President’s Message

We’ve turned the corner from the cool/cold weather of early spring. This nice mild weather of late spring was a bit late in coming this year, for sure. Finally, it seems that we’ve entered into the bright and beautiful Cape Cod summer days we all love. There is nothing like beautiful Cape Cod summer weather to bolster our energy and refresh our spirit. I trust that you and your family will enjoy every day of this spectacular season.

However, once we celebrate the 4th of July, almost everyone senses that this is the beginning of the end of the Summer Season. For birders it is the beginning of the fall migration! We all know that we need to start hitting the coast line for the returning shore birds and the open spaces and woodlands for returning passerines.

Next to spring migration the fall season on Cape Cod is about as good as it gets for seeking out returning adult and first year birds. Since many of the returning species will have begun their molts from breeding plumage to non-breeding plumage it is a time to hone your skills of bird identification.

Warblers are particularly difficult for many of us. The challenge is to get as many field marks as possible while studying the bird with your binoculars or scope. I’ve found, and have been reminded by very experienced birders, that before you start leafing through your field guide be certain that you’ve observed as much about the bird as you are able to do. You should think about the habitat, where you’ve observed the bird, its behavior: does it skip across the ground when feeding or walk along? Is it a tree top feeder or down low in the underbrush? These are only some of the considerations you may want to use to help you, especially, if you’re unfamiliar with the bird species you are viewing. Although this process seems a bit cumbersome, I believe you’ll find that with a little practice you’ll be identifying more birds that you thought possible.

However, it doesn’t matter if you correctly identify each and every species you see. What matters is that you are out birding. Enjoy your experience of watching one of nature’s marvels. These little creatures are here to fatten up before they begin their long trek to their wintering grounds. Just imagine a bird you are seeing on Cape Cod will leave here and not touch down on land again until it reaches Central or South America! WOW!!

We all look forward to different times of the year for different reasons, for those of us who appreciate and love to study the movement of birds through our “neck of the woods,” this time of year can be quite magical. Be sure you take some time for yourself to feel the magic of migration.

Your Officers and Directors are busy at work preparing for your return to club meetings this fall. Until September, I wish all of you the very best of birding experiences. Charlie Martin, President
The islands of the Caribbean are a biodiversity hotspot—there are an astonishing 172 endemic birds in the region, many of them threatened with extinction. The region is also a seasonal home for more than 120 migratory species that spend up to 9 months of the year in the islands or stop over to rest and refuel on their long journeys to and from Central or South America. These birds face many threats unfortunately, including destruction of their habitats, introduced invasive predators, pollution, and hunting and poaching. BirdsCaribbean® is a regional non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of Caribbean birds and their habitats. In this presentation, Lisa will introduce us to some of the fascinating birds of the Caribbean and the challenges that they face. She will also share how BirdsCaribbean® is working to promote environmental stewardship and conservation action through its various programs that are designed to raise awareness, instill pride, and empower local people to study, manage and conserve their irreplaceable natural heritage.

Lisa Sorenson, Ph.D., Executive Director, BirdsCaribbean,® is an ornithologist and conservation ecologist with 30 years of experience working in the Caribbean, including teaching, research, environmental impact assessment work, project planning, and conservation education and training. She has expertise in waterbird and wetland ecology and conservation, climate change impacts on waterfowl and wetlands, outreach and communication strategies, and surveying and monitoring techniques. Lisa raises funds for and coordinates BirdsCaribbean’s® education and capacity building programs, including bird festivals, the West Indian Whistling-Duck and Wetlands Conservation Project, Caribbean Waterbird Census, Caribbean Birding Trail and Caribbean BirdSleuth®. She travels frequently to the islands to deliver international training workshops for these programs and mentor local partners, students, and young wildlife professionals. Her dream is to build a region where people appreciate, conserve and benefit from thriving bird populations and ecosystems. [image: Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival]
BIRD WALKS: THOSE INTERESTING SPRING AND SUMMER MIGRANTS
by Paul Schlansky

You've already noticed that many of our avian spring and summer migrants have arrived. For example, you're probably seeing towhees and orioles in your backyard. What to do? Simple. Put out some seed and orange slices. They don't ask for more.

You've also probably noticed the first appearance of the spring and summer human migrants. It's just beginning. I identify them principally by the colors of their license plates. Light blue, blue and orange, and blue and white seem to indicate the three most common species.

Of course, their numbers are spectacular, and eventually overwhelming, like red knots feeding on horseshoe crab eggs. Most of them will stay in motels, but some will be staying in your home as guests.

