



The Kingfisher

Vol. 40 - Issue 2

Winter (January - March) 2012

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

President's Message

Ah, the spring newsletter! As I type, temperatures are in the 60s, flowers are blooming, and 10 species of warbler have been reported on the Cape this week. I love April! What's that you say? It's winter? Oh, right – it would never be this warm in April on Cape Cod. It's safe to say that this will be an early winter to remember. With birds like Northern Parula, Ovenbird, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Ash-throated Flycatcher lingering into December, I expect we may break some late-date records for some species. I'm anxious to see what turns up on the Christmas Bird Counts. Make sure to come to the January meeting to hear about the highlights from the rest of December, including results from the Cape Cod

Waterfowl Census. I suppose winter will show up eventually, but it doesn't seem to be in any hurry so far. As evidence of this, when I blindly aimed my camera at some back-lit birds in a yard in Eastham the other day, I ended up with three Baltimore Orioles in the picture! 'Tis an odd December indeed.

Our 2012 scholarship competition for Cape Cod teens is underway, and we're once again on the hunt for worthy incipient birders to send to the Hog Island young birders camp in Maine. The deadline is early January, but there may still be time for a likely young'un to submit an application if you know of one.

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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

Club Trips Winter 2012 Mary Keleher, Trip Coordinator

Members of Cape Cod Bird Club lead walks to top birding areas throughout Cape Cod. Walks are free and open to the public. A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated. Please check our website www.massbird.org/ccbc for additions or changes.

Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars.

Jan 1 - Sun - Noon 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. Get your 2012 year list off to a great start! Click off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. Party hats optional!

Leader: Ed Banks
508-769-6762

edbanks@verizon.net

(cont'd on page 2)

Club Trips Winter 2012

Mary Keleher, Trip Coordinator

(cont'd from cover)

Jan 5 - Thurs - 8:00 AM Wellfleet to Provincetown

Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier. We'll spend the morning checking the seas, bays and thickets from the Wellfleet Town Pier to the Provincetown Wharf. We'll be looking for wintering waterfowl, alcids, and perhaps some visitors from the far north.

Leader: Ginie Page
508-349-6810
vgpage@juno.com

Jan 9 - Mon - 9:00 - Noon West Dennis

Meet to the right and at the end of the West Dennis Beach parking lot to scope the water for sea ducks, loons, grebes and other waterbirds. We will spend the rest of the morning carpooling to various local ponds to search for a variety of waterfowl and a few landbirds too. Heavy rain or snow cancels; if unsure call Diane.

Leaders: Diane Silverstein & Michael Dettrey
508-364-7050
birder525@comcast.net

Jan 20 - Fri - 7:00AM 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. Who knows what species will be worth chasing? 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 or 774-238-0698
fcaruso@umext.umass.edu

Feb 5 - Sun 8:00 - 10:00AM Cape Cod Canal & Sandwich Marina

Meet in the old Horizon Restaurant parking lot, now called Hemisphere Restaurant, at the end of Town Neck Rd. in Sandwich. We'll scope the water looking for eiders, loons, grebes, scoters, and maybe Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck or King Eider! Winter shorebirds are possible along the jetties. We'll then head over to the Sandwich marina to see what else we can find.

Leader: Peter Crosson
508-280-1678
pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com

Feb 13 - Mon - 9:00 - Noon Orleans to Provincetown

Meet in the Nauset Beach parking lot to scope the water for loons, grebes, alcids, eider, all 3 species of scoters and possibly Harlequin Ducks. We'll be keeping an eye out for flocks of Snow Buntings flying over the dunes. From there we'll carpool to Provincetown checking the hotspots along the way in search of wintering waterfowl and landbirds. Heavy rain or snow cancels; if unsure call Diane.

Leaders: Diane Silverstein & Michael Dettrey
508-364-7050
birder525@comcast.net

Feb 18 - Sat - 8:00AM Corporation Beach, Dennis and Points East

Meet at Corporation Beach parking lot at the end of Corporation Road in Dennis. We'll look for sea ducks (maybe a stray Harlequin Duck or King Eider), loons, grebes, alcids, wintering gulls (Iceland, Lesser Black-backed), wintering shorebirds, and any wind-blown pelagics. Depending on 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.

Leader: Peter Bono
508-375-9421
pbono@prba.com.

(cont'd page 3)

Club Trips Winter 2012

Mary Keleher, Trip Coordinator

(cont'd from page 2)

Feb 19 - Sun - 9:00 - 10:30AM
Birding with Kids!
Great Backyard Bird Count
Mashpee/Wakeby Pond

Meet in the Attaquin Beach parking lot at the end of Lake Ave. off Route 130 in Mashpee. Join Mary & Ashley Keleher to help count birds for the Great Backyard Bird Count, www.birdsource.org/gbbc. For the past several years Bald Eagles have been spending the winters around Mashpee/Wakeby Pond. Bring a kid and stay for 10 minutes, 20 minutes or an hour and help us count birds. We should see a variety of waterfowl including ducks, loons, grebes, and coots and maybe a Bald Eagle or two!

