



2026

EcoTravel

Overnight Natural History Tours and Day Trips

Monhegan Island: Migration Hotspot September 15 – 18, 2026



Maine September 2026 4 Days!

Overview

Existing peacefully ten miles off the southern coast of Maine, Monhegan Island is well known as a modern-day fishing village and artists' haven; to birders, it's better known as one of the finest migrant and vagrant traps on the North Atlantic Coast. Only one square mile in area, this 700-acre island is laced with 17 miles of trails that wind through magnificent cathedral forest to majestic headland cliffs and beautiful coves. A dirt road running through the center of the village conveniently connects the prime birding spots of The Ice Pond, The Meadow, and Lobster Cove. Travelers spend the entire time on foot, since there are no cars or paved roads on the island. Fear not, though: there are enough Adirondack chairs set out on our hotel's porch for those who want to just sit back, relax, and catch up with the group later.

For more than 100 years, Monhegan has been a summer haven for artists and other visitors who appreciate its isolation, the beauty of its wilderness areas, its quiet relaxed atmosphere, and its unhurried pace. The island's phenomenal scenery has been the subject of many works by legendary artists, including James Fitzgerald and Jamie Wyeth. Residents and visitors alike work to see that the wildlands will remain wild and that the fragile ecology will not be endangered. The mantra here regarding litter is "pack it in, pack it out!"

Most songbirds are nocturnal migrants, so we'll spend much of the day searching for overnight arrivals. If we get lucky with the passage of a cold front and resultant northwest winds pushing migrants offshore, the island could be teeming with birds in a relatively confined area. One of the dirt roads is famous for its ability to attract Lark and Clay-colored sparrows. You'll have the option to come and go with the group, or wander off on the many trails that traverse the island; the ones that take you to the 180-foot Whitehead and Blackhead cliffs overlooking the Atlantic are spectacular!



Itinerary

Although there is a designated itinerary for the trip, the order of activities will vary depending on the weather and group interest.

Day 1

D

After traveling from Connecticut in the EcoTravel van, we'll take the ferry from New Harbor, Maine, at 2 p.m. During the 50-minute ferry crossing, we'll look for pelagic species such as Great Shearwater, Northern Gannet, Black Guillemot, and Common Eider. On our arrival at the island, our luggage will be transported to the **Monhegan House**, just a short walk from the harbor. After checking in and getting settled, we'll take a leisurely stroll along the dirt road from The Ice Pond to Lobster Cove to see what's around.

Night: Monhegan House.

Day 2

B

Each day brings the anticipation of something new. Although some may prefer to sleep in, the others will want to begin early, making stops at all the hotspots along the dirt road before returning to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, we'll head out to explore further spots on the southwest side of the island. There are a few places to either grab a sandwich or have a sit-down lunch; our hotel porch or the cliffs of Whitehead are excellent options, and the afternoons are wide open for more birdwatching, a walk along the dirt road, or a visit to Tom's feeders, which always seem to turn up something new. For the adventurous who want to explore more of the island, there are trail maps to help. And finally, those who just want to sit on the hotel porch and read, write, or simply relax in the fresh air can do so and meet up with the group later for more birding and then for dinner.

Night: Monhegan House.

Day 3

BD

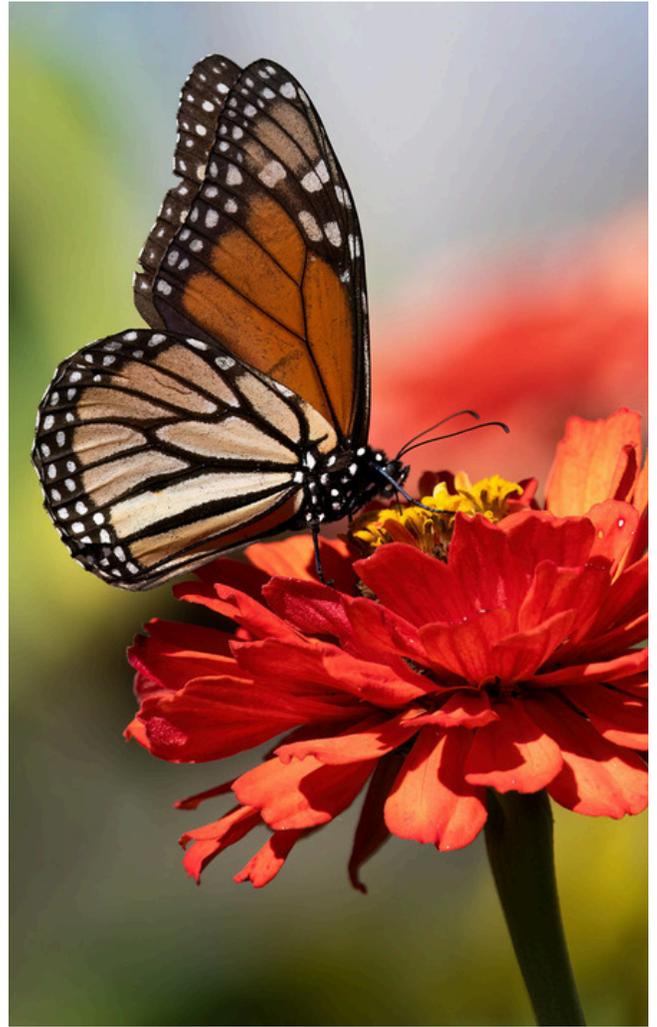
The third day is a repeat of Day 2, exploring the birding hotspots and/or hiking the more remote trails. The group will enjoy a final-night Pizza Party at 6PM. Let us know if you are gluten or lactose intolerant, so we can offer you some options.

Night: Monhegan House.

Day 4

B

After breakfast, the group might stop at a birding hotspot or state park, depending on time and the traffic situation on the drive home. We'll have our picnic lunch there as well. This stop is weather permitting.



General Information

Tour Cost: \$1,798.

Members: \$1,598.

The above cost is based upon a minimum number of six 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: \$500.

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:

Land Transportation, including ferry tickets.

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.

Tour Leaders

Andrew Griswold, Director of EcoTravel for Connecticut Audubon Society, graduated as an honor student in biology from Hartwick College, where he worked at their biological research station in the Bahamas studying avian ecology. He's



the original concept creator and scientific consultant for a cable television series on bird watching called *All Bird TV* that aired on Discovery's Animal Planet. Andy's the original concept creator of the award-winning Connecticut River Eagle Festival (at the time the largest birding festival in the Americas). He leads trips to Canada, Texas, South Florida, Nova Scotia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, and many other unique destinations. Andy is a former licensed USCG 100-Ton Master boat captain and lives in Essex, Connecticut, with his wife and son. He's known for his attentiveness to travelers' needs, fine birding skills, and infectious sense of humor.

Jim Sherwonit fell in love with the woods and birding in his teens. He started birding more seriously in 2010 after his first EcoTravel trip and has participated (as traveler, driver, and leader) in over 70 trips. He's recently retired from managing a local office for a major transportation engineering firm for over 40 years. Jim has an enthusiasm for conservation, all things nature, and is an avid photographer. As he says, "Any day spent in the woods is a good day." He is deeply involved in environmental conservation efforts and is a member of Connecticut and National Audubon Society, and the Connecticut Ornithological Association. He also volunteers at the annual Hawk Watch at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven and is on the Board of Directors of the Old Saybrook Land Trust.



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

PO Box 903

Essex, CT 06426

(860) 767-0660

ecotravel@ctaudubon.org

www.ctaudubon.org/ecotravel-home

