President’s Message

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
—Albert Camus (1913-1960)

What a great Bird Festival Weekend! I hope you all had a chance to participate in at least one of the wonderful activities—walks, talks, social events, and exhibits. Later in this issue Diane Silverstein gives her full report, but all the verbal feedback I received from participants, volunteers, and exhibitors was enthusiastically positive. The whole Festival Committee and its army of Festival Volunteers deserve our thanks for a job exceptionally well done!

The brilliant weather we had on Festival Weekend is, we hope, a precursor to a great fall full of crisp mornings, sunny days, and landscapes full of migrating birds. Later in this season, the first of our winter birds start arriving in numbers: Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Fall is also the time to keep our eyes open for western and southern wanderers like flycatchers, sparrows, and hummingbirds. And, of course, if we do have any tropical storms, who knows what avian "goodies" might arrive with the winds?

This year we are activating a new Membership Committee. Barbara Grasso and Ken Casson have agreed to co-chair the Committee. Look for some changes in the way we communicate with our members and also in the way we welcome our members (especially new members) at the monthly meetings.

We will, once again, sponsor a birding camp scholarship for a worthy Cape Cod teen. Details will appear on our website this fall (and on page 11 of this issue).

Please come to the meetings (we have great speakers), participate in the Bird Walks, and consider volunteering to lead walks. We need new leaders to meet the demand of our growing membership.

Bring your donated silent auction items to the November meeting.

December is our Holiday meeting. Last year's scholarship winner will be speaking to us about her summer camp adventures then.

Good birding,

Peter Bono
First Annual Cape Cod Bird Festival

This first Festival was dedicated to Betty Petersen, who passed away unexpectedly this past June. Betty was a real force in the national and international birding community and was the heart and soul of ABA's Birders Exchange, which collects optics and field guides and more for South and Central Americans to use in their conservation efforts. Betty was surely watching over us...no wonder the sun was shining all weekend!

Let's talk birds! Trips to South Beach, North and South Monomoy, Tern Island, North Beach Island, Bank Street Bogs, E. Sandwich Game Farm, and Forest Beach turned up some terrific birds! Overall, birds seen included black-headed gull, buff-breasted sandpiper, marbled and hudsonian godwits, orange-crowned warbler, black tern, "western" willet, yellow-crowned night heron, peregrine falcon, and merlin; and on the pelagic, some highlights were sooty, great and manx shearwaters, red-necked phalarope, roseate tern, long-tailed and parasitic jaegers, and Leach's storm petrel. The pelagic-goers got to see minke whales, mola mola (ocean sunfish), and basking sharks too! The leaders on all of the trips were the best hosts and did an amazing job getting people on the birds.

The Vendor Marketplace was a real highlight of the weekend.

From intricately wood-carved birds, paintings, homemade bird houses, optic companies, local organizations, the American Birding Association, and National Geographic guides offered by Houghton Mifflin, there was something for everyone! A lot of holiday shopping began at this Marketplace!

Our special 'celebrity' guest was Pete Dunne, who taught his workshop on the Art of Pishing, and delivered an outstanding keynote address that brought everyone to their feet.

A pizza social on the first night allowed attendees to get to know one another. The event offered a viewing of Shawn Carey's video, Epic Journeys, and concluded with a natural history panel, including brief presentations on coastal geology, Stellwagen Bank, and birds of Cape Cod, presented by Mark Borrelli, Anne-Marie Runfola, and John Kricher, respectively.

On Sunday, the Bird Festival hosted Family Day at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, showcasing live owls and bird banding and offering many family events geared towards birds and nature. Almost 250 people attended Family Day! A big thank you to the Museum and its staff for taking this idea of a family event and working with us to make it happen!
All are welcome to join us on these free club trips. Your Leaders will appreciate a call or e-mail. For additions or changes, please check our website.

www.capecodbirdclub.org

Suggestions:
- Dress for weather; bring:
  - Binoculars
  - Water
  - Spare car keys.
  - Camera or scope
  - Bird Club stick chair

► Saturday – October 5th, Michael Dettrey
  7:30AM – 11:30AM
Morris Island & Cowyard Lane for Fall Migrants - Chatham
Meet at the causeway to Morris Island to start our search for LBJ’s, and then we will move to other locations in Chatham to find more fall migrants. Rain cancels. Please call or email me to RSVP: 774-212-7080 or swanpondside62@aol.com

► Sunday – October 13th
  8AM – 12PM
  Michael Dettrey
Early Waterfowl and Seabirds – Dennis
An old favorite trip to start at Corporation Beach, Scargo Pond, and other local ponds. We’ll end at West Dennis Beach on the Nantucket Sound. Meet at ‘The Mercantile’ store off Route 6 in the back for parking to carpool and/or pick up coffee and treats, at this local sleeper near the North Dennis Post Office. Rain cancels. Please call or email me to RSVP: 774-212-7080 or swanpondside62@aol.com

► Tuesday – October 15th – 8 AM – 12 PM
  Peter Crosson
Brewster Community Gardens
Join us to search for late fall migrants and seed eaters at Brewster Community Gardens. This area and the surrounding fields have been productive for many interesting birds. Targets include Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak, Orange-crowned Warbler, and migrant sparrows. In the fields and hedgerows we might see Bobolink, Indigo Bunting, and Brown Thrasher. We may also check out the Dennis or Harwich Community Gardens. Meet at the Dunkin’ Donuts on Route 6A in Brewster. Contact Peter Crosson at (508) 280-1678, or pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com

► Saturday – October 19th
  8:00AM - 9:30AM
  Mary & Ashley Keleher
Falmouth Bike Path Birding with Kids!
Bring a kid, and we'll walk along the bike path towards Oyster Pond to look for a variety of birds in the thickets, ponds and bay. Meet in the parking lot of the Shining Sea Bike Path on Locust Street. Rain cancels. Leader: Mary Keleher 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

► Wednesday, Oct. 30th
  8AM – 12PM
  Michael Dettrey
Early Sea Ducks & Seabirds II - Dennis
Basically the same trip as my October 13 trip, at a different time; we’ll search for interesting ducks and such! Meet at ‘The Mercantile’ store off Route 6 in the back for parking to carpool and/or to pick up coffee and treats at this local sleeper near the North Dennis Post Office. Rain cancels. To RSVP, Please call (774-212-7080) or email me at swanpondside62@aol.com

► Saturday - Nov 2
  8:00AM - 12:00 Noon,
  Peter Bono
Corporation Beach in Dennis
Community Gardens in Dennis and Brewster
We'll start at 8AM at the parking lot of Corporation Beach in Dennis (Rt 6A) to look for early wintering ducks, loons, and grebes. Then we'll move to the Community Gardens to look for the less common fall migrants:

[continued, p. 5]
Membership

THE CAPE COD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM
The membership year extends from September 1, 2013, through August 31, 2014.

Individual Membership $ 15
Family (Household) Membership $ 22

Extra Donations:
   Scholarship Fund $ ______
   General Fund $ ______
   Bird Festival Fund $ ______
   TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ______

Please Print:
Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________
Household (or preferred) Tel. No. ______________________________ Email Address**

Name(s) M/F* Approx. Age*(check one)
< 20  20 – 35  36 – 50
51 – 65  66 – 80  > 80
< 20  20 – 35  36 – 50
51 – 65  66 – 80  > 80
< 20  20 – 35  36 – 50
51 – 65  66 – 80  > 80
< 20  20 – 35  36 – 50
51 – 65  66 – 80  > 80

Notes: * Please provide your gender and approx age so that we can design programs to serve you better. ** If we have your email address, we can send periodic, updated notifi-
cations in a timely manner. Please complete this form and mail it with your check made payable to Cape Cod Bird Club, Attn: Membership, PO Box 485, Centerville, MA 02632

Thank you to everyone who sent in dues and info for our new database promptly! I would also like to thank everyone who added a donation with their dues. If you still need to send in your dues, please use the form above or download the form from the website (www.capecodbirdclub.org). I am pleased to announce that we now have more than 400 members in more than 300 households. We can proudly say that Cape Cod Birders are not an endangered species! Thank you! Fran Ziegler, Assistant Treasurer.

See the list of new members on page 7.

