

Birding in Newfoundland Itinerary June 18 – June 27, 2010

Day 1 – June 18: Fly to Newfoundland (Canada)

Meet our group and A Friend in New York™ staff at 3:00 p.m. at Newark Liberty Airport Terminal C to check in for your 6:05 p.m. nonstop flight to St. John's, Newfoundland (Canada). This is a late arrival in St. John's, where your hosts will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your downtown St. John's hotel.

*Please note that airport portage is not included; however, free luggage carts are available at St. John's airport.

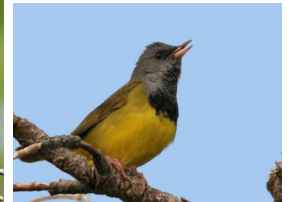
(Included meals: in-flight food service)

Day 2 – June 19: St. John's Newfoundland

Sleep in. The group will assemble at 11:00 a.m. for a city tour and orientation. After a late lunch we will start the birding in earnest with a 2 hour visit to Canada's largest botanical garden east of Montreal. Look for **warblers**, **boreal chickadees**, and **butterflies**.

Overnight in St. John's.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, welcoming dinner)



Day 3 – June 20: Newfoundland Coast and LaManche Valley

Today begins with a boat voyage featuring North America's largest **puffin** colony together with hundreds of thousands of other breeding seabirds (**common murre**s, **thick billed murre**s, **razorbills**, **kittiwakes**, and **black guillemots**). We may also enjoy the company of members of this planet's largest summertime gathering of acrobatic **humpback whales**. Often other whale species and pelagic seabirds such as **gannets**, **fulmars**, **greater shearwaters**, and **sooty shearwaters** join Newfoundland's coastal feeding frenzy.

After lunch we enjoy the birding at LaManche Valley. Northern woodland bird specialties including **boreal chickadee**, **pine grosbeak**, **gray jay**, **yellow-bellied flycatcher**, **Lincolns sparrows** and **Swainson's Thrushes** as well as **nesting warblers**, are likely on this or our other planned walks through the boreal forests. **Caribou** and **moose** will be two of our target land mammals.

Enjoy an independent evening in St. John's, the new world's first city. Check out the restaurants, dinner theatre, or the haunted hike.

Our local host will be full of suggestions.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)



Day 4- June 21: The Irish Loop

Say farewell to old St. John's as we travel the Irish Loop. We make a brief stop at Lord Baltimore's first new world colony, check out the **common and arctic tern** colony that greeted the Mayflower when it first landed in the new world, and explore coastal lookouts for **whales** and **seabirds**. We enjoy a traditional lunch in a small community restaurant before travelling to one of our best kept whale watching secret locations and a hopeful search for **Willow Ptarmigan** and **caribou**.

Overnight in St. Brides.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)



A Friend in New York™ has partnered with Wildland Tours of Newfoundland and Labrador to present this custom tour for birders. Wildland Tours has hosted gentle, escorted small-group adventures for 25 years.

In 1990, Wildland Tours received the Governor General's Award for Conservation in recognition of our pioneering work in eco-tourism and in 2000 won the Heritage Canada Sustainable Tourism Award. In 2009 Wildland Tours president Dave Snow and Wildland Tours guests/associates provided most of the research photographs as Dave co-authored Canada's species at risk report for Atlantic orcas. In 2010 Dave co-authored a study on white-beaked dolphins in the North Atlantic. In 2008 and 2009 National Geographic recognized Wildland Tours as one of the world's leading adventure tour operators. Wildland Tours also remembers our valued guests promising wild but gentle days in amazing Newfoundland and Labrador locations, and comfortable nights in great local hotels.

- Please note that all birds and other animals noted in this itinerary are wild animals. Accordingly, A Friend in New York™ and Wildland Tours cannot guarantee that any particular species will be spotted during this tour. The particular species indicated in this itinerary are based upon the experience and knowledge of local birders and naturalists in these areas.
- During our visit, sunrise in St. John's will be a few minutes after 5 a.m., and sunset a few minutes after 9 p.m., giving us nearly 16 hours of daylight. Solar noon on June 21 (summer solstice), will be at 1:03 p.m.

