

# MAINE BIRDING TRAIL

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**BEST NESTS Newsletter**  
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## A Vision Comes of Age



When I began work on the **Maine Birding Trail** nearly nine years ago, there was a unifying vision. I wanted people to go online at home in faraway places and figure out how to explore the state. **So far, so good.** Results are subtle and not always easy to see. Yet here are some e-mail excerpts from birders across the globe:

I have been birding about 10 years. My wife does not really bird, but does enjoy going along when I bird in new locations. We are in the process of planning a trip to the NE (mostly Maine) in June - driving from KS. We have never been anywhere northeast of Indiana, but hope to spend about a week in ME. One important objective is to see some birds. Others are to see ME, eat some seafood, and possibly even do some fishing. At present, the plan is to arrive in ME on or about June 12. Do you have any recommendations on the best way to do some pelagic birding at that time of year? There seems to be a number of operations offering trips and I do not know how to evaluate them. I have also read that some ferry crossings can be good. My first preference would be to go on a trip with birders, but am willing to listen to good advice.

Thank you,  
Henry A\*\*\*\*  
Osborne KS

*This comes to you from the UK, where it's a gloriously sunny morning in my native North Wales. A keen birder, I shall be visiting friends in Maine later in the year, and they've sent me a link to your Maine Birding Trail website. Do you by any chance, I wonder, have a place (one) left on either of your late summer trips??? If so, I should very much wish to book it, if possible. Here's keeping fingers, toes and anything else reasonably-flexible crossed that there might still be a place! I do hope so.*

*Kind wishes, and most sincerely,  
Mervyn W\*\*\*\*\*  
North Wales, UK*

I am a birder from Argentina since more than 25 years ago. I will go to USA with my wife June - 6: Buenos Aires - New York. We will arrive to J.F.K. International airport June 7 at 7.30'. Then we will rent a car and we will go to Maine for birding. I love birds and my wife love tourism. I would like to go to northern Maine for boreal species: Black-backed Woodpecker, Three-toe Woodpecker, Spruce Grouse and Ruffed Grouse, warblers, Bicknell Thrush, etc. I would also go to Acadia National Park for Black Guillemot and pelagic birds. Thanks you very much for your help.

Sincerely,  
Reginaldo L\*\*\*\*\*

I'm interested in trying for Boreal chickadee, black-backed woodpecker and evening grosbeak (and anything else). My husband and I are planning a trip to ME during the last 2 weeks of June, although we could stay as late as July 4. We're going to take a boat trip to Machias Seal Island from Machias at some point during the trip, but I'm looking for a way to see boreal birds. Would a day trip with a guide be practicable? I don't know geography in ME. We are transplanted Texans living in the Adirondacks

Thanks,  
Patsy C\*\*\*\*\*

*Good morn, Starting to gather info for a 5 or 6 day outing to Maine. Do not know if I need a guide for part of that time. Interested in your input on that. Looking for a variety of semifrozen birds. Great Comorant, Thick-Billed Murre, Black Guillemot, Razorbill, Puffin?, Skua?, Iceland Gull, King Eider?., Spruce Grouse & &..I assume that the closest to pelagic birding to be found that time of year will be taking a ferry to several islands. True? Will be checking bird alerts as closer to time but know winter birding there may be a bit different than here in the California desert. Thank you for your thoughts. Note-The Maine Birding Trail guide is a treat!*

*Buford C\*\*\*\*\*  
Palm Desert, California*

My wife and I are planning a trip to the Maine coast with a trip to Machias Seal Island. I would like to hire a guide to find some terrestrial species such as Bicknell's Thrush, Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse and Cape May Warbler. Can that be done in a day? We don't yet have a date set but are looking at either after June 20th or the week of the 10th.

John G\*\*\*\*\*  
El Paso

*Happy New Year! Our trip is starting to finalize. Turns out that the only day the group can go is Monday, June 4. This is the first day that they have available because they all are doing the Acadia Birding Festival. There are 9 (not including my husband and myself) of them coming up from Texas. Let me know please. Thanks, Carol*

Hello, I grew up in New England and now live in Ohio. This coming summer my family is hoping to do a trip to Maine and we are very eager to see puffins, murre, razorbills, eiders, etc. I'm writing now because I am told that in order to plan one of the boat trips you need to make reservations several months in advance. Here are my questions:

- Is Machias Seal Island the absolute best place to go to see these birds up close?
- Are the boat rides rough? Do people get seasick?
- If we plan a trip to that particular spot but leave another day or two to bird elsewhere, can anyone recommend good summer places nearby to look for shorebirds?
- finally, how do you pronounce "murre?"

Thanks!  
Aaron M\*\*\*\*\*  
Lakewood, OH

*Good afternoon,  
My friend and I are birders in the Cincinnati area and will be in Acadia from Tuesday, August 23 to Friday, August 26. We are interested in the Boreal Species, any Owls, Nelson's, Saltmarsh, Seaside sparrows and shorebirds. would like your advice or recommendations on a whale watching/puffin/pelagic trip? We have purchased the Maine Birding Trail to help plan our trip. I look forward to your reply.*

*Thanks,  
Karen*

I am a birder from Denver. I am looking for a lake with known breeding loons - and no motors or jet skis - where my husband and I can spend a week in a cottage in July. We'll be driving up from Boston and closer to that city would be better than farther - though I realize the most remote lakes will be in the far north of Maine.

Thank you.  
Elizabeth K\*\*\*\*\*