



The Kingfisher

VOL 46 (3)

Spring (Apr—Jun) 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.

Vice President's Message

For a birder there is no time more exciting than spring. Although the prospect of birds singing and longer days is appealing, it's hard to bid farewell to the variety of waterfowl that have graced our local kettle ponds and the influx of Snowy Owls that have been regular visitors to our beaches this winter. Every week new species are arriving, many of which we haven't seen since they passed through last spring or fall. By now American Woodcocks have been peenting and displaying for several weeks, and flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles have visited our yards on their way to take up their summer residence in local wetlands. It's time to boil up some sugar water and put out your hummingbird feeder. Once April rolls around I obsessively check the migration map on *hummingbirds.net* awaiting the first sightings to our south and hoping to soon record my own.

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Soon warbler season will be upon us. My days off in May are spent getting up early and listening to warbler songs in the car on my way to the Beech Forest—my toddler strapped into his car seat with his own toy “noculars” in his lap. The Beech Forest has long been one of my favorite birding spots on the Cape. Arrive at dawn on the right morning in May and you can easily rack up a dozen or more species of warbler, not to mention other colorful migrants like Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, and Orchard Orioles. This relatively small patch of deciduous forest surrounded by sand dunes is always good for a few spring rarities so, if you pay it a visit, keep your eyes (and more importantly your ears) open to all possibilities.

The Kingfisher is published quarterly. Deadline for the next issue: June 10.

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

CCBC Website:

www.capecodbirdclub.org
(with color copy of *Kingfisher*)

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

wbmstr@capecodbirdclub.org

CCBC Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub

If you are looking to improve your warbler identification skills join us at the Beech Forest in Provincetown weekends in May for a guided walk. See the Club Bird Walks section of this newsletter for more details and for information on other member-guided walks. These walks are a great opportunity to both improve your birding skills and get to know other club members.

May is the last CCBC meeting until September and it is the meeting when new Officers and Directors are elected. ***If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Club, considered standing for election to the board.*** There are several vacancies up for election. Contact me or any member of the board for more information.

In closing, I would like to extend best wishes and sincere thanks to our outgoing President and former *Kingfisher* Editor Judith Davis. Judith and her son, Jamie Gilson, have been active members of the club since 2012, and they will be sorely missed. I know they look forward to being involved with a new local bird club in North Carolina and that club will be lucky to have them. Happy Birding!

Christine Bates, Vice President

IMPORTANT — PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If the first line of your address label does not show “(8/18)” or a later date next to your name, then you have not renewed your membership for the 2017-2018 calendar year. 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 Bird Scholarship as well as support other worthy local and regional bird causes.

Kagu

endemic species of New Caledonia

photo by Peter Bono



Programs and Club Bird Walks (Spring 2018)

► **Monthly meetings and programs** continue with meetings on **Monday, April 9** and **May 14**. These meetings are a time to meet with your fellow birders, hear about their recent excursions and life birds, and enjoy a great program. Our 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.

April 9, 2018: “Bird Conservation in Massachusetts”: **Dr. Andrew Vitz, Massachusetts State Ornithologist.** Drew grew up outside of Cincinnati, Ohio and became interested in birds as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After taking a course in ornithology and spending a semester abroad in South America, he knew he wanted to spend a career working with birds. Not only was Drew amazed by avian biodiversity, but he also recognized that birds, for a variety of reasons, were a good taxonomic group to focus on biological conservation. He completed M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the Ohio State University where studying the post-fledging ecology of mature forest birds and was also involved in a project working with birds in shade coffee plantations. Before becoming the State Ornithologist for Massachusetts, Drew spent 4 years managing the field ornithology program at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pennsylvania.

May 14, 2018: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors for 2018-2019.
Speaker and program not yet finalized. Check the website before the meeting.

Spring 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 2018-19; contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

April

Cumberland Farms – Halifax/Middleboro

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Friday, April 27, 7AM

We are going to help you with your Plymouth County checklist!

Join us for a walk through Cumberland Farms (not the convenience store) for a variety of birds. We will meet at the commuter parking lot off of Main Street in Buzzards Bay (behind Krua Thai Restaurant near the railroad bridge).

Please RSVP to Stefanie as there is limited seating.

