

THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

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CANADA

Grand Manan's Birds & Whales

17 – 25 August 2016

TOUR REPORT

Leader: Mike Read

Wednesday 17 August

Journey from Halifax airport to Bouctouche and a brief visit to Rotary Park

During the journey to Bouctouche there were frequent spells of rain but despite this a few good birds were seen including numerous American crows, lone common raven and blue jay, a few ospreys with some sat on nests on pylons, American robins, green-winged teals and two American kestrels. The latter species were noted during a 'satnav inspired' detour!

At Bouctouche we checked into our hotel and as the weather had improved somewhat, we made a brief visit to the nearby Rotary Park. Here we found a juvenile spotted sandpiper in a pool by the covered bridge while beside the boardwalk across the saltmarsh there were a few greater and lesser yellowlegs, a couple of least sandpipers, two short-billed dowitchers and we had better views of a few green-winged teals. A couple of Nelson's sparrows appeared briefly among the wet marsh grass but not everyone managed to see them. A few herring gulls were on a nearby shingle bank and as we drove back towards the hotel, a group of about ten Bonaparte's gulls flew out towards the sea as did eight double-crested cormorants.

Back at the hotel an enjoyable evening meal was followed by a little unpacking and an early night after a long day.

Thursday 18 August

Sites close to Bouctouche then Kouchibouguac National Park

The rain had cleared overnight and yesterday's poor weather may have been responsible for a few of the migrants in the bushes close to Bouctouche Sewage Lagoon. These included a few yellow warblers and a good number of cedar waxwings, as well as a couple of sparrows (song and possible savannah). Waterfowl here included black ducks, green-winged teals, a couple of female eclipse ring-necked ducks and four dowdy-looking wood ducks. A few double-crested cormorants and in excess of 100 Bonaparte's gulls were present as were some lesser yellowlegs feeding along the grassy bank. The rattling call of a Belted Kingfisher alerted us to its presence as it flew over the fence fairly close to us before flying to the end of the lagoon and landing on the fence there.

At Rotary Park, this latter species put in another appearance and then there were two! The quantity of greater and lesser yellowlegs was much higher than the previous evening and short-billed dowitchers had increased to ten or more while three semipalmated plovers were new for the group. Close to the covered bridge were at least four yellow warblers and a couple of red-breasted nuthatches. Nelson's Sparrows flitted from shrubbery to marshland and a ruby-throated hummingbird dashed past.

After breakfast we drove to Kouchibouguac National Park and as we strolled towards the visitor centre we saw a couple of black-capped chickadees and a northern flicker. After receiving our permit and taking part in a little retail therapy we returned to the vehicle and began driving into the Park itself. A short distance along the road a few birds flew across in front of us and these turned out to be more chickadees and a few Red-breasted nuthatches. Just before driving onwards, a couple of 'hawks' flew overhead and these proved to be rough-legged buzzards (hawks).

At Callander's Beach we could see the long sand bar across the inlet and beyond that a Caspian tern and three northern gannets could be seen flying over the open sea while a great egret was seen along the water's edge. A group of ten common mergansers/goosanders seemed to be a female and nine well grown youngsters. Also here we saw a few double-crested cormorants and a sharp-shinned hawk.

At Kelly's Beach there were many more people present as there was a sand castle completion that day. However, despite this, there were still a good few birds to be seen. The mud bank revealed by the falling tide held semipalmated plovers and sandpipers, five grey/black-bellied plovers while among the herring gulls were a few ring-billed gulls. There were at least eight great blue herons (some roosting in nearby trees); an osprey flew past carrying a fish while a distant shingle bank held many common terns and about 200 double-crested cormorants. Another female goosander was along the water's edge with three much smaller young than the previous bird(s), Canada geese grazed the grassland and our visit here ended with a good sighting of an adult bald eagle. One member of the group, having gone ahead and looked over the sandy beach said that it was so full of people that there was no room for birds, so we headed onwards.

As lunchtime was drawing closer, we drove to La Source and found a suitably shady picnic table. Here we settled down to eat our picnics and nearby we could see a few Chipping Sparrows, a couple of American Red Squirrels and another Red-breasted Nuthatch. After lunch we walked to overlook the nearby tidal river and saw at least 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers in the bushes while the water held 4 Black Ducks and 3 more Double-crested Cormorants.

The return journey was via the coast as much as possible rather than the dual carriageway we had driven out on. Through some of the towns and villages we saw birds like mourning doves, American robins, blue jays feeding on flying ants, common starlings and common grackles and over one town, a Cooper's hawk was circling off into the distance. Further on we overlooked part of the coast and here we saw great blue Heron, a group of common eiders, osprey (which we were told nested nearby, plus herring and ring-billed Gulls. As we approached Bouctouche, a female northern harrier was quartering a grassy marsh; a good end to the days birding.

Friday 19 August

Journey and visit to Hopewell Rocks, drive to Blacks Harbour and ferry to Grand Manan

During breakfast we occasionally glimpsed an osprey in flight over the nearby water where herring gulls also flew. As we loaded up and began our journey towards Hopewell Rocks, American robin and yellow Warbler were both noted before we left Bouctouche. Few birds were seen throughout the journey but they did include Canada geese, American crows, common grackles and a great blue heron. Just before reaching Hopewell Rocks we made a brief detour to Gray's Island. Our drive out to this area was marked by the sighting of a few song sparrows while during a brief walk we added blue jay and an empty bald eagle's nest. Also noted here were blue darner dragonfly and sulphur butterfly.

