



# The Kingfisher

VOL 48 (3)

Spring (Apr — Jun) 2020

The Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the second Monday of each month, Sept through May, at 7:00PM at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster, MA.

## President's Message

Three weeks ago I had just come back from the Mass Audubon Annual Birders Meeting held at Holy Cross College in Worcester. The theme of the meeting was "Epic Journeys: Following Bird Migration." I was inspired by all the presentations to resolve to get out and bird more often this spring—to experience the wonders of migration in person.

Now most of us are stuck at home and mostly indoors. While that gives us time for catching up on a backlog of household chores and reading, most of us are missing our daily interactions with people. One website you might investigate is Cornell's Bird Academy (see <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/>). Take a course and improve your skills.

If you are really fortunate, you have a wild area adjacent to your home where you can wander while still keeping your social distance. My condo has a small garden area, and I am keeping my feeders stocked and my bird bath filled with fresh water, so I get a regular crowd of 10 to 15 species each day that bathe and gobble down my suet, cracked corn, and sunflower chips.

On page 2, you will see that we have cancelled all CCBC activities through the end of April. Based on the current trajectory of the infection, I think it is likely that we will have to postpone the May meeting. I have reserved the meeting room for June 15th, in case we are, by then, allowed to hold meetings. If that does not happen, it will be next September before we meet again.

Our By-Laws require us to have an Annual Meeting in May, at which meeting we elect our Officers and some Directors for the coming fiscal year (July 2020 through June 2021). If holding the meeting is impossible due to the public health situation, we will hold the election by email and postal mail (for those that do not have email). On page 6, you will find the slate of nominees for the various positions being filled for the next year.

**HELP WANTED:** I am still looking for someone to take on the responsibilities of **Newsletter Editor**. The majority of the work can be done at home by computer on one's own schedule once per quarter. Please consider helping out the Club by volunteering for this important job, which I have been filling on an *interim* (!) basis for the past three years.

I hope you will all try to get out and bird during the magical period of migration, which peaks between late April through mid-May here on the Cape. Please continue to practice social distancing; we should not be seeing many shared eBird lists, except those shared among people who are already living together.

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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Send articles, images, etc. to the editor, Peter Bono, at [pbono@prba.com](mailto:pbono@prba.com)

CCBC Website:

[www.capecodbirdclub.org](http://www.capecodbirdclub.org)  
(with color copy of *Kingfisher*)

Webmaster: Terry Gavin

[wbmstr@capecodbirdclub.org](mailto:wbmstr@capecodbirdclub.org)

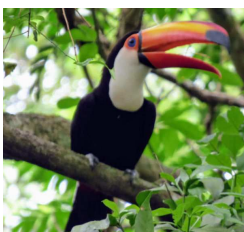
CCBC Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/  
CapeCodBirdClub](https://www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub)

Toco  
Toucan

Argentina

photo by  
Neil Miller



## Programs and Club Bird Walks (Spring 2020)

► **Monthly meetings and programs** 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](http://www.capecodbirdclub.org)) for detailed information about the programs.

**April 13, 2020 Dr. Jon Atwood – “Conservation of Grassland Birds in New England”  
(POSTPONED due to Covid-19 pandemic)**

**May 11, 2020 Gina Nichol – LESVOS: Europe’s Biggest Week**



The Greek Island of Lesvos is renowned for its ancient history, incomparable natural beauty and tradition of hospitality. Celebrated as the Princess of the Northwest Aegean Sea, this stunning island has become known by birders as one of the best locations in Europe to witness spring migration. In late April and early May, a continual stream of migrating birds such as **European Bee-eaters** and **Black Storks** pass over the island as they move from their wintering grounds in Africa to their breeding grounds in Europe. Keen birders return year after year to experience the migration magic of Lesvos and search out the island’s special birds, in-

cluding Krüper’s Nuthatch, Cinereous Bunting, Cretzschmar’s Bunting, **Rüppell’s Warbler**, Sardinian Warbler, Scopoli’s Shearwater, Isabelline Wheatear, Masked and Red-backed Shrike, and more. This program will reveal the avian delights of Lesvos with vivid photographs of its birds against the backdrop of charming fishing villages, sea coasts, salt pans, sparkling rivers and lakes, and the slopes of Mount Olympus.

