

## Birding locations in Sebastian Inlet State Park

The beauty of birding at Sebastian Inlet State Park is the diversity of habitats and species found within a relatively small area. Pelicans, gannets, various species of terns and gulls may be observed from the beaches or jetties and after a short walk you will find yourself in a wooded area surrounded by various trees, plants and grasses where you will find songbirds, warblers and woodpeckers just to name a few.

This map represents a broad overview of areas within the park where these birds may be seen.

#1 The Atlantic Ocean and beaches: Pelicans; gannets; terns; gulls; skimmers; plovers; sandpipers and cormorants. Park in either north (Brevard County) or south (Indian River) side main parking lots and walk to the beach. The jetties are an excellent vantage point for viewing.

#2 Dirt road to old A1A / off road bike trail: Hawks; doves; woodpeckers; jays; wrens; vireos; buntings and many species of songbirds. Park in the northernmost corner of parking lot and walk access road to old A1A / off road bike trail.

#3 Cove area: Much the same as # 1 with addition of herons; ibises; spoonbills and ospreys.

#4 Cove field overflow parking area: Same species as found in # 2 along perimeter tree line. Kestrels and peregrine falcons may occasionally be seen in the field. Drive down dirt road which is on north side of cove area and veer to the right at intersection. Cove field is on right and ahead.

#5 Campground: Many of the same species as seen at # 2 will also be seen here, with the addition of migrating Cedar Waxwings. Spring and fall migration is the best time for viewing. The native Florida Privet which is plentiful throughout the park provides ample berries and cover for migrating birds. Note\* unless you are a registered camper you may not park in the campground area. Park in either the L-Dock parking lot which is almost directly across from the campground (and where woodstorks like to congregate) or follow park drive west to Coconut Point and walk back to campground.

#6 Coconut Point: Much the same as # 1 with the exception of gannets. Red breasted Mergansers can be seen in the winter and early spring swimming along the shoreline on the south side of the inlet. White pelicans can be seen in the Indian River Lagoon during the winter months. During summer months when there is a strong onshore wind an occasional frigatebird may be seen circling above.

Walking or driving the south park drive is also an excellent opportunity for birding and other wildlife viewing. Visitors should watch for Atlantic bottlenose dolphins and manatees.

