

# Acadian Birding Festival Schedule

June 11-14, 2009

The 2010 Schedule is still being worked on. FYI, we are displaying the schedule from last year to give you an idea of what the festival offers.

Come back soon to get the 2010 Schedule!

## Thursday, June 11 - Opening Day

**12:00-3:30 PM** Pelagic Bird/Whale Watch aboard the "Friendship V" in Bar Harbor (*Meet at the town Pier in Bar Harbor*). *For comfort, Dress for Winter*.

Pelagic Bird/Whale Watch aboard the "Friendship V", the largest and fastest vessel in the Bar Harbor Fleet. Add the Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill and Northern Gannet or Greater Shearwater to your life list if you haven't already. This memorable excursion is offered daily. Cost is \$38. Zack Klyver and Michael Good, Bar Harbor Whale Watch.

**5:00-6:45 PM** **Registration and Opening Reception**, College of the Atlantic, George B. Dorr Natural History Museum, Gates Auditorium, 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor.

Check in and socialize with fellow birders and naturalists. Pick up registration packets. Light refreshments provided by the Bar Harbor and Southwest Harbor Bed and Breakfast Association.

**7:00-8:00 PM** **Keynote Speaker: Wayne Petersen**, "Shorebirds: A Profile Incredible" - College of the Atlantic, Gates Auditorium

**Wayne Petersen**, a Massachusetts native, is director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Area (IBA) Program for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Throughout his illustrious career, Wayne has lectured extensively and conducted birding workshops across North America. This event is **open to the public** and highly recommended for birders and ecologists of all levels interested in learning about Alcids to Warblers.

## Friday, June 12 - Birding the Eastern side of Mount Desert Island

**6:00-9:00 AM** Warblers & Wildflowers Walking Tour with **Wayne Petersen**, Michael Good and Conservation Biologist Dr. Alison Dibble. *Easy walk (Meet at Sieur de Monts Spring, Acadia National Park)*.

This walk encompasses several unique habitat types, including upland marshes and forested wetlands, with a wide variety of bird species possible. A pleasant, woodland walk, the Jessup Path follows the west margin of the Great Meadow, one of the few large grassland habitats on Mount Desert Island. Keep your eyes open for Sparrows, Thrushes, and Ovenbirds on the ground, and Barred Owls, Raptors, Scarlet Tanager, and Warblers in the trees above.

**6:30-9:00 AM** Bird Walk at Otter Cliffs with Becky Marvil, Billy Helprin, and Stephen Ingraham (Zeiss, Digitiscoping). *Easy walk. (Meet at Fabbri parking area)*.

This unique peninsula acts as a migrant trap for birds traveling from Neotropical regions. Mourning, Blackburnian, Cape May Warblers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Black Guillemot and many others have been frequently seen.

