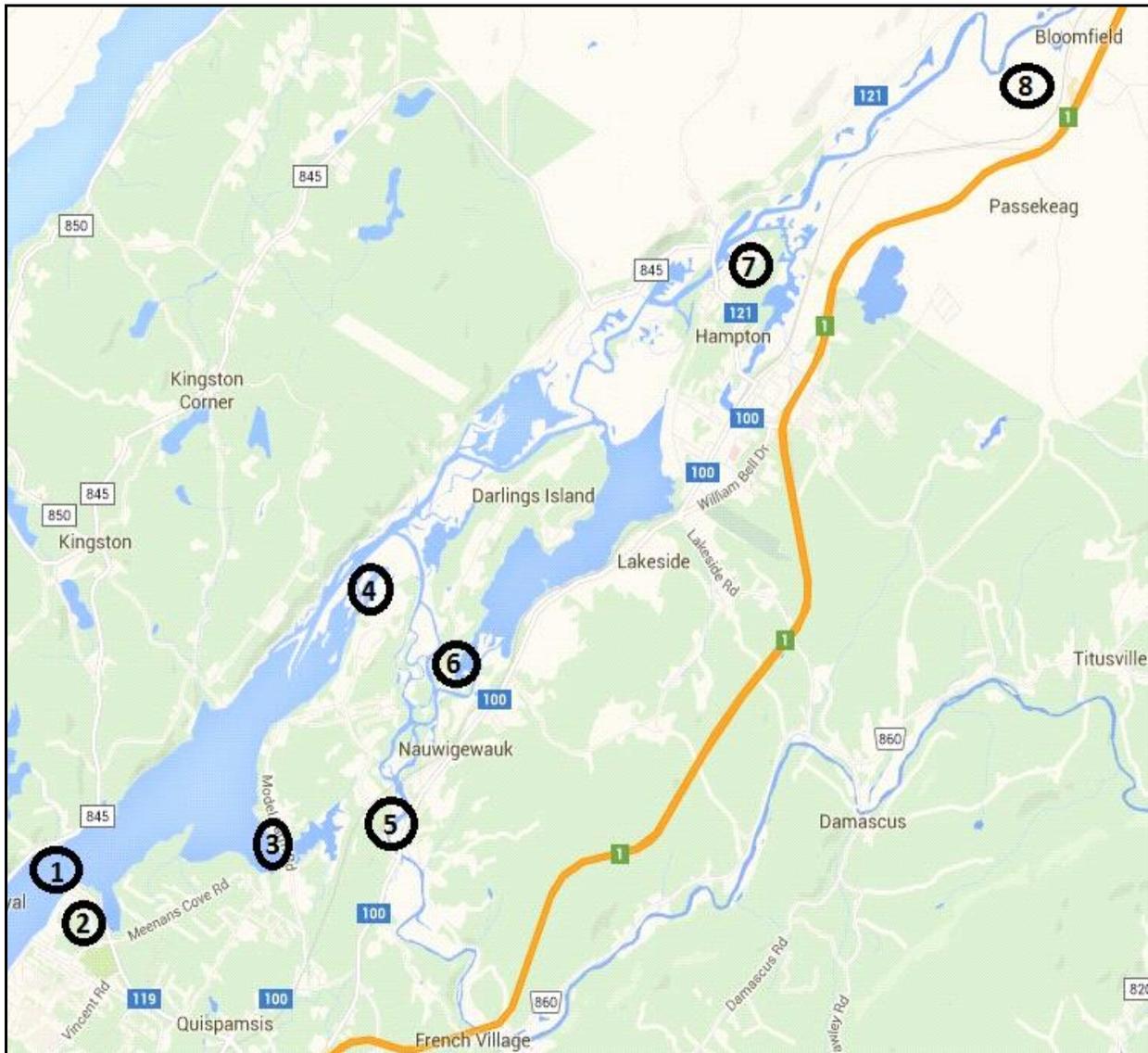


KENNEBECASIS RIVER VALLEY – MAP 5



The lower portion of the Kennebecasis River occupies a deep valley bordered by extensive marsh areas especially where it is joined by the Hammond River downriver from Hampton. Further east, upriver from Hampton, the river is restricted to a narrow channel that floods the adjacent low-lying farmland each spring. Sites along all parts of the valley offer good opportunities for viewing birds throughout the year.

Directions to the eight (8) locations on the following pages are given so that they can be accessed in order, proceeding upriver from Gondola Point. Access to some of the locations directly from various exits along Route 1 is also provided.

1. GONDOLA POINT

From Route 1 in either direction take Exit 141 and then Route 119 north for 5 km to the Gondola Point Ferry landing. In winter, ducks such as Common Merganser and Common Goldeneye can be observed on the open water of the ferry channel.

2. MATTHEWS COVE PARK (and picnic area)

Head back towards Route 1 from the ferry landing on Route 119. Go 1.0 km then turn right onto Meenan's Cove Road and travel 0.2 km to the paved road on the right which leads steeply downhill to a parking area. A 0.5 km trail circles the pond of this former wastewater facility and, in season, hosts Common Goldeneye, Spotted Sandpipers and Wood Ducks. Many woodland species have been seen as well.

