



# Cape Cod Bird Club

VOLUME 27

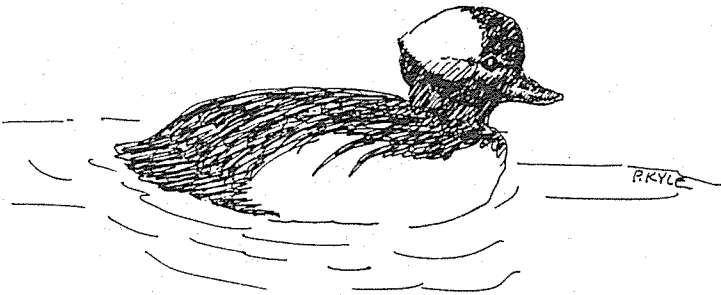
NOVEMBER ~ DECEMBER 1998

ISSUE 2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Don Scott*

Perhaps the greatest benefit of retirement is having the time to do almost anything one wishes. And for those who love to travel, visiting parts of the world that were only childhood dreams is a great way to use pieces of that time. Carol and I have been fortunate enough to visit many remote areas, and each trip inevitably poses comparisons to previous ones. Was this our best trip? Why? Why not? The answers to these questions have always been an open issue - that is, until our trip last winter to Kenya and Tanzania. Without a doubt, the experiences in these beautiful African countries tops all previous trips, and, I predict, will never be exceeded.



Our safari, which covered nearly 2000 miles over roads so poor as to be unimaginable, provided spectacular contacts, up close and personal, with all of the legendary African animals. Though population explosions are a problem throughout Africa, the two countries of Kenya and Tanzania have diligently set aside and protected vast refuges and parks where the great cats, vast herds of zebra, wildebeest and other antelope, majestic elephants, and graceful giraffe live close to the way nature intended.

We knew we would also experience exciting birding. What we did not know was that our leader was an ornithologist who was delighted to place added emphasis on this aspect of our tour. When the safari started, none of our 11 travel companions had any interest in birds. By the time the adventure ended, four field guides had been purchased and were in heavy use.

Kenya and Tanzania are home to well over 1000 species - we cataloged some 160 - and the beauty of these birds is equal to those found in Central and South America. There are no hummingbirds in Africa, but some 40 sunbird varieties are a brilliant substitute. Spectacular birds of prey are a common sight as are the omnipresent vultures. The African plains are covered with acacia trees which provide homes for a huge variety of weaver birds. And the shallow alkaline lakes, such as Lake Nakuru in Kenya

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## A TRIP TO TRINIDAD

*Susan Weliky*

Since returning from my trip to Trinidad and Tobago with the Cape Cod Bird Club in March, I have developed a new appreciation for the bird life which visits my feeder. At the Asa Wright Center in the mountains of Trinidad one is served coffee or tea at 6 A.M. on the porch. With cup in hand you can then look over the railing at the Blue-crowned Mot Mot with his rust breast, green back, black mask and, of course, blue head or the Purple Honey Creeper with his bright yellow legs as he feasts on bananas and melon on the feeding tables. You may be blessed with the sight and sounds of the White-necked Jacobin at the hummingbird feeder hanging close to your head. All the guests with binoculars on the ready watch these marvelous creatures, calling out to their neighbors when another species appears from the surrounding landscape.

What I have done is replicate this event at home. While drinking my morning tea, I keep my binoculars nearby and take a new look at the birds at my feeder, no more than 10 feet from my chair. I notice once again the blue head and rosy back of the Common Grackle, the polka-dot breast of the Flicker, the contrast of the black mask and yellow bill of the male Cardinal, and the delicate feathering of the Mourning Dove as all compete for the coveted perch. On September 14, 1998 I counted 15 species at or near the feeder: Black-capped Chickadee, House Finch, Song Sparrow, Cardinal, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, Robins, Common Grackle, Flicker, Cowbird, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Titmouse, Downy Woodpecker, and European Starling.

With my new eye for color, I can reminisce about my trip to the tropics and get a good chuckle. We were tooling around in the van visiting various sights in Trinidad, and stopped at the beach for a short swim. Then I somehow managed to bang my head on the van. On one of the next stops, everyone got off to look through a rather swampy area for the Pygmy Kingfisher. I decided I had had enough of getting on and off again, so I reclined in the back of the van and relaxed. The rest of the group of about 14 people were tramping through brush, when I looked up through the van window and saw immediately in front of my face - you guessed it - the Pygmy Kingfisher! The driver frantically called the others back. The bird obliged and stayed around for all to see. It was my greatest get.

I know that most of the birds at my feeder visit me all year long and I plan to enjoy every sighting with my renewed vision.

## PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

### American Birding Association's

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

#### CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

##### 1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover. Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

##### 2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practise common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care. Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.

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### Cape Cod Bird Club Inc.

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

#### Officers

Don Scott ~ *President*

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Editor ~ Jim Talin, email: talin@gis.net

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

# BIRD SIGHTINGS

## August - September

*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!*

**Waders.** Great Egret numbers seemed up this year, with counts of 12-14 from South Monomoy Island in Chatham. There were reports of Tricolored Herons on North and South Monomoy Islands and Little Blue Herons at Boat Meadow Beach in Eastham and the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. A few Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were observed this summer: an adult on South Monomoy Island and subadults in Nauset Marsh and Widow Harding's Pond in Eastham.

**Shorebirds.** Two American Avocets were spotted on North Monomoy Island on July 15. Two avocets (presumed to be the same two) also put in appearances at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham and the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. The duo was last observed at Outermost Harbor Marine in Chatham on September 25th. A single avocet was spotted near Herring Cove in Provincetown on September 23. Shorebird highlights on South Beach this summer included high counts of White-rumped Sandpipers (400+), American Oystercatchers (134+), and Piping Plovers (47 in one flock!). Hurricane Bonnie blew a few Red-necked Phalaropes towards South Beach on August 29. Buff-breasted and Baird's Sandpipers were in short supply on Cape Cod this fall. There were only two reports of each species from Coast Guard Beach in Eastham and South Monomoy Island.

**Gulls.** Jaegers showed up on schedule this year, harassing terns along the coasts during late August and September. An adult Black-headed Gull was spotted on South Beach on August 22 and stayed until at least September 7. A juvenile Bonaparte's Gull spent some time with the terns on Coast Guard Beach in Eastham during early September. Although Bonaparte's Gulls are not unusual on Cape Cod, juveniles are! There were at least three Lesser Black-backed Gulls (two subadults and one adult) on North Monomoy Island/South Beach. A juvenile Sabine's Gull flew in to roost with the terns on Coast Guard Beach in Eastham on September 15.

**Terns.** A Gull-billed Tern spent a week near Outermost Harbor Marine (September 19-24). Four Caspian Terns were seen this summer: one on South Beach in Chatham on August 4, two off Nauset Beach on August 29, and another on Coast Guard Beach in Eastham on September 19. Black Tern numbers were high this fall. Blair Nikula counted over 400 flying into roost on South Beach in Chatham on September 16! Forster's Terns were scarce as in 1997.

**Songbirds.** Migrant warblers began moving in late July, with Northern Waterthrushes showing up in Eastham and Wellfleet. Wallace Bailey spotted a Worm-eating Warbler (among others) on August 20. Two Dickcissels were seen in August: Stauffer Miller found one at the Marstons Mills Airport on August 16 and Blair Nikula and Jeremiah Trimble found one near Corn Hill in Truro on August 30. A Western Kingbird was seen near Depot Pond in Eastham on September 13. George Martin discovered an immature Yellow-headed Blackbird on South Monomoy Island on September 20.

*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 e-mail to [odenews@capecod.net](mailto:odenews@capecod.net), or come to a bird club meeting and tell us about your observations.*

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### PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

*American Birding Association's*

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practises this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

*Please follow this code and teach it to others.*

*ABA, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934, USA*

*phone (719) 578-1614; fax (719) 578-1480; email [member@aba.org](mailto:member@aba.org)*

### BIRD CLUB GIFT IDEAS

CCBC Decals	\$1.00
CCBC Checklist	.50
Birding Cape Cod	\$10.00
CCBC Hats	\$15.00
Organizer Packs	\$17.00

