tall Timbers Research Station. Species of note: none.

With the record in hand, this was merely a practice run for next day's attempt at August. Weather and construction bogged down the route to the point that I had little time left in Tallahassee. The result of 131 species was enough to beat the old record, prior to last year's attempts, but well short of the newer record. I felt good about my chances at August the next day.

**FLORIDA #27** – 01 Aug 04- 0440 to 2100 - Species Totals 137/137; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 137. 877.8 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, Appalachicola NF, Old Plank Rd., St. Mark's NWR, Fort DeSoto, Palm Beach County Muck fields, Kendall, Miami area. Species of note: Common Yellowthroat (M).

Sever weather in the latter half of the day greatly impacted this Big Day. I easily beat the record, but with better weather, I could have done so much better. 150 is in the cards, but that must wait until next year.

**FLORIDA # 28** – 21 Sep 04- 0500 to 2300 - Species Totals 138/138; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 138. 504.5 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Pasco County, Fort DeSoto, Brevard County areas. I lost my notebook, so I do not know the details. Species of note: Redhead(E), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (R,S).

This was a more localized, more birding-centered route. I missed the record by two species. The promise of more winter birds arriving in the week to come assured me that I would beat the record next weekend. Unfortunately, Hurricane Jeanne would change my life and many others for months to come. I would not attempt another Big Day until November.

**FLORIDA #29** – 21 Sep 04- 0400 to 2000 - Species Totals 129/129; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 129. 590.4 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Tallahassee area, Fort DeSoto, Celery Fields, Port Charlotte, Babcock Webb. I lost my notebook, I do not remember the details. Species of note: Green Heron (M), Black-crowned Night-Heron (M).

In between Hurricanes, I decided to test out the Tallahassee to Sarasota route that worked so well last year

about this time. Not bad, but I think I will stay more local in the future. There is not so much to be gained in the panhandle at this time of year.

**FLORIDA #30** – 06 Nov 04- 0330 to 1930 - Species Totals 147/147; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 147. 480.3 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Everglades NP (Royal Palm), Lucky Hammock, Everglade NP (Royal Palm and Reserach Rd.), Kendall/Miami area, Archibald Biological Station, Celery Fields, Fort DeSoto, Starkey Wilderness Area, Werner-Boyce Salt Springs SP. Species of note: Lesser Nighthawk (R), Gray-cheeked Thrush (L), Swainson's Thrush (L), Veery (L), Lark Sparrow (R,S).

I spent too much time hitting spots along the way between Miami and Sarasota. By the time I got to Starkey Wilderness Area, the targetted songbirds were off to bed. It was nice to add several rails and Budgies at Werner-Boyce and Port Ritchie. Tomorrow I will try from Tallahassee to Brevard. Next week will likely be my best shot at the record.

**FLORIDA # 31** – 07 Nov 04- 0215 to 1900 - Species Totals 140/140; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 140. 716.9 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Pasco County, St. Mark's NWR, Tallahassee, Viera, Port Canaveral, Merritt Island NWR, Mims groves, Lake Poinsett. Species of note: none.

There is a considerable amount of overlap in species found in the panhandle and central Florida at this time of year. I think that next week's attempt should focus Everglades to Brevard County.

**FLORIDA #32** – 14 Nov 04- 0215 to 2000 - Species Totals 161/158; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 159, Andy Bankert 160. 549.7 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Everglades NP (Flamingo, Royal Palm), Lucky Hammock, Everglades NP (Royal Palm, Research Rd.), Kendall-Tamiami Airport, Viera, Tosohatchee State Reserve, Jetty Park, Merritt Island NWR. Species of note: Audubon's Shearwater (R), Red-tailed Hawk (M), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (L), Brown-crested Flycatcher (R), Florida Scrub-Jay (M), Tufted Titmouse (M), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (M), Veery (L), Tennessee Warbler (L), Eastern Towhee (M).

The weather played a huge role in this effort. Strong east winds buffeted us all day. We looked forward to hitting the beach and picking up pelagic specialties. Thoughts of skipping Tosohatchee State Reserve and spending the time saved at the beach went through my head, but we stuck to the original plan. We knew going in that we would not get all of our targets, but we managed to miss all of them. That was a bit disheartening. We had a chance to hit 170 on this day, but with no target species at Tosohatchee, we would have to settle for merely beating the record. When we finally got to the beach, we picked up two species of jaeger, Audubon's shearwater, Common Terns, Northern Gannets, etc. Imagine what we could have done with more time. There is always next year.

**FLORIDA #33** – 11 Dec 04- 0220 to 1910 - Species Totals 158/158; (Team/Shared): David Simpson 158. 547.9 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Everglades NP, Lucky Hammock, Everglades NP, Lucky Hammock,

Kendall-Tamiami Airport, Viera, Tosahatchee State Reserve, Mims groves, Merritt Island NWR. Species of note: Northern Gannet (M), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (M), Eurasian Wigeon (R,S), Common Goldeneye (R,S), Marbled Godwit (M).

This disappointing effort was the last effort of a trying year. 33 Big Days, nine new records, two close calls with hurricanes and six weeks "vacation" to recover from a prescribed burning accident at work takes its toll on a person. It was trying, but have I got a lot of stories to tell!

**HAWAII #1** – (Oahu only) 14 Dec 00- 0730 to 1800 - Species Totals 31/31; (Team/Shared): Urs Geiser 31/31. 120 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Kapiolani Park (Honolulu), Sand Island Park (Honolulu), EWA, Amorient, Aqua Farm, Kualoa County Park, Haleina, Kaena Point, Laie. Species of note: none.

The was not really a serious Big Day effort, but as there is no previous entry for December in Hawaii, I decided to submit my highest daily total from a trip a few years back.

**HAWAII #2** – (Hawaii County only) 11 Jan 04- 0800 to 1710 Species Totals 49/47; (Team/Shared): Reginald E. David 49, Nicholas Komar 47. 308 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Hawaii Volcanoes NP, Hilo, Saddle Road, Kona. Species of note: Glacuous-winged Gull (V,S), Laughing Gull (R,S), Semipalmated Plover (R,S).

The occurrence of two unbanded Hawaiian Geese, an endangered species, in Wailoa Lake SP in Hilo was noteworthy.

**HAWAII #3** –(Hawaii County only) 24 Jan 04- 0930 to 1800 Species Totals 52/51; (Team/Shared): Reginald David 52, Susan Wakefield-David 51. 243 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Kona WTP, Kaloko Mauka, Puu Anahulu, Puu Laau, Saddle Road Mile 21 Kipuka, Hilo Ponds. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S), Glaucous-winged Gull (R,S), Kalij Pheasant (M), Ring-necked Pheasant (M), Cattle Egret (M).

The following five species seen on this Big Day are Endangered Species: Nene- Hawaiian Goose, Hawaiian Hawk, Black-necked Stilt (*knudensi*), Hawaiian Coot, and Palila.

**HAWAII #4** – 1 Feb 04- 0615 to 1820 Species Totals 53/52; (Team/Shared): Reginald David 53, Susan Wakefield-David 52. 245 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. Visiting: Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Kona WTP, Kaloko Mauka, Puu Anahulu, Puu Laau, Saddle Road Mile 21 Kipuka, Hilo Ponds. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S).

**HAWAII #5** – 25 Feb 04- 0630 to 1700 Species Totals 32/32; (Team/Shared): Eric Huston 32, Mike Sefton 32. 105 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Big Island Country Club, portions of Saddle Road on leeward slopes of Mauna Kea, Aimakapa Pond, Kona Sewage Plant. Species of note: none.

**HAWAII #6** –(Hawaii County only) - 28 March 04- 0715 to 1830 Species Totals 52/51; (Team/Shared): Reginald E. David 52, Susan Wakefield-David 51. 238 Miles by Car, 4

miles by foot. Visiting: Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Kona Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kaloko Mauka, Pu'u Anahulu, Pu'u La'au, Saddle Road Mile 21 Kipuka and Hilo Ponds. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S).

**HAWAII #7** –(Hawaii County only) 18 April 04- 0700 to 1830 Species Totals 51/51; (Team/Shared): Reginald David 51, Susan Wakefield-David 51. 272 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, Kona WTP, Kaloko Mauka, Puu Anahulu, Puu Laau, Saddle Road Mile 21 Kipuka, Hilo Ponds, Kawaihae Harbor. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S), Franklins Gull (V).

It is getting harder to break 50 species in a day since the migrant waterfowl have all but disappeared. The Franklins Gull was a real unexpected bonus bird extremely uncommon sighting in Hawaii.

**HAWAII #8** –(Hawaii County only) 29 May, 04- 0530 to 1630 Species Totals 50/50; (Team/Shared): Reginald David 50, Susan Wakefield-David 50. 259 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park, Kona Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kaloko Mauka, Puu Anahulu, Puu Laau, Saddle Road Mile 21 Kipuka, Hilo Ponds, Kawaihae Harbor. Species of note: Greater White- fronted Goose (V,S).

**HAWAII #9** –(Hawaii County only) 10 July 04- 0600 to 1830 Species Totals 53/52; (Team/Shared): Reginald David 52, Susan Wakefield-David 52. 290 Miles by car, 2 miles on foot. Visiting: Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park, Kona Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kaloko Mauka, Puu Anahulu, Puu Laau, Saddle Road Mile 21 Kipuka, Hilo Ponds, Laupahoehoe County Park, Waipio Valley overlook, Waimea Hawaiian Homes farm lots, Waimea transfer station. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S), Sooty Tern (R), Little/Least Tern (V).

We had been hoping to complete a Big Day every month with the goal of recording 50 or more species each time. Unfortunately work prevented us from conducting one in June. With the migrants gone, we had to really scour the island trying to make up the missing easy ticks it has been fun to still hit 50 or more birds, though it took three tries in July to complete a count that topped 50 species. The long-staying Greater White-fronted Goose helped as the totally unexpected two Sooty Terns seen almost 10 miles inland at Puu Anahulu, and the rare Little/Least Tern seen at the Kona WTP.

**HAWAII #10** –(Hawaii County only) 21 Aug 04- 0600 to 1830 Species Totals 46/46; (Team/Shared): Reginald David 46. 249 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park, Kona Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kaloko Mauka, Puu Anahulu, Puu Laau, Saddle Road Mile 21 Kipuka, Hilo Ponds, Laupahoehoe County Park, Waimea Hawaiian Homes farm lots, Waimea transfer station. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S).

This was one of those Big Days where nothing seemed to go quite right, with relatively poor weather and lots of missed species. But the total did break the previous

published high count for the month. August totals should be much higher.

**HAWAII #11** –(Hawaii County only) 26 Sept 04- 0600 to 1830 Species Totals 59/58; (Team/Shared): Reginald David 59, Susan Wakefield-David 58. 243 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Kaloko-Honokohau NP, Kona WTP, Kaloko Mauka, Puu Anahulu, Puu Laau, Saddle Road Mile 21 Kipuka, Hilo Ponds, Kulani Road, Waipio Valley overlook, Waimea Hawaiian Homes farm lots, Waimea transfer station. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S), Least Sandpiper (V), Ruff (V).

A great Big Day - migrants beginning to show up. Of special note were the Least Sandpiper and Ruff at the Kona WTP, both are rare species for Hawaii.

**HAWAII #12** – 20 Nov 04- 0230 to 1830 Species Totals 57/57; (Team/Shared): Kurt Pohlman 57. 237 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. Visiting: Kapiolani Park, Honouliuli NWR, Makakila, Aiea Trail, Honolulu Memorial Cemetery, Kuliouou Trail, Makapuu Beach Park, Nuupia Ponds, James Campbell NWR. Species of note: Ibis spp (R,S), Greater White-fronted Goose (R,S)), Cackling Goose (S).

I decided to do a Big Day to see if I could break my record, and since it was during the wintertime, I went on the same route as most of my other Big Days. The morning got started off when I set my alarm clock wrong and awoke two hours early, but since I was up The first stop is to go down to Kapiolani Park and try to spotlight a Yellow-fronted Canary in the Ironwood trees. After finding three yellow fluff balls roosting, it was off to Kalakaua Avenue to find a roosting White Tern. It took about five minutes before I found one, in fact two, as an adult was on a low hanging branch with its chick! The chick was about the size of my fist, amazing since this very noisy and active road cuts through Waikiki. But at least they are safe from cats.

Off to Honouliuli NWR, and after going through the gate I had the first of many Pacific Golden-Plovers. I parked my car and waited for dawn. I had Black- crowned Night-Heron, Black-necked Stilt, and Hawaiian Coot calling. When dawn came, the ponds were very active. I found a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, and two Long-billed Dowitchers in quick order. A female Lesser Scaup was working the shallows for fish as two Blue-winged Teal and a Northern Pintail were out in deeper water. Two drakes and a female Ring-necked Duck were in an adjoining pond. As I watched a Wandering Tattler rapidly work a mudflat, a large wader came into view. It was an Ibis and a great bird for a Big Day! It flew to about 50 feet and I got some great views. It was an immature bird and not showing any field marks that would confirm it as White-faced, although all the ibis (10) that showed up on Kauai last year turned out to be White-faced. There was a fly-by group of Cattle Egrets. Behind me in the Kiawe scrub, I had the usual birds: Zebra Dove, Spotted Dove, Red-vented Bulbul, Red-crested and Northern Cardinals, Common Waxbill, and Common Myna. I heard only three or four Grey Francolins. On the way out along a dirt road, I had a Japanese White-eye, Java Sparrow, House Finch, and two Safron Finches. The Safron Finches were luck as

now I could save twenty minutes and skip a spot that has a staked-out bird.

It was now 0745 and I was in some wild grass field of Makakilo. A few minutes of walking and I could hear the melodious calling of Skylark high above me and later got good looks at one too. Nutmeg and Chestnut Mannikins were feeding on the grass seedheads. And at a dripping water tank, a stunning male Red Avadavat flew in to drink. Higher up the slope, I could here Grey and Erckels Francolins with its maniacal laughter calling. Back down the road through a subdivision, I picked up House Sparrow, a species I did not want to search for later.

Now it was to go down the highway to Aiea Trail. I arrived at the trailhead at 0930, Shama Thrush was calling with its beautiful song. Father up the trail, a flock of Red-billed Leiothrix scolded me. Not long after that, I came across three Red-whiskered Bulbuls. Since the Swamp Mahogany trees were in bloom, I had a good chance on seeing Apapane. And sure enough, their flute-like calls came from the treetops. Amakihi, the only Oahu endemic I was likely to see, called from the same area. With that, I started to run down the trail to save time, still listening for Elipaio, but it looked like I would have to make a special stop for it. I made good time and left for Honolulu Memorial Cemetery after only an hour.

Arriving at the cemetery, I heard some squawking and as I got out of my car, a small, noisy flock of Rose-ringed Parakeets flew by, which was lucky because some Big Days I have missed this species.

Since I missed an Elipaio at Aiea, I was at the Kuliouou trailhead hiking up the valley. I only went as far as necessary to hear one. Some days it takes me until I am at the back of the valley to hear it. Not today, as I only hiked a mile when I heard Ono ka ia. And so I turned around and started running down the trail to save time. I arrived at my car at 1220 and ahead of schedule.

A check at the Blow Hole to scan for seabirds netted nothing and so I headed to Makapuu a bit worried. Arriving at Makapuu and scanning Manana Island, I found a Wedge-tailed Shearwater and Red-footed Booby. A Greater Frigatebird was hanging out at Sealife Park. I also picked up a Rock Pigeon, which was not all white like pigeons at Kapiolani Park. But I was unable to find a Brown Booby and even though I checked one last spot for it, I came up empty.

At Kaneohe Marine Base and Nuupia Ponds, I had six Black Noddys flying around the shallows looking for small fish. I also had a Hawaiian Moorhen in the reeds.

My last stop was at James Campbell NWR, which is out in Kahuku on the north shore. Once arriving there, I had a Bristle-thighed Curlew in the grass. A male Ring-necked Pheasant called in the distance. The staked-out Cackling Goose and immature Greater White-fronted Goose were feeding together on a grass berm separating two ponds. In the back ponds, I was hoping to find the ducks that I had missed at Honouliuli. The ponds did not disappoint me as I found Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal, which were feeding in a muddy area. Some nice drake American and Eurasian Wigeon were to finish the count. I stayed

until dark trying to find a Short-eared Owl, but my luck had run out.

Looking back, I could have tried harder for a Brown Booby and next time I will try and find a staked-out Northern Mockingbird. There are also nesting Laysan Albatrosses at Kaena Point. But I beat my personal best Big Day and there is always another time.

**IDAHO** – 8 June 04- 0450 to 2150 Species Totals 153/151; (Team/Shared): Chuck Trost 152, Ed Harper 152. 317 Miles by car, miles by foot not submitted. Visiting: Sawtelle Peak, Island Park Dam, Box Canyon CG, Harriman SP, Swan Lake, Market Lake, Kinney Creek, Scout Mountain. Species of note: none.

On 8 June, my old birding buddy, Ed Harper of Sacramento and I tried a Big Day in eastern Idaho, this time in reverse of our normal route. Unfortunately, Marty Collar could not join us, which gave us a real handicap from the start. We started on Sawtelle Peak (in a rain/lightning storm) at midnight and ended up on Scout Mountain, south of Pocatello. Despite the weather, it was a hoot of a night-day-night. After getting blown off Sawtelle with no owls, we crashed (not literally) in the car at the base and began our day at 0450. We headed southwest on Stamp Meadows Road, then out on the Yale-Kilgore Road, where we picked up a Northern Waterthrush, Wilsons Warbler, MacGillivrays Warbler, etc. We then tried to look at Henrys Lake in a blowing rain-fog, and missed the Red-breasted Merganser, but got the reported Barrows Goldeneye and lots of Red-necked Grebes on the north end.

By the time we got back to Sawtelle Peak, the day had amazingly turned beautiful. We got American Pipits on top, but missed the reported Varied Thrush 2.3 miles down. Instead, we got an American Three-toed Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Grosbeak, Cassins Finches, and a few other jewels on the way down. At Island Park dam, we again heard Waterthrushes and got a Common Loon and lots of both Eared and Western Grebes. At campsite #17 in Box Canyon Campground, we easily found Golden-crowned Kinglets at their nest. Then it was on to Harriman SP for Trumpeter Swans, Common Mergansers, and Bald Eagle (plus a Northern Pintail female that only I saw). At Swan Lake, the Black Terns were lovely, and a male Green-winged Teal gave us an important tick, but it was already 1405. We stopped at the Hamer Frontage Road and got everything (Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike), except Burrowing Owl, which had apparently split. A young Ferruginous Hawk was peaking out of a juniper nest off the east spur road.

Market Lake was sort of slow. We labored on adding species and ran out of time before we could chase a reported Northern Mockingbird, or even Black-necked Stilts reported on the backside. We did find a Grasshopper Sparrow (only one) off the east windrow, and a Gray Catbird and Cordilleran Flycatcher in the east windrow. By the grain elevators and railroad tracks in Roberts, we stopped to look at all the spilled corn and barley. I decided to get out and look for Rock Pigeon, which we remarkably still needed, and voila there was a Eurasian Collared-Dove. At 1900, we buzzed out of Roberts, hopelessly behind schedule. We did not even have time

for my staked-out Bobolinks, Pinyon Jays, Gray Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasants, and others.

We arrived at Kinney Creek, south of Pocatello at 2030 and by 2100 we had already added 12 new species. What a super place this is for Gray Flycatchers, both towhees, gnatcatchers, Lazuli Buntings, Black-throated Gray Warblers, etc. (I had found 32 species here just two days previously). Ed then spotted a lovely young Long-eared Owl fledgling in the hawthorns about 100 yards beyond the cattle guard! I wish I had his eyes and ears! From there, it was on up to Scout Mountain, where we hiked up the East Fork Trail for about a half-mile listening to Common Poorwills calling their names all over the place and a few Ruffed Grouse drumming (Ed listened to them, but I can't hear them things). At 2150, I played the Flammulated Owl CD and instantly had three of these little hooters calling around us. Soon one was perched right overhead. I made sure not to blind it with my jillion candle-power light, but we could see its brown eyes clearly from 20 feet by indirect light as it stared down at us. What a jewel!

So we ended up with 153 species, which is pretty wimpy for a couple of pros. I am convinced with better time management, and perhaps more talent, this reverse route could set a new Idaho record. What a fun day!

**INDIANA #1** – 17 May 03- 0300 to 2200 Species Totals 170/166; (Team/Shared): John Cassady 169, Jeff McCoy 170, Brendan Grube 167, Brainard Palmer-Ball 169. 300 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Michigan City Harbor, Beverly Shores, Dunes SP, Forsythe Park, Stateline Woods, Grand Kankakee Marsh, Willow Slough FWA, Kankakee Sands, Benton County, Big Pine Creek Woodland. Species of note: Ring-necked Pheasant (M), Northern Bobwhite (M), Forsters Tern (M), Black Tern (M), Barred Owl (M), White-eyed Vireo (M), Prairie Warbler (M), Lincolns Sparrow (M).

Our first stop was just outside the Port of Indiana for Great Horned Owl (hoping to hear a fledgling call near the nest site). We missed the owl but recorded our first bird of the day at 0300 a Spotted Sandpiper that flew up from the road. At a parking lot at Dunes SP, we heard the nocturnal calls of Gray-cheeked Thrush and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

We arrived at Michigan City a little after 0500. The Harbor, however, was a bit of a disappointment with no surprises, but we did have a flyover American Pipit.

Our traditional slow drive through Beverly shores was productive (we avoided the notorious local police who usually have us move along before we are ready) and we picked up most of the expected local species and migrants, including a Golden-winged Warbler. At Lakeview, the staked out Pacific Loon was apparently gone. Another blow was struck when we were met with silence at the traditional Beverly Shores Prairie Warbler site (they were singing here the day before).

At Dunes SP, we added the expected birds, but despite being behind schedule, decided to make another attempt at Prairie Warbler and missed it here as well (it was singing here the day before).

We returned to the owl nest site near the Port of Indiana for a quick stop and this time found one of the young Great Horned Owls. We skipped George Lake Woodlot to save time, which proved to be a fatal mistake when we later found that another birder had seen Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Lincolns Sparrow here three much needed species. At Forsythe Park, we easily found Yellow-headed Blackbird on the lawn and found the trees full of migrants. We were able to fill in some holes in our warbler list including a Mourning feeding uncharacteristically up in the higher branches.

We left the lakefront at 1130, only about half an hour behind schedule, but with a morale-breaking total of only 127 species (our total at this point during the 1999 record count was 151!). When we arrived at Grand Kankakee Marsh, morale sunk even lower when we found that a 20+ mph wind had kicked up, usually the kiss-of-death on a Big Day. Fortunately it was cool, with a high in the mid-60s F, so many birds stayed active all day. The staked-out Eared Grebe was gone.

In the old Prairie Chicken Refuge near Willow Slough, we ticked off our targets with relative ease, despite the high winds. Our staked out Eurasian Collared-Doves, however, failed to appear.

At the productive Kankakee Sands south Unit K wetland, there was already a large group of birders out walking the areas so we decided to try and come back later when things had settled down. We never had time but found out later that there was not much out there in the howling wind anyway. The staked out Hudsonian Godwit was gone and we missed Ring-necked Pheasant and Northern Bobwhite, both abundant here but almost impossible in strong winds. We arranged to meet the property manager at Patrol Road to open the gate and let us drive into J.C. Murphey Lake, thus saving valuable time. Unfortunately, the draining lake and extensive mudflats that we had counted on to provide a bounty of bonus birds were virtually birdless. The staked-out Sandhill Cranes, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Laughing Gulls, Forsters Terns, Common Terns, and Black Terns were nowhere to be seen.

Next we headed south for Benton County and visited a couple of flooded fields that had been found during scouting, which allowed us to fatten up our shorebird list.

We continued south to Big Pine Creek Woodland in Warren County and did very well with southern specialties in relatively short order, but again no Barred Owl, where they normally call readily, and we tried hard for it.

It was 2015 when we arrived back at Kankakee Sands Unit K wetland and it grew dark before we could locate the resident Wilsons Phalaropes or Least Bittern (present the next morning).

Exhausted and down trodden, we debated whether or not to make one last attempt for Barred Owl. We decided to go for it and drove to a spot I had been hearing them call regularly, but at 2200 experienced the final burn of the day when we were met with dead silence. Our total was 170 species, 18 fewer than the previous record.

