



# THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 38 - Issue 3

Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

Spring (April - June) 2010

**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	2-3
Need a lift?	3
CCBC Spring Programs	4
Club Notes	5-6
Cape Cod Birds Listserv	6
Editor's Note	7
New Members	7
Notes to Members	7

The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles:

June 1st

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or [edbanks@verizon.net](mailto:edbanks@verizon.net)

Website:

<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

## President's Message

Ah, spring on Cape Cod! Wait, there is no spring on Cape Cod. Sorry – didn't mean to get your hopes up. Well, at least the birds still come back, for some reason. Soon we'll be craning our necks at the Beech Forest, and talking about how there used to be a lot more birds back in the good ol' days. In the meantime, Ospreys are now filtering back, rapidly filling up the best nest poles. Thanks to my network of dedicated volunteers, the Cape Cod Osprey Project has documented well over 200 nest sites on the Cape, far more than was previously guessed. To become a volunteer and help us collect data on nest success and fledge rates you can get a hold of me at [HYPERLINK"mailto:maherty@massaudubon.org"](mailto:maherty@massaudubon.org)

As you read this there are Piping Plovers back scraping on local beaches, the males defending their territorial boundaries with their comical parallel running displays. Speaking of Piping Plovers, please keep an eye out for banded birds, as researchers banded 57 of them on their wintering grounds in the Bahamas this year. All of these birds will have a black flag on the upper left leg and different colored plastic bands on both lower legs. If you see a banded plover, please note the color and location of the bands and report it to me at the email address above or to Ellen Jedrey at [ejedrey@massaudubon.org](mailto:ejedrey@massaudubon.org).

In Board of Director news, we are lucky to have a new Merchandise Coordinator in the form of Roger Jenks. Roger managed supermar-

kets in his past life, and likes carving birds as well as watching them. We are still in need of a newsletter editor, as we'll only have Ed Banks for one more issue after this one. Please let us know if you'd like to take over. Ed will be happy to train you and tell you what an enormous amount of fun it is emailing me seven times to ask why my President's Address is late again, which is one of his primary duties.

For those of you who would like to attend our monthly meetings but would rather not drive at night, we are starting a carpooling list. If you would like to find a ride, or would like to offer your services as a driver, please contact Charlie Martin who has generously offered to act as a liason between drivers and drivees. More information lies within this newsletter.

Also in this newsletter you will find a survey developed by the board of directors. Our goal is to find out what you all like about the club, what changes you might suggest, and whether folks are using computers for birding purposes. Please fill out the survey and either mail it back or bring it to the next club meeting. We'd love to have your input.

The penultimate year for Mass Audubon's important Breeding Bird Atlas 2 project has begun, and it's time to think about what species we still need to confirm breeding here on Cape Cod. As I reviewed the data on the project website, is struck me that we have a lot of work to do with marsh birds in particular. Virginia Rails, Soras, and Clapper Rails have all nested in Provincetown, but have yet to be confirmed.  
(Continued Page 6)



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



### **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*

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

#### *Directors*

Julie O'Neil	Roger Jenks
Buffy Pennick	Cynthia Franklin
Paula Goldberg	Alice Berry

#### *Newsletter*

Editor ~ Ed Banks    E-mail: [edbanks@verizon.net](mailto:edbanks@verizon.net) or [capekingfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:capekingfisher@yahoo.com)

Membership/Address Changes~ Charlie Martin  
E-mail: [cemartinjr@comcast.net](mailto:cemartinjr@comcast.net)

*Nominating Chair* ~ Ginie Page

## Club Trips - Spring 2010

## Buffy Pennick, Trips Coordinator

### Please Note:

**Heavy rain cancels all trips.**

**Call leader if in doubt.**

**Please check our website for changes or additions to trips or programs**

### Apr 5 - 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 Dunkin Donuts.

Leader: Mary Keleher,  
508-477-1473 or  
[maryeak@yahoo.com](mailto:maryeak@yahoo.com).

### Apr 6 - TUE - 7:00 PM

#### **Francis Crane Wildlife Management Area, Falmouth**

Woodcock Walk with the Land Trust (The 300 Committee)  
Meet at 7 PM at the end of the unpaved road off Route 151, between the ball field and the Nickelodeon Cinema.

