



Cape Cod Bird Club

VOLUME 29

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ISSUE 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Phil Kyle

Like my April message said, this is the time of year we've been waiting for BUT these are the MONTHS we've been waiting for — MAY and JUNE ! This the peak of bird activity for the year on Cape Cod, whether it's migration or breeding. The maximum number of birds can be seen during this period. Regardless of whether they are just stopping for food on their way north or if they've come here to nest, there is more than enough action to distract most birders.

Fall migration and winter waterfowl activity are amazing but not impressive enough to dispel the old belief that birdwatching is only a warm weather avocation. Although this past winter has been reluctant to let go of its chilling grasp and there really is not any predictable spring to speak of on the Cape, the birds know when it's time to head north.

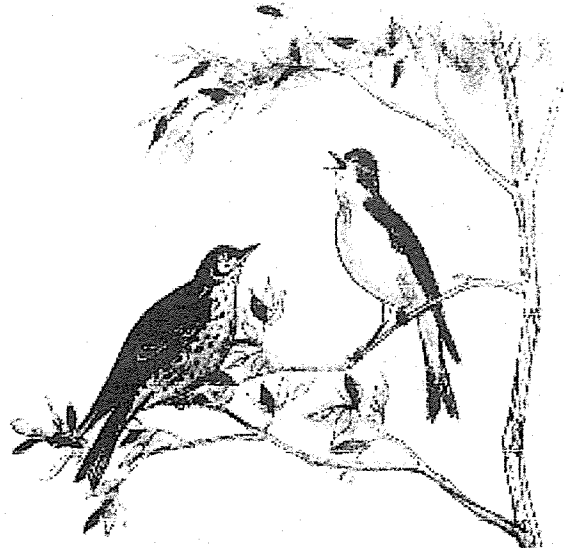
So make sure you have plans to visit the Beech Forest in Provincetown to catch a glimpse of the warblers and other spring migrants or if you are adventurous and have your "papers" together you can go to Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Arlington ! This is what birding is all about. Searching for that unusual bird, something that's made an unusually long flight from some warmer place. Definitely plan to get out and bird during this special time in May and June.

TAKE TIME TO TRAVEL!

In winter 2002, probably February 10 - 17th, the Cape Cod Bird Club will sponsor a trip with Field Guides touring company to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Our local field guide will be Megan Edwards. We will look for birds like Hook-billed Kite, Brown and Green Jays, Tropical Parula, several hummingbirds, plus Mexican vagrants. The weather is more than comfortable, accommodations are good, terrain is easy and the birding unbelievable. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1295, plus airfare. For more info on this trip, please call Phil at 508-495-0196. You do not need to be a mem-

(continued on page 3)

Please read new editor's note on back page!




"I was photographed this morning by an elderly white-haired lady in salt-and-pepper tweed suit, bright scarlet scarf at the throat, blue porkpie hat with a multicolored feather on the left side and green walking shoes with yellow laces."

ANNUAL BREEDING BIRD CENSUS

Stauffer Miller

I have been coordinator of the Breeding Bird Survey the past four years. The purpose of this survey is to census the birds in a count circle in the mid-Cape area in mid-June to find out numbers and species of breeding birds. We count for a half a day, then have a picnic at my house and count up what we've found, and it's basically a lot of fun.

This year the count would be June 9. However, I will be away that day. But, I think the count is important, especially if we get good coverage, so would like to see the count done if possible. Therefore, I offer choices. The count can be done on June 9 but with someone else as compiler and coordinator. Any volunteers? Or, it can be done a week later on June 16, with me as compiler/coordinator.

Or, if interest in this count is negligible, we can drop it for this year, and perhaps forever. I need to hear what interest or lack of interest there is in the count, preferably by the May meeting of the club, and I'll make a decision around that time as to where this count is going. Let me hear your thoughts. 

MAY & JUNE WALKS AND OTHER BIRDING ACTIVITIES

May

Wednesday, May 9: 5:30 p.m. Harwich. Blair's evening walk. Meet on Bell's Neck Road, Harwich Conservation Area. Bring a picnic if you like. Blair Nikula, 432-6348.

