



The Kingfisher

VOL 48 (2)

Winter (Jan — Mar) 2020

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.

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The Kingfisher is published quarterly. Deadline for the next issue: March 10, 2020.

Send articles, images, etc. to the editor, Peter Bono, at pbono@prba.com

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(with color copy of *Kingfisher*)

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CCBC Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub

Purple Sandpiper

Race Point, Provincetown

photo by
Peter Flood



President's Message

The last quarter of 2019 was very busy: lots of bird walks, fascinating programs, and our enjoyable holiday event. Looking forward to 2020, we have more birds and excellent programs lined up. I know it's tough getting out in the winter, but, if the weather is kind, please make an effort to join us on one of our bird walks and come to the monthly meeting. It's important that we show the volunteer walk leaders and speakers that we appreciate their efforts by showing up.

Take a look at pages 2-4. We have three great programs, given by local birders, and we have recruited a roster of 7 outstanding leaders for as many walks in January and March (no one volunteered for February). 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 winter! Read the description on the Walks page of the Club Website for more details than we have room to print in *The Kingfisher*.

On page 5, you will find the first status report of a conservation grant we made to an organization in Antigua and Barbuda that is proposing to use citizen science to raise awareness and appreciation for the natural world and its value through learning and recording data about birds. More reports will be forthcoming as the projects we have funded come to fruition. This fall we made a new award of \$598 to a teacher who needs art supplies for an in-school program in Haiti. She uses bird art to raise appreciation of the natural world. We'll get her report next summer.

In December, we hosted our annual Holiday Event (see page 6 which has photos). We tweaked the format this year: a café style table/chair setup with tablecloths and centerpieces, decorations, background holiday music lent a more informal and festive feeling to the evening. We reduced the size of the silent auction and added a raffle for a number of donated items. Despite the poor weather, we earned over \$500 for our Scholarship and Conservation initiatives. A big thank-you for all who attended and especially for our Board Members and volunteer organizers.

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 continuing to fill on an interim basis.

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.

Programs and Club Bird Walks (Winter 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) for detailed information about the programs.

January 13, 2020: “Bird and Wildlife Photo Safari Through Tanzania” Mark Faherty, CCBC Director, Senior Scientist, Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay

Tanzania now rivals Kenya as the premier bucket-list African safari destination, and with good reason. From the other-worldly Baobab tree savannas of Tarangire to the mind-blowing mammal migration of the Serengeti, the wildlife viewing is unrivaled. Many don't realize that East Africa also offers some of the best birding in the world, with many species sitting out in the open in great light or walking tamely about the savannas. This lecture, given by Wellfleet Bay Science Coordinator, Mark Faherty, will cover the bird and mammal highlights from a Mass Audubon trip to Northern Tanzania that he led in March of 2019.

Mark has been the Science Coordinator at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary since August 2007 and has led birding trips for Mass Audubon since 2002. While his current projects involve everything from oysters and horseshoe crabs to bats and butterflies, he has studied primarily bird ecology for the last 20 years, working on research projects in Kenya, Florida, Texas, California, Arizona, Mexico, and the Pacific Northwest.

February 10, 2020: “Replacing James Bond's historic bird guide: An eyewitness account” Herb Raffaele, CCBC Director, Author, and Career Biologist

James Bond's "Birds of the West Indies" was, for over half a century, the bible for those interested in the Caribbean's birdlife. Not until 1998 was that book supplanted by a more comprehensive guide. An author of that new guide, and CCBC member, will provide us a firsthand account of how the new book came about and offer a preview of fascinating revisions to be found in the upcoming new edition to be released this spring.

Dr. Herbert Raffaele, retired, was former Chief, Division of International Conservation for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where he directed conservation projects worldwide, with an emphasis on developing human resources locally and addressing root problems threatening the world's fauna and flora. He has 35 years experience in international conservation, and was formerly the Director of Wildlife Planning for Puerto Rico. Herb is the recipient of the Alexander F. Skutch Medal for Excellence in Neotropical Ornithology. He is the author of the definitive Guide to Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (1989); and co-author of A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies (1998), The Birds of the West Indies (2003), and Wildlife of the Caribbean (2014). An updated version of the West Indies guide will be issued this spring.

