

Michigan's Isle Royale & Keweenaw Peninsula Species List | August 30 – September 7, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Guide(s) David Mehlman and Dan Donaldson with participants Brenda, Kathleen, Gayle, and Melissa

This tour explored Michigan's Isle Royale National Park and the Keweenaw Peninsula. Our first day on the peninsula we explored Michigan's Copper Country and its unique geology that, for a time, made the region the copper mining capital of the United States. We explored Michigan Tech's mineral museum, learning about float copper, pure native copper that was exposed at the surface and carried by glaciers across the region. Native Americans utilized this source of copper, and later mining of their own, to fabricate cutting tools, decorative, and trading goods. A 19-thousand pound nugget of pure native copper was the star of the show, and yep-we had to get our picture by it. We made our way to Copper Harbor, with a quick stop at Estivant Pines- one of last remaining old-growth forests in Michigan. We spend the night in Copper Harbor where we'll spend the night before boarding the ferry to Isle Royale.

On Isle Royale National Park we spent 4 full days exploring boreal forests, basaltic cliffs, and stunning shorelines that make Isle Royale one of the most beautiful places in the US. We kayaked along side Common Loons and Golden-eye ducks on Tobin Harbor, hiked the 10 mile trek to the top of Mount Franklin, visited the Peterson Wolf Research Station to learn about the island Moose/wolf dynamics, ferried over to Passage Island to experience the botany of an island that has no browsing pressure from moose or deer, and hiked and birded daily. Fall migration was well underway with small feeding flocks fall-plumaged warblers making their rounds around the island.

Once back from the island we spent the night in Copper Harbor then explored the northern tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula visiting protected properties in and shorelines. We visited the Keweenaw National Historic Park in Calumet, that preserves the copper mining history of the region.

Birds: 64 Species were recorded

The eBird link below details the 64 species of birds our group observed during the tour, plus 6 more that were seen by guide only. 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 & Keweenaw Peninsula | August 30 – September 7, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Additional sightings

Mammals (5):

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*
Eastern Chipmunk *Tamias striatum*
Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus Floridacus*
Gray Wolf *Canus Lupis* (only seen by one person)
White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Herps (2):

Eastern Spotted Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*)-
terrestrial stage (red eft) only
Red-bellied Snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*)

Insects (4):

Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)
White Admiral (*Limenitis arthemis*)
Narrow-headed Marsh Fly (*Helophilus fasciatus*)
Common Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*)