



The Kingfisher

VOLUME 32 – ISSUE 3

The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

JANUARY – FEBRUARY, 2004

Cape Cod Bird Club meetings are 7:30 PM the second Monday of each month, September thru May, at the Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA.

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The Kingfisher is published bi-monthly.

Deadline for next issue's articles: February 2nd.

Send articles or comments to: ccbc_kingfisher@earthlink.net

Website: <http://www.massbird.org/CCBC>

President's Message

I've been wondering for a long time how we could attract more "new" birders on our Field Trips. It's actually been a concern for many of us involved with the club walks.

To me, the best mix of birders on a walk includes people with a wide range of skills and expertise — from new to experienced and everyone in between. Birding with special friends is great but new people always add wonderfully to everyone's enjoyment.

I began to wonder if new birders felt intimidated — perhaps thinking that 'only the pros' went on these walks! So, I tried an experiment in my last two Bird Walk

announcements — adding the invitation "Beginning Birders Welcome."

Guess what! Two "new" birders signed up for each trip, saying, "I always thought I wasn't a good enough birder." Or "I didn't want to embarrass myself."

As we all know, nothing could be further from the truth! **EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

I wish you all a Special Holiday Season and a wonderful 2004! Let's go birding every chance we get this coming year ... accompanied by birders with a wide range of skills!!

Dick Jurkowski



CCBC PROGRAMS: JAN. 12th & FEB 9th

Birds and Marine Mammals in Cape Cod Waters – Peter Trull

Join us on Monday, January 12th for a lively and informative presentation by Peter Trull, one of Cape Cod's finest field naturalists. Peter will be sharing with us his knowledge on the seabirds and mammals that are a part of our shores. Peter had done extensive field work while at the Center for Coastal Studies as well as on his own. He will also give a brief update on the Eastern Coyote explaining some of his latest coyote/wolf research.

The author of "Common Birds of Cape Cod" and "Coyotes in the Neighborhood," Peter teaches Science at the Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School.

How to Mis-identify a Bird – David Spector

In his talk "How to Mis-identify a Bird," David Spector will illustrate some of the ways we can come up with wrong identifications of birds by using examples, both from his own experience in over a quarter a century of birdwatching and from field guides and various experts. This talk is based on his published article in the October, 1996 issue of "Bird Watcher's Digest."

David Spector is an ornithologist on the faculty of Central Connecticut State University. His research has focused on the singing behavior of warblers. In recent years, he has also been studying the use of birds in literature. He is a former president of the Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst, MA, and co-editor of the "Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts."

Field Trips – January & February

Ginie Page, Coordinator

All are welcome to join our field trips which are free. A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated. Please check www.massbird.org/ CCBC for additions or changes.

Jan 8-Thurs 9AM Sandwich. Meet at Sandy Neck parking lot. Directions: North side of Rte 6A, 1/2 mile west of the Barnstable/Sandwich town line. Leader: Ellie Winslow 888-1760 or birderellie@aol.com

Jan 9-Fri 8AM Falmouth/ Woods Hole. Meet at the Falmouth Center Dunkin Donuts/Mobil, Rte 28 at Palmer Ave. Leader: Greg Hirth 457-4356

Jan 14-Wed 9-Noon Marstons Mills. Yard Birds! Enjoy the best yard birds in a superb natural and enhanced habitat. Beginning birders always welcome. Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski, 68 Liberty Lane, Marstons Mills. 428-8494

Jan 16-Fri 8AM Rhode Island Rte 1. Meet at Tedeschi's by the Bourne Bridge Rotary. We'll travel west of Narragansett Bay and visit: the Burlingame State Park, Ninigret Conservation Area, Trustom Pond NWR, and Charlestown Breachway. We'll be guided by what's been reported prior to the trip. Although the focus of the trip will be winter waterfowl, we'll see a great diversity of birds during the day. We'll stop for lunch in Wakefield where a Tufted Duck has returned to the center of town. Leader: Frank Caruso 477-9807 or Fcaruso@umext.umass.edu

Jan 17-Sat 9AM Eastham, Fort Hill. Meet at the lower parking lot for a walk through the fields, shoreline and woods of this most spectacular "traditional Cape landscape." Leader: Dick Koeppen 430-1822

Jan 18-Sun 8AM Barnstable Area. Loop Beach to Wequaquet Lake great birding habitats tour! Meet at Honey Dew Donuts on the Mashpee/ Barnstable Line (corner of Rte 28 and Cape Drive) We'll look for common wintering birds as well as some Cape's specialties such as Barrow's Goldeneye, Chat and some of the rarer gulls. Leaders: Mary Keleher 477-1473 or Maryeak@yahoo.com and Dan Furbish Barn.owl@verizon.net

