President’s Message

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?"

-- John Steinbeck, Travels with Charley: In Search of America

Well, we certainly had a cold (and snowy) winter, so let's hope this summer is extra sweet. Steinbeck probably wasn't talking about birds, but I urge you to take some time this summer to get out and walk your favorite trails and appreciate our local breeding birds. Shorebirds start their southerly migration as early as the end of July, swallows and night-hawks are flocking and migrating in August, and warbler migration is in full swing by September. Keep your feeders going--many birds (woodpeckers, bluebirds, robins, sparrows) will bring their newly fledged young to your garden to be fed.

The Cape Cod Bird Festival (Sept 19-22) is drawing national attention, so, if you want to go to the dinners or participate in any of the walks or workshops, you are urged to get your registration in as soon as possible--use the enclosed form or go online to book and pay by credit card. You don't want to be shut out: most events are capacity-limited and will fill up rapidly.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are due at the end of August. The Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues slightly to support our club. Please use the enclosed Membership Form to send in your renewal right away. If you received a paper copy of this newsletter, your mailing label gives your renewal date. Sending your dues in now saves us lots of effort and postage if we don't have to follow up with reminders later in the year.

If you are reading this newsletter in black-and-white, I urge you to go online to our website and look at the color PDF version of The Kingfisher. Judith has assembled a stunning and colorful collection of bird photos to accompany this issue.

Good Birding, Peter
Second Annual Cape Cod Bird Festival

Cape Cod Bird Festival 2014  By Diane Silverstein
Friday, September 19 – Monday, September 22, 2014

- Headquarters at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, Hyannis, MA

Don't delay! Register today!

Take that bit of advice and register for the Festival as soon as possible! This year, our registrations are way ahead of last year at this time. Most of our registrants are using our new online registration through Sign Me Up. It is easy to do and benefits are: you can pay with your credit card, you can see how many places are left per trip, and you receive immediate confirmation of your selections. Just select the link on the Festival website. However, a paper registration form is available too, and can be printed off the computer, completed and mailed in with your check. We have included a paper form as an insert in this newsletter.

We have a great itinerary for this year with exceptional trip leaders! Whether you're a new birder or experienced, these trips are for you!

The pizza party with David Sibley and the dinner with Greg Miller should be entertaining and informative, but are filling quickly! A new photography/pelagic trip is 50% full. The Leader's Choice trip with David Sibley and Mark Faherty is another popular selection. This year, we offer a post-Festival trip to Cuttyhunk Island, known for its sightings of great fall birds and vagrants!

We don't want to see our Club members left out of the Festival! We need club members to volunteer as well. Please call me (508-364-7050) if you can help.

Due to extensive shoaling in the South Beach area, the boat captain cannot land at South Beach this year. We have replaced a Saturday South Beach trip with a second trip to South Monomoy, a beautiful wilderness area chock full of great birds! The Festival website has details: www.capecodbirdclub.org.

Have a terrific summer and we hope to see you September 19 - 22 at the Cape Cod Bird Festival

Diane

Welcome to our New Members

Warren & Jean Jewell, Yarmouth Port        Brian Harrington, Plymouth
Martha Sheldon, Plymouth                   Bruce Hurter, Wellfleet
Ann Hagan, Marston Mills                   Brenda & William Collins, Harwich
Deb & Stan Selkow, Harwich                 Douglas & Christine Meyere, Harwich
Susan & Elliott Carr, Brewster             Stephen & Linda Whittlesey, West Barnstable
Vicary Graham                               Georgia Peirce

Not a member yet, complete the membership application page inserted in this edition or check our website for a membership form: http://www.capecodbirdclub.org/join/
Join us on these free club trips. Leaders appreciate a call or email. For additions or changes, always check our website. www.capecodbirdclub.org

Suggestions: Dress for weather; bring: Binoculars, water, camera, scope, bird club stick chair...

► Date: Tuesday–July 1st
7:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Leader: Michael Dettrey
Location: Falmouth
Contact: swanpondside62@aol.com or 774-212-7080
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 nesting songbirds then continue on to the Crane Wildlife Management Area to look for raptors and/or Upland Sandpiper and open space specialties.

► Date: Tuesday–July 15
7:30AM – 10:30AM
Leader: Diane Silverstein
Location: Crowes Pasture
Contact: birder526@comcast.net or 508-364-7050
Meet in the parking lot. At the intersection of Route 6A and Airline/School turn onto School St. Take first right onto South St. Go past the cemetery to the entrance of Crowes Pasture. Drive a short distance on the dirt road and the parking lot is on the right. Expect about 3 miles of walking the trails, beach and main road. Rain Cancels.

► Date: Wednesday, July 30
8 AM—Noon
Leader: Peter Bono
Location: Leader’s Choice starting in South Yarmouth.
Contact pbono@prba.com or 508-375-9421
Meet at 8 AM in the Dunkin’ Donuts parking lot on Station Ave in

South Yarmouth. Depending on the weather and what is being seen, we’ll drive somewhere on the Cape to look for birds. Bring your Mass Audubon membership card, in case we stop in at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. If you plan to attend, you must contact the leader in advance. After 7 AM on the day of the walk, you can reach Peter on his cell phone (774-487-2848).

► Date: Saturday, August 9
5:30PM – 7:00PM
Leader: Peter Bono
Location: West Dennis Beach
Contact: pbono@prba.com or 508-375-2848
Meet at the West Dennis Beach parking lot at the far end, all the way to the breakwater and the Bass River. We’ll look for resident endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns. To participate, please contact the leader in advance. Rain cancels. After 4:00pm on the day of the walk you can reach Peter on his cell phone, 774-487-2848.

► Date: Friday, August 17
7:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Leader: Michael Dettrey
Location: Morris Island
Contact: 508-364-7050 or swanpondside62@aol.com
Meet at the Monomoy NWR Headquarters on Morris Island in Chatham at 7:30AM. We’ll walk Morris Island to the beach and leisurely view the hundreds of shorebirds, terns, gulls, and seabirds. Be prepared to walk 2+ miles. This is a half-day trip, so be sure to bring enough food and water. Please call or email if you plan to attend. Heavy rain or thunderstorm cancels.

► Date: Tuesday, August 26,
7:30PM – 10:30PM
Leader: Diane Silverstein
Location: Brewster Community Gardens/ Shoop Conservation Area
Contact: birder526@comcast.net or 508-364-7050
Meet at the gardens on Route 6A, approximately 1.5 miles from the Dennis/Brewster town line. Enjoy a walk around the Dennis Community Gardens and Shoop Conservation Area. We will search the fields, thickets and ponds for bluebirds, swallows, raptors and other birds. Rain Cancels.

► Date: Tuesday - September 9,
7:30AM- 11AM
Leader: Michael Dettrey
Location: Morris Island
Contact: swanpondside62@aol.com or 774-212-7080
Meet at the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge's parking lot in Chatham. We wish we had access to South Beach, but we will settle on scoping what we can from the overlook and beach. This area can be a good migrant trap and we can greet the Hawk Watcher/Counter here, Don Mancester. Weather is key so hope for strong northwest winds the night before and check NOAA/ NWS relative velocity.

Member Photos

Photos by Charlie Martin:
- Upper left: Clay colored sparrow
- Middle Left: Lazuli Bunting
- Middle Right: Yellow-headed Blackbird

Photo by Barb Grasso
- Upper Right: Baby Song Sparrows

Photo by Ken Casson
- Lower Right: Rusty Blackbirds
ANNUAL ELECTIONS

At the Annual Meeting in May, new Officers and two Directors were elected to the CCBC Board. The full listing of Officers and Directors is given on page 8, along with their contact information.

We want to thank Ned Handy both for stepping in to fill the Vice President position at short notice, but also for running the Scholarship Competition this past year and spearheading (along with Charlie Martin) the 2-year, successful effort to reinstate our tax-exempt status from the IRS.

After years of yeoman service to the Club in various positions, including President, Diane Silverstein decided to step down from the Board to concentrate her energies on the Cape Cod Bird Festival. Diane's energies and interests are legendary, and we thank her for her continued dedication and service to the Club.

Judith Davis, editor of *The Kingfisher*, was elected to a full three-year term on the Board and Paul Schlansky was elected to replace Diane. Paul reports, "In my work life I was in charge of the safety and health program for New York City Department of Environmental Protection. I retired in 2002, and we moved to the Cape from the Hudson River valley six years ago. My main interests are collecting books, reading, Henry David Thoreau, Buddhism, observing the natural world, and travel. We've been to about 90 countries so far, and look forward to seeing many more. Wherever we go we're always happy to see new (or familiar) birds."

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

*by Jane Martin, Refreshments Coordinator*

Observing avian behavior often begins around a back yard bird feeder. In the case of the monthly meetings of the Cape Cod Bird Club, our flocking behavior heats up around the refreshment table at the end of each meeting. This is the place we exchange pleasantries, discuss the monthly program, learn fellow member's names and generally catch up on more details of what is going on in the birding lives of our friends.

For some devoted members, this staging area is the first and only meal they have at the end of a busy workday. It is genuinely important to have this fellowship available and give us all an additional opportunity to connect. As always, we thank the many individuals who have prepared goodies to share at the refreshment table. We have particularly enjoyed the bird themed items that have appeared: owl shaped cheese dip, decorated passerine sugar cookies, miniature poppy-seed owl cakes and more!

If you haven't yet enjoyed the pleasure of bringing refreshments to a monthly meeting, please consider beginning a new habit for the next year. *Store bought or home made...everything is welcome!* Sign up lists are available beginning at the September meeting, when refreshments are happily supplied by the Board of Directors.

THANK YOU to these members who have faithfully brought refreshments throughout the year, and/or provided items for our fund raising Members Bake Sale at the December meeting. (Please forgive any unintended omissions.)

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<th>Joanne Baldauf</th>
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<th>Alice Berry</th>
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Sichuan lies in the very heart of China and is situated on the eastern edge of the vast Tibetan Plateau. It is a huge province--the size of France--and hosts the richest concentration of Chinese specialities and endemics in this vast country. There is a remarkable wealth of birdlife waiting in its rich evergreen and temperate forests, alpine meadows, mighty snow-capped mountains and grasslands of the Tibetan Plateau which form some of the most spectacular scenery of any bird tour.

After a week of sightseeing in Beijing, I flew to Chengdu, where my birding tour started--with 6 birders from the UK, 2 from the USA, and a couple from South Africa. During the next three weeks, we visited a number of mountains--all at elevations between 7,500' and 14,500'--as well as the 13,000' plus high grasslands of the eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau. We saw over 300 species including lots of representatives of bird families found exclusively or mainly in Asia: laughingthrushes, parrotbills, cuckoooshrikes, babblers, redstarts, leaf-warblers, and rosefinches. We also saw 13 species of pheasants including Tibetan Snowcock, Snow Partridge, Chinese Monal, Blood and Koklass Pheasant, and White and Blue Eared-Pheasant.

Except for the Asian toilets, the accommodations were clean and rooms comfortable. While I like Chinese food, after 30 days I tired of eating it three meals a day! So, I lost 10 pounds!

Photography opportunities were mixed: sometimes the smog, clouds and deep forest made it difficult to get enough light. But, at higher elevations, the skies were blue and I was able to get some nice, close photos. Some of the more colorful species are shown on page 7.

Peter Bono

September Program for the Bird Club—September 8

International Birding is Great but the Cape and Islands Rock! With Vern Laux

Join Vern Laux for a fast-paced journey with photos and stories of bird life from Ecuador, The Gambia and elsewhere before returning to the Birds of the Cape and Islands. You won’t fall asleep as the stories and photos will make you want to get out in the field at this great time of year. Vern Laux is a birder, butterfly enthusiast, photographer, international bird tour leader, educator, radio commentator, columnist and author who loves to fish. Birding and fishing can be done simultaneously. Vern has birded extensively all over North America, living in Massachusetts, Arizona, and Alaska and has spent time birding in virtually every other state. He knows how fortunate he has been to have been birding on all 7 continents, including over 20 trips to the Antarctic to observe birds, and some of the most spectacular wildlife and scenery on the planet.

He has written thousands of newspaper columns about birds and the natural world appearing in The New York Times, The Cape Cod Times, The Martha’s Vineyard Times, Vineyard Gazette, and Nantucket’s Inquirer and Mirror, published magazine articles in a variety of magazines including Birder’s World, Birding and Nantucket Today, and is the author of Bird News-Vagrants And Visitors On A Peculiar Island. His weekly Birding column appears every Saturday in The Cape Cod Times and he does The Bird Report on the Cape and Islands National Public Radio stations every Wednesday airing at 8:35 A.M. and again at 5:45 P.M. He is also a monthly guest on the call-in show, The Point, with Mindy Todd from 9-10 A.M. Vern was the ABC News “Person of the Week” in August, 2004 after finding the rarest bird in the Americas so far this century—a Red-footed Falcon. He lives on Nantucket and is the Senior Naturalist for the Linda Loring Nature Foundation.
Birding in China, cont’d

- Fire-capped Tit
- Long-tailed Minivet
- Firethroat
- Crested Tit Warbler
- White-throated Redstart
- Crested Ibis
- Chinese White-browed Rosefinch
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:

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