Vice-President's Message

Yesterday, with the temperature hovering around 50 degrees, we drove over 3 hours north of here to New Hampshire to see the Great Grey Owl. What a beauty! Today, as I write this back home, it is 30 degrees outside and half a foot of snow has fallen since this morning. Well, of course, you say. This is Cape Cod. Where the care-free, sparkling days of summer slowly turn into the harvest-colored days of autumn, and then into the unpredictable whiteness of winter, ...and then back to summer again. But wait. What about spring?

When I first moved here, I was told spring comes to Cape Cod for maybe two days, if at all. But, being a birder, I knew 'they' were wrong. And if you're reading this, you're a birder too, and know a thing or two they don't – that the many tell-tale signs of spring on the Cape have already started popping up, or will be in only a matter of weeks, if not days: the early morning cacophony of bird song in your backyard; red-winged blackbirds teeing up in the marshes; male woodcocks peenting and performing their aerial courtship acrobatics. If you're like me, however, the one true herald of spring (aside from the chorus of peepers) is the annual return of the osprey to the Cape. Admit it, you start looking at 'your' osprey pole right about the third week in March, wondering, ok – knowing, that they'll show up more or less on time. You probably even circled the date on your calendar: keep an eye out for our ospreys. These migratory raptors travel thousands of miles from their southern wintering grounds to nest on the Cape. Don't have a neighborhood osprey? No problem – check out the Museum of Natural History's OspreyCam online.

Just as the ospreys, piping plovers and terns return in early spring, so do the warblers, orioles, flycatchers and hummingbirds in May. One of the best ways to see these colorful and fun birds is to join the CCBC on one of its early morning walks at Beech Forest in Provincetown, held every weekend in May. Come down to this jewel at the tip of the Cape before the trees fully leaf out, and look for these marvelous birds as many of them fly through on their way to their northern nesting grounds. You never know what surprises may be in store when you come on a bird walk!

May is also the CCBC's last members' meeting until after the summer, but a very important one. Because that's when members get to elect the people they want to be on the club's board of directors. As a non-profit organization, the CCBC relies on its two most critical components – its members (that's you!) and its volunteers. Without members, the club does not exist. Without its volunteers, the club does not function. So, to all of our members and all of our volunteers – a much appreciated thank-you. And if you're reading this and aren't a member, you should seriously consider joining. Come to our meetings – held every September through May, on the second Monday at 7 pm at the Museum of Natural History. The meetings are fun, informative, social, and we even provide refreshments.

Have a great summer!

Paula Pariseau
April 10, 2017 Program: Peter Trull – Terns of Cape Cod: Birds of Paradox

Take a photo-journey with Peter Trull as he explores the behavior and biology of the Cape’s four tern species: Roseate, Arctic, Common and Least. Terns migrate long distances to reach Cape Cod. They are plunge divers, hovering above the ocean’s surface before plunging beak first into the water to snatch silversides, sand eels, and even squid and shrimp. Many images in this program have never been seen before. This wildlife adventure will provide an opportunity for questions and discussion about infrequently seen behaviors and life histories of our most graceful seabirds.

Peter Trull, a past president of the Cape Cod Bird Club, has been involved in Research and Education for about 35 years. In the 70s and 80s he coordinated Massachusetts Audubon Society’s coastal seabird monitoring program, assessing the breeding success and its limiting factors on 4 species of terns as well as piping plovers. He conducted field research in Guyana and Surinam, studying the market trapping of Common Terns and Roseate Terns, working with local bird trappers in several coastal villages where he hesitantly admits he’s eaten Common Terns and 15 to 20 species of sandpipers and plovers. As Education Director at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, he developed programs and began studying Eastern Coyotes in 1989. Through the 90’s, as a researcher and Education Director at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, he developed and taught classes related to whales and marine birds and has completed more than 2,500 whale watching trips related to education and research. He presently teaches 7th grade Science at the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School in Harwich MA, and holds a Master’s Degree in Education. He has written six books about Cape Cod natural history. His newest book *The Gray Curtain* was released in June 2015.

**Tern photos:** (L to R): Royal Tern by Stefanie Paventy; Arctic Tern and Arctic Tern chick by Keenan Yakola
Spring 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 contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

April

High Head/Pilgrim Heights – N. Truro
*Ed Hoopes, ehoopes63@comcast.net or 508-737-7479 – Saturday, April 1, 8AM*

Meet at the Salt Pond Visitors Center. We will hop into cars to consolidate our “convoy,” and, of course, reduce our carbon footprint! We’ll start at High Head, then walk the bike path and trails in hopes for rail, bobwhite, seabirds and passerines.

Bell’s Neck Conservation Area - Harwich
*Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 - Saturday, April 15, 7AM*

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. Wear your “wellies.”

Fort Hill, Eastham
*Judith Davis, motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780(h) / 508-221-2322(c) – Saturday, April 22, 8AM*

Enjoy Earth Day by joining us for a walk along the loop trail at Fort Hill in Eastham. We will then watch the marsh for incoming shorebirds, and hopefully a bittern and/or rail, while the tide rises. High tide will be at 9:01AM. Meet in the lower parking lot on Fort Hill Road. You may want to wear waterproof boots.

Manomet Area – Plymouth
*Brian Harrington, brian.harrington205@gmail.com or 774-487-2683 – Sunday, April 23, 7AM*

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 at routes 3 and 6). We will search Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and Manomet Point for seabirds and migrating passerines.

