



DownEast & Acadia Birding Trail

Hancock & Washington Counties, Maine



Common Eider
Evening Grosbeak
Black-capped Chickadee
Harlequin Duck
Razorbill

Birding DownEast & Acadia by Boat
Many bird species that make Maine such a renowned birder's paradise are best seen from the water. Just about any boat ride is likely to bring sightings of Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Common Eiders, Arctic and Common Terns, Black Guillemots, several gull species, Common Loons, and Double-crested Cormorants. Go with a seasoned sea kayak guide (www.mainesekayguides.com) for an intimate water-level experience, book an organized trip on any of the region's fine boat touring companies, or charter a boat captain (www.downeastacadia.com, search for "boating" and "bird watching") to take you to the best spots. Even taking a ferry is a great way to see these species.

Chief among birding destinations by boat are the offshore seabird nesting islands. With one exception, seabird nesting islands are closed to landing by the public during the annual nesting season (April 1 - August 31), but commercial boat tours provide views from the water at several locations. Three of Maine's five Atlantic Puffin nesting islands - Seal, Machias Seal, and Petit Manan are in this region and are home to the most abundant watchable bird populations DownEast, including not just Atlantic Puffins, but also nesting Common Murres, Razorbills, and Arctic, Common, and Roseate Terns.

Seal Island, part of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, is managed with the assistance of the National Audubon Society (www.projectpuffin.org/SealIsland.html). Old Quarry Ocean Adventures (367-8977; www.oldquarry.com) runs regular trips to the island from Stonington during May-August or by arrangement, but public landings are not permitted.

Petit Manan Island, part of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge (546-2124; www.fws.gov/northeast/mainecoastal/), and location of Maine's second tallest lighthouse, can be viewed from several boat tours, some of which make special trips and others that make a stop on the way to the whale grounds. The following companies run trips out to Petit Manan (among other destinations):
Bar Harbor Whale Watch, Bar Harbor (288-2386; www.barharborwhales.com)
Pleasant River Boat Tours, Addison (483-6567; www.pleasantriverboatours.com)
DownEast Coastal Cruises, Milbridge (546-7720; www.downeastcoastalcruises.com)
Robertson Sea Tours, Milbridge (461-7439; www.robertsonseatours.com)

Machias Seal Island can be accessed by four companies which sometimes, given the right weather conditions, also offer a chance to land on the island for an up-close viewing experience from behind bird blinds. Contact Bold Coast Charter Company, Cutler (259-4484; www.boldcoast.com).

For the truly pelagic species, those charismatic and often elusive birds that stick to the sea, a boat that takes you offshore is well worth the investment. Besides the trips above, try an offshore ferry, such as the one to Grand Manan Island, NB, Canada, or go on a whole whale trip that heads far out to sea to catch a glimpse of Greater, Sooty, and the occasional Manx and Cory's Shearwaters, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Northern Fulmars, Wilson's and Leach's

Storm-petrels Northern Gannets, Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers, and Phalaropes.

For a truly unique experience combining whale watching with bird watching near shore, Eastport Windjammers (853-2500; www.eastportwindjammers.com) offers 2- or 3-masted schooner cruises to nearby whale feeding grounds, which also attract thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and rafts of seabirds.

Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada, just across the border from Lubec, is home to two whale watching experiences during which you may see seabirds and pelagic birds: Island Cruises (888-249-4400; www.boayoffwhales.com) and Captain Riddle's Whale Watching Cruises (877-346-2225; www.fimback.com).

In addition to the companies listed above, the following boat tour operators also offer birdwatching tours. Boat operator captions on the map correlate generally with the boat departure point. Caption placement is not exact. Contact the companies directly for more information.

Old Quarry Ocean Adventures, Stonington, 367-8977; www.oldquarry.com
Guided Island Tours, Deer Isle, 348-6789; www.guidedislandtours.com
Sea Venture Custom Boat Tours, Bar Harbor, 288-3355; www.seaventure.com
Nature Cruises on the Acadia, Bar Harbor, 288-2386; www.naturecruises.com
DownEast Windjammer Cruises aboard the Margaret Todd, Bar Harbor, 288-4585; <http://www.downeastwindjammer.com>
Wanderbird Expedition Cruises, Winterport, 338-3088; www.wanderbirdcruises.com
DownEast Charter Boat Tours, Lubec, 733-2009; www.downeastcharterboatours.com
Fundy Breeze Charters, Eastport, 853-4660; www.fundybreeze.com

