



The Kingfisher

Vol. 39 - Issue 2

Winter (January - March) 2011

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

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The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles:

March 1st

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<http://massbird.org/>
CCBC

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Terry Gavin

President's Message

Greetings, watchers of birds. It's the season of darkness and cold, but while the birding may not be at its most exciting this time of year, things are happening here in our little club. For one thing, we somehow conned a bunch of new members to join this quarter, most likely due to our very successful pelagic trip, and you can read some of the new members' names inside. Also, as you read this, the board is working hard to find a Cape teen to send to Project Puffin's Audubon birding camp on Hog Island in Maine this summer. I had a chance to spend a couple of days on Hog Island this past summer, and it is indeed a fantastic place. The area offers a potent mix of boreal forest birds and an impressive variety of alcids and other nesting seabirds, including Atlantic Puffin and Leach's Storm-Petrel. Lecturers will include Kenn Kaufman, Lang Elliot, and Scott Weidensaul. In fact, if we can't find a worthy teen, I'm going to send myself to this birding camp. I can still pass for 18, right? But really, if you know of a teen who might like this camp, please encourage them to apply. My guess is a lot of these kids are under the radar – I didn't exactly announce to my friends in high school that I was a birder. Please check the website for scholarship details.

Ornithologically speaking, we had a pretty wacky fall here at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, where they actually pay me to know stuff about birds. Within a span of a couple of weeks we had a Summer Tanager, a cooperative Yellow-headed Blackbird, a regular Dickcissel at the feeders, and a Western Kingbird that stayed a few days. Throw in the semi-tame Sandhill Crane that wowed folks at a soccer field in Provincetown in September, and the unprecedented invasion of 40+ Cave Swal-

lows in Chatham over Thanksgiving, and we've had an interesting fall here on the Cape. You really never know what you're going to find – that's the addictive part of this hobby, the part that keeps us going even when we get old and jaded.

In seabirding news, it's been a great season for alcids, with Razorbills streaming past bay and ocean beaches alike, and Dovekies literally dropping from the sky (several have been found in roads, where they are stuck because they cannot take off from land). Razorbills have even been regularly seen in numbers inside the canal. These canal flocks have offered many folks their best ever looks at these flying penguins of the north. Alcids have always been one of my favorite groups of birds, so I was especially pleased to wake up one December morning at my winter home on the bluff above Cahoon Hollow Beach in Wellfleet to find a big flight of Razorbills underway. In 20 minutes I counted 2100 streaming north, plus one little Dovekie sputtering along like a little sea sparrow. Even bigger flights were noted earlier in the season from Eastham's bay side beaches. Alcids can be common throughout the winter, so hit those sea watching spots.

While I said this isn't the most exciting birding quarter of the year, according to eBird data, just under 200 species have been recorded on the Cape in January. Have you seen all of them? No? Well you better get out on one of our winter walks – see inside for the full list, and remember to check the website for any late additions. Hopefully I'll see you guys out there, that is if they every let me away from my desk here at work.

Mark Faherty

Club Trips Winter 2011

Peter Brown, Trip Coordinator

All are welcome to join us on these free club trips. A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated. Please check our website

www.massbird.org/ccbc for additions or changes. If you would like new trips emailed to you please let Peter know at

pbrown5541@gmail.com

Jan 1 - Fri - Noon - 4 PM New Year Birds

Hot Spots on Mid Cape to Lower Cape. 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. Severe bad weather cancels

Leader: Charlie Martin
(508) 430-1257

cemartinjr@comcast.net

Jan 11 - Tue - 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
vgpage@juno.com

Jan 23 - SUN - 8:00 AM Sandwich and Environs

Meet and carpool from Marylou's Coffee Shop on Tupper

Road. Take exit #2 off Rte 6 and head towards Sandwich Center. Turn right off Rte 130 opposite the Old Town Hall at the west end of Shawme Pond (at the Sandwich Glass Factory) onto Tupper Rd. Continue about 1 mile until a set of lights. Continue across Rte 6A. Bear left at lights as Tupper Road continues. Marylou's is on the right about 1 mile after the 6A intersection. Dress warmly. Scopes are welcome. Last year we saw 3 Harlequin Ducks! We'll return to Marylou's by 10:30AM.

Leader: Phil Kyle
(508) 495-0196

archopt@yahoo.com

Jan 28 - 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 National Wildlife Reserve (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 or 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

fcarusoumext.umass.edu

Feb 7 - Mon 9:15 - 11:15 AM Callery-Darling Conservation Area, Yarmouth

We will walk through a variety of habitats including salt marsh, beach, dune and mixed deciduous conifer woodlands in search of winter birds. Trip length is about 1.5 miles with an option to extend. Meet at Gray's Beach (Bass Hole) parking lot at the end of Center Street in Yarmouthport.

Leader: Ed Hoopes
(508) 737-7479

ehoopes@verizon.net

Feb 12 - Sat 8:00 AM Upper Cape Leaders Option!