*The above items are for sale each meeting.*

## FEEDER CENSUS 1997-1998

<u>species</u>	<u>1997-8</u> <u>average</u>	<u>% fdrs</u>	<u>1988-9</u> <u>average</u>	<u>18 yr</u> <u>mean</u>
Mourning Dove	7.076	95.2%	6.93	6.64
B C Chickadee	5.248	100.0%	5.28	5.24
House Finch	4.295	85.7%	9.37	5.06
Goldfinch	4.238	100.0%	5.00	4.26
House Sparrow	3.667	33.3%	4.53	4.08
Starling	3.467	47.6%	2.59	3.48
Grackle	2.857	61.9%	2.38	2.36
Crow	2.752	90.5%	2.15	2.21
Tufted Titmouse	2.638	100.0%	2.14	1.84
Cardinal	2.124	95.2%	2.62	2.12
Junco	1.886	66.7%	1.87	1.90
Downy Woodpecker	1.762	90.5%	1.53	1.50
Blue Jay	1.600	81.0%	3.93	3.97
White-throated Sparrow	1.600	57.1%	1.25	1.03
Red-winged Blackbird	1.238	66.7%	1.15	1.52
Robin	1.171	81.0%	1.88	1.18
Song Sparrow	1.133	57.1%	1.14	1.03
White-breasted Nuthatch	1.057	90.5%	0.85	0.93
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	0.924	57.1%	0.62	0.73
Cowbird	0.867	42.9%	0.51	0.35
Hairy Woodpecker	0.819	71.4%	0.47	0.54
Bobwhite	0.610	33.3%	0.69	1.61
Carolina Wren	0.486	61.9%	0.11	0.19
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0.400	47.6%	0.30	0.35
Flicker	0.352	52.4%	0.64	0.53
Cedar Waxwing	0.276	14.3%	0.10	0.14
Mockingbird	0.190	19.0%	0.33	0.24
Brown Creeper	0.152	28.6%	0.17	0.11
Pine Warbler	0.143	23.8%		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0.143	23.8%		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0.133	14.3%		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0.124	33.3%		
Tree Sparrow	0.124	19.0%	0.29	0.22
Evening Grosbeak	0.057	4.8%	0.00	2.12
Chipping Sparrow	0.048	9.5%		
Eastern Bluebird	0.038	4.8%		
Red-tail Hawk	0.038	14.3%		
Mallard	0.038	4.8%		
Cooper's Hawk	0.019	9.5%		
Snow Bunting	0.019	4.8%		
Hermit Thrush	0.010	4.8%		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0.010	4.8%		
Purple Finch	0.000	0.0%	0.02	0.06
Pine Siskin	0.000	0.0%	0.01	0.02

*Jim Talin*

A comment by a long term participant in the CCBC Feeder Census sums up this year's results. Mary-Louise Eddy wrote: "This is the scantiest list we have ever had. We've kept track of our feeders since 1972 and have records. I suppose the fewness of birds is due to two main things. 1. Brewster, alas!, is getting built up and 2. the unnaturally (global warming or El Nino) mild winter with no snow." I know that I used less bird seed this last winter than I ever have. The results reflect the scarcity of birds at feeders. In the 1996-97 census, an average of 303 birds appeared at each feeder surveyed. This year that number was down to 280 birds.

In the results this year, I've included the results of the 1988-89 census (ten years ago) to act as a comparison. I've also put in the 18 year median for the birds that we have followed over that time. This year Mourning Doves almost doubled their numbers over last years results. House Finches, Blue Jays, Cowbirds, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-Crowned Kinglets showed some increases. Most birds stayed close to their historic norms, but decreases of Bobwhite occurred. No Pine Siskins or Purple Finches were reported.

Sue Phelan had one of the nicest sightings of the year. On Jan 2-4, four Bluebirds appeared in her yard, the first she had ever seen there.

Jim Talin

## Communications Towers Cause Songbird Mortality

(Note: Various birding organizations have banded together to lobby for action on the death of migratory birds that is caused by their collision with towers. The information below is culled from these organizations which include the American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society and Wilson Ornithological Society. Bill Evans is the principal author.)

Since the early 1950s, tall communications towers have been known to be a source of mortality for birds, especially night-migrating songbirds. A single 1000-ft tower in central Wisconsin caused the deaths of some 30,000 songbirds—in one night!

Early studies determined that tower lights attract the migrants to the vicinity on foggy or low-overcast nights. Birds meet their death or are mortally injured when they collide with the tower's supporting guy wires, or even with other migrating birds as more and more become disoriented around the tower lights.

