

# New England-Newburyport & Cape Ann.

President's Day Weekend

Saturday Thru Tuesday

1. We will bird the wonderful Cape Ann Peninsula for excellent birding with a taste of New England both figuratively and literally.
2. LODGING INFORMATION:
  - a. Reservations are always best made well in advance.
  - b. Lodging will be at one place, Saturday, Sunday & Monday nights **February 18 19 20**
    - (1) We will be staying at new locations than in previous years
      - (a) Rockport Inn & Suites **(978) 546-3300** 183 Main St, Rockport, MA 01966
3. PREPARATION:
  - a. Let the leader know you are going so that the leader can coordinate car pooling & room sharing if desired.
  - b. It will be winter in New England: Dress & prepare accordingly!!
    - i. In the past it has been mild and in the 40's, but at other times it was in the single digits or fiercely windy, and once we were caught in a blizzard!  
But we always had great birding!
  - c. Bring FRS radios with you - or inquire.
  - d. Dinner will be at really nice restaurants.
  - e. Breakfast & lunch will also be out. No need to bring
    - i. Breakfast Sunday will be at the Marriott.
    - ii. Bring snacks and drinks as you desire.
    - iii. Remember to **gas up at days end** for expeditious start to the next day's birding
4. MEETING INFORMATION:
  - a. We will meet in Amesbury at FRIENDLY'S and plan to begin the trip at noon.
    - i. Arrive so that you can get gas, refresh yourself, and eat. There are several options for food if you don't want Friendly's - Google Amesbury MA, look at the 1.5 mile stretch of 110. Dunkin Donuts [2!] fast food, Pizza, and assorted other restaurants are nearby.

## 5. BIRDS TO BE EXPECTED

- a. Common and Red-throated Loons, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snow Goose, Brant, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye (seen on last 4 trips), Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Iceland Gull (5 trips), Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Mourning Dove, Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue Jay, American Crow, House Finch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackle.

## 6. Special birds seen on previous trips

- a. Red-necked Grebe, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, King Eider, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, American Coot, Glaucous Gull (2 trips), Black-headed Gull (2 trips), Blacklegged Kittiwake, Dovekie, Eastern Screech Owl, Snowy Owl, Eastern Bluebird, Pine Grosbeak, Northern Shrike (2 trips)

## 7. OVERVIEW

### a. Saturday

- i. Please have eaten lunch
- ii. Arrive by ~11am, so that we can eat, meet, and begin at noon
- iii. Birding
  - (1) Newburyport
  - (2) Plum Island
  - (3) Salisbury Beach
  - (4) Possible RBA chase
- iv. Dinner
  - (1) Black Cow Tap and Grill [preferred]
    - (a) 54R Merrimac St., Newburyport 978 499-8811
  - (2) Starboard Galley
    - (a) 55 Water Street, Newburyport 978-462-1326
  - (3) Michael's Harborside
    - (a) One Tournament Wharf Newburyport, 978-462-7785
- v. Gas up if necessary
- vi. Night 1 at hotel

- b. Sunday
  - i. Breakfast in hotel 7am - we may ask/arrange to get it earlier!
  - ii. Meet at appointed time \*TBA\*
  - iii. Bird to Cape Ann
  - iv. Lunch in Bearskin Neck
  - v. Bird Rockport
  - vi. Depending on daylight left... Bass Rocks & Eastern Point or Jodry Pier
  - vii. Dinner
    - (1) Gloucester House
      - (a) Rogers Street (7 Seas Wharf) 978 2831812 [preferred]
  - viii. Gas up if necessary
  - ix. Night 2 at hotel
- c. Monday
  - i. Lee's Restaurant
    - (1) opens at 5:30 AM for breakfast
    - (2) 2 E Main St / Rogers St Gloucester [ preferred breakfast spot ]
  - ii. Jodry Pier
  - iii. Fort Point
  - iv. Beach
  - v. Fisherman's Memorial
  - vi. Stage Fort Park
  - vii. Lunch
    - (1) ???
  - viii. Decision
    - (1) Eastern Point
    - (2) Rockport
    - (3) possible RBA chase?
  - ix. Dinner
    - (1) Seaport Grille
      - (a) 6 Rowe Square 978 282-9799
    - (2) Cape Ann Brewing Co
      - (a) 11 Rogers St 978 282-7399
  - x. Gas up if necessary
  - xi. Night 3 at hotel
- d. Tuesday
  - i. Lee's Restaurant
    - (1) opens at 5:30 AM 2 E Main St / Rogers St [ preferred breakfast spot ]
  - ii. Jodry Pier
  - iii. ???
  - iv. Check RBA
  - v. Depart for home

