Cape Cod Bird Club meetings are held the second Monday of each month, September thru May, at 7:30 PM at the Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte 6A, in Brewster, MA.

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The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue’s articles:
September 1st

Editor: Christine Hight
Send articles or comments to: sea7adria@comcast.net

Website:
www.massbird.org/CCBC
Webmaster: Terry Gavin

President’s Message

Hey, why is the newsletter late? Well, we didn’t have any July summer walks to advertise, so we took a few extra weeks to get the details of our Birding Cape Cod Weekend all worked out for inclusion in the summer newsletter. Also, the dog ate my first draft, the sun was in my eyes, and the bus was late. Sorry – I haven’t come with any new phony excuses since 5th grade. The important thing is it’s here now, and chock full of timely information about the birding weekend and other goodies.

Speaking of the Birding Cape Cod Weekend, we’ve got a great lineup of free walks scheduled for the weekend of September 23 – 25, including another exciting pelagic trip on Sunday the 25th. Last year we had great looks at Northern Fulmars, a Black-legged Kittiwake hanging off the back of the boat as if attached by a string, a weird leucistic Great Black-backed Gull, and some great whale sightings, plus the usual shearwaters and other seabirds. See inside for the details, including how to reserve yourself a space.

In club hierarchy news, we elected some “new” board members at the May meeting – former club president Diane Silverstein is back on the Cape where she belongs and will be the Outreach and Publicity Coordinator, and newsletter editor Christine Hight officially joins the board as a voting member. Sadly, trips Coordinator Peter Brown has left the Cape, leaving that position vacant. So we are on the hunt for a new trips person. ‘Twas ever thus. Given the turnover rate we’ve had at that position, you would think being trips coordinator was roughly as enjoyable as being PR director for BP Oil, but I swear it is both easy AND rewarding. If you are interested, and you should be, please get in touch with any board member via any means necessary, except maybe notes attached to bricks thrown through our windows.

Our scholarship winners Joey and Allison are back from the birding camp on Hog Island, ME, and by all accounts they had a great time. We can all look forward to reading about their experiences in the fall newsletter. In addition, Joey will address the club and show some photos at one of the fall meetings. I think Joey’s youthful enthusiasm will do us old, jaded birder-types a lot of good.

The constantly screeching Great-horned Owl fledglings outside my office window are reminding me to remind you that late summer is a great time to confirm breeding for Mass Audubon’s Breeding Bird Atlas. The Atlas is wrapping up this year, and recent fledglings are a great way to get breeding confirmed for a variety of species. And the Whimbrels that have started showing up again in Wellfleet Bay are reminding me that shorebirds are already on their way south, so it’s time for us birders to get out there and feed some greenheads!

See you on the flats,

Mark Faherty
This was my first adventure with a club walk. The picture above only gives you a hint of how much fun one can have birding. My husband and I love looking for spring warblers and Beech Forest is a great place to spot them. When Ed Banks, walk leader, pointed excitedly to the ribbon snake, I was impressed with his comprehensive knowledge of fauna. I also had a distinct impression that we might not be seeing as many warblers as I had originally anticipated.

We did catch a glimpse of some wood ducks, saw the baby goslings and had an up-close and personal visit with a spectacular parula warbler. Note that apparently even among experienced birders there can be a discrepancies over pronunciation, leading us to overhear one saying “to-may-toe, toe-mah-toe”. A singing oriole was spotted and there were chickadees ready to eat out of our hands. Each contributed to making it a truly memorable morning.

All in all, we had a great time and look forward to our next adventure with the Cape Cod Bird Club. Thanks, Ed., for making it possible.

Sincerely, The Editor
### Cape Cod Bird Club August Walks

**Saturday - August 13, 2011**  
5:30 - 7:30 PM  
*Peter Bono*  
“*West Dennis Beach*”  
Meet at the West Dennis Beach Parking Lot at the Far end (Bass River). We’ll look for the resident endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns. We’ll also hope to find migrating shorebirds on the mud flats and maybe a few early passerines in the dunes. Rain cancels. Please call or email me if you are planning to attend.  
Leader: Peter Bono  
508-375-9421 or pbono@pbra.com  
Cell: 774-487-2848

**Friday - August 26, 2011**  
9:30 - 4:00 PM  
*Ed Banks*  
“*South Beach - Chatham*”  
Meet at the Monomoy NWR Headquarters on Morris Island, in Chatham at 9:30 AM. We’ll take the Morris Island Ferry to the beach and then leisurely view the thousands of shorebirds and seabirds in the migration season. Be prepared to walk 4+ miles. This trip is co-sponsored with the Forbush Bird Club. There is a fee for boat transportation (approx. $25.00). This is an all-day trip, so be sure to bring enough food and water. Please call or email me if you are planning to attend. Rain, heavy wind or surf cancels. No rain date.  
Leader: Ed Banks  
508-430-0845 or edbanks@verizon.net
September 2011

