



Gaspé Peninsula Birding Tour June 2–June 11, 2026



Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island in the distance. Photo: CTO

Join Saw Mill River Audubon on a special expedition to the southeastern corner of Quebec to explore the stunningly beautiful Gaspé Peninsula. The peninsula is known for its great birding with a combination of seabirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and boreal birds, and habitats varying from sea cliffs and marshes to boreal forests and tundra. We will visit key national parks including Gaspésie, Bonaventure and Percé-Rock as well as active birding hotspots. **Our birding leaders for this trip will be Charlie Roberto and Anne Swaim.**



Northern Gannets.

Photo: Canada Wildlife Service

Price is \$2770/person based on double occupancy.

Extra cost for a single room (single supplement) is \$750, i.e. half of lodging costs per person. There are limited single rooms.

Trip cost is based on minimum of 6 participants with our two leaders. Price includes all transportation (by van from/to Pruyn Sanctuary and all-round the Peninsula, all hotel accommodations, all meals shown in itinerary, park admission fees, boat transport to/from Bonaventure Island, and a \$300 donation to Saw Mill River Audubon. Not included are any alcoholic beverages enjoyed at meals, and most lunches. Note the (B,L,D) codes on each day.

This trip will begin and end at Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, New York where cars may be left by participants during the trip.

Deadline for deposit is now! We expect to fill this trip quickly. A \$500 per person deposit with our reservation form saves your space. The deposit is fully refundable if we do not reach the six person minimum. If you must cancel, \$300 of the deposit will be retained as a SMRA donation. (See payment and refund policies on the back pages of this itinerary.)

Gaspé Peninsula Birding Tour Itinerary

Tuesday, June 2. New York to St Antoine de l'isle aux Grues. We expect to depart from Pruyn Sanctuary by 6:30 am. This will be our longest driving segment of the trip (9 hours plus lunch stop and restroom and birding stops) as we go north through Vermont and into Canada continuing up along the St. Lawrence River about 35 miles north of Quebec. Then we'll take a car ferry at Montmagny across to St Antoine de l'isle aux Grues, an island in the middle of the St. Lawrence River. We'll be birding late afternoon and early morning in the special habitats of this Island and along the river shoreline. In addition to river waterfowl, we expect marsh and meadow birds including Nelson's Sparrow, Bobolink, Marsh Wren and various warblers. Short-eared Owls and Wilson's Snipe breed here. We will also be listening hard for the rare Yellow rail—as Charlie says, "Maybe a wild dream." Overnight at Les Maisons du Grand Heron on St Antoine de l'isle aux Grues. (D)



Mourning Warbler. Photo: Simon Boivin

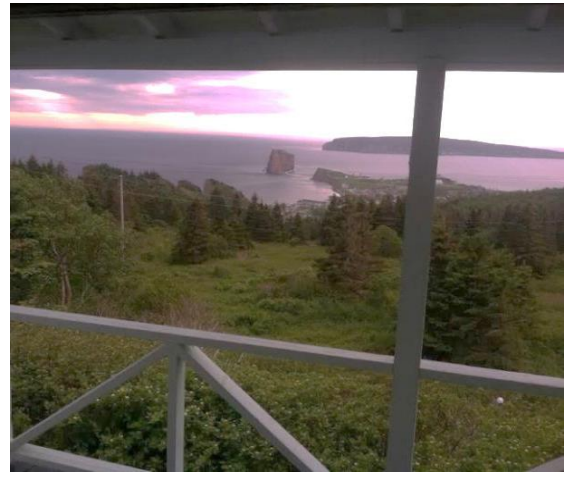
Wednesday, June 3. North to Matane. Today's we continue our travel up the St. Lawrence River keeping an eye on the shoreline for whales and waterfowl. Birding on the way will include loon species and various species of white-winged gulls as well as eiders. We will travel inland to bird the Matane Forest Reserve for closer views of warblers we only glimpse in migration including Mourning Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Canada Warbler (appropriately), and Nashville Warbler. Overnight at Matane Quality Inn & Suites. (B, L, D)

Thursday, June 4. Around the top of Gaspé Peninsula to the town of Gaspé. Today we will bird around the northern part of Gaspé Peninsula with coastline birding stops for seabirds, scoters, Harlequin ducks and seal views. We plan to visit Forillon National Park at the easternmost tip of the peninsula with the Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse. (And, along the way, enjoy the best chocolate-dipped ice cream!) At the lighthouse, we will be scanning for Black-legged Kittiwakes that nest here and other seabirds such as Black Guillemots, Razorbills and Double-crested Cormorants. All are attracted to the surrounding waters, rich in food, that also draw in whales, porpoises, dolphins, and seals. Overnight at Hôtel Baker, Gaspé. (B, L, D)



Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse.
Photo: Canadian Tourist Office (CTO)

Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6. Gaspé Coast and Percé. As we approach the town of Percé today, we will begin to catch glimpses of the famous Percé rock and Bonaventure Island just offshore. Our hotel for the next two nights will be Percé Chalet Au Pic de l'Aurore with stunning sea views and possible whale views. Over 300 bird species have been recorded around Percé with diverse habitats including coastal marshes, extensive beach areas with surrounding cliffs and mountains, bogs, boreal forest and more. Local hotspots include Barachois de Malbaie, between Gaspé and Percé, for waterfowl and wading birds including nesting American Bitterns as well as (that elusive) Yellow Rail and likely Nelson's Sparrows, both of the latter birds being threatened species in Quebec. After dinner this night or next, we also hope to exploring on mainland for some dusk and nighttime birding, perhaps hearing or even seeing (that secretive!) Yellow Rail or Wilson's Snipe. Overnights (Fri & Sat) at Au Pic de L'Aurore, Perce. (B, D)



View from Percé Chalet Photo: Charlie Roberto

Sat or Sun, June 6 or 7. Bonaventure Island. We will time our boat trip to the world-famous seabird colony on Bonaventure Island depending on the wind and weather. We will view the island from the boat and then land for time to explore the boreal habitats and open areas on the island with beautiful wildflowers, a gorgeous look back at the mainland, as well as cliffs overlooking the gannet colony.



