

# **Grand Manan**

## **18 – 29 August 2007**

### **Trip Report**

#### **Leaders:**

Tim Earl  
Tony Beck  
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#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Downy Woodpecker and Cedar Waxwing before we had left our hotel in Sackville.
- The wealth of wildlife in the nature reserve at Sackville on our first morning.
- Our first good Bald Eagle sighting in Kouchibouguac National Park. Up to six 'Baldies' were seen daily.
- A Merlin sparring with a female American Kestrel.
- A Piping Plover which ran up to us fearlessly as we sat on the beach.
- A baby Northern Right Whale [all 10 tons of it] chasing and almost catching the yacht on our first boat trip. The same animal arched its back simultaneously putting head and tail out of the water.
- Black-and-white Warblers behaving like Nuthatches – one of the top birds of the trip.
- Whales and seabirds at the same time. We chummed for shearwaters and storm-petrels while Northern Right Whales came up and surrounded the boat.
- A female Moooooose which was joined by and nursed her calf, a real Attenborough moment.
- So many Merlins seen well during the trip.
- A young American Bittern which seemed oblivious to our presence and gave us unequalled views.

#### **DAILY DIARY**

##### **Saturday 18 August**

##### **To Sackville, New Brunswick**

We had a leisurely start to the day, despite threatened disruption by protesters, meeting at Heathrow's Terminal 3 at 9am. We arrived in Halifax, an hour late due to headwinds and a bad routing, to be greeted by Tony, Denny and Malcolm in pouring rain. But we were soon on our two-hour journey to Sackville [an appropriate place to hit the sack on the first night] where a delicious meal was enjoyed. Bird of the day was a Bald Eagle carrying prey and flapping heavily, just outside the town. We also saw a couple of Northern Ravens, two Common Grackles plus a few American Crows and Common

Starlings. We were in our beds at the rather twee Marshlands Inn [the dolls in my room were moving in on me in the darkness], grateful for an early night, by 10pm.

## **Sunday 19 August**

### **Wildfowl, waders and off to Bouctouche**

Only one or two of us were up and about before the 7.30am breakfast but our reward included American Robin, Yellow Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo. The extra sleep and excellent breakfast saw us in good spirits which were improved further by sighting Cedar Waxwings and a Downy Woodpecker in the hotel grounds.

We were soon hitting the trail which winds around Sackville Waterfowl Park, a rather uninspiring name for a super nature reserve. The trail had many sections of boardwalk which took us through deep reed-beds and gave views across lagoons, mudflats and shallow water.

The birds came thick and fast with Black-capped Chickadee and American Redstart before we really entered the park.

The ducks were terrific, despite having to be wheedled out carefully as they were all in eclipse or non-breeding plumage. Lots of American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, a few Ring-necked Duck, one fly-past Pintail, Gadwall and a lone Black Duck were all found eventually. A Sora Rail was picking around on a grassy strip next to a reed-bed where a Wilson's Snipe could be studied closely. Three juvenile Soras were found later and two fluffy newly-hatched chicks were also identified as this species.

Waders included Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs which we could compare as they slept side by side, and a few Short-billed Dowitchers. Belted Kingfishers were common, sitting on Tree Swallow nest-boxes or hovering above the water.

A Merlin which popped up from nowhere proceeded to chase the local pigeons. And as we were leaving a flock of Least Sandpipers flew in along with single Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers.

It was relaxed, riveting, a super way to start our exploration of this fascinating area and gave time for us to get to know each other a little.

A picnic lunch was eaten at Fort Beausejour after a lively talk on its history by Serge Brun, a French-speaking native Arcadian. Three Hen Harriers were watched quartering the hillside and a small flock of 'real' Canada Geese was seen in a marsh far below. Butterflies were in short supply but we did get good views of a Black Swallowtail and a couple of Clouded Sulphurs.

Bidding farewell to Sackville we drove the relatively short distance to Bouctouche arriving in time to do a little birding in Rotary Park which overlooks an estuary. Here we were enjoying good views of Grey Plover, Great Blue Herons, Common Terns and several species of small wader when Dorothy spotted our first Osprey. A thundery squall hit forcing us to take what cover we could in a picnic shelter.

We were pleased when it passed over allowing us to explore a short boardwalk where we saw Cliff and Tree Swallows, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Savanna Sparrow. Nigel spotted a Sharp-shinned Hawk before we called time and made our way to the hotel. After a delicious meal and some good wine at the Auberge le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche we retired to bed early, well pleased with the day.

## **Monday 20 August**

### **Bouctouche area**

An early-morning walk was well attended and produced some good results. Two Great Northern Loons [Divers in my day] were seen flying past as we had coffee [thanks to hotelier Ray Drennan] before going out.

Highlight of the walk was a skirmish between a male Merlin and a female American Kestrel. The event started with the Merlin attacking and narrowly missing a Least Sandpiper, making a splash as it hit the water of a nearby pool. The frustrated Merlin flew towards our hotel but was instantly mobbed by the female Kestrel which took exception to its presence. They both sat in a tree for some time despite the appearance of Denny who drank his early-morning cuppa a few metres away from the birds.