Every winter brings surprise avian visitors to the Cape and we're going to react to recent sightings. Unusual owls, gulls and waterfowl have been hits in recent years. Otherwise we'll hit a few winter hotspots in Falmouth, Mashpee, and Sandwich. What will this winter bring us in the way of visitors? Meet at the House of Pizza parking lot at the intersection of Rte 151 and 28A in North Falmouth.

Leader: Peter Brown
(508) 241-5541

pbrown5541@gmail.com

Club Trips Winter 2011

Peter Brown, Trip Coordinator

**Feb 19 - 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 (Iceland, 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 or Fort Hill. Meet at Corporation Beach parking lot at the end of Corporation Road in Dennis.

Leader: Peter Bono
RSVP 508-375-9421
pbono@prba.com.
Weather questions? Call Mr. Bono's cell after 7:30 the morning of the trip, 774-487-2848.

**Mar 6 - Sun - 8 AM
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. Sightings of ducks, sparrows, hawks and owls are possible. Meet behind the Hole-in-One Donut Shop near the intersection of Route 6A and Main Street in Orleans.

Leader: Peter Brown
(508) 241-5541
pbrown5541@gmail.com

**Mar 17 - Thurs - 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 and 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: Peter Brown
(508) 241-5541
pbrown5541@gmail.com

**Mar 28 - Mon 8:00 – 10:00AM
Scusset Beach Area**

We'll explore the thickets, canal, and beach for a variety of land birds, sea ducks, loons, grebes, and maybe a raptor or two. Meet in the first parking lot on the right along the main road after the entrance.

Leader: Mary Keleher
(508) 477-1473
maryeak@yahoo.com

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

CCBC Winter Programs

January 10, 2011

Wayne Peterson

“Birds, Brooks and other Moving Waters”

There is connectivity between birds and moving water. Species such as the Dipper and Louisiana Waterthrush are universally associated with running fresh water, while the Harlequin Duck and Wandering Tattler variously relish both fresh and saltwater on a seasonal basis. Then there are species that are non-obligate associates of moving water – species generally found near moving water but not apparently directly dependent upon it for survival.

Avian associations and their sometimes complex relationships with running water will be the focus of this wide-ranging presentation. A variety of bird species (and a few other critters) will be described and highlighted.

Wayne R. Petersen is Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Wayne was the senior Field Ornithologist at Mass Audubon for 15 years before assuming the position of IBA Director in 2005. As co-author of *Birds of Massachusetts* (1993) and co-editor of the *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas* (2003), his knowledge of the habitats, distribution, and status of the Commonwealth's

bird life is both extensive and wide-ranging. A New England Regional Editor for *North American Birds* magazine and editor of the New England Christmas Bird Count, Wayne's knowledge of the seasonal distribution of New England bird life gives him a wide perspective when thinking about Important Bird Areas in Massachusetts and beyond. He leads international birding tours for Mass Audubon and Field Guides, Inc., is a founding member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), and is an associate member of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee. In 2005 Wayne was the recipient of the American Birding Association's *Ludlow Griscom Award* for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology.

February 14, 2011

Sue Finnegan

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

As you might guess, this presentation is not about a group of birds getting together to play music. Bird banding is a universal and indispensable technique for studying the movement, survival and behavior of birds. Sue will show how wild birds are carefully caught in a controlled setting

under the supervision of a trained bander. She will describe the information that is recorded for each bird, such as its weight, age and sex. After putting up with this brief interruption in its flight, each bird is rewarded with a pretty bracelet that identifies it from every other banded bird. Banding not only provides information about each individual bird, but is a way to help us better understand the paths and environments used by birds, their life-span and survival rate, and their behavior. For a preview of what banding is all about, take a look at Sue's blog at

<http://capecodbander.blogspot.com>.

Sue Finnegan's interest in birds began as a young girl feeding birds in her backyard. Her career, however, turned to medicine where she graduated from Northeastern University and Harvard's School of Medicine Joint Center for Radiation Therapy. Her interest in birds was revived staying home to care for her young children. Sue took birding classes at Mass Audubon and began band-

“each bird is rewarded with a pretty bracelet”

CCBC Winter Programs Cont'd

ing birds at a local banding station, studying under a Master Bander for six years. She obtained her own Master Permit and opened the Wing Island Bird Banding Station at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in 2000. She studied with Peter Pyle, ornithologist and author of "Identification Guide to North American Birds" in Point Reyes, CA and at the Powdermill Nature Reserve in Pennsylvania. Sue became nationally certified by the North American Birding Council (NABC) in 2001, has received specialized training for banding hummingbirds, and has earned trainer-level certification from NABC. Sue has been President of the Eastern Bird Banding Association and is a member of the Association of Field Ornithologists. She teaches beginner and advanced bird banding courses in addition to doing research on the birds she bands.

