

Sidedoor Season 5, Episode 4: Birds, Birds, Birds!

Lizzie Peabody: Hi friends! Before this episode starts, let's talk for a second. As you may have heard by now, the Smithsonian's museums and the National Zoo are temporarily closed to the public. But please know, behind the scenes, the Smithsonian staff are still movin' and groovin'. And with Sidedoor, you can still experience the Smithsonian wherever you are. We're still interviewing Smithsonian experts from home to share the best stories with you. As for today's episode, we recorded it several weeks ago, and already, it feels like it has been a year. It was a simpler time. There weren't yet rules to stay at home. But for safety's sake, we did keep a safe six-foot social distance. Anyway, for reasons that are about to become clear, we did this interview outside. You might hear some wind, the odd siren, everyday outside sounds around here. Typically, we'd try to cut down on these noises, but maybe a bit of time outside is just what you need right now. Anyway, thanks for keeping Sidedoor part of your life.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: This is Sidedoor, a podcast from the Smithsonian with support from PRX. I'm Lizzie Peabody.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: I don't know about you, but springtime leaves me antsy. Washington, D.C. doesn't have arctic freezing winters, but they are cold, and wet, and dark, and generally, miserable. So, by the first weeks of spring, when temperatures start to creep into the high 50s, I just want to be outside. So, early one morning, we went to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, a D.C. national park, for a nature walk with Pete Marra. And Pete's the exact person you'd want to guide you on a walk through nature.

Pete Marra: Oop! There's a Phoebe!

Lizzie Peabody: What's a Phoebe?

Pete Marra: Eastern Phoebe. It goes (in a high-pitched voice) "phee-bee!" That was a song sparrow singing right there. There's two black ducks coming in for a landing right over here. Oh, and here's...

Lizzie Peabody: Ooh!

Pete Marra: ...two tree swallows swarming around. You can hear them.

[SOUND OF CREEK NEARBY]

Lizzie Peabody: Pete loves birds!

Pete Marra: There's a turtle crossing the path right there.

Lizzie Peabody: And also, turtles.

Pete Marra: A big Snapping Turtle over there! Uh, we gotta go over there! See it right there? Check this out!

[SOUND OF CREEK NEARBY]

Lizzie Peabody: And it seems, pretty much any other animal. Pete Marra is an Ornithologist and Conservation Biologist. As the former Director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and current Head of the Georgetown Environment Initiative, he knows more about birds than, well, pretty much anyone.

[SOUND OF CREEK NEARBY]

Pete Marra: I spend most of my time thinking about how we can protect the environment for birds and people, and how we can bring nature back. How do we remove the threats?

Lizzie Peabody: Threats to birds come in many forms. Many of them are caused by us: big things like deforestation, climate change, and buildings! And even small things, like our beloved house cats! All these threats are contributing to a huge decline in bird numbers.

Pete Marra: So, this Red-Winged Blackbird that's singing right over here. This bird is... It's a Black Bird, but it has this, the males, and the females I think are equally gorgeous, the males have this bright red badge on their wings. Each side of the wings and this little sort of um, swipe of yellow under the red on that wing. But this is a bird that was so common when I was growing up, just very common in any little marsh patch around; but it's one of these species that we reported on in a recent paper that we published in, "Science" that reported in nearly 3 billion birds gone. Duck! Mallard!

Lizzie Peabody: That's right! In the last 50 years, we have lost three billion birds. That's buh-billion birds!

Pete Marra: So, it's, it's one of these cases of where, you know, we'd been witness to this massive decline of birds and Red -Winged Blackbirds are the species that was once common. And now, we're losing them right before our very eyes.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: So, this time on Sidedoor, eyes to the sky, we take some time to appreciate our fine feathered friends. And in spite of the gloomy news about the birds' numbers, the walk through nature left me feeling really good; especially, after I learned a few simple steps we can all take to help bring birds back.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: We met Pete Marra in the parking lot of Kenilworth Gardens; this beautiful piece of park-land in D.C., full of marshes, ponds, and all the wildlife they attract. The day was unusually warm, rain was holding off, and the cherry blossoms were popping! I was beyond optimistic about the morning, until Pete saw us.

