



Pennsylvania

Warbler Photo Mania

Tour Leader: Brian Zwiebel
May 5-9, 2028

On this exciting tour you can plan to photograph up to twelve or more species of warblers in a short amount of time. Our tour location in eastern Pennsylvania provides access to a wide variety of warblers and other songbirds due to the diversity of habitats we will encounter in a relatively small area. We will photograph birds of older deciduous forest as well as in the brushy new growth that regenerates after a clear cut. Several different species will be encountered only in coniferous forests while stream bottoms and wet areas provide additional habitat types and thus greater species diversity. Your leader will know what species to expect in the different habitats before ever getting out of the vehicle. The wonderful sound of singing birds will confirm which birds are present.

General Overview

Join Brian in the beautiful Pocono Mountains region of eastern Pennsylvania! Spring will be unfolding all around you as the birds return to their breeding grounds. Brian is adept at finding the many avian gems that inhabit these forests. Birding a forested area is difficult at best if you rely on only your eyes. Brian is familiar with bird songs and can recognize what species should be present based on the surrounding habitat alone. Once we have located our beautiful subject, we will attempt to photograph them in the best settings using quality natural light, or sometimes with a little fill flash should you desire. Brian is using flash less and less these days but can assist you with proper flash settings. You will learn how to use shutter priority mode and why it is Brian's default exposure mode.

Possible species on the eastern Pennsylvania photo tour include more than 15 species of warblers and a variety of other songbirds found in the beautiful Pennsylvania State Forests. Likely warbler species include Golden-winged, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Canada, Nashville, Prairie, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Black-and-White, Chestnut-sided, Yellow, and Common Yellowthroat, plus American Redstart, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes, and Ovenbird. Veery, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and several vireo species are all possibilities on this tour as well.

We may make use of a rental house so we can prepare an early breakfast. There are limited options that will get us to our morning photo destinations in time for first light. This will allow us to take full advantage of the birds' most active time of day and the best light. A leisurely lunch will provide a needed break to refuel and recharge. On full sun days lunch will be a little earlier while on overcast days we will extend our morning session longer. In the afternoons we will head back out to new locations and work on additional species. Dinner may not be until late but snacks and water in the vehicle will keep us going. Over dinner we will discuss the day's events and plan for the following morning. If the forecast is for heavy overcast or hard rain we may decide on a later start and have a more leisurely breakfast. In the event of an all-day downpour, we will discuss and demonstrate image editing or share a slide program.

Equipment

Bring your longest telephoto lens and matching teleconverters as well as a tripod for this tour. Bring a macro lens (or extension tubes) for the flowers and a shorter lens will come in handy for documenting our trip.

Environment

While the calendar says May, participants will still want to plan for some chilly weather. Early mornings can be quite cool while afternoons can warm dramatically. A misty all day rain can be wonderful for photography but will quickly chill you to the bone without a waterproof outer layer (consider a rain cover for your lens as well). Light hiking boots will suffice for foot wear. This is tick and mosquito country. You may wish to wear long sleeves, gloves and a head net to protect exposed skin from biting mosquitoes. Deet is a well known mosquito repellent but the chemical contents can melt the plastic parts of your gear. Products with the active ingredient Picardin work just as well without destroying your expensive gear. We recommend tucking pant legs and shirt tails while treating clothing with permethrin as your best defense against ticks.

Physical Activity

Activity levels for this trip are not strenuous but some light off trail hiking for short distances can be expected. The majority of our photography will be done from along lightly traveled roads or adjacent pull offs and parking areas.



Likely Species on this tour (species in **BOLD** are most frequently photographed on the trip):



American Redstart

Black-and-white Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Canada Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Cerulean Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

Golden-winged Warbler

Louisiana Waterthrush

Magnolia Warbler

Northern Waterthrush

Nashville Warbler

Nothern Parula

Ovenbird

Prairie Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Eastern Towhee

Blue-headed Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Yellow-throated Vireo

Hermit Thrush

Veery

Yellow-billied Sapsucker

Trip Details:

Cost:

Price per person (double occupancy), from Scranton, Pennsylvania: \$3,699

Single Supplement: \$600

Minimum Participants: 3

Maximum Participants: 3

Price Includes:

Expert Guide

Ground Transportation in Pennsylvania

All Lodging

All Meals

Park Entrance Fees/Permits

Price Does Not Include:

Airfare to and from Scranton, Pennsylvania

Airport Taxes

Passport and Visa Fees (if applicable)

Alcoholic Beverages

Personal Items

Travel Insurance

Tips

Deposit:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour February 4, 2028).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:

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