BIRD QUIZ: late September, marsh in Chatham

Don’t Forget that our December 8th Meeting is Members Night. Bring items for the bake sale that night and bring silent auction items for our fundraiser and a CD of your best 5-10 digital photos to the November meeting. Also bring items to display for the December meeting and take your chance on door prizes. Always a fun meeting! Do your holiday shopping of our CCBC merchandise as well as the auction items.
Trips cont’d; Fall Programs-Mark Faherty, Programs

White-crowned and Clay-colored Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel. Of course, we’ll also be aware of any sightings reported on MassBird and CapeCodBirds@yahoo.com, so our itinerary might deviate from the plan depending on what has been reported (e.g., western vagrants like hummingbirds). Leader Peter Bono: Please phone (508-375-9421) or email (pbono@prba.com) 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.

► Thursday – November 13th 8AM – 12PM
David Clapp
Fall Migrants & Ducks –Eastham
We’ll meet again for a second chance to see these fall travelers. Meet at the National Seashore’s Salt Pond Visitor Center off Route 6 in Eastham. Look for us in the parking lot. Please RSVP
naturalhistoryservices@comcast.net or http://ontheroadwithdec.blogspot.com

► Sunday – December 1st 8AM – 2PM
Michael Dettrey
Waterfowl in Dennis ponds
We will count ducks in most every pond in all the villages of Dennis. Many of these ponds are rarely observed and some secretive so we will hope for good numbers and species. Meet at ’The Mercantile’ store off Route 6 in the back for parking to carpool and/ or pick up coffee and treats at this local sleeper, near the North Dennis Post Office. Please call or email me to RSVP: 774-212-7080 or swanpondside62@aol.com (Rain cancels).

► Tuesday – December 31st
8AM – 2PM
Michael Dettrey
Last Chance Birds of the year on Cape Cod
It’s your last chance to record any more year birds for 2013! I know some spots rarely searched, and we’ll see what we can pick up. This could be an all-day trip depending on the group’s interest. We park and carpool at Dennis’s Patriot Square Mall on the Northwest corner or near Route 134 behind The Stop and Shop. Call or email to RSVP at: 774-212-7080 or swanpondside62@aol.com (Rain or icy conditions cancels automatically).

PROGRAMS OCTOBER and NOVEMBER
► OCTOBER 14, 2013
WHAT’S KILLING EIDERS AND ALCIDS?

Dr. Sarah Courchesne, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University
You may have noticed that Razorbills, Atlantic Puffins, and Common Eiders have been turning up dead on certain Cape beaches. So what’s going on? Should we be worried? Sarah Courchesne coordinates Tufts University’s Seabird Ecological Assessment Network (SEANET) project, which uses volunteers to collect year-round beached bird data to help identify and mitigate threats to marine birds, and she has the answers. She will chronicle the recent alcid die-off and its causes, and the latest on the cause of the ongoing eider die off centered in Wellfleet. Climate change, food shortages, intestinal parasites, and viruses have all been suspects in these mysteries, but you’ll have to come listen to find out “whodunnit.” Sarah will also explain the SEANET program and how you can become a volunteer and turn an occasional walk on the beach into important data supporting marine bird conservation research.

Sarah Courchesne, DVM, is SEANET’s Project Coordinator. She received her BA in English from UMass Amherst, and then abruptly changed course to pursue her interest in avian species. A veterinarian with a degree from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, Sarah is particularly interested in causes of mortality in seabirds. Her current foci include the role of plastics in marine ecosystems and emerging infectious diseases in seabirds and other marine organisms. Sarah also revels in avian autopsies, and teaching avian anatomy at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She also maintains the oddly entertaining SEANET blog, complete with dead bird quizzes.

► NOVEMBER 11, 2013
BESTON’S BIRDS: HOW THE CAPE’S BIRD LIFE HAS CHANGED SINCE THE OUTERMOST HOUSE

Bob Prescott, Mass Audubon/Wellfleet Bay
In this presentation, Bob Prescott takes a different perspective on the writing of Henry Beston, author of that beautifully written classic of Cape Cod nature writing, The Outermost House (1925), which chronicles his year living in an isolated shack on Coast Guard Beach in Eastham. Birds are featured prominently in The Outermost House, often disguised under colorful old colloquial names. Bob will talk about this famous author’s observations and encounters with birds and compare them with [continued, p. 7]
Festival Photos by Charlie Martin: 1) Liz Gordon from ABA with Betty Petersen’s photo from the cover of the ABA’s *Birding* magazine, July/August 2013; 2) Wayne Petersen; 3) Vern Laux; 4) Pete Dunne signs books; 5) Peter Bono at Vendor Marketplace; 6) Registration volunteers; 7) Friday speakers Anne-Marie Runfola and Shawn Carey.
CCBC Merchandise

Available at all meetings.

