

ALBERTA #1 – 1 Jun 05- 0000 to 2330 – Species Totals 174/172; (Team/Shared): Yousif Attia 172, Jody Allair 172. 1104 Kilometers by car, 1.5 kilometers by foot. *Visiting:* Cold Lake PP and area, Bonnyville, Kehewin Lake, Gooseberry Lake PP, Youngstown area, Irricana area, Drumheller area (McMullen Island), Canmore (Harvie Heights), Banff NP. *Species of note:* Yellow-breasted Chat (R), American White Pelican (M), Upland Sandpiper (M,S), Say's Phoebe (M,S), Blue Jay (M,S), Marsh Wren (M), Brown Thrasher (M).

On Tuesday, 31 May 2005, Jody Allair and Yousif Attia headed to Cold Lake Provincial Park for our second Alberta Big Day attempt. The initial plan was to spend a day scouting and birding the Cold Lake area and to do the Big Day on Thursday, 2 June. The forecast, however, left us with no choice but to do it a day earlier (1 June), hoping we could work around the storms that were developing all over the province. We made slight route modifications and a stricter schedule, which meant we should hit all three ecoregions in the province – boreal, prairie, and mountain. That was easier said than done.

We arrived in the park campground at 2330 and set the tent up on a warm, clear, and calm northern evening (ideal for owling). With headlamps and a lantern we made last-minute plans for the following morning's route. Just as we wrapped up the maps and notes, a distant Northern Saw-whet Owl began calling. Both of us immediately checked our watches to find it was 0002 and our Big Day had already begun. It was as if the owl were wishing us luck, and reminding us we needed to get some sleep. We added a further four species from the tent before power-napping to the saw-whet's lullaby.

Just 2.5 hours later, at exactly 0300, we were in the car on our way to our first location, a fen along Ethel Lake Road is west of the park for rails, owls and pre-dawners. The spot did not fail us and at least three Yellow Rails were already clicking away when we got out of the car. It wasn't long before a Sedge Wren called just once, our cue to move on. We worked our way north on the Primrose Highway, stopping at various locations and picking up American Bittern, Connecticut Warbler (several), Virginia Rail and others. We stopped at a location where we had Nashville Warbler the previous year but it did not show. The consolation prize was Gray Jay and Orange-crowned Warbler, both of which were missed in 2004. A Barred Owl that started calling at 0430 was our 40th species. As light broke, we made our way to a yard where Evening Grosbeaks were supposed to be coming to a feeder. The grosbeaks weren't there, but we did collect a Cape May Warbler en route and a surprising Sprague's Pipit calling overhead.

It was time to head back to the park for the remaining warblers and waterfowl. The weather conditions were absolutely ideal, with no wind and a clear sky. We tallied all the regulars one by one, trying to save time by listening while scoping the lake from the boat launch. We both got onto three flying Greater Scaup, which made the distant identification possible. A short walk through the trail from the boat launch parking lot gave us looks at a stunning Blackburnian Warbler, one of the few we actually got a visual on. Another stop at Hall's Lagoon gave us Pied-billed Grebe (a big miss last year) and a Red-breasted Merganser on the lake. We left the park at 0630 with 86 species.

A drive-by to our Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeder was a bust and it was time to gas-up and coffee-up in town. We made our way to Jessie Lake in Bonnyville for shorebirds. The water was just too high and the spot that made our Big Day last year looked like it would break us this year. Nevertheless we collected some waterfowl and Purple Martins then made our way south. Our spirits were rejuvenated with three Sandhill Cranes flying low over the highway just as we left Bonnyville. A stop north of the intersection of 28A and 41 produced a Merlin and our only Bonaparte's Gull of the day.

We pulled into the Kehewin Lake area for our parkland birds with continuing ideal weather conditions. The lake had Osprey, Common and Forster's Tern, and Great Blue Heron. A drive around the west side of the lake produced everything expected. The Great Crested Flycatcher was calling exactly where he was supposed to be and two Philadelphia Vireos were spotted while listening to him. The drive out produced great looks at a Broad-winged Hawk and we left the parkland with 118 species just after 0900.

The long drive south on Highway 41 was the chance for one of us to catch some much needed sleep, as there were only two of us for driving. We pulled into Gooseberry Lake PP (north of Consort) at around 1130. There were hundreds of small shorebirds on the mudflats, but most were too far away to identify and the heat haze was beginning to accumulate. The majority of the birds near enough to identify were Sanderling, with a few Semipalmated and Least sandpipers. It would take too much time to access other parts of the lake, so we had to leave the mudflats. We knew shorebirds would make or break our day, but we wouldn't give up so easily. There was still a chance we could catch some migrants on the drive west. The woods around the park produced Lark Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Downy Woodpecker and a Yellow-breasted Chat at the park entrance, which inspired us to continue our effort.

The weather seemed to be deteriorating, with scattered showers visible in the distance. A huge bonus was a Short-eared Owl sitting on a fence post as we approached our prairie stop. We took secondary 884 to a location where we'd had Upland Sandpiper

and Ferruginous Hawk on the drive up. We arrived just after a small shower passed through and the sun was coming out, leaving us in a windless prairie landscape. The birds were singing all over the place. At one point the Sprague's Pipits were so numerous and loud that we could hardly hear anything else. The Ferruginous Hawk showed on cue and we scoped the fields, picking up displaying McCown's and Chestnut-colored longspurs. The sandpiper was not re-found however.

We took Highway 9 west toward Drumheller for badland birds. It was our second long stretch of drive and it was my turn to nap, waking up only for a Loggerhead Shrike along the railway. We pulled into Horseshief lookout where we heard Rock Wren, Spotted Towhee and Ring-necked Pheasant. A Turkey Vulture was spotted as we pulled into McMullen Island for Wood Ducks that Jody had staked out. We headed to his neighborhood where House Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Western Wood-Pewee were all much needed additions. We scanned desperately for Say's Phoebe on the drive out of the canyon but didn't luck out. We left Drumheller at exactly 1600 with 153 species. A set of sloughs west of Beiseker added lingering Stilt Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher. A last-minute decision to drive through the Irricana area for possible shorebirds and missed prairie birds added Horned Grebe, Red-necked Phalarope, Gray Partridge and Grasshopper Sparrow.

We worked our way west along secondary 567 to the foothills, finally spotting a Cinnamon Teal in a pothole north of Airdrie. A much-needed coffee and gas-up at Cochrane and we were on our way to the mountains with less than three hours of light left. Although we didn't find any late migrant waterfowl on Ghost Reservoir or Lac Des Arc, the weather seemed to be in our favor when we arrived just as the rain left. A productive stop in Harvie Heights gave us a number of new birds including Rufous Hummingbird, Townsend's Warbler, Purple Finch and Hairy Woodpecker. A Sharp-shinned Hawk calling from its nest was our 165th species, beating our previous record.

Entering Banff NP, we made a quick stop at Vermilion Lakes for Bald Eagle and Violet-green Swallows. A little persistent scoping on the lake produced two Northern Rough-winged Swallows, breaking 170. With time ticking away now, we had to really move and make quick functional stops. Muleshoe added Hammond's Flycatcher and Belted Kingfisher but other targets were not seen or heard. We strained to listen for either Mountain or Boreal chickadee but neither showed. Johnston Canyon did not have an American Dipper for us and it was beginning to rain. On our final check on the river west of Castle Junction, Jody spotted a magnificent male Harlequin Duck sleeping under the bridge in the fading overcast light. Although we listened desperately for a late calling Varied Thrush, the Harlequin would be our last bird.

Absolutely drained, but satisfied, we set up our tent at the Lake Louise campground in a semi-conscious state ending the effort at 2330.

ALBERTA #2 – 17 May 08- 0730 to 2000 – Species Totals 105/105; (Team/Shared): Michelle Manly 105, Curtis Manly 105. 90 Kilometers by car, 4 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Essentially Zone 3 of the Brooks/Lake Newell May Species Count circle (roughly one mile southwest of Cassils), with stops outside the zone that included Kitsim Res., Tillebrook PP, Rolling Hills area, Bow River overlook. *Species of note:* Whimbrel (R), Eastern Kingbird (M), Bank Swallow (M), Common Yellowthroat (M).

Comments: Over \$ 3000.00 (Canadian Dollars) was raised in support of Bird Studies Canada and Beaverhill Lake Bird Observatory.

ALBERTA #3 – 27 Dec 08- 0705 to 1732 – Species Totals 36/36; (Team/Shared): Terry Korolyk 36. 336 kilometers by car, 1 kilometer by foot. *Visiting:* Langdon Res., western feedlots (Strathmore), west of Langdon, Calgary Southview, Glenmore Trail Bridge, Calgary parkland, East Fish Creek PP, and hills south of Calgary. *Species of note:* American Robin (L), Horned Lark (S), Eurasian Collared-Dove (S), Snow Bunting (S), Red-winged Blackbird (S).

I hoped for some time in December to attempt a Big Day (early December in this area would be preferred), but I couldn't find the time. In fact, this December was turning out to be one of the toughest in years for southern Alberta, with bone-chilling temperatures and snow that at times seemed as though it would never stop falling. It was one of the coldest Christmas Bird Counts (14 Dec) ever for Calgary with daytime temperatures at -25° C and steam off the Bow River in Calgary severely hampering waterfowl counts.

The forecast for 27 December was for a high of 2° C, at last a break in the cold. I decided to "take a run" at the Alberta Big Day record of 41, hoping that I would be able to pick up enough species in all the traveling to break the record.

I pulled out of the parkade where I lived in Calgary at 0705 and the temperature then was -10° C, so obviously the Chinook had arrived. Only four minutes elapsed (0709) before I heard the chattering call of a Black-billed Magpie, but a crucial period followed

in which I was not able to pick up anything until 0858 when I found a flock of about 30 Snow Buntings east of Langdon Res., which is well east of Calgary. I was on my way to pick up Red-winged Blackbirds and a reported Rusty Blackbird at the Western feedlots just south of Stathmore.

After arriving at the Western feedlots, the Red-winged Blackbirds (3) appeared after a short wait. I waited longer for the Rusty Blackbird (15-20 minutes). I could wait no longer, and had to leave without it, given the limited daylight hours now. I headed back towards Calgary, stopping at a birding oasis west of Langdon where there was a flock of Eurasian Collared-Doves, but it also produced Common Redpoll, Blue Jay, and Black-capped Chickadee.

Still, all this driving on the prairie had not produced birds such as Prairie Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, and Short-eared Owl, which could be found there on most Calgary-area winters. I decided to check the Calgary landfill for a Prairie Falcon I had found there on the Calgary CBC. It was not there.

It was on towards the Blow River in Calgary, where I picked up House Finch and Northern Flicker in the Southview subdivision of Calgary, then proceeded to the Glamore Trail Bridge where I picked up six species, including a male Hooded Merganser, a Redhead, and 3-4 American Crows. The crows were a surprise here and this meant I would not have to try and pick up a staked-out pair in Calgary later.

Now in the early afternoon, I decided to head for Lake Bonavista anyway to try and get an adult male Cooper's Hawk that had been hanging around. I couldn't find him. I didn't have to worry about a route I regularly travel through the Parkland area of Calgary. I hit it rich in Parkland with a Northern Shrike and a hoped-for, but unexpected, male American Robin – the bird of the day.

The hard winter and large number of Bald Eagles patrolling the Bow River had probably taken their toll on overwintering waterfowl, and I could find none of the unusual species (Gadwall, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, etc.) in Fish Creek PP that are usually found there in small numbers in a normal winter. Six male Barrow's Goldeneyes amongst other waterfowl in a short stretch of river was a nice sight, one of the nicer ones of the day.

Now running out of time in late afternoon, although finding almost all the basic species, I still hadn't even seen a Bald Eagle or Rough-legged Hawk. I had to charge up Deerfoot Trail to see Bald Eagles, but then due to the harshness of the winter, I had to head for the hills south of Calgary to find a Rough-legged Hawk. My final hopes were for Pine Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, Boreal Chickadee, Northern Pygmy-Owl, and possibly American Three-toed and Pileated Woodpeckers in the west end of Fish Creek as daylight waned. I had seen the grosbeaks, waxwings, and pygmy-owl here the day before, but a Great Horned Owl perched at the top of a sage in the twilight at 1720 was the final bird of the Big Day.

I could find nothing else and packed it in at 1737 with a total of 36 species, short of the Alberta December record of 41. The harshness of the winter probably made the difference, forcing out species that area usually found here in December, such as large falcons, Northern Harriers, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, etc.

Having to travel far eastward to pick up winter prairie species such as Snow Bunting, etc. was probably a trade-off for species such as Pine Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, crossbills, and others that reside in the foothills and mountains to the west, but still, the weather, I thought, made the difference. Given normal weather conditions and more luck, I probably could have come in at about 45 species at least. More than 45 species probably would have been the outcome given an earlier December Big Day date.

MANITOBA #1 – 28 May 08- 0000 to 2400 – Species Totals 208/204; (Team/Shared): Cal Cuthbert 205, Ken DeSmet 205, Rudolf Koes 208, Adam Walley 207. 1009 Kilometers by car, 8 kilometers by foot. *Visiting:* Douglas Marsh, Riding Mountain NP, Brandon, Elgin, Whitewater Lake, Souris River, Lyleton, Melita. *Species of note:* Greater White-fronted Goose (L), Ross's Goose (L), Horned Grebe (M), Alder Flycatcher (M), Willow Flycatcher (M), Connecticut Warbler (M), Mourning Warbler (M), Baird's Sparrow (M), Black-headed Grosbeak (R).

This was the first of two serious attempts at regaining the Canadian Big Day record, which was set by two Ontarians in Manitoba in 2006. Originally planned for around 21 May, the late spring pushed the date back a week, which turned out to be still early.

Midnight found us at Douglas Marsh. It was calm, clear and mild: perfect weather. Sora, Yellow and Virginia rails, American Bittern, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and a distant Great Horned Owl made for a good start. The drive to Riding Mountain NP was uneventful. Adam's scouting in the park in the days leading up to the Big Day paid off in the form of Barred and Northern Saw-whet owls, American Woodcock and Common Nighthawk, plus a fine display of Northern Lights. Towards dawn we headed for Agassiz Ski Hill Road. Here it was cold - around freezing - with a strong wind blowing down the escarpment. Fortunately this was just a local phenomenon and not an indication of weather to come during the day. Slowly species were added, including Olive-sided Fly-

catcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Indigo Bunting and Evening Grosbeak. We returned to the park for other stake-outs, including Spruce Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker at a nest, Boreal Chickadee, and so on. A forced march along a trail took valuable time, but resulted in Orange-crowned and Palm warblers, which we had missed so far. We left the park in late morning with a respectable list, although a few flycatchers and warblers were obvious misses.

At the Brandon Sewage Lagoons - an appropriate lunch spot - we added Snow and Ross's geese, plus a host of other waterfowl, but Common Terns and a vagrant Violet-green Swallow, present a couple of days earlier, had departed. The next stop was the dump, where we had our only Herring and California gulls of the day. Brandon itself was good for nesting Peregrine Falcon and House Finch. Here we also switched vehicles. Ken had discovered an ephemeral water body with lots of shorebirds near Elgin; it proved to be excellent and as a result we didn't have to search much at Whitewater Lake later. A Ducks Unlimited project near Dand delivered a bonus Greater White-fronted Goose. More shorebirds were added at the west side of Whitewater Lake, and then we found a Ferruginous Hawk nest and a few Cattle Egrets, while the south side of the lake gave us several distant ibis (presumed White-faced).

En route to the extreme southwest of the province, we stopped along the Souris River where a Black-headed Grosbeak - a rare bird in Manitoba - was present for the third year in a row. Here we also added Belted Kingfisher and Northern Rough-winged Swallow. On the way to Lyleton we noted several Ring-necked Pheasants, Gray Partridge and Say's Phoebe, while town itself was good for Eurasian Collared-Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl and Orchard Oriole. Other specialties in the area were Burrowing and Long-eared owls, Loggerhead Shrike, Mountain Bluebird, Sprague's Pipit, Grasshopper Sparrow and Chestnut-collared Longspur. We tried hard for Willow Flycatcher and Baird's Sparrow, to no avail, and nothing was added on the long drive back to Brandon.

Still, 208 species was a new high for us and a new Canadian record for May. As a bonus, we tallied a fine list of 15 mammal species, including Mule Deer, Moose and Elk. Best of all was a brief look we had at a Marten at Riding Mountain.

MANITOBA #2 – 31 May 08- 0000 to 2300 – Species Totals 214/209; (Team/Shared): Rudolf Koes 213, Peter Taylor 210, Adam Walley 213. 929 kilometers by car, 8 kilometers by foot. *Visiting:* Douglas Marsh, Riding Mountain NP, Brandon, Elgin, Whitewater Lake, Souris River, Lyleton, Melita. *Species of note:* Greater White-fronted Goose (L), Ross's Goose (M), Clark's Grebe (R), Snowy Egret (R), Burrowing Owl (M), Chimney Swift (R), Willow Flycatcher (M), Baird's Sparrow (M), Black-headed Grosbeak (R).

After the successful Big Day effort of 28 May, Adam and Rudolf were keen to give it another shot. Cal and Ken had other commitments, but Peter Taylor, who had bowed out on the 28th due to space limitations in the vehicles, came on board hoping to finally break the magical 200 species barrier. Although our route was similar to the first effort, by using the earlier scouting of Adam and Ken, plus the experience gained on the 28, we were able to tighten it up in such a manner that we ran out of birds to get before we ran out of time. As a bonus, the weather remained excellent all day.

Our start was again at Douglas Marsh where we found three rail species, but we had to make a number of stops en route to Riding Mountain before we managed to tally our one-and-only American Bittern of the day. Hoped-for owls and other nightbirds at Riding Mountain NP cooperated, so that we ran ahead of schedule and decided to make a detour in the hopes of finding Great Gray Owl. It proved to be a good move, because we briefly heard a bird at a traditional spot southeast of the park. Passerines at the Agassiz Ski Hill road came at a slow, but steady pace. A pair of Chimney Swifts was unexpected, although they were known to have nested here in the past. At 0800, the list stood at 100 species. Returning to the park, a wolf crossed our path. Spruce Grouse and American Three-toed Woodpeckers were added, an Alder Flycatcher sang (our first of spring), a Sharp-shinned Hawk flushed off a trail, and most of the gaps in the list of warblers were filled in. The long hike along Clear Lake, so productive with migrants a few days ago, was very quiet, but at the start we spotted an Osprey and the far end had Common Merganser and Bonaparte's Gull. Several Horned Grebes were noted in sloughs en route to Brandon. This species had been a notable miss on the 28th. At the Brandon Sewage Lagoons we once again had lunch. The slightly-injured Ross's Goose, seen earlier, could not be found, a real disappointment. Wetlands near Elgin and at the west side of Whitewater Lake still had large numbers of shorebirds, and a scan of the lake nearby resulted in a Clark's Grebe, a bonus bird. Near the lake's observation mound we found White-faced Ibis, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Snowy Egret, while the Souris River valley again produced Belted Kingfisher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Peter had been pessimistic about breaking 200, given the numerous times that our efforts had stalled around 198 in the past, but by 1900 we had broken the barrier and we still had to do the Lyleton/Melita area with its southwestern specialties. Ring-necked Pheasant, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Say's Phoebe, Sprague's Pipit,

Grasshopper Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur; one by one they were added. Unfortunately, the staked-out Burrowing Owl was nowhere to be found, nor could we find Willow Flycatcher or Baird's Sparrow. The latter species has taken a real nosedive in the province recently. With light fading and at 214 species, we had run out of possibilities. However, the record was ours again and the celebratory beer at the Melita Motor Hotel sure tasted good afterwards!

ONTARIO #1 – 5 Sep 08- 0512 to 2030 – Species Totals 115/109; (Team/Shared): Paul Mackenzie 114, Kurt Hennige 114, Darren Rayner 116, Erwin Batalla 111. 408 Kilometers by car, 5 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: Prince Edward Point Important Bird Area, Presqu'île PP, Amherst Island, Kingston Field Naturalists' Property. *Species of note*: Buff-breasted Sandpiper (R), Black Tern (L), Warbling Viteo (M), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (M).

Comments: The team actually observed 119 species on the day, but to conform to the 95% rule, four species were removed from their total.

ONTARIO #2 – 1 Dec 08- 0615 to 1600 – Species Totals 61/58; (Team/Shared): Kurt Hennige 61, Darren Rayner 61, Erwin Batalla 59, Paul Mackenzie 59. 94 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot, 1 kilometer by ferry. *Visiting*: Wolfe Island, Elevator Bay, Bath, Cartwright Point. *Species of note*: Ross's Goose (R), Red-winged Blackbird (M), Song Sparrow (M).

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND – 19 Apr 08- 0300 to 1430 – Species Totals 69/68; (Team/Shared): Dwaine Oakley 69, David Seeler 68. 413 Kilometers by car, 1.5 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: no locations submitted. *Species of note*: Northern Saw-whet Owl (M), Blue-winged Teal (M), Lesser Black-backed Gull (M).

Comments: This represents a new and first Big Day for the month of April on Prince Edward Island.

QUEBEC – 6 May 07- 0000 to 2400 – Species Totals 175/173; (Team/Shared): Olivier Barden 174, Guy Lemelin 173. 622 Kilometers by car, 12 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: St.-Étienne-de-Lauzon, Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area, Charlevoix region, Quebec City, Portneuf, Baie-du-Febvre area. *Species of note*: Black Scoter (L), Sora (M), Eastern Screech-Owl (R), Northern Mockingbird (R), Common Redpoll (L).

There is no hiding that an important motivational factor behind this Big Day was the fact that Ontarian residents had detained the record for four years. Guy Lemelin agreed to temporarily come out of Big Day retirement and attempt this somewhat insane adventure with myself (Olivier Barden). After a fruitful week of scouting, the weather and the timing seemed right to set the date for Saturday 26 May. With the exception of dark clouds by the name of "terrible shorebird migration" lingering over us, we had a feeling we'd get a species-rich harvest heavy enough to bust the record.

Our first tick came in the first minute of the 26th, a Spotted Sandpiper peet-weeting in the sky over St-Étienne-de-Lauzon, where we also had Whip-poor-wills, American Woodcocks and a single Northern Saw-whet Owl. A Common Nighthawk in Quebec City's port gave us a much-appreciated confirmation that the last of the migrants had indeed arrived.

Cap Tourmente lived up to its reputation and easily produced us over 100 species in the morning hours, including 22 species of warbler, Barred Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, and two Northern Mockingbirds. Migration was decent, but not phenomenal as it often is in late May. While our ears enjoyed Eastern Bluebird and Gray-cheeked Thrush in the early stages of dawn, a fellow birder was enjoying Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Yellow Rail nearby.

We headed into the fir-dominated forest of hilly Charlevoix at St-Cassien-des-Caps under the strong sun with 115 species in hand. Breeders such as White-winged Crossbill, Boreal Chickadee and Sharp-shinned Hawk were detected, but a Common Redpoll was downright perplexing for the date.

A dip into the St. Lawrence estuary at St-Irénée produced single Glaucous, Iceland and Lesser Black-backed gulls in a single scope view. The usual saltwater species were unusually difficult to detect with strong diffraction over the water, Black Guillemot and Razorbill required more effort than expected. The Malbaie River mouth was nowhere as spectacular as its potential, producing only Black-legged Kittiwake and both Goldeneyes (Common and Barrow's). We left the Charlevoix region with a slight bitter taste and 75 minutes behind schedule.

Suddenly, our luck started clicking. Stops at the Laval University campus, nearby St-Augustin and Neuville produced virtually all potential day ticks almost instantly upon arrival. Portneuf was the unexpected star location with seven additional ticks, including Red-throated Loon and Bonaparte's Gull, both virtually guaranteed in Charlevoix but somehow missed. Our combined total suddenly rose to 159 by 1830. Our arrival at Baie-du-Febvre quickly boosted our list with species such as Purple Martin, Black Tern, and some much-needed shorebirds. At #167, a female Wilson's Phalarope allowed us to clinch the record with class. This sunset push lasted until 2120, when a Least Bittern

began singing from the huge cattail marsh on military land.

An annoying easterly wind which rose at the onset of darkness prevented us from bug-ging anything other than Virginia Rails into calling at Port-St-François. However, an unexpected Eastern Screech-Owl (#175) vocalized. The lure of Black-billed Cuckoos and Great Horned Owls pushed us onward into the night. Slightly intoxicated by unhealthy energy drinks, the driver (and narrator) hallucinated a tractor on the road ahead and whizzes by two well-marked gas stations as the needle dangerously approached "E". Dazed and confused in unknown territory, I was forced to turn back and abandon the *Coccyzus* quest. A last ditch effort at 2356 at a highway exit produced nothing more than the glory of having actually birded tape-to-tape from one midnight to the next. Guy, with 42 consecutive sleepless hours in bank, wasn't so thrilled by my impromptu pull-over.

Pushing the provincial record forth by no fewer than nine species may seem like a once-in-a-decade chance, but I am convinced Quebec Big Days can produce even more. A score of fairly easy species were missed, and only 13 species of shorebirds were seen (versus 21 on a Big Day 27 May 2002 with a fairly similar route). Running the same itinerary during a good shorebird spring should allow a team to break the 180 species mark.

SASKATCHEWAN – 1 Jun 08- 0000 to 2200 – Species Totals 202/198; (Team/Shared): Tom Hince 201, Paul Pratt 199. 1191 Kilometers by car, 2 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: Turtle Lakes, Luck Lake, Cypress Hills PP, Eastend. *Species of note*: Wild Turkey (M), Broad-winged Hawk (R), American Kestrel (M), Yellow Rail (R), Least Sandpiper (M), Boreal Owl (R), Common Nighthawk (M), American Three-toed Woodpecker (R), Black-throated Green Warbler (M), Blackpoll Warbler (M), Western Tanager (M).

