Block Island Weekend Island Escape

Tour Special Features

Unique Habitats

Fabulous Birds

Fine Food

Wild Landscapes

Small Groups!

Great Leaders!

Interesting People!

ctaudubon.org/ecotravel

October 2 - 4, 2020
Explore the wilds of Block Island after the summer tourists have left the beaches and town and only the hardy locals remain. Often a magnet for wayward birds, Block Island will also delight you with its island architecture, wild flowers, and natural beauty. Expert leader Andy Griswold looks forward to sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for this special place. Our most popular offering, this trip has successfully run consecutively for countless years!

One of the most remarkable birding areas in North America, Block Island is also one of the most unusual and beautiful rural communities left in the nation. The island is located along the major East Coast flyway, about 12 miles south of the southern New England shore. It is named after Dutch trader Adriaen Block, who is also credited with being the first European to enter Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River in 1614.

In the fall Block Island becomes the resting place for hundreds of thousands of migrating birds as it offers a final resting spot before a long distance flight over water. Nearly every species found in eastern North America has been seen on Block Island. Mostly treeless, the island offers high visibility, a true delight for birders.

As many as 180 or more species have been recorded on Block Island when the all-important weather conditions are just right. On a good fall morning, the north end bayberry shrubs can be dripping with warblers, tanagers, wrens, thrushes, and flycatchers, all in the same bush! At times it’s impossible to get the group away from the parking area with all the birds coming and going. Even under the poorest conditions it’s unusual for a birding group to log fewer than 100 species over a weekend, an impressive feat for such a small and isolated locale!

Join us for a fall weekend excursion as we explore beautiful Block Island!

Andrew Griswold has been the Director of EcoTravel for Connecticut Audubon Society since 1996. Before graduating as an honor student in biology from Hartwick College, he worked at their biological research station in the Bahamas studying avian ecology. Andy is the original concept creator and scientific consultant for a cable television series on bird watching called All Bird TV that aired on Discovery’s Animal Planet. He is the original concept creator of the award winning Connecticut River Eagle Festival (during its time the largest birding festival in the world). He has conducted bird surveys for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has been participating as a Christmas Bird Count captain for nearly 30 years. He has been a consultant to the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism concerning development of birding tourism in its more remote islands. Andy leads trips for Connecticut Audubon Society to Canada, Texas, South Florida, Brazil, Ecuador, Cuba, and many other unique destinations. A licensed USCG 100-Ton Master boat captain, he lives in Essex, Connecticut, with his wife and their son. He is known for his attentiveness to travelers’ needs, fine birding skills, and infectious sense of humor.

Matt Bell is a recent graduate from The Ohio State University with BS degrees in both earth sciences and evolution/ecology. Matt started birding in May 2013 and became more seriously involved after a trip to Costa Rica. Since then he helped revive The Ornithology Club at Ohio State and assisted as a volunteer guide for The Biggest Week in American Birding and the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival. He absolutely loves participating in citizen science, tour guiding, chasing rare birds in his free time, and meeting fellow birders from around the globe. Most of all, Matt enjoys sharing his passion for birds and conservation with others and never shies away from taking the time to help beginners start their explorations of the avian world. Matt is the EcoTravel travel specialist and leads day trips and overnight tours.

For a Detailed Itinerary and More Information:
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