## BIRDING NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

### 1 - BIRDING SPOTS AT NEWBURYPORT.

#### 1 Access from Amesbury.

Follow Route 110 east to Rabbit Road/Merrill Street (traffic light). Turn right and cross the river via the Chain Bridge. [Hopefully, Chain Bridge is open now as 2 years ago it was closed for repairs and we had to skip this stop and make a big detour.] Half way across the river is Deer Island. Pull off on the left into the small parking lot where there is space for 8-10 cars. Walk to the south end of the island and scan the river from the marsh. Back at the parking lot walk out to the bridge and scan the river from there as well. Continue across the bridge, then turn sharply left into Merrimac Street, which later becomes Water Street.

#### 2 Ferry Landing Marina.

A view of the river can be had from this Marina located at the foot of Merrimac Court which will be on your left as you drive east on Merrimac Street. Check for ducks, gulls and eagles. Last time we had to skip this stop as the snow had not been plowed.

#### 3 Cashman Park.

Stop at Cashman Park (left on Sally Snyder Way, just after the school), for view of the river. Look for gulls, ducks, and eagles which perch in the trees on the opposite bank of the river.

#### 4 River Edge and Seawall.

Check the river on your left for Barrow's Goldeneye and Eagles. Pull into the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority parking lot (just before the Maritime Museum) on your left drive all the way in and walk to the es planade along the river. Farther on, on Water Street, is the seawall which should also be checked.

#### 5 Joppa Flats.

Ahead, at left just opposite the west end of the Plum Island Airport is the parking lot of the Mass. Audubons Joppa Flats Wildlife Sanctuary visitors center and shop. Shorebirds can be viewed from the comfort of the center depending on tide. Just across the street is the new headquarters for the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. They had feeders up the last time we were there and that proved to be a bonanza as there were Common Redpolls feeding from them.

#### 6 Plum Island Airport.

Ahead on the right. Hawks, owls, gyrfalcon. There is a place to pull off near the entrance to the Airport.

#### 7 Plumbush. [*SKIP IN WINTER*]

Less than 1 mile ahead, just past the large pink house of J. Stott Realty, right turn on the next (0.3 mile) dirt driveway. Shorebirds not a good winter stop.

#### 8 Plum Island Bridge.

Park on Plum Island Turnpike in a parking lot just before the bridge to walk up on the bridge for good scanning for Snowy Owls.

## 9 Old Point Road.

After crossing the bridge, turn left on Old Point Road to scan for Hawks and Owls, then back track to the intersection.

### 1.10 North Turnoff.

Turn left from Old Point Road (straight ahead from the bridge). At the dead end, park in the small parking area and walk to ocean for a search for Sea Ducks. In a northeast wind, kittiwakes and alcids are possible.

### 1.11 York's Tackle Shop.

Go north on Northern Boulevard 2.3 miles, look behind the Shop for Gulls and Sea Ducks.

### 1.12 South Jetty.

From Yorks or the large parking lot near the Coast Guard Station, walk along the beach to the South Jetty of the Merrimack River (approx. 1 mile). Alcids, Sea Ducks, rare Gulls, tundra land birds (including Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and occasionally, Lapland Longspurs) and Harbor Seals.

### 1.13 The Basin.

Returning, at 0.8 mile south of the Refuge Headquarters, on the west side of the road, park in a church lot, check the Basin for Shorebirds and Gulls (in winter can include Iceland).