Bring a flashlight and binoculars if you have them. Dress warmly! Drizzle or rain cancels.  
Leader: Molly Cornell,  
508-540-7652

### Apr 7 - WED - 7:00 PM

#### **Francis Crane Wildlife Management Area, Falmouth**

Woodcock Walk with the Land Trust (The 300 Committee)  
Meet at 7 PM at the end of the unpaved road off Route 151, between the ball field and the Nickelodeon Cinema.

Bring a flashlight and binoculars if you have them. Dress warmly! Drizzle or rain cancels.  
Leader: Molly Cornell,  
508-540-7652

### Apr 11 - SUN - 1 - 3 PM

#### **Sandwich Center Environs**

Explore thickets, pond, and wooded areas surrounding Sandwich center.

We will also hike through Shawme Crowell Forest and if there is interest we will cross Rte. 6A and scope from Hemispheres lot.

Trails are rough.

Meet in rear lot of Sandwich Public Library at 142 Main Street, Sandwich center. Park in library lot or behind Town Hall Annex (across the street).

Leader: Sharla Fenwick,  
508-747-2014 (call to confirm in event of rain or high winds):  
Rain Date: Apr 12 - Mon

### Apr 11 - SUN - 7:00 PM

#### **Francis Crane Wildlife Management Area, Falmouth**

Woodcock Walk with the Land Trust (The 300 Committee)  
Meet at 7 PM at the end of the unpaved road off Route 151, between the ball field and the Nickelodeon Cinema.

Bring a flashlight and binoculars if you have them. Dress warmly! Drizzle or rain cancels.  
Leader: Molly Cornell,  
508-540-7652

### Apr 12 - MON - 7:00 PM

#### **Francis Crane Wildlife Management Area, Falmouth**

Woodcock Walk with the Land Trust (The 300 Committee)  
Meet at 7 PM at the end of the unpaved road off Route 151, between the ball field and the Nickelodeon Cinema.

Bring a flashlight and binoculars if you have them. Dress warmly! Drizzle or rain cancels.  
Leader: Molly Cornell,  
508-540-7652

### May 3 - 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.

Leader: Ruth Connaughton,  
(508) 432-1580

### May 10 - MON - 8:15 - Noon

#### **Long Pond, Falmouth**

Meet at small parking lot for Goodwill Park (entrance off Gifford Street, approx. 0.6 miles north of the Jones/Gifford intersection).

We'll look for migrant and nesting songbirds. We will then continue on to Crane WMA to look for raptors, and open-space specialties.

I recommend that folks show up early to "scout"; I have "kid duty" in early AM.

Leader: Greg Hirsh  
[geohawk\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:geohawk_1@yahoo.com)  
508-737-0227

### May 15 - 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.

Leader: Peter Brown,  
508-241-5541 or  
[pbrown5541@gmail.com](mailto:pbrown5541@gmail.com)

## Club Trips (Continued)

**May 16 - SUN - 7:00 - NOON  
Mass Audubon Long Pasture  
Sanctuary**

Meet at the parking lot NEAR THE OFFICE (not the one near the shed on Bone Hill Road) at 7AM.

After birding the Sanctuary grounds, and depending on weather and bird activity, we might visit other local woods along 6A in Barnstable and Yarmouth Port.

Bring a snack and water, but we do not plan on continuing past lunchtime unless the birding is so fantastic that nobody wants to leave!

Directions to Long Pasture Sanctuary (see

[http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature\\_Connection/Sanctuaries/Long\\_Pasture/index.php](http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Long_Pasture/index.php)): From Rte 6, take exit 7 (Willow Street) to Yarmouth Port.

Go north one mile on Willow Street, take a left onto Rt 6A west, go one mile, and take a right on Bone Hill Road. Follow the road as it takes a sharp right turn and then a sharp left turn. Drive almost to the end of the road. The driveway into the sanctuary is on the left.

Park near the house or in the field if the house parking lot is full.

Leader: Peter Bono  
([pbono@prba.com](mailto:pbono@prba.com);  
508-375-9421

Please contact Peter in advance if you plan to attend.

On the morning of the birdwalk (after 6:30), he will have his cell phone on (774-487-2848).

Call him if you get lost or decide not to come.

STEADY RAIN WILL CANCEL.

