



# THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 36 - Issue 1

The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

Fall (October - December 2007)

**Cape Cod Bird Club meetings are held the second Monday of each month, September thru May, at 7:30 P.M. at the Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte 6A, in Brewster, MA**

## ***Inside this issue:***

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Club Walks              | 2      |
| Christmas Bird Counts   | 2      |
| 25th Waterfowl Census   | 3      |
| Fall Programs           | 3-4    |
| New Members             | 4      |
| Editor's Note           | 4      |
| 2007-2008 Feeder Census | Insert |
| Bird Sightings          | 5      |
| Nestbox Trails Report   | 6      |
| CCBC Scholarship        | 7      |
| Cape Cod Birds Listserv | 7      |
| Notes to Members        | 7      |

The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles: December 1st

Send articles or comments to: [capekingfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:capekingfisher@yahoo.com)

## **Website:**

<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

**Webmaster: Terry Gavin**

## ***President's Message***

Welcome back! I hope all of you enjoyed your summer and had a chance to get out and do some birding.

During the months of June and July I continued to work on atlasing my two blocks for Mass. Audubon's Breeding Bird Atlas 2 Project. This was the first year of this important five year project, which ran from April 1st to August 1st. I'd like to thank all of you that volunteered as either a Primary Atlaser or Supporting Atlaser. Your help was greatly appreciated.

This was a new experience for me. Occasionally I spend some time observing the behavior of birds but for this atlas project I made it a priority to focus in on what the birds were doing. I saw several birds carrying nesting material, incubating eggs, feeding young, and performing distraction displays.

I also discovered two species of birds that have never been recorded nesting on Cape Cod. In one of my blocks a pair of Barred Owls successfully bred and fledged at least one young and a pair of Acadian Flycatchers also fledged at least one young. Though both Barred Owls and Acadian Flycatchers breed in the state I was excited to find them breeding here on Cape Cod. I'm thrilled that I had the opportunity to document these records for the Cape Cod area.

Another first for Cape Cod was discovered by former Club President Peter Trimble. While atlasing one of his blocks Peter discovered two separate nests of Clay-colored Sparrows at Otis Air Force Base. This was also a first record for the state for this species, which is a common breeder in the upper Midwest with small numbers breeding in Ohio and a few pairs in western New York.

If you did not participate in the Breeding Bird Atlas 2 Project this year we still have plenty of blocks that need coverage next year. Please contact me or one of the other Regional Coordinators, Blair Nikula or Sharon Riley, if you are interested in helping out next year. Maybe you'll discover a new breeding species, too!

We have an exciting year of meetings ahead of us. Club Program Coordinator, David Clapp, has lined up some wonderful guest speakers for us but the meeting I look forward to the most is our Members' Night in December. This is a fun night with door prizes, a Members' digital slide show, a bake sale, and an auction. We have several books for our auction but if you have any you would like to donate, or any other bird related items for the auction, please bring them to the October or November meetings. Proceeds from the bake sale go towards the Club's Scholarship Fund and proceeds from the auction go to Birder's Exchange, <http://www.aba.org/bex>.

Matt Malin, the Club's new Walks Coordinator, has scheduled some great walks for us. Please consider joining us on a walk.

Fall is a refreshing time of the year to be outdoors observing birds. During the month of October tens of thousands of ducks begin their return to our lakes, ponds, and bays. Seed-eating land birds such as sparrows and finches return and flocks of mixed blackbirds prepare to migrate south. Huge flocks of tree swallows gather along our coastal areas. Watching thousands of swallows swirl up together into a dark cloud can be quite a spectacular sight.

Though the bulk of the long distance migrants like shorebirds and terns have departed and the warblers, flycatchers, and vireos have moved on, we can now begin to look for loons, grebes, waterfowl, sparrows and hopefully winter finches, if they decide to have a southward irruption this year.

Raptors will still be on the move during the month of October. One of the better places to watch for them in fall is Morris Island in Chatham. Though he spends much of his time at Pilgrim Heights in Truro for the spring hawk migration, veteran hawk watcher and club member Don Manchester migrates to the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge on Morris Island in Chatham during the fall to count the raptors passing through. Stop by to say hello and watch for these powerful and beautiful birds.

*Mary Keleher*

are not paid (if not paid, this will be your last issue!)

☐

are paid, thank you!

