



Naturalist Journeys, LLC  
Minnesota's Lake Superior Shore  
& Boundary Waters  
September 7 - 14, 2021

**TOUR SPECIES LIST**

Compiled by David Mehlman

Guides David Mehlman, Mason Flint and 5 participants: Janet, Fred, Barbara, Frank, and Barbara.

(HO) = Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(GO) = Found by guides only

(I) = introduced

Sites visited (see detailed day-by-day itinerary at end of document): Sax-Zim Bog, Park Point (Duluth), Hawk Ridge, Two Harbors, Tettegouche State Park, Gooseberry Falls State Park, Grand Marais, Grand Portage State Park, Grand Portage National Monument, Gunflint Trail (Gunflint Lodge, Gunflint Lake, Little Rock Falls, Chik-Wauk Nature Center, Magnetic Rock)

**Summary:** 85 species of birds, 8 species of mammals, 2 species herps, and 7 species of insects

**BIRDS (85 species recorded, of which 1 was heard only and 12 were found by guides only):**

**DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (5)**

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*—Found on the first 3 days of the trip when on or near Lake Superior

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*—Found on 6 days of the trip, including the very tame birds near the boat dock at Gunflint Lodge!

**Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*—Seen on Lake Superior in front of the Best Western

**Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus*—1 bird found on Saganaga Lake at Chik-Wauk Nature Center

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*—Found on 3 days when on or near Lake Superior

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

**Ruffed Grouse** *Bonasa umbellus*—(HO) Heard on one day on the Gunflint Trail during the moose cruise

**GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)**

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*—Seen twice, once at Tettegouche State Park and again at Artist's Point

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (1)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (I)—Found on two days, mostly in or near Duluth

**HUMMINGBIRDS: Trochilidae (1)**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubris*—Found on 5 days at a variety of sites

**CRANES: Gruidae (1)**

**Sandhill Crane** *Antigone canadensis*—Seen at Sax-Zim bog

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (3)**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*—Found on the 2 visits to Park Point by the airport

**American Golden-Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*—Found on one of the visits to Park Point by the airport

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*—Seen on both visits to Artist's Point

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (3)**

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*—Found on the rocks at Artist's Point on the first trip there

**Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*—Several seen on the rocks at Artist's Point on the second trip there

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*—Found on the rocks at Artist's Point on both trips there

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (2)**

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*—Ubiquitous; seen on all days of the tour when on or near Lake Superior and Gunflint Lake

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*—Found on two days of the tour when along Lake Superior

### **LOONS: Gaviidae (1)**

**Common Loon** *Gavia immer*—Seen on two days on Gunflint Lake

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)**

**Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*—(GO) Seen while at Park Point

### **NEW WORLD VULTURES: Cathartidae (1)**

**Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*—Found on 3 days, mostly near Duluth

### **OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—Seen twice, once at Grand Portage State Park and again on one visit to Artist's Point

### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (6)**

**Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*—Seen at Sax-Zim bog

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*—Seen on 4 days of the tour near Duluth and on the Gunflint Trail

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—Seen on 4 days of the tour along the North Shore and on the Gunflint Trail

**Broad-winged Hawk** *Buteo platypterus*—Seen on 4 days of the tour along the North Shore and on the Gunflint Trail

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*—(GO) Seen at Sax-Zim bog

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*—Seen flying down the Pigeon River canyon at Grand Portage State Park

### **OWLS: Strigidae (1)**

**Great Gray Owl** *Strix nebulosa*—Seen at Sax-Zim bog, incredible views, thanks to Mason for tracking down this hot tip!

