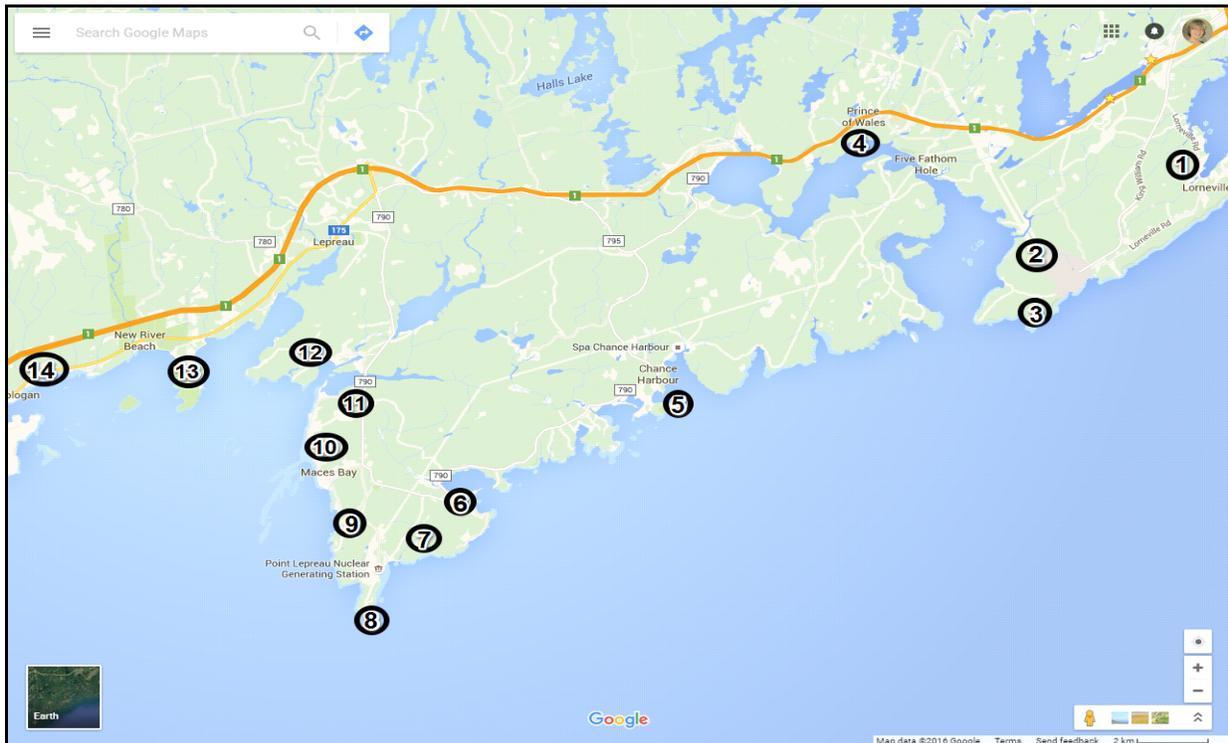


## FUNDY COAST WEST – MAP 2



The coastline west of Saint John is very irregular with sheltered harbours lying between low-cliffed headlands. Route 790 hugs the coast in many places providing excellent opportunities to watch for seabirds and shorebirds. Migrant land birds are also common along that stretch. The salt marsh along the Musquash Estuary is the largest marsh within 190 kilometers of Saint John and harbours many species of birds. Coastal alder thickets along the length of this coastline provide important food sources for passerines having crossed the Bay of Fundy in spring migration or about to cross in the fall.

### 1. LORNEVILLE HARBOUR

This is a sheltered harbour for grebes, loons and mergansers from fall through spring. From Route 1 take Exit 112, about 9 km west of Reversing Falls or the Harbour Bridge. Turn left on to Route 810 (King William Road), travel 1.8 km and turn left on to Lorneville Road. Check the two estuaries at 1.2 km and 2.7 km for shorebirds, ducks and kingfishers. After 3.2 km, turn left on to Point Road which leads to the Lorneville Harbour wharf. Check the lawns and shrubbery along the road for sparrows, warblers and other passerines as this area has produced numerous rare birds in the past. Observe the wharf area, checking the boulders for sparrows and other passerines (both Seaside Sparrow and Northern Wheatear have been found here).