Sunday, May 13: Falmouth, 7:00 a.m. Meet at the Locust Street parking area of the bike path. Leaders: Bob Vander Pyl and Alison Robb, 540-2408.

Tuesday, May 22: 6:00 a.m. Meet at Friendly's near Rotary in Orleans. Bring/buy a little breakfast food. We'll car pool and visit places such as the Beech Forest, Pilgrim Heights and Priscilla Landing. Trip may last till after lunch, depending on bird activity. Lunch somewhere. Leader, Stauffer Miller, 362-3384

June

Stauffer Miller

Saturday, June 2: 5:00 a.m. That's right, 5:00 a.m.! Meet in Cotuit at CVS at intersection of Route 28 and Putnam Avenue to go nearby to look for Least Bittern and maybe a few other birds. Leader, Stauffer Miller, 362-3384

Breeding Bird Census: not yet decided (see page 1).

Sunday, June 10 Falmouth, 7:00 a.m. Meet at the Locust Street parking area of the bike path. Leaders: Bob Vander Pyl and Alison Robb, 540-2408.

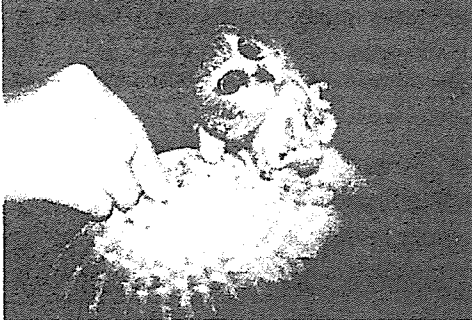
*** SEE INSERT FOR NEW MAY WALKS THAT THE CLUB IS STARTING THIS YEAR**

As in the past, the club will have a walk at the Beech Forest in Provincetown each Saturday and Sunday in May. The Beech Forest is the best spot on the Cape to see and hear spring migrant warblers and other songbirds. All walks begin at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot. The walks and their leaders are:

Saturday	May 5	Don Scott
Sunday	May 6	Jim Talin
Saturday	May 12	Ruth Connaughton, Nancy Reider
Sunday	May 13	Sue Thompson


Saturday	May 19	Frank Caruso
Sunday	May 20	Joyce Leary and Joan McGuire
Saturday	May 26	Michael Dettrey
Sunday	May 27	Susan Weliky

OFF-CAPE TRIP TO MAINE



Stauffer Miller

Last October, I led a group from the bird club to Freeport, Maine, to a Saw-whet Owl banding station.

The trip went quite well, and I would like to do it again if there is enough interest. I would like to have about 12 people for the trip. We would leave the Cape morning of October 13, do birding at Biddeford, Maine, area (with a guide) that afternoon, check into the motel in Freeport, go to the banding site after dark, and visit Plum Island the following morning, with a return here late in the afternoon of the 14th. Please give me a call (362-3384) if you would like to go. Freeport is a busy tourist destination in October, so it is necessary to make the room reservations in the next few months if we going to do this trip.  (Photo by Dot Madeiros)


BIRD CLUB MEETING

On Monday, May 14th, at 7:30 Joyce Leary will give a slide presentation, "Birds of Florida." For 12 weeks this winter, Joyce travelled throughout Florida, photographing birds and birding locations. She will display many digital images and show slides of 60-70 species, including black-bellied whistling-duck, sora, burrowing and barred owls, limpkin, crested caracara, scrub jay, magnificent frigatebird, sandhill crane, pileated woodpecker, a variety of warblers and shorebirds, and the rare yellow-faced grassquit. In addition to her dynamic images of birds, several sequences of slides will illustrate various bird behaviors.

If you remember her slides from member's night 2000, especially those of the heron swallowing the snake and the Red-shouldered Hawk grappling with a different snake, you won't want to miss this program!

(bird club meeting, continued on page 3)


(Take Time to Travel, continued from page 1)

ber of the Club in order to participate, so talk to your friends here and there about it. 

