

The Kingfisher

VOLUME 32 – ISSUE 4

The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

MARCH - APRIL, 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 bimonthly.

Deadline for next issue's articles: **April 9th**.

Send articles or comments to: capekingfisher@yahoo. com

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

President's Message

"Birding Cape Cod" - Exciting News! Lots of people have been asking about the status of our updated Book. Completion and availability looks more and more likely for May 2004! The book will include many new features and enhancements and will be a 'must have' addition to our libraries and/or back packs! My thanks to all those participating in this time-consuming and important project.

CCBC horizons continue to expand! I'm seeing more CCBC-sponsored field trips are being scheduled off-Cape to special places like Cape Ann, Cape May, Mt Auburn Cemetery, Plum Island, Quabbin Reservoir and Rhode Island! I like the way our membership enjoys birding on Cape as well as off-Cape to selected special locations! Let us know if you have any favorite birding destinations we may want to consider adding to our list of upcoming field trips!

2004 CCBC elections coming soon! At the May meeting we will be electing a few new Board members and we look forward to YOUR participation. If you are interested in serving, please contact Phil Kyle, our Nominating Committee Chairman (508 495-0196) or any CCBC board member.

In the meantime, cold weather or not, let's keep those bird feeders full, bundle up and GO BIRDING!!

Dick Jurkowski

CCBC PROGRAMS: March 8th & April 12th

"Selasphorus Hummingbirds in New England 2003" March 8th - 7:30 PM Soon it will be time to get the gardens going and the hummingbird feeders cleaned and ready! Get yourself pumped up for spring and join us as we welcome Sharon Stichter to our March meeting. Sharon conducts research on the migration, distribution and population changes among Rubythroated Hummingbirds based on reports from hummingbird Site Monitors around New England. Her presentation will include photos and accounts of the seven sightings this year, including the two on the Cape and the three seen in her yard in Newbury, MA. Sharon will go over the field identification marks necessary to distinguish Rufous, Allen's and Ruby-throats. Discussed will also be the possible reasons why the number of sightings has increased over the past few years and the (Cont'd on page 2) "Birds and Birding in Western Worcester County" April 12th – 7:30 PM

This area offers a stunning variety of migratory and breeding birds as well as a wide variety of other wildlife. Join us as **Mark Lynch** guides us through the fields and ponds of High Ridge in Gardner to the winter bird specialties of Royalston. His talk will include eagles at the Quabbin, rails in Brimfield, Marsh Wrens and bitterns in the Brookfields, and breeding ravens at Barre Falls Dam.

Mark Lynch is a teacher, trip leader and ecological monitor for the Massachusetts Audubon Society sanctuary at Broad Meadow Brook in Worcester. Currently, with his wife Sheila Carroll, he is working on a bird guide to the Blackstone National Corridor. He is the Book Review Editor for the "Bird Observer." Most recently, he was one of the regional editors and contributor to the new

(Cont'd on page 2)

Field Trips – March and April

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 any additions or changes.

Beginners, the winter season is the perfect time to get outdoors to enjoy the birds! No bugs, no worry about too much sun or too much traffic. The birds are right there in front of you – on the water or in the trees and not hidden by those frustrating leaves. The Cape is never so beautiful as it is on a sparkling winter day. Join us and learn!

Mar 5 – Friday 4:30PM Cumma-

quid. Looking for Woodcocks at Mass Audubon's Long Pasture sanctuary. Meet in the parking lot on Bone Hill Road at 4:30 PM. We'll walk the trails looking for Bluebirds etc. before viewing the mating display of the American Woodcock. Then we may go for pizza afterwards! To reach Long Pasture, take Rt. 6A to Bone Hill Rd. (Look for the Harbor Point Restaurant sign.) Follow Bone Hill a short distance to the parking lot. Leaders: Diane Silverstein and Mike Dettrey 398-9484 or Birder526@aol.com

Mar 13 – Saturday 9-Noon Marstons Mills. Yard Birds! See what comes to the bird- friendly yard of Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski at 68 Liberty Lane (off Flint St). Beginning birders, here's an opportunity to get a great start in a relaxed setting. 428-8494.

