



THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 37 - Issue 3

Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

Spring (April - June) 2009

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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Deadline for next issue's articles:

June 1st

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Send articles or comments to:

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capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Website:

<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

President's Message

It is with mixed feelings that I write this President's message. I have served on the Board of Directors for the past five years, two years as Program Director and three years as President. It hardly seems that five years have come and gone so fast. As my term as President comes to an end I feel that it's time for someone new to take charge. Change is good and new people will bring new ideas to the club. I am pleased that I have fulfilled my three years as President of the club and I hope that I have accomplished a lot, positioning the club to excel in the coming years.

The past five years have been very enjoyable for me. This is largely because of all the fine people with whom I have worked. It's been a truly unique experience to work with a group of people such as we have in this club.

Each member of the board of directors has had a specific job to do that has carried the club forward. All have been enthusiastic and more than competent. Many others have pitched in on a variety of other activities from leading field trips to volunteering for the club's bluebird trail, bringing in baked goods for our meetings, or helping out during our Members' Night meeting. I am very appreciative of all the good people who give their time, energy, and ideas.

I feel fortunate to have met so many wonderful people, whether at our monthly meetings or during our club walks. I have learned so much from all of you about birds and the surrounding area of Cape Cod. It is my deepest wish for the club to enjoy continued success, and I am proud to have been a part of its tradition.

I encourage all members to participate in club walks and other activities that the club sponsors. We do it for you, and believe that you will be happily rewarded. The club runs only on volunteer help and no club can survive by depending on the same people year after year. We have had lots of new people jumping right in, in recent years, and that has been another gratifying part of being President. I would like to thank you all for the support and time you've given me and our club for the past several years. I think it's our love of birds and nature that keeps us going.

I look forward to remaining an active member with the club. I will continue to lead walks and attend our monthly meetings. I hope to see you all at the Beech Forest in May!

Mary Keleher



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



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 |
| Mark Faherty | Vice President |
| Peter Flood | Secretary |
| Carolyn Kennedy | Treasurer |

Directors

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Julie O'Neil | Vianna Heath |
| Matt Malin | Cynthia Franklin |
| David Clapp | Gretchen Putonen |

Newsletter

Editor ~ Ed Banks E-mail: edbanks@verizon.net or capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Membership/Address Changes~ Carolyn Kennedy
E-mail: ccbcmembership@verizon.net

Nominating Chair ~ Ginie Page

Club Trips - Spring 2009

Matt Malin, Trips Coordinator

Please Note:

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

Apr 6 - Mon - 9 AM-Noon **Scusset Beach Area**

We'll explore the thickets, canal, and beach for early spring migrants and late winter birds. Meet in the Sagamore Park and Ride parking lot directly behind Dunking Donuts.

Leader: Mary Keleher,
508-477-1473 or
maryeak@yahoo.com.

April 25 - SAT- 8-11 AM **South Cape Beach State Park, Mashpee**

Beach and bay walk (3 miles of sand) looking for Piping Plover, Osprey, American Oystercatcher, lingering winter ducks and early migrants. Meet at the Mashpee Town parking lot at the end of Great Oak Road.

To get there, take Great Neck Road south from the Mashpee Rotary at Rte 28 and then veer to the left onto Great Oak Road, just past the entrance to New Seabury.

Leaders: Matt Malin,
(508) 274-8472 or
hossfeldt@yahoo.com
Peter Brown, (508) 241-5541 or
pbrown5541@gmail.com.

May 4 - MON - 8 -10:30 AM **Bells Neck Conservation Area, Harwich**

We'll look for vireos, warblers, ducks and shorebirds, marsh wren and other early spring migrants.

Meet at Bells Neck Rd in Harwich between East and West Reservoirs.

Leaders: Nancy Ryder & Ruth Connaughton, contact Ruth at (508) 432-1580

May 9 - SAT - 7:30-9:30 AM **Ryder Conservation Area, Sandwich**

We'll check this spring migrant trap for early arrivals possibly including Parula, Yellow, Pine, Black & White, Black-throated Green warblers, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat, as well as Baltimore Oriole, Red-Eyed Vireo, and Scarlet Tanager.

Meet at the conservation parking lot on South Sandwich Road, just north of the Sandwich/Mashpee town line.

