

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1987

Greetings everyone! November already and most of the fall migrants have come and gone. It seems there are always a few that are late to leave, like the Common Terns and Oystercatchers that roost at the entrance to Stage Harbor in Chatham. Snowy Egrets were at WBWS as late as 10/20. I saw flocks of Tree Swallows as late as 10/18 and we know that the majority of these birds pour through in late August, early September. As for Sharp-shinned Hawks, I wonder if we'll see any of these this year. I've seen only one. If your interested in the seasonal movements of birds and their natural history, members of our club have been contributing their sightings to your inquiring president who then reports them to the people of the cape via the airwaves on WFCC-FM @ 107.5 on your dial. The spot is introduced as an effort of the CCBC and it really is --- if it weren't for all of you that I press each week for sightings, it wouldn't be possible. And thanks to Mike O'Connor and the Birdwatchers General Store for sponsoring us. Oh yea, the segment is broadcast at 8:45 A.M. Monday - Friday.

With regard to the Bird-a-thon, at last tally, it seems we've raised about \$700.00 in pledges, which quite honestly, is better than what I had expected. The weather was as bad as it could possibly have been, a complete washout. Some of you really came through though, both in your efforts to find birds and your generosity. I sincerely thank-you all for your efforts and I feel bad that I was maybe too critical at the last meeting.

MEETINGS:

November 9, 7:45 PM Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. "The Eagles of Quabbin" Mr. Jack Swedberg, State Wildlife Photographer for the Massachusetts Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife will present two of his films. The first will be "Quabbin's Wintering Eagles", the second will tell us all about the hacking of young Bald Eagles in the Quabbin Wilderness with the hope that they will return to nest when they are sexually mature. Mr. Swedbergs work is extraordinary. He has a closer relationship with the Quabbin Reservoir and it's eagles than anyone. I urge you to attend.

December 14, 7:45 PM Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. "The History and Present Status of Christmas Bird Counts." Our resident expert, Mr. Blair Nikula will familiarize us with all the aspects of Christmas Counts. Why have them? What do they tell us? What trends have been found? Even a little trivia no doubt. Blair can inform us in a way no-one else can. So please attend!

WALKS:

Wednesday, November 4, 9:00 AM Falmouth. Meet behind the town hall, center of Falmouth. Mary Ropes, (548-6086).

Saturday, November 14, 8:00 AM Middleboro - Lakeville, all day. Meet at the Burger King at Rts. 6 and 132 in Barnstable. Sally Clifton, (775-4693)

Thursday, November 19, 9:00 AM Yarmouthport, Meet at the playground at Union Street and Rt. 6A, Yarmouthport. Charlotte Smith, (362-6891)

Saturday, November 21, 8:00 AM Orleans - Eastham area. Meet at Friendly's at the rotary in Orleans. Dick Comeau, (432-9033)

Wednesday, December 2, Same as November 4.

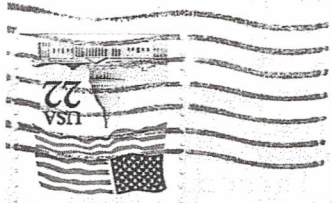
Thursday, December 17, Same as November 19.

Sunday, December 20, OUTER CAPE COD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Contact Blair Nikula for details. (9452153).

Saturday, December 26, MID-CAPE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Contact Janet Aylward for details. (3629078).

THE CAPE COD MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY
RR 1, ROUTE 6A
BREWSTER, MA. 02631

Forestdale MA
17 Freedom Rd
Frank Caruso



Another important event that we can look forward to in the upcoming weeks is the 1987 CAPE COD LAKE AND POND WATERFOWL SURVEY. This annual event will take place on the weekend of December 5th and 6th and will be a survey of ponds from Falmouth to Provincetown. Last year, 239 ponds were surveyed by only 26 people! 10,702 birds were observed of 25 species. We really need volunteers for this years survey. You don't have to bust your buns, simply agree to count ducks on one or two ponds in your area. Every single participant we get will be a great help. Let's work together as a club to relieve some of the folks who last year gave up two full weekend days to make it a successful survey. Blair Nikula is co-ordinating the effort, so call him and he'll set you up with as much or as little as you wish to do.

~~Some events taking place at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary:~~
MONOMOY IS. North and South Islands, every Sunday, 11/8 -12/6, and Friday, 11/27.

NAUSET MARSH CRUISES aboard the BESSIE, on 3 Saturdays: 11/7, 11/21 and 11/28.

Call the Sanctuary at 349-2615 for details and costs of these trips.

I know that alot of you enjoy feeding birds. If you refrain from feeding during the summer months, now is a goodtime to begin. Don't be alarmed if you don't get an immidiate response, there are still plenty of weed seeds available but your feeder will become ever so more important as cold and snow envelope the cape. Mixed seeds thrown on the ground is a good way to get a feeding station started. The bags of seed bought in supermarkets are not recommended since their fillers are often rice, wheat, sorghum and other grains to which a majority of feeder birds are indifferent. Sunflower seed (with or without hulls), some millets and thistle seed are the most preferred foods, specifically, white proso millet and black oil type sunflower seeds are outstanding favorites. Don't hesitate to put out some fruit like oranges, apples, bananas and raisins. These will attract birds like thrushes, orioles, or maybe even a Chat that may still be up north into the winter months. Peanut butter smeared on feeders or branches and beef suet in special feeders helps to build up fat supplies in so many of our small winter residents. Suet should be offered only during the cold months because it may mat birds' plumage if it warms up and liquifies. You can learn a lot more about feeds and feeding by chatting with Mike O'Connor at the Birdwatchers General Store in Orleans.

OK, see you soon. good birding