



THE KINGFISHER

Volume 38 - Issue 2

Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

Winter (January - March) 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
Winter Programs	3
Bird-Friendly Coffee	4
Notes to Members	5
2009 Nestbox Trail Report	5
New Members	6
Birder's Exchange	6
Remembering Dick Jurkowski	7

The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles: March 1st

Editor: Ed Banks

Send articles or comments to:

edbanks@verizon.net or

capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Website:

<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

President's Message

It's our mid-winter newsletter, which means it's that time of year where the wimpy hunker down and the birders bundle up. While this is perhaps the bleakest quarter in the birding year, it is not without its ornithological charms. January means a blank canvas for all you year-list-artists out there. And February and March are full of firsts to be sought. The first blackbird flocks returning from the south (though I suspect it won't be many years before they stop leaving in the first place), the first woodcock displays, the first phoebes, the first oystercatchers and piping plovers, the first egrets, and the first ospreys could all turn up during this period. So come laugh in the face of winter with us by joining one of our winter bird walks listed here in the newsletter. Make sure to also check the website frequently as trips are sometimes added after the newsletter goes out. Usually these "Procrastinator's Specials" are led by the intrepid Ginie Page.

I'm happy to announce that we have filled our two remaining board vacancies in the form of Buffy Pennick and Wil Sprauve. Both are veteran board members from previous administrations, and we expect big things from them. Buffy is now our Trips Coordinator, so let her know if you have any ideas for walks and/or would be willing to lead one - we all have knowledge of local spots to share with other club members, and the best way to do that is by leading a walk. Wil takes over at the merchandise table for a second tour of duty. Some may remember that during his first term he created the CCBC pin. All the cool kids are wearing Bird Club gear these days, so don't be left out.

In other board-related news, I need to apologize to Julie O'Neil for leaving her out of my returning board member rundown in my last president's mes-

sage back in September. I mean, all she does is host the meetings, handle all the audio/visual for the talks, manage the scholarship program, and, now, do a lot of the work setting up the auction for member's night. Other than that she's pretty quiet. But really, thanks to Julie for all that she does for the club.

In citizen science happenings, the state conducts its annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey between December 30 and January 13 this year, so feel free to send any sightings of Cape Cod eagles on to me at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and I will compile them and forward them on to the state biologists. Last year up to 8 Bald Eagles were on Cape Cod during the census period, and we just missed getting that outer Cape Golden Eagle on the survey before he disappeared. Hopefully you are also participating in our Backyard Feeder Census as well as Project Feederwatch. This has been the fall of missing feeder birds, likely due to an abundance of natural foods, and it will be interesting to see what trends come from both our local data and from Cornell's nationwide data set.

Please take a look at the notice in this newsletter from Martha Steele regarding Birds and Beans "Bird Friendly" coffee. This is currently the only coffee readily available in Massachusetts that is certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and it would be great if all of us coffee drinking birders made an effort to buy it. We are especially interested in any real coffee achievers out there who might like to be a buyer who takes orders from folks in a local "buying circle" in order to split the shipping costs. The idea is to get your morning jolt and protect habitat for neotropical residents and migrants all at the same time. So get caffeinated, and I'll see you out there!

Mark Faherty

Mailing Address:
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

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	Paula Goldberg
Alice Berry	Wil Sprauve
Cynthia Franklin	Buffy Pennick

Newsletter

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

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

Nominating Committee Chair ~ Ginie Page

Club Trips - Winter 2010**Buffy Pennick, Trips Coordinator****Please Note:**

Heavy snow, ice or rain cancels all trips.

Call leader if in doubt.

Also, please check our website for any changes or additions.

Jan 1 - Fri - Noon - 4PM**New Year Birds****Mid-Cape or Hot Spots**

Get your 2010 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

Jan 11 - Mon - 8:30 AM**Wellfleet to P'Town Sweep.**

Let's see what is out on the Cape's waters this month.