We arrived in Regina on the evening of the 26 May and spent the first couple of days in the southwest using Maple Creek and the center block of Cypress Hills as a base. We then moved north to the Battlefords and then Turtle Lake where we spent several nights. In terms of scouting, we had planned on doing our Big Day attempt on 2 June. The weather reports had initially suggested it was the best weather. However, on 31 May 31, the weather reports were all suddenly changed and at 1500 that afternoon we realized that by the far the best weather would be the following day. This wasn't good considering we were already short on sleep from owling the night before followed by dawn chorus without any sleep! In addition, we had a lot of areas still to scout. That said, by mid-afternoon we decided to go for it, and we were soon buying groceries for the Big Day. We hurriedly arranged a meeting with local expert Muriel Carlson, who kindly spent an hour with us in late afternoon. This proved extremely helpful, no doubt adding four or five key species to our route (thanks Muriel!). By 2100, we had unpacked the groceries and crawled into our rooms at the Turtle Lake lodge (a great base for exploring the area). Several hours of fitful sleep followed (with Tom waking every fifteen minutes to see if the horrid wind of the day had abated) and shortly before 2300 we were up and cooking breakfast. Shortly before midnight, we were packed into the car and soon rolling down the road to our first owling stop. By the time midnight struck the howling winds of the previous evening had dropped considerably. The first bird of the day was Sora. Indeed this was clearly the 'day of the Sora' with over a hundred heard during the day. As the night wore on, the winds diminished to near zero. This meant we had great listening conditions. The previous night we had heard a Great Gray Owl hooting consistently, but despite a lengthy stop at the same site, we were not able to pick it up. Still, this was more than compensated for as we got three Northern Saw-Whet Owls, four Great Horned Owls, one Barred owl, and one Boreal Owl! Other highlights of the night birding included Sedge and Marsh wrens, Nelson's Sharp-tailed and LeConte's sparrows, and both Virginia and Yellow rails (the latter at two sites). By 0400, we had already tallied a remarkable 45 species.

Dawn chorus was frosty but spectacular. There wasn't a breath of wind, the skies were clear, and because it was Sunday morning the roads were free of traffic noise. Highlights of the morning included Winter Wren (staked out), American Three-toed Woodpecker (staked out), Broad-winged Hawk (thanks Muriel), eighteen species of warblers, and Sandhill Cranes. We reached the century mark shortly before 0600. In fact our schedule worked so well that we stopped to brew a pot of coffee at our cabin shortly after. Why? Because the lake was still fogged in due to the cold weather and we needed several key birds there. After picking up Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak and Ruby-throated Hummingbird at a nearby feeder, we returned for our well deserved hot coffee. Given the freezing temperatures, it really helped kick us back in gear. Another highlight of the morning was a still wet newborn White-tailed Deer fawn that dropped and froze, still allowing us to approach within inches - a remarkable experience.

The coffee break gave time for the fog to lift and checking the lake now picked up White-winged Scoter, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Forster's Tern, Bonaparte's, California and Herring gulls and American White Pelican. We now headed south, stopping to pick up Great Crested Flycatcher, a fortuitous Boreal Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, and a few other deciduous forest species.

Heading south from Turtle Lake, we worked a grid of side roads down to the Battlefords. Enroute, we hit several sloughs and open field habitats picking up a lingering Ross's Goose, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Warbling Vireo and Turkey Vulture. Just before the

Battlefords, a productive slough we had scouted out netted us Pectoral, White-rumped, Stilt and Semipalmated sandpipers, and nearby our only Black-crowned Night-Heron. A lone Snow Goose along the bypass in the Battlefords brought our total to 159 species at 1015. A quick check of the list showed we had a great chance of breaking the provincial record but we had a lot of ground to cover (and we never trust weather reports).

Next up was a long drive that took us directly to Luck Lake. Good additions there included Red-necked Phalarope, Black-bellied, Semipalmated and Piping plovers, Baird's Sandpiper and Hooded Merganser. We left at around 1400 with 172 species. Enroute to Sask Landing PP, we added Loggerhead Shrike and Burrowing Owl (staked out). The PP didn't produce the Caspian Terns present a few days earlier, but a fly-by Prairie Falcon lifted the list to 175 species.

We now had a dilemma. We had no idea what the grid roads would be like taking a cross country route to Bigstick (our grassland spot). We debated taking the Trans-Canada over and up or just taking gravel cross country. In the end, we opted for the unknown

cross country route, hoping we would add some drive by species. This was a great choice. The roads were in good shape and we added four species: Say's Phoebe, Gray Partridge, Golden Eagle and Lark Bunting. At Bigstick, we quickly picked up Upland Sandpiper, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, and Baird's and Grasshopper sparrows. Once in Maple Creek, a lone Eurasian Collared-Dove was our 186th species, tying the highest Big Day previously recorded for the province.

Our next stop was the Cypress Hills center block. This was probably the only slow area of the day and bird song was in a lull when we arrived. Still our scouting paid off and we were able to dig out eleven new species by the time we left the park at 1915. The remainder of the evening was spent working our way over to Eastend with a quick stop at Jones Peak. At the peak, Violet-green Swallow brought us to the magic 200 species total and Rock Wren made it 201. We wrapped up the day near the hamlet of Robsart listening to several displaying McCown's Longspurs - our 202nd and final species for the day.

To say we were pleased with this result would be a definite understatement. We were awed by the fantastic birding in the areas of Saskatchewan we visited, and we think the potential to go higher is still there!

2008 U.S. BIG DAYS

ALABAMA #1 – 19 Dec 08- 0430 to 1700 – Species Totals 110/110; (Team/Shared): Bailey McKay 110. 80 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Eufaula NWR. *Species of note:* none.

We started in Georgia for owls and rails and recorded Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, King Rail, and Sora which we did not record in Alabama, where we spent the rest of the day. As we wanted to set the January Big Day record for Alabama, we "eliminated" those birds from our list, officially beginning our Big Day when we crossed into Alabama. So while our Big Day is recorded as 110 species, we actually recorded 114 species.

ALABAMA #2 – 22 Dec 08- 0615 to 1745 – Species Totals 102/101; (Team/Shared): Jeff Garner 101, Damien Simbeck 102, Steve McConnell 102. 204 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Gunterville SP, Peninsula, and dam; Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Lawrence, and Colbert counties; Town Creek Marsh and Point; and Wheeler NWR. *Species of note:* Cooper's Hawk (M), Golden Eagle (R), Blue-winged Teal (R,S), Eastern Screech-Owl (M).

Comments: This represents a new Alabama record for December.

ARIZONA #1 – 28 Jan 06- 0020 to 2015 – Species Totals 150/149; (Team/Shared): Dylan Holstein-Radin 149, Richard C. Hoyer 149, Jake Mohlmann 150, John Yerger 150. 401 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Reid Park, Sweetwater Wetlands, MacCormick Ranch, Red Mountain Park, Gilbert Water Ranch, Santa Cruz Flats, Pinal Airpark Pecan Grove, Mount Lemmon. *Species of note:* Fulvous Whistling-Duck (V,S), Common Goldeneye (M), Eared Grebe (M), Least Bittern (M), Turkey Vulture (M), Greater Yellowlegs (M), Western Sandpiper (R), Ruddy Ground-Dove (V), Whiskered Screech-Owl (M), Burrowing Owl (M), Steller's Jay (M), Barn Swallow (E), Bushtit (M), Crissal Thrasher (M), Prairie Warbler (V,S), Wilson's Warbler (L), Rufous-winged Sparrow (M), Fox Sparrow (R), Streak-backed Oriole (V,S).

ARIZONA #2 – 26 Feb 06- 0018 to 1850 – Species Totals 164/161; (Team/Shared): Gavin Bieber 163, Dylan Holstein-Radin 162, Richard C. Hoyer 162, Jake Mohlman 163, John Yerger 162. 398 Miles by car, 2.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Mount Lemmon, Sonoita area, Patagonia Lake SP, Santa Cruz River in Tucson, Santa Cruz Flats. *Species of note:* Least Grebe (V,S), Black Vulture (M), Prairie Falcon (M), Magnificent Hummingbird (L,S), Williamson's Sapsucker (M), Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (E), Ash-throated Flycatcher (M), Hammond's Flycatcher (M), Dusky Flycatcher (M), Pacific-slope Flycatcher (L,S), Black-capped Gnatcatcher (V,S), Yellow Warbler (L,S), Wilson's Warbler (L,S), Sage Sparrow (M).

ARIZONA #3 – 25 Mar 06- 0020 to 1930 – Species Totals 162/162; (Team/Shared): Richard C. Hoyer 162, Jake Mohlmann 162, John Yerger 162. 396 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Carr Canyon, Ash Canyon Bed & Breakfast feeders, Elgin, Marian Paton's feeders, Patagonia Lake SP, Tubac, Avra Valley WTWP, Sweetwater Wetlands, Santa Cruz. *Species of note:* Least Grebe (M), Greater Pewee (E), Cliff Swallow (M), Rufous-winged Sparrow (M).

ARIZONA #4 – 17 Jun 06- 0015 to 2037 – Species Totals 171/171; (Team/Shared): Richard C. Hoyer 171, Keith Kamper 171, Jake Mohlmann 171. 511 Miles by car, 3 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Santa Catalina Mountains, Madera Canyon, Rio Rico Pond, Patagonia area, Carr Canyon, Miller Canyon, Willcox. *Species of note:* American Wigeon (L,S), Northern Shoveler (L,S), Canvasback (L,S), Redhead (L,S), Ring-necked Duck (L,S), Lesser Scaup (L), Western Grebe (L,S), Least Grebe (R,S), Cattle Egret (R), White-faced Ibis (L,S), Osprey (L), Harris's Hawk (M), Common Moorhen (M), Spotted Sandpiper (L), White-eared Hummingbird (R,S), Violet-green Swallow (M), Hooded Warbler (R), Flame-colored Tanager (M), Cassin's Sparrow (M), Yellow-headed Blackbird (L).

ARIZONA #5 – 12 Aug 06- 0023 to 1920 – Species Totals 184/177; (Team/Shared): Richard C. Hoyer 179, Jake Mohlmann 183, John Yerger 181. 388 Miles by car, 1.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Chiricahua Mountains, Lake Cochise, Benson Sewage Ponds, Beatty's Miller Canyon Guest Houses, Marion Paton's yard, Patagonia Lake SP, Keno Springs, Rio Rico, Avra Valley WTP. *Species of note:* Tricolored Heron (V,S), Snowy Plover (V), Band-tailed Pigeon (M), Greater Roadrunner (M), Costa's Hummingbird (M), Warbling Vireo (M), Hermit Thrush (M), Bendire's Thrasher (M), Virginia's Warbler (M).

ARIZONA #6 – 19 Nov 06- 0345 to 1830 – Species Totals 137/134; (Team/Shared): Richard C. Hoyer 135, Dylan Holstein-Radin 136, John Yerger 136, Jake Mohlmann 136. 390 Miles by car, 1.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Gilbert Water Ranch, Casa Grande Sewage Ponds, Santa Cruz Flats, Sweetwater Wetlands, Madera Canyon. *Species of note:* Bufflehead (M), Double-crested Cormorant (M), Harris's Hawk (M), Bonaparte's Gull (L), White-throated Swift (M), Bewick's Wren (M), Rufous-crowned Sparrow (M), Streak-backed Oriole (V,S).

ARIZONA #7 – 10 Feb 08- 0630 to 2400 – Species Totals 116/114; (Team/Shared): Devich Farbotnik 116, Billy Weber 114. 310 Miles by car, 1.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Santa Cruz Flats, Sweetwater Wetlands, Madera Canyon, Patagonia Lake SP, San Rafael Valley, Reid Park. *Species of note:* Black-capped Gnatcatcher (R,S).

Having traveled from Pennsylvania to the Tucson area to view a Crescent-chested Warbler in Madera Canyon, we noted the relatively low February Big Day number for the state. While we were aware of an unpublished total much higher than the "official" record, we decided to try our hand anyway (in lieu of flying to Texas for a certain celebrated elaenia). Our Big Day resulted in 116 species, fewer than we'd hoped but respectable, considering we left the Tucson area at noon. Highlights were a "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler in Red Rock, 36 Mountain Plovers at Western Sod, both rails (Virginian and Sora) at Sweetwater Wetlands, a male Lazuli Bunting at the Patons' feeders, one Black-capped Gnatcatcher and the two *Aechmophorus* grebes (Western and Clark's) at Patagonia Lake, and Western and Whiskered Screech-Owls calling together in Harshaw Canyon. The highlight, however, came on the highway south of Patagonia, when what first looked to be a line of cow-flops crossing the road turned out to be six Montezuma Quail, slouching adorably toward the double yellows. Working the San Rafael grasslands after dark, we did not hear any longspurs, but I got to add Northern Harrier to my "nocturnal list." Although the effort had begun rather bleakly with Devich steering us cheerily into opposing traffic on an off-ramp, it ended with a glorious late-

night visit to Tucson's Reid Park, where a surprisingly well-lit pond produced ten easily identifiable species of waterbirds, including Black-crowned Night-Herons and our only Redheads and Lesser Scaup of the day - more birds for the nocturnal list! The image of those drowsy waterfowl drifting across black water in an eerie glow would linger. Other finds we particularly appreciated (betraying our eastern bias) included White-tailed Kite, Harris's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Long-billed Curlew, Arizona Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Bendire's Thrasher, Painted Redstart, Lark Bunting, Yellow-eyed Junco, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

ARIZONA #8 – 8 May 08- 0000 to 2000 – Species Totals 191/184; (Team/Shared): Scott Schuette 187, Keith Kamper 188. 400 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Mount Lemmon, Madera Canyon, Patagonia Lake SP, Miller Canyon, Benson WTP, Willcox. *Species of note:* Common Merganser (L), Mississippi Kite (R).

COLORADO # 1 – 12 Jan 08- 0500 to 1830 – Species Totals 110/110; (Team/Shared): Mark Peterson 110, Brad Steger 110. 198 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* Fremont, Custer, Pueblo and El Paso counties. *Species of note:* Red-throated Loon (R), Yellow-billed Loon (R), Great Black-backed Gull (R), Carolina Wren (R), Golden-crowned Sparrow (R).

COLORADO #2 -30 Apr 08- 0300 to 2200 – Species Totals 152/149; (Team/Shared): Mark Peterson 151, Brad Steger 150, Tony Leukering 150. 441 Miles by car, 2.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Temple Canyon, Cañon City Riverwalk, Rocky Ford, Blue Lake, Cherau. *Species of note:* Glossy Ibis (R), Bald Eagle (R), Broad-winged Hawk (R), Short-billed Dowitcher (R), Caspian Tern (R), White-winged Dove (R), Inca Dove (R), Black Phoebe (R), Mountain Bluebird (M).

COLORADO #3 – 12 Sep 08- 0500 to 2000 – Species Totals 160/152; (Team/Shared): Brandon K. Percival 158, Mark Peterson 159, Brad Steger 155, Brian Steger 156. 355 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Fremont, Custer, Pueblo, Otero, Crowley, and El Paso counties. *Species of note:* Sooty Tern (V), Chestnut-sided Warbler (R), Prothonotary Warbler (R).

While doing the Big Day, we found Colorado's first state record Sooty Tern at Lake Holbrook, Otero County. The bird was seen here for a little while, and then later at Lake Meredith in Crowley County and was photographed. Thanks to Hurricane Gustav for this incredible first state record.

COLORADO #4 – 5 Oct 08- 0630 to 2000 – Species Totals 127/126; (Team/Shared): Mark Peterson 126, Brad Steger 127, Scott Shaum 127. 366 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* Crystal Park, Garden of the Gods, Chico Basin Ranch, Lake Holbrook, Blue Lake. *Species of note:* Cattle Egret (R), American Golden-Plover (R), Red Phalarope (R), Laughing Gull (R), Common Tern (R), White-winged Dove (R).

DELAWARE #1 – 2 Feb 08- 0300 to 1930 – Species Totals 103/103; (Team/Shared): Billy Weber 103. 205 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Brandywine Creek SP, Prime Hook NWR, Cape Henlopen SP, Indian River Inlet, Ted Harvey CA, Little Creek WMA, Bombay Hook NWR, Thousand Acre Marsh. *Species of note:* Ross's Goose (R), Mute Swan (M), Common Eider (R,S), Red-headed Woodpecker (R,S), Fish Crow (M), White-breasted Nuthatch (M), Lapland Longspur (R,S).

This was a classic February Delaware effort. I enjoyed a fair amount of luck all day, but ran out of light at the end, failing to reach the northern hotspots. The century mark is traditionally challenging in this state at this season; perhaps a later attempt would prove more successful. Highlights were a Ross's Goose in flight off Broadkill Road, a drake Redhead in the Canvasback flock on Silver Lake, six continuing Common Eiders at Indian River Inlet, a 2nd-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull in the bay off Broadkill Beach, seven (!) Short-eared Owls during daylight, a Northern Saw-whet Owl called in at each end of the day, the continuing immature Red-headed Woodpecker on Deep Branch Road, both Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting continuing on Cartanza Road, and a Virginia Rail heard after dark at Thousand Acre Marsh. Other nice finds included Great Cormorant, Purple Sandpiper, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Fox and White-crowned sparrows, and Rusty Blackbird.

DELAWARE #2 – 17 Feb 08- 0630 to 1630 – Species Totals 105/102; (Team/Shared): Colin Campbell 105, Rob Hynson 105, Alison Ellicott 103, Scott Henderson 102. 160 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Delaware City area, Route 9, Woodland Beach WMA, Bombay Hook NWR, Cartanza Road, Little Creek WMA, Ted Harvey CA, Prime Hook NWR, Cape Henlopen SP, Indian River Inlet. *Species of note:* Cooper's Hawk (M), Purple Sandpiper (M), Wilson's Snipe (R), Barn Owl (S), Red-headed Woodpecker (V), Gray Catbird (M), American Pipit (R), Fox Sparrow (M). *Comments:* After five attempts

to get 100 species in the state in February (the last month to achieve this), we met success. The group does no night birding and does not use tapes. We're a laid-back lot.

DELAWARE #3 – 21 Mar 08- 0600 to 2000 – Species Totals 109/109; (Team/Shared): Bill Weber 109, Billy Weber 109. 170 Miles by car, 0.5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Prime Hook NWR, Indian River Inlet, Cape Henlopen SP, Ted Harvey CA, Little Creek WMA, Bombay Hook NWR, Delaware City, Brandywine Creek SP. *Species of note:* none.

This was a satisfying, low-key Big Day with my dad. At Bombay Hook we found an "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow, uncommon that far up the Delaware Bay. Spring arrivals were around, including Blue-winged Teal, Great Egret, Osprey, Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, Tree Swallow, Pine Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. We had to work hard for Eastern Screech-Owl after dark. Since Dad feels somewhat awkward owling from public road shoulders, I enjoyed illuminating him in front of passing traffic.

DELAWARE #4 – 7 May 08- 0200 to 2000 – Species Totals 199/199; (Team/Shared): Steve Collins 199, Forrest Rowland 199. 325 Miles by car, 6 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Thousand Acre Marsh, Port Mahon, Bombay Hook NWR, Milford Neck, Mispillion Light, Redden State Forest, Prime Hook NWR, Cape Henlopen SP, Indian River Inlet, White Clay Creek SP. *Species of note:* Ruff (R), Willow Flycatcher (E), Belted Kingfisher (M).

Comments: This ties the highest Big Day for Delaware.

Forrest Rowland invited me to do a Big Day on Wednesday (7 May 2008) to my favorite birding destination: Delaware. I obviously could not refuse, so I took off work and headed to Delaware at 0030 to meet up with Forrest at 0200. We birded from 0200 to 2000 and got 199 species - tying the Delaware Big Day Record set in 1997. There were a few misses (ahem, Belted Kingfisher!), but we lucked out and had a really great day birding.

We started the night in Thousand Acre Marsh, where we quickly realized the night was likely to be good. Winds were 3-4 mile per hour out of the southwest and listening conditions were good. We heard Canada Goose, Great Blue Heron, Virginia Rail and American Coot (our only coot of the day). At another location, Sora and Common Moorhen sounded off within minutes of our arrival. One could say that Grier's Pond was especially quiet. Actually it wasn't quiet at all as the Swamp Sparrows and Marsh Wrens were singing up a storm and a Barred Owl called, but it was Least Bittern quiet. We spent at least 15 minutes here, cocking our ears in every conceivable angle in hopes of hearing the classic "ku-ku-ku" of the Least Bittern. After giving each side of the pond time, we were thinking about where else we could possibly get Least Bittern and were about to leave. Then we both heard it! Success!

While driving south on Route 9, six inches of water on the road caused some excitement, as we barreled directly through it. It was definitely due to the tide, and we were in a low spot: why not try for King Rail? While sitting in the middle of the road, we both jumped out of the car and lo and behold, a King Rail sounded off. That was serious luck.

To say that the Bullfrogs and Green Frogs at Finnis Pool are loud is like saying that a diesel truck engine is loud: "Loud" may be an inadequate word. Luckily we were able to pick out a calling Eastern Screech-Owl, the distant twittering of an American Woodcock, and flyover American Redstart and Blackpoll warblers. Birds were on the move.

Port Mahon was almost rail-less with the exception of Virginia. Clapper Rails were quiet, which was weird. Seaside and Swamp sparrows, Marsh Wrens and a distant Yellow-breasted Chat were singing. A fly-by Black-crowned Night-Heron let out a single "kaw," and a Wood Thrush, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and several Palm warblers called while flying overhead. The promise of neotropical migrants in the morning was exhilarating.

We were hoping for Black Rail at Pickering Beach; I had heard them a few days earlier, but they may have moved on. We did pick up Tree Swallows flying around the town's lights, a flyover Swainson's Thrush (our only of the day) and another Yellow-breasted Chat.

Milford Neck was our nightjar spot, and it did not disappoint. Chuck-wills-widows and then Whip-poor-wills were calling from several locations. American Woodcocks seemed to be everywhere – twittering away – while a few were "peent"ing. The mosquitoes were voracious and kept us dancing around. Dawn was approaching and we headed toward the marsh, where even more mosquitoes greeted us. Boat-tailed Grackles were immediately apparent, and then Northern Bobwhite and Wild Turkey called from the wood's edge. Yes! After a quick tally, I realized we had 62 species already by dawn. Not a bad night.

Milford Neck was really birdy, and I'm glad we picked this as our dawn-chorus spot. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Sedge Wren called from the short marsh, all three being our only birds of the day. The woods were alive with bird-song, and here we picked up Kentucky, Nashville, Yellow-throated, Prairie, and Black-and-White warblers, plus Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush. A certain vireo sounded interesting and Forrest suspected Philadelphia. It sang; we listened. It sang and we played the song for comparison: it was dead-on. Wow!

By 0615 we had 94 species, and we moved on to Mispillion Lighthouse. The idea was that we could get Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow while they were still singing. The idea backfired. The marsh was filled with sparrows . . . Seaside Sparrows. There were hundreds singing from all areas around the marsh, which unfortunately muffled the sounds of any potential Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The Seaside Sparrow spectacle was immediately overshadowed by the shorebird spectacle. Shorebirds moved in waves across nearly every exposed mud surface: Greater Yellowlegs, Willets, Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated and Least sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Dunlin and a few Black-necked Stilts. While scoping from the DuPont nature center, we found Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knots, American Oystercatchers, and a White-rumped Sandpiper among the thousands of Dunlin. We couldn't pick out any Lesser-black Backed Gulls, and after spending too much time enjoying this scene, we needed to move.

The grasslands in the vicinity of Hunting Quarter Road proved a wise morning destination: Grasshopper, Savannah and Vesper Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark and Horned Larks were singing. There were No Bobolinks, but we couldn't complain about our luck so far.

Redden State Forest held the targeted Red-headed Woodpeckers and Summer Tanagers, in addition to Worm-eating, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Kentucky, Pine, and Black-and-White warblers, Cedar Waxwings, and Hairy and Pileated woodpeckers. Two fly-over Common Loons were a surprise. We had 131 species by 0824.

We switched up the plan, and headed to Prime Hook instead of doing that in the afternoon. While changing the schedule could spell disaster, the morning Prime Hook run was excellent. We had a Veery standing in the middle of the road at the entrance. I told Forrest to stop the car, "I heard something similar to a Hooded Warbler." We waited, while only a Red-eyed Vireo sang. I started to doubt myself, and we were about to move on when it sang out, "Wheet-o, Wheet-o, Wheet-ee-o." Forrest replied, "Oh, so you mean the bird that sounds exactly like a Hooded Warbler!"

The boardwalk trail produced a few good birds, most notably a beautiful adult White-crowned Sparrow (thank you!), Blue-headed Vireo, Prothonotary, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll and Magnolia warblers.

The Broadkill impoundment was in bad light, so we started identifying distant ducks mostly by shape: Gadwall, Mallard, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser. These turned out to be some of the only waterfowl of the day, but where were the Blue-winged Teal? While scoping shorebirds, I noticed an unusual shorebird in the far southeast corner of the southern impoundment with the Green-winged Teal. It looked similar in shape to a yellowlegs, but the bill wasn't right for either. I asked Forrest to take a look, and he quickly realized it was a Ruff. I took another look and the beige color, posture, and bill shape all were spot-on for Ruff (Reeve) – excellent! We hoped for diving ducks in the bay. The bay was empty with the exception of Laughing Gulls, though we did hear a Song Sparrow singing, our first and only of the day.

We headed to Cape Henlopen with 155 species. There was no Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at a brief stop in Lewes on the way, and no Bufflehead in the ponds near the entrance - drat. Herring Point was mostly birdless, though after a few minutes we did luck out with Common, Least and Royal tern fly-bys. The jetty below had three Spotted Sandpipers. I got a kick out of watching Forrest fight with the no-see-ums. We made a quick stop at the campground, though besides a Pine Warbler and some American Robins, it was quiet. I guess Forrest forgot his Crossbill pheromone. At the nature center, the feeders were empty, so we walked the trail behind them. It was quiet, though it was mid-day. After a few minutes, both Brown-headed and a Red-breasted nuthatches sounded off - serious luck.

At the Point we found a huge flock of Brant hugging the icebreaker, and we scoped Common, Forster's and Royal terns near the point. We tried to turn one of the Royals into a Caspian, but it wasn't to be. Piping Plover was notably absent. We walked down to the bayside fence - still no Piping Plover. We knew time was critical, but I knew we would be kicking ourselves if we left without the plover, so we hiked to the ocean side. Again, this turned out to be a great decision. We had a flyover Merlin, Red-throated Loon and fly-by Black Scoters. While squinting into the heat haze for the hoped-for Piping Plover, Forrest noticed the 2nd-year Lesser Black-backed Gull at our feet. Then after a few minutes time, a Piping Plover came into view.

