It feels decidedly odd to be writing about the period that includes Christmas Bird Counts and the December Waterfowl Census on a near 80 degree September day, but such is the nature of newsletters. Despite the unseasonably warm day, the Eastern Bluebirds, Pine Warblers, and Chipping Sparrows amassing around the edges of the sandplain grassland outside my office betray the impending fall. I look forward to this annual event, in which more arboreal Pine Warblers become like sparrows, hopping around in the short grass outside my window, and when the bluebirds flock daily to the big pokeweed plant outside the office door to gorge on the fruit. I've also enjoyed my annual September allotment of Buff-breasted Sandpipers. These are really among the rare gems of the fall shorebirds. While most of the population moves south through the central flyway in the fall, we always get a few of the crisply-marked juveniles here on the Cape. Each one is a subtle work of art to be appreciated while we have them.

In personnel news, the board is pleased to announce that Mary Keleher has accepted the position of Trips Coordinator. Now, I have two past presidents (Diane Silverstein being the other) looking over my shoulder in this, the last year of my term. If we had any more gravitas to the board, we might have to reinforce the floor beams under the board room.

One of the novel ideas Mary is bringing to the table, is a new kind of birdwalk called Birding With Kids. Co-sponsored with the Brookline Bird Club, this trip takes place on October 2nd and is designed to encourage potential young birders to get out there and bird with some mentors. Ashley Keleher and Jason Giles look forward to demonstrating to their peers the extreme coolness of our hobby. Oh, and we ARE cool. Who would have predicted a few years ago that a big budget, star-studded movie about birdwatching would be debuting in theaters this October (The Big Year – check it out)?

So what fall rarities are waiting to be found? When a Brown Booby spends August and September sitting on breakwaters on the Cape like an unusually tame cormorant, I reckon anything is possible. Hook on with one of our free trips or get out there by yourself. The birds are waiting.

Mark Faherty
Members of Cape Cod Bird Club will lead walks to top birding areas throughout Cape Cod. Walks are free and open to the public. A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated. Please check our website www.massbird.org/ccbc for additions or changes.

- Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars.

Sunday – October 9, 2011
6:00AM
Peter Crosson
Middleboro/Halifax
Join us for a half day of off Cape birding to the Cumberland Farms fields in Middleboro/Halifax. These spectacular fields have yielded a great number of unusual shorebirds and open-country specialties in recent years. Target shorebirds include Baird’s, Buff-breasted, and Pectoral Sandpipers and American Golden-Plover. We’ll look for Connecticut Warbler and migrant sparrows, Lincoln’s, White-crowned, Clay-colored, Vesper and Lark. Other seed-eaters such as Blue Grosbeak and Dickcissel are possible. Meet at the Sagamore Park & Ride at 6:00AM to carpool to the fields. Parking can be a problem so trip size will be limited to 4 carloads. Expect to do a lot of walking and to get muddy feet. Bring a scope if you have one.

Contact trip leader Peter Crosson to register.
pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com
508-280-1678

Saturday – October 15, 2011
8:00AM – 1:00 PM
Peter Bono
Harwich Community Gardens
Sparrow Hunt!

We’ll look for the less common fall migrants: White-crowned and Clay-colored Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel. Following that, for those who want to continue, we’ll drive to the “stump dump” in Eastham looking for the same species. Of course, we’ll also be aware of any sightings reported on MassBird, so our itinerary might deviate from the plan depending on what has been reported (e.g., western vagrants like hummingbirds). Meet at the Harwich Community Gardens on Sisson St. (Rte 124) See point #1 on http://mapq.st/h/9-CeMFB0lp Leader Peter Bono: pbono@prba.com
508-375-9421.
Please phone or email in advance. Steady rain cancels. You may contact Peter on his cell phone, 774-487-2848, any time after 7AM on the day of the trip.

Sunday – November 6, 2011
9:00AM – Noon
Ed Banks
Orleans & Eastham

We’ll go “coast to coast” to check out birds from Cape Cod Bay to 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 near Park in the first parking area on the left.
Leader: Ginie Page
VGPage@juno.com
508-349-6810.

Sunday – October 2, 2011
9:00AM – 11:00AM
Mary & Ashley Keleher
Eddie & Jason Giles
Falmouth Bike Path – Birding with Kids!

