

Maine & Grand Manan
June 11-21, 2021

Itinerary in Brief

Day 1 Fri, June 11 - Arrival

You may arrive any time today to Portland and transfer to our hotel. At 7 PM, we'll meet in the lobby for a brief orientation and then head to dinner. ***Night in Portland***

Day 2- Sat, June 12 – Scarborough Marsh

After breakfast, we will visit Scarborough Marsh, the largest salt marsh in Maine. Encompassing over 3,000 acres, this 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 3: Sun, June 13 – Kennebunk Plains

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 4: Mon, June 14 – Sunhaze Meadows NWR; Baxter SP

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 5: Tues, June 15 – Baxter SP, Acadia NP

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, to Acadia National Park. In the afternoon we will explore the Mount Desert Island area of the park, visiting Bass Harbor Lighthouse and enjoying some of the trails through the coastal heaths. Birds we hope to see include **White-winged Crossbill**, **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (in sparkling breeding plumage!). ***Night in Bar Harbor***

Day 6: Wed, June 16 – Boat trip to Petit Manan Island

Today is the day for our combination birding & whale-watching boat trip out of Bar Harbor. We expect to circumnavigate Petit Manan Island, where we should see **Atlantic Puffin** and **Roseate Tern**, before going further out into the Atlantic Ocean, where we have the chance to see **Greater** and **Sooty Shearwaters**,

Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and other pelagic bird species. Our exact route will depend on where the whales are, and their location is not totally predictable. In the afternoon, we'll head back to Acadia to explore a different section of the park. ***Night in Bar Harbor***

Day 7: Thurs, June 17 – 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**. Later, we will head "down east," where we spend the next night in the small picturesque town of Machias. ***Night in Machias***

Day 8: Fri, June 18 - Machias Seal Island

Today we will drive to Calais on the New Brunswick border. We'll cross into Canada and drive to Black's Harbor for the 1.5 hour crossing to Grand Manan Island. Our boat to Machias Seal Island leaves around 1PM, after lunch we'll be on our way. We will see more **Atlantic Puffin**, **Razorbill** and **Common Murre**, as well as **Arctic Terns**, at Machias, a vitally important breeding bird area, and on the way across we might see **Manx Shearwater** and **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**. We then return to North Head to spend the night on Grand Manan. ***Night on Grand Manan***

Day 9: Sat, June 19 – Grand Manan Island to Great Wass Island

As we are on beautiful Grand Manan Island, we will spend the morning exploring this beautiful spot before taking the ferry back to Black's Harbor and over the border back to Calais, Maine.

We will then spend time in some of the excellent local birding sites, several of which we will investigate. Boreal species are of particular interest here, but there will also be opportunities to see waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, and sea birds. Among the areas we will visit are Cutler Coast Unit (of the Maine Bureau of Public Lands), Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Quoddy Head & Cobscook State Parks, Lubec Flats, and Great Wass Island (most of which is a Nature Conservancy Preserve). ***Night in Machias***

Day 10 – Sun, June 20 – Machias area birding

This morning we will spend more time at one or two of the aforementioned birding spots before having lunch and driving back to Portland for our final night. ***Night in Portland***

Day 11 – Mon, June 21 - Departure

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!