We headed south to Indian River inlet with 170 species before noon. At Savages Ditch Road, we found our first Great Egret of the day, though no Little Blue or Tricolored herons. The inlet proved to be full of boaters and was almost a wasted effort if it weren't for two juvenile Great Cormorants swimming around the north jetty. There was no Bonaparte's Gull and no Saltmarsh Sparrows or Tricolored Heron on the bay side. We stopped by New Road on the way north hoping for a bay duck of any kind, though we only had a breeding-plumaged Common Loon.

Silver Lake had Mallards and a few Canada Geese and one female Ruddy Duck. It was starting to be difficult to add new birds. Fowler Beach did not produce the hoped-for Belted Kingfisher or any new ducks, though it did have a considerable number of Black-

bellied Plovers, with at least two American Golden-plovers mixed in. The Great Horned Owl chicks on a hawk platform were getting rather big. The north pond at Ted Harvey did not have Bonaparte's Gull or Tricolored Heron, though it did have Pectoral Sandpiper.

At Bombay Hook, we had a number of necessary targets and we got nearly all of them: Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, American Avocet, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Woodland Beach had Snow and Greater White-fronted geese – excellent! We had 182 species by 1601.

I was telling Forrest that I have had Bank Swallow at the first of two bridges over Ap-poquinink Creek and suspected they may breed somewhere in the area, so we stopped there. Cliff Swallows were readily evident when a Bank Swallow flew high over us - 184.

We headed back to Thousand Acre Marsh hoping for Peregrine Falcon, an attempt that proved unsuccessful when Forrest tried last year. We scanned the bridge over the canal from all angles without any birds. When we had nearly given up and were ready to leave, a Peregrine Falcon flew directly over our heads.

We had very little time to spare, but we decided to risk a run to Dragon Run Park for Mute Swans. Dragon Run was Mute Swanless, but we did have fly-by Wood Ducks and then an adult Little Blue Heron flew high overhead. I couldn't believe our luck.

We headed to White Clay Creek, lucked out with Cattle Egrets on the way, and had 188 species by 1715. I don't think we could have had better luck at White Clay Creek as it seemed like someone was throwing all of our target birds at us. We got Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and White-breasted Nuthatch – all of which we expected. The lucky birds were a flyover Sharp-shinned Hawk, an adult Coopers Hawk racing through the woods directly in front of us, and Warbling Vireo. At one point we thought we had Cerulean Warbler singing, and Forrest pointed out that the cadence was right. It was almost dead-on - almost. I wasn't convinced, and we waited to get a look at the bird. It had a wing bar, but also had a yellow and orange throat: It was a Northern Parula. I wonder if after years of unscrupulous birders taping for Cerulean Warbler, the local Northern Parulas didn't pick the song up and try to imitate.

While at Tweeds Mill Road, I pondered "What else is left that we could possibly still get? - How about Rose-breasted Grosbeak?" A Rose-breasted Grosbeak responded by singing. "How about Blue-winged Warbler?" A few minutes later a Blue-winged Warbler was singing. It was almost creepy. The last two birds of the day were an almost unexpected Willow Flycatcher, and at least two much unexpected Gray-cheeked Thrushes – we had 199 species by 1915. While walking back towards the car, the only thing left was Belted Kingfisher. We waited until sunset at 2000, though the Kingfisher never obliged.

ILLINOIS – 2 Jun 04- 0000 to 2230 – Species Totals 143/136; (Team/Shared): Caleb Gordon 142, Jeff Sundberg 140, Kris Sundberg 139, Joe Lill 139. 580 Miles by car, 10 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Kickapoo SP, Middlefork CA, Newell Road, Kennekuk Cove SP, Midewin, Lake Calumet sites, Chicago lakefront, Waukegon harbor, Lyons Woods, Deer Lake FP. *Species of note:* Cattle Egret (R), Great Black-backed Gull (L), Black Tern (M), Common Tern (M).

Comments: This is a new Illinois record for a June Big Day, breaking the same team's record from the year before.

This was our second June run. After setting the record in 2003, we wanted to try again and see how much better we'd do if we added the Chicago lakefront to the route. We allowed extra time for the traffic and it resulted in an increase of eight species, including Cattle Egret, American White Pelican and a number of late migrants. We also added Kennekuk Cove (Vermilion County) to the route and it was such a great area that we were able to cut Kankakee and Iroquois from the route, which would have been unthinkable during previous Big Days. We ended the day at Deer Lake (near the Wisconsin border) which gave us an additional seven species - a good trick at 2000 at night!

INDIANA – 28 Dec 08- 0115 to ? *Completion time and miles not provided.* Species Totals 82/80; (Team/Shared): David Ayer 80, Dan Collins 82. *Visiting:* Gibson Lake, Patoka NWR. *Species of note:* Canvasback (R), Merlin (R), Peregrine Falcon (R), Wild Turkey (M), Eastern Screech-Owl (M), Snow Bunting (R), Purple Finch (R).

We started the day at 0515 in the Buckskin Bottoms and were promptly greeted by calling Great Horned Owls, soon accompanied by a nearby calling Barred Owl. We traveled from the Buckskin Bottoms to the Oakland City New Lake where we racked up some important species including a Hermit Thrush, which we had missed the previous week.

After birding New Lake, we traveled to western Pike County where we picked up much needed species such as Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-rumped Warbler and, best of all, Purple Finch! From there we traveled to a borrow pit in eastern Gibson County where we found numerous waterfowl, the best being Cackling Goose and Greater White fronted Goose, and an uncountable Trumpeter Swan. Sprinting quickly to the Patoka Wildlife Refuge, we found Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and an unexpected Canvasback.

We then left the refuge and headed to western Gibson County where we really racked up the species including species that are hard to find, such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Eurasian-collared Dove and Peregrine Falcon. What a day - our 73rd species of the day was a lesser scaup in western Gibson county!

The day was beginning to come to an end so we quickly traveled to the Bluegrass Wildlife/Ayrshire Mine area to find Short-eared Owls and we weren't disappointed - many greeted us with their moth-like flights. David and I were convinced we were done. Then, we noticed two small dark falcons roosting about 20 yards off the road...Merlins! This was our last bird of the day, with our species totaling 82.

KENTUCKY #1 - 17 Sep 06- 0515 to 2100 - Species Totals 136/128; (Team/Shared): Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. 135, Matt Stichel 130, Ben Yandell 136, Mary Yandell 136. 200 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting*: West Kentucky WMA, Ballard WMA, rural Ballard County, northern ends of Kentucky Lake, Land Between the Lakes and Lake Barkely, Sinclair WMA and environs, Muhlenberg County. *Species of note*: Laughing Gull (R), Least Tern (L), Whip-poor-will (L), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (R,L), Blackpoll Warbler (R), Song Sparrow (M).

This effort went better than our 2003 effort at a September Big Day (123 species) with overall better weather and probably a better route. A taped call of Eastern Screech-Owl was used to draw in passerines during the day and to solicit a reply before dawn. Taped calls were also used to solicit calls from rails.

Editor's note: The team actually observed 137 species; however, the ABA 95% rule was not met and thus one species was removed from the team's total so as to achieve a 95% shared total.

KENTUCKY #2 - 9 May 08- 0300 to 2030 - Species Totals 187/186; (Team/Shared): Mark Monroe 187, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. 186. 200 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting*: Peabody WMA, Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Kentucky Dam, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkely, Barkley Dam, Morgan Pond, Chaney Lake, McElroy Lake. *Species of note*: Canvasback (L), Surf Scoter (R), Common Goldeneye (L,S), Horned Grebe (L), Piping Plover (R), Black-necked Stilt (R), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (M), Great Horned Owl (M), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (R,S), Red-breasted Nuthatch (L), Brown-headed Nuthatch (R), American Pipit (L,S), Orange-crowned Warbler (L), Lark Sparrow (R,S).

Despite a drizzly, cool, and breezy pre-dawn, our 9 May 2008 Big Day broke the previous Kentucky record by 11 species. The date was relatively late for the peak of songbird migration, but we had a nice mix of early and late passerine migrants, mostly found within the Land Between the Lakes NRA, which included 33 species of warblers and all seven expected vireos. A mid-day highlight was the discovery of Kentucky's second state record Brown-headed Nuthatch, a total surprise! The late afternoon and evening were spent scanning waterbirds at some of south-central Kentucky's famous "transient lakes," temporary bodies of water that form in current-day agricultural fields following rainy periods. The three main bodies of water yielded Horned Grebes, some noteworthy waterfowl additions, 17 species of shorebirds, and lingering American Pipits.

LOUISIANA #1 - 24 Feb 08- 0545 to 1900 - Species Totals 160/158; (Team/Shared): Justin Bosler 158, Devin Bosler 158, Charles Lyon 159, Erik Johnson 159. 200 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting*: Milton, Leroy to Andrew on LA-699, Shams-Gladu roads, rice/crawfish region between Kaplan and Thornwell, Lacassine NWR Units B & D, Sweet Lake, Creole, Oak Grove, Rutherford Beach, Cameron, East Jetty Beach. *Species of note*: Fulvous Whistling-Duck (E), Common Loon (M), Eared Grebe (R), Black Vulture (M), Sharp-shinned Hawk (M), Broad-winged Hawk (R), Peregrine Falcon (M), Sora (M), Western Sandpiper (M), Lesser Black-backed Gull (R), Common Tern (R), Allen's Hummingbird (R,S), Least Flycatcher (R,S), Say's Phoebe (R,S), Ash-throated Flycatcher (R,S), White-eyed Vireo (M), Lincoln's Sparrow (M), Indigo Bunting (R,S), Painted Bunting (R), Rusty Blackbird (R).

On 24 February 2008, Charlie Lyon, Erik Johnson, Devin Bosler, and I set out to break the February Big Day record of 141 species (set on 28 Feb 2006 by Steven W. Cardiff and Donna L. Dittman). The record was breakable, but it would require a little luck and a lot of keen observation. A last-minute (that morning) rearrangement of plans had us starting the day in Milton, as opposed to Butte La Rose. Otherwise, our route was carefully planned and executed. In general, we would begin the day in the Lafayette region and work our way to the coast in Cameron Parish.

We set out at 0545 in the Milton area; a little later than anticipated, but probably not costly. Several stops in Milton gave us a majority of the expected wintering passerines with a few bonuses. Bonuses in the passerine category included Palm Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Rusty Blackbird, and a clutch pair of House Finches. Additionally, we managed four species of doves and four species of hummingbirds (Rufous, Allen's, Buff-bellied, and *Archilochus* sp.) in Milton. The only new Columbidae picked up outside of Milton was Rock Pigeon; a small group on a grain silo near Maurice being our first, and last, of the day.

Other than American Robins and blackbirds in the early morning hours, commuting birds were unbelievably absent from the clearing and warming sky. Raptors, in particular, were menacingly difficult to pick up while enroute from stop to stop. It wasn't until early afternoon before we could tick off Turkey Vulture. In other words, raptors gave us a real headache. Two despicable raptor misses on this route during winter were Black Vulture and Peregrine Falcon.

Once in the rice/crawfish region, we began to add on the expected waders and shorebirds. After the omnipresent Great Blue Heron came the first Cattle Egrets, then Greats, and lastly Snowies. We were able to pick out a couple Glossy Ibises (adult and immature) among the large gathering of White-faced on Shams Road. In the same flooded crawfish fields were dozens of Northern Shovelers. It took a little work to locate the long-staying Say's Phoebe, but Devin eventually spied it behind the white house on the west side of Shams.

Shortly thereafter, Charlie spotted a Merlin that was causing a stir among the distant flocks of shorebirds. The fields to the west held a mega-flock of geese (~10-15,000) containing three species (Greater White-fronted, Snow, and Ross's), and at least several hundred Northern Pintails. A small group of five Gull-billed Terns loafing with the Ring-billed Gulls and Forster's terns on Bell Road was a pleasant addition.

From there we preceded west with a swift pace, zooming up LA-13 noting Bonaparte's Gull on the way. Unknowingly, we drove right passed the riches on Kristin Road to get to LA-13. That was a poor move. But the very reliable Ash-throated Flycatcher in Morse was right there on Kite Road waiting for us. From LA-91 we jumped on LA-714 and sped west, barring a short stop to confirm a perched adult male Cooper's Hawk. Further west, closing in on Lake Arthur, we noted our second Merlin of the day.

Slowed down only by the zigzags of LA-14 in Lake Arthur, we quickly made it to our last mature woods stop near the Lacassine NWR headquarters. We quickly picked up Pileated and Hairy woodpecker, but dipped on the usual wintering Brown Creeper. We continued out Streeter Road to the oft-times productive wildlife viewing platform adjacent to Lake Arthur. This proved to be a good move. In the flooded fields before us were Cackling Geese (16), American Wigeons, Mallards, and Mottled Ducks. Flying over the western edge of the fields were an Osprey and an Anhinga.

Potter Road south of Thornwell was beneficial at the time, but we inevitably ran across the same waterfowl species elsewhere. Several new species here included Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, and both Blue-winged and Green-winged teal. Even American Coot was a welcomed addition to the list. Despite looking through thousands of Long-billed Dowitchers here and on LA-14, we could not locate a single Stilt Sandpiper. Peeps were generally scarce in most of the flooded fields due to the water depth, however, there were small groups of Least Sandpipers around. Sedge Wrens chattered continuously from the weedy roadside edges as we scoped. No vermilion prize in Thornwell, so it was back down to LA-14 via LA-99. Our first confirmed Black-bellied Plovers for the group were off LA-380. The fields to the west of LA-99 were teeming with birds, but we stayed in the vehicle to glass. In hindsight it was a bad move given the hundreds of Dunlins and Long-billed Dowitchers resting in the mud, but we were able to carefully estimate 600 Cackling Geese lined up around the berms, including a group of 75 on the east side of the highway.

New species were around every bend at the Lacassine NWR's pool unit (Unit D). It was the early afternoon boost we all anticipated, and needed. We added some Common Moorhens and a Little Blue Heron here. Both cormorants (Double-crested and Neotropic) were promptly added along with Caspian Tern (10). At the platform, we really cleaned up in the waterfowl department. Roughly 22 Canvasbacks were together in a raft, 18 or so Buffleheads were diving throughout, a few female Lesser Scaup stood out in the gatherings of Ring-necked Ducks and Northern Shovelers, and there were several (minimum) Ruddy Ducks meandering about. Fabulous bonuses at this spot were 14 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks and four Eared Grebes. A flyby Roseate Spoonbill and a roadside Tricolored Heron were excellent add-ons before departing.

The Sweet Lake area was clutch for a solitary male Brewer's Blackbird, picked out of the grackles by Erik. Another bonus was the 26 Sandhill Cranes in their usual winter spot near the junction of Pine Pasture and Arceneaux roads. More shorebirds were gathered on Fruge Road, but consisted mostly of yellowlegs. Luckily, we cleaned up Turkey Vulture and Great Horned Owl for the group in Holmwood.

Now for a checklist update - we were leaving the rice country for the coast at ~1500 with a solid 137 species on the list. It was now time to scrutinize every telephone pole along LA-27 for one of those Peregrines.

After our first non-bird related stop at the aptly named Creole One Stop, we continued south on LA-27 to LA-82 E. One of the Least Flycatchers was still frequenting the oak-sugarberry edge east of the South Cameron High School sports complex. We were tempted to travel just a couple miles further east to assure Canada Goose and Green Heron, but passed on those stake-outs since we were already a tad behind schedule.

On Amoco Road in Cameron was a perched White-tailed Kite, but little else of inter-

est. Cruising a bit west out of Cameron we were able to snag one of the continuing juvenile. Broad-winged Hawks (perched on a snag no less). It was now onwards to Davis Road for a bunch of coastal regulars. In the first gravel lot to the right were our first Herring Gulls and Black Skimmers. The Cameron oxidation ponds had the usual Forster's Terns, but alas no Black (there were lots of on 9 Feb). There was not much in the way of waterfowl either. With the Redheads gone, we were left with a female Lesser Scaup and an Eared Grebe.

Once on the beach at East Jetty, we were able to add a few more beach pipers to the list - "Western" Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, and an uncharacteristic loner Sanderling. The reliable Spotted Sandpiper was right where we expected it, on the jetty. A couple of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were teed up in the cordgrass off the beach. New larks on the beach included Lesser Black-backed Gull (first-winter), Common Tern (first-winter), and Royal Terns. Scanning for loons or Northern Gannets was futile with such a thick haze draped over the Gulf. On our way out, a well-timed flock of 11 Long-billed Curlews flew over (Charlie had one early off Streeter Road). One last attempt at scoping the channel and west jetty produced a small raft of barely visible Red-breasted Mergansers in the surf beyond the jetty.

It was just past 1730 and we needed to make it to Rutherford Beach Road with a little light for a few more marsh-dwelling species. Within minutes we had our Marsh Wren and Seaside Sparrow, several of both. As we waited for Short-eared Owls, we scoped three American Bitterns flying low over the marsh just under the harriers. With the sun well below the horizon it was getting darker and the swarms of mosquitoes were becoming unbearable. There were still no Short-ears. We could've given it a little longer, but we bailed and went to the outflow along the canal in Oak Grove to add our last species of the day, Black-crowned Night-Heron. At least five were visible around the pump.

In a last ditch effort to pick up Sora and Barn Owl, we stopped at the Cameron Prairie NWR headquarters, but we had no luck with either. It was 1900 and we had driven roughly 200 miles. We all agreed that it was time to call it quits. After adding on a few more missed tick marks, I tallied up the list. My excitement grew as I passed the 150 mark and continued on to 158, 159, and.... 160! We had reached 160 species on a February Big Day, eclipsing the established record by 19 species. It felt good. Of course, the big misses ate at us, but we had to be satisfied with our impromptu effort. Charlie did a tremendous job of driving all day and had to make it back to Shreveport that night. This was our last opportunity to make a run like this... at least for February...

LOUISIANA #2 – 27 Apr 08- 0000 to 2230 – Species Totals 215/208; (Team/Shared): Phred Benham, Gustavo Bravo, Richard Gibbons, James Maley, Brian O'Shea (individual totals not submitted). 375 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Beauregard and Calcasieu parish, near Lake Charles, rice country, Lacassine NWR, coastal woodlots and beaches west to Sabine Pass. *Species of note*: none.

As Gustavo announced it was midnight, we trained our binoculars to the top of the lone Pecan tree and identified Great-horned Owl as bird number one for the 2008 LSU Ornithology Big Day. We had high hopes that the birds found during scouting would stick and the weather envelope we planned to ride south would pan out.

The five member team was Brian O'Shea, Gustavo Bravo, Richard Gibbons, James Maley, and Phred Benham. The van was packed with comfort food and caffeinated beverages for the 24 hour birding marathon. The route was true to the traditional route: start in Baton Rouge with night birds, travel west to Calcasieu and Beauregard parishes where the pine forests meet the bottomland hardwood forests to pick up the breeding birds, drop south through the rice country to get the shorebirds, and finish in Cameron Parish with migrants and coastal birds.

After the Great-horned Owl, we visited the staked-out nests of House Finch, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, and – after a little coaxing- Northern Flicker. A spin around University Lake provided looks at a few common species, but nothing we wouldn't pick up elsewhere. We headed west along Interstate-10 for a stop on Whiskey Bay Road. With ears strained toward the dark woods we heard Eastern Screech-Owl and Barred Owl in the distance. We hopped back in the van and made our way to the dawn spot, two hours away in Beauregard Parish.

The strategy was to find the breeding birds as quickly as possible. We started in the upland piney woods with the call of Chuck-Will's-Widow and then traveled southward to the various scouted locations for species such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Swainson's Warbler, Hooded Merganser, and Brown-headed Nuthatch - you can't miss the t-shirt species! James checked the list and we had all the species limited to this leg of the route, so we pushed on to the lake of the same name in Lake Charles. We scanned for the Eared Grebe located two days prior, but it was nowhere to be found. Neither was Osprey. Turf Grass Road was next. This sod farm complex has become the best place to see the grass pipers. We scanned the 500-acre lawn and spotted Eastern Meadowlark, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and ...Buff-breasted Sandpipers! They were absent during scouting so we were happy they decided to drop in. We continued to look for American

Golden-Plovers, but found only Black-bellieds. Way off in the distance, a raptor was picked up working a fence line. It was a Crested Caracara just a tad north of where we hoped to pick one up.

We raced to the rice country to clean up the shorebirds and to visit a couple of stakeholders. We pulled up to the first flooded rice field and Phred began a scan with the spotting scope identifying new species and stepping aside to allow the others to get a look. Meanwhile, I took advantage of the stop by visiting the ditch on the opposite side of the road. As I stood there contemplating the morning, a small weakly-flying sparrow shot out of the grass. Whatever it was, it was a good bird. I rallied support to surround the spot where it landed and we kicked it up again - LeConte's Sparrow! This was a definite bonus bird as the vast majority of its ilk had departed for breeding grounds to the north. We finished up with the remaining rice fields adding a few species and we moved on to the next stop.

The Towhee Stop has been good to us over the years. It's not easy finding an Eastern Towhee on the route. It's almost always one pair at the same place, the Towhee Stop. True to tradition, we heard our "towheeeee" a little down the road from the usual place and piled back into the van heading ever southward toward the coast and the migrants. First however, we hoped the late waterfowl had stuck at Lacassine and Pintail Loop. Lacassine NWR is a massive freshwater impoundment that often holds late ducks. This is also about as easy as it gets for Purple Gallinule with no less than six birds seen in the roadside ditches. Pied-billed Grebe was still needed; got it. "Least Bittern", Brian called out as the tiny heron flew hastily above the marsh.

We high-tailed it out of there and drove to Cameron Prairie NWR. Our scouting had turned up several ducks and shorebirds and Peregrine Falcon and Merlin taking advantage of the largesse. There were scores of Wilson's Phalaropes twirling, Stilt Sandpipers probing, and all the peeps. And sure enough, Peregrine and Merlin were still plying the area. During a scan, a distant bulky bird was perched, it's image distorted by heat waves. James took a look and was reacquainted with an old friend from Alaska, Bald Eagle. We picked up a few more lingering ducks and headed over the Gibbstown Bridge where the Wood Stork was still standing out in the open as reported the previous day. This was definitely lagniappe.

The time had come to test the waters. The river of migration runs hot and cold from a birder's perspective and we were hoping for at least a tepid trickle of tropical migrants to keep us on track for a 200-plus day. Migrants can make or break a Big Day and weather is the best predictor of how many migratory birds will choose to call it a day when they reach the coast and choose the isolated woodlots behind the dunes. The winds had shifted from the south during the night and were now out of the east-northeast. Our first chenier would give us a clue. We spread out a little, but not too far, to prevent one of us from getting on a particular bird. Black-billed Cuckoo, Swainson's Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, and Bay-breasted Warbler were tallied. Not bad, but not great. It was still too early to know if it would be great as the headwinds would slow down the usual early afternoon arrival of the migrants. If a major grounding was in the cards, it would play out later in the evening. We could only continue on scraping up species one at a time hoping for the windfall.

Our first beach stop provided our first looks at Brown Pelican, Snowy Plover, Sanderling, Wilson's Plover, Ring-billed Gull, and Royal Tern. Our next stop was Cameron. We stopped at the settling ponds on the way to East Jetty and spotted the winter-plumaged Bonaparte's Gull seen a couple of days earlier.

East Jetty is loafing central for coastal birds. We walked out to get a look at the gallery and started ticking them off: Black Skimmer, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Ruddy Turnstone, Herring Gull, and flying toward the beach... American Oystercatcher! After cleaning up the remaining novel birds, we returned to Cameron Courthouse and picked up a Hairy Woodpecker. On to the ferry which was just pulling out of the slip. But we were unlucky as it was a twenty minute wait. We returned to town, fueled up and got back in the ferry line. Once on the other side the action picked up immediately. Black Vulture had haunted us all morning threatening to be missed, but it cruised along the other side to our relief. A late Belted Kingfisher worked a shallow pool along Highway 82. Team members on the starboard side of the van searched for anything new out over the marsh while the port side searched the beach and nearshore waters. Ducks! We backed up, piled out and got a scope on the raft of ducks. James had his bino on the raft and started calling out the species which were common everyday birds to his beloved Alaska: Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, and ...wait for it... White-winged Scoter. Are you serious?! All three scoters and Greater Scaup!? No, there's a Ring-necked Duck in there as well. No way! Way. This was an unbelievable five species boost that gave us a much needed energy boost after 16 hours of birding. All that remained was Peveto Woods and Sabine Pass.

The north winds had picked up through the afternoon, exceeding the forecast. Upon entering the Live Oak mottes we knew it was going to be good. Flitting movements in the treetops drew our attention and we began calling out their names to each other get-

ting on the new ones and reveling in the spectacle. "Cerulean!" someone whispered and we got on the Cerulean Warbler, a rare migrant whose numbers have declined sharply over the last half century. We walked out to the chenier's edge and watched the birds dropping into the woodlot with wings folded looking for a break from the punishing north wind. Another ten species were added including a late Palm Warbler and a rare Cape May Warbler. Still needing a Bank Swallow, we turned our attention skyward and Phred picked out a Bank Swallow from the aerial foragers. The mood was light and jubilant. We were all in awe at the steadfast drive of the trans-gulf migrants.

Back to work. We still had one stop. We drove to Sabine Pass just before dusk to add the Cliff Swallows that breed under the bridge and to watch for American Bitterns over the marsh. No luck on the bittern, but Cliff Swallows were nesting under the bridge and flying around making short work of the stiff wind.

Tradition dictates a perfunctory stop to listen for all the rails we lacked. So we walked the loop around the Sabine NWR and fed the mosquitoes one last time. No such luck. We poured ourselves into the van and headed home. I woke up somewhere between Lake Charles and Jennings with James proclaiming the total. The final count was 215 species when all the checking, rechecking, interrogating, and final arguments were finished; four species more than the LSU Big Day record.