In the end we had lots of luck, but most of it was bad. In order to come close to the old record, everything had to go

almost perfectly. We needed a three-day window so we could have chosen a day with less wind. Many of our staked-out birds left and we missed most of the tough 50/50 birds. We added a whopping total of 30 species that were seen immediately before the count, but were missed on count day. We recorded only six unexpected birds that were not on our field list: Broad-winged Hawk, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Mourning Warbler, and Summer Tanager, and we recorded no true bonus birds.

In contrast, the record Big Day of 1999 (188 species) had only two Big Misses and 20 Unexpected birds that were not on the field list, and of these, 12 were true Bonus Bird rarities.

**INDIANA #2** – 16 May 04- 0030 to 2245 Species Totals 189/188; (Team/Shared): Jeff McCoy 188, Brendan Grube 189. 410 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: TNC Kankakee Sand WR, Michigan City Harbor, Beverly Shores, Indiana Dunes SP, Miller Beach, George Lake, Whiting Park, Forsythe Park, Grant Street Wetland, Chase Street Wetland, Grand Kankakee Marsh, Willow Slough WMA, Big Pine Creek Woodland. Species of note: Snow Goose (L,S), Lesser Scaup (L,S), Western Sandpiper (R), Great Horned Owl (BM), Brown Creeper (R,S), Sedge Wren (BM), Pine Warbler (R,S).

Brendan Grube and I decided to make a serious run for the previous 1999 Indiana Big Day record of 188 species, an effort that had been deemed an almost-too-good-to-be-true dream day. Absolutely everything had fallen into place that record-breaking day and the previous total was broken by a whopping 12 species. Many, including myself, believed that there was no realistic chance of improving on the record without a drastic change to the route, combined with extreme luck, therefore, there had been only a few efforts to break it none of which had come close. Brendan and I made only a few key changes to the traditional route, but we encountered near perfect Big Day weather, with light winds most of the day, and we benefited from extensive scouting.

Unlike previous Big Day attempts, we stayed overnight at The Nature Conservancy's Kankakee Sands Area, a restoration of native wet prairie, and began at 0030 (we traditionally started around 0400 some 50 miles to the north at the Lake Michigan lakefront). It was a chilly start with lows in the mid- 30s, but the wind had shifted from north to the southeast at 5-15 mph overnight, and it would warm rather quickly after sun-up to an eventual high in the low 70s under mostly sunny skies. Upon waking at the Bogus Island area of Kankakee Sands, we recorded our first bird for the day, a Grasshopper Sparrow, then walked out into the middle of the wetland to add Virginia Rail, American Woodcock, and Henslows Sparrow, but we missed the expected American Bittern.

At nearby Willow Slough WMA, we heard a calling Sora in the drained lakebed of J.C. Murphey Lake then listened for night birds from the campground. Barred Owls were calling everywhere (we missed this one last year) and we added Eastern Screech-Owl, Whip-poor-will, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. We were shocked, however, when an apparent Northern Saw-whet Owl called from nearby.

It gave the familiar Skiew call (a wheezy, rising, cat-like contact call that we traditionally hear in winter) but we decided to err on the side of caution and not count it when it failed to respond to the saw-whet tape.

We returned to Kankakee Sands and finally heard an American Bittern (our only one for the day) at 0330 just as we were getting ready to leave for Michigan City in order to arrive there at the scheduled time.

We made it to Michigan City Harbor by 0450 and right away a Black-crowned Night- Heron was heard calling over the yacht basin. We found the resident Peregrine Falcon, as well as Dunlin, Red-breasted Merganser, and our first bonus bird of the day, Ruddy Turnstone.

Our slow drive through near-by Beverly Shores netted all the expected residents and migrants in the dawn chorus, including a bonus singing Connecticut Warbler, followed quickly by a completely unexpected Sandhill Crane heard out in the marsh. We found the local Common Moorhen and the staked out territorial Brown Creeper a very rare Dunes nester almost never seen on previous Big Days. The resident Prairie Warbler at our only shot for it during the day was almost easy as we barely had to slow down to hear it. But best of all, the local police, who normally usher us along more quickly than we would like, were nowhere to be seen during the entire drive.

At Beverly Shores Lakeview overlook, Brendan found a strange loon in mostly breeding plumage well out on Lake Michigan that appeared to have the profile of a Pacific Loon, but it showed a prominent white flank patch. This would make it an Arctic Loon! We were suddenly faced with the potential dilemma of what do you do on a Big Day if you find a State Record? I took a few quick digiscoped photos, decided it was too far out to do anything else with, and logged it as loon species. But because we had spent a little more time here than planned, we added our only Forsters Terns of the day as they flew by just as we were leaving.

At Indiana Dunes SP, we found a number of expected migrants plus the resident Prothonotary Warbler, which showed up on cue at the footbridge. A short hike out to the beach parking lot netted a bonus Pine Warbler that had been singing in the pine grove here, possibly on territory. This would represent the first nesting of this species in the Dunes area in over a hundred years!

At Miller Beach, we found a bonus Great Black-backed Gull, but dipped on the staked out territorial Coopers Hawk in adjacent Marquette Park.

Enroute to the Lake County migrant trap lakefront parks, we stopped along the toll road near the airport to check out a possible Aythya-type duck I thought I saw the day before on a pond, and it was still there a bonus Lesser Scaup!

George Lake Woodlot was birdy and we quickly added Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wilsons Warbler, a male Mourning Warbler that popped up in front of us along the path, White-crowned Sparrow, and our only Lincoln Sparrow of the day.

Whiting Park provided our only Purple Martins of the day, as well as bonus Orange-crowned and Nashville Warbler

seen by Brendan only (this would be our only partial at the end of the day).

We hit our only low spot of the day when we managed to add only four species in our next three stops: a Black-throated Blue Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher at Forsythe Park, a Gray-cheeked Thrush and White-throated Sparrow at the Hammond Bird Sanctuary (the only individuals of all four species for the day), and then struck out when we tried to chum in the state line Laughing Gull. It had been summering here for years at the local fast food joints on the Illinois side, but can sometimes be lured across the border with the right treats!

We made up for the miss, however, when it took only two minutes to spot a Yellow-headed Blackbird flying into Indiana airspace from the toll road pull-off, where they can occasionally be seen flying from their Illinois nesting grounds to a grain mill in Indiana. This was a definite turning point: from here out, almost everything fell into place perfectly.

Grant Street Wetland had all the expected shorebirds, plus our only Pectoral Sandpiper of the day (I thought for sure we would miss this) and our bird-of-the-day, a bonus Western Sandpiper almost unheard of as a spring migrant in northwest Indiana.

At nearby Chase Street Wetland, the long 15 minute round-trip hike was well worth it when we found our staked-out Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, and Ruddy Duck, but the Ring-necked Duck seen here previously could not be found. While scanning the wetland, Brendan happened to look up at a Turkey Vulture and spotted our only Broad-winged Hawk of the day soaring next to it. Back at the car, a bonus Alder Flycatcher called from the adjacent willow thicket.

We left the lakefront at 1420, two hours later than normal, but with the same number of species (151) as we had at this point during the record 188 species day, and were still missing Killdeer!

Thirty five minutes to the south at Grand Kankakee Marsh, we had poor shorebird habitat due to previous heavy rains, but the goodies we had staked out here stayed stuck and we quickly added Least Bittern, a bonus Snow Goose, Redhead, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Cliff Swallow among others. Along the county road as we left the areas, we stopped for a staked out singing Western Meadowlark, thus saving valuable time later when we would have had to leave our route to find one in Benton County.

Our first stop in the Willow Slough Area of Newton County was the headquarters at Bogus Island in TNCs Kankakee Sands Project where we spotted a Northern Harrier, and it took us only five minutes to find an Upland Sandpiper. A quick stop at the South Unit K Wetland parking area provided a pair of Wilsons Phalaropes, but we decided we did not have time to walk out in the main wetland to search for Wilsons Snipe or the two Snowy Egrets that Brendan had seen here the day before.

By late afternoon, the winds had picked up slightly, but this did not hamper our search for the prairie specialties. At the southwest corner of the Old Prairie Chicken Refuge, the Lark Sparrow played hard-to-get at first, but popped up on the fence just as we were pulling away. Further up the

road, the Blue Grosbeak, Bells Vireo, and Yellow-breasted Chat were very cooperative, but the expected Sedge Wren was not. It was at this point that we realized we had forgotten to stop for the Beverly Shores Sedge Wren in the morning, a fact that would come back to haunt us.

We stopped at the Eurasian Collared-Dove site on County Road 250N and heard it calling right away (it was silent the day before). Enroute to the Salisbury Rookery unit of Willow Slough WMA, we took Pogue Road west in order to search the fallow fields for Wild Turkey, which we luckily found in the second field we checked.

The number of Black Terns at Salisbury had dwindled to one, which was all we needed, and we found a Hooded Merganser, as well as an unexpected Ring-necked Duck to replace the one we had missed earlier. We had time for a quick drive through the wooded road south of the campground where we normally search for missing passerines to fill in the list, but we did stop at a pine grove where Brendan had heard a Yellow-throated Vireo last year, and found one easily.

Now it was 1820 and with a 50-minute drive to Big Pine Creek Woodland for our southern specialties, it was a race against the sun. We made a quick stop at a farm pond in southern Newton County just off Highway 14, where we found several much-needed American Golden-Plovers before continuing southward.

At BPC Woods, it took us only 20 minutes to locate all the required southern specialties. We even found a singing male Summer Tanager sitting on an open snag near the road on our drive into the main woodland. In the bright afternoon sun it was a crowning jewel on our Big Day, and a symbol of our luck (we normally have to work hard for this one, and usually miss it).

Upon entering the woods, Carolina Wren (#187) was first, then Carolina Chickadee (#188), and finally Kentucky Warbler to break the record at #189. But there were no shouts of joy or high-fives since we had not yet had time to add up the list and had no idea we were so close to the record yet, let alone beaten it! We had 10 minutes of daylight to search for Worm-eating Warbler, which was, as usual, a fruitless endeavor.

On the long drive back to Willow Slough, a couple of careful counts revealed that we had indeed beaten the record and our spirits were rejuvenated as we considered the possibilities that remained. Upon entering Willow Slough, however, we tried four different sites for Sedge Wren (a notorious night-singer) and listened for Great Horned Owl at several spots, but apparently our luck had run out. So at 2245, we called it a wrap with the latter two species being our only Big Misses.

Analysis: I owe most of our success to pure luck there were many species that we recorded only once during the day, but extensive scouting and light winds the entire day also contributed. Another factor, though, was the slight alteration of the traditional route. In the past we have arranged to finish our southern specialties at BPC Woods in time to drive back to Willow Slough for an hour or more of daylight birding to clean up missed species. The problem is that we also used up 50 minutes of daylight during the drive. I arranged to finish daylight birding

down at BPC Woodland with only half-an-hour to get all the specialties instead of the normal hour. I then took what equated to about two hours of extra time (since we also skipped Big Pine Creek Wetland) and used it at the lakefront in the morning where it would hopefully be spent more productively. It apparently worked to our advantage since we ended up with few misses, and we were able to record many of the tough-to-find passerines, including 33 species of warblers, despite the fact that there were few migrants in the lakefront migrant trap parks. This more than made up for recording only 15 species of waterfowl and 17 species of shorebirds, both of which were well below the totals of the previous record breaking count.

But who knows how we could have done if shorebird habitat would have been decent at Grand Kankakee Marsh? We could of easily added Black-bellied Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Wilsons Snipe, and perhaps one of the large shorebirds. We may have to try an answer that question next year.

**IOWA** – 1 Dec 04- 0635 to 1610 Species Totals 68/65; (Team/Shared): Tom Kent 68, Jim Fuller 68, Chuck Fuller 65. 150 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Des Moines County: Burlington, Lee County: Denmark, Green Bay Bottoms, Pool 19. Species of note: none.

**KENTUCKY** – 10 Nov 04- 0730 to 1700 Species Totals 30/30; (Team/Shared): William Friel 30. 120 Miles by car, 7.2 miles by foot. Visiting: Otter Creek Park (Jefferson County), Bernheim Forest (Bullitt County). Species of note: Broad-winged Hawk (R), Worm-eating Warbler (L), Yellow-breasted Chat (M), Brown Creeper (M), White-breasted Nuthatch (M).

I had numerous, very active Cedar Waxwings, which were difficult to get a good count of. The bluebirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Carolina Chickadees were foraging together.

**MAINE** – 28 May 04- 0400 to 2300 Species Totals 114/112; (Team/Shared): Robert Milardo 112, Bruce Barker 114, Judy Markowsky 112. 150 Miles by car, 5 miles by foot. Visiting: Greater Bangor Area, Mount Desert Island. Species of note: Harlequin Duck (L), Coopers Hawk (R), Merlin (R), Great Crested Flycatcher (M), Cliff Swallow (M).

This was our 20th annual Big Day and lowest total to date. Go figure!

**MASSACHUSETTS #1** – 17 May 04- 0253 to 2023 Species Totals 147/147; (Team/Shared): Seth Kellogg 147, Tom Swochak 147, Janice Zepko 147, John Weeks 147. 175 Miles by car, one mile by foot. Visiting: Granville, Westfield, Southwick, West Springfield, Mt. Tom, Deerfield, Barton Cove, Orange, West Newbury, Joppa, Plum Island, Rowley, Gloucester. Species of note: King Rail (R), Little Blue Heron (R), Wilsons Phalarope (R), Red-necked Grebe (L), Wood Duck (M), Common Merganser (M), Common Raven (M), Winter Wren (M), Golden-crowned Kinglet (M), Gadwall (M), Semipalmated Plover (M), Sanderling (M), Semipalmated Sandpiper (M), Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (M).

This was our tenth Big Day over a span of seven years and our second best total, although still far from our goal. New

locations were Mt. Tom, Old Deerfield Marsh, Orange, and the Kettle Island heron rookery in the Magnolia section of Gloucester, where nesting waders were returning into a still onshore wind to roost for the night.

The last stop at the roost made up for early frustrations at the start, when too many upland birds were missed due to breezy, chilly conditions, and afternoon, when coastal birds were hard to find quickly. Again we happened on no fallout of migrants moving through with the notable exception of Blackpoll Warbler, which was heard at many stops. We did manage to list one each of Northern Parula, Tennessee Warbler, and Wilsons Warbler. Another new site, Deerfield Marsh, was also a highlight when we found three needed species, Green Heron, American Bittern, Virginia Rail, and one totally unexpected species, King Rail, which called continuously, but only gave us brief looks.

**MASSACHUSETTS #2** – 21 May 04- 0255 to 2033 Species Totals 150/147; (Team/Shared): Seth Kellogg, Tom Swochak, Janice Zepko, John Weeks (no individual totals submitted). 165 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Granville, Westfield, Southwick, Mt Tom, Northampton, Deerfield, Turner's Falls, Barton Cove, Orange, West Newbury, Joppa, Plum Island, Rowley, Gloucester. Species of note: Acadian Flycatcher (R), Little Blue Heron (R), Common Goldeneye (L), Great Blue Heron (M), Spotted Sandpiper (M), Winter Wren (M), Golden-crowned Kinglet (M), Louisiana Waterthrush (M), White-throated Sparrow (M), Long-tailed Duck (M), Sanderling (M), Semipalmated Sandpiper (M).

Heavy rain stopped just at starting time, but the damp raw air made night birds a hard find. It was a placid evening at Kettle Island and fewer birds were noted going to roost, perhaps also due to a later arrival time.

We virtually repeated the route of four days earlier. Waders, waterfowl, and shorebirds were improved, resulting in a total close to the high of 154 in 2002. This time NO landbird boreal migrants, except Blackpoll Warbler, were encountered. Too many upland birds were still missed due to time constraints, since our coastal stops require so much time. Even with the handicap of a long birdless drive to the coast from our home base far inland, we think we should do better. In 2005 we are considering a new coastal route along the South Shore and to Cape Cod.

**MASSACHUSETTS #3** – 22 May 04- 0000 to 2239 Species Totals 185/184; (Team/Shared): Peter Trimble 185, Jeremiah Trimble 185, Vernon Laux 184. 585.5 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. Visiting: Berkshires, Connecticut River, Newburyport, Chatham Orleans, Eastham. Species of note: Black Vulture (R), Common Moorhen (R), Parasitic Jaeger (R), Chuck-wills-widow (R), Acadian Flycatcher (R), Yellow-breasted Chat (R).

As many who were outside or watching the news that Saturday can attest, the weather in Massachusetts took on many diverse forms throughout the state due to the two fronts that battled over us. Overall conditions were, well, very bad. And then they got worse. But then it got a little better, at least a little. Jeremiah Trimble, Vernon Laux, and I were in a unique position to experience this as we drove

almost 600 miles from the New York and Connecticut borders to Newburyport to Cape Cod between midnight and around 2230 on Saturday. The drizzle and heavy clouds out west dampened our spirits, but we pushed on. The torrential rain in central Massachusetts nearly washed our resolve into the Connecticut River. The strong winds and very cold temperatures (roughly 43F!!) at Newburyport all but convinced us to throw in the towel. But we pushed on to the Cape and were rewarded with improving conditions (though we never did see the sun). Our greatest reward was finishing with a record-breaking single day count for Massachusetts of 185 species! Our persistence certainly paid off in the end and fueled our excitement to give it another go next year. 200 species in Massachusetts or bust!!

**MINNESOTA #1** – 31 March 04- 0500 to 1800 Species Totals 92/92; (Team/Shared): Jeff Stephenson 92, Ben Fritchman 92, Carol Schumacher 92, John Hockema 92, Chuck Krulas 92. 200 Miles by car, ? miles by foot. Visiting: Southeast Minnesota. Species of note: none.

**MINNESOTA #2** – 30 July 04- 0721 to 2125 Species Totals 90/86; (Team/Shared): Chad Heins 90, Jenni Heins 87. 228 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Swan Lake WMA, Seven-Mile Creek CP, Kasota Prairie CA, Gilfillin Lake. Species of note: Red-necked Grebe (M), Redhead (M), Bald Eagle (M), Wild Turkey (M), Warbling Vireo (M), Wood Thrush (M), Ovenbird (M), Savannah Sparrow (M), Dickcissel (M), Eastern Meadowlark (M).

This was one of the most interesting Big Days I (Chad Heins) have ever attempted. The plan was conceived the day before and it was the first Big Day ever attempted with my infant son, who is little over two months old. He delayed the intended 0330 start by crying well past midnight, could not hike at one location due to heavy mosquitoes, and required a nap at home in the late afternoon, which limited his parents to yard-birding (where they got the only Rose-breasted Grosbeak for the count). There were so many big misses with this Big Day that I do not include all of them by name. A bigger day is certainly possible.

**MINNESOTA #3** – 9 Oct 04- 0700 to 1900 Species Totals 56/52; (Team/Shared): Tom Auer 56, Nancy Auer 52. 216 Miles by car, 5.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Grand Marais harbor, Artists Point, Hovland, Lutsen. Species of note: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (L), American White Pelican (L,S), Northern Saw-whet Owl (S), Thrush spp. (L).

This count was conducted entirely in Cook County. It almost certainly sets the high water mark for an October Cook County Big Day. Atypical of an October day on Minnesotas North Shore, there was nothing rare or vagrant.

**MISSOURI #1** – 28 Feb 04- 0400 to 1930 Species Totals 88/88; (Team/Shared): Joshua Uffman 88, James Malone 88, Joseph Eades (88). 350 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Clarence Cannon NWR: Pike County, Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area: St. Charles County, Busch Conservation Area: St. Charles County. Species of note: Tree Swallow (E), Western Meadowlark (S), Great-tailed Grackle (S).

**MISSOURI #2** – 28 March 04- 0430 to 1930 Species Totals 115/113; (Team/Shared): Joshua Uffman 113, James Malone 115. 319 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Daniel Boone Conservation Area: Warren County, Busch Conservation Area: St. Charles County, Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area: St. Charles County. Species of note: American Bittern (E), Loggerhead Shrike (R), Spotted Towhee (S), Harris Sparrow (S), Great-tailed Grackle (S).

**MISSOURI #3** – 23 Oct 04- 0730 to 1900 Species Totals 87/84; (Team/Shared): Galen Pittman 85, Robert Antonio 86. 208 Miles by car, 0.75 miles by foot. Visiting: Belton, Horton, Four Rivers Conservation Area, Schell-Osage Conservation Area, Taborville Prairie, Montrose Lake, Truman Lake. Species of note: none.

**MONTANA** – 20 Sept 04- 0700 to 1700 Species Totals 86/86; (Team/Shared): Bob Rost 86, Ken Hollinga 86. 106 Miles by car, 0.2 miles by foot. Visiting: Rural areas and back roads around Creston, Big Fork, Somers, the north end of Flathead Lake, Kalispell, all locations in the Flathead Valley. Species of note: Trumpeter Swan (R,S), Brewers Blackbird (M).

I visit family almost annually in the Kalispell area. In answer to an email I sent prior to my September 2004 trip, I received an invitation from Bob Rost (we had never met) to join him in a day of birding during my visit. Bob picked me up at my relatives house on Friday, 17 September and we enjoyed a casual morning of birding around the Flathead Valley. We spent the afternoon driving around Flathead Lake, picking up a total of 76 species for the day. I was amazed when Bob emailed the next day to inform me that he had checked the records and discovered that we had broken the Montana Big day record for the month of September by several species.

Bob wanted to show me several new areas that we had not birded on the previous trip, so we agree to fit in a second day of birding on Monday, 20 September. Despite cool, dreary weather, we had a productive morning birding areas of the valley we had not visited on Friday. Bob had planned to drive up and over Crane Mountain after lunch, a route that might provide a look at some interesting birds that prefer the higher elevations (but would not offer much variety). Unfortunately (or maybe fortunately for us), we could see that it was raining up on the mountain so we decided to continue birding in the valley. We added more species as we tried a few more new places, and also revisited some of the same stops we had made on Friday. We had not set out to do a Big Day but when we tallied up our birds near the end of the trip, we were surprised to find that we had already broken our own new record from Friday by eight species. We quickly added two more species before wrapping up early with a total of 86 species for the day.

Visual highlights included a Merlin plucking a freshly-caught American Pipit and a dynamic aerial encounter between a Short-eared Owl and a foraging Northern Harrier. There were many relatively common birds that were no doubt present along our route but were missed, either because we simply could not find them during our brief stops, or because we just did not have time to look in the appropriate habitats. Birds in this

category would include, among others: Lesser Scaup, Gray Partridge, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Sora, Great Horned Owl, Red-naped Sapsucker, Cassins Vireo, Blue Jay, various swallows, American Dipper, various warblers, Spotted Towhee, and Clay-colored Sparrow. Our most astounding miss was Brewers Blackbird a common species almost everywhere in the Flathead Valley.

It is apparent that we owe our success in breaking this record to the fact that a concerted effort at a September Big Day in Montana had not been made previously. A good team with a well thought-out route, some pre-trip scouting, better weather, and a full day of birding should easily be able to top 100 species in the same general areas that we birded.

**NEBRASKA #1** – 14 May 03- 0430 to 2000 Species Totals 203/197; (Team/Shared): Stephen J. Dinsmore (202), Ross Silcock (198), Aaron Brees (199). 546 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Indian Cave SP, eastern Rainwater basin, Lake McConaughy, Lake Ogallala, Ash Hollow SP. Species of note: Least Bittern (R), Tufted Duck (V), Snowy Plover (R).

After several years of trying, we finally got lucky with the weather, had a decent passerine fallout, and found an impressive list of waterbirds to break the old Nebraska Big Day record by nearly 30 species. And we did it with almost no scouting beforehand. Much of our success was due to solid totals for waterfowl (21 species), shorebirds (26 species), and warblers (22 species), plus a little luck throughout the day with many of the less common species. And although we made it into western Nebraska by late afternoon, we still missed many common western birds, e.g., Western Wood-Pewee and Lark Bunting.

**NEBRASKA #2** – 15 May 04- 0600 to 2330 Species Totals 139/131; (Team/Shared): Mark Brogie 139, Margaret Smith 135, Charles Thornton-Kolbe 134. 153 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Niobrara Nature Preserve (Nature Conservancy), Valentine NWR, Fort Niobrara NWR, Ballards Marsh SWA. Species of note: Semipalmated Plover (R), Dunlin (R), Red-necked Phalarope (R), Yellow-throated Vireo (R), Wood Thrush (R), Belted Kingfisher (M).

