

2021 Bird walk at Eagle Point. Pre-registration required.

Location: Eagle Point. Derby, VT

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Wildlife Management Area, a unit of U.S. Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge.

When: June 5, 2021. Rendez-vous 8AM. Duration 2-3 hours

Join the *Friends of the Missisquoi NWR* (Friends) and co-host, the *Memphremagog Watershed Association* (MWA) for a morning of birding and exploration. We will gather at the Eagle Point grass trail head (near the old homestead turnout) as we enjoy the musical sounds of grassland birds and fancy flight of tree swallows nesting in the area. A good place to take a peek at osprey nests and there are sure to be a few surprises.

This is an adventure for all - from first time to experienced birders. Along the way, the Friends will conduct an annual bird count and share their joy of birding. Always helpful pointing out and assisting folks with identification of the sights and sounds. Everyones eyes & ears add to the experience! The unique mix of habitats - grassland, northern hardwood forest, hemlock seepage forest, diverse wetland complex, to name a few - makes this an exciting place to "bird".

THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT. So come prepared for the weather. The walk is over uneven ground and places along the trail may be muddy or wet. Passing along a friendly reminder from the Vermont Dept of Health - check for ticks whenever you've been wandering about! There are no facilities on the property. It is carry-in and carry-out. You may find it handy to have binoculars.

This year due to COVID-19, there are some additional health protocols. Please plan to wear your face covering.

Friends of the Missisquoi are managing the registration process via EventBrite.

The online system registration **opens early May.** Limited number of participants.

Check the Friends website <http://friendsofmissisquoi.org> Upcoming events or Calendar page.

For more information about the event, please contact MWA at memphremagogwatershed@gmail.com or leave a message at **802.487.0160** (be sure to include your name & phone number in your message).



Lots of stop, look and listen.... Here's a peek
from past bird walks at Eagle Point.



Directions: Newport, VT to Eagle Point WMA/NWR (Derby, VT)
From junction of 105/5 at Cumberland Farms (Newport, VT)
to rendezvous at Eagle Point parking is about 6 miles via this route:

- * North on Sias Ave/Darling Hill Rd - @2.1mi
- * V-intersection. Continue North on N. Derby Rd - @2mi
- * T-intersection. West on Eagle Point Rd - @1.3mi
- * WMA access roadway to kiosk & parking loop

Descriptive **Directions.**

From City of Newport downtown it is about 7 miles to the Eagle Point Wildlife Management Area rendezvous.

A suggested travel route starting from off the I-91 (exit 27) I-191 Access road to Newport.

I-191 Access Road at Western Ave stoplight (note the fire station across the road).

- Turn right onto Western Ave, a short drive up the hill, over the Clyde River bridge, and position to be in the left lane before the next light. You are now at the junction of Rte 5/105 (note the Cumberland Farms store/fuel station). Continue straight ahead onto **Sias Ave**.

*If approaching from the **VT-5 Derby Road (from I-91 exit 28)** which goes past the shopping areas (grocery stores & Walmart), or **East Main Street (VT5)** just turn onto **Sias Ave** at the Rte 105/5 junction/ & four way intersection at Cumberland Farms and follow the directions below.*

From Sias Ave to the last turn is about 5.5 miles.