Around the car park at Hopewell Rocks there were quite a few dark-eyed juncos and then our guide, Kevin Snair, hurried us down to view the rock pillars and arches as the tide was rising fairly speedily. We made it just a short distance beyond Lover's Arch before turning back and heading along further north where pillars and other features had not been reached by the rising waters. As we stood admiring the scenery and some fossils, a female peregrine flew low overhead and went towards the area we had just left. Our route back was well and truly blocked off by the tide now so we left via some steps up a low cliff, caught the shuttle back to the car park area and after collecting our picnic lunches, began the journey to Blacks Harbour for the ferry across to Grand Manan Island.

We needed to be at the ferry at least 30 minutes before its departure so out of necessity we drove straight through Fundy National Park and out to the south-bound carriageway of Route 1. Needless to say, it was only 'large' wildlife that we saw en route but this included a fair number of ospreys, a couple of bald eagles and three turkey vultures. We arrived at the ferry terminal and once parked in our allotted lane, we stretched our legs and searched for wildlife. Herring gulls and double-crested cormorants were plentiful but then a turkey vulture attracted our attention overhead. As we watched this bird making its way south towards the nearby USA border, we became aware of eight other raptors in flight and judging by their variety of plumages, we were fairly convinced that they were a mixture of red-shouldered and broad-winged hawks. Just before we boarded the ferry, another south bound raptor flew overhead and off into the distance and this proved to be a male northern harrier.

Once clear of the vehicle deck, we climbed up to the rear observation deck and the ferry was soon heading out into the Bay of Fundy. Rocks close to the ferry port held a couple of grey seals while on the nearby sea was a group of common eider ducks. Harbour porpoises were frequent in the Bay and we must have seen in excess of 30 during the crossing. Seabirds were fairly frequent and these included many great shearwaters and a few sooty shearwaters, three species of gull including a few kittiwakes and at least three razorbills. As we neared Grand Manan itself we spotted one Common/Harbour Seal and two fairly close fin whales.

Once ashore we took the short drive to the Marathon Inn, settled in for our four-night stay and were soon enjoying a lovely dinner. One or two of the group went for a stroll after dinner but apart from the sunset, added nothing to the day's sightings. During dinner a couple on the next table overheard our 'birdy discussions' and invited us to visit them the next morning. He would be doing some bird ringing and gave us location details.

Saturday 20 August

Parts of Grand Manan and boat trip for whales and seabirds

We took a short stroll behind the hotel before breakfast and found a few good birds. These included cedar waxwings, eastern kingbird, common yellowthroat, black-throated green warbler and the usual red-breasted nuthatch and black-capped chickadees.

After breakfast our first stop was to see some birds being ringed. A round of the nets produced northern parula, black and white warbler and black-throated green warbler, two species of flycatcher (alder and yellow-bellied) and a single black-capped chickadee. From here we made our way to Seal Cove to head out on the first of our two scheduled whale watching trips. We were among the first aboard the Day's Catch and while waiting for the rest of the customers to board, we had good close views of a juvenile black guillemot. As we left the harbour we were soon seeing a few razorbills as well as large numbers of herring and great black-backed gulls on the local fish rearing cages. Thick mist provided atmosphere as various birds appeared and disappeared fairly quickly. Great shearwaters and occasional sooty shearwaters came and went throughout the outward journey as did occasional Atlantic puffins, more black guillemots and razorbills while Wilson's petrels pattered their way across the calm sea. As we neared the main whale watching area, red (grey) and red-necked phalaropes were seen in groups on the water and one or two Leach's petrels were seen. The boat stopped and everyone was quiet as we listened for the 'blows' of whales. Eventually one was heard and we headed in that direction to be greeted by a couple of humpback

whales rising, exhaling and diving for food. Thankfully by now the mist was thinning in the warm sunshine and we were soon seeing perhaps 30 grey seals among the whales. Gradually more of the latter appeared and we estimate that in all we saw at least one fin whale and eight or more humpbacks. A lone northern fulmar and a few northern gannets were among the other birds seen and as we headed back towards



Humpback breaching (©Mike Read)

harbour, one of the crew was throwing pieces of chopped-up fish into the water (chumming) and this brought numerous gulls and great shearwaters very close to the boat. One strange sighting here was a female northern harrier that was heading southwards on migration at least 15 kilometres from the nearest land! More harbour porpoises, a lone harbour seal and occasional flocks of phalaropes entertained us on the return journey and back at Seal Cove, the crew were heartily thanked for an exciting and very rewarding trip.

Having spent longer out on the whale watching trip than anticipated, our only option was to return to the hotel to freshen up before the short walk to the Compass Rose restaurant where we were to eat that evening (The Marathon Inn did not serve dinner on a Saturday). Following another most enjoyable meal we strolled back to the hotel replete and tired after a full day of wildlife encounters.

Sunday 21 August

Various locations around Grand Manan from North to South

After breakfast we began our day of exploring Grand Manan with a drive along the Whistle road to Long Eddy Point Lighthouse. From the big deck we looked to the sea below and could see a few great and one or two sooty shearwaters as well as lots of harbour porpoises and herring gulls. There were also a few kittiwakes passing by. Within the nearby trees we found American red squirrel, red-breasted nuthatch, glimpsed an American redstart and had fairly good views of a common yellowthroat. The lawns of houses held a couple of American robins while a group of at least half a dozen American goldfinches perched in the tops of conifers.



