The Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the second Monday of each month, September through May, at 7:30PM at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 RTE 6A, Brewster, MA.

President’s Message

“A goose flies by a chart the Royal Geographic Society could not improve.” — Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

After this very tough winter, we are all eager to get outside and once again marvel at the wonder of bird migration—as noted by Justice Holmes. We love to see when our backyard favorites—flycatchers and warblers, hummingbirds and orioles, tanagers and buntings—will arrive, and we compare their arrivals with our past experiences. Are they early, on time, or late? Will they nest in the same tree? Might they even be the same individuals we said goodbye to last fall?

Stephanie Paventy has put together a marvelous program of walks, so take advantage of her work and join us on a walk to a place you perhaps have not discovered before.

At the March meeting, we honored a decade of achievements on Cape Cod by Mark Faherty, a Past-President, with the Club’s Ludlow Griscom Award. We also recognized the contributions of two of our more active and well-loved members—Diane Silverstein and Michael Dettrey—who are off to wander the US and experience new adventures. Please read the articles about them all in this issue.

At the May meeting, we will elect our Officers and three Directors for the coming year. Please look at the slate of candidates and please attend the meeting if you can. Give them your support by volunteering to help as you can during the coming year.

Once again, through the generous donations of our members, the Club has been able to sponsor two summer camp scholarships. Read the brief profiles of this year’s awardees. We are excited to give them this opportunity and look forward to reading their reports in the Fall issue of The Kingfisher.

If you haven’t checked out our website lately, please do. Terry Gavin, our webmaster, works diligently to keep the news items fresh and timely.

Good birding,

Peter Bono
CAPE COD BIRD FESTIVAL 2015
– Friday, September 18—Sunday, September 20, 2015
Gerry Cooperman, Chairman
Headquarters at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton, Hyannis
Registration opens April 15, 2015
check the web site:
http://www.capecodbirdclub.org

CAPE COD BIRD FESTIVAL UPDATE - Gerry Cooperman
All the field trips, workshops, and trip leaders are in place. Hopefully by the time you read
this the web site will have listed the 2015 Festival Activities. We will now start notifying all
the bird clubs in the U.S. and Canada with our Festival announcement. Our advertising is set
with the major bird magazines. Work is underway to put together the Vendor Marketplace.

We cannot run this Festival without the help of our dedicated Volunteers. Please give your
name and contact information to Stefanie Paventy either at the club meeting or at her email:
stefpav09@gmail.com. We are counting on you.

As you all know Diane and Michael will be traveling the highways and bi-ways of this great
Country. The Cape Cod Bird Festival was an idea that Diane wanted to pursue. From that first
meeting at her house with nothing but an idea we have grown this beyond our expectation.
Diane and Michael, you will always be part of the Cape Cod Bird Festival and may all your
journeys bring to you the beauty and wonder of this great land. Safe travels my friends.

We need your help.
Contact me at trogon6@aol.com or 508–331–0345 for information and questions.

Gerry
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 new trip coordinator. Contact her (stefpav09@gmail.com) with general questions, and contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

Manomet Area - Plymouth
Brian Harrington (brian.harrington205@gmail.com) & Martha Sheldon – Sunday, April 5, 7AM – 12PM
Join us on this off-Cape adventure! We will meet at the commuter parking lot next to Friendly’s at the mainland end of the Sagamore Bridge (intersection of routes 3 and 6). We will search Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and Manomet Point for seabirds and migrating passerines.

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
Keenan Yakola, kyakola@gmail.com or 508-246-5453 – Friday, April 10, 8AM – 12PM
Meet in the parking area of the sanctuary. We will explore the trails for raptors, shorebirds, and early migrating passerines. We will scope the bay area for ducks as well.

Scusset Beach State Reservation - Sagamore
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com – Sunday, April 12, 8AM – 10AM
Meet in the large parking lot by the concession buildings. We'll spend the morning checking the thickets, canal and beach area for early spring migrants and seabirds.

