



BIRDING GUIDE

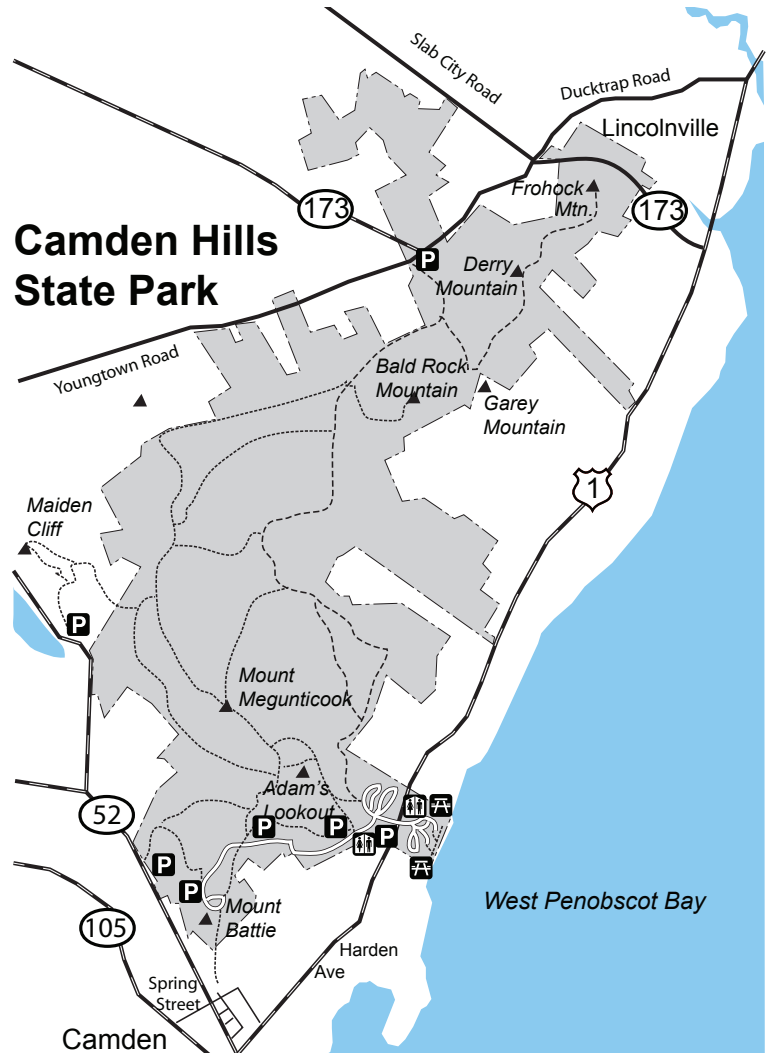
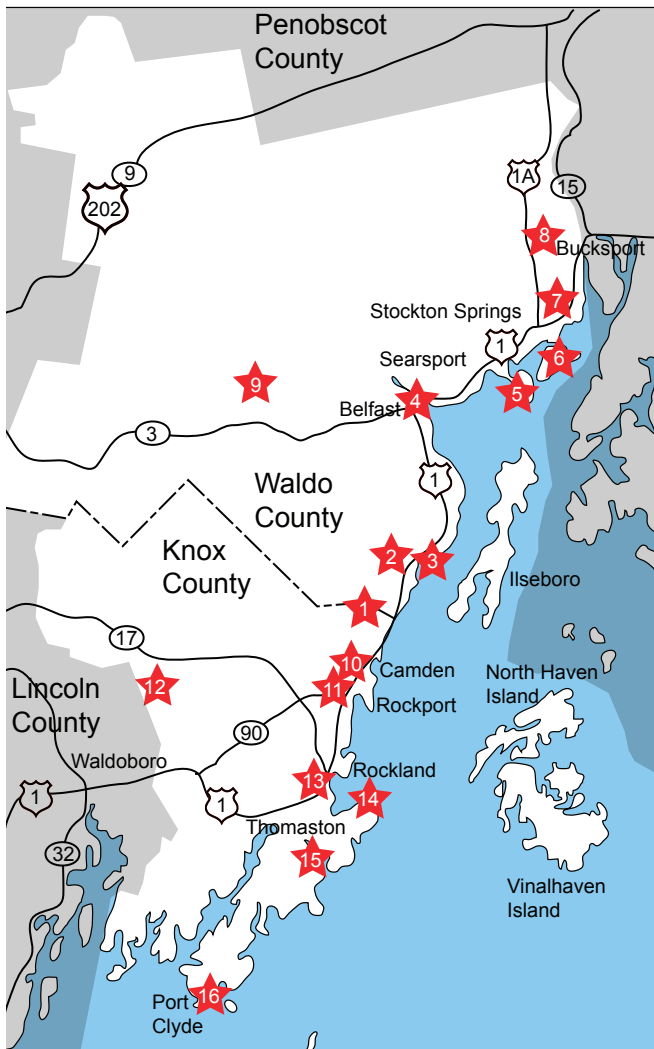
Excerpted and updated from
 The Maine Birding Trail:
 The Official Guide to More Than
 260 Accessible Sites
 Bob Duchesne - published by
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The Mid-Coast region represents the “Maine” many first-time visitors imagine: lighthouses, quaint villages, sailboats, and lobster pounds. Fractured by glaciers, pounded by surf, and sliced by rivers, there is no place on America’s eastern seaboard that has more bays, sounds, coves, and estuaries. These geologic features contribute to the excellence of birding experiences.

