President’s Message

I hope all of you had a good summer filled with wonderful discoveries and experiences. The most exciting experience for me was traveling up to New Hampshire in June to see a pair of breeding Mississippi Kites. For some reason this pair or kites decided to nest in a large maple tree in a residential area in the small town of New Market. This was a first breeding record for the New England area. Though a pair of Mississippi Kites has been nesting in Virginia for a number of years, they are not known to breed north of North Carolina. They were featured on the local news stations and in the local newspapers. This was an amazing event, a southern bird nesting in New Hampshire and in such an accessible place. Now that summer is over I look forward to the fall. We’re fortunate to live in an area of the world where one season’s passing means another one comes with change. Migration is here again, the harder one that is. It’s time to brush up on those confusing fall warbler plumages and all those LBJ’s (Little Brown Jobs) also known as sparrows.

The best thing to do for help in identifying these fall migrants is to join one of our club walks. We have many capable leaders and there is always strength in numbers. Beginning birders and new club members are especially welcome on our club walks. Joining a club walk is a great way to get to know other club members, find out where all the good birding spots are located, and learn more about the Cape Cod Bird Club. The Cape Cod Bird Club’s mission is to promote knowledge and conservation of the bird life and natural resources of Cape Cod, encourage scientific and educational projects about birds, and present programs and walks of interest to members and guests.

Not only do we offer guided walks, we also host monthly meetings from September to May at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster. During these meetings we are treated to great programs about birds and nature. The club publishes the Kingfisher, a quarterly newsletter with articles written by club members, information on walks and meetings, and other programs of interest related to birds and nature. Members of the club are encouraged to volunteer as monitors for the club’s 90-nestbox bluebird trail or participate in the Cape Cod Waterfowl Census, Backyard Feeder Census, Cape Cod Area Christmas Bird Counts, and Mass. Audubon’s Bird-a-thon. For the past several years the club has hosted an annual Members’ Night meeting with a Members’ Slide Show, a Bake Sale and a Book Auction to help raise money for the club’s scholarship fund and for the Birders’ Exchange Program. Since 2003 the club has provided a $500.00 natural sciences scholarship to Cape Cod Community College and has donated a total of $1,753.00 to the Birders’ Exchange Program. Other donations have been made over the years to organizations such as Masschusetts Audubon and the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. All of this is possible because of your generous donations and your membership renewals. I would like to thank all of you for being members of a fantastic bird club.

Mary Keleher
Dues were due September 1st. Our records indicate that your dues:

☐ are paid, thank you!  ☐ are not paid (if not paid, this will be your last issue!)

**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](http://www.massbird.org/CCBC)

**Officers**

Mary Keleher  President
Mark Faherty  Vice President
Peter Flood  Secretary
Carolyn Kennedy  Treasurer

**Directors**

Julie O'Neil  Vianna Heath
Matt Malin  Denise Hall
David Clapp  Gretchen Putonen

**Newsletter**

Editor ~ Ed Banks  E-mail: edbanks@verizon.net or capekingfisher@yahoo.com

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

**Nominating Committee Chair ~ Ginie Page**
Club Trips - Fall 2008

Please Note:
Heavy rain or snow cancels all trips. Call leader if in doubt. Also, please check our website for any changes or additions.

Oct 9 - Thurs – 8 AM – 12PM
Wellfleet, Duck Harbor Rd
After checking pier area and Wellfleet Harbor we will drive and park near the Chequesset Dike and walk the Duck Harbor Road along the Herring River. We might see migrating passerines, early waterfowl and possible surprises. Meet at Wellfleet pier. Leader: Ginie Page, (508) 349-6810.

Oct 12 - SUN – 7 AM
Mashpee River Woodlands
We’ll walk the scenic trails along the Mashpee River to look for land birds, wading birds, shorebirds, marsh birds, and raptors. Meet in the parking area on Quinacisset Ave. From the Mashpee rotary take Route 28 towards Hyannis. Take first right on to Quinacisset Ave. The parking area is around the corner on the right. From there we will carpool to River Road and hike 2 miles back to the main parking area. Rain cancels. Leader: Mary Keleher, (508) 477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com.

Oct 18 – SAT – 8 AM – 12 PM
Mid-Cape Cod Community Gardens
We will bird the Mid-Cape community gardens in hopes of seeing Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Buntings, sparrows, Dickcissel, and other migrants. Meet at the Park & Ride at exit 10 off Route 6. Leader: David Clapp, (508) 896-7322

Oct 26 – SUN – 8 AM - 2PM
Orleans and Eastham
We’ll go “coast to coast” to check out birds on Cape Cod Bay, the Atlantic Ocean and the ponds in between. Ducks, sparrows, migrating hawks and remaining shorebirds are possible. Meet at the Hole-in-One Donut shop to carpool near the intersection of Route 6A and Main Street in Orleans. Bring a lunch. Leader: Matt Malin, (508) 274-8472 or hossfeldt@yahoo.com.

