

**10.2.2 Appendix B.2 – Important Bird Areas of Maine (Gallo et al., 2008)**

# IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF MAINE

## An Analysis of Avian Diversity and Abundance

Compiled by:

**Susan Gallo, Thomas P. Hodgman, and Judy Camuso**



A Project Supported by the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund



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Compiled by:

**Susan Gallo**, Maine Audubon, 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth, ME 04105

**Thomas P. Hodgman**, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,  
650 State St., Bangor, ME 04401

**Judy Camuso**, Maine Audubon, 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth, ME 04105  
(Present Address: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 358 Shaker Road, Gray,  
ME 04039)

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**M**aine's landscape offers a variety of ecosystems, which provide habitat for a diverse array of wildlife. Maine birds have long been the focus of observation and study and their distribution and abundance has been well documented by ornithologists for over 100 years. The concept of an important bird area, a place where the abundance and/or diversity of birds is especially important for conservation or outreach, has been recognized for many years though never described as such. The Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Acadia National Park, and numerous land trusts, as well as others, have, for decades, helped to conserve many areas important to birds and other wildlife and natural communities. Maine itself could be considered an important bird area. At one time, only one nesting island (Old Man Island off Cutler in Washington County) remained in the eastern U. S. for Common Eider, a species which numbers in the tens of thousands today. Also, the tremendous recovery of the Bald Eagle in the northeast could in part be founded in the population, which remained in eastern Maine despite ever-present threats of DDT elsewhere along the eastern seaboard.

## **History**

In 2001, Maine Audubon, with the assistance of staff from MDIFW, set out to identify the most important areas for bird conservation in Maine. This project follows others throughout the U.S. that set forth similar objectives, each with a slightly different approach. We received a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund during spring 2001 and MDIFW contracted with staff of Maine Audubon to provide project leadership. We used a slightly different approach from most other states in that our process used site-specific bird abundance data to make determinations of whether a site was indeed "important". We created a steering committee that we informed of the project and its status, and more importantly, a technical committee to advise us on establishing numeric criteria for assessing relative importance of each area.

## **What is an Important Bird Area?**

An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a location that provides important habitat for one or more species of breeding, wintering, or migrating birds. IBAs generally support birds of conservation concern (including Threatened and Endangered Species), large concentrations of birds, or birds associated with unique or exceptional habitats. Furthermore, an IBA may be an area, which has historically been the location of a significant amount of avian research. In Maine, we typically identified "sites" which met certain numeric thresholds for abundance and diversity then assembled groups of these "sites" into "areas" (i.e., IBAs) based on their proximity to one another or thematically, typically based on the ecosystem within which they occur. Therefore, an IBA in Maine consists of one to several sites that support a high abundance (or diversity) relative to other sites supporting that species (or group of species).

## **Qualifying Criteria**

A site qualifies for inclusion in an IBA if it meets at least one of the three primary criteria below. Two additional secondary criteria also are included that may strengthen the qualifications. *These*

*criteria are not absolute and should be viewed as guidelines only.* Consideration of an IBA was based on how well its component sites met the criteria. Some sites met several criteria. Other factors, such as relative importance or a unique combination of characteristics, were considered when making final selections. A full description of the criteria used to evaluate sites is provided as an appendix.

Primary Criteria:

1. Sites for Threatened and Endangered Species
2. Sites for Species of Conservation Concern
3. Sites with Substantial Concentrations of Birds and/or High Species Diversity  
This criterion was applied to the following categories:
  - A. Water Birds
  - B. Seabirds
  - C. Shorebirds
  - D. Wadingbirds
  - E. Raptors
  - F. Migratory Land Birds
  - G. Exceptional Abundance/Diversity

Secondary Criteria:

4. Sites for Species in Rare, Vulnerable, or Exemplary Habitat Types
5. Sites Important for Research/Monitoring

**Data Use and Applicability Disclaimer**

The Maine Important Bird Areas Project began in 2001, and by the time this document was prepared, significant time had elapsed. Consequently, some of the data may be slightly out of date. Furthermore, some IBAs may not currently support the same abundance and diversity as when evaluated for this project. It has been the philosophy of this project to evaluate qualifying data for a site, regardless of whether the site still supports equivalent numbers of birds. In essence, we believed that once a site qualified, it generally had the potential to support similar numbers of birds, given the habitat has not changed irreparably. We did not, however, consider data (often only available for seabird nesting islands) prior to the mid-1980s. Our analysis, therefore, examined diversity and abundance of birds in Maine for sites with available data from roughly 1985 to 2005.

Identification of a site or collection of sites as an IBA carries no legal standing and affords no special protection under Maine Law. The results of the Maine IBA project are not meant in any way to supplement or enhance the Maine Natural Resources Protection Act or other resource protection laws. The sites described in this document merely reflect an analysis of mostly public



data to better facilitate public (and landowner) awareness, leading to improved conservation of resident bird populations, improved landscape-level habitat conservation, and possible community-scale economic benefits from increased birding opportunities.

### **Acknowledgements**

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# **Maine Important Bird Areas**

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## **Site and Area Descriptions**

# Batson River IBA

York County

The Batson River IBA consists of sandy beaches and extensive saltmarshes, interspersed with tidal rivers and bays, scattered pockets of pitch pine forest, and rocky islands. This area stretches from the shoreline of Cape Porpoise, northwards through the saltmarshes of Marshall Point, to the sandy stretches of Goose Rocks Beach. Several small streams flow into the saltmarshes, but two larger tributaries, Batson River and Smith Brook, contribute the majority of the fresh water. Approximately 540 acres in this area are managed by Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and remain undisturbed, while beachfronts host many seasonal and permanent residences. Cape Porpoise Harbor has a busy fishing pier and several small islands and is home to the Goat Island Light. Many of these islands and other parcels of land in the area are under permanent conservation protection by the Kennebunk Conservation Trust.

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**Batson River**  
(including Smith Brook and adjacent marshes and bays)  
Kennebunkport

**Batson River IBA**

**Description** - The Batson River and the smaller Smith Brook meet in a large saltmarsh and flow into Goosefare Bay. Smaller saltmarshes border both rivers and coalesce into a larger saltmarsh system as the flow nears the ocean. Pockets of pitch pine forest grade slowly into ribbons of thick maritime shrublands, switchgrass, and gradually into saltmarsh along the undisturbed sections of shoreline.

**Bird Resources** –American Black Ducks, Common Eiders, Buffleheads and Mallards are all common occurrences in winter and during migration. During migration, the mouth of the Batson River is often home to rafts of Red-breasted Mergansers. Pannes and pools, together with the saltmarsh north of Marshall Point Road, provide feeding habitat for numerous egrets, yellowlegs and Mallards. The beach at the north end of Marshall Point Road has had nesting Piping Plovers in the past. The uplands in the area are home to nesting grassland and shrubland birds, including Bobolinks and Eastern Towhees, both species of conservation concern in Maine. Portions of the marsh have high nesting concentrations of both species of sharp-tailed sparrows.

**Conservation Issues** - Invasive Phragmites is a problem in this portion of the coast and red fox predation on beach-nesting birds can be significant. As with other sites in coastal portions of southern Maine, bordering land uses and upland development are a constant threat to ecosystem health.

**Ownership/Access** – Ownership of the marshes and surrounding uplands is a mix of private, non-profit conservation and federal (Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge) holdings. Rachel Carson National Wildlife lands are generally closed to public entry in order to protect wildlife from undue disturbance. There are some public use trails and public uses that are permitted. Please consult the Refuge Manager for current regulations (207) 646-9226 or stop by the refuge headquarters and visitor center at 321 Port Road in Wells.

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>             | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b>     |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret                    | 22 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Glossy Ibis                    | 7 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Plover            | 200 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1987         | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                   | Piping Plover                  | 3 Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 1998      | Breeding          |
| T/E Species                   | Piping Plover                  | Present <sup>15</sup> , 1998           | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Lesser Yellowlegs              | 30 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Willet                         | 16 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Sandpiper         | 253 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993         | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Short-billed Dowitcher         | 36 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993          | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                   | Roseate Tern                   | 6 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004          | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Common Tern                    | 133 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004        | Breeding          |
| T/E Species                   | Least Tern                     | 2 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004          | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 10 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 11 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding          |

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### **Sampson Cove (including saltmarsh and Cape Porpoise Harbor) Kennebunkport**

### **Batson River IBA**

**Description** – Sampson Cove is on the south side of Marshall Point and is surrounded by a narrow band of saltmarsh habitat with few pools and pannes. Upland areas include pockets of shrublands and pitch pine. Sampson Cove is a popular place for shorebirds at low tide and for Buffleheads in winter. The area off of Cape Porpoise is dotted with islands, many of which are under conservation ownership.

**Bird Resources** - Sampson Cove is a highlight of this IBA and hosts a great variety of bird life despite its small size. American Oystercatchers were spotted here for several weeks during the breeding season of 2004. Large flocks of peeps, mostly Semipalmated Plovers and Semipalmated Sandpipers, feed here at low tide. At higher tides, this site is visited by terns and is a traditional wintering area for large numbers of Buffleheads.

**Conservation Issues** - A little over half of the Sampson Cove area is under permanent conservation protection by Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. However, other areas

remain vulnerable to additional development. Disturbance by human activities such as kayaking is a threat, but at current levels is not believed to be significant.

**Ownership/Access** - Ownership of the marsh and surrounding uplands is a mix of private, non-profit conservation and federal (Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge) holdings. Lands managed by Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge are generally closed to public entry to protect wildlife from undue disturbance. There are some public use trails and public uses that could be permitted. Please consult the Refuge Manager for current regulations (207) 646-9226 or stop by the refuge headquarters and visitor center at 321 Port Road in Wells.

***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>    | <b>Season</b>       |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret            | 24 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004  | Breeding            |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Plover    | 100 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004 | Migration           |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | American Oystercatcher | Present <sup>16</sup> , 2004    | Breeding            |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 100 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004 | Migration           |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Short-billed Dowitcher | 38 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004  | Spring<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Common Eider           | 50 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004  | Breeding            |
| T/E Species                   | Roseate Tern           | 6 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004   | Breeding            |
| Species at Risk               | Common Tern            | 133 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004 | Breeding            |
| T/E Species                   | Least Tern             | 2 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004   | Breeding            |

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# Cape Elizabeth IBA

Cumberland County

## Great Pond Cape Elizabeth

## Cape Elizabeth IBA

**Description** - Great Pond is a shallow pond, averaging no more than five feet in depth. The approximately 130-acre pond and wetland complex is surrounded by woodlands.

**Bird Resources** - Despite its small size, this pond is important for two rare marshbirds: Least Bittern and Common Moorhen. This cattail marsh provides excellent habitat for these secretive birds, as well as for a variety of waterfowl during migration.

**Conservation Issues** - Half of the shoreline is undeveloped and owned by the Sprague Corporation. There are two neighborhoods of roughly 60 single-family homes located north of the pond.

**Ownership/Access** - Access is maintained by both the town of Cape Elizabeth and the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust. The pond is accessible by a sandy beach that is used as a boat launch. There is also a hiking trail to the pond from Route 77.

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                      | Common Name      | Maximum #, Unit, Year       | Season   |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Species at Risk               | Least Bittern    | Present <sup>6</sup> , 2000 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk               | Northern Harrier | Present <sup>6</sup> , 2000 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Virginia Rail    | Present <sup>6</sup> , 2000 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Sora             | Present <sup>6</sup> , 2000 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk               | Common Moorhen   | Present <sup>6</sup> , 2000 | Breeding |

## Spurwink River Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough

## Cape Elizabeth IBA

**Description** - The Spurwink River is a relatively short (less than five miles) stretch of tidal river that forms much of the border between the towns of Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough. The river system includes a salt-hay salt marsh, an uncommon habitat type in southern Maine and home to several species of plants of special concern including Saltmarsh False-foxglove.

**Bird Resources** – The Spurwink River is a foraging site for a variety of wading birds, including Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibises. The river and tidal flats are a key migration stopover for both shorebirds and a diverse array of waterfowl (including Mallards, American Black Ducks, Red-breasted Mergansers, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes) in the

spring and fall, as well as a foraging area for Common and Least Terns that nest on nearby islands and beaches. In some winters, the uplands around the river attract Snowy Owls.

**Conservation Issues** – The east side of the Spurwink River and its associated uplands lie within Cape Elizabeth’s Town Farm District, which is intended to recognize and protect the special nature of the area representing historic, cultural, scenic, natural, and open space qualities that should continue. Threat from major development is therefore limited, at least on the Cape Elizabeth side of the river. Development on the west side of the river has been sparse, though the number of new homes has increased in recent years.

Tidal water in the river is classified as “SA”, the highest classification signifying the water is an outstanding natural resource that should be preserved because of its ecological importance. Biodiversity Research Institute tested mercury levels in marshbirds from the Spurwink River in 2004 and 2005, and found some of the lowest blood mercury concentrations among a dozen study sites in the northeast (Oksana Lane, Biodiversity Research Institute, unpublished data).

**Ownership/Access** – There is a boat launch on Route 77 though parking is limited. The river also may be accessed from the ocean, at its outlet at the north end of Higgins Beach (see Scarborough IBA description). The marsh and surrounding upland are a mix of private and federal (Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge) holdings. Specifically, the upper reaches of the river are owned and managed by the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge, where duck hunting is allowed in the fall.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>             | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b>     |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret                    | 20 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Glossy Ibis                    | 33 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Willet                         | 25 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Whimbrel                       | 6 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993           | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 24 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 14 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |

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# Casco Bay Islands IBA

Cumberland County

Casco Bay, like many coastal bays in Maine, consists of several drowned river outlets including the Stroudwater, Presumpscot, Royal, and Harraseeket Rivers. This IBA consists of a variety of islands both inside the sheltered portion of the bay and outer islands in more open ocean conditions. Broad expanses of mud flats and eelgrass meadows in the inner bay contribute to the richness of the waters surrounding these islands. Bird habitats provided by Casco Bay include wading bird rookeries on several of the larger islands, forested islands in the upper bay, nesting areas for gulls, cormorants, and eiders on the smaller islands and vegetated ledges, and tern colonies supported on two of the more remote islands. These islands also serve as migratory stopovers for a variety of passerines. Vegetative communities vary with island conditions from mixed hardwood-softwood forests on the sheltered islands to spruce-fir stands on more exposed forested islands to shrub/forb-dominated habitats on the most exposed islands.

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## Flag Island Harpwell

## Casco Bay Islands IBA

**Description** – This 26-acre island in northern Casco Bay is located east of Orrs Island and south of Cundy’s Harbor. The island is primarily forested with a cleared area on the south side of the island.

**Bird Resources** – Flag Island is a traditional nesting site for a large colony of Great Blue Herons, though numbers have waned here in the last 10 years. This site also is home to the largest nesting colony of eiders in Casco Bay and one of the southernmost nesting sites in their range.

**Conservation Issues** – As for all the islands in this IBA, overboard discharge from boats in the harbor as well as the threat of an oil spill in or around the bay, are constant threats.

**Ownership/Access** – The site was placed in conservation ownership in 2001. The island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Landing on Flag Island is prohibited during the nesting season (April 15 through July 31 each year).

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Blue Heron   | 34 Breeding Pairs <sup>11</sup> , 1992 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Common Eider       | 626 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1999 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Herring Gull       | 150 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1998 | Breeding      |



**Jenny Island  
Harpwell**

**Casco Bay Islands IBA**

**Description** – This two-acre island in Casco Bay is located 1.5 miles south of Cundy's Harbor, about ½ mile from the closest point of land. Jenny Island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and is cooperatively managed with National Audubon’s Seabird Restoration Program.

**Bird Resources** – The tern colony peaked in 1998 with nearly 1,200 pairs of terns, but was subsequently decimated by nocturnal avian (Great Horned Owl) and mammalian predators (Mink). In addition to the seabird nesting colony, the island is a migratory stopover for shorebirds, such as Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Purple Sandpipers winter on the shore of this island as well.

**Conservation Issues** – This island is in conservation ownership and is managed for nesting terns. National Audubon continues to manage predators to increase tern productivity. An oil spill should be considered the primary threat to this island.

**Ownership/Access** – Jenny Island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and managed as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. It is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 15 – August 31).

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                     | Common Name            | Maximum #, Unit, Year                    | Season    |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------|
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel               | 2 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993             | Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | 54 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993            | Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 148 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993           | Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 26 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993            | Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Laughing Gull          | 5 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006     | Breeding  |
| T/E Species                  | Roseate Tern           | 15 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006    | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Common Tern            | 1167 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1998* | Breeding  |

\* The population has since declined to just under 650 pairs in 2006

**Mark Island  
Harpwell**

**Casco Bay Islands IBA**

**Description** – A small treeless island located about five miles south of Cundy’s Harbor on the eastern edge of Casco Bay.

**Bird Resources** – This island has a mixed heronry with a large number of Great Blue Herons. It also hosts a sizable breeding population of Common Eiders. At one time, this island had one of the largest numbers of nesting Black-crowned Night Herons. The population of Snowy Egrets has declined slightly since the late 1990’s.

**Conservation Issues** – Fortunately this site is in conservation ownership. Overboard discharge from boats as well as the threat of an oil spill, in or around the bay, are the greatest threats.

**Ownership/Access** – Mark Island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 15 through August 31 each year).

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                      | Common Name               | Maximum #, Unit, Year                   | Season   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Blue Heron          | 150 Breeding Pairs <sup>11</sup> , 2006 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret               | 49 Breeding Pairs <sup>11</sup> , 1995  | Breeding |
| Species at Risk               | Black-crowned Night-Heron | 12 Breeding Pairs <sup>11</sup> , 1995  | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Common Eider              | 200 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006  | Breeding |

**Outer Green Island  
Portland**

**Casco Bay Islands IBA**

**Description** - This shrub and forb-dominated island is one of the most exposed islands in Casco Bay and is characterized by steep rocky bluffs and deep surrounding waters.

**Bird Resources** - In recent years, a breeding tern colony has been restored to the island through the efforts of National Audubon. With restoration, the breeding colony has swelled to nearly 1,000 nesting pairs of Common Terns. This island is also an important nesting island for Double-crested Cormorants, Common Eiders; over 92 species of migratory songbirds have been documented on this island in the past few years alone.

**Conservation Issues** – Given the remoteness of this island, it is especially valuable as a safe harbor for the terns, as other islands closer to the mainland have recently experienced predation by both birds and mammals. The greatest threat to this island probably would be an oil spill.

**Ownership/Access** – Outer Green Island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and landing on this seabird nesting island is prohibited during the nesting season (April 15 – July 31).

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name              | Maximum #, Unit, Year                  | Season   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 381 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1994 | Breeding |

|                 |              |   |          |
|-----------------|--------------|---|----------|
| T/E Species     | Roseate Tern | 36 Breeding Pairs <sup>20</sup> , 2005  | Breeding |
| Species at Risk | Common Tern  | 971 Breeding Pairs <sup>20</sup> , 2005 | Breeding |

**Upper Green Island  
Cumberland**

**Casco Bay Islands IBA**

**Description** – This small island is located about 1.5 miles northeast of Great Chebeague Island.

**Bird Resources** – Upper Green Island was, at one time, home to one of the largest colonies of Double-crested Cormorants in the state, with a high of 500 breeding pairs documented in the mid-1980s.