1) **Camden Hills State Park** doesn’t usually offer rarities, but it does provide most of Maine’s

common species in a splendid hiking environment. Over 25 miles of trail cross a series of peaks, marching through mixed forest. Views of Penobscot Bay are stunning. Park residents include such normal warblers as Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Black-&-White, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat. Veery, Wood, and Hermit Thrushes are all found in the park. Least and Great-crested Flycatchers are common. Pileated, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied

Sapsuckers, and Northern Flickers are plentiful. Turkey Vultures, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Eastern Towhees are summer residents, while Ruffed Grouse may be found in any season. The summits of Mt. Megunticook and Mt. Battie are fruitful during hawk migration, and any of the eastern species may be encountered. Sharp-shinned, American Kestrel, and Broad-winged Hawks are the most common, but Cooper’s Hawks, Northern Harriers, Merlins, Peregrines, Ospreys, and Bald Eagles pass by regularly. Although Mt. Battie is only half the



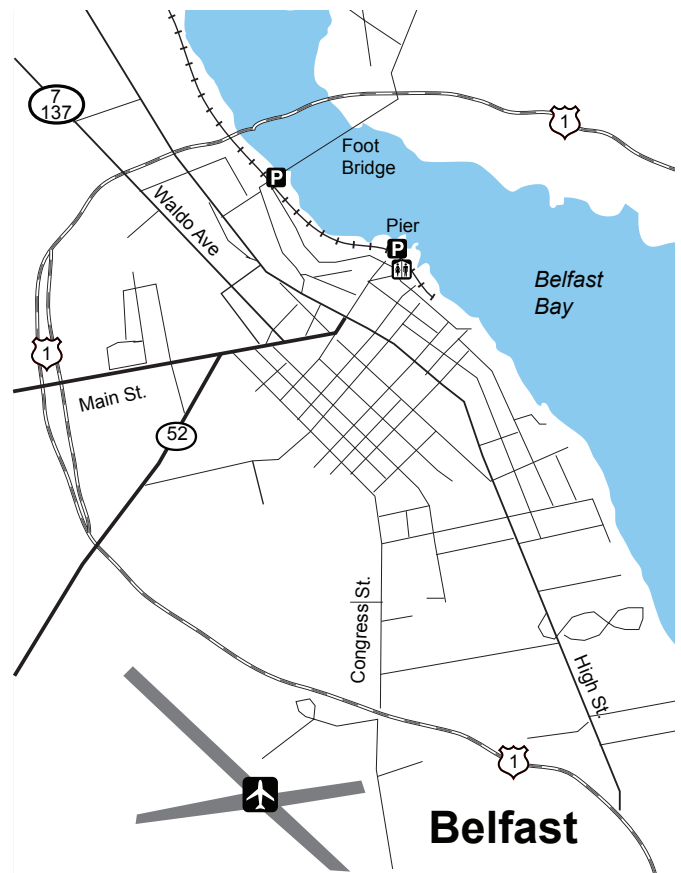
height of Megunticook, the auto road to the tower at the summit makes it more convenient. The tower was constructed in 1921 as a World War I monument. It stands upon the former site of a summit hotel that existed from 1898 to 1920. There is a small entrance fee to use the auto road.

Directions: The entrance is prominently marked on Route 1 north of Camden. Two other entrances to the back side of Camden Hills State Park are found on Route 52, just west of town and adjacent to Lake Megunticook. Another entrance that is popular with birders - because it is wide, less crowded, and moderately more birdy - is found in Lincolnville at the intersection of Route 173 and the Youngtown Road.2

2) Tanglewood 4-H Camp lies in the woods along the Ducktrap River, within the boundaries of Camden Hills State Park. It is a summer camp for children, but the trail system leaves from the parking lot and hikers are asked to avoid camp operations. Responsible hikers and birders are welcomed. The forest floor is mossy damp and the canopy is of mixed species, height, and maturity. The unevenness of the treetops provides habitat for virtually all of Maine's common warblers, Blackburnians and

Northern Parula preferring the taller stands, Nashville, Magnolia, and American Redstart opting for the lower. Black-throated Green Warblers gravitate toward oak and maple, while Black-throated Blue choose birch and beech. Pine Warblers command the pines. Red-eyed Vireos prefer hardwoods, while Blue-headed choose the softwoods. Ovenbirds, Veeries, and Hermit Thrushes inhabit the understory. Otters are sometimes seen in the river.

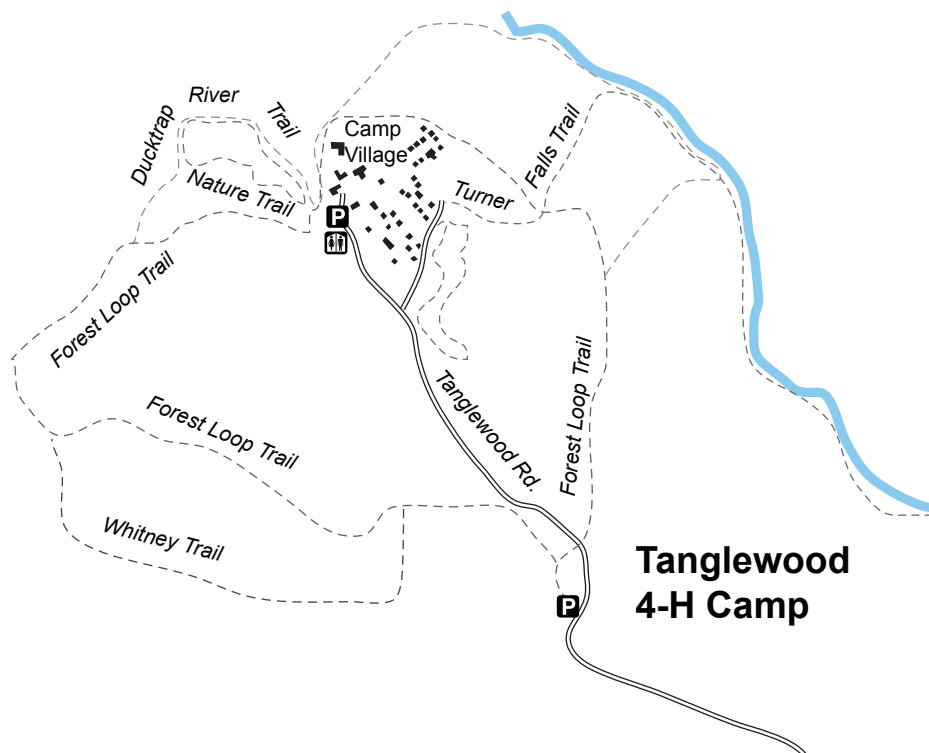
Directions: From the motel, go north on Route 1 for 2.6 miles. Turn left onto Ducktrap Road. Travel 0.7 miles and turn right onto Tanglewood Road, following the sign. Proceed 1 mile to the gate area and 1.8 miles to the Main Parking Lot, where the trail begins.



