



The Kingfisher

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The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

The Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, Sept through May, at 7:00PM, currently via Zoom. When in-person meetings are permitted again, we will meet at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster.

Deadline for the next issue is September 8, 2022.

Your participation is welcome! Send submissions by email. Attach text as a MS Word document or plain text. Attach images as separate files; please do not embed them in the email body. Send the largest resolution possible for your images; they will not print well if preformatted for the Web. Please credit the images. Submissions might be edited for style or length. Editors have the final say on content.

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President's Message

Dear CCBC Members,

This is my final column as President. Since I took the reins in 2018, we've accomplished a lot despite some very challenging times due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We've grown the membership significantly, we've built a very strong Board, we've continued to host an outstanding series of programs, and we've started new initiatives with the Student Bird Club—led by Maria Curley, our very able Treasurer—and the Conservation & Education (C&E) microgrant awards (see page 4 for updates on both programs). I want to acknowledge the diligent work of John Goodchild, retiring Director, who took over this program from Herb Raffaele a couple of years ago. I will be stepping in to keep the C&E program running in the years ahead.

Of course, we've all missed meeting in person, but, once we figured out how to pivot to Zoom, Mark Faherty, Program Director, used the opportunity to recruit speakers from all across the USA and even from outside the USA. So, while we don't get the one-on-one connection when we use Zoom, we seize the opportunity to learn from a wider birding community.

Under MJ Foti's leadership and initiative, we've been able to offer a strong selection of bird walks—safely and responsibly in very challenging circumstances. Please look at pages 5 and 6 and make time on your summer schedule to go on one of these walks.

As I pass the leadership mantle on to Peter Fang, I ask that you all give him your support. Please contribute articles to *The Kingfisher*, participate in walks and even volunteer to co-lead a walk, and attend our meetings when we return to in-person events.

This is the 50th year of Cape Cod Bird Club, and Covid has prevented us from having a proper celebration of this anniversary. We are planning to meet in person in September and commemorate our 50 years of service to the birding community on Cape Cod.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again this Fall.
Good birding!

Peter Bono, President



Green Heron, Yarmouth

► **Monthly meetings and programs will be via Zoom** until it's safe to once again gather at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster. Meetings start at 7 pm and are free and open to the public. No registration necessary. A Zoom link will be sent to all active members and the link will be published on the CCBC website. Non-members are welcome to attend. Check capecodbirdclub.org for detailed information.

Club Meetings

Monday, September 12, 7 pm

In 2022, the Cape Cod Bird Club celebrates its 50th Anniversary!

With luck, we hope to be all together on Monday, September 12 at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History to celebrate.

Stay tuned to our [website](#) for more information.

Do you have memories to share with the group? Want to help with planning? Please contact our new president Peter Fang at fangmail@comcast.net.



Welcome New Members !

Barbara Ahalt - Cataumet
 Gail Goldstein - Cummaquid
 Brian Murray - Andover
 Jonathan Hatch - Falmouth
 Debra Dejonker-Berry - West Barnstable
 Veronica Grillo - Yarmouth Port
 Rachel Egan - Brewster
 Roger & Amy Moynihan - Yarmouthport
 Adrian Hamins-Puertolas, Jenna, Annie, & Ben McLaughlin - Dennis

Beech Forest Walks

What a lovely spring, with great migrants visiting the Cape. Maria Curley shares pictures from the May 22 Beech Forest walk led by David Clapp.



Destination: Panamá, Mary Jo Foti

Panamá was the ideal destination for my first foray into the world of international bird travel. [JB Journeys](#) offered a donation to CCBC's conservation fund for any members who traveled on this tour. An eco-tourism travel company featuring a generous selection of nature and culture-themed tours, JB Journeys meticulously coordinates all in-country arrangements. Based on the arrival time of individual tour group members, we were picked up by van at Panamá's Tocumen International airport and driven to our first destination, the Canopy Tower. This circular, domed building once served as a U.S. radar installation and now functions as one of the best-known eco-lodges in Central America. It's nestled atop Semaphore Hill Road and overlooks the lush rainforest of Soberanía National Park in the former Canal Zone. Atop the domed roof of Canopy Tower is a 360-degree walkway providing great views of the rainforest below and the Canal in the distance. On our first walk down Semaphore Hill, hummingbirds, Dot-winged Antwrens, Olivaceous and Cocoa Woodcreepers, Scarlet and Yellow-rumped Caciques, Blue Dacnis, and five species of tanagers were among the many species seen. The following day, on our return trip from Pipeline Road, we were treated to a pair of Black-and-white Owls, their yellow bills resting on barred breasts.



Pipeline Road is one of the most famous birding destinations in Central America and originally constructed as an access road for an oil pipeline during WWII. Though sections of the original pipeline are still in evidence, it was never put into use to move oil. Today, Pipeline Road is a gravel strewn trail that carries you through a stretch of lowland rainforest that is home to premier Neotropical birding. This is where I encountered my first Great Potoo, a close relative of the nighthawk and nightjar families, seamlessly blending with its host tree as it perched unmoving on a thick branch. In addition to over forty bird species seen that day, we encountered Three-toed Sloths, **White-faced Capuchin**, Mantled Howler Monkeys, the beautiful Blue Morpho butterfly, and Leafcutter and Army ants. It's worth noting John Kricher's book, [The New Neotropical Companion](#), with its fascinating description of the co-evolutionary relationship between army ants and Neotropical antbirds, especially after observing this phenomenon firsthand. We watched as the brushy ground and leaf litter vibrated with activity as antbirds and other species preyed upon insects stirred up by the ant swarm.



An additional highlight of our Canopy Tower stay included a

regular stop at Ammo Dump Ponds just alongside the Panamá Canal - a rich mix of marsh and grassland habitat hosting such species as Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Wattled Jacana, Varied and Yellow-bellied Seedeaters, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Tropical Mockingbird, and Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet. Our group was also treated to a chance encounter with a pair of **Southern Lapwings** as they tentatively negotiated an intersection at a nearby canal crossing.



The second leg of our journey involved an in-country flight and 25-minute boat ride to Tranquilo Bay Eco Adventure Lodge, a well-established eco-tourism destination in the western archipelago of Bocas del Toro. Banana strewn branches dangling from the front deck of the lodge were host to upwards of 5 Prothonotary Warblers, a couple of Tennessee, a few Bay-breasted, and the ever-present Palm Tanager. In addition to day trips to nearby Zapatillas Island and the Changuinola Canal, the 200+ acres of private conservation reserve provided ample opportunity to observe the biodiversity of this beautiful region. Expansive gardens, views from an on-site observation tower accessed through a multi-level spiral staircase, and a hike through tricky terrain to get a look at the iconic Strawberry Poison-dart Frog were just a few of the offerings available just outside the cottages.



I made a point of sitting on my porch deck after discovering both **Golden-collared and Red-capped manakins** drawn to the flowering shrubs across from my cabin in late afternoon. Observing the two species perform their signature



dance moves just a few feet away as I sat on the deck with a cold beer was reason enough to make this journey. They were joined by White-crowned and Pale-vented Pigeon, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Montezuma Oropendola (with their unique call), Blue-black Grosbeak, and the ubiquitous Bananaquit. A pair of Common Black Hawks were often seen perched on high snags from the tower. One evening, as the pair soared eye level from the tower, they suddenly locked talons and fell into a dizzying, spiral freefall, quickly disappearing into the thick vegetation below. It took mere moments, but it was a dramatic moment during an overall incredible tour.

Photos by Mary Jo Foti & Dan Galewsky.

Conservation Contributions

In 2021, the CCBC made a donation to [SABUKO](#), a conservation organization in the Republic of Georgia to publish and distribute two posters to schools and other educational settings. As you can see from the owls and vultures posters below, they did a marvelous job and the members of the CCBC can be proud of our role in making this happen. Please visit the [Conservation & Education](#) page on our website to see the details of all the projects we have supported.

Peter Bono



Student Bird Club

The Student Bird Club (SBC) has just finished its second year at Barnstable Intermediate School (BIS) in Hyannis, MA. Students meet once a week and do a variety of activities including re-filling feeders (seed, suet, hummingbird, oriole), checking nest box activity (3 nest boxes on-site), conducting bird counts, walking, and exploring the green space on the school campus. Students also use birding apps like Merlin Bird ID and Audubon to help with identification and have had fun sharing about birds in their own yards and neighborhoods. The students both in the SBC and in Ms. Curley's Science classes have also followed the return of the Ospreys to nests at the Barnstable High School (BHS) and Centerville Elementary School (CES). They recorded return dates, egg laying dates, hatch dates (2 @ BHS; 3 @ CES) and have really enjoyed checking in on the nestlings via the live webcams as the nestlings have grown since the end of May.



SBC students also tracked the return of the Red-winged Blackbirds, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and Monarch butterflies to the school campus. The Student Bird Club has opened up a whole new world; many of these students now have feeders at home and are watching and identifying birds on their own, plus getting their families interested.



Another big shout-out to the CCBC for providing a \$200 annually to help offset seed and suet costs and a thank you to Wild Birds Unlimited in South Yarmouth for the bird feeding station at the school campus; many thanks again to CCBC members Sherra Fermino and Graham Hamby for their donation of the student birding guides, purchased from Birdwatcher's General Store in Orleans. The Student Bird Club was also the recipient of over \$700 in Barnstable Cobb Grant funds to purchase 30 quality binoculars for student birders. And thanks to all our membership for support of our Conservation and Education program, without which school outreach activities like this would not be possible.

Maria Curley, CCBC Treasurer, & SBC Advisor – Barnstable Intermediate School

Cape Cod Bird Club Summer Walks 2022

July – September 2022



Northern Rough-winged Swallow, MJ Foti

- Remember to visit the [website](#) for updates, and **weather-related cancellations**
- Please let the trip leader know you wish to join their walk by **sending an email**
- Scroll to the end of the document for revised **Covid-related guidelines**

Peterson Farm – Falmouth

Thursday, July 7th, 8am Peter Fang (fangmail@comcast.net)

Meet at Peterson Farm where we will scan thickets looking for flycatchers, vireos, warblers and, possibly, a bobolink. From the intersection of Palmer Ave and Jones Rd, continue south on Palmer Ave., which turns into Locust St. Follow Locust St., which turns into Woods Hole Rd. Follow Woods Hole Rd for about .5 mile, turning right onto McCallum Dr. - stay right and follow Town of Falmouth Conservation signs to parking.

Hatches Harbor Fire Rd. to Race Point Light – Provincetown

Monday, July 18th, 8am Ross Sormani (rsormani@yahoo.com)

Meet at the dirt parking lot on the west side of Province Lands Rd. about a mile south of the National Seashore Visitor Center. From the dirt parking lot, we'll follow the fire road that runs northwest to the dike separating Hatches Harbor from the airport that leads out to both the harbor and Race Point. Gulls, terns, waterfowl, raptors, and passerines are among the many species observed. The occasional rarity is always possible in this unique habitat. Low tide is 9:43am. There could be wet conditions on the way out to the lighthouse, so you may want to have a pair of boots on hand.

Crane Wildlife Management Area – East Falmouth

Saturday, July 30th, 8am Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Meet at the parking lot of Otis Model Aero Club Flying Field.

As you drive north on Nathan Ellis Highway, the entrance to Crane will be on your right. You can count on productive raptor activity, even the occasional rare Northern Shrike. This unique grassland habitat is host to a rich variety of species, including Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, American Kestrel, and possibly Blue Grosbeak.

Forest Beach Conservation – South Chatham

Thursday, August 4th 8am, MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Take Route 6 to exit 85 and head South towards 28. Make a right on 28 and a left turn about .5 miles at Forest Beach Rd. This will take you directly to the beach – parking is free of charge. We'll walk the marsh trail to where it meets Mill Creek, and return via the beach, then head towards the overlook where we'll likely find herons, egrets, shorebirds, passerines, gulls, osprey, and possibly Northern Harrier. This is another area with mixed habitat, a nice variety of bird species, and the occasional rarity. Waterproof footwear recommended.

Summer Walks (continued)***Crowes Pasture – East Dennis*****Thursday, August 11th, 8am** Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Turn onto School Street and make your first right onto South Street. Meet in the dirt parking lot on the right shortly past the cemetery. This area offers a diversity of habitats including oak and pine woodlands, fields, dunes, beach, fresh-water ponds, salt marsh, and tidal creek.