Walks continue next page

Club Bird Walks (Spring 2018) and Club Merchandise

May**Beech Forest Walks for May 2018 – Provincetown**

It's time for spring migration! CCBC is offering bird walks for May migration! Meet at the Beech Forest parking lot for **8AM**. From Route 6, turn north onto Race Point Road. The parking lot is about 0.5 mile down the road on the left. We will bird the parking lot, then stroll along the sandy loop trail around Blackwater Pond for migrating warblers and other passerines.

Dates and Leader info are listed below:

Saturday, May 12 – Ed Banks, 68edbanks@gmail.com or 508-769-6762

Sunday, May 13 – Al Curtis, killdeer89@comcast.com

Saturday, May 19 – Peter Bono, pbono@prba.com or 508-375-9421

Sunday, May 20 – Peter Crosson, pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678

Saturday, May 26 – Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956

Sunday, May 27 – George Oleyer, oleyer@snet.net or 508-694-5916

Migration at the Farm – Falmouth

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Monday, May 28, 8AM

We will meet at Peterson Farm where we will walk around the thickets looking for flycatchers, vireos, warblers and possibly a bobolink. From the intersection of Palmer Ave and Jones Road (near Falmouth Hospital), continue south on Palmer Ave, which turns into Locust Street. Follow Locust Street, which turns into Woods Hole Road. Follow Woods Hole Road for about 0.5 mile and turn right onto McCallum Drive, then take an immediate right and follow the Town of Falmouth Conservation signs to the parking area.

June**Scusset Beach State Park – Sagamore**

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Saturday, June 9, 6:30AM

Meet in the parking lot next to the fish pier. We will spend the morning walk the wooded trails, checking thickets, as well as spend time along the canal and beach areas.

Club Merchandise: Merchandise will not be brought to all meetings, but if you want some particular items like hats or binocular straps, please contact George Oleyer (oleyer@snet.net) in advance of the meeting. A listing of the items for sale will be posted on the website, and George 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.

Bird Banding

2017 Wing Island Bird Banding Station Year Report by Sue Finnegan

For the past eighteen years I have run a bird banding station on Wing Island—a 9 acre parcel of land consisting of upland shrub/woodland surrounded on all sides by a salt marsh, located behind the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. The banding station operates April 15th thru November 15th for spring and fall migration monitoring and in the summer one day/week for breeding bird surveys at both our Wing Island site and our offsite field station in the Punkhorn Parklands of Brewster.

As of this writing we have netted 66,845 birds of 150 species; of those 45,894 were new bandings. A number of our birds have returned year after year including a Common Yellowthroat who is the oldest yellowthroat on record at 11 years 2 months (see BBL Longevity records online and photo below). We have at least 40 returns that have been anywhere from 8 to 11 years old with the majority of those birds being Neotropical migrants. This is an amazing feat considering these birds are traveling over the hazardous Gulf of Mexico twice a year.

During the 2017 season, we netted 4,462 birds of 92 species. 2,927 were new bandings. A highlight of the year was our first ever Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (photo) captured on Wing Island on Oct 11th. Other cool birds we seldom encounter was a male Blackburnian Warbler (photo) in the Punkhorn in spring and a Scarlet Tanager and two Gray-cheeked Thrushes in the fall. For fall bandings we had a *higher* number of individuals compared to our average (in parentheses) for the following species: American Redstart-16 (6), Blue-headed Vireo- 10 (4), Blue Jay- 26 (9), Eastern Phoebe- 34 (17), Orange-crowned Warbler- 10(3), Philadelphia Vireo-8 (2), Red-eyed Vireo- 58 (35), Western Palm Warbler- 50 (17) and a *lower* number for: Black-capped Chickadees- 40 (94), Blackpoll Warbler- 11 (33), Golden-crowned Kinglet- 17 (24), Hermit Thrush- 2 (7), Song Sparrow- 109 (149), Swamp Sparrow-27 (53), and sadly only one Yellow-breasted Chat (5).

Many thanks for the volunteers who helped out this year. There are too many to name individually but a big shout out to long-time consistent volunteers—Gretchen Putonen, who has been with me since 2002, and Judith Bruce, since 2003.