Mar 16 – Tuesday 8:30AM Dennis. Meet at Corporation Beach to scope

Sharon Stichter (Cont'd from page 1) differing opinions about how we humans should respond to their presence.

Sharon Stichter maintains a large hummingbird and butterfly garden providing bed and breakfast to many hummers. She is also Editor of the journal "Massachusetts Butterflies" and is Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The website, www.nehummers.com is maintained by Sharon and anyone can sign up to be a Site Monitor to participate in her study. Ginie Page, Coordinator

for water birds. We will look at several ponds and the ocean as well. There should be good numbers of late wintering and early spring birds. Leader: Mark Tuttle 362-3015

Mar 17 - Wednesday 4:30PM

Cummaquid. Looking for Woodcocks at Mass Audubon's Long Pasture sanctuary. (See March 5th) Meet in the parking lot on Bone Hill Road at 4:30 PM. Leaders: Diane Silverstein and Mike Dettrey 398-9484 or Birder526 @aol. com

Mar 19 – Friday 8AM Falmouth. Meet at the Locust St. parking area at the Bicycle Path. We will go to our favorite sites. Please register if you can. Leader: Alison Robb 540-2408 or nature@cape.com

Mar 20 – Saturday 8AM Woods Hole and Falmouth. Meet at the Dunkin Donuts/ Mobil at Palmer Ave. in Falmouth Center. Explore the nooks and crannies of Woods Hole and some of the best birdy places of Falmouth! Leader: Greg Hirth 508-457-4356

Mar 22 – Monday 5PM South Wellfleet. Meet at the NPS Marconi Wireless Site off Rte 6 beyond the headquarters building. Our quest is Woodcocks on display after a glorious sunset. We will scope the sea before evening. Bring a flashlight. Leader: Ginie Page 349-6810 or vgpage@juno.com

Mar 25 – Thursday 6PM Cummaquid. Looking for Woodcocks at Mass Audubon's Long Pasture sanctuary.

Mark Lynch (Cont'd from page 1) "Bird Finding Guide to Western Massachusetts." He was one of the founding members of the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. Mark has taught at the Worcester Art Museum since the mid-1970s and is interested in using art museums as resources in Natural History. Mark hosts a weekly interview show on the arts and sciences on WICN.

Try 'On Your Own Birding' in March and April

Hawk Watch: You'll find Don Manchester at the Hawkwatch at Pilgrim Heights in North Truro. Stop by and check out the flight of returning raptors any decent day until early summer.

Find your own **Woodcock** spot! Try an area with tall shrubs and some damp soil at dusk. The **Beech Forest loop** is always a nice walk and usually very birdy. Always check the sea and seaside brushy areas after a good storm! Something interesting may have been blown in.

(see March 5th for directions). Meet in the parking lot on Bone Hill Road at 6PM. Leader: Ned Handy 508-362-3444.

April 8 – Thurs 8AM Bourne, Shore Rd. Meet at Dunkin Donuts inside Gray Gable Food Mart, shore Rd Bourne. We'll visit a few nearby sites, with a fair amount of walking. Trip should last about 3 hours. Leader: Stauffer Miller 362-3384 or Stauffer@seepub.com

April 16 – Friday 8AM Falmouth. Meet at the Locust St. parking area at the Bicycle Path. We will go to our favorite sites. Please register if you can. Leader: Alison Robb 540-2408 or nature @cape.com

April 18 – Sunday 7AM Sandwich 6A Hot Spots! Meet at Horizons Restaurant (take 6A to Tupper Road, then right to Town Neck Road). We'll look for early migrants at Shawme Crowell State Forest, the Fish Hatchery and Game Farm, "Stauffer's Puddle," Sandy Neck and we'll end up on Navigation Rd just over the line in Barnstable. Bring a bit of lunch if the weather is nice and we'll picnic in a beautiful spot. Leaders: Mary Keleher 477-1473 or Maryeak @yahoo.com and Dan Furbish Barn.Owl @verizon.net.

