

Cape Cod Bird Club Field Trips - Coordinator, Mary Jo Foti Spring 2024

Join us on these free club trips.

**Please email the trip leader if you plan to attend.
Always check the website for updates or cancellations.**

March

Scusset Beach State Reservation, Sagamore

Sunday, March 24 - 8 AM

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 possibly Lapland Longspur. Expect 2 to 3 miles of paved trail and possibly some wooded dirt trails.

Leader: Jeff Bryant, five_loons@yahoo.com

April

Race Point "Lite" - Provincetown

Weather Postponement: Tuesday, April 9 - 8AM

This trip will take us along the beach about halfway to Race Point Lighthouse, about 2 or so miles round trip, in soft sand. From Route 6E, turn right onto Race Point Rd and drive straight for about 2.4 miles to reach Race Point Beach parking lot. We will meet at the far end near the National Park Service Ranger Station. There is no fee at this time of year. Dress in warm layers, waterproof footwear recommended.

Leader: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Bell's Neck Conservation Area – Harwich

Wednesday, April 10 – 8 AM

Meet at Bell's Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir. We will explore some hidden mixed woodland and old cranberry bogs for passerines, scope the low tide on the East Reservoir for shorebird species and waterfowl, and the West Reservoir for Black-crowned Night Heron, raptors, gulls, and terns. Waterproof boots recommended.

Leader: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Mass Audubon's Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary

Friday, April 19 – 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: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Hatches Harbor Fire Rd. to RP Light – Provincetown

Saturday, April 27 – 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 8:39 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: Ross Sormani (rsormani@yahoo.com)

May

Beech Forest – Provincetown

Meet at the **Beech Forest** parking lot at **8 AM**. From Route 6E, turn right onto Race Point Road. The parking lot is about .5 mile down the road on the left. We will bird the parking lot, then stroll along the sandy loop trail with mild hills around Blackwater Pond for migrating warblers and other passerines.

Tuesday, May 7 - Leader: Peter Crosson (capecodbirder@gmail.com)

Thursday, May 9 - Leader: Al Curtis (alcurtis48@gmail.com)

Wednesday, May 15 - Leader: Keelin Miller (capekeelin@hotmail.com)

Sunday, May 19 - Leader: Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Tuesday, May 21 - Leader: Mike Tucker (bnatural2@gmail.com)

Thursday, May 23 - Leader: Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Saturday, May 25 - Leader: Ross Sormani (rsormani@yahoo.com)

Sunday, May 26 - Leader: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Additional Walks in May

Clapps Pond – Provincetown

Saturday, May 11 – 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 early-migrating thrushes, vireos and perhaps even one of the more southern warblers.

Leaders: Ross Sormani (rsormani@yahoo.com) Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

West Barnstable Conservation Area - Barnstable

Tuesday, May 14 - 8 AM

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: Peter Crosson (capecodbirder@gmail.com)

Bridge Creek Conservation – Barnstable

Friday, May 17 – 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)

Peterson Farm – Falmouth

Wednesday, May 22 – 8 AM

We will meet at Peterson Farm where we will walk around the thickets looking for flycatchers, vireos, warblers and possibly a bobolink. From the intersection of Palmer Ave and Jones Road (near Falmouth Hospital), continue south on Palmer Ave, which turns into Locust Street. Follow Locust Street, which turns into Woods Hole Road. Follow Woods Hole Road for about 0.5 mile and turn right onto McCallum Drive, then take an immediate right and follow the Town of Falmouth Conservation signs to parking area.

Mike Tucker (bnatural2@gmail.com)

June

Crane Wildlife Management Area – East Falmouth

Tuesday, June 4 – 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 Allieta 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.

Leader: Peter Fang (fangmail@comcast.net) *co-sponsored with Brookline Bird Club (BBC)*

Goodwill Park – Falmouth

Friday, June 7 - 8:00am

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)

Hatches Harbor Fire Rd. to RP Light – Provincetown

Tuesday, June 11 – 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 9:55 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.

Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com) *co-sponsored with Brookline Bird Club (BBC)*

Forest Beach Conservation, South Chatham

Sunday, June 16 – 8 am

Take Rte. 6 to exit 85 and head south towards Rte. 28. Make a right on 28 and a left turn about .5 miles at Forest Beach Rd. Before reaching the beach, turn left on Bayview Rd. and immediately bear right up the hill where you will see a sign for Forest Beach Conservation. We'll scope the marsh for herons, egrets, shorebirds, osprey, gulls, passerines, and possibly Northern Harrier. We can then head to the beach where parking is free to walk the marsh trail - about .5 mi. Waterproof footwear recommended.

Leader: MJ Foti (maryjo1226@yahoo.com)

Bells Neck Conservation Area – Harwich

Sunday, June 23 – 8 AM

Meet at Bell's Neck Road at the landing of the West Reservoir. We will explore some hidden mixed woodland and old cranberry bogs for passerines, scope the low tide on the East Reservoir for shorebird species and waterfowl, and the West Reservoir for Black-crowned Night Herons, raptors, gulls, and terns. Waterproof boots recommended.

Leader: Jeff Bryant (five_loons@yahoo.com)

Cape Cod Bird Club Health Guidelines: Apr-Jun 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.