

## 2023 WOW Trips

**Big Day Birding** Dawn to dusk, we will tally birds. This big day will follow ABA rules as we venture around Dare County birding hot spots to tally as many birds as possible by sight and sound. We will carpool in an SUV, so each participant will have their own door and own window. We will begin on the outer banks starting with owls, waterfowl and ocean birds. The trip will end going inland to Alligator River for land birds, sunset birding and some owling at dusk. This trip is best for intermediate level birders who have their own pair of binoculars (scope too if you have one) and be comfortable with bird identification and all-day birding. The pace will be continuous to cover the ground required. Identification by sight and sound could be quick, we will try our best to get participants on every bird sighted. Bird checklists and an itinerary with map and timetables will be provided in advance. Bring food and drink for the day. Rest stops will be made as needed and will be known. Wear walking shoes/boots suitable for mostly flat terrain; no hike from the vehicles will be lengthy or strenuous. Some wading possible. Meet: Outer Banks Welcome Center parking lot on Roanoke Island, located at the foot of the Virginia Dare Bridge, Highway 64. This is the opposite end of Roanoke Island from Wings Over Water headquarters. Leaders/Field Experts: Brian Bockhahn & Audrey Whitlock Tue 10-17-23, 5:30 am - 8:30 pm \$50.00.

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge South Pond Birding** South Pond is normally closed off to visitors. It is only during guided Wings Over Water trips such as this one, that we are given special refuge permission to visit this otherwise closed area. The search for birds will include checking the impoundment for waterfowl and migratory shorebirds and also checking the undisturbed vegetation of the dikes and marshes for songbirds and raptors. Come prepared for mosquitoes. Cacti can also be a problem. Wear appropriate footwear. 1.5 to 2-mile walk. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of the Marc Basnight (Oregon Inlet) Bridge, west side of NC Hwy 12. Leaders/Field Experts: John & Paula Wright. Tue 10-17-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge North Pond Birding** This walk, suitable for all levels of birding, will include the south and north dikes and will be paced to give participants an opportunity to study species found. Likely birds include dabbling ducks, herons, egrets; Brown Pelicans, White Ibis, raptors, shorebirds, gulls; terns, warblers, sparrows and blackbirds. App. 1.5-mile walking distance. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of Oregon Inlet Bridge on the west side of Hwy 12. Leaders/Field Expert: Marcia Lyons. Tue 10-17-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Nags Head Woods Reptile and Amphibian Hike** Explore Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve for some of the many reptile and amphibian species that live in the preserve. The preserve is made up of several types of habitat including maritime forest, sand dunes, freshwater wetlands, and marsh that provide a home to one of the highest diversities of reptile and amphibians on the Outer Banks. A total of 29 species of reptile and 15 species of amphibians have been found within the preserve. There are several species that the only location on the Outer Banks in which they have been documented is in Nags Head Woods. Walk a few of the trails in search of species of reptile such as black racer, rat snakes, cottonmouth, green anoles, and skinks. Search the edges of some of the ponds and under logs for amphibian species such as southern leopard frogs, cricket frog, bull frog and marbled salamander. Meet: Nags Heads Woods Ecological Preserve parking lot, 701 West Ocean Acres Drive, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 Leader/Field Expert: Michael Gosselin Tue 10-17-23, 9:00-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Roanoke Island Night Kayak Paddle** This is one of our most popular paddling tours, whether we have a full moon, stars or clouds. We will paddle through the marshes of Roanoke Island at night. The tour begins at the docks in downtown Manteo, circles Festival Park Island and finishes back at the Manteo docks. The marsh canals take you through some quiet night habitats of owls, deer, and resting herons. A hit for any nature lover. Sunset is 6:25 pm. Dress for the weather and water. Flashlight or headlamp might be useful but not required. We provide the leader, kayaks, paddles and personal flotation devices, you provide the paddle power! Meet: Kitty Hawk Kites, 307 Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Manteo, NC 27954, Manteo waterfront (next to Poor Richard's Sandwich Shop). Leader/Field Expert: Kitty Hawk Kayak & Surf School staff. Tue 10-17-23, 6:00-8:00 pm. \$40.00

**Alligator River Refuge Nature Photography Van Tour (NEW).** A unique customized tour on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge hoping to provide the optimal locations to see wildlife. We'll be looking for black bears, river otters, wild turkeys, alligators, red wolves and much more. This is not a camera instructional tour, but a tour taking you to locations where you might obtain the best photos with your camera. Very limited space for 6. Meet: Creef Cut Wildlife Trail parking lot, NC Hwy 64 & Milltail Road. Leader/expert: Tracey Rock & Jackie Orsulak. Wed 10-18-23, 7:00-9:am.

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge South Pond Birding** The search for birds will include checking the impoundment for waterfowl and migratory shorebirds and also checking the undisturbed vegetation of the dikes and marshes for songbirds and raptors. South Pond is normally closed off to visitors. It is only during guided Wings Over Water trips such as this one, that we are given special refuge permission to visit this otherwise closed area. Come prepared for mosquitoes. Cacti can also be a problem. Wear appropriate footwear. 1.5 to 2-mile walk. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of Marc Basnight (Oregon Inlet) Bridge, west side of NC Hwy 12 Leaders/Field Experts: Peggy Eubank and Jeff Lewis. Wed 10-18-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Exploring Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary** Explore one of the gems of the region with special access to the various habitats of the 2600-acre Audubon Sanctuary. This guided walk, although focused on bird watching, will feature all the nature and history that the Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary has to offer. 2-mile walk on solid terrain. Meet: Audubon Nature Sanctuary 300 Audubon Drive, Corolla, NC 27927 (app. 32 miles north of Roanoke Island off of NC Hwy 12). Pull onto Audubon Drive, wait at wooden gate. <http://pineisland.audubon.org/visit> App. 32 miles north of Roanoke Island off of NC Hwy 12. Leaders/Field Experts: Ben Graham, Audubon staff at Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. Sanctuary and Audubon Center. Wed 10-18-23, 8:00-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Nature Walk at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (NEW)** Join our keynote speaker Julie Zickefoose and wildlife ecologist Susan Campbell on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. This 152,000-acre refuge is home to a multitude of species. We will spend most of our time walking the trails, paths and roads on the northern edge of refuge looking for tracks, 'sign' and whatever creatures are out and about. Learn about not only the habitats here but the history of the refuge and its management-- which can be challenging given that some very large mammals, sizeable alligators and even endangered species are found on the property. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared for some muddy conditions if there have been recent rains. Be sure to carry insect repellent, sunscreen and plenty to drink. We will try to carpool as we move around the refuge to reduce disturbance. Meet at the Creef Cut Wildlife Trail parking area located at Hwy 64 & Milltail Road. Leaders: Susan Campbell & Julie Zickefoose Wed 10-18-23, 8:30-11:00 am \$25.00

**Maritime Forest Birding Kayak Tour (Kitty Hawk Woods)** Created by popular demand, we have a water trip designed for birders. On this outing you'll have both a paddling and a birding guide. Kayak through Kitty Hawk Woods with an experienced birder. Kitty Hawk Woods is one of three maritime forests remaining on the Outer Banks. The tour is designed specifically for those interested in viewing the many bird species living in this forest. Paddling through this 1900 acre preserve offers a unique experience through amber-colored creeks under a canopy of Live Oaks and Loblolly Pines. We provide the kayaks, paddles, personal flotation devices and guides, you provide the paddle power. Experience is not necessary for kayakers. We will move slowly, stopping at many inlets to view birds. There are generally an abundance of backyard birds, wrens, chickadees, as well as Pileated woodpeckers, kingfishers, herons and egrets. There is no better way to view this area than by kayak since it is inaccessible by vehicle or foot. This 1900 acre preserve offers much to see. If you bring binoculars or camera we suggest you also bring a dry bag or something to protect them from getting wet. Meet: Kitty Hawk Kayak and Surf School 6150 N. Croatan Highway, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949. Leaders/Field Experts: Kitty Kayak & Surf School staff and John Hammond, USFWS. Wed 10-18-23, 9:00-11:00 am \$40.00

**Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge Birding (Distant Trip)** Take a wildlife walk and drive on Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge's impoundment dike to view waterfowl, marsh birds, wading birds, songbirds and a variety of raptors. Waterfowl prospects include Green and Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Wood Duck and Ruddy Duck. Refuge marshes provide cover for a variety of shorebirds, rails and bitterns. **ALERT: This is the northernmost WOW trip and it could require a ferry ride, depending on what route you choose. App. 62 miles from Roanoke Island to Mackay Island. Plan your travel time carefully because Mackay Island is a good distance from the Outer Banks.** Reaching the refuge could include a 45-minute ride on the Currituck ferry. Call 1-800- BYFERRY to confirm ferry schedules. There is also an all-land route that you can find using Google maps. Meet: Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge headquarters parking lot, 316 Marsh Causeway Road, Knotts Island, NC 27950. Leader/Field Experts: Karen & Keith Roberts Wed 10-18-23, 9:00 - 1:00 pm. \$25.00

**Nags Head Woods Reptile and Amphibian Hike** Explore Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve for some of the many reptile and amphibian species that live in the preserve. The preserve is made up of several types of habitat including maritime forest, sand dunes, freshwater wetlands, and marsh that provide a home to one of the highest diversities of reptile and amphibians on the Outer Banks. A total of 29 species of reptile and 15 species of amphibians have been found within the preserve. There are several species that the only location on the Outer Banks in which they have been documented is in Nags Head Woods. Walk a few of the trails in search of species of reptile such as black racer, rat snakes, cottonmouth, green anoles, and skinks. Search the edges of some of the ponds and under logs for amphibian species such as southern leopard frogs, cricket frog, bull frog and marbled salamander. Meet: Nags Heads Woods Ecological Preserve parking lot, 701 West Ocean Acres Drive, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948 Leader/Field Expert: Michael Gosselin Wed 10-18-23, 1:00-3:00 am. \$25.00

**Birding 101 (Classroom & Field)** Birding 101 is designed for the inexperienced or casual bird watcher who would like to improve their birding skills. Using a combination of classroom and field exercises, participants will learn clues to solve the bird identification puzzle. Following classroom discussion and identification exercises, participants will put their new skills to work with a short walk at a nearby location. Although designed for the beginning birder, others may learn methods to expand their birding skills. Binoculars are recommended but not required. Due to class length you might want to bring a snack and water. Meet: National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center, 100 Conservation Way, Manteo, NC 27954, Roanoke Island, conference room. Leader/Field Expert: Colleen Bockhahn. Wed 10-18-23, 1:00-4:00 pm. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge South Pond Birding** The search for birds will include checking the impoundment for waterfowl and migratory shorebirds and also checking the undisturbed vegetation of the dikes and marshes for songbirds and raptors. South Pond is normally closed off to visitors. It is only during guided Wings Over Water trips such as this one, that we are given special refuge permission to visit this otherwise closed area. Come prepared for mosquitoes. Cacti can also be a problem. Wear appropriate footwear. 1.5 to 2-mile walk. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of Oregon Inlet Bridge, west side of NC Hwy 12 Leaders/Field Expert: Karen Lebing & Marc Ribaud. Wed 10-18-23, 1:00-4:30 am. \$25.00

**Gull/Tern Workshop (Classroom & Field)** Perfect for beginning and intermediate birders, the classroom introduction to the basics of gull and tern identification will simplify studying them in the field. The diversity of gull and tern plumage, size, and behavior may seem daunting, but this workshop will teach you how to easily identify and age the common local species. Join this workshop and get hooked on the mystery of birding identification. We'll then go on a brief excursion that will solidify the basics. As many as six gull and four tern species may be located for further study. After the classroom portion of the program we will caravan following the leader to various gull and tern gathering spots. Locations we might visit are: Manteo/Nags Head Causeway, Wanchese docks area, the sound behind the Nags Head Tanger Outlet Mall and as far south as Oregon Inlet. Locations to be determined by up-to-the-hour birding reports. For additional practice with gull/tern identification, consider these other Wings Over Water trips: Cape Hatteras Birding, Ocean-watching at Jennette's Pier, & North Pond Birding. Meet at National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center 100 Conservation Way, Roanoke Island. Be prepared to drive as far south as Oregon Inlet as part of this program. Leader/Field Expert: Brian O'Shea. Wed 10-18-23, 2:00-6:00 pm. \$25.00

**Maritime Forest Sunset Kayak Tour** Kitty Hawk Woods, one of only three maritime forests remaining on the Outer Banks. It offers a unique experience as kayakers paddle through an amber-colored creek under a canopy of Live oaks and Loblolly pines. Turtles, snakes, and other reptiles are very common in this area, as are birds such as herons, egrets, woodpeckers, kingfishers, Red-tailed hawks and eagles. At sunset, paddle through the marsh to search for feeding wildlife. Sunset is at 6:22 pm. A great kayak tour for the beginner as well as the experienced paddler. The woods provide shelter from the wind, and the water is shallow. Dress for weather, water and insects. A flashlight or headlamp might be helpful but not required. We provide the leader, kayaks, paddles and personal flotation devices, you provide the paddle power! Meet: Kitty Hawk Recycling Center Boat Ramp, 4190 Bob Perry Road Kitty Hawk, NC 27949. Leader/Field Expert: Outer Banks Kayak Adventures. Wed 10-18-23, 5:00-7:00 pm. \$40.00

**Owl Prowl** We hope to hoot up Barred Owls, Screech-owls, and maybe even a Great Horned Owl & observe classic owl behavior. But it's the wild and you never know what will appear. The program begins with a presentation on the natural history, distribution and identification of local owl species. Transportation is by you caravanning in your vehicle behind the leader. Dress warmly. Flashlights or headlamps may prove handy. Meet: Creef Cut Trail parking lot, Hwy 64 & Milltail Road, app. 5.5 miles west of Roanoke Island (on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Leader/Field Expert: Brian Bockhahn. Wed 10-18-23, 5:30-8:30 pm. \$20.00

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Palmetto-Peartree Preserve (P-3)** This is a two-part trip. First you meet at Creef Cut Trail parking lot on the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Then you will caravan in your vehicle following the leader to the Palmetto-Peartree Preserve, app. 15 miles west of Creef Cut Trail parking lot. There you will look for several colonies of endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers who live in the 'P-3.' Most of the sites are visible from the network of unpaved roads. We may also look for six other species of woodpeckers, and various songbirds that can be found in this area. Binoculars, cameras, water & insect repellent recommended. Meet: Creef Cut Trail parking lot, corner of Hwy 64 and Milltail Road (app. 5.5 miles west of Roanoke Island). Be prepared for app. 15 miles further driving to the observation location (30 mile round trip). Leader/Field Expert: John Hammond, USFWS. Thu 10-19-23, 6:00-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Sunrise Kayak Tour** Enjoy a sunrise kayak tour through Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. The shallow waters bring an abundance of shorebirds. This is where oystercatchers, plovers, gulls, cormorants and pelicans gather to feed. On occasion you may catch a glimpse of migrating Snow Geese. This is a stunningly beautiful paddle between islands of marsh grass during the first light of day. Sunrise 7:12 am. We provide the kayak, paddle, personal flotation device and leader, you provide the paddle power. Meet: New Inlet Boat Launch parking lot, app. 3 miles south of Pea Island Refuge visitor center. Leader/Field Expert: Kitty Hawk Kayak & Surf School staff Thu 10-19-23, 6:00-8:00 am. \$40.00

**Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Birding and Wildlife** Explore Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in areas open year-'round and others normally closed to the public. Look for waterfowl and shorebirds in the impoundments, raptors including bald and golden eagles over the farm fields, and songbirds in roadside vegetation. Rare species such as the Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher have been found during previous festivals. Butterflies possible (weather permitting). Black bear often seen. Red wolf and bobcat are a possibility. Meet: Creef Cut Trail parking lot, Hwy 64 and Milltail Road (app. 5.5 west of Roanoke Island). Trip leader/Field Expert: Sarah Toner, USFWS. Thu 10-19-23, 7:30-10:30 am. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge South Pond Birding** South Pond is normally closed off to visitors. It is only during guided Wings Over Water trips such as this one, that we are given special refuge permission to visit this otherwise closed area. The search for birds will include checking the impoundment for waterfowl and migratory shorebirds and also checking the undisturbed vegetation of the dikes and marshes for songbirds and raptors. Come prepared for mosquitoes. Cacti can also be a problem. Wear appropriate footwear. 1.5 to 2-mile walk. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of Oregon Inlet Bridge, west side of NC Hwy 12. Leader/Field Expert: Karen Lebing & Marc Ribaldo. Thu 10-19-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Roanoke Island Birding** Explore Roanoke Island's birding hotspots: from open lawns to dense forests, from salt marsh to scanning the sound, to birding the Wanchese harbor. Lots of photo opportunities. Look for year-round resident bird species as well as a mix of fall migrants, including warblers, vireos, kinglets, nuthatches woodpeckers, thrushes and sparrows. Binoculars and insect repellent recommended. Meet: National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center 100 Conservation Way, Manteo, NC 27954, Roanoke Island. You will caravan to the various locations. Carpooling is optional. Good binoculars strongly recommended. Leader/Field Expert: Simon Thompson. Thu 10-19-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Birding the Northern Banks-From Corolla to Duck** Spend most of the day birding from north in Corolla and moving down to the boardwalk at Duck. Birding will begin with and include areas around Corolla village, including the Currituck Beach lighthouse and Whalehead Club area. We'll look for fall migrants including warblers, vireos, swallows and sparrows. We should see a few raptors, as well as terns and gulls. In the freshwater marsh areas rails are possible. If water levels are low, shorebirds may be present. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and then head south to the famous Town of Duck boardwalk and vicinity, looking for more fall migrants, especially warblers and vireos. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Duck at the Waterfront Shops parking lot, just beyond the blue water tower on the left in the Town of Duck. We will carpool/caravan from there north to Corolla. You will need to cover the cost of your lunch. Also, if you are already in Corolla we can arrange to meet you there rather than you having to drive to Southern Shores. Call 252-216-9464 to arrange a Corolla meeting location. **Alert: When you're looking at overall driving, the mileage one way from Roanoke Island to Corolla is app. 41 miles.** Good binoculars strongly recommended. Leaders/Field Experts: Jeff Lewis & Peggy Eubank. Thu 10-19-23, 7:30 am-3:00 pm. \$30.00

**Cape Hatteras Birding.** Cape Hatteras is one of the Outer Banks' premier birding locations. The Point, the Salt Pond and adjacent flats, dunes and wetlands are historically important to both anglers and birders. Expect to see not only Brown Pelicans, gulls, terns, seabirds, shorebirds, ducks, and waders, but also a variety of raptors and passerines are possible. Northern Gannets and an assortment of grebes and sparrows are possible as well. The trip will be in leader-driven beach vehicles with some walking on off-road areas. Alert: App. 45 miles south from Roanoke Island (Manteo) to Cape Hatteras Lighthouse (Buxton). Meet: Cape Hatteras Lighthouse parking lot, 46368 Old Lighthouse Road, Buxton, NC 27920. Leaders/Field Experts: John Wright, Jeff Phippen & Kevin Markham, Thu 10-19-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$25.00

**Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Tram Tour (Family Friendly)** Enjoy the beauty of the refuge from the open-air tram! Sit back and enjoy the ride with your hands free to take fantastic photographs, or gaze at wildlife up-close through binoculars. Enjoy a lively narrative about the natural history of the refuge and hear fascinating stories of past and present uses of the land. Find out if there really were buffalo in Buffalo City. Discover techniques used to manage the mosaic of habitats for native wildlife. The tour will include Twiford Road which is normally closed this time of year. Because of varying temperatures and possible insects, dress appropriately to keep warm and prevent insect bites. Tram seating is a hard bench. You are welcome to bring a towel, blanket or seat cushion to use as seat padding to make the ride more comfortable. Binoculars and cameras are recommended but not required. Tram is handicapped and wheelchair accessible. Meet: Creef Cut Trail parking lot, Hwy 64 & Milltail Road, app. 5.5 miles west of Roanoke Island (on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge). Leaders/Field Expert: Bob Glennon. Thu 10-19-23, 9:00 am-11 am. \$20.00

**Migrating Hawks and Monarchs (Family Friendly)** Join us at Jockeys Ridge State Park to watch for migrating hawks and butterflies. After a hawk ID orientation, we'll hike up to a hawk watching dune in hopes of seeing hawks, eagles and falcons as they migrate over the dunes and maritime forest, sometimes flying right overhead! We'll also take a few short hikes to catch and tag migrating monarchs and other butterflies while seeing frogs, lizards and more. Bring your own binoculars, we will have a few extra on hand. Butterfly nets will be provided. Parents must accompany children. Bring your lunch and a chair and stay to keep counting hawks if conditions are favorable. Rain or extreme weather could cancel the watch. Meet: Soundside access to Jockey's Ridge State Park located off West Soundside Road, .5 mile west of 158 (bypass) in Nags Head. Leader/Field Expert: Brian Bockhahn Thu 10-19-23, 9 am -noon. \$25.00

**Buxton Woods Maritime Forest Hike** Take a two-hour hike in the wild maritime forest, on relict sand dune ridges as high as 60 feet surrounding freshwater swales locally known as sedges. Located on the widest and wildest part of Hatteras Island, these topographic and geographic features combine to produce unique island habitat. The maritime forests, swamps, and inter-dune ponds of Buxton Woods provide habitat for much of the island's wildlife. Bring water. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Meet: Buxton Woods Nature Trail parking lot on Lighthouse Road, adjacent to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse parking area. We may caravan to other nearby trails showing various aspects of wooded habitats. **Alert: This meeting location is app. 48 miles south from Roanoke Island. Make it a day on Hatteras Island. Register for the morning, Cape Hatteras Birding.** Leader/Field Expert: Marcia Lyons, retired Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park Naturalist & Field Biologist. Thu 10-19-23, 1:00-3:00 pm. \$25.00

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**Oregon Inlet Marshes Late Afternoon Kayak Tour (NEW)** Kayak one of the lesser explored Outer Banks paddling options. This tour will take you to both open sound and protected, winding marsh grasses paths at the south end of Bodie Island. The tour is great for photography due to the diverse bird possibilities as well as the Bodie Island Lighthouse in the background. Because we paddle in open sound water it can be affected negatively by stiff winds. Meet: Oregon Inlet Marina, East parking lot kayak launch. 10-19-23, 3:00-5:00 pm. Leader/Field Expert: Outer Banks Kayak Adventures Staff. \$40.00

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**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge the South Pond Birding Experience** Bring your own spotting scope/binoculars for some serious birding with an expert leader who will help you identify unusual species and direct you to special areas of this usually closed impoundment. Expect the usual songbirds, raptors, migratory shorebirds & waterfowl. Hope for the unique! Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of Marc Basnight (Oregon Inlet) Bridge on the west side of NC Hwy 12. Leader/Field Expert: Kent Fiala. Fri 10-20-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00.

