

Itinerary

Friday September 23rd

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***

Saturday September 24th

This morning we will head up early into the Blue Ridge. Our destination is one of the finest migration spots in our Mountains. 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. After the migration slows down we will head south to another gap to see how the hawk migration is going on. Once all the birding slows down we will head back to Asheville where we will hit up a local brewery for dinner and a beer at one of Asheville's great brew-pubs. ***Night in Asheville***

Sunday September 25th

Today we will stay lower in elevation and hit another local birding hotspot. During fall migration it's possible to see over 20 species of warblers in Jackson Park. This maze of swamp forest, pine woods, marsh and wet thickets can be incredible on a good day with highlights at this time of the year being Kentucky, Worm-eating and Cerulean 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 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***

Monday September 26th

This morning we will spend the remainder of our stay in Asheville at the local Blue Ridge Audubon Society's Beaver Lake Bird Sanctuary where we will look for Yellow, Yellow-throated and Pine Warblers, all of which breed in the area and may still be around in the sanctuary. Departure after a delicious picnic lunch which, weather permitting, will be at Beaver Lake.

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