

# David Cairns, PhD

## COORDINATES

davidkcairns@gmail.com, davidcairnsphoto.com, 902-626-5032.  
Lives in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Citizenship: Canadian.

## INTERESTS

I am interested in how human and natural history fit together in the North Atlantic and adjacent Arctic. Specific interests in the ecology of marine birds and mammals, and the peopling of northern regions by indigenous and Norse migrants.

## EXPERIENCE

**Guiding and lecturing:** Since the 1970s, hundreds of presentations to scientific and public audiences. Since 2016, expedition naturalist to Iceland, Greenland, and eastern and Arctic Canada with Adventure Canada and Lindblad Expeditions.

**Science:** Scientist with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans since 1987. Now Scientist Emeritus. Research and teaching appointments at several universities.

**Field:** I have lived, worked or studied in most parts of the east coast of Canada. I lived in tents on Canadian Arctic islands for several field seasons. Extensive travel in Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, Ireland, Alaska, Australia, and New Zealand.

**Boating:** Many years on the water with Zodiacs and other small craft.

## SKILLS

**Languages:** Native English, fluent French.

**University:** BSc, MSc, PhD, biology and marine ecology

**Certifications:** Canadian Pleasure Craft Operator\*, Marine Emergency Duties A2\*, Small Vessel Operator Proficiency\*, Canadian Basic Drone Pilot Licence\*, Canadian Firearms Possession and Acquisition Licence\*, First Aid and CPR.

\*Government of Canada certification.

## SOME LECTURE TITLES

### Biology:

The invention of the polar bear and the spoiling of the Great Arctic Party

Why the most spectacular concentrations of marine wildlife are found in polar waters

Beyond the Turr Wall

### History:

Uber Iceberg: riding the berg that sank the Titanic

New clues in old sagas: can marine biology help find the Viking Promised Land?

Did the European lust for unicorn horns save, and then sink, the Norse Greenlandic colonies?

Inuit, ingots, and Chicken Little: how an ancient meteorite put indigenous people on top

### Stories:

Seven ways to nearly get killed as a seabird biologist

How to discover a UNESCO World Heritage Site even if you're a rank amateur

## MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTO GALLERY

[davidcairnsphoto.com](http://davidcairnsphoto.com)

## VOLUNTEER POSTS

Board member, Vinland Society of Prince Edward Island;  
Instructor, Seniors College of Prince Edward Island; Scout leader



On a glacier near Kiatassuaq Island, Greenland. Photo by David Cairns