Pete Marra: You guys don't have binoculars! So, (laughs) guys, we're going birding, right? (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: Unfortunately, I'd forgotten my binoculars in my other birding bag.

Pete Marra: I'd share my, my binoculars, but then we share so much more. We don't want to do that.

Justin O'Neill: No.

Lizzie Peabody: Because of the recommended six-foot safety space, I couldn't borrow Pete's binoculars. So, I had to see the birds as I'm used to seeing them: far away, and tiny. But Pete kept me updated on all the great birds he was seeing. And Pete is always seeing birds.

Pete Marra: That's a Carolina Wren. That's Carolina Wren. Tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle. These are two White-Footed Sparrows. Northern Cardinal. Those are Grackles flying over now. There's American crow.

Lizzie Peabody: Oh, I hear that one.

Lizzie Peabody: But walking with Pete, I quickly learned that birdwatching is as much a feast for the ears as it is the eyes.

Pete Marra: You know, a really good birder will be able to pick out a single chip note of a bird and know what that species is.

Lizzie Peabody: What's a chip, a chip note?

Pete Marra: A chip note! So, birds have a whole suite of vocalizations. The songs that you hear, but then they'll also have little chips like (makes a click sound) warblers; they are known for their little chip notes. So, we are walking through the forest. I mean, I'm pointing out what we're seeing, but, at the same time, I'm sort of logging in all of these birds that I'm seeing and as well as hearing. And so, it's all because I know all these songs and chips.

Lizzie Peabody: Chips.

Pete Marra: Yeah. Like that Song Sparrow right there, that just popped up.

Lizzie Peabody: So, we are, right now, at a National Park called Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. It's along the Anacostia River in D.C. What makes a park like this a good spot to watch birds? And if you were to encourage people to go bird watching near their houses, what would you tell them to look for?

Pete Marra: So, one of the key things is water, but also a variety of habitats. And native plants is also a really big deal. So, when you're out walking around and birdwatching, you also want to know what habitat you're in. And you want to know what to sort of expect in these areas.

Lizzie Peabody: Oh, this little guy! Is that a...

Pete Marra: That is a...

Lizzie Peabody: ...Sparrow?

Pete Marra: Song Sparrow. Yeah, very good!

Lizzie Peabody: So, you've seen countless Sparrows in your life.

Pete Marra: Yeah.

Lizzie Peabody: And all kinds of Sparrows. And even so, every time you think you see one, you pull your binoculars up and you're looking. What is exciting to you about seeing these birds, even if you've seen them countless times before?

Pete Marra: Yeah, it's really true. Every time I see a Song Sparrow, it's... you know, I've probably seen millions of Song Sparrows, but it's something about a bird. That combination of streaks, the moving its head, looking at its eye, you know, optics have gotten so good. So, you can almost look at a bird through your binoculars, and you can see what it's thinking.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Pete Marra: And, it also brings back memories. You know, Song Sparrow is also one of these birds that I've been watching ever since I was very, very young. So, when they start to sing, that song is reminiscent, just like when you hear a song on the radio. I hear a song out in the woods. And it brings back similar sorts of memories to me.

Lizzie Peabody: Huh!

Pete Marra: So, uh, yeah!

Lizzie Peabody: That music connection you made is really something because I totally relate to that; the transported of power of, of song...

Pete Marra: Yep!

Lizzie Peabody: ...of music, but that you hear it in that way.

Pete Marra: Songs do that for me too.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Pete Marra: You know, the thing I like, I love about nature and birds is that we not only see these things, we hear them. And, you know, when I capture birds and I hold birds, I'm touching them. So, they are really stimulating all the major senses for me. And that's what nature does. You know, we feel wind against our face. We are smelling the spring popping right now. You're just, we're stimulating everything that's happening in real time. And this is life! This is what it is. So, it's just an incredible activity, an incredible hobby and I feel so blessed to be able to connect on that level with the outdoors and with nature.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: As you probably guessed, Marra has been watching birds for a long time! He says his love for his feathered family started when he was just a kid, going on bike rides to the nature center, not far from his house.