☐

Dues were due September 1st. Our records indicate that your dues:



**Cape Cod Bird Club**  
The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History  
869 RTE 6A, Brewster, MA 0263



## **The Cape Cod Bird Club, Inc.**

is an organization whose members are interested in the protection and conservation of the bird life and natural resources of Cape Cod.

If you are interested in joining, please send a check for \$15.00 (single) or \$22.00 (family) to:

**CCBC, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History**

**869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631**

**Website: <http://www.massbird.org/CCBC>**

### *Officers*

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Mary Keleher    | President      |
| Ginie Page      | Vice President |
| Peter Flood     | Secretary      |
| Carolyn Kennedy | Treasurer      |

### *Directors*

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Julie O'Neil | Vianna Heath     |
| Matt Malin   | Al Curtis        |
| David Clapp  | Gretchen Putonen |

### *Newsletter*

Editor ~ Ed Banks    E-mail: [capekingfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:capekingfisher@yahoo.com)

Membership/Address Changes~ Carolyn Kennedy  
E-mail: [ccbcmembership@verizon.net](mailto:ccbcmembership@verizon.net)

*Nominating Committee Chair ~ Dick Jurkowski*

**Club Trips - Fall 2007****Matt Malin, Trips Coordinator****Please Note:**

**Heavy rain or snow cancels all trips. Call leader if in doubt. Also, please check our website for any changes or additions.**

**Oct 6 - Sat 8-10:30 AM:****Sandwich Game Farm**

Phil Kyle, a past President of the Cape Cod Bird Club, will lead a walk at the Sandwich Game Farm in East Sandwich. Please meet at the Game Farm Parking lot. You can park right at the entrance and walk in the 1/2 mile or park in the lot. This spot in Sandwich offers a mixture of habitats; salt marsh, coniferous woods, mixed forest, fields and a large bog. We might see 5 members of the woodpecker family, assorted species of sparrows, hawks, warblers and other late migrants.

Leader: Phil Kyle (508) 495-0196

**Oct 9 - Tue 8 AM:****Lower Cape Walking Trails**

Meet at Fort Hill, Eastham in the lower parking lot to walk and bird looking for fall grassland species and also some marsh and shore birds. We will then move out to Wellfleet and Truro for some of the nicest birding and walking trails on the Cape.

Leader: Ginie Page (508) 349-6810

**Oct 13 - Sat 8 - 10 AM:****D. Isabel Smith Monomoy River Conservation Lands**

We'll explore the birding opportunities in this newly preserved 54 acre tract in East Harwich. There are approximately 3 miles of well maintained trails comprising several different woodland, field and river habitats. Meet in the parking area on Bay Rd, 1/4 mile from the Pleasant Bay end. Leader: Al Curtis (508) 432-8677 or [acurtis@gis.net](mailto:acurtis@gis.net)

**Oct 20 - Sat 7:30 -11 AM:****Mid-Cape Community Gardens**

Meet at the Park-n-Ride lot off Route 6 at Exit 10 in Harwich to carpool. We will search the community gardens in the Mid-Cape for sparrows, finches and other migrant passerines. Leader: David Clapp (508) 896-7322

**Oct 21 - Sun 8 AM: Fields, Ponds and Coastline of Falmouth**

Meet at the Nickelodeon Cinema on Route 151 to carpool.

We will check out Crane Wildlife Management Area for sparrows, raptors and other migrants, and then travel through Falmouth for late shorebirds and ducks in the ponds and coastlines of Buzzards Bay and possibly Vineyard Sound.

Leader: Mark Kazprzyk (508) 896-7322.

**Oct 28 - Sun 7:00 AM: Mashpee**

**River Woodlands.** Meet in the parking area on Quinacisset Ave. We will carpool to River Road and walk two miles back to the parking area. From the Mashpee Rotary take Route 28 towards Hyannis. Take the first right onto Quinacisset Ave. The woodlands parking area is around the corner on the right.

Leader: Mary Keleher, (508) 477-1473 or [maryeak@yahoo.com](mailto:maryeak@yahoo.com)

**Nov 2 - Friday 7:30 AM:****Forestdale Side of Sandwich**

Meet in the Stop and Shop parking lot (near the entrance) at the intersection of Quaker Meetinghouse and Cotuit Roads in South Sandwich. Possible places to visit: the Ryder Conservation Area, Lowell Holly Reservation, the former Windstar Farm (if allowed), and some ponds in the area. We'll see what's been seen in the week prior to the date.