### 1.14 Parker River NWR (Plum Island) Entrance.

Returning from the north end, turn left into Sunset Boulevard. Coming across the bridge, turn right. Stop for maps, regulations, bird list, and a permit to park in restricted areas. From here on, watch for Snowy Owls in winter and Passerines in spring and fall.

### 1.15 Salt Panne. [*SKIP IN WINTER*]

1 mile ahead, beyond Parking Lot 2, is a salt flat. Shorebirds; skip in winter.

### 1.16 Kettle Hole. [*SKIP IN WINTER*]

From Parking Lot 3, check the ponds across the road, then follow the boardwalk a short distance to a wood chip trail on the left, leading to a kettle hole. Passerine trap in spring; skip in winter.

### 1.17 New Pines.

At 3 miles, stop at a granite marker visible in a field at right and delineating the Newbury/Rowley town lines. Park along road, or, if you have a permit, at the Warden's Parking Lot. Follow an unmarked trail into the "New Pines" just east of the marker. Owls (Northern Saw-whet, Long-eared), northern Finches (especially crossbills) and Chickadees.

### 1.18 Hellcat Swamp.

Continuing south, Hellcat Swamp consists of trails, boardwalk and observation tower. Migrants in spring, Shorebirds. Restrooms available here, even in winter. Check out the dyke area for Snowy Owls, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.

1.19 Old Pines. [The road further south may not be open in winter.] At Parking Lot #5, try again for pine seeking birds.

1.20 Stage Island Pool. At Parking Lots #6 and #7, there are good shorebird pools and spring songbird opportunities. Follow the dikes west. There is an observation tower.

From the beach at Parking Lot 7, a natural breakwater,

Emerson's Rock (not visible at high tide), could have Purple Sandpipers, Alcids, and Sea Birds, including scoters, and rarely Harlequin Duck and King Eider.

1.21 Sandy Point (Plum Island State Reservation).

Drive into the reservation, bear right and park in the second parking lot. Walk eastward to the shore, then walk along the beach to the right. Shorebirds.

1.22 Merrimack River in Amesbury.

On the return drive, after crossing the bridge, turn left and drive along Main Street to check the river. When the road bears away from the river; turn left to follow the river. Bald Eagles may be seen along this drive. You may wish to return to Route 110 via Clarkes Road.

## **2 BIRDING SPOTS IN SALISBURY, MASS.**

1 Access from Amesbury.

Follow Route 110 east to Route 1. Turn left and the right on Beach Road (Route 1A).

2 Boat Ramp (Salisbury State Reservation).

Stay on Beach Road until you see the sign for Salisbury State Reservation. Turn right on State Beach Road. Watch for Owls and Hawks. Turn right at the campground on Cable Avenue (unmarked) and park at the boat ramp ahead. Winter Ducks.

3 Beach (Salisbury State Reservation).

Drive back slowly and look for ground birds. Park in the large Beach Parking Lot which gives you access to the mouth of the Merrimac River and the north breakwater. Gulls, Sea Ducks, and Alcids.

## **3 BIRDING SPOTS NEAR CAPE ANN, MASS.**

Cape Ann has waterfronts pointing in all directions. The direction of the sun favors an early morning visit to Halibut Point and Andrew's Point, both of which are located on the north shore of Rockport. At those hours, more Sea Birds are likely to be seen as they tend to drift inshore on easterly winds. Northwest winds are unproductive. Best tidal conditions are high to mid-tide. The afternoon sun favors a trip to Gloucester Harbor and the East Shore. Both trips are described.

### **HALIBUT AND ANDREWS POINT**

1 Locust Grove Cemetery

Upon reaching the northern most point on Cape Ann, you will come to Locust Grove Cemetery on the left. Turn into the cemetery and park in the north east corner in the back. A short trail leads through the brush to an overlook of the ocean. Scan for alcids, ducks and gulls.

