

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

May - June, 1987

As of this writing, Spring is very reluctant to make an appearance on Cape Cod. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter reaches you, warmer weather will be the norm and the Spring warblers will be on their way. Already, the Goldfinches are starting to live up to their name, and the Grackles are polishing off our sunflower seeds and splashing the water out of our backyard bird bath.

Ginny and I are planning to be in Nova Scotia at the time of the May meeting (a not to be missed chance to visit with our Vancouver daughter) and Wayne Petersen's talk on Pelagic Birds. Wayne is at least 75% responsible for the Redferns becoming birders. We attended his bird identification lecture series at the museum shortly after moving to the Cape, and his enthusiasm was contagious. Wish his birding skills would rub off as easily. Incidentally, although he's a super birder, Wayne is no relation to Robert Tory PeterSON.

We hope to get in some birding while in Nova Scotia. A ferry trip is planned for at least one direction....maybe we can see some live pelagics.

MEETINGS: Monday, May 11 - 7:45 P.M. Cape Cod Museum of natural History. Speaker: Wayne Petersen. Topic: "Pelagic Birds" Wayne is a well recognized birding authority and an outstanding speaker, so this should be an exceptional meeting. The Bird Club's annual meeting will also be held at this time.

Monday, June 15 - 5 P.M. Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Annual Bird Club picnic. Bring a picnic supper. Charlotte will lead a bird walk at 2 P.M. In the event of a downpour, the picnic will be held at the museum.

WALKS: Note that the starting times for these walks vary considerably.

Wednesday, May 6 - 8 A.M.- Falmouth. Meet behind the Falmouth Town Hall. Mary Ropes (548-6086) and Julie Nelson (540-1103).

Monday, May 11 - 8 A.M. - Outer Cape. Meet at lower parking lot, Fort Hill in Eastham. Mike O'Connor (255-6910 or 255-6974).

Tuesday, May 12 - 8 A.M. - Outer Cape. Meet at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, So. Wellfleet. Bob Prescott (349-2615).

Thursday, May 21 - 8 A.M. - Yarmouthport Meet at playground at the intersection of 6A and Union St. Charlotte Smith (362-6891).

Friday, May 22 - 7 A.M. - Beech Forest. Meet at Beech Forest parking lot in Provincetown. Peter Trull (945-4391).

Saturday, May 23 - 7 A.M. - Beech Forest. Meet at Beech Forest parking lot in Provincetown. Bessie Tirrell (432-9248).

Sunday, May 24 - 8 A.M. - Sandy Neck. Meet at Sandy Neck parking lot, Sandwich. Bob Pease (362-3873).

Thursday, May 28 - 8 A.M. - Harwich. Meet at the Conservation Area on Bell's Neck Road, West Harwich. John & Ginny Redfern (432-6420).

Wednesday, June 3, -8 AM- Falmouth. Meet behind the Falmouth Town Hall. Mary Ropes (548-6086) and Julie Nelson (540-1103).

Monday, June 8, 8 A.M. - Outer Cape. Meet at lower parking lot, Fort Hill, Eastham. Mike O'Connor (255-6910) or (255-6974).

Tuesday, June 9 - 8 A.M. - Outer Cape. Meet at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, So. Wellfleet. Bob Prescott (349-2615).

Saturday, June 13 - Breeding Bird Census. For details see below.

Monday, June 15 - 2 P.M. - Wellfleet Bay. Pre-picnic walk. Charlotte Smith (362-6891).

BREEDING BIRD CENSUS: Our sixth annual Mid-Cape Breeding Bird Census will take place from dawn until early afternoon on Saturday, June 13. In order to be effective, we need a good number of observers to cover the area (the same as for the Christmas count). Early risers are most desirable, but a few late comers can probably be accommodated. The day ends with a fun picnic lunch (bring your own) at Charlotte Smith's where the results are tabulated. Call Janet Aylward (362-9078) if you can help.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairman Dee Forst and her committee consisting of Bob Scott and Mike O'Connor have made the following nominations for 1987-1988:

President ----- Peter Trull Secretary----- Aurele Thomas
Vice President-- Peter Trimble Treasurer----- Art King
Directors for three years: Fahy Bygate and Dr. William Swift
Director for one year: Sue Talin (to fill term of Peter Trimble)
Chairman of the Nominating Committee: Janet Aylward

Continuing on the board are Bessie Tirrell, Harriet Sears, and Roger Everett. Election will be at the May annual meeting.