3) Ducktrap Harbor, where river meets the sea, can be interesting any time of year but particularly in winter. It is usually ice free and it can be scanned from a warm car on a cold day. Cormorants, Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads often sneak into its sheltered calm. In migration, other waterfowl provide a steady stream of surprises.

Directions: The small harbor is apparent from Route 1 just north of Lincolnville. Turn down Howe Point Road and park in the small lot.

4) Belfast Harbor is a good spot to look for wintering Iceland and Glaucous gulls, and Barrow's Goldeneyes in winter. Start at the town pier. Check the gulls that hang out on the light poles and roofs. Then scan the harbor. Common Loons, Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Red-breasted Mergansers may be evident. Next, focus northward and examine the waters under the bridge that spans the mouth of the Passagassawaukeag River. Depending on the tide, this is the likely spot for Barrow's Goldeneyes. If the tide is high, they



may be in the tidal basin beyond the bridge. At low tide, they are pushed closer to the pier.

Upon leaving the pier, turn right onto Front Street and then onto Water Street. On the far edge of the building, there is an historic footbridge that offers another good opportunity to scan. Roosting gulls tend to congregate at scope range on ice flows or exposed mud flats in the river under and beyond the bridge, intermingled with American Black Ducks and Mallards.

Directions: Route 1 skirts Belfast. From the south, exit onto Northport Avenue and follow into town where it becomes High Street. In the center of town, turn right onto Main Street and the Town Pier is at the bottom of the street.

5) Sears Island is one of the largest undeveloped islands on the coast. Just north of Searsport, turn east onto Sears Island Road. Check for gulls along the causeway, particularly Bonaparte's Gull from late summer through October. Common Loons, Eiders, and Goldeneyes are regular in the off-season. Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, Buffleheads, Horned Grebes, and Black Guillemots are present in winter. Mallards and American Black Ducks are prevalent in the sheltered, shallow areas. Check for shorebirds from mid August through September.

A paved road runs up the spine of the island, but there are also several hiking paths that are the remnants of the old farm roads that once crisscrossed the island. There are no longer any buildings on the island, but stone walls and old apple trees give clues to its agricultural heritage. Low brush near the gate soon gives way to mixed hardwood, spruce, and white pine. Expect a variety of warblers and sparrows, plus Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Also expect to share the trails with dog-walkers.

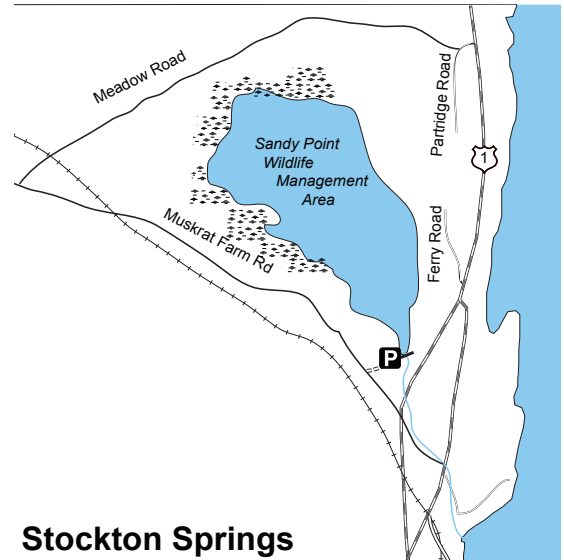
Directions: From Route 1, turn onto Sears Island Road 2 miles north of Searsport. Follow a short distance to the gate.

6) Cape Jellison is one peninsula north of Sears Island. The cape extends from the village of Stockton Springs into the outflow of the Penobscot River where it enters Penobscot Bay. From the south, follow the right-hand split of Route 1 into Stockton Springs. It is 0.6 miles from this split to a right turn onto Cape Jellison Road. From the north, it's only a half-mile from the left-hand fork off Route 1 onto Cape Jellison Road. Follow this road for 1.9 miles (bearing left at an intersection) to a good viewing spot of Fort Point Cove, sometimes referred to as Grants Cove. Just beyond the boat landing, there is a convenient pull-off to scan the bay. Ruddy Ducks often gather here in winter, though ice and tide may push the birds to the limit of binocular range. Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Buffleheads are also seen regularly in the off-season.

