



Cape Cod Bird Club

VOLUME 26

SUMMER 1998

ISSUE 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Scott

The contributions of Ludlow Griscom to the science of field ornithology are legion. William Davis' biography of Griscom is entitled *Dean of the Birdwatchers*, a term believed to have been originated by Roger Tory Peterson. This easy-to-read book provides great insights into the life and experiences of Griscom.

Born in New York City in 1890, Griscom was raised as a child in Flushing, NY, where he began his first diary of sightings at the age of four! He attended Cornell University and was the first graduate student of ornithology of Arthur A. Allen, the first professor of that science in the United States.

Griscom moved to the Boston area in 1931 and in 1936, acquired a summer home on Sears Point in Chatham. Monomoy was Griscom's favorite spot for birding on the Cape, and he was the leading proponent of the effort to have the US Biological Survey, the predecessor of the present US Fish and Wildlife Service, declare Monomoy as a wildlife sanctuary. Davis emphasizes that Griscom was the key in spanning two eras of scientific ornithology - that from the shotgun era to the era of field observation. He clearly proved that one need not shoot a bird to know what it is.

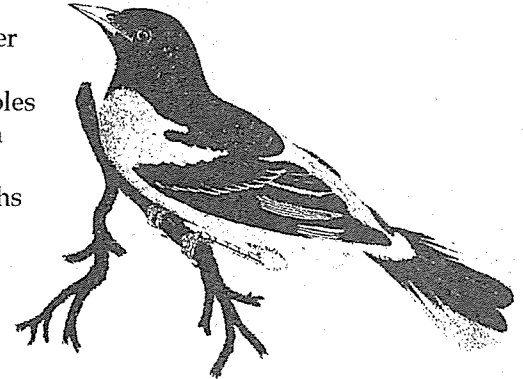
*The first presentation of
Cape Cod Bird Club's
Ludlow Griscom Award
will honor an outstanding contributor
to the world of birding.*

It is in Griscom's honor and memory that the Cape Cod Bird Club has established the Ludlow Griscom Award, emulating the American Birding Association, which created a similarly named award in 1980. Given Griscom's close links to Cape Cod, we felt that there was no reason to find a different name for our award. The first presentation of CCBC's Griscom award, to honor outstanding contributions to the world of birding, will be made at our final meeting of the 1997-98 year, on May 11. I look forward to having a packed auditorium for this occasion.

ATTRACTING ORIOLES

From Information Gathered On-line

In the eastern part of the continent, you should be able to attract Baltimore subspecies by offering fruit and sugar water. In addition, Orchard Orioles may also visit your backyard feeding station. Put out several sugar-water feeders and fresh fruit sections. Orioles prefer cover, and a couple of water sources or birdbaths are also essential. Colorful flowers seem to help to attract them. Keep trying, and one day brilliant flashes of color will surely come your way.



from Hugh Smith, Jr., "Flashes of Brilliant Color,"
Wildbird, September, 1991

You can attract orioles by placing the [oriole] feeders near the trees and vegetation that the birds frequent. Once the orioles are used to them, the feeders can be moved closer to your house so that you have a better view of the birds. Orioles will accept a more diluted sugar-water concentration than hummingbirds—a 1 to 6 ratio of sugar to water. Prepare the solution and clean feeders as you would for hummingbirds.... In the wild, orioles eat nectar and many kinds of insects. One account says that orioles will spend much time probing into the blossoms of agaves, aloes, hibiscus, lilies, and other tubular flowers to sip the nectar. Sometimes they perch on the stem and puncture the base of the blossom to get at the nectar. Besides nectar, orioles eat blackberries, mulberries, elderberries, serviceberries, many other kinds of fruits, and a large variety of caterpillars and insects, including many that are injurious to crops. At bird-feeding stations, they eat orange halves, suet, peanut butter mixtures, grapes, watermelon pulp or rind, and other fruits. (from Donald & Lillian Stokes. *The Hummingbird Book*)

Another way to attract orioles is to offer nesting material. Fill a clean suet basket with six- to 10-inch pieces of yarn. Orioles and other birds sometimes collect this material for nest-building. Orioles inhabit open woods, and rural and suburban neighborhoods where large tall shade trees are abundant. They weave their hanging nests among the

Continued on Page 5

Jim Talin

There always used to be a sign on Route 124 saying Sprawling Hills Campground, with an arrow that pointed west down Tubman Road. When we moved into Brewster, this sign became a landmark, a part of the directions we gave to our house: Take a left at the sign, go one tenth of a mile and take the first right. We had built a house, much of it with our own labor, off of Tubman Road in among some pine trees. Soon after having moved in, made curious by the sign, I checkout the campground. I didn't get far. I was met by more signs. One Way. Enter Here. Check in at the Office. No Trespassing. I read these signs and left. I wish now I had ignored them.