- 9:00-1:00 PM** Ecology Kayak Tour with Robert Shaw and TBA. *Moderate paddle (Meet at National Park Sea Kayak, 39 Cottage St. Bar Harbor, space is limited to 12, advanced registration required, arrive 7:30 am.)*
- Join Registered Maine Sea Kayak Guides Robert Shaw and TBA as they explore the birds of Mount Desert Island's rocky coast and Islands. Kayaks are excellent for close observation of Common Loons, a Bald Eagle's nest, Osprey, Terns and lingering White-winged and Surf Scoters, Common Goldeneye, Buffleheads and Common Eider. Harbor Seals and Harbor Porpoises are frequently seen. Expect 2 1/2 hour paddle.
- 9:00 -12:00 PM** Peregrine Falcon Talk, Acadia National Park. *Spotting scopes and continuous interpretation. (Meet at Precipice trail Parking lot)*
- Sitting atop the food chain, Raptors are known for their power, speed, and special adaptations. Learn about Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors found in Acadia National Park. With an Acadia National Park ranger.
- 9:15-11:15 AM** Birds of Schooner Head with **Wayne Petersen**, Michael Good, and Stephen Ingraham (Zeiss, Digitscoping). *Easy to Moderate walk (Meet at Schooner Head parking area Acadia National Park)*
- Enjoy the late morning air along Maine's rocky coast, viewing pelagic and coastal birds of Acadia. See Cliff Swallows nesting in Anemone Cave, Common Eiders, Black Guillemots, and sometimes Red-throated Loons, Ruffed Grouse and forest birds.
- 12:00-1:00 PM** Lunch in Bar Harbor. Pick up lunch to go or eat your lunch at The Spot Grill (288-1233) on Cottage Street in Bar Harbor (Show festival ID for portion of proceeds to ABF)
- 12:00-3:30 PM** Pelagic Bird/Whale Watch aboard the "Friendship V" in Bar Harbor *(Meet at the town Pier in Bar Harbor). For comfort, **Dress for Winter**.*
- Pelagic Bird/Whale Watch with **Wayne Petersen** aboard the "Friendship V", the largest and fastest vessel in the Bar Harbor Fleet. Add the Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill and Northern Gannet or Greater Shearwater to your life list if you haven't already. This memorable excursion is offered daily. Cost is \$38. Zack Klyver, Bar Harbor Whale Watch.
- 1:00-3:00 PM** Habitat Restoration in the Long Pond Watershed: Fish as Food *(Meet at the Somesville Historical Society parking area)*
- Somesville Fish Passage Restoration Project**, David Lamon and TBA  
 Located in the historic village of Somesville on Mount Desert Island, this project has taken on the task of restoring native sea-run fish populations such as Alewife, American Eel and Sea Lamprey, to historic spawning and nursery habitat in the Somes Pond and Long Pond watersheds. Through the restoration, repair and replacement of several historic fish ladders, access to over 1,000 acres of lake and stream habitat has been restored. This watershed supports an abundance of wildlife including nesting Loon, Bald Eagle and Common Merganser populations. This tour traverses the dams and fish passages from Somes Sound to Long Pond. We'll have opportunities to learn more about and view species such as Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Osprey, Merganser, Kingfisher and others.

4:00-5:30 PM

### Origami Peace Crane Workshop

The Origami Peace Crane is an international symbol of peace. Alone Moose gallery co-owner Sherry Rasmussen studied origami in Japan with Yoko Kimura. She is a member of Origami USA and is a founding member of Downeast Origami Society. She has a method of teaching that takes the "mystery" out of origami and all students have successfully folded at her workshops. Students will make origami cranes in several sizes and will see a variety of uses for their cranes including cards, jewelry and ornaments. Origami paper will be provided. The class is limited to 8 students age 10 to adult and registration is requested. The workshop will be held at Alone Moose Gallery, 78 West Street on the Waterfront, Bar Harbor. For information call 288-4229 or 288-9428.

Alone Moose Gallery has been a supporter of Acadia Birding Festival and has held many bird related festival events through the years. Alone Moose co-owner Ivan Rasmussen created the original festival logo. The gallery shows a variety of bird art by Maine artists from award winning bird carving to pottery, sculpture, painting, jewelry, cards and more.

6:00-8:00 PM

Public Forum: Connecting Land and Sea: Engaging people in the Natural Landscape through Poetic Interpretation (The Impact of Watersheds on Gulf of Maine Birds) (*College of the Atlantic, Gates Auditorium, 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor*)

This Forum is open to the public and offers an opportunity to understand watersheds through the eyes of literary writers and poets.

Penobscot River Restoration Project: Perhaps one of the most important and largest ecological restoration projects to take place in the Gulf of Maine. Somesville Fish Passage Restoration Project Located in the historic village of Somesville on Mount Desert Island, this project has taken on the task of restoring native sea-run fish populations such as Alewife, American Eel and Sea Lamprey, to historic spawning and nursery habitat in the Somes Pond and Long Pond watersheds.

## Saturday, June 13 - Birding the Western side of Mount Desert Island

6:00-9:00 AM

Birding Pretty Marsh with Michael Good and TBA. Easy to *Moderate* walk (*Meet at the Pretty Marsh parking area*)

Surrounded by a maturing Red Spruce Forest with views of Hardwood and Bartlett Islands, Pretty Marsh is truly an Acadia gem where land meets sea. White-winged Crossbills, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-headed Vireo and Hermit Thrush make this seaside forest their home. Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Loons, non-breeding Long-tailed Ducks and White-winged Scoter as well as Harbor Seals and Porpoises are seen in the saltwater of Blue Hill Bay.

