

2008 Pelagic Trips



After a short absence, the ABA Pelagic Directory is back. The following directory lists known opportunities for offshore birding in the ABA Area. The listings begin in Nova Scotia, following clockwise to Alaska. Trip operators have provided details about birds, marine mammals, fishes, and turtles to be expected, or hoped for, on specific trips. Look for this information under the heading “Comments”. If you know of other offshore birding opportunities that you would like to appear in future directories, please notify the editor of *Winging It* by sending information to winging@aba.org. Corrections, and possibly new additions, to the pelagic directory for 2008, along with current information will be added to the ABA website www.aba.org/resources/pelagics.pdf/. The information included here is current as of January 2008. Schedules and pricing can change. Please be certain to ALWAYS check with trip operators for current schedules and fares before finalizing your travel plans.

Ferry crossings, mostly not mentioned here, are another potential source for viewing pelagic species. Check ferry schedules to ensure that you will be crossing the best pelagic waters at the right time of day and that good onboard viewing areas are provided. In a few cases (e.g., the remote Alaskan waters), ferry service provides the only way for independent birders to get into pelagic waters (one of the few options for seeing Whiskered Auklet; but read Brad Benter's enticing narrative in this issue).

Additionally, coastal birding festivals sometimes include a birding trip. (The ABA's searchable online directory of bird festivals is: www.aba.org/festivals/). Many pelagic trips are organized on relatively short notice by individuals, museums, bird clubs, or ornithological societies. (As of January 10, no information had been provided for 2008 pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico.) The Internet is the quickest way to find out about unlisted opportunities. Sport-fishing boats, while not often the best pelagic option, may be the only way to get to some offshore locations. Good ocean fishing and good seabirding often overlap.

With the rapidly rising cost of fuel, many pelagic operators are now offering fewer trips of longer duration. Seabirding is one of the last frontiers in birding, where finding the uncommon is often the rule. See you offshore!

2008 ABA DIRECTORY OF PELAGIC BIRDING TRIPS IN NORTH AMERICA

1. Bird Islands, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

Departure Point: Mountain Vista Seaside Cottages, Big Bras d'Or, 20 minutes from North Sydney's Ferry to Newfoundland, 15 minutes from the Cabot Trail at St. Ann's, NS.

Destination: Bird Islands seabird colony, about 5 miles offshore.

Trip Length: 2-1/2 hours.

Trip organizer: Bird Island Tours, 1672 Old Route 5, Big Bras d'Or, Cape Breton, NS B1X 1B1, (800) 661-6680, 902/674-2384, fax 902/674-2742; www.birdisland.net/boat.html; puffin@birdisland.net

Dates of 2008 trips: Daily, sea permitting. May 15–Sept. 30.

Cost: inquire. Also have cottage rentals.

Comments: *May–Aug.*: Nesting Great Cormorant; Black-legged Kittiwake; Razorbill; Black Guillemot; Atlantic Puffin. *Possible:* Northern Gannet; Osprey; Bald Eagle; Purple Sandpiper (through early June); Arctic Tern. *Marine mammals:* Gray Seal (June 1–Sept. 15). The boat travels to Nova Scotia's largest seabird colony. Provides good photographic opportunities from the boat, including close to shore, but passengers do not land because of island's protected status. Trip includes a fully narrated tour.

2. Bay of Fundy Islands

Departure point: Tiverton, NS.

Destination: Digby Neck and islands in the Bay of Fundy.

Trip length: 2–3 hours.

Trip organizer: Ocean Explorations Whale Cruises, Box 719, Tiverton, NS

BOV 1G0; sales@oceanexplorations.ca; www.oceanexplorations.ca; 902/839-2417 or 1-877/654-2341; toll-free outside Digby area.

Schedule: early-June–mid-Oct.

Cost: CDN\$55 (plus tax). Group rates and exclusive charters can be arranged.

Comments: Not for the weak-hearted. Tours conducted on Zodiac-type boat or sometimes in 24-foot, fast, hard-bottomed boat. *Species:* Greater, Sooty, and Manx (most trips from early-Aug.–Oct.) Shearwaters; Wilson's Storm-Petrel; Northern Gannet; Red, and lesser numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes, (Aug. best); Pomarine and Parasitic (rare) Jaegers; skuas (rare, but Great Skua regular in Oct.); Black-legged Kittiwake (Sept.–Oct.); both murre and Razorbill (June and Sept.–Oct.); Black Guillemot; Atlantic Puffin. *Marine mammals:* Humpback, Fin, Minke, and Northern Right Whales; Atlantic White-sided Dolphin; Harbor Porpoise. Blue Whales seen in 1995 and 1996. Scheduled trips are primarily whale-watching expeditions; with owner wildlife/marine biologist Tom Goodwin. Check website for list of nearby accommodations.

4. Outer Bay of Fundy

Departure point: North Head Fishermen's Wharf, Grand Manan Island, NB.

Destination: The nutrient-rich tide rips and feeding areas of the outer Bay of Fundy

Trip length: 4–5 hours.

Trip Organizer: Whales-n-Sails Adventures, PO Box 1301, Grand Manan, NB E5G 4M9; toll-free phone 888/994-4044; web site

www.whales-n-sails.com info@whales-n-sails.com.

Date of 2008 trips: June–September.

Cost: \$60 CDN / person for a 4–5 hour tour. Charters and special birding trips available late May to Sept 30.

Comments: The *MSV Elsie Menota* is a 60-foot sailing vessel for up to 46 passengers. Every trip is lead by Marine Biologist Laurie Murison, a leading authority on the Bay of Fundy since 1982, and photographer/naturalist Allan McDonald. Primarily a whale-watching trip with a special sensitivity to those interested in birds.

Expectations: Abundant: Greater Shearwater; Wilson's Storm-Petrel; Red-necked Phalarope. *Regular:* Sooty Shearwater; Red Phalarope; Northern Gannet; Atlantic Puffin; Razorbill; Common Murre; Black Guillemot; Black-legged Kittiwake; Common and Arctic Terns. *Also possible:* Manx Shearwater; Northern Fulmar; Leach's Storm-Petrel; Thick-billed Murre; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers. *Rare:* Dovekie; Great Skua. *Very Rare:* Band-rumped Storm-Petrel; Magnificent Frigatebird. *Other species:* Common Eider; Great and Double-crested Cormorants; Bald Eagle. *Marine mammals and fishes:* Common: Northern Right Whale; Fin and Humpback Whales; seals, and Harbor Porpoise. *Occasional:* Basking Shark; Ocean Sunfish; Sei Whale; White-sided Dolphin.

5. Lower Bay of Fundy

Departure point: Westport, Brier Island, NS.

Destination: Lower Bay of Fundy; offshore ledges.

Trip length: 3–5 hours.

Trip organizer: Mariner Cruises Whale and Seabird Cruises, Westport, Brier Island, NS BOV 1HO; 800/239-2189 or 902/839-2346; info@novascotiawhalewatching.ca; www.novascotiawhalewatching.ca.

Dates of 2008 trips: Daily (June–Oct.)

Cost: CDN\$48, CDN\$40 for seniors and students, less for children. Group discounts available.

Comments: Northern Fulmar (June and Sept./Oct.); Greater, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters (Cory's possible); Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Northern Gannet; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes; Atlantic Puffin; Razorbill; murre spp.; Black Guillemot; South Polar and Great Skuas; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Black-legged Kittiwake (Sept./Oct.). *Marine mammals:* Humpback, Fin, Minke, Sei, Pilot, and Northern Right Whales; Harbor Porpoise; Atlantic White-sided Dolphin; Harbor and Gray Seals. *Possible, but rare:* Orca; Sperm, Blue, and Beluga Whales.

Most trips combine whale- and seabird-watching; dedicated pelagic bird trips are available by request. Experienced naturalists give birders special attention, especially when looking for specific species. Time of year and weather conditions are major factors in the quality of each trip. Brier Island is situated along Atlantic Flyway and offers good birding, especially spring and fall. All trips narrated by local naturalist. *Accommodations available.*

6. Brier Island, Nova Scotia

Departure Point: Westport, Brier Island, NS.

Destination: Offshore ledges.

Trip Length: Whale-watching cruises are 3–5 hours. Multiple departure times. Charter and pelagic bird cruises available upon request.

Trip Organizers: Brier Island Whale and Seabird Cruises, Ltd., Westport, Nova Scotia BOV 1HO, 800/656-3660; toll-free in US and Canada; 902/839-2995, fax 902/839-2075; www.brierislandwhalewatch.com; whales@brierislandwhalewatch.com

Schedule: Mid-May–mid-Oct., weather permitting.

Cost: CDN\$48 (taxes included); special rates available for groups.

Comments: Northern Fulmar (June, late Oct.); Greater, Sooty, and Manx (uncommon), seen most trips from early Aug.–Oct.) Shearwaters; Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Northern Gannet; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes (best seen in tremendous flocks in Aug.); Pomarine and Parasitic (rare) Jaegers; skuas rare (but Great Skua regular in Oct.); Black-legged Kittiwake (Sept.–Oct.); murre and Razorbill (June and Sept.–Oct.); Black Guillemot; Atlantic Puffin (June and Aug.–Oct.); Dovekie. *Marine mammals:* Humpback, Fin, Minke, and endangered Northern Right Whales; Atlantic White-sided Dolphin; Harbor Porpoise. *Less common:* Pilot and Sei Whales; White-beaked Dolphin. *Possible:* Beluga and Sperm Whales.

Most trips are combined birding and whale-watching trips, except for specially requested pelagic birding trips. A portion of your fee supports seabird and cetacean monitoring activities by Brier Island Whale and Seabird Cruises. Accommodations are available on Brier Island. Members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society and the ABA.

7. Bay of Fundy

Departure point: North Head, Grand Manan Island (near the ferry landing), NB

Destination: Mouth of the Bay of Fundy.

Trip length: Spring birding trips 6–7 hours; Summer whale-watching trips, 4–5 hours

Trip organizer: Whales-n-Sails Adventures, PO Box 1301, North Head, Grand Manan Island, NB Canada E5G 4M9; 888/994-4044; www.4whales.com; info@whales-n-sails.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Birding trips to Murre Ledges and/or circumnavigation of Grand Manan Island (last week of May–June 20); one trip per week on the 1st good weather day of each week. Thursday mornings in July; a trip to the uninhabited “Dark Side” of Grand Manan focusing on birds, geology, and natural history of the area.

WHALE-WATCHING TRIPS: (June 21st–September 30th).

Cost: CDN: Birding Trips - \$85; Dark-Side trips - \$55; Whale-watching trips - \$60

Comments: View whales and birds from the uncluttered deck of a 60-foot sailing yacht. Birds recorded on these trips include Greater, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters; Northern Fulmar; Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Northern Gannet; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes; Atlantic Puffin; Razorbill; Common and Thick-billed Murres; Black Guillemot; Dovekie; Great Skua (rare); Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Black-legged Kittiwake; Common and Arctic Terns; Common Eider; Great and Double-crested Cormorants.

Marine mammals: Northern Right (common), Fin (common), Humpback, Minke, and Sei Whales; Harbor Porpoise; Atlantic White-sided Dolphin. *Fishes:* Basking Shark, Ocean Sunfish, and Bluefin Tuna.

The whale-watching tour has special sensitivity to those interested in the many birds that feed in the same areas frequented by the whales in the Bay of Fundy. Special charters are available. Visitors to Grand Manan should set some time aside for land-birding, especially in spring and fall. All tours are lead by Marine Biologist Laurie Murison, a leading authority on the Bay of Fundy since 1982, and by photographer/naturalist Allan McDonald.

