President’s Message

Happy New Year and welcome to our first seasonal newsletter. This is our winter newsletter covering the months of January, February, and March. I’m excited about this new venture for the club and hope that you will all enjoy receiving a newsletter that will now be jam packed with information, great articles, and three months worth of walks.

The winter months are perfect for watching your feeders for the club’s Backyard Feeder Census. Keep your feeders well stocked and your heated birdbaths filled with water during the second complete weekend of each month. Then grab a warm cup of coffee or hot chocolate, sit by the fire, and enjoy all the wonderful birds that will come. If you’re new to the club and would like to participate in this fun event you can download a check-list from the club’s website at: http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/feeder census.htm.

Make sure that there’s plenty of shelter for the birds in your yard. This will help protect them from the harsh weather and from any predators in the area. For the past few years I’ve been creating a brush pile in my yard. Last year a male Eastern Towhee spent most of the winter in my yard feeding on the ground under the feeders and finding shelter in my brush pile. Though you will most likely find more common birds such as Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch at your feeders, you may also find a nice surprise. Two years ago I had a beautiful male Purple Finch at my sunflower feeder.

Winter is also a perfect time of the year to head to the coast. Since the beaches are nearly empty it’s much easier to find a parking spot. Take a ride to Nauset Beach in Orleans and search through the rough surf for Harlequin Duck or head to Loop Beach in Cotuit to scan the calm waters of Nantucket Sound for Barrow’s Goldeneye. Be sure to check the gulls too. Among all those Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls you may find an Iceland, Glaucous or Lesser Black-backed Gull.

I also enjoy checking the woodlands and thickets during the winter months. The Mashpee River Woodlands is a great place for a winter walk. Here I listen for the high pitched calls of Golden-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper. Usually I find several species of ducks in the river and occasionally I’ll see Great Blue Heron hunting along the river’s edge.

The Falmouth bike path area has many great thickets where you might find wintering birds such as Gray Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, and Fox Sparrow.

Be sure to check our walks page on our website at: http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/walks.htm. We always have fun and exciting walks for all to attend. So grab your hand warmers and foot warmers, bundle up and join us as we explore the coasts, bays, woodlands, and thickets for some great winter birding.

I hope all of you have a wonderful year filled with happiness, good health, and lots of great birds!

Mary Keleher
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, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631
Website: http://www.massbird.org/CCBC

Officers
Mary Keleher President
Ginnie Page Vice President
Peter Flood Secretary
Carolyn Kennedy Treasurer

Directors
Stephanie Ellis
Cynthia Franklin
Dan Furbish
Al Curtis
David Clapp
Gretchen Putonen

Newsletter
Editor ~ Ed Banks    E-mail: capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Membership/Address Changes~ Carolyn Kennedy
E-mail: ccbcmembership@verizon.net

Nominating Committee Chair ~ Diane Silverstein
January 8, 2007
Blair Nikula:
“Penguins, Petrels, and Prions: An Antarctic Adventure”

Blair Nikula, a native Cape Codder and life-long birder, is a former regional editor for American Birds (now North American Birds), a past-president of the Cape Cod Bird Club, and currently serves as a member of the Mass Avian Records Committee and an associate member of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Advisory Committee. Blair has also been studying and photographing dragonflies and damselflies for about 15 years. He co-edits Ode News, a newsletter about the odonates of Southern New England. He has co-authored the Stokes’ Beginner’s Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies, and A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts. He is currently working on a revision of The Birds of Cape Cod.

In 2004, Blair had an opportunity to spend four weeks on a Russian ship in Antarctica assisting in seabird research. In this program he will share some of his images and experiences from this exciting trip!

February 12, 2007
Peter Bono:
“Birds of Thailand”

“There it was! A reptilian-appearing head popped-out suddenly from the surrounding vegetation. Then, the rest of the body emerged. I could see its dark hood, red bill, yellow iris with red orbital ring, and purplish-blue iridescence on the side of the face. The bird was huge. It disappeared and then reappeared as it passed behind tree trunks and plants. A Coral-billed Ground-Cuckoo!

It was thrilling to see this uncommon and local ground-dwelling denizen of Southeast Asia. A member of the old-world cuckoo family, it is related to coucals and malkohas. While we had gotten good views of other birds—Blue Whistling-Thrush, Orange-headed Thrush—and glimpses of other great birds like Blue Pitta, the ground-cuckoo was what we had been waiting for.