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge North Pond Birding** This walk, suitable for all levels of birding, will include the south and north dikes and will be paced to give participants an opportunity to study species found. Likely birds include dabbling ducks, herons, egrets; Brown Pelicans, White Ibis, raptors, shorebirds, gulls; terns, warblers, sparrows and blackbirds. App. 1.5-mile walking distance. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of the Oregon Inlet (Marc Basnight) Bridge on the west side of Hwy 12. Leader/Field Expert: Simon Thompson. Fri 10-20-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

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**Exploring Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary** Explore one of the gems of the region with special access to the various habitats of the 2600-acre Audubon Sanctuary. This guided walk, although focused on bird watching, will feature all the nature and history that the Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary has to offer. 2-mile walk on solid terrain. Meet: Audubon Nature Sanctuary, 300 Audubon Drive, Corolla, NC 27927 (app. 32 miles north of Roanoke Island off of NC Hwy 12). Pull onto Audubon Drive, wait at wooden gate. <http://pineisland.audubon.org/visit> 32 miles north of Roanoke Island off of NC Hwy 12. Leaders/Field Experts: Ben Graham, Audubon staff Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. Sanctuary and Audubon Center. Fri 10-20-23, 8:00-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Cape Hatteras Birding.** Cape Hatteras is one of the Outer Banks' premier birding locations. The Point, the Salt Pond and adjacent flats, dunes and wetlands are historically important to both anglers and birders. Expect to see not only Brown Pelicans, gulls, terns, seabirds, shorebirds, ducks, and waders, but also a variety of raptors and passerines are possible. Northern Gannets and an assortment of grebes and sparrows are possible as well. The trip will be in leader-driven beach vehicles with some walking on off-road areas. Alert: App. 45 miles south from Roanoke Island (Manteo) to Cape Hatteras Lighthouse (Buxton). Meet: Cape Hatteras Lighthouse parking lot, 46368 Old Lighthouse Road, Buxton, NC 27920.

Leaders/Field Experts: John Wright, Kevin Markham, Taylor Piephoff & Carson Wood. Fri 10-20-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$25.00

**Ocracoke Island Birding (Distant Trip)** Explore this wonderful 15-mile-long barrier island which is entirely in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Birding can change from day-to-day, especially in the fall. We will be on the lookout for lots of shorebirds, including Red Knots, White and Glossy Ibis, Peregrine Falcons, Eurasian Collared-doves, Palm warblers and Red-breasted Nuthatches and, hopefully, spectacular views of Northern Gannets feeding just offshore. Stops will include a maritime forest, the dunes for an overview of migrating raptors, marshes, the beach, views of Pamlico Sound and Springer's Point. Meet at the northern Ocracoke ferry terminal parking area. ALERT: This trip is one of WOW's most southern programs. Plan your WOW schedule considering the travel time. It is 63 miles from Roanoke Island to the Hatteras ferry terminal. The free ferry ride takes approximately 65 minutes and does not take reservations, loading first come, first served. Call 1-800-BYFERRY to confirm ferry schedules or check on-line. On your ferry ride crossing Hatteras Inlet, look for waterfowl, gulls, terns, cormorants, and pelicans. Call your trip leader (202- 468-2871) if you are delayed. Consider pairing this trip and register for Friday Cape Hatteras Birding or Buxton Woods Maritime Forest Hike or Birding Portsmouth Island on Saturday. Leader/Field Expert: Peter Vankevich. Fri 10-20-23, 8:00 am-2:00 pm. \$25.00

**Mashoes Marshes Kayak Tour** Kayak with experienced, local guide through the backwater canals and creeks of the Mashoes community. This is a lesser-traveled portion of the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, making it one of the most pristine kayak locations on the Outer Banks. The trip combines open water and narrow, winding paths through cordgrass fields. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore on foot a remote beach and maritime forest along the Albemarle Sound. We provide the leader, the kayaks, paddles and personal flotation devices, you provide the paddle power! Meet: Mashoes Road roadside canal launch area 3.3 miles northwest of Hwy 64/264, Manns Harbor. Look for leader and kayak trailer and park on roadside completely off of the roadway. Leader/Field Expert: Joe O'Grady, Coastal Kayak Touring Company. Fri 10-20-23, 9:00-11:30 am. \$40.00

**How to Listen-An Introduction to Birding by Ear** Introducing birding by ear for those interested in learning basic information helpful in identifying and remembering common bird songs. Many beginning birders wonder how to identify a bird by sound when the bird cannot be seen. Using recorded bird songs, this class will give you the techniques of how to be a good listener. Learning the techniques of how to listen is an important aspect of our day-to-day human interaction, but it is also an excellent basic tool for bird identification. Cathryn Sill leads this short class on the ways to listen. Especially designed for beginning birders and anyone who wants to improve their listening skills. Most advanced birders will have already developed the skills taught in this class. Meet: National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center, 100 Conservation Way, Manteo, NC 27954, Roanoke Island. Conference room. Leader: Cathryn Sill. Fri 10-20-23, 12:30-2:00 pm, \$20.00

**Bodie Island Lighthouse Birding** Look for songbirds around the lighthouse and on wooded trails, and for waterbirds (swans, geese, ducks, grebes, herons, egrets, ibis, rails, etc.) from the boardwalk by the ponds. While the emphasis will be on birds, the search will also include identifying butterflies and dragonflies (weather permitting). Local plant life will also be pointed out, and fun flora facts will be mentioned relating to both human culture and the importance to birds. Meet: Bodie Island Lighthouse parking lot near the north end restrooms, 8210 Bodie Island Lighthouse Road S. Nags Head, NC 27954. Leader/Field Expert: Jeff Phippen. Fri 10-20-23, 1:00-4:30 pm. \$25.00

**Oregon Inlet Marsh Birding** Check the Inlet's beach and flats for shorebirds, including Piping Plover. Then wade the marsh in search of Clapper Rails, marsh sparrows (including Nelson's and Saltmarsh) and Marsh and Sedge Wrens. Meet at easily visible parking area on Ramp Four's new all-vehicle road that leads oceanside from the north end of the Oregon Inlet Bridge. Bring boots for walking in calf-deep water. This can be a strenuous birding excursion. Leader John Fussell is author of *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina*. Leaders/Field Experts: John Fussell, Kent Fiala & Gerald Head. Fri Oct 10-20-23, 1:00 - 5 pm. Cost \$30.

