



Cape Cod Bird Club

VOLUME 24

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ISSUE 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard D. Hall

If the Club's next President were ever to ask me for advice, I would respond, "Make sure you read your mail." Our Club has been around long enough to generate plenty of junk mail each month. Last September, I resisted the temptation to toss a bulky envelop from Armonk, NY in the trash. It looked like another brochure for the latest squirrel proof feeder, or solicitation for funds to study fluctuations in finch population in Estonia or wherever. Not this letter, though. It turned out to be an invitation to spend five days in Trinidad and Tobago with a dozen other bird club presidents from across the country. I couldn't get to the phone fast enough. Six weeks later I was birding the tropics for the first time.

Trinidad's *Asa Wright Nature Center* was our headquarters, a ninety year old former cocoa and coffee plantation located at the head of a valley, 1200 feet up in mountain rain forest. The plantation house boasts one of the finest birding verandas in the tropics. This veranda is the epicenter of island birding. For a first timer, it is easy to get 35 or 40 life birds, while simultaneously enjoying high tea and the spectacular view. Six species of Tanagers, seven varieties of Hummingbirds, an assortment of tropical Thrushes, and neon colored Honeycreepers frequent plantings and feeders so close you'll seldom need binoculars. Toucans, Motmots, Bellbirds, Manakins and extremely rare Oilbirds can all be located on the nearby trails. Staff naturalists are excellent at locating the hard-to-find, or confusing species. Short day trips to the central savannah or Caroni Swamp bring such memorable sights as 3000 Scarlet Ibis coming to their mangrove roost at dusk, or a Tree Boa in pursuit of a Bicolored Conebill.

Because Trinidad lies only 8 miles off the Venezuelan coast, its natural history is more South American than West Indian. The island's small size and variety of habitats make a trip there one of the closest and most accessible introductions to South American birds. (And I haven't even mentioned Tabogo, but that will have to wait.) Interestingly, there is a Cape Cod connection with the *Asa Wright Center*. Our own Jonnie Fisk was once its manager, and gave the sanctuary its largest donation ever. Indeed, a life sized portrait of the late Mrs. Fisk hangs in the Center's library.

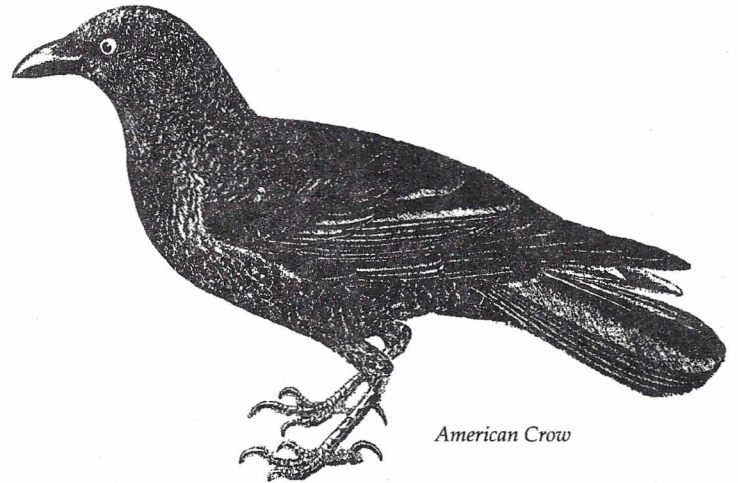
Finally, a few words about the food and accommodations: Never have I lived so well while on a birding trip. Our meals were superb mini-banquets, with much of the food grown on the plantation. Graciousness was the order of the day, and every room came equipped with hot showers. I would gladly lead a Club trip there next fall or winter. The cost is surprisingly reasonable. If this sounds appealing, give me a call at (508) 945-4882 for more information. You too may have an Oilbird in your future.

BIRDING BASICS

June A. Chamberlain-Auger

Which bird, commonly found on the Cape, has the reputation of being noisy, raucous, a thief and a pest? The American Crow!

Historically, crows were the bane of farmers, and bounties were established. While it is still legal to hunt crows for about two-thirds of the year, there is a growing contingent of crow-admirers, which even includes an



American Crow

organization devoted to crows and ravens (ASCAR). It is the superior intelligence and fascinating social behaviors of the crow that entertain and intrigue humans (including the author).

American crows on the Cape are cooperative breeders (helpers-at-the-nest), a breeding system where young from previous years stay with the parents and assist in raising young. These extended families can be as large as 12 birds on a territory.

Breeding begins in late February through March with nest building. All family members help build the nests which are usually found in the top of a conifer tree. But be warned, crows sometimes build practice nests. Nests are constructed of sticks and lined with grasses and mud and do not have any leaves or pine needles! Occasionally man-made materials such as rope, string, or plastic bags are woven into the nests. To find a nest you can follow the crow carrying a stick.

One to six eggs are laid and incubated for about 18 days, usually by the female breeder, but with assistance from the helpers. The young fledge after approximately 29 days. The fledglings are secluded for a few weeks during which time they continue to learn how to feed themselves and improve their flying skills. The young birds can be distinguished by the brownish cast to their feathers (until the first molt a year later), blue eyes (for the first few months), and their distinctive call.

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EDITORIAL

Jim Talin

Hierarchies of Value

One of the rarest books in the collection of an Northeastern institution was printed in 1560. It is one of only six copies left in the world, and it contains prints of all the known creatures of the world. In 1560 the world contained many mysterious, undiscovered places, so perhaps that is why this book illustrates everyday creatures along with fantastical emanations from the human psyche, such as mermaids and dragons (with lists of confirmed sightings). While our scientific books today do not contain mythological beings, I suspect that 450 years from now the peculiarities of our world view will seem just as dated as the world of 1560 does today. Take our view of birds as an example. There are good birds and bad birds, trash birds, and birds worth going out of your way to find. In this hierarchy of value, blackbirds as a rule are no good. Starlings should never have been imported from Europe. Lazy Cowbirds victimize other hard-working birds. Grackles are comical and over-abundant. And crows, well what good can be said for crows? They are a noisy, nosey, predatory, junk-eating, nest-robbing tribe of vagrants. Crows are, well, too much like people to be any good.

It came as something of a revelation to me that crows deserved study. In my own small way I have set out to understand them more. Every day, now, I put out some old bread on a platform feeder, and watch the crows approach so cautiously. In doing this, I have rediscovered some things I had known about crows. Cautious, curious and thorough, they are like watch-dogs when it comes to hawks. Any Sharp-shinned or Coopers Hawk that lands within an acre of the platform feeder when the crows are around is immediately mobbed. And if an owl tries to roost for the day in some of the thick evergreens nearby, its presence is proclaimed by a tribe of yelping, agitated crows.

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Cape Cod Bird Club Inc.

The Cape Cod Museum Of Natural History
PO BOX 1710, Brewster, MA 02631

Officers

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Editor ~ Jim Talin

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LETTERS

Derek Moore

Obsessed! What Me?

A View of English Birders

Britain has a population of 52 million and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds over 1 million members. It is estimated that as many as 10,000 are fanatical listers or "twitchers", as they are known in the UK. Most of them (including me occasionally) are so obsessed with adding species to their British List, that they would make Mike at the Birdwatcher's General Store seem extremely civil and shy.

Twitchers will go to amazing lengths to get their bird. Having a job is a major incumbrance, and many top birders have attended at least 20 grandmothers' funerals. If they are married, then the conception of their children is often carefully planned so that a birth will not occur in the breeding season. One birder got it wrong once. A crowd of about 100 were watching a Red-rumped Swallow when a car arrived at great speed. "Is it still here?" He gasped on arrival at the crowd. "Yes," was the reply. "Thank God! my wife is in labour, and we were just off to hospital when I heard the news!" He exclaimed. "Did you make it on time?" All politely asked. "She is still in the car, and I have told her to sound the horn if the contractions get faster," he said as if that was exactly the correct thing to do. Well there was a birder with his priorities in place.

Britain is such a small country that news travels fast through a network of birdlines and now pocket pagers. A recent Blyth's Pipit on my patch (3rd for Britain) attracted 1500 people at once. Enjoying a bird in these circumstances was a bit difficult. I did however smile a bit at the faces of quite a few who arrived too late. The bird had not flown, but had been caught by the local Kestrel.

If you are coming to Britain, please give me a call-Richard Hall has my number and address. I will be delighted to help you with your obsession-(whoops!-sorry) I mean your quest to add new birds to your list.

The Cape Cod Bird Club

is an organization whose members are interested in the protection and conservation of the bird life and natural resources of Cape Cod.