We had good scope views of Nelson's [Sharp-tailed] Sparrow which was in grass at the edge of a pool full of waders. It was particularly cooperative – many of us were able to study it in some detail.

After a good breakfast we set off for Bouctouche's 11-mile-long sand spit, a rare habitat which is home to many breeding birds including Piping Plover. Our quest to experience this phenomenon was tempered by a walk through wonderful mixed woodland at the base of the dunes, where they spring away from the mainland.

The park protecting these habitats is five minutes drive from the hotel but it took us 25. We stopped to watch an Osprey carrying a fish across the road in front of us and were immediately distracted by Broad-winged Hawks migrating through the area. A total of seven, all immatures, was seen.

American Red Squirrels were calling as we eventually started out on the walk. One even came down to investigate us in the car park [surely beg for food – Ed?].

The woods were quiet but we did find a flock of active warblers which included Yellow-rumped [Butter-butt North-Americans call it] and Magnolia. A skulking Ovenbird was found picking around in dense undergrowth and most people managed a good view.

As tail-end Charlie, I found another two but was unable to call the group back in time. My attempts to get people views of a Pileated Woodpecker which was calling and drumming also came to naught. But we did see another feeding party which included Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Magnolia Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee and Hermit Thrush.

Deserting the woods, which were becoming a little too active on the mozzie front, we popped over the main road to enjoy the cooling breezes of Bouctouche's sand dunes and shoreline. A Grey Seal was spotted just beyond a party of moulting male Eiders and a Turnstone flew past too soon for most of us to see it. Terns were fishing in flocks and Nigel managed to find three distant Gannets [so far away that we joked they must be from the Alderney colony].

I found a small pale shorebird by scoping the beach and we set off in the hope that it was a Piping Plover. The bird was finally found about a kilometre down the beach and to our great delight was one of the rare plovers. We sat down, so as not to scare it, and the Piping Plover gradually ran up to within a few feet, flew around us and continued feeding along the shore. As people came towards us it returned, again amazingly close, before flying off some distance not to be seen again. Elated we returned to the information centre where we had a picnic lunch with celebratory wine.

Our last stop for the day was 40km away in Kouchibouguac National Park where we walked a swamp boardwalk looking for sparrows. None was found but an amazing number of raptors delighted us. First up was an Osprey with a distracting second bird some distance away.

Tony heard Peregrines and after some searching found three soaring high in the air, unfortunately very close to the sun. We avoided danger by switching our attentions to a passing Hen (Northern) Harrier but that interest waned when Denny found a Bald Eagle roosting in a tree.

I decided it was getting late but that we should celebrate further with an ice cream. After driving to a signposted café where ices were bought, we explored a boardwalk which led to the sea. Here gold was struck with the discovery of a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. After a scrabble for scopes we watched the gulls bathing before looking at the waders around them, turning up a Turnstone and several White-rumped Sandpipers. A Whimbrel flew past calling and a Red Knot was found on the sand, a delightful 'purple patch' and exciting end to the day's birding.

**Tuesday 21 August**

**To Grand Manan**

Three species of cetacean were seen today – Harbour Porpoise, Humpbacked and Fin Whales, the culmination of an unexpectedly good wildlife day.

A fairly unproductive walk around the hotel failed to produce much in the way of migrants – the clear starlit night had encouraged them to travel over. We did see two Grey Squirrels in their natural habitat. But it was with mounting excitement that we started the journey which would see us reach Grand Manan.

The first stop was just down the road at Bouctouche water treatment plant where we had good views of a number of ducks and gulls, the latter mostly Bonaparte's. Wood Duck and Shoveler were new additions to the list for most of us.

Travelling days are rarely great for watching wildlife and our journey was no exception. A Red-tailed Hawk and a few Turkey vultures were the only rewards for a morning gazing out of the window. The Reverse Falls in St John were flowing downstream but Fundy's extraordinary tides would see them going in the opposite direction within a few hours.

Lunch in Irvine Wildlife Park was a good break from driving as we tucked into a fine traditional woodsmen's picnic of bread, pâté, cheese, fruit, and crackers washed down with local wine. For company we had a couple of Red Squirrels and a charming Chipmunk which nipped out to search for tidbits. A Great Northern Diver was on the sea below us giving good views. Tony found a small flock of warblers which included Prairie, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green and Blue-headed Vireo.

A wait at the ferry terminal saw us studying Harbour Seals, Black Guillemots and two more Great Northern Divers. Soon we were on the ferry and away at 3.30pm for the 90-minute journey to Grand Manan. Things started slowly with a few Black Guillemots before our first Sooty and Greater Shearwaters were recorded. I spotted a spout miles in front of the ship and we had to wait ages before the first whale was seen. Soon several Fin Whales were breaking the surface, to our delight and my relief. A Humpbacked Whale appeared among them but sounded almost immediately, waving its fluke at us in distain as it slipped beneath the waves.