**Hummingbird Banding (Family Friendly) (Buxton-South)** We have two different hummingbird banding locations- Roanoke Island (north) and Hatteras Island (south). Be careful choosing the correct date and location. Hummingbird expert and licensed bander, Susan Campbell will demonstrate techniques for capturing and banding hummingbirds. The program also will provide useful tips on attracting hummingbirds. Both the north & south groups will go to residences that host hummingbirds throughout the year. On Friday the demonstration will be held at a Buxton residence located near the Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve. On Saturday the program will visit a Roanoke island residence. Consider bringing along a folding chair. We will be in one spot and standing may get tiring. **ALERT: Because this is a 'Family Friendly' trip, two children 12 or under may accompany a paying, supervising adult at no charge. To include your child or children you must make reservations by either calling or emailing. 252-216-9464 or [wow@coastalwildliferefuge.com](mailto:wow@coastalwildliferefuge.com)** Meet: Cape Hatteras Secondary School parking lot, near tennis courts, 48576. NC Hwy 12, Buxton, NC 27920 (App. 48 miles south of Roanoke Island). From there you will caravan following the leader to the hummingbird banding location. Leader/Field Expert: Susan Campbell, Fri 10-20-23, 2:00-4:00 pm \$25.00

**Bird Drawing and Watercolor with John Sill** If you have ever wanted to learn to draw, sketch and paint birds this is the class for you! John Sill is one of the country's top nature artists. You will enjoy your time learning to draw with John. Besides being a nature artist John is the illustrator of over 2 dozen nature books written by his wife, Cathryn. John was the 2012 Wings Over Water keynote speaker. Each year since, John has returned to teach a basic class in bird sketching, focusing on waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. This year John has modified the class from only basic pencil and paper bird drawing to a class that now includes watercolors. You will spend the beginning of the class learning the basics of drawing a bird. Using an overhead projector, John will demonstrate how to outline and draw what you see. By the end of class you will have a good idea of how to draw basic birds and maybe more. If you are beyond the basic drawing level, John will help you refine and develop your skills. Then you will transfer your bird drawing to watercolor paper and render a watercolor of your bird. We will provide all basic supplies but you are welcome to bring your own. Meet: National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center. 100 Conservation Way, Manteo, NC 27954. Fri 10-20-23, 2:15-4:15 pm. \$30.00

**Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Sunset Kayak Tour (Experienced Paddlers Only).** Take a kayak tour through the black waters of Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge while the fading light of day casts a soothing spell on your relaxing journey. Learn about Buffalo City and the history of the area before it became a refuge. Bathed in silence and the dimly lit sky, listen for the calls of the wild. You may even see the Alligator River Refuge's native nocturnal life. Dress warmly. Bring a flashlight or headlamp recommended. Sunset is app. 6:20 pm. We provide the leaders, the kayaks, the paddles and the personal flotation devices, you provide the paddle power! This is a Wings Over Water exclusive opportunity to be on the refuge when it is normally closed after dark. For experienced paddlers. Meet: Buffalo City boat ramp (end of the road), 2 miles south of Hwy 64, Buffalo City Road (on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge). Leader: Joe O'Grady, Coastal Kayak Touring Company. Fri 10-20-23, 4:30-6:30 pm. \$40.00

**Owl Prowl** We hope to hoot up Barred Owls, Screech-owls, and maybe even a Great Horned Owl & observe classic owl behavior. But it's the wild and you never know what will appear. The program begins with a presentation on the natural history, distribution and identification of local owl species. Transportation is you driving in caravan behind the program leader. Dress warmly. Flashlights or headlamps may prove handy. Meet: Creef Cut Trail parking lot, Hwy 64 & Milltail Road, app. 5.5 west of Roanoke Island (on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge). Leader/Field Expert: Brian Bockhahn. Fri 10-20-23, 5:30-8:30 pm. \$20.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge South Pond and Beach Birding** The first hour will be spent ocean-watching and searching for and identifying ocean and beach birds. The rest of the trip will be spent birding the impoundments, dikes, and marshes of South Pond. Expect a variety of waterfowl, herons, egrets, wrens and sparrows. American Bitterns are possible. If we have good weather, there is also a chance for an assortment of raptors. With any luck we might find some warbler species in addition to all of the Yellow-rumps! While the emphasis will be on birds, the search will include identifying butterflies and dragonflies that we might encounter (weather permitting). Fun flora facts will be mentioned relating to both human culture and the importance to birds. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of Oregon Inlet Bridge on west side of NC Hwy 12. Leaders/Field Experts: Jeff Pippen. Sat 10-21-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Bodie Island Lighthouse & Beach Birding** Look for songbirds around the lighthouse and on wooded trails, and for waterbirds from the boardwalk by the ponds. Then experience the diversity of the island's habitats by spending an hour on nearby Coquina Beach watching for migrating scoters, loons, seabirds, and marine mammals. Be prepared to walk up to 1 mile on paved or hard-packed, flat terrain. Meet: Bodie Island Lighthouse parking lot, near the north end restrooms. 8210 Bodie Island Lighthouse Road, Nags Head, NC 27959. Leader/Field Expert: Steve Shultz. Sat 10-21-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

**Oregon Inlet Old Coast Guard Station Birding** Where the ocean meets the sound you will find an interesting selection of birds. Around the historic Oregon Inlet old Coast Guard Station look for land birds and whatever else may fly through the often volatile Oregon Inlet corridor. Walk sand flats to find terns, shorebirds, and Piping Plover. Explore the rock jetty for Purple Sandpiper and view the inlet and ocean for waterbirds. App. one mile walk. Meet: Southern Oregon Inlet Bridge parking lot. If you're headed south on NC Hwy 12, this lot is immediately east (left) after crossing the bridge. Leader/Field Expert: Ricky Davis. Sat 10-21-23, 7:30-11:30 am. \$25.00

**Pamlico Sound Birding Kayak Tour** Created by popular demand we have a water trip designed for birders and non-birders alike. On this outing, you'll have both a paddling and a birding guide. Kayak out of the Salvo Day Use Area (a Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park Service area) with an experienced local birder and a paddling co-leader. The Salvo Day Use Area is located on the shores of the Pamlico Sound. The tour is designed specifically for those interested in viewing the many bird species that live along the marshlands, feed along the shores, and swim the waters of the sound. Paddling along the shoreline and into coves and canals, you will see the richness and diversity of our wetlands. We will move slowly, stopping at many inlets to view birds. There are usually a variety of shore birds and long-legged water birds, such as Great egrets, Tricolored herons, Willets and Sandpipers. You may also be able to see one of the local raptors, such as an Osprey or a Bald eagle. There is no better way to view this area than by kayak since it is inaccessible by vehicle or foot. Skill level-beginning paddlers and above. If you bring binoculars, camera or items you don't want to get wet we suggest you also bring a dry bag for protection. We provide the kayaks, paddles, personal flotation devices and guides, you provide the paddle power. Meet: Salvo Day Use Area, 5.6 miles south of Rodanthe on west side of NC 12, S. Leaders/Field Experts: Kitty Kayak & Surf School staff and Jonathan Cooley Sat 10-21-23, 8:00-11:00 am. \$40.00

**Cape Hatteras Birding** Cape Hatteras is one of the Outer Banks' premier birding locations. The Point, the Salt Pond and adjacent flats, dunes and wetlands are historically important to both anglers and birders. Expect to see not only Brown Pelicans, gulls, terns, seabirds, shorebirds, ducks, and waders, but also a variety of raptors and passerines are possible. Northern Gannets and an assortment of grebes and sparrows are possible as well. The trip will be in leader-driven beach vehicles with some walking on off-road areas. Alert: App. 45 miles south from Roanoke Island (Manteo) to Cape Hatteras Lighthouse (Buxton). Meet: Cape Hatteras Lighthouse parking lot, 46368 Old Lighthouse Road, Buxton, NC 27920. Leaders/Field Experts: John Wright, Kevin Markham, Taylor Piephoff & Carson Wood. Sat 10-21-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$30.00