Thanks go to Dee and her committee for a job well done.

FAVORITE BIRDING SPOTS: -----by Sally Clifton

SOUTH CENTRAL CAPE COD -----HYANNIS TO MARSTONS MILLS

One of the better birding spots in the area is located around the Marstons Mills Airport. This private airport is located at the intersection of route 149 (South from exit 5 on the Mid-cape Highway, or north off route 28) and Race Lane. In spring and summer, the area is best early in the morning. Along the northern edge you may find cuckoos, warblers, pheasant and hear grouse. It is a good spot for displaying woodcock at dusk or dawn in the early spring. Grasshopper sparrows are possible in the short grass near the runways. Whippoorwills can be heard here in the evenings in the spring, and great horned owls in the winter. It's a good hawk area, too. Avoid the runways, bird the edges and don't interfere with the activities of the field. Check the east side of route 149 before leaving the area.

Any of the beach parking lots from Hyannis to Osterville (Kalmus Park, Sea Street Beach, Craigville Beach, Dowses Beach) offer good outlooks into Nantucket Sound for winter sea ducks. One of my favorite spots is at the end of Sea Street in Hyannis at the Ocean Avenue (Sea Street) Beach and marsh area. In winter, drive to the dead end of the Sea Street extension and scope behind the Hyannisport breakwater in the comfort of your car. When the weather is good and the parking gate open, park in the beach parking lot and walk west along the beach to check the area where the creek flows under the road. The tidal marsh on the north side of the road, in the proper season and tide, has been a good spot for hooded and common mergansers, least bittern, coot, teal, widgeon, night heron and shorebirds.

WELLFLEET BAY ACTIVITIES: As always, the Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has a full schedule of walks and talks of interest to our membership. These are listed in the local newspapers and mailed to members of the society. Of special interest to Bird Club members are two cruises:

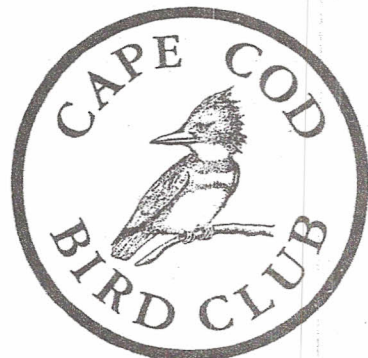
- 1) Cape Cod Bay Birding Cruise Saturday evening, May 23. Leaves the Wellfleet town pier at 5 P.M. and returns at 8. Cost: \$10 for Mass Audubon members and \$15 for non-members.
- 2) Sea Bird Cruise, Sunday, June 14. Leaves MacMillen Wharf in Provincetown at 8 A.M. , sails to Chatham and returns at 5 P.M. Cost:\$35 for Mass Audubon members, Others: \$45.

For information and/or reservations call 349-2615.

The annual Massachusetts Audubon Bird-a-thon will be on the 15th and 16th of May. Anyone wishing to make a pledge or bird should contact the sanctuary at the above number.

FEEDER CENSUS REPORTS: If you have not already done so, your feeder census report should be sent to the Bird Club % Cape Cod Museum of Natural History or % John Redfern, 28 Williamsburg Ave., Harwich 02645. I spent part of a dreary winter writing a computer program to compile the results of this census, so the results should be available for the next newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS: We are pleased to welcome the following as members of the Bird Club: Evan and Helene Barrington, East Orleans; Althine and John Marsh, East Dennis; Harry and Nancy Ober, Shrewsbury; and Mary Field, Hyannus.



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