Bell’s Neck and West Harwich Conservation Areas
Ed Banks, edbanks@verizon.net – Monday, April 20, 7AM – 11AM
Meet at Bell’s Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir. We will explore some hidden mixed woodland and some old cranberry bogs for passerines. We will also look for ducks and shorebirds in the open water. Please be prepared for swampy conditions.

Cumberland Farms – Halifax / Middleboro
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com – Saturday, April 25, 7AM – 11:30AM
We will help you up your Plymouth County list! 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 Cape Cod Canal Region Visitors Center off Canal Street. Please be prepared for mucky conditions.

Beech Forest Walks for May 2015 - Provincetown
It’s time for spring migration! CCBC is offering bird walks every weekend of May! Meet at the Beech Forest parking lot at 8AM or a few minutes earlier. From Route 6, turn right onto Race Point Road. The parking lot is about 0.5 mile down the road on the left. We will bird the parking lot, then stroll along the sandy loop trail around Blackwater Pond for migrating warblers and other passerines.

Dates and Leader contact information are listed below and continue on the next page:

Saturday – May 2 – Peter Crosson, pcrossson@emeraldphysicians.com
Sunday – May 3 – Blair Nikula, odenews@odenews.org
Saturday – May 9 – Ed Banks, edbanks@verizon.net
Sunday – May 10 – Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com
Saturday – May 16 – Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com
Sunday – May 17 – Peter Flood, pomarine@comcast.net
Saturday – May 23 – Judith Davis, motherjude3@aol.com
Sunday – May 24 – Charlie Martin, cemartinjr@comcast.net

Walks continue next page
Spring Bird Walks, cont’d

Beech Forest Walks for May 2015 - Provincetown, continued
  Saturday – May 30 – Charlie Martin, cemartinjr@comcast.net
  Sunday – May 31 – Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com

High Head – Truro
Ed Hoopes, ehoopes63@comcast.net or 508-737-7479 - Friday, May 1, 8:30AM - 10:30AM
Meet at the High Head parking lot off of Route 6 in Truro. We will walk the bike trail to Pilgrim Heights and through the small swamp up to the High Head bluff. Then we will continue to Pilgrim Lake and make our way back to the parking lot along High Head Road. We should see early migrating passerines and perhaps raptors over the bluff.

Crane Wildlife Management Area - Falmouth
Karen Fiske, mberez@gmail.com – Wednesday, May 6, 5:30PM – 7:30PM
We will meet in the parking lot at Crane WMA on Route 151 in Falmouth. We will walk around the grasslands for warblers, sparrows, and possible raptors…perhaps even a bobwhite!

Mt. Auburn Cemetery - Cambridge    Dan Berard (djberard84@gmail.com) & Stefanie Paventy (stefpav09@gmail.com) – Friday, May 15, 6AM – 1PM
Meet in the Hyannis Commuter Lot to carpool, since parking at the cemetery is "first come, first serve." Please arrive 15 minutes early to meet and coordinate. Warblers and passerines should be peaked here at this beautiful and historic landmark in a wonderful botanical park. A late lunch nearby could be an option or brown bag your lunch. Please RSVP if you plan on joining us. The trip is limited seating (4 passengers can fit in Stefanie’s car), so reserve your spot early. If one other person would be willing to drive, that would allow more people to join the trip. Please review the rules for visiting Mt. Auburn Cemetery since it is an active burial site (http://www.mountauburn.org/visit/tips-for-your-visit/).

Falmouth Town Forest / Crane WMA
Greg Hirth, geohawk_1@yahoo.com or 508-457-4356 - Monday, May 18, 7:30AM - 12PM
Meet at the first small parking lot on the road to Goodwill Park (entrance off Gifford Street approximately 0.6 mile north of Jones/Gifford intersection). We’ll look for migrant and nesting songbirds along Long Pond in Falmouth Town Forest, and then we’ll continue on to the Crane Wildlife Management Area to look for raptors and open space specialties.

Ryder Conservation Area - Sandwich
Peter Crosson, pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com – Thursday, May 28, 8AM – 10AM
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 that wind through groves of 100-year-old holly, beech and pine trees. We will look 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.

