



The Kingfisher

Vol. 39 - Issue 1

Fall (October - December) 2010

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

Club Trips	2
CCBC Programs	3
New Members	4
Members' Night	4
Upcoming Events	5
Backyard Census Form	6
Waterfowl Census	7

The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles:

December 1st

Editor: Christine Hight

Send articles or comments to:

sea7adria@comcast.net

Website:

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

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

President's Message

Assuming I was not impeached at the September election meeting, I offer Fall greetings, fellow Bird Clubbers. Wait – that doesn't sound right. I need to rethink that moniker. Anyway, another summer is behind us and it's once again the time of falcons and sparrows. We had our Red-necked Stints and our Bar-tailed Godwits, and they were good, but now we need to mentally prepare for a new season and new birds. Waterfowl surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, Bald Eagle censuses. What "reverse migrants" will get blown in on a southwesterly wind? What wacky hummingbirds will end up on the Cape this year? Will it be a good winter finch year? (I'm predicting yes.) What kind of alcid flight will we get? For the answers to these questions and more, you need to come to the meetings and go on our walks, because these are the places where other birders are, people with whom you can talk about such things and not get chuckled at. So don't miss a meeting, and make sure to check out the slate of great walks inside this newsletter and also check the website throughout the year for last-minute trips and other changes.

Speaking of trips, we're always looking for new trip leaders, and our new Trips Coordinator Peter

Brown is on the prowl. If you have a favorite birding spot you want to share, do let Peter know, because he's probably going to ask you eventually anyway, and he's pit-bull-esque in his pursuit. Really – resistance is futile. I've seen him in action.

The Cape Cod Osprey project, a joint venture between Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay and Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuaries, finished its third year of Cape-wide nest watching in September. At this writing I haven't gotten all of the data in from my network of volunteers, but be on the lookout for a season wrap-up meeting for current and potential volunteers later in the fall at Long Pasture in Cummaquid. We'll share stories of rare 4-chick nests, single parents carrying on after the death of their mate, odd behaviors, and anything else we saw over the nest-watching season. And please consider becoming a volunteer for next season if you have nests near you that you would be willing to monitor. Just contact me at mfaherty@massaudubon.org.

I hope to see all of you at the meetings, and, as always, get out there and bird!

Mark Faherty

Club Trips Fall 2010

Peter Brown, Trip Coordinator

All are welcome to join our club trips which are free. A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated. Please check our website www.massbird.org/ccbc for additions or changes.

Oct 2, SAT - 8:00 - 11:00 AM **Bank Street Bogs**

60+ acres of brushy, weedy fields and seed-bearing wildflowers interspersed with flowing irrigation streams- what more could a migrating sparrow want? Join us for a leisurely walk through this quintessential Cape Cod fall birding spot. Parking is behind the Harbormaster's building on Bank Street in Harwichport. For more information see www.harwichconservationtrust.org/bankstreetbog.html and a video of woody plant removal at the site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nvhGGkSCKQ>
Contact Al Curtis killdeer89@comcast.net

Oct. 5, TUE - 8:00-10:00 AM **Truro**

Walk from a historical building with great bird habitat through several stages of forest succession. We will finish on Bearberry Hill to get a look at the ocean for whatever is flying there. Each area can have great local and migrant species and terrific views! Directions: Leave Route 6 at "Pamet Roads" sign. Turn left onto North Pamet Rd. At the end, use parking area. Leader: Ginie Page (508)349-6810

Oct 9, SAT - 8:00 - 11:00 AM **Birding with a Camera**

An introduction to bird photography with Craig Gibson. Craig will use the open fields of the Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth as a back drop to demonstrate his techniques for capturing those tack sharp stop-action photos. Bring your camera and your questions. Meet in the parking lot of the Nickelodeon Theater on Rte 151 in Falmouth. Leader: Peter Brown 508-241-5541 or pbrown5541@gmail.com.

