

BIRD TREKS

MONHEGAN ISLAND!

Maine's Most Enchanting Offshore Location

Dates Monday, 25 September through Friday, 29 September 2017: 5 days & 4 nights

We'll visit The coastal village of **Port Clyde**, where we'll leave by ferry for our 70-minute, 12-mile cruise to *Monahigan*, 'Island of the Sea', watching for a variety of seabirds, whales, and seals during our crossing.

Monhegan Island is one and one-half miles long and half a mile wide. It is one of the **finest migrant and vagrant traps** on the North Atlantic Coast.

Seventeen miles of trails that lace Monhegan, from its **rocky headlands** to the nine-acre **Meadow**, and the famous **Ice Pond** and **Lobster Cove**. We will spend the entire time on foot - - the ferry from the mainland does not transport vehicles. Very nice and peaceful!

Target birds include a fine assortment of *regular Atlantic Coast migrants*, plus some *uncommon migrants* and a few *vagrants*. We will search for species such as . . .

Red-necked Grebe
Common Loon
Northern Gannet
Great Cormorant
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Common Eider
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Black-bellied Plover
Parasitic Jaeger
Black Guillemot
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Western Kingbird
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Philadelphia Vireo
Magnolia Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Wilson's Warbler

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Dickcissel
Clay-colored Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Baltimore Oriole
Bobolink
Purple Finch



**Monhegan
Lighthouse**



Humpback Whale

- - photos by
Bob Schutsky,
tour leader

[Itinerary begins on page 2]

Monhegan rarities seen on previous September Bird Treks Tours have included . . .

King Eider	Pomarine Jaeger	Say's Phoebe(!)	Nelson's Sparrow
Cory's Shearwater	Glaucous Gull	Western Kingbird	Orchard Oriole
Magnificent Frigatebird(!)	Caspian Tern	Blue-winged Warbler	Red Crossbill
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Black Skimmer	Golden-winged Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
	Red-headed Woodpecker	Prothonotary Warbler	

MONHEGAN ISLAND, MAINE 25 - 29 September 2017

DAY AGENDA

- 1 The tour begins in Port Clyde, Maine, a two-hour ride from the Bangor Airport. You can choose to ride to Port Clyde with Bob, or meet the group at the dock. The Monhegan Boat Line will provide the transportation to our island destination. During the 70-minute crossing, we'll look for pelagic species that may include a **Northern Gannet**,



Prothonotary Warbler,
a vagrant from the south.

- - Tom Amico

Black Guillemot, rafts of **Common Eiders**, and possibly a **Bald Eagle**, **Parasitic Jaeger**, or **Great Shearwater**. We should also see **Harbor Seals** and **Harbor Porpoises**, and maybe a **WHALE** or two. One year a **Cape May Warbler** joined us on the boat for the entire crossing. All four nights will be in the quaint, comfortable Island Inn, overlooking Monhegan Harbor.

- 2 - 4 Each day will be a **new adventure** as we explore Monhegan's 17 miles of walking trails. Most songbirds are **nocturnal migrants**, so we will spend much of the day searching for overnight arrivals. Places like the Ice Pond and the road to Lobster Cove can be especially productive, particularly if a cold front and resultant northwest winds push migrants out to sea from the mainland. Lobster Cove is a great spot to watch for migrant **raptors**, **waterfowl**, **seabirds**, and a few **shorebirds**. Years ago after a storm we found a **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** there! And we once spotted a **King Eider** close offshore among the thousands of **Common Eiders**. Backyard feeders can be quite active and yield species including **Baltimore Oriole**, **Rusty Blackbird**, **Indigo Bunting**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. Several feeding stations are famous for **Dickcissel**, **Lark Sparrow**, and **Clay-colored Sparrow**. We often find all three. One year along the road through the village we found a **Say's Phoebe** and a **Western Kingbird**, during our first **TWO HOURS** on the island! Two years later we found yet another **Say's Phoebe**! We'll return to the lighthouse after our delicious dinner to look and listen for nocturnal migrants in the beam of the light.

