

BIRD TREKS

GRAND MANAN, NEW BRUNSWICK *at the Mouth of the Bay of Fundy*

Dates Wednesday, 20 September through Sunday, 24 September 2017: 5 days & 4 nights

We'll visit The **Grand Manan Archipelago** that consists of the 100 square-mile main island and 20 smaller islands. It is one of the **finest migrant and vagrant traps** in the Canadian Maritimes.

We'll travel by van to all of the most scenic and best birding spots on the main island, including **The Whistle, Swallow Tail, Castalia Marsh, Southwest Head Lighthouse**, and the **Grand Manan Migratory Bird Sanctuary**.

We'll travel by boat to **Whitehead Island**, and then sail into deeper water for some **fine pelagic birding and whale watching**. Our September 2012 pelagic trip was spectacular, both for birds and whales, and comfortable weather.

Target birds include a nice assortment of *regular Atlantic Coast migrants* and *pelagic species*, plus some *uncommon migrants* and a few *vagrants*. A few rarities are to be expected. We will search for species such as . . .

Red-necked Grebe	Philadelphia Vireo
Sooty Shearwater	Blue-headed Vireo
Manx Shearwater	Nashville Warbler
Northern Gannet	Black-throated Green Warbler
Great Cormorant	Blackpoll Warbler
American Bittern	Wilson's Warbler
Common Eider	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Merlin	Dickcissel
Peregrine Falcon	Savannah Sparrow
Black-legged Kittiwake	Lark Sparrow
Pomarine Jaeger	Lincoln's Sparrow
Black Guillemot	Swamp Sparrow
Atlantic Puffin	Fox Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Indigo Bunting
Hermit Thrush	Baltimore Oriole
Boreal Chickadee	Purple Finch



Atlantic Puffins are likely offshore.

- - Ron Simpson

[Day-by-day itinerary is on page 2]

GRAND MANAN, NEW BRUNSWICK

20 - 24 September 2017

DAY

AGENDA

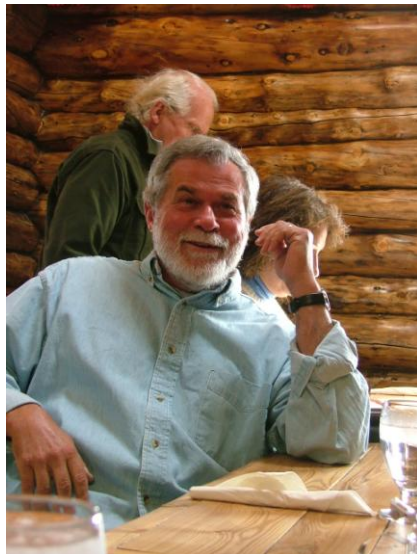
- 1 The tour begins in Bangor, Maine. Plan to arrive at the airport by noon. We'll drive east to the Canadian border (remember your passport & to change your watch!), then continue on the scenic drive to the ferry terminal at Blacks Harbour, New Brunswick. During the 90-minute crossing we'll look for pelagic species that may include **Northern Gannet, Black Guillemot, Great Shearwater, Pomarine Jaeger, Red Phalarope, and Black-legged Kittiwake**. We should also see **Harbor Seal, Harbor Porpoise**, and possibly a **Humpback or Finback Whale**. All four nights will be at the Shorecrest Lodge, a beautiful location on Grand Manan.
- 2 - 4 Each day will be a **new adventure** as we explore the 100 square-mile main island and some of the smaller adjacent islands. Most songbirds are **nocturnal migrants**, so we will spend much of the day searching for overnight arrivals. The Whistle and Swallow Tail can be especially productive locations, particularly if a cold front and resultant northwest winds push migrants off the mainland. Southwest Head is a great spot to watch for migrant **raptors, waterfowl, seabirds**, and a few **shorebirds**. One year we found a **Dickcissel** at Southwest Head and a very rare **RUFF** at Castalia Marsh, along with **Red Knot, Whimbrel, American Golden-Plover, and Red-necked Phalarope**. A **BLACK SKIMMER** made an unexpected appearance on a previous tour. Backyard feeders can be quite active and yield species such as **Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and an **unusual sparrow** or two. Long Eddy near the lighthouse is an area of intense tidal current and can host a myriad of feeding **seabirds** and perhaps a **Sabine's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, or Black-legged Kittiwake**. Two boat trips are planned: one to nearby White Head Island to look for **Boreal Chickadee, Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Northern Goshawk**; the other into deeper offshore waters in search of **whales** and additional **pelagic birds**. Because we are staying at the same lodge each night and driving from there daily, we can easily drive you to the lodge at mid-day to pursue your own private agenda, such as a quiet stroll, a good book, or perhaps a nap.
- 5 We'll be at the dock for an early morning ferry crossing back to Blacks Harbour, New Brunswick. There may be a bit of time for some birding and some great habitat at **Moosehorn NWR** near the Maine border. Our final destination is **Bangor, Maine** for your afternoon flight home.

OR . . . Our **Grand Manan Tour** may be combined with the 5-day tour to **Monhegan Island, Maine** from 25 - 29 September 2017, for a total of **TEN incredible days** of North Atlantic Maritime birding. See the separate **Monhegan** itinerary for details. Please join us! See page 3 of this itinerary for the **FREE OFFER** on the day between the two tours!

[Important details are on page 3]

Click on the following link for a **map of the tour route** and the places that we will visit:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?ll=45.27392%2C-67.311172&spn=0.282192%2C0.617294&msa=0&mid=1vL0F14Cfx4sZw7xAGWQK880eoHI>



Leader The **Grand Manan Migration Special** will be led by **Bob Schutsky**, a veteran of 45 years of Atlantic Coast birding. Bob led all of our previous Grand Manan Tours and is anxious to return with you.

Price \$2195 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$315. 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, all boat and ferry rides, and ground transportation beginning and ending in Bangor. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything extra that you may wish to give to your tour leader(s) or boat captains. **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.**

Does not include the cost of airfare to and from Bangor, Maine. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, arrange this transportation for you. Also not included are the cost of alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature. Remember your **passport**.

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**, direct at **717-855-2128**, or e-mail her office 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 the tour. The balance is due 20 July 2017.

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 via the Internet at www.allianztravelinsurance.com or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.