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

**President’s Message**

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." -- Doug Larson

By the time you read this, I hope the "shoes full of slush" are gone. Nevertheless, we know spring is coming by the presence of birds we haven’t seen for months: lots of Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and even Brown-headed Cowbirds should be appearing along with increasing numbers of northward-moving sparrows. We had an extraordinary winter invasion of winter finches; are you still seeing crossbills and siskins and redpolls or have they departed for their breeding grounds in the north?

Mark Faherty has lined up some great programs for this final quarter, and Mary Keleher has assembled some wonderful bird walks. Fellow birders, we are in for some Spring treats.

This year's Young Birder Scholarship winner has been selected. (See Ron Ayotte’s article on page 3.) Thanks to you, we were easily able to raise the funds to make this happen. Diane Silverstein brings us up-to-date on the planning for the Cape Cod Bird Festival this coming September. (See Festival Fever on page 2.) Volunteer opportunities exist. There is still time to join the fun and help make this event fabulous.

We will hold our Annual Meeting and election of Officers and Directors in May; there are several openings. Please contact me if you are willing to serve the club as an Officer or Director.

Good birding,

Peter Bono
The Word is Out!

Only six and one-half months until the first Cape Cod Bird Festival! And the excitement is building! Word is out and responses and questions are rolling in! Registration for the Festival will begin on April 1st!

Our first advertisements have hit the American Birding Association website and Bird Watcher’s Digest for March/April. More ads are to follow! These ads plus our new & terrific website (www.capecodbirdclub.org) have initiated many inquiries in the last few weeks about attending the Festival or exhibiting at the vendor marketplace. We’re hoping you’ll join in the fun September 13 – 15 by registering for the Festival!

Your Festival steering committee is comprised of Jane and Charlie Martin, Gerry Cooperman, Fran Clapp, Michael Dettrey and yours truly. We are having a ball pulling together the many, many details that go into planning such a big event. We want to share that excitement with you and welcome you to volunteer for one of our many tasks. Or if you possess a special talent or skill, let us know about that, too. There are so many ways we can use your assistance. Don’t miss out! Call me for details at 508-364-7050 or email me at birder526@comcast.net or let’s talk at the next meeting!

As a reminder, Pete Dunne of NJ Audubon, noted author and bird expert will be giving our keynote speech on Saturday, September 14. He’ll also lead a trip and run a workshop! You won’t want to miss these!

Field trips are planned for both shorebirding and landbirding, a pelagic trip will go out on Sunday, September 15, and Family Day, a great way to wrap up the weekend, will be at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. More specifics will be available within the next few weeks!

And, if you follow Facebook, please “like” the Cape Cod Bird Club. Our new Facebook page already has 61 “likes” and is a great way to stay alert to the Club’s many programs and bird walks along with Festival news.

So, again, give me a call or send me an email and let me know how you can help out as a Festival volunteer. Look forward to hearing from you!

Diane

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB
CAMP SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDED

The Selection Committee is pleased to announce that the winner of the Club’s 2013 scholarship to the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens camp on Hog Island, Bremen, Maine, in June is Rachel Budnick, a freshman at Nauset Regional High School. Rachel is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Budnick of North Eastham. She is avidly interested in birds and birding, and among her activities she has been a volunteer at Wild Care in Eastham, working with the care and feeding of orphaned baby birds. According to the Wild Care staff she has shown a special passion for wildlife conservation and rehabilitation. Congratulations, Rachel!

Scholarship Committee,
Ron Ayotte (Chair)
Mark Faherty
Charlie Martin

Cape Cod Bird Club
Backyard Feeder Census
2012 to 2013

Have you been recording birds feeding at your feeders or on natural food in your yard this winter?

It’s time to return the census form.
Simply hand the form to Peter Flood at the April or May CCBC meeting or mail or email it to him.