Depending on time, we’ll walk 1-2 miles along the bike path towards Oyster Pond to look for a variety of land birds, swallows, shorebirds, ducks, herons and raptors. Adults are required to bring at least one child! Meet in the parking lot of the Shining Sea Bike Path on Locust Street. This trip is co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club and Brookline Bird Club.
Rain cancels.
Contact Mary Keleher: maryeak@yahoo.com
508-477-1473

Wednesday – October 12, 2011
8:00AM – 10:00AM
Ginie Page
Fort Hill – Eastham

We’ll tour one of the National Seashore’s crown jewels, hiking the boardwalk that winds through a red maple swamp and leads to the hillside fields of Nauset Marsh. We will look for a variety of birds while enjoying this magnificent cultural landscape. Meet in the lower parking lot of Fort Hill. From Rte. 6 take Governor Prence Rd. to Fort Hill Rd.
Club Trips Fall 2011 Continued

the intersection of Route 6A and Main Street in Orleans.
Leader Ed Banks
edbanks@verizon.net
508-769-6762

Monday – November 7, 2011
9:00AM – Noon
Diane Silverstein
Leaders Choice
Join me in birding the "hot spots"!
Actual destination(s) to be determined based upon what is being seen and where! Call me for details and meeting place as we get closer to the date. Rain cancels. Call me if weather is questionable!
Leader: Diane Silverstein
birder526@comcast.net
508-364-7050.

Sunday – November 20, 2011
1:00PM – 4:00
David Clapp
Outer Cape
We’ll check the marshes, coast, woods and ponds between Eastham and the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. We’ll do whatever it takes to find 50 or more species of birds in 3 & ½ hours! Our last stop will be at Hemenway Landing to see if any Night Herons are still hanging around. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet at the National Seashore Salt Pond Visitor Center parking lot.
Leader: David Clapp
Naturalhistoryservices
@comcast.net
508-896-7322

Monday – December 5, 2011
9:00AM – Noon
Diane Silverstein
Dennis Hot Spots!
Corporation Beach and other local birding spots. Rain cancels. Call me if weather is questionable!
Leader: Diane Silverstein
birder526@comcast.net
508-364-7050.

Friday – December 9, 2011
7:15AM – 10:00AM
David Clapp
Brewster
Meet at the Park-and-Ride lot at Exit 10 off Rte 6 by 7:15. We will drive to my house and start from there. Tea and coffee provided. This walk is approximately 3 miles long and will take us along my daily morning walking route. There are bathrooms available at the halfway point.
Leader: David Clapp
Naturalhistoryservices
@comcast.net
508-896-7322

Sunday – January 1, 2012
12:00PM – 4:00PM
Ed Banks
Mid-Cape or Hot Spots New Year Birds!
Get your 2012 year list off to a great start! Click off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. Party hats optional! Meet in the Stop & Shop parking lot at Patriot Square on Route 134 in South Dennis. Take exit 9A off Route 6. Take a left at the lights.
Leader Ed Banks
edbanks@verizon.net
508-769-6762

Cape Cod Waterfowl Census

29th Annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census
DECEMBER 3 & 4, 2011

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.

Now in its 29th 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
odenews@odenews.org
October 10, 2011  
**Peter Alden**

“The First Year in the Life of a Male Scarlet Tanager”

Follow the first year adventures of a male Scarlet Tanager – from inside the egg, the nest, first flight, tree top summer “school”, migration south over the Cape & Islands, down south over the Smokies, the Caribbean, Central America, three ranges of the Andes and on to four rainy season months in Manu National Park in the south Peruvian Amazon – with no credit cards or GPS! The return trip north and his future bride's search for her chosen mate will round out the program. See the fabulous places, new friends and enemies this brilliant bird has to deal with before he is even one year old.

