



The Kingfisher

Vol. 41 - Issue 2

Winter (January - March) 2013

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

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year! thoughtfully organized by our Trip Coordinator, Mary Keleher.

As Birders, we know that winter is the time for seeking uncommon visitors from the North like Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Common and Hoary Redpolls, White-winged and Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Bohemian Waxwings, Northern Shrikes, and Purple Finches. Many of species have already arrived in New England and on Cape Cod. Should we get a snow cover, they might become easier to find. Winter is also the time to look for all the northern-nesting ducks and loons, grebes and alcids, as well as northern gulls. They are pretty much absent from the Cape between April and October. It is the perfect time to join us on one of our winter bird walks

As the poet Shelley said, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" By late February and early March, the first large flocks of blackbirds and grackles will be returning; and, by the end of March, we will see other early migrants. Depending on the temperatures and winds, there can be many avian surprises in March on Cape Cod.

We had an extraordinary set of programs this past fall, and Mark Faherty has put together an equally interesting list of speakers for this next quarter. Come to the evening meetings; bring a friend; even better, bring a young (continued on page 4)

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The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles:

March 1st

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Send articles or comments to:
sea7adria@comcast.net

Website:
www.capecodbirdclub.org

Webmaster:
Terry Gavin

Club Trips Winter 2013 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.capecodbirdclub.org
for additions or changes.

Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars.

Tuesday, January 1st at 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 2013 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 2013

Mary Keleher, Trip Coordinator

(cont'd from cover)

Monday, January 7th
8:00 - 11:00am
Falmouth
South Cape Beach

We'll walk the Dead Neck trail from the Town Beach parking lot to the jetty at the end of this beautiful barrier beach, approximately 2 miles round trip. We'll check the beach and pond for wintering ducks, loons, grebes, wintering shorebirds and maybe a few landbirds too. Meet in the Town Beach parking lot. From the Mashpee Rotary take Great Neck Road South for approximately 2.5 miles and continue straight onto Great Oak Road. Turn left at the "All Beaches" sign. Drive to the end of the road and turn left to access the Town Beach parking area. Dress warm!

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

Saturday, January 12th
8:00AM - Noon
Eastham
Salt Pond & Vicinity

Will look for overwintering birds in the thickets and around the fresh water ponds where we should also see dabbling and diving ducks. Then we'll check for sea ducks along the bay and ocean shores. Meet at the Cape Cod National Sea Shore Visitors Center.

Leader: David Clapp
 508-896-7322
naturalhistoryservices@comcast.net

Monday, January 14th
8:00AM - 1:00PM

Wellfleet to Provincetown

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. Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier.

Leader: Ginie Page
 508-349-6810

Saturday, January 19th
8:00AM - Noon

Corporation Beach
Dennis & Points East

We'll look for sea ducks, maybe a stray Harlequin or King Eider, loons, grebes, alcids, wintering gulls such as Iceland or 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 in Dennis. Take Corporation Road to the left as you head east on Route 6A.

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

Monday, January 21st
9:00AM - Noon
Provincetown

Meet in Dennis. We'll visit Macmillan Wharf and other local P'town birding hot spots. Meet at the Stop & Shop parking lot on Rt. 134 at Patriot Square to carpool, (The lot closest to Route 134). We'll look to have lunch in P'town in between searching for wintering sea ducks, and more! Rain or snow cancels.

Leader: Diane Silverstein
 508-364-7050
birder526@comcast.net

Friday, February 1st
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

Club Trips Winter 2013

Mary Keleher, Trip Coordinator

to a later date. Please arrive at the meeting point with your coffee in hand.

Leader: Frank Caruso
774-238-0698
fcaruso@umext.umass.edu

Monday, February 11th 8:15 - 10:30AM

Falmouth Shoreline

We'll bird the shorelines of Falmouth and Woods Hole looking for waterfowl, gulls and whatever else turns up. Meet at the parking lot for the Shining Sea Bike Path on Locust Street in Falmouth (across the street from the intersection of Locust Street and Mill Road).

Leader: Greg Hirth
508-737-0227
geohawk_1@yahoo.com

Monday, February 18th 9:00AM - Noon

West Dennis Beach

Harwich Conservation Lands

We'll look for ducks, loons, Snow Buntings, Purple Sandpipers and more. We'll then caravan over to Bell's Neck Road in West Harwich and walk the conservation lands on the north side of Great Western Road. Rain or snow cancels.