We will meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier to check for loons, alcids, winter ducks and maybe some special gull species. We will carpool to other coastal points and end up at Provincetown Harbor. We may continue through lunch.

Leader: Ginie Page,

(508) 349-6810 or

vgpage@gmail.com

Jan 22 - 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, Wachemocket Cove, 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. Watch the weather reports and call/email to check on the status of the trip.

Inclement or horrendously cold conditions will postpone the trip to a later date.

Leader: Frank Caruso,

508-477-9807 or

fcaruso@umext.umass.edu

Feb 12 - Fri 7:45 AM -1:00**Great Backyard Bird Count!**

Let's help out by counting birds for this annual event. We'll explore the Cotuit, Marstons Mills, and Osterville areas. All birds recorded will be submitted to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>.

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

Dress for the weather!

Leader: Mary Keleher,

508-477-1473 or

maryeak@yahoo.com

Feb 6 - Sat - 8 AM -Noon
Corporation Beach, Dennis and Points East

We'll look for sea ducks (maybe a stray Harlequin or King Eider), loons, grebes, alcids, wintering gulls (Ice-land, Lesser Black-backed), wintering shorebirds, and any wind-blown pelagics.

Depending on the time, people's interest, and if any unusual landbirds are around, we'll continue east along the Bay checking the various beaches.

We might end up as far as First Encounter Beach and/or Fort Hill.

Meet at Corporation Beach, Dennis (take Corporation Road heading north, off Route 6A).

Leader: Peter Bono

Let him know you are coming on the trip by phoning 508-375-9421 or emailing

pbono@prba.com.

If you have any questions about the weather, call his cell after 7:30 the morning of the trip, 774-487-2848.

Mar 16 - Tues - 6 PM**North Truro Woodcocks.**

Meet at High Head Road just off Rte 6.

First, we will check for any passerines in the brush and for waterfowl on East Harbor/Pilgrim Lake.

If it is clear, there will be a nice moonrise and sunset before the woodcocks start their spring courtship flights.

Dress warmly!

Leader: Ginie Page

(508) 349-6810 or

vgpage@gmail.com

Please check the website for trips that may be added after the newsletter deadline.

If you would like new trips emailed to you please let Buffy know at

buffy.pennick@yahoo.com

Cape Cod Bird Club Winter Programs**Paula Goldberg, Program Coordinator****January 11, 2010****John Kelly****“Whip-poor-wills on Camp Edwards”**

The whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) is a ten-inch long, nocturnal bird that gets its name from its rhythmic “whip-poor-will” sounding call that is repeated over and over. A migratory bird, the whip-poor-will arrives on Camp Edwards in late May and departs beginning at the end of August. Their summer range extends from Southern Canada to the Southern United States, and in the mountains as far south as Mexico, while their winter range stretches from the Gulf of Mexico to Honduras. While Camp Edwards has a relatively large population of whip-poor-wills, the species is declining in the rest of the state. Because of this, Camp Edwards has taken on the responsibility of investigating the reasons behind the difference in population size.

This is the final year of a five year study of the macro and micro habitat requirements of the whip-poor-will.

John Kelly, Natural Resource Manager for the Massachusetts Army National Guard, will present a program of the Natural Resource Office's ongoing study at the base. He and his team have transmitted 10 birds per year, tracking them during the day for roosting data and at night for foraging information. The study is an effort to understand this bird's special needs and arrangement in the training area of Camp Edwards. They hope to be able to apply this information over a broader scale, to aid in its conservation. A great program about a seldom-seen bird!

February 8, 2010**Lisa Larned****“Bird Rehabilitation at Wild Care”**

Found a baby bird all alone on the ground? Or a seabird blown ashore during the recent hurricanes? Or an owl hit by a car just before dawn? Come hear Lisa Larned, the Executive Director of the Wild Care in Eastham, tell us about the successful work she and her veterinary and wildlife rehabilitation staff, volunteers and student externs do to heal and restore birds for eventual release back into the wild.

