



# The Kingfisher

VOLUME 34 – ISSUE 4

The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

MARCH - APRIL, 2006

*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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Special Centerfold  
**BIRDING CAPE COD WEEKEND** May 20-21, 2006

The Kingfisher is published bi-monthly Sept – May

Deadline for next issue's articles: **April 6th**  
Send articles or comments to: [capekingfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:capekingfisher@yahoo.com)

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

**Terry Gavin,**  
Webmaster

### President's Message

The Cape Cod Bird Club has a membership of over 400 people and each monthly meeting is attended by upwards of 140 people. These are impressive numbers! The Club owes its success to those of you who attend the monthly meetings, serve as officers and board members, and volunteer for the various activities and programs we host.

In this column, I wanted to acknowledge some of the people who contribute to the Club above and beyond reasonable expectations!

**Mary Keleher** joined the CCBC Board last year as Programs Director and has lined up the highest caliber of speakers for us since that time. However, she has also left her mark elsewhere. Our member's night program this past December was great fun and very successful in raising money for our scholarship fund. Now a 'seed' she recently planted in the form of a Birding Weekend

has started to blossom! **May 20 and 21**, the Club will host the first annual **BIRDING CAPE COD WEEKEND** based upon the newly revised book, Birding Cape Cod. Mary has coordinated two jam-packed days of bird watching walks, tapping into the local birding talent to lead these walks all over the Cape. From selecting locations to finding leaders for the walks, she has been a one-woman force! Thank you, Mary, for all you do!

Then there is **Terry Gavin**, a member who has volunteered considerable time to create and maintain our terrific website [www.massbird.org/ccbc](http://www.massbird.org/ccbc). Terry continually offers suggestions and technical expertise to make the club's website better every month. Thank you, Terry!

Three members have recently stepped forward to fill vacancies on the Board. **Gretchen Putonen** is our new Refreshments Director, **Stephanie Ellis** is our new Education and Outreach Director, and **Cynthia Franklin** is our new Merchandise Sales Director.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## CCBC PROGRAMS – March and April

### March 13, 2006 - Sue Finnegan "Five Years of Bird Banding on Cape Cod"

Sue Finnegan has long had an interest in banding birds and studied with Peter Pyle in Point Reyes, CA and at the Powdermill Nature Reserve in PA. Sue banded birds for six years before obtaining her own Master Permit.

In 2000 she opened the Wing Island Bird Banding Station at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster, MA. In 2001, she was nationally certified by The North American Banding Council.

Currently a Vice President of the Eastern Blue Banding Association, Sue is also a member of the Association of Field Ornithologists.

In the summer of 2004, Sue was trained in hummingbird banding to become part of the Hummingbird Banding Network.

*(Cont'd on page 3)*

### April 10, 2006 - Joey Mason "Keeping Company with Kestrels"

Come hear Joey Mason as she increases our knowledge about Kestrels! We'll learn that she has monitored and banded American Kestrels in Southeastern Mass on cranberry grower properties for 17 years.

Joey will tell her experiences about monitoring the boxes, other inhabitants of these boxes, and what she's learned through the years about the small "sparrow" hawk. Joey will be bringing both a male and a female American Kestrel for us to see up close.

Joey Mason has been involved in several different projects including banding hawks during the fall migration for the Cape May Raptor Banding Project, a member of the survey and monitoring team for two summers on the Colorado Division of Wildlife's

*(Cont'd on page 5)*

## Field Walks – March and April

Dan Furbish, Coordinator

*All are welcome to join our field trips which are free. New birders are always welcome! A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated. In case of inclement weather, check with leader! See [www.massbird.org/CCBC](http://www.massbird.org/CCBC) for additional trips or changes!*

### MARCH

**March 11 - Saturday 2 PM to 7 PM**  
Eastham Area Owl Prowl — We'll start at 2PM at the lower Fort Hill parking lot. Due to limited areas to park at some of the stops, we'll carpool from there. We'll bird First Encounter beach & dunes, area ponds and thickets, and then owl areas in Eastham and Orleans. Dress warm. Trip ends at 7 PM. Rain or extreme snow CANCELS the trip. Families are welcome. Please wear quiet and warm clothing. **Leader: Dan Furbish,** [Barn.Owl@verizon.net](mailto:Barn.Owl@verizon.net)

#### *President's Message (Cont'd from page 1)*

All three are taking time from busy lives to fill these roles and, for this, I am grateful! They join a super group of people to help round out your Board. Thank you!

Many members come forth regularly to bake for our meetings, to help our monthly programs run smoothly (Julie O'Neil, a club member and museum staff person plays a huge role here), to lead walks, and to help out with assorted projects such as the annual Waterfowl Census and monitoring bird boxes at Crowes Pasture and Bank Street Bogs. These efforts are **greatly** appreciated.

This is YOUR club and your ideas and energy are not only welcomed but are vital to the continued success of the Club. Thanks to each and every one of you for your contributions.

*Diane Silverstein*

#### **March 18 - Saturday 8 AM**

Peterson's Farm in Falmouth (early migrant songbirds) and Woods Hole/Falmouth shores and ponds. Meet at the parking lot for the Shining Sea Bike Path on Locust Street in Falmouth (on the North side of Locust street near intersection with Mill Road). Rain or heavy snow CANCELS. **Leader: Greg Hirth** 508-457-4356 or [ghirth@whoi.edu](mailto:ghirth@whoi.edu)

#### **March 19- Sunday 4:30PM**

Long Pasture, Cummaquid - for Displaying Woodcocks - Meet at 4:30PM at the parking lot near the kiosk on Bone Hill Rd, off Rte 6A. We'll walk the woodland trails until dusk and then will walk to the fields to watch for displaying American Woodcock. This is a reliable site so we should be successful! **Leader: Diane Silverstein.** 508-398-9484 or email [birder526@aol.com](mailto:birder526@aol.com). Rain cancels!

#### **March 23 - Thursday 8:00AM**

Bournedale - Carter Beal Conservation Area. Explore this new and evolving area. We'll look for early migrants and lingering winter birds. Great trail and yet another Mill Pond! We may take a peek at the Cape Cod Canal & Scusset Beach if time permits. Meet in the parking lot by the Herring Run. (Go over the Sagamore Bridge, circle around the rotary, follow signs for Rt 6 West and take the Bourne Scenic Highway along the Cape Cod Canal. Turn right at the traffic light at the bottom of the hill. Take the next left, then bear left again on Bournedale Rd. Look for the parking lot on the right.) **Leader: Dick Jurkowski** 508 - 428 - 8494

#### **March 26 - Sunday 8:30AM**

Mid-Cape - Meet at Corporation Beach in Dennis to scope for water birds. We'll look at several ponds and the ocean as well. There should be a good number of later wintering and early spring birds. **Leader: Mark Tuttle** 508-362-3015

### APRIL

#### **April 1 - Saturday 8:00 AM**

Harwich - Hawk Nest State Park Conservation Area. This state conservation area includes woodlands and several ponds. Some areas are undeveloped and can be difficult to traverse but it provides fantastic birding opportunities. We'll look for woodland species as we hike through the forested areas to the ponds where we should see several species of ducks. Meet in the small parking area on Spruce Road, Harwich, 4 miles west of Rte. 137. **Leaders: Al Curtis** 508-432-8677 and **Mary Keleher** 508-477-1473.

#### **April 4 - Tuesday 8AM - Wellfleet**

Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier. We will check likely spots for early migrants on the lower Cape. **Leader: Ginie Page** 508-349-6810

#### **April 15 - Saturday - 8AM**

Harwich and Chatham for early spring arrivals and lingering winter species. Meet 8AM at Hardings Beach parking lot in Harwich off Rt 28. We'll carpool from here to other Harwich and Chatham hotspots. **Leader: Diane Silverstein** 508-398-9484 or [birder526@aol.com](mailto:birder526@aol.com) Rain cancels!

#### **April 25 - Tuesday 8:00AM**

Carter Beal Conservation Area in Bournedale. **Same as for March 23**

#### **April 30 - Sunday 7:30AM to Noon**

East Sandwich Game Farm and the Nye property. We'll meet 7:30AM at Christy's Market on 6A (across from Ploughed Neck Road). The trip will go 'til noon unless a Hotline bird takes us to parts unknown. ;) We'll look for migrant warblers and other passerines in the many habitats of these peaceful areas. **Leader: Dan Furbish** [Barn.Owl@verizon.net](mailto:Barn.Owl@verizon.net)

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Peter Berrien and family, Dennis  
Marie Bottari, West Dennis  
Stephanie Ellis, South Wellfleet

Donald & Janis Rennie, W. Yarmouth  
James Reynolds, Osterville  
Ron Scaring, North Falmouth

## Club Field Activity Statistics

Ron Ayotte, Compiler

*NOTE: This article covers Club field activities from November 2005 (one late entry) through January 2006. As usual, due to space limitations only selected birds are noted for each event; common species are omitted. Full statistical summaries for reported activities are available for inspection at each Club meeting. Unusual species are underlined, rarities double-underlined.*

**November 2005:** One field activity was not available at the last newsletter deadline, and so was not included in the previous summary.

**11/15: Wellfleet, Truro, Provincetown;** Leader Ginie Page; weather cloudy; 7 observers; 43 spp. Red-throated and Common loons, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Scaup sp., Surf, White-winged and Black scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Pomarine Jaeger, Common and Forster's terns, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Townsend's Solitaire, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

**December 2005:** Only one field trip was reported in December.

**12/11: Eastham, Wellfleet;** Leader Ellie Winslow; Sunny; 4 observers; 46 spp. Red-throated and Common loons, Pied-billed and Horned grebes, Northern Gannet, Great Blue Heron, Snow Goose, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's and Red-tailed hawks, Greater Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Franklin's and Bonaparte's gulls, Razorbill, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Song and Swamp sparrows.

**January 2006:** There were three field trips reported in January, two on the Cape and one joint activity off-Cape with the Brookline Bird Club. There were a total of 36 observers, for an average of 12 observers per event. A total of 92 species were reported. The greatest number of species observed at one event was 74, on the joint CCBC-BBC trip on January 7, 2006.

**1/1: Dennis to Eastham;** Leader Ed Banks; Cloudy; 14 observers; 53 spp. Pied-billed and Horned grebes, Great Blue Heron, Brant, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common and Barrow's goldeneyes, Hooded, Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Bonaparte's Gull, Downy Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow.

**1/7: Marstons Mills & Sandwich;** Leaders Dick and Sylvia Jurkowski; weather not reported; 11 observers; 27 spp. Gadwall, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Northern Bobwhite, Red-bellied, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Chipping and Song sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco.

**1/7 (Joint event with Brookline Bird Club):** Westport MA area; Leader Bob Stymeist (BBC); weather not reported; 11 observers; 74 spp. Red-throated and Common loons, Horned Grebe, Great Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Harlequin Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded, Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Purple Sandpiper, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Carolina, Winter and Marsh wrens, Golden-

crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Towhee, American Tree, Fox, Song, Swamp and White-throated sparrows (plus an unidentified spizella sparrow, possibly Clay-colored not included in total), Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird.

**2005-06:** Since August 2005, results show a total of 16 reported field activities, with 203 participants, an average of about 13 observers per event, which is above the average of just less than 10 recorded since keeping statistics. 168 spp. have been reported so far.

**Remarks:** Since we began compiling field activity statistics in late August 2003, there have been 158 events, with 1,491 participants, for an average of 9.68. In that time 265 spp. have been reported observed or heard.

### Try 'On Your Own Birding' in March and April

**Hawk Watch:** Stop by Pilgrim Heights in North Truro and, with **Don Manchester**, check out the flight of returning raptors any decent day March until early summer. Wear quiet clothes - not bright colors. You'll be amazed and fascinated by the variety of hawks seen!

**Woodcocks:** One of the earliest migrants to arrive in Massachusetts, woodcocks may come as early late February. Spending the day in the woods where his coloring blends with the leaf litter, on spring evenings, the woodcock comes out into the open to do his spectacular sky dance. Look for him in clearings: meadows, bogs, power line cuts. He needs the open sky to perform. Plan to arrive on his dancing grounds just after sunset and wait for the signal that he is there. "Peent" he calls, hidden from view. "Peent." You hear the sound again, close and then far, as he circles - broadcasting his call in every direction. Then silently, he takes off, sloping up gradually and, as he gains height, begins his twittering sound. It becomes more frantic as he circles overhead. Toward the end, the twittering is joined by loud vocal chirping and the woodcock begins his descent. Abruptly it stops and he coasts silently back to his peenting location. Check out Long Pasture, Bone Hill Rd in Cummaquid or find your own new spot. Good luck!

### Bird Banding (Cont'd from page 1)

Sue received her Trainer Certification with the North American Banding Council at Braddock Bay Observatory in October of 2005 and hopes to begin a training program for banders at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in the near future.

Come to hear more about the purpose of banding, how birds are caught and what happens once the bird is caught, U.S. Government regulations, when and where birds are banded, and what to do if you find a banded bird.

## **14th Mass Audubon Birders Meeting**

Saturday - March 4, 2006  
Bentley College, Waltham, MA  
8AM - 4:30PM

### **Keynote Speaker: Tim Gallagher**

Author of "The Grail Bird"

Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Also: Wayne Petersen, Blair Nikula, David Bird, Joe Duff

Breakout Sessions - Stunning Bird Imagery

Contact: 781-259-2151  
or [birdersmeeting@massaudubon.org](mailto:birdersmeeting@massaudubon.org)

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Feb 25** - Bank St. Bog site project -  
Volunteers needed!

**Mar 4** - Annual Mass Audubon Birders  
Meeting

**Mar 25** - Cape Cod Natural History  
Conference

**May 20-21** - **Birding Cape Cod  
WALKS WEEKEND!**

**June 9-11** - Birding trip to the Adiron-  
dacks, hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk  
Bird Club.

## **11th Annual Cape Cod Natural History Conference**

Saturday - March 25, 2006  
Cape Cod Community College (Exit 6 off Rte 6)  
8:30AM - 4:30PM

This full day conference beginning with a 9AM Welcome  
by Bob Prescott, Director, Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary.

Presenters from environmental organizations across the  
Cape will be speaking on a variety of natural history topics.  
Q&A at the end of each talk and a paper summary of each  
presentation.

Enjoy presentations on everything from Sheep to Coyotes,  
Brook Trout to Atlantic Cod, Sharks to Whales, Terns, Turtles  
and Shorebirds, Pond Algae, Cape Diversity and MORE ...

**Bring your own lunch** and come prepared to learn about  
a variety of interests! You won't want to miss this one!

Call 508-349-2615 to register.  
Registration deadline is March 17th.

## **Bank Street Bogs Nest Box Project Needs Helpers!**

On Saturday, February 25th,  
volunteers are needed to assist the  
CCBC and Harwich Conservation  
Trust in the installation of the bird  
boxes at the Bank Street Bog site.  
Joining us will be AmeriCorps  
volunteers.

We plan on meeting at the Bogs  
at 9AM to install approximately 40  
boxes. The locations have been  
determined.

We now need volunteers to help  
attach boxes to the poles and install the  
poles in the designated areas. Whether  
or not you are a monitor, the more  
folks that volunteer, the merrier!

Afterwards, the Trust will be install-  
ing an Osprey platform near the West  
Harwich Conservation lands and all are  
invited to assist and observe! Please see  
or call Diane Silverstein for more info.  
508-398-9484 or [birder526@aol.com](mailto:birder526@aol.com)


**Birding the Cape - Season by Season** Blair Nikula

**MARCH – APRIL:**

Late winter - early spring is a period of hope for birders. Each warm spell brings increasing expectations and anticipation swells as the most exciting (and shortest!) season of the year approaches. The first southerly winds in early March carry returning flocks of blackbirds and Woodcock begin their strange "peenting" in fields and damp clearings.

Gannets and waterfowl begin winging northward and a trip to Corporation Beach will often produce a few of the handsome Red-necked Grebe. By the end of March, the first egrets, Killdeer, Tree Swallows and phoebes have usually arrived.

Migration is in full swing during April and by mid-month trips to the Beech Forest in Provincetown, the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, the Dennis Pond area in Yarmouth, or the Ryder Conservation Area in Sandwich will often produce kinglets, creepers, sparrows, and gnatcatchers among others. Migrant hawks become conspicuous on the outer Cape, especially at Pilgrim Heights in Truro. Southerly storms will often blow in early Indigo Buntings, Baltimore Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and, occasionally, rarer southern species such as Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager and Prothonotary Warbler.

By the end of the month, the first warblers trickle in, vanguards of the hoped-for May waves. 

**News of our Sister Club**

**The Altacal Audubon Society** conducted the 50th Annual Chico, CA Christmas Bird Count on December 18, 2005. A good strong rain storm kept some folks away (and some birds hiding out) but an enthusiastic group of observers scoured the landscape in a 15 mile diameter circle around Chico.

Our count covered a variety of habitats including foothill chaparral, oak woodland (blue oak, gray pine, live oak, bay laurel), a small apron of grassland savanna at the base of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, Sacramento River riparian woodlands (valley oaks and sycamores), residential neighborhoods, orchards almonds and walnuts), and basin lands — formerly tule marsh, but now rice farms.

At the end of the day, one of the CBC-participating couples graciously offered their home for the compilation and fed us a wonderful meal complete with a "Happy 50th Anniversary" cake. The group tallied 100 species for the day. Our "off the list" birds included nine Tree Swallows (flying above the waters of the Sacramento River), two Peregrine Falcons (perhaps the same pair that attempted to breed in Upper Bidwell Park last spring), and an Osprey (seen in Upper Bidwell Park). Waterfowl numbers were generally low but we had our second highest counts of Hooded Mergansers (20), Sandhill Cranes (1,126) and Brewer's Blackbirds (5,838). 

**Birding in New Brunswick, Canada**

Karen Goggins

When a group of us enjoyed a CCBC trip to the marshes of Harwich and Chatham last June, we were joined by a birder from New Brunswick, Tom Khattar. He was enthusiastic about birding on the Cape and mentioned that there was also some good birding back home in Canada.

A few weeks later I received a packet of information on the New Brunswick area from Tom. In his accompanying note, he offered to assist folks interested in traveling to the area by putting them in touch with a local bird club. Tom explained that a drive to New Brunswick takes 12-14 hours. Overnighting in Bangor, Maine breaks the trip up nicely.

It was such a generous offer that I wanted to be sure to pass it on to club members. If you're interested, just send an email to [bgoggins@ll.mit.edu](mailto:bgoggins@ll.mit.edu) and I can provide further details.

**May 8th CCBC Program:**  
**Chris Leahy presenting:**  
**"Do Birds Have a Future?"**

To keep "The Kingfisher" fun and interesting, it needs to hear from you.

Got a birding experience you'd like to share? Or tell us about that fantastic birding trip you took and loved. The things you share might help someone who is planning a trip to that same area.

Email me with your article at [capekingfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:capekingfisher@yahoo.com). We'd like to hear from you.


SMJ

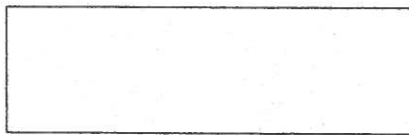
**CCBC Merchandise on sale at every meeting**

<u>Birding Case Cod</u>	\$ 15.95
CCBC Caps	15.00
CCBC Decals	1.00
CCBC Checklist	.75
CCBC Patches	3.00
CCBC Pins	5.00
Binoc/Camera Straps	12.50
Organizer Packs	17.00

**Kestrels** (Cont'd from page 1)

Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program, and Coordinator of the Raptor Retrofit Project (RRP) that she initiated for cranberry growers. The RRP is geared to protect Ospreys and other raptors from being electrocuted by electrical structures located on grower owned properties.

Joey worked for 13 years at the UMASS Cranberry Station in Wareham on greenhouse and cranberry-related research. These ties to the cranberry business have made properties available to her to erect nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows and American Kestrels. She also works with local school education programs. 



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



**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:

**CCBC, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History  
 869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631  
 Website: [www.massbird.org/CCBC](http://www.massbird.org/CCBC)**

*Officers*

Diane Silverstein    President  
 Ginie Page        Vice President  
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*Newsletter*

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 Circulation ~ Ron Ayotte

*Nominating Committee Chair* – Dick Jurkowski

# BIRDING CAPE COD WEEKEND

## SATURDAY MAY 20 – SUNDAY MAY 21

### Sponsored by the Cape Cod Bird Club



## BIRDING Cape Cod

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB  
MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Members of the Cape Cod Bird Club will lead walks to top birding areas throughout Cape Cod on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21, 2006. Information about all of these areas can be found in the newly revised book, *Birding Cape Cod*. This field guide to one of the world's premier birding locations was prepared by two of the foremost birding organizations in the region, Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Cape Cod Bird Club. Walks are free and open to the public. Adults and children of all ages are welcome. For more information about these walks, *Birding Cape Cod*, and the Cape Cod Bird Club, check our website at [www.massbird.org/ccbc](http://www.massbird.org/ccbc). For information about the event, contact Mary Keleher at 508-477-1473. For information about individual walks or directions to the walks, please contact the walk leader. Dress for the weather and area where you will be walking. Bring binoculars. Sunscreen, insect repellent, and water are recommended.

## SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006

### UPPER CAPE

#### Bourne

**Bourne Four Ponds Conservation Area — 7:00am - 9:00am Leader: Matt Malin, 508-274-8472.**

We'll walk the trails around four ponds, Mill Pond, Shop Pond, Freeman Pond, and Upper Pond and The Basin to look for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet in the parking area on Barlow's Landing Road.

#### Falmouth

**Crane Wildlife Management Area — 6:30pm - Dusk Leader: Mark Kasprzyk, 508-540-4706.**

We'll explore the fields to look for several species of sparrows and other songbirds. Then we'll listen for displaying American Woodcocks and calling Whip-poor-wills. Meet in the parking area at the end of the dirt road just east of the Nickelodeon Theater off Rt. 151.

#### Sandwich

**East Sandwich Game Farm — 6:45am - 9:00am Leader: Dick Jurkowski, 508-428-8494.**

This 133-acre state owned area is managed by the Thornton Burgess Society. It's very productive for birds year-round. We'll check the Osprey nest for activity and fields for Eastern Bluebirds, Bobolinks, and Eastern Meadowlarks. We'll also look for migrating shorebirds in salt marshes and check ponds for ducks and Belted Kingfishers. Meet in the Christy's parking lot on Route 6A, across from Ploughed Neck Road, to carpool.

#### Mashpee

**South Cape Beach — 12pm – 3:00pm Leaders: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473, and Rob Maddux.**

We'll walk this lovely barrier beach (2 miles round trip) enjoying views of Nantucket Sound to look for nesting Ospreys, Horned Larks, Piping Plovers, Willets, and Common and Least Terns. We should also see American Oystercatchers. Park in the Town Beach parking lot and meet at the gate for the beach trail.

### MID-CAPE

#### Barnstable

**Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary — 6:30pm - Dusk Leaders: David and Fran Clapp, 508-896-7322.**

We'll look for spring migrants in fields and wooded areas. We'll also search for herons in ponds and then listen for displaying American Woodcocks at dusk. Meet in the upper parking area off Bone Hill Road.

#### Yarmouth

**Dennis Pond — 7:00am - 9:00am Leader: Greg Hirth, 508-457-4356.**

This area features a trail that leads through scenic woodlands including an old bog, pine forest, and small swamp making it a productive place to look for migrant warblers and other songbirds. Meet in the small parking area on Willow Street, north of Route 6, at Exit 7.

## **Dennis**

**Crowes Pasture Conservation Area — 7:00am - 9:30am Leader: Diane Silverstein, 508-398-9484.**

Cape Cod Bird Club monitors a 12-box Eastern Bluebird trail here and has seen many birds fledge since its inception two years ago. We'll walk about two miles through pine and oak woodland to the restored pasture in search of Eastern Bluebirds, warblers, hawks and many other species. Take School St. off Rte. 6A, turn right onto South St., pass cemetery, meet in parking lot on right 0.1 mile down dirt road from sign. Please do not park at cemetery.

## **Brewster**

**Punkhorn Conservation Area - 6:45am - 9:00am Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473.**

This town conservation area encompasses nearly 800 acres of mixed pine-oak woodlands with overgrown bogs. We'll look for breeding birds including Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Great Crested Flycatchers, Hermit Thrushes, and Scarlet Tanagers. Meet in small dirt parking lot at the end of Run Hill Road where pavement ends.

## **Harwich**

**West Harwich Conservation Area — 5:30pm - 7:30pm Leader: Blair Nikula, 508-432-6348.**

This area offers miles of trails that meander through oak and pine woods bordering a marsh and the Herring River. We'll look for migrating land birds, shorebirds, and Black-crowned Night Herons. Meet on Bell's Neck Road between the East and West Reservoirs.

## **OUTER CAPE**

### **Chatham**

**Morris Island — 8:00am -11:00am Leader: Stephanie Ellis, Massachusetts Audubon Society Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Naturalist/Ornithologist, 508-349-2615.** We'll search the thickets along Morris Island Road for migratory songbirds, continue to the beach to check the flats for egrets, herons, terns, and raptors, and walk back through a productive scrub forest where we should find more migrant songbirds. Meet in the parking area of Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters.

### **Orleans**

**Kent's Point Conservation Area — 4:00pm - 6:00pm Leader: Ginie Page, 508-349-6810.**

We'll explore this wooded peninsula and enjoy spectacular views of Pleasant Bay as we search for land birds and shorebirds. Park in parking area off Frost Fish Lane.

### **Eastham**

**Fort Hill — 6:30pm - Dusk Leader: Ed Banks, 508-430-0845.**

The Fort Hill Trail is a 1.5 mile series of connected pathways leading across fields, through cedar/oak forests, and along the edge of Nauset Marsh. We'll look for Bobolinks and a variety of songbirds. We'll check the marsh for migrating shorebirds. At dusk we'll listen for displaying American Woodcocks. Meet at first parking lot on the left.

### **Wellfleet**

**Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary — 8:00am - 10:00am Leader: Bob Prescott, Massachusetts Audubon Society Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Director, 508-349-2615.** Wellfleet Bay's 1,100 acres of salt marsh, sandy beach, pine woodlands, freshwater pond, and rare heathland attract a wide array of wildlife, especially songbirds and shorebirds. Meet at the front desk inside the new Nature Center.

### **Truro**

**Pilgrim Heights Walk — 6:30am - 8:30am Leader: Ginie Page, 508-349-6810.** We'll walk along Pilgrim Spring Trail to the bike path and Small Swamp to look for migrant passerines. Meet in first parking lot.

**Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch — 9:00am – 12pm Leader: Don Manchester, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Staff Member, 508-349-2615.** Stop by for a visit to the premiere hawk watching site on Cape Cod. In partnership with the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has sponsored a hawk watch at Pilgrim Heights to document the passage of hundreds of raptors from late March to early June. Park in first parking lot and take Small Swamp Trail to the second overlook.



## **Provincetown**

**Beech Forest — 8:00am – 10:00am Leaders: Nancy Reider and Ruth Connaughton, 508-432-1580.**

This oasis among the dunes with small marshy ponds is the best spot on Cape Cod to witness the spring passerine migration specifically warblers. Meet in parking lot off Race Point Road.

## **SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2006**

### **UPPER CAPE**

#### **Bourne**

**Bourne Town Forest — 7:00am– 9:00am Leader: Matt Malin, 508-274-8472.**

We'll explore this forested area to search for Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers and other migrant land birds. Meet on Valley Bars Road (unpaved) off County Rd.

#### **Falmouth**

**Falmouth Town Forest — 6:00am – 8:00am Leader: Bob VanderPyl, 508-457-0864.**

We'll look for many spring migrants including flycatchers, creepers, vireos, orioles, tanagers, and warblers. Park in the parking lot off Gifford St in Goodwill Park.

#### **Sandwich**

**Sandwich Conservation Area — 7:00am – 9:00am Leader: Phil Kyle, 508-495-0196.**

This woodland conservation area surrounds most of the eastern edge of Mashpee/Wakeby Pond and is very productive for birds year-round. We'll look and listen for woodpeckers, thrushes, tanagers, and many species of warblers. We might even hear Ruffed Grouse. Meet in Ryder Conservation Area parking lot on Cotuit Rd.

#### **Mashpee**

**Mashpee River Woodlands — 6:45am – 9:30am Leaders: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473, and Rob Maddux.**

We'll explore this area looking for Virginia Rails, Marsh Wrens, Pine Warblers, and Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. We should also see Ospreys hunting along the river. Meet in parking lot on Quinaquisett Ave. We will carpool to River Road and walk approximately two miles back to parking area.

### **MID-CAPE**

#### **Barnstable**

**Sandy Neck Beach — 1:00pm – 3:00pm Leader: Ellen Minichiello, 774-553-5046.**

We'll add a beachcombing component to this walk. While looking for migrant shorebirds, lingering sea ducks, and pelagic birds we'll identify shells and marine organisms that we find along the shore and in the wrack line. Meet in the upper parking lot.

#### **Yarmouth**

**Yarmouth Walking Trails — 8:00am – 10:00am Leader: Mark Tuttle, 508-362-3015.**

We'll walk through a lovely mix of habitats to Gray's Beach in search of several species of songbirds and migrant shorebirds. Rte 6A to Red Jacket Rd. (next to fire station), left at end, right onto Belle of the West Rd., follow to end, right on Kingsbury Way. Meet in parking area at west end of Kingsbury Way.

#### **Dennis**

**West Dennis Beach — 4:00pm– 6:00pm Leader: Dan Furbish, e-mail: [Barn.Owl@verizon.net](mailto:Barn.Owl@verizon.net).**

We'll explore the marsh and beach to look for nesting Willets and Piping Plovers and delight in watching Least Terns dive for fish and defend their territories. Other possible sightings include Whimbrels, Black-bellied Plovers, Horned Larks, and Savannah Sparrows. After reaching parking lot, turn right and follow parking lot to far west end.

## **Brewster**

**Nickerson State Park — 8:00am – 10:00am Leaders: David and Fran Clapp, 508-896-7322.**

In the heart of Cape Cod lies Nickerson State Park's 1900 acres of woodlands with eight fresh water ponds. We'll walk the trails to look for woodpeckers, flycatchers, nuthatches, and warblers. We'll check ponds for Wood Ducks and lingering waterfowl. Meet at main parking lot off Rte. 6A.

## **Harwich**

**Hawksnest State Park -Five Ponds Conservation Area — 7:00am – 9:00am Leader: Al Curtis, 508-432-8677.**

This state conservation area includes woodlands and ponds. Some areas can be difficult to traverse since much of the area is undeveloped but it provides fantastic birding opportunities. We'll look for woodland species and spring migrants with the possibility of seeing Wood Ducks. Meet in small parking area on Spruce Road, 0.4 miles west of Rte. 137.

## **OUTER CAPE**

### **Chatham**

**Hardings Beach — 5:30pm – 7:30pm Leader: Peter Bono, 508-375-9421.**

Harding's Beach is a spit of sand between Oyster River and Stage Harbor. We'll enjoy a picturesque sunset over Nantucket Sound while walking the trail to Harding's Light, a 1-mile round trip. We'll check salt marsh, dunes, and saltwater inlets for herons, terns, and shorebirds, specifically Piping Plover, Willets, and American Oystercatchers. Meet in second parking lot.

### **Orleans**

**Pochet Island — 8:00am – 11:00am Leader: Ed Banks, 508-430-0845.**

We'll hike down the beach, 2 miles round trip, and enjoy views of Pleasant Bay and Chatham in the distance as we look for a wide variety of migrant land birds, shorebirds, and hawks. Meet in Nauset Beach parking lot at south end.

### **Eastham**

**Salt Pond Visitors Center — 1:00pm – 3:00pm Leader: Ginie Page, 508-349-6810.**

We'll walk the one mile Nauset Marsh Trail as it winds along the edge of Salt Pond and Nauset Marsh and crosses through a forested area. We'll enjoy spectacular vistas along the way as we look for migrant songbirds, shorebirds, and herons. Meet at Salt Pond Visitors Center parking lot.

### **Wellfleet**

**Marconi Station, Cape Cod National Seashore — 6:30pm – Dusk Leader: Ginie Page, 508-349-6810.**

We will look for Vesper Sparrows and other field and barren land species before spending time scoping the Atlantic for sea birds. After a glorious sunset, we will listen for nighttime species including American Woodcock, Whip-poor-wills, Owls and maybe a Chuck-will's-widow. Please bring flashlight. Meet at Headquarters Building at Marconi site.

### **Truro**

**Pilgrim Heights Walk — 6:30am – 8:30am Leader: Ginie Page, 508-349-6810.**

We'll walk along Pilgrim Spring Trail to the bike bath and Small Swamp to look for migrant passerines. Meet in the first parking lot.

**Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch — 9:00am – noon Leader: Don Manchester, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Staff Member, 508-349-2615.** Stop by for a visit to the premiere hawk watching site on Cape Cod. In partnership with the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has sponsored a hawk watch at Pilgrim Heights to document the passage of hundreds of raptors from late March to early June. Park in first parking lot and take Small Swamp Trail to the second overlook.

### **Provincetown**

**Beech Forest — Two walks - 6:00am– 7:30am and 8:00am – 9:30am Leader: Greg Hirth, 508-457-4356.**

This oasis among the dunes with small marshy ponds is the best spot on Cape Cod to witness the spring passerine migration, especially warblers. Meet in parking lot off Race Point Road.

Cape Cod Bird Club meets at 7:30 pm on the second Monday of each month, September through May at Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631. Membership inquiries are welcomed and may be sent to Museum address.  
Website: [www.massbird.org/ccbc](http://www.massbird.org/ccbc)