Apr 30 – Friday 7AM Beech Forest, Provincetown. It's Arbor Day so let's check out the magnificent beeches and see what migrants have appeared in this "Best of the Cape" migrant trap! We'll look for the first warblers of spring! Meet us at 7:00 AM in the parking lot for a great birding experience. Leaders: Michael Dettrey and Diane Silverstein 398-9484 or Birder526@aol.com

Club Field Walks

NOTE: This article covers Club field walks in December 2003 and January 2004. We look forward to receiving feedback from the members as to format and content. Remember, that the highlights are abbreviated summaries and that common species are omitted due to space limitations. Very unusual species are underlined.

December 2003: There were five field walks scheduled in December covering much of the Cape. Reports were received on four of them, with a total of 36 participants and 75 species observed. Several species were observed on every reported walk: American Black Duck, Mallard, Downy Woodpecker, and American Crow. The largest number of species reported on any walk was 36 on December 8.

- 12/2 Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield; Leaders: Ginie Page, Dan Furbish; Weather not reported; 18 participants, 43 species reported.
 Highlights: Northern Harrier, Sharpshinned and Red-tailed hawks, <u>Lapland</u> <u>Longspur</u>, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark.
- 12/8 Outer Cape; "Board Walk"; Weather partly cloudy, 36F, windy;
 4 participants: 46 species reported.
 Highlights: Pacific Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded, Common and Redbreasted mergansers, Ruddy Duck, Bonaparte's Gull, Black-bellied Plover, Dovekie, Razorbill, Black Guillemot.
- 12/12 Marstons Mills to Falmouth; Leaders: Mike Dettrey, Diane Silverstein. No report.
- 12/13 Orleans, Nauset Beach; Leader: Mark Tuttle; Clear, 30F, 9 participants; 17 species reported. Highlights: Horned Grebe, Little Blue Heron, <u>Snow Goose</u>, Lesser Scaup, Surf, White-winged and Black scoters, Common Goldeneye, Red-tailed Hawk, Dovekie, Belted Kingfisher.
- 12/16 Sandwich; Leaders: Ellie
 Winslow, Stauffer Miller; Weather: sunny, 43F; 5 participants; 45 species
 reported. Highlights: Green-winged
 Teal, Ring-necked Dúck, Common

Golden- eye, Hooded Merganser, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Towhee.

January 2004: There were seven field walks scheduled for January 2004, although only six took place; one was rescheduled to February, due to inclement weather. The focus of the walks was the Upper Cape and off-Cape. There were 28 participants in the walks, and 74 species were observed. No species was seen on all walks, but the most frequently observed were Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Song Sparrow and American Goldfinch, seen on 73% of the walks. The largest number of species reported on any walk was 46, on January 12.

- 1/8 Sandy Neck and Sandwich; Leader: Ellie Winslow; Weather, very cold, windy; 5 participants; 12 species reported. Highlights: Pied-billed Grebe, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, <u>Black Guillemot</u>.
- 1/9 Falmouth and Woods Hole; Leader: Greg Hirth; Weather, very cold, windy; 6 participants; 43 species reported. Highlights: Brant, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common and <u>Barrow's</u> goldeneyes, Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Razorbill, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing.
- 1/12 Sandwich and Barnstable; "Board Walk"; Weather, very cold; 3 participants; 46 species reported. Highlights: Red-throated and Common loons, Horned and Red-necked grebes, Great Blue Heron, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, <u>King Eider</u>, Surf, White-winged and Black scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Redtailed Hawk, <u>Sandhill Crane</u>, Sanderling, Belted Kingfisher, Winter Wren, Cedar Waxwing.
- 1/14 Marstons Mills; Leaders: Dick and Sylvia Jurkowski; Weather, 0-5F, sunny; 6 participants; 19 species observed. Highlights: Red-bellied, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches,

Ron Ayotte, Secretary CCBC

Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush.