Mailing address:
5 Hokum Rock Road,
Dennis, MA 02638
Email: pomarine@comcast.net
Club Trips Spring 2013

Mary Keleher, Trip Coordinator

All are welcome to join us on these free club trips. A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated. For additions or changes, please check our website.

www.capecodbirdclub.org

Tips: • Dress for weather
• Bring Binoculars
• Water
• Spare car keys.

Monday - April 1 at 8:00AM
Scusset Beach Area
Sagamore
Meet in the Sagamore Park & Ride at the end closest to Friendly’s Restaurant. We’ll carpool down to Scusset Beach and spend the morning checking the thickets, canal and beach area for early spring migrants and seabirds. This trip is co-sponsored with the South Shore Bird Club.
Leader: Mary Keleher
maryeak@yahoo.com
508-477-1473

Saturday April 20
5:30 PM - 7:00PM
Birding with Kids!
South Cape Beach - Mashpee
Meet in the “Town Beach” parking lot. From the Mashpee Rotary take Great Neck Road South to Great Oak Road. Follow Great Oak Road to the “All Beaches” sign and turn left. Continue all the way to the end and turn left to parking area. Bring a kid and we’ll walk the path and beach area to look for shorebirds and seabirds.
Leaders: Mary & Ashley Keleher
maryeak@yahoo.com
508-477-1473

Tuesday - May 7
7:00AM - 10:00AM
Ryder Conservation Area
Sandwich
Meet in the parking area on Cotuit Road approximately 2 miles south of Quaker Meetinghouse Rd. We’ll explore this 243 acre conservation area with 5 miles of hiking trails winding through groves of 100 year old Holly, Beech and Pine Trees looking for spring migrants and nesting songbirds. Past highlights for the area have included Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, White-eyed Vireo and Swainson’s Thrush.
Leader: Peter Crosson
pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com
508-280-1678

Sunday - May 19
8:00AM - 11:00AM
Brewster State Forest
Meet in the parking lot of the Brewster Police Department, which is on Rte 124 (between Rte 6 and Tubman Road). We will walk along the cemetery access road and along the Bike Trail in the Forest. We’ll be looking for resident and migrant passerines; flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, tanagers, and orioles. In recent past, a male Summer Tanager was resident here; we’ll see if he has returned. Easy, level walking. Please contact leader if you plan to join the walk. On the morning of the walk, best contact will be by cell. Heavy rain will cancel.
Leader: Peter Bono
pbono@prba.com
508-375-9421
cell: 774-487-2848

Monday - May 20
8:15AM - 12:00PM
Long Pond and Crane WMA
Falmouth
Meet at the parking lot for Goodwill Park (entrance off Gifford Street approximately 0.6 miles north of Jones/Gifford intersection.) We’ll look for migrant and nesting songbirds then continue onto the Crane Wildlife Management Area to look for raptors and open space specialties.
Leader: Greg Hirth
geohawk_1@yahoo.com
508-457-4356.

Friday - May 24 - 5:30AM
Wompatuck State Park
Hingham
Meet at the Stop and Shop on Route 6A in Sandwich by Bobby Bryne’s. 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 might include Hooded Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Pileated Woodpecker, and other passerine species during the migration. We’ll bird until the latter portion of the morning and be done by noon to beat the traffic. Watch the weather reports and call/email to check on the status of the trip.
Leader: Frank Caruso
fcaruso@umass.edu
508-477-9807 or 774-238-0698
Club Trips Spring 2013  Mary Keleher, Trip Coordinator

Beech Forest Bird Walks
Every Saturday & Sunday in May at 8:00 AM

Meet in the parking lot. Take Route 6 to Provincetown. Turn right onto Race Point Road. Turn left into parking lot, approximately .50 miles. One of the best migrant traps on the outer Cape! Many passerines will stop here to rest during the spring migration where they find food, water and shelter within this small patch of forest at the tip of Cape Cod.