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

May 11 - MON - 8:15 -10:00 AM **Long Pond/Falmouth**

We'll look for migrants and nesters in the area around Long Pond. Meet in the small parking lot just off the west side of Gifford Street (this is one of the entrances to Goodwill Park) about 0.5 miles north of the intersection between Jones Rd and Gifford Street. I encourage folks to show up early for "advanced scouting"; I can't show up until 8:15 due to daycare duties. Leader: Greg Hirth,
geohawk_1@yahoo.com.
Heavy Rain Cancels.

MAY 16 – SAT - 8 AM - Noon **Long Pasture, Cummaquid**

Look for Spring Migrants and Residents.

Meet at Mass Audubon Long Pasture Sanctuary parking lot BY THE HEADQUARTERS HOUSE (not at the upper lot by the fields). If we have time after birding the Sanctuary grounds, and depending on weather and bird activity, we will visit other local woods along 6A in Barnstable and Yarmouthport, possibly including Dennis Pond and the Boy Scout camp (Yarmouth).

Directions to Long Pasture Sanctuary: From Rt 6, take exit 7 (Willow Street) to Yarmouth Port. Go north one mile on Willow Street, take a left onto Rt 6A west one mile, and take a right on Bone Hill Road (look for a small sanctuary sign).

The sanctuary parking area is 0.2 miles ahead on the left next to the shed. Special Attraction: All the species of birds we see will be included in the Mass Audubon Bird-A-Thon totals and will earn money for our local Long Pasture Sanctuary. If you would like to make a pledge to support the Bird-A-Thon, please contact the Sanctuary Director, Ian Ives, at 508-362-7475 or iives@massaudubon.org, THIS IS NOT A CONDITION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE BIRD-WALK.

Leader: Peter Bono
pbono@prba.com;
or 508-375-9421.

Please contact Peter in advance to let him know that you intend to participate in the birdwalk. On the morning of the birdwalk, he will have his cell phone on (774-487-2848). If you are uncertain, call Peter on his cell phone after 0700 on Saturday morning.

May 17 - SUN – 7:30-10:30 AM **Quashnet River Trail, Falmouth**

Woodland walk looking for early arriving passerines and other surprises. Meet at the trailhead off Martin Rd.

Directions: Take Rt. 28 to/from Falmouth to Martin Road, on the west side of Rt. 28 near the Falmouth/Mashpee town line, the trailhead is at the north end of Martin Road on the west side of the Quashnet River.

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

Club Trips (Continued)

**May 22 – FRI 5:30 AM - Noon
Wompatuck State Park,
Hingham**

Meet at the Stop and Shop on Route 6A in Sandwich. This area, formerly a munitions depot during World War II, is now a relatively large tract of woodland and wetland habitats that is a wonderful stopover for migrating songbirds and a nesting locale for a wide variety of birds. Target birds here include hooded warbler, worm-eating warbler, blue-winged warbler, pileated woodpecker, and other passerine species during the migration. We'll bird until the latter portion of the morning and be done by noon. Watch the weather reports and call/email to check on the status of the trip.

Leader: Frank Caruso,
508-477-9807 or 774-238-0698
or fcarus@umext.umass.edu

**May 26 - TUE - 8:30 AM - Noon
Falmouth**

We'll hit several of the most productive woods & thickets in Falmouth for migratory species, including the 88-acre Peterson Farm, thickets around the WHOI campus, Quissett Harbor, the Town Forest at Goodwill Park, and spots in between, time permitting. Meet at the Mobil-mart Gas Station/Dunkin'Donuts on Palmer Avenue at 8:30 am. We'll carpool from there.

Directions: From the traffic lights at the intersection of Rte 28 and Jones Road in Falmouth, go south approx 0.25 miles.

The Mobil is on the right, just before the Falmouth Ice Rink.

Leaders: Molly Cornell (508) 540-7652 and Priscilla Moor (508) 548-4236.

June 3 - WED - 5:30 - 7:30 PM

South Cape Beach State Park, Mashpee. Beach walk (2-3 miles in sand) looking for Piping

Plover, Osprey, terns and other shorebirds. Meet at the Mashpee Town parking lot at the end of Great Oak Road.