Common yellowthroat (©Mike Read)

During the drive towards Castalia Marsh we noted more robins on lawns and a black-capped chickadee here and there. But THE bird of this journey had to be the merlin perched on a roadside fence.

At the Marsh itself, we were hoping that the misty conditions might have brought down a few migrants but obviously there were clear skies above the mist and it seems most migrants had kept going. All the mist did was restrict our view out on to the marsh. However, within sight a group of about 35 grey plovers landed close to some greater and lesser yellowlegs. Closer to us was a least sandpiper and on another pool was a group of waders which proved to be semipalmated sandpipers. Out at the limit of our vision was a group of Canada geese while a song sparrow or two were seen in the bushes.

Along Dark Harbour Road we encountered a flock of red-breasted nuthatches and black-capped chickadees and amongst them was a single black-throated green warbler. We also saw a white-tailed deer here. At Woodward Cove we found a group of common eiders just offshore, there were good views over an empty pond and a few semipalmated sandpipers flew past. Heading down Shore Road we stopped to watch an adult bald eagle overhead and then found two juveniles sat in a conifer. Towards the end of the road there were more common eiders on the sea and a group of grazing Canada geese eventually took off from the field and flew over our heads and also landed on the sea. As we ate our picnic lunches, two adult bald eagles flew in from one of the offshore islands and continued off inland. As we left the area we saw a

number of cedar waxwings in a dead tree, the two juvenile bald eagles were still in the conifer and there was a third one on the opposite side of the road.

From here we drove to the Southwest Head lighthouse. The super views over the sea (much of the mist had cleared now) revealed little except a few herring gulls, a couple of harbour porpoises and one lone double-crested cormorant. On land we found a common yellowthroat in amongst some low shrubs and a ruby-throated hummingbird dashed past. However there were quite a few butterflies to be seen including American painted lady, black swallowtail, clouded sulphur and great spangled fritillary. We began the journey northwards again (we couldn't go any further south without getting very wet!) and headed into Anchorage Park. At Long Pond there were eight or more American wigeon, a couple of black ducks and a female hooded merganser while in the trees were many red-breasted nuthatches, a ruby-crowned kinglet and a black and white warbler. Just offshore was yet another flock of common eiders.



Semipalmated sandpipers (©Mike Read)

The light at Woodward Cove was shining on buildings at the far side of the harbour; a good reflections photo opportunity for everyone. The same afternoon light was great to watch a flock of about 80-100 semipalmated sandpipers and 20 or so semipalmated plovers weaving around over the water. The combined flock twisted and turned in unison, split into two groups then came back together again. It was then that we realised the reason for their flying display, a peregrine was flying around overhead. Suddenly a second peregrine appeared and this one was in hot pursuit of a merlin which dashed off into the distance.

After another somewhat fruitless (or should that be birdless!) visit to Shore Road, we returned to the hotel in time to relax before a 6pm dinner.

Monday 22 August Around Grand Manan

A phone call the previous evening had given us the news that the planned whale watching trip was off due to the forecast of heavy rain and strong winds. Unfortunately when we woke up, the forecast was all too accurate!

After another good breakfast we headed again along the Whistle to Long Eddy Lighthouse. The rain had eased so we stood on the decking/observation platform beside the lighthouse. Seabirds included at last eight northern gannets, four razorbills, plenty of herring gulls and about 250 great shearwaters, a most impressive sight.



Great shearwater (©Mike Read)

A little further down the road a few small birds were calling among the bushes. Cedar waxwings were easily seen but a gray catbird was much more elusive. Pishing eventually drew it out along with a few other birds including savannah sparrow and two downy woodpeckers. A great blue heron flew past as did a Ruby-throated hummingbird while in the garden of a cottage there were a couple of blue jays and a northern flicker on the lawn along with a few song sparrows and a pair of mourning doves. Perched on overhead wires were a family group of four eastern bluebirds and an alder flycatcher. A smooth green snake rapidly disappeared among some rocks and a toad species remained unidentified but as we walked back to the vehicle, a passing adult bald eagle was unmistakable. On our way back towards the main Grand Manan highway, we found a track that led us to Eel Pond but the only birds we found here were spotted sandpiper and black bucks. As the rain had set in once more, walking in search of birds did not seem like a good idea but coffee on the way to our next destination did!

Refreshed, we headed to the Anchorage and in the rain and mist we sat in the vehicle to look over Long Pond. Plenty of gulls (herring and great black-backed) were bathing and generally milling about on the water with a constant stream of departures and arrivals. Also present were a few American wigeons and black ducks but little else. We drove on along to Great Pond but could not even see the far side due to the mist that seemed thick than ever! However, while eating our picnic lunches in the minibus we did get to see more gulls, a great blue heron and two belted kingfishers. Having checked at the Anchorage visitor centre, we managed to locate the sewage lagoon and the hide overlooking it. A brief visit here produced more American wigeons and black ducks plus a female ring-necked duck and presumably the same hooded merganser that we had seen on Long Pond the previous day.

A road, which became a confusing array of dirt roads, eventually led us to Miller Pond. This lake was surrounded by woodland and holiday cottages. The trees held a good 'flock' of red-breasted nuthatches and accompanying them were black-throated green warblers and an ovenbird. Also noted in this area were American robin and common raven.

