

BIRD CLUBS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Editor's Note: Bird Observer asked bird clubs from throughout Massachusetts to send information on their clubs for publication. For representatives of those clubs who have not yet responded, we would be happy to print at a later time, as space permits, a description of your club. Clubs from other New England states are also welcome to send descriptions of their club activities.

Allen Bird Club

Founded in 1912 in Springfield, Massachusetts, Allen Bird Club is one of the country's oldest and most respected societies for the amateur study of birds and related natural history. The Club honors Dr. Joel A. Allen (1838-1921), a Springfield native and prominent scientist for whom Allen Street in Springfield was also named. An associate of Agassiz and Chapman, Dr. Allen became curator of birds and mammals at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology and later chief ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. One of three founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, Dr. Allen was its first president. He was also editor of *The Auk* for nearly thirty years and a leader in bird protection efforts.

Allen Bird Club serves area birders and all those concerned with the appreciation of nature by providing a forum in which to meet and develop their common interests. The Club advances the pleasures of birding by sharing knowledge with the larger community of naturalists and with the general public, to whom most Club activities are open without charge. Through Club participation, members are kept current about interesting and unusual bird sightings as well as about topics and issues pertaining to bird identification, behavior, habitat, and environment. These interests are supported by an extensive and varied program.

In addition to providing lectures and presentations at its monthly meetings from October through May, the Club sponsors an annual public film series, maintains the Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow, schedules frequent local and distant field trips year-round, conducts annual bird censuses, and enjoys an annual banquet. The Club publishes an annual program booklet-membership directory as well as the quarterly *Bird News of Western Massachusetts*, which includes seasonal field records. The Club also makes appropriate contributions for the support and recognition of conservation efforts, especially those affecting bird ecology. With a membership of approximately 300, Allen Bird Club takes pride in its continuing record of service to nature study, education, and habitat preservation in the region.

For further information, contact Dr. Nancy Eaton, 465 The Meadows, Enfield, CT 06082.

Brookline Bird Club

The Brookline Bird Club (BBC) is the largest of the many bird clubs in Massachusetts. It was founded in 1913, and its membership is now over 1300. Its charter is to stimulate interest in bird life and the protection of local wild birds. The Club sponsors an active program of year-round field trips, covering the entire state from the Berkshires to Provincetown. The listing for the field trips is published three times a year. Typically, field trips are scheduled for almost every weekend day throughout the year. During the peak of spring migration, walks are scheduled for each day of the week at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Pelagic bird trips are also organized, as are overnight trips to birding sites in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Two evening lecture meetings are held each year, one in spring and one in fall. Guests are always welcome on field trips and at meetings.

A special tradition of BBC trips has been to encourage new birders, both young and old, to learn about birds and the pleasures of birding through active participation in seeking and identifying birds in various habitats and during all seasons of the year. A number of world-class trip leaders and ornithologists birded with the BBC in their childhood years.

The origin of the BBC traces back to the spring of 1913, when a notice in the *Brookline Chronicle* and the *Boston Transcript* invited all those who might be interested in the study of wild birds to attend a meeting at the Brookline Public Library. The result was the founding of the BBC. The first annual meeting was held in Brookline, the first President was a resident of Brookline, and most of the Club's early members were from Brookline. Today, Club membership reaches far beyond Brookline to all of Massachusetts and to many other states as well. For more information about joining the BBC, please contact Mr. Steven Arena at 3 Kenneth Road, North Easton, MA 02356-1004. Membership runs from January to December at a cost of \$10 per year.

Cape Cod Bird Club

The CCBC was established in 1971 and has over 480 members. Members are mostly Cape residents, but the CCBC includes members from 13 other states and England. The purpose of the CCBC is to promote education about, appreciation for, and conservation and enjoyment of birds and the natural history of Cape Cod. The Club publishes five newsletters a year about upcoming programs, field walks, news and announcements, guest articles, and reports of bird sightings and bird count summaries (e.g., breeding bird census). The Club also organizes four to six field walks a month on the Cape except in the summer months. Trips outside of the Cape (e.g., Quabbin, out of state) are occasionally organized, and every Saturday and Sunday in May, trips to the Provincetown Beech Forest are held.

The CCBC also helps co-manage a 5.5 acre former truck farm overlooking

Town Cove in Orleans. This pocket sanctuary is known as Sea-Call Farm and has trails along the periphery of the property as well as a picnic area on top of a hill with spectacular views of the cove.

The CCBC meets every second Monday of the month from September through May at 7:45 PM at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in Brewster. The meetings, which are generally attended by ninety to one hundred people, feature guest speakers and one members night.