Morris Island and Causeway - Chatham
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com – Saturday, June 13, 7AM – 10AM
We’re going to have some summer-time fun! First we will bird the causeway, then make our way through the neighborhood down to the Morris Island flats for low tide. We will scope the flats on a rising tide while the shorebirds are foraging. High tide will be at 9:51AM. Please be prepared for a lot of sun and wet conditions (possible ankle-high wading). Please meet in the parking lot of the refuge.

Bourne Gems
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com – Saturday, June 27, 7:30AM – 12PM
Bourne is a hidden treasure in the birding world of Cape Cod. Meet at the parking lot at Aubuchon Hardware on Pocasset-Forestdale Road in Bourne. We will hike through Bourne Sisters, Leary Conservation Area, Little Bay Conservation Area, Four Ponds Conservation Area and Red Brook Pond. Possible highlights include waders, flycatchers, Osprey, nesting warblers and thrushes.
April 13—Peter Bono—Lions, Bustards, Francolins, Barbets and more

In September-October 2013, Peter made a fabulous trip to South Africa (with a visit to Sani Pass, Lesotho) with Birding Africa tours. This trip resulted in 512 species (including 210 lifers) with many South African country and regional endemics. Highlights include Cape Griffin, Black Harrier and other Southern African raptors, Southern Bald Ibis, Ground Woodpecker, lots of Karoo specialties, many endemic larks, bustards, hornbills, and several endemic sunbirds, Knysna and Livingstone Turacos, Cape and Gurney's Sugarbirds, Cape and Drakensburg Rockjumpers, Woodward's and Pririt Batis, Green-backed and Pink-sided Twinspot, and Barratt's, Knysna, Victorin's, and Namaqua Warblers—all hard to see skulkers. Peter will share photos of many of these South African birds, mammals and scenery in this whirlwind travelogue.

May 11—Blair Nikula—The Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey

Since 1984, during the first weekend of December, the Cape Cod Bird Club has conducted a survey of waterfowl on Cape Cod ponds and lakes. Blair will present a brief overview of the project and discuss potential uses of the data. Typically, each year 30-40 volunteers census 300+ ponds and count 10,000+ birds. Over the 31-year history of the survey, close to 10,000 pond surveys have been conducted with more than 324,000 birds counted. He'll compare the results to the local Christmas Bird Counts conducted during the same time frame, and present examples of ways in which the survey’s sizable database can be put to use examining issues such as local population trends and distribution patterns, species associations, fluctuations in individual pond usage, and flocking tendencies. This survey is an excellent example of “citizen science” – amateurs gathering useful data and making meaningful contributions to our knowledge of the local environment.

Blair Nikula, a native Cape Codder and life-long birder, is a former regional editor for American Birds (now North American Birds), a past-president of the Cape Cod Bird Club, a former associate member of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Advisory Committee, and currently serves as a member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. Blair also has been studying and photographing dragonflies and damselflies for over two decades. He co-authored the Stokes’ Beginner’s Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies as well as A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts. He was formerly co-editor of Ode News, a newsletter about the odonates of southern New England. He maintains two websites: capecodbirds.org and odenews.org.
Retirement Adventures Ahead

Michael Dettrey and Diane Silverstein, who have served the Cape Cod Bird Club in various roles, are moving away from Cape Cod. Michael has served on the Board of the Club and has been the Trip Coordinator, worked on the Bird Festival, maintained the Facebook page, and pitched in where needed. Diane has served as President of the Club and Chair of the 2013 and 2014 Cape Cod Bird Festivals. She retired this month as Volunteer Coordinator for Mass Audubon Wellfleet.

Now Michael and Diane are relocating to Texas, but not settling in yet, since they are planning to be “nomads” for a time, camping across country and exploring our great land, checking out a few birds along the way. They are camping in a teardrop-shaped camper and travelling lightly. We will miss their contribution to the Club and their presence among us. We awarded them certificates of thanks at the March meeting and gave them some Club merchandise to remember us as they travel. Diane said “My involvement with the Club has been a highlight of my life! I met so many wonderful people and always loved being a part of the CCBC. And leaving the Bird Festival is very hard, but it is in great hands, and I feel assured it will continue to grow and remain a success. So, thank you again! If you want to follow our blog, just look for “Teardropping in Paradise”, birderdiane526.blogspot.com.” Their new mailing address is 147 Rainbow Dr., #4709, Livingston, TX 77399.