Oct 10, SUN -8:00 - 10:00 AM **Sandwich Game Farm**

A variety of habitats: marsh, tidal estuary, coniferous woods, fields and mixed deciduous forest. Hopefully some migrants warblers, late raptors and land birds and maybe even some very late shorebirds. Diagonally across from Premier Jeep Dealership, Route 6A in Sandwich very close to Scorton Creek Bridge. For more info contact Phil Kyle at 508-495-0196.

Oct 15, FRI - 9:30 - Noon **High Head, North Truro**

We'll walk around and over High Head. We will walk along the bike path and 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. Leader: Ed Hoopes (508) 737-7479 or ehoopes@verizon.net.

Oct 16, SAT - 8:00AM - 1:00PM **Sparrow Hunt!**

Meet at 0800 at the Harwich Community Gardens on Sisson Road (Rt 124) (see <http://mapq.st/h/9-CeMFbOlP>) at 8 AM. We'll look for the less common fall migrants: White-crowned and Clay-colored Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel. Following that, for those who want to continue, we'll drive to the "stump dump" in Eastham looking for the same species. Of course, we'll also be aware of any sightings reported on Mass-Bird, so our itinerary might deviate from the plan depending on what has been reported (e.g., western vagrants like hummingbirds). Leader: Peter Bono, pbono@prba.com, 508-375-9421. Please phone or email in advance. Steady rain cancels. You may contact Peter on his cell phone, 774-487-2848, any time after 7AM on the day of the trip.

Nov 1, MON - 8:00 AM - Noon **Mashpee River from Beginning to End**

We'll Meet where the river begins, in the Attaquin Park beach parking lot at the end of Lake Ave. off Route 130 just past Dunkin Donuts when heading towards Sandwich. We'll scope Mashpee/Wakeby Pond looking for waterfowl, gulls, and maybe an eagle! We'll then carpool to various spots along the river to look for late migrant land birds. Leader: Mary Keleher maryeak@yahoo.com

(continued on Page 3)

CCBC Fall Programs

October 11, 2010

Paradise Lost? Not yet!: Saving the Caribbean's Birds." **with Herb Raffaele**

Come on a virtual bird tour through the Caribbean to see and learn about some of its spectacular birds, many found only in that region. Two bird families -- the todies and palm-chats -- occur only there. Herb's talk will include the origins of the a v i - fauna, tidbits about ecology, folklore, and threats to species survival. He also will show us bird conservation on a few particular islands and the conservation efforts of several heroic individuals with scant resources, but big hearts who are making a difference to sustain this extraordinary avian heritage for future generations.

Dr. Herbert Raffaele is the Chief, Division of International Conservation for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where he directs conservation projects worldwide, with an emphasis on developing human resources locally and addressing root problems threatening the world's fauna and flora. He has 35 years experience in international conservation, and was formerly the Director of Wildlife Planning for Puerto Rico. Herb is the recipient of the Alexander F. Skutch Medal for Excellence in Neotropical Ornithology. He is the author of the definitive [Guide to Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands\(1989\)](#); and co-author of [A Guide to the Birds of the West](#)

"Heroic individuals with big hearts who are making a difference"

November 8, 2010

"Scenes from the BP Gulf Oil Disaster: A Photo-Video Perspective" with Shawn Carey

The BP Oil disaster is the largest oil disaster in U.S. History. Its ongoing effect on nesting and fledgling birds is heartbreaking, but how will it affect the thousands upon thousands of migrating birds? Come hear a first hand account from Shawn Carey of a one week trip he took this summer to document the disaster's impact on wildlife and the people that live with it every day. Shawn will describe his trips into Barataria Bay, home to two of the largest Brown Pelican colonies in Louisiana, and share with us some of the clean-up efforts taking place on the oil-soaked shoreline on many of the small islands in the bay. His presentation will include pictures of the devastation on a portion of beach, and how this might impact the shorebirds, including those stopping over on the Cape & Islands, that will be migrating south. Shawn also will share with us interviews with Park employees and local citizens. For more information visit the Migration website:

www.MigrationProductions.com

Shawn Carey moved to Massachusetts in 1986, and almost immediately started watching birds. He combined his interests in photography and birds in 1991, and three years later he and friend Jim Grady started Migration Productions to present their multi-image slide programs to a live audience. Over the last sixteen years, Migration Productions has been presenting quality bird/wildlife programs with stunning photographs, video, sound tracks, and interviews to birding organizations, local bird clubs, and at birding events. Shawn teaches the Fundamentals of Bird Photography workshop for Mass Audubon, and a summer three-day field school workshop at Wellfleet Bay. His photos have been published in the Boston Globe, New York Times, Mass Audubon Sanctuary magazine, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary magazine and many others. He is Vice President of Eastern Mass Hawk Watch, is on the Advisory Board at Mass Audubon, and is the Operations Manager at AVFX in Boston (www.avfx.com)

Club Trips Fall 2010 Continued

Nov 6, SUN - 9:00AM - Noon
Orleans and Eastham

We'll go "coast to coast" to check out birds from Cape Cod Bay to the Atlantic Ocean and the ponds in between. Ducks, sparrows, migrating hawks and remaining shorebirds are possible. Meet at the Hole-in-One Donut Shop near the intersection of Route 6A and Main Street in Orleans. Leader: Peter Brown (508) 241-5541 or pbrown5541@gmail.com.

Jan 1, 2011 - SAT, Noon - 4PM
New Year Birds

Mid-Cape or Hot Spots. Get your 2011 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 508-769-6762 or edbanks@verizon.net

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Tobe Fine - Dennis

Alison Rilling - Orleans

Kevin J. Lawton - Swansea

Paul & Leslee McGovern -
Hanson

John Hoye & Audrey
McCarthy - Wayland

Ann Leslie Rosenblatt - Natick

MaryAnn Dillon - Fall river

Richard Schofield, Pocasset

Stuart Bless - Natick

Kathleen Rawdon - Hingham

Jack & Linda Darbyshire -
Brewster

John Will - Wyoming, MI

Hans Luedemann & Rita
Vicaire - Bolton

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

For more information
contact Roger Jenks, club
Merchandise Coordinator, at
508-369-1693
rajcarver@yahoo.com

Members' Night • December 13, 2010

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!

Digital Slide Show

Vice President, Peter Bono has generously offered to organize the digital slide portion of this year's Members' Night, Monday December 13, 2010. The directors ask that members submit about 10-15 images. Let Peter know that you intend to participate even if you are not yet prepared to email the photos. This will give him an idea of how many members will be presenting. You may email your images to Peter at pbono@prba.com in any format as an attachment. He'll resize and rename them, if necessary, and organize them into folders. If you prefer, you may put them on a CD and hand them to Peter at the October or November meetings.

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

1. Send up to 15 digital images in jpg format in a zip file attachment.
2. Crop (if necessary) and resize the original camera image to 1024 x 768 resolution.
3. Name each file as follows "XXX_YYYYYYY.jpg" where XXX are your initials and YYY 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, you may contact Peter at 508-375-9421 or pbono@prba.com.

Upcoming Events



January 10, 2011 ~ Wayne Peterson

“Birds, Brooks and other Moving Waters”

February 14, 2011 ~ Sue Finnegan

“Bird Banding: What it is, and Why it is so Important”

March 14, 2011 ~ Gina Nichol

“Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems”

April 11, 2011 ~ David Clapp

“An African Safari – Birds and Beasts”

Check our website for additional events and happenings.
<http://massbird.org/ccbc>

2010 Cape Cod Area Christmas Bird Counts

Buzzards Bay

Saturday, December 18th
Contact Jeremiah Trimble
jtrimble@oeb.harvard.edu

Cape Cod

Sunday, December 19th
Contact Blair Nikula
508-432-6348 or
odenews@odenews.org

Mid-Cape

TBA
Contact Peter Trimble
508-362-4485

Truro

Tuesday, December 21st
Contact: Tom Lipsky
tlip1@comcast.net or
978-897-5429 or
Ginie Page vgpage@juno.com
or 508-349-6810

Check the club's website for additional counts and updates.
<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

Have you paid your membership dues?