## **2. LORNEVILLE ROAD WEST, BURCHILL ROAD, BLACK BEACH ROAD**

This area is at the western junction of the Lorneville Road and the King William Road just before the Coleson Cove Generating Station. To reach this area, take Exit 112 off Route 1 and turn left onto King William Road. Continue for 7.2 km to the junction of the Lorneville Road. The area to the south and west of this point is forested by dense alders and willows making it one of the most productive and important migrant traps of the region. Many species of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, sparrows and raptors can be found here in migration and will linger late into fall. The Burchill Road (unmarked) is found on the right 500 meters further along the King William Road. This dead end 4.4 km road features a diverse variety of habitats with an equally diverse variety of birds. Just beyond the Burchill Road intersection is the Coleson Cove Generating Station. Check bushes around the area especially near the power plant for migrant sparrows in the spring. A rather poorly maintained gravel road (Black Beach Road) leads to a lookout just above and to the west of the power station which is a good spot to view seabirds, especially in migration. The entire length of the Black Beach Road can be very productive for birders. Check the higher elevation portions for Boreal Chickadees. The road ends at Black Beach. This cove often has eiders, grebes, ducks, seabirds and other shorebirds. The Nature Conservancy Black Beach Trail is found up the hill at the west end of the parking area with various habitats supporting flycatchers, warblers, vireos, sparrows and other woodland species.

## **3. SOUTH MUSQUASH LIGHT**

About 2 km past the Coleson Cove Generating Station, a road to the left leads to the lighthouse. There is a gate and a small parking area at the beginning of the road. It is an easy 25 minute hike on a gravel road to the lighthouse for a spectacular view of the Bay and Musquash Harbour. The walk on this road can yield many woodland species; the variety depends on the time of the year.

## **4. MUSQUASH**

The dyked and drained marshland south of Route 1 is the Musquash Marsh. In the fall and winter it can be good for open country birds such as hawks, Horned Lark and Snow Bunting, while in the spring, duck species, bitterns and large wading birds can be found. The accessible marsh viewing area found east of the Musquash River can be reached by taking Exit 103 at Prince of Wales. Take a left off the exit ramp and then a right at the next intersection which will take you through the small community. You will continue on a gravel road which parallels the highway. Around 3 km from the highway exit you will reach a fork in the road. Park your car here and continue straight on foot. The path straight ahead leads to the Musquash Marsh.

Upper areas on the west side of the marsh can be viewed from the abandoned rail bed which is located on Route 790. Take Exit 96 and turn left onto Route 790 where approximately 1 km on the left there is access to the old railway trail. Parking is near the adjacent cemetery.

## **5. CHANCE HARBOUR**

On Route 790, 10.1 km from Route 1, the Chance Harbour Breakwater Road leads to a good area from which to view sea ducks in winter. Check both sides of the breakwater. While the viewing area is small, a late winter King Eider is not out of the question. About 500 meters beyond the Chance Harbour Breakwater Road, turn left on the Chance Harbour Road, keep to the right on the Crow Island Road and go to the end. This road offers views of the water where Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Loons, Common Eiders and other ducks can be found.

Continuing along coastal Route 790 the salt marshes can be good shore and wading bird areas while the marsh ponds may have heron and dabbling duck. Snowy and Great Egret appear occasionally in late spring.

## **6. DIPPER HARBOUR**

Just 18 km west of Musquash, a causeway separates a small salt marsh to the north from Dipper Harbour to the south. Either side may yield interesting shorebirds, gulls, or waterfowl. A few hundred meters further west, a left turn to Dipper Harbour will lead to a wharf where Bufflehead and other diving ducks can be observed.