May

Beech Forest Walks for May 2017 - Provincetown

It’s time for spring migration! CCBC is offering bird walks every weekend of May! Meet at the Beech Forest parking lot by 8AM. From Route 6, turn north 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 info, below:

- **Saturday – May 6** – Judith Davis, motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780(h)/ 508-221-2322(c)
- **Saturday – May 13** – Ed Banks, 68edbanks@gmail.com or 508-769-6762
- **Saturday – May 20** – Judith Davis, motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780(h)/ 508-221-2322(c)
- **Sunday – May 21** – Peter Crosson, pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678

Walks continue next page
Spring Bird Walks, continued

Peterson Farm - Falmouth
Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Friday, May 19, 6:30AM
We will meet at Peterson Farm (head south on Woods Hole Road for about 3/4 mile past Elm Road; turn right onto McCallum Drive and bear right at the fork). Warblers and passerines should be peaked here at this veritable bird haven habitat.

June

Scusset Beach State Park – Sagamore
Brian Harrington, brian.harrington205@gmail.com or 774-487-2683 and Judith Davis, motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780(h)/508-221-2322(c) – Saturday, June 3, 7AM
Meet in the large parking lot by the concession buildings. We'll spend the morning checking the thickets, canal and beach area for early passerines and seabirds.

Fort Hill - Eastham
Judith Davis, motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780(h)/508-221-2322(c) - Saturday, June 10, 12PM
Bring your Dad (or Mom or a friend) to our Father’s Day walk. Join us for a walk along the loop trail at Fort Hill in Eastham. We will then watch the marsh for incoming shorebirds, and hopefully a bittern and/or rail, while the tide rises. High tide will be at 1:58PM. Meet in the lower parking lot on Fort Hill Road. You may want to wear waterproof boots.

UPCOMING EVENTS: MAY Meeting. The program will be posted on the club’s website in April. We will elect board members at the May meeting. Look for those nominees on the club’s website in April. If you feel called to serve on our board, please contact Paula Pariseau, Vice President (see page 8 for contact info).

OTHER MEMBER PHOTOS:
Left: Pink-footed Goose, Amherst, by Keenan Yakola;
Top right: Brown Creeper in Harwich, by Jamie Gilson;
bottom left: New Year’s Day bird: Cooper’s Hawk at Crow’s Pond, Chatham, and Iceland Gull, Herring Cove, by Judith Davis
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Liam Flood, Dennis
Ken Stebbins, Provincetown
Elizabeth Hill-Gest, Barnstable
Nancy Marshall, Brewster
Christine Bates, Brewster

Teen Scholarship 2017

The Cape Cod Bird Club is pleased to announce that it has awarded to Jamie Gilson a full tuition scholarship for a one week session this summer at National Audubon’s Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens camp program conducted at Audubon’s Hog Island in Bremen, Maine. Jamie is a 14 year old, home-schooled student from Harwich. He is an avid birder, and has been a member and attending CCBC meetings since he was 10 with his mom, who edits The Kingfisher. He often helps her lead bird walks for the club. He also is interested in bird illustration, and one of his paintings was juried in at the 2016 inaugural Youth Bird Art Contest at the Museum of American Bird Art in Canton, MA, where Jamie has attended classes. Congratulations, Jamie!

Eagles at Mashpee-Wakeby Pond

As many of you know, bald eagles have been spotted at Mashpee-Wakeby Pond for several years. The MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife is interested in any information about adult eagle sightings and, in particular, possible nest locations in the area. The last known nest on Cape Cod was in 1905 on Snake Pond in Sandwich, so the location/documentation of a nest on the Cape would be quite notable! If the State is able to locate a nest based on an observer report, they typically try their best to get that person(s) out with them for an eagle banding trip and allow them to hold an eagle chick while it is being banded! Have information? Please contact Jason Zimmer: jason.zimmer@state.ma.us.

[images: left: David Sibley with Jamie at the Museum of American Bird Art Youth Art Competition; top: Jamie taking a break while birding at Plum Island; middle: Jamie birding in Erie, PA]
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. Remember dues were due on September 1, 2016, and your membership will expire on Aug. 31, 2017. 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 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 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.
Beginning the year with more great rarities —Judith Davis.

Our year of rarities in New England, especially on Cape Cod, is off to a good start. If you haven’t already signed up for rare bird alerts for Barnstable County on eBird, I encourage you to do so. I am so thankful for all your eBird posts that enable us to get out and get our birds. I’m hoping Spring Migration will be awesome this year, especially at our Beech Forest walks in May. Please get out and go birding with the club walks. Steve Arena, Peter Flood and Blair Nikula keep us posted on rare birds at Race Point. Thanks, guys. Some CCBC members were lucky enough to see the Great Gray Owl in New Hampshire.

Recent Rarities: Snow Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose and Canvasback at Hinckley’s Pond in Brewster; Painted Bunting (male) in Orleans; Eurasian Green-winged Teal at Bell’s Neck in Harwich; King Eider (adult male) at the Herring Run part of the Cape Cod Canal; Glaucous Gull and Mew Gull, Race Point.

(images: top left, King Eider, Judith Davis; top middle, Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Roger Debenham; top right, Painted Bunting, Mark Faherty; middle, Painted Bunting, Nancy Villone; bottom left: Glaucous Gull and right, Mew Gull, Blair Nikula)
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: (vacant) President
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)
Alice Berry Refreshments (dave97sea@aol.com)
Judith Davis The Kingfisher Editor (motherjude3@aol.com)
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Ex-officio: Ken Casson Membership Co-chair (casson1@netscape.com)
Barbara Grasso Membership Co-chair (quinngrasso@aol.com)

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