

BIRD TREKS

CAPE HATTERAS & the NORTH CAROLINA OUTER BANKS

With a Gulf Stream Pelagic Trip & Southbound Migrants

Dates Wednesday, 6 September through Monday, 11 September 2017: 6 days and 5 nights

We'll visit The **Gulf Stream** for an all-day, bird-filled, pelagic trip with Brian Patteson. These trips are known for their great birds and mammals, and frequent rarities.

Oregon Inlet, Hatteras Point, and Ocracoke Island on the Outer Banks.

Bodie and Pea Island NWR for shorebirds and waterfowl and **Kitty Hawk**, site of the Wright brothers' first airplane flight, and perhaps a few interesting shorebirds.

Target species that we are likely to see include . . .

Black-capped Petrel	American Avocet
Cory's Shearwater	Black-necked Stilt
Great Shearwater	Red-necked Phalarope
Audubon's Shearwater	Pomarine Jaeger
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Gull-billed Tern
Brown Pelican	Sandwich Tern
Little Blue Heron	Sooty Tern
Tricolored Heron	Bridled Tern
White Ibis	Black Tern
Glossy Ibis	Black Skimmer
Virginia Rail	Marsh Wren
Clapper Rail	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Piping Plover	Black-and-white Warbler
American Oystercatcher	Prairie Warbler
Marbled Godwit	Pine Warbler
Hudsonian Godwit	Seaside Sparrow



Piping Plover on the beach. - - Tom Amico

We could also find *RARITIES* such as these from previous late summer tours . . .

Roseate Spoonbill	Orange-crowned Warbler	Clay-colored Sparrow
Long-billed Curlew	Prothonotary Warbler	Lark Sparrow
White-tailed Tropicbird	Painted Bunting	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Western Kingbird	Dickcissel	

[Day 1 begins on page 2]

A checklist of birds found on our previous **late summer tours** is available by clicking on this link: <http://www.birdtreks.com/birds-previously-seen/NCSEP.pdf>

Click here for a **map of the tour route**:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=17hlgB14xvTmuPb9QmW6BeSVSf64>

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NORTH CAROLINA OUTER BANKS

6 - 11 September 2017

DAY AGENDA

- 1 The tour will begin at the Norfolk Airport in Norfolk, Virginia. (See ****NOTE**** on page 4.) If everyone can arrive by about noon, we will have time for some birding on the way to the Outer Banks. The first planned stop is Fort Story, at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. We'll also visit nearby Seashore State Park. Between the two locations we will bird the open ocean, beach, dunes, pine forest, and cypress swamp. Birds will range from **Brown Pelican** and **Royal Tern** to **Pileated Woodpecker** and maybe a **Barred Owl**. We'll then head south to the Outer Banks, watching for a **Bald Eagle** along the way. ALL FIVE NIGHTS will be in the same motel in Buxton. This gives us easy access to Hatteras Landing Marina, which is our departure point for the pelagic trip.
- 2 Our first full day on the Outer Banks will include birding at Pea Island, Oregon Inlet, Coquina Beach, and Bodie Island. The Pea Island impoundments often yield **Marbled** and **Hudsonian Godwits**, along with **American Avocet**, and many additional **shorebirds**. Hedgerows and thickets are great for **sparrows**, **warblers**, **vireos**, and other **songbirds**. **Hérons**, **egrets**, **ibis**, **pelicans**, and **terns** are abundant at Oregon Inlet. We'll save time late in the day to search for **bitterns** and **rails** at Bodie Light, then get a good night's sleep in our nearby motel.
- 3 Our day will begin at Hatteras, famous for its **gulls**, **terns**, **shorebirds**, and **waterfowl**. Nearby hedgerows will yield more **songbirds** and perhaps a rarity such as **Lark Sparrow** or **Dickcissel**. The ferry ride will produce many aquatic species, then we'll explore Ocracoke Island's vast thickets, salt marshes, and miles of beautiful beach. Although rare in North Carolina, **Shiny Cowbird**, **White-winged Dove**, and **Eurasian Collared-Dove** have all been found on Ocracoke.

