



The Kingfisher

VOL 48 (1)

Fall (Oct—Dec) 2019

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 hope you all enjoyed the wonderful weather we had this summer: not too hot, but plenty of beach days. It appears our breeding birds thrived. For example, my feeder, supplemented with a grape jelly dish, hosted catbirds and orioles among other species. One day in late August, there were 3 adult male, 1 adult female, and 3 juvenile Baltimore Orioles all trying to get a morsel of jelly at the same time. What a show!

Take a look at pages 2-4. We have recruited a roster of 13 outstanding leaders for as many walks in October, November, and December. As always, walk leaders need a group to lead. They are volunteering their time to help you all have FUN. Please don't disappoint them, and join us this fall! Note especially that Maria Curley is leading a walk on October 13 for beginning and intermediate birders and, on November 10th, MJ Foti is co-leading a joint walk with the South Shore Bird Club. Read the description on the Walks page of the Club Website for more details than we have room to print in *The Kingfisher*. We hope to offer more specialty walks and joint walks next year.

HELP WANTED: We still are looking for people to take on the responsibilities of **Trip Coordinator Director** and **Newsletter Editor**. The majority of the work for both positions can be done at home by computer on one's own schedule once per quarter. Please consider helping out the Club by volunteering for these important jobs, both of which I am filling on an interim basis.

Mark Faherty has put together an outstanding program for the fall. Please join us and make our speakers feel welcome. You will be entertained and educated.

In December, we will host our annual Holiday Event. Details will be forthcoming over the fall and will be available on the Club website. We'll also send out an email announcement prior to the meeting. In the meantime, look around your birding library and storage rooms for any birding- or nature-related books, art items, or gear that you might be willing to donate towards a silent auction we hold in December. Also, start thinking about what baked goods you might contribute for resale to the membership. These are our only fund-raising events of the year.

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.

Check the Mailing Label: the expiration date of your membership is given after your name. If it doesn't say "(8/20)" or later, then you have not renewed for 2020.

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The Kingfisher is published quarterly. Deadline for the next issue: December 10, 2019.

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

Sabine's Gull

Monterey, CA

photo by
Peter Flood



Programs and Club Bird Walks (Fall 2019)

► **Monthly meetings and programs** resumed in September. 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 Club website (www.capecodbirdclub.org) for detailed information about the programs.

October 14, 2019: “Ospreys 2019 – The Revival of a Global Raptor” **Alan Poole, retired editor of the *Birds of North America* life history series**

The past 50 years have seen an extraordinary resurgence in Osprey numbers globally—from Cape Cod to Scotland and from Finland to Australia. This good-news story has been triggered not just by cleaner waters and less contaminated fish, but also by greening cultures—dedicated groups of people who have built and protected nest sites for Ospreys and who have brought the species back to regions where it has been missing for decades. Alan Poole, author of a recently published book on the species (*Ospreys: the revival of a global raptor*, Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2019), will lead us through this story with dazzling looks at some of the places where Ospreys are found, and with introductions to a few of the colorful characters who have helped make this Osprey revival possible. Part travelogue, part biography, part scientific detective story: this talk will bring us up to date on the current state of one of our best-loved birds of prey. Alan will also have copies of his new book for sale after the talk.

November 11, 2019: “Back from the Dead – The Story of the Bermuda Petrel” **Peter Flood, Local Naturalist and Biologist**

The Bermuda Petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*) or “Cahow”, is an enigmatic gadfly petrel of the North Atlantic nesting exclusively on a few rocky outcrops outside Castle Harbour along the southeast coast of Bermuda. Thought to be extinct for nearly 300 years, the rediscovery of the Bermuda Petrel in 1951 has led to an amazing conservation success story due to the tireless and careful work of Bermuda Conservation Officers David Wingate and his successor Jeremy Medeiros. Their incredible efforts have resulted in an increasing nesting population, successful translocation project onto a historical nesting site Nonsuch Island on Bermuda, and new hopes that this *Pterodroma* petrel can survive under continuing and present day environmental and human related pressures. This presentation will share the fascinating story of the Bermuda Petrel touching also on the biology and ecology and North Atlantic at-sea range, which happens to include a recent and exciting September 2019 sighting along the continental shelf edge and associated deep water canyons off Massachusetts!

December 9, 2019: Annual Holiday Silent Auction and Bake Sale

Join us for a fun-filled evening with holiday music, decorations, and door prizes. Bring refreshments to share, and bring baked goods and silent auction items to be sold for the benefit of the Club. Details of the program will be developed during the fall and will be posted on the Club Website.

