

Program Guide

ACADIA BIRDING FESTIVAL

June 3-6, 2021



by Sue Shaw

Keynotes:

Scott Weidensaul • Tom Stephenson • Anna Siegel

CONTENTS

| | <i>Page</i> | | <i>Page</i> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| INFORMATION | 1 | | |
| SCHEDULE | 2-3 | | |
| KEYNOTES | 4-5 | | |
| TRIPS and DIRECTIONS | | | |
| Wendell Gilley Museum | 6 | Peregrine Falcon Viewing | 12 |
| Somesville Fire Station | 6 | Petit Manan NWR | 12 |
| Beech Mountain | 6 | Pretty Marsh | 12 |
| Blagden Preserve | 7 | Rockefeller Carriage Road | 13 |
| Canoeing Northeast Creek | 7 | Saddleback Mt (pre-fest trip) | 13 |
| Clark Point Rd. | 8 | Seal Cove - Cape Rd | 14 |
| Drawing Birds | 8 | Sears Island | 14 |
| Essex Woods in Bangor | 9 | Ship Harbor Nature Trail | 14 |
| Field Sketching in Nature | 9 | Sieur de Monts Spring | 15 |
| Fish Ladders in Somesville | 9 | Valley Cove and Flying Mountain | 16 |
| Frenchboro Preserve on Long Island | 10 | Wonderland | 16 |
| Otter Cliffs | 10 | SPONSORS | Inside back cover |
| Pelagic Seabird Boat Trip | 11 | MAP | Back cover |

FESTIVAL CENTER

Festival Center

(Located at Wendell Gilley Museum in Southwest Harbor)

This year we will be at the Wendell Gilley Museum at 4 Herrick Road, Southwest Harbor, ME.

All LIVE talks and KEYNOTE Presentations will be at this location, as well as our registration desk, limited items for sale, author book signings, and VORTEX optic vendor booth. There is very limited parking - if no room left, you can park on Herrick Road.

Very Important: Note that in past years, our Festival Center has been in Somesville at the Fire Station (not used this year due to COVID). You still need to know this location since our directions to events are based from the Somesville Fire Station. PLEASE familiarize yourself with the Somesville Fire Station, located at 1157 Main Street, Mount Desert (Somesville), ME 04660.

Directions for both the Wendell Gilley Museum and Somesville Fire Station are listed in this Program Guide under TRIPS and DESCRIPTIONS, and also on our ABF website.

GENERAL INFORMATION

COVID Requirements:

As of this printing, all participants must wear a face mask (not a bandana) during all events (indoor and outdoor) at all times, and strive to maintain social distancing from other participants, regardless of vaccination status. If this changes, I'll let you know by email.

Registration Desk Hours (at Wendel Gilley Museum):

We will have a VERY limited Registration Desk at the Wendell Gilley Museum this year (NOT at our normal Festival Center location in Somesville), so please plan on all communication to be by email. Your birding guide will have your registration materials on your first trip. No need to come to the Registration Desk to get your materials (unless your guide does not have your materials). We will have limited Registration Desk hours each day during the festival (Thursday-Sunday): 10:30am-2:30pm

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK PASS - Please read

A PARK PASS IS REQUIRED if you plan to drive your car into Acadia National Park. Many of our field trips are in the Park. If the trip name includes the letter "(ANP)" then the trip is in Acadia National Park, and you need a park pass. You can purchase a pass online at <https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/fees.htm> or buy at the ANP Visitor's Center in Hulls Cove, or the Chamber in Southwest Harbor as well as a few other locations on MDI. If you are 62 or over, you can purchase an ANNUAL PASS for \$20. Otherwise, a week-long CAR PASS (for anyone) is \$30. If you already have a senior National Park Pass, then there is no need to buy another pass.

How do I get to my event?

This booklet has directions to each event, and a map on the back cover. Be sure to figure out where you are going PRIOR to driving, since cell phone coverage can be patchy on Mount Desert Island.

What should I bring?

Definitely bring your binoculars. In addition, you might consider bringing a notepad/sketch pad, camera, and scope if you have one. Carry mosquito repellent in case needed. Beware of ticks, especially if you walk through grassy areas. If you are signed up to do the Pelagic Seabird Boat Trip, wear WINTER clothes. It is always cold out on the water.

What if it is raining during my event?

ABF does not cancel field trips due to rain. Please plan to attend regardless of weather. The Pelagic Seabird Boat Trip is more dependent on weather so be sure to read the cancellation instructions in this Program Guide (see below and under the Pelagic trip description).

Do you cancel trips?

ABF reserves the right to cancel a field trip, program, or activity for any reason. In the event this becomes necessary, we will notify you and issue a refund or give you the option of switching to a different event.

Do you ever cancel the Pelagic Seabird Boat Trip?

We had to cancel once in the last 12 years. We pay very close attention to the weather, and we will make our **final GO or NO GO decision by 6pm on Friday**. If cancelled, we will leave a voice message on the festival phone (207-233-3694) and post the cancellation at Festival Center and on the website. If there is no cancellation message on the phone, then you can count on the trip going. Be sure to check AFTER 6pm on Friday! Even if the land weather looks good, the seas could be too rough. If the pelagic is cancelled, we will provide field trips for you to join Saturday morning (details will be posted at Festival Center and on the website). The makeup day for a cancelled Pelagic is on Monday with the regularly scheduled Bar Harbor Whale Watch trip (11:40am – 4:00pm). If you can't make this date, you can request a refund.

What if I have more questions?

If you have more questions about the festival, please contact Becky at beckym@acadiabirdingfestival.com or call 207-233-3694, or better yet, come by Festival Center and ask.

