

Atlantic Seabird and Marine Mammal Cruise

September 1 - 3, 1982

One-day trips off shore to watch seabirds and marine mammals have proliferated to an astonishing degree, but to the best of our knowledge, no one has yet attempted a multi-day cruise in the north-western North Atlantic.

Leaving from Gloucester, Mass. on the evening of Wednesday, September 1, we'll investigate such well-known concentration areas as Stellwagen Bank, Pollock Rip and the Great South Channel, and steam south along longitude 69°W to Hydrographer's Canyon on the edge of the Continental Shelf. En route we'll detour to visit fishing fleets or eddies of warm Gulf Stream water, the precise location of which cannot be determined until shortly before departure.

Early September is a time of great seabird abundance and by visiting both rich inshore and warm Continental Shelf waters we should see a wide variety of species including Cory's and Greater Shearwaters in large or possibly huge flocks, a few Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Leach's and large numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, scattered sub-adult Gannets, Red and Northern Phalaropes and Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers. Scarcer species which we'll probably encounter include Northern Fulmar, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern and Common Puffin. One of the delights of birdwatching at sea is the anticipation—the hope that something really bizarre will appear. While such events are infrequent and unpredictable, the scope of our trip sharply increases our chances. Species like Audubon's Shearwater, Great and South Polar Skuas, Long-tailed Jaeger and Sabine's Gull are distinctly possible if not quite probable and in warm water areas species which might occur include White-faced Storm-Petrel and Bridled Tern.

Marine mammals are an equally important part of the trip and census work conducted during the last few years has shown all these areas to be frequented by Humpback, Finback and Minke Whales among others, while the warmer and offshore areas provide the chance of Pilot Whales, Risso's Dolphin and perhaps even a Sperm or Right Whale. Since the conditions which produce whale concentrations also attract birds, both objectives can be accomplished simultaneously.

The cruise will be operated as a workshop. Staff will include Dr. Steven Katona, Marine Biologist at College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine and senior author of *A Field Guide to Whales and Seals of the Gulf of Maine*; Kevin Powers, Senior Biologist at Manomet Bird Observatory with responsibility for M.B.O.'s seabird and marine mammal research; Richard Veit, a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts and formerly at M.B.O. and Will Russell of WINGS. There will be informal lectures Wednesday and Thursday evenings on such topics as identification and the current status of marine mammal and bird populations in the northwestern North Atlantic.

Our trip begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1 with dinner and informal discussions at a Gloucester restaurant. After dinner we'll depart aboard the *Yankee Capts.*, a fully-equipped 100-ft. vessel with experience in our target waters. The trip will conclude about 7 p.m. on Sept. 3.

Price per person will be \$295 and includes two breakfasts and three dinners, ship's berth, lectures and trip materials. We should note that accommodations will be simple, two and three-high bunks in an open dormitory setting.

Weather at this season is likely to be good. Fog is possible, especially from Pollock Rip north and, of course, in the event of a tropical storm, the trip will be canceled with all monies refunded.

Space can be reserved by forwarding a \$50 deposit. For more information, please write.



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