**Conservation Issues** – This site is in conservation ownership. Overboard discharge from boats as well as an oil spill, in or around the bay, are considered the primary threats.

**Ownership/Access** – Owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area, the island is closed to the public to protect nesting colonial water birds from April 15 through July 31 each year.

# Deer Isle IBA

Hancock County

Deer Isle is much more than a large coastal island. Comprised of two towns (Deer Isle and Stonington) the area is made up of dozens of smaller islands and ledges in East Penobscot Bay. Connected to the mainland by a bridge over Eggemoggin Reach, visitors traveling from the Blue Hill peninsula first arrive on Little Deer Isle, where excellent views of the reach are possible from Pumpkin Island Light at the northwest tip of Little Deer Isle. Deer Isle is connected to Little Deer Isle by a causeway, which at low tide, offers habitat for a variety of coastal birds. Many of the coves, such as Fish Creek, provide excellent habitat for wintering waterfowl. The islands and ledges south of Stonington are considered some of the most significant habitat for wintering Purple Sandpipers in Maine.

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## Hardhead Island Deer Isle

Deer Isle IBA

**Description** - This important wildlife island lies to the west of Deer Isle in east Penobscot Bay. It is treeless, but supports a near-perfect mix of vegetation for seabirds, including terns. Cliffs and rock rubble dominate the perimeter of the island.

**Bird Resources** - This island supports one of the largest Double-crested Cormorant colonies in East Penobscot Bay (166 pairs in 1995). Hardhead Island is one of the most productive non-managed tern nesting islands in Maine (95 pairs in 2006). Bald Eagles often prey on Herring Gull chicks from this island.

**Conservation Issues** - Because Deer Isle islands are in LURC jurisdiction, this island is zoned P-FW (Protection-Fish and Wildlife). An oil spill is considered the greatest threat to this island.

**Ownership/Access** – This island has been owned and managed by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife since at least 1973. Landing is prohibited on Hardhead Island between April 15 and July 31.

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>       | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 166 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider             | 450 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1981 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull             | 175 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1996 | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk            | Common Tern              | 95 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006  | Breeding      |

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**Scraggy Island  
Stonington**

**Deer Isle IBA**

*Description* – An 8.5-acre largely forested island located approximately three miles southwest of Stonington.

*Bird Resources* – Historically, the island had up to 200 nesting Common Eiders and 43 nesting pairs of Great Blue Herons. Heron numbers likely will decline as birds are displaced by the expanding Bald Eagle population. The island lies in the middle of a high quality wintering area for Purple Sandpipers with 400 birds documented here.

*Conservation Issues* - An easement ensures the conservation of the island, but off-shore threats include oil spills and other forms of pollution. Scraggy Island has been identified as a nationally significant seabird island and has been identified for potential acquisition by the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge provided there are willing sellers and federal funds available.

*Ownership/Access* – The island is privately owned, with a conservation easement held by Maine Coast Heritage Trust. There is no public access, consequently, viewing bird life here must be done from the water. The nearest public boat launch is in Stonington.

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**Scraggy Island Ledge  
Isle au Haut**

**Deer Isle IBA**

*Description* – The ledge is located approximately two miles south of Stonington.

*Bird Resources* – The ledge is an important winter roosting spot for as many as 600 Purple Sandpipers. Ospreys also nest on the ledge.

*Conservation Issues* – Threats include oil spills and other forms of pollution typical of coastal habitats.

*Ownership/Access* – The ledge is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and managed under the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. Public access to the ledge is prohibited from April 15 – July 31. During this period viewing birds must be from a boat only.

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**Shabby Island  
Deer Isle**

**Deer Isle IBA**

*Description* - This small (3.6-acre) seabird nesting island is located northeast of Stonington on the western edge of Jericho Bay. Low, dense vegetation is the dominant habitat type making it suitable for nesting seabirds and waterfowl.

**Bird Resources** - A diverse seabird nesting island with Common Eiders, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, Black Guillemots, and Double-crested Cormorants. This is a good site for nesting Common Eiders with 150 nests reported in 1984. Most significant is the large cormorant colony with an occasional Great Cormorant nesting within the boundaries of the primarily Double-crested Cormorant colony.

**Conservation Issues** – Because Deer Isle islands are in LURC jurisdiction, this island is zoned P-FW (Protection-Fish and Wildlife). Typical off-shore threats include oil spills and other forms of pollution.

**Ownership/Access** - Privately owned, but with easements held by both the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Acadia National Park. There is no public access. Viewing birds at this site must be strictly from the water. The nearest public boat launches are in Stonington, on Webb Cove, and on Whitmore Neck.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name              | Maximum #, Unit, Year                           | Season   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 312 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995          | Breeding |
| Species at Risk            | Purple Sandpiper         | 300 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> ,<br>2003 | Winter   |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull  | 135 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995          | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot          | 14 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995              | Breeding |

**Shingle Island  
Deer Isle**

**Deer Isle IBA**

**Description** – A small (9.2-acre) island located about four miles off-shore and east of Stonington.

**Bird Resources** – This small island is a consistent wintering spot for Purple Sandpipers, with as many as 300 congregating at any one time.

**Conservation Issues** – Because Deer Isle islands are in LURC jurisdiction, this island is zoned P-FW (Protection-Fish and Wildlife). Typical off-shore threats include oil spills and other forms of pollution.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is privately owned with an easement held by Acadia National Park. There is no public access.

# Duck Islands IBA

Hancock County

Comprised of two offshore islands that are largely wooded, this IBA is found approximately eight miles southeast of Mount Desert Island's Bass Harbor. These two remote islands host the largest Leach's Storm-petrel colonies in Maine, and in fact, on the east coast of the United States. In tandem, these protected islands provide significant nesting habitat for seabirds and Passerines, as well as significant stopover habitat for many migratory birds.

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## Great Duck Island Frenchboro

## Duck Islands IBA

**Description** – Great Duck Island is 220 acres in size and is located approximately eight miles southeast of Bass Harbor Head. Three major habitat types characterize the island's interior: perennial grass/raspberry meadow, spruce forest, and wetland. The perimeter of the island is dominated by rock out-croppings, and rock jumbles, with a couple of small cobble beaches. The island has a rich human history including a psychiatric clinic and a light station (constructed in 1890).

**Bird Resources** – Great Duck hosts the largest Leach's Storm-petrel colony along the east coast of the United States with historically over 5,000 breeding pairs. It also provides significant habitat for nesting Black Guillemots, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. A long-term productive Bald Eagle nest also can be found there. The upland and marsh habitat also may provide significant nesting and migratory stopover habitat for Passerines, raptors, shorebirds and waterfowl.

**Conservation Issues** – The College of The Atlantic maintains a field station on the island. One conservation concern unique to this site involves an introduced hare population (the origin and lineage of which can be debated) that can have significant impacts on the vegetation.

**Ownership/Access** - Great Duck Island is owned by The Nature Conservancy, the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and a private individual. The lighthouse, boathouse, and associated property are owned by the College of the Atlantic. Access to this island is restricted from February 15 through August 31. Access has not been granted to privately-owned portions of this island. Viewing the island's birdlife from the water is recommended.

### Selected Ornithological Data

| Criteria                   | Common Name          | Maximum #, Unit, Year                    | Season   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|----------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel | 5,040 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull         | 1,100 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot      | 749 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995      | Breeding |

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**Little Duck Island  
Frenchboro**

**Duck Islands IBA**

**Description** – Little Duck Island is the closest of the Duck Islands to Mount Desert Island and is located a ½ mile north of Great Duck Island. The island is 90 acres in size and is characterized by overgrown fields, maritime spruce-fir forest, rock outcrops, and rock jumbles. Little Duck differs from many coastal islands because its remote nature deters immigration of terrestrial mammals that can decimate seabird colonies. The loose soil, protection of the forest, and proximity to the open ocean makes this island nearly ideal for nesting Leach’s Storm-petrel.

**Bird Resources** – Little Duck represents the second largest Leach’s Storm-petrel colony on the east coast of the United States, second in size only to Great Duck. It also provides nesting habitat for Black Guillemots among the rock jumbles; gulls and Double-crested Cormorants atop the many rock out-crops as well as in small trees; and Common Eiders under the cover of trees, shrubs, and ferns. Additionally, the island likely provides a vital stopover area for neotropical migrants.

**Conservation Issues** – If future public access should increase, trail networks should be established to protect petrel burrows from collapsing. Both of the Duck Islands face a constant threat from an oil spill.

**Ownership/Access** – One of the first islands to come into conservation ownership on the coast of Maine, Little Duck is owned primarily by National Audubon. Acadia National Park also holds a conservation easement on a portion of the island. Access has not been granted to privately-owned portions of this island and access to lands in conservation ownership is difficult. Viewing from the water is recommended.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>       | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>             | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel     | 2,800 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 378 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995   | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk            | Great Cormorant          | Present <sup>4</sup> , 1999              | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider             | 400 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1977*  | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot          | 198 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995      | Breeding      |

\* No current estimate available.



**Brunswick Naval Air Station (including Mere Brook)  
Brunswick**

**Description** - This more than 1,400-acre property includes airfields, runways, towers, hangars and residential buildings. It has been managed as a Naval Air Base with permanent structures and landing strips since the early 1950s. Two areas within the base stand out as significant areas for birds. The southern portion of the base (Mere Brook and the surrounding wetlands) is characterized by high and low marsh habitats in an unusually large and unfragmented block. Because the area is on the Naval Air Station, the saltmarsh itself has very little human visitation or disturbance. A series of weapons bunkers and service roads are visible from the marsh in the uplands to the east. The second area within the base that is particularly valuable to birds is the northwestern portion that contains primarily grasslands (maintained in part by mowing for airstrips) as well as patches of pitch pine forest.

**Bird Resources** - Extensive airfields at this site are maintained as grassland habitat and are home to nesting Upland Sandpipers, Horned Larks, Bobolinks, Eastern Towhees, Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Field Sparrows and Vesper Sparrows. The site also has one of the highest concentrations of Savannah Sparrows recorded in the state. For its size, Mere Brook supports good numbers of both species of Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Herons, egrets, and numerous swallows forage here as well. Northern Goshawks have been observed at this site.

**Conservation Issues** - Contamination of ground water and soils from pesticides and fuel has been significantly reduced due to extensive clean-up efforts in the 1990s. Long-term monitoring is planned for the site. However, the base has been decommissioned and is due to close within the next ten years. Future ownership and management of this site is therefore unknown, but the likelihood of sustaining extensive grassland habitat is unlikely without extensive conservation efforts.

**Ownership/Access** - The site is owned by the Department of Defense. There is no public access without extensive security clearance.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

**BNAS, Mere Brook**

| Criteria        | Common Name                    | Maximum #, Unit, Year                  | Season   |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|----------|
| Species at Risk | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 17 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 10 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding |

***BNAS, Grasslands***

| <b>Criteria</b>                       | <b>Common Name</b>  | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>   | <b>Season</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| T/E Species                           | Upland Sandpiper    | 10 Adults <sup>21</sup> , 1985 | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk                       | Eastern Towhee      | Present <sup>8</sup> , 1998    | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk                       | Field Sparrow       | Present <sup>21</sup> , 1986   | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk                       | Vesper Sparrow      | 15 Adults <sup>21</sup> , 1985 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Migratory Landbirds | Savannah Sparrow    | 60 Adults <sup>8</sup> , 1998  | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                           | Grasshopper Sparrow | 15 Adults <sup>8</sup> , 1997  | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk                       | Bobolink            | Present <sup>8</sup> , 1998    | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk                       | Eastern Meadowlark  | 7 Adults <sup>8</sup> , 1997   | Breeding      |

**Maquoit Bay  
Brunswick**

Freeport IBA

**Description** - A narrow coastal bay south of Brunswick and east of Freeport with exposed mudflats at low tide.

**Bird Resources** - This area supports the highest documented concentrations of wintering American Black Ducks and Canada Geese in the state. A variety of shorebirds use this site as a feeding area during migration. In the spring, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal are among the many waterfowl species that feed and rest in the bay during migration. In addition, the marshes in the area support nesting Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows, and Bobolinks nest in neighboring upland fields.

**Conservation Issues** - The land surrounding the bay is highly desirable and subject to high development pressure. The Trust for Public Land has been working to purchase conservation easements and/or property bordering the bay. Increased recreational use in the bay could influence staging and wintering birds. Oil spills in neighboring Casco Bay are an on-going threat and could be devastating to wintering waterfowl that use the area.

**Ownership/Access** - Lands surrounding Maquoit Bay are a high priority for both local and regional land trusts, and many areas have either been acquired or subject to conservation easements. Because access remains difficult, the area is best viewed from the water. A public boat launch is available at Wharton Point at the end of Maquoit Rd in Brunswick.

***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>    | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Water birds | Canada Goose       | 800 Adults <sup>22</sup> , 2001 | Migration     |

|                               |                                |  |                   |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | American Black Duck            | 800 Adults <sup>22</sup> , 2001        | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Small Shorebirds               | 350 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1998         | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Plover            | 67 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1998          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Willet                         | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1998            | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Short-billed Dowitcher         | 21 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1998          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Forster's Tern                 | 12 Adults <sup>22</sup> , 1990         | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 10 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1998            | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Bobolink                       | 16 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |

## Harraseeket River Freeport

## Freeport IBA

**Description** - The Harraseeket River is a deep, but relatively short river, only about four miles long. The river was the site of boat building in the first half of the nineteenth century, with tall timbers for masts cut and transported here from adjacent forest lands. The site includes the length of the river, with major bird observation points at Winslow Park, Wildwood, and South Freeport Harbor.

**Bird Resources** - The Harraseeket River supports one of the highest documented concentrations of wintering Common Goldeneyes in Maine as well as several dozen wintering Barrow's Goldeneyes at any one time. The birds move throughout the river depending on the tide.

**Conservation Issues** - Part of the goldeneye wintering area is near, and actually in, a working harbor. The area is desirable for development, and there is pressure to develop the area for residential housing. The river and outlet are heavily used by recreational boaters and commercial fishermen. Increased boat traffic, moorings, and potential fuel spills could pose hazards for wintering birds.

**Ownership/Access** – With the exception of local parks and public landings, the surrounding properties are in private ownership.

### *Selected Ornithological Data*

#### South Freeport Harbor

| Criteria                      | Common Name      | Maximum #, Unit, Year          | Season |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Common Goldeneye | 100 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 2000 | Winter |

|                 |                    |                               |        |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| Species at Risk | Barrow's Goldeneye | 16 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 2000 | Winter |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------|

**Wildwood**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>   | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Common Goldeneye   | 190 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 2000 | Winter        |
| Species at Risk               | Barrow's Goldeneye | Present <sup>3</sup> , 2000    | Winter        |

**Winslow Park**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>   | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Common Goldeneye   | 375 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 2000 | Winter        |
| Species at Risk               | Barrow's Goldeneye | 18 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 2000  | Winter        |

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## Fort Foster Kittery

## Gerrish Island IBA

**Description** – Fort Foster was built in 1872 and remained active until 1949. A long pier extends off shore providing excellent views of Whaleback Lighthouse and Jerry's Point Lifesaving Station as well as the waters in between. On a clear day, the Isles of Shoals lighthouse is visible.

**Bird Resources** – Fort Foster is an excellent spot for migrating songbirds. As many as 90 species of birds have been recorded from this site. The pier offers a great platform for viewing water birds off shore (see Portsmouth Harbor description below).

**Conservation Issues** – This is a popular tourist attraction during the summer with thousands of visitors annually. Some disturbance is inevitable with that degree of human use. Other threats are believed minimal.

**Ownership/Access** – Fort Foster is owned by the Town of Kittery. The park is open May through Labor Day with an admission fee of \$10 per vehicle, including all occupants. Information is available at (207) 439-0333 or (207) 439-2182. Access is via Pocahontas Road in Kittery Point.

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                              | Common Name                 | Maximum #, Unit, Year                | Season              |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Raptors             | Raptors                     | 12 Species <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002 | Migration<br>Winter |
| Species at Risk                       | Black-throated Blue Warbler | 13 Adults <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002  | Spring<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk                       | Scarlet Tanager             | 6 Adults <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002   | Spring<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk                       | Eastern Towhee              | 4 Adults <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002   | Spring<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk                       | Bobolink                    | 9 Adults <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002   | Spring<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk                       | Rusty Blackbird             | 31 Adults <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002  | Fall<br>Migration   |
| Congregations:<br>Migratory Landbirds | Migratory Landbirds         | 90 Species <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002 | Spring<br>Migration |

**Portsmouth Harbor  
(and mouth of the Piscataqua River)  
Kittery**

**Gerrish Island IBA**

**Description** – Portsmouth Harbor and the mouth of the Piscataqua River are busy with boat traffic much of the year. The islands and ledges along the southern tip of Gerrish Island bring to mind Maine’s island-studded coast to the north.

**Bird Resources** – This area is especially important for wintering water birds including Great Cormorants that have numbered over 350 at one time. Large numbers of Razorbills and Purple Sandpipers can be found here in winter as well.

**Conservation Issues** – The busy port of Portsmouth as well the Naval Base on nearby Seavey Island present hazards to bird life primarily from the potential of a petroleum spill into these waters.

**Ownership/Access** – This site can be viewed easily from the pier at Fort Foster (see previous site description for this IBA) as well as via the park road at Fort Foster.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b> | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>         | <b>Season</b>       |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Congregations   | Water Birds        | 19 Species <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002 | Migration<br>Winter |
| Species at Risk | Great Cormorant    | 363 Adults <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002 | Winter              |
| Species at Risk | Purple Sandpiper   | 290 Adults <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002 | Winter              |
| T/E Species     | Razorbill          | 55 Adults <sup>23</sup> , 1990-2002  | Winter              |

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## Greater Isle au Haut IBA

## Knox and Hancock Counties

The Greater Isle au Haut IBA is located in outer Penobscot and Jericho Bays. This area consists of scattered islands and ledges located offshore from southern Vinalhaven and Deer Isle east to and including Isle au Haut, and to the islands just west of Swans Island. Some islands are dominated by spruce-fir forest communities, while others are vegetated by grasses, sedges, low shrubs, mosses and forbs. Numerous ledges can be found lying among these islands and are largely free of vegetation.

These islands provide an important migratory stopover during both spring and fall. Anecdotal reports list over 130 nesting species and a much larger number are known to migrate through this area. Although most visitors are limited by poor access to the islands and limited transportation and lodging facilities in the area, there are numerous opportunities to view many different songbirds, seabirds, and waterfowl throughout the year. Offshore waters provide a summer home to Common Eiders, gulls, and petrels that nest on the surrounding coastal islands. The area is very important to wintering Harlequin Ducks and Purple Sandpipers, and may be the core wintering area in eastern North America for both species. Large rafts of other ducks and seabirds use the area in the winter and Bald Eagles have become common here, as their populations have expanded in Maine.