Fort Point State Park is just ahead at 3.1 miles. Like most parks, it is gated during the off-season, but visitors can park near the gate and hike the mile-long entrance road in winter. The park is home to one of the earliest colonial forts that was established to protect the vital entrance to the Penobscot River. In Maine's early days, Bangor was a booming seaport for the logging industry, providing tall timbers that made fine masts for naval shipping. The earthworks and gun emplacements are still visible. The



nearby lighthouse was built in 1836 and the trees near this prominent spot attract Bald Eagles. The park can also be entered from Lighthouse Road, just beyond the park access road. Drive past the private residences and park in the state lot. There is a small park entrance fee.



Stockton Springs

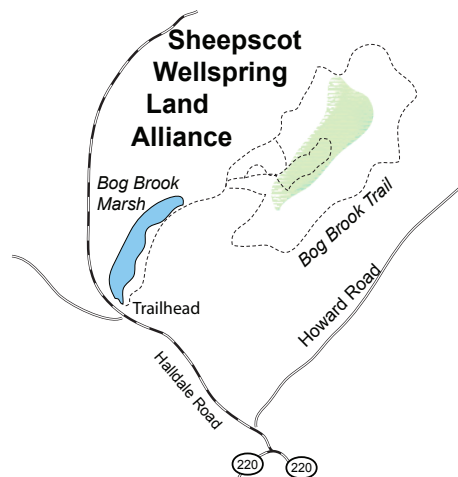
7) Sandy Point Wildlife Management Area in Stockton Springs is a mile-long wetland that is hard to bird by land. From the short access road at the outlet dam, strong binoculars or a spotting scope will provide distant sightings, but this is a place best enjoyed by canoe. Breeding waterfowl include Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, and Common Loon. Mallards, American Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, and Canada Geese are likely. Sora and Virginia Rails are common. Marsh Wrens are abundant. American Bitterns are regular, while Least Bitterns and Green Herons are resident but more reclusive. A nearby sand pit provides the nesting area for Bank Swallows and it is not unusual to spot them amidst the many Tree and Barn Swallows that hawk over the marsh. There are no facilities.

Directions: Turn onto Muskrat Farm Road in Stockton Springs and look for the first right onto a dirt road to the dam outlet. Muskrat Farm Road is 3 miles north of the Route 1 and 1A junction in Stockton Springs or 3 miles south of the Verona Island bridge on Route 1 near Bucksport.

8) Frankfort Marsh is one of the best local sites to find Nelson's Sparrows. Also watch for Northern Harriers and waterfowl. The marsh runs along Route 1A from the village of Frankfort to the intersection with Route 174 in Prospect. It includes 370 acres managed by the state as the Howard L. Mendall (Marsh Stream) Wildlife Management Area. The best spot for sparrows is at the bridge on Route 174 just east of the intersection. Listen for their unusual song and watch for them to flit throughout the meadow. They typically arrive in early June and sing into August. Park carefully at this location, because space is limited and traffic is fast. There are no facilities.

From coastal Route 1, turn onto Route 174 near Fort Knox in Verona. Follow to marsh.

9) The Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance has made great strides in conserving an undeveloped section of Waldo County in Montville. The forest is an equal mix of maple, oak, birch, pine, spruce, and balsam fir, so it is possible to find balanced numbers of Wood and Hermit Thrushes, Red-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos, Black-throated Blue and Green Warblers. A good morning should produce Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Magnolia and Canada Warblers, as well as Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Ovenbird, and Northern Waterthrush. Ruby-crowned Kinglets are summer residents; Golden-crowned Kinglets occur year-round. Eight species of flycatcher have been seen here,



including Olive-sided, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder, and Willow.

Directions: From the motel, head north toward Lincolnville 1.6 miles. Turn left onto Route 173 and follow until it ends in Liberty at the intersection with Route 220. Turn right onto Route 220, follow across Route 3 and continue another 3.3 miles to a left turn onto Halldale Road. Go half a mile and bear right at the fork with Burnham Hill Road. The Bog Brook trailhead is just ahead on the right. Park on the shoulder. The trail loops around the pond and a more distant marsh, returning to Halldale Road a quarter-mile west of the entrance.

10) Merryspring Nature Center straddles the Rockport/Camden line and can have good warbler fallouts in May. For the rest of the summer, it is a pleasant stroll over 66 acres. The gardens around the gazebo are attractive to hummingbirds and photographers. Walking trails wind through mixed forest and fields. Song, Chipping, and White-throated Sparrows work the margins of the fields, as do Common Yellowthroats, American Redstarts, Chestnut-sided, Yellow, Nashville, and Magnolia Warblers. Pine Warblers are present in the thick stands of pine. A Tufted Titmouse is possible around the parking lot. The Kitty Todd Arboretum in the back of the park shelters Ovenbirds and American Woodcocks. Dog-walking is very popular on the footpaths and they are allowed off leash in the North Meadow. Birders should be prepared for canine encounters. Maps and brochures are available at the Nature Center office.

Directions: From Route 1 on the southern edge of Camden, turn west onto Conway Road (next to a Subway sandwich shop). It is 0.3 miles to the park.

11) Beech Hill Preserve is a 295-acre property of the Coastal Mountains Land Trust. It protects the only bald hilltop in the area, including an old stone building at the summit that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Named "Beech Nut," the views from the porch of this sod-roofed

cabin are panoramic, overlooking the blueberry barrens and grasslands to the ocean beyond. The preferred trail begins in mature woods among Hermit Thrushes and Ovenbirds. Soon, it traverses a large area of regenerating forest that provides habitat for perhaps the biggest concentration of Eastern Towhees in Maine. Catbirds and Song Sparrows are also abundant until the trail breaks out of the trees and onto the grasslands. Here, Field and Savannah Sparrows are known nesters. Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Prairie Warbler sightings are possible. The trail is well-maintained and well-used in all months, and Snowy and Short-eared Owls have been noted around the summit in the off season. Snow Buntings are possible from early autumn through winter.