LOUISIANA #3 – 27 Apr 08- 0300 to 2100 – Species Totals 207/205; (Team/Shared): Justin Bosler 206, Devin Bosler 206, Charles Lyon 207, Terry Davis 207. 365 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* Alligator Park, Calcasieu/Beauregard pinewoods, Vinton area, Thornwell ricefields, Lacassine NWR, Sweet Lake area, Cameron Prairie NWR, East Jetty Beach, Peveto Beach Woods, Sabine Pass. *Species of note:* Snow Goose (L), Lesser Scaup (M), Northern Bobwhite (R), Wood Stork (E), Bald Eagle (R), Peregrine Falcon (M), Black Rail (R), Bonaparte's Gull (L), Great Horned Owl (M), Bewick's Wren (R), House Wren (L), Yellow-rumped Warbler (L), White-throated Sparrow (M), Yellow-headed Blackbird (R), Brewer's Blackbird (L), Bronzed Cowbird (R).

Editor's note: Big Day rules do not allow participants of a Big Day team to count a species detected by the team that other birders had notified them of its location during the actual Big Day. As the team was notified by other birders during the Big Day of the presence of a Black Rail, that species has been removed from the team's total.

On Sunday, 27 April 2008, Charlie Lyon, Terry Davis, Devin Bosler, and I (Justin Bosler) attempted our first-ever April Big Day. Not to mention, it was Terry's first all-out Big Day. With only one team member committing to a full day of scouting for inland breeding species, we really didn't know what to expect. However, what we did know was that it was the peak window for landbird migration on the Louisiana Gulf Coast and that the weather was on our side – barring some thick fog in the morning. Luckily for us, the rain showers weren't as widespread and numerous as forecasted the day before. In all actuality, aside from a brief sprinkle at Peveto Beach Woods in the late afternoon, rain was pleasantly absent from our route.

The earlier and weaker front on Saturday produced some fine migrant watching at Peveto Beach Woods in the afternoon. A bulk of the flight was comprised of warblers; however, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings, and orioles were in fair numbers. At least four Philadelphia Vireos were scattered amidst the slightly more numerous Yellow-throateds and Red-eyeds. Tennessee and Yellow warblers were the most numerous of 20 species of warblers, which included two adult male Golden-winged, 12 Chestnut-sided, seven adult male Magnolias, a female Cerulean, eight Blackburnians, and three Bay-breasted. One of few singing warblers was a male Worm-eating, a species that we would miss on Sunday. A few stops west of Holly Beach produced a breeding adult Lesser Black-backed Gull and three Piping Plovers. A breeding male Piping Plover from the lower Missouri River population was easily picked out by its green flag on the upper left leg.

A basic adult Common Loon was lingering behind Hackberry Seafood in Hackberry at 2015, right where we discovered it earlier in the afternoon. It appeared as though it would spend the night at that spot, so we altered our early morning route to try for the loon. We were giving up an early morning Barn Owl (as well as Great Horned) stakeout for this loon, so we were banking heavily on it staying put.

With a later than anticipated bedtime, we decided to forego a midnight start in order to give everyone their preferred amount of sleep. At 0300 we were finally on our way to spotlight the Common Loon in Hackberry. It was considerably darker than we had hoped, but with a shimmer of moonlight and some weak artificial light, it was very clear that our must-get Common Loon was a no-show. What a sour start to a Big Day that was. Admittedly bummed, we continued north to our pre-dawn location via LA-108 in Carlyss, seeking a road-crossing Barn Owl to no avail.

Our general path would take us through the four southwestern most Parishes: Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, and Cameron. The mixed pine-hardwood forest of the Sabine River bottomlands would provide a pre-dawn and dawn chorus spot. An additional set of inland breeding species could be guaranteed in the pinewoods between

Starks and Fields. A pass through a residential neighborhood in DeQuincy would tack on a couple more species that would be nearly impossible to get elsewhere on our restricted route. The overgrown fields and brushy edges south of Vinton and Sulphur were good for open country species. A tree-lined I-10 corridor through Lake Charles to Welsh in the rice-growing region often yielded raptors. Shorebirds and waders were targeted in the flooded ricefields and moist soil units from Thornwell to Sweet Lake. We then headed to the coastal marshes, wooded cheniers, and beaches of Cameron Parish for lingering waterfowl, larids, waders, beach pipers, falconids, and the much sought-after neotropical passerine migrants. Obviously our overall success hinged on the coastal portion of the route.

By 0430, it was somewhat apparent that we were already off-pace for a record-setting April Big Day with only six or so species. At our pre-dawn spot in the mixed pine-hardwood forest northwest of Starks in Calcasieu Parish, we added Eastern Screech-Owl and Barred Owl, but dipped on Great Horned and our staked-out Chuck-will's-widows – two were singing at this site on 23 April. There were hardly any migrants passing overhead in the pre-dawn hours, but we did note several Swainson's Thrushes. A Yellow-breasted Chat started to sing pieces of its song roughly an hour before sunrise. Closer to sunrise, a Brown Thrasher, a few Northern Cardinals, Gray Catbirds and Carolina Wrens piped up. A familiar squawk unveiled an invisible Yellow-crowned Night-Heron somewhere overhead. With thick fog in place, the dawn chorus of songbirds came a little later than expected (nearly 0630), but we quickly added all of the species we needed, including Acadian and Great Crested flycatchers, White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Parula, Pine, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Hooded warblers, and Summer Tanager. At Alligator Park, we checked off Red-shouldered Hawk (on a nest), Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Purple Martin. In addition to the more common resident woodland species, we added Pileated and Red-headed woodpeckers on Alligator Park Road. A complete shocker was a flyover pair of Hooded Mergansers, which we almost passed off as Wood Ducks. Luckily, they zoomed overhead through the open canopy a second, and even a third time, offering soft, nasal grunts on each pass. We spent a little too much time trying for the local nesting Broad-winged Hawks (observed collecting nest material the previous morning), but one eventually sounded off. We were behind schedule leaving the dawn location in the Sabine River Basin around 0700.

Traveling north on Old River Road, we picked up Eastern Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Barn Swallow, Common Yellowthroat, Prairie Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Common Grackle, and Orchard Oriole. An older growth Longleaf-Slash pine stand off of Smith Cemetery Road in Beauregard Parish yielded a couple of singing Bachman's Sparrows, a Wood Thrush, and a Blue Grosbeak. An American Robin that was singing from the yard across the road on 23 April was not to be found. Two hen Wild Turkeys were foraging along LA-109 south of Fields, which is a reliable spot for the species in the morning. A singing Swainson's Warbler near Bear Head Creek on LA-389 east of Fields was relatively convenient after we had passed up several other stakeouts for the species. Cedar Waxwing also made the list at this stop.

By 0750 we had reached DeQuincy. The first new bird was an Eastern Wood-Pewee on territory. A close second were two House Finches in a front yard. Surprisingly, we had to work a little for a single American Robin when as many as six were noted here on 23 April. In the process of finding a robin, we tallied two more (singing) House Finches. There was no bonus American Goldfinch this time. Leaving DeQuincy, we jumped on LA-12 to zip back to Starks and then on to Vinton.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to add any new species along LA-12, but once on LA-109 south of Starks, we spotted a pair of Wood Ducks winging over. Oh, and let's not forget the Eurasian Collared-Doves in front of Starks High School. Our good fortune on LA-109 didn't end there. Closer to Vinton, a stop along the highway yielded a lone, flyover Snow Goose (very late) in addition to Snowy and Great egrets, White Ibis, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Vulture, Fish Crow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Great-tailed Grackle.

After an unsuccessful drive along Niblett Bluff Road for kites (probably weather related), we decided to swing by a snag on Center Street in Vinton where an adult female Mississippi Kite was roosting the previous morning. To our disbelief, a pair of Mississippi Kites was perched regally atop the snag as we approached. A solitary White-winged Dove on Center Street was another vital addition to the list in Vinton.

Less than 10 minutes later we were beginning our run down trusty Fabacher Road. We slowed for a tree line that held a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk the previous morning, but we had no such luck with that bird. We came to a stop right where the road bisected the brushy tree line. Charlie was seeking something in the trees on the driver's side and I was ready to continue on when Terry and Devin called out "Bewick's Wren"! The wren was creeping up the trunk of a willow and tackling a grub as Terry and Devin watched it. It then moved out along a small limb. Charlie and I got on it only 10 seconds later when it flew from the willow to a tree on the west side of the road carrying the grub with it. Almost as soon as it reached this tree, it flew down and disappeared

into the Acacia-Yaupon thicket. We spent the next several minutes trying to coax it into view again using playback. In the end, our attempt at documenting this furtive wren proved futile. But what was a Bewick's Wren doing in southwestern Louisiana in late April? They're regarded as casual fall and winter visitors to the southwestern coast. Was it a possible northbound migrant or lingering overwinterer; we can only speculate. Although not in the same league, but pretty darn good for the last few days of April, was a House Wren singing nearby; our only one of the day.

Our reliable Crested Caracara spot on Fabacher Road fell through, but we continued to pick up new species south of Gum Island Road. Several Little Blue Herons passed overhead. Dickcissels were ubiquitous in the weedy edges. But most surprising was a record-late female Brewer's Blackbird in with about 75 Great-tailed Grackles at the edge of the first field on the west side of the road! This was one more spectacular bonus bird on Fabacher Road! By the time we had reached LA-108, we had added Mottled Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Common Moorhen, Black-necked Stilt, Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Tree and Northern Rough-winged swallows, Sedge Wren, Savannah, Lincoln's, and White-crowned sparrows, and Painted Bunting.

A short pause at the intersection of Fabacher Road and LA-108 gave us just enough time to hear a Bobwhite call once! This was an outstanding fallback location for the species as a pair was flushed from this general area the previous morning. Due to time constraints, we decided to pass up the nesting White-tailed Kites on Gum Cove Road for the pair at East Jetty Woods. Two adult male Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were new ones on LA-108. A subadult male Cooper's Hawk was strategically placed on a fencepost along LA-108 directly west of Choupique Road.

We followed LA-108 through Carlyss and Sulphur, eventually getting on I-10 after an unplanned fuel stop. We intended to make short work of I-10 between Lake Charles and Welsh despite the interstate expansion project. All along the way we had our eyes peeled for raptors. First was a perched Red-shouldered Hawk, but we already had that. Next was a soaring light adult Swainson's Hawk being harassed by a crow at the 210 split, a sweet addition. A distant Turkey Vulture was third. And lastly, were two Red-tailed Hawks; first a flyover at exit 43 (Iowa) and the second on a billboard a mile or so west of exit 54 (Welsh). Other non-raptor additions along this stretch of interstate included Forster's and Least terns and Rock Pigeon. Although passing at roughly 80 miles per hour, it appeared as though the Least Terns have returned to the gravel parking lot at the southwestern corner of exit 48 (LA-101/Lacassine). At 25 or so minutes, the drive was quicker than originally estimated.

Our next planned stop for ricefield shorebirds was a bit of a gamble. On our way to Thornwell and Potter Road, we located an adult Glossy Ibis in with six White-faced in a ricefield off LA-99. Both Neotropic Cormorant and Green Heron were eagerly added along LA-99. Many of the seemingly ideal shorebird fields between LA-99 and LA-380 failed to attract much. The ricefields on Potter Road held some birds but not the goodies we had hoped for. Here we picked up Pied-billed Grebe (one on a nest), Sora, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, American Avocet, Solitary, Semipalmated, Least, Pectoral, and Stilt sandpipers, Dunlin, Wilson's Phalarope, Laughing and Ring-billed gulls, and Gull-billed Tern. Although it was a fairly productive stop, it probably could've been removed from the itinerary. As it turns out, this stop provided our only Pied-billed Grebe and Gull-billed Tern.

As we sped west for Illinois Plant Road and Lacassine NWR, I frenetically scanned ricefields for godwits, injured geese, and waterfowl without any hits. Superb ricefields on Illinois Plant Road offered nothing more than dark ibises. Only a single Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was present among many Fulvous in the first pool at Lacassine NWR. The canal provided our first Purple Gallinule and Marsh Wren. Since we were slightly behind schedule, we agreed that the loop drive wouldn't be a cost-effective decision. I bet that Osprey was out there waiting for us, though. Passing through Hayes, we finally added Inca Dove.

Two light adult Swainson's Hawks glided over the tilled fields off Fruge Road south of Holmwood as we passed, but there was no Crested Caracara. Try as we might, we couldn't pick up an Upland Sandpiper along Fruge, but we did add King Rail between Pine Pasture and Chalkley Roads (now in Cameron Parish). The ricefields in the Sweet Lake area were the least productive I have seen them this spring. However, one new addition here was a flyover pair of Mallards. Thankfully, at least 30 Yellow-headed Blackbirds had lingered at the Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co. complex on Chalkley Road! Upwards of 100 were still present on 24 April. As we maneuvered the vehicle to get a better look at the blackbirds, Devin pointed out an adult male Bronzed Cowbird on the powerlines overhead. We took another moment to get an accurate count and to listen to the singing males.

As we were leaving, Judith O'Neale and Linda Knight informed us that the Ferruginous Hawk had been seen within the hour. This was very exciting news to receive in the middle of a Big Day. So after checking off an Eastern Towhee at the intersection of LA-27, we were off.

Disappointingly, the Ferruginous Hawk was a no-show at Chesson's Grocery in Sweet Lake after two thorough searches. Roseate Spoonbill was added during the first. The Pintail Wildlife Drive at Cameron Prairie NWR was an excellent distraction from the missing hawk. The shallow freshwater impoundment at the southeastern corner of the loop drive has been a magnet for shorebirds all spring and, to a lesser degree, migratory waterfowl. We quickly filled in most of the gaps on our shorebird list. The new shorebirds included Semipalmated Plover, Spotted, Western, White-rumped, and Baird's sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstone, and Short-billed Dowitcher. Although we had already added it to the list, one couldn't possibly overlook the impressive aggregation of spinning Wilson's Phalaropes. We diligently sifted through the mass for other phalarope possibilities to no avail. Raptors were also good to us here. A perched adult Bald Eagle was soon joined by another. An adult Crested Caracara came speeding through from the southeast. And as we were exiting, a female Northern Harrier was spotted drifting over the marsh to the north. Circling high overhead were our first American White Pelicans. As mentioned, our return visit to Chesson's Grocery to try for the Ferruginous Hawk was equally as unsuccessful as the first. However, this return visit wasn't a complete waste of time. Returning north, I spied a female American Wigeon and several Gadwalls in the marshes to the east of LA-27, so we stopped on the way back south to get them for the entire group.

The lingering juvenile Wood Stork was resting in the marsh along LA-27 on the south side of Gibbstown Bridge. A continuous scan of the marsh the entire way to Creole resulted in a mostly concealed "Rockefeller" Canada Goose. We had made it to the coast by 1430.

A few passerine migrants were already evident at the Oak Grove Sanctuary, but more and more were dropping in. A majority of the new arrivals consisted of Tennessee and Yellow warblers, both of which were new. Other migrant additions included Bay-breasted and Black-and-White warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Ironically, our first Hairy Woodpecker was a low flyover at this location. Hairies appear to be uncommon in the forested areas near Starks.

A Baltimore Oriole flew over Trosclair Road closer to Willow Island. Also in this same area was an eastbound juvenile Broad-winged Hawk, not our first, but noteworthy on the immediate coast nonetheless.

Willow Island could've been skipped for Peveto Beach Woods, but we decided to look around anyway. We were on a mission to get Great Horned Owl now, so we wouldn't have to worry about it later. But as we suspected, the fledgling and adults had probably been flushed over a dozen times by visiting birders prior to our arrival and subsequently chose to roost at an alternate location. During our brief stay we managed four new species: "Trail's" Flycatcher, Magnolia and Blackburnian warblers, and American Redstart.

We chose to head out on Eleven Oaks Road for the White-tailed Kites before heading to East Jetty Beach. Sure enough one of the adult kites was perched at the top of a snag in the first tree line running perpendicular to Eleven Oaks Road. A second effort for Swamp Sparrow at a known hotspot turned up at least one. A careful look at the Cameron oxidation ponds gave us Black Tern and the lingering first-winter Bonaparte's Gull. A bright Short-billed Dowitcher probed in the mud at the pond's edge where the gull had stood prior to it relocating to a wooden post.

East Jetty Beach and Davis Road padded our list nicely. In less than a half mile on Davis Road, we had tacked on Brown Pelican, Willet, Herring Gull, Royal Tern, and Black Skimmer. One half hour on East Jetty Beach (1600 to 1630) yielded the following new species: Clapper Rail, Wilson's Plover, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Caspian, Sandwich, and Common terns, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

A 30-minute wait for the ferry at the Calcasieu Ship Channel slowed our pace and dampened the mood. We didn't stop looking for new birds as we waited to cross. It was unbelievable that we were only able to pick up a single species during this wait. We picked up Seaside Sparrow in the brackish marsh adjacent to the East Ferry Landing. Good news arrived with the ferry by way of Phillip Wallace and Curt Sorrells. They had pulled over to tell us of a Black Rail at the West Ferry Landing! Overjoyed, we thanked them and drove onto the ferry.

There was silence as we stepped from the vehicle at the West Ferry Landing, but within a minute the Black Rail started calling from the thick grasses next to the road. We didn't stay long, but we were fairly confident that there was only one rail, as these little guys move speedily under the concealment of the Spartina bushes and are exceptional ventriloquists.

Driving west of Holly Beach on LA-82, we were able to add Piping Plover and a well-timed flyby American Golden-Plover. There were no other new shorebirds on the beach or waterfowl on the exceedingly calm Gulf.

At 1740, we dove into Peveto Beach Woods seeking many of the passerine migrants that we were lacking up until that point. It seemed prime time for an arriving delayed flight. Although there wasn't a great abundance of birds, there was a pleasing assort-

ment. It was obvious that calm or favorable winds overnight allowed migrants from Saturday's flight to continue northward. The following new species were added over our hour and some stay: Least Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Bank Swallow, Veery, Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, and Cerulean warblers, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush. The Cerulean Warbler was a brilliant blue male and our last new bird before heading west was a female Blue-winged Warbler. One unexpected sight while at Peveto was a flyover White-tailed Kite slowly making its way east.

It was tough to pull ourselves away from the woods as more and more migrants were making landfall, but there was a short list of "can't miss" species that we desperately wanted to reduce. However in retrospect, leaving the woods may have been a lousy decision, as we added only three new species by Sabine Pass: Belted Kingfisher, Cliff Swallow, and Green-winged Teal. The Cave Swallows had not been reported at the Sabine Pass Bridge all spring.

With plenty of daylight remaining we rushed back to Holly Beach searching high and low for anything that could be a new bird. A quick stop in Johnson Bayou revealed that small waves of migrants were arriving off the Gulf, and despite some searching we couldn't buy a new species. With the fading light, many of the new arrivals were difficult to get on after they had reached the cover of the trees. We opted out of entering Peveto Beach Woods again for a second look at Holly Beach. A peculiar addition west of Holly Beach was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher that was seen well flying in off the Gulf just a few feet above the ground. The increasing north wind had slowed its forward progress just enough to solidly identify it in flight as it crossed the road.

We checked the Holly Beach water tower one last time; still no falcon. We kept a close eye on the marsh and utility poles as we drove north on LA-27. Several possibilities remained, but as the sky darkened they turned further into impossibilities. We made one last ditch effort for Great Horned Owl in Carlyss - nothing.

By 2100, we were out of time, Charlie and Terry had to get back to Shreveport that night. We tallied the checklist for the first time all day. We were one short of the previous April Big Day record with 208 species. Running through the list of species that we missed was depressing, but we had to admit it was a satisfying first try. I think we'll refine the route and try again some April...

MAINE #1 – 30 Mar 08- 0730 to 1730 – Species Totals 58/58; (Team/Shared): Frank Paul, Jr. 58. 70 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* Two Lights area – Cape Elizabeth, Scarborough Marsh, Biddeford Pool. *Species of note:* none.

MAINE #2 – 28 May 08- 0400 to 2200 – Species Totals 118/118; (Team/Shared): Bob Milardo 118, Bruce Barker 118, Judy Kellogg Markowsky 118. 250 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Greater Bangor Area, Mount Desert Island. *Species of note:* Merlin (R), Field Sparrow (R), Virginia Rail (M), Laughing Gull (M), Hairy Woodpecker (M), Cliff Swallow (M).

Comments: This was the team's 24th annual Big Day.

MARYLAND – 31 Aug 08- 0000 to 1900 – Species Totals 151/146; (Team/Shared): Ron Gutberlet 149, Bill Hubick 149, Mikey Lutmerding 150. 310 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* Pickering Creek, Elliott Island Road, Bayside at Assateague, Assateague ORV Zone, west OC Pond, Berlin, Nassawog area, Hurlock Tanyard Marsh. *Species of note:* Red-shouldered Hawk (M), Baird's Sandpiper (R), Least Tern (L), Acadian Flycatcher (M), Eastern Phoebe (M), Louisiana Waterthrush (L), Song Sparrow (M), Western Meadowlark (V). *Comments:* Our Western Meadowlark was the first record for Delmarva, is expected to be second accepted record for Maryland, and is the first individual documented by photo and video in Maryland.

It's midnight beside the Pickering Creek ponds in Talbot County and our August Big Day has just officially begun. I'm standing in the dark with Jim Brighton, Mikey Lutmerding, and Ron Gutberlet, and we're hoping to find 160 bird species over the next 24 hours. Our goal is to beat the record of 159 species set by Jim Stasz, Ed Boyd, Matt Hafner, and Zach Baer. The night is calm, and the lack of wind is promising for nightbirds. It's exciting. Canada Geese are honking nearby - one down. A minute passes quietly. Soon we detect a distant Barred Owl calling, and then another nearby. Fortune smiles upon us and a Sora calls spontaneously. I miss it and cost us our first 5% bird. We listen for another couple moments, but then already it's time to roll. We just have 157 species to go.

We run a circuit of Eastern Shore wetlands, and our luck holds at fair. Most stops are painfully silent. At another stop, both Great Horned and Eastern Screech-Owls are already calling as we step from the car. A Great Blue Heron flies away "grogking". Even the most common species is celebrated at night. It adds momentum.

It's already 0200 and we're cruising down Elliott Island Road. We've been hitting small pockets of rain now, so there is cause for some concern. When we get out of the

car on the north end of the marsh, the weather is calm but cloudy. "Shh", someone whispers. "Listen." Silence. After a painfully long pause, the bird sings again, and to our delight, it's the gravelly full song of a Sedge Wren. This merits high-fives and good cheer - missable birds like this one are serious money in the bank. But we gotta go. We make multiple stops along Elliott Island Road, where options for great night birds abound. We grow concerned about the lack of rails calling (we missed Clapper in 2006), but soon our fears are dispelled by the grunts of nearby Virginia Rails, and then, thankfully, a couple Clapper Rails. Soon Mikey picks out another vocalization, a Black-necked Stilt doing its less yippy calls - another very missable bird down. Our luck is improving rapidly, and soon we hear a couple faint sounds overheard. Night migrants! At first we hear only the faintest notes, but soon a Veery calls clearly overhead. We hear perhaps 20 Veerys passing by, eventually joined by our first couple of Swainson's Thrushes and a single Bobolink. On our way back north, an American Woodcock flushes from the roadside. As we approach the one illuminated building, I spot a small passerine flying into some weeds below the lights. We hop out of the car and actually see our first Marsh Wren. We leave Elliott's with 16 species.

The drizzle is intermittent as we work our way toward dawn at Bayside. Spadefoot Toads are crossing the roads, and we take a moment to check one out as we stop to pick up King Rail at a freshwater marsh. At each stop the night migrants continue, nearly all of them Veerys, Swainson's Thrushes, and Bobolinks. We arrive at Assateague on schedule, and at 0530 we're standing beside the Life of the Dunes Trail in the light rain. This addition was designed to give us a better chance at Common Nighthawk, which still breeds on the island after declining drastically elsewhere on the Eastern Shore. No nighthawks are here, but the night flight is now in high gear. I had heard about great flights in light rain, but this was my first time experiencing it. From here until full dawn, an incredible flight of Bobolinks passes overhead, so many that the "bink" notes become background noise and it is difficult to listen for other species. As dawn quickly approaches, it is time to get to Bayside, where a strong migrant flight could make or break our day. Here we meet up with Mike Walsh, who kindly accepts our request that he not point out birds. I'm sure our intensity and excitement were as entertaining as the good birds. The wind is stronger by the water, but we know we are in for some migrants. We're using the very first light to identify anything we can, and the feeding frenzy begins: Herring Gull, Laughing Gull, Brown Pelican, Northern Cardinal, Belted Kingfisher, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird. As the light accumulates to something more vision-friendly, the heron flight begins, and the numbers of Tricolored and Little Blue herons are impressive. The first passerines begin to arrive, but identifications in flight are tough in the wind. We pick up our first Yellow Warbler, followed by Black-throated Blue Warbler and Northern Parula. Small flocks of Eastern Kingbirds are passing by. We're having trouble deciding which corner to work, as flyby warblers always seem to be passing along the other side of the parking lot. Of course, non-passerine flybys are important here, too, and we spot Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Blue-winged Teal, and a pair of Sandwich Terns. We're working hard, and things stay steady for a while. Before we head for the campground we've added a couple more warblers, including Bay-breasted, and we're at 60 species.

We quickly work our favorite areas of Assateague, adding some real prizes to the list. A juvenile Baird's Sandpiper is a major find on the flats off campsite A24. Others are just missable species that we are happy to see, such as Purple Martin and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Two Black-throated Green Warblers are great additions, the first I'd seen on the Shore this fall.

We arrive at the Life of the Forest Trail with 80 species. Here we quickly encounter a nice-sized flock which includes Brown-headed Nuthatch, House Wren, and Yellow-throated Warbler (*dominica*). A nearby Northern Waterthrush is yet another bonus. While scanning the flats at the end of the trail, I tell Ron Gutberlet that we have to play rock-paper-scissors for who is the unlucky soul who has to try to kick up a migrant Chuck-will's-widow. I lose, and so it is my duty to walk through the greenbrier tangles off the trail in hopes of flushing a nightjar. This old innovation of Hafner, Illiff, Stasz, et al., has paid dividends historically. Unfortunately, it earns me only two legs covered to the knees in thousands of seed ticks.

