



Cape May Point Nature Guide

Birds and Birding

More Resources

Birds and Birding at Cape May: What to See, When and Where to Go, by Clay and Pat Sutton, Stackpole Books, 2006. An insider's guide to North America's most storied birding destination by veteran naturalists and longtime residents

www.njwildlifetrails.org

Free publications about connecting with nature, expanded information on Cape May, examples of habitats, native plants, and animals to look for in winter, spring, summer and fall

www.njaudubon.org

NJ Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory (CMBO) and the Nature Center of Cape May and articles by Pat Sutton about gardening for wildlife (with plant lists and sources).

www.birdcapemay.org

Articles and information on birding the area and Monarch butterfly tagging from CMBO; photo gallery, maps, checklists and events.

www.allaboutbirds.org

An online guide to birds and bird-watching.



FLOCK OF 5 OR MORE BIRDS

Many birds migrate southward through Cape May in the fall and return north in the spring. Sometimes flocking provides safety in numbers.



PURPLE MARTIN HOUSE

Purple Martins are communal nesters (nest side-by-side). They nest here from spring through August and have benefited from the well-maintained Purple Martin houses (like those at the Cape May Point State Park) that residents have provided. They eat only flying insects.



SHOREBIRDS & HORSESHOE CRABS

Shorebirds that have wintered at the southern tip of South America migrate north in the spring and have learned to stop on the shores of the Delaware Bay to feast on the eggs laid by mating horseshoe crabs in late spring; they then continue north to the Arctic tundra to raise their families.

Cape May is the Raptor Capitol of North America. The Platform at the State Park is the site of the annual Hawkwatch from September 1-November 30.



RAPTOR

Birds of prey, hawks, or raptors, are meat eaters and use their feet, instead of their beak, to capture prey.