President’s Message

"I cannot endure to waste anything as precious as autumn sunshine by staying in the house. So I spend almost all the daylight hours in the open air."  -- Nathaniel Hawthorne

Let's heed Hawthorne's urging by going on one of the many CCBC bird walks organized by Michael Dettrey in the coming months. Take a look at the schedule and join in. Even better: bring a friend.

Wasn't that a great Birding Festival! Diane Silverstein and her Committee did a wonderful job. See her report for details, but I can say that I heard nothing but praise from everyone who stopped by the CCBC Membership table at the festival. One out-of-town birder gushed that it was the best festival she had ever attended!

It isn’t too early to start thinking about our Holiday Meeting in December. Please look around your house and find some birding/nature-oriented books or other items (clothing, accessories, feeders) to donate to the Silent Auction. It’s our only fundraising event of the year--with the proceeds of the Auction and the Bake Sale split between our Young Birder Scholarship Fund and the ABA Birder’s Exchange. You may bring your donated items to the October or November meetings. Also, remember that our 2014 Young Birder Winners will be on hand at the December meeting to describe first hand their experiences--as related in this issue.

Mark Faherty continues to do a marvelous job getting the best speakers to come to the Cape. The October and November programs--Neil Hayward and Wayne Peterson--should stimulate our birding imaginations, so put these meetings on your calendar now.

Good Birding,

Peter Bono
The Second Annual Cape Cod Bird Festival was quite a success with 210 registrants from 21 states and Canada. Chairperson Diane Silverstein and her incredible team of Fran Clapp, Jerry Cooperman, Michael Dettrey, Terry Gavin and others worked diligently for months to assure a smoothly run festival. The Doubletree Hotel in Hyannis was a great venue with the Vendor Marketplace and Registration located close together. The entire weekend had great weather and birding. The featured speakers David Sibley and Greg Miller gave outstanding talks and led bird walks enjoyed by many. The Friday night pizza social with David Sibley had more than 200 participants and everyone loved his “psychology of bird identification.” The Saturday night dinner with Greg Miller was really wonderful with outstanding humor as well as a standing ovation. Each of the speakers enjoyed signing books for us. Some of us watched the DVD of *The Big Year* again after Friday night’s dinner, and we saw the brief cameo appearance of Greg Miller, who served as the bird consultant to the movie. We could not have done this festival without the tireless work of the festival volunteers. We are also very thankful for our wonderful vendors who supported the Festival. We are looking forward to next September’s festival as well. The post-festival trip to Cuttyhunk with Greg Miller was a treat with perfect weather for the 25+ birders.  

Diane Silverstein, Festival Chairperson

Charlie and Jane Martin at the Pizza Social, Marilyn Schlansky at the Registration Table, Greg Miller and David Sibley at the Pizza Social, and Peter and Elaine Bono at the Bird Club table in the Vendor Marketplace.
Join us on these free club trips. Leaders appreciate a call or email. For additions or changes, always check our website. www.capecodbirdclub.org

► Wednesday – October 1st – 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM / Buntings & Sparrow Migrant Walk – Eastham
Leader: Michael Dettrey
Meet at the National Seashore’s Salt Pond Visitor Center off Route 6 in Eastham. Look for us in the parking lot. Please RSVP. Leader: Michael Dettrey, swanpondside62@aol.com or 774-212-7080.

► Wednesday - Oct 8th - 11 AM - 3 PM / Kayak the Herring River in Harwich / Leader: Ed Banks
We’ll let the tide help us up and back as we explore the beautiful Herring River. Bring sun and insect protection, water, and lunch. Meet at the boat ramp where the river crosses Rte 28 (opposite the Weatherdeck Restaurant) in West Harwich. I may have access to a few kayaks, please let me know in advance. Rain date is Friday, Oct 10th - 1 - 4 PM. Rain or wind cancels. Please RSVP: Leader Ed Banks, edbanks@verizon.net or 508-769-6762

► Sunday – October 13th – 8 AM – 12 PM / Early Waterfowl and Seabirds – Dennis / Leader: Michael Dettrey
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. Please RSVP to 774-212-7080 or swanpondside62@aol.com Rain cancels.