Sometime during the next week, Mark realized a 139 Species total would put us in the top ten Big Days for Nebraska. We raised nearly \$3,000 for Audubon Colorado and conservation at Colorados Important Bird Areas. Margaret had the biggest day, adding 26 lifers in a single day. I (Charles Thornton-Kolbe) missed the Red-tailed Hawk by not bothering to look up when other observers had the bird, assuming that we would see another half dozen more easily.

**NEVADA #1** – 26 March 04- 0630 to 1730 Species Totals 139/139; (Team/Shared): Pat Ward 139, Ken Ward 139. 302 Miles by car, 8.4 miles by foot. Visiting: Tenaya Road (almond farms), Corn Creek WR, Tule Springs, Tropicana Wetlands, Henderson Ponds, Las Vegas Wash, Lake Mead campgrounds, Sunset Park, lower Mount Wrightson, Regency Hotel-Lake Mead Road. Species of note: Pacific Loon (R,S), Neotropical Cormorant (V,S), Great/Snow Egret (R,S), Greater White-fronted Goose (V,S), Eurasian Wigeon

(V,S), Osprey (R,S), Peregrine Falcon (M,S), American Avocet (E), Black-necked Stilt (E), Ruddy Turnstone (R), Mew Gull (V,S), Western Gull (V,S), Glaucous-winged Gull (V,S), Caspian Tern (E,S), Eurasian Collared- Dove (V,S), Ash-throated Flycatcher (E), Cassins Kingbird (E), Swamp Sparrow (V).

The low water level at Lake Mead produced many new sandbars and exposed rocks, which was ideal for gulls and terns. This produced many vagrants. Several scouting trips paid off.

**NEVADA #2** – 28 Nov 04- 0600 to 1700 Species Totals 121/119; (Team/Shared): Pat Ward 119, Ken Ward 121. 177 Miles by car, 2.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Tules Springs, Tenaya Road, Silverstone GC, Las Vegas/Tropicana Wash, Henderson Ponds, Las Vegas Lake, Lake Mead CG, 33 Hole Overlook, Boulder Bead RV Park. Species of note: Palm Warbler (V), Glaucous-winged Gull (R), Chipping Sparrow (L), Red-breasted Nuthatch (U), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (L), Stellers Jay (R), Rufous Hummingbird (V), Black-chinned Hummingbird (L), Vauxs Swift (U), Wood Duck (R).

**NEVADA #3** – 13 Dec 04- 0630 to 1700 Species Totals 99/99; (Team/Shared): Pat Ward 99, Ken Ward 99. 167 Miles by car, 2.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Tules Springs Park, Tenayard Road, Silverstone GC, Tropicana/Las Vegas Wash, Henderson Ponds, Lake Mead (campgrounds/33 Hole Overlook), RV Area. Species of note: Glaucous-winged Gull (R), Palm Warbler (V), Western Bluebird (U), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (L), Violet-green Swallow (L), Annas/Costas Hummingbird (R), Herring Gull (U), Peregrine Falcon (U), Snow Goose (U).

Bad timing? Fifteen species had left in one week prior. Deleting Corn Creek WR gained two hours for scouring Lake Mead area.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE #1** – 19 May 02- 0000 to 2130 Species Totals 153/153; (Team/Shared): Iain MacLeod 153, George Robbins 153, Rob Woodward 153. 420 Miles by car, 4 miles by car. Visiting: Pondicherry NWR, Trudeau Road, Franconia Notch, Concord Airport, Pawtuckaway SP, Exeter WTP, Seabrook/Hampton Harbor, Pease International Tradeport, New Hampshire seacoast. Species of note: Western Grebe (V), Red-headed Woodpecker (R), Iceland Gull (L).

We were so disappointed with this total that we decided to go again the following week (see next entry) and did not submit it to ABA at the time. On review of the list of top ten New Hampshire Big Days, we realized that 153 is actually not bad!

**NEW HAMPSHIRE #2** – 27 May 02- 0000 to 2100 Species Totals 153/153; (Team/Shared): Iain MacLeod 153, George Robbins 153, Rob Woodward 153. 420 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. Visiting: Pondicherry NWR, Trudeau Road, Franconia Notch, Concord Airport, Pawtuckaway SP, Exeter WTP, Seabrook/Hampton Harbor, Pease International Tradeport, New Hampshire seacoast. Species of note: Manx Shearwater (R), Wilsons Phalarope (V).

After last weeks disappointment, we tried again and got the same 153 total! Once again we did not submit it to ABA at

the time. On review of the list of top ten New Hampshire Big Days, we realized that 153 is actually not bad! The combined list for the two days was 176 (well in excess of the New Hampshire ONE day record- -oh well!).

**NEW HAMPSHIRE #3** – 24 Jan 04- 0500 to 1700 Species Totals 75/75; (Team/Shared): Stephen Mirick 75, Dennis Abbott 75, Paul Lacourse 75, Jane Lawrence 75. 92 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Derry, Newmarket, Exeter, New Hampshire coast. Species of note: Barrows Goldeneye (R), Lesser Black-backed Gull (R), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (V,S).

This Big Day was part of the Massachusetts Audubon Superbowl of Birding and included only Rockingham County in New Hampshire. Thanks to some scouting and some staked out birds, we had a very successful day and established a new January record for New Hampshire despite a low temperature of 4 degrees F and a wind chill below zero all day!

**NEW HAMPSHIRE #4** – 29 Feb 04- 0500 to 2100 Species Totals 75/74; (Team/Shared): Iain MacLeod 74, Eric Masterson 75, Rob Woodward 74, Dan Fallon 74. 249 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Concord, Manchester, Salem, Exeter, Great Bay, NH coast. Species of Note: Spotted Towhee (V,S), Red-throated Loon (M).

Team captain Iain MacLeod assembled a balanced blend of veterans and rookies for a new Big Day team assigned with the mission to at long last achieve a NH Big Day record. The February record of 71 set five years earlier was overdue for a challenge by this hungry band of twitchers and listers. Surpassing the record, which was set with the help of a lengthy list of rarities Black-throated Blue Warbler, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, among others would require an all-out effort.

The team assembled in Concord at 0500 on what would be a calm, mild, and the latest possible day in February, leap day, the 29th. We wasted no time in setting off to a cemetery to call for owls but heard none. The next stop at Chase Sanctuary also was devoid of owls, but we got Common Redpoll, Brown Creeper, and Raven. Then a Barred Owl belatedly returned our call. An owl is always a good start to a Big Day.

A quick stop at White Park in Concord turned up our first unexpected surprise: Merlin! A bonus bird; an omen. Hoping for a two-falcon day in Concord, we tried for, but could not locate, a peregrine seen the day before on the state house dome. A Spotted Towhee, a first state record discovered on the Concord Christmas Bird Count, was ours for the taking after a two-minute wait. Just as we thought we were on an unstoppable roll, we passed a Dunkin Donuts and Eric cried out for his hot joe. Iain and I could hardly believe it! Stop? On a Big Day? For coffee? We quickly cut a deal with this interloper: you can have your one coffee stop but no bathroom breaks all day!

We had to work harder than we wanted to for a Peregrine Falcon in Manchester but a Bald Eagle was where it was supposed to be at Moores Crossing. A productive stop at the ASNH Massabesic Center added singing Eastern Bluebirds and a drumming Pileated Woodpecker to our growing list. We were not missing very much. But at our next two stops, first for a staked Red-bellied Woodpecker

and then an over-wintering Rose-breasted Grosbeak, we struck out. Since we missed each species by more than the five minutes we spent at Dunkin Donuts, Eric suffered no punishment from his teammates.

Our good luck returned in Salem, where we would try for Fish Crow at a reliable location. Within 15 minutes we not only got Fish Crow but also the only Common Grackle of the day, plus all three accipiters! We could now start heading east toward the coast. Surprisingly, a stop at the reliable sewage treatment ponds in Exeter turned up nothing new. Open water was scarce and distant on Great Bay at Sandy Point, so no new waterfowl. At noon we had 50 species compared to the record teams 53 by 1100, yet we felt confident we were in good shape. In Newmarket we easily found the staked Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal, plus Hooded Merganser.

We reached the coast by 1330 and started padding the list with easy sea birds. An hour later we stood at 65 species with only a few hours of daylight remaining. Although the old record was 71, another team had gone out the day before and we did not know their total. We decided that to be sure we had better get 75 for good measure. So we only needed 10 more ticks. Sure enough, the 10 began to fall, one by one. First, the alcids: Thick-billed Murre and Black Guillemot. Then shorebirds: Sanderling and Dunlin. A pair of Black Scoters completed the scoter trio. Barrows Goldeneye, Iceland Gull, and a single Red-winged Blackbird carried us to within two of our goal.

With no more coast left, we returned to Great Bay and enjoyed a colorful sunset at Sunset Farm, where we added Greater Scaup in the fading light. We needed one more, just to be sure. A search for American woodcock, Eastern Screech- and Northern Saw-whet Owls at Adams Point turned futile. We walked to the waters edge to try for one more owl. As we stopped to listen, a Great Horned Owl called from across the bay. A second answered and then a third. Their hoots drifted lazily across the water on a calm, mild, moonlit night. Surely this was enough to win the day.

As it turns out, the other team scored 73 species, giving us the new February Big Day record. In the end, it seems you can have your coffee and the record too.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE #5** – 30 May 04- 0001 to 2345 Species Totals 158/156; (Team/Shared): Iain MacLeod 158, George Robbins 158, Rob Woodward 156. 405 Miles by car, 5 miles by foot. Visiting: Pondicherry NWR, Bethlehem, Concord Airport, Pawtuckaway SP, Exeter SL, New Hampshire coast, Durham, Newmarket, Clough SP. Species of note: Black-backed Woodpecker (R,S), White-breasted Nuthatch (M), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (M), Ruffed Grouse (M).

High winds and a lack of shorebirds kept us from a higher total.

**NEW MEXICO #1** – 24 Feb 04- 0600 to 1800 Species Totals 97/97; (Team/Shared): David Cleary 97. 211 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Percha Dam, Elephant Butte Lake SP, Bosque del Apache NWR. Species of note: none.

The goal, unfortunately, was to hit the century mark.

**NEW MEXICO #2** – 23 March 04- 0515 to 1830 Species Totals 112/112; (Team/Shared): David Cleary 112, William Wittman 112. 198 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Emory Pass, Kingston, Hillsboro, Percha Dam SP, Truth or Consequences, Elephant Butte Lake SP, Bosque del Apache NWR. Species of note: Olive Warbler (S), Blue-winged Teal (S), White-throated Swift (S), Ross Goose (S), Eared Grebe (S).

An untimely rainstorm probably cost us a staked-out Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. However, our goal was to exceed 100 species. Mission accomplished in spades!

**NEW MEXICO #3** – 28 April 04- 0400 to 1900 Species Totals 123/122; (Team/Shared): Dave Cleary 122, Bill Wittman 123. 194.7 Miles by car, 0 miles by foot. Visiting: Carson National Forest, Eagle Nest Lake, Cimarron Canyon SP, Springer Lake, Stubblefield Dam, Maxwell NWR. Species of note: Surf Scoter (V), White-winged Dove (R), Ross Goose (L), Sandhill Crane (L).

This count took place only in Colfax County. The previous record for April was 113 species. While the Surf Scoter was the best bird of the day, a very special treat was the 51 Forsters Terns.

**NEW MEXICO #4** – 30 April 04- 0200 to 2200 Species Totals 178/175; (Team/Shared): Jim Black 176, Bill West 176, Bernie Foy 177. 400 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Clanton Canyon, Red Rock WMA, Burro Mountains, Black Range, Hillsboro, Las Animas Creek, Percha Dam SP, Elephant Butte SP, Bosque del Apache NWR, Water Canyon. Species of note: Hooded Warbler (V), Downy Woodpecker (R), Savannah Sparrow (L), Snow Goose (L), Warbling Vireo (M), Western Tanager (M).

We wanted to make a serious attempt to set a new April record for New Mexico on the classic Big Day route (with our own additions), and succeeded. The weather cooperated, as the winds were reasonable one day after a windstorm. Everything fell into place at each location, and the only real problem we had was being behind schedule, which may have limited our tally at Bosque del Apache. Since we missed at least six relatively easy species, a New Mexico April Big Day in the 180s or more should be within reach.

**NORTH CAROLINA #1** – 23 Jan 04- 0600 to 1800 Species Totals 82/82; (Team/Shared): David Lenat 82. 220 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Columbia and Scuppernong River, Alligator River Wildlife Refuge at Milltail Road, Manteo, Oregon Inlet, Bodie Pond, Pea Island North Pond, Hatteras Point and Salt Pond. Species of note: Common Goldeneye, American Avocet, Bonapartes Gull.

The prior North Carolina January record of 71 species reflected the very few Big Day attempts during winter for the state of North Carolina; most Big Days have been conducted during spring or fall migration. Although this Big Day attempt sets a new state record, it is likely that a more organized attempt would easily exceed 100 species.

**NORTH CAROLINA #2** – 19 Feb 04- 0600 to 1800 Species Totals 88/88; (Team/Shared): David Lenat 88. 250 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. Visiting: Lake Phelps,

Scuppernong River (Creswell and Columbia), Alligator River Wildlife Refuge at Milltail Road, Manteo, Oregon Inlet, Bodie Point, Pea Island North Pond, Hatteras Point and Salt Pond. Species of note: Red-throated Loon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Long-billed Dowitcher, Bonapartes Gull, Razorbill.

This was basically a repeat of the January Big Day attempt. This increases the January record from 71 to 88 species, but it is still well under the potential number for this month.

**NORTH CAROLINA #3** – 8 March 04- 0600 to 1900 Species Totals 87/87; (Team/Shared): David Lenat 87. 250 Miles by car, 5 miles by foot. Visiting: Lake Phelps, Scuppernong River (Creswell and Columbia), Alligator River Wildlife Refuge at Milltail Road, Manteo, Oregon Inlet, Bodie Pond, Pea Island North Pond, Hatteras Point and Salt Pond, Hatteras Village. Species of note: Red-throated Loon, Long-tailed Duck, Common Merganser, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Bonapartes Gull.

This was one more winter Big Day attempt for North Carolina, increasing the monthly record from 70 to 87 species. Birding was made more difficult by high winds all day.

**NORTH DAKOTA** – 7 Aug 04- 0445 to 2030 Species Totals 131/129; (Team/Shared): Keith Corliss 130, Mark Otnes 130. 470 Miles by car, 2.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Cass, Barnes, Stutsman, Kidder and Ransom counties, including Chase Lake NWR. Species of note: White-winged Scoter (E,R), Caspian Tern (E,R), Brown Thrasher (M), Rose-breasted Merganser (M).

**OHIO #1** – 1 Jan 04- 0700 to 1800 Species Totals 65/64; (Team/Shared): Su Snyder 65, Ben Morrison 65, Jason Larson 64. 195 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Killdeer Plains, Prairie Lane, Lake Buckhorn, Apple Valley Lake. Species of note: Snow Goose (S), Black Vulture (S), Turkey Vulture (S), Virginia Rail (S), Wilsons Snipe (S), Barn Owl (S), Long-eared Owl (S), Northern Saw-whet Owl (S).

This day was not planned as a Big Day, but rather just the first day of a big January, so we missed a lot of birds we normally would have tried for if doing a Big Day. We did not learn until months later that we had broken the Ohio Big Day January record.

**OHIO #2** – 25 Jan 04- 0500 to 1830 Species Totals 82/82; (Team/Shared): Tom Kemp 82, Steve Stockford 82, Craig Nilsson 82, Todd Haggard 82. 200 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Open Openings, Maumee River, Lake Erie marshes, Castalia. Species of note: Glaucous Gull (R), Northern Harrier (M), Northern Mockingbird (M).

**OHIO #3** – 22 Feb 04- 0500 to 1815 Species Totals 84/81; (Team/Shared): Tom Kemp 82, Craig Nilsson 83, Steve Stockford 83. 185 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Oak Openings, Maumee River, Lake Erie marshes, Catalia. Species of note: Ruddy Duck (M).

**OHIO #4** – 29 Feb 04- 0500 to 1835 Species Totals 87/86; (Team/Shared): Tom Kemp 87, Craig Nilsson 87, Chuck Anderson 86. 147 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot.

Visiting: Oak Openings, Maumee River, Lake Erie marshes. Species of note: Ruddy Duck (M), Great Black-backed Gull (M), Swamp Sparrow (M).

**OHIO #5** – 28 March 04- 0445 to 1845 Species Totals 98/96; (Team/Shared): Tom Kemp 97, Steve Stockford 98, Craig Nilsson 96, Todd Haggard 97. 170 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Oak Openings, Maumee River, Lake Erie marshes. Species of note: none.

**OHIO #6** – 5 June 04- 0001 to 2200 Species Totals 152/149; (Team/Shared): Tom Kemp 151, Steve Stockford 151, Craig Nilsson 150, Paul Chad 151. 490 Miles by car, 5 miles by bike, one mile by foot. Visiting: Williams County, Oak Openings, Lake Erie marshes, Mohican State Forest, Holmes County. Species of note: Redhead (L), Scaup spp. (L), Black-necked Stilt (V).

**OHIO #7** – 7 Nov 04- 0515 to 1730 Species Totals 98/98; (Team/Shared): Tom Kemp 98, Steve Stockford 98, Elliot Tramer 98. 107 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Oak Openings, Lake Erie marshes. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (R), Golden Eagle (R), Killdeer (M), Hudsonian Godwit (R), Marbled Godwit (R), Northern Shrike (R), Eastern Bluebird (M), Yellow Warbler (L).

This is a new Ohio record for November.

**OHIO #8** – 5 Dec 04- 0515 to 1750 Species Totals 85/81; (Team/Shared): Matt Kemp 84, Tom Kemp 83, Steve Stockford 83, Craig Nilsson 82. 130 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Oak Openings, Maumee River, Lake Erie marshes. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (R), Surf Scoter (R)

A new December record for Ohio.

**OREGON #1** – 24 Jan 04- 0300 to 2100 Species Totals 112/112; (Team/Shared): Dave Irons 112, Noah Strycker 112. 230 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Eugene, Coos Bay. Species of note: Prairie Warbler (R), Downy Woodpecker (M).

**OREGON #2** – 17 July 04- 0000 to 2200 Species Totals 175/171; (Team/Shared): Dave Irons 174, Noah Strycker 172. 550 miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Coos Bay, Roseburg, Summer Lake. Species of note: Curlew Sandpiper (V), Barred Owl (R), Hermit Warbler (M).

Our 2nd to last bird of the day was a Curlew Sandpiper we discovered at Summer Lake. This was Oregon's 11th state record and many people saw the bird on subsequent days.

**PENNSYLVANIA #1** – 1 March 04- 0400 to 1815 Species Totals 66/66; (Team/Shared): Ted Drozdowski 66. 129 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Struble Lake, Marsh Creek SP, Chambers Lake, Coatesville Reservoir, Middle Creek WMA. Species of note: Greater White-fronted Goose (R), Bufflehead (M).

After what was regarded as a brutally cold winter here in southeastern Pennsylvania, the promise of 55 degrees on 1 March was enough to assure me a full day of birding.

Now I know 1 March is not the best date in March to do a Big Day, but if I was going to spend a full day birding just

to feel the warmth of the sun, then why not try to break a Big Day record?

On Monday, 1 March, I was out the door soon after 0400. I drove south a few miles to Embreeville, an area that seems to be loaded with both Eastern Screech-Owls and Great Horned Owls. As I was calling in a Screech, a Great Horned was heard several times in the distance, and I was soon heading north again to a recently discovered Barred Owl site. Almost as soon as I got out of my car, a Barred Owl could be heard off in the river bottom that is its home. The bird seemed particularly loud in this quiet hour before sunrise. It was not a bad start with three species of owls heard and plenty of time before sunrise.

My next stop was Struble Lake, where I hoped to pick up Short-eared Owl at dawn. As I waited for the owl, I started picking up a few species here and there. Song and White-throated Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, Northern Mockingbirds, and the usual local birds were making a fair amount of noise. The Short-eared Owl never put up, but I would get him 12 hours later at this same spot. Struble Lake was almost completely frozen, except for the edges, but this was enough water to pick up a few ducks. The ice was loaded with thousands of Canada Geese. Mixed in were 200 Snow Geese, a dozen or so Tundra Swans, and two Greater White-fronted Geese (Greenland race). Northern Pintail, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls rounded out the ice dwellers.

Working the brush around the lake, I picked up six sparrows along with many other expected birds. Struble Lake continues to be a good spot to start a winter Big Day in southeastern Pennsylvania as I scoured 37 species in under two hours. A quick stop at an Amish farmers field gave me a couple of Horned Larks and a solitary Wilsons Snipe.

It was then onto Marsh Creek SP, where I was counting on some more waterfowl and hopefully some winter resident passerines. Marsh Creek SP is generally a good birding site, and I did pick up fifteen more species while there, but the place was very quiet. I spent an hour or so beating around for mixed species flocks with no success. Here I got my only two woodpeckers on the day, a Downy and Red-bellied. Not getting a Northern Flicker all day was very troubling. My best bird at Marsh Creek SP was a species I already had, Greater White-fronted Goose.

My next stop was Chambers Lake, where I found four more species of waterfowl: Green-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Mute Swan, and Canvasback. I spent another hour at Hibernia CP looking for winter passerines, but all I could add was Eastern Towhee. Where were all the winter passerines?

I now had a decision to make: seek out better wooded areas in hopes of finding the passerines I was missing, or drive one hour away to Middle Creek WMA in Lancaster County, where I knew I could pick up a few more species of waterfowl.

I decided on the trip to Middle Creek, knowing that on the way I could look for field birds in Amich Country. Unfortunately, I had lent out my Lancaster County map to a buddy and ended up getting turned around on one of the

Farmersville Roads that will often drive you in the direction you do not want to go.

As I was slowly losing my sense of direction, I was scanning perches for a Rough-legged Hawk or other field birds, but all I could manage was a single kestrel. It had been a long time since I was so genuinely lost this close to home. I contemplated marching into a convenience store to buy a new Lancaster County map, but that would hurt my pride. After a couple of u-turns, I figured out where I was and I headed north towards Middle Creek.

The spectacle at Middle Creek was well worth the time getting there. Estimates of the Snow Geese by refuge staff were between 120,000 to 170,000 birds, with a couple thousand Tundra Swans to boot. The huge expanse of white made my Big Day seem so small and meaningless. I enjoyed the spectacle for awhile, with the dozens of curious onlookers who had pulled off the side of the highway in amazement. I soon picked up a few new birds for the day, Belted Kingfisher, Red-tailed Hawk, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and my only Bald Eagle on the day.

It was getting late and I had 63 species, one more to tie and another to break the record.

I had enough time to drive 35 minutes back to Struble Lake, where I knew I could count on the Short-eared Owl at dusk. But would I be lucky enough to find another bird? Knowing the owl would give me a tie, I drove back to Struble Lake and found the place crazy with groups of geese, swans, ducks, and gulls. Separate small flocks of gulls, ducks, and geese were continuously coming and going from nearby fields to the lake, but I could find nothing new on the ice or water. The sun was now below the horizon and I was running out of light. At 1750, the trusty-rusty Short-eared Owl was up on the other side of the lake, and then another owl came from nowhere and was flying around the grassy areas around the parking lot. He put on quite a show. After a few minutes of courting the parking lot, the owl disappeared. I turned my attention back to the lake and the familiar silhouette of a Great Blue Heron could be seen with a pretty sunset behind it! What luck! I had broken the record and with very little daylight left.

It wasn't until I went over my list the next day that I found out I had forgotten to mark down Brown-headed Cowbird. So the Short-eared owl actually broke the record and not the heron.

Even though I only broke the record by two, I was very satisfied. I saw some good birds and I challenged myself to break the record on a date that was not optimal for a large list. Looking at the birds I missed and the birds that are possible towards the end of March, a Pennsylvania Big Day executed at the end of the month, rather than the beginning of the month, ought to yield around 80 species. There were three big misses that are hard for me to swallow. Bufflehead had been present on more than one lake all winter, yet I failed to find one. Northern Flicker and Swamp Sparrow are the other two big misses.

I failed to find many relatively common winter residents including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Cedar Waxwing

(year-round). These birds can usually be counted on with some effort.

**PENNSYLVANIA #2** – 25 April 04- 0345 to 1915 Species Totals 107/105; (Team/Shared): Ted Drozdowski 106, Mike Tanis 106. 194 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot, 2 miles by canoe. Visiting: Stoney Creek Valley, Wildwood Lake, Front Street in Harrisburg, West Fairview boat launch, Conehohela Flats on the Susquehanna River, Middle Creek WMA. Species of note: Glossy Ibis (R), Black Vulture (M), Least Sandpiper (M).

I must admit that it was not much of a challenge to break the Pennsylvania Big Day record. The record stood at only 58, and even with bad weather, the record as broken by 1000.

Deprived of sleep due to our personal schedules, Mike Tanis and I decided to skip most of the nocturnal birding. We left my place at 0330 for the two-hour ride to Stoney Creek. On the way to the turnpike, we made a quick stop for Barred owl, which would be our only owl on the day.

We started birding at dawn in Dauphin County on the Appalachian Trail listening as the sky slowly lightened, our first birds were Wild Turkey, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, and a few other forest dwellers.

As we came down off the ridge, we made a quick, unexpected stop at some roadside pines that just looked good, and picked up a few more expected species, plus a good warbler, Blackburnian.

Our main morning destination was Stoney Creek, which I had scouted three days earlier and found to be quite birdy. When we got to Stoney Creek, it was overcast and chilly. The dark sky was suppressing the dawn chorus.

We began to pick up some of our eastern birds: Eastern Towhee, Eastern Phoebe, and Eastern Bluebird. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and White-throated Sparrows started making some noise and we slowly built a list, but we had to work very hard. We then picked up a few warblers, including Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Black-and-White, and several Louisiana Waterthrushes. A few Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also around. At Stoney Creek, we had a good run of woodpeckers, quickly adding Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, Northern Flicker, and Pileated. A Winter Wren in some dry brush was a very nice added bonus. We were doing well with residents, but the lack of migrants was disturbing.

The sun continued to tease us with a touch of blue sky here and there. I really thought the sky was finally going to break there for a minute. But at 0900, the sun finally gave up on us for good. We were very disappointed with the scarcity of migrants and already thinking of calling it a day with dark skies and rain threatening.

Leaving the Stoney Creek Valley, we stopped at a marshy area and picked up our only Pied-billed Grebe of the day, along with a Belted Kingfisher and friendly little Swamp Sparrow that quickly became a little glimmer of hope.

Our plan had been to work the Stoney Creek Valley hard and then follow the Susquehanna River southward almost to the Maryland state line.

Our next stop was Wildwood Lake in Harrisburg. There we picked up Great Egret, Green Heron, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, and a couple of Mallards. As it started to rain, we saw our only Palm Warbler of the day.

A quick stop at Fort Hunter gave us our first Gray Catbird of the day. We scanned the river from both Front Street in Harrisburg and the West Fairview boat launch, adding a few more waterfowl. In the steady rain, we saw Double-crested Cormorant, Common Loon, a Ring-necked Duck mixed in with some scaup, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, a nasty Mute Swan, and a high-flying Osprey. Our next stop was to be the Conejohela Flats, a 40-minute drive. I was not looking forward to getting there because I knew launching the canoe in this weather was going to be unpleasant. Unless the rain stopped by the time we to the Flats, we would probably be calling it a day. Once we got to the Flats, the rain had miraculously stopped, the wind gone with it. The water was actually flat. What luck! We launched the canoe in hopes of picking up waders, shorebirds, and terns. We paddled out to Gull Point and picked up a Caspian Tern and Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. We were slightly disappointed with only four shorebirds species, which included both Yellowlegs, a Spotted Sandpiper, and one Dunlin in breeding plumage.

Much of our discussion while paddling the Flats surrounded the big question: Do we follow our plan and continue south along the Susquehanna? Or do we divert to Middle Creek WMA, where we knew we could pick up eight easy species for sure.

We stopped at Speedwell Forge along the way, but only added Red-shouldered Hawk. When we arrived at Middle Creek an hour later, new species began appearing for us. At the visitor center, I had just finished telling Mike how there were not too many report of hummingbirds when one flew up over the visitor center towards the feeders. Bonapartes Gull was a nice surprise as we picked up five new species of waterfowl that we specifically came for, including Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, American Coot, Snow Goose, and American Black Duck. Driving the tour route, we picked up two needed species; American Kestrel and Killdeer.

I told Mike I knew where to go to get an Eastern Meadowlark (not believing myself that we would actually hear one at 1600 in the afternoon), being overcast, cold, and windy; however, when we got to the spot and started getting out of the car, the meadowlark was singing before either of us slammed the door shut!

It was getting late by the time we left Middle Creek with 104 species. We decided to try a new way out of Middle Creek that seemed like it would be a short cut, but we struggled to navigate the Amish countryside and got a little turned around trying to get back to Route 322 (these same county roads cost me some time on my March Big Day). Within ten miles of my house, we detoured towards Struble Lake for Horned Lark (hit) and Wilsons Snipe (miss). Our big miss so far was Great Blue Heron, but Mike pulled one out of the still cloudy sky as we were driving. We had time for one more stop. I had not been to Kurtzs Fish Farm recently, but I heard they were drawing

down the main pond to make pipe repairs. That would mean mud, and we did not get as many shorebirds as we had hoped for at the Conejohela Flats.

We found just two shorebird species that we already had on the day. But I could not believe what I saw in my scope on the far shore of the pond. A Glossy Ibis! It is an easy species to find on the New Jersey and Delaware coastal areas 50 plus miles away, but it is barely an annual species this far inland. Our last bird of the day was certainly our rarest.

Epilogue: At 0900, we were extremely disappointed at the lack of migrants and overall bird activity. The sun was gone for the day, and then it started raining hard. I would have bet my next five paychecks that 100 species was out of the question on this day.

The lesson learned for us was: do not give too early. You never know when the weather may break. Do not underestimate the importance of residents, since they will almost make up the bulk of your passerines. Although we were ready to, we did not give up, and we surprised ourselves. With good weather, more migrants, and with lingering waterfowl like we had on this day, 130 species in late April should be a good mark for Pennsylvania birders to shoot for.

**PENNSYLVANIA #3** – 30 April 04- 0200 to 2200 Species Totals 104/103; (Team/Shared): Dave DeReamus 104, Billy Weber 103. 242 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Bear Swamp, Behlehem Boat Club, Delaware Water Gap, East Bangor Dam, Gravers Hill, Green Pond, Jacobsburg SP, Kirkridge, Koch Wildlife Refuge, Lake Minsi, Monocacy Nature Center (all sites in Northampton County). Species of note: Snow Goose (L), Surf Scoter (R,L), Virginia Rail (E), Lesser Black-backed Gull (L), Whip-poor-will (E).

After suggesting the idea of doing an April Big Day to Billy, we planned a route that was entirely contained in Northampton County. By doing it at the end of April, we hoped to find a combination of lingering winter birds and early arrivals. We heard a Virginia Rail and three species of owls in the early morning, found a slightly disappointing ten species of warblers that included Cerulean and Yellow-throated, watched an adult Bald Eagle at its nest (a first nesting record for the county), and finished up by listening to a persistent Whip-poor-will. It was a fun and successful day considering that we had set a dream goal of 100 species and actually found 104.

**PENNSYLVANIA #4** – 24 July 04- 0300 to 2330 Species Totals 110/110; (Team/Shared): Michael Schall 110, Billy Weber 110. 285 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Penn Forest Reservoir, Beltzville SP, Delaware Water Gap, Pocono Environmental Education Center, Martins Creek Preserve, Conejohela Flats. Species of note: Tundra Swan (S), Lesser Scaup (S), Great Horned Owl (M), Red-bellied Woodpecker (M), Magnolia Warbler (E).

You wake up early with high hopes of new records and head out to scouted areas for those expected owls. But each spot you try the tape, nothing responds. Strong winds were not anticipated, but your Big Day must start somehow. Then as daylight arrives, a Hermit Thrush sings and the race is on. Billy Weber and I began our quest on a

down note with rain in the forecast. We had a good route planned and the rain never came. Penn Forest Reservoir was our starting area and the winds began to subside. Promptly, we added Ovenbird, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Missed was a Louisiana Waterthrush seen the day before, but substituted was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. At nearby Wild Creek, there was a Blue-headed Vireo and a pair of nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks. Yesterdays Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warbler were nowhere to be ticked. Our misses early on were mounting.

At Beltzville SP, our luck began to change. A grassy field produced an unexpected Grasshopper Sparrow and Bobolink. Nesting Cliff Swallows, an adult Bald Eagle, Green Heron, and many common species were added. The lake was not good for waterfowl, but a fly-by Black-crowned Night-Heron boosted our spirits. It was now 0800 and time leave Carbon County. Our count was 45 species.

We hurried along Route 209 to the Delaware Water Gap. River Road has nesting warblers if they can be found. Numbers were low, but Northern Parula, Cerulean Warbler, American Redstart, and a bonus Magnolia Warbler were found. The targeted nesting Red-headed Woodpeckers by the headquarters building put on a nice display. A juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk in a snag added more excitement. Back on the road, we headed north to the Pocono Environmental Education Center in Pike County for more target birds. All seemed quiet except a group of summer camp kids. After passing by the kids, the pines came alive with activity. We got our targets, which included Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Pine Warbler. There was also a surprise Worm-eating Warbler searching high in a pine for a meal. With the morning hour over and 71 species, it was time to head south.

The Peregrine Falcon at the cliffs overlooking the Delaware River could not be found. Minsi Lakes summering Pied-billed Grebe and Mute Swan were located. At Bear Swamp, we nearly struck out on nesting Flycatchers, getting an Acadian Flycatcher near the end of our walk. Our days only Tufted Titmouse was found here. Further south at Martins Creek, we added Osprey, American Kestrel, and a pair of summering Lesser Scaup. After missing Eastern Meadowlark, the route we were following was charged slightly due to time constraints. We headed towards Lehigh County, stopping at a small pond to get Snow Goose. Our days only Chimney Swift circled above my house in Whitehall. A canoe was loaded and we were on the move. Next stop, Bake Oven Road, produced Savannah Sparrow, Killdeer, and Northern Harrier. At 89 species, we were getting close to the July Big Day record of 100 with one great place left to bird. Time was now a factor at 1600 hours.

After a long two-hour drive and some fast food, we arrived at Washington Boro, in Lancaster County. At the Rocks, five more species were added including Bank Swallow and Great Black-backed Gull. Our first Eastern Bluebird was at the Blue Rock Road boat launch. Paddling out on the Susquehanna River, our destination was the Conejohela Flats. Sandbars at Avocet Point had lots of early migrant shorebirds. The record was broke.

Highlighting the list was a Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Pectoral Sandpiper. A targeted Tundra Swan was on the sandbar and ten Forsters Tern were flying over the river. There was still an hour of light left and we paddled to Gull Poin and found two Sanderlings, Wood Duck, and heard Fish Crow. We drove home with smiles, knowing we had set a new Pennsylvania Big Day record for July. With a last breath of energy, Billy and I made one last stop at our opening area in Northampton County and added Eastern Screech-Owl for a grand total of 110.

**PENNSYLVANIA #5** – 8 Nov 04- 0515 to 1830 Species Totals 74/74; (Team/Shared): Michael Tanis 74, Ted Drozdowski 74. 160 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Swatara State Park, Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster County farmlands, Coatesville Reservoir, Chambers Lake, Wedgewood Pond. Species of note: Rusty Blackbird (R), American Kestrel (M), Northern Harrier (M).

Ted and I have to plan well in advance to be able to work a Big Day into our busy family schedules. So we were pleasantly surprised that our chosen day in November turned out to be the most beautiful Saturday of the month. The first birds for the day were a pair of dueting Great Horned Owls at our (proposed) Barred Owl stop. Since any owl is a nice find, we didn't complain about the exchange. After that we drove to our new favorite birding locale, Swatara SP, which provided a frosty and beautiful, but disturbingly quiet sunrise. However, as the sun began to melt the frost, it seemed to thaw out the birds as well, and the park quickly came to life. The temperature climbed about thirty degrees in the 2.5 hours we were there. Swatara produced nearly forty species for us. Highlights at the park were American Woodcock, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, several Fox Sparrows, and a group of seven Rusty Blackbirds.

After that we made our way to Middle Creek WMA, where we were dismayed to find out that we had forgotten that most of the refuge was off-limits for the season due to hunting closures. We made the best of it by birding a few of the accessible ponds and the main lake. Highlights from Middle Creek included Dunlin, Bald Eagle, and a Rough-legged Hawk.

From Middle Creek we proceeded to wend our way through Lancaster and Chester counties back toward Ted's home in the Coatesville area. We stopped at farm fields near New Holland to pick up Horned Lark and American Pipit. We also were fortunate to find a Black Vulture after much searching on our drive through Lancaster County. We had seen many Red-tailed Hawks all day, but after miles and miles of farm roads in Lancaster and Chester counties we were unable to find a single Northern Harriers or American Kestrel. Clearly these were the biggest misses of the day.

We hoped to round out our afternoon by picking up waterfowl on Chester County ponds and lakes. We were fairly successfully in locating species we knew to be around; American Coot, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Greater Yellowlegs, American Pintail, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, and Greater Scaup were all added to the list by visiting Kurtz's Fish Ponds, Wedgewood Pond, and Coatesville Reservoir, and

Chambers Lake. Greater Yellowlegs and Sharp-shinned Hawk were unexpected bonus birds.

Altogether it was a fairly good day for birding in Pennsylvania. The highlight of the day was simply savoring the 60-degree temperatures and sunshine, and enjoying some close up looks at Fox Sparrows and Rusty Blackbirds. 74 species in November is by no means unbeatable, but we know it will require both good weather and some effort for us to match this day.

**PENNSYLVANIA #6** – 11 Dec 04- 0700 to 1900 Species Totals 50/50; (Team/Shared): Rich Rieger 50, Sandy Schwartz 50, Dan Schwartz 50, Devin Schwartz 50. 125 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Schwartz Farm feeders, Landingville, Hawk Mountain feeders, Ontelaunee Reservoir, Middle Creek WMA. Species of note: Red-shouldered Hawk (L), Bonapartes Gull (R), American Robin (M).

With all due respect for Pennsylvania birders, I know there are folks out there who are routinely seeing more than 50 species in a day in December. This is something we did for fun and to introduce some family members to a different aspect of birding and I journeyed up from Virginia to assist. Working off a few CBC lists, we thought we might be able to see 60 species, but like all good days in the field, we dealt with some odd weather and birds that chose to be elsewhere.

We chose to start off at my sisters farm 25 acres in central Schuylkill County. On a winters day, it is not uncommon to log 25 species at their feeders in the morning. Milder weather meant the birds were feeding elsewhere and we left the farm with under twenty species. At our next stop, Landingville, duck hunters helped keep the lake devoid of some species we hope to pick up. We ventured up to Hawk Mountain in hopes of picking up some higher altitude birds at the feeders, but fog and mist combined to shut us out on the mountain. Our luck improved on the way to Ontelaunee Reservoir, picking up some nice ducks on the ponds at Moselem Springs Golf Course. The reservoir itself held Red-breasted Mergansers. Over lunch, we decided we needed to skip Blue Marsh Lake and head straight for Middle Creek WMA and the skies cleared as the wind picked up. Middle Creek helped a lot with some missing ducks, Bald Eagle, our surprise Red-shouldered Hawk, flyover Tundra Swans, and four Bonapartes Gulls sitting on the lake. I think the gulls were part of a big push that came through with the front, as back home in Virginia, I saw the first report of Bonies as well. We left Middle Creek, heading for a field near home that last year had Short-eared Owls, hoping for a big score. We got to the field right on time and picked up our Northern Harrier, but no owls danced for us at dusk. After dinner at the Red Lion, we tried for owls and had Eastern Screech-Owls respond to the Barred Owl tape for our 50th bird of the day.

This was great fun and always a learning experience. I hope someone is inspired to report a bigger day next year cause well be going for 60.

**SOUTH CAROLINA** – 24 April 04- 0001 to 2100 Species Totals 163/162; (Team/Shared): Robin Carter 162, Dennis Forsythe 163 species. 583 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot.

Visiting: Columbia, Chester, Great Falls, Congaree NP, Buckfield Reserve, Donnelley WMA, Bear Island WMA, Garris Landing, Huntington Beach SP. Species of note: Tundra Swan (L), American Coot (M), Common Tern (R), American Pipit (L),

White-crowned Sparrow (L).

Due to scheduling constraints, Dennis and I had to run our annual spring Big Day about a week too early. As a result we got almost no species that were true transients, as

opposed to breeding species or late wintering species. We realized this handicap, and

we hoped to make it up by finding more late wintering species and coastal birds

than usual and to make up for a lack of migrants inland. We did find some, but not enough. We had a good shot at lots of coastal birds that we could not find, such as sea ducks, diving ducks, Wild Turkey, Common Loon, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Swallow-tailed Kite, American Kestrel, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Purple Gallinule, American Coot, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Upland Sandpiper, Red Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Sandwich Tern, Common Ground-Dove, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Cedar Waxwing, and Swamp Sparrow. With just half of this list (13 species), plus just four more migrants inland, we would have broken the record.

As usual we tried a slightly different route. We started in Columbia at midnight, trying (unsuccessfully) for Common Nighthawks (which we got, unexpectedly, at Huntington Beach SP in the evening). A quick trip to the after-hours parking lot of Congaree NP got us Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl and Barred Owl.

From Congaree we drove north on I-77 to the farmlands of northern Chester County.

This area was great. Before dawn we had heard such goodies as Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chuck-will's-widow, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Our best migrant areas came next. In Great Falls, where we have had good luck with migrants in the past, we got only Scarlet Tanager and Worm-eating Warbler in addition to breeding species. Our backup migrant area was Congaree NP. The only migrant that we landed there was American Redstart, although a nearby plowed field did come through with a late American Pipit as well as breeding Horned Larks.

We skipped the Orangeburg sod farms in favor of spending more time on the coast. Our next important stop was at the Buckfield Reserve, a roadside wading bird rookery near Yemassee. Here we found our target species — Little Blue Heron, White Ibis, and Wood Stork, though only the heron turned out to be an exclusive. Then it was on to Donnelley WMA, where we found the breeding Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, but dipped on Purple Gallinule and Wild Turkey, both of which are to be expected there.

From Donnelley WMA we drove to nearby Bear Island WMA. This area can make or break a Big Day effort. On a

good day it can have the best birding in the state. We found a few goodies at Bear Island, such as American White Pelican, Tundra Swan, Mottled Duck, and Northern Harrier. But we missed too many species that are usually fairly easy to find at Bear Island in late April, such as Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Tern, and Sedge Wren. We were too early for White-rumped Sandpiper, and could not find any other cool shorebird to make up for this, such as Pectoral Sandpiper or

American Avocet. We did get several expected shorebird species, such as Long-billed

Dowitcher, but not enough.

From Bear Island we drove north on US 17, bypassing Charleston on I-526, to go to Garris Landing (formerly Moore's Landing) in Cape Romain NWR. From Garris Landing we stopped along the way at a couple of Red-cockaded Woodpecker spots, but did not turn up much. The species that we found in Charleston County, but not elsewhere,

were very few — Whimbrel, Short-billed Dowitcher, Black Skimmer, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bachman's Sparrow.

We finished the day at Huntington Beach State Park in Georgetown County

with a walk along the beach out to the jetty. We were able to add a few species in

Georgetown County, but not enough. Our Georgetown County exclusives (mostly at

Huntington Beach SP) were Northern Gannet, Glossy Ibis, Clapper Rail,

Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Herring Gull, Common Tern, and Common Nighthawk. This was far fewer than the tremendous flurry of species at the end of the day that we needed to have a good day. Once we got the unexpected nighthawk we just drove to our motel in Georgetown without trying for the rail species that we were missing.

We well know that the best date for a South Carolina Big Day is 30 April (plus

or minus three days). In 2005 we plan to run our Big Day on 30 April. The old record of 179 species might well fall in 2005.

**TEXAS #1** – 4 Jan 03 0500 to 2000 - Species Totals 158/158; (Team/Shared): Ron Weeks 158, Brad Lirette 158. 210 Miles by car, 5 miles by foot/bike. Visiting: San Bernard NWR, Lake Jackson, Brazoria NWR, Quintana, Galveston Island, Bolivar Flats. Species of note: Fulvous Whistling-Duck (L,S), Osprey (M), Purple Sandpiper (R,S), Western Kingbird (L,S), Northern Waterthrush (L), Lincoln Sparrow (M).

Brad Lirette and I started our January Big Day at 0500, heading toward San Bernard NWR to work on owls and rails. After adding our first species, roosted Cave Swallows, we began ticking off owls, first Barred, then Great Horned, and finally Barn. We moved into the refuge proper where I had had five species of rails calling the night before. We added King, Clapper, Sora, and many

Virginia the numbers there are staggering after the wet fall. At dawn, we added our first bonus bird of the day, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, along with many other ducks and waders flying off their roosts. Next we moved to Wolfwee Reservoir, making a long bike ride out to our Vermilion Flycatcher spot. No luck with the flycatcher, but we did add Ross Goose, Hooded Merganser, and Common Snipe, which were unique for the day. We next worked Bobcat Woods for passerines, adding a Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wilsons Warbler, and a surprise Northern Waterthrush among others.

As we worked our way toward Lake Jackson, we tried in vain for a staked-out Ash-throated Flycatcher and Pine Warbler. Near Churchill, we did add singing Inca Doves that we did not have later and at the prison farm we found several Brewers Blackbirds and Eurasian Collared-Doves. In Lake Jackson, we were hoping for hummingbirds. Denis James house was the jackpot as a Buff-bellied Hummingbird showed up as we got there. His yard also had two Black-chinned Hummingbirds, a Pine Warbler, and our first Downy Woodpecker of the day. A quick stop at Joyce Wheelers added a probably Rufous Hummingbird and we sped off to Brazoria NWR.

Our first stop at the refuge was Olney Pond. My scope revealed the three key species Brad had scouted there earlier, Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, and Black-necked Stilt. Rogers Pond had our staked Redheads, but no Gull-billed Terns. Along Big Slough, we could find no Vermilion Flycatcher there either, but I did spot a distant White-tailed Hawk. The Big Sough nature trail was pretty dead, but we did add a bonus Indigo Bunting and Brad came through with his guaranteed Crested Caracara on the drive out. This left us with 122 species 17 short of the January Texas record.

Our first stop at Quintana was a spoil cell that was filled with many more stilts and American Avocets along with our first Western and Least Sandpipers and Herring Gull. The Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary was dead, but Xeriscape was good to us. A Groove-billed Ani was perched across the street and when we completed our loop, a Western Kingbird flushed in front of us (both had been present for some time but were excellent gets for a Big Day). Our luck continued when I spotted a male Bronzed Cowbird on a power line as we drove away. The jetty was also good as we added Spotted Sandpiper, Bonapartes Gull, Royal Tern and as we returned to the car, the long-staying Purple Sandpiper that Brad had found in November! However, we were not able to find any gannets or other offshore goodies.

After adding Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Surfside, we had tied the old state record of 139 and knew our informal goal of 150 was well within reach. The record breaker was a White-tailed Kite at Indian Beach. Galveston Island SP was disappointing in that we could not find Palm Warbler where it had been a week earlier and could not walk up an LeContes Sparrows. Having been about 20 to 30 minutes behind all day in classic Big Day tradition, we had to cut our second park sparrow spot. We spent about 15 minutes at Lafittes Cove, where we added one of the long-staying Least Grebes, but could not find a Brown Thrasher. We then moved onto Dwight Peakes property at Spanish Grant, where we hoped to find a wintering

MacGillivrays Warbler. When we approached the area where it had been, the bushes began to move and a dog emerged from the thicket. Oh well. We did find Brown Thrasher, White-winged Dove, some more Groove-billed Anis, and our only Chipping Sparrows of the day. Sportsmans Road came through with the hoped for Red-breasted Merganser, Common Goldeneye, and American Oystercatcher, pushing our total to 147. A Greater Scaup that Dick Peake had staked for us nearby was a real bonus and took almost no time to get. At that point, we made the painful decision to skip Offats Bayou (our Common Loon spot) as we were now about 40 minutes behind and could not afford to miss Bolivar Flats.