Jan 24-Sat 7:30AM Cape Ann. Meet at the Sagamore comuter lot. 'Cape to Cape' excursion to Gloucester and Rockport for the North Shore's winter specialties. We'll visit Andrew's and Halibut Points and the Dog Bar for sea birds and explore some thickets for wintering species. Local reports will guide us in seeking the "hot spots." Leaders: Diane Silverstein and Michael Dettrey 398-9484 or Birder526@aol.com and Ginie Page 349-6810 or VGPage@juno.com

Feb 7-Sat 9AM Eastham, Fort Hill. See Jan 17.

Feb 7-Sat 9-Noon Yard Birds Marstons Mills. See Jan 14.

Feb 12-Thurs 9AM Sandwich. See Jan 8.

Feb 15-Sun 8AM Falmouth. Crane Wildlife Management Area to Nobska Light. Meet at Crane WMA at the end of the dirt road off Rte 151 next to Nickelodian Theater. We will check the fields for bluebirds, robins, sparrows and raptors, then make our way to several ponds, rivers and beach spots for waterfowl and seabirds. We hope to find King Eider, Barrows Goldeneye, loons and lots of great birding places! The trip may extend to Woods Hole for Long tailed Duck, if there is interest. Leaders: Dan Furbish Barn.Owl@verizon.net and Mary Keleher 477-1473 or Maryeak@yahoo.com

Feb 19-Thurs 8AM Rhode Island. Day trip to Tiverton, Sakonnet and Little Compton, RI and nearby points in Bristol County MA. We will have lunch in a restaurant in Little Compton. Meet at the Tedeschi Food Mart, just off the rotary at the Bourne Bridge, to carpool. Leader: Stauffer Miller 362-3384 or stauffer@seepub.com

Feb 27 Fri-8AM Orleans to Provincetown. Meet at Friendly's on Canal Rd. at the Orleans Rotary. Check the sea and harbors for our wintering waterfowl and fields and thickets to see what's around. A beautiful view at every stop! Leaders: Mike Dettrey and Diane Silverstein 398-9484 or birder526@aol.com

* NOTE *
* For news on CCBC meeting cancellations during bad weather, *
* listen to WQRC 99.9 FM *

Club Field Walks - (Cont'd from page 3)

◆ 11/18 – Sandwich; Leader, Dick Jurkowski; sunny, 40°F; 14 participants; 36 species reported. **Highlights:** Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Greenwinged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Common Grackle.

Summary, September through November: There were a total of 20 Club field walks, with a total participation of 221. There were 155 species observed and reported. The most frequently seen species were: American Crow and American Goldfinch (70% of walks), Great Blue Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, Herring and Great Black-backed gulls (65% of walks) and Double-crested Cormorant (60% of walks).

The number of species reported on more than 50% of walks is too great to list them all.

Ron Ayotte, Compiler

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME

Patricia Carden - Chatham
David & Frances Clapp - Brewster
Dan Furbish - Marshfield
Irene Haney - Centerville
Dick & Shirley Henshall - Mashpee
Carolyn & Dietrich Hoehn - Marstons Mills & Germany
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Wilson - Centerville
Constance & William Zahavi - Westboro

Corrections from previous newsletter:
William & Dorte Griswold – Centerville
Antonia Stephens – S. Yarmouth

Club Field Walks

NOTE: This article covers Club field walks in October and November 2003. We look forward to receiving feedback from the members as to format and content. Remember, your secretary is not a statistician. Also remember that the highlights are abbreviated summaries and that common species are omitted.

October: There were six field walks in October, covering most of the Cape. There were a total of 64 participants and a total of 90 species were observed. No species were observed on every walk, but some were seen on all but one: Red-tailed Hawk, Blue Jay, American Crow, and Carolina Wren. The largest number of species seen on one walk was 64, on October 17.

♦ 10/4 – Fort Hill, Eastham; Leader, Ginie Page, cloudy, windy; 12 participants, 23 species reported. **Highlights:** Black-crowned Night-heron, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Laughing Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Gray Catbird.

♦ 10/7 – N. Truro; Leader, Ginie Page; weather not reported; 9 participants; 1 species reported (Note: This was Ginie's "Tree Swallow Spectacular". **Highlight:** more than 1000 swallows seen flocking.

