



Cape Cod Bird Club

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1989

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Peter Trimble

A warm welcome to everyone from your new president, Peter Trimble. A brief biography to those who may not know me might be appropriate. I live in the town of Mashpee with my wife, Robin, and our four children, John, Jeremiah, Peter Jr and Melissa. You may have seen them sitting in the front row at the club meetings. I teach science in the Sandwich School System and "love" to bird. Well back to bird business.

September and October are two of my favorite months. The variety of bird species present or passing through is great. The roads are a little easier to navigate, and the weather is, in my opinion, the best of the year. I realize some of the birds are difficult, if not impossible, to identify, but that makes it a challenge. And who can say they've identified every bird they've ever seen? Join one of our scheduled walks, or get out on your own and enjoy yourself and the birds.



Besides our regularly scheduled walks, the club organizes a few more "serious" endeavors. Two of these are the breeding bird census in June and the feeder bird census conducted throughout the winter months. I would like to

thank those who commit themselves and participate in these events. Although we enjoy them, they do require some effort. Summaries of these events are printed in this newsletter. A special thanks to John Redfern for his work on the feeder census.

In the past, we have conducted a September Bird-a-thon to benefit the Manomet Bird Observatory and the Museum of Natural History. Both organizations are involved with bird research and education locally, and in the case of Manomet, worldwide. They have recently improved their facilities and could use our support. With so many members, we could make a nice contribution. Please note the attached Bird-a-thon slip and pledge.

As new officers take over the running the bird club, we get to appreciate the work that has been done to keep the club running in the past. In particular, I would like to thank Roger Everett for his work over the past several years organizing and the great programs that we have all learned from and enjoyed each month. Good work Roger!

In closing, I would like to conduct an informal survey. This is not meant to be negative, but to see if we can improve. Why are you a bird club member? What do you enjoy? What don't you care for? What activities should be added or changed? Share your feelings on walks, meetings, speakers (do you have any suggestions or know of any good speakers?), special events, our new newsletter, or whatever. The club exists for its members, so please respond, and I will share your comments with the board. My address is Peter B. Trimble, 22 Somerst Rd., Mashpee, MA 02649, or call me 477-3847.

I look forward to meeting with you on September 11. We have a great program for you.

NEW CLUB OFFICERS

Peter Trimble, *President*
Jim Talin, *Vice President*
Art King, *Treasurer*
Marjorie Jones, *Secretary*
Sue Talin, *Publicity*
Faye Bygate, *Walk Coordinator*
Mary Field, Carl Bergfors,
Bill Swift, Frank Caruso

FIELD NOTES

Art King

What follows is a partial listing of some of the interesting birds that were seen on Cape Cod in June and July.

June—A yellow-headed blackbird was seen at a feeder in Osterville. Willets and a purple finch was seen at the Wellfleet Audubon . Orchard orioles were seen at Sea Call Farm in Orleans.

July—A White Pelican was seen at Fort Hill on the Nauset Marsh in Eastham. At Wellfleet Audubon, the following birds were seen: snowy egrets, immature bald eagle, osprey, whimbrels, horned lark, prairie warbler, greater and lesser yellow legs. In Chatham, a bald eagle was seen.

CENSUS UPDATE

FEEDER CENSUS REPORT 1988-1989

John Redfern

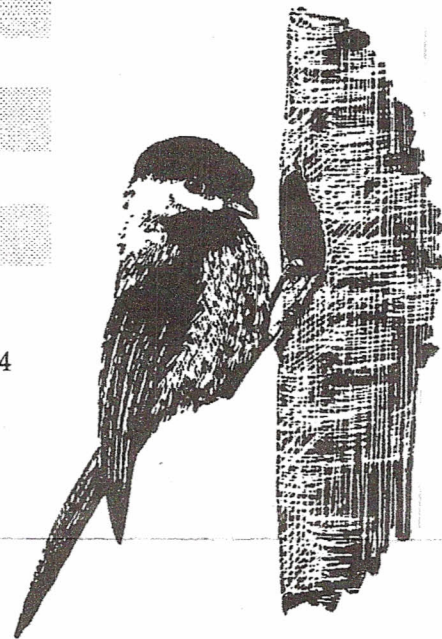
The results of the C.C. Bird Club feeder census show that the bird population (at least for birds that visit feeders) is quite stable. We have been conducting this census for nine years, and except for a bad year in 1982-1983 the results have been remarkably consistent. Some of these results are tabulated below:

| | Birds per feeder | Rank 88/89 | 87/88 | 86/87 |
|--------------------|------------------|------------|-------|-------|
| House finch | 9.62 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Mourning Dove | 6.96 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Blue Jay | 5.62 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| Chickadee | 5.46 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| House Sparrow | 5.06 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Goldfinch | 4.97 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| Cardinal | 2.53 | 7 | 10 | 14 |
| Crow | 2.48 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Starling | 2.42 | 9 | 5 | 10 |
| Grackle | 2.35 | 10 | 11 | 7 |
| Totals | | | | |
| species | | 52 | 58 | 48 |
| Birds/feeder/month | | 64.9 | 55.9 | 59.4 |
| No. of reports | | 44 | 40 | 39 |

Percent of feeders reporting a species (1988-1989 only)

| | |
|----------|---|
| 90-100% | Chickadee (99.1%), Blue Jay and Mourning Dove |
| 80-90% | House Finch, Downy Woodpecker, Titmouse |
| 70-80% | Goldfinch, Cardinal |
| over 50% | Crow, House Sparrow, Song Sparrow |

Missing from the top ten for the first time this year was our friend the Bob White (all the way down to 19th). This is probably the result of all the development the past few years. New to the feeder census were Indigo Bunting and Winter Wren.



EDITORIAL

Jim Talin

Sometimes the birds we see in the summer on Cape Cod seem to be tourists just like most of the people we meet. A wood thrush may be stopping off on its way to or from the northern woods, or a great crested flycatcher may be here for a few weeks to breed and then return home to the tropical forests of Central America. The birds are foreign, even if they don't carry license plates indicating their home country.

The stops that these birds make in New England are just one vital part of a vulnerable, integral life cycle. While the effects of destruction of nesting habitat are visible to us

every day, it turns out that the changes in winter habitat are as serious a threat to the birds that nest in New England. The combined pressures of overpopulation, war and deforestation of rain forests in Central and South America seem to be causing a decline in the numbers of birds in New England. "It will do us no good whatsoever to protect the areas in Massachusetts where wood thrushes nest if when the wood thrushes leave here they have no place to go," said Jim Baird, vice president of Mass Audubon, as he described Audubon's effort to establish a 252,000 acre preserve in Belize (N.Y. Times 7-11-89). The preserve, The Rio Bravo Conservation Area, would protect the winter habitat of such familiar birds as the wood thrush, the hooded warbler, the great crested flycatcher and the redstart.

The fact that what happens in January in Belize influences what happens in May on Cape Cod shows that seeming isolated, local actions, such as removing a forest, can have effects half a continent away. "Mass. Audubon," Jim Baird concluded, "views the world as one big ecosystem." Solutions have to be international as well as local.



Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

The Cape Cod Museum Of Natural History
RR 1, Route 6A, Brewster, MA 02631

Editor - Jim Talin

Design - Tom Noonan

PROGRAMS/ MEETINGS

On Monday evening **September 11** at 7:45 pm, *Bird Migration* will be the subject of a presentation by Trevor Lloyd-Evans of the Manomet Bird Observatory. For over 15 years, Trevor Lloyd-Evans has been in charge of the Bird Banding Lab at the Observatory and has been working to chronicle the migration of birds through Massachusetts. The program will be presented at the Museum of Natural History, Route 6A, Brewster.

On Monday evening **October 9** at 7:45 pm, *Birds and Birding in Australia* will be the subject of a slide show and presentation by Mark Lynch of the Worcester Science Center. Mark Lynch is an accomplished birder who leads tours and trips to various regions around the world. The program will be presented at the Museum of Natural History, Route 6A, Brewster.