Wondering what to do to keep them happy? Beside taking them to the beach or out for a lobster roll, why not give them a different Cape Cod experience and take them on one of the Bird Club's free bird walks? Even if they say they aren't particularly interested in birds, they'll be glad to get away from the crowds for awhile, and enjoy the walk. They may even develop a lifelong interest in birding. Wouldn't that be a nice gift to give to your grandchild?

► Summer Walks

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.

Hemenway Landing – Eastham
Judith Davis, motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780 home; (508-221-2322 cell) – Friday, July 8, 7PM. Meet at Hemenway Landing to watch the Night-Herons fly in to roost. We’ll look for other birds at the landing while we wait for the Night-Herons, so bring a scope if you have one. Usually the Night-Herons come in to roost around sunset, so we will likely be there until dark.

Paddling Nauset Marsh – Eastham
Judith Davis, motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780 (508-221-2322 cell) and Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Saturday, July 16, 8AM. Grab your kayak or canoe (or rent one and bring it with you) and paddle with us while we find the birds of Nauset Marsh. We’ll head toward the beach where there is a flat that shorebirds and terns like to hang out. You must have a life jacket to participate in this fun activity.
Summer Bird Walks, continued

► July, continued—Ellisville State Park – Plymouth
Brian Harrington with Martha Sheldon, brian.harrington205@gmail.com – Thursday, July 28, 5PM. Meet at the parking area at Ellisville State Park in Plymouth (ca. 2 miles north of Cedarville [a village of Plymouth] on Route 3A). We will spend a couple of hours identifying shorebirds on the incoming tide, and include strategic tips about shorebird identification. Walking distance: less than ½ mile. If you want, also join us for dinner at the British Beer Company (a family restaurant) in Cedarville following our walk.

► August
Beach Patrol – West Dennis Beach
Peter Bono, pbono@prba.com or 508-375-2848 – Saturday, August 6, 5:30PM.
Meet at the West Dennis Beach parking lot as far as you can go (probably won’t let you drive all the way to the breakwater and Bass River). We will look for resident endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns. To participate, please contact the leader in advance. Rain cancels. After 4PM on the day of the walk you can reach Peter on his cell phone at 774-487-2848.

Farming for Birds - Falmouth
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Friday, August 19, 7AM. We will meet at Peterson Farm where we will walk around the thickets looking for flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and possibly a Bobolink or Dickcissel. The sheep are fun too!

Sandy Neck - Barnstable
Peter Crosson, pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678 – Sunday, August 27, 7AM.
We will start on the beach to scope for seabirds. Then we will make our way along Trail 1 to search for birds in the marsh. Highlights may include seabirds, waders, shorebirds, warblers and sparrows. Meet at the beach parking lot passed the visitor’s shack.

► September
Morris Island - Chatham
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Friday, September 16, 10AM. First we will scope the flats during a rising tide. Then we will make our way through the neighborhood and over to the Morris Island causeway. High tide will be at 12:10PM. Please be prepared for a lot of sun and wet conditions (possible ankle-high wading). Meet in the parking lot of the refuge.

Sandy Neck - Barnstable
Peter Crosson, pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678 – Sunday, September 18, 7AM. We will start on the beach to scope for seabirds. Then we will make our way along Trail 1 to search for birds in the marsh. Highlights may include seabirds, waders, shorebirds, warblers and sparrows. Meet at the beach parking lot past the visitor’s shack.
Nest boxes by Judith Davis

We have two bluebird houses in our yard. One has a family of Black-capped Chickadees and the other, House Wrens. I also enjoy the nest boxes at the Harwich Town Gardens, like this elaborate one in the plot next to mine at the Gardens. It has a family of Tree Swallows. Because of volunteering for the Bird Club to be a nest box volunteer, I can now tell the difference in those nests. I have had a wonderful opportunity to do some citizen science by volunteering as a nest box volunteer. Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and House Wrens are nesting! I was excited to see this female Eastern Bluebird carrying nest material into her box. Janet Di Mattia captured a handsome bluebird couple at a nest box (above).

CCBC volunteers monitor Eastern Bluebird nest box trails in several locations on the Cape. Our monitoring helps bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting species succeed. What a joy it is to check on these little creatures and their progress—to count eggs, to see how many nestlings hatch and how they are. What a unique opportunity to hold a tiny nestling, if necessary, to get an accurate count. To hold this little life in your hand is just awesome. Sadly, to hold one who has died, or a parent bird who has been pecked and killed by another bird, is heartbreaking. Think about volunteering next year. You will be awed by doing so!

CCBC manages nest box trails at Crowes Pasture in East Dennis, and at 3 locations in Harwich: Thompson’s Field, Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve (aka Bank Street Bogs) and Texeira Conservation Land 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. I have learned so much already by monitoring the boxes at the Bank Street Bog.

