

This itinerary is tentative. Accommodations at Astronaut are firm, but stops during the day may vary at instructor's discretion.



JS

Here's the scoop on the 2014 weekend trip to New Jersey.....

Departure: load the vans at 7:45 AM; depart at 8 AM *SHARP* from in front of Capwell Hall. Please do not make us wait!

Itinerary:

Friday

- Visit The Raptor Trust (Millington, NJ), a rehabilitation center for birds of prey. They have many species of owls (Snowy, Long-eared, Screech), Bald and Golden Eagles, and many species of hawks we will be able to observe. Probably some good photo opportunities.
- Visit the nearby Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (Basking Ridge, NJ)-target species-Spotted Turtle and marsh birds
- Visit Sandy Hook (Gateway National Recreation Area), the northernmost coastal area in NJ; visit the official Spring Hawkwatch-target species: **Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Broad-winged Hawks, Merlin, Osprey, Brant**; walk the beach looking for seabirds, shorebirds, **Least Tern***, **Piping Plover***
- Visit the John L. Forsythe (Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge near Atlantic City. Target species: shorebirds, waterfowl, **Snow Geese**, Clapper Rail.
- Overnight at the **Astronaut Beach Hotel**
On the Beach at Stockton Road
Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260
(609) 522-6981

Saturday

- 6:00 AM-arise
- 6:30 AM-breakfast
- 7:00 AM-be in the field
- Visit Cape May Meadows, the Beanery, Cape May Point, and Higbee Beach. Target species: anything with wings in this world famous migrant trap.
- Visit salt marshes or the Stone Harbor Rookery. Target species: **Glossy Ibis, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Black- and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Little Blue Heron**, etc.
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Sunday

- 6:00 AM-arise; 6:30 AM-breakfast

- 7:00 AM-be in the field; where we go today is contingent on NJ Audubon Hotline information. We will go follow the birds!
- 12:00 noon-depart for home.
- 5:30-6:00 PM-arrive at KC.

Other Information:

- Meals (8 of them) are at your own expense. If you will have trouble with finances, please talk to me ahead of time to see if we can work something out. You may be able to bring a picnic cooler, so if you want to buy sandwich materials ahead of time to cut expenses, feel free.
- Be prepared for the weather; we will be at the shore most of the time; keep an eye on the weather forecast for coastal NJ. Being unprepared for the weather is the **WORST** mistake you can make on this trip! If you don't have waterproof footwear, bring a second pair of shoes and extra socks.
- Bring binoculars, field guide, checklist, writing utensil, money, camera, toiletries, books to study from (we'll be on the road quite a bit), music, sun hats, tick repellent (NJ is the tick capitol of the world and Lyme Disease is present).

A note about luggage:

You are restricted to **ONE** bag (preferably soft-sided) and your backpack. **This is not a fashion show!** Expect to wear the same jeans for several days in a row.

Dr. Skinner

**Endangered species*