



The Kingfisher

VOL 47 (3)

Spring (Apr—Jun) 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

While the human “snowbirds” have started to return from the southland, March has been pretty cold and not too many summer resident birds have started to return—but the ducks are passing through, and it won't be long before the colorful Neotropical migrant species arrive! I hope you'll join us on one of the walks featured on pages 2-3. Don't forget to check the club website for additions and last minute changes.

We've got two good programs coming up to close out the evening lecture program until next September: Wayne Petersen returns to update us on changes in New England populations and Charlie Martin, past President, returns for a “curtain call” as he shows off his photographic prowess documenting Arizona birds.

Continuing a recent tradition of hearing from our recent Past Presidents, Charlie has contributed an article about seeking the “gray ghost” of the boreal forest—the Great Gray Owl, normally a western species that occasionally irrupts and visits New England in the depth of winter.

In February, the Club received a wonderful gift in memory of Ned Handy, a former officer of the Club and long-time, loyal member. We are using that to make our first two micro-grants to non-profits in the Caribbean, where their work will have a positive impact on conservation and environmental awareness.

Our 2019 Young Birder Scholarship winner, Renee VanLeeuwen, from Barnstable High School, will spend a week at the National Audubon Summer Camp on Hog Island, Maine, this coming June, and she will report to us later in the year.

You can be proud that any contributions you make above your basic membership goes to worthy programs that we are now lumping under the umbrella of a “Conservation & Education Fund.” Expect to see more initiatives in this area in the coming year.

The Annual Meeting occurs at the May General Meeting, just before Charlie Martin speaks. Please attend and participate in the election of your Officers and Directors.

If you can help us by **volunteering to bring refreshments and co-lead bird walks**, so much the better. 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.

Check the Mailing Label: the expiration date of your membership is given after your name. If it doesn't say “(8/19)” or later, then you have not renewed for 2019.

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The Kingfisher is published quarterly. Deadline for the next issue: June 11, 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

Rainbow Pitta

Darwin
Australia

photo by
Peter
Bono



Programs and Club Bird Walks (Spring 2019)

► **Monthly meetings and programs** continue with meetings on **Monday, April 8 and May 13**. We then take a break for the summer, resuming 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 website (www.capecodbirdclub.org) for detailed information about the programs.

April 8, 2019: “Changes in New England Bird Populations”

Wayne R. Petersen, Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Area Program, Mass Audubon

Since the arrival of the Pilgrims in the 1600s, bird populations in New England have undergone many changes due to alteration of the New England landscape, persecution of birds for feathers and food, pesticide contamination, competition with introduced species, natural biological competition among avian species and range expansion and contraction likely resulting from global climate change. This presentation will discuss and describe these various phenomena within a New England context.

May 13, 2019: “The Wintering Birds of SE AZ”

Charlie Martin, Past President of the Cape Cod Bird Club

Charlie shows photos taken from three separate trips to SE Arizona over a span of five years. Southeast Arizona has lots of different habitats and accompanying species in a fairly compact area of about 100 miles square: boreal species like rosy-finches and crossbills at the top of Mt Lemmon, desert species like Phainopepla and Cactus Wren, riparian species like Gray Hawk and Violet-crowned Hummingbird along Sonoita Creek, and “Mexican” mountain canyon species like Elegant Trogon, Harlequin Quail, and Arizona Woodpecker. These are a few of the “goodies” sought by the avid birder. And then there are the Mexican species that stray just over the border like Five-striped Sparrow and Fan-tailed Warbler that add additional excitement to the quest. Join Charlie as he relates his tales of challenging and rewarding adventures in this land of warmth for winter snowbirds and shows you his best photographs.

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 2019; contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

April 2019

South Sandwich Conservation Area

Peter Crosson, pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678 – Saturday, April 27, 7AM

Meet in the parking area on Cotuit Road approximately 2 miles south of Quaker Meetinghouse Rd. We'll explore this 243 acre conservation area with 5 miles of hiking trails that wind through groves of 100 year old holly, beech and pine trees. We will look for nesting songbirds and waterfowl. Past highlights for the area have included Common Goldeneye, Ruffed Grouse and Bald Eagle.