- Sat - May 4 - Ed Banks, edbanks@verizon.net or 508-769-6762
- Sun - May 5 - Blair Nikula, odenews@odenews.org or 508-432-6348
- Sat - May 11 - Charlie Martin, cemartinjr@comcast.net or 508-430-1257
- Sun - May 12 - Mark Faherty, mfaherty@massaudubon.org or 774-288-9465
- Sat - May 18 - Al Curtis, killdeer89@comcast.net or 508-432-8677
- Sun - May 19 - Peter Flood, pomarine@comcast.net or 508-258-0113
- Sat - May 25 - Charlie Martin, cemartinjr@comcast.net or 508-430-1257
- Sun - May 26 - Peter Crosson, pcrossson@emarldphysicians.com 508-280-1678

New Members

Welcome to our new members !!!!

Abigail Elkin-Paris of Lowell
Ann Pike-Paris of Orleans
Ann Manikas of Chicago, IL
Jim & Amanda Baughman of Eastham
Kristen Thompson of Annapolis, MD
Andrea Ceselski of Yarmouthport
Paul Kinnaly of Dedham
Arthur Costonis of Chatham
Gail Tilton of Chatham
Karen Fiske of Falmouth
Nancy Polydys of Dennisport
Edward & Jackie Etsten of Harwichport
Sally Clifton of Cummaquid
Lynn Southey of Wellfleet

Looking forward to seeing you at our Club walks and meetings!

April - May
Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch
9:00AM - Noon
Most Days
Saturdays Are Best
Don Manchester
Truro

In 1998 the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, in partnership with the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, started the Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch in Truro. From late March through early June, with the peak season for migrant raptors being mid April through mid May, Don Manchester is there counting hawks. Flights are best during mornings before noon and on days that feature winds from a southerly direction. Pilgrim Heights is located in North Truro on the east side of Route 6 within the Cape Cod National Seashore. Look for the brown and white park sign "Pilgrim Heights." Follow the driveway to the first parking lot. Take the Smalls Swamp Trail to the second overlook.
April 8, 2013

Dr. Andrew Vitz, Massachusetts State Ornithologist

A CUP IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH – THE ROLE OF SHADE COFFEE IN MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

Are you drinking shade grown coffee? Does it matter one way or the other? Many of our favorite neotropical migrant birds, like warblers, tanagers, and thrushes, winter in the coffee growing regions of Central and South America, where habitat loss has been linked with range-wide population declines in some species. A conversion from traditional shade-grown coffee plantations that maintain some component of the natural tree canopy, to treeless monocultures of sun-grown coffee has concerned bird conservationists for years. So how can we coffee-drinking birders help? Dr. Vitz and his wife spent 4 winters in the foothills of the Andes Mountains in Venezuela evaluating the habitat quality of shade coffee plantations to overwintering Cerulean Warblers and other neotropical migrants. He will be talking generally about the benefits of shade coffee plantations to birds and sharing the results and experiences from their study in Venezuela. Dr. Vitz grew up outside of Cincinnati, Ohio and became interested in birds as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After taking a course in ornithology and spending a semester abroad in South America, he knew he wanted to spend a career working with birds. Not only was he amazed by avian biodiversity, but he also recognized that birds, for a variety of reasons, were a good taxonomic group to focus on biological conservation. After graduating from Wisconsin he spent 4 years as a seasonal avian biologist, working with birds throughout the hemisphere. He completed M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the Ohio State University studying the post-fledging ecology of mature forest birds and was also involved in a project working with birds in shade coffee plantations, which is the focus of this talk. Before becoming the State Ornithologist for Massachusetts last year, he spent 4 years managing the field ornithology program at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pennsylvania.

May 13, 2013

Anne-Marie Runfola

SIGHTING! SURVEYING SEABIRDS ON STELLWAGEN BANK

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, a wild area teeming with life, rich in history, and lying just off the coast of Massachusetts between Cape Ann and Cape Cod supports 575 known species, including 53 species of summering, wintering, or migrating seabirds. Due to its significance as a feeding ground, the sanctuary’s central feature—Stellwagen Bank—was designated an Important Bird Area by Mass Audubon in 2001. Despite the variety and numbers of seabirds present in the sanctuary, our knowledge of their lives is at best fragmentary. In 2011, staff and volunteers set out to uncover more about the sanctuary’s seabirds by studying them where they spend most of their lives — at sea. This presentation will showcase some of the sanctuary’s magnificent seabirds, share research results, and will describe how local citizens can contribute significantly to scientific research. As Volunteer Coordinator for NOAA/Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Anne-Marie Runfola developed the organization’s first comprehensive volunteer program, including the Stellwagen Sanctuary...
Mark your calendar and save these dates!

