



Midcoast Maine Birdwatching Program

Explore, See, Enjoy...add some more birds to your list

May 20 and 21, 2020

Midcoast Maine is a mecca for avid birders, with the end of May being the time when all the migratory birds are making their way back for the summer, especially shorebirds which peak at the end of the month. Our location is perfect for early morning walks to the water or just strolling the grounds and neighborhood in search of sightings. In addition, the Alewives begin their journey up the local waterways from the ocean to their freshwater spawning grounds, attracting birds of prey. Plus, it's fun to see the fish leaping out of the water working their way up the streams and fish ladders with the birds circling above.

The Bradley Inn has put together a program for new and seasoned bird watchers by partnering with frequent speaker/guide for Maine Audubon, the Coastal River Conservation Trust and Hardy Boat Cruises for a diverse program which includes the following:

Arrive Tuesday, May 19 - Check in the day before the program begins

Check in time is 3:00 pm

Pre-order a bottle of wine and cheese and charcuterie platter for a relaxing evening at the Inn.

Cost is in addition to the program fee.

Wednesday, May 20 - 6:30 am meeting time – Birds of Midcoast Maine – Great Salt Bay, Damariscotta

Lead by Sarah Gladu, Educational Director, School of Field Naturalists, Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust

Location: The Heritage Center, Great Salt Bay, Maine's first marine protected area, a 115 acre preserve.

The area is unique as it offers multiple habitats, with open fields, salt and fresh water marshes, forest and the Great Salt Bay. At the end of May, you could see Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, Alewives and Seals.... plus, more

A 25-minute drive to the 110 Belvedere Road center would be required to meet Sarah at 6:30 am, as that would be the best time to see the most birds. The Bradley Inn will pack a delicious breakfast for you to take and enjoy on the DRA property.

Sarah will lead a 2-hour tour of the property and will point out the wildlife along the way. You are welcome to remain on the property afterwards to enjoy your breakfast on picnic tables near the center as well as continuing your quest to see more birds.

Cost of Sarah's time and expertise is included in the program fee



Wednesday, May 20 – Between Great Salt Bay and 4:45 pm arrival at Shaw’s Wharf for Puffin Cruise

Time to explore the area on your own or just to relax back at the inn before heading out to the Puffin Cruise

Wednesday, May 20 –4:45 pm arrival time, 5:30 pm departure- Puffin Cruise

Hardy Boat Cruises leave right out of New Harbor, an 8-minute drive from the Inn.

Puffins were re-introduced to former nesting islands off the coast of Maine in the 1970s after a serious decline due to overharvesting of eggs and adults during the 1800s. They favor cool and cold water which has made the coast of Maine ideal for nesting; spring being the time they return.

National Audubon Project Puffin naturalists are aboard the Hardy Boat Puffin Cruise to narrate and help with bird identification as well as to answer questions. The trip which leaves Shaw’s Wharf in New Harbor goes out to Eastern Egg Rock Island to where the Puffin Project reintroduced the birds; it is a 1 ½ hour trip.

Cost of the cruise is included in the program fee.

Note there is a \$5/vehicle parking fee, cash only. Parking lot is located around the corner from the dock on a grassy field. No parking in Shaw’s Wharf Restaurant Parking Lot is allowed.

Wednesday, May 20 – 7:30 pm Dinner at The Bradley Inn

Return for to The Bradley Inn Slippery Hitch Tavern for dinner, which is being opened only for the Birding Group. Spend time discussing the day’s sightings with other attendees and meet Ian Carlsen who will be joining us for the Thursday morning peninsula bird walk.

Menu will be a subset of the regular menu offered on the nights the restaurant is open to the public.

Cost of dinner is an addition to program fee.

Thursday, May 21 – 7:30 am Pemaquid Peninsula Bird Walk

Lead by Ian Carlsen, frequent speaker and guide for Maine Audubon

Location: The Bradley Inn and its environs

The Pemaquid Peninsula extends out into the Gulf of Maine, which is a large body of water off the Atlantic Ocean, marking the entrance to John’s and Muscongus Bays. The iconic Pemaquid Point Lighthouse sits on awe inspiring exposed rock that offers great views of the ocean as well as waterfowl. The location of the peninsula makes for an excellent resting spot for migratory birds that can be seen from various locations all within easy walking distance from the inn.

Cost of Ian’s time and expertise is included in the program fee.



Equipment and clothing suggestions:

- Binoculars
- Good hiking shoes for walking the grounds of The Heritage Center and on the peninsula rocks
- Layers of clothing for various weather conditions and temperatures, including raingear
- Warm jacket, hat, gloves for Puffin Cruise
- Camera to catch a picture of that that new bird sighted

Program Cost: \$135/per person includes:

- Sarah Gladu's Heritage Center Preserve and Great Salt Bay Program
- Hardy Boat Puffin Cruise
- Ian Carlsen's Pemaquid Point Program

Cost of room, pre-program wine, cheese, charcutier platter, dinner and drinks, as well as tax and gratuity on the aforementioned page, are in addition to program cost.

Bird sighting lists are posted on www.bradleyinn.com under the area tab.

Check out is 11 am unless you extend your stay:

To visit area sights:

Rachel Carson Pond – Route 32 in Chamberlain, a wonderful place to explore a large tide pool area

Fort William Henry – on Side Road in New Harbor, a historical site with museum

Pemaquid Point Lighthouse and Fisherman's Museum

Pemaquid Beach - a soft sand beach on John's Bay

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens – Barters Island Road in Boothbay, nearly 250 acres of gardens with a mile of waterfront

To enjoy area events:

Alewives Festival – Damariscotta Mills Fish Ladder

Damariscotta River Cruises –Oyster Farms and Seal Watching Tours on May 23 and 24th

To hike the many preserves in the area:

The Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust manages miles of trails with access to shorefront to provide recreational, scenic, and educational opportunities for the public. Go to www.coastalrivers.org and click on the area tab for more information on the area trails.