

# BIRD TREKS

## COASTAL MAINE - - BY LAND & SEA

### Atlantic Puffins, Boreal Nesters & Whales!

**Dates** Thursday, 21 June through Wednesday, 27 June 2018: 7 days & 6 nights

**Places we'll visit** Acadia National Park, Cadillac Mountain, and the always exciting whale watching boat trip to Petit Manan Island that departs from Bar Harbor.

On our second boat ride, this one out of Cutler Harbor, we'll visit Machias Seal Island to search for nesting Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Common Murres, Arctic Terns, other pelagic species, and more whales!

Moosehorn NWR, Machias, and Quoddy Head State Park for their rugged coastline, boreal forest, and abundance of breeding species.

#### Target Species include . . .

Northern Fulmar  
Great Shearwater  
Sooty Shearwater  
Manx Shearwater  
Leach's Storm-Petrel  
Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
Northern Gannet  
American Bittern  
Common Eider  
Spruce Grouse  
Sora  
Upland Sandpiper

Red-necked Phalarope  
Parasitic Jaeger  
Pomarine Jaeger  
Black-legged Kittiwake  
Arctic Tern  
Atlantic Puffin  
Razorbill  
Common Murre  
Black Guillemot  
Black-backed Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker

Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Alder Flycatcher  
Gray Jay  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Northern breeding warblers  
*possibly 15 - 20 species!*  
Vesper Sparrow  
Pine Siskin  
Red Crossbill  
Evening Grosbeak

Our pelagic trips may produce Ocean Sunfish, Gray Seal, and Humpback, Finback, and Minke Whales. On land we will look for Beaver and Porcupine, and perhaps find a Black Bear, and a Moose or two.



A happy crew after a great day at sea!

Click here for previous checklists:

<https://www.birdtreks.com/birds-previously-seen/MECM.pdf>

# COASTAL MAINE

## 21 - 27 June 2018

### Day

### Agenda

- 1 The tour begins in Bangor, Maine. We'll drive toward the coast for our first taste of Downeast birding in Acadia National Park. This is a good time to search for the cliff-nesting **Peregrine Falcons** and scan for **Common Loon, Osprey, and Bald Eagle**. Overnight near Bar Harbor, with singing **warblers** and an occasional flock of **Red Crossbills** near the motel. [**\*\*See NOTE** after Day 7, on page 3.]
- 2 We'll have all day to explore Mount Desert Island. The spruce/fir forests may yield **Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Magnolia** and **Blackpoll Warblers**, and with a bit of luck, **Spruce Grouse**. Along the coast are **Common Eider, Black Guillemot, Great Cormorant**, and lots of **gulls, terns, and ducks**. **King Eider** is always possible, albeit a rarity. A great day of birding deserves a great Maine seafood dinner, and a second night at the same motel.

Atlantic Puffins are the star of the show on Machias Seal Island.

- - Ron Simpson,  
tour participant



- 3 We'll have another morning to bird **Acadia National Park**, where we can explore some new areas and return to a few from yesterday. Around noon we'll head for the dock at Bar Harbor and prepare for a half-day whale watching trip to Petit Manan Island. **Humpback Whale** is likely. One year we had two breaching for nearly an hour, very close to the boat. Several other species of whales and porpoises are possible. There will also be pelagic birds to observe, including **shearwaters, storm-petrels, and alcids**. Perhaps an ocean-going **Eastern Kingbird** will visit us again, *15 miles at sea!* Our third night in Bar Harbor.
- 4 We'll begin working our way north and arrive at Moosehorn NWR on the New Brunswick border. Here we may find **American Bittern, Sora, Northern Goshawk, Spruce and Ruffed Grouse, Bay-breasted** and **Cape May Warblers**, and **Winter Wren**. There are nesting **Bald Eagles** and **Osprey**, families of **Ring-necked Ducks**, and another good chance for **Black-backed Woodpecker**. Overnight in Machias. Just as in Bar Harbor, there may be *nesting warblers* behind the motel, plus **Bobolinks** across the road.

[More tour information on page 3]

- 5 We depart Cutler Harbor at 7:00 AM for Machias Seal Island, where we should see nesting **Atlantic Puffins**, **Razorbills**, **Common Murres**, and **Arctic Terns**, all at point blank range. **Gray Seals** are likely at North Rock, while **Harbor Seals** are common. During the morning boat ride we will look for pelagic species such as **Northern Fulmar**, **Great Shearwater**, and **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**. After lunch we'll drive to Quoddy Head State Park that juts out into Grand Manan Channel and offers great opportunities for **seabirds**, **shorebirds** and more boreal species, including **Lincoln's Sparrow** and **Palm Warbler**. A second night at the Bluebird Motel in Machias.
- 6 Today we will probably return to scenic Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge to explore more of its trails and roads, then visit the Meddybemps blueberry barrens to look for breeding **Upland Sandpiper** and **Vesper Sparrow**. Our final night in Machias.
- 7 This morning will be spent exploring some new areas, attempting to fill in our list of **boreal birds** and **breeding warblers**. One year we found our only **White-winged Crossbills**, **Evening Grosbeaks**, and **Pine Siskins**, on the very last day! The tour will end at Bangor Airport for our afternoon flights home.

**NOTE**      \*\* Most participants choose to arrive in Bangor on 20 June, the day before the tour begins, and spend the night there. This eliminates almost any possible conflict with a delayed airline flight.

Click on this link for a **map of the tour route**:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1Hc1SSOs09kUVTs3ueKr0GU2WodM&ll=45.1425103430044%2C-67.67706902282714&z=9>



We are likely to see **Common Loons**.    - - Tom Amico, tour participant

***[Final details are on page 4]***

**IMPORTANT** If weather affects our two boat schedules, we may have to adjust our itinerary accordingly. I will coordinate with the captains for the best possible opportunities.

**Leader** The tour leader for the **Pelagic & Boreal Tour to Coastal Maine** will be selected at a later date.

**Price** \$2725 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available at an extra charge of \$285. We will take a maximum of seven participants. On rare occasion we may extend the maximum to ten participants.

**Includes** Expert guide service, lodging for six nights, **ALL meals**, boat rides, entrance fees, and ground transportation within Maine. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything extra that you may wish to give to your boat crews or tour leader.

Does not include the cost of round trip airfare to Bangor. **Bird Treks** will, upon request, help you obtain the best possible airfare. Also not included are the cost of alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature.

**Extra Services** We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 33 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her at Bailey Travel/Travel Time toll-free at **1-800-224-5399**, direct at **717-855-2128**, or e-mail her at [lori@trvltime.com](mailto:lori@trvltime.com). By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There will be a small fee for these services.

**Deposit** A \$600 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is due 21 April 2018. This tour offers unique opportunities for great scenery and many spectacular northern birds and whales.

**Refund & Cancellation Policy** With written notice more than 60 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$75 service fee. With 30-60 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. No partial refund can be given once your tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** and mention **BIRD TREKS, ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at [www.allianztravelinsurance.com](http://www.allianztravelinsurance.com), or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.



**Spruce Grouse** may have young!

- - Tom Amico, tour participant

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