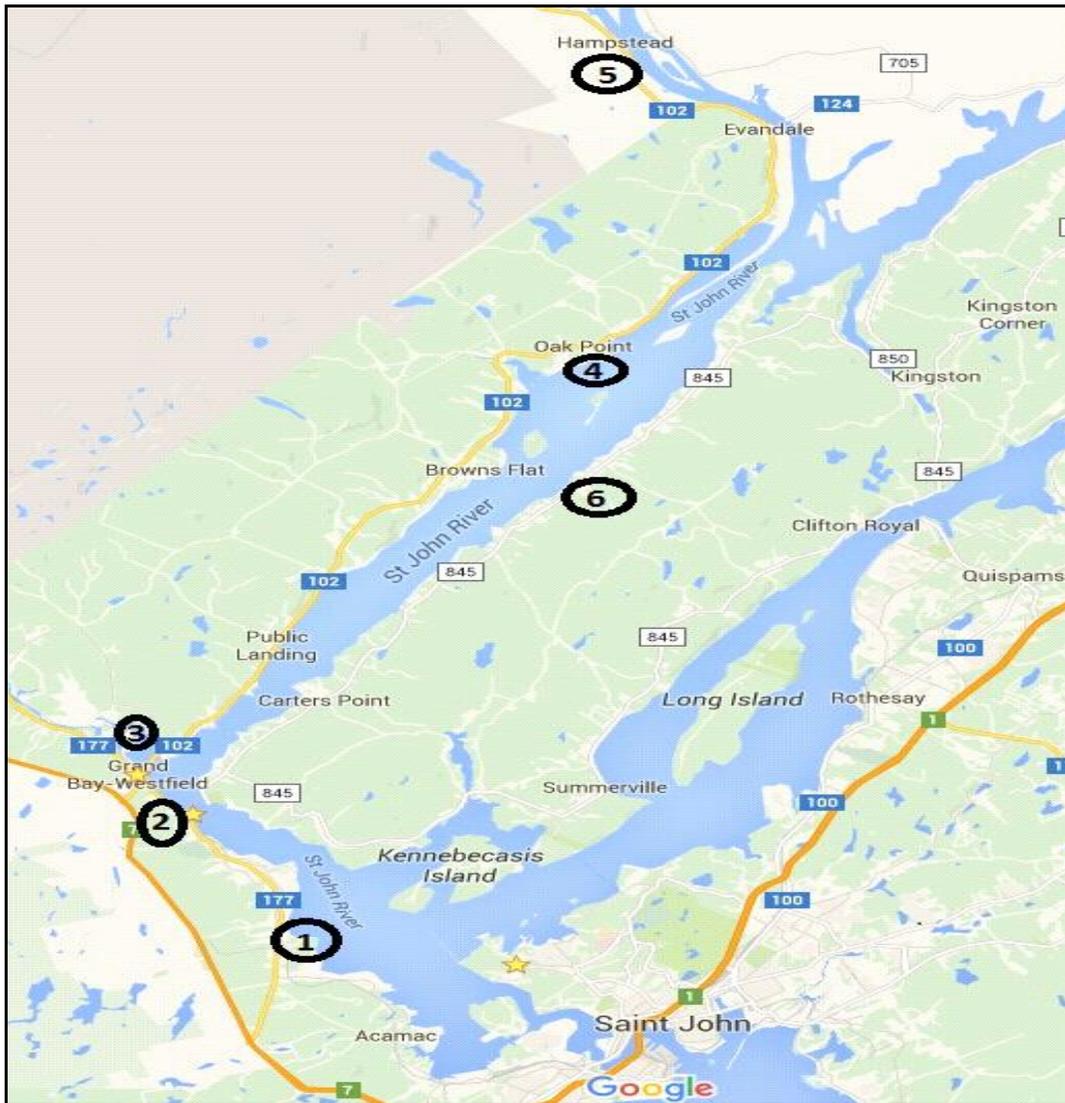


ST. JOHN RIVER VALLEY – MAP 4



Lured by flights of waterfowl each spring, birders from Saint John embark on their annual trek up the St. John River Valley to the Jemseg area. Spring migration is the main attraction but a leisurely drive up the river road is interesting at any season, except perhaps mid-winter. The scenery softens as you proceed north along the river. The highly developed residential density of Saint John gives way to gently rolling rural hills with cottages, farms (most are just partly active now), scattered villages, and miles of mixed woods stretching back from the river. The river itself changes from a deep, drowned valley to a shallow marsh-bordered channel. Take Route 1 or 100 west from Saint John to Routes 7 and 177 to Grand Bay-Westfield, then Route 102 up the river. If time is short, turn back at Evandale or Hampstead.

1. GRAND BAY- WESTFIELD SEWAGE LAGOON

In the town of Grand Bay-Westfield, turn onto Station Road off Route 177, turn right on to Bayview Road then left on to Shannon Road and continue on to the sewage lagoon (approximately 200 meters on the left, adjacent to Henderson Brook). Warblers and waterfowl may be seen. The end of Bayview Road also provides parking (on left) for anyone interested in walking the 1.4 km Nature Trust Blueberry Hill Trail. This mixed habitat has meadows, dry open fields, wetlands along a brook, mature forest of pine and spruce and rocky shoreline. This varied habitat is home to a diverse variety of birds including flycatchers, warblers, vireos, sparrows and waterfowl.

2. GRAND BAY- WESTFIELD – BRUNDAGE POINT FERRY CROSSING

During migration and in winter, diving ducks congregate at the bend in the St. John River around the Westfield ferry landing. When ice is severe in winter the birds will use the open water of the ferry crossing. This area is our best spot in winter for Barrow's Goldeneye.

3. NEREPIS RIVER

The Nerepis River north of Westfield has potential for duck species, heron, Osprey, and Northern Waterthrush. Many Veeries inhabit its woodlands. The river is difficult to observe from Route 177 but is a dandy spot for a canoe trip. Put in either at the river mouth at Westfield (public access available on left at Woodsman's Point end of the bridge/causeway) or at one of the road crossings upstream. Ducks Unlimited has created a large marsh on Goose Creek, a tributary of the Nerepis. To find this marsh turn left off Route 102 onto Campbell Road. Travel 2.5 km and turn left at Lonewater Farm Road. About 300 meters along this road, stop at a dirt road on the right. Walk down this road to the marsh to see waterfowl, Bald Eagle, Osprey and songbirds.

4. OAK POINT

The St. John River from Oak Point north to Grassy Island and Mistake Cove is good for migrant waterfowl in spring and fall, as well as terns and ducks in summer. The cove, north of the point has many scaup in April while geese and other ducks feed on and around the islands and low-lying interval land. Eagles are often seen here. Park with care near or on the wharf to observe the Grassy Island area.

5. HAMPSTEAD

The river and flood plain above Hampstead village are often good for geese and waterfowl in migration, terns in summer. Watch the sky and big trees for Bald Eagle and Osprey. There is a public wharf off the Hampstead Ferry Road that provides a good viewing location.

6. KINGSTON PENINSULA

From Route 177 in Grand Bay-Westfield take the cable ferry to the Peninsula and follow Route 845 straight up the St. John River. This area attracts large numbers of waterfowl in the spring including Canada Goose, scaup, goldeneye, Northern Pintail, American Widgeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, merganser (Red-breasted, Common and Hooded), Osprey, Bald Eagle and various marsh birds. Numerous woodland species breed here during the summer.

Approximately 28 km from the ferry landing, Kingston Creek provides a good area for duck species, heron, bittern, Swamp Sparrow, Common Loon, Red-winged Blackbird, Osprey and Bald Eagle. An unmarked access point to the Creek is located on Route 845 at 2.2 km beyond Shampers Bluff Road. Continue 2.3 km further and turn right on Lake Road which passes Kingston Lake, an area similar to Kingston Creek. Lake Road ends after 2 km at Route 845 with two options.

Turn left, drive 2 km and turn right onto Perry Point Road. Continue 3 km to the Kennebecasis River and turn left onto Lower Norton Shore Road. This often bumpy dirt road follows the river and offers opportunities to view hundreds of waterfowl especially during the early spring and fall migration. The road ends near the outskirts of Hampton.

Upon reaching Route 845 at the end of Lake Road, a second option is to turn right towards the Gondola Point Ferry. (Crossing the ferry will allow return to Saint John by Route 1 or 100.) Continue along Route 845 to travel the lower end of the Peninsula and return to the Grand Bay-Westfield ferry. This route passes by streams, forested areas, farm fields and old orchards – all birding areas. The covered bridge at Milkish Creek is a good location for viewing waterfowl.