7:30-10:30 AM

Quietside Birding at Ship Harbor Nature Trail with Craig Kesselheim, Billie Helprin. *Moderate Walk (fairly flat with some roots and rocks in path)*

Although the western side of Mount Desert Island is typically much quieter from May to October, the bird activity is outstanding throughout the year. The Ship Harbor Nature Trail near Seawall traverses a forest of red and white spruce, emerging onto barnacle clad pink granite ledges. The forest is a migrant trap in the spring, and is home to Spruce Grouse, Hermit Thrush, Pileated Woodpeckers, Warblers, and Woodcock. Observe Common Eiders diving for mussels while Black-throated Green Warblers flit amongst the conifers.

**9:00-1:00 PM**

Ecology Kayak Tour with Robert Shaw and TBA. *Moderate paddle (Meet at National Park Sea Kayak, 39 Cottage St. Bar Harbor, space is limited to 12, advanced registration required, arrive 7:30 AM)*

Join Registered Maine Sea Kayak Guides Robert Shaw and TBA as they explore the birds of Mount Desert Island's rocky coast and Islands. Kayaks are excellent for close observation of Common Loons, a Bald Eagle's nest, Osprey, Terns and lingering White-winged and Surf Scoters, Common Goldeneye, Buffleheads and Common Eider. Harbor Seals and Harbor Porpoises are frequently seen. Expect 2 1/2 hour paddle.

**10:00-12:30 PM**

Birding Seawall with Leslie Clapp and Stephen Ingraham (Zeiss, Digiscoping). *Easy to moderate walk (Meet at the Seawall beaver pond)*

One of the most consistent places on MDI for seabirds of all types including King and Common Eiders, American Black Duck, Warblers, Alder Flycatcher and Raptors searching for food along this dynamic coastal area featuring natural rock seawalls. Described by Roger Tory Peterson as one of the most beautiful places on Mount Desert Island, the exceptional number of bird species due to habitat like the Great Heath, bogs and brackish water ponds surrounded by scrub Black and Red Spruce forests.

**12:00-12:45 PM**

Lunch in Southwest Harbor, Little Notch Pizzeria, 244-3357. Pick up lunch or eat your lunch in the comfortable setting of the Little Notch Pizzeria. (Show festival ID for portion of proceeds to ABF)

**12:00-3:30 PM**

Pelagic Bird/Whale Watch aboard the "Friendship V" in Bar Harbor *(Meet at the town Pier in Bar Harbor)*. *For comfort, **Dress for Winter**.*

Pelagic Bird/Whale Watch aboard the "Friendship V", the largest and fastest vessel in the Bar Harbor Fleet. Add the Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill and Northern Gannet or Greater Shearwater to your life list if you haven't already. This memorable excursion is offered daily. Cost is \$38. Bar Harbor Whale Watch.

**1:00-3:00 PM**

Asticou Azalea Garden, Asticou Terraces & Thuya Gardens Bird Walk, Northeast Harbor with Michael Good and TBA. *(Meet at Asticou Garden, Northeast Harbor)*

Modeled after a classic Japanese garden, the Asticou Azalea Garden explodes each spring in every shade of pink, coral, crimson and peach. Last spring the Azalea Garden was visited by 17 species of Wood Warblers including Blackburnian, Wilson's, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia and numerous Black-throated Greens and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Other notable Neotropical migrants are the stunning male Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole and scores of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Kingfishers and a resident flock of Pine Siskin. The Azalea Garden, created by Boston landscape architect Joseph Henry Curtis, provides a unique variety of habitats for Neotropical migrants. The watersheds flowing through the Gardens make it one of the most beautiful formal gardens in the region and its position at the mouth of Northeast Harbor places it directly in the path of an enormous variety of rare migrating and nesting birds.

**2:45-4:30 PM**

Canoe birding trip up Bass Harbor Marsh with Robert Shaw and TBA *(Meet at the Tremont School parking area) 479-4256*

This is an opportunity to venture into a unique salt marsh habitat where we hope to find Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Marsh birds, Ducks and Warblers and a beautiful view of the Western Mountains.

**6:00-8:30 PM**

Lobster Cookout Thruston's Lobster Pound Steamboat Wharf Road, Bernard

Join festival staff and fellow participants as we eat like the locals enjoying Lobster, Clams and Corn cooked in the tradition downeast way: A Maine tradition you will not want to miss, especially if you like seafood.

## **Sunday, June 14 – Father's Day Birding Blitz**

**6:00-9:30 AM**

Coastal Bird Watch Van Tour with Michael Good. *Meet at the clock at Bar Harbor Village Green (1 Van)*

Birding the coast of Maine is always a rewarding experience. Late spring/early summer birding on the coast of Mount Desert Island can include looks at White-winged, Black and Surf Scoters, Common Eiders, Black Guillemots, Common Loons and Long-tailed Ducks, to name a few. Learn to identify many of these unique sea birds at excellent coastal birding sites around the Northern and Western side of MDI.

**6:00-9:30 AM**

Coastal Bird Watch Van Tour with Scott Swann. *Meet at the clock at Bar Harbor Village Green (1 Van)*.

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**8:00-10:00 AM**

Birding Indian Point - Blagdon Preserve with Ed Hawkes and TBA. *(Meet on Indian Point Road parking area)*

An excellent example of a maturing Red Spruce forest, the Indian Point Blagdon Preserve escaped the Fire of 1947 and is home to a myriad of interesting birds. Black-backed Woodpeckers have nested here as well as Blackburnian, Magnolia, Black-and-White Warblers, Golden- and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Blue-headed Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, Osprey and Bald Eagles. Where land meets sea, Harbor Seals and Harbor Porpoises rear their young. This Nature Conservancy preserve represents the biodiversity that is the essence of Mount Desert Island.

**9:00-1:00 PM**

Ecology Kayak Tour with Robert Shaw and TBA. *Moderate paddle (Meet at National Park Sea Kayak, 39 Cottage St. Bar Harbor, space is limited to 12, advanced registration required, arrive 7:30 am.)*

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- 1:00-4:30 PM** Hot Spot "Birding Blitz" with Michael Good and TBA (Limited to 14) (*Meet at the Southwest Harbor Chamber of Commerce*)
- This Van Tour will venture into wilderness areas and special habitats to pick up difficult-to-find species. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Bay-Breasted and Palm Warblers, Winter Wren, Yellow-bellied, Willow and Alder Flycatchers, and Swainson's and Hermit Thrush will be among the birds being sought in unique Black Spruce Bogs, Heath and hard to get to wetland and interesting coastal forest habitats.
- 2:00-4:00 PM** Witch Hole Bird Walk with Billy Helprin. *Moderate walk (Meet at the Duck Brook Bridge, Acadia National Park)*
- Black-throated Blue and Magnolia Warblers, Common Yellow-throat, Ovenbirds, Northern Waterthrush, and Flycatchers. Multiple wetland habitats include American Bittern and Common Mergansers. This area is known for its excellent views of the Mount Desert mountain range. Spend time and learn on the Rockefeller carriage roads for an easy walk.
- 3:30-5:00 PM** Bird Carving Demonstration. *Hosted by Alone Moose Gallery (288-4229), 78 West Street on the Bar Harbor Waterfront*
- Ed Hawkes**, Master Bird Carver, has worked in wood and sawdust his entire life. As a retired building construction teacher and an avid birdwatcher, he now devotes the majority of his time to developing his carving skills and enjoys teaching those skills to others. With a lifetime passion for observing birds, Ed's thoughts quickly turn to creating his lifelike wooden sculptures, with such fine detail you expect them to take flight. He has won numerous national and international competitions including a first place ribbon in the Advanced Division at the 2006 Ward World Carving Competition (competing with carvers from around the globe) with a full-size Common Loon.
- 6:00-7:15 PM** **Social/Reception: Connecting Land and Sea: Understanding Water!** (*Meet at George B Dorr Museum of Natural History, College of the Atlantic*)
- We are pleased to present Jennifer Greene, director of the Water Research Institute of Blue Hill, Maine as she discusses the true nature of water and the importance of flowing water to birds and all life forms. Water sustains all - without water, there is no life. Water serves life through processes of change, forming, and rhythm. Come and discover a deeper understanding of water's fundamental qualities.