

Trip Report: Canada August 2012



Florion National Park – with Beaver Lodge and Beaver

I took a sum of £1450 in Canadian \$'s (C\$) pre ordered. The exchange rate was roughly C\$0.68 = £1

Sat 18th August

Travel from Norfolk to Heathrow staying at the Comfort Hotel, Shepiston Lane, Hayes , Middlesex UB3 1LP for a price of £85 including parking for the vehicle during the time away in Canada.

Sun 19th August

Flight number AC865 with Air Canada leaving at 15:30 checking in at terminal 3 at 12:30. The flight was uneventful and on arrival in Montreal I picked up a hire car prebooked but not paid for with Avis. The expected charge was C\$635. Spent the night at The Days Inn and Conference Centre 4545 Boulevard Cote Vertu Ouest Montreal CAH451C8. Room only was £57.54.

Mon 20th August

I travelled North stopping at Cape Tourmente in Saint Joachim, There were many trails on the reserve with views over marshes. C\$6 entrance fee. Good area for ducks and Rails. Nearby the Grande-Ferme is an interpretation centre nearby that was once farm buildings. Ruby throated Hummingbirds were coming to feed at the information centre

bird feeders. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen as well as a few Bobolinks and Bald Eagle.

Stayed at the Tadoussac Hotel 165 Rue Bord de L'eau in the town. Total price was C\$675 for the room only for a three night stay.

Tues 21st August

I went on a whale watch at 9:15am with Croisières. The cost was £108.99 (for 2 people) for 3 hours on a zodiac. Very good pilot who was respectful of the cetaceans. Had some great views of many species including Beluga, Minke, Humpback, Fin and Blue Whale much to the annoyance of a German chap who didn't see all he wanted to see on his tour!

During the afternoon whale watched from land at Cap-de-Bon-Desir. A walk around a boardwalk gave good views of waders, migrant warblers and cetaceans.

During the evening we went to a Bear Watch at 18:00. This was booked but not paid for and cost C\$32 each plus tax – it was at Domaine de nos ancêtres 1895 Route 172 sud Sacre-Coeur Quebec GOT 1YO – well worth it. Shipped into the forest by bus and sat in a hide with around 50 other people. The bears were fed to attract them.



Blue Whale out of Tadoussac



Minke Whale – Tadoussac



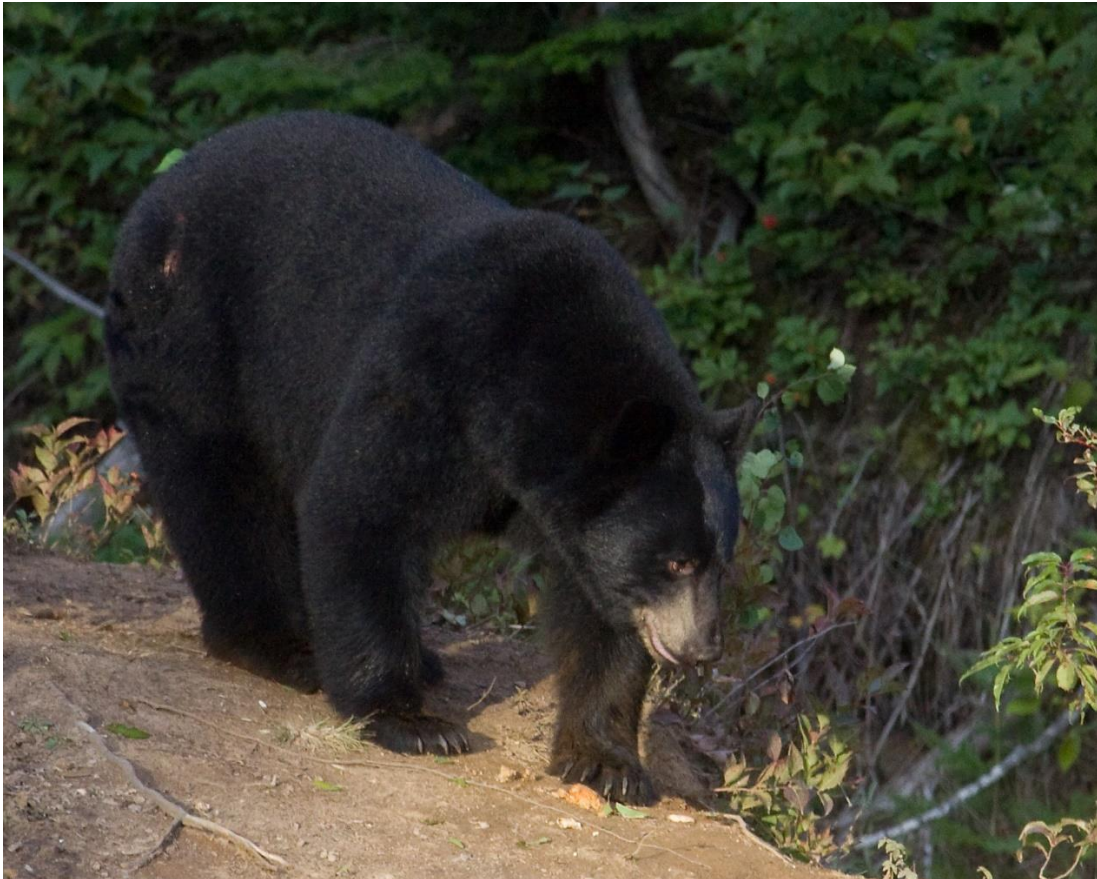
Humpback – Tadoussac



Fin Whale – Tadoussac



Beluga - Tadoussac



Black Bear – near Tadoussac

Weds 22nd August

An early morning walk around city hall in Tadoussac followed by the rest of the day whale watching and looking for migrants around the rocks at Escoumain. Least, Spotted, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Plovers, a Killdeer, Short billed Dowitchers overhead and an adult Little Gull.