► Sunday - October 19th - 7 AM - 11 AM / Late Fall Migrants - Marstons Mills.
Leader: Peter Crosson
Join us for a visit to two of the best late fall migrant hotspots in Barnstable. We will meet at the parking lot for Marstons Mills community garden on Santuit-Newtown Road. The garden can be productive for migrant sparrows, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, and other late fall migrants. After birding the garden, we will carpool over to Santuit pond conservation area. The mix of mature hardwood forest, overgrown cranberry bogs, and pond shore can be productive for a variety of late migrants, including warblers, sparrows, and raptors. Please RSVP to pcroson@emeraldphysicians.com.

► Saturday - November 15th — 8AM - 12 Noon/ Corporation Beach in Dennis, Community Gardens in Dennis and Brewster / Leader: Peter Bono
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: 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). Please RSVP: 508-375-9421 or 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."

Go to page 4 for additional trips.
October 13, 2014

Neil Hayward—The Accidental Big Year

In 2013 Boston birder Neil Hayward suffered a devastating bout of the Big Year. The temporary insanity resulted in almost 250,000 miles of travel, taking him to the remote corners of this continent: Barrow in the frozen north; the Dry Tortugas, dangling off the Florida Keys to the south; Newfoundland, poking out to the east; and tiny Adak, adrift in the volcanic Aleutian chain of the west. And a place they call New Jersey. By year’s end, he’d netted some 750 species of bird and quite possibly set a new ABA Big Year record. Please join us as Neil takes a Big Year, applies cutting-edge high pressure technology, and condenses it into a Big Hour! You will hear about exotic birds, remote places, volcanoes, polar bears, Aleutian plumbing and more!

Government health warning: Big Years can be contagious. High pressure technology not previously tested.

Neil Hayward grew up near Oxford, England, where, at a young age, he first became obsessed with birds. After a PhD in genetics at Cambridge University he moved (permanently) to the US in 2005 to head up the US operations of the biotechnology company Abcam. He left in 2011 to pursue a consulting career as owner of Cambridge Blue Consulting. Neil is currently the Field Trip Coordinator and a director of the Brookline Bird Club. He lives in Cambridge with his girlfriend Gerri and two cats, Sally and Khiva.

November 10, 2014 —Wayne Petersen -Svalbard: An Arctic Naturalist’s Paradise

Endless hours of daylight, towering sea cliffs teeming with breeding seabirds, immense slopes of rocky talus, gleaming tidewater glaciers, and the ever-present monotony of pack ice are constant reminders that the Svalbard archipelago is located a mere 600 miles from the North Pole. Characterized by a super abundance of seabirds and two iconic arctic mammals – Walrus and Polar Bear – Svalbard is at once a naturalist’s paradise. As with polar oceans elsewhere on the planet, the marine environment is rich in productivity and capable of sustaining an abundance of life. Accordingly Svalbard hosts a plethora of specialized creatures capable of exploiting this superabundance of marine life. Seabirds reign supreme, with species such as Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Thick-billed Murre being notably abundant.

Svalbard remains one of the best places on earth to observe the Polar Bear in its natural habitat. Increasingly the subject of media attention, the Polar Bear is an animal that potentially faces early extinction unless the current trend in global warming is reversed. A magnificent natural laboratory for observing and learning about [continued next page]
the pernicious effects of climate change, Svalbard and its unusual inhabitants such as the mysterious Ivory Gull and tiny Dovekie, are increasingly at risk. The warming temperatures that are escalating the melting of polar ice caps are also prematurely melting Arctic pack ice and raising ocean temperatures – phenomena that could produce devastating impacts on marine plankton and fish populations. A collapse in marine prey populations could ultimately have deleterious effects, even for seemingly abundant bird species like the Thick-billed Murre and Atlantic Puffin. Indeed, a break in ocean food chains could have devastating consequences for the long-term survival of arctic seabirds and land animals alike. Join Mass Audubon’s Wayne Petersen for a “chilling” visit to this remote polar landscape.

Wayne R. Petersen is Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. As co-author of *Birds of Massachusetts* (1993), co-editor of the *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas* (2003), and a New England Regional Editor for *North American Birds* magazine and editor of the New England Christmas Bird Count, Wayne’s knowledge of the status and seasonal distribution of New England bird life give him a wide perspective when thinking about Important Bird Areas in Massachusetts. Among his other writing projects are authorship of the National Audubon Society's *Pocket Guide to Songbirds and Familiar Backyard Birds* (East), and *Birds of New England* (with Roger Burrows), and contributing to *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, and *Arctic Wings*. Wayne has lead international birding tours on six continents and he serves on the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee (MARC), the advisory committee of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and he is a board member of the Wildlands Trust and *Bird Observer* magazine. In 2005 Wayne was the recipient of the American Birding Association’s Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology.

