



# The Kingfisher

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Spring (April-June 2025)

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*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 June 8, 2025.

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.

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

## President's Message

Greetings!

Spring has sprung and we look forward to our well-deserved warmer weather that benefits both birders and our migrating birds! This past winter has been a bit colder and snowier than usual, but that doesn't seem to have dampened the bird sightings as we've been treated to our share of "rarities" such as Snowy Owl, King Eider, Tufted Duck, Lapland Longspur, Sandhill Crane and Pacific Loon. And while these somewhat "unusual" species have been making almost regular winter appearances on the Cape, the most unusual winter visitor was a Ferruginous Hawk on Monomoy that was a first ever for Massachusetts! We are incredibly fortunate that Cape Cod is such a wondrous place with so many types of birds. According to eBird, 443 species have been observed all-time in Barnstable County – that's more than any other county in Massachusetts, as well as more than every county in 45 other states! You would have to visit California, Texas, Arizona, or New Mexico to find a more "birdy" county than Barnstable. How fortunate we are!

There is no doubt that the historical actions taken to preserve habitat and minimize harm have been instrumental in aiding our bird diversity. Examples are the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the banning of DDT and the many actions to preserve land. More recently, we are hearing from some Club members expressing concerns about government actions being taken that may impact birds and their habitats. The mission statement of the Cape Cod Bird Club is to "foster and promote the knowledge, development, protection and conservation of the bird life and natural resources of Cape Cod". So, in addition to our Club's ongoing support of conservation projects via small grants, the Board of CCBC has agreed to partner with all the bird clubs in our state (via the Association of Massachusetts Bird Clubs) to speak as one voice to our Massachusetts legislators about conservation issues. I also encourage you to have your voice heard. You have the power to weigh in on your conservation concerns by sending your thoughts to your state and national representatives. You will find their contact information at: [www.270towin.com/elected-officials/](http://www.270towin.com/elected-officials/). You may already be involved with other conservation groups such as Mass Audubon or National Audubon. Both these groups have "Take Action" links on their websites with pre-written letters of support for conservation that you may send or adapt. We will keep our members informed of any other actions we are taking. I sincerely hope that this is not construed as a "political" message, but simply as the conservation message intended – Save our Birds!



A sure sign of Spring—Ospreys returned March 8

Regards,  
*Peter Faug*  
President

## Club Meetings—Gloria Smith, Programs Director

Cape Cod Bird Club is delighted to offer the following programs for Spring, 2025! Our meetings are free and begin at 7 pm, with no registration required. The April and May meetings will be a “hybrid” format featuring an in-person gathering at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster and a simultaneous Zoom broadcast. Museum doors open at 6:30 pm to allow time to meet, mingle and gather information. A Zoom link will be emailed to all our members prior to each meeting.

**Monday, April 14, 2025 Speaker: Dr. Mardelle McCuskey Shepley  
“Birds and Well-Being”**

Do humans have an innate affiliation with nature? Do birds play a role in supporting our mental health? Multiple studies have confirmed that spending as little as 20 minutes outside has a significant restorative impact and, with specific regard to bird-watching, researchers have found that individuals who were able to view birds from their homes had lower levels of stress and anxiety and less depression than those who could not. In this presentation we will talk about research on the health benefits of being outdoors and the impact of birding on well-being.



Dr. Mardelle McCuskey Shepley, B.A., M.Arch., M.A., D.Arch., is an architect and environmental psychologist. An emerita professor at Cornell University in the Department of Human Centered Design and emerita Academic Director of the Cornell Institute for Healthy Futures. Dr. Shepley has authored/co-authored seven books, the most recent of which are *Design for Mental & Behavioral Health* (2017) and *Peace by Design* (2024).

## Club Meetings, continued

### Monday, May 12, 2025 Speaker: Peter Flood “The Chatham Petrel Expedition and a New Zealand Seabird Primer”

Worldwide, seabirds face ongoing anthropogenic threats at sea and on the breeding grounds. Once historic and abundant nesting colonies of seabirds have often been directly or indirectly decimated or eliminated by human pressures from habitat degradation and introduction of mammalian predators. From a conservation perspective, this is inherently dangerous and places many species at risk for extinction.

New Zealand and its surrounding islands may very well be considered the seabird capital of the world. Conservation efforts for seabirds in New Zealand have been considered innovative and effective for habitat restoration, translocation and predator removal, providing opportunities for seabird populations to increase.

The Chatham Petrel Expeditions are planned to observe, study and photographically document all the world's tubenosed seabirds as part of an ongoing (25+ year) body of work which will ultimately culminate in a written four-volume tubenose monograph. This Expedition was conducted in March of 2023 with a crew of six experienced seabird enthusiasts (including Peter) that spent five days at sea off the Chatham Islands, 500 miles east of New Zealand. The islands host amazing numbers and diversity of seabird species. As the title suggests, the focus of this expedition was to observe, study and photograph a very rare gadfly petrel at sea – the **Chatham Petrel**, which currently only nests on the Chathams.



Chatham Petrel, Peter Flood photo



Antipodean Albatross, Peter Flood photo

Peter Flood, a Cape Cod resident, has a passion for ornithology with professional experiences serving as naturalist for Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary; conducting aerial seabird and waterfowl surveys of Nantucket Sound as part of the proposed Cape Wind project; and conducting shorebird surveys for Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. Currently, Peter's birding interests are focused on the ecology, identification and the range/distribution of seabirds. He has spent thousands of hours at sea on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts and other parts of the world on expeditions chasing, observing and photographing some of his favorite subjects. Peter volunteers his time with NOAA, conducting seabird surveys of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off Cape Cod and volunteers for the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown providing photographic data and behavioral observations of endangered North Atlantic Right Whales off Race Point in Provincetown. Peter previously served as Secretary on the Board of Directors for CCBC. He is currently Director with Green Seal Environmental, LLC.

**Cape Cod Bird Club Spring Walks – April through June, 2025**  
**Mary Jo Foti, Coordinator**



**Join us on these free Club trips.**  
**Please email trip leader if you plan to attend.**  
**Check the website for updates or cancellations.**

### April

#### **Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve – Harwich**

**Tuesday, April 1 – 6 PM**

From Route 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 along the way. Cold Brook Preserve underwent a major ecological restoration project completed in Fall 2024 with newly restored and easily accessible trails throughout 66 acres of wetland and surrounding woodland. The intricate pond and trail system provides ideal habitat for a variety of passerines, hawks and waterfowl in addition to otters and other mammals.

Leader: Ed Banks ([68edbanks@gmail.com](mailto:68edbanks@gmail.com)). *Please bring a flashlight.*

#### **Bells Neck Conservation Area – Harwich**

**Saturday, April 12 – 8 AM**

Meet at Bells Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir with parking in the nearby fenced-in lot. 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. Expect about 2 miles of walking on varied terrain, sometimes narrow dirt trails with a slightly steep hill leading to the footbridge. Leader: Jeff Bryant ([five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com))

#### **Herring River – Wellfleet**

**Saturday, April 19 - 8:00 AM**

We'll meet at the parking area at the far side of the dike on Chequessett Neck Road in Wellfleet. Low tide allows for ample parking on both sides of the street. 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 good habitat for woodpeckers and a variety of sparrow species. This is also a strong area for sightings of birds of prey. Expect up to 2 miles of walking on uneven terrain. Warm, waterproof footwear is recommended. Ross Sormani ([rsormani@yahoo.com](mailto:rsormani@yahoo.com))

#### **Beech Forest – Provincetown**

**Sunday, April 20 – 8 AM**

Join this walk to get an early jump on spring migration. Meet at the Beech Forest parking lot. From Route 6E, 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 in search of early migrants and other passerines. Terrain is a mix of hard-packed dirt paths, paved bike trails and mild hills. Leader: William von Herff ([williamvonherff@gmail.com](mailto:williamvonherff@gmail.com))