That left us heading for the ferry and a long wait. I was beginning to wonder whether we would make it before dark as we had been waiting for 30 minutes and appeared to be two ferry loadings away. In the end, the wait and crossing only took us 45 minutes, but it seemed like an eternity. Now with 45 minutes of daylight left, we headed for the north jetty. There we had lots of birds moving toward us with the incoming tide. We quickly added Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Black Skimmer, and dowitcher species. But I could find no Common or Sandwich Terns, big gulls, curlews, knots, turnstones, or small plovers. We made a quick break for the bollards and added Long-billed Curlew and Red Knot as we drove up the beach to put us at 14 species. Once parked, there were not many birds to be seen as the tide was way up. We dashed into the marsh and flushed a Short-eared Owl and eventually were able to find many Nelsons Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Seaside Sparrow. But where were the small ringed plovers? As we walked the narrow strip of beach back to the bollards at dusk, I was able to just make out the forms of many Snowy Plovers. It was too dark, however, to try and make any of them into Pippings and I could not hear any call. We made some unsuccessful efforts looking for roosted turnstones, so our very interesting day ended with a new January record of 158 species.

We had many apparently easy misses as do most all Big Days. Our most surprising were Osprey, Ruddy Turnstone, and Lincolns Sparrow, but there were many more. We knew sparrows were our weakness and that was all too true, as in addition to Lincolns, we missed Field, Vesper, Grasshopper, LeContes, and White-crowned. Needless to say, we be tweaking the route and trying it again sometime in the future.

**TEXAS #2** – 28 Feb 03- 0415 to 2200 Species Totals 164/160; (Team/Shared): Dick Peak 164, Brad Lirette 162, Ron Weeks 161. 249 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Damon, West Columbia, Bar-X Ranch, San Bernard NWR, Quintana, Brazoria NWR, Galveston Island, Bolivar Flats. Species of note: Fulvous Whistling-Duck (L,S), American Woodcock (R), Henslows Sparrow (R).

The groundwork for our 28 February Big Day had been laid two months earlier when Brad Lirette and I set a new January Texas Big Day of 158 species. We had used a route that started at San Bernard NWR and headed east to Lake Jackson, Brazoria NWR, Quintana, Galveston Island, and Bolivar Flats. We realized that we needed to add many new species especially sparrows. With the extra daylight of a late February day, we decided to add in the

Damon area, Brazos Bend SP, and the Bar-X Ranch. Charlie Brower had told me about County Road 4 years earlier and now suggested it as a good sparrow spot. It proved to be that and more, with Brad, Charlie and I finding many interesting species along it, including Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Palm Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Fox Sparrow, and Vesper and White-crowned Sparrows in several spots. Thus begins our 2003 Big Day story and our run at the February state record of 158 species.

It was apparent that the forecast clearing and warming after a late winter cold snap had not materialized as we started the day at 0415 near San Bernard NWR. Low overcast and temperatures in the 40s had the birds very quiet. Brad Lirette, Dick Peake, and I began our day laboring to get our owls and rails, but eventually got the expected three of each (Great Horned, Barred, Barn, Virginia, Sora, and King). And we even had some expected and unexpected bonus birds. As in January, we had both species of whistling-ducks calling in the darkness at Moccasin Pond. But totally unexpected was a peenting American Woodcock near the entrance kiosk to the refuge! This is breeding time for Texas birds and it is possible that this bird had set up shop only a mile from the saltwater of the Gulf.

As we headed to West Columbia to try our luck with hummers, an unforeseen mist began to fall as it would sporadically throughout the day. We arrived to find both Rufous and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at the Browsers, but not the Black-chinned or Cedar Waxwings that were present in previous days. The cloud cover had delayed useful light, putting us 15 minutes behind and causing us to bypass our goose roost check to get back on schedule. On the way to Damon, we got another bonus bird when two Common Ground-Doves crossed Highway 36 in front of us. Town itself was quiet, but we did manage to get American Pipit and Brewers Blackbird before heading out to CR4. CR4 was a disappointment no Ash-throated, no Ladder-backed, no Vespers, etc. We promptly put ourselves 15 minutes behind, adding only White-crowns and Palm Warblers, along with the more common species. Things began to get even worse when the lake at Davis Estates Road was clean as a whistle no Canvasbacks had stayed on for us. Then the momentum changed.

The entrance to Brazos Bend SP not only yielded our hoped-for LeContes Sparrow, but also close flight views of a Henslows Sparrow a state bird from me and Northern Flicker. The birding at 40 Acre lake was excellent, yielding American Bittern, Northern Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Pine Warblers, and Song and Field Sparrows. We then sped to Elm Lake where we added Chipping Sparrows and Eastern Bluebirds almost without stopping the car. No luck with Pileated, however, as this species eluded us for the day. We had added many good birds, running our total to 77 species, but we were also 45 minutes down on time.

The next major stop was the Bar-X Ranch, where we added the nesting Bald Eagles (two adults were visible) and moved in to Bitliff Lake. There we added Lincolns Sparrow, a surprise Green Heron, and a Marsh Wren. Not visible or audible were the hoped-for Vermilion Flycatcher and Golden-crowned Kinglet. We logged out in a field

for a Common Snipe and got three startled by Dicks stumble and subsequent exclamation upon hitting deep water.

A daylight return to San Bernard NWR was next on the schedule in hopes of cleaning up on a few woodland and waterbirds. This effort added 12 new species, with the most notable being Bufflehead, Tree Swallow, and Wilsons Warbler. We were now only about 30 minutes down and had reached the 100 species mark. Next were Freeport and Quintana, which were again quite good to us.

The swing bridge was up when we got there so as planned, we hit the Freeport Storm Levee to pass the time. It was awesome, yielding all the birds I had seen there the previous few weeks. The best of these were Redheads and Canvasbacks. Others added included Ruddy Duck and Eared Grebes, along with a lone Bonapartes gull. Turning around and checking the salt marsh, we ended up adding Greater Yellowlegs along with many American Avocets on the flats. We left once the bridge opened and immediately found Black-necked Stilts near the road and an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in the nearby spoil cell (my third individual on the island inside of a week). Next we raced to the NBS and added nothing. Xeriscape was better as we found the Golden-crowned Kinglet we had missed at several earlier spots. Onto the jetty where we added our only Spotted Sandpipers and then proceeded to spend too much time in search of the Purple Sandpiper and Northern Gannets no luck on either score. We left for Brazoria NWR with 131 species and again 45 minutes down on time.

We made the Brazoria stops quick, ending our unsuccessful Yellow Rail slog after a mere 10 minutes it seems so much easier at night. Next, we checked Olney Pond, not finding any Mallards or Cinnamon Teal as we had in January. We did add two unique species for the day Long-billed Dowitcher and Merlin but were now a fat 50 minutes down. We needed to make up some time or we would miss all light at Bolivar on this dreary day.

Our next stop was at Dwight Peakes property at Spanish Grant on Galveston Island. On our way in we could not find the Lark Sparrows present there earlier in the week maybe due to kids on bikes and four-wheelers but we did luck into an unexpected Vesper Sparrow and our only Inca Doves of the day. Dick had Dwights land scouted well. After some work, we managed to add Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Groove-billed Ani, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher just as he said we could. Once again, we had no luck with wintering MacGillivrays Warbler.

Sportsmans Road had to be quick and it was. We added several new shorebirds, including American Oystercatcher and our Common Goldeneyes in short order, bringing our total to 155 species. This put us just three species short of the February state record. At this point, we decided to cut Offats Bayou and Common Loon and head for the ferry as we had only 90 minutes of daylight left and a ferry crossing to make. We did make tries for the long-staying Greater Scaup at Cove View Road and two staked Black-chinned Hummingbirds in Galveston. Both were unsuccessful and we sped on to the ferry. But on the way, one of those unexpected pleasures popped up. The low fuel light on my car started to glow brightly. We debated

the merits of stopping for fuel at that moment as opposed to getting right on the ferry. I wanted to go for the thrill and assure that we made it across with light, but was outvoted two-to-one. However, having the wheel in my hands, I decided to break the ice (within measurable error I figures) and simply drive right by the last station. This bold move was the right one as we drove on to the last ferry that would reach the far side with usable light. Even so, we had only 20 minutes to sundown on this very cloudy day.

We needed just four more species for a new record and we got Semipalmated and Piping Plovers even before reaching bollards. It was now two to go. Upon arrival, we added Black Skimmers flying up the coast to tie the record and broke it with a handful of Red Knots on the beach. We moved out onto the flats that were mostly covered with water. We could not find the Snowy and Wilsons Plovers Dick had had just a few days before. So we worked on adding our salt marsh sparrows, adding Seaside and Sharp-tailed in short order in what was now the last few minutes of light for the day. Dick was able to spy some Snowy Plovers in the distance, but we could not find the Marbled Godwits anywhere, despite walking much farther down the beach. This left our tally at 162.

Heartened by setting a new record and actually making it to an open gas station, we kept on going, finding two Common Loons in an artificially illuminated Offats Bayou and spending almost two hours driving to spots for Eastern Screech-Owl and Monk Parakeets. We did eventually get the owl in Dickinson, but were never able to find the lighted location we had been given for the parakeets. So it ended at 164.

We reflected on what could be with a better day when morning song was not retarded, hawks would be up in the air and visibility improved. Given our misses (Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross Goose, White-tailed Hawk, Wilsons Plover, Marbled Godwit, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo), we feel a 170s day is very possible. Perhaps next winter

**TEXAS #3** – 21 April 03- 0000 to 2200 Species Totals 239/227; (Team/Shared): Dwight Peake 235, Bob Kemp 234, Ron Weeks 230, Note: the team actually found 240 species, but was forced to eliminate one because of ABA unshared percentage rules. 721 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Lost Maples SP, Corpus Christi area, Mustang Island, Port Aransas, Rockport, Guadalupe River. Species of note: Herring Gull (M), Caspian Tern (M), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (M), Spragues Pipit (L), Dickcissel (M).

We ended up missing the fallout by a day and gaining even more respect for the national record of 258 species. It appears even with the fallout, we would have fallen a few species short.

We decided to head west on Sunday morning as a slow moving front was supposed to reach the coast later in the day. We passed through scattered showers in the brush country and proceeded to clearing skies as we traveled north and west toward the Hill Country. We got a few hours of sleep before heading out shortly after 2300. We started our day with Common Poorwills and Lesser Nighthawks in the western Hill Country before adding a

few owls as we moved slowly towards our dawn starting spot at Lost Maples SP.

The dawn chorus began at 0642 as we got the Louisiana Waterthrush and moved on down the canyon ticking off Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and both Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos. Our only miss on the way down was Black-capped Vireo. We birded the bottom for a few minutes and eventually got both Nashville and Orange-crowned Warblers and were off right on schedule.

The road to Utopia was good as we added Western Scrub-Jay and several others. Utopia was again excellent, netting us the missed Barred Owl, Blue Jay, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and even American Robin. We did not have any luck with blackbirds. The FM 1050 road was also good as we got most of the expected species like Grasshopper Sparrow and Canyon Towhee, but there were no Black-capped Vireos to be found. We buzzed by Garner SP still on Schedule with no definite misses. The River Road took more time than expected, but we did get Hooded Oriole and Bushtit both visually. Neals Lodge was a quick stop that yielded a bonus White-throated Sparrow (it even sang), but sealed Black-capped Vireo as a miss. This concluded the first section of our route and we quickly headed out into the brush country.

We started the brush country section on time and with four Hill Country misses: Red-shouldered Hawk, Green Kingfisher, Black-capped Vireo, and Northern Parula. Some feedlots saved us on blackbirds as we got both Brewers and Yellow-headed. Then the trouble began we got Lark Bunting at our first scheduled stop where we had seen them the day before. But we could not find any of the Black-tailed Gnatcatchers. This theme repeated itself near a later stop where we got unshared gnatcatcher and roadrunner, but could find no Audubons Oriole. Green Jay also required three stops and by the time we got to Callahan, we were over 30 minutes behind our 2001 pace and had missed Audubons Oriole. We did get some other goodies on the way there, however. Anhinga, Mississippi Kite, Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned hawks are always birds that we always fear missing. So other than the time issue, we were doing quite well. It was also starting to look rainy ahead as the front had pulled up once it reached the coast.

The Schwartzs feeders were good, netting us White-tipped Dove and an unshared Great Kiskadee. A quick hit at the Simons feeders got us Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Inca Dove. We then decided to skip Pollywog Pond and Least Grebe to try and make up some time. Tule Lake was awesome with both godwits and Black Terns, along with the expected assortment of waterbirds. Somehow, we were now 52 minutes behind our 2001 pace, but we figured that the ferry should pick up about 30 minutes of that which it later did.

We were heartened to see orioles explode from the trees across from Blucher Park as we walked up. But the warblers did not seem to be around. We did get Swainsons Thrush, Hooded Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager before crossing the road into the park. It was painfully slow as we saw an unidentified empid, Rose-breasted

Grosbeak, and Northern Waterthrush, but not much else. We were so far behind that we had to leave.

We blew by Packery Channel in order to save even more time. We stopped on the bridge to Mustang Island and spotted our Piping Plover just like we had during scouting. We made on other run along the bay side for Long-billed Curlew, which were regular during scouting, but only got a Horned Lark for our troubles. We raced on into Port Aransas bypassing the wetlands park as we had all the expected species there. We were now 49 minutes behind schedule and down many migrants. We decided to bypass the jetty to make up some more time, leaving our shots at Herring Gull and Common Tern behind. The Birding Center was good and even had some migrants including the Northern Parula we missed in the Hill Country and Tennessee warbler. Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Black-crowned Night-Heron and others were added to the list. Next came the spot that had to save us, Paradise Pond. Paradise had migrants, but just not many new ones. The numbers of Common Yellowthroats and Tennessee Warblers were impressive, but did not help. We were now birding in a light drizzle but no new migrant fallout was evident. We did get a Yellow Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, and Kentucky Warbler on our way out, but our shot at the record was gone for sure. The only good news is that with and 18 minute ferry crossing, we were back on our 2001 schedule. Our total at this point in the day was 210 species 15 short of the 2001 record pace.

We then proceeded to add in the Connie Hagar Sanctuary to try for more migrants. Ten minutes yielded many more Common Yellowthroats. In Rockport, we did get the expected Whimbrels, an unexpected Canvasback on Little Bay, some staked Redhead, Red-breasted Mergansers, and American Oystercatcher on Copano Bay. Now were back in the red by 18 minutes.

We raced to the Guadalupe River, where we quickly added Red-bellied Woodpecker, but no American Crow. We entered our Calhoun County rice fields, checking one field that had Hudsonian Godwit and Whimbrel, along with two new birds White-faced Ibis and Little Blue Heron. These fields had been harboring many waterbirds such as pintails and White-rumped Sandpipers. But not on this day. We did add Gadwall, American Wigeon, and a heard-only Long-billed Curlew. A nearby field netted our best bird of the day a lingering Spragues Pipit. At this point we simply ran out of light. We did some token attempts for rails, but decided to cut the night route as any chance for a record was a long way off. On the final tally, we had seen or heard 240 species. But in our rush, we had too many unshared birds, moving our official total back to 239. We will be back to try again, but how many times more has become a relevant question.

**TEXAS #4** – 29 Nov 03 0430 to 2400 - Species Totals 174/170; (Team/Shared): Ron Weeks 174, Brad Lirette 170. 460 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Choke Canyon SP, Victoria area, Bay City area, San Bernard NWR, Quintana/Surfside, Brazoria NWR. Species of note: Black Phoebe (R,S), Brown Thrasher (M).

After two feeble October attempts, the winter birds returned and showed us the potential of this long winter

Big Day route. This breaks the Texas record for November by eight species.

The new Choke Canyon-to-Brazosport winter route had been a disappointment during two runs in October. We had two totals in the low 150s but still held out hope as this route was built around winter residents. We left our Three Rivers hotel at 0430 to a clear, crisp night. It started off well with all of the expected four owls (Barred, Eastern Screech, Barn, and Great Horned) falling into place. We then awaited dawn at the Calliham unit of Choke Canyon SP. As we moved towards our dawn starting point, I screamed for Brad to stop the truck huddled directly in front of us were two Common Pauragues! They stayed put and allowed us killer views before they rose into the darkness.

The day started in earnest with us trying to stay warm as we scanned the reservoir for waterbirds. Blackbirds, herons, egrets, and gulls were added, as were several needed duck species. The most notable was a small flock of Canvasbacks. As we moved to the more vegetated interior of the park, we added many singing passerines. Great Kiskadee, Audubons Oriole, Green Jay, Couchs Kingbird, and even Least Grebe! The biggest surprise was a small group of late Scissor-tailed Flycatchers that exploded out of a tree near the lake. We left the Calliham unit and made a brief stop in the nearby brush country before entering the South Shore unit of the state park. Here we added Vermilion Flycatcher, Field Sparrow, and other species that were less common than typical this winter, including American Robin. We left the park at 0900 with 93 species already counted.

The next stretch would cleanup a few brush country birds, such as Common Ground- Dove and a few unexpected ducks such as Greater Scaup and Common Goldeneye in a small pond near Raisin. We reached the coast at 1330 with 113 species already counted. Our first coastal stop was San Bernard NWR, where we hoped for a few lingering neotropical migrants and waterbirds. We were rewarded with a Black- and-white Warbler, a surprise Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Blue-headed Vireo, and a Gray Catbird. This lifted our spirits as we left the refuge with 128 species. Our next major stop was at Freeport and Quintana, where finally we hit the beaches, adding such goodies as Red Knot and Lesser Black-backed Gull, with the expected pelicans and gulls. The jetty was a bit disappointing, as we could find no Ruddy Turnstones or Caspian Terns. It was now 1605 hours and we had 152 species. This meant we had 15 more species to find to break the Texas November record of 166 and less than two hours of light left.

Our next stop was Brazoria NWR. We had little time to scan all the birds present, but did stop at a few of the ponds along the tour loop to add Mottled Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Boat-tailed Grackle, and some much-needed freshwater shorebirds. Theses included Least Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Semipalmated Plover. But there was no sign of the recently scouted Stilt Sandpipers at Teal Pond. Our last bird there was the plover, which tied the state at 166. Surfside was up next, where quickly we added Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Seaside Sparrow, Nelsons Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper Rail, as we had expected. Then our luck turned south.

We raced to San Luis Pass only to find the tide out way out. We strained in the fading light trying to find a Reddish Egret or a Black Skimmer with no success. We did manage to add Western Sandpiper and a surprise American Oystercatcher by driving the beaches for the next two hours. After adding some roasted Cave Swallows under a bridge, we finished our day at San Bernard NWR, where we had permission to bird after the dusk closing time. This was our rail spot and we were rewarded with not only Virginia and King Rails, but also a surprise group of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks that called from the marsh.

This all left us with a new state November record of 174 species. And perhaps more encouraging was that it showed that the route we had scouted so hard over the past two months had great potential for future winter Big Days.

**TEXAS #5** – 7 Dec 03 0000-2400 - Species Totals 176/174; (Team/Shared): Ron Weeks 176, Brad Lirette 174. 439 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Choke Canyon SP, Victoria area, Bay City area, San Bernard NWR, Quintana/Surfside, Brazoria NWR. Species of note: Franklins Gull (L), Black Phoebe (R, S), American Robin (M), Brown Thrasher (M), Prairie Warbler (L).

This marks the 4th time we have run this route this fall/winter and we now seem to have realized the potential we knew it had. Our November attempt, just 8 days earlier, netted 13 species that we missed on this effort. A 180 December day is definitely out there is we can keep up the enthusiasm.

We began our day in our tent, pitched at the South Shore unit of Choke Canyon SP. It was a cold, moonlit night and a light frost was only a few hours away when we heard our first bird of the day, a Barred owl. After a Great Horned chimed in, I rezipped myself into the sleeping bag until my alarm went off at 0430. We quickly broke camp and headed for the Calliham unit of the park just a few miles away. On our way, Brad heard a Barn Owl and we eventually heard and Eastern Screech-Owl before the first light appeared in the sky. As we drove to our dawn started point, we got our first bonus bird of the day, a Common Pauraque sitting in the road. We flushed up another as we moved to the edge of the reservoir for dawn waterfowl viewing. Wigeons and shovelers were already visible in front of us, along with Black-crowned Night-Herons returning to their roost. After adding American white Pelican, Ring-billed Gulls, and Numerous egrets, we moved to our dawn passerine spot.

As soon as we stopped, we could see Wild Turkeys and hear Green Jays. Not long after, we heard Great Kiskadee, Audubons Oriole, and flushed a Harris Hawk this was almost like being in the Valley! An odd call note like that of a Winter Wren proved to be just that a great bird for Choke Canyon! We spent too much time trying for Least Grebes where we had had them the week before, but we ended up adding Black-crested Titmouse and Couchs Kingbird as consolation prizes. As we drove through he town of Calliham, we worked through the meadowlarks in search of a calling Western without luck. But, we were again rewarded as a Bronzed Cowbird began singing from a nearby wire and a Verdin started scolding not far away. Not far ahead, we added a small flock of Brewers

Blackbirds and headed east on Highway 72. The nearby brush country was excellent, netting us one of our winter nemesis birds, Greater Roadrunner, along with many Black-throated Sparrows and a few Vespers, Pyrrhuloxia, and Cactus wren. Our next stop was the South Shore unit where we had camped. Here Brad spotted our only Chipping Sparrows along the dam face and we added Field Sparrow and a surprise Spragues Pipit on our way down to the spillway. Here we added three more bonus birds: the long-staying Black Phoebe, a Green Kingfisher, and several Western Meadowlarks. Add to that Osprey, Song Sparrow, House Finch and we were off and running. We left the park with 93 species already tallied, but we were, per usual, 12 minutes behind schedule. The only brush species we would miss for the day was Common Ground-Dove this translates into an amazing start.

We added a few more species, including Lark Sparrows and Ross Goose on our way to the next major stop at Brent Ortigos in Raisin. Here we added three species of hummers and even added a Greater Scaup at a pond close by. Unfortunately, there was no sign of the Common Goldeneye we had seen there the day before. It was on to the home of David and Marilyn Sitz in Markham, where we got our Blue Jay in the live oaks and a Pine Warbler in their pine plantation during our short 10-minute stop. It was then on to the Sitzs Ranch on the Colorado River. Here we added a Bald Eagle perched on its nest and a few woodland birds, such as Downy Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse. By now we had bumped our list to 110 species, still well short of the state and national record for December of 174 species. But we still had the coast to go and we were right on schedule.

Our first coastal stop was San Bernard NWR. This was our best hope for passerines and even though the woods were largely quiet, we added Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Ash-throated Flycatcher (finally on a Big Day instead of just scouting) at our first stop. Bobcat Woods yielded a Blue-headed Vireo, another Ash-throated Flycatcher, and a huge bonus, Prairie Warbler. We moved on to the nearby moist soil unit and added Bufflehead and a seemingly out-of-place Bonapartes Gull. Off to Jones Creek, our last woodland spot of the day, hoping to patch up misses in trying for the others. The Freeport Wetlands were next and my heart sank as we saw a truck pull up and a hunter get out. He must have thought we were state or federal guys because he held up and let us take a quick look before flushing all the birds. Here we added both expected ibis, Caspian and Gull-billed Tern, and a few new shorebirds. Soon after, we got our Eared Grebe along the levee and drove onto Bryan Beach. Sanderling, Willet, and Black-bellied Plover were added along the beach. Then both Snowy and Piping Plovers and some Mottled Ducks and other shorebirds in a nearby spoil cell were found. Next down the beach toward the jetty, we ticked off Royal Tern and bonus Lesser Black-backed and Franklins Gulls. The jetty had no Red-breasted Mergansers, no late Sandwich Terns, no gannets or anything else we needed for that matter. Even the Peregrine had left its jack-up rig roost. It was off into Freeport where I had staked our White-winged and Eurasian Collared-Doves and Monk Parakeets. We quickly found the doves, but dipped on the parakeet.

As we raced off to Brazoria NWR with only an hour of light left, we had records 160 species. Brazoria was good

as we added roseate Spoonbill, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Lesser Yellowlegs, but we could not find the lingering Stilt Sandpipers in Teal Pond. This hurt as it cost us even more time. We would barely be able to get to Surfside before dark. Then the tide bit us. The high tide had moved our staked Nelsons Sharp-tailed Sparrows out of their typical spot and we were lucky to get a Seaside as the sun set in the west. We did pick up some Yellow-crowned Night-Herons on the way and we left Surfside heading for San Luis Pass with 167 Species. As luck would have it, we hit San Luis Pass too late. The gulls had left the beach and the flats were covered with water. No Reddish Egret, no Ruddy Turnstone, and no Short-billed Dowitcher were to be found. Our luck turned a bit as we were able to find both Black Skimmers and some Western Sandpipers feeding in the moonlight. It was now dark and we were five birds short of the record. Even though we had to go to work early the next morning, we decided to forge on and get what more we could.