Acadia Birding Festival Schedule

| Time | Type | Description | Fee |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|------|
| Wednesday, June 2 (PRE-FEST) | | | |
| 7:00am-2:00pm | Field Trip | SADDLEBACK MT - Bicknell's Thrush | \$90 |
| 4:00pm-5:00pm | Talk | **Improve your Song ID Skills (Tom Stephenson) -LIVE | \$15 |
| 4:00pm-5:00pm | Talk | **Improve your Song ID Skills (Tom Stephenson) -VIRTUAL | \$10 |
| Thursday, June 3 | | | |
| 6:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | **Sieur de Monts (ANP) - Bird Song ID (Tom Stephenson) | \$45 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Seal Cove | \$25 |
| 6:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Pretty Marsh/ Long Pond Fire Rd (ANP) | \$25 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Otter Cliff (ANP) | \$25 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | **Blagden Preserve (Scott Weidensaul) | \$45 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Clark Point Rd | \$25 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Wonderland (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Petit Manan Preserve (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Sears Island (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Bangor - Essex Woods (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:30am-10:30am | Boat Trip | Canoe and Bird - Northeast Creek | \$45 |
| 10:30am-12:00pm | Field Trip | Kids "Birding Blitz" (at Pretty Marsh Picnic Area) | \$0 |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | Talk | **Improve your Warbler ID Skills (Tom Stephenson) - LIVE | \$15 |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | Talk | **Improve your Warbler ID Skills (Tom Stephenson) - VIRTUAL | \$10 |
| 1:00pm-4:00pm | Workshop | Drawing Birds (Michael Boardman) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Wonderland (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Seal Cove | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Blagden Preserve | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | **Sieur de Monts Spring (ANP) (Scott Weidensaul) | \$40 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Clark Point Rd (Billy Helprin) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | **Valley Cove/Flying Mt (ANP) (Tom Stephenson) | \$40 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Otter Cliff (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Ship Harbor (ANP) (focus on Botany and Birds-Jill Weber) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Rockefeller Carriage Rd (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:00pm-8:00pm | KEYNOTE | Field Notes from a Young Birder (Anna Siegel) - VIRTUAL | \$10 |
| Friday, June 4 | | | |
| 6:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | **Seal Cove - Warbler ID (Tom Stephenson) | \$45 |
| 6:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Pretty Marsh/ Long Pond Fire Rd (ANP) | \$25 |
| 6:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Sieur de Monts Spring (ANP) | \$25 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | **Clark Point Rd (Scott Weidensaul) | \$45 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Rockefeller Carriage Rd (ANP) | \$25 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Otter Cliff (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Petit Manan Preserve (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Sears Island (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Bangor - Essex Woods (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Beech Mountain (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Ship Harbor Nature Trail (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:30am-10:30am | Boat Trip | Canoe and Bird - Northeast Creek | \$45 |
| 7:45am-3:00pm | Island Trip | Frenchboro/Long Island (ferry ride) -3/4 DAY | \$95 |
| 10:30am-11:30am | Field Trip | Peregrine Falcon Viewing (ANP) | \$10 |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | Talk | Seabird ID workshop (Doug Hitchcox) - LIVE | \$15 |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | Talk | Seabird ID workshop (Doug Hitchcox) - VIRTUAL | \$10 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Ship Harbor (ANP) (focus on Botany and Birds-Jill Weber) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Blagden Preserve | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Sieur de Monts Spring (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Pretty Marsh/Long Pond Fire Rd (ANP) | \$25 |

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|--|------|
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Wonderland (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | **Seal Cove (focus on common birds - Scott Weidensaul) | \$40 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Otter Cliff (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Valley Cove and Flying Mountain (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | **Clark Point Rd (Tom Stephenson) | \$40 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Rockefeller Carriage Rd (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:00pm-8:00pm | KEYNOTE | Project SNOWstorm (Scott Weidensaul) - LIVE | \$20 |
| 7:00pm-8:00pm | KEYNOTE | Project SNOWstorm (Scott Weidensaul) - VIRTUAL | \$15 |

Saturday, June 5

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|---|-------|
| 6:00am-10:30am | Boat Trip | PELAGIC SEABIRD BOAT TRIP | \$100 |
| 6:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Seal Cove | \$25 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Ship Harbor (ANP) (focus on Botany and Birds) | \$25 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Blagden Preserve | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Sears Island (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Sieur de Monts Spring (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Fish Ladders in Somesville (Billy Helprin) | \$25 |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | Book Sale | Book Sales (signed by authors) | \$0 |
| 1:00pm-4:00pm | Workshop | Drawing Birds (Michael Boardman) | \$25 |
| 2:30pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | **How to take Better Photos Workshop (Tom Stephenson) | \$45 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Ship Harbor (ANP) (focus on Botany and Birds-Jill Weber) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | **Pretty Marsh/Long Pond Fire Rd (ANP) (Scott Weidensaul) | \$40 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Blagden Preserve | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Sieur de Monts Spring (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Otter Cliff (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Seal Cove | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Valley Cove/Flying Mt (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Beech Mountain (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Fish Ladders in Somesville (Billy Helprin) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Wonderland (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Sieur de Monts Spring (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Clark Point Rd | \$25 |
| 7:00pm-8:00pm | KEYNOTE | Why Birds Sing (Tom Stephenson) - LIVE | \$20 |
| 7:00pm-8:00pm | KEYNOTE | Why Birds Sing (Tom Stephenson) - VIRTUAL | \$15 |

Sunday, June 6

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---|------|
| 6:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | **Sieur de Monts Spring (ANP) (Scott Weidensaul) | \$45 |
| 6:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Pretty Marsh/Long Pond Fire Rd (ANP) | \$25 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | **Blagden Preserve - Bird Song ID (Tom Stephenson) | \$45 |
| 6:30am-10:00am | Field Trip | Seal Cove (Billy Helprin) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Valley Cove/Flying Mt (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Ship Harbor Nature Trail (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Bangor - Essex Woods (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Petit Manan Preserve (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Sears Island (1+ hour drive from MDI) | \$25 |
| 7:00am-10:00am | Field Trip | Rockefeller Carriage Rd (ANP) | \$25 |
| 7:30am-10:30am | Boat Trip | Canoe and Bird - Northeast Creek | \$45 |
| 7:45am-3:00pm | Island Trip | Frenchboro/Long Island (ferry ride) -3/4 DAY | \$95 |
| 10:30am-11:30am | Field Trip | Peregrine Falcon Viewing (ANP) | \$10 |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | Talk | The Real James Bond & Mt. Desert Is. (Jim Wright) - LIVE | \$10 |
| 1:00pm-2:00pm | Talk | The Real James Bond & Mt. Desert Is. (Jim Wright) - VIRTUAL | \$5 |
| 1:00pm-3:00pm | Workshop | Field Sketching in Nature (Michael Boardman) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Seal Cove (Billy Helprin) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Clark Point Rd | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Otter Cliff (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | **Pretty Marsh/Long Pond Fire Rd (ANP) (Tom Stephenson) | \$40 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Ship Harbor Nature Trail (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Valley Cove and Flying Mountain (ANP) | \$25 |
| 3:00pm-5:30pm | Field Trip | Blagden Preserve | \$25 |

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

Thursday 7pm – Field Notes from a Young Birder – VIRTUAL only – with Anna Siegel

Listen to perspectives, snapshots, and stories from Anna Siegel, a birder and climate activist right here in Maine. Whether it's navigating how to get to a hotspot without a driver's license or missing bird walks to study for her Bat Mitzvah, Anna's experience as a young woman striving to become an ornithologist is an adventure that is sobered by the reality of the climate crisis and the need for environmental advocacy. Hear about how birds and birding inspired her climate work, and the importance of adult mentorship that can create young birders and changemakers.



Anna Siegel is a young birder, climate activist, and student in Portland, Maine. She is a Core member of the statewide coalition Maine Youth for Climate Justice and a representative to the Emergency Management working group of the Maine Climate Council. Wildlife has been Anna's passion from a very young age and spurred her efforts to become engaged with the climate movement. Now she directs policy campaigns in a dozen Maine municipalities and works with legislators in the State House. Weekends are dedicated to birding with the Maine Young Birders Club, nature photography, and creating art around birds. Anna hopes to become a conservation ornithologist and explore her interests in evolution, phenology, and research biases in the field and the lab.

Friday 7pm – Caught in the SNOWstorm (LIVE and Virtual) – with Scott Weidensaul

The winter of 2013-14 saw the largest invasion of snowy owls into the eastern United States in perhaps a



century -- and marked an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about these mysterious Arctic hunters. Author and researcher Scott Weidensaul will share the ongoing story of Project SNOWstorm -- how a huge, collaborative research effort focused on snowy owls came together in a few frantic weeks, funded with the help of people from around the world, and continues to make discoveries and unexpected insights into the life and ecology of this great white raptor.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist "Living on the Wind," "Return to Wild America" and "The First Frontier." His newest book, "A World on the Wing" about global migration, was just released in 2020.

Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon, a columnist for Bird Watcher's Digest and writes for a variety of other publications, including Living Bird. He is also an active field researcher, studying saw-whet owl migration for more than two decades, as well as winter hummingbirds, bird migration in Alaska, and the winter movements of snowy owls through Project SNOWstorm, which he co-founded.

Saturday 7pm – Why Birds Sing & How They Learn Their Songs – with Tom Stephenson

It takes energy to sing. So why do most birds spend so much time vocalizing? What are the different functions of songs and calls? Are songs learned or innate? And how do we know? Tom Stephenson, author of *The Warbler Guide* and several important birding apps, will present an overview of the kinds of vocalizations that birds make, how they are acquired, and how the song-learning process unfolds. He'll discuss why you might hear very odd songs from common species in early spring, and what that tells us about the singer. Stephenson will also cover the many different kinds of vocalizations one individual bird might make, what they may mean, and discuss species that sing only one song across the US compared with other species that have hundreds of different songs.



Tom Stephenson has been birding since he was a kid under the tutelage of Dr. Arthur Allen of Cornell University. His articles and photographs are in museums and many publications including *Birding*, *Birdwatcher's Digest*, *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, *Handbook of the Mammals of the World*, *Birds of Madagascar*, and *Guide to the Birds of SE Brazil*.

Tom has lectured and guided many groups across the US as well as in Asia, where he trained guides for the government of Bhutan. He has donated numerous recordings of Eastern Himalayan rarities and other Asian species to Cornell's Macaulay Library of Natural sounds. For several years he was on Zeiss's digiscoping team for the World Series of Birding; and in 2011 his and Scott's team won the World Series Cape Island Cup. In 2014 Tom and Scott set the US record for a Photo Big Day, taking pictures of 208 species in one 24-hour period.

His latest book, *The Warbler Guide*, is published by Princeton University Press and recently won the National Outdoor Book Award. The *Warbler Guide* App, for iOS and Android, includes 3D rotating models and won the 2015 Design Award for AAUP Book, Jacket and Journal Show. His app, *BirdGenie*, is a "shazam" for bird song that helps bird enthusiasts identify over 150 common vocalizations in eastern and western US by recording them on their smart phone. *BirdGenie* won the prestigious PROSE award from the American Association of Publishers.

He is currently working on three more books and two apps for Princeton. Tom holds a patent on technology to identify animal vocalizations using a wide range of analytic criteria.

TRIPS and DIRECTIONS

2021 FESTIVAL CENTER - Wendell Gilley Museum

LIMITED SPACE - all registration info will be communicated by email. We will have limited Registration Desk hours (~10:30am to 2:30pm each day) at the Wendell Gilley Museum this year (NOT at our normal Festival Center location in Somesville), so please plan on all communication to be by email. Your birding guide will have your registration materials on your first trip. No need to come to the Registration Desk to get your materials (unless your guide does not have your materials). All LIVE talks and KEYNOTE Presentations will be at this location, as well as limited items for sale, author book signings, and VORTEX optic vendor booth. There is very limited parking - if no room left, you can park on Herrick Road.

(Southwest Harbor - just north of town center at 4 Herrick Rd, Southwest Harbor)

The Wendell Gilley Museum is a community center that celebrates the life and work of Wendell Gilley, a pioneer in the field of decorative bird carving. It teaches the art of bird carving and presents art exhibitions and educational programs with a special focus on people, nature and art. The Museum endeavors to inspire appreciation of the visual arts, engagement in artistic creativity, and respect and care for the natural world. Exploring the natural world through art and action is fun at the Gilley Museum. Stop in, there is always so much to see and do. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 AM - 4 PM.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 5.2 miles, 10 minutes

Head south on ROUTE 102/Main St toward Southwest Harbor for 5.2 miles. Turn left on Herrick Road. The Museum is immediately on your right.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 13.2 miles, 23 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there.

Somesville Fire Station (Previous Festival Center)

Previous years' festival center (not this year due to COVID). However, all Event directions are based from here, so it is important that you are familiar with this location.

Directions from Ellsworth: 14.5 miles, 23 minutes

Head southeast on ME-3 E/High St for 9.4 miles. After crossing onto Mount Desert Island, stay straight on ME-102 S/ME-198/Main St, when ME-3 curves to the left. Follow ME-102 for 5.1 miles, through Somesville (note 25 MPH speed zone!), to destination - Fire Station on your right, and the Acadia Repertory Theater on your left.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 8.0 miles, 13 minutes

Head west on ME-233 W/Eagle Lake Rd for approximately 6.0 miles. Turn right at ME-198 N/ME-3 E/Sound Dr. and drive 1.4 miles. Turn left at traffic light, onto ME-102 S/Main St. Follow for .8 miles, through Somesville (note 25 MPH speed zone!), to destination - Fire Station on your right, and the Acadia Repertory Theater on your left.

Beech Mountain

2 miles walking, easy to moderate.

(Meet at the Beech Mountain parking lot at the end of Beech Hill Rd.)

Stroll out to Beech Cliff with spectacular views over Echo Lake. Watch for the nesting Peregrine Falcon soaring near the cliffs. This two mile loop continues along the cliff then turns back toward Beech Mountain where Blue-headed Vireo, Winter Wren, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher can be heard singing. Ruffed Grouse

also frequent these woods. In addition to the common warblers, Black-throated Blue Warblers are often seen in the area.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 3.5 miles, 10 minutes

Head WEST onto ROUTE 102/Pretty Marsh Rd (not south). In 0.3 miles, turn left onto Beech Hill Rd. At all intersections, stay on Beech Hill Rd until you reach the end in about 3.2 miles.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 11.5 miles, 23 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there.

