

BIRD TREKS

DELAWARE BAY OF NEW JERSEY & DELAWARE CAPE MAY POINT & BOMBAY HOOK NWR

Dates Sunday, 21 May through Friday, 26 May 2017, 6 days and 5 nights

This pre-Memorial Day Holiday Tour includes . . .

The **Horseshoe Crab** spectacle on the **Delaware Bay**, when *thousands of shorebirds* gather to feed upon millions of **Horseshoe Crab** eggs.

Lots of time to explore the **Jersey Coast**, from **Cape May** to **Brigantine (Forsythe) NWR** and many great places off the beaten path.

A ride on the **Cape May-Lewes Ferry** to look for seabirds and a few marine mammals.

The vast **Central Delaware Marshes**, including **Bombay Hook NWR**, **Port Mahon**, **Woodland Beach**, and **Kitts Hummock**.

Birds that we are likely to see include . . .

Brown Pelican	Least Tern
Great Cormorant	Royal Tern
Least Bittern	Black Skimmer
Tricolored Heron	Barred Owl
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Eastern Screech-Owl
Wood Duck	Marsh Wren
Peregrine Falcon	Eastern Bluebird
Bald Eagle	Prothonotary Warbler
King Rail	Yellow-throated Warbler
Virginia Rail	Prairie Warbler
Piping Plover	Hooded Warbler
American Oystercatcher	Louisiana Waterthrush
Red Knot	Summer Tanager
White-rumped Sandpiper	Blue Grosbeak
Purple Sandpiper	Seaside Sparrow



Least Terns nest at Cape May.

- - Tom Amico, tour participant

[Rarities and Day 1 begin on page 2]

A few rarities may include . . .

Parasitic Jaeger
Little Gull
Arctic Tern
Sandwich Tern

Wilson's Plover
Curlew Sandpiper
Ruff
Red-necked Phalarope

Mississippi Kite
Black Rail
Mourning Warbler
Dickcissel

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New Jersey - Delaware *Shorebird Extravaganza*

21 - 26 May 2017

DAY

AGENDA

- 1 We will meet at the Philadelphia International Airport: plan to arrive by about noon. If your travel plans do not include flying into Philadelphia, an alternate meeting place can be arranged. On our way to Cape May, we will bird the New Jersey side of the Delaware Bay for our first views of the **Horseshoe Crab Spectacle**. Moore's Beach and Jake's Landing are good areas to see *thousands of shorebirds* and other species feasting upon the **Horseshoe Crab** eggs. These locations are also good for **King Rail**, **Seaside Sparrow**, and **Glossy Ibis**. We'll finish the day in Cape May searching for **shorebirds** at the Meadows, **raptors** at the State Park, and **Parasitic Jaeger** and **Northern Gannet** at Sunset Beach. Our first three nights are all at the same motel in Cape May.
- 2 We'll start the morning at Higbee Beach, where migrant songbirds will be feeding in the woods, fields, and hedgerows. **Philadelphia Vireo**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Black-billed Cuckoo**, and late **warblers** such as **Blackpoll** and **Mourning** are all possible, along with more common breeding species such as **Orchard Oriole**, **Blue Grosbeak**, **Prairie Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**. During the afternoon we'll explore some new areas along the coast in search of **American Oystercatcher**, **Marbled Godwit**, and **Black Skimmer**. A late day visit to the South Cape May Meadows is often good for **Piping Plover**, **Least Tern**, **Sora**, and **Least Bittern**. Our second night in Cape May.
- 3 Today we'll make our way along the Atlantic Coast to Forsythe (formerly called Brigantine) NWR. This will give us an excellent opportunity to find some of the **shorebirds** that are not as easy on the Delaware Bayshore, such as **Whimbrel** and **Red-necked Phalarope**. **Curlew Sandpiper** in full breeding plumage is a possibility here in late May. **Marsh Wren** will be common and we should find **Clapper** and perhaps **Virginia Rails**. **Peregrine Falcon** and **Barn Owl** are both possible, and **Seaside** and **Saltmarsh Sparrows** breed here. There are almost always some lingering **waterfowl**. We'll make stops at Stone Harbor Inlet and the Wetlands Institute as we return for our final night in Cape May.

[Day 4 begins on page 3]

- 4 After breakfast we'll cross the mouth of the Delaware Bay on an 18-mile voyage to Cape Henlopen, Delaware aboard the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. With any luck we may find **Parasitic Jaeger, Brown Pelican, Northern Gannet, Wilson's Storm-Petrel**, lingering **Common and Red-throated Loons**, a small flock of **Black or Surf Scoters**, or even a **Loggerhead Sea Turtle**. We'll go south along the coast to Cape Henlopen State Park and Indian River Inlet, looking for **Brown-headed Nuthatch, Purple Sandpiper**, and more **seabirds**. If there are any **unusual terns** such as **Sandwich or Roseate** or lingering **sea ducks**, we may go as far south as Ocean City, Maryland before returning to Dover, Delaware to spend the night.
- 5 We'll spend the entire day in the Central Delaware Marshes, including great locations such as Bombay Hook NWR, Little Creek WMA, Kitts Hummock, and Woodland Beach. This will give us ample opportunity to view the **Horseshoe Crab Spectacle** from the Delaware side of the Bay, and perhaps find a few new **shorebirds** like a **Ruff, American Avocet, or Black-necked Stilt**. Bombay Hook is reliable for a variety of species and we will tailor our search to those birds that we have not yet found. We can also look for a few specialties including **Horned Lark, Grasshopper Sparrow, Prothonotary Warbler, and Cliff Swallow**. After dark we'll try for **Black Rail** at Port Mahon, with a chance for **Chuck-will's-widow** nearby. Our final night is in Dover.
- 6 We'll spend the morning re-visiting some of yesterday's locations such as **Bombay Hook**, or perhaps we'll bird our way north along Delaware Route 9 to see some new areas, including **Woodland Beach**. We will return to the Philadelphia Airport by noon for your afternoon flights home, or to your alternate meeting place.

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

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=215986731009322774066.00046038b52e845e32964&msa=0&ll=39.72937,-75.428009&spn=0.572438,1.234589>

Click here for a **checklist of previous tours**:

<http://www.birdtreks.com/birds-previously-seen/NJDB.pdf>



Piping Plovers nest on the beach at Cape May Point.

- - Tom Amico, tour participant

[Final details are on page 4]

Leader Our **Delaware Bay - Horseshoe Crab Birding Extravaganza** will be led by a highly experienced leader, someone who has been birding New Jersey and Delaware for many years. Our goal is to give you an enjoyable, bird-filled, and worry-free tour of this incredible estuarine ecosystem.

Price \$2095 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodation is available for an extra charge of \$345. 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, ferry ride, and all ground transportation from Philadelphia, PA. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader. Does not include your airfare to Philadelphia, cost of alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature. Upon request, BIRD TREKS will help you obtain the best possible airfare.

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 at Bailey Travel/Travel Time toll-free at **1-800-224-5399**, direct at **717-855-2128**, or e-mail her 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 also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There will be a small fee for these services.

Deposit A \$500 deposit assures your reservation on the tour. Balance is due 21 March 2017.

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** and mention **BIRD TREKS, ACCAM # F021096**. You can easily apply online via the Internet at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com** or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.

American Oystercatcher
is big, showy, and
easy to identify!

- - Bob Schutsky

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