



# The Kingfisher

VOL 53 (1)

[www.capecodbirdclub.org](http://www.capecodbirdclub.org)

Fall (October–December 2024)

## In this issue:

President's Message	1
Club Meetings, Speakers	2-3
Bird Walks	4-6
New CCBC Merchandise	7-8
New Members	8
Reflections on Student Bird Club	9
Spare Optics?	10
Membership Form	11
Board Members	12

*Cape Cod Bird Club meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, Sept through May at 7:00PM. January and February meetings will be by Zoom. Others will be hybrid meetings, simultaneously live and online. We meet at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster. Doors open at 6:30 pm*

*The Kingfisher* is published quarterly.

Deadline for the next issue is December 8, 2024.

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. Editor has the final say on content.

### Editor:

Carolyn Kennedy  
[info@capecodbirdclub.org](mailto:info@capecodbirdclub.org)

### Webmaster:

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

### Facebook:

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

Readers are urged to view this publication online to appreciate color bird photography.

## President's Message

### Greetings, Cape Cod Bird Club!

I hope you have enjoyed your summer on the Cape or wherever you are. This fall newsletter marks the start of our 54<sup>th</sup> year! The Club continues to foster the joys of birding through informative hybrid monthly programs, educational (and social!) bird walks, and support of conservation and education efforts at home and abroad. Our Club also offers this quarterly newsletter, fun Club merchandise, and a community of birders of all types.

The Program line-up for the rest of the calendar year includes all-new talks by Shawn Carey, Stephanie Ellis and our two teen scholarship winners who attended Hog Island Birding camp. More information about these programs can be found on pages 2-3.

Our guided Bird Walks for the fall are detailed in this newsletter. This is a great opportunity for first-time birders, as well as very experienced birders, to get out for some local birding fun. You never know what you might see. So far this year, our bird walks have spotted 190 unique species! Some of the highlights include: Redhead, King Eider, Common Nighthawk, Black Guillemot, Willow and Least Flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Red Crossbill, Fox Sparrow, and Salt-marsh Sparrow.

We will be offering a "pop-up store" on the web to buy clothing with our Bird Club logo embroidered on it during the week of October 21. This might be a great time to pick up holiday gifts or high-fashion clothing for yourself. See page 7 for more information.

We are looking for a way to give a second life to old optics that many of us have lying around. There are groups who may not have the capability to purchase equipment and would welcome second-hand birding optics. See the article on page 10 explaining how you may donate equipment at one of our meetings.

Happy Birding,  
Peter Fang  
President



Pair of House Finches at Barnstable Intermediate School. See Page 9.

## Club Meetings—Gloria Smith, Programs Director

Cape Cod Bird Club is delighted to offer the following presentations this fall! Our meetings are free and begin at 7 pm. No registration is required. A Zoom link will be emailed to our members and published on the CCBC website. The monthly meetings and program in **October and November will be a “hybrid”** of in-person gathering at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster with simultaneous Zoom broadcast. The Museum doors open at 6:30 pm to allow time to mingle and gather information.

**Monday, October 14, 2024 - Speaker : Shawn Carey  
"Falkland Islands—The Penguin Photo Adventure"**

The Falkland Islands or Islas Malvinas are located off the southern coast of Argentina and almost to the tip of Tierra del Fuego. But for many people in the U.S. wanting to visit the Falklands you will access it through the city of Punta Arenas in southern Chile. With one flight a week entering and departing the Falklands and a total of three days travel each way you have to really want to go there.

The Falkland Islands are a very remote south Atlantic archipelago with two main islands, East and West Falkland, plus an additional 776 smaller islands, most of which are not inhabited. However, several host amazing wildlife, including five species of penguins, which on certain islands have thousands of birds during the nesting season.

For bird watchers and wildlife photographers with an interest in the birds found here you can see 63 nesting species including 14 endemic subspecies and two endemic species, Falkland Steamer Duck and Cobb's Wren. In addition to the bird life there are also Southern Elephant Seals and Southern Sealions which can be seen in large numbers on a few islands.