Thailand—a wonderful country with friendly people, excellent lodgings, easy logistics—is capable of delivering more than a few such moments as we were to find out on a three-week Field Guides tour in January of 2006 that took us to the North, Northeast, and Southwest of the country as well as to the coastal areas of the Bight of Thailand around Bangkok. Great Hornbill, Green Peacock, Kalij Pheasant, Giant Nut-hatch, Long-tailed Broadbill Limestone Wren-Babbler, White-fronted Scops-Owl, Nordmann’s Greenshank, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and Banded Kingfisher were just a few of the special highlights among the over 450 species of birds seen in a variety of habitats.

Old world families unfamiliar to American birders include hornbills and barbets, cuckoo-shrikes and flowerpeckers, babblers and bulbul, sunbirds and broadbills, laughing-thrushes and bee-eaters.

The names are unfamiliar, too: minivet, leafbird, parrotbill, fulvetta, spider-hunter, mesia, minla, yuhina, iora, sibia, tesia, niltava. Even the familiar are different—woodpeckers, kingfishers, and even magpies are more diverse and brilliantly colored.

See a representative collection of Thailand’s avian, mammalian, and cultural offerings in a slide and video presentation that will whet your appetite for birding adventure—whether in Thailand or other exotic locations.”

(continued next page)
How crisp and clean and clear you are today – autumn in Eastham; how conspicuous those two Savannahs popping up and down in the marsh elder, the yellow supercilia flashing; how soft the salt marsh, stretching, stirring in the wind.

How symphonic the waves in tune with a restless flock of plovers and yellowlegs – raw energy rising into the sky, heading out over the bay, continuing their long distance migration.

How dazzling the twisting, turning, rippling charge of little flocks of turnstones, sanderlings and dunlin charging through the air, then sweeping in to feed on the flats.

How purposeful the gulls, wheeling and shuttling back and forth, and how sought after, a Franklin with its dark cheek and neck and the tern-like Bony maneuvering with his bigger buddies.

How motionless we stood as zigzagging, swooping, a Horned lark into the middle of a puddle plopped himself; then came another, claiming the whole puddle.

How lumbering the eiders, low over the waves, aligned, in unison, like big mechanical toys.

How wild and lonely we feel as the Ruddy ducks paddle into our view and the Hairy Woodpecker, curious and cheeky, zipping from tree to tree, tapping and calling.

How healed and renewed we felt as the Golden-crowned kinglet moved through spangles of bittersweet berries, its crown matching, competing with the fruit.

How time stopped today and the long shadow of age and wearing no longer blotted out the sunshine.

Ruth M. Connaughton
October 23, 2006

Trip Leaders Needed
Please send any bird walk requests that you would like to lead, co-lead or discuss, to Ginie Page at: 508-349-6810 or vpage@juno.com
She will respond via email to help do a write-up for a walk that all club members will enjoy or you can speak with her at any of our meetings.
We need more trip leaders so please help the club where you can. You can lead, or co-lead, half-day walks, a 2-hour walk, or all day trips.
Everyone can be a “leader”, a bird club trip is a TEAM effort and it's always FUN.
Many thanks go out to ALL the past bird walk leaders!
*Please Note
Heavy snow, ice or rain cancels all trips.
Call leader if in doubt.

New Year Birds
Mon January 1, 2007
12 Noon - 4P.M.
Mid-Cape or Hot Spots
Get your 2007 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 508-430-0845 or edbanks@verizon.net

Jan 6 - Sat 8:30 AM-Noon Marstons Mills
Warm & cozy viewing of a variety of "Yard Birds" in a natural and enhanced habitat! View ducks on Round Pond from the property. Maybe a trip to nearby Mill Pond or Nye Pond. Beginning birders ALWAYS WELCOME!
68 Liberty Lane, Marstons Mills. Leaders: Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski 508-428-8494

Jan 7 - Sun 8 AM
Woods Hole/Falmouth
The shore, ponds and thickets. Meet at the parking lot near the Shining Sea Bike Path on Locust Street in Falmouth (which is on the North side of Locust street near the intersection with Mill Road).
Leader: Greg Hirth 508-457-4356; or ghirth@whoi.edu

Jan 15 - Mon 7 AM - 2 PM Barnstable Area
We’ll explore ponds, thickets and the waters of Nantucket Sound. Meet at the Honey Dew Donuts on Route 28 near the Barnstable/Mashpee town line. Due to limited parking we will all need to carpool.
Leader: Mary Keleher 508-477-1473 or marylack@yahoo.com

Jan 20 - Sat 9 AM - Noon Mashpee
"Yard Birds" from a great vantage point overlooking beautiful Poponesset Bay. Up close looks at yard birds---maybe carolina wren, brown creeper---plus scope views of the bay and all it offers, from the deck.
Leaders: Dick and Shirley Henshall, 24 Captains Row, Mashpee. 508-457-4356.