The coordinators are for Crowes Pasture, Carolyn Kennedy, c2kenn2@verizon.net (508) 255-7564, and for Harwich, Judith Bruce, turtledock@comcast.net.
### Slate of Officers/Directors

**Cape Cod Bird Club—Officers and Directors for 2016-2017 (elected at May meeting)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Editor, <em>Kingfisher</em></td>
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<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Terry Gavin</td>
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Attend a Birding Festival this year
by Judith Davis

I so enjoyed our three Cape Cod Birding Festivals in 2013, 2014, and 2015, and this year I decided to attend a festival in Maine. My son Jamie and I attended the Acadia Birding Festival, which has been running for 18 years. The Festival is located at beautiful Acadia National Park and along the coast of the Bar Harbor area of Maine. It was held June 2-5, with pre— and post— festival trips available. About 300 birders attended and enjoyed the speakers, Jen Brumfield, Sharon Steitler, Steve Kress and other well-known birders, including Greg Miller and Michael Good. A list of 143 species seen was posted. The guides were terrific and Jamie and I got about 15 new year birds and 7 or 8 lifers. We went on a owl prowl in Acadia National Park and heard Barred Owls and saw and heard American Woodcocks. One highlight was seeing and photographing the Barred Owl during the day. I also heard a Spruce Grouse and we saw lots of warblers. It was a great experience. Get out there and attend some festivals yourselves. You’ll be glad you did.

Spring comes alive with baby birds!

It’s spring and many birds are beginning their lives in our midst, including these Mute Swan cygnets at Bell’s Neck Conservation area in Harwich and this American Black Duck mom and ducklings at Cockle Cove in Chatham. We also watched the Canada Geese goslings grow each week we led the warbler walks at Beech Forest.
Membership Renewal Form and form for new Members for 2016-2017

Membership Form for the Cape Cod Bird Club 2016-2017 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. Go ahead and renew early this year.

Dues payments are due by September 1, 2016, and your membership will expire on Aug. 31, 2017. 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 (2017) $____________________
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.
Member photos: Backyard and travel surprises

You never know who will pay a surprise and quick visit to your backyard feeders. Jamie Gilson captured this Rose Breasted Grosbeak in Harwich.

Sometimes you just have to be in the right place at the right time. Peter Flood got the perfect image of an American Bittern at Bell’s Neck this Spring.

If you came on our May Warbler Walks at Beech Forest, you might have seen some great warblers, like this Palm Warbler.

Charlie Martin was lucky enough to see this Montezuma Quail on his winter travels. And Charlie and Jane are lucky enough to have their own Eastern Screech Owl in a nest box in their yard.

Meanwhile, as Jamie’s mom was going through a drive-in window at Dunkin’ Donuts in Canton, Jamie spotted a Black-billed Cuckoo eating tent caterpillars in a tree nearby. The drive-in clerk did not appreciate our find nearly as much as we did. As our dear friend, Vern said, “keep your eyes to the skies,” and always keep your binos and camera handy!
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Desiree Cole, Eastham
Frank Gada, Chatham
George Myers, Harwich
Jim Talin, Brewster
Maryann and Richard Sayers, West Dennis
Jane Sender, Newton

“For everything, tern, tern, tern” — photos at Race Point by Peter Flood

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Are due on September 1, 2016. Why not renew early this year!

Please send in your renewal using the form on p. 8. Since our membership dues are consistently low, consider making an additional gift to the Club as well.
Neil Hayward took a year off from his job and went bird watching! He ended up breaking the bird watchers’ Big Year record by finding 749 species of birds. Along the way, he found himself as well. Join Neil for a fascinating talk and book signing.

Can’t attend? Please call Titcomb’s to reserve a signed copy.

Neil Hayward
author of
Lost Among the Birds

Sunday
July 10
4-5pm

Check out these other important birding websites:

http://www.birdwatchersgeneralstore.com/  Mike O’Connor’s bird store in Orleans
http://southyarmouth.wbu.com/  Tom Thompson’s Wild Birds Unlimited in South Yarmouth
http://ebird.org/content/ebird/  Get signed up for ebird and list your sightings to help us all.
http://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/wildlife-research-conservation/statewide-bird-monitoring/breeding-bird-atlases/  Check out the birds that breed in Massachusetts
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

Officers:  Charlie Martin   President   (cemartinjr@comcast.net)
           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)

Directors:  Mark Faherty  Programs       (mfaherty@massaudubon.org)
            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 Member Co-chair  (casson1@netscape.com)
            Barbara Grasso  Member Co-chair  (quinngrasso@aol.com)

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   and on our Facebook Page  https://www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub