

## Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

291 State Highway, Route 6  
South Wellfleet, MA 02663  
508-349-2615  
wellfleet@massaudubon.org

### Nature Center Hours:

Memorial Day to Columbus Day: Daily, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Columbus Day to Memorial Day: Tuesday through Sunday,  
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Trail Hours:

Open every day, 8 a.m. to dusk

## Welcome to the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Located on the "forearm" of Cape Cod, the 1200-acre Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary offers outstanding opportunities for exploration and discovery of the natural world, from forest and field to salt marsh, sandy beach, and tidal flats; from turtles and terns to minnows, monarch butterflies, and seals. Five miles of trails, including an all-persons accessible trail, traverse eight different habitats representing the diversity of Cape Cod.

# Mass Audubon Quests

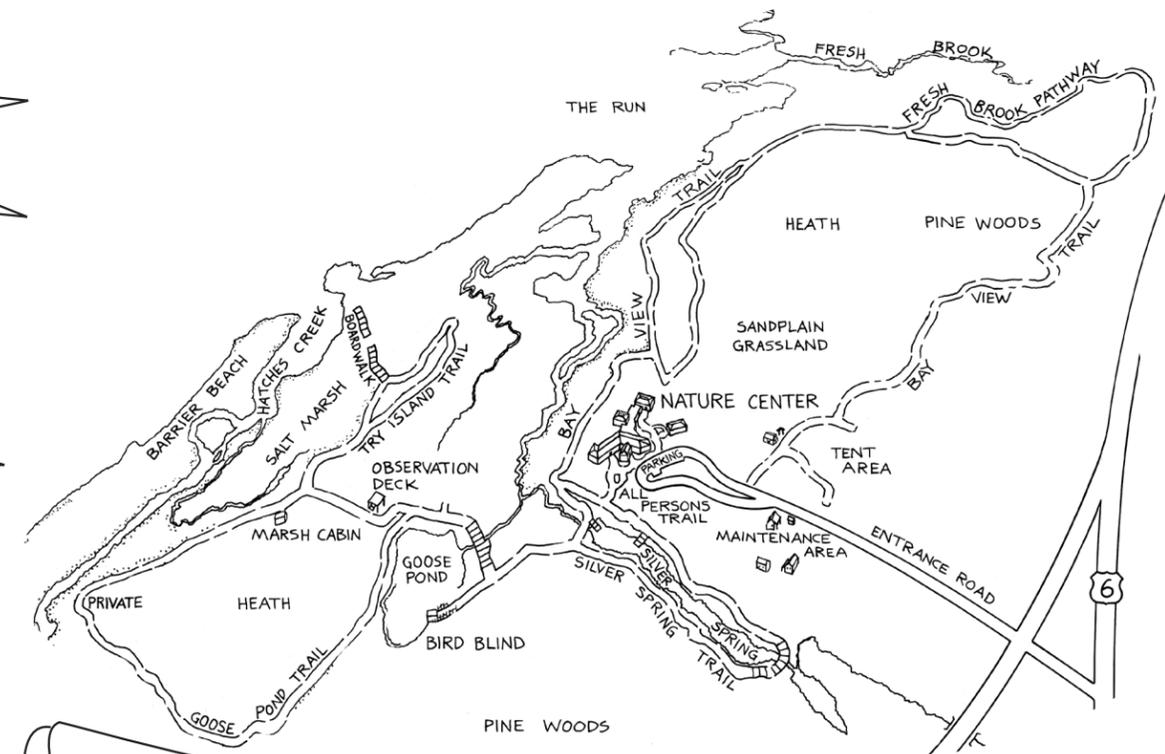
## Wellfleet Bay Quest

South Wellfleet

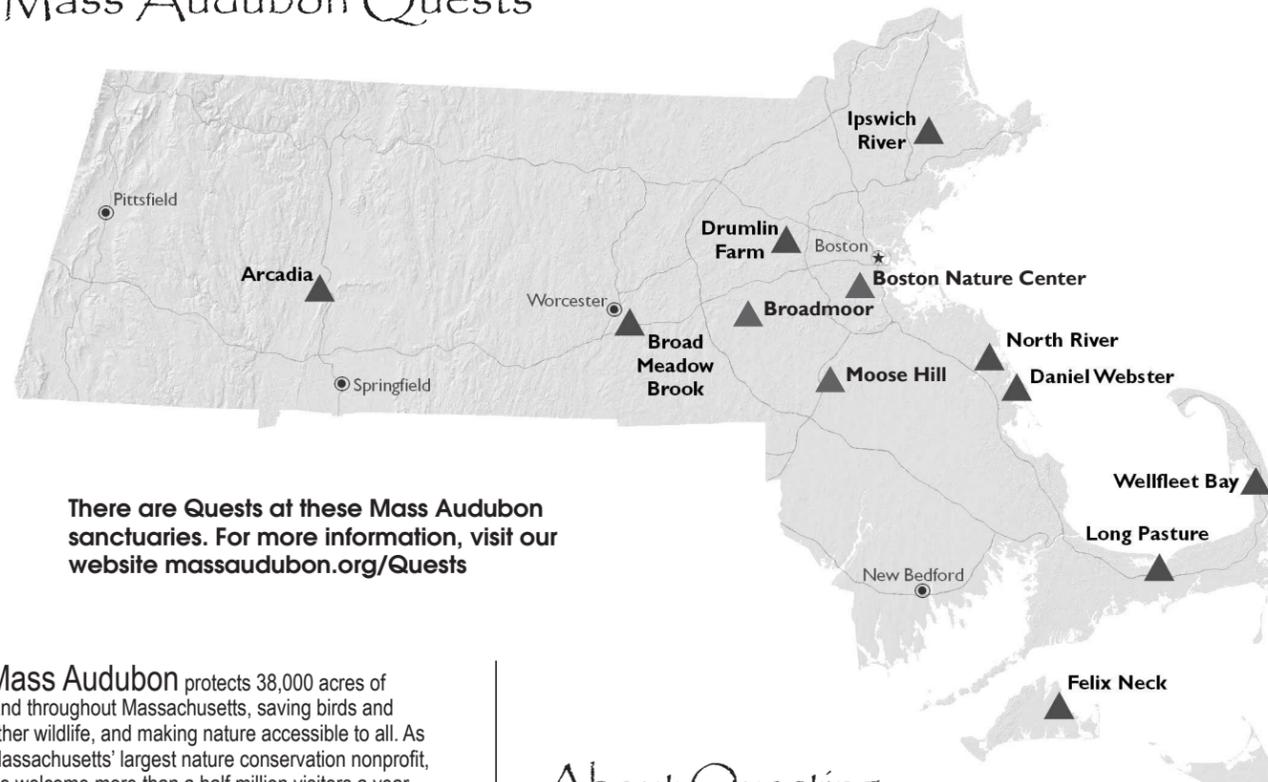
Welcome to the Wellfleet Bay Quest. We're pleased to have you as our guest. This quest is a search that will take you through our habitats. We'll send you to the ponds, the woods, and out to the marsh to see the creatures that live with us. Just follow the clues, and keep a sharp eye for crabs and turtles, and birds flying by. Now you are ready to get on your way. Enjoy your adventure at Wellfleet Bay!



Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Mass Audubon Quests



There are Quests at these Mass Audubon sanctuaries. For more information, visit our website [massaudubon.org/Quests](http://massaudubon.org/Quests)

## About Questing

Questing was born out of a 150-year old tradition in the region surrounding Dartmoor National Park in southwest England. "Letterboxing," as this tradition is called, is a popular past time, with thousands of boxes hidden in both natural and cultural locations. Vital Communities, a regional non-profit organization based in Vermont, built on this tradition in the United States by developing the Valley Quest program. In the early 1990s, Vital Communities was concerned about the future of the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont, and was hoping to develop a program that would foster sense of place, strengthen relationships between schools and communities, and build bridges across the generations. The result was Valley Quest, with "Valley" referring to the place and "Quest" referring to a treasure hunt—made by children and adults working together—leading to the community's special places. Over time, the Valley Quest program has grown. More than 2,000 children, adults, families, scouts, students and historical society members have contributed to the creation of the 200+ Quests found in the Valley Quest books; and communities across the country are beginning to replicate Valley Quest's success.

Quest is a trade name of the Valley Quest program, and is used with permission. For more information, visit [www.valleyquest.org](http://www.valleyquest.org)

Mass Audubon protects 38,000 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. As Massachusetts' largest nature conservation nonprofit, we welcome more than a half million visitors a year to our wildlife sanctuaries and 20 nature centers. From inspiring hilltop views to breathtaking coastal landscapes, serene woods, and working farms, we believe in protecting our state's natural treasures for wildlife and for all people—a vision shared in 1896 by our founders, two extraordinary Boston women. Today, Mass Audubon is a nationally recognized environmental education leader, offering thousands of camp, school, and adult programs that get over 225,000 kids and adults outdoors every year. With more than 125,000 members and supporters, we advocate on Beacon Hill and beyond, and conduct conservation research to preserve the natural heritage of our beautiful state for today's and future generations. We welcome you to explore a nearby sanctuary, find inspiration, and get involved. Learn how at [massaudubon.org](http://massaudubon.org).



This Quest is best done in spring, summer, or fall.  
This Quest was created by Katie Pierson.

# Starting Point



**GO** Leave the building and you will see  
A butterfly garden and an old tree.  
Now take a look at the bird feeders here  
Do you see bones that seem rather near?

**STOP** **What do these two bones come from?**

\_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **2** \_\_\_\_\_  
*HINT: Underwater I sing a song  
And look at me, I am so long*

**N**ow look around and you will find  
Something huge that boggles your mind.  
It is black and shiny and quite an array  
Of solar panels for power each day.

**GO** **W**hen the path splits, stay to the right,  
Go toward the water it's quite a sight!  
The salt marsh you'll see is straight ahead  
But follow the path left to the pond, instead.

