**President’s Message**

According to our shorebirds, fall migration is already upon us. Some of us birders migrated to the September meeting of the Cape Cod Bird Club, where we heard a wonderful lecture by Joan Walsh of Massachusetts Audubon. She discussed the latest State of the Birds report which focuses on what climate change means for the future of birds in Massachusetts. Joan was Director of Bird Monitoring at Mass Audubon from 2006-2016. During her career she has focused on research, and we learned a lot during her talk. We also enjoyed connecting with each other, sharing refreshments, checking out the merchandise, and talking about our bird sightings. I hope others of you will migrate to our October meeting on October 9, at 7:00pm to enjoy our program and meeting, and to connect with other birders.

Fall migration is a favorite time to be birding on Cape Cod. We’ve enjoyed some great bird walks recently, including a paddling adventure in Nauset Marsh. Check out our Bird Trips in this issue and on our website (www.capecodbirdclub.org), and join your fellow birders for these great outings. Also, while planning your bird walks, don’t forget our annual New Year’s Day bird walk to get your “year list” started. Any of you may volunteer to lead a bird walk; just contact Stefanie Paventy, our Walks coordinator. Also, start looking through your great images of birds. We will have a slide show at the December Members’ night as we share our images (just email a JPEG image to me). We will have great speakers at our October and November meetings, and Jamie Gilson, recipient of the Hog Island scholarship (see his article in this issue), will give a talk with slides at the December meeting.

I love fall migration on Cape Cod. Now our plovers are giving way to Sanderlings, and the terns are stocking up for their migratory journeys. The plethora of swallows is almost gone now, and we look forward to our winter ducks joining us in a few weeks. The winter ducks are my favorites as I await the mergansers, Mallards, and those elusive Canvasbacks. I remember last winter on a snowy day seeing the Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, and Canvasback together on Hinckley’s Pond on the Brewster/Harwich town line. I didn’t have my camera that day, but the image in my mind is the best of snow falling gently on the beautiful birds. I wish you great birding this fall.

Peace and Great Birding,

Judith Davis
President
Programs and Walks

► Monthly meetings and programs continue with meetings on Monday, October 9, November 13, and December 11. These meetings are a time to meet with your fellow birders, hear about their recent excursions and life birds, and enjoy a great program. Our meetings are free and open to the public and start at 7 pm at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster. Check the website (www.capecodbirdclub.org) for detailed information about the programs.

CCBC’s own Peter Flood, a career naturalist and biologist, will speak at the October meeting on “Seabirds and Other Marine Life on the Outer Edge.”

In November, our speaker will be Kate Iaquinto, Refuge Wildlife Biologist, who will talk about “Bird Research and Conservation at Monomoy: From Terns to Knots and Everything in Between.”

December is our annual Members’ meeting where we have our Silent Auction and Bake Sale to raise funds for our Young Birder Scholarship Fund. If you have auction items to donate, please contact Judith Davis about dropping them off to her ahead of the meeting so that we can organize and price them. We need people to bring Baked Goods for us to sell. Just bring them to the meeting wrapped and with a list of ingredients. And, as Judith mentioned in her President’s remarks on page 1, email your best bird images as jpg files to her before the meeting, so that she can assemble a “slide show” to present that evening.

Fall Bird Walks: Join us on these free club bird walks. 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/WALKS are listed by BIRDING HOTSPOT and date. The trip/walk coordinator is Stefanie Paventy. Contact her (stefpav09@gmail.com) with general questions and if you’d like to lead a walk in 2018; contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

October

Four Ponds Conservation Area – Bourne
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Friday, October 20, 7:30AM
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 at Four Ponds is quite small.

November

Milling with Birds – Mid-Cape
Peter Bono, pbono@prba.com or 774-487-2848 – Sunday, November 12, 8AM
We will begin the morning at Corporation Beach looking for seabirds and gulls. Then we’ll carpool over to Dennis Mill Pond, Scargo Lake, Stony Brook Mill and Lower Mill Pond searching for dabbling ducks. This is an easy morning of scoping for birds from the shore, so bring your scope if you have one. Email Peter (pbono@prba.com) to let him know you are coming. Rain cancels; phone him (774-487-2848) after 7AM on the day of the walk if you are uncertain that the walk will be run.

