



2026

EcoTravel

Overnight Natural History Tours and Day Trips

Vermont: Birds & Beers

June 24 – 27, 2026



Vermont June 2026 4 Days

Overview

Northern Vermont, especially the Burlington area, has become a hub for craft beer enthusiasts. The city is home to a thriving scene of breweries and taprooms, many of which are nationally recognized for their inventive styles and bold flavors. From the hazy IPAs at Foam Brewers on the waterfront to the rich stouts and saisons poured at Zero Gravity, visitors can sample a wide range of brews that reflect Vermont's creative and independent spirit. Just outside the city, small-town breweries like The Alchemist in Stowe, with its iconic Heady Topper IPA, add to the region's reputation as one of the premier craft beer destinations in the United States.

Beyond its beer culture, Burlington is surrounded by striking natural beauty that draws visitors year-round. Lake Champlain, stretching along the city's western edge, offers opportunities for kayaking, sailing, and lakeside walks with views across to the Adirondacks in New York. To the east, the Green Mountains rise with forested slopes, hiking trails, and ski resorts that transform into hubs for outdoor adventure. Whether exploring the gentle Burlington Bike Path that winds along the waterfront or venturing into the mountains for more rugged treks, the area blends small-city charm with easy access to nature.

The Burlington region is also a wonderful spot for bird enthusiasts. Lake Champlain serves as an important stopover for migratory waterfowl, with species like Common Loons, Common Mergansers, and Double-crested Cormorants often spotted on the water. In the nearby woodlands and fields, birders can encounter warblers, Barred Owls in the deep forests, and the occasional Bald Eagle soaring overhead. This mix of lake, forest, and open farmland habitats creates an exceptional diversity of birds right at Burlington's doorstep.

Join us on this new and exciting trip, where we search for neotropical breeders on territory while also trying out some of the famous craft beers that have put Burlington squarely in the eyes of beer lovers from all over. With a private tour to multiple breweries, including behind the scenes looks at how the magic is created, this is an experience that is perfect for birders of all levels, especially those interested in what the hobby is all about. With casual birding days followed by relaxing evenings, this is a trip you don't want to miss!



Itinerary

Although there is a designated itinerary for the trip, the order of activities will vary depending on the weather and group interest.

Day 1

D

We'll depart Essex early in the morning and begin the drive up the 91 corridor towards Burlington. On the way, we'll stop and make birding stops to stretch our legs, while looking for breeding birds still patrolling their territory. Upon arrival in Burlington, there will be some downtime to enjoy the area before a Welcome Dinner.

Night: Burlington.

Days 2 – 3

BD

The next two days will be spent exploring the northern Vermont region. In the early mornings, we'll depart the hotel and search for birds on territory, as nests begin to hatch and parents begin to collect food to feed their hungry young. Some of our main targets will be specialties including **Lincoln's Sparrow, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Bicknell's Thrush, and Olive-sided Flycatcher.** We'll also visit some of the lakes and ponds in the area in search of breeding **Black Terns.**

The afternoons will be free, with time to explore and do some "traditional" vacation experiences around Burlington. Of course, there'll be optional birding opportunities as well, for those who want to keep exploring! One evening, we'll have a private beer tour, visiting three of the most popular breweries in Burlington for a behind-the-scenes experience.

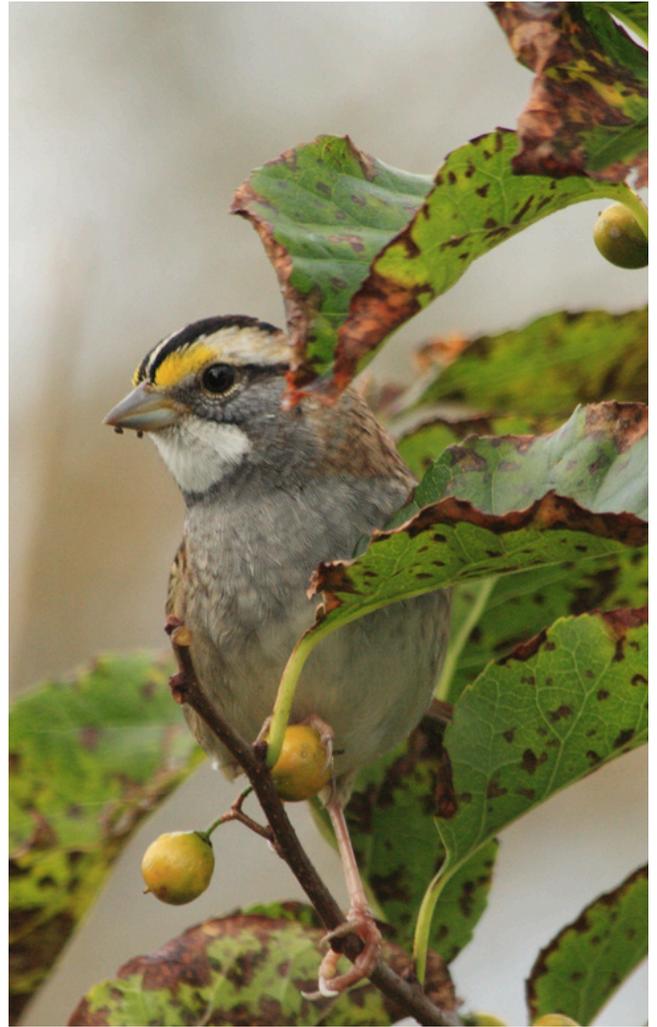
Nights: Burlington.

