Cape May: Fall Migration
Species List | October 13-19, 2026
with Naturalist Journeys

Compiled by guide James Petersen and Rick Weiman. Our clients included Yvonne, Rebecca, Michael, Lora, Kay, Marc, Susan and Mark.

This was a fantastic tour showcasing the beauty Cape May and its magical migration season. The majority of the tour was sunny and warm, allowing for perfect days for the Revolution Rail tour; where we learned a little about the history of Cape May, the morning flight area; where we witnessed hundreds of birds stream overhead and birding the South Cape May Meadows where we learned about the nature conservancy efforts to eradicate nonnative plants and help protect nesting shorebirds. The afternoons were spent between visiting the Hawkwatch platform and birding different areas of Cape May; including a beach walk at Stone Harbor where we saw Red Knots, Sanderlings and multiple dolphins.

The last couple days a cold front blew through, which caused birds to migrate. At break we drove the wildlife drive seeing hundreds of Cormorants, American Black Ducks and many species of sandpipers. We also witnessed a cool Harrier- Red Fox interaction. Our last day was the trolley tour, where we had Michael and Louise who leading it. Here we saw hundreds of Blue Jays flying to the point and back while songbirds streamed overhead and sea ducks flew by in waves. This led to a fantastic week in Cape May having seen 129 species of birds, 6 species of mammals, 4 species of reptiles and amphibians, 3 species of butterflies, 2 species of insects and Atlantic Ghost Crabs.

BIRDS 129 species were recorded of which 1 were heard only, 2 were endemic and 3 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 129 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.

Cape May: Fall Migration| October 13-19, 2026 | eBird Trip Report

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

MAMMALS: — (6)
Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus* — This species was only observed on the first morning, while in front of the Sea Crest Inn.
Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* — This species was observed sporadically throughout the trip, mostly in wooded habitats.
White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* — We only observed this species once, as we were driving between stops.

Naturalist Journeys, LLC PO Box 16545 Portal, AZ 85632 PH: 866.900.1146
naturalistjourneys.com | travel@naturalistjourneys.com

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* — An encounter with this species as we were birding Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. It had a cool interaction as a Harrier flew near it.
Coyote *Canus latrans* — We only observed this species once, while on the trolly tour on the first day.
Tamanends Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops erebennus* — We observed this species two days of the tour. Our first was seen from the Skimmer where we had them swimming around the inlet. The 2nd time was from the Stone Harbor beach walk where we had multiple dolphins swimming near the beach. One was slapping its tail on the water multiple times.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (6)
Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta* — We only observed this species twice, both on the ponds while at Cape May Point State Park.
Common Snapping Turtle *Chelydra serpentina* — We only observed this species on our last full day, as we were birding the ponds at Cape May Point State Park.
Green Tree Frog *Dryophytes cinereus* — A common sound heard multiple days throughout the trip. We got to see these small bright green tree frogs a few times, with our best looks coming on the first day where one was resting on some marsh grass while at Cape May Point State Park.
American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus* — We only heard this frog on our last day while birding the Beanery.
Common Water snake *Nerodia sipedon* — This species was observed while heading back on the revolution rail, while it was swimming in the water.
DeKay's Brown snake *Storeria dekayi* — We observed this species on the last day while making one last stop at Jake's Landing.

Butterflies: — (3)
Monarch *Danaus Plexippus* — This was the most common butterfly, seen most days migrating overhead.
Common Buckeye *Junonia coenia* — We only saw this species once, while coming back from checking out the bunkers while at Cape May Point State Park.
White Cabbage *Pieris rapae* — We saw this species once on our second day.

Insects: — (2)
Carolina Praying Mantis *Stagmomantis Carolina* — We observed this small brown praying mantis while birding the ponds at Cape May Point State Park on the first day. This species is the one native to the United States
Chinese Mantis *Tenodera sinensis* — We also observed this large green mantis as well at the same pond at Cape May Point State Park. This is the introduced species.

Decapoda: — (1)
Atlantic Ghost Crab *Ocypode quadrata* — We observed this species while walking out to the beach at Stone Harbor Point. We also saw small burrows from this species on the beach as well.

Naturalist Journeys, LLC PO Box 16545 Portal, AZ 85632 PH: 866.900.1146
naturalistjourneys.com | travel@naturalistjourneys.com