If you are interested in joining,
please send a check for \$10 single membership,
\$15 family membership to
CCBC, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History,
PO Box 1710, Brewster, MA 02631

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Jackie Sones

December 1994 / January 1995

Eared Grebe. One individual was observed off Nauset Beach in Orleans on 14 January by members of the South Shore Bird Club. For many birders, this bird was quite accommodating, spending a lot of time very close to shore. It continued to be seen at least until the end of January.

Sea birds. Strong northeast winds during the 24th and 25th of December blew in a few sea birds which were observed from First Encounter Beach in Eastham and Race Point in Provincetown. Blair Nikula recorded the following on 25 December: 37 Northern Fulmars, 2 Pomarine Jaegers, 4 jaeger sp., 1 skua sp., and 60 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

American White Pelican. This individual was observed first from Barley Neck in East Orleans on 9 December by Althea and Gerald Dorman. A few other observers caught glimpses of it in Nauset Marsh on 10 December.

Wood Stork. The Wood Stork continued to be seen in Cotuit until at least 16 December. There have been a few second-hand reports since then, the latest being 27 January.

Tundra Swan. One individual was seen on Mashpee/Wakeby Pond in mid-January by Peter Trimble.

Alcids. Razorbills were reported throughout December and January, the highest count being 450+ (in 20 minutes) from First Encounter Beach in Eastham on 20 December by Jackie Sones. Two Dovekies were reported: one from Wellfleet Harbor on 20 December by Roger Everett, and one from Race Point in Provincetown on 31 December by Jackie Sones. One Atlantic Puffin was seen off South Monomoy Island on 15 January by Bob Prescott and Aurele Thomas.

Bald Eagle. Eagles were well reported, especially during January. Sightings were spread out from Sandwich to Wellfleet. Two adults were observed most frequently at Cliff Pond in Brewster, and at Long Pond/Hinckley's Pond in Brewster/Harwich.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Two individuals were reported: one in west Brewster on 29 December by Jim Talin and one in east Brewster on 26 December by Art King.

Also of interest is a breeding record in North Falmouth during the summer of 1994. Thanks to Frank Caruso for having his friend send photos and write up the details!

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. One late individual was seen in South Orleans on 4 December by Kathy McGinley.

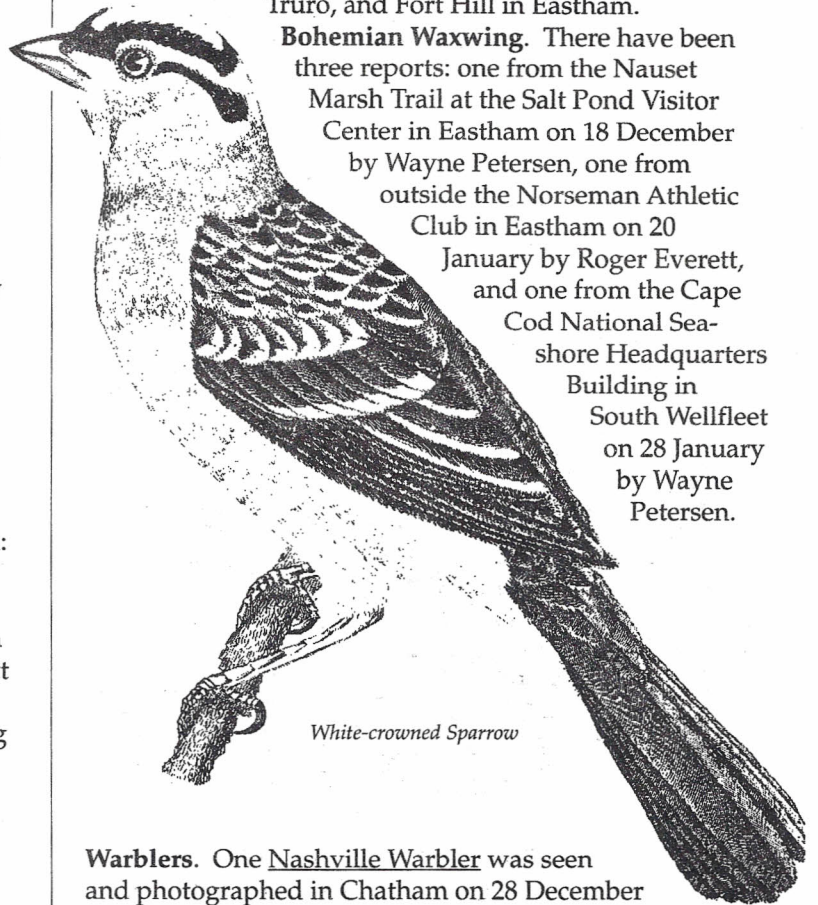
Bluebirds. Three Mountain Bluebirds (two males and one female) were noticed outside the Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters Building in South Wellfleet on 27 January by Ed Hoopes. Over the weekend and during the following week, many birders flocked to see these beautiful birds. This was the first sighting of this species on Cape Cod, and only the third in Massachusetts. (The first was one bird that flew onto a boat off Nantucket in 1980, and the second was one bird photographed in western Mass. in 1994) The Mountain Bluebirds appeared to be feeding mostly on juniper berries, and were often associ-

