

January 12, 2010

On behalf of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development, I write to share with you some possible story ideas for the Spring 2010 wildlife viewing season. Here is a sampling of the many experiences and locations for bird watching and moose sighting pleasure:

**Audubon Society of New Hampshire:** Headquartered in Concord with other locations in Auburn, Laconia, Manchester, Moultonborough, Hebron, and Temple, the society is dedicated to the statewide conservation of birds and their habitats. The Society offers [Coastal Birding Trips: Eagles and Owls](#) throughout February where visitors can spend a day sighting birds from the comfort of a car. The Audubon Society also hosts a variety of programs such as a guided, family-oriented “**Winter Wildlife Nature Hike**” at Silk Farm Sanctuary in Concord, and “**Birds in Winter**” where you can learn which birds stay in the area and how they adapt to the cold weather (in February). For information, call 603-224-9909 or visit [www.nhaidubon.org](http://www.nhaidubon.org).

**Great North Woods Area:** This self-titled “bird watchers’ paradise,” the [Great North Woods](#) boasts five diverse habitats for bird watching within one region. Freshwater marshlands, cultural grasslands, mixed forestland, the Great Northern Boreal forest, and the open lakes, ponds and rivers host a plethora of different bird species. The area hosts not only various bird species, but an abundance of wildlife. [Moose Path Trail](#) starts at Rte. 16 north from Gorham to Errol. Take Rte. 26 to Dixville Notch to Rte. 3 north to Pittsburg. This wilderness byway is ideal for the outdoor enthusiast as moose are often spotted along the drive.

**Moose and Wildlife Tours** are a popular New Hampshire activity for wildlife enthusiasts. The town of [Gorham, New Hampshire](#) is host to [Scenic Moose & Wildlife Tour](#) where there is a 95% guarantee of spotting some of the Granite State’s unique wildlife. [Scenic Moose & Wildlife Tours](#) are also available in the town of Lincoln, New Hampshire. Guests take a 2 ½ to 3 hour bus journey through the White Mountains in search of New Hampshire’s gentle giants.

**Looking for Moose on Your Own:** For New Hampshire residents and visitors alike, the sight of a magnificent moose is breathtaking. People often ask, where can I go for the best chance of seeing a moose?

From your car: Routes in New Hampshire where moose are often seen, especially from May through October, include:

Route 3 north of Pittsburg to the Canadian border;

Route 16 north of Milan to the Maine Border;

Route 26 east of Dixville Notch to the Maine Border;

Route 112 from Lincoln east to the Bear Notch Road;

Route 110 north of Berlin to Rte 110A.

New Hampshire Fish & Game suggests traveling these roads at dusk, looking for roadside salt licks where moose come out of the woods to feed on road salt that has washed off the roads and accumulated in wet areas. When searching for moose, remember SAFETY FIRST! While watching moose, NEVER approach them or allow them to approach you. Stay in your vehicle or well away from the moose. Moose are large, potentially dangerous animals that can run as fast as a galloping horse. They do not always show their displeasure or give any warning before attacking. Please give them a wide berth.

In addition to the roads mentioned above, some of New Hampshire's northern ponds are great spots for moose watching. Moose feed on aquatics early in the morning and at dusk, so, any pond with aquatics may hold moose at these times of year. The best part is that you can fish or kayak and do some bird watching while waiting for a moose to show up!

[http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Outdoor\\_Recreation/wildlife\\_watching\\_moose\\_spotting.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Outdoor_Recreation/wildlife_watching_moose_spotting.htm)

**The Inn at Crystal Lake in Eaton Center:** Features “[Wildlife and Birdwatching](#)” package from March through June and includes “two nights, two full country breakfasts for two, one dinner for two, a picnic lunch and information and trail maps for the nearby Hoyt Sanctuary, Watts Sanctuary, Dahl Sanctuary and Lovejoy Sanctuary. The purchase of this package will also provide guests with a gift pack complete with bug repellant, heavy duty soap and other products one needs when spending time outside. Part of the price of every package will go to the New Hampshire Audubon Society in the guests’ names. Call 800-343-7336 or visit [www.innatcrystallake.com](http://www.innatcrystallake.com).

**Bird Watching at the Glen, Pittsburg** – During this exciting [weekend program](#), guests will explore the Connecticut Lakes region of New Hampshire, an area rich in wildlife and magnificent scenery. Probable bird sightings will include black-backed and pileated woodpeckers, gray jay, common raven, yellow-bellied and alder flycatchers, spruce grouse, boreal chickadee, rusty blackbird, Philadelphia vireo, and many species of warblers (e.g., mourning, blackpoll, Wilson's, and bay-breasted). Also expect to see a wide variety of butterflies and even a moose or two! The program fee includes all transportation between Lincoln and the Connecticut lakes, lodging at The Glen (a wonderful northern inn), and six meals. Second and third weekend in June. For more information call 603-538-6500.

**The Candlelite Inn** is located in the heart of the Lake-Sunapee Region in Bradford, New Hampshire. The award-winning Inn hosts a [Bird Watchers Getaway](#) which includes lodging for two nights, a full breakfast each morning, and a birder’s gift basket with information and trail maps. (Package available June – October). Candlelite Inn will make a \$10 donation to the Audubon Society. For more information visit [www.candleliteinn.com](http://www.candleliteinn.com) or call 603-938-5571.

For a more extensive list of birdwatching or wildlife viewing ideas in New Hampshire or for more information on anything here you’re interested in learning more about, please let us know. Thanks for your consideration.

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