



THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 37 - Issue 4 The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter Summer (July - September) 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

Inside this issue:

Club Trips	2
New Members	2
CCBC Programs	3
CCBC Scholarship	3
Cape Cod Birding Weekend	4-6
Membership Renewal Form	7
Pelagic Trip Waiver Form	7

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Deadline for next issue's articles:

SEPTEMBER 1st

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edbanks@verizon.net

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<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

President's Message

I am very pleased to be writing my inaugural president's message for the Cape Cod Bird Club. I have been a member for a little over a year now, so the board figured it was about time I became president. But seriously, folks, I am looking forward to leading this venerable bird club for the next year and perhaps beyond.

By way of introducing myself, I should mention that my relatively short birding pedigree on Cape Cod goes back about 10 years, though I've birded in Massachusetts since the age of six. Most of my experience is on the Outer Cape, where I spent three years conducting breeding bird surveys throughout the Cape Cod National Seashore, and where I work now as scientist for Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. I have gotten to know the Mid Cape area better in the last two years working with Piping Plovers in Harwich and Chatham, and through my Cape-wide "Cape Cod Osprey Project" for Audubon. I've also helped out with the Mid-Cape Christmas Bird Count for the last 10 years or so.

I think we should all thank Mary Keleher for the tremendous job she has done as president these last three years. She has set a high standard for the office and as a member of the Cape Cod birding community in general, that I can only hope to maintain.

I reckon she'll have a bit more time now for her tireless work as a regional coordinator and documenter of breeding birds for Mass Audubon's Breeding Bird Atlas II. Maybe she'll get four new breeding records for Cape Cod this year - who knows?

If you find yourself missing Mary, then you need only join one of her upcoming bird walks, beginning with a Stauffer's Puddle trip on July 31. Check out the other trips we have coming up, as shorebirds and the earliest land bird migrants are already on the move in July, and things are well underway in August and September.

Speaking of Breeding Bird Atlas, July and August are great months for confirming nesting, as recent fledglings abound. This is often the easiest way to confirm nesting for secretive species, so don't be deterred from your Atlasing duties by the lack of song out there later in the summer.

We are very excited here at the sanctuary about our nesting American Kestrels, who are using the kestrel box in our big field for the first time in several years. I would like the club to get involved in helping increase the kestrel breeding population on Cape Cod. The board will be discussing ways we can get involved in the future, including looking for likely sites for new nest boxes that will maximize their chances of being used by the birds. Stay tuned for more.

In the meantime, my first executive order as president is for everyone to get out there and bird!

Mark Faherty



Mailing Address:
Cape Cod Bird Club
P.O. Box 704
Harwich, MA 02645

It's That Time of Year!

A friendly reminder: Dues are due September 1st
(Please see Page 7)



The Cape Cod Bird Club, Inc.

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 Att: Charlie Martin, Treasurer
P.O. Box 704
Harwich, MA 02645

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

Officers

Mark Faherty	President
Peter Bono	Vice President
Peter Flood	Secretary
Charlie Martin	Treasurer

Directors

Julie O'Neil	Vianna Heath
Alice Berry	Matt Malin
Cynthia Franklin	Paula Goldberg

Newsletter

Editor ~ Ed Banks E-mail: edbanks@verizon.net

Membership/Address Changes~ Charlie Martin
E-mail: cemartinjr@comcast.net

Nominating Committee Chair ~ Ginie Page

Club Trips - Summer**Matt Malin - Trips Coordinator****Please Note:****Rain or heavy wind cancels all trips.****Call leader if in doubt.****July 31 - FRI - 7:30 - 10:00AM****Stauffer's Puddle, Sandwich**

We'll check the puddle, marsh, beach and water for herons, egrets, shorebirds, terns, gulls, and swallows.

Meet at Route 6A Convenience Store across from Ploughed Neck Road in Sandwich.

