Shackford Head State Park

John William Shackford

Shackford Head State Park is named for one of the town's earliest settlers, Captain John Shackford, a Revolutionary War soldier, who arrived in Eastport with his family about 1783.

Capt. Shackford owned the headland and used Broad Cove as his ship's anchorage.

John Shackford died December 25, 1840 and is buried beside his wife in the nearby Hillside East Cemetery, Eastport, ME.

History of Shackford Head State Park

In the 1970s, Shackford Head was the site of a proposed oil refinery that the Pittston Company sought to construct. The plan was met with strong opposition due to Cobscook Bay's navigational hazards and exceptional wildlife values.

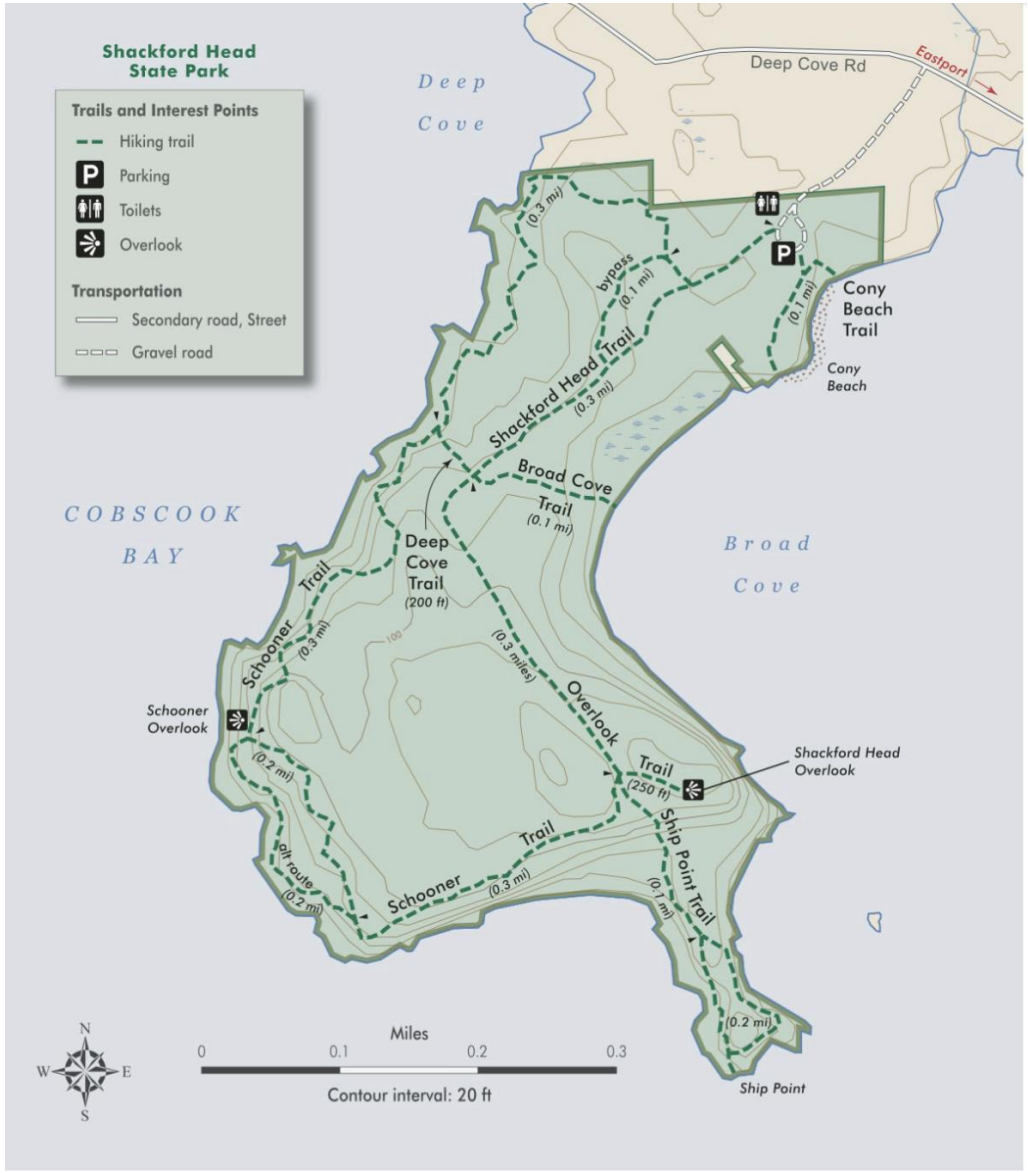
When the property came up for sale in 1988, the Eastport Land Trust sought assistance from the State's Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program to keep the land wild for the public to enjoy.

