



Field Guides Tour Report

Maine: Birding Downeast 2016

May 21, 2016 to May 29, 2016

Eric Hynes

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



American Bittern: the bird of the tour. Can you spot this individual? Bruce did a heck of a job, finding it for us. We had such an amazing experience with a pair earlier in the tour, trying to hide in the forest and "thunder-pumping" near Rangeley. (Photo by guide Eric Hynes)

Before guiding for Field Guides, I was the Staff Naturalist for Maine Audubon for four years. One of my chief responsibilities was leading field trips all over the state. Our tour together was a collection of my favorite birding sites. We scoured the southern coast, headed to sea in Acadia, climbed into the western mountains, and looped back down to the coast. Along the way, we saw some fabulous weather, gorgeous scenery, and nearly 180 bird species. Thank you so much for choosing Field Guides for your Maine birding adventure.

Our first evening together set the tone for a very birdy tour. We found a host of migrants in a cemetery, some unusual shorebirds in a marsh, some delicious lobster rolls on the coast, and capped the evening with a close, displaying American Woodcock. The first few days of the tour were spent along the southern coast, where we picked up a number of shorebirds, as well as songbirds in the hardwood and transitional habitats. One particularly early morning at Kennebunk Plains yielded Eastern Whip-poor-will, Upland Sandpiper, and a quite a few sparrows we wouldn't see again on the tour.

A boat trip out to Petit Manan Island was our primary reason for venturing up to Bar Harbor. We were very successful in spotting Atlantic Puffins and Razorbills. In addition to spectacular scenery, we scored a territorial Northern Goshawk, a roosting Barred Owl, and foraging Purple Sandpipers in Acadia National Park. Next up, Rangeley was a wonderful base for exploring the western mountains. All of the warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and woodpeckers were a real treat, but that pair of American Bitterns topped the cake. Eleven moose in less than 24 hours was a lot of fun too. Another big target for us was Bicknell's Thrush. We climbed up the Auto Road on Mount Washington for a wonderful evening and a bonus Spruce Grouse. Time spent in White Mountain National Forest also gave us our Boreal Chickadees, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and another fabulous American Bittern.

Hopefully, you are all having a great summer and are getting out to enjoy the shorebirds already on their way south. It was a pleasure birding with all of you, and I look forward to our next adventure together.

Cheers,

Eric

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)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*) – Didn't make the favorite species list but we did see a few adorable broods of goslings

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (*Anas rubripes*) – We saw them early and late along the southern coast

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*) – Nearly an everyday bird

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*) – Eight floated around the marsh behind the Pelreco building in Scarborough

RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*) – We encountered this species just once, at Messalonskee Lake, en route from Bar Harbor to Rangeley.

COMMON EIDER (DRESSER'S) (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*) – North America's heaviest duck was practically at our feet along the southern coast

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (NORTH AMERICAN) (*Melanitta fusca deglandi*) – A number of skeins flew by Dyer Point our first evening as we waited for our lobster rolls

BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta americana*) – Sadly, the most memorable individual was a drake with some fishing line restricting at least one wing

COMMON GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*) – This diving duck is common in Maine as a wintering bird but is normally long gone by the time we run this tour. I suspect that individual in Biddeford was not at full strength.

HOODED MERGANSER (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) – We saw individuals in the Rangeley area as well as in White Mountain National Forest in NH

COMMON MERGANSER (*Mergus merganser*) – We enjoyed wonderful looks at handsome drakes in one of the rivers feeding Rangeley Lake

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonasa umbellus*) – Some of us heard drumming early a couple mornings but I think everyone saw that one scamper across the road in front of the van on Quill Hill north of Rangeley.

SPRUCE GROUSE (*Falcapennis canadensis*) – HA HA -- what luck. We had a gorgeous and completely indifferent hen feeding roadside in the exact same place along the Auto Road I saw one on tour two years ago.

WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*) – Unlike so many other birds, this seems to be one of the species with a growing population. We saw them about every other day.

Gaviidae (Loons)

RED-THROATED LOON (*Gavia stellata*) – We picked up this one along the coast our first full day of birding

COMMON LOON (*Gavia immer*) – We had this iconic Maine species on several occasions but none more memorable than the cacophony we listened to during our night drive in Rangeley.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – An obliging individual was up and down in the little pond at our first stop along Black Point Road.

Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)

NORTHERN GANNET (*Morus bassanus*) – Elton got us on a couple birds in the distance as we approached Petit Manan Island

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – Everyday along the coast

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) – The bird of the tour -- we had an awesome experience with a pair at the edge of a pond outside Rangeley: flying, thunder-pumping, and trying to hide in a forest. A couple days later, a bird photographer turned us onto another one, which also displayed marvelously.

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*) – On several days

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – Plenty in the southern coastal marshes

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) – Another common wader in the southern coastal marshes

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – Not many but we had some good looks in Scarborough

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*) – We watched individuals fly over the first couple days but eventually caught up to a perched bird

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – It seems I pick up this species at Great Pond in Biddeford every year and nowhere else

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Lots in the southern coastal areas and we even had a few flocks fly over us slightly inland

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*) – Well, we dipped on the vagrant Little Egret but this was an excellent consolation prize in Maine. We had an individual fly into the marsh at Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm with two Glossy Ibis for comparison.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – More days than not

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – It is wonderful to see this specialized raptor bounce back so well from the DDT era.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*) – This was one of the more surprising sightings of the tour, not so much for the species as for the where and why. We watched one leave Schoodic Peninsula and fly over the boat and head out into the Gulf of Maine?!

COOPER'S HAWK (*Accipiter cooperii*) – The bird soaring over Quill Hill sported a very conspicuous full crop.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*) – This was a total bonus bird. Thanks from a tip from a local friend, we got turned onto a nesting territory. There was no confusion as to whether we were in the correct spot! Turn your volume all the way up and click on the adjacent audio clip to relive the thrilling moment when we were strongly encouraged to move along.

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – We spotted this magnificent raptor on about half the days of the tour.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*) – We saw this diminutive Buteo more days than not but the bird on the wire we doubled back for en route to Bar Harbor was certainly our best look.

RED-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*) – Seen on about half the tour days

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – Wow, we likely overlapped with the peak of their migration through Maine as we saw well north of 1000 individuals the second day of the tour.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) – Good looks on day two

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodius*) – My favorite was the one that walked almost through our group the last morning

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) – The calling flyover the first evening turned out to be our only encounter of the tour

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*) – A couple sightings early in the tour

WILLET (EASTERN) (*Tringa semipalmata semipalmata*) – These raucous shorebirds were conspicuous in the coastal marshes.

UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*) – We were hearing them for awhile before we realized we needed to look up, way up. It was thrilling to see their flight displays as well as the scope views of the individual perched in the pine tree. Click on the "Grasshopper Sparrow" audio clip near the end of this triplist to hear Upland Sandpipers calling in the background. It is a really special sound.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) – This hardy shorebird is stunning in breeding plumage.

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*) – It took some doing but eventually we all got on an individual in the shorebird horde roosting at high tide in Biddeford Pool.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*) – Again, it took some doing to spot the black belly patch on the smaller shorebird working the water's edge among all those Black-bellied Plovers and Short-billed Dowitchers at Biddeford Pool.

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*) – This was a big target for some of you so it was a treat to score it, not once but twice. Our close approach at Seawall in Acadia National Park was thrilling.

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*) – Just a few distant birds in Spurwink Marsh

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*) – Our only sighting was out in Spurwink Marsh the first evening of the tour

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*) – Hundreds in view from the pier at Pine Point Fisherman's Co-op in Scarborough

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus griseus*) – Also most numerous from the pier at Pine Point

WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*) – We heard winnowing from a displaying bird at dusk up in Rangeley. Shocking to me was not seeing any at Brownfield Bog. [✱]

AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Scolopax minor*) – How did this not make the top three favorite birds of the tour? We saw and heard several birds very well the first evening and then we had another remarkably obliging individual during our night drive in the western mountains. Click on the adjacent audio clip to hear "peenting" and the start of an aerial display at the end.

Alcidae (Auks, Murres, and Puffins)

COMMON MURRE (*Uria aalge*) – None were loitering around Petit Manan Island; luckily we picked up a pair on the water on our way back toward Frenchman Bay.

RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*) – Excellent looks at Petit Manan Island

BLACK GUILLEMOT (*Cephus grylle*) – Elton spotted his lifer off Maine Audubon's East Point Sanctuary in Biddeford for us. We also saw plenty on our boat trip out of Bar Harbor.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN (*Fratercula arctica*) – I imagine seeing this sea parrot was a major motivating factor in joining this tour and we saw it very well in the waters around Petit Manan Island.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BONAPARTE'S GULL (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) – Plenty of non-breeding immature birds hanging around Pine Point in Scarborough

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – Seen well on several days

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*) – Most common up in the Rangeley lakes area

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

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) – Also present in big numbers along the southern coast

LEAST TERN (*Sternula antillarum*) – We had our first few over Spurwink Marsh the first evening

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*) – One of the only places this species can be found in Maine is at Messalonskee Lake in Belgrade. We stopped by there on day five.

ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougallii*) – The last species to make the list but we enjoyed some excellent comparisons with Common Tern at Pine Point the last morning of the tour.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – Hundreds over the course of the trip, restricted to the coast

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Yep [I]

MOURNING DOVE (*Zenaida macroura*) – Common

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) – We watched one fly across the outfield at Nedeau Park at Kennebunk Plains and then we had a second bird briefly calling up at Brownfield Bog

Strigidae (Owls)

GREAT HORNED OWL (*Bubo virginianus*) – We got lucky this year with the nesting pair in Evergreen Cemetery in Portland. Their kids dispersed to the pond edge and we had a great look at a fledgling and an adult during our visit.

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*) – We heard one call briefly at dawn at Kennebunk Plains but we really soaked in fabulous scope views of a roosting adult in Acadia National Park.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (*Chordeiles minor*) – One buzzed the group at dawn while I set up our field breakfast at Kennebunk Plains

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Antrostomus vociferus*) – It was a very early wake up to get this bird but we saw it in the spotlight for a few moments and listened to a wonderful predawn chorus. Be sure to click on the adjacent audio recording to hear it belt out its signature song. This individual was close enough to easily pick out the "knock" at the beginning of each phrase.

Apodidae (Swifts)

CHIMNEY SWIFT (*Chaetura pelagica*) – More days than not for this declining insectivore

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus colubris*) – Perhaps the one that might stick out in your head is the bird teed up at Evergreen Cemetery

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle alcyon*) – An uncommon breeder in Maine but we picked it up on three different days

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – These woodpeckers are pretty thick in the north woods. We enjoyed great looks in the Rangeley area.

DOWNY WOODPECKER (*Picoides pubescens*) – Everyday during the second half of the tour

HAIRY WOODPECKER (*Picoides villosus*) – Almost everyday

NORTHERN FLICKER (YELLOW-SHAFTED) (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) – Heard and seen throughout the tour

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus pileatus*) – Heard and seen

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) – We picked up this uncommon breeder in Maine our first morning on the way to the Blue-winged Warbler spot.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – One bird took several passes to pluck an unidentified Alcid off the surface at Petit Manan Island. Eventually it dragged it up onto the rocks for a meal.

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Contopus cooperi*) – I love this song. We heard and then saw this distinctive flycatcher in White Mountain National Forest.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*Contopus virens*) – Surprisingly, we didn't encounter this flycatcher until the penultimate day. [*]

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax flaviventris*) – We did really well with this boreal breeder; lots of song and great looks

ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*) – It was a treat to look down on one in the scope at the Rangeley Lake overlook.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax traillii*) – Brownfield Bog continues to be a reliable spot for this Empid.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*) – We found ourselves at the crossroads of possibly four different territories at Rangeley Lake State Park -- lots of "cher-becking"

EASTERN PHOEBE (*Sayornis phoebe*) – widespread

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*) – Excellent looks at Evergreen Cemetery and heard in a number of other locations

EASTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) – Almost an everyday bird

Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*) – Heard more than seen but an everyday bird in the north woods

WARBLING VIREO (*Vireo gilvus*) – We first encountered this species at Capisic Pond Park but they were all over the place at Brownfield Bog.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO (*Vireo philadelphicus*) – We couldn't tease one down out of the canopy but we managed some good looks at Grafton Notch State Park.

RED-EYED VIREO (*Vireo olivaceus*) – An everyday bird

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

GRAY JAY (*Perisoreus canadensis*) – We crossed paths with two different family groups in the western mountains. While none took a peanut from the hand, they certainly weren't shy about picking them up at our feet.

BLUE JAY (*Cyanocitta cristata*) – Another everyday bird

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) – Ditto

FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*) – Nearly the last bird of the tour, we picked up a couple calling birds in Scarborough.

COMMON RAVEN (*Corvus corax*) – They make some fantastic sounds. The family at Trudeau Road were particularly vocal.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) – Just one flyby the second day

PURPLE MARTIN (*Progne subis*) – The colony at Messalonskee Lake settled down and put on a good show.