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)**

**Belted Kingfisher** *Megasceryle alcyon*—Found on 2 days of the tour

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (4)**

**Downy Woodpecker** *Dryobates pubescens*—Found on 3 days of the tour near Duluth

**Hairy Woodpecker** *Dryobates villosus*—Seen once, perching in a tree in front of the Grand Portage National Monument visitor center

**Pileated Woodpecker** *Dryocopus pileatus*—Found on 3 days along the North Shore and on the Gunflint Trail

**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus*—Found on 3 days near Duluth, along the North Shore, and on the Gunflint Trail

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)**

**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*—Found on 3 days near Duluth and once on the Gunflint Trail

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*—Seen on 2 days while traveling up the North Shore, with a particularly good view of one along the trail at Two Harbors lighthouse

### **TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (1)**

**Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe*—Seen on 2 days, at Sax-Zim bog and at Park Point

### **VIREOS: Vireonidae (3)**

**Blue-headed Vireo** *Vireo solitarius*—(GO) One found by Dave on the last morning at Gunflint Lodge

**Philadelphia Vireo** *Vireo philadelphicus*—An excellent view of one of these birds was had by some at Artist's Point on one of the visits there

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*—Found on 2 days of the tour

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (4)**

**Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata*—Regularly encountered (on 5 days) at many sites, sometimes in migrating flocks

**Black-billed Magpie** *Pica hudsonia*—Seen at Sax-Zim bog

**American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—One of the more frequently encountered species during the tour; found on 6 days

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*—Seen or heard on 5 days of the tour

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)**

**Black-capped Chickadee** *Poecile atricapillus*—Frequently encountered at most forested sites visited; found on 5 days of the tour

### **KINGLETS: Regulidae (2)**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa*—Found on 4 days of the tour, at Sax-Zim bog, on the North Shore at various places, and along the Magnetic Rock trail

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*—Found on 2 days, once by Dave at Artist's Point and again by several on the Magnetic Rock trail

### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (2)**

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*—Found on 4 days of the tour at several sites

**White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*—Seen at Sax-Zim bog

### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (1)—Seen on 2 days in Duluth area

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)**

**Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*—Seen by Mason at Sax-Zim bog and on the visit to Park Point  
**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*—Seen at Sax-Zim bog

**WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)**

**Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*—Seen on 2 days at Park Point and Grand Portage State Park

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (1)—(GO) Seen at Sax-Zim bog

**PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (1)**

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*—Seen on the rocks at Artist's Point on one of the visits there

**FINCHES: Fringillidae (2)**

**Purple Finch** *Haemorhous purpureus*—(GO) Seen by Dave at Grand Portage State Park and again on 1 day at Gunflint Lodge

**American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*—(GO) Seen by Mason at Tettegouche State Park

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (8)**

**Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*—Seen on 2 days, at Sax-Zim bog and by Mason and Dave at the Little Rock Falls picnic site

**Clay-colored Sparrow** *Spizella pallida*—Seen on 2 days, at Artist's Point and by Mason at the Little Rock Falls picnic site

**White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—Seen on one of the visits to Artist's Point

**White-throated Sparrow** *Zonotrichia albicollis*—Regularly encountered during the trip on 6 days at a variety of sites visited

**Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*—Found on 4 days, at Sax-Zim bog, Two Harbors lighthouse, and Artist's Point

**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*—Found on 2 days of the tour

**Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni*—(GO) Seen by Mason at Sax-Zim bog

**Swamp Sparrow** *Melospiza georgiana*— Found on 2 days of the tour

**NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (2)**

**Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Seen twice, at Sax-Zim bog and at Two Harbors lighthouse

**Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula*—Seen at Sax-Zim bog and again by Dave at Gunflint Lodge on the last morning there

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (17)**

**Ovenbird** *Seiurus aurocapilla*—(GO) Seen by Mason at Sax-Zim bog

**Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia*—Found on the first 2 days of the tour at Sax-Zim bog and at Park Point

**Tennessee Warbler** *Oreothlypis peregrina*—Found on 3 days of the tour

**Nashville Warbler** *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*—(GO) Seen by Mason and Dave at Sax-Zim bog and Park Point, respectively

**Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*—Found on both visits to Artist's Point

**American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla*—Found on 3 days of the tour, at Sax-Zim bog, Park Point, and by Mason and Dave at Little Rock Falls

**Cape May Warbler** *Setophaga tigrina*—Found once at Park Point

**Northern Parula** *Setophaga americana*—(GO) Found by guides at Sax-Zim bog and Park Point

**Magnolia Warbler** *Setophaga magnolia*—Found on 4 days of the tour

**Bay-breasted Warbler** *Setophaga castanea*—Found once at Park Point

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia*—Found on two days at Park Point and by Dave at Artist's Point

