

Grand Manan, Canada

Monday 23 August – Wednesday 1 September 2010

Leader: Tim Earl

HIGHLIGHTS

- A Bald Eagle swooping down to pick up a small Flounder dropped by a Ring-billed Gull was then watched eating it and preening.
- A family of deer in the early morning light, white tails flashing and see-through 'celluloid' ears.
- Finding a Red Fox hiding under Bouctouche Dunes boardwalk.
- Seeing the Great & Glorious Leader dance his Buff-breasted Sandpiper jig on the boardwalk at Kouchibouguac N.P.
- The two Minke Whales that greeted our arrival in Grand Manan.
- The first boat trip which was a delight from start to finish although slightly upstaged by the second on which we saw seven Humpbacked Whales, two breaching, and a feeding frenzy of Great and Sooty Shearwaters, gulls, Harbour Porpoises, Northern Right and Fin Whales.
- The feeding flock of warblers looking like a bottle of 'humbug-sweets'.
- The unbelievable Lark Sparrows (what were they doing on Grand Manan?) and even more improbable Yellow-headed Blackbird, a lifer for us all.
- Huge flocks of waders roosting at Mary's Point until they came under attack by Peregrines and Merlins.

This was an amazing trip for the quality of the sightings we enjoyed and discovery of four rare birds. Although small, our group was perfectly formed and we had a super holiday in addition to the wildlife extravaganza. Whale watching topped the bill but it was a close call with flocks of migrant 'wood warblers', waders attacked by raptors, rare sandpipers (Buff-breasted and Solitary), two Sparrow Larks, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird, coming close seconds.

Best of all, we got along famously together, enjoyed exploring a beautiful part of the world and staying in some comfortable yet quirky places.

DAILY DIARY

Monday 23 August

To Sackville, New Brunswick

A few heavy thundery showers, warm 22°C

We met bright and early (extremely early for Jill) at Heathrow terminal 3 and although late taking off due to congestion, had an uneventful flight arriving in Halifax just six hours later at 12.45pm.

We collected our transport and were soon on the two-hour journey to Sackville. Northern Raven, American Crow and American Herring Gull were seen on the way with a good number of Semipalmated Sandpipers. Busy Common Grackles and Starlings were joined by a Northern Flicker feeding on the lawn outside.

We were in our beds at the Marshlands Inn by 8.30pm after a delicious meal grateful for an early night.

Tuesday 24 August

Wildfowl, waders and off to Bouctouche

Sunny with a little cloud, hot at a record 28°C

A 6.30am start saw the insomniacs walking around the hotel grounds watching Ruby-throated Hummingbird and a few of the more common species.

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, Yellow Warbler and Cedar Waxwing before we really entered the park.

The ducks were good, 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 female Pintail, a few Gadwall and at least one Black Duck were all found eventually. Two Blue-winged Teal were roosting on a grassy strip next to a reed-bed where a Wilson's Snipe could be studied closely.

Waders included Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs which we could compare as they slept side by side, and a few Semipalmated Sandpipers which swooped in and left immediately. Belted Kingfishers were giving their 'electric' calls loudly, one sitting on Tree Swallow nest-box was soon hovering above the water. It was relaxed, riveting, a super way to start our exploration of this fascinating area.

A picnic lunch was eaten at Fort Beausejour after a quick walk around the star-fort's exterior. Two Hen Harriers were watched quartering the farmland 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 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 after checking in at the Auberge le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche. Here we were enjoying good views of Common Terns, Ring-billed Gulls, scores of Double-crested Cormorants and a Spotted Sandpiper when a passing gull dropped a small Flounder. Immediately, and seemingly from nowhere, a Bald Eagle swooped down, grabbed the fish and retired to a sand-bank to consume it. The meal was just about finished as we crept up and watched the bird preen before flying into a tree closer still. It departed soon afterwards as did we – to have a celebratory ice cream.

I had spotted our first Ospreys a little earlier – their presence was so noticeable that we even saw two over dinner on the hotel's smart new terrace. After a delicious meal we retired to bed early, well pleased with the day.

