



Field Guides Tour Report

MAINE 2015

May 23, 2015 to May 31, 2015

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For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, [please VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE.](#)



Some of us were thrilled to catch the silhouette of an American Woodcock during its aerial display at dusk, but we were all blown away when a female American Woodcock marched her brood across the road in Brownfield! This well-developed juvenile was not as clever as its mom. She headed for cover while her kids paraded across a lawn. (Photo by guide Eric Hynes)

Last June was our first tour in Maine in a long time, and it went famously. Our second run of the new itinerary was no letdown. Shifting the dates back into May helped catch the tail end of migration and likely was the primary factor for our additional ten species. We were a merry bunch of birders and tallied an impressive list of regional specialists in just over a week's time.

We got to know one another and learn about the week ahead over lobster rolls at Dyer Point in Cape Elizabeth our first evening. Skeins of scoters winged up the coast, Common Eiders in sharp breeding plumage loafed along the shore, and Purple Sandpipers snuck around the rocks.

Day two began at Scarborough Marsh. Nelson's and Saltmarsh sparrows surprisingly were not in yet, so we settled for Least Terns and "Eastern" Willets before shifting to the coast. Thanks to a tip from a friendly birder, we made a beeline to the end of Pine Point Beach, where the bird of the tour was waiting for us: Little Gull. We savored fantastic looks at it on the water and in flight. The shorebird showcase featured White-rumped Sandpipers, gorgeous male Black-bellied Plovers in breeding plumage, gaudy Ruddy Turnstones, and a displaying Piping Plover. Four Brant flew in just before we turned our attention to Biddeford Pool. Highlights from Biddeford were American Oystercatcher, Roseate Terns, and Black-crowned Night-Herons.

The next morning we ventured out well before sunrise to Kennebunk Plains. Eastern Whip-poor-wills were waiting for us and, as they faded, a chorus of sparrows erupted: Grasshopper, Vesper, Field, Savannah, and Song. Other highlights from this unusual habitat were Upland Sandpiper, Prairie Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Scarlet Tanager, and Eastern Meadowlark. After a hearty breakfast back at the hotel, we visited two parks in Portland. Capisic Pond Park was a quick stop, but we gained some gems: Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Green Heron, Wood Duck, and Blackpoll Warbler. Over at Evergreen Cemetery we were serenaded by a very cooperative Wood Thrush and had nice looks at a Red-bellied Woodpecker. In the afternoon we drove up to Bar Harbor with a quick detour for a Bobolink fest in Gardiner.

Day four was our scheduled boat trip, but we had the morning free so we birded Sieur de Monts Spring in Acadia National Park. The wind was howling, but we managed to scare up a cluster of American Redstarts, great looks at Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Hermit Thrush, and a remarkably obliging Ovenbird. Our cruise out to Petit Manan Island was on the bumpy side, but it was well worth it. Razorbills, Atlantic Puffins, and Arctic Terns were all beside the boat, and en route we picked out Great Cormorant, Black-legged Kittiwake, Red-throated Loon, Northern Gannet, and some adorable newborn Harbor Seals.

We began our birding on day five at Valley Cove on Somes Sound. This beautiful patch of spruce hosted Winter Wren, warblers, a very responsive Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and a territorial Peregrine Falcon patrolling the cliff face. Over at Seawall, we scoped a lingering Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage, and our last stop on Mount Desert Island was the Blagden Preserve at Indian Point. Merrill's blueberry barrens failed to clean up Upland Sandpiper for us, but we added a handsome American Kestrel. Our last birding area of the day was around Messalonskee Lake in Belgrade.

Gorgeous Black Terns floated above the surface among a host of swallows which included our first Bank Swallows. Purple Martins were busy around the colony, and then it was a haul up to Rangeley.