Leader: Frank Caruso (508) 477-9807 or [fcarus@umext.umass.edu](mailto:fcarus@umext.umass.edu)

**Nov 10 - Sat 8 AM - 12:00:****Mid-Cape Leader's Choice**

Meet at the Dunkin Donuts in South Yarmouth on Station Ave, 1/2 mile south of Exit 8 on Route 6. We can look for early arriving ducks, sparrows and land birds, inshore pelagic birds, or late-staying passerines and shorebirds. Rain cancels.

Leader: Peter Bono 508-375-9421 or [pbono@pbra.com](mailto:pbono@pbra.com)

**Nov 18 - Sun 7 AM-12:00:****Surf and Turf**

Meet in the parking area at Hemenway Landing in Eastham at the end of Hemenway Road to carpool. We will search the Lower Cape for early winter arrivals and late staying sea and land birds transiting from Orleans to Wellfleet. Anything is possible. Leaders: David and Fran Clapp (508) 896-7322.

**Dec 9 - Sun 8 AM:****Orleans and Eastham.**

Meet at Town Cove Landing in Orleans to carpool. We'll check out Nauset Marsh, Fort Hill, First Encounter Beach and Nauset Beach among other places for winter ducks, gulls and the hardy passerines in the area before the Christmas Bird Counts. Dress warmly for the weather!

Leader: Matt Malin (508) 274-8472 or [hossfeldt@yahoo.com](mailto:hossfeldt@yahoo.com)

**Dec 10 - Mon 8:30 AM:**

**Wellfleet to P'Town Sweep.** Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier to check for loons, alcids, winter ducks and maybe some special gull species. We will carpool to other coastal points and end up in P'town Harbor. We may continue through lunch. Goal is to collect a nice report for the CCBC meeting tonight!

Leader: Ginie Page (508) 349-6810

## 2007 Cape Cod Area Christmas Bird Counts

**Buzzards Bay**

Saturday, December 15th  
Contact Jeremiah Trimble  
[jtrimble@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:jtrimble@oeb.harvard.edu)

**Cape Cod**

Sunday, December 16th  
Contact Blair Nikula  
508-432-6348 or  
[odenews@odenews.org](mailto:odenews@odenews.org)

**Mid-Cape**

Saturday, December 22nd  
Contact Peter Trimble  
508-477-3847 or  
[merlin042@comcast.net](mailto:merlin042@comcast.net)

**Truro**

TBA  
Contact: Tom Lipsky  
[tlip1@comcast.net](mailto:tlip1@comcast.net) or  
978-897-5429 or  
Ginie Page [vgpage@juno.com](mailto:vgpage@juno.com)  
or 508-349-6810  
Check the Cape Cod Bird Club's website for updates,  
<http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/cbc.htm>



## 25th Annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census December 1 & 2, 2007

During the first weekend of November of 1983, Blair Nikula and members of the Cape Cod Bird Club initiated a census of the lakes and ponds on Cape Cod.

Participants were instructed to identify and count all the waterfowl (loons, grebes, geese, ducks, and coot) present on each pond. Covering 202 ponds, participants tallied 3,957 individuals of 22 species of waterfowl.

The census continued the following year but was moved to the first weekend in December. Many ducks and geese do not arrive on Cape Cod until inland bodies of water freeze and the later date would more closely coincide with peak waterfowl numbers locally. Covering 213 ponds, 23 species of waterfowl were counted with 8,950 individuals being recorded in 1984.

Now in its 25th year the Cape Cod Waterfowl Census is an excellent example of one way in which birders, regardless of their expertise, can gather useful data and make a meaningful contribution to our knowledge of the Massachusetts avifauna.

Waterfowl are relatively conspicuous, generally easy to identify, and thus readily censused with only a modest effort.

If you would like to participate please contact Blair Nikula at (508) 432-6348.



Bufflehead

Photo by Blair Nikula

## Cape Cod Bird Club 2007 Fall Programs David Clapp, Program Coordinator

**October 8, 2008**

**Tom French:  
"The Return of the  
Peregrine Falcon"**

Thomas W. French's educational background includes a B.S. in Biology from Georgia State University, an M.S. in Zoology from Auburn University, a Ph.D. in Ecology and Systematics from Indiana State University, and a post doctoral position at Cornell University. He was formerly a zoologist with The Nature Conservancy and an instructor-naturalist and field biologist with the National Society.

