President’s Message

Dear Cape Cod Bird Club Members,

First, let me wish you and your family the very best for this Holiday Season. May you find compassion and knowledge in the simple pleasures of your daily life! May the coming New Year bring you much health, happiness and all of the life birds you have longed to see over the years. I sincerely hope that each of you will make it a priority of your New Year’s Resolutions to get out and “bird” at least once a week, if not more. Walking out of doors, breathing the fresh air, and finding nature’s little creatures is about as wonderful as anything in this world of ours today. It rejuvenates the spirit and adds immeasurable pleasure to one’s heart; you should not deprive yourself of this life’s simple joys. May you discover new and enriching experiences each and every day of this New Year! Happy 2016 to All!!

Second, I want to be certain that all of our membership is aware of our misfortune in not securing a spot for the Teen Bird Camp at Hog Island for 2016. The camp program has undergone some significant changes including personnel and registration procedures. The staff may be contemplating major participant changes as well. Be assured that the Officers and Board Members are doing all that is necessary to ensure that our Young Birder Scholarship Program continues. We will keep you informed of our efforts to secure a scholarship position for the 2017 birding camp.

Third, as we begin the New Year, I want to be sure each of you knows of the opportunities available to you. Through the tireless efforts of Stefanie Paventy, Trip Coordinator, and her Trip Leader Volunteers, the CCBC is able to provide free bird walks throughout the Year. Why not, begin your “Year List” on January 1, 2016 with Ed Bank’s Annual New Year’s Day Walk. Usually, more than 30 people show up for an exciting day of birding. It is not unusual to add 40-50 species to your annual year list. Check our website (capecodbirdclub.org) for time and meeting location or check page 4 of this issue. While you’re at it, pencil in on your calendar additional bird walks that are on the schedule for early 2016. Let’s make this your “Best Bird Year Ever!!”

Fourth, On behalf of your Officers and Board Members, I want to thank you for your support and generosity during our December Member’s Night. Through your participation the Cape Cod Bird Club will be able to donate $400 to the Birder’s Exchange. Also, we were able to add $600 into the Young Birder’s Scholarship Fund. We, the Officers and Board Members, sincerely appreciate your willingness to dig deep into your pockets and provide financial support for both deserving causes.

Good Birding, Charlie Martin
Greetings from Florida, dear Cape Cod Bird Club members! We think of you often and hope you'll enjoy great birding on Cape Cod this winter! We have traveled from east to west, and north to south in our tiny teardrop camper, and couldn't feel happier and more fortunate. We're soon headed toward the southwest for the winter. [Here are excerpts from their blog about their teardrop camper adventures]

Recently, Michael and I visited Merritt Island in Titusville, Florida, near Cape Canaveral. What a beautiful place! Known for its many wading birds, we were excited to see white ibis, glossy ibis, roseate spoonbill, great egret, snowy egret, wood stork, tricolored heron, and little blue and great blue herons. Upon our arrival, we were rewarded with a large pool filled with all of these birds! (see image of Diane scoping out these birds and an image of a Great Egret and Woodstork).

One of the beauties of our travels is just listening and hearing. We've had a barred owl close by calling, and listened to woodpeckers when we arrived. Now, at 7pm, we hear a neighbor now and then, but mostly it is super peaceful with only the animal sounds serenading us! It is bear country, but the campground volunteer said none have been reported at this campground.

We've spent two nights here so far and all is well and quiet! The barred owls call regularly as do the pilated woodpeckers. There are many black and turkey vultures that roost at the campground, too.

Today we went searching for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. We drove well into the forest on forest road 11, where there are a number of colonies established. The trees where they have nested have a wide white ring painted on the trunk. We walked through one area where a few trees were marked. Unfortunately, we didn't see the birds, but just finding the trees was exciting! We were here at Ocala about 15 years ago and luckily saw the woodpeckers then, but we're hoping to see them again!

The red-cockaded makes a hole for the nest, and then makes a series of smaller holes around the main hole. These small holes allow sap to drip around the nest hole and it is thought that the sap might deter some predators. It appears the forest service is reinforcing the nest holes, but we don't really know for sure. Something to research!