BIRD FESTIVAL IMAGES: FIELD TRIPS to Pochet Island and Cuttyhunk

Wayne Peterson and others at the Pochet Island field trip. Greg Miller at Cuttyhunk with a sunrise view from the ferry ride.
FROM MADAKET NOBILI:

This past June, I was privileged enough to experience the natural treasures of coastal Maine when I attended a weeklong session of birding camp on Hog Island. I would like to first thank the Cape Cod Bird Club committee members for electing me to journey to this marvelous place. It is (or should be) every young birder’s dream to visit there.

Even when you first set foot upon Hog Island, you begin to feel its powerful natural presence affecting your being. Tall, silent conifers rule the densely wooded forests, whose floors are carpeted in soft mosses, gentle green ferns and sound-muffling needles from long dead pines. Tides ebb and flow over salt-stained rocks black with rockweed. Weathered buildings cluster the northernmost tip of the island, where good-natured people welcome you into this overpowering realm. Nature and human civilization appear almost inseparable.

And this proves to be truthful, judging by campers’ actions over those few days. Each day was packed with events, sometimes starting before sunrise. I was grouped with twenty teens, called ‘corvids’, from around the country, and throughout the week I bonded with these kids over our adventures. We participated in many thrilling activities daily, things like warbler banding, island bird walks, tidal exploring, nature hikes and sketches, harbor boating, and too much more to name. I helped to find Merlin’s and Parula Warbler’s nests and often spent time in the camp lab observing bird skins. My favorite day trip was to Eastern Egg Rock, where I viewed nesting Puffins, Terns, some Razorbills, and Black Guillemots. Nightly, after a delicious dinner, we’d congregate in the Fish House and have a motivational talk from legends like Steve Kress and Bill Wallauer. A perfect end to an inspiring afternoon!

The days were long and exhausting, but worth every minute. The week went by in a happy blur, and I faced my goodbye all too soon. Here on Hog Island, I had found love for the tranquil morning mists, the chirr of squirrels, the beauty of dark pines, the lonely call of an osprey. Changed by the simplicity of unburdened life alongside nature, by newfound birding ways among kids like myself, I did not want to leave this enchanting place, where I had found hidden paradise. Thank you for my Hog Island opportunity; I am touched by its special beauty.

FROM SHANNON ADAMS

In June, the week of the 15-20th, I was able to attend the Coastal Maine Bird Studies Camp for Teens. I had just gotten off the boat onto Hog Island, where most of the activities would be held, and I was greeted by many warm and friendly ornithologists, birders, and fellow teens. I felt like I was in a whole other world when I stepped onto the island. Everyone there was excited, motivated, inspired, and willing to learn, which was very refreshing to be around. There were educational lectures each night which covered topics such as migration, the genders of birds, Project Puffin, the history of Hog Island, and bird conservation. The lecturers were knowledgeable and had amazing presentation skills. There were many other activities during the day where our group would learn how to band birds, about general ornithology, different techniques for sound recording, and there were many birding sessions. Our group had gone out in the field to observe birds on the mainland, on the boat around the island, and on the island itself. The best trip though was going to Eastern Egg Rock. Our group was able to step foot on this island which is home to the restored seabird colony and meet some of the interns there. There were Atlantic Puffins, Black Guillemots, Terns, and Eiders. It was an amazing experience to be able to see the Atlantic Puffins and to meet the interns who dedicated months to restoring and monitoring their population. I was grateful to be able to share these experiences with people who were just as motivated as I, and shared the same interests. I have gained many friends from this and have been even more inspired to continue learning about ornithology and keep birding. Thank you Cape Cod Bird Club for this once in a lifetime experience.
Photos from our scholarship winners at Hog Island

From Madaket (above): Banding a Black-throated Green Warbler and an Atlantic Puffin with fish for its chicks.