Flea Market Fundraiser to benefit
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 Main St/Rte 6A
Brewster
508-896-3867
(the location of all our meetings)
It’s the annual friends fundraiser:
Flea market, plants, books, CDs, DVDs.
Gift shop clearance.
Hot dogs & cold drinks available

Friday and Saturday
June 7 & 8
9:30 am to 2:30 pm both days

Plants, books & flea market!

Please check your home for attic treasures, books, knick-knacks and bring these donations to our April or May meetings. Items may also be left at the museum during regular museum hours.

Pass the word about the great event.
Let’s help the Museum!

Seabird Stewards (S4) initiative. This pioneering longitudinal study invites citizen scientists to work with researchers to collect valuable data for both the sanctuary and a comprehensive East Coast seabird database.

Before moving to Cape Cod in 2010, Anne-Marie served for seven years as Education Director, then overall Deputy Director of the Bronx River Alliance in New York City where she helped the community use the river as a living classroom, ran citizen science monitoring and restoration programs, and oversaw the development of an organization-wide volunteer program. Anne-Marie holds a B.S. in Corporate Communications with a focus on instructional design and media from Ithaca College, and an M.A. in educational and cognitive psychology and instructional technology from Columbia University, Teachers College, with a focus on science education. She serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Coonamessett River Trust in Falmouth, MA.

Help Wanted!
at
The Wing Island Bird Banding Station at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
We are looking for volunteers for the upcoming 2013 banding season. Bird banding provides you with an incredible opportunity to view birds in the hand, learn a great deal about individual species, and contribute directly to bird conservation by collecting data.

For more information, please contact Sue Finnegan.
508-896-7083
suefinnegan@comcast.net
CCBC Merchandise
Available at all meetings.

Birding Cape Cod $15.95
A “must have” for every Cape Cod Birder!
CCBC Cap $15.00 CCBC Knit Hat/Cap $15.00
CCBC Decal $1.00 CCBC Checklist .75
CCBC Patch $3.00 CCBC Pin $5.00
Bino/Camera Strap $12.50
Coffee Mug - $6.00

For more information Contact
Roger Jenks
club Merchandise Coordinator
at 508-369-1693
rajcarver@yahoo.com

Check out our new item.
A stick chair
with our famous logo.
Be sure to have yours.
$37.00

Bluebird Time!

It’s spring and bluebirds are checking out nestboxes already! Cape Cod Bird Club (CCBC) volunteers monitor eastern bluebird nestbox trails in several locations on the Cape. This is your invitation to get involved and enjoy. Our monitoring helps 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. We train volunteers, clean out and set up boxes for the spring, and schedule visits to each site so that we can track the nesting cycles of the birds. 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 Harwich, contact Judith Bruce, turtledock@comcast.net.

Orleans Conservation Trust is also setting up boxes this spring.
Call Kris Ramsay at 508-255-0183 or email kramsay@orleansconservationtrust.org.

If you have boxes at home, now is a good time to clean them out. Yes, it’s time to do a little spring cleaning before the nesting season begins.
Help Wanted!

At the May Meeting, we will hold our annual election of officers. This year, we have openings for Club Officers and three Directors

As President -- I am running for re-election.

Vice-President -- open. Ideally this candidate would enjoy being President in two years.

Secretary -- Peter Flood will run for re-election.

Treasurer -- Charlie Martin agreed to run for re-election. He will need an Assistant Treasurer to work with him in the coming year and ideally be willing to take over as Treasurer starting in 2014.