The western mountains region of Maine offered extensive northern forest with plenty of boreal habitat. Over the next day and a half we added quite a few migrant warblers to our list and ticked three of the four resident boreal obligate species. Day six began with roadside birding west of Oquossoc along Route 16. From our first stop we watched Nashville Warbler and Northern Waterthrush sing, studied a teed up Alder Flycatcher and chased after a Boreal Chickadee. An agitated Pileated Woodpecker put on quite a show. Old Route 16 offered Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and a heard-only Mourning Warbler. After waiting out a brief thunderstorm in the van, those who choose not to take the afternoon off picked up Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and more helpings of the always striking Blackburnian Warbler. After dinner back in Rangeley, a select few of us still had the energy for a night outing. Our first big hit was an American Woodcock. We caught it in flight as its silhouette broke the treeline and we stayed on it as it spiraled up and then tumbled back down. A Moose crossed the road in front of us for our big mammal twitch. We also heard the tail-slap of a beaver at one wetland stop, which was remarkable considering how deafening the Spring Peepers were. An incessantly calling Northern Saw-whet Owl rounded out our evening adventure.

Day seven started just after dawn on Boy Scout Road. An overhead Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jays taking peanuts from our hands, singing Olive-sided Flycatcher, and a number of warblers (including Canada Warbler) were our rewards for getting up early. In the afternoon we traveled through Grafton Notch, pausing to add Philadelphia Vireo to our list.

Our last full day in the field began with a special charter up the Auto Road on Mount Washington. Bicknell's Thrush proved much easier to hear than see, but I think everyone had at least quick looks in the end. The American Woodcock parade across the road in Brownfield was incredible. A midday stop at Brownfield Bog added Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Willow Flycatcher, oodles of Warbling Vireos, a flighty Black-billed Cuckoo, and our best looks at Black-and-white Warbler and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Knowing Saltmarsh Sparrow was still high on the wish list for some of you, we dashed back to the coast. Our first stop in Scarborough Marsh at Dunstan Landing did the trick. We started seeing the newly arrived Saltmarsh Sparrows straight away, and we eventually called in its duller cousin -- the subvirgatus subspecies of Nelson's Sparrow. A scrumptious feast at a special restaurant all to ourselves was icing on our cake.

Pepe and I had a lot of fun sharing Maine and all it has to offer with you. Thanks for choosing Field Guides and for being so agreeable and respectful of each other. Good birding and have a great summer!

Until our birding paths cross again,

--Eric Hynes

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BRANT (ATLANTIC) (*Branta bernicla hrota*) – Timing is everything. We had just started to load back into the vans when four Brant flew in for a landing at the river mouth at Pine Point in Scarborough. They allowed for nice scope views.

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*) – Nearly an everyday bird

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*) – Our first looks were at Capisic Pond Park in Portland. We also observed "ducks with tails" in flight at Messalonskee Lake and Brownfield Bog.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (*Anas rubripes*) – We saw pairs along the coast and in the western mountains.

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – Plenty of good looks

COMMON EIDER (ATLANTIC) (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*) – We saw lots along the coast but none finer than the birds barely off the rocks at Dyer Point our first evening.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (NORTH AMERICAN) (*Melanitta fusca deglandi*) – The lighting was wonderful as we watched skeins migrate passed Dyer Point in Cape Elizabeth our first evening.

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta americana*) – This species was outnumbered by WW Scoters the first evening but then we had good looks at flocks early in our boat trip out of Bar Harbor.

HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) – My favorite was the hen sticking her head out of the nest box at Brownfield Bog.

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*) – We doubled back for a lovely pair in a narrow cove of Cupsuptic Lake in the western mountains.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*) – We detected drumming on several occasions but never laid eyes on one [*]

WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*) – More days than not

Gaviidae (Loons)

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*) – An individual flew down the port side of the boat as we approached Petit Manan Island.

COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*) – One of the iconic species of Maine; it was fun to hear them call as well as see some

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) – Normally well inland by this date, we were lucky to find an adult in breeding plumage while scanning the ocean from Seawall in Acadia National Park.

Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)

NORTHERN GANNET (*Morus bassanus*) – Just a single flyby while we were idling at Petit Manan -- an immature bird

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – An everyday bird

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – One immature bird was perched on a channel marker as we passed between Little Moose Island and Schoodic Island. It hopped into the water as we motored by.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*) – A number of sightings; the individual at Seawall was particularly obliging

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – We enjoyed a nice comparison with Snowy Egret at Dunstan Landing in Scarborough Marsh

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) – The most common wader of the tour

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – The adult flying in directly over our heads and putting down in the marsh behind the Pelreco building was memorable.

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*) – After struggling to see a skulker at Capisic Pond Park, we savored a clean look in the open at the pond in the back of Evergreen Cemetery.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – Great views of several adults roosting along the edge of Great Pond in Biddeford Pool

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Several of you commented that the looks we enjoyed in Scarborough Marsh were some of the finest you have ever had of this species. The lighting was particularly good for appreciating the various shades of maroon.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – We didn't happen to notice any on the first evening, otherwise it was an everyday bird

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – More days than not

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*) – The bird in flight over Pine Point was the only one we saw during the tour.

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – More sightings during the second half of the tour. This once endangered species has recovered nicely in Maine with over 600 breeding pairs now.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platyterus*) – The adult teed up on the utility pole on our way to Bar Harbor was the most memorable.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – The immature hawk on the ground in Evergreen Cemetery was particularly pale.

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*) – This is a rare breeder in Maine, where the species nears its northern limit. We spotted just the one individual at the edge of the marsh in Biddeford Pool.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – Some of the males in breeding plumage on the mudflats of the Nonesuch River at Pine Point were absolutely stunning.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – A crowd of these dapper plovers was concentrated at the end of Pine Point Beach.

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*) – Wow -- that displaying bird at the end of Pine Point Beach was unforgettable.

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) – This species was added when we detoured for the Bobolink show in Gardiner.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*) – This species was part of the shorebird extravaganza at Pine Point.

WILLET (*Tringa semipalmata*) – We observed birds foraging on the mudflats at Pine Point and we pointed out birds flying by us closely at Dunstan Landing.

UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*) – Our morning at Kennebunk Plains started off promising with multiple birds calling. By the end of the morning however, we still hadn't put bins on one and my back-up spot in Ellsworth was a bust too. One of the few heard only birds of the tour.

[*]

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) – Several striking birds in breeding plumage were foraging at close range at the end of Pine Point Beach.

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*) – Barbara's keen eyes got us on the first birds at Dyer Point but they proved elusive. Our stop over at Kettle Cove was rewarded with an individual holding tight on the rocks.

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*) – Some quality views at Pine Point

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*) – A lifer for some and a great look for all of us

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*) – Nice to have these around for comparison to the White-rumped Sandpipers

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*) – A fair number were probing the mudflats of the Nonesuch River at Pine Point in Scarborough.

WILSON'S SNIFE (*Gallinago delicata*) – We heard them calling in several locations but surprisingly never got a view

AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Scolopax minor*) – This species took second prize for favorite bird of the tour. On our evening adventure out of Rangeley we listened and observed one displaying then we lucked into the family crossing the road in Brownfield.

Alcidae (Auks, Murres, and Puffins)

RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*) – Atlantic Puffin get all the hype but I find Razorbills to be a more striking Alcids.

BLACK GUILLEMOT (*Cepphus grylle*) – The coastal Alcids -- we started seeing these guys shortly after leaving the dock in Bar Harbor.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN (*Fratercula arctica*) – Half the colony out at Petit Manan Island was probably in their burrows incubating their egg but we still had plenty of birds on the water and winging by the boat in all directions.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (ATLANTIC) (*Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*) – One of the surprises from our boat trip; an immature bird flew down

the port side as we motored toward Petit Manan.

BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) – We probably have the hundreds of Bonaparte's concentrated at Pine Point to thank for drawing in the next species.

LITTLE GULL (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) – Voted the bird of the tour and for good reason. This rarity performed brilliantly for us at Pine Point. It foraged on the water and got up flying around -- showing off its smoky underwings.

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – We saw a few whenever we were on the coast

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*) – Nice to see this species people associate with parking lots in some natural habitat on the breeding lakes in the western mountains.