Mark Faherty Awarded Cape Cod Bird Club Ludlow Griscom Award

The Cape Cod Bird Club’s Ludlow Griscom Award is presented this year to Mark Faherty in recognition of his contributions to Cape Cod birding, birders, conservation science, and the Cape Cod Bird Club.

Since joining Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in August 2007, Mark has been an active participant in the Cape Cod Bird Club as Vice-President, President, and Director. He is our “go-to” person on all things biological, as well as being a warm, entertaining, and welcoming emcee at many of our events and activities—including our locally-nurtured Cape Cod Bird Festival.

While his current projects involve everything from oysters and horseshoe crabs to bats and butterflies, he has studied bird ecology primarily for the last 20 years, working on research projects in Kenya, Florida, Texas, California, Arizona, Mexico, and the Pacific Northwest. He was a counter for the famous River of Raptors hawk watch in Veracruz, Mexico, and has birded Africa, Costa Rica, Panama, Belize, and both Eastern and Western Europe.

To help us all become better birders, Mark leads workshops on birding by ear, eBird, birding apps, and general bird identification. Mark is a current member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. The award is a carved Kingfisher by master carver Roger Jenks, longtime member of the Cape Cod Bird Club. The award was presented to Mark by President Peter Bono at the March Club Meeting.
The Cape Cod Bird Club is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 Young Birder Scholarship. This year the scholarship committee awarded two scholarships for the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program to be held in June at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine.

Our first winner is Kalea Trudeau of Dennis Port. She attends Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School. Kalea will turn fourteen in May of this year. She has been interested in birds from as far back as she can remember. She used to have her mother read to her from a North American Field Guide. Kalea stated in her application materials that “birds had literally taken over my life.” She is especially excited about the opportunity to see some puffins…her childhood favorite bird.

Our second scholarship award winner is Corvus Max Sylvia from North Eastham / Wareham, MA. He attends the Upper Cape Regional Technical High School and is studying Environmental Technology. He is sixteen years old. He has been studying and drawing birds for the past nine years. He also likes to photograph the birds he sees. Corvus noted in his application that on a recent birding trip to the west coast he “was lucky to see a rare northwest crow, one of (his) namesakes, Corvus caurinus!”

The Cape Cod Bird Club is delighted to provide this opportunity for both of these outstanding young birders. We know that their experience this coming June will add greatly to their knowledge and appreciation of birds, birding, and conservation. We wish them the very best for the future.

MEMBER PHOTOS —“Snow Birds” by Ken Casson and Judith Davis: Screech Owl and Hermit Thrush (Casson); Blue Jay weary of the snow (Davis)
New Members, Membership Renewals, Member Photos

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

(All locations are in MA except where indicated)

Libby, Patricia & Charles Buck, South Chatham
Jeff & Janet Buckley, Wellfleet
Hank Cassidy, Hyannis
Donald Clarke, East Falmouth
Betsy Furtney, East Orleans
Pat Hughes, Brewster
Lisa Lawson, Hyannis
Nancy Ludlow, Plymouth
Lesa Milas, Amston, CT
Ken & Ruth Roinos, Glenville, NY
Randy & Gitty Schacher, Newton
Lew & Chris Schwartz, Wellfleet
Tom Slack, Wellfleet
Moira Swaitkowski, South Dennis
Gayle Whittle, Wareham
Paulina & Robin Zuckerman, Chatham

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

were due on September 1, 2014.

If you forgot, please send in your renewal right away, because you will receive no more newsletters after this one if we don’t receive your renewal.

