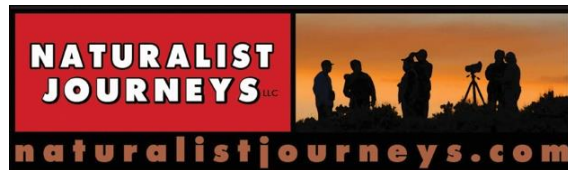


Cape May: Fall Migration Species List | October 8 - 14, 2024 With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Rick Weiman with clients Joe, Diane, Ken, Cathie, Jim, Loretta, and Wyatt.

Few places in the country offer a better vantage point for viewing migrating birds than Cape May in the fall. Birds, and also Monarch Butterflies and dragonflies, make their way down the Atlantic coast to the very southern tip of NJ during their fall migration to rest and refuel. From late August to early November, more than a million birds touch down in a few square miles of beaches, forests, and fresh and saltwater marshes at the south end of the state. Our group of 7 enthusiastic guests were fortunate enough to be there during the peak of fall migration. We had warm comfortable weather and sunshine with several days of northwest winds, ideal for migration. We were fortunate to be on the famous Cape May Point hawkwatch on a day 47 Peregrine Falcons passed by. Our boat trip on the Osprey in the back bays of Cape May got us close looks of shorebirds, herons, and several salt marsh sparrow species. One of the last places we visited, the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, gave us 66 species of birds including 2 Clapper Rails, with one bathing in a creek very close to our group.

The eBird report link below details the 131 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: Fall Migration | October 8 - 14, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS: (4)

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*—Spotted at most forested locations and crossing roads

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Several observed along the Garden State Parkway on the way to Edwin B. Forsythe NWR

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*—A friendly bunny hanging out in our hotel garden.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*—Several quick looks at fins on our beach walks

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: (3)

Pond Slider *Trachemys scripta*—Observed basking in the ponds around the Cape May Point State Park boardwalk trail.

Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta*— Basking at a pond during the Revolution Rail trip.

American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus*—Several in the artificial water feature in the CMBO gardens.

Tour Daily Birding Itinerary:

Day 1 – Arrival Day - Sunset Beach, Cape May Point State Park (CMPSP) hawkwatch and boardwalk trail

Day 2 – Sunrise beach walk, Revolution Rail retired train track bike ride including The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Garrett Preserve, Cape May Bird Observatory (CMBO) Northwood Center, CMPSP, Sea Grove Ave.

Day 3 – Higbee Beach WMA for the Morning Flight and then a very birdy walk at Higbee, Beach Plum Farm, Coral Ave. platform on Delaware Bay, CMPSP, Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, Hereford Inlet in North Wildwood, and a Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ beach nesting birds presentation after dinner

Day 4 – Nature Conservancy's South Cape May Meadows, CMBO Bird Banding Demo, Osprey Birding by Boat

Day 5 – Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Avalon Sea Watch, CMBO

Day 6 – Sunrise beach walk, Beach Plum Farm, CMPSP, Two-Mile Landing, Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, Mt. Vernon Ave. Cove Pond and beach overlook (where we 2 added Northern Gannets)

Day 7 – Departure day - breakfast with the group at Bella Vida Garden Cafe then those not driving their own vehicles or taking the ferry stopped at Jakes Landing Road which is part of the Dennis Creek WMA. Then it was on to the Philadelphia airport and train station for our departures.

There were no clear winners for the favorite bird of the tour mentioned during the final species checklist as Golden-crowned Kinglet, Clapper Rail, Black-and-white Warbler, Brown Creeper, Eurasian Wigeon, Wood Duck, and Osprey all got votes.