

**Cape Cod Bird Club Field Trips – Coordinator, Mary Jo Foti
Spring 2026**

**All are welcome on these free club walks
Please email the trip leader if you plan to attend
[PLEASE - check the website for updates or cancellations to the calendar!](#)**

Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve (HCT)* – Harwich **Wednesday, April 1 – 6 PM**
From Rt. 39 in Harwich, take Bank Street to #203 - the Harbormaster's Workshop. We will take a leisurely evening stroll to where [American Woodcock](#) can be observed while 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). *Please bring a flashlight.*

Bells Neck Conservation Area (HCT)* – Harwich **Sunday, 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: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Hatches Harbor Fire Rd. to RP Light – Provincetown **Wednesday, April 22 – 8 AM**
Meet at the dirt parking lot on the west side of Province Lands Rd. about a mile south of the National Seashore Visitor Center. From the dirt parking lot, we'll follow the fire road that runs northwest to the dike separating Hatches Harbor from the airport that leads out to both the harbor and Race Point. Gulls, terns, waterfowl, raptors, and passerines are among the many species observed. The occasional rarity is always possible in this unique habitat. Low tide is 10:14 AM. There could be wet conditions on the way out to the lighthouse, so you may want to have a pair of boots on hand for this 4-mile hike.
Leader: Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Plymouth **Thursday April 23 – 8 AM**
From the Sagamore Bridge, take Rt. 3 North 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). Leaders: Peter Fang (fangmail@comcast.net) Gloria Smith

Crowes Pasture – East Dennis **Sunday, April 26 – 8 AM**
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 nest box trail system maintained by Cape Cod Bird Club for Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows.
Leader: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Beech Forest Walks for May 2026 – Provincetown (8:00 am start)

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.

Sunday, May 10 – Leader: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Tuesday, May 12 – Leader: Keelin Miller (capekeelin@hotmail.com)

Sunday, May 17 – Leader: Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Tuesday, May 19 – Leader: Marilyn Tillinghast (marilyntillinghast@gmail.com)

Tuesday, May 26 – Leader: Peter Crosson (capecodbirder@gmail.com)

Fort Hill – Eastham

Saturday, May 2 - 8AM

From Rt 6E, turn on Governor Prence Rd. and park in first lot on the left just past Captain Penniman 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 pack trail with mixed elevation. Leader: Val Freysinger (mannyneppy@gmail.com)

Special Event:



2nd Annual Global Blind Birder Bird-a-Thon

Sunday, May 3rd - 10am

Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve - Harwich

Experience a leisurely birding exploration along the 0.5 mile wheelchair accessible loop trail.

Our pace will be slow to take in the sounds and sights of birds and wildlife.

Blind or partially sighted birders of all levels and abilities are welcomed.

[Click Here for more details about the walk location, directions, background, contact information.](#)

Mass Audubon's Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary

Thursday, May 7 – 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: Sharon MacDonald (sjbmacdonald@gmail.com)

Clapps Pond – Provincetown

Wednesday, May 13 – 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: Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Bridge Creek Conservation – Barnstable

Friday, May 15 – 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)

Scusset Beach State Reservation – Sagamore

Thursday, May 21 – 8am

Take Scusset Beach Road to the main entrance. Parking is .25 miles past the entrance at the fishing pier. We'll walk the bike path that parallels the canal and check out the woodland trail under the powerlines in hopes of seeing the annually nesting Blue-winged Warbler. The campground area and adjacent field by the playground can host a variety of sparrows, warblers, thrushes and other spring migrants. Expect 2 to 3 miles of paved and wooded dirt trails. Leader: Val Freysinger (mannyneppy@gmail.com)

Crane Wildlife Management Area – East Falmouth

Tuesday, June 2 – 8 AM

From Mashpee rotary, take 151 west (Nathan Ellis Highway) approx. 4.3 miles. Shortly after Sandwich Rd intersection, the entrance to Crane will be on the right by Allietta Softball Field. 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)

Leaders: Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com) and John Edmondson of BBC

Goodwill Park – Falmouth

Thursday, June 4 - 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)

Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve – Harwich

Friday, June 12 – 8:00 AM

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Leader: Sharon MacDonald (sjbmacdonald@gmail.com)

High Head – N. Truro

NOTE DATE CHANGE: Sunday, June 14 – 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. Leader: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Forest Beach Conservation, South Chatham

Friday, June 26 – 8 AM

Take Rte. 6 to exit 85 and head south towards Rte. 28. Make a right on 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: Sharon MacDonald (sjbmacdonald@gmail.com)

*HCT – Harwich Conservation Trust

Please visit your local land trusts to find out more about conservation initiatives happening within your towns. Many organizations offer guided walks and host events throughout the year.

New England Shorebird Guide, a photographic guide freely available on the *Bird Observer* site, now covers 37 species of shorebirds that occur in New England, northeastern United States and eastern Canada. The guide is designed primarily as a visual aid on your smart phone that can be used in the field; it can also be installed on your tablet or computer. Access the guide using this link:

<https://www.birdobserver.org/Better-Birding/New-England-Shorebird-Guide>.

New England Shorebird Guide content was created by Soheil Zende. Marsha Salett of *Bird Observer* was the editor. Eric Swanzey, web manager for *Bird Observer* and other Massachusetts birding sites, created the website/app.

User help as well as instructions for installing the guide icon on your iPhone or Android phone can be accessed from within the app. Thanks to Jay Dia, Eric Mueller and Paul Bain for providing help instructions for Android phones. The photos in the guide were contributed by many generous photographers.

Many shorebirds will be arriving in our region in April, May and June. Enjoy them right now!

Soheil Zende

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New England Shorebird Guide



- Free web app
- 37 species accounts
- Use on any smartphone
- Detailed photographic id guide

<https://www.birdobserver.org/Better-Birding/NESG>