The 2018 season will begin again this April. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact me at suefinnegan@comcast.net or 508-868-7633.

photos by Sue Finnegan: Blackburnian Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



David Clapp's Travel Notes: Northeastern Australia

Australia is big. Visiting Australia is something that birders need to plan for. Sure the Sydney Opera House, Uluru (once called Ayers Rock), and The Great Barrier Reef are enticing but each has its own birds and they are hundreds of miles from each other. Without visiting you can't know that the people are charming, pleasant, nice, welcoming, and funny. I like Australia so much that I urge you to plan a trip, staying as long as possible and ask you to realize that it will be the first of several down-under trips. Really! Not many places can entice a Cape Codder into a thirty-hour trip (car, bus, planes, & taxi) that crosses the International Date Line but Australia might be just the reason to bite that bullet.

I'll be doing several travel notes for *The Kingfisher*—each describing a portion of this small continent and its varied and abundant bird life. In this article I'll give an overview of the northeastern corner of this continent and the reasons for including it in your plans. It is a bit like suggesting to an arriving tourist to the USA that Utah, California, New York City, Florida, New England, New Mexico, and Texas are all worth visiting but it would be a tough trip if you tried to squeeze it into a single two- or three-week vacation. So, let's look at each section separately: first the northeast, then the southeast, then Tasmania, and finally the Great Red Center. Maybe later, if you can bear it, we can look at the far west with its millions of shorebirds (Broome area) and unique habitats (Perth area).

The northeast corner of Australia is the state of Queensland. There are hundreds of miles of beautiful beaches, rain forests that reach to the sea, the Atherton Plateau, and the Great Barrier Reef. This is the closest corner to the US and might be the best place to start a birding adventure. You could fly to Sydney, spend a couple days wondering what actually happens to time when you cross the International Date Line (Einstein and relativity must apply somehow), and take a Harbor Cruise, a tour of the Opera House, and a day trip to the Blue Mountains. Then fly up to Cairns for several days in the tropical sun, the wonderful rain forest, and, of course, the reef.

When in Sydney you should walk to the Opera House through the Sydney Botanic Gardens. This little jaunt will open your avian eyes as Laughing Kookaburras (*photo at left*), Sulphur-crested Cockatoos (*photos at right*), Australian Wood Ducks, and Dusky Moorhens compete for your attention. There will be Noisy Miners, Silver Gulls and Australian Ibis pretty much underfoot and Pied Currawongs probing the lawns for beetles and grubs. Sometimes it takes me a couple hours for the short walk from the hotel to Opera House.

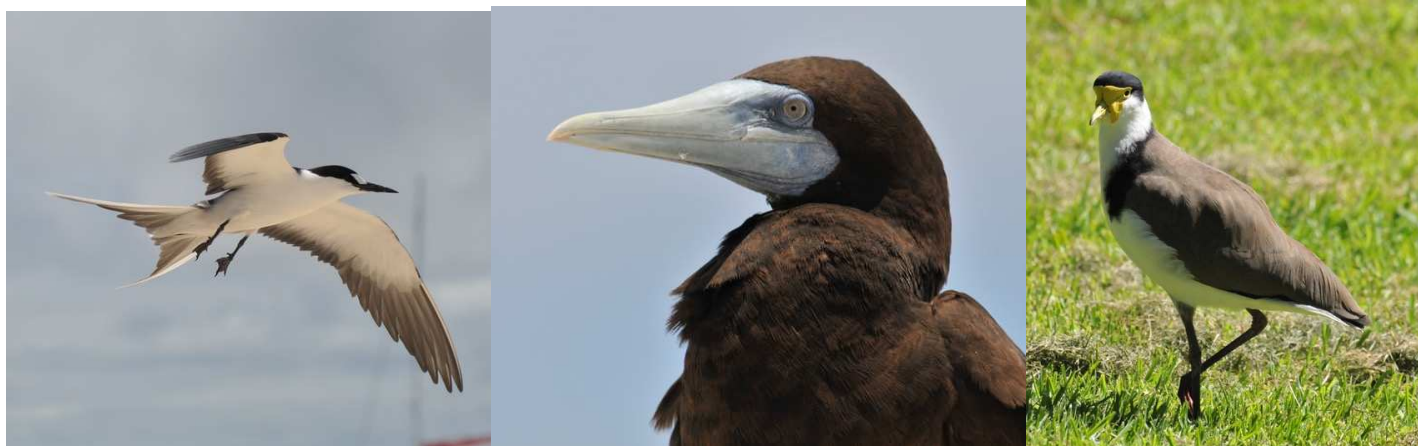


I think that getting up further north to Cairns will make your blood run warm—in many ways. There is of course the tropical weather, but the birds are even better. There are dozens of obvious birds, thousands of Flying Foxes (fruit bats), and a sea bird colony out on Michelmas Cay that should not be missed. The parrots and Metallic Starlings will be obvious in their milling thousands as daylight fades and they gather in roosts. There is nothing nicer than an alfresco dinner with thousands of parrots and jet-propelled starling flocks only a few feet off the ground arriving in the street trees as thousands of fruit bats depart for a night of foraging and pollinating. Evening in Cairns can be raucous and memorable.

