

DVOC Delmarva Birding & Gourmet Hotspots Weekend: 11 - 13 May 2007 (revised)

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Please let me know if you intend to join the trip.

Delaware State Park fees will be in effect. If you plan to visit DE state parks regularly between May 1 and October 31, it's worth getting a seasonal sticker. See <http://www.destateparks.com/know/index.asp>. Note the discounts for 62 year olds and seniors.

Duck stamp/Golden Eagle/Golden Age passes required for NWRs.

Car pool if at all possible.

The trip is geared for both campers and motellers.

Bring boots and raingear, binocs and scope, maps, cellphone, inter-car radio, insect repellent, sunscreen and a full tank of gas. A reserve stash of munchies and drinks is advisable.

Itinerary (Gourmet eating suggestions optional! Birding mandatory).

Friday 11 May

Gourmet Breakfast: Helen's Sausage House 2m N of Smyrna on Rt 13. Eat in or pick up and go whenever but allow 15 min. to get to Bombay Hook.

Morning: Meet 7.30 am Bombay Hook NWR HQ. Bird all morning here. Warblers in the woods, waders in the water

Gourmet Lunch: Sambo's (crabs etc) in Leipsic.

Afternoon: Little Creek WMA; Port Mahon Road, HQ area, Pickering Beach Road. Ted Harvey Conservation area. Drive to Trap Pond (campers), motels ... or straight to dinner.

Gourmet Dinner: Tapatia (Mexican) restaurant on east side of Rt 13 just n of Seaford

Night: Motellers have many options in Seaford (cheapest amongst the chains seems to be Best Western; Holiday Inn, Comfort Inn, Hampton Inn etc available) on or near US 13; closer for the next day would be the Relax Inn in Laurel, a few miles to the south on US 13. Campers will go to Trap Pond State Park, 5 miles east of Laurel on Rt 24. There are options to tents - cabins (sleep 4) and yurts are available. For details and prices see <http://www.destateparks.com/Activities/camping/camprates.asp> and scroll

down to Campsites at Trap Pond State Park. We have tried the cabins when it was a wet night and it worked well (other than the walk to the bathroom!).

Saturday 12 May

Gourmet Breakfast: We're going to try Britts Dutch Inn in Laurel at 6am. From Rt 13 go into Laurel on Rt 24 and go left at second lights. The restaurant is on your right in a few hundred yards.

Morning: Meet at Philips Landing boat launch in Nanticoke WMA at 7.15am. Directions: From US 13 at Laurel go west on Rt 24 through the town, over the railroad, and hang a right at the gas station (called First Stop) on to Rt 492. Follow small brown signs to Philips Landing boat launch, about 6m. from Laurel. We'll bird Cherry Walk to the Nanticoke River - allow at least 3 hours. After, we'll cross the river by the free ferry at Woodland and bird Chapel Branch Nature Area near Seaford.

Gourmet Lunch: The Pit at Laurel (BBQ) - opposite the Relax Inn.

Afternoon: Trussom Pond, Trap Pond State Park, other spots.

Gourmet dinner: The Old Mill at Delmar (Maryland crabs). There will be a long wait. We may decide elsewhere, but this IS the spot!

Night: We may do some night birding, weather and info permitting. Accomodation as Friday night.

Sunday 13 May

Gourmet Breakfast: If Britts was OK we'll do it again at 6am. If not, we'll do Hardees/Dunkin Donuts on Rt 13 in Laurel.

Morning: Meet at the bridge at about 7.30am over the Pocomoke in the Cypress Swamp. We'll be there for at least an hour, so exact timing not essential. Directions (important): go east on Rt 24 from Laurel or Trap Pond SP to the T-junction at Rt 26/30. Turn right (s) and proceed to Gumboro. Take Rt 54 from Gumboro, but hang a right onto Rt 413 almost immediately (50 yards). Proceed to T-junction and turn right onto Rt 419. Proceed to a second T (Bethel church on r) and turn left onto Bethel Road (you're now in MD and roads are named rather than numbered). In one mile turn left onto Sheppard's Crossing Rd. The meeting bridge is one mile down this road. In this area most of the morning. Leave the Swamp east to Selbyville for a search for the Eurasian Collared-Dove.

Gourmet Lunch: Em-Ing's BBQ just south of Selbyville.

Afternoon: Choices are Assawoman WMA, coastal resorts from Indian River Inlet north, Redden State Forest (no recent reports of R-h Woodpecker from there).