♦ 10/13 – Eastham, Orleans; Leader, none (this was a "Board Walk" in which members of the Board of Directors get together to do a little birding); partly cloudy, 40's-50's; 4 participants, 37 species reported. **Highlights:** Red-throated and Common loons, Northern Gannet, Gadwall, Black, White-winged and Surf scoters, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Tree Swallow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

♦ 10/17 – Outer Cape; Leader, Mike Dettrey; Cloudy to sunny, 50°F; 16 participants; 64 species seen. **Highlights:** Red-throated and Common loons, Northern Gannet, Brant, White-winged and Black scoters, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Merlin, Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied and Hairy woodpeckers, Cedar Waxwing, Tree Swallow, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches, Winter Wren, Pine and Palm warblers, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Swamp,

White-throated and White-crowned sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Meadowlark, Purple Finch.

♦ 10/19 – Marstons Mills; Leader, Stauffer Miller; calm, cloudy; 11 participants; 44 species reported. **Highlights:** Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian and American wigeons, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, Belted Kingfisher, Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches, Gray Catbird, Palm Warbler, Chipping, Field, Savannah, Lincoln's, Swamp, and White-crowned sparrows, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird.

♦ 10/21 – Sandwich; Leader, Dick Jurkowski; very windy, 55°F; 12 participants; 29 species reported. **Highlights:** Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian and American wigeons, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing.

November: There were six field walks in November, also covering most of the Cape (seven were scheduled, but one cancelled due to weather). There were a total of 40 participants and a total of 98 species were observed. Several species were observed on every walk: Bufflehead, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Song Sparrow and American Goldfinch. The largest number of species seen on one walk was 70, on November 7.

♦ 11/7 – Outer Cape; Leader, Stauffer Miller; Clear, 50's; 8 participants; 70 species reported. **Highlights:** Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Gannet, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Surf, White-winged and Black scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Savannah, Fox, Swamp, White-throated and White-

Ron Ayotte, Secretary CCBC

crowned sparrows, Snow and Indigo buntings.

♦ 11/8 – Falmouth; Leader, Greg Hirth; weather not reported; 2 participants; 50 species reported. **Highlights:** Common Loon, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Cooper's Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Golden- and Ruby-crowned kinglets, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Common Yellowthroat, American Tree, Savannah and White-throated sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole.

♦ 11/10 – Sandwich and Barnstable; "Board Walk"; partly cloudy, 40s-50s; 3 participants; 55 species reported. **Highlights:** Red-throated, Pacific and Common loons, Horned Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Harlequin Duck, Black, White-winged and Surf scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Blackbellied Plover, Laughing and Bonaparte's gulls, Eastern Screech, Great Horned and Sawwhet owls (heard); Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Golden- and Ruby-crowned kinglets, Swamp, White-throated and White-crowned sparrows, Snow Bunting, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle.

♦ 11/14 – Harwich and Chatham; Leaders, Diane Silverstein and Mike Dettrey; sunny, windy 38°F; 5 participants; 51 species reported. **Highlights:** Common Loon, Pied-billed and Red-necked (poss.) grebes, Northern Gannet, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Laughing and Bonaparte's gulls, Common Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco.

♦ 11/15 – Mashpee; Leader, Mary Keleher; clear, 40's 50's; 8 participants; 29 species reported. **Highlights:** Great Blue Heron, Green-winged Teal, Greater Yellowlegs, Downy Woodpecker, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Towhee, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco.

(Cont'd on page 2)

BIRDS, BEARS & BELUGAS

by Ellie Winslow



Last August, I was invited by Dr. Rebecca L. Holberton, University of Maine, Orono, to go to Churchill, Mani-

toba on Hudson Bay, to assist with a Blackpoll Warbler research project. Also joining us was Jennifer Long, a graduate student working on her doctorate. The project was "How do Blackpolls know when to fatten" in preparation for their long distance migration over the Atlantic Ocean — traveling at 8,000 to 12,000 feet in about 80 hours.

We stayed at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre located about 15 miles from town. While we were there, we met other groups studying snails, insects, geology, global warming, and polar bears. The Centre is an old missile launching test site with large buildings. Our accommodations consisted of 3-4 per room, shared bath, and great food.

Our first day out in the field, Becky gave us a shotgun lesson. All researchers have a gun available as polar bears are plentiful in the area and protection is a must. If a bear is too close, three cracker shots are fired to scare it away. If the bear approaches and seems threatening, more powerful shots are used.

This precaution was put to the test one day. After opening our nets, a scientist yelled to our location that two bears were between the Centre and us. While we were waiting to do a net run, Becky gasped, "Bear." We turned and saw a half-grown bear about 100 feet away walking among the trees. The bear started coming in our direction so Becky had us gather all gear and head to the truck while she fired three cracker shells. Having no gun, I was prepared to "shoot" with my camera! The bear took off, though, and we never saw it or its mother again. An exciting few moments!!!!

