



The Kingfisher

VOL 45 (2)

Winter (January-March) 2017

The Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the second Monday of each month, September through May, at 7:00PM at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster, MA.

President's Message

At this time of year many birders get excited about seeing our returning winter migrants. Historically, on Cape Cod we are blessed with many species of waterfowl that frequent our ponds, bays and shorelines. The first weekend in December for the past thirty-plus years has been time when a survey of the waterfowl on our ponds has been held. That effort continues today because birders from our club continue to manage a wonderful "citizen science" project. Getting that data base from the original founder of the waterfowl survey, Blair Nikula, and incorporating it into an up-dated data base managed by the CCBC, has been the result of many hours of laborious effort by club members Eldon Zeigler and Blair Nikula. We, the club members are deeply indebted for that work. We trust that the data collected will continue to be gathered, recorded and possibly one day used as a valuable resource for a research project studying the species patterns of waterfowl on Cape Cod in the winter season.

Speaking of winter, please be reminded that Ed Banks will lead his January 1, 2017 Annual Bird Walk. Starting at 12 noon on New Year's Day, it is not unusual for his bird walk to generate 40-50 species of birds to start your 2017 Year List. Check out our website (capecodbirdclub.org) where you will find all of the trips that Stefanie Paventy (Trips Coordinator) has scheduled for this coming winter.

I want to use the last part of my letter to thank the Board of Directors, the Officers of the Club and our entire terrific club membership for their generosity and kindness extended to Jane and me at the November meeting. It will have been our last meeting, as we are moving "off Cape" to be closer to our grandson and his parents. We can't believe that our tenure of thirteen years is coming to a close. We shall hold dear the many, many happy and sweet memories of our experiences as members of this wonderful birding club. We wish the club continued success, growth and many happy hours of bird watching. If you travel north of Boston to the Plum Island area, please look us up. We look forward to joining the Essex County Ornithological Club.

Finally, I want to encourage all of our club members to participate in the E-Bird workshop that is being organized by Peter Bono and others. The late Vern Laux always ended his bird column with the phrase "keep your eyes to the sky." As Jane and I move away, know that when we are keeping our eyes to the sky in our new birding patch, it will not be exactly the same for one cannot duplicate the love and deep appreciation we feel for each of our birding friends here on Cape Cod. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your kind wishes and sweet thoughts. *Charlie and Jane Martin*

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The *Kingfisher* is published quarterly. Deadline for the next issue: December 12; Send articles, images, etc. to:

motherjude3@aol.com

CCBC Website:

www.capecodbirdclub.org

(with color copy of *Kingfisher*)

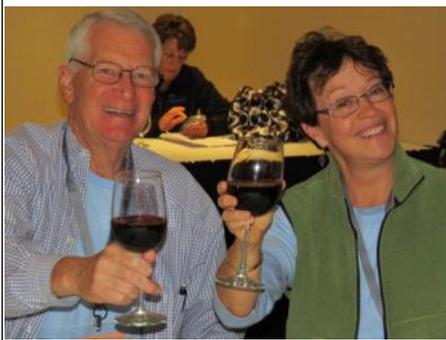
Webmaster: Terry Gavin

wbmstr@capecodbirdclub.org

CCBC Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub

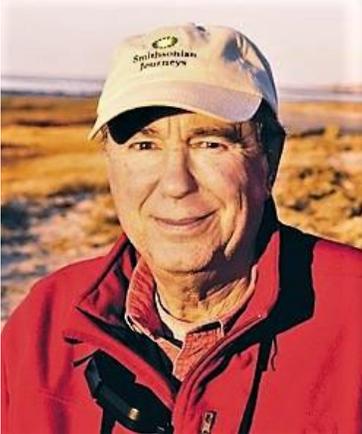
Charlie and Jane at the 2014 Cape Cod Bird Festival



January Program and Recent Member Photos

► January 9, 2017, 7pm David Clapp

A Virtual Bird and Wildlife Safari of Southern Africa



Veteran safari guide and beloved bird club member and former officer David Clapp takes us on a journey around Southern Africa, home to almost unimaginable bird diversity (Kenya alone has more than 1,000 species), as well as more charismatic megafauna than you can shake a stick at! From the Big 5 to bustards and broubrous, sit back and enjoy this virtual safari to what is arguably the world's most spectacular wildlife destination.

David Clapp has worked with Smithsonian Journeys (the Smithsonian Institutes travel program) as a naturalist and lecturer worldwide for 39 years. He retired from Mass Audubon in 2005, after a 35-year career with that organization, including as Director of its South Shore Sanctuaries. David also consults on environmental matters, and has a smallish safari company that operates mostly in northern Tanzania. He has led more than 30 Southern African safaris. David lives on the Cape, and is the former Programs Coordinator for the Cape Cod Bird Club.

Check the Bird Club Website for February and March programs:

<https://www.capecodbirdclub.org>

Recent Member photos:

Pink-footed Goose, Campus Pond, UMass Amherst, MA by Keenan Yakola,
December 9 (Canon EOS 70D, EF400mm f/5.6L USM)

Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bay Lane Southern thickets, Centerville by Ian Davies
December 28, 2016

Iceland Gull, Stellwagan Bank by Peter Flood
December 25, 2016 (Canon EOS 7D, Mark II, EF400mm f/5.6L USM)



Club Bird Walks, Winter 2017

Winter Walks: Join us on these free club trips. Heavy or steady rain (or snow) 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. 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.

January

New Year's Day w/Ed Banks – Mid-Cape--Sunday, January 1, 2017 – Noon – 4PM *Ed Banks,*
68edbanks@gmail.com. 508-769-6762 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 2017 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 and perhaps some other hotspots. Party hats optional!

Birding a Winter Wonderland – Falmouth--Saturday, January 7 at 7AM *Stefanie Paventy,*
stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – 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 the 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 Golden-eye). Please dress in layers, and bring water and snacks.

Owl Prowl - West Barnstable--Thursday, January 12, 4:30PM *Peter Crosson,*
pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678. We will explore West Barnstable Conservation Area in search of resident owls! This area is known for Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl. It will be chilly, but the sounds of the birds will be worth it! Meet at the parking area off of Crooked Cartway via Race Lane.

Ducks, Ducks & More Ducks – Eastham - Saturday, January 14, 7AM *Phil Kyle,*
archopt@gmail.com We will look for overwintering birds in the thickets and around the fresh water ponds not frozen to see dabbling & diving ducks. Then we'll check for sea ducks along the bay and ocean shores. Meet at the Cape Cod National Sea Shore Visitors Center.

Scusset Beach State Park – Sagamore--Monday, January 16, 8AM *Judith Davis,*
motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780 (home)/508-221-2322 (cell) - Join the CCBC in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.! Walk around the camp sites, beach front, canal and forests at Scusset. A variety of birds from waterfowl to passerines will be seen. Meet at the parking lot nearest the concession stands.

Winter Wandering on the Canal – Sandwich--Sunday, January 29, 8AM *Peter Crosson,*
pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678 - Meet at the Canal Visitor Center next to the Sandwich Marina. We will look around the area for gulls and wintering seabirds. We may even find the King Eider or Harlequin Duck! From there we will head over toward the Sandwich Marina to see what we can find.

Walks continue next page

Winter Bird Walks, continued

► **February**

Falmouth Pond Plodding- Sunday, February 12, 7AM

Phil Kyle,

archopt@gmail.com Walk around the Falmouth ponds in search of wintering ducks, loons, grebes and more! We will visit Salt Pond, Siders Pond, Falmouth Heights, Little Pond, Great Pond, Perch Pond, Green Pond and Bourne's Pond. Meet at the Falmouth Stop & Shop's southern-most parking area (closest to Jones Road). If most of the ponds are frozen then the trip will be cancelled.