Gina Nichol is the founder and principal tour leader of Sunrise Birding. A naturalist and birder for more than twenty years, Gina began leading ecotours for Audubon Nature Odysseys in the early 1990’s in Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, the Pacific Northwest, and Baja California. Gina’s avid interest in wildlife biology led her to the Yellowstone Institute in Wyoming where she studied animal behavior as well as methods for tracking animal movements. She also worked on research projects investigating habitat requirements of Eurasian Otters and Mountain Lions in the Jim Sage Mountains in Idaho. Her varied interests and love of the natural world have taken her to Alaska, Costa Rica, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Kenya, Chile, the Northwest Territories, Panama, the American Southwest, California, Belize, Florida, and a host of other destinations. She has led tours in New England, Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands, Colombia, Antarctica, India, Montana and Yellowstone, Big Bend, and Coastal Texas and continues to expand the Sunrise Birding’s wildlife tour offerings.



## Club Bird Walks (Spring 2020)

**Spring 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](http://www.capecodbirdclub.org/walks). **TRIPS /WALKS are listed by BIRDING HOTSPOT and date. The trip/walk coordinator is MJ Foti.** Contact her ([maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com)) with general questions and offers to lead a walk in 2020; contact a trip leader for details about specific walks.

### April 2020

**All CCBC Walks in April have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions.**

Check the CCBC website for any new walks that might be scheduled after *The Kingfisher* went to the printer.

Also, before taking any scheduled walk, check the website to make sure that the date, time, and meeting point have not changed and that the walk has not been cancelled.

### May 2020



#### Beech Forest Walks for May 2020 – Provincetown

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

**Sunday, May 3** — Al Curtis, [killdeer89@comcast.net](mailto:killdeer89@comcast.net) (508-432-8677)

**Wednesday, May 6** - David Clapp, [ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com](mailto:ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com) (508-896-7322)

**Saturday, May 9** — Ed Banks, [68edbanks@gmail.com](mailto:68edbanks@gmail.com) (508-769-6762)

**Sunday, May 10** — Maria Curley, [mcurley04@gmail.com](mailto:mcurley04@gmail.com) (508-789-8768)

**Wednesday, May 13** - David Clapp, [ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com](mailto:ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com) (508-896-7322)

**Saturday, May 16** — Peter Bono, [pbono@prba.com](mailto:pbono@prba.com) (774-487-2848)

**Sunday, May 17** — Peter Crosson, [capecodbirder@gmail.com](mailto:capecodbirder@gmail.com) (508-280-1678)

**Wednesday, May 20** - David Clapp, [ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com](mailto:ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com) (508-896-7322)

**Saturday, May 23** — Keelin Miller, [capekeelin@hotmail.com](mailto:capekeelin@hotmail.com) (646-334-5575)

**Wednesday, May 27** - David Clapp, [ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com](mailto:ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com) (508-896-7322)

*Walks continue on the next page*

## Bird Walks (continued); Club News; Club Merchandise

June 2020

### Frost Fish Creek - Chatham

*David Clapp (ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com; cell 508-896-7322) - Wednesday, June 3rd, 7:30 AM - 11 AM*

Meet at Marconi Maritime Center, Rte. 28, Chatham. We'll walk the trails at Frost Fish Creek to observe a variety of passerines, waterfowl, and heron.

### Bell's Neck Conservation Area - Harwich

*MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com; cell 914-262-5878) - Sunday, June 7, 8 AM - 11 AM*

Meet at Bell's Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir. We will explore some hidden mixed woodland and old cranberry bogs for passerines. We'll also take advantage of low tide conditions to look for ducks and shorebirds on the West Reservoir. Please bring your boots and be prepared for swampy conditions!

### Bell's Neck Conservation Area - Harwich

*David Clapp (ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com; cell 508-896-7322) - Wednesday, June 10th, 7:30 AM - 11 AM*

Meet at the Herring Run Parking Lot off Depot Street. There is a small sign on the left side of Depot that designates hiking. This turns onto a dirt road that passes a cranberry bog on the left and leads into the herring run parking lot.

### Navigation Rd. - Barnstable

*Maria Curley (mcurley04@gmail.com; cell 508-789-8768) - Saturday, June 13th, 8 AM - 10:30 AM*

Meet at the commuter parking lot by Burger King (Exit 6 off of Route 6). We can carpool to Navigation Road from there. We are going to scope Great Marsh while the tide rises at Navigation Road. High tide is at 11:59 AM. We might also walk the dirt road for any passerines. Please be prepared for wet conditions; although we will stand on the deck of the marsh house during high tide, the path may be wet and mucky. Bring waterproof, knee-high boots. This bird walk has minimal walking requirements, but we will be standing for at least 2 hours.

### Crowes Pasture - Dennis

*David Clapp (ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com; cell 508-896-7322) - Wed., June 17th, 7:30 AM - 11AM*

Meet at Drummer Boy Park. We'll carpool to parking area, observe a variety of passerines, and watch the nest boxes for bluebirds and tree swallow.

