



2026

EcoTravel

Overnight Natural History Tours and Day Trips

Connecticut Lakes

June 1 – 5, 2026



New Hampshire June 2026 5 Days!

Overview

The Connecticut Lakes Region is wonderfully unique in many ways and is a pristine region at the northern tip of New Hampshire offering unlimited, unspoiled wilderness. Although it is the center of the North Country's fishing and hunting, it is also a bird migration haven! Trip average is about 100 species, sometimes including boreal species not found in Connecticut: Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee, and Black-backed Wood-pecker, to name a few.

Target species near the lodge include Common Loon, Black-backed and Pileated woodpeckers, Canada Jay, Common Raven, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ruffed Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Rusty Blackbird, Philadelphia Vireo, many species of warbler (Mourning, Blackpoll, Wilson's, Bay-breasted, and more), Moose, White-tailed Deer, Porcupine, and much more.

Spotting moose has been inconsistent from year to year. Some years there are plenty and others there are none. We will do our best! Great trip for birders and non-birders.

Most of our birding destinations and hiking trails are within twenty or so minutes of the lodge. We plan to be out most of the day but pass by the lodge from time to time, so lodge stops or dropping off passengers are possible. Logging roads and trails are good for finding target birds. We take the van to drive from one birding location to the other, getting in and out of the van multiple times per day, with short walks at each stop. This is not a physically demanding trip with the exception of the two-hour hike to the Fourth Connecticut Lake.

The lodging for the trip is at the beautiful Glen at Bear Tree, located on the shore of the First Connecticut Lake. With rustic room designs that have the aura of a mountain retreat, enjoy stunning views of the lake, and have the option to kayak as well! Enjoy the calls of Common Loons in the evening and the morning chorus full of warblers and other neotropical migrants.



Itinerary

Although there is a designated itinerary for the trip, the order of activities will vary depending on the weather and group interest. Early June can be delightful, sunny and warm, or it can be uneasy, cool, and damp.

Day 1

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Travelers will depart from Essex at approximately 7am, before making the long drive into the boreal forests of northern New Hampshire. We'll pick up lunch in a local town and stop for lunch at one of the national wildlife refuges.

Night: Pittsburg.

Days 2 – 4

Our days will start early, with an optional dawn birding adventure each morning at some of the local hotspots and a return to the lodge for breakfast around 8:00am. Those staying back would meet the rest of the group at the lodge for breakfast. These early morning walks are traditionally bird-filled, as warblers and other migrants aggressively defend their territories while flycatchers call deep from the understory.

An optional hike up to the headwaters of the Connecticut River is rocky and uphill and is for **sturdy hikers only**. Owned by The Nature Conservancy, this is the northernmost, smallest, and most remote lake of the Connecticut Lakes. It's also New Hampshire's northernmost lake. The trail leading to it crisscrosses the international border between the United States and Canada. This hike is most often a post-lunch hike, allowing for a free afternoon to relax at the lakeside for those unwilling or unable.

In the evenings you will have plenty of opportunity to relax with or without the group. Even if you're staying in a lakeside cabin (additional charge), you're welcome to enjoy the lodge's living room and fireplace. Typically, games and puzzles are available. If time allows, we'll offer a "birding by ear" workshop one night. In the meantime, try to brush up on your warbler identification.

Nights: Pittsburg.

Day 5

After breakfast, we'll make our way south towards Moose Bog Wildlife Management Area, one of the most popular birding areas in northern New Hampshire. This is our best chance to find Black-backed Woodpeckers if we've missed them previously, along with Olive-sided Flycatchers. Curious Red-breasted Nuthatches may even land on you here!

After stretching our legs we'll continue the journey south, aiming to return to Essex in the early evening.



General Information

Tour Cost: \$1,798.

Members: \$1,498.

The above cost is based upon a minimum number of five paying participants traveling together. If there are fewer participants, there will be a small group supplement. Per person Tour Cost is based on two people sharing a room.

Single Room Supplement: \$350.

All rates are calculated at the time of publication and are subject to change due to conditions out of our control (i.e. hotel rates). All passengers will be notified if changes in pricing occur.