Fall Bird Walks: Join us on these free club bird walks. **Heavy or steady rain typically cancels the walk. To participate, please call or e-mail the walk leader prior to the walk.** For the latest updates and more details about a specific walk, always check our website www.capecodbirdclub.org/walks. **TRIPS /WALKS are listed by BIRDING HOTSPOT and date. The interim trip/walk coordinator is Peter Bono.** Contact him (pbono@prba.com) with general questions and offers to lead a walk in 2020; contact a trip leader for details about specific walks.

October 2019

Fort Hill – Eastham

Jim Sweeney (assawompsett@yahoo.com or 401-465-6668) – **Sunday, October 6, 8AM – 1PM**

Join us for a walk along the loop trail at Fort Hill in Eastham. We will watch the marsh for shorebirds and wading birds and search the fields and woods for passerines. Meet at the trailhead parking lot across from the Penniman House at Fort Hill. Rain cancels.

Walks continue on the next page

Club Bird Walks (Fall 2019)

October 2019 (continued)

Scusset Beach State Reservation, Sagamore

Brian Harrington (brian.harrington205@gmail.com; 774-487-2683) – **Tuesday, October 8, 8:30 AM**

Join in for a morning walk for whatever birds we might find at Scusset Beach during a great week for sparrow migration. We'll salt a couple of spots with bird seed ahead of time and expect the best. Meet at the large parking area at the beach at 8:30 a.m. We'll finish up well before lunch. To participate, please contact the leader in advance.

Some Harwich Hot Spots

Al Curtis (killdeer89@comcast.net) – **Saturday, October 12, 8-11 AM**

Meet at Cold Brook Preserve (formerly Bank Street Bogs) in the parking area behind the Harbormaster's building on Bank St. We'll spend about an hour walking through the preserve looking for Fall migrants and year-round residents. We will then hit the Harwich Community Gardens for about an hour looking for various sparrows and possibly Bobolink, Indigo Bunting and Dickcissel. We'll finish up at Red River Beach to scope for arriving winter waterfowl.

Hathaways Pond North Conservation Area - Hike Around the Pond

Maria Curley (mcurley04@gmail.com or 508-789-8768) – **Sunday, October 13, 8-10 AM**

This 2 mile walk is planned for beginner to intermediate birders who want to learn more about the local songbirds. The trail is up and down on uneven surfaces. The entrance is on Phinney's Lane, 3/10 mile north of its intersection with Attucks Way. The entrance road will lead you to a parking area for the town beach. We will meet in the parking lot.

Cape Cod Organic Farm, Barnstable

Peter Crosson (capecodbirder@gmail.com; 508-280-1678) – **Tuesday, October 22, 8 AM**

Come explore the agricultural fields and wooded edges of this unique working farm. Targets include Dickcissel, Bobolink, Blue Grosbeak, Lincoln's Sparrow, and raptors. Consider buying some delicious organic vegetables from farmer Tim during your visit! **Walk is limited to eight people, so call or email leader in advance.** Meet at the Upper Lot on Bone Hill Road at Mass Audubon Long Pasture sanctuary. We'll carpool to the farm.

November 2019

Fort Hill – Eastham

David Clapp (naturalhistoryservices@comcast.net or 508-367-7753) - **Saturday, November 2, AM**

Join us for a walk along the loop trail at Fort Hill in Eastham. We will check the marsh for early waterfowl and wading birds and search the fields and woods for late sparrows. Meet at the trailhead parking lot (lower lot) across from the Penniman House at Fort Hill. Rain cancels.

Cape Cod Canal – Sandwich

Peter Fang (fangmail@comcast.net) - **Friday, November 8, 8 AM**

Meet at the Drunken Seal (98 Town Neck Rd, Sandwich). We can see the canal entrance from there where large rafts of waterfowl gather. We are likely to see lots of eiders, scoters, loons, and ducks. We will then drive a short distance to the Canal Visitor Center to see the birds "sheltering" in the canal. Bring a scope if you want.

Outer Cape Cod – Joint Trip with South Shore Bird Club

Mary Jo Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com) & *Nathaniel Marchessault* (natemarchessault@gmail.com),

**Sunday, November 10, SSBC attendees meet at Sagamore Park & Ride at 7 AM,
CCBC attendees meet at Salt Pond Visitors Center at 8 AM**

The two groups will rendezvous at Salt Pond Visitors' Center at 8 am and head to Outer Cape destinations including Race Point & MacMillan Wharf. Followed by no-host lunch together.