[MUSIC]

Pete Marra: It was a place I used to kind of wander to because I was drawn to it. And there was a Naturalist, who happened to be catching birds. And he was banding birds there and he was banding Chickadee, a Black-Capped Chickadee and I remember seeing that Black-Capped Chickadee and seeing it up close; him showing it to me. And I just, that bird really lit a fire in me that never has gone out. It's only gotten stronger. And uh, so, I always am one of these weird, but incredibly fortunate and lucky people that always knew what they wanted to do.

Lizzie Peabody: Huh.

Pete Marra: I always knew my passion. And so, it was always about wildlife, about nature, about, you know, about birds.

Lizzie Peabody: So, if you could be any bird, what bird would you be?

Pete Marra: Oooh! I'd be a Reddish Egret.

Lizzie Peabody: So, the fact that Pete was so ready with an answer, that it caught me off guard. And I wish I had asked him for a better description of the bird, but I checked it out online. And, it looks like one of those birds, that when you're told, "birds are dinosaurs?" This is the type of bird people mean. It is built to walk in water. It has these long elegant legs, an S-shaped neck, like a snake ready to strike, and a beak made for stabbing prey. This bird means business! And it can be white or, ya'know, reddish.

Pete Marra: But what really, I love about Reddish Egrets is their foraging behavior. And they do almost a ballet when they forage in shallow water. I like water. And so, I love birding near water, and these Reddish Egrets, they hold their wings out and they almost dance, kicking things up, causing things to move. And so, I just, I appreciate the dance that they go through to...

Lizzie Peabody: Hmm.

Pete Marra: ...to capture their prey.

Lizzie Peabody: Sounds like it would be fun too.

Pete Marra: It looks like it's fun. Yeah.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Pete Marra: And I can't dance. So, I have this envy.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs). So, do you have a wish list of the bird, all the birds that you would like to see one day?

Pete Marra: Yeah! Yeah! All the birds that are out there. (Laughs). So, I got, I got a massive list. We could be here for 10 podcasts.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Pete Marra: Oop! There's a Muskrat over there.

Justin O'Neill: Oh my God! There he is!
Pete Marra: Or is that...

Lizzie Peabody: Whoa, is that it?

Pete Marra: Let me just see if I...

Lizzie Peabody: It looks like it could be an Otter!

Pete Marra: It could be a small Beaver, but I thought I saw a single tail.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Pete Marra: Yeah, I think it's a Muskrat. There's probably Beavers here too. I love Muskrats. I grew up with Muskrats.

Lizzie Peabody: Why do you like Muskrats?

Pete Marra: Well, just it's, it's the sign of a healthy environment.

Lizzie Peabody: Hmm.

Pete Marra: It's a sign of another piece of natural history that occurs in a marsh environment. Just a neat, neat animal.

Lizzie Peabody: Hmm.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Coming up after a quick break, you guessed it. More birds! We learn exactly what it takes to save a species from the brink of extinction, and what we can all do to build a more bird friendly world. And, obviously, we get an update on that Muskrat!

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: A few weeks ago, I took a walk through Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens with the biggest bird expert I know, Pete Marra. I wanted to learn about my noisiest neighbors, constantly chirping and chipping around. And now feels like a good time to learn to appreciate them. Here's what I knew about birds before our walk. I knew Peacocks are proud, Owls are wise, and that distances can be measured as, "the crow flies." Hey! That rhymes! But as we walked along the boardwalk that protects the marshes at Kenilworth, Pete naming birds as he spotted them, what I didn't know was the impact of losing three billion birds over the last half century.

Lizzie Peabody: Tell me how birds are important to an ecosystem?

Pete Marra: So, birds are, you know, central components of ecosystems. They, they, they really, in many ways, are the glue that holds the ecosystem together, but there are definitely lots of types of glue that hold ecosystems together. And as we lose species, as species become less abundant, or heaven forbid, they go extinct, that ecosystem tapestry becomes more and more compromised, and it's a tapestry that we are dependent on as well. We are just as entwined in

that complex tapestry. There goes that Muskrat, right above your head! Behind you, swimming in the, swimming in the pond. It went under. Sorry, I get distracted easily by...

