



# Cape Cod Bird Club

VOLUME 26

SEPTEMBER ~ OCTOBER 1997

ISSUE 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Don Scott*

Human nature being what it is, most Cape Cod Bird Club members likely take for granted the ongoing success of Club activities during any given year. Much behind-the-scenes work, however, is necessary to ensure that success.

The program chairman, this year Phil Kyle, writes dozens of letters and follows these up with countless phone calls in order to complete a balanced program of nine presenters.

Similarly, walks and field trips involve calls, cajoling and pleading to the weather gods by Kathy McGinley in

order to complete her task. Less visible is publicity. Ron Hindman receives input from Phil and Kathy and then transmits it in writing to several local newspapers and radio stations. Many non-members are attracted by reading or hearing of activities, enabling the Club to create an ever-expanding base of potential members as well as introducing these folks to the wonders of birding.

Janet Silverio (and her husband Arky) have tended to our post-meeting sweet tooth for the past two years as the person responsible for refreshments. The signing up and reminding of contributors is only part of this job which Ron Ayotte will assume after returning from a European trip this Fall. Drinks and cups are purchased, lugged back and forth and stored—no easy task! Lugging is also part of the job of Marge Marion who will handle our sales of decals, checklists and whatever we find to replace our hat supply. And no organization can function without a super secretary, Barbara Stanton, and an accurate and astute treasurer, Ellie Winslow. Finally, I must once again remind one and all of the long hours put in by Jim Talin and Tom Noonan in creating our excellent newsletter. Without them, and those who contribute articles, we would be far less informed about goings-on in the wonderful world of birding.

When you see any of these dedicated Club members, remember how much they are contributing to the Club and to your personal pleasure.



## IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS ON AQUATIC BIRDS

*Nor'easter* magazine

A groups of scientists, led by Mark Hahn, WHOI associate scientist, and Ian Nisbet, guest investigator in the WHOI biology department, is examining the health of two populations of common terns in relation to environmental contaminants. Their study is a part of a multi-institutional research area supported by the National Sea Grant College Program.

"There is continuing controversy about how chemicals that disrupt endocrine function are impacting the health of humans and aquatic animals, including birds," explained Hahn. "Several reports have suggested that environmental contaminants are producing reproductive and developmental effects in some animals through disruption of endocrine function." Hahn said that a growing number of experimental studies confirm the hormonal or anti-hormonal effects of certain chemicals when given to animals in high doses.

The study was prompted by recent findings suggesting that aquatic birds from coastal areas in Massachusetts may be showing signs of endocrine dysfunction. In the early 1990's, studies of Roseate Terns on Bird Island in Buzzards Bay found skewed sex ratios and female-female pairings. In 1993, a sample of male common tern embryos was taken from the site, less than 20 kilometers from New Bedford harbor, a federal superfund site that is highly contaminated with PCBs and other organic pollutants. The study found that 60 percent had ovarian tissue in their testes. "This finding suggests that terns may be affected by endocrine disrupting contaminants," said Connie Hart, a graduate student in Hahn's lab.

The investigators have examined the relationship between feminization and levels of organic contaminants in common tern embryos from Bird Island and a reference site in 1994, and in paired pre-fledglings and eggs from Bird Island in 1995. Feminized terns from Bird Island carried higher levels of "dioxin equivalents," a sum of dioxin-like compounds, than did normal birds from the same site. In addition, the yolk sacs of terns embryos from Bird Island contained compounds that interacted with the receptor protein for the female hormone estradiol, suggesting a mechanism by which the feminization might occur. The next step in this research focuses on identifying the specific contaminants involved in these effects and in trying to better understand the underlying mechanisms.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION FROM THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION AUGUST 1997 BIRDING**

*Stephen Ingraham*

(Editor's Note: This article gives an overview of some birding sites of interest. None of them are local. Hopefully, we have not transcribed any of the addresses improperly.)