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*) – Throughout the tour

BANK SWALLOW (*Riparia riparia*) – Another Messalonskee Lake only species

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – Throughout the tour

CLIFF SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) – There has been a colony on the Pelreco building in Scarborough for a very long time.

Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE (*Poecile atricapillus*) – The state bird was seen daily.

BOREAL CHICKADEE (*Poecile hudsonicus*) – We had to head up to the Caps Ridge Trailhead to get this special bird but we ended up seeing at least three really well.

TUFTED TITMOUSE (*Baeolophus bicolor*) – Only in the forests of southern Maine

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*) – Plenty once we were up in the western mountains
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis*) – A first half of the tour bird

Certhiidae (Treecreepers)

BROWN CREEPER (*Certhia americana*) – We cleaned up this species in White Mountain National Forest.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*) – A couple places along the southern coast

WINTER WREN (*Troglodytes hiemalis hiemalis*) – It took some work to see this sprite but for those who persevered, good looks were had in Rangeley Lake State Park.

MARSH WREN (*Cistothorus palustris*) – We heard them in four different marshes and some people caught brief views on day three

Regulidae (Kinglets)

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus satrapa*) – Plenty in the north woods

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*) – Lots of singing in the north woods

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

EASTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia sialis*) – Never numerous but we came across a few on almost half the days of the tour

VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*) – These guys were thick at Brownfield Bog

BICKNELL'S THRUSH (*Catharus bicknelli*) – We chartered a special late day trip up the Auto Road on Mount Washington to get this range and habitat restricted species. Weather up there can be hellacious but we lucked into a gorgeous evening. We never got that walk away view but some saw the birds that came in very close and we all heard its diagnostic song really well.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*Catharus ustulatus*) – Another indication of climate change is how much more common this species has become in the same elevational zone with Bicknell's Thrush. It was a pleasant surprise watching several birds forage on the road in the headlights.

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*) – One of the best songs in North America

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*) – The population trends for this classic woodland species the last few decades is disturbing. We saw it well at Evergreen Cemetery in Portland.

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*) – Throughout the tour

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – That crazy person sitting on the park bench joyfully talking to nobody in particular

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*) – Wonderful doubled up phrases at dawn at Kennebunk Plains

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus polyglottos*) – Only found along the southern coast

Sturnidae (Starlings)

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

Bombycillidae (Waxwings)

CEDAR WAXWING (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) – Almost everyday

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) – we heard lots of "teacher, teacher, teacher"

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) – A bog specialist; one perturbed individual came in all the way to our feet

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) – This bird is at the north end of its range and we often miss it but not this year

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*) – Loads of them at Brownfield Bog

TENNESSEE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) – You have to get to northern Maine to find these guys on territory so we were fortunate to have two singing males at the tail end of migration still working their way north.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) – These guys were common during the second half of the tour.

MOURNING WARBLER (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) – It took two trips up Quill Hill but we eventually had a stunning male teed up in clear view.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*) – An everyday bird

AMERICAN REDSTART (*Setophaga ruticilla*) – Lots and lots throughout

NORTHERN PARULA (*Setophaga americana*) – Common

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Setophaga magnolia*) – The only day we didn't have this beautiful warbler was the last morning on the coast.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Setophaga fusca*) – We were excited to see this flame-throated warbler multiple times.

YELLOW WARBLER (*Setophaga petechia*) – Abundant in the right habitat

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) – Our best look was probably from the Rangeley Lake overlook.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (*Setophaga striata*) – We caught up to a few migrants but then they were singing like crazy up on Mount Washington.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Setophaga caerulescens*) – We enjoyed our first responsive bird up in the Rangeley area. This species has a decidedly eastern range.

PALM WARBLER (YELLOW) (*Setophaga palmarum hypochrysea*) – I thought that one bird was going to land on me at the bog edge.

PINE WARBLER (*Setophaga pinus*) – Our first good look was in an oak tree, not a pine

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (MYRTLE) (*Setophaga coronata coronata*) – Lots of these guys

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*) – A close, singing bird in Saco provided our first "ooh and aah" moment of the tour.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Setophaga virens*) – Another common breeder in the northeast

CANADA WARBLER (*Cardellina canadensis*) – A crowd favorite but rarely cooperative; eventually we all had good looks

WILSON'S WARBLER (*Cardellina pusilla*) – A came upon a migrant in Biddeford

Emberizidae (Buntings and New World Sparrows)

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (*Ammodramus savannarum*) – This is one of the rarest breeding birds in the state. It's song is tough to hear, even when

we were close. Click on the audio clip at full volume to enjoy its insect-like song and note the more conspicuous Vesper Sparrow singing, as well as Upland Sandpipers in the background.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*) – One of those common birds nobody seems to pay attention to but its breeding plumage is sharp.