March 14, 2011

Gina Nichol

"Hummingbirds: Feathered Gems"

With 340 species known in the world, hummingbirds are the second largest family of birds after flycatchers. These tiny aeronautic marvels have the ability to hover, fly backward, and migrate long distances. The physiological capacity of hummingbirds to raise and lower their heart rate and body

temperature to survive cold nights is unmatched in the animal world. This program illustrates the amazing adaptations of these glittering gems and describes their fascinating life histories. Gina will show vivid photographs of hummingbirds in the North, Central, and South America and tell the story of how these birds survive in habitats that range from tropical forests to the Andes Mountains.

Gina Beebe Nichol is the founder and principal tour leader of Sunrise Birding, LLC, a birding and wildlife tour company based in Connecticut. A naturalist and birder for more than 20 years, Gina received her B.S. in Environmental Education from Cornell University and her M.A. in Educa-

tional Technology from Fairfield University.

She began leading eco-tours for Audubon Nature Odysseys in the early 1990's in Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, the Pacific Northwest, and Baja California. Gina's avid interest in wildlife biology led her to the Yellowstone Institute in Wyoming where she studied animal behavior as well as methods for tracking animal movements. Her varied interests and love of the natural world have taken her from Alaska to Peru to Kenya and the American Southwest, and a host of other destinations. In 1995, Gina founded Sunrise Birding, LLC (www.sunrisebirding.com) to offer personalized, authentic, affordable private and small group bird watching and wildlife tours around the world.

Upcoming Events



April 11, 2011 ~ David Clapp

"An African Safari – Birds and Beasts"

May 9, 2011 ~ Jim Fenton

"Birds of Plymouth Beach through the Seasons: a Photographic Journey"

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

New Members

Welcome to our 23, (yes 23), new members !!!!

Joseph Scott of Chatham, NH
 Mike Hartnett & Roz Diamond of N. Eastham, MA
 Suzanne Faith of So. Yarmouth, MA
 Beverly & John Chiasson of Newton Highlands, MA
 Roger Shoemaker of Dennis, MA
 Keith Brunell of Orleans, MA
 Larry Sweeney of Mashpee, MA
 Kevin Tyan of No. Easton, MA
 Judith & Joel Bullard of Orleans, MA
 Robert McGinness of E. Falmouth, MA
 Ron Cadillac of W. Yarmouth, MA
 Lewis Wise & Amy Charney of W. Hartford, CT
 Chris Floyd of Lexington, MA
 William & Judith Page of Forestdale, MA
 Robert Askins of Ledyard, CT
 Janet Bush of E. Orleans, MA
 Nancye Dawley of Yarmouth Port, MA
 Glenn Conway of Dennisport, MA
 Harold Capone of Sandwich, MA
 Jeff Peden of Cotuit, MA
 Kathryn L. Riley of Jamaica Plain, MA
 Hanna Nadel of East Falmouth, MA
 Robert Slott of Hyannis, MA

Looking forward to seeing you at our Club walks and meetings!

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

Monday, December 27th
 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>

Do you have Public Relations experience?

Sadly, the board has accepted Cynthia Franklin's resignation. She has been our wonderful PR person. We have appreciated and relied on her dedication as well as her talents. If you know someone who (or perhaps you, yourself) would like to share or develop PR skills, please let president Mark Faherty know.

mfaherty@massaudubon.org.

Helpful Hints 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 BIRD CLUB OFFERS CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

The **Cape Cod Bird Club** (CCBC) is sponsoring a scholarship for a Cape Cod teen (between the ages of 14 and 18, inclusive) to attend a bird-watching and natural history camp operated by the National Audubon Society in the Summer of 2011 in Maine. Tuition is \$995.

We would like your assistance in helping us find worthy candidates for a full-tuition scholarship to the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens camp, which will be run during the week of June 19 – 24, 2011 at the Hog Island Audubon Camp, Bremen, Maine, located about 50 miles north of Portland along the coast. See the following web address for more details and for a map of the location of the camp: <http://www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCamps.html>

Scholarship applicants, who must be residents of Cape Cod, must return the application with a 250- to 500-word essay by January 5, 2011, to:

**CCBC Bird Camp Scholarship
Attn: Charlie Martin
PO Box 704
Harwich, MA 02645.**

Top applicants might be interviewed by a Scholarship Committee members during the selection process. The award decision will be made in February, 2011. The recipient is expected to register with the camp; the CCBC will arrange payment of the full camp tuition. Note that the recipient is responsible for all other costs, including transportation to and from the camp, as well as any other incidental costs associated with attending the camp.

The recipient will be expected to attend the first fall meeting of the CCBC at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Sept. 12, 2011 in the early evening 7:30pm and be available to answer member questions about the camp experience. The recipient will also be expected to write a brief report, approximately 250 words, for the Fall 2011 edition of the CCBC newsletter. Article due August 20.

Please help us communicate this opportunity to any students you may know who may be interested.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bono, chair of the CCBC Scholarship Committee, at pbono@prba.com or 508-375-9421

Sincerely yours,

Mark Faherty, President
Cape Cod Bird Club

Peter R. Bono, Vice President
Chair, CCBC Scholarship Committee

*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 Faherty	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