



Cape Cod Bird Club

VOLUME II

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1990

ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Trimble

I have some wonderful news. The Cape Cod Bird Club has been invited to co-host, with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Second Annual Mass. Birders' Meeting. This day-long event consists of presentations, slides, workshops, and other gatherings, all revolving

around birds. It is scheduled for Saturday November 17 and registration will run approximately \$15. There will be more information to follow at the September meeting and in the November newsletter. If anyone has particular interest in this popular and exciting conference, we

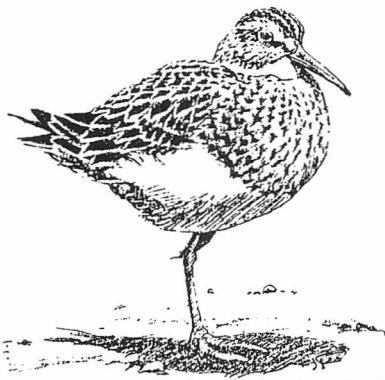
may need some volunteers, so I'd be happy to hear from you.

The effort to coordinate activities among the many Massachusetts Bird Clubs continues. The coordinating committee of the Massachusetts Birders' Forum will meet in late September. Progress is being made as well on joint projects concerned with conservation and research in Latin America.

Last year, in my opening message, I asked for your ideas on how the Cape Cod Bird Club could better serve you. Some changes in the monthly walks will be gradually implemented this year. If there are other concerns, positive comments, and/or if you would like to help in some way, please get in touch with me at 22 Somerset Rd, Mashpee, MA 02649, or telephone 477-3847.

After I finish writing this message, I am heading out on a whale watch. This summer has been good for Humpback and Finback Whales with the occasional Minke, Right Whale or dolphin. Pelagic birds have included Shearwaters, especially Greater and Sooty, but also a few Manx, Cory's and Wilson's Storm Petrels. One day, I recorded 3 Leach's Storm Petrels and one Parasitic Jaeger.

Don't forget that September and October are fantastic birding months. I hope to see you all at the September meeting. Good birding.



Barry Van Dusen

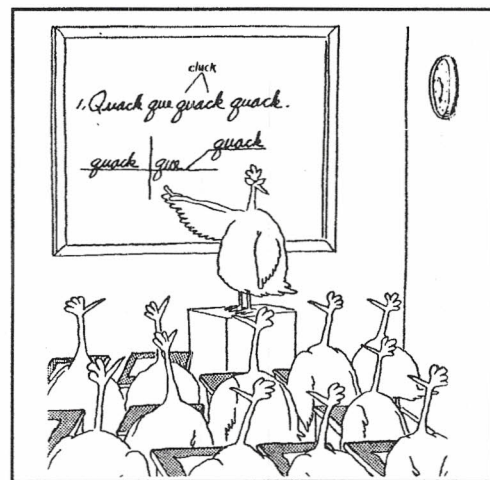
You Say PILL-ee-ate-ed. I say PIE-lee-ate-ed.

Art King

In my early days on the Cape, I heard people referring to what I knew as a Snowy EE-gret, as a Snowy ee-GRET. Were they right? Was I wrong? After all these years, how could that be? What about the pronunciation of other bird names? You hear puh-ROO-luh Warbler, or is it PAA-ruh-lah? And what of PIE-lee-ate-ed or PILL-ee-ate-ed? It only gets worse. Pronunciations do not seem to be uniform. Which is correct?

I thought I had it all figured out, but the more research one does, the more confusing it becomes. For example, I have always been happy with puh-ROO-lah, only to find that PAA-ruh-lah is also acceptable. Then to confuse the issue even further, a recent article in *Birding* says "PA-ruh-lah (not pa-roo-lah)", so where does that leave us?

Let's look at some others
Egret - ee-GRET, EE-gret, or even EGG-ret are OK.
Falcon - FALL-cun, Faw-cun, or FAL-cun. Take your pick.
Gyrfalcon - JURR-FALL-cun (or any of the above).
Murre - rhymes with "fur".
Phalarope - FAL-uh-rope.
Plover - rhymes with "lover", not "clover"; although there seems to be some support for the latter.



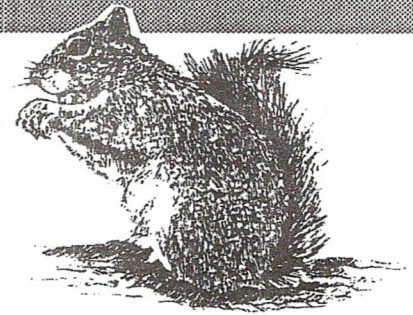
Beginning Duck Gary Larson

These are but a few of the names that might confuse you, but do not be discouraged. Variety seems to be acceptable, and mistakes are easy to make. You are not alone. Once upon hearing me refer to a Dovekie, a friend of mine said, "Oh is that how you pronounce it? I thought it was "duh-VEK-ee".

