President’s Message

It is with mixed feelings that I write this President’s message. I have served on the Board of Directors for the past five years, two years as Program Director and three years as President. It hardly seems that five years have come and gone so fast. As my term as President comes to an end I feel that it’s time for someone new to take charge. Change is good and new people will bring new ideas to the club. I am pleased that I have fulfilled my three years as President of the club and I hope that I have accomplished a lot, positioning the club to excel in the coming years.

The past five years have been very enjoyable for me. This is largely because of all the fine people with whom I have worked. It’s been a truly unique experience to work with a group of people such as we have in this club. Each member of the board of directors has had a specific job to do that has carried the club forward. All have been enthusiastic and more than competent. Many others have pitched in on a variety of other activities from leading field trips to volunteering for the club’s bluebird trail, bringing in baked goods for our meetings, or helping out during our Members’ Night meeting. I am very appreciative of all the good people who give their time, energy, and ideas.

I feel fortunate to have met so many wonderful people, whether at our monthly meetings or during our club walks. I have learned so much from all of you about birds and the surrounding area of Cape Cod. It is my deepest wish for the club to enjoy continued success, and I am proud to have been a part of its tradition.

I encourage all members to participate in club walks and other activities that the club sponsors. We do it for you, and believe that you will be happily rewarded. The club runs only on volunteer help and no club can survive by depending on the same people year after year. We have had lots of new people jumping right in, in recent years, and that has been another gratifying part of being President.

I would like to thank you all for the support and time you’ve given me and our club for the past several years. I think it’s our love of birds and nature that keeps us going. I look forward to remaining an active member with the club. I will continue to lead walks and attend our monthly meetings. I hope to see you all at the Beech Forest in May!

Mary Keleher
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, Cynthia Franklin
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 Chair ~ Ginie Page**
Club Trips - Spring 2009

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

**Apr 6 - Mon - 9 AM-Noon**
**Scusset Beach Area**
We'll explore the thickets, canal, and beach for early spring migrants and late winter birds. Meet in the Sagamore Park and Ride parking lot directly behind Dunking Donuts.
Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com.

**April 25 - SAT - 8-11 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 Road. To get there, take Great Neck Road south from the Mashpee Rotary at Rte 28 and then veer to the left onto Great Oak Road, just past the entrance to New Seabury.
Leaders: Matt Malin, (508) 274-8472 or hossfeldt@yahoo.com; Peter Brown, (508) 241-5541 or pbrown5541@gmail.com.

**May 4 - MON - 8 -10:30 AM**
**Bells Neck Conservation Area, Harwich**
We’ll look for vireos, warblers, ducks and shorebirds, marsh wren and other early spring migrants.
Meet at Bells Neck Rd in Harwich between East and West Reservoirs.
Leaders: Nancy Ryder & Ruth Connaughton, contact Ruth at (508) 432-1580

**May 9 - SAT - 7:30-9:30 AM**
**Ryder Conservation Area, Sandwich**
We’ll check this spring migrant trap for early arrivals possibly including Parula, Yellow, Pine, Black & White, Black-throated Green warblers, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat, as well as Baltimore Oriole, Red-Eyed Vireo, and Scarlet Tanager.
Meet at the conservation parking lot on South Sandwich Road, just north of the Sandwich/Mashpee town line.
Leader: Matt Malin, (508) 274-8472 or hossfeldt@yahoo.com.

**May 11 - MON - 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 Street (this is one of the entrances to Goodwill Park) about 0.5 miles north of the intersection between Jones Rd and Gifford Street. I encourage folks to show up early for “ad-advanced scouting”; I can’t show up until 8:15 due to daycare duties. Leader: Greg Hirth, geohawk_1@yahoo.com.

**May 16 – SAT - 8 AM - Noon**
**Long Pasture, Cummaquid**
Look for Spring Migrants and Residents. Meet at Mass Audubon Long Pasture Sanctuary parking lot BY THE HEADQUARTERS HOUSE (not at the upper lot by the fields). If we have time after birding the Sanctuary grounds, and depending on weather and bird activity, we will visit other local woods along 6A in Barnstable and Yarmouthport, possibly including Dennis Pond and the Boy Scout camp (Yarmouth).
Leader: Peter Bono (pbono@prba.com; or 508-375-9421.