Since 1984 he has been an Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, where he serves as Director of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

In the 1930s and 1940s there were probably about 375 nesting pairs east of the Mississippi River in the United States. Fourteen pairs nested on cliffs in Massachusetts.

By 1966, not a single nesting pair remained in the eastern United States. With the ban of DDT in the U.S. in 1972, the stage was set for restoration efforts to begin.

With the creation of the Nongame and Endangered Species Program in 1983, funded largely by voluntary donations on the state income tax form, Peregrine Falcon restoration became the Program's first new project. Young falcons were released on the roof of the McCormack Post Office and Court House Building in downtown Boston in 1984 and 1985. This effort led to the first modern Massachusetts nest in 1987.

The number of nesting pairs continued to grow to the point that on August 25, 1999 the Peregrine Falcon was officially removed from the federal list of Endangered and Threatened Species. In Massachusetts, there were 14 known territorial pairs in 2007. This was the first year that the numbers of pairs had returned to their pre-DDT levels.

Don't miss this great program!

**November 12, 2008**

**Ron Lockwood:  
"Grasshopper Sparrow  
Conservation  
at Devens RFTA"**

Ron Lockwood has a BA in physics and history from Texas Tech University and an MS and Ph.D. in physics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He has been watching birds with his brother, Mark, since he was in his teens. He currently is a research physicist at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Hanscom AFB.

His talk will explore the breeding biology of the third largest Grasshopper Sparrow population in Massachusetts. This includes arrival dates, vocal repertoire, breeding behavior, breeding densities, and brood characteristics. The talk will also address the threats from invasive plant species.

Please plan to join us for this informative presentation concerning a species present on the Cape but seen by few.

## Cape Cod Bird Club Programs for 2008

**January 14**

Stephanie Koch –  
*"Bird Studies on Monomoy"*

**February 11**

Trevor Lloyd-Evans –  
*"Are our birds coming or going – or both?"*

**March 10**

Sean Murphy –  
*"Oystercatchers of the Cape and Islands"*

**April 14**

Tim White –  
*"Longtailed Ducks;  
Up Close and Personal"*

**May 12**

Ian Nisbit –  
*"Terns of Nantucket Sound  
and Our Eastern Beaches"*

*Please Note:*

*Programs are subject to change,  
please check our website for updates.*

## Fall Programs Continued

### Members' Night

**December 10, 2007**

**The CCBC is proud to present one of the highlights of the year and you can be one of the stars! This night belongs to you, our loyal members!**

**Silent Auction** - books, gear, artwork, and other items will be available for bids. Proceeds will be donated to the Birder's Exchange.

**Door Prizes** - This could be your lucky night!

**Bake Sale** - Baked goods for holiday eating or treating!

**Digital Slide Show** - a fantastic presentation of members' birding and nature photos.

**Members Table** - A table will be set up for members or guests to display any bird-related information or items they might choose.

**Refreshments** - juices, cookies and other goodies, a feature of every club meeting!

**Don't miss this annual extravaganza!**

## New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Janis Bridge, Mashpee

Babetta Castle-Walsh, Falmouth

Kathleen Emrich &  
Robert Sherwood, Boston

Carol Marchant, W. Yarmouth

Diane Munro, Chevy Chase, MD

Stanford & Dorothy Ross, Wellfleet

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

## Digital Slide Show

Club member Peter Bono has again volunteered to assist in the digital slide portion of this year's Members' Night, Monday, December 10, 2007. Generally speaking, you may email your images to Peter ([pbono@prba.com](mailto:pbono@prba.com)) in any format as an attachment. He'll resize and rename them as needed and organize them into folders. Don't worry if you are not "computer savvy". Get a family member or friend to help email the images or put them on a CD and hand them to Peter at a meeting.

For computer-savvy members interested in making Peter's task a bit easier, some guidelines follow:

Contact Peter Bono ASAP if you intend to participate even if you are not yet prepared to email the zip file containing your images. This will give Peter an idea of how many presenters we will have. We ask that members submit 10-15 images.

1. Send up to 15 digital images in jpg format in a zip file attachment to Peter Bono ([pbono@prba.com](mailto:pbono@prba.com)).

2. Crop (if necessary) and resize the original camera image to 1024 x 768 resolution.

3. Name each file as follows: "XXX\_YYYYYYYY.jpg" where XXX are your initials and YYYYYYYY is the species name. Use underscore character ( \_ ) for spaces in the bird's name.