It didn't help that when summer roared into being full force on that next Memorial Day weekend, there was a rally of Harley Davidsons at Sprawlings Hills. The windows were open at the house when five or twenty, or thirty Harleys at a time thundering out to the campground. I remember waking up about 2 am when I heard a roar from the boisterous crowd, as if the pagans had just throw a Christian on the fire, or visa versa.

We didn't start going into the Griffith's Pond area until we bought a dog. By then, the campground had sold to real estate developers, and we discovered land in transition. A new road had been put in, and it curved around the old campground with its dirt roads that led from campsite to campsite where there were spigots for water, signs that numbered the sites: 355, 303, etc, outlets for electricity, old circuit boards, signs that read Speed Limit 10, makeshift picnic tables, abandoned bottles of propane and a lovely dirt road that edged a pond that is shaped like a crescent. On that road and in that pond we discovered a nature preserve full of wildlife, especially birds, all the local birds, including Eastern Bluebirds, sometimes one bluebird, other times a dozen. In the spring there were peepers, redwings and ten species of

warblers that filled the woods at migration time. There were Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Orioles, Hermit Thrushes, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nesting beside Chipping Sparrows. In the winter over 30-40 goldfinches stayed on the property. Many days Red-tailed Hawks were in the trees and would allow you to walk within twenty feet of their roost; all fluffed up, they just stared at you and did not fly. And there were wildflowers, butterflies, a few dragonflies...All of this just around the corner.

It was inevitable that houses would be built. After all, the place was for sale, and we are in the middle of a building boom. We had hopes that it would take time because the lots along the pond were selling for \$170,000, but soon houses were going up. Not along the lake, but away from the water across the new road where the lots were cheaper. First one then two, then three and finally four. The framers of the fourth house were real pros. They all arrived one morning in new trucks and cars, one new Camry had Maryland plates. They were neatly dressed and efficient. As I started my walk that day, they were assembling walls on the deck, and by the time I had finished, three downstairs walls were up. Next morning they were working on the roofing, and on the third morning, except for a paladian window, the house was weather tight, and the framers were gone.

About that time, I encountered a man over there one day. He had cruised past me slowly down the road in a beat up van, and when I got to the most picturesque point in the walk, he was parked there. In his fifties, with pants ending about 2 inches above his socks, he was obviously a hard working craftsman. "Too bad this can't stay open space," was his first comment, but that was everyone's first comment. "But it's just too expensive for me to build a house on," was his second. He had just made \$200,000

Continued on Page 5



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@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**

FEBRUARY - MARCH

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. On February 5 at Sandy Neck in Barnstable, Alan Strauss saw 2 Northern Fulmars (dark phase) and 32 Black-legged Kittiwakes. Alan also checked First Encounter Beach in Eastham on February 25 and spotted 8 fulmars and 35 kittiwakes. Blair Nikula counted at least 7 fulmars and 200 kittiwakes at First Encounter on February 6. Gannets were fairly common in February and increased in March, e.g., over 500 were seen off Provincetown on March 7.

Gulls. Iceland Gulls seemed especially common along Race Point and Herring Cove Beaches in Provincetown throughout the months of February and March; Blair Nikula counted 30 individuals on February 28. On the other hand, Glaucous Gulls seemed rare; only two or three were reported all winter. On February 22, Blair Nikula found a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Herring Cove.

Alcids. Thick-billed Murres put on quite a show at MacMillan Wharf in Provincetown, with a maximum of ten being seen in mid-February. Razorbills were common; up to 1200 were recorded in a day from various Provincetown locations. Common Murres (maximum 2-3) were regular off Race Point in Provincetown. Small numbers of Dovekies and Black Guillemots were reported irregularly.

