

Into the Northwest Passage

Species List | August 15 - September 1, 2025

with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide John Carlson. Our clients included Caroline, Nigel, Jack, Nancy, Mary Jane, Marge, Joyce, and Diane.

This trip started on the southern coast of Greenland at Kangerlussuaq and continued along the western coast of Greenland and then across Baffin Bay and through Nunavut Canada following the historical route of the Northwest Passage through the islands of northern Canada. It was a bit late in the season to see many breeding birds, but we were able to find a number of migrants, particularly as we got further south. One day of birding at Yellowknife, NWT at the conclusion of the trip resulted in a number of additional species associated with the edge of the boreal forest.

BIRDS 62 species were recorded and all were endemic. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 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.

[Into the Northwest Passage | August 15 -September 1, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

Family Species or Common Name: Scientific Name — (62 Species observed, none were introduced)

DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS: Anatidae — (14)

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* — Multiple flocks heading south during the later part of the trip.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* — One family group in Ikaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay).

Brant *Branta bernicla* — A few individuals observed along the coast at Ikaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay).

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* — A number of flocks observed at the later part of the trip in the western part of the Northwest Passage.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* — Numerous flocks observed during the later part of the trip in western Nunavut.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana* — A few individuals observed at Niven Lake in Yellowknife NWT.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — A few individuals located in a couple of locations in Greenland and also at Niven Lake, Yellowknife, NWT.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* — Niven Lake, Yellowknife, NWT.

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria* — A couple of individuals at Niven Lake, Yellowknife, NWT.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* — Niven Lake, Yellowknife, NWT.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* — Great looks at two individuals along the shore at Qeqertarsuaq in Greenland and others in scattered flocks in Canada.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* — Most common waterfowl observed throughout the trip.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* — A few individuals observed in Greenland and Nunavut.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* — Observed at Niven Lake, Yellowknife, NWT.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae — (1)

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta* — (1) One individual was observed at Eqip Sermia in Greenland by a portion of the group.

CRANES: Gruidae — (1)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis* — Quite a few individuals foraging at the dump in Ikaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay) and also a few scattered flocks flying south the later part of the trip.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE — (1)

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* — A couple of individuals at a small seep in Ikaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay).

SANDPIPERs AND ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE — (4)

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* — One individual observed at Qeqertarsuaq in Greenland and other individuals observed at sea in Nunavut.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — A couple of small flocks observed at sea in Greenland and in Davis Strait.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* — One individual observed in flock of Ruddy Turnstones in Greenland.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* — One large flock at sea in western Nunavut.

SKUAS AND JAEGERS: STERCORARIIDAE — (3)

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* — One individual observed in Greenland

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* — A few individuals found at various locations in the eastern portion of the trip.

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* — Mostly found in the western portion of the trip in Nunavut.

AUKS, MURRES AND PUFFINS: Bucerotidae — (3)

Black Guillemot *Cephus grille* — Many individuals observed with some still obviously transporting fish back to breeding colonies.

Dovekie *Alle alle* — Many observed on either side of Baffin Bay, often foraging near sea ice.

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* — Common on either side of Baffin Bay. Got to see two large breeding colonies in Nunavut.

GULLS AND TERNS: LARIDAE — (5)

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* — Likely the most common bird observed on the trip and were only not observed during the last couple of days.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* — A few individuals at a few sites in Greenland

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* — Observed throughout the trip. Most common large gull.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* — Individuals observed at a few landings in Greenland.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucopterus* — Observed on either side of Baffin Bay and noted variation across the Arctic, with very pale individuals in Greenland and gradually darker individuals as we moved further west.

LOONS: GAVIIDAE — (3)

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* — A number of individuals observed across the arctic. Often heard first and then observed flying nearby.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica* — A number of individuals observed entering the harbor at Ikaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay).
Common Loon *Gavia immer* — A couple observed on Disko Island in Greenland.

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS: PROCELLARIIDAE — (1)

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* — A consistently observed bird throughout the trip except for the last couple of days.

CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE — (1)

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* — A couple observed around colonies near Eqip Sermia in Greenland.

OWLS: Coraciidae — (2)

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* — One individual observed flying through town in Kugluktuk.

Snowy Owl — One distant individual on the ground on a small offshore island in Kugluktuk.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (1)

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* — One individual observed flying through town in Kugluktuk.

JAYS AND CROWS: CORVIDAE — (3)

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* — A few individuals found at Lake Niven, Yellowknife, NWT.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* — Commonly observed when we were near settlements throughout the trip.

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonica* — A few individuals found at Lake Niven, Yellowknife, NWT.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: PARIDAE — (1)

Boreal Chickadee *Poecile hudsonicus* — A few individuals found at Lake Niven, Yellowknife, NWT.

KINGLETS: REGULIDAE — (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Corthylio calendula* — A few individuals found at Lake Niven, Yellowknife, NWT.

THRUSHES: TURDIDAE — (1)

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* — One individual observed in Kugluktuk.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: MUSCICAPIDAE — (1)

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* — A few individuals observed in Greenland with most observed just before boarding the ship in Kangerlussuaq.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: MOTACILLIDAE — (1)

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens* — One individual at a small seep in Ikaluktutiak (Cambridge Bay).

FINCHES: FRINGILLIDAE — (1)

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* — A number of individuals at landings in Greenland and Nunavut.

LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTINGS: CALCARIIDAE — (2)

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* — Scattered individuals observed on landings throughout the trip.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* — Scattered individuals observed on landings throughout the trip.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae — (3)

American Tree Sparrow *Spizelloides arborea* — One individual observed in Kugluktuk.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* — Many individuals observed in Kugluktuk.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* — One individual observed in Kugluktuk.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: ICTERIDAE — (1)

Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* — A few individuals found at Lake Niven, Yellowknife, NWT.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE — (4)

Orange-crowned Warbler *Leiothlypis celata* — A few individuals found at Lake Niven, Yellowknife, NWT.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* — A couple individuals observed in Kugluktuk.

Palm Warbler — One found at Lake Niven, Yellowknife, NWT.

Yellow-rumped Warbler — A number of individuals found at Lake Niven, Yellowknife, NWT.

MAMMALS: — (8)

Arctic Hare *Lepus arcticus* — A couple were observed above the beach at our landing at Maxwell Bay in Nunavut.

Musk Ox *Ovibos moschatus* — One individual observed at a long distance along Prince of Wales Island.

Polar Bear *Ursus maritimus* — A number of individuals were observed during the course of the trip in Nunavut at the mouth of the Northwest Passage.

Harp Seal *Pagophilus groenlandicus* — Large groups observed in Baffin Bay

Ringed Seal *Pusa hispida* — Numerous individuals observed in Greenland and around Baffin Bay.

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* — One individual was observed early in the trip off the coast of Greenland.

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorstrata* — One individual observed off the coast of Greenland

Beluga Whale *Delphinapterus leucas* — One large pod was observed at a long distance moving along the shoreline of Victoria Island.