HERRING GULL (AMERICAN) (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) – Numerous along the coast

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) – Many but not nearly as numerous as the previous species

LEAST TERN (*Sternula antillarum*) – Great looks at this tiny tern at Scarborough Marsh

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*) – What a treat to watch this graceful and gorgeous tern foraging over Messalonskee Lake; for some of you, seeing it in breeding plumage was a first

ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougallii*) – We watched a ball of foraging terns near East Point in Biddeford Pool. The Roseate's shallower, snappy wingbeats, brilliant white plumage, all dark bill, and extra long tail were evident in comparison to the more numerous and slightly larger Common Terns.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – I don't care for when the word "common" is used in a bird name but that is what they were when we birded the southern coast.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) – It took careful study to tease them out from the more numerous Common Terns at Petit Manan Island.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Got it [II]

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*) – Nearly an everyday bird

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) – We had several brief sightings at Brownfield Bog but we just couldn't get it to cooperate for all to see it well.

Strigidae (Owls)

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL (*Aegolius acadicus*) – For those who ventured out in the evening in Rangeley, we listened to an individual toot away incessantly until we were content to drive away. [*]

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Antrostomus vociferus*) – We could hear the Whips even before we got out of the van at Kennebunk Plains -- what a chorus. The one individual we pursued let us get very close and we saw it multiple times in flight but it wouldn't sit still.

Apodidae (Swifts)

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*) – More days than not

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*) – We had brief encounters about every other day

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megasceryle alcyon*) – More days than not

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes carolinus*) – Great looks at a vocal pair in Evergreen Cemetery

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – It required some patience but we ended up with great looks before we left Rangeley, only to be greeted by another pair at Brownfield Bog

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*) – Daily once we headed inland

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*) – A second half of the tour bird

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides arcticus*) – We saw plenty of scaling on conifer trunks before we finally connected with a male directly over our heads

NORTHERN FLICKER (YELLOW-SHAFTED) (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) – Not too many

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus pileatus*) – Several responsive individuals gave us tremendous looks

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) – Our best view was at the blueberry barrens in Ellsworth

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) – Our excellent view of a male Black-throated Blue Warbler on the south shore of Rangeley Lake was briefly interrupted by a low flyover.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – The recovery of Peregrine Falcons in urban landscapes is remarkable but I still prefer my Peregrines in natural habitat. The adult perching, calling, and patrolling the cliff face overlooking Somes Sound was majestic.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*) – What a wonderful song; we heard this bird well several times in the western mountains and saw one teed up nicely for a full frame scope view

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus virens*) – Our first encounter was at Evergreen Cemetery but the bird singing and foraging low on old Route 16 was the best.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*) – The first one we enjoyed was at the end of our hike into Valley Cove; that bird was super responsive.

ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*) – The most frequently encountered *Empidonax* fly of the tour

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*) – "The" territory at Brownfield Bog came through once again

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*) – An everyday bird toward the end of the tour

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*) – The hungover, chronic smoker song

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*) – Their calls were pointed out on multiple days but our best look was the bird at the park in Kennebunk Plains.

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) – An every other day bird

Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*) – We heard one scolding a few times at Brownfield Bog but couldn't get eyes on one unfortunately [*]

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*) – In the western mountains

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*) – Boy were they thick at Brownfield Bog

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*) – Grafton Notch State Park remains a reliable spot for this birch-loving species

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*) – The vireo that can't stop singing

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

GRAY JAY (*Perisoreus canadensis*) – Normally this species is easy once you encounter it but our first couple sightings proved uncharacteristically elusive. That all changed when we found a pair that was more than happy to accept our offering of peanuts. No Rita, you can't take one home. haha

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*) – Nearly an everyday bird

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) – Every day

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*) – Most birds were found near the end of the tour

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*) – The colony at Messalonskee Lake was hopping the evening we visited.

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*) – Nearly an everyday bird

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*) – Only at Messalonskee Lake

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – Lots

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) – Seen both times we visited the Pelreco building in Scarborough Marsh

Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*) – They keep a low profile while nesting but we saw a few of Maine's state bird each day.

BOREAL CHICKADEE (*Poecile hudsonicus*) – We had one nice bird the first morning in Rangeley and then another bird the next day but that was it.

TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus bicolor*) – The birds at Kennebunk Plains sang and sang and sang.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*) – In the conifers of the western mountains

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*) – A few times in the hardwoods in the southern part of the state

Certhiidae (Treecreepers)

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*) – We heard a lot more than we saw on this run for some reason

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) – Our first one almost flew into the side of the van!

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes hiemalis hiemalis*) – What an incredible song from such a wee bird!

MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*) – We could hear one singing at Messalonskee Lake but not in a spot where it would be safe to try and get a look from the road edge. [*]

Regulidae (Kinglets)

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*) – The agitated male we saw outside of Rangeley showed more of a flame-colored crown than a golden one -- it was spectacular.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*) – Saw a few in the north woods but heard quite a few more

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*) – We only saw a few

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*) – Heard more than seen

BICKNELL'S THRUSH (*Catharus bicknelli*) – Our chartered trip up Mount Washington was successful with quite a few birds heard and several seen. The only thing missing was the one that likes to hold still in the open.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*) – Another thrush that we saw but heard lots more of

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*) – The most cooperative *Catharus* thrush of the tour, especially at Sieur de Monts Spring

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*) – We enjoyed an amazing experience with a bird on territory in Evergreen Cemetery.

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*) – An everyday bird

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – Almost an everyday bird

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*) – The singing bird at Kennebunk Plains held its perch for prolonged scope views.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*) – We watched a pair working on a nest in Biddeford.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Check [I]

Bombycillidae (Waxwings)

CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) – Lots of flyovers and some good perched views in the western mountains

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) – This is one of the few common warblers that a guide worries about since they can be such skulkers but that male singing over the trail in Sieur de Monts Spring put that to rest early on in the tour.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) – The powerful song from this bog specialist was conspicuous in the western mountains.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*) – One of the last of the warblers to get on the triplist but we saw several really well the last couple of days.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) – One of the warblers we encountered most frequently in the northern forest.

MOURNING WARBLER (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) – My go-to spot for this species was closed to public access because of heavy logging activity so we had to settle for a heard bird only. [*]

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*) – Almost an everyday bird; the individual at Sieur de Monts Spring must have had a nest next to the trail.

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – One of the most variable and constant songs in the northern forest; the males are serious eye candy

NORTHERN PARULA (*Setophaga americana*) – We saw this species particularly well.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Setophaga magnolia*) – We caught a few late migrants along the coast but the north woods was thick with them.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Setophaga castanea*) – This is a missable species but we had that one male tee up on a spruce in front of us so well.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Setophaga fusca*) – Arguably the most beautiful warbler

YELLOW WARBLER (*Setophaga petechia*) – Plenty

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Setophaga pennsylvanica*) – The early successional growth below the overlook in Rangeley attracted a gorgeous male.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Setophaga striata*) – Thick up on Mount Washington

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Setophaga caerulescens*) – Several territories on the south side of Rangeley Lake

PALM WARBLER (YELLOW) (*Setophaga palmarum hypochrysea*) – We had to hit several bogs before we caught up to this species but we enjoyed a close look in the end.

PINE WARBLER (*Setophaga pinus*) – The sharp male at Kennebunk Plains was remarkably stationary for a warbler. We weren't complaining.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (MYRTLE) (*Setophaga coronata coronata*) – One up on Mount Washington was barely out of reach for some of us.

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*) – Thick this year at Kennebunk Plains

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Setophaga virens*) – One of the more common warblers in the northern forest

CANADA WARBLER (*Cardellina canadensis*) – This species is one of the more challenging warblers to see. We had one moving all around us on the Boy Scout Road.

