

AROUND FALMOUTH (Late November to Mid-February)

Pat Garrey, Woods Hole

After crossing the Cape Cod Canal on the Bourne Bridge, follow Rte. 28 to Falmouth, and then turn left on West Main St., as if going to Hyannis. At 0.3 miles, on the right is the town parking lot (across from the Quarter Deck Restaurant), with the town hall set well back. Siders (not Sider's) Pond is in back of the town hall, behind which you can park on weekends, but otherwise use the town parking lot. I strongly suggest that you arrive here before 11:00 a.m., since the light is bad from that time on.

Usual wintering birds are: Pied-billed Grebe; Coot; Mallard, Black, Ring-necked, and Ruddy Duck; Green-winged Teal; American Wigeon; Greater and Lesser Scaup; Hooded Merganser; and Belted Kingfisher. In winter, the concentration of Canvasbacks is the best in Massachusetts. Occasional ducks include Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Redhead, Gadwall, and European Wigeon. For several years, one or two Tufted Ducks (European stragglers) frequented the pond. You may also see both Snow and Blue Geese, but these are not wild. Explore the thickets around the pond for kinglets, Mockingbirds, Cardinals, Gray Catbird, Purple and House Finches, Woodcock, and occasionally a Chat. If Siders Pond is open, it might pay one well to cross West Main St. and do Shiverick and Weeks Ponds behind the stores.

Now turn eastward on West Main St. and right on Walker St. to Surf Dr. There are some good feeders on the right side of the road which are frequented by Field, Song, and White-throated Sparrows; House Finches; and Evening Grosbeaks.

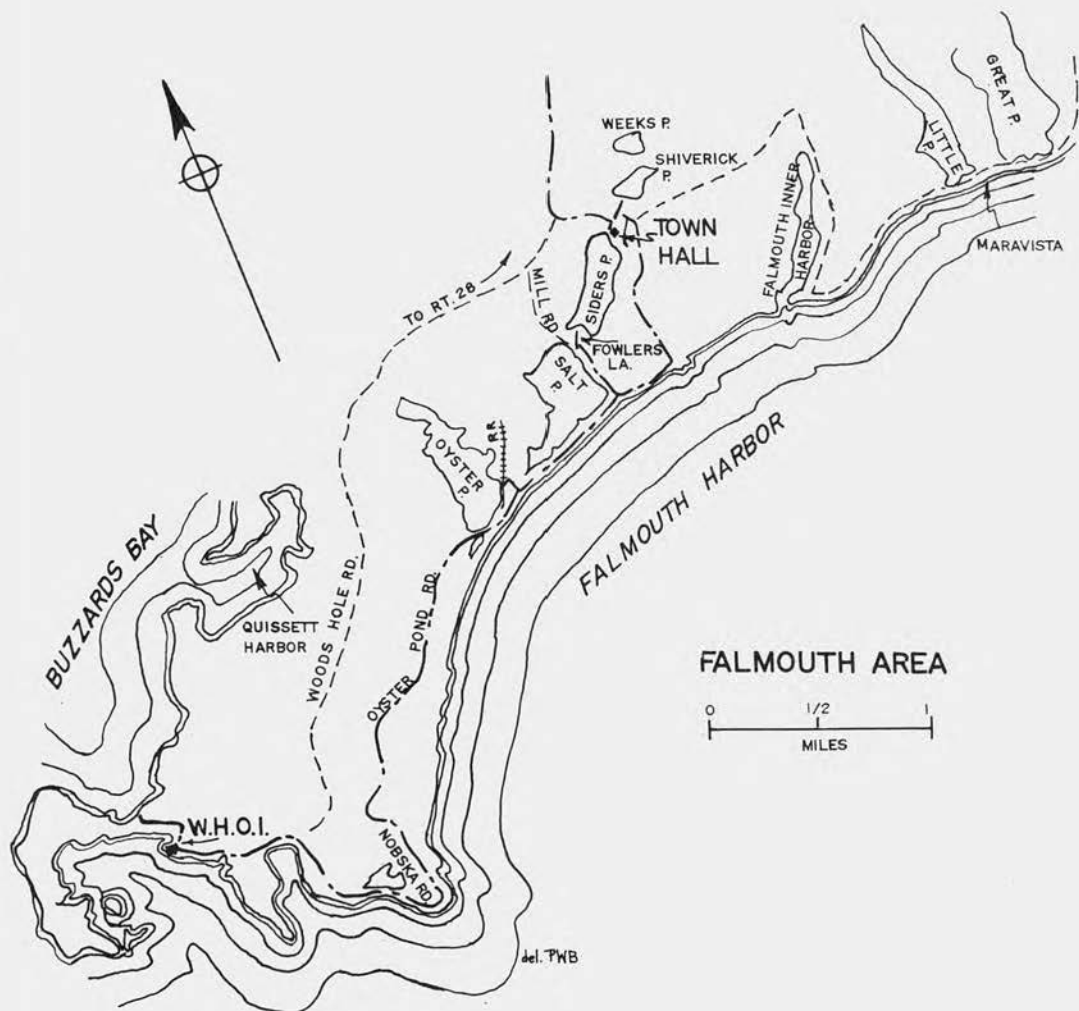
Turn right on Surf Dr. and right on Mill Rd. to look over the northeastern part of Salt Pond. If Siders Pond is open at its southern end, continue on to Mill St. to Fowler La. Leave your car and walk to the gray house at the end of the lane. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are happy to have visitors in their yard to view the south end of Siders Pond. But please ... no large groups.

Return to Surf Dr. and continue westward. Turn right on Elm Rd. and drive up to the red gate on your right, which marks the Falmouth Waterfowl Sanctuary. In the thickets you should find Yellow-rumped Warblers. The first house on the left of Elm Rd. has good feeders; approach it from the old railroad bed or the driveway to the back of the house.

Again, return to Surf Dr. and follow it to Oyster Pond Rd.; continue southwestward until you take the left to Nobska Pt. Light House. There you will find large rafts of Common Eiders, Great Cormorants on the island to your right, Purple Sandpipers, and three scoters. Rounding the point, keep on Church St. until you return to the main road leading to Woods Hole. Turn left and then right on Water St., which will take you through the town.

On the left you will find the yellow building of the U. S. Department of Commerce Fish and Wildlife Service; go into the parking space to look over Woods Hole Harbor. You should get good numbers of scoters, Bonaparte's Gull, Bufflehead, and American Goldeneye. Turn right and right again as you come out from behind the building, then take your next left and go to North St., where another left will bring you to Gosnold Rd. and the bathing beach where Common and Red-throated Loons, Horned Grebes and Oldsquaws can be found.

If you have missed the Mute Swans or Canada Geese, go back through Falmouth on the main road (Rte. 28), and then turn right at the Howard Johnson's on Falmouth Heights Rd. to Falmouth Heights. Upon reaching the ocean, turn left on Grand Ave. and follow the shore road eastward about 1.3 miles, stopping to look behind the Maravista Motel. Then continue along the shore until you reach Green Pond. Turn around in the boat yard over the bridge, and then take the first right on Acapesket. This will return you to Rte. 28.



FALMOUTH AREA