To subscribe to any of the National Birding Hotline Cooperative's list-servers, send an e-mail message to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.ARIZONA.EDU, containing the list to which you want to subscribe and your name, e.g., "subscribe BirdChat Stephen Ingraham", substituting your name for mine (and no quotation marks).

Birding Web Addresses:

**Arizona Birding and National Birding Hotline Cooperative's Homepage**

<http://pimacc.pima.edu/~cwilliamson/index.html>

**Better View Desired**

<http://www.gwi.net/sing/BVD.html>

**Birding on the Web**

<http://www.birder.com/birding/>

**Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

<http://www.ornith.cornell.edu/>

**Electronic Resources on Ornithology**

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/NHR/bird.html>

**GeoGraphical Birding Guide**

<http://www-astronomy.mps.ohio-state.edu/~ignaz/birds/ABA/ABA.html>

**GORP—Bird Watching and Related Information of Birds**

<http://www.gorp.com/gorp/activity/birding.htm>

**Hummingbirds Page**

<http://www.derived.com/~lanny/hummers/>

**ID-Frontiers**

<http://nbhc.com/birdwg01/weeknw1.htm>

**National Audubon Society**

<http://www.audubon.org/>

**Optics for Birding Home Page**

<http://www.optics4birding.com>

**Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Breeding Bird Survey, Grasslands Bird Survey, Christmas Count, and much more)**

<http://www.mbr.nbs.gov/>

**Pelagic Birding Homepage**

<http://www.zip.com.au/~palliser/>

**Peterson Online**

<http://www.petersononline.com/>

**Shorebirds**

<http://www.wetlands.ca/wetcentre/shorebirds.html>

**Texas Records Committee**

<http://members.tripod.com/~tbrc>

**The Virtual Birder**

<http://magnito.cybersmith.com/vbirder>

**Yahoo—Recreation:Hobbies and Crafts:Birding**

[http://www.yahoo.com/Recreation/Hobbies\\_and\\_Crafts/Birding](http://www.yahoo.com/Recreation/Hobbies_and_Crafts/Birding)

CCBC member Richard Haskell sent along the following addresses:

**Bird Links**

<http://www.ntic.qc/~nellus/links.html>

**Birder**

<http://www.birder.com>



**Cape Cod Bird Club Inc.**

The Cape Cod Museum Of Natural History  
PO BOX 1710, Brewster, MA 02631

*Officers*

Don Scott ~ *President*

Jinks Keil ~ *Vice President*

Barbara Stanton ~ *Secretary*

Ellie Winslow ~ *Treasurer*

*Directors*

Ron Ayotte ~ Ron Hindman

Phil Kyle ~ Marge Marion

Kathy McGinley ~ Janet Silverio

*Newsletter*

Editor ~ Jim Talin, email: talin@cape.com

Design & Prepress ~ Tom Noonan

Circulation ~ Barbara Stanton

**The Cape Cod Bird Club**

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 \$10 single membership, \$15 family membership to...

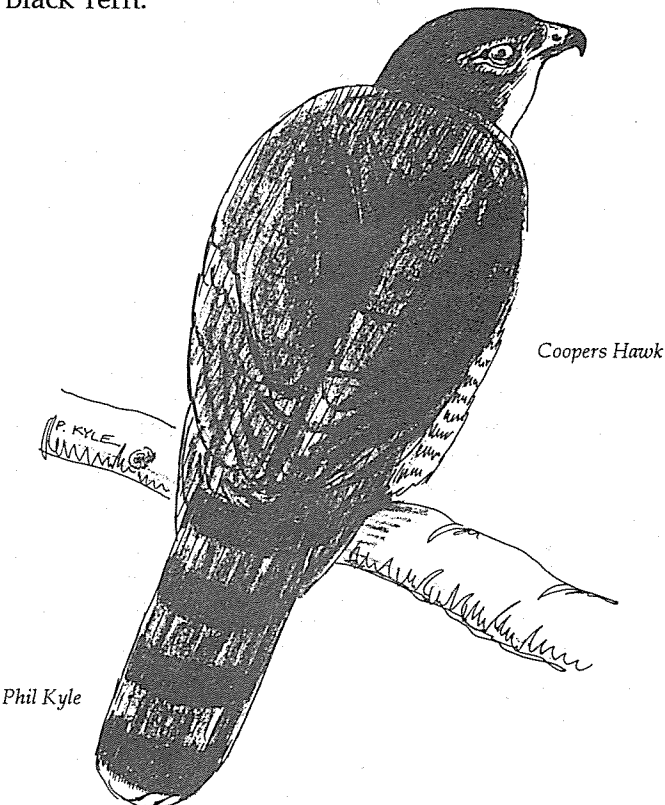
CCBC, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History  
PO BOX 1710, Brewster, MA 02631

