

Full Day trips

17 & 36 Cedar Island-

Bring lunch, extra water. A scope will be the tool to have throughout the trip, scopes will also be with leaders. With over 14,000 acres Cedar Island NWR holds habitats of sandy beach shoreline, marsh and both maritime and upland forests. We will start with a brief stop across the ICW to look for Seaside Sparrow and maybe a Least Bittern will fly by. Any brushy area may hold a Sedge Wren, especially along Lola Road, and the shoreline adjacent the Ferry Terminal will allow shorebird viewing. Western Sandpiper is a possibility. The beach walk will be about a 2-mile round trip with firmer and softer sand footing. Down the beach we can scope from atop the dunes the ponds and water on the inland side of this spit. We will also make a stop near the Ferry Road Bridge for Sparrows and Rails. There is a restroom at the Ferry Terminal and picnic tables will allow a leisurely lunch.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/cedar-island>.

Travel time-1 hour-You will bird going and coming back **Facilities**-Yes

Difficulty- 0-1 Pack Lunch **Facilities**-limited

16 & 35 Shackleford Banks East \$24.Ferry

Bring lunch, extra water, sunscreen or rain jacket, boots or water shoes. Conditions will be muddy in some marsh side areas. We walk several miles. If weather cancels the trip alternate trips will be available on the mainland.

We will leave hotel for Harker's Island for ferry to this section of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. It there's time we will bird the woodland around the terminal or adjacent museum before our departure. Before embarking at the dock at 10:00 AM use the restroom as there are no facilities while out. When we beach the ferry expect a slight chance for water underfoot as we get ashore. Birding will start around the point on the ocean side while water rises. Brushy areas will be searched for shorebirds. We will then return to the north shore as the tide will push shorebirds into the sand flats and bars that. Among the birds we hope to see Red-throated Loon, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Piping Plover, Northern Gannet, Peregrine Falcon, Wilson's Plover, Bar-tailed and Marbled Godwit . In addition a few the wild ponies may be in the area.

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L674614/bird-list>

Travel time-1:05 Ferry departing from 1800 Island Rd. Hackers Island at 10:00am

Cost: \$24/person pay ferry terminal or book online **Difficulty-**sand and wet areas. **Facility-**ferry terminal

1,8,19 & 27 North River Wetland Preserve \$5.

North River Preserve is managed by the NC Coastal Federation. This is an area of over 6,000 acres being returned from farmland to upland and lowland forest, freshwater and tidal wetlands, open water and mudflats. This has been a reliable site for Dickcissel in recent years. The restoration provides habitat for shorebirds and wintering ducks. Kingbirds from the western U.S. are being found, and we must always look for Swallow-tailed Kites. Shorebird habitat will be scanned for residents and wintering migrants. In the breeding season Dickcissels are found and we will look for lingerers. Our best location for waterfowl.

<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1023805>

Travel time: 55min **Difficulty:** Easy-In and out of car several times. **Facilities-** None **Cost:** \$5/person, payable at the gate by cash or check.

2,9,20 & 28 Ft Macon

The birdwatching at Fort Macon is enriched by the surrounding Atlantic Ocean, Newport River, Beaufort Inlet, and Fort Macon Creek, all facing the Morehead City Channel. Larger birds frequently fly over the tip, moving to and from these nearby water bodies. Pelagic birds can occasionally be spotted near Shackleford Banks on the horizon or over the channels. The feeder at the fort has also been a notable site for Painted Buntings. Occasionally, catch a glimpse of a Common Eider, Rusty Blackbird or Great Cormorant. With such a diverse landscape, one never knows what delightful avian surprises may appear

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate some unlevelled ground and beach walking.

Facilities: On site. **Travel time:** 25 min

4,11,22 & 30 Cedar Point Tideland Trail & Emerald Isle Woods

Cedar Point Tideland trail provides opportunities to view salt marsh and upland pine/hardwood associated bird species. A combination of raised boardwalks and paths cross the marsh and pine/hardwood communities as the trail winds

around along the edge of the White Oak River estuary. Snags offer good chances to view woodpecker species, including Red-headed Woodpecker. A nice view of the tidal marsh with opportunities to view herons, egrets, and Osprey.