## Bird Walk Species (January—Mar 2020)

Last year we started keeping 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 **70 species from 10 shared eBird checklists**. Despite the cancelling of all the March walks, we have gotten off to a good start in 2020! Best birds include **Common** and **Thick-billed Murre**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Fox Sparrow**. Contact Peter Bono, CCBC President, if you would like a list of the species seen during the whole of 2019.

## Welcome to Our New Members (Jan 2020 — Mar 2020)

Patricia Casey, South Yarmouth	Everett Eldridge, Harwich	Whitney Farnham, Centerville
Mary Fierman, South Yarmouth	Richard & Maureen Floyd, West Barnstable	Denise Fritchey, Eastham
Paul Heanue Newton, MA	Peter Johnson-Staub, Sandwich	Michael & Linda Reveruzzi Brewster
	Kristin Rose, W. Harwich	

## Merchandise Corner

Our collaboration with Cape Cod Embroidery is closed until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. We will notify members when we reopen our website (<https://ccbird.itemorder.com/>). You will be able to purchase items such as shirts, caps, hats, jackets and backpacks bearing the club's Belted Kingfisher logo. Meanwhile, if you need anything, contact John Goodchild, the CCBC Merchandise Director ([john.goodchild@worchester.edu](mailto:john.goodchild@worchester.edu)).



## Three Young Birder Scholarships Awarded for 2020

In November of 2019, the Cape Cod Bird Club announced the application process for bird study scholarships available for students to Hog Island, Maine, and Costa Rica Audubon camps. As a follow-up to that application process (deadline was January 11, 2020), we are pleased to announce that **three (3) bird study scholarships have been awarded** to teens from the Cape Cod area. Students were required to submit their application along with an essay about their interest in birds and future application of the knowledge gained from attending the camp. Many quality applications were received from various schools, and we thank all students for applying. The students who were selected come from varied birding backgrounds, but all share a common interest in bird conservation and stewardship of the Earth and her resources. Students will receive a full-tuition scholarship to the camp they attend.

We are excited to announce the **following scholarship awards** for this summer's bird study camps:

**Phoebe Gibson** – Barnstable High School - Scholarship to Mountains to Sea Birding for Teens – Hog Island, Maine

**Chime Pelzom** – Barnstable High School - Scholarship to Teen Week in Costa Rica

**Emily Swift** – Barnstable High School – Scholarship to Field Ornithology – Hog Island, Maine

Past scholarship winners have come from various schools including Sturgis Charter School, Falmouth HS, Nauset Regional HS, Upper Cape Regional Technical HS, and Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School.

The scholarship recipients will be expected to write a brief report (approx. 250 words) for the Fall 2020 edition of the CCBC newsletter. The recipients also will be expected to attend the December 2020 meeting of the CCBC at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in the early evening (7:00 – 8:00) and be available to answer member questions about their camp experience.

We would like to thank the Cape Cod Bird Club membership for their incredible support of the Club's Mission. Your generous contributions to our Conservation and Education fund have made these student scholarships possible!

## Slate of Nominees for CCBC Officer/Directors for 2020-2021

Every May, the CCBC holds an Annual Meeting to elect its Officers and Directors for the next fiscal year which starts on July 1.

Officers serve 1-year terms; Directors serve 3-year terms. Incumbents Mark Faherty (Programs—term expires 2021) and John Goodchild (Merchandise—term expires 2022) are not up for re-election this year.

The nominating committee has recruited the following members who are willing to stand for election. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Annual Meeting.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
<b>President</b>	Peter Bono (incumbent; for the last of three consecutive years)
<b>Vice President</b>	David Clapp (incumbent; for the 2nd year)
<b>Secretary</b>	Fran Raleigh (incumbent)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Maria Curley (incumbent)
<b>Director, Publicity and Outreach</b>	Peter Fang (new; for a 3-year term ending June 2023)
<b>Director, Conservation and</b>	Herb Raffaele (incumbent; for a 3-year term ending June 2023)
<b>Director, Trip Coordinator</b>	MJ Foti (incumbent; filling the last 2 years of a term ending June 2022)
<b>Director, Refreshments</b>	Rick Floyd (new; filling the last year of a term ending June 2021)

Member Photo Gallery



November 2019 in Argentina, Neil Miller (clockwise from upper left): Southern Crested Caracara, Burrowing Parrot, Surucua Trogon, Chilean Flamingo, Kelp Goose (male above, female below), Many-colored Rush-Tyrant, Plush-crested Jay



Feeder Birds in Centerville, Maria Curley (left to right): American Robin, House Finch, Carolina Wren



Bohemian Waxwing (left) in P'Town with Cedar Waxwings, David Clapp



Short-eared Owl and Pine Warbler, David Clapp

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/](http://www.capecodbirdclub.org/join/)) or on page 7 to: **CCBC, PO Box 351, Centerville, MA 02632**

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

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