Birding Mid-Cape - Dennis/Harwich--Monday, February 20, 7AM

Judith Davis,

motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780(home)/508-221-2322(cell) - Enjoy Washington's Birthday by spending some time birding! Meet at the entrance to West Dennis Beach. We will look for ducks, loons, Snow Buntings, Purple Sandpipers and more! We will then caravan over to Bell's Neck Road in West Harwich to walk the conservation lands on the north side of Great Western Road.

Road Trip to Rhode Island Saturday, February 25, 6AM

Stefanie Paventy,

stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 - Possible places to visit will include the Watchemoket Cove, Portsmouth Town Pond, St. Mary's Pond, Sachuest Point, Beavertail State Park, Ninigret NWR, Trustom Pond NWR, Moonstone Beach and the fields of the University of Rhode Island. We will be guided by open water during hard winter conditions. The focus of the trip will be waterfowl, but we should see a great diversity of birds during the day. We will stop somewhere for lunch. Bad weather cancels. Please RSVP to Stefanie as there is limited seating. Meet at the commuter parking lot off Main Street in Buzzards Bay (behind Krua Thai Restaurant near the railroad bridge).

► **March**

Scusset Beach State Park – Sagamore—Saturday, March 4, 7AM

Stefanie Paventy,

stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 - Meet in the first parking lot, next to the fish pier. We'll spend the morning checking the thickets and woodland trail, canal and beach area for passerines and waterfowl.

Ponds Again—Marston's Mills, Falmouth—Monday, March 20, 8AM

Judith Davis,

motherjude3@aol.com or 508-432-3780(home)/508-221-2322(cell) Still looking for that Canvasback or Redhead? Join us for a Monday pond-hopping trip, looking for those late winter ducks that may still be in our ponds. Possible ponds are Salt Pond, Siders, Perch Pond, and Marston's Mills Pond. Meet at the Falmouth Stop & Shop's southern-most parking area (closest to Jones Road).

Walk leaders may wish to use the club checklist, found at

http://www.capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/ccbc_walk_checklist.pdf. You can also enter your sightings on eBird. Don't forget to check the club website (<https://www.capecodbirdclub.org/walks/>) and call/email the walk leader before the walk.

New Members, Members' Night, and Waterfowl Survey

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Nancy & Samuel Yee, Waban, MA
 Elizabeth Ryder, Harwich, MA
 Martha Fisher, North Chatham, MA
 Jane Simpson, Mashpee, MA

MEMBERS' NIGHT

The December Member's Night was a fun evening for all with a great silent auction and bake sale in spite of some Monday night football event. The results of the fundraising are: Silent Auction: \$676 and Bake Sale \$166.50, a little less than last year's meeting. Thanks to all who helped and bought and for the birding stores for their donations (Birdwatchers' General Store in Orleans and Wild Birds Unlimited in Yarmouth).

► **WATERFOWL SURVEY:** Thirty plus years of December Cape Cod Waterfowl survey results are available at <https://www.capecodwaterfowl.info/#countsSummaryPage>

During the first weekend of November of 1983, Blair Nikula and members of the Cape Cod Bird Club initiated a census of the lakes and ponds on Cape Cod. Participants were instructed to identify and count all the water-fowl (loons, grebes, geese, ducks, and coot) present on each pond. Covering 202 ponds, participants tallied 3,957 individuals of 22 species of waterfowl.

The census continued the following year but was moved to the first weekend in December. Many ducks and geese do not arrive on Cape Cod until inland bodies of water freeze and the later date would more closely coincide with peak water-fowl numbers locally. Covering 225 ponds, 25 species of water-fowl were counted with 9,097 individuals being recorded. This year, and in those following, detailed counts of each species on each pond were recorded. These provide the data presented on this website.