Blagden Preserve

2 miles of easy terrain walking, with 150 ft descent to coast and back. Watch for patches of poison ivy near the shoreline.

(Meet at The Nature Conservancy's Blagden Preserve parking lot at 403 Indian Point Road, Bar Harbor)

An excellent example of a maturing Red Spruce forest, the Indian Point Blagden Preserve escaped the ravages of the devastating 1947 fire, thus maintaining its original character. We'll walk down a private paved road which offers open views to help us look for the much sought Blackburnian and Magnolia Warblers along with Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Black and White, Pine, Yellow-rumped, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, and Ovenbird. Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos are at home here as are Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creeper and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Great-crested Flycatcher and Eastern Wood Pewee are a long shot but possible, with occasional sightings of Purple Finch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Cedar Waxwings. There is a parallel path option, that is rocky and rooty, deep in the woods for those wanting more adventure. The trails converge near the shore where we pause for a rest and brief sea-watch, looking for Common and Red-throated Loon, Bald Eagle, Osprey, cormorants, scoters, gulls, and terns.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 2.9 miles, 8 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 102 for 0.3 miles, then turn left onto Oak Hill Road (across from the pond in Somesville). In 1.4 miles bear right past Whitney Farm Road on your left. Continue on Oak Hill Road for another mile to the T intersection. Turn left onto Indian Point Road. In 0.2 miles, the entrance to Blagden Preserve (The Nature Conservancy) will be on your right. Enter, then park immediately to your left.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 10.3 miles, 19 minutes

Head west on ROUTE 233/Eagle Lake Rd for approximately 6.0 miles. Turn right at ROUTE 198 N/ROUTE 3/Sound Drive and drive 1.4 miles. Turn left at traffic light, onto ROUTE 102/Main St. Follow for 0.5 miles, then turn right onto Oak Hill Road. In 1.4 miles bear right past Whitney Farm Road on your left. Continue on Oak Hill Road for another mile to the T intersection. Turn left onto Indian Point Road. In 0.2 miles, the entrance to Blagden Preserve (The Nature Conservancy) will be on your right. Enter, then park immediately to your left.

Canoe and Bird - Northeast Creek

Approx. 2 miles of canoeing

(Meet on Rt. 3 at bridge over Northeast Creek, GPS coordinates 44.424796, -68.326904)

The Northeast Creek estuary dates back to the melting Wisconsin Glacier 13,000 years ago and is the largest freshwater outflow off the Mount Desert Range flowing north. Known locally as "Fresh Meadow" or "King's Creek", this tidal bog ecosystem has raised portions and tidal creeks which can be explored at your leisure while paddling these quiet waters. This trip will allow you an opportunity to become familiar with a variety of calls such as Common Yellow-throat and Black-throated Green Warblers, and Alder and Least Flycatchers. There is extensive edge habitat throughout the three mile paddle with diverse wetlands offering possible opportunities to observe the difficult-to-find American Bittern, Spotted Sandpipers, and Swamp,

Savannah, and Song Sparrows. Northern Harriers sometimes nest in the upper reaches and can be occasionally seen gliding over the sedge marsh meadow seeking tidal mammals. Freshwater and tidal waterfowl utilize the variety of salinities found in this watershed, including Red-breasted Merganser, American Black Duck, and Mallards. Great Blue Heron, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Belted Kingfisher all search for feasts of fish and small invertebrates in the creek. Bald Eagles have nested at the mouth of this great estuary which provides a year round source of prey. Life vests, paddles and canoes are provided. Bring water, sunscreen, and snacks.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 5.0 miles, 10 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 102/Main St. Continue for 2.9 miles, then bear right onto Knox Road at the Town Hill Market. In 1.5 miles, turn right onto ROUTE 3/Bar Harbor Road. In 0.4 miles, cross over Northeast Creek, and park on side of road.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 8.0 miles, 12 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 3/Eden St for 8.0 miles. Park on left side just before you reach the Northeast Creek bridge.

Clark Point Road

1.0 mile of easy walking

(Meet at the corner of Clark Point Rd and Bradbury Lane in Bernard, Address: 1 Bradbury Lane, Bernard)

Clark Point Road is a little gem. The walking is easy and there are a variety of habitats ranging from open field, to hardwood forest, mixed growth, and conifers. The road creates edge habitat that offers great views of Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-and-white, Yellow, and Northern Parula Warblers alongside Common Yellowthroat and American Redstart, and we often hear the drumming of Ruffed Grouse. Pileated, Hairy, and Downy woodpeckers all grace the woods. Successional alder thickets yield Alder Flycatchers and the open fields along the road offer Bluebirds, and Song Sparrows. We will walk through private property with Red-eyed Vireos, Blue-headed Vireos, Purple Finches, Hermit Thrushes, Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, White-throated Sparrows and Winter Wrens to access a secluded beach on the shore of Goose Cove where we may see Black Guillemots, Common Eiders, Double Crested Cormorants, Scoters, Osprey, and potentially the daily visit of the Bald Eagle.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 10.2 miles, 17 minutes

Head WEST onto ROUTE 102/Pretty Marsh Rd (not south). In 3.5 miles, DO NOT TURN RIGHT towards Pretty Marsh. Stay left on ROUTE 102 and drive south for 6.0 more miles to Clark Point Road. Turn right, and drive 0.7 miles to Bradbury Lane. Park in field off Bradbury Lane, or as directed.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 18.6 miles, 32 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there.

Drawing Birds

short easy walk

(Meet at Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary, 289 High St, Ellsworth. GPS coordinates 44.528042, -68.403416)

Maine wildlife artist Michael Boardman will lead a hands-on workshop to Birdsacre preserve in Ellsworth. Once there we will go through some sketching exercises using bird mounts while Michael demos what to look for and how to interpret that information into a drawing. From there we will move to the live raptors of the center and we'll have a chance to draw and scrutinize a living bird, that hopefully won't fly away. ANY experience level is welcome. The workshop is about learning to see through drawing, and everyone will get something out of it. If you can draw a stick figure and an oval you're in. People are welcome to bring their own supplies but some will be on hand as well to try out.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 14 miles, 22 minutes

Head NORTH to Ellsworth. As you approach Ellsworth at the top of the hill TURN RIGHT on Myrick St, then LEFT onto RT 1. In 0.3. miles TURN LEFT onto Short St. and at the T, TURN LEFT onto High St. In 0.2 miles, the Sanctuary is on your RIGHT. Watch carefully, as it is easy to miss.