Emerald Isle Woods Park Get a glimpse of how Emerald Isle must have looked when it was completely undeveloped, covered in dense trees. In total, the park stretches over 41 acres of forest. This is an under birded area who knows what surprise it may present.

<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L579948> <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L215391>

Difficulty: Easy/Some Boardwalk **Facilities:** On Site. **Travel time:** 10 min

5,12,23 & 31 Gallants Channel-Patsy Pond-Croatan National Forest*Gallants Channel* trails traverses woods, wetlands, coastal habitats, and the improved waterfront area of the Gallants Channel site. Opportunity for various wading and shorebirds. Along the waterfront sightings wading and shorebirds including are common of heron, egrets, terns, gulls, pelicans, black skimmers, and oystercatchers. The trails have been designed to access several habitats.

Patsy Pond is part of the Croatan National Forest and winds through an open woodland of longleaf pine forest. Red-cockaded Woodpecker can be found here year round. Look for active cavity trees marked with blue bands.

<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L14406635> <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L741082>

Difficulty: Easy **Facilities:** Close by. **Travel time:** 40 min

3,10,21 & 29 Calico Creek & Hoop Pole Nature Trail

Calico Creek Boardwalk is a noted spot on the NC Birding Trail, a unique destination that's hidden among local houses and businesses, the Calico Creek Boardwalk its somewhat urban location. The boardwalk provides opportunity of wintering waterfowl and water birds.

<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L983859>

Hoop Pole, This 0.5 mile long trail follows Hoop Pole Creek out to Bogue Sound, passing through maritime forest for much of the walk, and ending with views of coastal salt marsh. A variety songbirds may be seen in the wooded areas, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet are frequent. Scan the creek and marsh areas for Northern Harrier, Osprey, Marsh Wren, wading birds, and listen for rails.

<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L606265>

Difficulty: Easy **Facilities:** Close By. **Travel time:** 35 min

6 Shorebird ID Workshop/Field

Workshop: The shorebird workshop will focus on key characteristics, such as overall profiles, foraging behaviors, and habitat, which can aid birders on all levels to quickly and confidently identify a species. We will review all shorebird families, but our primary focus will be Charadriidae (plovers) and Scolopacidae (sandpipers). If you're interested in refining your "peep" identification skills, then please join me in this discussion-based workshop.

Difficulty: Easy **Facilities:** Hotel **Location:** Hotel off site determine by leader

25 Birding from Day 1 to Day 10,000 (Birding 101)

This is a trip for newer birders and those more experienced who want to gain tips for identifying birdlife. Use of binoculars and using bird shapes to hone in on a species will allow you to feel comfortable using the field guide of your choice. Don't be surprised to learn long time birders must practice these skills too.

Difficulty: Easy? **Facilities:** Hotel **Travel time:** dictated by the leader's choice of birding sites.

14 & 33 Rachel Carson Reserve-High Tide \$20 Ferry/Paid at time of Reg.

There will be extensive walking. Conditions wind is always a factor. If weather cancels the trip alternate trips will be available on the mainland. Meet at hotel then proceed to the Islander Ferry Adventure at the Beaufort's 610 Front St at the waterfront. At the terminal use the restroom as there are no facilities . Narrow Taylor Creek is a contrast of the ages, Immediately you will see birds of the marsh and sand bars. When we beach the boat for our 3-4 hour visit expect a slim chance for water underfoot getting ashore. We will plan our trip at high tide. The entire Rachel Carson component is 2,315 acres. More than 200 species of birds have been observed at the site, which is adjacent to the Atlantic Flyway. The site is an important feeding area for piping plovers and other wintering birds.

<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L899138> <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1273924>

Difficulty: Moderate/sand. **Travel time:** 20 min **Facility:** none

Cost: \$20. per person, payable at the dock by cash, check or credit card.
Maximum number of attendees 20

13 & 32 Oceanana Beach Pier-Handicap Accessible

A scope is essential on this trip to scan the Atlantic for the winter nearshore birds and occasional pelagic species that feast on the bounty of the ocean. If you don't have a scope, there should be plenty in the group. Your leader will scan the ocean with you as you watch the action for loons, grebes, scoters Razorbills, Gannets, sea ducks, gulls, and hopefully a Dovekie or shearwaters. No fee required for the pier

<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1068007>

Difficulty: Easy. **Handicap Accessible Facilities:** Near by **Travel time-**35 min