



## **Cruising the Connecticut River for Bald Eagles February 24-25, 2006**

with Dennis Murley & Stephanie Ellis

The tidal region of the Connecticut River is home to sweeping tidal marsh communities, exceptional tributaries, and the largest concentration of overwintering bald eagles in New England. During this two-day trip to Connecticut and Rhode Island, we have

planned a two-hour chartered boat excursion to travel upriver to view these magnificent birds, both adult and immature. This scenic, undeveloped section of the river remains ice free, providing exceptional opportunities for photography and up-close observation. It is not uncommon for 50 eagles to be seen on a cruise, along with a variety of mergansers, hawks, and even a passing falcon.

Along the way we will also visit a number of great birding sites in Connecticut and Rhode Island to view a variety of wintering birds, including ducks, gulls, raptors, and pelagic species. We will stay at the Griswold Inn in the seaport village of Essex. The fee includes round-trip van transportation from the sanctuary, the boat trip, accommodations, and dinner and breakfast.

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**Friday, February 24.** Today we'll leave Cape Cod in the early morning and drive to Connecticut. We'll spend our day making several stops at birding hotspots along the coast of Rhode Island and Connecticut. We will visit Sachuest Point for harlequin ducks and Point Judith for wintering Iceland and glaucous gulls; Hammonasset Beach State Park for possible Lapland longspurs and sparrows along with rough-legged hawks and northern harriers; and look out over Long Island Sound, where pelagics like razorbills and gannets can be seen. Bring a brown bag lunch for this first afternoon. A stop for coffee and warm drinks will be included!

We will close our day with a nice dinner together at the Griswold Inn in Essex, Connecticut. The Griswold Inn will also serve as our lodging for the night.

**Saturday, February 25.** After breakfast at the Griswold Inn we'll depart for our cruise along the Connecticut River in search of eagles. The cruise departs at 10 a.m. from Steamboat Dock in Essex. It is run by Connecticut Audubon Society and lasts 2 hours. Time following the cruise will be reserved to visit the Connecticut River Museum located on the docks.

After lunch we will depart and arrive back in Wellfleet by 6 p.m.

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**Thank you for your interest!**

**If you have any questions about this trip, please contact Melissa Lowe at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, 508-349-2615 or [mlope@massaudubon.org](mailto:mlope@massaudubon.org)**