**May 17 - 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.
Directions: Take Rt. 28 to/from Falmouth to Martin Rd, on the west side of Rt. 28 near the Falmouth/Mashpee town line, the trailhead is at the north end of Martin Road on the west side of the Quashnet River.
Leader: Matt Malin, (508) 274-8472 or hossfeldt@yahoo.com.
May 22 – FRI 5:30 AM - Noon
Wompastuck State Park, Hingham
Meet at the Stop and Shop on Route 6A in Sandwich. This area, formerly a munitions depot during World War II, is now a relatively large tract of woodland and wetland habitats that is a wonderful stopover for migrating songbirds and a nesting locale for a wide variety of birds. Target birds here include hooded warbler, worm-eating warbler, blue-winged warbler, pileated woodpecker, and other passerine species during the migration. We’ll bird until the latter portion of the morning and be done by noon. Watch the weather reports and call/email to check on the status of the trip.
Leader: Frank Caruso, 508-477-9807 or 774-238-0698 or fccaruso@umext.umass.edu

May 26 - TUE - 8:30 AM - Noon
Falmouth
We’ll hit several of the most productive woods & thickets in Falmouth for migratory species, including the 88-acre Peterson Farm, thickets around the WHOI campus, Quissett Harbor, the Town Forest at Goodwill Park, and spots in between, time permitting. Meet at the Mobilmart Gas Station/Dunkin’Donuts on Palmer Avenue at 8:30 am. We’ll carpool from there. Directions: From the traffic lights at the intersection of Rte 28 and Jones Road in Falmouth, go south approx 0.25 miles. The Mobil is on the right, just before the Falmouth Ice Rink. Leaders: Molly Cornell (508) 432-8677 or Priscilla Moor (508) 548-4236.

June 3 - WED - 5:30 - 7:30 PM
South Cape Beach State Park, Mashpee. Beach walk (2-3 miles in sand) looking for Piping Plover, Osprey, terns and other shorebirds. Meet at the Mashpee Town parking lot at the end of Great Oak Road. To get there, take Great Neck Road south from the Mashpee Rotary at Rte 28 and then veer to the left onto Great Oak Road, just past the entrance to New Seabury. Leader: Peter Brown, (508) 241-5541 or pbrown5541@gmail.com.

WALK CHECKLIST FOR LEADERS and MEMBERS

• 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/
Wild Turkeys are up, kestrels are down, and robins are holding steady. These are some of the early findings from Breeding Bird Atlas 2, a five-year initiative by Mass Audubon that began in 2007 to measure bird population trends across Massachusetts.

Joan Walsh is the Coordinator of the Mass Breeding Bird Atlas 2 for Mass Audubon.

She has been working for bird conservation for 25 years, working on many species from Black Ducks to Wood Storks to Horseshoe Crabs to Elephant Seals. Joan also coordinated the first Breeding Bird Atlas for New Jersey during the 1990s.

We are mid-way through the second Breeding Bird Atlas for the Commonwealth, and already some species are revealing an impressive scale of change over thirty short years. She'll talk about some of the rapidly increasing breeding birds and some of the species that have quietly declined since Atlas 1 was completed, and discuss our plans for making the Atlas 2 data work for breeding bird conservation.

Atlas 1, conducted from 1974 - 1979, was the first effort in North America to map the status of breeding birds systematically across an entire state. Atlas 2 is already showing how large-scale landscape changes over the past 30 years have affected wildlife. The results could help the state government and Mass Audubon formulate better environmental and conservation policies.

You won’t want to miss this must-see program for anyone interested in learning the latest news on the breeding birds in Massachusetts.
Club Notes and Other News

Members’ Night Funds Put To Good Use

Through the generosity of our members and guests the Members’ Night Bake Sale totaled $152.00. The money will be applied to the CCBC Scholarship Fund. Over $400.00 was raised in the Silent Auction. Proceeds will go to the Birder’s Exchange. The following is a thank-you note from Betty Petersen.