Our first stop was Offats Bayou where we stared in vain trying to find some Common Loons in the moonlight. Resigned to a great run that fell short, we moved back to Brazoria County and got our trusty Cave Swallows roosting under a bridge for number 170. We had permission to bird San Bernard NWR at night so we decided to finish our day there. We added Virginia Rail as expected and moved to Moccasin Pond. Our last gasp of the day ended up being a breath of fresh air. We added not only heard Fulvous Whistling-Duck as we had the week before, but we also spooked some unexpected Greater White-fronted Geese, which we had somehow missed during the day. Then a King Rail called out. We heard some more Kings at another marsh where we were hoping for American Bittern, but could add no additional species. Sohere we were sitting on the record (although we were not sure exactly what our number was at that point). We figured what the heck, lets go drive the beach. After all, in late November we had found an American Oystercatcher feeding there at night. Maybe the Peregrine would be roosted on the jack-up rig. There we were, two fools driving the beach at 2330 and not finding much. But then it happened in our headlights was likely the very same American Oystercatcher feeding in the surf. And what were those smaller birds next to it? Red Knots! I had seen these same two birds scouting, but to get them at 2340 was amazing. Now pumped up again, we decided to check the rig for the Peregrine (no luck) and even spent our last minutes working out to the end of the jetty hoping for a Ruddy Turnstone. So, there we were at midnight on the very tip of the Quintana jetty as our day ended. A new North American record of 176 species was ours. And the commute to work was a mere six hours away

**TEXAS #6** – 25 Jan 04 0430 to 2315 - Species Totals 174/166; (Team/Shared): Dick Peake 173, Brad Lirette 169, Ron Weeks 167. 425 miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Choke Canyon SP, Victoria area, Bay City area, San Bernard NWR, Quintana/Surfside, Brazoria NWR. Species of note: Ring-necked Duck (M), Purple Martin (E), Ashthroated Flycatcher (R), Lincolns Sparrow (M), Spotted Towhee (R).

This marks the 5th time we have run this route this fall/winter.

**TEXAS #7** – 27 Feb 2004 0415-2230 - Species totals 175/173; (Team/Shared): Dick Peake 175, Ron Weeks 174, Brad Lirette 173. 405 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Choke Canyon SP, Beeville area, Victoria area, Bay City area, San Bernard NWR, Quintana, Brazoria NWR. Species of Note: Least Grebe (S), Green Kingfisher (S), Greater Yellowlegs (M), Lesser Yellowlegs (M). Comments: The most eventful of our winter Big Days due to our felony stop!

This crisp morning was the fourth and final in a series of winter Big Days linking Choke Canyon SP with the beaches and marshes of the Upper Texas Coast. Ron was just two weeks removed from arthroscopic knee surgery and still moving with crutches. But all the birds were in place for another record run. It began with the same night routine of four owls, but was augmented this time by Common Poorwills that joined the Pauragues for a pre-dawn chorus. We moved to our dawn starting point where we added numerous ducks including some bonus Canvasbacks, both cormorants and some Black-crowned Night-Herons returning to their roost. Nearby, the dawn chorus netted us Green Jay, Audubons Oriole, Long-billed Thrasher and even Golden-crowned Kinglet. We moved from the Calliham Unit to a brush country stop where we add many more including Black-throated Sparrow, Bewicks Wren and Curve-billed Thrasher. The South Shore unit of the park added Green Kingfisher, House Finch and Bronzed Cowbird. We left the park and the Three Rivers area with an impressive 101 species well on our way to a shot at the February for Texas (164) and national (175) records.

The next section brought few new birds, but did add some Lark Sparrows and Eastern Bluebird along with cleaning up our brush country list. Soon we spotted a flock of geese that had both Snows and Ross saving us time later in the day. Brent Ortigos yard near Victoria added Buff-bellied Hummingbird as expected along with our only Chipping Sparrow of the day. Nearby we added both scaup bringing our total to 119 as we headed for the coast. Palmetto Bend Dam brought us the hoped for Bald Eagle and some surprise Barn Swallows. The Bay City area added Wood Duck and Tufted Titmouse but we could find no Pine Warblers in our favorite pine plantation.

Next up was San Bernard NWR that had few passerines in the woods, but we were able to find both Spragues Pipit and LeContes Sparrow in short order. A quick woodland hit pushed our total up to 138 as we approached the coast at Freeport. We approached the Freeport Storm Levee and spotted a possible Merlin on our left. We executed a U-turn only to find out it was just a Coopers Hawk a species we already had. On the levee itself, we added Eared Grebe and Ruddy Duck and sped off to the beach. There we added a number of saltwater shorebirds and even a Lesser Black-backed Gull near the fishing pier. As we left the pier we watched a police car drive by us in a hurry we were relieved that he paid no attention to our rolling stop. We proceeded to the jetty where we added two birds that normally elude us, Black Skimmer and Northern Gannet, but we again failed to find Ruddy Turnstone. We then drove off the island once again spotting the squad car still apparently looking for someone.

No matter, we were off into Freeport to search for White-winged Doves and Monk Parakeets going to roost.

We worked several streets in town looking for doves on the wires until we found a few in a leafless tree. Dick was still trying to get a look at them when Brad announced we had been pulled over. This was odd as we were already parked by the road and did not recall missing stop signs. We were soon to find out this was no regular pullover, but a felony stop! Brad was asked to get and put his hands on the car. The rest of us each had a uniformed or undercover officer watching our every move. I was trying to figure out what it could be a mistaken drug bust? When they got to me and I showed them my Dow Chemical (largest local employer) badge things started to cool down. As it ends up, we had been called in as possible terrorists photographing an ammonia tank an hour before (remember the Merlin that turned out to be just a Coopers?). Our Honda Accord had been called in as a four-door pickup. The officer on Quintana Island had been looking for us. Only when we drove back past the security post that had called us in was a good description obtained. Once they had reviewed my Big Day planning book and found only checklists and schedules, they let us go on. Now with 15 minutes less daylight, we drove on into Freeport and added our Monk Parakeets.

Our plans for a new national record were greatly reduced by the stop, but the lack of shorebirds at our next stop, Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, apparently sealed the deal. The recent rains had reduced the habitat although we did add Dunlin and Least Sandpiper along with Brown Thrasher and Bufflehead. Our last breaths of light along the coast pushed us up to 170 species and a new TX record for February, but Reddish Egret, Common Loon and American Oystercatcher were by the boards. Night birding was good as we added a surprise Piping Plover in Galveston and we added four rails including a calling Black at San Bernard NWR bringing us equal with the national record. However, there were no American Bitterns or Fulvous Whistling-Ducks calling from the marsh so our brush with the law ended us costing us in the end. But there is always next year

**VERMONT #1** – 27 April 04- 0530 to 1900 Species Totals 122/122; (Team/Shared): Pat Ward 122, Ken Ward 122. 307 Miles by car, 4.5 miles by foot. Visiting: Hawk View Road, Brandon, Arnold Hollow District Road, Short and Long Swamp Roads, Route 73 West, Route 125 West, Market Road, Bridport, Dead Creek Complex NWR, Gage Road, Shelburne Museum Road, Button Bay Park, West Rutland Marsh, Pleasant Street, West Rutland, Depot Hill, Pittsford, Clooney Bridge. Species of note: Northern Goshawk (M), American Coot (M), Spotted Sandpiper (M), Eastern Kingbird (M), Gray Catbird (E), Ovenbird (E), Northern Waterthrush (E), Blue Grosbeak (V), Common Yellowthroat (E).

This route seems to work. This route offers no long excursions for rarities and relies on seeing most of what is ordinary. We saturate the Champlain drainage flyway. We believe we will see 160+ next year, with 175 possible.

**VERMONT #2** – 21 May 04- 0530 to 2100 Species Totals 156/156; (Team/Shared): Pat Ward 156, Ken Ward 156. 317 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Hawk Views

Road, Arnold Hollow District Road, Short and Long Swamp Road, Brandon, West Rutland Marsh, Route 125 West, Market Road, West Bridport, Dead Creek Complex NWR, Route 17 and Champlain Islands, Route 2, Route 314, Missisquoi NWR. Species of note: Northern Saw-whet Owl (M), Whip-poor-will (M), Dark-eyed Junco (M), Barred Owl (M).

We had a good day with good weather and four stake-outs. Adding a new route may get the new state record in June. The joke of the day was Gas prices will go down. Ha!

**VERMONT #3** – 6 June 04- 0415 to 2130 Species Totals 162/161; (Team/Shared): Pat Ward 162, Ken Ward 161. 337 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Home, Arnold Hollow District Road, Short and Long Swamp Road, Brandon, West Rutland Marsh, Depot Hill, Pittsford, Route 125 West, Market Road West, Bridport, Dead Creek Complex NWR, Route 17, Champlain Islands, Route 2, Route 314, Missisquoi NWR, High Pond Road. Species of note: Ring-necked Duck (M), Hooded Merganser (M), Lesser Scaup (L), Great Egret (L), Peregrine Falcon (M), Broad-winged Hawk (M), Lesser Yellowlegs (L), Bonapartes Gull (L), Caspian Tern (L), Northern Saw-whet Owl (M), Red-headed Woodpecker (R), Red-breasted Nuthatch (M), Black-throated Blue Warbler (M), Dark-eyed Junco (M).

We had eight stake-out misses. Our goal was Have a good time, since gas prices had limited extensive scouting. We had nothing exotic or unusual.

**WEST VIRGINIA #1** – 29 April 04- 0700 to 2000 Species Totals 73/72; (Team/Shared): Carol Burroughs 72, Ed Burroughs 73. 149 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. Visiting: Shannondale Springs WMA, Altona Marsh, Sleepy Creek WMA. Species of note: none.

**WEST VIRGINIA #2** – 7 May 04- 0315 to 2355 Species Totals 137/132; (Team/Shared): Jon Benedetti 133, John Blomberg 134, Dick Esker 135, John Tharp II 136. 484 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. Visiting: Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls SP, Cheat Mountain, Stonewall Jackson Lake, Greenbottom WMA, Byrd Locks, McClintic WMA, the general Parkersburg area. Species of note: Long-billed Dowitcher (R), Ring-necked Duck (L).

Several local birders of Woody County had done Big Days that were essentially located in the Pleases-Wood County areas and on occasion included the Greenbottom and McClintic WMA areas, which are roughly 50 miles south of Parkersburg. The best Big Day total achieved for this West Virginia Big Day was 129 team species on 8 May 1996. It was often discussed that the total could be increased if we started in the mountains and proceeded to establish the number one (140 in 2002) and the number two (133 in 1993) record spots for the state by starting in the high country and going west to the Ohio River. Now as West Virginians, not being ones to make rash movements, we decided in 2004 that it was time to start a Big Day in the high country and bird west to the Ohio River, hopefully to better the interlopers state record. Well, here are some details of the quest to achieve a new state record in 2004. It should be noted that the state record for West Virginia is the fourth fewest of all ABA listings, except Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C..

Not being in a major flyway and having sparse wetlands, the possible number of shorebirds, waterfowl and sparrows is very low compared to most states.

The team awoke to a rather unexpected windy day on 7 May and began to wonder what happened to the previous days good weather forecast. A large east-west front was moving south, but with luck, the rain should stay north of the Big Day route. Our first bird of the day was Song Sparrow as we were getting into the jeep to start the day. We missed the Great Horned Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Blackwater Falls SP area, partly due to the wind and the fact that some fledging Saw-whets had just recently left a nest box. The area around the Blackwater Falls Lodge was full of birds and we logged 42 species by 0745, including both vultures flying in the Blackwater River Gorge. The first two hours of the day were very unproductive, but things picked up at 0600 around the Lodge area. In all, we picked up 20 high-country species that could not be expected in the Lodge area. This included such species as Black-capped Chickadee, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Junco, etc. The elevation is about 3500 feet in the mountains and about 600 feet on the Ohio River. We found another 28 species in the general Canaan Valley area for a total of 70 species as we left the high country and started the descent westward. We then birded Cheat Mountain and Stonewall Jackson Lake and added 37 more species for a total of 107 birds heading down I-79 for the Charleston area at 1330. It seemed as if a record day was not to be, but we were encouraged a bit as John Tharp II spied a Coopers Hawk over Charleston, and we found Least Sandpipers in the Charleston Ponds.

On cutting over to the Ohio River from I-79, we stopped at the reliable Red-headed Woodpecker location and also found a White-breasted Nuthatch and Red-bellied Woodpecker that had evaded us to that point. A stop at the Aston Marsh area netted a Soar and a big-as-life American Bittern who shoed himself and took a little sun. We then added 10 species at the Greenbottom complex, which included a late or injured female Ring-necked Duck and a breeding-plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher. The shorebird was feeding with Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs and our only Wilsons Snipe of the day. We had hoped for snipe at Canaan, but the early and heavy wind had them grounded. We now had 123 species and things were starting to look up a bit at 1740. The Byrd Locks stop was very poor and we only found one addition, a Grasshopper Sparrow. No Horned Lark, gulls, or other waterbirds could be found. On the drive up the river to McClintic, we found Ring-billed Gulls, a pair of Purple Martins, and Bank Swallows. Wow, 126 and things were looking better.

McClintic WMA was the next major stop and we arrived on our schedule time of 1900 and nine species were added there, including both cuckoos. We had good lucks at a Prothonotary Warbler pair and called an Eastern Screech-Owl in just at dusk. Now we were at 133 species and had a strategy session to see what could be done to get six more birds in less than three hours. Time was now really a factor and we decided to head home to Parkinsburg and hope for a miracle. We found a Barred Owl in Johns backyard and Whip-poor-wills up Laurel Creek. We then went to Dicks house to call a pair of local

Great Horned Owls, without success. 137 species three short of a tie and four short of a West Virginia record.

It was a very good day though and certainly a new best for all of our team. We found 25 West Virginia warbler species while missing only Mourning and Pine Warblers. Had we birded in the Parkersburg area in the morning, we would have picked up some of the seven migratory warblers that are usually found around the first week in May. These birds were not found at 3500 feet and perhaps have a limited migration through that area. We never heard a Ruffed Grouse, Marsh Wren, or Virginia Rail. Perhaps playing the calls of some more species would have helped us out.

Our team was composed of three retired engineers and one high-school senior. You can tell the senior (John Tharp II) rather easily he's the one with the eyes and ears! Well, we made a good run against some obviously good competition and felt pretty good about our Big Day and there's always next year!

**WEST VIRGINIA #3** – 15 May 04- 0110 to 2135 Species Totals 133/133; (Team/Shared): Gary Felton 133, Matt Orsie 133. 484 Miles by car, one mile by foot. Visiting: Preston County, Monongalia County, Hardy County, Jefferson County, Berkeley County, Tucker County, Canaan Valley, Shenandoah River, Stauffers Marsh, Cranesville Swamp, Altona Marsh, Sleepy Creek WMA. Species of note: Sedge Wren (S), Golden Eagle (R), White-breasted Nuthatch (M).

**WISCONSIN** – 10 July 04- 0345 to 2145 Species Totals 157/152; (Team/Shared): Sean Fitzgerald 156, Tom Prestby 154, Seth Cutright 153. 750 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Buena Vista Grasslands, Cranmoor Bogs, Baxters Hollow, Devils Lake SP, Sauk Prairie, Arlington, Horicon NWR, Sheboygan, Port Washington. Species of note: Tricolored Heron (V,S), Lesser Black-backed Gull (R), Great Black-backed Gull (R), Eurasian Collared-Dove (V,S), Dark-eyed Junco (L).

I (Sean Fitzgerald) was paging through the ABA Big Day reports on the 9th of July, when I noted the monthly records table for Wisconsin. I was surprised by the low

number (125), so I called up some guys from my May Big Day team and we decided to rendezvous at midnight and head up to Buena Vista Grasslands in central Wisconsin for the dawn chorus of grassland species. We arrived at about 0330 and shortly thereafter, we heard our first species of the day, a calling Sedge Wren. By 0530, we had picked up all of our expected grassland species (including Greater Prairie-Chicken, Henslows Sparrow, and Upland Sandpiper all declining species of concern in Wisconsin) and our tally stood at 42. We made our way through boreal habitat and added hard to find species such as LeContes Sparrow, Common Loon, Ruffed Grouse, and Black-billed Cuckoo all species we had never even found during May Big Days on this same route! By 0830, we had already picked up our 100th species for the day a Purple Martin. From this point on, the late date yielded very little bird song, and we had to struggle to find additional species. At 1350, we netted our 125th species of the day, tying the old record with a Northern Rough-winged Swallow. The record breaker was found ten minutes later when a Ring-necked Pheasant called. We spent the rest of the afternoon adding shorebirds and waterbirds at Horicon Marsh. We were lucky enough to find the lingering Tricolored Heron, as well as Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons all scarce summer residents of Wisconsin. We had picked out most of the early shorebird species (and a surprise Long-billed Dowitcher) by about 1700 and our tally stood at 147. We had never run into this problem on May Big Days because bird song had kept us at passerine spots longer. We decided to drive over to Lake Michigan and add some easy to get lakefront species we had not been able to locate inland. We reached Sheboygan at about 1815 and quickly added Common and Caspian Terns, as well as both black-backed gulls species, which are rare, but regular at this location throughout the summer. Continuing on down the coast, we added a Peregrine Falcon and a summering Canvasback at Port Washington harbor. Near Seths house, we added American Woodcock and Great Horned Owl to end the day at 2145 with 157 species. We were a little surprised we found this many species mid-summer in Wisconsin, but it just goes to show what a great diversity of habitats and breeding birds central Wisconsin has. Junes Big Day is next since we were able to beat it in July!

## 2004 INTERNATIONAL BIG DAYS

**ANTARCTIC** – 29 Dec 04- -0500 to 2200 Species Totals 20/20; (Team/Shared): Gail Mackiernan 20, Barry Cooper 20, Peter Clement 20, Anthony Quinn 20, Peter Colston 20. 450 Miles by ship. Visiting: Antarctic waters from 56 south to Elephant Island. Species of note: Kelp Gull (overhead, 400 miles from land).

December 29 represented our last day in open water on the passage from South Georgia to Elephant Island aboard the cruise ship Royal Princess. No real surprises, most birds seen being characteristic of the Southern Ocean. As we approached the continent, we began to see more typical Antarctic species (such as South Polar Skua and Wilsons Storm-Petrel), which would increase in abundance as we continued south along the Peninsula.

Extensive pack ice limited our approach to Elephant Island as the sun neared (but never reached) the horizon at 2200 hours, so we missed seeing the Elephant Seals from which the island takes its name.

**BRAZIL** –(Rio Grande do Sul) 6 Dec 03- 0615 to 2100 - Species Totals 180/180; (Team/Shared): Peter Kaestner 180. 300 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: San Francisco da Paula, Maquine, Caprivi do Sul, Lagoa do Piexe NP, San Jose do Norte. Species of note: Black-and-white Monjita and Saffron-cowled Blackbird (globally threatened), Black-bellied Seedeater (local).

This was not intended to be a Big Day, and I only realized that I had exceeded the previous big day record after the fact.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS** – 4 April 01- 0900 to 1830 Species Totals 64/64; (Team/Shared): Bernard Master 64. 70 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: none noted. Species of note: Purple Gallinule (M), Dusky-capped Flycatcher (V), Scaly-breasted Thrasher (V), Red-winged Blackbird (V), Cedar Waxwing (R).

**EGYPT** – (North Sinai Governorate) - 17 Sept 04- 0530 to 1730 Species Totals 80/80; (Team/Shared): Peter Kaestner 80. 150 miles by car, 1 mile by foot. Visiting: Zaranik Protected Area, Coral Beach Hotel grounds, El Arish, Sheik Zuweid, Rafah. Species of note: Corn Crake (globally threatened), Pied Wheatear, Rosy Starling, White-throated Munia (newly established population near the border with the Gaza Strip).

This was my first time visiting Zaranik, Egypt's most productive birding area. The morning started poorly, as I had difficulty finding someone to let me into the reserve. In addition, in the move from Brasilia to Cairo, I mislaid the adaptor that allowed my Leica Scope to screw onto my tripod. So I had to balance the scope on the plate, a task that was complicated by the steady north winds. Once I found the guard, however, things went smoothly, and I was welcomed. The birding was also slow, as many expected shorebirds (especially big ones) were absent. Common Quail were unusually common and conspicuous, having just flown over the Mediterranean. The juvenile Rosy Starling was eating figs next to the visitors center and showed beautifully. Other good birds seen in Zaranik included Pallid Harrier, Eurasian Turtle-Dove, Thrush Nightingale, Mourning Wheatear (common), and Corn Crake. The latter, a globally threatened species, is especially easy to see in Zaranik in the latter half of September. After finishing at the reserve (I was a bit hamstrung since I really didn't know where I was going.), I left and swung by my hotel. In the gardens, I got both buntings, Greater Hoopoe-lark, Masked Shrike, and Pied Wheatear. Driving about 25 kilometers east, I birded in vain southeast of El Arish. Continuing along the coast road towards Israel, trying to find White-throated Kingfisher, Syrian Woodpecker, and Palestinian Sunbird. I dipped on two of three, and only picked up three new birds for the day along the Israeli border! They were the Palestinian Sunbird, Hooded Crow, and the introduced White-throated Munia. After returning to the hotel, I did a sea watch that produced Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Black-backed (Baltic), and Armenian Gulls. Next year I'll return with a local expert, who can ensure better luck in Rafah and better access to the habitat in Zaranik. No reason why 100 are not possible in good conditions.

**EL SALVADOR** – 8 July 04- 0700 to 1900 Species Totals 44/43; (Team/Shared): Loren Hintz, Margaret Vimmerstedt (individual totals not submitted). ? Kilometers by car, 5 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Railroad right-of-way of Metapan (Department of Santa Ana), Los Planes trails of Montecrist NP (Department of Santa Ana). Species of note: White-throated Magpie-Jay (M).

Twenty-five years ago, I worked in Metapan, El Salvador as a Peace Corps Volunteer. After reading the *Winging It* reports on El Salvador birding and Contractin Salvadoran friends, I decided that a return visit would be fun and safe.

Besides visiting friends and former workplaces, we managed to do some birding. Since as of last year, no one had submitted a Big Day report for El Salvador so here is a placeholder.

From our hotel window a bit after sunrise, we saw the ever present Black Vulture and three species of doves. My wife, son (age 8) and I flagged down a minitaxi for a short ride to the edge of Metapan by the old train station. A nice trail exists along the abandoned tracks through second-growth tropical deciduous forest and parallel to a small stream, corn fields, and partially forested hills. Numerous butterfly species were feeding and sunning themselves on the blooming composites. A few machete-toting men passed us on their way to work in the fields or hunting. In the hot morning blue sky, we birded for an hour seeing 28 species. We saw species typical of the area, including Turquoise-browed Motmot, Yellow-throated Euphonia, White-collared Seedeater, Altamira Oriole, Social Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Ruddy and Common Ground-Doves, Clay-colored Robin, Cattle, Snowy, and Great Egrets. A flock of White-fronted Parrots landed in a nearby Ceiba tree. A once common bird we missed on our Big Day and during the entire day trip was the White-throated Magpie Jay.

After lunch, we contracted with a tourist agent to drive us to Montecristo NP. The 30 KM drive from Metapan to this cloud forest park took over two hours. We arrived in the late afternoon during intermittent rains. We stayed at a solar powered cabin at the Los Planes portion of the park where we were the only overnight guests. The Salvadoran rainy season of May to October coincides with the breeding season for the Quetzal and other species so the trails to the cloud forest were closed, but the lower elevation areas were open. The very heavy late afternoon rains kept us from major hiking, but we managed to bird for about an hour between showers and saw 14 species (a tiny fraction of the 233 species reported by Olivar Komar as present in the park) near the picnic tables, orchid garden, road and trails through the secondary montane forest and cypress tree plantation. Bushy-crested Jay, Northern Flicker, and Rufous-collared Robin were common. As we hiked up a wooded trail, one White-faced Quail-Dove crossed in front of us. An Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush played hide and seek. During a drizzle, Slate-throated Redstart, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, and White-naped (Yellow-throated) Brush-Finch added some color. After a long day, we went to bed early and the 44th species we identified was the Highland Guan calling from the nearby trees.

**QATAR** – 5 Nov 04- 0545 to 1045 Species Totals 30/30; (Team/Shared): Ian Halladay 30, Bruch Halladay 30. 15 Kilometers by car, 1 kilometer by foot. Visiting: Town of Al Khor and adjacent community, Town of Al Dhakira and adjacent coast and mangroves. Species of note: Hoopoe Lark (M), Common Mynah (M).