Dinner is included only on the night of the brewery tour experience.

Day 4

B

After a relaxing morning, focusing on any birds we may have missed, we'll begin our journey back to Connecticut, making necessary stops along the way. We'll plan to return by late afternoon.



General Information

Tour Cost: \$2,398.

Members: \$1,898.

The above cost is based upon a minimum number of six paying participants traveling together. If there are fewer participants, there will be a small group supplement. Per person Tour Cost is based on two people sharing a room.

Single Room Supplement: \$375.

All rates are calculated at the time of publication and are subject to change due to conditions out of our control (i.e. hotel rates). All passengers will be notified if changes in pricing occur.

Tour Includes:

Accommodations are based on double occupancy, one or two beds. Meals are included as outlined in the itinerary section (B=Breakfast/L=Lunch/D=Dinner). Additional charges for meals may apply if needs are out of the standard offerings. Entrance fees to national parks and sightseeing as specified in the itinerary.

Not Included:

Taxes; costs of obtaining passports and visas; airfare; baggage fees; personal expenses such as room service, beverages, laundry, gratuities for the local guide and housekeeping; personal communications; airport taxes; tax increases or new taxes charged for services that were not taxed at the time the booking was made; excess mileage carried out at the request of the passenger; sightseeing or meals not specified in the itinerary; personal insurance coverage (strongly recommended); and transfers to and from your home airport.



Matt Bell is a graduate of the Ohio State University with BS degrees in both earth sciences and evolution/ ecology. He started birding in May 2013 and became more seriously involved after a trip to Costa Rica. Since then, he helped revive The Ornithology Club at Ohio State and assisted as a volunteer guide for The Biggest Week in American Birding and the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival. He absolutely loves participating in citizen science, tour guiding, chasing rare birds in his free time, and meeting fellow birders from around the globe. Most of all, Matt enjoys sharing his passion for birds and conservation with others and never shies away at taking the time to help beginners start their explorations of the avian world. Matt is the EcoTravel travel specialist and leads day trips and overnight tours.



General Terms & Conditions

Reservations

Early reservations with deposit are essential to guarantee your booking. A **\$500 deposit**, per person, applicable to final payment, is required to reserve space on this trip. Reservations made within 120 days of departure require full payment along with the formal Registration Forms. Final payment for programs is due 120 days prior to departure. Payments can be made by personal check, money order, certified check, or a cashier's check.

Rates and Fares

Prices are accurate as available at the time of publication. Prices do not include airfare unless otherwise stated. The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) reserves the right to alter quoted prices to reflect changes in airline fares, land service, or currency exchange rates. In the event that the number of participants is below the minimum required for the quoted price, a small group surcharge may be added.

Cancellation and Insurance

At the time the EcoTravel Office receives written notice that you must cancel your trip, the following cancellation fees will apply: Prior to 120 days from departure, your payments will be refunded minus **\$250 per person**. At 120 days and less, no refund is granted. NOTE: In addition to cancellation fees, airline tickets and deposits required to guarantee hotel rooms may be nonrefundable. The purchase of a general travel insurance plan covering baggage, accident/life, and trip cancellation is highly recommended. Give us a call and we can put you in touch with those providers. CAS reserve the right, if registration is insufficient or other reasons out of our control, to cancel, postpone, or offer the trip with a small group supplement. In the event that CAS cancels or postpones, those with reservations will be notified as soon as possible and a credit of payments will be held on file. The Connecticut Audubon Society is not responsible for the refund or credit of additional expenses incurred in preparation for a trip. Any "delay" or "postponing" of departure by tour participants is considered a cancellation and cancellation parameters will be apply relative to the 120-day window. There are no exceptions.

Responsibility

Payment of deposit represents and acceptance of the following terms and conditions by the purchaser: The Connecticut Audubon Society, its affiliates, and all cooperating airlines and agencies act only in the capacity of agents in all matters of transportation and tour operations, and their liability is limited to the terms of the airline tickets and land accommodation contracts. They are not responsible for any delays, inconveniences, accidents, expense, or mishap of any kind whatsoever resulting entirely or in part from the negligence of others or from causes beyond their control. They can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, riot, war, pandemic, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses must be borne by the passengers, as the tour rate provides for arrangements only as describe in the tour brochure. The right is reserved to change tour leaders, substitute hotels, of similar category, and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by unforeseen circumstances. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. No refund can be made for unused hotel rooms, meals, and sightseeing tours unless arrangements are made at time of booking. The right is reserved to decline any person as a tour member for any reason which affects the operation of the tour or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of the other tour members. Any refund of the recoverable land tour services in the limit of The Connecticut Audubon Society and its affiliates' liability.

To make a Reservation:

Send the above stated deposit to hold your reservation. Nonmembers, please add \$45 (single) or \$58 (family) for your annual membership and to take advantage of the member discount.

Send your name(s), address, phone number, email address, name of the trip, your deposit, and membership fee (if applicable) to:

The Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel

PO Box 903

Essex, CT 06426

(860) 767-0660

ecotravel@ctaudubon.org

www.ctaudubon.org/ecotravel-home