Now in its 34th year, the Cape Cod Waterfowl Census is an excellent example of citizen science in which birders, regardless of their expertise, can gather useful data and make a meaningful contribution to our knowledge of the Massachusetts avifauna. Waterfowl are relatively conspicuous, generally easy to identify, and thus readily censused with only a modest effort. In 2015, the survey covered 267 ponds, 25 species of water-fowl and 7,183 individuals. Interesting facts include more than 1,000 Canvasbacks in 1985 and zero this year (Images: Hooded Merganser Pair, West Dennis, and Canvasback / Mallard, Perch Pond, Teaticket by Judith Davis).



Membership form for new members

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. 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

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.: _____

Name(s)	M/F*	Email Address**	Approx. Age* (check one)
			< 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 20 – 35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36 – 50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51 – 65 <input type="checkbox"/> 66 – 80 <input type="checkbox"/> > 80
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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.**

Websites and a Year of Rarities

Check out these 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

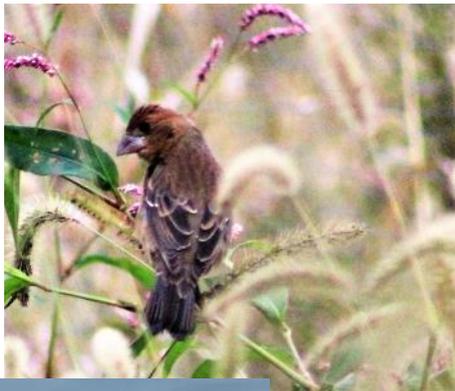
<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> Get signed up for ebird and list your sightings to help us all.

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/sonab2016/> Get the State of North America's Birds 2016

<http://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/wildlife-research-conservation/statewide-bird-monitoring/breeding-bird-atlases/> Check out the birds that breed in Massachusetts

<http://www.massaudubon.org/learn/museum-of-american-bird-art/> great bird art exhibits

A Great Year of Rarities —Judith Davis. We had a great year of rarities in New England, especially on Cape Cod. If you haven't already signed up for rare bird alerts on eBird, let that be a New Year's resolution for you. Many of you saw interesting birds like the briefly appearing **Pink-footed Goose**. A number of us spent hours at Fort Hill admiring the **Sedge Wren** and **Yellow Rail**, and others were thrilled to get the **Gray Kingbird** in Hyannis Port. Some of us hiked out over sand to Race Point to enjoy the **Yellow-billed Loon** (imaged by Keenan Yakola) and a few lucky birders saw the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** in Centerville this week. We had a **Blue Grosbeak** at the town garden in Harwich. A few of us kayaked Nauset Marsh and saw the **Royal Tern** (imaged by Stefanie Paventy). We loved the **Mountain Bluebird** at Crane WMA in the spring. Others got great birds off-Cape like the **American Avocet** and **Rough-legged Hawk** at Plum Island, **Sandhill Cranes** in New York and a **Barred Owl** in daylight at Acadia in Maine. I am so thankful for all your eBird posts that enable us to get out and get our birds. Here's hoping for a great "big" year in 2017, beginning with our annual New Year's Day walk with Ed Banks. Here are a few of my images plus those noted above.



Barred Owl, Blue Grosbeak, American Avocet

Sedge Wren, Royal Tern, Yellow-billed Loon, Gray Kingbird



Cape Cod Bird Club
PO Box 485
Centerville, MA 02632

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**

<i>Officers:</i>	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)
<i>Directors:</i>	Mark Faherty	Programs	(mfaherty@massaudubon.org)
	Paul Schlansky	Publicity and Outreach	(schlansky2@gmail.com)
	Jane Martin	Refreshments	(janeemartin@comcast.net)
	Judith Davis	<i>The Kingfisher</i> Editor	(motherjude3@aol.com)
	Stefanie Paventy	Trips Coordinator	(stefpav09@gmail.com)
<i>Ex-officio:</i>	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>

