



# The Kingfisher

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Winter (January-March 2023)

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*Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, Sept through May, at 7:00PM. January meeting will be live and by Zoom. February meeting will be by Zoom. Others may be hybrid meetings, simultaneously live and online. We meet at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster.*

The Kingfisher is published quarterly.

**Deadline for the next issue is March 8, 2023.**

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

### Greetings Cape Cod Bird Club members!

As the winter weather arrives, along with our influx of winter birds like waterfowl and finches, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what's been happening with the Club.

This fall, our "hybrid" meetings have been very well received. We've been averaging 60 people attending in-person, and 40 people online. Aside from the occasional technology hiccup, we've had positive feedback on the experience being good for both in-person attendees as well as the "Zoomers". Much of the high turnout is no doubt due to the interesting programs we've had with engaging speakers such as Peter Trull, Stephanie Ellis, and Mike Tucker, as well as our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in December.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was a story-telling trip down memory lane. We started with Wayne Petersen regaling us with what birding was like on the Cape back in the 1950s and '60s. He weaved in stories of Ludlow Griscom and other prominent early birders on the Cape. We then heard from Randy Bartlett who was on the CCBC Board in its first year. Next we heard from Jeff Bryant who, as a 12-year old boy, attended (and led!) Club bird walks in those earliest days. Peter Trimble helped fill in some of the next decades with entertaining recollections about early members including such notable Cape Cod birders as Art King and Blair Nikula (and too many others to list here!) We only wish we had had more time to honor other former and current members for their contributions to our Club. We were captivated to hear how birding has evolved over the last 50 years with changes in species, trails, habitats and technology. The "icing on the cake" was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake with the Kingfisher logo, as well as the seasonal array of sweets, savory snacks and even a hot cocoa station! Thanks to our MCs, David Clapp and Mark Faherty, and especially to all our raconteurs, for making our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so special.

As we begin 2023, I want to thank all of you who have responded so generously to our year-end fundraising letter. With your support, we will be able to continue and expand our commitment to conservation and educational programming on Cape Cod and beyond. You can still make a tax deductible donation by going to our website ([capecodbirdclub.org](http://capecodbirdclub.org)).

Here's hoping everyone gets to enjoy birds to their heart's content in 2023!

Happy Birding,

Peter Fang

President

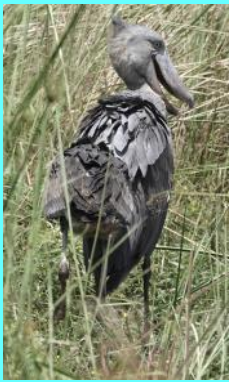


## Club Meetings

Monthly meetings and programs will be by Zoom only or a “hybrid” of in-person gatherings at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster with a simultaneous Zoom broadcast. Our meetings are free and open to the public and start at 7 pm (doors open 6:30). No registration necessary. When meetings are held by Zoom, the link will be sent to all active members for whom we have an email address and will be published on the CCBC website. Non-members are welcome.

### Monday, January 9, 2023, Gorillas, Gonoleks, and Vipers—David and Fran Clapp

A hard core birding trip to Uganda featured a dozen primates and more than 500 species of birds. David and Fran Clapp are experienced travelers and are able to bring much more than nature to a nature talk. People, geography, culture, mountains, birds, and a Gaboon Viper will make this presentation well worth your time. Join us on Zoom or in person at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on Route 6A. David has worked and traveled the world as a natural history tour leader for more than thirty years. He has led more than 100 tours for the Smithsonian Institution, and many more for BushTracks, Mass Audubon, and other organizations. Fran was an aquatic insect taxonomist and vernal pool specialist for Mass Audubon and served as the Commonwealth’s Aquatic Ecologist. **Hybrid meeting,**



### Monday, February 6, 2023, How Finca Cántaros Environmental Association Helps Birds in Costa Rica —Lilly Briggs, PhD

Lilly Briggs, Founder and Director of Finca Cántaros Environmental Association. Throughout her Masters of Environmental Studies (from York University), PhD and post-doctoral years at Cornell, she collaborated with Cornell Lab of Ornithology in developing BirdSleuth International (an environmental education and science curriculum focused on birds, conservation and citizen science) for audiences in Central and South America.



