



The Kingfisher

VOL 47 (1)

Fall (Oct—Dec) 2018

The Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the second Monday of each month, September through May, at 7:00PM at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster, MA.

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Send articles, images, etc. to the editor, Peter Bono, at pbono@prba.com

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(with color copy of *Kingfisher*)

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King Parrot

Australia

photo by
David
Clapp

President's Message

Before I move onto organizational matters, let me urge you to get out and bird your local hotspots—community gardens, thickets, beaches, fields. Fall is the time for vagrants from the West, a steady flow of migrating raptors, and an infusion of sparrows. Enjoy them while the weather is good.

It's been a tough few months for your Officers and Directors. Medical issues and unanticipated exciting personal opportunities resulted in some unexpected departures from the board. While two new Directors have stepped forward to take on Membership and Merchandise, we are still looking for a **Vice-President** and a **Director of Publicity**. Please contact me if you can help. I NEED TO FILL BOTH THESE POSITIONS BY NOVEMBER, if at all possible!

Over the summer, your Board met to discuss plans for the upcoming year. We are exploring new initiatives in a couple of areas:

Support for small groups doing vital Research in areas off the Cape. No decisions have been made, but we are looking at giving micro-grants (\$100-\$1000) to non-profits in the Americas where their work would have a positive impact on endangered species and on birds that summer here. More about this in the next issue of *The Kingfisher*.

Education: For a number of years, we have funded one or more Young Birder Scholarships for one week at the National Audubon Summer Camp on Hog Island, Maine. In recent years, we've had to struggle to get one good application. So, we are considering whether we might broaden that program by funding ornithology education training for Cape Cod Science Teachers. There are possibilities for partnering with the Cape Cod Community College's STEM program. With the same amount of money, we might kindle the spark of natural history appreciation in dozens or hundreds of students across Cape Cod.

In anticipation of a broadening and shifting of the educational component of our mission to protect and conserve the natural resources of Cape Cod, I have modified the Membership Renewal Form on Page 7, replacing the "Young Birder Scholarship Fund" donation line with a line that reads "Research & Education Fund". I hope you will continue to be generous in your donations to the Club.

If you can help us by **volunteering to help with refreshments, with publicity, and with bird walks**, so much the better. As our core leadership ages and moves off the Cape to live closer to family, it is important that new people step forward to replace them. The vitality of the CCBC depends upon volunteers. The Club tasks are not difficult, and they can be done mostly at your own pace and on your own schedule. We need more people to come forward and assist in the operation of the Club. Good birding!

Peter Bono, President

IMPORTANT — PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The new membership year started at the end of August. We need your membership support to print and distribute this newsletter, to host our website, to pay our speakers, to rent our meeting room, to buy refreshments, and to fund our Young Birder Scholarship as well as support other worthy local and regional bird causes.

Programs and Club Bird Walks (Fall 2018)

► **Monthly meetings and programs** continue with meetings on **Monday, October 8, November 12, and December 10**. Our meetings are a time to meet with your fellow birders, hear about their recent excursions and life birds, and enjoy a great program. The meetings are **free** and open to the public and **start at 7 pm at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster**. Check the website (www.capecodbirdclub.org) for detailed information about the programs.

October 8, 2018: “Roaming for Birds of Europe: 2001-2018”: John Van de Graaff

Marylee and I took our first European birding trip in 2001—to Spain—barely three months after I started photographing birds. We’ve been birding in Europe nearly every year since, on our own in France—most of all the Camargue in the south. Elsewhere we’ve joined English-based nature-tour companies, including to a variety of locations in Britain itself. Eastern European trips include Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Albania. Our most northerly ventures were to Swedish Lapland and Norway; other forays took us to Belgium, Portugal, and the Italian Alps. A trip to Sicily is on the calendar for this September. As for species in the show, flamingos, Common Cranes and White Storks appear frequently, but there are many passerines and raptors as well. If you haven’t yet birded in the Old World, I hope this show will tempt you.

John has been photographing birds since 2001. He travels frequently—in the Americas as well as Europe. He’s given dozens of digital presentations, mainly to birding and photography groups, including most of the major bird clubs in Massachusetts. Gallery venues include the Burnett Gallery in Amherst (2007 and 2012), the Fish and Wildlife Service in Hadley, and Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary. Mass Audubon and other organizations have used many of his images. At home in Northampton he presents annually at the Hampshire Bird Club and is an active member of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (PVPA). His website is www.birdsbyjohn.com

November 12, 2018: *Check the Website*

December 10, 2018: **Member’s Night**

In December, we have our **Silent Auction and Bake Sale** to raise funds for our Research and Education Fund. If you have **birding-related auction items to donate**, please contact Peter Bono about dropping them off to a Board Member ahead of the meeting so that we can organize and price them. We also need people to **bring Baked Goods** for us to sell. Just bring them to the meeting wrapped and with a list of ingredients. Finally, **email your best bird images** as jpg files to Peter before the meeting, so that he can assemble a “slide show” to present that evening.

Fall Bird Walks: Join us on these free club bird walks. Heavy or steady rain typically cancels the walk. Call or e-mail the walk leader prior to the walk, if possible. For the latest updates, always check our website www.capecodbirdclub.org. **TRIPS /WALKS are listed by BIRDING HOTSPOT and date. The trip/walk coordinator is Stefanie Paventy.** Contact her (stefpav09@gmail.com) with general questions and if you’d like to lead a walk in 2019; contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

October

Scusset Beach State Park – Sagamore

Mary Jo Foti (914-262-5878 or maryjo1226@yahoo.com) & Stefanie Paventy (203-415-1956 or stefpav09@gmail.com) –

Saturday, October 13 at 7AM Walk around the camping sites, beach front and forests at Scusset. A variety of birds from waterfowl to passerines will be seen. Meet at the parking lot nearest the concession stands.

Fort Hill – Eastham

Mark Faherty, mfaherty@massaudubon.org – **Saturday, October 27 at 1:30PM**

Join us for a walk along the loop trail at Fort Hill in Eastham. We will also watch the marsh during the incoming tide in hopes of those secretive sparrows being pushed up by the water. High tide will be at 2:17PM. If you would like to walk the marsh edge, please wear knee-high waterproof boots.

Walks continue next page

Club Bird Walks (Fall 2018) and Club Merchandise

November**Crane Wildlife Management Area – Falmouth**

Peter Bono, pbono@prba.com or 774-487-2848 – **Sunday, November 11 at 8AM**

Prepare for Thanksgiving by burning some calories on a walk through Crane! Meet in the main parking lot on Route 151 in Falmouth (near the model airplane field). We will walk around the newly restored grasslands in search of sparrows, thrushes, buntings and raptors. We may even be lucky enough to glimpse a bobwhite! Email Peter (pbono@prba.com) to let him know you are coming. Rain cancels; phone him (774-487-2848) after 6:30AM on the day of the walk if you are uncertain that the walk will be run.

Cumberland Farms – Halifax

Stefanie Paventy, stepav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – **Saturday, November 17, 7AM**

We are going to help you up your Plymouth County checklist! Join us for a walk through Cumberland Farms, a large farm open to the public, for a variety of birds. We will meet at the commuter parking lot at the Sagamore Bridge, near the Friendly's Restaurant. Please wear boots and be prepared for wet and muddy conditions.

Scusset Beach State Park – Sagamore

John Kricher, jkricher@wheatonma.edu or 774-487-8105 – **Wednesday, November 28 at 7:30AM**

Walk around the camping sites, beach front and forests at Scusset. A variety of birds from waterfowl to passerines will be seen. Meet at the parking lot nearest the concession stands.

December**Winter Waterfowl Survey December 1 - 2**

Let's count waterfowl together! Please get in touch with Stefanie Paventy (stepav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956) to let her know you want to join a team.

