



Cape Cod Bird Club

VOLUME 27

JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY 1999

ISSUE 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Scott

Nearly three years have passed since the US Fish and Wildlife Service instituted its controversial gull control program on a small portion of South Monomoy Island.



This program, which resulted in the elimination of several thousand gulls, has apparently been highly successful. Common terns numbering in the thousands have returned to Monomoy, and more importantly, some 20 pairs of endangered roseate terns successfully nested there in 1998. Black skimmers, least terns, piping plovers and growing numbers of oystercatchers have also benefited from the absence of gulls in this area.

Another controversy in the making on Cape Cod involves the problem of cormorants roosting on power lines in Orleans. The issue here is unlike the Monomoy gull matter. The droppings of these birds have badly fouled the pond below, causing odor problems for neighboring homes. This potential controversy pales, however, in comparison to cormorant issues in other parts of the country. Populations of cormorants, severely impacted by DDT in the 1950's and 1960's, have recovered so well that this once rare species now conflicts with local interests in several states. In Louisiana, these birds can be legally hunted in a few places where they pose a clear economic threat, for example at catfish farms.

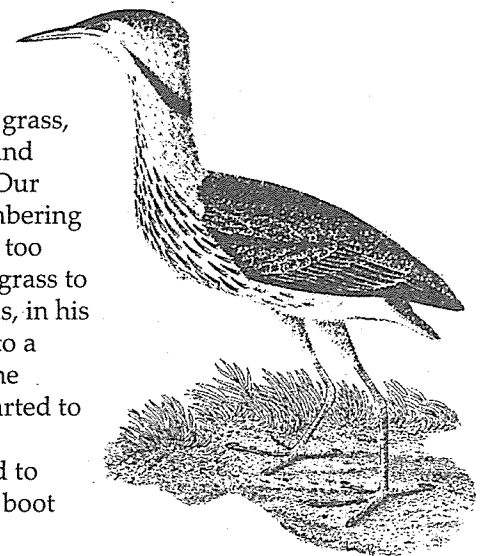
Last August on Little Galloo island, located off the eastern coast of Lake Ontario, wildlife officials found more than 800 cormorants slaughtered by gunfire, one of the worst mass killings of a federally protected bird species in years. At issue was a long standing argument by sport fisherman in the area that the cormorants were destroying populations of smallmouth bass and brown trout in local waters. Lack of action by officials apparently triggered this horrific vigilante action. In an op-ed column in the New York Times, Verlyn Klinkenborg is painfully clear in explaining this issue which faces us in a mini-version in Orleans. He writes, in part, "What makes this slaughter notable isn't just its savagery or its magnitude. It's the fact that it reveals in sharp relief the results of direct human competition with other species, something we like to pretend no longer exists now that so few of us live in nature. When human species compete with other species, other species always lose. It's one of the tragic, cardinal facts of our history, which is filled with scenes like the one on Little Galloo Island."

BITTERNS AT FORT HILL

Ruth Connaughton

At 10 AM on November 5, a full moon tide day, with a very high tide about to climax at noon, six of us met in the upper parking lot at Fort Hill to join Jackie Sones on an adventure through the salt marsh - an adventure only birders, slightly deranged, would undertake. We yanked on our boots and descended into the slimy depths. We knew there were rails and bitterns skulking through the Spartinas - a Clapper Rail and several Bitterns had been spotted the day before! But these birds had, through the millennia, learned to move as slowly as possible, so as to escape notice as they change position. For over an hour and a half, we had to be content with the silence, except for a chip or a chimp of sparrows. They were as adept at concealment as were the Rallidæ. But soon a Song Sparrow, a Seaside, a Swamp and a Sharp-tail were spotted flitting about us for one scrubby bush to another.

It continues to amaze me, even after 6 years of birding with Jackie, there's always something special that often is a spectacular end to her birding trips. The something special this day, including the sparrows, was the marsh burning with autumn. The whole marsh was splashed with tans, golds, and a hundred shades of green! We listened closely to the gentle music of the water seeping through the Spartinas, to the rustle of the grasses. Mesmerized by the forest-like strands of grass, we became as quiet and stealthy as the rails. Our bodies, however, lumbering over the marshes are too heavy for the marsh grass to support and one of us, in his anxiety, got so close to a glittering pool that the deepening waters started to suck him in. After a struggle, he managed to drag himself and his boot out! Still no rails, no bitterns!



