

**Cape Cod Bird Club Field Trips – Coordinator, Mary Jo Foti  
Summer 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!](#)**

**JUNE**

**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](mailto:sjbmacdonald@gmail.com))

**JULY**

**Crowes Pasture (DCLT), East Dennis**

**Wednesday, July 8 – 8am**

Turn onto School Street and make your first right onto South Street. 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 creek. We'll also visit a nest-box trail where we're likely to encounter a number of songbird species, including Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. (high tide 6:00 am)

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

**West Barnstable Conservation Area - Barnstable**

**Tuesday, July 14 – 8am**

From exit 65 on Route 6, follow signs for 149S - a right turn after exiting the rotary. When you reach 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. This maze of old dirt roads traverses over 1,100 acres of pine-oak woodlands, interspersed with occasional brushy clearings and a broad power-line cut providing excellent birding throughout the year. The walk includes wider, "cartway" trails as well as some narrow root-strewn paths.

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

**Forest Beach Conservation, South Chatham**

**Saturday, July 18 – 8am**

Take Route 6 to exit 85 and head South towards Rt.28. Turn right on Rt.28 and a left turn at about .5 miles at Forest Beach Rd. This will take you directly to the beach – parking is free of charge. We'll walk the marsh trail to where it meets Mill Creek and return via the beach, less than a mile round trip. We'll then head towards the overlook where we'll likely view herons, egrets, shorebirds, passerines, gulls, osprey and Northern Harrier. This is another area with mixed habitat, a nice variety of bird species, and the occasional rarity. *Waterproof footwear/hiking boots recommended.* (low tide 9:22 am)

Leader: Sharon MacDonald, ([sjbmacdonald@gmail.com](mailto:sjbmacdonald@gmail.com))

**Fort Hill and Hemenway Landing, Eastham**

**Friday, July 24 – 8am**

Meet in the **lower** parking lot of Fort Hill Road. We'll walk the loop trail towards Hemenway Landing to observe songbird and passerine activity, then scan the marsh for incoming shorebirds, herons, egrets and possibly a bittern or rail. Expect 2 miles of easily navigable hard pack trail with mixed elevation.

(high tide 8:18am) Leader: Jeff Bryant ([five\\_loons@yahoo.com](mailto:five_loons@yahoo.com))

**Goodwill Park – Falmouth****Wednesday, July 29 - 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))

**AUGUST****Doane Rock and Nauset Bay East, Eastham****Monday, August 3 – 8am**

The walk begins in the parking area beyond Doane Rock which allows us two hours to explore this area of rich, mixed habitat. We'll begin on the wooded trails leading to Nauset Bay East, then stop on the wooden bridge spanning the marsh to observe shorebirds, coastal waterbirds, gulls and terns that gather in impressive numbers during fall migration. Expect to walk about 3 miles of paved and dirt trails.

(low tide 9:06 am) Leader: Ross Sormani ([rsormani@yahoo.com](mailto:rsormani@yahoo.com))

**Forest Beach Conservation, South Chatham****Wednesday, August 5 – 8am**

Take Route 6 to exit 85 and head South towards Rt.28. Turn right on Rt.28 and a left turn at about .5 miles at Forest Beach Rd. This will take you directly to the beach – parking is free of charge. We'll walk the marsh trail to where it meets Mill Creek and return via the beach, less than a mile round trip. We'll then head towards the overlook where we'll likely view herons, egrets, shorebirds, passerines, gulls, osprey and Northern Harrier. This is another area with mixed habitat, a nice variety of bird species, and the occasional rarity. *Waterproof footwear/hiking boots recommended.* (low tide 11:01am)

Leader: Val Freysinger ([mannyneppy@gmail.com](mailto:mannyneppy@gmail.com)) (co-sponsored with Brookline Bird Club)

**West Dennis Beach *Please note later start time.*****Saturday, August 8 – 5:30pm**

Meet at the West Dennis Beach parking lot at the far end (nearest the breakwater and Bass River as you are permitted to drive). We will look for lingering, summer-breeding, endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns, as well as migrating shorebirds. (low tide 5:09pm)

Leader: Peter Bono ([pbono@prba.com](mailto:pbono@prba.com))

**Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary (Mass Audubon), Barnstable****Monday, August 17– 8am**

Meet in the parking area at 345 Bone Hill Road off Rt. 6A. Long Pasture is a Mass Audubon property with a new Discovery Center, winding trails traversing woodland habitat, beach and a dock overlooking Cape Cod Bay with panoramic views of Sandy Neck lighthouse. Admission is free for Mass Audubon members: remember to bring your Mass Audubon membership card. Non-members may make a modest \$5 donation. Visit the Mass Audubon website if you wish to enroll; membership will keep you up to date on programs at Long Pasture as well as wildlife sanctuaries throughout the state. (low tide 9:43am)

Leader: Sharon MacDonald, ([sjbmacdonald@gmail.com](mailto:sjbmacdonald@gmail.com))

**Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve (HCT), Harwich****Thursday, August 27 – 8am**

From Rt. 39 in Harwich, take Bank Street to #203 – the Harbormaster's Workshop.

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

## SEPTEMBER

### Bells Neck Conservation Area – Harwich

Tuesday, Sept 1 – 8am

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](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

### Peterson Farm, Falmouth

Wednesday, Sept 9 – 8am

Meet at Peterson Farm where we will scan thickets looking for flycatchers, vireos, warblers and possibly bobolink. From the intersection of Palmer Ave and Jones Rd, continue south on Palmer Ave., which turns into Locust St. Follow Locust St., which turns into Woods Hole Rd. Follow Woods Hole Rd for about .5 mile, turning right onto McCallum Dr. - stay right and follow Town of Falmouth Conservation signs to parking. Leader: Val Freysinger [mannyneppy@gmail.com](mailto:mannyneppy@gmail.com)

### Sandy Neck Beach, West Barnstable

Tuesday, Sept 15 – 8am

Head towards Sandy Neck Beach directly off Rt.6A and park in the main lot near the public facilities. We'll be looking for migrating shorebirds, terns, gulls and perhaps other pelagic species. Once we're finished with the beach the marsh trail awaits. Expect at least 2-3 miles of walking in soft sand with steep elevation in some spots. *Waterproof footwear/sturdy hiking shoes recommended.* (low tide 9:09am) Leader: Peter Crosson. [capecodbirder@gmail.com](mailto:capecodbirder@gmail.com)

### Chapin Beach, Dennis

Saturday, Sept 19 – 8am

From Route 6A, turn onto New Boston Rd across from Dennis Public Market. Drive .2 mi, then slight right onto Beach Street. At the 3-way intersection, take Taunton Ave to Dr. Botero Rd which leads to the parking area. We'll walk along this popular yet secluded beach with nice views of Sandy Neck Lighthouse and Grays Beach. Expect to see shorebirds, terns and gulls gathering in numbers with the falling tide. Forster's Terns occur regularly at this location. Protective, waterproof footwear recommended on this rocky beach. (high tide 6:14am) Leader: MJ Foti, [maryjo1226@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

### Black Beach, Falmouth

Sunday, Sept 27 – 8am

Parking is at Chapoquoit Beach - Route 28 to 28A, then turning onto Chapoquoit Rd which leads to the beach parking lot. Join us on this new addition to our walks program as we head out on the high tide looking for migrating shorebirds, terns, gulls, passerines and perhaps some early movement of sea ducks. It's about a 2 mile round trip, with scenic views of Buzzard's Bay and the Great Sippiwissett Marsh. The return trip will be along the bike trail. Leader: Val Freysinger [mannyneppy@gmail.com](mailto:mannyneppy@gmail.com)

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\*HCT – Harwich Conservation Trust

\*DCLT – Dennis Conservation Land 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.

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\*Mass Audubon Sanctuaries and Wildlife Conservation Areas

- Mass Audubon is an excellent resource for a wide variety of nature events and programs. They have been generous in allowing CCBC to run walks at Ashumet Holly and Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuaries. Many thanks. Stay informed and up-to-date on what's happening in your conservation community: <https://www.massaudubon.org>

For additional information on bird clubs throughout Massachusetts, including links to each of their websites, please visit: <https://massbird.org>

*Bird Observer* is a New England-based bimonthly journal for birders of all skill levels. They are a nonprofit organization supported by subscribers, and staffed by **volunteers**. They publish original articles on birding locations, on avian populations and natural history, on regional rarities, book reviews and field notes, bird sightings, photographs, and artwork.

**New England Shorebird Guide**, a photographic guide freely available on the *Bird Observer* website, 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>.

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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**  
Littleton, MA 01460

## 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>