ACE Basin and The Grand Strand
Early Spring in South Carolina

Tour Special Features

Unique Habitats
Fabulous Birds
Fine Food
Beautiful Parks
Wild Landscapes
Comfortable Hotels

Small Groups! Great Leaders! Interesting People!

ctaudubon.org

April 5 - 12, 2021
The Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel Program
For Reservations and Detailed Information: 860-767-0660

Tour Leader

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.

Warblers Galore!

In South Carolina, an undeveloped estuary sits waiting to be explored. The ACE Basin is formed by the joining of the Ashepoo, Combahee, and South Edisto rivers, and is located just south of the historic city of Charleston. A combined 350,000 acres, the region is well known for its wide variety of habitat, ranging from marshes and wetlands to hardwood riverine forests that are home to a wide variety of fauna.

Travelers have a fine opportunity to explore and embrace the natural world, visiting such locations as Cape Romain and ACE Basin national wildlife refuges and Bear Island Wildlife Management Area. A full day in Charleston will end the trip and offer a perfect occasion to reflect over the recent adventure.

The wide variety of possible species is a unique draw to this birding destination that’s popular among locals but overlooked by visitors. Lingering waterfowl may still be present, taking their time to arrive at the northerly breeding grounds. Shorebird numbers are peaking, with thousands staging on the beaches to prepare for their final flights to the High Arctic and days of endless sunlight. Of course, we’ll look for resident species too, including the federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

We’ll hope that the winds have been good and that the first wave of passerines have begun to trickle in, bringing with them the first vibrantly colored warblers of the year. And, if we’re lucky, a sundown jaunt will yield the secretive Chuck-will’s-widow and elusive Black Rail.

After a week of exploring these coastal habitats, the final day will be free for enjoying the city of Charleston. Options include taking the boat to Fort Sumter, walking down Rainbow Row to visit Battery Park, or just relaxing at the hotel. A farewell dinner at the end of the day will serve as a perfect ending to a fantastic adventure.

For a Detailed Itinerary and More Information:
Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel
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General Information
Main Tour Cost: $3,498.
With Member Discount: $2,998.

Prices are based upon a minimum number of five paying participants traveling together.