Lizzie Peabody: No, that's okay. I'm actually very interested in that Muskrat!

Pete Marra: (Laughs). That's right! (Laughs)

Lizzie Peabody: So, keep pointing it out. (Laughs).

Pete Marra: I'll let you know if it's appearing over your shoulder.

Lizzie Peabody: Especially if it's sneaking up on me...

Pete Marra: Yes.

Lizzie Peabody: ...that would be good.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: So, you're the co-author on a recent study that looked at long term bird populations. And the headline of the study is, "Decline of the North American Avifauna," which I'm guessing, avifauna means flying animals.

Pete Marra: It's, it's birds. Yeah.

Lizzie Peabody: Oh. Okay. (Laughs).

Pete Marra: Birds. (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs). If you had to give it a one sentence summary, what is that?

Pete Marra: Buffleheads! Sorry, two Buffleheads right there. (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs). Buffleheads?

Pete Marra: A one sentence summary, boy. Birds declined before they go extinct, and we're watching it happen in the sixth mass extinction. And this should be our warning, these declines. The last thing we want to do is wait for these birds to hit the point where they have to be listed on the threatened and endangered list. You know, we've documented that 57% of the species in North America are now declining significantly.

Lizzie Peabody: 57%?!

Pete Marra: 57% of species in North America.

Lizzie Peabody: Wow!

Pete Marra: So, one of the reasons we started that analysis, that paper, was that we'd seen that there were declines. And we basically asked the question, "has the total number of individual birds changed..."

Lizzie Peabody: Hmm.

Pete Marra: "...over time?" And what we concluded was that over the last 50 years, we've lost about 3 billion birds. Each one of those birds, it performs a function in nature, whether it's seed dispersal, its prey removal, whatever it happens to be. These are important things that keep ecosystems intact. And so, it's consistent with other parts of, of nature that we're losing: amphibians, insects. We're screwing things up here in a big way.

Lizzie Peabody: So, we've lost 3 billion birds and in, in how much time?

Pete Marra: About 50 years.

Lizzie Peabody: 50 years.

Pete Marr: Yeah. 50 years.

Lizzie Peabody: So, since about 1970?

Pete Marr: About half a person's lifetime.

Lizzie Peabody: Wow. So that means that, well, were you alive in 1970?

Pete Marra: Yeah, so when I started birding, at six years, I'm 56. So, it is exactly the time that I started birding, when this, when we started the analysis. And several of the species I grew up with, which were really, really common, like the Red-Winged Blackbird that we're seeing here now, that's one of the species that's now declining. And that's sort of another message that came out in our paper was that we'd already documented a lot of the species that have gone rare, and that had declined to the point of where they're, they're becoming rarer and rarer, but what we had all committed to is keeping common species common. And we're losing that battle now.

Lizzie Peabody: Huh.

Pete Marra: So, I can't just take my kids out now, and be guaranteed that we will see some of these common species. I can show them my Red-Winged Blackbird, but not in the sort of numbers that we want to show them.

Lizzie Peabody: So, unlike you, I was not alive in 1970. How can I imagine what it would have looked like back then? Like, what would it... what was it like to have so many birds flying around?

Pete Marra: So, anytime you see animals in large numbers, it is a spectacle. It is, it is remarkable. I mean, you guys have already appreciated how alive Kenilworth Gardens is now with this amount of song. 50 years ago, there would probably be five times as many Red-Winged Blackbirds singing around us.

Lizzie Peabody: Wow!

Pete Marra: And there'd be Chickadees. There'd be a whole suite of other birds singing and there, this tremendous cacophony...

Lizzie Peabody: Hmm.

Pete Marra: ...in the, in the air with the noise, the beautiful songs. And so, it would just be more intense.

[SOUNDS OF BIRDS CHIRPING]

Lizzie Peabody: So, we've been talking a lot about this pretty bleak situation here for birds. And man, it just feels like another item on a long list of things that are going wrong. Is there any hope that we can overcome this decline?

Pete Marra: There is hope. So, you know, another real success story that just happened that I've been involved with for the last 15 years, I, I was not instrumental at all in, in that species coming back, but the Kirtland's Warbler that was just taken off the endangered species list in the fall.

Lizzie Peabody: Oh, wow!

Pete Marra: It's a species that was down to 200 individuals singing males in the '70s and '80s. And it's a species that breeds primarily in the upper Lower Peninsula of Michigan, and winters in primarily on four islands of the Bahamas.

Lizzie Peabody: Can you give us just a really brief description of what it sounds like and what it looks like?

Pete Marra: Hold on. That Muskrat's about to go on shore here.

Lizzie Peabody: Oh, Okay.

Pete Marra: You know what I could do that would be easy, with it being very complex song. I could pull up a song and play it from an app. Would that be okay?

Lizzie Peabody: Sure, but I would rather hear you sing it but...

Pete Marra: I can't sing it. I mean, it's not an easy bird to replicate.

[PETE MARRA PLAYS KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SONG ON HIS PHONE]

Pete Marra: There's it's song.

[PETE MARRA PLAYS KIRTLAND'S WARBLER SONG ON HIS PHONE]

Pete Marra: So, Kirtland's Warbler, it's a, it's a fairly beefy Warbler. I wouldn't describe it...

Lizzie Peabody: Beefy?

Pete Marra: What's that?

Lizzie Peabody: Beefy?

Pete Marra: Beefy. Big.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Pete Marra: It's a big burly bird.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Pete Marra: I wouldn't want to meet in on a dark alley. Let's put it that way. It's really yellow breast, the males. Really dark gray on the back. And, unless you know that's what it is, it... you're gonna have to filter through several species before you can pinpoint that it's a Kirtland's, but the size is something that definitely stands out. I have...

Lizzie Peabody: Like, the size of a tennis ball?

Pete Marra: Sort of. Yeah. Yeah!

Lizzie Peabody: Okay.

Pete Marra: But not that shape. I also wouldn't call it the smartest Warbler in the drawer.

Lizzie Peabody: So, despite its burliness, the Kirtland's Warbler had a lot of things that were giving it a hard time in the '70s and '80s: deforestation, a lack of wildfires, and an obnoxious neighbor. That's the Cowbird. Cowbirds lay their eggs in the nests of other birds.

Pete Marra: So, Kirtland's Warblers actually end up raising Cowbirds, rather than their own young.

Lizzie Peabody: Hmm!

Pete Marra: And when they do that, they...

Lizzie Peabody: Oh, I've heard of that! The Cowbird, like, pushes one of the Warbler's eggs out of the nest and then plants its own there.

Pete Marra: That's right.

Lizzie Peabody: And the Warbler doesn't know the difference.

Pete Marra: That's right. Those Cowbirds are um, they're primary young that those Kirtland's Warblers are producing rather than their own.

Lizzie Peabody: Scientists and the federal government agree that we couldn't just let the Kirtland's Warbler die. So, it became one of the animals on the original endangered species list.

Pete Marra: So, there were laws in place that made us put money aside to remove Cowbirds from the habitats, and regardless of what was going on in the Warbler grounds, those populations are now up to over 4,000 individuals, but it costs hundreds of millions of dollars to get there.

Lizzie Peabody: Hundreds of millions of dollars to undo our damage.

Pete Marra: So, our approach now is, let's start tackling the species that are not on the endangered species list. But those, you know, 50 to 100 species that we've identified, as you know, heading in that direction. And let's figure out what's going on. So, we have an obligation to work as hard as we can not to allow these declines to continue and to do the exact opposite to bring birds back.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: So, if you're like me, you're sold. You're a birder now. And I want to be clear. I say this sincerely. This stroll with Pete Marra changed the way I walk around my own neighborhood. It changed the way I see birds, which, turns out, are all over the place.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: You know, for our listeners, but also for me, for someone who wanted to start bird watching...

Pete Marra: Yup!