Ferries
A round-trip on any of the region's ferries is a wonderful way to see seabirds. Longer open-water routes will yield more pelagic species while shorter routes will yield inshore species.
Maine State Ferry Service: Bass Harbor, 244-3254 or www.maine.gov/mda/msfs/
Bar Harbor Ferry: Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor, 288-2984 or <http://www.downeastwindjammer.com/bar-harbor-ferry/>
Cranberry Cove Ferry: Southwest Harbor, 244-5882 or <http://www.downeastwindjammer.com/cranberry-cove-ferry/>
Beal and Bunker Mail Boat and Ferry: Northeast Harbor, 244-3575 or www.cranberryisles.com/ferries.html
Isle au Haut Boat Services (the Mail Boat): Stonington, 367-5193 or www.isleauhaut.com/
Eastport Ferry: Eastport and Lubec, 288-4585 or www.downeastwindjammer.com/eastportferry/
Coastal Transport Ltd.: Blacks Harbour and Grand Manan, NB, 506-642-0520 or www.coastaltransport.ca/
New Brunswick Department of Transportation: L'Etete and Deer Island, NB, 506-453-9399 or www.gnb.ca/0113/ferries/ferries-e.asp
East Coast Ferries, Ltd.: Eastport, Deer Island, NB, and Campobello, NB, 506-747-2159 or www.eastcoastferries.nb.ca/

DownEast Birding Festivals
Another great way to enjoy the DownEast & Acadia region's abundant bird population is to attend one of our three bird festivals. Maine's first bird watching festival, the Acadia Birding Festival, held annually in June in Bar Harbor, Mt Desert Island, and Acadia National Park, offers birders various self-guided explorations as well as guided hikes, boat tours, and presentations led by local experts as well as those of international repute. www.acadibirdingfestival.com. Wings, Waves and Woods,

held annually in May on Deer Isle, joins the arts to birding through boat trips, guided walks, workshops and gallery/studio events. www.deerisle.com. The Down East Spring Birding Festival occurs annually in late May in from Moosehorn NWR to Lubec and provides guided hikes, boat tours, and presentations led by local experts. www.downeastbirdfest.org

Birding Ethics
It's simple: you are encroaching on their territory. Tread lightly and respect boundaries. Stay on roads and paths where they exist, otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum. Leave no trace and help keep bird watching a low impact activity by using good judgment about where you can go and where you should go. Avoid stressing birds by keeping away from nests, nesting colonies, roosts, and important feeding sites - especially during nesting season. Please don't feed, bait, or use recording devices to attract wildlife. When boating keep a good distance from marine wildlife and do not land on islands where birds are nesting. Respect property owner wishes and the carrying capacity of these birding sites, many of which are maintained by hard-working volunteers.

Helpful Hints
Bugs, Mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks may be found almost anywhere, especially May-August. Bring repellent and dress accordingly.
Hunting is very common in rural Maine, and hunting is permitted in preserves, state parks and wildlife management areas. Blaze orange should be worn in the fall. www.maine.gov/IWF
Maps: Although GIS equipment is now common, map-lovers will appreciate having The Delorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer in the in the car. www.delorme.com/
Phone service: Cell phone service is inconsistent and WIFI is not prevalent. A prepaid phone card may be useful. Maine's statewide area code is 207.
Toilets: Toilet facilities at the birding sites in this brochure are limited. In the site description, if facilities are not mentioned, assume there are no facilities. When visiting the area, birders should make strategic use of toilet facilities located at areas service stations.
Travel times: Visitors frequently underestimate travel times in rural Maine. For example, Ellsworth to Lubec (about 85 miles) is a 2-hour drive. Calculate travel times carefully. Be strategic about refueling on gas and supplies, and using restrooms, especially in more remote areas.

Resources
Comprehensive info for visitors to Maine and the DownEast & Acadia region: www.visitmaine.com/; www.downeastacadia.com
Regulations for travel between Maine and Canada: www.consular.canada.asembassy.gov/enter_canada.asp; www.puffinpinetrees.com/visit_canada.htm
Maine birding information: www.mainebirding.net/; www.DownEastNatureTours.com
Maine bird list: www.maineaudubon.org
Public boat launches: www.maine.gov/dot/parks/programs/boating/islelist.html

Special Thanks
DownEast & Acadia Regional Tourism (DART)
Chris Barlett, Maine Sea Grant/Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension
Anne Beavis, Nervous Nellie's Jams and Jellies
Bob Duchesne, Maine Birding Trail
Michael Good, Down East Nature Tours
Fred Hartman, DownEast Drawings & Wildlife Art Gallery
Bill Kolodnicki and Maury Mills, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge
Gordon Longworth, Sean Fitzgerald, and Sydney Kase, GIS Lab, College of the Atlantic
Michael McCabe, Coastal Way Down East tourist guide and Puffin Pines Country Gift Store
Catherine Schmitt, Maine Sea Grant/Univ. Of Maine
Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant
Studio3 Graphic Design

Contact:
DownEast & Acadia Regional Tourism (DART), 1-888-665-3278, www.downeastacadia.com
info@downeastacadia.com

Map Legend

- Birding Areas
- Boat Tours
- Ferries
- Ferry Routes
- Surface Water
- Protected Areas*
- County Boundaries
- New Brunswick
- International Boundary

Down East & Acadia

There's More To Maine

College of the Atlantic
Life changing. world changing.