From Shannon: Atlantic Puffin with fish and a Canada Warbler. Photos by Marshall Weber
In addition to our two scholarship winners Shannon Adams and Madaket Nobili, two of our bird club members, Judith Davis and her son Jamie Gilson, attended Family Camp at Hog Island, where they had an awesome time. Jamie enjoyed meeting Steve Kress and Pete Samuelson of Project Puffin and he loved the puffins and nature hikes. Think about going to Family Camp with your child or grandchild (ages 8-12) and you will understand how Madaket, Shannon, Judith and Jamie loved Hog Island.

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 21-26, 2015), please encourage them to apply for the scholarship we will offer. The Deadline for application is January 12, 2015. Check the website or contact the scholarship coordinator, Vice President Charlie Martin at cemartinjr@comcast.net for the application form. For information about the camp, check the website:

http://hogisland.audubon.org/bird-studies-teens
Please join us for our **traditional holiday Members’ Night on December 8**. Our teen scholarship winners will be speaking to us about their summer camp adventures then. We will have a silent auction to raise money for our scholarship fund and for the ABA Birders Exchange. There will be door prizes.

**Silent Auction** - books, gear, artwork, and other items will be available for bids. Proceeds will be donated to the Birder’s Exchange and our Teen scholarship.

**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. Send your great bird images from your 2014 birding adventures. Send 5-10 images in digital (JPEG) form to Peter Bono by the November meeting ([pbono@prba.com](mailto:pbono@prba.com)) or bring them on a CD or memory stick.

**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!

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The **Massachusetts Young Birders Club** (dedicated to the passion and knowledge of young birders across Massachusetts) has just been founded 2014 to unite all of the young birders in Massachusetts and provide them with unique opportunities to further their interests. Field trips are a major part of the club at this point and they serve to connect kids with the same passion. While field trips are the only events and opportunities available at the moment, they hope to have conservation and learning experiences added to the benefits of joining over time. Goals of the club: 1. To bring together the young birders of Massachusetts in a friendly and supportive atmosphere, 2. To host field trips to birding hotspots, 3. To encourage learning opportunities through the website and in the field. To join (ages 12-21), go to the website for the Club:


Their next field trip is October 25 at Plum Island at 7:30am. If you plan to go, contact Contact Jonathan Eckerson at [jpeckerson@gmail.com](mailto:jpeckerson@gmail.com).
# Cape Cod Waterfowl Census

## 32nd Annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census — December 6 & 7, 2014

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 32nd 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

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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<th>Susan Berg, Eastham</th>
<th>Ron Cadillac, West Yarmouth</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meredith Censullo, Washington, DC</td>
<td>Melissa Cestaro, North Eastham</td>
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<td>Pat &amp; Gerard Dombrowski, Yarmouth Port</td>
<td>Kathy &amp; Martin Fogle, Harwich</td>
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<td>Catherine S. Gelerman, Marstons Mills</td>
<td>Lorna Ibbitson, Mashpee</td>
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<td>Marcy &amp; Ron Klattenberg, East Falmouth</td>
<td>John &amp; Sandy Ogas, Harwich</td>
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<td>Barry &amp; Shirley Knowles, South Harwich</td>
<td>Nancy Packer, Provincetown</td>
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<td>Robbin &amp; Michael Orbison, East Sandwich</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Slikas, East Falmouth</td>
<td>David Spector, Belchertown</td>
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<td>Sue Swartzlander, Brewster</td>
<td>Marilyn Tillinghast, Putney, VT</td>
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<td>Patricia Vigliorolo, Yarmouth Port</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Susan Weeden, Orleans</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Wood, Kennett Square, PA</td>
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More Bird Festival Images

Our hard-working volunteers at the registration table; Jane Martin selling Festival T-shirts in the Vendor Marketplace (You can buy one still); Greg Miller and David Sibley at the Pizza Social; Peter Alden with books in the Vendor Marketplace; Eldon Ziegler with club merchandise, Gerry Cooperman on Cuttyhunk seeing garter snakes as well as birds.
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 $20 (individual) or $25 (Family or Household), along with the membership form available for downloading from our web site (www.capecodbirdclub.org/join/) to: CCBC, PO Box 485, Centerville, MA 02632

Officers:  
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Peter Flood  Secretary (pomarine@comcast.net)
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Gerry Cooperman  Assistant Treasurer (trogon6@aol.com)

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Barbara Grasso  Membership Co-chair (quinngrasso@aol.com)