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### Isle au Haut Isle au Haut

### Greater Isle au Haut IBA

**Description** – Isle au Haut is the largest island in this IBA spanning approximately 2,700 acres. The southern portion of the island is predominantly in federal ownership and includes a small tent-only campground and numerous hiking trails. The northern portion is largely privately owned with about 35 year-round residents swelling to over 200 residents during the summer. The bold rocky shoreline rings this island with numerous cobblestone coves and a few high cliffs on the most exposed headlands. The island is predominantly a mature maritime spruce-fir community.

**Bird Resources** – The complex shoreline provides abundant habitat for a diverse array of seabirds, shorebirds and ducks. This site is probably the most significant location for wintering Purple Sandpipers and Harlequin Ducks in eastern North America. The abundance of food resources and low disturbance make interior habitats favorable to eagles and landbirds as well.

**Conservation Issues** – Development in the northern portion of the island could threaten habitats and, in turn, some birds with increases in disturbance from recreation, land use, pets, etc. Another threat is the introduction of non-native species, both birds (e.g., game birds) and mammals (e.g., raccoons, furbearers, etc.). Although the potential for wildfire is a concern, disturbance to birds from a fire would be temporary. New habitats would quickly recover in burned areas, and would likely create a mosaic of plant communities. The potential for a hazardous spill or pollution from discharge of ballast is ever present.

**Ownership/Access** - Ownership is a complex of private and Federal property. Conserved lands here are owned and managed by Acadia National Park. Access to the island is by boat from Stonington.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria        | Common Name      | Maximum #, Unit, Year                            | Season   |
|-----------------|------------------|--|----------|
| T/E Species     | Harlequin Duck   | 150 Adults <sup>17</sup> and <sup>4</sup> , 2002 | Winter   |
| T/E Species     | Bald Eagle       | 3 Breeding Pairs <sup>17</sup> , 2002            | Breeding |
| Species at Risk | Purple Sandpiper | 300 Adults <sup>17</sup> , 2002                  | Winter   |

**Great Spoon Island  
Isle au Haut**

**Greater Isle au Haut IBA**

**Description** – Great Spoon is a treeless island lying east of Little Spoon Island and the southeastern tip of Isle au Haut’s Eastern Ear. It has a long history of human uses including egg hunting, feather and down collecting, and sheep grazing.

**Bird Resources** – The complex rocky shoreline of the island provides a diversity of habitats for nesting Common Eiders, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Cormorants, and Leach’s Storm-petrels. Good numbers of most seabirds and eiders have been recorded there. Great Spoon is one of only nine islands coast-wide with Great Cormorants and one of less than 20 islands with both Common and Arctic Terns. The area is known to be used by Harlequin Ducks throughout the winter and is suspected to be used by Purple Sandpipers. Bald Eagles are seen here regularly.

**Conservation Issues** – The rough shoreline, difficult access, and exposed location limit the threats common to other island IBAs. Protection at Great Spoon is enhanced by the recent acquisition of Little Spoon Island by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. However, a hazardous spill or the on-going ballast discharge from the large number of cruise ships and Canadian-bound tankers that pass by the island potentially pose a more damaging threat with long-lasting effects.

**Ownership/Access** - The site is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and managed as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. This seabird nesting island is closed to public use annually from April 15 to August 31.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name              | Maximum #, Unit, Year                 | Season   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel     | 20 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 79 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk            | Great Cormorant          | 35 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1999 | Breeding |



|                            |                         |  |          |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider            | 492 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1992 | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Harlequin Duck          | 102 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 1998         | Winter   |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull            | 420 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull | 314 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk            | Common Tern             | 65 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2003  | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot         | 450 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995    | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Arctic Tern             | Present <sup>4</sup> , 2004            | Breeding |

## Little Spoon Islands Isle au Haut

## Greater Isle au Haut IBA

**Description** – A treeless island lying east of the southeastern tip of the Isle au Haut, and west of Great Spoon Island. Smaller than Great Spoon, this island also has a long history of human uses including egg gathering, feather and down collecting, and sheep grazing.

**Bird Resources** – The complex rocky shoreline provides a diversity of habitats for nesting Common Eiders, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Cormorants, and gulls. The island supports one of the larger Black Guillemot breeding colonies in coastal Maine. It is unknown whether petrels use the island for nesting. The shoreline area is probably used by Purple Sandpipers, and is known to be used by Harlequin Ducks throughout the winter. The rich seabird population provides a stable food base for local Bald Eagles.

**Conservation Issues** – This island’s conservation status is enhanced by its proximity to state-owned Great Spoon. The rough shoreline, difficult access, and exposed location may lessen the potential list of threats and their severity for this island. The site falls under a “forever wild” conservation easement. However, a hazardous spill or the on-going ballast discharge from the large number of cruise ships and Canadian-bound tankers that pass by the island potentially pose a more damaging threat with long-lasting effects.

**Ownership/Access** – The island was recently acquired by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge and is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 1 – August 31).

### Selected Ornithological Data

| Criteria                   | Common Name              | Maximum #, Unit, Year                  | Season   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 194 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk            | Great Cormorant          | 105 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1991 | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Harlequin Duck           | 86 Adults <sup>30</sup> , 1996         | Winter   |

|                            |                         |  |          |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull | 177 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot         | 600 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995    | Breeding |

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**John's Island**  
**Swan Island**

**Greater Isle au Haut IBA**

**Description** – The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired this 43-acre island in 1998. The island is primarily covered with low grasses and forbs with a few patches of woody shrubs. The perimeter of the island is granite ledge, ranging from gradual slopes to steep cliff.

**Bird Resources** – Both the sizes of the colonies and the diversity of species make John's Island unique. Nesting species include Common Eider, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, Black Guillemot, Double-crested Cormorant, and Great Cormorant. The island is also a harbor seal pupping area.

**Conservation Issues** – This island is difficult to access because of its rough shoreline and exposed location. This lessens the potential threats to the island. The potential for a hazardous spill or the problems associated with ballast discharge from the large number of cruise ships and Canadian-bound tankers that pass by the island all year pose a potentially serious threat.

**Ownership/Access** - The island has full conservation protection and is administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. It is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 1 – August 31).

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>       | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>             | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 158 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995   | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk            | Great Cormorant          | 20 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995    | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider             | 1,000 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1996 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull             | 600 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1986   | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull  | 400 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1986   | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot          | 450 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995      | Breeding      |

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**Heron Island**  
**Swans Island**

**Greater Isle au Haut IBA**

**Description** – Heron Island is treeless, primarily covered with herbaceous vegetation and patches of woody shrubs. The island is surrounded by granite boulders and ledges that range from gradually sloping to small steep cliffs.

**Bird Resources** – Common Eider, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, Black Guillemot, Double-crested Cormorant, Leach’s Storm-petrel, and Great Cormorant all nest on the island. Harlequin Ducks use the near-shore habitats during the winter.

**Conservation Issues** – The rough shoreline, difficult access, and exposed location lessen the number of potential threats and reduce their severity. The potential for a hazardous spill or the problems associated with ballast discharge from the large number of cruise ships and Canadian-bound tankers that pass by the island all year poses a potentially serious threat. A full survey of nesting Leach’s Storm-petrels has not been completed.

**Ownership/Access** - The island has full conservation protection and is administered by Acadia National Park. It is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 1 – August 15).

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name             | Maximum #, Unit, Year                    | Season   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| T/E Species                | Harlequin Duck          | 84 Adults <sup>30</sup> , 1999           | Winter   |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull            | 1,344 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull | 182 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995   | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot         | 193 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995   | Breeding |

**Spirit Ledge**  
**Swans Island**

**Greater Isle au Haut IBA**

**Description** - This site is located northeast of Isle au Haut near Boxam Cove on Marshall Island. This barren granite ledge is quite exposed to the southeast where there is little buffer from the open ocean.

**Bird Resources** – This ledge is not used by nesting birds, but instead is an important wintering area for Harlequin Ducks and Purple Sandpipers. Approximately 10,000 Common Eiders were observed in surrounding waters while molting during September 2005.

**Conservation Issues** - Oil spills and other overboard discharge pose the greatest threat to this site and surrounding waters. Its remote location and barren condition help to shield it from disturbance by recreationists.

**Ownership/Access** - The site is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and managed as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. Spirit Ledge is closed to public use from April 15 to July 31, annually.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                | Common Name      | Maximum #, Unit, Year                        | Season |
|-------------------------|------------------|--|--------|
| Congregations: Seabirds | Common Eider     | 10,000 Adults, 2005                          | Winter |
| T/E Species             | Harlequin Duck   | 88 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 1991                | Winter |
| Species at Risk         | Purple Sandpiper | 300 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1991 | Winter |

**The Cowpens/Whitehorse Island/  
White and Green Ledges  
Isle au Haut**

**Greater Isle au Haut IBA**

**Description** - These sites are located east and northeast of Isle au Haut. Mostly barren granite ledges, these sites are exposed to the southeast with little protection from the open Atlantic.

**Bird Resources** – Greatest importance of these sites is providing wintering habitat for Harlequin Ducks and Purple Sandpipers. Large numbers of Common Eiders are found here as well. A large Double-crested Cormorant colony can be found at The Cowpen.

**Conservation Issues** - Oil spills and other overboard discharges pose the greatest threat to these sites and surrounding waters. Its remote location and barren condition shield it from disturbance by recreationists.

**Ownership/Access** - These sites are owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and managed as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. They are closed to public use from April 15 to July 31 each year.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

**The Cow Pen (E)**

| Criteria        | Common Name      | Maximum #, Unit, Year                        | Season   |
|-----------------|------------------|--|----------|
| T/E Species     | Harlequin Duck   | 80 Adults <sup>30</sup> , 1998               | Winter   |
| Species at Risk | Purple Sandpiper | 250 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1998 | Winter   |
| Species at Risk | Common Tern      | 96 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2005        | Breeding |

**Green Ledge**

| <b>Criteria</b> | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                    | <b>Season</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|---------------|
| Species at Risk | Purple Sandpiper   | 275 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> ,<br>2003 | Winter        |

**White Horse Island**

| <b>Criteria</b> | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>   | <b>Season</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| T/E Species     | Harlequin Duck     | 39 Adults <sup>30</sup> , 1997 | Winter        |

**White Ledge**

| <b>Criteria</b> | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                    | <b>Season</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|---------------|
| T/E Species     | Harlequin Duck     | 75 Adults <sup>30</sup> , 1998                  | Winter        |
| Species at Risk | Purple Sandpiper   | 200 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> ,<br>1989 | Winter        |

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# Intervale Marshes IBA

Cumberland County

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## Morgan Meadow Wildlife Management Area Raymond

## Intervale Marshes IBA

**Description** - Morgan Meadow Wildlife Management Area is a largely forested parcel bisected by Sucker Brook. A powerline corridor runs east-west through the area. Approximately 100 acres of this 1,100-acre management area are wetland. Predominant wetland types include emergent marsh and scrub-shrub. The uplands are characterized by largely mixed forest. The meadow itself probably results from an impoundment formed by a rock and earthen dam dating to the late 1800s. Remnants of an abandoned mill site are still present.

**Bird Resources** - For its size, Morgan Meadow has a diverse group of Maine's marshbirds including Green and Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Sora and Virginia Rail. The surrounding uplands provide excellent habitat for forest birds, including many species of thrushes and warblers. Species recorded during surveys in 2000 included Nashville Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Wilson's Warbler.

**Conservation Issues** - This site was acquired by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in 1990. Few improvements have been made and there are minimal conservation concerns. Future acquisition of abutting parcels is desirable but will depend on availability of funds and opportunities. Sustainable harvest of timber will likely take place in the future.

**Ownership/Access** - This site is owned and managed by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Access is restricted to foot traffic as the main road is gated. A small parking area is provided on the Egypt Road approximately 2.5 miles east of Route 85 (East Raymond).

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>  | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>          | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Green Heron         | Present <sup>6</sup> , 2000           | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Northern Harrier    | Present <sup>6</sup> , 2000           | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Virginia Rail       | 8 Breeding Adults <sup>6</sup> , 2000 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Sora                | Present <sup>6</sup> , 2000           | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Black-billed Cuckoo | 3 Breeding Adults <sup>6</sup> , 2000 | Breeding      |

**Appledore/Smuttynose/Duck Islands  
Kittery**

**Isle of Shoals IBA**

**Description** – These three islands are part of an archipelago on the Maine/New Hampshire border. The Isles were a favorite stop for fisherman prior to colonial times. Celia Thaxter, island poet, made the islands famous in her many writings. Appledore Island is home to Shoals Marine Laboratory which offers experiential education in an offshore setting. This is an important seabird island complex, in part because it abuts a long stretch of water with few islands to the south.

**Bird Resources** – Appledore supports Glossy Ibis, Black-crowned Night-herons, and gulls, as well as a sizeable colony of Snowy Egrets. Appledore has long been the site of an extensive songbird banding program. Duck Island is home to a large colony of Double-crested Cormorants. Smuttynose is best known for its Herring and Great Black-backed Gull colony.

**Conservation Issues** - Raccoon predation has been a problem. Disturbance is inevitable on Appledore with so many buildings and human inhabitants. However, staff of Shoals Marine Lab are sensitive to the needs of seabirds nesting on this island where they also live and work.

**Ownership/Access** – The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns Duck Island and recently acquired an easement on Smuttynose. Appledore is owned by Cornell University. All are zoned Significant Wildlife Habitat under NRPA. For more information regarding Duck or Smuttynose, contact the Maine Coastal Island National Wildlife Refuge in Rockport, Maine. Visit [www.sml.cornell.edu](http://www.sml.cornell.edu) for information on Appledore Island. Smuttynose is closed to human activity during the seabird nesting season (April 1 – July 31). Duck Island is closed at all time due to unexploded ordinances on the island.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

**Appledore Island/Boon Island Ledge**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>        | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>            | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret               | 125 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1984  | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Black-crowned Night-heron | 50 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1989   | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Glossy Ibis               | 40 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995      | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Herring Gull              | 1083 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Great Black-backed Gull   | 841 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995  | Breeding      |

**Duck Island**

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>       | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>             | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 1,388 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2005 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull  | 301 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995      | Breeding      |

**Smuttynose Island**

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>      | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>             | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull            | 387 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995   | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull | 1,030 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding      |

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## The Plains Kennebunk

## Kennebunk Plains IBA

**Description** - The Plains is a large sandplain grassland in the town of Kennebunk. The site is composed of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs. The substrate is a thick bed of sand up to 100 feet deep. Grasses and other plants there are well-adapted to this xeric habitat.

**Bird Resources** - A distinctive group of grassland birds breed at this site. Upland Sandpipers, Grasshopper Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Bobolinks all occur here. The forest edges support nesting Whip-poor-wills, Black-billed Cuckoos, and an assortment of warblers, and on occasion, local rarities such as Clay-colored Sparrow and Lark Bunting.

**Conservation Issues** - The site is in conservation ownership. The habitat is managed with periodic prescribed burning and mowing. The site is popular with birders and hikers, and it is important that naturalists and all visitors respect the regulations designed to protect nesting birds. Managing human use at this site is a constant struggle. Dumping trash and driving through The Plains during the nesting season is unfortunately far too common.

**Ownership/Access** – The Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife owns over 1000 acres in the area with a conservation easement on an additional 200+ acres. The Nature Conservancy owns an abutting parcel of approximately 135 acres. Lands owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy are cooperatively managed. There are two main access points, one approximately 3.5 miles west of I-95 on Route 99, and another via the McGuire Road about ½ mile east of the junction with Route 99. Travel throughout the plains is restricted during the nesting season and numerous signs describe suitable uses of this area.

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria            | Common Name         | Maximum #, Unit, Year              | Season           |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Species at Risk     | Northern Harrier    | Present <sup>24</sup>              | Spring Migration |
| Species at Risk     | Cooper's Hawk       | Present <sup>24</sup>              | Breeding         |
| T/E Species         | Upland Sandpiper    | 11 Males Only <sup>18</sup> , 2003 | Breeding         |
| Species at Risk     | Black-billed Cuckoo | Present <sup>24</sup>              | Breeding         |
| Species at Risk     | Whip-poor-will      | Present <sup>24</sup>              | Breeding         |
| Migratory Landbirds | Horned Lark         | 4 Males Only <sup>18</sup> , 2002  | Breeding         |
| Species at Risk     | Wood Thrush         | Present <sup>24</sup>              | Breeding         |
| Species at Risk     | Blue-winged Warbler | Present <sup>7</sup> , 2000        | Breeding         |

|                        |                     |                                    |          |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Species at Risk        | Prairie Warbler     | Present <sup>7</sup> , 2000        | Breeding |
| Species at Risk        | Eastern Towhee      | Present <sup>7</sup> , 2000        | Breeding |
| Species at Risk        | Field Sparrow       | Present <sup>7</sup> , 2000        | Breeding |
| Species at Risk        | Vesper Sparrow      | 41 Males Only <sup>18</sup> , 2002 | Breeding |
| Migratory<br>Landbirds | Savannah Sparrow    | 42 Males Only <sup>18</sup> , 2001 | Breeding |
| T/E Species            | Grasshopper Sparrow | 49 Males Only <sup>18</sup> , 2001 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk        | Bobolink            | 30 Males Only <sup>18</sup> , 2002 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk        | Eastern Meadowlark  | 27 Males Only <sup>18</sup> , 2002 | Breeding |

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## **Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area (Including Sprague and Morse River Saltmarshes) Phippsburg**

## **Lower Kennebec IBA**

**Description** – The Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area is comprised of about 600 acres in Phippsburg extending from the Sprague River to the Morse River and to the upland edge of Seawall Beach. Habitats include the sandy Seawall Beach, one of the few remaining unaltered barrier dune systems in Maine, two extensive tidal marshes, and unique forested habitat (maritime spruce-fir forest and pitch pine woodlands).

**Bird Resources** – The mix of habitats and the undisturbed nature of the area provide a unique setting for breeding and migrating birds. The area offshore has concentrations of several hundred wintering American Black Ducks and Common Eiders. The mile-long beach is an annual nesting area for Piping Plovers, and also has been the site of a Least Tern colony in the past. During migration, it becomes a staging and feeding area for flocks of Sanderlings, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, and other shorebirds.

The dense woodlands dominated by spruce and fir, and the hardwood area dominated by oak, are populated by warblers, woodpeckers, and other songbirds. Hermit Thrushes and American Robins, for example, are often observed at the boundaries where the marsh and forest meet.

The two extensive saltmarshes support a variety of wading birds, including Great Blue Herons, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Snowy and Great Egrets, and most recently Glossy Ibis. Both Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows nest in the tall marsh grasses. Northern Harriers, Osprey, and Bald Eagles hunt the pools and channels. Various duck species breed in the extensive ditch system, as well as stop over during migration.