8. Machias Seal Island, Maine

Departure point: Town boat ramp, Cutler, ME.

Destination: Machias Seal Island, largest Atlantic Puffin colony on the Maine coast.

2008 Pelagic Trips CONTINUED

Trip length: About 5 hours; departure point, closest to destination, allows maximum 3-hour stay on scheduled landing tours, weather permitting.

Trip Organizer: Bold Coast Charter Co., Captain Andrew Patterson, PO Box 364, Cutler, ME 04626; 207/259-4484; info@boldcoast.com; www.boldcoast.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: May–Aug.; daily trips, weather permitting.

Cost: \$80. Reservations are recommended well in advance, especially for island landing trips, as space is limited due to sanctuary restrictions.

Comments: Island nesting species include Common Eider; Atlantic Puffin; Razorbill; Arctic and Common Terns; *Additional alcids:* Common Murre (began nesting here in 2003); Black Guillemot. *Other likely species:* Northern Gannet; Greater, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters; Wilson's Storm-Petrel; Red-necked and Red Phalaropes; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Black-legged Kittiwake; various other gulls. *Marine mammals:* Harbor and Gray Seals; *Occasional:* Harbor Porpoise; Minke Whale. Participants can choose to view nesting species from vessel or, on special landing excursions, walk onshore to observation blinds. Island landings are hazardous and caution must be exercised. Trips are conducted on the *Barbara Frost*, a 40-foot, 34-passenger USCG-inspected vessel with heated cabin and restroom. Excursions limited to 20. Captain Andrew Patterson has more than 18 years experience; puffin and seal sightings are guaranteed.

9. Machias Seal Island, Maine

Departure point: Boating facility at Jonesport, ME.

Destination: Machias Seal Island, an Atlantic Puffin and Arctic Tern colony.

Trip length: 4–5 hours; maximum 2-hour stay on island, weather permitting.

Trip organizer: Puffin Tours of Machias Seal Island. Capt. John E. Norton, Atlantic, Pacific and Bering Sea, 118 Main Street Box 330, Jonesport, ME 04649; 207/497-5933. or 207/497-2560; puffins@downeast.net; www.machiassealiland.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: 1st week of June–mid-Aug.

Cost: \$100.

Comments: Common and Arctic Terns; Razorbill and Atlantic Puffin. A few Common Murres are regularly seen on or near the island. *En route or near the island:* Greater, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters; Wilson's Storm-Petrel; Northern Gannet; Red-necked and Red Phalaropes; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Black-legged Kittiwake. *Near Jonesport Harbor:* Common Loon; Great Cormorant; Common Eider; Black Guillemot. The Nortons' boat, which can carry up to 30 people, makes frequent runs during the June, July, and August breeding season. Expert, on board, will help with bird identifications. *Marine mammals:* Minke Whale; Harbor and Gray Seals (often seen on the crossing). Reservations are advised. The Norton family moved to Downeast Maine in 1760. Their primary goal is 100% safety; landed more than 40,000 passengers without accident. The *Chief* is constructed of fire-proof composite, with Loran, radar, GPS, color scope, automatic pilot, and marine radio. Lodging is now available.

10. Bar Harbor, Maine

Departure point: Bar Harbor, ME.

Destination: Mt. Desert Rock, Grand Manan Banks.

Trip length: 3 1/2–4 hours (both A.M. and P.M. trips, call for times).

Trip organizer: Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company, 1 West Street,

Bar Harbor, ME. 04609; 207/288-2386; 1-888/WHALES-4; www.barharborwhales.com.

Dates of 2008 trip: Whales and Puffins – May 24–30 Aug.

Cost: 2008 prices not yet set (\$49 in 2007); reservations recommended.

Comments: Northern Fulmar; Greater, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters; Leach's Storm-Petrel; Northern Gannet; Great Cormorant (rare); Red-necked and Red Phalaropes; jaegers possible; Black Guillemot; Atlantic Puffin; Razorbill; Arctic and Common Terns. *Marine mammals:* Possible: Fin, Humpback, and Minke Whales; Atlantic White-sided Dolphin; Harbor Porpoise; Harbor Seal. *Fishes:* Basking Shark. *The Friendship V* (used for the 2006 ABA Bangor Convention) is a 111-foot catamaran, ensuring a smooth and stable ride. With a maximum speed of 35 knots, she covers much territory in a short time. This is mostly a whale-watching cruise with some time spent near Little Egg Rock for nesting seabirds and terns. Pelagics are often seen with the whales. A.M. trip is best for birders. **All adults required to show photo I.D.** Maine Audubon charters this boat once a year, usually in Oct., for longer exclusive birding trip using chum; Great Skua possible. Contact Maine Audubon for 2008 date, price, and leaders. 207/781-2330 x215; fax 207/781-0974; www.maineaudubon.org; 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Fallmouth, ME 04105.

11. Coastal Maine

Departure point: Rockport, ME.

Destination: Coastal Maine, Nova Scotia, and northern New England; contact tour operator for more information.

Trip length: Multi-day.

Trip organizer: Rockport Schooner Cruises, PO Box 987, Rockport, ME 04856; 866/732-2473 or 207/SEA-BIRD; info@wanderbirdcruises.com; www.wanderbirdcruises.com.

Date of 2008 trip: June 2–7 for multi-day pelagic. Sept. 29–Oct. 4 Whales and Seabirds.

Cost: \$1,500 per person.

Comments: Also offer expeditions to Newfoundland and Labrador with claim for excellent pelagic birding opportunities. Trips are aboard the motorsailer, *Wanderbird*. For more specific birding possibilities contact tour operators.

12. Portland, Maine

Departure Point: Commercial Street, Portland, ME.

Destination: Maine pelagic waters, up to 40 offshore.

Trip Length: 6 hours (July) or 12 hours (September).

Trip Organizer: See Life Paulagics, PO Box 161, Green Lane, PA 18054 215/234-6805; www.paulagics.com; info@paulagics.com.

Dates of 2008 Trips: Sat., Jul. 12; 6-hour; Sat., Sep. 12; 14–15-hour.

Cost: 5-hour - \$75, 12-hour - \$140.

Comments: Trips are aboard the 65-foot *Odyssey*. The boat has full walk-around and birdable upper deck; located conveniently off Commercial Street in Portland. All trips have enough friendly and experienced leaders for the group.

Possibilities: Cory's (Sep.), Greater, Manx, and Sooty Shearwaters; Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Northern Gannet; Red (Sep.) and Red-necked Phalaropes (Sep.); South Polar Skua; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed (Sep.) Jaegers; Roseate (Jul.), Common, and Arctic (Jul.) Terns; Black

Guillemot. The July trip will probably visit the tern colony to find Roseate Tern, as we successfully did in 2007.

13. Hydrographer and Veatch's Canyons, Massachusetts

Departure point: Helen H Dock, 136 Pleasant St., Hyannis, MA.

Destination: Hydrographer and Veatch's Canyons (90 miles east of Nantucket).

Trip length: 17 hours (3:30 A.M.–9:00 P.M.).

Trip organizer: Ida Giriunas for the Brookline Bird Club of Massachusetts, 781/929-8772; email: ida8@verizon.net; <http://massbird.org/bbc>; The New England Seabird web site, www.NESeabirds.com, should also be checked for other summer pelagic trips.

Dates of 2008 trips: specific dates still uncertain, but probably July 19, August 9, and August 23.

Cost: ~\$140; actual price based on current fuel costs.

Comments: Leaders: Rick Heil, Steve Mirick, and Marshall Iloff. Chartered, comfortable, fast, 100-foot boat with experienced captain and crew.

Expected: Cory's, Greater, Sooty, Manx, and Audubon's Shearwaters. Leach's Storm-Petrel. All three jaegers. Macronesian [Audubon's] Shearwater (2007); White-faced Storm-Petrel (2006); Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (2004); both skuas (2004); Bridled Tern (2006 & 2007).

Marine mammals & fishes: Fin, Humpback, Minke, Long-finned Pilot, Beaked, and Sperm Whales. Grampus, Saddle-back, and Bottlenose Dolphins. Basking, Blue, Mako, and Hammerhead Sharks; tuna; **Reptiles:** Loggerhead Turtle.

14. Nantucket Shoals, Massachusetts

Departure point: Helen H Dock, 136 Pleasant St., Hyannis, MA.

Destination: Northern Nantucket Shoals and waters 20 miles east of Nantucket.

Trip length: 8 hours (7 A.M.–3 P.M.).

Trip organizer: Ida Giriunas for the Brookline Bird Club of Massachusetts, <http://massbird.org/bbc>; 781/929-8772; e-mail: ida8@verizon.net;

Dates of 2008 trips: specific dates still uncertain but probably June 28 and November 14.

Cost: ~\$100; will be adjusted for any increase in fuel costs.

Comments: We hope to see Common and Red-throated Loons; Northern Fulmar; Cory's, Greater, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters; Northern Gannet; Great Cormorant (November); Common Eider; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers will be looked for in June. Pomarine (November-only); Black-legged Kittiwake; Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. Black-headed and Little (November-only) Gulls; Red-necked (June-only) and Red Phalaropes. **November alcids:** Dovekie; Common and Thick-billed Murres; Razorbill; Black Guillemot; Atlantic Puffin. **Marine mammals:** Humpback, Fin, and Minke Whales.

15. Stellwagen Bank/Offshore Massachusetts

Departure point: Any of several Massachusetts ports are possible; schedule not available at press time.

Destination: Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge, depending upon recent reports.

Trip Length: about 4 hours.

Trip Organizer: Various whale-watch operators. A good source of information for regional pelagic birding is the New England Seabirds web site, www.NESeabirds.com. Various bird clubs sponsor pelagic trips. Trips are

periodically announced on this site.

Dates of 2008 trips: TBA.

Cost: 2008 prices not set; previously some operators offered discounts for birders and senior citizens.

Comments: Boats visit the Stellwagen Bank every day from early April until late October. Trips look primarily for Humpback, Minke, and Fin Whales, but naturalists and captains are generally responsive to birders' interests. Depending on date, Northern Fulmar; Sooty, Greater, Cory's, and Manx Shearwaters; Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers are likely. See "Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary", by Emmalee Tarry, in the January 2001 issue of *Winging It* for an overview of seabirding in Massachusetts waters.

There are daily whale-watching trips in the eastern Massachusetts area from May to October. Trips leave from Newburyport (Newburyport Whale Watch, 978/465-9885); Gloucester (Yankee Fleet, 800/942-5464, and Cape Ann Whale Watch, 800/877-5110); Boston (New England Aquarium, 617/973-5281); Plymouth (Captain John Boats, 508/746-2643); Barnstable (Hyannis Whale Watcher, 508/362-6088); and Provincetown (Dolphin Fleet, 800/826-9300). The target for all trips is primarily whales, but birds often concentrate in the same areas; some naturalists are capable birders. Whale-watching and birding have been very good since 1996, due to a dramatic increase of the food fish on Stellwagen Bank. All trips are appropriate for children and non-birding relatives; some can accommodate wheelchairs. Contact specific boat operators.

The New England Seabird web site, www.NESeabirds.com, should be checked for summer pelagic trips.

16. Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Departure Point: Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Destinations: Gulf of Maine; Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Jeffreys Ledge.

Trip Length: 5 hours (10 A.M.–3 P.M.).

Trip Organizer: Massachusetts Audubon Society, Joppa Flats Education Center, P.O. Box 1558, Newburyport, MA 01950, 978/462-9998; www.massaudubon.org/joppaflats

Dates of 2008 Trips: *Birding and Whale Trips:* June 23, July 7, July 28, August 11, August 25, and September 8; led by Dr. David Larson and Bill Gette

Cost: Please call 978/462-9998 for details.

Comments: *Bird Species:* Greater, Sooty, and Manx Shearwaters; Wilson's Storm-Petrel; Common, Roseate, Forster's, and Least Terns; Northern Gannet; Red-necked Phalarope; Parasitic Jaeger. *Marine mammals:* Humpback, Fin, and Minke Whales; Harbor Porpoise; White-sided Dolphin.

17. Great South Channel

Departure Point: Viking Dock at Montauk Harbor, Montauk, NY.

Destination: Great South Channel, east of Nantucket Island.

Trip length: 51 hours.

Trip organizer: Dr. Arthur H. Kopelman, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island, Inc. (CRESLI); www.cresli.org; with Dr. Angus Wilson.

Dates of 2008 trips: July 20–22 and Aug. 7–10 (Aug. trip with brief stops at Martha's Vineyard for additional passengers).

Cost: Currently unknown, as price is dependent upon fuel cost.

Discount for members and for ages 7–12. Not recommended for children under the age of 6.

2008 Pelagic Trips CONTINUED

Comments: Reservations are required and must be made on the CRESLI website at www.cresli.org/cresli/reservations/offshore_res.html. *Expected:* *Marine mammals:* Humpback, Fin, Minke, Northern Right, Sperm and Pilot Whales; Common, Bottlenose, Atlantic White-sided, and Risso's Dolphins. *Reptiles:* Leatherback, Green, and Loggerhead Turtles. *Fishes:* Basking, Great White, Hammerhead, and Blue Sharks; Bluefin, Yellowfin, and Bigeye Tuna; White Marlin; Ocean Sunfish. *Invertebrates:* Portuguese Man-of-War. *Birds:* Cory's, Greater, Sooty, Manx, and Audubon's Shearwaters; Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels; White-faced Storm-Petrel (possible); Northern Fulmar; Northern Gannet; Red-necked and Red Phalaropes; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; South Polar Skua; Great Black-backed, Herring, and Bonaparte's Gulls.

The 140-foot *Viking Starship* sleeps up to 65 in navy-style bunks. Excellent food available at reasonable prices; passengers may bring their own food, as well. Trips led by seasoned marine mammal biologist and professor. Volunteers from CRESLI will assist with spotting, identification, and data collection. Consult website for departure and arrival times and dates.

18. Freeport, New York

Departure Point: Freeport, Long Island, New York.

Destination: Winter: NY pelagic waters, as far as 90 miles offshore.

Trip Length: 12 hours (winter) or 14 hours (summer).

Trip Organizer: See Life Paulagics, PO Box 161, Green Lane, PA 18054 215/234-6805; www.paulagics.com; info@paulagics.com.

Dates of 2008 Trips: Sun., Feb. 2; 12-hour trip; Sun., Sep. 13; 14-hour trip.

Cost: 12-hour trip \$150; 14-hour trip \$170.

Comments: Trips are aboard the 85-foot *Capt. Lou VII*, a nice boat with a comfortable cabins, galley, full walk-around, and birdable, covered upper deck. It is conveniently located just a mile or so from the Freeport Long Island Railroad Station (rides to/from RR station can be arranged). All trips have enough friendly and experienced leaders for the group.

February possibilities: Northern Fulmar; Northern Gannet; Razorbill; Common and Thick-billed Murres; Dovekie; Atlantic Puffin; Red Phalarope; Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake. This trip found over 9,000 Dovekies in 2007 and 1,675 in 2006. February is a great time to try for good numbers of Dovekies. The trip has also found multiple Common Murres in both 2006 and 2007, and (if accepted) the first NY state record Western Gull in 2006.

September possibilities: Cory's, Greater, Manx, and Audubon's Shearwaters; White-faced, Wilson's, and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Red-necked Phalarope; South Polar Skua; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; Common, Arctic, Black, and Bridled Terns. Both White-faced Storm-Petrel and juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers are found regularly, if not annually, in the Mid-Atlantic area. Both of these birds, plus Audubon's Shearwater and Parasitic Jaeger were seen on this trip in 2007.

19. Belmar, New Jersey

Departure Point: Belmar, NJ.

Destination: Winter: NJ and NY pelagic waters, as far as the Hudson Canyon.

Trip Length: 8 or 12 hours, depending upon trip.

Trip Organizer: See Life Paulagics, PO Box 161, Green Lane, PA 18054 215/234-6805; www.paulagics.com; info@paulagics.com.

Dates of 2008 Trips: Sun., Aug. 24, 14-hour; Sun., Dec. 7, 12-hour; Fri., Jan. 2, 2009, 8-hour CBC.

Cost: 8-hour trip - \$100, 12-hour trip - \$150, 14-hour trip - \$170.

Comments: Trips are aboard the 80-foot *Suzie Girl*, a fast boat with a comfortable cabin, full walk-around and birdable upper deck. All trips have enough friendly and experienced leaders for the group.

December and January possibilities: Greater and Manx Shearwaters; Northern Fulmar; Northern Gannet; Razorbill; Common and Thick-billed Murres; Dovekie; Atlantic Puffin; Red Phalarope; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake.

August possibilities: Cory's, Greater, Manx, and Audubon's Shearwaters; White-faced, Wilson's, and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Red-necked Phalarope; South Polar Skua; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; Common, Arctic, Black, and Bridled Terns. Both White-faced Storm-Petrel and juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers have been found on this trip in the past.

20. Cape May, New Jersey

Departure Point: Cape May, NJ.

Destination: Winter: NJ and DE pelagic waters, 40-50 miles offshore.

Trip Length: 12 hours.

Trip Organizer: See Life Paulagics, PO Box 161, Green Lane, PA 18054 215/234-6805; www.paulagics.com; info@paulagics.com.

Date of 2008 Trip: Sun., Mar. 17.

Cost: \$120.

Comments: Trip is aboard the *Miss Chris II*, a boat with a full walk-around and a comfortable cabin, and will have enough friendly and experienced leaders for the group.

Possibilities: Northern Fulmar; Northern Gannet; Razorbill; Common and Thick-billed Murres; Dovekie; Atlantic Puffin; Red Phalarope; Pomarine Jaeger; Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake. Although now very rare in our area, Great Skua was found on this trip in the past.

21. Lewes, Delaware

Departure Point: Lewes, DE.

Destination: Delaware and Maryland pelagic waters, as far as the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons.

Trip Length: 12, 14, or 22 hours, depending upon trip.

Trip Organizer: See Life Paulagics, PO Box 161, Green Lane, PA 18054; 215/234-6805; www.paulagics.com; info@paulagics.com.

Dates of 2008 Trips: Sat., Feb. 23, 12-hour; Sat., Apr. 5, 12-hour; Sat., Aug. 16, 14-hour; Thu.-Fri., Aug. 21-22, 22-hour; Sat., Dec. 13, 12-hour.

Cost: \$145 for 12-hour trip, \$160 for 14-hour trip, \$350 for 22-hour trip

Comments: Trips are aboard the comfortable 85-foot *Thelma Dale IV*, a nice boat with a comfortable cabin, full walk-around, and birdable upper deck. All trips have enough friendly and experienced leaders for the group.

Winter possibilities: Greater and Manx Shearwaters (Dec.); Northern Fulmar; Northern Gannet; Razorbill; Common and Thick-billed Murres; Dovekie; Atlantic Puffin; Red Phalarope; Pomarine and Parasitic (Dec.) Jaegers; Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake. February is a great time for good numbers of Dovekies. We found nearly 4,300 Dovekies on the Feb. 2007 trip, nearly 600 on the Feb.

2005 trip, and nearly 200 on the Feb. 2004 trip. The Dec. 2007 trip found over 300 Dovekies and 55 Atlantic Puffins.

April possibilities: Sooty and Manx Shearwaters; Northern Fulmar; Northern Gannet; Razorbill; Common Murre; Dovekie; Atlantic Puffin; Red Phalarope; Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers; Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake. Great Skua has become an increasingly difficult bird to find in the U.S. Our hope is that we might have a chance for this species, as large numbers of gulls and gannets follow schools of mackerel and herring north.

August possibilities: Cory's, Greater, Manx, and Audubon's Shearwaters; White-faced, Wilson's, Leach's, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels; Red-necked Phalarope; Sabine's Gull; South Polar Skua; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; Common, Arctic, Black, and Bridled Terns. White-faced Storm-Petrel has been found on several trips, and Leach's Storm-Petrel has been found on several over-nighters. The 2007 over-nighter also found a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, and the 2006 over-nighter found a Sabine's Gull. Long-tailed Jaeger has also been found on several trips.

22. Manteo, North Carolina

Departure Point: Manteo, North Carolina.

Destination: The Gulf Stream off North Carolina's Outer Banks.

Trip Length: 12 hours.

Trip Organizer: See Life Paulagics, PO Box 161, Green Lane, PA 18054; 215/234-6805; www.paulagics.com; info@paulagics.com.

Dates of 2008 Trips: Fri., May 30, Sat., May 31, Sun., Jun. 1, Mon., Jun. 2, Fri., Jun. 6, Sat., Jun. 7, Sun., Jun. 8.

Cost: \$135.

Comments: Trips are aboard the legendary *Country Girl*, an extremely fast and comfortable boat. The captain is highly experienced and the boat uniquely suited to chasing down fast-flying rarities. Manteo's proximity to great land-birding locations like Alligator River NWR (Swainson's Warbler) and Palmetto Peartree Preserve (Red-cockaded Woodpecker), as well as many other sites and activities, make it a perfect place for an extended trip. All boat trips have enough friendly and experienced leaders for the group. **Possibilities:** Herald/Trinidad, Fea's, Bermuda, and Black-capped Petrels; Cory's, Greater, Sooty, Manx, and Audubon's Shearwaters; Wilson's, Leach's, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels; White-tailed and Red-billed Tropicbirds; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers, and Roseate, Common, Arctic, Bridled, and Sooty Terns. **Rarities:** North America's first accepted Black-bellied Storm-Petrel, North America's second accepted Bulwer's Petrel, multiple European Storm-Petrels, multiple Bermuda Petrels, many Fea's and Herald/Trinidad Petrels, and both White-tailed and Red-billed Tropicbirds.

23. Outer Banks, North Carolina

Departure Point: Hatteras Landing Marina, Hatteras, NC, Pirate's Cove Yacht Club, Manteo, NC, and Broad Creek Fishing Center, Wanchese, NC.

Destination: Most trips visit the Gulf Stream and/or edge of Continental Shelf and slope 20-50 miles offshore. Winter Trips focus on cooler near-shore waters and sometimes the Gulf Stream edge.

Trip Length: 10-12 hours.

Trip Organizer: Brian Patteson, PO Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943; 252/986-1363; brian@patteson.com; www.seabirding.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Depart from Hatteras unless otherwise specified: Jan. 26(27); Feb. 2(3); Feb. 9(10); Feb. 16(17); Feb. 22 (23); weather dates in parentheses; April 25, 26, 27; May 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; May 24, 25, 26 also from Manteo; June 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28,

29; July 25, 26, 27; Aug. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10; *White-faced Storm-Petrel trips from Wanchese*; Aug. 22, 23, 24 and 29, 30, 31; Sept. 19, 20, 21; *Special Photography sets*; June 20, 21, 22 (two out of three) from Hatteras; Aug. 25, 26, 27, 28 (three of four) from Wanchese.

Cost: Most trips are \$145/person in 2008. Rising fuel prices have increased our expenses, but we will operate some of the trips with as few as 10 participants at the standard rate. Discounts are available for multiple trips and for groups of eight or more passengers booking together. Whole-boat charters on the *Stormy Petrel II* in Hatteras start at \$1350/day for the first eight passengers.

Comments: *Jan. and Feb.:* Winter trips here have yielded an interesting mix of cold-water and warm-water seabirds; most have found Great Skua with plentiful gulls and gannets. Manx Shearwater and Red Phalarope seem more likely here in winter than farther north. There are also good chances for Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake, Atlantic Puffin, Dovekie, and Razorbill, plus thousands of near-shore seabirds, often including Little Gull. The birds are often much closer to shore here than off most mid-Atlantic ports, so that we have seen skuas within sight of land, and on one February trip we photographed a Yellow-nosed Albatross three miles from the beach. *May–Nov.:* **Likely:** Black-capped Petrel; Cory's, Greater (sometimes doesn't arrive until June), Sooty (Spring only), and Audubon's Shearwaters; Wilson's, Leach's (May–July best), and Band-rumped (May–mid-Aug. best) Storm-Petrels; Red-necked Phalarope (mostly late May and Aug.–Sept.); Pomarine Jaeger; and Bridled and Sooty Terns (Aug.–Sept. best). **Possible:** Trindade Petrel (We saw at least 16 in 2007, six of these in one day); Fea's Petrel (we saw 8 in 2007; most likely from mid May–mid-July). Also White-faced Storm-Petrel (very rare July–Sept., mostly off Oregon Inlet), White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-billed Tropicbird, Masked Booby (July–Sept.), Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers, South Polar Skua, Sabine's Gull (mostly Sept.), and Arctic Tern (spring-only). **Very, very rare, but possible:** Bermuda Petrel (we've seen 23 here since 1993 from May to late- Sept.), Bulwer's Petrel (two records here since 1992), Cape Verde Shearwater (first documented North American sighting off Hatteras in August 2004), European Storm-Petrel (10 seen since 2003, all late-May and early-June), Black-bellied Storm-Petrel (May 2004, June 2007, July 2006), Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel (we photographed the first for North America here in Aug. 1998), Brown Booby; Brown Noddy.

Marine mammals: *Feb.:* Bottlenose Dolphin, Spotted Dolphin, Common Dolphin and Harbor Porpoise have been seen offshore on past winter trips; good chance for Humpback Whale close to shore, and one Feb. sighting of Northern Right Whale, so far. Loggerhead Sea Turtles can be numerous, and Ocean Sunfish and Basking Sharks are sometimes seen. *May–Sept.:* Bottlenose and Spotted Dolphins, Short-finned Pilot and Cuvier's Beaked Whales are the most likely cetaceans. Sperm Whales have been seen on a number of recent trips, particularly in May. Cetacean rarities have included Gervais' and Blainville's Beaked Whales, Dwarf Sperm Whale, False Killer Whale, Rough-toothed and Clymene Dolphins. **Reptiles:** Loggerhead and Leatherback Turtles are occasionally seen. **Fishes:** A variety of big game fish, including Yellowfin Tuna, Wahoo, Dolphin (Mahi Mahi), Blue and White Marlins, and Sailfish, might also be encountered. Sampling the Sargasso weed reveals a variety of interesting, but smaller sea life.

Photographic opportunities are sometimes abundant on these trips, and we do our best to get close to the wildlife. Chumming can be particularly effective on breezy days.

Hatteras is the closest port to the Gulf Stream in NC, and the Gulf Stream off North Carolina is probably the best place in the western North Atlantic to see a variety of pelagic seabirds throughout the year. Most trips to the Gulf Stream expect to see Black-capped Petrel. We run most

2008 Pelagic Trips CONTINUED

of our trips on our own vessel, the 61' *Stormy Petrel II*. She has a large fiberglass hull, high railings all around, and a true walk-around layout with a bow pulpit. There is a tremendous amount of deck space as we limit trips to 28 passengers or less, depending on the season. Restrooms are at deck level and feature household toilets. The *Stormy Petrel II* is a very comfortable and capable boat in the Gulf Stream seas. Our Oregon Inlet trips go to part of the Continental Shelf and slope, north of where we go on our Hatteras trips. Our vessel for these trips, Captain Allan Foreman's *Country Girl*, does not have the deck space of the *Stormy Petrel II*, but is very fast, allowing as much time in the Gulf Stream as on the Hatteras trips, despite a longer run. While this speed is occasionally useful for chasing rare birds, there are some days when sea conditions make it impossible to safely pursue fast-flying petrels. Our trips typically have two–six leaders, all of whom have extensive pelagic experience. Our leaders include Brian Patteson, Kate Sutherland, Steve Howell, Chris Sloan, Ned Brinkley, Todd McGrath, George Armistead, Jamie Cameron, David Shoch, and other skilled seabirders. We use walkie-talkies for a fast relay of sightings on the PA system. Please write or call for a free brochure, or visit our web site for more information, including results of over 400 trips since 1992.

24. Dry Tortugas, Florida

Departure point: Key West, FL (Oceanside Marina).

Destination: Dry Tortugas.

Trip Length: 4 days.

Trip Organizer: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT), 2525 Wallingwood Drive, Suite 1003, Austin, TX 78746, www.ventbird.com, info@ventbird.com, 800/328-8368 or 512/328-5221.

Date of 2008 trip: April 30–May 3.

Cost: \$1195 per person from Key West. Limited to 11 participants.

Comments: Accommodations aboard the Coast Guard-inspected, air-conditioned, 60-foot *Playmate*, which comfortably sleeps up to 11 participants in semi-private cabins, with two bathrooms with showers, a sun deck, a shaded back deck, and a seawater desalination system. Our focus will be on seabirds, migrating landbirds, and historic Fort Jefferson. Our leader will be Brennan Mulrooney. **Expected:** Breeding tropical seabirds, including Sooty Tern, Brown Noddy, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Masked Booby are the main attraction, though rare visitors such as Brown Booby (quite regular) and Black Noddy are also possible. There is always a fine assortment of migrant passerines at this season; unusual weather may result in great fallouts. Our return to Key West should produce Audubon's Shearwater and Bridled, Roseate, and Sandwich Terns. VENT also offers a pre-pelagic tour to South Florida, April 21–May 1.

25. Florida Keys

Departure point: Islamorada, FL.

Destination: Offshore seamounts.

Trip length: 8 hours (8 A.M.–4 P.M.).

Trip organizer: Larry Manfredi, PO Box 343002, Homestead, FL 33034; 305/247-3960; birderlm@bellsouth.net; birderlm@bellsouth.net; www.southfloridabirding.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: May 17, June 8, July 5, Aug. 9.

Cost: \$125–\$150.

Comments: We will search for pelagic species from a departure point in the Florida Keys, concentrating on offshore seamounts. **Expected:** Cory's, Greater, and Audubon's Shearwaters; Wilson's, Band-rumped, and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Magnificent Frigatebird; Masked and Brown Boobies; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes; Pomarine Jaeger; Bridled and Sooty Terns. **Rare:** Brown Noddy; White-tailed and Red-billed Tropicbirds; Black-capped Petrel.

26. Dry Tortugas, Florida

Departure point: Key West, FL.

Destination: Dry Tortugas.

Trip length: 3 days.

Trip organizer: Larry Manfredi, PO Box 343002, Homestead, FL 33034; 305/247-3960; birderlm@bellsouth.net; birderlm@bellsouth.net; www.southfloridabirding.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Apr. 6–9, 9–12, 12–15, 15–18, 18–21, 21–24, 24–27, 27–30. Call or visit website for autumn trip dates. Associated land tours available.

Cost: \$1,195.00 per person. Fall trip, TBA. Prices include all meals, drinks, and accommodations from Key West.

Comments: Spring trips to Dry Tortugas during peak of spring migration. Audubon's Shearwater; Band-rumped Storm-Petrel; Roseate, Sooty, and Bridled Terns; with luck, the elegant White-tailed Tropicbird; Brown and Black Noddies, Brown and Masked Boobies. Also, an exciting mix of migrant landbirds. Limit of 11 participants on 60-foot, air-conditioned, Coast Guard-inspected yacht, ensures comfort and privacy on these trips.

27. Dry Tortugas, Florida

Departure Point: Safe Harbor Marina, Stock Island, FL.

Destination: Dry Tortugas; weather permitting into the Gulf Stream.

Trip Length: 3 days and 3 nights aboard the *Tiburon*.

Trip Organizer: Adrian Binns, Jaeger Tours and/or Wildside Birding Tours, 791 Bridgetown Pike, Langhorne PA 19053; 215/364-4407, fax 215/364-1652; binns@jaegertours.net, www.jaegertours.net or www.wildsidenaturetours.com; binns@wildsidedtoursinc.com.

Dates of 2008 Trips: April 23–26 (South Florida tour April 18–27); April 27–30; May 1–4.

Cost: \$1150 from Key West; includes all meals.

Comments: Three trips at the height of spring migration should produce good numbers of migrant passerines as well as the possibility of a Caribbean stray (Yellow-faced Grassquit and Bananaquit in 2002; Red-legged Honeycreeper in 2003; Bahama Mockingbird in 2007). **Breeding seabirds:** Sooty Tern, Brown Noddy, Magnificent Frigatebird and Masked Booby. **Regular:** Brown Booby. **Possible:** Black Noddy. **Likely in Gulf Stream:** Audubon Shearwater; Bridled Tern; Pomarine Jaeger. White-tailed Tropicbird (seen in 2004) would be the icing on the cake! The Apr 23–26 dates can be combined with a 6-day South Florida trip that includes all the specialties. Trips are aboard the 14-passenger, air-conditioned, 63-foot *Tiburon*, with 2 bunk beds per room, the most comfortable birding boat that visits the Dry Tortugas, with outstanding food. Snorkeling is available. Limited to 13 participants. Our 15th year leading trips to the Dry Tortugas.

28. Los Coronados Islands, Mexico

Departure point: Point Loma Sportfishing, 1403 Scott Street, San Diego, CA 92106; Phone: 619/223-1627.

Destination: The bird-rich, 9-Mile Bank; then south to Mexico's Los Coronados Islands to observe Brown Booby and Brown Pelican nesting colonies. We'll look for Cory's Shearwater, Blue-footed and Masked Boobies; all were seen on the islands in 2007.

Trip length: 9 hours.

Trip Organizer: Southern California Birding; 760/908-3453, www.SocalBirding.com; 310 Neptune Ave, Encinitas, CA 92024.

Dates of 2008 Expeditions: March 15, May 10, and October 4, 2008.

Cost: \$55–\$75 (see website) www.SocalBirding.com.

Comments: The *Grande* is a big, comfortable 85-foot boat. Food and beverages are available for purchase. Trip is limited to 55 participants and 5 leaders. Todd McGrath and Guy McCaskie will lead this trip with three other pelagic experts who will be aboard to serve as bird spotters and guides. Our goal is to ensure everyone gets a good look at all the pelagic birds. *Seasonal Expectations:* *March:* Brown Booby; Xantus's Murrelet; Black Oystercatcher; Northern Fulmar; Black-vented and Sooty Shearwaters; Pomarine Jaeger; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. *Possible:* Cory's, Short-tailed, and Manx Shearwaters; Blue-footed and Masked Boobies; Ancient Murrelet; Black, Ashy, Leach's, and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; Black-legged Kittiwake; Arctic Tern; Parasitic Jaeger; Pigeon Guillemot; Red-necked Phalarope. *May:* Brown Booby; Xantus's Murrelet; Black Oystercatcher; Pink-footed, Sooty, and Black-vented Shearwaters; Leach's and Black Storm-Petrels; Pomarine Jaeger; Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets; Red-necked Phalaropes. *Possible:* Cory's and Flesh-footed Shearwaters; Blue-footed and Masked Boobies; Northern Fulmar; Ashy and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; Parasitic Jaeger; Red Phalarope; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Pigeon Guillemot. *October:* Brown Booby; Black Oystercatcher; Pink-footed, Sooty, and Black-vented Shearwaters; Leach's and Black Storm-Petrels; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Arctic Tern; Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. *Possible:* Cory's Shearwater; Blue-footed and Masked Boobies; Northern Fulmar; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets; Least, Ashy, Wilson's, and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; Sabine's Gull.