Harbour Porpoises were seen in numbers too, some driving fish to the surface where they were attacked by Greater Shearwaters and Gannets. As ferry crossings go this was terrific - three species of cetacean by the time we reached the island where a colony of Kittiwakes greeted us.

A second greeting came from eccentric but delightful host Gunther Bogensperger who owns the Shorecrest Lodge. Often such people cover up poor service [as per Basil Fawlty in Fawlty Towers] but with Gunther the opposite is true. He and Evelyn could not have been more helpful and we had a fun time in their company.

A great dinner was followed by a trip out to the Whistle lighthouse where we watched the last of a spectacular sunset behind the US mainland. An Eastern Red Bat was seen flitting around the bushes.

Tomorrow was set for our first organised whale-watching trip and we retired to bed full of hope.

### **Wednesday 22 August**

#### **Surrounded by whales off Grand Manan**

And what a trip it was... the highlight of a day of whale-watching. It had been an inauspicious start with a 6.30 walk to look for migrating warblers. Almost nothing was seen until 7.55am [breakfast was booked for 8.00] when suddenly we encountered a feeding flock of birds as we approached the hotel and could not drag ourselves away. Eight species of warbler were seen including Magnolia, Northern Parula, Nashville, Black-throated Green, Cape May, Ovenbird and American Redstart. Cedar Waxwings were flitting around accompanied by the inevitable Black-capped Chickadees. Song Sparrows and Blue Jays made up the accompanying cast.

After a great breakfast [we sat down at 8.55am – Gunther was completely un-phased] we set off to look for three Snowy Egrets reported from Castalia Marsh... and found four. They were juveniles and easy to identify from the mainly yellow legs and shorter beaks, a rare bird for Grand Manan. Grey and Harbour Seals were close inshore and three Red-breasted Mergansers were new for the trip.

We checked in for the Whales 'n Sails boat trip at 11.10am and by 11.30 were on our way out to the Grand Manan Basin watching Great and Sooty Shearwaters, Puffins and Black Guillemots, Razorbills and Common Murres on the way.

This was a great boat trip – the real action started when I saw a Northern Right Whale fluke at some distance off to starboard. A quiet word with skipper Sarah McDonald brought a smile to her face. Yes, she knew the animal was there but we were heading to a group they had spotted some time earlier. Amazingly, it was to be 20 minutes before anyone else on board was aware of the animals and by then we were among a big group. The knowledge of these people and their powers of observation are amazing.

We started by watching a pair of calves playing on the surface while their mums were off feeding. They swirled around quite a bit showing flippers and flukes. Twice one started chewing floating seaweed [like a naughty child] and we were able to look into its mouth seeing the tongue and throat.

As this was happening I became aware of the fact that many other animals were close... indeed, at one time it seemed as if they were surrounding us. There were at least 15 whales spy-hopping, logging and occasionally showing their massive flukes. With the yacht's sails up we had to move away from the calves which were showing an unhealthy interest in us – if the animals become used to vessels they can be hit and injured.

In no time [or so it seemed] we had to turn around and head back to Grand Manan. Two hours of whale watching had slipped by like seconds.

The action was not over, however, as we began to see small parties of Red-necked Phalaropes sitting on the water, some accompanied by a few Grey Phalaropes. Arctic and Common Terns were seen, some roosting on floating planks. There was so much of interest that we were soon nosing into the harbour and the event was over... almost. A Spotted Sandpiper was seen on the harbour edge while a couple of lads were catching American Plaice [all black with no spots], a new addition to our fish-list.

In something of a daze we returned to the hotel where some had a snooze while Tony and I took the rest out to Whale Cove where we looked for another reported rarity, a Little Blue Heron, again with success. The bird was in adult plumage and looked very smart indeed. As if this were not enough, Nigel spotted a couple of Common Nighthawks which turned around soon after becoming dots and returned over our heads, giving great views before being joined by 11 more, a wonderful sighting.

Another great dinner was followed by a trip out to Swallow Tail lighthouse where we looked for whales from the top of cliffs as the sky went pink and darkness fell. Two Fin Whales were seen soon after arriving and, after watching Greater Shearwaters, Gannets and Harbour Porpoises, a Minke was sighted. I was not sure if we saw one or two of these small whales but it took a great deal of self-discipline to break the spell and drag everyone back to the bus and hotel. A final reward was seeing a White-tailed Deer in the headlights.

With another whale-watching trip booked for the morrow we retired to bed and dreams of whales. There was no doubt we had been in one of the world's great wildlife sites watching the rarest large mammal on earth in perfect conditions.

## **Thursday 23 August**

### **Humpbacks and warbler flocks, Grand Manan**

Whales and seabirds dominated the day's wildlife-watching but we started with a flock of 'fall warblers' in a disused rubbish tip on Hole in the Wall Road. These flocks are a challenge – to find in the first place [the dump was our second attempt before breakfast] and to identify the birds in them. Ours contained some familiar species such as Black-throated Green, American Redstart, Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos. But we also had some new ones too like the stunning Wilson's or trunk-hugging Black-and-white Warblers. A Least Flycatcher was seen as was a Chipping Sparrow making the outing most satisfying.