ated with Yellow-rumped Warblers and Eastern Bluebirds. There were many reports of Eastern Bluebirds throughout December and January. Sightings came in from scattered locations across the Cape. Most sightings were of 3 - 6 birds, but a few were flocks of 20 - 30.

Northern Shrike. There were approximately 6 - 8 reports of Northern Shrikes during the past two months. Most sightings were from the Outer Cape, including Herring Cove in Provincetown, the Great Swamp in Truro, and Fort Hill in Eastham.

Bohemian Waxwing. There have been three reports: one from the Nauset Marsh Trail at the Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham on 18 December by Wayne Petersen, one from outside the Norseman Athletic Club in Eastham on 20

January by Roger Everett, and one from the Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters Building in South Wellfleet on 28 January by Wayne Petersen.



White-crowned Sparrow

Warblers. One Nashville Warbler was seen and photographed in Chatham on 28 December by Richard Hiscock. A few Pine Warblers were seen, maximum counts being 3 near the Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters Building in South Wellfleet on 28 January by various observers, and 2 in Brewster on 26 December by Art King.

Sparrows. One White-crowned Sparrow (immature) was reported from Truro on 30 January by Wallace Bailey. Chipping Sparrows put in appearances across the Cape, with maximum counts being 13 in Brewster on 24 January by Art King, and 12 at the Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters Building in South Wellfleet on 28 January by various observers. A high count of 20+ "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows was reported from North Monomoy Island on 3 December by Blair Nikula.

Thanks to everyone who submitted reports! Call Jackie Sones or Blair Nikula at 432-6348 with future sightings!

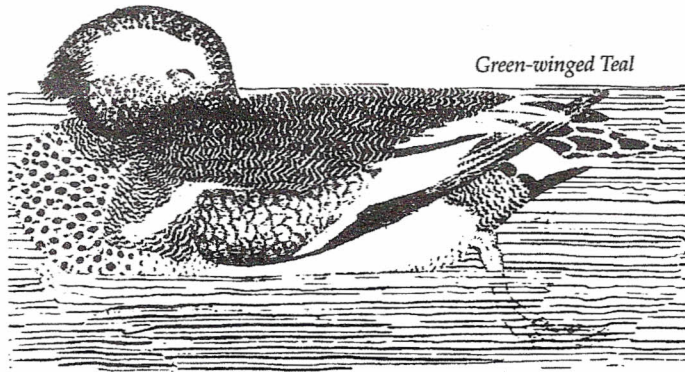
CAPE COD LAKE AND POND WATERFOWL SURVEY

Blair Nikula

The 12th annual Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey was conducted on the weekend of December 3-4 under almost tropical weather conditions. For the fifth consecutive year, the late fall was warmer than normal, punctuated by temperatures that nudged the 60° mark on the survey weekend. Forty-three observers (a new high) took advantage of the glorious weather to census 343 ponds—two more than last year's record high! Twenty-six species of waterfowl were found, totaling 11,111 individuals. This total is close to the long term average, but is up sharply from the depressed levels of the previous two years.

Species Results

Four species, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, and Ruddy Duck were found in record high numbers this year, while five others, Pied-billed Grebe, American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and American Coot were at near record levels. One species, Canvasback, established an all-time low, while a species pair, scaup (Lesser and Greater combined) was at a near-



record low. For the first time in the history of the survey, scaup (both species combined) were not the most numerous species, their total of 1881 birds ranking only third this year. Topping the list was American Black Duck with 2184, followed by Bufflehead at 2078, and Mallard at 1462. These five species combined comprised over two-thirds (68%) of the overall total. Among the unusual species found this year were a Snow Goose in Falmouth, and Northern Shoveler in Barnstable, four Eurasian Wigeon (two in Barnstable and two in Chatham), and solitary Surf Scoters in Mashpee and Yarmouth.

