

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

July - August 1986

This summer promises to be even wilder than usual with the increased building on the Cape and the reluctance of many to leave the home shores. As usual, The Bird Club has reduced its activities to enable the members to entertain their guests and dodge the multitudes. A limited walk schedule has been provided so that you can keep your birding skills intact. Your guests are, of course, more than welcome to join any of these walks.

WALKS: Saturday, July 19 - 9 A.M. - Monomoy. Meet at the Monomoy Head quarters on Morris Island. TRIP LIMITED TO 8 PARTICIPANTS. PRE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. COST \$15. For further details and reservations, contact Peter Trimble (477-3847) before July 13.

Saturday, July 26 - 8 A.M. - Great Island. Meet at National Seashore Great Island parking lot in Wellfleet. Bessie Tirrell (432-9248).

Sunday, August 17 - 9 A.M. - Monomoy. Same as July 19 except contact Peter before August 11.

Sunday, August 31 - 8 A.M. - South Cape Beach State Park. Meet at the South Cape Beach parking lot in Mashpee (follow signs from rotary at the intersection of Routes 28 and 151 in Mashpee). Peter Trimble (477-3847).

NEW BOARD: As a result of the elections at the May meeting, the officers and board members for the next year are:

President: John Redfern	Directors: Mary Ropes	Harriet Sears
Vice-president: Peter Trull	Mike O'Connor	Roger Everett
Secretary: Aurele Thomas	Peter Trimble	
Treasurer: Art King	Bessie Tirrell	

Our thanks to the outgoing members of the board of directors; Julie Nelson who provided such excellent programs for the past three years, and Alice Tait who was responsible for getting our meeting notices and walk schedules to the local news media. Special thanks to Bob Scott, our treasurer for the past seven years. Bob's voice will be missed at the board meetings, but I'm sure he'll find some way to tell us how to do right.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob's final treasurer's report is briefly summarized below:

Carry-over from 84/85:	\$ 991.28	Dues and checklist sales provide
Receipts:	1938.69	most of our income (almost \$1800).
Expenditures:	1839.80	The newsletter (\$525) and program
Balance (6/16/86):	1090.17	speakers (\$516) were our largest
		expenditures.

BREEDING BIRD CENSUS: The annual Mid-Cape Breeding Bird Census was conducted on June 14th. 110 species were observed with a total of 8058 birds. There were eleven species new to this count: Manx Shearwater (1); Wilson's Storm Petrel (23); Northern Gannet (1); Blue-winged Teal (2); Oldsquaw (1); Black Scoter (2); Bufflehead (1); Hooded Merganser (1); Ruddy Turnstone (1); Least Sandpiper (18); and Dunlin (3). Thanks to Janet Aylward and her team for a job well done.

Bear Milula 945-2153 Bob Prescott (Wellfleet Bay)

DUES: Membership payments are now due for 1986-1987. Please detach the form below and mail it with your payment.

NAME (Please print): _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____

MEMBERSHIP: [] Family, \$8.00 [] Single, \$5.00

Make checks payable to the CAPE COD BIRD CLUB and mail to:
Arthur N. King, Treasurer, CCBC, 23 Maple Lane, Brewster, MA 02631

BLAIR'S PREVIEW: Birding activity for most Cape Cod birders slows to a crawl during the summer months as the hordes of tourists drive the birds to the few secluded places left and make most of our favorite haunts unbearable. However, some good birding is possible once you escape the crowds.

Shorebirds, terns, and gulls are the most conspicuous of the local avifauna, and a trip to Monomy Island is always highly productive for these species. New Island in the Nauset marsh is another remarkable spot and the boat trips now offered by the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary provide a unique chance to bird this seldom-visited gem of an island which harbors the largest tern colony in the state and hosts hundreds of shorebirds during the summer. For those with a healthy tolerance of homicidal insects, a picnic dinner at Hemenway Landing in Eastham will afford a chance to watch a variety of herons (primarily Black-crowned Night-herons) flying to and from the roost. Pelagic birding can also be good at this season with the beaches at Race Point and Herring Cove in Provincetown offering the best chance to see these unpredictable birds from land. A whale-watching trip is most certain to produce a few storm-petrels, shearwaters and jaegers, and if conditions are favorable large numbers of these species may be seen.

REDFERN TRIP (Conclusion): As I wrote for the last newsletter, we were in northern California and making our way up the Pacific Coast Highway (US Rte. 101) toward Vancouver, B. C. From there, the scenery along the Oregon coast was beautiful with spectacular vistas every mile or so. We also saw many birds, the most spectacular of these being Tufted Puffins seen off the cliffs at Mear's State Park. While visiting our eldest daughter in Vancouver we were able to get in some good birding. Stanley Park, right downtown, was great for gulls and ducks. A Eurasian Wigeon was our favorite. South of the airport, the Reifel Refuge (which was written up in the May-June "Birdwatcher's Guide") was also good. The Sandhill Crane mentioned in the guide article was apparently still a resident. At least, we were greeted by a seemingly tame one as we entered the refuge. We also had great views of an immature Golden Eagle who sat high in a tree the whole time we were walking the trails. He was finally flushed by another immature eagle...this one a Bald Eagle. We also saw two or three thousand Snow Geese feeding in the marsh along the Fraser River which forms the northern border of the refuge.

On the way home, our major birding stops were at Ogden, Utah, and Brigantine, New Jersey. In Ogden, we visited the Ogden Waterfowl Management Area. This was in lieu of the Bear River NWLR which was closed due to flooding of the access roads. In the management area (which was also partially flooded) we saw 35 species including four "real" Sandhill Cranes who flew within about ten feet of us, and Wilson's Phalaropes. Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets are about as common there as Yellowlegs are on Cape Cod. Cinnamon Teal were also much in evidence. Brigantine, as always, provided great "lazyperson's" birding. Almost without leaving the camper, we saw some 40 species. The most unusual being a Virginia Rail who was swimming in one of the lagoons like a duck.

Some of the best birds show up when you least expect them. For example: Barrow's Goldeneyes on our campground lake in Olympia, Washington (we later found that Barrow's were quite common in Vancouver); a Lewis' Woodpecker at the same campground the next morning; Harlequin Ducks at a ferry slip on Whidbey Island, Wash.; fifty or so Bald Eagles seen from the ferry to Victoria, B. C.; a Swainson's Hawk on a fence post in Idaho; Clark's Nutcrackers and a Mountain Bluebird in Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (while touring with non-birding friends); an Osprey early in the morning at a campground in Nebraska where he and we were the only campers.

We were able to identify some birds while driving along the highway, although this is more difficult in the motor home due to limited upward visibility. Out west the common birds included Western Meadowlarks, Prairie Falcons, Ferruginous Hawks, and one of my favorites, the Black-billed Magpie.

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