Nov 1 – SAT – 8 AM - 12PM
Falmouth & vicinity
Meet at the McDonalds on Route 28 about four miles south from the Bourne Bridge. We will bird the Falmouth area looking for coastal arrivals and good birds of the thickets- maybe a Chat. Leader: David Clapp, (508)896-7322

Nov 9 – SUN – 8AM - 9:30 AM
Sandwich Game Farm
We’ll be looking for late migrants, year-round residents and of course the rare accidental. We’ve seen the usual suspects; Green Winged Teal, Kingfisher, Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red Breasted Nuthatch, and occasionally Golden Crowned Kinglets, Cooper's Hawk and Northern Harrier. We’ll meet at Game Farm parking lot. The entrance to the parking lot , when heading west on 6A is just after going over the Scorton Creek Bridge from which you’ll see the marsh opposite Premier Jeep on the right when heading west. It’s about a half mile in to the parking area. Call with any questions, Phil Kyle (508) 495-0196.

Nov 23 – SUN – 7:30 AM -12PM
Falmouth
Let’s check out some of the Upper Cape hot-spots of late fall for migrants, sparrows, ducks and possible western vagrants like Western Kingbird at the Crane Wildlife Management Area, Coonamesset Pond, Dutchman’s Ditch and the salt ponds along Nantucket Sound. Meet at the Nickelodeon Cinema on Route 151 in the main parking lot, and we will carpool from there. Dress for the weather, heavy rain cancels. Leader: Matt Malin, (508) 274-8472, hossfeldt@yahoo.com.

Dec 7 - SUN - 9AM – 3PM
Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey
Nature’s Circle will lead a section of the annual Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Census in Falmouth. The group will visit twelve sites, from Sippewisset Marsh to Caleb’s Pond in Waquoit. We can expect to see Hooded Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Great Blue Herons and many others. We shall start at 9 am at Woodneck Beach and finish around 3 pm in Waquoit, so participants should bring a lunch, binoculars, a spotting scope if you can, a sense of adventure, and wear very warm clothes. It is a great day outdoors and you'll see ponds you never knew were there!
This will be the ninth year that Alison Robb with the help of other volunteers has counted waterfowl across Falmouth early in December. To sign up call Nature’s Circle, (508) 564-4331, or email: nature@cape.com. To get to Woodneck Beach take Route 28 to the west side of Falmouth. Turn onto Sippewisset Road, near Goodwill Park and go west approximately 1.5 miles and turn right onto Wood Neck Road and follow to the beach parking lot.

Dec 18 - THUR - 8:30 AM-12PM
Wellfleet to P-town
Meet at Wellfleet town pier to carpool and we will check various spots along the way looking for wintering waterfowl and scour the seas for alcids. If we are lucky a rarity or two may be lurking in the bushes.
Leader: Ginie Page, (508) 349-6810.

New Year Birds
Mon January 1, 2009
12 Noon - 4PM.
Mid-Cape or Hot Spots
Get your 2009 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

2008 Cape Cod Area
Christmas Bird Counts

Cape Cod
Sunday, December 14th
Contact Blair Nikula 508-432-6348 or odenews@odenews.org

Buzzards Bay
Saturday, December 20th
Contact Jerimiah Trimble jtrimble@oeb.harvard.edu

Stellwagen Bank/Provincetown
Saturday December 20, Simon Perkins, 781-259-2148

Mid-Cape
Sunday, December 21st
Contact Peter Trimble 508-477-3847 or merlin042@comcast.net

Truro
TBA Contact Tom Lipsky tip1@comcast.net or 978-897-5429 or Ginie Page vgpage@juno.com or 508-349-6810

Nantucket
Saturday December 27th
Ken Blackshaw 508-228-0709

Martha’s Vineyard
Saturday, January 3, Robert Culbert, 508-693-4908

Please check the Cape Cod Bird Club’s website for additional counts and updates,
http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/cbc.htm
26th Annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census
December 6 & 7, 2008

During the first weekend of November of 1983, Blair Nikula and members of the Cape Cod Bird Club initiated a census of the lakes and ponds on Cape Cod. Participants were instructed to identify and count all the waterfowl (loons, grebes, geese, ducks, and coot) present on each pond. Covering 202 ponds, participants tallied 3,957 individuals of 22 species of waterfowl. The census continued the following year but was moved to the first weekend in December. Many ducks and geese do not arrive on Cape Cod until inland bodies of water freeze and the later date would more closely coincide with peak waterfowl numbers locally. Covering 213 ponds, 23 species of waterfowl were counted with 8,950 individuals being recorded in 1984. Now in its 26th year the Cape Cod Waterfowl Census is an excellent example of one way in which birders, regardless of their expertise, can gather useful data and make a meaningful contribution to our knowledge of the Massachusetts avifauna. Waterfowl are relatively conspicuous, generally easy to identify, and thus readily censused with only a modest effort. If you would like to participate please contact Blair Nikula at (508) 432-6348.

