



The Kingfisher

VOL 47 (4)

Summer (Jul—Sep) 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 Summertime is quiet from a birding point of view (at least for most of July) feeder watching can be entertaining. We keep our feeders filled all summer, and in the past week we have watched bird parents bring their newly fledged young to the feeder and bird bath. We've seen juvenile Baltimore Orioles, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, American Robins, Common Grackles, and Song and House Sparrows. On the Cape the action picks up when shorebirds begin to return at the end of July, and resident birds have fledged their young. In late August, the passerine migration starts and is in full swing by the end of September.

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Do you read *BirdWatching* magazine? In the latest July/August 2019 issue the "birder at large" column by Pete Dunne is titled *A fundamental ritual—Why field trips lie at the heart of birdwatching*. Let me quote selectively from this article:

"... the institution of the "birding field trip" is fundamental to birding—with the accent on fun. And fun lies at the very heart of birdwatching. ... If you are a "do it yourself birder" who has never gone on an organized field trip, you have cheated yourself. ... Going on a field trip is an act of volition, a frank admission that you have crossed over and are now a real, live (ugh, argh) bird-watcher. Many new birders are reluctant to cross over, afraid that their skill level falls short. Relax. The only thing better than being an experienced birder is being a new birder. ... Join us, take the plunge, become a field-trip regular. Birdwatching is dependent upon having a new crop of leaders in the pipe. One of them could be you."

After reading this, I looked at last summer's field walks schedule, and I was shocked to see that we sponsored only three walks in three months! Two of the walks were by Stefanie Paventy, our Trip Coordinator, and one by me! We had temporarily abandoned one of our fundamental roles—bringing the wonder of birds to our members, especially our new ones. So, **I have recruited a roster of 10 outstanding leaders for 10 walks in July, August, and September.** 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 summer!

If you look at the back page, you will see that we have made great progress in filling our Officer and Director positions. Now we have just **one vacancy—Trip Coordinator Director.** Please consider helping out the Club by volunteering for this important job, which I am filling on an interim basis. Aside from attending Board meetings, this job can be done at home by email on one's own schedule once per quarter.

Good birding!

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 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.

The Kingfisher is published quarterly. Deadline for the next issue: September 14, 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

Tri-colored Heron

Truro

photo by
Ron
Cadillac



Programs and Club Bird Walks (Summer 2019)

► **Monthly meetings and programs** resume 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.

September 9, 2019: “Mongolia – Wildlife and Wild Spaces”

David Larson, Science and Education Coordinator for Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center

Mongolia has always epitomized the remote, the exotic, and the mysterious. A vast wilderness that relatively few westerners have explored even today, Mongolia contains limitless vistas of mountains, steppes, and deserts, all of which provide habitat for countless strange and wonderful animals and plants that inhabit this arid heart of Central Asia. In his presentation, Dave Larson will describe the wildlife of the country's most productive areas, including the great rolling expanses of Mongolian steppe outside Ulaan Baatar; the Mongolian Great Lakes and Turgen Mountains, where all the major ecosystems found in Central Asia are encompassed; and the Gobi desert, parts of which are home to the region's rarest endemic species and where few visitors have ventured.

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 our best-loved birds of prey. Alan will also have copies of his new book for sale after the talk.

Summer 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, always check our website www.capecodbirdclub.org. **TRIPS /WALKS are listed by BIRDING HOTSPOT and date. The trip/walk coordinator is Peter Bono.** Contact him (pbono@prba.com) with general questions and if you'd like to lead a walk in 2019-20; contact the trip leaders for details about specific walks.

July 2019

Bell's Neck and West Harwich Conservation Areas

Herb Raffaele (birds.18@hotmail.com; home: 774-237-9954; cell: 703-380-3593) – **Thursday, July 11, 7AM – 9:30AM**

Meet at Bell's Neck Road at the small parking area between the East and West Reservoir. We will explore some mixed woodland and also look for whatever waterbirds may be around.

Walks continue next page

Club Bird Walks (Summer 2019)**August 2019****West Dennis Beach**

Peter Bono (pbono@prba.com; 774-487-2848) – **Saturday, August 3, 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.

Sandpipers and Suds – Ellisville State Park, Plymouth

Brian Harrington (brian.harrington205@gmail.com; 774-487-2683) – **Monday, August 5, 5 PM**

Cross the Sagamore Bridge, drive north on Route 3A for 5.3 miles, and join us for late afternoon shorebirding at Ellisville Marsh, where the migration show has been getting better every year. Meet at Ellisville State Park. After shorebirding, feel free to join your leader for dinner and friendship at the British Beer Company nearby in Ellisville.

Crane Wildlife Management Area – Falmouth

Keelin Miller (capekeelin@hotmail.com; 646-334-5575) & Peter Fang (fangmail@comcast.net; 774-763-6752) – **Sunday, August 18, 8 AM**

Avoid the crowds down in Woods Hole and Falmouth Heights for the Falmouth Road Race by joining our bird walk on the north side of Falmouth at Crane WMA. 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 might even be lucky enough to glimpse a bobwhite, bobolink, or a blue grosbeak!