Town Results

Falmouth, the perennial leader, again out-distanced all other towns with 3217 birds or 29% of the Capewide total. However, Falmouth normally has closer to 40%; this year's reduction is an artifact of the reduced scaup numbers, scaup being a Falmouth specialty. Yarmouth was second this year with 1468 (13%) birds, followed by

Barnstable at 1356 (12%) and Dennis at 1156 (10%). Barnstable's 20 species was by far the best variety, followed by Falmouth's 16 species and Yarmouth's 15.

Pond Results

As always those ponds with the highest totals were those with the highest numbers of scaup. Top pond this year was Swan Pond in Dennis with 1042 birds of 11 species including the highest concentrations of Mute Swan (60), Gadwall (45), Canvasback (90), and Ruddy Duck (35). Second this year was Salt Pond in Falmouth with 1038 birds of 13 species.

Participation in this endeavor established a new record too. Sincere thanks to all of this year's 43 birders, most of whom have been loyal participants for several years now, and some since the very first year. A town-by-town summary sheet, an 11 year summary, and general summary are available by sending a SASE to Blair Nikula, 2 Gilbert Lane, Harwich Port, MA 02646.

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BIRDING BASICS

June A. Chamberlain-Auger

Early in the breeding season crows are secretive and quiet, but once the fledgings are a few weeks old, they return to their noisy state. They have a repertoire of about 32 calls, including dispersal and assembly calls, rattles, clicks, dove-like calls, etc.

Even though they are territorial year-round, early in the fall crows begin to gather in roosts at night. We've seen roosts of 500 birds on the Cape, 5000 birds in Framingham, and read about the enormous roosts of tens to hundreds of thousands of birds in the Mid-west. Interestingly, Fish Crows join in these roosts and can be distinguished from American crows by their calls.

Crows are now entering their breeding season, so watch for stick-carrying birds! With luck you'll be able to locate a nest and watch a family unit raise the next clutch of young.

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HIERARCHY

Jim Talin

And then the other day, a few hundred Starlings landed in the yard. First one row of birds would drop down and land, then another row would fly over them and land just beyond them, all descending from a continuous sheet of birds one row at a time, just like a rug being rolled out. Finding some beauty in this occasioned a reconsideration of the relative place of Starlings in the scheme of things, until that is, I went out to my car to drive to work and found it covered with the evidence that Starlings do more than fly and land in unison.

THE CAPE COD CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Jim Talin from statistics compiled by Blair Nikula

We live in a kind of twilight during the winter months. It is not just that the sun sets early and rises late, it is also the quality of light. Winter light is dim, the woods are gray, and the creatures in the woods are dull colored too. Two of the duller warblers are the Pine and the Orange-crowned. Look at them on the page of your guide, and compare them to the vibrant Hooded or Prairie Warbler. You might ask yourself if you would even see the color on an Orange-crowned, unless, that is, you saw an Orange-crowned or a Pine Warbler in the dim winter light, in with brown colored Carolina Wrens, House Finches, White-throated and Song Sparrows. When an Orange-crowned Warbler popped up among the normal dull winter birds during the Christmas Bird Count, it was like a revelation of how I had accommodate myself to the gradual change from summer colors to winter grays. Seeing this supposedly dull warbler glow like a supernova among lesser luminaries, it seemed hard to believe that in just a few months the most outrageously colored warbler could disappear into the verdant green of a shrub or a budding tree.

There were three Orange-crowned and one Pine Warbler seen on this year's Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count. The count area extends from Eastham to Brewster, including the towns of Orleans and Chatham. On Sunday December 18, 39 observers set out to cover this area as best they could. 116 species of birds were seen. Highlights included a Bohemian Waxwing, which was a new bird to the count. Record high counts were recorded of Downy Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal and "Ipswich" Sparrow. Other highs included the highest American Bittern count since 1976, the highest Black-bellied Plover count since 1977, the highest Black-capped Chickadee count since 1977, the second highest Carolina Wren count ever, the second highest Yellow-breasted Chat count and the third highest House Finch count ever. Great Cormorants were seen in their lowest numbers since 1976; Northern Bobwhites the lowest since 1949; and Herring Gulls the second lowest since 1950.