We set up mist nets in a spruce and larch tree area. As birds are caught, they are banded, and some had blood samples taken. Measurements were made on wing, beak, and tarsus, and fat accumulation on breast is noted. They are then weighed and most are released.

In this project, we took 20 birds (both Blackpolls and Yellow-rumped) back to the lab to put in cages. There, they were fed copious amounts of wax and meal worms to see if they would gain substantially.

After a morning of netting birds, we would go back to the lab and enter all info into a database. The captured birds are fed and weighed daily, and cages cleaned. They are then released after 7 days.

Our time was not all work, as we got "play" time too. We took a two and a half hour whale watching cruise out the Churchill River to the entrance of Hudson Bay and saw 75-100 Beluga whales. These mammals are all white, looking like pure satin as they surface and roll back under the water.

Other free time was spent cruising the gravel roads looking for birds or mammals. Daily we saw Short-eared Owls feeding or resting, many Whimbrels, and Willow Ptarmigans. Tundra Swan, Arctic Loons, Sandhill Cranes, shorebirds, Gray Jays, Snow and Canada Geese, robins, ducks etc. Our mammals included: Arctic & Red Fox, Arctic Hare, and Weasel.

One lucky polar bear got to be darted, netted, and flown 30 miles away by helicopter to be released rather than put in jail for the rest of the summer. Becky videotaped the whole procedure.

I had my first helicopter ride, too. We flew for 40 minutes over the tundra, saw two bears, and the beautiful coloration of the tundra vegetation, with islands of spruce groves, along with many small shallow ponds.

In conclusion, our research showed that Blackpolls do not gain substantial weight in Churchill, as they must fly to the Northeastern U.S. before they go over water. Research done in Maine indicates that they wait until then before gaining two or three times their body weight in order to do this unbelievable migration.

All in all, it was a wonderful adventure for me. 

Owl Prowl by Dan Furbish


On the afternoon of Dec. 2nd, 18 serious birders from the Cape Cod Bird Club drove through one light snow squall and then another squall with blizzard-type conditions to bird Mass Audubon's Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary in Marshfield, MA. We started at 2 PM. The temperature was about 30°F with wind gusts up to 30 mph with snow falling.

The first bird that got everyone's attention was a "Lapland Longspur" (a lifer for a few) that flew up from the Fox Hill trail near the start of the Piggery Loop and (get this) landed in a cherry tree. NICE looks through our scopes for 5 minutes.

We searched the entire Secret trail from the boardwalk but no roosting owls. One Sharp-shinned hawk flew low overhead, probably a male. Four Northern harriers, 2 adult female, 2 hatch year (HY) female. We tallied 34 species in three hours — 2PM to 5PM.

The finale was the BEST! These intrepid travelers from the Cape were rewarded for enduring 23°F temps with North wind gusts to about 40 mph for approximately one hour while standing on the Fox Hill observation platform. (You do the math for the wind chill temperature.)

Four Eastern Meadowlarks were seen. Then we saw them ... three Short-eared owls (SEOW) were hunting the fields waaaaay out on the "ridge" of DWWS past Fox Hill. Everyone in the group watched them hunt the "close ridge."

"High Fives" and smiles followed! It was extremely cold, but a fast walk back to the parking lot within the site's winter hour regulations got us warm. 

NEW WEBMASTER

Thank you, Terry Gavin, for your willingness to be our new CCBC webmaster. A big thank you to Peter Whitlock, our original webmaster, and to Jane Carter who worked with Peter on our site in the past. Check out massbird.org/ccbc often and see Terry's excellent work!

An Interesting Visitor

by Ron Ayotte

The only real reason he was there was my laziness. September was a busy month, and I hadn't found time to get the usual chores done to ready the garden for fall and winter. For example, the hummingbird feeder was still up and had "nectar" almost three weeks old in it – the last hummingbird in the garden was seen on September 11th (I'd made a note). So, I was sort of surprised to see, just at dark on October 9th, a green and white hummer on the feeder. I just glanced at it and concluded it was a late-lingering Rubythroat. I reported it at the CCBC meeting on Monday night and several members urged me to report it, since there was a study in progress on late-lingering rubythroats. So, when I saw a hummingbird on the feeder just after lunch on October 14th, I picked up my binoculars and took a look. "I'll be bleeped," I said. "That's no rubythroat, that's a *Selasphorus*!" (Thanks to Blair Nikula's photos in 2002, I was familiar with what they look like, and knew the difficulty in telling a rufous from an Allen's hummingbird.) I didn't how long it would be there, so I watched it as long as I could and, when it left, made some sketches and then looked in *Sibley*. Yep, no doubt about it: *Selasphorus*. About an hour later, there it was again at the feeder! I watched it as long as I could, and then wondered how I could record it. The next time it came, I tried digital photographs from our bathroom, but the image was very small, and even with 3X digital zoom, not very clear. The fourth time it came, I had my scope focused on the feeder, and really enjoyed the closeup. By the fifth time that afternoon, it occurred to me that I might try digiscoping, that is, holding a digital camera to the scope's

eyepiece, and – using the LED screen – snapping the picture. IT WORKED!