**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 1** - Peter Brown,  
(508) 241-5541 or  
[pbrown5541@gmail.com](mailto:pbrown5541@gmail.com)

**Sun May 2** - Ed Banks,  
508-430-0845 or  
[edbanks@verizon.net](mailto:edbanks@verizon.net)

**Sat May 8** - Blair Nikula,  
(508) 432-6348 or  
[odenews@odenews.org](mailto:odenews@odenews.org)

**Sun May 9** - TBA

**Sat May 15** - Ginie Page,  
508-349-6810 or  
[vpago@juno.com](mailto:vpago@juno.com)

**Sun May 16** - TBA

**Sat May 22** - Peter Flood,  
(508) 258-0113 or  
[pomarine@comcast.net](mailto:pomarine@comcast.net)

**Sun May 23** - Susan  
Thompson,  
(508) 255-1451 or  
[cot@cape.com](mailto:cot@cape.com)

**Sat May 29** - Charlie Martin,  
508-430-1257 or at  
[cemartinjr@comcast.net](mailto:cemartinjr@comcast.net)

**Sun May 30** - David Clapp,  
(508) 896-7322 or  
[naturalhistoryservices](http://www.naturalhistoryservices.com)  
[@comcast.net](mailto:@comcast.net)

**NEED A RIDE TO CCBC?**

Contact Charlie Martin at 508-430-1257 or

[cemartinjr@comcast.net](mailto:cemartinjr@comcast.net).

He will try to find another club member who would be willing to provide transportation to the club meetings.

Also, anyone who would be willing to transport another club member can contact Charlie and he will do his best to put those individuals in touch with one another.

Please provide your name, address and telephone number or email address.

Thanks.

**WALK CHECKLIST  
FOR LEADERS  
and MEMBERS**

- 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****Paula Goldberg, Program Coordinator****April 12, 2010****Peter Alden****“The Invasive Alien Plant Crisis and the Birds that Spread Them”**

While the first thing that may pop into your head when you hear invasive alien species are little green men with antennae, invasive alien plants can be just as threatening, and are over-running and changing many habitats on Cape Cod.

World-renowned naturalist, lecturer, ecotourism guide and author Peter Alden will present a lecture on this important and timely topic. He will talk about what exactly are invasive plant species, how did they get here, how are they spread and, perhaps most importantly, is there anything we can and should do about them? For example, which plants have fruits that are eaten and spread by what birds? What is the long-term consequence of our action or inaction against this silent yet pervasive threat?

Peter Alden of Concord MA has organized and led over 300 birding tours, cruises, safaris and nature tours to over 100 countries on 7 continents.

He is the author or co-author of 16 nature books with over two million copies sold, and will bring a selection of his books for sale, including the popular 1000 species Audubon Field Guide to New England.

Among his many accomplishments, Peter organized the world's first Biodiversity Day in 1998 with a follow-up in 2009 for E.O. Wilson's 80th Birthday (see [waldenbiodiversity.com](http://waldenbiodiversity.com)). He is a past President of both the Nuttall Ornithological Club and the Brookline Bird Club.

For more information, check out his website at ([peteraldenwildlife.com](http://peteraldenwildlife.com))

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to prepare yourself for our next alien invasion!

**May 10, 2010****Scott Hecker****“The Piping Plover as an Umbrella Species for the Barrier Beach Ecosystem”**

This presentation will describe how piping plover conservation has played a major role in the overall conservation of the barrier beach ecosystem.

Over the last twenty years, the state population for piping plovers dramatically increased from 126 pairs to over 550 pairs.

As a federally protected species, the increase and spread of piping plovers to more sites for breeding, staging, and wintering has offered further opportunities for conservationists to increase protection for these areas. It will also describe what, how, and where the conservation of piping plovers has also protected significant amount of barrier beach habitat, and other species of birds, animals and plants from Massachusetts to its winter quarters in the southeastern U.S.

Scott Hecker is the Executive Director of the Goldenrod Foundation ([www.goldenrod.org](http://www.goldenrod.org)), whose mission is to conserve and protect coastal habitat and coastal shorebirds in Southeastern Massachusetts.

He completed an M.S. Degree in Resource Management at Antioch University in April 1987. One month later, he began his post-graduate employment on Plymouth Beach, as a tern warden for MassAudubon.