The LMF Program helped fund its acquisition in 1989 and the Maine Department of Conservation now owns and manages the land.

Shackford Head Trails

The interconnected trail system at Shackford Head State Park includes some easy walking trails and some more challenging, uneven terrain (particularly on the Ship Point and Schooner trails). Trails near the parking area provide some access for wheelchairs but the entire trail network is not accessible. The best shore access is at Cony Beach (by the parking area) or from the Broad Cove Trail.

The Shackford Head Overlook (1.2-mile roundtrip) provides good views of Cobscook Bay. Adding on the Ship Point Trail (an additional half-mile loop) then returning to the parking lot via the Schooner Trail gives a total of approximately 2 miles.



Benefits of Walking in Wooded Areas

- A walk in the woods gazing at trees, flowers and, if you're lucky, wildlife, can leave you feeling restored and rejuvenated.
- Forests not only play a major role in cleaning our air and water, but also provide beneficial changes to the minds and bodies of those who spend time among the trees.
- Exposure to forests strengthens our immune system, reduces blood pressure, increases energy, boosts our mood, and helps us regain & maintain our focus in ways that treeless environments don't.

Read the full Article here:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/out-and-about/walk-woods-wellness-health-benefits-forests#:~:text=Exposure%20to%20forests%20strengthens%20our,treeless%20environments%20just%20don%27t.

Did you know?

Ornithologists have documented 28 different bird species nesting on the headland.

Here are a few birds you you might see on your hike:

Water & Shorelines:

- Hooded Mergansers
- Osprey
- Black Guillemot
- Bald Eagle
- Common Tern
- Spotted Sandpiper

Woods:

- Hermit thrush
- Magnolia Warbler
- Black-and-White Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Chickadee
- Woodpecker (there are 7 species here in Maine— Downy is most common)

Birds (Water & Shorelines)

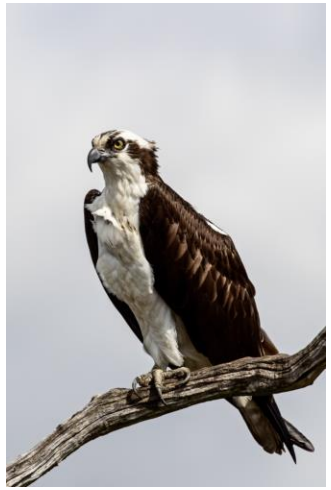
Hooded Merganser

Spotted Sandpiper

Black Guillemot

Bald Eagle

Common Tern



Osprey

Birds (Wooded Area)

Hermit thrush

Magnolia Warbler

Black-and-White Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Chickadee

Downy Woodpecker

Activity:

Index Card
Bird Identification
Deck

Instructions:

- Using index cards, illustrate birds you see while out hiking.
- Add some color to the bird illustrations with crayons, markers, or paints.
- For inspiration, check out some bird illustrations courtesy of the Tides Institute collections.
- On the back of your index cards, be sure to record information about each bird. (Template provided on different slide)

Materials:

- index cards
- pencil/pen
- crayons/markers/paints
- paintbrush (optional)
- template for recording information

Template for Recording Information

Bird Observed: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Season: _____ Weather: _____

Features/Markings/Colors: _____

_____

Sounds/Actions: _____

_____

Hyperborean Phalarope

Artist: John James Audubon

Medium: Etching and aquatint, hand-colored

Classification: Prints

A large hand-colored engraving and aquatint by American artist and naturalist, John James Audubon (1785-1851), of a Hyperborean Phalarope. The print is based on a watercolor Audubon completed from a drawing he did of the bird in this border region during one of his two trips to the area in 1831 and 1833

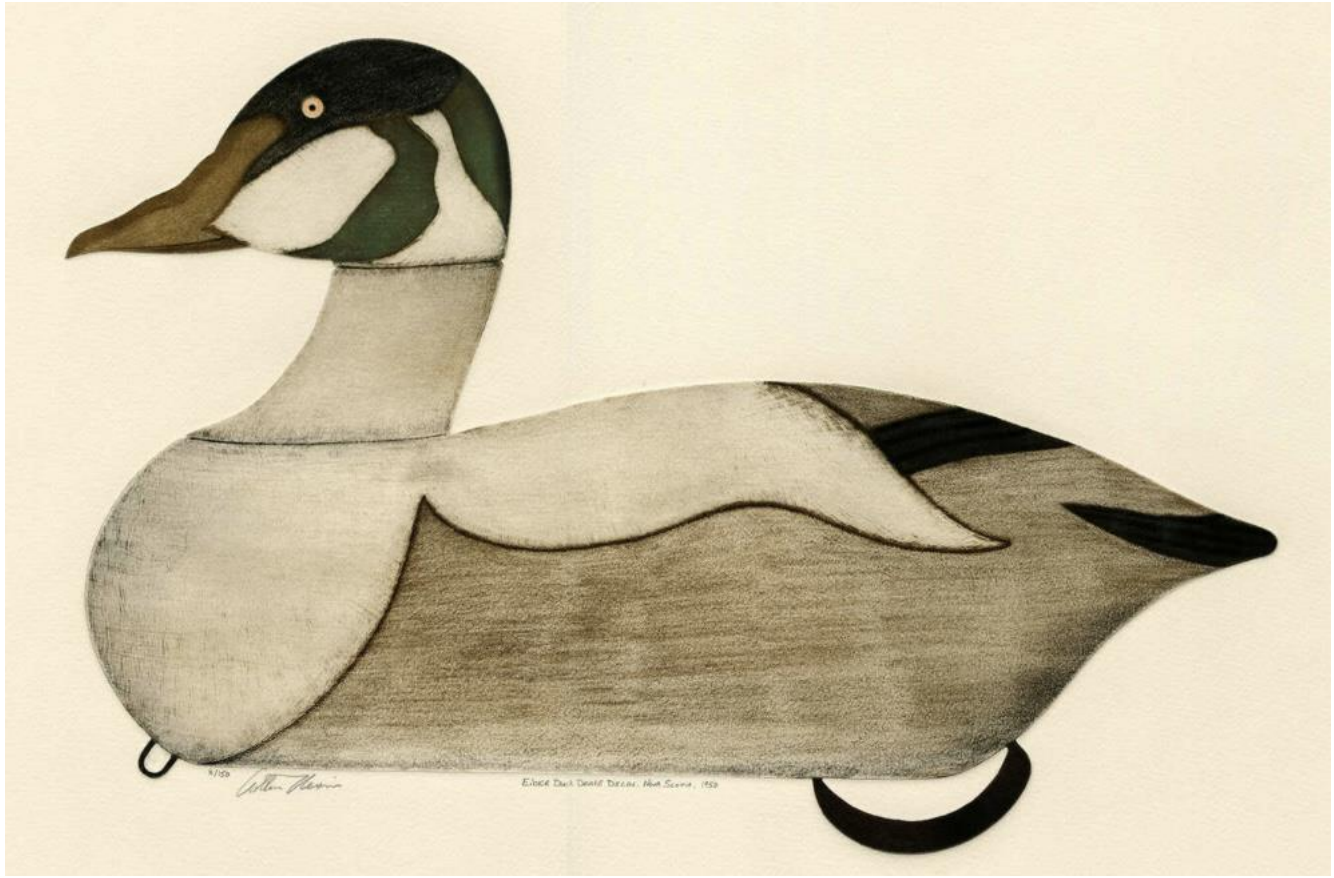
Bufflehead Drake Decoy, Orono, Maine

Artist: Arthur Nevins

Medium: Etching. 6/15 Artist Proof

Classification: Prints

Circa: 1955



Eider Duck Drake Decoy, Nova Scotia

Artist: Arthur Nevins

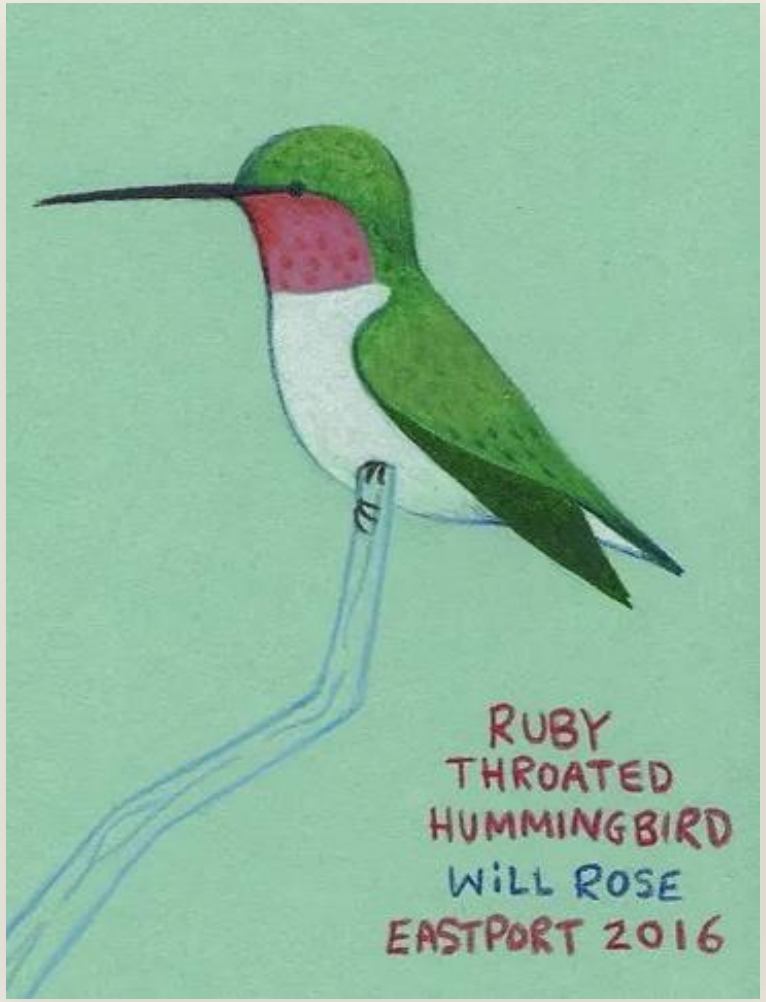
Medium: Etching

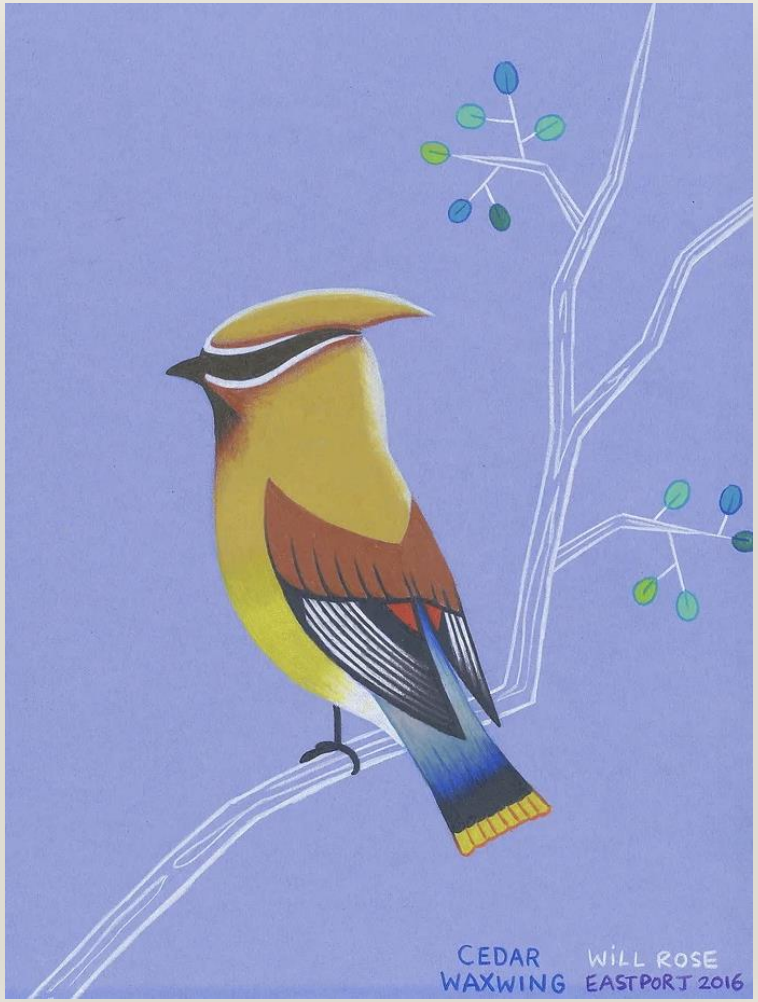
Classification: Prints

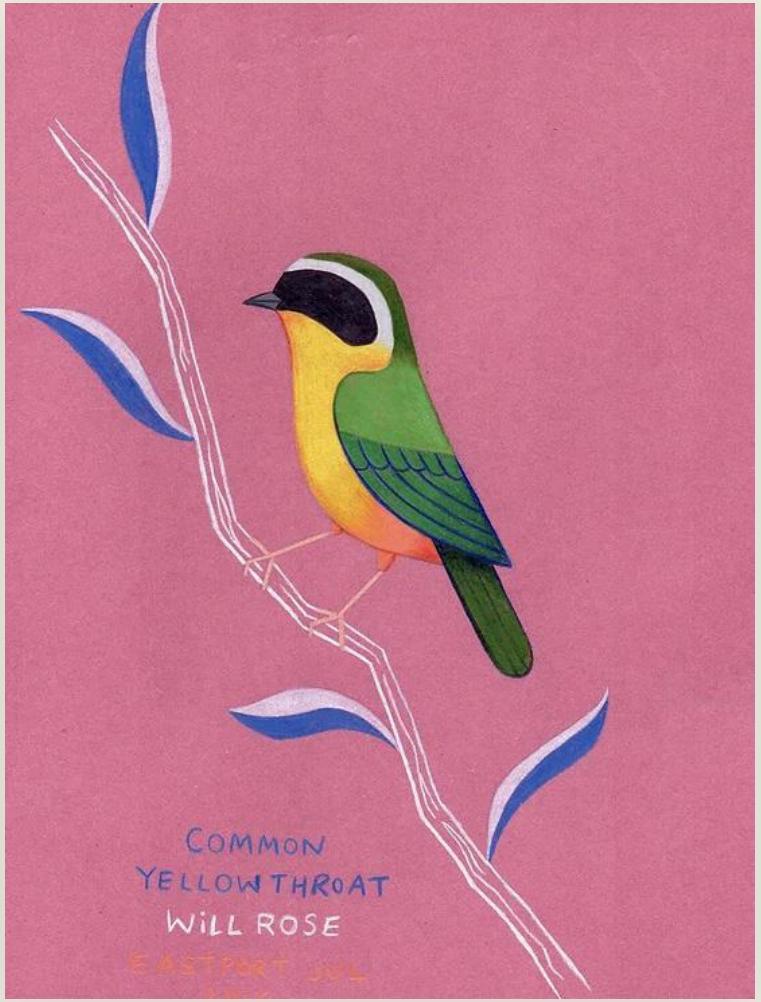
Circa: 1950

Illustrations by Will Rose

(Former Artist in Residence at Tides Institute & Museum of Art)







Will Rose (Artist)

Will Rose is an animation director, designer, and illustrator who is based in London. His clean design, use of color, and passion for the natural world has led to him to working with David Attenbourough, designing and animating on the award winning children's shows, Hey Duggee and Peppa Pig, as well as making his own award winning shorts.

In 2016, Rose spent a month as an artist in residence at the Tides Institute & Museum of Art. As a huge fan of nature, he created animations based on the wildlife of Eastport.

You can find them here:

https://www.willswork.co.uk/eastport-residence

Rose was also featured in DownEast magazine.

You can read the article here:

https://downeast.com/extras/willrose/