And now it is time for our biggest curve ball of this Big Day run. Mike Walsh has agreed to take us down the ORV zone, a risky move that greatly increases our chances for some species, but at very high cost in time. In summary, you have to score big for this investment to pay off. We make good time, but there are thousands of birds and a lot of beach. Fox Hill Level has an ample selection of shorebirds, including a Pectoral Sandpiper, as well as our only two Northern Harriers. Along with the large numbers of Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, and Black-bellied Plovers are four Whimbrel, three or more Sandwich Terns, and impressive numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. On our drive back up from the Virginia line, Mikey counts 48 of them.

As we stop to re-inflate the tires, we hear our only Field Sparrows. We are at 97 species and 30 minutes behind schedule. Even cutting corners and dropping stops, we

somehow manage to stay behind schedule all day. The pace quickens. South Point disappoints when the Eurasian Collared-Doves do not show during our short visit. We blame the wind. Eagle's Nest is very crowded both on land and water, and we decide to cut our visit short to make up some time. Before we leave, however, Mikey saves the day and scopes a distant Piping Plover on Assateague. Skimmer Island treats us well, with two cooperative Marbled Godwits (Mikey's overdue state birds), as well as a juvenile Black Skimmer and a quite unexpected adult Least Tern.

West Ocean City Pond has the best shorebird habitat I have ever seen there, and the birds must have agreed. We set up three scopes and quickly pulled out a laundry list of important additions: Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Western Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, and White-rumped Sandpiper. It is hard to pull ourselves away, but we have a schedule to try to catch. Next stop: Ocean Pines... home of a famous Big Day Snow Goose. Or must we say former home? En route, we found ourselves passing the West OC Racetrack (Delmarva Downs), and those not driving put up our bins pelagic-style to check for concentrations of field birds. We find a nice group, pull over, and are thrilled to quickly scope an Upland Sandpiper. This is followed by another, and then by a juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper. What luck! The Snow Goose is not present with the Graylag flock at Ocean Pines. Damn. That's why scouting is a good thing.

And now it's on to Berlin and the woodland birds of the Nassawango. Berlin kindly offers us a Cooper's Hawk, but little in the way of shorebirds. The Nassawango makes us work hard, and it holds out on many important birds. Our route is sound, but woodland songbirds in August in the afternoon can be cruel. Slowly, painfully, we whittle down our list of targets, each big flock adding just one or two new species. One by one they fall, but the list of targets is long and the afternoon is not. We find Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Summer and Scarlet tanagers (just one each, and not singing), Northern Flicker (just a short "flicka-flicka" call), a "Trail's" Flycatcher, and a lucky, late Louisiana Waterthrush. A calling Red-headed Woodpecker on Mount Olive Road is a satisfying find that saves us a stop. This may sound like a nice list, but here's one that hurts. Missed targets here include Red-shouldered Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Worm-eating Warbler, and Ovenbird. And somehow we still need Common Grackle and Song Sparrow. We leave the woods behind and fortune smiles upon us with a roadside American Kestrel and an Indigo Bunting. We have found 145 species, a number that would be wonderful an hour or two ago. The afternoon is getting away from us, and we know we now need luck. We need to get to Hurlock, where we are nearly guaranteed Ruddy Ducks and there is a good chance of adding swallows and shorebirds. When we arrive, six Ruddy Ducks are right where they should be (#146) and amidst the swarms of swallows are small numbers of Northern Rough-winged (#147) and Bank swallows (#148). There are endless options for great rarities to meet us here - Black Tern, phalaropes, American Avocets - but alas, they do not. Gotta go!

Ok, so it's after 1800, and we need 12 species to break the record. By my reckoning, this means nine more species by dark to stand a chance. We decide to end the day on Elliott Island Road, where dusk offers many possibilities. Of course we could work the woods on the way in, and even a small flock of migrants could make all the difference. And we still need Common Grackle and Song Sparrow. Well, we're so close to the Hurlock area sod farms that we might as well check a second time for American Golden-Plover, right? Jim Brighton agrees hesitantly, and we pull over. We tell Mikey to do a 30-second scan. I hop out and use binoculars. The nearest bird was a meadowlark on the open grass. It says "chuck". A surreal documentation flurry begins. Finding the Western Meadowlark is an incredible thrill! When the dust begins to settle, we agree to say to hell with the Big Day; it's time to celebrate. On our way to Jim Brighton's house, we pass Tanyard Marsh and stop for just a couple more seconds to pad the numbers. Common Grackles were abundant in the dusk flocks (#150) and two Mute Swans (#151) floated together.

Over beers we discussed how we could have done better. Sure, the ORV zone addition was risky, and it took a lot of time away from beating the bushes for landbirds. But if we had found Roseate Tern, Black Tern, Parasitic Jaeger, and Red Knot, it would have been worth it. I think we all agreed in the end, though, that sometimes it just happens one bird at a time. You can miss Song Sparrow if you're finding rarities, but you can't miss Song Sparrow and 10 others. August Big Days are tough, and 160 is a hell of a lot of birds. Don't worry, though, there was no disappointment at the end of the day, just many toasts that involved saying "Western Meadowlark...", grinning, still shaking our heads in disbelief.

NEW JERSEY – 29 Feb 08- 0300 to 1800 – Species Totals 104/104; (Team/Shared): Billy Weber 104. 195 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Nantuxent WMA, Dividing Creek, Reed's Beach, Cape May, Brigantine Island, Forsythe NWR, Barnegat Light SP. *Species of note*: Barnacle Goose (V,S), Harlequin Duck (M), Surf Scoter (M), Pied-billed Grebe (M), Hairy Woodpecker (M), Fish Crow (M), White-breasted Nuthatch (M), both kinglets (M), Pine Warbler (E,S).

Leap Day: like a free play in football. With nothing but sleep to lose, why not make it a Big Day? Night birding in the Dividing Creek area produced Barred Owl (Bevan WMA) and Virginia Rail (Newport Landing). I had my reliable Eastern Screech-Owl along Hansey Creek Road and a number of Clapper Rails in the marsh there. Most exciting for me were three or more displaying American Woodcocks along Turkey Point Road, including one on the road shoulder near Hickman Avenue. No Short-eared Owls were around Bay Point at dawn, but a single Snow Goose was there, which I think was my only one. I had a super, if absolutely freezing, couple of walks at Nantuxent WMA, where it took an hour to score Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush (many on the day), Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Towhee, and Swamp Sparrow. I had displaying Wild Turkeys but no Horned Larks on the drive out. I got lucky with Easter Bluebirds on the way to Route 555, but was concerned about getting any more open country birds for the day, and was even more concerned when a full hour along Ackley Road and the railroad tracks failed to net me anything but Red-breasted Nuthatch. No woodpeckers, no kinglets - it was depressing (I would miss Hairy Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch entirely). Maple Street provided a few much-needed ticks, but Turkey Point proved ornithologically desolate, although I did snag my only Common Mergansers of the day off Hickman on the way out. Strawberry Avenue was a frozen waste of my time (unless you count my squirm-inducing-late first Red-bellied Woodpecker), and I somehow got lost trying to find Shellpile - but in so doing ran into my only American Tree Sparrows. A few Common Goldeneye were on a pond off Route 347. When Jake's Landing produced only Black Vulture and more Brown Creepers (I guess I neglected to look at the water, where a Red-necked Grebe was reportedly spending the day), I was very discouraged. Then came a series of stops that got my day back on track. The Cape May Bird Observatory in Goshen was feeding my first American Goldfinches. The Reed's Beach pond had Northern Shovelers and Greater Yellowlegs, while I milked Horned Grebe, Ruddy Duck, and two male Lessers out of the Greater Scaup raft off the beach proper (and heard my first House Finch - OH YEAH). The Cape May County Airport, to my delight, caught me up on both American Kestrel and Horned Lark. Finally, a Sharp-shinned Hawk popped up near the ferry terminal. I began Cape May with a misstep by trying unsuccessfully and at length to pin down a Black-headed Gull among the Bonaparte Gull flock at the Higbee's Beach jetty, but I did pull a Fox Sparrow out of a hedgerow, and fields along New England and Baysshore roads contained Eastern Meadowlarks and a number of Killdeer. Lily Lake paid dividends with Canvasback and at last the snazzy Barnacle Goose I'd missed during my sort-of Big Year in 2007. I got Purple Finch in the cedars next to the hawk watch at Cape May Point State Park, then highailed it off Cape Island, taking a detour out Ocean Drive to secure Boat-tailed Grackle (plus bonus Black-crowned Night-Heron and my only Sanderlings) at the bridge. It was now a race against time as I rushed out to Brigantine Island (American Oystercatchers and both Common and Red-throated loons but neither Willets nor Marbled Godwits) and up to Forsythe NWR, where I nailed an amazing six new birds (Ring-necked Duck, Rusty Blackbird, Wood Duck, Dark-eyed Junco, the continuing Pine Warbler, and Northern Flicker) before starting the refuge loop drive but failed to get anything from the loop itself, including, unbelievably, the Peregrine Falcons. (I would learn later that I'd missed Eurasian Wigeon, Rough-legged Hawk, and Golden Eagle, among others.) Although I got out of Forsythe in a record half-hour, it was past 1630 and I knew it would be tight getting to Barnegat with reasonable daylight remaining. I stopped at Harvey Cedars and found a lucky Peregrine Falcon on the water tower, thus redeeming at least one embarrassing miss. By the time I reached Barnegat Light, I had counted 97 birds in my head (the record was 96), but the sun had sunk behind the cloud bank to the west and I knew I was in trouble. My lone Cooper's Hawk passed overhead and dove into a roost as I walk-jogged out toward the jetty. By literally running part of the way over the rocks, I made it to the jetty's end in time to identify six of my eight targets: Black Scoter (1), Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Black-bellied Plover (1), Ruddy Turnstone, and Purple Sandpiper. Incredibly, I found not a single Harlequin Duck, despite scanning both jetties and the inshore waters as thoroughly as possible. Had they gone off to roost somewhere earlier in the evening? Ending the effort on a deflating note were the Fish Crow I thought but wasn't sure I heard on the walk out and the almost-certainly-but-not-necessarily Savannah Sparrows I flushed from the rocks in the darkness on the walk back. Final count: 104 (one more than I'd accrued in Delaware several weeks prior). Not having slept at all before my Big Day, I needed to pop caffeine pills the whole way home just to stay alert. It was unpleasant, yes, but preferable to dying.

NORTH CAROLINA – 27 May 08- 0430 to 2045 – Species Totals 129/122; (Team/Shared): Marshall J. Iliff 128, Amy L. McDonald 123. 850 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Mout Pisgah, Max Patch, Asheville, Lake Wylie, Lake Waccamaw, Sunset Beach, Green Swamp Road, Southport. *Species of note*: Golden-winged Warbler (R), Alder Flycatcher (R), Northern Gannet (L), Wood Stork (R).

Comments: Misses were many, especially along the coast where we had poor luck with shorebirds and terns.

OHIO – 29 Mar 08- 0400 to 2000 – Species Totals 103/102; (Team/Shared): Troy Shively 103, Bill Whan 103, Glen Crippen 102, John Habig 103. 375 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* The Ohio State University, Hoover Res., Ottawa NWR, Crane Creek SP, Maumee Bay SP, Lorain County Airport, Caley Reservation. *Species of note:* Common Goldeneye (M), Red-shouldered Hawk (M), American Woodcock (M), Eastern Screech-Owl (M), Long-eared Owl (S), White-crowned Sparrow (M).

Comments: This establishes a new March record for Ohio.

OREGON #1 – 15 May 08- 0000 to 2357 – Species Totals 204/200; (Team/Shared): Tim Janzen 202, Rich Hoyer 203, Hendrik Herlyn 203, Jay Withgott 202. 621 Miles by car, 5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Yachats area, Lane County coast, Coast Range, Fern Ridge Res., Cascades, Lake County, Summer Lake. *Species of note:* Tundra Swan (L), Greater White-fronted Goose (L), Red-necked Phalarope (R), Calliope Hummingbird (R).

This Big Day's 204 species represents the 11th highest Big Day total in Oregon (or 12th-highest, counting our 31 May total, which exceeded this one). Heat significantly suppressed passerine activity, particularly east of the Cascades, while coastal fog made seawatching much more difficult than usual. These factors contributed to our missing a number of species that are normally easy to get. Red-necked Phalaropes were present in unusually large numbers at multiple coastal spots. Shorebirds were few and far between on the coast but we did manage to find a Short-billed Dowitcher and a Greater Yellowlegs in Florence. A late Greater White-fronted Goose was at Fern Ridge Res., and more were later at Summer Lake NWR. A male Calliope Hummingbird nectaring at a Red-flowering Currant bush in the Cascades was a pleasant surprise. Five late Tundra Swans lingered at Paulina Marsh in Lake County.

OREGON #2 – 31 May 08- 0005 to 2330 – Species Totals 211/208; (Team/Shared): Dave Irons 210, Tim Janzen 211, Jay Withgott 208. 600 Miles by car, 1 mile by foot. *Visiting:* Yachats, Florence, Fern Ridge Res., Gilchrist, Cabin Lake, Fort Rock, Summer Lake. *Species of note:* Common Goldeneye (L), Greater Scaup (L), Bufflehead (M).

On 31 May 2008, Dave Irons, Jay Withgott, and I ran a Big Day in Oregon and found a total of 211 species. Weather conditions west of the Cascades were almost perfect with plenty of clouds and little wind, but storms on the east side likely caused us to miss some species. We started in Eugene at midnight for Barred Owl and Western Screech-Owl. We tried for Grasshopper Sparrow along Belts Road in Linn County, but were unsuccessful at hearing any. However, while listening for the sparrow, we heard a

Northern Saw-whet Owl and a Great Horned Owl calling nearby. We then headed for the coast where we birded in the hills east of Yachats starting at dawn. A very large tree branch blocked our route up Cummins Peak Road, but I was fortunately able to drive around it without going over the embankment while putting only a few scratches on my Jeep. We were successful in relocating several Gray Jays that Jay had found while scouting the day before and a Mountain Quail, as well as the other expected species. We spent about 45 minutes doing a seawatch at Yachats, which produced the normally occurring pelagic species, but nothing overly special other than a late Greater Scaup, which Jay had also seen the day before while scouting. There seemed to still be quite a few loons and alcids migrating by.

After hitting various viewpoints between Yachats and Florence we went out to the North Jetty at the mouth of the Siuslaw River where we were pleased to spot two lingering Brant. We then headed to Fern Ridge Res. near Eugene, where most of the expected species were readily seen, including several American Wigeon. We were unable to relocate the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel that Dave had surprisingly found at this inland location on 30 May while scouting.

Due to increased efficiency at finding the needed species on our route we were able to leave Eugene somewhat ahead of schedule at about 1230. We then headed over the Cascades making a few stops for species such as Nashville Warbler. We missed Black Swift at Salt Creek Falls, even though I had seen four birds there on 30 May while scouting. Near Gilchrist we added Clark's Nutcracker, Northern Waterthrush, and a Calliope Hummingbird on territory. We then headed to Cabin Lake where most of the birds I had found while scouting were still on territory, including a Lewis's Woodpecker at a nest and a Williamson's Sapsucker near a nest. However, I was disappointed to find the White-headed Woodpecker nest hole that I had located on 30 May 30. As we headed south from Cabin Lake we found the usual variety of raptors in the area of Fort Rock, but we could see a large storm front hitting the area around Silver and Summer lakes. We knew we were in for real trouble. The storm hit us with full force as we drove through Paulina Marsh. As we had somewhat expected, we couldn't find any Ash-throated Flycatchers, Lark Sparrows, or Black-throated Sparrows, at least in part due to the storm. A stiff cold wind was blowing as we arrived at Summer Lake, but at least it wasn't raining there. We had more time than was typical for making the tour loop around Summer Lake NWR due to skipping some other planned stops. This ended up being time put to good use as we were able to find a late Common Goldeneye and two Green-winged Teal that Jay

spotted near Windbreak Dike and a basic plumaged Horned Grebe that Dave found on Schoolhouse Lake. We also saw a total of eight Snowy Plovers at two locations on the refuge. In addition, we found three Common Nighthawks at Summer Lake.

As darkness fell we realized that we had found a lot of important species during the last 1/2 hour of daylight, but we had missed too many other target species during the rest of the day to have any chance of breaking the Oregon Big Day record. We finished off the evening with a Common Poorwill about two miles north of Summer Lake, a Flammulated Owl near Silver Lake, and Yellow Rails, Soras, and Virginia Rails calling at Klamath Forest NWR.

PENNSYLVANIA #1 (Buck's County only) – 12 Jan 08- 0500 to 1700 – Species Totals 90/89; (Team/Shared): Devich Farbotnik 90, Billy Weber 89. 102 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Quakertown Swamp, Haycock Mountain, Nockamixon SP, Peace Valley Park, Penn Warner Club. *Species of note:* Eastern Phoebe (L,S).

There is a song I like to play in the car on my way to Big Day rendezvous points. It's by the French pop band Tahiti 80, and yes it's called "Big Day," although it seems to be less about birding than about romancing with a woman. I sing it dramatically, sending cheerful puffs of breath toward the still-defrosting windshield, allowing my fine tenor to vibrate the air in anticipation of close finishes and state month records.

PENNSYLVANIA #2 – 17 Feb 08- 0600 to 1745 – Species Totals 78/78; (Team/Shared): Billy Weber 78. 120 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Tekening hiking trails, Nazareth Quarry, Trexlertown Pines, Middle Creek WMA. *Species of note:* none.

February in the Mid-Atlantic, is, in a word: austere. I found Cackling Goose, Tundra Swan, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Horned Grebe, Rough-legged Hawk, Killdeer, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Long-eared and Short-eared owls, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Carolina Chickadee. Besting my personal 77 required a clutch Ring-necked Pheasant at dusk (that happened at Middle Creek, shortly after my vehicle was nearly struck by what I can describe only as a small fireball, which zoomed across the road in front of me. Still scratching my chin over that one....).

PENNSYLVANIA #3 – 22 Jun 08- 0230 to 2400 – Species Totals 141/138; (Team/Shared): Devich Farbotnik 141, Billy Weber 138. 345 Miles by car, 5 miles by foot. *Visiting:* Promised Land SP, Tobyhanna SP, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Nockamixon SP, Penn Warner Club. *Species of note:* Snow Goose (L,S), Ring-necked Duck (L,S), Bufflehead (L,S), Double-crested Cormorant (M), Least Bittern (R,S), White-rumped Sandpiper (L,S), Common Tern (R), Barred Owl (M), Whip-poor-will (M), Yellow-throated Vireo (M), Brown Creeper (M), Nashville Warbler (M), Kentucky Warbler (R), Savannah Sparrow (M).

At 0230 on Sunday, June 22, Devich Farbotnik and I met near Lake Nockamixon to begin yet another Big Day. I was composing a dramatically verbose introduction to this account, but I must admit that these adventures are starting to run together in my head. I actually have no idea what time Devich and I met. The 0230 part is a complete fabrication. The point is that we did a Big Day, as I've said, so it is now my responsibility to relate our results as accurately and entertainingly as possible.

We would need 140 species to best my Pennsylvania total from June 11. That route had commenced in the Poconos and concluded in Newburg, Cumberland County, where Andy Markel had lined up for me a number of titillating targets, including Prothonotary Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel. The route Devich and I had designed would end instead in southern Bucks County. Would the reduced mileage pay off with increased birding time and thus more birds? I'm not going to tell you yet. You need to be more patient.

Devich and I stopped first at a Nockamixon parking lot where, back in March, we had been tempted to play the Long-eared Owl whining call near a sunrise Easter mass. This time, we heard Eastern Screech-Owl and, even better, the mellifluous song of the Great Blue Heron liltling in from a nearby colony. Down the road a spell, we paused to listen for the local Yellow-breasted Chat, which vocalized loudly and immediately but was somehow noticed only by Devich. I've lately come to the realization that there is nothing wrong with my hearing. Only my concentration, fortitude, and identification skills need improvement. Shortly thereafter, having established my intention to take a shortcut to Quakertown Swamp, I alarmed Devich by maintaining a jaunty seventy miles per hour as we approached the necessary right. "Weren't you going to—" "Yes," I said, making one of the uglier turns in the history of motorized transportation. It was going to be an awesome day!

While neither Barred Owl nor Sora was in evidence at the swamp, we did record Virginia Rail after an intriguing coded-meaning conversation: *Dev - Did you hear the rail? (translation - You had to hear that. It was obvious.) *me - I'd like to hear it again. (translation - What rail?) *Dev - Did you hear it that time? (translation - Are you stone deaf or merely incompetent?) *me - Oh, that. It's chirpier than I was expecting. Translation - I wasn't paying attention before.) *Dev - Good. Let's go. (translation - I shall never bird with you again.)

An interminable drive northward ensued. Our twin objectives were to make our Pike County songbird stronghold by first light and to luck into Whip-poor-will en route. Neither happened, but I decided I didn't want to hear a Whip-poor-will anyway. They're annoying. Eastern Wood-Pewee and Hermit Thrush began the dawn chorus, and by driving Route 390 with the windows cracked before official sunrise, we added several quality passerines, including Black-capped Chickadee, Magnolia and Blackburnian warblers, American Redstart, and Purple Finch. Our primary early-morning site - a large clearcut overgrown with raspberries, hayscented ferns, and patches of forest - proved quieter than it had been in previous weeks, but not significantly so. The ominous cloud cover and chilly temperature weren't helping. Swarms of wood flies enveloped us as soon as we left the car, prompting Devich to mutter invectives and - in a manner I found disturbingly reptilian - to capture several of the offenders, remove one or both of their wings, and cackle sadistically at them. Fortunately, one of us was actually birding at this point, so most of the specialties eventually fell into place: Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy and Pileated woodpeckers, Alder Flycatcher, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Chestnut-sided and Black-and-white warblers, White-throated Sparrow, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. At least one Mourning Warbler was vocal as usual, but an unmistakable Kentucky singing adjacent to the Mourning was wholly unexpected and probably a very good bird for the region. Regrettably, the Nashville and Canada warblers and Northern Waterthrush I had found on territory while scouting went M.I.A., forcing us to hurry to and through Promised Land State Park so as to conserve time for Tobyhanna, our backup location for Canadian-zone denizens.

Black-throated Blue and Hooded Warblers here, Yellow-rumped and Pine there, Blue-headed Vireo and Swamp Sparrow along the way, and we were finished with Promised Land. Only Brown Creeper failed to cooperate. Trying to cram an extra park into an already tight schedule, I drove the next leg like a biblical Jehu, at times nearly gaining us admission to the actual Promised Land. I did slow down in the town of Newfoundland for nesting Bank Swallow and Belted Kingfisher and bonus Green Heron, Chimney Swift, and Orchard Oriole (likely uncommon in Wayne County). Speedwalking through a vast, intensely boring stretch of woodland at Tobyhanna State Park, we reached Black Bear Swamp just in time for a pelting rainstorm. This was the fault of the many red efts whose presence on the trail had prompted us to squander precious seconds moving them. Now the fruit of our benevolence toward our amphibian brothers was a birdless drenching. "See if I ever do a good deed again," I seethed silently, while Devich called in both Canada Warbler and Northern Waterthrush with his iPod and thus made me feel somewhat foolish for seething. Nashville Warbler and creeper were again no-shows, but after Dark-eyed Junco and Black-throated Green on the hike in and both Cliff Swallow and Wild Turkey on the ride out, we were feeling, if not like a million bucks, then at least like a couple hundred grand.

The ravens that often festoon the shoulders of I-380 south of Tobyhanna had apparently quoth "Nevermore," so we sped to State Game Lands 221 east of Mount Pocono and walked deep into the slippery Devil's Hole glen, where I had located a Winter Wren the week before. As I'd feared, Devich began leaping nimbly over the rocks, whereas I tripped into the creek at seemingly every crossing. On this visit, we had to settle for Louisiana Waterthrush, although it was nice to hear Canada and Black-throated Blue warblers a second time. Just like it's nice to win a nickel in the lottery. We got out of there fast.

Least Flycatcher and Northern Parula were roadside gains in the lower Poconos. As we proceeded south through the quaint hamlet of Analomink, we discussed the origins of that evocative name. I think it's a Native American word and should be pronounced "ah-nah-LOW-mink." Devich, on the other hand, feels it is a compound construction, Anal-O-Mink—which begs several interesting questions, none of which I particularly care to hear answered. What were the founders of Anal-O-Mink into? What was it called in the past; what might it be called in the future? (Mink Sphincter was identified as an alternative.) Perhaps it is a person's surname. If so, and if a Smith is a blacksmith, and a Weber weaves, what does an Anal-O-Mink do? The possibilities are endless.

The female Golden-winged Warbler I had found paired with a Blue-winged in Bushkill had, it turned out, been ditched for another Blue-winged. Our attempts to coax her out by playing "Love Is a Battlefield" did not work. Worm-eating, Cerulean, and Prairie warblers made for consolation prizes. Upriver at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, we attracted Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet in short order and also got a Red-shouldered Hawk either randy or indignant. We passed through the Delaware Water Gap into the Lehigh Valley before noon, only slightly late but hurting for several northern nesters I had counted on. So much for stakeouts. Birding stakeouts aren't even cool, like police stakeouts. From now on, if I'm involved in a stakeout, it had better involve doughnuts instead of DEET repellent.

My job was to get us out of Northampton County between 1400 and 1500, at which point Devich would take over in Bucks. The weekend river traffic had driven Portland's Common Mergansers into hiding, but Bald Eagle and Osprey were at their nests and Devich heard our only Great Crested Flycatcher of the day. Later, I would also miss our

only Red-bellied Woodpecker of the day, undoubtedly to Dev's great satisfaction. What Devich doesn't know is that while he was dithering around with mundane subjects like *Myiarchus* flycatchers, I was observing the Fork-tailed Flycatcher that flew right over us on the Portland footbridge. It went over so quickly, I just didn't have the chance to say anything. I think it was of the Mexican race. That's right, Devich, you punk. I saw a Fork-tailed, and you heard a Great Crested. Who's got the worse unshared bird now?