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*) – Catching up to that migrant female at Dunstan Landing was lucky

Emberizidae (Buntings and New World Sparrows)

EASTERN TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) – I wish all birds were as responsive as that male towhee at Kennebunk Plains.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*) – Almost an everyday bird

FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*) – Only at Kennebunk Plains but there were multiple birds there

VESPER SPARROW (*Poocetes gramineus*) – The most conspicuous sparrow at Kennebunk Plains

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – We didn't see a lot but we did get some great looks

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – We savored a close view just after sunrise at one of the only breeding sites for the species in Maine

NELSON'S SPARROW (ATLANTIC COAST) (*Ammodramus nelsoni subvirgatus*) – The washed out/blurry appearance of this subspecies was noticeable having just studied Saltmarsh Sparrow.

SALTMARSH SPARROW (*Ammodramus caudatus caudatus*) – This species was one of the most sought after species for some of you and we eventually got satisfying looks on our second trip to Scarborough Marsh.

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*) – An everyday bird

SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*) – If the bird at Sieur de Monts Spring got any closer, it would have been singing from one of our shoulders.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) – One of the favorite songs of the tour

DARK-EYED JUNCO (SLATE-COLORED) (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) – An everyday bird once we got to the mountains

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*) – Seeing the unusual yellowish-orange plumage of that singing male was a surprising treat.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Mostly in southern Maine

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*) – We didn't focus on this species and it ended up being a heard only [*]

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) – The Bobolink extravaganza in Gardiner was a tour highlight for many of us.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) – Of course

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*) – We enjoyed some great looks at singing birds during our early morning at Kennebunk Plains.

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*) – Certainly

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*) – Only detected in southern Maine

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*) – A good-looking male was right where he was supposed to be at Capisic Pond Park.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) – The two sites where we saw the most were Capisic Pond Park and Brownfield Bog.

Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

HOUSE FINCH (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) – A first half of the tour bird

PURPLE FINCH (*Haemorhous purpureus*) – Heard and seen well
PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*) – We detected a few flyovers up on Mount Washington
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*) – About half the days

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – Yep [II]

MAMMALS

SNOWSHOE HARE (*Lepus americanus*) – We saw several but one individual seemed almost indifferent to our presence on Boy Scout Road.
EASTERN CHIPMUNK (*Tamias striatus*) – We saw quite a few and heard even more
WOODCHUCK (*Marmota monax*) – I pointed out a few along I95 as we drove up to Bar Harbor. Sadly, roadkill of this species outnumbered our live sightings.
EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus carolinensis*) – Not hard to see in southern Maine
RED SQUIRREL (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) – We spotted a few in the boreal forest. The spruce cone crop this year looks heavy so no doubt there will be more next year.
BEAVER (*Castor canadensis*) – We heard a tail slap over the din of Spring Peepers on our night outing. [*]
RED FOX (*Vulpes vulpes*) – The stretch of Route 16 near Oquossoc seemed to have an active territory. The fox kit that ran out of the shack, then did an about-face and ran back inside when it saw us was pretty funny.
HARBOR SEAL (*Phoca vitulina*) – Many on Egg Rock with newborn pups
GRAY SEAL (*Halichoerus grypus*) – Surprisingly, the only one we spotted was an individual in Somes Sound.
WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – A few roadside spottings
MOOSE (*Alces alces*) – One crossed in front of us on our night drive.

Herps

PAINTED TURTLE (*Chrysemys picta*) – Numerous basking on logs and stumps in wetland areas
AMERICAN TOAD (*Anaxyrus americanus*) – The lovely trill we heard outside our hotel in Rangeley [*]
SPRING PEEPER (*Pseudacris crucifer*) – During our evening outing from Rangeley, we visited several wetlands where their numbers were so great that the cacophony they generated was painful.
GRAY TREEFROG (*Hyla versicolor*) – We heard several calling as we walked into the restaurant for dinner in Augusta. [*]
WOOD FROG (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) – I pointed out one cryptic individual in the leaf litter as we drove into Brownfield Bog.
GREEN FROG (*Lithobates clamitans*) – These guys make the "plucking a banjo string" sound
AMERICAN BULLFROG (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) – Multiple locations

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 175 bird taxa and 11 mammal taxa