

NEW ENGLAND (10th to 25th JUNE 1995)

This trip was made with the objective of observing and possibly photographing pelagic birds and mammals. In this respect it was partly successful. Three pelagics were undertaken from different ports and each produced different results. For the remainder of the trip time was spent wandering about Maine and New Hampshire in a loosely planned and relaxed manner. Initial information regarding sites was obtained through Steve Whitehouse and the tourist information offices of the individual states. This has enabled me to provide further information, albeit for an earlier month, for any future visitors. The current information is for July.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION.

KLM/NORTHWEST AIRLINES from Cardiff to Boston via Amsterdam. Car hire pre-booked with Alamo in Boston was a brand new (7 miles on the clock) Nissan Altima.

Accommodation was not pre-booked from UK but we did find it a good idea to book ahead for weekends. Roadside motels of a reasonable standard ranged from 30 to 50 Dollars. They were especially plentiful at N. Conway in NH and as a result the prices were very reasonable.

WHALES

Pelagic trips are available from many coastal towns. We chose GLOUCESTER, NEWBURYPORT and BAR HARBOR as departure points in order to visit the three major centres for whale activity in the gulf of Maine.

We saw Fin and Minke whales but unfortunately dipped on Humpback (apparently for reasons unexplained now scarce) and Atlantic White-sided Dolphin. For details of the excellent birds seen on these excursions see the list.

BIRDS

Apart from Wilson's Petrel the only species required for my list were Golden - crowned Kinglet and Boreal Chickadee. These were obtained without problems at the Connecticut Lakes campground which was formerly known as Moose Falls. Ruffed Grouse had also eluded me on my previous eight visits to the US and by an amazing stroke of luck a female was seen feeding in short roadside grass near Dixville, NH. The birds listed in the report section are those which were seen at the stops which we made and should not be considered as reflecting the full potential of the region at this time.

June is of course the least active month with many species lying low or busy breeding. Several species were however found easily due to the fact that they were in full song. These included American Redstart, Ovenbird, White-throated Sparrow and Willow Flycatcher.

MAMMALS

In addition to Fin and Minke Whales mentioned above the following were seen;

HARBOR PORPOISE	several on the Bar Harbor pelagic.
WHITE-TAILED DEER	one only at the third Connecticut Lake.
MOOSE	one at Baxter State Park

WOODCHUCK the only live one at the side of Route 1 at Danvers.
GRAY SQUIRREL)
RED SQUIRREL) widespread
EASTERN CHIPMUNK)

Porcupines, Skunks, Opossums were seen only as roadkills. Several turtles were seen but not identified and the only snake seen was a Common Garter Snake on Mount Desert Island.

ITINERARY

10th-arrived **BOSTON** at midday drove to **GLOUCESTER** on Rt. 1A, and drove around **CAPE ANN**.

11th-a.m. pelagic out of **GLOUCESTER** to **STELLWAGEN BANK**.
p.m. drove to **IPSWICH** and **STACKYARD ROAD** on Rt.1A.

12th-visited **IPSWICH, WILLOWDALE, PLUM ISLAND, PARKER RIVER NWR** and returned to **GLOUCESTER**.

13th-long drive north on **I95** to **MAINE** leaving the interstate to take the coastal road to **BATH, WISCASSET, ROCKLAND, CAMDEN, BELFAST** and **ELLSWORTH** to **BAR HARBOR**.

14th-toured **MOUNT DESERT ISLAND** before and after taking a pelagic to the **MOUNT DESERT ROCK** area.

15th-a thoroughly miserable misty wet day in **ACADIA NATIONAL PARK**.

16th-a much improved day in **ACADIA NATIONAL PARK** .Drove to **BANGOR** in late afternoon.

17th-drove from **BANGOR** to **MILLINOCKET** and onward to **BAXTER STATE PARK**.

18th-drove from **BANGOR** to **COLEBROOK, NH.**-a long drive in hot 90's and high humidity.

19th-drove to **CONNECTICUT LAKES** up to the border with **QUEBEC**, now very hot, 101 degrees F and again very humid.

20th-drove South in fresher weather through **WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST** to **CRAWFORD NOTCH, CONWAY** and on to Rt.109 to **SANFORD, MAINE**.

21st-rest day duding the beaches of **NEW HAMPSHIRE** e.g. **RYE, HAMPTON** and **OGUNQUIT** ending up at **ROWLEY** for the night.

22nd- to **NEWBURYPORT** to board the 10 am pelagic to **JEFFREY'S LEDGES**.
This was the most impressive for both whales and Wilson's and was led by Scott Mercer. In late afternoon drove to **DANVERS** and booked in for three nights at Motel 6.

23rd- to **PARKER RIVER, STACKYARD ROAD, PLUM ISLAND REFUGE**.

24th- a day doing all the obligatory touristy things in **BOSTON**.

25th-returned.

FURTHER NOTES

PARKER RIVER NWR lies to the south of Newburyport on the coast of Massachusetts about 45 minutes drive north of Boston. It includes the sub-sites of Plum Island, Stackyard Lane (on Rt 1A) in addition to the dune and saltmarsh system where the entrance gate is situated. There is a \$5 entrance fee.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK occupies a large percentage of MOUNT DESERT ISLAND. At least one important site, SIEUR de MONT is outside the park. The best sites within the park were HUNTERS HEAD and the area around JORDAN HOUSE.

BAXTER STATE PARK lies north from Bangor Maine and north-west of the timber town of Millinocket. At the entrance there is a fork in the dirt road. The left fork was chosen as it was longer and seemed potentially more interesting. It was raining and the dirt road did not add to the joy of driving. At Dwelly Pond the habitat became dense forest and unproductive so we returned to stop for some time at a stream by a large open area called NESOWADNEHUNK camping. Areas with thinned-out and apparently dead pines were also productive.

Just about everywhere life can be made more bearable by liberally applying OFF to all exposed parts of the body, shoes and socks. Hats are recommended if you don't want head bites that itch like hell. The culprits are ticks, chiggers, no-see-ums and the abysmal biting black flies and the mosquitos. I understand that July is much worse and I have been in worse places, however a bite is a bite wherever you get it.

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