



Cape Cod Bird Club

VOLUME 25

NOVEMBER ~ DECEMBER 1996

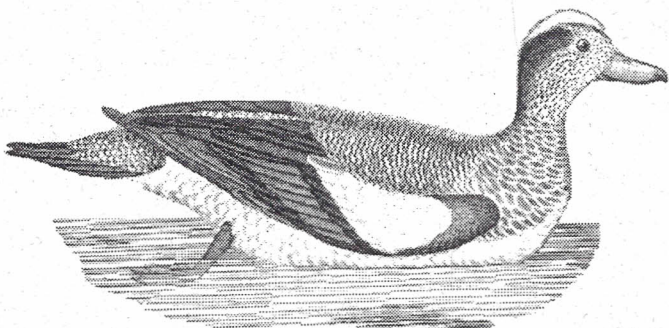
ISSUE 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Scott

"On the cold, rainy night of December 6, 1971, fifty-one people attended the first meeting of the Cape Cod Bird Club." So states the opening minutes of this historic event.

The minutes continue: "A brief business meeting discussed times, dates and places with the consensus confirming the decision to meet on the first Monday of each month at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History and to have two bird walks each month, alternately on Saturday and Sunday. The First bird walk was announced for December 11 at 8 AM beginning at the Salt Pond Visitor's Center of the National Seashore. A brief quiz on colloquial bird names by Dick Cunningham preceded his delightful slide show and lecture on Introduction To Cape Cod Birds."



A second meeting was held on January 3, 1972, at which a nominating committee was appointed to nominate permanent officers for the year. It was announced that the CCBC had 31 family memberships, 29 individual memberships and 1 student member. The first slate of officers were:

President: Mrs. Lucien A. (Miriam) Rowell
Vice-President: W. Randolph Barrett, Jr.
Secretary: Mrs. H. Whitman Newell
Treasurer: Miss Mary Louise Eddy

That not so humble start formed the foundation of today's Club which has over 400 members of all ages, mostly from the Cape but including members from other states and the United Kingdom!

What motivates people to become interested in birding, nature and related activities? Clearly, interest in environmental issues worldwide is an influence as is increased coverage of such activities in both print and visual media. Starting or adding to life lists and yearly lists surely is a main focal point for many bird club

Continued on Page 8

ROUTE OF THE WIGEONS

Stauffer Miller

Back in the days when railroad cars were interesting to look at, they often wore logos such as "Route of the Eagles" or "Route of the Zephyrs." There's a waterfowl itinerary in the Marston's Mills and West Barnstable that could well be called the "Route of the Wigeons."

Wigeons are a type of puddle or dabbling duck that frequent freshwater ponds on the Cape from September to April. We are fortunate here in having not only the more numerous American Wigeon but also small numbers of its old world cousin, the Eurasian Wigeon. The compact route I'm about to describe will take the birder to three ponds or pond clusters that normally have a sizable portion of all the wintering wigeons to be found on the Cape.

Start at Mill Pond at Marston's Mills, that is, at the junction of routes 28 and 149. This pond has easy viewing from car windows and wigeons are usually quite apparent through most of the fall. If you feel energetic, you can climb the hill to the south that overlooks the pond, and this will provide a view of the entire pond.

Next, go north on route 149 and very soon make a left at the Marston's Mills Cash Market. Follow this road 0.7 miles, then go left on Lovell's Lane. Then, after two miles, go right on Bog Road and restart the mileage. At 0.3 there are several small ponds at the roadside. These ponds, which are surrounded by cranberry bogs, can often have a few wigeons or other waterfowl.

Continue north, then right on Old Mill Road, then right on Race Lane, then left at route 149 at the four-way stop sign. Go north on route 149, cross over route 6, then go left on Cedar Street. Go west 0.5 miles, then right on Gemini Lane. Park at the end by the basketball pole. There is an inconspicuous path on the west through the woods. Quietly, even stealthily, follow this path to its end for a splendid view of wigeons and other ducks. This is West Barnstable Mill Pond. This pond is one of the birding gems of the Cape. Please respect the rights of the property owners where you park. Be discrete in all ways when using this area. We do not want to lose access. I am indebted to Jinks Keil who first told me about this spot.

