

BEST BIRDING LOCATIONS IN SOUTHERN OCEAN COUNTY

The farthest locations on the map are within about 30 minutes of Ship Bottom, NJ

- 1. Barnegat Lighthouse State Park:** Best mid-October through March: Purple Sandpiper, Common Eider, Harlequin and Long-tailed ducks; Snowy Owl and Snow Bunting possible. Passerine migration can be good in May around the parking lot and in the maritime forest.
 - 2. High Bar Peninsula:** (the dike) (Barnegat Lighthouse State Park) Herons and shorebirds in the summer; Common and Red-throated loons, grebes, ducks, raptors and Harbor Seals in the winter. In Barnegat Light, West 20th Street to Arnold Boulevard to Sunset Boulevard.
 - 3. LBI Foundation of Arts and Sciences, Loveladies:** On the marsh behind the foundation, there is a very basic boardwalk that is open to anyone. The access to the boardwalk is on Sandy Cove Lane, the street just north of the LBI. There are two decks that overlook the wetland that are perfect for bird watching during all seasons. Anyone who would like is welcomed to go up on the decks to take a look. Feel free to stop in and someone in the office will point you in the right direction. Summer: Osprey and egrets; Winter: Northern Harrier. Visit www.lbifoundation.org.
 - 4. Sunset Park, Harvey Cedars:** Winter: Common Goldeneye, and other ducks
 - 5. Oceanfront Long Beach Island:** Sanderling, Great Black-backed and Herring gulls all year, wintering Surf and Black scoters, and spring and fall peaks of migrating Northern Gannet
 - 6. Bayfront (Anywhere locally):** Gulls year round; Summer: shorebirds and herons; Winter: Horned Grebe and ducks, especially Bufflehead and Red-breasted Merganser
 - 7. Holgate, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge:** Over three and a half miles of natural barrier island habitat, closed to the public from April to August for endangered species, but the refuge offers access through guided nature walks. Possible winter visitors: Snowy Owl and "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow. See the Sandpaper or www.fws.gov/northeast/forsythe.
- NOTE: Locations 8 through 12 have similar habitats and species; 9-12 are all accessible via Rt. 9 S Summer:** Osprey, Seaside and Sharp-tailed sparrows, Clapper Rail and herons; Winter: Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl and ducks; Northern Harrier, all seasons but summer.
- 8. Manahawkin Wildlife Management Area (WMA):** 1,641 acres of fields, forest, and marshes. Explore Stafford Avenue (Bridge to Nowhere) by car. State WMA on the south side and Edwin B. Forsythe NWR to the north. Do not wander from Stafford Ave. during hunting season. From the parking area on Hilliard Blvd. near the intersection with Bay Avenue, trails are available. Going west on Route 72, from LBI, after bridge, take first right for Bay Avenue to Hilliard Boulevard.
 - 9. Cedar Run Dock Road, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge**
 - 10. Dock Road, West Creek, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge**
 - 11. Dock Street, Parkertown, Parker Run area of Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge**
 - 12. Great Bay Boulevard WMA, Tuckerton,** (Seven Bridges Road): 5,512 acres. Shorebirds during migration (high tide) and American Oystercatcher and night-herons during the summer.
 - 13. Bass River State Forest:** 27,635 acres of Pine Barrens habitat and cedar swamps. Songbirds. Garden State Parkway South to exit 52, right on CR 654, 1 mile to Stage Road, follow signs.
 - 14. Stafford Forge WMA:** 11,529 acres of pinelands habitat and ponds. Wood Duck, Tree Swallow, and Purple Martin in the summer; Tundra Swans and ducks in the winter. Route 9 South to right turn onto Forge Road in West Creek. Stay on paved road during hunting season.
 - 15. Cloverdale Farm County Park:** Pinelands and cranberry bog habitat. Bluebirds and Tree swallows. Route 72 West to Lighthouse Drive, just past Garden State Parkway overpass. Follow to end. Make a left at light onto West Bay Avenue (CR 554), follow for one light. Make a left onto Cloverdale Road, an unpaved road. The park is at the end of Cloverdale Road. Parking available at the second house. Alternate route via Route 9 North to West Bay Avenue in Barnegat.
 - 16. Wells Mills County Park:** Over 900 acres of Pinelands habitat. Nature Center, Observation Deck, active bird feeders, canoe rentals. Summer: Wood Ducks. From the Garden State Parkway Northbound: Exit 69 (Waretown); turn left onto Wells Mill Road (CR 532); proceed approx. 2.5 miles to park entrance on the left. Other routes via Route 9 North or Route 72 West.

Visitors to Wildlife Management Areas should be aware of when hunting seasons are in effect; deer hunting with a bow is allowed on Sundays on state WMA's. Oct. to Dec. is the busiest time locally. For more information: state.nj.us/dep/fgw/dlight.htm

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