President’s Message

Winter is a strange season on Cape Cod. While we are preparing this newsletter, the last of the fall migrants (late ducks and grebes, northern gulls, alcids, winter finches) are just barely showing up. On the other hand, before the end of the winter—in late February and early March—we will see the return of the first spring migrants: blackbirds, grackles, osprey, among others. Michael Dettrey has a great line-up of walks; I hope you can find the time to get out into the field during our short Winter season. With the unprecedented influx of Snowy Owls this year, you have a good chance of finding one on several of the scheduled walks. And, in March at our regular meeting, we will hear Norman Smith—Mass Audubon scientist and nationally recognized expert on Snowy Owls—put in perspective what we have experienced this year.

Our Holiday Meeting in December was a great success: our Scholarship Fund and the ABA Birders Exchange Program will receive over $500 each from the proceeds of the bake sale and silent auction. Thanks to all of you who bought items and made additional donations [See photos below by Chris Banks—Peter welcoming all, Charlie doing the raffle, and bake sale].

We continue to add members at a good pace. In 2014, consider volunteering to help with the Second Cape Cod Bird Festival. Please come to the meetings, enjoy the programs, and share stories with your fellow birding neighbors." Good birding,
Second Annual Bird Festival

Cape Cod Bird Festival 2014
By Diane Silverstein

Members of the Cape Cod Bird Club should be proud of their very successful first Cape Cod Bird Festival hosted this year. Well, the Club is now poised to host the second Festival in 2014 and we look forward to your being a part of the fun!

And we couldn’t be more excited to announce that David Sibley will be a guest speaker and trip leader! More speakers are to be announced!

Mark your calendars for September 19 – 22, Friday to Monday. Our new headquarters hotel is the beautiful Doubletree by Hilton in Hyannis featuring outstanding meeting and banquet space, and beautiful guestrooms.

This year we are not only repeating some of our most popular field trips, but also we are introducing several new ones, including 2 full day trips, one to the Falmouth area and one to the Outer Cape. The very popular Leader’s Choice will be offered again, as will other new destinations. Another pelagic will be on the agenda. New this year is a post-Festival birding trip on Monday to a special destination to be announced. Up to four workshops will be held along with the very successful Vendor Marketplace!

Once again, the 2014 Festival will need YOU to volunteer! There are many needs, from helping with registration to publicity to helping at the Festival with transportation…and much more. Please consider volunteering this year!
To volunteer or for more information, please don’t hesitate to contact me at birder526@comcast.net or 508-364-7050.

Diane

Photo of Vendor Marketplace at 2013 Festival (by Frank Mantlik)
All are welcome to join us on these free club trips. Leaders 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 / scope
- Bird Club stick chair

► Wednesday – January 1 – 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Ed Banks
Mid-Cape or Hot Spots
Get your 2014 year list off to a great start! Click off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. Party hats optional! Meet in the Stop & Shop parking lot at Patriot Square on Route 134 in South Dennis. Take exit 9A off Route 6 and take a left at the lights. Leader: Ed Banks 508-769-6762 or edbanks@verizon.net

► Wednesday – January 15 – 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
David Clapp
Eastham – Salt Pond & Vicinity
Will look for overwintering birds in the thickets and around the fresh water ponds where we should also see dabbling and diving ducks. Then we’ll check for sea ducks along the bay and ocean shores. Meet at the Cape Cod National Sea Shore Visitors Center. Leader: David Clapp 508-896-7322 or naturalhistoryservices@comcast.net

► Saturday - January 18 – 8 AM – 12 Noon
Peter Bono
Corporation Beach / Points East
We’ll look for sea ducks (maybe a stray Harlequin or King Eider), Loons, grebes, alcids, wintering gulls (Iceland, Lesser Black-backed), wintering shorebirds, and any wind-blown pelagic. Depending on time, people’s interest, and if any unusual land birds (Snowy Owl?) are around, we’ll continue east along the Bay checking the various beaches. We might end up as far as First Encounter and/or Fort Hill. Meet at Corporation Beach, Dennis (take Corporation Road—to the left as you head east on Route 6A). Leader: Peter Bono, (508) 375-9421 or pbono@prba.com. Phone or email to confirm. If you have any questions about weather, call cell after 7:00 the morning of the trip.

► Thursday – January 23 - 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Ginie Page
Wellfleet to Provincetown
We’ll spend the morning checking the seas, bays and thickets from the Wellfleet Town Pier to the Provincetown Wharf. We’ll be looking for wintering waterfowl, alcids and perhaps some visitors from the far north. Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier. Leader: Ginie Page 508-349-6810

► Monday – January 21 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Diane Silverstein
Provincetown
We’ll visit Macmillan Wharf and other local P’town birding hot spots. Meet at the Stop ‘n Shop parking lot on Rt. 134 in Dennis (Patroit Square) to carpool. (Lot closest to Rt. 134). We’ll have lunch in P’town in between searching for wintering sea ducks, and more! Rain /snow cancels. Leader: Diane Silverstein & Michael Dettrey 508-364-7050 or birder526@comcast.net

