

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS



BIRDING HOT SPOTS

- Bashakill Marsh--off Rte. 17 at Wurtsboro. A wonderful large wetland, with ducks, herons, rails, almost all perching birds, Osprey, Bald Eagle at times. For variety, probably the best spot in southeastern New York.
- Mohonk Preserve--west of New Paltz. Good during migration, with many warblers; also a good fall hawk lookout. The Preserve is on a mountain ridge which extends into the Poconos and beyond which is a natural migration route in fall. Other good spots on the same ridge include the Delaware Water Gap, and Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania.
- Derby Hill--on Lake Ontario north of Syracuse. An excellent spring hawk watch, often with thousands of hawks daily.
- Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge--west of Syracuse. Ducks, geese, herons, shorebirds.
- Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge--Queens, New York City. An odd birding location, surrounded by urban development, but very productive. Jamaica Bay is noted for rarities during migration.
- Franklin Mountain--Oneonta, NY, in the northern Catskills. Another good fall hawk watch, especially for Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles late in the season.
- Forsythe (formerly Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge--near Atlantic City on the New Jersey coast. Almost every eastern species of waterfowl, shorebird, and wading bird can be seen here in fall, along with a wide variety of hawks and perching birds. Very accessible by roads through the refuge. A good place to visit in conjunction with:
- Cape May, New Jersey--the premier birding location on the East Coast. An outstanding fall migration spot for hawks, since the birds congregate at the tip of NJ and stay until conditions are right for crossing Delaware Bay. The birds fly low, are easy to observe, and the numbers are incredible. The same phenomenon occurs with other birds, and on a good day over 100 species can be seen. Also, Cape May has a series of birding programs and is generally a bird oriented area.