

Mountains to the Sea *Birding Adventure in Maine* *June 23rd – 29th*

With Guides Seth Benz and Bob Duchesne



Forever Wild - Baxter State Park surrounds Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest peak. Nearby, the West Branch of the Penobscot River tumbles out of the North Maine Woods. We'll spend the first half of the tour in the northern forest during the height of songbird singing. From there, we move off to the northern portion of **Acadia National Park** and the east coast of Maine. The scenery on this adventure is equal to the variety of birds to be found.

Video of 2016 tour - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2zLXXGWB2Q>

The Mountain to the Sea tour meet in Bangor and move immediately to The Maine Highlands in and around Baxter State Park, where we'll chase some of Maine's toughest birds, including American Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers. Spruce Grouse and Boreal Chickadees also haunt this locale, and we should witness Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows singing on their territories. While we're in this spot, we'll have a great chance to snap up some of the tougher warblers, such as Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, Tennessee and Mourning, and northern forest flycatchers such as Alder, Least, Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided.

Day One begins in Bangor as the group convenes for the 5-day, 4-night tour. We'll head directly for one of the best boreal birding spots deep in the Maine forest. Our first two nights will be spent at the **Big Moose Inn**, straddling two quiet lakes. We'll follow dinner with a little moose watching.

Day Two begins early. We'll rise with the sun and head up the west side of Baxter State Park, enjoying the abundance of warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, and finches that breed in the northern Maine forest. This will also be a chance to target any rare woodpeckers or grouse that might be

missed on the first day.

Day Three begins early again, as we head up the east side of the park to Roaring Brook. Here, we'll enjoy close-ups of moose, chase down Philadelphia Vireos, and search out a few other elusive species. After lunch, we'll finish up with the mountains, and then bird our way to the sea at Acadia National Park, where we'll spend our next two nights enjoying the accommodations and meals at the **Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC)**.

Day Four features a puffin and seabird tour as we circle Petit Manan Island, one of Maine's breeding colonies of Atlantic Puffins and Razorbills. With luck, we may encounter some of the pelagic species that come into the Gulf of Maine in summer, such as Northern Gannet, Great and Sooty Shearwaters, and Wilson's Storm-petrels.

Day Five is leader's choice, giving us the opportunity to make up for any bad weather that may occur. The day and the tour end before dinner in Bangor.

Participants should bring binoculars, and this is a scenic tour for photography. Spotting scopes are useful and the guides will provide one for group use, as well as guidebooks and extra binoculars. This trip will not require strenuous hiking. Hikes will be slow and on level ground. There may be some spots that are muddy, uneven, and slippery. Adequate footwear is advised, but large boots are unnecessary. Mosquitoes and black flies will be present. Insect repellent is suggested. June tends to be warm, sunny, and dry, but conditions in the northern Maine woods are changeable. Dawn temperatures may start in the 40s and reach the 80's by afternoon. Boat tours can be cold and wet. Bring appropriate clothing. Bring an appetite. We don't starve.

Important details - This will be a 7 day 6 night trip June 23rd – 29th 2017 with the birding tour portion from the 24th – 28th (we will arrive on the 23rd and departure will be on the 29th). The cost will be \$1,600.00 which includes hotel fare for the 23rd & 29th in Bangor, airport shuttle, as well as four tour nights lodging, all meals from lunch on 24th thru lunch on the 28th, professional bird guides, transportation by 15-passenger van, and puffin boat excursion. *The cost does not include airfare* (We fly into Bangor). Deposit of \$600 is due by March 1st with the balance due by April 1st please make checks payable to CAS or Pay Pal via the CAS website (please notify me before using Pay Pal)

Rooms at the Big Moose Inn feature shared baths. **Upgrades to a room with private bath are available for a limited time with an additional fee (\$120 – 2 nights)**. Fortunately, due to the schedule of the tour and the time spent in the field, **shared baths are seldom a concern for most people**. Accommodations at SERC are in shared, multi-bedroom cottages, with kitchen and ample living space.

Tour guides are Seth Benz, Director of the **Schoodic Institute Bird Ecology Lab**, and Bob Duchesne, founder of the **Maine Birding Trail** and author of the trail guidebook.

Check out this trip amazing video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2zLXXGWB2Q>

Tour is limited to 10 participants to insure proper attention.

If interested please contact Dale Goebel at 727-734-3374 or sheirah11@verizon.net. There are only 3 spaces left. Please contact me about flights...I will be flying Delta (contact me for flight numbers) but you may take any carrier that you wish...using your points, etc... **The only thing I ask is that you arrive by 7pm on the 23rd in order to be well rested for our amazing tour** and we'll fly home on the 29th.