

# Michigan's Isle Royale

## Species List | August 15 – 23, 2025

### with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Kent Skaggs with guide Dan Donaldson. Our clients included Arvella & Jane, Carol & Dan, Cindy & John, Julie, Lynn & Tricia and Scott.**

Nature enthusiasts from California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada and Pennsylvania gathered in northern Michigan to explore the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale National Park. We started in the city of Houghton before making our way up the peninsula to the small community of Copper Harbor, where we would take a ferry to Isle Royale National Park. Once on Isle Royale, we enjoyed the remote wilderness this park has to offer by hiking a few of the trails nearby and just relaxing and listening to the sound of the waves from Lake Superior lapping the rocky shoreline near our lodging. Upon returning to the Keweenaw Peninsula, we explored a few more natural areas and made a stop at the Quincy Mine near Hancock to learn a little more about the region's copper mining past. During our time in the UP, we managed to find some wildlife as well. To find out what was encountered on the tour, please keep reading.

BIRDS - 75 species were recorded of which one was heard only (HO) and one was introduced (I). Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 75 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

#### [Michigan's Isle Royal | August 15-23, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

#### **BIRDS (75):**

#### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: ANATIDAE**

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* — Seen on several days at several locations but not in large numbers.

**Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa* — Four were seen at the Paavola Wetlands on our way back to Houghton.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* — Seen each day but in small numbers at multiple locations.

**American Black Duck** *Anas rubripes* — Three were seen at Hidden Lake on our last day on Isle Royale.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca* — Three were seen on a small wetland along the Stoll Trail on Isle Royale.

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser* — Several were seen from the Harbor Haus in Copper Harbor and were also seen daily in small numbers on Isle Royale.

#### **PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: PHASIANIDAE**

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo* — A lone tom was seen crossing the road between the Brockway Mountain overlook and Copper Harbor.

#### **GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE**

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* — A single bird was seen at the Paavola Wetlands.

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE**

**Rock Pigeon (I)** *Columba livia* — Small numbers seen in Houghton and Calumet.

**Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura* — A single bird was seen in Copper Harbor.

#### **SWIFTS: APODIDAE**

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* — Small numbers were seen in Calumet and Copper Harbor.

#### **HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris* — Seen most days with several seen in Copper Harbor.

#### **CRANES: GRUIDAE**

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis* — One was seen in flight at Nara Nature Park on the morning of the 15th and then heard on consecutive days while on Isle Royale.

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE**

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* — Single birds were seen on back to back mornings at Nara Nature Park.

**Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria* — A single bird was seen in flight on the morning of the 15th at Nara Nature Park.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* — Two birds were seen together in flight near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center on Isle Royale.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: LARIDAE**

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* — Seen most days at multiple locations.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* — Seen in the Copper Harbor area and on Isle Royale.

#### **LOONS: GAVIIDAE**

**Common Loon** *Gavia immer* — Seen and heard on Isle Royale, with six adults seen together in Tobin Harbor on our last day.

#### **CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE**

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus* — Seen in flight at Copper Harbor and on the water in Rock Harbor on Isle Royale.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: ARDEIDAE**

**Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* — A single bird was seen in flight at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE**

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* — Single birds were seen on separate days in Copper Harbor.

#### **OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* — A single bird was seen in flight while visiting the Bangsund Cabin area on Isle Royale.

### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: ACCIPITRIDAE**

**Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius* — A single bird was seen in flight at the Paavola Wetlands.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus* — A single bird was seen briefly at the start of the trail at the Mary Macdonald Preserve.

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* — An adult and juvenile were seen on consecutive mornings at Nara Nature Park, two adults were seen on Bat Island on Isle Royale and an immature bird was seen in flight at Copper Harbor.

### **KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megasceryle alcyon* — One was heard at Nara Nature Park, while individuals were seen on Isle Royale and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

### **WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE**

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius* — One seen at Nara Nature Park and two at Estivant Pines Wilderness Nature Sanctuary.

**Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens* — Seen most days and at multiple locations.

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus* — A single bird was seen near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center and two were seen together along the Stoll Trail on Isle Royale.

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park and on Isle Royale from the Stoll Trail and the burned area above Hidden Lake.

**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, the burned area above Hidden Lake on Isle Royle and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE**

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* — Seen most days at multiple locations.

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE**

**Eastern Kingbird** *Tyrannus tyrannus* — Three were seen together at Nara Nature Park on the morning of the 15th.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee** *Contopus virens* — Single birds were seen at Nara Nature Park and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

**Least Flycatcher** *Empidonax minimus* — HO, at Nara Nature Park on consecutive mornings.

**Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe* — Seen at Nara Nature Park.

### **VIREOS: VIREONIDAE**

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, on Isle Royale and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

### **CROWS AND JAYS: CORVIDAE**

**Canada Jay** *Perisoreus canadensis* — A single bird was seen near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center, three from the Stoll Trail and three near the Rock Harbor Office/Restaurant area.