- I/17 Fort Hill; Leader: Dick Koeppen; Weather, very cold; 2 participants; 17 species observed. High-lights: Northern Harrier, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren.
- I/18 Barnstable; Leaders: Mary Keleher, Dan Furbish; Weather, 34F, snow and rain; 6 participants; 45 species observed. Highlights: Common Loon, Great Cormorant, Brant, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Common and <u>Barrow's</u> goldeneyes, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Bonaparte's Gull, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Goldencrowned Kinglet.
- I/30 Rhode Island; Leader: Frank Caruso. Report not available at press time. This important field walk will be covered in the next newsletter.

Summary, September 2003 thru January 2004: There were 25 walks reported, with a total participation of 257. There were 171 species observed and reported. The most frequently seen species were: American Crow (92% of walks), American Goldfinch (88%), Herring Gull (84%) and Blue Jay, American Robin and Song Sparrow (80%). Others frequently seen include: Ring-billed Gull and Carolina Wren (76%), Red-tailed Hawk (64%) and Great Blue Heron (60%).

Ron Ayotte, Compiler

The CCBC Board of Directors decided to place our subscription copies of the **"Bird Observer"** in the Library of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History so <u>all</u> members will have access to this great magazine. The "Bird Observer" is <u>loaded</u> with detailed Massachusetts bird sightings and articles of interest.

Minutes of CCBC Board meetings are also available at every monthly meeting. Take time to review and see what your Club is doing!

by Karen Goggins

Up Close and Personal in the Galapagos

Having just returned from the Galapagos Islands, I was at first content to review photos, watch the DVD provided by the expedition's video chronicler, and regale a few family and friends with stories of things we'd seen and done. However, I recalled Expedition Leader Cindy Manning's moving plea to spread the word of the wonder of the Galapagos and encourage others to travel there. Of course, her motivation could have been strictly financial, since she works for a company (Lindblad Expeditions) that makes its money by bringing visitors to this part of the world. In the week that my husband, Bill, and I spent with Cindy and the other naturalists there, however, we sensed their real love for the place and a commitment to protect it. And constant vigilance is needed to save the Galapagos.

One patrol boat is given the task to cover all the waters in the Galapagos National Park to prevent destructive fishing practices. Once, when money was not available for emergency engine repairs and the patrol boat was out of commission, word spread quickly and several illegal fishing boats moved into restricted waters. With Lindblad Expedition's help, \$4000 was raised to get the patrol boat back on the water. Another challenge is the need to eradicate the hundreds of thousands of goats introduced onto the islands. These animals have simply wiped out habitat of native species. It's a massive job. Ecuador is not a wealthy country and should be commended for its efforts in creating the Galapagos National Park and trying to preserve some of its treasures. Tourist dollars are an important element of this undertaking. Writing this article and hoping to inspire someone to make this trip is my way of showing support for the effort to preserve this special place.

We set off on the M/S Polaris November 1st for a week of exploration through the archipelago that gave rise to Darwin's theory of evolution. There were 72 guests (half were members of National Wildlife Federation) and a crew of 50. As we made our way toward our first stop, Espanola Island, we were escorted by countless numbers of Audubon Shearwaters and Whiterumped Storm Petrels. I wasn't prepared for my first sighting of a Redbilled Tropic Bird with its long streamer of a tail. At one point we were able to look down on the bird and observe its marvelously patterned black and white plumage.

With 14 people to a "panga" (Zodiac) we disembarked and arrived shortly at Espanola Island where we were greeted by a welcome committee of Galapagos Sea Lions. Loud male adults patrol their territories; females take care of their offspring and small pups play both in the water and on land. Of course, the wildlife on the Islands is known for its lack of fear of humans and, while we can't touch them, they can touch us and do! If you sit very still on the lava rock, the baby sea lions will come up and nibble on your toes and do a general investigation of your person.

There were several other memorable scenes from this hike. We saw Bluefooted Boobies for the first time. Wow, those feet are all different shades of blue! A pair of Waved Albatrosses performed their courtship dance before an appreciative audience. They point their long bills to the sky and then strike them together several times as though preparing for a duel. A young albatross looked on from its nest. During our hike, a juvenile Mockingbird decided to join our group and hopped along the trail with us occasionally investigating our footwear.

