

[From Fall 1998]

Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge

Fisherman Island is approximately 1,500 acres, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service administers 1,000 acres of the island as a National Wildlife Refuge. Fisherman Island is the southern-most barrier island on the Delmarva Peninsula and is located by the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Access to the refuge is limited to refuge-sponsored guided tours that are conducted each Saturday starting in October and ending around the middle of March.

Literally, millions of passerines such as bluebirds, meadowlarks and tree swallows stage on the island during fall migration. Migrating raptors, including sharp-shinned , Cooper's and red-tailed hawks also stage on the island. Winter and early spring are great times to observe a wide variety of waterfowl and local residents like the peregrine falcon and bald eagle.

Allow enough time to visit Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is located just east of the toll plaza on the Delmarva Peninsula and has a new state-of-the-art Visitor Center.

There is also a 3/4 mile nature trail which features a 60 ft. high observation platform that provides an excellent view of the salt marsh and barrier islands.

TOUR INFORMATION

- Tours are from 9 AM to approximately 12:30 PM and cover 4-5 miles.
- Maximum number of participants is 30 and the minimum is 10.
- There are no bathrooms or picnic areas.
- The tour is free but there is a \$10 toll for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel
- Youth that are 10 years of age or older are welcome on the tour.
- Some of the unfriendly wildlife you may encounter on the trip are ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes, sand fleas, and flies. A hot sun or cold breeze could also make for a rather unpleasant trip; so in scout terminology: "Be Prepared."

For additional information or to sign up for a tour write Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR,
5003 Hallett Circle, Cape Charles, VA 23310 or call (757) 331-2760.