For this program we will explore two locations on Saunders Islands, The Neck, which has three nesting penguin species plus nesting Black-browed Albatross Then on to The Rookery with its impressive colony of Southern Rockhopper Penguins and a staggering number of Black-browed Albatross. After that we will explore Sealion Island and our first look at Elephant Seals, Sealions and Killer Whales that prowl the waters looking to feast on them. Next up is Bleaker Island with its beautiful mile long beach where you can watch Gentoo and Magellanic Penguins as they ride the waves onto the sandy shores. Finally, we will end our photographic adventure at Volunteer Point which has the largest nesting King Penguin population in the Falklands.

Gentoo Penguin colony on the Falkland Islands. Photographer Shawn Carey.



## Club Meetings, continued

Shawn Carey (Migration Productions) produces bird and wildlife-related multi-media presentations, videos and photo workshops that have been presented all over the United States. Shawn moved to Massachusetts in 1986 and started watching birds in 1988. His avid interest in photography was joined with a newfound passion for birding and he began to combine the two in 1991. By 1994, he and good friend Jim Grady started Migration Productions as a way to present their multi-image photo presentations. Migration Productions offers the finest quality bird and wildlife programs with stunning photographs, video, and soundtracks. In 1997, he started teaching bird photography workshops for Massachusetts Audubon Society including a summer field school at Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary.

### Monday, November 11, 2024 - Speaker: Stephanie Ellis of Wild Care "Osprey - Egg Incubation, Chick Rearing and Wild Fostering"

In 2023, Wild Care's Executive Director Stephanie Ellis, was tasked with incubating two sets of Osprey eggs (from USDA), raising the chicks and finding them suitable wild foster nests. In 2024, Stephanie took a new strategy and placed Osprey eggs into active nests. Stephanie will discuss this intensive processes along with successes and challenges. She will also touch upon the history of Osprey on Cape Cod, a true conservation success story, and the legalities involved in working with Osprey nests, eggs and chicks. Two of the hatched Osprey chicks were placed into the Osprey nest at Cape Cod Museum of Natural History.



Stephanie is the Executive Director of Wild Care, a wildlife rehabilitation hospital located in Eastham, MA (Cape Cod). She has a special affinity for birds and mice and has worked extensively in the fields of wildlife rehabilitation and avian conservation on both U.S. coasts. She loves dancing and enjoying Cape Cod's natural beauty.

Osprey chicks looking for a bite of fish.

**Monday, December 9, 2024 - 7—9 pm.**

**Holiday Party**

**Featuring our two 2024 Hog Island Birding Camp Scholarship Recipients.**

Join us at the CCBC Holiday Party on December 9 for a fun and festive evening. If you attended last year's party, you know that we added some new twists to the annual celebration. Who knows what the planners will come up with this year? A visit from eight frost-bitten reindeer rehabilitated by Wild Care Cape Cod? A drawing for a Partridge in a Pear Tree? Suet cake and sunflower seed cookies? You'll have to come to find out! Come and get to know your fellow members. If you're interested in helping with the party planning, set-up, or clean-up, contact us at [info@capecodbirdclub.org](mailto:info@capecodbirdclub.org).

## Cape Cod Bird Club Fall Walks – October through December 2024

### Mary Jo Foti, Coordinator



Semipalmated Sandpiper and Dunlin. Photo: MJ Foti



**Join us on these free Club trips.**

**Please email trip leader if you plan to attend.**

**Check the website for updates or cancellations.**

### OCTOBER

#### **Garden Varieties: Brewster – Harwich**

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – 8AM**

Meet at the Harwich Community Gardens on Sisson Road just north of the Stop & Shop on Route 28. This has traditionally been a nice spot for fall migration with some unlikely surprises in past years including Ash-throated Flycatcher and Grasshopper Sparrow. If time permits, we can head directly north to Brewster Community Gardens just opposite the Eddy Bay Trail. This requires little walking on hard pack dirt and is easily navigable.

Leader: Al Curtis [killdeer89@comcast.net](mailto:killdeer89@comcast.net)

#### **Sandy Neck — Sandwich**

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:30AM**

*Many thanks to South Shore Bird Club for sponsoring this event and extending it to CCBC!*

Take Sandy Neck Rd directly off Rt. 6A and drive directly down to the main lot. We're hoping to have a big migration day of scoters and other seaducks traveling south. We should see at least some birds on the move, and depending on wind and weather, there could be a large flight of birds. We'll start by scoping from the beach near the parking lot, and as the morning progresses, we'll venture out onto the beach and head back by the marsh trail, depending on weather conditions. Expect at least 2-3 miles of walking in soft sand and dirt trails. Portable bathrooms available. *Please note earlier start time!*

Leader: Dan O'Brien [danielkobrien107@gmail.com](mailto:danielkobrien107@gmail.com)

#### **Fort Hill and Hemenway Landing – Eastham**

**Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> – 8AM**

From Route 6E, turn right on Governor Prence Rd. and park in the first lot on the left just past Captain Penniman House. We'll walk the loop trail towards Hemenway Landing where there should be some nice migrant activity. We can also scan the marsh for incoming shorebirds, herons, egrets and hopefully a bittern or rail with the rising tide. You may want to wear waterproof boots/shoes. Expect 2 miles of walking on hard pack trail with mixed elevation. High tide 8:15 AM - 9:10 AM.

Leader: William von Herff [williamvonherff@gmail.com](mailto:williamvonherff@gmail.com) Ross Sormani [rsormani@yahoo.com](mailto:rsormani@yahoo.com)

#### **Coast Guard Beach/Salt Pond Visitor Center – Eastham Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – 8AM**

Follow Route 6 east to Eastham and turn right at Salt Pond Visitor Center onto Nauset Rd. This will become Doane Rd. which you'll follow to Ocean View Drive. Turn right and park in the lot by Nauset Coast Guard Station. You'll be walking south along the beach and return along the inside of the inlet on the rising tide. High tide is 11:50 AM. Expect to walk about 2 miles in soft sand. The second leg of the trip is a stop at Salt Pond Visitor Center for further exploring. There are bathrooms available there, open year-round.

Leader: Jeff Bryant [five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com)

## Bird Walks, continued

### NOVEMBER

#### High Head – N. Truro

Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8AM

Meet at the High Head Bike Trail parking lot. Bear left on High Head Road at the steep hill and you'll be on a dirt road that leads to parking for the bike trail. We'll be looking and listening for rails, bobwhites and American Bittern skulking through the marsh as well as searching overhead for raptors and scanning the thickets for songbirds. Walk begins on a paved bike trail but may also include hard pack dirt trails of mixed elevation. **Don't forget to set back clocks Saturday night for end of daylight savings time!**

Leader: Ross Sormani [rsormani@yahoo.com](mailto:rsormani@yahoo.com)

#### Forest Beach Conservation – South Chatham

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – 8AM

Take Route 6 to Exit 85 and head south towards Rt. 28. Make a right on Rt. 28 and a left turn at about .5 miles at Forest Beach Rd. This will take you directly to the beach. We'll walk the marsh trail to where it meets Mill Creek and return via the beach before heading towards the overlook on Bay View Road. This is another area with mixed habitat, a nice variety of bird species and the occasional rarity. Expect ½ to 1 mile of walking on soft sand. Waterproof boots/shoes recommended.

Leader: Jeff Bryant [five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com)

#### Hatches Harbor Fire Road – Race Point Beach

Sunday, November 17 – 7:30AM

These two groups will meet at the Race Point Beach parking lot on the far side by the National Park Service Ranger Station. Those taking the Hatches Harbor route will leave their cars at the beach parking lot and be dropped off at the fire road trail.

Hatches Harbor Group: You will 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. From the lighthouse, you'll walk Race Point Beach and meet up with the other group before returning to your cars at the RP Beach lot. There could be wet conditions on the way out to the lighthouse, so you may want to have a pair of boots on hand. Low tide is 5:46 AM. At least 4-5 miles of walking dirt trails and soft sand.

Leader: Ross Sormani [rsormani@yahoo.com](mailto:rsormani@yahoo.com)

Race Point Beach Group: Some of us will drop the Hatches Harbor group by the fire road before returning to the parking area where we'll begin our own journey walking the beach and scoping for gulls, alcids, loons, gannets and migrating waterfowl. Truly anything is possible this time of year. We'll rendezvous with the Hatches Harbor group along the beach before our return trip to the parking area.

