



The Kingfisher

VOL 47 (2)

Winter (Jan—Mar) 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 had a chance to get out and go birding this fall. I just finished doing my ponds as part of the Winter Wildfowl Survey—now in its 35th year. While the absolute numbers of individuals and species were down for me this year, I was pleased to see four male Wood Ducks on one of my ponds. They are infrequent on the ponds that I survey.

If you haven't participated in the Survey or on a Christmas Count, why not make yourself a New Year's resolution to become a more active birder in 2019. Help co-lead a bird walk, join a survey, help maintain the Bluebird Trail (see page 6)—these are just a few of the ways you can enrich your birding experiences in the coming year.

We were successful in recruiting two new Directors: Lisa Collins to take on Refreshments and Cheryl Collins to serve as Secretary; however, we are still looking for a **Vice-President** and a **Director of Publicity**. Please contact me if you can help. I **NEED TO FILL BOTH THESE POSITIONS** as soon as possible! Position descriptions can be found on the CCBC Website.

As I mentioned in the last *The Kingfisher*, the Board is looking at giving micro-grants (\$100-\$1000) to non-profits in the Americas, where their work would have a positive impact on endangered species and on birds that summer here. See Herb Raffaele's article on page 5, and give us your reaction—positive and negative.

Our 2018 Young Birder Scholarship winner, Chelsea Philbrook, who spent a week at the National Audubon Summer Camp on Hog Island, Maine, last June, describes her experiences on page 4. As I have mentioned multiple times in the past, in recent years, we've had to struggle to get one good application. So, we are considering whether we might broaden that program by funding **ornithology education training for Cape Cod science teachers**. However, until we have a Vice President in place, the Board does not have sufficient volunteer resources to move this initiative forward. In the meantime, we have reserved one place at the Audubon Camp again in 2019. If you know of any worthy **Cape Cod teens**, please encourage them to apply.

If you can help us by **volunteering to bring refreshments, help with publicity, and co-lead 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. 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.

In this issue:

President's Message	1
Programs	2
Club Bird Walks	2-3
Borestone & Hog Island	4
Conservation Initiatives	5
Bluebirds 2018	6
New Members	6
Membership Form	7
Board Members	8

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

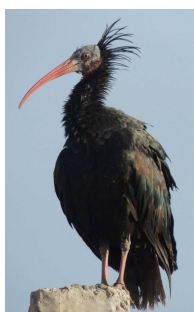
CCBC Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub

Northern Bald Ibis

Morocco

photo by
Peter Bono



Programs and Club Bird Walks (Winter 2019)

► **Monthly meetings and programs** continue with meetings on **Monday, January 14, February 11, and March 11**. 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.

January 14, 2019: *Check the Website*

February 11, 2019:

“Palila: inside the efforts to save and restore an endangered Hawaiian honeycreeper”

Luanne Johnson

From 1996 – 2001, Luanne was the Palila Restoration Project Field Leader on Mauna Kea, Hawaii. Working for Project Leader, Paul Banko, at the Kilauea Field Station, Luanne led a team of field technicians and interns in Palila nesting studies, translocations to an historic site, habitat assessments, and annual point counts to estimate the population. In this talk, she'll share about the threats to Palila and other honeycreepers of the dry forest, what they learned during her years there, their efforts to restore the population, the complexities of conservation biology, and what the future may hold for the last of the finch-billed honeycreepers on the main Hawaiian Islands.

Luanne Johnson is a wildlife biologist and Director of BiodiversityWorks, a Martha's Vineyard non-profit focusing on wildlife research, monitoring, and mentoring young adults in field biology. She has a bachelor's degree in Zoology from Butler University and a PhD in Environmental Studies/Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England. She is passionate about biodiversity conservation and works to fill knowledge gaps for wildlife species on Martha's Vineyard and nearby areas.

March 11, 2018: *Check the Website*

Winter 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.

Late December: Christmas Bird Counts

Don't forget your local Christmas Bird Count! <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>

January 2019

New Year's Day – Mid-Cape

Ed Banks, 508-769-6762 or 68edbanks@gmail.com – Tuesday, January 1, 12PM (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 2019 year list off to a great start! Click off your yard birds in the morning and join us at noon. We will bird the mid-Cape or perhaps some hot spots. Party hats optional!