Suddenly, Jackie whispered: "I've got one - in the scope!"

Two people got to see the American Bittern standing among the grasses with its bill cocked up at such an angle that I marveled at the sharpness of Jackie's eye to have been able to have picked it out. Then, it disappeared!

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THREATS TO MAPLE TREES

Jim Talin

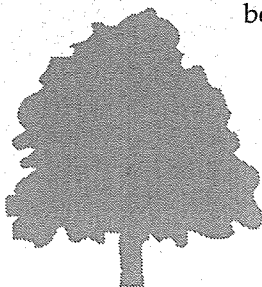
Note: In the last issue I wrote about an insect that has arrived from the Orient and that threatens to eliminate maple trees from the Northern forests. At that time I did not know the name of the insect, but the NY Times contained an article about this insect on Oct. 31, entitled: Small but Voracious Beetle Threatens Chicago's Trees. Excerpts of that article follow.

A small, black, tree-killing beetle, first detected in New York more than two years ago, has found its way to Chicago, where agriculture officials say it has infested hundreds of trees. It is only the second known infestation in the United States. The bug, the Asian long-horned beetle, or *Anoplophora glabripennis*, was first discovered here in July by a resident...Since confirming the identity of the beetle, officials...have found almost 300 infested trees, all of which are to be destroyed this winter. A quarantine area of more than 15 square miles has been set up and officials like Joe McCarthy, a city forester now devoted full time to the beetle watch, are going after the little black bug.

"This particular beetle can be devastating to an urban environment," Mr. McCarthy said. "And if it's not eradicated, there is a potential threat to the national forest system."

The authorities believe the beetles are imported in raw wooden packing material from China...the authorities have found the local source: a hardware manufacturing company in Ravenswood that imports heavy material in wooden crates from China.

This particular beetle, unlike several of its cousins, actually eats live wood, causing irreparable damage to



living trees, officials said. Its life cycle, moreover, is such that pesticides are ineffective. The only way to fight the beetle, experts say, is to cut down the tree in the winter before adult beetles emerge, and burn the wood. Mr. McCarthy said the beetles tended to prefer maple, elm, willow and chestnut trees, so the city plans to replace those trees primarily with basswoods and ginkgoes, which the beetles are known to stay away from....

Chicago officials feel they caught the problem relatively early; in New York the beetle is believed to have had three to four years to spread before it was first detected in Brooklyn. Since the discovery of the beetle in August 1996, more than 2,400 trees have been destroyed, said Joe Gittleman, the project manager in New York. He said additional sightings have been made on Long Island and in Queens and that the fight, more than two years later, is continuing.

"You hope that something like this never happens," said Mr. Gittleman. "We're doing everything we can to fight it."

MEMBER'S NIGHT

After a sabbatical of two years, the Board of Directors has decided to make an effort to reinstitute Member's Night. This once popular meeting gives members a chance to display their wares, be they a few nifty slides, carvings or art work, a description of a special birding experience, or whatever. We may also include a silent auction. Barbara Stanton and Susan Weliky are in charge of this event and have already made a presentation at our December meeting. If you have ANY interest in participating, please let us know ASAP—no later than the January meeting.



Cape Cod Bird Club Inc.

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

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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

October - November

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. There weren't any storms of note this fall and an unfortunate lack of seabird sightings followed. However, one Atlantic Puffin flew by First Encounter Beach in Eastham on November 2 and over two hundred shearwaters (including 50+ greater) were spotted off Race Point in Provincetown on November 14.

Waders. Notable this fall was a late Glossy Ibis found near Paine's Creek in Brewster on October 26 (Phil Kyle) and up to six American Bitterns at Fort Hill in Eastham.

