



THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 35 - Issue 3

The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

Winter (January - March) 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 Trips	2
CCBC Winter Programs	4
Editor's Note	5
Events of Interest	5
First Encounter Beach	6
Upcoming Programs	6
Bluebird Trail Update	7
New Members	7

The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles: March 1st

Send articles or comments to: capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Website:

<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

President's Message

Happy New Year and welcome to our first seasonal newsletter. This is our winter newsletter covering the months of January, February, and March. I'm excited about this new venture for the club and hope that you will all enjoy receiving a newsletter that will now be jam packed with information, great articles, and three months worth of walks.

The winter months are perfect for watching your feeders for the club's Backyard Feeder Census. Keep your feeders well stocked and your heated birdbaths filled with water during the second complete weekend of each month. Then grab a warm cup of coffee or hot chocolate, sit by the fire, and enjoy all the wonderful birds that will come. If you're new to the club and would like to participate in this fun event you can download a checklist from the club's website at:

http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/feeder_census.htm.

Make sure that there's plenty of shelter for the birds in your yard. This will help protect them from the harsh weather and from any predators in the area. For the past few years I've been creating a brush pile in my yard. Last year a male Eastern Towhee spent most of the winter in my yard feeding on the ground under the feeders and finding shelter in my brush pile. Though you will most likely find more common birds such as Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch at your feeders, you may also find a nice surprise. Two years ago I had a beautiful male Purple Finch at my sunflower feeder.

Winter is also a perfect time of the year to head to the coast. Since the beaches are nearly empty it's much easier to find a parking spot. Take a ride to Nauset Beach in Orleans and search through the rough surf for Harlequin Duck or head to Loop Beach in Cotuit to scan the calm waters of Nantucket Sound for Barrow's Goldeneye. Be sure to check the gulls too. Among all those Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls you may find an Iceland, Glaucous or Lesser Black-backed Gull.

I also enjoy checking the woodlands and thickets during the winter months. The Mashpee River Woodlands is a great place for a winter walk. Here I listen for the high pitched calls of Golden-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper. Usually I find several species of ducks in the river and occasionally I'll see Great Blue Heron hunting along the river's edge.

The Falmouth bike path area has many great thickets where you might find wintering birds such as Gray Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, and Fox Sparrow.

Be sure to check our walks page on our website at:

<http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/walks.htm>.

We always have fun and exciting walks for all to attend. So grab your hand warmers and foot warmers, bundle up and join us as we explore the coasts, bays, woodlands, and thickets for some great winter birding.

I hope all of you have a wonderful year filled with happiness, good health, and lots of great birds!

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 ~ Diane Silverstein

Cape Cod Bird Club Programs - Jan-Mar - David Clapp, Program Coordinator

January 8, 2007

Blair Nikula:

“Penguins, Petrels, and Prions: An Antarctic Adventure”

Blair Nikula, a native Cape Codder and life-long birder, is a former regional editor for American Birds (now North American Birds), a past-president of the Cape Cod Bird Club, and currently serves as a member of the Mass Avian Records Committee and an associate member of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Advisory Committee. Blair has also been studying and photographing dragonflies and damselflies for about 15 years. He co-edits Ode News, a newsletter about the odonates of Southern New England. He has co-authored the Stokes’ Beginner’s Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies, and A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts. He is currently working on a revision of The Birds of Cape Cod.

In 2004, Blair had an opportunity to spend four weeks on a Russian ship in Antarctica assisting in seabird research. In this program he will share some of his images and experiences from this exciting trip!

February 12, 2007

Peter Bono:

“Birds of Thailand”

“There it was! A reptilian-appearing head popped-out suddenly from the surrounding vegetation. Then, the rest of the body emerged. I could see its dark hood, red bill, yellow iris with red orbital ring, and purplish-blue iridescence on the side of the face. The bird was huge. It disappeared and then reappeared as it passed behind tree trunks and plants. A Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo!

It was thrilling to see this uncommon and local ground-dwelling denizen of Southeast Asia. A member of the old-world cuckoo family, it is related to coucals and malkohas. While we had gotten good views of other birds--Blue Whistling-Thrush, Orange-headed Thrush--and glimpses of other great birds like Blue Pitta, the ground-cuckoo was what we had been waiting for.

Thailand--a wonderful country with friendly people, excellent lodgings, easy logistics--is capable of delivering more than a few such moments as we were to find out on a three-week Field Guides tour in January of 2006 that took us to the North, Northeast,

and Southwest of the country as well as to the coastal areas of the Bight of Thailand around Bangkok. Great Hornbill, Green Peacock, Kalij Pheasant, Giant Nuthatch, Long-tailed Broadbill Limestone Wren-Babbler, White-fronted Scops-Owl, Nordmann’s Greenshank, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and Banded Kingfisher were just a few of the special highlights among the over 450 species of birds seen in a variety of habitats.

Old world families unfamiliar to American birders include hornbills and barbets, cuckoo-shrikes and flowerpeckers, babblers and bulbuls, sunbirds and broadbills, laughing-thrushes and bee-eaters. The names are unfamiliar, too: minivet, leafbird, parrotbill, fulvetta, spiderhunter, mesia, minla, yuhina, iora, sibia, tesia, barwing, niltava. Even the familiar are different--woodpeckers, kingfishers, and even magpies are more diverse and brilliantly colored.

See a representative collection of Thailand’s avian, mammalian, and cultural offerings in a slide and video presentation that will whet your appetite for birding adventure--whether in Thailand or other exotic locations.”

(continued next page)

FIRST ENCOUNTER BEACH

How crisp and clean and clear
 you are today –
 autumn in Eastham;
 how conspicuous those two
 Savannahs popping up and down
 in the marsh elder, the
 yellow supercilia flashing;
 how soft the salt marsh,
 stretching, stirring in the wind.

How symphonic the waves
 in tune with a restless flock
 of plovers and yellowlegs –
 raw energy
 rising into the sky,
 heading out over the bay,
 continuing their long distance
 migration.

How dazzling the
 twisting, turning, rippling
 charge of little
 flocks of turnstones, sanderlings
 and dunlin charging
 through the air, then sweeping
 in to feed on the flats.

How purposeful the gulls,
 wheeling and shuttling
 back and forth, and
 how sought after, a Franklin
 with its dark cheek and neck
 and the tern-like Bony maneuvering
 with his bigger buddies.

How motionless we stood as
 zigzagging, swooping, a
 Horned lark into the middle of a puddle
 plopped himself; then came
 another, claiming the whole puddle.

How lumbering the eiders,
 low over the waves,
 aligned, in unison,
 like big mechanical toys.

How wild and lonely we feel
 as the Ruddy ducks
 paddle into our view
 and the Hairy Woodpecker,
 curious and cheeky, zipping
 from tree to tree,
 tapping and calling

How healed and renewed we felt
 as the Golden-crowned kinglet
 moved through
 spangles of bittersweet berries,
 its crown matching, competing
 with the fruit.

How time stopped today
 and the long shadow
 of age and wearing
 no longer blotted out
 the sunshine.

Ruth M. Connaughton

October 23, 2006

**Cape Cod Bird Club
 Upcoming Programs
 April - May, 2007**

April 9, 2007:

John Van de Graff
 “Birds of Point Pelee Ontario”

May 14, 2007:

Christopher Dalton
 “The Natural History and
 Energetics of Cormorants”

Trip Leaders Needed

Please send any bird walk requests that you would like to lead, co-lead or discuss, to Ginie Page at: 508-349-6810 or vgpage@juno.com

She will respond via email to help do a write-up for a walk that all club members will enjoy or you can speak with her at any of our meetings.

We need more trip leaders so please help the club where you can. You can lead, or co-lead, half-day walks, a 2-hour walk, or all day trips.

Everyone can be a “leader”, a bird club trip is a TEAM effort and it's always FUN.

Many thanks go out to ALL the past bird walk leaders!

***Please Note**

**Heavy snow, ice or rain
cancels all trips.
Call leader if in doubt.**

New Year Birds**Mon January 1, 2007****12 Noon - 4P.M.****Mid-Cape or Hot Spots**

Get your 2007 year list off to a great start! Meet in the Stop & Shop parking lot at Patriot Square on Route 134 in South Dennis.

Take exit 9A off Route 6.

Left at lights.

Party hats optional!

Leader: Ed Banks

508-430-0845 or

edbanks@verizon.net

Jan 6 - Sat 8:30 AM-Noon**Marstons Mills**

Warm & cozy viewing of a variety of "Yard Birds" in a natural and enhanced habitat! View ducks on Round Pond from the property. Maybe a trip to nearby Mill Pond or Nye Pond . Beginning birders ALWAYS WELCOME!

68 Liberty Lane, Marstons Mills. Leaders: Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski 508-428-8494

Jan 7 - Sun 8 AM**Woods Hole/Falmouth**

The shore, ponds and thickets. Meet at the parking lot for the Shining Sea Bike Path on Locust Street in Falmouth (which is on the North side of Locust street near the intersection with Mill Road).

Leader: Greg Hirth

508-457-4356; or

ghirth@whoi.edu

Club Trips - Winter**Jan 15 - Mon 7 AM - 2 PM**

Barnstable Area We'll explore ponds, thickets and the waters of Nantucket Sound. Meet at the Honey Dew Donuts on Route 28 near the Barnstable/Mashpee town line. Due to limited parking we will all need to carpool. Leader: Mary Keleher 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

Jan 20 - Sat 9 AM - Noon

Mashpee. "Yard Birds" from a great vantage point overlooking beautiful Popponeset Bay. Up close looks at yard birds---maybe carolina wren, brown creeper---plus scope views of the bay and all it offers, from the deck. Leaders: Dick and Shirley Henshall, 24 Captains Row, Mashpee. 508-457-4356.