Directions: From the motel, head south on Route 1 through Camden. Continue past intersection with Route 90, and turn right onto Beech Hill Road shortly after. Go 1.5 miles to the trailhead parking lot on the left.



12) Clarry Hill is a well-known site among Maine birders. With support from the Land For Maine's Future Program, the Medomak Valley Land Trust has secured easements to protect some of these important blueberry fields and grasslands. Birders are drawn by the Upland Sandpipers and Vesper Sparrows that breed here. Song, Savannah, and Chipping Sparrows are also common. During fall migration, this is a site for hawk watching. Later in autumn, it is the type of field that lures Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and prowling Northern Shrikes. Because the blueberries are a commercial agricultural crop, it is imperative that

people and pets stay on the road.

Directions: From the motel, drive 6.0 miles south and turn right onto Route 90. Proceed 2.7 miles and turn right onto Route 17. Go 9.4 miles to Union. Turn left onto Clarry Hill Road and continue 2.0 miles. Look for a dirt road on the left located at a sharp bend in the road.

13) Rockland has a lot of gulls. Herring, Great Black-backed, and Ring-billed Gulls are numerous. A few Laughing Gulls are usually present in summer. Bonaparte's Gulls are found part of the year, though they are much more common in spring and from mid-July through autumn. A rare Common Black-headed Gull turns up almost every year, as noted on Christmas Bird Counts. In winter, scan for Common and Red-throated Loons, Horned and Red-necked Grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Buffleheads, Great Cormorants, Canada Geese, Mallards, and American Black Ducks. White-winged Scoters are the most commonly seen of the scoters.

There are several access points described in the directions below. In



particular, the breakwater is an inviting place to bird in winter if temperature and wind cooperate. It's a great spot for Purple Sandpipers and one of the better locations to check for Common Black-headed Gulls and Great Cormorants. King Eiders are rare visitors. Scan for grebes and loons.

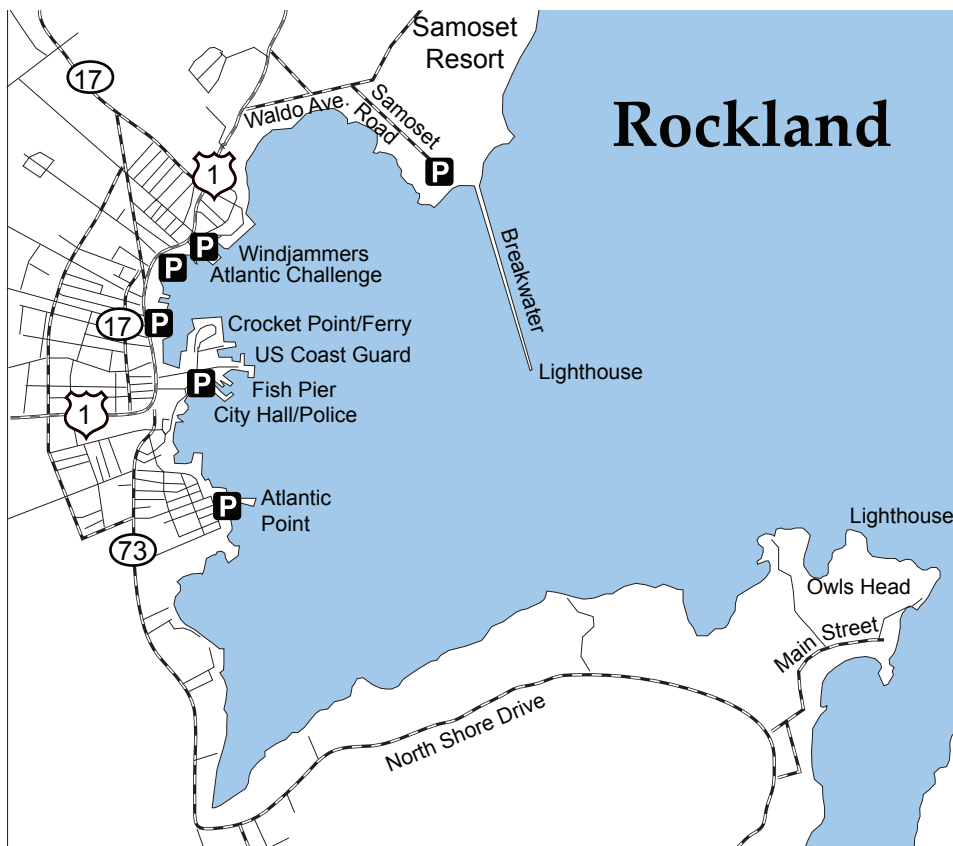
Directions to harbor access in Rockland: The downtown area is anchored on the south end by the police station, The Landing Restaurant, and the fish pier. The Community Building and the Maine Lighthouse Museum are here. Check the gulls on the roofs of the wharf buildings, but take care not to get in the way of operations. The wharf at the end of Tillson Avenue is home to the Coast Guard, a few commercial

establishments, and a windjammer pier. Immediately south of the downtown area, Atlantic Point contains modern office buildings and a pier that offers good views. From the bend at Route 1 downtown, follow the signs to Owls Head, then follow Water Street to Ocean Street. In midtown, the Maine State Ferry pier has plenty of parking and viewing for the inner harbor. Just north, a small, seasonal pier used by Atlantic Challenge lies opposite the Knox County Federal Credit Union between James Street and Rockland Street. The breakwater is reached from Route 1 via Waldo Avenue. Proceed half a mile and turn down Samoset Road.