That night, I sent some of the photos to Blair, and he confirmed my ID (an immature male *Selasphorus*) and posted some of the pictures on his website. The problem that faced me now was twofold: getting a definitive answer to whether it was a rufous or an Allen's, and what to do about disseminating the information. Since the feeder was really only visible from my family room, it would be very difficult to accommodate a number of birders interested in seeing it. In the end, Blair and I concluded that he would report the general area, East Sandwich, but not the exact address, and that would solve the second problem. But, what about the first one?

After a week or so, during which the hummer was at the feeder daily, Blair suggested trying to get it banded and I jumped at the chance. Blair made the arrangements and early on Sunday morning, October 26th, Trevor Lloyd-Evans from Manomet (a licensed bander), Blair, Peter and Jeremiah Trimble, Vern Laux from the Vineyard, Peter Flood, Dick Jurkowski, a friend of mine from Sandwich, and I assembled to trap and band the hummer. Well, yes In the end, he proved too wily for us. The net was duly rigged and we waited. The bird came to the feeder, noticed the net, inspected it at close hand, and then avoided it. After a couple of visits, Trevor and Vern decided to "spook" it into the net. Have you ever seen a hummingbird fly straight up ten feet and take off like an F-15? We did. With that final failure we gave up for the day, folded the nets and packed it in. When I saw the bird on the feeder about 10 minutes after everyone left, I swear he had a smirk on his face as he looked

over at the door where I was and just shook his head sadly. "What amateurs!"

Trevor, Blair, Peter and I tried again on Saturday, November 1st but with no more luck. The bird evaded the net with a certain flair and an arrogance bordering on contempt. However, Peter played back on my TV several excellent digital videos he made the Sunday before, and scrutiny of fanned tail feathers made it almost certain (99 and 44/100ths percent to quote the old Ivory ad) it was a rufous, and NOT an Allen's hummingbird. We had to settle for that.

Monday, November 3rd, was a beautiful day as I worked in the garden with the rufous hummingbird visiting the feeder and flying right over my head. I looked for him on Tuesday morning and then off and on all day, but I didn't see him. I thought I'd simply missed his visits, but he wasn't there on Wednesday, Thursday and ... sadly, by Sunday I was sure he'd gone. That solved a problem I'd discussed with Trevor, Blair, Vern, and the others — what to do as winter came on. We'd agreed that, at some point, the feeder had to be withdrawn to prompt him to "move with the nectar" and head south. As it happened, I never had to make that decision: either the hummingbird - or old Ma Nature - took care of it.

When it was clear he was gone, I had sort of an empty feeling. I'd gotten used to having him around, and it was like having a good friend go away. I still rather miss my interesting visitor. He gave me, my wife, and some of my birding friends a very interesting month. Thanks, little guy! 

**Cape cod Bird Club
2002-2003 Feeder Census**

This compilation starts a new series of reports on observations made by Club members in response to the annual Feeder Census effort. The compiler thanks all those who submitted data. This year's data, despite the limited number of feeders observed this year (17), is fairly consistent with trends spotted and reported by the previous compiler, Jim Talin, who did such a great job over many years. The birds are listed in descending order of percentage of feeders visited (A), along with the 2002-03 median birds/feeder/month (B). The 5-year (C) and 24-year (D) medians are presented for comparison.

<u>Census Species</u>	A	B	C	D
Black-capped Chickadee	98%	3.41	4.18	5.02
Downy Woodpecker	89%	1.94	1.96	1.60
Northern Cardinal	86%	2.26	2.98	2.30
Tufted Titmouse	86%	1.94	2.49	1.98
Mourning Dove	79%	3.74	4.86	6.27
American Goldfinch	78%	5.24	6.88	4.81
American Crow	76%	2.65	3.31	2.44
Blue Jay	75%	2.53	3.60	3.89
Carolina Wren	69%	0.76	0.99	0.36
Dark-eyed Junco	68%	4.00	3.01	2.13
White-breasted Nuthatch	66%	0.18	0.75	0.43
House Finch	65%	2.74	4.37	4.92
Hairy Woodpecker	58%	0.74	0.84	0.17
Song Sparrow	54%	1.12	1.90	1.19
American Robin	51%	2.88	4.26	1.82
Northern Flicker	46%	0.56	0.87	0.60
Yellow-rumped Warbler	35%	0.82	1.57	0.33
Red-bellied Woodpecker	30%	0.29	0.65	0.14
European Starling	28%	2.68	11.42	5.13
House Sparrow	26%	2.15	5.21	4.32
White-throated Sparrow	21%	0.53	2.66	1.37
Red-breasted Nuthatch	19%	0.18	0.75	0.43
Pine Warbler	19%	0.15	0.60	0.13
Red-winged Blackbird	19%	0.94	3.46	1.92
Common Grackle	18%	5.35	4.19	2.74
Brown-headed Cowbird	14%	1.85	1.70	0.63
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6%	0.06	0.46	--
Northern Bobwhite	3%	0.41	2.52	1.80
Cooper's Hawk	1%	0.06	0.41	--
Cedar Waxwing	1%	0.06	2.89	0.60

Other Species Reported (Selected)

Brown Creeper	9%	0.12	0.58	0.21
Eastern Bluebird	9%	0.29	0.88	--
Chipping Sparrow	4%	0.06	0.01	--
Eastern Screech Owl	3%	0.06	0.41	--

These statistics are used to indicate trends. For example, Chickadees are seen as frequently as before, but in smaller numbers at one time. The same could be said for Mourning Doves and Starlings, while Grackles are seen in larger numbers, but not more frequently. For total numbers and a fuller breakdown, see the reverse side. Ron Ayotte, November 2003.