Opting to forego a suite of easy Northampton birds that would be equally easy in Bucks, we were unprecedentedly selective in our stops: Bear Swamp for Cooper's Hawk and Acadian Flycatcher, Graver's Hill for Horned Lark and Vesper Sparrow, Lily Hill Road for Savannah Sparrow (missed, but picked up Grasshopper instead), Tatamy for Snow Goose, Hope Road for Yellow-throated Warbler, Arlene Koch's house for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird I'd missed earlier. Upon spotting our first pigeons near Moorestown, Devich considered phoning his friend Jason Horn and telling him excitedly to "start driving. Just get in the car and head for Moorestown. I'll tell you more when you're closer." On a related note, I'd like to share that whenever I see a Horned Lark, I greet it enthusiastically, since its four-letter abbreviation is HOLA! (Killdeer is also fun. I love people's reactions when they see me write "kill" in capital letters in my notebook. And Great Egret—GREG—is neat because it makes me feel like I'm on a first-name basis with someone outside my immediate family.)

I made it almost back to our meeting place in northeastern Bucks before my drowsiness began to impair my operation of the vehicle. On Route 412, after I'd swerved toward the vegetation with particular aplomb, Devich suggested we switch places. "I don't understand it," I sighed. "I usually do this on no sleep. I got a full hour last night." We'd already bagged American Kestrel and now Dev guided us aptly from bird to bird, steadily plugging the holes in our list (which was at about 110). Nockamixon State Park provided White-eyed Vireo and the same Yellow-breasted Chat I'd missed in the dark, as well as a surprise Common Tern on a buoy. After that, I must have lapsed into a stupor for an hour or two, since I remember a number of new birds but not a mile of our transit between them. In any case, Devich woke me faithfully for all of the following: Black Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Carolina Chickadee, Purple Martin, and Common Merganser. Somewhere in there was our first Carolina Wren, too (we'd gotten Northern Mockingbird and Brown-headed Cowbird similarly late). By the time we realized we'd neglected Yellow-throated Vireo, we were too far south to do much about it.

Now in Devich's truck, we sped down the Delaware to the consistently productive private holdings in the Tullytown area. If we could relocate some or all of the unseasonal species Dev had seen on Saturday, we could break the record. Blue Grosbeak (multiple), Peregrine Falcon (under the turnpike bridge), and Mute Swan were straightforward, but we were banking on six gull species and the typical larid congregation was curiously absent. Hoping they'd drop in closer to dusk (the landfill was closed, after all), we invested a chunk of our limited remaining daylight in a dredge spoil area where Bonaparte's Gull and a milieu of shorebirds had been dallying. The gull was gone, but breeding Spotted Sandpiper and Willow Flycatcher were around, and a White-rumped Sandpiper represented a new Bucks late date. Thanks to Devich's recent "yardwork" on the main dike, the walk through the rank weeds was less of a frontier experience, though he'd certainly cut a path wide enough to accommodate the occasional Conestoga wagon. We tried in vain for the local Great Egret, then positioned ourselves on the shore of Van Sciver Lake in order to, like a certain ambitious bear, "see what we could see." A pair of Bufflehead and a drake Ring-necked Duck were excellent, as was the expected but still needed Wood Duck - and finally a few gulls trickled in. Incredibly, we milked five species out of the virtual larid dearth, including Laughing and Lesser Black-backed. "O great birding god," I prayed, "I thank thee for these ratty-looking gulls with which thou hast provided us, and also for increasing the suspense via delay. It hath been interesting."

It got dark, as it so often does after sunset. Pied-billed Grebe answered our moorhen tape, but the moorhen itself was on mute. On the ride to Devich's Least Bittern pond, I picked out a flying Great Horned Owl, but I could not pick out the quiet grunting of the bittern. (Devich, of course, could.) An adult Black-crowned Night-Heron stood pallid as a ghost on the Silver Lake spillway. Before returning north, we stopped at a Wawa, where I was afraid Devich would find me fast asleep, propped up between the Pringles and the beef jerky. To stay alert during the hour back to the Nockamixon area, Dev and I discussed the feasibility of a reptile/amphibian Big Day and then brainstormed a list of The Worst Situations in Which to Imitate a Least Bittern. We came up with (1) while receiving a speeding ticket and (2) in front of a stranger's house, as Devich had done earlier. By now, a lot of Bucks County residents probably think Devich has an extremely creepy laugh.

In the end, we tallied a record 141 species, but because we missed Double-crested Cormorant, American Woodcock, and Sora in the hour before midnight, my personal total of 138 was actually one bird lower than my total from earlier in the month. That seemed cruel, but I was too hopped up on energy drinks to care. The energy lasted until the final half-hour of my drive home, when I nodded off and nearly became intimate

with a guard rail. I have now consumed an entire box of Good & Plenty candies and am going to be sick on the computer, so this is necessarily my conclusion. We believe 150-160 is a reasonable goal for early June.

P.S.: I did not actually see a Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. If you contact me to ask about this, we can no longer be friends.

TENNESSEE – 2 Jun 08- 0430 to 2120 – Species Totals 121/121; (Team/Shared): Rick Knight 121. 248 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Three counties in the northeastern portion of the state, with key stops at Buffalo Mountain, Austin Springs, Winged Deer Park, western Washington County, Elizabethton, Wilbur Lake, Roan Mountain. *Species of note*: Blue-winged Teal (L), Northern Shoveler (L,S), Great Egret (L), Worm-eating Warbler (M).

Comments: This is a new June Big Day record for Tennessee.

TEXAS – 19 Apr 08- 0000 to 2400 – Species Totals 260/260; (Team/Shared): Ken Berhens 260, Cameron Cox 260, Pete Nosner 260, Michael Retter 260. 856 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Hidalgo, Uvalde, Frio, McMullen, Live Oak, Nueces, Aransas and Calhoun counties. *Species of note*: Least Bittern (M), Wood Duck (R), Greater Yellowlegs (M), Green Kingfisher (M), Clay-colored Thrush (R,S), Scarlet Tanager (M), Lazuli Bunting (R), Pine Siskin (R,L).

The quest that ended in Port Aransas had begun a long time before. Each member of the team had a long history of birding Texas, and was a longtime veteran of the Texas Birding Classic. While the Classic is a fantastic challenge, the strategy when pursuing as many birds as possible over five days is quite different from any single Big Day route. The Classic is also restricted to the coast, and doesn't include the Hill Country of central Texas - an area essential to any attempt at an ABA area Big Day. While racking up totals well over 200 species on single days of the Classic, we couldn't help but think of how many we might get on a true "Big Day".

In April 2007, a team that included Cameron, Pete, France Dewaghe, and I converted our long-ruminated thoughts of assaulting the record into action. The day was fantastic until we made a late afternoon stop for Horned Lark in Calhoun County. Despite being parked well off the road, we were sideswiped by a careless driver. Hours on the phone with the rental company, police, insurance representatives, and a long and expensive taxi ride followed. Incredibly, we had tallied 251 species before the accident brought us up short. Breaking the record would have taken tremendous luck, but it was frustrating for the day to end as it did. All of us wanted another shot.

The team assembled again in 2008, although Michael was swapped for France, who was unable to escape work. This year, we spent weeks scouting much more extensively, particularly in the Hill Country. We also decided to add the Lower Rio Grande Valley to our route - starting there at midnight. This addition to our strategy was the main difference between our route and that of the previous record holding run.

When April 19th rolled around, everything was in place. The investment of countless hours of strategizing and scouting now rode on the caprice of Texas bird migration. As the clock hit midnight, we were stationed near the Rio Grande, and quickly heard our first owls and Paraques. Even though night migration has little bearing on how many birds are on the ground the next day, we were encouraged to hear the sky full of the calls of migrating Dickcissels.

A quick and highly successful nocturnal run through The Valley left us confident and elated, but with a long drive ahead of us. Hours into the drive, just when we were all having difficulty staying awake, a deer decided to liven up our morning by throwing itself in front of our vehicle. For a few moments, we feared a recapitulation of the previous year's frustrating end to the Big Day, but a quick examination of the car revealed only a smashed headlight and a slightly crumpled fender. The loss of a headlamp was far from debilitating, so we continued into the night. Although our lonely headlight attracted the interest of local police, the car was fine; we had made a very lucky escape from a potentially Big Day-ending disaster. The adrenaline rush of the collision did more than gallons of Red Bull to ensure that the team was alert at sunrise.

Dawn found us in the wonderland of the Hill Country. Although it is always frustrating to speed through such an area on a Big Day, I had been able to thoroughly enjoy it while scouting. This area holds a bizarre mix of birds unlike anywhere else in the US. Acadian Flycatchers and Yellow-throated Warblers sing from the lush river bottoms while Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Canyon Wrens preside over the sparsely vegetated, rocky heights. In addition to being one of the world's most remarkable natural playgrounds, the Hill Country is perfectly suited for a Big Day, offering a huge variety of birds, most of which are impossible to find elsewhere during the day. Our route ran superbly, and we were pleased to pick up some bonus species like a late Hermit Thrush and a Lazuli Bunting that flew into a feeding station just as we were pulling away.

Streaking across the swath of dry sub-tropical brush that separates the Hill Country from the coast, we scanned the skies until our eyes burned. Although we had to cross

this area quickly, it held birds that we needed. Most of the scrub species fell into place quickly, but migrant hawks proved more difficult. Eventually we picked a Sharp-shinned Hawk out of the sky after numerous Cooper's. Late American Kestrels and Northern Harriers were great to see, as these birds were on the verge of leaving in favor of more northern climes. Small stock ponds held a good variety of lingering ducks and migrating shorebirds.

The brush country behind us, we launched into the coastal segment of our day with renewed vigor. Our first stop was Tule Lake, which is graced with incredible numbers of shorebirds throughout spring migration. There was probably nowhere else on the route where we added so many birds in such a short time. A couple of stops for stakeouts were quick and successful, and our ceaseless scanning paid off when we spotted a single Franklin's Gull and a mixed group of Broad-winged Hawks and Mississippi Kites floating overhead.

As we drove into Corpus Christi, the burning question on all of our minds was "will there be enough migrants?" Blutchter Park was our first migrant spot, and the scene was initially frightening; there seemed to be no migrant passerines. As we checked more carefully, though, most of the understory species fell into place - from Swainson's and Kentucky Warblers to thrushes. A Clay-colored Thrush that had been in the area for weeks was an excellent addition to the list. Although the ground-dwellers were much in evidence, more arboreal birds were almost non-existent. At the end of the day, Black-throated Green was our only *Dendroica*, and we didn't find a single *Empidonax* flycatcher. We had scraped together just enough migrants. A solid day of migration could have given us the record by a wide margin, while we would have fallen short on a worse migration day.

The beaches and roads of Mustang Island were packed due to a sand castle festival, and the ferry across to Aransas Pass had a long wait. Fortunately, we had foreseen this potential problem, and left a second car on the other side. We walked on, bypassing the long vehicle line, and were soon across and squeezing into a significantly smaller car. On the bright side, this car had two functioning headlights! In Rockport, we completed our suite of ducks, and even added an unexpected Bufflehead. Other bonus birds were a lingering Brown Thrasher and LeConte's Sparrow.

Working our way north, we entered the riverine forests north of Port O'Conner, which seemed remarkably lush after the arid stretch we'd been in since leaving the Hill Country. With a little effort, we turned up American Crow and Red-bellied Woodpecker in this habitat.

With a hazy sunset swirling across the western sky, we rocketed towards Calhoun County, the place that would make or break our Big Day run, and where the previous year's attempt had met its doom. Our destination was a cluster of rice fields that we had scouted for freshwater shorebirds. The first scan seemed to spell disaster; water levels had dropped drastically, and the previous day's hordes of Hudsonian Godwits seemed to have vanished. Slowly, however, we teased new species out of the acres of muddy rice fields. Least expected was a Wilson's Snipe that flew overhead calling just as we lost enough light to search for godwits.

Having averted disaster in Corpus and Calhoun, we knew we were very close to a new record. Throughout the day, we had been tracking our progress using a laptop. A post-dusk tally found us one bird shy of history. This was probably the high point of the day, as we were now almost assured of the record. All of our hard work, including long weeks of scouting, strategizing, and little sleep had paid off.

We tied the record with a gratifyingly vocal Black Rail. A ghostly Barn Owl a short time later clinched the record. Remarkably, Black Skimmer was still absent from our list. Apparently all the skimmers had been pushed off the crowded beaches and causeways of the coast. We knew of a breeding colony near Rockport, and soon after pulling up were relieved to hear the odd honking call of a skimmer cutting through the sultry humidity of the coastal night.

Unsuccessful attempts at a couple other birds brought us to the Port Aransas Birding Center, where we whiled away the last few moments of our record-setting day. Exhausted enough that our need for sleep trumped our need for food, we settled into a hotel for some hard-earned rest.

The ridiculous number of birds that can be seen in a day in Texas clearly illustrates what a priority the conservation of key areas in that state should be - particularly the fast-disappearing migrant stopover sites along the Gulf of Mexico.

The EDG Team owes a debt of gratitude to many people. First, and most importantly, thanks to our sponsors: Nikon Sport Optics and Birding America. Thanks also to Wild-bird Magazine. Though not a sponsor this year, they sponsored all of us during many years of Texas Birding Classic competitions. We are also very thankful for the information provided by the birders we met while scouting. Their advice was critical at several points during the day.

VERMONT #1 – 29 May 08- 0000 to 2322 – Species Totals 161/159; (Team/Shared): Allan Strong 161, Dan Strong 161, Peter Jones 159. 464 Miles by car, 6 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Winooski River, Brandon, Whiting, Champlain Valley from Addison to Missisquoi

NWR, Franklin County airport, Wenlock WMA. *Species of note*: Lesser Scaup (L), Spruce Grouse (R), Fish Crow (R,S), Cedar Waxwing (M).

We made our Big Day run a bit earlier this year, hoping to pick up some lingering ducks and early migrants. We realized we would lose out on some late arriving breeders, but calculated a potential net gain of a few species. As opposed to the last couple years, we ran this year's route south to north. Nasty weather during the previous week put a damper on migration and at every stop we seemed to be short one or two species, wasting time with extra stops and imploring the avian Gods to bless us with ducks and shorebirds. By 1430 we were at the north end of Lake Champlain, and pretty well resigned to the reality that there was no chance for a record. We decided to stop at Campbell's Bay where every now and again there can be a few shorebirds. We scanned the Missisquoi River from across a farm yard. No activity, but wait... a Semipalmated and Solitary sandpiper were scrutinizing the manure pit for tasty morsels. As we pulled up to the shoreline of the bay, we were stunned to find Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher – a mad collection for spring in Vermont. Wallowing in the glory of "The miracle at Campbell's Bay," we were back in the running and headed for the Northeast Kingdom. Although we ended up with a nice assortment of boreal birds, neither the tying

species nor the record buster ever materialized. A few oddball misses throughout the day, such as Whip-poor-will, Cedar Waxwing, and Saw-Whet Owl, left us with no opportunities in the fading hours and we bogged down one species short of the record.

VERMONT #2 – 15 Jun 08- 1330 to 1830 – Species Totals 167/166; (Team/Shared): Pat Ward 166, Ken Ward 167. 307 Miles by car, 2.5 miles by foot. *Visiting*: Champlain Valley area with key stops at Hawk View Road, Arnold District Road, Hollow Road, Long and Short Swamp Road, Route 73, All Brandon, and Lower Champlain Complex (Dead Creek, East Middlebury, Forest Road 30, Shalbwane Farm Complexes, Route 22A area, Lake Bomoseen, State Route 36, Blueberry Hill, Goshen, Silver Lake, Stony Bridge/Market Road, off Route 30, Button Bay, West Rutland Marsh). *Species of note*: Peregrine Falcon (M), Sedge Wren (V), Lesser Black-backed Gull (R), Black Vulture, Yellow-breasted Chat (R), Eurasian Collared-Dove.

Comments: This establishes a new Big Day record for Vermont.

WEST VIRGINIA – 29 Apr 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*: Shandale Springs WMA, Altona Marsh, Sleepy Creek WMA. *Species of note*: none.

2008 INTERNATIONAL BIG DAYS

ANTIGUA #1 – 3 Jan 08- 0615 to 1710 – Species Totals 60/60; (Team/Shared): Simon Buckingham 60. 65 Miles by car, 4 miles by foot. *Visiting*: McKinnon's Salt Pond, Walling's Res., Jolly Harbour, North Sound, Fyffes Creek, St. Johns. *Species of note*: Killdeer (R).

ANTIGUA #2 – 24 Dec 08- 0625 to 1710 – Species Totals 64/64; (Team/Shared): Simon Buckingham 64. 81 Miles by car, 2 miles by foot. *Visiting*: McKinnon's Salt Pond, Wallings Res., Darkwood, St. Johns, Potworks Dam, Collin's Dam, Jolly Harbour. *Species of note*: Ring-necked Duck (R), Lesser Scaup (R), Hooded Warbler (V).

ICELAND #1 – 22 Jun 08- 0700 to 2330 – Species Totals 43/43; (Team/Shared): Michael Willison 43, Robert Willison 43. 400 Kilometers by car, 0 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: Northwest Fjords from Bjarkalundur to Isafjordur to Patreksfjordur. *Species of note*: none.

After vacationing in Iceland in 2007, I realized I had to get back! Spring birding is spectacular. Being able to see the northerly breeding species in full breeding plumage is an eyes delight. My dad and I spent parts of seven days in Iceland and completed five consecutive Big Days amidst taking in stunning scenery, mountains, fjords, water, sky and 24 hours of light. We observed a total of 60 species in Iceland during that trip and set the ABA Big Day record for Iceland with 50 species on our 2nd day. We didn't find any vagrants, although last year I found one, a Woodpigeon, near Lake Myvatn, possibly a first for that region of Iceland.

On 22 June 2008, we drove in and out of almost all the fjords in northwest Iceland. It was lots of driving but well worth it! Some of the most numerous birds in Iceland seemed to be Northern Fulmar, Common Redshank, Common Eider, and Arctic Tern. We saw our first Northern Wheatear and Snow Buntings of the trip.

ICELAND #2 – 23 Jun 08- 0700 to 2330 - Species Totals – 50/50; (Team/Shared): Michael Willison 50, Robert Willison 50. 550 Kilometers by car, 2 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: Northwest Fjords to Akureyri: Patreksfjordur to Bjargtangar (westernmost point in Europe) to Budardalur to Akureyri. *Species of note*: Thick-billed (Brunnich's) Guillemot.

We woke up to our first Common Redpoll of the trip. We then made our way out to the westernmost point of Iceland/Europe (Bjargtangar) and were not disappointed with the seabirds nesting on the cliffs. We were literally a few feet away from nesting Atlantic Puffins, Black Guillemot, Thick-billed (Brunnich's) Guillemot, Razorbill, Northern Fulmar, and Black-legged Kittiwake. Shag and Great Cormorant were also exciting finds. We were unable to find White-tailed Eagle, which is very local, as we made our way east along the south fjords of the Northwest Fjords. Continuing on to Akureyri made for our longest day, however we picked up Pink-footed Goose, both Divers (Red-throated and Common Loons), Common Merganser (Goosander) and Horned (Slavonian) Grebe. Later, we heard that the first Polar Bear in Iceland in a number of years had come ashore arriving via an iceberg from Greenland several days before, very close to the route we had driven on the north coast of Iceland. Subsequently, it was shot shortly thereafter as they are deemed a danger to the locals living in the nearby area.

ICELAND #3 – 24 Jun 08- 0900 to 2330 – Species Totals 47/47; (Team/Shared): Michael Willison 47, Robert Willison 47. 200 Kilometers by car, 2 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: Akureyri to Myvatn: Akureyri to Hrisey Island, Godafoss Falls, Circlad Lake. *Species of note*: Black (Common) Scoter, Merlin, Rock Ptarmigan.

We headed north of Akureyri to catch a ferry to the island of Firisey. This small island is noted for having a vibrant population of Rock Ptarmigan. Sure enough, after a short hike around the island, dad spotted one in a rocky outcropping. Also numerous in the area were nesting shorebirds such as Eurasian Oystercatcher, European Golden Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, and Common Redshank. Redwings were about the only numerous passerine. Later, heading southeast from Akureyri, we found our only Merlin. Arriving to Akureyri, we explored the lake. This is one of the premier spots for breeding ducks in Iceland. It is the only place in Europe where Barrow's Goldeneye breeds. Divers (Red-throated and Common loons) and Horned (Slavonian) Grebe, Whooper Swan, Greylag, Mallard, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Common Teal, Tufted Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, and Long-tailed Duck were on the lake and Common Merganser (Goosander) was in the nearby rivers. A Black (Common) Scoter was a nice find on the southeast side of the lake. A Northern Pintail was found on the following day. After a long day, a must was to pass the midnight light in the Myvatn Naturebath, just outside of Reykjavik. A geothermal bath, icy blue waters, set in black volcanic rocky pools overlooking the volcanic landscape and lake of Myvatn was bliss.

ICELAND #4 – 25 Jun 08- 0700 to 2330 – Species Totals 48/48; (Team/Shared): Michael Willison 48, Robert Willison 48. 150 Kilometers by car, 2 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: Myvatn to Grimsey Island: Dimmuborgir, Reykjavik, Akureyri, Grimsey Island-Arctic Circle. *Species of note*: Winter Wren, Gyrfalcon.

The day was spent exploring more of the volcanic wonders of the area on our way back towards Akureyri. We picked up the only Winter Wren (Wren) of the trip and had a very nice Gyrfalcon at Dimmuborgir. I thought this bird was of the all-white Greenland race, but evidently it is a bird that has been in the area for a number of years that is at the very light end of the spectrum of the resident Icelandic birds. It was a fantastic bird to view from close range at any rate. We made our way to the airport where we caught a flight out to Grimsey Island north of the Iceland mainland. This is the only part of Iceland within the Arctic Circle. Grimsey is only 5 square kilometers in size. No new species were picked up there, however we had additional great views of Atlantic Puffins and some of the other seabirds that nest in Iceland. There is a huge Arctic Tern breeding population on Grimsey and they dove aggressively at our heads!

ICELAND #5 – 26 Jun 08- 0700 to 2330 – Species Totals 46/46; (Team/Shared): Michael Willison 46, Robert Willison 46. 550 Kilometers by car, 2 kilometers by foot. *Visiting*: Akureyri to Keflavik: Borgarnes, Akranes, Reykjavik, Grindavik, Blue Lagoon, and Reykjanesta (southwestern most point in Iceland). *Species of note*: Northern Gannet.

This was another long driving day as we headed all the way back to Keflavik Airport for our flight out first thing the next morning. Enroute we again observed most of the nesting shorebirds that breed in Iceland - Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover,

European Golden Plover, Dunlin, Purple Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Common Red-shank, Red-necked Phalarope, Black-tailed Godwit, and Whimbrel. It is also quite a sight to see Parasitic Jaegers (Arctic Skuas) gliding alongside or across the road in front of you as this is their breeding grounds. We made it down to the southwestern tip of Iceland and picked up Northern Gannet and Black Guillemot as well as Razorbill again. The trip overall was awesome! Additionally, we observed six species of gulls and Black-legged Kittiwake. Meadow Pipits and White Wagtails are also present throughout Iceland. Big misses for the trip were Great Skua, Rock Pigeon, and Ruddy Turnstone. We also missed any real vagrants, although many of them appear on the south coast and we spent almost no time in that area. I think that an Iceland Big Day of 60+ is probably possible for someone that knows the country well, and that number may already have been attained by European birders. If you get a chance to either bird or visit Iceland, you will not be disappointed!

LOYALTY ISLANDS (Lifou) – 22 Dec 08- 0830 to 1600 – Species Totals 24/24; (Team/Shared): Gail Mackiernan 24, Barry Cooper 24. 75 Kilometers by car, 3 kilometers by foot. *Visiting:* Jokin-Mucaweng Road, Xepenehe-Easo area, various forest tracts near Kumo and Nang. *Species of note:* Herald Petrel, Gould's Petrel, Pacific Imperial-pigeon, Large Lifou White-eye (R), Sooty Tern (M).

This was a day ashore from a sea-birding cruise to explore areas of this rarely-birded island. Some superb habitat remains, with thick rainforest, especially in the northern end. Most species of the rather limited avifauna seem to occur in large numbers and we saw no introduced species such as Common Mynah.

NICARAGUA – 16 Jul 2007- 1000 to 1700 – Species Totals 21/21; (Team/Shared): Loren Hintz 21. 25 Kilometers by bus, 5 kilometers by foot. *Visiting:* National Arboretum Managua Nicaragua, Lake Managua (Managua lakefront), Lake Nicaragua (Granada lakefront). *Species of note:* none.

I was in Nicaragua in 2007 for a Biodiversity conference in Leon and a Solidarity/Sister City conference in Managua. I learned about a number of ecolodges that are great for birding. My Big Day was a spur of the moment. I walked from my hotel to the Arboretum in downtown Managua. This is a great place to learn the main trees in the nation, but I had only a few avian species. Walking by the National Cathedral, I saw a flock of Pacific Parakeets. The lakefront was high in litter and low in birds. I spent most of the day inside but in the afternoon I took a public bus to Granada and was surprised by the lack of birds on the wires and fences. The bus passed Volcan Masaya, where I went birding a few days earlier with folks from ALAS. The big find at Masaya was a White-collared Puffbird. At Granada, I walked to the waterfront. The local park was clean and a number of species of birds were nearby. A White-tailed Kite hovered near shore for some great views.

URUGUAY – 25 Jan 08- 0830 to 1630 – Species Totals 65/65; (Team/Shared): Gail Mackiernan 65, Barry Cooper 65, Peter Ginsberg 65, Agustin Carriquiry 65. 120 Kilometers by car, 5 kilometers by foot. *Visiting:* various ranches and wetland areas near Montevideo and Montevideo harbor. *Species of note:* none.

This was a day excursion from our cruise ship, en route home from Antarctica. Uruguay is relatively lightly birded and we were pleased with the habitat and the birds seen in a relatively short day out.

ABA CHAMPION TOP TEN BIG DAYS

CANADIAN PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

EXPLANATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

2008 Target Total = the average of the three highest Big Day totals for each state up to the end of 2007. Totals have been adjusted in some cases to reflect the 95% rule.