Finca Cántaros Environmental Association (FCEA) is a Canadian-Costa Rican nonprofit organization based in San Vito, Coto Brus, Costa Rica. Environmental education is at the core of everything and we use birds and forest restoration as vehicles for carrying out environmental education experiences for all ages in the community. Thanks to generous support of Cape Cod Bird Club (CCBC) in 2022, we could field test new environmental education programming around our Motus Receiver, part of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System led by Birds Canada. This talk will describe how FCEA aims to help birds through Motus and other initiatives and was able to leverage the funding from CCBC to create exciting plans for 2023. **Zoom meeting. (Rescheduled to first Monday of Feb.)**

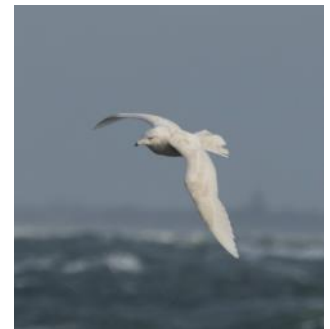
**Monday, March 13, 2023, to be announced.**

## 2022 CCBC Bird Walks in Review — Peter Bono

In 2022, CCBC walk leaders shared 45 eBird Checklists--visiting 27 different sites and reporting 183 different species. This result substantially improves upon 2021 when 149 species were reported on 24 checklists. Thirty-three species were reported from Dennis on the first checklist (best species: Red-necked Grebe at Corporation Beach), while the final two species for the year, Glaucous Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake, were added on Dec. 14th--also at Corporation Beach.

Less common species for the year included Rusty Blackbird, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Barrow's Goldeneye, Iceland Gull, Snow Goose, White Ibis, Summer Tanager, Philadelphia Vireo and Orange-crowned Warbler.

Join us on walks in 2023 and help us as we try to reach 200 species. Better yet, volunteer to lead a walk!



Glaucous Gull  
Photo by Hans Holbrook

## Cape Cod Bird Club Winter Walks — *Mary Jo Foti* January – March 2023



Tufted Duck (F) Long Pond, Harwich, 1/31/22

**Check the website beforehand** for schedule changes and cancellations.

**Send an email to the trip leader** to let them know you wish to join their walk.

### ***New Year's Day with Ed Banks – Mid-Cape***

Ed Banks, [68edbanks@gmail.com](mailto:68edbanks@gmail.com), or (508-769-6762), **Sunday, January 1, 2023** – noon to 4PM

Meet in the Stop & Shop parking lot at Patriot Square on Route 134 in South Dennis.

Please join us for this annual New Year's Day walk. Get your year list for 2023 off to a great start! Click 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***

MJ Foti, [maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com) **Thursday, January 12** – 5:00 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. From the Marston Mills Rotary, head west on Race Lane (towards the airport hangar) for 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Crooked Cartway and follow the road until it opens onto a large, dirt parking area.

### ***Pier to Pier Sweep – Outer Cape***

MJ Foti, [maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com) **Saturday, January 21** – 8 AM

Meet at the Wellfleet Town Pier. We will venture across several stops from Wellfleet to the Provincetown Piers to scope for wintering waterfowl, observe the occasional alcid, and search for passerines sheltering in the brush. You may wish to carpool with family members and friends, or continue on individually. Masks are optional, but think about having one on hand if people do choose to carpool.

### ***Corporation Beach, Dennis and Brewster Ponds***

Jeff Bryant, [five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com) **Saturday, February 4** – 8 AM

Meet at Corporation Beach off 6A in South Dennis, known for its seabird and gull activity, as well as its impressive variety of sea ducks. We'll then head to Scargo Lake, Slough Pond and Walkers Pond for a variety of wintering waterfowl species. If you have a scope, bring it along.

### ***Eastham Encounters***

Keegan Burke, [keeganburke19@gmail.com](mailto:keeganburke19@gmail.com) **Sunday, February 5** – 8 AM

Meet at Great Pond beach parking area by turning right off Samoset Road onto Great Pond Road to begin the day viewing a nice variety of dabbling and diving ducks. Wiley Park is the next stop where we'll explore a trail along the opposite side of Great Pond. We'll then head to First Encounter Beach and finally, a short hop to Herring Pond - a productive spot for wintering waterfowl.

### ***Scusset Beach State Reservation, Sandwich***

MJ Foti, [maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com) **Sunday, February 12** – 8 AM

Take Scusset Beach Road to the main entrance. Parking is .25 miles past the entrance at the fish pier. We'll walk the bike path that parallels the canal to view impressive numbers of wintering waterfowl, Great Cormorant and possible alcid species. The campground area and adjacent field by the playground hosts a variety of wintering passerines. This trip may include lesser-known trails opposite the fish pier parking lot and some other interesting spots.



## Cape Cod Bird Club Winter Walks continued

### *Hinckleys, Seymour and Long Ponds – Harwich and Brewster*

Jeff Bryant, [five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com) **Sunday, February 19** – 8 AM

Meet at the Rail Trail parking lot off Headwaters Drive. From Route 124, turn on Headwaters Drive and drive less than a half mile to access the Cape Cod Rail Trail parking area. Explore these mid-cape ponds that host a variety of waterfowl species, including Greater and Lesser Scaup, Mergansers, Bufflehead and American Coot. After exploring Hinckleys Pond we'll head to Seymour Pond, then the large parking area at Long Pond, accessed from Crowells Bog Rd.