**Conservation Issues** – The beach is relatively undeveloped, with only two seasonal homes located above the sand dunes at the far northern end. A walk of slightly over one mile from the parking lot to the beach significantly reduces the number of people using the beach for recreation. Visitors number about 12,000 during the year.

**Ownership/Access** – The preserve is private property owned by the Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area Corporation, a non-profit corporation with members from the St. John Family, (which originally conserved the area), Bates College, and the general public. Much of Seawall Beach is owned by the Small Point Association. The Nature Conservancy holds conservation easements on the property and owns a small portion of both the Sprague River and Morse River saltmarshes. The Maine Department of Conservation (Bureau of Parks and Lands) owns a portion of the Morse River saltmarsh as part of Popham Beach State Park. Bates College manages the area for research and educational purposes. Public access is off of Route 216 and parking is limited to about 40 cars, with access suspended if the lot is full. Dogs are not allowed at any time of year.

## ***Selected Ornithological Data***

### **Morse River Marsh**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>             | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>            | <b>Season</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------|
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover                  | 8 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993            | Migration     |
| Species at Risk              | Willet                         | 10 Adults <sup>1,2</sup> , 1997         | Migration     |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Sanderling                     | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993          | Migration     |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper         | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993          | Migration     |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper                | 100 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk              | Common Tern                    | 16 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                  | Arctic Tern                    | 6 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997   | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                  | Least Tern                     | 3 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997   | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk              | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 22 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk              | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 7 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997   | Breeding      |

### **Seawall Beach**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>         | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                               | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Shorebirds (any/all sizes) | 1,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                           | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover              | 10 Breeding Pairs and 8<br>Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 2001 | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Sanderling                 | 275 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                             | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper     | 175 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                             | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Least Tern                 | 12 Breeding Pairs and 2<br>Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |

### **Sprague River Marsh**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>        | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Egret               | 5 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Black-crowned Night-Heron | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1998            | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Plover       | 25 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Willet                    | 6 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998  | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Common Tern               | 26 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                   | Least Tern                | 4 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998  | Breeding      |

|                 |                                |  |          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|----------|
| Species at Risk | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 18 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 6 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998  | Breeding |

**Popham Beach State Park  
Phippsburg**

**Lower Kennebec IBA**

**Description** – Bordered to the west by the Morse River and to the east by the Kennebec River, Popham Beach State Park encompasses over 500 acres of stunning sand beach, tidal saltmarsh, river estuary, and dune habitat. Surrounding uplands are dominated by pitch pine and heath shrub, with higher elevations characterized by oak/pine woodland and open ocean vistas. The site is named in honor of George Popham who together with 100 men attempted to build a settlement here in 1607. Fort Baldwin, less than two miles east on the Kennebec, was built in 1905 and is a favorite stop of summer visitors to the area.

**Bird Resources** – Important breeding species include Piping Plover and Least Tern in the sandy beach and dune areas. The marsh harbors good numbers of breeding Saltmarsh and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow and Willet. This is an important migratory stopover site for shorebirds, gulls, and terns, as well as waterfowl, including significant numbers of American Black Ducks. Migrant and wintering Ipswich Sparrows are reported from here annually. Purple Sandpipers use the rocky headlands. Sea ducks are numerous and easily observed here. Rough-legged Hawks use the marsh area in late fall and winter.

**Conservation Issues** – The site is visited by thousands of tourists, especially in summer. The number of visitors to this area presents substantial management issues that to date have been well managed. Although this site is protected, birds nesting along the beaches face serious pressure from predation and from dogs running off-leash. The park is adjacent to a major shipping channel and thus there are potential threats from spills or other hazards associated with shipping. Sampling of mercury in the blood of sharp-tailed sparrows indicated elevated levels.

**Ownership/Access** – The park is owned and managed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. Popham Beach State Park is accessed via Route 209 about 15 miles south of Bath.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                     | Common Name            | Maximum #, Unit, Year                                 | Season            |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover          | 3 Fledgling and 2 Breeding Pairs <sup>15</sup> , 1999 | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Sanderling             | 120 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1982                        | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 150 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                        | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Least Tern             | 15 Breeding Pairs <sup>15</sup> , 1997                | Breeding          |

**Reid State Park  
Georgetown**

**Lower Kennebec IBA**

**Description** – Much like Popham Beach just one peninsula away, Reid State Park is characterized by broad sandy beach, dunes, and coastal woodland. The tidal marsh of the Little River flanks the western border of the park. The mouth of Sheepscot Bay lies to the East. Here too, thousands of visitors come each summer to enjoy the sand, sun, and surf. Local businessman, Walter E. Reid, donated the property to the State of Maine in 1946, making it the first state-owned saltwater beach in Maine.

**Bird Resources** – As many birders will attest, this is a great spot to see Piping Plovers and Least Terns. The saltmarsh along the Little River and behind Mile Beach provide feeding habitat for Common and Least Terns, and numerous species of herons and egrets. Both Saltmarsh and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows nest here. Ledges offshore are favorite roosts for Great Cormorants in winter.

**Conservation Issues** – Similar to Popham, the site is in conservation ownership. The number of visitors to this area presents significant challenges to balancing conservation and public use. Despite its conservation status, beach-nesting birds are confronted with challenges from predation (fox and raccoon) and from dogs walking off-leash. As with other coastal sites, threats from oil spills and other hazardous cargo being spilled overboard is ever present.

**Ownership/Access** – Reid State Park is owned and managed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. The park is located at the end of the Sequinland Road in Georgetown about 15 miles south of Woolwich via Route 127.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                     | Common Name                    | Maximum #, Unit, Year                                     | Season            |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover            | 250 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                            | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover                  | 7 Breeding Pairs and 19<br>Fledgling <sup>15</sup> , 2003 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Willet                         | 17 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1997                             | Migration         |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone                | 8 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                              | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Sanderling                     | 320 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                            | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper         | 327 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                            | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Least Tern                     | 35 Breeding Pairs <sup>15</sup> , 1998                    | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 12 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997                    | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 2 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997                     | Breeding          |

# Machias Bay IBA

## Washington County

This region marks the easternmost edge of Maine’s island-studded coastline. Further east, the coast is dominated by headlands flanking the Grand Manan Channel. This area is lightly developed, though oceanfront homes dot the coast, even here in the heart of Downeast Maine. Working harbors abound with activity, especially in the summer months. Tourism is evident, but significantly less than in coastal communities south of Mount Desert Island.

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### Machias Bay Machiasport

### Machias Bay IBA

**Description** – Machias Bay extends from the mouth of the Machias River at Machiasport to the Libby islands approximately three miles offshore. The eastern side of the bay is split by Sprague Neck, with the northeaster portion known as Holmes Bay. At low tide, significant tidal flats can be found. Numerous small islands and barren ledges provide habitat for seabirds and wintering waterfowl.

**Bird Resources** – Machias Bay is an especially important area for feeding and roosting shorebirds especially peeps. This area also supports large numbers of wintering Black Ducks.

**Conservation Issues** – Portions of Machias Bay are designated as Areas of Shorebird Management Concern that qualify as Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act. This requires a permit for placement of permanent structures such as docks within the intertidal zone. Increasing coastal development is always a threat to sensitive species such as shorebirds. Though Washington County, in general, is not characterized by the rate of development that has been seen in southern and midcoast Maine, waterfront property is always at a premium. Threats from a coastal oil spill could have serious consequences for marine life in Machias Bay.

**Ownership/Access** – The bulk of the lands in this area are privately owned. The best viewing, therefore, is by water. Public boat launches are available in the village of Machiasport and in Bucks Harbor.

#### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>  | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>               | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds    | 870 Adults & Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1991 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover | 250 Adults & Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1991 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Willet              | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1996                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel            | 80 Adults & Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1996  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone     | 40 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994              | Fall<br>Migration |

|                              |                        |  |                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Sanderling             | 200 Adults & Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1996   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 1,800 Adults & Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1991 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Dunlin                 | 6 Adults & Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1994     | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 11 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                | Fall<br>Migration |

## Sprague Neck Cutler

## Machias Bay IBA

**Description** – Sprague Neck is a peninsula of land dividing Machias Bay to the west and south and Holmes Bay to the north and east. A gravel spit, approximately ½ mile long, is found on the north end of the neck. Extensive mudflats are found in nearby Holmes Bay.

**Bird Resources** – The neck and surrounding flats are extremely important for shorebird feeding and roosting.

**Conservation Issues** – Nearby Holmes Bay is designated as an Area of Shorebird Management Concern that qualifies as Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act. A permit is required for placement of permanent structures such as docks within the intertidal zone. Coastal development along the shore of Holmes Bay could be a problem at some point in the future. Threats from a coastal oil spill could have serious consequences for shorebirds and the marine invertebrates on which they depend. Disturbance associated with clamming and worming can be a problem when large numbers of persons use the area. Also, use of airboats to access the flats for clamming can be disturbing to shorebirds.

**Ownership/Access** – Sprague Neck is currently owned by the U. S. Dept. of the Navy, as the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station - Cutler. Although the area includes an ecological reserve and a watchable wildlife site, access is difficult and best made in writing well in advance of visiting the area. Birds feeding and roosting in the area can be viewed from the water and boat launches in Machiasport and Bucks Harbor facilitate access to locations throughout Machias Bay.

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                     | Common Name          | Maximum #, Unit, Year                       | Season            |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Black-bellied Plover | 250 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994              | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover  | 224 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1991              | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover        | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1994                 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel             | 24 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1991 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone      | 10 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994               | Fall<br>Migration |



|                              |                        |   |                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 2000 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1994 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Western Sandpiper      | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1991                   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper        | 150 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Dunlin                 | 7 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1994    | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 400 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1991  | Fall<br>Migration |

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## Old Man Island Cutler

## Machias Bay IBA

**Description** – Old Man Island lies just beyond the mouth of Little Machias Bay, about four miles southwest of Cutler. This important wildlife island is small and treeless.

**Bird Resources** – This is an extremely important seabird island at the edge of the “Bold Coast”. This site is especially well known for its large colony of Razorbills with 160 pairs present in 1999. Numerous other seabirds nest here as well, including Double-crested Cormorants, Common Eiders, Black Guillemots, Leach’s Storm-petrels, and gulls. Of note, in 1907, this island supported the only two remaining pairs of eiders nesting on the entire coast of Maine.

**Conservation Issues** – This island was one of the first to come into conservation ownership by a government agency in coastal Maine. It is zoned Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and managed as part of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Access to this seabird nesting island is restricted from April 1 through August 31.

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name              | Maximum #, Unit, Year                  | Season   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel     | 400 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 306 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1991 | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Razorbill                | 160 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1999    | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot          | 125 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1999    | Breeding |

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**Libby Islands**  
**Machiasport**

**Machias Bay IBA**

*Description* – Big and little Libby Islands are mostly treeless and lie in outer Machias Bay.

*Bird Resources* – At one time, over 1500 Common Eiders nested on these islands. They are also especially important Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull nesting sites. Large numbers of Leach’s Storm-petrels are believed to nest here as well. Furthermore, the shoreline is especially good habitat for Black Guillemots. There has been a large population of resident Canada Geese nesting here in recent years.

*Conservation Issues* – An active aquaculture site is adjacent to these islands. It is not clear whether there is any effect on nesting or feeding seabirds. These islands are zoned as Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act.

*Ownership/Access* – Big Libby Island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and managed as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. It was purchased with funds from the first state duck stamp print in 1984. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service assumed ownership of Little Libby Island when it took responsibility for the lighthouse there. Landing at either of the Libby Islands is restricted from April 1 through August 31.

*Selected Ornithological Data*

**Big Libby Island**

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>      | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>             | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel    | Present <sup>4</sup> , 1994              | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider            | 450 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1994   | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull            | 2,160 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull | 1,400 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1991 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot         | 101 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 2001      | Breeding      |

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## Milbridge to Addison IBA

Washington County

The many bays, coves, and flats between Milbridge and Addison are widely recognized as an area of continental significance for shorebird conservation. The fertile waters and sheltered shores allow migrant shorebirds the opportunity to stopover and put on fat stores before a long flight to wintering grounds in the southern hemisphere. This area in western Washington County is crowned by four small towns: Milbridge, Cherryfield, Harrington, and Addison. These villages are not widely considered tourist destinations, but rather hubs of local commerce. As such, the coast here is largely undisturbed. The area supports a local fishing community, where clamming is especially important. In addition to the thousands of shorebirds that can be found here, the area is also well known for Bald Eagles and wintering Black Ducks. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows breed in the saltmarshes at the head of the many rivers in this area.

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### Narraguagus River & Bay/Back Bay Milbridge

### Milbridge to Addison IBA

**Description** –The landscape of the Milbridge area is dominated by the Narraguagus River. This river drains an extensive area of western Washington and eastern Hancock Counties. Back Bay is an expansive mudflat at low tide with surrounding components of eelgrass beds and emergent saltmarsh. At high tide there is an exposed ledge in the center of the bay where shorebirds, including large numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers, roost. Bald Eagles are commonly seen throughout the area.

**Bird Resources** – The area supports productive feeding flats for thousands of migrating shorebirds from July through September. The mouth of the Narraguagus River, together with Back Bay, are important sites for wintering Black Ducks.

**Conservation Issues** – Although several camps and permanent residences surround the bay, human disturbance is minimal due to the expansive mudflat area. The flats here are designated as an Area of Shorebird Management Concern that qualifies as Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act. As such, a permit is required prior to placement of permanent structures such as docks within the intertidal zone.

**Ownership/Access** – Surrounding lands are mostly privately owned though the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife does own a small parcel in Milbridge with frontage on both the Narraguagus River and Route 1A. Parking is extremely limited. A public boat launch is available at the mouth of the Narraguagus River and on Rays Point Road which provide the best opportunity for viewing this area from the water. Portions of Back Bay may be viewed from Rays Point Road itself.

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

#### **Narraguagus River**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>   | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper        | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996 | Migration         |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 300 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996 | Fall<br>Migration |

#### **Narraguagus River Marshes**

| <b>Criteria</b> | <b>Common Name</b>            | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------|
| T/E Species     | Bald Eagle                    | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1999            | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 18 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1999 | Breeding      |

#### **Smith Cove**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>    | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds       | 1000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover    | 274 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 1282 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999 | Fall<br>Migration |

#### **Dyer Cove**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                 | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds       | 700 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1996 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover    | 200 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 3000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989              | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 30 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999                | Fall<br>Migration |

#### **Pigeon Hill Bay**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                 | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds       | 660 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1996 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Black-bellied Plover   | 110 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Yellowlegs Spp.        | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Willet                 | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1996                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 326 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 300 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996               | Fall<br>Migration |

|                              |                |                                |           |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Dowitcher Spp. | 370 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Migration |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|

### Back Bay

| Criteria                     | Common Name            | Maximum #, Unit, Year            | Season            |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds       | 4,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Greater Yellowlegs     | 200 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Yellowlegs Spp.        | 500 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Lesser Yellowlegs      | 125 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | 50 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994    | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 1,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 300 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999   | Fall<br>Migration |

### Mill River/Flat Bay/Blasket Point Milbridge and Harrington

### Milbridge-Addison IBA

**Description** – Mill River is a meandering tidal river with extensive saltwater marsh and pannes on both banks and on adjacent Cole Creek. Mill River empties into Flat Bay, which together with Blasket Point, has substantial mudflats at low tide. The flats are easily viewed from Oak Point.

**Bird Resources** – The mudflats in this area are extremely productive, feeding thousands of shorebirds, primarily Semipalmated Sandpipers, but also Least Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, and Short-billed Dowitchers. The Mill River offers salt pannes for feeding and roosting shorebirds at high tide when the flats are unavailable. This area also hosts wintering Bonaparte’s gulls and an abundance of waterfowl.

**Conservation Issues** – This site is designated as an Area of Shorebird Management Concern by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and qualifies as Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act. This requires permit review regarding placement of permanent structures within the intertidal zone or saltwater marsh. Upland and marsh habitat on Mill Point have been acquired recently by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Although surrounding upland areas are presently undeveloped, the potential for future developments and associated human disturbances is a concern.

**Ownership/Access** - Surrounding lands are mostly privately owned though the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife does own a parcel in Mill River as well as a conservation easement nearby. Public boat launches are available on Rays Point Road in Milbridge and Ripley Neck in Harrington. These provide the best opportunities for viewing this area from the water. Only

limited views of Flat Bay can be made from Rays Point Road. A primitive boat launch at Oak Point provides decent views of Flat Bay and an opportunity to launch as well.

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

#### **Mill River**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>     | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds       | 500 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Black-bellied Plover   | 160 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover    | 300 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel               | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1994      | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 4,300 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | White-rumped Sandpiper | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 200 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |

#### **Flat Bay**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>         | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>     | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Shorebirds (any/all sizes) | 3,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds           | 2,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Black-bellied Plover       | 250 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Greater Yellowlegs         | 200 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Lesser Yellowlegs          | 125 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper     | 600 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher     | 200 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996   | Migration         |

#### **Basket Point**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>     | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds   | 2,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Greater Yellowlegs | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Lesser Yellowlegs  | 150 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel           | 3 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994     | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone    | 20 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994    | Fall<br>Migration |

|                              |                        |                                  |                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 1,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994   | Fall<br>Migration |

**Harrington River and Pleasant River  
Harrington, Addison**

**Milbridge to Addison IBA**

**Description** – The numerous bays and coves and their low tide flats are key to the abundance of shorebirds in this area. The Harrington and Pleasant Rivers divided by the peninsula leading to Ripley Neck are the major landforms of this area.

**Bird Resources** – This site supports the highest documented concentration of Semipalmated Sandpipers in Maine. The area also supports a large number of wintering Black Ducks and Common Eiders.

**Conservation Issues** – This area is designated as an Area of Shorebird Management Concern that qualifies as Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act. This requires a permit prior to placement of permanent structures within the intertidal zone or saltwater marsh. Surrounding upland areas are largely undeveloped, yet, the potential for future housing developments and associated human disturbances is a concern. An oil spill here or at any of the sites in this IBA could be devastating for migrating shorebirds.