Between 1987 and 2002, he served as Director of the Coastal Waterbird Program for Mass Audubon, where he developed research, advocacy, and education efforts to protect threatened terns and plovers. From 2003 to 2008, Scott directed the Coastal Bird Conservation Program for the National Audubon Society, where he broadened the reach of Audubon's effective model to protect a larger number of threatened coastal bird species in additional states on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Since 2008, he has served as the Executive Director of the Goldenrod Foundation.

This is a program not to be missed.



## 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.

February 1, 2010

Dear Mark,

I found out this morning about the very generous \$400 contribution to Birders' Exchange (BEX) by members of the Cape Cod Bird Club - this is phenomenal, and I can not thank all of the members of the club enough!

I am sure you are aware of how in these difficult economic times many non-profits are really suffering. BEX can not be more fortunate to be the recipient of donations such as the financial contribution from the CCBC. The timing is perfect in so many directions, and especially now when BEX is trying to re-equip several conservation biologists in Haiti who have lost everything.

One of them tried to dig through the rubble of his home with his hands to try to find his BEX-donated binoculars. He is a Fulbright Scholar whose job and research depends upon having binoculars.

He apologized profusely to me that he was not able to find them in the devastation of what was his home. Happily, a new binocular and field guide are on their way to him, and he should have them in his hands on Wednesday.

I am sending the attached photo and hope you will be able to somehow show it to the members of the club. The boy in the photo is from NE Brazil. He has always loved looking at birds, and this photo was taken at the precise moment he saw a bird through binoculars for the first time. His expression is a wonderful symbol of hope for the future, and underscores the generosity and kindness of people like the members of the CCBC!

Again, so many thanks to ALL of you for all you do to support bird conservation and education.

Warmest personal regards,  
Betty

Betty Petersen  
American Birding Association  
Birders' Exchange Director, Hanson, MA

[bpetersen@aba.org](mailto:bpetersen@aba.org)

Please visit our website:

[www.americanbirding.org/bex](http://www.americanbirding.org/bex)



## Club Notes and Other News (Continued)

### CCMNH Flea Market May 1st

The Friends of Cape Cod Museum of Natural History will hold a flea market on Saturday May 1st at 9:00 AM.

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.

### CCMNH Book Sale will be June 5 from 9 AM - 1 PM

Bring in your books to donate the first week in June.

Thank you.

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

Capecodbirds is an Internet Listserv for the discussion of all aspects of birdwatching. 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](mailto:clkenn@verizon.net)



"Cafeteria Line"

Bluebirds ready to feed young.  
(Photo by Janet DiMattia)

### Presidents Message (Continued)

Seaside Sparrows nest in the Great marsh at Sandy Neck but have not been confirmed.

It's easy to browse the species maps at the Atlas website yourself to see what other data gaps there are. Even the widespread American Woodcock has yet to be confirmed in a number of blocks, and now is the time to do it. Warblers like Black-and-white and American Redstart are looking a little thin in the Mid-Cape. Eastham needs a lot of work for all kinds of species. So let's get out there and find these birds -- as someone who's done a lot of nest-searching over my career, I can attest there's no more intimate way to get to know our favorite feathered creatures than to spend some time observing their breeding behavior.

*Mark Faherty*

### 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 and the CCBC.

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 and Member's Night raffle items.

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

**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 is the time to get involved!**



**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:  
 Robert & Suzanne Moore, E. Orleans  
 Jon Rolf, Brewster  
 Scott Dietrich, Centerville  
 Christopher Holmes, Cotuit  
 Nancy & Mike Gigliotti, Fairbanks, AL  
 June C. Auger, Centerville  
 Teresa Cetto, S. Dennis  
 Linda A. Chambers, E. Falmouth  
 Rives & Katharine McGinley, Orleans  
 Gayle Christenson, S. Dennis  
 Linda Medeiros & Lance Walker, S. Dennis  
 Fran & Eldon Ziegler, Centerville  
 Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

**CCBC Merchandise**

Available at all meetings. Please help support and advertise our club.

Come and meet Roger Jenks, our new Merchandise Chairman!

Birding Cape Cod \$15.95  
 A "must have" for every Cape Cod Birder!

CCBC Cap	15.00
CCBC Fleece Cap	15.00
CCBC Decal	1.00
CCBC Checklist	.75
CCBC Patch	3.00
CCBC Pin	5.00
Bino/Camera Strap	12.50