

COLONIAL COAST BIRDING FESTIVAL – FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

ALTAMAHA WMA – Saturday: Dr. Gene Keferl. Sunday: Bob Zaremba

Drive and hike birding including forest, marsh, shrubland, weedy fields and diked ponds.
Expectations – waterfowl, wading birds, sparrows, Painted buntings, Least bittern and Glossy ibis.

BLACKBEARD ISLAND NWR – Saturday & Sunday, Peter Range. (Lunch is provided)

Boat ride to island, 45 minutes. Walking exploration of island habitat, approx. three miles.
Expectations – Shorebirds, migrating songbirds, Peregrine falcon, flora and barrier island ecology.

BLACKBEARD ISLAND NWR (NOAA) – Saturday & Sunday: Cathy Sakas. (Lunch not provided)

Ride on NOAA Research vessel to island, 45 minutes. Walking exploration of island habitat, approx three miles.
Expectations – Shorebirds, migrating songbirds, Peregrine falcon, flora and barrier island ecology.

FORT STEWART – Sunday: Larry Carlile.

Drive and walk birding. Explore longleaf pine forest, isolated wetland, black-water streams.
Expectations – Red- cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's sparrow, Bald eagle, migratory songbirds.

HARRIS NECK NWR – Two trips each day. Saturday: Georgann Schmalz, Malcolm Hodges. Sunday: Georgann Schmalz, Paul Sykes.

Drive and walk birding. Explore impoundments, salt and brackish marsh, fields, pine and hardwood forest.
Focus on wading birds and migratory songbirds.

JEKYLL ISLAND BANDING STATION – Saturday & Sunday: Jan & Chris Pitman.

Experience JIBS located at the south end of Jekyl Island which has been in operation over 20 years. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how to handle & remove birds from the nets properly and to assist with measuring, banding and recording data.

JEKYLL ISLAND NATURAL HISTORY WALK – Saturday & Sunday: Frank Mirasola.

Walk through the dune ridges in Jekyll's live oak maritime forest focusing on the island's formation, native flora, ecology and biology of marine creatures. Shorebirds and wading birds are possible.

JEKYLL ISLAND STATE PARK – Two trips Saturday: Diana Churchill, Paul Sykes. Sunday: Diana Churchill.

Drive and walk birding including maritime forest, salt marsh, freshwater ponds and beaches of Jekyll Island.
Expectations – Migrating songbirds, wading birds, gulls & terns and shorebirds.

JEKYLL ISLAND SUNRISE BEACH WALK – Sunday: Jerry & Marie Amerson.

Walking Jekyll beaches focusing on gulls, terns and shorebirds.

LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND – Saturday & Sunday: Giff Beaton (Lunch not provided)

Boat ride to island. Explore island habitat by vehicle, including maritime forest, marsh and beaches.
Focus will be on shorebirds and migrating songbirds.

MARSHES OF GLYNN KAYAK – Saturday & Sunday afternoon: Cindy Janus.

Kayak marsh creeks near Brunswick at low tide.
Expectations – marsh species, shorebirds, loon, rails, waterfowl, raptors and Roseate spoonbill.

MELON BLUFF NATURE PRESERVE – Saturday & Sunday: Meredith Devendorf.

Leisurely canoeing and birding through a salt marsh, stopping to explore shoreline and forest habitat.
Expectations – Osprey, wading birds, migratory songbirds, Wood storks and marine life such as dolphins.

MOVEABLE FEAST – Saturday & Sunday: Mike Chapman

Tour of hot spots in the Golden Isles area.
Expectations – marsh birds, waders, shorebirds, Roseate spoonbill, Sharp-tailed and seaside sparrows.

OKEFENOKEE NWR – Friday: Chip Campbell. Sunday: Chip Campbell & Sheila Willis

Friday – 3.5 hour guided canoe tour through the swamp
Sunday – 2 hour interpretive walk followed by a 2 hour guided boat tour
Expectations – Wading birds, waterfowl, Sandhill cranes, Bachman's sparrows, Red-cockaded woodpecker.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND KAYAK – Saturday & Sunday morning: Cindy Janus.

Kayak through marsh creeks in Bloody Marsh and out to south beach on Sea Island walking the beach.
Expectations – shorebirds, wading birds, ibis, wood stork, eagle, gulls and terns.

SAPELO ISLAND – Two trips Saturday: Dr. Brad Bergstrom & Brad Winn. Sunday: Dr. Brad Bergstrom (Lunch not provided)

Boat ride to island. Drive and walk birding of island habitat.
Focus on woodland, shore, marsh and grassland habitat and seabirds.

SAVANNAH NWR – Two trips each day. Saturday: Russ Webb & Dr. Larry Lynch. Sunday: Steve Calver & Lauree San Juan.

Explore freshwater impoundments for wading birds and waterfowl along the wildlife vehicle drive.

SAVANNAH-OGEECHEE CANAL – Saturday: Bob Zaremba. Sunday: Dr. Gene Keferl.

Walk easy trails through a floodplain hardwood forest and cypress-tupelo swamp.
Focus will be on migrating songbirds, especially warblers.

WASSAW ISLAND NWR – Saturday & Sunday: Todd Schneider & John Crawford (Lunch not provided)

Boat ride to island. Exploration of beach, dune, marsh and interior habitat.
Expectations – Mostly shorebirds and marsh species, with additional focus on coastal ecology and conservation.