Leader: Diane Silverstein
508-364-7050
birder526@comcast.net



Sunday, March 3th

5:15 PM

Birding with Kids!

Crane WMA

Falmouth

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. Meet in the parking lot all the way at the end of the dirt entrance road, which is located off of Route 151 between the ballfield and the old Nickelodeon Theater.

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

Monday, March 18th

9:00AM - Noon

Dennis

Crowes Pasture

We'll look for early migrants and wintering birds that are still here. We'll walk the woodland trail, beach, and main road. Meet in the parking lot. At the intersection of Route 6A and Airline/School turn onto School St. Take first right onto South St. Go past the cemetery to the entrance of Crowes Pasture. Drive a short distance on the dirt road. The parking lot is on the right.

Leader Diane Silverstein
508-364-7050
birder526@comcast.net

Tuesday, March 19th

6:15PM - Dusk

Truro

We will look for marsh birds and any others that may be settling down for the night. If we are lucky we will have a splendid sunset over Provincetown just before the woodcocks begin their displays. Dress warmly! Meet at High Head Road just off Route 6 in North Truro at 6:15 and park along the roadside.

Leader: Ginie Page
508-349-6810.



Saturday, March 30th

8:00AM - 10:00AM

Cape Cod Canal

Sandwich Marina

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

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

Festival Fever

Birding Festival Committee

We're hoping you have marked your calendars for September 13 – 15 to be at the Festival! Last issue we told you about having Pete Dunne as our keynote speaker and Shawn Carey's amazing film Epic Journeys. Well, the steering committee has been hard at work!

Volunteers from the Bird Club have come forth to sit on a committee to plan the field trips and workshops. Thanks to Mike Dettrey, Fran and David Clapp, Wayne and Betty Petersen, Paul Schlansky, Al Curtis and Melissa Lowe. This hardworking group has begun to narrow down potential field trips and workshops to fit into our schedule.

We have settled on a printer and will soon have rack cards and other printed materials to help promote the Festival.

Help is needed to find Festival sponsors. Gerry Cooperman is heading this committee and is hopeful volunteers will step forward to help here. Often, people are hesitant to fund-raise, however, Gerry is well experienced in this area and will host a session in January on how to go about seeking sponsors. So, if you're interested, but are tentative about it, let Gerry show you how easy this can be. Let me know of your interest.

Have you seen the new Bird Club website? Member Terry Gavin has done a fantastic job in making over the website. And check out the Festival page for regular updates! www.capecodbirdclub.org

Come be a part of the Bird Festival! For those of you who have already volunteered, a heartfelt thank you! There's lots of work ahead, though, and we can use many more volunteers! For further information, call me, Diane Silverstein, at 508-364-7050 or birder526@comcast.net.

birder. With young birders regularly attending the meetings, a new energy or flavor is added.

We have launched our new and updated website: www.capecodbirdclub.org. Our Webmaster, Terry Gavin, has done a great job giving us a new and better organized look--more colorful content and news feeds from the Cape Cod Bird Group on Yahoo, from the American Birding Association, and from Cornell's eBird site are just some of the highlights. Visit the site often. We will be adding new content throughout the year. News items of interest, links to bird-related surveys, and announcements of local events will be shared easily. Look for more changes and improvements in the future.

The Bird Festival has its own page on the CCBC website. Check it out to find out what the latest status is. See what the current volunteer needs are. Become inspired with workshop presenter promos. See Festival Fever for more specifics.

The Young Birder Scholarship Competition for 2013 has started. If you know a teen, who is 14-18 years old, a Cape Cod resident and who might like to attend an Audubon Bird Camp in Maine this coming June, encourage him to go to the website and download the application form. Speaking of the Scholarship Competition, thank you to all of you who have given generously to the Scholarship Fund--either by direct donation or by your participation in Bake Sale at the December Holiday Meeting--thank you! If you heard our 2012 winners speak at the December meeting, you know that the camp has inspired and strengthened their passion for birds and conservation. Consider sending a check to our Treasurer, Charlie Martin, and mark the check for the Scholarship Fund.

Good Birding!