Rain encouraged our retreat and a drive to Ingalls Head. We checked out some nearby alder trees but no birds were found. However the sea held four eiders and there were two common ravens perched on roadside poles. Our final visit for the day was to Shore Road where we discovered a house with numerous bird feeders beside their front lawn. On the lawn itself was an American robin and a couple of common grackles. Many birds were visiting the feeders including at least six American goldfinches, a pair of red-breasted nuthatches, cedar waxwings, black-capped chickadees and mourning doves. There were also two new species: four northern cardinals and probably half a dozen purple finches.

This provided a fitting end to a rather wet day so we returned to the hotel in good time to freshen up ready for another hearty evening meal.

Tuesday 23 August

Ferry to mainland, Lepreau Falls, Fundy National Park

We parked in plenty of time for the ferry back to Blacks Harbour and so took a short walk along a small road close by. American crows were calling nearby, an American goldfinch flew up on to a conifer tree and a juvenile downy woodpecker was seen in a back garden. Cedar waxwings, mourning doves and American robin were also added before the best bird of this walk was seen, a blackpoll warbler.

We boarded the ferry and were underway by 09.30 and were soon seeing seabirds. These were mainly gulls to begin with but we then began adding other species. A few razorbills and a couple of Atlantic puffins were followed by many great and one or two sooty shearwaters. An adult bald eagle was seen as we left Grand Manan behind while a little further out we were seeing many harbour porpoises. As we neared the Wolf Islands, three humpback whales were well seen and approaching the mainland we saw a few grey seals, another bald eagle and a turkey vulture.

We began the journey northwards but soon turned off to visit Lepreau Falls. As we drove in towards the parking areas, a juvenile sharp-shinned hawk was standing beside the gravel road. We had a look around for birds but found little except at least three red-breasted nuthatches. We decided to eat our picnic lunch a little early and found a picnic table with a good view of the Falls.

After lunch we drove on to Route 1 and continued beyond St John. As we sped along we were again seeing occasional osprey nests on pylons as well as one or two ospreys. Two much larger birds proved to be golden eagles and then a kilometre or so further on we saw an adult bald eagle promptly followed by one flying and two ospreys standing on a nest as well as two more turkey vultures.

We reached Fundy National Park and turned on to Old Shepody Road in the hope of encountering a few birds. Little was seen until we reached Grassy Lake. Dragonflies and frogs were quite numerous and we

saw four black ducks at the far end of the lake and a solitary sandpiper feeding along the shoreline. A few waterside plants included round-leaved sundew, water lobelia and 'hatpins'. There were also lots of blueberries to be enjoyed. Further along this road a couple of small birds flew across in front of us. We stopped only to find that it was more red-breasted nuthatches and a couple of dark-eyed juncos. However there was one bird among them that was different and eventually this turned out to be an ovenbird. We returned to the main highway and made a brief visit to the Kinnie Brook parking area but all we could find here were more nuthatches, juncos and an American red squirrel. A short drive down the Wolf Point Road gave us a glimpse of a woodchuck/groundhog but very little else. We then completed our journey to Alma, checked into our hotel and began the job of packing for tomorrow evening's homeward flight. After another pleasant evening meal during which a ruby-throated hummingbird was glimpsed at one of the window feeders, we all headed to bed.

Wednesday 24 August

Fundy National Park, Sackville Waterfowl Park, Johnson's Mills and journey to Halifax

After our final Canadian breakfast, we loaded our cases into the minibus and looked overhead to see a few tree swallows and a lone barn swallow flying around feeding. Two Great Blue Herons stood sedately beside the nearby river and a bald eagle flew off inland. An excellent start to the day.

Along the Wolf Point Road there were a couple of groundhogs on the local golf course but these were somewhat distant and were soon disturbed by buggy-driving golfers. Further along the road a group of birds landed in the tops of some conifers and, on closer inspection, these proved to be red/common crossbills. A group of smaller birds were heading through some nearby alders and among the many red-breasted nuthatches were northern parula, black-throated green warbler and blackpoll warbler. There were quite a few black-capped chickadees and a lone boreal chickadee as well as an alder flycatcher. An American red squirrel put in an appearance at a stop to look at the covered bridge while a parking area nearby produced brief views of a groundhog. Another of these smaller 'marmots' gave great views as it posed on top of an old tree stump before descending to feed on the roadside verge.

We began the journey towards Sackville and along the road we saw a close bald eagle. We stopped to get better views and were soon watching three! Also in this area were 20 or more common ravens and a few American crows that we presumed were visiting a refuse tip just over a nearby rise.

At Sackville we parked close to the visitor centre and set up our packed lunches on a nearby picnic table. During lunch an American robin was hopping about on the grassland, a Purple Finch perched in some Alders and a great blue heron flew towards the nearby wetland. Lunch finished, we began a walk around part of the reserve and were soon seeing plenty of waterfowl. These included black ducks, mallard and green-winged teal among the 'dabblers' while 'divers' were represented by ring-necked duck, pied-billed grebe and double-crested cormorants. Along the waterside trail we had very close views of a black-capped chickadee but nothing else in the trees, however one of the plants identified was wild cucumber. As we headed out on to the boardwalk flanked by paperbark birch a most surprising find was a Wilson's phalarope which was swimming about near some shallow islands containing many waders. There were about 80 greater yellowlegs and in excess of 120 lesser yellowlegs. There was also one short-billed dowitcher and two pectoral sandpipers. As we strolled on around the northern pool we found a couple of gadwall and four or five blue-winged teal. We also caught glimpse of a belted kingfisher but not everyone saw it until some people on the far side of the water walked close to its hiding place and it promptly flew past us and perched on a nesting box on a pole in the middle of the lake. Hence we all had excellent views. As we headed back towards the vehicle, a sharp-shinned hawk dashed past us.