Director, Field Trips -- open

Director, Merchandise -- open. The current inventory takes up two plastic tubs and a box. One of the tubs does not have to be brought to the meeting, because it contains excess inventory (hats, mugs, etc).

Director, Newsletter Editor, Open

There are many great opportunities to become more involved with our club. Feel free to talk to me or any officer about how you can help our club.

Thank you,
Peter Bono

Crowes Pasture
East Dennis, MA
Summer 2012 Results

Box 1  –  Tree Swallow – 6 eggs, 5 fledged
Box 2  –  Tree Swallow – 6 eggs, 2 fledged
Box 3  –  Tree Swallow – 5 eggs, 4 fledged
Box 4  –  Tree Swallow – 4 eggs, 4 fledged
Box 5  –  Tree Swallow – complete nest, never used
Box 6  –  Tree Swallow – 5 eggs, 4 fledged
Box 9  –  Tree Swallow – 6 eggs, 4 fledged
Box 10 – Eastern Bluebird – 5 eggs, 5 fledged second nest: 4 eggs, 4 fledged
Box 11 – Tree Swallow – 6 eggs, 0 fledges
Second nest - 4 eggs, 3 fledged
Box 12 – Tree Swallow – 5 eggs, 2 fledged
Box 13 – Tree Swallow – 5 eggs, 3 fledged
Box 13 – Eastern Bluebird – late nest, no eggs
Box 14 – Eastern Bluebird – 5 eggs, 4 fledged Second nest - 3 eggs, 3 fledged
Box 16  –  Tree Swallow – 3 eggs, 3 fledged
Box 19  –  Black-capped Chickadee – 10 eggs, 8 fledged

Totals: 43 Tree Swallows fledged from 12 nests
8 Black-capped Chickadees fledged from 1 nest
16 Eastern Bluebirds fledged from 4 nesting attempts

Thanks to monitors:
Paul Berkowitz, Ken Casson, Marie Corcoran, Steve Petruska, and Dick Stacey

Coordinator: Carolyn Kennedy
March 4, 2013

Dear Cape Cod Bird Club Members,

Thank you to CCBC members and friends who have offered their ideas and enthusiasm to this Steering Committee as we launch the CAPE COD BIRD FESTIVAL, September 13-15, 2013. With just six months to go, the birding-related plans for the FESTIVAL are just about completed. We are thrilled to be offering attendees a nationally recognized keynote speaker in Pete Dunne, and many well-known local birding experts...some of you, in fact...to lead field trips and workshops.

Thank you to our own Terry Gavin, Website Webmaster, for developing the new Cape Cod Bird Club website to include all the up-to-the-minute FESTIVAL information. Also, much appreciation goes to Mass Audubon’s Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History for all the many who have donated their time and professional expertise.

Our next preparation focus is fundraising; and we need everyone's support.

Alongside Cape Cod businesses and institutions, we are asking YOU, our membership to participate in fundraising with a personal donation to help finance this inaugural FESTIVAL endeavor. Please show your support with a gift to the CAPE COD BIRD FESTIVAL

Sincerely,

The CCBC Festival Steering Committee

Please return this form with your check payable to CCBC-Festival and mail it to:

CCBC - Festival
P.O. Box 704
Harwich, MA 02645

_____ $25. _____ $50. _____ $100. $______Other

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
__________

Phone: _________________________ E-Mail:_______________________________________

MARKETING FYI:
We are also looking for:
1- businesses who would provide promotions, gifts, and/or coupons for registration packages
2- individual, or business with a bird or birding-related product who would like to participate in: The FESTIVAL VENDOR MARKETPLACE

If you are interested in either of these opportunities; indicate with a checkmark or call directly to: Jane Martin at 781-248-2813 or E-Mail: janeemartin@comcast.net
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: www.capecodbirdclub.org

Officers
Peter Bono  President
Ron Ayotte  Vice President
Charlie Martin  Treasurer
Peter Flood  Secretary

Directors
Jane Martin
Mary Keleher
Mark Faherty
Roger Jenks
Diane Silverstein
Christine Hight

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