

June 20-21, 2026
with Dan Gardoqui



BOREAL BIRDING WEEKEND

Information & Itinerary Document

Welcome to the Boreal Birding Weekend: A Center for Wildlife Regional EcoTour. This is a 2-day learning adventure in a remote part of New England, on the southern edge of the Boreal Forest habitat - aka “North America’s baby bird factory.” Late June in this region is rich with blooming plants, pollinating insects and hungry birds.

I. Food, Lodging & Transport

All clients are responsible for all their own food, lodging & transport. The New Hampshire north country is a tourist destination with abundant outdoor opportunities (fishing, hunting, camping, leaf-peeping, snowmobiling, skiing and more). Visit the [MyGoNorth website](#) to learn more about the region.

- **Lodging:** We will be based out of Colebrook - where we recommend you book lodging. The only other nearby town is Errol, NH (30 mins to the east). The [Colebrook Country Club & Motel](#) is simple and clean. There are AirBnB’s as well nearby.
- **Groceries:** There is a smaller supermarket in Colebrook, ([LaPerles IGA](#)) but if you want specialty foods, I recommend you shop on your way to town. You’ll pack your own meals & snacks each day. Bring plenty of fluids in case it’s a hot summer weekend. I’ll do my best to make sure we stop enough for you to snack/eat.
- **Transportation:** we’ll be carpooling to local birding sites in the region. If you’re willing to help transport others, please email dan@thecenterforwildlife.org Thanks!

II. WEATHER

Summer birding isn’t always comfortable. Heat, humidity and biting insects are likely. Prepare to spend time standing still, looking at birds for a while, then moving, etc.

III. OPTICS

magnification is our friend when birding. Here’s the summary:

- **Binoculars:** It’s best if everyone has a good pair of binoculars. I’ve got loaners if anyone would like a pair (shoot me an email).
- **Spotting Scopes:** I’ll bring my scope along in case it’s useful. If you have a spotting scope and want to bring it along - go for it.
- **Cameras:** for those into bird photography, feel free to bring your camera gear, too.

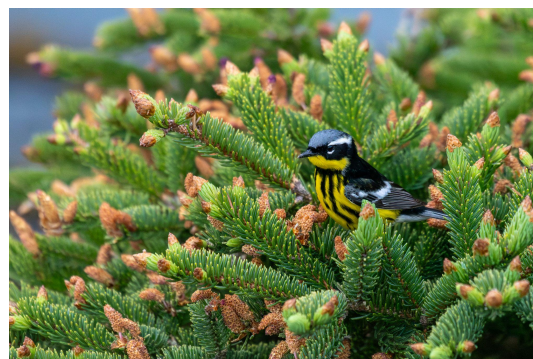
IV. Weekend Itinerary *(note that details may change due to weather, etc.)*

Day	Time(s)	Meeting Location	Details
Friday June 19	PM	n/a	Travel to the North Country and settle into your lodging. Get to bed early because we're starting at 6am sharp!
Saturday June 20 AM	6am until 3pm	Start & End @ Colebrook C.C & Motel	We'll carpool from the Motel parking lot to visit a number of hotspots in either the Stewartstown & Pittsburg areas OR the Errol / Umbagog area.
Saturday June 20 PM	6:30pm until 9pm	Start & End @ Colebrook C.C. & Motel	We'll carpool from the motel parking lot to Dixville Peak for an evening of listening for Bicknell's Thrush & more. (optional)
Sunday June 21 AM/PM	7am until 3pm	Start & End @ Colebrook River Walk Trail	We'll carpool from here to visit a number of hotspots in either the Stewartstown & Pittsburg areas OR the Errol / Umbagog area.
*Colebrook Riverwalk Parking Lot - Directions <i>Drive toward 72 Bridge St. (Route 26) in Colebrook, NH. From the intersection of Main St (Rt 3) & 26, head 0.3 miles, look for a small sign "RiverWalk Trail" and make a right on a gravel road, parking is at the end. This road is just past the entrance to the Transfer station on your left. Please note, there is another parking area for the Riverwalk (closer to Rt 3 - that is closed). We will condense into fewer cars from here.</i>			

V. A TYPICAL DAY IN THE FIELD

While it's impossible to know exactly what we'll be doing, here's a rough layout of a typical birding apprenticeship day in the field.

- **Open:** Early (or Mid) Morning: Gather, Circle up, quick intros, intentions for the day, etc.
- **Move:** Walk or Carpool to birding/learning sites
- **Learn:** Observe/Detect Birds (both near and far). You'll be encouraged to ask lots of questions and to share how you ID birds and explain behavior.
- **Repeat:** move and learn again at multiple sites
- **Close:** Late afternoon or Evening: Circle up, reflect on the day, send off.



VI. CURRICULUM

Spend time immersed in Boreal Bird habitats and learn from the birds. More specifically, this weekend will also focus on:

- **ID & Behavior:** season-specific ID basics & tips for tricky plumages.
 - **Bird Language:** learning how to detect and interpret interspecies communication.
 - **Bird Families:** spoke seasons allow us to deeply explore certain families.
 - **Migration & Seasonality:** learn wintering habitats, irruptive species, resident birds & migrants.
 - **Ecology:** understanding how birds are connected to larger ecosystems and specific habitats.
 - **Bird Advocacy:** actions we can take to protect and conserve bird populations and species.
 - **Bird-Finding:** learn about where to go and how to find both common and unusual birds.
 - **Bird Tracks & Sign:** we'll learn about birds' lives via the spoor they leave behind
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VII. CLOTHING/GEAR:

It's hard to learn when you're uncomfortable. Please dress accordingly.

- **Layers:** dressing in layers (esp with wicking materials like merino wool, etc) will allow you to adjust to the right temperature when walking, stopping, etc. Morning start cool.
- **Wind/Waterproof:** it's always a good idea to have an outer layer to block wind and moisture. You won't regret it.
- **Backpack:** Carry a backpack to store your water, food, extra gear, etc. We will sometimes be in the field for many hours at a time. Other stops will be short.
- **Hiking Poles:** if balance is a concern, please bring a hiking stick or trekking poles.
- **Biting Insects:** will have some biting insects - maybe lots. Wearing long-sleeve shirts and pants is wise. A headnet may also be helpful. BYO bug dope- whatever you like.



Anything Else? Got questions?

Please email Dan Gardoqui (tour leader) dan@thecenterforwildlife.org

~ End of Boreal Birding Info Document ~