

Birding Patch: Mount Agamenticus

Rising 592 feet above sea level, Mount Agamenticus offers the best hawk watching opportunities in York County. With nearly unobstructed views in all directions, the mountain is located along a hawk migration route between the coast just five miles to the east and the White Mountains to the west. Fall migration is more prolonged with greater numbers of birds than the spring with its more concentrated but smaller numbers of birds. Fall migration begins in mid-



August and extends into November, with numbers of birds peaking in September. Spring migration begins in mid March and runs through early May.

Species often seen include Red-tailed, Broad-winged, and Sharp-shinned Hawks, American Kestrel, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, and Merlin. Less commonly are Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and Rough-legged Hawk. A Black Vulture or Golden Eagle is a rare treat.

The timing of migration for each species varies within these months, so you might want to consult the seasonal abundance charts in [A Birder's Guide to Maine](#) by Pierson, Pierson, and Vickery to improve your chances of seeing a target species. Also, remember that migration is linked to the weather, with brisk northwest or westerly winds in the fall and southerly winds in the spring offering the best viewing possibilities.

In addition to hawk watching, Mt. Agamenticus has good nesting habitat for woodland birds. The trails from the lower parking area to the summit, about a half mile long, offer excellent birding

opportunities especially from mid-May through June. The area supports Maine's southernmost breeding site for Common Raven and Dark-eyed Junco and is one of the better places to look for Evening Grosbeak in York County.



From Route 1 in Ogunquit, turn south onto Clay Hill Road and drive 3.9 miles. At the T, turn right and continue 1.6 miles to the access road, also on the right. There is a parking lot at the bottom of the hill where trails to the summit begin. The access road to the summit leads to another parking lot. Mount Agamenticus is free year-round.

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