Wednesday 25 August

Le Dune de Bouctouche and Kouchibouguac National Park

Sunny and hot, stiff breeze later; 23°C

Our day started with an early morning Moose hunt, exploring the back-roads behind Bouctouche. We drew a blank until a stunning full-adult Bald Eagle was spotted landing in a tree as we crossed a bridge close to the Presbytère. This gave excellent views and we returned for breakfast pleased with our outing.

First stop of the day was Le Dune de Bouctouche, where a short walk in the woods produced an American Redstart and a Blackburnian Warbler. Mozzies were demanding food, however, so we slipped across to the sand-dune spit where a light breeze made for a pleasant walk along the broad board-walk.

A squeaking animal alerted us and investigation revealed the presence of a young Red Fox under our feet beneath the boards. It was not the author of the squeaks but had probably alarmed whatever was making them.

Hoped for Piping Plovers could not be found. We learned later that they had migrated away a few days earlier. Gannets, Eiders, Common and a pair of Arctic Terns were seen, however. A roost of four Great Blue Herons was admired as were the small flocks of 'real' Canada Geese.

The scenic coastal route was taken to Kouchibouguac N.P. where we had a late picnic in the car before spending some time on the boardwalk at Kelly's beach. It provided a perfect sprung floor on which to dance a jig (so I was told) after a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found feeding with White-rumped Sandpipers (on their way down to the Falkland Islands). The Buffie was only the second I have seen on this tour and so was worthy of a little excitement.

It was late by the time we left the park but the direct route back to the hotel got us in quickly and we enjoyed another dinner on the terrace watching Ospreys.

Thursday 26 August

Bouctouche water treatment ponds and on to Grand Manan

Rain, drizzle, low cloud, clag, fog on the sea clearing as we approached Grand Manan; 20°C

A storm had gone through in the night leaving overcast conditions so a trip to the water treatment ponds seemed a good choice of activity. We popped into a *Tim Horton's* on the way there and bought thermos mugs and coffee.

Wood Ducks, lots of Bonaparte's Gulls, Lesser Yellowlegs, and a charming Red Squirrel which used its tail as a broom, were the main attractions as we avoided the drizzle under a gazebo next to the ponds. (I have never understood the function of this structure which overlooks a car park in one direction and the ponds in the other!)

It was with sadness that we left the Presbytère de Bouctouche – Anne and Ray had been such excellent hosts. But we were headed for Grand Manan and new adventures. The weather was largely drizzle and rain which gave the views a moody look but meant that just a few Ravens were our only fare.

Arriving at Black's Harbour were waited just 10 minutes before driving on to the 1.30pm ferry which sailed into thick mist. A mixed pod of Common Dolphins and Harbour porpoises could be seen close to the ship but there was no horizon and we peered into the gloom rather than watched wildlife.

Many Great Shearwaters were seen, however, most getting up off the sea as the ferry passed. One or two Sooty Shearwaters, lots of Bonaparte's Gulls and a few Common Murres (Guillemots) were watched too.

Gradually conditions improved as we neared Grand Manan and we started seeing small, mixed flocks of Red-necked and Red (Grey) Phalaropes, Gannets and a few Wilson's Storm Petrels. But time for Whale-spotting was limited and it was only Jill's find of two Minke Whales which saved us from a whale-less trip.

Grand Manan looked super as we sailed past huge fish traps into the harbour. The drive to Shorecrest Lodge was short and we arrived to a warm welcome from Evelyn Paine-Bogensperger – sadly for us Gunther was in Austria delivering their son to school.

After settling in we met on the veranda where we enjoyed a relaxing half hour watching birds come in to the feeders – ebullient and plentiful Black-capped Chickadees and a family of charming American Goldfinches while solo appearances were made by a delightful Downy Woodpecker, a bold Blue Jay and a rather sombre Song Sparrow. We finally decided to stretch our legs with a walk around the area – interesting for life in general but which produced a Black Guillemot as our sole wildlife reward.

We retired after a good meal of roast haddock.

Friday 27 August

Hole in the Wall Road and whale watching from Day's Catch

Sunny all day with a good breeze dropping in the afternoon; 25°C

This was one of the best days I have spent on Grand Manan – an excellent morning watching warblers with wonderful whales and seabirds in the afternoon.