Ducks. A male Barrow's Goldeneye was seen up until February 4 at the end of Seaview Avenue in Osterville. Eddie Banks observed three male Eurasian Wigeons in Chatham on February 8. On February 28, while birding Nauset Beach in Orleans, Jeremiah Trimble saw three King Eiders and three Harlequin Ducks. One female Harlequin Duck spent some time in Provincetown Harbor during February. On March 26, Jeremiah Trimble discovered one Blue-winged Teal and fifteen Green-winged Teal at the West Harwich Conservation Area. Thirty Green-winged Teal were counted in Chatham on Feb. 8th.

Shorebirds. Peter Trimble reported that a Whimbrel, first seen in December, was still present at Sea Gull Beach in West Yarmouth on February 1. An unusual

winter sighting: a Semipalmated Plover was seen in Eastham on February 2 by Diane Reynolds. Six Killdeer were spotted near First Encounter Beach in Eastham on February 23 by Phil Kyle. Jeremiah Trimble found eleven Killdeer at the West Harwich Conservation Area on March 26. Peter Trull reported an American Avocet flying by Elbow Pond in Brewster on March 29.

Snowy Owl. A rare bird on Cape Cod this winter, but Paul Cavanaugh spotted one at the Massachusetts Military Reservation on March 20.

Red-headed Woodpecker. Stauffer Miller observed an immature bird along Whig Street in Dennis on February 2.

Bohemian Waxwings. On Nauset Road in Eastham on February 1, Blair Nikula reported 6 Bohemian Waxwings with 200 Cedar Waxwings and 50 American Robins. Additional reports included one along Keveney Lane in Cummaquid on February 2 and twenty in Eastham on February 16.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Bob Vander Pyl and Alison Robb spotted an immature male in Falmouth on Feb. 16th.

Thicket birds. On February 3 Barry Good reported the following behind the Falmouth Town Hall: Gray Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, and a few Carolina Wrens. He also saw two Eastern Towhees on Oyster Pond Road.

Signs of spring. Jim Talin reported Red-winged Blackbirds at Griffith's Pond in Brewster on February 20. Also there, an Eastern Bluebird was "trying out its song from the top of a small oak tree." In West Barnstable on March 7, Stauffer Miller saw a Fox Sparrow along Route 6A and Rusty Blackbirds at the end of Navigation Road. A beautiful male Northern Parula was spotted outside the office windows of the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on the early date of March 10!

Addendum to January sightings: Art King had a great month of backyard birding: 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Brown Creeper, 1 Pine Warbler, 3 Eastern Bluebirds, 9 Chipping Sparrows, and 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch.

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, or come to a bird club meeting and report them in person.

PASSENGER PIGEONS & LYME DISEASE

Jim Talin (with thanks to Frank Caruso, our Science magazine connection)

A letter written recently to Science magazine (20 March 1998) raised the possibility that the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon may have facilitated the spread of Lyme disease. David Blockstein, Senior Scientist at the Committee for the National Institute for the Environment in Washington, DC, wrote in his letter to Science about the fact that Lyme disease proliferates in step with increases in the population of mice which in turn rise after a year with a big production of acorns. In the text of the letter that follows, the word mast is synonymous with nuts in general.

*A major competitor of deer and mice for these bumper crops has been absent from the eastern deciduous forests for a century. The extinct passenger pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) was a nomadic wanderer that specialized on a diet of the superabundant, but unpredictable, crops of mast. With a population estimated at 2 to 5 billion, concentrated in enormous flocks, passenger pigeons congregated wherever there were huge crops of mast. The birds were so efficient at denuding the woods of nuts that many observers noted that native wildlife and feral hogs could not find sufficient food after a pigeon flock had passed through. Is it possible that, in the presence of passenger pigeons, the population explosions of mice in mast years, reported by Jones et al., would have been less likely? Could the outbreaks of Lyme disease in the late 20th century have been a delayed consequence of the extinction of the passenger pigeon a century earlier?*

After reading this letter, I was curious to read more about passenger pigeons. Forbush describes the passenger pigeon as once having been the most numerous bird in the world. He quotes many early writers who saw "an infinite number of pigeons," flights of them that obscured the sun for 14 hours, or that averaged three hundred miles in length by a mile wide, or that covered forests so that they were more numerous than the leaves of the trees. Audubon estimated one flight at numbering more than 1 billion birds. Alexander Wilson saw one flight of passenger pigeons that passed over him for 4 hours and stretched as far as he could see and that he estimated to number 2.25 billion birds. Neither man could probably have guessed that the passenger pigeon would one day be extinct. As forests disappeared in the United States, the passenger pigeon lost its habitat. It also ate more than just nuts, descending in great numbers on fields newly sown with grain. For years, people everywhere killed or netted hundreds of birds, luring them with decoy birds and food; at one nesting colony, up to as many as 25,000 were killed by per day, 700,000 per month. The last bird died in captivity in 1914.

