# President’s Message

Welcome Back! I hope you and your family had a wonderful summer. I imagine, that like me, you are anxious to get back to your normal routines….taking left hand turns at intersections, and moving freely “about the cabin” without thinking “Which way should I go to avoid all of the traffic?”

First, on behalf of the club officers and directors I want to acknowledge the hard work and able leadership of Peter Bono our past President. As he stated in the June Newsletter, the past three years have been productive and beneficial to the health and well being of our club. Peter has set a standard that each of us, Club officials and board members, will work hard to emulate and strive to improve upon. Thank you, Peter!

Second, by the time you read this letter, our club’s Third Annual Bird Festival will have come and gone. I hope each of you enjoyed the bird festival in a special way. Plans are already well underway for the 4th Annual CCBC Bird Festival. Needless to say, none of the club activities would be possible without the extraordinary effort of the myriad volunteers that support our Festival Committee. To each of you, I thank you for stepping forward and providing support that ensured our “birding guests” felt welcomed with our warm hospitality. We cannot thank you enough!!

However, I would like recognize the Festival Committee for their tenacious advocacy on behalf of the Festival’s success. A sincere and heartfelt thank you from the bottom of our hearts goes out to: Gerry Cooperman, Fran Clapp, Stefanie Paventy and Karen Fiske. Without their year round work the Bird Festival would not be a success or a reality. They are, at this very moment, planning for next year’s speakers and birding trips. We owe them our gratitude and sincere appreciation for all they contribute to our club.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge your club officers and directors for without their support, input and thoughtfulness, our club would not enjoy the success it’s had over these many years. Without their steady stewardship, the Cape Cod Bird Club would not be as vibrant and as active as it is today. Thank you to all of you who have served. Maya Angelou wrote: “A bird does not sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.” So it is with those that appreciate with their heart as well as their intellect.

Charlie Martin
Year three of the Cape Cod Bird Festival has come to a conclusion! The Festival Committee spent the better part of a year creating and organizing this special event. Held once again at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Hyannis, this venue was an excellent home base for registration, our Vendor Marketplace, workshops and dinners. Family Day on Sunday at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History was a success as well, including the ever-popular owl shows (see Marcia West with a Snowy Owl).

Our extraordinary guest speakers, Miyoko Chu and Richard Crossley (pictured above signing books at the festival dinners), gave wonderful eye-opening presentations. Miyoko discussed the trials and tribulations of songbird migration, not only for the migrating bird, but also for the biologists learning about these delightful creatures we have all come to love and enjoy. Richard humorously explained his birding adventures around the globe and how he came up with the unique idea of his Crossley ID Guide series. He also informed us of two new ID Guides he is working on, Western Birds and Waterfowl. In addition to their presentations, Miyoko and Richard led field trips on Saturday that were enjoyed by many participants.

Although the mornings were a bit foggy, sunny skies and warm temperatures prevailed by afternoon throughout the weekend. Many birds were seen across Cape Cod with highlights such as Dickcissel, Northern Bobwhite, Bobolink, Marbled Godwit, Cory’s Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Forster’s Tern, Pomarine Jaeger, and so many more! Birders from 19 states and Canada participated in the 3rd annual Cape Cod Bird Festival. Checklists of sightings are still being submitted on eBird with 152 species reported so far.

A large heart-felt thank you to all of our volunteers, trip leaders and vendors! This festival would be impossible to accomplish without your help and support. We are looking forward to another year of festival birding next September. Keep your calendars open for the 4th Annual Cape Cod Bird Festival held September 16 – 18, 2016!