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 and to identify the birds in them. The dump was quiet when we arrived for the pre-breakfast session but a flock of small birds moved in and we enjoyed a purple patch. It contained few familiar species – Black-throated Green, several trunk-hugging Black-and-white and Tennessee warblers were all new as was Philadelphia Vireo, Alder Flycatcher, White-throated Sparrow and Eastern Kingbird. Needless to say we were back for breakfast later than we had told Evelyn.

Castalia Marsh was quiet on both the swamp and surrounding scrub. We saw a few Least and Semipalmated sandpipers which were in a flock with Semipalmated Plovers. There were big rafts of Eider on the sea close

to Grey Seals which were 'bottling' happily in the bright sunshine. A little investigation revealed Lincoln's Sparrows in the reedy parts of the marsh and Swamp sparrows around the edges.

Driving on beyond Seal Cove Harbour we saw a Minke Whale offshore, lots of Gannets diving and few more Eider asleep in groups. Our picnic lunches were consumed back at the harbour where we waited for *MV Day's Catch* to return from her morning excursion. It was good to meet Peter Wilcox as captain and Durlan Ingersoll as mate / naturalist again and we were soon on our way towards the Grand Manan Basin.

Black and Common Guillemots were the first birds seen soon after sailing with a Bald Eagle perched on a distant rock soon afterwards. A Great Cormorant was seen hanging its wing feathers out to dry. Once we got out to sea things became much more hectic with Great Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-petrels in considerable numbers along with rafts of Red-necked and Grey phalaropes.

An hour into our cruise and we were among the great whales – Humpbacked and North Atlantic Right Whales at first but later in the trip at least two speeding (in comparison) Fin Whales were seen.

A Pomarine Skua (Jaeger) gave fly-past views but seemed uninterested in the gulls and shearwaters which were taking advantage of small fish being dropped overboard as 'chum'. One Forster's Tern was seen with a Lesser Black-backed Gull (a European vagrant) later in the cruise.

The sea gave us some surprises too with Minke and Sperm whales spotted between the numerous Humpbacked and Right Whale sightings, and a weird-looking Sunfish basking on the surface.

Peter and Durlan have an impressive reputation for producing breath-taking sea watching cruises and lived up to it on this one. We were thrilled.

Excitement had not finished for the day, however, as we went out to Swallowtail Lighthouse after dinner to look, unsuccessfully, for whales from the shore although a doe White-tailed Deer was seen in the headlights on our way back.

Our last enterprise (after downing large slices of key-lime pie when we returned to the hotel) was a spot of star-gazing. Jupiter was seen with its moons, Cassiopea, the Plough and Polaris were all found when suddenly the international space station went across the sky... what a finale!

Saturday 28 August

The Whistle and exploring Grand Manan

Sunny, calm and hot; 28°C

The quest for whales from the land continued by visiting The Whistle point before breakfast... and we saw two Minke Whales! Discipline kicked in though and we left to be on time for our 8am breakfast. Well, we would have been but for a flock of Cedar Waxwings found as we left. They were feeding on ripe berries, taking them into a high fir tree to eat. There were at least 100 and we were later than planned again.

Our day's itinerary was to explore the island and do a little retail therapy. Dark Harbour was our first port of call where we were lectured on various aspects of island life by a visiting ambulance-man (complete with ambulance and two colleagues who seemed relieved that we took the brunt of his enthusiasm for a while). Staggering away, we walked the length of a lagoon behind a natural shingle sea-bank but saw few birds except a small flock of Dark-eyed Juncos which flitted ahead of us. A repair job on one of the many herring traps around the island was being carried out and we watched that for a while instead of birding.

Returning to the Shorecrest Lodge we split up – some visiting the whale museum while I wrote this report, or tried to between other chores. My reward was being treated to lunch at a nearby restaurant. Thank you! It was so (unseasonably) hot that we decided to have a siesta before setting off for South Head at the other end of the island. Here we walked a path up to a cliff-top view-point and back steering clear of a couple of Eastern Smooth Green Snakes found on the way and enjoying a dashing Merlin which came through.