## 2 Folly Cove.

Turn left on leaving the cemetery. At Folly Cove stop at the small pull-off at the head of the cove. (There may not be enough room for more than three or four cars.) If unable to stop at the pull-off, check the sea wall behind the Folly Cove Inn located on the left a little further along the road.

## 3 Halibut Point

Continue on Route 127 east and turn left on Gott Avenue which leads to the parking lot on the left for the Halibut Point Reservation. There is a restroom at the visitors center. Follow the half-mile walk to shore. Gulls, Sea Ducks, rarities.

## 4 Andrews Point.

Located 0.4 mile east of Halibut Point. Turn left on the first Phillips Avenue. In two blocks turn right on Ocean Ave. Turn left on Phillips Ave. and bear right on Point de Chene Ave. Park at the end on the LEFT. Walk down Longbranch Ave. to the right and check for Red-necked Grebe, Gulls, Eiders, Guillemots, and rarities. The walk down the opposite way on Longbranch and check Hoop Hole Cove, between Halibut Point and Andrew's Point for both Goldeneye. Return to vehicle and drive back down Point de Chene and Phillips Ave. to the Emerson Inn on Cathedral Avenue, and park. Walk south on Cathedral to check the shore for Grebes, Guillemots, Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, and Gulls. Check for Red-necked Grebe, Gulls, Eiders, Guillemots, and rarities.

## **GLOUCESTER HARBOR AND EAST SHORE**

The following describes the drive southward along the shore, continuing from the above locations.

## 6 Old Granite Pier

Continue south on Rt. 127 and turn left on Wharf Road for access to Old Granite Pier. Keep left and drive up onto the pier all the way to the end. This large breakwater sticks out into the ocean by Gulf Cove, affording a great view of the sea. Check for alcids, ducks, gulls, etc.

## 7 Rockport and Sandy Bay.

Return to Route 127 heading south past Pigeon Cove. Bear left onto Beach Street (127A). As you enter town, check the Back Harbor area on the left for Red-necked Grebe. At Dock Square, bear left on Bearskin Neck to park in the lot at the breakwater. (N.B. There are only about 8 parking spaces available here and on weekends they will be taken. It is best to park elsewhere and walk out to Bearskin Neck. It is a very enjoyable walk with plenty of interesting shops on the way.) Looking west from here there is a submerged outfall pipe were gulls (Glaucous & Iceland are possible) group. Purple Sandpiper should be present on the breakwater.

## 8 Gap Cove.

Exiting from Bearskin neck, turn right onto 127A (Mount Pleasant Street) (it is One-Way) and then left onto School Street. After four blocks turn left at Gott Street which becomes Atlantic Ave. after you cross 127A. At the end, turn right on Highland Ave. then left on Norwood Ave. At the end turn right on Old Garden Road. Pause at the public outlook on the left at Old Garden Beach. Continue on Old Garden Road and turn left on Marmion Way. You then come to Gap Cove on the left, good for Gulls, Eiders, Grebes, and Alcids, both at the beach and on Straightsmouth Island seen from here. Check the islands for Owls.

## 9 Emerson Point.

Continue on Marmion Way, turn left on Shetland road, and left again onto 127A (South St.). At 0.5

mile, turn left on badly maintained Eden Road which bears right (south) and look over Loblolly Cove. At Ruthen Way, check the feeders at the house on the right. Watch for Shrikes as you continue left on Penzance Road.

On the south side of Emerson Point is Pebbly Beach. Stop to check the east end of Pebbly Beach and check the rocks for Purple Sandpipers. Check all off shore islands for Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, Peregrine & Gyrfalcon, Eagles, and seabirds -especially in the straight between the beach and Milk Island. Continue on Penzance Road and check Henry's Pond on the right.

At South Street, turn left. Go to the burned-out foundation of the Sandpiper Inn to scope the ducks at the north end of Cape Hedge Beach.

### 3.10 Rockport to Back Shore.

Proceed north on South St., left at Tregony Bow, and left again on 127A (Thacher Road). Continue on Thacher Road and stop at the huge parking lot for Good Harbor Beach if you wish.