14) Owls Head State Park is home to a lighthouse that overlooks the southwestern entrance to Penobscot Bay. The park is small and it can be birded easily in a short time. Scan from the lighthouse and from the picnic area reached by trail from the parking lot. Because the site is a prominent extension into the bay, it gets more than its share of warblers in migration. The forest is mixed hardwood and spruce, attractive to an assortment of migrants, including spruce-loving Blackpolls and Bay-breasted Warblers. Thrushes include Veery, Hermit, and Swainson's. In summer, the birding is pleasant but average. In winter, bring a spotting scope up to the lighthouse boardwalk and scan for seaducks, particularly grebes.

Directions: From Route 1 in downtown Rockland, take Route 73 south toward Owls Head, following the signs to the park. Follow 1.9 miles to a left turn onto Shore Road, follow 2.6 miles to the small town center, and turn left onto Main Street. Proceed to





Lighthouse Road and follow the signs to the park.

15) Weskeag Marsh in South Thomaston is one of Maine's best birding marshes. The marsh is a mix of salt, brackish, and freshwater habitat. It is a mix of cattails and grass. It is a mix of potholes and mud flats. It is a mix of brook, stream, and river. It is bordered by forest, scrubland, and hayfields. In short, it contains a good variety of habitats in an area of less than a thousand acres. The state manages 537 of these acres as the R. Waldo Tyler Wildlife Management Area. Weskeag Marsh is noted for waders, waterfowl and shorebirds, primarily from ice-out in late March through October. It is the northernmost site where the breeding ranges of Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows overlap, though the former is seen more often.

A general view of the marsh can

be enjoyed from the small parking area where Buttermilk Lane crosses the Weskeag flowage. Some of the potholes are close enough to distinguish the Greater Yellowlegs from the Lesser. The marsh suffers from excess visitation, and birders should avoid tramping into the wetland areas. It is usually possible to locate the Nelson's Sparrows where the stream crosses under the main road. The adjacent slopes of the hayfield provide good views. A short distance farther south on Buttermilk Road – just up the hill by a copse of trees and old foundation – there is another distant overlook for the marsh. Egrets and herons are often in the back of the marsh and can be seen more readily from here.

Directions: From Route 1 in Thomaston, turn east onto Buttermilk Road and in 0.8 miles look for the parking turnout at the marsh.



16) Eastern Egg Rock is the southern-most breeding colony of Atlantic Puffins in the world. The island also features Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns. Tours may also encounter Razorbills, Common Murres, Northern Gannets, and Wilson's Storm-petrels.

Three tour boats visit the island from Mid-May through Mid-August. The Monhegan Boat Line is the closest, leaving from Port Clyde. It visits Monhegan Island daily, but the puffin tours are less frequent. Call 207-372-8848 or visit www.monheganboat.com.

The Hardy Boat departs from New Harbor on daily boat trips around Eastern Egg Rock.

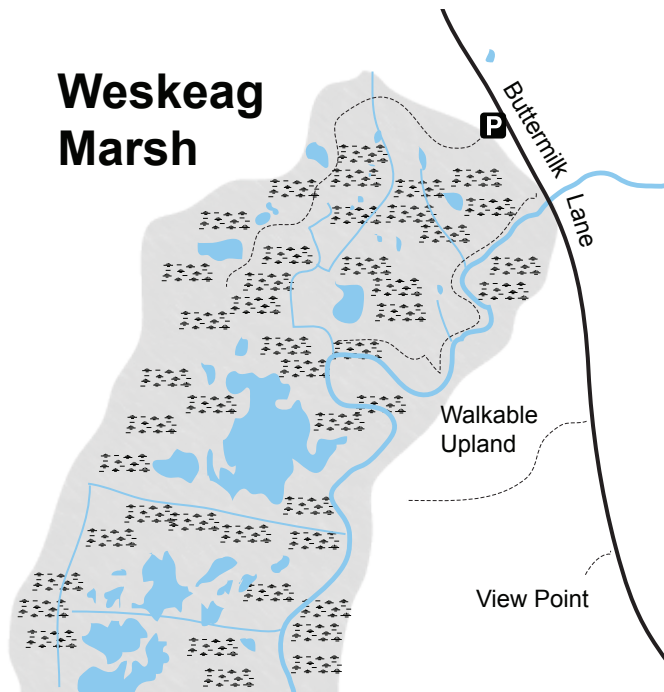
This company also offers other local cruises, private charters, and service to Monhegan Island. Call 1-800-2-Puffin or visit www.hardyboat.com.

