

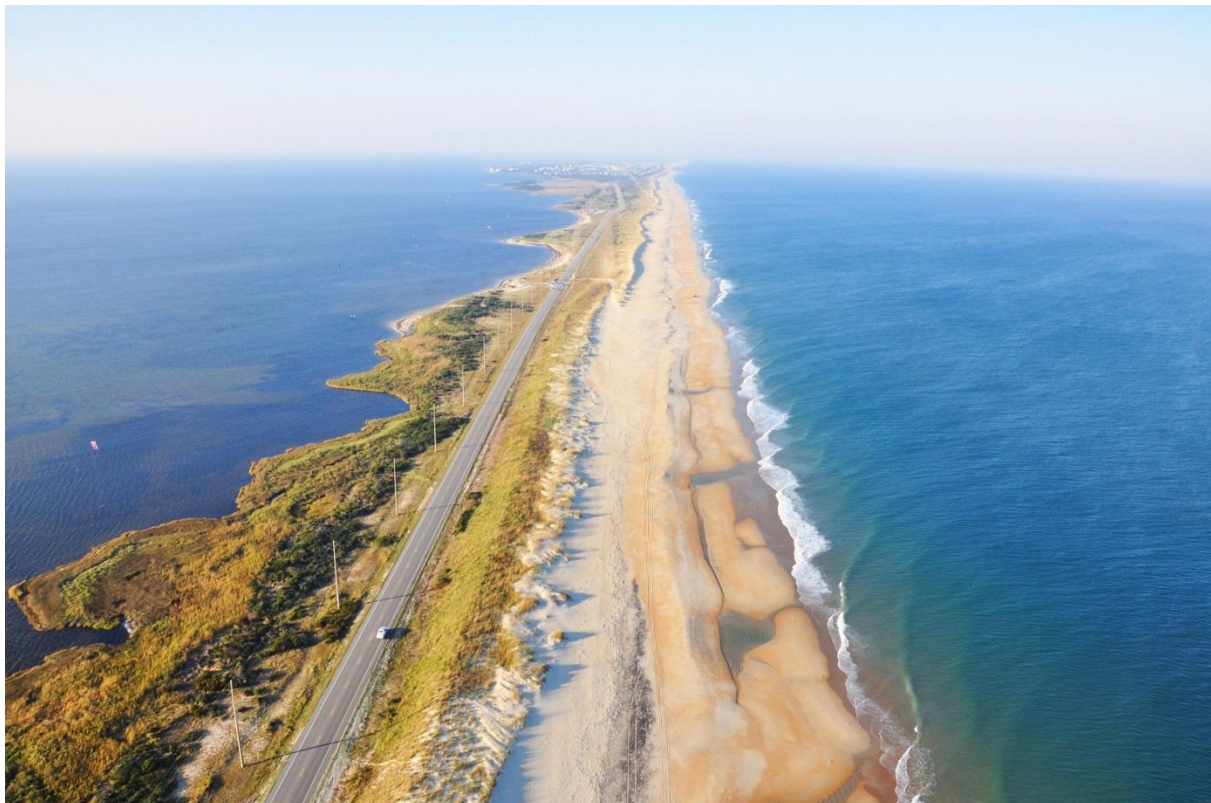
NORTH CAROLINA SHOREBIRDS & SEABIRDS

Birding the Outer Banks and Gulf Stream!

August 23-31, 2020

A birding tour organized by Seven Ponds Nature Center

Join us for a birding field tour to North Carolina's famed Outer Banks, home to Kitty Hawk, miles of sandy beaches, and shorebirds! With the potential to see over thirty species of shorebirds, this tour will be a great opportunity to study this often confusing group of birds, as well as songbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, and raptors. Additionally, optional offshore boat trips to the Gulf Stream will take us to the world of birds whose lives are tied to the waves and winds of the ocean currents: shearwaters, petrels, storm-petrels, jaegers, and maybe even boobies and tropicbirds! Our lodging for the tour – a beautiful, spacious beach house conveniently located on Hatteras Island – will give us quick and easy access to a wide range of coastal habitat, and provide a single base of operation and no need to repeatedly pack and unpack during the tour.



TOUR ITINERARY

Our daily activities will be flexible based on species we've seen to date and recent bird reports, but the following daily outline provides a preliminary plan of how we will spend our days. Our plans are subject to change based on rare bird sightings, weather conditions, and road closures. Note: the birds listed are not intended to be an exhaustive list – just a sampling of what may be found at each location.