Leaders:

Mary & Ashley Keleher
 508-477-1473
maryeak@yahoo.com

Mar 7 - Wed
5:45 - 6:45PM
Birding with Kids!
Crane WMA - Falmouth

Meet in the parking lot all the way at the end of the entrance road, which is located off of Route 151 between the ballpark and the Nickelodeon Theater. Bring a kid and join us as we briefly walk the fields in search of landbirds settling in for the night then we'll look and listen for the crepuscular American Woodcocks performing their unique courtship display. Dress warm! Bring a flashlight and binoculars if you have them. Rain,

snow or high winds will cancel.

Leaders:

Mary & Ashley Keleher
 508-477-1473
maryeak@yahoo.com

Mar 8 - Thurs
6:00 - 7:30PM

North Truro Woodcocks.

Meet at High Head Road just off Rte 6 in North Truro. We will check the marshes for evening bird life, then watch and listen for the woodcocks' display. Maybe we'll even witness a spectacular sunset over Provincetown.

Leader: Ginie Page
 508-349-6810

Mar 12 - Mon
9:00AM - Noon

Nickerson State Park

Meet in the lower parking lot to the right, near the entrance. We'll walk the trails in search of a variety of landbirds and early spring migrants, Osprey, Pine Warblers, Eastern Phoebe, Red-winged Blackbirds, & Common Grackles. Be prepared to walk 2-3 miles on paved path. Heavy rain or snow cancels; if unsure call Diane.

Leaders: Diane Silverstein & Michael Dettrey
 508-364-7050
birder525@comcast.net

Mar 19 - Mon
8:15AM - Noon
Falmouth Shoreline

Meet in the parking lot for the

Shining Sea Bike Path on Locust St. across from the intersection of Locust St. and Mill Rd. We'll bird the shorelines of Falmouth and Woods Hole looking for waterfowl and early migrants.

Leader: Greg Hirth

508-457-4356

geohawk_1@yahoo.com

Mar 25 - Sun - 8:00 - Noon
Eastham - Ponds to Coast

Meet in the parking lot of the Cape Cod National Seashore Visitor's Center on Route 6. We'll explore the many fresh water ponds of Eastham searching for several species of waterfowl then we'll head to the coast to look for a variety of seabirds and maybe a few wintering shorebirds.

Leader: David Clapp

508-896-7322

naturalhistoryservices@comcast.net

Mar 31 Sat - 8:00AM - Noon
Eastham - Ponds to Coast

Meet in the parking lot of the Cape Cod National Seashore Visitor's Center on Route 6. We'll explore the many fresh water ponds of Eastham searching for several species of waterfowl then we'll head to the coast to look for a variety of seabirds and maybe a few wintering shorebirds.

Leader: David Clapp

508-896-7322

naturalhistoryservices@comcast.net

Help Wanted!

Birding Festival Committee

Is seeking Cape Cod Bird Club members interested in researching the potential for a Cape Cod Birding Festival! This idea was brought up at the November meeting and we are looking to the membership for a few people who might want to help me and Mary Keleher explore the concept. A couple of ideas have been tossed about. One has us including an evening pizza and beer party with a keynote speaker. Another is hosting vendors who sell birding related products. But we need your ideas!

If this is of interest to you, please contact me, Diane Silverstein, at 508-364-7050 or birder525@comcast.net.

Your ideas and insights are valued!"

(cont'd from cover)

The camp has an illustrious pedigree – Roger Tory Peterson was its first birding instructor. This year’s instructors include Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul, Lang Elliott, Don Kroodsma, and Bill Thompson III. Those of us who were at Member’s Night in December saw the delightful presentation by 2011 scholarship winner (and future club president, judging by his smooth microphone work) Joey Benedict, age 16. Joey wowed the crowd with ebullient tales of seeing his first puffin, hanging out with celebrity birders, and celebrating the little known “International Guillemot Appreciation Day” with a traditional song and bird-shaped cake. When you renew your membership in the future, we hope you’ll consider a little extra donation to the scholarship fund so we can continue to give kids like Joey this fun and formative birding experience.

Our Member’s Night silent auction and bake sale was another success – we raised over \$600 for Birder’s Exchange and our scholarship fund. I want to thank all of you who were there to buy books and fatty foods, and especially those who donated books, baked goods, or other auction items. Special thanks to Birdwatcher’s General Store in Orleans and Wild Birds Unlimited in Yarmouth for donating door prizes and auction items - I’m sure my Mom will be pleased with the squirrel-proof feeder I scored at the auction this year.

As always, do peruse our menu of free, skillfully led walks and engaging, informative (and also free) speakers listed inside. I hope to see you all at a meeting or in the field. Bird on!