To get there, take Great Neck Road south from the Mashpee Rotary at Rte 28 and then veer to the left onto Great Oak Road, just past the entrance to New Seabury. Leader: Peter Brown, (508) 241-5541 or pbrown5541@gmail.com.

**June 7 - SUN - 7-11 AM
Crane WMA and
Coonamesett Pond area,
Falmouth**

Lets look in the fields at Crane for Grasshopper Sparrow and other grassland specialists and then look for warblers and other breeding birds at the conservation areas around Coonamesett Pond. A Kentucky Warbler was found last year in the area. Meet at the Nickelodeon Cinema Parking Lot on Route 151.

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

WALK CHECKLIST FOR LEADERS and MEMBERS

- Walk leaders may now download the walk check list 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/>

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 2 - Peter Brown,
(508) 241-5541 or
pbrown5541@gmail.com

Sun May 3 - Paul Schaub,
(508) 896-7352 / (978) 263-2432

Sat May 9 - Blair Nikula
(508) 432-6348 or
odenews@odenews.org

Sun May 10 - Susan Thompson,
(508) 255-1451

Sat May 16 - Frank Caruso,
(508) 477-9807 / (774) 238-0698
or fcarus@umext.umass.edu

Sun May 17 - Al Curtis
(508) 432-8677 or
killdeer89@comcast.net

Sat May 23 - Matt Malin,
(508) 274-8472 or
hossfeldt@yahoo.com

Sun May 24 - Ginie Page,
(508) 349-6810 or
vp@juno.com

Sat May 30 - Peter Flood
(508) 258-0113 or
pomarine@comcast.net

Sun May 31 - David Clapp
(508) 896-7322 or
naturalhistoryservices@comcast.net

Cape Cod Bird Club

Spring Programs

David Clapp, Program Coordinator

April 13, 2009

Joan Walsh

“Case Studies in Changes in Breeding Birds of Massachusetts”

Wild Turkeys are up, kestrels are down, and robins are holding steady. These are some of the early findings from Breeding Bird Atlas 2, a five-year initiative by Mass Audubon that began in 2007 to measure bird population trends across Massachusetts.

Joan Walsh is the Coordinator of the Mass Breeding Bird Atlas 2 for Mass Audubon.

She has been working for bird conservation for 25 years, working on many species from Black Ducks to Wood Storks to Horseshoe Crabs to Elephant Seals. Joan also coordinated the first Breeding Bird Atlas for New Jersey during the 1990s.

We are mid-way through the second Breeding Bird Atlas for the Commonwealth, and already some species are revealing an impressive scale of change over thirty short years. She'll talk about some of the rapidly increasing breeding birds and some of the species that have quietly declined since Atlas 1 was completed, and discuss our plans for making the Atlas 2 data work for breeding bird conservation.

Atlas 1, conducted from 1974 - 1979, was the first effort in North America to map the status of breeding birds systematically across an entire state. Atlas 2 is already showing how large-scale landscape changes over the past 30 years have affected wildlife. The results could help the state government and Mass Audubon formulate better environmental and conservation policies.

You wont want to miss this must-see program for anyone interested the learning the latest news on the breeding birds in Massachusetts.

May 11, 2009

Brandi Van Roo

“Reproductive Behavior and Hormones in Vireos”

We know all too well the role of hormones in the behavior of teenage humans but what about the same in birds?

Brandi Van Roo, Ph D. has studied the role of hormones in parental care by males in Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. Her current research continues with Warbling Vireos. With a BA in English and a minor in Art from SUNY College she studied abroad in Australia and decided to change the direction of her career.

A BS in Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry was followed by a PhD in the Evolution, Ecology, & Behavior program at the Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington IN.

She is currently Assistant Professor at Framingham State College, teaching Ecology, Ornithology, and Wildlife Biology, as well as introductory biology courses.

Join us for this informative look at the behavior of one of our most vocal neo-tropical Massachusetts breeders.



Blue-headed Vireo
(Photo by Roger Everett)

Club Notes and Other News

Members' Night Funds Put To Good Use

Through the generosity of our members and guests the Members' Night Bake Sale totaled \$152.00. The money will be applied to the CCBC Scholarship Fund. Over \$400.00 was raised in the Silent Auction. Proceeds will go to the Birder's Exchange. The following is a thank-you note from Betty Petersen.