Jackie Sones

## JUNE ~ JULY

If you'd like to report a sighting, you may do so in any of the ways listed at the end of this column. It's very helpful to include your name and phone number, the bird's name, the number of individuals, the date and location of your sighting, and any other information you've gathered!

**Seabirds.** Blair Nikula reported the following storm birds at First Encounter Beach on July 26th: 1 Leach's Storm-petrel, 1 storm-petrel sp., 5+ Cory's Shearwaters, 2+ Greater Shearwaters, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 2 Manx Shearwaters, 5 large shearwater sp., 23+ small shearwater sp. (all in one flock; possibly Audubon's, but they were just a little too far out to be certain—a typical First Encounter Frustration!), 420 Northern Gannets, 3 jaeger sp. (at least one probably Pomarine), 1 phalarope sp., and 1 Black Tern.



the adult Mississippi Kite that spent 8 days near Giddiah Hill Road in Orleans. The bird was first spotted on May 29th and unfortunately was found dead on June 5th. A Swainson's Hawk was found in Provincetown on June 25th. We received scattered reports of this bird, all from the Provincetown/Truro area, with the most recent sighting on August 3rd.

**Rails.** A pair of Virginia Rails with chicks was seen at the Pamet Cranberry Bog in Truro in early June. A Virginia Rail nest was discovered at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in late July. Perhaps this was an attempt to renest after an earlier failure?

**Shorebirds.** Kyle Jones discovered a Wilson's Plover on New Island in Nauset Marsh on June 28th. The bird was seen at least two other times, with the last sighting by Aurele Thomas on July 11th. Vernon Laux found a Bar-tailed Godwit on South Beach in Chatham on July 7th. This bird was still being seen regularly as of August 2nd.

**Royal Terns.** Two Royal Terns were seen in Nauset Marsh on June 15th by Aurele Thomas. There were several other reports of single Royal Terns, from South Monomoy Island in Chatham and Nauset Marsh.

**White-winged Dove.** One individual was found at the N.E.E.D. Center in North Truro. It was observed at a feeder all day on June 10th.

**Chuck-will's Widow.** Reports of singing Chuck-will's Widows came in from three different locations this year: Sippewisset, North Eastham, and South Wellfleet.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.** Jim Talin was lucky enough to find a pair of gnatcatchers nesting near Griffith Pond in Brewster.

**Wading Birds.** A few different species of waders nested in the salt spray rose bushes on North Monomoy Island in Chatham this year including Black-crowned Night-Herons, Snowy Egrets, and Great Egrets.

**Raptors.** Many people were fortunate enough to see

*Many thanks to everyone who contributed reports! To submit bird sightings in the future, call Jackie or Blair at 508-432-6348, send regular mail to 2 Gilbert Lane, Harwich Port, MA, 02646, send email to odenews@capecod.net, or come to a bird club meeting and tell us about your observations!*

## HUMOROUS BIRD NOSTALGIA

*Doris Broderick*

Recently I was gifted with a membership in the CCBC. Sincere enjoyment in reading the newsletter as well as my current low-key bird-watching has caused me to think back to my halcyon days of logging my sightings. Time: the late sixties and seventies; place: Roxbury, NY in Delaware County in the northern Catskill Mountains. My husband and I had a small ski chalet that we escaped to from our work weeks in NY/NJ on every weekend that we could throughout the year. It was there that I did my serious bird caring, watching, and feeding.