SPRING AND SUMMER WEBSITES

At this site, maps with dates of sightings will help you track the Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration:
<http://www.derived.com/hummers/>

Information on butterflies can be found:
<http://mgfx.com/butterfly/gallery/index.htm>

And never forget the great page maintained by Jackie Sones and edited by Blair Nikula that is devoted to dragonflies and damselflies:
<http://www.capecod.net/~bnikula/on2.htm>

WILDINGS OF THE MONTH

Karen Von Den Deale

As the dark veil of night lifts and the golden fingers of morning reach over the horizon, things are beginning to stir at Wild Care. Food trays must be prepared before the first volunteers arrive at 6 am.

Our baby birds begin feedings as the sun's rays kiss the tops of the tall pines. Wild Care keeps all its creatures on a solar schedule, but the baby birds have the most intense schedule of all. They are fed every 20-30 minutes from sun up to sun down. The 14 hour day begins as the tiniest babies are uncovered first; each movement stimulates eager chirping and wide gaping mouths. Fill them we must with an array of specially prepared diets.

Regularly I move about the tables and cages. Feeding techniques must be adjusted, as are diets, nests and bedding. Medications are administered and dressings changed. One nest contains two tiny birds. They seem similar yet dissimilar enough to know they are indeed not the same species. One is a catbird, the other is a mockingbird which has a very distinctive call. We often make nest mates out of single orphans. They need not be the same species, for it is the warmth and stimulation from each other that is important. Babies respond to the feeding sounds of others; they wiggle and squirm about in the nest. A snug fit in the nest basket will give the support needed for correct body development. When they are fledged juveniles, they will instinctively seek their own kind.

I often stop at a cage holding a potpourri of insectivores: orioles, song sparrows, chipping sparrows, nuthatches, chickadees, etc. This cage alone contains a multitude of challenges. I am drawn repeatedly during the day to this cage, this magnet of tiny, lion-hearted personalities. The orioles occupy the floor of the cage, still weak from cat attacks; and of course, they receive special attention. This attention does not go unnoticed; and when the song

ENCOUNTERS AT GRIFFITH'S POND

Continued from Page 2
Jim Talin

building a house he had put \$85,000 into, he said, and he was looking for a place to use that money.

Instead of asking him how he voted on the land bank, I decided to laud the beauties of the place and its wildlife, hoping to stir an ember of guilt in him. His response was, "You know who developed this place?" I knew, but he clearly was absolving himself. "The Davenports. The ones who did the Cape Cod and Falmouth malls. They could care less. Too bad it costs \$170,000. There's no margin in it for me." I didn't ask him what he would have thought about the Davenports if they had been selling the lot for say \$50,000. "We can frame a house in 3 and a half hours," he boasted when I commented that a crew of guys had taken under 2 days to frame a house down the street. As I walked away, I wondered how many hard working craftspeople like him are cruising around, looking for a place to put money they had just made developing another lot somewhere? No wonder every available scrap of land was disappearing. It is a building boom, and people have money to spend.

I encountered one of the previous owners of the property one day as she walked her dog; her family had sold the land to the campground, and she regretted what was happening. Isn't it too bad what is happening here? she asked. Can you believe my family once owned all of this? she shook her head. I wish I owned it now and could leave it all the way it is, she lamented. But still, I assured her, they haven't built on the water lots. They are expensive....

But then one day, the inevitable happened. Surveyors had marked out a waterfront lot, and someone was going to build there. It was not just any waterfront lot; it was the one where the bluebirds had been hanging out, and the place where the gnatcatchers had nested. Indeed, the tree where I had usually found the gnatcatchers was marked to be cut down. First perk tests were done. Then, one morning, I came across stakes marking out a building. What right do I have to complain? I asked myself. I had just built a house, and every person living here had either done the same or inherited or bought a house built by someone else. Why were these people any different? But it felt different. I thought about pulling up the stakes and using them to support my tomatoes this year, but decided it would be a waste of time. Sue and I talked about it and decided that the best we could do would be to talk to the new owners after they had moved in, and tell them what we had found there. Maybe they would appreciate the spot for more than its view, for the wild creatures that lived there too. Then one morning a man with plans in his hand was walking around the property. He was from the conservation commission. There was a hearing that night.

