President’s Message

Welcome members, old and new, and I’m sure you join me in welcoming our long-awaited spring! I am fortunate to work with a wonderful group of talented, dedicated, and just “nice to be around” people who make up the club’s Board of Directors. Two of these Directors will be leaving the board in June. Ginie Page has served on the board for a number of years as both Trips Coordinator and Vice President. Ginie has done a wonderful job in both of these positions. Al Curtis has fulfilled his three year term as the club’s Publicity Director. Al has done a great job in getting the word out about our club meetings and walks. I would like to thank both Ginie and Al for their service. Their work has been much appreciated.

As a club we rely on our members to volunteer for open positions on the Board of Directors. Your involvement helps the Cape Cod Bird Club continue to be a successful organization. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors please fill out the club’s volunteer form, which can be downloaded from our website at http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/VolunteerForm.pdf

During the months of February and March we saw the return of the early spring migrants. Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds arrived on schedule attacking my feeders with a vengeance. Ospreys arrived and began the battle for their breeding territories. Eastern Phoebes announced their arrival with their loud and abrupt “phoebe” song.

Now it’s time for the warblers! These little bundles of energy arrive in spring much to the delight of every birder. After a long cold winter these brightly colored little birds are a welcome sight. Many early migrating warblers including the Yellow-rumped Warbler and Pine Warbler arrive by the third week in April. During a walk at the Mashpee River Woodlands I can easily find twenty or more Pine Warblers. From the dullest females to the brightest males, these warblers are a sure sign of things to come.

The migration of warblers usually peaks during the second and third weeks of May with the later migrants such as the Blackpoll Warbler trickling through at the end of the month into the first week of June. Though the Blackpoll Warbler doesn’t have a beautiful melodious song, it’s one of my favorite songs to hear. Its song is a basic pattern of very high pitched notes usually growing louder in the middle and softer at the end. Some of these warblers will remain in our area to breed but most will move on to breeding areas north of Cape Cod and Massachusetts.

One of the best places on the Cape to witness the migration of warblers is Beech Forest in Provincetown. The sandy trail of Beech Forest wraps around the edges of a freshwater pond through a beech forest mixed with pitch pine and scrub oak. This migrant trap is an oasis amongst the sand dunes of the outer Cape. In some years more than thirty species of warblers can be seen here while they rest and refuel for the next leg of their journey. Each spring the Cape Cod Bird Club offers a series of walks at Beech Forest. Several club members volunteer to lead guided walks every Saturday and Sunday during the month of May. Please join us on one or more of our Beech Forest walks and enjoy these delightful and dazzling little birds.

Mary Keleher
Cape Cod Bird Club
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 RTE 6A, Brewster, MA 02631

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
Ginie Page  Vice President
Peter Flood  Secretary
Carolyn Kennedy  Treasurer

Directors
Julie O'Neil  Vianna Heath
Matt Malin  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
Club Trips - Spring 2008

Please Note:
Heavy rain cancels all trips. Call leader if in doubt.

April 5 - SAT- 7:30-11:00 AM
South Cape Beach State Park, Mashpee. Beach and bay walk (3 miles of sand) looking for Piping Plover, Osprey, American Oystercatcher, lingering winter ducks and early migrants. Meet at the Mashpee Town parking lot at the end of Great Oak Rd. Take Great Neck Rd south from the Mashpee Rotary at Rte 28 and then bear left onto Great Oak Rd, just past the entrance to New Seabury. Leader: Matt Malin, (508) 274-8472 or hossfeldt@yahoo.com

April 19th – SAT - 8 - 10 AM
Hawksnest Four Ponds State Conservation Area, Harwich. We’ll walk through several sections of this large undeveloped tract looking for early spring migrants and early nesting residents. Meet on Spruce Rd off of Rte 137 about 1/3 mile down where Hawksnest Rd is on the left. Rain cancels. Leader: Al Curtis (508) 432-8677 or killdeer89@comcast.net

April 20 - SUN - 7:30-10:30 AM
Quashnet River Trail, Falmouth. Woodland walk looking for early arriving passerines and other surprises. Meet at the trailhead off Martin Rd. Take Rte. 28 to/from Falmouth to Martin Rd, near the Falmouth/Mashpee town line, the trailhead is at the north end of Martin Rd on the west side of the Quashnet River. Leader: Matt Malin, (508) 274-8472 or hossfeldt@yahoo.com