**Birding Portsmouth Island (Distant Trip)** Bird the abandoned village on Portsmouth Island, now part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore and maintained by the National Park Service. Established in 1752, for many years it was the largest European settlement on the Outer Banks serving as a major shipping port. Starting with the Civil War, it began a long decline with the last residents leaving in 1971. Portsmouth Island is one of the last wild frontiers of the Outer Banks. The overall experience makes this a truly once-in-a-lifetime birding trip. Expect a variety of waders, shorebirds, especially American Oystercatchers, raptors, and thicket-loving birds. Your registration fee covers the chartered boat which transports participants from Ocracoke to the sound side of Portsmouth Island. Be prepared for walking and insects. Mosquitoes can be fierce. ALERT: This trip requires careful planning with lots of travel time. It is Wings Over Water's most southern trip. The trip is unique and wonderful. But we urge you to plan your schedule carefully due to the time and distance involved. It is 63 miles from Roanoke Island to the Hatteras ferry docks. There is a wait to get on the ferry which departs on the hour. The ferry ride takes app. 65 minutes. Once off the ferry you have another 20-to- 30-minute drive south to the meeting location in Ocracoke village. You may choose to spend the night before on Ocracoke. Consider combining this field trip and that of Ocracoke Island that takes place the day before. But keep in mind that if this trip gets cancelled due to weather, you may be committed to your motel reservation. Call 1-800-BYFERRY to confirm ferry schedules. Hatteras Inlet ferries are free loading first come, first serve. Call the trip leader if you have a ferry delay (202-468-2871). Meet at the ferry parking lot, south end of Ocracoke Island. Save one-day long-distance driving, consider pairing this trip with Friday Hatteras Island Trips - Cape Hatteras Birding or, Hummingbird Banding (Buxton South) or, Friday's Ocracoke Island Birding. Leader/Field Expert: Peter Vankevich, Sat 10-21-23, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge Tram Tour-Birding & Wildlife.** Join veteran leader Susan Campbell and keynote speaker, Julie Zickefoose on this special trip! Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge is renowned for its waterfowl and is widely recognized as one of the best birding sites in North Carolina. During the fall and winter hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, including a variety of ducks, geese and swans migrate to Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in the state. Besides waterfowl you may also see bald eagles, warblers, waders, otters and muskrats. Binoculars and a bird identification book are recommended. Dress for the weather. The tram has hard seating, you may bring a seat cushion, towel or blanket on which to sit for more comfort. Meet: Lake Landing/Great Ditch Road parking area GPS 35.48338, -76.07834. Off of Hwy 264 between Englehard and Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. This location is 5 miles south of Engelhard and 9.5 miles north of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. We DO NOT meet at the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. You'll be turning off of Hwy 264 onto a dirt/gravel road. After you turn, a canal will be on your left as you drive straight ahead to the parking/meeting area. **ALERT: App. 59 miles from Roanoke Island to this location. For distant trips, consider travel times when planning your WOW schedule.** Leader/Field Expert: Susan Campbell, Marc Ribaudo & Julie Zickefoose. Sat 10-21-23, 9:00 am-noon. \$25.00

**Birding 101 (Classroom & Field)** Birding 101 is designed for the inexperienced or casual bird watcher who would like to improve their birding skills. Using a combination of classroom and field exercises, participants will learn clues to solve the bird identification puzzle. Following classroom discussion and identification exercises, participants will put their new skills to work with a short walk at a nearby location. Although designed for the beginning birder, others may learn methods to expand their birding skills. Binoculars are recommended but not required. Due to class length you might want to bring a snack and water. Meet: National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center, 100 Conservation Way, Manteo, NC 27954, Roanoke Island, conference room. Leader/Field Expert: Colleen Bockhahn. Sat 10-21-23, 1:00-4:00 pm. \$25.00

**Shorebirds & Waders** The marshes, flats, and beaches of the Outer Banks are some of the best places in North Carolina to enjoy two groups of birds closely associated with the coast, shorebirds and waders. Join us as we roam the coast from Nags Head to Rodanthe in search of sandpipers, plovers, godwits, herons and egrets. This trip will focus on the identification of shorebirds and waders by size, plumage, and behavior. Learn which shorebirds winter in North Carolina and where some of our migrants end up. You might be surprised! The exact locations that we will visit will depend on current conditions and the timing of the tides, but may include Bodie Island Lighthouse, Oregon Inlet, and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Spotting scopes are helpful, but not required. Mosquito repellent may be appropriate at Pea Island. The bugs can be fierce! Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles along mainly flat, hard-packed terrain. Meet: Bodie Island Lighthouse parking lot, 8210 Bodie Island Lighthouse Road, Nags Head, NC 27959, at north end near the rest rooms. You will carpool or caravan to the various other locations. Leader/Field Expert: Steve Shultz. Sat 10-21-23, 1:00-4:30 pm. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge South Pond Birding** The search for birds will include checking the impoundment for waterfowl and migratory shorebirds and also checking the undisturbed vegetation of the dikes and marshes for songbirds and raptors. Come prepared for mosquitoes. Cacti can also be a problem. Wear appropriate footwear. 1.5 to 2-mile walk. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of Oregon Inlet Bridge, west side of NC Hwy 12. Leader/Field Expert: Jeff Lemons. Sat 10-21-23, 1:00-4:30 pm. \$25.00

**Oregon Inlet Marsh Birding** Check the Inlet's beach and flats for shorebirds, including Piping Plover. Then wade the marsh in search of Clapper Rails, marsh sparrows (including Nelson's and Saltmarsh) and Marsh and Sedge Wrens. Meet at easily visible parking area on Ramp Four's new all-vehicle road that leads oceanside from the north end of the Oregon Inlet Bridge. Bring boots for walking in calf-deep water. This can be a strenuous birding excursion. Leader John Fussell is author of *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina*. Leaders/Field Experts: John Fussell, Kent Fiala & Gerald Head. Sat Oct 10-21-23, 1:00 - 5 pm. Cost \$30.

**Bird Drawing and Watercolor with John Sill.** If you have ever wanted to learn to draw, sketch and paint birds this is the class for you! John Sill is one of the country's top nature artists. You will enjoy your time learning to draw with John. Besides being a nature artist John is the illustrator of over 2 dozen nature books written by his wife, Cathryn. John was the 2012 Wings Over Water keynote speaker. Each year since, John has returned to teach a basic class in bird sketching, focusing on waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. This year John has modified the class from only basic pencil and paper bird drawing to a class that now includes watercolors. You will spend the beginning of the class learning the basics of drawing a bird. Using an overhead projector, John will demonstrate how to outline and draw what you see. By the end of class you will have a good idea of how to draw basic birds and maybe more. If you are beyond the basic drawing level, John will help you refine and develop your skills. Then you will transfer your bird drawing to watercolor paper and render a watercolor of your bird. We will provide all basic supplies but you are welcome to bring your own. Meet: National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center 100 Conservation Way, Manteo, NC 27954, Roanoke Island, conference room. Leaders/Artist: John & Cathryn Sill. Sat 10-21-23, 2:00-4:00 pm. \$30.00

**Hummingbird Banding (Roanoke Island-North) (Family Friendly)** We have two different hummingbird banding locations-Roanoke Island (north) and Hatteras Island (south). Be careful choosing the correct date and location. Hummingbird expert and licensed bander, Susan Campbell will demonstrate techniques for capturing and banding hummingbirds. The program also will provide useful tips on attracting hummingbirds. Both the north & south groups will go to residences that host hummingbirds throughout the year. On Friday the demonstration will be held at a Buxton residence located near the Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve. On Saturday the program will visit a Roanoke island residence. Consider bringing along a folding chair. We will be in one spot and standing may get tiring. ALERT: Because this is a 'Family Friendly' trip, two children 12 or under may accompany a paying, supervising adult at no charge. To include your child or children you must make reservations by either calling or emailing. 252-216-9464 or wow@coastalwildliferefuge.com Meet: North Carolina Aquarium parking lot, 374 Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954, Roanoke Island. From there you will caravan following the leader to the hummingbird banding location. Leader/Field Expert: Susan Campbell Sat 10-21-23, 2:00-4:00 pm. \$25.00