Map Prepared by
COA GIS Laboratory March 2011



*Protected Areas denotes land belonging to: Acadia National Park, National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks, State and Private Wildlife Refuges.

Welcome to the DownEast & Acadia Birding Trail

Hancock and Washington Counties, Maine's DownEast & Acadia region, offer outstanding opportunities to watch birds, from well-known places such as Acadia National Park, Maine Coastal Islands and Moosehead National Wildlife Refuge, to the nearby Roosevelt Campobello International Park, and to four favorites including Maine's Public Reserves, State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas and preserves, and other conservation lands.

Each year over 300 different bird species live in or visit DownEast & Acadia, providing the most interesting and ecologically diverse birding in Maine. The National Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, and the National Geographic Society have identified several of our birding spots as "Important Bird Areas in the U.S." Maine's extensive watersheds are fed by heads, bogs, fens, lakes, and ponds gouged out by the Wisconsin glacier several thousand years ago. Maine's largest and most diverse ecosystem, the Penobscot watershed, still encompasses 6,500 square miles. Coastal and northern watersheds, from freshwater and saltwater marshes, grassy and shrubby fields, streams and lochs, steep rugged headlands, extensive tidal flats, and coastal islands are used by vast numbers of year-round endemics, neotropical migrants, and wintering waterfowl. Birding Maine's DownEast & Acadia region is an adventure of a lifetime.

Historically, Downeast river systems, like the St. Croix, Machias, Pleasant, and Narragowags, were important trade routes and offered the most practical access to the Wabanaki people between the coast and the interior. The area drained by these rivers is home to beaver, muskrat, white-tailed deer, bear, fisher, mink, fox, marten, bobcat, otter, coyote, and flying squirrel.

Downeast watersheds, in along traditional migratory corridors for millions of birds each year and provide access into the Northern Boreal Forest and the Arctic Tundra. On the open ocean, millions of pelagic birds forage on plankton-like copepods, krill, and fish, all nourished in part by billions of gallons of water from Maine's rivers.

Avian species vary with the season. In spring, neotropical migrants return from their wintering areas in Central and South America and the West Indies. Examples include 20 species of warblers, nine flycatchers, and seven thrushes. Flying thousands of miles from South America along the US eastern flyway or across the Atlantic Ocean, many neotropical migrants reach our coastal shores hungry and tired. You can feel their energy as they forage along open, moist inland transition coastal breeding grounds, then return south for the winter. During the fall and winter, many birds that nest in forest floor and tundra, such as Gyrfalcon, Snowy Owl and Black Scoter, retreat south to frost of old Arctic air. Large flocks of Long-tailed Ducks, Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, and mergansers forage in nutrient-rich coastal hotspots. Our twice-daily tidal range of up to 28 feet exposes vast mudflats for migrating sandpipers and plovers.

Atlantic prairie provide the best access to pelagic birds and the largest breeding colonies of Bonaparte Puffins, Razorbills, and Common Murres in the U.S. Boreal species, including Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Gray Jay, inhabit coastal and inland forests; moose are prime nesting habitat for American Woodcock. Soaring above are raptors like Bald Eagles, Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, Merlin, all three eagles, American Kestrels, Northern Harrier, and Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks, they nest here as well.

Nesting waterfowl include American Black Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Wood Ducks, teal, Buffleheads, Common Eiders, and all three mergansers. Other significant nesting birds include Common Loons, Common Goldeneyes, American Bitterns, Scares, Virginia Rails, five owls, Marsh Wrens, and Nelson's Vesper, and other Sparrows. Herons, spotters, veeries, Kingfishers and other Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipe, Common Nighthawks, Eastern Whip-poor-wills, Belled Kingfishers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos and a half dozen other woodpeckers, swallows, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, and several irruptive finches also are present. Experience Maine's Downeast, where the delicate lute-like songs of the Swainson's Thrush mingle with the long cascading trills of a Winter Wren or the tropical whistles of an excited Great Flycatcher.

The scenery of DownEast & Acadia is at times surreal and spectacular. Amidst dense forests, breathing tubes emerge from ridgelines to open expanses of water with islands big and small. The land is hard: a mix of rock, pine needles, serpentine tree roots, and wintry streams. Spring brings many bugs (food for birds), summers are delightfully cool, autumn presents a brilliant display of color, and winters are pronounced with thick lake ice and a silence seldom experienced.

Coastal DownEast Maine is swash in rocky fields of wild blueberries and outcroppings green with reindeer lichen. Every turn reveals new habitat, breathtaking views, and abundant birds. Please join us in appreciating and conserving this significant resource for generations to come.