Pier to Pier Sweep – Outer Cape

Mark Faherty, maherty@massaudubon.org – **Thursday, December 6 at 9AM**

From land to sea, the birds are everywhere! On our journey across several stops from Wellfleet to Provincetown Piers we will look for wintering waterfowl as well as passerines sheltering in bushes. Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier to scope and then carpool. Foul weather cancels.

Christmas Bird Counts

Don't forget your local Christmas Bird Count! <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>

January 2019**New Years Day – Mid-Cape**

Ed Banks, 508-769-6762 or 68edbanks@gmail.com – **Tuesday, January 1, 12PM (noon) – 4PM**

Meet in the Stop & Shop parking lot at Patriot Square on Route 134 in South Dennis. Take Exit 9A off Route 6 and a left at the lights. Get your 2017 year list off to a great start! Click off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. We will bird the mid-Cape or perhaps some hot spots. Party hats optional!

Club Merchandise: Merchandise will not necessarily be brought to all meetings, but if you want some particular items like hats or binocular straps, please contact John Goodchild (john.goodchild@worchester.edu) in advance of the meeting. A listing of the items for sale will be posted on the website, and John would like to hear ideas for other items members would like offered. More expensive items might have to be preordered and aggregated until we have enough orders to meet minimum purchase requirements from vendors.

Voice from the Recent Past

Birding in North Carolina—Thoughts from your Past President by Judith Davis

Greetings from your Past President who has migrated south! Jamie and I miss the Cape Cod Bird Club so much, and I miss our shorebirds as well. However, we have successfully migrated south and are getting used to our bird neighbors of western North Carolina. I was thrilled to go out birding early one morning in the spring and see a Northern Parula and a Hooded Warbler in our own front yard. That made my day even before the bird walk! We became quickly involved in two bird clubs: the Carolina Bird Club (<https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/>) and our local Transylvania County Bird Club (<https://sites.google.com/site/transylvaniacountybirding/>).

Our local bird club has 30-50 members and we go on bird walks on Wednesday mornings (always the same location) and Saturday mornings (to different places). We do not have monthly meetings, but we gather to go birding. Once in a while we gather for “Birds and Brew” at a local brew pub near our Wednesday bird trail, part of the North Carolina Birding Trail in Brevard. We go on a two-hour bird walk and then have a pot-luck lunch with pitchers of beer available from Oskar Blues Brewery. Jamie will vouch for their great soft drinks as well.

The Carolina Bird Club is for all of North Carolina and South Carolina. More than 500 members belong, and meetings are seasonal in various parts of the Carolinas. What I liked about the Carolina Bird Club meeting was that it is structured like a mini birding festival, complete with field trips, evening speakers and a lovely dinner—not to mention meeting and socializing with about 175 other birders. I love that it is held in regional areas, with next fall’s meeting in Greenville, SC (also only an hour from us) and the winter meeting on the coast. The Flat Rock Meeting hosted 38 field trips and the birders saw 156 different species on their field trips. To our delight, birders saw 38 warbler species. I was thrilled to see Hooded, Worm-eating, Swainson’s, Tennessee, and Yellow-throated Warblers, “lifers” for me. Other warblers included Orange-crowned, Kentucky, Cape May, American Redstart, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, and Canada. I was also glad to see some of my old, familiar Cape Cod birds, the Red-winged Blackbird and Green Heron. Other new birds are the Brown-headed Nuthatch and Loggerhead Shrike (incidental, in Charlotte). We get Blue-headed, Red-headed, and White-eyed Vireos, Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wrens and many Eastern Towhees and Brown Thrashers, not to mention Bobolinks, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers and Indigo Buntings.

Jamie is one of a dozen young birders in the Carolina Bird Club, and he won their scholarship to ABA’s Camp Avocet in Lewes, DE in August. His essay was on “The Birds That Got Away,” and he loved writing it. The part he didn’t love was reporting on birds he missed that I saw. It was a fun read. He will give a report and write an article for the Carolina Bird Club’s newsletter, *The Chat*, for the winter meeting at the shore. He had a fabulous time with the other 19 teen birders and saw ten “lifers,” including a Sandwich Tern. I’ve already written an article about the spring Carolina Bird Club meeting for *Chip Notes*, the Transylvania County Bird Club’s newsletter.