Other birds of note seen during the count were 5 Merlins, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 2 Semipalmated Plovers, 3 Northern Shrikes, and 1 Painted Bunting. The most common bird seen was the Common Eider (7726), followed by the American Black Duck (2840), Herring Gull (2586), American Robin (2407), Red-breasted Merganser (2137), Canada Goose (1748), Brant (1578), Great Black-backed Gull (1521), Bufflehead (1368), and Black-capped Chickadee (1195).

MID-CAPE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Jim Talin from statistics compiled by Peter Trimble

1994 was a good year for the Mid-Cape Count. The morning of the Count was a spectacular multicolored opening to a day of unusual, Southern warmth. It was a perfect day for bird watchers and for birds. A prolonged stretch of warm weather meant that many birds were still on Cape Cod in high numbers. The balmy temperatures made life a lot easier for bird watchers too. Before the end of the day, this Christmas bird count set a variety of records: 48 birds were seen in record high numbers; the total number of species seen (126) was an all time high for this count, as was the total number of individual birds seen (34841). The species total was also the highest of any Christmas Count in Massachusetts, and perhaps New England, in 1994.

Unusual or rare birds seen included 3 Blue-Winged Teals, 1 Eurasian Wigeon, 1 Northern Goshawk, 1 Sora, 6 Purple Sandpipers, 3 phalarope species, 4 Laughing Gulls, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, a Dovekie, 3 Long-eared Owls, 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 3 Red-bellied



American Gold Finch

Woodpeckers; 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2 House Wrens, 16 Water Pipits, 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, 1 Northern Waterthrush, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 3 Yellow-breasted Chats, and 1 White-crowned Sparrow. While about 40% of the species seen set new record highs for the number of individuals seen, some birds were scarce. Canvasback set an all time low, scaup were below the 14 year average, as were Black and Surf Scoters. Red-breasted Nuthatches tied for the second lowest total in 14 years.

26 people participated in the count. Sorely missed by all this year was the good-humored assistance of Bob Scott.

FEEDER WATCH

Elinor Miller

Recipe For Miracle Meal

At the January Bird Club meeting, there was a limited discussion about what and how to feed bluebirds. The "recipe" below was developed by a woman in Texas, and it has surely saved the lives of many bluebirds, especially those that may have arrived back on breeding territory only to find themselves confronted with severe weather and snow that covers food remaining after the Starlings, Mockingbirds, and Waxwings have dined. Robins and other birds not normally associated with feeders will flock to this food when it is spread on the ground. You can feed bluebirds through the winter inside a bluebird house, if you have one and see bluebirds entering the house. As an aside, bluebirds are known to pack themselves inside a cavity, including a bird house, on cold winter nights, sometimes to the extent that they all smother!

- 3 cups of corn meal
- 1 cup flour
- 2 cups peanut hearts
- 1/2 pound lard (no substitutes)

Bring lard to room temperature or melt it before blending with other ingredients. You can substitute peanut bits for the hearts.

Lyme Disease Vaccine

Members of the Club have been invited to participate in an important FDA-approved nationwide Lyme Disease vaccine study. Researchers are looking for healthy volunteers between the ages of 15 & 70 who spend significant time outdoors during peak transmission periods in areas endemic for Lyme disease. Cape Cod coastal areas are one of the hot spots for Lyme Disease, and active field birders area at high risk for infection.

The study is a "double-blind" efficacy test, which means half the participants will receive the vaccine and the other half a placebo. Volunteers will receive three doses over a one year period, and will be monitored for two subsequent years. Upon conclusion, the placebo group will be given the vaccine free of charge. It is critical that candidates be immunized before the onset of transmission season, or no later than March 15th. Anyone interested should immediately call 1-800-884-4955 for pre-screening.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Fahy Bygate

The Place Where Birders Meet Birders



LONELY...SFB looking for SMB. Likes walks on Nauset Beach, listening to Birding by Ear in front of the fire, Starting with Art. Seeks warm, caring, non-smoking, non-cat owning male birder with Kowa. No feeder watchers, please.

SMB....Birding hunk! Looking for fun. Likes Chats, Pectorals, Chachalacas. Let's explore the Beech Forest together. Your feeder or mine.

