

Cape Cod Bird Club Fall Walks September 2023 – January 1st, 2024



- ⇒ **Please check the website beforehand for schedule changes and cancellations!**
- ⇒ **Please email the trip leader to let them know you wish to join their walk.**

Sandy Neck Beach – Sandwich

Tuesday, September 5 – 8am

MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com

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 miles of walking in soft sand with steep elevation in some spots. Low tide is 10:24 AM at Barnstable Harbor.

Chapin Beach – Dennis

Friday, September 15 – 8am

MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Meet in the Chapin Beach parking lot off Chapin Beach Rd. Walk the flats at this secluded beach with nice views of Sandy Neck Lighthouse and Grays Beach boardwalk. We'll wade in front of the rock outcropping as shorebirds and tern species gather in tight knots to feed. Forster's Terns occur in nice numbers at this location. Rubber boots/waterproof shoes recommended. Low tide is about 6:38 AM.

Plum Island, Parker River NWR

Sunday, September 17

*We will join Brookline Bird Club for this co-sponsored trip. **CANCELLED!***

MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com Shilo McDonald (BBC trip leader) shilocm@yahoo.com

We will meet in Dunkin Donuts parking lot at the Sagamore Bridge at 6:00 AM (please try to arrive 10 minutes earlier) and carpool from there to Parker River NWR. Please see BBC's trip description below: *"We will drive and carpool down the Parker River Refuge in search of shorebirds and fall migrants. Cosponsored with the Cape Cod Bird Club. We will meet at Parker River NWR parking lot #1." Do be aware that there is a fee to enter Parker River NWR, or a pass such as Golden Eagle or Senior."*

Grays Beach and Callery Darling Trails – Yarmouth Port

Saturday, September 23 – 8am

CANCELLED!

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. There is a large tern colony as well as nesting Piping Plovers and Willets during summer months.

First Encounter Beach – Eastham

Saturday, September 30 – 8am

CANCELLED!

Peter Fang & Gloria Smith fangmail@comcast.net

BBC will join us for this co-sponsored trip.

From Rt. 6, follow Samoset Rd. to the farthest parking area where we'll walk along the marsh trail bordered by the Herring River to observe shorebirds, herons, egrets, gulls and terns gathering in numbers

to forage on the outgoing tide. We'll also encounter other species including a variety of passerines and raptors. You may want to wear beach sandals or boots. Low tide is about 6:42 AM. The length of the trip will depend on what we find and if anyone is interested in visiting other local hotspots.

Garden Varieties: Brewster – Harwich

Saturday, October 7th – 8am

Al Curtis killdeer89@comcast.net

Meet at the Harwich Community Gardens on Sisson Road just north of the Stop & Shop on Route 28. This has traditionally been a nice spot for fall migration with some unlikely surprises in past years including Ash-throated Flycatcher and Grasshopper Sparrow. If time permits, we can head directly north to Brewster Community Gardens just opposite the Eddy Bay Trail. This requires little walking on hard pack dirt and is easily navigable.

Crane Wildlife Management Area - East Falmouth

Sunday, October 8th – 8am

Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

Meet at the parking lot of Otis Model Aero Club Flying Field. As you drive north on Nathan Ellis Highway, the entrance to Crane will be on your right. You can count on productive raptor activity while this unique grassland habitat is also host to a rich variety of species, including Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, American Kestrel and possibly Blue Grosbeak. Hard pack trails are easily navigable, between 1.5 and 3 miles of walking.

Chapin Beach, Dennis

Monday, October 16th – 8am

MJ Foti, maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Meet in the Chapin Beach parking lot off Chapin Beach Rd. Walk the flats at this secluded beach with nice views of Sandy Neck Lighthouse and Grays Beach boardwalk. We'll wade in front of the rock outcropping as shorebird and tern species gather in tight knots to feed. Forster's Terns occur in nice numbers at this location. Rubber boots/waterproof shoes recommended as we may be wading in ankle deep water. Low tide approximately 7:15 AM.

Fort Hill and Hemenway Landing – Eastham

Wednesday, October 25th – 8am

Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

Meet in the lower parking lot of Fort Hill Road. We'll walk the loop trail towards Hemenway Landing where there should be some nice migrant activity. We can also scan the marsh for incoming shorebirds, herons, egrets and hopefully a bittern or rail with the rising tide. You may want to wear waterproof boots/shoes. Expect 2 miles of walking on hard pack trail with mixed elevation. High tide occurs about 9:25 AM.