**A**long the trail there is something icky  
Called poison ivy, its leaves are NOT sticky.  
Three leaves that shine, red, yellow, brown, or green,  
Don't touch them or you'll itch, those leaves are mean!



**STOP** **D**on't go too far, just to the spillway  
A place where the pond flows out everyday.  
Look to your left -- what kind of water is there?  
Salt, fresh or brackish, and why should we care?

**What kind of water is it?**

\_\_\_\_ \_

Since this pond is home to all sorts of creatures  
Being fresh water is one of its features.  
In summer you can see lots of turtles sunning  
And listen! You might hear bullfrogs "jug-a-rumming".

**N**ow look where the water from the pond flows  
Into the salt marsh between cattail rows.  
Look to the horizon, what body of water is there?  
From the ocean comes the salt, I do declare.

**GO** **B**rackish water is what fresh and salt water make  
Now look ahead at the path you must take.  
There will be two different trails, don't go left, keep  
on straight.  
We have now entered the forest, isn't it great?

**STOP** On many of the trees there is an odd green thing  
To the bark of the trees this lichen does cling.  
Lichen is made up of two different parts.  
Working together they will climb up the charts.

**The first part is called algae; the other  
includes mushrooms and f is its start.**

F \_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ **and algae took  
a lichen to one  
another and the  
result is like art.**

**GO** **C**ontinue ahead through the forest of trees.  
You will come to a small clearing on your left if  
you please.

**STOP** On the edge of a cliff under roots lies a hole,  
Finding out what creature made it is our goal

It's the home of a bird that eats lots of fish.  
A rattling call sounds when this bird makes a wish.  
This bird has blue and white feathers and a really large bill  
And when it dives, birdwatchers do get a thrill

\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_  
*Hint: This bird has a crown, and is named after what it eats*

**GO** **L**ook for the boardwalk that leads  
to a bridge.  
Goose Pond has food; it's like a birds' fridge.  
The water in here may be low or high  
Depending on what time of year is nigh.

**C**ontinue ahead along Goose Pond trail  
Read carefully while I tell you a tale.  
Long, long ago the Cape was all farmland  
Try Island's trees are the last old forest stand.  
Trees were cut down to make way for fields;  
Asparagus and similar crops were the yields

**U**p ahead there will be a path turning left away,  
Don't take that trail but rather stay!  
Look to your right and next to the post  
One tiny asparagus plant we can boast.



**W**alk on ahead as the path turns to sand.  
Look at the changes happening to the land.  
The trees are getting shorter, and the ground is not bare.  
The plant has small leaves and some berries to share.

**Name that plant**

\_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **3** \_\_\_\_\_  
*HINT: The first part of this plant is a mammal that doesn't live on Cape Cod.*

**STOP** **O**n your right, you'll see a wooden deck  
If you climb to the top and make a small trek  
You will view the whole salt marsh and out  
to the bay.

Count how many birds  
have come out this way.



**L**ooking out here you can see habitats alive  
Much more than one but less than five:  
A coastal heathland, a marsh, the bay and a wood.  
What type of animals would live here if they could?

**GO** **N**ow continue along that sandy trail.  
You will reach an opening if you're not slow  
like a snail.  
Look and you'll see there are holes in the ground.  
You'll see maybe 10, maybe 50 can be found.  
These holes are the homes of a creature we can find,

**Two claws and walks sideways, do you know what kind?**

\_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **1** \_\_\_\_\_  
These creatures are special, they eat plants in the sand  
That they themselves dig from their holes in the land.  
Find a hole, examine it close.  
Don't put anything down it, not fingers, or nose!

**Y**ou will see two piles that have many a ball  
One will be big and one quite small.  
Excavator ball is the larger of the two  
And the smaller light sand they spit out after they chew.

These crabs have a name based on the male's one large claw  
It waves that claw around and the females are in awe.

**What is the specific name of this crab?**

\_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *HINT: It is a name of a string instrument*

**GO** **N**ow turn to your right,  
A green sign should be in sight.  
The path veers again towards the side  
with the trees,  
You are headed toward Try Island,  
please walk with ease.

**O**n the sides of the trail is where poison ivy lurks.  
This island was once home to what's called a try works.  
A long time ago when people hunted the great whales,  
They made lamp oil to read their children bedtime tales.

**B**y following left, you will circle around  
Straight up ahead will be salt marsh covered ground.  
You are welcome to go out towards the bay if you wish.  
Go visit the beach with snails, worms, crabs, and small fish.

**B**ut if you decide that this Quest is now through,  
You are close to your end, I will give you a clue:

**T**urn back towards the path that returns to the Center  
Head toward the small building, but no, do not enter.

**What is the name of the habitat on your right?**

\_\_\_\_ \_

**Take the second word, copy it down**

1. \_\_\_\_ \_

**Our Quest ends at the**

1. \_\_\_\_ \_ 2. \_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1 2 3 4 5

**Go back through our Quest and find the numbers  
and fit the letters above them in these blanks**

## Congratulations!

**You have completed the Wellfleet Bay  
Wildlife Sanctuary's Quest.**

**Find the stamp and stamp your booklet then  
follow the trail back to the Nature Center.**