



dilabiobirding

Winter Birding Tour: Newfoundland January 11- 16, 2010

GENERAL INFORMATION

Regardless of season, there is always something interesting to find in Newfoundland. Although it may seem like an unlikely winter birding destination, Newfoundland is a wonderful place to search for wintering gulls, alcids, Eurasian waterfowl, finches and Boreal forest birds. Due to its unique location, Newfoundland has an impressive list of vagrants, often wanderers from Greenland, Iceland, Europe and the Americas, in search of a first or last piece of land.

In winter, there may be as many as 10 species of gulls including target species such as Yellow-legged Gull, European Herring Gull, Common Gull and as well as Kumlien's and Black-headed Gull. Wintering Eurasian ducks can be found including Eurasian Green-winged Teal, Tufted Duck and Eurasian Wigeon. January is the best month of the year to see the charismatic little Dovekie, Thick-billed Murre and Great Cormorant. If conditions are favourable, White-winged Crossbill, Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings can be found in the abundant boreal forest regions. We will be in contact with the local birding community, so if any vagrants are discovered, we will have a good opportunity to see them.

The tour is based out of St. John's, the easternmost city in North America and renowned for its "Old World" charm. Perched on the granite edge of the harbor, it is known for its winding streets and colourful houses and serves well as a base from which to see the region's birds.

Tour Dates

Monday, January 11 to Saturday, January 16, 2010 (6 days)

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Limit : 5 participants

Cost

(From St. John's, Newfoundland) \$1,995.00 CAD plus GST based on double occupancy. Single supplement \$350.00.

The cost includes transportation in Newfoundland, accommodation, guide fees, park entrance fees, breakfast and lunch. The cost does not include supper, alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature such as laundry and telephone calls.

Activity Level

The pace of the tour is relaxed, with short, easy walking and most birding done from the vehicle or close by. At this time of year the sun rises late, 7:30 a.m., and sets a little before 5:00 p.m., so the days are relatively short.

Climate

Weather can be variable, however, it will be cold and snow and/or rain are likely during the course of the tour. Appropriate layered clothing is recommended and good waterproof footwear is advisable. Sunglasses are recommended. Most trails and paths are easy to moderate, likely snow-covered but manageable.

Accommodations

We will be staying at The Battery Hotel, St. John's (www.batteryhotel.com/)

Flight Information

Once the trip is confirmed, I will contact you to make the recommended flight arrangements to St. John's Newfoundland.

Payment

To reserve a spot on this trip, a \$300.00 CAD deposit is required, with final payment due 30 days prior to departure (December 11, 2009) Please make cheque payable to Bruce Di Labio.

Final Information

Final information with instructions for meeting the group, hotel addresses and phone numbers will be emailed about 3 weeks prior to trip departure. Other news will be communicated as necessary. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email or phone (613-839-4395). I will require from you emergency contact information and phone numbers prior to departure.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in St. John's (mid-afternoon)

If time permits, late afternoon birding around the harbour area.

Day 2-5: St. John's and the Avalon Peninsula

We will be based in a comfortable hotel overlooking St. John's harbour for the duration of our stay. We will spend most of our time in and around St. John's and the adjacent part of the Avalon Peninsula with some possibility of venturing further should we hear of any vagrants within driving distance.

Day 6: Flight home

KEY SPECIES

Yellow-legged Gull
European Herring Gull
Razorbill
Common Eider
European Mew (Common) Gull
Boreal Chickadee
Purple Sandpiper

Glaucous Gull
Bohemian Waxwing
Dovekie
Kumlien's Iceland Gull
Pine Grosbeak
Thick-billed Murre
Eurasian Wigeon

White-winged Crossbill
Black Guillemot
Eurasian Green-winged Teal
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Tufted Duck
Black-headed Gull
Great Cormorant