Continue left on Thacher Road (127A) and where 127A turns right, make a left onto one-way Bass Ave. Little Good Harbor Beach. Park near the beach. You may find Ipswich Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Horned Lark, and Snow Bunting.

3.105 Bass Rocks. Scan the beach for the 2 miles between Bass Rock and Moorland Road for opportunities. Eared Grebe is possible.

### 3.11 Eastern Point.

From Bass Rocks follow Atlantic Avenue south until it becomes Eastern Point Boulevard E (just after Farrington Avenue).

At Bemo Avenue, park where the boulders block access to the beach. Walk the sand track to the beach and bring a scope. You can shortly scan both the Pond and Brace Cove to the east. Excellent for Gulls (this site is the best sight south of Newfoundland to see numbers of white-winged gulls, with fifty or more sometimes present in late winter), Alcids, Seals, Sea Ducks, Shorebirds, and unusual Land Birds (which have included in the past Northern Shrike, Orange-crowned and Palm Warbler, and American Pipit).

Continue up Bemo Avenue, jogging left and then right to reach Eastern Point Avenue W. Turn left. This area can be entered in winter only. (From Memorial Day to Labor Day a guard will stop you and ask your business. You will only be allowed in if you are visiting friends on the point or you are bound for the Mass. Audubons Eastern point Wildlife Sanctuary, in which case you must have a MAS membership card.) Watch the fruiting trees in the yard at left for Pine Grosbeaks or other frugivores, then, continue on Eastern Point Blvd. through a gate that says residents only and pass Lighthouse Cove (0.9 from the entrance pillars) a beach on the right. After that, you come to a stand of oaks spanning both sides of the road. This is the entrance to the Mass. Audubon Sanctuary which is **not attractive in the winter**. At the end of the road, stop at a Parking Lot overlooking a small cove, the Dog Bar Breakwater, the East Point Coast Guard Station, and the lighthouse. Gulls, Kittiwakes, and Purple Sandpipers (which are regular) may be seen at close range. Alcids and owls are possible. If the weather is nice and calm, you can walk out on the breakwater for a closer view.

Return along Eastern Point Boulevard and at the divided one-way section, scan Niles Pond at your right which may be frozen.

### 3.12 East Side of Gloucester Harbor.

You may stop at the Parking Lot of Niles Beach on the left (0.4 miles north of Niles Pond. Continue north on Eastern Point Road and turn left at Rock Neck Avenue and park in the lot immediately on

the right. From here, examine the arm of the inner harbor on the right and Wonson Cove on the left. Again, continue north on Eastern Point Road W which soon becomes East Main Street. At Route 127 turn left and drive through town. Rogers Street is one-way heading east and so, if you wish to you may drive through town heading west on 127 and then return along Rogers, hugging the shore and watching the roofs for interesting gulls.

### 3.13 West Side of Gloucester Harbor.

As you leave the west side of town, just before you get to the bridge over Blynman Canal, you will see Gloucester High School to the north (right). It has an athletic field which, in bad weather, has good gulls. Pavilion Beach on the right may have some good ducks and gulls (Iceland and Glaucous Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes are regular in the inner harbor in winter time).

Continuing on over the cut bridge the road becomes Western Avenue (Rt. 127). Bear left on Hough Avenue and continue to follow the shoreline. Stop at Stage Fort Park (go past the main parking lot, down the hill and park on the right in a small parking lot by a red concession stand) and walk to the water where you get a good view from the fence line above Cressy Beach. Rare Gulls, Kittiwakes, and Sea Ducks (including Goldeneyes and Eiders) may be present. They may be attracted to an outfall pipe near the center of the harbor, the Bubbla.

Continue south on Hough Avenue and turn left when you reach Route 127 (Western Avenue). At Hesperus Avenue (1.0 mile) turn left. Continue for 0.9 miles to the Hammond Castle Museum with a large parking lot. The north end of the parking lot leads via a driveway to where you can get looks at Norman's Woe Rock at your right and at Mussel Point to your left. Look for Harlequins, Great Cormorants, and Gulls.