**Keynote Reception & Heavy Hors d'oeuvres with Julie Zickefoose (NEW)** Enjoy an evening of food, drink & good company, highlighted by a talk from this year's keynote speaker entitled, 'Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest.' Reception begins at 6:00 pm, with coffee, iced tea, beer, wine & water. This is a casual hour to meet & talk before Julie's talk. This is not a sit down dinner, but rather it's a carry your plate & drink social hour. Food and drinks catered by Basnight's Lone Cedar Cafe. Heavy Hors d'oeuvres menu: Deli meat & cheese platter (sliced ham, turkey, roast beef, swiss, munster, cheddar, lettuce, tomatatoes, onions, pickles, rolls mustard & mayonnaise), fresh vegetable platter (homemade ranch dressing), lump crab dip crostini, sweet & sour teriyaki meatballs (ginger, garlic & pepper jelly), chicken tenders (buffalo & plain), grown-up pigs in a blanket (all beef franks, puff pastry, dijon mustard) homemade fried mozzarella cheese sticks (with fresh tomatoe basil sauce); chilled shrimp cocktail platter, bacon-wrapped scallops (pepper jelly) and brownies. Meet: National Wildlife Refuges Gateway Visitor Center. 10-21-23, 6:00-8:00 pm. \$35.00

**Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Birding & Wildlife.** Explore Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in areas open year-'round and others normally closed to the public. Look for waterfowl and shorebirds in the impoundments, raptors including Bald and Golden Eagles over the farm fields, and songbirds in roadside vegetation. Rare species such as the Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher have been found during previous festivals. Butterflies possible (weather permitting). Black bear often seen. Red Wolf and bobcat are a possibility. Binoculars strongly recommended. Meet: Creef Cut Trail parking lot, Hwy 64 and Milltail Road, app. 5.5 miles west of Roanoke Island. From the meeting location we will caravan around the refuge. Carpooling may be an option. Leader/Field Expert: Jeff Lemons. Sun 10-22-23 7:30-10:30 am. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge North Pond Birding** This walk, suitable for all levels of birding, will include the south and north dikes and will be paced to give participants an opportunity to study species found. Likely birds include dabbling ducks, herons, egrets; Brown Pelicans, White Ibis, raptors, shorebirds, gulls; terns, warblers, sparrows and blackbirds. App. 1.5-mile walking distance. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of the Oregon Inlet Bridge on the west side of Hwy 12. Leaders/Field Experts: Audrey Whitlock. Sun 10-22-23, 7:30-11:00 am. \$25.00

**WOW Encore (December 8 - 10)**

**Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Birding WOW Encore** ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December. Explore Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in areas open year-'round and others normally closed to the public. Look for waterfowl and shorebirds in the impoundments. Raptors, including Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons may be seen over farm fields and songbirds in roadside vegetation. Rare species such as, Golden Eagle, Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher have been found during previous festivals. Black Bear often seen. Red Wolf, Bobcat and River Otter are possibilities. Binoculars strongly recommended. Meet: Creef Cut Wildlife Trail parking lot, Milltail Road & Hwy 64, app. 5.5 miles west of Roanoke Island bridge (Virginia Dare Bridge). Leader/Field Expert: Carson Wood. Fri 12-8-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$25.00. GPS 35.863989-75.861076.

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge North Pond Birding WOW Encore.** ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December. This walk, suitable for all levels of birding, will include the south and north dikes and will be paced to give participants an opportunity to study species found. Likely birds include dabbling ducks, herons, egrets; Brown pelicans, White ibis, shorebirds, gulls; terns, warblers, sparrows and blackbirds. App. 1.5-mile walking distance. Meet at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app 4 miles south of the Oregon Inlet (Bonner) Bridge on the west side of NC Hwy 12. Leader/Field Expert: Peggy Eubank Fri 12-8-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$25.00

**Mattamuskeet & Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuges Birding (Distant Trip) WOW Encore** ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December. Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge is widely recognized as one of the best birding sites in North Carolina. During the fall and winter hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, including a wide variety of ducks, geese and swans migrate to Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in North Carolina. Besides waterfowl you may also see Bald Eagles, warblers, waders, otters and muskrats. Binoculars and bird identification book are recommended. ALERT: App. 59 miles from Roanoke Island to this location. For distant trips, consider travel times when planning your WOW schedule. Meet: Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 85 Mattamuskeet Road, Swan Quarter, NC 27885. Leader/Field Expert: Marc Ribaud. Fri 12-8-23, 8:00 am-noon. \$25.00

**Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge Birding (Distant Trip) WOW Encore** ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December. Come learn about the best spots on the refuge for bird and wildlife watching. Expect a wide assortment of waterbirds in the lake and refuge impoundments. The group will see plenty of Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers to name a few. There is also the possibility of finding a Eurasian Wigeon. Herons and egrets will be abundant. This is a good place to spot a 'Great White' Heron, the rare form of the Great Blue. The group should also see a variety of land birds in the adjacent bottomland forest. Wrens, sparrows and perhaps an unusual flycatcher such as an Ash-throated could turn up. Driving with short walks at some stops. Meet: Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 85 Mattamuskeet Road, Swan Quarter, NC 27885. ALERT: App. 59 miles from Roanoke Island to this location. For distant trips, consider travel times when planning your WOW schedule. Leader/Field Expert: Marc Ribaud. Fri 12-8-23, 1:00-4:00 pm. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge South Pond & Beach Birding, WOW Encore** **ALERT:When registering for this trip please note the date is in December.** The first hour will be spent ocean-watching and searching for and identifying ocean and beach birds. The rest of the trip will be spent birding the impoundments, dikes, and marshes of South Pond. Expect a variety of waterfowl, herons, egrets, wrens and sparrows. American bitterns are possible. If we have good weather, there is also a chance for an assortment of raptors. With any luck we might find some warbler species in addition to all of the Yellow-rumps! Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app 4 miles south of the Oregon Inlet Bridge, on the west side of NC Hwy 12. Leaders/Field Experts: Jonathan Cooley & Karen Lebing Fri 12-8-23, 1:00-4:00 pm. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge South Pond & Beach Birding, WOW Encore** **ALERT:When registering for this trip please note the date is in December.** The first hour will be spent ocean-watching and searching for and identifying ocean and beach birds. The rest of the trip will be spent birding the impoundments, dikes, and marshes of South Pond. Expect a variety of waterfowl, herons, egrets, wrens and sparrows. American Bitterns are possible. If we have good weather, there is also a chance for an assortment of raptors. With any luck we might find some warbler species in addition to all of the Yellow-rumps! Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app 4 miles south of the Oregon Inlet Bridge, on the west side of NC Hwy 12. Leader/Field Expert: Susan Campbell & Sarah Toner. Sat 12-9-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$25.00

**Oregon Inlet Old Coast Guard Station Birding WOW Encore** **ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December.** Where the ocean meets the sound you will find an interesting selection of birds. Around the historic Oregon Inlet old Coast Guard Station look for land birds and whatever else may fly through the often volatile Oregon Inlet corridor. Walk sand flats to find terns, shorebirds, and Piping Plover (might see). Explore the rock jetty for Purple Sandpiper and view the inlet and ocean for waterbirds. App. 1 mile walk. Meet: Oregon Inlet Bridge south parking lot. From the north, this is immediately on the east after crossing south on NC Hwy 12. Leader/Field Expert: Karen Lebing & Jonathan Cooley. Sat 12-9-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$25.00

