

Borestone Mountain

Unplugged Retreat

Friday, September 18, at 2 pm through
Sunday afternoon, September 20, 2026



TRIP DESCRIPTION: Join this weekend retreat to Borestone Mountain Sanctuary, located just 20 miles south of Moosehead Lake. There we will stay in the sanctuary's historic Adirondack style lodges, which are accessible only by boat or on foot, lending an extra sense of remoteness and tranquility to this special place.

The sanctuary is a 1600 acre North Woods preserve with outstanding natural features. Centered around rock-topped Borestone Mountain, the sanctuary encompasses remarkable granite outcroppings and cliffs, clear mountain ponds, and old growth forest stands carpeted by luxuriant mosses and lichens.

Optional activities will include taking moderate hikes to Borestone's bare granite summit and to Peregrine Ridge where we will enjoy panoramic views of Maine's vast northern forest, swimming and canoeing in the sanctuary's mountain ponds, or if you prefer, just relaxing on the lodge porch with a good book.

MEETING PLACE: Please meet your leaders in the parking lot outside the main gate and entrance to Borestone Mountain at 2 p.m. Eat ahead or pack your lunch to have once we reach the lodge. Doug will have his cell phone with him in case of an emergency: (207) 671-0185 and should be contacted if you will not be at the meeting place. If the cell phones do not work, you may call the Borestone Sanctuary Manager on Duty at 207-717-6001.

DIRECTIONS:

Driving time is approximately 3 hours from Portland.

From Bangor or Portland, take I-95 to Newport (Exit 157 from the south, or Exit 159 from the north). Follow Route 7 north to Dexter, then take Route 23 north to Guilford. In Guilford, turn left onto Route 15/6 to Monson. After passing through the village of Monson, turn right onto Elliotsville Road. After 8 miles turn left, after the bridge, onto Bodfish Road. Parking area is approximately .7 miles on the left, after the railroad tracks. The gate and trailhead are on the right. Borestone Mountain Audubon Sanctuary is located on Map 41 of Delorme's Maine Atlas.

Google Maps link to Borestone Mountain Trailhead: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/LtdRaYmzTKqG7jAN8>

PREPARATION:

Please read this carefully so you know what you are responsible for.

- A camp vehicle will take your belongings up the access road to the lodge on the mountain and we will be hiking up the road/trail (about one mile) to the lodge. Please pack lightly so we can accommodate all the bags and food in one trip.
- Doug will decide the daily activities (such as hiking, birding, nature exploration) and go over them with you once you are on the mountain. You will always be able to break from the group and “do your own thing,” as you feel inspired, but please understand that Doug is responsible for you. We would appreciate if you returned to camp in time for meals and let someone know when you are going to return AND that all your activities away from the lodge are done with at least one other person and not alone.
- You will find the mountain camp to be a very quiet, peaceful retreat. You may want to bring a good book and/or your journal to enjoy in the mountain setting.

Smoking is prohibited on the sanctuary and use of cell phones is restricted to emergencies only.

Sheets, pillowcases, pillows and blankets are available at the lodge or you may bring a sleeping bag.

You will need to provide:

sleeping bag	windbreaker	daypack (for daily
towels and	good walking shoes	excursions)
washcloth	change of shoes	trail snacks (like gorp,
flashlight or headlamp	sunhat/sunscreen	granola
rain gear	journal/reading book	bars, etc.)
binoculars	sunglasses	walking poles or walking
warm sweater/fleece	toiletries	stick
field guide(s)	water bottle	camera and extra batteries
insect repellent		

For clothing, besides jackets & shoes, may we suggest:

2 t-shirts	1 long sleeved shirt
1 pair shorts	2 pairs long pants
undergarments	2 pairs wool/polypropylene socks
sleepwear	2 pairs cotton socks
long underwear (for cool nights)	bathing suit

Rooms will be assigned once you reach the lodge and are either double or single accommodations. The walls are not insulated so you may want to bring ear plugs. There is reliable electricity in all buildings in and around the lodges and in all the rooms. There is a separate building with two bathrooms with flush toilets and hot water for showers.

MEALS: All meals will be provided and prepared by staff. You are invited to bring your own snacks for between meals. If you have dietary restrictions, please notify Doug at Maine Audubon as soon as possible: dhitchcox@maineaudubon.org. Fresh drinking water is available at the lodge.

HIKING THE MOUNTAIN: Conditions permitting, a climb up to the East Peak of Borestone will be included. After rounding the middle pond, the trail climbs steeply for about 1 mile onto the rocks of the West Peak, then the trail continues about one half mile to the East Peak, elevation 2,000 feet. Hikers should be in good physical condition and be able to scramble over rocks and boulders without assistance. Bring a walking stick if you use one.

WEATHER: The trip is on, rain or shine. If particularly bad weather is forecasted however, we may cancel the trip for safety reasons. We will make this decision by 8:00 a.m. Friday morning before the trip, and you will be contacted in this unlikely eventuality.

IMPORTANT: If, for any reason, you are detained en route, please telephone the Borestone Sanctuary and leave a message at 207-631-4050.

LEADERS: **Doug Hitchcox** is Maine Audubon's Staff Naturalist. He has been visiting Borestone for the past decade, running weekend trip, bringing up groups of teens for the Hog Island "Mountains to Sea" birding camps, or finding any excuse to visit like surveying for the Maine Bird Atlas or enjoying the solar eclipse. In his free time, Doug volunteers as one of Maine's eBird reviewers, is the owner and moderator of the 'Maine-birds' listserv and Maine Rare Bird Alert GroupeMe, serves as York County Audubon board member and voting member of the Maine Bird Records Committee.

We look forward to seeing you in the field!

CANCELLATION POLICY: See: <https://maineaudubon.org/events/forms-and-policies/#cancel> or: If an event is cancelled by Maine Audubon, attendees will be notified, and full refunds will be issued. If event participation is cancelled by the attendee, no refunds will be issued if the cancellation is received within 7 days of the event. For cancellations received at least 7 days in advance of the event, refunds will be issued as follows:

Programs under \$10 will be not be refunded.

Programs \$10 – 100 will be refunded minus a \$5 processing fee.

Programs over \$100 and up to \$400 will be refunded minus a \$20 processing fee.

Programs over \$400 are rare and processing fees will be decided on a case by case basis.

All program proceeds benefit the work of Maine Audubon.