There are nice places to walk on your own in Cairns: the Esplanade is always rich in shore birds, herons, pelicans, and Torresian Imperial-Pigeons, and it features a four-o'clock-bird-group that looks over the birds on the exposed flats every afternoon. There is a botanic garden and a wonderful open space called Centenary Lakes. Each of these is rich in birds with Masked Lapwings (*photo-right*), Australian Brush Turkey, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Bush Stone-Curlew, Black Bittern, and both Sacred and Collared Kingfishers along the mangrove edges or in the tree-line paths.

I know that you can experience the Great Barrier Reef in many ways, but one that a birder should always do is a day trip to Michelmas Cay. This is a coral cay about an hour out of Cairns. Take the *Ocean Spirit* (boats have concession areas and not every boat goes to every spot; they are quite restricted as to their destination) from Cairns harbor and enjoy the ride. The cay is an area above the water surrounded by a reef. On the way out you may doubt whether there are any birds in the area. The cay's residents are pretty much all pelagic and fly from the cay out to sea with little interest in flying toward land.

As soon as you get out to the cay and start to round the corner you are suddenly aware of thousands of birds in the air. They are mostly Common Noddies and Sooty Terns (*photo-left*), but there are always Brown Boobies (*photo-center*), Red-footed Boobies, Silver Gulls, Black-naped Terns, and lots of both Crested and Lesser-crested Terns. On some visits I see the less common Black Noddy, Ruddy Turnstones, Great and Lesser Frigatebirds, and Little Terns. The human visitation area at Michelmas Cay is marked off with a rope, and most people leave their towels and then snorkel over the reef. The boat serves a very nice lunch and provides a ride in a semi-submersible vehicle to tour the coral reef while you sit below the surface and peer through the glass walls at the colorful marine life. The birds are literally underfoot and overhead—but not very far overhead. This is their island, and we are only there a few hours each day in a tiny space; it is obvious that the birds regard us as a modest and brief disruption. In full-blown nesting season there will be thirty thousand birds out here and there are several thousand all the time.



New Members (Dec 2017 — Feb 2018)

Elaine Aleo, Brewster

Phil Cheney, So. Yarmouth

Susan Garland, Jamaica Plain, MA

Stew Kennedy, Wellfleet

Sandy Mason, Chatham

Carl & Donna Simone, Brewster

Joann & Tom Alouise, So. Yarmouth

Elizabeth Clemmey, Mansfield, MA

Craig Gibson, Winchester, MA

Bill & Mary Loftus, Brewster

Debbie Meymaris, So. Dennis

Diane & Paul Smith, Osterville

Membership Form for New and Renewing Members

Membership Form for the Cape Cod Bird Club 2017-2018 Membership Year—RE-UP 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, 2017**, and your membership will expire on Aug. 31, 2018. **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 \$ _____

Young Birder Scholarship 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**

<i>Officers:</i>	Judith Davis	President	motherjude3@aol.com
	Christine Harris Bates	Vice President	cmharris86@gmail.com
	Julie O'Neil	Secretary	julieon@rcn.com
	Mary Jo Foti	Treasurer	maryjo1226@yahoo.com
<i>Directors:</i>	Mark Faherty	Programs	mfaherty@massaudubon.org
	Marilyn Schlansky	Refreshments	schlansky2@gmail.com
	Stefanie Paventy	Trips Coordinator	stefpav09@gmail.com
	George Oleyer	Merchandise Coordinator	oleyer@snet.net
	Peter Bono	<i>The Kingfisher</i> Editor	pbono@prba.com
	Paul Schlansky	Publicity and Outreach	schlansky2@gmail.com
<i>Ex-officio:</i>	Barbara Grasso	Membership Chair	quinngrosso@aol.com

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