April 28 - MON - 8 -10:30 AM
Bells Neck Conservation Area, Harwich. We’ll look for vireos, warblers and other early spring migrants. Ducks, shorebirds, and marsh wren are possible. Meet on Bells Neck Rd in Harwich between East and West Reservoirs. Leaders: Nancy Reider & Ruth Connaughton. Contact Ruth at (508) 432-1580

April 28 - MON - 8:45 AM
Mashpee River Woodlands. Meet in the parking area on Quinaquisset Ave. From Mashpee rotary take Rte 28 towards Hyannis. Take first right onto Quinaquisset Ave. Parking area is on the right. We will carpool to River Road and walk back to the main parking area. This is a three hour hike along the scenic wooded trails of the Mashpee River. Leader: Mary Keleher, (508) 477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

May 7 - WED - 8 - 11 AM
East Sandwich Game Farm. We’ll look for migrating warblers, and nesting birds. The East Sandwich Game Farm is a 133 acre state-owned property, managed by Thornton Burgess Society. Meet at the Game Farm parking lot, located on Rte 6A, east of Old Colony Rd and the East Sandwich Post Office on the west side of Scorton Creek. Leader: Ellie Winslow 508-888-1760 or birderellie@verizon.net

May 9 - FRI - 8:15 -10:00 AM
Long Pond/Falmouth. We’ll look for migrants and nesters in the area around Long Pond. Meet in the small parking lot just off the west side of Gifford St (this is one of the entrances to Goodwill Park) about 0.5 miles north of the intersection between Jones Rd and Gifford St. Leader: Greg Hirth (508) 457-4356 or geohawk_1@yahoo.com

May 10 - SAT - 7:30-9:30 AM
Ryder Conservation Area, Sandwich. Over the last couple of years we have seen Parula, Magnolia, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped, Prairie, Pine, Black & White Warblers, Ovenbird and Yellowthroat, Great-Horned’s calling during day, as well as Orchard Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-Eyed Vireo, and Scarlet Tanager. Meet at the conservation parking lot on South Sandwich Rd, just north of the Sandwich/Mashpee town line. Leader: Phil Kyle (508) 495-0196

May 16 - FRI - 8:15 -10:00 AM
Long Pond/Falmouth. We’ll look for migrants and nesters in the area around Long Pond. Meet in the small parking lot just off the west side of Gifford St (this is one of the entrances to Goodwill Park) about 0.5 miles north of the intersection between Jones Rd and Gifford St. Leader: Greg Hirth (508) 457-4356 or geohawk_1@yahoo.com

May 17 - SAT - 8:00 - Noon
Mass Audubon Long Pasture Sanctuary. Meet in the parking lot. After birding the Sanctuary grounds, and depending on weather and bird activity, we will visit other local spots along 6A in Barnstable and Yarmouth Port. Bring a snack and water, but we do not plan on continuing past lunchtime unless the birding is so fantastic that nobody wants to leave! (continued next page)
Beech Forest

As in the past, the Club will have a walk in the Beech Forest in Provincetown each Saturday and Sunday morning in May. The Beech Forest is one of the best places on Cape Cod to see and hear spring migrants. Take the Race Point Exit off Route 6 at the light in P’town. Meet in the Beech Forest parking lot. All walks begin at 8 AM, but birders may wish to do an earlier loop and then meet for the official trip. Leaders:

- **Sat May 3** - Blair Nikula
  odenews@odenews.org or (508) 432-6348

- **Sun May 4** - Al Curtis
  kildeer89@comcast.net or (508) 432-8677

- **Sat May 10** - Peter Flood
  pomarine@comcast.net or (508) 258-0113

- **Sun May 11** - Matt Malin
  hossfeldt@yahoo.com or (508) 274-8472

- **Sat May 17** - Ginie Page
  (508) 349-6810

- **Sun May 18** - Peter Flood
  pomarine@comcast.net or (508) 258-0113

- **Sat May 24** - David Clapp
  (508)-896-7322

- **Sun May 25** - Paul Schaub
  (508) 896-7348 or 978-263-2432

- **Sat May 31** - David Clapp
  (508)-896-7322

Directions to Long Pasture Sanctuary: From Rt 6, take exit 7 (Willow Street) to Yarmouth Port. Go north one mile on Willow Street, take a left onto Rt 6A West, go one mile, and take a right on Bone Hill Road (look for a small sign).


Special Attraction: All the species of birds we see will be included in the Mass Audubon Bird-A-Thon totals and will earn money for our the Sanctuary. If you would like to make a pledge to support the Bird-A-Thon, please contact the Sanctuary Director, Ian Ives, at iives@massaudubon.org, or call the Sanctuary at 508-362-7475. THIS IS NOT A CONDITION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE BIRDWALK.

Leader: Peter Bono
pbono@prba.com; (508) 375-9421
Cell: (774) 487-2848

**June 1 - SUN - 7 - 11:00 AM**
Waquoit Bay/Washburn Island, Falmouth – Kayak Birding! We’ll kayak around Washburn Island and watch for shorebirds, wading birds and Osprey while paddling. Meet at the White’s Landing parking lot on Rte 28 in East Falmouth just west of the Childs River Marina, we’ll put in from there. Bring your kayak and paddle, PFD, sunblock, hat, water and snacks. Leader: Matt Malin (508) 274-8472 or hossfeldt@yahoo.com

**June 2 - MON - 8:45- 3:00 PM**
Main streets and backroads of Mashpee. Meet at Honey Dew Donuts on the corner of Cape Drive and Route 28 near the Mashpee/Barnstable town line. We will carpool to various birding hotspots in Mashpee. Bring a lunch. Rain cancels. Leader: Mary Keleher, (508) 477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com.

**June 11 - WED - 6:30 AM**
Morris Island, Chatham. Meet at the Monomoy NWR parking lot on Morris Island. We’ll look for shorebirds, terns, gull and other passerines that are stopping by on their way north or stopping to stay and breed. Leader: Ginie Page (508) 349-6810

**Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch**
9:00 AM – Noon (Most Days)
Leader: Don Manchester, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Staff Member, 508-349-2615. Stop by for a visit to the premiere hawk watching site on Cape Cod. In partnership with the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has sponsored a hawk watch at Pilgrim Heights to document the passage of hundreds of raptors from late March to early June. Park in first parking lot and take Small Swamp Trail to the second overlook.
### Cape Cod Bird Club  
#### Spring Programs

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<td>“Long-tailed Duck: Up Close and Personal”</td>
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<td>May 12, 2008</td>
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#### Timothy White

Stephanie Koch is a native of Arlington, Mass. She received her bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst and explored various fields of biology working for the National Park Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Since graduating from UMass she has combined her love of the coast with her interest in birds, focusing on the conservation of coastal waterbird species. For the last 13 years she has been working at the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge on Cape Cod and in 2006 began a study on the impact of people on shorebirds in the refuge. Because the birds’ nesting season coincides with the recreational season of people there can be a significant impact. Her study examines the behavior of birds with the presence of humans. Stephanie hopes to incorporate her studies into creating additional guidelines for managing the refuge. She will give an overview of the refuge and its importance to shorebirds. She will discuss some of the research that is being conducted, and review preliminary results of the management implications on shorebirds at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. Don’t miss this wonderful program on one of the gems of Cape Cod - Monomoy!

#### Timothy White

Timothy White is currently working towards a Ph. D. in the Ecology, Evolution, & Behavior program at the City University of New York. His research focuses on the winter foraging ecology of Long-tailed Ducks on and around the Nantucket Shoals. This winter, Tim and pilots from the US Fish and Wildlife Service are conducting surveys for seaducks along coastal and offshore waters of New England. Tim is also interested in seabird spatial dynamics, and the processes that dictate seabird patchiness on the open ocean. He has collected data at sea onboard NOAA vessels in the Northwest Atlantic, and onboard the R/V Yuzhmorgeologiva as part of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (AMLR) program. Significant numbers of wintering seaducks seek out productive foraging habitat in the waters that surround the Cape and islands. During winter, tens of thousands of eiders and scoters, as well as hundreds of thousands of Long-tailed Ducks exploit valuable resources offshore from Nantucket and Tuckernuck Islands. The winter population of Long-tailed Ducks around Nantucket has dramatically increased since the 1970's, and Nantucket Christmas bird counts have documented over 300,000 Long-tailed Ducks during spectacular foraging commutes. Using aerial, ship surveys, and land based counts, we are beginning to classify important habitat, document foraging ecology, and elucidate the distribution and abundance of seaducks offshore. Be sure to attend this fascinating program as Tim gives us a closeup view of this beautiful bird.