Breeding Bird Census

On the morning of June 10, 1989, twelve bird club members spent a cumulative 38 hours counting the breeding birds in the mid-cape area. The night and the early morning did not portend well for bird watching or for any other outdoor activity. There was heavy rain until 6 am, and when the rain let up, clouds and fog remained. It was the sort of day on which people stay indoors, while birds stop singing and head for cover. All of the teams of birders commented that it was a difficult day to count birds. At day's end, 96 species of birds had been counted, with a total of 5840 individuals. Among the birds seen were common loon; great and snow egret; great blue, little blue, green-backed, and black-crowned night herons; black and white winged scoters; red-breasted mergansers; osprey; kestrel (only one); ruffed grouse; black-billed cuckoo; willow flycatcher; brown creeper; wood thrush; whited-eyed vireo; blue-winged warbler; scarlet tanager; rose-breasted grosbeak; orchard oriole; and purple finch. The most common bird seen was, not surprisingly, the herring gull: 1234 individuals were seen. And then, when the count was over, and when the results tallied, the sun came out, and the birds started singing.

Share-a-Hot-Spot Program

Needed: New walk leaders!!!! Please offer to share your favorite Cape Cod "hot spot" with the rest of the club.

NO EXPERTISE IS NECESSARY.

A willingness to share your best birding places is all that is needed.

We'll meet you there and figure out the birds together.

Please call Fahy Bygate at 617-934-6978

UPCOMING WALKS

Fahy Bygate

September

Wed. Sept 6th-Falmouth. 8 am. meet behind town hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes. 548-6068.

Sat. Sept. 9th-Sandwich. 8 am. meet at Rt 132 & Rt 6 (Burger King at Exit 6). Bessie Tirrell. 432-9248

Saturday Sept 16th-Morris Island. 9 am. meet at Monomoy Wildlife Refuge parking lot. Tom Noonan, Jim Talin. 255-1710.

Mon. Sept. 18th-Eastham. 8 am. meet at the lower parking lot at Fort Hill. Art King. 255-8919.

Wed. Sept 20th-Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary. 9 am. meet at parking lot. Natualist will lead.

Thursday Sept 21st-Yarmouth. 8 am. meet at the playground at the intersection of 6A & Union St. Charlotte Smith. 362-6891.

Thursday Sept. 28th-Harwich. 8 am. meet at Saquatucket Harbor in Harwich. John & Ginny Redfern. 432-6426.

October

Wed. Oct 4th-Falmouth. 8 am. meet behind town hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes. 548-6068.

Sat. Oct 14th-Sandwich. 8 am. meet at Rt 132 & Rt 6 (Burger King at Exit 6). Bessie Tirrell. 432-9248.

Sun Oct 15th-Wellfleet. 10 a.m. (Rain date Sun Oct 22). Meet at the Marconi Memorial. Marconi Hawk Watch- a self-led walk. Bring your field guides and we'll figure the birds out together. Bring a lunch.

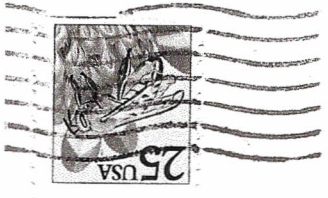
Mon. Oct 16th-Eastham. 8 am. meet at the lower parking lot at Fort Hill. Art King. 255-8919.

Wed. Oct 18th-Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary. 9 am. meet at parking lot. Natualist will lead.

Thursday Oct 19th-Yarmouth. 8 am. meet at the playground at the intersection of 6A & Union St. Charlotte Smith. 362-6891.

Thursday Oct 26th-Harwich. 8 am. meet at Saquatucket Harbor in Harwich. John & Ginny Redfern. 432-6426.

Frank Caruso
17 Freedom Rd
Forestdale MA 02644



The Cape Cod Museum Of Natural History
RR 1, Route 6A, Brewster, MA 02631



Cape Cod Bird Club

BIRD-A-THON

September 23rd and 24th

On the weekend of September 23-24, the C. C. Bird Club will sponsor its annual bird-a-thon. Each year teams of birders spend two days covering Cape Cod to identify as many bird species as they can. The money that is raised is split between the Manomet Bird Observatory, The C. C. Museum of Natural History and the C. C. Bird Club. These organizations are committed to education, bird watching and conservation. Support these organizations and their important activities by filling out the pledge card and contributing what you can.
(About 130 species will be seen.)

BIRD-A-THON PLEDGE

Please detach and mail to C.C. Bird Club, C. C. Museum of Natural History,
Rte 6A, Brewster, MA 02631

I pledge _____ per species seen during the bird-a-thon weekend September 23-24.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ Telephone _____