Peter Bono

CCBC Winter Programs

January 14, 2013

**An Evening with
Sandy Komito, reigning ABA
Big Year record holder por-
trayed in "The Big Year"**

During the eighties and nineties, Sandy Komito was the most traveled birder in North America and would chase after any report of a bird he hadn't yet seen. He thought nothing of leaving for the airport within twenty or thirty minutes of a report and race to the reported location, thoroughly enjoying the thrill and excitement of the chase. By reacting this quickly, he was able to be successful in more than 60% of the chases.

In North America during most of the eighties and nineties, he regularly recorded more than 500 birds per year, in two of the years seeing over 600 and two others seeing more than 700! In 1987, when he was employed full time, he tied for the ABA record for the most birds seen in a single year with 722. After retiring from business in 1992, he often thought about what he might have done to improve upon the 1987 record.

Eleven years later, in 1998, it was an El Nino year. Also the Aleutian Island of Attu was very shortly to be closed down permanently. Timing-wise, he became convinced if he was to try and break his eleven year-old record, 1998 had to be the year. He would return to Attu Island in 1998, the twelfth time he would visit to this magical island, so far from civilization.

In 1998 he spent 270 days away from home in the pursuit of all the birds to be found in North America that year. He also logged nearly 275,000 miles (nearly 80% of which was by air). By year's end, he had totaled the incredible number of 745 birds plus four others that weren't yet on the ABA list. It took several years before three of the four sightings were accepted by the individual State Rare Bird Committees and finally the ABA Checklist Committee. This brought the official total to 748, a record that still stands today.

Sandy began his love of birding at age eight but did not begin keeping serious records until age eleven or twelve. In 1957, he married his late wife Bobbye, the love of his life, in a marriage that lasted a little over fifty years. They have three children and six grandchildren. He's the current ABA Big Year record holder and the only birder in North America to ever complete two Big Years. In addition to his portrayal in the book and later the movie version of "The Big Year", Sandy is the author of two books about his birding exploits: "I Came, I Saw, I Counted" and "Birding's Indiana Jones: A Chaser's Diary".

February 11, 2013

Anne-Marie Runfola

**Sighting! Surveying Seabirds
on Stellwagen Bank**

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, a wild area teeming with life, rich in history, and lying

just off the coast of Massachusetts between Cape Ann and Cape Cod supports 575 known species, including 53 species of summering, wintering, or migrating seabirds. Due to its significance as a feeding ground, the sanctuary's central feature—Stellwagen Bank—was designated an Important Bird Area by Mass Audubon in 2001. Despite the variety and numbers of seabirds present in the sanctuary, our knowledge of their lives is at best fragmentary. In 2011, staff and volunteers set out to uncover more about the sanctuary's seabirds by studying them where they spend most of their lives — at sea. This presentation will showcase some of the sanctuary's magnificent seabirds, share research results, and will describe how local citizens can contribute significantly to scientific research.

As Volunteer Coordinator for NOAA/Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Anne-Marie Runfola developed the organization's first comprehensive volunteer program, including the Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabird Stewards (S4) initiative. This pioneering longitudinal study invites citizen scientists to work with researchers to collect valuable data for both the sanctuary and a comprehensive East Coast seabird database. Before moving to Cape Cod in 2010, Anne-Marie served for seven years as

CCBC Winter Programs Cont'd

Education Director, then overall Deputy Director of the Bronx River Alliance in New York City where she helped the community use the river as a living classroom, ran citizen science monitoring and restoration programs, and oversaw the development of an organization-wide volunteer program. Anne-Marie holds a B.S. in Corporate Communications with a focus on instructional design and media from Ithaca College, and an M.A. in educational and cognitive psychology and instructional technology from Columbia University, Teachers College, with a focus on science education. She serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Coonamessett River Trust in Falmouth, MA.

March 11, 2013

Marshall Iloff

Everything You Wanted to Know About eBird But Were Afraid to Ask...

