

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.

AUTUMN GRAND MANAN

August 29 – September 4, 2005

Leaders: Barry Zimmer and Victor Emanuel

This was a very successful trip, combining excellent luck with migrant shorebirds, passerines, seabirds, and whales! Shorebirds were most noteworthy on this tour with a record-setting 19 species including four firsts for Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Hudsonian Godwit. Landbird migrants (always unpredictable on this tour) were in abundance with an impressive 17 species of warblers tallied, including unusual finds such as Prairie Warbler. Seabirds also put on a great showing with huge numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels (fantastically close), our best showing for Leach's Storm-Petrel, and hundreds of Red-necked & Red Phalarope (species sometimes missed entirely) in addition to the abundant Greater Shearwaters. We had a great trip for whales as well---with 25+ Northern Rights(the rarest whale in the world)---many being right next to the boat and a couple of Finbacks from the ferry!

ITINERARY:

- August 29- arrival in Bangor
- August 30 - Frazer Point on Schoodic Peninsula, drive to Grand Manan with ferry ride from Black's Harbor to Grand Manan, brief birding around the Marathon (45 species)
- August 31 - The Whistle, Hole-n-the-wall Park, Castalia Marsh, Dark Harbor Road (73 species; 86 total)
- September 1 - The Anchorage, South Head, Castalia Marsh, Grand Harbor (76 species; 104 total)
- September 2 - all day boat trip to Gannet Rock, Old Proprietor's Shoal, and right whale area (38 species; 114 total)
- September 3 - The Whistle, ferry ride to Black's Harbor, return to Bangor via Hwy 9 with brief stop at Orono Bog Boardwalk (59 species; 128 total)
- September 4 - departures for home (128 total species)

KEY:

M = all areas in Maine

G = all areas on Grand Manan including boat trip, plus other parts of New Brunswick

bold-faced species indicate birds of rare, casual, or accidental occurrence

underlined species indicate birds of very uncommon occurrence or species that occur regularly but in such low numbers as to be easily missed

BIRDS:

Canada Goose M,G
American Wigeon G
American Black Duck G
Mallard M,G
Blue-winged Teal G
Green-winged Teal G
Ring-necked Duck G
Common Eider M,G---seen daily
White-winged Scoter G---two off the Anchorage spotted by Carolyn and four from the boat
Hooded Merganser G---two females at Castalia (an odd location)
Red-breasted Merganser G
Ring-necked Pheasant G
Common Loon M,G
Red-necked Grebe G---distant views of this uncommon species off the Anchorage
Greater Shearwater G---total of around 600 seen including many within 15 feet of the boat!
Sooty Shearwater G--40+
Manx Shearwater G---only one seen; normally more numerous
Wilson's Storm-Petrel G---sometimes missed entirely but we had a very impressive 1000+ with numerous birds dancing in the fish oil behind the boat; runaway winner for favorite bird of the tour
Leach's Storm-Petrel G---our best luck ever with this species with an estimated 25 seen from the boat with great comparative views with Wilson's
Northern Gannet G---less numerous than usual with only three seen
Double-crested Cormorant M,G
Great Cormorant G---poor views in the fog at Black's Harbor
Great Blue Heron M,G
Turkey Vulture G---our last afternoon near Ossie's
Osprey M,G
Bald Eagle M,G
Northern Harrier G
Sharp-shinned Hawk G
Broad-winged Hawk G---great study of adult perched on wire
Red-tailed Hawk G---rare on Grand Manan
American Kestrel M
Merlin M,G---four seen including great show of one dive-bombing a harrier over Castalia
Black-bellied Plover G---unusually numerous with 50 in one day
American Golden-Plover G---very uncommon; spotted by Victor
Semipalmated Plover M,G---almost daily
Killdeer G---heard only by Charles at Ossie's
Greater Yellowlegs M,G
Lesser Yellowlegs M,G
Solitary Sandpiper G---great study
Whimbrel G---uncommon
Hudsonian Godwit G---I believe a tour first
Ruddy Turnstone G