Highlight of the trip was the discovery of two very tame Lark Sparrows which were examined in great detail to ensure correct identification. They were most obliging, posing for numerous photographs even when a family with a dog went past. It took an email to our local guide Tony Beck to assure me that these rarities had been correctly sorted out.

Still puzzled we dropped down to Anchorage Park where we failed to find Boreal Chickadee but did see the local carnivorous plants. Picher Plants were in bloom, the flowers nodding downwards towards their lethal fly-traps below, while Sundews littered the boggy habitat.

It was getting late by this time so we returned to another of Evelyn's delicious meals followed by whale watching back at The Whistle. Once again we saw no whales.

Sunday 29 August

Grand Manan Whale and Sail trip

Light cloud, some sunny spells, light breeze, calm sea; 22°C

A pre-breakfast visit to the ferry company for tickets on tomorrow's 7.30am sailing prevented our usual walk. But we did amble down to Whale Cove – our walk was enjoyable and revealed yet another uncommon species of bird, a Solitary Sandpiper. By now we had confirmation of the Lark Sparrows' identity and the sandpiper was further excitement, although not that much of a rarity.

Boarding the sailing boat which was to be our whale-watching platform, we set off with high expectations. The weather was flat calm with only a light breeze and my old friends Laurie Murison and skipper Sarah McDonald were in charge. The boat's owner Alan was also aboard.

It took an hour for the first whales to be found. A small group of Humpbacks which included a mother and calf gave great delight. From them we moved on to Northern Right Whales – two males which kept raising their vast dark snouts, each covered with callosities, hard areas of skin which give each whale a unique (and thus identifiable) appearance.

By this time we were surrounded by whale blows and heading towards a vast feeding frenzy of birds. The excitement was tangible! There was no point in calling birds or whales. Just gazing into the vast melee was enough: Minke, Fin, Humpbacked and Northern Right whales were surfacing all around us, while surrounded by a vast flock of feeding shearwaters and gannets, storm-petrels and gulls, phalaropes and porpoises. It was fantastic.

And as we turned for home at the end of a 10-minute (also known as three-hour) session the activity stopped as quickly as it had started. (This was a good thing as I am not sure I could have survived much more!)

We sneaked off after landing. Instead of writing trip-reports, postcards, diaries or just relaxing we went out to buy dried seaweed for friends at home.

Oh! And we popped into Castalia Marsh on the way back there to be greeted by an immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird. This was so unusual that even my pal Tony Beck had never seen one on Grand Manan. What an end to this fairy-tail visit to one of Canada's great wildlife hot-spots.

Monday 30 August

Leaving Grand Manan for Fundy N.P. and Mary's Point

Sunny, light breeze; 25°C

We hated saying goodbye to Evelyn and Grand Manan. We looked glumly over the stern as the island slipped away behind us. There were some thrills – Great and Sooty Shearwaters, Bonaparte's Gulls and Red-necked Phalaropes – but we had been spoiled by the magical island and had heavy hearts.

They soon lifted as we entered Fundy National Park after delicious home-made ice-creams near the entrance. We searched Laferty Trail looking for Moose (and found the enchanting Laferty Lake which held many Bullfrogs and Golden-crowned Kinglets), walked Caribou Plain's boardwalk over a vast Beaver dam (sadly the residents were not showing) and ate our picnics at pretty Bennett Lake.

Driving through Alma we eventually reached Mary's Point where our spirits were lifted by the sight of thousands of waders roosting on the high tide. We joined other admirers to watch and attempt photography but most of the time just gazed in wonder at the sight of so many birds – Least, White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Red Knot and Sanderlings, Semipalmated Plovers and a single Turnstone. The

birds were nervous and we soon learned why when three Peregrines arrived in tight formation and attempted to single out candidates for their supper. We saw no kill made but the action was fast and furious and it was with some relief that the birds settled after the raptors flew off. Almost immediately the first of two merlins shot across the beach chasing unfortunate birds, twisting and jinking in an attempt to snatch a meal, again without success. A few minutes later two more (or two of the initial trio) Peregrines arrived once more to hunt in unison, but without success. Once again we were left amazed and gasping at the spectacle we had just witnessed.

