

“Shorebirds, Warbler & Vagrants” Fall on the Outer Banks, NC

Itinerary

Day 1 – Friday, October 8

Today is a driving day and we will plan to meet at the Alligator River NWR in late afternoon to enjoy any early arriving waterfowl, as well as any raptors, such as Northern Harrier, Merlin or Peregrine that may be in the area. We will then continue to the Outer Banks where we will spend the night. *Night in Nags Head*

Day 2 – Saturday, October 9

This morning we will head to Hatteras Island and will make a number of stops on our way south. The sheltered marsh behind Bodie Island Lighthouse is always worth a stop and should contain a good waterfowl diversity as well as American Avocet, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, and Tricolored Heron. The boardwalk here can also be a great place for getting up close and personal views of Sora, as well as Marsh and Sedge Wrens, Swamp Sparrow and other marsh species. The beaches could be good for gulls and wintering shorebirds and who knows what migrants could be stopping by in the dunes near the Old Coastguard station. *Night in Nags Head*

Day 3 – Sunday, October 10

A great place for shorebirds and waterfowl is Pea Island NWR. Here we'll have ample time to study many of the shorebirds that are still moving through, such as Red Knot, Dunlin, Pectoral and White-rumped Sandpipers, as well as some of the newly arriving waterfowl. We will also head down to Cape Point to check out the terns and gulls- always a perennial favorite. Plus the famous Salt Pond does tend to attract shorebirds, so here's hoping for a good vagrant, like a Wilson's Phalarope!
Night in Nags Head

Day 4 – Monday, October 11

Today is our last morning, so we will spend the morning at Lake Mattamuskeet on the way home. Here we should see some more early waterfowl, including Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged Teal, as well as lingering migrants in the wet woodlands. We will then head home after our winter break on the Outer Banks.

Itinerary could change depending on the weather and birds!