_Birding Cape Cod_ $15.95 (A “must have” for every Cape Cod Birder!)

- CCBC Cap $15.00
- CCBC Decal $1.00
- CCBC Patch $3.00
- CCBC Bino/Camera Strap $12.50
- CCBC Coffee Mug $6.00
- CCBC Checklist $0.75
- CCBC Pin $5.00
- CCBC Decal $1.00
- CCBC Checklist $0.75
- CCBC Pin $5.00

For more information Contact
Eldon Ziegler
Club Merchandise Director
at
eldonz@atlanticdb.com

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Welcome to our New Members

HERE ARE OUR GREAT NEW MEMBERS: PLEASE WELCOME THEM AT A MEETING!!!

- Howard Becker, Brewster*
- Ed Buckingham, South Orleans
- Ron Cadillac, West Yarmouth
- David and Deborah Cohen, Sandwich
- John, Catherine, Isabel and Margaret Dickson, Brewster
- Patrick Frye, Centerville
- Beth, Bob, Erin, Bobby and Katie Gibson, NYC, NY
- Sally Mahoney, Harwich
- Sue and Tom Harrington, Storrs, CT
- Judy and Larry Katz, Tabernacle, NJ
- Amanda Leigh, Centerville
- David Martin, Dedham
- Fred Monahan, Wallingford, CT
- Joan Richards, Centerville
- George and Joanne Russas, South Dennis
- Herbert and Joanna Schurmann, North Chatham
- Nancy Swirka, Hull

Stephen Broker, Cheshire, CT
Michele Burnat, Amston, CT
Raettiz Claflin, Boston
Eileen Griener, Mashpee
Saul Fisher, Huntington Valley, PA
Sarah Hinkle, Boston
Rita Horgan, Hanover
Vern Laux, Nantucket
Ed Hoopes, South Yarmouth
Lasa Millas, Amston, CT
George Oleyer, Oxford, CT
William Parkins, South Yarmouth
Chris and Jackie Rastallis, East Falmouth
Anne-Marie Runfola, Falmouth
Jim Schneider, Mashpee
Martha Stearns, Cambridge
Virginia Torrey, South Yarmouth

*(MA unless another state indicated)

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PROGRAMS, continued from p. 5

bird populations, and the Cape’s drastically different landscape, today. Bob Prescott has been director of Massachusetts Audubon Society’s Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary since 1983 where he has been actively involved in coastal issues and research, including research on coastal nesting birds. Bob has a degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts and has studied such diverse topics as whale strandings, harbor seal distribution around Cape Cod, home range of box turtles, and population studies of diamondback terrapins. Bob has led birding trips to Belize, Costa Rica, the Galapagos Island, Churchill, Manitoba, Antarctica, as well as to many places in the U.S. such as Big Bend, Texas and Southeastern Arizona. Under his direction, the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has grown to more than 1,100 acres and is a showcase of green architecture with the new nature center. (See p. 4 for December meeting).

Our outstanding September program featured Anne-Marie Runfola (pictured on page 6), with an engaging program on “Sighting! Surveying Seabirds on Stellwagen Bank”; she also discussed this topic at the Festival.
PHOTOS FROM THE FESTIVAL TRIPS:
South Island and Monomoy, Tern Island and, of course, the birds. Photos by John Hoye:
1) Derek Lovitch, author; 2) Ellison Orcutt, South Beach; 3) Mark Faherty, South Beach;
4) Marbled Godwit. Photos by Judith Davis: 5) Black-bellied Plover; 6) Bob Prescott scoping
the Red Knots for Jamie.
First Annual Cape Cod Bird Festival, continued from p. 2
From Mass Audubon, Wayne Petersen wrote this note:

I want to thank you and the rest of your outstanding committee for organizing, executing, and hosting such a splendid birding event this past weekend. By all accounts it was a winner and I’d say you hit one out of the park! Everyone I spoke to was most complimentary about every aspect of the weekend, especially the organization and the fine weather! The birds weren’t too shabby either........

