Michigan's Isle Royale
Species List | August 21-29, 2026
with Naturalist Journeys

Compiled by guide Kent Skaggs with guide Jeremiah Psiropoulos. Our clients included Dale, Elaine, Erin, Linda & Charles, Lois, Mary & Jonathan, Michelle & Donna and Toni.

Nature enthusiasts from Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio and Wyoming gathered in northern Michigan to explore the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale National Park. We began our adventure by visiting the Nara Nature Park on the south side of Houghton before making our way up the peninsula to Calumet to visit the Calumet Visitor Center, where we learned about the history of copper on the peninsula and the people that settled there. Then it was on to the small community of Copper Harbor for the night. The next morning, we took a ferry to Isle Royale National Park where we stayed at the Rock Harbor Lodge. While there, we enjoyed the peace and tranquility this national park has to offer by hiking a few of the trails nearby, taking excursions via a water taxi to other parts of the main island and neighboring islands and just relaxing and listening to the sound of the waves from Lake Superior lapping against the rocky shoreline. Upon returning to the Keweenaw Peninsula, we visited Fort Wilkins Historic State Park, the Paavola Wetlands and 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 - 80 species were recorded of which two were heard only (HO) and one was introduced (I). Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 80 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 Royale| August 21-29, 2026 | eBird Trip Report

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

BIRDS (80):

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: ANATIDAE

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* — Seen at Copper Harbor, Fort Wilkins Historic State Park and on Isle Royale, where the largest numbers seen were at Hidden Lake.

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Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* — One was seen in flight from the boardwalk at Nara Nature Park and two were seen perched on a log at the Paavola Wetlands.
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — Seen from the boardwalk at Nara Nature Park, at Copper Harbor and on Isle Royale.
American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* — A group of three were seen on multiple days in different locations on Isle Royale.
Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* — Two were seen together at the Paavola Wetlands.
Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* — One was seen from the Rock Harbor Trail.
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* — Common, seen at multiple locations.
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* — Several were seen from the Rock Harbor Trail.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: PHASIANIDAE
Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* — Two were seen along Highway 26 between Copper Harbor and Eagle Harbor.
Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus* — One was seen flying across Highway 41 just west of Phoenix.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE
Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia* — Small numbers seen in Houghton, with a couple seen in Calumet as well.
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* — One was seen in Copper Harbor.

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE
Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, on Passage Island and in Copper Harbor.

CRANES: GRUIDAE
Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis* — All were encountered on Isle Royale, with two heard while hiking the Stoll Memorial Trail, five seen while hiking the Tobin Harbor/Rock Harbor Trail loop and three seen in flight at Hidden Lake.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE
Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* — All sightings were on Isle Royale, with one seen multiple times along the shore of the Rock Harbor dock area and another individual seen at Hidden Lake (possibly the same bird).

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE
Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* — Two were seen in flight while waiting to board the ferry back to Copper Harbor.
Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* — All sightings were on Isle Royale.
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* — A photo of a single bird in flight was taken by Jeremiah, which was also seen by Charlie.

GULLS AND TERNS: LARIDAE
Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* — Common, seen every day at multiple locations.
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* — Seen in the Copper Harbor area and on Isle Royale where it was fairly common.

GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE
Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* — Two were seen at the Paavola Wetlands.
Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* — Individuals were seen on three occasions on Isle Royale.

LOONS: GAVIIDAE
Common Loon *Gavia immer* — Seen and heard daily on Isle Royale, with largest numbers in Tobin Harbor.

CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, on Isle Royale and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS: ARDEIDAE

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* — One see at the Paavola Wetlands.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* — Four were seen in flight from the Brockway Mountain Lookout and two at the Paavola Wetlands.

OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* — All sightings were on Isle Royale, with one seen in flight near the Bangsund Cabin, another on Raspberry Island and two from Lookout Louise along the Greenstone Ridge Trail.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: ACCIPITRIDAE

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* — A distant bird was seen in flight on Isle Royale near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* — Seen every day but one, with most being seen on Isle Royale.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* — One was seen low in flight at Lookout Louise on Isle Royale and another was seen in flight at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* — One was seen from the boardwalk at Nara Nature Park, with additional sightings on Isle Royale.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* — One was seen at Nara Nature Park.

