

Blackstone Valley DeTours



BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY
New England's Historic National Park Area



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE MA-2

Tour 13

Optional Stops:

- 1 Southwick's Zoo
- 2 Wild Bird Gardens
- 3 West Hill Dam

Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center



Hooded Merganser

John H. Chafee
Blackstone River
Valley National
Heritage
Corridor



Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser photos by David Brunetti. Butterflies, Red-tail Hawk, Peacock and Mallard photos by Donna Burgess. Tour compiled by Donna Burgess. Map by Neville Lassotovich.

Produced by the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission



Wood Duck

Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park



Mallard

Douglas State Forest



Red-tail Hawk

The perfect way to explore the diverse natural history of the Blackstone River Valley in Massachusetts is through the birding and wildlife walks in Watchable Wildlife DeTours. Because the Blackstone River runs almost north and south through the National Corridor, it offers an amazing variety of migrating species in movement through the region. Summer offers breeding species of birds in their glorious colors and an array of accompanying wildlife. Winter offers a wonderland of opportunities for tracking wildlife and viewing winter species of birds along the rivers and lakes. Keep on the lookout for the deer, rabbits, fox and turkey among the monarchs and swallowtails.

RIVER BEND FARM/BLACKSTONE RIVER AND CANAL HERITAGE STATE PARK is a rich natural and historic treasure. The park offers over 1000 acres of opportunity to explore, hike, mountain bike, canoe, kayak and cross country ski. Trailheads and canoe launch can be found at Plummer's Landing.

Lookout Rock on Quaker Street has a trailhead and provides panoramic views of the Valley. **River Bend Farm Visitor Center** is located on Oak Street. West Hill Dam and Park is located nearby. Habitats here include wooded swamps, fields and mixed forest. This site is great for migrating hawks, nighthawks, land birds, warblers, songbirds, breeding Wood Ducks, Mallards and Hooded Mergansers.

BROAD MEADOW BROOK CONSERVATION CENTER AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, an Audubon property, is a natural oasis in an urban area consisting of woods, fields, streams and marshes attracting a variety of songbirds. Trail hikes are sure to reward the visitor with great sightings. This is one of the best places for migrating Connecticut Warblers (mid-September).

There are miles of scenic trails, programs and special events with unique opportunities each season. It is located at 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester, MA 01604. Call 508-753-6087 or log onto bmbrook@massaudubon.org.

Hours - Nature Center: Tuesday through Saturday, 9am to 4pm; Sunday, 12:30 pm to 4 pm

Trails: Open daily, dawn to dusk.

DOUGLAS STATE FOREST consists of mixed forest with a large lake (Wallum Lake) that extends into Rhode Island. A special feature of this location is a boardwalk through an Atlantic White Cedar Swamp. Breeding birds include some species that are uncommon in much of the Corridor like Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Warblers. Common Loons, Common Mergansers and even an occasional Bald Eagle can be found.

CIRCLE TOUR DIRECTIONS

From River Bend Farm to Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary: Turn right on Oak Street. Turn left onto Hartford Ave. West and proceed to Rte. 122 (N. Main St.). Turn right on Rte. 122 and then turn left on Linwood Ave. which changes to Main St. to N. Main St. and back to Main St. Take the on ramp to Rte. 146 North toward Millbury/Worcester. Take the Rte. 20 ramp toward Auburn/Northboro. Turn right onto Rte. 20 (Southwest Cutoff). Follow Visitor Center signs. Turn left onto Massasoit Rd. Stop at 414 Massasoit Rd., Worcester, MA.

From Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary to Douglas State Park: Go right (south) on Massasoit Rd. Turn right onto Rte. 20 (Southwest Cutoff). Turn left onto Rte. 146 South. Continue to follow Rte. 146 South to Millbury where you will exit to W. Main St. Head south on W. Main St. and bear right to Singletary Rd. which will change to W. Sutton Rd. Follow W. Sutton Rd. to Central Tpke. Turn right on Central Tpke. and then make a quick left onto Douglas Rd. which changes to NW Main St. Follow to Wallis St. where you will turn right. Wallis St. changes to Cedar St. which then changes to Wallum Lake Rd. End at 108 Wallum Lake Rd, Douglas, MA.

From Douglas State Park to River Bend Farm: Go north on Wallum Lake Rd to Rte. 16 (Webster St.). Turn right onto Rte. 16. Webster St. becomes Main St. Then bear left onto NE Main St. which becomes Hartford Ave West. Continue on Hartford Ave. and turn right onto Oak St. River Bend Farm is on your left.

From Rhode Island: Follow Rte. 146 North to Rte. 16 (Uxbridge). Follow Route 16 into Uxbridge, turn left at Rte. 122 (N. Main St.). Head north to Hartford Ave. and turn right. Follow to Oak St. and turn right. River Bend Farm will be on your left.

River Bend Farm Visitor Center
287 Oak Street
Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569
508-278-7604
Open daily year round during daylight hours

For Visitor Information call
800-454-2882 or visit
www.blackstonevalley.org