



The Kingfisher

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Fall (Oct-Dec 2025)

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Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, Sept through May at 7:00PM. January and February meetings will be by Zoom. Others will be hybrid meetings, simultaneously live and online. We meet at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster. Doors open at 6:30 pm

The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for the next issue is December 8, 2025.

Send submissions by email. Attach text as a MS Word document or plain text. Attach images as separate files; please do not embed them in the email body. Send the largest resolution possible for your images; they will not print well if preformatted for the Web. Please credit the images. Submissions might be edited for style or length. Editor has the final say on content.

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www.facebook.com/

Readers are urged to view this publication online to appreciate the color bird photography.

President's Message

Greetings!

Welcome to our 2025-2026 season. Our Club is starting its 55th year on Cape Cod! It's amazing to realize how many things have changed in birding since our Club started in 1971. For example, back then, bird photos were taken with a film camera, meaning waiting days or weeks to see your photos. You reported birds you saw by calling them in on a telephone line. You found out what other birders were seeing by listening to a recorded phone message. You figured out how to drive to a new place to bird by using paper maps. And this newsletter was typed on a "typewriter" and printed on a mimeograph machine! (Some of our younger members may have to "google" some of these terms.)

The birds of Cape Cod have also changed. The Northern Bobwhite was one of the most common birds seen at Cape Cod birdfeeders! (This is according to our own Club members' bird-feeder census reports.) And some birds, like the Northern Cardinal and Red-bellied Woodpecker, were not very common. I'm sure there are other changes you have observed over time. But what hasn't changed is the joy of experiencing nature (outdoors or from your kitchen window) with a pair of binoculars and a field guide. Hopefully, we will all be able to continue birding for a long time. Meanwhile, it's fun to enjoy the use of all the birding aids that technology is supplying us!

Happy birding.

Peter Jaug, President

Common Cape bird in fall plumage. Can you guess?
David Clapp, photographer.
Hint: Its initials are EUST.



Club Meetings—Gloria Smith, Programs Director

Cape Cod Bird Club is delighted to welcome you to these programs for fall 2025! Our meetings are free and begin at 7 pm, with no registration required. The October and November meetings will be in a “hybrid” format featuring an in-person gathering at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster and a simultaneous Zoom broadcast. The December meeting will not have a Zoom option. Museum doors (and Zoom) open at 6:30 pm with our “Pre-game Slideshow” featuring upcoming programs, walks, bird trivia, bird photos by fellow members and more. A Zoom link will be emailed to our members prior to each meeting.

Monday, October 13, 2025 Speaker: Wayne R. Petersen “Current Updates on Massachusetts Bird Populations”

In 2019, Wayne was invited to speak to the Cape Cod Bird Club on the topic of *Changes in Massachusetts Bird Populations*. At the time he offered an avian timeline that began with the arrival of the Pilgrims in the 1620s. Many changes have taken place since the 1600s, but even since 2019 a number of changes and trends in bird populations are continuing to take place. In this presentation he will describe some of the recent and dramatic changes that are occurring along with highlighting some of the factors responsible for these changes. Audience participation and questions will be welcomed.

Wayne Petersen retired as Mass Audubon’s Director of the [Massachusetts Important Bird Areas](#) (IBA) program in June 2024. Wayne has led tours, lectured, and conducted birding workshops across North America for more than 35 years, and his tour-leading experiences have taken him throughout North America, from the Arctic to Antarctica, and to various destinations in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Cuba, Iceland, Svalbard, five African countries, Madagascar, the Seychelles, Australia, and New Zealand.



Wayne was a founding member of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, a past President of *Bird Observer* magazine, and is a retired New England Regional Editor for *North American Birds* magazine. He is currently Editor of the New England *Christmas Bird Count*, and he serves on the advisory committee for the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the Wildlands Trust.

His writing projects include authoring the American Birding Association’s *Field Guide to Birds of Massachusetts* (2017), National Audubon Society’s *Pocket Guide to Songbirds and Familiar Backyard Birds – East* (1994) and coauthoring *Birds of Massachusetts* (1993), and *Birds of New England* (2004). He also co-edited the *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas 1* (2003) and *2* (2013), along with contributing to *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* (1983), *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior* (2001), and *Arctic Wings* (2006).

In 2005, Wayne was the recipient of the American Birding Association’s *Ludlow Griscom Award* for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology. He is especially interested in seabirds and shorebirds, and he derives great satisfaction from sharing his knowledge of the natural world with his fellow colleagues and traveling companions.

Club Meetings, continued

Monday, November 10, 2025 — Speaker: Norman Smith, Raptor Specialist
“Snowy Owls to Saw-whet Owls”

Since 1981, Norman Smith has spent countless days and nights, in every imaginable weather condition, observing, capturing, banding and relocating Snowy Owls at Logan International Airport. Data has been collected on roosting, hunting and behavior while on their wintering grounds. Since 2000, satellite transmitters have been attached to owls to learn more about their movements. Find out what has been learned to date, what questions remain and how this project developed to include research on Saw-whet Owls.

Norman Smith is a self-taught naturalist who has worked for the Massachusetts Audubon Society since 1974. He recently retired as Director of Blue Hills Trailside Museum and Norman Smith Environmental Education Center in Milton, Massachusetts, where he had worked for the past 50+ years and has taken on a part-time role to continue his research on raptors.

Norman has studied birds of prey including rehabilitating the injured and successfully fostering over 1,000 orphaned hawk and owl chicks into adoptive nests. His ongoing long-term projects include trapping and banding migrating hawks and owls in the Blue Hills Reservation, banding nestling hawks and owls, and doing research on snowy owls and other raptors wintering at Boston's Logan International Airport. He has also traveled to Alaska to study snowy owls in their native tundra habitat. His research work has been published in *National Geographic*, *National Wildlife*, *Ranger Rick*, *Yankee*, *Massachusetts Wildlife*, *Bird Observer*, *Birding*, *Sanctuary*, *Geo*, *Nature*, *Grolier Encyclopedia*, *Owls of the Northern Hemisphere* and *Owls of the World*.

His mission is to use the information gathered from his research to stimulate a passion in everyone he meets to help us better understand, appreciate and care for this world in which we live.



Monday, December 8, 2025 - Holiday Party

Holiday Party featuring teen Hog Island Scholarship recipients, Alex Russell and Ethan Seufert, sharing their experiences. Games, raffles, prizes and refreshments with your fellow Bird Club members. FUN!!

Cape Cod Bird Club Field Trips—October-December, 2025

Mary Jo Foti, Coordinator

**Join us on these free Club trips.
Please email trip leader if you plan to attend.
Always check our Website for updates or cancellations.**

Please check out this free, online **Shorebird Guide** created by Soheil Zende: <https://www.birdobserver.org/Better-Birding/New-England-Shorebird-Guide>.
Additional information and instructions are available on our homepage under “Resources”

OCTOBER

Black Beach, Falmouth **Wednesday, October 1st – 8AM**

Take Route 28 to 28A, then turn onto Chapoquoit Rd which leads to Chapoquoit Beach parking lot. Join us on this new addition to our walks program as we head out on the high tide looking for migrating shorebirds, terns, gulls, passerines and perhaps some early movement of sea ducks. It's about a 2 mile round trip, with scenic views of Buzzard's Bay and the Great Sippiwissett Marsh. The return trip will be along the bike trail.

Leader: Val Freysinger mannyneppy@gmail.com

Sandy Neck Beach – West Barnstable **Thursday, October 2nd – 8AM**

Head towards Sandy Neck Beach directly off Rt.6A and park in the main lot near the public facilities. We'll be heading out to the beach on the high tide looking for migrating shorebirds, terns, gulls and perhaps other pelagic species. Once we're finished with the beach, the marsh trail awaits. Expect at least 2 miles of walking in soft sand with steep elevation in some spots. High tide is 7:59AM at Barnstable Harbor.

Leader: MJ Foti maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Scusset Beach State Reservation – Sagamore **Friday, October 17th – 8AM**

Take Scusset Beach Road to the main entrance. Parking is .25 miles beyond the entrance kiosk at the fishing pier. We'll spend the morning exploring the thickets on the wooded trails for fall migrants, walking the bike path along the canal where wintering waterfowl should just be coming in and then exploring the campground area. We'll finish up at the beach and scope the jetty at the mouth of the canal. Expect 3 miles of walking on mixed terrain – dirt trails, paved bike path and beach.

Leader: MJ Foti maryjo1226@yahoo.com
(Co-sponsored with Brookline Bird Club)

Crane Wildlife Management Area - East Falmouth **Thursday, October 23rd – 8AM**

Meet at the parking lot of Otis Model Aero Club Flying Field. As you drive north on Nathan Ellis Highway, the entrance to Crane will be on your right next to Allietta Softball Field.

You can count on productive raptor activity while this unique grassland habitat is also host to a rich variety of species, including Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, American Kestrel and possibly Blue Grosbeak. Hard pack trails can give way to more rock-strewn narrow paths - between 1.5 and 3 miles of walking.

Leader: Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve – Harwich **Saturday, October 25th – 8AM**

From Rt. 39 in Harwich, take Bank Street to #203 - the Harbormaster's Workshop. Cold Brook Preserve underwent a major ecological restoration project completed in fall 2024 with newly restored and easily accessed trails throughout 66 acres of wetland and surrounding woodland. The intricate pond and trail system provides ideal habitat for a variety of passerines, hawks and waterfowl, in addition to otters and other mammals.

Leader: Ed Banks 68edbanks@gmail.com

Sandy Neck, West Barnstable **Sunday, October 26th – 7AM**

Take Sandy Neck Rd directly off Rt.6A and drive directly down to the main lot. We're hoping to have a big migration day of scoters and other seaducks traveling south. We should see at least some birds on the move, and depending on wind and weather, there could be a large flight of birds. We'll start by scoping from the beach near the parking lot, and as the morning progresses, we'll venture out onto the beach and head back by the marsh trail, (depending on weather conditions). Expect at least 2-3 miles of walking in soft sand and dirt trails. Portable bathrooms available.

Please note earlier start time!

Leader: Dan O'Brien danielkobrien107@gmail.com
(Co-sponsored with South Shore Bird Club)

NOVEMBER

Fort Hill and Hemenway Landing – Eastham **Saturday, November 1st – 8AM**

From Route 6E, turn on Governor Prencce Rd. and park in the first lot on the left just past Captain Penniman House. We'll walk the loop trail towards Hemenway Landing where there should be some nice migrant activity. We can also scan the marsh for incoming shorebirds, herons, egrets and hope-

Cape Cod Bird Club Fall Walks, continued

fully a bittern or rail with the rising tide. You may want to bring waterproof boots/shoes. Expect 2 miles of walking on hard pack trail with mixed elevation. High tide is 8:50 AM. Leader: Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

Hatches Harbor Fire Rd. to Race Point Light Wednesday, November 12th – 8AM

Meet at the dirt parking lot on the west side of Province Lands Rd. about a mile south of the National Seashore Visitor Center. From the dirt parking lot, we'll follow the fire road that runs northwest to the dike separating Hatches Harbor from the airport that leads out to both the harbor and Race Point. Gulls, terns, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and passerines are among the many species to be encountered here. Low tide 10:47 - Waterproof footwear recommended. Leader: Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

High Head – N. Truro Friday, November 14th – 8AM

Meet at the High Head Bike Trail parking lot. Bear left on High Head Road at the steep hill and you'll be on a dirt road that leads to parking for the bike trail. We'll be looking and listening for rails, bobwhites and American Bittern skulking through the marsh as well as searching overhead for raptors and scanning the thickets for songbirds. Walk begins on a paved bike trail but may also include hard pack dirt trails of mixed elevation. Leader: MJ Foti maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Forest Beach Conservation – South Chatham Tuesday, November 25th – 8AM

Take Route 6 to Exit 85 and head South towards Rt.28. Make a right on Rt.28 and a left turn in about .5 miles at Forest Beach Rd. This will take you directly to the beach. We'll walk the marsh trail to where it meets Mill Creek and return via the beach before heading towards the overlook on Bay View Road. This is another area with mixed habitat, a nice variety of bird species and the occasional rarity. Expect up to 1 mile of walking on soft sand. Waterproof boots/shoes recommended. Low tide is 8:31AM. Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast marilyntillinghast@gmail.com

DECEMBER

Grays Beach/Callery Darling Trails – Yarmouth Port Tuesday, December 2nd – 8AM

From Center Street off 6A in Yarmouth Port, follow signs to Grays Beach where we'll meet at the big parking area. This beach is noted for its extensive boardwalk across the channel from Sandy Neck Lighthouse and is just a stone's throw from Dennis Chapin Beach. Along the wooded Callery Darling Trails, we'll keep our eyes and ears open for passerines sheltering in the brush. High tide 8:18AM. Leader: MJ Foti maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Coast Guard Beach/Salt Pond Visitor Center – Eastham Tuesday, December 9th – 8AM

Follow Route 6 to Eastham and turn right at Salt Pond Visitor Center onto Nauset Rd. This will become Doane Rd. which you'll follow to Ocean View Drive. Turn right and park in the lot by Nauset Coast Guard Station. You'll be walking south along the beach and return along the inside of the inlet. Low tide is 9:57AM. Expect to walk about 2 miles in soft sand. The second leg of the trip is a stop at Salt Pond Visitor Center for further exploring. There are bathrooms available there, open year-round. Leader: Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

Hinckleys, Seymour and Long Ponds – Harwich/ Brewster Saturday, December 13th – 8AM

From Route 124 (Pleasant Lake Ave.) turn on Headwaters Drive. The Cape Cod Rail Trail parking lot is about a half mile down on your left. A short walk on paved bike trail will bring you to our first stop, Hinckleys Pond. We'll then head to nearby Long Pond Beach in Harwich to view from our first of three vantage points. We'll finish up at Seymour Pond which includes a 10-minute walk each way along the bike trail. These mid-Cape ponds host a variety of waterfowl including Greater and Lesser Scaup, Mergansers, Bufflehead and American Coot as well as the less common Barrow's Goldeneye. Leader: MJ Foti maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Corporation Beach, Dennis Thursday, December 18th – 8AM

Meet at Corporation Beach off Route 6A in South Dennis where you can observe a variety of overwintering waterfowl, grebes, loons, alcids and the occasional Harlequin Duck directly from the parking area. Our observations will be primarily stationary and very accessible for all levels of mobility. Bring a scope if you have one. High tide 10:02AM. Leader: Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

JANUARY

New Year's Day with Ed Banks – Mid-Cape Thursday, January 1st 2026 *Noon - 4PM*

Meet in the Stop & Shop parking lot at Patriot Square on Route 134 in South Dennis and join us for our annual New Year's Day outing. Get your 2026 checklist 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! Leader: Ed Banks 68edbanks@gmail.com (508-769-6762)

2025 Annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census

The 2025 waterfowl census will take place Saturday and Sunday, **December 6 and 7**. Last year, 26 teams covered 332 ponds with a total of 31 waterfowl species observed. Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to this successful survey. We're hoping to cover 345 ponds this year and continue the success of the survey. *MJ Foti*

**Hog Island Teen Birding Camp —
Ethan Seufert, writer and photographer**

Last June, I was granted the opportunity by Cape Cod Bird Club to attend the Maine Audubon camp on Hog Island. It was truly a special experience to be able to go hiking, camping, and birding in two separate locations with about 15 other campers. As a birding-focused trip, I had the good fortune of birding all day long with several experienced Maine birders and fellow birders my age who come from all over the country. It was like being in birding heaven.

Our trip started with a long bus ride from Portland, ME all the way to our first stop at Borestone Mountain, roughly three hours away. Borestone was a unique spot because its geographic location puts it just at the fringes of the boreal forests of Northern Maine. The possibility of seeing boreal birds such as Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee and Canada Jay was always there, but since Borestone Mountain only reached an elevation of approximately 1,900 ft the chances were very slim. Alas, the group never managed to track down any of the area’s boreal birds, but the experience was still surreal nonetheless. We saw many deep forest birds such as Blackburnian Warbler, Swainson’s Thrush, and my lifer Black-throated Blue Warbler! The cabin we stayed in for two nights sat on two lakes which were surrounded by rocky mountains on all sides; we were without power, and we were largely without cell service. It was without a doubt one of the coolest places I’ve ever been.



The second part of camp took place on Hog Island which is located roughly two hours from Portland, and then a couple minutes by a small boat to reach the camp where we stayed for the last few days of our trip. On Hog Island, we learned about the conservation story of Project Puffin which successfully brought back breeding Atlantic Puffins to the coast of Maine after first being extirpated in the early 1900s. We had the opportunity to see the results for ourselves when we took a boat trip from our camp to the seabird colony on Eastern Egg Rock. The seabird watching on Eastern Egg Rock was a true marvel to finally see for myself. We tallied over a hundred puffins and Black Guillemots, Roseate and Arctic Terns, an out-of-range Cory’s Shearwater, and researchers working on Eastern Egg Rock.

Birds Photos:

- Alder Flycatcher
- American Redstart
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Atlantic Puffin
- Black Guillemot

Continues on next page



Hog Island, continued

The week I spent with the National Audubon Society in Maine was truly an opportunity of a lifetime. I want to say “thank you so much” to the CCBC for giving me the opportunity to go on this amazing trip.



Roseate Tern



Common Tern



Osprey

Cape Cod Bird Club Merchandise—Michele Burnat, Sales Coordinator

CCBC Merchandise – Visit our Website for Details on Ordering



Baseball Cap (6 colors)



Fleece Beanie



Knitted Cap



Thermal Beanie



Neck Gaiter



Harness – Elastic
Harness – Webbing



All-Weather Tote



20 Oz Tumbler



12 Oz Wine Tumbler



Mug



Vinyl Decal (white)
Vinyl Decal (hologram)



Magnet



Pin (0.75" diameter)
Pin (1" diameter)



Embroidered Patch



MA Bird Checklist

2026 CCBC Program Preview

January 12, 2026: Tina Morris —"Return to the Sky: The Surprising Story of How One Woman and Seven Eaglets Helped Restore the Bald Eagle" (Zoom begins at 6:30 pm)

February 9, 2026: James Paruk, Ph.D. — "Speciation of Songbirds" (Zoom begins at 6:30 pm)

March 9, 2026: Gina Nichol — "Columbia's Avian Treasurers"

April 13, 2026: Lorna Gibson, Ph.D.— "Birds Up Close: An Engineer Explores Their Hidden Wonders"

May 11, 2026: Jake McCumber —"Icon of the Night: Conservation of the Eastern Whip-poor-will at Camp Edwards"

Birds in the NFL Quiz
Are you watching football rather than birds this season?

What five NFL teams are named after birds?

“On the Road” to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, continued

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods now compares with the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard, with its glass flowers, as a place you really ought to visit. One site with the glass flowers and the other with a work of art that will draw you in and elevate you.

And, on the way home, you can stop in Cooperstown at Baseball’s Hall of Fame.

Fran Clapp with Wandering Albatross. (Its wingspread is close to 12 feet.)



Welcome to our New Members!

Carlos Aedo, Vernon, CT

Carla Blanchard, Harwich Port

Richard Cordner, Dennis

Denise and Sam Gnazzo, Pocasset

Alan and Sylvia Goodman, Brewster

Mary Hillsgrove, Sandwich, NH

Miranda Hofelt, Utica, NY

Paul Lalumiere, Wellfleet

Judith Lloyd, Philadelphia, PA

Patricia Purves, Sandwich

Rebecca Rejto, Boston, MA

Eileen O’Reilly, North Falmouth

Catherine Smith, Kentucky

Jonathan Sperber and Jakki Kouffman, Truro

Mark Thorne, Pittsfield, MA

Katherine Tracey, Cotuit

Steven van der Veen, Plymouth, MA

Elaine Watson, Bridgewater, MA

Birds in the NFL— Answers
What five NFL teams are named after birds?
Arizona Cardinals, Atlanta Falcons, Baltimore Ravens, Philadelphia Eagles, Seattle Seahawks
Extra points: Which has the most Super Bowl titles?

**JOIN CCBC or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW.
Membership year runs from September 1 through August 31.**

Use this form if paying by check. If credit card, <https://capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/join-online/>

NEW MEMBERS may join at any time.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING MEMBERSHIP | | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBERSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth***(18 or under) FREE | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Household) \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100.00 |

Additional donations are much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Membership Dues	\$ _____
Conservation & Education Fund	\$ _____
General Operating Fund	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Household Address (required): _____

Preferred Tel. No. (required): _____

Name(s)	Email Address**	Year of Birth* (optional)

NOTES: * Knowing your year of birth helps us design programs to serve you better.

** If we have your email address, we can send periodic, updated notifications in a timely manner regarding speakers, meeting cancellations due to bad weather and so forth. Your email address is not shared with any other organization.

- CHECK HERE** if you would like to save the Club postage and printing expenses by electing to receive your Kingfisher newsletter **by email only**. The photos will be in stunning color rather than B&W.
- CHECK HERE** if you would like to be contacted about helping the Club by leading a walk, writing an article, being a guest speaker, or serving on the Board or one of its subcommittees.

***Signature of adult family member of youth member _____

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 351, Centerville, MA 02632



Cape Cod Bird Club
PO Box 351
Centerville, MA 02632

Cape Cod Bird Club, Inc.

An organization whose members are interested in the protection and conservation of the bird life and natural resources of Cape Cod. *Please join us!*

- To join and pay dues online, visit <https://capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/join-online/>.
- If you prefer to send a check, please use the form on the previous page or download a membership form from the website at <https://capecodbirdclub.org/jwordpress/join-by-mail/> and send it along with your check to: CCBC, PO Box 351, Centerville, MA 02632.

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The Kingfisher, Editor: Carolyn Kennedy

Board members may be reached by email: info@capecodbirdclub.org