For several years, eBird has been quietly revolutionizing the way birders record and access information about birds from their local patch to international hotspots. In this talk, Marshall Iloff will discuss eBird, the online website for keeping personal bird observations and lists and contributing those sightings to the global database that is increasingly used for science and conservation. Marshall will discuss not only how you can contribute your own bird observations from Barnstable County and beyond, but how to use the

site to better understand patterns of bird occurrence (like the past winter's finch invasion), how to use it to find birds or to discover new sites for birding, or how to answer other questions about birds and their patterns of occurrence. Marshall will also show some of the groundbreaking science and conservation being done with the database, including some striking animation migration maps that are being used by the State of the Birds team to provide bird conservation advice and management recommendations nationwide. eBird is an increasingly popular and versatile site, and this will be your best chance to learn how to use it as a data contributor or just to explore the data already in the system.

Marshall Iloff started birding at age 11. After attending Bowdoin College, he traversed the

continent on various field jobs (including four months studying bird migration on an oil platform off New Orleans) before taking a job as a professional tour guide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. As a guide he travelled to all 50 states, Mexico, Panama, Belize, Greenland, and Kenya. In 2007, Marshall was hired as eBird Project Leader by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Since then, the project has expanded worldwide and has collected over 110 million observations! Among the most exciting projects is seeing millions of birdwatcher observations come together using new modeling techniques that show animated maps of bird migration, species-by-species, at the continental scale. Marshall lives with his wife and two dogs in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and gets out eBirding

Upcoming Events

April 8, 2013 ~ Dr. Andrew Vitz

A Cup in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush - The Role of Shade Coffee in Migratory Bird Conservation

Dr. Andrew Vitz, Massachusetts State Ornithologist, will share his extensive research on the conservation value of shade coffee plantations to Cerulean Warblers and other song birds.

May 13, 2013 ~ TBA

Check our website for additional events and happenings.
www.capecodbirdclub.org

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB OFFERS CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

As in past years our Club is sponsoring a scholarship for a Cape Cod teen to attend a bird-watching and natural history camp operated by the National Audubon Society in the summer of 2013 in Bremen Maine.

There is still time for candidates to submit an application and essay to the address below. Top applicants may be interviewed by Scholarship Committee members during the selection process. The award decision will be made in February, 2013.

Previous recipients have attended one of the fall Club meetings and given a short presentation about their camp experiences. All have had an article published in the fall *Kingfisher*.

If you have a candidate in mind, check the Club website for the requirements and application form. If you have questions, contact Ron Ayotte, Vice President and chair of the CCBC Scholarship Committee, at ayotterc@comcast.net or 508-888-2164, or President Peter Bono at pbono@prba.com or 508-375-9421.

Completed applications should be sent to: CCBC, Attn: Camp Scholarship Committee
PO Box 704, Harwich, MA 02645.

New Members

Welcome to our 17 newest members !!!!

- Judith Davis of Harwich
- Jamie Gilson of Harwich
- Gini Russell of Wellfleet
- Patti Lloyd of West Yarmouth
- Barbara Yoo of Yarmouth Port
- Patricia White of Harvard
- Karen Kushin of West Yarmouth
- Miles Goldenberg of Centerville
- Ingmar & Ellen Soderholm of West Dennis
- MaryJo Porcaro of South Dennis
- Russell & Cilla Leng of Yarmouth Port
- A Rives & Katharine McGinley of Orleans
- Meredith Harris & Judy Peeler of Eastham
- Rob & Shelley Rappaport of Eastham
- Jeffrey Peden of Cotuit
- Joseph Dwelley, Jr. of West Yarmouth
- Elizabeth & Elizabeth Brooke of Provincetown

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

MANY THANKS from the MEMBERS' NIGHT BAKE TABLE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Members' Night Bake Sale. We raised over \$300.00 toward the club's scholarship fund. Whether you baked the goodies, or ate the goodies...everyone helped toward our fund raising effort. Thank you! And, it was all done in such a delicious fashion! Your abilities and generosity are much appreciated.

I especially want to thank Aline Folding and Elaine Bono for their assistance at the Bake Table. It takes many hands to get all the work done. Thanks also to Elaine for recycling holiday tins. We hope to do that again. Your ideas or suggestions for the next sale are always welcome.

Sincerely, Jane Martin

*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: www.capecodbirdclub.org**

Officers

Peter Bono	President
Ron Ayotte	Vice President
Charlie Martin	Treasurer
Peter Flood	Secretary

Directors

Jane Martin	Roger Jenks
Mary Keleher	Diane Silverstein
Mark Faherty	Christine Hight

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

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

Nominating Committee Chair ~ position open