



The Kingfisher

In this issue:

President's Message	1
Programs, Waterbird Census	2
Spring Walks	3-4
Test Your Bird Knowledge / Poetry	5
Birding Ecuador	6
New Members / Membership Form	7
Board Members	8

Deadline for the next issue is June 8, 2023.

Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, Sept through May, at 7:00 PM. We are experimenting with conducting hybrid meetings, simultaneously live and online. We meet at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster. See page 2 and continue to check the web site.

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.

Co-editors:

Jean Warneke
jeanwarneke@gmail.com
Carolyn Kennedy
c2kenn2@verizon.net

Webmaster:

Terry Gavin
wbmstr@capecodbirdclub.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CapeCodBirdClub

President's Message

Hello Fellow Birders!!

We are approaching one of the most exciting times of year, as spring migration brings an "invasion" of warblers and other arrivals to Cape Cod. Our Club's walks are geared to take advantage of this, with May offering 7 walks at Beech Forest in Provincetown alone, along with 5 other walks around the Cape. We hope you'll be able to enjoy one or more of these walks, as each day brings new migrant surprises!

Many of us were disheartened to see in the news the plight of the female Bald Eagle from Arlington, "MK", who was brought to Cape Wildlife in Barnstable in hopes of saving her. Unfortunately, she succumbed to suspected rodenticide poisoning. Cape Cod Bird Club has joined with 13 other Massachusetts Bird Clubs in supporting a letter to the EPA promoting a bill to reduce the use of rodenticides. It's only a first step in the goal to eliminate secondary rodenticide poisoning in birds and other animals.

The May meeting will close out our Club year, then we will take the summer off (from meetings, but not from walks!). At that meeting, we will elect board members for when we resume in September. We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors with wide-ranging talents and passion for working together to make our Bird Club the best it can possibly be. And we have fun! We always encourage members to become more involved with our club to help promote our mission of making birding more enjoyable and supporting conservation and education. If you aren't ready to commit to a board position but would like to help our club, you may contribute in other ways. Examples of volunteers currently assisting our club are: webmaster, newsletter editor, walk leaders, refreshments. Do you have some other way you'd like to contribute? Or assist in any of our current areas? We welcome and appreciate any offers of assistance. Anyone interested can email me at info@capecodbirdclub.org.

Happy Birding!
Peter Fang, President



Eastern Screech Owl, PFang

Club Meetings

Monthly meetings and programs will be a “hybrid” of in-person gatherings at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster with a simultaneous Zoom broadcast. Our meetings start at 7 pm (doors open at 6:30 to provide time to socialize and pick up information). The Zoom link will be sent to all active members for whom we have an email address and will also be published on the CCBC website.

Please do not come if you do not feel well, or have recently been exposed to someone with COVID or COVID-like symptoms. Masks are optional but individuals should feel comfortable wearing a mask at any point during the meeting.

Monday, Apr 10, 2023 FLOCKOLOGY! Unravelling the Mysteries of Bird Flocks

As birders and wildlife enthusiasts, we can't help but marvel at large gatherings of birds. Many bird species spend time in flocks that can range in size from just a few birds to tens of thousands, even millions. Flocks of birds, whether they be in the air or on the ground, can offer a magnificent spectacle. Why do birds form flocks? This talk explores the phenomenon of bird gatherings with vivid photographs, anecdotes, and video clips and delves into the intriguing dynamics of bird assemblies. The choreography of mass movements such as starling murmurations is examined and the benefits of flocking behavior are examined as they relate to breeding, protection, and even avian baby sitting services. The advantages and disadvantages of flocking are discussed and collective names used to identify groups of birds are presented.



Chestnut-eared Aracaris,

Gina Nichol is no stranger to Cape Cod birders. She is the founder and principal tour leader of Sunrise Birding. 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 many other destinations.

Hybrid meeting—at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, with Zoom available.

Monday, May 8, 2023: Speaker to be announced.

Check capecodbirdclub.org for detailed information or last minute changes.

39th Annual Waterfowl Census

Members of the Cape Cod Bird Club have been counting waterfowl on the Cape's freshwater ponds since 1983. Our walks coordinator MJ Foti has been the coordinator for the last few years and she reported that 2022 was another successful year. Participating in the 39th annual count were 26 teams with 41 members who counted 30 species and 11,876 individuals birds on 341 ponds. Details can be found on our website at Waterfowl Census – Cape Cod Bird Club.



Gadwall observed from Robert Clem Trail along Frost Fish Creek in Chatham. (MJ Foti)

Cape Cod Bird Club Spring Walks 2023

- ◆ Please check the website beforehand for schedule changes and cancellations
- ◆ Please email the trip leader to let them know you wish to join their walk

Bell's Neck Conservation Area – Harwich

Thursday, April 6 – 8 AM

MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

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, scope the low tide on the East Reservoir for shorebird species and waterfowl, and the West Reservoir for Black-crowned Night Heron, raptors, gulls, and terns. Waterproof boots recommended.

Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve – Harwich

Thursday, April 13 – 6 PM

Ed Banks (68edbanks@gmail.com) (508) 769-6762

From Rt. 39 in Harwich, take Bank Street to #203 - the Harbormaster's Workshop.

We will take a leisurely evening stroll to where American Woodcock can be observed, birding as we make our way there. Over 60 acres of wetland and surrounding upland provides ideal habitat for a variety of passerines, hawks, waterfowl and other species, and includes a Bluebird trail with 44 nest boxes maintained by CCBC and Harwich Conservation Trust.



Crowes Pasture – East Dennis

Friday, April 21 – 8 AM

Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

From Route 6A, turn onto School Street (opposite Airline Road) and make the first right onto South Street. Meet in the dirt parking lot on the right shortly past the cemetery. We will walk the wooded trail to the meadow where we'll visit the bluebird nest box trail maintained by CCBC. From there, we'll head back to the parking lot along the road. This area offers a diversity of habitats including oak and pine woodlands, fields, dunes, beach, freshwater ponds, salt marsh, and tidal creek.

Fort Hill – Eastham

Saturday, April 29 – 8 AM

Maria Curley (mcurley04@gmail.com)

Join us for a walk along the loop trail at Fort Hill in Eastham. We'll check out the lower parking lot for passerines, scan the open field for raptors, and check out the marsh for incoming shorebirds and hopefully a bittern and/or rail. Meet in the lower parking lot on Fort Hill Road. Waterproof boots recommended.

High Head/Pilgrim Heights – N. Truro

Sunday, April 30 – 8 AM

Ross Sormani (rsormani@yahoo.com) (co-led with Jeff Bryant and MJ Foti)

Meet at the High Head Bike Trail parking lot. Take High Head Rd., bear left at the steep hill to stay on the dirt road that leads to parking for the bike trail. We'll be looking and listening for rail, bobwhite, and American Bittern skulking through the marsh, searching overhead for raptors, and scanning the thickets for songbirds while we walk the well-paved, easy to navigate trail. We can then take in the views from the overlook at Pilgrim Heights – another easily accessible, paved area.

Beech Forest Walks for May 2023 – Provincetown

CCBC is offering bird walks for May migration. Meet at the **Beech Forest** parking lot at **8 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. The trail is easily navigable though not paved.

- Friday, May 5 MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)
- Sunday, May 7 Keelin Miller (capekeelin@hotmail.com)
- Saturday, May 13 Ed Banks (68edbanks@gmail.com)
- Sunday, May 14 David Clapp (ontheroadwithdec@gmail.com)
- Saturday, May 20 Al Curtis (alcurtis48@gmail.com)
- Sunday, May 21 Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com) (co-led with Ross Sormani)
- Tuesday, May 23 Peter Crosson (capecodbirder@gmail.com)

Cape Cod Bird Club Health Guidelines: Apr-Jun 2023

- ◆ Please do not participate 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.
- ◆ It is up to each participant to decide whether or not they wish to carpool. Though a trip leader may offer to carpool, it is the personal choice of each individual trip leader.

(See below for additional walks in May)

Clapps Pond – Provincetown**Saturday, May 6 – 8 AM**Ross Sormani (rsormani@yahoo.com) (co-led with Jeff Bryant)

Drive 1.2 miles past the traffic light at Race Point Rd. on Route 6. Parking is permitted along the side of the road as per Provincetown Parking Commission. We'll follow a wide loop-trail running along a ridge offering many overlooks of the pond, surrounding bogs, and woodlands. This is a 3-mile hike with some sizable hills which will take a full 2 1/2 hours to cover. We hope to see early-migrating thrushes, vireos and perhaps southern warblers.

Bridge Creek Conservation – Sandwich**Tuesday, May 9 – 8 AM**MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

From Route 6, take exit 65 for MA-149N, then merge onto Meetinghouse Way. Parking is available behind West Barnstable Fire Department - the trailhead is located to the left. Small boardwalks spring up to help navigate these boggy wooded trails as you listen for warblers, vireos, and other passerines. Past sightings include Hooded Warbler, Red-eyed, and White-eyed vireos and Virginia Rail.

Peterson Farm – Falmouth**Wednesday, May 17 – 8 AM**Mike Tucker (bnatural2@gmail.com)

We will meet at Peterson Farm to walk around the thickets looking for flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and possibly a bobolink. From the intersection of Palmer Ave and Jones Road (near Falmouth Hospital), continue south on Palmer Ave, which turns into Locust Street. Follow Locust Street, which turns into Woods Hole Road. Follow Woods Hole Road for about 0.5 mile and turn right on McCallum Drive, then an immediate right and follow the Town of Falmouth Conservation signs to parking area.

Crane Wildlife Management Area – East Falmouth **Tuesday, June 6 – 8 AM*****Please welcome Brookline Bird Club as we explore this iconic grassland habitat together.***Peter Fang (fangmail@comcast.net) (co-led with Gloria Smith)

From Mashpee rotary, take 151 west (Nathan Ellis Highway) approx. 4.3 miles. Shortly after Sandwich Rd intersection, the entrance to Crane will be on the right by Allietta Softball Field. Park across from Otis Model Aero Club. This unique grassland habitat is host to a rich variety of species, including Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink, American Kestrel, and possibly Blue Grosbeak. After, we can cross the road and scan Coonamessett Field for raptors. Those wishing to can continue to Mass Audubon's Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary located just minutes from Crane.

Ryder Conservation Area – Sandwich**Saturday, June 10 – 8 AM**MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

From the intersection of Quaker Meetinghouse Road and Cotuit Road, the entrance is 2.2 miles south on Cotuit. From the rotary on Cotuit Road, the entrance is a short distance (.12 mi) north. Meet in the small dirt parking lot. Explore this 243-acre conservation area with 5 miles of hiking trails that wind through groves of 100-year-old holly, beech and pines. We'll look for nesting songbirds and waterfowl. Past highlights include Common Goldeneye, Ruffed Grouse, Bald Eagle, and flycatchers. Trails are somewhat rocky - moderately challenging.

Forest Beach Conservation, South Chatham**Tuesday, June 20 – 8 AM**MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Take Rte. 6 to exit 85 and head south towards Rte. 28. Make a right on 28 and a left turn about .5 miles at Forest Beach Rd. Before reaching the beach, turn left on Bayview Rd. and immediately bear right up the hill where you will see a sign for Forest Beach Conservation. We'll scope the marsh for herons, egrets, shorebirds, osprey, gulls, passerines, and possibly Northern Harrier. We can then head to the beach where parking is free to walk the marsh trail - about .5 mi. Waterproof footwear recommended.

Hatches Harbor Fire Rd. to RP Light – Provincetown **Saturday, June 24 – 8 AM**Ross Sormani (rsormani@yahoo.com) (co-led with MJ Foti)

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 10:39 AM. There may be wet conditions on the way out to the lighthouse, boots recommended.

