

Cape Cod **Field Schools**



Experience the real nature of Cape Cod!

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2022

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?

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULES*

3-DAY COURSES

Day 1

3:30 PM Arrival and Introduction to Course

7-9 PM Evening Activity

Days 2, 3

8 AM-4 PM Field Trips/Workshops

2-DAY COURSES

Day 1

10 AM Arrival and Introduction to Course

11 AM-4 PM Field Trips/Workshops

7-9 PM Evening Activity

Day 2

8 AM-4 PM Field Trips/Workshops

**Please note: Individual course schedules may differ based on tides, staff, optimal wildlife sightings, course content, and other variables.*

Hiking Backwoods & Beaches

April 30-May 1

October 15-16

2-days: Saturday-Sunday

Take the road less traveled, cover new ground, and experience Cape Cod at a beautiful time of year during this active weekend. Our extended hikes will explore the backwoods, remote beaches, dramatic dunes, quiet kettle ponds, and sheltering woodlands of the Outer Cape and take us to "hidden" parts of the Cape Cod National Seashore and local conservation areas that the average visitor (and resident) rarely explores. Through this immersive experience, we will discover how protecting these important environments can benefit not only the resiliency of coastal habitats, but also our own mental and physical well-being in the face of environmental change. Hikes cover 4-5 miles a day over varied and uneven terrain. Choose from a spring or fall weekend.

Fee: \$350 Member; \$375 Nonmember

Coastal Birding for Beginners

May 13-15

3-days: Friday-Sunday

For the new or aspiring birder, spring on Cape Cod offers an incredible opportunity to practice and hone new skills. Lingering winter species mingle with northbound warblers, hawks, and shorebirds and returning breeding birds. Throughout the weekend we will focus on practicing skills in the field, identifying birds through observation and song, as well as begin to understand the unique adaptations, biology, and life histories of these coastal birds. A multitude of field trips and experiences will explore the best birding hotspots the Outer Cape has to offer. While beginner-focused, this course is also great for intermediate birders looking for a refresher or a closer look at coastal birds.

Fee: \$400 Member; \$445 Nonmember

Turtles of the Outer Cape

June 17-19

3-days: Friday-Sunday

Participate in this "hands-on" introduction to researching wildlife while learning about the turtles of Cape Cod with an emphasis on two species—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 walks in the turtles' habitats will also provide insight into the importance of healthy, resilient coastal landscapes to these species and other wildlife.

Fee: \$425 Member; \$465 Nonmember

Introduction to Shorebirds

September 9-11

3-days: Friday-Sunday

There is no better place to explore and study the topic of shorebird ecology than beautiful Cape Cod during the height of shorebird migration. This course is designed to give the novice birder, or those inexperienced with coastal birds, the skills to identify the "peeps," plovers, and other shorebird species. During the course, we will touch upon topics such as identification, biology, behavior, and migration as well as cover the issues and threats facing these birds in coastal environments. Field excursions to barrier beaches, salt marshes, tidal rivers, and other unique ecosystems of the Outer Cape will provide opportunities to become acquainted with the diverse array of shorebirds for which the region is famous. Gulls, terns and herons will also be conspicuous inhabitants of these areas and will not be ignored!

Fee: \$400 Member; \$445 Nonmember



Register online by visiting massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay/fieldschools



For detailed course descriptions visit
massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay/fieldschools



© Matt Darcy

Coastal Ecology by Kayak

September 16-18

3-days: Friday-Sunday

From deep blue water to gently swaying marsh grass, Cape Cod is dynamic, diverse, and iconic. Learn about the habitats and natural systems that occur where land meets sea and their importance to wildlife and combating climate change. Kayaks provide a great way to explore remote and private areas that are inaccessible by foot or larger boats. While we will spend the majority of the time paddling on the water, each day includes stops to get out of the kayak and explore beaches and uplands on foot. Strong paddling skills and the ability to swim are required; bring your own boat or use one of ours.
Fee: \$425 Member; \$465 Nonmember

Birding Fall Migration

September 30-October 2

3-days: Friday-Sunday

Birding on the Cape during fall migration offers incredible diversity. Resident species mingle with southbound migrants and early-arriving winter birds. We will explore the Outer Cape's barrier beaches, salt marshes, tidal flats, and woodlands in search of shorebirds, raptors, seabirds, songbirds, and ducks. During the course, we will touch upon topics such as identification, breeding biology, foraging ecology, and migration—including a fantastic opportunity to experience bird banding through a demonstration by Certified Master Bander James Junda.
Fee: \$400 Member; \$445 Nonmember

Coastal Communities of Cape Cod

October 29-30

2-days: Saturday-Sunday

Celebrate the components, creatures, and relationships that make our coastline vibrant, essential, and awe-inspiring. Learn about the ecology of coastal habitats including mud flats, salt marshes, and barrier beaches, and the plants and animals uniquely adapted to live within them. Our field studies will also explore the special aspects of coastal habitats that keep seaside communities safe from extreme weather events, flooding, and other climate-related impacts. This course also offers an in-depth understanding of coastal processes that shape Cape Cod and introduces the tools and solutions that help protect these habitats and the wildlife and people dependent upon them.
Fee: \$350 Member; \$375 Nonmember

Tracks & Signs: Reading the Wild Landscape

December 3-4

2-days: Saturday-Sunday

Animals are all around us, but many are stealthy, shy, and seldom seen. Tracks are a window into an otherwise hidden world of wild animals. Tracking also allows us to "read" the landscape in our local environments and discover how changes within these systems can affect the local ecology throughout the seasons. Over the course of this weekend, you will have fun learning to attend landscapes, tracks, scat, browse burrows, to search the beaches for stranded marine animals, and to develop a narrative for the creatures who have traveled by when you weren't looking. When paired with some basic knowledge of natural history, the passage of animals can enliven a landscape, even if you never see hide-nor-hair. We'll walk woods, shores, and dunes to discover what we can find and set up a motion camera to see what happens after darkness falls.
Fee: \$350 Member; \$375 Nonmember

Register online by visiting 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 1100-acre sanctuary features five miles of trails through eight different natural communities representing the diversity of Cape Cod.

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

Housing is not available. We can provide a list of local motels.

COVID SAFETY

Courses are conducted in accordance with current Municipal, State, and Mass Audubon COVID-19 protocols. Participants are required to wear a face covering when indoors or in shared transportation. A detailed confirmation letter will be emailed 24 hours before the program.

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 our Education Manager, 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.

Participants may need to provide their own transportation to field trip locations.

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

Thank you to the photographers:

Cameron Darnell, Whimbrel on cover
Melissa Lowe, terrapin page 2
Matt Darcy, kayaker page 3
Melissa Lowe, otter tracks page 4

FEES & CANCELLATION POLICY

Please refer to individual course listings on our website for details. Payment is due in full upon registration.

Cancellations must be received in writing (via email or regular mail) 30 days before starting date for you to receive a full refund (less a \$50 nonrefundable administration fee per registrant). Cancellations received less 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 is 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 2 to 3 weeks in advance of the start of course.



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