One activity on our trip that provided really close encounters with wildlife was snorkeling. (Several folks who didn't want to snorkel opted for the glass bottom boat. A naturalist was always available to accompany them. Also, less strenuous hikes were always offered to accommodate those who preferred them.) Snorkeling off of Floreana Island, we were discovered by some playful sea lions. They enjoyed swimming toward us at high speed and then veering off at the last moment, but not before blowing bubbles in our faces. At one point six of us were joined by a sea lion who playfully showed off his various moves and invited us to join him. We were all diving and twisting trying in vain to copy this superior swimmer. He loved it. When it was time to swim to the

panga, he followed us and starting nipping at the boat as if to say, "Hey, don't leave yet. I still want to play!"

On another snorkeling trip, Bill and I swam out of a dark cave following a large Green Sea Turtle into the sunlight. It was truly magical as the sun's rays illuminated the turtle in its slow motion swim out to sea. Soon after, as I lay motionless in the water, a Nazca (Masked) Booby dove in about two feet from me. These birds are as sleek as a missile and almost as fast. They dive straight down and sometimes go as deep as three feet to fish. I wish I could have viewed one underwater. Other guests were lucky enough to swim underwater with Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, and Marine Iguanas. I can't overstate the thrill we all felt in getting so close to all these creatures.

There were young birds in downy plumage on nests on several of the islands. The young Magnificent Frigate Birds have to be particularly patient. These birds are huge but must remain on the nest for two years before they're ready to fly. They're so striking as they sport orange plumage on their heads, later turning to white and then black. There was a large contingent of juvenile Red-footed Boobies whose most notable feature for us wasn't their red feet but the rainbow of colors surrounding the eyes and bill. Of course, the wide-eyed innocence of all the young birds was captivating.

Twice we viewed birds that, while not endemic to the islands, were found in very interesting settings. First, our friend the Yellow Warbler has found a niche in the Galapagos and seems to love the beach and the lava rocks. One didn't have to search the bushes here. It was so odd to observe these birds working the little pools in the lava rocks for insects or hopping along a sandy beach. Humans didn't seem to distract them from their task. I had hoped to see a Vermillion Flycatcher on our hike up into the highlands but was unsuccessful. On our way down, we stopped at a Giant Tortoise farm. Here several Giant Tortoises roamed freely in the grassy meadows. Imagine our delight when we spotted a tortoise

An Experience in Reverse

The January cold snap (three days of zero temperatures) brought many birds to our feeder. One of those birds was a Western Tanager that I reported to Blair Nikula. He asked if it was okay to put it on the website and I said "yes." After many years of looking at rare birds in other people's yards, we now had groups of birders every day looking at OUR yard.

At our house, we have to go out the back door near the feeders to get to the cellar or to our cars. So first we had to check the feeder to see if 'THE BIRD" was there or check the side window to see if there was a group looking. If the answer was "yes" to either question, we would use the seldom-used front door to get out to the car. The cellar we tried to used as infrequently as was possible but it is where our trash goes, and also our washer and dryer are in the cellar. Now we had an idea what one goes through when you have a rare bird in your yard.

Actually, it was fun to share the bird and to get to talk with birders who had come from considerable distance. One well-known birder came over from

Ninth Annual Cape Cod **Natural History Conference** Saturday, March 20, 2004

A full day conference at the Cape Cod Community College featuring presenters from environmental organizations across Cape Cod speaking on a variety of natural history topics.

Registration & Refreshments at 8:30AM followed by a full day (until 4:30PM) of fascinating and informative topics ----Amphibians, Phragmite Control, Effects of Traffic on Cape Wildlife, Spiders, Shellfish Survival, Nantucket Tern and Waterfowl Surveys as well as a Shawn Carey video (always a treat!) Call 508-349-2615 for info. Cost is \$15. Bring a bag lunch. Registration deadline is March 10, 2004.

by Roger Everett

Martha's Vineyard to see our bird and the Sandhill Cranes that were in W. Barnstable Corinne and I got our chance to reverse the experience when we went to see the Sandhill Cranes ourselves.