In addition to our new experiences with these bird clubs, Jamie and I took a course on Spring Migration from the naturalist at Grandfather Mountain. Since we were between 5,000 and 6,000 feet, we saw some new birds. Our thrill was seeing a Cerulean Warbler. Couldn’t get a photo, but it was awesome to experience that bird. Another treat for us is that some of our many storms (Brevard is a rain forest) bring in shorebirds for brief visits. Our latest lifer was the Roseate Spoonbill in nearby Mills River, NC. So you see we are already immersed in birding in Western North Carolina, but never forget that you all got us into our birding life—our six years with you. Come birding in Western NC. You’ll be glad you did. Miss you all. Keep up the good work. Peace, Judith

photos by Judith Davis: Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-billed Cuckoo



David Clapp's Travel Notes: SE Australia—Victoria and Tasmania

You'd think from the crossword puzzles that emus would be everywhere in Australia; but no, they are not common at all. The eastern edge of this island continent is quite livable, but once you cross, heading west, the Dividing Range you are in rather inhospitable country very quickly. That comfy eastern edge is rarely more than 100 miles wide from ocean to the low worn mountains of the Dividing Range. Beyond the mountains it is arid, dusty and remote. In the southeast there is a nice mix of farmable land, dry bush country (*outback* in Aussie speak), and that rather gentle range of mountains covered in a variety of eucalypts that run the whole coast from north to south (or from Queensland to Tasmania). TLF* and I drove south through the mountains into Victoria (from New South Wales) and then to the southeastern coast where I found us a spider-infested dump of a room for the night. The coast is expansive and gorgeous; no people, lots of birds, great vistas, and an abundance of peace and quiet. We also spent a short week on Tasmania where we saw all but one of the 12 endemic bird species.

Australia as a whole is quite dry, but, for a dry area, the few wet spots are rich in birds: crakes, plovers, dotterels, stilts, avocets, and geese are not uncommon. In addition we saw the largest kangaroo (Red) a few times and had a bonanza sighting (sightings actually) of the egg-laying mammal, the Short-beaked Echidna. The echidna has spines all over it; spines that are shorter and more stout than our North American porcupine's quills. It is probably like a giant hedgehog rather than a small porcupine. Small?—it is easily the size of a volleyball! Due to the unique wildlife of the island-continent it was common to see road signs warn that kangaroos, wombats, cattle, or even thick-knees might be in the road. The beaches, where appropriate, have shark nets and signs warning of stinging jellyfish. A night drive in Victoria brought the Plains Wanderer onto our growing bird list along with Barn Owl and Banded Lapwing. .

Tasmania is a land on about the same parallel south as New England is north. It is cool and heavily forested. The eucalypts here (*E. regnans*) are the second tallest trees in the world, just behind our California coast redwoods. They are the world's tallest flowering plant. They are, or were, important trees to harvest for forestry products and are now grown in New Zealand, Chile, and South Africa as part of the pulp and paper industry. The eucalyptus were named by Europeans and often have oddly inappropriate names; for instance, *E. regnans* is called Mountain Ash or Swamp Gum or Stringy Gum. The current farm land in Victoria was once forest land; that is, a land of very tall eucalypt forests.

Photos (clockwise): Red Kangaroo, Spotted Crake, Cape Barren Goose, Aus. Golden Whistler, Bearded Dragon



Anyway, the drive south through the mountains to Melbourne or the southern coast is a treat in and of itself, but the addition of a few days in Tasmania adds greatly to a vacation and to a bird list**. The ride over is a special treat. The seas can be rugged here, and the ferries are all enclosed but that doesn't lessen the excitement of seeing several species of albatross and prions, shearwaters, petrels and storm-petrels as you bounce across the Bass Strait over to Tassie. The southern oceans don't have a great selection of gulls and fewer terns than we are used to — but the true seabirds are abundant. It is worth the trip just to see albatross and shearwaters gliding over the ocean.

