

August

In August many places in Falmouth are crowded, but conservation areas can provide quiet and even solitude. Try a walk at Bartolomei Conservation Area* or Mares Pond*. Quaker Marsh* provides a place to launch a kayak or canoe for quiet paddle. Evening walks can be especially pleasant. Wherever you go, here are some things to look for in Falmouth in August:



The brilliant pink flowers of **Rose Mallow** (a Hibiscus) open—look for them in the marshes along Surf Drive. They also grow in the marshes visible from the Bike Path along Vineyard Sound.

Beach Plums begin to ripen.

This is the peak of the **shorebird migration**; adults arrive first, but young-of-the-year begin to appear on Falmouth's shores about now.

The **warmest seawater** temperatures of the year occur about the middle of the month. That means that swimming is good, but it also is warm enough to allow **hurricanes** to come this far north.

Goldenrod and asters start to bloom toward the middle of the month. Blooming **Sea Lavender** spreads a pale lavender mist over some salt marshes.

This is the time of greatest **bird abundance**, with the birds hatched this year added to the population before the losses of migration and winter.

By the end of the month the **Sweet Pepperbush** blooms. You will see the flowers and smell the fragrance if you walk around Long Pond* or the Punch Bowl in Beebe Woods*.

Tupelos turn crimson. These are the first trees to turn color in the fall. You'll find them mostly along streams and pond edges.

The berries of **Bayberry** ripen. These grey-green waxy fruits are important food for warblers and other birds as they migrate south.



*Oystercatcher adults with juvenile. Photo by Craig Gibson
Calendar by Beth Schwarzman*

Tree Swallows form flocks on telephone wires as they get ready for migration.

Insects make a good part of the sounds heard on warm evenings at this time of year: crickets, grasshoppers, katydids and sometimes cicadas.

*Trail maps can be downloaded and printed from The 300 Committee website at: www.300committee.org.

Preserving Open Space for Falmouth

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