Good Birding! The Festival Committee: Fran Clapp, Gerry Cooperman, Karen Fiske, Stefanie Paventy
Club Bird Walks, Fall 2015 — Stefanie Paventy, Trip Coordinator

Join us on these free club trips. Heavy or steady rain typically cancels the walk. Call or e-mail the walk leader prior to the walk, if possible. For the latest updates, always check our website www.capecodbirdclub.org. TRIPS are listed by BIRDING HOTSPOT and date. Stefanie Paventy is the trip coordinator. Contact her (stefpav09@gmail.com) with general questions, and contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

OCTOBER

Old Harbor/Stauffer’s Puddle - Sandwich

Sunday, October 3, 8 AM Peter Crossan. pcrossan@emeraldphysicians.com

Be introduced to a fantastic birding spot along the Sandwich coastline. You can expect waterfowl, shorebirds, terns and gulls. This summer produced some rare shorebirds in this area. Due to limited parking at the site, we will meet at the Sandwich High School parking lot off of Meeting House Road (Exit 3 off Route 6) and carpool to Old Harbor.

Scusset Beach State Park - Sagamore

Brian Harrington, brian.harrington205@gmail.com & Martha Sheldon, martha.sheldon205@gmail.com - Saturday, October 24, 8AM. Walk around the camp sites, beach front and forests at Scusset. A variety of birds from waterfowl to passerines will be seen. Meet at the parking lot nearest the concession stands.

Morris Island - Chatham

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 - Friday, October 30, 10AM.

See what the tide brings! Viewing birds along the Morris Island mud flats is one of the most amazing birding experiences on the Cape. Join your leader for a walk to the mud flats during the rising tide and scope your way across the vastness of birds. High tide will be at 2:39PM. Please meet at the parking lot of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge at the end of Wikis Way, and be prepared for wet conditions (possibly ankle-high wading).

NOVEMBER

Four Ponds Conservation Area - Bourne

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 - Sunday, November 1, 8AM

Four Ponds Conservation Area abuts Pocasset Town Forest. It consists of pitch pine-oak forest with wetland areas throughout. We will walk the trails of this hidden gem in search of lingering passerines and waterfowl. Please meet at the parking lot at Aubuchon Hardware on Barlow’s Landing Road, as the parking lot of Four Ponds is quite small.
Wellfleet Harbor
Peter Flood, pomarine@comcast.net — Saturday, November 7, 7AM
Scope around the town pier and Indian Point. Look for wintering waterfowl, gulls and alcids. Meet at Salt Pond Visitor Center and we will carpool to Wellfleet Harbor.

Marston’s Mills Community Gardens & Long Pond – Marston’s Mills
Peter Crosson, pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678 - Sunday, November 15, 8AM
The gardens are a great place to find passerines at this time of year. Then hike into the woods and to the pond for a variety of birds ranging from passerines to waterfowl. Meet at the community gardens parking lot on Santuit Newton Road.

Cumberland Farms - Halifax
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 — Sunday, November 22, 9AM
We will help you up your Plymouth County checklist! Join us for a walk through Cumberland Farms for a variety of birds. We will meet at the commuter parking lot at the Sagamore Bridge, near the Friendly’s Restaurant. Please be prepared for mucky conditions.

Orleans and Chatham, David Clapp, declapp@me.com. Tuesday, November 29, 8am. Contact David for details on where to meet. Enjoy these local hotspots.

DECEMBER

Winter Beach Patrol - Dennis
Peter Bono, pbono@prba.com or 508-375-9421 - Sunday, December 20, 8AM
Enjoy a brisk walk along Chapin and Corporation Beaches. We will look for sea ducks including Harlequin Duck, Eiders and Long-tailed Duck as well as loons, grebes, alcids and wintering gulls. Meet at Corporation Beach by taking Corporation Road off Route 6A in North Dennis.

New Year’s Day
New Year Birds - Mid-Cape
Ed Banks, edbanks@verizon.net or 508-769-6762 - Friday, January 1, 12PM
Meet in the Stop & Shop’s northwest parking lot at Patriot Square on Route 134 in South Dennis. Take exit 9A off Route 6, and a left at the lights. Get your 2016 year list off to a great start! Click off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. We will bird the mid-cape or perhaps some hotspots. Party hats optional!
**FALL PROGRAMS**

October 12: John Van de Graaf – Photographs from the Galápagos Islands

This presentation brings together images of wildlife and landscapes on the Galápagos, from trips in 2006, 2008 (one week each) and 2010 (two weeks), each led by photographer Arthur Morris. Included are sea lions, giant tortoises and other reptiles (sea turtles and both marine and land iguanas), and birds such as the 13 species of Darwin’s finches, boobies, frigatebirds, albatrosses, penguins and flightless cormorants. The archipelago’s recent volcanic origins and fascinating geology are displayed; habitats range widely, from beaches and scrub to lava fields and near-tropical areas.

