

When I was a youngster, every heavy snow storm we had was compared to the famous "Blizzard of '88." None ever measured up. Now, I suppose Cape Codders will tell their grandchildren about the "Twin blizzards of '87" and add a few inches of snow with each telling. When the decision was made to call off the February meeting, not a snowflake had fallen in Harwich, and I had visions of a Gloria type false alarm with all the snow falling in Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic. However, the forecasters were insistent, and there were positive reports of actual snowfall to the west, so the bullet was bitten, and we joined the cancellation stampede. And a good thing we did!

Thanks are in order to: Sally Clifton for hosting the Christmas counters; Peter Trimble for his favorite birding spot write-up; and to Beth Bourne who took the trouble to deliver her cookies to the museum the day before the big storm.

MEETINGS: Monday, March 9 - 7:45 P.M. - Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. "Member's Night" Bring your slides to share with the club. Limit should be about fifteen slides. Members are also invited to bring other items such as a painting or a home-made feeder to "show and tell."

Monday, April 13 - 7:45 P.M. - Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. "Spring Warblers" Peter Trull will present a guide to the identification of these beautiful birds.

WALKS: Wednesday, March 4 - 9 AM - Falmouth. Meet behind Falmouth Town Hall in Falmouth center. Mary Ropes (548-6086) and Julie Nelson (540-1103)  
Monday, March 9 - 9 AM - Outer Cape. Meet at lower parking lot at Fort Hill in Eastham. Mike O'Connor (Home 255-6910, Office 255-6974).  
Tuesday, March 10 - 9 AM - Outer Cape. Meet at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in So. Wellfleet. Bob Prescott or staff member (349-2615)\*\*  
Thursday, March 19 - 9 AM - Yarmouthport. Meet at playground at Rt. 6A and Union St. Charlotte Smith (362-6891).  
Sunday, March 22 - 9 AM - Falmouth. Meet behind Falmouth Town Hall in Falmouth center. Peter Trimble (477-3847).  
Thursday, March 26 - 9 AM - Harwich. Meet at the conservation area on Bells Neck Rd. West Harwich. John and Ginny Redfern (432-6420).  
Wednesday, April 1 - 8 AM - Falmouth. Meet behind Falmouth Town Hall in Falmouth center. Mary Ropes (548-6086) and Julie Nelson (540-1103).  
Saturday, April 4 - 7:30 AM - Westport River. Meet at commuter lot at Exit 6, Rt. 6, West Barnstable. Sally Clifton (775-4693).  
Saturday, April 11 - Martha's Vineyard. If interested contact Peter Trimble (477-3847) or at March meeting.  
Monday, April 13 - 8 AM - Outer Cape. Meet at lower parking lot at Fort Hill in Eastham. Mike O'Connor (Home 255-6910, Office 255-6974).  
Tuesday, April 14 - 9 AM - Outer Cape. Meet at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sancturay in So. Wellfleet. Bob Prescott or staff member (349-2615).\*\*  
Thursday, April 16 - 8 AM - Yarmouthport. Meet at playground at Rt. 6A and Union St. Charlotte Smith (362-6891).  
Thursday, April 23 - 8 AM - Harwich. Meet at the conservation area on Bells Neck Rd. West Harwich. John and Ginny Redfern (432-6420).  
Saturday, April 25 - 7:30 AM - South Shore. Meet at commuter lot at Exit 6, Rt. 6, West Barnstable. Dick Comeau (432-9033).

\*\* Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has many other walks and programs that may interest Club members. Consult your local newspaper for dates.

OFF-CAPE TRIPS: Although the trip to Quabin Reservoir was all but wiped out by blizzard #1, the trip to Newburyport and Cape Ann was made in beautiful weather. Fiftyfour species were seen including: Snowy Owls; King Eider; Rough-legged Hawks; and Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. Please note that there are three off-Cape trips scheduled for April...treat yourself!

NEW MEMBERS: We are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined the club this year: Sarah Bradshaw, So. Dennis; Richard and Elizabeth Haskell, Truro; Wendy Laurel, Pocasset; Margot Hakes, Barnstable; Nancy Wood, West Barnstable; Dr. Clive Dorman, Falmouth; and Ruth and Morton Rabinow, Mashpee.