Too bad it's being developed, he said, but at least we have an aggressive land acquisition policy in Brewster. Seeing an opportunity, once again I said, see those trees over there, that's where the gnatcatchers nested and....

It was countdown time. How long was the waiting period after a hearing? When could the road along the pond be blocked, when would the trees come down?

On a beautiful summer-like Saturday morning in late March, Sue and I walked around the pond. We saw three Common Mergansers on the pond, three Red-tailed Hawks soared over the water, two of them twisting in a total symmetry that suggested a closer relationship, tree frogs sang, chickadees were looking for nesting holes, a flock of yellow-rumps flitted among the budding trees, and among the cedars we heard some Golden-crowned Kinglets. As we passed the lot to be developed a Mercedes with Connecticut plates drove up, and a couple about my age hopped eagerly out. I asked the obvious, and greeted them with a smile, Are you the new owners? They were. She was taking pictures. They had dreamed of this. He worked in New York. They have one son. I lent first him then her my binoculars so they could see the pair of bluebirds in the trees where they were building. I told them they should put up blue bird nesting boxes, and they asked what they were. Much of this will remain as it is, she assured us. That conservation commission is tough when it comes to taking down trees, he said. I asked when the building would start. About mid-April they can get in here, he said. As we turned to leave, I said Look, as a Mourning Cloak flew by. About twenty yards down the road, a pair of vultures soared low over the trees, joining one of the Red-tails as they soared higher and higher, almost out of sight.

"It's too bad," Sue said.



ATTRACTING ORIOLES

Continued from Page 1

outer branches of elm, maple, sycamore, poplar and other tall shade trees.

(from "Q & A, WILDBIRD, April, 1993)

OTHER NOTES:

- *Some orioles are attracted to jelly, esp. grape or apple.
- *Most seem to agree that plain sugar water (not a flavored or store-bought preparation) is the preferred backyard offering.
- *Orioles are very individualistic in their choice of food (and, sometimes, feeders). What is preferred by one bird might be totally rejected by another.

BALD EAGLE STAMP PROGRAM

At each meeting of the Bird Club, Bessie Tirrell collects canceled foreign or domestic commemorative stamps, many of us do not know exactly why. The following letter to Bessie and the Club from the Eagle rescue project of the Florida Audubon Society explains the use of these stamps as well as the goals of the organization.

Thank you very much for your contributions to the Bald Eagle Stamp Program.... Proceeds from the sales of your stamps and postcards still supplement the budget for the Center for Birds of Prey; in fact we brought in about \$1,000 last year. In 1997, the Center for Birds of Prey treated a record 649 injured or orphaned raptors, a significant increase over our usual 500 annual admittances. The Center rescued 49 Bald Eagles from 18 Florida counties, and released 15; several potential releases are currently pending.

On a side note, we are starting our infamous "baby bird season" when all sorts of injured, orphaned and supposedly orphaned raptors are brought into the Center for treatment. The biggest surprise so far was the arrival of 3 Eastern Screech-Owls (ESOs) in very early February. This is very unusual because ESOs do not normally begin nesting in Florida until March. We have attributed this to that world-wide weather phenomenon and the strange weather patterns it has created here, perhaps inducing parents to breed early. As such, the little ones are now named "El", "Neen" and "Yo." When they were brought in after their nest tree was cut down, all three were fuzzy balls of fluff and could fit snugly into the palm of one hand. Some of our permanent resident ESOs, including Popeye, were set up in adjoining enclosures as surrogate parents so that the little ones would imprint on their own species. One of our volunteers has even rigged up a sound module with a recording of an adult ESO; this has helped to stimulate the babies to eat. (By the way, if you happen to have any extra analog (not digital) sound chips from Radio Shack that you would like to donate, this might work with some of our other babies!!!) "El," "Neen" and "Yo" are growing rapidly, and are now eating and perching on their own. Personally, I still think "Yo" is the cutest of the bunch!