Good birding! Happy holidays! Diane and Michael
[Editor’s note: Sue Finnegan is the master bander at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History’s Wing Island station. Giving a listing of birds she has banded this fall, she was particularly excited about the Black-chinned Hummingbird. follow at http://www.capecodbander.blogspot.com/ 
Here is her blog report:]

The highlight of the year was on Dec 1st. The day before I received an email about a hummingbird visiting a feeder in Harwich. I saw a picture of it and was quite intrigued! I was able to capture her and with pictures and measurements was able to identify her as a HY female Black-chinned Hummingbird. Females of this species can look similar to female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, the species that breeds in our area. Black-chinned Hummingbirds are a western species that typically winter in southern Texas and Mexico. Right now this is the 6th state record for Massachusetts. You can see how she resembles a Ruby-throated.

Black-chinned Hummingbirds are longer-billed and longer-winged than Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and she was no exception. Her bill and wing measurements exceeded even the longest Ruby-throats. The crown of a Black-chinned is dull brownish-gray often extending to the nape and back is a duller green than seen on Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

The bill is very long on a female Black-chinned. It is still long on a female Ruby-throated as you see in the second image, but not as long as above.
Winter Walks

Join us on these free club trips. Heavy or steady rain or snow typically cancels the walk. Call or e-mail the walk leader prior to the walk, if possible. For the latest updates, always check our website www.capecodbirdclub.org. TRIPS are listed by BIRDING HOTSPOT and date. Contact trip coordinator, Stefanie Paventy (stefpav09@gmail.com) with general questions, and contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

JANUARY

New Year Birds – Mid-Cape–Ed Banks, edbanks@verizon.net or 508-769-6762 – Friday, January 1, 12PM / Meet in the Stop & Shop’s northwest parking lot at Patriot Square on Route 134 in South Dennis. Take exit 9A off Route 6, and a left at the lights. Get your 2016 year list off to a great start! Click off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. We will bird the mid-cape or perhaps some hotspots. Party hats optional!

Fort Hill – Eastham–Keenan Yakola, kyakola@gmail.com or 508-246-5453 – Saturday, January 9, 9:30AM / Take a stroll around the Fort Hill trails to look for wintering birds, then along the marsh edge for waterfowl and whatever may be skulking in the shrubs. We will look for rails, bitterns, sparrows, waterfowl and raptors as the tide comes in at 11:02AM. Meet in the lower lot of Fort Hill.

Scusset Beach & CC Canal–David Clapp, declapp@me.com – Sunday, January 17, 8AM / Walk around the camp sites, beach front and canal at Scusset looking for eiders, loons, grebes, scoters and possibly a King Eider or Harlequin Duck. Meet in the Friendly’s parking lot by the ATM after the Sagamore Bridge.

Crane WMA – Falmouth–Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Sunday, January 31, 7AM / Enjoy a walk around the revamped Francis Crane WMA! Recently, MassWildlife has renovated this management area to improve grassland habitat for grassland dependent species. They cleared vegetation to bare ground, reseeded with native grasses and continue prescribed burns to maintain quality habitat. Improved habitat will enhance your birding opportunity! Meet in the parking lot at Crane WMA.

FEBRUARY

Cape Cod’s Northern Beaches–David Clapp, declapp@me.com – Sunday, February 7, 8AM / Meet at the Salt Pond Visitor’s Center in Eastham and we will carpool to various Outer Cape Beaches in search of waterfowl, seabirds and anything that to wants to come out in the chilly weather!

Birding Mid-Cape – Dennis/Harwich–Judith Davis, motherjude@comcast.net – Monday, February 15, 9AM / Enjoy Washington’s Birthday by spending some time birding! Meet at the entrance to West Dennis Beach. We will look for ducks, loons, Snow Buntings, Purple Sandpipers and more! We will then caravan over to Bell’s Neck Road in West Harwich to walk the conservation lands on the north side of Great Western Road.

Walks continue next page
Winter Bird Walks, continued  and Winter Programs

**Yarmouth Area—Peter Bono, pbono@prba.com or 774-487-2848 – Saturday, February 20, 8AM /** We will explore the Yarmouth area including fantastic places like Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, Hallet’s Mill Pond, Water Street Marsh, Bass Creek and Dennis Chapin Beach. Meet at Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary and head east from there. Please call Peter after 6:45AM the day of the walk or email him to let him know you will be joining.

**Road Trip to Rhode Island—Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Saturday, February 27, 7AM /** We may visit Watchemoket Cove, Portsmouth Town Pond, St. Mary’s Pond, Sachuest Point, Beavertail State Park, Ninigret NWR, Trustom Pond NWR, Moonstone Beach and the fields of the University of Rhode Island. Guided by open water during hard winter conditions, we focus on waterfowl, but should see a great diversity of birds. We will stop somewhere for lunch. Bad weather cancels. Please RSVP to Stefanie as there is limited seating. Meet at the commuter parking lot off of Main Street in Buzzards Bay (behind Krua Thai Restaurant near the railroad bridge).

**MARCH**

**Scusset Beach State Park – Sagamore—Peter Crosson-508-280-1678 or email at pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com— Saturday, March 5, 7AM /** Meet in the first parking lot, next to the fish pier. We’ll spend the morning checking the thickets and woodland trail, canal and beach area for passerines and waterfowl.

**Navigation Road – Barnstable—Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Friday, March 11, 11:30AM /** We will scope the marsh while the tide rises. High tide is at 1PM. We will also walk the dirt road for any passerines. Please be prepared for wet conditions, although we will stand on the deck of the marsh house during high tide. Meet at the commuter parking lot by Burger King (Exit 6 off of Route 6). We can carpool to Navigation Road from there.

**WINTER PROGRAMS**

**January 11, 2016—Wayne Petersen—Unfamiliar Facts About Familiar Faces**

Looking out the kitchen window, walking in the woods, or strolling on the beach frequently connects us to bird species we recognize as old or familiar friends. Yet how much do we really know about some of these feathered acquaintances? This presentation will provide a light overview and a brief look into the lives of some of our more regularly encountered New England bird species, the life stories of which, in some cases, are almost stranger or more remarkable than fiction. Join Mass Audubon ornithologist, Wayne Petersen, as his shares his extensive experience with the lives of birds both locally and beyond. You may be surprised and even entertained by what you find out.

*Wayne R. Petersen*, Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program at the Massachusetts Audubon Society, 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. Wayne received the American Birding Association’s *Ludlow Griscom Award* for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology in 2005.

*Programs continue next page*
February 8, 2016—Mark Faherty—Bridge Between the Americas: Birding Panama

Though smaller than many US states, Panama offers some of the best birding in Central America. Lying at the break point between North and South America, it shares many species with Costa Rica and Columbia, and also hosts many of our wintering Neotropical migrants much of the year. In this talk Mark will focus on two recent Mass Audubon trips to the lowland rainforests of the Canal Zone and foothills and cloud forest of Coclé province. These trips were mostly based at the famous Canopy Tower, where owls, cottingas, puffbirds, many other birds, and multiple species of sloths and monkeys, could be seen at point-blank range, eye level, from the dining area or the roof deck. Day trips to the species rich lowland rainforest of Pipeline Road produced birds like Streak-chested Antpitta, Chestnut-backed Antbird, and Slaty-backed Forest Falcon, among many others. Visits to the canal locks and Panama City added some cultural attractions, not to mention species like Lance-tailed Manakin, Blue-footed Booby, Cocoi Heron, and Rosy Thrush-Tanager. The gorgeous Canopy Lodge was our base camp to access the highlands around El Valle de Anton, a town built in the crater of an inactive volcano, where highlights included Brown-billed Scythebill (see image), Spectacled Owl, Orange-bellied Trogon, and many more.

Mark has been the Science Coordinator at Mass Audubon’s Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary since 2007, and has led birding trips for Mass Audubon since 2002. While his current projects involve everything from oysters and horseshoe crabs to bats and butterflies, he has studied primarily bird ecology for the last 20 years, working on research projects in Kenya, Florida, Texas, California, Arizona, Mexico, and the Pacific Northwest. He was a counter for the famous River of Raptors hawk watch in Veracruz, Mexico, and has birded Africa, Panama, Belize, and both Eastern and Western Europe. Mark is an emcee and trip leader for multiple birding festivals and leads workshops on birding by ear, eBird, birding apps, and general bird identification. Past president of Cape Cod Bird Club, he is a member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee.