### *Herring River – Wellfleet*

Ross Sormani, [rsormani@yahoo.com](mailto:rsormani@yahoo.com) **Saturday, February 25** – 8 AM

We'll meet at the parking area at the far side of the dike on Chequessett Neck Road in Wellfleet. The tide will be low so ample parking will be available on both sides of the street. We'll scan for waterfowl from the dike itself. Then we will hike the trail on the West side of Herring River to High Toss Road before crossing back again. This is a great area for rail and heron activity. The abutting woodland is winter habitat for woodpeckers and a variety of sparrow species. This is also a strong area for sightings of birds of prey. Waterproof footwear is recommended.

### *Fort Hill – Eastham*

Ed Banks, [68edbanks@gmail.com](mailto:68edbanks@gmail.com) **Saturday, March 4** – 8 AM

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 9:28 AM. 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.

### *Bells Neck Conservation Area – Harwich*

MJ Foti, [maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com) **Friday, March 10** – 8 AM

Meet at Bells Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir. Take advantage of low tide conditions on the East Reservoir, enjoy the marsh overlook at the footbridge, and scan the car bridge for raptors, waterfowl and a possible bittern or rail. Recommend having boots on hand.

### *Cape Cod Canal and Sandwich Marina - Sandwich*

Peter Fang and Gloria Smith, [fangmail@comcast.net](mailto:fangmail@comcast.net) **Sunday, March 19** – 8 AM

Meet in the parking lot of Tree House Brewery (formerly Horizon's Restaurant) at the end of Town Neck Road, Sandwich. We will scope the water from the parking area to look 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 in search of more wintering species.

### *Grays Beach and Callery Darling Trails – Yarmouth Port*

Jeff Bryant, [five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com) **Saturday, March 26** – 8 AM

Head north on Center Street from 6A and bear left at the fork to stay on Center Street. This leads directly to the parking lot for Grays Beach. 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. Fall and winter affords an excellent vantage point from which to see geese, sea ducks, and gulls. The thickets within the Callery-Darling Trail leading to Alms House Road provide shelter for a variety of over-wintering passerines.

### Cape Cod Bird Club COVID Guidelines: January-March 2023

- 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.
- 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.



Dark-eyed Junco  
Photo by Sue Finnegan

## Hog Island Audubon Camp Experience —Trent Levesque

My experience at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine was a wonderful opportunity that has provided me great insight into a career in wildlife conservation. I went thinking that it would just be all about the Atlantic Puffins, but I learned so much more than I expected. My absolute favorite part of this trip was visiting Eastern Egg Rock Island and its inhabitants. There I was able to view and study seabirds that normally I would be unable to see: Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Common Eider, Black Guillemot, Storm Petrels and various tern and gull species. I also had the opportunity to learn from and visit with the researchers that live temporarily on the island.

By far my favorite seabirds on Eastern Egg Rock Island were the terns. In June during my visit there were three species of terns on Eastern Egg Rock in breeding plumage. This included the Common, Arctic and Roseate Terns. These birds were nesting en masse on the Island at ground level, with some nests hidden in vegetation, and some nests spilling out into the island's footpaths requiring visitors to the island to watch their step! The terns were also very protective of their nests and fended off any humans that got too close by dive bombing at their heads. There was also a pair of Common Terns that had been dubbed “Garden Terns” by the island’s researchers due to their persistence in nesting right in the researcher’s garden. The “Garden Terns” were less skittish than the others and al-



lowed us to get pretty close before defending their nests. We were able to witness some of their behaviors. We saw one of the birds brooding the pair’s eggs while the other one went out to find a fish for the brooding partner; then they would subsequently trade roles. Fortunately for us there were some terns hatching. I was able to witness the behaviors of newly hatched chicks--a true highlight of my time at camp.

Eastern Egg Rock Island is known for the “Puffin Project.” In 1973 there was an effort led by Dr. Stephen Kress to restore the native population of Atlantic Puffins in the Gulf of Maine. Atlantic Puffins had been killed off by hunters. Eastern Egg Rock in Muscongus Bay, was selected as a starting point for this conservation operation. Juvenile puffins had been moved from Newfoundland, Canada, to the island into man-made nests until the puffins had aged enough to fledge. Then it was hoped that the puffins would return to the island during breeding seasons to establish a new colony. The “Puffin Project” was successful and the latest recorded number of individual puffins was up to 172 in 2017. Fortunately, during my time at the camp I got to personally meet Dr. Kress on the day of my visit to Eastern Egg Rock. It was so inspiring to meet someone who has so much passion for his work. Dr. Kress shared with us the extensive history of his work with the Puffin Project and with seabirds in general. I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet and learn from him.