March 9, 2020: “Jim’s Texas Odyssey: Central, South, and West Texas Specialties” Jim Sweeney, CCBC Member, Local Naturalist

In the spring of 2018, Jim embarked on a seventeen day birding trip to Texas that included San Antonio, the lower Rio Grande Valley, Big Bend National Park, and the Edwards Plateau. During this time, 283 species were observed at key birding sites like Santa Ana NWR, the Christmas Mountains, and South Llano River State Park. This presentation will focus on avian highlights like Altamira Oriole, Tropical Parula, Hook-billed Kite, Lucifer Hummingbird, and Golden-cheeked Warbler as well as other birding hotspots visited during the peak of the spring migration.

Jim Sweeney has been birding since 1980 and is particularly interested in sparrows, seabirds, and shorebirds. He has led or co-led birding and natural history trips to Iceland, Florida, Cape May, and the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. He is a member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and currently serves on the Massachusetts Avian Records Committee. Jim recently moved to Cape Cod where he works as a Special Programs Coordinator and Educator for Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

Club Bird Walks (Winter 2020)

Winter 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.

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!

Owl Prowl—West Barnstable

Peter Crosson (capecodbirder@gmail.com; Cell 508-280-1678) – Saturday, January 18, 6 PM

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.

Cape Cod Canal & Scusset Beach

Keelin Miller (capekeelin@hotmail.com; Cell 646-334-5575) - Saturday, January 25, 8 AM

Meet at 8 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. Time permitting, we can check out the wooded trails for overwintering passerines. Bad weather cancels.

February 2020

As of press time, there were no volunteers to lead walks in February.

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.

Walks continue on the next page

Bird Walks (continued); Club News; Club Merchandise

March 2020

West Dennis Beach - Dennis

Herb Raffaele (birds.18@hotmail.com; Cell 774-237-9954) - **Saturday, March 7, 8 AM**

Meet at the entrance to West Dennis Beach. We will look for ducks, loons, Snow Buntings, Purple Sandpipers and more!

Cape Cod Canal & Scusset Beach

John Goodchild (john.goodchild@worchester.edu; Cell 413-695-6670) – **Friday, March 13, 1 PM**

Meet at 1 pm 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.

Outer Cape Cod – Joint Trip with South Shore Bird Club

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

**Saturday, March 21, 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. Our Outer Cape trip begins by walking the Fire Rd. to Race Point Beach, and then walking the beach back to RP parking lot where our rides will be waiting thanks to a well coordinated parking system. By then we'll be ready for a laid back lunch at Far Land Provisions or another local establishment. We'll then head towards Macmillan Pier, before continuing on to Eastham to check out Herring Pond as well as a couple of other nice hotspots. Layer up even if it looks like a mild day!

Fort Hill – Eastham

Christine Bates (cmharris86@gmail.com; Cell 774-722-2147) - **Wednesday, March 25, 9:30AM**

Join us for a walk along the loop trail at Fort Hill in Eastham. We will watch the marsh for migrating ducks and search the fields and woods for early arriving passerines. Meet at the trailhead parking lot across from the Penniman House at Fort Hill.

Bird Walk Species (January—Dec 2019)

For the first time in recent memory, we are 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 **180 species from 51 shared eBird checklists**. The fall migration brought some sparrows and other passerines, while the ducks and alcids also arrived to boost our list! 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 (Oct 2019 — Dec 2019)

Ethel & Peter DeBakker
Harwich

Arthur Donald
Brewster

Julie Drinkwater
Osterville

John & Denise Forsyth
Larchmont, NY

Ann Hahn
South Dennis

Guy & Jolynn Lucier
Cotuit

Aimee Pollack-Baker
Auburndale, MA

John Ruggiero
Brewster

Jennifer Wolf
Dennis Port

Merchandise Corner

Our collaboration with Cape Cod Embroidery is closed until the spring, when we will be reopening our website where you can purchase shirts, caps, hats, jackets and backpacks bearing the club's Belted Kingfisher logo. In the meantime, if you need anything, contact John Goodchild, the CCBC Merchandise Director.