Day 5- June 22: Cape St. Mary's and Terra Nova National Park

The morning starts with a visit to the continent's third largest **Northern Gannet** colony at Cape St. Mary's. This site is also a breeding ground for thousands of other seabirds including the world's most southerly breeding **Thick-billed Murres**. We should get great views of **gannets, kittiwakes, and murres** with their eggs and/or **first chicks of the year**. We'll search the barrens of the area for **Horned Lark, Savannah Sparrows, and American Pipits**. Even the **American Robins** in this area can be ground nesters. **Northern Harriers** and **Short-eared Owls** are on the raptor list. If the whales are a week early we could enjoy some of the world's finest land-based whale watching, as the high sea cliffs allow us to watch the whales cavort around their northern coastal feeding grounds.

In the afternoon we drive on to Terra Nova National Park stopping to check out some wildflower and orchid patches on the way. Tonight's hotel offers some great walking trails or you can check out the near by fishing community. The local hotel ladies are such great traditional chefs that we have to include one evening meal at this stop. We have had guests return to this property for the wonderful homemade bread. Overnight in Terra Nova

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)



Day 6- June 23: Trinity and Bonavista

Trinity and Bonavista are two of our oldest and most famous fishing communities. The headlands jut out into Iceberg Alley snagging giant chunks of Greenland glacier as they drift past. We explore the communities and take a boat trip out to look for **eagles, whales, and icebergs** before returning to Terra Nova for the night. The National Park has an active evening program and if time allows we will take in the local entertainment or interpretation program.

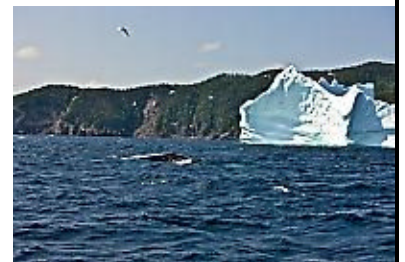
(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)



Day 7- June 24: Twillingate, Iceberg Alley

Today we follow the tradition of birding holidays everywhere and get up early and head for Twillingate in the heart of Iceberg Alley. Our stops include Boyd's Cove where the trail has yielded both **black-throated green and black-throated blue warblers**. We stop at a lookout where we search for **Caspian terns** and take some time to explore Newfoundland's fishing culture before catching our 4:00 p.m. boat tour out into Iceberg Alley. We enjoy our evening meal in Twillingate before travelling to Gander, the former Crossroads of the World, for the evening.

(Included meals: breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner)



Day 8- June 25: Via Coastal Road to Terra Nova

We depart Gander and enjoy a coastal road trip featuring sandy beaches and dramatic headlands. **Jaegers, shearwaters, fulmars, and petrels** are all hopeful sightings. We return to Terra Nova where (if time allows) we bird one of the park trails and make a quick stop at the Marine Interpretation Centre. Overnight in Terra Nova. (B, L)

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)

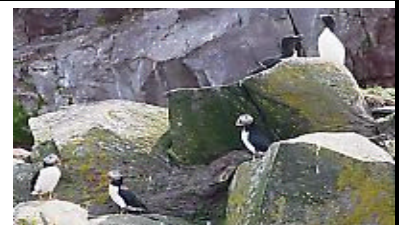


Day 9- June 26: Salmonier Nature Park and Bay Bulls

Depart Terra Nova for the boreal forest trails of the Salmonier Nature Park. Next it is on to Bay Bulls for our trip finale as we travel out to the new world's largest Atlantic **puffin colony** to enjoy the seabirds and whales. You will be amazed at the changes in the colony from our June 20 trip.

Overnight in St. John's.

(Included meals: breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner)



Day 10: Return Home

Up early for your flight home. Scheduled departure from St. John's at 8:40 a.m. and arrival at Newark Liberty Airport at 10:29 a.m.

Included meals: light breakfast, in-flight food service.

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For further information call A Friend in New York™ at (201) 656-7282