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Cape Cod Bird Club September Meeting Program

September 12, 2011

John Kricher

“Bird Speciation in the Tropics: Focus on Ecuador”

Ecuador is one of the most bird species-rich countries in the world, perhaps second only to Peru and Colombia. This talk will focus on various ideas as to how and why so many species of birds have evolved to inhabit Ecuador, and how speciation in the tropics may be unique compared with other ecological regions. From Darwin’s first observations in the Galapagos Islands to current research on species from rain forest to high mountains, this talk will provide a broad overview that will help any birder understand why Neotropical bird guides have so many pages.

John Kricher is a Professor of Biology at Wheaton College, where he teaches courses in ecology, ornithology, and vertebrate evolution. He has conducted Earthwatch-sponsored research on migrant birds on their wintering grounds in Belize. He is the author of several articles, papers and books including The Balance of Nature: Ecology’s Enduring Myth, Galapagos: A Natural History, three ecology field guides (Eastern Forests, Rocky Mountain and Southwestern Forests, California and Pacific Northwest Forests) in the Peterson series, and a Tropical Ecology textbook. His widely used book, A Neotropical Companion, has been translated into Spanish through the Birders’ Exchange Program of the American Birding Association. John is a Fellow in the American Ornithologists Union and has served as president of the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Wilson Ornithological Society, and the Nuttall Ornithological Club. He currently is on the Council of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. John has led trips to many places, from Block Island and coastal New England to Arizona and the Pacific Northwest, as well as Central and South America, and Galapagos Islands.
6th ANNUAL BIRDING CAPE COD WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2011
Sponsored by the Cape Cod Bird Club

Members of the Cape Cod Bird Club will lead walks to top birding areas throughout Cape Cod. Walks are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public. For more information about these walks and the Cape Cod Bird Club check the club’s website at www.massbird.org/ccbc. For information about individual walks, directions to the walks, or inclement weather, please contact the walk leader. Dress for the weather and area where you will be walking. Rain may cancel.

Bring binoculars. Sunscreen, insect repellent and water are recommended.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

Falmouth
Shining Sea Bike Path - 8:00AM
Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 maryeak@yahoo.com
We will walk along the thicket lined bike path past Salt Pond to Oyster Pond. Fall migration should be in full swing. Trip length is about 2.0 miles, no inclines.
Meet in the bike path parking lot on Locust Street.

Harwich
West Harwich Conservation Area - 8:00AM
Leader Diane Silverstein, 508-364-7050 or birder526@comcast.net
We'll first check the reservoirs for shorebirds and ducks and will then walk Bells Neck Road in search of migrating passerines. We'll head toward the Herring River where we'll look for Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren and Swamp Sparrow. On our way back we'll detour to the North Bridge for another lookout over the marsh.
Meet at the Conservation Area located on Bells Neck Road, south off of Great Western Road in West Harwich, our walk will start between the East and West Reservoirs. Park alongside of the road adjacent to the reservoirs.

Eastham
Hemenway Landing - 6:30 - 8:00PM
Leader: Frank Caruso, 508-477-9807 or fcaruso@umext.umass.edu
We'll check the historic Hemenway’s Landing heron roost and watch as Great Blue Herons, Great White Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons and a few Yellow-crowned Night Herons leave their roost and head into the marsh for the night. We'll listen and look for Great Horned Owls, which have been heard and seen here in past years.
Meet at the Hemenway’s Landing parking lot at the end of Hemenway Road off Route 6.

Provincetown
Hatches Harbor - 1:30 - 4:00PM
Leader: Ed Hoopes, 508-737-7479 or ehoopes@verizon.net
Roundtrip length 3 miles, with some soft sand. We will walk the Dike Road through the dunes and scrub pines looking for landbirds and raptors. Once we arrive at Hatches Harbor we can look for shorebirds, terns, wading birds, and maybe some early water fowl. We are also afforded some great views of Cape Cod Bay and the Atlantic Ocean so pelagics are possible depending on conditions.
Meet in the parking lot of the Province Lands Visitor Center (located at the intersection of Race Point Road and Province Lands Road.)
Falmouth

**Peterson Farm/Sippewisset Marsh - 8:00 AM - Noon**

**Leader:** Greg Hirth, 508-457-4356 or geohawk_1@yahoo.com

We will walk the fields, edges, and woods of Peterson Farm looking for migrant songbirds, then head out to Great Sippewisset Marsh to observe waders, shorebirds, terns, and raptors.

