

**Maine**  
**June 22- July 1, 2021**

**Itinerary in Brief**

**Please plan to arrive in Portland on Tuesday, June 22 (you can come in earlier to enjoy Portland should you wish!). The hotel and dinner is included in the tour cost. At 7 PM we'll meet in the lobby for a brief orientation and then head to dinner**

**Day 1 Wednesday, June 23                      Scarborough Marsh**

We will bird Scarborough Marsh today. Encompassing over 3,000 acres, Scarborough Marsh, the largest salt marsh in Maine, is one of the best places in the state to see a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, and waders. We will also have a chance to see and compare both **Saltmarsh** and **Nelson's Sparrows**. The Audubon Center at nearby Gilsland Farm is always worth a stop for more waterbirds, and species such as **Willow Flycatcher**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and **Bobolink** nest here in good numbers. In recent summers, Gilsland has even hosted a **Little Egret**, a rare visitor from the Old World. ***Night in Portland***

**Day 2- Thursday, June 24                      Saco and Kennebunk**

This morning we will spend a little more time in the Portland area, exploring the excellent Saco Heath, Kennebunk Plains and adjacent grasslands for upland species, such as **Upland Sandpiper**, **Prairie Warbler**, **Vesper**, **Field**, **Grasshopper**, and **Savannah Sparrows**. We will also check the nearby bays for a selection of shorebirds and gulls. In the early afternoon we will drive to Bangor. ***Night in Bangor***

**Day 3: Friday, June 25                      Sunkhaze Meadows NWR**

We plan to spend most of the morning exploring a wonderful 18-mile loop through a variety of upland-forest and wetland habitats. Here, during the breeding season, we could find as many as 22 species of warblers, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, and, with luck, **Black-billed Cuckoo**.

We then head north to Baxter State Park, which contains some of the largest tracts of boreal forest in Maine. Once checked in to our hotel, we'll explore some of the park after lunch. **Fox Sparrow** is common in spots up here and we will also look for boreal forest specialties – **Canada Jay**, **Boreal Chickadee**, and **Black-backed Woodpecker**. **Bicknell's Thrush** also nests in places within the park but it can be difficult to find.

***Night in Millinocket***

**Day 4: Saturday, June 26                      Baxter State Park**

This morning we will once again explore Baxter State Park and the surrounding areas, looking specifically for Spruce Grouse. In the event we miss it here, we will have other chances later in the trip when we head 'down east.' We will also look for any boreal birds we may have missed before heading back towards the coast, we will wind our way through backroads and local birding hotspots. ***Night in Bar Harbor***

**Day 5: Sunday, June 27                      Baxter SP, Acadia NP**

Today we will wake up early for our boat tour to Seal Island. Seal Island is managed in cooperation with National Audubon Society for colonial nesting seabirds, including Arctic and common terns, common eiders, double-crested and great cormorants, Leach's storm-petrels, black guillemots, razorbills, and Atlantic puffins. When we return from the boat tour, we will explore some of Acadia National Park. ***Night in Bar Harbor***

**Day 6: Monday, June 28**                      **Schoodic Peninsula**

After breakfast we will drive to the Schoodic Peninsula. The southern half of this peninsula comprises the only part of Acadia N.P. located on the mainland. We will explore the rocky shore and the forested interior, looking for gulls, terns, Common Loon, Osprey, sea ducks, Black Guillemot, Spruce Grouse, breeding flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, breeding warblers, and, if we are lucky, both Red and White-winged Crossbills.

***Night in Machias***

**Day 7: Tuesday, June 29**                      **Moosehorn NWR and Birding Downeast**

There are lots of great birding spots around Machias. Spruce Grouse are fairly easy to see at Great Wass Island or in the foggy headlands at Quoddy Head. We will explore the beautiful bogs full of Pitcher Plants and Sundews, as well as look for Black Guillemot and Common Eider around the sheltered coves. In some years Blackpoll Warblers sing from the treetops and Black-throated Green Warblers are everywhere. We will spend the day enjoying this beautiful part of Maine. ***Night in Machias***

**Day 8: Wednesday, June 30**                      **Driving South**

This morning we will spend some time at one or two of the aforementioned birding spots before having lunch targeting any species we may have missed on the previous days target list. We will drive back to Portland for our final night. ***Night in Portland***

**Day 9: Thursday, July 1**

After breakfast it's back to the airport for our return flights home.

\*Itinerary subject to change due to weather, unforeseen events, and the whims of the leader!