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

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus* — Seen and heard on Isle Royale near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area, along the Stoll Memorial Trail and near Hidden Lake and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* — Seen and heard multiple times on Isle Royale.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, on Isle Royale, in Copper Harbor and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* — One was seen at Nara Nature Park in flight being harassed by a Merlin, another near Suzy's Cave on Isle Royale and another in flight at Lookout Louise, also being harassed by a Merlin.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* — Seen most days at multiple locations, including one hunting dragonflies at the Paavola Wetlands.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* — Single birds were seen in flight on Isle Royale near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area and from Lookout Louise.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* — Three were seen and heard at Nara Nature Park.

VIREOS: VIREONIDAE

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius* — Three were seen in a mixed feeding flock at the Great Sand Bay Scenic View Pullout.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* — Individuals were seen at Nara Nature Park, the Great Sand Bay Scenic View Pullout, on Isle Royale and a high count of four in Copper Harbor.

CROWS AND JAYS: CORVIDAE

Canada Jay *Perisoreus canadensis* — Seen only on Isle Royale, with three near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area and three more along the Tobin Harbor Trail.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* — Seen and heard at multiple locations on Isle Royale, as well as in Copper Harbor and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* — Seen and heard in multiple locations, but in small numbers.

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* — Seen only in Copper Harbor.

KINGLETS: REGULIDAE

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* — HO, on three occasions on Isle Royale.

NUTHATCHES: SITTIDAE

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* — One was seen at Nara Nature Park.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* — Seen or heard each day at multiple locations.

CREEPERS: CERTHIIDAE

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* — Two were seen near each other at Nara Nature Park.

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Northern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* — One was seen along the Stoll Memorial Trail on Isle Royale.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* — HO, at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

THRUSHES: TURDIDAE

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* — One seen along the Stoll Memorial Trail on Isle Royale.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius* — Seen on Isle Royale, in Copper Harbor, at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park and the Paavola Wetlands.

WAXWINGS: BOMBYCILLIDAE

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* — Seen each day and at multiple locations, with a high count of 30 in Copper Harbor.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: FRINGILLIDAE

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus* — Two were seen at Nara Nature Park.
American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, the Great Sand Bay Scenic View Pullout and heard at the Paavola Wetlands.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERELLIDAE

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* — Seen each day at multiple locations.
White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* — **S**een and heard at multiple locations on Isle Royale.
Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* — Seen on Isle Royale, in Copper Harbor, at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park and at the Quincy Mine.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: ICTERIDAE

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park.
Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* — Seen at Nara Nature Park.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* — Seen at Nara Nature Park and near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area on Isle Royale.
Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina* — Seen at the Great Sand Bay Scenic View Pullout and near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area on Isle Royale.
Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* — Seen at the Great Sand Bay Scenic View Pullout, the Rock Harbor Visitor Center Area on Isle Royale and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* — Heard at Nara Nature Park and seen at the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area on Isle Royale and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.
American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, Rock Harbor Visitor Center area on Isle Royale and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.
Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* — Seen at several locations on Isle Royale and was the second most numerous warbler seen behind the Yellow-rumped Warbler.
Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, near the Bangsund Cabin on Isle Royale and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.
Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* — Seen near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area on Isle Royale and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.
Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea* — Seen along the Tobin Harbor Trail and near the Bangsund Cabin on Isle Royale.
Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* — Seen at Nara Nature Park and the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area on Isle Royale.
Northern Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* — Seen at Nara Nature Park and on Passage Island.
Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* — Seen at Nara Nature Park and near the Bangsund Cabin on Isle Royale.
Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, the Brockway Mountain Lookout and the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area on Isle Royale.
Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata* — Seen at multiple locations and was the most abundant warbler seen.
Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* — Seen at Nara Nature Park, near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area and Bangsund Cabin on Isle Royale and at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* — One was seen in Copper Harbor.

MAMMALS (7):

Groundhog *Marmota monax* — One was seen in Copper Harbor.
American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* — Common, seen at multiple locations.
Eastern Chipmunk *Tamias striatus* — Seen in Copper Harbor.
Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus* — One was seen in Copper Harbor.
Snowshoe Hare *Lepus americanus* — Two were seen along the Stoll Memorial Trail and another near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area.
North American River Otter *Lontra canadensis* — Three were seen in Copper Harbor and at least one on back to back days at Rock Harbor near the dock for The Sandy.
White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* — Seen in Copper Harbor.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES (3):

American Toad *Anaxyrus americanus* — Seen on Isle Royale along the Tobin Harbor Trail and Raspberry Island.
Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta* — Seen at the Paavola Wetlands.
Eastern Garter Snake *Thamnophis sirtalis* — Seen at multiple locations on Isle Royale.