

# BIRD TREKS

## CHINCOTEAGUE NWR & the DELMARVA PENINSULA DELAWARE, MARYLAND & VIRGINIA

**Dates** Friday, 19 October through Monday, 22 October 2012: 4 days & 3 nights

**We'll visit** Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Chincoteague Island, for their abundance of waterfowl, seabirds, resident Brown-headed Nuthatches, plus Wild Ponies, River Otters, and the endangered Delmarva Fox Squirrel (we saw SEVEN one year!)

Kiptopeke State Park, Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, the quaint village of Willis Wharf, and stops at Bombay Hook NWR and Ocean City Inlet.

**Species likely to be seen include . . .**

Common Loon	Northern Harrier
Northern Gannet	Bald Eagle
Great Cormorant	American Oystercatcher
Brant	Black-bellied Plover
Ruddy Duck	American Avocet
Black Scoter	Marbled Godwit
Surf Scoter	Whimbrel
Clapper Rail	Pileated Woodpecker
Short-eared Owl	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Red-shouldered Hawk	Pine Warbler
Peregrine Falcon	Savannah Sparrow
Merlin	Saltmarsh Sparrow



**And rarities such as . . .**

King Eider	Orange-crowned Warbler
King Rail	Lark Sparrow
Black-headed Gull	Clay-colored Sparrow
Little Gull	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Western Kingbird	Brewer's Blackbird

**Mammals we may see include . . .**

Delmarva Fox Squirrel	River Otter
Wild Pony	Sika Deer
Harbor Seal	Red Fox



# CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

19 - 22 October 2012

## Day

## Agenda

- 1 The tour begins at the Inn at Nottingham, Nottingham, PA at 7:00 AM. If you are flying from out of town on the previous day, you can be shuttled by van from Philadelphia International Airport to the Nottingham Inn, where you will spend the night. Planned birding stops on the first day of the tour include Bombay Hook NWR and the Chincoteague causeway. We'll find many of the **puddle and bay ducks**, a few **rails and shorebirds**, and **raptors** including **Bald Eagle** and **Northern Harrier**. A search through the blackbird flocks may produce **Yellow-headed** or **Brewer's Blackbird**. We'll scope for **Common Loon**, **Clapper Rail**, **Brant**, and **American Oystercatcher** along the causeway. Overnight at the same comfortable motel in Chincoteague for all three nights. It has a nice view of the bay.
- 2 Our day's birding will be at Chincoteague NWR and nearby environs. We'll head for the causeway for the early morning activity, which can be impressive. This area will give us lots of shorebirds, usually including **American Oystercatchers** in the oyster beds, plus a nice variety of long-legged waders, waterfowl, and a **Northern Harrier** or **Merlin**. There are some good spots toward the southern end of the island that often yield **Brant**, **Marbled Godwit**, **Black Skimmer**, and **Brown-headed Nuthatch**. After looking for **Clapper Rail**, we'll make our way into the refuge. Birds here can range from **Pine Warbler** to **Hermit Thrush** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, and with any luck, an **American White Pelican**. There will be shorebirds, gulls, and terns on the beach, and scoters, loons, **Brown Pelican**, and possibly a **Parasitic Jaeger** or **Dolphin** offshore.
- 3 There is always plenty to look for at Chincoteague; another day there will certainly be well spent. But, if we are content with what we found yesterday, we may decide to head south and explore some new areas. Two likely candidates are Kiptopeke State Park and Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR. The brush pile at Kiptopeke holds a nice variety of **sparrows**, the marsh has **Clapper** and **Virginia Rails**, and we'll check in at the hawk watch to see what raptors are moving and what else has been seen. One year we found a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** and a **Snow Bunting**, and observed a songbird banding demonstration. The flats at Willis Wharf are known for **shorebirds**, especially **Marbled Godwit** and **Whimbrel**, plus **Willetts** and **Dunlin**. We often have excellent looks at **Saltmarsh Sparrow**. Either way, we'll finish the day at Chincoteague for another great dinner and our third and final night.
- 4 We can spend as much of the morning as we wish in Chincoteague, maybe for a few more migrant **seabirds** or some late **warblers**. Ocean City Inlet is good for **seabirds** and **shorebirds**, and often a **Peregrine Falcon**. Indian River Inlet may yield **Great Cormorant**, and possibly **Purple Sandpiper** and **Red-throated Loon**. We'll make the final drive north and return to Nottingham by late afternoon, the end of a wonderful four-day weekend on the **Delmarva Peninsula**.

**Leader** Bird Treks' **Delmarva Fall Migration Tour** will be led by **Bob Schutsky** or another of Bird Treks' fine tour leaders. Bob and his associates have birded this area many times and will show you all the best that it has to offer. We will be in touch with local hotlines and personal contacts to help us seek out any rarities along the way.

**Price** \$1225 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$195.

**Includes** Expert guide service, **ALL meals** beginning with breakfast the first day of the tour, all entrance fees, lodging for three nights, and ground transportation from Nottingham, PA. All tips are also included, except for anything extra that you may wish to give to your tour guide(s).

Does not include the cost of alcoholic beverages, items of a personal nature, your flight to Philadelphia, or your overnight stay in Nottingham the night before the tour begins.

**Extra Services** We offer the services of our exclusive Bird Treks travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 26 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail her at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There may be a fee for these services.

**Deposit** \$300 deposit assures your reservation on the tour. Balance is due 19 August 2012.

**Refund and Cancellation Policy** With written notice more than 60 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$75 service fee. With 30-60 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com** or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.

A map of the tour route can be seen by clicking on this link:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117812928873209532533.000462d4f585044d3b901&ll=37.11461,-75.859566&spn=0.205058,0.44632&z=12>

We're likely to see  
**Black Skimmers**  
at Chincoteague.

- - *Judy Schneider,*  
*tour participant*