Daniel Webster MAS, Marshfield

John Goodchild (john.goodchild@worchester.edu; Cell 413- 95-6670) – **Friday, November 15, 9 AM**

Meet at Dunkin Donuts in the parking lot at Exit 1 on Route 3 just over the Sagamore Bridge. We will car pool to the MAS Daniel Webster sanctuary in Marshfield, a drive of about an hour. With woods, open fields, marshes, ponds and a lake, a river and a splendid panoramic view this is one of my favorite places to bird. Optional no-host lunch afterwards.

Milling with Birds – Mid-Cape

Peter Bono (pbono@prba.com or 774-487-2848) – **Sunday, November 17, 8-11 AM**

We will begin the morning at Corporation Beach looking for seabirds and gulls. Then we'll carpool over to Dennis Mill Pond, Scargo Lake, Stony Brook Mill and Lower Mill Pond searching for dabbling ducks. This is an easy morning of scoping for birds from the shore, so bring your scope if you have one.

Walks continue on the next page

Bird Walks (continued); Club News; Club Merchandise

December 2019

Winter Waterfowl Survey – December 7-8

Let's count waterfowl together! Please get in touch with Stefanie Paventy (stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956) to let her know you want to join a team. For details, click on this link <https://www.capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/events/waterfowl-census/>.

Pier to Pier Sweep – Outer Cape

Ginie Page (vgpage@juno.com or 508-349-6810) – **Thursday, December 12, 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.

Cape Cod Canal & Scusset Beach

John Goodchild (john.goodchild@worchester.edu; Cell 413- 95-6670) – **Friday, December 13, 10 AM**

Meet at 10 am at the fish pier parking lot about 0.25 mile past the entry kiosk to Scusset Beach State Reservation. We will walk along the canal scanning the large flocks of ducks that should be there then. At Scusset beach, we may see winter visitors such as Snow Buntings as well as seabirds. Bad weather cancels. Please notify leader beforehand if you intend to come.

Cape Cod Christmas Bird Counts – December 14, 2019 through January 5, 2020

Don't forget to find your local Christmas Bird Count! Check this site in early December: <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>

January 2020

New Year's Day w/Ed Banks – Mid-Cape

Ed Banks (508-769-6762 or 68edbanks@gmail.com), **Wednesday, January 1, 2020, 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 2018 year list off to a great start! Check off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. We will bird the mid-Cape and perhaps some other hotspots. Party hats optional!

Bird Walk Species (January—September 2019)

For the first time in recent memory, we are trying to keep track of all the species seen on Cape Cod Bird Club Walks. The CCBC has an account on eBird, and Bird Walk leaders share their eBird checklists with the CCBC account. eBird does all the bookkeeping work of merging the lists and keeping track of the unique species seen. Overall, our walks this year to date have recorded **151 species from 29 shared eBird checklists**. We have a chance to hit 175 by the end of the year, if we have a good fall migration, so join a walk and help count those birds!

Welcome to Our New Members (July 2019 — September 2019)

Barbara Calvert, S. Yarmouth	Irene Checkovich, Mashpee	William Groggins, Jr., Harwich
Peter Grose, Coventry, CT	Lisa Keller, W. Barnstable	Leonard Long, Mashpee
Lester Moeller, Hyannis	Joe Molina, S. Yarmouth	Ruth Nye, Coventry CT
David & Elizabeth Smith, Cranston, RI	Deborah Stewart, New York City, NY	

Opportunity to Add to Your Wardrobe (October 2019)

If your birding outfit is likely to frighten away the fall migrants, CCBC is offering a solution! On October 14, in collaboration with Cape Cod Embroidery, we will be reopening our website where you can purchase shirts, caps, hats, jackets and backpacks bearing the club's Belted Kingfisher logo.

Becoming a Friend of Hog Island (FOHI) by Renee VanLeeuwen

Spending a week learning in nature was a highlight of my summer, and I am sincerely thankful to be the recipient of the CCBC Young Birder Scholarship to the Coastal Maine Studies for Teens program at Hog Island.

I've been fascinated with nature for as long as I can remember. Growing up on Cape Cod, I was completely immersed in the outdoors. Nature walks through Audubon wildlife sanctuaries or visits to wildlife centers were typical fun activities that I would do with my grandma weekly.

I am coming of age in a technology-driven world with all the responsibilities of a teenager trying to navigate young adulthood, and I had put my hiking shoes aside in exchange for my ballet shoes and my iPhone. I had forgotten the joy and fascination of being outside and playing. However, as soon as I received word about an Audubon bird camp scholarship, I was compelled to seize the opportunity; embracing my curious nature roots, and actively choosing to ignore the easy-route of teenage indifference.

