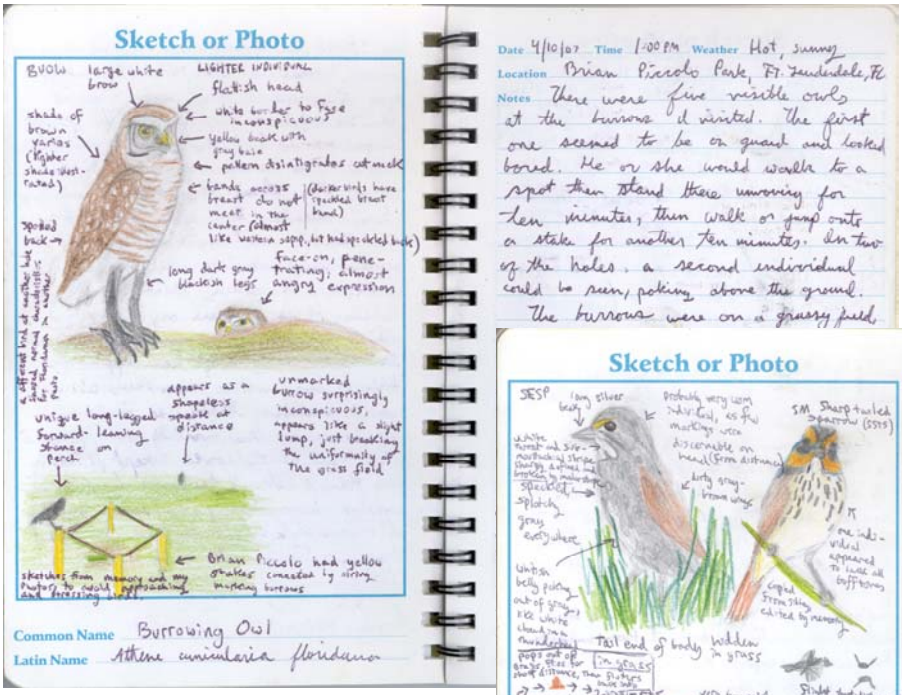
Second Place Field Notebook
Age 14-18

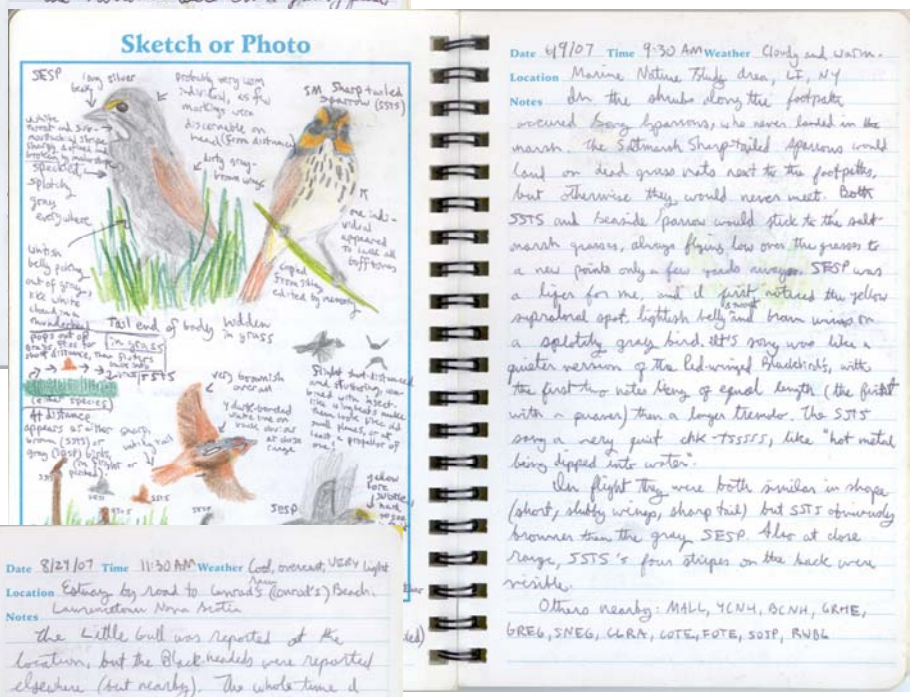
Brendan Fogarty
Garden City, New York



Sketch or Photo

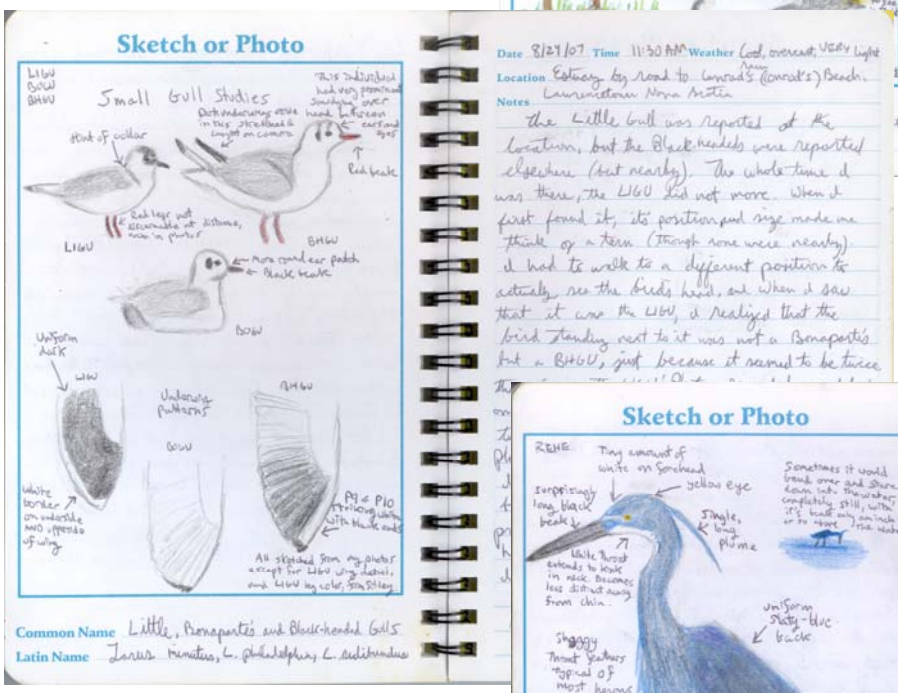
Date 4/10/07 Time 1:00 PM Weather Hot, sunny
Location Brian Piccolo Park, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Notes There were five visible owls at the burrows I visited. The first one seemed to be on guard and looked bored. He or she would walk to a spot then stand there unmoving for ten minutes, then walk or jump onto a stake for another ten minutes. In two of the holes, a second individual could be seen, peking above the ground. The burrows were on a grassy field