Some people have called and written to us about the tornadoes and major thunderstorms that we have had in this area; I want to thank everyone for their concern. The Center for Birds of Prey, believe it or not, suffered no damage. In fact, we have had only four admissions to the Center in the days after the tornadoes: 3 Osprey and a baby Great Horned Owl that was blown out of its nest. I have also contacted some of the general rehabilitators in the Central Florida area, and with one exception, there has not been a significant increase in rehabilitation admissions. Rest assured, the Center and the local creatures are safe so far.

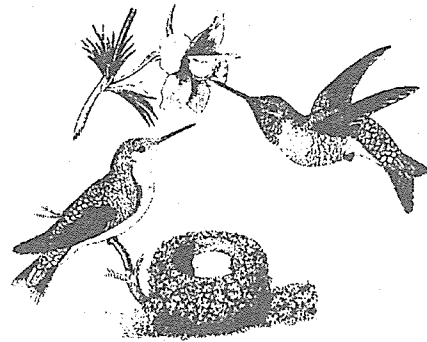
Since 1979, the Center has admitted over 7,000 raptors and has released 183 Bald Eagles back into the wild. We are definitely growing; in fact, outgrowing our facilities. On May 9 from 11 am to 3 pm, we will have our 13th Annual Baby Owl Shower, our fundraiser and your only chance to see the baby birds. Shortly thereafter, we will begin construction part of "Project Wingspread", our \$1.9 million renovation of the Center's trauma clinic, flight cages, education mews, and wetlands exhibit, being underwritten by several local corporations, community groups and caring individuals. After the dust settles in September, the place will be fantastic! Again, thank you for all your contributions, and as always, I look forward to processing your next batch.

Sincerely,
Marijane Caslake
Bald Eagle Stamp Program Coordinator

(Note: Anyone with canceled foreign or domestic commemorative stamps can give them to Bessie at Club meetings, or can mail them to CCBC, PO Box 1710, Brewster, MA 02631.)

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN MIGRATION

from the Hummingbird page



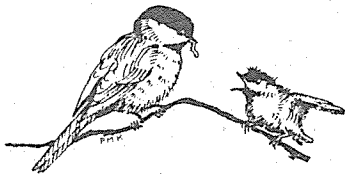
Male hummingbirds migrate northward as much as three weeks earlier in the spring than females. In the fall, the mature males similarly leave earlier than females and immature birds. Several reasons are generally offered for this behavior:

- By scouting ahead for food as the migration progresses, the males protect the females and young from the risk of starvation posed by scarcity of food in unknown territory en route.
- The species can more easily recover from loss of a few males than from that of egg-laying females.
- Females, who will soon be nesting, will find more and better-developed flowers on the spring migration route if they leave somewhat later.
- The early fall departure of the males may leave a richer diet available for the developing young of the year.

PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

Phil Kyle

On Monday evening May 11 at 7:30 pm at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Peter Alden will present a program entitled: *Cape Cod's Flora and Fauna: A Naturalists Mecca*. Peter Alden is a world birder; he has seen over 5000 species of birds, led over 250 tours, and been author of five books on birds and mammals of the US and world. He is past president of the Brookline Bird Club. He will be signing his just published *Field Guides to New England, Florida, California and the Northwest* (discount copies will be available for CCBC members and guests). These guides will be showcased for the first time on the Cape. Peter Alden is a pioneer ecotourism guide, and his program will focus on creative ways to excite children and adults about wanting to see and keep track of the flora and fauna (not just birds) in their backyard, town, county and state.



Continued from Page 4

WILDINGS OF THE MONTH

Karen Von Den Deale

sparrows are hungry enough, they will join the orioles and cry for food. As the nuthatch swings upside down and scurries round and round the pine bough, feeders are seen contorting their fingers every which way to land a mealworm successfully. The chipping sparrow is almost always vocalizing his chip-chip-chip, unless he is so full his head hangs in drowsy repose. The pine warbler had been seen pecking food particles from other bird's feathers, though we mistakenly surmised it was bonding to and preening its cage mates! The barn swallow is almost ready to be released, its magnificent rich colors gleam like highly polished gems.

How can I convey how significant our work is to the tiny ones who have no idea what's happening to them, only that they are bound to life by such strong instincts? They must grow a certain way, respond to stress, danger, hunger, courtship, mating and migration precisely as their species had for generations, or they will flounder and die. With all our intelligence and all our scientific knowledge, we still marvel at the power of instinct on such seemingly fragile creatures. I am honored to participate in this predetermined plan, to be able to assist the weak, treat the maimed and raise the young.