The morning walk was in The Anchorage Park, along Bailey's Trail which was great for plants, many of which gained their sustenance by odd means. We saw the saprophytic Indian Pipe, *Monotropa uniflora*, or Ghost Plant which looks like a fungus but is parasitic with no chlorophyll. Picher Plants were in bloom, the flowers nodding downwards towards their lethal fly-traps below, while Sundews littered the boggy habitat. There were many fungi in the wood and it was with difficulty we switched attention back to birds.

A family of Golden-crowned Kinglets was admired and just as we reached the car park again a Boreal Tit was found and admired by most.

The MV Day's Catch, skippered by Peter Wilcox, with Derlan Ingersoll as wildlife guide, was our second whale-watching craft, comfortable and fast, getting us over the Grand Manan Basin in a little over an hour. This gave us three hours in the company of whales and seabirds... it was heaven.

Birds were our first target and Derlan's 'chum' thrown over the stern ensured that there were hundreds to choose from. Greater Shearwaters dominated [after Herring Gulls that is] with a good number of Sooty Shearwaters and a few Manx. Wilson's Storm-petrels were abundant with hundreds flitting over the ocean like House Martins at a village pond. Few were attracted to the boat but we had many to sift through while looking for Leach's Storm-petrel, without success. Flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes were seen, however, mostly on the wing, with a few Grey Phalaropes among them. Puffins were plentiful as were Razorbills but we saw only one Guillemot.

A Fin Whale was spotted surfacing a few times, two Minke Whales were seen as we left Grand Manan and small parties of Harbour Porpoises were seen throughout the voyage, many swimming at great speed as they chased fish.

But it was encounters with Northern Right Whales which again proved the highlight of our day. As with yesterday's trip we encountered calves and adults, most close to the boat but some a good way off. It seemed that for two hours we were surrounded by whales, lob-tailing, sleeping on the surface, calves playing - and all accompanied by much heavy breathing.

Several Bald Eagles were seen as we left from and returned to Seal Cove giving a conservative tally of six for the day, our best to date.

## **Friday 24 August**

### **Assorted wildlife on Grand Manan**

Our pre-breakfast walk was quiet but a gentle way to start the day - in pouring rain. We revisited Castalia marsh but the expected waders were there in only small numbers: a few Grey and Semipalmated Plovers, Least Sandpipers, plus a few Greater Yellowlegs. Savannah Sparrows seemed common as were Eider and Grey Seals out at sea. Several Harbour Seals were 'bottling' - resting with their noses in the air.

Our main morning trip was to Dark Harbour, an atmospheric place in the mist and rain. There were a few birds but it was impossible to see them in the dripping trees and we settled for a wet walk along the beach instead. As ever, wildlife rewarded us with reasonable views of two Peregrines, an uncommon bird on Grand Manan, two Belted Kingfishers and an Osprey found by Dorothy.

A coffee break was needed to help dry us out. Happily the café was attached to a small gift shop so the therapy included retail too. We returned to the hotel for our picnic - warming toasted cheese and ham sandwiches courtesy of Gunther - before setting off to visit the Whale Museum and Grand Manan Museum. The weather had [improved?] to thick, wet fog but by the time we returned to the hotel this was being lifted by an increasing wind.

Some took the opportunity for a walk while the rest waited for an hour before going out to the Whistle - at my suggestion. It was a mistake as the wind was howling in making whale-watching impossible. Turning around we drove back to Castalia marsh which was almost as bad as the fog had remained and we could see nothing. Giving the day up we returned to Shorecrest Lodge and another of Evelyn's excellent meals. Local whale-guide Laurie Murison arrived as we were finishing and gave a fascinating talk on sea mammals.

## **Saturday 25 August**

### **The mainland, Moose and Mary's Point**

An early start ensured we caught the 7.30 ferry, although the 6.45am check-in seemed a little excessive. One Minke Whale was seen on the crossing although there were many Harbour Porpoises. Birds were plentiful too with amazing numbers of Sooty Shearwaters – more than Tony or I had ever seen in the Bay of Fundy.

A coffee stop after we landed was welcome before the two-hour drive to Fundy National Park where we ate our lunch at Wolfe Lake. Two Common Loons in full breeding plumage added great appeal to the place.

Our next stop was at Caribou Plain where we walked through beautiful boreal forest to a huge beaver pond. We were greeted by Bullfrogs, some large and quite capable of taking a hummingbird should one be careless enough to land and drink nearby. The walk through the boreal woods here was lovely, quite unlike any other we had done on the trip, but a Bay-breasted Warbler was the only bird.

More success was had driving the Laferty trail where a Green Comma was seen and studied. Suddenly Tony spotted a female Moose close to the road. We had superb views from the bus as she chomped her way through a considerable amount of undergrowth quite unconcerned by our presence. We could see a small swarm of mosquitoes around her. Suddenly, and to our amazement, her calf appeared, gave her a hefty wallop in the udder department and proceeded to suckle.