Expect about 2 miles or so of walking in soft sand.

Leader: Jeff Bryant [five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com)



Cape Cod Bird Quiz: Can you name them?



## Bird Walks, continued

### DECEMBER

#### West Dennis Beach

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 8AM

Meet at the East end of the West Dennis Beach parking lot just past the entrance. This will be a leisurely paced walk as we sort through gulls in hopes of seeing the Lesser Black-backed that has been a regular at this beach for many a winter season. There will also be a variety of waterfowl and late shorebird species including Dunlin, Yellowlegs and Sanderlings in winter plumage. Expect 1-2 miles of walking the long, paved road that borders the beach and possibly scoping from the beach as well.

Leader: Jeff Bryant [five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com)

### JANUARY

#### New Year's Day with Ed Banks – Mid-Cape Wednesday, January 1, 2025 — Noon-4:00PM

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 2024 year list 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!

Leader: Ed Banks. [68edbanks@gmail.com](mailto:68edbanks@gmail.com) (508-769-6762)

**Thanks to our volunteer trip leaders this fall:** Ed Banks, Jeff Bryant, Al Curtis, Dan O'Brien, Ross Sormani, and William von Herff. Additional trip leaders are needed. Please contact MJ Foti to volunteer in the new year.



Ring-necked Duck. Photo by David Clapp

### 2024 Annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census

This year's waterfowl census will take place Saturday and Sunday, **December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**.

Last year, 26 teams covered 340 ponds with a total of 29 waterfowl species observed. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who contributed to this exceptionally successful survey. We're hoping to duplicate that success this year.

*MJ Foti*

### Cape Cod Bird Club Health Guidelines: 2024

- 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 leader.

## Reflection on a Birding Year with Intrepid Birders — Maria Curley

What incredible joy I felt while reviewing pictures of this past year with the 13 sixth and seventh grade curious and enthusiastic birders with whom I had the pleasure to interact during our weekly bird club meetings and outdoor adventures! What an incredible year we had, with a mixture of education and fun! New this past year were a lot of hands-on bird-related activities, including making bird magnets out of clay, painting bird houses, making bird seed ornaments and more! Students learned how to use birding apps, looked at live bird feeder cams, filled our campus and window bird feeders and took our birding walks around the campus with eBird counts recorded, of course!

We are so grateful for the continued support of Cape Cod Bird Club through donations received for our Conservation and Education Fund. The \$250 in annual support helps offset the cost for assorted bird seed and suet for all the feeders we maintain at the school year-round.

This year will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barnstable Intermediate School Student Bird Club, so I have included photos from this past year birding, but also a few from groups I have had in the past. My goal is to try and get those “now high-school” students back over to BIS to visit one of our Club meetings and go birding with us!



Teacher Maria Curley with 5th and 6th grade birders.

Our overall goals for the SBC are to develop young birders' knowledge of local birds, feeder birds and bird food choices, bird migration, bird ID, the use of birding apps and bird guides, different feeder designs and their purpose, use of field technology like binoculars and spotting scopes. We are looking forward to a great year of birding on and off-campus this year, with hopes of being able to take field trips to great local birding sites like Audubon Long Pasture and Sandy Neck!

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not share my gratitude to Sherry Fermino and Graham Hamby for supplying *Peterson's First Guides* that got our Club off the ground five years ago; and the awesome Tommy Thompson, Scott, Kira, and the whole crew at WBU for donating the bird feeder platform that has weathered every season and storm and brought great joy to birds and children alike! And a special shout-out to Mike O'Connor at Bird Watchers General Store for supplying things along the way like bird bookmarks for some of our avid birders and readers, and of course, for being there with birding supplies when we need them. It takes a village and we could not have been successful without all of you!



Author: Maria Curley, Science Teacher and Student Bird Club Advisor – Barnstable Intermediate School (BIS), Hyannis, MA. Cape Cod Bird Club Treasurer.



American Goldfinch at feeder on classroom window.