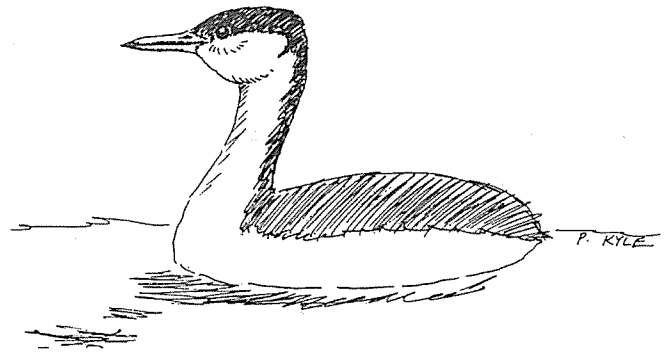
Waterfowl. Snow Geese were seen in unprecedented numbers on the Cape this year: In early October there were at least four reports of flocks ranging in size from 47 to 550! One individual lingered at Ballston Beach in Truro until November 29. Eurasian Wigeon were spotted at the Marstons Mills Mill Pond (Barry Good), Herring Pond in Eastham, and Lover's Lake in Chatham. Up to five Harlequin Ducks were seen at Nauset Beach in Orleans. Stauffer Miller found an immature Common Moorhen at Dutchman's Ditch in Falmouth on October 6.

Raptors. Rough-legged Hawks were found at High Head in Truro and near the Provincetown Airport. Single Short-eared Owls were discovered at the Provincetown Airport (October 31) and on North Monomoy Island (November 1). An immature light-phase Swainson's Hawk was found dead on Indian Neck in Wellfleet.

Shorebirds. The last sighting of the two American Avocets first seen in mid-July was from Oyster Pond in Chatham on October 10. A count of twelve Long-billed Dowitchers on South Monomoy on October 17 is the highest count on Cape Cod in recent years. Some late shorebird reports came in from South Monomoy Island and South Beach in Chatham. On November 14 on South Monomoy Blair Nikula spotted one Baird's Sandpiper, 3 American Golden-Plovers, and four Long-billed Dowitchers. Marbled Godwits put in a poor showing this fall; four were found in North Monomoy on October 4 and one was discovered on South Beach on November 22. Other lingering shorebirds on South Beach on November 22 included a Semipalmated Plover and a Least Sandpiper.

Gulls. Tens of thousands of gulls gathered along bayside beaches in early November to feed on thousands of stranded Atlantic Saury. On November 10, from Point of Rocks Beach in Brewster to Skaket Beach in Orleans, Blair

Nikula estimated 10,000+ Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, 1200 Ring-billed Gulls, 100 Laughing Gulls, 6 Iceland Gulls, 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and 1 Black-headed Gull. Black-headed Gulls were also found at East Bay in Cotuit (George Martin), Pamet Harbor in Truro, and Stage Harbor in Chatham. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at Great Pond in Eastham (Jeremiah Trimble),



North Monomoy Island, Cold Storage Beach in North Truro, and Herring Cove in Provincetown. One immature Little Gull was feeding among a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at the entrance to Stage Harbor on November 1.

Songbirds. Two Northern Shrikes put in appearances on Cape Cod: one near Corn Hill in Truro on October 24 and another near Herring Cove in Provincetown on November 20. Sally Clifton, Dick Comeau, and Seward Highley were treated to view of a Hooded Warbler at the Beech Forest in Provincetown on October 17. A Wilson's Warbler lingered at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary from October 27 into late November. Wayne Petersen found a Prairie Warbler on South Monomoy Island on November 22! Sparrow highlights included good numbers of White-crowned Sparrows at various locations, a Fox Sparrow on North Monomoy on November 1, a Grasshopper Sparrow near Corn Hill on October 3, and Clay-colored Sparrows from Corn Hill, the Provincetown Airport, Morris Island in Chatham, and High Head in Truro.

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 tell us about your observations!

E-mail: odenews@capecod.net

Snail mail: 2 Gilbert Lane, Harwich Port, MA 02646

*Web Site: [Dragonflies and Damselflies of Cape Cod](http://www.capecod.net/~bnikula/odenews.htm)
<http://www.capecod.net/~bnikula/odenews.htm>*

Saving Birds and Their Habitat Creates Jobs and Income

Issue Brief from the Ornithological Council

Preserving forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and wetlands does not just mean preserving a world in which we all want to live - it means jobs. In 1991 over 76 million Americans went bird watching, fed birds or went on trips to watch wildlife. They spent \$18 billion generating almost \$40 billion in economic activity, creating 760,000 jobs and producing \$3 billion in Federal and State tax revenues.