Spring Birding in Texas Jack Palmer, Falmouth


I recently spent nine days birding Southern Texas and the Rio Grande shoreline. Our trip total was 204 species, including some that are quite rare in the U.S. Southern Texas is the extreme northern range of the Brown Jay; we found three in an empty trailer park.

Rarities we saw were an Aplomado Falcon, a Clay-colored Robin, Red-billed Pigeons and Altamira Orioles. We found our country's two smallest owls, the Elf Owl and the Ferruginous Pygmy-owl. Also saw the smallest bird in the U.S., the Calliope hummer. We even stumbled on the Altamira X Audubon hybrid oriole that locals claimed was the one pictured in Birding magazine a while ago.

While beauty is in the mien of the beholder, my western favorites were the spectacular Green Jay, the Green-tailed Towhee, the male Lark Bunting and the funny Black-bellied Whistling-duck. We were often accompanied on back roads by that comical cuckoo, the Great Roadrunner. 

(bird club meeting, continued from page 2)

The Secretary reminds all members that the annual election of new members to your Board of Directors will be held during the May meeting. We will elect two members of the Board to terms that will expire in 2004. All members are urged to attend and cast their votes.

This year's Ludlow Griscom Award goes to...???... On Monday, May 14th, this year's 4th Annual Ludlow Griscom Award will be presented before the program to ..?? .. Come to the meeting to find out! 

Wake up, Golden Head! Wake up, Brownie!
Cat-bird wants you in the garden soon.
You and I, butterflies, bobolinks, and clover,
We've a lot to do on the first of June.

Charles G. D. Roberts (1850-1943)

SCREECH OWL vs. FLICKER


Ellie Winslow

Bob, a friend in East Sandwich, mentioned to me he had a screech owl in his flicker nesting box this early February.

After returning from a trip, Bob called to say the rear half of a bird was sticking out of the entrance to the nesting box. He could see yellow under part of the wing, which was angled up away from the body of the bird, and this bird was MOVING. Could I come down to see what was happening?

Upon closer examination, I could see that the bird, which filled up the entrance hole to the box, was a flicker, and it appeared quite dead; its legs were trailing down outside the entrance hole, and there was no movement whatever.

Bob gave me a long fishing pole and I poked at the flicker, which dropped to the ground – headless, neckless and gutless! Can you imagine how fast the screech owl must have been to catch and kill the flicker as the flicker poked its head into "its" nesting box?

Later the owl appeared at the entrance hole, looking for its lunch. It makes one wonder when the attack occurred and how long the owl would have fed on the flicker's body. 

Do you agree? "For most birdwatchers, the coming of the warblers has the same effect as catnip on a cat." Arline Thomas, American writer

BE A VOYEUR! CHECK OUT THESE LIVE CAMS




Watch nesting Peregrine Falcons at these sites:

<http://www.dom.com/about/environment/falcon/bridge.html>

<http://www.nspco.com/nspbird.htm>
www.kodak.com/go/birdcam1

Follow the progress of nesting bald eagles:

in Tennessee at: http://www.eaglewatch.com/live_eaglecam.htm.

on an island in Massachusetts on the Connecticut River at: www.nu.com/eagles/default.asp 



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Cape Cod Bird Club

bird club gift ideas		available for sale at each meeting	
CCBC Decals	\$ 1.00	CCBC Hats	\$ 15.00
CCBC Checklist	.50	Binocular/Camera Straps	12.50
Birding Cape Cod	10.00	Organizer Packs	17.00
CCBC Patches	\$3.00		

From your editor: I want to thank everyone who made my two years as Editor of this newsletter so easy and interesting. I know that you will offer Sylvia Jurkowski your support, as she assumes this large undertaking.
Elinor



The Cape Cod Bird Club Inc.

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:

Cape Cod Bird Club
P. O. Box 1710, Brewster, MA 02631

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- Phil Kyle *President*
- Barbara Stanton *Vice President*
- Ron Ayotte *Secretary*
- Ellie Winslow *Treasurer*

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- Betty Erickson
- Stauffer Miller
- Nancy Reider
- Dick Stacey
- Bob Vander Pyl
- Susan Weliky

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