**Ownership/Access** –Surrounding lands are in private ownership, although the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife owns a portion of the saltmarsh in the Pleasant River. Access to the estuary is best provided by public boat launches in Addison, Upper Wass Cove, Carrying Place Cove, the west shore of Ripley Neck, and near Mill Creek in Harrington. This site is best viewed from the water.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

**Pleasant River**

| Criteria                     | Common Name            | Maximum #, Unit, Year             | Season            |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Black-bellied Plover   | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989    | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Lesser Yellowlegs      | 29 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999     | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | 60 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999     | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 10,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 2002 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 287 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996    | Fall<br>Migration |

**Pleasant River Marshes**

| Criteria    | Common Name | Maximum #, Unit, Year       | Season   |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| T/E Species | Bald Eagle  | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1999 | Breeding |

|                              |                               |  |          |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Lesser Yellowlegs             | 68 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1999 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk              | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 15 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1999 | Breeding |

#### East Carrying Place Cove

| Criteria                     | Common Name                | Maximum #, Unit, Year            | Season            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Shorebirds (any/all sizes) | 5,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds           | 4,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover        | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel                   | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1995      | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone            | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1995      | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper     | 800 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Dunlin                     | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1998      | Fall<br>Migration |

#### Harrington River

| Criteria        | Common Name                   | Maximum #, Unit, Year                  | Season            |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| T/E Species     | Bald Eagle                    | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1999            | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 11 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1999 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk | Short-billed Dowitcher        | 500 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999         | Fall<br>Migration |

#### Mash Harbor

| Criteria                     | Common Name            | Maximum #, Unit, Year          | Season            |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds       | 450 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1998 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Black-bellied Plover   | 146 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | 60 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1998  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 600 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 296 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999 | Fall<br>Migration |

#### Wass Coves

| Criteria                      | Common Name        | Maximum #, Unit, Year          | Season |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Common Goldeneye   | 178 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 1999 | Winter |
| Species at Risk               | Barrow's Goldeneye | 3 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 1999   | Winter |



|                              |                            |  |                   |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Shorebirds (any/all sizes) | 1,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989             | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover        | 300 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1998 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel                   | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1996                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone            | 2 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989                 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper     | 2,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 2001             | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper            | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Dunlin                     | 6 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1989   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher     | 35 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999                | Fall<br>Migration |

#### West Carrying Place

| Criteria                     | Common Name                | Maximum #, Unit, Year                        | Season            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Shorebirds (any/all sizes) | 3,000 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989             | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover        | 300 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1998 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Greater Yellowlegs         | 50 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone            | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1999                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper     | 2250 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989              | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper            | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Dunlin                     | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1999                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher     | 56 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 2001                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Dowitcher Spp.             | 680 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989               | Migration         |

#### West River/Indian River Addison/Jonesport

#### Milbridge-Addison IBA

**Description** – The Indian River flows south through Addison to Whoa Bay. Here the river separates around Crowley Island forming the West River on the west side of Crowley Island and continues as the Indian River on the east side of the island. Both rivers provide productive mud flats for foraging shorebirds.

**Bird Resources** – Mudflats surrounding Crowley Island provide hundreds of migratory shorebirds with a large feeding area during their fall migration. At one time, thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers, as well as large numbers of Black-bellied Plovers and Short-billed

Dowitchers have been documented at this site. In recent years, the number of Semipalmated Sandpipers here has waned. Smaller numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, Red Knots, Sanderlings, and White-rumped Sandpipers also use this area. Large boulders at the north end of Crowley Island provide roosting opportunities for Black-bellied Plovers. Wintering Black Ducks are common on both rivers as well.

**Conservation Issues** – This area is designated as an Area of Shorebird Management Concern that qualifies as Significant Wildlife Habitat under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act. This requires a permit prior to placement of permanent structures within the intertidal zone. Collaboration between the Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation and Maine Coast Heritage Trust have resulted in the conservation of 293 acres and three miles of shoreline on Crowley Island.

**Ownership/Access** – A combination of private and conserved lands occurs in the area mostly on Crowley Island where the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and others hold conservation easements. Boat access would be the most efficient means of visiting this area. Boat launches in South Addison and Joneport facilitate birding this area from the water.

***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>         | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                 | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Shorebirds (any/all sizes) | 2,255 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989             | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds           | 1,290 Adults & Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1991 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover        | 150 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel                   | 17 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone            | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1996                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper     | 100 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher     | 210 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1991               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Dowitcher Spp.             | 102 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989               | Fall<br>Migration |

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## Mount Desert IBA

Hancock County

The Mount Desert region abounds with natural beauty including coastal mountains, cliffs and Maine's only fjord. Numerous lakes and freshwater ponds dot the landscape, while the surrounding coastal waters in Frenchman and Blue Hill Bays have numerous islands and ledges. Mount Desert Island (MDI) is home to Acadia National Park, which is one of the most heavily visited parks in America. Because of the tremendous natural features and resources in this region, the area has long been a center of commercial activity and tourism. Four municipalities are found on MDI, with Bar Harbor being the most well known and a favorite tourist destination. Mount Desert Island was first explored over 400 years ago and experienced European colonization beginning more than 300 years ago. The island and bays have experienced numerous habitat changes stemming from the expansion and resource use/extraction of first the Europeans and later American colonists. These uses included fishing, granite quarrying, timber harvesting, grazing, and down and egg collecting from numerous species of birds. In extreme cases, entire islands were deforested, marshes were cut for hay, islands were heavily grazed, bird colonies were raided for eggs or down, and in the process, a few species were extirpated or their populations greatly diminished. A large wildfire occurred in 1947 on the northeastern and eastern portions of MDI. This remains evident by the younger hardwood forest communities found in the burned area and stands in stark contrast to the mature coniferous or mixed coniferous forests that dominate the remainder of the island. However, MDI and the numerous islands in the surrounding bays remain an important migratory stopover in both spring and fall with more than 200 species of birds documented as nesting in the area. The MDI region offers numerous opportunities to view all types of birds throughout the year. A few of the region's outer islands comprise the greatest concentration of nesting Common Eiders as well as being important for cormorants, other seabirds, ducks, shorebirds, and colonial birds. A number of the islands surrounding and including MDI are important to the ongoing recovery and stability of Maine's Bald Eagle population and have been for more than 25 years. The island also was one of the initial recovery sites for the Peregrine Falcon and has one of the most reliable and most easily observed Peregrine Falcon eyries in the state.

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### Mount Desert Narrows Bar Harbor, Trenton, Lamoine

### Mount Desert IBA

**Description** – Separating Mount Desert Island from the mainland, Mount Desert Narrows (together with Eastern Bay) is a thin strip of saltwater extending from roughly Haynes Point in Trenton in the west to Lamoine Beach in the east. The narrows includes several small islands, coves, and ledges, as well as a small saltmarsh. Thompson Island serves as the gateway to Acadia National Park and endures thousands of visitors annually. The Jordan River, a small estuary, empties into the sea here.

**Bird Resources** – This is an excellent spot for viewing congregations of coastal birds including over 2000 Common Eiders, hundreds of Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, groups of ducks numbering in the hundreds during all seasons, but especially winter. For many years, this area was known for its wintering population of scaup; one of just a few places to support this species on the entire Maine coast. The narrows supports feeding and roosting habitat for numerous

species of shorebirds during fall migration, and three known bald eagle nesting territories are found here.

**Conservation Issues** – This site is vulnerable to the same host of threats as other coastal habitats. Overharvesting of prey species, an oil spill, and direct disturbance from commercial fishing as well as disturbance and pollution from shoreline development are chief concerns in this area. Also, disturbance from intense summer recreational use must be considered.

**Ownership/Access** – Lands surrounding the Mount Desert Narrows include numerous types of owners. Private commercial and residential developments make up the majority of the owners here. Acadia National Park owns Thompson Island and an adjacent parcel on Mount Desert Island. The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands operates Lamoine State Park just to the east of the narrows. Some of the best views of the narrows can be made from Thompson Island where there is ample space for parking and picnicking as well as rest room facilities. Two boat launches, one at the Trenton Boat Yard and another at Lamoine State Park, facilitate exploring the narrows from the water without trespassing on private property. A third, more primitive, boat launch can be found on Hadley Point at the north end of Mount Desert Island.

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

#### **Jordan River**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>            | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>          | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Common Goldeneye              | 122 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 1999        | Winter        |
| Species at Risk               | Barrow's Goldeneye            | 6 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 1999          | Winter        |
| Species at Risk               | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 9 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1999 | Breeding      |

#### **Mount Desert Narrows**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>  | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                      | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | American Black Duck | 200 Adults and Juveniles <sup>9</sup> , 2002      | Winter        |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Common Eider        | 2,500 Adults and Juveniles <sup>9</sup> ,<br>2002 | Winter        |

#### **Raccoon Cove**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                 | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover    | 80 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1999  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1989                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 392 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1999 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Western Sandpiper      | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1999                  | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper        | 400 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989               | Fall<br>Migration |

**Bass Harbor Marsh  
Tremont/Southwest Harbor**

**Mount Desert IBA**

*Description* – Near the coastal village of Bass Harbor on the southern coastline of Mount Desert Island lies one of its two major tidal marshes. This large saltmarsh contrasts strongly with the surrounding mature coniferous woodland.

*Bird Resources* – The area is a well-known breeding location for American Black Ducks and Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The site has been surveyed extensively, by both amateur birders and professional biologists, and is also the site of several research studies by Acadia National Park. Such surveys have yielded breeding records of rare species including Least Bittern. Open water during fall and winter along the tidal creeks of this marsh often support numerous waterfowl.

*Conservation Issues* – Although the immediate shoreline of the marsh is in conservation ownership, adjacent lands on most sides of this thin shoreline buffer remain unprotected. These private lands are currently used for housing, extractive and construction industries, and small businesses. Local zoning does not limit further development on these private lands and thereby poses an additional threat to the marsh and lower reaches of the tidal creeks. Buffering from the current and potential private land uses should be a short-term goal, with the long-term goal to conserve these lands to protect water quality, shoreline habitats, and other resource values. Easy access makes Bass Harbor Marsh a great place for ecological outreach for the numerous seasonal visitors to the area. The addition of a small parking area and kiosk would safely accommodate these users.

*Ownership/Access* – Bass Harbor Marsh is primarily owned by the National Park Service and managed as part of Acadia National Park. Access is easiest from Route 102 just east of the intersection of Routes 102 and 102A. Parking is limited along the roadside.

***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b> | <b>Common Name</b>            | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                | <b>Season</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------|
| T/E Species     | Least Bittern                 | 3 Adults and Juveniles <sup>17</sup> , 2001 | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk | Northern Harrier              | 2 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1999       | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk | American Woodcock             | Present                                     | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 9 Males Only <sup>17</sup> , 2001           | Breeding      |

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**Egg Rock  
Winter Harbor**

**Mount Desert IBA**

*Description* – Found near the mouth of Frenchman Bay, Egg Rock is a barren, 12-acre island with a lighthouse dating to 1875.

**Bird Resources** – Best known for its large colony of Herring Gulls, this island also supports breeding Great Black-backed Gulls and Common Eiders. In winter, this site has a significant concentration of Purple Sandpipers.

**Conservation Issues** – Human activities have continued to increase in and around the island because of its proximity to Bar Harbor. These activities range from personal watercraft to tour operators to large cruise ships. Human disturbance linked to the recreational use of small watercraft is a constant threat. Potentially more damaging and of a longer-term nature are the threats (i.e., hazardous spill, overboard discharges, and direct disturbance) associated with the increasing number of cruise ships visiting Frenchman Bay, the multiple daily tours provided by commercial operators during the non-winter months, and the continuing high volume of recreational and commercial fishing boats.

**Ownership/Access** - The site is currently owned by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which took ownership from the U. S. Coast Guard in 1999. The island is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 1 – July 31).

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name      | Maximum #, Unit, Year                        | Season |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|--------|
| Species at Risk            | Purple Sandpiper | 290 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Winter |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider     | 600 Adults and Juveniles <sup>9</sup> , 2002 | Winter |

**Ship/Trumpet Islands and Barge Ledges  
Tremont**

**Mount Desert IBA**

**Description** – Ship Island (11 acres), Trumpet Island (3 acres) and nearby East and West Barge Ledges (1 acre combined) lie in the heart of Blue Hill Bay. These small treeless islands have been sites for seabird restoration efforts over the past decade.

**Bird Resources** – Site of a Common Tern restoration project, Ship Island once supported Common Eiders and Herring Gulls. Eiders and gulls largely avoided the site while conservation interns were present on the island. The smaller Trumpet Island and East and West Barge Ledges provide nesting habitat for Double-crested Cormorants, Great Black-backed Gulls, and Herring Gulls.

**Conservation Issues** – Ship Island is fully in conservation ownership. Despite this fact, efforts to restore terns have failed because of predation. The high count for nesting Common Terns was 558 pairs in 1999. At present, tern restoration efforts at this site have been discontinued. Human disturbance linked to the recreational use of small watercraft is a known and possibly growing threat, and could limit natural colonization or use by terns or other birds.

**Ownership/Access** - The site is currently owned by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The islands are closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 1 – July 31).

## *Selected Ornithological Data*

### **Ship Island**

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>       | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                          | <b>Season</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds   | Double-crested Cormorant | 166 Breeding Pairs <sup>31</sup> , 2003               | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds   | Common Eider             | 850 Breeding Pairs <sup>31</sup> , 1999               | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | American Oystercatcher   | Present <sup>31</sup> , 2003                          | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk              | Purple Sandpiper         | 300 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2 and 5</sup> ,<br>1989 | Winter        |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds   | Herring Gull             | 345 Breeding Pairs <sup>31</sup> , 1989               | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds   | Great Black-backed Gull  | 343 Breeding Pairs <sup>31</sup> , 1989               | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk              | Common Tern              | 558 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1999*               | Breeding      |

\*  $\leq 3$  pairs since 2004

### **Trumpet Island**

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>       | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 487 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1992 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider             | 620 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2003 | Breeding      |

### **The Thrumcap Bar Harbor**

### **Mount Desert IBA**

**Description** – This granite “dome” island lies just over two miles southeast of Bar Harbor in Frenchman Bay. This island was once forested, but trees have long since died probably as a result of the guano from nesting birds.

**Bird Resources** – The Thrumcap supports one of the states most significant colonies of Double-crested Cormorants, with a high of 430 pairs documented in 1994. Common Eiders, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, and Black Guillemots also nest there. The island is equally important during the winter months to most of these species as well as to wintering flocks of Purple Sandpipers

**Conservation Issues** – The island is fully in conservation ownership. The most obvious threat is likely from human disturbance, although the steep shoreline makes landing on this island tricky and consequently restricts easy access from recreationists. Potentially more damaging and of a longer-term nature are the threats (i.e., hazardous spill, overboard discharges, and direct disturbance) associated with the increasing number of cruise ships visiting Frenchman Bay, the

multiple daily tours provided by commercial operators during the non-winter months, and the continuing high volume of recreational and commercial fishing boats.

***Ownership/Access*** – The island is owned by Acadia National Park, but is managed as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. Therefore, the island is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 15 – July 31).

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## Muscongus Bay IBA

Knox and Lincoln County

Muscongus Bay, located in mid-coast Maine, has a rich fishing history and has long supported significant numbers of breeding and non-breeding water birds on and around the many islands and ledges. The first seabird restoration projects were initiated here in the 1970's on Eastern Egg Rock and Old Hump Ledge. The bay is bordered to the west by the Pemaquid Peninsula, to the south by Monhegan Island (an internationally famous migrant trap) and to the east by the fishing villages of Port Clyde and Friendship. The surrounding coastal waters support rich fisheries and tourism.

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### Hog Island (Todd Wildlife Sanctuary) Bremen

Muscongus Bay IBA

**Description** – Hog Island is a 330-acre forested island (predominantly maritime spruce-fir forest) with significant populations of breeding songbirds. The island is a wildlife sanctuary and the north end of the island has a rich human history, including a long-running Audubon camp for adults and youth.

**Bird Resources** – The area is a well-known breeding location for warblers (i.e. Blackburnian, Magnolia, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, and Yellow-rumped). Swainson's Thrush, kinglets and Winter Wren also are notable breeders. Several raptors breed on the island including Bald Eagle, Osprey, Merlin and Sharp-shinned Hawk. The island is a haven for up to 500 Purple Sandpipers in winter. Both amateur birders and professional biologists, attending the Audubon camp, have extensively surveyed bird populations at this site.

**Conservation Issues** – This wildlife sanctuary has no known conservation issues that would threaten the bird populations at this site.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by National Audubon and access is limited. Camp programs managed by Maine Audubon run throughout the summer for both adults and kids, with topics focusing on birds and conservation science. Call 781-2330 for more information.

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### Wreck Island Bristol

Muscongus Bay IBA

**Description** – Wreck Island is located in a transitional zone and is one of the last large undeveloped forested islands in the outer portions of Muscongus Bay. The forest here is a mixture of deciduous and coniferous species.

**Bird Resources** – This island supports nesting Bald Eagles, Osprey and a significant mixed heron rookery including nesting Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night-herons. Snowy Egrets also have been observed courting on the island. Several species of seabirds also nest on the island including Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls as well as Common Eider.

**Conservation Issues** – The primary conservation issue for Wreck Island is disturbance from recreational boating traffic including sea kayaks. Threat of an oil spill here is of concern.

**Ownership/Access** – Owned by the State of Maine, the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has management authority for Wreck Island as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. This island is closed to visitation from February 15 – August 31, annually.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                      | Common Name               | Maximum #, Unit, Year                        | Season            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Blue Heron          | 150 Breeding Pairs <sup>11</sup> , 1995      | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Black-crowned Night-Heron | 30 Breeding Pairs <sup>11</sup> , 1977       | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Common Eider              | 450 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995       | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Small Shorebirds          | 159 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Black-bellied Plover      | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1989                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Plover       | 221 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Greater Yellowlegs        | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1989                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Spotted Sandpiper         | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1989                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Ruddy Turnstone           | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1989                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Sanderling                | 126 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Fall<br>Migration |

**Franklin Island  
Friendship**

**Muscongus Bay IBA**

**Description** – Franklin Island is a 12-acre island with small stands of red spruce and abundant open habitat dominated by raspberry, grasses, and forbs. The third lighthouse in Maine was constructed on the island in 1808.

**Bird Resources** – Franklin Island once supported the largest nesting population of Common Eiders in Maine. Unfortunately, avian cholera virtually eliminated the population in the 1980s. Common Eiders still breed here (over 300 pairs in 2003) together with Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, Leach’s Storm-petrels, Black Guillemots and Ospreys. In winter, this site provides foraging and roosting habitat for Purple Sandpipers.

**Conservation Issues** – Human disturbance and mammalian predation are the greatest threat to this site. Risks from oil spill and other discharge from boats are constant threats as well.

**Ownership/Access** - The site is owned by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which took ownership from the U. S. Coast Guard in 1973. The island is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 1 – July 31).

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name               | Maximum #, Unit, Year                        | Season    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel      | 12 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1977        | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk            | Black-crowned Night-Heron | 4 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995         | Breeding  |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider              | 1,300 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1983*    | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk            | Purple Sandpiper          | 290 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1996 | Wintering |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull              | 74 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2003        | Breeding  |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull   | 74 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2003        | Breeding  |

\* The latest estimate was 336 pairs in 2003.

**Eastern Egg Rock  
St. George**

**Muscongus Bay IBA**

**Description** – Eastern Egg Rock is a seven-acre treeless island located in outer Muscongus Bay. This site was host to the first seabird restoration program in Maine, with a focused effort to reintroduce breeding Atlantic Puffins. Building on that success, Arctic, Common, and Roseate Terns have been restored here as well.

**Bird Resources** – The island supports state and regionally significant populations of nesting Arctic and Common Terns as well as the largest colony of federally Endangered Roseate Terns in the Gulf of Maine. It is also home to nesting Atlantic Puffins, Black Guillemots, Laughing Gulls (the largest colony in the state), Common Eider and Leach’s Storm-petrel. Razorbills have been prospecting in recent years and it is hoped they too will eventually breed. The island also supports significant numbers of migratory and wintering shorebirds including Ruddy Turnstones and Purple Sandpipers, as well as a notable Passerine migration in the spring.

**Conservation Issues** – Human disturbance is limited, but may be a concern. During summer, this island is frequently visited by large numbers of private boats and commercial tours hoping to view puffins. Foraging locations for breeding seabirds are not known so hazardous spills off-site could potentially devastate the bird life of the island. Predation and displacement of nesting Roseate Terns by Laughing Gulls are also significant conservation issues.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and managed intensively by National Audubon. This seabird nesting island is closed to landing during the nesting season (April 15 through August 31).

***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                 | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Species at Risk              | Leach's Storm-petrel   | 113 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1996       | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds   | Common Eider           | 369 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004       | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Willet                 | Present, Adult <sup>2</sup> , 1994           | Migration         |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel               | Present, Adult <sup>2</sup> , 1994           | Migration         |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | 450 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994               | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Red Knot               | 53 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 81 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Purple Sandpiper       | 300 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 10 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Laughing Gull          | 1,638 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2005     | Breeding          |
| T/E Species                  | Roseate Tern           | 165 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2000       | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Common Tern            | 1,514 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2001     | Breeding          |
| T/E Species                  | Arctic Tern            | 94 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1997        | Breeding          |
| T/E Species                  | Atlantic Puffin        | 80 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006        | Breeding          |

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# Outer Penobscot Bay IBA

Knox County

The islands that make up the Outer Penobscot Bay IBA are each unique and starkly beautiful. Together they are essential for successful seabird conservation on the coast of Maine. These islands, largely unforested, lie at the edge of the open Atlantic and consequently are often harsh, inhospitable places. All three of the islands have active seabird restoration programs and are occupied by conservation interns each breeding season.

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## Matinicus Rock Criehaven Township

## Outer Penobscot Bay IBA

**Description** – This treeless island marks the outermost boundary of Penobscot Bay. The site has had the longest conservation presence of any island in the state with National Audubon providing stewardship since the 1960s.

**Bird Resources** – This site is truly special for many Alcids, with Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills and Black Guillemots all nesting here in large numbers. In recent years, Common Murres and even a Manx Shearwater, have been prospecting here. This site is especially important for Arctic Tern, Laughing Gull, and Leach’s Storm-petrel. In total, eight species of seabirds nest here.

**Conservation Issues** – Despite seabird conservation interns living on the island and posted closure during the nesting season (see below), the public still attempts to land on the island every year. Such landings can have disastrous consequences on tern productivity. The threat of an oil spill here is ever present.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The island is closed to the public during the Seabird nesting season (April 1 to August 31).

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>   | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>             | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel | 706 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1994   | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk            | Laughing Gull        | 842 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006   | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk            | Common Tern          | 292 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006   | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                | Arctic Tern          | 1,161 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1991 | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                | Razorbill            | 291 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006   | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot      | 600 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995   | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                | Atlantic Puffin      | 309 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006   | Breeding      |

**Metinic Island  
Matinicus Island Plantation**

**Outer Penobscot Bay IBA**

**Description** – At 300 acres, this is the largest of the islands in the Outer Penobscot Bay IBA. The middle section of the island is forested, while the two ends of the island are covered with mixed grass, raspberry, and shrubs. A flock of 120 sheep graze the entire island during some portion of the year. A small seasonal community maintains several homes on the island.

**Bird Resources** – This site supports eight nesting species including all three coastal tern species. Several hundred pairs of Common Eiders nest on the island, while several thousand molting eiders gather around the island in late summer. Bald Eagles recently began nesting in the interior portion of the island. Forests on the island are believed to provide important stopover habitat for migrating songbirds especially warblers.

**Conservation Issues** – The Refuge initiated a tern restoration project on Metinic Island in 1998, and the colony grew to 750 pairs by 2004. Sheep grazing may be adversely affecting nesting habitat for Common Eiders. The Refuge uses seasonal sheep grazing to maintain nesting habitat for the terns. The sheep are excluded from the tern nesting area each spring. Biological technicians monitor the tern colony throughout the nesting season.

**Ownership/Access** – The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, owns the northern half of this island. The Refuge-owned portion of the island is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (Feb 15 – August 31)

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name          | Maximum #, Unit, Year                  | Season   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|----------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel | 50 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1994  | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider         | 401 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1991 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull         | 322 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk            | Common Tern          | 342 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004 | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Arctic Tern          | 426 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot      | 363 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995    | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Roseate Tern         | 3 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2003   | Breeding |

**Seal Island  
Criehaven Township**

**Outer Penobscot Bay IBA**

**Description** – This large treeless island was once used for bombing practice by the U. S. Military. Today, the island is best known as a national wildlife refuge with an abundance of seabirds.

**Bird Resources** – As a breeding area, this site is truly special with a diverse mix of nesting terns, Black Guillemots, and Atlantic Puffins. Seal Island also supports one of the largest colonies of Great Cormorants in the state.

**Conservation Issues** – The key threat to this site would be an oil spill during the breeding season. Ecotourism, based out of Bar Harbor, has increased in recent years though no known negative effects have been documented.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The island is closed to the public during the seabird nesting season (April 1 to August 31).

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name             | Maximum #, Unit, Year                    | Season   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel    | 724 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1994   | Breeding |
| Species at Risk            | Great Cormorant         | 29 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004    | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider            | 333 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1997   | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull | 221 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995   | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Roseate Tern            | Present <sup>4</sup> , 2006              | Breeding |
| Species at Risk            | Common Tern             | 1,726 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006 | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Arctic Tern             | 1,167 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004 | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Razorbill               | 4 Breeding Pair <sup>4</sup> , 2006      | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot         | 1,955 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995    | Breeding |
| T/E Species                | Atlantic Puffin         | 335 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006   | Breeding |

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# Petit Manan IBA

# Washington County

The Petit Manan region provides a tremendous diversity of habitat, from long narrow peninsulas jutting into the ocean to countless coastal islands that provide habitat for nesting and migratory species. Bald Eagles nest on many of the forested islands in this area and forage among the nearby seabird islands and in adjacent waters. Common Eiders, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, and Double-crested Cormorants all nest on a variety of treeless islands. Petit Manan Island is home to one of the largest tern colonies in Maine, and one of only four islands in Maine that supports nesting Atlantic Puffins. Razorbills began nesting on Petit Manan in 2004 and their numbers, together with Common Murres, has continued to increase in the region. The jagged shoreline on the mainland and the numerous islands provide extensive intertidal ledges and mudflats that support a variety of migratory and wintering shorebirds and waterfowl. Often overlooked, Cranberry Impoundment on Petit Manan Point supports more than 5,000 ducks at one time, including Black Ducks, Mallards, Pintail and teal, and is protected by Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

## Green Island Steuben

## Petit Manan IBA

**Description** – The Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife owns this 10-acre island that is attached to Petit Manan Island by a bar at low tide. The island is located two miles south of Petit Manan Point in Steuben. A mixture of grasses, *Rugosa rose*, *Angelica*, and stinging nettle are the dominant vegetation here.

**Bird Resources** – Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, and Black Guillemot all nest on Green Island. This island is also one of four islands in Maine where American Oystercatchers nest. In 2001, over 1000 Common Eiders nested there. During the late summer months, the waters surrounding Petit Manan and Green Island support between 5,000 and 7,000 molting Common Eiders. During fall migration, the island supports a variety of shorebirds, with one of the largest concentrations of Ruddy Turnstones recorded in the state. Purple Sandpipers winter on the adjacent ledges.

**Conservation Issues** – Although the site is in conservation ownership and closed to the public during the nesting season, human disturbance during the nesting season remains a concern. Predation by Bald Eagles and gulls may significantly limit eider production at the colony. Biologists are currently conducting a survival and recruitment study on eiders here.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and managed as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. It is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 15 – August 31).

### Selected Ornithological Data

| Criteria                   | Common Name  | Maximum #, Unit, Year                    | Season   |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider | 1,086 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1998 | Breeding |



|                              |                        |  |                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds       | 1,440 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | American Oystercatcher | Present <sup>2</sup> , 2005                    | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | 650 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989                 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Red Knot               | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1989                    | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 289 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989                 | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper        | 195 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999                 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Purple Sandpiper       | 200 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                 | Winter            |
| Species at Risk              | Dunlin                 | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1989                    | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 54 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989                  | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Dowitcher Spp.         | 343 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989                 | Migration         |

## Petit Manan Island Steuben

## Petit Manan IBA

**Description** – Mixed grasses (especially Canada blue joint) and raspberry dominate the vegetation of this 10-acre island. The island is owned by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and has several structures (e.g., lighthouse keepers house and 123 foot tower) on the National Historic Register.

**Bird Resources** – Petit Manan Island hosts the second largest tern colony in Maine. In recent years, over 2,000 pairs of Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns have nested on the island. In addition, Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Black Guillemots, Laughing Gulls, Common Eiders, and Leach’s Storm-petrels also nest on Petit Manan Island. The intertidal ledges surrounding the island are used extensively by migratory shorebirds and wintering Purple Sandpipers. During the late summer months, the waters surrounding Petit Manan and Green Island support between 5,000 and 7,000 molting Common Eiders.

**Conservation Issues** – Biological technicians are stationed on the island from May through August to monitor the colony and prevent public access. Habitat degradation from an oil spill is a constant threat.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge) and is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 1 –August 31).

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>   | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                 | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|---------------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel | 75 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004        | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk            | Laughing Gull        | 1,208 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006     | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                | Roseate Tern         | 31 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2003        | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk            | Common Tern          | 1,602 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006     | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                | Arctic Tern          | 911 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004       | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                | Atlantic Puffin      | 66 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2006        | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                | Razorbill            | Present <sup>4</sup> , 2006                  | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk            | Purple Sandpiper     | 400 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1989 | Winter        |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider         | 157 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2003       | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot      | 150 Breeding Pairs <sup>31</sup> , 2004      | Breeding      |

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### **Jordan's Delight Milbridge**

### **Petit Manan IBA**

**Description** – The vegetation on this 27-acre island is predominately mixed grasses, raspberry, and *Angelica* with several pockets of spruce trees. Large granite cliffs dominate the western shore of the island.

**Bird Resources** – Common Eiders, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, Leach's Storm-petrels, Black Guillemots, and Double-crested Cormorants nest on Jordan's Delight. Throughout the winter months, Purple Sandpipers and Harlequin Ducks forage on and around the intertidal ledges surrounding the island. During migration, Peregrine Falcons frequently perch on the cliffs, waiting for passing songbirds to cross the open water.

**Conservation Issues** – Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge recently acquired majority ownership of this island. A large home that had been constructed within the seabird colony has been removed. Human disturbance during the nesting season has been a problem. Oil spills and other forms of overboard discharge further threaten this island.

**Ownership/Access** – Most (90% of the island) is in conservation ownership with Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The remaining land is privately owned with a conservation easement. The island is closed to public access during the seabird nesting season (April 1 – August 31).

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>            | <b>Common Name</b>       | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Species at Risk            | Leach's Storm-petrel     | 200 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider             | 450 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1989 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Black Guillemot          | 234 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1995    | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull  | 1400 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1989   | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 200 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1989 | Breeding      |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull             | 600 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1989    | Breeding      |

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## **Over Point Steuben**

## **Petit Manan IBA**

**Description** – Over Point is located on the western shore of Petit Manan Point in Steuben. Shorebirds utilize two distinct areas: a long narrow tidal cove and a tidal lagoon surrounded by a cobble bar.

**Bird Resources** – This site provides stopover and foraging habitat for a variety of shorebirds during the fall migration, including as many as 1,200 Semipalmated Plovers, which is one of the highest concentrations of this species in the state. Shorebirds using this area are counted annually as part of the PRISM shorebird monitoring program.

**Conservation Issues** – A portion of the area was recently placed under conservation easement with Great Auk Land Trust, however some public use still occurs.

**Ownership/Access** – Ownership is a mix of conservation (Great Auk Land Trust) and private interests. There is no public access at this time. Portions of the area could be viewed from the water. A boat launch in Pinkham Bay facilitates exploring this area by boat without trespassing on private property.

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>   | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>     | <b>Season</b>       |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Small Shorebirds     | 500 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996   | Fall<br>Migration   |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Black-bellied Plover | 150 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989   | Spring<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover  | 1,200 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988 | Fall<br>Migration   |
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover        | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1988      | Migration           |
| Species at Risk              | Willet               | 14 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1989    | Spring<br>Migration |

|                           |                        |  |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------|
| Species at Risk           | Whimbrel               | 7 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988                 | Fall Migration   |
| Species at Risk           | Ruddy Turnstone        | 50 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988                | Spring Migration |
| Congregations: Shorebirds | Red Knot               | 38 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988                | Spring Migration |
| Congregations: Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 800 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988               | Migration        |
| Congregations: Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper        | 150 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996               | Migration        |
| Species at Risk           | Dunlin                 | 100 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1987 | Fall Migration   |
| Species at Risk           | Short-billed Dowitcher | 300 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988               | Migration        |

## Trafton Island Harrington

## Petit Manan IBA

**Description** – Trafton Island is a small island in outermost Narraguagus Bay. Only one mile offshore, this island is largely forested with several small coves on its perimeter. A recent microburst storm leveled some of the forest there.

**Bird Resources** – The island has a long established heronry. In 1995, 80 nesting Great Blue Herons could be found here. The island has not been formally surveyed in the interim though numbers of nests are believed to be similar or slightly less. A Bald Eagle nest is located near the center of the island.

**Conservation Issues** – Concerns are few with the exception of those generally facing coastal habitats: oil spill, overboard discharge, pollution. Heronries in Maine are somewhat ephemeral, so a decline at this site would be consistent with observations at many other island heronries.

**Ownership/Access** – The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife holds only a conservation easement on this property. There is no public access.

## Scarborough IBA

## York and Cumberland Counties

The Scarborough IBA is comprised of several different habitats: the marsh proper, the beaches surrounding the marsh, the outlet of the Scarborough River, and two coastal islands. As the state's largest contiguous saltmarsh, Scarborough Marsh supports a variety of flora and fauna with its large expanse of salt meadow communities and numerous salt pannes. Located behind a heavily developed beach system, Scarborough Marsh is crossed by U. S. Route 1, two railroad lines (one active and one abandoned and converted to a recreational trail), and U. S. Route 9. In addition, smaller roads cross several tidal tributaries of the marsh. All of these affect the hydrology of the area. The marsh and surrounding beaches are located in some of the most heavily-developed and fastest-growing communities in southern Maine. However, the rich waters and marine life in this area support a number of breeding colonial wading and seabirds on the off-shore islands. The marsh, mud flats, and salt pannes function as essential migratory stopover sites for many species of shorebirds. This area also supports one of the few remaining commercial soft shell clam industries in southern Cumberland County. Additionally, the Scarborough River continues to serve as an active harbor for commercial fishermen. Unlike smaller saltmarsh systems in southern Maine, Scarborough Marsh is interspersed with fingers of forested uplands, creating a unique juxtaposition of habitat types.

Adjacent to Old Orchard Beach and home to miles of sandy beaches, Scarborough has long been a tourist destination and is visited by thousands of people each year. The marsh provides a unique opportunity for birders, and the general public to observe much of its wildlife. The newly dedicated section of the Eastern Trail has enhanced public access, offering people walking and biking opportunities through the center of the marsh. Maine Audubon provides an interpretive center on the edge of the marsh on Pine Point Road, offering both the experienced and casual birder the latest information on rare sightings and locations to find various species.

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### Scarborough Marsh Wildlife Management Area Scarborough

### Scarborough IBA

**Description** – The core of the marsh includes both high and low marsh communities extending from U. S. Route 1 south to the harbor at Pine Point. The total size is approximately 3,000 acres making it Maine's largest contiguous saltmarsh. It is fed by three major tributaries: the Scarborough, Nonesuch, and Libby Rivers. Two partially impounded tidal areas, Dunstan's Landing and areas behind what is commonly referred to as the Pelreco Building, provide a hydrological regime different than other portions of the marsh, and thus attract large seasonal concentrations of waterfowl and wading birds including: Blue and Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, American Black Duck, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Northern Pintail, among others. At low tide, extensive mudflats become available along the Scarborough River.

**Bird Resources** – The marsh supports breeding habitat for both Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows, probably the most significant breeding site for these species in Maine. Nelson's/Saltmarsh hybrids may be seen here as well. Least Bitterns have been recorded breeding in the freshwater wetlands surrounding the marsh. Many species of wading birds can

be seen feeding in the large salt panne complexes (especially at the outlet of the Libby River, south of the Eastern Road and along U.S. Route 1). Among this network of tidal creeks and pannes, wading birds including Glossy Ibises, American Oystercatchers, Great Blue and Little Blue Herons, Snowy and Great Egrets can be seen feeding. This site also provides feeding habitat for many species of migrating shorebirds including: Whimbrels, Short and Long-billed Dowitchers, Dunlin, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Red-necked Phalaropes.

**Conservation Issues** – Human impact has long been an issue at Scarborough Marsh. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently working with the U. S. D. A. Natural Resources Conservation Service and other partners to restore tidal flow and control the spread of invasive species in the northern reaches of the marsh. Some of this work results from mitigation efforts following the Julie N oil spill in 1996. In addition, some effort has been put forth to plug ditches that were dug to facilitate the harvest of salt hay. Recent research on Sharp-tailed Sparrows at this site revealed that this species accumulates high levels of mercury from the marsh. Whether the levels affect reproductive success is unclear, but it suggests that human activities around the marsh is significant and may be affecting the ecology of the marsh.