Check your field guides to learn wigeon shapes and colors. Wigeons have, I think, their own distinctive behavior. See if you can notice it. I think you'll enjoy the route of the wigeons. It's perfect for a crisp November day. Good duck hunting!

Editor's Note In the following pages, we have reprinted some of the writings that have appeared in the Club's newsletters over the last 25 years.

Looking Back Twenty-Five Years

Charlotte Smith

On November 20, 1971, a group interested in birds met at CCB&T in Orleans to consider formation of a club. Miriam Rowell, Helen Whitlock, and Polly Newell were responsible for this original meeting. Dick Cunningham, a National Seashore Ranger, acted as adviser. Several important decisions were made. Meetings were to be held at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, if available; the name was to be Cape Cod Bird Club, with dues \$3 for singles, \$5 for couples, and 50¢ for students. The proposed activities included monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month, bird walks, bird identification courses, a Rare Bird Alert, and participation in bird counts and studies. While cooperation with other groups would be welcome, the club should retain its own identity. Our founding members planned well. Our flourishing Bird Club has changed little.

The first organizational meeting was on Dec. 6, 1971 at the Museum. The membership was 49. "Who's Seen What and Where?" was the first item of business. Does that sound familiar? Dick Cunningham told of plans for a bird identification course and showed slides of Cape Cod birds. Bobsy Whitlock suggested an informal Christmas Count since there was not time to get permission for a formal count. It was not until 1981 under leadership of Janet Aylward that an official Christmas Bird Count was held. But no Christmas count was ever omitted.

At the February meeting, the first officers were elected-President, Miriam Rowell; Vice-President,

W. Randolph Bartlett; Secretary, Polly Newell; and Treasurer, Mary Louise Eddy. Dick Cunningham remained an adviser. He was a great help to the fledgling club-an excellent birder, very knowledgeable about our Cape environment, and a pleasant personality.

Over the years, we have sponsored bird identification courses in cooperation with the Museum. Wayne Peterson has given many courses, and Blair Nikula has offered his expertise in teaching us about recognizing birds.

We have worked with other groups doing research. An early program with Mass Audubon was the Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse and Mockingbird Survey. It seems strange that these species, now so common, were once unusual "wash-ashores". We also helped in a Breeding Bird Survey to find the birds that nested in Massachusetts. There were 5 year projects. A very ambitious program, organized by Malcolm Simmons of Florida, covered the whole coast from Texas to Canada and lasted 8 years. That was the Beached Bird Survey, an effort to find dead seabirds and to discover their cause of death. We've counted Scoters and migrating shorebirds for Manomet Bird Observatory. A very long term project has been our own Feeder Census. That one is easy, compared to tramping beaches in winter. All you do is sit in your warm house and count birds. The difficulty is: How many Chickadees are you really seeing as they dart back and forth between feeders and trees?

The very first project we undertook was protecting nesting terns on Nauset Spit, which at one time extended quite a distance south from Coast Guard Beach. It was a popular fishing spot with a dirt road from the parking lot to the end. The problem was that nesting terns and cars both used the road. The Club, working with approval of the National Seashore, put fencing around the nests. However, an Eastham selectman ran over the nesting area, claiming it for erosion protection. The whole problem of whether it was Eastham land or National Seashore land was solved by a hurricane. In the years before the hurricane, the club had a very popular outing on an August Sunday. We met at the south end of Coast Guard parking lot before 9 A.M. so we wouldn't have to pay a parking toll, and then we either walked or rode down to the end. It was a wonderful birding spot.

Many of our members volunteer on the Wellfleet Bay Bird-A-Thon. At one time we held our own bird-a-thon. The proceeds were divided among Wellfleet Bay, the Museum, and the Bird Club.

We have scheduled walks in all parts of the Cape. By placing notices of activities in the media and charging no admissions to either walks or meetings, we have been able to introduce many people to enjoyment not only of birds but of our environment and the need to protect it.



Cape Cod Bird Club Inc.