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Setophaga pensylvanica*—Found on two days, first by Mason at Sax-Zim bog and again at Park Point

**Blackpoll Warbler** *Setophaga striata*—Found on 4 days at several sites

**Palm Warbler** *Setophaga palmarum*—The most frequently encountered warbler, Palms were found on 6 days at many sites, sometimes in large numbers

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*—Found on 5 days of the tour at many sites, including on the Gunflint Trail

**Black-throated Green Warbler** *Setophaga virens*—Found on one day at the Moose Viewing trail

**Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*—(GO) Seen by the guides at Park and Artist's Points

### **CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, AND ALLIES: Cardinalidae (1)**

**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*—(GO) Seen by Dave on the Tettegouche State Park trails

### **Mammals (8 species)**

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*—Seen on 2 days in Duluth area

**American Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*—Encountered on 6 days at many sites during the tour

**Eastern Chipmunk** *Tamias striatus*—Recorded on 5 days of the tour at a variety of sites, though some of these, particularly on the Gunflint Trail, may actually have been Least Chipmunks (see below)

**Least Chipmunk** *Neotamias minimus*—Dave identified this species with the help of iNaturalist from a photo taken at Chik-Wauk Nature Center; due to its superficially similar appearance to Eastern Chipmunk, it is possible that many chipmunks observed on the Gunflint Trail and elsewhere in northern Minnesota are this species; the ranges of Eastern and Least overlap extensively in northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

**Franklin's Ground Squirrel** *Spermophilus franklinii*—Seen on the last day at Hawk Ridge, standing by its burrow beside the side of the road

**American Beaver** *Castor canadensis*—Seen on 2 days, once during the dinner cruise on Gunflint Lake and again during the moose cruise

**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*—(GO) Seen by Mason at Sax-Zim bog

**White-tailed Deer** *Odocoileus virginianus*—Only found once on the tour, when entering the town of Two Harbors on the way to the lighthouse

### **Herps (2 species)**

**Garter Snake** *Thamnophis sp*—Found on 1 day on the Gunflint Trail; most likely common garter snake, *T. sirtalis*

**American Toad** *Anaxyrus americanus*—Found on 1 day along the Gunflint Trail

### **Insects (7 species)**

**Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*—Seen on 1 day at Park Point

**Mourning Cloak** *Nymphalis antiopa*—Seen on 4 days of the tour at a variety of sites

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*—Found on the Two Harbors lighthouse trail

**Compton Tortoiseshell** *Nymphalis l-album*—Well seen at Chik-Wauk Nature Center and undoubtedly present elsewhere on the Gunflint Trail on other days

**Common Green Darner** *Anax junius*—Found on both days while along the North Shore; this common fall migrant along the coast of Lake Superior was particularly abundant at Two Harbors lighthouse

**Canada Darner** *Aeshna canadensis*—Identified on 2 days when on the North Shore

**White-faced Meadowhawk** *Sympetrum obtrusum*—Found at Two Harbors lighthouse, where apparently mating!

#### **LOCATIONS AND NOTES:**

Day 1: September 7, 2021; Sax-Zim Bog, Hibbing; Park Point (Dave only)

Day 2: September 8, 2021; Park Point, Two Harbors lighthouse/Agate Bay, Tettegouche State Park, Cascade River Falls pull-out and State Park, Grand Marais

Day 3: September 9, 2021; Artist's Point (Grand Marais), Grand Portage State Park, Grand Portage National Monument

Day 4: September 10, 2021; Artist's Point (Grand Marais), Gunflint Trail (Pincushion Mountain Trails System overlook, Moose Viewing Trail, Chik-Wauk Nature Center, Gunflint Lodge, Gunflint Lake)

Day 5: September 11, 2021; Gunflint Lodge, Lonely Lake trail, Magnetic Rock trail

Day 6: September 12, 2021; upper Gunflint trail (moose cruise), Gunflint Lodge, canoe trip to Little Rock Falls (Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area)

Day 7: September 13, 2021; Gunflint Lodge, Gunflint Trail, Grand Marais, Gooseberry Falls State Park, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory