

Georgia Coastal Birding: Little St. Simons Island & Savannah Species List | Sept. 27 – Oct. 4, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Guide: Dan Donaldson with participants Marsha, Marie, Kathryn and Alan & Beverly.

Georgia's coastal region is rich in both natural and cultural history. This tour included both with extensive birding along Georgia's Colonial Coast Birding Trail, St. Simons, Jekyll islands, along with visits to the culture-rich cities of Savannah and Darien.

The tour started with a quick visit to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge-Solomon Tract, where we got our first foray into southern coastal swamp forest habitats. We stopped at several boat ramps along the many coastal river accesses in search of shorebirds and waterfowl.

Hurricane Helene, while making landfall hundreds of miles southwest of coastal Georgia, did impact this trip with high winds the evening before the trip, causing significant tree damage and power outages. While we never experienced power outages directly, some of our planned destinations did, resulting in the area's National Wildlife Refuges being closed, and Little Saint Simon unable to accommodate us as planned. We adapted well and quickly rearranged the trip for maximum birding. We spent much more time on beautiful Jekyll and Saint Simons islands, visited bird banding stations, and explored smaller coastal areas that would not have been visited otherwise.

We still enjoyed Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, Painted Buntings (in hand), hundreds of White Ibis, and had an amazing experience with Clapper Rails along the roads surrounding Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge. We explored the town of Darien, including a wonderful sunset birding boat tour along the Altamaha River and its tidal marshes.

BIRDS: (82) Species were recorded.

The ebird link below details the 82 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to ebird, be sure to click "show all details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Georgia Coastal Birding | September 27- October 4, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS: (2)

Nine-Banded Armadillo *Dasypus novemcinctus*

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: (4)

American Alligator *Alligator mississippiensis* -

Brown Anole *Anolis sagrei*

Green Frog *Lithobates clamitans*

Common Box Turtle *Terrapene carolina*

INSECTS: (7)

Laurel Swallowtail *Papilio palamedes*

Long-tailed Skipper *Urbanus proteus*

Tropical Checkered Skipper *Pyrgus oileus*

Cloudless Sulphur *Phoebis sennae*

Gulf Fritillary *Agraulis vanillae*

Zebra Longwing *Heliconius charithonia*

White Peacock *Anartia jatrophae*