

July

July in Falmouth is full summer with all the pleasures and crowds that come with the season. Falmouth's open spaces can provide their own pleasures and few crowds. Try a stroll through Goodwill Park* to the quiet side of Grews Pond or a seat in the shade at the north end of Coonamessett Pond*. Or launch a kayak or canoe at the Matt Souza Conservation Area* at the south end of the pond. Here are some things to look for in the outdoors in July:



Strong **southwest winds** blow on Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound by early afternoon most days as the warming land of the Cape draws air in, reinforcing the prevailing westerly wind.

The children and grandchildren of last year's **Monarch Butterflies** arrive, from the south. The fields of Crane Wildlife Area* and Peterson Farm* are two good places to see them.

You may see adult **Robins or Cardinals** being followed by their large offspring who still beg to be fed. Some birds will build a new nest and begin a second brood about now.

Green Frogs sit on the lily pads in Broad River at The 300 Committee's Toner Parcel in the Headwaters of the Coonamessett River* near the town bogs off Hatchville Road.

Wild Blueberries start to ripen in sunny areas all over town. Birds eat them as fast as they see them, but you can sometimes find good Lowbush Blueberries in the cleared areas beneath the powerlines at the Toner Parcel and in the western section of Crane Wildlife Area*.

Ospreys are feeding the young now growing in many of the bulky twig nests on poles and platforms. If you look carefully you can sometimes see the heads of the juveniles above the nest rim—it gets easier as the young birds grow larger and more adventurous.

Butterfly Weed, a bright orange member of the Milkweed family, comes into bloom about now in meadows and fields, attracting ... many butterflies.



*Plovers in Flight. Photo by Craig Gibson
Calendar by Beth Schwarzman*

The first **southbound shorebirds** arrive on our beaches after raising their chicks on the Arctic tundra. Most of the early arrivals are adults; the young-of-the-year find their way south by themselves later, after growing a bit more and eating to store up fat to see them through the first lap of migration.

Chipmunks, Flying Squirrels, and Gray Squirrels may produce a second litter of young in mid- to late-July.

*Trail maps at www.300committee.org

Preserving Open Space for Falmouth

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