I also learned how to tag a bird for tracking/research purposes from a master bird bander. On Hog Island, near the camp, we set up a mist net in an area of high bird activity (next to many established bird feeders) and waited for a bird to get caught and trapped in the net. We caught a Song Sparrow and began the process of tagging it. I learned that you always place the tag on the bird first, in case it manages to escape before the tagging process is done. Then you move on to measuring and recording the sex, bill length and wingspan. After this, the bird is released unharmed.

Another memorable experience I had at camp was learning how technology has influenced birding. One of my camp counselors was Drew Weber, the project coordinator for the popular Merlin Bird Identification mobile app. This is an app that I, and others around the world, often use to assist in identifying bird species. This app uses user-submitted photos and sounds from eBird, the world's largest digital database of bird photos, sounds and sightings. It was fascinating to learn about the development of the app from Drew.

I’d like to thank Cape Cod Bird Club for sponsoring my visit to the Hog Island Audubon Camp. I’ll always remember my trip. I look forward to continuing to expand my experience and knowledge of birding, seabirds and conservation of nature. I am very grateful for this inspiring opportunity--thank you again.



Tern Hatchling

## Welcome New Members

Annette & Adrian Cyr	- Truro	Lois Hirshberg & Janice Hank	- Marstons Mills
Thierry Albertine	- West Chatham	Goodman/Weinberger Family	- Waltham
Katherine Helmer	- Truro	Amy Roberts	- Teaticket
Michael Coletti	- Harwich	Hopkins/Cavicchi Family	- Marstons Mills
Virginia Palazzo	- Wellfleet	Susan Spaulding	- Onset
Marilyn & Will Graves	- Centerville	Katherine McConney	- Harwich
Jill Glover	- Cotuit	Sally McKnight	- Franklin
Mike Tucker	- Woods Hole	Loree Boyd	- Falmouth
Edward Goulart	- Harwich	Susan Weber & Paulo Rodrigues	- Dennis
		Ivan Gould	- Hyannis

## Harwich Nestbox Monitoring — Kelly Sattman

Fourteen volunteers from Cape Cod Bird Club and Harwich Conservation Trust monitor 103 nest boxes on Harwich Town-owned land and Harwich Conservation Trust properties. The five locations are Thompson's Field, Muddy Creek, Teixeira, Cornelius Pond, and Cold Brook Preserve. 557 eggs were counted this year and 330 nestlings fledged.

The Eastern Bluebird's earliest egg laying date was 4/13/22. Across the five sites, bluebirds laid 61 eggs and produced 46 fledglings. Black-capped Chickadees laid 29 eggs and produced 17 fledglings. Tree Swallows laid 233 eggs and produced 155 fledglings.

House Wrens laid 159 eggs and produced a minimum of 112 fledglings. (Their nest construction creates difficulties obtaining accurate counts so we tend to underestimate rather than risk overestimating.) But the earliest egg appearance overall was by a House Sparrow on April 8th. 75 eggs were produced this season and not one House Sparrow fledged because monitors carefully substitute fake eggs to reduce the population of this introduced and invasive species.

## Crowes Pasture Nestbox Monitoring—E. Dennis — Carolyn Kennedy

Cape Cod Bird Club volunteers made 14 visits to Crowes Pasture Conservation Area this summer to monitor 14 nestboxes and the Osprey nest on Quivet Creek.

Eight Eastern Bluebirds fledged from two nest attempts. (9 eggs laid)

24 Tree Swallow fledged from nine nest attempts. (36 eggs laid) (House Sparrows and House Wrens caused a number of Tree Swallow nests to be abandoned.)

About 29 House Wrens fledged from seven nest attempts. (37 eggs laid) Three House Sparrows fledged from three nest attempts. (9 eggs laid)

The pair of Ospreys raised two young.

Thanks to monitors Karen Casey, Joyce and Jonathan White and Judy Keller for their monitoring efforts.

*This nestbox monitoring project of Cape Cod Bird Club started at Crowes Pasture in 2004 with four boxes. We welcome members to join our monitoring teams and enjoy birding and monitoring April through early August. Training provided.*

## Membership Form for Cape Cod Bird Club -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 to renew your dues soon; they will expire on Aug. 31, 2023.

**New members may join at any time.**

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

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 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/join/join-online/](https://www.capecodbirdclub.org/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/join/join-by-mail/> and send it along with your check to: CCBC, PO Box 351, Centerville, MA 02632.

Officers: Peter Fang	President
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Maria Curley	Treasurer
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Peter Bono ('25)	Conservation and Education
Peggy Sagan ('23)	Membership
Gloria Smith ('23)	Publicity and Outreach
Mark Faherty ('24)	Programs
Mike Simons ('24)	Refreshments
<i>Ex-officio:</i> Carolyn Kennedy & Jean Warneke	<i>The Kingfisher</i> , Co-editors
Michele Burnat	Merchandise Sales

Board members may be reached by email: [info@capecodbirdclub.org](mailto:info@capecodbirdclub.org)