**Ownership/Access** – The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife owns and manages the area. Maine Audubon maintains an education center there where canoes can be rented for exploring tidal creeks. The easiest foot access is via Pine Point Road (Route 9) where it meets the Eastern Trail, approximately 1.5 miles south of U. S. Route 1. Parking is provided in a small gravel lot; dogs must remain on leash.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                      | Common Name               | Maximum #, Unit, Year                                     | Season            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Water Birds               | 500 Adults <sup>27</sup>                                  | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Egret               | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997                               | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret               | 62 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997                    | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Little Blue Heron         | 11 Breeding Adults <sup>6</sup> , 2000                    | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Tricolored Heron          | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1998                               | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Black-crowned Night-Heron | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997                               | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Glossy Ibis               | 33 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997                    | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | King Rail                 | Present <sup>6</sup> , 1998                               | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Common Moorhen            | Present <sup>27</sup>                                     | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Small Shorebirds          | 1,000 Adults <sup>27</sup>                                | Migration         |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Black-bellied Plover      | 124 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                            | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                   | Piping Plover             | 3 Breeding Pairs and 8<br>Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 2000 | Breeding          |

|                              |                                |   |           |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Species at Risk              | Willet                         | 75 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding  |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Spotted Sandpiper              | 32 Breeding Adults <sup>6</sup> , 1998  | Breeding  |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper                | 288 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher         | 36 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993           | Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Roseate Tern                   | Present <sup>27</sup>                   | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Common Tern                    | 26 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998  | Breeding  |
| T/E Species                  | Arctic Tern                    | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997             | Breeding  |
| T/E Species                  | Least Tern                     | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1998             | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Black-billed Cuckoo            | Present <sup>27</sup>                   | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Blue-winged Warbler            | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1998             | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Chestnut-sided Warbler         | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1998             | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Louisiana Waterthrush          | Present <sup>27</sup>                   | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Eastern Towhee                 | Present <sup>27</sup>                   | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 63 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding  |
| Species at Risk              | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 37 Breeding Adults <sup>6</sup> , 1997  | Breeding  |

## Western Beach Scarborough

## Scarborough IBA

**Description** – Western Beach is a wide, sandy beach about 2500 feet long with a minimal back dune system.

**Bird Resources** – The beach has become a regular nesting area for Piping Plovers.

**Conservation Issues** – The beach has accreted in recent years following the dredging of the Scarborough River. Potential habitat for beach-nesting birds has been improved. Dogs off leash (despite signs and ordinances restricting dogs) continue to be a management issue, though efforts to enforce leash laws are in effect. Crow predation also has been a problem for birds nesting on this beach.

**Ownership/Access** – Western Beach is adjacent to Ferry Beach, which has a paved parking lot for approximately 100 cars. No parking is permitted on Ferry Road. Fees are charged for residents, non-residents, parking, and boat launching. A combination seasonal pass for Ferry Beach and Pine Point beaches is available to Scarborough residents.

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>          | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover    | 191 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993        | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover          | 3 Breeding Pairs <sup>15</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Willet                 | 9 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999          | Migration         |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel               | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1999           | Migration         |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | 32 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993         | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 31 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1999         | Migration         |

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### **Pine Point Beach Scarborough**

### **Scarborough IBA**

**Description** – Pine Point Beach is just over three acres in size, and has 7,000 feet of sandy ocean frontage. A sensitive sand dune system borders the beach, along with substantial summer home development on either side.

**Bird Resources** – The beach is a regular nesting area for Piping Plovers with a high of four breeding pairs in 2002. The beach is a key feeding area for shorebirds in the spring and fall, with more than 2,000 birds and more than six species using the beach at one time.

**Conservation Issues** – Crowds of beach-goers and dogs off leash are the primary challenges to the success of nesting Piping Plovers each year. Changes in beach composition following seasonal storms also affect the suitability of the site from year to year.

**Ownership/Access** – The beach is owned by the Town of Scarborough, and there is parking in a paved lot for a fee.

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>              | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>                 | <b>Season</b>     |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover      | 4 Breeding Pairs <sup>15</sup> , 2002        | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Willet             | 15 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel           | 23 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Hudsonian Godwit   | 13 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone    | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1999                  | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Sanderling         | 850 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1993 | Fall<br>Migration |



|                              |                        |   |                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 2300 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1993 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Least Sandpiper        | 87 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                 | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Dunlin                 | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1993                   | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 75 Adults and Juveniles <sup>2</sup> , 1993   | Fall<br>Migration |

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## Higgins Beach Scarborough

## Scarborough IBA

**Description** – Higgins Beach is a wide sandy beach, approximately 1,000 feet long at the outlet of the Spurwink River. There is a dense neighborhood of about 400 small-to medium-sized homes, many of which are closed up in the winter, abutting the length of the beach.

**Bird Resources** – The beach is a regular nesting area for Piping Plovers with a high of five breeding pairs and ten fledglings in 2003. Least Terns also nest in regular, but relatively small numbers, with a high of 38 pairs nesting in 2003.

**Conservation Issues** – The beach is primarily in private ownership. The public may access the beach, but parking limits the number of visitors from outside of the residential area. The beach is heavily used all summer by people and dogs. Restrictions on dogs during the nesting season have helped reduce disturbance to nesting Piping Plovers, but is difficult to enforce. Continued outreach to dog owners in the neighborhood is needed to keep this major disturbance off the beach. In the past, the sensitive nesting areas at the northern end of the beach have been prime sites for gatherings of local teens. Though this activity has decreased in recent years, continued monitoring and education is essential. The town of Scarborough has designated the Piping Plover as its town bird.

**Ownership/Access** – The beach is primarily in private ownership though there is public access along several points to the beach. Parking is not allowed on the street and is limited to a small pay lot about ½ mile from the beach itself.

### Selected Ornithological Data

| Criteria                     | Common Name            | Maximum #, Unit, Year                                       | Season            |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover    | 195 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                              | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover          | 5 Breeding Pairs and 10<br>Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 2003  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 114 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993                              | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Least Tern             | 38 Breeding Pairs and 53<br>Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 2003 | Breeding          |

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**Stratton Island  
Old Orchard Beach**

**Scarborough IBA**

**Description** – Stratton Island is a truly special place. This small island hosts not only a significant tern colony, but a diverse heronry as well. The island’s center is dominated by tall shrubs within which the herons nest. The shoreline is a combination of sandy beach and rock outcrop. Small grassy openings also occur on the island as does a small brackish marsh.

**Bird Resources** – Stratton Island is an important breeding site for numerous Endangered and Threatened birds. Chief among these is the occurrence of over 120 Roseate Terns and nearly 1900 pairs of Common Terns. However, Stratton is better known for its nesting wading birds. At one time, as many as seven species of wading birds nested here, including Cattle, Snowy, and Great Egrets; Little Blue and Tricolored Herons; Black-crowned Night-herons and Glossy Ibis. This island also supports nesting Double-crested Cormorants and Common Eiders.

**Conservation Issues** – Despite conservation ownership, the island’s bird population faces many threats. Each breeding season, seabird interns reside on the island to monitor tern populations and prevent disturbance from boaters and kayakers wishing to land on the island. Predation threats abound as well, especially from resident Black-crowned Night-herons. As with any island, the threat from oil spill or other discharge is ever present.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by National Audubon. Public access is not allowed during the seabird breeding season.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                      | Common Name               | Maximum #, Unit, Year                   | Season            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Double-crested Cormorant  | 209 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1999  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Egret               | 15 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2005   | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret               | 163 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1999  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Little Blue Heron         | 24 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1996      | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Tricolored Heron          | Present <sup>11</sup> , 1995            | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Cattle Egret              | Present <sup>11</sup> , 1994*           | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Black-crowned Night-Heron | 100 Breeding Pairs <sup>11</sup> , 1980 | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Glossy Ibis               | 163 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1996  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Common Eider              | 1247 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2004 | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Small Shorebirds          | 581 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Plover       | 132 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994          | Fall<br>Migration |

|                              |                        |   |                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | American Oystercatcher | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1996             | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Willet                 | 55 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1993           | Migration         |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel               | 38 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994           | Migration         |
| Species at Risk              | Ruddy Turnstone        | 251 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 500 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Stilt Sandpiper        | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1994             | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Short-billed Dowitcher | 103 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994          | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Roseate Tern           | 127 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2001  | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Common Tern            | 1881 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 2001 | Breeding          |
| T/E Species                  | Arctic Tern            | 12 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1999   | Breeding          |

*\* No records since 1994.*

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## Marblehead Island Matinicus Island Plantation

## Thomaston IBA

**Description** – This island is a small, treeless, granite dome in southern Penobscot Bay.

**Bird Resources** – This site was once a significant nesting site for Double-crested Cormorants with over 300 nesting pairs in the mid-1980s. The most recent estimate in 1999 revealed a decline to only 70 nests. This also is the northernmost nesting location for Snowy Egrets. However, the most recent breeding record for Snowy Egret was in 1995 and the site has not been surveyed since 1999.

**Conservation Issues** – Typical of other islands in this area, threats from an oil spill and other forms of pollution are the greatest concern. Steep rock faces surrounding much of the island serve as a deterrent to visitors landing at this site.

**Ownership/Access** – Owned by the State of Maine, the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has management authority for Marblehead Island as part of the Coast of Maine Wildlife Management Area. This island is closed to visitation from April 15 to July 31 each year.

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## Weskeag Marsh (Waldo Tyler WMA and Weskeag River) South Thomaston

## Thomaston IBA

**Description** – This is a tidal river with extensive saltmarsh in the upper portion. Because of tidal restriction at Buttermilk Lane, the marsh above this road is more brackish, lacking large expanses of *Spartina* that characterize much of the saltmarsh. This site is best known for its abundance of pannes and overall surface complexity. The land surrounding the marsh is largely undeveloped despite its close proximity to Thomaston and Rockland. A large cement factory is located within a mile of the site. The marsh is largely surrounded by forest, but agricultural fields border the marsh on portions of its eastern periphery. Extensive tidal flats are found in the lower portion of the river.

**Bird Resources** – The marsh supports significant numbers of migratory shorebirds, waterfowl, wading birds, and breeding wetland species. The northernmost known breeding site for Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow occurs here along with an abundance of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The marsh is an important area for observation of shorebirds (part of PRISM shorebird monitoring network) and is especially good habitat within the state for Stilt, Western, and Baird's Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitcher. Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, and Northern Harrier occur regularly here, with Peregrines frequently seen chasing shorebirds from the many pannes during late summer. The marsh has a history of attracting rare species including Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, and Ruff.

**Conservation Issues** – The Thomaston flats are susceptible to commercial uses (e.g., clamming and worming, industrial development from adjacent boat yard). It is unlikely the cement factory has any environmental influences on the site, given its long history in the area and the continued abundant bird life at the site. Effort to plug ditches (originally constructed to facilitate draining then harvest of salt hay) was initiated in the late 1990’s. Disturbance is generally not a problem at this site, though occasional rare birds attract large numbers of birders from across New England. An effort is underway to provide improved viewing opportunities from the adjacent uplands.

**Ownership/Access** - Weskeag Marsh is fully in conservation ownership, with some of the surrounding upland on the east side protected as well. An easement is being negotiated for further protection near the northern end of the marsh. Access can be found along Buttermilk Lane about 1.5 miles south of U.S. Route 1 in Thomaston. This area is open for public use throughout the year.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>             | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>            | <b>Season</b>     |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | American Bittern               | Present <sup>6</sup> , 1998             | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Northern Harrier               | Present <sup>6</sup> , 1998             | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Small Shorebirds               | 455 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Black-bellied Plover           | 210 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Greater Yellowlegs             | 65 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994           | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Willet                         | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1998             | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Marbled Godwit                 | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1996             | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Sandpiper         | 600 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1996          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Least Sandpiper                | 187 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Short-billed Dowitcher         | 330 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1994          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 29 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998  | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 8 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998   | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Bobolink                       | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1998             | Breeding          |

# Upper Penobscot Bay IBA

# Waldo and Hancock Counties

Where the Penobscot River meets the sea, Upper Penobscot Bay IBA extends from the tidal marshes near Winterport southward to Lincolnville on the west shore and Cape Rosier to the east. This is a working portion of the bay with numerous harbors supporting the lobster fishery and other shipping trades. A variety of sites contribute to this area's importance for bird conservation including state-owned marshes, working waterfronts, and small islands.

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## Belfast Harbor Belfast

## Upper Penobscot Bay IBA

**Description** – On the east side of Penobscot Bay, Belfast Harbor marks the mouth of the Passagassawakeag (“Passy”) River. The City of Belfast lies on the southwest shore with some commercial, but mostly residential development on the northeast shore. The harbor has a growing number of recreational boats anchored here during the summer. The closing and removal of the poultry processing facility has changed the face of the waterfront.

**Bird Resources** – The most significant avian resource here is the annual wintering population of Barrow’s Goldeneye. Numerous other species of waterfowl can be found in the estuary year round. The harbor still supports over 2,000 wintering gulls, perhaps more during summer, and is a favorite spot to search for wintering Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.

**Conservation Issues** – Renovating the Belfast waterfront has been underway for many years and with that perhaps an increase in moorings will follow. Potential for overboard discharge and spilled fuel could degrade the habitat here if the number of moorings expands to very high densities.

**Ownership/Access** – The surrounding lands are a combination of private commercial and residential with some municipal holdings on the waterfront. There are three public ways of viewing the harbor from land. First is the footbridge which spans the river just seaward from U.S. Route 1. Second, the public pier (beside the Weathervane Restaurant) affords a good view of the main harbor, and third, the waterfront park and boathouse allow great views of the outer harbor. All three access points can be found by taking High Street from U. S. Route 1 to Pierce St. then following along the waterfront.

### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>  | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Common Goldeneye   | 28 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 2000 | Winter        |
| Species at Risk               | Barrow's Goldeneye | 15 Adults <sup>3</sup> , 2000 | Winter        |

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**Flat Island  
Isleboro**

**Upper Penobscot Bay IBA**

**Description** – This treeless island lies to the west of Isleboro and east of Northport. This site is an important seabird nesting island in the upper portion of Penobscot Bay.

**Bird Resources** – For many years, Flat Island has been an important nesting area for Double-crested Cormorants. Herring Gulls, Common Eiders, and Great Black-backed Gulls nest there as well. The abundance of gulls in recent years is generally lower than numbers observed during the mid 1980s.

**Conservation Issues** – Easy access and close proximity to public boat landings contribute to a constant threat of disturbance, especially to the cormorants nesting there. A small beach on the southeastern side of the island further complicates issues of disturbance during the nesting season.

**Ownership/Access** – The island is owned by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and is easily accessible by small boat from several launches including Lincolnville Beach, Bayside, and the ferry terminal on Isleboro. However, this seabird nesting island is closed to human access during the seabird nesting season, April 15 through July 31. During the restricted period, viewing must be from the water only.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                   | Common Name              | Maximum #, Unit, Year                  | Season   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Double-crested Cormorant | 237 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1995 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Common Eider             | 500 Breeding Pairs <sup>4</sup> , 1981 | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Herring Gull             | 1,350 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1986  | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds | Great Black-backed Gull  | 600 Individuals <sup>4</sup> , 1987    | Breeding |
| Species at Risk            | Common Tern              | Present <sup>4</sup> , 2001            | Breeding |

**Howard Mendall Wildlife Management Area  
Frankfort and Prospect**

**Upper Penobscot Bay IBA**

**Description** – Named for research biologist, educator, and consummate naturalist, Howard L. Mendall, this is one of the few significant saltmarsh habitats in all of Penobscot Bay. Mendall Marsh, as it is often referred to, is formed by the confluence of the north and south branches of Marsh Stream and the Penobscot River. The marsh at one time was an important terminal for shipping granite quarried from nearby mountains. Today, the marsh is dominated by sedges and other grasses and is a popular spot for waterfowl hunting. U. S. Route 1A follows the western edge of the marsh.

**Bird Resources** – The expansive patches of saltmarsh sedge provide excellent habitat for a large breeding population of Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows. American Black Ducks are found here in good numbers during the nonbreeding season.

**Conservation Issues** – Despite having a conservation owner, this site is easily accessible and public dumping (e.g., domestic trash, construction debris, white goods, etc.) is an annoyance to managers. U. S. Route 1A is a constant presence through noise, roadside trash, and introduction of invasive species. Purple Loosestrife is present in a few locations and non-native Phragmites occurs in sections along Route 1A. Contaminants in the Penobscot River (mercury, dioxins, heavy metals) are undoubtedly present in the marsh as well, but the level to which local bird life is affected is yet unknown.

**Ownership/Access** – The marsh is owned and managed by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and is accessible year round from U. S. Route 1A, about one mile south of Frankfort. A boat launch and an old granite pier provide fine views of the marsh.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                      | Common Name                   | Maximum #, Unit, Year                  | Season   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | American Bittern              | Present <sup>6</sup> , 1998            | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Blue Heron              | Present <sup>6</sup> , 1998            | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret                   | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1999*           | Breeding |
| Migratory<br>Landbirds        | Turkey Vulture                | 7 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1998  | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | American Black Duck           | Present <sup>6</sup> , 1998            | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Virginia Rail                 | Present <sup>6</sup> , 1998            | Breeding |
| Migratory<br>Landbirds        | Bank Swallow                  | 22 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1999 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk               | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 35 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1999 | Breeding |
| Species at Risk               | Bobolink                      | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1999            | Breeding |

\* Seen foraging and roosting (not nesting)

**Sandy Point Wildlife Management Area  
Stockton Springs**

**Upper Penobscot Bay IBA**

**Description** – This 540-acre property is composed primarily of freshwater wetland that drains into the nearby Penobscot River at Sandy Point. The wetland is characterized by dense stands of cattail. A floating mat of vegetation creates a mosaic of habitat with high interspersions of water and vegetation. There are some forested uplands as well.



**Bird Resources** – This site has supported Least Bitterns for many years and provides habitat for large numbers of Marsh Wrens. Ring-necked Ducks breed here each year at some of the highest densities recorded in Maine.

**Conservation Issues** – Few threats face this site. Although development and gravel mining along the Muskrat Road could at some time influence the site, this is not anticipated. Portions of the floating mat within the marsh frequently break free and can block the spillway. Under certain conditions, this could lead to a rapid rise in water level.

**Ownership/Access** – The area is owned and managed by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Access is provided from the Muskrat Road in Stockton Springs approximately ¼ mile north of its intersection with U. S. Route 1. The area can be scanned from the dike, although it is best viewed from canoe or kayak. There are no hiking trails in the uplands.

**Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                      | Common Name         | Maximum #, Unit, Year                   | Season   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------|
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | American Black Duck | Present <sup>13</sup> , 2002            | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | American Bittern    | 5 Adults, 1995                          | Breeding |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Ring-necked Duck    | 33 Breeding Adults <sup>13</sup> , 2002 | Breeding |
| T/E Species                   | Least Bittern       | Present, 2005                           | Breeding |

**Penobscot River near Bucksport/Fort Knox  
Bucksport and Prospect**

**Upper Penobscot Bay IBA**

**Description** – This portion of the river is a mix of both undeveloped riverfront mostly on the western shore and urban/industrial waterfront on the eastern shore. The city of Bucksport and a large paper mill are obvious features in this portion of the bay.

**Bird Resources** – Open water portions of the river are important for wintering waterfowl. Some of the largest single congregations of Barrow’s Goldeneye in Maine have been recorded here, including 70 adults in the winter of 1980. Peregrine Falcons historically nested on the west support tower of the former Waldo/Hancock Suspension Bridge. Ospreys are commonly seen in this area and several nests can be found on the abandoned pier at Sandy Point Beach.

**Conservation Issues** – Threats associated with wastewater discharge from the mill and from the City of Bucksport are the greatest concerns. However, the area does not appear to be under the same threats of development as other similar waterfronts. An oil spill, either in the bay or upriver, is a constant threat.