DAY 1 (Sunday, August 23) Arrival and nearby birding Plan your arrival in Norfolk by 1:00 PM. After gathering everybody at the Norfolk International Airport, we'll make the drive to our rental house near Cape Hatteras, which will be our home for the next seven nights. After dinner we'll bird locally, enjoying nearby Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

DAYS 2-3-4-5 (Monday, August 24 through Thursday, August 27) Shorebirds and Landbirds We'll have four full days to explore the Outer Banks, as well as heading a bit inland to maximize the habitats we cover. Shorebird migration should be in full effect. Our choice of birding locations will depend on where the birds are, of course, but could include the following: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Ocracoke Island, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, and Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, among others. We'll start each day with breakfast in our beach house, then we'll enjoy a picnic lunch in a scenic location while out birding. Dinner each evening will be in a nice restaurant, where we'll sample the coastal cuisine. An optional night of nocturnal birding for owls and nightjars will also be offered.

DAY 6 (Friday, August 28) Pelagic #1 (optional) or explore on your own Those opting for today's *Seabirding* pelagic trip will leave early to meet the crew at the dock in Hatteras and board the *Stormy Petrel II* with Captain Brian Patteson at the helm. The *Stormy Petrel II* is widely recognized as the premier pelagic birding boat on the Atlantic seaboard, and Brian is a renowned expert on North American seabirds. His trips out of Hatteras see regular ocean-going birds such as **Black-capped Petrel, Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-billed Tropicbird, Masked Booby, Bridled Tern, and Sooty Tern**, along with marine mammals. Seabirding trips out of Hatteras often turn up rarities as well, including Bermuda Petrel, Fea's Petrel, and Trindade Petrel. Those opting to stay ashore can enjoy a leisurely day around the house, take a stroll through town, and walk down to the beach. We'll gather for dinner together once the seabirders return to shore. Each pelagic trip will be 10-11 hours in duration.

DAY 7 (Saturday, August 29) Pelagic #2 (optional) or explore on your own Another day, another pelagic trip! Every day on the ocean can be different, and in order to maximize possible sightings, it is generally suggested to get out to sea on successive days. If you've opted for a second pelagic, we'll be heading back to Hatteras for another trip aboard the *Stormy Petrel II*. Otherwise, you will have the full day to enjoy roaming around town or walking down the beach. Feel free to use the bicycles, kayaks, or stand-up paddleboards that come with our beach rental. We'll gather for dinner together once the seabirders return to shore.

DAY 8 (Sunday, August 30) Beach house check-out and birding north After breakfast, we'll pack up, load the van, and head north toward Norfolk, Virginia, stopping for lunch, then making a birding stop at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park in Virginia. After checking into our hotel in Norfolk, we'll have our final dinner together, sharing our favorite birds from the tour. Night in Norfolk.

DAY 9 (Monday, August 31) Departure Plan your departure for any time today. Hotel check-out is 11:00 AM. Complimentary hotel shuttle is available to the Norfolk International Airport.

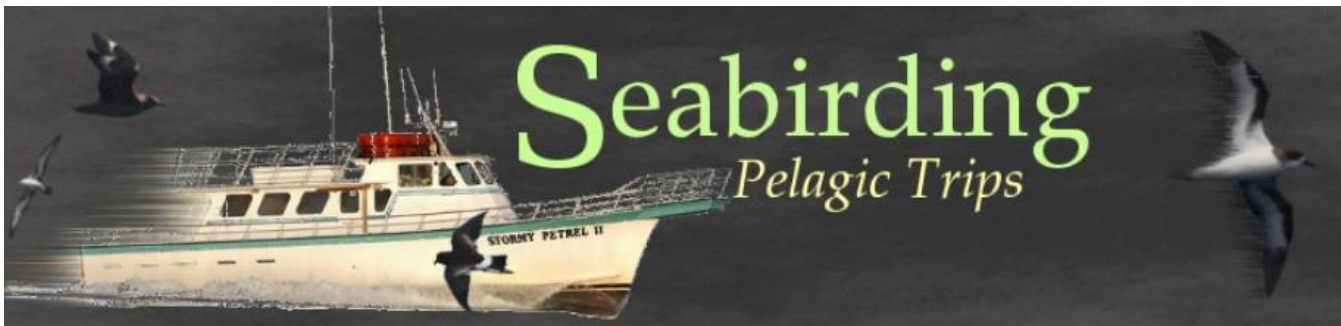
TOUR LEADERS



Jeff Lewis is long-time birder and has been a resident of the Outer Banks for about 30 years. He is the horticulturist at UNC's Coastal Studies Institute, a wildlife photographer and an all-around naturalist, with a special interest in birds. Jeff writes bird and birding articles that are regular features in the *Coastal Review Online*, a daily news service covering North Carolina's coast. Although Jeff photographs practically anything that moves, birds are his favorite subjects, because they are readily available, interesting, beautiful, and make challenging subjects. He uses images to increase public awareness, interest, and appreciate for nature. Jeff's photography has been displayed in many galleries and museums, has been used for educational signage and kiosks, and has been published in numerous books, magazines and newspapers.

Daryl Bernard is a long-time birder and amateur naturalist who loves being outdoors and embraces every opportunity to share nature with others. He enjoys organizing trips and tours, and strives to ensure that every participant has a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Previous birding tours organized and led by Daryl include trips to Colorado, Texas, California, New Mexico, Oregon, Arizona, and Florida, in addition to many local birding trips in Michigan. Daryl is the Executive Director at Seven Ponds Nature Center in southeast Michigan.

Brian Patteson of *Seabirding* has been organizing and leading pelagic birding trips since 1986, and has been based out of Hatteras, North Carolina since 1995. His boat, the 61 foot *Stormy Petrel II*, is considered by many to be the premier pelagic birding boat currently operating. His company is the most active and successful operator of pelagic birding trips in the eastern United States, and his trips have a long-standing reputation for excellence. Each trip is staffed by multiple leaders, each of whom has extensive offshore experience and the knowledge necessary to locate and identify some of the most cryptic and elusive seabird species.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging for most of our tour will be in a spacious beach house located directly on Pamlico Sound in Avon, North Carolina – on Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks, where each participant will enjoy her/his own bedroom. There are six bathrooms for the group to share. The fully-equipped kitchen and dining area will allow us to prepare and enjoy a nice breakfast each morning before heading out for our day of birding. Our rental home includes a swimming pool, hot tub, fire pit on the beach, ping pong table, hammocks, charcoal and gas grills, two bicycles, two stand-up paddleboards, and two kayaks. The house is spacious and private, with a serene location right on the water, offering spectacular views of sunsets over Pamlico Sound. After dark we can enjoy the Milky Way and see the light from the Hatteras Island Lighthouse. Membership access to a nearby pier on the ocean is included. The house is located one mile from the ocean, an easy walk and just minutes away by car. Avon is a quaint fishing village, with a fish market nearby. Our final night will be at a hotel in Norfolk, Virginia, with easy access to the Norfolk International Airport.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

We will travel in a single 12 or 15 passenger van.

FEE and REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Base Tour Fee without pelagic trips: \$2100 per person from Norfolk, Virginia
- Optional Pelagic Trips (2): \$180 per trip (pelagic choices required at time of tour registration)
- Deposit: \$300 (due within three weeks of registration)
- Final Payment Due: July 1, 2020
- Group size is limited to **7-10 individuals** and early registration is encouraged

WHAT THE TOUR FEE INCLUDES:

- local guide service for four days of birding – Jeff will be with us Monday through Thursday
- additional birding on arrival day (day 1) and northbound day (day 8)
- accommodations for eight nights (seven nights in a beach house, one night in a Norfolk hotel)
- ground transportation from the Norfolk International Airport on day 1, and back on day 9
- all meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 9, plus some snacks
- ground transportation in a single, 12 or 15 passenger van
- two optional pelagic trips aboard the *Stormy Petrel II* with Brian Patteson (additional fee)
- all parking fees and park entry fees
- laundry (two washers, two dryers in our rental home; detergent included)
- pre-trip information and a post-trip mailing with a list of all species observed by the group
- eBird checklist sharing (for participants who use eBird)

WHAT THE TOUR FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- your airfare to/from Norfolk, Virginia
- additional snacks, additional drinks, and alcoholic beverages
- other items of a personal nature
- gratuity for local birding guide services or boat crew members (optional)

**PHONE/ON-SITE REGISTRATION FOR THIS TOUR WILL OPEN ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020 at 9:00 AM**

To register for this tour, please call SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER at (810) 796-3200 or visit the nature center in person. These field tours often fill quickly.

For more information, contact Daryl Bernard at (810) 796-3200 or (989) 513-5195 (cell) or via e-mail at dbernard@sevenponds.org.