

CAPE COD BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER
MAY - JUNE 1989

Well I'm psyched!!! I love the month of May. When we think of this month of budding trees and blossoming bushes, the first thing that comes to mind are the warblers, vireos and other brightly colored songbirds that on some days, seem to be dripping from the trees. Up to 25 species of warblers may be observed in May, having begun with a few early migrants in late April. Yellow-rumped, pine, palm and black and white warblers are the first to arrive and by now, which should be around early May, several other species are in the trees. But what about shorebirds and Hawks! It may be true that shorebird migration is not as colorful as the mass of warblers that pass over the cape, but this movement of sandpipers and plovers over the tidal flats gives us a perfect opportunity to see some beautiful breeding plumage. In the fall, we see shorebirds in moulting plumage, or juveniles in their rusty or buffy plumage. In some cases, we are able to see numbers much larger in the spring than any other time of the year. Blair has reported seeing a flock of 20 or more piping plovers on Monomoy Is. in late April. And the Hawk migration on Cape Cod may offer observations of more individual species of buteos, accipiters, and falcons than anywhere else in the state! So as the days warm up, get outside and use all of your senses, listen and watch for the many species of migrants, be they passerines, raptors or shorebirds (or waterfowl for that matter) that pass over the cape. Right now I'd like to thank you all for supporting me as your president over the last two years. This is my last newsletter so I'll close by saying good-bye, good luck and of course, good-birding. PT

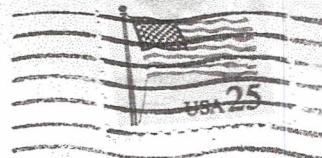
MEETINGS:

May 8, 7:45 PM Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Mr. Norman P. Hill, well known author of The Birds of Cape Cod will speak to our club on The History of Birding on Cape Cod. Dr. Hill has invited all of us to bring our copies of his classic book which he'll be glad to sign. Once again, Roger has brought us a guest speaker that puts our club above the rest.

Saturday, June 3, Cape Cod Bird Club Picnic. Again this year, we'll hold our picnic at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Picnic Area. Charlotte Smith will lead a walk around the sanctuary at 2:00 PM and we should begin our picnic around 5:00 O'clock after a short meeting. So please join us and bring a friend. And of course, bring supper, snacks, whatever.... Thanks to Bob Prescott!!!



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



Frank Caruso
17 Freedom Rd
Forestdale MA 02644

WALKS: There's no question that Fahy Bygate has done an incredible job putting together the walks for May and June. Not only will there be walks every Saturday and Sunday during May at the Beech Forest in Provincetown, but there'll be our regular monthly walks with the clubs expert leaders. If that's not enough in this peak month of avian observation, Fahy has concocted some special outings to make May and June all the more enjoyable. People seem to come out of the woodwork with binoculars during these two months, when the birding is best.

Parking Lot
8 AM
except 5/14
meet at 2 PM

MAY:

Wednesday, May 3, 8:00 AM - Meet at (behind) the town hall in the center of town. Mary Ropes - 548-6068. Falmouth.
Monday, May 8, 8:00 AM - Eastham - Meet at the lower parking lot at Fort Hill. Art King - 255-8919.
Saturday, May 13, 6:00 AM - Outer Cape - Meet at the Beech Forest parking lot, Provincetown - Bessie Tirrell - 432-9248.
Thursday, May 18, 8:00 AM - Yarmouth - Meet at the playground at the intersection of Rt. 6-A and Union St. Charlotte Smith - 362-6891.
Thursday, May 25, 8:00 AM - Harwich - Meet at the Harwich Conservation Area on Bell's Neck Road. John and Ginny Redfern - 432-6420.

SPECIAL WALKS

Wednesday, May 3, 5:30 PM - Harwich Conservation Area. Blair Nikula leads his traditional evening walk. Bring bug juice and a picnic supper. Blair - 945-2153.

Sunday

Saturday, May 14, 6:00 AM - Sandy Neck - New York resident Sue Martin has invited early risers to walk her beautiful summer property on Sandy Neck. Sue is generously providing muffins so please call Fahy Bygate (617-934-6978) if you're interested so we can let sue know how many to expect.

JUNE:

Wednesday, June 7, 8:00 AM - Falmouth - Meet behind the town hall in the center of town. Mary Ropes - 548-6086.
Monday, June 12, 8:00 AM Eastham - Meet at the lower parking lot at Fort Hill - Art King - 255-8919.
Saturday, June 10, 8:00 AM - Outer Cape - Meet at the windmill in Eastham. Bessie Tirrell - 432-9248.
Thursday, June 15, Yarmouth - 8:00 AM - Meet at the playground at the intersection of Rt. 6-A and Union St. Charlotte Smith - 362-6891.
Thursday, June 22, Harwich - 8:00 AM. Meet at the conservation area on Bell's Neck Road. Ginny and John Redfern - 432-6420.

SPECIAL WALKS

Saturday June 3, 2:00 PM - Annual Bird Club Picnic walk. As always, Charlotte Smith will lead us in a walk prior to the club picnic. Meet at the parking lot of the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Charlotte - 362-6891.
Saturday, June 17, 6:00 AM - Crane Wildlife Area and Mashpee River. Another classic from Blair Nikula!! Meet at the Shopping Center Parking Lot at the New Seabury Rotary in Mashpee. Blair Nikula - 9452153.

Mid-Cape Breeding Bird Census. Saturday, June 10.
This years breeding bird survey will cover the same area as the Mid-Cape Christmas Count. Its a great opportunity to find out whats going on in the avian world when our local birds are wrapped up in their nesting activities. There always seems to be surprises during this morning of intensive birding. Actually, Its a full day of birding but there's no pressure to bird any longer than you want to. A few hours is fine, half a day, whatever. Every bit of data collected, every bird sighted or heard is significant. For information, call Peter Trimble - 477-3847.