January 20, 2009

To All the Members of the CCBC,

I cannot thank you enough for organizing a book sale on behalf of Birders' Exchange. The money generated by the sale is a fantastic contribution!

I am going to submit an article to ABA's newsletter, *Winging It*, to tell the ABA members how one bird club is making a huge and positive difference in helping Birders' Exchange and the program's recipients to save birds and their habitats, and enable people on the ground to achieve many successes for bird conservation and education.

It's my hope that other bird clubs across the country will follow your lead, your commitment, and your generosity in helping the efforts of Birders' Exchange, and that each of you will take pride in the accomplishments of all the people whose work is carried on because of your support.

Warmest regards,
Betty Petersen,
Birders' Exchange Program Director



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.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Pat & Randy Bartlett,
Wellfleet

Judith Davis, Marion
Susan & Michael
Karchmer, Harwich

Jan & Herb Raffaele,
Harwich

Jon Rolf, Brewster

Hope to see you at our
Club walks and meetings!

CCBC Merchandise

Available at all meetings.

Birding Cape Cod \$15.95

A "must have" for every
Cape Cod Birder!

CCBC Cap 15.00

CCBC Knit Hat/Cap 15.00

CCBC Decal 1.00

CCBC Checklist .75

CCBC Patch 3.00

CCBC Pin 5.00

Bino/Camera Strap 12.50

Club Notes and Other News (Continued)

CCMNH Flea Market May 2nd & 3rd

The Friends of Cape Cod Museum of Natural History will hold a flea market as part of the museum's participation in the annual Brewster in Bloom weekend on May 2-3. Bird Club members can help the museum by bringing clean, useable items -- including sports equipment and toys, kitchenware, bric-a-brac and small furniture -- to the museum at either the April meeting or during regular Museum hours. All proceeds benefit OUR Museum. If you have questions, phone Alice Berry at 508-385-8751.

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

Capecodbirds is an 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 postings, go to the capecodbirds listserv website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/capecodbirds/>

Due to a high volume of inappropriate posts to the listserv access to it has been changed. To post information you need to be a member of the group.

To join the group, go to the website, click on "Join this group" and create a Yahoo account.

Bluebird Trail Monitors Needed

Did you know that CCBC members monitor bluebird nest boxes in four locations on the Cape?

A few more volunteers are needed. Just a few hours a month are required and training is provided.

This is a great opportunity to see these beautiful birds, as well as other nesters, such as Tree Swallows, Black-capped Chickadees, House Wrens and others, close up and learn more about their nesting habits.

It is a truly rewarding experience and a chance to be of great help to the club as well.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Kennedy at (508) 255-7564 or clkenn@verizon.net



Bluebird on a Post
(Photo by Janet DiMattia)



Bluebird Returning to Nestbox
(Photo by Janet DiMattia)

A Big "Thank You" to Birdwatchers' General Store and Wild Birds Unlimited

The Club would like to acknowledge two local businesses for their generous support of the Bluebird Nestbox Trails.

Mike O'Connor, of the *Birdwatchers' General Store* in Orleans, and Tom Thompson, of *Wild Birds Unlimited* in Yarmouth, have donated nestboxes and other supplies to the program.

Please remember them when you need feeders, seed or any bird-related items. And let them know how much we appreciate their support.

Thank You, Don



The CCBC honored Don Manchester at the March meeting for all the hard work and countless hours he has put into the Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch. He has been the primary watcher/counter for the past ten years at the Truro site.

David Clapp presented Don a framed photo of a Mississippi Kite by Shawn Carey.

Editor's Note:

Retired?

Time on your hands?

Step right up!

If you are looking for a way to get more involved in YOUR bird club, here are a few suggestions:

Lead a club trip. You do not have to be able to identify every bird you see or hear to lead a successful bird walk. Perhaps you know of a great "out of the way" spot, either on cape or off, that might make for a super birding trip.

Write an article for the newsletter. Share a meaningful "birdy" experience or submit photos of birds or birding trips.

Hold an office or board of directors position in the club. Offer to assist any officer to "learn the ropes". Who knows? Maybe you might be the next newsletter editor!

Become a bluebird trail monitor - (see page 6)

Now's the time to get involved!