Peter Alden of Concord MA has led birding tours, cruises, safaris and nature tours to over 100 countries on 7 continents over the past 50 years. His 15 books on birding and nature have sold over two million copies, including the popular Audubon Field Guide to New England. Among his many accomplishments, Peter organized the world’s first Biodiversity Day in 1998 with a follow-up in 2009 for E.O. Wilson’s 80th Birthday. He is a past President of both the Nuttall Ornithological Club and the Brookline Bird Club. For more information, check out his website at peteraldenwildlife.com

November 14, 2011  
**Dr. Phil Richardson**

“Illustrated Talk: Antarctica, Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island and Albatrosses”

Come on a photographic cruise of a lifetime to the other side of the world to see albatrosses and other seabirds, glaciers and icebergs, penguins (including king, gentoo, rock hopper, and chinstrap) and seals, to name a few. And learn how the albatross, which spends most of its life above the ocean and typically will have flown 1.5 million miles by the age of 50, can soar so effortlessly without flapping its wings.

Dr. Richardson is a Scientist Emeritus in the Physical Oceanography Department at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where he studies ocean currents. He recently published a study of how albatrosses are able to soar around the world without flapping their wings, based on observations of albatrosses during a cruise to the South Atlantic. His interest in photography started in high school, when he learned to print black and white images. In 2009 he bought a Nikon D90 digital SLR camera and an ink-jet printer. With renewed vigor he has been taking photographs around Woods Hole and much farther afield.

December 12, 2011  
**Members’ Night**

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** - books, 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. See details for your photo submissions on page 5.

**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!
Digital Slide Show

Vice President, Peter Bono has generously offered (or his wife may have volunteered him) to organize the digital slide portion of this year’s Members’ Night, Monday December 12, 2011. The directors ask that members submit about 10-15 images. Let Peter know that you intend to participate even if you are not yet prepared to email the photos. This will give him an idea of how many members will be presenting. You may email your images to Peter at pbono@prba.com in any format as an attachment. He’ll resize and rename them, if necessary, and organize them into folders. If you prefer, you may put them on a CD and hand them to Peter at the October or November meetings.

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

1. Send up to 15 digital images in jpg format in a zip file attachment.
2. Crop (if necessary) and resize the original camera image to 1024 x 768 resolution.
3. Name each file as follows “XXX_YYYYYYY.jpg” where XXX are your initials and YYY 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, you may contact Peter at 508-375-9421 or pbono@prba.com.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

- Abigail Franklin - East Sandwich
- Roger Vose - East Orleans
- Raymond Patridge - Marston Mills
- Toby Kalman - West Barnstable
- Kenneth Eldredge - West Chatham
- Barbara Champney - Hopkinton
- Janice Williams - Forestdale
- Jean & Don Holm - West Boylston
- Martha McGovern - Westford

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

CCBC Merchandise

Available at all meetings.

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Birding Cape Cod</td>
<td>$15.95</td>
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<td>CCBC Cap</td>
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<td>CCBC Knit Hat/Cap</td>
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<td>CCBC Pin</td>
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<td>Bino/Camera Strap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee Mug with Logo</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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</tbody>
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For more information contact Roger Jenks
Club Merchandise Coordinator at 508-369-1693
rajcarver@yahoo.com
2011 Cape Cod Area Christmas Bird Counts

Buzzards Bay
Saturday, December 17th
Contact Jeremiah Trimble
jtrimble@oeb.harvard.edu

Cape Cod
Sunday, December 18th
Contact Blair Nikula
508-432-6348 or
odenews@odenews.org

Mid-Cape
TBA
Contact Peter Trimble
508-362-4485

Truro
TBA
Contact: Tom Lipsky
tlip1@comcast.net or
978-897-5429 or
Ginnie Page vgpage@juno.com
or 508-349-6810

Check the club’s website for additional counts and updates.
http://massbird.org/CCBC

Upcoming Events

January 9, 2012 ~ Peter Trull
“Marine Birds and the Great Whales: A Symbiotic Relationship”

February 13, 2012 ~ Brad Winn
“Listening to the Shorebirds: Finding Critical Migration Sites with Improved Technologies”

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.
• Interested in getting your newsletter by email? Send your address to the editor.

Have you paid your membership dues?

