



THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 35 - Issue

The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

Spring (April - June) 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

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The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles:

June 1st

Send articles or comments to:
capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Website:

<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

President's Message

Though spring usually signifies a new beginning, for the Cape Cod Bird Club it's the end of our year. We will soon be on summer break. We will continue to sponsor walks throughout the summer months but after our May meeting we won't meet again until the fall. My first year as President has been most enjoyable. Thank you to all of the board members for your assistance during the year. Your efforts are much appreciated by me as well as the club members. Special thanks to Stephanie Ellis and Cynthia Franklin for your service on the board. Stephanie's and Cynthia's terms are expiring this year. They will be missed by all the board members.

Ed Banks has done a wonderful job during his first year as newsletter editor. The Kingfisher looks great. Thank you to Terry Gavin for all your hard work. The club's website is outstanding. We have added many new pages to our website. In addition to information about walks and meetings, we now have a club history page, contact information for all the board members, information on Bessie Tirrell's Bald Eagle Stamp Program, results for the Cape Cod Waterfowl Census and Cape Cod area Christmas Bird Counts, and much more. You can now download and print the club's Backyard Feeder Census form and the club's membership application. We continue to add new information as needed. Please be sure to check the website often for updates on other programs of interest, volunteer opportunities, and trip additions and cancellations.

Speaking of the Internet, I hope you have all had a chance to check out the new listserv for the Cape Cod area. Capecodbirds is for 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. For those of you who would like to post sightings of birds from the Cape Cod area or discuss birding on Cape Cod go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/capecodbirds/>. You can join the group to receive emails of postings by creating a Yahoo account but you do not have to be a member of the group to post a message to the listserv. Just send an email to:

capecodbirds@yahoogroups.com.

One of my goals as President was to encourage more participation in all the wonderful bird related events that occur during the year. Hopefully many of you attended more walks, filled out Backyard Feeder Census forms, and participated in the Waterfowl Census and Christmas Bird Counts. We had the largest attendance to date for our Members' Night in December. This night gets better and better each year. Through our silent auction we raised \$375.00 for Birders' Exchange and through our bake sale we raised \$81.00 for the club's Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all the members who donated books and other items for the silent auction, baked items for the bake sale, and showed slides. Thanks to Peter Bono for running the digital slide show. It was fantastic! And a big thank you to Mike O'Connor, owner of the Bird Watcher's General Store in Orleans, for donating items for our door prize table.

Don't forget about the upcoming birding events this spring: the Cape Cod Natural History Conference on Saturday, March 10, the Mass Audubon's Birder's Meeting on Saturday, March 24, the 2nd Annual Birding Cape Cod Weekend Event on Saturday and Sunday May 12 and 13, and Mass Audubon's Bird-a-thon on Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19.

Have a great spring.

Mary Keleher

Cape Cod Bird Club
The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 RTE 6A, Brewster, MA 02631



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

Stephanie Ellis	Cynthia Franklin
Dan Furbish	Al Curtis
David Clapp	Gretchen Putonen

Newsletter

Editor ~ Ed Banks E-mail: capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Membership/Address Changes~ Carolyn Kennedy

E-mail: ccbcmembership@verizon.net

Nominating Committee Chair ~ Dick Jurkowski

Club Trips - Spring

Please Note:

**Heavy rain cancels all trips.
Call leader if in doubt.**

April 7 - Sat 7AM-10AM

Mashpee

Meet at South Cape Beach (Mashpee town lot) The piping plovers may be in and the osprey should be setting up for the season. We will look for early shorebirds and take a short walk in the woods and thickets for early warblers! Leader: Matt Malin 274-8472 or hossfeldt@yahoo.com

April 15 - Sun 7AM-10AM

South Cape Beach, Mashpee.

We will hike out along the trail and return on the beach, three miles round trip in some soft sand. There will be beautiful views of Sage Lot Pond, Waquoit Bay, and Nantucket Sound. Rain cancels. Meet at town beach parking (second lot) Leader: Mary Keleher 477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

April 19 - Thurs 7:30AM (Morning) Eastham

We will cross the Cape to visit two places important in Cape Cod history. Fort Hill is featured in Champlain's early map of Nauset Harbor (ca1604) and First Encounter Beach is where the natives and the Pilgrims first met (1620). Meet at the lower parking lot at Fort Hill. We will walk and check for arriving species in the grassland,

woods, thickets and the marsh. Then we will drive to First Encounter Beach to look for shorebirds.

Leader: Ginie Page 349-6810

April 21 - Sat 8AM - 11AM Sandwich

Meet at Maryanne's Coffee Shop parking area on Tupper Rd. We will bird the great birdy places of the upper Cape: Sandwich Marina, Hemisphere's (AKA Horizons) Town Neck Beach and Boardwalk area, as well as Scorton Creek.

Leader: Phil Kyle 495-0196

April 26 - Thurs 1:30PM Wellfleet

Meet at the Great Island parking lot (end of Chequesset Neck Rd.) We'll check out the Herring River where the major salt marsh restoration project is planned. We will walk and look for warblers in the woods, waterfowl on the river and in Cape Cod Bay and check out the shorebirds in the river on both sides of the dike.

Leader: Cynthia Franklin 349-1633.

April 27 - Fri 8AM-11AM East Sandwich Game Farm

Meet at the 6A Convenience Store (opposite Ploughed Neck Rd.). We will look for newly arrived birds in beautifully restored habitat areas. Be prepared to walk 3 miles. Not to be missed!

Leader: Ellie Winslow 888-1760 or

birdereenie@verizon.net
(continued next page)

Ginie Page - Trips Coordinator

Beech Forest

As in the past, the Club will have a walk in the Beech Forest in Provincetown each Saturday and Sunday morning in May. The Beech Forest is one of the best places on Cape Cod to see and hear spring migrants.

Take the Race Point Exit off Route 6 at the light in P'town. Meet in the Beech Forest parking lot.

All walks begin at 8 AM, but birders may wish to do an earlier loop and then meet for the official trip.

Leaders:

Sat May 5 - Blair Nikula
432-6348

Sun May 6 - Paul Schaub
896-7352
or Acton 978-263-2432

Sat May 12 - Ruth Connaughton 432-1580 and
Nancy Reider 398-8296

Sun May 13 - Peter Flood
258-0113

Sat May 19 - Frank Caruso
477-9807

Sun May 20 - Greg Hirh
457-4356

Sat May 26 - Paul Schaub
896-7352
or Acton 978-263-2432

Sun May 27 - Ginie Page
349-6810

**May 6 - Sun 5:30 AM
Wompatuck State Park,
Hingham.**

Be prepared for a 3-mile walk focusing on spring songbird migration. This trip is co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club.

Meet in the Sagamore Park and Ride lot directly behind Dunkin Donuts at 5:30AM to carpool or meet at the main entrance to Wompatuck State Park at 6:30AM.

If there is interest, we may stop at Daniel Webster in Marshfield in the afternoon. Rain cancels.

Leaders: Mary Keleher 477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com and Eddie Giles 378-3370 emgiles@verizon.net

**May 28 - Mon 7-10AM
Mashpee River Woodlands**

Meet in the parking area on Quinacisset Ave. We will carpool to River Road and walk approximately 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. Rain Cancels. Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com.

**June 2 - Sat 6AM-4PM
Mashpee**

We'll explore the main streets and back roads of Mashpee to find as many species as we can. Be prepared for several short and long hikes through woodlands and beach areas. Bring a lunch. Rain cancels.

Limited participation. Contact leader for meeting place. Leader: Mary Keleher 477-1473 maryeak@yahoo.com

**June 20 - Wed 8:30 AM
Crowes Pasture**

Bluebird Trail walk. Be sure to wear long pants for protection against poison ivy and briars and to defend against ticks.

Leader: Carolyn Kennedy 255-7564

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

- Maryellen McCabe,
Sagamore Beach
- Bob & Lyn Oleksiak,
East Orleans
- Craig & Nancy Gibson,
Winchester
- Patricia Greenwood,
East Harwich
- Kevin Ryan, North Easton
- Gary Ralston, S. Dennis

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2

MassAudubon has announced the initiation of the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2. The first Atlas was conducted during the period 1974–1979, with the results published in a 2003 book (almost 25 years in the works!). The results are also now available online at www.massaudubon.org/birdatlas/. Even a brief perusal of these almost three-decade-old results gives a sense of how dramatically some breeding bird populations in the state have changed. The new Atlas effort, coordinated by Joan Walsh and Simon Perkins, is scheduled to run from 2007–2012 and will be entirely web-based. Data will be entered online as it is gathered so the results will be available almost instantly. However, participants will not be required to have web access or even own a computer. Regional coordinators have been chosen, and their responsibilities will include soliciting participants and assisting them with data gathering and entry. Mary Keleher, Sharon Riley, and Blair Nikula have volunteered to serve as regional coordinators for Cape Cod. Atlasing is easy and enjoyable, and anyone, regardless of skill level, can participate. The more ambitious observers may spend long hours covering a wide variety of habitats in their area, but many others will provide valuable data from incidental observations in their own backyard. The greater the number of participants, the more thorough and valuable the results will be. To volunteer, or for more details, contact Mary Keleher (508-477-1473; maryeak@yahoo.com), Sharon Riley (508-432-2207; pwri@com), or Blair Nikula (508-432-6348; www.massaudubon.org). Or, check MassAudubon's web site at www.massaudubon.org

Special Program Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Kate Wallace –Birds of the Dominican Republic

The Cape Cod Bird Club will be sponsoring a program on Tuesday, June 5, 2007. The program will be held at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster at 7:30 P.M.. The program is FREE and open to members of the Cape Cod Bird Club and the CCMNH, as well as the general public. For more information about the program contact Mary Keleher, at 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com or Peter Bono, at 508-375-9421 or pbono@prba.com

Join former Cape Cod Bird Club member Kate Wallace as she takes us on a journey of birds of the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic is home to many species of endemic birds—that is, those found nowhere else in the world. The Palm Chat (an endemic family), Black-crowned Palm Tanagers, Hispaniolan Trogons and Woodpeckers, Narrow-billed and Broad-billed Todies, Vervain Hummingbirds and the critically endangered Ridgway’s Hawk are just a few of the birds that will be shown.

After many years on Cape Cod, working at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History and Mass. Audubon’s

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Kate ventured to the Dominican Republic as a Peace Corps Volunteer in 1994. As a former teacher/naturalist she quickly discovered the interesting variety of birds and soon joined a group of birders exploring the wild areas of the country. Part of her work was developing educational materials in parts of the country close to the national parks in the southwest and, in the process; she came to appreciate the opportunities available to visiting bird-watchers.

After the end of her service with Peace Corps, she decided to stay in the country to continue working with groups involved with bird conservation.

As a member of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds she directs their Wetland Education Project. She is the Vice President of the Society of Hispaniolan Ornithology. Kate began guiding in 1997 and has been active as a guide ever since. She is the local guide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, among others, and has a small tour business, Tody Tours. (<http://www.todytours.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/>

Cape Cod Bird Club Spring Programs

April 9, 2007

John Van de Graff:

**“ Point Pelee and Magee Marsh:
Birds in Migration”**

Point Pelee, Ontario serves as a migrant trap for warblers. By the time the northbound warblers reach this narrow, 12-mile sand spit projecting into Lake Erie, their song-control centers are hormonally pumped, and their plumages are glowing with ardor. Along established birding trails, Pelee birders gather for the annual "passerine play," one of the greatest shows in birding. The birds have no place to hide. In the generally low canopy, flame-colored Blackburnians, tiger-stripped Cape Mays and jade-colored Tennessees flicker and dance. From the understory, the musical chortles of Mourning and Connecticut Warblers bring birders at a run.

Point Pelee offers a wide variety of opportunities for bird photography, as does Magee Marsh across Lake Erie in Ohio.

This talk features vivid images of birds in both areas, portraying a wide range of warblers as well as tanagers, orioles, rails, and many other species, along with habitats and landscapes.

In photographing birds, John Van de Graaff combines two life-long loves: travel and photography, with a more recently acquired one: birding. He embarked on serious bird photography after retiring in 2000, and it quickly became his full-time passion.

In summer 2005 and 2006, John spent time on the coast at Allen's Pond Sanctuary in Westport, MA, capturing images which have been used extensively by MassAudubon to support their Coastal Waterbird Program.

His photos have won prizes, and a colorful male painted bunting appeared on the June 2006 cover of *Birder's World* magazine.

He is currently collaborating with Amherst nature poet Wally Swist on a book combining bird images and poetry.

For updates on the book and more information on John go to his website:

www.birdsbyjohn.com

Dont miss this great event!

May 14, 2007

Christopher Dalton:

“ The Natural History and Energetics of Cormorants”

Chris Dalton graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Yale University in 2006 with a B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. At Yale, he spent a lot of time looking out windows at birds and two years collecting and analyzing cormorant excrement. In his senior honors thesis, Chris documented the impact of Double-crested Cormorants on spawning anadromous alewives in a Connecticut Lake. Other research stemming from his senior project uses stable isotopes to examine the diet of egg-laying cormorants in Long Island Sound.

Chris has been actively birding since he was eight years old and has held several education and research positions with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He spent four summers as Mass Audubon Day Camp Counselor. One summer as interpretive naturalist for Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and one summer as Endangered Shorebird Monitor for Mass Audubon/Goldenrod Foundation. Currently, he is working for a small Boston consulting firm.

Details of his program:

Double-crested Cormorants are frequently the object of scorn for their tremendous appetite for fish. Fishermen with empty nets often look to the full bellies of cormorants as evidence of unfair competition. Mass killings of cormorants have been repeated throughout history, yet concrete evidence of their impact on fish populations is scanty.

In this talk, Chris Dalton will consider the multitude of studies on cormorant foraging and the impact that cormorants have on fish. He will also present the results of his own two year study on the impact of cormorants on anadromous alewives in southern Connecticut.

In doing so, he will present the ecologically fascinating, energetically demanding and evolutionarily amazing world of cormorants.

A **Barrow's Goldeneye** was observed from the Herring River Dike in Wellfleet on December 29.

Three **Great Egrets** were seen on Salt Pond in Falmouth on December 13 and North Falmouth on January 14. **Great Egrets** were also recorded from Nauset Beach on December 17, and Arey's Pond in Orleans and Fort Hill in Eastham on January 4.

An **American Bittern** was seen from Hatches Harbor Provincetown on December 14.

Sixty **Red Knots** and a **Snowy Owl** were recorded on South Beach. Chatham during the Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count on December 17.

A few raptors of note included a **Northern Goshawk** in Yarmouth Port on February 3, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** in North Falmouth on February 20, and a **Bald Eagle** on Johns Pond in Mashpee on February 24.

**Cape Cod Bird Club
Board of Directors
Needs Your Help!**

This spring the club's Board of Directors will have three vacancies. We're hoping to fill these positions with fun and energetic club members.

If you're interested in being the Trips Coordinator, Education and Outreach Director, or Merchandise Coordinator please contact one of the board members ASAP!

**Helen "Bobsie" Whitlock
A CO-Founder of the CCBC**

The first meeting of what we now know as the Cape Cod Bird Club was called on November 20, 1971 by Mrs. Lucien Rowell and Mrs. Herbert Whitlock for the purpose of forming a bird club. Twenty-two people assembled at the Cape Cod Bank & Trust in Orleans.

Sadly one of our original co-founders, Mrs. Helen C. "Bobsie" Whitlock, age 90, past away on Friday, January 5, 2007, at her home in Eastham.

Born and raised in Plainfield, N.J., she attended the Hartridge School for Girls in Plainfield and graduated from Smith College in Northampton. In 1958, she graduated from Rutgers University in New Jersey with a master's degree in social work.

She married Herbert E. Whitlock in 1963, and they retired to Eastham in 1967. She served as board president for one year of Cape Cod Family and Children Service, an organization she helped develop in 1974.

She was also a board member of Cape Cod Community Council for six years, and the United Way Allocations Committee for three years, and served on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA) for three years. She was a founding member of the Nauset Fellowship of Eastham, since its beginning in 1978, and also served on the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, of Lower Cape Cod.

Her long and fruitful life was punctuated by her continual interest in the field of social work, her constant love of various art forms, especially pottery and monotype printing. In addition, she was an enthusiastic supporter of the conservation of the natural environment through the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod (APCC), which was started in her living room by her husband and several other concerned Cape residents. She will be sorely missed.

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/> To post send an email to: capecodbirds@yahoogroups.com

Bird Sightings – Peter Flood



As part of the new format for the Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter, this section will be dedicated to a summary of some of the more interesting birds found across Cape Cod.

Due to newsletter time constraints, these sightings will typically cover the previous three months (prior to the newsletter deadline) and consist of a combination of birds noted on Cape Cod Bird Club walks as well as birds reported through other outlets such as Massbird and Voice of Audubon.

A **Bell's Vireo** was discovered in Woods Hole on November 25 and was enjoyed by many and cooperative enough to be recorded on the Buzzards Bay Christmas Bird Count on 12/16. An apparent **Rufus Hummingbird** was observed in Cotuit on October 27 and was last recorded on December 10.

A **Lark Sparrow** was noted in Bourne on December 2. An apparent **Spotted X Eastern Towhee** was noted in the thickets surrounding Falmouth Town Hall on December 10. A possible **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was located in East Orleans on December 19.

A late **Forster's Tern** was seen at Head of the Meadow Beach in North Truro on December 27. Three **Willetts** were discovered in Nauset Marsh during the Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count held on December 17. An apparent first winter **Thayer's Gull** was recorded from Provincetown Harbor on December 24. A **Black-headed Gull** was observed in Barnstable on January 12.

A single **Thick-billed Murre** graced Provincetown Harbor on December 9. A single **Dovekie** (smallest of the North Atlantic Alcids) was observed in Provincetown Harbor on December 24. Four **Dovekies** were noted at First Encounter Beach, Eastham on December 27 along with a remarkable tally of 32 **Pomarine Jaegers**. A tardy **Sooty Shearwater** passed First Encounter Beach

on January 2.

A late **Blue Gray Gnatcatcher** was in Marstons Mills on December 3. Two **Western Tanagers** were reported from Fort Hill Eastham on December 13. Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported in Brewster on December 2 and in Mashpee on December 15. Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were noted at Fort Hill Eastham on December 14, and a single **Yellow-breasted Chat** in Osterville on January 5. A very late **Tree Swallow** was observed flying along Surf Drive next to Salt Pond in Falmouth during a CCBC walk on January 7. An "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was discovered at a feeder in Eastham on December 23.

Purple Sandpipers were recorded at Horizons Beach in Sandwich on December 12, Provincetown Harbor during a CCBC walk on December 12 and Nobska Point Falmouth on January 7.

On a CCBC walk on December 12, six **Redhead Ducks** and 20 **Ruddy Ducks** were noted on Pilgrim Lake North Truro. Single **Snow Geese** were noted at Dowses Beach Osterville on December 13, Marstons Mills Airport on December 22, and Woods Hole on January 10.



Harlequin Duck (photo by Richard Johnson)

Five **Harlequin Ducks** regular winter visitors to Nauset Beach, Orleans were noted on December 17 along with a female **King Eider**.

(continued next page)