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

Aug 15 - SAT - 5:30-7:00 PM**(Evening) West Dennis Beach**

Meet at the West Dennis Beach PARKING LOT at the FAR END--all the way to the break-water and the Bass River.

We'll look for the resident endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns. We'll also hope to find migrating shorebirds on the mud flats and maybe a few early passerines in the dunes. Rain cancels. If you plan to attend, please contact the leader in advance: Peter Bono 508-375-9421 or pbono@pbra.com.

After 4 PM on the day of the walk, you can reach him on his cell phone (774-487-2848).

Aug 20 - THUR - 9:30 - 4 PM**South Beach, Chatham.**

Meet at the Monomoy NWR Headquarters on Morris Island, in Chatham at 9:30 AM.

Park on the causeway and a van will pick you up. We'll take the Morris Island Ferry to the beach and then leisurely view the thousands of shorebirds and seabirds in migration.

Be prepared to walk 3+ miles.

This trip is co-sponsored with the Forbush Bird Club.

There is a fee for boat transportation (approx. \$25.00).

This is an all-day trip, so be sure to bring enough food and water.

Please call or email me if you plan to attend.

Rain, heavy wind or surf cancels. No rain date.

Leader: Ed Banks 508-430-0845 or edbanks@verizon.net

Sept 11 - FRI - 9 AM - Noon**Scusset Beach Area.**

We'll explore the thickets, canal, and beach for fall migrants and maybe sea duck or two.

Meet in the Sagamore Park and Ride parking lot directly behind Dunkin Donuts.

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

Sept 12 - SAT - 7:45AM- Noon**Mid-Cape Leader's Choice**

Meet at the Dunkin Donuts PARKING LOT on Station Avenue, in South Yarmouth approximately 1/2 mile south of Exit 8 off Route 6. (Come a few minutes early if you want to buy something there and be ready to leave the parking lot at 7:45.) Depending on the weather and what has been reported, we'll look for migrating passerines and shorebirds in the Mid-Cape area--West Dennis beach, Long Pasture, and Corporation Beach are some of the possible locations we'll visit.

Rain cancels. If you plan on attending, please contact the leader in advance:

Peter Bono 508-375-9421 or pbono@pbra.com.

After 7:00 AM on the day of the walk, you can reach him on his cell phone (774-487-2848).

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Joyce Arlington, Dennisport

Pam & Dick Boden, Cotuit

Kerry & Jan Brandin,
Lexington

Donna Cooper, Provincetown

Richard Grayson, Mashpee

Nancy Gaffin, Windsor, CT

Ida Giriunas, Reading

Bill Martin, Monument Beach

Jill van Weel, Centerville

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!



Hudsonian Godwits at South Beach
(Photo by Richard Johnson)

CCBC Programs - Paula Goldberg, Program Coordinator

September 14, 2009

John Van de Graaff

**“The Galapagos Islands:
A Photographic Celebration”**

Charles Darwin visited the Galápagos Islands for a month in 1835. Although his Origin of Species mentions them only briefly, his work and thought are a major source of the islands' legendary aura. Beyond their continuing importance for the theory of evolution, the Galápagos have become a premier international travel destination. Most importantly for John, they are a paradise for photographers.

This program brings together the best of many images from two week-long trips to the Galápagos in 2006 and 2008, providing visual portraits of key species and habitats.

Among those included are the ubiquitous sea lions, birds such as finches, mockingbirds, boobies, gulls, frigatebirds and albatrosses, and reptiles. John will comment on the evolutionary status of many species. The islands' recent volcanic origins are evident virtually everywhere, but habitats shown range widely, from beaches and scrub to lava fields and tropical areas.

A native of Boston, John Van de Graaff has been photographing birds virtually full-time since 2001 and particularly enjoys traveling to do so. He migrated from New York City to Northampton in 2003. He has made presentations to a number of birding and photography groups, including several major bird clubs in Massachusetts. The Burnett Gallery in Amherst hosted a well-attended exhibition of his bird photos in 2007 (a smaller version followed at Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary). He has photographed extensively on the Massachusetts coast (especially Allens Pond), capturing images which have been used by Mass Audubon to support their IBA and Coastal Waterbird Programs. He's an active member of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (PVPA) and the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA). John's website is easily remembered:

www.birdsbyjohn.com.

