

Newfoundland & Labrador Cruise | Species List July 24 – August 3, 2018 | by Greg Smith



With Geoff Carpentier (OOE staff ornithologist), Greg Smith (Naturalist Journeys), Karen, Debra, Meghan, Pat, Reg, Meg, Jordan, Bill, Dorothy, Leah & Kurt

July 15 – Sydney Harbor and the Fortress of Louisbourg
July 16 – Woody Point, Newfoundland
July 17 – No landing Newfoundland Coast
July 18 – Battle Harbor / Labrador Coast
July 19 – Hopedale / Labrador Coast
July 20 & 21 – Torngat National Park, Saglek and Nachlek Fjords
July 22 – Button Islands
July 23 – Crossing the Straits to Baffin Island
July 24 – Frobisher Bay
July 25 – Iqaluit / Departures



DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (9)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* – Two large and two smaller individuals were seen on one of the coastal ponds at Fortress Louisbourg

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* – Large groups in Wentworth Municipal Park near the city waterfront gave us great looks to discern whether they were hybrids or not

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* – Seen on our first day at the Fortress of Louisbourg and on subsequent days from the zodiac and during our hikes

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* – A small group of six females/immatures were seen during our zodiac cruise around Nachveck Fjord in Torngat National Park

Surf Scoter *Melanitta fusca* – Seen during our zodiac ride into the Button Islands

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* – Two drakes were seen roosting on the rocks outside of Hopedale with a group of Common Eider



Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* – As we drove into Iqaluit after disembarking from the Ioffe, we had a lone fledgling in one of the many ponds alongside the road

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* – During our rainy zodiac cruise of Nachveck Fjord in Torngat National Park

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* – A flock of twelve birds went shooting by the ship as we left Torngat National Park and headed out into open water

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES (2)

Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus* – For those on the second bus, one individual crossed the road in a wooded area leading into the community of Louisbourg

Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* – We flushed a juvenile from the alder-lined Cobra Creek area in Torngat National Park

LOONS: Gaviidae (3)

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellate* – A couple of flybys were seen as we entered the islands around Hopedale

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* – We had two fly by the ship after first dropping anchor in Torngat National Park

Common Loon *Gavia immer* – First seen in the Sydney Harbor by our hotel, then at the Fortress of Louisbourg. Non-existent further north

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (4)

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* – During our first days, we'd pick up a couple a day, but in the far north, we had them in bigger numbers, with most being the white-phase

Great Shearwater *Adrenna gravis* – Seen during our fifteen-minute humpback reaching event

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* – A few were seen on our second full day off of Newfoundland, all while we were watching a fifteen-minute humpback breaching display

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* – We had one from the library land right next to the ship one day so that three of us got great looks

GANNETS AND BOOBIES: Sulidae (1)

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* – Seen daily on our first five days, often close to the ship. They never seemed to be solo, as you would most always see more than one

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2)

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* – There were a few mixed in with the DCCo on the rocks between Fortress Louisbourg and the Louisbourg Lighthouse



Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* – Seen the first day in the Sydney harbor and then around the early harbors we visited

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (1)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* – One individual was seen by those on the second bus to Fortress Louisbourg roosting on the intertidal rocks

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (2)

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* – One soaring over the Button Islands was a big surprise

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* – For those of us outside on the ship and before our Woody Point landing, a good-looking adult worked its way through the islands

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (1)

Semipalmated Plover *Calidris pusilla* – Our last day in Torngat National Park provided us with our only sighting of this southbound migrant

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (5)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* – We had three flying around and then seen foraging in the coves adjacent to Battle Harbour

Willet – Two were roosting in one of the coastal ponds at Fortress Louisbourg in crisp, alternate plumage

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* – A small flock landed near our zodiac landing site at Hopeland

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* – Two were seen paralleling the ship before turning into Bomme Bay in Newfoundland

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* – Seen and heard at Woody Point as it flew overhead

JAEGERS AND SKUAS: Stercorariidae (3)

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* – A group of three were seen harassing terns on our move into Bomme Bay, and then daily thereafter

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* – A fine looking adult was working in the same general area as the three barrel-chested Pomeraines were, but seen almost daily thereafter in the open ocean

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* – Seen with a burst of seabird activity in the seas off the Labrador Coast near Hopedale, and then again as we cruised in the pack ice.

AUKS, MURRES AND PUFFINS: Alcidae (5)

Common Murre *Uria aalge* – Seen blasting by the ship when we were doing bridge watches on the first four days



Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* – This species overlapped with Common Murre only on the seas Hopedale. They then replaced Common Murre on the water and in small groups in flight. Once in the pack ice they were seen perched upright like little penguins.

Razorbill *Alca torda* – First seen in the Button Islands and then in Baffin Island's Frobisher Bay on our last full day

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grille* – Seen sporadically in the early days of the cruise, but when we got into the fjords further north, they were daily

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* – Mostly seen flying in front of the ship during our bridge watches, usually in singles or doubles

GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS: Laridae (11)

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* – We did have them almost every day from our first full day at sea til our last day

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus Philadelphia* – Seen in transit along the Newfoundland coast and also heading towards Battle Harbour

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* – There were two working the waterway between Fortress Louisbourg and the Louisbourg Lighthouse

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* – Seen on every day, but numbers lessened the further north we traveled

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* – First seen in the Hopedale area, and then sporadically for the rest of the trip

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperborues* – Seen as we headed north, from Hopedale onward we spied them among the other gulls in small numbers.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* – Seen from the ship a couple of time in the very south of Newfoundland

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* – Seen very well in the Sydney Harbour and then sporadically thereafter almost until we moved further north, common and impressively large