29. Southern California's Continental Shelf

Departure point: Point Loma Sportfishing, 1403 Scott Street, San Diego, CA 92106; Phone: 619/223-1627.

Destination: Deep waters along the edge of the Continental Shelf, more than 100 miles offshore.

Trip length: Two nights of travel, with one full day birding.

Trip Organizer: Southern California Birding; phone: 760/908-3453 www.SocalBirding.com; 310 Neptune Ave, Encinitas, CA 92024.

Dates of 2008 Expeditions: 10–12 May, 19–21 July, and 4–6 October 2008.

Cost: \$150–\$320 (see website) www.SocalBirding.com.

Comments: See above for information on boat, the *Grande*. Trip is limited to 38 participants and four leaders. We will awake at dawn to spend an entire day hunting albatrosses, shearwaters, rare *Pterodromas*, and tropicbirds. Todd McGrath, a leading seabird guide, and the leader of these first So-Cal 2-day expeditions from San Diego, is convinced that rarities await 100 miles offshore, in the extreme southwest corner of ABA Area waters. The focus of the trips is to get to deep waters at the edge of the Continental Shelf, where Southern Hemisphere birds are usually found, but only, so far, by research ships. We'll be hunting mega-rarities. Trips depart Saturday afternoons or evenings (see website). We spend all day Sunday, dawn to sunset, in the

mega-rarity zone, have dinner, celebrate, and wake up Monday morning back in San Diego.

Expectations: *May:* Black-footed Albatross; Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters; Black Storm-Petrel; South Polar Skua; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Xantus's Murrelet; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. *Possible:* Laysan Albatross; Cook's, Murphy's, and Hawaiian Petrels; Fork-tailed, Leach's, and Ashy Storm-Petrels; Cory's, Flesh-footed, and Black-vented Shearwaters; Red-billed Tropicbird; Brown Booby; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Pigeon Guillemot. *July:* Cook's Petrel; Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters; Black and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Xantus's Murrelet; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. *Possible:* Shy, Black-footed, and Laysan Albatrosses; Murphy's, Great-winged, and Hawaiian Petrels; Flesh-footed and Black-vented Shearwaters; Ashy, Wedge-rumped, Least, Ringed, and Tristram's Storm-Petrels; Red-tailed and Red-billed Tropicbirds; South Polar Skua; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Sabine's Gull; Xantus's Murrelet; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. *October:* Red-billed Tropicbird; Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed, Buller's, Sooty, and Black-vented Shearwaters; Black, Least, and Leach's Storm-Petrels; South Polar Skua; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers; Arctic Tern; Sabine's Gull; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. *Possible:* Red-tailed Tropicbird; Shy, Laysan, Black-footed, and Short-tailed Albatrosses; Cook's, Murphy's, Hawaiian, and Bulwer's Petrels; Streaked, Cory's, Flesh-footed, Short-tailed, Wedge-tailed, and Manx Shearwaters; Ashy, Wedge-rumped, Ringed, and Tristram's Storm-Petrels; Brown Booby; Long-tailed Jaeger; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets.

30. Southwest ABA Continental Shelf

Departure point: Fisherman's Landing, 2838 Garrison St., San Diego, CA 92106, 619/221-8500.

Destination: Exploration of the southwestern corner of the ABA Area, from the Mexican border, north to the Channel Islands, then west more than 100 miles offshore, traveling south to the edge of the Continental Shelf.

Trip length: 5 days.

Trip Organizer: Searcher Natural History Tours; 619/226-2403 <http://www.bajawhale.com/> and click "birding trips"; 2838 Garrison Street, San Diego, CA 92106.

Dates of 2008 Expeditions: June 2–6, 2008; September 8–12, 2008.

Cost: \$975 includes all meals and beverages.

Comments: The *Searcher* is a spacious, luxurious 95-foot, live-aboard, with multiple birding observation decks. We visit underwater seamounts, ridges, and domes, where nutrient-rich upwellings attract rare albatrosses, tropicbirds and *Pterodroma* petrels. Trips are limited to 28 passengers and four leaders to ensure ample room. Delicious meals, snacks, and beverages are included. We always encounter, and take time to study, marine mammals, as well as rare birds. *Birds:* Laysan Albatross, Dark-rumped (Hawaiian), Cook's, Murphy's, and Bulwer's Petrels, Manx, and Flesh-footed Shearwaters, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets, and both Red-billed and Red-tailed Tropicbirds have been seen on previous trips. *Marine mammals:* Orca (Killer Whale), Blue, Fin, Humpback, Sei, Sperm, and Baird's Beaked Whales, White-sided, Northern Right Whale, and Risso's Dolphins, Northern Elephant Seal, Northern and Guadalupe Fur Seals. *Fishes:* Mako and Blue Sharks; Mola Mola.

June Expedition: Black-footed Albatross, Pink-footed, Sooty, and Black-vented Shearwaters, Leach's, Black, and Ashy Storm-Petrels; South Polar Skua; Pomarine Jaeger; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Pigeon Guillemot Xantus's Murrelet; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. *Target species:* Laysan and Short-tailed Albatrosses; Northern Fulmar;

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Murphy's, Cook's, and Hawaiian Petrels; Flesh-footed Shearwater; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel; Red-billed Tropicbird; Brown Booby; Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; Common Murre; Tufted Puffin. This is the first June *Searcher* Expedition, so we will be on the cutting edge. *September Expedition*: Cook's Petrel; Red-billed Tropicbird; Black-footed Albatross; Pink-footed, Buller's, Sooty, and Black-vented Shearwaters; Leach's, Least, Black, and Ashy Storm-Petrels; South Polar Skua; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; Arctic Tern; Sabine's Gull; Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's Murrelet; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes. *Target species*: Red-tailed Tropicbird; Laysan and Short-tailed Albatrosses; Northern Fulmar; Craveri's Murrelet; Murphy's, Hawaiian, and Bulwer's Petrels; Streaked, Flesh-footed, and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters; Wilson's, Fork-tailed, and Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels; Brown Booby; Common Murre; Tufted Puffin.

31. Oxnard, California

Departure Point: Island Packers Oxnard dock in the Channel Islands Harbor, CA.

Destination: Santa Cruz Island for the Island Scrub-Jay.

Trip Length: 8 hours.

Trip organizer: Phil Sayre, Los Angeles Audubon Society, P.O. Box 931057, Los Angeles, CA 90093-1057, 323/876-0202 (Mon–Thurs.); PelTrip@LAAudubon.org.

Date of 2008 trip: Sat., June 7.

Cost: \$95—or you save \$5 with an early sign-up, 60 days prior to the trip departure.

Comments: *Leaders*: Todd McGrath, David Pereksta and Jon Feenstra. Leaves Island Packers dock in Oxnard at 8 A.M. on the *M/V Vanguard*. We will land on Santa Cruz Island where the endemic Island Scrub-Jay is easily seen. We then will cruise out to sea for pelagic birding, returning by Anacapa Island. *Birds seen on prior trips*: Northern Fulmar; Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers; Sabine's Gull, rocky coast shorebirds (5); Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's Murrelet. *Rarities*: Flesh-footed Shearwater; American Oystercatcher. A Tufted Puffin was seen in 2002.

32. Ventura, California

Departure Point: Island Packers Ventura dock in the Ventura Harbor, CA.

Destination: Northern Channel Islands Monument

Trip Length: 8 hours.

Trip organizer: Phil Sayre, Los Angeles Audubon Society, P.O. Box 931057, Los Angeles, CA 90093-1057, 323/876-0202 (Mon–Thurs.); PelTrip@LAAudubon.org.

Date of 2008 trip: Sat. Oct 18.

Cost: \$130—Save \$5 with an early sign-up, 60 days prior to the trip departure.

Comments: *Leaders*: Todd McGrath, Jon Feenstra and Dave Pereksta. Trip leaves at 8 A.M. on the fast catamaran, the *Islander*. After dropping off campers on Santa Cruz Island we will have the boat to ourselves and cruise around Santa Cruz Island to the Santa Cruz passage, by Santa Rosa Island, and along the Santa Rosa Flats to the deeper waters near San Nicolas Island. Then, we will return by Arch Rock at Anacapa Island. *Birds seen on prior trips*: Northern Fulmar; Black-vented, Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters; Black Storm-Petrel; cormorants (3); Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers; Sabine's

Gull; rocky coast shorebirds (5); Common Murre; Xantus's Murrelets; Cassin's Auklet. *Rarities*: Buller's and Flesh-footed Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger. In 2002, a Streaked Shearwater, and in 2003, a Brown Booby and two Manx Shearwaters were seen. Blue, Finback, and Humpback Whales have been seen on this trip.

33. Santa Barbara, California

Departure Point: Sea Landing dock in the Santa Barbara Harbor, CA.

Destination: Rodriguez Dome and the San Juan Seamount.

Trip Length: 13 hours.

Trip organizer: Phil Sayre, Los Angeles Audubon Society, P.O. Box 931057, Los Angeles, CA 90093-1057, 323/876-0202 (Mon–Thurs.); Pel-Trip@LAAudubon.org.

Date of 2008 trip: Sat., May 3.

Cost: \$198—Save \$5 with an early sign-up, 60 days prior to the trip departure.

Comments: *Leaders*: Kimball Garrett, Todd McGrath, Dave Pereksta, Dave Compton and Jon Feenstra. This 13-hour trip departs from the Sea Landing dock in the Santa Barbara Harbor at 7 A.M. on the fast catamaran, *Condor Express*, and returns at 8 P.M. We will cruise along the deep water shelf by the San Juan Seamount. *Birds previously seen*: Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses; Northern Fulmar; Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters; Parasitic, Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers; Ashy, Leach's, and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's Murrelet; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Tufted Puffin. *Rarities*: Murphy's Petrel and Red-billed Tropicbird.

34. Santa Barbara, California

Departure Point: Sea Landing dock in the Santa Barbara Harbor, CA.

Destination: Cherry, Tanner and Cortez Banks.

Trip Length: 13 hours.

Trip organizer: Phil Sayre, Los Angeles Audubon Society, P.O. Box 931057, Los Angeles, CA 90093-1057, 323/876-0202 (Mon–Thurs.); PelTrip@LAAudubon.org.

Date of 2008 trip: Sat., Sept. 6.

Cost: \$198—Save \$5 with an early sign-up 60 days prior to the trip departure.

Comments: *Leaders*: Todd McGrath, Dave Pereksta, Dave Compton, and Jon Feenstra. This 13-hour trip departs from the Sea Landing dock in the Santa Barbara Harbor at 7 A.M. on the fast catamaran, *Condor Express*, and returns at 8 P.M. We will be far offshore in three counties, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles. *Birds expected*: Northern Fulmar; one Cook's Petrel was seen in 2005, Ashy and Leach's Storm-Petrels; South Polar Skua; Parasitic, Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern. Red-billed Tropicbirds are usually seen on this trip. *Rarities*: Black-footed Albatross; Buller's Shearwater; Least Storm-Petrel; Craveri's Murrelet. *Marine mammals*: Blue, Fin, and Minke Whales, as well as several species of dolphins may be seen.