DFB...Divorced, slim and trim (weight in proportion to height) female birder looking for Mr. Right. If you have a Life List over 500, Zeiss, Leitz or better and an account at the Bird Watcher's General Store, we can talk. Companionship, possible long-term relationship, i.e. Beech Forest in spring, possible Owl Prowl.

SINCERE, SENSITIVE, SOLITARY....Unattached Male with Life List of only 101! Can you help? Looking for unattached female birder with 4X Drive and Sandy Neck Sticker.

OWL PROWLER...Divorced, white, male. Professional Big Cheese birder with Lilac-breasted Roller on his life list!!! Know my way around Plum, Cheyenne Bottoms and Ding. I lead, you follow. Call and I can get you a discount on my next trip!

OLDER FEMALE BIRDER...looking to mate for life. Loves Bluebirds, Swans and all ducks. Likes bird walks on the beach, suet recipes and Christmas Bird Count Casseroles. Let's explore Monomoy in the moonlight.

FORMER BIRD CLUB BOARD MEMBER...seeks equally successful female birder. Published in Bird Observer and South Shore Bird Club Newsletter. Looking for companion to update field notes, type prose and carry scope.

CARING, SINGLE, MALE BIRDER...wants to connect with slim, attractive, together female who knows her flycatchers. If you've got Ash-throated, call me!

PROGRAMS/ MEETINGS

Ruth Connaughton

On Monday evening **March 13** at 7:45 pm at the Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, we will have our *Annual Member's Night*. Please bring your best or worst slides to share with other Club members. You can also share your writings, drawings or other bird related work. Call Ruth Connaughton at 432-1580.

On Monday evening **April 10** at 7:45 pm at the Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Norman Smith will present a program entitled *Hawks, Owls and Research*. Through the use of slides this program will show some of current ongoing projects on the raptors that inhabit Eastern Massachusetts. Norman Smith is a self-taught naturalist who has worked for Mass Audubon for 20 years. Currently, he is director of Blue Hills Trailside Museum/Chikatawbut Hill Education Center. During the past 25 years he has rehabilitated injured raptors and reintroduced 600 orphaned hawks and owls successfully into foster nests. He also monitors the Snowy Owl population at Logan Airport.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP

Peter Trimble needs the help of birders who are good at identifying local breeding birds by sound. His 8th grade students from Forestdale do a Breeding Bird Survey in the Maple Swamp in East Sandwich. If you can help, get in touch with Peter at 477-3847.

"As The Crow Flies"

Elinor Miller's column about birds, "As The Crow Flies," has flown from the weekly papers to the *Cape Cod Times*, where it will appear every other Friday in the "Cape Week" section. The *Times* wants to see reader support of this column, so please let the newspaper know that the Cape needs a regular forum, where birders of all degrees of interest and experience can gather information, ask questions and share anecdotes about birds. Elinor welcomes suggestions from bird club members about topics.

New Members

Since our last newsletter, the following people have joined the Cape Cod Bird Club. **Louis and Carmen Garrett** of Centerville, Ohio; **Rob and Wilma Guerette** of Lenox, Mass; **Dr. Clement and Patricia Curd** of South Orleans; **Beverly and Robert Shea** of Centerville; **Robert and Janet Lyon** of Marstens Mills; **Virginia Gilligan** of Cotuit.

FIELD TRIPS

Jinks Keil

March

Wednesday, **March 1st**. Falmouth. 9:00 am. Meet behind Town Hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes, 548-6068.

Sunday, **March 5th**. Eastham, Fort Hill. 9:00 am. Meet in the lower parking lot. Art King, 255-8919.

Wednesday, **March 8th**. West Barnstable and Sandwich. 8:30 am. Meet at Sandy Neck Parking Lot. Stauffer Miller, 362-3384.

Thursday, **March 23rd**. Woodcock Walk, Chatham. Meet in Town Offices parking lot on Main Street in downtown Chatham, opposite Eldredge Library. Meet one half hour before sunset as published in Cape Cod Times. Walk will be about one hour. Watch and hear spectacular Woodcock courtship display. Rich Hall, 945-4882.

Wednesday, **March 29th**. Sandwich. 9:00 am. Meet in the parking lot of Purity Supermarket on 6A in Sandwich. Bessie Tirrell, 432-9248.

