

Seabirds of Matinicus Rock

Friday, June 7, 2019

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



TRIP DESCRIPTION: A 32-acre island 18 miles offshore at the mouth of Penobscot Bay, Matinicus Rock is one of Maine's most important seabird nesting colonies. Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Common Murres, Black Guillemots, Arctic and Common Terns, and Laughing Gulls all gather to nest on the island. Motoring out of New Harbor aboard the Hardy III, we'll cross the mouth of Muscongus Bay, passing close by the seabird colony at Eastern Egg Rock where Roseate Terns nest. With plenty of open-water habitat along our route, we could see a good array of pelagic species, including Wilson's Storm-petrels, Northern Gannets, Common Murres, phalaropes, Great and Sooty Shearwaters, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and jaegers.

MEETING PLACE: Please meet your trip leaders and the crew of Hardy Boat Cruises at Shaw's Wharf in New Harbor for a prompt departure. You will need to arrive a half hour early (at 7:30 a.m.). The only place to park is Hardy Boat's grassy parking lot up the road (there is a \$4 fee, cash only). You cannot park at Shaw's Wharf; you will be towed.

DIRECTIONS:

From the South:

- From I-295 North, take exit 28 (Bath-Brunswick) to Coastal Route 1 North.
- Follow Route 1 North through Brunswick, Topsham, Bath, and Wiscasset. At Damariscotta take
- Business Route 1 following signs for Routes 129/130.
- Turn right at the First National Bank on Route 129 (watch for Hardy Boat Signs) through downtown Damariscotta.
- Bear left on Route 130 and travel for approximately nine miles.
- Turn left on Route 32. You will see a green Hardy Boat sign on the right just before Route 32.
- Parking is located ½ mile ahead at the baseball field on the right. There is a Hardy Boat Cruises sign on the parking booth. From here it is a three minute walk to the wharf. It is okay to continue to the wharf to drop people and possessions off and then double back to the parking area.
- The drive is approximately 1 ½ hours from Portland with no traffic.

From the North:

- Take Coastal Route 1 South to Waldoboro.
- Turn left on Route 32.
- Follow scenic Route 32 approximately 19 miles to Shaw's Wharf in New Harbor. It is okay to drop people and possessions off at the wharf and then continue on to the parking area. Parking is located at the baseball field approximately ¼ mile beyond the wharf.

PREPARATION: There is plenty of room on board so don't worry about over-packing. It can be quite cool on the water so please bring sufficient clothing to ensure your comfort. Ocean spray is certainly a possibility. If you have a tendency to get motion sickness, please consult your doctor or pharmacist for the best remedy. There is an enclosed cabin and galley which will have muffins, buns and coffee for breakfast and fish chowder (highly recommended!) for lunch. You will want to pack additional food as well for the long day on the water.

SUGGESTED ITEMS:

Binoculars	Field guides	Lunch, snacks, and drinks
Field guides	Waterproof layer	Hats and gloves
Camera (batteries)	Warm clothes and footwear	Sunglasses and sunscreen

* Weather dependent

LEADER:

Jan Pierson is one of the founders of Field Guides and a veteran of more than 35 years of international birding and guiding. He has traveled far and wide to all continents, yet some of his favorite birding experiences remain simple ones: spring warbler migration, savoring good, long looks at birds, be they rare or common, tropical or temperate, and watching other birders thrill at their first-time discoveries.

Doug Hitchcox is Maine Audubon's Staff Naturalist. He cut his teeth working for Maine Audubon at the Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center for six summers where he led tours by land and sea. In his free time, Doug is one of Maine's eBird reviewers, owner and moderator of the 'Maine-birds' listserv, York County Audubon board member, and voting member of the Maine Birds Record Committee.

PLEASE NOTE: Cancellation of this trip is up to the discretion of Hardy Boat and your trip leaders. If you would like to check on the trip status during business hours please call 207-781-2330. If you have any last minute concerns it is best to speak with Doug directly on his cell phone at 207-671-0185.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Participants may receive a refund – minus a \$50 processing fee – if they cancel their registration at least fourteen (14) days before a program begins. Programs with registration fees below \$50 are nonrefundable. Refund requests must be made in writing. Written requests for a refund due to a medical emergency must include a doctor's note, and must be received no more than two weeks after the program's start date. Refunds due to medical emergencies will be paid minus the \$50 processing fee. If Maine Audubon cancels a program, participants will receive a full refund. In the event that Maine Audubon needs to cancel part of a multi-day program, such as camps, Maine Audubon will make an effort to reschedule that part of the program, but refunds will not be issued.

All program proceeds benefit the work of Maine Audubon.