

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

November - December, 1986

What is perhaps the busiest time of the year for the bird club is fast approaching with two of our most important annual activities: the Christmas Bird Count and the Lake and Waterfowl Census. We hope that every member will consider helping out with one or both of these enjoyable and important projects.

Sadly, we must report the sudden passing of another charter member of the club, Alice Tait of Dennis. Alice twice served on the bird club board and was a long-time bird-bander, doing most of her work on Dauphin Island in Alabama.

MEETINGS: Monday, November 10 - 7:45 P.M. Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. "How to use binoculars and telescopes to your best advantage." Slides and instruction with Anthony Merlino; sponsored by Bushnell representatives Frank Krauth of S. Weymouth and the Birdwatchers General Store.

Monday, December 8 - 7:45 P.M. Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. "Migrations" Through her beautiful slides, Nan Waldron will show the natural cycles of life around us. The aura and mystery which surrounds migration provides us with a fascinating perspective from which to view human choices for survival.

WALKS: Wednesday, Nov. 5 - 9:00 A.M. - Falmouth. Meet behind Falmouth Town Hall on Main St. Mary Ropes (548-6086) & Julie Nelson (540-1103).
Sunday, Nov. 9 - 7:00 A.M. - Lakeville for waterfowl. Meet at the Burger King at Rte. 6 exit #6 in Barnstable. Sally Clifton (775-4693).
Monday, Nov. 10 - 9:00 A.M. - Eastham. Meet at the parking lot at First Encounter Beach in Eastham. Mike O'Connor (255-6910 or 255-6974).
Tuesday, Nov. 11 - 9:00 A.M. - Yarmouthport. Meet at the playground at Rte. 6A & Union Street, Yarmouthport. Charlotte Smith (362-6891).
Thursday, Nov. 20 - 9:00 A.M. - Outer Cape. Meet at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in S. Wellfleet. Bob Prescott (349-2615).
Wednesday, Dec. 3 - 9:00 A.M. - Falmouth. Details same as Nov. 5 above.
Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 6 & 7 - LAKE & POND WATERFOWL SURVEY. See details below.
Monday, Dec. 8 - 9:00 A.M. - Eastham. Details same as Nov. 10 above.
Tuesday, Dec. 9 - 9:00 A.M. - Yarmouthport. Details same as Nov. 11 above.
Wednesday, Dec. 17 - 9:00 A.M. - Sandwich. Meet at the Sandy Neck Beach parking lot. Bob Scott (362-4866).
Thursday, Dec. 18 - 9:00 A.M. - Outer Cape. Details same as Nov. 20 above.
Sunday, Dec. 21 - Outer Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count. Contact Blair Nikula for details (945-2153).
Saturday, Dec. 27 - MID-CAPE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. See details below.

LAKE & POND WATERFOWL SURVEY: Our 4th annual Lake & Pond Waterfowl Survey will be conducted Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 6 & 7. We are beginning to accumulate a considerable volume of valuable data on the waterfowl usage of the Cape's freshwater ponds as a result of this census. Anyone wishing to contribute a couple of hours or more to this simple, enjoyable effort should contact Blair Nikula (945-2153).

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Our annual Mid-Cape Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, Dec. 27. Sally Clifton has again generously offered the use of her home in Hyannis for the tally. Anyone wishing to participate, even if only for part of the day, should contact the compiler, Janet Aylward (362-9078). Every year it's a struggle for Janet to round up enough people to insure adequate coverage of the count circle - let's make this year's effort the best yet!

The outer Cape Cod Count will be on Sunday, Dec. 21 with the tally at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Contact Blair Nikula for more details (945-2153).

BIRD-A-THON RESULTS: The annual Bird-A-Thon was conducted the weekend of Sept. 13-14 with the proceeds going to the Manomet Bird Observatory and the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. A total of 12 club members were in the field during the weekend, covering the Cape from Stellwagon Bank off Provincetown to Cuttyhunk Island, and recording 158 species. The total included 10 species of raptors, 13 species of ducks, 23 species of warblers and 10 species of sparrows.

ALASKA TRIP: Blair Nikula is organizing a club trip to Alaska in late June - early July next summer. Details have yet to be worked out, but it is expected the trip will be about 2 weeks in duration and cost about \$3,000 (from the Cape). Anyone interested should contact Blair (945-2153).

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY: At ten o'clock on Saturday morning November 20th, 1971. a group of 22 bird enthusiasts met at the Cape Cod Bank & Trust Company in Orleans with the purpose of forming a bird club on Cape Cod. This group, under the leadership of Mrs. Lucien Rowell of Eastham, did not sit around and wait for things to happen. It was decided to schedule monthly meetings starting early the next month, and two field trips a month, and to name the club the Cape Cod Bird Club. Temporary committees for bird walks and programs were formed and a slate of temporary officers was named. It was decided that dues would be \$5 per family, \$3 per individual, and 50¢ for students. \$56 was collected on the spot (all you delinquents please note).

A couple of weeks later on "the cold, rainy night of December 6, 1971, fifty-one people attended the first meeting of the Cape Cod Bird Club." Then, as now, the meeting was held at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on a Monday night. A brief business meeting established the Museum as the permanent meeting place on the first Monday of each month. A slide show and lecture entitled "Introduction to Cape Cod Birds" was presented by Dick Cunningham, naturalist at the Cape Cod National Seashore. It is interesting to note that the early Bird Club had close ties to the National Seashore; Mr. Cunningham acted as advisor.

The first club sponsored walk met at the Salt Pond visitor's center at 8 AM (these early clubbers got going early, after this, walks started at 7:30). It was warm for December (50°) and 22 persons saw 32 species at the Salt Pond, Coast Guard Beach, Fort Hill, and Red Maple Swamp (I have a feeling some cars were employed). In January, the temperature was 10° (wind-chill -25°) still, 24 people showed up at 7:30 and stayed long enough to sight 25 species.

Among the early speakers were John Hay and Mrs. Bradley Fisk. Jonnie was more formal then, but still enthralled the club with her talk about bird banding (as she continued to do as late as last April).

Our records indicate that fifteen of the attendees at one or both of those 1971 meetings are still members of the Club, and it is planned to recognize them briefly at the November meeting.

FEEDER CENSUS: Feeder census forms for Cape Cod members are enclosed with this copy of the newsletter. Last year we asked for greater participation and got it! 46 feeders...up from 31. Hope even more of you will try it this year; it's fun and the data may prove to be of value in the future. A summary of some of the previous results is tabulated below:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>BIRDS PER FEEDER</u>		<u>RANK</u>	<u>PREVIOUS RANKINGS</u>				
				84/85	83/84	82/83	81/82	80/81
MOURNING DOVE	8.0		1	2	1	1	1	1
BLUE JAY	5.4		2	5	3	3	4	5
CHICKADEE	5.3		3	4	2	2	2	2
HOUSE FINCH	4.5		4	1	6	5	3	4
HOUSE SPARROW	4.1		5	3	9	6	5	3
STARLING	4.0		6	6	4	4	6	9
GOLDFINCH	3.8		7	7	5	8	7	8
GRACKLE	3.5		8	13	11	13	10	10
BOB WHITE	3.2		9	10	8	7	8	7
CROW	2.4		10	17	16	17	21	30
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>85/86</u>	<u>84/85</u>	<u>83/84</u>	<u>82/83</u>	<u>81/82</u>	<u>80/81</u>		
No. of Species	55	52	57	44	50	47		
Average No. of Birds per feeder each month	62.6	60.0	60.0	44.7	58.4	62.6		

DUES: This will be the last newsletter for those who haven't paid their dues. (If you don't see a reminder from Charlotte, you're OK). Checks for \$8 (family) or \$5 (single) should be mailed to Art King, 23 Maple Lane, Brewster, MA 02631.



Directions: Use this form to report birds feeding at your feeders or on natural food in your yard on the FIRST COMPLETE WEEKEND in each of the months listed. Watch your feeders on Saturday and Sunday (or 2 consecutive days near the weekend) and record the highest number of each species observed at one time. (Example: if on Sat. you see at one time 3 chickadees, record 3. If later that day or Sun. you see 5 at one time, cross out 3 and record 5. If later you see 2 or any number less than 5, don't record it.) Do not accumulate number seen.

Record the dates you conduct the census at the top of each column. Species not on list can be added in the spaces at the bottom of the list. Notes about special feeds, bird behavior, etc. can be put on the back.

Return this form at the April meeting or mail it to:

CCBC, c/o C.C. Museum of Natural History, Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631

SPECIES:	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
BOBWHITE						
MOURNING DOVE						
FLICKER						
HAIRY WOODPECKER						
DOWNY WOODPECKER						
BLUE JAY						
CROW						
BLKE-CAPEd CHICKADEE						
TUFTED TITMOUSE						
WHTe-BRSTd NUTHATCH						
RED-BRSTd NUTHATCH						
ROBIN						
CEDAR WAXWING						
MOCKINGBIRD						
STARLING						
YELo-RUMPED WARBLER						
HOUSE SPARROW						
RED-WINGd BLACKBIRD						
GRACKLE						
COWBIRD						
CARDINAL						
HOUSE FINCH						
GOLDFINCH						
JUNCO						
TREE SPARROW						
WHTe-THRId SPARROW						
SONG SPARROW						

NAME: _____

ADDRESS (census location): _____