April

Sunday, **April 2nd**. Eastham, Fort Hill. 9:00 am. Meet in the lower parking lot. Art King, 255-8919.

Wednesday, **April 5th**. Falmouth. 9:00 am. Meet behind Town Hall, Falmouth Center. Mary Ropes, 548-6068.

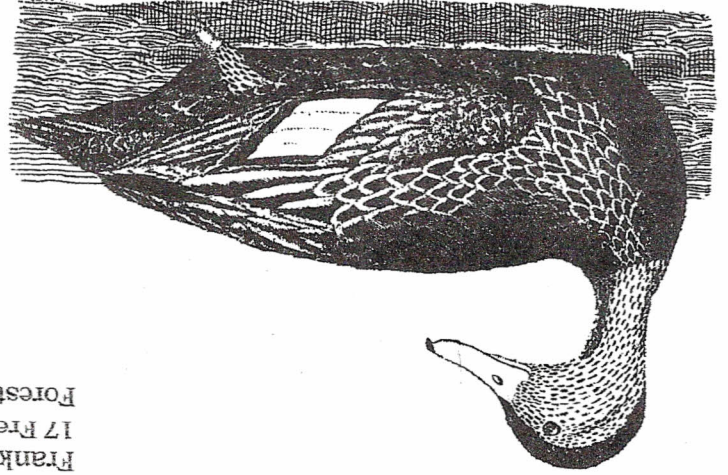
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Saturday, **April 15th**. Orleans. 8:00 am. Walk through Sea Call Farm in Orleans. Meet at the farm on Tonset Rd. Jim Talin, 896-7169.

Sunday, **April 23rd**. Rail watching cruise by canoe on Mashpee River to look for Virginia Rails. 5:45 pm. Limited participation. Call Stauffer Miller, 362-3384 for details.

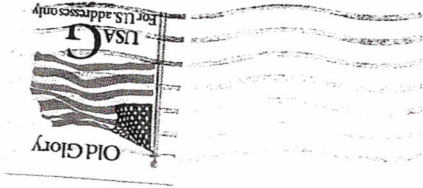
Saturday, **April 29th**. Orleans Birding Hotspots. 8:00 am. Meet at the South Orleans General Store on Route 28. Kathy and Rives McGinley, 255-4740.

American Black Duck

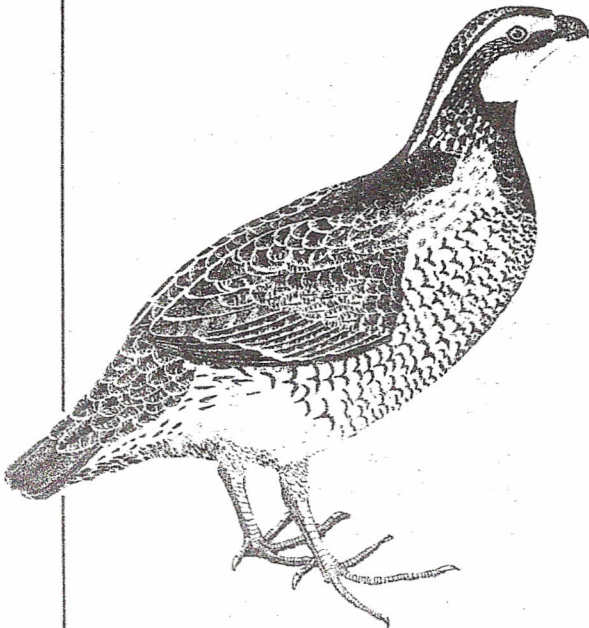


Frank Caruso
17 Freedom Rd
Forestdale, MA 02644

Cape Cod Bird Club
The Cape Cod Museum Of Natural History
PO BOX 1710, Brewster, MA 02631



'TILL SIXTEEN BOBWHITE CROSSED MY PATH



One by one they hopped down from a low stone wall, looked left, then right, like little children, paused, then ran to join the others snuggled, waiting for them. I stood and watched 'till no more came. They'd checked on me, had seen I was no threat as long as I stood still, but when the last had crossed I stepped to where they'd coveyed up and all were gone. Like raindrops in a pool, like sunlight on the air, they'd vanished in the brush, the ferns, the arrowwood, the autumn border of the marsh. The pain I'd carried with me there was strangling me 'till sixteen Bobwhite crossed my path and disappeared.

Robert Pease