Jan 26 – 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, Nini-gret 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. Leader: Frank Caruso, 508-477-9807 or fcaruso@umext.umass.edu.

Feb 3 - Sat 8:30AM - Noon Marstons Mills
Warm & cozy viewing of a variety of "Yard Birds" in a natural and enhanced habitat! View ducks on Round Pond from the property. Maybe a trip to nearby Mill Pond or Nye Pond. Beginning birders ALWAYS WELCOME!
68 Liberty Lane, Marstons Mills. Leaders: Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski 508-428-8494

Feb 10 - Sat 8 - 11 AM Sandwich
Join CCBC past-president Phil Kyle and check out the Bay/Canal from Hemisphere's AKA Horizon's, Sandwich Marina, Town Neck Beach - Boardwalk Area and possibly the Gamefarm. Meet at Marylou's Coffee 69 Tupper Rd. Sandwich - just off of 6A near #2 Stop/Shop. Any questions call 508-495-0196

Feb 10 - Sat 1 PM - Dusk Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield
Meet at the commuter lot on the "other" side of the Sagamore Bridge for carpooling. We will check out some great places in Plymouth and other areas. Then we will go to DWWS for some late birding and at dusk a chance of short-eared and long-eared owls and other evening creatures. Don't miss this one!
Leader: Dan Furbish yellowrail@comcast.net

And while you’re out! (see next trip)

Feb 10 - Sat 1 PM - Dusk Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield
Meet at the commuter lot on the "other" side of the Sagamore Bridge for carpooling. We will check out some great places in Plymouth and other areas. Then we will go to DWWS for some late birding and at dusk a chance of short-eared and long-eared owls and other evening creatures. Don't miss this one!
Leader: Dan Furbish yellowrail@comcast.net

(continued next page)
Club Trips (continued)

Feb 13 - Tues 8:30 AM
Wellfleet to P’Town
Meet at the Wellfleet town pier where we will scope for interesting gulls, alcids, loons and other close in treats. Then we will work our way to the end of the Cape checking the ocean and harbors. A warming stop for “coffee and” will be arranged. We will also try to find any rarities on land as well.
Leader: Ginie Page
508-349-6810 or vgpage@juno.com

Feb 18 – Sunday 7-10 AM
Mashpee River Woodlands.
Meet in the parking area on Quinaquisset Ave. We will carpool to River Road and walk approximately two miles back to the parking area. From the Mashpee Rotary take Route 28 towards Hyannis. Take the first right onto Quinaquisset Ave. The woodlands parking area is around the corner on the right. Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

Mar 17 - Sat 8:30 AM-Noon
Marstons Mills
Warm & cozy viewing of a variety of "Yard Birds" in a natural and enhanced habitat! Maybe even see a few early spring arrivals. View ducks on Round Pond from the property. Maybe a trip to nearby Mill Pond or Nye Pond. Beginning birders are ALWAYS WELCOME!
68 Liberty Lane Marstons Mills. Leaders: Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski 508-428-8494

And while you’re out!
(see next trip)

Mar 17 - Sat 5:30 PM - Dusk
Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth
Meet in the parking area to the Crane WMA. From Route 151 take the dirt road between the ballfield and the Nickelodeon Theater to the end and park. We’ll walk the fields to look for grassland birds then listen for American Woodcocks displaying at dusk. Rain/snow cancels. Leader: Mary Keleher 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

Mar 18 - Sun 8 AM
Mid-Cape
Meet at Corporation Beach in Dennis to scope for water birds. We will then look at several ponds and the ocean as well. There should be a good number of later wintering and early spring birds.
Leader: Mark Tuttle 508-362-3015

Mar 20 - Tues 6 PM - Dusk
North Truro. Woodcocks and Sunset or, "The Rites of Spring" Celebrate the Vernal Equinox. Meet along High Head Rd. (just off Rte 6 south of Pilgrim Lake) We will spend some time with the birds of the evening before watching for woodcocks engaged in their annual rites. Call if the weather looks "ify."
Leader: Ginie Page 508-349-6810 or vgpage@juno.com

TRIPS COORDINATOR VACANCY

Many thanks to Dan Furbish for volunteering as Trips Coordinator for the past year and a half. Dan has done a wonderful job in coordinating many great trips for the club.
He even managed to get some of us "off Cape" by scheduling co-sponsored walks with Brookline Bird Club, South Shore Bird Club, and Allen Bird Club. Great job Dan, thank you.
We are now looking to fill this important position ASAP. If anyone is interested in serving on the board as Trips Coordinator please contact one of the board members.
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.