Wild Care is the Cape's only independent, native wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organization. Since its founding in 1989, Wild Care has accepted over 17,000 patients for treatment. A fabulous program for all animal lovers!



Cooper's Hawk
Photo by Ed Banks

March 8, 2010**Paul Roberts****“Hawk Population Trends: The Fall and Rise of Hawks in North America”**

Hundreds of bird species are declining significantly in numbers. Many hawk species, however, are more abundant now than they were fifty years ago. Why? What happened?

At the same time, why are some hawk species not doing so well?

Learn about the exciting resurgence and the challenging future of hawks in North America with Paul Roberts.

Paul M. Roberts is the founder of the Eastern Mass Hawk Watch (find it at www.massbird.org/EMHW), an organization whose mission is to promote the study and conservation of hawks locally and on a continental scale by monitoring migration in Massachusetts.

He also is President of the Northeast Hawk Watch, and a Director and former Chair of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA).

Don't miss this exciting presentation.

Help Wanted:**Newsletter Editor**

The Cape Cod Bird Club is a wonderful organization with many talented and giving members. However, we need more of you to step forward to help the club maintain its high standards.

This will be my fourth and last year as newsletter editor. I will be happy to work with the new editor throughout this year for a smooth transition.

Please put your talents to work (or learn new skills) to keep the Cape Cod Bird Club going strong!

Ed Banks

Are You Drinking Bird-Friendly Coffee?

Most birders would not argue the importance of supporting shade-grown coffee to help protect neotropical migratory bird habitat in Latin America. But are we doing as much as we could to help preserve those habitats?

A recent article in Bird Observer by Scott Weidensaul, Pulitzer-prize nominee and ornithologist, passionately argued for why birders should support Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) Certified Bird Friendly Shade Grown Coffee (see www.massbird.org for article after clicking on the coffee beans).

SMBC certified coffees are grown in rustic, shade grown plantations rich in vegetative and animal diversity, and structurally complex with multiple plant, shrub, or tree layers up to as much as a 120-foot canopy height. Although nothing beats untouched rainforest, rustic plantations are the next best thing.

Scientific data provide strong evidence on how much better rustic coffee plantations are in supporting a wide diversity of birds and other animal species compared with sun grown or other, less complex shade plantations. For example, some coffees are grown under what is known as "shade monoculture" where a single layer canopy of uniform height shades the coffee below. However, the biodiversity in this type of habitat is far less than the rustic plantations and similar to open sun-grown coffee plantations.

So, even with shade-grown coffees, there are significant differences when it comes to preserving habitat for the birds. Birders need to know that SMBC certified Bird Friendly coffees are by far the best for the birds and deserve our support.

Recently, a new Massachusetts company began offering only SMBC certified coffees (also organic and fair trade), Birds and Beans LLC. The company has Weidensaul's support, as well as Kenn Kaufman and Bridget Stutchbury, and Massachusetts Audubon Society has partnered with them, all in the interest of trying to encourage birders and conservations to buy the superb tasting SMBC Bird Friendly coffees that Birds and Beans offers. But regardless of the source, the important thing for birders and conservationists is to switch to SMBC coffees. They provide the greatest benefit to birds and other wildlife, and choosing SMBC is the best choice that birders can make.

Birds&Beans coffee is available at **Birdwatcher's General Store** and at its online site (www.birdsandbeans.com).

For more information contact Martha Steele at marthajs@verizon.net.

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



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 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/>

Editor's Note:

The Cape Cod Bird Club has lost a true friend with the passing of Dick Jurkowski. A past-president, an avid birder and as wonderful a person as one could hope to meet. The following remembrance sums up what so many of us feel.