**CCBC Feeder Census
2002-2003**

Species	November 2002		December 2002		January 2003		February 2003		March 2003		April 2003		Calculations 2002-2003					
	Birds	Feeders	Birds	Feeders	Birds	Feeders	Birds	Feeders	Birds	Feeders	Birds	Feeders	Birds/Feeder	Per Month	% Feeders	# Reported	Median	Med/Feeder
On Form																		
Sharp-shinned Hawk			2	2	1	1	1	1			1	1	0.29	0.05	6.25	5	1	0.06
Cooper's Hawk							1	1					0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
Northern Bobwhite									7	1	7	1	0.82	0.14	2.50	14	7	0.41
Mourning Dove	28	4	60	8	92	14	90	12	64	11	63	14	23.35	3.89	78.75	397	63.5	3.74
Northern Flicker	3	2	4	3	11	8	10	7	9	7	15	10	3.06	0.51	46.25	52	9.5	0.56
Hairy Woodpecker	5	4	12	7	12	8	15	10	13	8	15	9	4.24	0.71	57.50	72	12.5	0.74
Downy Woodpecker	12	5	20	8	38	16	36	13	30	13	40	16	10.35	1.73	88.75	176	33	1.94
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	1	5	4	5	4	9	7	5	4	4	4	1.71	0.28	30.00	29	5	0.29
Blue Jay	13	3	37	8	47	14	56	12	39	10	69	13	15.35	2.56	75.00	261	43	2.53
American Crow	14	5	43	8	47	12	57	12	39	11	65	13	15.59	2.60	76.25	265	45	2.65
Black-capped Chickadee	31	5	43	9	72	16	62	16	54	15	79	17	20.06	3.34	97.50	341	58	3.41
Tufted Titmouse	22	5	28	8	48	15	37	14	29	12	39	15	11.94	1.99	86.25	203	33	1.94
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	4	11	7	14	11	13	11	12	8	20	12	4.53	0.75	66.25	77	12.5	0.74
Red-breasted Nuthatch			1	1	3	3	5	4	3	2	7	5	1.12	0.19	18.75	19	3	0.18
Carolina Wren	5	3	13	7	18	13	13	10	12	9	16	13	4.53	0.75	68.75	77	13	0.76
American Robin	2	1	17	3	50	5	71	10	48	12	51	10	14.06	2.34	51.25	239	49	2.88
Cedar Waxwing							1	1					0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
European Starling					25	4	65	6	26	6	69	6	10.88	1.81	27.50	185	45.5	2.68
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10	2	8	2	17	5	24	7	11	5	25	7	5.59	0.93	35.00	95	14	0.82
Pine Warbler					2	2	3	2	2	2	13	9	1.18	0.20	18.75	20	2.5	0.15
Northern Cardinal	18	3	30	8	40	13	46	16	37	13	56	16	13.35	2.23	86.25	227	38.5	2.26
Song Sparrow	4	2	11	5	14	8	26	9	24	9	28	10	6.29	1.05	53.75	107	19	1.12
White-throated Sparrow	2	1	11	3	5	2	10	3	8	3	12	5	2.82	0.47	21.25	48	9	0.53
Dark-eyed Junco	16	4	66	8	81	10	89	11	70	11	37	10	21.12	3.52	67.50	359	68	4.00
Red-winged Blackbird	2	1					24	1	8	3	82	10	6.82	1.14	18.75	116	16	0.94
Common Grackle	200	1					2	1	8	3	174	9	22.59	3.76	17.50	384	91	5.35
Brown-headed Cowbird									29	3	34	8	3.71	0.62	13.75	63	31.5	1.85
House Finch	30	5	27	5	54	9	55	9	39	10	56	14	15.35	2.56	65.00	261	46.5	2.74
American Goldfinch	20	4	70	8	78	11	103	10	100	13	115	16	28.59	4.76	77.50	486	89	5.24
House Sparrow	30	1	38	3	65	5	35	3	33	4	61	5	15.41	2.57	26.25	262	36.5	2.15
Other Reported																		
Brown Creeper	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2			0.53	0.09	8.75	9	2	0.12
Mallard					22	1	32	1	20	1	12	1	5.06	0.84	5.00	86	21	1.24
Eastern Screech Owl	1	1											0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
Northern Harrier									12	1			0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
Bufflehead											1	1	1.18	0.20	2.50	20	10	0.59
Northern Mockingbird					1	1	2	2			3	2	0.35	0.06	6.25	6	2	0.12
Red-tailed Hawk			1	1							1	1	0.12	0.02	2.50	2	1	0.06
Ring-necked Duck									10	1	4	1	0.82	0.14	2.50	14	7	0.41
Fish Crow											1	1	0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
Eastern Bluebird			6	1	11	2	5	1	3	1	4	2	1.71	0.28	8.75	29	5	0.29
Chipping Sparrow					1	1	2	1			1	1	0.24	0.04	3.75	4	1	0.06
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	1											0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
Veery					1	1							0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
Brown Thrasher							1	1			1	1	0.12	0.02	2.50	2	1	0.06
Rock Pigeon											2	1	0.12	0.02	1.25	2	2	0.12
Hermit Thrush									1	1			0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
Ring-billed Gull							2	1					0.12	0.02	1.25	2	2	0.12
Turkey Vulture	2	1					2	1					0.24	0.04	2.50	4	2	0.12
Monk Parakeet			4	1	2	1	2	1	2	1			0.59	0.10	5.00	10	2	0.12
Canada Goose							2	1	6	1	6	1	0.82	0.14	3.75	14	6	0.35
Herring Gull									4	1	1	1	0.29	0.05	2.50	5	2.5	0.15
Ring-necked Pheasant					1	1	1	1			1	1	0.06	0.01	1.25	1	1	0.06
Fox Sparrow			1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1			0.29	0.05	5.00	5	1	0.06
Feeders under Observation		5		9		17		17		15		17						
Total Feeders														80.00				
Average Feeders/Month														13.33				
Total Birds Reported																5057		

Cape Cod Bird Club
The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631



The Cape Cod Bird Club Inc.

Website: <http://www.massbird.org/CCBC>

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

869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631

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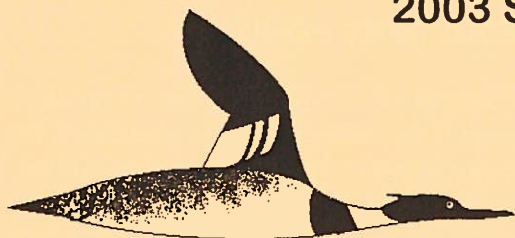
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Cape Cod Lake & Pond Waterfowl Survey

2003 SUMMARY



The 21st annual Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey was conducted on the weekend of December 6-7, 2003. For the first time in two decades, horrendous weather conditions prevailed throughout the weekend and severely impacted the survey results. A strong Northeaster struck late Friday night and lingered through Sunday, bringing snow, rain and gale force winds, and making it nearly impossible to access some areas, much less see what birds might have been present. Anticipating the storm, a fortunate few got out on Friday (12/5) to cover their ponds, while a few others waited until Monday (12/8). Additionally, although November was milder than normal, a sharp cold snap the first week in December caused many of the smaller ponds to freeze, with the result that 118 ponds (almost 40%) were iced over. In contrast to last year, water levels were quite high.