## Bird Walks, continued

### April continued

#### Crowes Pasture – East Dennis

Friday, April 25 – 8 AM

From Route 6A, turn onto School Street, make your first right onto South Street and follow till the end. 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, freshwater ponds, salt marsh, and tidal creeks. There is also a nestbox trail system maintained by Cape Cod Bird Club for Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Leader: Jeff Bryant ([five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com))

#### Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Plymouth

Tuesday April 29 – 8 AM

From the Sagamore Bridge, take Route 3 North for 10 minutes to Exit 7 (Clark Rd). Turn right at the end of the ramp to Clark Rd which becomes Beaver Dam Rd. Travel ~5 minutes to 60 Beaver Dam Rd where you will see the parking lot for Tidmarsh on the right. This 481-acre former cranberry farm is the largest freshwater ecological restoration ever completed in the Northeast. It features a winding coastal stream bordered by freshwater wetlands, plus 3 miles of trails through meadows and woodlands, along ponds, swamps and streams. We will walk 2-3 miles of mainly flat dirt trails and boardwalks in search of nesting bluebirds, early migrating warblers, sparrows (Field, Swamp) and raptors (Kestrel, Broad-winged, Bald Eagle). *This walk is co-sponsored with South Shore Bird Club (SSBC).*

Leaders: Peter Fang ([fangmail@comcast.net](mailto:fangmail@comcast.net)) Gloria Smith ([glofang@comcast.net](mailto:glofang@comcast.net))  
Lisa Schibley ([lschibley@manomet.org](mailto:lschibley@manomet.org))

### May

#### Beech Forest Walks – Provincetown

CCBC is offering bird walks for May migration. Meet at the Beech Forest parking lot. From Route 6E, 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. Terrain is a mix of hard-packed dirt paths, paved bike trails and mild hills.

Saturday, May 3 - Leader: MJ Foti ([maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com))

Wednesday, May 14 - Leader: Jeff Bryant ([five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com))

Tuesday, May 20 - Leader: Jeff Bryant ([five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com))

Sunday, May 25 - Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast ([marilyntillinghast@gmail.com](mailto:marilyntillinghast@gmail.com))

Tuesday, May 27 - Leader: Peter Crosson ([capecodbirder@gmail.com](mailto:capecodbirder@gmail.com))

## Bird Walks, continued

### Additional Walks in May

#### Fort Hill – Eastham

Thursday, May 1 - 8AM

From Route 6E, turn on Governor Prence Rd. and park in first lot on the left just past Captain Peniman House. We'll walk the loop trail towards Hemenway Landing where we'll likely encounter some early migrant activity. We'll scan the marsh for incoming shorebirds, herons, egrets and hopefully a bittern or rail. You may want to wear waterproof boots/shoes. Expect 2 miles of walking on hard-packed trail with mixed elevation.

Leader: William von Herff ([williamvonherff@gmail.com](mailto:williamvonherff@gmail.com))

#### Mass Audubon's Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 6 – 8 AM

From Mashpee Rotary, take the exit for 151 west (Nathan Ellis Highway) and travel approx. 2.7 miles. Turn right onto Currier Rd and take another right onto Ashumet Rd. The dirt parking lot will be on your left. This property is known for its variety of hollies along with areas of dense thickets, woodland trails and small but productive Grassy Pond. Expect 2-3 miles of walking along dirt trails with mild hills.

Leader: MJ Foti ([maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com))

#### Clapps Pond – Provincetown

Saturday, May 10 – 8 AM

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, the surrounding bogs and woodlands. This is a three-mile hike with some sizable hills which we expect will take a full 2 1/2 hours to cover. We hope to be rewarded with some migrating thrushes, vireos and perhaps even one of the more southern warblers.

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

#### Bridge Creek Conservation – Barnstable

Saturday, May 17 – 8 AM

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.

Leader: MJ Foti ([maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com))

#### High Head – N. Truro

Saturday, May 31 – 8AM

Meet at High Head Bike Trail parking lot. Bear left when you reach Cliff Rd to stay on High Head Rd, a dirt pathway 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 passerines. Walk begins on the paved bike trail but may also include hard pack dirt trails of mixed elevation. *This walk is co-sponsored with South Shore Bird Club (SSBC).*

Leaders: Ross Sormani ([rsormani@yahoo.com](mailto:rsormani@yahoo.com)) Vin Zollo ([vzollo1@yahoo.com](mailto:vzollo1@yahoo.com))

## Bird Walks, continued

### June

#### Crane Wildlife Management Area – East Falmouth

Tuesday, June 3 – 8 AM

From Mashpee Rotary, take Route 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. Parking is 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 raptor activity. Those wishing to can continue on to Mass Audubon's Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary located just minutes from Crane. *This walk is co-sponsored with Brookline Bird Club (BBC)*

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

#### Goodwill Park – Falmouth

Saturday, June 7 - 8:00 AM

Meet at the entrance on Goodwill Park Rd off Gifford Street, about .6 miles north of the Jones Rd/Gifford St. intersection. A variety of warbler species, Brown Thrasher and many nesting songbirds are among the species you can expect in this beautiful woodland habitat.

Leader: MJ Foti ([maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com))

#### Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve – Harwich

Friday, June 13 – 8:00 AM

From Route 39 in Harwich, take Bank Street to #203 - the Harbormaster's Workshop. Cold Brook Preserve underwent a major ecological restoration project completed in Fall 2024 featuring easily accessible trails throughout 66 acres of wetland and surrounding woodland. The intricate pond and trail system provides ideal habitat for a variety of passerines, hawks and waterfowl in addition to otters and other mammals. Leader: Al Curtis ([alcurtis48@gmail.com](mailto:alcurtis48@gmail.com))

#### Forest Beach Conservation, South Chatham

Saturday, June 21 – 8 AM

Take Route 6 to Exit 85 and head south towards Route 28. Make a right on Route 28 and a left in .5 miles at Forest Beach Rd. This will take you directly to the beach where parking is free of charge. We'll walk the marsh trail to where it meets Mill Creek and return via the beach – about one mile of walking in soft sand – before heading towards the overlook on Bay View Road. There you will find a generous parking lot with an overlook offering panoramic views of Nantucket Sound. Waterproof footwear recommended. Leader: MJ Foti ([maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com))

#### Bells Neck Conservation Area, West Reservoir – Harwich

Sunday, June 22 – 8 AM

Meet at Bell's Neck Road at the landing of West Reservoir and park in the fenced-in lot. We'll pick up the trail at the north side of West Reservoir and take a counter-clockwise route to the western edge by the herring run. We'll then complete the circuit by following the trail along the southern edge of the reservoir. This is a known roosting area for Black-crowned Night Heron. Expect 2-3 miles of walking on somewhat rocky and root-strewn trails. Leader: Jeff Bryant ([five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com))



Whimbrel with saltmarsh moth caterpillar.  
Photographed by Mark Faherty on Nauset Spit,  
Summer, 2024.

## Eagles and Ospreys and Turkeys, Oh My! — Bonnie McEwan

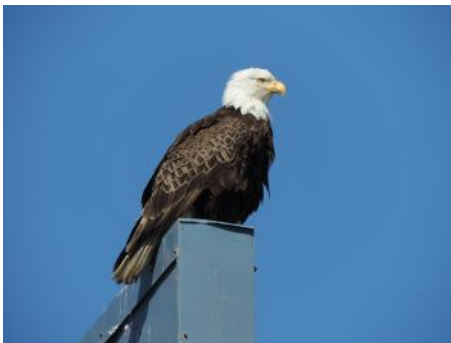


Bald Eagle,  
David Clapp photo

Bald Eagles are getting a lot of buzz lately. While the Bald Eagle has appeared on the Great Seal of the U.S. for the past 250 years, it seems that its status as our national bird was never made official. Enter the National Eagle Center in Minnesota, supported by the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, which waged a successful campaign to codify the honor most of us believed the bird already had. So on Christmas Eve last year, by an Act of Congress, the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was declared “the national bird.”

In other eagle news, Shadow and Jackie, the Big Bear Bald Eagles, welcomed their first two hatchlings on March 4, eagerly observed by around 326,000 You Tubers [<https://www.youtube.com/@FOBBVCAM>]. Although the pair produced eggs during the past two seasons, all were eaten by ravens, a sad event that generated a huge cadre of supporters for the eagles and a LOT of bad PR for ravens.

Cape Cod had its own eagle drama two years ago when a Bald Eagle pair laid claim to a long-standing Osprey nest overlooking Cedar Pond in Orleans. Many of us had seen the Ospreys return year after year, so we watched and waited to see how our familiar seasonal residents would react to the usurpers. The answer was, “not well.” As our own Mark Faherty reported on WCAI [[https://www.capeandislands.org/in-](https://www.capeandislands.org/in-this-place/2023-03-15/eagle-versus-osprey-a-battle-for-prime-real-estate-in-orleans)



[this-place/2023-03-15/eagle-versus-osprey-a-battle-for-prime-real-estate-in-orleans](https://www.capeandislands.org/in-this-place/2023-03-15/eagle-versus-osprey-a-battle-for-prime-real-estate-in-orleans)], the male Osprey, talons out and blazing, promptly began dive-bombing one of the eagles as it sat stolidly on the nest. This went on for a day or so and the next time we looked the eagles were gone and our heroic male Osprey was perched proudly on the nest, waiting for his mate to arrive. It’s not that we didn’t admire the eagles and wish them well, but the Ospreys had the hometown advantage, so to speak, and people felt loyal to them.

One of America’s founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, most definitely did *not* admire the Bald Eagle. Although Franklin was in France at the time his contemporaries decided to include the bird on the Great Seal, he had occasion to express his dislike in a 1784 letter to his daughter, wherein he addressed the decision of the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati to use the Bald Eagle as a symbol of the American Revolution [<https://www.societyofthecincinnati.org/medals-and-insignia/>].



## Eagles and Ospreys and Turkeys, Oh My! - continued

*“For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country,”* he wrote. *“He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labour of the fishing hawk; and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him, and takes it from him. With all this injustice, he is never in good case, but like those among men who live by sharping and robbing he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides he is a rank coward: the little kingbird not bigger than a sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district.”* (Given that Ospreys are often called fish hawks, it seems fair to speculate that Franklin would have sided with most Cape Codders in the matter of the Cedar Pond nest.)

In that same letter, Franklin went on to say he thought the Cincinnati eagle resembled a wild turkey. *“I am on this account not displeased that the figure...looks more like a turkey. For in truth, the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey was peculiar to ours. He is besides...a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on.”*

Franklin was somewhat obsessed with turkeys. The *Smithsonian* magazine reports that in 1750 he attempted to electrocute a turkey on the theory that its meat would be more tender if the bird was dispatched by electrocution instead of the usual decapitation. During the experiment, *“he mistakenly touched the electrified wire intended for the turkey while his other hand was grounded, thereby diverting the full brunt of the turkey-killing charge into his own body.”* He wrote to his brother a few days later. *“The company present...say that the flash was very great and the crack as loud as a pistol; yet my senses being instantly gone, I neither saw the one nor heard the other.”* <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/when-benjamin-franklin-shocked-himself-while-attempting-to-electrocute-a-turkey-180979094/>

Now if Franklin is right about the courage and cunning of turkeys, it may behoove us to make common cause with one of the roaming flocks of local turkeys, just in case we need to defend our homesteads one day. But it is probably best to avoid mentioning the electrocution thing.



Bald Eagle, David Clapp photo

### Editor's Note:

Don't have time for a long birding trip to Alaska or Maine? Try searching for eagles on the Cape. Mark Faherty's recommendations for seeing Bald Eagles here:

- Ashumet Pond in Falmouth
- Mashpee/Wakeby Ponds in Mashpee/Sandwich
- Long Pond in Brewster/Harwich
- Cedar Pond in Orleans
- Great and Herring Ponds in Eastham
- Gull Pond in Wellfleet

And you might just see one overhead anywhere — black silhouette with very long plank-like wings! (80 inch wing span!)