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

Officers

Don Scott ~ President

Jinks Keil ~ Vice President

Barbara Stanton ~ Secretary

Ellie Winslow ~ Treasurer

Directors

Ruth Connaughton ~ Ron Hindman

Phil Kyle ~ Dick Koeppen

Kathy McGinley ~ Janet Silverio

Newsletter

Editor ~ Jim Talin, email: talin@cape.com

Design & Prepress ~ Tom Noonan

Circulation ~ Barbara Stanton

Confrontation in Eastham

Miriam Rowell

(the Summer 1972 newsletter)

A decision was made by your executive board for the club to erect a fence around a late nesting colony of Least Terns on the beach at Nauset Inlet-Eastham, when they began nesting long after Mass. Audubon had posted the other Tern colonies, and because they were nesting in a heavily trafficked area completely uncontrolled by either the Town of Eastham or the National Seashore. Permission was obtained, and active cooperation received from the National Seashore to fence the area which was on property owned by the National Seashore and adjoining property owned by the Town of Eastham.

A volunteer work party was rounded up by phone and

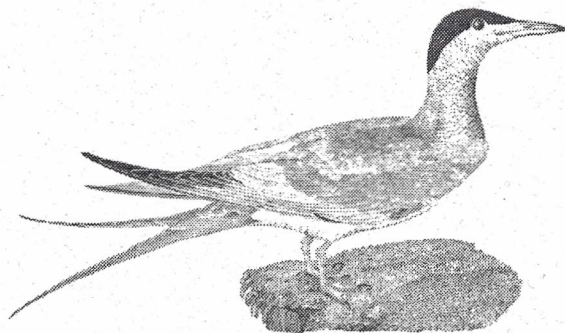
*"...we discovered a front end loader
and a dump truck had been and were
being driven through
the center of the Tern colony"*

the fence put up on Friday and Saturday June 23 and 24, thanks to a lot of hard work by Randy Bartlett, Doris and Harold Baines, Mrs. Clarence Althouse, Mrs. Herbert Whitlock, Mrs. Bradley Fisk, and Ranger Bill Stafford. Friday before we started to work, I went to Eastham Town Hall and spoke with Mr. Fred LaPiana, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and told him what we were doing. For the past three years, the Eastham Conservation Commission has been erecting snow fencing on the beach to try and preserve the dunes. A fence raising party was due on Sunday, June 25. When I told Mr. LaPiana he said that they wanted to put a new fence on top of an old one which ran through the middle of the tern colony we were fencing. Since I had worked on these fencing projects every year, I saw no reason why, if they were careful, that they could not do this and told Mr. LaPiana that we would mark the nests near the old fence so they could avoid disturbing them.

On Sunday when Mrs. Whitlock and I went out to check, it was with unbelieving horror that we discovered a front end loader and a dump truck had been and were being driven through the center of the Tern colony, and a number of nests were obliterated. Angry words (!!) were exchanged, and we rushed off to report the mess to Mr. Les Arnburger, superintendent of the National Seashore. Sunday evening, the area was inspected by Mrs. Bradley Fisk and two rangers from the Seashore. Three fences had

been erected instead of one, eight nests were destroyed, and seven pair of Terns had left the colony and were nesting in a heavily traveled area where the nests could only be staked.

The ensuing publicity resulted in a special meeting being called by the Eastham Conservation Commission and that meeting set up a special committee to study the Nauset Inlet-Eastham beach and sand road access and how to control its use and abuse. I have been appointed to the committee and will keep the club informed of progress made by it.



We are happy to report that, despite the disturbance, a least eight flying young were produced by the colony. And in a year when Tern nestings have been disastrously small, this is an accomplishment of which we can be proud.

Red-necked Grebes

Blair Nikula

(March-April 1983)

Hopefully, the worst of the winter weather is behind us now, and we can start thinking about spring. The Song Sparrows, House Finches, and Cardinals have all started singing; and the first blackbirds will arrive any day now, followed shortly by the first Woodcock, Killdeer, Phoebes, Fox Sparrows and early migrant hawks. Waterfowl will also begin to move by mid-March. One of the more noteworthy events of the spring waterfowl migration here on the Cape is the buildup of Red-necked Grebes at Corporation Beach in Dennis. By late March-early April there are often 100 or more here (up to 320 last year!) making this one of the best spots on the Atlantic coast to see these interesting and handsome birds. The Red-necked Grebe is a scarce and apparently little-known species. The entire North American population may number only a few thousand individuals, and where the birds at Corporation Beach come from every year is something of a mystery, as they are very rare anywhere south of Massachusetts. It is thought that they may move south into Cape Cod Bay before beginning their northwestward spring migration.