In Tadoussac 2 Least Flycatchers, 3 Red eyed Vireos, 1 Tennessee, 1 Blackburnian, 1 Nashville and 2 Blackpoll warblers and heard a possible Northern Waterthrush, plus Rd Breasted Nuthatches, Chickadees, Cedar Waxwings and Pine Siskins. After breakfast, birds were moving through the garden including 2 Blackburnians, 1 Black throated Green, 1 Blackpoll, 1 Tennessee, 2 Nashvilles and a Magnolia Warbler



Least Sandpiper – Tadoussac



Semi-Palmated Sandpiper – Tadoussac



White Rumped Sandpiper – Tadoussac



Nashville Warbler – Tadoussac



Cape May Warbler – Tadoussac

Thurs 23rd August

Set off North mid morning to get to the ferry terminal at Godbout which took 3 hours and 20 minutes to catch the ferry at 14:00 we needed to be there at least 1 hour before. The ferry was prebooked and a deposit paid of C\$20. The crossing itself took 2 hours and 10 minutes to Matane.

There were some good cetaceans from the ferry including Blue Whales. Probably the most significant record which at the time seemed incredulous was a Little Shearwater that flew in front of the bow and out of sight. I half dismissed it at the time. It wasn't until a couple of months after the event I read there had been an influx of birds into the North West Atlantic including some seen in the St Lawrence.

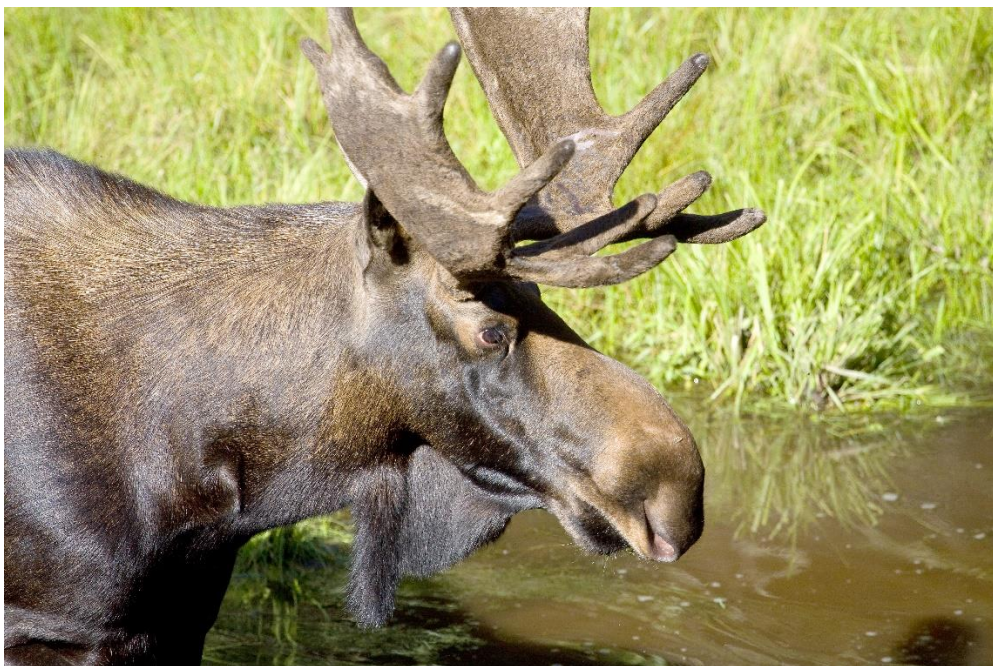
Stopped in a roadside hotel in Matane that had sea views from the balcony.

Fri 24th August

Drove to Sainte Anne des Monts onto the Matane Preserve which took 1 hour 20 minutes. The track on the reserve was like a scree slope. It would have been worth having a four wheel drive vehicle for this stretch.

Headed for an area with large 'bags' of Moose reported in the hunting season. Drove as far as I could and then hiked through woodland to a pool with an observation platform. Eventually a splendid male moose with headgear showed itself at close range for what seemed like hours.

Also saw Golden Eagles, Pileated Woodpeckers, Ruffed Grouse, Spruce Grouse, Osprey and Bald Eagles. Night back at Matane.