During those three days, we had 27 species at our feeders and some were 'year birds' for the birders who were visiting us. We also had a Red-tailed Hawk in the woods behind the house and our Carolina Wren was singing but never came in. The Mallards came in small groups to eat the corn. This was new for us.

The birds we had (in alphabetical order by last name) were: Cardinal, Chickadee, Common Crow, Mourning Dove, House Finch, Flicker, Goldfinch, Blue Jay, Junco, Mallard, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Whitebreasted Nuthatch, Common Redpoll, Robin, Fox Sparrow, House Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Starling, Western Tanager, Hermit Thrush, Tufted Titmouse, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. 3

Mass Audubon 12th Birders Meeting March 6 & 7, 2004

Peabody Marriott, Peabody, MA

Keynote Speaker: Chandler Robbins, PhD. Creater of the National Breeding Bird Survey and author of Golden Guide Birds of North America. Wayne Petersen & Paul Baicich speaking on 'Birding With a Purpose in the 21st Century' will be joining many top speakers on important topics for Saturday's all-day session.

Sunday Field Trips to Cape Ann or Plum Island. \$25/day for Mass Audubon ECOC members, \$30 for non-members. (More if registering on day of the event.) Call (781) 259-2151 or email lcocca@ massaudubon.org for more info. **Register Early!** Space is limited.

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	Wintering Sparrows by Matt Bailey It is cold this morning, But, still.
	by Matt Bailey
•	§ It is cold this morning,
	¥ But, still.
	The white caps have melted
	Back into lolling swells
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	The bluestem silver.
	On the Harbor. The dun meadow is full And sunlight is frosting The bluestem silver. Song sparrows drift
	Across the road in front of me. They will live all winter On seeds too small
	They will live all winter
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	It is cold this morning, But, still. The white caps have melted Back into lolling swells On the Harbor. The dun meadow is full And sunlight is frosting The bluestem silver. Song sparrows drift Across the road in front of me. They will live all winter On seeds too small For me to even see.
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Galapagos Islands (Cont'd from page 4)

with a bright red bird perched atop its shell. A Vermillion Flycatcher had found a perfect spot from which to spy its prey and we captured some of our favorite photos of the trip.

We really didn't spend a lot of time on the ship but certainly enjoyed it when we did, whether it was a lazy swing in the hammock, spotting whales and sea turtles from the fantail or watching dolphins ride the bow wave. Before or after dinner, there would always be a natural history lecture or a video focusing on some aspect of the Galapagos. There was a real emphasis on education and that certainly added to the richness of the experience.

There are so many discoveries to be made in the Galapagos but I don't want to give them all away. You'll just have to go and see for yourself.

If you are interested, email me at bgoggins@LL.mit.edu and I'd be happy to share information with you. Hope to hear from you! 1

Cape cod Bird Club 2002-2003 Feeder Census Compared to Cornell Data

This "take" on the Club's 2002-03 Feeder Census data compares some of our observations with the top 15 species, by percentage of feeders visited, reported by Project Feeder Watch of the Cornell Lab for Ornithology. The Lab's data come from across the nation. This comparison gives us a chance to see how observations here on the Cape compare to what is being seen nation-wide. The CCBC birds are listed in descending order of percentage of feeders visited (A), along with the 2002-03 median birds/feeder/month (B). The Cornell percentage of feeders visited is in column (C) and their "median group size" (D) is essentially the same as our column B. The symbol – in Cornell data means the species is not in the top 15.

Census Species	Α	В	С	D
Black-capped Chickadee	98%	3.41	88%	5.40
Downy Woodpecker	89%	1.94	83%	1.60
Northern Cardinal	86%	2.26	73%	3.20
Tufted Titmouse	86%	1.94	55%	2.20
Mourning Dove	79%	3.74	83%	5.00
American Goldfinch	78%	5.24	80%	5.50
American Crow	76%	2.65	57%	2.50
Blue Jay	75%	2.53	79%	2.80
Carolina Wren	69%	0.76		
Dark-eyed Junco	68%	4.00	90%	5.40
White-breasted Nuthatch	66%	0.18	66%	1.50
House Finch	65%	2.74	77%	4.90
Hairy Woodpecker	58%	0.74		
Song Sparrow	54%	1.12		- 10 - 17 -
American Robin	51%	2.88	62%	2.50
Northern Flicker	46%	0.56		- <u></u>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	35%	0.82		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	30%	0.29	53%	1.20
European Starling	28%	2.68	66%	4.90
House Sparrow	26%	2.15	63%	8.10

From this we can draw a couple of conclusions, despite the fact that our sample in 2002-03 was quite small (17 reporters). Our most-frequently seen birds correspond pretty closely to the most-frequently reported species in Cornell's program. I think it's very interesting that our top 20 and the national top 15 contain essentially the same birds. Indeed, the 5 species that are not in the national top 15 are, in a sense, "regional" birds: Carolina Wren, Hairy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Northern Flicker and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Another interesting facet is the fact that the "median group size" does not widely diverge, though – again – the small CCBC sample probably skews the data. As a matter of fact, the Cornell "group size" corresponds more closely to the 24-year median (Column D) reported in the last newsletter. Finally, it might be fun for the readers to look at this data and make their own comparisons, and then send them to the Editor of *The Kingfisher*. Surely there are some statisticians out there who could do a more sophisticated analysis that the poor efforts of this amateur. Ron Ayotte, January 2004.

2003 Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey

Results by Town

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Canada Goose	0	116	145	0	197	21	43	6	0	38	11	38	0	0	0	615	6.8	4	
Brant	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0.3		
Mute Swan	2	20	9	3	7	45	7	0	4	13	10	4	0	0	0	124	1.4	27	2
Wood Duck	0	0	- 1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0.1	3	3
Gadwall	0	0	6	0	16	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0.3	7	1
American Wigeon	12	3	3	0	8	0	0	0	· 0	3	2	55	0	0	0	86	1.0	ε	34
Black Duck	12	92	4	71	36	13	56	5	6	26	146	186	0	0	0	653	7.2	55	5
Mallard	6	290	179	19	433	85	67	59	57	69	103	192	o	21	0	1580	17.5	82	
Northern Shoveler	0	4	o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	o	0	0	4	0.0	1	
Northern Pintail	0	0	o	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.1	2	
Green-winged Teal	0	2	22	o	o	o	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	32	0.4	4	
Canvasback	0	1	o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	4	
Ring-necked Duck	0	44	116	0	116	0	0	0	2	41	11	36	0	44	0		4.5	19	
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	o	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0.2	5	
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	o	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	4	
scaup species	0	2527	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2533	28.0	13	
Bufflehead	4	325	87	280	57	298	66	22	20	10	42	52	0	1	0	1264	14.0	64	
Common Goldeneye	0	14	1	0	0	0	0	3	53	0	0	2	0	o	o	73	0.8	20	1
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	1	o	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	1	
Hooded Merganser	0	197	11	6	82	13	0	6	19	18	50	144	0	0	0	546	6.0	46	
	0		203	0	0	0	0	12	290	0	0		16	0	0	535	5.9	40 17	
Common Merganser Red-breasted Merganser	0	12	203	ő	0	2	32		290	0	5	2 0	0	0	0	- 535 - 461	5.9	20	
		418	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	26			
Ruddy Duck	0	0	- 1	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	4	26	0	0	0	26 7	0.3	3	
American Coot	0	3	0					0		'		- 0					0.1	5	
TOTAL NUMBER	36	4100	788	379	977	480	273	116	463	231	381	737	16	67	0	9044			
% of Total	0	45	9	4	11	5	3	1	5	3	4	8	0	1	0				
Number of Species	5	18	14	5	14	8	8	8	13	11	10	11	1	4	0	23			
Number of Ponds Censused	11	36	18	10	44	20	20	21	27	30	29	11	19	2	0	298	۵		
Birds per Pond	3	114	44	38	22	24	14	6	17	8	13	67	1	34	NA	30			
Number of Observers	2	11	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	4	1	1	1	0	38			

Forestdale MA 02644 17 Freedom Rd Frank Caruso and Barbara Steller





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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