**Cape Cod Bird Club Merchandise—Michele Burnat**

**COMING SOON.....FALL ON-LINE STORE – 10 DAYS ONLY**



Rain Jacket



Soft Shell Jacket



Microfleece Jacket



**OUTERWEAR**



Beanie



Puffy Vest



Soft Shell Vest



Neck Gaiter

Additional items on the next page.

**Sale Dates: October 21-30 ONLY**

New items never offered

Multiple color options

Sizes Range from X-Small to 3X

Good quality name brands



Refreshen your wardrobe

Shop early for the holidays

Orders ready early December

Can be shipped or picked up

**Store opening will be communicated via email & on our website**



## Cape Cod Bird Club Merchandise, continued



Hooded Sweatshirts



Crewneck Sweatshirts



All Weather Tote



Baseball Caps

SHIRTS

ACCESSORIES



Long Sleeve UPF Shirt



Performance Polo



20 Oz Tumbler



12 Oz Wine Glass

## Welcome to Our New Members

Rebekah Ambrose-Dalton (W. Barnstable)

Jonathan Caponette (Germany)

Marianne Conley & Alexandra Coughlin  
(Bourne)

Lorenzo Carnevale (Chatham)

David Coutu (Morris, CT)

Cliff Cook (Watertown)

Carrie Crook (Mashpee)

Natalie & Carl Edwards (Boxborough)

Tracy Lamperti (Eastham)

Cindy & Tom Legatowicz (W. Yarmouth)

Fi Lowry & Leelee Maclay (Chatham)

Julia Newman (Hudson, OH)

William Riethle (Sandwich)

Charl & Mike Roy (Marstons Mills)

Rebecca Schulman (Chestnut Hill)

Catherine Smith (Burlington, KY)

Sally Tarbell ( W. Dennis)

Vivian Youngberg (S. Dennis)

### Cape Cod Bird Quiz Answers:

A. Whimbrel. B. Piping Plover. C. Sanderling. D. Osprey E. Herring Gull. F. Bald Eagle  
Thanks to photographer Mark Faherty for A. Thanks to David Clapp for photographs B-F.

## Have Some Spare Optics You No Longer Use? - Michele Burnat

Over the years, many of us have upgraded or replaced our optics, yet still have our old ones lying around. The CCBC would like to give new life to those old optics by getting them in the hands of local budding birders or to birders abroad that support bird conservation and environmental education.



Please consider donating your spare binoculars, scopes, tripods or monoculars that are in good working order, at our next monthly meeting. A donation box will be out at each of our monthly meetings until further notice.

The more successful our optics collection initiative is, the more groups will benefit from your generosity. We will be happy to share the stories of those who benefited from your generous donations.

Something to consider: Many optics come with a limited or lifetime warranty. If you've been holding onto a damaged pair, consider sending them to the manufacturer for repair and 'presto' you have optics that someone else can benefit from.

Any questions regarding the CCBC Optics Donation Initiative, please feel free to reach out to Michele Burnat at [info@capecodbirdclub.org](mailto:info@capecodbirdclub.org).



Cape Cod Bird Quiz:  
Can you name these birds?



**JOIN CCBC or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW.  
Membership year runs from September 1 through August 31.**

Use this form if paying by check. If credit card, <https://capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/join-online/>

**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"/> 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 printing expenses by electing to receive your Kingfisher newsletter **by email only**. The photos will be in stunning color rather than B&W.
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 <https://capecodbirdclub.org/wordpress/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://capecodbirdclub.org/jwordpress/join-by-mail/> and send it along with your check to: CCBC, PO Box 351, Centerville, MA 02632.

Officers: Peter Fang	President
Mark Faherty	Vice President
Carolyn Kennedy	Secretary
Maria Curley	Treasurer
Directors: Mary Jo Foti ('25)	Bird Walks
Peter Bono ('25)	Conservation and Education
Peggy Sagan ('26)	Membership
Michele Burnat ('27)	Merchandise Sales
David Clapp ('27)	Outreach and Publicity
Gloria Smith ('26)	Programs

*The Kingfisher*, Editor: Carolyn Kennedy

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