[Day 5 and more details on page 3]

5 We'll spend our final morning on the 700-acre island, checking the known **hot spots, migrant traps,** and the ocean from **Burnt Head,** then head for the dock and our return ferry ride to the mainland and late day flights home.

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On one of our previous tours, a cold front moved through late on the day prior to our departure and produced a dramatic fallout of thousands of nocturnal migrants. Birds were raining from the sky for several hours after dawn. During the next few hours we were constantly looking at newly arrived songbirds and raptors. Several of the more unusual species that we found included **2 Western Kingbirds, 2 Dickcissels, 3 Clay-colored Sparrows, Hooded and Prothonotary Warblers, American Woodcock, Winter Wren,** and an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker.** It was a very exciting and action-packed morning of birding and an incredible ornithological spectacle. All of the previous days provided great birding: this final day was phenomenal!

A complete list of the species found on our previous tours is available on our web site. Total number of species on our ten previous tours ranges from 79 to 118.

A **tour map** that shows the ferry ride and birding hot spots on the island can be seen here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?ll=43.77224%2C-69.311757&spn=0.018098%2C0.038581&msa=0&mid=1BVt2Tao1iW93fqx82qOZZNVtYZI>



Barry Ulman



Tom Amico



Barry Ulman

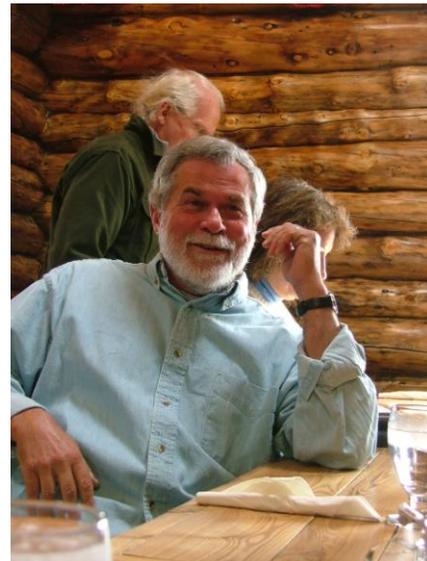
Lark Sparrow (upper left),
Dickcissel (middle),
Clay-colored Sparrows
(lower right). Sometimes
we see **ALL THREE** in
the same field of view!

[More details on page 4]

Leader The **Monhegan Island Adventure** will be led by **Bob Schutsky**, a veteran of 45 years of Atlantic Coast birding. Bob has happily birded Monhegan on many occasions. He will have you at the best spots at the right times for lots of great birding.

Price \$2075 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$395. We will take a maximum of seven participants. On rare occasion we may extend the maximum to ten participants.

Includes Expert guide service, entrance fees, **ALL meals**, lodging for four nights, and boat fare to and from Monhegan Island. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader.



Does not include the cost of airfare to and from Bangor, Maine, or ground transportation to Port Clyde. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, help you arrange this transportation. Also not included are the costs of alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature.

THE EXTRA MEALS AND MOTEL BETWEEN THE GRAND MANAN AND MONHEGAN ISLAND TOURS ARE FREE IF YOU REGISTER FOR BOTH OF THESE PRIME TIME MIGRATION TOURS. See the separate **Grand Manan, New Brunswick** itinerary for more details.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 33 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her at Bailey Travel/Travel Time toll-free at **1-800-224-5399**, or direct at **717-855-2128**, or e-mail her at lori@trvltime.com. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There will be a small fee for these services.

Deposit A \$500 deposit will assure your spot on this tour. The balance is due on 25 July 2016. Please register as soon as possible, as lodging is limited on the island.

Refund and Cancellation Policy With written notice more than 60 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$75 service fee. With 30-60 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once the tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** and mention **BIRD TREKS, ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply with ease via the Internet at www.allianztravelinsurance.com or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.