I was in love the second I arrived at the Hog Island campsite. It was even more beautiful and scenic than the pictures I saw online! I was nervous arriving as I was the first camper on site, but the counselors were helpful and welcoming, and I was quickly feeling at ease. It was intimidating using the high-tech telescope but I gained confidence with support from Abby, my camp leader, and I was comforted to see the familiar Osprey flying over the bay.

I was intrigued by the history of Hog Island and Mary Loomis Todd's cabin, and I marveled at the murals she painted and how she played a critical role in giving the world Emily Dickinson's words. As a young woman, it is empowering to learn about talented and creative women from the past.

The first full day of camp was so exciting! We took a boat out to Eastern Egg Rock Island and saw so many birds including Atlantic Puffins, Common and Roseate terns (and learned to identify their differences), Black Guillemots, and Razorbills. We even saw porpoises in the bay. We kept track of all the different species of birds we saw with a checklist (that I still refer to today). All of the camp leaders offered unique perspectives; specifically:



- I really enjoyed Abby's sketching exercises of seagulls at a fish ladder; I learned that sketching can be both educational and relaxing and that sketching is a way to describe nature without words.
- I learned so much from Doug's presentation on bird calls, and it was exciting to use those skills on the nature hike at Borestone Mountain. Before camp, I never thought twice about the sounds I was hearing in nature. Camp taught me to be more mindful and aware.
- Christian's cross-country carbon-free trek inspired me and a friend to sleep in our sleeping bags instead of using the sheets to reduce our footprint.
- Finally, Eva was always someone I could talk to and her positive attitude was infectious!

I learned so much and had a truly amazing experience at the Coastal Maine Studies for Teens program. I loved every moment of it. I am thankful to the staff who taught and fed us because I must share that the food was delicious! I would recommend this experience to any teen because it is important to get away from the hustle and bustle of our bubbles. Even though I grew up learning about birds and nature; I learned that there is so much I don't know and this was a wow-factor for me. I am also thankful for my peers because they cared so much about nature and how important it is to conserve and preserve natural habitats; they are the kind of people that make me have faith in my generation. Thank you to Cape Cod Bird Club and Hog Island.

Dock at Hog Island (top), approaching Eastern Egg Rock Island (bottom): photos by Renee VanLeeuwen



Member Photo Gallery



Photos clockwise from lower left (American Avocet with Willet, American Bittern, and Parasitic Jaeger on the Lower/Outer Cape) by Peter Flood; Black-capped Petrel (lower right) by Tim Lenz, Bermuda Petrel (center) by Nick Bonomo on BBC Pelagic, Hydrographer's Canyon, south of Nantucket



Bobolinks at Crane WMA by Ron Cadillac; Ruby-throated Hummingbird by David Clapp at his home in Brewster

Membership Form for New and Renewing Members

Membership Form for the Cape Cod Bird Club 2019-2020 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, 2019**, and your membership will expire on Aug. 31, 2020. **New members may join at any time.**

- Individual Membership \$20.00
- Family (Household) Membership \$25.00
- Scholar \$50.00
- Sponsor \$75.00
- Patron \$100.00

Additional tax-deductable donations are much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Membership dues \$ _____
Conservation & Education Fund \$ _____
Extra 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 351, Centerville, MA 02632

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 351
Centerville, MA 02632

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 your dues along with the membership form available for downloading from our web site (www.capecodbirdclub.org/join/) or on page 7 to: **CCBC, PO Box 351, Centerville, MA 02632**

Officers:	Peter Bono	President	pbono@prba.com
	David Clapp	Vice President	ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com
	Fran Raleigh	Secretary	fraleigh85@gmail.com
	Maria Curley	Treasurer	mcurley04@gmail.com
	Mary Jo Foti	Assistant Treasurer	maryjo1226@yahoo.com
Directors:	Mark Faherty	Programs	mfaherty@massaudubon.org
	Bob Forbes	Refreshments	robertforbes839@gmail.com
	<i>vacant</i>	Trips Coordinator	
	John Goodchild	Merchandise Manager	john.goodchild@worchester.edu
	Herb Raffaele	Membership Chair	birds.18@hotmail.com
	Ron Cadillac	Publicity and Outreach	rcadillac@yahoo.com
Ex-officio:	Peter Bono	<i>The Kingfisher</i> Editor	pbono@prba.com

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