January 20, 2009

To All the Members of the CCBC,

I cannot thank you enough for organizing a book sale on behalf of Birders’ Exchange. The money generated by the sale is a fantastic contribution!

I am going to submit an article to ABA’s newsletter, Winging It, to tell the ABA members how one bird club is making a huge and positive difference in helping Birders’ Exchange and the program’s recipients to save birds and their habitats, and enable people on the ground to achieve many successes for bird conservation and education.

It’s my hope that other bird clubs across the country will follow your lead, your commitment, and your generosity in helping the efforts of Birders’ Exchange, and that each of you will take pride in the accomplishments of all the people whose work is carried on because of your support.

Warmest regards,
Betty Petersen,
Birders’ Exchange Program Director

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.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:
Pat & Randy Bartlett, Wellfleet
Judith Davis, Marion
Susan & Michael Karchmer, Harwich
Jan & Herb Raffaele, Harwich
Jon Rolf, Brewster

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

CCBC Merchandise

Available at all meetings.

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>Birding Cape Cod</td>
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<td>A “must have” for every Cape Cod Birder!</td>
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CCMNH Flea Market
May 2nd & 3rd

The Friends of Cape Cod Museum of Natural History will hold a flea market as part of the museum’s participation in the annual Brewster in Bloom weekend on May 2-3. Bird Club members can help the museum by bringing clean, useable items -- including sports equipment and toys, kitchenware, bric-a-brac and small furniture -- to the museum at either the April meeting or during regular Museum hours. All proceeds benefit OUR Museum. If you have questions, phone Alice Berry at 508-385-8751.

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

Capecodbirds is an 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 postings, go to the capecodbirds listserv website: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/capecodbirds/

Due to a high volume of inappropriate posts to the listserv access to it has been changed. To post information you need to be a member of the group.

To join the group, go to the website, click on “Join this group” and create a Yahoo account.

Bluebird Trail
Monitors Needed

Did you know that CCBC members monitor bluebird nest boxes in four locations on the Cape? A few more volunteers are needed. Just a few hours a month are required and training is provided. This is a great opportunity to see these beautiful birds, as well as other nesters, such as Tree Swallows, Black-capped Chickadees, House Wrens and others, close up and learn more about their nesting habits. It is a truly rewarding experience and a chance to be of great help to the club as well. For more information, please contact Carolyn Kennedy at (508) 255-7564 or clkenn@verizon.net

A Big “Thank You” to Birdwatchers’ General Store and Wild Birds Unlimited

The Club would like to acknowledge two local businesses for their generous support of the Bluebird Nestbox Trails.

Mike O’Connor, of the Birdwatchers’ General Store in Orleans, and Tom Thompson, of Wild Birds Unlimited in Yarmouth, have donated nestboxes and other supplies to the program. Please remember them when you need feeders, seed or any bird-related items. And let them know how much we appreciate their support.
The CCBC honored Don Manchester at the March meeting for all the hard work and countless hours he has put into the Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch. He has been the primary watcher/counter for the past ten years at the Truro site.

David Clapp presented Don a framed photo of a Mississippi Kite by Shawn Carey.

Thank You, Don

Editor’s Note:

Retired? Time on your hands? Step right up!

If you are looking for a way to get more involved in YOUR bird club, here are a few suggestions:

Lead a club trip. You do not have to be able to identify every bird you see or hear to lead a successful bird walk. Perhaps you know of a great “out of the way” spot, either on cape or off, that might make for a super birding trip.

Write an article for the newsletter. Share a meaningful “birdy” experience or submit photos of birds or birding trips.

Hold an office or board of directors position in the club. Offer to assist any officer to “learn the ropes”. Who knows? Maybe you might be the next newsletter editor!

Become a bluebird trail monitor - (see page 6)

Now’s the time to get involved!