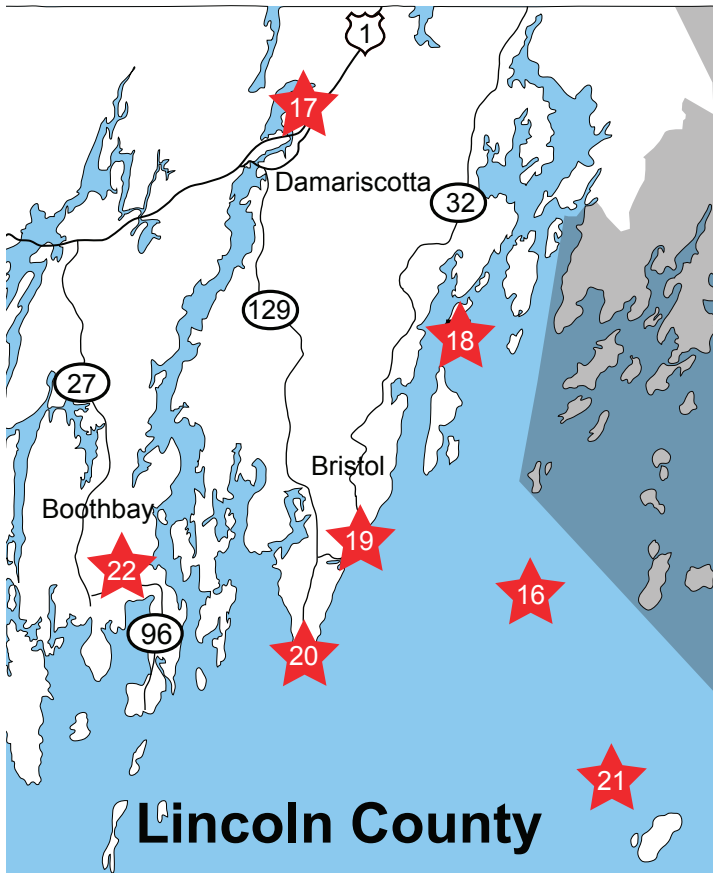
Less frequently, Cap'n Fish conducts puffin trips from Boothbay Harbor. Check the schedule at 800-636-3244 or www.puffins.capnfishes.com.

17) Great Salt Bay Farm is one of more than twenty preserves owned by the Damariscotta River Association. The association's headquarters, an 18th century farmhouse, sits atop 115 acres of former farmland overlooking the river. A restored marsh has succeeded in luring American Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers as breeders, and numerous other species in migration. Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, and American Bitterns are typically observable. Secretive Virginia Rails announce their presence at dawn and dusk, while chattering Marsh Wrens may be heard at any time through early summer. A mowed path around the marsh facilitates viewing from all angles. Bobolinks and Savannah Sparrows are common through the fields. Pine Warblers are audible from the tall pines that border the right side of the field. Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers and Common Yellowthroats are regular in the brushy growth along the left side. Ospreys and Bald Eagles are common sights over the nearby river.



There are three other DRA-affiliated preserves nearby. **The Whaleback Shell Midden State Historic Site**, owned by the Bureau of Parks and Lands, contains the remnants of prehistoric piles of oyster shells and





the fish aren't running. Pick up more information and directions to these three sites at the Great Salt Bay Farm headquarters

Directions: Great Salt Bay Farm is located on Belvedere Road off Route 1 (the blinking yellow light about 1 mile north of the Damariscotta Exit).

18) Hog Island has been an Audubon educational camp since 1936. Roger Tory Peterson was Audubon's first teacher on

the island, shortly thereafter joined by another of America's most famous ornithologists, Allan D. Cruickshank. It also operates as a staging facility for the Audubon Seabird Program, more commonly known as the "Puffin Project." Hog Island is offshore and makes up 330 acres of the 365-acre Todd Wildlife Sanctuary. Back on the mainland, the remaining 35 acres contains a seasonally operated visitor center, workshop, and nature store. A one-mile, self-guided trail called the Hockomock Nature Trail begins on the right side of the road beyond the nature center. It traverses a variety of habitats, with views of the Medomak River and Muscongus Bay, beginning in open meadow, passing into the forest, brushing the shoreline, and rising over a bit of elevation. The sanctuary is not known for specialty birds, but it can be an enjoyable place to observe some of Maine's common woodland species.

Directions: Take Route 1 south to Waldoboro (bypassing Rockland via Route 90). In Waldoboro, turn left onto Route 32 and drive 8.3 miles south.

Look for a left turn onto Keene Neck Road and follow to the end.

19) The Rachel Carson Salt Pond Preserve was brought under the protection of The Nature Conservancy in 1966 and dedicated to her legacy in 1970. In 1962 Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring. It was a watershed in the world's understanding of pesticide misuse. At that time, Carson was already a renowned marine biologist who had published respected works on marine ecology, including The Edge of the Sea. Most of her research for this book was done at a tidal pool near the southern end of Route 32 in New Harbor. The preserve now encompasses 78 acres, including forested upland trails, but the main attraction is the one-quarter acre tidal salt pond itself.

Directions: Proceed south on Route 32, 18.6 miles from its intersection with Route 1. In the off-season, there may not be signs identifying the preserve, but the tidal pool is large and obvious.



artifacts left by Native Americans several thousand years ago, and affords a clear view of the Glidden Midden, one of the larger extant oyster shell heaps on the east coast. As sea levels rose, the oysters disappeared around a thousand years ago, but the rubbish piles remained until the turn of the last century when the majority of the shells of Whaleback Midden were processed into a chicken feed additive. **Glidden Midden** on the other hand remains 30 feet deep in places. The **Great Salt Bay Preserve Heritage Trail** lies at the south end of Great Salt Bay and offers a pleasant 3-mile footpath. Most of the path offers open views of diving ducks, Ospreys, and Bald Eagles, but the first half mile crosses a small salt marsh where shorebirds, dabblers, and horseshoe crabs may be hiding.