Lesser yellowlegs at Sackville Waterfowl Reserve (©Mike)

We took a somewhat surprising route, once again guided by our misbehaving?! satnav to reach Johnson's Mills where waders gathered in smaller numbers than expected at their high tide roost. There were perhaps 5,000 semipalmated sandpipers and a few semipalmated plovers to be seen but these were frightened off by two people with 'scopes walking along the beach. We also saw an adult bald eagle here as well as two passes by a peregrine. No doubt the latter bird was as put out as we were by the near complete lack of waders present now.

It was time to head for Halifax for our final evening meal before driving to the airport for our flight back to the UK. During this drive we saw another bald eagle; a red-tailed hawk, a few common ravens and a small flight of Canada geese. We arrived at the restaurant in good time and were soon tucking in to another delicious meal. That completed, we refuelled, drove to the airport, adjusted any necessary packing before checking in and relaxed for our flight which departed more or less on time.

Thursday 25 August

Arrive UK

Arrived back at Heathrow a little behind schedule, cleared customs, collected luggage and bade farewell to the clients who all said how much they had enjoyed the tour especially the wonderful sightings of the whales!

SPECIES LIST:

BIRDS

PHEASANTS & ALLIES

Common Pheasant

Phasianidae

Phasianus colchicus

Heard at the Marathon Hotel in the early evening of 21st.

WILDFOWL

Canada Goose

Anatidae

Branta canadensis

Seen on 5 successive days of the tour from 18th and also on 24th.

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

First seen on 18th at the sewage lagoon in Bouctouche and then on 22nd and 24th.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

5 seen at Sackville Waterfowl Park on 24th.

American Wigeon

Anas americana

8 seen at Long Pond on 21st with perhaps there and at the sewage lagoon the following day.

American Black Duck

Anas rubripes

Noted on 6 days.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Only seen at Sackville Waterfowl Park and town on 24th.

Blue-winged Teal

Anas discors

3 or 4 at Sackville Waterfowl Park on 24th.

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

A few were at Rotary Park, Bouctouche on 17th where we saw some more the following day. There were perhaps 25 at Bouctouche sewage lagoon on 18th too. Also noted at Sackville Waterfowl Park on 24th.

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

First one was seen at Bouctouche Sewage Lagoon on 18th and then seen on a further 3 days. The birds were mostly females or eclipse plumage males.

Common Eider

Somateria mollissima

During the journey back from Kouchibouguac National Park we followed the coast road as much as possible and saw a group of 14 birds of this species. With visits to the coast every day after this, the species was recorded on a further 6 days.

Hooded Merganser

Lophodytes cucullatus

A female was at Long Pond on 21st and the bird on the nearby sewage lagoon the following day was probably the same bird.

Common Merganser

Mergus merganser

A female with 9 or 10 well grown young in tow was our first sighting on 18th in Kouchibouguac National Park and a little later that day we saw another female with some smaller young.

DIVERS (LOONS)

Great Northern Loon (Diver)

Gaviidae

Gavia immer

One during the coastal route back from Kouchibouguac was our only sighting of the tour.

PETRELS & SHEARWATERS

Sooty Shearwater

Procellariidae

Ardenna grisea

A few seen during our ferry crossings to and from Grand Manan and a few more seen during the whale watching trip with Peter Wilcox on 20th.

Perhaps 6 individuals were seen from the big deck near Long Eddy Point Lighthouse on 21st.

Great Shearwater

Ardenna gravis

Plenty seen during each ferry crossing and also seen during the whale watching trip. From Long Eddy Point Lighthouse on 21st there were perhaps 20 to be seen but the following morning during misty conditions and a break in the rain, we could see around 250 birds just offshore where Porpoises

STORM PETRELS	Hydrobatidae	were possibly forcing fish towards the surface where the shearwaters could reach them.
Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Many seen during the whale watching trip on 20 th .
Leach's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	2 or 3 seen during the whale watching trip on 20 th .
GREBES	Podicipedidae	
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	8 seen at the Sackville Waterfowl Park on 24 th including a couple of well grown young.
HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS	Ardeidae	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Seen on 6 days of the tour with the most seen on 18 th along various parts of the coast.
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2 well seen on 18 th in Kouchibouguac National Park.
BOOBIES & GANNETS	Sulidae	
Northern Gannet	<i>Sula bassana</i>	First seen along the coast west of Bouctouche on 18 th then also seen on 20 th , 22 nd and 23 rd .
CORMORANTS	Phalacrocoracidae	
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Common. Seen every day of the tour.
NEW WORLD VULTURES	Cathartidae	
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	First seen during the drive to Blacks Harbour and during the wait for the ferry on 19 th then 3 on 21 st on Grand Manan, 4 during the drive to Fundy NP on 23 rd and also seen on 24 th .
KITES, HAWKS & EAGLES	Accipitridae	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Lots of nests on pylons etc. with birds actually seen on 17 th & 18 th from our hotel in Bouctouche plus others on 19 th and 23 rd .
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	2 seen during the drive northwards from Blacks Harbour on 23 rd .
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	First seen on 18 th then noted on a further 5 days with some of the best sightings on Grand Manan. A female was close to Bouctouche on 18 th then a male was seen at Blacks Harbour on 19 th . Another female was seen far out to sea and heading south on 20 th during our whale watching trip and also noted on 24 th .
Northern (Hen) Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1 on 18 th at Kouchibouguac National Park and another on 23 rd at Lepreau Falls.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	2 sightings; 1 in flight to the west of Bouctouche on 18 th and another the following day on the way towards Blacks Harbour.
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	8 birds seen migrating southwards at Blacks Harbour on 19 th could have been this or the next species or a mixture of both.
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	8 birds seen migrating southwards at Blacks Harbour on 19 th could have been this or the previous species or a mixture of both.
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	1 seen from the vehicle during the journey towards Halifax on 24 th .
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	2 birds probably of this species seen at Kouchibouguac National Park on 18 th .
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	

FALCONS & CARACARAS	Falconidae	
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	A pair seen on overhead wires during an inadvertent minor detour (satnav guided!) on 17 th .
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	One seen on a roadside fence to the north of Castalia Marsh on 21 st then later the same day another was seen at Woodward Cove being chased by one of 2 Peregrines.
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One large bird presumed to be a female flew low overhead at Hopewell Rocks on 19 th then 2 seen at Woodward Cove on 21 st and finally 1 seen on 24 th .
PLOVERS & LAPWINGS	Charadriidae	
Grey (black-bellied) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1 on 18 th at Kouchibouguac National Park, 1 on 20 th at Castalia Marsh and then a flock of at least 35 at Castalia Marsh on 21 st .
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	3 seen during a quick visit to Rotary Park on 17 th then a few were at Kouchibouguac National Park on 18 th and then noted on 21 st and 24 th .
SANDPIPERS	Scolopacidae	
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	2 at Rotary Park on 17 th were our first then also seen on 18 th , 19 th , 21 st and 24 th .
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Seen on 6 days of the tour with the largest numbers at Sackville Waterfowl Park on 24 th where there were in excess of 80 birds in the company of the next species.
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Seen on 6 days of the tour with the largest numbers at Sackville Waterfowl Park on 24 th where there were in excess of 120 birds in the company of the previous species.
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	1 seen at Grassy Lake in Fundy National Park on 23 rd .
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Singles seen on 17 th and 18 th at Rotary Park (probably the same bird), 1 at Eel Lake on Grand Manan on 22 nd and 1 the following day in Fundy National Park.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Perhaps 60 seen in Kouchibouguac National Park on 18 th then also seen on a further 5 days with the largest numbers being 5,000 at Johnson's Mills on 24 th .
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	2 seen at Sackville Waterfowl Park on 24 th .
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	A single bird at Sackville Waterfowl Park was the first for a Travelling Naturalist tour to this area.
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Hundreds seen during our whale watching trip from Grand Manan on 20 th .
Red (Grey) Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Many seen during our whale watching trip from Grand Manan on 20 th but not as many as the previous species.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS	Laridae	
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	A few were during the ferry crossing to Grand Manan on 19 th and then noted on the following 4 days.
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	10 – 12 seen at Rotary Park on 17 th then dozens noted on Bouctouche Sewage Pond on the following 2 mornings.
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Only specifically identified on 18 th and 24 th .
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Small numbers seen every day in Canada from 18 th .
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Large numbers seen every day in Canada.
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	A single sighting at Kouchibouguac National Park on 18 th .
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	2 at Kouchibouguac on 18 th and 5 or 6 during the return ferry crossing on 23 rd .
AUKS	Alcidae	
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	3 seen on 19 th during the ferry crossing to Grand Manan and then quite a few seen the following day during our whale watching trip. At least 5 seen from the shore on 22 nd and a few seen during the return ferry crossing on 23 rd .
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grille</i>	Probably in the region of 25 seen during our whale watching trip on 20 th and a few seen from the shore the following day.
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Around half a dozen seen during our whale watching trip on 20 th and 2 or 3 seen from the ferry on 23 rd .
PIGEONS & DOVES	Columbidae	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Some pure bred/highbred seen during the tour but mostly feral pigeons noted. Seen on 5 days of the tour.
American Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Seen in small numbers usually around habitations on every day of the tour.
HUMMINGBIRDS	Trochilidae	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	One seen before breakfast on 18 th in Rotary Park and also noted later the same day. Then odd ones and twos seen from 21 st – 25 th inclusive.
KINGFISHERS	Alcedinidae	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	First seen on 18 th in Rotary Park then 2 seen on 22 nd at Great Pond and finally 2 at Sackville Waterfowl Park on 24 th .
WOODPECKERS	Picidae	
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Two seen near Long Eddy Lighthouse on 22 nd and one in a garden near the ferry terminal before our departure from Grand Manan on 23 rd .
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Odd ones and twos seen on six consecutive days from 18 th .
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS	Tyrannidae	
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	One seen in the hand during ringing along Shore Road on 20 th and also noted on 22 nd .
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Just a single sighting of a bird near the hotel on 20 th .
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Also seen in the hand on 20 th along Shore Road at a ringing location.