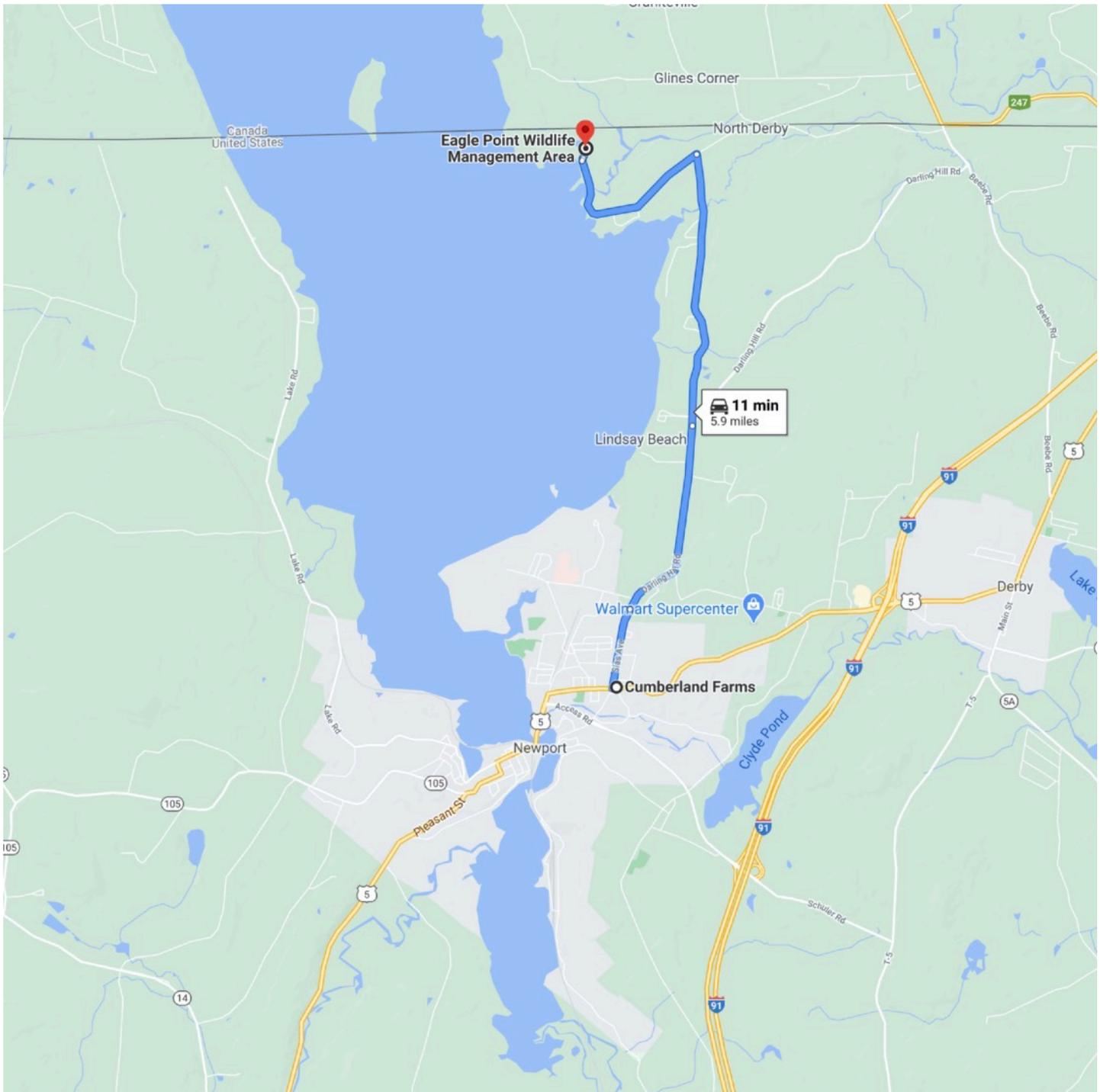
- **Sias Ave** (which in about a half mile morphs into Darling Hill Road). At about @2miles, there is a V split, keep left (pretty much straight ahead) onto the N. Derby Road. (Note Darling Hill Rd continues to the right.)
- Follow **N. Derby Rd** along a winding, hilly road for to T-intersection. For @2 miles.
- At T-intersection, turn left onto **Eagle Point Rd** (also known as T-17). For @1.3 miles
- You are now heading westward towards Lake Memphremagog. You'll notice fields and subtle signage for Wildlife Management Area and Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge, as well as some homes along the lake. About a mile more, you'll cross over the culvert bridge, then the road becomes dirt, (pass by a VT F&W kiosk & small parking area), continue along the dirt road to the first right (no sign).
- Turn right onto **dirt access entry road** (known as Dunn Farm Rd that leads to the old homestead site). Currently there is a bent yellow diamond road sign just past the turn. Please beware, at times part of that intersection may be very muddy. In a short distance, road delivers you via a loop to the grass trail head and parking. *We'll meet you there!* (You'll probably see the cars up there as you approach the wide open space.)

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Note for some unknown reason the Google Maps references "2 Woodlawn Avenue, Newport, VT" as the address for the Eagle Point Wildlife Management Area. Please note the actual physical location is Derby, VT accessed via Eagle Point Farm Road (T-17).



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The other/option text for various media sharing.

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+ with insert photos

Binocular birding tip. Stop, keep your eye on the subject, bring up binoculars to your eyes. You'll have a more harmonious experience. Easy to practice, so you'll be ready for the big reveal.

Vermont eBird offers a window into birds of an area. Check it out. This link is direct to Orleans County postings <https://ebird.org/vt/region/US-VT-019?yr=all&m=&rank=mrec>

