



THE KINGFISHER

Vol. 35 - Issue 5

The Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

Summer (July - September) 2007

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

Inside this issue:

Club Trips	2
CCBC Programs	3
New Members	3
Bird Sightings	4
Book Review 'The Big Twitch'	5
'Planning a Club Bird Walk'	6
Membership Renewal Form	7
Butterfly Counts	7

The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

Deadline for next issue's articles:

SEPTEMBER 1st

Send articles or comments to:

capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Website:

<http://massbird.org/CCBC>

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

President's Message

I would like to begin by welcoming our new board members. Matt Malin, Julie O'Neil, and Vianna Heath have joined our Board of Directors. I am super excited to have them on board and look forward to working with them. Thank you for volunteering to be part of a great group of people.

I had a terrific spring with 27 species of warblers and many other good birds. I hope all of you had a chance to get out there and experience the wonderful migration we had this year. I noticed many of you participated in the 2nd Annual Birding Cape Cod Weekend Event. We had 155 people attending the walks and the total number of birds seen was 134, two more than last year's event!

Some highlights from the weekend were a Mississippi Kite and a Bald Eagle seen at the Pilgrim Heights Hawk Watch in Truro on Sunday. Other highlights from the hawk watch were a Purple Martin and 37 Common Loon. At the West Harwich Conservation Area on Saturday there were 3 Glossy Ibis, 2 Black-Crowned Night Heron, 200 Least Sandpiper, and 4 Marsh Wren. During a dusk walk at the Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth on Saturday there were 5 American Woodcock, 5 Grasshopper Sparrow, 1 Eastern Meadowlark, and 3 Northern Bobwhite. A Northern Waterthrush was recorded on the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary walk on Saturday. At the Falmouth Town Forest on Sunday 1 Ruby-Crowned Kinglet was observed and 1 Golden-Crowned Kinglet was seen at Frost Fish Creek in Chatham. On Sunday during a dusk walk at Marconi in Wellfleet 5 Whip-Poor-Will were heard calling. A Great Horned Owl was spotted roosting in a tree at the Kent's Point Conservation Area in Orleans on Saturday and one was heard calling at the Sandwich Conservation Area on Sunday.

Seen in the Nauset Beach area on Sunday were 2 Great Cormorant and 2 Seaside Sparrow. A late Bufflehead was seen on Sunday at the Salt Pond Visitors Center in Eastham.

For a full list of results check the club's website at

www.massbird.org/ccbc

Though some birders may find summer birding to be dull, I am looking forward to it. Even though fall is still a few months away, the first southbound migrants can be seen in July. South Beach in Chatham is the birding hot-spot on Cape Cod. Tens of thousands of migrating shorebirds roost and feed at the southern tip of this 3-mile barrier beach, allowing close views of such species as Red Knot, Sanderling, Piping Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, American Oystercatcher and Hudsonian Godwit. Rare migrants like Curlew Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, and American Golden Plover can also be seen. At the end of summer, terns gather in great numbers, including Roseate and possibly Arctic and Black.

In late summer, Coast Guard Beach in Eastham can yield some wonderful bird sightings. Lingered shorebirds can be found roosting in the marsh tucked behind the dunes and several species of terns may be spotted. Migrating falcons are often seen flying overhead and just off shore jaegers are commonly seen chasing other birds over the open water.

Last year Black-crowned Night Herons returned to a historical roost behind Hemenway Landing in Eastham and were reported on several occasions near dusk. Check this spot out in late August or early September and take some time to check some of the other wonderful summer birding hotspots we have here on Cape Cod.

Mary Keleher

Club Trips - Summer

Please Note:

Rain or heavy wind cancels all trips.

Call leader if in doubt.

July 22 - Sun 7-10 AM

Sandwich - "Stauffer's Puddle"
Meet at Route 6A Convenience Store across from Ploughed Neck Rd. We'll carpool to the puddle and look for Opreys, Terns, Horned Larks and several species of Shorebirds.
Leader: Mary Keleher,
508-477-1473 or
maryeak@yahoo.com

August 14 - Tue 9:30 AM-4 PM

South Beach, Chatham
Meet at Monomoy NWR Headquarters on Morris Island, in Chatham at 9:30. Park on the causeway and a van will bring you to the headquarters. We'll take the Morris Island Ferry to the beach and then leisurely view the thousands of shorebirds and seabirds in migration. Be prepared to walk 3+ miles. This trip is co-sponsored with the Forbush Bird Club. There is a fee for boat transportation.
Heavy winds or surf cancels.
Rain date is Wed, August 15th.
Leader: Ed Banks 430-0845
edbanks@verizon.net

August 15 - Wed 6-9 PM

South Cape Beach and Mashpee Pine Barrens
(yes, PM) An evening walk/drive. Meet at South Cape Beach, Mashpee Beach Lot. Let's check the beach, Waquoit Bay and Sedge Lot Pond for evening birds and then drive the sand roads in the dark, headlight-spotting for whip-poor-wills and listening for owls.
Leader: Matt Malin
hossfeldt@yahoo.com

Ginie Page - Trips Coordinator

Aug 25 - SAT - 7:30-10:30 AM

Sandwich - "Stauffer's Puddle"
Meet at Route 6A Convenience Store across from Ploughed Neck Rd. We'll carpool to the puddle and look for Opreys, Terns, Horned Larks and several species of Shorebirds.
Leader: Mary Keleher,
508-477-1473 or
maryeak@yahoo.com

August 26 - Sun 7-10 AM Quashnet River Mashpee/ Falmouth

Meet at the parking area on Martin Road off Rte 28 in Falmouth. We will walk both sides of the river to see what early fall migrants might be passing through.
Study those fall warblers!
Leader: Matt Malin
hossfeldt@yahoo.com

September 2 - SUN 7-10 AM Mashpee River Woodlands.

Meet in the parking area on Quinaquisset Ave. We will carpool to River Road and walk two miles back to the parking area. From the Mashpee Rotary take Route 28 towards Hyannis. Take the first right onto Quinaquisset Ave. The woodlands parking area is around the corner on the right.
Leader: Mary Keleher,
508-477-1473 or
maryeak@yahoo.com

September 10 - Mon 8-11AM Coast Guard Beach, Eastham

Meet at the east end of the Coast Guard Station parking lot. We will walk the marsh area west of the dunes in search of shorebirds, terns, ducks and whatever surprises are present. Shorebirds and seabirds, marsh birds and osprey overhead - anything is possible!

Park at the Coast Guard building. (please arrive early in case parking is a problem)
Leader: Mark Tuttle 362- 3015.

September 17 - Mon 9-12 AM West Harwich Conservation Area

Meet at Bell's Neck Road in West Harwich. We will be looking for migrating birds, including shorebirds. We may also check nearby beaches.
Leaders: Nancy Reider and Ruth Connaughton 432-1580.

September 20 - Thu 8 AM Wellfleet to P'Town Sweep.

Meet at the Wellfleet town pier for a good look at the harbor. We will carpool and then work our way to the tip of the Cape, checking for birds on the sea and on land. There should be some nice fall specialties. We'll stop for lunch if we're still going strong.
Leader: Ginie Page 349-6810
maryeak@yahoo.com

September 29 - SAT 9:30AM ANNUAL PICNIC

Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary. Sanctuary Director Ian Ives will lead a walk focusing on ecological succession and management practices at the Long Pasture Sanctuary. If we have a large group, Mary Keleher and Ginie Page will also be available to lead walks. We'll return to the nature center for lunch. Please bring a brown bag lunch.
At 1:00PM Becky Harris, Director of Mass. Audubon's Coastal Waterbird Program, will give a talk on the program's progress. Meet at Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, at 345 Bone Hill Rd, Cummaquid. Take Bone Hill Road to last driveway on left. Park at end of driveway.

Cape Cod Bird Club Programs

David Clapp, Program Coordinator

September 10, 2007

Julie Tilden



**“Kekoldi Hawkwatch
in Talamanca, Costa Rica”**

Julie Tilden will be talking about her experiences at the Kekoldi Hawkwatch in Talamanca, Costa Rica.

This site, located in the Caribbean lowlands, is one of the few worldwide to tally over one million raptors in a season! Approximately three million raptors are counted over Kekoldi each fall as they make their way to their wintering grounds throughout Central and South America.

Julie will be sharing stories and photos of her research at Kekoldi and talking about raptors in the tropics.

Working as a field biologist around the country for the past nine years, most of her work has been focused on raptor conservation. She recently finished her Masters Degree in Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England where she studied peregrine falcon migration in Costa Rica.

She presently works for BioDiversity Research Institute in Maine.

Don't miss this wonderful start to our new season of fine programs!

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

- Sally Hinkle, Boston
- Nancy Frazee, Fall River
- Ken & Ruth Roines, Glenville, NY
- Barbara Gibson, Chatham
- Marjorie Steinberg, Provincetown

Hope to see you at our Club walks and meetings!

Cape Cod Bird Club

Programs 2007 - 2008

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month from September to May at the Museum of Natural History, 869 Rte. 6A, Brewster, MA. Meetings are FREE and open to the public. For more information check the club's website at www.massbird.org/ccbc.

October 8, 2007: Tom French
“The Return of the Peregrine Falcon”

November 12, 2007: Ron Lockwood
“Upland Sandpipers in Massachusetts”

December 10, 2007: Members' Night
Members' Slides, Silent Auction
and Door Prizes

January 14, 2008: Stephanie Koch
“Bird Studies on Monomoy”

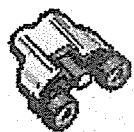
February 11, 2008: Trevor Loyd-Evans
*“Are Our Birds Coming or Going-
or Both?”*

March 10, 2008: Sean Murphy
“Oystercatchers of the Cape and Islands”

April 14, 2008: Tim White
*“Long-tailed Ducks;
Up Close and Personal”*

May 12, 2008: Ian Nisbit
*“Terns of Nantucket Sound
and Our Eastern Beaches”*

Dates of speakers are subject to change, please check latest newsletter and our website.



Bird Sightings

March – May 2007

A **Piping Plover** was reported from Race Point, Provincetown on 3/15. An **American Bittern** and **Seaside Sparrow** were noted from Fort Hill, Eastham on 3/15. Also on 3/15, were 30 **Horned Grebes** observed from Corporation Beach, Dennis.

A **Northern Shrike** made an appearance at the Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth on 3/16.

Some of the first **Ospreys** of the season were noted from Brewster and Mashpee on 3/18, North Falmouth on 3/19 and Chatham on 3/21.

On 3/20 an immature **Bald Eagle** was recorded from South Cape Beach, Mashpee.

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was discovered in Eastham on 3/23 and at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on 5/5.

Four **Black-headed Gulls** were noted in Barnstable on 3/23.

A "**Eurasian**" **Common Teal** was enjoyed from the Harwich Conservation area on 3/24.

On 3/27, **Killdeer** returned to the rooftops of the Patriot Square Shopping Center in South Dennis.

A single **Laughing Gull** and **Tree Swallow** graced South Cape Beach, Mashpee 3/27 as well as an **American Oystercatcher** and **Eastern Meadowlark** on 3/30.

Yarmouthport hosted 40 **Ruddy Ducks** on 4/6. Three **American Kestrels** were recorded in Falmouth on 4/13.

A three-day Nor'easter, 4/17-19, produced the following totals from Corporation Beach in Dennis:

17 **Northern Fulmars**, 7 **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, 427 **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, 1 **Red Phalarope**, 2 **Pomarine Jaegers**, 1 **Parasitic Jaeger**, 10 **Laughing Gulls**, 26 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 4 **Thick-billed Murres**, 5 **Razorbills**, 1 **Black Guillemot**, 805 large alcid sp. From Sandwich on 4/18:

1 **Black Guillemot**, 1 **Red Phalarope**, and 8+ **Leach's Storm-Petrels**.

A **Prairie Warbler** and **Rough-legged Hawk** were recorded from North Truro on 4/20 and 4/25 respectively.

Some of the season's first **Baltimore Orioles** were noted in Mashpee and Harwich on 4/27. On 4/28 a **Snowy Egret** was observed at Oregon Beach in the Cotuit section of Barnstable.

An especially rare sighting of a **Barred Owl** in Mashpee on 4/29 and 5/28 (likely the same individual) was quite a surprise. Two **Eastern Willets** were tallied from Loop Beach in Cotuit on 4/29.

A covey of **Bobwhites** (quail) was seen in a backyard in Harwich on 5/2.

A **Worm-eating Warbler** and a **Vesper Sparrow** were found in the Beech Forest, Provincetown on 5/3.

Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported from Bourne on 5/13. A **Cerulean Warbler** was discovered in Chatham on 5/5 and last seen on 5/7.

On 5/6, two **Black Skimmers** were seen from Tonset Road in Orleans. Also from 5/6 were 13 **Glossy Ibis** feeding on the flats in the East Reservoir off Bells Neck Road in West Harwich.

On 5/11, 500 **Roseate Terns** and an unidentified **Jaeger** were noted outside Wild Harbor in Falmouth. Two **Caspian Terns** flying NNE overland were

observed from Old Silver Beach Falmouth on 5/11.

An **Eastern Kingbird** was recorded in Bourne on 5/13.

Mississippi Kites made their annual appearance at the Pilgrim Heights Hawkwatch in North Truro on 5/14 and 5/16 and a remarkable four individual Kites were recorded on 5/26.

A lone **Northern Goshawk** was seen flying along Old Meeting House Road in East Falmouth on 5/15.

Also on 5/15 was a stunning discovery of a **Crested Caracara** in West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard.

A moderate northerly breeze on 5/18 at Corporation Beach, Dennis produced 1 **Manx Shearwater**, 1 **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**, 8+ **Roseate Terns**, 200+ **Common Terns**, 7+ **Least Terns**, and 1 **Black Tern**.

On 5/20 a **Yellow-nosed Albatross** that had been rehabbing at the Tufts Veterinary Clinic in Grafton was released at Old Silver Beach in Falmouth. Unfortunately, the bird was rediscovered apparently sitting beneath an underpass on Route 25 in Plymouth the following day where it was once again captured and brought back to Tufts. Also on 5/20 a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was discovered singing in the High Head area of North Truro.

Peter Flood



Photo by Larry Folding

Book Review

The Big Twitch

by Sean Dooley
Allen & Unwin, 2005, 301 pp.

There are some subtle (and not-so-subtle) differences in the way birders and non-birders see the world and their places in it. Sean Dooley knows this well and has opened this terrific book with two introductions (on facing pages); one for birders and one for non. They are *almost* identical but for subtle and hilarious differences. Dooley is no stranger to humor as his day job is as a freelance writer for Australian TV sitcoms. But he is also a self-admitted *twitcher* which apparently does not carry the same negative connotation in Australia which it does in the U.K.

In his early thirties, Dooley was already a well known birder in his native country when his life was altered by the deaths of both his parents within a few months. He was left a share of a somewhat substantial inheritance which allowed him to pursue a dream: to become the first person to see 700 species of birds in Australia in one year. What follows is a wonderful soul-searching adventure/travelogue across one of the most beautiful, forbidding and little-known continents on Earth.

It becomes obvious straight away that this is a man with a plan. Travel routes, seasons, even exact dates are all

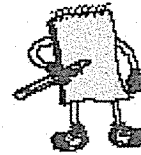
figured into Dooley's ambitious itinerary. He knows that his goal of 700 will be out of reach unless certain species are seen at specific locations at specific times. This allows for a very small margin of error indeed.

One would surmise that the stress of keeping to a schedule this tight would render the thousands of solo-driven miles unenjoyable and at times this is clearly the case. Such might be the case perhaps after crushing his finger while changing his eighth flat tire.

At these times it is not the record that seems to keep him going. It's the *birds*. Many of his target species he has seen many times before but one can tell that, unlike the prototypical "twitcher" or lister, Dooley finds magic in even the most common birds. It is hard to imagine who wouldn't find magic in Rainbow Lorikeet, Superb Fairy-wren or Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo among many others. I will not spoil the ending by telling *how many* others!

This reviewer freely admits to being a long-suffering Australophile who may or may not ever get the opportunity to go Down Under. Thanks to Sean Dooley's wonderful book, one can almost smell the eucalyptus, hear the 'roos booming and see some of the most stunning birds in the world.

Al Curtis



Notes to Members

- All club walks are free and new birders are always welcome!
- A call or e-mail to the leader is appreciated, especially if inclement weather is predicted.
- Take a lunch on all-day field trips.
- Carry an extra set of keys in your pocket on trips.
- Check our website for added trips or changes.
- Inform the treasurer if you change your address.

WALK CHECKLIST FOR LEADERS

- Walk leaders may now download the walk checklist to keep track of what is seen on the walks.
- Download and print either the Excel Spreadsheet version or the Adobe Reader version of the walk checklist.

<http://www.massbird.org/ccbc/>

Some Things I Consider When Planning a Club Bird Walk by Dan Furbish

Here are a few KEY aspects I think of when planning a birding trip.

One, as the real-estate slogan goes "location, location, location", is that a good birding trip leader will scout the area ahead of time.

I always check the Massachusetts hunting abstracts at: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwpdf/dfw_hunting_dates.pdf

<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwrec.htm#HUNT>

I plan Sunday trips if the spot I want to bird has a serious hunting influence because there is NO hunting on Sunday in Massachusetts.

If I'm planning a trip along the coast or to a salt water marsh or estuary, a tide chart MUST be incorporated into the mix. I normally use this website in my planning:

<http://www.maineharbors.com>

Long range weather forecasts can be observed at various websites (as we all know mother nature can change this in a heartbeat though) and I always incorporate language into the listing: "heavy rain or snow cancels this trip" or "contact the leader if you have any questions". Many bird clubs now have language on their websites stating that a participant contact the leader prior to the trip or check the club website

prior to the trip date in case of changes. (emergencies do come up where the trip may be canceled or rescheduled). Another consideration is the number of participants that can safely attend a trip.

When I scout a trip, I consider the parking situations of the areas or vantage points you can bird from.

Most times car-pooling makes the most sense, due to the high cost of fuel and limited parking in congested areas.

I've found on some trips car-pooling and NOT leaving the scheduled trip has to be enforced. If you drive 'your' vehicle as a car-pooling vehicle and decide to leave the trip because you live in the town we finish at and others in your car have to "stuff" into the other vehicles because you don't want to drive back to the start point, in my opinion this IS NOT acceptable behavior unless there's a serious condition that comes up with that driver.

One must realize this causes a BIG headache for the trip leader and inconveniences EVERYONE on the trip.

On all day trips you must figure in rest stops at regular intervals and occasionally a hot beverage stops on extremely cold days. I almost never stop for lunch but bring a brown bag lunch and eat on the run. I encourage bringing along nourishing snacks in your backpack. I always encourage new birders and young birders to attend all club trips. We all can learn

from each other. A group discussion on the key ID marks of birds is always encouraged!

Bringing along a good field guide or two in a backpack or belt pouch is always a good idea.

I normally bring Nat'l Geo. 3rd or 4th edition and many folks carry Sibley's small field guide.

Other books I carry in my vehicle when leading trips on Cape is "Birding Cape Cod" ISBN 0-9758502-2-9 and Peterson's Field Guides" Also "Advanced Birding" by Kenn Kaufmann.

Almost every club member can lead a 'great' birding trip. Take some time to plan a 3 hour or 1/2 day or whole day trip. Start out on a regular trip you do on a normal basis, look at the parking situation, think of what you'd do if 12 or so birders came with you.

Where would you go first with the sunlight behind you so the best light will be on the birds and not in your eyes? Which way will the wind be blowing?

One final thought. As Ed Banks wisely advises, always carry an extra vehicle key in your pocket.

I enjoy birding and sharing the birds and special places adds to the fun.

Good birding, and always take a second look at every bird, rarities are everywhere!

Dan

YELLOWRAIL@comcast.net

Membership Renewal Form

This half-page can be used as your Membership Renewal Form. By filling 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, 2007. 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 _____



4th of July Butterfly Counts on the Cape



There are four butterfly counts (much like bird counts) on the Cape in July. Alison Robb, a club member and leader of many of our trips, is the organizer and compiler. She needs many volunteers, whether able to identify butterflies or just to spot them for the more experienced. It is a great learning experience and in succeeding years each participant becomes more knowledgeable (and, she hopes, more addicted to this new outdoor sport or passion). They set off in teams to several sites, visit the most popular habitats, enjoy a full day outdoors, and regroup at 3 PM to report. They carpool to several sites; there is not a lot of walking.

The data is entered into a database which is published by NABA (North American Butterfly Association, see www.NABA.org).

The dates and some meeting places are below. Please contact Alison to sign up and for more information (email preferred). nature@cape.com, 508-564-4331.

TRURO Saturday, July 7, 2007,
 (July 8 rain date) 9:00 AM

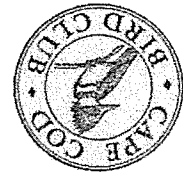
BREWSTER Saturday, July 21, 2007,
 (July 22, rain date). 9:00 AM For the
 Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.

FALMOUTH. Sunday, July 15, 2007
 (no rain date) 9:00 AM

BARNSTABLE Saturday, July 28, 2007,
 (July 29, rain date), 9:00 AM For the
 Audubon Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary.

It's That Time of Year!
A friendly reminder: Dues are due September 1st
(Please see Page 7)

Cape Cod Bird Club
The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
869 RTE 6A, 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 \$15.00 (single) or \$22.00 (family) to:

CCBC, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

869 Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631

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

Officers

Mary Keleher	President
Ginie Page	Vice President
Peter Flood	Secretary
Carolyn Kennedy	Treasurer

Directors

Julie O'Neil	Vianna Heath
Matt Malin	Al Curtis
David Clapp	Gretchen Putonen

Newsletter

Editor ~ Ed Banks E-mail: capekingfisher@yahoo.com

Membership/Address Changes~ Carolyn Kennedy

E-mail: cdbcmembership@verizon.net

Nominating Committee Chair ~ Dick Jurkowski