



This map was drafted by the Cape May Bird Observatory to help you explore the extraordinary birding possibilities of New Jersey's Delaware Bayshore. Enjoy your visit. Promote conservation by using local businesses and voicing your interest in seeing this area kept natural. Be respectful of the rights of landowners and people who are engaged in other outdoor pursuits.

New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory has two centers, clearly marked towards the foot of this map. Both facilities are designed to meet the information and equipment needs of both its members, and visiting birders. Your visit and membership are cordially invited to help us promote wildlife conservation and education efforts in the region.

For full details of membership, store hours and other information, please call us on the store numbers listed below, or visit our website at: www.birdcapemay.org

For latest bird news and sightings, visit our blog: <http://cmboviewfromthecape.blogspot.com>

Delaware Bayshore Birding and Butterfly Map

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New Jersey Audubon's
CAPE MAY BIRD OBSERVATORY
 Northwood Center
 Bookstore & Information
 701 East Lake Drive
 Cape May Point, NJ 08212
 609-400-3868

New Jersey Audubon's
CAPE MAY BIRD OBSERVATORY
 Center for Research & Education
 600 Route 47 North
 Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
 609-427-3006

New Jersey Audubon's
NATURE CENTER OF CAPE MAY
 1600 Delaware Avenue
 Cape May, NJ 08204
 609-427-3045

1 SHOREBIRD AND HORSESHOE CRAB VANTAGE POINTS – The celebrated concentrations of shorebirds and breeding horseshoe crabs which gather on sandy stretches of Delaware Bay beaches mid-May to early June may be seen from several vantage points: Norbury’s Landing, Pierce’s Point, Kimbles Beach, Cooks Beach, Reeds Beach (in Cape May County); as well as Moores Beach Road (this road floods each high tide – do not drive through saltwater), East Point Light, Fortescue (south end), and Gandy’s Beach (north end) in Cumberland County. An observation platform and parking lot (\$1 per vehicle) is available at Reeds Beach. Please do not disturb this phenomenon. Look from the road or viewing platforms; birds have grown accustomed to people at viewing platforms and may already be very close or fly in. Do not approach to within flush distance of the birds. Respect private property and park only where it does not inconvenience residents.

2 CAPE MAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (NWR), “Delaware Bay Division” – Created in 1989; will ultimately preserve over 22,500 acres. Many points of access (walking trails). Call (609-463-0994) or stop by Refuge Headquarters on Kimbles Beach Road for info. Woodcock Lane, just south of Kimbles Beach Road, has parking, a trailhead with maps, and a lengthy walking trail through fields and forest, good for breeding and migrant songbirds.

3 GOSHEN LANDING – Turn west off Rt. 47 at the Goshen Post Office. Road turns to dirt (sometimes mud). Wise to park on road shoulder before road turns to dirt and walk remainder of road, since high tides regularly flood road with saltwater. Road dead ends at a small turn-around. The salt marsh pools flanking the road are excellent for migrating shorebirds, egrets and Glossy Ibis in summer; raptors (including Short-eared Owl) in winter. Rails (Clapper and Virginia), Willet, and Northern Harrier breed here.

4 BEAVER SWAMP WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) – Off Rt. 657 turn onto Gravel Hole Road and immediately onto Beaver Dam Road, which becomes a sand road. Length of sand road good for land birds (including nesting Prothonotary Warbler), butterflies, dragonflies. At road end walk across dam to view lake, creek, and marsh.

5 JAKES LANDING ROAD – From Rt. 47, about 1.4 miles north of the WAWA store in Dennisville. Oak/pine woodlands along Jakes Landing Road host nesting Pine and Yellow-throated Warblers and woodland butterflies. Woods ends and road turns to dirt. Continue on road across open marsh to large parking lot at end of road. Road end overlooks Dennis Creek and extensive Delaware Bay marshes. This is a good vantage point for wintering raptors, including Bald Eagle and Short-eared Owl, nesting Seaside Sparrows (set up a scope to view Salt Marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows on the other side of the creek). At low tide, Clapper Rails skulk along exposed muddy creek banks. River Otters are often seen in the creek. Good canoe access out to Delaware Bay (follow creek to right at road end) or up towards headwaters (follow creek to left at road end), but be wary of very strong tidal currents. If canoeing towards Delaware Bay, take a falling tide out and catch the incoming tide back.

