



The Kingfisher

VOLUME 34 – ISSUE 5

The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

MAY - Summer 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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The Kingfisher is published bi-monthly Sept – May

Deadline for next issue's articles: **August 7th**
Send articles or comments to: capekingfisher@yahoo.com

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

Webmaster:
Terry Gavin

President's Message

It's hard to believe that the Club is winding up another year! Within a couple of weeks, the first real wave of migrating warblers will come through and most of us will be starting our day at Beech Forest relishing this annual event. Sightings are already being reported of oystercatchers and yellow legs (a sign of things to come this summer) and piping plover are starting to make scrapes in the sand for their nests. What a glorious time of year!

This past year has been an especially gratifying one for me, having had the opportunity to serve as your club president.

We have accomplished a number of important things this year. We partnered with the Harwich Conservation Trust to establish a 38 box Bluebird trail at the Bank Street Bogs and have assumed responsibility for the 12 nest boxes in Thompson's Field (while still monitoring our 12 box trail at Crowes Pasture in Dennis). We also put the wheels in motion with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History to create a Young Birder's Club that should be in place this summer or fall. Another \$500 scholarship will be awarded in May to a deserving Cape Cod Community College student. Our book Birding Cape Cod was published and has been a best seller (even if it hasn't made the NY Times Best Seller list). We sup-

ported the Cape Cod Waterfowl Census and local Christmas Counts and our Club's feeder census.

A brand new Club event, the *Birding Cape Cod Weekend*, has been planned and will be held in May. Our Club also continues to support The Birder's Exchange with monetary donations. We hosted a series of high caliber monthly programs, and a fun Members' Night in December. All in all, it has been a productive and fun year!

As this year comes to an end, I am stepping down as the Club's President.

I would like to take this time to say thank you to the following people who have made this year as awesome as it was:

Genie Page, Vice President - for constant and unwavering support and for enthusiastically leading the sightings reports at each meeting!

Greg Hirth, Secretary - for graciously stepping up to fill this unexpected opening and for doing a super job recording minutes. (And to Ron Ayotte for his dedication as Secretary - and statistician - over the past years.)

Carolyn Kennedy, Treasurer - for bringing her talents in money management to the club and for gently reminding me when I needed to ask for a motion from the Board!

Mary Keleher, Programs Director - for arranging a top notch line-up of programs this year! And for creating the Birding Cape Cod Weekend and bringing it to fruition!

(Cont'd on page 4)

Christopher Leahy asks "Do Birds Have a Future?"

May 8th - 7:30 PM

Traditionally bird conservation has focused on rescuing the most endangered species. This logical strategy has had some notable successes and should always be part of a conservation strategy. However, an increasing number of species are declining in population and if we wait until they all arrive at the brink of extinction, they will be much more difficult and costly to rescue than if we address their problems sooner. In this illustrated lecture, Chris Leahy will summarize the history of bird conservation, assess the status of global (and local) birdlife, and suggest where the future course of bird conservation might be.

Christopher Leahy is the Gerard A. Bertrand Chair of Natural History and Field Ornithology at the Massachusetts Audubon

Society. He has been a professional conservationist for more than thirty years and, most recently, as the Director of Massachusetts Audubon's Center for Biological Conservation. His interests in natural history are comprehensive and he is a recognized authority on birds and insects. His published works include *The Birdwatcher's Companion* (first published in 1982 and reissued in a revised edition in 2004), *The First Guide to Insects*, *Introduction to New England Birds*, *An Introduction to Massachusetts Insects*, and *The Nature of Massachusetts*. Chris has designed and led natural history explorations to over 60 countries on all of the continents. He is especially fascinated with the world's great remaining wilderness areas and bio-diversity hot spots such as Antarctica, Mongolia, Madagascar and Bhutan.

Field Walks – May thru early September

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! Please check www.massbird.org/CCBC frequently during the summer for trips and changes!

May 7 – SUN - 7AM Sandwich at "Stauffer's Puddle" - This area, named for Stauffer Miller, is a great place to see shorebirds at close range. We'll look for migrant shorebirds in breeding plumage on their way to northward breeding grounds. We'll also look for nesting Ospreys, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Willets, and Horned Larks. Meet at the Christy's on Route 6A Across from Ploughed Neck Road. Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

May 12 – FRI – 7AM E. Dennis - Crowes Pasture for warblers and other spring migrants. Meet at parking lot down dirt road (approx.) 50 yards on right. Do not park at cemetery. We'll walk dirt roads, pasture, and along the bay. Leader: Diane Silverstein, 508-398-9484 or birder526@aol.com.
Rain cancels.

May 20-21 - BIRDING CAPE COD WEEKEND - More than 30 CCBC scheduled walks all across the Cape this weekend. Check mass-bird.org/ccbc for details.

May 30 – TUE - 7AM North Truro. Meet at Pilgrim Heights (off Rte 6) We'll walk and look for warblers and breeding birds in this beautiful area of hills and lowlands, set between the bay and ocean. A hawk watch visit may find some late migrating raptors and even a long distance view of a whale! Leader: Ginie Page 349-6810

June 6 – TUE - 7AM Fort Hill, Eastham. Meet at lower parking lot at Fort Hill in Eastham to walk and search for grassland species and some marsh and shore species in one of the National

Seashore's most beautiful sites. We may continue to other sites on the lower Cape. Leader: Ginie Page, 508-349-6810.

June 15 - THURS - 8AM - Bournedale - Carter Beal Conservation Area. We'll look for new summer residents: warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Virginia Rails and late arrivals. Meet in the parking lot by the Herring Run. (Go over the Sagamore Bridge, circle around the rotary & follow signs for Rt 6 West; 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

June 23 – FRI - 7AM Morris Island, Chatham. Meet at Monomoy NWR parking lot. We will walk on and around the island looking for springtime specialties! Leader: Diane Silverstein, 508-398-9484. Rain cancels.

July 18 - TUES - 8AM Marstons Mills Airport on Rt 149. (Park next to the path "entry" chain, down from the Barnstable Golf Course entrance.) We'll walk the trails looking for summer residents, listening & looking for ring-necked pheasants and meadowlarks. If time allows, we'll head for Oregon Beach in Cotuit in search of Virginia Rails. Leader: Dick Jurkowski 508-428-8494

July 22 – SAT – 9:30AM Sandwich at "Stauffer's Puddle." We'll look for shorebirds as they stop to feed and rest during their southward migration to wintering grounds. Meet at the Christy's on Route 6A across from Ploughed Neck Road. Leader: Mary Keleher 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

July 28 – FRI – Time TBD (based upon tides): South Beach, Chatham. We'll take a boat from Outermost Harbor to South Beach for approximately 5 hours of birding at this shorebird mecca! There is a cost for the boat. (2005 rate \$15 R/T.) Bring food, water,

BEECH FOREST

As in the past, the Club will have a Walk in the Beech Forest in Provincetown each Saturday and Sunday in May. The Beech Forest is the best spot on the Cape to see and hear spring migrants. (To get to Beech Forest, take Race Point Exit off Rte 6 at the light in P'town. The parking lot is on the left. All walks begin in the parking lot.) Please note the start time on the date you choose.

The walks and leaders are:

May 6th - 7AM - Leader: Blair Nikula, odenews@odenews.org

May 7th - TBA (check website)

May 13th - 7AM - Leaders: Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski, 508-428-8494

May 14th - 7AM - Leader: Ed Banks, 508-430-0845

May 20th - 7AM - Leader: Peter Flood, pomarine@comcast.net

May 21th - Two walks! 6:00-7:30AM and 8:00-9:30AM - Greg Hirth 508-457-4356

May 27th - 7AM - Leader: Peter Flood, pomarine@comcast.net

May 28th - 7AM - Leader: Dan Furbish, barn.owl@verizon.net

and sun & bug protection. Be prepared for several miles of beach walking. Leader: Diane Silverstein, 508-398-9484 or birder526@aol.com. Rain cancels.

Aug 5th - SAT - 7:30AM Sandwich "Stauffer's Puddle." We'll look for shorebirds as they stop to feed and rest during their southward migration to wintering grounds. Meet at the Christy's on Route 6A Across from Ploughed Neck Road. Leader: Mary Keleher, 508-477-1473 or maryeak@yahoo.com

Aug 21 - MON - South Beach, Monomoy (all day) Meet at Monomoy NWR Headquarters on Morris Island in Chatham at **9:30AM**. Leader: Ed Banks (508-430-0845). Note: There is a fee for boat transportation. Call if rainy or windy weather is predicted. Co- sponsored with the Forbush Bird Club.

Field Walks (Cont'd from page 2)

Aug 24 - THURS - 8AM - Bournedale - Carter Beal Conservation Area. We'll look for new summer residents; wild turkeys and Virginia Rails a possibility. Meet in the parking lot by the Herring Run. (Go over the Sagamore Bridge, circle around the rotary & follow signs for Rt 6 West; 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.

Aug 25 - FRI - Time TBD (based upon tides) South Beach, Chatham. We will take a boat from Outermost Harbor to South Beach for approximately 5 hrs of birding at this shorebird mecca! There is a cost for the boat. Bring water, food, and sun & bug protection. Be prepared for several miles of beach walking. Leader: Diane Silverstein 508-398-9484, birder526@aol.com. Rain cancels.

Sept 15 - FRI - 8AM Eastham - Meet at the far end of the Coast Guard Station parking lot in Eastham at 8 AM. We'll walk the marsh area west of the dunes in search of shorebirds, terns, ducks and whatever else may be present. Generally we get a pretty good list there with usually a surprise or two. Mark Tuttle, 508-362-3015.

Be sure to check www.massbird.org/ cbc often for new walks and changes!

Hawk Watchers

are welcome to join Don Manchester and others in the Hawk Watch at Pilgrim Heights in North Truro — any day during May. The Hawk Watch is run by the Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary and the Eastern Mass Hawk Watch, along with the National Park Service. Pilgrim Heights is located on the east side of Rte 6 in North Truro within the Cape Cod National Seashore just south of the Truro and Provincetown town line. Look for the Seashore's brown and white Pilgrim Heights sign. Park in the first parking lot and take the Small's Swamp Trail to the second overlook. You can call the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary at 508-349-2615 for more details.

Club Field Activity Statistics

Ron Ayotte

This article covers Club field activities from January (one late entry) through March 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 sightings are underlined.

January 2006: One January field activity was not available at the last newsletter deadline, and so was not included in the previous summary.

1/16: Rhode Island; Leader Frank Caruso; Clear, 12-28F; 7 observers; 44 spp. Red-throated and Common loons, Pied-billed and Red-necked grebes, Great Cormorant, Snow Goose, American Wigeon, Greater Scaup, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter, Common and Barrow's goldeneyes, Hooded, Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-headed Gull, Song and White-throated sparrows.

February 2006: There were four field activities reported in February, all on the Cape. There were a total of 38 participants, for an average of 9.50 per event. A total of 63 species was reported. The greatest number of species reported for one event was 40, by Mary Keleher in the Mashpee River area on February 18.

2/4: Eastham; Leader Dan Furbish; Rain and windy; 40F; 8 observers; 31 spp. Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Brant, Hooded, Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, American Coot, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Savannah Sparrow.

2/11: Marstons Mills and E. Sandwich; Leaders Dick and Sylvia Jurkowski; Cloudy, 28F; 15 observers; 31 spp. Gadwall, Hooded and Red-breasted mergansers, Red-bellied, Hairy and Downy woodpeckers, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Golden- and Ruby-crowned kinglets, Dark-eyed Junco.

2/18: Mashpee River woodlands; Leader Mary Keleher; very cold; 13 observers; 40 spp. Common Loon, Horned Grebe, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Common and Barrow's goldeneyes, Hooded, Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Gray Catbird, Fox, Song and Swamp sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco.

2/27: Falmouth; Leader Greg Hirth; very cold; no participants showed up, so this was a scouting trip; 15 spp. Pied-billed and Horned grebes, Great Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Greater and Lesser scaup, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Purple Sandpiper, Razorbill, Gray Catbird.

March 2006: There were six field activities reported in March, all on the Cape. There were a total of 42 participants, for an average of 7 per event. A total of 84 species was reported. The greatest number of species reported for one event was 56, by Greg Hirth in Falmouth on March 18.

3/11: Eastham Owl Prowl; Leader Dan Furbish; light wind, 56F; 11 observers; 42 spp. Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, White-winged and Black scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Red-breasted mergansers, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Coot, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle (last two, first mention of year).

3/18: Falmouth; Leader Greg Hirth; sun, 26-38F; 9 observers; 56 spp. Pied-billed Grebe, Great Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater and Lesser scaup, Surf and Black scoters, Hooded Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Razorbill, Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Red- and White-breasted nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird.

(Cont'd on page 6)

TRY PERU

Don and Carol Scott

Virtually all of the Central and South American countries have much to offer in the realm of birding experiences. Having recently returned from a third trip to Peru, however, I would have to cast my vote for this lovely country as the most varied and interesting of them all.

Peru is home to the driest deserts in the world, contains many mountains which rise to over 20,000 ft., features spectacular ruins of the Inca Empire (the jewel of which is Machu Pichu), and has designated over 32 million acres of land as protected areas. Peru boasts a bird list of over 1800 species including over 100 endemics — birds found nowhere else in the world. Each area of Peru offers birding that differs vastly from the other. For example, we spent three days in the high Andes (in the area of 15,000 ft.) which is home to species such as the Andean Condor, Giant Hummingbird and the Black-chested Buzzard Eagle — all easy to find and easy to see. While searching for these birds, one also sees herds of wild vicuna and domestic alpaca and llama. Alpaca, we found out, is quite tasty!

On the east side of the Andes lies Manu National Park, an extremely remote area which still harbors natives about whom little is known. Basically, the only way into the Manu area is by a small plane. After landing on a narrow grass airstrip in the rainforest, travel is then done either by foot or by boat. In order to reach our first home-away-from-home, we endured a harrowing but exciting boat trip down a rain-swollen river. During eleven days in this area, we stayed in three separate lodges, none of which had electricity. Accommodations were rustic but quite comfortable, featuring hot showers, excellent food, and birding that ranged from extremely difficult to ridiculously easy.

The difficult days were those walking on narrow paths through dense forest in pursuit of birds, most of which had "ant" as the prefix to their name. Antbirds, antwrens, antthrushes, ant-pittas, antshrikes — all of which were uniformly dark, stayed close to the ground in thick vegetation and dared you to get

more than a one second look to spot their distinguishing spot of color.

Conversely, boat trips on the Madre de Dios River provided open views of raptors, herons, shorebirds, kingfishers and the like. One memorable early morning we went downstream for about an hour, ending up at a floating blind, fully equipped with chairs, tables and HOT BREAKFAST. The blind was opposite a clay banking which was the gathering place for scores of parrots and macaws in search of the many minerals located there. Now THIS was birding!! Easy-to-spot birds of spectacular color in profusion. Far better than those ant-whatevers!

Another fascinating feature of Peru is the extreme differences in lifestyles. On one hand, there are huge cities — Lima, for example, is a cosmopolitan center of culture and commerce. Conversely, while driving into the mountains on the way out of the Manu area, one will encounter tiny villages on dirt roads with thriving markets selling everything from fresh vegetables and fruit to 40 gallon bags packed with coca leaves!

Most residents of these villages are indigent Indians, descendants of the Incas. They speak little English, but are friendly and are clearly entrepreneurs.

Nearly all of the large birding companies travel to the many areas of Peru. The internet is also a good source of contacts. I strongly recommend that you consider this spectacular part of the world. If you would like, we will be very happy to discuss Peru with you. 🐦

Last chance to get CCBC Merchandise for Summer Birding !

<u>Birding Cape 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

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

Gretchen Putonen, Refreshments Director (and Michael Dettrey, former Refreshments Director) - thanks to you both for ensuring that the social hour was especially enjoyable and delicious! Stephanie Ellis, Education and Outreach Director - for taking on, with enthusiasm, the position Greg held and for coordinating this year's CCCC Scholarship. Cynthia Franklin, Merchandise Sales Director (and Wil Sprauve, former Merchandise Sales Director) - thanks to you both for doing such a great job selling our club merchandise and for finding new products for us to proudly wear! Dan Furbish, Field Trips Director - much appreciation to you for finding so many volunteers to lead so many great trips and for solidifying our relationships with other bird clubs with co-sponsorship of trips.

Marianne Harris, Publicity Director - thank you for getting the word out to the local news outlets about our many club events.

Sylvia Jurkowski, Editor, Kingfisher - you have created an outstanding newsletter all year long and your hard work, time commitment, and focus on detail and quality have made our newsletter the best there is!

Terry Gavin, Webmaster - you do an outstanding job keeping our website up-to-date. Thanks for an awesome effort! Other deeply felt thanks:

To Julie O'Neill & Paul Durkee, CCMNH
To the nest box monitors

To all who baked

To field trip leaders

To participants in our Feeder Census and Waterfowl Survey

and to those of you who attend our meetings on a regular basis!

Dick Jurkowski, our Nominating Committee Chair, and his committee have worked very hard to put together a slate of officers for the coming year. Please plan on attending our May meeting to vote.

Mark your calendars for May 20 and 21 for the first annual Birding Cape Cod Weekend!

I look forward to seeing you all out in the field birding!

Diane Silverstein

Birding the Cape - Season by Season Blair Nikula

News of our 'Sister Club'

MAY - JUNE:

For most birders, May is the apex of the birding year, a month packed with avian activity. The songbird migrants, particularly the warblers, are probably the most eagerly anticipated of the many birds that pass through during the spring. On Cape Cod, the Beech Forest in Provincetown is unsurpassed for producing spring migrants but is a long drive for most and quite unpredictable. Closer to home, the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Dennis Pond in Yarmouth, the Ryder Conservation Area in Sandwich, and Beebe Woods in Falmouth can provide good spring birding.

The hawk migration continues throughout May, though the movements of these spectacular birds taper off my mid-month. The shorebird migration also peaks in May and, as always with this group, Monomoy Island and South Beach in Chatham offer, by far, the best showing. The Nauset, Wellfleet Bay and Sandy Neck areas also have a good variety of shorebirds and any marsh or mud flat is likely to harbor at least a few of these long-distance travelers.

While the migration for most species slows to a trickle by early June, the shorebird migration continues into the first ten days of the month. Resident birds are very active at this time and any area that has not been ravaged by the bulldozer can offer good birding in the mornings. Some of the most exciting rarities of the year often show up in June and those who put their binoculars away when migration ends risk missing something exciting!

JULY - AUGUST:

Birding for most Cape Cod birders slows to a crawl during the summer months as the hordes of tourists drive both birds and birders into seclusion and make most of our favorite winter haunts unbearable. However, some good birding is still possible once you escape the crowds.

Shorebirds, terns, and gulls are the most conspicuous of the local avifauna at this season and a trip to South Beach or Monomoy Island is always highly productive for these species. The Nauset area is another excellent spot and boat trips offered by the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary provide a unique chance to bird this area in floating comfort. Pelagic birding can also be good in summer with the beaches at Race Point and Herring Cove in Provincetown or the high bluffs along the ocean side of Wellfleet offering the best chance to see these unpredictable birds from land.

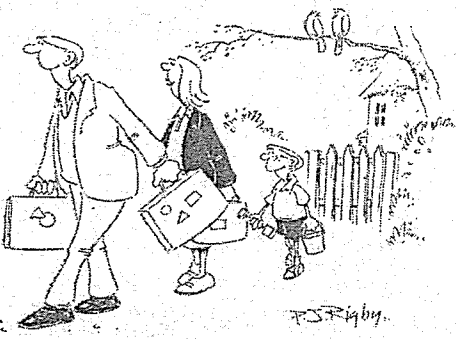
A whale-watching trip out of Provincetown or Barnstable will provide an even better opportunity to see storm-petrels, shearwaters and jaegers and, if conditions are favorable, large numbers of these species may be seen.

This concludes a year of Cape Cod birding with Blair. We hope you found these articles informative and helpful for your Cape birding!

Happy Summer Everyone!
Don't forget to share your story with The Kingfisher! Send your email to capekingfisher@yahoo.com by Aug. 7th.

Welcome New Members!

William Babcock - Cotuit
 Joyce Banta - Windsor, CT
 Edward & Beverly Brink - Barnstable
 Joanne Chernicki - Quincy
 Charles Goodwin - Cotuit
 Brian & Carol Malone - Marstons Mills
 Michael & Kristine Sheats-
 Baltimore, MD



"For some peculiar reason they seem to migrate in the summer."

The 7th annual Snow Goose Festival, sponsored by the **Altacal Audubon Society**, held January 27-29 in and around Chico, CA was a huge success. The Chico Art Center provided a new venue and format for the wildlife art exhibit. Artists showcased their pieces Wednesday through Sunday including the wine and wildlife reception Friday night. Two hundred sixty-eight people paid \$10 each to attend the reception, enjoying food, music, art, wine and beer. Three hundred twenty people attended the Saturday night Gathering of Wings Banquet at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company's Big Room. Nine hundred eight-five people registered for field trips and workshops. The latter included slide shows, junior naturalist activities, birds of prey (with live birds), and construction of bird and bat boxes. Field trippers reported an abundance of Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes and Tundra swans.

Perhaps some of our Cape Cod Bird Club friends will participate in a future Snow Goose Festival and enjoy birds not normally seen in the Cape Cod area such as: Lewis's, Acorn, and Nuttall's Woodpeckers; White-tailed Kites, Yellow-billed Magpies, Greater White-fronted Geese, Ross' Geese, Burrowing Owls and Cinnamon Teal.

Thrushing
 Eric Levy - Harwich

Thrushing
 By swallow tales of woe be gone
 Then follow trails in noonday sun
 Flighted white pined paths of
 Heightened signs of pathos
 Deer dominates by Grassy Pond
 I do try to sing along
 Broadwing hawk to stalk in day
 Owls to prowl the night away
 Listening more than I spoke
 Wondermenting cast off the yoke
 Chickadee with family by
 Cardinals also in the try
 In a blink of instant light
 With all the strength of feathered
 might
 Thrushing

Little Red

Herb Luther

On the last weekend of November, my friend Paul and I moved my owl box to a different section of my yard. It had been on the same tree for three years with no success in attracting an owl. Just a week later, a rufous screech owl appeared, showing its face just after sunset and also just before sunrise.

Greeting "little Red" became a regular part of getting up in the morning as sunrise coincided with my schedule. Soon every night I was watching the owl's departure for a night of hunting and whatever else an owl might do.

The sunset flight became an event enjoyed by my friends and neighbors. Susan's spotting scope brought a great up-close view of the owl getting ready to leave the box in the evening and we would wait and wait as it got darker and darker. Just when we could hardly see the owl's face in the box, it would fly out and soar away! Sometimes the routine would change and the owl would land on a nearby branch for several minutes giving all its admirers a good show!

Paul brought his digital camera and got a wonderful sequence of time lapse photos. I can email the file to anybody who is interested hluther@mbl.edu.

This brought the wonderful sight to even more friends and my 95 year old mother got to see the photos as well.

She wanted frequent reports on the activity in the owl box. She especially enjoyed hearing about the birds that made it a point to stick their heads inside the hole during the daytime to look at the owl! I observed titmice, nut-hatches, blue jays, cardinals, chickadees, a flicker and even a brown creeper keeping a close watch on the owl box. As soon as they would check inside and see the owl they would go about their usual business of the day without concern for their safety.

I was checking the box frequently during the daytime catching a glimpse of that beautiful head peering out of the hole. He/she was exciting to see and checking the box became a part of my

routine just like the birds outside. In fair weather, rainy or snowy days too, "little Red" would often show up peering out of the box. Windy days were unsettling and he/she would peer at the high boughs of the scrub pines bobbing back and fourth, holding onto the opening in the box and staying snugly perched there.


I don't know if this creature was male or female. I kept hoping that whatever the case might be, it would attract a mate and raise a brood right there in my back yard.

Sometime during the first week of March, "little Red" left the box.

No more sunrise and sunset sightings no matter how much I wanted to hope that I was just missing the current routine.

Then the worst thing happened ... a squirrel came out of the box one morning! Oak leaves began blocking the hole in the box. A sadness came over me as I realized that "little Red" had moved out just as suddenly as he/she arrived in December.

In mid-March I am hearing the call of a screech owl in the trees near the box every evening. I have tried to spot the owl with a full moon and a flashlight. No luck.

Last weekend I emptied the box of the leaves and pine twigs hoping for a return. In the bottom I found one regurgitated pellet! Little Red had found another place to spend the day. Little Red — gone but not forgotten. 

At our May 8th meeting, we will have our election of Officers for 2006-07. Your vote is important!

The May meeting will also feature the ever-popular Silent Book Auction to benefit club programs ... and a bake sale to benefit the Birder's Exchange! Be sure to bring your wallet or checkbook!

Club Field Activity Stats (from page 3)

3/19: E. Sandwich; Leader Dan Furbish; weather not reported; 2 observers; 22 spp. Pied-billed Grebe, Turkey Vulture, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina and Winter wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

3/22: Bourne and Cape Cod Canal; Leader Dick Jurkowski; weather not reported; 2 observers; 13 spp. Common Loon, Common Eider, Black Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Wild Turkey, Sanderling.

3/24: Beal Conservation Area, Cape Cod Canal; Leader Dick Jurkowski; sunny, 50's; 6 observers; 29 spp. Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Brant, Surf and Black scoters, Sanderling, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco.

3/26: Dennis, Brewster and Harwich; Leader Mark Tuttle; cloudy, breezy, 40's; 12 observers; 39 spp. Common Loon, Pied-billed and Horned grebes, Northern Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Greater Scaup, Surf and Black scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin.

2005-06: Since August 2005, the compilation of reports shows a total of 21 field activities with 248 participants, for an average of almost 12 per event, which is above the average of about 10 per event since the summer of 2003. A total of 170 spp. has been reported this year.

Remarks: Since we began compiling field activity statistics in August 2003, a total of 159 events with 1,536 participants has been reported, with 265 spp. reported observed or heard.

Ron Ayotte, Compiler

Mass Audubon Oriole Project 2006

Massachusetts Baltimore Orioles begin to make their way back to their nesting areas as early as February, perhaps from as far away as Ecuador.

Last year 818 citizen scientists in 234 towns and cities throughout the Commonwealth sent Mass Audubon records of 2753 orioles. They also told how much fun they had watching 'their' orioles as they built their distinctive hanging nests and reared their young, often right in the backyard. This year, Mass Audubon has even greater ambitions for the 2006 Oriole Season. The more records they have in the database, the better to assess how the birds are doing over time.

Club member, Sharla Fenwick alerted me to this project and asked me if I would put a notice in The Kingfisher. It turns out that Sharla was the 'Champ' in 2005 — recording 33 birds in 11 towns!

Check out www.massaudubon.org/orioles for the page that will get you started. You can even report your orioles online. How easy is that!! Mass Audubon is excited about this program and encourages each one of us to get involved and to tell others.

And, while you're cleaning out your Oriole feeders and readying them with orange halves and grape jelly ... you might also make certain your hummingbird feeders are all set for the hummers coming through any day. Enjoy your birding!

Sylvia

Important Announcement

Carolyn Kennedy, Treasurer

For the Cape Cod Bird Club, the membership year starts September 1st and plans are already being made to make next year an exciting one. However, in order to move forward, your Board of Directors has made the decision to increase the dues for the coming year. There has not been a dues increase since 1993 and many costs of running the organization and communicating with you have increased since that time. The cost of printing and mailing your newsletter five times a year, for example, consumes most of your current dues. Add in monthly costs and speaker fees and you can see why we are making this change.

With the coming year, the dues will be \$15 for a single individual, and \$22 for a family membership. This increase will allow us to:

- continue with great programming at our monthly meetings
- provide a scholarship to a Cape Cod Community College student who has shown an interest in bird conservation
- continue to expand our nest box monitoring aimed at increasing Eastern Bluebird populations
- work with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History to initiate a Young Birders Club
- and continue our informative field trips throughout the Cape.

Some members choose to make an additional contribution beyond their dues for one of these projects. *Those donations are always welcome!*

This half-page can be used as your Membership Renewal Form. By filling it out and mailing it this summer, you will save the club the expense of sending you a renewal notice. Dues are due by September 1, 2006. New members may join at any time. Thank you for renewing on time.

Individual \$15.00 Family \$22.00

If you would like to give an additional donation, it will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Scholarship fund \$ _____ Extra Gift to Club \$ _____ TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

Please return this form and your check made out to Cape Cod Bird Club and send to:

Cape Cod Bird Club,
c/o Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 Rte 6A
Brewster, MA 02632

Name _____ Phone: _____

Mailing address _____

What Have We Seen on Field Trips

In response to requests from not a few members, this is a list of the species reported as having been observed on the 153 Club field trips since late August 2003. A total of 263 species was reported; not all species were observed on Cape Cod. The figure in parentheses is the **number of trips** on which the species was reported. Ron Ayotte

Red-throated Loon (21)	Bufflehead (48)	Pectoral Sandpiper (2)
Pacific Loon (1)	Common Goldeneye (29)	Purple Sandpiper (6)
Common Loon (46)	Barrow's Goldeneye (5)	Dunlin (14)
Pied-billed Grebe (16)	Hooded Merganser (27)	Curlew Sandpiper (2)
Horned Grebe (22)	Common Merganser (18)	Short-billed Dowitcher (13)
Eared Grebe (1)	Red-breasted Merganser (44)	Long-billed Dowitcher (1)
Red-necked Grebe (8)	Ruddy Duck (9)	Wilson's Snipe (7)
Northern Fulmar (1)	Osprey (31)	American Woodcock (3)
Greater Shearwater (1)	Bald Eagle (3)	Wilson's Phalarope (1)
Sooty Shearwater (3)	Golden Eagle (1)	Red-necked Phalarope (1)
Wilson's Storm-petrel (4)	Northern Harrier (29)	Parasitic Jaeger (2)
Northern Gannet (22)	Sharp-shinned Hawk (22)	Franklin's Gull (1)
Double-crested Cormorant (61)	Cooper's Hawk (23)	Laughing Gull (38)
Great Cormorant (18)	Red-shouldered Hawk (2)	Black-headed Gull (3)
American Bittern (1)	Broad-winged Hawk (4)	Bonaparte's Gull (19)
Great Blue Heron (57)	Red-tailed Hawk (44)	Ring-billed Gull (73)
Great Egret (11)	Rough-legged Hawk (4)	Herring Gull (102)
Snowy Egret (11)	American Kestrel (2)	Iceland Gull (5)
Little Blue Heron (1)	Merlin (6)	Lesser Black-backed Gull (5)
Green Heron (4)	Peregrine Falcon (5)	Glaucous Gull (2)
Black-crowned Night-Heron (9)	Ring-necked Pheasant (1)	Great Black-backed Gull (84)
Glossy Ibis (1)	Ruffed Grouse (2)	Sabine's Gull (1)
Turkey Vulture (27)	Wild Turkey (4)	Black-legged Kittiwake (3)
Snow Goose (2)	Northern Bobwhite (7)	Caspian Tern (1)
Canada Goose (75)	Clapper Rail (1)	Sandwich Tern (1)
Brant (24)	Virginia Rail (1)	Roseate Tern (7)
Mute Swan (44)	Sandhill Crane (1)	Common Tern (26)
Wood Duck (9)	American Coot (9)	Arctic Tern (1)
Gadwall (22)	Black-bellied Plover (27)	Forster's Tern (10)
Eurasian Wigeon (3)	American Golden-plover (2)	Least Tern (12)
American Wigeon (15)	Semipalmated Plover (15)	Black Tern (5)
American Black Duck (64)	Piping Plover (8)	Black Skimmer (1)
Mallard (72)	Killdeer (1)	Dovekie (4)
Blue-winged Teal (8)	American Oystercatcher (8)	Common Murre (1)
Northern Shoveler (2)	Greater Yellowlegs (41)	Thick-billed Murre (2)
Northern Pintail (4)	Lesser Yellowlegs (12)	Razorbill (7)
Green-winged Teal (22)	Willet (15)	Black Guillemot (4)
Canvasback (4)	Spotted Sandpiper (5)	Rock Pigeon (33)
Redhead (3)	Whimbrel (6)	Mourning Dove (80)
Ring-necked Duck (30)	Hudsonian Godwit (4)	Black-billed Cuckoo (4)
Greater Scaup (22)	Marbled Godwit (2)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (2)
Lesser Scaup (9)	Ruddy Turnstone (16)	Eastern Screech-Owl (4)
King Eider (4)	Red Knot (8)	Great Horned Owl (2)
Common Eider (44)	Sanderling (35)	Short-eared Owl (2)
Harlequin Duck (7)	Semipalmated Sandpiper (17)	Northern Saw-whet Owl (1)
Surf Scoter (23)	Western Sandpiper (3)	Whip-poor-will (1)
White-winged Scoter (30)	Least Sandpiper (15)	Chimney Swift (10)
Black Scoter (25)	White-rumped Sandpiper (7)	Ruby-throated Hummingbird (8)
Long-tailed Duck (20)	Baird's Sandpiper (1)	Belted Kingfisher (44)

Red-bellied Woodpecker (30)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)
Downy Woodpecker (85)
Hairy Woodpecker (25)
Northern Flicker (64)
Olive-sided Flycatcher (1)
Eastern Wood-Pewee (10)
Alder Flycatcher (1)
Willow Flycatcher (2)
Least Flycatcher (2)
Eastern Phoebe (26)
Great Crested Flycatcher (19)
Western Kingbird (1)
Eastern Kingbird (21)
Northern Shrike (1)
White-eyed Vireo (3)
Blue-headed Vireo (6)
Warbling Vireo (1)
Philadelphia Vireo (1)
Red-eyed Vireo (15)
Blue Jay (93)
American Crow (115)
Fish Crow (3)
Horned Lark (14)
Tree Swallow (42)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
(6)
Bank Swallow (1)
Barn Swallow (25)
Black-capped Chickadee (100)
Tufted Titmouse (87)
Red-breasted Nuthatch (33)
White-breasted Nuthatch (56)
Brown Creeper (12)
Carolina Wren (53)
House Wren (9)
Winter Wren (8)
Marsh Wren (7)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (25)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (13)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (8)
Eastern Bluebird (8)
Veery (2)
Hermit Thrush (18)
Wood Thrush (3)
American Robin (94)
Gray Catbird (59)
Northern Mockingbird (53)
Brown Thrasher (3)
European Starling (49)
American Pipit (1)
Cedar Waxwing (33)
Blue-winged Warbler (3)
Nashville Warbler (8)
Northern Parula (13)

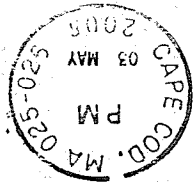
Yellow Warbler (26)
Chestnut-sided Warbler (8)
Magnolia Warbler (11)
Black-throated Blue Warbler (9)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (32)
Black-throated Green Warbler
(15)
Blackburnian Warbler (5)
Pine Warbler (35)
Prairie Warbler (4)
Palm Warbler (10)
Bay-breasted Warbler (1)
Blackpoll Warbler (12)
Black-and-white Warbler (13)
American Redstart (18)
Worm-eating Warbler (1)
Ovenbird (11)
Northern Waterthrush (2)
Louisiana Waterthrush (1)
Common Yellowthroat (26)
Hooded Warbler (2)
Wilson's Warbler (7)
Canada Warbler (3)
Yellow-breasted Chat (1)
Summer Tanager (1)
Scarlet Tanager (7)
Eastern Towhee (46)
American Tree Sparrow (8)
Chipping Sparrow (37)
Clay-colored Sparrow (3)
Field Sparrow (10)
Savannah Sparrow (11)
Grasshopper Sparrow (1)
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (1)
Fox Sparrow (5)
Song Sparrow (91)
Lincoln's Sparrow (3)
Swamp Sparrow (17)
White-throated Sparrow (39)
White-crowned Sparrow (6)
Dark-eyed Junco (30)
Lapland Longspur (1)
Snow Bunting (4)
Northern Cardinal (90)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (4)
Blue Grosbeak (2)
Indigo Bunting (4)
Dickcissel (1)
Bobolink (3)
Red-winged Blackbird (54)
Eastern Meadowlark (8)
Rusty Blackbird (2)
Common Grackle (62)
Brown-headed Cowbird (22)
Orchard Oriole (7)

Baltimore Oriole (20)
Purple Finch (8)
House Finch (58)
Pine Siskin (1)
American Goldfinch (104)
House Sparrow (55)

Frank Caruso and Barbara Steller
17 Freedom Rd
Forestdale, MA 02644

Brewster, MA 02631

869 Rte 6-A
The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Cape Cod Bird Club



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 \$15 single membership, \$22 family membership to:

CCBC, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631
Website: www.massbird.org/CCBC

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Editor ~ Sylvia Jurkowski E-mail: capekingfisher@yahoo.com
Circulation ~ Carolyn Kennedy

Nominating Committee Chair – Dick Jurkowski