



The Kingfisher

VOL 46 (4)

Summer (Jul—Sep) 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.

President's Message

I'm writing this note on a mid-June day sitting on my deck and looking out over the adjacent golf course with its edge of trees and shrubs. I notice a pair of Baltimore Orioles repeatedly visiting the end of a branch on a nearby pine tree. With my binoculars I can make out a pendulous oriole nest and the heads of several nestlings eagerly devouring morsels of food brought by their devoted parents. My eye is caught by a flash of bright blue, and I find an Eastern Bluebird perched on a snag on the same pine tree. Periodically, it drops down to the short grass and finds something to eat and then returns to its perch. Later, my wife, Elaine, and I notice a flash of slate blue and white across the fairway. It is a male Belted Kingfisher, perched on a tree that overlooks one of the water hazard/ponds on the golf course. I've seen goldfish in the pond on occasion in the past, so he must be sitting there for a purpose. We've had a kingfisher (and sometimes a pair) at this same location for a number of years. Finally, we hear a loud rat-tat-tat, and we locate a male Hairy Woodpecker industriously digging into a board along the roof line of the next-door condo. He grabs something (an ant?), and immediately a juvenile male joins him on the roof and eagerly accepts the food. This goes on for at least 15 minutes before they move on to another location out of sight.

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Earlier this spring, on a CCBC walk led by Peter Crosson at Beech Forest and Foss Woods in Provincetown, we experienced one of the best warbler migrations in recent years. In a couple of hours, I personally counted over 150 individuals comprising 15 species of warblers, and I know that several other warbler species were seen that I did not record.

There is something comforting about the regular rhythms of nature, especially evident during the summer, when the rush of spring migration is over and before the shorebirds and early warblers start their return journey south in August and September. Please take the time this summer and fall to sit outside and watch the birds, to join us on one of our scheduled bird walks, and to attend our September meeting to share your experiences with your fellow birders.

If you can help us by **volunteering to help with refreshments, with merchandise, 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.

See you at the September meeting--if not sooner somewhere on the birding trails of Cape Cod!

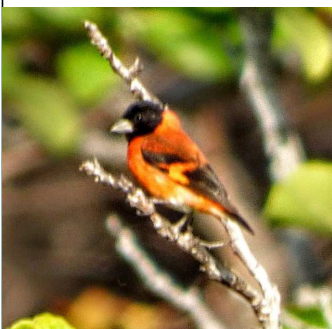
Peter Bono, President

IMPORTANT — PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The new membership year starts 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 Bird Scholarship as well as support other worthy local and regional bird causes.

Red Siskin

Guyana
photo by
Neil Miller



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

Programs and Club Bird Walks (Summer 2018)

► **Monthly meetings and programs** continue after the summer hiatus with a meeting on **Monday, September 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.

Sept 10, 2018: “Birds of Camp Edwards: Army Conservation on the Upper Cape”: Jake McCumber

Camp Edwards is the primary training site for the MA Army National Guard and the dominant portion of Joint Base Cape Cod—a 22,000 acre military base on Upper Cape Cod. The base has an interesting land use history that has been combined with active conservation management and monitoring for roughly 30 years. The mosaic of regionally and globally rare pine barrens and sandplain grasslands makes Camp Edwards an important conservation area with a rich bird community. Jake will discuss bird monitoring efforts and results, habitat management, and how it all integrates with Army training.

Jake is the Natural Resources Manager for the MA Army National Guard, based at Camp Edwards. He has a strong interest in birds, habitat management, and mixed use conservation planning. His career as a conservation biologist has included working for multiple state and federal agencies in Wyoming, Texas, and Massachusetts. This has provided a breadth of management and ecological experience as well as a chance to work with a lot of amazing birds and people.

Summer 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.

July

Paddling Nauset Marsh – Eastham

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

Grab your kayak or canoe (or rent one) and paddle with us while we find the birds of Nauset Marsh. We'll head toward the beach where there is a flat that shorebirds and terns like to hang out. You **must** have a life jacket to participate in this fun activity. Because we will be in the sun for a long time, please bring plenty of **sunscreen** and **water**. Please meet at Hemenway Landing in Eastham.

Walks continue next page

Club Bird Walks (Summer 2018) and Club Merchandise

August**West Dennis Beach**

Peter Bono – Saturday, August 4, 5:30PM

Meet at the West Dennis Beach parking lot as far along towards the breakwater and Bass River as you are permitted to drive. We will look for lingering summer-breeding endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns as well as resident and migrating shorebirds. To participate, please contact the leader in advance (pbono@prba.com; 774-487-2848). Rain cancels.

Farming for Birds – Falmouth

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Friday, August 24, 7AM

We will meet at Peterson Farm, where we will walk around the thickets looking for flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and possibly a Bobolink or Dickcissel. The sheep are fun too!

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, turn right onto McCallum Drive, then take an immediate right and follow the Town of Falmouth Conservation signs to the parking area.

September**Paddling Nauset Marsh – Eastham**

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 – Saturday, September 22, 8AM

Grab your kayak or canoe (or rent one) and paddle with us while we find the birds of Nauset Marsh. We'll head toward the beach where there is a flat that shorebirds and terns like to hang out. You **must** have a life jacket to participate in this fun activity. Because we will be in the sun for a long time, please bring plenty of **sunscreen** and **water**. Please meet at Hemenway Landing in Eastham.

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

Glorious, Gritty Guiana by Keelin Miller

Guyana is a place not for the faint of heart. It's a small country in South America nestled on the Atlantic coast east of Venezuela and west of Suriname. Infrastructure beyond the city of Georgetown is virtually non-existent (for example, the "main highway" is a single lane dirt road so rutted that there are multiple parallel tracks winding through the landscape). There's no hot water, no air conditioning, and no stores as we know them. But oh, the birds! As described by the tour operator, Neblina, "*it is one of the last unexplored wild places on earth, yet offers incredible access into a great variety of pristine habitats. The lure of Guyana is its true wilderness and amazing wildlife with many sought-after species easier to see here than any of the surrounding countries.*"

Our journey started with a couple of days around Georgetown, where we saw Guyana's national bird, the prehistoric-looking Hoatzin, on a trip along the Mahaica River. Other notable sightings in the area were Scarlet Ibis, Rufous Crab Hawk, Blood-colored Woodpecker, and Festive Amazon. Next, we took a small (and very noisy!) plane to Kaieteur Falls—the largest single-drop waterfall in the world. Here we saw the gorgeous **Guianian Cock-of-the-Rock** (photo) on a lek as well as the miniscule Kaieteur Golden Frog - found nowhere else in the world.

Next, it was off to our first eco-lodge—Surama. All the eco-lodges in Guyana are run by local tribes, so you are immersed in the true native experience. While somewhat rustic by US standards, they take great care in food preparation and comfortable rooms. The main target for Surama is the incomparable **Harpy Eagle** (photo). Our initial trek proved unsuccessful, so after much debate, we tried again the next day and quickly found the 2 ½-year-old busy "yelling" for its parents to feed him. Additional cool birds here were Spix's Guan, Capuchinbird, Purple-breasted Cotinga, and a Great Potoo on a day roost.

Iwokrama was probably the fanciest of the lodges, with actual WiFi! Here we saw the **Gray-winged Trumpeter** (photo), Red-fan Parrot, Red-and-black Grosbeak, and Guianian Puffbird. Atta Lodge is fairly close to Iwokrama and boasts a canopy walkway, awesome outdoor showers, and a night-time outdoor barbeque that served lots of delicious treats. Atta delivered Guianian Toucanet, Crimson Topaz, Black-banded Owl, Jabiru, and Paradise Jacamar. Helpful hint—if you have a narrow foot, be careful on the wooden highway bridges. I almost lost a shoe to the electric eel-infested waters below!

The journey to Caiman house proved to be a bit of a challenge, as one of the 4x4s broke down one-third of the way. We ended up cramming into the working vehicle, while the support team got a replacement jeep (and no sleep). Here we saw Pinnated Bittern, Buff-necked Ibis, Crested Doradito, Red-shouldered Macaw—oh, and lots of Caiman, not to mention the Giant Anteater. Awesome! The final lodge was Manari Ranch, where we made special (long!) trips for the critically endangered Sun Parakeet and the **Red Siskin**, discovered there in 2000 (photo on page 1). We also nabbed White-naped Xenopsaris, Spotted Puffbird, Bearded Tachuri, and Rio Branco Antbird.

