

Cape May Autumn Birding Festival

2011 Field Trip Locations and Site Descriptions

Many of these locations do not have a physical address but we have done our best to supply approximate GPS coordinates.

Avalon Sea Watch

7th Street and the Beach, Avalon, NJ 08202

GPS Coordinates: 39.109284159973555, -74.70778226852417

www.BirdCapeMay.org/Seawatch

Since 1993, CMBO has conducted a full-time sea watch in the fall at 7th Street in Avalon. CMBO's 2011 Sea Watch Counter is Tom Reed. Amazing numbers of migrating scoters and other sea ducks, loons, cormorants and gannets pass by the Sea watch. Over one million seabirds have been counted in a single season. Bring binoculars and telescope, sunglasses, sunscreen, warm clothes, and high expectations to the beach wall at the end of 7th Street and the beach in Avalon.

Cape Island Creek Kayak Trip

1212 Wilson Dr., Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.9502158, -74.9099688

[Miss Chris Marina & Fishing Center - Kayak Rentals & Sales](#)

Explore the beautiful tidelands along Cape Island Creek on stable one- or two- person kayaks with experienced naturalists. Up close looks at Osprey, egrets, maybe even rails, and other marine life. Cost is in addition to weekend and advance registration is required. No experience necessary; all equipment included. Located behind the Cape May Whale Watcher, the kayak trips leave from the Miss Chris Marina. Free parking in lot.

Cape May Bird Observatory - Center for Research and Education

600 Route 47 North, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

GPS Coordinates: 39.1619584, -74.8314688

www.BirdCapeMay.org

This center, at Mile Marker 15.8 just outside the town of Goshen, was opened in 1997. Located on 26 acres of marsh and upland in Middle Township (about 20 miles north of Cape May), it's easily reached from Route 47 or the Garden State Parkway. The facility focuses on backyard habitat and bird watching with walks, programs and workshops, outside observation deck, and natural landscaping model backyard habitat. This center will not be open during the Autumn Weekend. Regular hours are 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Tuesday thru Saturday. This center is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Cape May Bird Observatory - Northwood Center

701 East Lake Drive, Cape May Point, NJ 08212

GPS Coordinates: 38.940707, -74.961952

www.BirdCapeMay.org

New Jersey Audubon's southernmost center founded in 1975, this half-acre preserve overlooks Lake Lily in Cape May Point. CMBO offers year-round nature walks, programs, workshops, and hosts several major birding events each year including the Cape May Spring and Autumn Weekends and the World Series of Birding. The Northwood Center is the perfect one-stop shop for the nature lover in everyone with a nature shop offering the finest selection of binoculars and spotting scopes (selected by optics expert, Pete Dune), field guides, a variety of books, clothing, jewelry, games and more for adults and children. Relax on the garden benches and enjoy the birds and the view.

Cape May Hawk Watch - Cape May Point State Park

Lighthouse & Yale, Cape May Point, NJ 08212

GPS Coordinates: 38.932807423858506, -74.95915353298187

www.BirdCapeMay.org/Hawkwatch

www.SwarovskiOptik.com

Since 1976, CMBO has conducted a full-time hawk watch in the fall at Cape May Point State Park at the Hawk Watch (Wildlife Viewing Platform). Over 84,000 raptors have been counted in a single season, including 17 different species of hawks and eagles. Our coastal flight is most famous for falcons, osprey, and harriers. 291 Peregrine Falcons were seen in a single day. The Hawk Watch Count is being sponsored this year by Swarovski Optik.

Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge - *The Meadows*

Sunset Blvd., Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.937948, -74.944611

www.nature.org

Owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), this 200+ acre refuge has extensive freshwater marsh and ponds (right next to the ocean) and is an excellent place to view gulls, terns, herons, egrets, shorebirds, bitterns, rails, and ducks. Piping Plovers and Least Terns, both endangered, nest on this beach through the summer. Walking follows a 1 mile loop trail over a combination of hard dirt paths and sand. The Nature Conservancy has instituted a fee to use this property.

Cape May Morning Flight

Northwest End of New England Road, Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.96516498911806, -74.96179819107055

www.BirdCapeMay.org/MorningFlight

Cape May's morning flight phenomena was discovered by David Sibley. Many songbirds are nocturnal migrants and Cape May is one of the few places in the world where thousands of migrating songbirds can be readily seen during early morning flights. Exceptional flights in excess of 100,000 birds have been recorded (Oct '90 & Oct '95). At Higbee Beach WMA, turn right down the unpaved road just before the main parking lot. Observation platform is on the left side of the road. CMBO's 2011 Morning Flight Counter is Tom Johnson.

Cape May Point Residential Area

Migrants use the shrubbery in Cape May Point extensively. Lake Lily, a freshwater lake, lies in the center of the Point and attracts migrant waterfowl and hunting Osprey. Warblers, vireos, and other songbirds can be observed feeding in the native vegetation around the lake. Raptors, swallows, jays, and other species pass overhead. This walk is a leisurely stroll along paved streets.

Cape May Point State Park

Lighthouse & Yale, Cape May Point, NJ 08212

GPS Coordinates: 38.932807423858506, -74.95915353298187

www.state.nj.us

This 200+ acre property is known for its diversity of habitat: ocean and beach, large freshwater ponds and marsh, and woodlands. Terns, gulls, cormorants, and shorebirds are frequently observed flying offshore. The heavily vegetated trails can be excellent for songbirds. Herons and egrets, Least Bitterns, Pied-billed Grebes and other water birds use the ponds extensively. Most of the trails are covered with boardwalks; others are dirt paths. Beach walking is on soft sand.

Cape May Lewes Ferry Mini-Pelagic Trip

1200 Lincoln Blvd., North Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.96935253685356, -74.95894432067871

www.cmlf.com

Enjoy a day on the Delaware Bay aboard the Cape May Lewes Ferry for a sea birding adventure leaving Cape May NJ to Lewes DE and back to Cape May. This is a walk on trip only - no vehicles permitted. Look for pelagic birds like gannets, loons, jaegers, interesting gulls and terns, and marine life. Wind and weather can make the water rough, so take precautions (seasick medicine). Dress warmly and bring rain gear - just in case. Spotting scopes on tripods are welcome. The Ferry is fully equipped with indoor seating, bathrooms, and snack bar. Cost is in addition to weekend and advance registration is required. Free parking in lot. Photo identification is required for all passengers.

Forsythe (Edwin B. Forsythe) National Wildlife Refuge

800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ 08231

GPS Coordinates: 39.4651606, -74.4480074

www.fws.gov/northeast/forsythe

With more than 46,000 acres of coastal habitat actively protected and managed, more than 82% of the refuge is wetlands, mostly salt marsh interspersed with shallow coves and bays. An 8-mile drive through a series of fresh, brackish, and saltwater wetlands make this refuge attractive to a great many bird species using the Atlantic Flyway. Ducks, geese, herons, bitterns, rails, shorebirds, and other water birds use refuge ponds and marshes for feeding and resting. Northern Harrier and Peregrine Falcon both breed here. There is a \$4 per car fee (without current duck stamp).

The Grand Hotel Cape May

1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.9328519, -74.908802

www.GrandHotelCapeMay.com

The Grand Hotel (609.884.5611 or toll free 800.257.8550) is our host hotel for our Cape May Autumn Birding Festival, book signing, meals and evening programs, and many of our indoor functions are held here. Our weekend Information and Registration Desk is located in the lobby.

Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area

West End of New England Road, Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.96158619140199, -74.96034979820251

www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/higbee

This 800 acre site is owned and managed by the NJ Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife. A series of five fields are managed for migratory birds and other wildlife. The largest stand of old growth forest south of the Cape May Canal is found here. Higbee Beach is also famous for its dune forest, the last natural dune forest along the Delaware Bayshore. Yellow-breasted Chats, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Prairie Warblers, and White-eyed Vireos nest here. This walk travels along field and forest edges.

Monarch Monitoring Project

East Shelter, Cape May Point State Park
Lincoln & Yale, Cape May Point, NJ 08212

GPS Coordinates: 38.96184480522208, -74.96065557003021

www.BirdCapeMay.org/Monarchs

Millions of Monarch butterflies pass through Cape May each autumn on their migratory journey. Thousands of them are tagged each year by CMBO naturalists. Learn more about their epic migratory trek and experience a tagging demonstration at the East Shelter next to the Hawk Watch Platform in Cape May Point State Park.

Nature Center of Cape May

1600 Delaware Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.944893, -74.899694

www.njaudubon.org/NCCM

Adopted by New Jersey Audubon in 1995, the Nature Center provides environmental and hands-on education focused on children and families. Located on the shores of beautiful Cape May Harbor, the Trucksess Welcome Center includes a 3-story observation tower and lounge, classrooms, exhibit aquaria, a small gift shop, and multiple themed display gardens.

Rea Farm “The Beanery”

Just past 6th Avenue on Bayshore Road, West Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.94618236778546, -74.93948489427566

[www.njwildlifetrails.org/The Rea Farm](http://www.njwildlifetrails.org/TheReaFarm)

The Rea Farm, known by birding locals as *The Beanery*, is one of the last working farms on the bay side of the lower Cape May Peninsula. This **private property** is leased by New Jersey Audubon and may be **accessed** year round **by permit only**, included as a benefit of current New Jersey Audubon, Cape May Bird Observatory membership. Bordering Pond Creek Marsh, this mix of wet woods, farm fields, weedy edges, and farm ponds, is crucial habitat for millions of warblers, passerines, finches, and sparrows. Walking is along field edges and dirt paths. Do not walk on planted or plowed fields, keep to paths.

Birding By Boat™

1218 Wilson Drive, Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.949841, -74.9108

www.BirdingByBoat.com

Cape May Boat Tours aboard *The Osprey*, an enclosed catamaran with comfortable bench seating. Join Captain Bob Lubberman and CMBO naturalists and cruise the back bays, harbors, and sounds of Cape May with close looks at egrets, oystercatchers, herons, rails, and of course – osprey. Dress for weather; spotting scopes on tripods are welcome. Cost is in addition to weekend and advance registration is required. *The Osprey*, docked next to the Cape May Whale Watcher, leaves from the Miss Chris Marina. Free parking in lot.

Stone Harbor Point

At the end at 2nd Avenue past 123rd Street, Stone Harbor, NJ

GPS Coordinates: 39.03483623380751, -74.7709321975708

www.stone-harbor.nj

Stone Harbor Point is a sand spit where Black skimmers, American oystercatchers, shorebirds, Seaside sparrows, gulls, terns, and more can be seen here. Walking is on sandy terrain. Free parking in lot.

West Cape May Fire Hall

732 Broadway, West Cape May, NJ 08204

GPS Coordinates: 38.943124, -74.930983

The hall is located adjacent to the rear of the firehouse. We will be using the Fire Hall for many of our indoor workshops and programs. Do not park in the reserved fire station spots but use the large parking lot beside the hall. Full toilet facilities inside the hall.

Villas Wildlife Management Area

End of Shawmount Road (off Route 603), Villas, NJ 08251

GPS Coordinates: 39.00613725648594, -74.9412202835083

www.conservewildlifenj.org

A preserved 239-acre former golf course with paved paths winding through former fairways, is now maintained as grasslands and savannahs, wooded copses, and a beautiful swamp forest along Cox Hall Creek. Great habitat for Barred and Great Horned Owls, Red-shouldered Hawks, Bald Eagles, woodpeckers, numerous waterfowl, and considerable songbird fallouts have been seen over the years. Walking is on paved and wooded paths. This is in a residential area. Please be considerate when arriving early morning, and park only in designated areas.