

Canada
(Newfoundland and Nova Scotia)
Cruise from UK taking in The Faroes, Greenland and
Iceland

12 September – 16 October 2022

Pete and Caroline Stevens



The cruise started on The Ambience from Tilbury Docks on the evening of 12 September. It arrived at The Faroes on the 15 September allowing a walk into surrounding countryside and a beer in the Capital Torshavn. Though we had no desire to visit The Faroes due to our feelings about the Faroees cetacean hunts, it was an opportunity not to be repeated and part of the cruise itinerary.

The next stop was on the 19 September at Narsarsuaq in Greenland. Here we had the opportunity for a long walk as the ship did not sail again until 20:00. Our second stop in Greenland had to be abandoned due to weather conditions. So, the ship headed for Eastern Canada.

At sea we tried various locations on the cruise ship for the best birding and whale watching. Often the front or top decks were best for whales. However, Deck 8 at the rear provided sheltered viewing that proved the best overall.

There followed three days at sea during which the birding varied but, was at times spectacular. This included: Great, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, plus Leach's and Wilson's Petrels, Arctic, Pomarine and Great Skuas.

Our next stop was at St John's in Newfoundland on Saturday 23 September a bright and sunny day. We spent another night and day here due to the very unusual event of a hurricane that had passed up the eastern seaboard of Canada two days previously causing great damage to the ports of Halifax, Sydney and Charlottetown.

Our next stop then became Cap Aux Meules on the Iles de la Madeleine on 28 September after a day at sea. This was followed by days at Cornerbrook, Newfoundland, Havre St Pierre, and Baie Comeau before arriving in Quebec.. By 04 October we were in Montreal before starting our cruise back to the UK.

We cruised in the St Lawrence River and Seaway, then to Reykjavik, Iceland for a day before journeying to the coast of Scotland and down through the North sea eventually disembarking at Tilbury.

Day 1/2 - 12/13 September, At Sea

Few birds on the first two days

Black-headed Gull

Northern Gannet

Northern Fulmar

Day 3 – 14 September, At Sea

Northern Gannet (numerous)

Northern Fulmar (numerous)

Sooty Shearwater 1

Black-legged Kittiwake (numerous)

Razorbill 50+

Manx Shearwater 1

Herring Gull 2 imms

Day 4 – 15 September, Torshavn, The Faroes

Herring Gull

Great Black-backed Gull

Northern Gannet

Black-legged Kittiwake

Mallard

Eider

Meadow pipit

Blackbird

Starling

Northern Raven

Greylag Goose

Hooded Crow

House Sparrow

Rock Pipit

Rock dove

Day 5 – 16 September, At Sea

Northern Fulmar (numerous)

Black-legged Kittiwake (thousands)

Minke Whale

Short-finned pilot Whale

Fin Whale

Orca

Day 6/7 – 17/18 September, At Sea

Northern Fulmar

Black-legged Kittiwake

Day 8 – 19 September, Narsarsuaq, Greenland

Peregrine

Northern raven

White-tailed eagle

Common Redpoll

Northern wheatear

Lapland Longspur



Day 9 – 20 September, At Sea

Northern Fulmar (numerous)

Black-legged Kittiwake 6

Great Shearwater 4

Sooty Shearwater (small numbers seen regularly during any watch)

Arctic Skua 2

Pomarine Skua 2

Manx Shearwater 3

Little Auk 2

White-winged Gull 1

Day 10 – 21 September, At Sea

Northern Fulmar 20

Black-legged Kittiwake 12

Northern Gannet 1

Great Shearwater 2

Day 11 – 22 September, At Sea

Northern Gannet 2

Northern Fulmar (numerous, plus a small number of 'Blue' Fulmar))

Black-legged Kittiwake (numerous) lesser. Black-backed Gull 2

Great Shearwater 20+

Sooty Shearwater 1

Little auk 2

Guillemot 1

Leach's Petrel (A steady stream from 08:00 – 11:30 estimated at 7,500 at least)

Wilson's Petrel 3 (probably more)

Great Skua 2

Day 12/13 – 23/24 September, St John's, Newfoundland**23/09**

American Herring Gull

American Black Duck

Black-capped Chickadee

Bald eagle

Red-winged Blackbird

24/09

Dark-eyed Junco

Black-capped Chickadee

American Herring Gull

Ring-billed gull

Grey Jay

Blue jay

Belted Kingfisher

American Crow

Day 14 – 25 September,

Starling

Dark-eyed junco

Grey Jay

Blue jay

American crow

Fish Crow

Great Black-backed Gull

American herring Gull

Northern Gannet 12

Manx Shearwater 1

Guillemot 1

Day 15/16 – 26/27 September, At Sea

Great Shearwater 4

Great Black-backed Gull

American Herring Gull

Leach's petrel 1

Peregrine 1

Day 17 – 28 September, Cap Aux Meules

Starling 100s

Song Sparrow (common)