You wont want to miss this exciting program!



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 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/>

CCBC Scholarship Awarded

The 2009 CCBC Scholarship was awarded to Ashley A. Morgan at the Evening of Excellence Awards Ceremony at Cape Cod Community College on May 27th.

Ashley is studying Environmental Studies and plans to earn a PhD in that field. She is active with the Sustainability Club and volunteered with Dr. Jonathan Way of the Eastern Coyote Research Team. The CCBC wishes her great success.

4th Annual Birding Cape Cod Weekend Special Event

Pelagic Birding Trip - Sunday, September 27, 2009

Pelagic Bird Trip —8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Leaving MacMillan Pier in Provincetown aboard a Dolphin Fleet Vessel

Leaders: Blair Nikula and Peter Trull

Cost: \$60.00 per person (Members) \$75.00 Per Person (Non-members)

Contact Person – Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

Join the Cape Cod Bird Club for its first ever pelagic birding trip out of Provincetown, MA. We will travel aboard a comfortable and spacious Dolphin Fleet Vessel for a 6 hour pelagic trip to areas based on recent sightings and activity.

Expert birders Blair Nikula and Peter Trull will be calling out the birds for us. We will have great opportunities for viewing Greater, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters, Northern Gannet, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers.

Other possibilities include Northern Fulmar, Cory's Shearwater, Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, Sabine's Gull, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Razorbill. In addition to pelagic species, the first migrant loons and sea ducks should be in evidence and, if the weather conditions are favorable, a few migrating songbirds might also appear.

Though the main focus will be on birds, we might possibly see Humpback, Finback, and Minke Whales, Atlantic White-sided Dolphin, Basking Shark, Bluefin Tuna, and Mola Mola.

The 75 foot Dolphin Fleet vessel has a heated main deck with a full gallery and bar. There is bench seating on the main deck as well as open seating on the top deck and railings all around the perimeter. The interior cabin has seating for over 100 passengers and the cabin is centrally heated and air-cooled. There are clean modern restrooms aboard and the boats area immaculate.

Boarding will begin at 8:30 AM. We will depart from MacMillan Pier at 9:00 AM. There is parking available in the area for a fee. The closest parking (about a 2 minute walk) is at the town parking lot on MacMillan Pier. Take Route 6 East to Provincetown. At the traffic lights on Route 6, take a left onto Conwell Road. Take the second right onto Bradford Street then a left at the bottom of the hill onto Standish Street.

The cost for this trip is \$60.00 for members and \$75.00 for non-members.
The trip is limited to 110 people.

****This trip will be cancelled if the quota is not met****

****In case of inclement weather, please contact the Dolphin Fleet directly at 508-240-3636****

To reserve a space for this trip send a **signed waiver (see Page 7)** along with a check payable to "Cape Cod Bird Club" **no later than September 1st** to:

**Cape Cod Bird Club
Sept. Pelagic Trip
30 Pequot Road
Mashpee, MA 02649**

Suggested items to bring are sunscreen, sunglasses, and warm clothing. Wear sneakers or shoes with good traction. You may bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be food and drinks available on board from the open gallery.

A signed waiver is mandatory for this trip (see page 7).

For more information or to print out a waiver from the club's website go to www.massbird.org/ccbc

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009**Mashpee**

South Cape Beach - 1:00 - 3:00 PM Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com
We'll walk this lovely barrier beach (2 mile round trip, some soft sand) enjoying views of Nantucket Sound to look for various shorebirds, wading birds, terns and swallows. We might see migrating raptors and land birds too.

