

# BIRD TREKS

## MONHEGAN ISLAND!

### Maine's Most Enchanting Offshore Location

**Dates** Monday, 20 September through Friday, 24 September 2010: 5 days & 4 nights

**We'll visit** The coastal village of **Boothbay Harbor**, where we'll leave by ferry for our 70-minute, 12-mile cruise to *Monhegan, Island of the Sea*, watching for various seabirds, whales, and seals during our crossing.

**Monhegan Island** is one and one-half miles long and half a mile wide. It is one of the **finest migrant and vagrant traps** on the North Atlantic Coast.

**Seventeen miles of trails** that lace Monhegan, from its **rocky headlands** to the nine-acre **Meadow**, and the famous **Ice Pond** and **Lobster Cove**. We will spend the entire time on foot. The ferry from the mainland does not transport vehicles. Very nice!

**Target birds** include a fine assortment of *regular Atlantic Coast migrants*, plus some *uncommon migrants* and a few *vagrants*. We will search for species such as . . .

Red-necked Grebe  
Common Loon  
Northern Gannet  
Great Cormorant  
Surf Scoter  
White-winged Scoter  
Common Eider  
Merlin  
Peregrine Falcon  
Semipalmated Plover  
Parasitic Jaeger  
Black Guillemot  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Western Kingbird  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Magnolia Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Yellow-breasted Chat  
Wilson's Warbler

Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Dickcissel  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
Lark Sparrow  
Lincoln's Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Baltimore Oriole  
Bobolink  
Purple Finch



**Monhegan  
Lighthouse**



**Humpback Whale**

- - photos by  
Bob Schutsky

[Itinerary begins on page 2]

Recent Monhegan rarities have included . . .

King Eider	Northern Wheatear
Magnificent Frigatebird	Hermit Warbler
Bridled Tern	Lazuli Bunting
Swallow-tailed Kite	Lark Bunting
Band-tailed Pigeon	Le Conte's Sparrow
Say's Phoebe	Henslow's Sparrow

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## MONHEGAN ISLAND, MAINE

20 - 24 September 2010

### DAY      AGENDA

1      The tour begins in Boothbay Harbor, an easy ride from the Portland Airport. You may be able to ride from Portland with Bob, or meet us at the dock. The Balmy Days Cruise Line will provide our transportation to our island destination. During the 70-minute crossing we'll look for pelagic species that may include **Northern Gannet**, **Black Guillemot**, rafts of **Common Eiders**, and possibly a **Bald Eagle**, **Parasitic Jaeger**, or **Greater Shearwater**. We should also see **Harbor Seals** and **Harbor Porpoises**, and maybe a **whale** or two. One year a **Cape May Warbler** joined us during the crossing. All four nights will be in quaint, comfortable lodging on Monhegan Island.



Prothonotary Warbler,  
a vagrant from the south.

- - Tom Amico

2 - 4      Each day will be a **new adventure** as we explore Monhegan's 17 miles of walking trails. Most songbirds are **nocturnal migrants**, so we will spend much of the day searching for overnight arrivals. Places like the Ice Pond and the road to Lobster Cove can be especially productive, particularly if a cold front and resultant northwest winds push migrants offshore. Lobster Cove is a great spot to watch for migrant **raptors**, **waterfowl**, **seabirds**, and a few **shorebirds**. Several years ago we found a **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** there! And we once spotted a **King Eider** close offshore among the thousands of **Common Eiders**. Backyard feeders can be quite active and yield species including **Baltimore Oriole**, **Rusty Blackbird**, **Indigo Bunting**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. Tom and Josephine Martin's feeders are famous for **Dickcissel** and **Lark** and **Clay-colored Sparrows**. We often find all three. One year along the road through the village we found a **Say's Phoebe** and a **Western Kingbird**, during our first afternoon on the island! Two years later we saw yet another **Say's Phoebe**! We'll return to the lighthouse after one of our well-prepared dinners to look and listen for nocturnal migrants in the beam of the light.

[Day 5 and more details on page 3]

5 We'll spend our final morning on the 700-acre island, checking the known hot spots, the ocean, and migrant traps, then head for the dock for our return ferry ride to Boothbay Harbor and late day flights home from Portland.

\* \* \* \* \*

On one of our tours a cold front moved through late in the day prior to our departure and produced a dramatic fallout of thousands of nocturnal migrants. Birds were raining from the sky for several hours after dawn. During the next few hours we were constantly looking at newly arrived songbirds and raptors. Several of the more unusual species we found included 2 Western Kingbirds, 2 Dickcissels, 3 Clay-colored Sparrows, Hooded and Prothonotary Warblers, American Woodcock, Winter Wren, and an adult Red-headed Woodpecker. It was a very exciting and action-packed morning of birding and an incredible ornithological spectacle. All of the previous days provided great birding: this final day was phenomenal!

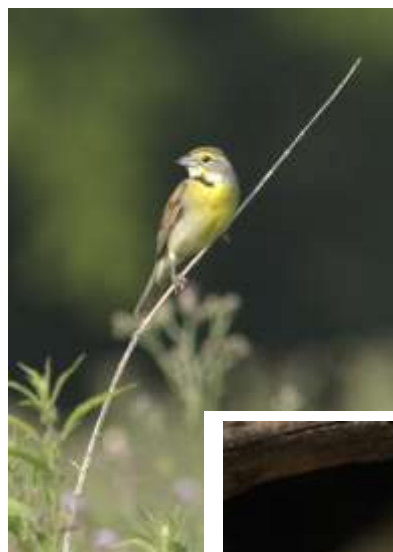
A complete list of the species found on our previous tours is available upon request.

A tour map that shows the ferry ride and birding spots on the island can be seen here:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117812928873209532533.0004625ff8a69e4221183&z=12>



Barry Ulman



Tom Amico



Barry Ulman

Lark Sparrow (upper left),  
Dickcissel (middle),  
Clay-colored Sparrows  
(lower right). Sometimes  
we see **ALL THREE** in  
the same field of view!

[Important details on page 4]

**Leader** The **Monhegan Island Adventure** will be led by **Bob Schutsky**, a veteran of 38 years of Atlantic Coast birding. Bob has happily birded Monhegan on many occasions. He will have you at the best spots at the right times for the best birding.

**Price** \$1595 per person based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$285.

**Includes** Expert guide service, entrance fees, **ALL meals**, lodging for four nights, and boat fare to and from Monhegan Island. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader(s).



Combine this tour with the **Grand Manan Tour** immediately preceding it, and the day between the two tours is **FREE**. See the separate **Grand Manan, New Brunswick** itinerary for more details.

Does not include the cost of airfare to and from Portland, Maine, or ground transportation to Boothbay Harbor. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, help you arrange this transportation. Also not included are the costs of alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature.

**Extra Services** We offer the services of our exclusive Bird Treks travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 24 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Please contact her through Bailey Travel at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail Lori at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There may be a fee for these services.

**Deposit** A \$400 deposit will assure your spot on this tour. The balance is due on 20 July 2010. Please register **EARLY**, as lodging is limited on the island.

**Refund & Cancellation** With written notice more than 60 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$75 service fee. With 30-60 days notice, you will receive 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once a tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact the Access America office at **1-800-284-8300** and mention **BIRD TREKS (ACCAM # F021096)**. You can apply by phone or the Internet at **www.accessamerica.com**.

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