We stopped at Lars Larsen Marsh on the way to Florentine Manor and saw a Muskrat among the more usual ducks.

Hospitality at the Manor was up to its usual high standard and we enjoyed a great meal before going out to look unsuccessfully for American Bittern in the falling light. Nor did we hear the Great Horned Owl that had been hooting while we were away... bah!

Tuesday 31 August

**Lars Larsen Marsh, Mary's Point, Hopewell Rocks and off to Halifax
Hot and sunny all day; 30°C**

We were out by 6.30am to drive through the dawn to Lars Larsen Marsh looking for American Bittern and rails but with no success. We did see several Marsh Wrens, however, and a pair of Mockingbirds near a memorial to a ship wrecked on the Dutch island of Tessel in the 19th century.

The massive tide was out when we reached Hopewell Rocks, something of a tourist trap but interesting none the less. The area was uncommonly lacking in birds – this can be a migrant trap too – and we left for Sackville after a delicious ice cream.

A visit to Sackville Waterfowl Park was put on hold as the weather was so hot. We managed to sit outside for a quick lunch but the unseasonal hot spell caused us to cancel the planned visit in favour of driving back to Nova Scotia. A day room was taken at an airport hotel and after a good dinner we dropped off the car at Halifax airport to catch the midnight flight back to Heathrow, arriving on time at 9.30am.

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

BIRDS

PHEASANTS & ALLIES			Family Phasianidae
1	Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	One at the roadside near Fundy N.P.
2	Common Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	At least two at Marshlands Inn, Sackville; a pair at Shorecrest Lodge, Grand Manan; a male near Florentine Manor.
WILDFOWL			Family Anatidae
3	Greater Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	Quite common, seen on the mainland and Grand Manan.
4	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	Two in Sackville.
5	Wood Duck	Aix sponsa	About 20 on Bouctouche water treatment ponds.
6	Gadwall	Anas strepera	Several in Sackville Waterfowl Park;
7	American Wigeon	Anas americana	At least 15 in Sackville Waterfowl Park; 6 on Bouctouche water treatment ponds;
8	American Black Duck	Anas rubripes	At least three in Sackville Waterfowl Park; 6 on Bouctouche water treatment ponds; three on the Long Pond, Anchorage Park, Grand Manan; three at Mary's Point.
9	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Lots in Sackville Waterfowl Park; a few on Lars Larsen Marsh, Mary's Point.
10	Blue-winged Teal	Anas discors	About six in Sackville Waterfowl Park; a few on Lars Larsen Marsh, Mary's Point.
11	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	A female in Sackville Waterfowl Park.

12	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	Several in Sackville Waterfowl Park; a pair on Bouctouche water treatment ponds; several on Lars Larsen Marsh, Mary's Point.
13	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Several in Sackville Waterfowl Park; 20 on Bouctouche water treatment ponds;
14	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Several in the Bouctouche area; small flocks on the sea near Black's Harbour; huge flocks moulting off Grand Manan; a flock of males at Mary's Point.
15	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	About 10 roosting opposite Bouctouche Rotary Park.
16	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Female and two ducklings at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan.
LOONS			
17	Great Northern Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Family Gaviidae Two on the sea between Grand Manan and the mainland; one on our second whale-watching trip.
SHEARWATERS			
18	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Family Procellariidae One on our second whale-watching trip.
19	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	About 10 between Grand Manan and the mainland; more than 100 on the first whale trip, maybe 500 on the second.
20	Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	More than 100 between Grand Manan and the mainland; hundreds on both whale trips; several from Grand Manan while whale watching.
STORM PETRELS			
21	Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Family Hydrobatidae Four between Grand Manan and the mainland; thousands on both whale trips.
GREBES			
22	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Family Podicipedidae Three in Sackville Waterfowl Park;
23	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	One on Lars Larsen Marsh, Mary's Point.
HERONS, BITTERNES			
24	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias cognata</i>	Family Ardeidae Common almost daily.
GANNETS & BOOBIES			
25	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Family Sulidae Several in the Bouctouche area; lots around Grand Manan.
CORMORANTS			
26	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Family Phalacrocoracidae Common to abundant.
27	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	One on the first whale-watching trip.
FALCONS			
28	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Family Falconidae Two near Kouchibouguac National Park;
29	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	One at South Head, Grand Manan; one hunting waders at Mary's Point; one eating a dragonfly at Lars Larsen Marsh.
30	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Three (and possibly two more) hunting waders cooperatively at Mary's Point.
RAPTORS			
31	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Family Pandionidae / Accipitridae About three seen from the Rotary Park, Bouctouche; one caught a fish at The Whistle, Grand Manan.
32	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	One snatching a fish dropped by a Mew Gull in Bouctouche Rotary Park was watched eating its meal and preening afterwards; another seen that evening; one on a rock during the first whale-watching trip, two on the second which ended with an eagle circling overhead; one as we left Grand Manan, another near Fundy N.P.; one on the beach at Mary's point.
33	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Two from Fort Beausejour; several quartering the marshes at Mary's Point.
34	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	One near Kouchibouguac National Park; a female on Grand Manan.