ALBERTA (2008 Target Total=168.0)

178	31-May-01	T. Plath, P. Pratt, T. Hince	198	28-May-94	R.F.Koes, G.Grieff, P.Taylor, R.Tkachuk
174	1-Jun-05	Y.Attia, J.Allai	198	24-May-07	C.Cuthbert, K.De Smet, R.Koes, P.Taylor
163	24-May-96	B.Elder, B.Maybank, B.Storms	196	27-May-89	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grieff, P.Taylor
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	5-Jun-06	B. Elder, P. Cram, M. Spitzer			
153	24-May-98	B.Elder, B.Storms, C.Scialfa			

198	28-May-94	R.F.Koes, G.Grieff, P.Taylor, R.Tkachuk
198	24-May-07	C.Cuthbert, K.De Smet, R.Koes, P.Taylor
196	27-May-89	R.F.Koes, D.Fast, G.Grieff, P.Taylor

NEW BRUNSWICK (2008 Target Total=132.7)

138	18-Jun-06	T.Hince, P.Pratt
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
82	18-May-05	T.Woodrow
75	13-Sep-98	T.Woodrow, F.Woodrow (single-island)
20	20-Mar-01	T.Woodrow, F. Woodrow

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (2008 Target Total=105.3)

117	11-Jul-07	T.Hince, P.Pratt
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

BRITISH COLUMBIA (2008 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

MANITOBA (2008 Target Total=206.3)

214	31-May-08	R.Koes, P.Taylor, A. Walley
212	2-Jun-06	T.Hince, P.Pratt
208	28-May-08	C.Cuthbert, K.De Smet, R. Koes, A. Walley
205	23-May-87	R.F.Koes, G.Grieff, R.Tkachuk, G.Holland
202	1-Jun-04	K.DeSmet, A. Walley
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

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (2008 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 (2008 Target Total=143.0)			100	13-Aug-84	P.Lehman, J.Langham
145	21-Jun-99	S.Yetman, C.Stevens Jr.	69	19-Nov-05	D.McAskill, D.Seeler
144	10-Jun-98	F.Lavender, C.Stevens Jr, S.Yetman	69	19-Apr-08	D.Oakley, D.Seeler
140	5-Jun-94	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Waldron	QUÉBEC (2008 Target Total=163.3)		
137	6-Jun-92	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Taylor, K.McKenna	175	6-May-07	O.Barden, G.Lemelin
137	5-Jun-93	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Taylor, K.McKenna, C.Brennan	166	2-Jun-03	T.Hince, P.Pratt
135	1-Jun-91	B.Maybank, F.Lavender, J.Taylor, B.Sarty	163	28-May-05	D.Bird, R.Titman, M.Gahbauer, R.Gregson, M.Dennis
131	26-May-89	B.Maybank, F.Lavender	161	27-May-02	O.Barden, N.Barden
123	29-May-93	B.Maybank, R.Foxall	158	28-May-88	G.Gendron, D.Ruest
121	9-Jun-71	E.L.Mills, D.W.Finch	155	22-May-93	J.Lachance, A.Côté, G.Lemelin
118	31-May-98	B.Maybank, M.Newell, W.Atwood	155	3-Jun-94	G.Gendron, D.Ruest
NUNAVUT			153	28-May-84	G.Gendron, Y.Gauthier, T.Rheinallt
36	10-Jul-04	R.Knapton, C.Sidler, C.Kersting, T.Molter	152	31-May-85	G.Gendron, D.Ruest, Y.Gauthier, T.Rheinallt
ONTARIO (2008 Target Total=193.3)			151	27-May-86	C.Vachon, G.Bouchard, L.Messely
200	29-May-99	T.Hince, P.D.Pratt	SASKATCHEWAN (2008 Target Total=166.7)		
194	24-May-94	T.Hince, P.D.Pratt	202	1-Jun-08	T.Hince, P.Pratt
186	11-May-79	A.Wormington, T.Hince, D.Sunderland, M.Runtz	174	21-May-88	R.Kreba, B.Ewart, T.Herriot, C.Pollock
182	18-May-96	M.Bain, R.Tozer, D.Barry (Durham region)	165	23-May-87	R.Kreba, B.Ewart, T.Herriot, L.Bjorklund
181	28-May-94	M.Bain, D.Beadle, B.Henshaw (Durham region)	161	5-Aug-99	P.A.Stutesman
180	17-May-80	A.Wormington, P.D.Pratt, D.McCorquodale	160	1-Jun-86	C.Escott, H.Lane
180	22-May-93	R.Tozer, D.Tozer, D.Barry, M.Carney (Durham region)	141	26-May-95	T.Herriot, B.Maybank
180	3-Jun-97	T.Hince, P.Pratt	78	4-Sep-90	B.Korol, G.Wapple
178	20-May-95	M.Bain, D.Barry, M.Carney, P.Holder (Durham region)	70	21-Jul-96	T.R.Kemp
173	22-May-77	R.Curry, A.Wormington, B.Wylie	YUKON TERRITORIES (2008 Target Total=73.3)		
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (2008 Target Total=130.0)			82	23-Jun-92	T.Greenfield
141	6-Jun-04	R.Cooke, E.Marcum, D.Seeler	71	25-Jun-99	P.Hamel, M.Hearne
128	28-May-94	R.Cooke, D.G.Stewart, B.Maybank	67	22-Aug-92	R.Cannings
121	29-May-93	R.Cooke, D.McAskill, B.Bowerbank, R.Palmer, L.Thomas, J.Watts	59	10-Aug-94	R.H.Johnson, S.Johnson
117	31-May-92	R.Cooke, D.McAskill, R.Palmer, S.Stevenson	50	7-Jul-91	B.Maybank
109	3-Jun-95	R.Cooke, D.G.Stewart, G.MacDonald	40	26-May-92	R.H.Johnson, S.Johnson, L.Johnson
108	2-Sep-91	R.Cooke, D.McAskill, B.Bowerbank	38	14-Jun-02	D.C.Chaffin
104	21-Aug-85	B.Maybank, S.Tingley	33	14-Aug-98	E.Burroughs, C.Burroughs
			29	12-May-97	D.C.Chaffin

U.S. STATES

EXPLANATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

2008 Target Total = the average of the three highest Big Day totals for each state up to the end of 2007. Totals have been adjusted in some cases to reflect the 95% rule..

ALABAMA (2008 Target Total=186.0)			ARIZONA (2008 Target Total=197.0)		
202	24-Apr-83	M.Brown, C.D.Cooley	199	25-Aug-98	J.Withgott, J.Taylor, C.Gordon, G.Rosenberg
181	23-Apr-91	G.D.Jackson, R.A.Duncan, W.J.Bremser, P.Tetlow	196	18-Aug-92	D.Stejskal, K.Kaufman, G.Rosenberg, C.Benesh, W.Russell
175	16-Apr-88	R.A.Duncan, P.Tetlow, J.Pfeiffer, K.Wright	196	6-May-07	S.Schuette, K.Kamper
172	16-Apr-84	M.Brown, C.D.Cooley, J.Tucker	195	18-Aug-89	J.Coons, D.Stejskal, G.Rosenberg, J.Kingery
171	22-Apr-83	G.D.Jackson, L.Peavler	191	27-Apr-84	K.Kaufman, D.Stejskal
170	24-Apr-85	G.D.Jackson, J.V.Peavy Jr.	191	8-May-08	S.Schuette, K.Kamper
167	30-Apr-83	G.D.Jackson, J.V.Peavy Jr.	190	30-Apr-77	D.Stotz, T.Parker, S.Parker
166	13-Apr-02	L.Gardella, S.Reed, G.Beaton, S.McConnell	189	25-Apr-07	S.Schuette, P.Hosner, J.Yerger
166	16-Apr-82	M.Brown, C.D.Cooley	185	28-Apr-90	S.Ganley, R.Ferguson, D.Stejskal, B.Norton
166	17-Apr-87	G.D.Jackson, J.V.Peavy Jr., C.D.Cooley	184	12-Aug-06	R.Hoyer, J.Mohlmann, J.Yerger
ALASKA (2008 Target Total=115.3)			ARKANSAS (2008 Target Total=165.7)		
119	19-May-07	B.Meiklejohn, S.Hauser, R.Ambrose	168	9-May-99	K.Nichols, B.Verser
117	20-May-06	S.Hauser, C.Mannix, R.Ambrose, D.Porter	165	8-May-99	J.R.Wilson, M.Greene
110	16-May-98	G.J.Tans, R.Foley, D.F.Delap	164	4-May-07	K.Nichols, D.Baxter
105	18-May-96	G.J.Tans, R.Foley, H.H.S.Scott, J.Scott	160	9-May-92	G.Knight, S.Knight, J.R.Wilson
104	22-May-94	G.J.Tans, R.Foley, H.H.S.Scott	154	9-May-98	J.R.Wilson, M.Greene
104	22-May-93	G.J.Tans, R.Foley, H.H.S.Scott	153	8-May-99	K.Nichols, L.Nichols
102	19-May-95	G.J.Tans, R.Foley, H.H.S.Scott	150	2-May-92	G.Knight, J.R.Wilson
98	24-May-86	D.F.Delap, S.Wulkowicz	145	11-May-97	K.Nichols, B.Verser
98	27-May-87	M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith	142	5-May-92	J.Withgott
98	21-May-97	G.J.Tans, R.Foley, D.F.Delap	140	30-Apr-88	M.Davis, M.F.Hodges Jr, T.Schiefer
<i>Using commercial aircraft (2008 Target Total=117.3)</i>			CALIFORNIA (2008 Target Total=221.0)		
125	4-Jun-93	M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith	231	29-Apr-78	J.Dunn, K.Garrett, V.Remsen, R.Webster
119	6-Jun-92	M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith	217	01-May-05	D.Easterla, T.Easterla, S.Glover, G.Hazard, J.Sterling (single county)
108	23-May-89	M.R.Dalton, M.C.T.Smith			

215	24-Apr-05	J.Feestra, T.McGrath, M.San Miguel, M.San Miguel, Jr.
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)
<i>Using Chartered Aircraft/Helicopters</i>		
243	28-Apr-84	D.Roberson, L.C.Binford, J.Langham, B.D.Parmeter, J.Parmeter
235	30-Apr-83	D.Roberson, L.C.Binford, J.Langham, B.D.Parmeter, J.Parmeter, R.T. Peterson

COLORADO (2008 Target Total=199.3)

204	4-May-00	C.L.Wood, T.Leukering, L.Semo
202	13-May-04	B.Percival, C.L.Wood, T.Leukering
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

CONNECTICUT (2008 Target Total=177.0)

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

DELAWARE (2008 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

WASHINGTON, D.C. (2008 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

FLORIDA (2008 Target Total=174.7)

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

GEORGIA (2008 Target Total=188.7)

193	27-Apr-04	G.Beaton, J.Flynn, M.F.Hodges, E.Horn
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.

HAWAII (2008 Target Total=58.7)

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
56	11-Dec-05	R.E.David, S.Wakefield-David
54	26-Sep-81	R.Pyle, P.Donaldson, M.Ord, C.Vinshaler
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
52	20-Nov-05	P.Taylor, R.Stephens, J.Morris, J.Guadosio, J.Cooper

Maui only

43	12-Jan-05	K.Pohlman
<i>Multi-island, using commercial aircraft</i>		
81	19-Oct-87	R.Pyle, R. David, A. Engilis

IDAHO (2008 Target Total=178.3)

183	6-Jun-06	B.Kemp, R.Weeks, S.Gross
176	11-Jun-99	J.F.Gatchet, T.Edwards
176	9-June-05	B.Kemp, R.Weeks, S.Gross
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

ILLINOIS (2008 Target Total=178.3)

184	17-May-97	J.O'Brien, R.Hughes, D.Mandell, S.Bailey, S.Mlodinow, S.Patti
176	16-May-05	V.Kleen, A.Frohlich, K.McKay
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

INDIANA (2008 Target Total=190.0)

193	17-May-05	J.McCoy, J.Cassady, B.Grube
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

IOWA (2008 Target Total=196.3)

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.Engelbretsen

KANSAS (2008 Target Total=218.3)

225 13-May-02 M.Robbins, R.McNeil, M.Rader
 220 13-May-03 M. Robbins, R. McNeill, S. Patti, M. Rader
 210 10-May-00 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, M.D.Rader
 205 14-May-96 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, T.Peterson, R.Prum
 204 11-May-97 C.D.Hobbs, S.Patti, M.Robbins, R.Prum, V.Laux
 200 12-May-91 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh, S.Patti, G.L.Pittman
 178 9-May-86 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh, M.Cooksy, K.Hollinga
 172 11-May-84 C.D.Hobbs, M.McHugh
 171 3-May-97 P.C.Wedge, D.Seibel, G.L.Pittman, M.McHugh
 164 29-Apr-99 M.D.Rader, S.Seltman

KENTUCKY (2008 Target Total=174.0)

187 9-May-08 M.Monroe, B.Palmer-Ball, Jr.
 176 6-May-02 M.Bierly, M.Monroe, B.Palmer-Ball, Jr.
 174 30-Apr-03 M.Monroe, B.Palmer-Ball, Jr.
 172 6-May-03 L.McNeely, M.Monroe, B.Palmer-Bell, Jr.
 171 7-May-97 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.Elmore
 168 6-May-96 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., B.L.Monroe Jr., M.Monroe, R.Healy Jr., D.Parker
 168 6-May-99 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., B.L.Monroe Jr., M.Monroe, D.Parker
 165 7-May-92 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin, D.Parker, C.B.Elmore
 165 6-May-00 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.Elmore, M.Monroe, D.Parker
 162 7-May-90 B.Palmer-Ball Jr., J.T.Erwin, D.Parker

LOUISIANA (2008 Target Total=205.0)

215 27-Apr-08 P.Benham, G.Bravo, R.Gibbons, J.Maley, B.O'Shea
 209 25-Apr-01 C. Witt, D. Christian, J. Weckstien
 207 27-Apr-08 J.Bosler, D.Bosler, C.Lyon, T.Davis
 204 27-Apr-07 R.Gibbons, A.Cuervo, J.Maley, B.Oshea
 202 21-Apr-87 V.Remsen, S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittmann, T.Parker
 193 28-Apr-97 S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittman
 193 18-Apr-01 C. Witt, D. Christian, R. Moyle, J. Weckstien
 189 3-May-97 S.W.Cardiff, D.L.Dittman
 183 26-Apr-80 P.MacKenzie, B.Crider
 182 17-Apr-85 P.MacKenzie, M.Swan

MAINE (2008 Target Total=168.7)

178 22-May-99 L.R.Brinker, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan, R.Lambert
 165 19-May-96 L.R.Brinker, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan, R.Joseph
 163 22-May-93 L.R.Brinker, R.Humphrey, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan
 162 21-May-94 L.R.Brinker, R.Humphrey, D.Ladd, W.Sheehan
 141 28-May-05 J.Smith, C.Hardy, J.Wyatt, J.Hinds
 140 21-May-95 W.Howes, W.Sumner
 140 28-May-00 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker
 138 24-May-93 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker
 133 25-May-90 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker

132 31-May-03 B.Duchesne, S.Duchesne, L.Vernon, N.Larson
 132 28-May-95 R.M.Milardo, J.K.Markowsky, B.Barker

MARYLAND (2008 Target Total=201.7)

206 18-May-96 M.O'Brien, J.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni
 206 18-May-98 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni, W.Russell
 193 26-May-99 M.J.Iliff, A.Farnsworth
 189 6-May-95 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni
 188 17-May-90 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano, G.Gough
 186 14-May-88 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano
 185 12-May-89 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano, G.Gough
 182 18-May-91 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, G.Gough
 181 10-May-86 M.O'Brien, P.O'Brien, L.Davidson, P.Pisano, G.Gough
 177 1-Jun-92 M.O'Brien, P.Pisano, O.Janni

MASSACHUSETTS (2008 Target Total=169.3)

185 22-May-04 P.Trimble, J.Trimble, V.Laux
 162 27-May-02 Barrett Lawson, Bob Lawson, S.Wheelock
 161 25-May-87 G.d'Entremont, D.Brown, S.J.Dinsmore
 155 15-May-99 S.Wheelock, Barrett Lawson, Bob Lawson, K.Rodman
 154 20-May-02 S. Kellogg, T. Swochak, J. Weeks, J. Zepko
 154 25-May-80 R.Stymeist, T.Lawrence
 152 5-Jun-99 S.Wheelock, D.Furbish
 150 21-May-04 S.Kellogg, T.Swochak, J.Zepko, J.Weeks
 147 17-May-04 S.Kellogg, T.Swochak, J.Zepko, J.Weeks
 143 19-May-03 S.Kellogg, J.Weeks, J.Zepko

MICHIGAN (2008 Target Total=194.3)

203 26-May-95 R.J.Weeks, T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp
 191 20-May-92 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp, T.Walsh, R.J.Weeks
 189 6-Jun-00 K.S.Thomas, B.Murphy
 185 27-May-93 R.J.Weeks, T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp
 184 29-May-94 J.Reinoehl, B.Bouton, A.Byrne, J.Granlund
 183 21-May-91 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp
 182 21-May-89 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp
 179 22-May-91 R.J.Weeks, T.Walsh
 178 19-May-89 R.J.Weeks, T.Walsh, C.Francke
 176 26-May-90 T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp

MINNESOTA (2008 Target Total=193.3)

204 26-May-02 A.Hertzel, P.Svingen
 192 21-May-83 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyillingstad, T.Savaloja
 184 23-May-85 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyillingstad, P.Backstrom
 183 19-May-73 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyillingstad, T.Savaloja
 182 27-May-86 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyillingstad, F.Lesher
 181 18-May-74 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyillingstad, T.Savaloja, K.Martell
 181 23-May-81 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyillingstad, S.Millard
 181 18-May-99 P.Svingen, A.Hertzel (single-county)
 179 22-May-76 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyillingstad, T.Savaloja, B.Jansen
 178 25-May-84 K.R.Eckert, P.Egeland, H.Kyillingstad, K.Camburn

MISSISSIPPI (2008 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 (2008 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 8-May-06 K.Mayo, D.Willis
 174 13-May-06 J.Eades, J.Malone, J.Uffman

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

MONTANA (2008 Target Total=182.7)

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 (2008 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 (2008 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.Knittle
 139 26-Mar-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.Knittle
 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.Knittle

NEW HAMPSHIRE (2008 Target Total=167.7)

170 27-May-97 P.D.Hunt, S.Mirick, A.Strong, D.Strong
 168 28-May-06 I.MacLeod, R.Woodward, E.Masterson, P.Brown
 165 28-May-05 I.MacLeod, R.Woodward, E.Masterson
 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

NEW JERSEY (2008 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.Freiday
 210 14-May-94 P.Pacinski, P.Dunne, L.Dunne, R.Radis, D.Freiday
 210 14-May-94 T.Hince, P.D.Pratt, B.Dilabio

NEW MEXICO (2008 Target Total=195.3)

200 3-May-97 B.R.Zimmer, J.Paton
 198 6-May-99 B.R.Zimmer, J.Paton
 188 3-May-07 J.Black, B.West, C.Black, B.Foy
 184 1-May-06 J.Black, B.West, C.Black, B.Foy

183 4-May-05 J.Black, B.West, C.Black, B.Foy
 179 11-May-96 B.Neville, D.Emkalns, J.Paton
 178 30-Apr-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

NEW YORK (2008 Target Total=199.3)

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 (2008 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
 129 27-May-08 M.J.Iliff, A.L.McDonald
 126 8-May-76 R.Carter, C.M.Eastman, A.Capparella

NORTH DAKOTA (2008 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 (2008 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 (2008 Target Total=179.7)

182 9-May-05 J.Woodward, T.Mitchell, B.Carrell
 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
 169 2-May-96 M.B.Kamp, J.Loyd, P.L.Seibert
 167 1-May-93 J.Woodard, T.Mitchell, B.Griffen
 161 3-May-92 M.Droege, D.Verser, M.Vogh
 160 5-May-90 G.Guinan, S.Metz
 154 4-May-91 S.Metz, D.King, T.Moses
 154 9-May-94 J.Withgott, J.Norman

OREGON (2008 Target Total=216.0)

219 2-Jun-07 T.Janzen, D.Irons, J.Sullivan, N.Strycker

216 11-May-02 T. Janzen, T. Love, D. Mandell, C. Roberts
 213 1-July-06 D. Irons, T. Janzen, J. Withgott, T. Rodenkirk
 213 12-May-01 T. Janzen, T. Love, F. Schrock, S. Steinberg
 212 10-May-86 J. Gilligan, D. Fix, S. Hein, D. Irons
 212 14-May-05 T. Janzen, J. Withgott, N. Strycker, H. Herlyn
 211 31-May-08 D. Irons, T. Janzen, J. Withgott
 208 9-May-01 C. Miller, D. Mandell, T. Janzen
 206 13-May-97 T. Janzen, C. Miller, D. van den Broek
 206 13-May-03 T. Janzen, H. Herlyn, M. Miller, R. Hoyer
 206 16-Jun-07 D. Irons, T. Janzen, N. Strycker, J. Withgott

PENNSYLVANIA (2008 Target Total=170.3)

178 15-May-99 J.G. Fedak; J. Horn
 170 15-May-98 T.R. Kemp, B. Kemp, G.M. Links
 163 12-May-89 T. Amico, D. Heathcote, S. Santner, B. Schutsky, E. Witmer
 161 16-May-87 J.D. Peplinski, B. Peplinski, T. Schiefer
 159 17-May-97 T.R. Kemp, B. Kemp, G.M. Links
 157 12-May-78 D. Snyder, D. Steadman, J. Stull, S. Stull
 157 7-May-83 G. Wilhelm, D. Hoskins, M. Starker
 156 20-May-78 N.J. Pulcinella, J. Miller, C. Richards, K. Richards
 154 12-May-90 J.D. Peplinski, B. Peplinski, T. Schiefer
 151 19-May-83 F. Haas, B. Haas

RHODE ISLAND (2008 Target Total=154.7)

159 19-May-84 R.M. Bushnell, R.A. Conway, H. Willoughby
 154 29-May-03 S. Wheelock, Bo. Lawson, Ba. Lawson
 151 15-May-83 R.M. Bushnell, R.A. Conway, H. Willoughby
 147 17-May-80 R.M. Bushnell, R.A. Conway, H. Willoughby, G. Gerdts
 147 15-May-82 R.M. Bushnell, R.A. Conway, G. Gerdts
 144 12-May-79 R.M. Bushnell, R.A. Conway, H. Willoughby, G. Gerdts
 141 15-May-76 R.M. Bushnell, R.A. Conway, H. Willoughby
 141 13-May-78 R.M. Bushnell, H. Willoughby, G. Gerdts
 132 17-May-77 S.C. Tsagarakis, H. Willoughby
 131 14-May-77 R.M. Bushnell, R.A. Conway, H. Willoughby

SOUTH CAROLINA (2008 Target Total=177.3)

179 28-Apr-92 R. Carter, R. Clark
 177 1-May-89 R. Carter, D. Forsythe, S. Thompson
 176 26-Apr-98 R. Carter, D. Forsythe
 175 30-Apr-88 R. Carter, D. Forsythe, B. Odear
 175 1-May-96 R. Carter, D. Forsythe, K. Kaufman
 174 1-May-05 R. Carter, D. Forsythe, S. Calver
 173 26-Apr-86 R. Carter, D. Forsythe, B. Odear, K. Kaufman
 172 22-Apr-90 R. Carter, S. Compton, R. Clark, D. Forsythe
 172 4-May-92 R. Carter, D. Forsythe, T. Kalbach
 172 1-May-95 R. Carter, C.M. Eastman
 172 1-May-99 R. Carter, D. Forsythe

SOUTH DAKOTA (2008 Target Total=170.3)

175 14-May-03 J.S. Palmer, R.F. Schenck
 170 15-May-00 J.S. Palmer, R.F. Schenck
 166 19-May-97 J.S. Palmer, O. Selchert, R.F. Schenck
 161 14-May-99 J.S. Palmer, O. Selchert, R.F. Schenck
 158 15-May-02 J.S. Palmer, R. Schenck
 158 16-May-96 D.L. Swanson, K. Dean, S. Van Sickle, E. Liknes
 155 16-May-96 J.S. Palmer, O. Selchert, C. Vande Voorde
 154 8-Jul-93 T.R. Kemp, B. Kemp, E. Durbin
 151 19-May-98 J.S. Palmer, R.F. Schenck
 149 16-May-95 J.S. Palmer, O. Selchert

TENNESSEE (2008 Target Total=168.3)

174 10-May-97 J.R. Wilson, M.A. Greene
 169 7-May-94 J.R. Wilson, G. Knight, S. Knight, M.A. Greene
 162 8-May-89 J. Drewry, M. Bierly, B. Palmer-Ball Jr.
 161 8-May-98 J.R. Wilson, M.A. Greene
 155 9-May-84 M. Bierly, B. Palmer-Ball Jr.
 151 24-Apr-99 J.R. Wilson, M.A. Greene
 149 5-May-02 J. Desgrosellier, C. Sloan
 148 4-May-81 C. Swafford, C. Haney
 145 8-May-97 S.M. McConnell, J. Garner, D. Simbeck

144 29-Apr-89 M. Davis, K. Myers, D. Simbeck, J. Wilson

TEXAS (2008 Target Total=244.7)

Land only
 260 19-Apr-08 K. Behrens, C. Cox, P. Nosner, M. Retter
 258 24-Apr-01 A. Byrne, G. Beaton, D. Peake, R. Weeks, B. Kemp
 239 21-Apr-03 D. Peake, B. Kemp, R. Weeks
 237 22-Apr-02 A. Byrne, G. Beaton, D. Peake, R. Weeks, B. Kemp
 233 18-Apr-01 T. Hince, P. Pratt, B. DiLabio
 230 27-Apr-98 O. Carmona, W. Carter, B. McKinney, W. Sekula
 223 29-Apr-98 M.A. Elwonger, P. Petra-Hockey, B. Freeman
 222 24-Apr-99 O. Carmona, W. Carter, B. McKinney, W. Sekula
 215 9-Apr-00 O. Carmona, W. Carter, B. McKinney, W. Sekula
 214 23-Apr-97 M. Cooksey, A. Cooksey, C.D. Hobbs