Meet at the Locust Street parking lot for the Shining Sea bike path, which is just across the street from the intersection of Mill Road and Locust Street.

Barnstable

**Sandy Neck Birding Special Kayaking Trip - 9:00AM - Noon**

**Leader:** Ian Ives, Director Mass Audubon Long Pasture Sanctuary

(Fee: $40.00 Maximum 12 People) Call to register: 508-362-7475 ext. 9355

Barnstable’s Sandy Neck is a 7-mile-long, 1900 acre barrier beach. The tip of Sandy Neck accommodates large flocks of shorebirds and terns during the month of September. Thousands of Tree Swallows can be seen swirling in huge flocks. We will kayak 3/4 mile to the Sandy Neck Lighthouse. We will then walk the 1/8 mile traverse through dune, swale and tidal flat habitat before paddling back via salt marsh creeks.

Participants will be required to wear a life vest.

Meet at Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary at 345 Bone Hill Road. Follow Bone Hill Rd past Harbor Point Rd and take the last driveway on the left to the parking area at the end.

Koaks, paddles, life vests, and safety equipment will be provided. Ages 12 and up are welcome.

**Previous kayaking experience and swimming ability are required for this trip.**

Harwichport

**Bank Street Bogs 2:30**

**Leader:** Al Curtis, killdeer89@comcast.net

Over sixty acres of brushy, weedy fields and seed-bearing wildflowers interspersed with flowing irrigation streams, cattail marsh, and a small pond - what more could a migrating sparrow want? Join us for a leisurely walk through this quintessential Cape Cod fall birding spot.

Parking is behind the Harbormaster's building on Bank Street in Harwichport.

For more information see the website below.

http://www.harwichconservationtrust.org/bankstreetbog.html

Chatham

**South Beach - 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Leader:** Mark Faherty, Science Coordinator, Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

(Fee: $30.00 Maximum 16 People) Call to Register: 508-349-2615

South Beach is the birding hotspot on Cape Cod. Tens of thousands of migrant shorebirds roost and feed at the southern tip of the 3+ mile barrier beach, allowing close-up views of such species as Red Knot, Short-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover, and Hudsonian Godwit, at least when the Peregrines and occasional Jaegers aren’t spooking them! Rarer migrants like Marbled Godwit and American Golden Plover might also be seen and vagrants like Curlew Sandpiper and Red-necked Stints are possible. Terns gather in large numbers at the end of the summer, including Roseate Terns and possibly Arctic and Black Terns. Trip involves a short boat ride and walking on mud flats and soft sand, as well as wading in knee-deep water to reach the shore.

Truro

**High Head - 7:30 - 10:30 AM**

**Leader:** Ginie Page, 508-349-6810 or vgpage@juno.com

We will travel hill and dale around and over High Head. We will walk along the bike path in search of skulkers, work our way around Small’s Swamp and then explore High Head. We will have wonderful land and sea views and will cover several habitats in search of our local birds as well as the many migrants making stops here.

Meet at the bike path parking area: Exit Route 6 onto High Head Road, bear left at fork before hill and park at the end of the dirt road.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011 (Rain Date: October 2, 2011)

Provincetown
Pelagic Birding Trip - 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Leaders: Blair Nikula, Peter Trull, Mark Faherty
Contact Person: Diane Silverstein at: 508-364-7050 or birder526@comcast.net

Join the Cape Cod Bird Club for a pelagic birding trip out of Provincetown, MA. Due to the popularity of this trip, we have reserved a much larger, more spacious boat than we used in 2010. This year, we will travel aboard a Dolphin Fleet vessel for a 6-hour pelagic trip to areas based on recent sightings and activity.

Expert birders Blair Nickula, Peter Trull, and Mark Faherty will be calling out the birds for us. We will have great opportunities for viewing Greater, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Northern Gannet, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. Other possibilities include Northern Fulmar (we saw multiple in 2010), Cory’s Shearwater, Wilson’s and Leach’s Storm-Petrels, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, Sabine’s gull, Long-tailed Jaeger and Razorbill. In addition to pelagic species, the first migrant loons and sea ducks should be in evidence and, if weather conditions are favorable, a few migrating song birds might also appear. Though the main focus will be on birds, we might possibly see Humpback, Fin and Minke Whales, plus Atlantic White-sided Dolphin, Basking Shark, Bluefin Tuna, and Mola Mola. This Dolphin Fleet vessel has a heated main deck with a full galley and bar. There is bench seating on the main deck as well as open seating on the top deck and railings all around the perimeter. The interior cabin has seating for over 100 passengers and the cabin is centrally heated and air-cooled. There are clean modern restrooms aboard and the boats are immaculate.