3. MEENAN'S COVE

Return to Route 119 and turn right. Travel 2.6 km to the junction with Route 100 and turn left on Route 100 East. After 1.3 km continue straight on Model Farm Road crossing the bridge over Meenan's Cove, a shallow marshy-edged cove of the Kennebecasis River. At about 0.2 km past the bridge, turn left into Meenan's Cove Park. Park here and either walk the trails (a little difficult to find, but they start a few meters west of the parking lot) or walk back to the bridge along the road to check for waterfowl in May, August and September.

4. HAMMOND RIVER PARK

From Meenan's Cove continue on Model Farm Road to the three-way junction with Hammond River Road, Neck Road and Old Neck Road. Take Neck Road (the middle road to the left) for 0.7 km, turn right on Reynar Drive and continue 0.3 km to Hammond River Park where 3 km of well-marked, sometimes steep trails wander through dark cedar forest along the edge of the marsh.

5. HAMMOND RIVER OVERLOOK

Return to the three-way junction mentioned in the location above and follow Hammond River Road for 3.2 km to the junction with Route 100. Turn right on Route 100 and drive 0.3 km to a parking area on the left. In April and May, the flooded fields east of the parking area attract ducks and shorebirds. The farmland beside the river is a favourite gathering place for Turkey Vultures from May to September. The Hammond River Overlook can also be reached by taking Exit 142 from Route 1 (Sussex-bound direction only) and proceeding 3.8 km on Route 100 East to the parking area on the right.

6. DARLINGS ISLAND COVERED BRIDGE

Turn right out of the Hammond River Overlook parking area and go 1.0 km on Route 100 to the southern intersection with Station Loop Road. Turn left on Station Loop Road, travel 1.3 km, then turn left onto Darlings Island Road. One kilometer further on is a covered bridge dating to 1914. Parking near the covered bridge affords easy access to the old road and the bridge which are bordered by mature poplar trees and overlook the river.

7. HAMPTON

The Town of Hampton has two interesting parks with numerous trails and a good variety of bird life including ducks, rails, herons, eagles and ospreys. In addition, the town with its logo "It's our Nature!" has become well known for the large number of roosting Turkey Vultures in the fall and the Chimney Swifts at the old post office in spring. Hampton may be reached from Darlings Island by returning to Route 100, keeping left at the intersection with Station Loop Road. After about 5.5 km, take the left turn towards Hampton town centre and continue to the Hampton roundabout. Alternatively, if approaching from Route 1, take Exit 158 in either direction and proceed 0.7 km towards Hampton on Hall Road. At the stop sign, turn right onto Main Street (Route 100) and go 0.5 km to the Hampton roundabout.

The tall chimneys on the building at 4 Centennial Road, across the street from the former Court House in Hampton and adjacent to the Roundabout are active during the Chimney Swift roosting period. You will notice people gathering in the Irving parking lot each evening to watch the swifts return from a day of foraging.

Rotary Nature Park: From the Hampton Roundabout, head towards the railway tracks on Route 121 for 0.3 km and turn left on Cemetery Road. The entrance to the park is located on the left 0.2 km from this junction opposite Hampton Curling Club. At the southern end of the park, hikers can continue on the trail that runs between the cemetery and the sewage lagoons. This trail continues for a further kilometre beyond the sewage lagoons to Hampton High School. Several species of ducks nest around the sewage lagoons. The trees surrounding the lagoons are also where more than 50 Turkey Vultures can sometimes be seen flying in to roost for the evening.

Dutch Point Park: From Rotary Nature Park, return to Route 12; turn left on Route 121 towards the Hampton roundabout for 1.6 km to Dutch Point Road on the right. Turn onto Dutch Point Road and continue for 0.3 km to the park entrance on the right. Several trails run through this well-wooded park, one of which leads to Ossekeag Creek where a variety of waterfowl can be found.

8. KENNEBECASIS RIVER MARSHES

The creeks, marshes and woodlands up and down the Kennebecasis River around Hampton are good places to observe ducks, rails, herons and other species.

Hampton Marsh Panorama: From Dutch Point Park, return to Route 121 and turn left. After 0.1 km, veer right onto Kennebecasis River Road and continue 2.0 km to a parking spot on the right for an excellent outlook over the marsh. The Bald Eagles and Osprey which often nest in this area can frequently be seen soaring over the river.

Bloomfield Marsh: From the Hampton roundabout, follow Centennial Road north towards Passekeag and Sussex, observing the fields and fence lines as you go. This route, after several kilometers, intersects with Bloomfield Station Road. Turn left on Bloomfield Station Road to visit the final site on the Kennebecasis Valley birding route. The spring freshet often floods fields along the Kennebecasis River at Bloomfield. Ducks, geese and other water birds may be seen here during April and May. There are a number of good birding sites surrounding the two bridges and the cemetery along this short connector road.