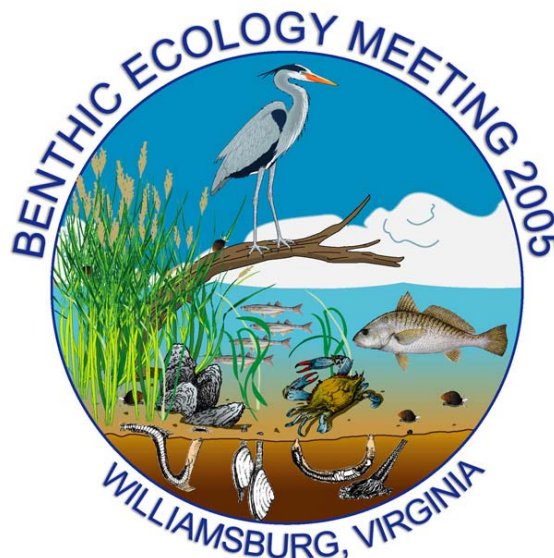


# Birding Excursion

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

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## Draft Itinerary

6:45 AM : Depart Williamsburg from Hospitality House

8:00 AM : Arrive at Jericho Ditch in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

- *Map of Great Dismal Swamp here:*

<http://greatdismalswamp.fws.gov/pdf%20files/greatdismalmap%20b&w.pdf>

8:00 – 10:30 : Explore Jericho Ditch (migrants, especially Swainson's warbler)

10:30 – 12:00 : Explore Washington Ditch (also great for migrants)

12:00 – 1:30 : Grab lunch in Suffolk/Norfolk and drop off participants that have afternoon flights out of Norfolk at Norfolk International Airport (on the way north)

2:00 – 4:30 : Explore the islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (see below) for migrants, shorebirds, and seabirds

*If interest exists:*

- Prior to hitting the CBBT, we could stop by a songbird banding station at First Landing State Park

*AND/OR*

4:30 – 6:00 : Check out places on the lower Eastern Shore (Kiptopeke, Sunset Beach, Oyster) for migrants and especially shorebirds and waterfowl

- Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel : <http://www.cbbt.com/>

The website includes a page about birding, but it is a little optimistic (Black-Tailed Gull!). Nonetheless, this is a serious birder destination. The CBBT recently went through a proposal to close the islands to birding and all other activities because of homeland security. The value of this place to birders became extremely evident by the hundreds of letters of concern that the administration received on the tail of their proposal and the attendance at an open meeting by birders from 3 states – with only a few days notice! Bird activity on the islands may be somewhat low at this time of year, but a late alcid, harlequin duck, or eider would make the day. Great cormorants are regulars. Also, during migration the islands often catch fallout depending on weather, and can put you in close contact with some great warblers, thrushes, etc.