Remembering Dick Jurkowski

I first met Dick Jurkowski around the year 2000, when he and Sylvia began attending the bird club. I'm not sure what drew me to him—perhaps that he was fun-loving, selfless and sensitive of others. In the next few years we became good friends. Early in 2003 Rich Hoyer of Arizona and I planned a summer trip to the highlands of the Mexican state of Chihuahua primarily to see two of the special birds of the region, Eared Trogon and Thick-billed Parrot. Rich had guided me on several birding trips and knew Mexico well. I asked Dick if he'd like to join us and he accepted, perhaps because he liked me. Had he—and Sylvia—known more details of the trip, he might have declined.

He and I flew to El Paso, Texas June 30th and met Rich at the airport. We drove across the border, passed through the dangerous border town of Ciudad Juarez and at the end of the day reached a Hampton Inn in the large city of Chihuahua. The next morning we loaded our car with boxes of drinks and foodstuffs, and set out for the wilds of the Sierra Madre Mountains. After hours of driving, we turned on to an unpaved mountain road filled with cobble and small boulders. From my rear seat in the Jeep Liberty, I could see Dick being thrown about in his seat as we jolted along. After what seemed an interminable ride, we arrived in darkness at our destination, a mountain camp.

Our sleeping quarters for that night and the next few was a haymow-like loft over a shed. The way into it was an exterior log ladder, without handrails. Once climbed, you had to step over two large logs to enter. I took a corner of the loft, Dick a side area. In dim light, we inflated sleeping pads and spread out borrowed sleeping bags. The pitch of the roof was such that you could barely stand, which created problems for Dick with his six-feet plus of stature. Many were the times he banged his head into the beams or tin roof of our "chateau." There was also no nearby latrine. To relieve yourself during the night, you had to negotiate the ladder and take to the woods.

As a general rule, the more remote one is, the better the birding. This was certainly true of this place, as we saw not only the trogon and parrot but also three small owls, Northern Pygmy, Northern Sawwhet and Flammulated. On July 4th we celebrated, not so much our nation's birthday, but our departure from the mountains and a bed to sleep in, in the town of Nuevo Casas Grandes. I know Dick had an e-mail message from Sylvia waiting when we got there. I'd like to know what he wrote in reply.

Ellie and I have spent many nights at primitive birding locations but I doubt Dick had. Nonetheless, he never complained, as he enjoyed himself tremendously. Over the years that followed this adventure we often chuckled over our experience, mostly when Sylvia was not around. Dick was quite a guy and will be much missed.

Stauffer Miller

Birder's Exchange Program

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPARE OPTICS or GUIDES?

If so, please bring them to one of the upcoming meetings.

To successfully address Neotropical migratory bird issues, good science and public awareness are essential.

However, in the Neotropics, many researchers, educators, and conservationists work without the most basic equipment.

The ABA addresses this need for equipment and educational tools and contributes to bird conservation through its Birders' Exchange Program

(<http://www.americanbirding.org/bex/>).

Birders' Exchange takes new and used birding equipment and educational materials and matches it with local scientists, conservationists, and educators in Latin America and the Caribbean.

There will be a labeled box near the Members Area at every meeting where you can put any used binoculars,

telescopes, and North American field guides (Sibley and National Geographic only, please).

These will be routed to Betty Petersen, who directs the Birders' Exchange Program.

If you have any questions, email Peter Bono at pbono@prba.com or phone him at 508-375-9421.

Thank you.

Peter Bono

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

- Michelle Pimental, E. Falmouth
- Linda Van Gaasbeck, Yarmouth Port
- Marjorie & Seamus Kelly, Sandwich
- Susan & Don Babcock,
Yarmouth Port
- Nancy Farrell Hipp, Harwich
- Katharine & Stuart Parsons,
Buzzards Bay
- Jennette Kerr, Truro
- Katherine Tracy, Mashpee
- John Conlon, N. Eastham
- Roy Barstow, Teaticket
- Betsy Lebow & Melinda Forist,
Wellfleet
- Diane Moore, Mashpee

Hope to see you at our Club trips and meetings!

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.