They eventually moved off and so did we, driving to Mary's Point where we too attracted mosquitoes. Repellent and a breeze saw them off and we were able to watch a Merlin which flew in and perched close to us. It then proceeded to eat a dragonfly held in its talons.

The tide was out and we could see only dots on the beach, albeit thousands of them. Seven Whimbrel and a few Grey Plovers were identified. Planning to return tomorrow on the high tide, we left for the huge Hopewell Rocks which, to my amazement, had people walking around them... it was easy to imagine what the rocks would look like when the 45ft tide swept in later in the evening.

We settled in to the Florentine Manor and enjoyed a great dinner after which an owl session proved unsuccessful. We were able to do a little star-gazing in the clear conditions, before retiring in the expectation of warbler falls and wader flocks in the morning.

## **Sunday 26 August**

### **Mary's Point and area, Halifax airport**

Hope curdled to despair...

The warblers had not descended despite overcast conditions and the waders we expected to see on their high tide roost were likewise absent.

It was still a good morning, however. We enjoyed a last early walk looking for absent warblers and then drove down to a nearby marsh at Lars Larsen Lake where a young American Bittern put on a show by remaining put while we all admired it through scopes. A Winter Wren was also found in reed-mace at our feet.

Two Merlins put in an appearance, adding to the swell of opinion which would see the species voted bird of the trip later in the day. A Peregrine also went over and a juvenile Hen Harrier was spotted as we returned for breakfast.

Three million shorebirds feed at Mary's Point shores annually but most had departed south. We still saw a few Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, an American Golden Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper and three Sanderlings. Another Merlin shot through scattering the flocks but was unsuccessful in its attempt at a meal.

Cutting our losses we decided to make an early start for Sackville where we could eat lunch before a last walk around the waterfowl park where our exploration of the area had started. Nothing new was

seen but we did record Sora Rail and several duck species before driving on to an airport hotel for supper before checking in for our flight. Three Bald Eagles were seen on the journey down, our last Canadian birds of the trip despite frantic efforts to add House Sparrow to the list. Happily, I can report that this is my first tour on which *Passer domesticus* does not feature on the list.

## ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

### BIRDS

<b>PHEASANTS, FOWL &amp; ALLIES</b>		<b>Family Phasianidae</b>
1	<b>Common Pheasant</b>	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i> Seen commonly on Grand Manan.
<b>WILDFOWL</b>		<b>Family Anatidae</b>
2	<b>Canada Goose</b>	<i>Branta canadensis</i> Common, seen daily.
3	<b>Wood Duck</b>	<i>Aix sponsa</i> A few at Bouctouche water treatment plant.
4	<b>Gadwall</b>	<i>Anas strepera</i> A few at Sackville Wildfowl Park.
5	<b>American Wigeon</b>	<i>Anas americana</i> Good numbers at Sackville Wildfowl Park.
6	<b>American Black Duck</b>	<i>Anas rubripes</i> Common, seen almost daily.
7	<b>Mallard</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> Common, seen almost daily.
8	<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>	<i>Anas discors</i> Quite common, good numbers at Sackville Wildfowl Park and elsewhere.
9	<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<i>Anas clypeata</i> Three at Sackville water treatment plant.
10	<b>Northern Pintail</b>	<i>Anas acuta</i> One at Sackville Wildfowl Park.
11	<b>Eurasian Teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i> Quite common, seen on five days.
12	<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>	<i>Aythya collaris</i> Six at Sackville Wildfowl Park.
13	<b>Common Eider</b>	<i>Somateria mollissima</i> Common, seen daily on Grand Manan.
14	<b>Black Scoter</b>	<i>Melanitta nigra</i> One seen at Mary's Point.
15	<b>Common Goldeneye</b>	<i>Bucephala clangula</i> Two seen on separate days.
16	<b>Common Merganser</b>	<i>Mergus merganser</i> A flock of 20 on the sea at Bouctouche.
17	<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>	<i>Mergus serrator</i> Three on Grand Manan
<b>LOONS</b>		<b>Family Gaviidae</b>
18	<b>Great Northern Loon [Diver]</b>	<i>Gavia immer</i> Reasonably common, seen from the land in lakes and on the sea.
<b>PETRELS &amp; SHEARWATERS</b>		<b>Family Procellariidae</b>
19	<b>Manx Shearwater</b>	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i> One from the first boat trip.
20	<b>Sooty Shearwater</b>	<i>Puffinus griseus</i> Small numbers [maximum 50] on the seas around Grand Manan.
21	<b>Great Shearwater</b>	<i>Puffinus gravis</i> Hundreds on the sea around and from Grand Manan.
<b>STORM PETRELS</b>		<b>Family Hydrobatidae</b>
22	<b>Wilson's Storm Petrel</b>	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i> Hundreds during our second boat trip.
<b>GREBES</b>		<b>Family Podicipedidae</b>
23	<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> About 15 at Sackville Waterfowl Park.
24	<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i> About 15 from The Anchorage, Grand manan.
<b>HERONS, BITTERNES</b>		<b>Family Ardeidae</b>
25	<b>Great Blue Heron</b>	<i>Ardea herodias</i> Common, seen almost daily.
26	<b>Little Blue Heron</b>	<i>Egretta caerulea</i> One in Whale Cove marsh, Grand Manan, was a rarity for the island.
27	<b>Snowy Egret</b>	<i>Egretta thula</i> Four in Castilia marsh, Grand Manan, were rarities for the island.
<b>GANNETS, BOOBIES</b>		<b>Family Sulidae</b>
28	<b>Northern Gannet</b>	<i>Morus bassanus</i> Small numbers [maximum 30] on the sea around Grand Manan.
<b>CORMORANTS</b>		<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae</b>
29	<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> Common, seen daily.
30	<b>Great Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> One as we entered Grand Manan harbour.
<b>NEW WORLD VULTURES</b>		<b>Family Cathartidae</b>
31	<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	<i>Cathartes aura</i> A few on the drive to Grand Manan.
<b>FALCONS</b>		<b>Family Falconidae</b>
32	<b>American Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco sparverius</i> One harassing a Merlin at Bouctouche; a few others seen.