Northern Gannets. Photo: Charlie Roberto



View from Bonaventure Island back to mainland.
Photo: SEPAQ (Quebec Provincial Parks)

We certainly expect to see Northern Gannet since thousands do nest here! Other birds include Black-legged Kittiwakes, Common Murres, Razorbills, and perhaps Bald Eagle or Merlin. Good opportunities on the island for bird and wildflower photography, and some optional longer hiking.

Sunday, June 7 and Monday, June 8

Gaspésie National Park. Next we will explore the key habitats and birding spots of Gaspésie National Park. Because of the extreme climatic differences between the valleys and the high peaks found in this region, there is a diversity of northern birds to be found. Boreal birds such as Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay and Spruce Grouse all possible as well as expected view of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins right around our lodgings and Moose visits!.



Spruce Grouse. Photo: Charlie Roberto

Overnights (Sun and Mon) at the Gîte due Mont-Albert cabins inside Gaspésie National Park (B, L, D)

Tuesday, June 9. Drive across middle of the Gaspé Peninsula to Nicolet and Trois-Rivières.



Singing Fox Sparrow.
Photo: Charlie Roberto

Today's travel day across the middle of the Gaspé Peninsula will allow us to revisit some spots for birds we missed seeing or photographing and visit some new birding hotspots as we return to the St. Lawrence River at Nicolet and Trois-Rivières. Our final lodging will be in the historic city of Trois-Rivières which is just across the St. Lawrence River from key birding spots in the Nicolet area. Our hotel for the next two nights will be in the charming and historic L'Auberge Du Lac St-Pierre on the edge of the St. Lawrence River with an excellent restaurant on the grounds as well. There are spa options here including a sauna and massage service so feel free to relax here instead of being on some of our side birding jaunts or spa after birding! Overnights (Tue and Wed) at L'Auberge Du Lac St-Pierre. (B, L, D)

Thursday, July 11. Today we head south back to New York with a notable stop along the way at the famed Vermont Country Store. We expect approximately 6.5 hrs of driving from Trois-Rivières, plus stops along the way. (B)

Gaspé Peninsula Birding Tour Notes

June 2 to June 11, 2026

Travel Notes

The trip will begin Tuesday, June 2, 6:00 am at the Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary in Chappaqua where participants may park cars during the trip and where trip vans will meet. Travel will be by two 7-passenger minivans. **The trip will end Thursday, June 11, around 6:00 pm** at Pruyn Sanctuary. We will stop at least every two hours during our long drives to/from Quebec.

Travel documents

Please note that a U.S. passport is needed for U.S. citizens to travel into Canada from the U.S. by air and to return to the U.S. from Canada. More info from Canadian Border Service Agency: <http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/travel-voyage/ivc-rnc-eng.html>

Lodging Notes

Lodging in Gaspésie National Park will be in small adjacent cabins and, in some cases, two or more people in separate bedrooms will be in the same cabin with shared bathroom facilities. (These cabins and those at Percé have heat, electricity, bathrooms with showers, and all linens supplied.) Please also note that some rooms on our trip will have better views than others; to be fair, we'll assign rooms in order of trip deposits received.

Meal Notes

All meals indicated in the itinerary by (B), (L), or (D) are covered in the trip cost. Please note that four of the six lunches are paid by participants and are not included in the trip cost. SMRA will pay for these and invoice post-trip with your initialed receipt. Most breakfasts will be quick stops for hot beverages and light fare to allow for maximum birding.

Packing Notes

Luggage space will be tight in our vans. Keep your packing light and to one bag, please, that you can carry yourself. Have a small backpack to keep with you in the van for items needed during the day and for walks. More packing suggestions will be shared later via email.

Registration & Payments

To reserve your spot, send us the \$500/person deposit and both pages of the registration form are attached here.

Payment methods are described below.

The balance of the trip cost is due May 15, 2026 and we'll email a reminder invoice.

Checks or Zelle are preferred for your deposit and balance. Checks payable to "Saw Mill River Audubon" to SMRA, 275 Millwood Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Zelle to smrapay@gmail.com. If credit card payment (Amex, Visa, MC, Discover) is preferred by you, we can accept credit card payments with a 3% processing fee to cover merchant fees charged to SMRA. To pay by credit card, visit: <https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/trip-payment>

If your plans change and you need to cancel, here are our terms for refunds:

Full refund of \$500 deposit	if minimum of 6 is not reserved by May 1, 2026.
Refund of \$200 of deposit	at any point of cancellation after group size confirmed.*
Refund of 50% trip balance	before May 15. No refunds possible after May 15.

Refund only of \$100 of deposit if cancellation causes trip to fall below 6 minimum.

** the retained \$300 of deposit will be credited to you as a tax deductible donation to SMRA*

Do consider purchasing travel insurance which may reimburse you for the full trip cost as well as your flight costs if you need to cancel for a reason covered by your policy.