

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1986

Fall is, for me, the best season of the year on Cape Cod. For one thing, the summer throngs are greatly reduced, and it's possible to find parking space near the beaches and to get from here to there without using back road detours or encountering traffic jams. For another, the weather is usually delightful; warm enough to permit full scale outdoor activities without the stickiness of summer. Finally, the birding is at its best at this time of year.

Last year, in each newsletter, Blair Nikula provided us with a preview of the birding possibilities for the coming two months. With the last newsletter, he completed a full year of these "previews." We are planning to combine these into a single year-round calendar of birding potential on the Cape. Hopefully, this will be available to the membership by the September meeting. As a replacement for the previews, we are asking some of our expert birders to describe some of their favorite birding spots. Janet Aylward has graciously consented to be the first author of this series.

I am sorry to report the death of long-time member Barbara Holdridge in early August. Barbara had been a member of the Club since its inception in 1971 and was President in 1978-1979.

MEETINGS: Monday, September 8 - 7:45 P.M.- Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.  
"Bird Studies on Sandy Neck; Common Crows, Piping Plovers, and Tree Swallows." June and Peter Auger and Eric Strauss will discuss the results of their most recent studies. They will also present some new information on Lyme disease.

Monday, October 13 - 7:45 P.M.- Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.  
"Bird Photography" Our own Roger Everett will show some of his great photographs of birds - some with music. Roger will also give some tips to budding photographers.

WALKS: Monday, Sept. 8 - 8 A.M.- Fort Hill. Meet at lower parking lot. Mike O'Connor (255-6910 - home; 255-6974 - office).  
Wednesday, Sept. 10 - 8 A.M. - Falmouth. Meet behind Falmouth Town Hall. Julie Nelson (540-1103) and Mary Ropes (540-6086).  
Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 13 & 14 - Bird-a-thon. Details below.  
Saturday, Sept. 20 - 8 A.M.- Yarmouthport. Meet at the playground at Rt. 6A & Union St. Bessie Tirrell (432-9248).  
Thursday, Sept. 25 - 8 A.M. - Harwich. Meet at the conservation area on Bell's Neck Road (off Great Western Road) in W. Harwich. Art King (255-8919).  
Sunday, Sept. 28 - 8 A.M. - Falmouth. Meet behind Falmouth Town Hall. Peter Trimble (477-3847).  
Wednesday, Oct. 1 - 8 A.M. - Falmouth (same as Sept. 10).  
Monday, Oct. 13 - 8 A.M. - Fort Hill (same as Sept. 8).  
Saturday, Oct. 18 - 8 A.M. - Yarmouthport (same as Sept. 20).  
Thursday, Oct. 23 - 8 A.M. - Harwich (same as Sept. 25).  
Sunday, Oct. 26 - 8 A.M. - Falmouth (same as Sept. 28).

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary - Mass Audubon Walks ( note: for non-Members of Mass Audubon, there is an admission charge of \$ 2).

Every Friday during Sept. & Oct.- 9 A.M.- Meet at Sanctuary (349-2615).  
Friday, Sept. 5, 12, 19 - 6 P.M.- Heron Watches. Hemenway Landing Just north of Fort Hill off Rt. 6 in Eastham.(349-2615).  
Tuesdays, Sept. 16 thru Oct. 7 - 10 A.M.- 1 P.M. Hawk Watch. Also,  
Thursdays, Sept. 18 - Oct. 9 - 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. Meet at Marconi Station - National Seashore off Rt. 6 in Wellfleet (349-2615).

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BIRD-A-THON PLEDGE

(detach and mail to: Bird-a-thon, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Drawer R, Brewster, MA 02631)

I pledge \_\_\_\_\_ per species seen during the Bird-a-thon weekend, Sept. 13-14.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail no later than Sept. 12



BIRD-A-THON: The Bird Club will again be fielding a team in the MBO Bird-a-thon which is to be held on the weekend of September 13th and 14th. Since the Club started doing this in conjunction with the Museum in 1982, over \$7200 has been raised. These funds have been divided between Manomet and the Museum. As we have done for the past two years, this year the proceeds will be divided equally between Manomet, the Museum, and the Museum Capital Fund Drive. I hope all Bird Club members will consider making a generous pledge again this year (approximately 160 species are expected). A pledge form is provided for your use (if you have already pledged through the Museum, no additional pledge is solicited).

Those interested in being on one of the birding teams should contact Peter Trimble (477-3847). Feeder or yard sightings those two days may be reported to Charlotte Smith (362-6891). All of Cape Cod is eligible.

DUES: If you have not yet paid your dues this year, please send your check (\$8 per family, \$5 per individual) to Art King, 23 Maple Lane, Brewster. MA 02631.

CAPE COD BAY CRUISES: The Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary is operating two birding cruises this fall. They will sail from the Wellfleet town pier and go to Billingsgate Shoals. It is hoped to see pelagic birds and migrating sea ducks. The first cruise is Sept. 20 at 1 P.M., and the second, Oct 11 at 2 P.M. The cost is \$10 for Mass Audubon members and \$15 for others. For reservations (required) and further particulars, call the sanctuary (349-2615).

FAVORITE BIRDING SPOTS -by JANET AYLWARD: 1) Fall warblers are passing through in September, many in rather cryptic plumage, and a good place to look for them is Beech Forest, Provincetown. From the traffic light on route 6, turn right on Race Point Road. The sign for Beech Forest is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile down on the left. Parking is ample, and birding can be good right around the parking lot. A pond adjacent to the parking lot is circled by a sandy trail (soft in spots). The beeches and larger oaks at the far end can be particularly good. Also, try the bicycle trails south of the rest rooms and across Race Point Road. Tennessees, Bay-breasteds, Cape Mays, American Redstarts, and Swainson's Thrushes are possibilities. Rusty Blackbirds have been seen at the pond.

2) Another good warbler spot can be Pochet Island, Nauset Beach, Orleans. At the traffic light at the intersection of Route 28 and Main Street, go East on Main St. Continue about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the fork at the Barley Neck Inn. Take the left fork and continue straight ahead on Beach Rd. to the Nauset beach parking area. The island is reached by walking about 1 mile south of the parking lot either along the beach or the beach buggy trail. This can be rugged! Finally, you will see a footbridge at the southeast end of the island. Cross this and up onto the island and its walking trails maintained by residents (the island is privately owned). In addition to warblers, vireos and thrushes, the island attracts hawks; Sharp-shinned, American Kestrels, and Merlins. Owls have been found in the evergreens; Great Horned, and Northern Saw-whet.

3) Northeast storms in the Fall often bring pelagic birds close to shore. Shearwaters, storm petrels, phalaropes, and jaegers may be seen. Two good places where the birds can be seen from your parked car are the parking lots at Sandy Neck Beach, Barnstable, and First Encounter Beach, Eastham. To reach Sandy Neck, turn on Sandy Neck Road off route 6A (just inside the Sandwich-Barnstable line) and continue straight ahead to the parking lot. Samoset Road opposite Town Hall on Route 6 in Eastham will take you to First Encounter Beach. When the wind is straight from the northeast, Sandy Neck is best, if it shifts to the north or northwest, go to First Encounter. At both places, take care that your windshield is not sandblasted.