Moose at the Matane Preserve

Sat 25th August



Belted Kingfisher – Matane Refuge



Evening Grosbeak – Matane Refuge



Merlin Gaspese National Park



Spruce Grouse – Gaspese National Park

Sat 25th August

Gaspese National Park. Mont Albert would also provide a change of habitat and a nice place to pass a night. Reservation necessary for the lodge. Blackburnian Warblers (*Dendroica fusca*) across the street from the lodge and Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) up the mountain trail. The "Parc de la Gaspésie" is a provincial park which you shouldn't miss (bring some insect repellent though). The mountains there are gorgeous. Golden Eagles here. Both the Mont Albert and the Mont Jacques- Cartier harbour have a small Caribou population.

Sun 26th August

Travelled to Forillon which took around 2 hours and 40 minutes. Stayed and ate at a Western Type Motel The Auberge Le Caribou, 82 Boulv Renard, Ouest Route 132 Rivière au Renard Gaspé Quebec G4X 5H2 for three nights

Checked out bays and coastline especially Rivière-à-Claude to Gros-Morne for Black Scoters, Surf Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes plus Glossy Ibis.



Greater Yellowlegs Forillon national Park



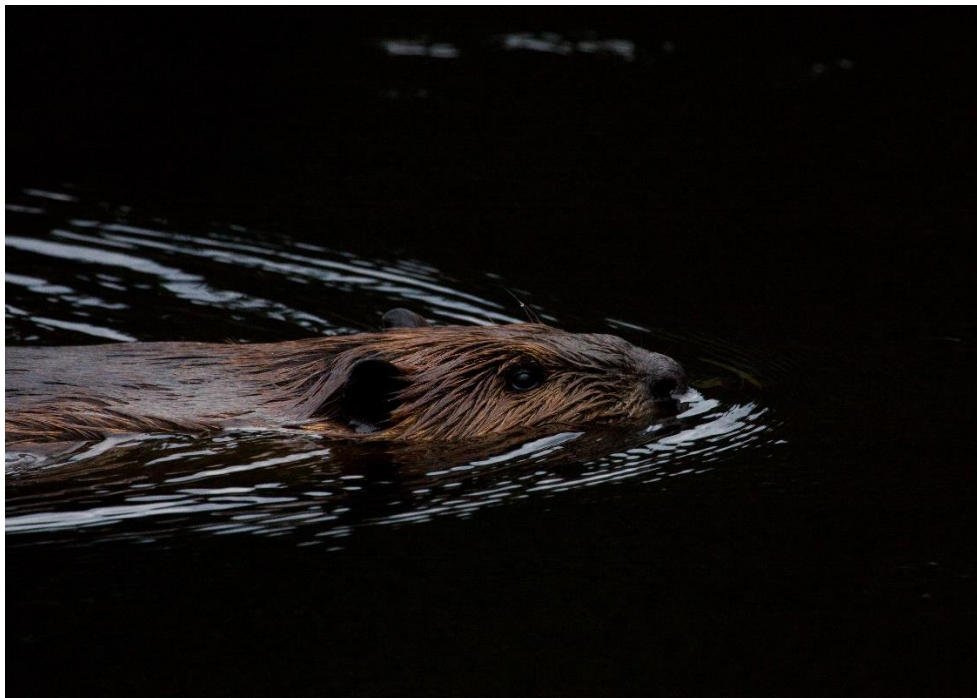
Morning Cloak – Gaspé Peninsula

Mon 27th August

Did a whale watch on a zodiac which wasn't very productive. Walked along the spit and did a visit to a Castor (Beaver) site labelled Castor Car Park on the local map.



Bald Eagle at the Castor Pond



Beaver at the Castor Pond

Tues 28th August

Visited the mountains at Perce which can produce several boreal species, like Bicknell's Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, etc. One of them is accessible by car (Cap Blanc) and the other (Mont Ste-Anne) has trails leading to the top. You can reach the trails near the church, from the road facing the wharf. Go to the left trail for Mt Ste-Anne, right for La Grotte.



Semi-palmated Plover Forillon National Park



Northern Flicker Forillion National Park



Black Scoter near Perce



Woodchuck - Perce

Weds 29th August

Travelled to Bic which took around 5 hours. Airport at Mont Joli for waders (including Upland Sandpiper) and Horned Lark.



Meadowhawk - Bic

Thurs 30th August

Travelled to Montreal which took around 5 hours 30 minutes. Called in at Cacouna Marshes at Riviere du Loup. Cacouna, just east of Riviere-du-Loup, which has a very nice salt marsh that is easily accessible. The marshes are adjacent to the marine terminal (try the road to the port a pond on left was very productive), the access is about 1-2 km further east.

Birds seen included Brant, Glaucous Gull, Surf Scoter, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail and Black-crowned Night Heron. A good place for migrating shorebirds (not the best time though) and some breeding species (Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Wilson's Phalarope, Yellow and other rails, etc).

Stayed in a small roadside hotel.

Fri 31st August

Visited Mont Royal Park in Montreal and saw both Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers.
Dropped car off and caught flight home at 19.40 check in at 16.40 Flight No AC864 with Air Canada.



White breasted Nuthatch at Mont Royal Park in Montreal



Monarch Butterfly – Mont Royal Park Montreal

Sat 1st September

Landed at Heathrow at 7:30am

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