Charles Darwin visited the Galápagos Islands for five weeks in 1835. Although his *Origin of Species* mentions his stay on the islands only briefly, his experience was seminal for his theory of evolution. Besides serving as a paradise for photographers, the isolated islands are still a major base for direct studies of evolution in the wild, especially the ongoing work of Peter and Rosemary Grant on the finches, brilliantly described in Jonathan Weiner’s Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Beak of the Finch*.

A native of Boston, John Van de Graaff has been photographing birds intensively since 2001 and particularly enjoys traveling to do so. He migrated from New York City to Northampton in 2003 with his wife Marylee Bomboy. John has made presentations to numerous birding and photography groups, including most major bird clubs in Massachusetts. The Burnett Gallery in Amherst hosted exhibitions of his bird photos in 2007 and the Galápagos in 2012, and he has exhibited at several other venues in the region. He has photographed extensively on the Massachusetts coast (especially Allen Pond in Westport), capturing images which have been used by Mass Audubon to support their various programs. He’s an active member of the Hampshire Bird Club (Amherst) and the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (Belchertown). John’s website is easily remembered: [www.birdsbyjohn.com](http://www.birdsbyjohn.com). A page of Galápagos images (from the first two trips) is at [birdsbyjohn.com/Galapagos/](http://birdsbyjohn.com/Galapagos/)

**HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP FOR TEENS—SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FOR 2016:**

If you know Cape Cod teens (must be between ages 14-17 at the start of camp) who would be thrilled to win a scholarship to the Hog Island Audubon Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens next summer (June 19-24, 2016), please encourage them to apply for the scholarship we will offer. The Deadline for application is January 7, 2016. Check our website, or contact the scholarship coordinator, Vice President Paula Pariseau at [parisgold@comcast.net](mailto:parisgold@comcast.net), for the application form. For information about the camp, check the website: [http://hogisland.audubon.org/bird-studies-teens](http://hogisland.audubon.org/bird-studies-teens)
November 9   Steve Broker – The Marsh Birds of Wellfleet’s Herring River

The 2007-2011 Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (Mass BBA2) documented breeding evidence for 223 bird species throughout the Commonwealth, including 154 species in Barnstable County. The data collected by 650 field observers during these five years provide valuable information on changing distributions of breeding birds when compared with the results of the 1974-1979 Mass BBA1. Coastal and inland marsh birds, including bitterns, rails, Marsh Wren, and Saltmarsh Sparrow, have experienced several decades of changing fortunes, with some species expanding their breeding distributions and others contracting. In 2011 (the final year of the Atlas) and through the four years since completion of the Atlas, Steve made some 200 canoe trips and land-based observations of birds in the Spartina salt marshes and freshwater cattail marshes of Wellfleet’s Herring River. Extensive field notes and photographic evidence during these years confirm the breeding of Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Clapper Rail, Marsh Wren, and Saltmarsh Sparrow and at least migratory use of the Herring River by American Bittern and Sora. The Massachusetts List of Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species includes American Bittern (endangered) and Least Bittern (endangered), and Clapper Rail (at its northermmost breeding range in Massachusetts), while not on the list, was documented in just two off-Cape Mass BBA2 topographic blocks. The Herring River is increasingly recognized as one of the most significant breeding localities for marsh birds on Cape Cod and along the Massachusetts coast. This presentation discusses the life history strategies of Herring River marsh birds, with emphasis on breeding success. A Flickr photo-sharing site has been set up by the presenter to focus on Herring River ecology and its marsh birds: https://www.flickr.com/photos/100841744@N03/sets