Scusset Scuttle – Sagamore

John Goodchild, jgoodchild1@worcester.edu – Tuesday, April 30, 7AM

Meet in the parking lot next to the fish pier. Let's spend the morning walking the wooded trails, checking thickets, as well as spending time along the canal and beach areas.

Walks continue next page

Club Bird Walks (Spring 2019) and Club Merchandise**May 2019****Beech Forest Walks for May 2019 – Provincetown**

It's time for spring migration! CCBC is offering bird walks for May migration! Meet at the Beech Forest parking lot for **7AM**. 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 (check the website for updates):

Saturday, May 4 — Ginie Page, *pageginie@gmail.com* or 508-349-6810

Sunday, May 5 — Al Curtis, *killdeer89@comcast.net* or 508-432-8677

Saturday, May 11 — Ed Banks, *68edbanks@gmail.com* or 508-769-6762

Sunday, May 12 — David Clapp, *ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com* or 508-896-7322

Saturday, May 18 — Stefanie Paventy, *stefpav09@gmail.com* or 203-415-1956

Sunday, May 19 — Peter Crosson, *pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com* or 508-280-1678

Saturday, May 25 — Mark Faherty, *mfaherty@massaudubon.org* or 774-288-9465

Sunday, May 26 — Keelin Miller, *capekeelin@hotmail.com* or 646-334-5575

Mid-Week Migrants – Outer Cape

Join David Clapp for spring migration to search for migrants as we work our way north through thickets and other good migratory bird stops. Meet at the **Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham at 7AM** and carpool from there. Contact David to join the trip: *ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com* or 508-896-7322.

Dates are: **Wednesday, May 8 — Wednesday, May 15 — Wednesday, May 22**

June 2019**Bell's Neck Conservation Area**

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

Meet at Bell's Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir. We will explore some hidden mixed woodland and some old cranberry bogs for passerines. We will also look for ducks and shorebirds in the open water. Please be prepared for swampy conditions.

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@worcester.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.

Club News — Peter Bono, President

Annual Meeting on May 13, 2019

Our CCBC by laws require us to hold an annual meeting in May, when we elect Officers and Directors for the coming year. As of the end of March, the following people will be standing for election:

Officers (1 year term)

President — Peter Bono
Vice President — David Clapp
Secretary — Fran Raleigh
Treasurer — Mary Jo Foti

Directors (3 yr terms)

Trips Coordinator (thru 6/2022) — Stephanie Paventy
Merchandise Manager (thru 6/2022) — John Goodchild
Refreshments (thru 6/2021) — vacant
Publicity & Outreach (thru 6/2020) — Maria Curley

You can see that we are still seeking someone to fill the vacant Director (Refreshments) position. If you are interested in helping out as a Director or if you are willing to organize refreshments but don't want to be a Director, please contact me.

Young Birder Scholarship Winner for 2019

Congratulations to Renee VanLeeuwen, Marston Mills, who is our Scholarship Winner for 2019. Renee is a student at Barnstable High School, and she will be reporting on her Hog Island birding experience in a future issue of *The Kingfisher* and talking to us in December.

Grant Received from the Edward “Ned” Handy Charitable Trust

The CCBC was the recipient of a generous \$5,000 grant in memory of **Ned Handy**, former Vice President and long-time and very loyal supporter of the CCBC. This grant will allow us to implement some new initiatives in bird conservation and education as described in the following paragraph.

First Two Awards Made from our Conservation and Education Fund

In the previous issue (Winter 2019), Herb Raffaele described our plans to support conservation and education. In particular, we requested proposals from the four Caribbean-based NGOs described in that article. We recently received proposals from three of them, and we have decided to fund two of these organizations: the **Puerto Rico Ornithological Society (SOPI)** and the **Environmental Awareness Group of Antigua & Barbuda (EAG)**.

SOPI will design and print bird identification guides and informational booklets aimed at various natural resource user constituencies that are not usually known for participating in bird-watching activities in Puerto Rico (e.g., recreational anglers).

EAG will conduct classroom and field training sessions aimed at producing a cadre of local citizen scientists, who are able to identify and monitor birds in three wetlands designated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Not only will the project produce valuable data, but also the participants will gain an appreciation for the value of wetland ecosystems.