Essex Woods in Bangor

2 miles walking, easy to moderate

(Meet at Essex Woods. GPS coordinates 44.824752, -68.767429)

Essex Woods, located in Bangor near I-95, offers 70 acres of a variety of habitats, from forests of spruce and pine, to crabapple, maple, and birch, to wetlands. We will look for Sora and Virginia Rails, egrets and herons, American Bittern, and several species of waterfowl in the wetlands. There are numerous songbirds such as Indigo Bunting, Warbling Vireo, House Wren, Eastern Kingbird and Tree Swallow, Swamp Sparrow, woodpeckers, thrush, and flycatchers as well. 23 species of warbler have been reported in Essex Woods.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station. 46.8 miles, 1 hour

Head NORTH to Bangor on Rt 1A to I-395. Drive on I-395 W to I-95 NORTH. In 3.0 miles, take exit 185 and then TURN RIGHT onto Broadway . Drive 0.2 miles and TURN RIGHT onto Alden St. Follow Alden St, which soon becomes N French St, which soon becomes Bill St. At T, TURN LEFT onto E. Broadway, then IMMEDIATELY TURN RIGHT on Watchmaker St. Park at the end of street.

Field Sketching in Nature

short easy walk

(Meet at Sieur de Monts Spring parking. GPS coordinates: 44.362882, -68.207555)

Have you ever wanted to keep a nature or travel journal? Maine artist Michael Boardman will lead a relaxing wander through a location in Acadia TBD, where we will explore and experiment with drawing and painting techniques and tools for making sketches outside. Distilling the essence of what you're looking at in the landscape will be discussed, as well as watercolor technique and some field sketching of wild birds if we are lucky. Bring your own sketchbook and supplies, but we will have a few to try out on hand.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 10.3 miles, 19 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 102/Main St for 0.8 miles. At the traffic light, turn right onto ROUTE 198/ROUTE 3. Drive 1.4 miles, then turn left onto ROUTE 233/Eagle Lake Rd toward Bar Harbor. In 5.1 miles turn right at Cromwell Harbor Rd (Kebo Valley Golf Course). Stay on Cromwell Harbor Rd for 1.2 miles, then turn right at ROUTE 3/Main St. Follow ROUTE 3 for 1.6 miles (note mileage) just past Jackson Lab, then turn right, following signs for Sieur de Monts Spring. Sign may not be obvious.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 4.1 miles, 9 minutes

Head south from Bar Harbor on ROUTE 3/Main St. for about 2.0 miles, then turn right following signs for Sieur de Monts Spring.

Fish Ladders in Somesville

0.5 miles of easy walking

(Meet at Somesville Fire Station - park in designated spots, or across the road at the Acadia Repertory Theater)

We will start out walking from the Fire Station down the main street of Somesville, the first town settled on MDI (in 1761) and listed as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. We will watch the

action around the Somes Mill Pond, site of the original saw mill on the island, now a real wildlife spectacle during the annual alewife (river herring) migration. The approximately ten inch long fish return each year to the head of Somes Sound on their way to spawn in Somes and Long Ponds. This migration and spawning effort is a real conservation success story with numbers rising from a few hundred returning alewife in 2005 to tens of thousands in more recent years thanks to restoration work on the fish passage ways coordinated by Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary and many partners. This migration attracts all kinds of predators including bald eagles, osprey, cormorants, gulls, and seals engaged in the process of trying to grab at least one of the fish. This spring we are expecting a large cohort of alewife to make the journey back so it will be fun to see what happens! Eagles try to rob from osprey, harbor seals occasionally strafe the school of fish gathering at the base of the fish ladder at higher tides, and mergansers and cormorants try to dive for them in the mill pond. Great photo opportunities abound! From the mill pond we'll walk upstream into a beautiful cemetery with many large trees and a nice forested edge adjacent to the outflow of Somes Pond. We should find numerous warblers, vireos, and other songbirds along our route.

Frenchboro Preserve on Long Island

5+ miles of easy to moderate trails and island roads. Be prepared to do lots of hiking.

(Meet at Ferry Dock at 45 Granville Rd, Bass Harbor. Park for free near Post Office at 209 Harbor Dr, Bass Harbor but arrive in time for the 0.3 mile walk to the ferry)

This exciting island trip starts at 7:45am at the Bass Harbor ferry dock where you will board the 8:00am ferry for Frenchboro on Long Island. The 45 min ride will give us a chance to search the waters of Blue Hill Bay for Black Guillemots, scoters, non-breeding Common Loons, Common Eiders, Osprey, Bald Eagles and marine mammals. Once on the island the group will bird watch their way through the village of Frenchboro itself and then along miles of trails through the diverse habitats of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust Frenchboro preserve. The day promises to be filled with over 50 species of birds as we search the island's maritime forests, riparian and wetland areas, ponds, shoreline and bold coastal cliffs and rocky headlands. In addition, the island offers great views of Mount Desert Island, its off-shore islands and the open ocean. There will also be plenty of time for exploration of the village around Lunt Harbor, with its history museum and other attractions. Price includes a lobster roll lunch. Please bring your own snacks and water. The ferry leaves Frenchboro at 2:00pm arriving back in Bass Harbor at 2:45pm. Your leader, Terry Towne, is the Maine Coast Heritage Trust Regional Steward for the Frenchboro preserve, has an intimate knowledge of the island, its history, and its many natural features.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 9.0 miles, 16 minutes

Head south on ROUTE 102/Main St through Southwest Harbor and toward Bass Harbor for about 7.8 miles. At the corner gas station, turn left onto ROUTE 102A/Harbor Dr. In 1.0 mile turn right onto McMullen Ave (at Post Office). You can park for free next to the Post Office and walk 0.3 miles to the ferry, or if you prefer to drive closer, you can pay \$10 to park at the ferry. From the Post Office, follow McMullen downhill to the T intersection with Granville Rd and turn left. Ferry is on the right in 0.2 miles.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 5.4 miles, 12 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there.

Otter Cliffs

2 miles of moderate, hilly terrain with some rocks/roots.

(Meet at Fabbri Picnic area parking lot. GPS coordinates 44.314411, -68.195083)

This unique peninsula acts as a migrant trap for birds traveling from Neotropical regions. Mourning, Blackburnian, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, and Northern Parula Warblers, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy and Downy Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin are all found here. Otter Point, located 12 miles out to sea from the mainland, offers diverse

coastal and deepwater habitats which attracts a variety of seabirds including Common Eider, Black Guillemot, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Red-necked and Horned Grebe, Double-crested and Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, Red-breasted Merganser, and all three Scoter. A special treat is the chance to view nesting Black Guillemot on the high vertical cliffs.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 13.4 miles, 26 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 102/Main St for 0.8 miles. At the traffic light, turn right onto ROUTE 198/ROUTE 3. Drive 1.4 miles, then turn left onto ROUTE 233/Eagle Lake Rd toward Bar Harbor. In 5.1 miles turn right at Cromwell Harbor Rd (Kebo Valley Golf Course). Stay on Cromwell Harbor Rd for 1.2 miles, then turn right at ROUTE 3/Main St. Follow ROUTE 3 for 3.2 miles, then turn left at Otter Cliff Rd. Turn right into Fabbri Picnic area in 1.7 miles. If you come to a T intersection (Park Look Road) you have gone too far.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 5.4 miles, 12 minutes

Head south from Bar Harbor on ROUTE 3/Main St. for about 3.7 miles, then turn left at Otter Cliff Rd. Turn right into Fabbri Picnic area in 1.7 miles.

