

## Arts & Birding: Sample Activities and Skill Sessions

*Throughout the week, you'll have the opportunity to choose from a variety of workshops that take advantage of stunning natural settings and our extraordinary staff of instructors.*

**Early Morning Bird Walks and Solo Photography/Painting:** Take advantage of magical dawn light or simply stroll along the shore with expert and enthusiastic birders to see what each day brings. Offered daily at 5:45 am.

**Puffin Cruise to Eastern Egg Rock and Harbor Island:** We'll travel by boat to see Atlantic puffins at Eastern Egg Rock, a restored nesting colony six miles out to sea. To avoid disturbing highly sensitive habitat and nesting sites, we will not land on Eastern Egg Rock, but will have an opportunity to watch puffins and other seabirds from the boat. We'll also visit Harbor Island, where we'll enjoy a picnic lunch and have the opportunity to explore the island's dramatic landscapes and watch for northern forest birds.

**Hog Island Hikes:** Hog Island's quiet coves, rocky inlets, and old growth spruce forest provide opportunities for both exploration and art. We'll offer a variety of hikes—from easy to moderately challenging—and integrate them with artistic activities to give you a chance to experience this exceptional island.

**Creative Solos:** Throughout the week, you'll have the opportunity to spend a longer block of time on a single subject or exploring on your own.

**Hog Island Salon:** Come together to enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and share your artwork, photographs, or writing, as you wish, during our late-afternoon informal "salons."

### ***Sample Skill Sessions***

**Tools & Techniques:** For each specialty area, we'll offer workshops that cover basic techniques and tools of the trade. For example, photographers will focus on getting the most from various camera settings and lenses. Artists will practice drawing techniques, including contour, thumbnail, and diagrammatic sketches, as well as value and perspective. We'll open our tool kits and have a look at each other's materials so you can see different options for sketchbooks, pens, colored pencils, brushes, and paints.

**Bird Anatomy 101-** Better your understanding of birds and improve your identification skills. This session covers basic anatomy with an emphasis on feather topography and how birds look in flight.

**Draw a Better Bird:** Yes, birds have knees! And three rows of feathers on their wings and all sorts of other specific body features that are helpful to understand in order to draw birds more accurately. We'll practice drawing some of the details to make your bird sketching take flight.

**Nature Journaling/Field Sketching:** Working in the field presents both joys and challenges. We'll explore a variety of island settings, offer prompts for observing, writing and sketching, and practice working plein air.

**Photographing Wildlife: Tips, Tricks, and the Art of Patience:** Improve your photography skills by learning the habits of birds and other wildlife so you're ready and waiting when the right moment comes along. We'll also share ways to help your photos tell a story or convey a conservation message.