When there is a low cloud ceiling or foggy conditions, lights on a tower refract off water particles in the air creating an illuminated area around the tower. Migrating birds have lost their stellar cues for nocturnal migration in these weather conditions. In addition, because they are flying beneath a relatively low cloud ceiling, they have lost any broad orienting perspective they might have had on the landscape. When passing the lighted area, it may be that the increased visibility around the tower becomes the strongest cue the birds have for navigation, and thus they tend to remain in the lighted space by the tower. Mortality occurs when they run into the structure and its guy wires, or even other migrating birds as more and more passing birds cram into the relatively small, lighted space. It is important to clarify that the lights apparently do not attract birds from afar, but rather tend to hold birds that pass within a certain illuminated vicinity.

## USA Towerkill Summary

There are only a few long-term studies of bird mortality at tall communications towers in North America. All indicate that sizable kills occur on a regular basis, with occurrences depending on specific weather conditions. Consequently, all show a considerable range of numbers killed from year to year - thousands may be killed in one season while only a few dozen the next.

1. 1010-ft tower near Tallahassee, FL, 1955-1980  
Death toll: 42,386 birds / 190 species / checked daily throughout the year

2. 1000-ft tower in Eau Claire, WI, 1957-1994  
Death toll: 121,560 birds / 123 species / checked daily in the migration seasons
3. 1368-ft tower in Nashville, TN, 1960-1997  
Death toll: 19,880 birds / 112 species / checked daily in the migration seasons
4. 850-ft tower in Elmira, NY, 1963-1983  
Death toll: over 7500 birds / checked daily in fall migration season
5. 529-ft tower near Weston, WV, 1978-1986  
Death toll: 841 birds / 58 species / checked irregularly in the migration seasons
6. 420-ft tower in southwestern Kansas  
On. 22 Jan 1998: estimated 5000-10000 Lapland Longspurs killed in the vicinity of the tower.
7. 436-ft tower in Deerfield, New Hampshire atop a 1100 ft mountain 1959-1960  
Death toll: 267 birds of 45 species (tower grounds checked irregularly during the migration seasons)

In the 25-year study of bird mortality at the 1010-foot tower at Tall Timbers Research Station near Tallahassee, Florida (#1 above), kills occurred nearly every night from mid-August through mid-November. Moderate numbers of migrants were killed under perfectly clear skies, but the toll increased markedly with overcast conditions.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) keeps track of communications tower information and also regulates lighting on towers for aviation safety purposes. The FAA now estimates that over 5000 new lighted communications towers are going up on this continent every year. This represents an increase of over 12% annually, adding to an estimated 40,000 lighted towers already standing. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates the implementation of towers, but current legislation only requires the impact of towers on migratory birds to be considered on a tower-by-tower basis. Furthermore, the environmental impact of a proposed tower is only considered if threatened or endangered species might be affected, or if the tower is to be built in a wildlife preserve or wetlands area. So the majority of new towers are going up without regard for their impact on birds.

While most towers probably don't kill many birds, the accrued impact from all towers could be having a significant effect on certain species. This mortality (estimated in the millions per year) might well be avoided if research were conducted on bird-friendly tower lighting techniques. Amidst a multi-billion dollar broadcasting and communications industry, almost no research has been conducted on avian towerkill mitigation. It is quite possible that there is a simple solution. To effectively

## BIRD NOSTALGIA

Humorous Bird Nostalgia - Additions  
*Doris Broderick*

Below are listed the "rare" birds that have been submitted since the Humorous Bird Nostalgia article that appeared in the Sept-Oct., 1997 issue of the CCBC Newsletter. The following additions were sent in by Kathleen Casey.

1. Apple Pie-billed Grebe
2. Strep-throated Sparrow
3. Cuffolink
4. Yellow-Bellied Stool Pigeon
5. Old Coot
6. Scottish Sandpiper
7. Sideburnian Warbler
8. Padded-shoulder Hawk
9. Cut-throated Green Warbler
10. Have-some Murre
11. Microwave Bird
12. General Electric Razorbill
13. Falmouth Roadrunner
14. Nixonian Deep-throated Tattler
15. Bare-breasted Tit
16. Silly Goose
17. Chicken Ptarmigan
18. Pleasant Pheasant
19. American Sweetern
20. Dann Quail

Also from Kathleen D. Katzenbach:

1. Red-feathered Bishop Bird
2. Morning, Noon, Evening Doves
3. Cheap, Cheap

And finally from Tom Noonan

1. Double-breasted Mattress Thrasher

## MEMOIRS OF A BIRDER

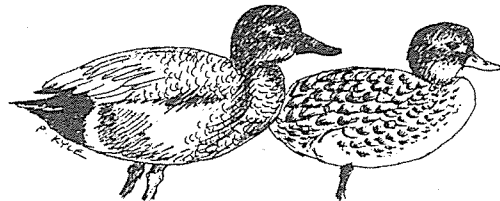
(Okay, so I'm NOT that old)  
*Phil Kyle*

I guess it started during those first nine years of life when I was blind! I didn't know I couldn't see, so I was into sounds big time. Birds made lots of sounds, and they were around! I didn't consider myself a birder then, but that's when it started. When I finally got tested for vision by the school nurse in third grade, I needed glasses, and the rest is history, sort of.

After getting glasses, I could see details, LOTS of details. I noticed everything, non-humanoid, that was observable. Butterflies, snakes, birds, chipmunks, they all became interesting to me. I guess you could say I was a NATURE BOY. I didn't know I was one so there was no stigma attached. I didn't get into being with other kids because many of them called me four-eyes. It was easier just to watch wildlife than associate with other kids. I'm pretty sure it is why I got into natural history, why I taught biology.

And then there was the Plum Island trip in '72 that was my first official Birding Expedition. I realize now it was a cruel joke an assistant headmaster played on me. Making my first birding trip into one where I would try to identify warblers, and there were plenty of warblers. For all intents and purposes, it was impossible. By the time I looked in my field guide, the bird had flown. My head was spinning like Linda Blair in the movie *The Exorcist*, but to no avail.

Having an interest in birds turned out to create a lot of personal growth and character building for me, much of which I didn't appreciate at the time. Especially after five years of birding when I have to admit I was a lister. I was making life lists, yard lists, daily lists, trip lists, and birds in movies lists. This was serious; I was a compulsive lister. It was a humbling situation to admit I was more interested in checking a species off a list than in watching the bird to see what it was doing. *To be continued.*



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## TOWERING CONCERNS

*Jim Talin*

address this issue, the ornithological and birding communities need to solidly support the initiative to mitigate avian mortality at towers. The adoption of a towerkill resolution last spring at the National Ornithological Conference was a major step toward this end. Further, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service needs to step up its dialogue with the FCC and the FAA to prepare for much needed mitigation studies and to garner research funding. Finally, grassroots towerkill monitoring at the state level is needed to keep the issue alive and to gather valuable data. There has been some pressure on the FCC to address this issue. National Audubon Society has petitioned the FCC to perform an Environmental Impact Statement on the hundreds of tall towers being built for digital television. At least a thousand letters and signatures on petitions were delivered to the FCC this past spring to encourage this regulatory agency to address the problem. But since it is questionable whether the FCC is legally bound to consider the accrued impact of towers on songbirds, no action has thus far been taken. In the meantime the proliferation of towers continues and millions of migratory songbirds are unintentionally killed every year.

*For more information about the towerkill issue, visit the following Web sites:*

<http://www.towerkill.com>

<http://www.fws.gov/r9mbmo/issues/tower.html>

<http://www.flap.org>

## PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

*Phil Kyle*

On Monday evening, November 9, 1998 at 7:30 pm, at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Roger Everett will present a program entitled **Being A Bird Photographer**. This presentation will entail the hardships and successes of photographing over 470 birds. Roger Everett is a well-known, active member of the Cape Cod Bird Club. He lives in Brewster and has been interested in bird photography since 1977. In 1985, he turned an avocation into a second career. Today, he spends much of his time photographing birds, especially on Cape Cod.

On Monday evening, December 14, 1998 at 7:30 pm, at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Geoff LeBaron will present a program entitled **The Christmas Bird Count - Into the Electronic Age**. Geoff LeBaron has been the Christmas Bird Count editor for the National Audubon Society for 11 years. He is now also involved with the development of the Bird Source Website. He has led natural history tours worldwide and has been the Collection Manager at VIREO (Visual Resources in Ornithology).

## LETTERS

*Dear Cape Cod Bird Club,*

Following our disheartening defeat at the polls in January, a lot of people thought the Cape Cod Land Bank movement was dead. We are writing to tell you - it's not dead, it's very much alive.

Thanks to the willingness of all sides in that contest to put aside differences and work together for the good of Cape Cod, the land bank is going back to the voters this November. It's a different land bank, redesigned to address the factors that caused the last one to founder.

—Each town will decide by majority vote if it wants to raise its property tax by 3% for a limited time - 20 years - and for a limited purpose - buying open space and watershed protection land, only in that town. If every town voted "yes," it would raise \$8.5 million annually, even more than the previous proposal.

—Every town that votes "yes" will share in a \$15 million state matching fund voted specifically for Cape Cod. This is unprecedented recognition by the state of the immediate threat facing the Cape.

For the average homeowner, a "yes" vote will cost about \$1 a week. What will a "no" vote cost? Very simply, the last chance to do something meaningful to save open space on Cape Cod.

It is very rare in life, or in politics, to get a second chance. This is our second chance, and our last chance to save Cape Cod.

*From The Friends of the Cape Cod Land Bank.*

## WALKS & FIELD TRIPS

*Stauffer Miller*

### November

Saturday, November 7th. Fort Hill, Eastham. Meet at the lower parking lot at Fort Hill at 9:00 AM. Leader, Dick Koeppen, 430-1822.

Sunday, November 8th. Falmouth. Meet at the Locust Street parking area of the bike path at 8:00 AM. Leaders, Bob Vander Pyl, 457-0864 and Alison Robb, 540-2408.

Sunday, November 15th. Meet at Corporation Beach in Dennis at 9:00 AM to check areas between Dennis and West Barnstable. Leader, Mark Tuttle, 362-3015.

Saturday, November 21st. Provincetown. Meet at the Beech Forest parking lot at 9:00 AM for a walk to Race Point Light for ocean birds. Scope necessary. Leader: Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

Sunday, November 22nd. Orleans and area. Meet at the Orleans Yacht Club, Cove Road, at 9:00 AM. Leaders may decide to walk at Nauset Beach. Leaders: Rives and Kathy McGinley, 255-4740.

### December

Saturday and Sunday, December 5th and 6th. Annual waterfowl count. Sign up with Blair Nikula at the November meeting or call 432-6348.

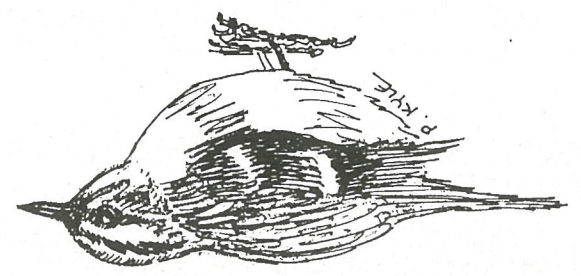
Tuesday, December 8th. West Barnstable and area. Meet at the old train station in West Barnstable along Rt. 149 at 9:00 AM. This outing will be waterfowl-oriented. Leader: Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

Saturday, December 12th. Fort Hill, Eastham. Meet at the lower parking lot at 9:00 AM. Leader: Dick Koeppen, 430-1822.

Sunday, December 13th. Falmouth. Meet at the Locust Street parking area of the bike path at 8:00 AM. Leaders: Bob Vander Pyl, 457-0864 and Alison Robb, 540-2408.

Sunday, December 20th. Annual **Cape Cod Christmas Count**. Sign up with Blair Nikula at the December meeting or call 432-6348. **Mid-Cape Christmas Count**. To be announced at December meeting or call Peter Trimble, 477-3847.

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



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

# Cape Cod Bird Club



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Don Scott*

are home to literally millions of lesser and greater flamingos. Never have I witnessed such a sight.

Other unusual species included the hornbills, many varieties of colorful starlings and the oxpeckers, who regularly perch on the backs of large animals, searching for ticks and flies. Beautiful kingfishers and many different herons and storks added to our pleasure. Particularly beautiful was the saddle-backed stork, a large bird with a massive red and black bill, with a yellow saddle over its base.

I could go on and on - but time and space fortunately prevent me from doing so. If you are ready for the adventure of a lifetime, think of Africa. You will never forget it.

# DUES ARE DUE

The mailing list will be revised very shortly. If you have not paid 1997-1998 dues by the end of the year, this may be the last newsletter you receive. We do not like to lose members, but at the same time, we do not want to have a mailing list inflated with names of those no longer interested in CCBC. So please play promptly.

According to our records your dues for 1997-1998...

- have been paid
- have not been paid

Dues are single \$10.00, family \$15.00.

Checks may be mailed to ...

**Cape Cod Bird Club**  
Ellie Winslow-Treasurer  
24 Charles St.  
Sandwich, MA 02563