Background

Preserving habitat and species generates jobs and income. After health care, recreation and tourism are the largest employers in the United States providing jobs for more than 6 million Americans.

- A study published by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (1995) showed that over \$6.5 billion is spent each year in the U. S. by bird enthusiasts and hunters. This spending generated an estimated economic output of at least \$19.5 billion and supported 234,000 jobs. Over 65 million of us watch and feed birds, and 35 million take trips primarily to see wildlife. Retail sales generated by bird watchers:
California: \$622,600,000, 16,200 jobs
Florida: \$477,000,000, 13,900 jobs
Pennsylvania: \$256,400,000, 6,040 jobs
- The U.S. Forest Service estimates that by the year 2000 recreation, wildlife and fisheries programs in our forests will generate \$110.7 billion in revenue.
- Visitors to National Forest lands and grasslands during 1995 brought \$4.2 billion in revenue to local areas and created over 139,000 jobs.
- In 1991, 25 million Americans took trips to observe, feed, or photograph birds and spent over \$5.2 billion. More than 3 million Americans went on bird hunting trips spending over \$3.6 billion.
- National Wildlife Refuges bring dollars and jobs to local communities from the 30 million annual visitors they attract:
The Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in California brings \$3.1 million to the local economy annually.
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge brings \$9.7 million to the local area annually, and people spend a total of \$33.21 million in their trips to and from the area.
Two Wildlife refuges in the Rio Grande Valley, TX attract over \$30 million in ecotourist dollars each year.
The Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey, brings \$4.01 million to the local economy annually.
The 100,000 birders visiting Cape May bring in \$10 million annually. There are bird refuges in every state

which attract tourists and bring income to local businesses.

- A Wilderness Society study found that tourism and recreation in the southern Appalachians' National Forest contributed \$379 million each year to the area. A figure that is estimated to double in the next 45 years.

*“According to a survey
in Fortune magazine
more Americans
take vacations to go birding
than to play golf.”*

- Misuse of the environment costs us money and jobs. Loss of wetlands not only means the loss of birds which nest and feed there, but also the loss of shrimp, fish and bird watchers.
- Retail sales to bird enthusiasts brought businesses over \$1.8 billion in one year in just five states (California, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin). Over 360 franchise stores in the United States specialize in selling supplies to birders.
- The discharge of phosphate fertilizers into water flowing into the Everglades by Florida sugar growers is killing the fish and shrimp industry, and fish-eating bird populations are declining. This means the loss of tourist dollars to the area.
- According to a survey in Fortune magazine, more Americans take vacations to go birding than to play golf.

Policy Issues

- “Teaming with Wildlife,” the proposed surcharge on bird seed, binoculars, and other wildlife equipment will support state wildlife programs.
- Our Federal science programs in the US Geological Survey, the National Forest Service, the National Science Foundation and others, help us to understand how to preserve wildlife.
- People who use our National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks provide an important income source for communities.
- Wetlands are vital for the survival of many bird species and attract large numbers of bird watchers.
- Recreational uses of Federal lands such as BLM land and National Forests provide a significant source of income for local communities.

The Birds of the Song
 "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Jeff and Amy Price

The twelve days of Christmas occur between Christmas and Epiphany. Traditionally, this period was often observed with celebrations. While the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is often listed as a traditional medieval English carol, it may have its roots in France. Over the centuries the song has undergone many changes and some of the words Americans now sing are apparently anglicizations of the originals. Amy and my interpretation of the meaning of this song is that it represents the preparation for a party being held on the evening of Twelfth Night.

What does this have to do with birds? Well, the first seven 'gifts' are all birds. We thought it would be fun to discuss which birds might actually be represented in the song - as well as provide some wild North American species that could be used in the song instead.

On the first day of Christmas . . .

The **partridge** in the song most likely refers to the Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*), a species native to Britain. If the song originated in France it could also refer to the Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*), a species introduced to England in 1790 (after the song was written). While the Gray Partridge has been successfully introduced into parts of North America, a better choice might be one of the members of the grouse family - perhaps the Sharp-tailed or Ruffed Grouse.

The **two turtle doves** given the second day probably refer to European Turtle-Doves (*Streptopelia turtur*), a species found in England and France during the summer months. While the closely related Spotted and Ringed Turtle-Doves can be found in parts of North America, our most widespread equivalent would be the Eurasian Collared-Dove. This species was introduced into the Bahamas in 1974 and has now spread throughout much of the Southeast. There is one record of the European Turtle-Dove from the Florida Keys. Prefer a native species? The Mourning Dove could be substituted instead.

We were unable to find any clues as to which type of chickens the **three French hens** refer to. It has been thousands of years since the Red Jungle Fowl of India and Southeast Asia was first domesticated and became the ancestor of all domestic chicken breeds. In this country a wild equivalent would be the Greater or Lesser Prairie-Chicken.

Four colly birds. Many Americans have learned the words to the song as four calling birds, an anglicization of four colly birds. Colly refers to soot or coal black and a colly bird refers to the Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). The Blackbird is actually a thrush, not a blackbird. As for their edibility, remember the nursery rhyme with the words "four and twenty Blackbirds baked in a pie." In North America the closest relative would be the American Robin - a member of the genus *Turdus*, but not very black.

Five gulderers. Huh? Some experts think the phrase **five golden rings** is an anglicization of the term gulderer. A gulderer typically refers to a turkey or possibly a guinea fowl and goes better with the spirit of the song. Turkeys were first carried to Europe from Mexico early in the 16th century; first appearing in England in 1524. The Wild Turkey is widespread throughout much of North America. Another, more likely answer to this problem and certainly one that is considered accurate by folklorists in Britain is that five gold rings is a corruption of five goldspinks, a colloquial name for Goldfinches - *Carduelis carduelis* - brightly coloured passerines that were often kept in cages and sold as songbirds as with nightingales, linnets and canaries.

Six geese a-laying. Most domestic geese are descendants of the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*). While Greylag Geese can often be found in parks in North America, the wild alternative would be Greater White-fronted Goose. The geese 'a-laying' suggest that these birds weren't eaten but were given in order to provide eggs for the party guests.

Seven swans a-swimming. The Mute Swan is widely used for ornamentation on estates, such as where a Twelfth Night party may have been held. Mute Swans have been introduced and established in many parts of North America. For a North American native swan choose the Trumpeter (only found in North America) or Tundra (which is also found in England).

What about the rest of the song? Well the maids a-milking are providing drinks for the party, the drummers drumming and pipers piping are the musical entertainment, and the ladies dancing and lords a-leaping are the party guests.

We hope you enjoyed our interpretation of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas". We realize this is just one interpretation of a song that is thousands of years old.

(reprinted with the permission of the authors)

MEMOIRS OF A BIRDER

Memoirs of a Birder Part II (Okay, so I'm not that old...)

Phil Kyle

Yes. I had to admit it. I had become a lister. There were no ifs, ands or buts about it. It was true. But it didn't make me a "bad" person, but it was close in my opinion! After I realized the error of my ways, one thing I kept listing was the birds in my yard. I could not believe that after living in Hatchville (part of Falmouth) for 15 years, I had actually listed 142 species. OK. I lived on a pond. Yes, across the street was a pine woods, but there was the big front yard with some apple trees in it. But still all modesty aside, it is still amazing to me.

Speaking about my yard reminds me that although the plethora of birds in the summer - with their courtship behavior, their feeding of young and their territorial displays - more than satisfied my huge appetite for bird sights and sounds, winter was a very different story. With more than 80% of the local birds migrating south, I rigged up as many feeders as I could: suet, thistle, black oil tubes, one-way mirror window feeders, platform feeders... all to draw the remaining birdlife closer to me!