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge & Oregon Inlet Birding WOW Encore** **ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December.** This trip will start at Pea Island and then move northward Oregon Inlet. The group will start with surveying the impoundments at Pea Island. Then they will drive up to the north end of the island to Oregon Inlet and the bridge. Time will be spent checking the inlet out to the rock groin, looking for species that may include Great Cormorant, Common Eider, Purple Sandpiper, Piping plover (might see), "Ipswich" Sparrow and more. The group will also spend time ocean watching at multiple locations along the way. Northern Gannet, Red-throated Loon and an assortment of gull species, as well as scoters should be visible from the beach. Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of the Oregon Inlet Bridge on west side of NC Hwy 12. Leader/Field Expert: Steve Shultz. Sat 12-9-23, 8:00 am-3:00 pm. \$25.00

**Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Birding WOW Encore** **ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December.** Pocosin Lakes is famous for huge flocks of wintering Snow Geese. Mixed in may be Ross's, Greater White-fronted or Cackling Geese. Red-winged Blackbirds can number in the thousands, a spectacle in itself. Yellow-headed Blackbird might be found. Also raptors abound with the possibility of a Golden Eagle overhead. Farm field and edge species may include a variety of sparrows as well as American Pipits and Horned Larks. Meet: Pettigrew State Park Office 2252 Lake Shore Road Creswell, NC 27928. From this meeting location we will either carpool or caravan following the leader to various birding hotspots around the refuge. Leader/Field Expert: Ed Corey, Jeff Beane & Stephanie Horton. Sat 12-9-23, 10:30 am-6:00 pm. \$25.00

**Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Birding WOW Encore** **ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December.** Explore Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in areas open year-'round and others normally closed to the public. Look for waterfowl and shorebirds in the impoundments. Raptors, including Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons may be seen over farm fields and songbirds in roadside vegetation. Rare species such as, Golden Eagle, Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher have been found during previous festivals. Black Bear often seen. Red Wolf, Bobcat and River Otter are possibilities. Meet: Creef Cut Wildlife Trail parking lot, Milltail Road & Hwy 64, app. 5.5 miles west of Roanoke Island bridge (Virginia Dare Bridge). Leader/Field Expert: Carson Wood, Sat. 12-9-23, 1-4 pm. \$25.00. GPS 35.863989-75.861076.

**Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge Birding WOW Encore** **ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December.** Explore Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in areas open year-'round and others normally closed to the public. Look for waterfowl and shorebirds in the impoundments. Raptors, including Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons may be seen over farm fields and songbirds in roadside vegetation. Rare species such as, Golden Eagle, Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher have been found during previous festivals. Black Bear often seen. Red Wolf, Bobcat and River Otter are possibilities. Meet: Creef Cut Wildlife Trail parking lot, Milltail Road & Hwy 64, app. 5.5 miles west of Roanoke Island bridge (Virginia Dare Bridge). Leader/Field Expert: Carson Wood, Sun 12-10-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$25.00. GPS 35.863989-75.861076.

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge North Pond Birding WOW Encore** **ALERT: When registering for this trip please note the date is in December.** This walk, suitable for all levels of birding, will include the south and north dikes and will be paced to give participants an opportunity to study species found. Likely birds include dabbling ducks, herons, egrets; Brown pelicans, White ibis, shorebirds, gulls; terns, warblers, sparrows and blackbirds. App. 1.5 mile walking distance Meet: Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center parking lot, 14500 NC Hwy 12, app. 4 miles south of the Oregon Inlet Bridge on the west side of NC Hwy 12. Leaders/Field Experts: Jonathan Cooley & Karen Lebing. Sun 12-10-23, 8:00-11:30 am. \$25.00

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>NEW</b>	<b>FF</b>
Birding	Tue	17	5:30 am-8:30 pm	No	No
Birding	Tue	17	7:30-11:00 am	No	No
Birding	Tue	17	7:30 -11:00 am	No	No
Natural History	Tue	17	9:00-11:00 am	No	No

Paddling	Tue	17	6:00-8:00 pm	No	No
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Photography	Wed	18	7:00-9:00 am	Yes	No
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Birding	Wed	18	7:30-11:00 am	No	No
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Birding	Wed	18	8:00-11:00 am	No	No
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Birding/Nature	Wed	18	8:30- 11:00 am	Yes	No
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Birding Wed 18 9:00-11:00 am No No

Birding Wed 18 9:00 am - 1:00 pm No No

Natural History Wed 18 1:00-3:00 pm No No

Birding Wed 18 1:00-4:00 pm No No

Birding Wed 18 1:00-4:30 pm No No

Birding Wed 18 2:00-6:00 pm No No

Paddling Wed 18 5:00-7:00 pm No No

Birding Wed 18 5:30-8:30 pm No No

Birding Thu 19 6:00-11:00 am No No

Paddling Thu 19 6:00-8:00 am No No

Birding Thu 19 7:30-10:30 am No No

Birding Thu 19 7:30-11:00 am No No

Birding Thu 19 7:30-11:00 am No No

Birding Thu 19 7:30 am-3:00 pm No No

Birding Thu 19 8:00-11:30 am No No

Natural History Thu 19 9:00 am-11 am No Yes

Birding	Thu	19 9:00 am- Noon	No	Yes
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Natural History	Thu	19 1:00-3:00 pm	No	No
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Birding	Thu	19 1:00-4:30 pm	No	No
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Paddling	Thu	19 3:00-5:00 pm	Yes	No
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Birding	Fri	20 6:00-11:00 am	No	No
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Photography	Fri	20 7:00-9:00 am	Yes	No
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Birding	Fri	20 7:30-11:00 am	No	No
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Birding	Fri	20 7:30-11:00 am	No	No
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Birding	Fri	20 7:30-11:00 am	No	No
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Birding	Fri	20 8:00-11:00 am	No	No
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Birding      Fri      20 8:00-11:30 am      No      No

Birding      Fri      20 8:00 am-2:00 pm      No      No

Paddling      Fri      20 9:00-11:30 am      No      No

Birding      Fri      20 12:30-2:00 pm      No      No

Birding      Fri      20 1:00-4:30 pm      No    No

Birding      Fri      20 1:00 - 5 pm      No    No

Birding      Fri      20 2:00-4:00 pm      No    Yes

Art            Fri      20 2:15-4:15 pm      No    No

Paddling      Fri      20 4:30-6:30 pm      No      No

Birding      Fri      20 5:30-8:30 pm      No      No

Birding      Sat      21 7:30-11:00 am      No      No

Birding      Sat      21 7:30-11:00 am      No      No

Birding      Sat      21 7:30-11:30 am      No      No

Birding/Paddling Sat 21 8:00-11:00 am No No

Birding Sat 21 8:00-11:30 am No No

Birding Sat 21 8:00 am-1:00 pm No No

Birding Sat 21 9:00 am-noon No No

Birding Sat 21 1:00-4:00 pm No No

Birding Sat 21 1:00-4:30 pm No No

Birding Sat 21 1:00-4:30 pm No No

Birding Sat 21 1:00-5:00 pm

Art Sat 21 2:00-4:00 pm No No

Birding Sat 21 2:00-4:00 pm No Yes

Social Sat 21 6:00-8:00 pm Yes No

Birding Sun 22 7:30-10:30 am No No

Birding Sun 22 7:30-11:00 am No No

Birding Fri 8 8:00-11:30 am No No

Birding Fri 8 8:00-11:30 am No No

Birding Fri 8 8:00 am-noon No No

Birding Fri 8 1:00-4:00 pm No No

Birding	Fri	8 1:00-4:00 pm	No	No
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Birding	Sat	9 8:00-11:30 am	No	No
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Birding	Sat	9 8:00-11:30 am	No	No
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Birding	Sat	9 8:00 am-3:00 pm	No	No
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Birding Sat 9 10:00 am- 6:00 pm No No

Birding Sat 9 1:00-4:00 pm No No

Birding Sun 10 8:00-11:30 am No No

Birding Sun 10 8:00-11:30 am No No