PLOVERS

- 35 Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola
- 36 Semipalmated Plover Charadrius semipalmatus

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES

- 37 Wilson's Snipe Gallinago delicata
- 38 Greater Yellowlegs Tringa melanoleuca
- 39 Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes
- 40 Solitary Sandpiper Tringa solitaria
- 41 Spotted Sandpiper Actitis macularius
- 42 Willet Catoptrophorus semipalmatus
- 43 Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres

- 44 Red Knot Calidris canutus
- 45 Sanderling Calidris alba
- 46 Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla

- 47 Least Sandpiper Calidris minutilla

- 48 White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicollis

- 49 Buff-breasted Sandpiper Tryngites subruficollis

- 50 Red-necked Phalarope Phalaropus lobatus

- 51 Red Phalarope Phalaropus fulicarius

GULLS & TERNS

- 52 Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis
- 53 Great Black-backed Gull Larus marinus
- 54 American Herring Gull Larus smithsonianus
- 55 Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus
- 56 Bonaparte's Gull Larus philadelphia

- 57 Black-legged Kittiwake Rissa tridactyla

- 58 Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis

- 59 Common Tern Sterna hirundo

- 60 Arctic Tern Sterna paradisaea

- 61 Forster's Tern Sterna forsteri

- 62 Black Tern Chlidonias niger

SKUAS

- 63 Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus

AUKS

- 64 Guillemot (Common Murre) Uria aalge

- 65 Razorbill Alca torda

- 66 Black Guillemot Cepphus grylle

Family Charadriidae

A few near Bouctouche; several in Kouchibouguac National Park; lots at Mary's Point.

Common on most beaches; big flocks at Mary's Point.

Family Scolopacidae

One roosting in Sackville Waterfowl Park.

About 12 in Sackville Waterfowl Park;

Six in Sackville Waterfowl Park; about 10 in Bouctouche water treatment ponds.

One at Whale Cove marsh, Grand Manan.

Fairly common, seen almost daily.

Several from the Presbeter garden, Bouctouche.

Ten on a beach near Kouchibouguac National Park; one at Mary's Point.

A few at Mary's Point.

About 50 at Mary's Point.

A small flock at in Sackville Waterfowl Park; a few in Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan; a few among the huge flocks at Mary's Point.

A few on the beach in Kouchibouguac National Park; three at Castalia Marsh, two in Whale Cove marsh, Grand Manan; huge flocks roosting at Mary's Point.

About 20 in Kouchibouguac National Park; a few among the huge flocks at Mary's Point.

One of these rarely seen waders in Kouchibouguac National Park, a cause for some muted celebration!

More than 30 between Grand Manan and the mainland; thousands on the sea during both whale-watching trips.

About 6 between Grand Manan and the mainland; hundreds on the sea during our first whale-watching cruise but only a few on the second.

Family Laridae

Common, seen daily on the coast.

Common to abundant daily.

Fairly common on the coast.

One on the first whale-watching trip.

One or two in Kouchibouguac National Park; lots on Bouctouche water treatment ponds and between Grand Manan and the mainland.

Two on the first whale-watching trip; four at Swallowtail lighthouse; a few between Grand Manan and the mainland.

One on the first whale-watching trip.