Red Knot G---behind the museum; uncommon
 Sanderling G
 Semipalmated Sandpiper G---by the hundreds
 Least Sandpiper M,G
 White-rumped Sandpiper G---good views of three; first spotted by Victor
 Pectoral Sandpiper G---one at Castalia
Buff-breasted Sandpiper G---stakeout rarity at Castalia; our first ever for the tour; initially spotted
 by Bob
 Short-billed Dowitcher G
Red-necked Phalarope G---about **500** seen from the boat plus a dozen from the ferry spotted by
 Virginia; often missed entirely
Red Phalarope G---about **500** seen from the boat; easily missed; excellent comparative views with
 Red-neckeds
 Pomarine Jaeger G---one adult from the boat, plus another unidentified jaeger in the distance
 Laughing Gull M--- at their northern limit
 Bonaparte's Gull M,G---singles near Schoodic and The Whistle
 Ring-billed Gull M,G
 Herring Gull M,G
 Great Black-backed Gull M,G
 Black-legged Kittiwake G
 Common Tern G
Arctic Tern G---only one immature seen for certain, though there were other unidentified sternas;
 easily missed
Black Tern G---two different birds on our boat trip; another tour first
Common Murre G--- always tough; one seen from the ferry
 Razorbill G---a total of five seen with particularly great views of an adult and young near Seal Cove;
 voted the second favorite bird of the tour
 Black Guillemot M,G---seen daily
 Atlantic Puffin G---our lowest total ever with only 9 on our boat trip---however one was seen within
 fifteen feet of the boat!; the first spotted by Jerry
 Rock Pigeon M,G---who can get used to that name?
 Mourning Dove M,G
 Common Nighthawk G---somewhat late
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird G---not seen by most
 Belted Kingfisher M---by one van only near Machias
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker M---at Orono Bog
 Northern Flicker G---the "Yellow-shafted" variety
Olive-sided Flycatcher G---three the same morning; late
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher G
 Alder Flycatcher G
 Least Flycatcher G---the most numerous empid
 Eastern Kingbird G
 Blue-headed Vireo G---only one seen
 Red-eyed Vireo G
 Blue Jay M,G
 American Crow M,G
 Common Raven M,G
 Tree Swallow G---from the boat!
 Barn Swallow G---one late bird

Black-capped Chickadee M,G
 Red-breasted Nuthatch G---less numerous than usual with only ten seen
 Brown Creeper G
Winter Wren G---two seen, the first spotted by Carolyn in the dump; uncommonly seen
 Golden-crowned Kinglet M,G
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet G
 Swainson's Thrush G---by some
 Hermit Thrush G---including one recently fledged juvenile
 American Robin G,M
 Gray Catbird G---mostly heard
 European Starling M,G
 Cedar Waxwing M,G---common
 Tennessee Warbler G---one the last morning in the dump
 Nashville Warbler G---five seen
 Northern Parula G---four seen
 Yellow Warbler G---more numerous than usual with 12 seen
 Chestnut-sided warbler G---a total of six seen
 Magnolia Warbler G---one of the more common migrant warblers with 23 seen
 Yellow-rumped Warbler G---Myrtle; about five seen
 Black-throated Green Warbler M,G---the most common migrant warbler with about 47 seen
Blackburnian Warbler G---one near Dark Harbor appeared briefly in the thicket
Prairie Warbler G---one spotted by Victor along The Whistle was a nice rarity
Palm Warbler M---two at Orono Bog of the eastern yellow race were a treat
 Blackpoll Warbler G---only two seen our last morning
 Black-and-white Warbler G---eleven seen
 American Redstart M,G---final count of 23
 Common Yellowthroat M,G---about 20
 Wilson's Warbler G---six seen
Canada Warbler G---three total
 Chipping Sparrow G
 Savannah Sparrow G
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow G--- nice views of the dull race *subvirgatus*
 Song Sparrow M
 Swamp Sparrow G
 White-throated Sparrow M,G
 Dark-eyed Junco G---Slate-colored
 Red-winged Blackbird G---only at the ferry landing in North Head
 Common Grackle M,G
 Brown-headed Cowbird G---uncommon; one at the ferry landing
 Baltimore Oriole G---somewhat late
 Purple Finch G
 American Goldfinch G
 House Sparrow M---great views in the Bangor McDonald's; one of our last new birds!

total species - 128

MAMMALS:

Harbor Seal
Harbor Porpoise
Northern Right Whale---an estimated 25 seen from the boat including many wonderful displays
(breaching, spy hopping, etc.)
Finback Whale---two from the ferry
Red Squirrel
Gray Squirrel---nearly hit by Victor
Woodchuck---not seen by all
Eastern Chipmunk
White-tailed Deer
Snowshoe Hare---introduced

total species - 10

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS:

Smooth Green Snake---in hand inspection
Wood Frog---ditto

total species - 2

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS:

Donner vs. Donder
lobster in various forms
blueberries in various forms
miniature golf at Durlan's---(Durlan=42, Peter=46, Jerry=51, Carolyn=51, Barry=54, Victor=54,
Virginia=61, Joyce=63, Lorna=63, Jan=68)