33	<b>Merlin</b>	Falco columbarius	Common, seen daily; the incident with a Kestrel [see above] was a highlight.
34	<b>Peregrine</b>	Falco peregrinus	Three high overhead at Kouchibouguac National Park.
	<b>KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES</b>		
35	<b>Osprey</b>	Pandion haliaetus	Common, seen daily.
36	<b>Bald Eagle</b>	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Common, seen daily.
37	<b>Northern Harrier</b>	Circus cyaneus	Five seen over three days.
38	<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	Accipiter striatus	Singles seen on five days.
39	<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	Buteo platypterus	Seven juveniles seen migrating at Bouctouche.
40	<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	Buteo jamaicensis	One in a tree near Black's Harbour; adult over Fundy National Park.
	<b>RAILS, CRAKES, COOTS</b>		
41	<b>Sora</b>	Porzana carolina	Several in Sackville Waterfowl Park included four juveniles and two chicks.
	<b>PLOVERS</b>		
42	<b>American Golden Plover</b>	Pluvialis dominica	One at Mary's Point.
43	<b>Grey Plover</b>	Pluvialis squatarola	Common, seen almost daily.
44	<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>	Charadrius semipalmatus	Common, seen almost daily.
45	<b>Killdeer</b>	Charadrius vociferus	Two seen at Bouctouche.
46	<b>Piping Plover</b>	Charadrius melodus	One at Bouctouche beach, a star bird.
	<b>SANDPIPERS, SNIPES</b>		
47	<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>	Gallinago delicata	Two at Sackville Waterfowl Park.
48	<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>	Limnodromus griseus	Common, seen almost daily.
49	<b>Whimbrel</b>	Numenius phaeopus	One at Kouchibouguac National Park.
50	<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>	Tringa melanoleuca	Common, seen almost daily.
51	<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>	Tringa flavipes	Common, seen almost daily.
52	<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>	Actitis macularius	Three on Grand Manan.
53	<b>Willet</b>	Catoptrophorus semipalmatus	Common, seen almost daily.
54	<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>	Arenaria interpres	Singles at Bouctouche and at Kouchibouguac National Park.
55	<b>Red Knot</b>	Calidris canutus	One at Kouchibouguac National Park.
56	<b>Sanderling</b>	Calidris alba	One at Bouctouche.
57	<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>	Calidris pusilla	Common, seen almost daily.
58	<b>Least Sandpiper</b>	Calidris minutilla	Common, seen almost daily.
59	<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>	Calidris fuscicollis	Seven at Kouchibouguac National Park.
60	<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	Phalaropus lobatus	Good numbers on the first boat trip.
61	<b>Red Phalarope</b>	Phalaropus fulicarius	Five on the first boat trip.
	<b>GULLS, TERNS</b>		
62	<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>	Larus delawarensis	Common, seen almost daily inland.
63	<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>	Larus marinus	Common, seen almost daily.
64	<b>Herring Gull</b>	Larus argentatus	Common, seen almost daily.
65	<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>	Larus fuscus	One on the second boat trip.
66	<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>	Larus philadelphia	Common inland, seen on two days
67	<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>	Rissa tridactyla	A colony on Grand Manan produced good numbers each day.
68	<b>Common Tern</b>	Sterna hirundo	Common, seen almost daily.
69	<b>Arctic Tern</b>	Sterna paradisaea	Three on the first boat trip.
	<b>SKUAS</b>		
70	<b>Pomarine Skua</b>	Stercorarius pomarinus	An adult [with pom-pom tail] and two immatures seen on the second boat trip.
	<b>AUKS</b>		
71	<b>Common Murre</b>	Uria aalge	Six and two chicks on the first boat trip but just one on the second.
72	<b>Razorbill</b>	Alca torda	Four on the first boat trip, dozens on the second.
73	<b>Black Guillemot</b>	Cephus grylle	A few at Black's Harbour and around Grand Manan.
74	<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>	Fratercula arctica	Three from the ferry, 12 on the first boat trip and about 60 on the second.
	<b>PIGEONS, DOVES</b>		
75	<b>Common Pigeon</b>	Columba livia	Common, seen daily.
76	<b>Mourning Dove</b>	Zenaidura macroura	Common, seen almost daily.
	<b>NIGHTJARS</b>		
			<b>Family Accipitridae</b>
			<b>Family Rallidae</b>
			<b>Family Charadriidae</b>
			<b>Family Scolopacidae</b>
			<b>Family Laridae</b>
			<b>Family Stercorariidae</b>
			<b>Family Alcidae</b>
			<b>Family Columbidae</b>
			<b>Family Caprimulgidae</b>