Tour Includes:

Accommodations are based on double occupancy, one or two beds. Meals are included as outlined in the itinerary section (B=Breakfast/L=Lunch/D=Dinner). Additional charges for meals may apply if needs are out of the standard offerings. Entrance fees to national parks and sightseeing as specified in the itinerary.

Not Included:

Taxes; costs of obtaining passports and visas; airfare; baggage fees; personal expenses such as room service, beverages, laundry, gratuities for the local guide and housekeeping; personal communications; airport taxes; tax increases or new taxes charged for services that were not taxed at the time the booking was made; excess mileage carried out at the request of the passenger; sightseeing or meals not specified in the itinerary; personal insurance coverage (strongly recommended); and transfers to and from your home airport.



Matt Bell is a graduate of the Ohio State University with BS degrees in both earth sciences and evolution/ ecology. He started birding in May 2013 and became more seriously involved after a trip to Costa Rica. Since then, he helped revive The Ornithology Club at Ohio State and assisted as a volunteer guide for The Biggest Week in American Birding and the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival. He absolutely loves participating in citizen science, tour guiding, chasing rare birds in his free time, and meeting fellow birders from around the globe. Most of all, Matt enjoys sharing his passion for birds and conservation with others and never shies away at taking the time to help beginners start their explorations of the avian world. Matt is the EcoTravel travel specialist and leads day trips and overnight tours.



General Terms & Conditions

Reservations

Early reservations with deposit are essential to guarantee your booking. A **\$500 deposit**, per person, applicable to final payment, is required to reserve space on this trip. Reservations made within 120 days of departure require full payment along with the formal Registration Forms. Final payment for programs is due 120 days prior to departure. Payments can be made by personal check, money order, certified check, or a cashier's check.

Rates and Fares

Prices are accurate as available at the time of publication. Prices do not include airfare unless otherwise stated. The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) reserves the right to alter quoted prices to reflect changes in airline fares, land service, or currency exchange rates. In the event that the number of participants is below the minimum required for the quoted price, a small group surcharge may be added.

Cancellation and Insurance

At the time the EcoTravel Office receives written notice that you must cancel your trip, the following cancellation fees will apply: Prior to 120 days from departure, your payments will be refunded minus **\$250 per person**. At 120 days and less, no refund is granted.

NOTE: In addition to cancellation fees, airline tickets and deposits required to guarantee hotel rooms may be nonrefundable. The purchase of a general travel insurance plan covering baggage, accident/life, and trip cancellation is highly recommended. Give us a call and we can put you in touch with those providers. CAS reserve the right, if registration is insufficient or other reasons out of our control, to cancel, postpone, or offer the trip with a small group supplement. In the event that CAS cancels or postpones, those with reservations will be notified as soon as possible and a credit of payments will be held on file. The Connecticut Audubon Society is not responsible for the refund or credit of additional expenses incurred in preparation for a trip. Any "delay" or "postponing" of departure by tour participants is considered a cancellation and cancellation parameters will be apply relative to the 120-day window. There are no exceptions.

Responsibility

Payment of deposit represents and acceptance of the following terms and conditions by the purchaser: The Connecticut Audubon Society, its affiliates, and all cooperating airlines and agencies act only in the capacity of agents in all matters of transportation and tour operations, and their liability is limited to the terms of the airline tickets and land accommodation contracts. They are not responsible for any delays, inconveniences, accidents, expense, or mishap of any kind whatsoever resulting entirely or in part from the negligence of others or from causes beyond their control. They can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, riot, war, pandemic, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses must be borne by the passengers, as the tour rate provides for arrangements only as describe in the tour brochure. The right is reserved to change tour leaders, substitute hotels, of similar category, and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by unforeseen circumstances. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. No refund can be made for unused hotel rooms, meals, and sightseeing tours unless arrangements are made at time of booking. The right is reserved to decline any person as a tour member for any reason which affects the operation of the tour or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of the other tour members. Any refund of the recoverable land tour services in the limit of The Connecticut Audubon Society and its affiliates' liability.

To make a Reservation:

Send the above stated deposit to hold your reservation. Nonmembers, please add \$45 (single) or \$58 (family) for your annual membership and to take advantage of the member discount.

Send your name(s), address, phone number, email address, name of the trip, your deposit, and membership fee (if applicable) to:

The Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel

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