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata* — Seen, but mostly heard, at multiple locations.

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos* — Very few seen and only on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* — Seen each day at multiple locations.

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: PARIDAE**

**Black-capped Chickadee** *Poecile atricapillus* — Seen each day at multiple locations.

### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: HIRUNDINIDAE**

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* — A few were seen in Copper Harbor.

#### **KINGLETS: REGULIDAE**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa* — One seen from the road on the way to Mary Macdonald Preserve and several seen or heard on Isle Royale.

#### **NUTHATCHES: SITTIDAE**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis* — Seen or heard most days at multiple locations.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis* — A single bird was seen at Nara Nature Park.

#### **CREEPERS: CERCITHIDAE**

**Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana* — A single bird was seen from the Stoll Trail on Isle Royale.

#### **MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE**

**Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* — A single bird was briefly seen, but heard several times at Nara Nature Park on the morning of the 15th.

#### **THRUSHES: TURDIDAE**

**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, above Hidden Lake on Isle Royale, Fort Wilkins Historic State Park and Paavola Wetlands.

#### **WAXWINGS: BOMBYCILLIDAE**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum* — Seen each day and at multiple locations with great looks at several catching insects in flight over the water at Nara Nature Park.

#### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: FRINGILLIDAE**

**Purple Finch** *Haemorhous purpureus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, Copper Harbor and Paavola Wetlands.

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis* — Seen each day on the peninsula at multiple locations and above Hidden Lake on Isle Royale.

#### **NEW WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERELLIDAE**

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* — Seen primarily on Isle Royale but also in Copper Harbor.

**White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis* — Mostly heard, but seen from the Stoll Trail and above Hidden Lake on Isle Royale.

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* — Seen at multiple locations on the peninsula.

#### **NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: ICTERIDAE**

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park with a conservative count being 100.

**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula* — Seen at Nara Nature Park.

#### **NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE**

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* — Single birds seen at Mary Macdonald Preserve, the Edisen Fishery/Rock Harbor Lighthouse and from the Stoll Trail on Isle Royale and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

**Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrina* — Two were seen on our morning walk in Copper Harbor.

**Nashville Warbler** *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* — Seen at Mary Macdonald Preserve, Estivant Pines and from the Tobin Harbor and Stoll Trails on Isle Royale.

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* — Seen at Nara Nature Park.

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* — Seen at multiple locations and was our most abundant warbler for the trip.

**Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina* — Seen at Estivant Pines, several locations on Isle Royale and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana* — Seen on Isle Royale near the Bangsund Cabin, the Edisen Fishery dock and from the Stoll Trail and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia* — One was seen along the road on the way to Mary Macdonald Preserve and another in Copper Harbor.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** *Setophaga castanea* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, Mary Macdonald Preserve, the Rock Harbor Lodge area and from Stoll Trail on Isle Royale.

**Blackburnian Warbler** *Setophaga fusca* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, Mary Macdonald Preserve, the Rock Harbor Lodge area on Isle Royale.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* — Seen at Nara Nature Park.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica* — Seen at Nara Nature Park.

**Pine Warbler** *Setophaga pinus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* — Seen at multiple locations and was the second most abundant warbler.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens* — Seen at multiple locations.

**Canada Warbler** *Cardellina canadensis* — Guide only, seen from the Stoll Trail on Isle Royale.

#### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae**

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* — Single birds were seen at Nara Nature Park, from the Stoll Trail on Isle Royale and two were seen at the Paavola Wetlands.

#### **MAMMALS (6):**

**American Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* — Common, seen at multiple locations.

**Eastern Chipmunk** *Tamias striatus* — Seen at Copper Harbor.

**Snowshoe Hare** *Lepus americanus* — A single hare was seen near the summer staff housing on Isle Royale.

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* — An individual was seen crossing the highway north of Calumet.

**North American River Otter** *Lontra canadensis* — Four were seen at Rock Harbor near the dock for The Sandy on the morning of the 20th and again on the 21st.

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus* — Seen at several locations on the peninsula.

#### **AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES (4):**

**American Toad** *Anaxyrus americanus* — Seen twice on Isle Royale.

**Spring Peeper** *Pseudacris crucifer* — A single peeper was seen on a tree along the trail to Bangsund Cabin on Isle Royale.

**Green Frog** *Rana clamitans* — Seen on Isle Royale.

**Eastern Garter Snake** *Thamnophis sirtalis* — Seen at the dock for the Edisen Fishery on Isle Royale.

#### **INSECTS (1):**

**MONARCH BUTTERFLY** *Danaus plexippus* — Seen on Isle Royale.