77	<b>Common Nighthawk</b>	Chordeiles minor	Thirteen at Whale Cove - a good record.
	<b>HUMMINGBIRDS</b>		<b>Family Trochilidae</b>
78	<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>	Archilochus colubris	Three at Sackville, glimpses elsewhere.
	<b>KINGFISHERS</b>		<b>Family Alcedinidae</b>
79	<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>	Megaceryle alcyon	Common, seen almost daily.
	<b>WOODPECKERS</b>		<b>Family Picidae</b>
80	<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>	Picoides pubescens	One at the hotel in Sackville.
81	<b>Northern Flicker</b>	Colaptes auratus	Heard near Whale Cove, Grand Manan.
82	<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>	Dryocopus pileatus	One heard and glimpsed in Bouctouche woods.
	<b>TYRANT FLYCATCHERS</b>	<b>Family Tyrannidae</b>	
83	<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>	Empidonax alnorum	One at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan, another heard at Florentine Manor.
84	<b>Least Flycatcher</b>	Empidonax minimus	One at the disused Hole-in-the-wall dump, Grand Manan.
85	<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>	Tyrannus tyrannus	Five on wires coming bck from our second boat trip.
	<b>VIREOS</b>		<b>Family Vireonidae</b>
86	<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>	Vireo solitarius	Singles on two days.
87	<b>Warbling Vireo</b>	Vireo gilvus	One in Bouctouche woods.
88	<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>	Vireo olivaceus	Common, seen almost daily.
	<b>CROWS, JAYS</b>		<b>Family Corvidae</b>
89	<b>Blue Jay</b>	Cyanocitta cristata	A few seen most days.
90	<b>American Crow</b>	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Common, seen daily.
91	<b>Northern Raven</b>	Corvus corax	Common, seen almost daily.
	<b>WAXWINGS &amp; ALLIES</b>		<b>Family Bombycillidae</b>
92	<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>	Bombycilla cedrorum	Common, seen almost daily.
	<b>TITS, CHICKADEES</b>		<b>Family Paridae</b>
93	<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>	Poecile atricapillus	Common, seen almost daily.
94	<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>	Poecile hudsonica	One at The Anchorage, Grand Manan, a second heard on Laferty Drive, Fundy Nationasl Park.
	<b>SWALLOWS, MARTINS</b>		<b>Family Hirundinidae</b>
95	<b>Sand Martin</b>	Riparia riparia	Six in the Bouctouche area.
96	<b>Tree Swallow</b>	Tachycineta bicolor	Seen on two days, maximum five.
97	<b>Purple Martin</b>	Progne subis	One at Florentine Manor.
98	<b>Barn Swallow</b>	Hirundo rustica	Two seen at Sackville; about 10 on a wire near Florentine Manor.
99	<b>American Cliff Swallow</b>	Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	Seen on two days, maximum six.
	<b>GOLDCRESTS, KINGLETS</b>		<b>Family Regulidae</b>
100	<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>	Regulus satrapa	Heard a few times, seen fleetingly at Whale Cove.
	<b>WRENS</b>	Troglodytidae	
101	<b>Winter Wren</b>	Troglodytes troglodytes	One at Lars Larsen Lake.
	<b>NUTHATCHES</b>		<b>Family Sittidae</b>
102	<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>	Sitta canadensis	A few seen on three days.
	<b>STARLINGS</b>		<b>Family Sturnidae</b>
103	<b>Common Starling</b>	Sturnus vulgaris	Common, seen almost daily.
	<b>THRUSHES</b>		<b>Family Turdidae</b>
104	<b>Hermit Thrush</b>	Catharus guttatus	One seen in the Boucouche woods.
105	<b>American Robin</b>	Turdus migratorius	Common, seen almost daily.
	<b>FINCHES</b>		<b>Family Fringillidae</b>
106	<b>Pine Siskin</b>	Carduelis pinus	One in the Bouctouche woods.
107	<b>American Goldfinch</b>	Carduelis tristis	Common, seen daily.
108	<b>Purple Finch</b>	Carpodacus purpureus	A few seen on five days.
	<b>NEW WORLD WARBLERS</b>		<b>Family Parulidae</b>
109	<b>Nashville Warbler</b>	Vermivora ruficapilla	Five seen over four days.
110	<b>Northern Parula</b>	Parula americana	Six seen on three days.
111	<b>American Yellow Warbler</b>	Dendroica petechia	Common, seen almost daily.
112	<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>	Dendroica castanea	One seen at Hopewell Rocks.
113	<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>	Dendroica magnolia	Five seen over four days
114	<b>Cape May Warbler</b>	Dendroica tigrina	Three seen on Grand Manan.
115	<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>	Dendroica coronata	Ten 'Butter Butts' seen over four days.