JAYS & CROWS	Corvidae	
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	One on 27 th during the drive to Bouctouche then small numbers seen on each of the next 6 days.
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchus</i>	Common. Noted every day.
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A single bird seen during the drive to Bouctouche on 17 th then noted on a further 5 days.
WAXWINGS & ALLIES	Bombycillidae	
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Very numerous and a lovely species to see every day except 17 th .
TITS & CHICKADEES	Paridae	
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Seen in Kouchibouguac National Park on 18 th and then noted on 5 consecutive days from 20 th .
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Parus hudsonicus</i>	A single sighting of a lone bird along the road to Wolfe Point in Fundy National Park.
SWALLOWS & MARTINS	Hirundinidae	
Tree Swallow	<i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i>	A few seen over the sewage pond in Bouctouche on 18 th and a few around the hotel in Alma on 24 th .
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Single birds seen on 18 th in Bouctouche and on 24 th in Alma.
KINGLETS	Regulidae	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Singles seen on 18 th in Kouchibouguac National Park then on 21 st and 22 nd .
NUTHATCHES	Sittidae	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Lots seen during our tour and local people seemed to indicate that numbers present were much higher than usual.
MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS	Mimidae	
Grey Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Two near Long Eddy Point on 22 nd .
STARLINGS	Sturnidae	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Seen every day in Canada and also seen close to Heathrow on 25 th !
THRUSHES	Turdidae	
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	A family of 4 seen close to Long Eddy Point on 22 nd and a single bird was seen near Long Pond later that same day.
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Seen every day in Canada.
FINCHES & ALLIES	Fringillidae	
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	A fine male seen in Kouchibouguac National Park on 18 th and then small numbers seen on 4 consecutive days from 21 st .
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	4 or 5 birds seen beneath a bird feeder on 22 nd on Grand Manan.
Common (Red) Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	12-15 birds seen on 24 th along the road to Wolfe Point in Fundy National Park.
NEW WORLD WARBLERS	Parulidae	
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	A single bird seen in the hand during ringing along Shore Road on 20 th and another seen along Wolfe Point Road on 24 th .

American Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga aestival</i>	Well seen near the Bouctouche sewage lagoon on 18 th and also noted on the next 2 days.
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Setophaga striata</i>	A single bird seen in a garden close to the ferry on Grand Manan on 23 rd
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	At least 3 seen during lunch in Kouchibouguac National Park on 18 th and the only other sighting of this species was of a single bird near Long Eddy Lighthouse on 21 st .
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	First seen on 20 th during pre breakfast walk then we had a very close view of one in the hand during ringing later that same morning. Small numbers also noted on 21 st , 22 nd & 24 th .
Black-and-White Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	One seen in the hand during ringing on 20 th and another bird seen near Long Pond on 21 st .
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	A very brief view of a male near Long Eddy Lighthouse on 21 st .
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Really good views of a single bird near Miller's Pond on 22 nd and then spotted the following day along Old Shepody Road on the edge of Fundy National Park.
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	One seen near Long Eddy Point Lighthouse on 21 st then a further 2 seen at the Southwest Head Lighthouse later the same day.
CARDINALS		
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	At least 4 seen on and below feeders in a garden on Grand Manan on 22 nd .
NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS		
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Small numbers seen on the first 3 days of the tour and also on 22 nd and 23 rd .
BUNTINGS & NEW WORLD SPARROWS		
Emerizidae		
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Seen every day in Canada from 18 th
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	First seen on 19 th in Kouchibouguac National Park then good views at Hopewell Rocks and also noted on 23 rd and 24 th .
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Only a single sighting confirmed and this was on 22 nd close to the Long Eddy Point Lighthouse.
Nelson's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus nelson</i>	First seen in Rotary Park on 17 th and also there again on 18 th then seen at Castalia Marsh on 21 st .
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerine</i>	At least 3 seen in Kouchibouguac National Park during lunch on 18 th .
MAMMALS		
RORQUALS (BALEEN WHALES)		
Balaenopteridae		
Northern Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	2 seen from the ferry on the way to Grand Manan on 19 th , 1 seen on 22 nd from Long Eddy Point Lighthouse and also 1 or 2 seen during the return ferry crossing on 23 rd .
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	2 seen during the ferry crossing to Grand Manan on 19 th and at least 2 seen during the whale watching trip the following day.
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	8 or more seen during our whale watching trip on 20 th and a further 3 seen during the return ferry crossing on 23 rd .
RIGHT WHALES		
Balaenidae		

Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	At least 20 seen during the ferry crossing to Grand Manan on 19 th then maybe a dozen during our whale watching trip the following day. From Long Eddy Point Lighthouse there were at least 30 of this species seen on the morning of 21 st . We also noted this species from the same lighthouse the following day and during the return ferry crossing on 23 rd . Really good to see so many of this species during our visit to Grand Manan.
DEER White-tailed Deer	Cervidae <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	One close to the hotel on 20 th and another there the following day. We also saw 2 on Grand Manan on 22 nd plus 2 during the road journey from the ferry to Lepreau Falls. Close to the falls themselves we saw another 3 individuals but these all turned out to be plastic models!
RODENTS SQUIRRELS Woodchuck	Sciuridae <i>Marmota monax</i>	One seen very briefly on Grand Manan on 22 nd then 1 close to Alma in Fundy National Park on 23 rd and then better views of at least 3 before leaving Fundy National Park on 24 th .
American Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Noted on 6 of the days of our tour in various locations where there was good forest cover.
ARMOURED MAMMALS North American Porcupine	Erethizontidae <i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Noted on 3 days of the tour but sadly only of the sub species horizontalis as we journeyed along various roads.
EARLESS SEALS Grey Seal	Phocidae <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	At least 30 seen in the area where we watched Humpback whales on 20 th and a few were noted on the following 3 days.
Harbour (Common) Seal		At least 1 seen during the ferry crossing on 19 th then also noted on 20 th and 22 nd .
AMPHIBIANS Spring Peeper American Tree Frog Northern Wood Frog Northern Leopard Frog Bullfrog	<i>Hyla crucifera</i> <i>Hyla cinerea</i> <i>Rana sylvatica</i> <i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	
REPTILES Smooth Green Snake	<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	
BUTTERFLIES Black Swallowtail Large White Clouded Sulphur Red Admiral American Painted Lady Great Spangled Fritillary Common Wood Nymph	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i> <i>Pieris brassicae</i> <i>Colias phyllodice</i> <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> <i>Vanessa virginiensis</i> <i>Speyeria cybele</i> <i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	

OTHER INSECTS

Band-winged Grasshopper *Trimerotropis infantilis*
Water Strider *Araignée de eau*

DRAGONFLIES

Common Whitetail *Libellule lydiene*
White-faced Meadowhawk *Sympetrum eclaireur*

LIST OF PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFIED BY LIZ READ**Pinaceae**

Larix laricina **Tamarack**
Abies balsamea **Balsam Fir**

Picea

Picea rubens **Red Spruce**
Picea glauca **White Spruce**

Betulaceae

Betula papyrifera **Paper Birch**
Betula alleghaniensis **Yellow Birch**
Alnus incana ssp rugosa **Grey/Speckled Alder**

Fagaceae

Quercus rubra **Northern Red Oak**

Platanaceae

Platanus occidentalis **American Sycamore**

Aceraceae

Acer saccharum **Sugar Maple**
Acer rubrum **Red Maple**

Tiliaceae

Tilia tomentosa **Lime/Basswood**

Oleaceae

Fraxinus americana **White Ash**

Polygonaceae

Polygonum persicaria **Lady's Thumb**

Chenopodiaceae

Salicornia **Glasswort**

Caryophyllaceae

Viburnum lantanoides **Hobblebush**
Viburnum opulus **Highbush Cranberry/Guelder Rose**

Nymphaeaceae

Nupha advena **Cow-lily/Spatter-dock**

Cucurbitaceae

Echinocystis lobata **Wild Cucumber**

Droseraceae

Drosera rotundifolia **Common Sundew**

Rosaceae

<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Beach Rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp	Bramble
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Wild Red Raspberry
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Common Chokecherry
Fabaceae	
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Rabbit-foot Clover
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Lathyrus japonicas</i>	Beach Pea
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's Foot Trefoil
<i>Melilotus officianalis</i>	Sweet Clover
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
Balsaminaceae	
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Jewel-weed/Orange Balsam
Malvaceae	
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
Clusiaceae	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort
<i>Hypericum canadense</i>	Irish St John's-wort
Onagraceae	
<i>Oenothera</i> spp	Evening Primrose
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
Lythraceae	
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
Cornaceae	
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Bunchberry
Apiaceae	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
Myrtaceae	
<i>Myrtis communis</i>	Common Myrtle
Menyanthaceae	
<i>Nymphoides cordata</i>	Floating-heart
Oxalidaceae	
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	Yellow Wood Sorrel
Convolvulaceae	
<i>Ipomoea sagittata</i>	Pink Morning Glory
Rubiaceae	
<i>Galium asperellum</i>	Rough Bedstraw
Boraginaceae	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Small Forget-me-not
Verbenaceae	

<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	White Vervain
Lamiaceae	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	American Germander
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil
Solanaceae	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
Plantaginaceae	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
Campanulaceae	
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	Water Lobelia
Scrophulariaceae	
<i>Verbascum Thapsus</i>	Great Mullein
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax
<i>Euphrasia americana</i>	Eyebright
<i>Melampyrum lineare</i>	Narrow-leaved Cow-wheat
Asteraceae	
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Early Goldenrod
<i>Solidago occidentalis</i>	Lance-leaved Goldenrod
<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	Seaside Goldenrod
<i>Solidago bicolor</i>	Silver-rod
<i>Gnaphalium obtusifolium</i>	Catfoot
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Blue Sailors/Chicory
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-pye-weed
<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	Orange Hawkweed/Fox and Cubs
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Common Burdock
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear/Bull Thistle
<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	Rough Fleabane
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Daisy Fleabane
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple weed
<i>Symphotrichum novi-belgii</i>	New York American Aster
Liliaceae	
<i>Clintonia borealis</i>	Corn-lily
Eriocaulaceae	
<i>Syngonanthus flavidulus</i>	Hatpins
Gramineae	
<i>Spartina spp</i>	Cordgrass
Juncaceae	
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush
Typhaceae	
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Cattail
Cyperaceae	
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge

Osmundaceae

Osmunda claytonia

Interrupted Fern

Dryopteridaceae

Polystichum acrostichoides

Christmas Fern