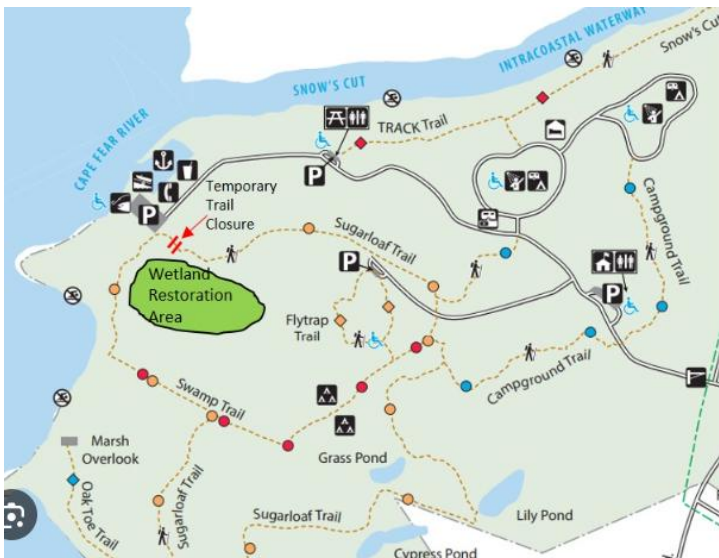
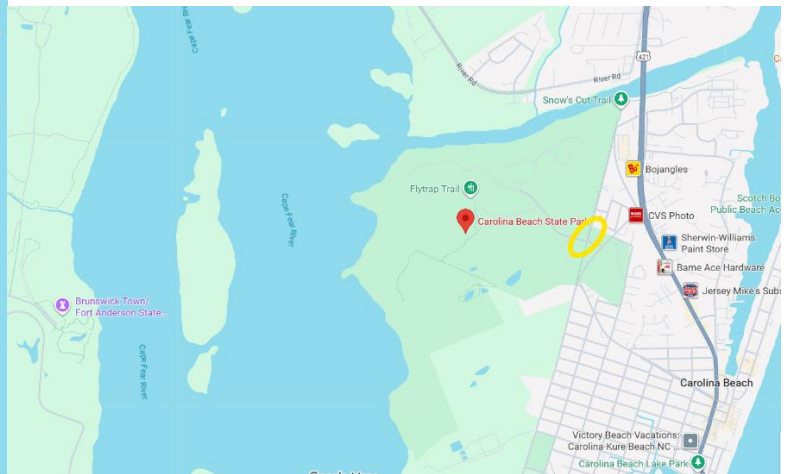
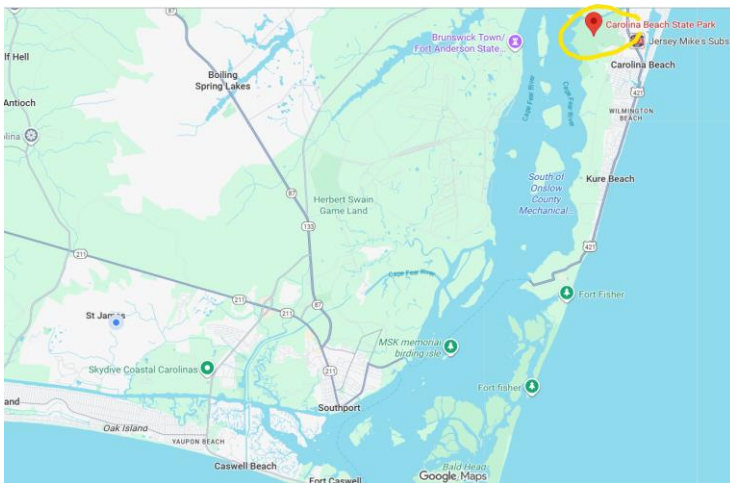


Carolina Beach State Park

A Bird Lover's Paradise



Carolina Beach State Park is truly a haven for bird lovers. Several ecosystems are present within the park, and the diversity of bird species is outstanding. Woodpeckers, warblers, nuthatches, finches and hawks are numerous in the forested areas. Osprey, eagles, herons, kingfishers, coots and rails can be spotted on or near the water.

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am, a park ranger leads a 2-hour bird walk. It is free, and no preregistration is required. Both beginner birders and those with more experience will enjoy the walk, and the ranger's breadth of knowledge. Meet-up is at the park's marina parking lot. Plenty of parking is available, and restrooms are close by. Bring binoculars, and bug spray is highly recommended.

The Fort Fisher ferry is the fastest way to Carolina Beach State Park, and it too offers great bird watching opportunities. The ferry schedule changes seasonally. Check the website www.ncdot.gov for current schedules. Summer months can be very busy, so plan to arrive early. The cost is \$7.00 per car. You may be lucky enough to see ducks, Cormorants, gulls, and pelicans in flight as you travel by ferry to Fort Fisher. Then it is a scenic 15-minute drive to the park.

Carolina Beach State Park is located at 1010 Park Road in Carolina Beach. For more information, call 910-458-8206 or check out their website at carolina.beach.ncparks.gov.

- Submitted to Birders of St. James by Kathy Collins