Using Chartered Aircraft/Helicopters
 244 1-May-85 V. Emanuel, R.T. Peterson, J. Tucker, G.W. Lasley
 238 1-May-84 V. Emanuel, J. Rowlett, R.A. Rowlett, J. Tucker, J. Vardaman
 234 27-Apr-82 V. Emanuel, R.T. Peterson, T. Parker, J. Rowlett
 223 23-Apr-84 V. Emanuel, J. Rowlett, R.A. Rowlett, J. Tucker, J. Vardaman
 221 25-May-90 V. Emanuel, K. Zimmer, G.W. Lasley, G. Plimpton

2008 Target Total = 238.7

UTAH (2008 Target Total=196.3)

202 13-May-01 M.A. Stackhouse, D.S. Wheeler, C. Neuman
 200 16-May-99 M.A. Stackhouse, D.S. Wheeler
 187 16-May-98 M.A. Stackhouse, D.S. Wheeler
 184 19-May-96 M.A. Stackhouse, D.S. Wheeler, L. Lockhart
 180 7-May-95 M.A. Stackhouse, D.S. Wheeler, L. Lockhart
 178 18-May-97 M.A. Stackhouse, D.S. Wheeler
 173 10-May-98 M.A. Stackhouse, D.S. Wheeler, A. Godwin
 169 6-May-93 R. Bond, S.P. Hedges, T. Sadler
 166 4-May-90 R. Bond, S.P. Hedges
 165 1-May-98 R. Bond, G. Bond, T. Sadler

VERMONT (2008 Target Total=161.0)

167 15-Jun-08 P. Ward, K. Ward
 162 6-June-04 P. Ward, K. Ward
 162 29-May-06 S. Schwenk, P. Jones, D. Strong, A. Strong
 161 29-May-08 A. Strong, D. Strong, P. Jones
 159 4-Jun-01 P. Ward, K. Ward
 157 26-May-01 A. Strong, S. Schwenk
 157 26-May-03 D. Strong, M. Hughes, A. Strong, P. Jones
 156 21-May-04 P. Ward, K. Ward
 154 22-May-95 T. Johansson, D. Cooper, A. Farnsworth, W. Hutcheson
 154 22-May-99 A. Strong, D. Strong
 154 28-May-07 D. Strong, P. Jones, A. Strong, S. Schwenk

VIRGINIA (2008 Target Total=169.7)

178 7-May-05 M. Ribaldo, K. Gaskill, J. Keller, R. Rieger
 167 6-May-86 P. Bedell, W. Ealding, C. Foster, M. Iwanik, D. Peterson
 164 10-May-86 T. Finnell, G. Stubbs
 161 11-May-83 F. Day, P. Cabe, J. Garvin
 158 5-May-03 D. Clark, T. Gwynn, D. Hughes, C. Smith
 152 5-May-74 W.W. Fogleman, R.L. Ake, G.S. Grant
 147 21-Sep-96 E.S. Brinkley, T.M. Gwynn III, D. Schwab
 143 8-May-76 B.W. Keelan, B.A. Lund, L.K. Malone
 140 18-Sept-03 B. Taber, B. Williams, F. Day
 138 16-Sept-03 B. Taber, B. Williams, F. Day, T. Armour

WASHINGTON (2008 Target Total=199.0)

201 15-May-88 D. Hutchinson, D. Reusser, B. Tweit
 198 16-May-86 B. Hayes, F. Hayes, D. Schmidt, D. Wright
 198 16-May-89 D. Hutchinson, B. Tweit, S. Ray
 195 5-May-87 D. Hutchinson, D. Reusser, B. Tweit
 186 6-May-84 D. Paulson, J. Erckmann, J. Van Os
 184 9-May-92 M. Denny, M.L. Denny, J. Nestler, J. Wasmer
 180 13-May-89 J.F. Gatchet, K. Knittle, M. Denny, M.L. Denny
 174 20-May-83 B. Hayes, M. Denny, P. Rasmussen
 174 15-May-89 T. Hass, K. Aanerud, P. Cozens
 169 8-May-81 W. Sumner, K. Knittle

WEST VIRGINIA (2008 Target Total=141.0)

146	22-May-06	J.Blomberg, G.Felton, M.Orsie, J.Tharp
140	10-May-02	B.Kemp, T.Kemp
137	7-May-04	J.Benedetti, J.Blomberg, D.Esker, J.Tharp II
133	7-May-93	T.R.Kemp, B.Kemp, E.Durbin
133	15-May-04	G.Felton, M.Orsie
132	10-May-05	J.Blomberg, M.Orsie, J.Tharp II
129	8-May-96	J.R.Blomberg, L.Barnhart, J.Beneditti, P.Calise, L.Rollefson
124	5-May-89	J.R.Blomberg, L.Barnhart, J.Beneditti
124	5-May-91	W.Argabrite, J.Fletcher, M.Griffith, A.Thorne
122	8-May-93	W.Argabrite, M.Griffith

WISCONSIN (2008 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 (2008 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
112	26-Aug-06	D.Faulkner, L.Semo
111	16-Jul-79	W.E.Harper, C.Harper
109	30-Jun-78	W.E.Harper

COUNTRIES / REGIONS

COUNTRY/ REGION	#	DATE (d/m/y)	PARTICIPANTS				
Antarctica	24	4-Dec-95	N.Brinkley, S.Tingley		49	5-Aug-92	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney
	20	29-Dec-04	G.Mackiernan, B.Cooper, P.Clement, A.Quinn, P.Colston	Cambodia	69	3-Jan-07	B.F.Master, S.Myers
	17	19-Dec-87	D.Paulson	Cameroon	135	11-Oct-97	P.Kaestner
	17	29-Jan-98	G.Lasley	Cameroon	121	12-Sep-94	P.D.Burtch, R.Quantril, B.Quantril
Antigua	66	10-Apr-07	S.Buckingham	Cayman Islands	64	4-Apr-01	B.F.Master
	64	24-Dec-08	S.Buckingham		46	24-Jun-00	C.H.Gambill
	60	3-Jan-08	S.Buckingham		41	7-Mar-99	M.McHugh, L.Hart. (Grand Cayman Is.)
	43	24-Jul-95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall		34	10-Nov-96	T.Fitzpatrick
Argentina	149	8-Nov-03	R.Batchelder, A.Earnshaw	Chile	83	5-Nov-02	B.Master, S.Howell
	142	20-Jan-93	A.Jaramillo		75	2-Nov-99	A.Jaramillo, T.Witt, D.Donsker
	120	6-Dec-05	F.Toldi, J.Toldi		62	10-May-90	B.Swift, A.Hade, M.Rodriguez
	52	5-Feb-03	C.Campbell	Colombia	144	3-Feb-84	S.Hilty, J.Vardaman
Aruba	72	12-Mar-05	S.Mlodinow	Comoros Islands	20	13-Feb-99	P.Kaestner
Australia	249	13-Oct-96	A.P.Anderson, J.Grant, E.Sticklen, G.Holmes	Costa Rica	308	2-Apr-00	D.Rogers, J.Vandergaast, J.Fossani
	202	12-Dec-82	H.Beste, R.Dunkerton		306	8-Apr-99	D.Rogers, J.Zook, J.Vandergaast
	182	17-Jul-81	H.Beste, R.Dunkerton		292	18-Apr-98	D.Rogers, J.Zook
Austria	108	6-May-90	W.Firbas, U.Firbas		162	8-Oct-63	R.Ryan, N.Boyajian (on foot)
Bahamas	80	24-Jan-01	S.Mlodinow	Croatia	78	16-Apr-01	S. Lister, M. Hall
	76	17-Jan-02	S.L.Doud, M.Duffey	Cuba	112	6-Apr-00	P.Kaestner
	74	12-Oct-99	B.Hallett, T.White, A.Bainton, W.Bracey		87	5-Apr-00	P.Kaestner; H.Kaestner
	71	10-Jan-00	S.L.Doud, J.E.Sweeten (Andros)	Cyprus	103	21-Apr-95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
Bahrain	81	5-Feb-07	A.Shell, H.King		84	20-Apr-87	S.M.Lister
Barbuda	47	8-Dec-99	J.Marshall, M.Marshall	Djibouti	95	2-Sep-01	P. Kaestner
Belize	202	30-Apr-99	L.Jones, S.Tillett, M.England		85	1-Sep-01	P. Kaestner
	177	19-Mar-00	A.Guarente, G.Crawford, J.Ginaven, K.Loughlin, N.Pulcinella, D.Washabaugh	Dominica	47	29-Jun-07	S.J.Dinsmore, J.J.Dinsmore, Go.Brown, Ge.Brown, J.Gilliam
	133	26-Feb-00	J.Marshall		39	17-Jan-98	J.Meyer
Bermuda	72	16-Oct-99	M.Allaire, A.Dobson, L.Walker		32	28-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood
Bhutan	96	22-Feb-05	G.Mackiernan, P.Clement, B.Cooper, R.Jagus	Dominican Republic	66	10-Apr-95	B.F.Master, S.Master, A.Hill, A.Small, T.Eastman, B.J.Rose, S.Rose, Donald Traver, Donna Traver
Bolivia	160	21-Dec-76	V.Remsen	Ecuador	181	13-Nov-96	P.Coopmans
Botswana	107	1-Nov-81	B.A.Allen, J.Wilson		173	10-Feb-07	B.F.Master, F.Rowland
Brazil	180	6-Dec-03	P.Kaestner		109	27-Jul-93	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Levy, A.Hill
	167	21-Nov-91	D.Stotz, W.Silva	Egypt	80	17-Sept-04	P.Kaestner
	142	7-Nov-03	B.F.Master, P.Bono		69	19-Apr-64	H.C.Kyillingstad
	135	25-Feb-00	B.F.Master, P.Bono		66	31-Dec-89	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
Brunei	124	10-Nov-96	P.Kaestner	El Salvador	44	8-Jul-04	L.Hintz, M.Vimmerstedt
Bulgaria	97	13-May-97	H.Turner, D.Georgiev, R.Walton, J.Schmidt, F.Brazier	England	147	11-May-96	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, M.Sutherland, B.Davison

	145	7-May-89	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, B.Bland, A.Henderson	Madagascar	58	21-Dec-93	B.F.Master, B.Finch
	144	8-May-94	D.W.Taylor, B.Bland, A.Henderson, I.Hodgson	Malaysia	94	3-Mar-03	B.Master, J.Dunn, D.Young
	115	11-May-96	J.Cantello, D.Wrathell, S.Wrathell, D.Allen (bicycle/foot)	Mali	73	16-Aug-99	S.Rajathurai (Big Sit)
	84	5-May-95	P.Larkin (Big Sit)		76	27-Dec-03	M.Cri.Ickmore
	77	10-May-99	D.Taylor, D.Wilson, B.Boleans (Big Sit)	Marianas	63	10-Aug-90	T.Cable, R.Marshall
	75	17-May-00	D.Taylor, R.Thompson, D.Wilson (Big Sit)	Islands	23	15-Sep-82	P.Kaestner
Estonia	109	7-Jun-94	B.F.Master, D.Master	Marshall	16	18-Feb-77	D.Anderson
Ethiopia	189	10-Sep-01	P. Kaestner, M. Gebremichael		14	20-Apr-76	D.Anderson
	174	19-Aug-01	P. Kaestner, M. Gebremichael		13	1-Apr-76	D.Anderson
France	181	7-May-94	J-P.Sibley, L.Spanneut, B.Bougeard	Martinique	30	25-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright,
	153	15-May-93	J-P.Sibley, L.Spanneut, B.Bougeard, J-P.Delapré	Mexico	229	18-Oct-02	J.Montejo, R.Straub, A.McAndrews
	145	20-May-99	D.W.Taylor, D.H.Tomlinson, B.Bland, I.Hodgson		201	23-Dec-01	K. Kaufman, R. Taylor, C. Green, K.Garwood
Galapagos	47	14-Aug-84	F.Hayes, W.Baker, G.Bennett, T.Rochester		191	16-Nov-89	R.Taylor, C.Green
Gambia	127	31-Mar-91	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, Y.Jaiteh	Morocco	108	1-Jan-94	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney
Germany	122	1-Jul-82	N.Brinkley		99	30-Dec-93	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall, D.Gosney
Grand Cayman Islands	74	27-Oct-02	N.Norman, T.Baxter, B.Harlett	Namibia	217	26-Nov-94	C.Hines, D.Farr, M.Paxton, P.Lane
Greece	77	28-Sept-05	P.Ward, K.Ward	Nepal	158	26-Feb-84	B.King, J.Vardaman, K.Ram
	61	19-Apr-03	G.Olioso	Netherlands	190	10-May-03	R.Haas, W.Leurs, L.Heemshelk, J.van der Laan
Grenada	36	18-Jul-95	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall		176	15-May-96	J.van der Laan, R.de Haas, L.Heemskerck, W.Leurs
	30	21-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood		163	15-May-89	B.Pieterse, J.W.de Roever, W.E.M.van der Schot
Guadeloupe	29	30-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright, K.Garwood, B.Davidson	New Caledonia	40	24-Nov-07	M.Berlign, T.Kompier, T.Luijendijk, A.Meijer
Guyana	150	6-Jan-99	R.Ryan	Nicaragua	56	12-Mar-98	M.E.Petrucha, G.R.Urquhart
Guatemala	225	7-Apr-02	P.Kaestner, J.Berry		53	3-Feb-01	P. Kaestner, J. Carlos, M. Sanchez
	208	1-Apr-01	P. Kaestner, W. Plomp		21	16-Jul-07	L.Hintz
	192	18-Nov-01	P. Kaestner, J. Barry		57	24-Jan-04	M.Crickmore
Honduras	149	6-Jan-01	P. Kaestner	Niger	76	11-Mar-02	K.Burton
Hungary	144	13-May-01	G. Magavar, A. Schmidt, E. Sos	Nigeria	63	10-Mar-02	K.Burton
Iceland	50	23-Jun-08	M.Willison, R.Willison		61	5-Sep-87	P.Kaestner
	49	27-Jul-95	N.Brinkley, B.Cary, J.Nussman, J&M.Cressman.	N. Ireland	133	8-May-93	C.Murphy, S.McKee, C.Mellon, D.Hunter
	48	25-Jun-08	M.Willison, R.Willison		122	29-Apr-89	C.Murphy, C.Brewster, D.Knight, S.Foster
	47	24-Jun-08	M.Willison, R.Willison	Oman	117	2-Nov-97	D.Sargeant, M.Sargeant
	46	26-Jun-08	M.Willison, R.Willison	Panama	300	22-Mar-97	W.D.Robinson, D.Christian
	43	22-Jun-08	M.Willison, R.Willison		255	25-Jan-84	R.Ridgely, J.Vardaman
India	166	14-Nov-81	P.Kaestner, H.Kaestner	P.New Guinea	215	7-May-83	P.Kaestner, B.Finch
	161	21-Dec-94	B.F.Master, P.Holt, B.Behrstock, J.Bangma		208	13-Mar-83	P.Kaestner, B.Finch
	146	22-Feb-84	B.King, J.Vardaman	Paraguay	180	21-Oct-89	F.Hayes, P.Scharf, J.E.Argana
Indonesia	105	7-Jun-79	C.Escott		162	20-Oct-89	F.Hayes, P.Scharf, J.E.Argana
Ireland	122	29-Apr-89	C.Murphy, C.Brewster, D.Knight, S.Foster		148	9-Dec-88	F.Hayes, D.Snider, T.E.Perrin
	120	8-May-91	C.Murphy, S.McKee, R.Chambers, C.Mellon	Peru	331	5-Sep-82	T.Parker, S.Robinson
Italy	87	26-May-05	W.Firbas, W.Lindinger, W.Smetana, H.Walter		278	16-Oct-81	T.Parker, J.Vardaman
	64	23-Aug-95	W.Firbas, E.Mader	Portugal	113	14-Oct-96	M.Bolton, C.Beale, M.Roberts, G.Rawcliffe
Ivory Coast	73	27 Dec-05	T.Witt, N.K.Borrow		108	24-Feb-96	G.Elias, C.C.Moore
	25	27-Nov-78	P.Kaestner		104	2-Aug-96	G.Elias, J.Braga
Jamaica	109	23-Mar-93	P.P.Marra, J.I.Lovette	Poland	108	25-Jun-01	S. Gaulin, B. Hince
	76	10-Mar-92	M.Lysinger, J.Arnett	Puerto Rico	94	23-Apr-74	H.Snyder, S.Den, P.Lehman
	74	10-Mar-91	P.D.Hunt, P.Marra		74	22-Jan-96	P.D.Hunt, S.Burson, B.Steele, L.Gates
Japan	148	10-Aug-64	C.R.Johnson, A.Sasaki	Quatar	43	8-Nov-05	B.Hallady, I.Halladay
Kenya	290	25-Feb-84	D.Turner, T.Stevenson, D.Richards		30	5-Nov-04	I.Halladay, B.Halladay
	264	2-Dec-79	J.Gerhart, D.Turner	Rwanda	41	6-Aug-86	N.Brinkley, D.Scotts
	248	19-Nov-78	J.Gerhart, J.Miskell, S.Wallace	St. Kitts	33	24-Jul-99	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall
Loyalty Islands (Lifou)	24	22-Dec-08	G.Mackiernan, B.Cooper	St. Lucia	53	1-Jul-07	S.J.Dinsmore, J.J.Dinsmore, Go.Brown, Ge.Brown, J.Gilliam
				H.Davidson,	43	24-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, L.John, M.Flieg,
					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

St. Vincent	39	22-Apr-96	B.F.Master, S.Master, M.Flieg, H.Davidson, D.Albright,	Switzerland	75	28-May-87	B.Swift, L.Maumary
Sao Tome & Principe	44	26-Sep-97	P.Kaestner, J.Gerhart, K.Garwood, B.Davidson	Tanzania	146	28-Sep-98	P.Kaestner
Saudi Arabia	112	6-Sep-01	G. Bletsch	Thailand	180	2-Mar-84	B.King, P.Round, J.Vardaman
	106	7-Apr-83	J&T.Heindel, C&W.Peterson	Trinidad	177	23-Sep-01	M. Kenefick, F. Hayes, B. Hayes
	103	7-Sep-00	G.Bletsch, P.Webb, A.Webb		167	7-Sep-00	F.Hayes, M.Kenefick, B.Sanasie
Sechelles	33	22-Nov-98	B.F.Master, S.Master, A.Skerritt	Tobago	151	25-May-77	J.Funk, R.Randall, D.Heller, L.Calderon
	32	3-Sep-99	K.Lefriede, K.Selima		113	8-Oct-01	N.George, F.Ahyes, M.Kenefick
Senegal	105	31-Jan-93	B.Maybank, S.Finnegan		100	16-Oct-00	F.Hayes, M.Kenefick, B.Sanasie, B.Hayes
Singapore	129	30-Jan-99	S.Rajathurai, M.Landenburger	Turkey	129	29-Apr-95	B.Maybank, T.Yip-Hoi, J.Taylor, J.Waldron, K&M Allsebrook
	128	1-Jan-99	S.Rajathurai, W.L.Keng		113	12-Jun-07	J-P Sibley, B.Couronne
	125	23-Oct-99	S.Rajathurai, B.McCartney, R.McCartney	Uganda	260	16-Nov-70	S.Bekir, B.Swift, M.Swift
	59	2-Apr-99	S.Rajathurai, S.Subaraj (Big Sit)		61	13-Aug-86	M.Fogden
Solomon Islands	49	13-Nov-07	B.F.Master	Uruguay	65	25-Jan-08	N.Brinkely, D.Scotts
	40	16-Jun-02	B.F.Master		33	23-Nov-03	G.Mackiernan, B.Cooper, P.Ginsberg, A.Carriquiry
South Africa	247	7-Nov-87	D.Cyrus, N.Robson, H.Chitenden, P.Outhwaite (Natal)	U.S. Virgin Islands	64	13-Oct-02	R.Batchelder F.Hayes, B.Hayes
	232	11-Sep-85	D.Cyrus, G.Nichols, N.Robson (Natal)		30	15-Nov-97	T.Fitzpatrick
	230	8-Nov-86	D.Cyrus, N.Robson, H.Chitenden, P.Outhwaite (Natal)	Vanuatu	33	15-Jun-85	P.Kaestner
South Korea	42	3-Oct-81	H.H.Puppe, Y.Moo-boo	Venezuela	192	30-Oct-85	C.Parrish, B.Swift
	34	4-Oct-81	H.H.Puppe, Y.Moo-boo		160	30-Aug-86	B.Swift, I.Branger, E.Cartaya
Spain	97	27-May-04	G.Mackiernan, B.Cooper	Vietnam	85	16-Sep-65	C.R.Johnson, R.DeWitt, D.Long
	95	18-Jun-89	J.Parmeter, J.Strauss, E.Strauss	Yemen	110	8-Mar-06	P.Kaestner, H.Kaestner
	74	21-Jun-85	D.Mark, B.Feltner		81	24-Oct-04	T.Witt, D.Farrow
Sri Lanka	95	13-Nov-07	B.F.Master	Zambia	288	6-Dec-75	R.Dowsett, D.Aspinwall, T.Osborne
	85	10-Jul-97	S.M.Lister, M.C.Hall		273	2-Nov-74	R.J.Dewsett, D.R.Aspinwall, W.F.Bruce-Miller, T.O.Osborne
Sudan	54	2-Apr-92	R.Holbrook, J.Lewis		273	30-Nov-75	R.J.Dowsett, T.O.Osborne
Suriname	173	2-Jan-84	R.Ridgely, J.Vardaman	Zaire	135	20-Jul-78	P.Kaestner
				Zimbabwe	196	30-Jan-88	S.L.James, B.Wright, L.Schwab

PROVINCIAL & STATE RECORD BIG DAYS BY MONTH

AREA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ABA	176	175	213	<u>260</u>	230	202	213	199	177	178	178	176
CAN	127	109	105	163	205	202	182	167	154	121	117	121
48	176	175	213	258	230	189	213	199	177	178	178	176

PROVS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
AB	27				178	<u>174</u>	150	80	118	80	56	41
BC	127	109	105	163	196	162	176	120	136	121	117	121
MB	31	41			<u>214</u>	212	182	167	154	105	73	33
NB	22		20	55	82	138		100	75			
NL	22	27	37	31	78	76	117	64	106	78		27
NT						64		41				
NS	39	80	72	72	131	145	93	106	101	85	62	70
NU							36					
ON	81	64	86	102	200	180	165	135	<u>115</u>	110	91	<u>61</u>
PI	40	40	35	<u>69</u>	128	141		104	108	51	69	63
PQ			13	77	<u>175</u>	166	42	51	78	101		
SK					174	<u>202</u>	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	102	151	131	140	<u>110</u>
AK	39	40	54	63	117	125	61	72	63	29	60	48
AZ	<u>150</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>162</u>	191	196	<u>171</u>	131	199	158	147	<u>137</u>	137
AR	64		64	140	168		76	118			115	
CA	176	175	178	231	217	178	170	170	177	178	178	166
CO	<u>110</u>	100	100	<u>152</u>	204	149	160	176	<u>160</u>	<u>127</u>	105	107
CT	103	86	112	140	186	145	136	132	131	92	102	104
DE	100	<u>105</u>	<u>109</u>	159	199	105	109	133	130	107	108	114
DC		68	81	101	134						60	57
FL	159	156	163	179	170	144	148	137	140	158	161	163
GA	142	146	139	192	174	147	132	147	157	154	141	145
HI	52	56	52	51	50		53	46	59	81	57	56
ID	75	93	102	125	156	183	132	105	104	75	81	80
IL	103	97	118	168	184	<u>143</u>	128	123	141	127	105	100

IN	80	77	86	125	193	139	119	107	125	121	81	<u>82</u>
IA	36	64	81	121	204	114	103	109	112	91	73	68
KS	102	102	122	164	225	139	146	155	136	144	103	103
KY	100	102	111	174	<u>187</u>	134	126	130	<u>136</u>	118	100	102
LA	158	<u>160</u>	176	<u>215</u>	189	143	149	143	160	157	165	161
ME	57	44	<u>58</u>	68	178	123	91	65	81	85	74	61
MD	135	83	136	108	206	177	174	<u>151</u>	115		120	
MA	83	91	101	101	185	151	128	98	102	108	94	90
MI	75	91	102	121	203	189	149	141	152	124	100	85
MN	63		92		204	151	90	148	136	56	46	
MS			140	175	171	125		74			102	
MO	87	88	115	155	208	125	117	133	109	115	102	93
MT	71	76		91	147	192	174	132	129	98	70	
NE	83	79	98	129	203	133		88	135	115	97	86
NV	76	80	139	124	162	133	127	109	117	91	121	99
NH	78	75	77	118	170	151	141	114	116	109	92	71
NJ	109	<u>104</u>	116	146	229	164	148	141	144	128	125	118
NM	116	113	112	178	200	111	138	177	170	125	112	100
NY	80	64	94	126	202	158	131	128	118	118	93	69
NC	82	94	87	167	184	141	106	110	80	97	113	89
ND				106	167	126	122	131				
OH	82	87	<u>103</u>	159	205	152	141	135	138	121	98	85
OK	85	95	104	177	182	78	76	105	129	117	92	75
OR	112		107	143	216	219	213	116	151			
PA	<u>90</u>	<u>78</u>	101	132	178	<u>141</u>	110	114	109	116	<u>104</u>	80
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	<u>121</u>	116	120	117	117	102	100
TX	174	181	213	<u>260</u>	203	165	163	165	161	176	175	176
UT		84	89	117	202	148	147	128	92			
VT	<u>58</u>	55	72	122	162	<u>167</u>	139	151	132	107	60	74
VA	77	86	89	94	178	106	91	95	<u>159</u>	101	105	110
WA	110	112	121	143	201	157	119	120	121	113	100	102
WV	54	40	53	<u>73</u>	146	115	68	46	64	44	51	52
WI	76	94	112	172	230	147	157	186	194	158	137	93
WY	46	47	49	103	180	109	141	112	81	76	70	