

Cape Cod Bird Club

March - April 1989

Hello everyone, I have to apologize for this late newsletter but I couldn't get it done any sooner than this because I had an eye injury and couldn't see too well for a few days. But everything's OK now. Just a small piece of steel stuck in my eyeball -- no problem, a little work with a pick and shovel and it was taken care of.

Most of the things that we love and appreciate are observed for such a miniscule period of time. Consider that we spend hours in the field birding each day, week or month. Let's say that for one instance during this time we're lucky enough to observe an immature Goshawk as it rockets over a thicket or between some oaks. No doubt a meaningful sight. Something to be remembered for a long time. Yet do you ever think about that raptor after it's out of your sight. Wouldn't you love to fly along behind it for a while to see what an impact it has on the avian community or what perils it confronts over the course of a day (or night). Most of the conclusions we make are based on observations after the fact. We find something like a dead bird, perhaps killed by a predator, we put together the scattered evidence and propose a theory as to what happened. But I like to imagine that I'm there. Suppose you find a Cottontailed Rabbit, head decapitated, fur scattered over the ground, with two tawny feathers of a Great-horned Owl stuck to the carcass. WOW!! Now that IS an exciting find. GHO kills rabbit. Now... Go back to the darkness of midnight when that powerful avian predator tightens its talons, piercing the rabbit's muscle, The rabbit kicks fanatically, the big owl is forced onto its back, flapping a four foot wingspread to maintain balance. The rabbit screams as feathers break. It all takes perhaps one minute before the powerful beak of the owl breaks the neck of its prey. But think of the energy!! Consider the forces of nature at work as they occur every minute of our lives. Get outside as much as you can. Observe with all your senses! think, Imagine, see. PT

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Board of Directors of the Cape Cod Bird Club approved an increase in the price of dues to eight dollars (\$8) for an individual membership and ten dollars (\$10) for a family membership. This increase will take effect after this year. We agreed that an increase was necessary to cover the costs of the price increase for the hall rental which took effect at the beginning of 1988. Roger Everett and Peter Trull have presented programs to the MUSEUM gratis to help cover this increase for the club but we can't expect this year after year. Thank-you both. Our programs are EXCEPTIONAL. Nowhere else will you find such high quality speakers month after month. These speakers are worth everything we pay them, but it does dig into our treasury. Therefore, please enjoy our super meetings and accept this small raise in the dues. I knew you'd understand..... PT

PROGRAMS:

We've got two dynamite programs scheduled for March and April. Roger Everett continues to provide our club with top of the line speakers.

MARCH 13, Paul Roberts, Past President of The Hawk Migration Association of North America and now President of Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch. Paul will share his expertise of our migratory and resident raptors with ID tips as well as information about their life histories. Bring a friend!!!!!!

APRIL 10, Paul Rezendez, Loon Warden at Quabbin Wilderness Area in western Massachusetts, has a closer relationship with nesting Common Loons in Massachusetts than anyone. He'll share his slides and experiences with us, describing these spectacular birds as I'm sure we've never seen them. Don't miss it.

WALKS: March and April are teasers, these months delight us with the first migrants of spring as well as the first truly warming days. But it's OK, because some people need a warm up period before the onslaught of warblers, thrushes and vireos that bombard our senses during May and early June. Fahy Bygate has coordinated 11 walks over March and April to get everybody warmed up. So here's hoping our skillful leaders get a good turnout.

MARCH:

Wednesday, March 1, (SORRY EVERYONE) FALMOUTH - 9:00 AM Meet behind Town Hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes - 548-6086

Monday, March 13, EASTHAM - 9:00 AM Meet at the lower parking lot at Fort Hill. Art King - 255-8919

Thursday, March 16, YARMOUTH - 9:00 AM Meet at the playground at the intersection of Route 6-A and Union Street, Yarmouthport. Charlotte Smith - 362-6891

Saturday, March 18, FALMOUTH AREA, SPECIAL WALK. 9:00 AM Meet behind Town Hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes - 548-6086.

Thursday, March 23, HARWICH - 9:00 AM Meet at the Bell's Neck Conservation Area off Great Western Road. Leader to be announced.

APRIL: Please note that all walks during April and into the Spring months begin at 8:00 AM. Also Noteworthy is the fact that Ms. Bessie Tirrell will be leading a walk on the 2nd Saturday of the month beginning April 8, Thanks Bessie.

Wednesday, April 6, FALMOUTH - 8:00 AM Meet behind Town Hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes - 548-6086

Saturday, April 8, EASTHAM to PROVINCETOWN - 8:00 AM Meet at Windmill Park, Route 6, Eastham, across from the Tpw Hall. Bessie Tirrell.

Monday, April 10, EASTHAM - 8:00 AM Meet at lower parking lot at Fort Hill. Art King - 255-8919

Thursday, April 20, YARMOUTH - 8:00 AM Meet at the intersection of Route 6-A and Union Street. At the playground. Charlotte Smith - 362-6891.

Thursday, April 27, HARWICH - 8:00 AM Meet at the Bell's Neck Road Conservation Area off Great Western Road. John and Ginny Redfern - 432-642

Saturday, April 29, WESTPORT - 8:00 AM Meet at the Burger King, Exit 6, Route 6, An all day trip - bring lunch - Dick Comeau - 432-9033

NO WELLFLEET BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY WALKS IN MARCH OR APRIL....