► Monday – February 17 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Diane Silverstein
West Dennis Beach to Harwich Conservation Lands
We’ll look for ducks, loons, Snow Buntings, Purple Sandpipers and more. We’ll then caravan over to Bell’s Neck Road in West Harwich and walk the conservation lands on the north side of Great Western Road. Rain or snow cancels. Leader: Diane Silverstein & Michael Dettrey 508-364-7050 or birder526@comcast.net

► Monday - March 17 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Diane Silverstein
Crowes Pasture
We’ll look for early migrants and wintering birds and walk the woodland trail, beach, and main road. 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 way on the dirt road. The parking lot is on the right. Leader Diane Silverstein & Michael Dettrey 508-364-7050 /or birder526@comcast.net

[Trips continue on page 5]
Membership

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

The membership year extends from September 1, 2013, through August 31, 2014.

☐ Individual Membership $ 15 Extra Donations:
☐ Family (Household) Membership $ 22 Scholarship Fund $ ___

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ______ General Fund $ ___

Bird Festival Fund $ ___

(Please Print:)

Mailing Address:
Household (or preferred) Tel. No________________Email Address**_________________________

Name(s) *Gender and approximate age


I would prefer to receive the newsletter, Kingfisher, as a pdf by email: ______yes _____no

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 notifications in a timely manner as well as the Kingfisher. Please complete this form and mail it with your check 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.

Welcome to our New Members

Rachel Avenia-Prol, Oradell NJ  Robert Prol, Oradell NJ
Jim Hughes, Yarmouth Port  Carolyn L. Kennedy, Orleans
Mary Larkin, Harwich  Heather S. Miller, Alton NH
Jay and Susan Riseman, Brewster  Marsha C. Salett, Needham
Rose Sullivan, East Wareham  Stephen E. Thomas, Harwich

Snowy Owl by Mark Faherty

WINTER BIRD PHOTOS
BY MEMBERS (p. 4 and 5)
Trips cont’d;

\[\text{Winter Programs-Mark Faherty} \]

**WINTER PROGRAMS**

► JANUARY 13, 2014: BIRDING IN GHANA

Peter Bono, President, Cape Cod Bird Club

Ghana is located in West Africa, only a few degrees north of the Equator, therefore giving it a warm and humid climate. Home to almost 25 million people, Ghana spans an area of 92,000 sq mi, and has an Atlantic coastline that stretches 348 miles along the Gulf of Guinea. Grasslands mixed with south coastal shrublands and forests dominate Ghana. The northern half of Ghana contains savannas and wildlife in several National Parks. Before colonization by European Powers seeking gold and slaves, ancient Ghana was a military power in West Africa. More recently, Ghana was the first sub-Saharan African nation to obtain self-government—in 1957. Peter will talk about his February 2013 3-week birding trip to Ghana, wherein he saw more than 50% of Ghana's approximately 735 species. While Ghana hosts no endemic species, it is home to many regional endemics including species from the West African, Sahel, and Upper Guinean Forest biomes.

Peter has been birding since he was 10 and is the current President of the Cape Cod Bird Club. A computer scientist and software developer, he started his worldwide birding travel in the 70s on various business and pleasure trips, but he did not take his first birding tour until 1991. After birding in over 60 countries, his world life list is approaching 6,000 species—a level he hopes to attain in 2014, with trips scheduled to China and Northwest Argentina. Besides travel, he also collects birds on stamps. His bird stamp collection includes examples of approximately 1,800 species (of the 3,800 species currently illustrated on stamps).

**Trips cont’d;**

► Saturday – March 29 –

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Michael Dettrey—Late Winter Ducks & Such

We’ll scope the water at the old Horizon Restaurant parking lot for eiders, loons, grebes, scoters and maybe a Harlequin Duck or King Eider. Winter shorebirds are possible along the jetties. From there we’ll head over to the Sandwich marina to see what else we can find. Meet in the parking lot of the Old Horizon Restaurant, now called Hemisphere, at the end of Town Neck Road in Sandwich. Leader: Michael Dettrey (774) 212-7080 or swanpondside62@aol.com
Crowes Pasture, East Dennis, MA / Summer 2013 Nesting Success

Each year since 2004 members of the Cape Cod Bird Club have monitored nestbox trails in the mid-Cape area. The project started in East Dennis with 6 boxes in Crowes Pasture and then spread to Harwich and Dennis with more than 100 boxes in various locations.

Changing habitat, weather and hazards such as increasing tick populations have made it increasingly challenging. But this year a new twist was added. Dennis Department of Natural Resources designed a management plan for Crowes Pasture that included a controlled burn. The goal was to return the pasture to a mix of grasses and wildflowers present when the project started – ideal habitat for bluebirds and other grassland species.

However, the burn date crept into spring when Eastern Bluebirds had already started to nest and Tree Swallows were arriving. When the planned burn date was settled, volunteers removed all but the two boxes that were at the edge of woodlands. One of these contained a bluebird nest with eggs. Two days later all the boxes were reinstalled. Miraculously the Bluebirds managed to survive the fire and raise their brood! However, the burn took place so late into spring that the intended target species of vines and invasives also survived to re-sprout. New species such as House Wrens are now using boxes in this brushy habitat.