Pelagic Seabird Boat Trip

(Meet at the town pier in Bar Harbor at 6am - Park at town pier parking lot. Address: 1 West St, Bar Harbor, or pick one of several nearby parking lots - see map for timelimits and rates). Download the ParkMobile app to your smartphone to easily find, pay for, or extend your parking; or pay via credit card.

Our popular Pelagic Seabird Boat trip provides a unique opportunity to see birds that live and thrive on the open ocean, far from shore-bound eyes. Each trip is different, offering the potential for Atlantic Puffin, Common Murre, Razorbills, Phalarope, Shearwater, Northern Gannet, Jaeger, Storm Petrel, Tern, and there are always a few surprises. We sail aboard the Friendship V, one of the fastest most stable birding platforms in the country. Depending on conditions, and recent reports, we may visit Mt Desert Rock (25 miles off-shore), the nearby "Ball Park", a nutrient rich upwelling, and Petit Manan Island for nesting birds, all known hotspots. Good birds are often seen along the way. Experienced local ABF Birding Guides and a Ship's Naturalist will assist in locating and directing you to target birds. Although birding is our primary focus, incidental sightings of marine mammals are possible. We sometimes see whales, porpoise, dolphin and seals. If you wish to experience the rich diversity of bird life on the open North Atlantic Ocean and its coastal islands, this trip is for you. **Bring your ID! For comfort, dress for winter. There are hot and cold beverages and snacks for purchase on the boat. If cancelled due to weather, the make-up date will be Monday from 11:40am-4:00pm on the regularly scheduled whale watch trip (if you can't make this date, we will refund your money). Please call 207-233-3694 or visit www.acadiabirdingfestival.com after 6:00pm on Friday (the day prior to the trip) to check about possible cancellation.**

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 8.7 miles, 16 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 102/Main St for 0.8 miles. At the traffic light, turn right onto ROUTE 198/ROUTE 3. Drive 1.4 miles, then turn left onto ROUTE 233/Eagle Lake Rd toward Bar Harbor. In 5.8 miles you'll reach Bar Harbor. Continue straight onto Mt. Desert St. In 0.5 miles, turn left at Main St. In 0.3 miles, at the bottom of the hill, you'll be at the Town Pier. Refer to the Parking Map we provided (www.barharbormaine.gov/400/Parking-Information); you will need parking until 10:30 am (the Pelagic trip is expected to return by 10:00am). Kiosk parking is suggested since charge does not start until 9am. (\$1.50-\$2/hr with no time limit). There are kiosk parking lots at the Town Pier; uphill from there (behind the park) next to the public restrooms; and also behind the hotel/shops at the corner of West St and Main St (enter off West St). There is also metered parking on West Street, \$1.50/hr (no time limit); charge starts at 7am.

Directions from Bar Harbor:

At the town dock. Corner of West St. and Main St.

Peregrine Falcon Viewing

No walking.

(Meet at the Precipice trail Parking lot. GPS coordinates 44.349601, -68.187982)

Join Angi King Johnston to look for and learn about the famous Peregrine Falcons that nest here every year. There will be a spotting scope and continuous interpretation to teach you about Peregrine Falcons and other raptors on MDI. Sitting atop the food chain, raptors are known for their power, speed, and special adaptations.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 11 miles, 22 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 102/Main St for 0.8 miles. At the traffic light, turn right onto ROUTE 198/ROUTE 3. Drive 1.4 miles, then turn left onto ROUTE 233/Eagle Lake Rd toward Bar Harbor. In 5.1 miles turn right at Cromwell Harbor Rd (Kebo Valley Golf Course). Stay on Cromwell Harbor Rd for 0.5 miles, then take the first right onto Kebo St. In 0.5 miles, turn left at Ocean Drive/Park Loop Rd. Drive 2.8 miles to Precipice Trail Parking lot on right.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 4.1 miles, 9 minutes

Head south from Bar Harbor on ROUTE 3/Main St. for about 2.0 miles, then turn right following signs to Ocean Drive/Park Loop Rd (also sign for Sieur de Monts Spring). Stay to the right, then at the T, turn right again onto the Park Loop Rd. Follow for 1.9 miles to Precipice Trail Parking lot on right.

Petit Manan NWR

2 miles of moderately flat trail with roots and rocks and some steps

(Meet at the Hollingsworth Trail parking area in Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge. GPS coordinates 44.433534, -67.897342)

Dense spruce/fir boreal micro-habitats of Maine's downeast coast provide unusual access to species generally found much farther north. We will search for the elusive Spruce Grouse, and listen for multiple warbler species. Red Crossbills, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and maybe a Philadelphia Vireo (just to name a few) along the Hollingsworth Trail. Before the trail starts looping back to the parking area, we will come out to the ocean and scan for shorebirds, ducks, scoters, Black Guillemots, etc. Please note there are no bathroom facilities at the trailhead.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station. 47 miles, 1 hour

Head NORTH off of MDI to Ellsworth on Rt 3. In Ellsworth, TURN RIGHT (east) onto Rt 1. Continue on Rt 1 for 27.4 miles then TURN RIGHT onto Pigeon Hill Road in Steuben. In 5.7 miles the paved road turns to gravel. Follow the gravel road for 0.6 miles to the Hollingsworth Trail parking area. Please note there are no bathroom facilities at the trailhead.

Pretty Marsh (picnic area)/Long Pond Fire Road

2-3 miles of easy to moderate terrain, with 100 ft elevation change, and some rocky paths.

(Meet at the entrance to the Pretty Marsh picnic area. GPS coordinates: 44.332233, -68.403490)

Surrounded by a maturing Red Spruce Forest with views of Hardwood and Bartlett Islands, Pretty Marsh is an Acadia gem where land meets sea. Blackburnian Warblers, Northern Parula, White-winged Crossbill, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-headed Vireo, and Hermit Thrush make this seaside forest their home. Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Loon, Red-breasted Merganser, and occasionally, non-breeding Long-tailed Ducks and White-winged Scoters as well as Harbor Seals are seen in the saltwater of Blue Hill Bay. Though called Pretty Marsh, the picnic area where we walk is not a marsh.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 4.0 miles, 7 minutes

Head WEST onto ROUTE 102/Pretty Marsh Rd (not south). In 3.5 miles, DO NOT TURN RIGHT towards Pretty Marsh. Stay on ROUTE 102 for 0.5 more miles, then turn right into the Pretty Marsh picnic area, and park immediately to the left in designated area.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 12.0 miles, 20 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there. .