Please note the box below your address label. If you have not sent in your dues for this year this will be your last issue!
Also, please check to see that your mailing address is correct. If it is not, please notify our treasurer (and membership person).
Charlie Martin
cemartinjr@comcast.net
508-430-1257

Check our website for additional events and happenings.
www.massbird.org/ccbc
The only bird watching experience that I ever had prior to my stay on Hog Island was sitting on my grandpa’s lap watching robins hop around in his back yard. I knew even before my first steps onto the island that this Audubon program would teach me more about birds than I had been exposed to during these younger years, or at any point in my life. Sure enough my five day stay on Hog Island was filled with many field ornithology classes and exciting bird watching trips each led by wonderful and knowledgeable instructors. My two favorite trips included being able to go out onto Wreck Island and Eastern Egg Rock via exciting voyages on the ferry the Snow Goose III. I watched the Great Blue Herons on Wreck Island, which looked like something straight of a scene from Jurassic Park! On Eastern Egg Rock, I was able to get fairly close to many puffins, (ed note: see picture at left). I was “dive-bombed” by terns as I tiptoed around their egg nests. Most memorable on Eastern Egg Rock was that I was joining Scott Weidensaul on his first trip to the island as well. It was interesting to see an experienced ornithologist be fascinated once again by birds. Overall, I had a great trip to Hog Island and I came home with a new life list that I hope to keep adding to over the years. Thank you once again to everyone at the Cape Cod Bird Club who presented me with an enriching experience that I will fondly remember.

A Passion for Birding by Joey Benedict, Scholarship

It was only forty feet or so to our destination, but it was a watery forty feet, and the dory used to transport us across this distance was thrown around by even the slightest wave, tilting enough to make me hold my breath each time I found myself sliding towards the water- and then away from it. But I had another reason to hold my breath; our destination was Eastern Egg Rock Island, chock full of nesting terns, guillemots, laughing gulls, and best of all, puffins! I can honestly say that those next three hours I spent on the island marked the highlight of both my stay at the Hog Island camp and my Summer Vacation, and it wasn’t the birds alone that made me think this way about that afternoon; I was not only snapping photos of life birds but I was also with other people who enjoyed birding just as much as I did, looking forward to a Great Blue Heron rookery, a fine dinner, and some quality tips from birding professionals around the country.

I learned many things from the Hog Island Camp I attended. The different values birders from around the country placed on birds we saw surprised me. I was amused for a while that some Southerners on the trip had never seen a Common Eider before, but then I realized that they were just as amused knowing that I had never seen a Little Blue Heron! I also learned that I have a passion for birding not just with binoculars but also with a camera, even if it’s a barely functioning camera! I want to thank the Cape Cod Bird Club again for sending me, and I’m so glad I had the opportunity to spend a week of Summer Vacation like I did at Hog Island.

Thankfully,

Joey Benedict

Editor’s note: Joey will be at the October CCBC meeting to share his experiences from the Hog Island camp this summer. He has a powerpoint presentation of his most memorable photos. For a preview, check out this link: http://www.flickr.com/photos/ericavanetten/5865514498/in/pool-fieldornit
Cape Cod Bird Club  
Backyard Feeder Census ~ 2011 to 2012

Use this form to report birds feeding at your feeders or on natural food in your yard on the 2nd complete weekend in each of the months listed (or two consecutive days near the weekend.) Watch your feeders on both days and record the highest number of each of the species observed at one time. For example, if on Saturday you see 3 chickadees at one time, record 3. If later, you see 5, cross out 3 and record 5. Do not accumulate the number seen.  
Record the dates of observation at the top of each column. If you are gone for a month, leave that column blank and resume the census when you return. Species not on the list can be added on the lines at the bottom or on the back if more space is needed. Return the form at the April or May CCBC meeting or mail to club Secretary: Peter Flood, 5 Hokum Rock Road, Dennis, MA 02638 or pomarine@comcast.net

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Name & Address (census location)
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, Att: Charlie Martin
PO Box 704, Harwich, MA 02645
Website: http://www.massbird.org/CCBC

Officers
Mark Faherty  President
Peter Bono  Vice President
Charlie Martin  Treasurer
Peter Flood  Secretary

Directors
Paula Pariseau  Roger Jenks
Diane Silverstein  Alice Berry
Christine Hight  Mary Keleher

Newsletter Editor ~ Christine Hight sea7adria@comcast.net
Membership/Address Changes ~ Charlie Martin E-mail: cemartinjr@comcast.net
Nominating Committee Chair ~ Ginie Page