

Virginia's Eastern Shore January 7-12, 2022

Itinerary

Friday, January 7

We will meet at the hotel in Virginia Beach in time for dinner and a discussion of our plans for the next few days. If you get to the area in time, there is some excellent birding in the local area. Gull flocks are found on the beach and the nearby pier attracts Eiders and Scoters.

Night in Virginia Beach, VA

Saturday, January 8

After hitting several of the great birding spots on the south side of the Bridge-Tunnel we will drive across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel on our way north. Unfortunately with the construction on the CBBT we are unable to stop and bird along the way. Some of the birds we will be looking include several species of gulls wintering waterfowl (Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, eiders, scoters), as well as Snow Bunting and winter sparrows. We will end the day on the north side of the Bridge-Tunnel, on the Eastern Shore. As well as enjoying the winter birding along the coast, we will get the chance to enjoy some fine local seafood - always a special treat.

Night in Exmore, VA

Sunday, January 9 and Monday, January 10

The next two days will be devoted to birding in and around Kiptopeke State Park and the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, as well as Chincoteague NWR and the often very birdy wildlife loop. Here the air can be filled with thousands of Snow Geese, often with Bald Eagles flying through the flocks as they attempt to pick out a weak individual. If we are lucky a Golden Eagle or Rough-legged Hawk will have been reported this winter, or perhaps a Snowy Owl. We will certainly enjoy looking at the vast numbers of wintering waterfowl in this very special place. ***Nights in Pocomoke, MD***

Tuesday, January 11

After breakfast we will have a couple of hours to explore a little more of Chincoteague NWR before we begin our journey home. We will also have another chance to bird areas near the Bay Bridge-Tunnel as we drive south. Then we continue our drive back to western North Carolina, arriving home in the evening.

This itinerary may change due to weather and any good reported bird sightings