Boarding will begin at 8:30 AM. We will depart from MacMillan Wharf at 9:00 AM. There is parking available in the area for a fee. The closest parking (about a 2 minute walk) is at the town parking lot on MacMillan Wharf.

Directions: Take Route 6 east to Provincetown. At the traffic lights, take a left onto Conwell Street. Turn right onto Bradford Street, at the bottom of the hill turn left onto Standish Street. Drive straight through the intersection of Standish and Commercial Streets and out onto the pier.

The cost for this trip is $65.00 for members and $80.00 for non-members. Last year proceeds from this trip helped fund two nature camperships. The trip is limited to 150 people.

*Note this trip may be cancelled if the quota is not met.

*In case of inclement weather, please contact the Dolphin Fleet directly at 508-240-3636.

To reserve a space for this trip send a signed waiver with a check payable to “Cape Cod Bird Club” no later that September 1st to:

Pelagic Trip
Cape Cod Bird Club
PO Box 704, Harwich, MA 02645

Suggested items to bring are sunscreen, sunglasses, and warm clothing. Wear sneakers or shoes with good traction. You may bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be food and drinks available on board from the open galley.

A signed waiver is mandatory for this trip, (see page 8).

For more information or to print out a waiver for the club’s website go to:
http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/birding_cape_codweekend.htm
Waiver for Pelagic Trip  
Sunday, September 25, 2011

Please complete, sign, date and include with your check payable to the “Cape Cod Bird Club.”

I agree not to hold any of the leaders, coordinators, or the Cape Cod Bird Club responsible for any injury I might sustain on the pelagic trip aboard the Dolphin Fleet Boat on Sunday, September 25, 2011 and on rain date Sunday, October 2, 2011.

_____________________________________________________________________________
Name(s) printed

_____________________________________________________________________________
Signature of all participants (required)

___________________________________________________________________________
Date

_____________________________________________________________________________
Postal Address

_____________________________________________________________________________
Phone number

_____________________________________________________________________________
Email address

To register for this pelagic trip, send payment in full ($65.00 for members, $80.00 for non-members) along with a signed waiver no later that September 1st to:

        Cape Cod Bird Club Sept. Pelagic Trip  
        PO Box 704  
        Harwich, MA 02645

Make Checks payable to “Cape Cod Bird Club”.  
You must include your phone number, email address and /or postal address for confirmation and further information.

If you have further questions, contact Diane Silverstein at: 508-364-7050 or birder526@comcast.net
Upcoming Events

October 10, 2011 ~ Peter Alden
“The First Year in the Life of a Male Scarlet Tanager”

November 9, 2011 ~ Dr. Phil Richardson
“Illustrated Talk: Antarctica, Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island and Albatrosses”

Wanted: Trip Coordinator

Have you been considering getting more involved in the bird club?

Presently, we are looking for an organized and perhaps persuasive person to be our trip coordinator.

Historically, this person contacts walk leaders seasonally via email and passes confirmations along to the newsletter editor as well as the webmaster.

If this sounds like you, contact President Mark Faherty or Vice President Peter Bono and let them know.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Membership Renewal Form

This half-page can be used as your Membership renewal form. By filling out and mailing it this summer, you will save the club the expense of sending you a renewal notice. Dues are due by September 1, 2011. New members may join at any time. Thank you for renewing on time.

☐ Individual $15.00 ☐ Family $22.00

If you would like to give an additional donation, it will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Scholarship/Youth Fund $_________ Extra Gift to Club $_________ Total Enclosed $_________

Please return this form with your check made out to Cape Cod Bird Club and send to:

Cape Cod Bird Club
Attn: Charlie Martin
PO Box 704
Harwich, MA 02645

Name ___________________________________________Phone__________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

Check here if you would like a Member ID card (for $5.00 Dolphin Fleet Whale Watch Discount): ☐
The Cape Cod Bird Club, Inc.

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, Attn: Charlie Martin  
PO Box 704  
Harwich, MA 02645  
Website: http://www.massbird.org/CCBC

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<td>Peter Flood</td>
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<td>Christine Hight</td>
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Membership/Address Changes ~ Charlie Martin  E-mail: cemartinjr@comcast.net
Nominating Committee Chair ~ Ginie Page