Pier to Pier Sweep – Outer Cape

Ginie Page, vgpage@juno.com or 508-349-6810 – Thursday, January 10, 8:30AM

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.

Walks continue next page

Club Bird Walks (Winter 2019) and Club Merchandise

January 2019 (continued)

Owl Prowl - West Barnstable

Peter Crosson, pcrosson@emeraldphysicians.com or 508-280-1678 – Saturday, January 19, 4:30PM

We will explore West Barnstable Conservation Area in search of resident owls! This area is known for Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl. It will be chilly, but the sounds of the birds will be worth it! Meet at the parking area off of Crooked Cartway via Race Lane.

February 2019

Road Trip to Rhode Island

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 - Saturday, February 16, 7AM

Possible places to visit will include the Portsmouth Town Pond, St. Mary's Pond, Sachuest Point, Beavertail State Park, Trustom Pond, and more, depending on time. We will be guided by open water during hard winter conditions. The focus of the trip will be waterfowl, but we should see a great diversity of birds during the day. We can stop somewhere for lunch or brown-bag it. Bad weather cancels. *Please RSVP to Stefanie as there is limited seating.* Meet at the commuter parking lot off of Main Street in Buzzards Bay (behind Krua Thai Restaurant near the railroad bridge).

Yarmouth Area

Peter Bono, pbono@prba.com or 774-487-2848 – Sunday, February 17, 8AM

We are going to explore the Yarmouth area including fantastic places like Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, Hallet's Mill Pond, Water Street Marsh, Bass Creek and Dennis Chapin Beach. We will meet at Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary and head east from there.

West Dennis Beach - Dennis

Herb Raffaele, birds.18@hotmail.com or 774-237-9954 - Sunday, February 24, 8AM Meet at the entrance to West Dennis Beach. We will look for ducks, loons, Snow Buntings, Purple Sandpipers and more!

March 2019

Fort Hill – Eastham

Stefanie Paventy, stefpav09@gmail.com or 203-415-1956 - Saturday, March 23, 2PM

Join us for a walk along the loop trail at Fort Hill in Eastham. We will watch the marsh for birds coming in on the rising tide. Hopefully a bittern or rail will pass by. High tide will be at 2:58PM. Meet in the lower parking lot on Fort Hill Road. Wear waterproof knee-high boots if you want to search for passerines in the marsh.

Cape Cod Canal & Sandwich Marina - Sandwich

John Goodchild, john.goodchild@worcester.edu – Saturday, March 30, 8AM

We will scope the water at the Horizon's Parking Lot for eiders, loons, grebes, scoters, and maybe a Harlequin Duck or King Eider. Winter shorebirds are possible along the jetties. From there we will head over to the Sandwich Marina to see what else we can find. Meet in the parking lot of Horizon's Restaurant, at the end of Town Neck Road, Sandwich.

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.

Young Birder Scholarship Winner

My Trip to Borestone and Hog Island by Chelsea Philbrook

I first got into birding because of my grandpa who loved birds. I did not know him very well because I was so young at the time; but when I got older, I became more interested in birding and decided to follow in his footsteps. When my Horticulture teacher first told me about the Young Birder Scholarship, I will admit I did not want to go at first because I was very nervous, since I've never done anything like this before, but, in the end, I was very glad that I went.

The first place we went was Borestone mountain, and staying there was amazing. Learning the history of the cabin that we stayed at was really cool. It was interesting to learn how the three ponds that surrounded the cabin were used for a fish hatchery at one point; however now, there is not a single fish in any of the three ponds. The second day there, we climbed to the summit of the mountain. While we were up there, I got to see a peregrine falcon and a couple of turkey vultures, and I also saw a bald eagle sitting on a tree branch on an island in a larger pond. I had a wonderful time at Borestone. The scenery was amazing and beautiful, the food was delicious, and even though it rained for most of the time while we were there, it was still amazing.

After Borestone we went to Hog Island. While we were traveling, we stopped at a trail and took a walk, and I was able to see a ruffed grouse and its chicks. After that, we stopped at the pond near where we hiked and had lunch, where I got to see a common loon. After lunch, we split into two groups. One group went on a walk to learn how to use cameras, while the other group learned how to use binoculars. I learned how to use binoculars, though I did not have a great pair. After we left that spot, we stopped at a few more places before we got to Hog Island. When we arrived at Hog Island, I enjoyed having to take a boat over to the island. It was really cool.