Remembering Jonnie Fisk

Peter Trimble

(March-April 1990)

I would like to pay tribute to Jonnie Fisk. Jonnie was involved with many projects and organizations dealing with conservation, the environment, and of course, the study and enjoyment of birds. Her insights and efforts were appreciated not only by local groups such as the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, The Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod, and the Cape Cod Bird Club, but they also reached more widely known groups such as the Manomet Bird Observatory, The Mass. Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the Nature Conservancy. Whether on the East Coast, in the Southwest, or on Trinidad and Tobago, Jonnie contributed in a concrete and direct manner that showed she was deeply concerned for people and the environment. I recall an early meeting of the writers of *Birding Cape Cod* at her home. I was overwhelmed with the number of far-reaching contacts she had. Of course, she was very helpful in getting us started on our book, offering a warm atmosphere, other bird-finding books, coffee and cookies. My last memory of Jonnie was her raising her hand to volunteer to make something for the Christmas Bird Count compilation. Whether it was so simple as living in the wilderness while conducting research, Jonnie Fisk was a doer who actively participated in life. Jonnie will be missed by many; yet we'll cherish her vibrant memory.

A Crusty Mourning Dove

Peter Trull

(November-December 1988)

It takes a crusty Mourning Dove to make the flight from North Beach to Morris Island, or in this case, across Pleasant Bay from what is now South Beach to Morris Island. Especially in early October at the time when Peregrine Falcons are cruising the area hammering everything in sight! But such was the case as we stood on the platform over at the refuge on Morris Island in Chatham. I spotted the young Peregrine first, moving casually over the North Monomoy flats, heading toward us. Suddenly it kicked into overdrive—four wing beats and the falcon had flown right out of my field of view. I had to take my binoculars down, pick up the bird with my naked eye, then raise my optics again to the bird. Incredible acceleration. It stooped at a Mourning Dove which was now about half across the bay, also picking up speed in anticipation of what was about to happen. Morris Island must have appeared miles away. The falcon missed on its first attempt. Flying at top speed, the dove reeled on its side as the peregrine missed and shot straight up like a winged missile. The MoDo was so low over the water that its belly was wet. The young falcon

stooped and missed again, once more the dove rolled over on its side, never slowing down, never missing a wing beat. Had this Mourning Dove been through this before? Experienced against inexperience? The frantic dove hit the pokeweed bush at full speed. I'm still not convinced it didn't stick into the side of the cliff face where the vegetation grew. The plant was no more than a few feet in diameter, and the dove didn't even slow down as it entered. So the frustrated falcon turned and headed back across the bay, but not before it flew down an unsuspecting fledged Laughing Gull and literally drove it beneath the surface. Never missing a wing beat, the immature Peregrine headed toward Monomoy. Redirected aggression.



Phil Kyle

The Seasons

Charlotte Smith

Presidential Messages

Labor Day is nearly here, marking the end of our acting as hosts to friends and tourists and the beginning of our normal activities—activities that are never dreamed of by visitors who ask "What do you do in the winter?" (September 1980)

1980 seems to have been a good birding year. I'm sure the bird of the year for me was the Fork-tailed Flycatcher, but there were other good sightings. The large flocks of Snow Buntings this fall, last winter's Rough-legged Hawk in Marston's Mills, an apparent increase in the number of Wood Ducks, The Wilson's Phalaropes, Louisiana Heron, Little Blue Heron, and Glossy Ibis at Cackle Cove were all exciting. But Jan. 1 is a new day and the beginning of a new list. The Harlequins (1 pair) are back at Nauset Beach, Goshawks have been seen, Gadwalls are at Baxter's Mill Pond on Route 28 in West Yarmouth, and Swan Pond in Dennis is full of Canvasbacks. (January 1981)