Annual dues are \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family. For further information, contact the CCBC at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Box 1710, Brewster, MA 02631.

Essex County Ornithological Club

The ECOC was founded in 1916 and has been active ever since. The purpose of the ECOC is to promote interest and engage members in ornithological study in Essex County. More specifically, the Club seeks to maintain a long tradition of holding an annual May bird census by canoe and on foot along the Ipswich River, to periodically revise the official checklist of the birds of Essex County, and to organize or participate in other such projects and field trips with the above purposes.

Historically the ECOC published annual bulletins, which included notes on regional sightings and summarized the results of the annual canoe trip. The Club no longer produces the bulletins. The only consistent field trip is the Ipswich River canoe trip. Other field excursions usually include an owl prowl and a woodcock walk. The Club typically meets the first Thursday of every month from October through April at the Peabody Essex Museum. Each meeting has a lecture, hands-on workshop (using mounts, study skins, and recordings), or other bird-focused event. A calendar of events is available by contacting the Natural History Department at the museum (Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem, Massachusetts 01970-3783). Membership is \$6, and meetings are free and open to the public. The ECOC presently has about 100 members.

Needham Bird Club

The Needham Bird Club was formed in the early 1960s, when a group of people from Needham interested in birds decided to meet periodically and to organize birding trips. The group was very active during the 1960s and 1970s, but as the members grew older, participation in field trips dropped. Recently, field trips are once again stressed as we seek new members. Only fifty-six percent of our membership is from Needham. Any person with any interest in birds is welcome. Field trips are run about once a month.

The Club has excellent indoor programs nine times a year from September through May on the second Friday of the month. All but the May meeting are at the Deaconess/Glover Hospital in Needham. Topics range from Antarctica to

the Arctic, from Massachusetts to China, from birding your backyard to world travel, and from archeology to zoology. Individual dues are \$10 per year, and families can join for \$16. For additional information contact Mary Alice MacVeigh (president) at 617-444-8891 or Dot Spaulding (treasurer), 619 Great Plain Avenue, Needham, MA 02192 (617-444-9059).

Paskamansett Bird Club

The PBC covers the Bristol and Plymouth county areas and has about 160 members. It was established in 1963, and Club members Jo and Gil Fernandez were instrumental in restoring the Osprey to the Dartmouth and Westport area by installing over one hundred Osprey platforms and monitoring their nesting success.

The PBC enables people with a similar interest and appreciation of birdlife to express concerns and ideas, and to share information on bird sightings. Once a year, the Club publishes a complete listing of walks, gatherings, and meetings. The Club has numerous field trips in the area and to other birding hot spots. Spring, summer, and fall trips usually are held about two times a week, but fewer trips are held in winter. From September through May, regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. The meetings are located at Friends Meeting Hall on Horseneck Road in Dartmouth. No meeting is held in December, but the PBC holds an annual dinner after the New Bedford Christmas Bird Count, which the Club conducts.

Annual dues are \$5 per year. For further information on the club, contact Ruth Edwards at 508-636-4567.

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Cape Cod Natural History Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24

sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society's
Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Workshops include

Wayne Petersen on Seabirds
Bob Prescott on Marine Mammals
Bob Oldale on Cape Geology
Mario DiGregorio on Coastal Plants
also shorebirds, shellfish, reptiles,
and more!

Whale Watch and Pelagic Birds Trip
Tours of Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge
Pleasant Bay Cruises, Canoe Trips
Keynote Speaker, Banquet Dinner

For registration information call the
Wellfleet Sanctuary at (508) 349-2615



CAPE COD NATURAL HISTORY HOTLINE

Call 508-349-WING. (508-349-9464)

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has started a Cape Cod Natural History Hotline, updated weekly, to list the latest bird sightings and nature happenings on the Cape. You can also leave a message about birds, butterflies, or other animals or natural history events you've see. The hotline is sponsored by the Bird Watcher's General Store in Orleans.

HARVARD ENCEPHALITIS STUDY SEEKS VOLUNTEER BIRDERS

In an effort to elucidate the role of certain birds in the ecology of eastern equine encephalitis, the Harvard School of Public Health seeks volunteers to submit observations of communally roosting crows, robins, grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and European Starlings. Observations should include the date and time, precise location, number of birds and species composition of any flock (more than ten individuals), and if flying, direction of flight. For additional information, contact: Dr. Richard Pollack or Nicholas Komar, Department of Tropical Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health, 655 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. Tel: 617-432-1587 or 432-2064. Fax: 617-738-4914. E-mail: nkomar@hsph.harvard.edu or rpollack@hsphsun2.harvard.edu.