116	<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	One of the commonest warblers seen on five days.
117	<b>Prairie Warbler</b>	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	One seen in Irvine Nature Park.
118	<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Four seen on two days saw this hit second place as bird of the trip.
119	<b>American Redstart</b>	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Eight over five days made this one of the commonest warblers.
120	<b>Ovenbird</b>	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Four seen on two days.
121	<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Took some finding but a rush of six over four days at the end of the holiday put things right.
122	<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	One at The Anchorage, Grand Manan.
<b>NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS</b>			<b>Family Icteridae</b>
123	<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Common on the mainland but absent on Grand Manan.
124	<b>Common Grackle</b>	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Two from the bus on our way to Sackville; a few on seven days altogether.
<b>NEW WORLD SPARROWS &amp; ALLIES</b>			<b>Family Emberizidae</b>
125	<b>Song Sparrow</b>	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Common, seen daily.
126	<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	One on the early morning walk to Whale Cove.
127	<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Fairly common.
128	<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	A family party in woods at The Anchorage; lots in the Hopewell Rocks car park.
129	<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Fairly common.
130	<b>Nelson's Sparrow</b>	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	One in the Bouctouche dunes.
131	<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	One on Grand Manan.

**MAMMALS**

<b>SQUIRRELS</b>			<b>Family Scuridae</b>
1	<b>Eastern Grey Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Two at the Auberge le Vieux Prebytere.
2	<b>Eastern Chipmunk</b>	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	One at Irvine Nature Park, two on Grand Manan.
3	<b>American Red Squirrel</b>	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Common, seen daily.
<b>MICE, RATS, VOLES &amp; GERBILS</b>			<b>Family Muridae</b>
4	<b>Meadow Vole</b>	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	One dead in the road on Grand Manan.
5	<b>Muskrat</b>	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Four in Sackville Waterfowl Park.
<b>EARLESS SEALS</b>			<b>Family Phocidae</b>
6	<b>Harbour Seal</b>	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Common, seen daily around Grand Manan.
7	<b>Grey Seal</b>	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Common, a few seen daily around Grand Manan.
<b>VESPER BATS</b>			<b>Family Vespertilionidae</b>
8	<b>Eastern Red Bat</b>	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	One at The Whistle lighthouse, Grand Manan.
<b>RORQUALS</b>			<b>Family Balaenopteridae</b>
<b>(BALEEN WHALES)</b>			
9	<b>Northern Minke Whale</b>	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Five animals seen over three days off Grand Manan, two from Swallow Tail lighthouse.
10	<b>Fin Whale</b>	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	At least 11 seen over three days off Grand Manan.
11	<b>Humpback Whale</b>	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	One seen from the ferry to Grand Manan.
<b>RIGHT WHALES</b>			
12	<b>North Atlantic Right Whale</b>	<i>Balaena glacialis</i>	Up to 10 for two hours on the first boat trip; more on the second.
<b>PORPOISES</b>			<b>Family Phocoenidae</b>
13	<b>Harbour Porpoise</b>	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Common, seen daily around Grand Manan.
<b>DEER</b>			<b>Family Cervidae</b>
14	<b>Moose</b>	<i>Alces alces</i>	Female with calf which she nursed in Fundy N. P.
15	<b>White-tailed Deer</b>	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	One on the way back from our sunset whale-watching trip to Swallowtail Point, Grand Manan.

**AMPHIBIANS**

Bullfrog	Spring peeper (tree frog)
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**FLUTS**

Black swallowtail  
Common wood nymph  
Orange sulphur  
Monarch

Great spangled fritillary  
Clouded sulphur  
Red admiral  
Green Comma

**FISH**

American Plaice

**OTHER TAXA**

Dog-day cicada  
Band-winged grasshopper

Field Cricket

**HEAVENLY BODIES**

**Jupiter** with its moons was seen several times  
**The Plough** [Big Dipper] pointed us at the Pole Star, Polaris

*This was a super trip enjoyed with great companionship between those taking part. Leading it was a pleasure for Tony and me. We know everyone enjoyed the Bay of Fundy's whales, birds and tides and look forward to welcoming you on another adventure one day. I hope the humour was no more than that – although some of the groans were worrying in their reality.*

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**Tim Earl, Guernsey**

**August 2007**