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dearest Editor,

Hey, who was the Bonehead responsible for that lame article from Cornell in the March-April newsletter on squirrel proof bird feeders? Five out of the top ten feeders Cornell recommended are totally made of plastic. What's this you say, squirrels can't chew through plastic? Keep dreaming! A Piping Plover chick has a better chance against a Ford Bronco. Three of the remaining feeders have metal. However you might as well toss your seed on the ground because even a chipmunk with out teeth would have little trouble sucking every bit of seed out of them. The last two feeders will actually keep squirrels out and allow the birds to eat in peace. However the Mandarin feeder has such poorly designed feeding ports that small birds could actually enter the feeder and be trapped like little lobsters. The Droll Yankee Big Top is truly an excellent feeder, so Cornell did get one right, but it probably was a lucky guess. As far as the best window feeder, Aspects Buffet 002, forget it. It contains these cute little seed trays that jays and grackles love to knock to the ground every time they land on it. Lots of fun for people on the second floor.



I cannot imagine why Cornell would put out such a bogus list of feeders, unless they are trying to dump some of these feeders on the tourists who visit their little shop at Sapsucker Woods (hence the name). My advice to Cornell is to stick to their bird studies and leave squirrels to the trained professionals.

Mike O'Connor
Birdwatcher's General Store

Dearest Mike: The editor would like readers to know that bonehead does not properly describe his balding pate (at least not yet). Neither has the fact that a certain fast talking seed salesman from a birdstore in Orleans sold him an expensive feeder that ranked 23rd out of 23 feeders in the Cornell survey affected his opinion in this matter in the least.

EDITORIAL

Jim Talin

We headed north this summer, our destination an isolated area in Vermont, where there were tall trees and where the timber industry owned most of the land. The effects of logging were apparent everywhere we went; wide swatches of mountains and low lands were stripped of growth, left muddy and barren; and in other areas, shrubs and small trees had just reestablished growth. Instinctively, we disliked the clear-cuts, but here was a new twist; for birders the effects weren't all that bad. Our guide books to Vermont stated again and again: "Check out the clear-cut beside the logging road at mile marker 3 for...." And the list would include various rare birds. Logging had provided these migrant birds with nesting areas.

Perhaps that is why we debated the merits of plastic solo cups (the coffee cups with the cone shaped inserts and the plastic holder) as opposed to paper cups. An environmental group had taken us to task for using solo cups at a local coffee house. Which was really worse, we wondered,

if neither solid plastic or bleached paper lined with a skin of plastic was recycled? Neither will biodegrade in anaerobic landfills. Dioxin from paper mills threatens fisheries, birds, and humans. Plastic ditto. It feels better to use paper, perhaps because it is renewable, because we can clear-cut areas like northern Vermont for paper pulp.

Yet, the prize birds of northern Vermont, the elusive native Boreal Species, were not to be found in the clear-cuts. To find them, we were told, a birder needed patience, a new approach, no more urban birding, no racing down logging roads, hopping out of an idling car to spot them and rush on. To encounter them, we needed to discover the fragments of an older order that remained untouched, overlooked by the lumber industry, where people did not rule or intrude. Luckily, one day, we took a path off a logging road and unwittingly found ourselves in a place out of time, ancient and solemn. For a few moments we were moved beyond ourselves. Was this whole area like this once? we wondered, as we sensed how much logging had changed Vermont, and how much one bird's gain had been another bird's loss.

Why don't "they" make a coffee cup from unbleached recycled paper, we asked ourselves. Or better yet, the coffee house might pick up fifty or so old china cups at yard sales, but then who would wash them?



Cape Cod Bird Club Newsletter

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

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PROGRAMS/ MEETINGS

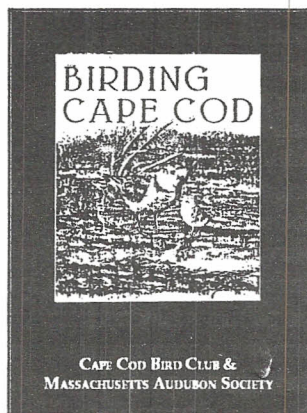
Frank Caruso

Monday evening **September 10** at 7:45 at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History located on Route 6A in Brewster, Peter Trull, former club president and educator at the Museum, will give a program entitled, "*Beyond Webbed Feet and Hooked Beaks: Avian Adaptations You Don't Know About.*" It has been awhile since Peter brought his wealth of bird knowledge before the Bird Club. Many of us listen to his short snippets on WFCC every day. Here is an opportunity to hear him discuss for over an hour some of the things which occur out in the wild which many of us never get to see. He will talk about why certain birds are adapted so well to particular habitats, and why they lay eggs a certain color and/or shape, along with other interesting tidbits. Peter always puts on a good, lively show!

Monday evening **October 8** at 7:45 at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History located on Route 6A in Brewster, Sam Fried from West Hartford, Ct will speak on "*Newfoundland and Labrador.*" Starting with the seabird breeding colony of Cape St. Mary's, we will be taken on a birder's grand tour of the this fascinating Canadian province. We will hear about the birds, history, ecology, geology, and people of this large island, the first area in North America to be settled by Europeans. The program will feature visits to three seabird breeding colonies (two by fishing boat), Terra Nova and Gros Morne National Parks, the French islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon, L'Anse-Aux-Meadows, the south coast of Labrador and many other areas of this beautiful, yet rugged province.