In addition, I particularly want to thank all of you for dedicating the festival to Betty in recognition of her many accomplishments on behalf of bird conservation. It was very flattering to have so much attention directed at her contributions, and it made me extremely proud to know how beloved she was by so many people. This was an event that will never be forgotten in my mind and I was very pleased to be included in all of your activities. Thank you again and congratulations for pulling off a most successful inaugural event. I can’t wait until next year! Wayne.

Thanks Wayne and everyone.

Diane

The 2013 scholarship winner writes about her trip to the Hog Island Audubon Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens
By Rachel Anne Budnick

This past June, I had the privilege of attending the Hog Island Audubon Young Birders Camp for a week, thanks to a scholarship I received from the Cape Cod Bird Club Scholarship Committee. I would first like to thank the committee for choosing me among many other young birders who applied, and I am very grateful for such an amazing opportunity. Hog Island is located just off the scenic coast of Bremen, Maine. It is a relatively small island completely covered in lush forests and is part of the National Audubon Society’s conservation efforts and holds a birding camp for adults and teens. I met other teens from all over the country. I made good friends with some of them, and we still keep in touch. I find it inspiring to gather with so many other young adults who share such a passionate love of birds as I do.

[continued, p. 11]
The food was a delicacy, to say the least, and we were treated with delicious meals morning, midday, and night. Following dinner everyone moved to the Fish House for a presentation by one of the instructors, often by very influential people in the birding and conservation world such as Steve Kress, Julie Zickefoose, and Bill Thompson III.

On the second day of camp we journeyed into the interior of the island to learn about bird banding with author and ornithologist, Scott Weidensaul. Within minutes of setting up our nets we brought in our first bird, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and after that, a Black-Throated Green Warbler. The next day held our wonderful experience at Wreck Island, a place where you are taken back to the prehistoric era, due to the Great-Blue Heron rookery and large birds flying overhead. The final day, however, was the most memorable: the young birders were the only group to visit Eastern Egg rock and have the opportunity to land. Developed by Dr. Steve Kress, Project Puffin is a conservational effort to bring North Atlantic Puffins back to nesting on the coast of Maine; Eastern Egg rock was found to be the ideal place. To our dismay the sea swell on that day was too high, and we were unable to land on the island; however, we still did see an abundance of seabirds, including the puffins. Some of the instructors even noted that we saw more puffins than they had ever seen at that time of year.

Our last day was named Guillemot day in honor of our seabird friends, the Black Guillemot; and the day went by in a blur of laughter and happiness. Once my stay had come to an end, I found it hard to say goodbye since I had formed a connection with the land and was sad to see it get smaller and smaller as I drove away.

I returned from Hog Island a changed person. I had always had an affinity for nature as well as birding and hoped to secure a career in the field. This experience finalized it. It was waking up with the sun and breathing in the fresh sea air, the glint of the rising day on the water, the beams of light through raindrops on the leaves. It was the trails that led one back in time to another land and state of mind with the call of the loon at the break of day, and the singing of the thrush at noon. Hog Island is a land lost in time, a haven for birds of all kinds, a sanctuary for nature and for the people who have been touched by its beauty. It is a place untouched by humankind and unaffected by the burdens of daily life. I like to think that the island is thanking us, returning the favor for conserving and protecting it; it brings everyone whose lives meet it to a primal peace and serenity. This enchanting island has touched my soul; I was entranced by its magnificence and will forever remember my brief stay there. I believe I have found paradise in the world, thanks to my stay at Hog Island.

Scholarship Application for 2014

If you know Cape Cod teens (ages 14-17) who would be thrilled to win a scholarship to the Hog Island Audubon Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens next summer (June 15-20, 2014 or June 22-27, 2014 ), please encourage them to apply for the one scholarship we will offer. The Deadline for application is January 13, 2014. Check the website or contact the scholarship coordinator, Vice President Ned Handy at nedhandy@comcast.net

For information about the camp, check the website: http://hogisland.audubon.org/bird-studies-teens

Black-throated Green Warbler at Hog Island
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 (individual) or $22 (Family or Household), along with the membership form on page 4 (or download from our web site) to: CCBC, Att: Charlie Martin, PO Box 704, Harwich, MA 02645, Web: www.capecodbirdclub.org

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Ned Handy Vice President (nedhandy@comcast.net)
Peter Flood Secretary (pomarine@comcast.net)
Charlie Martin Treasurer (cemartinjr@comcast.net)
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