The **Damariscotta Mills Alewife Fish Ladder** can be spectacular when the alewives are running in May and June. Ospreys and Bald Eagles often congregate around the ladder, gorging themselves on the jumping fish. The ladder ascends 42 feet to Damariscotta Lake and is a remarkable curiosity even when

20) Pemaquid Point is one of many places along the coast where the mainland extends into the Atlantic Ocean. These are places where alcids, pelagic species, and migrant songbirds are regularly spotted. The depiction representing the state of Maine on the U.S. quarter is that of Pemaquid Point, though a comparison with the real thing suggests that artistic license was taken with the design. Pemaquid is a throwback to Maine's rustic resort heritage. The Pemaquid Hotel is over a century old and gives the honest impression of being a destination, not a stopover. From the lighthouse, Common Eiders and Black Guillemots are usually observable. Common Loons, Red-necked and Horned Grebes, and

scoters are regular in winter and a King Eider is possible. Besides the normal gull species, Bonaparte's and Laughing Gulls may be present and Black-legged Kittiwakes are seen occasionally. Eastern Egg Rock is six miles east, so its breeders may forage close to shore here: Atlantic Puffins and Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns. Razorbills, and Common and Thick-billed Murres, are uncommon sightings. Great, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters sometimes approach land from June through September.

In migration season, this is a coastal site to observe Northern Gannets. Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers are seen annually. Check both the fields and the surrounding trees for unusual migrants, especially in fall. Nocturnal migrants "fall out" on Pemaquid with some frequency. Using best birding etiquette, poke around the trees and lawns of the Pemaquid Hotel complex for migrants. Opposite the hotel, drive or walk the small loop road that wraps around the west side of the peninsula. The trees of the loop road are especially good for migrant warblers and finches. Common Ravens thrive in this area. Crossbills have nested here.

Directions: From Route 1, there are two roads that lead to Pemaquid Point. From the south, the more direct choice is Route 129 from Damariscotta, bearing right onto Route 130 through

Bristol, on through New Harbor and Pemaquid. From this direction, it is just shy of 12 miles to Pemaquid from Route 1A. From the North, take Route 32 south from Waldoboro. At the end of 19.7 miles, it will intersect with Route 130 in New Harbor and the total distance to Pemaquid will be 22.6 miles.

21) Monhegan Island is the destination for many commercial tour companies. It is a famous migrant trap, as the birds often descend into the trees and shrubs of the village itself, feeding voraciously and ignoring the closest observers. The village is confined to the western side of the island. The eastern side is a dramatic series of cliffs and coves. Though the island is only one square mile in size, 17 miles of interwoven trails crisscross it. It is possible to sit on any of the cliffs and scan for passing Northern Gannets, and perhaps Parasitic or Pomarine Jaegers. Breeding Common Eiders and Black Guillemots surround the island. Laughing Gulls mix with the Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. Peak birding occurs during the last three weeks of May and from late August through early October. Summer breeders include Blackpolls, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Northern Parulas.

At peak migration, a morning might turn up twenty different species of

warbler. Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrels, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons follow coastal migration routes and often touch down out on the island. Out-of-range species are a common occurrence. Before heading for the cliffs, spend plenty of time in the village. Venture down to Lobster Cove, a particularly good place to watch Northern Gannets, Peregrine Falcons, and storm-tossed pelagic species. Stroll back through the village to the area around the old ice pond, which is good for warblers, vireos, waterfowl, and waders. The tall spruces around the pond are a common place to find roosting raptors. Nearby, behind the lighthouse, an old ball field is a fine site to find woodpeckers and cuckoos. The wet meadow behind town harbors rails, bobolinks, and ducks. Burnt Head is the easiest cliff hike. Trails to the other heads can be more challenging to anyone with limited mobility, but all offer spectacular views.

Three boats provide ferry service to the island. The Monhegan Boat Line (www.monheganboat.com) departs from Port Clyde and provides three daily trips in summer, two daily in spring and fall, and three trips a week in winter. Charters and puffin trips are also available. Call 207-372-8848. Hardy Boat Cruises (www.hardyboat.com) leaves twice a day in summer, and once a day in spring, departing from New Harbor. It operates Mid-May through Columbus Day and also offers daily trips to Eastern Egg Rock during breeding season, where Atlantic Puffins and Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns nest. Opportunities also include seal, lighthouse, and foliage tours. Call 207-677-2026 or 800-278-3346. The Balmy Days II (www.balmydayscruises) makes daily round trips from Boothbay Harbor, and also offers an additional cruise around the island in the afternoon. Call 207-633-2284 or 800-298-2284. All three boats pass close enough to nesting islands to make sightings of terns possible. Wilson's Storm-petrels move into the waters in June. Great and Sooty Shearwaters are also encountered, especially when northerly breezes prevail.



22) Lobster Cove Meadow in Boothbay is the most productive of several properties owned by the Boothbay Region Land Trust. Though only 46 acres, it makes up in variety what it lacks in size. The combination of ATV trails and footpaths winds through a mature softwood forest of white pine and spruce, following the slope downward through an open, grassy meadow dotted with ancient apple trees, until reaching an extensive marsh. The combination has produced sightings of most Maine thrushes and eight of Maine's nine flycatchers. Twenty-one warbler species have been observed on the property. Green Herons, Least Bitterns, Virginia Rails, and Sora have been found in the marsh.

Directions: From the intersection of Routes 27 and 96 in Boothbay Harbor, take Route 96 for 0.4 miles. Turn right onto Eastern Ave for 0.1 miles. Look for a small parking lot on the left at the trail entrance. The trail begins to the left of a private residence.

MAINE BIRDING TRAIL

The Official Guide to More Than 260 Accessible Sites



- by Bob Duchesne
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Southern Maine | 8. Central Maine |
| 2. Portland | 9. Bangor Area |
| 3. Merrymeeting Bay | 10. Western Mountains |
| 4. Midcoast | 11. Moosehead Area |
| 5. Acadia | 12. North Maine Woods |
| 6. Downeast | 13. Katahdin |
| 7. Western Lakes | 14. Aroostook |

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