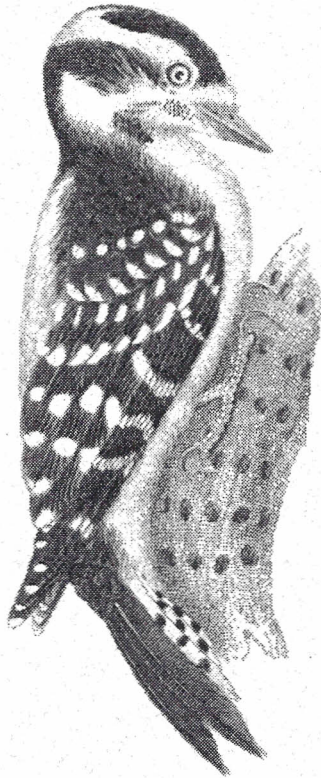
Spring should be here now—at least my arbutus is in bloom, White-throated Sparrows are in summer plumage, and hawks are migrating! On April 18, there were 20 Red-necked Grebes all in summer plumage at Corporation Beach. (May 1981)

Cooler nights, red leaves on tupelos, returning shorebirds tell us that summer is almost over, autumn nearly here and winter birds will soon be back with us. On our summer walks, a family of Piping Plovers at Great Island, 80+ Hudsonian Godwits and "yellow tailed" knots on Monomoy, 12 Glossy Ibis that came to join the Great Blues, and Snowies at Old Harbor—all were outstanding. An immature Black Skimmer was also seen at Great Harbor. Now we return to our projects and activities. (Sept. 1981)

A Downy Woodpecker

Richie Hall (January-February 1995)

The woodpecker was Gregory's first bird. Long before he could walk or talk, Greg would ball up his tiny fist and rap sharply on the nearest surface whenever I asked him "What does a woodpecker do?" By the age of two, he had no difficulty distinguishing this species from the two dozen or so which frequent our backyard in the winter.



It was Christmas Eve, a year ago, when the woodpecker also introduced our toddler to one of life's harsh certainties. Near dusk a young Sharp-shinned Hawk surprised a female Downy Woodpecker at the suet feeder. The Downy's distress cry brought us to the window. Both birds were on the ground tossing about. Apparently the initial hit was not clean, and for a while the issue appeared in doubt. The Downy broke loose a couple of times only to be pounced upon again. Exhausted and mortally injured, the bird finally succumbed. This ten minute drama now commanded the whole family's attention.

Our teenager, Jared, who has never listed birding as a favored activity, was thoroughly engrossed. Little Gregory, who still didn't grasp the notion of Santa, much less Darwinian survival, caught the drift. "Hawk eat woodpecker. Woodpecker crying," an observation which seemed as precise as it was economical....

Morning revealed a light dusting of snow, leaden skies and evidence Santa had visited during the night. Before gifts could be opened, however, feeders had to be checked....the Downy carcass was undisturbed by nocturnal scavengers. Instead, standing astride the remains was an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk finishing the job it had begun the night before. (What does ornithology know about bird memory?) As our two-year old and I watched this denouement, the Hawk, startled by a squirrel, flew off clutching what little was left of its meal. Turning to the gifts, Gregory softly muttered the final benediction, "Bye-bye woodpecker."

Cape Cod Land Bank Bill

APCC Shore Lines Newsletter

A nonbinding referendum to create a Cape Cod Land Bank will appear on the November ballot. By providing funds to purchase open space, the Land Bank would protect public drinking water supplies, provide bicycling and walking trails, and enhance opportunities for recreation. The land bank would be funded by a one percent fee on all land transactions at the Barnstable county registry of deeds, exempting the first \$100,000 of the purchase price.

State Representative Eric Turkington, initiator of the Land Bank Bill, said, "We now have the ball rolling on the one of the most effective ways to save Cape Cod that we know of: to buy open space and protect it." A group of seven Cape Cod bank presidents announced their support of a Land Bank as one the best mechanisms to improve the Cape's appearance, and thereby enhance its economy.

You can help. The Friends of the Cape Cod Land Bank need contributions to help with broad public outreach. Donations can be sent to Friends of Cape Cod Land Bank, PO Box 1559, Orleans, MA 02653. Or, The Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod is looking for volunteers to help pass the referendum in November. Campaign tasks include organizing people in your community or village, writing letters, making phone calls, helping out with mailings. For more information, call 255-4142.

