

DVOC Delmarva Birding & Gourmet Hotspots Weekend: 9 - 11 May 2008

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Please let me know if you intend to join the trip. PLEASE NOTE: I will be out of the country from April 12 until May 4 and basically uncontactable. I will retrieve e-mails and phone mails only on my return. Even then, I might not respond. Depends on the question.

Delaware State Park fees: <http://www.destateparks.com/know/index.asp>. Note the discounts for 62 year olds and seniors. Take advantage. Duck stamp/Golden Eagle/Golden Age passes required for NWRs (Bombay Hook/Prime Hook).

Car pool if at all possible. The trip is geared for both campers and motellers. Campers will be at Trap Pond State Park, DE. We usually manage a fire, storytelling and a few 'wee refreshments' on the Saturday night, given reasonable weather. Motellers are welcome to join us!

Bring boots and raingear, binocs and scope, maps, cell phone and inter-car radio if you have them, 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 9 May

Gourmet Breakfast: Helen's Sausage House 2m N of Smyrna on east side of Rt 13. 302-653-4200. Allow 15 min. to get to Bombay Hook HQ from Helen's.

Morning: Meet 7.30 am Bombay Hook NWR HQ. 302-653-9345. Bird all morning here. Warblers in the woods, waders in the water ... we need 100+ species before we're allowed to go to lunch.

Gourmet Lunch: Sambo's (crabs etc) in Leipsic. 302-674-9724.

Afternoon: Little Creek WMA; Ted Harvey Conservation area. Then drive to Trap Pond (campers), and Seaford/Laurel motels ... or straight to dinner.

Gourmet Dinner: Plaza Tapatia (Mexican) restaurant on east side of Rt 13 just n of Seaford. 302-628-9701.

Night: Motellers have many options in Seaford on or near US 13; closer for the next day would but be the Relax Inn in Laurel (302-875-1554), a few miles to the south on US 13. Campers will go to Trap Pond State Park (campground 302-875-2392), 5 miles east of Laurel on Rt 24. There are options to tents - cabins (sleep 4) and yurts are

available. 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 10 May

Gourmet Breakfast: Britts Dutch Inn on S. Central Ave in Laurel at 6am. 302-875-7158. Don't panic if you are 15 minutes late. 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. We'll go for Vesper Sparrow then cross by the free ferry at Woodland and bird Chapel Branch Nature Area near Seaford.

Gourmet Lunch: The Pit, Laurel (BBQ) 302-875-2226 opposite the Relax Inn on Rt 13.

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

Gourmet dinner: The Old Mill at Delmar (Maryland crabs). 302-846-2808. There will be a long wait at this very popular spot. We have alternatives. Spot decision.

Night: Accomodation as Friday night. We may do some night birding, weather and info permitting. Campfire and singsong (optional).

Sunday 11 May

Gourmet Breakfast: Britts again at 6am.

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. 410-352-5711.

Afternoon: Choices are Assawoman WMA, coastal resorts from Indian River Inlet north, Redden State Forest and other places of local interest. Then home.