Wellfleet Harbor
Christine Harris Bates, cmharris86@gmail.com or 774-722-2147 – Sunday, November 19, 9AM
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.

Walks continue next page
Club Bird Walks, Fall 2017, and Club Merchandise

Cumberland Farms – Halifax
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Friday, November 24, 7AM
We are going to help you up your Plymouth County checklist! Join us for a walk through Cumberland Farms, a large farm open to the public, for a variety of birds. We will meet at the commuter parking lot at the Sagamore Bridge, near the Friendly’s Restaurant. Please wear boots and be prepared for wet and muddy conditions.

December

Winter Waterfowl Survey
December 2 - 3
Let’s count waterfowl together! Please get in touch with Stefanie Paventy (stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956) to let her know you want to join a team.

Pier to Pier Sweep – Outer Cape
Ginie Page, vgpage@juno.com or 508-349-6810 – Thursday, December 7 at 9AM
From land to sea, the birds are everywhere! On our journey across several stops from Wellfleet to Provincetown Piers we will look for wintering waterfowl as well as passerines sheltering in bushes. Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier to scope and then carpool. Foul weather cancels.

Christmas Bird Counts
Don’t forget to find your local Christmas Bird Count! Refer to http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count to find the dates and count compilers.

January

New Year’s Day w/Ed Banks – Mid-Cape
Ed Banks, 508-769-6762 or 68edbanks@gmail.com – Monday, January 1, 2017 – Noon – 4PM
Meet in the Stop & Shop 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 2018 year list off to a great start! Check off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. We will bird the mid-Cape and perhaps some other hotspots. Party hats optional!

Birding a Winter Wonderland – Falmouth
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Saturday, January 6 at 7AM
Meet at the Shining Sea Bike Path parking lot near the intersection of Locust St/Woods Hole Rd and Mill Rd. We will begin the day by birding the Shining Sea Bike Path including Oyster Pond and the Salt Pond Bird Sanctuary. Then we can do a quick peek at Siders Pond. Then we can head over to Perch Pond to search for Redhead and Canvasback. Depending on how the group feels, we can continue on to Great and Green Ponds as well as Falmouth Harbor (typical location of the Barrow’s Goldeneye). Please dress in layers, and bring water and snacks.

Pier to Pier Sweep – Outer Cape
Ginie Page, vgpage@juno.com or 508-349-6810 – Thursday, January 11 at 9AM
From land to sea, the birds are everywhere! On our journey across several stops from Wellfleet to Provincetown Piers we will look for wintering waterfowl as well as passerines sheltering in bushes. Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier to scope and then carpool. Foul weather cancels.

Club Merchandise: Merchandise will not be brought to all meetings, but if you want some particular items like winter hats—especially with the holiday season approaching, please contact George Oleyer (oleyer@snet.net) in advance of the meeting. A listing of the items for sale will be posted on the website, and George would like to hear ideas for other items members would like offered. More expensive items might have to be preordered and aggregated until we have enough orders to meet minimum purchase requirements from vendors.
My Trip to Hog Island by Jamie Gilson

I first got interested in birding right after my family moved to Cape Cod in 2008 when I was six years old. Slowly, my interest in birds began to grow, because we lived closer to wonderful wildlife. By age eight, I was drawing birds, and found that I was quite talented at that. I managed to get my mom into birding, too. My mom (Judith Davis) and I joined the Cape Cod Bird Club when I was 10 (I’m 15 now). Through the Cape Cod Bird Club, I learned about the National Audubon Camp at Hog Island. My mom and I attended Hog Island’s Family Camp in 2014 and 2015, and we loved Hog Island—the birds, the hiking, the boat trips, and especially the staff members from Audubon. We went on a trip to Eastern Egg Rock Island on the Camp’s boat, the Snow Goose III, and saw beautiful Atlantic Puffins from a distance. I couldn’t imagine being able to land on Eastern Egg Rock and see Atlantic Puffins up close.