I have included a couple mammal and reptile images this time as Australia is well known for those groups as well as its birds. And lastly, Melbourne is a very nice city; food, lodging, museums, and birds to satisfy most any appetite. Hobart is the Tasmanian capital and has a real small town feel to it. Half the endemic birds can be found in the city parklands. Enjoy.....

* TLF is "The Lovely Frances"; wife and birding pal.

** Tasmania has some great birds that are not too difficult to locate. Among them are the 12 Tasmanian endemics: Forty-spotted Pardalote, Tasmanian Native Hen, Green Rosella, Dusky Robin, Yellow Wattlebird, Tasmanian Thornbill, Scrubtit, Tasmanian Scrubwren, Yellow-throated, Strong-billed, and Black-headed Honeyeaters, and Black Currawong.

Photos (clockwise from upper left): Tasmanian Native Hen, Pacific Gull, Hooded Plover, Short-beaked Echidna, Black-fronted Dotterel, Eastern Yellow Robin



New Members (July — September 2018)

Teri Mei, Harwich

Stephen Waller, Centerville

Fran Raleigh, Dennis

Jane Ward, Centerville

John Sullivan, Harwich

Membership Form for New and Renewing Members

Membership Form for the Cape Cod Bird Club 2018-2019 Membership Year—RENEW NOW

This page may be used as your CCBC Membership **renewal form** and also may be used by new members joining for the first time. Remember—**dues should be paid before September 1, 2018**, and your membership will expire on Aug. 31, 2019. **New members may join at any time.**

- Individual Membership \$20.00** **Family (Household) Membership \$25.00**

If you would like to give an additional donation, it will be much appreciated. Thank you for your support

Membership dues \$ _____
Research & Education Fund \$ _____
Extra Tax-deductable Gift to Club \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please return this form with your check made out to Cape Cod Bird Club and mail to:
Cape Cod Bird Club, Attn: Membership, PO Box 147, South Dennis, MA 02660

Household Address (required): _____

Household Tel. No. (required): _____

Name(s)	M/F*	Email Address**	Approx. Year of Birth*

Notes: * (Optional) Please provide your gender and approx. year of birth (it doesn't need to be exact), so that we can design programs to serve you better.

** (Optional) If we have your email address, we can send periodic, updated notifications in a timely manner regarding speakers, meeting cancellations due to bad weather, and so forth.
 Your email address is not shared with any other organization.

- CHECK HERE** if you would like to save the Club postage expenses, by electing to receive your newsletter (*The Kingfisher*) **by email only.**



Cape Cod Bird Club
PO Box 147
South Dennis, MA 02660

The Cape Cod Bird Club, Inc.

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 \$20 (individual) or \$25 (Family or Household), along with the membership form available for downloading from our web site (www.capecodbirdclub.org/join/) or on page 7 to: **CCBC, PO Box 147, South Dennis, MA 02660**

Officers:	Peter Bono	President	pbono@prba.com
	<i>vacant</i>	Vice President	
	Julie O'Neil	Secretary	julieon@rcn.com
	Mary Jo Foti	Treasurer	maryjo1226@yahoo.com
Directors:	Mark Faherty	Programs	mfaherty@massaudubon.org
	(Lisa & Cheryl Collins)*	Refreshments	
	Stefanie Paventy	Trips Coordinator	stefpav09@gmail.com
	John Goodchild	Merchandise Coordinator	john.goodchild@worchester.edu
	Herb Raffaele	Membership Chair	birds.18@hotmail.com
	<i>vacant</i>	Publicity and Outreach	
Ex-officio:	Peter Bono	<i>The Kingfisher</i> Editor	pbono@prba.com

* *Taking on responsibilities on a trial basis*

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