This mental nostalgic research reminded me of a mountain bird and wildlife sanctuary carried on by a Roxbury couple, the Caswells, just outside of town on the mountain. Stubby Caswell ran a popular lunch place where he fed people as well as animals while his wife took care of the various and numerous wounded and abandoned wildlife. In particular, I recalled a humorous list of rare birds that hung on the porch wall of the main building. Since I couldn't even recall the name of this beautiful place, I wrote to their son, Phil Caswell, for information. My research paid off beyond my hopefulness with Phil's response.

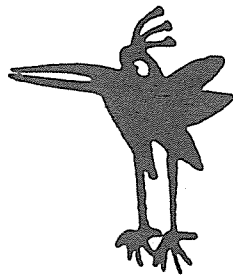
Along with an informative letter, he sent me picture postcards of the Wake-Robin Gardens and Bird Sanctuary, pictures of his parents feeding and caring for various birds and animals, and from the bottom of an old trunk—the original AUGOWON RARE BIRD LIST that had hung on the porch wall—What a treasure! Phil explained to me that his mother and grandmother had started this rare bird club and even had awarded certificates of membership to those who submitted a new name for the list. Initials of the contributors were included next to the bird names as they were added. This Auguwon List generated much fun and humor for the club members and for the many visitors to the sanctuary.

Following is a copy of that original list (minus the contributor's initials).

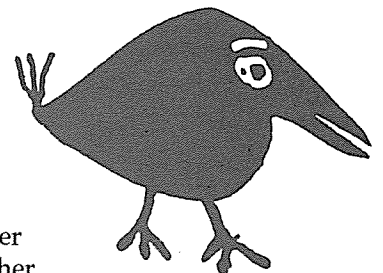
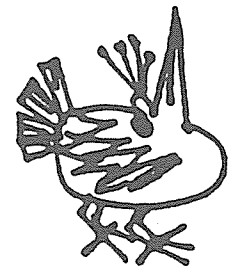
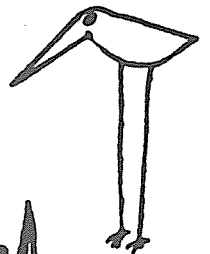
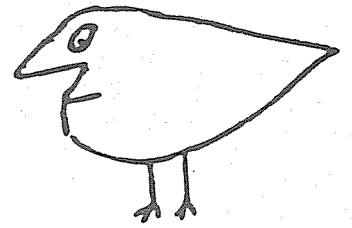
HAVE YOU SEEN ANY RARE BIRDS LATELY?

### AUGUWON CHECK LIST

1. Allnight Thrasher
2. Ruffled Spouse
3. Wild-eye Vireo
4. Double-breasted Seersucker
5. Eyelet
6. Hollow-chested Nitwit
7. Sideburnian Warbler
8. Least Common Denominator
9. Private Eyebis
10. Warbling Gargler
11. Unmitigated Gall
12. Bikini Beach-runners



13. Swivel-hipped Eyecatcher
14. North American Crosspatch
15. Great Horned Dilema
16. Common Query
17. Tri-colored Bunting
18. Great Bald Ego
19. Easter Bunting
20. Angostura Bittern
21. Electric Crane
22. Johnson's Waxwing
23. Furtive Swallow
24. White-crowned Peak
25. Least Resistance
26. Common Virus
27. No Left Tern
28. Extra-marital Lark
29. State-supported Nuthatch
30. Red-eyed Cheerio
31. Fine-feathered Mancatcher
32. Common Failing
33. Hardta Swallow
34. Crested Clockwatcher
35. Midnight Lark
36. Green-backed Spendthrift
37. Golden Bantam Corn Crake
38. Pie-eyed Lush
39. Garbled Halfwit
40. Mini-skirted Mancatcher
41. Double-billed Movie Starlet
42. Horn-rimmed Owl
43. 14-k Gold Finch
44. Horizontal-striped Jailbird
45. Presidential Dickey Bird
46. Slick Chick-adee
47. Liberace Starling
48. Red-eyed Vertigo
49. Snowy Bleach Owl
50. Raven Maniac
51. Ruffled Grouch
52. Sharp-tongued Henpecker
53. Hairy-chested Nutscratcher
54. Huffin Puffin
55. Common Coldcatcher
56. Peeping Tomtit
57. Shrinking Pipsqueak
58. Little Sappnapper
59. Mylittle Chickadee



It might be fun to start a Cape Cod Augowan rare bird list of our own. I would be happy to collect submissions and might even come up with certificates to award. Perhaps you'll postcard me your humorous "rare" bird names, and I'll get a list going (including contributors' initials).

Send to:

Doris Broderick, PO Box 385, So. Orleans, MA 02662

## PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

Phil Kyle

On Monday evening **September 8**, at 7:30 pm at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Dr. Reuven Yosef, who is Director of the International Birdwatching Center at Eilat, Israel (IBCE), will speak to the Club about *Hawk and Bird Migration at Eilat*. The IBCE owns a piece of land which forms a bridge between Africa and Eurasia. Up to a billion birds pass over this bridge each year. His focus will be on Birds of Prey but will cover exotics which pass through Eilat in spring and fall.

On Monday evening **October 13**, at 7:30 pm at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Dr. Eric Strauss will speak to the Club about *The Effects of Human Disturbances on the Ecology of Piping Plovers: from the Perspective of a Long Term Study*. Dr. Strauss is a Professor of Biology at Boston College who is currently working on a Biology textbook and a 5 part TV series featuring research at Sandy Neck Beach in Barnstable. He has spoken before to both the CCBC and the Museum's Cape Cod Biodiversity Class.

### AWARD

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The Cape Cod Bird Club has adopted a proposal to establish an annual award to be given to a deserving individual for "contributions to the world of birding." A committee of 5 people (2 from the CCBC board and 3 from the general membership) will evaluate candidates, both members and non-members, whose contributions to the birding community are significant. The award will be called the Ludlow Griscom Award in recognition of the father of modern bird-watching, who was also a long-time Cape resident. It will be presented at our May meeting.

### RAPTOR REHABILITATION

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Those who regularly attend CCBC meetings are well aware of the efforts of Bessie Tirrell in collecting canceled commemorative and foreign stamps which are used by a Florida group to raise money to assist in the rehabilitation of birds of prey. We encourage those of you who do not attend meetings to save such stamps and to mail them to CCBC, Box 1710, Brewster, MA 02631.

### BIRD CLUB HOTLINE

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The CCBC hotline is alive and well and heading into the time of more sightings and more calls. If your name is on the hotline list, it will remain there unless you want it removed. If you're not on the list and wish to be, call Jinks Keil at 771-8421, and let her know.

## WALKS & FIELD TRIPS

Kathy McGinley arives@capecod.net

### September

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Sunday, September 7th. Wellfleet: 7:00 am. Meet at the Town Dock in Wellfleet. We'll walk our way over High Toss-Duck Harbor Rd. This should be productive for Fall warblers. Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

Sunday, September 7th. Falmouth: 9:00 am Meet at Falmouth Town Forest, inside the first gate, north of DPW on Gifford Street. Bob Vander Pyl, 457-0864 or 540-2408.

Wednesday, September 10th. Sandwich: 8:00 am. Meet at the Stop & Shop on Rt. 6A. Bessie Tirrell, 432-9348.

Saturday, September 13th. Eastham: 8:30 am. Meet in the lower parking lot at Fort Hill. Dick Koeppen, 430-1822.