Lizzie Peabody: ...what are some tips you would give them?

[MUSIC]

Pete Marra: So, the first thing I would do...I would do a couple things. I would look and try to find and discover what's your local Nature Center, who your local Nature Center is or Audubon Society or whatever there is around where you could get some guided birdwatching help. The next thing you do is just go outside and watch, look. And there's lots of apps that are available for your phone that are free, or do it the old-fashioned way and get a book. There's the classic ones that trained me growing up: "The Peterson Field Guide to Birds," which I still love, but there's also the Sibley Guide. The Smithsonian has a bird guide. And these are really some of the easiest things to start to flip through and to look at and see what's around. What do you expect to have nearby? And then, right now, one of the great things that people should be doing is going out and going for walks. And whether you have binoculars or not, just start to look for movement, look for song. And just walk towards the sound as it gets louder and louder and try to spot where that sound is coming from. And if you can get binoculars on it, or just keep looking for it, try to look at the bill shape. How big is the bird? What are the colors you see? How long is the tail? You know, all these diagnostic features, and then start to figure out how to use your field guide to identify is that a Finch? Is it a Duck? Is it a Raptor? These are, these sort of big groups of birds and categories of birds. It's that simple! But ultimately, you know, it'd be good to sort of go on a bird walk with somebody, when it gets safe to go bird watching.

Lizzie Peabody: In the meantime, Pete says there are things we can do at home to help birds.

Pete Marra: We just had a paper, series of papers published. It was focused on Chickadees and what we showed was that yards that are dominated by non-native plants, produced very few insects, and that species like Chickadees, that breed in those areas, produce very few young...

Lizzie Peabody: Hmm.

Pete Marra: ...because they just can't find the food to feed those young. Chickadees really feed on young like moth and butterfly larvae...

Lizzie Peabody: Hmm.

Pete Marra: ...that emerge from those plants, but the good news there is that if we replant those areas with native plants, like 70% of your yard, if you plant them with native species, then you provide really, really good habitats for Chickadees.

Lizzie Peabody: Just Google, "native plant species in your region," to figure out what kinds of trees and flowers will help birds thrive in your area.

Pete Marra: So, we are learning. We know what we need to do. And we can be part of nature and live in ways that we now know is better for us psychologically too. People that live in our part of nature like today, you know, our day has been made. I guarantee at the end of the day today, you're going to be a happier person, because you spent the morning out in nature.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Yeah.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: These days, when every weekend is a long weekend, I find myself sitting in my backyard, listening, and trying to catch a glimpse of the bird attached to the song, because Pete, I'm really sorry, but I still don't have binoculars; but I am outside, trying to meet the neighbors I had overlooked all this time.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: You've been listening to Sidedoor, a podcast from the Smithsonian with support from PRX.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: If you love Sidedoor, leave us a review in Apple Podcasts. Also, tweet (laughs), tweet at us, telling us what type of bird you are! I am a Blue Herron! Or an Egret. Or maybe, a Chickadee.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Our twitter is @Sidedoorpod. And if Sharon lets us, there will be pictures of birds and a big grumpy Snapping Turtle on our Instagram account as well. Check it out @Sidedoorpod, all one word.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: And in our newsletter, we will include an image of every bird Pete named in this episode, which means that you'll be able to see them better than I did. Subscribe at si.edu/Sidedoor.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Special thanks to Pete Marra for taking a big chunk of his time to show us so many birds.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Our podcast team is Justin O'Neill, Nathalie Boyd, Ann Conanan, Caitlin Shaffer, Jess Sadeq, Lara Koch, and Sharon Bryant. Episode artwork is by Greg Fisk. Extra support comes from John, Jason and Genevieve at PRX. Our show is mixed by Tarek Fouda. Our theme song and other episode music are by Breakmaster Cylinder.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: If you want to sponsor our show, please email sponsorship@prx.org.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: I'm your host, Lizzie Peabody. Thanks for listening.

[MUSIC]

Pete Marra: There's a Shore Bird right there. Ope! Nope. It's a piece of garbage. Oh, shoot.