Cape Cod Bird Club member Steve Broker is a life-long summer resident of Wellfleet. He earned B.A. (Biology) and M.A.T. (Teaching of Science) degrees at Wesleyan University and an M.F.S. (forest science/ecology) degree at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. He is former Associate Director of the Wesleyan University Graduate Liberal Studies Program, then Director of Programs at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. During 25 years he taught high school chemistry, biology, AP environmental science, anatomy & physiology, geology, botany, and physical science in the New Haven (Connecticut) Public Schools, as well as serving as adjunct lecturer at Quinnipiac University (biology), the Yale Teacher Preparation Program (teaching of science), and the University of New Haven Master of Environmental Sciences Program (ecology, forest & wetland ecology). He is vice-president of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and a past-president and active member of the New Haven Bird Club. His field studies since the late 1990s have focused on breeding Peregrine Falcons and Common Ravens (Connecticut) and marsh birds (Wellfleet). For 30 years he has analyzed and written about the statewide results of the National Audubon Society-sponsored Connecticut Christmas Bird Count.
Sue Finnegan has been banding birds since 1994. “About Me” in her blog says, “I received my Master Permit in 2000 when I opened the Wing Island Bird Banding Station at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. I passed my bander level certification with the North American Banding Council in 2001 and received trainer level certification in 2005. The same year I also received a permit to band hummingbirds after training with the Sargents in West Virginia. I’m married with two grown sons. Besides banding birds, I also love gardening, boating, reading, and living on Cape Cod. [Here is Sue with a Ruffed Grouse at the Banding area.]

Excerpt from her blog on August 10 with images

**Summer Banding:** During the summer I monitor the breeding birds in the area by going out once a week between spring and fall migration. We banded 7 times between 18 June and 29 July netting 371 birds of 22 species - 282 new birds, 79 recaptures and 10 birds that escaped before processing. We run our nets an average of 5 hours with some days only getting 3 hours in if temps get too high. All our banding this summer was done in the Punkhorn, a huge area of overgrown cranberry bogs, with the exception on some trapping done in my yard for orioles and hummingbirds.

By the 18th of June some birds had already started their annual molt and the phoebes nesting on top of the light fixture in the generator house had fledged. We were excited this day to band another Alder Flycatcher who was captured in a net where the male was singing. The male started singing on 19 May, continuing through the month of June, and then we ceased to hear him after 11 July. I suspected the 2nd Alder was a female due to her short wing and I was right. We recaptured her on the 11 July with a full brood patch! Neither the Birds of Massachusetts published in 1993 or the Mass Breeding Bird Atlas published in 2003 show Alders breeding on cape, the closest being northern Plymouth County. So it was an exciting find.

Our other neat capture on June 18th was the recapture of the oldest Common Yellowthroat on record according to the Bird Banding Laboratory longevity records. Our guy is officially 11 years old now and the oldest on record was caught in 1985 in New Jersey aged 10 years 11 months. We actually recaptured him 3 times this season so we know the band was read correctly! He is aged 12Y (12 year) because he has entered his 12th year. His plumage was interesting in that he had some yellow feathers mixed in with the grayish-white feathers on his head.
Membership Renewal Form and form for new Members

Membership Form for the Cape Cod Bird Club 2015-2016 Membership Year
This insert may be used as your CCBC Membership renewal form and also may be used by new members joining for the first time. By filling it out and mailing your renewal this summer, you will save the club the expense of sending you a renewal notice.

Dues payments are due by September 1, 2015, and your membership will expire on Aug. 31, 2016. New members may join at any time. Thank you for renewing on time.