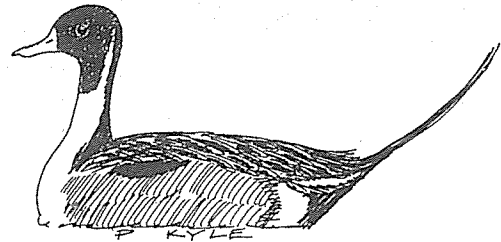
The unfortunate thing was that it attracted some unwelcome visitors. First, I remember the cat with the Cardinal in its mouth. The cat had apparently hidden under the platform feeder and hunted its prey from that position. When I saw the situation, I hurriedly threw on some boots and ran outside into four inches of freshly fallen snow. As the cat ran off with the Cardinal still in its mouth, I was in close pursuit. Unfortunately, I still was up on the deck behind the house, and the cat was on ground level. With a crisis at hand and the adrenaline coursing through my blood, I decided to leap off the deck and eliminate the stairs completely... My boots did not cooperate. They caught under the top step and sent me sprawling. Thank god for the new snow because it cushioned my fall. Hopefully the cat dropped the bird with all this commotion, but I was focused on more important things. Like my personal well-being!

Secondly, I remember squirrels coming to the window feeder, responding like most wild animals to free food when it is put outside. But this was not any ordinary window feeder. This was the super-duper-deluxe model my brother-in-law had built. It filled the entire window. I had a one-way mirror installed, so you could get a really close look at birds without them seeing you. It also had a little door on top where you could put seed in. It was through this little door that I put a bent coat-hanger as a sort of anti-squirrel device.

This contraption was the source of endless bouts of entertainment-frustration therapy for my wife and me.

We would spend a lot of time poking the squirrel, scaring the squirrel, waiting for the squirrel to reappear, keeping it away from the seed, and basically making us feel a lot better. The feeder also attracted another kind of rodent. One that most articles that are politically correct don't mention. Yup, you guessed correctly, it was a r.a.a.t.

The last unwelcome visitor I can remember was an immature Cooper's Hawk. I was sitting at my winter computer one morning, and it landed on the suet feeder.



Then it saw me. After about 15 seconds of evaluation, it flew straight at me. Thank god for the window. It still didn't leave though. Hawk or not its mission was to find something to eat. The birds had escaped, and all that was left was the suet which must have smelled good. Because after 5 minutes it landed on the snow covered ground under the suet feeder and ate some of the scraps. Amazing! (to be continued)

POETRY

Like A Bird

Bob Pease

*Life is a jumble of good and of bad,
Of things that you want and things that you've had.
Take it or leave it, or leave it to chance,
Go cry in your beer, or frolic and dance.*

*They're times when you're up and times when you're down,
Times when you wish you could get outta town,
Others when nothing goes right, it's all wrong,
Then another day dawns and you bust out in song.*

*I'll tell you what matters to me, in the end,
It's someone to love and be loved by, a friend,
And music and laughter, a vast open sky,
And freedom to roam, and freedom to fly.*



PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

Phil Kyle

On Monday evening, **January 11**, at 7:30 at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Ken Presley will present a program entitled *Seabirds and Seals of Saint Paul Island*. Saint Paul Island is one of the Pribilof Islands, a group of islands in the Bering Sea off Alaska. Ken Presley has directed programs and been a birding tour guide leader for the Mass. Audubon Society. He has worked with the US Fisheries and Wildlife Service studying the Northern Fur Sea population. He has also assisted them on different bird projects. Ken is an avid naturalist, educator, and is also a folk musician.

On Monday evening, **February 8**, at 7:30 at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Dr. Tom French will present a program entitled *Urban Peregrines and Their Role in the Recovery of an Endangered Species*. Dr. French received his PhD in ecology and systematics from Indiana State University and had a postdoctoral position at Cornell University. He was formerly a zoologist with the Nature Conservancy as well as an instructor, naturalist and researcher for the National Audubon Society. He is now Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, where he also serves as director of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program.

INTERNET

Web Site of Note

So what do you do when you are going on a trip and are trying to learn to identify some of the birds that you might see? What happens when you read: rufous nape; or moustachial, speculum, underparts white; or under tail coverts tinged yellow? If you are similar to me, you realize your ignorance of bird vocabulary and try to commit the picture to visual memory. But at some point, verbal descriptions of birds are necessary to learn the important markings of new ones and to describe what you have seen.

www.birder.com/ is a web site that can help. When you arrive at this site, click on the "Birding" choice from the menu of options. Then scroll to the section called "References" and open the choice "Glossary of Bird Terms". You will be presented with a list of definitions of bird parts, many of which are illustrated with pictures.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each year, in May, new members are elected to the CCBC Board of Directors. Getting people do become involved is not easy. We would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has an interest in helping manage our vital organization. Contact Don Scott at a meeting or at 508-432-2528.