We wish you good birding!



Common Yellowthroat Black-legged Kittiwake

Hancock County

1. The Penobscot Narrows Observatory and Fort Knox State Historic Site. A one-minute ride on the fastest elevator in Northern New England will take you 420 feet to the top of the tallest peak bridge-observatory in the world. View the beautiful Penobscot River and the surrounding countryside. The Penobscot Narrows observatory at the Penobscot Indian Nation, is the western gateway to Hancock and Washington Counties. The bridge marks the head of Penobscot Bay, where Ospreys and Bald Eagles forage on sea-run fish, such as alewives and salmon. Keep your eyes open for Peregrine Falcons and inter-forging Tree and Barn Swallows.

Constructed between 1844 and 1869 and located on the same property as the Observatory, Fort Knox features stunning military architecture and master granite craftsmanship. You should have excellent views of Spotted Sandpipers, Kingfishers, and Peregrine Falcons. Warblers and vireos can be found where the forests meet the river. Across the bridge, the Backwood waterfront walkway is a good place to visit Great Black-backed Woodpecker, American Black Ducks, Osprey, Peregrine Falcons, Merlin, Bald Eagles, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Yellow-rumped and Parula Warblers, and in the fall and winter Common Goldeneyes. The intersection of US Rte 1 and RT 469-7719. Maine's statewide area code is 207.

2. Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery. The US Fish & Wildlife Service operates a fish hatchery downstream from the Great Pond Mountain Wildlife Refuge. It is the entry into the Dead River parcel of the Great Pond Mountain Wildlife Refuge, well known for flycatchers, Pied-billed Grebes, Dovesithers, and the occasional Whimbrel. Look for Common Mergansers, Double-crested and warblers at the mouth of a 5 mile of Alamosook Lake. Take a hike from US Rte 1 North onto Hatchery Road and travel about 1.5 miles. 469-6701.

3. Great Pond Mountain Wildlife Refuge. Upstream from the fish hatchery, the diverse habitats of the 4,300-acre Great Pond Mountain Wildlife's conservation area can be explored on outposts and 16 miles of gravel road. The Holetole Valley trail (accessed from the north side of US Rte 1 about 0.1 mile before the Rte 176 intersection) features early successional forest, bald hilltop summits, boulder fields, stream and pond shorelines, and numerous wetlands, vernal pools, shrub openings, and log landings.

Look for Canada, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Black-throated Green, and Nashville Warblers, Northern Water Thrushes, and Winter Wrens on the Holetole Pond Trail. Eastern Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Marsh Wren, and Common Yellowthroat. Wild Turkeys, Ruffed Grouse, raptors, and numerous flycatchers, sparrows, woodpeckers, thrushes, and vireos are seen throughout the Wildlife Lands.

On the Dead River trail (accessed via the Fish Hatchery above), birders can spot Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, American Redstarts, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, along with Red-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos. Put a canoe in at the Hatchery's boat launch and explore the Dead River and Helltoom Swamp for Swamp Sparrows and Marsh Wrens, warblers such as Northern Waterthrush, and a variety of songbirds. Watch for raptors such as Peregrine Falcons in autumn and Ospreys in spring. Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust. 469-7190 or www.greatpondtrust.org/.

4. Castine. Follow Rte 175 south to Rte 166 through blueberry barrens and unique wetlands to the Town of Castine, home of the Maine Maritime Academy. Fields on both sides of the Castine Road (Rte 166) make up the Hatch Cove Preserve. The 90-acre Kane Henderson Natural Area, the largest property in Castine owned by the Conservation Trust, includes a small pond (the "ice pond"), wetlands, and on the upland, stands of soft- and hardwood trees. Many neotropical migrants move through in spring and there are a large number of nesting birds in this multi-use area. Two well-marked trails are the Garden Club Trail (orange markers), and the Eagle Trail (pink markers) which is roughly U-shaped and follows the property boundaries. www.conservetrust.net/.

5. Hallowell Island Sanctuary State Park. Upland forests, unique wetland habitats, open fields, and an offshore island that is 1,250-acre nature preserve near Brooksville provide the best birding on the Cape Rose peninsula. Managed as a property and wildlife sanctuary, the State Park is well-maintained hiking trails, picnic tables, and considerable shore footage. You easily should see or hear 15 species of warblers; Alder and Great Crested Flycatcher and nesting woodpeckers are common. American Bitterns, Virginia Rails, Swamp Sparrows, and Common Yellowthroats are in the wetlands, while Common Loons, Horned Grebes, Canada Geese, blue-winged Teal, Long-tailed Ducks, Surf Scoters, and White-winged Scoters can be seen at the ocean's edge.

Driving in this area can be confusing. From Rte 176 in Brooksville, west of Rte 150 road, proceed 1 - 1.5 miles to Cape Basin Road. Look for a yellow spruce cone production, look for crossbills in the trees. In the boggy area know the road to the south and its smaller size often. "Access" the birds around it.

Available at the visitor center. The Sanctuary is accessible year round, but facilities are limited to several pilot trails; there are several small parking lots. 326-0412 or www.maine.gov/doc/parks/.

6. Scott's Landing and Deer Seal Cawking Trails. This 24-acre preserve, acquired in 2006 by the Island Heritage Trust, and the adjacent Castine beach includes tidal flats, tidal mud flats, woody wetland, open fields, and both mature and young woodlands. This diverse habitat on a migratory flyway is proving to be an excellent year-round birding site for Bald Eagles, Ospreys, loons, and scoters and a fall/winter site for eiders, grebes, mergansers, Buffleheads, and Common Goldeneyes. Early fall offers good potential for large numbers of passerine and raptor migrants. During spring and summer a good mix of warblers, including American Redstart, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Black-and-White, Chestnut-sided, Nashville, and Blackburnian, will be represented as well as tanagers, thrushes, various sparrows, and Ruffed Grouse. Drives south on Rte 15, 1.5 miles south of the suspension bridge, parking is available for several cars at the beach on the right or at Scott's Landing on the left. 348-2455 or www.islandheritagetrust.org/.

7. Barred Island Islet. A one-mile trail through a maritime boreal forest of spruce and balsam, thickly-carpeted in moss and unalid shrubs. This is the domain of Swainson's Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blackburnian Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, and an occasional Boreal Chickadee. The last quarter mile of the trail bursts onto elevated ledges blanketed with upland cranberry. The margin between duff and forest is likely to contain Northern Parulas, Magnolia and Black-throated Green Warblers, while the open spruce forest is known for Common Yellowthroats and Song Sparrows.

Barred Island lies in the end of the trail, linked to the mainland at low tide by a sand bar. Ospreys and Bald Eagles nest on the island at various times. The Preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy and is managed by the Island Heritage Trust. From Deer Isle parking, travel Route 15A south for 3.2 miles to the Goose Cove Rd. Follow this road for about 1 mile to a parking area on your right, which has space for 8 cars only. 348-2455.

8. Isle au Haut. A six-mile ferry ride from Deer Isle/Stonington, the 2,700 acre Isle au Haut has a small year-round community on half the island while the other half is managed by Acadia National Park. In fall and winter, watch for Purple Sandpipers along the island's rugged shore, which is probably the most significant location for Harlequin Ducks in eastern North America. The Park lands are rich. Several islands east of Isle au Haut are notable for Great and Double-crested Cormorants, Leach's Storm Petrels, Black Guillemots, and Common Eiders.

9. Seal Island. About 12 miles SSE of Vinalhaven, this rugged 65-acre island, part of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, is a site of restored nesting grounds for thousands of Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Common and Arctic Terns, as well as significant numbers of breeding pairs of Great Cormorants. In the year 2000, over 200 species have been recorded here during spring and fall migrations.

10. Settlement Quarry. This Preserve's historic granite quarry sits on a height of land spectacular with the archipelago to the south. Before heading into the Preserve, scan the marsh just west of the parking lot for Marsh Wrens and migrating songbirds in season. From the small parking area, a network of trails passes through dense and open habitats used by a variety of warblers, including Wilson's, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Northern Parula and Ovenbird, along with Golden-crowned Kinglets and the occasional Boreal Chickadee. Listen for Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush, and in spring drumming Ruffed Grouse. Always exercise caution in this preserve, as the quarry contains many sharp drop-offs and unstable grotto pits. Accessible year round. From Rte 155, turn left onto Osseawille Road just south of the Stonington town line. Proceed about a mile to the Preserve on the right.

11. Edgar M. Lenny Preserve. Traverser through the 150-acre forested Preserve Scott's Landing bushy areas preferred by warblers. Two former farmsteads create open areas favored by songbirds, hawks, Bald Eagles, and Ospreys, as well as shoreline views of Deer Isle scoters. Mops can be found at a small kiosk at the first trail on the left. Driving south from Deer Isle village on Rte 15, turn left onto Sunshine Rd. Turn right onto Tennis Rd after about 2.5 miles. Parking is very limited.

the preponderance of fern, moss, and cedar bogs where Yellow-billed Flycatchers can be found.

Follow the signs to Mill Field and the Reservoir, which are excellent places for warblers, thrushes, nesting Common Ravens, and other native species. Just over a mile south of Lakes Point to Route 102, turn west toward Echo Lake Beach, then right onto Lurvey Spring Road toward Seal Cove.

23. Somes Sound. The only natural gulf in the United States, Somes Sound was scoured by the Wisconsin Glacier during the last Ice Age. Somes Sound, which cuts Mount Desert Island almost in half, is remarkable in summer, spectacular in fall foliage, and interesting during the winter. All the usual sea ducks are seen here, and since Somes Sound is more sheltered from ocean breezes, the sea ducks sometimes are more readily observable. Sergeant Drive, along the eastern side of Somes Sound, has spectacular scenic views, and Common Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, and occasionally harbor porpoises.

Just off Sergeant Point on your right, look for a gate leading to Samsby Park. During the spring breeding season, you find Blackburnian and Red Warblers in the tall White Pines and Red Dicks. Look for Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and Chestnut-sided Warblers in the shrubs surrounding the park. In the secondary growth behind, look for Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers and Northern Parulas.

The park is unmarked but the open gates should be open. There is a portable toilet in the museum. On the approach to Northeast Harbor on Rte 198, look for a sign that points to Sergeant Drive.

24. Jordan Pond House. Maturing stands of deciduous trees support a great concentration of warblers and other neotropical migrants. Leaves the crowds behind by following the Jordan Pond Loop Trail. Be alert for Northern Waterthrush at the northern end of the Pond. Merlin and Broad-winged Hawks frequent this area. Climb Penobscot Mountain for unparalleled panoramic views. The bridge just below the dam and along Jordan Stream to Seal Harbor is a hotspot for many neotropical birds foraging on insects during spring migration. Peregrine Falcons nest on Jordan Cliffs making this one of the most dynamic regions in the Park.

The Bubble Tree, a very sweet looking tree with yellow flowers in the tall White Pines and Red Dicks. This is one of the park's favorite hiking places. The dominant mixed and open lodgepole make the area favorable for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-headed Vireos, Prairie and other Warblers.

The Rockefeller Carriage Roads around Jordan Pond House and Wildwood Stables are also beloved to weekly summer "rusticators". Today, 55 miles of gravel road is available for travel by bike or foot - a highly recommended way to see many birds and amazing scenery.

25. Outer Point. In the off-season, venture beyond the closed gate to this excellent spot for irruptive White-winged Crossbills among the one-bearing trees. Panoramic Old Point Cliff is named for raptors here prevalent in the area. Offshore, near the bell buoy that marks the rocks hit by Samuel De Champlain in 1604, are foraging grounds for Common Eiders. In winter, Great Cormorants sometimes roost on the buoy. The woods around Outer Point are full of Golden-crowned Kinglets, Black-capped Chickadees, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Wintering Purple Sandpipers might be found along the rocks of Outer Point itself.

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When the Park Loop Road makes a deep U-turn over a granite causeway, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and numerous sandpipers lead during diurnal tides that flood the tidal pond, Buffleheads, Laughing Gulls, Red-necked Grebes, and Black Scoters are possible on the south side of the pond. On the north side of the pond, there are more specific overlooks and excellent habitat for Spruce Grouse.

In the woods behind the Park Loop Road is Acadia's Blackwoods Campground where snowmobilers and cross-country skiers look for Northern Skree or wandering owls in winter.

Most of the Park Loop Road is one way in the summer, and most of the road is closed and unplowed in the winter (December - April) to the benefit of snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. However, the most popular 2-mile section from the Entrance Station to Outer Cliffs is open and accessible from a winter entrance. Heading south from Bar Harbor on Rte 3, bear left on Ocean Drive through birch and open grasses, and frozen marshes impounded by beavers. At the Inter-entrance, a left turn leads to Schooner Head Overlook where a paved but sometimes icy trail to the seaside offers glimpses of Black-legged Kittiwakes, Northern Gannets and Black Guillemots. A right turn leads to the Entrance Station. The winter exit from the Park Loop Road bears right just before Outer Cliff and returns to Route 3. There is no entry fee from November through April.

26. Thunder Hole. One of Acadia's top attractions, Thunder Hole is named for the natural grotto that echoes with explosive force during an incoming tide. Pacific and Red-throated Loons and occasionally thick-billed Murre are seen during the winter months. It's a great place to scan for sea ducks. Harbor and gray seals, harbor porpoises and minke whales are sometimes seen.

27. Cadillac Mountain. The highest point on the North Atlantic seaboard, Cadillac Mountain is one of the best places in the Park for hawk watching in September. The entire is Beach Mountain (#22). During hawk migration, naturalists staff a daily hawk-walk and encourage participation. On a good day, typically when northwest breezes follow a cold front, American Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Osprey, Turkey Vultures, Peregrine Falcons, Merlin, and Bald Eagles pass by for a day.

Interestingly, Eastern Towhees nest below the mountaining, though they are uncommon outside of southern Maine. Brown Thrashers can be found at Blue Hill Overlook and Dark-eyed Junco, Yellow-rumped and Black and White Warblers can also be expected around the summit. Look for Snowy Owls and Snow Buntings in the winter.