The total species for the tour was 364 and I got a whopping 157 lifers – not bad for 11 days, much of it hiking in temperatures well over 90 degrees! I highly recommend Guyana for those that love a challenge.

photos by Neil Miller: Guianian Cock-of-the-Rock, juvenile Harpy Eagle, Gray-winged Trumpeter



David Clapp's Travel Notes: Darwin; The Top End, Northern Territory

Australia is just about the size of the continental US. Most of the major cities are along the east coast; saltwater cities with ports and beaches. If you overlay the two countries, there is one city way out in the southwest, another ocean-edge city, kind of where San Diego would be, called Perth. There is Adelaide located a bit west of our New Orleans. And then there is a hot, humid, rather new, city in the north central part of the country. This is Darwin. It is near the equator at about 12 degrees south. It is a city within easy reach of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. It hasn't bloomed as a great port city, however, as all goods unloaded here still have to travel almost 2000 miles to Sydney and even further to get to Melbourne. Minerals are exported to the Pacific Rim countries from Port Hedlund on the northern west coast.

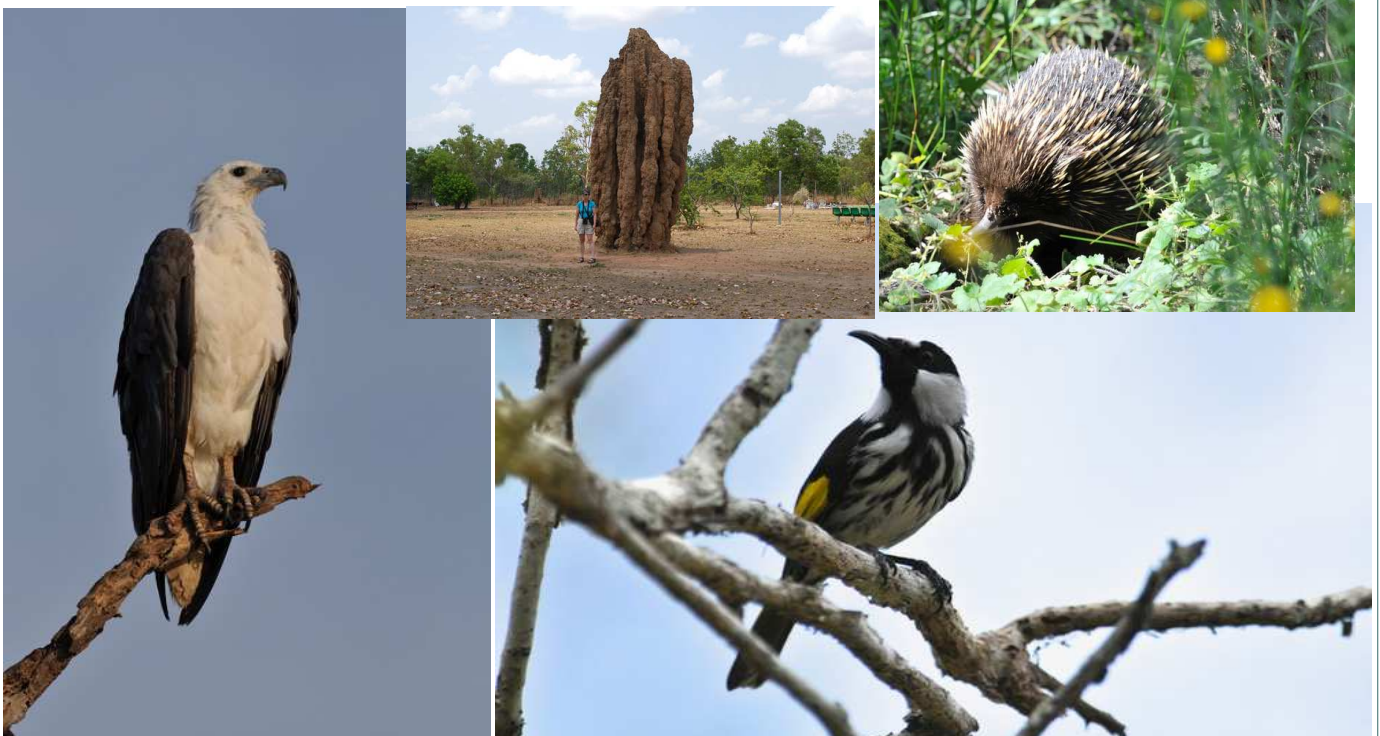
Darwin is The Top End. Aussies use nicknames for most everything, and the Top End is a good name for the northern edge of the Northern Territory. However, much of the Northern Territory is hot and dry—very dry. If Australia were the continental US, the dry lands run from California to the eastern side of the Allegheny Mountain range; it is mostly dry. So, drive south from Darwin an hour or so, and you are at the edge of The Great Red Center. This dry section runs all the way south to Alice Springs and is very sparsely populated. This bit of geography is called a territory because it is too remote and unsettled to develop the economy needed to become a state.