The severe weather prevented some observers from getting out at all and a number of ponds were not covered this year. Thirty-eight observers, the fewest since 1993, surveyed 298 ponds, the fewest since 1989. The total of 9,044 individuals was — surprisingly, given the limited coverage — not the lowest ever; in fact, it was only the fourth lowest total over the 20 years of the survey. Presumably, had the coverage been more complete, the overall total would have been fairly close to normal.

Given the miserable conditions and reduced coverage, it's difficult to draw any meaningful

conclusions from this year's results. As would be expected, most species were found in below average numbers, but it is difficult to determine to what degree this reflects the reduced coverage versus the actual number of birds. On the other hand, for any species that were found in above average numbers, we can be quite certain that local populations were, indeed, up this year.

RESULTS BY SPECIES

Remarkably, after 20 years, two species never before recorded on this survey were found this year: **Brant** and **Barrow's Goldeneye**, both found by Dennis Wiehe in Falmouth. Thirty-one Brant were on Great Pond, a salt pond on Nantucket Sound (and thus not too surprising). The Barrow's Goldeneye was on Salt Pond, just a stone's throw from a stretch of Nantucket Sound where several Barrow's have been wintering recently.

Pied-billed Grebes, totaling just 11 birds, established yet another record low, some 87% below average. This continues a sharp five-year decline from their peak of 204 birds in 1998. Weather conditions likely made this inconspicuous species harder to detect, but even if some were missed, the low total is still disturbing.

Gadwall, at just 26 individuals, were at their lowest level since 1986, though some of their favored ponds were among those not covered this year. This species has declined steadily on this survey since peaking in 1995.

American Black Ducks totaled a record low 653 birds, 52% below average.

Northern Pintail numbered just five individuals, tying the record low.

Only one **Canvasback** was found, a record low, though a couple of ponds that sometimes host this species were not covered this year.

Ring-necked Ducks provided one of the few bright spots, with 410 birds (73% above average) constituting the second highest total in this 20-year survey.

Common Goldeneye totaled 73 birds, a record low, though several of this species' favored ponds were not covered this year.

Common Merganser was down considerably from last year's record high (912), but 535 individuals was still the second highest ever.

Red-breasted Mergansers, at 461 birds, were 115% above normal.

American Coots were almost non-existent, for the third straight year, with a meager 7 birds some 95% below the survey average.

Scaup (both species combined = 2548 birds; 94% of these were on just one pond) were again the most numerous birds on the survey, followed by Mallard (1580 birds), and Bufflehead (1264). These four species comprised 60% of the overall total. The most widespread species were Mallard, occurring on 94 ponds (52% of the non-frozen ponds), and Bufflehead on 62 (34%) ponds.

RESULTS BY TOWN

As always, Falmouth out-distanced all other towns, this year by an even wider margin than usual, with 4068 birds or 45% of the Capewide



total. No other town recorded more than a thousand birds. The best variety was also in Falmouth, where 18 species were found, followed by Barnstable and Sandwich with 14 species each.

RESULTS BY POND

An average of 30 birds/pond was recorded, though if the frozen ponds are eliminated, the average jumps to 50 birds/open pond. Of the 180 open ponds, 44 (24%) had no birds at all. Salt Pond in Falmouth traditionally harbors a large flock of scaup and thus usually hosts the largest number of birds. However, this year the scaup had temporarily moved to Little Pond in Falmouth, which had 2501 birds (28% of the survey total), 2400 (96%) of which were scaup. Salt Pond came in a distant second with 481 birds. However, Salt Pond, along with Lover's Lake in Chatham, had the best variety with 10 species each, followed by Great Pond and Herring Pond, both in Eastham, with 9 species each.

PARTICIPATION

At least 38 people took part in this year's survey. Many thanks to each and every one, with special kudos to those who soldiered on through the miserable weekend weather!

Participants

Ron Ayotte, Matt Bailey, John Berg, Carl Bergfors, Sally Branch, Keith Brunell, Frank Caruso, Dick Comeau, Molly Cornell, Marlene Denessen, Mike Dettrey, Linda & Ken Duffy, Don Dyer, Nathan Dyer, Judy Gordon, George Gove, Seward Highley, Dick Jurkowski, Gemma Matthews, Kathy & Rives McGinley, Tom Noonan, Ginie Page, Alida Pellegrini-Toole, John Toole, John Redfern, Alison Robb, Don Scott, Diane Silverstein, Dick Stacey, Betsy Stepney, Beth Schwartzman, Jim Talin, Aurele Thomas, Lou Turner, Dennis Wiehe, and Ellie Winslow.

If you would like additional copies of this summary, send a large S.A.S.E. to the compiler:

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