

Fogo Island Inn 2016 Valentine's Weekend

Bird and Mammal List



It has been told that St. Valentine [Bishop Valentinus of Terni] was imprisoned and tortured in Rome in 269 BC for marrying Roman soldiers who were forbidden to do so. The Valentine's Day association with winning hearts and with love birds appears to have been given traction in 14th century England by the author of *Canterbury Tales* Geoffrey Chaucer. Some considered 14 February to be the time birds chose the mates [for the most part a female initiative]. While that may be the case in sunny England, it's a bit too early for the birds on Fogo Island, but fortunately not for humans who will also have the opportunity to seek out and encounter the many seabirds and land birds that are enjoying their winter vacations along the shores and over the hills and dales of Fogo Island.

Highlights this year included an abundance of Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks as well as diversity of other birds attracted to massive crops of dogberries [mountain ash] and willow catkins across the landscape. The seascape glistened with Arctic pack ice and was enlivened with some hearty Eiders from Labrador and Ellesmere

Island, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls from Baffin Island and Greenland and by the resilient resident diving “Pigeons” or Black Guillemots.

BIRDS

Eider Duck

40 [for late risers Ferg Penton saw 1000s at dawn]



Iceland Gull

6



Glaucous Gull

1

Black-backed Gull

1

Black Guillemot [Pigeon]

11

Blue Jay

3

Northern Raven	4
Crow	22
Boreal Chickadee	2
American Robin	1
European Starling	20
House Sparrow	7
Purple Finch	5



Pine Grosbeak	21
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Common Redpoll	186
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White-winged Crossbill	20
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And

1 Great Auk



MAMMALS

Red Fox [cross fox]

1

Caribou

20