

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

June 25: Your flight must arrive in Halifax by tonight.

June 26: Drive the eastern Nova Scotia coastline, making our way to Sherbrooke. You'll pick up our first of many Black-headed Gulls. An afternoon stop at beautiful Taylor's Head Provincial Park often yields Common Eider, Boreal Chickadee, and Blackpoll Warbler, among many other species.

June 27: An early morning beckons as we head to Waternish Road to see what warblers are flitting about. On a busy day, 20 different warbler species are possible. On previous trips, we've spotted Canada, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-White, Blackpoll, Blackburnian, Pine, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Tennessee, Nashville, Mourning, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Palm, Wilson's warblers. We might also spot a Three-toed Woodpecker.

Weather will largely determine our afternoon ventures, but you'll visit scenic Port Bickerton if the weather permits.

June 28: This morning, you'll depart Sherbrooke for Antigonish Landing, where Nelson's Sparrows are common. This area can also provide rarities like Black-headed and Iceland gulls. After leaving Antigonish Landing, it's a short drive to Pomquet Beach, where we hope to spot nesting Piping Plovers.



Northern Gannet by Client Mo Henning

This trip also exposes you to the Gaelic culture, and at lunch, you'll enjoy some Gaelic music while dining on yet another fabulous meal of primarily seafood. The French town of Cheticamp beckons us this evening. This charming town is in Cape Breton and adjacent to the national park. Occasionally, moose are spotted out our lodge windows in the nearby stream.

June 29: You'll spend the day exploring Cape Breton Highlands National Park. One of the challenges is to find the elusive Bicknell's Thrush. The areas also often yield White-winged Crossbill, Blackburnian Warbler, Black Guillemot, and perhaps our first view of Northern Gannet.

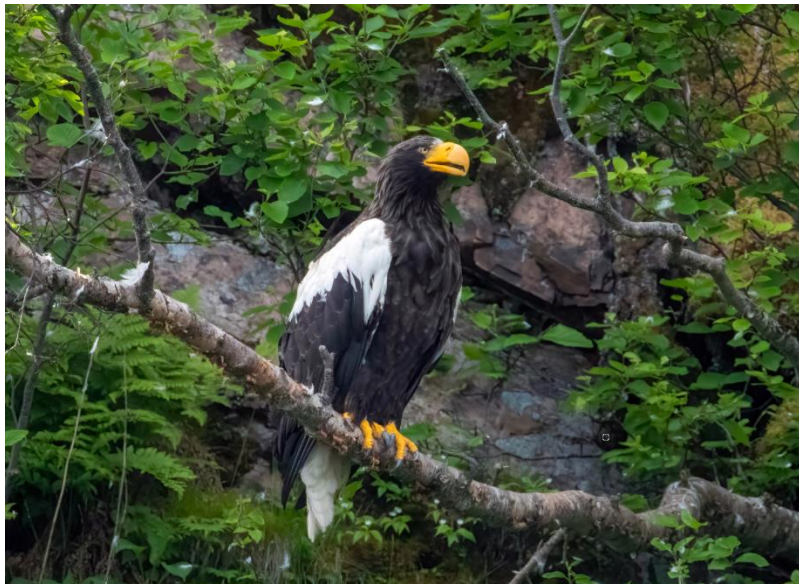
June 30: After departing Cheticamp, you'll

drive to Port Morien. This picturesque point is also excellent for birding, with Arctic Tern, Great Cormorant, Surf, White-winged, and Black scoters all distinct possibilities. At around 4:00, you'll board our ferry, which will take us over 400 miles to Newfoundland.

July 1: Canada Day! What a way to celebrate this national holiday. You'll awaken early and head to the starboard side of the ferry. As we near the Grand Banks, bird activity picks up, with Great, Sooty, Manx shearwaters, Northern Fulmar, and Leach's Storm-Petrel being our primary targets. We've also spotted Long-tailed Jaeger on previous trips. Our ferry lands at about 10 in the morning. Our driver will take us north to Bonavista, where Atlantic Puffin abound. Overnight, Bonavista



July 2: The day's highlight is the boat trip you'll take out of Trinity. Whales are common here, but our target is the Steller's Sea Eagle, one of the largest raptors. This massive eagle has frequented this area for the past two summers, and last fall, it was spotted building a nest and mating with an American Bald Eagle. Overnight in Bonavista, Newfoundland.



1 Steller's Sea Eagle by Al Cuaghey

July 3: This morning, you'll awaken early to bird Elliston Point, the only place in Newfoundland where puffins can be photographed by foot from shore. You'll drive to Cape St. Mary's, home to North America's second-largest Northern Gannet colony. Upwards of 30,000 gannets fill almost every space on the cliffs. It's an incredible spectacle. The birds are protected from people, as a 500+ foot drop-off provides an excellent barrier. Other targets on the cliffs include

Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Murre, and Razorbill. You will also visit the cliff

where Thick-billed Murres nest. This spot is so special it should be on every nature enthusiast's bucket list. Overnight in St. Bride's.

July 4: Today, we have a full day to explore Cape St. Mary's. We can return to the reserve if fog prevented ideal viewing yesterday, or we may visit Point Lance, where previous groups spotted a herd of over a hundred caribou. Cataracts Provincial Park is spectacular, with a beautiful waterfall and an amazingly diverse array of wildflowers. Overnight in St. Bride's.

July 5: You'll depart St. Brides with picnic lunches. You'll arrive at St. Vincent's Beach about two hours later, where humpback whales feed very close to shore. This is a "must-see" spectacle, even for the seasoned whale-watcher. We've timed our trip to match peak whale activity. If we are lucky, you'll be so close to the whales that you'll see and smell their blows. Our stop this afternoon will be the quaint town of Trepassey. Northern Gannets consistently plunge drive for capelin here. Overnight in Trepassey.

July 6: You'll head out to Witless Bay Reserve this morning. The scenery in this area is jaw-dropping, and birds like Atlantic Puffin and great and Sooty Shearwater are common, and an occasional Jaeger occasionally may zip by. After lunch, you'll arrive in Bay Bulls for a boat trip to Gull Island, North America's largest breeding colony of Atlantic Puffins. The over 400,00 puffins are joined by an even larger colony of Common Murres. We also often spot Thick-billed Murre, Razorbill, and other seabirds.

July You'll explore historically significant Signal Hill. Along your drive to Cape Point, you'll enjoy a leisurely hike to search for gray-cheeked Thrush. You'll arrive at the northeasternmost point of the North American Continent, where you may get a last glimpse of whales and a variety of Sea Birds.

This evening is our first of two nights in St. Johns. Food on the trip has been very good to this point, and St. John's takes dining to a new and magnificent level.

July 7: Today is our last full day in Newfoundland. You'll visit local ponds, which sometimes yield rarities like pink-footed geese, gray-cheeked Thrush, tufted duck, Eurasian wigeon, and many more. You'll also stand on the northeasternmost point of the North American continent. The Memorial University botanical garden is another excellent stop, both for birds that may have been elusive and beautiful plantings.

July 8: You'll be transported to the airport for your flight home!