Birding Cape Cod

The book is out. Birding Cape Cod landed on book store shelves in July. It was written by Cape Cod Bird Club Members, Janet Aylward, Sally Clifton, Richard Comeau, Blair Nikula, Robert Pease, Robert Prescott, Robert Scott, Charlotte Smith and Peter Trimble. Mike O'Connor (Birdwatchers' General Store) informed me that it is selling well. After viewing a copy, it is easy to see why. 125 pages long, with a fine introduction, and with guides to the mainland parts of Cape Cod as well as to Monomoy and Pelagic birding, with well designed maps to serve as guides, the book is an first-rate resource. Birders, who enjoy Cape Cod, will find this book invaluable in exploring areas unfamiliar to them. My compliments to everyone connected with the long and tedious process of creating such a fine publication. Remember: the sale of Birding Cape Cod benefits the Cape Cod Bird Club. So, pick up a copy for yourself, friends and relations.



UPCOMING WALKS

Sally McNair

September

Wednesday Sept. 5th—Falmouth, 8 am. Meet behind Town Hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes. 548-6086.

Monday Sept 10th—Eastham. 8 am. Meet in the lower parking lot, Fort Hill. Art King. 255-8919.

Saturday Sept. 15th—Morris Island. 9 am. Meet at Monomoy Wildlife Refuge parking lot. Tom Noonan, Jim Talin 255-1710.

Thursday Sept. 20th—Yarmouth. 8 am. Meet at the intersection of 6A and Union Street. Charlotte Smith. 362-6891.

Wednesday Sept. 26th—Harwich. 8 am. Meet at Saquatucket Harbor in Harwich. Bessie Tirrell. 432-9248.

Sunday Sept. 30th—Manomet Bird Observatory. 9 am. Bird banding demonstration and tour of MBO. Coordinated by Sarah Whittum. Sign up at the Sept 10th meeting or call Sally McNair 349-6043.

October

Monday Oct. 1st—Eastham Ponds. 8 am. Meet in the lower parking lot, Fort Hill. Art King. 255-8919.

Wednesday Oct. 3rd—Falmouth, 8 am. Meet behind Town Hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes. 548-6086.

Wednesday Oct. 10th—Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. 9 am. Meet in the parking lot. A naturalist will lead.

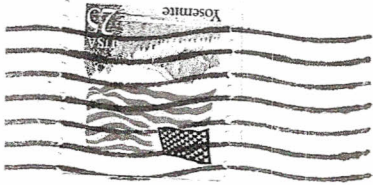
Sunday Oct. 14th—South Cape Beach, Mashpee. 8 am. Meet at the State parking lot at the end of Great Oak Rd. From Mashpee rotary follow signs to South Cape Beach State Park. Peter Trimble. 477-3847.

Thursday Oct. 18th—Yarmouth. 8 am. Meet at the intersection of 6A and Union Street. Charlotte Smith. 362-6891.

Thursday Oct. 25th—Harwich. 8 am. Meet at Saquatucket Harbor in Harwich. Bessie Tirrell. 432-9248.

Saturday Oct. 27th—Sandwich, West Barnstable. 8:30 am. Meet in the parking lot at Sandy Neck. Bob Pease. 790-1351.

Franklin County
17 Freedom Rd
Freetown MA 02644



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

Cape Cod Bird Club



The Annual Birdathon

BIRD-A-THON

On Saturday and Sunday September 22nd and 23rd, members of the Cape Cod Bird Club will be raising money for the Club, the Manomet Bird Observatory, and the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. The Club needs your participation and support for this important fundraiser. There are many ways you can help. You could go birding, keep track of the number of species you spot, and mail your results to the Bird Club. Or you could pledge to donate a sum for each species spotted, for instance, \$0.10 or \$0.25 per species. Rather than pledge for the total number of species spotted, you could sponsor an individual or a team from the Bird Club. If you want, you could even sponsor yourself. During last year's birdathon, club members spotted 139 species and raised over \$300 which was split between MBO, The Museum and The Bird Club. Each of these organizations uses the money well, either for research, education or grassroots conservation action. So, please consider filling out the donation form enclosed in your newsletter, and support these worthy organizations.

Breeding Bird Census

Art King

Between 5 am and 12 noon on June 9, 1990, 17 club members counted the birds in the Mid-Cape area. It was a mostly cloudy day, with heavy rain and thunder between 9 and 10 am. At day's end, a total of 101 species had been counted (up from last year's 96 species) with a total of 6849 individual birds (up from last year's 5840).

Among the species spotted were Great Egret, Wood Duck, Pheasant, 12 Ospreys, 12 Piping Plovers, Whip-poor-will, Blackburnian Warbler, and 6 Scarlet Tanagers. Once again, the most common species (in order) were not surprising: Herring Gull, Common Grackle, European Starling, Least Tern, American Robin, and Great Black-backed Gull, and Canada Goose.