LISTS: Peter found the number of bird lists submitted in January to be insufficient to have a meaningful competition. Apparently Bird Clubbers aren't very interested in obtaining "bragging rights." It is suggested, however, that members might find that the keeping of bird lists of various types can add to the pleasure and satisfaction of birding.

FAVORITE BIRDING SPOTS ---- by Peter Trimble: Two fine areas to bird in the Upper Cape are South Cape Beach (Mashpee) and the Salt Pond Sanctuary (Falmouth). They both may be productive throughout the year, but I concentrate on South Cape Beach during the Spring and Fall and on Salt Pond from late Fall to early Spring.

South Cape Beach, a barrier beach jointly owned by Mashpee and the State, consists of pine woods, salt and fresh water marsh, an estuary, Nantucket Sound, and of course the beach. This diversity of habitat can support a varied avifauna. During migration, search for egrets, bitterns and heron in the marsh as well as for shorebirds. In the woods behind the marsh and in the brush on the beach check for landbirds. In the early morning hawks moving along the beach can be exciting. A few specific birds of recent years include: Northern Shrike, American and Least Bitterns, Cliff Swallow, Seaside Sparrow, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and N. Gannet. To reach the beach, drive to the New Seabury (Mashpee) rotary and follow South Cape Beach and New Seabury signs to the birding areas. Parking during the summer in the State area requires a fee.

Salt Pond Sanctuary, off Surf Drive in Falmouth, is terrific. Many birders coming to the Cape during the off-season stop off here to observe waterfowl. As shown by recent surveys, there may be good numbers of ducks here with a fine diversity as well. Observing the birds here is a pleasure due to normally calm water and easy access to all areas of the pond. The eastern edge borders Mill Road along which there are safe places to stop. The southern edge borders Surf Drive off of which are a number of dirt pull-offs. The northwest corner of the pond can be reached by parking near the bike path which crosses Elm Road and walking the bike path to various paths that approach the pond. The bike path itself, during the early morning, can be worthwhile for landbirds. To the west of Elm Road there are some fine feeders which tend to attract winter resident songbirds as well as the occasional hawk.

Finally, Marthas Vineyard/Nantucket Sound may be scanned for loons, scoters, eider, grebes, etc. from the dirt parking areas on Surf Drive or by continuing up to Nobska Point Lighthouse where on the rocks a Purple Sandpiper is possible.

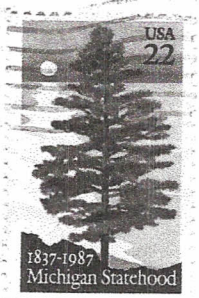
To reach Salt Pond, follow Woods Hole Road from Main St., Falmouth, or Rt. 28 and at Mill Road, turn left. As you approach Surf Drive the pond will be on your right (west).

FEEDER CENSUS: The winter feeder census will be completed the first week-end of April. Please bring your completed forms to the April meeting. Otherwise, mail them to the Bird Club at the museum address or to me at 28 Williamsburg Ave., Harwich 02645.

BIRD COUNTS: The Christmas Counts taken last December showed slightly lower numbers than last year but not seriously so (I guess you can't break records every year!). New to the Mid Cape count were the following species: Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Cooper's Hawk, Snowy Owl, Marsh Wren, Northern shrike, and Northern Oriole. The total of 107 species was only three under the record of 110 set last year.

The Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey covered 239 ponds and recorded 10,702 birds of 25 species. Falmouth was the number one town on Cape with 4470 birds. Yarmouth was second with 1590. Number one pond was Cedar Lake in North Falmouth with 2021 birds (2000 + of them Scaup!). Swan Pond in Dennis had 690, and Salt Pond in Falmouth (see Peter's write-up above) was third with 623 birds.

NON-GAME FUND: Club members are again asked to consider making a contribution to the Massachusetts Non-Game Tax check-off (now called "Endangered Wildlife Conservation".....item 54 of tax form 1). Some of these monies support research projects (such as Piping Plover studies) here on the Cape.



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