Mark Faherty

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
- Coffee Mug with Logo \$6.00

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

CCBC Winter Programs

January 9, 2012

Peter Trull

“Symbiosis in Humpback Whales and Marine Birds ”

The open sea is a wild place! Humpback Whales feed voraciously on small fish, predominantly sand lance, as they compete with several predatory fish and other whales. Shearwaters and Gulls benefit from the dynamic bubble and lunge feeding of the whales. In this program, Peter will show us, and explain through vivid photographs and years of personal experience, the symbiotic relationship between these marine mammals and pelagic birds. Peter will sign copies of his new book, An Illustrated Guide to the Common Birds of Cape Cod after his program. Please come and bring a friend.

Peter Trull, a past president of the CCBC, has been involved in research and education for about 30 years. From 1976 to 1986, he coordinated Mass Audubon's coastal seabird monitoring program and conducted research in Guyana and Surinam, studying the market trapping of Common Terns and Roseate Terns (ask him what he ate!). As Education Director and Senior Field Naturalist at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, he developed programs and began studying Eastern Coyotes in 1989. Through the 90's, as a

researcher and Education Director at the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, he developed and taught classes related to whales and marine ecosystems and completed over 1,400 whale watching trips related to education and research. He presently teaches 7th grade Science at the Cape

“vivid photographs and years of personal experience”

Cod natural history and is currently conducting long term research on Eastern Coyotes. He also received a grant to study the Fisher with his students on cape cod.

February 13, 2012

Brad Winn

“Listening to Shorebirds: Finding Critical Migration Sites Using Improved Technologies”

We learn almost from the time we can walk that birds are fundamentally different from us – because they can fly without buying an airplane ticket. But where do they go, and how can we help protect those places that are so critical to the birds' survival. This presentation will show how tracking individual, large-bodied shorebirds can

“tell” us where the important stop-over and wintering sites are for these and other hemispheric travelers. Recent studies in the migration ecology of American Oystercatcher, Marbled Godwit, and Whimbrel will be discussed in terms of setting conservation priorities in the Western Hemisphere for these incredible birds.

Brad Winn worked for the state of Georgia for 17 years as a coastal biologist for the Nongame Conservation Section before joining the staff of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences as a Conservation Specialist in March 2011. In Georgia, he oversaw a wide range of projects focused on protecting and recovering depleted populations of native wildlife such as the North Atlantic right whale, local loggerhead turtle populations, American Wood Stork and Swallow-tailed Kite. He also was involved with mapping and classifying all of the natural communities of Georgia's Coastal Counties. Brad's relationship with Manomet began in the late 1990's when he collaborated on a study of a Red Knot fall staging event at the mouth of Georgia's Altamaha River. That and other related work lead to the establishment of the 40th Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site and designation as a

CCBC Winter Programs Cont'd

nationally significant Important Bird Area. Brad is now working with Manomet's Shorebird Recovery Project on several initiatives and research projects to reverse recent declines in shorebirds of the Atlantic Flyway.

March 12, 2012

Mark Faherty

"The Cape Cod Osprey Project: Voyeuristic Citizen Science"

The Cape Cod Osprey project started at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary with a small network of telephone informants reporting on the productivity of their local osprey nests, mainly on the Outer Cape. The project has since grown into a network of over 70 volunteers helping to map and monitor nests from Wellfleet to Falmouth. Volunteers use Google Earth to map nests, and then monitor them periodically to note the timing of important events in the nesting cycle such as the initiation of incubation, hatch date, and ultimately the number of chicks successfully fledged from each nest. The project has shed light on this previously mysterious population of ospreys and allowed comparisons with better studied populations on the Westport River and on Martha's Vineyard. We also satellite tracked a juvenile Eastham Osprey named Goody Hallet on her southward migration from Cape Cod to South Amer-

ica, with many wacky stops in between, and her travels will be detailed in this talk. Perhaps most importantly, we've engaged an ever-growing corps of citizen scientists in tracking a species whose fate is directly linked with the health of our coastal ecosystems.

Mark Faherty has been the Science Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary since August of 2007 and President of Cape Cod Bird Club since 2009. While his current projects involve everything from oysters and horseshoe crabs to bats and butterflies, he has studied primarily bird ecology for the last 16 years, working on

research projects in Texas, Florida, California, Arizona, Mexico, the Pacific Northwest, and the Cape Cod National Seashore. He appreciates the osprey project because it allows him to keep one wing in the ornithological world while also taking credit for work done primarily by other, unpaid people.

New Members

Welcome to our newest members !!!!

Scott Mahieu of Brewster and Brian Taylor & Kate Doody of Eastham

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

Upcoming Events



April 9, 2012 ~ Joan Walsh

"Breeding Bird Atlas"

May 14, 2012 ~ Edson Endrigo

"Brazil's Birds"

Check our website for additional events and happenings.

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 2012 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 24 – 29, 2012 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, including 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 6, 2012, 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, 2012. 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 one of the fall meetings of the CCBC at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in the early evening (7:30-8:00) 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 2012 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 Peter 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

Alice Berry	Roger Jenks
Mary Keleher	Diane Silverstein
Paula Pariseau	Christine Hight

Newsletter Editor ~ Christine Hight E-mail: sea7adria@comcast.net

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

Nominating Committee Chair ~ Ginie Page