

Wild and Wonderful West Virginia

September 25 - 29, 2020

Provisional Itinerary

Day 1: September 25 **Asheville to Lewisburg, WV**

We will leave Asheville this morning and drive north towards West Virginia, probably using the interstate system to get us there as fast as possible. Once we cross into Mercer County around Princeton, we will slow down and explore some local birding spots. These could include Glenwood Park, Camp Creek State Forest or Brush Creek Falls State Park looking for bird migration through the forests. We will then drive northeast through Monroe County with a stop at Moncove Lake State Park before ending up in Lewisburg for dinner. *Night in Lewisburg*

Day 2: September 26 **Cranberry Glades**

Cranberry Glades Botanical Area is a beautiful spot and the feeling one gets while birding there is of a northern bog. Northern Waterthrush and Mourning Warblers breed in the area and warblers abound in the nearby woodlands and there should be good numbers moving through. Red Crossbills are frequently found in this area and overall Pocahontas County is a great birding location. We will explore many of the local hotspots including the nearby Greenbrier River Trail access, Hills Creek Falls and Watoga State Park. *Night in Lewisburg*

Day 3: September 27 **Greenbrier County**

Greenbrier County also has some great birding locations and we will enjoy some lower elevation walking along the Greenbrier River Trail where Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler and Yellow-billed Cuckoo nest in the summer. Most will have finished their breeding and begun to move south. We will then head to higher elevations around Summit Lake where we could get some late shorebirds moving through, but more likely to find Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood and Swainson's Thrush and other migrants in the woods. *Night in Lewisburg*

Day 4: September 28 **Randolph and Pendleton Counties**

At almost 5000', Spruce Knob is the highest portion of West Virginia. Several northern species, such as Purple Finches and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher have historically bred in small numbers in the higher elevations, but they are not expected these days, but Black-capped Chickadees, Common Ravens and Yellow-rumped Warblers are far more common. Seneca Rocks Picnic Area is a little farther north along the Potomac River and should we have time, we will have lunch here and may see Bald Eagle, Green Heron and other waterbirds. *Night in Lewisburg*

Day 5: September 29 **Heading home**

After breakfast we will begin our drive back to Asheville, NC with some last-minute birding along the way.

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