35. Santa Cruz, California

Departure Point: F Dock, Santa Cruz Harbor.

Destination: Ascension Canyons and the 500 fathom line.

Trip length: 7–8 hours; 4–6 leaders per trip.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; (831)637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Sep. 26; Oct. 12.

Cost: \$145 per person. Possible fuel surcharge.

Comments: Past pelagic trips from Santa Cruz have included a wealth of seabirds, similar to what is found on Monterey trips, with the addition of Marbled Murrelets (not usually found on the Monterey side of the bay). Following the 500 fathom line has been very productive for all of the regular fall seabirds. We will head to Ascension Canyon and other canyons. In recent years, this has been one of the favored places for the large rafts of storm-petrel flocks, including: Ashy, Black, Fork-tailed, Wilson's, and Least. Santa Cruz is easy to reach from the San Francisco Bay area.

36. Monterey Bay, California

Departure point: Chris's Fishing Shop, Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA.

Destination: Monterey Bay, mainly covering the Monterey Submarine Canyon and the Soquel Canyon Branch; areas north of Pt. Pinos, about 12–20 miles offshore.

Trip length: 7–8 hours; 2–6 leaders per trip.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; 831/637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Feb 10; Mar 2; May 11; Jun 27; Jul 25; Aug 22; Sep 27; Oct 18; Jan. 17, 2009.

Cost: \$135 per person. Possible fuel surcharge.

Comments: Classic Monterey seabird trip. *Autumn (Aug.–Oct.):* Great-winged Petrel (very rare, 2nd Northern Hemisphere record 18 Oct. 1998); Black-footed, Laysan (rare in fall), and Short-tailed (rare, one on 7 Aug. 1999 and one on 12 Aug. 2005) Albatrosses; Pink-footed, Flesh-footed, Buller's, Sooty, Black-vented, Streaked (rare, ninth North American record found 6 Oct. 2001 and several recent records), Wedge-tailed (rare, third North American record 10–21 Oct. 1998, and fourth North American record 27 Sept. 1999); Manx (first records from our trips in 1993; dates range from July 25–Oct. 25), and Greater (very rare; found 1–2 Oct. 1994, and 8 Oct. 2001) Shearwaters; Wilson's, Fork-tailed, Ashy, Black, Least, and Wedge-rumped (rare) Storm-Petrels; Red-billed Tropicbird (rare); Red-necked and Red Phalaropes; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; South Polar Skua; Heermann's and Sabine's Gulls; Elegant, Common, and Arctic Terns; Common and Thick-billed (rare) Murres; Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Tufted and Horned (rare in Aug.; five records in 1999) Puffins. *Winter (Nov.–Mar.):* Red-throated, Pacific, Common, and Yellow-billed (rare) Loons; six species of grebes; Black-footed and Laysan (rare) Albatrosses; Northern Fulmar; Flesh-footed, Sooty, Short-tailed, Pink-footed, Black-vented, Manx (rare), Pink-footed, and Greater (very rare; found 15 Jan. 2001) Shearwaters; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (rare); Red Phalarope; Pomarine Jaeger; South Polar Skua (rare); nine species of gulls and Black-legged Kittiwake; hundreds of alcids. Masked/Nazca Booby rare (recorded 13 Feb. 1999). *Spring (Apr.–July):* Black-footed, Laysan (rare), and Short-tailed (very rare) Albatrosses; Bulwer's Petrel (very rare, first North American record 26 July 1998); Pink-footed, Flesh-footed (rare), Manx (rare), and Sooty Shearwaters; Black, Ashy, Fork-tailed, and Leach's (rare) Storm-Petrels; Red-billed Tropicbird (rare); Tufted and Horned (rare) Puffins. *Marine mammals:* found at all times of year; fall is best for abundance and variety. Blue, Fin, Sei (rare), Humpback, Minke, and Pacific Right (very rare) Whales; Cuvier's and Baird's Beaked Whales; Orcas; Pacific White-sided, Risso's, Northern

Right Whale, and Common Dolphins; Harbor and Dall's Porpoises have been seen on fall trips. Gray Whales are recorded on all January trips. California and Steller (rare) Sea Lions; Northern Elephant Seal, Northern Fur Seal, Harbor Seal, Sea Otter also possible.

Operating since 1976, we use party boats with skippers who often have many years of experience with nature trips. Vessels are USCG-certified and have PA systems. Our web site will be helpful in planning your trip. Only one fall trip has been canceled due to weather. We use chum on all trips. Many of our leaders have more than 30 years of worldwide ocean experience, some with the equivalent of several years at sea. Our leaders include Matt Brady, Ted Chandik, Luke Cole, Don Doolittle, Jon Dunn, Jim Danzenbaker, Mike Danzenbaker, Rob Fowler, Jennifer Green, Alan Hopkins, Steve Howell, Lisa Hug, Alvaro Jaramillo, Oscar Johnson, Clay Kempf, Kirsten Lindquist, Gerry McChesney, Peter Pyle, Mike Rogers, John Sorenson, John Sterling, Brian Sullivan, Scott Terrill, Linda Terrill, Ryan Terrill, David Vander Pluym, Sophie Webb, and Denise Wight.

Note: This schedule was produced on 1 January 2008; fees, especially possible fuel surcharges, were unknown at this time. A complete calendar of listings may be helpful in planning your trip. Please see www.shearwaterjourneys.com for the most current and complete list of trips before planning your visit. Numerous trip reports from past trips, along with photographs are on the site. Advance motel reservations are essential in fall season.

37. Monterey Bay, California

Departure point: Chris's Fishing Shop, Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA

Destination: Monterey Seavalleys and areas south of Pt. Pinos, 15–25 miles offshore.

Trip length: 7–8 hours; 2–6 leaders per trip.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; (831) 637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Aug 15, 29; Sept. 7, 22, 25; Oct. 3.

Cost: \$135 per person. Possible fuel surcharge.

Comments: Greater chance for Black-footed Albatross, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird (rare), Long-tailed Jaeger, Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets, Cuvier's and Baird's Beaked Whales, Fin Whale. All of the expected fall seabirds (see *Offshore Monterey*), including the following, are expected: Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed, Buller's, Sooty, and Black-vented Shearwaters; Red-necked and Red Phalaropes; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; South Polar Skua; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Pigeon Guillemot; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. No storm-petrel flocks are expected, although individuals are usually seen. *Marine mammals* as on Monterey Bay trips. This trip can be combined with other Monterey or Santa Cruz trips for maximum coverage of Monterey Bay and adjacent waters.

38. Offshore Monterey, California

Departure point: Chris's Fishing Shop, Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA

Destination: Albacore fishing grounds, Sur Canyon, or Ascension Canyon; about 30–50 miles offshore.

Trip length: 12 hours; 3–5 leaders per trip.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; 831/637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Sept. 13; Oct. 5.

Cost: \$180 per person. Possible fuel surcharge.

2008 Pelagic Trips CONTINUED

Comments: Results of 16 Sept. 1995 trip: Pacific Loon (1); Pink-footed (43), Flesh-footed (4), Buller's (34), Sooty (2,500) Shearwaters; Ashy (5), Black (1), Least (1) Storm-Petrels; Red-tailed Tropicbird (1); Red-necked (30) and Red (3) Phalaropes; Pomarine (53), Parasitic (16) and Long-tailed (14) Jaegers; jaeger spp. (23); South Polar Skua (18); Sabine's Gull (19); Arctic (93) and Common (3) Terns; Common Murre (114); Xantus's (2) and Craveri's (3) Murrelets; Cassin's (19) and Rhinoceros (50) Auklets; *Marine mammals:* Northern Fur Seal (2); Blue (2), Baird's Beaked (27) Whales; Orca (4); Risso's (250), Common (10), Northern Right Whale (20), and Pacific White-sided (269) Dolphins; Dall's Porpoise (14). *Also seen on previous trips:* Black-footed and Laysan (rare) Albatrosses; Northern Fulmar; Leach's and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; Red-billed Tropicbird (rare). Certain seabirds are associated with albacore, which is considered the "Cadillac" of tunas by fishermen: Buller's Shearwater; Arctic Tern; Sabine's Gull; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets. Some years, albacore are found close to shore, but in 2002 and in 2007 they were primarily 50, or more, miles offshore. We still do the albacore trips, and they have continued to produce the target species. For the past several years, these trips have produced a string of rarities, including: Streaked (on three different trips), Greater, Manx Shearwaters, and Brown Booby.

This remains the single best trip for Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets and Blue Whales (the only central California trip to find Craveri's Murrelet in 2000 and 2001 was this trip). This is also an excellent trip for jaegers, with more than 200 sometimes recorded. These trips have sold out months in advance every year.

39. Monterey Bay, California

Departure point: Chris's Fishing Shop, Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA.

Destination: Monterey Bay and Ascension Canyon: a trip that includes the areas northwest of Monterey Bay. 15–25 miles offshore.

Trip length: About 9 hours; 2–6 leaders per trip.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; 831/637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2008 trip: Sep 15.

Cost: \$167 per person. Possible fuel surcharge.

Comments: Past trips have recorded Black-footed Albatross; Northern Fulmar; Sooty, Pink-footed, Buller's, Black-vented, Flesh-footed, and Manx Shearwaters; Black, Ashy, Fork-tailed, and Wilson's Storm-Petrels; Red-necked and Red Phalaropes; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; South Polar Skua; Sabine's Gull; Elegant and Arctic Terns; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Tufted Puffin. *Marine mammals:* Blue, Fin, Humpback, Minke, and Baird's Beaked Whales have been recorded.

This longer trip is a good choice for birders who have only one day to do a pelagic trip. In addition to visiting the area south of Pt. Pinos, we head north to areas where flocks of storm-petrels are more likely. The trip is an hour-and-a-half longer than our classic Monterey Bay trip in order to allow us to cover these two areas.

40. Monterey Bay, California

Departure point: Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA.

Destination: Offshore Monterey about 5–10 miles.

Trip length: 4 hours.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; 831/637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2009 trip: 18 Jan. 2009.

Cost: \$50.

Comments: This is a short trip to see winter seabirds and Gray Whales. It is the perfect for people who don't want to spend longer hours on a boat, or for the visiting seabirder. Past trips have found Common, Pacific, Red-throated, and Yellow-billed (rare) Loons; Red-necked Grebe; Black-footed and Laysan (rare, but a high count for Monterey of 16 was seen on Jan. 14, 1996, trip) Albatrosses; Sooty, Short-tailed, Black-vented, Manx (rare), Pink-footed, Flesh-footed, and Greater (rare, one found on 15 Jan. 2001 trip) Shearwaters; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel; Pomarine Jaeger; Red Phalarope; Black-legged Kittiwake and other gulls; Common Murre; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Tufted Puffin; Harlequin Duck. *Marine mammals:* Gray Whale Whale; Risso's, Pacific White-sided, Northern Right Whale, and Common Dolphins; Dall's Porpoise; Sea Otter; California Sea Lion.

41. Sausalito, California

Departure point: Caruso's Harbor, Sausalito, CA.

Destination: Farallon seabird colony and the edge of the Continental Shelf (seas permitting), 26–35 miles offshore. 2–3 leaders per trip.

Trip length: 8 hours.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; 831/637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2008 trip: Aug. 3 and 10.