Northern Pintail
(Photo by Richard Johnson)

Cape Cod Bird Club 2008 Fall Programs
David Clapp, Program Coordinator

October 13, 2008

Peter Bono:
"Peru's Wilderness: The Manu Biosphere Reserve"

Peru is the home of almost 20% of the world's species of birds (approx. 1800 of 9800)--and more than 60% have been recorded from SE Peru, comprising the Departments of Cusco and Madre de Dios. Large gamebirds such as curassows, guans, and trumpeters still can be seen, as well as several species of showy macaws and parrots, not to mention 13 species of monkeys, Brazilian Tapir, Giant Otters, and even "El Tigre", the magnificent Jaguar.

Join Peter Bono as he retraces his recent (July-August 2008) trip to Southeast Peru. Starting in the old colonial and Incan city of Cusco at 10,500', up to the puna and paramo zone at Abra Malaga (14,500') looking in the remnant Polylepis forests for endangered endemics like Royal-Circledes and White-browed Tit-Spintail and checking the mixed flocks foraging the elfin forest for endemics like Parodi's Hemispingus (a tanager), before dropping down to the arid, desert-like intermontane valleys around Abancay at 6000', seeking Koepecke's Screech-Owl and Pale-tailed Canastero.

Driving east out of Cusco over the Ajcanacu Pass (13,000') before starting the long, slow descent down the "Manu Road" he passes through 5-6 life zones as he seeks the specialists of each zone--tanagers and hummingbirds abound, along with more secretive species.

At the end of the road 11 days later (at about 1650'), he boards a riverboat and head first to a lodge nearby, where he spent 3 days looking for the Amazonian foothill specialists, and then boards the boat again for an 8-hour journey down the river to the Manu Wildlife Center in the true lowlands, where he spent a week birding the different micro habitats--bamboo, (Continued next page)

November 10, 2008

Blair Nikula:
“The Cape Cod Bay Seabird Trap”

Cape Cod Bay has long been known as a trap for marine mammals and more recently has received considerable attention as a trap for sea turtles in the late fall. Although less publicized and less well known among the general public, the bay is an equally effective – though generally less lethal – trap for seabirds. This phenomenon occurs most frequently during and immediately following north-easterly storms when large numbers of shearwaters, storm-petrels, gannets, phalaropes, jaegers, and other pelagic species are blown shoreward and become “trapped” by the bay’s confusing geography. Blair will describe these avian spectacles, offer an historical perspective, outline the circumstances that produce these events, and pose some questions that remain unanswered.

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, a former associate member of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Advisory Committee, and currently serves as a member of the Mass Avian Records Committee. Blair has also been studying and photographing dragonflies and damselflies for about 15 years. He 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.

His incredible photos and vast knowledge make his programs a not-to-be-missed event!

Blair Nikula
2 Gilbert Lane
Harwich Port, MA 02646
mailto:odenews@odenews.org
web site: http://www.odenews.org/
**Fall Programs Continued**

(Peter Bono continued)

terra firma, varzea, oxbow lakes for the abundant families that are represented here: woodpeckers and puffbirds, furnarids and woodcreepers, antbirds and tyrant flycatchers, jacamars and oropendolas. Almost 600 species have been recorded in and around the Manu Wildlife Center alone; he saw or heard 279 of them during 6 full days there.

On the whole 24-day trip, he saw or heard 100 tyrant-flycatchers and 50+ each of hummingbirds, furnarids, antbirds, and tanagers.

Peter Bono is a computer software developer from Yarmouth Port. He started birding at about age 8, but his passionate avocation is travel and world birding, which he started at about age 45. He manages to take enough photographs to share his experience with other birders and occasionally tolerant family and friends. On this trip, Peter hit his long-sought 5000 milestone with a Peruvian Pied-tail (a hummingbird) and ended the trip at 5109 species.

Peter R. Bono
P.O. Box 705
Yarmouthport, MA 02675
phone (h): +1-508-375-9421
phone (w): +1-508-375-9420
http://www.prba.com/prbpers.htm

Please Note:
Programs are subject to change, please check our website for updates.

**Members’ Night**
December 8, 2008

The CCBC is proud to present one of the highlights of the year and you can be one of the stars! This night belongs to you, our loyal members!

**Silent Auction** - over 100 books plus gear, artwork, and other items will be available for bids. Proceeds will be donated to the Birder’s Exchange.

