

## Fall Warbler Weekend, Asheville NC September 18-21, 2025

### Itinerary

#### Thursday, September 18

Dinner and meeting at the hotel. If we arrive early we can go to one of the local parks for a leisurely bird walk. At dinner we will go over the plans for our warbler-filled weekend here in the Mountains. *Night in Asheville.*

#### Friday, September 19

This morning we will head up early into the Blue Ridge. Our destination is one of the finest migration spots in the entire WNC region. This is Ridge Junction, adjacent to Mt Mitchell State Park. On a good morning thousands of birds can pour through the gap, including hundreds of Cape May and Tennessee Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole and all of the migrant thrushes and warblers. As the songbird activity slows down late morning, we will head south to another gap to see how the hawk migration is going on. For dinner we head back down the mountain to Asheville and visit one of the area's great brew-pubs.

*Night in Asheville.*

#### Saturday, September 20

Today we stay lower in elevation and visit another major migration hotspot – Jackson Park. During fall migration it's possible to see over 20 species of warblers in the park in a single day! This maze of swamp forest, pine woods, marsh and wet thickets can be incredible with possible highlights at this time of the year being Kentucky, Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers, Blue-winged & Golden-winged Warblers. But the variety doesn't stop there and can include dozens of Magnolia, Chestnut-sided Warblers and American Redstart. Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos are also possible and who knows how many warblers we will see on the famous "Warbler Trail". After another unique local dinner, we will drive back to Asheville for the night.

*Night in Asheville.*

#### Sunday, September 21

Our final morning will be spent looking for anything we may have so far missed. This will also be a back-up day in the event that weather alters our plan on the first two mornings. We may find ourselves birding from the boardwalk at Blue Ridge Audubon's Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary in Asheville, or we may visit Lake Julian Park in South Asheville to look for eagles and other waterbirds. After a pleasant morning, we return to the hotel where the tour ends.

*This Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and the birds!*