



Herricks Cove Bird Quest

Rockingham, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Natural

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 0:30

Season: May-Oct

Bring: Binoculars

To get there: Take I-91 to Exit 6. Then go north on Route 5. After crossing the bridge over the Williams River, turn right onto Herricks Cove Road. Follow the road to the end and park in the lot before the yellow gate (the boat launch will be to your left).

Overview:

This Quest gives you an insider's guide to one of the premier birding sites in the Upper Valley region.

Clues:

Start at the yellow gate.

Turn right and walk to the pond.

From a big rock, look down and across

To see the treasures that lie beyond.

Can you see a log pointing away from you?

If it is a sunny day,

Sunning **turtles** should be in view.

Straight across find a tall, dead tree.

Roosting high right there

An **osprey** we will often see.

Dark brown above and white below,

Kyew kyew kyew kyew is how the song goes.

Now pass through the yellow gate
 And proceed to the big brown sign.
 Follow the road as it bends to the right.
 As you stroll, listen for birdsong oh-so-light.

A man names Don has seen 221 bird species here—it's true!
 If you look carefully, you'll see a lot too.
 This Quest mentions some of the birds you might see
 On the water, in the sky, or up high in a tree.

Here, along both sides of the road, we find
Warblers: yellow-rumped, palm and pine.
 Billy Shepard says the yellow rump sings
 "Chippy, chippy, jing, jing, jing."

A little later in the year,
 Redstarts and Canada Warbler will be here.
 Straight under shady trees is a picnic spot,
 Then down to the right a view we like a lot.

Down to the clearing at the waterside
 In spring and summer here **tree swallows** glide.
 They bank and spin flying low
 Looking for insects as 'round they go.

Now about-face and forward 70 steps.
 Then follow the road onward to the right
 To see our next favorite birding site.

Walk for a couple minutes and look for the "No Camping" tree.
 Stand with your back to that tree.
 And look across the way until you can see
 Logs with an opening—that's where I want you to be!

Follow this path off into the brush;
 There'll be lots of birds, so whisper, hush;
 Past the benches, spy the Williams River;
Kingfisher chatter will make you quiver.

Look out and find I-91 crossing the bridge,
 Then follow along left to the white house.
 Straight down towards the ground...
 A marshy bird habitat you have found!

Ascutney Mountain Audubon
 And Vermont Fish and Wildlife
 Put the platform way out there
 To welcome **osprey** husband and wife.

Here an assortment of birds flit and fly,
 Using their keen eyesight to espy
 Fish below and insects abuzz—
 As lovely a place as there ever was.

Head back on the trail to the road.
 Right again and off you go.
 Keep on heading towards the “point”,
 A place sure not to disappoint.

Left across the river Route 12 you can see.
 Up closer **red wings** say “Konk-la-reee.”
 On the right side, in the river flow
 Is a wonderful place that **blue herons** go.

Here, where you stand, the Williams empties into the Connecticut.
 This site only requires a bit of etiquette—
 Be sure to take any trash back out with you,
 So you can help take care of this view!

Turn around and head back to the picnic place;
 The end of the Quest will be in this space.
 Find tree with many trunks on the right side:
 Look low for a hollow stump with treasure inside!

This Quest was created by Alma Beals and Steve Glazer in 2002.

Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better than you found it and pack out any trash you find.



Valley Quest is a collection of treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region’s challenges. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org

Have a suggestion, question, comment, or idea for us? We’d love to hear from you. Reach us at valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org or 802-291-9100.