The tidal flats between Al Knor and Al Dhakira are superb shorebird habitat. With the addition of more localities, a much larger list could be obtained. Perhaps next year.

**SPAIN** – 27 May 04- 000 to 2000 Species Totals 97/96; (Team/Shared): Gail Mackiernan 97, Barry Cooper 97. 200 Kilometers by car, 5 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Santa

Maria de Magasca, old road to Cceres, Emblase de Guadelope, Montfrague NP. Species of note: Spanish Imperial Eagle (R, endangered); Bonellis Eagle (R), White-rumped Swift (R), Golden Oriole (M), Melodious Warbler (M).

This was not planned to be a Big Day but visiting a variety of habitats in this wonderful birding region yielded a high species count, despite some misses (seen every other day of our stay!). At dawn, we started driving the back roads north of Trujillo, wending our way to Sta. Marta and thence along an old road to the city of Cceres, picking up Great and Little Bustard, Montagues Harrier, Roller, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, and several very impressive Eurasian Black Vultures at a carcass. The Emblas (reservoir) had an active large colony of Collared Pratincoles and our lone Little Egret in Extremadura. Montfrague NP delivered on its raptors, including a pair of the rare Bonellis Eagles perched for smashing scope views. A closed parking lot meant a very long back way hike to the Castillo for White-rumped Swift (unfortunately only seen by Gail Mackiernan), but turned out to be a good move as we picked up a lot of passerines which are found in this arid region only on forested regions. We stayed until dark, but the Eagle Owl didnt show this evening. Compensation was the Scops Owl calling outside our bed-and-breakfast as we made ready for bed! Undoubtedly, a planned Big Day, paying more attention to (nearby) wetland habitats, and omitting the long lunch in the Plaza at Cceres, would have greatly augmented this list.

**TRISTAN DA CUNHA** – 24 Dec 04- 0500 to 2000 Species Totals 23/23; (Team/Shared): Gail Mackiernan 23, Barry Cooper 23, Peter Clement 23, Anthony Quinn 23, Peter Colston 23. 90 Kilometers by ship. Visiting: Tristan da Cunha (offshore), Nightingale Island (offshore), waters in between. Species of note: Spectacled Petrel (R, endangered), Black-bellied Storm-Petrel (R), Common Noddy (R).

Since there are no Big Day records published for this remote region, we thought this would be of interest, although not being able to land on the islands eliminated seeing any of the (few) landbird species present. We did see most of the expected pelagic species. Dawn saw us approaching Tristan from the northeast on the cruise ship Royal Princess. Very large numbers of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses were on the water and flying to

and from their breeding area on the high volcanic peak. Sooty Albatrosses, Spectacled Petrels, and our first White-faced Storm-Petrels also made an appearance as we approached the coast. We anchored off-shore of the tiny town of Edinburgh (only 300 inhabitants) but were unable to land, unfortunate as we thus missed Tristan Thrush, much to Peter Clements dismay. Several hours at anchor saw quite a parade of pelagics. After weighing anchor in the afternoon and sailing close to Nightingale Island, we were astounded at the tens of thousands of Great Shearwaters on the water, as well as clouds of them circling the high volcanic cliffs (80 percent of the worlds population breeds on this island). Scores of White-faced Storm-Petrels off the bow and two Common Noddys (here at their southernmost breeding colony) contrasted with hundreds of Rockhopper Penguins on the beach!

**NIGER** – 24 Jan 04- 0730 to 1900 Species Totals 57/57; (Team/Shared): Mary Crickmore 57. 30 Kilometers by car, 1 kilometer by canoe, 4 kilometers by foot. Visiting: Club Equestre of Niamey, near American Embassy, Niger River, Village of Gourou Kirey. Species of note: Purple Glossy Starling (M), Red-billed Hornbill (M).

In the late afternoon, my guide and I went to a near-dry riverbed next to a sand dune at a village called Gourou Kirey. If you want a truly beautiful spot that is also uniquely Niger, I would highly recommend it. There were many good birds in the vegetable gardens between the river and the sand dune, including a pair of Back-eared Wheatear and a Redstart.

This was an opportunistic Big Day as I was at a conference had free time. I did not have a vehicle, so I was on foot for the morning and early afternoon, then went with my group on a picnic as I continued to bird. My primary objective was life birds, and my second objective was to see how many species could be found by a birder visiting Niamey with limited time and mobility.

**YEMEN** – 24 Oct 04- 0500 to 1900 Species Totals 81/81; (Team/Shared): Terry Witt 81, Dave Farrow 81. 75 Miles by car, 3+ miles by foot. Visiting: Al Quetay, Wadi Siham, Hadayda Sewage Ponds. Species of note: Arabian Bustard (R), two subspecies of Great Gray Shrike (Steppe and Southern).

This should represent the first published Big Day for Yemen.

# ABA CHAMPION TOP TEN BIG DAYS US STATES

**EXPLANATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING TABLE: 2003 Target Total = the average of the three highest Big Day totals for each state up to the end of 2003. Totals have been adjusted in some cases to reflect the 95% rule.**

<b>ALABAMA</b>	(2004 Target Total=186.0)	243	28-Apr-84	D.Roberson, L.C.Binford, J.Langham, B.D.Parmeter, J.Parmeter	
202	24-Apr-83	M.Brown, C.D.Cooley			
181	23-Apr-91	G.D.Jackson, R.A.Duncan, W.J.Bremser, P.Tetlow	235	30-Apr-83	D.Roberson, L.C.Binford, J.Langham, B.D.Parmeter, J.Parmeter, R.T. Peterson
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	13-Apr-02	L.Gardella, S.Reed, G.Beaton, S.McConnell			
166	16-Apr-82	M.Brown, C.D.Cooley			
166	17-Apr-87	G.D.Jackson, J.V.Peavy Jr., C.D.Cooley			
160	8-Apr-75	J.V.Peavy Jr., H.Einspahr, R.Manet, G.D.Jackson			
<b>ALASKA</b>	(2004 Target Total=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 (2003 Target Total=117.3)					
125	4-Jun-93	M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith			
119	6-Jun-92	M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith			
108	23-May-89	M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith			
<b>ARIZONA</b>	(2004 Target Total=196.7)				
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	4-May-97	J.Withgott, J.Taylor, F.Gallo			
177	4-May-77	B.Bates, J.Bates, G.Baker, D.Stotz, D.Wharton			
172	13-Aug-84	K.Kaufman, S.Suter, R.Taylor			
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	(2004 Target Total=164.3)				
168	9-May-99	K.Nichols, B.Verser			
165	8-May-99	J.R.Wilson, M.Greene			
160	9-May-92	G.Knight, S.Knight, J.R.Wilson			
154	9-May-98	J.R.Wilson, M.Greene			
153	8-May-99	K.Nichols, L.Nichols			
150	2-May-92	G.Knight, J.R.Wilson			
145	11-May-97	K.Nichols, B.Verser			
142	5-May-92	J.Withgott			
140	30-Apr-88	M.Davis, M.F.Hodges Jr, T.Schiefer			
120	8-May-87	M.David, G.Knight			
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	(2004 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	1-May-99	J.Sterling, S.Terrill, S.Rovell (single-county)			
207	25-Apr-76	J.Dunn, K.Garrett, P.Lehman, V.Remsen			
202	1-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	2-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					
<b>COLORADO</b>	(2004 Target Total=191.0)				
204	4-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	1-Aug-98	C.L.Wood, B.K.Percival, T.Leukering			
174	13-May-89	W.Leitner, L.Halsey, C.Haynie, D.Nelson			
174	6-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			
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	(2004 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			
<b>DELAWARE</b>	(2004 Target Total=194.7)				
199	15-May-97	D.Cutler, J.Armstead, C.Perry, H.Brokaw			
195	13-May-97	A.P.Ednie, J.White, E.Short, J.Gordon			
190	16-May-95	D.Cutler, J.Armstead, C.Perry, H.Brokaw			
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			
<b>WASHINGTON, D.C.</b>	(2004 Target Total=125.7)				
134	6-May-89	D.Czaplak, G.Gough, O.Janni, M.Jennison			
126	2-May-81	D.Czaplak, F.Hayes, B.Hayes			
117	3-May-86	D.Czaplak, G.Gough, M.O'Brien			
116	5-May-84	D.Czaplak			
113	9-May-98	B. Swift, O. Janni, M. Parr			
113	1-May-93	O.Janni, M.O'Brien, G.Gough			
112	2-May-92	O.Janni, G.Gough			
111	9-May-87	D.Czaplak			
106	7-May-88	D.Czaplak, G.Gough			
102	4-May-85	D.Czaplak			
102	19-May-84	D.Czaplak			
<b>FLORIDA</b>	(2004 Target Total=174.6)				
179	23-Apr-83	R.Carter, S.Howell, C.Nesmith, G.Graves			
173	15-Apr-04	D.Simpson			
172	18-Apr-04	D.Simpson			
171	10-Apr-71	J.Edscorn, D.Edscorn, P.J.Fellers			
171	26-Apr-04	D.Simpson			
170	3-May-04	D.Simpson			
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			
166	13-Apr-04	D.Simpson			
165	2-May-03	D.Simpson			
<b>GEORGIA</b>	(2004 Target Total=184.7)				

190 25-Apr-02 G. Beaton, J. Flynn, T. Egan  
 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 1-May-03 G.Beaton, J.Flynn, E.Horn  
 174 1-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

**HAWAII**

O'ahu only  
 59 27-Oct-85 A.Engilis, A.Newman, B.Pitman, L.Spear  
 59 26-Sept-04 R.E.David, S.Wakefield-David  
 58 26-Sep-93 R.Pyle, A.Engilis, T.McCafferty  
 57 20-Nov-04 K.Pohlman  
 56 2-Feb-00 K.Pohlman  
 54 26-Sep-81 R.Pyle, P.Donaldson, M.Ord, C.Vinsonhaler  
 53 1-Feb-04 R.E.David, S.Wakefield-David  
 52 23-Oct-76 R.Pyle, M.Ord, R.Shallenberger  
 52 16-Sep-79 R.Pyle, M.Ord  
 52 24-Jan-04 R.E.David, S.Wakefield-David  
 52 28-Mar-04 R.E.David, S.Wakefield-David  
 Multi-island, using  
 commercial aircraft  
 81 19-Oct-87 R.Pyle, R. David, A. Engilis

(2004 Target Total=58.7)

**IDAHO**

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 6-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 7-Jun-98 J.F.Gatchet, D.Lawrence  
 157 9-Jun-01 M. Collar, D. Mead, J. Moodie, C. Trost  
 156 12-Jun-89 W.E.Harper, C.H.Trost, C.Webb

(2004 Target Total=172.7)

**ILLINOIS**

184 17-May-97 J.O'Brien, R.Hughes, D.Mandell, S.Bailey,  
 S.Mlodinow, S.Patti  
 175 9-May-94 V.M.Kleen, H.D.Bohlen, R.Randall, M.Ward,  
 P.M.Ward  
 175 5-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 6-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,

(2004 Target Total=178.0)

**INDIANA**

189 16-May-04 J.McCoy, B.Grube  
 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-03 J.Cassady, J.McCoy, B.Grube, B.Palmer-Ball  
 170 17-May-93 K.J.Brock, E.M.Hopkins, S.F.Jackson, J.A.Haw  
 167 16-May-03 L. Casebere, C. Chapman, C. Hedge, R. Hedge  
 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

(2004 Target Total=184.3)

**IOWA**

204 13-May-96 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins, D.Moeller  
 195 7-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 8-May-91 P.C.Petersen, B.Blevins, D.Moeller  
 173 8-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

(2004 Target Total=196.3)

**KANSAS**

225 13-May-02  
 220 13-May-03  
 210 10-May-00  
 205 14-May-96  
 204 11-May-97  
 200 12-May-91  
 178 9-May-86  
 172 11-May-84  
 171 3-May-97  
 164 29-Apr-99  
 158 28-Apr-90

(2004 Target Total=213.3)

M.Robbins, R.McNeil, M.Rader  
 M. Robbins, R. McNeill, S. Patti, M. Rader  
 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, M.D.Rader  
 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, T.Peterson,  
 R.Prum  
 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, R.Prum, V.Laux  
 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh, S.Patti, G.L.Pittman  
 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh, M.Cooksy, K.Hollinga  
 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh  
 P.C.Wedge, D.Seibel, G.L.Pittman, M.McHugh  
 M.D.Rader, S.Seltman  
 D.Seibel, G.L.Pittman, P.Rasmussen, P.C.Wedge

**KENTUCKY**

176 6-May-02  
 171 7-May-97  
 168 6-May-96  
 168 6-May-99  
 165 7-May-92  
 165 6-May-00  
 162 7-May-90  
 159 6-May-98  
 156 5-May-88  
 156 9-May-89

(2004 Target Total=171.7)

M.Bierly, M.Monroe, B.Palmer-Ball, Jr.  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.Elmore  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., B.L.Monroe Jr., M.Monroe,  
 R.Healy Jr., D.Parker  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., B.L.Monroe Jr., M.Monroe,  
 D.Parker  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin, D.Parker,  
 C.B.Elmore  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.Elmore, M.Monroe, D.Parker  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin, D.Parker  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.Elmore, D.Parker  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin, D.Parker  
 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin

**LOUISIANA**

209 25-Apr-01  
 202 21-Apr-87  
 193 18-Apr-01  
 183 26-Apr-80  
 182 17-Apr-85  
 178 27-Apr-96  
 176 18-Apr-84  
 165 30-Apr-94  
 144 12-May-79  
 143 1-Jun-99

(2004 Target Total=201.3)

C. Witt, D. Christian, J. Weckstien  
 V.Remsen, S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittmann, T.Parker  
 C. Witt, D. Christian, R. Moyle, J. Weckstien  
 P.MacKenzie, B.Crider  
 P.MacKenzie, M.Swan  
 S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittmann  
 P.MacKenzie, M.Swan, D.Krider  
 R.Breedlove, R.Bacon, C.Lyon  
 D.Engleke  
 S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittmann

**MAINE**

178 22-May-99  
 165 19-May-96  
 163 22-May-93  
 162 21-May-94  
 140 21-May-95  
 140 28-May-00  
 138 24-May-93  
 133 25-May-90  
 132 31-May-03  
 132 28-May-95

(2004 Target Total=168.7)

L.R.Brinker, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan, R.Lambert  
 L.R.Brinker, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan, R.Joseph  
 L.R.Brinker, R.Humphrey, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan  
 L.R.Brinker, R.Humphrey, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan  
 W.Howes, W.Sumner  
 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker  
 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker  
 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker  
 B.Duchesne, S.Duchesne, L.Vernon, N.Larson  
 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker

**MARYLAND**

206 18-May-96  
 206 18-May-98  
 193 26-May-99  
 189 6-May-95  
 188 17-May-90  
 186 14-May-88  
 185 12-May-89  
 182 18-May-91  
 181 10-May-86  
 177 1-Jun-92

(2004 Target Total=201.7)

M.O'Brien, J.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni  
 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni,  
 W.Russell  
 M.J.Illiff, A.Farnsworth  
 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni  
 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano,  
 G.Gough  
 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano  
 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano,  
 G.Gough  
 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, G.Gough  
 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano,  
 G.Gough  
 M.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni

**MASSACHUSETTS**

185 22-May-04  
 162 27-May-02  
 161 25-May-87  
 155 15-May-99  
 154 20-May-02  
 154 25-May-80  
 152 5-Jun-99  
 150 21-May-04  
 147 17-May-04  
 143 19-May-03

(2004 Target Total=169.3)

P.Trimble, J.Trimble, V.Laux  
 Barrett Lawson, Bob Lawson, S.Wheelock  
 G.d'Entremont, D.Brown, S.J.Dinsmore  
 S.Wheelock, Barrett Lawson, Bob Lawson,  
 K.Rodman  
 S. Kellogg, T. Swochak, J. Weeks, J. Zepko  
 R.Stymeist, T.Lawrence  
 S.Wheelock, D.Furbish  
 S.Kellogg, T.Swochak, J.Zepko, J.Weeks  
 S.Kellogg, T.Swochak, J.Zepko, J.Weeks  
 S.Kellogg, J.Weeks, J.Zepko

**MICHIGAN**

203 26-May-95  
 191 20-May-92  
 189 6-Jun-00  
 185 27-May-93  
 184 29-May-94

(2004 Target Total=194.3)

R.J.Weeks, T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp  
 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp, T.Walsh, R.J.Weeks  
 K.S.Thomas, B.Murphy  
 R.J.Weeks, T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp  
 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**

(2004 Target Total=193.3)

204 26-May-02 A.Hertzel, P.Svingen  
 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.Lesher  
 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

**MISSISSIPPI**

(2004 Target Total=172.7)

175 16-Apr-89 T.Schiefer, M.F.Hodges Jr.  
 172 23-Apr-83 J.Toups, E.Johnson, C.Roemer  
 171 2-May-89 J.Toups, C.Cassibry, G.Morgan, J.Pennell  
 165 28-Apr-79 L.Gates, J.Toups  
 158 7-May-03 S.Dinsmore, P.Barbour  
 156 5-May-86 J.Toups, D.King, C.Roerner  
 153 4-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 3-May-86 M.Davis, G.C.Knight

**MISSOURI**

(2004 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 9-May-00 D.A.Easterla, J.Hilsabeck, K.Goslee (single county)

**MONTANA**

(2004 Target Total=176.6)

192 2-June-03 B.Kemp, R.Weeks  
 181 4-Jun-02 R.Weeks, B.Kemp  
 175 10-Jun-00 J.Rogers, D.Casey, S.Jones, S.Casey, J.Marks, B.Petty  
 174 6-Jun-92 J.Rogers, D.Casey, S.Jones, S.Casey  
 174 16-Jul-99 S.J.Dinsmore, A.S.Fix, T.Hanks  
 172 5-Jun-99 D.Casey, J.Marks, B.Petty, J.Rogers  
 170 6-Jul-98 S.J.Dinsmore, J.G.Jorgensen, J.Sullivan  
 162 9-Jul-91 W.E.Harper, S.M.Scott  
 161 8-Jun-96 D.Casey, S.Casey, A.Dumin, P.Bodewald  
 159 1-Jun-91 J.Rogers, D.Casey, S.Jones, S.Casey

**NEBRASKA**

(2004 Target Total=183.7)

203 14-May-03 S.J.Dinsmore, R.Silcock, A.Brees  
 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 8-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

**NEVADA**

(2004 Target Total=152.0)

162 10-May-97 L.A.Neel, G.Chisholm, K.Geluso, B.Flores  
 150 3-May-96 L.A.Neel, G.Chisholm, K.Geluso, B.Flores  
 144 14-May-78 G.Clifton, K.Nittle  
 139 26-March-04 P.Ward, K.Ward  
 136 15-May-95 R.Schlageter, J.J.Eidel, S.Mills  
 133 19-Jun-77 E.W.Tillay, G.Clifton, K.Nittle  
 133 11-May-94 C.Titus, R.McArthur, R.Rucker (single-county)  
 132 8-May-93 C.Titus, R.McArthur, J.Kaplan, R.Rucker  
 129 4-May-96 J.J.Eidel, A.Gubanich, B.Moore, A.Gross  
 127 11-Jul-76 E.W.Tillay, G.Clifton, K.Nittle

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

(2004 Target Total=163.7)

170 27-May-97 P.D.Hunt, S.Mirick, A.Strong, D.Strong  
 163 24-May-96 P.D.Hunt, S.Mirick, M.Suomala  
 158 30-May-04 I.MacLeod, G.Robbins, R.Woodward  
 156 25-May-02 S. Mirick, J.Lawrence, P.Lacourse, D.Donsker

156 23-May-99 P.D.Hunt, A.Strong, D.Strong  
 156 21-May-00 R.Woodward, I.MacLeod, G.Robbins  
 153 19-May-02 I.MacLeod, G.Robbins, R.Woodward  
 153 27-May-02 I.MacLeod, G.Robbins, R.Woodward  
 151 26-May-94 P.D.Hunt, P.Marra, M.O'Brien  
 151 4-Jun-96 P.D.Hunt, T.Johansen, D.Strong

**NEW JERSEY**

(2004 Target Total=225.0)

229 11-May-96 D.Womer, C.Aquila, D.Dendler  
 225 13-May-95 T.Hince, P.D.Pratt, B.Dilabio  
 221 13-May-95 D.Womer, C.Aquila, D.Dendler  
 218 15-May-99 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.Friday  
 210 14-May-94 P.Pacinski, P.Dunne, L.Dunne, R.Radis, D.Friday  
 210 14-May-94 T.Hince, P.D.Pratt, B.Dilabio

**NEW MEXICO**

(2004 Target Total=192.3)

200 3-May-97 B.R.Zimmer, J.Paton  
 198 6-May-99 B.R.Zimmer, J.Paton  
 179 11-May-96 B.Neville, D.Emkals, J.Paton  
 178 30-April-04 J.Black, B.West, B.Foy  
 177 31-Aug-92 B.R.Zimmer, J.Gordon  
 173 4-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 1-May-94 D.Emkals, C.Rustay  
 167 3-Sep-87 B.R.Zimmer, G.W.Lasley, K.Kaufmann

**NEW YORK**

(2004 Target Total=196.0)

202 18-May-03 D.Harris, B.Klick  
 201 26-May-02 D.Tetlow, J.Barry, K.Fox  
 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  
 175 24-May-02 D.Harris, B.Klick  
 173 19-May-74 T.Davis, P.Lehman, D.Finch, R.Smart  
 173 19-May-86 K.Griffith, M.Davids, C.Taylor  
 173 19-May-02 Jessi Barry, Jim Barry, K.Griffith

**NORTH CAROLINA**

(2004 Target Total=175.0)

184 3-May-87 J.M.Lynch, D.Carter, J.Fussell, R.Davis, A.Bryan  
 174 6-May-93 S.J.Dinsmore, J.Nance  
 167 20-Apr-87 J.Nance, G.Massey  
 157 3-May-03 R. Van Epps, T. Piephoff, J. Pippen, B. Carlson  
 156 4-May-81 M.Tove, J.Fussell, R.Davis  
 155 5-May-02 T.Piephoff, R. VanEpps  
 151 7-May-99 C.A.Eley, G.Brown  
 140 6-May-80 S.Graves  
 126 8-May-76 R.Carter, C.M.Eastman, A.Capparella  
 120 23-Apr-77 R.Carter, S.Alford  
 120 27-Apr-00 C.H.Gambill, R.Gambill, L.Gambill

**NORTH DAKOTA**

(2004 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  
 131 7-Aug-04 K.Corliss, M.Otnes  
 127 14-May-78 D.O.Lambeth, S.O.Lambeth, G.S.Lambeth  
 126 8-June-03 C.Ellingson, C.Talkington  
 122 23-Jul-77 K.J.Zimmer, B.R.Zimmer  
 118 23-May-76 K.J.Johnson, A.G.Johnson  
 118 7-Aug-99 P.A.Stutesman

**OHIO**

(2004 Target Total=191.7)

205 11-May-87 J.Pogacnik, J.K.Alexander  
 186 10-May-85 J.Pogacnik, J.K.Alexander, M.Anderson  
 184 11-May-02 D.Sanders, J.McCormac, B.Master  
 182 16-May-92 T.R.Kemp, M.Anderson, E.Tramer, S.Lauer, C.Anderson  
 179 9-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

**OKLAHOMA**

(2004 Target Total=178.0)

180 3-May-01 J. Cox, J. Arterburn, K. Kaufman  
 177 4-May-96 J.A.Cox, K.Kaufman, J.Arterburn  
 177 29-Apr-99 M.B.Kamp, J.Loyd, P.L.Seibert



115 2-Jun-81 W.Scott, D.Kibbe, S.Brown  
115 10-May-82 R.Dean, S.Corwin-Roach

**WISCONSIN**

*(2004 Target Total=216.0)*

230 19-May-02 R.Hoffman, A.Shea  
210 20-May-00 R.Hoffman, A.Shea  
208 17-May-97 R.Hoffman, A.Shea  
206 17-May-99 R.Hoffman, A.Shea  
194 2-Sept-01 R.Hoffman  
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  
186 31-Aug-02 R.Hoffman  
185 21-May-90 J.L.Baughman, T.Schultz, W.Schultz, W.Stott