**Door Prizes** - This could be your lucky night!

**Bake Sale** - Baked goods for holiday eating or treating!

**Digital Slide Show** - a fantastic presentation of members’ birding and nature photos.

**Members Table** - A table will be set up for members or guests to display any bird-related information or items they might choose.

**Refreshments** - juices, cookies and other goodies, a feature of every club meeting!

Don’t miss this annual extravaganza!

**New Members**

We welcome the following new members:

Jonathan & Janet Husband, Brewster

Beverly Thomas, Brewster

Harry Azadian, E. Sandwich

Linnea Olson, Provincetown

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

**Digital Slide Show**

Club member Peter Bono has again volunteered to assist in the digital slide portion of this year’s Members’ Night, Monday, December 8, 2008. Generally speaking, you may email your images to Peter (pbono@prba.com) in any format as an attachment. He’ll resize and rename them as needed and organize them into folders. Don’t worry if you are not “computer savvy”. Get a family member or friend to help email the images or put them on a CD and hand them to Peter at a meeting.

For computer-savvy members interested in making Peter’s task a bit easier, some guidelines follow:

Contact Peter Bono ASAP if you intend to participate even if you are not yet prepared to email the zip file containing your images. This will give Peter an idea of how many presenters we will have.

We ask that members submit 10-15 images.

1. Send up to 15 digital images in jpg format in a zip file attachment to Peter Bono (pbono@prba.com).

2. Crop (if necessary) and resize the original camera image to 1024 x 768 resolution.

3. Name each file as follows: "XXX_YYYYYYYY.jpg" where XXX are your initials and YYYYYYYY is the species name. Use underscore character (_) for spaces in the bird’s name.

   For example: PRB_Black-fronted_Piping-guan.jpg.

4. Send your images by November 30th to allow Peter enough time to put the whole slide show together.

5. For more info, please call Peter at 508-375-9421.

**Walk Check List**

For Leaders

- Walk leaders may now download the walk check list 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/
Your CCBC Scholarship Dollars at Work

The following is taken from a card received from Carol E. Eastman, the 2008 CCBC Scholarship recipient:

South Orleans
June 3, 2008

To the Members of the Cape Cod Bird Club;

Thank you so very much for your generous gift. It is very helpful and greatly appreciated. The next step in my education begins tomorrow with an introduction to bird monitoring at Herring River in Wellfleet. I can’t wait! The APCC internship should be really interesting. Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,
Carol E. Eastmen

Carol is working toward a degree in environmental sciences. She is a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and plans to pursue a career in environmental technology, with interest in water quality, ecology and GIS. She has a degree in Information Technology and is now completing her certificate program in Water Supply to combine the two interests. The CCBC wishes her great success.

Cape Cod Birds Listserv for Cape Cod Area Bird Sightings & Discussions

CapeCodBirds is a new Internet Listserv for the discussion of all aspects of birdwatching or information pertaining to birding on Cape Cod. Suggested topics are bird sightings, identification, status and distribution, birding locations, and announcements from birding organizations.

To read posts, go to the Cape Cod Birds Listserv website: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/capecodbirds/
To post, send an email to: capecodbirds@yahoo.com

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.

CCBC Merchandise

Available at all meetings and just in time for the holidays!

Birding Cape Cod $15.95
A “must have” for every Cape Cod Birder!
CCBC Cap 15.00
CCBC Knit Hat 15.00
CCBC Decal 1.00
CCBC Checklist .75
CCBC Patch 3.00
CCBC Pin 5.00
Bino/Camera Strap 12.50
Coming Soon: Fleece Caps!
Thank you, Marge and Ron!

The Cape Cod Bird Club, and the entire birding community, owes a huge “thank you” to Marge and Ron Murphy of South Dennis. These wonderful and generous people went “above and beyond” in welcoming birders to their yard to observe the Broad-billed Hummingbird that still visits their feeder. This is a first state record and was a life bird for many of the hundreds of birders who flocked (sorry, I couldn’t resist the pun) to the Murphys’ yard.

The Murphys set up chairs and encouraged birders to arrive early and stay late. Thankfully, the birders visiting their yard have been respectful of their hosts and quite grateful for the opportunity to see this rare species. They have recorded more than five-hundred observers and counting!

The Broad-billed Hummingbird breeds in a small area in our Southwest, primarily south-central and south-eastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico and southwestern Texas. It is found year round in Mexico.

Their yard is a birder’s paradise with every type of feeder and special plantings arranged in the most appealing manner. Their yard overlooks Grassy Pond and offers great views of shorebirds and ducks.

For those of you who have not had a chance to see this magnificent bird the welcome mat is still out at 65 Grassy Pond Road.(P.O. Box 294, 02669)

And meeting the Murphys is just as delightful!

Ed Banks
Cape Cod Bird Club Backyard Feeder Census 2008-2009