Saturday, September 20th. Morris Island, Chatham: 9:00 am. Meet at the Monomoy Wildlife Refuge parking lot. Tom Noonan, 394-0435 or Jim Talin 896-7169.

Thursday, September 25th. Truro: 8:00 am. Meet at Friendly's Restaurant in Orleans, just beyond Wendy's. We'll car pool to Corn Hill in Truro to look for sparrows. Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

### October

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Saturday, October 4th. Eastham: 8:30 am. Meet at the lower parking lot at Fort Hill. Dick Koeppen, 430-1822.

Wednesday, October 8th. Sandwich: 8:00 am. Meet at the Stop & Shop on Rt. 6A. Bessie Tirrell, 432-9248.

Thursday, October 9th. Mashpee: 8:00 am. Meet at the South Cape Beach parking lot in Mashpee. An American Bittern and a Golden Plover were there last year on this day, so maybe... Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

Friday, October 17th. Eastham: 10:45 am. Meet in the lower parking lot at Fort Hill. There is a very high tide that day so we'll see what gets forced into view. Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

Sunday, October 19th. Falmouth: 9:00 am Meet at Falmouth Town Forest, inside the first gate, north of DPW on Gifford Street. Bob Vander Pyl, 457-0864 or 540-2408.

### November

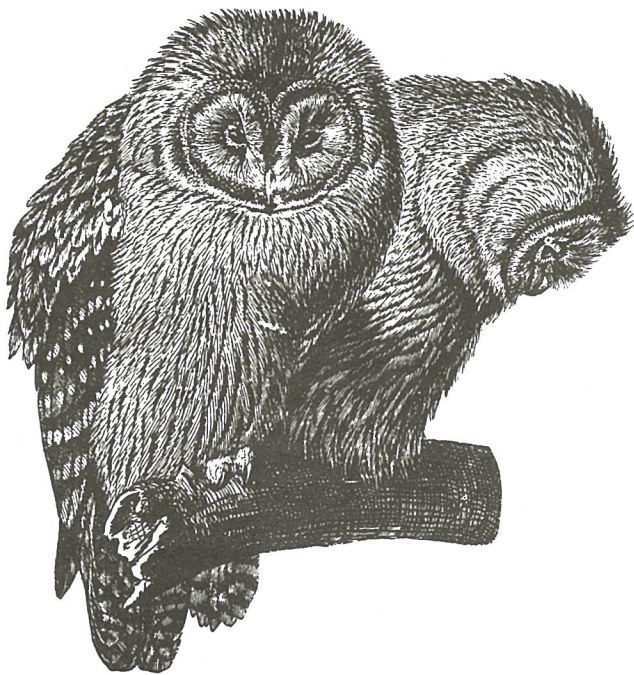
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Wednesday, November 5th. Harwich: 9:00 am. Meet at Saquatucket Harbor's parking lot across from Thompson's Market on Rt. 28. Bessie Tirrell, 432-9248.

Frank Caruso  
Barbara Steller  
17 Freedom Rd  
Forestdale, MA 02644-1725



Cape Cod Bird Club  
The Cape Cod Museum Of Natural History  
PO BOX 1710, Brewster, MA 02631



## A THANK YOU

*Janet Silverio*

I wish to express my gratitude to the following people for providing dozens of delicious cookies for our meetings this past year. Kathy McGinley, Carol Scott (2), Barbara Stanton, Arky Silverio, Ann Pells (3), Elinor Miller, Lois Tillson, Mary Myers, Irene Landenberger (2), Kathleen Casey and Tom Noonan, Jinks Keil, Kay Wolcott, Randy Gramer, Bessie Tirrell, Charlotte Smith, Ron Hindman, Janet Judd, Carol Jacoby, Ellie Winslow, Bobsie Whitlock, Maureen Johnson, Katy Redfern, Carol Segar, Sylvia Jurkowski, Betty Erickson.