Dues are $20 for individuals and $25 for families. Send renewal to:

Cape Cod Bird Club, Attn: Membership, PO Box 485, Centerville, MA 02632

More Member Photos

White-winged Scoter-Block Island by Judith Davis / Snow Buntings-Wellfleet by Marilyn Schlansky; Barred Owl and Painted Bunting-Florida by Charlie Martin.
At the Club’s Annual Meeting in May, we will elect Four Officers and Three Directors. The Candidates are:

President (one year term): Charles Martin
Vice-President (one year term): Paula Pariseau
Secretary (one year term): Peter Flood
Treasurer (one year term): Fran Ziegler

Director, Trip Coordinator (to fill a term that expires 2016): Stefanie Paventy
Director, Program (3-year term expiring 2018): Mark Faherty
Director, Refreshments (3-year term expiring 2018): Jane Martin

Anyone seeking office may be nominated from the floor during the meeting.

Follow the Cape Cod Bird Club on our website
http://www.capecodbirdclub.org/ and on our Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub

Birds of Florida / Caribbean by Peter Bono: Brown Booby, Purple Gallinule, St. Lucia Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk
**Bluebird Nest Boxes**—It’s spring and bluebirds should be checking out nest boxes soon! CCBC volunteers monitor Eastern Bluebird nest box 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 nest box 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. If you have boxes at home, it is time to clean them out in March.

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**Rusty Blackbird Blitz**—The Rusty Blackbird Migration Blitz was initiated in 2014 and was in response to the dramatic and mysterious decline documented for this species over the last several decades. The project is a collaborative, citizen science effort by many individuals and conservation organizations and is coordinated by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The project challenges birders to scour the landscape for Rusty Blackbirds during this species’ northward migration. Last year, between 1 March and 15 June, 4750 birders submitted 13,400 checklists containing Rusty Blackbird observations to eBird, a hugely successful first season that has allowed us to start looking at potential Rusty Blackbird migratory hotspots, habitat use, and potential migratory pathways. We hope you’ll consider participating in Year 2 of the Blitz this spring! It’s easy- bird as you normally do during the Blitz window (15 March through April for Massachusetts) and submit your data to eBird using the “Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz” observation type. To help you figure out when Rusties might be passing through your area, each region is assigned a set of target dates found here: [http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/states-anddates/](http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/states-anddates/) We’re collecting Blitz data from anywhere within our target states and provinces, but this year, we’d also like birders to revisit Areas of Interest identified from 2014 data to assess the consistency of Rusty Blackbird habitat use and migratory timing. Check out our map of Areas of Interest for 2015 at [http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/2015-areas-of-interest/](http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/2015-areas-of-interest/). To learn more about Rusty Blackbirds and the Blitz effort, please visit our Migration Blitz website [http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/](http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/), or check out our Blitz Facebook page: ([https://www.facebook.com/rustyblackbirdspringblitz](https://www.facebook.com/rustyblackbirdspringblitz)).
A preview of Peter Bono’s April Talk: Birds of South Africa
Cape Sugarbird feeding on flowering Protea; Orange-crested Sunbird; Crested Barbet; Cape Weaver; Swainson’s Francolin in Kruger.
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:

- Peter Bono  President (pbono@prba.com)
- Charlie Martin  Vice President (cemartinjr@comcast.net)
- Peter Flood  Secretary (pomarine@comcast.net)
- Fran Ziegler  Treasurer (franz@atlanticdb.com)
- Gerry Cooperman  Assistant Treasurer (trogon6@aol.com)

Directors:

- Mark Faherty  Programs (mfaherty@massaudubon.org)
- Eldon Ziegler  Club Merchandise (eldonz@atlanticdb.com)
- Paul Schlansky  Publicity and Outreach (schlansky2@gmail.com)
- Jane Martin  Refreshments (janeemartin@comcast.net)
- Judith Davis  The Kingfisher Editor (motherjude3@aol.com)
- Stefanie Paventy  Trips Coordinator (stefpav09@gmail.com)

Ex-officio:

- Ken Casson  Membership Co-chair (casson1@netscape.com)
- Barbara Grasso  Membership Co-chair (quinngrasso@aol.com)