28. Slew de Motts Spring. The Spring and surrounding watersheds offer some of the best Warbler watching on MDI. The mountain spring alone would be enough to attract birds, but this is also home to the Wild Gardens of Acadia. The garden is divided into 12 sections, each an example of the different habitat types found in Acadia. Mature deciduous trees, mostly hemlock, oak, red maple, and beech, predominate around the spring.

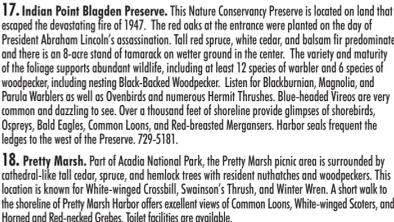
Red-eyed Vireos are very common. The most frequently occurring warblers are Yellow, Black-throated Green, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and Ovenbirds. Also look for Black-and-White, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, and Yellow-rumped Warblers around the parking lot. Philadelphia Vireos, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewees, and Alder Flycatchers are found in brushy wetlands of Great Meadow. Northern Flickers and Pileated Woodpeckers regularly nest here.

There are several walking paths available, but the most productive trail offers the parking lot on the north and west side of the Wild Gardens. At the outset, the small trees are handy for American Redstarts and Chestnut-sided Warblers with many Swamp Sparrows calling in the distance. As the path leaves the hemlins and enters the grove of mature hemlocks, Scarlet Tanagers, Great Crested Flycatcher, Hermit Thrushes, and Ovenbirds typically appear. Beyond the grove, the trail enters Great Meadow wetland and shrub habitat where Nashville Warblers, American Redstarts, Swamp Sparrows, Alder Flycatchers, and Indigo Buntings nest.

Other enjoyable paths lead south from the parking lot, past the Abbe Museum where Barred Owls have nested. To a small pond called The Fen. Check the pond carefully for Common Mergansers or other ducks which in recent years, Black-throated Blue Warblers sometimes are heard singing in the extensive second growth conifers on the mountainside beyond the pond. From Route 3 south of Bar Harbor or from the Park Loop Road, follow the signs to the spring. Due to the fire of 1947, deciduous trees predominate here, unlike the spruce/fir mix that prevails around the island.

Follow the Park Loop Road past Bear Brook Trail to breathtaking vistas overlooking Frenchman Bay. The Precipice Trail is a highlight. Peregrine Falcons have been seen since 1991. Today, several pair nest in the park and there is a nest in the Cliffside that may be nested from the rock. Rangers and guides are stationed below the peak to point out the locations of the falcons. Sand Beach is a fun stroll in summer or winter. The sand "is" actually small fragments of ancient seashells deposited by wave action. The beach is sheltered from prevailing breezes and faces into the sunlight so that sitting in the sand is pleasant even in January. Common Eiders, Common Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, Buffleheads, Red-necked and Horned Grebes should be present in winter. Sanderlings, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Plovers are common in fall.

The Ocean Trail from Sand Beach to Outer Cliffs showcases many warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Common Eiders are present year round, though their numbers increase in winter. A sign of the winter in winter usually reveals Black Guillemots, Red-breasted Mergansers, Horned and Red-necked Grebes. From late summer well into December, Northern Gannets and Black-legged Kittiwakes often can be seen in the distance. The rocks along this section of the coast are an excellent place for Purple Sandpipers. Look for Bald Eagles on Old Soaker, the island just off shore, feeding on Common Eiders or Double-crested Cormorants.



29. Bar Harbor. At the Town Pier, Black Guillemots, Common Loons, and thousands of Common Eiders are usually close, followed by Long-tailed Ducks in winter. In summer, this is also the place to sign up for a whale-watching cruise which provides some of the best pelagic birding in the state. Finback and humpback whales are the main quarry for these boats, though the endangered North Atlantic right whale is a possibility and the smaller minke whales are relatively common. Harbor porpoises are almost a certainty on any trip. Seabirds are drawn to the same food sources as the whales, so expect to encounter Great and Sooty, Manx and Cory's Shearwaters as well as Wilson and Leach's Storm-petrels. Thousands of Leach's Storm-petrels nest on nearby islands, but their nocturnal behavior makes sightings an uncommon treat. Northern Fulmars, Northern Gannets, and Long-billed Puffins are also common. Seabirds are always possible, especially later in the season. The Bar Harbor Sand Bar sometimes shelters thousands of sea ducks in the lee behind Bar Island during high tide, when six feet of water cover the bar. Common Eiders gather, joined by Common Goldeneyes, American Black Ducks, Mallards, and occasional Greater Scaup. Surf Scoters, Common Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, and Buffleheads also should be observable. Along the shoreline leading to and from the Bar, look for Yellow Warblers, Black and White Warblers, and Purple Finches. Peregrine Falcons and Merlin cruise down the beach diving for sandpipers and passerines near or over the water. Before leaving, swing a spotting scope along the islands for Bald Eagles. From Rte 3, turn onto West Street. Turn left onto Bridge Street and proceed to the dead end at the Sand Bar.