Common Name Burrowing Owl
Latin Name Athene cunicularia floridana



Sketch or Photo

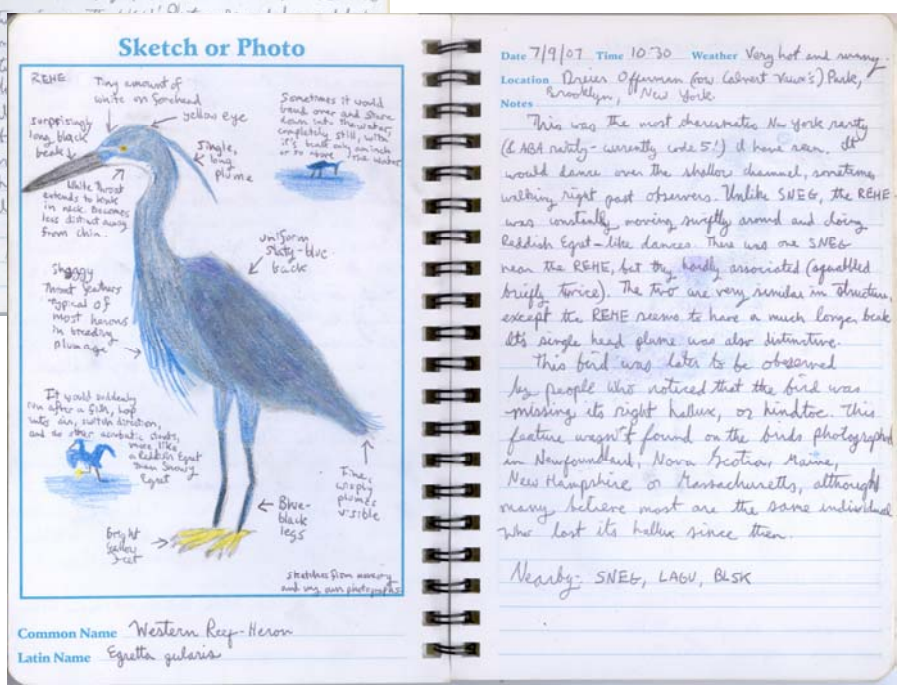
Date 4/9/07 Time 9:30 AM Weather Cloudy and warm.
Location Marine Nature Study area, LI, NY
Notes In the shrubs along the footpath occured Song Sparrows, who never landed in the marsh. The Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows could land on dead grass ends next to the footpaths, but otherwise they would never meet. Both SSTS and Seaside Sparrow would stick to the salt-marsh grasses, always flying low over the grasses to a new points only a few yards away. SESP was a lifer for me, and I first noticed the yellow supraloral spot, lightish belly and brown wings on a splotchy gray bird. It's song was like a quieter version of the Red-winged Blackbird's, with the first two notes being of equal length (the first with a pause) then a longer trender. The SSTS sang a very quiet chk-tsssss, like "hot metal being dipped into water".
In flight they were both similar in shape (short, stubby wings, sharp tail) but SSTS obviously browner than the grey SESP. Also at close range, SSTS's four stripes on the back were visible.
Others nearby: MALL, YCNH, BCNH, GRHE, GREG, SNEG, GLRA, COTE, FOTE, SOSP, RNBL



Sketch or Photo

Date 8/27/07 Time 11:30 AM Weather Cool, overcast, VERY light
Location Estuary by road to Conrad's (now Conrad's) Beach, Lawrencetown Nova Scotia
Notes The Little Gull was reported at the location, but the Black-headed were reported elsewhere (but nearby). The whole time I was there, the LIGU did not move. When I first found it, its position and size made me think of a tern (though none were nearby). I had to walk to a different position to actually see the bird's head, and when I saw that it was the LIGU, I realized that the bird standing next to it was not a Bonaparte's but a BHGU, just because it seemed to be twice

Common Name Little, Bonaparte's and Black-headed Gulls
Latin Name Larus minutus, L. philadelphia, L. ridibundus



Sketch or Photo

Date 7/9/07 Time 10:30 Weather Very hot and sunny
Location Prospect Park (Lefferts Park) Park, Brooklyn, New York
Notes This was the most cheeseburgers New York rarity (& ABA rarity - currently code 5!) I have seen. It would dance over the shallow channel, sometimes walking right past observers. Unlike SNEG, the REHE was constantly moving swiftly around and doing Reddish Egret-like dances. There was one SNEG near the REHE, but they hardly associated (squabbled briefly twice). The two are very similar in structure, except the REHE seems to have a much longer beak. It's single head plume was also distinctive.
This bird was later to be observed by people who noticed that the bird was missing its right hallux, or hindtoe. This feature wasn't found on the birds photographed in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Maine, New Hampshire or Massachusetts, although many believe most are the same individual who lost its hallux since then.
Nearby: SNEG, LAGU, BLSK

Common Name Western Reef-Heron
Latin Name Egretta gularis