

Monhegan Island, Mount Desert Island and the Gulf of Maine | Sept 17-24, 2023 With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by: Michael J. Good
17 September to 24 September 2023

**Michael Good (NJ), Rick Weiman (NJ), Bonnie, Rolf, Dan, Suz, Kathy, Diane,
Nora, Melissa, Janet, Carrie and Emily**

Summary: Our Monhegan, Mount Desert Island and Gulf of Maine trip produced 125 species of birds, 19 species of Warblers, 13 species of mammals, 6 species of Butterflies and 5 species of reptiles scattered across these diverse habitats we witnessed during our 7-day Gulf of Maine tour. We witnessed the importance of Islands in the sea to migratory species across bird taxonomy. The Gulf of Maine is now a real place for you after our spectacular pelagic trip southeast of Mount Desert Island (MDI). From Ruby-throated Hummingbird to Northern Gannet, coastal Maine is an enigma, with Atlantic Puffin and Razorbill as examples of birds breeding nowhere else in the US. The marine and coastal habitats vary as diversly as those the mainland. The semi-enclosed sea, the "Gulf of Maine" has 1500-foot-deep basins surrounded by the coast and shallower Jordan, Wilkinson, Georges and Brown's Banks, and seamounts like Cashes Ledge all giving way to the world's most diverse and dynamic marine ecosystem. The large diurnal tidal amplitude which reaches 52 feet in the Bay of Fundy, produce mixing of surface and deep water to produce the scene we all saw in Segment 13 at the upwelling 50 miles off shore. Birds everywhere, 213 total Atlantic Puffin counted. It was spectacular and overwhelming at the same time. The number of large whales exceeded my expectation and the exceptional bird diversity, all point to this remarkable requirement that we take must nurture our Oceans for exponential growth and maximum food production.

The eBird Link to our 2023 Gulf of Maine Journey: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/157453>

