

Cape Cod Bird Club Field Trips Winter 2026 (Dec-Mar)

**All are welcome on these free club walks.
Please email the trip leader if you plan to attend.
Always check the website for updates or cancellations!**

JANUARY

New Year's Day with Ed Banks – Mid-Cape

Thursday, January 1, 2026 – 12-4

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* outing! Get your 2026 checklist 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 (508-769-6762)

Hinckleys, Seymour and Long Ponds – Harwich/Brewster **Saturday, January 3 – 8:00am**

From Route 124 (Pleasant Lake Ave.) turn on Headwaters Drive. The Cape Cod Rail Trail parking lot is about a half mile down on your left. A short walk on paved bike trail will bring you to our first stop, Hinckleys Pond. We'll then head to nearby Long Pond Beach in Harwich to view from our first of three vantage points. We'll finish up at Seymour Pond which includes a 10-minute walk each way along the bike trail. These mid-cape ponds host a variety of waterfowl including Greater and Lesser Scaup, Mergansers, Bufflehead and American Coot as well as the less common Barrow's Goldeneye.

Leader: MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Eastham Ponds and First Encounter Beach

Sunday, January 11 – 8:00am

Meet at Great Pond beach parking area by turning right off Samoset Road onto Great Pond Road to begin the day viewing a nice variety of dabbling and diving ducks. Wiley Park is the next stop where we'll explore a short, wooded trail offering additional views of Great Pond. From there we'll head to First Encounter Beach and finally, a short hop to Herring Pond - a productive spot for wintering waterfowl. If you have a scope, bring it along. Varied terrain with ~ 2 miles of walking.

Leader: Jeff Bryant, five_loons@yahoo.com

Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve – Harwich

Saturday, January 17th – 8:00am

From Rt. 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 with newly restored and easily accessed 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: Sharon MacDonald, sjbmacdonald@gmail.com

Corporation Beach, Dennis and Brewster Ponds

Sunday, January 25 – 8:00am

Postponed until further notice due to weather

Meet at Corporation Beach off Route 6A in South Dennis where you can observe a variety of overwintering waterfowl, grebes, loons, alcids and the occasional Harlequin Duck directly from the parking area. From there we'll visit one or more nearby freshwater ponds including Scargo Lake, Slough Pond and Walkers Pond. Our observations will be primarily stationary and accessible for all levels of mobility. Bring a scope if you have one.

Leader: MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com Co-sponsored with Dennis Conservation Land Trust

Pier to Pier Sweep – Wellfleet, Truro, P-town

Saturday, January 31 – 8:00am

Cancelled due to dangerously low temperatures and challenging road conditions

We will meet at Wellfleet Town Pier, then continue exploring the ponds, beaches and harbors of the Outer Cape. Gull Pond, Pamet Harbor, Head-of-the-Meadow Beach, Highland Light and Race Point Beach are all possible target destinations. Our final stop will be Macmillan Wharf in Provincetown. We can expect wintering waterfowl, alcids and other northern visitors and also keep our eyes and ears open for passerines sheltering in the brush. You can carpool with friends/family members or drive individually. Leader: Jeff Bryant, five_loons@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY

Coast Guard Beach/Salt Pond Visitor Center – Eastham

Friday, February 6 – 8:00am

Follow Route 6 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 falling tide. Low tide is 9:54 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 year-round bathrooms available. Leader: Jeff Bryant, five_loons@yahoo.com

CC Canal and Sandwich hotspots

Sunday, February 8 – 8:00am

Postponed due to weather conditions to Friday February 20

Take Scusset Beach Road to the main entrance of Scusset Beach State Reservation. Parking is .25 miles past the entrance at the fishing pier. We'll begin at the canal and follow up with visits to the ponds, marshes, bays and backwaters of the Upper Cape. These will include Scusset Beach, Town Neck Road Beach, and Shawme Lake. Nearby Sandy Neck Beach is also an option depending on time and weather conditions. You can carpool with friends/family members or drive individually.

Leader: MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com *Co-sponsored trip with Brookline Bird Club*

Snug Harbor/Great Sippewissett Marsh – Falmouth

Tuesday, February 10 – 8:00am

Postponed due to icy conditions to March 10

From Route 28, take 28A to Old Dock Road towards Shining Sea Bike Trail parking lot. It is on the right before crossing the bike trail. We'll start by walking to the east side of the Great Sippewissett Marsh via the bike trail, circle around to the west side of the marsh/Black Beach, out to Chapoquoit Beach, and return to the parking lot along Snug Harbor. This is an area where great blue herons, various sea ducks (mergansers, buffleheads, eiders, loons, scoters, long-tailed ducks), dabbling ducks (wigeons, gadwalls, American black ducks), as well as passerines and raptors have been seen wintering. Expect 2 miles of walking along packed dirt/stone roads as well as sand beaches. Leader: Val Freysinger

mannyneppy@gmail.com

Fort Hill and Hemenway Landing – Eastham

Saturday, February 14 – 8:00am

Postponed due to icy trail conditions to March 17

Join us for a walk along the loop trail to Hemenway Landing as we watch for marshland species more easily observed on the high tide. Bitterns and rails are possible along with a variety of waterfowl and raptors. High tide is 10:00 AM. Wear knee-high boots if you want to search for passerines in the marsh. Expect at least 2 miles of trail walking on varied terrain with mixed elevation.