March 14—Peter Bono—Birding In Northwest Ecuador and Machu Picchu, Peru

Ecuador is about the size of the State of Colorado, yet more than 1600 species of birds have been seen within its boundaries, because of its incredibly diverse habitats: high Andean paramo and puna, wet mid-elevation rain forest, and Amazonian lowlands, to name just a few. Peru is a much larger country; almost twice the size of Texas and almost as big as Alaska. More than 1800 species of birds are on the Peru list—third most species in the world, after Colombia and Brazil.

Peter will talk about his April - May birding trip to the mid-elevation slopes of the Western Andes near Quito and his subsequent cultural sightseeing visit to Peru: to some alpine lakes near Cusco, to the ruins of the Inca sanctuary at Machu Picchu, and to the arid, but seabird-rich coast near Lima.

Peter has been birding since he was 10 and is the immediate Past President of the Cape Cod Bird Club. A computer scientist and software developer, he started his worldwide birding travel in the 1970s on various business and pleasure trips, but he did not take his first birding tour until 1991. After birding in 80+ countries, his world life list is more than 6,200 species (including more than 1200 photographed). Besides enjoying travel and experiencing different cultures, he collects birds on stamps. His bird stamp collection includes examples of approximately 2,000 species (of the 3,900 species currently illustrated on stamps). Images at http://www.prba.com/prbpers.html [image: Peruvian Pelican].
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Ambrogio, Anthony  Centerville
Andres, Kristin     West Chatham
Bourg, Karen        Nashville, TN
Chapman, Lisbeth    Wellfleet
Charney, Amy        West Hartford, CT
Cohen, Richard & Jenny Maitland, FL
Corcoran, Dennis    Dennis
Dumas, Carol        Harwich
Forbes, Marilyn & Robert Bristol, RI
Myers, George       East Harwich
Godley, Betsy and Don Marstons Mills
Goodchild, Therese  Sandwich
Grabala, Madeline   East Harwich
Myers, George       East Harwich
Schoen, Howard      East Dennis
Vlasopolos, Anca    Centerville

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
Were due on September 1, 2015. Please send in your renewal as soon as you can. The Membership form is on our website (www.capecodbirdclub.org) Since our membership dues are consistently low, consider making an additional gift to the Club as well.

2016 Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens Scholarship CANCELLED

We are very disappointed to announce that, due to a change in the Hog Island Audubon Camp’s registration process and the unprecedented number of scholarship applications the camp has received, the Cape Cod Bird Club will be unable to offer a teen scholarship in 2016.

CCBC is proud of our past participation in the scholarship program at Hog Island and all of CCBC’s past scholarship recipients. We hope to continue to be able to offer scholarships to the teen camp in future years. Meanwhile, if you have kids or grandkids who are interested in attending Family Camp at Hog Island with you next summer, think about going. Some of our members and their kids have been and loved it. Kids must be ages 8-13 by the date of the camp in August. Check it out online at http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-island-programs. Here are two images of Hog Island: view of dock and marine lab at Hog Island, and Black Guillemot.

Birding Opportunity in Cuba by BirdsCaribbean
http://www.birdscaribbean.org/
Join acclaimed Cuban bird guide, Ernesto Reyes Mouriño, on the adventure of a lifetime. Two trips:
January 23-30, 2016 (7-day)
March 5-15, (10-day trip)
Cost of January trip=$3,500 including airfare from Tampa. Go to website above and sign up soon.
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 $20 (individual) or $25 (Family or Household), along with the membership form available for downloading from our web site (www.capecodbirdclub.org/join/) to: CCBC, PO Box 485, Centerville, MA 02632

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          Peter Flood  Secretary  (pomarine@comcast.net)
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          Gerry Cooperman  Assistant Treasurer  (trogon6@aol.com)

Directors:  Mark Faherty  Programs  (mfaherty@massaudubon.org)
          Eldon Ziegler  Club Merchandise  (eldonz@atlanticdb.com)
          Paul Schlansky  Publicity and Outreach  (schlansky2@gmail.com)
          Jane Martin  Refreshments  (janeemartin@comcast.net)
          Judith Davis  The Kingfisher Editor  (motherjude@comcast.net)
          Stefanie Paventy  Trips Coordinator  (stefpav09@gmail.com)

Ex-officio:  Ken Casson  Membership Co-chair  (casson1@netscape.com)
         Barbara Grasso  Membership Co-chair  (quinngrasso@aol.com)

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