

Michigan's Isle Royale & Keweenaw Peninsula | Species List August 25 – September 2, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guides Dave Mehlman and Kent Skaggs and 13 participants: Adele & John, Carol & Dave, Jane & Steve, Jeanne & Vi, Rose & Tom, Vicky & Jack and Theresa

Compiled by: Kent Skaggs

Summary: Bird and nature enthusiasts from California, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin traveled to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to explore Isle Royale National Park and the Keweenaw Peninsula. The group had great weather during the entire trip allowing for pleasant outings at all stops. With the fall migration under way, we had varying success both on the mainland of Michigan and on Isle Royale, with some stops being birdier than others. This is typical of fall birding, especially across the northern U.S., but the group still managed to get good looks at several species. In all, we tallied 67 species of birds, five species of mammals, four species of reptiles and amphibians and a number of pollinators. A detailed list of what was seen and where is below.

(#) after family is number of species seen in the family

(#) after species is the number of days the bird was seen or heard

(I) Introduced

IRNP - Isle Royale National Park

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: ANATIDAE — (7)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* — (6) A small flock was seen in the town of Copper Harbor and a couple were heard on Isle Royale.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* — (1) One was seen from the boardwalk at Nara Nature Park.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — (6) Several were seen at Nara Nature Park, a few on Isle Royale and at Copper Harbor.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* — (1) Five were seen at Hidden Lake on Isle Royale.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* — (1) Two juveniles were seen together in Snug Harbor on Isle Royale.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* — (1) Two were seen at Nara Nature Park.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* — (5) Several seen in Snug Harbor and Rock Harbor on Isle Royale.

GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE — (2)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* — (1) One seen at Paavola Wetlands.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* — (1) One seen briefly in flight at Snug Harbor on Isle Royale.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE — (1)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia* — (1) Several seen in the town of Calumet.

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE — (1)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* — (5) Individuals seen at Nara Nature Park and on Passage Island

(IRNP) and a few were seen in the town of Copper Harbor.

CRANES: GRUIDAE — (1)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis* — (2) At least two were heard from Tobin Harbor Trail and some seen at Hidden Lake on Isle Royale.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE — (2)

Sanderling *Calidris alba* — (1) An individual was seen flying alongside the ferry on the way to Isle Royale.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* — (2) One seen walking on lily pads at Nara Nature Park and one seen on the outer islands of IRNP.

GULLS AND TERNS: LARIDAE — (2)

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* — (8) Seen at multiple locations, with interesting behavior witnessed in Copper Harbor as a couple of birds were seen plucking cherries on the wing from a tree.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* — (7) Seen at multiple locations.

LOONS: GAVIIDAE — (1)

Common Loon *Gavia immer* — (5) Seen and heard from multiple locations on Isle Royale and on most of the boat trips.

CORMORANTS: PHALACROCORACIDAE — (1)

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* — (2) One seen near the Rock Harbor Lighthouse and two seen flying overhead from the Stoll Memorial Trail.

HERONS AND EGRETS: ARDEIDAE — (1)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* — (1) One seen along the Portage Canal in Houghton.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE — (1)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* — (2) Two seen in flight at Nara Nature Park and at least one seen en route to Copper Harbor.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: ACCIPITRIDAE — (3)

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* — (2) Individuals seen at Nara Nature Park and on Passage Island (IRNP).

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* — (7) Seen at Nara Nature Park, Copper Harbor, IRNP and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* — (2) A juvenile was seen at Paavola Wetlands and an individual was seen flying from Raspberry Island to Isle Royale.

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE — (1)

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* — (6) Seen at Nara Nature Park, Paavola Wetlands, Passage Island (IRNP), Isle Royale, Copper Harbor and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE — (4)

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens* — (5) Seen and heard at several locations on Isle Royale.

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus* — (3) Seen and heard near the Rock Harbor Campground and at the Quincy Mine near Hancock.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* — (1) Seen en route to Paavola Wetlands.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* — (4) Heard and seen at several locations on Isle Royale, with great looks of a single bird in Copper Harbor.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE — (3)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* — (2) A single bird was seen in flight at Snug Harbor and three birds were seen at Hidden Lake.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* — (1) An individual was seen in Copper Harbor harassing a group of Blue Jays and taking a pass at a Pileated Woodpecker.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* — (1) Several looks at single birds on Passage Island (IRNP), including a close flyby near the Passage Island Lighthouse.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE — (1)

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* — (2) Seen and heard at Nara Nature Park.

VIREOS: VIREONIDAE — (2)

Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius* — (1) A single bird was heard singing, then seen near the Rock Harbor Campground.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* — (4) Seen at Paavola Wetlands, Passage Island (IRNP) and on Isle Royale.

CROWS AND JAYS: CORVIDAE — (4)

Canada Jay *Perisoreus canadensis* — (3) Several seen along the Tobin Harbor Trail and at Snug Harbor, as well as a pair on Stoll Memorial Trail.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* — (7) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* — (3) Seen and heard at Nara Nature Park, Paavola Wetlands and at Copper Harbor.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* — (7) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: PARIDAE — (1)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus* — (6) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: HIRUNDINIDAE — (1)

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (4) Seen at Nara Nature Park and Copper Harbor.

KINGLETS: REGULIDAE — (1)

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* — (1) Several seen and heard along the Stoll Memorial Trail.

NUTHATCHES: SITTIDAE — (1)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* — (6) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

CREEPERS: CERTHIIDAE — (1)

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* — (1) One seen near the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area.

STARLINGS: STURNIDAE — (1)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris* — (1) Seen at Nara Nature Park.

THRUSHES: TURDIDAE — (2)

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* — (2) Seen along the Tobin Harbor Trail and near the Rock Harbor Campground.
American Robin *Turdus migratorius* — (1) Seen at Paavola Wetlands.

WAXWINGS: BOMBYCILLIDAE — (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* — (7) Seen and heard at multiple locations.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE — (1)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (**I**) *Passer montanus* — (1) Five seen at Copper Harbor.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: FRINGILLIDAE — (3)

Purple Finch *Haemorhous purpureus* — (2) Seen at Nara Nature Park.

Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus* — (4) Heard and eventually seen on Isle Royale and at Copper Harbor.

American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis* — (2) Heard and seen at Nara Nature Park and Paavola Wetlands.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERELLIDAE — (4)

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* — (3) Seen at Copper Harbor and the Rock Harbor Visitor Center area.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* — (2) Seen and heard at Paavola Wetlands and near the Rock Harbor Campground.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* — (1) One seen on the Stoll Memorial Trail.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* — (2) One seen flying alongside the ferry on the way to Isle Royale and another at Copper Harbor.

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: ICTERIDAE — (2)

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* — (2) Several seen at Nara Nature Park.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* — (1) One seen on Passage Island (IRNP).

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE — (8)

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina* — (2) One seen flying alongside and eventually landing on the ferry on the way to Isle Royale. It eventually flew away heading south. Also seen on the Stoll Memorial Trail.

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* — (2) Seen on Stoll Memorial Trail, Passage Island (IRNP) and Tobin Harbor Trail.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* — (1) Seen at Nara Nature Park.

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* — (1) Single bird seen at Copper Harbor.

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* — (2) Seen on Tobin Harbor Trail and Stoll Memorial Trail where two birds gave us very good looks at close range.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* — (1) Seen at Nara Nature Park.

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata* — (2) Seen on Stoll Memorial Trail and near the Guest House at Rock Harbor Lodge.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata* — (6) Seen at multiple locations and by far the most numerous warbler observed on the trip.

CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae — (2)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* — (1) Seen at Copper Harbor.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* — (1) A female or juvenile bird was seen at Copper Harbor.

MAMMALS: — (5)

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* — (7) Seen at multiple locations.

Eastern Chipmunk *Tamias striatus* — (1) One seen at the Quincy Mine.

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus* — (1) Seen at the Super 8 in Houghton.

Snowshoe Hare *Lepus americanus* — (1) One seen near the Smithwick Mine (IRNP).

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* — (1) One dark individual was seen along a path near the Rock Harbor Lodge.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES: — (4)

American Toad *Anaxyrus americanus* — (1) One seen along the trail on Passage Island (IRNP).

Green Frog *Lithobates clamitans* — (1) Two seen at the dock for Raspberry Island (IRNP).

Eastern (Common) Garter Snake *Thamnophis sirtalis* — (1) Two seen on Raspberry Island (IRNP).

Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta* — (2) Seen at Nara Nature Park and Paavola Wetlands.

INSECTS: — (2+)

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* — (1) Seen on flowers at the Jam Pot Bakery.

Orange-belted (Tricolored) Bumblebee *Bombus ternarius* — (1) Seen on flowers at the Jam Pot Bakery.

Other — Numerous dragonflies were seen on Isle Royale and the Keweenaw Peninsula but none were identified to species. The Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*) is a common fall migrant along Lake Superior and it is likely that some were of this species.

LOCATIONS FOR 2023:

August 25 – Nara Nature Park

August 26 – Nara Nature Park / Paavola Wetlands / Snow Thermometer / The Jam Pot Bakery / Eagle Harbor Lighthouse / Brockway Mountain / Copper Harbor Overlook

August 27 – Copper Harbor / Isle Royale National Park

August 28 – Isle Royale National Park (trip to Passage Island)

August 29 – Isle Royale National Park (trip to Edisen Fishery/Rock Harbor Lighthouse/Bangsund Cabin)

August 30 – Isle Royale National Park (trip to Raspberry Island)

August 31 – Isle Royale National Park (trip to Hidden Lake) / Copper Harbor

September 1 – Copper Harbor / Fort Wilkins Historic State Park / Quincy Mine

September 2 – Houghton, MI