

**NYSYBC 2010 FIELD TRIP PLANNING FORM**  
**For Partner Organizations**  
*Instructions*

Thank you in advance for helping us create the 2010 field trip schedule. We would like to plan one trip per month from February through November. We aim to offer a variety of birding experiences that are geographically distributed across the state, and we need to consider particular interests expressed by the young birders, e.g. Central Park in May was requested for 2009 but it did not make the schedule (any takers for 2010?). Preference will be given to sponsors whose previous trips were cancelled due to weather or inability of young birders to participate. In addition, we may have more sponsorships than we can handle in one year, in which case we will try to give those Partners a chance who have not previously hosted a trip. All else being equal, if two requests come in for the same type of trip during the same month, we will give preference to the Partner whose form was received first.

To help us ensure a full schedule for the year, please propose up to 3 trips on dates that your organization can commit to. **You may offer to host field trips anywhere in New York State.** No Partner Organization will be asked to sponsor more than one field trip per year.

To maximize the success of young birder field trips, please consider the following guidelines.  
**1 - START TIME & TRIP DURATION:** Most (but not all) field trips should start around 7 or 8AM and run 4 to 5 hours (usually followed by a group lunch). Partner Organization trip leaders are expected to remain with the group for the entire official duration of the trip, including lunch.

**2 - LUNCH:** A group lunch at the conclusion of the field trip's activities gives the young birders an opportunity to relax and socialize, and to compile a list of the species seen or heard while birding together. To help parents with planning, local trip leaders will be asked to identify a lunch location in advance of the trip.

**3 - DAY OF TRIP:** All trips should be scheduled on Saturday or Sunday, or on a Friday or Monday that falls on a holiday. Please keep in mind that participants who live far from the trip location will need to stay overnight but will not be able to travel a long distance on a school day. Please refer to the attached 2010 calendar, on which major high school testing dates, holidays, and other "blackout" dates are grayed out. **PLEASE DO NOT PLAN A NYSYBC FIELD TRIP FOR JANUARY OR DECEMBER.**

**4 - LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Please keep in mind that some of the young birders will be accompanied by their non-birding parents. We ask that the level of physical exertion required of participants be kept at a low-to-moderate level so as not to discourage parents from bringing their children on future trips! This means that most walks should be limited to 3-4 miles in length, with frequent stops allowed for finding and observing birds.

**5 - ALL BIRDS ARE GOOD BIRDS:** We welcome young birders of all levels and encourage the more skilled ones to help the less experienced ones make new discoveries regardless of how common the species involved. In addition, we encourage even the most skilled of our young birders to do more than just check off species on a list – please help them see that there are always new things to learn and enjoy, even when observing a species they've seen a thousand times before.

Questions? Email [ybc@nybirds.org](mailto:ybc@nybirds.org)

**NYSYBC is a special project of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.**

## NYSYBC 2010 Field Trip Planning Calendar

Grayed-out dates are mostly student testing dates and should be avoided. Please do not select dates in January or December, and please do not suggest 2 dates in the same month on your planning form.

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
7:● 15:● 23:● 30:○						

February						
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28						
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March						
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28	29	30	31	Passover		
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April						
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Passover			1	2	3	
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Easter >>

May						
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June						
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July						
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August						
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<< Yom Kippur

October						
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November						
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December						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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### Holidays and Observances:

**Jan 1** New Year's Day

**Jan 18** Martin Luther King Day

Feb 14 Valentine's Day

**Feb 15** Presidents' Day

Apr 4 Easter Sunday

May 9 Mother's Day

**May 31** Memorial Day

Jun 20 Father's Day

**Jul 4** Independence Day

**Jul 5** 'Independence Day' observed

**Sep 6** Labor Day

**Oct 11** Columbus Day (Most regions)

Oct 31 Halloween

Nov 2 Election Day

**Nov 11** Veterans Day

**Nov 25** Thanksgiving Day

**Dec 24** 'Christmas Day' observed

Dec 24 Christmas Eve

**Dec 25** Christmas Day

**Dec 31** 'New Year's Day' observed