For example:  
PRB\_Black-fronted\_  
Piping-guan.jpg.

4. Send your images by November 30th to allow Peter enough time to put the whole slide show together.

5. For more info, please call Peter at 508-375-9421.

## Editor's Note:

One Year Later . . . . .

As I complete my first year as the editor of this newsletter I want to thank all the wonderful people who have helped me in so many ways. (The CCBC Newsletter represents the hard work and dedication of too many people to mention by name.) The officers and board members as well as all who have submitted columns, photos and articles have made this publication the success that it is and a pleasant and rewarding experience for me.

In addition, I extend a great big "thank you" those who have helped stamp and label the 350-400 copies we mail each issue. I truly appreciate all your efforts.

**Ed Banks**

## CCBC Merchandise

Available at meetings  
and just in time for  
the holidays!

Birding Cape Cod \$15.95  
A where-to-bird "must" for  
any Cape Cod birder!

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| CCBC Cap          | 15.00 |
| CCBC Knit Hat     | 15.00 |
| CCBC Decal        | 1.00  |
| CCBC Checklist    | .75   |
| CCBC Patch        | 3.00  |
| CCBC Pin          | 5.00  |
| Bino/Camera Strap | 12.50 |
| Organizer Pack    | 17.00 |

## Your CCBC Scholarship Dollars at Work

The following is a letter received from Diane Caliri, the 2007 CCBC Scholarship recipient:

94 Great Oak Road  
Orleans, MA 02653  
May 30, 2007

Dear Ms. Kennedy,

I am writing to thank the Cape Cod Bird Club for the \$500 scholarship awarded to me this spring. I am very grateful for the scholarship as it will be a great help to me with my tuition.

I have been doing well with my studies at the College (CCCC) with a current GPA of 3.91. I have this spring received my certification in Coastal Zone Management, a field I am very interested in following; I would like to work to preserve and protect wildlife habitats here on the Cape. I will be finished with my classes in the spring of 2008 and will be doing my internship the following fall at which point I will receive my degree.

I am continuing to work as a volunteer naturalist at the Massachusetts Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. I spend one day a week walking the trails interacting with visitors, answering questions and pointing out things of interest, especially birds. I spend another day working at a cabin on the salt marsh with displays where I give a presentation on animals that visit and live in the salt marsh.

I would like to thank you again for your generous support towards my education. I am very grateful.

Sincerely,  
*Diane Caliri*

Thanks to the following members for making special contributions to the scholarship fund:

Joanne Baldauf  
Karen Goggins  
Robert Lindquist

Nancy Boston  
Patricia Greenwood  
Eleanor Winslow

Larry Cambell  
Dick and Shirley Henshall  
Herb and Joanna Schurmann

### Cape Cod Birds Listserv for Cape Cod Area Bird Sightings & Discussions

CapeCodBirds is a new Internet Listserv for the discussion of all aspects of birdwatching or information pertaining to birding on Cape Cod.

Suggested topics are bird sightings, identification, status and distribution, birding locations, and announcements from birding organizations.

To read posts, go to the Cape Cod Birds Listserv website:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/  
group/capecodbirds/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/capecodbirds/)

To post, send an email to:

[capecodbirds  
@yahoogroups.com](mailto:capecodbirds@yahoo.com)



### Notes to Members

- All club walks are free and new birders are always welcome!
- A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated, especially if inclement weather is predicted.
- Take a lunch on all-day field trips.
- Carry an extra set of keys in your pocket on trips.
- Check our website for added trips or changes.
- Inform the treasurer if you change your address.

### WALK CHECKLIST FOR LEADERS

- Walk leaders may now download the walk checklist to keep track of what is seen on the walks.
- Download and print either the Excel Spreadsheet version or the Adobe Reader version of the walk checklist.

[http://www.massbird.org/  
ccbc/](http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/)





Eastern Bluebird

Photo by Chris Banks

## Summer 2007 - Eastern Bluebird Trail Results

CCBC members monitored nestbox trails at four locations this summer. Those who participated in the Club's Eastern Bluebird monitoring efforts realize that every day brings life and death perils to nesting birds. Cold, drenching rains early in the summer, predators, ants, wasps,

mice, and house sparrows are among the hazards of claiming a territory, building a nest, and bringing a new brood to the fledging stage.

Once the young leave the nest, it is difficult for us to track their success. We do know from long-term studies that few young survive their first year of life.

### Crowes Pasture

At Crowes Pasture in East Dennis there are 12 boxes in a large, open field. The monitoring team visited each week from early April through July. Eastern Bluebirds and Black-capped Chickadees started the nesting process early in April. Later in the month after the tree swallows had arrived, Peter Berrien watched them checking out many of the boxes. He reports, "A male bluebird stayed in that same area and repeatedly chased the swallows away. He attacked one swallow, forcing it to the ground where they thrashed about for 15 to 20 seconds and then both flew up to nearby branches and straightened out their feathers."

### The final tally for the season

Four nests of Tree Swallows were successful in fledging 18 young. A fifth nest succumbed to a swarm of small ants in the nestbox.

Two nests of Eastern Bluebirds yielded 7 young. (Several young did not make it through an early season rainy spell.)

Eight Black-capped Chickadees fledged from one nest box. Another chickadee nest was topped by a bluebird nest and the chickadee eggs were lost.

House Sparrows found the boxes toward the end of the season and built nests in two boxes.

The coordinator for Crowes Pasture was Carolyn Kennedy assisted by monitors Peter Berrien, Marie Corcoran, and Dick Stacey.

### Nestbox Report for Thompson's Field, Texeira field and Bank Street Bogs in Harwich

This is just a brief summary of the successes this year.

**Thompson's Field - 24 boxes total** (twice as many boxes as last year)

5 EABL nests fledged with a total of 25 fledglings

2 HOWR nests fledged with a possible total of 7 or more fledglings

3 BCCH nests fledged with a total of 17 fledglings

2 TRES nests fledged with a total of 8 fledglings

We had no ETTI nests here this year.

The bluebirds were quite successful at Thompson's Field this year. One pair nested twice, with interesting pale pink eggs, rather than blue. We have used artificial eggs in all of our HOSP nests this year, and even now as all the other species are done nesting, some of the House Sparrows are still trying to incubate the fake eggs.

In 2006, 13 EABL, 12 Chickadees, 14 Eastern Titmouse and 14 Tree Swallows fledged. We had no house wren nests here last year with eggs.

### Texeira Field - 6 boxes total

2 EABL nests fledged with total of 6 fledglings.

It was the first year for this location, and we had some problems with vandalism here.

### Bank Street Bogs - 38 boxes total

4 EABL nests fledged with a total of 13 fledglings

12 TRES nests fledged with a total of 41 fledglings

4 BCCH nests fledged with a total of 18 fledglings

2 ETTI nests fledged with a total of 12 fledglings

1 HOWR nest fledged with a possible total of 5 fledglings

In 2006, there were 3 EABL nests with 13 fledged, 3

TRES nests with 14 fledged, 2 BCCH nests with 12

fledged, 3 ETTI nests with 14 fledged, and no HOWR.

However, last year there were a lot of failures due to wet weather in the spring. Luckily this year, the nests weren't affected by the weather.

We had 1 box vandalized here at the end of the season.

### Total all locations:

Total EABL fledged 44

Total HOWR fledged 12

Total BCCH fledged 35

Total ETTI fledged 12

Total TRES fledged 49

All numbers are approximate, as there was some apparent predation this year where nestling counts went down.

Boxes were not opened when fledging was imminent, so it's possible the count is less. With the House Wrens, it's very difficult to see into the nests to count since they're built so high within the box, and can be quite deep. Since they're built of twigs, removing the nest to count is not feasible.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have made this possible, and to the Harwich Conservation Trust (Michael Lach and Ben Wright) for their support.

Thanks to Tom Thompson of Wild Birds Unlimited who supplied us with some new nestboxes.

Terry Gavin and Judith Bruce coordinated the bluebird trails in Harwich.

Monitors at Bank Street Bogs: Karen Goggins, Jane and Charlie Martin, Joanna Schurmann, and Don Scott.

Monitors at Thompson's Field: Judith Bruce, Janet DiMattia and Terry Gavin.

Monitors at Texiera: Janet DiMattia, Terry Gavin, and Janet and James McCroskory.

**Reported by Carolyn Kennedy and Terry Gavin.**



## Bird Sightings

June - August 2007

A **Kentucky Warbler** was discovered along Dennis Pond in Yarmouth Port on 6/2 and last reported on 6/9.

