

Mountain Birdwatch 2.0

Route 117: Nelson Crag, NH

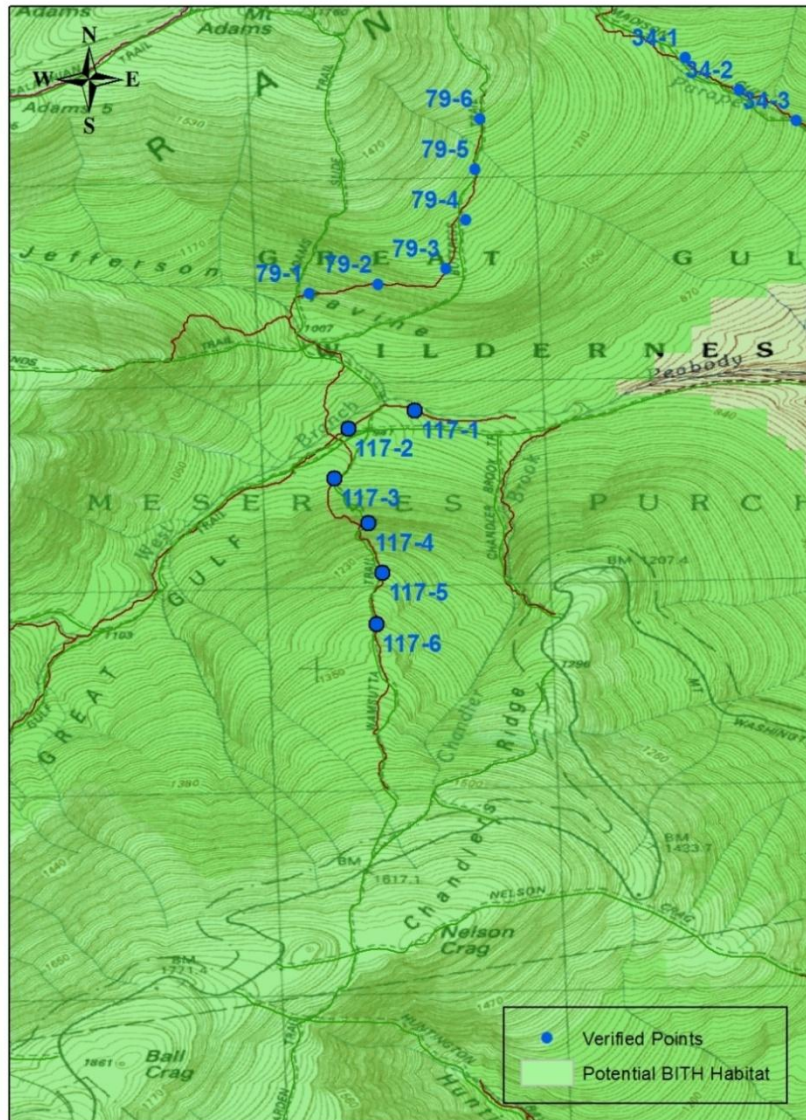
Hike Duration/Difficulty: 2.5-3.5 hours to point 1. Trail is very strenuous with steep rocks to climb.

This hike is not recommended in wet conditions. There are many steep sections along this trail that require climbing more than hiking, and can be hazardous when wet or if wearing a heavy pack -- use caution and good judgment.













Route/Trail Access: The trail can be accessed from the the Mt. Washington Auto Road. Contact Howie at the Washington Auto Road prior to going-MBW-ers are allowed access free of charge. You will need to tell the people at the toll house that you will be parking your car for the night around the 6 mile marker so they can take a description of your vehicle. There is a pull-off on the left side of the road heading up the Mt. Washington Auto road just after a sign for Wamsutta trail (this sign will be on your right). Park your car in the pull-off and hike the Wamsutta trail. Points 3-6 are along the Wamsutta trail. At the end of Wamsutta trail, you will reach a river and a sign for "Great Gulf Trail/Wamsutta/wilderness parking/Rt 16". Take a right at the sign and walk the trail along the river to points 1 and 2. Point 2 is 50 m E of this sign. **Camping:** Potential camping (permission unknown) at N 44 18' 04.5", W 71 17' 23.8". Left off Great Gulf Trail onto Wamosutta Trail. Go 20-40 meters. Look for small trail blocked by brush on right. Follow to flat campsites.

Revised 2/2015

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0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 Meters

Pt #	Picture 1	Picture 2	GPS ¹	Description
1	 Facing E from Pt 1	 Facing W from Pt 1	N 44.30318 W 71.28676 Elev(m) 920	To East of Point, a dead tree slants NE (from its base) to SE across trail overhead. River is North of trail ~50 m. East ~5 m down trail is a rocky decline with a log to the North laying like a railing. The point is at 0.7 m high. Rock just around corner after one would ascend these inclining stones if traveling from East
2	 Facing E from Pt 2	 Facing W from Pt 2	N 44.3024 W 71.2897 Elev(m) 952	Point is ~50m E of sign for Great Gulf/Wamsutta. Point is at 1m high stump on South side of trail. Overhead is a dead tree slanting over trail NW-SE. Tree is leaning (on N side of trail) against a 2m high tree that has been broken but still has upper portion barely hanging on to upright snag. River is 50m to N and almost visible through thin tree line.
3	 Facing N from Pt 3	 Facing W from Pt 3	N 44.30018 W 71.29031 Elev(m) 981	South of point on trail is 0.5 m high stump with roots gripping a boulder ~0.5m high directly on trail. To the W of boulder, is a dead spruce ~10m long laying parallel to trail. Point is on incline of large boulders and ~200, S from Great Gulf sign. Before stump (N) there is a 0.7m high stone slab on the E side of trail with a very sheered edge and steep angle (almost vertical and flat on side).
4	 Facing N from Pt 4	 Facing S from Pt 4	N 44.29822 W 71.28879 Elev(m) 1091	W side of trail has rock wall ~10m high from trail (very steep angle/vertical). Point is on very steep incline just as this rock wall ends to South. 25m N of point are steepest rock climbs on trail. ~7m S of point on W side of trail is a paper birch that curves in toward trail. Point just S of rock steps where a dead paper birch lies on the W side of trail running E-W with the E side cut by an axe
5	 Facing N from Pt 5	 Facing S from Pt 5	N 44.29601 W 71.28819 Elev(m) 1272	Point between two snags on E and W sides of trail (both ~ 4.2m high) on E side of trail running from E snag, lying parallel with trail is 0.1 dbh (diameter at breast height) dead tree ~2.5m long. N of trail trees are thinning and allows partial view of distant mountains.
6	 Facing N from Pt 6	 Facing W from Pt 6	N 44.29376 W -71.28846 Elev(m) 1332	SE of point you can see Auto road. Point is in Alpine Zone. 137 m from Alpine Zone sign. To the West ~7 m is mound of boulders. To the N is manmade rock pyramid to mark trail (~0.5m high). Point is in middle of an S curve in trail.

Please survey this route in order, beginning with point 1.

¹ Please note that waypoint locations are provided in decimal degrees.

Visit www.flickr.com and search People for "Mountain Birdwatch" to view additional pictures of your route.