Dark-eyed junco 2

Red-winged Blackbird c30

American robin

American goldfinch 2

Tennessee Warbler 1

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Wilson's Snipe

Merlin

Northern Harrier

Great Blue Heron

Great Cormorant

Mourning Dove 8

Day 18 – September 29, Cornerbrook

Dark-eyed Junco

Blue Jay

Rusty Blackbird

American Black duck

Greater Scaup 1

Boat-tailed Grackle 2

Red-winged Blackbird

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Tennessee Warbler



Day 19 – 30 September, Havre St Pierre

Sanderling 7

Semi-palmated Plover 1

Thick-billed Murre 5

Black guillemot

Red-throated Diver

Rusty Blackbird

Red-winged Blackbird

Day 20 – 01 October, Baie Comeau

Downy Woodpecker 2

Ruffed Grouse 1

Yellow-rumped warbler

Surf Scoter 20+

Eider 7

Red-throated Diver

White-throated Sparrow

Peregrine

Red-tailed Hawk (light phase)





Day 21 – 02 October, Quebec

Canada Goose

Snow Goose

Black Scoter

Thick-billed Murre

Ring-billed gull

Bald eagle

Hairy Woodpecker

Brown creeper

Parula warbler

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Day 22 – 03 October, Quebec

White-throated Sparrow

Winter Wren

Turkey vulture

American robin

Hairy Woodpecker

Day 23 – 04 October, Montreal

Peregrine

Day 24 – 05 October, St Lawrence River and Seaway

Thick-billed Murre 20+

Harbour Porpoise (several individuals)

Beluga Whale (several individuals)

Day 25 – 06 October, St Lawrence River and Seaway

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1

Harbour Porpoise (several individuals)

White-throated Sparrow 3+

Dark-eyed Junco 3

Blackpoll Warbler 1

Guillemot

Northern Gannet

Northern Fulmar

Black-legged kittiwake

Day 27 – 07 October, St Lawrence Seaway

Eider 3

Orca 2 (c12:30 p.m.)

Northern Fulmar 2

Northern Gannet 1

Black-legged kittiwake

Sooty Shearwater 3

Black Scoter 1

Petrel sp. 1

Song Sparrow 1

Day 28 – 08 October, At Sea

Northern Fulmar

Sperm Whale 1 (09:30)

Day 29 – 09 October, At Sea

Northern Fulmar

Black-legged Kittiwake

Little Auk 2

Great Shearwater (216 between 08:30 and 11:30, largest group 47)

Dark-eyed Junco 1 – on board

Common Redpoll 3 – on board

Peregrine 2 - on board! Seen to kill and eat one of the Juncos

Day 30 – 10 October, At Sea

Sooty Shearwater 6

Wader sp. 2

Day 31 – 11 October At Sea

Puffin (continuous trickle passing during afternoon)

Sooty Shearwater 1

Iceland Gull

Northern Fulmar

Black-legged kittiwake

Day 32 – 12 October, Reykjavik, Iceland

Black-headed Gull

Herring Gull

Iceland gull 3

Eider 12+

Great Cormorant

Black Guillemot 4

Long-tailed Duck 6

Redwing 40+

Northern raven

Great Black-backed Gull

Whooper Swan

Wigeon

Greylag goose

Tufted Duck

Mallard

Merlin

Blackbird

Gadwall 6

Teal 1

Common Snipe 1

Purple Sandpiper 7

Glaucous Gull 6 at least

Starling



Day 33 – 13 October, At Sea

Northern Fulmar

Black-legged Kittiwake

Northern Gannet

Sooty Shearwater 7

Black-bellied Brent Goose 8

Guillemot 5

Razorbill 1

Puffin 4

NB Black-browed Albatross reliably identified briefly twice during the day by other birders while we were not present.

Day 34 – 14 October At sea

Day 35 Docked 08:00 at Tilbury

On Board during the cruise back from Canada were:

White-crowned Sparrow 1

White-throated Sparrow 1

Song Sparrow – up to 4

Dark-eyed Junco - up to 3

Common Redpoll - up to 3

Blackpoll warbler 1

Peregrine 2 (for two days)

Also seen by two others Palm Warbler

White-crowned Sparrow and two Juncos arrived back into Tilbury with the Ship.

