



Globally Important Bird Areas



Acadia National Park, Maine, including Naval Security Group Activity Winter Harbor

Ornithological Highlights: Twenty-two species of nesting warblers and nesting seabirds such as Leach's Storm Petrel and Roseate Tern

Location: coastal Maine, at Bar Harbor

- *Atlantic Northern Forest* (NABCI Bird Conservation Region #14)
- *Spruce-Hardwood Forest* (PIF Physiographic Area #28)

Size: Acadia National Park 35,000 acres; NSGA Winter Harbor 585 acres

Ownership: U.S. National Park Service; U.S. Navy

Habitats: Marine, marine islands, coniferous forest, birch forest, lakes, rocky coast, mountains to 1,500 feet, fjord, littoral.

Land-use: Recreation, wildlife conservation.

Site Description: The Park encompasses parts of two islands—Mount Desert and Isle au Haut—and the whole of the smaller Baker Island. The Schoodic Peninsula, which lies to the northeast, is also included in the Park. The coastline is wild and rocky and the Park experiences cold snowy winters, and warm, but often misty, summers. The range of habitats includes coastal coniferous forest, mixed hardwood, open fields, brushy areas, freshwater marshes and bogs, salt marsh, and mountains scattered with blueberry bushes.

NSGA Winter Harbor lies at the southern tip of Schoodic Peninsula within the boundaries of Acadia National Park. Its 575 acres include a 187-acre wetland designated as a Navy Ecological Reserve Area. The Sundew Watchable Wildlife Trail was established and opened to the public in 1997.

Birds: Breeding species include Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Common Eider, watch listed American Woodcock, endangered Roseate Tern, Black Guillemot, Northern Goshawk, Spruce Grouse, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak. The Park has more nesting warblers than any other National Park except the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and Blue Ridge Parkway; its 22 nesting warblers include Watch Listed Canada and Black-throated Blue. Among the sea ducks found there in winter are King Eider, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Harlequin Duck. Fall shorebird passage includes concentrations of Red-necked and Red phalaropes, while Purple Sandpiper winters there. The park is a spring staging area for Watch Listed Brant.

Conservation Issues: The park is very heavily used by tourists and recreationists. Although it is the fifth-smallest National Park, it is also the one of the ten most visited, with around 3,000,000 visitors annually. The most serious potential threat is that of an off-shore oil spill.

Visitor information: The Park's Visitor Center is three miles north of Bar Harbor on Mount Desert Island. The Park is open all year but the Visitor Center is only open between May 1 and November 1. There are 120 miles of hiking trails, and 45 miles of carriage trails for hiking and biking (these are still closed to cars). There is also a 27-mile Park Loop Road open to vehicles. The vehicle entrance fee is \$10 (May-October). There are two campgrounds as well as various hotels and inns. For the boat to Isle au Haut call 207-367-5193, for the Baker Island boat call 207-276-3717. For more information on the Park, contact: Acadia National Park, P. O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. Tel: 207-288-3338.

The Sundew Watchable Wildlife Trail on NSGA Winter Harbor is open to the public. Contact the Environmental Office at 207-963-5534 x458.

References:

Acadia National Park web site: <http://www.nps.gov/acad/>

National Park Service (1997) Birds of Acadia National Park web site:

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/othrdata/chekbird/r5/acadia.htm>