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WALK CHECKLIST FOR LEADERS

• 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/

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Bluebird Trails Update

The Cape Cod Bird Club network of bluebird nesting boxes currently includes 1 trail in Dennis and 2 trails in Harwich. There’s great news for 2007 as we may have the opportunity to add a third trail in Harwich and a new trail in Chatham. The Town of Harwich has approved increasing the 12 boxes at Thompson’s Field to 24. Ben Wright, of the Harwich Conservation Trust, has played an important role in development of the Harwich trails.

In 2007, we are approaching the coordination of the trails in a different way. Individual monitors are agreeing to take responsibility of the data collection for trails. Currently, Carolyn Kennedy has agreed to oversee Crowes Pasture in Dennis, and Terry Gavin and Judith Bruce have offered to oversee Thompson’s Field. We are still looking for a volunteer to oversee the trail at Bank St. Bogs in Harwich. If we do create a trail in Chatham, this will be thanks to Joanna Schurmann who has alerted me to this possibility. (I have already asked Joanna to think about coordinating this trail if it comes to be.)

If you are interested in taking on the Bank St. Bogs coordinator role, please call me at 508-364-1370. I will be happy to answer questions and give you more information. This is an exciting project for the club and is another opportunity for you to become involved in one of our missions, conservation and preservation of the Cape’s natural resources.

by Diane Silverstein

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New Members

We welcome the following new members:

David Belcher, Falmouth
Chesta Buckley, Cataumet
Thomas Knight Burgess, Cotuit
Ann Goulding, Dennis
Eleanor Lunde, Monument Beach
Maggic McDonagh, Belmont
Keelin Miller, Manhattan, NY
Donald Peters, Falmouth
Chris Sidoli, Harwichport

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!
March 12, 2007

Alan Hinde:
“Wintering Raptors
of the Great Basin”
Twenty Years Census
and Banding in
Utah and Nevada

Join Al Hinde for a remark-
able evening as he shares
his adventures banding
raptors of all kinds and
conducting a census of win-
tering raptors in the Great
Basin.

His adventures include
hacking and releasing
peregrine falcons in Ver-
mont and New Hampshire
from 1983-85 for Cornell
and The Peregrine Fund,
banding and directing
raptor-banding operations
with HawkWatch Interna-
tional on the Goshute
Mountains in Nevada, from

Also, five seasons banding
then directing raptor-
banding operations in Eilat,
Israel, for the International
Birding Centre, from 1988-
2000.

In addition he has banded
raptors in Sw England;
Talamanca, Costa Rica and
Cape May, New Jersey.

From 1985 to the present
he has banded and con-
ducted a census of winter-
ing raptors in Nevada and
Utah -- “The Great Basin.”

Another CCBC program you
cannot afford to miss!

Events of Interest

The Cape Cod Natural
History Conference
On Saturday, March 17,
2007 the Wellfleet Bay
Wildlife Santuary will be
hosting the Cape Cod Natu-
ral History Conference, a
full day conference featur-
ing presenters from envi-
ronmental organizations
across Cape Cod, speaking
on a variety of natural his-
tory topics. For more infor-
more information go to the WBWS
website or call 508-349-2615 for a registration form
and details. Bring a lunch.

Mass Audubon Annual
Bidders Meeting
Saturday March 24, 2007
This year held jointly with
the Wilson Ornithological
Society at the Sheraton
Colonial Hotel in Wakefield.
For more information,
contact Mass Audubon at
www.massaudubon.org

2nd ANNUAL
BIRDING CAPE COD
WEEKEND
May 12 & May 13, 2007

On Saturday, May 12 and
Sunday, May 13, 2007
members of the Cape Cod
Bird Club will lead walks to
top birding areas throughout
Cape Cod. There will be
one walk in each town on
both Saturday and Sunday.
Mark your calendars!

Editor’s Note:

Attention All Readers

Your input is needed if
this newsletter is to con-
tinue the tradition of past
issues.

Please submit any bird-
related stories, poems,
trip reports or other expe-
riences you think might be
of interest.

You don’t have to be a
Ruth Connaughton (see
her delightful work on
page 6) to contribute.

Just send a letter to me
at: 7 Vineyard Lane
Harwich, MA 02645

or email me at:
capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Ed Banks

CCBC Merchandise
Available at all meetings

Birding Cape Cod $15.95
(A where-to-bird “must” for
any Cape Cod birder!)
CCBC Cap 15.00
CCBC Decal 1.00
CCBC Checklist .75
CCBC Patch 3.00
CCBC Pin 5.00
Bino/Camera Strap 12.50
Organizer Pack 17.00