Bird List

English name	Specific	Location(s)
Red-throated Diver		Havre St Pierre, Havre St Pierre (Canada)
Canada Goose		Quebec (Canada)
Snow Goose		Quebec (Canada)
Greylag Goose		Faroes, Reykavijk (Iceland)
Dark-bellied Brent Goose		Over Sea North of Scotland
Whooper Swan		Faroes, Reykavijk (Iceland)
Mute Swan		Cornerbrook (Canada)
Black Scoter		Quebec (Canada)
Surf Scoter		Havre St Pierre (Canada)
Eider		Faroes, Havre St Pierre (Canada)
Long-tailed duck		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Greater Scaup		Cornerbrook (Canada)
Tufted Duck		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Wigeon		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Gadwall		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Teal		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Mallard		Reykavijk (Iceland)
American Black Duck		St John's (Canada), Cornerbrook (Canada)
White-tailed Eagle		Greenland
Bald Eagle		St John's (Canada), Quebec (Canada)
Peregrine		Greenland, Baie Comeau (Canada)
Red-tailed Hawk		Baie Comeau (Canada)
Sharp-shinned Hawk		From Ship East of Newfoundland
Northern Harrier		Cap aux Meules
Merlin		Cap aux Meules, Reykavijk (Iceland)
Turkey Vulture		Quebec (Canada)
Great Black-backed gull		St John's (Canada)
Lesser Black-backed gull		Faroes, North Atlantic (west of Greenland)
Ring-billed Gull		St John's (Canada), Quebec (Canada)
American Herring Gull		St John's (Canada)
Herring Gull		Faroes,
Iceland gull		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Glaucous Gull		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Black-headed Gull		Tilbury (UK)
Black-legged Kittiwake		North Sea, Faroes, North Atlantic
Common Tern		Havre St Pierre (Canada)
Great Skua		North Atlantic
Pomarine Skua		North Atlantic (west of Greenland)

Arctic Skua		North Atlantic (west of Greenland)
Little Auk		North Atlantic (west of Greenland)
Guillemot		North Atlantic
Black Guillemot		Havre St Pierre, Reykavijk (Iceland)
Razorbill		Havre St Pierre (Canada)
Thick-billed Murre		Havre St Pierre, Quebec (Canada)
Atlantic Puffin		Faroes, North Atlantic
Oystercatcher		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Sanderling		Havre St Pierre
Semi-palmated Plover		Havre St Pierre
Spotted Sandpiper		Havre St Pierre
Purple Sandpiper		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Wilson's Snipe		Cap aux Meules
Common Snipe		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Eurasian Curlew		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Wilson's Petrel		North Atlantic (west of Greenland)
Leach's Petrel		North Atlantic (west of Greenland)
Manx Shearwater		North Atlantic (west of Greenland)
Great Shearwater		North Atlantic (west of Greenland)
Sooty Shearwater		North Sea, North Atlantic, (west of Greenland)
Fulmar		North Sea, Faroes, North Atlantic
Northern Gannet		North Sea, St John's (Canada)
Great Blue Heron		Cap aux Meules (Canada)
Great Cormorant		Cap aux Meules (Canada)
Belted Kingfisher		St John's (Canada)
Northern Raven		Faroes, Greenland,
Hooded Crow		Faroes,
American Crow		St John's (Canada)
Fish crow		St John's (Canada)
Blue Jay		St John's (Canada), Cornerbrook (Canada)
Grey Jay		St John's (Canada)
Rock Dove		Faroes,
Mourning Dove (8)		Cap aux Meules (Canada)
Ruffed Grouse		Havre St Pierre (Canada)
Downy Woodpecker		Baie Comeau (Canada)
Hairy Woodpecker		Quebec (Canada)
Brown Creeper		Quebec (Canada)
American Robin		Quebec (Canada)
Redwing		Reykavijk (Iceland)
Blackbird		Faroes,

Red-shouldered Blackbird		St John's (Canada), Cap aux Meules, Cornerbrook (Canada), Havre St Pierre
Rusty Blackbird		Cornerbrook (Canada), Havre St Pierre
Boat-tailed Grackle		Cornerbrook (Canada)
Winter Wren		Quebec (Canada)
Black-capped Chickadee		St John's (Canada)
Tennessee Warbler		Cap aux Meules, Cornerbrook (Canada)
Yellow-rumped Warbler		Cap aux Meules, Cornerbrook (Canada), Baie Comeau (Canada)
Blackpoll Warbler		On board Canada - Greenland
Northern Parula Warbler		Quebec (Canada)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Quebec (Canada)
Dark-eyed junco		St John's (Canada), Cap aux Meules, Cornerbrook (Canada)
Common Redpoll		Greenland
Lapland Longspur		Greenland
Northern Wheatear		Greenland
American Goldfinch		Cap aux Meules
Meadow Pipit		Faroes,
Rock Pipit		Faroes,
Eurasian Starling		Faroes, Cap aux Meules
House Sparrow		Faroes, Quebec
Song Sparrow		Cap aux Meules
White-crowned Sparrow		Cap aux Meules
White-throated Sparrow		Havre St Pierre, Quebec (Canada)