[Days 4-6 and the pelagic trip are on page 3]



Buff-breasted Sandpiper - - Tom Amico

4 We will spend the day at sea in the nearby waters of the Gulf Stream with Brian Patteson. Some of the species that we may see include **Black-capped Petrel**, **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**, **Sooty** and **Bridled Terns**, **Cory's** and **Audubon's Shearwaters**, and **Pomarine Jaeger**. **Whales**, **dolphins**, and **sea turtles** are likely. Some unusual species such as **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**, **Long-tailed Jaeger**, and **South Polar Skua** are well within reason. There is always the chance for something VERY unusual, perhaps a beautiful **White-tailed Tropicbird** (seen on our 2007 tour), **Herald Petrel**, or **White-faced Storm-Petrel**.

5 Bodie (pronounced 'body') Island has a great combination of edges and hedgerows for **songbirds**, pinewoods for **Brown-headed Nuthatch** and **Pine Warbler**, and lots of marsh and wetlands for **aquatic species**. We'll spend more time at Pea Island and Hatteras Point, especially at some of the known vagrant traps where we might find **Western Kingbird** or **Clay-colored Sparrow**. Any extra time is useful for scoping the vast flats at Oregon Inlet or looking for **migrant seabirds** from Coquina Beach. We'll spend our final night on the Outer Banks.

6 We'll have one more morning on the Outer Banks, then we'll work our way north to **Norfolk International Airport** and the end of a wonderful experience on the North Carolina Coast. Plan your flights home for early afternoon or later.

Tricolored Herons in breeding plumage are truly dazzling.

- - photos by Sandy Roe (right) and Bob Coley (below)



[Final details on page 4]

Leader The **Outer Banks Birding Extravaganza** will be led by **Bob Schutsky** who has birded coastal North Carolina dozens of times. The birding and coastal scenery will be spectacular.

Price \$2325 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available at an extra charge of \$335. We will take a maximum of seven participants. On rare occasion we may extend the maximum to ten participants.

Includes Expert guide service, lodging for five nights, **ALL meals**, entrance fees and permits, pelagic trip and ferry rides, and ground transportation from Norfolk, Virginia. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader(s) or boat crew.

Tour fee does not include cost of airfare to and from Norfolk. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, help you to obtain the best possible airfare. Also not included are the costs of alcoholic beverages and any items of a personal nature.

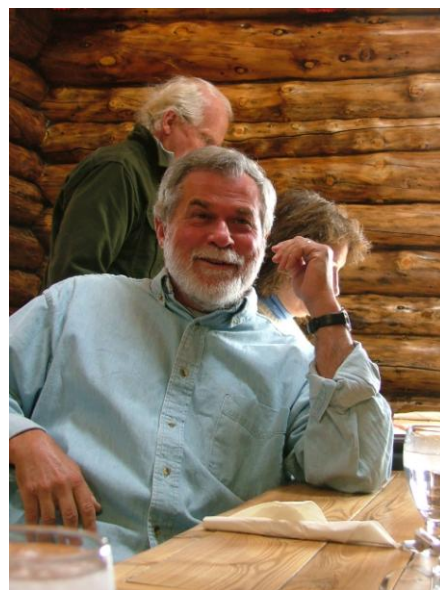
****NOTE**** It may be possible for you to ride by van with Bob from the southeast Pennsylvania area to Norfolk. Please inquire about making these arrangements.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive Bird Treks travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 32 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel/Travel Time at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail Lori at **lori@trvltime.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 assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There is a small fee for these services.

Deposit A \$500 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is due 6 July 2017. **EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE APPRECIATED** to secure your spot on the pelagic trip.



Whimbrel heading south. -- Steve Dale



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 **1-866-884-3556**.