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[Black-bellied Plover](https://via.placeholder.com/150)  
(Photo by Richard Johnson)
Birding Cape Cod Weekend is Postponed

The Board of Directors for the Cape Cod Bird Club has decided not to schedule the 3rd Annual Birding Cape Cod Weekend Event in May 2008. There are several other events during the month of May such as Mass. Audubon's Bird-a-thon and the Cape Cod Pathway's Walks Weekend as well as Mother's Day and Memorial Day Weekends. These events conflict with the scheduling of the Birding Cape Cod Weekend Event. However, the Board of Directors plans on discussing the possibility of hosting the event in September 2008.

December Gifting

Mary Keleher, our president, says that the December Members Night is her favorite meeting of the year. As your treasurer, it is becoming a favorite one for me, also. Your generosity, as you bid on books and posters and pick up baked items to take home for the holidays, has funded both our scholarship for a student at Cape Cod Community College this spring and a generous donation to Birders' Exchange.

Each spring CCBC donates a $500 scholarship to the Cape Cod Community College Educational Foundation for a student with a career interest in birds and conservation. Last May, I attended the Evening of Excellence awards program and shared the joy and pride as 143 students received over $300,000 in scholarships from the Foundation.

With the $174 collected at the baked goods table on Member's Night, a matching donation, and checks sent by renewing members this fall, we have funded the scholarship for 2008.

A check for $247.50 has been mailed to American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange fund. To learn more about this work, please check out their website at www.americanbirding.org. The site notes, "To successfully address Neotropical migratory bird issues, good science and public awareness are essential. However, in the Neotropics, many researchers, educators, and conservationists work without the most basic equipment. Birders' Exchange takes new and used bird equipment and educational materials and matches it with local scientists, conservationists, and educators in Latin America and the Caribbean."

At the website you can learn how you can help further as you go on trips to these areas or donate usable optics as you upgrade your own.

Many thanks for making it a happy new year for others.

Carolyn Kennedy, Treasurer

It's Bluebird Time!

It’s spring and bluebirds are checking out nestboxes already! How do we know? CCBC volunteers monitor eastern bluebird nestbox trails in four locations on the Cape. And we always need more people to help out. This is your invitation to get involved and enjoy this wonderful bird! At the same time, take your binoculars for a walk and watch for other birds utilizing these natural areas.

Our monitoring does help the bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting species succeed. To make a difference we need a cadre of volunteers who rotate the duties of monitoring, so you may be asked to monitor about one week a month during the spring and summer.

CCBC manages nestbox trails at Crowes Pasture in East Dennis, and at Thompson’s Field, Bank Street Bogs and Texeira Field in Harwich. That is a total of 80 boxes!

We train volunteers, clean out and set up boxes for the spring, and schedule the visits to each site so that we can track the nesting cycles of the birds using each box. This involves some walking over uneven terrain, peeking inside each box and recording what is happening: nest building activity, adult sitting on eggs, young waiting to be fed or fledging time. If you are interested in helping, please email one of our coordinators.

For Crowes Pasture, Carolyn Kennedy, c2kenn2@verizon.net (508) 255-7564.
For the Harwich sites, Terry Gavin, tmgavin@verizon.net or Judith Bruce, turtledock@cape.com.

If you have a location in another town that has bluebird activity and want to start a new project, contact us with your ideas.
**CCBC 2008 Annual Meeting**

The Cape Cod Bird Club’s Annual Meeting will be held on May 12, 2008 at 7:30pm at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte. 6A, in Brewster, MA. Please check the club’s website for updates.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS OF THE CAPE COD BIRD CLUB**

**Amendment #1:**

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 4

The six Directors shall be elected, two each year, to serve for the next free fiscal years or until their respective successors are elected.

**Note:** Bracketed word to be removed. Bold word to be substituted.

**Amendment #2:**

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 10, Para. 3

The Secretary shall issue a call and keep minutes of all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. [The Secretary shall also be responsible for the maintenance of up-to-date membership records.]

**Note:** Currently the responsibility for maintenance of the up-to-date membership records is done by the club’s Treasurer. Therefore, the Board of Directors proposes the following change: the second sentence enclosed in brackets in Article IV, Section 10, Para. 3, shown above, will be removed and the following wording will be added to Article IV, Section 10, Para 4.

**Amendment #3:**

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 3

[Written notice specifying the day, hour, place, and purpose of each meeting shall be mailed to the membership at least ten days before each meeting.]

The Board of Directors proposes the following substitution for the bracketed sentence above:

**Section 3**

Written notice specifying the day, hour, place, and purpose of each meeting shall be mailed to the membership at least ten days before each meeting or posted to the Club’s website at massbird.org/ccbc/.

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**Birdwatcher’s 25th Anniversary**

The Cape Cod Bird Club would like to congratulate Mike O’Connor on the 25th Anniversary of the Birdwatcher’s General Store in Orleans. In these days of chain-store-mania it is refreshing indeed to see our local businesses succeed.

The club would like to thank Mike for his generous support of the club and wishes him continued success for many years to come.

**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@yahoogroups.com
**New Members**

We welcome the following new members:

- Dwight Billings, Truro
- Carmen & Louis Garrett, Brewster
- John Griener, Mashpee
- Arlene Hedlund, Harwich
- Ed Hoopes, S. Yarmouth
- Karen Lacasse, Cataumet
- Cora & Jonathan Moulding, S. Dennis
- Dianne Newton, Harvard
- William O'Neill, Marshfield
- Katherine Tracey, Mashpee
- James Wade, Chatham
- Janet Weatherbe, Yarmouthport

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

**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 or phone number.

**QUEST: Finding the Rare Ones.**

by Jack Palmer

Each fall for the last 20 years I’ve carefully scope-scanned each Eider I could see in Buzzard’s Bay, searching in vain for the King. I have been just as unsuccessful finding many other difficult birds. The remedy is obvious, but expensive: go where they are sufficiently abundant.

So in June I broke out my long underwear, winter coat and mukluks, and ventured to Northern Alaska. There, tramping for days over the permafrost around Barrow, the most northern town in our country, (just 1250 miles south of the North Pole), I finally stumbled not only on the King but on a stellar view of Steller’s Eider sitting just 30’ from one another. A few days later, I found the endangered Spectacled Eider. It, like the others, was wearing its breath-takingly beautiful breeding plumage. In my world, this long-awaited triumphant find was certainly worthy of a celebratory drink, but Barrow is a dry settlement.

Another bird I have searched for on the Cape is the Yellow-billed Loon. A few Cape old-timers claim to have seen this bird here, so just for fun, but with little hope, I’ve always checked out the bills of the many Common Loons I see, since the bill color is the main difference between these two largest loons. In Barrow I soon scoped one from a beach quite a ways out in the sea. I was fairly positive of my long-distance identification because in its full breeding regalia the bill of this bird was strongly goldfinch yellow. A few days later I found a pair of males swimming together in “water-ballet” synchrony in a tundra pool just 30’ away. The sun happened to be piercing the usual overcast at that moment and strongly highlighted their yellow namesakes. I saw other rare birds that I had seen before, e.g., a couple of years ago I was satisfied that I had actually seen a Stint on Little Island off West Falmouth, but was not bold enough to report it. Years ago I saw the exceedingly rare Bristle-thighed Curlew, a Whimbrel look-a-like, on Henderson Island in the South Pacific. Now I saw both of these birds in Alaska.

Other uncommon birds (for us here) entered my binocs: Red Phalaropes; Snowy Owls; two rare Eurasian species, the Bluethroat, a real stunner, and Northern Wheater; the striking Townsend’s Warbler; and hundreds of Lapland Longspurs decked out in far snazzier plumage than we see them wearing here. And I mustn’t skip mention of Alaska’s State Bird: the mosquito.

Ironically, I did not see a Barrow’s Golden Eye.