## **7. DUCK COVE**

About 0.7 km past Dipper Harbour on Route 790, watch for Duck Pond Road on the left. This 2 km long gravel dead-end road passes through conifer forest in a variety of successional stages. The quiet road presents a good opportunity for a leisurely stroll in search of woodland birds.

## **8. POINT LEPREAU**

On this headland jutting into the Bay of Fundy, marine species such as Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Black-legged Kittiwake, Purple Sandpipers and lately Harlequin Duck may be seen in winter. Spring and fall migration includes large flocks of scoters (all 3 species), Red-throated and Common Loons, Double-crested Cormorants, Common Eiders, Brants and other species of ducks. Northern Gannet may be numerous in October. A variety of land birds appear on the point during migration. In winter, this point is often best with a strong west wind around high tide. The point is a 4.5 km side trip from Route 790. If travelling west, turn right about 2.1 km west of Dipper Harbour. If coming east, continue straight at the Maces Bay/Dipper Harbour crossroad.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Access to the point has been limited since the nuclear generating station was built here in 1976 by NB Power. The Canadian Coast Guard maintains a lighthouse at the Point, and the Saint John Naturalists' Club has erected a small observatory here for studying bird migration. However, one must travel through the Point Lepreau Generating Station grounds to reach the point and arrangements must be made well in advance to obtain security clearance and to arrange an appointment to visit the site. Contact a member of the Saint John Naturalists' Club for details of the current procedure.

## **9. WELCH COVE**

Welch Cove Road is a left turn off Route 790 just west of the intersection of Maces Bay Road and Route 790. It is a continuation of the Maces Bay shore and different species may be seen on a given day. Red-necked Grebe is often seen here in winter.

## **10. MACES BAY**

Watch the water for eider all year; other ducks, grebes, loons, cormorants, and gulls are common from fall through spring. Large numbers of migrant Brant feed on eel grass in spring; Purple Sandpipers often appear on the rocks in winter. The Salkeld Islands in Maces Bay have nesting Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, Double-crested Cormorant, Common Eider, and Black Guillemot.

Continuing west on Maces Bay Road just north of the old wharf, take a left onto Cassidy Lane which leads to a good vantage point from which to survey the surrounding beaches and mud flats of Lepreau Basin for waterfowl, gulls and shorebirds.

## **11. LITTLE LEPREAU BASIN**

Buffleheads are common in this area on coastal Route 790. Shorebirds may be present at low tide during the fall and spring.

## **12. LITTLE LEPREAU**

From Route 790, just north of Maces Bay, turn left onto Little Lepreau Road and go straight at the stop sign. Bushes near the covered bridge may be good for land birds. At 1.7 km from Route 790, there is another view of the Lepreau Basin. Two km from Route 790 there is a Y in the road. MacPherson Road (left) leads to a rocky beach offering a good view of Maces Bay. There is also a small salt marsh. This area offers interesting possibilities for birds at all seasons. Boyne Road (right at the Y) leads to Boyle's Cove. Numbers of sea ducks and loons can be impressive, especially in early fall and late winter.

### **13. NEW RIVER BEACH**

The park can be found off Route 175 about 7.3 km from the junction of Route 790 and Route 175 west. Take a left off Route 175 onto Haggerty's Cove Road. Pass straight through a four-way intersection and then turn right on Carrying Cove Road. This will bring you to a large parking area. To the west of the parking lot the Provincial Park features a fine sandy beach where Sanderling feed during fall migration. The Barnaby Head Nature Trail to the east of the parking area traverses coniferous woods along the shore of a rocky headland and a bog which may produce a variety of woodland species such as Palm Warbler.

### **14. POCOLOGAN**

Continue for 5.9 km along route 175 from New River Beach to Pocologan where one should see numerous eiders, loons and grebes (especially in winter). Harbour Seals are seen frequently on the rocky ledges.