## Vroom! Are Those Tigers in the CCBC Tank? - Peggy Sagan

Who cares how a carburetor works, as long as your car starts -- right? The same is true for many things we take for granted, including the Cape Cod Bird Club. Have you ever wondered what makes the Club run? How we are able to present interesting monthly programs, enjoyable bird walks and this quarterly newsletter? Let's take a look under the hood.



Cape Cod Bird Club is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1971 to promote the knowledge, protection and conservation of birds. The Club is headed by an all-volunteer board of directors and officers. The four officers are elected to serve one-year terms. Six directors are elected for 3-year terms. We are currently accepting nominations for several positions, including president, this year, when the current terms expire in June. Several board members are at the end of their terms – please step up to keep our momentum going! Elections are at the May meeting and terms start July 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition to the four officers and six directors (listed on the last page of this newsletter), there are committees and short-term opportunities for members interested in participating in the decision-making and sharing the workload. For example, CCBC offers grants of up to \$1000 to support conservation efforts for the well-being or protection of birds in the Western Hemisphere. Our Conservation Director is assisted each spring by a few members in evaluating grant proposals.

Similarly, the Club's Outreach Director relies on volunteers to help staff information tables and recruit new members at local events. And one of the most popular activities the Club sponsors, guided bird walks, couldn't be offered without the generous support of volunteer walk leaders. Other volunteers contribute articles for this newsletter. Others are needed for database management to keep us running. Perhaps you are interested in becoming involved in one of these activities?

Volunteers – along with member dues and contributions – provide the spark to keep CCBC running. Speak to any officer or director to find out how you can “boost Club performance” in the year ahead. Or express your interest at [info@capecodbirdclub.org](mailto:info@capecodbirdclub.org).

## December 2024 Waterfowl Census — MJ Foti, Volunteer Coordinator

During the first weekend of November of 1983, Blair Nikula and members of the Cape Cod Bird Club initiated a census on the lakes and ponds on Cape Cod. Participants were instructed to identify and count all the waterfowl (loons, grebes, geese, ducks, and coot) present on each pond. Covering 202 ponds, participants tallied 3,957 individuals of 22 species of waterfowl.

Now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year, the Cape Cod Waterfowl Census is an excellent example of citizen science in which volunteers can gather significant data and make a meaningful contribution to our knowledge of the Massachusetts avifauna. Waterfowl are relatively conspicuous, generally easy to identify and thus readily censused with a reasonable effort. The weekend of December 7-8, there were 26 teams with 42 individuals participating in the Census. The volunteers demonstrated their impressive collective birding skills as they scouted primary observation locations, recorded data and entered observation results.

Icy conditions on ponds in early morning gave way to more open water as the sun created some melt off. A total of 31 species of waterfowl and 14,013 individual birds were seen on 332 of our freshwater ponds. These include 26 species of ducks, in addition to Canada Goose, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Mute Swan, and American Coot. Some of the more notable finds include four Eurasian Wigeon; an incredible 1,697 Canada Goose – the highest number recorded since the survey's inception; 579 American Wigeon; and a significant decrease in American Black Duck numbers in comparison to the earliest years of the survey when over 100 fewer ponds were surveyed.

I wish to express my appreciation to the dedicated volunteers, both newcomers and seasoned veterans, for their spirit, enthusiasm, and drive, as well as for generously sharing their collective birding expertise. Please visit our website where you will find a link that will display all waterfowl data in spreadsheet format from 1984 through the present. Here's a link to the survey website: [capecodwaterfowl.org](http://capecodwaterfowl.org)

**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"/> Family (Household) \$25.00 |
| <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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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Carolyn Kennedy	Secretary
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*The Kingfisher*, Editor: Carolyn Kennedy

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