A few at Bouctouche; one or two between Grand Manan and the mainland;

Three at Le Dunes de Bouctouche.

One on the first whale-watching trip.

One on the first whale-watching trip.

Family Stercorariidae

One on the first whale-watching trip.

Family Alcidae

About 10 between Grand Manan and the mainland; a few on both whale-watching trips.

About 40 on the first whale-watching trip.

Three between Grand Manan and the mainland; about 20 on the first whale-watching trip.

67	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>
PIGEONS & DOVES		
68	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
69	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
HUMMINGBIRDS		
70	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	
KINGFISHERS		
71	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
WOODPECKERS		
72	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
73	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS		
74	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>
75	Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>
76	Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
VIREOS		
77	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>
CROWS, JAYS		
78	Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
79	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
80	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
WAXWINGS & ALLIES		
81	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
TITS & CHICKADEES		
82	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
SWALLOWS, MARTINS		
83	North American Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo erythrogaster</i>
CRESTS & KINGLETS		
84	Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
WRENS		
85	Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS		
86	Grey Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
87	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
STARLINGS		
88	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
THRUSHES		
89	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
SPARROWS		
90	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
FINCHES		
91	American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>

Six on the first whale-watching trip, about the same on the second.

Family Columbidae

Common in towns and villages.

A few in Bouctouche; common on Grand Manan.

Family Trochilidae

Archilochus colubris Three in Sackville; several during our stay on Grand Manan.

Family Alcedinidae

Two at in Sackville Waterfowl Park; one from Bouctouche Rotary Park; two or three on Grand Manan; two near Lars Larsen Marsh, at Mary's Point.

Family Picidae

One in Sackville Waterfowl Park; one on the bird-feeders at Shorecrest Lodge, Grand Manan.

One at Marshlands Inn; a fly-past on our way to Bouctouche; two at Anchorage Park, Grand Manan; three near Mary's Point.

Family Tyrannidae

One on a wide near Kouchibouguac National Park;

Two in the Hole In The Wall tip feeding flock.

Two flew over the Hole In The Wall tip.

Family Vireonidae

Many on our first two days on Grand Manan.

Family Corvidae

One in Bouctouche; two on the way to Black's Harbour; one on the bird-feeders at Shorecrest Lodge, Grand Manan.

Common to abundant.

One on our way to Sackville, six around Fort Beausejour; a few on the way to Black's Harbour; a few on Grand Manan.

Family Bombycillidae

One in Sackville Waterfowl Park; two on the way to Black's Harbour; more than 100 at The Whistle, Grand Manan.

Family Paridae

Common daily, especially at the Shorecliff Lodge bird-feeders.

Family Hirundinidae

One near Mary's Point.

Family Regulidae

Common in Fundy N.P.

Family Troglodytidae

Several at Lars Larsen Marsh.

Family Mimidae

One heard in the Hole In The Wall tip; another seen the following day; two at Whale Cove marsh.

Two at the ship memorial near Mary's Point.

Family Sturnidae

Common daily.

Family Turdidae

One in Bouctouche; several in a garden on Grand Manan.

Family Passeridae

One at Halifax airport on our arrival.

Family Fringillidae

Six in Sackville Waterfowl Park; a family at the Shorecliff Lodge bird feeders; common on Grand Manan.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

- 92 Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*
- 93 American Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*
- 94 Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*
- 95 Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*
- 96 Black-throated Green Warbler

- 97 Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*
- 98 American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS

- 99 Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*
- 100 Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*
- 101 Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

BUNTINGS & ALLIES

- 102 Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*
- 103 Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*
- 104 Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*
- 105 White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*
- 106 Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*
- 107 Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*
- 108 Nelson's Sparrow *Ammodramus nelsoni*
- 109 Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*
- 110 Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*

Family Parulidae

Five in the Hole In The Wall tip feeding flock.
 Three in Sackville Waterfowl Park;
 One near Le Dunes de Bouctouche.
 One at The Whistle put on a fine show.
Dendroica virens Five in the Hole In The Wall tip feeding flock; one at The Whistle.
 Five in the Hole In The Wall tip feeding flock.
 One near Le Dunes de Bouctouche.

Family Icteridae

One briefly as Lars Larsen Marsh.
 Common daily on the mainland.
 Immature male at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan, a rare bird indeed.