Rockefeller Carriage Road

2-3 miles of easy terrain.

(Meet at Eagle Lake parking area. GPS coordinates: 44.377970, -68.252488)

This walk starts at Eagle Lake parking lot. From the parking lot we take the Rockefeller carriage road toward the Witch Hole loop trail. Along the way we'll walk through a mixed forest burned by the Fire of 1947. This forest is home to Black-throated Blue and Magnolia Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Alder Flycatcher, and Ruffed Grouse. Multiple wetlands provide habitat for occasional-to-rare sightings of American Bittern, Common Mergansers and Pied-billed Grebe, as well as sandpipers and waders. Some lingering Ducks in the spring can help make this an excellent place to bird during the Acadia Birding Festival. Various frogs and turtles to be seen and heard too!

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 5.6 miles, 10 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 102/Main St for 0.8 miles. At the traffic light, turn right onto ROUTE 198/ROUTE 3. Drive 1.4 miles, then turn left onto ROUTE 233/Eagle Lake Rd toward Bar Harbor. In 3.5 miles, at the bottom of the hill, Eagle Lake parking lot is on your left.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 2.5 miles, 5 minutes

Head west on ROUTE 233/Eagle Lake Rd for approximately 2.5 miles. Turn right into the Eagle Lake parking area (Eagle Lake is on your left).

Saddleback Mountain - Bicknell's Thrush (PRE-FESTIVAL TRIP)

2-3 miles of moderate to difficult walking down steep ski slopes (no switchback path, with 2000 ft drop), some places with rocks and roots, only for those in very good physical walking shape (walking sticks helpful). The group will ride up the mountain in ATVs, but descent will be by foot.

(Meet at the base of Saddleback Mountain Ski Resort. GPS coordinates 44.946038, -70.528111)

This is a day trip at Saddleback Mountain. Bicknell's Thrush unique breeding ecology above 3000 feet requires a steady climb to the barren bald peaks of Saddleback Mountain tucked away in the western mountains of Maine. Note that the trip leaders do their best to locate this special thrush, and generally find one or more, but no guarantees. Many northern specialty birds will be found among the rocky summit heaths and boreal krummholz ecosystems of the Rangeley Lakes region, offering opportunities for a variety of hard-to-find boreal species like Gray Jays, Spruce Grouse and Black-backed Woodpecker. We will study bird communication and ecology of the spruce and fir forest and dwarf shrub summits where Nashville and Blackpoll Warblers, Swainson's Thrush and Blue-headed Vireo are calling from the spruce zone. Participants should bring snacks, lunch, beverages, bug repellent and sunscreen. Dress in layers as it could be cold. Saddleback Mountain is 3.5 hours from Festival Center, so we recommend you find a motel closer to the mountain the night before the trip. There are several lodging opportunities in Rangeley, only 15 minutes from the mountain.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station.156 miles, 3.5 hour

Please look up Saddleback Mountain Ski Resort in Google Maps to navigate to the start location. Or use the GPS coordinates 44.946038, -70.528111

Seal Cove - Cape Rd

2.5 miles of easy walking.

(Meet at Seal Cove Picnic Area, 675 Cape Rd, Seal Cove. GPS coordinates: 44.283225, -68.409025)

This walk begins along the ocean's edge where we have opportunities to encounter lingering seaducks, plus eagles, loons and kingfishers. We will also monitor mixed habitat on the inland side as we walk along the shore. A little farther up Cape Road we turn inland and encounter shrubby habitat where we can hope to find warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, thrushes and others. One of the best parts of this walk is not only the abundance of species, but the ease of viewing many birds that stay low and close. The road is not heavily travelled, so we can expect to exercise our auditory acuity and help each other to re-learn our favorite bird songs.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 7.7 miles, 13 minutes

Head WEST onto ROUTE 102/Pretty Marsh Rd (not south). In 3.5 miles, DO NOT TURN RIGHT towards Pretty Marsh. Stay left on ROUTE 102 and drive 3.7 more miles to the SECOND Cape Road turnoff. Note that you will pass the FIRST Cape Road junction in about 1.5 miles, but DO NOT TURN HERE. In 2.0 more miles you will reach the second Cape Road, turn right, and drive 0.5 miles to small parking area on right (across from boat ramp and dock)

Directions from Bar Harbor: 15.7 miles, 26 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there.

Sears Island

2-3 miles of easy terrain.

(Meet on Sears Island causeway at the gate. GPS coordinates 44.457214, -68.882321)

Sears Island is connected to the mainland by a short, very birdable, causeway. The island is best known for its bird diversity and abundance during spring migration. It is also outstanding for the close-up observations of many of the bird species encountered. In short order, birds reveal themselves as a variety of habitats unfold - rocky shoreline, tidal flats, forest edges, old homestead clearings, towering oak and spruce trees, flowering and fruiting trees, vernal pools and wetlands. A wide, paved, abandoned roadway bisects the island and makes for an easy stroll for excellent bird observation and photography. The island's bird checklist is well over 200 species and over 85% of them have been documented during the months of May and June. Expect to see Osprey, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Raven, and Double-crested Cormorant overhead. At eye level, you could see upwards of a dozen or more warbler species, several vireos, flycatchers, thrushes, kinglets, and waxwings. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager sing from mid-level to upper canopy. On the water, loons, mergansers, and a variety of ducks will be easily scoped.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station. 47 miles, 1 hour

Head NORTH off of MDI to Ellsworth on Rt 3. Approaching Ellsworth, pass Mardens and Tractor Supply on left then TURN LEFT onto Beechland Road, in 1 mi turn right onto Bayside Road, in 1.8 mi. turn left onto Rt 1 South to Bucksport for 19 miles, pass Irving station on left and then turn left over Bucksport bridge to stay on Rt 1-S and continue for 10 miles to Sears Island Rd. TURN LEFT onto Sears Island Rd, go 1.0 mi. to dead end and the gate. Park on the causeway near the gate.

