

Birding the Delaware Coast

Mispillion to Kitts Hummock



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Mispillion River to Kitts Hummock

Milford Neck Wildlife Area/Dog Training Area

Good year-round for a variety of songbirds and marsh birds. Best birding for songbirds is during spring and fall migration. The fields and hedgerows attract sparrows, finches, warblers and other songbirds. A dirt road ends at an unimproved landing on the Mispillion where you may see Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl and hear rails. The pine stand about ½ mile to the south has an active Bald Eagle nest.

Stratham Lane

Good for songbirds during both spring and fall migration anywhere along this road. Yellow-throated (common), Pine (common), Kentucky(rare) and Hooded Warbler (rare), Scarlet Tanager and Flycatchers may all be found during the nesting season. Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will can both be heard after dark.

Scotts Corner Road

Good for songbirds during both spring and fall migration anywhere along this road. Same birds can be found here as on Stratham Lane.

Big Stone Beach Road

Good birding can be found from the first stream crossing all the way to the bay – but the best birding is along the stretch from Scotts Corner Road to the beach. Good for songbirds during spring and fall migration. Yellow-throated and Pine Warblers are found in almost every pine stand. The northernmost nesting Brown-headed Nuthatches are usually fairly easy to find if you know their call. The marsh near the end of the road can be good for Virginia and King Rail. Black-necked Stilts have nested in the marsh at the end of the road. Night birding can be fantastic at the small wooden bridge approx. 2 miles east of Scotts Corner Road.

Big Stone Beach

The beach at the end of the road can be good for migrating shorebirds in mid-May. During the colder months gulls, ducks and other water birds may be seen on Delaware Bay.

Bennetts Pier Road

The fields and forest along the first few miles of the road beyond Thompsonville can be good for songbirds, Horned Larks, American Pipits and sparrows in the proper season. In wet winters flooded fields attract waterfowl including Tundra Swans. The marsh along the last ½ mile of the road can be good for marsh sparrows, rails and other marsh birds.

Bennetts Pier

See Big Stone Beach.

Brockambridge Road

This road between Bennetts Pier and South Bowers Beach Road passes through ag fields, small woodlots and tidal marsh. Listen for King Rail where the road crosses Brockonbridge Gut.

South Bowers Beach

South Bowers Beach Road from Thompsonville to the town has much the same birds as the previous roads. The marsh on the south side of the road at the small wooden bridge is good for Saltmarsh and Seaside Sparrows and Clapper Rail. The beach just beyond this bridge can be good for shorebirds in spring. Least Terns usually try (unsuccessfully) to nest here every spring.

Bowers Beach

Both the Murderkill and St. Jones Rivers empty into Delaware Bay in Bowers Beach. A large flock of Black Skimmers usually loaf on the beach on the north side of the St. Jones – visible from the north end of Bowers Beach. Large flocks of feeding shorebirds are usually present during the month of May. Ducks and other waterbirds may be seen on the Bay in winter.

Ted Harvey Wildlife Area

South Impoundment – The south impoundment at Ted Harvey is best viewed from the dike road beyond the yellow gate at the duck hunter's boat ramp. Ducks, geese and other waterbirds can usually be seen from fall to spring. Shorebirds are usually abundant in Spring and from mid-July to October. The woodlots and hedgerows along the road in can be loaded with songbirds during spring and fall migration. Look for American Pipits, Horned Larks and Eastern Meadowlarks in the field across from the Handicapped Fishing Pond in winter.

Beach – the beach is reached by walking around the yellow gate beyond the parking lot and following the dike road. Look and listen for marsh sparrows, both Marsh (common) and Sedge (rare) Wrens and other marsh birds along the way. The beach can be very good for migrating shorebirds in May.

North Impoundment – a short trail leads from the circle at the end of the road onto a small dredge spoil pile that offers a raised spot to scan the impoundment for ducks, geese, swans and other waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls and terns in the proper season. Look for Bald Eagles year-round and other raptors in season.

Kitts Hummock

There is limited public parking at the end of the road and a public beach access trail at the very end of the road. The beach can be very good for migratory shorebirds in May and other Bay and beach birds in the proper season the rest of the year.