



Cape May Point Nature Guide

General Information

Cape May Point is internationally renowned as a bird migration stopover along the Atlantic Migration Flyway. The waters, wetlands, beach, dunes, other natural areas, and residential vegetation are all used by hundreds of bird species for resting and feeding during spring and fall migration.

Cape May is one of the top birding destinations in the country, especially in the fall when many hawks are funneled down the peninsula and circle the Point before flying across the Delaware Bay. The Cape May Hawkwatch count (at the State Park) averages 48,000 raptors each year.

In 1999, a peak number of Monarch butterflies migrated through Cape May Point--over 15,000 were censused. Probably well over a million Monarchs passed through Cape May Point that autumn! Watch for Monarchs roosting in Eastern Red Cedar trees along the dunes.

Resident wildlife includes Virginia Opossum, Striped Skunk, Red Fox, Eastern Box Turtle, Southern Gray Treefrog, and the occasional non-poisonous snake.



WILDLIFE HABITAT GARDENS

Many Cape May Point residents protect the native vegetation in their yards and enhance it with wildlife gardens to provide food, shelter, and a place to rest for migrant and resident birds, butterflies, dragonflies, bats, and more!



ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

Dolphins breed in the Delaware Bay and family groups live in the waters around Cape May Point all summer and early fall.



LAKE LILY

This freshwater lake provides food and shelter for birds, turtles and frogs. Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Mallards, Pied Billed Grebe and Ring-Necked Duck are among the common visitors.



World renowned Cape May Bird Observatory (CMBO) is located adjacent to Lake Lily. Walks and programs in Cape May Point are offered.