WALKS & FIELD TRIPS

Stauffer Miller

January

Sunday, January 10th. Falmouth. Meet at the Locust Street parking area of the bike path at 9:00 am. Leaders: Bob Vander Pyl, 457-0864, and Alison Robb, 540-2408.

Saturday, January 16th. Meet at Corporation Beach in Dennis at 9:00 am to check waterfowl in Dennis and Yarmouth. Leader: Mark Tuttle, 362-3015.

Saturday, January 23rd. A walk on Hardings Beach in Chatham. Take Barn Hill Rd, then Hardings Beach Rd to parking lot at beach. Meet at 8:00 am. Leader: Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

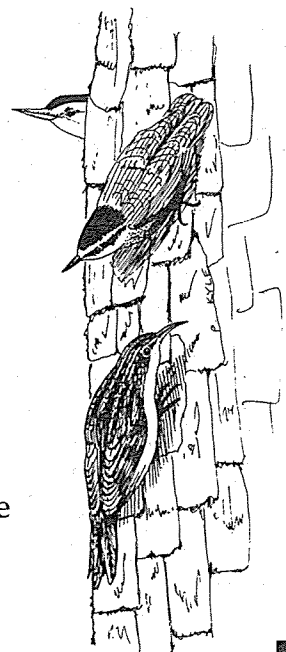
Saturday, January 30th. Falmouth and area waterfowl spots. Meet behind Town Hall in Falmouth at 9:00 am. Leader: Mark Kasprzyk, 540-4706.

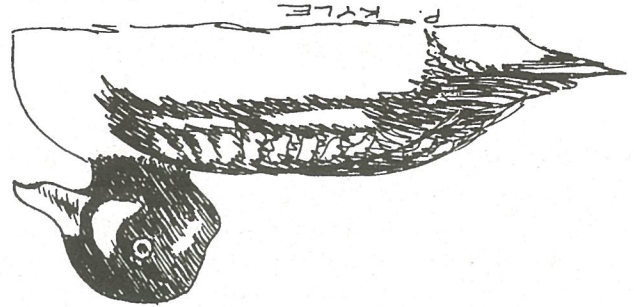
February

Saturday, February 6th. Sandwich. Meet at the Sandwich High parking lot at 8:00 am. Leader: Phil Kyle, 564-6771.

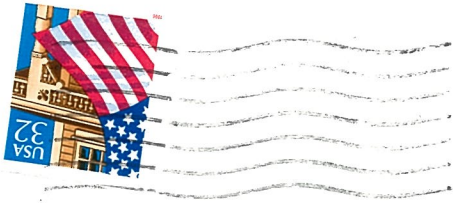
Sunday, February 7th. Marstons Mills area. Meet at the Mills Restaurant in Marstons Mills at 8:00 am. Will tally our list later over coffee at the restaurant. Leader: Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

Sunday, February 14th. Falmouth. Meet at the Locust Street parking area of the bike path at 9:00 am. Leaders: Bob Vander Pyl, 457-0864, and Alison Robb, 540-2408.





Frank Caruso
 Barbara Steller
 17 Freedom Rd
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Cape Cod Bird Club
 The Cape Cod Museum Of Natural History
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BITTERN

Ruth Cannuaghton

But seconds later the bird sprang into the air and flapped toward us, feet dangling. Then, because its wings are small, it began to beat them more strongly and more quickly. "Oh's and ah's and wow, did you see the black primaries, the freckles along its side?" Then another flapped out of the grasses, flying so close to us that all could see the yellow eyes, the brown streaking along the sides. There was more to come - no more fleeting glimpses today! No straining to pick out these emaciated, but well-fed phantoms stealing about the marsh grasses. Instead we were to gaze at 4 more flying awkwardly, toward higher ground, so close we put down our binoculars!

We had come to the salt marsh, and the salt marsh shared its secret!

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.