

# Coastal and Low Country Explorer South Carolina

March 15 – March 20, 2021

## Provisional Itinerary

Please plan to meet at the Holiday Inn in Surfside Beach, SC on the night of March 15. The hotel and meal tonight are both included in the trip cost.

### **Day 1: March 16**                      **Surfside Beach**

After breakfast we will spend a few hours exploring the winter woodlands of Myrtle Beach State Park where we will look for wintering birds, such as Orange-crowned and Black-and-white Warblers in the vast flocks of Yellow-rumps. The beach and ocean can be excellent for grebes, loons and wintering gulls. The afternoon will be at the excellent Huntington Beach State Park where we will have a walk along the beach to the famous jetty – home of Purple Sandpipers and much more. *Night in Surfside Beach*

### **Day 2: March 17**                      **Charleston**

This morning we will drive inland to one of the best new “hotspots”, the Hemingway WWTP. This is excellent for ducks and has been home to an Eared Grebe all winter. We will then drive down the coast a little to Santee Coastal Reserve. The impoundments and wetlands can be very good for wintering waterfowl and freshwater species. We will spend some time in the long-leaf pine woodlands as well looking for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman’s Sparrow. *Night in Charleston*

### **Day 3: March 18**                      **Charleston**

Magnolia Plantation has always been one of our favorite places and it’s easy to get a long list of both water and land species. Ducks, rails, herons and birds of prey are all common and there’s always the chance of an over-wintering Least Bittern. Depending on the tide, the afternoon could be spent at Pitt Street Causeway in Mt. Pleasant. This is a great spot for close looks at Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, and maybe Seaside or Saltmarsh Sparrows. *Night in Charleston*

### **Day 4: March 19**                      **Beaufort**

We will start the day with a drive inland a short distance to look for Limpkins at a nearby lake before driving south to Donnelly Wildlife Management Area. This has a great driving tour, so we will do this 11-mile tour first thing this morning, before driving down towards Bear Island. We will have another chance to see Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and maybe Bachman’s Sparrows. *Night in Beaufort*

### **Day 5: March 20**                      **Hilton Head Island**

Our first stop this morning will be Fish Haul Beach on Hilton Head Island. This beautiful stretch of beach has good numbers of shorebirds, as well as Black Skimmer, herons and egrets and many more. We will finish the trip with a walk at nearby Pinckney Island State Park before driving home.

This Itinerary is just a guide and is subject to change depending on the birds, weather and whims of the leader!