6 BELLEPLAIN STATE FOREST – Begin at forest Field Office (just off Route 550) for forest map and bathrooms. Consider purchasing Cape May County Map by Patton, Inc. (sold at CMBO) showing ALL forest roads, which traverse excellent habitat for southern swamp warblers, butterflies (especially sandy roads) and dragonflies. Drive south, birding along the way. Explore Sunset Road, Pine Swamp Road, Narrows Road, New Bridge Road, Cedar Bridge Road, Meisle Road. Oak/pine woodlands and white cedar swamps are good for Pine, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary and Worm-eating Warblers. At bridge bisecting the 2nd white cedar swamp on Sunset Road look for assorted nesting warblers.

7 STIPSON ISLAND – From Rt. 47, road dead ends at small Nature Conservancy (TNC) parking area. One of the Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) mitigation sites, this location purports to be a good place to view migrating shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. State Wildlife Management lands along the road are good for breeding birds such as Yellow-breasted Chat and Blue Grosbeak.

8 MOORES BEACH – From Rt. 47, south of Delmont. Road poorly maintained; take road with extreme caution since it floods at high tide (DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH SALTWATER). Road bisects open marsh and dead ends at the Delaware Bay. Shorebirds gather along beaches and on mud flats in spring and fall; snow geese abound in winter. Bald Eagles are often seen.

9 THOMPSONS BEACH – From Rt. 47 take Rt. 616 (Glade Road). On the outskirts of Heislerville turn left onto Thompsons Beach Rd. Road ends at parking lots and viewing platform overlooking expansive open mudflats. Good for shorebirds (spring, summer/autumn) on low tides. Summer and early fall concentrations of herons and egrets can be spectacular. Beyond parking lots and viewing platform, road continues to Delaware Bay but is for walking access only and often requires rubber boots since road floods at high tides.

10 EAST POINT LIGHT – Return to Rt. 616 and continue west onto East Point Road. Road is flanked by trees and eventually the Delaware Bay salt marshes. This road is a mini-Cape May peninsula attracting songbird migrants spring and fall, migrating raptors September-November, and migrating Monarchs and dragonflies September and October. Parking available by old brick lighthouse. This parking area is a good place to view spring shorebird concentrations. Red Cedar thickets surrounding lighthouse often attract migrant songbirds and roosting Monarchs in September and October. Marshes near the lighthouse support Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Good at all seasons.

11 HEISLERVILLE WMA – Accessed by dirt road leading west off East Point Road or by returning to Heislerville, turning left onto Dorchester-Heislerville Road (Rt. 616) and left again onto Matt’s Landing Road. Both routes lead to the Maurice River and are flanked by impoundments. Dikes are drivable (but barely). Mud flats at the river’s mouth attract migrating shorebirds; impoundments hold wintering waterfowl and herons/egrets in summer. See inset map for details.

12 MAURICE RIVER BRIDGE / MAURICETOWN – From Rt. 47 go west on Rt 670 at traffic light with WAWA store on one corner and Campbell’s Market (rest rooms) on the other corner. Dirt lanes before and after the bridge offer vantage points to scan for wintering raptors, particularly Bald Eagles. Past the bridge, turn left at light and left again to Maurice River Park–another vantage point. In late August and early September, 20,000 to 30,000 Purple Martins gather here in the evening before going to roost. Mauricetown is a beautiful old ship-building town, well worth seeing.

13 PEASLEY WMA – This extensive wooded tract, contiguous with Belleplain State Forest, is most easily accessed from Rt. 47 by taking Rt. 548 (Weatherby Rd) east out of Port Elizabeth. Weatherby Road is flanked by forest, largely untraveled, and skirts the southern end of Peasley WMA just before intersecting Rt. 49. This is classic “Pine Barrens” habitat. Summer Tanager, Red-headed Woodpecker, Wild Turkey are numerous. The New Jersey State Publication, “Guide to Wildlife Management Areas” (sold at CMBO Bookstores), contains excellent maps.

14 BIVALVE AND PORT NORRIS – Part of the PSE&G mitigation project, several public access points are available off Rt. 553 between Port Norris and Dividing Creek. From Route 553 in Port Norris go south on High Street (becomes Shell Road). Across from the Delaware Bay Schooner Project headquarters look for dirt road out to small PSE&G parking lot. From

here an extensive boardwalk crosses the marsh. Or go past the Schooner Project to the end of the road to access a viewing tower of the Delaware Bay marshes and the Maurice River. Return to Rt. 553 and go left. Look for Strawberry Avenue/Warren Lane on the left. Turn in and continue to small parking lot at end of road. From here an extensive boardwalk crosses the marsh. Return to Rt. 553 and go left to reach Robbinstown Road and Berrytown Road, two other access points out onto the Delaware Bay saltmarsh. Chuck-will’s-widow and Whip-poor-will both nest locally. Wintering raptors abound. Return to Rt. 553 and go left. Look for Hansey Creek Road on left. Length of road traverses good woodland and field habitat and eventually saltmarsh – rich in raptors (including Short-eared Owls in winter), clapper rails, “salt marsh” sparrows, and in winter thousands of snow geese.

15 DIVIDING CREEK / TURKEY POINT – Accessed off Rt. 553 via Maple Street in the town of Dividing Creek. The road bisects two large, tidal, impoundment pools that hold wintering waterfowl and shorebirds at low tide. Continuing, the road navigates woodland “necks” and bisects the vast marshes of the Glades Wildlife Refuge owned by the Natural Lands Trust, Inc. This is a stronghold for breeding rails and Northern Harrier and a winter raptor stronghold. Snow geese are often abundant in winter.

16 FORTESCUE / GLADES / GANDY’S BEACH – Take Rt. 553 and Rt.732 into Newport. At Main Street turn left and continue straight to the end of Newport Landing Road, a restaurant, and extensive tidal flats that are shorebird rich in season. Return the way you came and turn right (south) onto Rt. 637 (Fortescue Road). Continue toward Fortescue. A mile long trail on the left (The Russell Farm Trail) leads to an observation tower that looks back on Turkey Point (Note: trail is often wet and muddy). Continuing into Fortescue, at “T” intersection turn left onto Jersey Avenue. In spring, shorebirds and horseshoe crabs gather on sandy beaches beyond the sea wall. After leaving Fortescue continue back along Rt. 637, turn left onto Schoolhouse Road. Road eventually leads to TNC’s Gandy’s Beach Preserve and more estuary habitat. At the “T” at the beach, go right to dead end for shorebird viewing.

17 SEABREEZE / BACK NECK / DIX WMA – Return to 553 and continue into Fairton. Turn left onto Rt. 601 (Back Neck Road). Follow Rt. 601 to its terminus (and parking area) or turn left onto Seabreeze Road. Both roads skirt Dix WMA and pass through woodlands, farmland, and open marsh. Area is rich in wintering raptors and waterfowl. Fields managed for game species are also attractive to winter songbirds and migrants.

18 CLARKS POND WMA – In Fairton, take 553 to RR track crossing where a gravel road leads to parking. Fields and edge are good for land birds; ponds for waterfowl (particularly Ring-necked Duck in spring).

19 BRIDGETON CITY PARK – Consisting of over 1,000 acres within the city of Bridgeton, the park’s old growth forest tracts are a magnet for migrating birds, particularly in spring. From Rt. 49, heading west, go through the city and turn right onto Rt 607 (Beebe Run Road). After one mile turn right onto West Park Drive. Go 3/10 of a mile and turn right onto Mayor Aitkin Drive. Follow signs to park headquarters at the Cohanzyck Zoo for a trail map. Sunset Lake is sometimes good for waterfowl.

20 BAYSIDE TRACT – This 5,000 acre PSE&G mitigation site, managed by TNC, is primarily wetland and agricultural lands, but field edges and woodlots are attractive to nesting, migrant, and wintering birds. Very good for butterflies. Take Rt. 607 south from Rt. 49 in Bridgeton. At historic and scenic Greenwich, take Rt. 642 (Bacon’s Neck Road). At “T” intersection, go left for an overview of the Cohansey River. Or take a right, and then the first left to reach Bayside and an observation tower overlooking the Delaware River. Vast marshes here hold rail, willet, and raptors.

21 MAD HORSE CREEK / STOW CREEK BALD EAGLE NEST – Not easy to reach but worth it. From Rt. 49, into Salem County, turn L onto Rt. 667 (Harmersville-Pecks Corner Road) to Rt. 623 (Harmersville-Canton Road). Turn left. Enter Canton, turn right onto Frog Ocean Road, then left onto Stow Neck Road. Follow to parking area at end (but there are many places to stop along the way and view Stow Neck). From the parking lot a trail leads east through woodland, marsh and into stands of Loblolly Pine, a southern pine reaching the northern limit of its range here. Returning to Rt. 623, turn right (east) and soon after pull into small parking lot on right just before Stow Creek bridge. Follow trail to viewing platform overlooking Bald Eagle nest in large sycamore across creek. Adult eagles are around the nest year-round. They add sticks to the nest in January, lay eggs in mid-February, their young hatch mid- to late March and fledge in June.

22 HANCOCKS BRIDGE - FORT ELFSBORG ROAD TO SALEM – Open farmlands and Delaware Bay overlooks with considerable protected land. Eagles nest near Hancock’s Bridge. Fort Elfsborg Road is the best place in the state to look for Yellow-headed Blackbird in fall, winter, and spring. Brewer’s Blackbirds also seen. White-crowned Sparrows are common in winter. Rt. 624 south of Salem is good, but use Salem County Map by Patton, Inc. (sold at CMBO) for best access.

23 FORT MOTT STATE PARK – From Rt. 49 take Lighthouse Road to Rt. 630 (Ft. Mott Road). Fort was built to guard the approach to Philadelphia. The vegetation surrounding the fort is a migrant trap in spring and fall. The fort itself is a vantage point to scan Peapatch Island, site of the largest herony north of Florida. East of Fort Mott is Supawna Meadows NWR, but access is restricted.

24 MANNINGTON MARSH – An exquisite and globally significant tidal, brackish estuary. Difficult to bird, but known for its surfeit of water birds (nesting Common Moorhen, nesting Pied-billed Grebes) and assorted waterfowl. Black Terns can be common in early May. Entering Salem, take Rt. 45 north to Rt. 540 (Pointer’s Auburn Rd.). Park safely off road on road shoulder before crossing the causeway and scan. DO NOT SCAN FROM THE CAUSEWAY. Continue on Rt. 540, turn left onto Sunset Drive to intersect a second causeway. Returning to Rt. 540, turn right onto Griscom Road for additional views. Also try Rt. 45 north of Salem. Winter waterfowl concentrations are exceptional. Bald eagles present year round.

25 FEATHERBED LAND AND SHARPTOWN/AUBURN ROAD – One of New Jersey’s premier grassland sites. Hayfields and pasture combine to attract nesting Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, (occasionally) Dickcissel, and (formerly) Upland Sandpiper. In winter, Snow and Canada Geese are abundant locally. From Rt. 45 take Rt. 40 west at Woodstown. After Sharptown (Kings Highway) take Sharptown-Audubon Road north. First crossroads is Featherbed Lane.

26 PEDRICKTOWN – The tidal flats along the causeway here rank as one of the best locations in New Jersey to find Ruff in late March and April. Good shorebirding here in spring and thousands of Pintails concentrate in late winter. Take Exit 10 off I-295 and go west on Center Square Road. Make a left towards Pedricktown. Park and bird very carefully on this busy road. Birds are closest on an incoming tide (about one hour before the announced tide for Philadelphia).

27 FLOODGATES – (Gloucester County) – Take I-295 to Repaupo Exit, proceed west toward the Delaware River. Go through gate into the Green Acres Park to view river. Look for migrant waterbirds in spring, and nesting Great Blue Herons, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Least Bittern, and Common Moorhen. In winter look for diving ducks, gulls, Great Cormorant. Twin Islands, one of the New Jersey Audubon Society’s newest sanctuaries, is visible from Rapauo.