High Head – N. Truro

Sunday, October 29th – 8am

Ross Sormani rsormani@yahoo.com

Meet at the High Head Bike Trail parking lot. Bear left on High Head Road at the steep hill and you'll be on a dirt road 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 songbirds. Walk begins on a paved bike trail but may also include hard pack dirt trails of mixed elevation.

Forest Beach Conservation – South Chatham

Saturday, November 11th – 8am

Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

Take Route 6 to exit 85 and head South towards Rt.28. Make a right on Rt.28 and a left turn 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 before heading towards the overlook

on Bay View Road. This is another area with mixed habitat, a nice variety of bird species and the occasional rarity. Expect ½ to 1 mile of walking on soft sand. Waterproof boots/shoes recommended.

Bells Neck Conservation Area – Harwich

Wednesday, November 15th – 8am

Peter Fang & Gloria Smith fangmail@comcast.net

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. You may want to have waterproof footwear/rubber boots. Expect to walk 2 miles on generally flat, hard pack and sometimes narrow dirt trails with one mild hill leading to the footbridge.

Hinckleys, Seymour and Long Ponds – Harwich/Brewster **Saturday, November 18th – 8am**

MJ Foti maryjo1226@yahoo.com

Meet at the Rail Trail parking lot off Headwaters Drive. From Route 124 (Pleasant Lake Ave.) turn on Headwaters Drive and drive less than a half mile to access the Cape Cod Rail Trail parking area. Explore these mid-cape ponds that host a variety of waterfowl species including Greater and Lesser Scaup, Mergansers, Bufflehead and American Coot. After exploring Hinckleys Pond we'll head to Seymour followed by the large parking lot at Long Pond accessed from Crowells Bog Rd. We'll be walking a paved bike trail to Hinckley's, observing from the sandy beach at Seymour and a viewing from a parking lot at Long Pond. Aside from pond jumping, there is only about 1 mile of walking on paved trail.

Scusset Beach State Reservation – Sagamore

Thursday, November 30th – 8am

MJ Foti maryjo1226@yahoo.com

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 impressive numbers of wintering waterfowl, Great Cormorant and possible alcid species. The campground area and adjacent field by the playground hosts a variety of wintering passerines, including Horned Lark, an occasional Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur. Expect 2 to 3 miles of paved trail and possibly some wooded dirt trails.

West Dennis Beach

Wednesday, December 13th – 8am

Jeff Bryant five_loons@yahoo.com

Meet at the East end of the West Dennis Beach parking lot just past the entrance. This will be a leisurely paced walk as we sort through gulls in hopes of seeing the Lesser Black-backed that has been a regular at this beach for many a winter season. There will also be a variety of waterfowl and late shorebird species including Dunlin, Yellowlegs and Sanderlings in winter plumage. Expect 1-2 miles of walking the long, paved road that borders the beach and possibly scoping from the beach as well.

Corporation Beach

Saturday, December 23rd – 8am

MJ Foti maryjo1226@yahoo.com *co-sponsored walk with Dennis Conservation Land Trust*

Meet in the Corporation Beach parking lot in South Dennis off Route 6A. Known for its impressive variety of seabird, waterfowl and gull species, this beach offers up dramatic views of Cape Cod Bay. Our gathering is open to all, but particularly well suited for anyone wishing to observe the exciting activity from a stationary vantage point. You may want to bring a chair and fleece blanket as we observe from the parking lot. If you have a scope, bring it along.

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

Ed Banks, (68edbanks@gmail.com) (508-769-6762), **Monday, January 1, 2024** – noon to 4PM

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 walk. Get your 2024 year list 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!

2023 Annual Cape Cod Waterfowl Census

This year's waterfowl census will take place Saturday and Sunday, December 2nd and 3rd. Last year, 26 teams covered 341 ponds with a total of 30 waterfowl species observed. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who contributed to this exceptionally successful survey. We're hoping to duplicate that success this year. *MJ Foti*

Cape Cod Bird Club Health Guidelines: October 2023 – January 1, 2024

- Please do not participate in trips if you do not feel well, or have recently been exposed to someone with COVID or COVID-like symptoms;
- Individuals should feel comfortable wearing a mask at any point during a trip;
- It is up to each participant to decide whether or not they wish to carpool. Though a trip leader may offer to carpool, it is the personal choice of each individual trip leader.