Leaders: Sharon MacDonald, sjbmacdonald@gmail.com

Herring River – Wellfleet

Tuesday, February 17 – 8:00am

We'll meet at the parking area at the far side of the dike on Chequessett Neck Road in Wellfleet. Ample parking will be available on both sides of the street during low tide. We'll scan for waterfowl from the dike itself. Then we will hike the trail on the West side of Herring River before crossing back again. This is a great area for rail and heron activity. The abutting woodland is winter 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.

Leader: Jeff Bryant, five_loons@yahoo.com

CC Canal and Sandwich hotspots

Friday, February 20 – 8:00am

Take Scusset Beach Road to the main entrance of Scusset Beach State Reservation. Parking is .25 miles past the entrance at the fishing pier. We'll begin at the canal and follow up with visits to the ponds, marshes, bays and backwaters of the Upper Cape. These will include Scusset Beach, Town Neck Road Beach, and Shawme Lake. Nearby Sandy Neck Beach is also an option depending on time and weather conditions. You can carpool with friends/family members or drive individually.

Leader: MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com *Co-sponsored trip with Brookline Bird Club*

MARCH

Bells Neck Conservation Area – Harwich

Sunday, March 1 – 8:00am

Cancelled due to unpredictable road conditions

Meet at Bells Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir. 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. Waterproof footwear is recommended. Expect about 2 miles of walking on varied terrain, sometimes narrow dirt trails with a slightly steep hill leading to the foot bridge.

Leader: Val Freysinger mannyneppy@gmail.com

Snug Harbor/Great Sippewissett Marsh – Falmouth **Tuesday, March 10 – 8:00am**

From Route 28, take 28A to Old Dock Road towards Shining Sea Bike Trail parking lot. It is on the right before crossing the bike trail. We'll start by walking to the east side of the Great Sippewissett Marsh via the bike trail, circle around to the west side of the marsh/Black Beach, out to Chapoquoit Beach, and return to the parking lot along Snug Harbor. This is an area where great blue herons, various sea ducks (mergansers, buffleheads, eiders, loons, scoters, long-tailed ducks), dabbling ducks (wigeons, gadwalls, American black ducks), as well as passerines and raptors have been seen wintering. Expect 2 miles of walking along packed dirt/stone roads as well as sand beaches. Leader: Val Freysinger

mannyneppy@gmail.com

Owl Prowl - West Barnstable

Monday, March 16 – 6:30pm

We will explore West Barnstable Conservation Area in search of resident owls including Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl. From the 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. Dress warm and bring a flashlight. We'll be walking about 1.5 miles of level, hardpack trails which can be uneven and strewn with roots and gravel.

Leader: MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com

This walk has been filled. Please join us on a future walk.

Fort Hill and Hemenway Landing – Eastham**Tuesday, March 17 – 8:00am**

Join us for a walk along the loop trail to Hemenway Landing as we watch for marshland species more easily observed on the high tide. Bitterns and rails are possible along with a variety of waterfowl and raptors. High tide is 10:00 AM. Wear knee-high boots if you want to search for passerines in the marsh. Expect at least 2 miles of trail walking on varied terrain with mixed elevation.

Leaders: Sharon MacDonald, sjbmacdonald@gmail.com

Hatches Harbor Fire Rd. to Race Point Light – P-town**Tuesday, March 24 – 8am**

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, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and passerines are among the many species to be encountered here. Low tide 10:28 am - waterproof footwear recommended.

Leader: MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Scusset Beach State Reservation – Sagamore**Saturday, March 28 – 8:00am**

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 to view wintering waterfowl, Great Cormorant and possible alcid species as well as checking out the woodland trail under the powerline. The campground area and adjacent field by the playground can host a variety of wintering passerines, including Horned Lark and occasionally Snow Buntings. Expect 2 to 3 miles of paved trail and possibly some wooded dirt trails. Leader: Keelin

Miller, capekeelin@hotmail.com

Grays Beach and Callery Darling Trails – Yarmouth Port**Sunday, March 29 – 8:00am**

From Center Street in Yarmouth Port, follow signs to Grays Beach where we'll meet at the big parking area. This beach is noted for its extensive boardwalk across the channel from Sandy Neck Lighthouse and just a stone's throw from Dennis Chapin Beach. Along the wooded Callery Darling Trails we'll keep our eyes and ears open for passerines sheltering in the brush.

Leader: Sharon MacDonald, sjbmacdonald@gmail.com

Crane Wildlife Management Area – East Falmouth**Tuesday, March 31 – 8:00am**

From Mashpee rotary, take Rt.151 West (Nathan Ellis Highway) approx. 4.3 miles. Shortly after Sandwich Rd intersection, the entrance to Crane will be on the right next to Allietta Softball Field. Dress in layers, especially when the wind is up, to enjoy this unique grassland habitat which is host to a rich variety of over-wintering species including Eastern Meadowlark, rare passerines such as Vesper Sparrow

and a possible Northern Shrike. Hard pack trails can give way to more rock-strewn, narrow paths - between 1.5 and 3 miles of walking. Leader: Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com