A **Black Skimmer** was observed in Buck's Creek in Chatham on 6/3. A **Dickcissel** was noted calling overhead at Race Point in Provincetown 6/5.

A **Least Bittern** has heard calling at Frost Fish Creek in Chatham on 6/7.

Six **Black-necked Stilts** graced the salt marshes behind Forest Beach in Chatham on 6/7 and

remained in the general area as well as North Monomoy Island until 6/21.

A single **Black-necked Stilt** was reported from Coast Guard Beach, Eastham on 8/24.

A **Little Blue Heron** was discovered along the edge of a cranberry bog in Cotuit on 6/8 and in Mashpee (possibly the same individual) on 6/23.

Large numbers of seabirds were concentrated off the backside of the Cape in mid June.

On a pelagic trip from Plymouth to Chatham on 6/10, species tallied included a **Red-throated Loon**, 3 **Common Loons**, 125 **Northern Fulmars**, 450 **Greater Shearwaters**, 1500 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 3 **Manx Shearwaters**, 4000 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, 2 **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, 500 **Northern Gannets**, and 2 **Black-legged Kittiwakes**.

On 6/12, seabird numbers continued to be impressive with the following birds observed from various vantage points off the backside of the Cape;

2 **Northern Fulmars**, 2400 **Greater Shearwaters**, 1700 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 31 **Manx Shearwaters**, 25 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, 3900 **Northern Gannets**, and 4 **Parasitic Jaegers**.

On 6/14 at Race Point in Provincetown an **Atlantic Puffin** was observed flying to the east past Race Point.

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was observed singing in the Mashpee River Woodlands on 6/9. On 6/24 an **Acadian Flycatcher nest** was discovered which is likely a first nesting record for Cape Cod.

A **Mississippi Kite** passed by the Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch on 6/19 and has been a fairly regular visitor to the outer cape during May and June.

An **American Avocet** was discovered at Spring Hill Beach in East Sandwich on 6/19.

On 6/22 a **Grasshopper Sparrow** along with several **Savannah Sparrows** were heard singing at the Mashpee transfer station on the top of the landfill. These capped, grass covered landfills are no doubt important habitat for grassland nesting birds. Highlights from a Cape Cod Bird Club walk to Crowe's Pasture in East Dennis on 6/20 included 4 **Eastern Kingbirds**, an **Eastern Bluebird**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, an **Eastern Towhee**, and an **Orchard Oriole**.

Sadly, the **Yellow-nosed Albatross**, which had spent two rehab stints at the Tufts Veterinary Clinic and was fitted with a satellite transmitter, was found

dead along a beach in Barnstable Harbor on 6/26.

A visit to Hatches Harbor in Provincetown on 6/26 produced 61 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 100 **Laughing Gulls**, a **Black-legged Kittiwake**, 2 **Royal Terns**, 10 **Roseate Terns**, 250 **Common Terns**, an **Arctic Tern**, a **Forster's Tern**, and 2 **Least Terns**.

South Monomoy Island, and "Minimoy" Island (to the west of South Monomoy) once again hosted remarkable numbers of nesting gulls and terns. Nest totals

from South Monomoy included 8,798 **Common Tern** nests, 2 **Roseate Tern** nests, 36 **Least Tern** nests, and 1498 **Laughing Gull** nests. And from Minimoy there were 839 **Common Tern** nests, 32 **Roseate Tern** nests, and 4 **Black Skimmer** nests. Highlights from a CCBC walk to Stauffer's Puddle in Sandwich on 7/22 included 18 **Great Blue Herons**, a **Green Heron**, 16 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 6 **Piping Plovers**, 8 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 5 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 10 **Willetts**, a **Spotted Sandpiper**, 35 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 3 **Least Sandpipers**, 14 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and 4 **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows**.

Lone **Sandwich Terns** were noted from Hatches Harbor, Provincetown on 7/22 and 8/6 as well as South Beach Chatham on 8/6.

A **Black-tailed Godwit** was reported from South Beach, Chatham on 7/24 and was not relocated.

A **Curlew Sandpiper** was discovered on South Beach on 8/9 and was last reported on 8/24.

A **Sabine's Gull** was reported from Stellwagen Bank on 8/12.

On 8/20 an **American Wigeon** was found on Mill Pond in Marstons Mills



Black-necked Stilts  
Photo by Blair Nikula

Peter Flood





