



## Meet-Up Tour Itinerary: Northern New England, October 13-15, 2017

HMANA's second Meet-Up (and first in New England) will feature New Hampshire's Pack Monadnock and Carter Hill Raptor Observatories, as well as Vermont's Putney Mountain Hawk Watch. Your registration entitles you to time spent at these well-known hawk migration monitoring sites with personal instruction and attention from the site coordinators, special presentations, and a group meal. Mid-October is an exciting time for hawk watching as chances for Northern Goshawk and Golden Eagle increase significantly, and diversity of raptors is high. In addition, other nearby birding opportunities exist, and we may make a side trip in search of non-raptors. This time frame is also well-known as peak season for foliage in the scenic Monadnock Region and Connecticut River Valleys of northern New England, so plenty of reasons to join!

This self-drive trip will offer flexibility in driving on one's own, choosing your own accommodations and eating choices, as well as the opportunity to spend some quality time birding and hawkwatching with fellow HMANA members and representatives. Below is the itinerary for the tour including street addresses that you can put into your GPS. Though this tour is designed to be flexible it will rely on participants being punctual to elements of the tour they are attending. You will have contact details for our tour leader, Phil Brown, in case of emergency.

### Friday

- 5 pm gathering at Best Western Hotel in Keene, NH
- Introductions and brief presentation by Julie Brown of HMANA
- 6:30 pm dinner at Elm City Brewery

### Saturday

- Breakfast on own. Drive ~1 hour to Carter Hill Orchard for 8 am morning birding for sparrows and other songbirds. We'll be on the lookout for migrant birds of all kinds but with the obvious HMANA focus on raptors.
- Spend the morning birding from the hawk watch platform at Carter Hill Raptor Observatory, a site in its 10<sup>th</sup> season of data collection. This bucolic location is complete with views that include mountains and fall foliage, pick-your-own apples, a complete farm store, and some fine October hawk watching and overall birding.
- Lunch en route to Pack Monadnock (suggested: Everyday Café in nearby Hopkinton).
- Drive ~1 hour to Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory, where we will spend the afternoon. An auto road leads to the summit of this 2,290-foot mountain, which has spectacular scenery and a feel of the mountains further north. With luck, we will see some of the raptor species that this site is regionally known for.
- Dinner in Peterborough at Harlow's Pub (meal covered by HMANA; alcohol not included)

## Sunday

- Breakfast on own, check-out.
- 8 am morning meetup at Best Western and departure. We may check an area hotspot for migrant landbirds (Dillant-Hopkins Airport) or waterfowl (Spofford Lake) en route to Putney Mountain in Vermont.
- 10 am arrival at Putney Mountain for the short hike to the Putney Mountain Hawk Watch....picking up a picnic lunch at the Putney Food Co-op en route.
- Depart for home from here at your own pace.

### Locations:

#### Best Western Plus Keene Hotel

401 Winchester St, Keene, NH 03431

#### Elm City Brewing Company

222 West St #46, Keene, NH 03431

#### Carter Hill Raptor Observatory

Carter Hill Orchard, 73 Carter Hill Rd, Concord, NH 03303

(driving time from Best Western: 1 hour)

#### The Everyday Cafe & Pub

14 Maple St, Contoocook, NH 03329

#### Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory

Miller State Park, 13 Miller Park Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458

(driving time from Carter Hill Orchard: 1 hour)

#### Harlow's Pub

Harlow's Pub & Restaurant, 3 School St, Peterborough, NH 03458

(driving time from Pack Monadnock: 5 minutes)

#### Putney Food Co-op

8 Carol Brown Way, Putney, VT 05346

(driving time from Best Western: 30 minutes)

#### Putney Mountain Hawk Watch

Follow NH Rt. 9 into Vermont and continue across traffic circle to Interstate 91 North. Take the first exit (Exit 4) to Putney. Go north on Rt. 5 into the town of Putney. In the center of town make a left onto Westminster West Road and follow for about 1 mile. Look for West Hill Road on the left and take that road for another few miles. Look for Putney Mountain Road on the right and take that road (dirt) for a few more miles until you reach the high point. There will be a parking area off to the right through the trees. Park there and then follow the dominant trail along the ridge until you get to the clearing. Walking time is about 15 minutes.

(driving time from Putney Food Co-op: 20 minutes)

## Suggested Lodging:

### Best Western Plus Keene Hotel

401 Winchester St, Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 357-3038

### Days Inn

3 Ashbrook Road, Keene, NH, 03431  
(603) 352-9780

Many more lodging options exist in Keene, and you are welcome to choose one of these. Brattleboro, VT is another option and has some less expensive accommodations, but it will add about a 25 minute drive to our destinations.