

# CAPE COD BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY - JUNE 1986

For lo! The winter is past. The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth. The time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

Bird Club has a full program of walks for this time of year, not only singing but migrating birds. Take in as many as you can and have a wonderful time. Be sure to check the times scheduled as they vary.

**PROGRAMS:** Monday, May 12 - 7:45 P.M. Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster. Speaker: Brad Blodget, State Ornithologist. Topic: COLONIAL WATERBIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS. Since Brad has to travel some distance his talk will precede our annual meeting and election of officers. Try to be prompt so we can begin on time at 7:45. Please plan to stay for the annual meeting.

Monday, June 16 - Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Picnic at 5 P.M. preceded by a Sanctuary walk at 2 P.M. Please note this is the third Monday. In case of rain, picnic will be at the Museum.

## WALKS:

- . Wednesday, May 7 - 8 A.M. - Falmouth. Meet behind Falmouth Town Hall. Julie Nelson (540-1103) and Barbara Perryclear (563-6487)
- . Wednesday, May 7 - 6 P.M. - Harwich Conservation Area, Bell's Neck Road, W. Harwich. Blair Nikula (945-2153)
- . Monday, May 12 - 8 A.M. - Outer Cape. Meet at Lower Parking Area, Ft. Hill. Mike O'Connor (255-6910)
- . Tuesday, May 13 - 8 A.M. - Outer Cape. Meet at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, S. Wellfleet. Bob Prescott (349-2615)
- . Thursday, May 15 - 8 A.M. - Yarmouthport. Meet at Playground, Rte. 6A and Union St. Charlotte Smith (362-6891)
- . Tuesday, May 20 - 7 A.M. - Beech Forest. Meet at Beech Forest parking lot in Provincetown. Bob Scott (362-4866)
- . Thursday, May 22 - 8 A.M. - Harwich. Meet at the conservation area on Bell's Neck Road in W. Harwich. John and Ginny Redfern (432-6420)
- . Friday, May 23 - 8 A.M. - Barnstable. Meet at Burger King, Rte. 6 and Rte. 132 to go to Georgia Ferguson's property. Charlotte Smith (362-6891)
- . Saturday, May 24 - 7 A.M. - Beech Forest. Meet at parking lot in Provincetown. Bessie Tirrell (432-9428)
- . Saturday, May 24 - 11 A.M. - 4 P.M. - Monomoy. Meet at Refuge Headquarters. Blair Nikula (945-2153). Trip limited to 8 people by reservation. Fee \$12 will benefit Manomet Bird Observatory Shorebird Program.
- . Wednesday, June 4 - 8 A.M. - Falmouth. Details same as May 7, above.
- . Monday, June 9 - 8 A.M. - Outer Cape. Details same as May 12.
- . Tuesday, June 10 - 8 A.M. - Outer Cape. Details same as May 13.
- . Saturday, June 14 - Mid-Cape Breeding Bird Census. From dawn to early afternoon. The census covers same area as Christmas Count. This is an important event and needs as many participants as possible for complete coverage. Contact Janet Aylward (362-9078)
- . Monday, June 16 - 2 P.M. - Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Pre-picnic walk.

Throughout Spring and Summer the Cape Cod National Seashore, Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Ashumet Holly Reservation and Cape Cod Museum of Natural History offer walks and schedule special events. Check local newspapers for dates.

**MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON BIRD-A-THON.** From 6 P.M. Friday, May 16th to 6 P.M. Saturday, May 17. Both Wellfleet Bay and Ashumet Sanctuaries are fielding teams and looking for pledges. Wellfleet Bay is offering an all-expense tour of North Island, Monomoy for each pledge of 25¢ a bird or of South Island for a 50¢ per bird pledge. We are lucky to have these sanctuaries on the Cape. We should help as much as we can either by birding or pledging. Contact either Sanctuary if you can help.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chairman Mary Ropes, Sally Clifton and Aurele Thomas report the following slate of officers for 1986-1987:

Pres. - John Redfern	Sec'y. - Aurele Thomas
V. Pres. - Peter Trull	Treas. - Arthur King
Trustees for 3 year terms:	Roger Everett & Harriet Sears

You will note we are electing a new treasurer. Bob Scott has served seven years as an expert manager of our funds. We are very grateful to him.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We are pleased to welcome the following new members to CCBC: Gordon and Barbara Perry, Dennis; Beverly and Robert W. Ricci, Worcester; Joseph and Angela Mault, Orleans; Mary Rosenfeld, Truro and Lucy and George Goddard, Plainville, MA. Maria Sylvester, E. Dennis has rejoined us after a stay in California. Welcome back, Maria.

**FEEDER CENSUS:** If you haven't yet turned in your feeder census, please bring it to the May meeting or mail to CCBC care of CC Museum of Natural History.

**BLAIR'S PREVIEW:** 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 and Beebe Woods in Falmouth can provide good spring birding.

The hawk migration continues into the first half of May with Pilgrim Heights in Truro and the Marconi Site in Wellfleet offering the best chances to see these spectacular birds. The shorebird migration also peaks in May and, as always with this group, Monomoy Island offers by far the best showing. The Nauset, Wellfleet Bay and Sandy Neck areas also have a good variety of shorebirds and any marsh or mudflat 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 strongly into the first 10 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 bizarre rarities of the year also seem to show up in June and those who put their binoculars away when migration ends, risk missing something exciting.

**A LETTER FROM JOHN & GINNY REDFERN:** As I write this we are camped in Northernmost California, 5,000 road miles from home (2,560 as the crow flies-or maybe a misdirected red knot). We are having a ball seeing big chunks of this great country and visiting friends and relatives in New Jersey, Maryland, Mississippi, and San Diego, CA. We've also managed to do some birding along the way. Highlights include: a Whooping Crane cruise in Rockport, Texas provided terrific close-ups of these magnificent birds as well as 36 other species, the boat could be part of the Dolphin Fleet in Provincetown; a visit to the Chiricahua National Monument in Arizona added several life birds in a short space of time, including Gray-breasted Jays, Black-throated Gray Warblers, Bridled Titmice, and a Mountain Chickadee; a walk at the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge near Lake Charles, Louisiana, where the trails put you within almost touching distance of the ducks, heron, and shorebirds, yielded Northern Shovelers, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Blue and Louisiana Herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Coot and Common Moorhen, at least five alligators and the prize sightings for us of Roseate Spoonbills and Olivaceous Cormorants.

Some great birds have shown up in unexpected places. Side road excursions have resulted in sightings of Gambrel Quail, Road Runners, Black-throated and Lark Sparrows plus an immature Golden Eagle that started out to be a Black Vulture until slamming a door while getting the scope flushed it off its roost and it displayed its true colors. Quick stops on a state highway (we don't dare make them on Interstates) have resulted in views of a Crested Caracara, White-tailed Hawks and a Cactus Wren. The RV campground birds are not all House Sparrows, House Finch and Mocking Birds. We have also discovered Pyrrhuloxia, Clay-colored Robins, and Acorn Woodpecker, White Winged Dove, Black-crested Titmice (a race not a species, but I count 'em all), and Costa's Hummingbirds. Our first Eastern Bluebird was at the Alabama Welcome Center on I-59 and a Western showed up at a picnic ground in Texas. Wire-perched birds which are usually Kestrels and Mourning Doves back home are Shrikes and Mourning Doves out here. So it goes, just not enough time to see all the birds and still get back in time to catch the warblers in Beech Forest.