Anyway, the whole bit from wet to dry from hot to hotter and from humid to searing is pretty good birding. But the birds of the region are not as dependable as you might like. They wander—looking for water. One day you might see 2000 budgies and then not see another one for a month. But overall the birding is pretty good.

Darwin's coast is rich in mangroves and mangrove bird species. Access is not limited in any way, though never very easy. There are bugs and lots of mud. If you lived along the coast, you would soon buy a kayak and drift among the mangroves looking for the less common species of "Irian" birds. There is also the "Torresian" fauna, consisting of the birds of the eucalypt forests and the savannah woodlands. As you head south from Darwin, the dry interior offers the "Eyrean" birds.

The first name is from Irian Jaya, a province at the western end of the island of Papua (part of Indonesia). The name Eyre is used for the third group and references back to 1840 when Edward John Eyre first saw the great inland depression, which occasionally fills with water (Lake Eyre). Torresian refers to the Torres Straits, which separate northern (mostly northeastern) Australia from Papua New Guinea. Most biologists refer to Australia and Papua New Guinea as a single biological unit.

Photos: White-bellied Sea Eagle, Termite Mound, Echidna, White-cheeked Honeyeater



Birds in these areas have some overlap, but there are distinct groups found in each habitat type. The honeyeaters and friarbirds are widespread, with species adapted (evolved) to live in all three habitat types. Ducks are found in the wetter north and are quite uncommon in the dryer southern part of the NT. I have had a key to the sewage lagoons in Alice Springs, which allows access to the only water for a hundred miles in any direction. Thus, the lagoons are great for shorebirds, waders, and ducks. There are also dingos here, and you have to take an awareness class and sign a “dingo waiver” to free the water department people from any responsibility if the dingos get you.

Perhaps the best birding in the northern part of the Northern Territory is in Kakadu National Park. It is a wetland of great size and is rich in birds, aboriginal history, and Saltwater Crocodiles. There are various types of lodging available in the park, and it is well worth visiting for several days. There are woodlands, waterways, tidal rivers, and great islands. We took a Yellow Water cruise and had five kingfishers, lots of birds of prey, sandpipers, herons, egrets, and storks...and lots of crocodiles. But how can you really say what is good or best when most of the birds belong to families that don't occur in North America—they are mostly new and all very interesting!

Driving south is a challenge; water, extra tires, extra gas, even more water, and a willingness to live on the edge are required for that journey. It is remote and dry—did I mention you need water! They recommend that you drink a liter an hour while in the outback.

It is difficult to summarize a place so vast and so variable. I suggest that you Google everything you can about Darwin, Kakadu, The Great Red Center, Alice Springs, the MacDonnell Ranges.... and then start on the birds. This part of Australia is much less visited than the coastal cities to the east but offers great rewards for the World War II buff and the naturalist. There are Rainbow Pittas, Hooded parrots, Purple-crowned Fairywrens, and the stunning Gouldian Finch waiting for you. Oh, yes, and look for great huge termite mounds and aboriginal petroglyphs, and then seek out a good cold beer (VB, Victoria Bitter, is my recommendation—they don't sell Foster's in Australia as far as I have seen.)

Photos: Saltwater Crocodile, Galah, Crested Pigeon



New Members (March — June 2018)

Donald Arthur, Brewster

Ray Bartlett, Wellfleet

Scott and Sharon Boutilier, Sandwich

Mark and Jack Cartwright, Newton, MA

Lisa and Cheryl Collins, Yarmouth Port

Rosemary Dunn Moeller, South Dennis

Peg and Joe Sheridan, Jersey City, NJ

Vicki and Frank Solomon, Wellfleet

Glynnis Thomas, Sarasota, FL

Linnet Tse, Larchmont, NY

Richard and Mary Walker, West Roxbury, MA

Diana Lee Woebecke, Centerville

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 \$ _____

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**

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	Stefanie Paventy	Trips Coordinator	stefpav09@gmail.com
	(vacant)	Merchandise Coordinator	
	Herb Raffaele	Membership Chair	birds.18@hotmail.com
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