West Dennis Beach**Saturday, August 13, 5:30pm (please note time)** Peter Bono (pbono@prba.com)

Meet at the West Dennis Beach parking lot at the far end (nearest 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 migrating shorebirds. To participate, please contact the leader in advance. Rain cancels.

Morris Island – Chatham**Wednesday, August 31, 8:00am** MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

We'll meet and park at the Monomoy Visitor Center, then make our way through the neighborhood down to the Morris Island flats for birding on the outgoing tide. We'll scope the flats while the shorebirds come in to forage. Please be prepared for wet conditions (possible ankle-high wading). Also be aware that there is Poison Ivy on some of the trails. Low tide will be about 8:54 AM.

Sandy Neck Beach – Sandwich**Sunday, September 11th, 8am**MJ Foti, (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)Nate Marchessault (natemarchessault@gmail.com)

Head towards Sandy Neck Beach directly off 6A and park in the main lot near the public facilities. We'll be looking for migrating shorebirds, terns, gulls, and perhaps other pelagic species. Once we're finished with the beach, the marsh trail awaits. Expect a substantial amount of walking in soft sand. Low tide is 6:41 am at Barnstable Harbor.

*Common Tern, D Clapp****First Encounter Beach – Eastham*****Wednesday, September 14th, 8am** Peter Fang (fangmail@comcast.net)

Follow Samoset Rd. to the farthest parking area where we'll walk along the marsh trail bordered by the Herring River to observe shorebirds, herons, egrets, gulls, and terns gathering in numbers to forage on the outgoing tide. We'll also encounter other species, including a variety of passerines and raptors. You may want to wear beach sandals or boots.

Grays Beach and Callery Darling Trails – Yarmouth Port**Saturday, September 24th, 8am** Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

From Center Street in Yarmouth Port, follow signs to Grays Beach where we'll meet at the big parking area. This beach is noted for its extensive boardwalk across the channel from Sandy Neck Lighthouse and just a stone's throw from Dennis Chapin Beach. There is a large tern colony as well as nesting Piping Plover and Willets during summer months. Fall and winter affords an excellent vantage point from which to see geese, sea ducks, and gulls.

Cape Cod Bird Club COVID Guidelines: July – September 2022*For the safety and well-being of all walk participants:*

- Please do not participate in trips if you do not feel well or have recently been exposed to someone with COVID or COVID-like symptoms;
- Individuals should feel comfortable wearing a mask at any point during a trip regardless of vaccination status;
- It is up to each participant to decide whether or not they wish to carpool. Though the trip leader may offer to do so at the beginning of the trip, it is their personal choice whether or not they wish to carpool.

Membership Form for the Cape Cod Bird Club 2022-2023 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, 2022**, and your membership will expire on Aug. 31, 2023. **New members may join at any time.**

RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Youth*(18 or under) FREE**

Individual \$20.00

Family (Household) \$25.00

Supporter \$50.00

Sponsor \$75.00

Patron \$100.00

Additional donations are much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Membership Dues \$ _____

Conservation & Education Fund \$ _____

General Operating Fund \$ _____

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/O*	Email Address**	Approx. Year of Birth*

Notes: * (Optional) Please provide your gender and approximate 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 and paper expenses by electing to receive your newsletter (*The Kingfisher*) **by email only.**

CHECK HERE if you would like to be contacted about helping with the Club by leading a walk, writing an article, being a guest speaker, or serving on the Board or one of its subcommittees.

***** Signature of adult family member of youth member** _____



Cape Cod Bird Club
PO Box 351
Centerville, MA 02632

Cape Cod Bird Club, Inc.

An organization whose members are interested in the protection and conservation of the bird life and natural resources of Cape Cod. *Please join us!*

- ◆ To join and pay dues online, visit www.capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/join/join-online/.
- ◆ If you prefer to send a check, please use the form on the previous page or download a membership form from the website at <https://www.capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/join/join-by-mail/> and send it along with your check to: CCBC, PO Box 351, Centerville, MA 02632

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