One of my two favorite moments of the Mountains to Sea Birding for Teens trip was climbing to the summit of Borestone mountain and seeing the peregrine falcon. My other favorite moment was taking a boat to Egg Rock and seeing where the Atlantic Puffins nest. The one thing I wish I had on the trip was a much better camera than the one I had taken, so I could've gotten some good pictures of the many birds we saw.



Overall I'd have to say that Mountains to Sea Birding for Teens was the coolest trip that I went on this summer. It was very enlightening for me because I liked birding, but I had no idea of how big of a birding community there is. I am very thankful for the scholarship to this camp and had a great adventure, and I'm appreciative of all the instructors that were running the camp, because they did a fantastic job.

photos: Atlantic Puffins (Charlie Martin); Eastern Screech-Owl (Mark Faherty); Pacific Loon (Peter Flood)



© Mark Faherty



Expanding our Conservation Impact with a focus on the Caribbean by Herb Raffaele

Coupled with enjoying birds is a concern for their survival. That is reflected in over 50 million Americans spending \$4 billion per year on seed and feeders to keep our avian friends happy. Unfortunately, distributing bird seed, while bolstering our personal satisfaction, saves few if any bird species. Too bad—that's a lot of money!

The Board of the Cape Cod Bird Club is looking at how we, as an organization, and you, as concerned members, might do more. We have some intriguing opportunities.



Despite occurring over a year ago, the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico remains vivid in most of our memories. The **Puerto Rico Ornithological Society (PROS)**, a small, non-profit organization, is striving against ominous odds to promote awareness and concern among the island's populace for the 18 species of endemic birds, birds found only in Puerto Rico and nowhere else in the world. One of those, the **Puerto Rican Tody**, is reported to have declined 90% due to the hurricane. To that end, the PROS conducts an Endemic Bird Day Festival for which it needs outreach materials to distribute to school children and the public in general. A small contribution from the CCBC for the production of these materials could go a long way to helping make Puerto Ricans proud of their unique avian heritage.

On another Caribbean island not far from Puerto Rico – the isle of Barbuda – resides a single endemic bird, the diminutive **Barbuda Warbler**. Barbuda was so devastated by Hurricane Maria that every single inhabitant had to be evacuated. On a positive note, the Barbuda Warbler was found to have survived, but its status is of serious concern. CCBC could collaborate with the **Antiguan Environmental Awareness Group** under the leadership of Junior Prosper, a conservationist of high stature in the Caribbean, to promote the warbler as a flagship species to bolster pride among islanders as they restore their homes and countryside. Support from CCBC would be used to produce outreach materials about the warbler and its importance to the heritage of the nation. As Barbuda was abandoned during the hurricane, there may be unique opportunities to conserve this species. Antigua/Barbuda's population is in the order of 100,000 people; consequently, limited resources can reach a significant proportion of the populace.



All Caribbean parrot species, like the **Blue-and-Yellow Macaw**, have declined: a major reason is harvesting for the pet trade. A fine, new organization working in Trinidad named **Conservation Leadership in the Caribbean (Clic)** has created a team of outstanding young conservation professionals which, as a training exercise, is developing outreach initiatives to reduce the illegal parrot and macaw trade in Trinidad. This team is led by an extraordinary young Trinidadian named Aliya Hosein. The CCBC could support the production of outreach materials and training seminars to address this issue.



The **Societe Ecologique d'Haiti** is working to boost nature education in Haitian schools. Two hundred and ninety students were recently taught the negative aspects of hunting and caging birds. They also plant trees and learn how they help both birds and people. A second group, the **Haitian Audubon Society**, in addition to educating local people about birds, is working to develop a new Haitian currency with images of endemic birds on each bill. Philippe Bayard, who leads the latter organization, has excellent contacts in Haiti and would be an excellent collaborator. Support from the CCBC would assist one or both of these organizations to further efforts to promote bird conservation in that poorest of Western Hemisphere countries, which, along with the Dominican Republic, hosts 34 endemic bird species like the **Hispaniolan Trogon**—the most in the Caribbean.



So, there you have it! We, as individuals and as an organization, can truly make a difference in bird conservation. We just need to know the right groups in the right places. The CCBC Board welcomes your thoughts on this potential initiative, so please provide us some feedback!

Crowes Pasture Mysteries – Summer 2018 by Carolyn Kennedy

“Knock, knock, who’s there?” A question asked by a team of Cape Cod Bird Club volunteers who monitored 15 nest boxes in Crowes Pasture last summer as they gently knocked on each box and peeked inside. Starting in March with an inventory of winter damage and a clean out of boxes, volunteers visited Crowes Pasture Conservation Area in East Dennis 27 times from April through early August to see which species was using each box. The progress of nest building, egg laying, and raising a family was tracked through the summer.

It all sounds so simple! But then come the surprises. A new species moved in and built its nest atop the first one. Eggs go missing. Nests are built and abandoned—why? Since Crowes Pasture is certainly not “wired” to record all the activity that takes place between our visits, most of these interactions between species remain mysteries, although we have witnessed attacks, defensive maneuvers, and wrestling matches between species.

Tree Swallows seem to be arriving earlier each year, perhaps driven by warming temperatures. Sometimes it is too cold here along the shore of Cape Cod Bay for their insect prey to be available. But the Tree Swallows provide competition for the resident Eastern Bluebirds in choice of nest boxes. This summer additional competition was provided by an influx of House Wrens; eight of the 15 boxes had evidence of House Wren use. In some boxes a few characteristic stout sticks were deposited. In others, the House Wrens filled the entire box with sticks and then created a nest cup in a top corner. The crowded boxes make it very difficult to document the number of eggs and young. One volunteer, Lisa Collins, found an ingenious new lighted device for peering into boxes that helped our accuracy.

Members of the CCBC team record each week’s changes. As coordinator, I try to sort them out on a master spreadsheet. The results from the summer of 2018 show the following:



- 8 Eastern Bluebirds fledged from 4 nesting attempts (from 11 eggs)
 - 36 Tree Swallows fledged from 10 nesting attempts (from 49 eggs)
 - At least 12 House Wrens fledged from 8 nests (from 19+ eggs)
 - The Osprey nest in Quivet Creek did not produce young this year.
- Another mystery; perhaps predation or an inexperienced pair.

The nest box results were recorded at Cornell’s *NestWatch* website for use by researchers interested in cavity nesting species. Osprey results were reported to Mass Audubon’s Osprey project.

Many thanks to the team of dedicated monitors: **Lisa and Cheryl Collins, Steve Petruska and Tom Alouise.**

Here’s hoping that those reading this article will consider joining us next summer and help to resolve some of nature’s birding mysteries.

Photo credits: “Cafeteria Line”, Janet DiMattia (top); “Fledglings”, Kathy Kennedy (bottom)



Welcome to Our New Members (September — November 2018)

David Bates, Brewster

Leah Belliveau, Brewster

Arthur and Karen Boujoukos
Harwich

Lynn Budell, Harwich

Alison Cadillac, W. Yarmouth

Ken Fearn, Orleans

Sherra Fermino (Patron)
Los Angeles, CA

Paul Marinaccio, East Orleans

Deb Setterlund, Orleans

**Donna, Howard, Sadie, &
Sean Ulman**, Mashpee

**Mary, Myles, Andrew, &
Ryan Walsh**, N. Falmouth

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 \$ _____
Research & 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 \$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> Peter Bono	President	pbono@prba.com
<i>vacant</i>	Vice President	
Cheryl Collins	Secretary	fpgreyseal@icloud.com
Mary Jo Foti	Treasurer	maryjo1226@yahoo.com
<i>Directors:</i> Mark Faherty	Programs	mfaherty@massaudubon.org
Lisa Collins	Refreshments	yellobird@comcast.net
Stefanie Paventy	Trips Coordinator	stefpav09@gmail.com
John Goodchild	Merchandise Coordinator	john.goodchild@worchester.edu
Herb Raffaele	Membership Chair	birds.18@hotmail.com
<i>vacant</i>	Publicity and Outreach	
<i>Ex-officio:</i> Peter Bono	<i>The Kingfisher</i> Editor	pbono@prba.com

Follow the Cape Cod Bird Club on our website and on our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub>

