

Cape May Spring Migration Species List | May 13 – 20, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Pat Lueders with guide Rick Weiman and participants: John D., Joan, Lee, Jeff, Ellyn, Lenore, Harold, Robin, John G., Ginny, and Nancy

Tour Summary: Historic Cape May, New Jersey, in May is considered one of the top birding destinations in North America to witness spring migration, especially for shorebirds. This destination did not disappoint with our happy participants seeing large numbers of 17 shorebird species, all three scoter species, 12 species of gulls and terns, and 9 species of herons and egrets. We spent the week at the same lovely hotel in view of the Atlantic Ocean, visited the many famous Cape May birding locations, dined at delicious seafood restaurants, and drove the productive 7-mile loop at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Most memorable was our participation in the “Return the Favor” program, rescuing horseshoe crabs that have been flipped over, and whose eggs are necessary for successful shorebird migration.

BIRDS: 126 species were recorded.

The eBird link below details the 126 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you’re new to eBird, be sure to click “Show All Details” on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Cape May Spring Migration | May 13-20, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

VOTED FAVORITE BIRD: RED KNOT

ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS

MAMMALS (6):

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*---Seen often in most locations

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*—Seen many times in areas with trees

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*—Seen in the pond at Cape May Point State Park

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*—Seen often in the Atlantic Ocean and during our ocean boat trip

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*---Seen near Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

Coyote *Canis latrans*—Seen while we were driving on a plowed agricultural field

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (2):

Common Box Turtle *Terrapene Carolina*---Small box turtle was seen on our walk at Cape Island, Sea Grove Ave.

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta elegans*---Seen in good numbers in the pond at John Heinz NWR