Cost: \$137 per person. Possible fuel surcharge.

Comments: Results of 23 Aug. 1998 trip: Northern Fulmar (3); Sooty (25,000), Pink-footed (550), and Buller's (2) Shearwaters; Black Storm-Petrel (3); Pomarine (1), Parasitic (2), and Long-tailed (1) Jaegers; South Polar Skua (1); Sabine's Gull (32); Arctic (16) and Common (10) Terns; Common Murre (450); Pigeon Guillemot (8); Rhinoceros (1) and Cassin's (3) Auklets; Tufted Puffin (17); Red-necked Phalarope (13); Blue (2) and Humpback (13) Whales; and Harbor Porpoise (4). Various loons, grebes, and cormorants, and other gulls and terns, are also possible on this trip. *Marine mammals:* Gray Whale; Dall's Porpoise; California and Steller Sea Lions; Harbor and Elephant Seals. Fish: Blue and Great White Sharks. *Additional species recorded in 1999:* Least Storm-Petrel, Black-vented Shearwater. In 2007 we found a Leatherback Turtle, and in 2005 Orcas killing a Northern Elephant Seal. Most recent years have recorded Black-footed Albatross.

This is the single best trip for a chance to see the Tufted Puffin, which nests on the islands. We have a 100% success rate of finding the puffins. Most of the truly pelagic species (albatross and shearwaters) are not likely, unless the weather permits the boat to go beyond the islands to the edge of the shelf. Landing is not permitted on the islands. Chumming and using the PA are not allowed within three miles of the islands, in order to protect nesting seabirds. This trip always sells out months in advance.

42. Bodega Bay, California

Departure point: Port O'Bodega, Bodega Bay, CA.

Destination: Bodega Canyon, Cordell Bank, and beyond to the 1700-

2000-fathom line. 25–45 miles offshore.

Trip length: 8–13 hours. 4–11 leaders per trip.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; 831/637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Aug. 1, 12; Sept. 19; Oct. 9, 17.

Cost: \$185 per person. Possible fuel surcharge.

Comments: Results of 1 Nov. 1992 trip: Red-necked Grebe (2); Black-footed (20) and Laysan Albatrosses (3); Northern Fulmar (60); Cook's Petrel (1; rare), Pink-footed (60), Flesh-footed (4), Buller's (50), Sooty (35), and Short-tailed (8) Shearwaters; Black (1), Ashy (5) Storm-Petrels; Red Phalarope (15); Pomarine (55), Parasitic (2), and Long-tailed (1) Jaegers; South Polar Skua (3); Bonaparte's (8) and Sabine's (3) Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake (1); Common Murre (12); Pigeon Guillemot (1); Xantus's (3), Craveri's (1), and Ancient (2) Murrelets; Cassin's (400) and Rhinoceros (150) Auklets; Blue Whale (3); Dall's Porpoise (5). *Other possibilities:* Short-tailed Albatross (very rare); Wilson's, Fork-tailed, Leach's, and Least (rare) Storm-Petrels; Marbled Murrelet; Tufted and Horned (rare) Puffin. Aug. and Sept. *Marine mammals:* trips have never missed Blue Whales. Minke, Fin, and Sei (rare - 25 Oct. 1997), and Sperm Whales; Orcas; and Risso's, Northern Right Whale, Common, and Pacific White-sided Dolphins; Harbor and Dall's Porpoises have also been recorded. Refer to January 1995 issue of *Winging It* for details.

This is a great area for rare birds. Streaked Shearwater was found here in Sept. 2002 and Sept. 2004. The best season for Southern Hemisphere rarities is June–Aug. Murphy's Petrel was found on the 11 May 2001 trip. Two different "Shy" (Salvin's) Albatrosses were found in this region on 19 July and 10 Sept. 2000, by our leaders. Short-tailed Albatross (rare, 28 Aug. and 6 Oct. 1998, and 26 Oct. 1999) and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross (on the "hypothetical origin" of the ABA Checklist) have also been found here. The 24 Aug. 1996 trip found a Great-winged Petrel (first Northern Hemisphere record) and a Hawaiian/Galápagos ("Dark-rumped") Petrel (third North American record); another "Dark-rumped" Petrel was found in Sept. 2004, and a Parkinson's Petrel was found in October 2004. The 24 June 1995 trip found a Crested Auklet. The region's first Long-billed Murrelet was found by our leaders on 10 Sept. 2000. Recent September trips have also recorded Wedge-tailed Shearwater (2007) and Cook's Petrel (2005). Nearly all trips sell out well in advance. Since 2000, each trip has been accompanied by 6–10 leaders. These trips can be weathered out at any time of year, but if the boat makes it out, we almost always produce a top-quality seabird list. If planning to take this trip, you may want to back it up with a trip from Monterey to ensure that you get offshore.

43. Fort Bragg, California

Departure point: Fort Bragg, CA.

Destination: Noyo Canyon, Vizcaino Knoll, 20–30+ miles offshore.

Trip length: 8–12 hours.

Trip organizer: Debra Love Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, PO Box 190, Hollister, CA 95024; 831/637-8527; www.shearwaterjourneys.com; debi@shearwaterjourneys.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Aug. 8, 10.

Cost: \$185 per person.

Comments: This was a new trip for Shearwater Journeys in 1999. This area has emerged as the premier place in North America for seabird mega-rarities. August trips have been especially productive of mega-rarities. "White-capped" Shy Albatross in 1999, an individual of the Dark-rumped (Hawaiian/Galápagos) Petrel complex and a Markham's

Storm-Petrel in 2000, another Dark-rumped Petrel in 2001, and stunning views of a Streaked Shearwater in 2002. August trips from this location and from Bodega Bay appear to offer the best chance for finding Dark-rumped Petrel. Indeed, our August 2006 trip was able to follow a Hawaiian Petrel for a record 17 minutes. Our 11 May 2003 trip found two Murphy's Petrels. This appears that it might be a congregation area for albatrosses in the spring. The May 2000 trip recorded 480 Black-footed and 15 Laysan Albatrosses. Murphy's Petrels have been recorded in May, only eight miles offshore, in this area. In August 2004, a bird that may have been a Brown Skua was found. Short-tailed Albatross seems like a possibility in these waters.

We will be focusing on the complete variety of avifauna, in addition to searching for rarities. Past trips have also found Yellow-billed (17 Aug. 17 2002), Common, Red-throated, and Pacific Loons; Western and Eared Grebes; Black-footed and Laysan Albatrosses; Northern Fulmar; Sooty, Pink-footed, Short-tailed, Flesh-footed, Buller's, and Manx Shearwaters; Wilson's, Fork-tailed, Ashy, and Leach's Storm-Petrels; Red and Red-necked Phalaropes; South Polar Skua; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; Sabine's Gull; Black-legged Kittiwake; Arctic and Common Terns; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Marbled and Xantus's Murrelets; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Tufted Puffin. *Marine mammals:* have included Blue, Minke, and Baird's Beaked Whales; Northern Right Whale, Pacific White-sided, and Risso's Dolphins; Dall's and Harbor Porpoises.

44. Monterey Bay, California

Departure point: Monterey Whale Watch Center, Monterey, CA.

Destination: Monterey Bay Submarine Canyon; Albacore Grounds.

Trip length: 8–12 hours.

Trip organizer: Monterey Seabirds www.montereyseabirds.com; www.montereyseabirds.com/; www.montereybaywhalewatch.com; 831/375-4658.

Date of 2008 trips: Winter and Spring trips January 27, April 20, May 18.

Cost: 7.5 hour trips, \$95; offshore trips, \$135.

Comments: Trips aboard the 55-foot *Pt. Sur Clipper*, used only for natural history trips. Skipper Richard Ternullo has more than 30 years experience at seabirding and whale-watching excursions. All trips have experienced leaders and a marine naturalist on board; leaders include Don Roberson, Steve Bailey, Dan Singer, Roger Wolfe, Todd Easterla and Tim Amaral. Group size is limited to ensure a quality experience for all onboard. See website for trip reports. *Expectations:* Winter/Spring: Black-footed Albatross; Short-tailed Shearwater; Red Phalarope; Ancient Murrelet; Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets; Northern Fulmar; Black-legged Kittiwake. *Possibilities:* Laysan and Short-tailed (seen on April 2007 trip) Albatrosses; Manx Shearwater; Yellow-billed Loon. *Summer:* Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Pigeon Guillemot; Long-tailed, Parasitic, and Pomarine Jaegers; Tufted Puffin; Wandering Tattler; Surf-bird (along jetty outside harbor). *Late Summer/Fall:* Northern Fulmar; Buller's Shearwater; Ashy, Black, and Least Storm-Petrels; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets. *Possibilities:* Streaked (2 seen in Oct. 2007) and Manx Shearwaters; Red-billed Tropicbird. *Marine mammals:* Pacific White-sided, Northern Right Whale, Risso's, and Bottlenose Dolphins; Dall's and Harbor Porpoises; Orca; Gray (winter), Humpback, Blue, Minke, and Fin Whales. Baird's Beaked Whale was seen twice in 2007; Sei Whale (rare) was seen once in 2007; California Sea Lion; Harbor, Northern Elephant, and Northern Fur Seals; Sea Otter.

45. Monterey Bay, California

Departure point: Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center, 84 Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA

Destination: Monterey Canyon complex and Monterey Bay

Trip length: 8-hour trip.

Trip organizer: Monterey Seabirds www.montereyseabirds.com; www.montereyseabirds.com/; www.montereybaywhalewatch.com; 831/375-4658.

Dates of 2008 trips: Apr. 20, May 18, Aug. 10, 24 Sept. 6, 28, Oct. 26.

Cost: \$95.

Comments: Trips aboard the 55-foot *Pt. Sur Clipper*. (See above for information on skipper and leaders.) Group size is limited to ensure a quality experience for all onboard. See website for trip reports. *Winter/Spring:* Black-footed Albatross; Black-vented & Short-tailed Shearwater; Red Phalarope; Ancient Murrelet; Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets; Northern Fulmar; Black-legged Kittiwake, Yellow-billed Loon. *Spring/Summer:* Black-footed, Laysan and Short-tailed (seen on April 2007 trip) Albatrosses; Manx Shearwater; Black-vented, Sooty, Flesh and Pink-footed Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Pigeon Guillemot; Long-tailed, Parasitic, and Pomarine Jaegers; Tufted Puffin; Wandering Tattler; Surf-bird (along jetty outside harbor). *Late Summer/Fall:* Ashy Storm-petrel, Northern Fulmar; Buller's Shearwater; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets. *Possibilities:* Streaked (2 seen in Oct. 2007) and Manx Shearwaters; Dark-rumped Petrel (seen in 2006), Horned Puffin (seen in 2007) *Marine mammals:* Pacific White-sided, Northern Right Whale, Risso's, Common, and Bottlenose Dolphins; Dall's and Harbor Porpoises; Orca; Gray (winter), Humpback, Blue, Minke, and Fin Whales. Baird's Beaked Whale was seen twice in 2007; Sei Whale & Cuvier's Beaked Whale were seen once in 2007; California Sea Lion; Harbor, Northern Elephant, and Northern Fur Seals; Sea Otter.

46. Monterey Bay, California

Departure point: Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center, 84 Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA.

Destination: The Fingers Canyon Complex of North Monterey Bay, in search of Storm-Petrel flocks.

Trip length: 8-hour trip.

Trip organizer: Monterey Seabirds www.montereyseabirds.com; www.montereyseabirds.com; www.montereybaywhalewatch.com; 831/375-4658.

Dates of 2008 trips: Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 11.

Cost: \$95.

Comments: Trips aboard the 55-foot *Pt. Sur Clipper*. (See above for more information on skipper and leaders.) Group size is limited to ensure a quality experience for all onboard. See website for trip reports. *Summer:* Black-footed, Laysan and Short-tailed (seen on April 2007 trip) Albatrosses; Manx Shearwater; Sooty, Flesh and Pink-footed Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Pigeon Guillemot; Long-tailed, Parasitic, and Pomarine Jaegers; Tufted Puffin; Wandering Tattler; Surf-bird (along jetty outside harbor). *Late Summer/Fall:* Northern Fulmar; Buller's Shearwater; Ashy, Black, Wilson's, Fork-tailed and Least Storm-Petrels; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets. *Possibilities:* Streaked (2 seen in Oct. 2007) and Manx Shear-

waters, Dark-rumped Petrel (seen in 2006); *Marine mammals:* Pacific White-sided, Northern Right Whale, Risso's, Common and Bottlenose Dolphins; Dall's and Harbor Porpoises; Orca; Gray (winter), Humpback, Blue, Minke, and Fin Whales. Baird's Beaked Whale was seen twice in 2007; Sei Whale (rare) and Cuvier's Beaked Whale were seen once in 2007; California Sea Lion; Harbor, Northern Elephant, and Northern Fur Seals; Sea Otter.

47. Offshore Monterey, California

Departure point: Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center, 84 Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA.

Destination: We will be seeking areas with abrupt water temperature changes, increasing our chances of finding offshore migrants and murrelets, 30-50 miles offshore.

Trip length: 12-hour trip.

Trip organizer: Monterey Seabirds www.montereyseabirds.com; www.montereyseabirds.com; www.montereybaywhalewatch.com; 831/375-4658.

Dates of 2008 trips: Aug. 23, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, 25.

Cost: \$135.

Comments: Trips aboard the 55-foot, *Pt. Sur Clipper*, used only for natural history trips. (See above trips for information on skipper and leaders.) Group size is limited to ensure a quality experience for all onboard. See website for trip reports. Black-footed, Laysan and Short-tailed (seen on April 2007 trip) Albatrosses; Manx, Sooty, Flesh-footed and Pink-footed Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Sabine's Gull; Arctic Tern; Pigeon Guillemot; Long-tailed, Parasitic, and Pomarine Jaegers; Tufted Puffin; Wandering Tattler; Surf-bird (along jetty outside harbor). *Late Summer/Fall:* Northern Fulmar; Buller's Shearwater; Ashy, Black, and Least Storm-Petrels; Xantus's and Craveri's Murrelets. *Possibilities:* Streaked (2 seen in Oct. 2007) and Manx Shearwaters; Red-billed Tropicbird. *Marine mammals:* Pacific White-sided, Northern Right Whale, Risso's, Common and Bottlenose Dolphins; Dall's and Harbor Porpoises; Orca; Gray (winter), Humpback, Blue, Minke, and Fin Whales. Baird's Beaked Whale was seen twice in 2007; Sei Whale (rare) and Cuvier's Beaked Whale were seen once in 2007; California Sea Lion; Harbor, Northern Elephant, and Northern Fur Seals; Sea Otter.

48. Perpetua Bank – Albatross Hotspot

Departure Point: Newport, Oregon.

Destination: Perpetua Bank, 32 nautical miles offshore

Trip length: 11 hours.

Trip organizer: The Bird Guide, Inc., 123 NW Bailey Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124; <http://thebirdguide.com/pelagics>; greg@thebirdguide.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Mar. 1, Apr. 19, Sept. 13, Oct. 5, 6, 25.

Cost: \$155, early signup and group discounts.

Comments: Perpetua Bank has been consistently outstanding for seabirds, especially albatrosses; Black-footed, Laysan, Shy (mega-rarity, Oct. 1996, Oct. 2001), and Short-tailed. We frequently encounter fishing vessels with thousands of seabirds in tow. Large 50-55 foot charter boats; 20-30 passengers plus 3-6 expert guides. *Year-round:* Black-footed Albatross; Common Murre; Marbled Murrelet; Rhinoceros Auklet. *Apr.–Oct.:* Pink-footed, Sooty Shearwaters, and Manx Shearwaters (rare); Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel; Pigeon Guillemot; Tufted Puffin. *Apr.–May/July–Oct.:* Red and Red-necked

Phalaropes; Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed Jaegers; Sabine's Gull; Common and Arctic Terns. *Aug.–Oct.*: Flesh-footed and Buller's Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Xantus's Murrelet (rare). *Oct.–Apr.*: Laysan and Short-tailed (rare) Albatrosses; Short-tailed Shearwater; Black-legged Kittiwake; Ancient Murrelet. *July–Mar.*: Northern Fulmar; Cassin's Auklet. *Other marine species*: *Regular*: Gray Whale; Dall's and Harbor Porpoises; Pacific White-sided Dolphin; California and Steller's Sea Lions; Harbor Seal; Ocean Sunfish; Blue Shark. *Less common*: Orca, Minke, and Humpback Whales; Risso's and Northern Right Whale Dolphins; Elephant and Northern Fur Seals. *Rare marine species*: Thresher Shark, Sperm, Fin, Sei, and Blue Whales. Check web page for additional trips, up-to-date schedule, sign-up, participant trip information, photos, monthly abundance checklists, and sightings archive.

49. Oregon Shorebird Festival Pelagic Trip

Departure point: Charleston, Oregon.

Destination: up to 12 miles offshore.

Trip length: about 5 hours.

Trip organizer: The Bird Guide, Inc., 123 NW Bailey Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124; <http://thebirdguide.com/pelagics>; greg@thebirdguide.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Aug. 30 (proposed Shorebird Festival Date).

Cost: \$55 (estimate).

Comments: This beginner's trip is organized for the Oregon Shorebird Festival and open to all. You do not have to attend the festival in order to sign-up for this trip, but we recommend it! *Expected*: Black-footed Albatross; Northern Fulmar; Sooty Shearwater and Pink-footed Shearwaters; Brown Pelican; Red-necked Phalarope; Pomarine Jaeger; Heermann's Gull; Common Murre; Cassin's Auklet; Rhinoceros Auklet. *Marine mammals*: Dall's Porpoise seen riding our bow wave. Expert guides point out the birds and explain identification and natural history. Large boat will carry up to 40 passengers. Check web page for additional trips, up-to-date schedule, sign-up, participant trip information, photos, monthly abundance checklists, and sightings archive. See 2007 photo trip report: <http://thebirdguide.com/pelagics/archive/09012007.htm>.

50. Offshore Washington, Gray's Canyon & Outer Slope

Departure point: Westport, Washington.

Destination: Continental Shelf and oceanic waters, 40-60 miles offshore.

Trip length: 8–10 hours.

Trip organizer: P.O. Box 665, Westport, Washington 98595; pmmand001@comcast.net; www.westportseabirds.com; 360/268-9141.

Dates of 2008 trips: Grays Canyon Trips: April 26, May 17, Aug. 2, 16, 23; Sept. 7, 14, 20, 27. Outer Slope Trips: June 25, July 9, 23.

Cost: Grays Canyon, \$115; Outer Slope: \$130.

Comments: Grays Canyon – 40 miles offshore; Outer Slope – 50 miles offshore; *All season*: Laysan (rare) and Black-footed Albatrosses; Northern Fulmar; Sooty Shearwater; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel; cormorants (3); Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake; Common Murre; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Tufted Puffin. *Apr.*: Murphy's Petrel (rare). *May–Oct.*: Pink-footed and Flesh-footed (variable) Shearwaters; Brown Pelican; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers. *Sept.–Oct.*: Buller's Shearwater. *May, July–Sept.*: Leach's Storm-Petrel; Red-necked Phalarope; Arctic Tern. *July–Oct.*: South Polar Skua; Heermann's and California Gulls; Xantus's Murrelet (rare). *May, July–Oct.*: Sabine's Gull. *Oct.–Apr.*: Pacific Loon; Mottled Petrel; Short-tailed Shearwater; Parakeet Auklet. *Marine mammals*: Gray Whale (spring); Harbor and Dall's Porpoises; Grampus; Pacific White-sided and

Northern Right Whale Dolphins; Occasional: Sperm or Humpback Whales; Northern Fur and Elephant Seals. *Fishes*: Ocean Sunfish. *Reptiles*: Leatherback Turtle.

51. Homer, Alaska

Departure point: Small-boat harbor, ramp three, Homer, AK.

Destination: Upper Kachemak Bay, including Glacier Spit, Mud Bay, and Gull Island seabird rookery (more than 17,000 nesting birds of up to eight species).

Trip length: about 3 hours; shorter or longer trips can be arranged, depending on your specific interests.

Trip organizer: Bay Excursions: Captain Karl Stoltzfus, PO Box 3312, Homer, AK 99603; 907/235-7525; www.bayexcursions.com.

Dates of 2008 trips: Individualized tours from April to October; usually depart 10 a.m., but other times may be arranged. Advance booking highly recommended.

Cost: Prices vary depending on duration of trip; standard three-hour trip is \$70/person.

Comments: Led by lifelong Alaskan Karl Stoltzfus, at Bay Excursions: bay@xyz.net or call 907/235-7525; aboard the 18-passenger *Torega*; web site www.homer.alaskabirding.com includes complete species list and additional information. *Expected in season*: Kittlitz's and Marbled Murrelets; Aleutian and Arctic Terns; Black-legged Kittiwake; Red-faced and Pelagic Cormorants; Pigeon Guillemot; Horned and Tufted Puffins; Common Murre; Common Loon; all three scoters; Harlequin Duck. *Possible*: Glaucous and Herring Gulls; Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers (during May and Aug. migrations); many species of shorebirds in breeding plumage (May); Common Eider; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel; Red-necked Phalarope. *Occasional*: King and Steller's Eiders (winter residents); Long-tailed Jaeger; Bonaparte's and Sabine's Gulls; Yellow-billed, Pacific, and Red-throated Loons. *Extras*: Sea Otter, Steller Sea Lion, Humpback Whale, Orca, Harbor Seal, Dall and Harbor Porpoises.

52. Ferry from Homer to Dutch Harbor, Alaska

Route: Homer to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, with stops at Kodiak and Cold Bay.

Trip length: about 3 days, one-way.

Ferry Company: Alaska Marine Highway System, PO Box 25535, Juneau, AK 99802, 800/642-0066; www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/index.html.

2008 Schedule: Variable year-round schedule; inquire for specific departure times.

Cost: Website has complete schedule and fare information, including online route and schedule search.

Comments: Laysan Albatross, Sooty and Short-tailed Shearwaters; Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel; Pelagic Cormorant; Glaucous-winged Gull; Black-legged Kittiwake; Arctic and Aleutian Terns; Common Murre; Ancient Murrelet; Cassin's and Whiskered Auklets; Tufted and Horned Puffins. *Possibilities*: Black-footed Albatross; Leach's Storm-Petrel; Red Phalarope; Pomarine Jaeger; Kittlitz's Murrelet. *Rare*: Pink-footed and Flesh-footed Shearwaters. *Extremely Rare*: Short-tailed Albatross.

The best area for most bird species is between Cold Bay and Dutch Harbor. June and July are best months for viewing birds. Study the ferry schedule before planning your trip and making reservations, to ensure that you will transit as much of this area in daylight as possible. Air service is available between Anchorage and Dutch Harbor. For helpful information on birding via the Alaska State Ferry system, see "Birding from the Alaska State Ferry, Homer to Dutch Harbor, Alaska" in the January 1998 *Winging It*.