Caspian Tern *Hydropogone caspia* – Only one, and that was foraging over the water at Woody Point

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* – Seen foraging along the waterfront of the Bomme Bay at Gros Morne

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* – Seen on only three days, but when they were around, they were abundant

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (1)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* – Regular in Sydney, and a few were seen in different towns further into the trip

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* – Seen twice, first in Sydney Harbour and then at Woody Point

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (1)

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus* – Seen on our walk around Wentworth Municipal Park in Sydney

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)

Merlin *Falco columbarius* – One of these fighter falcons screamed by us on our Woody Point landing while trying to get additional looks at the Mourning Warbler

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – One was seen buzzing the trees outside of the Woody Point Harbour

VIREONIDAE: Vireos (1)

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* – Seen (and heard singing incessantly...) in the trees near the Wentworth Municipal Park in Sydney

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (3)

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* – A family group was seen marauding around Wentworth Municipal Park in Sydney

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* – Seen on the first two days, common in Sydney, around the Fortress Louisbourg, and at Gros Morne.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* – A family group of four, plus two individuals were seen at Fortress Louisbourg and then near the different villages further north

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (3)

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* – Three we seen flying at Fortress Louisbourg, and again at Bomme Bay and Battle Harbour

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* – Numerous individuals were flying about the fields surrounding the Fortress Louisbourg, Less numerous than Cliff swallow, but more numerous than Tree



Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* – Very numerous and nesting on buildings at Fortress Louisbourg, , we also had them near the Gros Morne Visitor Centre

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus* – Common in Sydney, especially around our lodging on the waterfront

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* – The one that landed on the ship and stayed for a day gave us many good looks

THRUSHES: Turdidae (1)

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* – First seen foraging on the grass at Wentworth Municipal Park near the Sydney waterfront

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* – Common along the Sydney waterfront but not seen anywhere else on the trip

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (1)

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens* – We had a pair nesting out on the point at Battle Harbour that made for very good looks

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* – A very small flock was seen at Fortress Louisbourg on our very first day

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (5)

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis Philadelphia* – A singing male in Bomme Bay got our attention. Always a striking-looking bird when you get a chance to see this skulker

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* – Seen in the small pockets of woods around our hotel in Sydney, and at the Wentworth Municipal

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata* – Seen, and heard by some, during our walk around Woody Point neighborhood

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronate* – Seen foraging in the trees around Fortress Louisbourg

Wilson’s Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* – The “common” warbler on the trip

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (9)

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* – We had this species on our hike in Saglek Fjord in Torngat National Park



Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* – We had family groups around the trees at Wentworth Municipal Park in Sydney

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* – A cooperative pair were nesting near the RCMP office in Battle Harbour, and at a few other locations were the expected *oriantha* race

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* – A very vocal and well seen individual in Bomme Bay gave us our best looks

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* – Common around Fortress Louisbourg during our bird walk

Savannah Sparrow (Ipswich) *Passerculus sandwichensis* – We had two of this very pale race on our bird walk at Fortress Louisbourg

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* – Sydney, the Fortress of Louisbourg and Woody Point all had this species singing in the open fields with shrubs

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii* – One individual was seen near the lower (older...) cemetery in Bomme Bay

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana* – Seen in Sydney close to our hotel along the waterfront.

Nelson's (Sharp-tailed) Sparrow *Ammodrammus nelsoni* – We had a nesting female regularly delivering food to its nest and then departing with fecal sacs during our Fortress Louisbourg bird walk

FINCHES: Fringillidae (5)

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* - At least two were heard singing on our zodiac cruise around Saglek Fjord in Torngat National Park

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus* – Two were seen in the dead trees above the Woody Point cemetery

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* – Our first sighting was a small group in the backyards of Hopedale residents

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus* – Seen foraging in the trees around our lodging along the Sydney waterfront and a solo individual at Battle Harbour



American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis* – Seen in Sydney along the waterfront, at the Fortress Louisbourg, and at Gros Morne National Park. More common in flight and calling

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – Seen in Sydney where they were common, at the Fortress Louisbourg they were very uncommon

87 species

MAMMALS

Muskrat - On our first day in Sydney we had an individual transporting food back to its burrow in Wentworth Municipal Park

Arctic Hare - A gorgeous full-grown individual gave everyone around great looks at Hebron, about as far south as they range

Bog Lemming - We did get to see this lemming just after landing at Hebron, with this being only one of two species found in coastal Labrador

Short-tailed Weasel - One was seen on our hike Saglek Fjord in Torngat National Park

Caribou *Rangifer tarandus* - It took us until our last hour in Torngat National Park to find two of the ??? heard hanging out on a large snow patch

American Black Bear *Ursus americanus* - We didn't get a look at this species until we got into Torngat National Park and had three different sightings on our first day

Polar Bear *Ursus maritimus* - We had two different sightings on our very first day in Torngat National Park. And in talking with our Parks Canada guides, they had counted at least 320 in an aerial survey of just the shoreline of the park. We had a total of thirteen for the trip

Harp Seal *Pagophilus groenlandicus* - Quite common in the Button Islands, but not seen anywhere else on the trip



Bearded Seal *Erignathus barbatus* - We had our first during a zodiac cruise of Hebron, loads of long whiskers made for an easy id...

Ringed Seal *Pusa hispida* - We had one definite as we cruised out of Torngat National Park

White-beaked Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* - Seen at sea the day we were supposed to visit L'Anse Aux Meadows

Atlantic White-sided Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus* - We had them at least twice on our cruise up the Newfoundland coast

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* - The best views were of an individual breaching for twenty minutes on our transit to Woody's Point

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorstrata* - We all got to watch an individual continue to breach for about five minutes just south of Bomme Bay

14 species