Driving south along Hesperus Avenue, you find at 1.2 mile a quadrangular municipal park known as Rafe's Chasm Reservation with a small parking lot on the right side of the road, bounded by a chain link fence running along the access trail. Harlequins again.

### 3.14 Magnolia Point.

From Rafe's Chasm, continue along Hesperus Avenue until it merges with Norman Avenue. Turn right. Turn left onto Magnolia/Fuller Street and bear right onto Shore Road. Continue into Magnolia Point along this street to the little traffic circle (at the Police Station) and turn right; travel to end of road, the most southern point where it turns left. Harlequins are the specialty here or scoping across to Kettle Island. (N.B. It is best to go here after the morning is over as the sun will be in the viewers eyes in the a.m., making it impossible to see anything but silhouettes.)

The following describes the alternative drive northward along the shore from Gloucester to Rockport, ending at the Halibut/Andrews Points area.

### 3.15 Magnolia Point.

It is best to go here after the morning is over as the sun will be in the viewers eyes in the a.m., making it impossible to see anything but silhouettes. Follow Western Avenue (Route 127) to Magnolia Avenue and turn left. Continue into Magnolia Point along this street (now Shore Road) to the little traffic circle (at the Police Station) and turn right; travel to end of road, the most southern point where it turns left. Harlequins are the specialty here or scoping across to Kettle Island. Continue on Shore Road, then jog right on Linden Avenue and turn right on Hesperus Avenue.

### 3.16 West Side of Gloucester Harbor.

Driving along Hesperus Avenue, you find at 0.5 mile a quadrangular municipal park known as Rafe's Chasm Reservation with a small parking lot on the right side of the road, bounded by a chain link fence running along the access trail. Harlequins again.

Another 0.6 mile ahead is Hammond Castle Museum with a larger parking lot. The north end of the parking lot leads via driveway to where you can get looks at Norman's Woe Rock at your right and at Mussel Point to your left. Look for Harlequins, Great Cormorants, and Gulls.

Continuing on you will merge with Western Avenue (Rt. 127) and continue to follow the shoreline. At 0.7 mile from the merge point, turn right into Hough Avenue. Stop at Stage Fort Park (park at the small parking lot on the south side of the park by a red concession stand) and walk to the water where you get a good view from the fence line above Cressy Beach. Rare Gulls, Kittiwakes, and Sea Ducks (including Goldeneyes and Eiders) may be present. They may be attracted to an outfall pipe near the center of the harbor, the Bubbla. Hough Avenue continues and merges back into Western Avenue.

As you leave the west side of the harbor, Western Avenue turns into Stacy Boulevard. Gloucester High School to the north has an athletic field which, in bad weather, has good gulls. When you cross the waterway, Pavilion Beach on the right may have some good ducks and gulls (Iceland and Glaucous Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes are regular in the inner harbor in winter time).

### 3.17 East Side of Gloucester Harbor.

Drive through town along Rogers Street, hugging the shore and watching the roofs for interesting gulls, then turn right into East Main Street. 1.4 miles from the Rogers Street turn off you come to a traffic light. Turn right onto Rocky Neck Avenue and park in the lot immediately on the right. From here, examine the arm of the inner harbor on the right and Wonson Cove on the left. Continuing on (0.4 miles) stop at the Parking Lot of Niles Beach. Continuing on, bear right into Eastern Point Boulevard.

### 3.18 Eastern Point.

This area can be entered in winter only. (From Memorial Day to Labor Day a guard will stop you and ask your business. You will only be allowed in if you are visiting friends on the point or you are bound for the Mass. Audubons Eastern point Wildlife Sanctuary, in which case you must have a MAS membership card.) Watch the fruiting trees in the yard at left for Pine Grosbeaks or other frugivores, then, continue on Eastern Point Blvd. through a gate that says residents only and pass Lighthouse Cove (0.9 from the entrance pillars) a beach on the right. After that, you come to a stand of oaks spanning both sides of the road. This is the entrance to the Mass. Audubon Sanctuary which is not attractive in the winter. At the end of the road, stop at a Parking Lot overlooking a small cove, the Dog Bar Breakwater, the East Point Coast Guard Station, and the lighthouse. Glaucous, and Iceland Gulls are to be expected, plus Kittiwakes, and Purple Sandpipers (which are regular) may be seen at close range. Alcids and owls are possible. If the weather is nice and calm, you can walk out on the breakwater for a closer, crippling view.

