

# Coastal and Low Country Explorer South Carolina

December 3-8, 2020

## Provisional Itinerary

Please plan to meet at the Holiday Inn in Surfside Beach, SC on the night of December 3. The hotel tonight is included in the trip cost.

### **Day 1: December 4                      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: December 5                      Charleston**

This morning we will 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: December 6                      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: December 7                      Beaufort**

Donnelly Wildlife Management Area has a great driving tour, so we will do this 11-mile tour first thing this morning, before driving down to Edisto Beach. Always a favorite hang-out, Edisto can have great views of Scoters and grebes just offshore. The nearby marshes can be good for shorebirds, such as Willet, Short-billed Dowitcher and Black-bellied Plover with always a chance for Hooded Merganser and Clapper Rail. *Night in Beaufort*

### **Day 5: December 8                      Savannah NWR and home**

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge is another one of our favorite spots and we will finish our trip with a drive around the Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. Great Horned Owls should be nesting already and this is a great spot to see Sora, Virginia and even King/Clapper Rails. Northern Harriers hunt over the marshes and there's an outside chance for a wintering Purple Gallinule. After lunch we will begin our drive back to Asheville, NC with a stop at Webb Wildlife Management Area, a great spot for Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow.

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