FIELD SPARROW (*Spizella pusilla*) – Plenty of these guys singing at Kennebunk Plains.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (SLATE-COLORED) (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) – More common once we got up into the north woods

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) – I love their song

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*) – This vociferous sparrow dominates the dawn chorus at Kennebunk Plains. Its impressive song is featured prominently in the "Grasshopper Sparrow" audio clip. Give a listen.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – Another sparrow we picked up at Kennebunk Plains

SONG SPARROW (*Melospiza melodia*) – All over

SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*) – Our first good look was at Timber Point in Biddeford

EASTERN TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) – Another Kennebunk Plains species

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

SCARLET TANAGER (*Piranga olivacea*) – Be sure to click on the audio clip to hear "our" male singing away overhead again.

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – Plenty in the southern part of the state

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) – How about that subadult male belting it out overhead at Brownfield Bog?!

INDIGO BUNTING (*Passerina cyanea*) – Thankfully, that singing male stayed teed up for us all to enjoy scope views

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) – Our quick detour in Gardiner took us to a real Bobolink hotspot. It was exciting to see so many displays males.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) – Plenty

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (EASTERN) (*Sturnella magna magna*) – We only encountered this declining species at Kennebunk Plains.

COMMON GRACKLE (*Quiscalus quiscula*) – Appropriately named

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD (*Molothrus ater*) – An amazing reproductive strategy

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*) – A marginal species in Maine but our targeted stop in Portland was successful

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) – Most conspicuous at Brownfield Bog

Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

HOUSE FINCH (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) – Suburban finch

PURPLE FINCH (*Haemorhous purpureus*) – Nice looks at singing males and quite a few "ticking" overhead

PINE SISKIN (*Spinus pinus*) – We got into these guys in the White Mountains

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (*Spinus tristis*) – Here and there

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

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

MAMMALS

SNOWSHOE HARE (*Lepus americanus*) – Kathy pointed out their white feet

PLAIN EASTERN CHIPMUNK (*Tamias striatus*) – Cute and vocal

WOODCHUCK (*Marmota monax*) – Practically underfoot at Gilsland Farm where they have been extensively studied for years

EASTERN GRAY SQUIRREL (*Sciurus carolinensis*) – Maine's most common roadkill

RED SQUIRREL (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) – In boreal habitat

MUSKRAT (*Ondatra zibethica*) – We saw one in the pond at our very first stop and several days later there was a one swimming at Messalonskee Lake

NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE (*Erethizon dorsatum*) – Good spotting Bruce

HARBOR PORPOISE (*Phocoena phocoena*) – Just a few as we motored back toward Frenchman Bay on our boat trip

RED FOX (*Vulpes vulpes*) – We had one cross the road as we headed out of Rangeley

STOAT (SHORT-TAILED WEASEL) (*Mustela erminea*) – We had one of these high energy predators dash in front of the group carrying a smaller mammal in its mouth when we were exiting East Point Sanctuary in Biddeford.

HARBOR SEAL (*Phoca vitulina*) – Lots basking on the rocks at Egg Rock and some females had newborn pups

WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – Seen on three days

MOOSE (*Alces alces*) – Eleven (in less than 24 hours) was a new high count for this tour

Herps

AMERICAN BULLFROG (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) – Seen and heard in a couple freshwater marshes

GREEN FROG (*Lithobates clamitans*) – That big sedentary gal in the woods at Schoodic Bog Preserve was memorable.

RED-EARED SLIDER (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) – Sadly, this invasive species is often released from the pet trade

PAINTED TURTLE (*Chrysemys picta*) – A log full of them at Evergreen Cemetery

COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE (*Chelydra serpentina*) – A couple of these ancient beasts were surfacing in the pond at Evergreen Cemetery

AMERICAN TOAD (*Anaxyrus americanus*) – Their lovely trill was heard multiple evenings

SPRING PEEPER (*Pseudocris crucifer*) – Almost deafening in a few areas

GRAY TREEFROG (*Hyla versicolor*) – A few individuals were heard calling

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 179 bird taxa and 13 mammal taxa