

Cape May: Fall Migration Species List | October 7 - 13, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**With clients Anne, Mike, Tom, Sue, Tim, Penny, Jeanetta, Drina, Vince, Judy,
and Guides Rick Weiman & Dan Donaldson**

This species report is a summary of our Naturalist Journeys fall tour to Cape May with 10 guests from all over the US and my co-guide Dan Donaldson.

We had mostly sunny skies all week and pleasant temperatures until a nor'easter came to visit us on October 12-13. We persevered though and made it all work. We had several days of east winds but a northwest wind the morning of October 9 was a good time for us to visit the Morning Flight at Higbee Beach WMA, as dozens of Northern Flickers and hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Cedar Waxwings streamed by us. Our private Osprey back bay boat tour and Revolution Rail train track ride were voted 2 of the favorite activities of the tour, as well as our visit to The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) South Cape May Meadows for a bird banding demo by the Cape May Bird Observatory and a walk with TNC Preserve Steward Damon Noe. We also enjoyed a morning at the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR with over 50 bird species tallied, including nice views of 2 American Avocets. The Avalon Sea Watch also did not disappoint as we witnessed hundreds of mostly Black Scoters stream by with Surf Scoters mixed in as well. A western rarity Say's Phoebe also made an appearance and lingered at the Cape May Point State Park for several days giving us nice views.

The eBird trip report link below details the 111 species of birds our group either observed or heard during the main tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the list as this will expand the report to show you where and when all of the birds were seen and how many.

[Cape May Fall Migration Oct 7 - 13, 2025 - eBird Trip Report](#)

The following is a list of additional mammal and reptile species we were also lucky enough to observe.

MAMMALS: (6)

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*—Spotted at most forested locations and crossing roads

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*—Several were spotted on the tour including several hanging out in our hotel garden.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*—Three were seen along the Garden State Parkway on our drive to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*—One was briefly seen by the lead van in the grass at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

Eastern Chipmunk *Tamias striatus*—Spotted crossing a road as we entered the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

Striped Skunk *Mephitis mephitis*—Seen (and smelled) by a few of us at night around our hotel parking lot.

It was a bit chilly for herps this week but we did see one.

REPTILES: (1)

Diamondback Terrapin *Malaclemys terrapin* — This beautiful turtle resides in brackish coastal tidal marshes of the east coast of the United States. We spotted one or two ducking under the water on our Osprey back bay boat trip. We also observed several nests protected with chicken wire cages during our walk at the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor.