

General Trip Information

This year's birding trip will take us to five states over the course of nine days. The following information is offered to give a general impression of what is to be expected for a mid-Atlantic trip of this scope. If you require any clarification or wish for more detailed information, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Mayer at (630) 209 6019 or email him at mayersbirds@comcast.net. Please keep in mind that we are a group of friends from KCA doing a trip together to see some pretty neat birds and we are not part of a professionally guided, for profit tour.

Expenses:

Expenses are separated into two categories: personal and shared. Personal expenses include air fare, meals, travel insurance (if desired), drinks other than water in the van, cab or limo fares, and personal items and expenses. Shared expenses are all those things which have been included in the cost of the trip seen on the registration form. They include but are not be limited to costs for hotels, any incurred guide fees, rental of a van(s), gas, donations and admission fees to parks and private sanctuaries, ferry costs, leader's air fare, meals and hotel expenses, and a contingency fund for unexpected needs. When we return, any remaining unspent funds minus a donation to Kane County Audubon will be redistributed to the participants.)

Registration:

The deadline for trip registration is December 15, 2017. Once you have decided to go, contact Paul Mayer by email (mayersbirds@comcast.net), or phone (630) 209 6019 as soon as possible. Your name will be put on the participant list on a first come/first served basis.

We will need a minimum of seven and a maximum of nine participants. If fewer than seven persons sign up by December 15, 2017 the trip may be canceled. If fewer than nine but at least seven people sign up, the original shared expense amount will be recalculated which will result in an increase in shared costs. Go/no go decisions can then be made. If the trip is cancelled any deposits (minus nonrefundable deposits paid to providers on the trip) would be fully refunded. If more than nine want to sign up, a waiting list will be maintained and if any dropouts occur that slot will be filled based on their place on the list. Deposits secure your place on the trip.

Deposits/ Payments:

A deposit of \$300, paid by check to Paul Mayer Escrow Agent, must be received within 10 calendar days of declaring your intent to go on the trip. Deposits not received within the 10 day period will drop your name to the bottom of waiting list.

Payment in full must be received no less than 60 days prior to our departure date (March 23, 2018). Final payments not received by March 23, 2018 will result in loss of the deposit as well as your place on the trip.

Cancellations:

Cancellations made before March 23, 2018 will receive a full refund (minus any deposits made to vendors or providers on the trip). Cancellations made after March 23, but more than 31 days before departure will forfeit 50% of the trip price. There is no refund for trips canceled less than 30 days before departure. (Please note that if someone must cancel and we can get a replacement and that the cancellation does not incur extra expenses we will do everything possible to provide a partial or full refund)

Air Travel: We want to arrive in Philadelphia no later than 1:00 PM on Wednesday May 23rd. Most major airlines offer flights that will have you there by that time. Direct flights are best as this minimizes the chances of lost luggage. However, just in case, be sure to pack essentials and medications in a carry-on. Keep in mind that if you decide to fly different airlines out and back, you may be flying from and returning to different airports in the Chicago area.

Pelagic Trip: We will spend one day doing a pelagic with *Seabirding* aboard the Stormy Petrel II out of Hatteras NC. To learn more about the pelagic go to www.Patteson.com and read over the home page where you can see results from the 2017 trips in the month of May. Pretty impressive! From there click on Sign Up. A payment box will pop up. Click on it and you will see two links; Terms and Conditions which you should read and Trip Registration. Click on Registration and a form will appear. Print that form. If you are going on the trip, fill in the top part of the form and simply sign it in one of the three spaces provided. Put in no other names and **do not pay anything**. This is all taken care of in your payment for the entire trip. Mail the *Seabirding* registration form to:
41w418 Forest Lane
Elburn, IL 60119

Paul Mayer

Since sea sickness is always a potential you may wish to take Dramamine with you or look into a patch. The patch and other prophylactics for motion discomfort may require a doctor's prescription.

There may be some who do not wish to go on the pelagic. You will need to indicate that on your KCA registration form. If so, you do not have to fill out the *Seabirding* Registration form and your name will be not be placed on the boat roster. Keep in mind that you may or may not be able to get on should you change your mind. To accommodate that possibility we'll assume everyone to be on the pelagic until the final payment to the boat operator is made sometime in March. If you do not go, a refund for the pelagic portion of the trip will be made sometime after the conclusion of the entire trip.

Climate, Environment and Terrain: The Mid-Atlantic States in May are quite similar to Illinois but the humidity levels may tend to be higher. Temperatures historically range between the 70s in the evenings and 80s during the day with humidity running between the 60s and 80s. Rain is not uncommon running around 3-3.5 inches during May. That's not a huge amount but you should always be prepared. You may wish to check the 10 day weather forecast when packing. It's also cooler and windier out on the water. It might be worth considering bringing a

light knapsack along to enable you to carry raingear as well as water or a snack as the day goes on. As far as walking is concerned, terrain will be mostly flat so comfortable walking shoes should suffice. I usually prefer walking boots in case we need to cross small creeks or streams and in this case, sand.

Health and Well Being: Walking at almost sea level should present few problems from a health perspective. But still, be sure to let us know if you suffer from or are prone to pulmonary or cardiac problems. Also be sure to carry with you a list of medications you may be taking or would require in an emergency and have it readily available. (See the **Medical and Emergency Information** section on the Registration Form) The major concerns are sun exposure and dehydration. Be sure to bring sun screen (SPF 30) and we'll be sure to have plenty of water available. Our pace for the walks will be moderate (like a KCA ramble only longer). Few of the walks will be no more than a mile or two in length. We will be birding almost all day long when not driving between spots. You should also consider bringing a suitable bug repellent.

Accommodations: We will be out for eight nights and be staying at moderately priced hotels (mostly one of the Choice Hotels franchises). Costs for the trip have been based upon double occupancy. Everyone can pick their own roommates. If you have no preferences we will pick one for you. Then there's the conundrum of "I want to share to save money but nobody is available" or "I'm one left over". To cover this contingency (once all the doubles have been assigned) all rooms will be paid by the leader and will be paid out of the shared expense pool so we'll be able to equalize the costs and keep them as low as possible for everyone.