Editor's Note: Wildcare needs help and contributions. If you have either, get in touch with them at 9 Fox Meadow Drive, Brewster, MA 02631, tel: 508-896-5273.

WALKS & FIELD TRIPS

Kathy McGinley arives@capecod.net

May

Wednesday May 6th. Harwich. Blair Nikula's evening walk, 5:30 PM. Meet on Bell's Neck Rd, Harwich Conservation area. Bring a picnic if you like. Leader: Blair Nikula 432-6348.

Saturday May 9th. North American Migration Count. Stauffer Miller runs this count in Barnstable County, and would like to have interested folks sign up. Call him at 362-3384.

Monday May 11th. Waquoit. A tour of the South Cape Beach, meet at 7 AM. From the Mashpee Rotary, take Great Neck Road south 2.8 miles. Bear left onto Great Oak Road 2.1 miles to South Cape Beach State Park. Enter Park, go straight onto dirt road. Park in lot at right, near an old trailer. Bring lunch and a windbreaker. Leaders: Alison Robb, 540-2408 and Bob Vander Pyl 457-0864.

June

Monday June 8th. Falmouth. Meet at 7 AM at the Town Forest. Location is Gifford Street at the Goodwill Park entrance Leaders: Alison Robb 540-2408 and Bob Vander Pyl 457-0864.

Saturday June 13th. Breeding Bird Census of Mid-Cape. A picnic and tally after at the Miller's, 72 Keveney Lane, Cummaquid. Compiler: Stauffer Miller 362-3384, call to sign up.

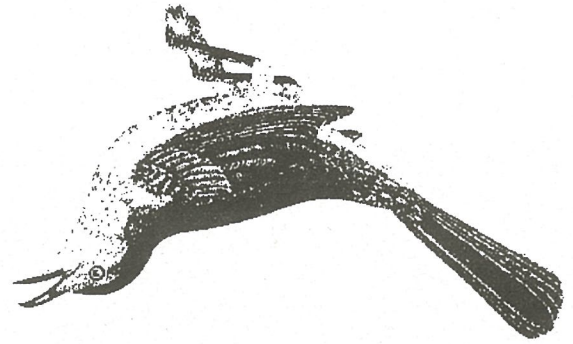
July

Tuesday July 14th. Orleans. A Night Walk. Meet at 7:45 PM at Friendly's in Orleans. We will drive to the Marconi area in Wellfleet to listen for Chuck-Will's-Widow. Please bring a flashlight. Leader: Stauffer Miller 362-3384

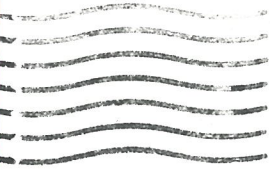
A Note Of Thanks From Kathy McGinley

"I wish to thank the following walk leaders for helping Bird Club members and me with their time and teachings during this last year. Thank you all so much."

Frank Caruso, Ruth Connaughton, Art King, Dick Koeppen, Phil Kyle, Marge Marion, Stauffer & Elinor Miller, Blair Nikula, Tom Noonan, Tish Noyes, Bob Prescott, Alison Robb, Don Scott, Jim Talin, Sue Thompson, Bessie Tirrell, Jeremiah Trimble, Bob Vander Pyl.



Frank Caruso
Barbara Steller
17 Freedom Rd
Forestdale, MA 02644-172



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



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1998-1999

The annual meeting of the Cape Cod Bird Club occurs at the final meeting of the year in May. At that time, officers and directors for the coming year are elected by the membership. Listed below is the proposed slate of officers for 1998-1999.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| PRESIDENT | Don Scott |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Jinks Kyle |
| SECRETARY | Barbara Stanton |
| TREASURER | Ellie Winslow |
| DIRECTOR (3 yrs) | Stauffer Miller |
| DIRECTOR (3 yrs) | Susan Weliky |
| CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE | Richie Hall |

BEECH FOREST WALKS

The following people will be at the Beech Forest parking lot in Provincetown at 8:00 am, weekends during May:

- Sat May 2nd Jim Talin
- Sun May 3rd Tom Noonan
- Sat May 9th Art King
- Sun May 10th Blair Nikula
- Sat May 16th Frank Caruso
- Sun May 17th Don Scott
- Sat May 23rd Dick Koeppen
- Sun May 24th Sue Thompson
- Sat May 30th Stauffer Miller
- Sun May 31st Jeremiah Trimble