



FIELD IDENTIFICATION AND NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS: SPRING MIGRATION



2025 EAGLE HILL
NATURAL HISTORY
SCIENCE SEMINARS
ON THE COAST OF
EASTERN MAINE

Instructor: Derek Lovitch

When: May 11-17, 2025



This seminar is designed for beginning and advancing birders who really want to learn how to look at and watch birds, not just list them. As migration ramps up, we'll be in a prime location to observe, enjoy, and understand the ebbs and flows of species on the move. We'll sample each day's bird migration first thing in the morning, and then head further afield to see what's moving in various habitats. While we expect to see a wide array of species, this is not a "listing" tour where we'll be working on the species count or focusing on "target birds". Instead, we'll focus on learning to identify birds by sight and sound, study their behavior to get to know them, and work to understand the mind-blowing feats of avian migration. In this seminar, we will immerse ourselves in the field, spending quality time with whatever species is in front of us and then use afternoon time to reinforce or expand the lessons that the birds themselves are the best at teaching. We're going to be putting the "watching" back in "bird watching!"

We'll learn about the basic tools of birding, but also how to expand upon them with tools such as radar, weather, and geography. Using this toolkit, we'll put ourselves in position for the best birding opportunities, so we'll be flexible in our plans. Early morning walks at the same place or two will offer the chance to understand how migrants come and go ("stopover ecology") or decide where to stay for the summer; consistency is especially instructive during migration. Sampling other habitats in the region will give us a chance to meet a variety of species, from forest residents to breeding waterbirds, and each afternoon will be spent reviewing the migration data from the day, and perhaps, a guest speaker or two. If conditions or birding suggest otherwise, we may take to the classroom to focus on a variety of avian topics, but the majority of our time together will be spent in the field as the birds are our best instructors.

[GENERAL INFO](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[APPLY](#)



about the instructor

Derek Lovitch (info@freeportwildbirdsupply.com) and his wife Jeannette live in Durham, Maine. They own and operate Freeport Wild Bird Supply, a retail store that caters to birders of all levels. The store serves as a vehicle for Derek to continue to share his enthusiasm for birding, birds, and bird conservation. The store is also the home base for a growing tour guiding operation, specializing in Maine's specialties. His first book, *How To Be a Better Birder*, was published in March 2012 by Princeton University Press. His second book, *Birdwatching in Maine: A Site Guide* was published in May 2017 by the University Press of New England. A completely revised and updated 2nd Edition was published in February, 2024. He was also the "Tools of the Trade" Department Editor for *Birding* magazine for 6 years and remains a regular contributor to it. His writing has also appeared in *Birder's World*, *Bird Observer*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *NJ Audubon*, *North American Birds*, and others. Along with birding, Derek enjoys hiking, exploring new natural areas, enhancing bird habitat on his property, good food, and craft beer.