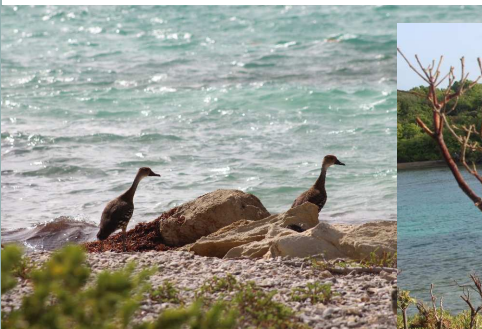
Promoting Citizen Science through Birding by Natalya Lawrence

In March 2019, Ms Shanna Challenger and Ms Natalya Lawrence, on behalf of the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), successfully submitted a project proposal to the Cape Cod Bird Club (CCBC)—a proposal that would see a cadre of Antiguan and Barbudan* residents trained to monitor and gather bird data at three key sites in the country: Fitches Creek, Bethesda Dam, and Christian Cove. These sites, designated as Important Bird Areas, are not only vital wetlands that provide invaluable ecosystem services to the country, but also are habitat for vulnerable waterfowl and other wetland birds, land birds, and shorebirds. The team jumped at this opportunity that would allow them to train residents in something that the team members were already passionate about – Bird Conservation and Citizen Science. Further, they also saw this as one of the first steps to achieving their long-term dream of converting major wetlands into areas of multiple sustainable use, including bird and mangrove conservation, as well interpretive, watchable wetlands for low impact tourism, recreational, and wellness activities. Currently, some major wetlands are used as illegal dumping sites, and, with some of the sites being privately owned, there is the threat of development if landowners do not understand the value of the site in its natural state.

The project was slated to take place from May until the end of 2019, but a major positive development occurred since. The team was able to use this current project to leverage further funding both of equipment and money that would support this project work in the same wetland sites. To date, 15 pairs of binoculars and 2 spotting scopes and tripods have been donated from BirdsCaribbean, to aid in the elaboration of this project. The binoculars will ultimately be given to the team of residents who will be trained to monitor wetlands and their birds, and who will become a part of the EAG's first ever birding club! Because the second source of funding was not finalized until later in the year, the team has been granted an extension into April, 2020, which will allow them to use the resources from both sources to implement the major in-the-classroom training activities, as well as the simultaneous counts at the wetland sites. The following table summarizes the project to date.

Action	Status
Conduct classroom training sessions	Classroom training sessions will take place in the first quarter of 2020.
Conduct field training sessions	Field training began taking place in July 2019. Participants were taken out to wetlands and coastal areas to learn to identify birds by silhouette, sound, flight pattern and behavior. A total of 7 new birders participated: Ruleo Camacho, Grantley Edwards, Nathan Wilson, Katecia Thompson, Torie Warner, Sophia Steele, Kelly Hay. Field sessions will continue in December and into 2020.
Conduct simultaneous counts at three wetland IBAs	This will be completed in the first quarter of 2020, following the classroom training.
Repeated counts	An EAG Bird Club will charge itself with the regular monitoring of key sites that will feed data to the local EIMAS and internationally to eBird. This will continue past the completion of the two funded projects from the Cape Cod Bird Club and BirdsCaribbean.

* *Ed. Note: Antigua and Barbuda comprise a small island nation in the Leeward Islands located in the heart of the Caribbean. These islands suffered great damage from Hurricane Maria in 2017 and are still in the process of recovering.*



West Indian Whistling Ducks observed on a count (above).



*Learning to identify birds (above);
Learning to record data (right).*



Member Photo Gallery



Photos from the CCBC Holiday event in December. Can you identify your favorite birding buddies?

The December 9th Annual Cape Cod Bird Club Holiday Event & Fundraiser was a great success! With over 40 in attendance, the magical evening was warm in spirit and holiday music, with a large festive table of bake sale items and two areas of the room decorated and arranged for the **Silent Auction** and (new this year) **Raffle Items**. Some of the many donated silent auction items included a Canon PowerShot SX50 HS digital camera, tripod, artwork, pottery, individual books and book collections, jewelry, bird box, bird scarves, and more. Raffle items were also donated by members of the Board and Membership, as well as the CCBC's community partners, the Birdwatcher's General Store and Wild Birds Unlimited. Special thanks to the local Dunkin' Donuts for the hot and delicious coffee and donuts for refreshments! While attendees were enjoying refreshments and perusing the silent auction and raffle items, special guest Renee VanLeeuwen did a wonderful presentation on her scholarship trip last summer to Hog Island, Maine, sponsored by Audubon and funded by the CCBC Scholarship Fund. We thank Renee for attending and sharing her experience and beautiful bird pictures.

Many thanks to all who donated items for the bake sale, auction and raffles. Your generous donations and support of the Event raised over \$500 for the Scholarship and Conservation and Education Funds. These monies will be used to advance our Mission of conservation and education. We look forward to another amazing and successful event next year! Best wishes to all for a joyous and prosperous New Year of 2020!
~ Maria Curley, Holiday Committee Chairperson

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**

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