Bell's Neck Conservation Area – Harwich**Sunday, June 25 – 8 AM**Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Meet at Bell's Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir to explore some hidden mixed woodland and old cranberry bogs for passerines, scope the low tide on the East Reservoir for shorebird species and waterfowl, and the West Reservoir for Black-crowned Night Herons, raptors, gulls, and terns. Waterproof boots recommended.

Test Your Knowledge



1. How deep can a Long-tailed Duck dive?

- A. 10 feet
- B. 50 feet
- C. 100 feet
- D. 200 feet



2. What land-based bird has the distinction of being the northernmost breeder?

- A. American Tree Swallow
- B. Snow Bunting
- C. Common Redpoll
- D. Rough-legged Hawk



3. What bird species was nicknamed by hunters as 'skunk-head coot'?

- A. Common Eider
- B. Bufflehead
- C. Surf Scoter
- D. Smew



4. What migration claim to fame is the Bar-headed Goose known for?

- A. Longest overall distance
- B. Fastest average speed
- C. Highest average elevation
- D. Longest, non-stop distance

Answers

1: **D** (most feeding within 30', but able to dive more than 200', deeper than any other duck)

2: **B** (nests are built in cracks in rocks, insulated against the cold with feathers & fur)

3: **C** Surf Scoter

4: **C**. Crossing over the Himalayas, the Bar-headed Goose reaches heights more than 22K feet, where oxygen levels are 10% that of sea-level.

Submitted by Michele Burnat

Flying Machines by the Little Stint

When Bleriot the Channel flew
The people made a great to-do;
They came in thousands just to stare
At the great Conqueror of the Air
Who crossed from France to England's shore,
A flight of twenty miles or more.
"How great an aeroplane!" they said;
"And what a noise the engine made!"
"And how could Bleriot know that he
Would find his way across the sea,
Which none had ever flown before?"
And so they wonder more and more,
Until at last their hats they raise
And cheer to their great hero's praise.

Yet I, when called to make my flight,
Have slipped off in an Arctic night
And lightly flown o'er land and sea,
The only engine carrying me
My heart, no bigger than a shilling,
Which for twelve thousand miles is willing.
Less than two ounces is my weight
No petrol can increase my freight;
No chart nor compass 'neath my eyes
To mark the track through trackless skies –
And still untiring to the verge
Of Australasian ocean's surge
From North Siberia's coast I fly,
Spanning the globe unerringly.
No cheering thousands when I land,
No startling posters in the Strand;
No wondering word, no praise is heard,
But then – I ONLY AM A BIRD.



Submitted by John Goodchild, this is a piece of verse that was published in Punch to mark the first powered flight across the English Channel from France to England in 1909 by the French aviator Louis Bleriot.

Ecuador: One of the Birdiest Countries in the World! *by Linnet Tse*

Tapaculo . . . Hemispingus . . . Stipplethroat . . . I'd never even heard of these birds, let alone caught a glimpse of them before our April 2022 trip to Ecuador.

With over 1,650 confirmed bird species, or about 15% of all the species in the world, Ecuador is one of the birdiest countries. Its well-established birding and travel infrastructure makes it an easy place for birders to explore independently or on a tour.

For our birding adventure, we arranged a private 10-day trip for six of us (details at the end) that focused on the eastern slope of the Andes, not far from Quito. We stayed at three eco-lodges situated at distinct elevations/habitats, from the higher elevations of the *páramo* – a high altitude ecosystem found above timberline – down to the tropical foothills, just short of the Amazon.

We spent our first two nights at Guango Lodge (8,800 ft), a simple, welcoming eco-lodge that was a great base for exploring the higher elevation reserves including Antisana National Park, where we were thrilled to get great views of several adult and immature Andean Condors and were unexpectedly treated to a mother Spectacled Bear with her two cubs clambering around nearby. We also visited Cayambe-Coca National Park and the Papallacta Towers (14,000 ft), where we caught a fleeting look of a pair of Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe flushed by a Variable Hawk. Back at the lodge, we were dazzled by Tourmaline Sunangels, Collared Incas, Long-tailed Sylphs, the much sought-after Sword-billed Hummingbird and more – the first of what would turn out to be 39 species of hummingbirds!

