Cape Cod
Field Schools

WELLFLEET BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
Experience the real nature of Cape Cod!

2019
CAPE COD FIELD SCHOOLS
Explore the beautiful coastal setting of Cape Cod and learn about its rich and fascinating natural history while gaining new skills. The beaches, dunes, woods, and wetlands of the Outer Cape serve as our classroom. Field Schools offer active, outdoor, in-the-field experiences taught by professional scientists, naturalists, artists, educators, and practitioners. Wellfleet Bay has been offering Field Schools to adults since 1986. Won’t you join us?

Migrants: Hawks to Warblers
May 17–19
3 Days: Friday–Sunday
Spring birding on Cape Cod offers incredible diversity. Lingering winter species mingle with northbound warblers, hawks, shorebirds, and returning breeding birds. Several field trips will explore the best the Outer Cape has to offer. A boat trip to Tern Island and a bird banding demonstration are also included.

Hiking Backwoods & Beaches
June 15–16
October 19–20
2 Days: Saturday–Sunday
Hike the road less traveled and cover new ground during this active weekend. Escape the crowds by hiking the backwoods, beaches, and dunes of Provincetown, Truro, and Wellfleet. Watch seals from shore, observe migrant birds, and enjoy spring blooms or fall foliage. Each hike averages five miles on varied terrain, including soft sand, wooded trails, and moderate hills; a shorter evening hike is also scheduled. This is a strenuous weekend but well worth it!

Outer Cape by Kayak
June 21–23
3 Days: Friday–Sunday
Experience some of the most scenic and wildlife-rich fresh- and saltwater environments on the Outer Cape while kayaking Nauset Marsh, Pleasant Bay, and a chain of interconnected kettle ponds. Short hikes on foot will also explore the surrounding woodlands and dunes. Recent paddling experience and the ability to swim are required. Bring your own boat or borrow one of ours.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULES*

**3-DAY COURSES**

Day 1:
3:30 PM       Arrival & Introduction to Course
5:30–8:00 PM  Group Dinner & Activity

Days 2 & 3:
8:00 AM–4:00 PM Field Trips/Workshops

**2-DAY COURSES**

Day 1:
10:00 AM       Arrival & Introduction to Course
11:00 AM–4:00 PM Field Trips/Workshops
5:30–8:00 PM  Group Dinner & Activity

Day 2:
8:00 AM–4:00 PM Field Trips/Workshops

*Please note: Sample schedules are a general outline. Individual course schedules may be different based on tides, staff, optimal wildlife sightings, course content, and other variables.

Register online by visiting massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay/fieldschools.

© Jeff Buckley
**Hatching Diamondback Terrapins**  
**September 13–15**  
3 Days: Friday–Saturday

Assist with the monitoring and recording of hatchling turtles as they emerge from their nests. Weigh, measure, and release hatchlings and document the nesting success at various Outer Cape locations. Other activities include dip-netting in saltmarsh creeks for adult terrapins and a boat trip that will provide an on-the-water perspective of terrapin habitat. Field trips are complemented by indoor presentations.

**Sea Turtle & Marine Animal Strandings**  
**November 20–21**  
**December 4–5**  
2 Days: Wednesday–Thursday

Every year in the month of November, sea turtles that have lingered in Cape Cod Bay succumb to the dropping water temperatures, become cold-stunned, and wash ashore on bayside beaches.

Team up with staff to patrol beaches in search of cold-stunned sea turtles and aid in their rescue, assist with data collection, and prepare live turtles for transport to the New England Aquarium. Often other stranded marine wildlife are encountered, including ocean sunfish, which provides unique insight into the natural history and biology of our coastal region.

While strandings can't be predicted or guaranteed, this program offers a unique experience and perspective. Field trips are timed with the tides and may require early morning and/or late night adventures. Each session is limited to just five participants to ensure maximum participation.

**Fall Migrants**  
**October 4–6**  
3 Days: Friday–Sunday

Experience the fall migration of songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and seabirds with field trips to a variety of birding hot spots on the Outer Cape, including an extended hike along Hatches Harbor to Race Point.

Sharpen your bird identification skills and learn fascinating biological and natural history facts about the region’s migrants. Indoor presentations and a bird banding demonstration are included.

**Coastal Birding by Kayak**  
**September 26–28**  
3 Days: Thursday–Saturday

Explore the best shorebird spots on Cape Cod at the peak of fall shorebird migration. Kayaking allows participants access to areas that are difficult or impossible to reach by foot or in larger boats. Paddle through scenic saltwater environments teeming with bird and marine life, including Nauset Marsh, Tern Island, and Great Island. Short hikes through sand dunes, beaches, and woodlands will allow opportunities for observing land birds and seabirds. Recent paddling experience and the ability to swim are required. Bring your own boat or borrow one of ours.

For fees and detailed course descriptions, visit massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay/fieldschools.
REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

LOCATION
Cape Cod Field Schools are offered by Mass Audubon’s Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Located on the “forearm” of Cape Cod in South Wellfleet, Wellfleet Bay offers outstanding opportunities for exploration of the natural world. Our 937-acre sanctuary features five miles of trails through eight different natural communities representing the diversity of Cape Cod.

Our Field Schools take advantage of the sanctuary’s grounds as well as the many other natural areas on the Outer Cape, including the beaches, marshes, woods, and ponds of Cape Cod National Seashore; the islands off Chatham; and the surrounding ocean and coastal waters.

ACCOMMODATIONS
During the off-season, accommodations may be available at Wellfleet Bay in our dormitory located on site. Cost is $40 per person, per night for a shared room.

Housing is not available for courses in the summer months (mid June–August). We can provide a list of local motels. In addition, we have a campground open to Mass Audubon members. Rates are available on our website.

Call 508-349-2615 for details.

WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW
Courses are for adults ages 18 and over. Ages 15 to 17 are welcome to attend, but only with prior approval by Wellfleet Bay’s Field School Coordinator and they must be accompanied by an adult guardian registered for the same course.

Individuals are responsible for their own meals, except when noted in the detailed course descriptions online.

Courses are taught primarily outdoors, and most require moderate physical activity. We do make accommodations for severe weather.

Ground transportation to and from study sites away from Wellfleet Bay is often provided; however, participants may need to provide their own transportation from time to time.

A Certificate of Attendance is offered for those seeking professional development credit for courses.

FEES & CANCELLATION POLICY
Please refer to individual course listings on our website for information on fees. Payment is due in full upon registration.

We must receive cancellations in writing (via email or regular mail) 30 days before starting date in order to issue you a full refund (less a $50 nonrefundable administration fee per registrant). Cancellations received fewer than 30 days before starting date may result in forfeiture of entire course fee. If we can fill your spot with another registrant, then your balance will be returned, less the $50 nonrefundable administration fee per registrant.

We reserve the right to cancel any course with a full refund to registrants.

HOW TO REGISTER
Registration is accepted via telephone or online via our website. Please do not fax or email credit card information. Call us at 508-349-2615, or register online at massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay/fieldschools.

You will receive an email with detailed information related to the class two to three weeks in advance of the start of course.

Register at massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay/fieldschools or call 508-349-2615.

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Semipalmated Sandpipers © Joel Wagner