Fall migration at Sandy Neck

Peter Crosson (capecodbirder@gmail.com; 508-280-1678) – **Thursday, August 22, 7 AM**

Meet at the hikers' parking lot near the gatehouse at Sandy Neck Beach Park. We will walk a loop along the Marsh Trail, through the dunes, and back along the beach, looking for migrating shorebirds, songbirds, and terns. Depending on the weather, we might get treated to some pelagic species! Expect about 1.5 miles of walking in soft sand.

September 2019**Birding Barnstable Harbor/Long Pasture MAS**

Peter Crosson (capecodbirder@gmail.com; 508-280-1678) – **Tuesday, September 3, 8 AM**

Meet in the main parking lot for Mass Audubon's Long Pasture wildlife sanctuary near the end of Bone Hill Road. We will bird a bit around the sanctuary grounds and then head down to Barnstable Harbor for shorebirds and terns at low tide.

Race Point Beach, Provincetown

Peter Flood (pomarine@comcast.net; 508-364-7363) – **Saturday, September 14, 7 AM**

Meet at the Race Point Beach parking lot. We will search for four species of shearwaters, storm-petrels, post-breeding staging Common and Roseate Terns, jaegers, shorebirds, and perhaps some marine mammals including whales and seals. Be prepared to do some light walking in soft sand up to 2 miles. Bring drinking water and a light snack.

Scusset Beach State Park – Sagamore

John Goodchild (john.goodchild@worcester.edu; 508-532-8482) – **Saturday, September 14, 7 AM**

Visit Sagamore Hill, the Cape Cod Canal, and Scusset Beach. Meet at the fish pier parking lot, which is about a quarter mile past the State Park entrance kiosk.

Fort Hill – Eastham

Christine Bates (cmharris86@gmail.com; 774-722-2147) - **Friday, September 20, 8:30AM**

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.

Fort Hill – Eastham

Jim Sweeney (assawompsett@yahoo.com; 401-465-6668) - **Sunday, September 29, 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.

Club News; Club Merchandise

CCBC Elections—Results from Annual Meeting on May 13, 2019

Officers: Peter Bono was re-elected President, and Fran Raleigh was elected to her first full term as Secretary. New Officers elected are David Clapp, Vice President, and Maria Curley, Treasurer. Past Treasurer, MJ Foti, will be appointed as Assistant Treasurer, and she will serve throughout the year as she teaches Maria the many and varied tasks carried out by the Treasurer. MJ did a fabulous job these past two years learning all the functions of the Treasurer, handling membership applications, keeping the books, and assuring that the Club's 501(c)3's status remains up-to-date. **Thank you, Mary Jo!**

Directors: John Goodchild was elected to a full 3-year term as Merchandise Manager, and Ron Cadillac was elected to fill out the term (until June 2020) of Publicity & Outreach Manager. Since the election, Bob Forbes has volunteered to take on the Refreshments job, assisted by Marilyn Forbes. Bob will be appointed in July; his term expires in June 2021.

Our dedicated and loyal Trips Coordinator, Stephanie Paventy, stepped down after many years of nagging trip leaders and leading many walks herself. We owe Stephanie a great deal of thanks. She kept the Walks Program going in difficult times.

Bravo Stephanie!

Bird Walk Species (January—June 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 **130 species from 23 shared eBird checklists**.

Ed Banks' New Years Day walk got us off to a good start with 41 species, including some hard to get species like Canvasback and Redhead. Ginie Page's P'town walk soon thereafter added Eared Grebe, Razorbill, Iceland Gull, and Snow Bunting. Our first owls, Eastern Screech and N. Saw-whet, were recorded on Jan 19th by Peter Crosson's group. Another walk led by Peter at the end of April added Barred Owl and our first wood warblers of the year. John Goodchild's group found our first Piping Plover on April 30th. May found us running our annual weekend walks at Beech Forest, along with other walks around the Cape. By the end of May our cumulative list showed 20 wood warblers, including such favorites as Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, and Canada, as well as Northern Waterthrush. Summer Tanager and Swainson's Thrush were among the less common species recorded. **Special thanks to all those walk leaders!** No walks were held in June. Keep tuned for more updates in *The Kingfisher* as the year progresses.

Correction: In the Spring Issue, the photos of Common Redpoll & Green Heron were incorrectly credited: Alison Carvounis is the photographer.

Welcome to Our New Members (April 2019 — June 2019)

Stephen Channell
Saugus

Carol Charpentier
Marston Mills

David Kent
Falmouth

Bill & Suzanne Lyons
N. Falmouth

Kevin & Melissa Mooney
Provincetown

Heather Pichard
Wellfleet

Opportunity to Add to Your Wardrobe (August 2019)

If your birding outfit is likely to frighten away the fall migrants, CCBC is offering a solution! On August 1, in collaboration with Cape Cod Embroidery, we will be launching our new website with shirts, caps, hats, jackets and backpacks bearing the club's Belted Kingfisher logo.