Thanks to monitors Marie Corcoran, Steve Petruska, and Dick Stacey who have faithfully worked on this project for many years!

Coordinator: Carolyn Kennedy

Results:

Box 1 – Black-Capped Chickadees, 8 eggs, 8 fledge
Box 2 – Tree Swallows, 5 eggs, 3 fledge
Box 3 – Black-Capped Chickadees, 8 eggs, 8 fledge
Box 4 – Tree Swallows, 6 eggs, 6 fledge
Box 5 – House Wrens, 2 eggs, 2 fledge
Box 6 – Tree Swallows, 5 eggs, 5 fledge
Box 9 – Tree Swallows, no eggs
Box 10 – Tree Swallows, 5 eggs, 5 fledge
Box 11 – Eastern Bluebirds, 4 eggs, 3 fledge
Box 12 – Tree Swallows, 5 eggs, 5 dead
Box 13 – Tree Swallows, 5 eggs, 5 fledge
Box 14 – Tree Swallows, 6 eggs, 3 fledge
Box 16 – Eastern Bluebirds, 5 eggs, 5 fledge
Box 19 – House Wrens, 6 eggs, 5 fledge

Totals:

27 Tree Swallows fledged from 8 nests (37 eggs)
9 Eastern Bluebirds fledged from 2 nests (9 eggs)
16 Black-capped Chickadees fledged from 1 nest (16 eggs)
7 House Wrens fledged from 2 nests (8 eggs)

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 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

December Bake Sale for the Scholarship (photo by Chris Banks)
CCBC Merchandise  Available at all meetings.
Great Holiday Gifts.
Coffee mugs, birding checklists, pins, patches, decals, bino/camera straps—all with “Cape Cod Bird Club” on them.

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

[PROGRAMS continued from page 5]

►FEBRUARY 10, 2014:  FLIGHT FROM EXTINCTION: RESTORING WHOOPING CRANES TO NORTH AMERICA—John B. French, Jr., PhD, Research Manager, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

This talk will describe some of the efforts to restore populations of Whooping Cranes in North America. It will highlight the project that has established a new migratory population in the eastern US by teaching young Whooping Cranes to migrate behind an ultra-light aircraft. Along the way we will discuss the continental distribution of Whooping Cranes, some basic biology of the continent’s tallest bird, and describe some of the research that underlies our restoration programs.

John is Research Manager at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, where he oversees the work of the Contaminants group, the Systematics group (stationed at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian) and the Endangered Wildlife group. He leads the Whooping Crane restoration program at Patuxent and sits on the US-Canada Whooping Crane Recovery Team. His scientific training was in animal ecology and physiology, and initially he was hired at Patuxent to undertake research on wildlife toxicology.

►MARCH 10, 2014:  SNOWY OWLS to SAW-WHET OWLS—Norman Smith, Mass Audubon

A self-taught naturalist who has always been fascinated by owls, Norm Smith has spent countless days and nights in all imaginable weather studying these largest owls in North America. In this talk, Norm will dispel some of the myths about the Snowy Owls we see in winter and will chronicle some of their amazing journeys from the Arctic to Boston and back. He will also explain how this research came to include tiny Saw-whet Owls. Smith has worked with Logan Airport since 1981, observing and capturing Snowy Owls that could pose a danger to air traffic, banding them, and releasing them further along their migration path. To date, he has banded close to 500 Snowy Owls at the airport, and information on where the banded owls have traveled has added to knowledge of their breeding area and migration patterns. In 1997, he began working on a project with the US Geological Survey and Boise State University (BSU), attaching tiny transmitters to some of the owls he captured. The transmitters send out data like location, temperature, and altitude. A satellite picks up the signal and retransmits to BSU, where maps are created to show where the owls have been. As a result, new information about roosting, hunting and behavior while on their wintering grounds has been collected.

Smith has worked for Mass Audubon since 1974, and is currently the Director of Massachusetts Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum and Norman Smith Environmental Education Center. Norman has studied birds of prey for over 35 years, including rehabilitating the injured and successfully fostering over 1,000 orphaned hawk and owl chicks into adoptive nests. His ongoing long-term projects include trapping and banding migrating hawks and owls in the Blue Hills Reservation, banding nestling hawks and owls, and doing research on Snowy Owls and other raptors wintering at Boston's Logan International Airport. He has also traveled to Alaska to study Snowy Owls in their native tundra habitat. His research work has been published in National Geographic, National Wildlife, Ranger Rick, Yankee, Massachusetts Wildlife, Bird Observer, Birding, Sanctuary, Geo, Nature, Grolier Encyclopedia, Owls of the Northern Hemisphere and Owls of the World. His mission is to use the information gathered from his research to stimulate a passion in everyone he meets to help us better understand, appreciate and care for our world.
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, PO Box 485, Centerville, MA 02632, Web: [www.capecodbirdclub.org](http://www.capecodbirdclub.org)**

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- Peter Flood, Secretary (pomarine@comcast.net)
- Charlie Martin, Treasurer (cemartinjr@comcast.net)
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