Thanks for The Publicity

Ron Hindman

The Cape Cod Bird Club greatly appreciates the publicity given by the following enterprises for our club functions. Their promotion of our meetings and walks do provide a public service by informing residents and visitors on Cape Cod (and beyond) of opportunities to join us in appreciating and enjoying not only birding by all the beautiful nature Cape Cod has to offer. We thank them very much.

Radio Stations

WFCC FM Clearclassical 107.5 WQRC FM 99.9
WOCN FM Ocean 104 WXTK FM Talk 94.9

Newspapers

Cape Cod Times Falmouth Enterprise
Cape Cod Chronicle Barnstable Patriot
Cape Cod Community Newspapers—Cape Codder,
Harwich Oracle, The Register, Sandwich Broad sides,
Mashpee Messenger, Bourne Courier and the Spectator

August - September

Jackie Sones & Blair Nikula

The late summer-early fall season is often one of the most exciting for birders and this year was no exception. Although songbirds were very scarce, despite the passage of several cold fronts, waterbirds took up some of the slack. The seasons' storminess produced a cornucopia of windblown seabirds for those hardy (or foolish) enough to brave the elements.

Seabirds. Hurricane Edouard passed a hundred or more miles east of Cape Cod on September 2nd, producing hurricane force north/northeast winds in the area and downing many trees and power lines. Although birders dream of tropical birds blown north in these storms, historically, only those storms that strike to the west of this area have produced tropical vagrants. In this respect, Edouard was no exception, as nothing tropical was found in its wake. However, many of the more typical seabirds were blown inshore and even overland. Leach's Storm-petrels were the most severely affected, with hundreds seen along the Cape Cod Bay shoreline. Some, unable to cope with the powerful winds, were blown inland where they put down in various estuaries and ponds, particularly in the mid-Cape area. Probably the most striking sight was a hundred or more storm-petrels swirling over Wequaquet Lake in Centerville during the height of the storm! At least three of these diminutive seabirds were seen being blown over Route 6 in Yarmouth and Dennis! Joining the storm-petrels on Wequaquet were a flock of 18 phalaropes (probably Red-necks), a Black-legged Kittiwake, and several hundred Common Terns. Surprisingly, although hundreds, perhaps even thousands of shearwaters were present on Stellwagen Bank during the period, hardly any were seen during the storm; how did they manage to ride out such a tempest, seemingly unscathed?

Another storm September 18-19, although of far lesser magnitude, produced an even greater variety of seabirds—indeed, one of the best pelagic shows in many years. Among the birds seen at First Encounter Beach in Eastham on the morning of September 19 (under uncharacteristically comfortable weather conditions) were 11 Sabine's Gulls (more than double the previous state and New England high count!), a Great Skua, a Long-tailed Jaeger, 75+ Pomarine Jaegers, 5 Parasitic jaegers, 40 Northern Fulmars, 21 Manx Shearwaters, a Cory's Shearwater, 860 Greater Shearwaters, 15 Sooty Shearwaters, 30+ Leach's Storm-petrels, 200 Red-necked Phalaropes, and 95 Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Pelicans. Front-page news (literally) was made by an stunning flock of eight White Pelicans that appeared in Lewis Bay, Hyannis September 25. These unmistakable birds were seen at various sites in the Hyannis-West Yarmouth area over the next several days and their picture appeared on the front page of the Cape Cod Times. Although White Pelicans have been appearing in the northeast with increasing frequency in recent years, a group of this size is unprecedented.

Hérons. Certainly the rarest bird of the season was a "Great White" Heron that spent most of the summer in Nauset Marsh and Town Cove. Although first noted in early July, it's identity remained in doubt until sometime in August, when photos of the bird became available. Because "Great Whites" are now considered by taxonomists to be just a color morph of the Great Blue Heron, this bird failed to generate the excitement it would have had it been "countable".

Nonetheless, this southern "form" is restricted almost entirely to Florida and had never before been recorded north of Pennsylvania! Great Egrets were more numerous than ever in recent memory, with groups of 3-5 widely reported and 21 were on North Monomoy on August 25. A pair of Great Egrets nested on Monomoy this summer for the first time ever, though they were not successful. Two Tricolored Herons were among the many herons on North Monomoy, August 25.

Raptors. Mark Tuttle and a few lucky others were surprised to see a Black Vulture in North Truro September 22, the first local sighting of this southern species in several years. Cooper's Hawks continue to increase throughout the northeast, including Cape Cod, and they apparently nested at Wellfleet Bay this summer, and perhaps at the Marconi cedar swamp. Three noisy immature Cooper's in East Harwich August 4 undoubtedly were also the product of local nesting. Falcons began appearing on the outer beaches right on schedule; as many as three Peregrines were in view at once on North Monomoy September 30. Not too long ago, an active observer would be very lucky to see three Peregrines in an entire fall!

Shorebirds. Rarest among this group was an American Avocet discovered by Rich Hall in Nauset Marsh August 19; the bird remained in the area for at least a week, but was not easily found. American Oystercatchers continue to thrive, particularly on Monomoy where a record high 130 were present in September. As many as five Marbled Godwits were found on Monomoy during September. A Wilson's Phalarope was rather late at Wellfleet Bay September 28. South Beach in Chatham continues to be a shorebird mecca, as indicated by the following high counts during the period: 1400 Black-bellied Plovers, 1900 Semipalmated Plovers, 95 Hudsonian Godwits, 2800 Sanderlings, and 130 White-rumped Sandpipers.

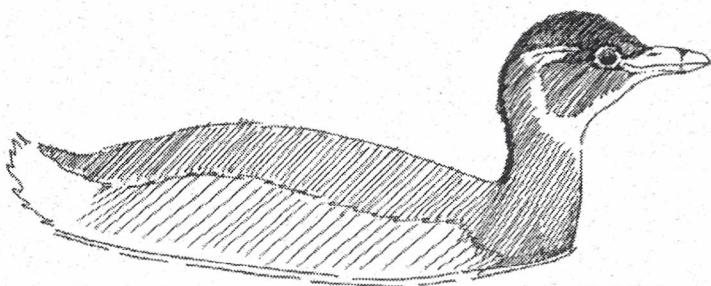
Songbirds. It was a very poor season for migrant songbirds, for no apparent reason. The weather seemed favorable for producing a few migrant "waves", but they failed to materialize. Among the very few warblers reported, the only of particular note was a Prothonotary Warbler seen by Stauffer Miller and Mark Tuttle on Morris Island September 22. One of the best places on Cape Cod to see Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers is the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and two were there September 27.

PROGRAMS/ MEETINGS

Ruth Connaughton

On Monday evening, **November 11**, at 7:30 pm at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, Bob Fox will present to the Club a program about winter irruptive species, an event that really adds to the excitement of winter birding. Bob started birding in 1946, at which time he joined the newly formed South Shore Bird Club and the Massachusetts Audubon Society. As an undergraduate at Harvard University, he met the legendary Ludlow Griscom and began regularly attending meetings of the Harvard Ornithological Club and the Nuttall Ornithological Club. Since then, Bob has led trips and run birding workshops for many New England organizations, and he initiated the South Shore Bird Club's annual "Fall Roundup", as well as having served as that Club's recorder for 25 years.

On Monday evening, **December 9**, at 7:30 pm at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A in Brewster, the 25th anniversary of the Cape Cod Bird Club will be celebrated by having Wayne Peterson as its guest speaker. Wayne will present a program about birding afar—both near "afar" and far "afar". This program promises to be a lot of fun and will help members and guests plan those birding safaris that everyone looks forward to. Wayne is field ornithologist with the Mass Audubon Society. A birder since childhood, he has a particular interest in shorebirds, waterbirds and seabirds, but this anniversary evening will be an extra special covering birds of all families. Wayne chairs the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee, is New England Regional Director for National Audubon Field Notes, and has contributed to and written a number of publications about birds, including *Birds of Massachusetts* with Richard Veit. When not birding locally, he leads birding tours for Mass Audubon and Field Guides, Inc.



Phil Kyle

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The Cape Cod Bird Club has scheduled another trip to Trinidad & Tobago for the period February 28-March 8, 1997. Estimated cost, including airfare, is \$1600-\$1700 per person. Ten places are available. For further information, or to register, call Don Scott (432-2528) starting November 1.

WALKS & FIELD TRIPS

Kathy McGinley

November

Sunday Nov. 3rd. Fort Hill—Eastham. 9:00 AM. Meet at the Lower Parking Lot. Leader: Art King—255-8919.

Thursday Nov. 7th. Saquatucket Harbor—Harwich. 9:00 AM. Meet at the harbor's parking lot across the street from Thompson's Farm Market, Rt. 28. Leader: Bessie Tirrell—432-9248.

Sunday Nov. 10th. Falmouth Walks at 2:00 PM. Meet at the Locust St. parking area at the head of the Bike Path. Leader: Alison Robb, 540-2408 (with Bob Vander Pyl, 457-0864).

Thursday Nov. 14th. Alcids in Provincetown. 9:00 AM. Meet at Beech Forest Parking Lot. Stauffer Miller—362-3384.

Sunday Nov. 17th. Corporation Beach & Ponds—Dennis. 9:00 AM. Meet at the Corporation Beach Parking Lot. Leader: Mark Tuttle—362-3015.

December

Sunday Dec. 1st. Fort Hill—Eastham. 9:00 AM. Meet in the lower parking lot. Leader: Art King—255-8919.

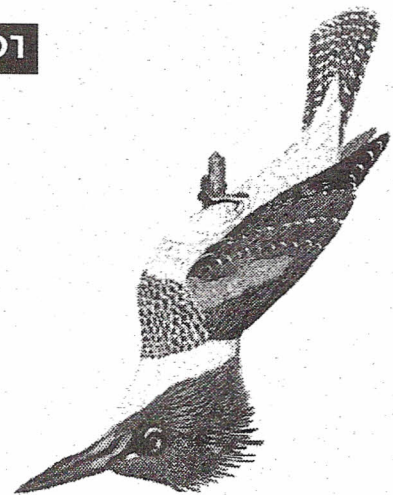
Thursday Dec. 5th. Saquatucket Harbor—Harwich. 9:00 AM. Meet at the harbor's parking lot, across the street from Thompson's Farm Market. Leader: Bessie Tirrell—432-9248.

Saturday & Sunday Dec. 7 & 8. Annual Waterfowl Count. Sign up with Blair Nikula at the November Meeting or call 432-6348.

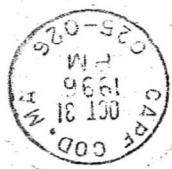
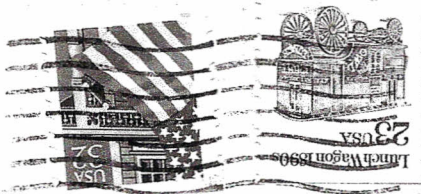
Sunday Dec. 15th. Falmouth Walks—2:00 PM. Meet at the Locust St. parking area at the head of the bike path. Leader: Alison Robb, 540-2408 (with Bob Vander Pyl, 457-0864).

Sunday Dec. 22nd. Annual Cape Cod Christmas Bird Count. Sign up with Blair Nikula at the Dec. Meeting or call 432-6348.

Date to be announced: Mid-Cape Christmas Bird Count. To be announced at Dec. Meeting or call Peter Trimble at 477-3847.



Frank Caruso
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17 Freedom Rd
Forestdale, MA 02644-1725



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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Scott

members. But the most obvious and most compelling force behind involvement is the joy of being outdoors, regardless of sightings; of meeting and associating with new friends who share our common interest and of learning exciting things about the world around us.

Not unexpectedly, retirement has been everything I hoped for, and more. Identifying the best part of this time is not an easy task, but the plethora of new friends who have entered my life during the past few years has made every aspect very meaningful. So I offer a very special thanks to those people who gathered at the Museum on December 6, 1971, for their special foresight which has filled each of our lives with many joys.

DUES ARE DUE

The mailing list will be revised very shortly. If you have not paid 1996-1997 dues by the end of the year, this may be the last newsletter you receive. We do not like to lose members, but at the same time, we do not want to have a mailing list inflated with names of those no longer interested in CCBC. So please pay promptly. According to our records your dues for 1996-1997...

- have been paid
- have not been paid

Dues are single \$10.00, family \$15.00.
Checks may be mailed to...

Cape Cod Bird Club

Ellie Winslow - Treasurer
24 Charles St.
Sandwich, MA 02563