Hull's Cove (30), **Salsbury Cove** (31), and **Hadley Point Beach** (32) are described earlier.

33. Taunton Bay and Hog Bay. East of Ellsworth the extensive mudflats of Taunton Bay and Hog Bay (3,772 acres) provide food for thousands of migrating Bonaparte's and Laughing Gulls, Sandpipers, plovers, dowitchers and Whimbrels that pass through the region in July and August. Taunton Bay is the northern limit of the breeding range of the horseshoe crab. The best viewing of Hog Bay is at the northern end. Scope out thousands of sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, and Dowitchers. At the Town of East Franklin, look for the western entrance to Schoodic Mountain and Schoodic bog off of Hayes Road. Look for Palm Warblers and Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers.

34. Sullivan Falls. This reversing falls is known for Bald Eagles, warblers along the shore, and harbor seals frolicking in the fast-flowing water. Travel along US Rte 1 from Ellsworth through the Town of Hancock, and about 1 mile east to a 90 degree turn. Go straight to Sullivan Falls or, after the curve, cross over the Skillinge River Bridge and make the first left to Sullivan Falls onto Taunton Drive to South Hog Bay Road.

35. Schoodic Mountain and Donnell Pond Maine Public Reserve Land. Located less than 30 minutes from downtown Ellsworth, Donnell Pond Public Reserve Land encompasses more than 15,000 acres of lakes, mountains, and forests. It includes a 1,940-acre wetland reserve, five mountains that exceed 900 feet in elevation for migrating sparrow hawks, and 25 miles of freshwater shoreline including Tull Lake and Donnell Pond. Look for Boreal Chickadees along the stream just northeast of the Schoodic Mountain parking lot. Canada Jays, Northern Shrikes, and Spruce Grouse are regularly found. Birds on the Schoodic Mountain parking lot, or Black or Catherine Mountains, which are accessed from US Rte 1 north on Rte 1803 in East Sullivan. Travel 3 miles and cross the railroad tracks, then look for a sign on the left for Donnell Pond Unit. Drive 1.7 miles on Donnell Pond Road (bear left and straight) to the parking area.

Walking north towards Donnell pond along the back backbone of a glacial deposit known as an esker, listen for Black-throated Blue Warblers, Ovenbirds, and Winter Wrens in calling early spring. Climb Schoodic Mountain for unobscured views of MDI, looking for Purple Finches, winter fallouts, Pileated Woodpeckers and Winter Wrens in the valleys. The long hike to Donnell Pond where Common Loons, all three mergansers, Wood Ducks, and Belled Kingfishers are seen. Black-backed, and more rarely Three-toed, Woodpeckers are found throughout the Reserve.

Several Maine Public Reserve Lands can be found in Northern Hancock County. Each one represents a unique birding experience; most allow camping. 491-4412.

36. Acadia National Park-Schoodic Point District. Drive the stunning loop road through this remote portion of Acadia National Park to see plentiful sea ducks and warblers in summer and, in winter, Purple Sandpipers along the rocky shore and finches in the spruce trees. Crossbills are a good bet in irruptive years. Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadees, and Black-backed Woodpeckers are sighted occasionally. From US Rte 1, follow the signs to Winter Harbor along Route 186, and then to Schoodic Point. The Schoodic District may not have a visitor center, but there are many pull-outs along the loop road.

At Frazer Point, the open space and low shrubs are good for warblers and the picnic area provides a wide open look at the channel where winter sea ducks often are visible through binoculars. Army Cove, just before Schoodic Point, is good for sea ducks and Red-throated Loons, particularly in winter. All three scoters are here as well.

Approaching Schoodic Point, close views of eiders, mergansers, Black Guillemots, and scoters are possible, along with wintering Harlequin Ducks and Buffleheads. Schoodic Point is one of the best places to scope for distant sea birds: gannets, occasional Golden-crowned or Iceland Gulls in winter, Common Eiders, shorebirds, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and a variety of neotropical migrants. Also, scan for sea ducks and Red-throated Loons, which are most abundant in winter. Kinglets are present in spring and summer and Thick-billed Murres sometimes are seen in winter. Great Cormorants are noteworthy in winter, Double-crested Cormorants in spring.

The access road from Army Cove (closed in winter) or park at Blueberry Hill and hike the trails up to the 440-foot Schoodic Head. You might find a rare Black-backed Woodpecker along the road in the occasional Spruce Grouse and Boreal Chickadee on the summit. Crossbills, Barred Owls, and Northern Goshawks also are present.

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