Jan 26 - Fri 7:30 AM

Rhode Island Meet at the Stop and Shop on Route 6A in Sandwich. Possible places to visit will include the East Providence Reservoir, Ninigret Park, Ninigret NWR, Trustom Pond NWR, Moonstone Beach, Sachuest NWR and Beavertail Point. We'll be guided by what's been reported and how much open water exists prior to the trip. Although the focus of the trip will be winter waterfowl, we should see a great diversity of birds during the day. We'll stop for lunch somewhere, depending on how the birding goes. Leader: Frank Caruso, 508-477-9807 or fcaruso@umext.umass.edu.

Feb 3 - Sat 8:30AM - Noon

Marstons Mills. Warm & cozy viewing of a variety of "Yard Birds" in a natural and enhanced habitat! View ducks on Round Pond from the property. Maybe a trip to nearby Mill Pond or Nye Pond. Beginning birders ALWAYS WELCOME! 68 Liberty Lane, Marstons Mills. Leaders: Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski 508-428-8494

Feb 10 - Sat 8 - 11 AM**Sandwich**

Join CCBC past-president Phil Kyle and check out the Bay / Canal from Hemisphere's AKA Horizon's, Sandwich Marina, Town Neck Beach - Boardwalk Area and possibly the Gamefarm. Meet at Marylou's Coffee 69 Tupper Rd. Sandwich - just off of 6A near #2 Stop/Shop. Any questions call 508-495-0196

**And while you're out!
(see next trip)**

Feb 10 - Sat 1 PM - Dusk**Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield**

Meet at the commuter lot on the "other" side of the Sagamore Bridge for carpooling. We will check out some great places in Plymouth and other areas. Then we will go to DWWS for some late birding and at dusk a chance of short-eared and long-eared owls and other evening creatures. Don't miss this one! Leader: Dan Furbish yellowrail@comcast.net

(continued next page)

Club Trips (continued)

Feb 13 - Tues 8:30 AM

Wellfleet to P'Town

Meet at the Wellfleet town pier where we will scope for interesting gulls, alcids, loons and other close in treats. Then we will work our way to the end of the Cape checking the ocean and harbors. A warming stop for "coffee and" will be arranged. We will also try to find any rarities on land as well.

Leader: Ginie Page
508-349-6810 or
vgpage@juno.com

Feb 18 – Sunday 7-10 AM

Mashpee River Woodlands.

Meet in the parking area on Quinaquisset 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 Quinaquisset Ave. The woodlands parking area is around the corner on the right. Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or
maryeak@yahoo.com

Mar 10 - Sat 8-11 AM

Buzzards Bay

Join CCBC past-president Phil Kyle and check out Presidents Rd. Bourne, Mashnee Island, Wing's Neck, Barlow's Landing, Seal Lane, Catuamet, Quisset Hbr., Megansett Hbr. and Sipewisset area. Meet East End (Bourne Bridge side) of the parking lot for Tedeschi's Convenience Store @ Bourne Rotary. Leader: Phil Kyle 508-495-0196

Mar 12 - Mon 9 AM

Harwich Conservation Area

Meet at Bell's Neck Rd. between the two water areas. We'll look for migrating birds and then shorebirds on nearby beaches. Leaders: Nancy Reider and Ruth Connaughton 508-432-1580.

Mar 17 - Sat 8:30 AM-Noon

Marstons Mills

Warm & cozy viewing of a variety of "Yard Birds" in a natural and enhanced habitat! Maybe even see a few early spring arrivals. View ducks on Round Pond from the property. Maybe a trip to nearby Mill Pond or Nye Pond. Beginning birders are ALWAYS WELCOME! 68 Liberty Lane Marstons Mills. Leaders: Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski 508-428-8494

**And while you're out!
(see next trip)**

Mar 17 - Sat 5:30 PM - Dusk
Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth

Meet in the parking area to the Crane WMA. From Route 151 take the dirt road between the ballfield and the Nickelodeon Theater to the end and park. We'll walk the fields to look for grassland birds then listen for American Woodcocks displaying at dusk. Rain/snow cancels. Leader: Mary Keleher 508-477-1473 or
maryeak@yahoo.com

Mar 18 - Sun 8 AM

Mid-Cape

Meet at Corporation Beach in Dennis to scope for water birds. We will then look at several ponds and the ocean as well. There should be a good number of later wintering and early spring birds. Leader: Mark Tuttle 508-362-3015

Mar 20 - Tues 6 PM - Dusk

North Truro. Woodcocks and Sunset or, "The Rites of Spring"