Next up was WildSumaco Lodge (“built for birders by birders”), located in the tropical foothills at around 5,000 ft, where we were introduced to a totally different set of birds. It was hard to tear ourselves away from their huge deck, lined with hummingbird feeders and native flowering plants, which attracted over fourteen species of hummingbirds, including two of my favorites, the Wire-crested Thorntail and the Peruvian Racket-tail. On the trails, highlights included two species of manakins and a pair of day-roosting Band-bellied Owls, but the real treat was seeing the Plain-backed Antpitta and the Ochre-breasted Antpitta at the lodge’s antpitta feeding station. In addition to the birds, troupes of common wooly monkeys and black-mantled tamarins entertained us.

Located in the subtropical cloud forest at 6,800 ft, our last lodge – Cabañas San Isidro – offered yet another new set of birds. In addition to its comfortable rooms and excellent food, San Isidro’s deck provided non-stop action the first hour of each day, with bristle-tyrants, spinetails, woodcreepers, flycatchers, caciques, oropendolas, jays, and more coming in to feed on the moths that were attracted by the moth sheet. We were especially charmed by a resident pair of Masked Trogons that perched within feet of the deck and the famed San Isidro Owls, which are believed to be an as yet undescribed subspecies of the Black-banded Owl.

Nearby was an Andean Cock-of-the-Rock lek where we observed eight handsome males displaying! The area is also home to tanagers that come in an array of colors, including the rainbow-colored Paradise Tanager, and the electric green Grass-green Tanager. They were a feast for the eyes!

The ten days passed all too quickly, but we’ve already made plans to return to Ecuador this summer. It was a spectacular trip, with 194 of the nearly 300 birds we saw life birds!

Note: To arrange this trip, we worked directly with Carmen Bustamante, whose family owns/operates Guango Lodge and Cabañas San Isidro and a travel company that arranges birding trips throughout Ecuador. She has offered anyone mentioning this article a 10% discount for organizing a birding trip to anywhere in Ecuador. car-men@cabanasanisidro.com or info@birdecuador.com



Black-mantled Tamarin



Ochre-breasted Antpitta



Black-banded Owl



Wire-crested Thorntail



Long-tailed Sylph



Masked Trogon

Welcome New Members

Linda Broker (Cheshire, CT)
 Renee Levi and Bryan Noe (Falmouth)
 Catherine Walton (Bourne)
 Nancy Christy (Barrington, RI)

Trent & Jill Levesque (Marstons Mills)
 Joshua Maloney (Marstons Mills)
 Wendy Hayward (Duxbury)
 William Clements (Dennis)

The Holbrook Family - Hans, Angela, Ethan, & Amber (Centerville)
 Mark Gerlovin & Anne Wheelock (Jamaica Plain)

JOIN CCBC or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Use this form if paying by check. If credit card, <https://capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/join-online/>
 Cape Cod Bird Club Membership runs from September 1 through August 31.

NEW MEMBERS can join at any time.

RENEWING MEMBERS – Please renew before September 1.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING MEMBERSHIP | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBERSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth***(18 or under) FREE | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$75.00 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Household) \$25.00 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100.00 |

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

Membership Dues \$ _____
Conservation & Education Fund \$ _____
General Operating Fund \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Household Address (required): _____

Household Tel. No. (required): _____

Name(s)	M/F/O*	Email Address**	Approx. Year of Birth*

NOTES: * Knowing your gender preference and year of birth helps us design programs to serve you better.

** 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 _____

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



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.

Officers: Peter Fang President
David Clapp Vice President
Carolyn Kennedy Secretary
Maria Curley Treasurer

Directors: Mary Jo Foti ('25) Bird Walks
Peter Bono ('25) Conservation and Education
Peggy Sagan ('23) Membership
Gloria Smith ('23) Publicity and Outreach
Mark Faherty ('24) Programs
Mike Simons ('24) Refreshments

Ex-officio: Carolyn Kennedy & Jean Warneke The Kingfisher, Co-editors
Michele Burnat Merchandise Sales

Board members may be reached by email: info@capecodbirdclub.org