☐ Individual Membership $20.00 ☐ Family (Household) Membership $25.00

If you would like to give an additional donation, it will be much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Young Birder Scholarship Fund $ ____________
Extra Gift to Club $ ____________
Cape Cod Bird Festival $ ____________
Total Enclosed $ ____________

Please return this form with your check made out to Cape Cod Bird Club and mail to:
Cape Cod Bird Club, Attn: Membership, PO Box 485, Centerville, MA 02632

Household Address: ______________________________________________________________

Household Tel. No.: ______________________________________________________________

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Notes: * (Optional) Please provide your gender and approx. age so that we can design programs to serve you better.
** (Optional) If we have your email address, we can send periodic, updated notifications in a timely manner.

☐ CHECK HERE if you would like to save the Club postage expenses, by electing to receive your newsletter (The Kingfisher) by email only

☐ CHECK HERE if you would like to receive a CCBC Membership Card.
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

(All locations are in MA except where indicated)
Kay Cooper, Harwich Port
Lisa and Joe Cuoco, Grafton, VT
Richard Davis, Orleans
Maureen Johnson, Dennis Port
Eileen & Paul Meehan, Brewster

REPORT FROM HOG ISLAND SCHOLARSHIP WINNER CORVUS SYLVIA

This year I was the lucky recipient of your young birder scholarship allowing me to attend the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. I had a wonderful time and enjoyed the puffins, Blackburnian Warblers and all the other beautiful birds of the Maine coast. Of course the highlight activity was getting to observe the Atlantic Puffin, a life bird for me, from no more than 10 feet away on Eastern Egg Rock Island. I was honored to get a signed copy of Steve Kress's book *Project Puffin*. I really enjoyed watching the other variety of birds on Eastern Egg Rock ranging from the seemingly over protective, dive bombing terns to the noisy, goofy looking Black Guillemot. Leach's Storm Petrel was another life bird I was lucky enough to get out at Egg Island (It fell into the rain bucket, and we all got to see it close up before releasing.)

A most surprising opportunity was the chance to skin a Northern Saw-whet Owl. I have banded birds before but never imagined I would get the chance to skin a bird that had been hit by a car. I found it extremely intriguing and it turned out to be one of my favorite activities. I greatly enjoyed the experience because it allowed me to see the internal structure of an owl. I feel that I appreciated this activity more than most!

Another activity was learning how to record bird calls using a parabolic recorder. We had some great luck recording Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Northern Parula. It was excellent because it renewed my interest in memorizing warbler calls and helping me ID them! We even recorded a Yellow-rumped Warbler feeding her begging fledglings. Another highlight of the trip was getting to see the nesting Northern Parula and the newly emerging youngling getting fed by the caring adult. What fantastic sounds and sights!

I can't thank Cape Cod Bird Club enough for the opportunity. I had a fabulous time! (Note: scholarship info. for next year is on page 5)
Hog Island Family Camp 2015 by Judith Davis

Jamie and I returned to Hog Island’s Family Camp again this year and had an incredible time—seeing birds, going on trips to Eastern Egg Rock and Harbor Islands, hiking around Hog Island, learning more about the tidal pools and habitats on Hog Island, enjoying delicious food, campfires, and great birders. Steve Kress and Pete Samuelson, of Project Puffin, were on hand again, along with Steve Morello, a wildlife photographer, and other great teachers. I enjoyed Steve’s photography workshop. We were delighted to learn that Family Camp, which has traditionally been for children ages 8-12 and an adult family member, will take 13 year olds next summer. Now that Jamie is 13, we plan to go again next summer before he is eligible for the teen camp at age 14. Encourage your kids or grandkids to go with you to Family Camp. You’ll be glad you did. Images: Audubon skiffs, puffins’ send-off dance, Steve Morello with Jamie, Northern Parula, Puffin desserts.
Festival images by Stefanie Paventy: Vendor Marketplace and Friday dinner
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/) or on page 7 to: CCBC, PO Box 485, Centerville, MA 02632

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Paula Pariseau Vice President (parisgold@comcast.net)
Peter Flood Secretary (pomarine@comcast.net)
Fran Ziegler Treasurer (franz@atlanticdb.com)
Gerry Cooperman Assistant Treasurer (trogon6@aol.com)

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

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