**Ownership/Access** - Best views of the river are from Fort Knox historic site in Prospect, and from the waterfront park in downtown Bucksport. A boat launch on Verona Island facilitates exploring this area from the water.

## Wells IBA

## York County

The Wells and Ogunquit regions are home to miles of sandy beaches, hundreds of acres of wide-open saltmarshes and over 16 rivers and streams flowing to the sea. The surrounding uplands generally consist of pockets of undisturbed dune/grassland systems, back barrier beaches, and rocky shores all in the midst of intense coastal development. Forests generally consist of white pine and oak, with remnant patches of pitch pine forest, pitch pine bogs, and maritime shrublands. Saltmarsh, beaches, and shrublands comprise some of the most biologically significant features of this area. The Wells/Ogunquit marshes make up the second largest saltmarsh complex in the State of Maine. The region supports a diverse bird community, in addition to rare and declining plant and animal species.

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### Crescent Surf Beach Kennebunk

### Wells IBA

**Description** – This site consists of beach front and dune systems along the northeast shore of the outlet of the Little River in Kennebunk. Most of it is privately owned, though some is U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service property. The site is characterized by a high-energy beach, that is often overwashed providing excellent Piping Plover and Least Tern habitat.

**Bird Resources** – In most years, the site hosts the largest breeding colony of the state-Endangered Least Tern. Multiple pairs of Piping Plovers nest here as well and generally have had good success. The site provides important shorebird roosts during fall migration. It is an important staging area for Roseate and Common Terns, and provides an alternate roost site for Roseate Terns when they fail on their breeding grounds.

**Conservation Issues** - Avian and mammalian predation, as well as human disturbance, are the key threats. However, upstream land uses and additional development adjacent to this site also are believed to be important. The location of the Least Tern nesting colony is under conservation easement.

**Ownership/Access** – Ownership at this site is a mix of private and federal (Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge) holdings. There is no public access to this site. Interested parties could launch a boat at Wells Harbor or in the Mousam River in Kennebunk and view this site from the water without trespassing on private property.

#### **Selected Ornithological Data**

| Criteria                     | Common Name         | Maximum #, Unit, Year                 | Season            |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds | Semipalmated Plover | 590 Adults, 2005                      | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                  | Piping Plover       | 8 Breeding Pairs <sup>15</sup> , 2005 | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk              | Willet              | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1993           | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk              | Whimbrel            | 8 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988          | Migration         |

|                           |                        |   |                |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------|
| Species at Risk           | Ruddy Turnstone        | Present <sup>2</sup> , 1993                               | Fall Migration |
| Congregations: Shorebirds | Sanderling             | 200 Adults, 2005  | Fall Migration |
| Congregations: Shorebirds | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 106 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988                            | Fall Migration |
| Species at Risk           | Short-billed Dowitcher | 90 Adults <sup>2</sup> , 1988                             | Migration      |
| T/E Species               | Least Tern             | 102 Breeding Pairs and 57 Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 2003 | Breeding       |
| T/E Species               | Roseate Tern           | 10 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2005                            | Fall Migration |

## Laudholm Beach Wells

## Wells IBA

**Description** – This site consists of a beachfront and dune system along the southwest shore of the Little River outlet, across the river from Crescent Surf Beach. Beaches and dunes south of the immediate area are intensively developed for summer and seasonal residences.

**Bird Resources** – The site generally hosts a small Least Tern colony as well as nesting Piping Plovers. The site is an especially important shorebird roost during fall migration. Piping Plovers congregate here in large flocks as well, mainly during late summer, prior to migration.

**Conservation Issues** – As with Crescent Surf Beach, predation and public use, especially dogs off leash, are significant threats to productivity at this site. Dogs are not allowed on Laudholm Beach, but enforcement of regulations has been difficult.

**Ownership/Access** – This site is owned by the State of Maine, Bureau of Parks and Lands and managed cooperatively with the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. Parking is provided at the Wells Reserve where a walking path of approximately ½ mile facilitates accessing the beach without trespassing. For more information and access questions, call the Wells Reserve at (207) 646-1555.

### Selected Ornithological Data

| Criteria    | Common Name   | Maximum #, Unit, Year                                    | Season   |
|-------------|---------------|--|----------|
| T/E Species | Piping Plover | 5 Breeding Pairs and 15 Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 2002  | Breeding |
| T/E Species | Least Tern    | 37 Breeding Pairs and 17 Fledglings <sup>15</sup> , 2000 | Breeding |

## Marginal Way Ogunquit

## Wells IBA

**Description** - Nestled in the busy tourist town of Ogunquit, Marginal Way is a paved foot path, stretching 1.25 miles from Perkins Cove to Ogunquit Beach. The path was given to the Town of

Ogunquit in 1923 and has been enjoyed by residents and visitors ever since. The path hugs the rocky sections of the shoreline, offering visitors expansive views of the ocean on one side, and maritime shrubs and impressive homes on the other.

***Bird Resources*** – Marginal Way is especially well known as a viewing area for wintering populations of up to 50 Harlequin Ducks (2000, Maine Bird Notes). Peregrine Falcons, Purple Sandpipers, Common Eider, and occasionally a King Eider, can be seen from here in winter as well.

***Conservation Issues*** - The majority of birds use the adjacent habitat in the winter, when the tourist crowd thins and the wave action provides feeding opportunities. Possible erosion of the path could be a concern, however, this area generally accommodates both heavy public use and excellent bird foraging habitat along the rocky shore. As with other coastal sites in this IBA, threat of oil spill or other overboard discharge remain a concern.

***Ownership/Access*** – Marginal Way is owned and maintained by the Town of Ogunquit. Parking is provided at both ends: on Cottage Street in Perkins Cove and on Shore Road in Ogunquit.

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## **Mousam River Kennebunk**

Wells IBA

***Description*** – The Mousam River in the town of Kennebunk originates at Mousam Lake near Shapleigh and flows through the city of Sanford. The river eventually enters the sea at Parsons Beach just southwest of Kennebunkport village. Saltmarsh habitat borders the river for nearly 2 miles inland from its terminus. The river is a popular spot for sport fisherman, especially at its end.

***Bird Resources*** – This area has not been adequately surveyed for the diverse array of birds that occur here. However, yellowlegs, egrets and various sandpipers use the saltmarsh pannes and pools along the river. High marsh portions of the estuary support Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The cut banks of the meandering Mousam provide nesting opportunities for Belted Kingfishers and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Least Terns feed at the mouth of the river. In the winter, the outlet provides habitat for numerous loons.

***Conservation Issues*** – Water quality and human disturbance are the primary concerns at this site.

***Ownership/Access*** – Ownership at this site is characterized by a complex of private, non-profit, and federal (Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge) properties. Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge lands are generally closed to public entry to protect wildlife from undue disturbance. However, there is a public trail system here that parallels the Mousam River. This trail network includes a viewing platform and offers good opportunities to bird this area. Please consult the Refuge Manager for directions and current regulations (207) 646-9226 or stop by the headquarters and visitor center at 321 Port Road in Wells.

### ***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>             | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>           | <b>Season</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Egret                    | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997            | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Willet                         | 8 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Laughing Gull                  | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997            | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Common Tern                    | 57 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding      |
| T/E Species                   | Arctic Tern                    | 12 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding      |
| Species at Risk               | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997            | Breeding      |

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### **Rachel Carson/Webhannet/Wells Bay Saltmarshes Ogunquit and Wells**

### **Wells IBA**

**Description** – This is the second largest saltmarsh complex in the state. It has been designated by the Maine Natural Areas Program as an “exemplary natural community” and supports a large array of rare plants and animals. The marsh system has numerous tidal creeks, pools, and pannes and a mixture of high and low marsh habitats. The marsh system is extensive, and is crossed by several roads.

**Bird Resources** – A complete assessment of the birds using the saltmarsh is exceedingly difficult. The topography of the marsh, specifically its deep tidal creeks, ensures that counts from the road underestimate a large number of birds. Tidal cycles also influence survey counts. However, there are several areas where a great diversity of avian life can be viewed. The marsh has large numbers of sharp-tailed sparrows, egrets, herons, Willets, and shorebirds. It also supports a colony of marsh-nesting Common Terns. Wintering Black Ducks and Canada Geese use the marshes extensively and Northern Harriers are common during migration. Rarities (recently American Avocets) are frequently reported here.

**Conservation Issues** – Over 500 units of seasonal housing were built on U.S. Route 1 in Wells in 2005 alone. These large developments and increasing impervious surface will likely increase the freshwater and pollutant discharge to the marsh. An increase in commercial kayaking tours has brought people into areas of the marsh that were largely inaccessible before. Sea level rise and tidal restrictions also threaten the health of the marsh. Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows sampled from this area had elevated blood mercury levels. Some areas of the marsh have human alterations (roads, ditches, berms, etc.) that have changed the hydrology. Both native genotype and non-native genotype *Phragmites* are documented in the system. The non-native *Phragmites* may threaten the health of the ecosystem. Resident Canada Geese appear to be increasing and could degrade the quality of habitat if numbers become excessive. An updated comprehensive bird survey of this area is needed.

**Ownership/Access** – Much of the saltmarsh habitat is owned and managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge). Ownership of the surrounding

uplands is a mixture of mostly private, but some federal properties. Refuge lands are generally closed to public entry to protect wildlife from undue disturbance. There are many roads that cross this area and birding from the side of the road can be quite good. Please consult the Refuge Manager for current regulations at (207) 646-9226 or stop by the refuge headquarters and visitor center at 321 Port Road in Wells.

***Selected Ornithological Data***

| <b>Criteria</b>               | <b>Common Name</b>     | <b>Maximum #, Unit, Year</b>            | <b>Season</b>     |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Blue Heron       | 38 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Great Egret            | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997             | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Snowy Egret            | 55 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Tricolored Heron       | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997             | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Wadingbirds | Glossy Ibis            | 16 Breeding Adults <sup>6</sup> , 1998  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Green-winged Teal      | Present <sup>1</sup> , 1997             | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Water Birds | Virginia Rail          | Present <sup>6</sup> , 1998             | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Plover    | 250 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004         | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Greater Yellowlegs     | 40 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Lesser Yellowlegs      | 27 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Willet                 | 66 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Semipalmated Sandpiper | 208 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004         | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Least Sandpiper        | 90 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Shorebirds  | Dunlin                 | 40 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Species at Risk               | Short-billed Dowitcher | Present <sup>16</sup> , 2004            | Fall<br>Migration |
| T/E Species                   | Least Tern             | 12 Breeding Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004 | Breeding          |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Bonaparte's Gull       | 65 Adults <sup>16</sup> , 2004          | Fall<br>Migration |
| Congregations:<br>Seabirds    | Ring-billed Gull       | 69 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding          |
| Species at Risk               | Common Tern            | 35 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding          |
| T/E Species                   | Arctic Tern            | 24 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding          |
| Migratory<br>Landbirds        | Purple Martin          | 7 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997   | Breeding          |

|                     |                                |   |          |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------|
| Migratory Landbirds | Tree Swallow                   | 274 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997 | Breeding |
| Migratory Landbirds | Northern Rough-winged Swallow  | 19 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding |
| Migratory Landbirds | Bank Swallow                   | 36 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding |
| Species at Risk     | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  | 12 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding |
| Species at Risk     | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 25 Breeding Adults <sup>1</sup> , 1997  | Breeding |

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## Sources of Data

1. MDIFW Saltmarsh Surveys
2. MDIFW Shorebird Surveys
3. MDIFW Barrow's Goldeneye Surveys
4. MDIFW Seabird Surveys
5. MDIFW Purple Sandpiper Surveys
6. MDIFW Marshbird Surveys
7. MDIFW Shrubland Surveys
8. MDIFW Airfield Database
9. MDIFW Mid-winter Inventory
10. MDIFW Grassland Surveys
11. MDIFW Wading bird Surveys
12. MDIFW Penjajawoc Survey
13. MDIFW Brood Counts
14. MDIFW Ecoregional Surveys
15. Maine Audubon Data
16. Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Sampson Cove Surveys
17. Acadia National Park, B. Connery,
18. The Nature Conservancy, Annual Report 2003
19. Maine Bird Notes
20. S. Hall, National Audubon
21. P. Vickery, field notes
22. A. Cadot, field notes
23. D. Tucker, B. Coulton, Field Notes
24. D. Tucker, York Co. Audubon Records
25. J. Markowsky, field notes
26. P. Moynihan, field notes
27. L. Woodard and R. Duddy, field notes
28. Steve Mirick, field notes
29. Tingley 2000
30. Mittelhauser 2002
31. Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge Surveys



# **Appendix**

## Qualifying Criteria

### Primary Criteria:

#### ***1. Sites for Threatened and Endangered Species***

Sites that regularly support breeding or non-breeding birds listed as Endangered or Threatened at either the state or federal level. The site should have regular and/or recent records for species (within the past 10 years). There is no minimum number to meet the criteria but ideally sites should include at least 1% of the state population (if known) in a season, or be the 3-5 sites in the state with the highest regularly occurring numbers. The list of species includes:

|                  |                  |                           |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Harlequin Duck   | Upland Sandpiper | Razorbill                 |
| Bald Eagle       | Roseate Tern     | Atlantic Puffin           |
| Golden Eagle     | Arctic Tern      | Sedge Wren                |
| Peregrine Falcon | Least Tern       | American Pipit (breeding) |
| Piping Plover    | Black Tern       | Grasshopper Sparrow       |

#### ***2. Sites with Species of Conservation Concern (“At Risk”)***

Sites that regularly support substantial numbers of breeding or non-breeding species that are of conservation concern due to vulnerable and/or declining populations either locally, regionally, or globally. These include all species on the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s special concern list, regular breeders or migrants ranked by Partners in Flight as Category IA (High Continental Priority/Regional Responsibility), priority species as identified by the National Shorebird Conservation Plan, and additional species that in the expert opinion of the Technical Committee warrant conservation concern. The site should have regular and/or recent records for species (within the past 20 years). There is no minimum number to meet the criteria, but ideally sites will have at least 25 breeding pairs, 5% or more of the state population (if known), or be one of the 2-3 sites in the state with the highest regularly occurring numbers. Sites may also be considered under this criterion if they include a substantial mix of these species. The list of species will be revised and updated as priority and special concern species change over time. The list of species includes:

|                           |                       |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Leach’s Storm-Petrel      | American Woodcock     | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| Great Cormorant           | Red-necked Phalarope  | Blackburnian Warbler        |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Laughing Gull         | Prairie Warbler             |
| Least Bittern             | Common Tern           | Bay-breasted Warbler        |
| Barrow’s Goldeneye        | Black-billed Cuckoo   | Louisiana Waterthrush       |
| Northern Harrier          | Eastern Screech-owl   | Canada Warbler              |
| Cooper’s Hawk             | Long-eared Owl        | Scarlet Tanager             |
| Northern Goshawk          | Short-eared Owl       | Eastern Towhee              |
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | Whip-poor-will        | Field Sparrow               |
| Yellow Rail               | Three-toed Woodpecker | Vesper Sparrow              |

|                        |                              |                                |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Common Moorhen         | Olive-sided Flycatcher       | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  |
| American Coot          | Loggerhead Shrike (migrants) | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow |
| Willet                 | Yellow-throated Vireo        | Bobolink                       |
| Whimbrel               | Bicknell's Thrush            | Eastern Meadowlark             |
| Ruddy Turnstone        | Wood Thrush                  | Rusty Blackbird                |
| Purple Sandpiper       | Blue-winged Warbler          | Orchard Oriole                 |
| Dunlin                 | Chestnut-sided Warbler       | Baltimore Oriole               |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | Cape May Warbler             |                                |

### ***3. Sites with Substantial Concentrations of Birds and/or High Species Diversity***

Sites that regularly support high concentrations of one or more species in the breeding or non-breeding season or during migration. The site should have regular and/or recent records for species (within the past 20 years). The guidelines below suggest thresholds for minimum numbers, but should not be viewed as absolute. Numerical estimates should be based on a short period of time, e.g. one-time counts such as daily surveys, not cumulative totals over a season (with the exception of raptors, see below). Exotic and feral species are not included.

***A. Water Birds:*** The site regularly supports at least 100 water birds (at one time) if inland or at least 500 water birds (at one time) if coastal, during some part of the year. (For IBA purposes, “water birds” include non-colonial breeders that may migrate or winter in large groups, including loons, grebes, geese, dabbling/diving ducks).

***B. Seabirds:*** The site regularly supports at least 1,000 gulls, 200 terns, or 200 Alcids, pelagics and/or in-shore seabirds (at one time) during some part of the year. Pelagic sites are the actual location being used by seabirds, not the point of land from which an observer counts seabirds. Smaller concentrations of less common gulls such as Laughing or Bonaparte’s will be considered. Human-made food sources for gulls such as landfills, sewage outflows, etc. will not be considered. (For IBA purposes, “seabirds” are colonial breeders as well as those wintering or migrating at sea in large concentrations, including cormorants, eiders, Alcids, gulls, terns, storm-petrels, and other pelagic birds (e.g., shearwaters, jaegers, gannets)).

***C. Shorebirds:*** The site regularly supports at least 100 small shorebirds (“peeps”) and/or 40 medium/large shorebirds (at one time) if inland, or at least 1,000 “peeps” and/or 100 medium/large shorebirds (at one time) if coastal, during some part of the year. (Mainly non-breeders that migrate through the state in large numbers, including plovers, sandpipers, snipe, woodcock, phalaropes).

***D. Wadingbirds:*** The site regularly supports 60 breeding pairs or 50 foraging wading birds (at one time). (Mainly colonial nesters and/or those that congregate for feeding or staging, including herons, egrets and ibises).

***E. Raptors:*** The site is a regular seasonal migration corridor or “bottleneck” for at least 1,000 individuals over the course of the season.

***F. Migratory Land Birds:*** The site is an important and regular stopover or seasonal concentration site for migratory landbirds (e.g., warblers, other non-passerine migrants, etc.), supports exceptionally high densities of breeding species as shown from point counts or other surveys, and/or represents a “migrant trap” relative to surrounding sites. Strong consideration will be given to sites with consistently high overall species diversity.

***G. Exceptional Abundance/Diversity:*** The site is recognized within Maine as having an exceptional concentration and/or diversity of bird life which is clearly outstanding relative to other sites, though may not meet the thresholds described above. Includes sites that do not necessarily harbor large numbers of birds but provide important habitat for many more species, unique species assemblages, or more individuals than most other sites.

**Secondary Criteria:**

***4. Sites for Species in Rare, Vulnerable, or Exemplary Habitat Types:***

Sites that support species assemblages dependent on rare or unique habitat types or natural communities within the state, or sites that are exceptional, high-quality, representative examples (e.g., large and intact) of other habitat types or natural communities and contain associated species assemblages.

***5. Sites Important for Research/Monitoring:***

Sites that are important for long-term avian research and/or monitoring projects that contribute substantially to ornithology and bird conservation.