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 22–24
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 to the area’s hot spots are planned, including sites within the Cape Cod National Seashore, at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and a boat shuttle to Tern Island. A bird banding demonstration is also scheduled.

Hiking Backwoods & Beaches
May 30–31
2 Days: Saturday–Sunday
Take the road less traveled and cover new ground during this active weekend hiking the backwoods, beaches, and dunes of the Outer Cape. Watch seals from shore, observe migrant birds, and enjoy spring blooms. Each hike averages five miles on varied terrain, including soft sand, wooded trails, and moderate hills. A shorter night hike is also scheduled. This is a strenuous weekend but well worth it!

Horseshoe Crabs & Crabs of the Shore
June 5–7
3 Days: Friday–Sunday
Discover the fascinating life history of horseshoe crabs and the methods involved in surveys, tagging, and other research. We will also search for true crabs, such as fiddler, calico, and blue crabs, and the invasive green crab to learn about their identification, ecology, and distribution on the Cape. An offshore cruise into Cape Cod Bay will also provide the opportunity for additional crab observations while enjoying the coastal scenery.

Turtles of the Outer Cape
June 19–21
3 Days: Friday–Sunday
Take part in long-term wildlife research projects monitoring the Eastern Box Turtle, a “species of special concern,” and the threatened Diamondback Terrapin. Through mark and recapture studies, radio telemetry, nesting surveys, and nest protection efforts, we have built a solid foundation of data to begin understanding the life histories of these animals and the human impacts affecting them. Field work is complemented by indoor presentations.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULES*

3-DAY COURSES

Day 1:
3:00 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:
9:30 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.
Bees & Other Pollinators  
**September 5–6**  
2 Days: Saturday–Sunday

Raise your awareness about the vital role bees and other insects play in our environment. Animals pollinate about 75 percent of all the food, fiber, beverages, and medicine used by humans, and insects, especially bees, are the primary pollinators. Emphasis of this course will be on the natural history, biology, and identification of pollinators, including the often unnoticed but hard-working native bees. Learn about their habitat requirements and conservation issues.

Kettle Hole Ponds by Kayak & Foot  
**September 11–13**  
3 Days: Friday–Sunday

Paddle on deep, clear kettle ponds nestled in the Cape’s pine woods and explore their shorelines and shallow edges to appreciate their subtleties and natural history. Our explorations of these interesting habitats on foot and by boat will provide the opportunity to experience the unique organisms that inhabit these glacially formed ponds and learn about their geologic beginnings. Swimming is encouraged, so dive in! The water is warm this time of year. Recent paddling experience and the ability to swim are required; bring your own kayak or borrow one of ours.

Birding Past & Present  
**September 18–20**  
3 Days: Friday–Sunday

Delve into Cape Cod’s rich ornithological history while observing a diversity of bird species during the peak of fall migration. Field trips will include productive birding sites that also have historical significance. Learn about early accounts of the bird life of the region, changes in habitat and avian distribution, and the legacy of the Austin Ornithological Field Station, which once occupied the land that is now Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Field walks are complemented by indoor presentations, and a bird banding demonstration is also scheduled.

Our Changing Coastline  
**September 25–27**  
3 Days: Friday–Sunday

Gain an in-depth understanding of the coastal processes that shape Cape Cod and their influences on people and wildlife. Expert-led lectures, site-based discussions, a walk, and a boat trip will provide an information-rich opportunity to study the Cape’s geologic history, coastal erosion, marsh and beach formation, sea level rise, and local efforts to mitigate climate change.

Hiking Backwoods & Beaches  
**October 17–18**  
2 Days: Saturday–Sunday

Take the road less traveled and cover new ground during this active weekend hiking the backwoods, beaches, and dunes of the Outer Cape. Watch seals from shore, observe migrant birds, and enjoy fall foliage. Each hike averages five miles on varied terrain, including soft sand, wooded trails, and moderate hills. A shorter night hike is also scheduled. This is a strenuous weekend but well worth it!

Sea Turtle & Marine Animal Strandings  
**November 20–22**  
3 Days: Friday–Sunday

In late fall, sea turtles that have lingered in Cape Cod Bay succumb to 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.

For fees and detailed course descriptions, visit massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay/fieldschools.
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
There are a number of local motels and inns located in the area. Please contact us for a list of accommodations in Wellfleet, Eastham, and Orleans. From Memorial Day through Columbus Day, our campground located on site is open to Mass Audubon members for camping. Rates and details are available on our website. During the off-season, accommodations may be available at Wellfleet Bay in our dormitory; however, availability is limited and not guaranteed. 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 forfeit 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: massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay/fieldschools

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

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