

# The Annual Down East Spring Birding Festival



Join us each **Memorial Day Weekend** in the Cobscook Bay area of Down East Maine and on New Brunswick's Campobello Island for a unique birding experience during the spring migration and nesting season. Leading bird experts consider this one of the most "Important Bird Areas in the United States."

The ecologically unique Cobscook Bay area offers a greater variety of habitats than elsewhere on the East Coast: boreal & northern hardwood forests, bogs, fresh- and salt-water marshes, grassy and shrubby fields, streams and lakes, steep rugged headlands, extensive tidal flats, and of all the regions in the States, Down East Maine "...offers probably the most interesting birding in terms of the [many] species to be found." (Maine Audubon)

Birding sites include Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Cobscook Bay State Park, Quoddy Head State Park, Cutler's Bold Coast, and Roosevelt Campobello International Park on Campobello Island.

The Annual Down East Spring Birding Festival offers birders guided birding trips, self-guided explorations, water tours, and presentations –all by area experts. Maps and information will be provided for a fulfilling birding experience.

Of special interest will be boat trips to Machias Seal Island to view, up close, Atlantic puffins. Machias Seal Island is a Wildbird Top 50 Birding Hot Spot –

America's best location to see Atlantic puffins. You also could see Leach's storm petrels, northern gannets, cormorants, common eiders, five species of gulls, three species of terns, razorbills, common murre, black guillemots, seals, porpoises, and who knows what else!

The Cobscook Bay area, land of 25-foot tides, is host to many of the 418 bird species sighted in Maine. You can see peregrine falcons; bald eagles and ospreys are everywhere. Merlins, all three accipiters, American kestrels, broad-winged and red-tailed hawks, and other raptors nest here. Boreal species – spruce grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, gray jays, boreal chickadees, grosbeaks, crossbills, and ravens – are here as well. Down East Maine is a prime nesting area for the American woodcock. Nesting waterfowl include Canada geese, American black ducks, ring-necked ducks, wood ducks, blue-winged and green-winged teal, common eiders, and mergansers.

Other significant nesting birds are common loons, American bitterns, soras, Virginia rails, five owls, nine species of flycatchers, marsh wrens, five species of thrushes, about two dozen species of warblers, and Nelson's sharp-tailed, vesper, and other sparrows.

You also may find herons, scoters, plovers, upland and other sandpipers, Wilson's snipe, common nighthawks, whip-poor-wills, belted kingfishers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, a half dozen other woodpeckers, several swallows, golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglets, cedar waxwings and several finches.

**Additional information can be obtained from:**

Our web site: [www.downeastbirdfest.org](http://www.downeastbirdfest.org)

Call: 207-733-2233

Write: Down East Spring Birding Festival  
c/o Cobscook Community Learning Center  
10 Commissary Point Road  
Trescott Twp., ME 04652

**Registration materials available in February.**

Come and join fellow birders for a special experience "Way Down East." Admire the colorful breeding plumage of many birds. Delight in the American woodcock's mating flight. Enjoy the quirky Atlantic puffins.

*What new birds will you see?*