

# Great Birding Spots in Acadia National Park

Acadia is one of the oldest and most famous national parks in the country. Its 47,000 acres protect some of the best scenery on the entire East Coast, including granite peaks overlooking clear lakes and sparkling bays. The park is also a destination for birders in all seasons, who seek songbirds and raptors in Acadia's interior, and seabirds off the coast.

MAINE  AUDUBON



## 1 Cadillac Mountain

This famous landmark hosts a hawk watch in the fall, where birders can spot some of the thousands of hawks, eagles, and other raptors on their way south. Snowy Owls are frequent visitors to the summit in winter.

## 2 Jordan Pond Area

Exploring the easy trails around Jordan Pond in spring and summer can produce more than a dozen warbler species as well as other forest species, like nuthatches, flycatchers, and vireos. Common Loons, decked out in their intricate summer plumage, are regularly seen on the pond, and other large ponds in the park.

## 3 Otter Point

Maine's rocky coast is perhaps at its most dramatic at Otter Point. Ocean-going birds are the focus here, in all seasons. In summer, look for small, black-and-white Black Guillemots—relatives of the Atlantic Puffin, diving close to shore, and large Common Eider ducks in groups just off the rocks. In winter, scan the waters for sea ducks riding out the season on the ice-free coast, including Long-tailed Ducks, all three scoter species, and even Common Loons.

## 4 Precipice Trail

Acadia's Jordan Cliffs were the site of a landmark Peregrine Falcon reintroduction effort in the early 1980s, and falcons are still nesting in the park today. The best place to see them during the summer breeding season is from the Precipice Trailhead, which is staffed by the National Park Service between May and July to help people spot the nest.

## 5 Seawall Picnic Area

More than 200 bird species have been seen at the Seawall Picnic Area, on the southwest side of Mount Desert Island. A variety of habitats make the site good in all seasons, and it provides access to seabirds like Northern Gannets and migratory sea ducks.

## 6 Bass Harbor Marsh

This tidal marsh on the west side of the island hosts breeding populations of American Black Duck and Nelson's Sparrow, as well as occasional rare visitors like Least Bittern. Parking is limited along the roadside of Route 102.

## 7 Schoodic Peninsula

Acadia's best birding is found on the Schoodic Peninsula. More than 2,200 acres of trails and coast are productive in all seasons, from winter seawatching at Schoodic Point and Blueberry Hill, to spring and fall migration birding on Frazer Point and the Schoodic Woods Campground. Keep an eye out along trails for the elusive Spruce Grouse, one of the last of the park's boreal breeders.

## 8 Isle au Haut

Just under half of this island's 8,000 acres are part of Acadia National Park, but the birding is good everywhere. Birds are most abundant here during migration, as is the case with many of Maine's offshore islands, and they may use Isle au Haut as a stopover. The passenger ferry to the island leaves from Stonington, and the boat ride provides a great opportunity to look for seabirds like Northern Gannet and Great Shearwater.

### Puffin Colonies

Though puffin colonies are not actually part of the national park, taking a boat ride to see one is an essential stop on a trip to the Maine coast. Maine is the only state with breeding populations of Atlantic Puffin, and they may be found on offshore islands in the summer. Private tours leave from Bar Harbor, Winter Harbor, and other towns along the Maine coast.