**WYOMING**

*(2004 Target Total=158.3)*

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 7-Jul-80 W.E.Harper, C.Harper  
111 16-Jul-79 W.E.Harper, C.Harper  
109 30-Jun-78 W.E.Harper  
103 21-Apr-02 D. Faulkner, J.Fontaine

# ABA CHAMPION TOP TEN BIG DAYS

## CANADIAN PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

### ALBERTA

(2004 Target Total=168)

178	31-May-01	T. Plath, P. Pratt, T. Hince
163	24-May-96	B.Elder, B.Maybank, B.Storms
163	30-May-04	Y.Attia, J.Allair, P.Bulman
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	1-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 (2004 Target Total=187.7)

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	29-Apr-02	T. Plath, J. Osterhold, D. Knopp
163	21-May-00	R.Cannings, A.Bezener, L.Neish, R.Foxall
162	12-May-82	R.Cannings, S.Cannings, D.Kragh (Okanagan)

### MANITOBA

(2004 Target Total=201.7)

205	23-May-87	R.F.Koes, G.Grieff, R.Tkachuk, G.Holland
202	1-Jun-04	K.DeSmet, A.Walleyn
198	21-May-88	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, P.Taylor, G.Holland
198	21-May-94	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grieff, P.Taylor
198	28-May-94	R.F.Koes, G.Grieff, P.Taylor, R.Tkachuk
196	27-May-89	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grieff, P.Taylor
195	23-May-98	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grieff, P.Taylor
194	29-May-82	D.Fast, P.Taylor, H.Lane, D.Hatch
193	24-May-80	R.F.Koes, G.Grieff, G.Holland, I.Ward, P.Hamel
193	27-May-99	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grieff

### NEW BRUNSWICK (2004 Target Total=120.0)

136	6-Jun-92	J.Edsall, D.Gibson, D.Miles
124	1-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 (2004 Target Total=92.3)

106	2-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	7-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 (2004 Target Total=55.0)

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, C.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

### NOVA SCOTIA (2004 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	5-Jun-94	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Waldrone

137	6-Jun-92	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Taylor, K.McKenna
137	5-Jun-93	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Taylor, K.McKenna, C.Brennan
135	1-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	9-Jun-71	E.L.Mills, D.W.Finch
118	31-May-98	B.Maybank, M.Newell, W.Atwood

### NUNAVUT

36	10-Jul-04	R.Knapton, C.Sidler, C.Kersting, T.Molter
----	-----------	---

### ONTARIO

(2004 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	3-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 (2004 Target Total=130.0)

141	6-Jun-04	R.Cooke, E.Marcum, D.Seeler
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	3-Jun-95	R.Cooke, D.G.Stewart, G.MacDonald
108	2-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

(2004 Target Total=158.0)

166	2-Jun-03	T. Hince, P.Pratt
161	27-May-02	O. Barden, N. Barden
158	28-May-88	G.Gendron, D.Ruest
155	22-May-93	J.Lachance, A.Côé, G.Lemelin
155	3-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	1-Jun-95	G.Gendron, D.Ruest
146	26-May-87	C.Vachon, G.Bouchard, L.Messely

### SASKATCHEWAN

(2004 Target Total=166.7)

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	5-Aug-99	P.A.Stutesman
160	1-Jun-86	C.Escott, H.Lane
141	26-May-95	T.Herriot, B.Maybank
78	4-Sep-90	B.Korol, G.Wapple
70	21-Jul-96	T.R.Kemp

### YUKON TERRITORIES (2004 Target Total=73.3)

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	7-Jul-91	B.Maybank
40	26-May-92	R.H.Johnson, S.Johnson, L.Johnson
33	14-Aug-98	E.Burroughs, C.Burroughs
38	14-Jun-02	D.C.Chaffin
29	12-May-97	D.C.Chaffin

# ABA CHAMPION TOP TEN BIG DAYS

## COUNTRIES/REGIONS

<i>COUNTRY/ REGION</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>PARTICIPANTS</i>	<i>COUNTRY/ REGION</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>PARTICIPANTS</i>
<b>Antarctica</b>	24	4-Dec-95	N.Brinkley, S.Tingley	<b>Ecuador</b>	181	13-Nov-96	P.Coopmans, B.J.Rose, S.Rose, Donald Traver, Donna Traver
	20	29-Dec-04	G.Mackiernan, B.Cooper, P.Clement, A.Quinn, P.Colston		109	27-Jul-93	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Levy, A.Hill
	17	19-Dec-87	D.Paulson	<b>Egypt</b>	80	17-Sept-04	P.Kaestner
	17	29-Jan-98	G.Lasley		69	19-Apr-64	H.C.Kyillingstad
<b>Antigua</b>	43	24-Jul-95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall	66	31-Dec-89	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall	
<b>Argentina</b>	149	8-Nov-03	R.Batchelder, A.Earnshaw	<b>El Salvador</b>	44	8-Jul-04	L.Hintz, M.Vimmerstedt
	142	20-Jan-93	A.Jaramillo	<b>England</b>	147	11-May-96	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, M.Sutherland, B.Davison
<b>Australia</b>	52	5-Feb-03	C.Campbell		145	7-May-89	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, B.Bland, A.Henderson
	249	13-Oct-96	A.P.Anderson, J.Grant, E.Sticklen, G.Holmes	144	8-May-94	D.W.Taylor, B.Bland, A.Henderson, I.Hodgson	
	202	12-Dec-82	H.Beste, R.Dunkerton	115	11-May-96	J.Cantello, D.Wrathell, S.Wrathell, D.Allen (bicycle/foot)	
<b>Austria</b>	108	6-May-90	W.Firbas, U.Firbas	84	5-May-95	P.Larkin (Big Sit)	
<b>Bahamas</b>	76	17-Jan-02	S.L.Doud, M.Duffey	77	10-May-99	D.Taylor, D.Wilson, B.Boleans (Big Sit)	
<b>Bahamas</b>	74	12-Oct-99	B.Hallett, T.White, A.Bainton, W.Bracey	75	17-May-00	D.Taylor, R.Thompson, D.Wilson (Big Sit)	
<b>Barbuda</b>	71	10-Jan-00	S.L.Doud, J.E.Sweeten (Andros)	<b>Estonia</b>	109	7-Jun-94	B.F.Master, D.Master
<b>Belize</b>	47	8-Dec-99	J.Marshall, M.Marshall		<b>Ethiopia</b>	189	10-Sep-01
	202	30-Apr-99	L.Jones, S.Tillett, M.England	174	19-Aug-01	P. Kaestner, M. Gebremichael	
177	19-Mar-00	A.Guarente, G.Crawford, J.Ginaven, K.Loughlin, N.Pulcinella, D.Washabaugh	<b>France</b>	181	7-May-94	J-P.Siblet, L.Spanneut, B.Bougeard	
<b>Bermuda</b>	133	26-Feb-00		J.Marshall	153	15-May-93	J-P.Siblet, L.Spanneut, B.Bougeard, J-P.Delapré
	72	16-Oct-99	M.Allaire, A.Dobson, L.Walker	145	20-May-99	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, B.Bland, I.Hodgson	
<b>Bolivia</b>	160	21-Dec-76	V.Remsen	<b>Galapagos</b>	47	14-Aug-84	F.Hayes, W.Baker, G.Bennett, T.Rochester
<b>Botswana</b>	107	1-Nov-81	B.A.Allen, J.Wilson		<b>Gambia</b>	127	31-Mar-91
<b>Brazil</b>	180	6-Dec-03	P.Kaestner	<b>Germany</b>	122	1-Jul-82	N.Brinkley
	167	21-Nov-91	D.Stotz, W.Silva	<b>Grand Cayman Islands</b>	74	27-Oct-02	N.Norman, T.Baxter, B.Harlett
142	7-Nov-03	B.F.Master, P.Bono	<b>Greece (Rhodos)</b>	61	19-Apr-03	G.Oliosio	
135	25-Feb-00	B.F.Master, P.Bono		<b>Grenada</b>	36	18-Jul-95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
<b>Brunei</b>	124	10-Nov-96	P.Kaestner	30	21-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood	
	<b>Bulgaria</b>	49	5-Aug-92	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney	<b>Guadeloupe</b>	29	30-Apr-96
97		13-May-97	H.Turner, D.Georgiev, R.Walton, J.Schmidt, F.Brazier	<b>Guyana</b>		150	6-Jan-99
<b>Cayman Islands</b>	64	4-Apr-01	B.F.Master	<b>Guatemala</b>	225	7-Apr-02	P.Kaestner, J.Berry
	46	24-Jun-00	C.H.Gambill		208	1-Apr-01	P. Kaestner, W. Plomp
	41	7-Mar-99	M.McHugh, L.Hart. (Grand Cayman Is.)	192	18-Nov-01	P. Kaestner, J. Barry	
<b>Cameroon</b>	34	10-Nov-96	T.Fitzpatrick	<b>Honduras</b>	149	6-Jan-01	P. Kaestner
	121	12-Sep-94	P.D.Burtch, R.Quantril, B.Quantril	<b>Hungary</b>	144	13-May-01	G. Magavar, A. Schmidt, E. Sos
	135	11-Oct-97	P.Kaestner	<b>Iceland</b>	49	27-Jul-95	N.Brinkley, B.Cary, J.Nussman, J.&M.Cressman.
<b>Chile</b>	83	5-Nov-02	B.Master, S.Howell	<b>India</b>	166	14-Nov-81	P.Kaestner, H.Kaestner
	75	2-Nov-99	A.Jaramillo, T.Witt, D.Donsker		161	21-Dec-94	B.F.Master, P.Holt, B.Behrstock, J.Bangma
62	10-May-90	B.Swift, A.Hade, M.Rodriguez	146	22-Feb-84	B.King, J.Vardaman		
<b>Colombia</b>	144	3-Feb-84	S.Hilty, J.Vardaman	<b>Indonesia</b>	105	7-Jun-79	C.Escott
<b>Comoros Islands</b>	20	13-Feb-99	P.Kaestner	<b>Ireland</b>	122	29-Apr-89	C.Murphy, C.Brewster, D.Knight, S.Foster
<b>Costa Rica</b>	308	2-Apr-00	D.Rogers, J.Vandergaast, J.Fossani	120	8-May-91	C.Murphy, S.McKee, R.Chambers, C.Mellon	
	306	8-Apr-99	D.Rogers, J.Zook, J.Vandergaast		<b>Italy</b>	64	23-Aug-95
	292	18-Apr-98	D.Rogers, J.Zook	<b>Ivory Coast</b>	25	27-Nov-78	P.Kaestner
	162	8-Oct-63	R.Ryan, N.Boyajian (on foot)	<b>Jamaica</b>	109	23-Mar-93	P.P.Marra, J.I.Lovette
<b>Croatia</b>	78	16-Apr-01	S. Lister, M. Hall	76	10-Mar-92	M.Lysinger, J.Arnett	
	<b>Cuba</b>	112	6-Apr-00	P.Kaestner	74	10-Mar-91	P.D.Hunt, P.Marra
87		5-Apr-00	P.Kaestner; H.Kaestner	<b>Japan</b>	148	10-Aug-64	C.R.Johnson, A.Sasaki
42	23-Dec-98	B.Maybank, J.Waldron	<b>Kenya</b>		290	25-Feb-84	D.Turner, T.Stevenson, D.Richards
<b>Cyprus</b>	103	21-Apr-95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall	264	2-Dec-79	J.Gerhart, D.Turner	
<b>Djibouti</b>	84	20-Apr-87	S.M.Lister	248	19-Nov-78	J.Gerhart, J.Miskell, S.Wallace	
	95	2-Sep-01	P. Kaestner				
<b>Dominica</b>	85	1-Sep-01	P. Kaestner				
	39	17-Jan-98	J.Meyer				
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	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,				

<i>COUNTRY/ REGION</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>PARTICIPANTS</i>	<i>COUNTRY/ REGION</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>PARTICIPANTS</i>
<b>Madagascar</b>	58	21-Dec-93	B.F.Master, B.Finch	<b>St. Vincent</b>	39	22-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright,
<b>Malaysia</b>	94	3-Mar-03	B.Master, J.Dunn, D.Young	<b>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</b>	44	26-Sep-97	P.Kaestner, J.Gerhart, K.Garwood, B.Davidson
	73	16-Aug-99	S.Rajathurai (Big Sit)	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	112	6-Sep-01	G. Bletsch
<b>Mali</b>	76	27-Dec-03	M.Cri.Ickmore		106	7-Apr-83	J.& T.Heindel, C.& W.Peterson
	63	10-Aug-90	T.Cable, R.Marshall		103	7-Sep-00	G.Bletsch, P.Webb, A.Webb
<b>Marianas Islands</b>	23	15-Sep-82	P.Kaestner	<b>Sechelles</b>	33	22-Nov-98	B.F.Master, S.Master, A.Skerritt
<b>Marshall Islands</b>	16	18-Feb-77	D.Anderson		32	3-Sep-99	K.Lefriede, K.Selima
	14	20-Apr-76	D.Anderson	<b>Senegal</b>	105	31-Jan-93	B.Maybank, S.Finnegan
	13	1-Apr-76	D.Anderson	<b>Singapore</b>	129	30-Jan-99	S.Rajathurai, M.Landenburger
<b>Martinique</b>	30	25-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright,		128	1-Jan-99	S.Rajathurai, W.L.Keng
<b>Mexico</b>	229	18-Oct-02	J.Montejo, R.Straub, A.McAndrews		125	23-Oct-99	S.Rajathurai, B.McCartney, R.McCartney
	201	23-Dec-01	K. Kaufman, R. Taylor, C. Green, K.Garwood		59	2-Apr-99	S.Rajathurai, S.Subaraj (Big Sit)
	191	16-Nov-89	R.Taylor, C.Green	<b>Solomon Islands</b>	40	16-Jun-02	B.Master
<b>Morocco</b>	108	1-Jan-94	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney	<b>South Africa</b>	247	7-Nov-87	D.Cyrus, N.Robson, H.Chitenden, P.Outhwaite (Natal)
	99	30-Dec-93	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney		232	11-Sep-85	D.Cyrus, G.Nichols, N.Robson (Natal)
<b>Namibia</b>	217	26-Nov-94	C.Hines, D.Farr, M.Paxton, P.Lane		230	8-Nov-86	D.Cyrus, N.Robson, H.Chitenden, P.Outhwaite (Natal)
<b>Nepal</b>	158	26-Feb-84	B.King, J.Vardaman, K.Ram	<b>South Korea</b>	42	3-Oct-81	H.H.Puppe, Y.Moo-boo
<b>Netherlands</b>	190	10-May-03	R.Haas, W.Leurs, L.Heemshelk, J.van der Laan		34	4-Oct-81	H.H.Puppe, Y.Moo-boo
	176	15-May-96	J.van der Laan, R.de Haas, L.Heemskerk, W.Leurs	<b>Spain</b>	97	27-May-04	G.Mackiernan, B.Cooper
	163	15-May-89	B.Pieterse, J.W.de Roever, W.E.M.van der Schot		95	18-Jun-89	J.Parmeter, J.Strauss, E.Strauss
	161	19-May-91	M.Berlign, T.Kompier, T.Luijendijk, A.Meijer		74	21-Jun-85	D.Mark, B.Feltner
<b>Nicaragua</b>	56	12-Mar-98	M.E.Petrucha, G.R.Urquhart	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	85	10-Jul-97	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
	53	3-Feb-01	P. Kaestner, J. Carlos, M. Sanchez	<b>Sudan</b>	54	2-Apr-92	R.Holbrook, J.Lewis
<b>Niger</b>	57	24-Jan-04	M.Crickmore	<b>Suriname</b>	173	2-Jan-84	R.Ridgely, J.Vardaman
<b>Nigeria</b>	76	11-Mar-02	K.Burton	<b>Switzerland</b>	75	28-May-87	B.Swift, L.Maumary
	63	10-Mar-02	K.Burton	<b>Tanzania</b>	146	28-Sep-98	P.Kaestner
	61	5-Sep-87	P.Kaestner	<b>Thailand</b>	180	2-Mar-84	B.King, P.Round, J.Vardaman
<b>N. Ireland</b>	133	8-May-93	C.Murphy, S.McKee, C.Mellon, D.Hunter	<b>Trinidad</b>	177	23-Sep-01	M. Kenefick, F. Hayes, B. Hayes
	122	29-Apr-89	C.Murphy, C.Brewster, D.Knight, S.Foster		167	7-Sep-00	F.Hayes, M.Kenefick, B.Sanasie
<b>Oman</b>	117	2-Nov-97	D.Sargeant, M.Sargeant		151	25-May-77	J.Funk, R.Randall, D.Heller, L.Calderon
<b>Panama</b>	300	22-Mar-97	W.D.Robinson, D.Christian	<b>Tobago</b>	113	8-Oct-01	N.George, F.Ahyes, M.Kenefick
	255	25-Jan-84	R.Ridgely, J.Vardaman		100	16-Oct-00	F.Hayes, M.Kenefick, B.Sanasie, B.Hayes
<b>P.New Guinea</b>	215	7-May-83	P.Kaestner, B.Finch		86	26-Dec-93	B.Maybank, T.Yip-Hoi, J.Taylor, J.Waldron, K&M Allsebrook
	208	13-Mar-83	P.Kaestner, B.Finch	<b>Turkey</b>	129	29-Apr-95	J-P Sibley, B.Couronne
<b>Paraguay</b>	180	21-Oct-89	F.Hayes, P.Scharf, J.E.Argana	<b>Uganda</b>	260	16-Nov-70	M.Fogden
	162	20-Oct-89	F.Hayes, P.Scharf, J.E.Argana		61	13-Aug-86	N.Brinkely, D.Scotts
	148	9-Dec-88	F.Hayes, D.Snider, T.E.Perrin	<b>Uruguay</b>	33	23-Nov-03	R.Batchelder
<b>Peru</b>	331	5-Sep-82	T.Parker, S.Robinson	<b>U.S. Virgin Islands</b>	64	13-Oct-02	F.Hayes, B.Hayes
	278	16-Oct-81	T.Parker, J.Vardaman		30	15-Nov-97	T.Fitzpatrick
<b>Portugal</b>	113	14-Oct-96	M.Bolton, C.Beale, M.Roberts, G.Rawcliffe	<b>Vanuatu</b>	33	15-Jun-85	P.Kaestner
	108	24-Feb-96	G.Elias, C.C.Moore	<b>Venezuela</b>	192	30-Oct-85	C.Parrish, B.Swift
	104	2-Aug-96	G.Elias, J.Braga		160	30-Aug-86	B.Swift, I.Branger, E.Cartaya
<b>Poland</b>	108	25-Jun-01	S. Gaulin, B. Hince	<b>Vietnam</b>	85	16-Sep-65	C.R.Johnson, R.DeWitt, D.Long
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	94	23-Apr-74	H.Snyder, S.Den, P.Lehman	<b>Yemen</b>	81	24-Oct-04	T.Witt, D.Farrow
	74	22-Jan-96	P.D.Hunt, S.Burson, B.Steele, L.Gates	<b>Zambia</b>	288	6-Dec-75	R.Dowsett, D.Aspinwall, T.Osborne
<b>Quatar</b>	30	5-Nov-04	I.Halladay, B.Halladay		273	2-Nov-74	R.J.Dowsett, D.R.Aspinwall, W.F.Bruce-Miller, T.O.Osborne
<b>Rwanda</b>	41	6-Aug-86	N.Brinkely, D.Scotts		273	30-Nov-75	R.J.Dowsett, T.O.Osborne
<b>St. Kitts</b>	33	24-Jul-99	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall	<b>Zaire</b>	135	20-Jul-78	P.Kaestner
<b>St. Lucia</b>	43	24-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, L.John, M.Flieg, H.Davidson,	<b>Zimbabwe</b>	196	30-Jan-88	S.L.James, B.Wright, L.Schwab
	36	12-Jan-98	J.Meyer, 'D.Albright, K.Garwood				
	31	16-Apr-95	B.F.Master, S.Master, A.Hill, A.Small, B.J.Rose, S.Rose				

## PROVINCIAL & STATE RECORD BIG DAYS BY MONTH

AREA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ABA	176	175	213	258	230	<b>202</b>	182	199	177	178	178	<b>176</b>
CAN	127	109	105	163	205	<b>202</b>	182	167	154	121	117	121
48	176	175	213	258	230	189	174	199	177	178	178	<b>176</b>
PROVS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
AB	27				178	150	150	80	88	80	56	41
BC	127	109	105	163	196	162	176	120	136	121	117	121
MB	<b>31</b>	41			205	<b>202</b>	182	167	154	<b>105</b>	<b>73</b>	33
NB	<b>22</b>		20	55	68	136		100	75			
NL	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							<b>36</b>					
ON	81	64	86	<b>102</b>	200	180	165	135	100	110	91	52
PI			35		128	<b>141</b>		104	108	51		
PQ			13	<b>77</b>	161	166	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	<b>89</b>
AK	39	40	54	63	110	125	61	<b>72</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>29</b>	60	48
AZ	110	113	134	191	178	136	131	199	158	147	114	123
AR	64		<b>64</b>	140	168		76	118			70	
CA	176	175	178	231	208	178	170	170	177	178	178	166
CO	98	100	100		204	128	139	176	151	<b>120</b>	105	90
CT	103		<b>112</b>	140	186	145		132	131		102	
DE	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	102	159	199	105	102	110	130	102	102	100
DC		68	81	101	134						60	57
FL	<b>159</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>163</b>	179	<b>170</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>137</b>	140	158	<b>161</b>	<b>158</b>
GA	142	146	139	190	174	147	132	147	157	154	141	145
HI	<b>52</b>	56	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	81	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>
ID	75	93	102	125	156	176	132	105	104	75	81	80
IL	103	97	118	164	184	136	128	123	141	127	105	100
IN	73	77	86	125	<b>189</b>	139	119	107	125	121	81	72
IA	36	64	81	121	204	114	103	109	112	91	73	<b>68</b>

STATE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
KS	102	101	122	164	225	139	146	155	136	144	103	103
KY	100	31	111	101	176	134	126		81	117	<b>30</b>	37
LA	119	125	141	209	144	143	131	110	118	126	112	95
ME	57			68	178	123	91	65	81	85	74	61
MD	135		136	108	206	177	174		115		120	
MA	77	91	101	101	<b>185</b>	151	128	98	102	108	94	90
MI	74	91	102	121	203	189	149	141	152	124	97	81
MN	63		<b>92</b>		204	151	<b>90</b>	148	136	<b>56</b>	46	
MS			140	175	171	125		74			102	
MO		<b>88</b>	<b>115</b>	152	208	125			82	<b>87</b>	102	
MT	71	76		91	147	192	174	128	<b>86</b>		58	
NE	83	79	98	129	<b>203</b>	133			135	115	97	86
NV			<b>139</b>	124	162	133	127	75	74		<b>121</b>	<b>99</b>
NH	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	77	117	170	151	141	108	116	109	92	71
NJ	109	76	113	146	229	164	148	136	144	128	125	118
NM	116	<b>97</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>178</b>	200	111	138	177	170	105	93	100
NY	80	64	94	126	<b>202</b>	<b>158</b>	131	128	118	118	87	69
NC	<b>82</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>87</b>	167	184	93	106	110	80	97	113	84
ND				106	167	126	122	<b>131</b>				
OH	<b>82</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>98</b>	125	205	<b>152</b>	134	130	119	114	<b>98</b>	<b>85</b>
OK	85	95	104	177	180	78	76	105	129	117	92	75
OR	<b>112</b>			143	216	143	<b>175</b>	116	151			
PA		62	<b>66</b>	<b>107</b>	178	119	<b>110</b>	93	91	53	<b>74</b>	<b>50</b>
RI	92	87	88	105	159	123	113	85	88	106	98	90
SC	121	110	141	179	177	148	129	131	134	137	128	126
SD	42	41	82	89	175	107	154	102	108	91	69	49
TN	100	107	111	151	174	115	116	120	117	117	102	100
TX	<b>174</b>	<b>175</b>	213	258	203	165	163	165	161	165	<b>174</b>	<b>176</b>
UT		84	89	117	202	148	147	128	92			
VT	53	55		<b>122</b>	157	<b>162</b>	139	151	132	107		74
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	54	40	53		140	115	68	46	64	44	51	52
WI	76	94	112	172	230	147	<b>157</b>	186	194	158	137	93
WY	46	47	49	103	180	109	141		81	63	70	