Each grant is for \$1,000. As these projects start to produce results, we will bring you reports of their progress in future issues of *The Kingfisher*.

The Gray Ghost Adventure by Charlie Martin

First, a big “hello” to our friends at the CCBC!

Jane and I moved “off Cape” two years ago this past December, 2018. We miss all of the club members and activities a great deal. However, we’ve been fortunate to find and make new friendships around our birding here on the North Shore in West Newbury, MA. If we had to move anywhere, being able to bird Plum Island and the North Shore Coastline is about as good as it gets in Massachusetts, except for the Cape. When Peter asked if I would write a small piece for the newsletter, I was pleased and excited to share one of our birding adventures since moving from the Cape.



Our first winter here on the “other side” of Boston saw the movement of owls out of the far north down into New Hampshire. There were eBird reports of the Great Gray Owl from that area. So one cold, blustery February day we set out to see this “life bird.” After driving over 100 miles we came upon the area noted on the eBird maps as the site where this owl had been seen over the past few days. We were the only souls out in this northern wilderness: not a bird, vehicle, or another living soul was to be seen or heard. We waited patiently, as all good birders do. Finally, we moved around the area, checking tree limbs carefully—all to no avail. We were getting cold and frustrated. My solution to our condition was to drive toward the small town just to our west. We found a coffee shop, restroom, and a warm interior to regroup.



It was now getting late into the afternoon, light was fading, weather was getting colder, snow flurries were beginning to fall: perfect weather Great Gray Owls! Jane and I wanted to give the bird one last chance to show itself. As we drove back toward the area where the bird was known to appear in the late afternoon, we saw vehicles, people with binoculars, and cameras. Success!!!

We got out of our car, moved across the two-lane road and began looking for this magnificent owl. At first, he was invisible to us due to his fantastic camouflage, gray weather conditions, and snow flurries. However, we persisted, checked the trees...and then, suddenly, the bird shook its feathers. We were able to “get on the bird” and photograph it!! Voila!! Such a special moment.

We drove home through heavy snow, with “whiteout” conditions. We were tired, cold, and excited all at once. Had we not gotten the bird, I’m sure our memories would sound a bit different than this fond account of our adventure.

Photos by Charlie Martin

Member Photo Gallery



Photo Credits:

*Common Redpoll & Green Heron
— Alison Cadillac*

*Turkey Vulture
— Ron Cadillac*

*Red-breasted Nuthatch
— David Clapp*



Photos: Javan Banded-Pitta, Peter and Elaine Bono with Komodo Dragon, and Bali Starling — Peter Bono

Welcome to Our New Members (December 2018 — March 2019)

Peter Auger & Maria Curley,
Centerville

Michael Denomy, Falmouth

Alice DeSouza & Curtis Little, N. Falmouth

Abigail Elkin-Paris,
E. Orleans

Kristine Etter, E. Orleans

Paige Garrison, Teaticket

Frank & Katherine Kahr,
Providence, RI

Brenda, Neil, Steve, & Tim Kelsey, Farmington, CT

John & Susan Littlefield,
Cummaquid

Lallie Lloyd, Cotuit

John Macdonald,
Plymouth

Genevieve Martin, Provincetown

Carol & Moe Molander,
Marion, MA

Andrea & Chelsea Philbrook,
South Dennis

Arlene & David Sliwoski,
Yarmouth Port

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
- Scholar \$50.00
- Sponsor \$75.00
- Patron \$100.00

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

Membership dues \$ _____
Conservation & 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 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 147, South Dennis, MA 02660**

Officers:	Peter Bono	President	pbono@prba.com
	David Clapp	Vice President	ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com
	Fran Raleigh	Secretary	fraleigh85@gmail.com
	Mary Jo Foti	Treasurer	maryjo1226@yahoo.com
Directors:	Mark Faherty	Programs	mfaherty@massaudubon.org
	<i>vacant</i>	Refreshments	
	Stefanie Paventy	Trips Coordinator	stefpav09@gmail.com
	John Goodchild	Merchandise Manager	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

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