So check www.capecodbirdclub.org after mid-July for the official announcement of the launch of the merchandise website.

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.

Costa Rica, A Rich Biodiversity Hotspot by Maria Curley

I was thrilled when Peter asked me to write an article for The Kingfisher about our summer undergraduate biology course that my husband and I have taught in four past summers (2013, 2014, 2015 & 2017).

The course runs through Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles, CA, and is a 3-credit upper division biology course: "BIOL 398 - Tropical Ecology and Culture in Costa Rica." Most trips we have had anywhere from 10-23 students. What an amazing immersion experience for most of them, some of whom have never traveled abroad. It really is the trip of a lifetime for them and us! For those of you who have had the privilege and pleasure of traveling to and through this amazing tropical paradise, you can relate to what I am about to share. For those of you who have not traveled to Costa Rica yet, it is a must-see destination to add to your bucket list!

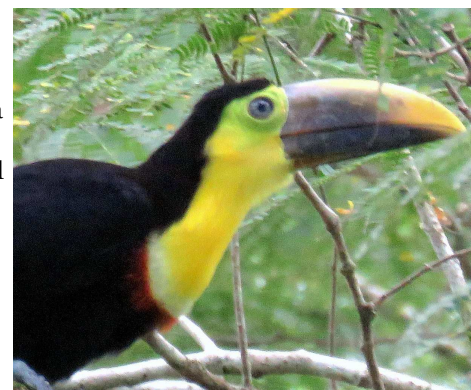


Costa Rica, or "rich coast," as the Spaniards first dubbed her, although not rich in gold (much to the dismay of the would-be conquerors), is rich in biodiversity. When you travel from the Caribbean coast to the Pacific coast, and everywhere in-between, you can see the vast array of plants and animals first-hand. A young country in geological time, lifted by the Cocos Plate ~ 5 million years ago, Costa Rica hits the charts in biodiversity richness in a myriad of areas, from insects to mammals, reptiles, amphibians, plants, and, you guessed it, birds! Although our course is not focused solely on birds, being birders ourselves, we naturally gravitated towards taking pictures of some extraordinary birds on our travels through the various life zones and biomes like the tropical rainforest of Tirimbina, the dry forest, the mangroves (mangroves make up 1% of Costa Rica), the beaches of Tortuguero and Ostional, the cloud forests of Monteverde and San Gerardo in the Children's Eternal Rainforest, and even to the top of the Continental Divide, a spot where one can view both the Caribbean and the Pacific at the same time. Simply breathtaking!



Some of our favorite birds in this beautiful country of Costa Rica include the Montezuma Oropendola (*Psarocolius montezuma*), with its interesting vocalization that it emits as it swings upside down and then back right-side up! And, the distinct look and vocalization of the Three-wattled Bellbird (*Procnias tricarunculatus*) is a one-of-a-kind "honk" that sounds more like a machine than an actual bird! Neither of these birds are as glorious as the Resplendent Quetzal, but we admired them for their unique vocalizations and behavior. There are bird species galore that we had always wanted to see and instantly fell in love with each and every course trip: the trogons, hummingbirds (The Hummingbird Gallery in Santa Elena is a must-visit!), vultures, toucans, wrens, tanagers,

kites, swallows, macaws (scarlet and blue), hawks (including a beautiful and widespread hawk of the neotropics, the White Hawk, *Pseudastur albicollis*), and many, many migratory birds like warblers, orioles, osprey, and more. With just a one-page article, there are too many to share here, so I have included the links to course blogs I kept of our trips, where you can find a myriad of pictures capturing the essence of Costa Rica and her people (and birds!). If you have any questions about any travel ideas, places to go in this amazing country, etc., please reach out by email (mcurley04@gmail.com), and I'd be happy to share our course itinerary and my favorite places we visited.



Course Blogs:

2013: <https://lmucostaricajourney.wordpress.com/>

2014: <https://lmucostarica2014.wordpress.com/>

2015: <https://lmucostarica2015.wordpress.com/>

2017: <https://lmucostarica2017.com/>

Good Birding! (Buena observación de aves!)

Montezuma Oropendola (top), Three-wattled Bellbird (left), Channel-billed Toucan (right): photos by Maria Curley

Member Photo Gallery



Photos by David Clapp from Texas (Scott's Oriole & Greater Roadrunner) and Cape Cod (Curlew Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Iceland Gull)



Photos by Peter Bono from Germany, Czech Republic and Poland (clockwise from upper left): Common Merganser, European Nuthatch, Fieldfare, Black Stork, Mandarin, and Common Wood Pigeon

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 donations are much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Membership dues \$ _____
Conservation & Education Fund \$ _____
Extra Tax-deductible 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**

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	<i>vacant</i>	Trips Coordinator	
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