Ship Harbor Nature Trail

1.2 miles, moderate walk with some roots and rocks in trail

(Meet at the Ship Harbor Trailhead parking lot. GPS coordinates: 44.231695, -68.325861)

This is one of the island's most beautiful spots. Ship Harbor is a small, nearly landlocked harbor, connected to the open ocean by a narrow gut. The trail begins in a small field featuring edge habitat, quickly yielding to

Red and White Spruce forest that generally shadows the shoreline of Ship Harbor and its connecting waters to the sea. At mid-point, a short side trip down to a round rock beach, at the head of the harbor, is well worth the time to experience a pristine pool of salt water warmly embraced by a boreal forest. Traversing the spruce/fir forest you will be greeted by Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch Black-capped Chickadees as well as Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated and Song Sparrow. Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers make their homes here and there is a good chance that you'll hear the erratically musical trill of a Winter Wren from deep within a tangle of slash, nearby. At its apogee, the trail emerges onto pink granite ledges, fronting the open Atlantic Ocean where a brief sea-watch will generally yield Common Eider, scoter, and Black Guillemot, diving for Rock Eel and Mussels. Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe and Double-crested Cormorants are common in the water. The third leg, heading inland, places us in unusual open spaces somewhat reminiscent of Pine Barrens. Here we have encountered Merlin, in multiple years, and have witnessed a pair mating, no doubt nesting in the area. Leaving the open spaces we once again enter the softwood forest, where Hermit Thrush forage in the litter, and American Redstart, Yellow, Nashville, Black and White, Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green Warblers, Northern Parula, and Common Yellowthroat can be heard or seen.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 10.5 miles, 18 minutes

Head south on ROUTE 102/Main St toward Southwest Harbor for 6.2 miles. After passing through Southwest Harbor, turn left on ROUTE 102 Alt/Seawall Rd. Drive 4.3 miles to parking lot on left side of road. Note: You will pass Wonderland Trail en route, which is also a great location to bird.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 18.5 miles, 31 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there.

Sieur de Monts Spring

1.75 miles, flat, easy walk.

(Meet at Sieur de Monts Spring parking. GPS coordinates: 44.362882, -68.207555)

The "spring" situated here was used to prevent perishable food from spoiling by early Native Americans. The on-site Abbe Museum celebrates Native American culture and history in Maine while the extensive grounds provide excellent birding opportunities for festival goers. The two primary trails, Jessup Path and Hemlock Rd, are configured into a figure eight, double loop which affords the option for a shorter walk for those so inclined. The diversity of the trail system presents a wonderful mix of forested wetland, upland marsh, mixed growth and conifer forests hosting a wide variety of bird species. The Jessup trail begins as a boardwalk offering a quiet, almost ethereal experience through a forested wetland with a lush carpet of moss and fern. Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Wood Pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, and migrating warbler are found foraging here. Blackpoll, Magnolia, and Nashville Warblers appear along with the regulars often enough, to keep sharp eyes on the lookout. Juvenile begging has revealed active woodpecker nests along the boardwalk. Hairy, Downy and Pileated Woodpecker are regulars, with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Yellow-shafted Flicker making frequent appearances.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 10.3 miles, 19 minutes

Head north on ROUTE 102/Main St for 0.8 miles. At the traffic light, turn right onto ROUTE 198/ROUTE 3. Drive 1.4 miles, then turn left onto ROUTE 233/Eagle Lake Rd toward Bar Harbor. In 5.1 miles turn right at Cromwell Harbor Rd (Kebo Valley Golf Course). Stay on Cromwell Harbor Rd for 1.2 miles, then turn right at ROUTE 3/Main St. Follow ROUTE 3 for 1.6 miles (note mileage) just past Jackson Lab, then turn right, following signs for Sieur de Monts Spring. Sign may not be obvious.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 4.1 miles, 9 minutes

Head south from Bar Harbor on ROUTE 3/Main St. for about 2.0 miles, then turn right following signs for Sieur de Monts Spring.

Valley Cove and Flying Mountain

1.5 miles of easy to difficult, hilly terrain. 150 ft elevation climb.

(Meet at the parking lot at 96 Fernald Point Rd, Southwest Harbor)

Experience one of MDI's diverse emerging old growth forests for Neotropical migrants. Tall Red Spruce, White Pines and Cedar are breeding habitat for Blackburnian and Magnolia Warblers, Northern Parula, Blue-headed Vireo, Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Pileated and Hairy Woodpeckers, and Pine Siskin. During irruption years, White-winged Crossbills can frequent the area! The trail takes you to Valley Cove where you can gaze at the cliffs of St. Sauveur Mountain and search for Peregrine Falcon nesting on the cliffs. From the cove, there is an option to take a more strenuous hike over Flying Mountain and enjoy fabulous views of Somes Sound and beyond.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 5.5 miles, 11 minutes

Head south on ROUTE 102/Main St toward Southwest Harbor for 4.6 miles. Turn left onto Fernald Point Road. Drive 0.9 miles to parking lot on left side of road, just after you cross the tidal creek.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 13.5 miles, 24 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there.

Wonderland

2 miles, easy walk

(Meet at the Wonderland Trail parking lot, Southwest Harbor. GPS coordinates: 44.233693, -68.320144)

The Wonderland Trail is located on Seawall Road between Ship Harbor and Seawall Campground, offering a similar variety of habits and birdlife as the Seawall Road Hotspots Trip. The trail traverses through a forest of Red and White Spruce, emerging onto a lovely short loop trail at ocean's edge. The forest is a migrant trap in the spring, and is home to Spruce Grouse, Hermit Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, and a variety of warblers. Observe Common Eiders, Black Guillemots, Scoters, Common Loons, possible shorebirds, and Bald Eagles along the shore.

Directions from Somesville Fire Station: 10.5 miles, 18 minutes

Head south on ROUTE 102/Main St toward Southwest Harbor for 6.2 miles. After passing through Southwest Harbor, turn left on ROUTE 102 Alt/Seawall Rd. Drive about 4 miles to parking lot on left side of road.

Directions from Bar Harbor: 18.5 miles, 31 minutes

Drive to Somesville Fire Station, then follow directions from there.

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Mount Desert Island - Important Locations



- Birding Hotspots**
1. Asticou Azalea & Thuya Gardens
 2. Beech Mountain
 3. Canoeing - Bass Harbor Marsh
 4. Canoeing - Northeast Creek
 5. Frenchboro & Swan's Is - Ferry
 6. Hadley Point
 7. Indian Point Blagden Preserve
 8. Little Cranberry Island
 9. Clark Point Road
 10. Long Pond
 11. Man O' War Brook Fire Rd.
 12. Otter Cliffs
 13. MDI High School Ponds
 14. Pelagic Seabird Boat Trip
 15. Peregrine Falcon nest
 16. Pretty Marsh & Long Pond Fire Rd
 17. Rockefeller Carriage Rd
 18. Schooner & Great Head
 19. Seal Cove - Cape Rd
 20. Seawall
 21. Ship Harbor & Wonderland Trails
 22. Sieur de Monts Spring
 23. Valley Cove & Flying Mountain Wonderland (see Ship Harbor)
- Special Places**
- A. Bar Harbor Villager Motel
 - B. Seawall Motel
 - C. Moorings Inn & Cottages
 - D. Thurston's Lobster Pound
 - F. Harbor View Motel

2021 Festival Center
Wendell Gilley Museum

SOUTHWEST HARBOR

2021 Festival Center
Somesville Fire Station

Somesville Fire Station
(Directions based from here)