Please note the box below your address label. If you have not sent in your dues for this year this will be your last issue!

Also, please check to see that your mailing address is correct. If it is not, please notify our treasurer (and membership person)

Charlie Martin.
cemartinjr@comcast.net or
508-430-1257

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.

CAPE COD WATERFOWL CENSUS

28th Annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census

DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2010

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



Northern Fulmar

(Photo by Blair Nikula)

8,950 individuals being recorded.

Now in its 28th 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.

The Editor's Note

Hello fellow birders,

This is my chance to introduce myself as your new editor, a very exciting experience for me. Let me begin by confessing that I haven't always been a birder. While my husband, Alan, has always had great interest and joy in spotting, feeding, and

identifying birds, I wasn't as impressed with the sport. Then amazingly, they were everywhere. Maybe they always were, but now I was seeing them clinging to trees outside at bus stops. They were casting shadows as I was in the car. And they were definitely in the aluminum gutter, first thing in the morning.

But I think it was one who kept me company as I brought in the laundry that captivated me. I could see his throat vibrate as he called out each evening,

and I was mesmerized watching the vibrations coincide with the sound. Who was he calling to? Where had I heard the sound before? What was he? Now, as I find I am unable to hang out laundry without my binoculars around my neck, and my Petersons sits on the buffet, I celebrate the transformation. It is official. I am a birder.

Say hello to me at our next meeting and I will satisfy your curiosity about which bird hangs out clothes with me.

Yours in great birding adventures,

Christine Hight



**Cape Cod Bird Club
Backyard Feeder Census ~ 2010 to 2011**

Use this form to report birds feeding at your feeders or on natural food in your yard on the 2nd complete weekend in each of the months listed (or two consecutive days near the weekend.) Watch your feeders on both days and record the highest number of each of the species observed at one time. For example, if on Saturday you see 3 chickadees at one time, record 3. If later, you see 5, cross out 3 and record 5. Do not accumulate the number seen. Record the dates of observation at the top of each column. If you are gone for a month, leave that column blank and resume the census when you return. Species not on the list can be added on the lines at the bottom or on the back if more space is needed. Return the form at the April or May CCBC meeting or mail to club Secretary: Peter Flood, 5 Hokum Rock Road, Dennis, MA 02638 or pomarine@comcast.net

	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Sharp-shinned Hawk						
Cooper's Hawk						
Northern Bobwhite						
Mourning Dove						
Downy Woodpecker						
Hairy Woodpecker						
Northern Flicker						
Red-bellied Woodpecker						
Blue Jay						
American Crow						
Black-Capped Chickadee						
Tufted Titmouse						
Red-Breasted Nuthatch						
White-Breasted Nuthatch						
Brown Creeper						
Carolina Wren						
Eastern Bluebird						
American Robin						
Cedar Waxwing						
Red-winged blackbird						
Brown Cowbird						
Common Grackle						
European Starling						
Yellow-Rumped Warbler						
Pine Warbler						
Northern Cardinal						
House Finch						
Pine Siskin						
American Goldfinch						
Dark-eyed Junco						
Song sparrow						
Tree Sparrow						
White-Throated Sparrow						
House Sparrow						
Other Species:						
Name & Address (census location)						

Are paid, thank you! Are not paid (if not paid, this will be your last issue!)

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

*Cape Cod Bird Club
P.O. Box 704
Harwich, MA 02645*



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, Att: Charlie Martin
PO Box 704, Harwich, MA 02645
Website: <http://www.massbird.org/CCBC>**

Officers

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

Directors

Julie O'Neil	Roger Jenks
Peter Brown	Alice Berry
Paula Goldberg	

Newsletter Editor ~ Christine Hight sea7adria@comcast.net or capekingfisher@yahoo.com

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

Nominating Committee Chair ~ Ginie Page