



Don Reimer

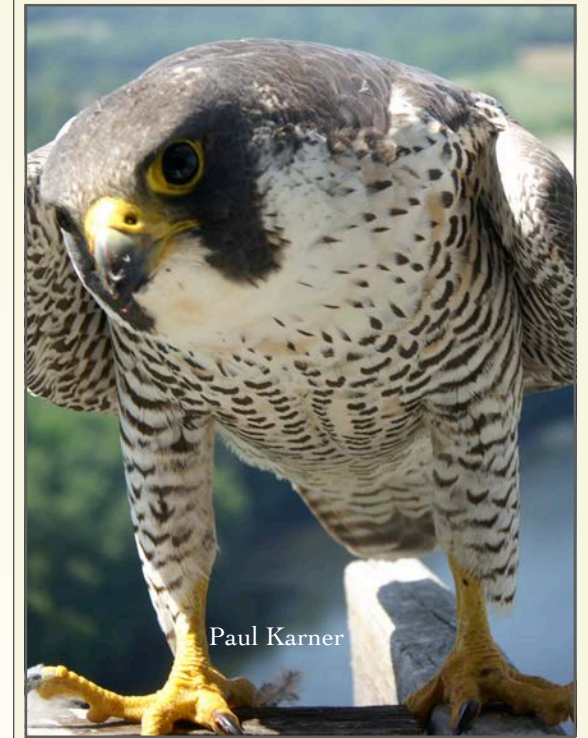


Cloe Chunn

- This section of Maine's coast is located within the (West) Penobscot Bay Coastal Subregion (Bennett, 1988), a section of the state's largest watershed.
- It is characterized by rocky coastline, forests of transition hardwoods interspersed with white pine and hemlock, island forests of spruce-fir, and cool marine waters.
- A difference of 10 feet between high and low tide increases the exposed intertidal zone, adding to the potential diversity of available habitats and birds found here.
- The birds you see will depend greatly on the time of year. Some birds can be seen throughout the year. Others are migratory, found here when traveling long distances from their breeding grounds to wintering areas.
- Binoculars are a must and a spotting scope can be helpful.
- **More than 250 species of birds have been spotted at the 6 highlighted sites.**



# BELFAST BIRDING COASTAL CORRIDOR



Paul Karner

## LET'S GO BIRDING

Birdwatching is a great way to stay in touch with the wonder and awe of the natural world at home or wherever you travel. It offers wonderful opportunities to explore and deepen your learning about the natural history of any area.



# Belfast Birding Coastal Corridor from Sandy Point Beach State Park to Ducktrap Harbor.

**1. Sandy Point Beach State Park** - DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer Map 23, E-2. Take Routes 1/3 east from Stockton Springs approximately 2 miles, turning right onto Steamboat Wharf Road and proceeding to the end where there is parking by the beach. Walking trails, wheelchair accessible trail. Habitats: River/Bay, sand beach, bluffs, mixed species-mixed age woodlands. **Birds of note:** Osprey nests, woodland songbirds, waterfowl.



**2. Cape Jellison Loop** - DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer Map 15, A-1. From Route 1/3 in Stockton Springs, turn and follow Cape Jellison Road: bear left at the split to reach the following locations:

**Fort Point Cove** (Pull-off area .5 mi. on left from split)

**Fort Point State Park** (1 mi. beyond FP Cove Pull-off on left)

**Stockton Harbor** (3-4 mi. beyond FPSP if circling the loop)

Car Pull-off (FPC); Walking Trails (FPSP); Parking area (SH). Habitats: River/Bay/Cove, spruce-fir forest (FPSP). **Birds of note:** Ruddy ducks, scoters, other waterfowl; songbirds.



**3. Sears Island** - DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer Map 15, A-1. From Route 1/3 two miles north of Searsport, turn right onto Sears Island Road. Follow to end of causeway to gate. 940 acre island under conservation easement. No current development. Beyond gate a paved road allows easy walking access and fine birding of surrounding mixed woods. Several other trails, including beach walking. Habitats: Extensive Bay areas/River, mixed woodlands, roadside vegetation. **Birds of note:** Sea ducks, warblers, sparrows. A single visit usually produces a good variety of birds at any time of year.

**4. Belfast Harbor** - DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer Map 14, A-4. Routes 1 and 3 converge on Belfast. Follow downtown to Maine Street and City Pier parking area. Scan harbor and/or walk approximately .25 mi. N to Pedestrian Bridge or .25 mi. S to Boathouse.

**Pedestrian Bridge** (exceptional location for scanning up and down river)

**Boathouse** ( good location to scan mouth of river and entry to Belfast Bay)

**Upper Passagassawaukeag River** (From City Pier return to intersection with High Street, follow north out of the downtown and continue along river. Best pull-off is at Old Upper Bridge about 2 mi. from City Pier parking area.

Habitats: Tidal River/Bay. **Birds of note:** Barrow's Goldeneye (winter); gulls, sea ducks.

**5. Bayside Town Landing** - DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer Map 14, B-5. From Route 1 south between Belfast and Northport, take Shore Road to the Bayside Town Landing. Park and scan north into greater Belfast Bay and south along channel of Penobscot River. Habitats: Bay/River. **Birds of note:** Red-throated loons (Fall), sea ducks.



**6. Ducktrap Harbor** - DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer Map 14, C-4. From Route 1 approximately 1.5 mi. N of Lincolnville or 5 mi. S of Northport, turn onto Harbor Road, follow to gravel bar parking area at road's end. Habitat: Tidal river mouth/Bay. The Ducktrap River is of special conservation status due to annual run of Atlantic Salmon, one of just 8 such rivers along Maine's entire coast. **Birds of note:** Bald eagles, osprey, red-necked grebes, sea ducks.