Family Emberizidae

One on a river bank near Bouctouche; one on the Shorecliff bird-feeders.
 One at Castalia Marsh.
 One at Castalia Marsh.
 Five in the Hole In The Wall tip.
 About nine at Dark Harbour, Grand Manan; one in Fundy N.P.
 One in the dunes at Le Dunes de Bouctouche.
 Five at Castalia Marsh.
 One in Sackville Waterfowl Park; two or three in Whale Cove marsh.
 Two of these rare birds seen at South Head, Grand Manan.

MAMMALS

SQUIRRELS

- 1 American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

MICE, RATS & GERBILS

- 2 Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*

DOGS & FOXES

- 3 Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

EARLESS SEALS

- 4 Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*
- 5 Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

RORQUALS

- 6 Northern Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*
- 7 Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalus*
- 8 Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

RIGHT WHALES

- 9 North Atlantic Right Whale *Balaena glacialis*

SPERM WHALES

- 10 Great Sperm Whale *Physeter catodon*

PORPOISES

- 11 Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

Family Scuridae

Common daily.

Family Muridae

One swam across the pond at Lars Larsen Marsh.

Family Canidae

One under the board-walk at Le Dunes de Bouctouche.

Family Phocidae

Four at the entrance to Grand Manan ferry terminal; lots around the island.

One off a Grand Manan headland; common around the island.

Family Balaenopteridae

Two as we approached Grand Manan on the ferry; two on the first whale-watching trip; one from The Whistle; four on the second whale-watching trip.

Two or three on the first whale-watching trip, five on the second.

About 10 on the first whale-watching trip, 15 on the second including 10 breaches seen and seven animals on the surface side by side.

Family Balaenidae

Three on the first whale-watching trip, five on the second.

Family Physeteridae

One on the first whale-watching trip.

Family Phocoenidae

One pod of four as we left Black's Harbour; abundant at sea.

MARINE DOLPHINS

12 Short-beaked Common Dolphin

13 Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

DEER

14 White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Family Delphinidae

Delphinus delphis A pod of at least five between Grand Manan and the mainland;

Family Cervidae

A female and two fawns near Kouchibouguac National Park; one near Swallowtail lighthouse.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

FROGS

1 American bull frog *Rana catesbeiana*

TYPICAL SNAKES

2 Eastern Smooth Green Snake *Opheodrys vernalis vernalis*

Family Ranidae

Lots in Laferty Lake, Fundy N.P.

Family Colubridae

Two of this non-venomous species seen on South Head, Grand Manan.

FISH

OCEAN SUNFISH

1 Ocean Sunfish *Mola mola*

RIGHT-EYED FLOUNDERS

2 Arrowtooth Flounder *Atheresthes stomias*

MACKEREL

3 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus thynnus*

Family Molidae

One on our first whale-watching trip.

Family Pleuronectidae

One dropped by a gull was swooped upon and snatched by a Bald Eagle at the Rotary Park, Bouctouche.

Family Scombridae

Two seen caught by a harpoon boat.

FLUTS

SWALLOWTAILS

1 Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes*

WHITES & YELLOWS

2 Large White *Pieris brassicae*

3 Clouded Sulphur *Colias phyllodice*

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES

4 American Painted Lady *Vanessa virginiensis*

5 Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Family Papilionidae

One in Bouctouche Rotary Park;

Family Pieridae

Common daily (in sunshine).

Common daily (in sunshine).

Family Nymphalidae

A few seen at South Head, Grand Manan.

Fairly common, seen on three days.

OTHER TAXA

GRASSHOPPERS

1 Band-winged Grasshopper ?

CICADAS

2 Dog-day Cicada *Tibicen pruinosa*

Family Locustinae

Common on heathlands and paths.

Family Cicadidae

Common (and noisy) in woods.

HEAVENLY BODIES

1 The Space-station

2 Cassiopeia

3 Jupiter with its moons Io, Europa, Callisto and Ganymede

4 Venus, the evening star

5 The Plough, Ursa Major

6 The Small Bear, Ursa Minor

7 Polaris, the Pole Star

8 The Moon

Tim Earl, September 2010

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