Meet in the Town Beach parking lot. From the Mashpee Rotary take Great Neck Road South for approximately 2.5 miles and bear left onto Great Oak Road. Turn left at the "All Beaches" sign. Drive to the end of the road and turn left to access the Town Beach parking area.

Falmouth

Peterson Farm/Sippewisset Marsh - 8:00 AM - Noon Leader: Greg Hirth, 508-457-4356 or geohawk_1@yahoo.com.

We will walk around the fields, edges, and woods of Peterson Farm looking for migrant songbirds, then head out to Great Sippewisset Marsh to observe waders, shorebirds, terns, and raptors.

Meet at the Locust Street parking lot for the Shining Sea bike path, which is just across the street from the intersection of Mill Road and Locust Street.

Harwich

Harwich Gardens - 8:00 - 10:00 AM Leader: Al Curtis, 508-432-8677 or killdeer89@comcast.net

We'll explore the lovely gardens for migrating birds, particularly sparrows. Past autumn sightings have included Bobolink, Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak, and Lark Sparrow. Harwich Gardens are located on Sisson Road (Route 124/39), 100 yards from Shaw's Supermarket. Park in the grassy lots at the end of the main entry road.

Chatham

South Beach - 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Leader: Mark Faherty, Science Coordinator, Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (**Fee: \$30.00 Maximum 16 People**) Call to Register, 508-349-2615
South Beach is the birding hotspot on Cape Cod. Tens of thousands of migrant shorebirds roost and feed at the southern tip of the 3+ mile barrier beach, allowing close-up views of such species as Red Knot, Short-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover, and Hudsonian Godwit, at least when the Peregrines and occasional Jaegers aren't spooking them! Rarer migrants like Marbled Godwit and American Golden Plover might also be seen and vagrants like Curlew Sandpiper and Red-necked Stints are annual. Terns gather in large numbers at the end of the summer, including Roseate Terns and possibly Arctic and Black Terns. Trip involves a short boat ride and walking on mud flats and soft sand.

Eastham

Fort Hill - 2:30 - 4:30 PM Leader: Ginie Page, 508-349-6810 or vgpage@juno.com

Let's explore this jewel of the Cape Cod National Seashore! There are spectacular views of Nauset Marsh and the Atlantic beyond, all from a historic open landscape. The Fort Hill trail is a series of connected pathways leading across fields through cedar/oak forests and along the edge of the marsh. We will find birds from all of these habitats. Meet in the first parking lot on the left.

Truro

North Truro — 7:30 -10:30 AM Leader: Ginie Page, 508-349-6810 or vgpage@juno.com

We'll travel Hill and Dale around and over High Head. We will walk along the bike path in search of skulkers, work our way around Small's Swamp and then explore High Head. We will have wonderful land and sea views and cover several habitats in search of our local birds as well as the many migrants making stops here. Meet at the bike path parking area: Exit Rte 6 on High Head Rd, fork left before the hill and park at the end of the dirt road.

Cape Cod Bird Club meets at 7:30 pm on the second Monday of each month, September through May at Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631.

Membership inquiries are welcomed and may be sent to the Museum address. Website: www.massbird.org/ccbc

4th ANNUAL BIRDING CAPE COD WEEKEND
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 25th, 26th & 27th
Sponsored by the Cape Cod Bird Club

Members of the Cape Cod Bird Club will lead walks to top birding areas throughout Cape Cod. Walks are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. For more information about these walks and the Cape Cod Bird Club check the club's website at www.massbird.org/ccbc.

For information about individual walks or directions to the walks, please contact the walk leader.

Dress for the weather and area where you will be walking. Bring binoculars.

Sunscreen, insect repellent, and water are recommended.

See Page 6 for Information on the Cape Cod Bird Club's 6 -Hour Pelagic Birding Trip!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

Barnstable

Barnstable Villages - 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com.

We will carpool to various birding hotspots in the villages of Cotuit, Marstons Mills, Osterville and West Barnstable. We'll explore fields, ponds, and beaches looking for fall migrants. Past highlights from these areas have included Blue-winged Teal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Clay-colored and White-crowned Sparrows, and Dickcissel.

Meet at the Honey Dew Donuts on the corner of Route 28 and Cape Drive near the Mashpee/Barnstable town line.

Barnstable

Sandy Neck Kayaking Trip - 3:00 - 6:00 PM Leader: Ian Ives, Director Mass Audubon Long Pasture Sanctuary (Fee: \$35.00 Maximum 12 People) Call to Register: 508-362-7475 ext. 9355

Barnstable's Sandy Neck is a 7-mile-long, 1900-acre barrier beach. The tip of Sandy Neck accommodates large flocks of shorebirds and terns during the month of September. Thousands of Tree Swallows can be seen swirling in huge flocks. We will kayak 3/4 mile from Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary to the Sandy Neck Lighthouse. We will then walk the 1/8 mile traverse through dune, swale, and tidal flat habitat before paddling back via salt marsh creeks. Participants will be required to wear a life vest.

Meet at Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary at 345 Bone Hill Rd. Follow Bone Hill Rd. past Harbor Point Rd. and take the last driveway on the left to the parking area at the end.

Kayaks, paddles, life vests, and safety equipment will be provided. Ages 12 and up are welcome.

Previous kayaking experience and swimming ability are required for this trip.

Orleans

Nauset Beach - 2:30 - 5:00 PM Leader: Peter Brown, 508-241-5541 or pbrown5541@gmail.com.

Beginning birdwatchers especially welcome! Be prepared for walking as we hike the beach, 2.5 miles round trip. We'll enjoy scenic views of the Atlantic Ocean to our east and marshes to our west as we look for a wide variety of migrant land birds, shorebirds, and raptors. Time will be taken to explain useful bird watching methods and techniques. We will also spend time discussing field marks and behavioral aspects of each species. Meet at the south end of the Nauset Beach parking lot. From Route 28 take Main St.

Follow Main St. through East Orleans to Beach Road. Go to the end of Beach Road to the parking area.

Eastham

Hemenway Landing - 6:30 - 8:30 PM Leader: Frank Caruso, 508-477-9807 or fcarus@umext.umass.edu.

We'll check the historic Hemenway Landing heron roost and watch as Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, and a few Yellow-crowned Night Herons leave their roost and head into the marsh for the night. We'll listen and look for Great Horned Owls, which have been heard and seen here in past years. Meet at the Hemenway Landing parking lot at the end of Hemenway Road off Route 6.

Membership Renewal Form

This half-page can be used as your Membership Renewal Form. By filling out and mailing it this summer, you will save the club the expense of sending you a renewal notice. Dues are due by September 1, 2009. New members may join at any time. Thank you for renewing on time.

Individual \$15.00

Family \$22.00

If you would like to give an additional donation, it will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Scholarship Fund \$_____ Extra Gift to Club \$_____ Total Enclosed \$_____

Please return this form with your check made out to Cape Cod Bird Club and send to:

**Cape Cod Bird Club
Att: Charlie Martin
P.O. Box 704
Harwich, MA 02645**

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Waiver for Cape Cod Bird Club Pelagic Trip

Please complete, sign, date and include with your check payable to the Cape Cod Bird Club.

I agree not to hold any of the leaders, coordinators, or the Cape Cod Bird Club responsible for any injury I might sustain on the pelagic trip aboard the Dolphin Fleet on Sunday, September 27, 2009.

Name(s) printed

Signatures of all participants (required)

Date

Postal Address

Phone Number

Email Address

To register for this pelagic trip, send payment in full (\$60.00 for members, \$75.00 for non-members) along with this signed waiver no later than September 1st to:

**Cod Bird Club Sept. Pelagic Trip
30 Pequot Road
Mashpee, MA 02649**

Make checks payable to "Cape Cod Bird Club." You must include your phone number, email address, and postal address for confirmation and further information.

If you have further questions contact Mary Keleher at (508) 477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com