I was thrilled to get the Cape Cod Bird Club’s Young Birder Scholarship to the Coastal Maine Studies for Teens program at Hog Island this past summer and to share the birding experience with 15 other teens, and the leaders: Scott Weidensaul, Director of Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens, Steve Kress, Project Seabird Restoration, Pete Salomonsen, and Eva Matthews. We made a trip to the mainland to look for birds and saw a Ruffed Grouse, among others.

Going to Eastern Egg Rock island was quite exciting. When I first got there I was sent into a blind to look at the birds on the shore, and I saw three pairs of birds mating:—two pairs of Laughing Gulls and one pair of Common Terns. I got them all on my camera, so I was pretty happy when I was done with that. I actually went on the top of the building where the interns sleep and looked at the Common Terns down below. Whenever I would go to a certain part of the roof, one extremely aggressive tern would come and start dive-bombing everybody on the roof. When we finally came down we were told to pick up buoys that were left on the beach. While doing that, I got my best look ever of Atlantic Puffins, and I saw my best looks at Black Guillemots, and some pretty good looks at Razorbills flying. Staff members banded a puffin while we were there, too. The boat ride was pretty smooth out to the island, and we had no trouble there. We had lunch on the Island, so we didn't starve. I got some really good pictures of the seabirds there. It was really quite sunny with no clouds, so it was pleasant on the island. I loved being in the blind, and that's where I viewed Arctic Terns, Roseate Terns, and Common Terns, as well as lots of Black Guillemots, and, of course, the Atlantic Puffins. We even saw a Leach’s Storm Petrel chick in one of the old puffin burrows.

The whole week was great. I made some good friends, and had great experiences, listened to talks by the adult leaders, and had a lot of fun, too. That week surely helped me love birding more, and I learned much more about birds there. I would encourage any teen to apply for that wonderful experience, and I’m so thankful for my scholarship.

photos by Jamie: Black Guillemot, nautical map of Hog Island, Atlantic Puffin with sand lances
Herring River Marsh, Wellfleet

Denizens of Herring River Marsh by Kayak by Steve Broker

(clockwise from upper right: Clapper Rail, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Sora, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren)
Club News and Member Photos

2018 Budget Approved by CCBC Board

At its September 2017 Meeting, the CCBC Board of Directors approved a budget that authorizes $10,505 in spending for the fiscal year July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Of that total, 28% ($2900) covers the costs of the meetings; 38% ($4045) is budgeted for the scholarship and donations to other tax-exempt organizations; and the remaining 34% ($3,560) is allocated to cover the costs of administration including the newsletter, the website, our PO Box rental, and the Ludlow Griscom Award.

On the income side, we expect to cover only 50% of the costs with our membership dues. The remaining costs are covered by your donations, the Holiday auction and bake sale, and by drawing from our cash reserve, which, at the end of June 2017, amounted to $15,909.

MEMBER PHOTOS

Above: Buff-Breasted Sandpiper, Race Point, by Peter Flood; juv. White Ibis, Wellfleet Bay WS, by Mary Keleher;
Below: Golden-winged Sparrow, Colombia, by Peter Bono; Jabiru, Belize, by George Oleyer
Membership Form for the Cape Cod Bird Club 2017-2018 Membership Year—RE-UP NOW

This page may be used as your CCBC Membership renewal form and also may be used by new members joining for the first time. Remember—dues should be paid before September 1, 2017, and your membership will expire on Aug. 31, 2018. New members may join at any 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

Membership dues $__________________

Young Birder Scholarship Fund $__________________

Extra Tax-deductable Gift to Club $__________________

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 147, South Dennis, MA 02660

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.
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 147, South Dennis, MA 02660

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