Celebrate the Vernal Equinox. Meet along High Head Rd. (just off Rte 6 south of Pilgrim Lake) We will spend some time with the birds of the evening before watching for woodcocks engaged in their annual rites. Call if the weather looks "ify." Leader: Ginie Page 508-349-6810 or
vgpage@juno.com

**TRIPS COORDINATOR
VACANCY**

Many thanks to Dan Furbish for volunteering as Trips Coordinator for the past year and a half. Dan has done a wonderful job in coordinating many great trips for the club. He even managed to get some of us "off Cape" by scheduling co-sponsored walks with Brookline Bird Club, South Shore Bird Club, and Allen Bird Club. Great job Dan, thank you. We are now looking to fill this important position ASAP. If anyone is interested in serving on the board as Trips Coordinator please contact one of the board members.

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/>

Bluebird Trails Update

The Cape Cod Bird Club network of bluebird nesting boxes currently includes 1 trail in Dennis and 2 trails in Harwich. There's great news for 2007 as we may have the opportunity to add a third trail in Harwich and a new trail in Chatham. The Town of Harwich has approved increasing the 12 boxes at Thompson's Field to 24. Ben Wright, of the Harwich Conservation Trust, has played an important role in development of the Harwich trails. In 2007, we are approaching the coordination of the trails in a different way. Individual monitors are agreeing to take responsibility of the data collection for trails. Currently, Carolyn Kennedy has agreed to oversee Crowes Pasture in Dennis, and Terry Gavin and Judith Bruce have offered to oversee Thompson's Field. We are still looking for a

volunteer to oversee the trail at Bank St. Bogs in Harwich. If we do create a trail in Chatham, this will be thanks to Joanna Schurmann who has alerted me to this possibility. (I have already asked Joanna to think about coordinating this trail if it comes to be.)

If you are interested in taking on the Bank St. Bogs coordinator role, please call me at 508-364-1370.

I will be happy to answer questions and give you more information.

This is an exciting project for the club and is another opportunity for you to become involved in one of our missions, conservation and preservation of the Cape's natural resources.

by Diane Silverstein

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

- David Belcher, Falmouth
- Chesta Buckley, Cataumet
- Thomas Knight Burgess, Cotuit
- Ann Goulding, Dennis
- Eleanor Lunde, Monument Beach
- Maggic McDonagh, Belmont
- Keelin Miller, Manhattan, NY
- Donald Peters, Falmouth
- Chris Sidoli, Harwichport

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

CCBC Programs (continued)

March 12, 2007
Alan Hinde:
“Wintering Raptors of the Great Basin”
Twenty Years Census and Banding in Utah and Nevada

Join Al Hinde for a remarkable evening as he shares his adventures banding raptors of all kinds and conducting a census of wintering raptors in the Great Basin.

His adventures include hacking and releasing peregrine falcons in Vermont and New Hampshire from 1983-85 for Cornell and The Peregrine Fund, banding and directing raptor-banding operations with HawkWatch International on the Goshute Mountains in Nevada. from 1983-92.

Also, five seasons banding then directing raptor-banding operations in Eilat, Israel, for the International Birding Centre, from 1988-2000.

In addition he has banded raptors in Sw England; Talamanca, Costa Rica and Cape May, New Jersey. From 1985 to the present he has banded and conducted a census of wintering raptors in Nevada and Utah -- “The Great Basin.” Another CCBC program you cannot afford to miss!

Events of Interest

The Cape Cod Natural History Conference

On Saturday, March 17, 2007 the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary will be hosting the Cape Cod Natural History Conference, a full day conference featuring presenters from environmental organizations across Cape Cod, speaking on a variety of natural history topics. For more information go to the WBWS website or call 508-349-2615 for a registration form and details. Bring a lunch.

Mass Audubon Annual Birders Meeting
Saturday March 24, 2007

This year held jointly with the Wilson Ornithological Society at the Sheraton Colonial Hotel in Wakefield. For more information, contact Mass Audubon at www.massaudubon.org

2nd ANNUAL BIRDING CAPE COD WEEKEND
May 12 & May 13, 2007

On Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13, 2007 members of the Cape Cod Bird Club will lead walks to top birding areas throughout Cape Cod. There will be one walk in each town on both Saturday and Sunday. Mark your calendars!

Editor’s Note:

Attention All Readers

Your input is needed if this newsletter is to continue the tradition of past issues.

Please submit any bird-related stories, poems, trip reports or other experiences you think might be of interest.

You don’t have to be a Ruth Connaughton (see her delightful work on page 6) to contribute.

Just send a letter to me at: 7 Vineyard Lane Harwich, MA 02645

or email me at: capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Ed Banks

CCBC Merchandise
 Available at all meetings

Birding Cape Cod	\$15.95
(A where-to-bird “must” for any Cape Cod birder!)	
CCBC Cap	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