Return along Eastern Point Boulevard and at the divided one-way section, scan Niles Pond at your right which may be frozen. Turn right into Bemo Avenue (the street sign may be missing). Jog to the left, then immediately right and down a hill to park where the boulders block access to the beach. Walk the sand track with scope. You can shortly scan both the Pond and Brace Cove to the east. Excellent for Gulls (this site is the best sight south of Newfoundland to see numbers of white-winged gulls, with fifty or more sometimes present in late winter), Alcids, Seals, Sea Ducks, Shorebirds, and unusual Land Birds (which have included in the past Northern Shrike, Orange-crowned and Palm Warbler, and American Pipit). Return to Eastern Point Boulevard, turn right, and again right on Farrington Avenue to reach Atlantic Avenue. Watch for Crossbills in the small pine groves.

### 3.19 Back Shore to Rockport.

Scan the beach for the next 2 miles for opportunities which are most likely just after you pass Moorland Road, as you approach Bass Rock. Eared Grebe is possible. Continue on Atlantic Avenue and take the fourth right after the do not enter sign, Beach Road to Little Good Harbor Beach. Park near the entrance to the Beach Parking Lot, you may find Ipswich Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Horned Lark and Snow Bunting.

### 3.20 Emerson Point.

If you followed along the shore, you will now be on Thatcher Road (Rockport Road). At 1.5 mile from the city line, turn right into Tregony Bow and right again at unmarked South Street. Go to the burned-out foundation of the Sandpiper Inn (0.2 mile) to scope the ducks at the north end of Cape Hedge Beach.

Reverse on South Street and turn right at once on Penzance Road (0.1 mile) where you check Henry's Pond (0.2 mile). On your right is Pebbly Beach. Stop to check the east end of Pebbly Beach and check the rocks for Purple Sandpipers. Check all off shore islands for Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, Peregrine & Gyrfalcon, Eagles, and seabirds -- especially in the straight between the beach and Milk Island. Watch for Shrikes as you continue on Penzance Road. There is Loblolly Cove to look over. Then turn right into badly maintained Eden Road to continue to Thatcher Road (Route 127A).

### 3.21 Gap Cove.

Continuing north, at 0.4 mile turn right into Marmion Way which you follow to Gap Cove (0.5 mile), good for Gulls, Eiders, Grebes and Alcids, both at the beach and on Straightsmouth Island seen from here. Check the islands for Owls.

In another 0.4 mile turn right into Old Garden Road and pause at the public outlook at 0.3 mile. The road becomes Norwood Avenue and returns to Mount Pleasant Road, Route 127A you will have to zigzag right and left at one point.

### 3.22 Rockport and Sandy Bay.

Continue right on Route 127A into town. At Dock Square, as Mount Pleasant Avenue veers left to become Main Street, turn right instead and bear straight ahead into South Road in Bearskin Neck to park in the lot at the breakwater. (N.B. There are only about 8 parking spaces available here and on weekends they will be taken. It is best to park elsewhere and walk out to Bearskin Neck. It is a very enjoyable walk with plenty of interesting shops on the way.) Looking west from here there is a submerged outfall pipe where gulls (Glaucous & Iceland are possible) group. Purple Sandpiper should be present on the breakwater. As you leave town, bearing right on Beach Street, check the Back Harbor area for Red-necked Grebe. Turn right on Route 127 at the end of Beach Street. Turn right on Wharf Road for access to Old Granite Pier. Return to Rt. 127 and climb up through Pigeon Cove and turn right on Phillips Avenue 1.2 mile beyond the junction of Routes 127 and Beach Street. You are in the Andrew's Point area. (See 3.4)