



An aerial photograph of Cape Henlopen, Delaware, during sunset. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, transitioning into a dark blue over the ocean. The land is silhouetted against the bright sky, showing a large dune area and a body of water in the foreground. A single, dark, vertical object, possibly a person or a marker, is visible in the water on the right side.

The Beauty of Cape Henlopen

Cape Henlopen is not just a major summer destination, it's great year round. Beautiful beaches, coastal dunes, woodland trails, military history – these are just a few of the reasons Delawareans and visitors alike flock there.

In this photo essay, we see Cape Henlopen uniquely - through the eyes and words of renowned photographer Kevin Fleming.





PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS for National Geographic magazine and my book projects have taken me to 28 countries and all 50 states. But there is nowhere I would rather be than here in Delaware, especially in Cape Henlopen State Park.

Life is on the edge here. The Atlantic Ocean ends as waves roll onto the sands where Delaware begins. Wildlife abounds where north meets south and there never is an off season for birding in the park. Even during the short, gray days of January and February you can find red-breasted mergansers and a colorful assortment of sea ducks. During the spring and autumn migrations hundreds of raptors like bald eagles, kestrels and peregrine falcons pass through

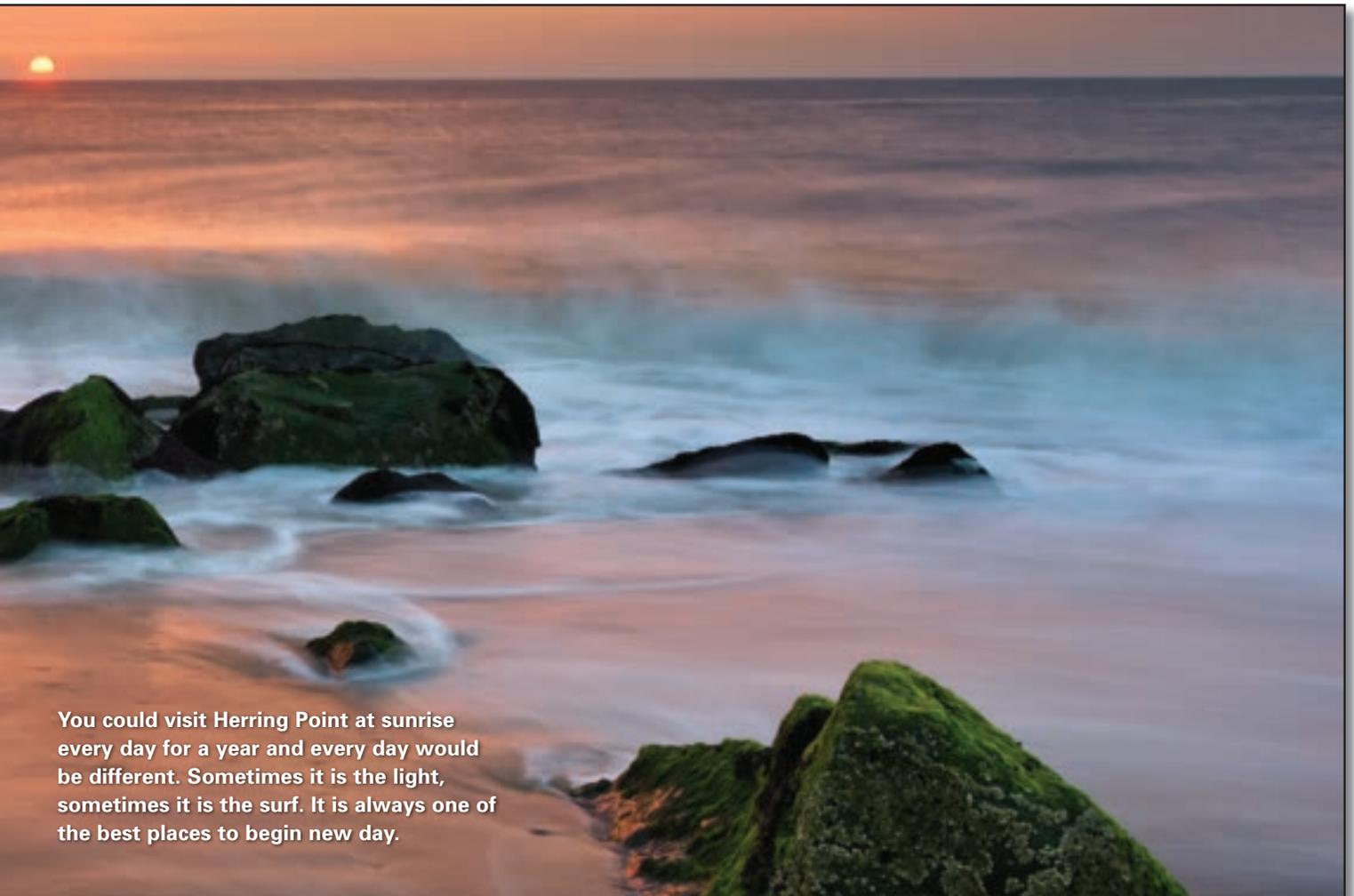
the park on their way north or south as well as many species of songbirds.

Sunrise is my favorite time to photograph the park. Every day is different as the light and tides are always creating new scenes. Herring Point catches the first light of a new day and the twin granite jetties are a great place to watch especially in the summer, and it is not unusual to see hundreds of great and snowy egrets fishing the shallow, brackish water in July and August.

Beyond the coast there are miles of woodland and wetland trails to hike and explore. In the off-season you may just have the place to yourself. Often, I do.

**A young gray seal rests on the beach (left)
and the Great Dune catches the sunrise light.**





You could visit Herring Point at sunrise every day for a year and every day would be different. Sometimes it is the light, sometimes it is the surf. It is always one of the best places to begin new day.



If there is an icon that is quintessentially Delaware, my vote would be our WWII fire control towers. Eleven were built in 1942 to watch for Nazi submarines that were taking quite a toll on shipping just off the coast. The seven towers built in Cape Henlopen State Park still stand as silent sentinels. For the star track photograph (top), I used a 40 minute exposure starting at 3:00 am.







Take the nature trail at Gordons Pond—especially in the summer—and you can often find diamondback terrapin (left), white-tailed deer (top) and great egrets.