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wildlife of Isle Royale



Check lists of all vertebrate animals
known at Isle Royale
including their current status.

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**Check lists of all vertebrate animals
known at Isle Royale
including their current status.**

by

Robert G. Johnsson and Philip C. Shelton, 1960

Revised by Philip C. Shelton, 1964

Revised by Peter A. Jordan, 1981

Isle Royale Natural History Association

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Revised 1982



Preface

This publication is a series of checklists that should be helpful to amateur field naturalists as well as professional scientists. This, third edition, reflects a number of new records of animals of Isle Royale as well as reflecting recent changes made by biologists in the classification of vertebrates. Compilation represents contributions from many persons interested in the island and its fauna; Dr. Asa T. Wright updated the checklist of fishes; Dr. Daniel J. Johnson revised the section on amphibians and reptiles and contributed to the mammal section; Dr. Philip C. Shelton, principal author, carefully reviewed the new manuscript and wrote a section on beavers; and Dr. Rolf O. Peterson checked the manuscript and provided his extensive notes on bird observation. In a broader sense authorship is shared among all those naturalists visiting Isle Royale who have taken the time to report findings or to bring in specimens. Without this community effort the knowledge of the island's vertebrates would not be expanding even remaining current.

The new edition includes changes in the introductory explanation of Isle Royale's faunal relationships to the mainland; includes expanded comments on the status and habits of individual animals, particularly mammals; and it includes more speculation about vertebrates which, while not yet recorded, might be expected on the island.

In Memory of JIM BLOCKER 1929 - 1982

His contributions to Isle Royale through the Natural History Association will be sorely missed, but the good work that he accomplished as Chairman of the Association Board will last a long time. It is through his constant efforts that this revision finally came to fruition.

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Introduction

UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL FACTORS OF ISLE ROYALE

The wildlife included in this publication are all vertebrates, that is they all have a vertebral column or backbone and a nerve cord enclosed within that backbone. At Isle Royale all classes of living vertebrates are present except sharks. The most primitive group, the jawless vertebrates, is represented by the sea lamprey. All fishes here are the advanced, bony fishes. Land vertebrates, or tetrapods, are represented by two cold-blooded classes, the water-dependent amphibians (salamanders and frogs) and the reptiles (snakes and turtles — no lizards or alligators on Isle Royale); and by two warm-blooded classes, birds (which some say are just feathered dinosaurs) and mammals. Each class is further divided into orders, and these into families and genera, and then into species, the presumed basic unit of animal breeding and diversity.

The experts go further and divide species into subspecies — populations which are supposedly able to interbreed but are becoming different from one another due to reproductive isolation. This somewhat academic issue is of real interest for Isle Royale because the island is an isolated setting where many animals have lost contact with their Lake Superior or mainland relatives.

Wildlife in Isolation

Isolated populations at Isle Royale may have developed into recognizably different "subspecies" over the millenia; indeed, the experts believe they have found a few which have. In the case of one small whitefish, the Siskiwit Lake Cisco, the process has reportedly progressed far enough that this fish is classified as a separate species now. On the other hand, the lists do not include subspecies names that are designated for most vertebrates of the region, because often there is disagreement over these designations among the experts, and regional subspecies status has little relevance to our ecological or management interests at Isle Royale.

The lake barrier (12 miles to the closest offshore island and 14 miles to the mainland itself) has apparently prevented many vertebrates from reaching Isle Royale; it is, however, surprising how many have made it. Geologists tell us the island was scraped clean of all life during the last glaciation, and since then there have been about 9,000 years for redevelopment of soils and



vegetation and repopulation by animals from the adjacent mainland or from Lake Superior. During much of this time span Lake Superior was at levels higher than today: This is evidenced by old beach lines which can still be seen on the island. Thus, never during the 9,000 years were distances to the mainland any shorter than now.

An isolated island setting leads to higher rates of extinction than within a major land mass. Some populations on the island, such as the Sharp-tailed Grouse, are squeezed into a few localized sites; should these sites change, causing the grouse to become locally extinct, it would take far longer for new birds to return - it might seem like forever - than had the same local extinctions occurred on the mainland. The Lynx offers another example: This cat was reportedly trapped to extinction on the island, a judgement that cannot be verified. However, Lynx numbers in northern Minnesota fluctuate from virtually none up to moderately high levels, and low numbers in Minnesota are restored by dispersal from Canada when numbers of Lynx there are high. Such dispersal, however, can rarely reach Isle Royale — only if the year of southward movement coincides with a winter of stable ice between Ontario and the island, and this is not too frequent. Thus, it will take a long time for re-establishment — requiring one of each sex meeting at a time and place on the island where food is adequate to support successful reproduction. The same kinds of probabilities apply to other carnivores which may once have been on the island, e.g., Marten, Fisher, and Long-tailed Weasel.

The ecology of vertebrates at Isle Royale differs from that on the mainland due to the absence of many species on the island. There are fewer types of small mammals — rodents and insectivores; and this means there is less food for small-mammal predators such as snakes, hawks, owls, and carnivorous mammals. It also may mean there is less competition among those species which are present; for example, the Red Fox does not have to compete with the Marten for squirrels or with the Lynx or Fisher for Snowshoe Hares. The Red Squirrel does not have to compete with chipmunks or the Red-backed Vole; perhaps this underlies the fact that the Red Squirrel on Isle Royale is smaller than on the mainland — it is able to extend into a so-called "niche" which elsewhere is occupied by smaller species.

The Influence of Man

A number of animals we encounter on the mainland are

influenced by man's activities — be this by conversion of forest to fields, planting of crops which provide unnatural sources of food, or the availability of garbage as food at open dumps. Such human influences are far lower at Isle Royale, hence the animals' circumstances are more pristine. On the other hand, man's activities on the mainland can indirectly influence animals at Isle Royale. Were moose and wolves not permitted to build up along the North Shore, there would not have been sources from which these recent arrivals could have dispersed. Likewise, the extent to which fur-bearers such as Marten, Fisher, and Lynx are trapped in Ontario and Minnesota reduces their numbers, and this in turn reduces the probability of surplus individuals striking out across the ice in search of new ground. Thus, isolated as Isle Royale may seem to us, its biota is in part tied to biota around Lake Superior and farther.

Estimates of relative abundance of populations at Isle Royale are included for many species in the lists that follow. The reader must appreciate, however, that very few systematic measurements have been made at the island — the Moose, Wolf, Beaver, Red Fox, Snowshoe Hare, and a few birds of prey being the only exceptions. Most comments about abundance are based only on the general impressions of experienced observers:

Some of the early records may be in error; some animals reported 50-80 years ago may no longer exist on the island; and it is well documented that some species have made their first appearance, at least within the span of our historic records, during the past few decades. Maintaining the status of so dynamic a set as the hundreds of vertebrate animals on and around Isle Royale is a technically complex and demanding task. In the absence of systematic, professional surveys repeated every 10-20 years — a very expensive procedure, reliable records will depend on information contributed to the Park Service by all knowledgeable and experienced naturalists, professional and amateur, who are in the field on Isle Royale.



Fishes

Besides the general characteristics shared by all vertebrates, fishes have well-developed jaws, paired fins, and gills covered by an operculum. The only exception among Isle Royale fishes is the Sea Lamprey. This primitive vertebrate has no jaws, paired fins, or operculum, but instead has single fins, a disc-shaped oral opening, and seven gill pore openings behind the eye.

The booklet, *Fishes of Isle Royale* by K.F. Lagler and C.R. Goldman (Isle Royale Natural History Association), contains keys and further information on most of the island's fish.

The types of fish within the Park boundaries were first formally surveyed by the father of American fish science (ichthyology), Louis Agassiz, in 1848. Subsequent surveys were conducted in 1904 and 1905 by Ruthven, in 1920 by Ellsworth, in 1929 by Koelz, in 1929 by Van Oosten, and in 1945 by Lagler. The following list includes ten species that have been reported since the last formal survey.

Some species not recorded for many decades may no longer exist at the island, and also there may still be a few present that have not yet been accounted for. Because recently developed electronic sampling methods permit more thorough inventory of all types of fish present, a new survey should now be carried out.

Due to isolation from parent stocks, at least one species and five subspecies of fishes are thought to have evolved in the island's inland lakes. These are marked with one asterisk (*) for subspecies and two (**) for species.

In the fishes list an indication is given where each species (or subspecies in a few cases) may be found. Abbreviations after the common names indicate sites as follows:

LS - Lake Superior	InL - Inland Lakes
Str - Streams	Ex - Not native to Lake Superior

Specific inland lakes listed include:

Chi - Chickenbone	Rich - Richie
Des - Desor	Sar - Sargent
Dus - Dustin	Sis - Siskiwit
For - Forbes	Wal - Wallace
Hat - Hatchet	Wht - Whittlesey
Har - Harvey	? - unknown or suspected
Mas - Mason	



CHECKLIST OF FISHES FOUND AT ISLE ROYALE

LAMPREYS

Family Petromyzontidae

Sea Lamprey Ex, LS, Str, ?Sis
Petromyzon marinus

STURGEONS

Family Acipenseridae

Lake Sturgeon LS
Acipenser fulvescens

HERRINGS

Family Clupeidae

Alewife Ex, LS
Alosa pseudoharengus

TROUTS AND WHITEFISH

Family Salmonidae

Lake Desor Cisco* Des
Coregonus artedii (subspecies not yet named)

Lake Superior Cisco or Lake Herring LS, Sis
Coregonus artedii arcturus

Sargent Lake Cisco* Sar
Coregonus artedii sargenti

Siskiwit Lake Cisco** Sis
Coregonus bartletti

Great Lakes Whitefish LS, Sis
Coregonus clupeaformis clupeaformis

Lake Desor Whitefish* Des
Coregonus clupeaformis dustini

Inland Lakes Whitefish LS, InL
Coregonus clupeaformis neohantoniensis

Bloater (Common Chub) LS
Coregonus hoyi

Kiyi (Big-eyed Chub) LS

Coregonus kiyi

Superior Blackfin Cisco LS
Coregonus nigripinnis

Shortjaw Cisco LS
Coregonus zenithicus

Pink Salmon LS, ?Sis
Oncorhynchus gorbuscha

Coho Salmon Ex, LS, ?Sis
Oncorhynchus kisutch

Chinook Salmon Ex, LS, ?Sis
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

Pygmy Whitefish LS, ?Sis
Prosopium coulteri

Round Whitefish LS
Prosopium cylindraceum

Rainbow or Steelhead Trout Ex, LS, Str, ?Sis
Salmo gairdneri

Atlantic Salmon Ex, LS
Salmo salar

Brown Trout Ex, LS
Salmo trutta

Brook Trout LS, Str, Sis, Des, Hat
Salvelinus fontinalis

Common Lake Trout LS, Sis
Salvelinus namaycush namaycush

Siscowet Lake Trout LS
Salvelinus namaycush siscowet

SMELT

Family Osmeridae

Rainbow Smelt Ex, LS
Osmerus mordax

PIKES

Family Esocidae

Northern Pike LS, InL
Esox lucius

Muskellunge LS
Esox masquinongy

SUCKERS

Family Catostomidae

Longnose Sucker LS, Str
Catostomus catostomus

White Sucker LS, Str, InL
Catostomus commersoni

MINNOWS

Family Cyprinidae

Lake Chub LS, Str, Des
Couesius plumbeus

Golden Shiner LS, InL
Notemigonus crysoleucas

Emerald Shiner LS, Sis
Notropis atherinoides

Blackchin Shiner LS, ?Sar
Notropis heterodon

Northern Blacknose Shiner LS, InL
Notropis heterolepis heterolepis

Harvey Lake Blacknose Shiner* Har
Notropis hetrolapis regalis

Spottail Shiner LS, InL
Notropis hudsonius

Northern Mimic Shiner LS, Rich
Notropis volucellus

Northern Redbelly Dace LS, Wal
Phoxinus eos

Finescale Dace LS, InL
Phoxinus neogaeus

Harvey Lake Fathead Minnow* Har
Pimephales promelas harveyensis

Northern Fathead Minnow LS, InL
Pimephales promelas promelas

Western Blacknose Dace LS, ?
Rhinichthys atratulus

Longnose Dace LS, Str, Sis
Rhinichthys cataractae

Creek Chub Hat
Semotilus atromaculatus

Harvey Lake Pearl Dace* Har
Semotilus margarita koelzi

Northern Pearl Dace Hat, Des, For
Semotilus margarita nachtriebi

CODFISHES

Family Gadidae

Burbot (Lawyer) LS, Sis
Lota lota

TROUT-PERCH

Family Percopsidae

Trout Perch LS, InL
Percopsis omiscomaycus

PERCH

Family Percidae

Iowa Darter Sar, Chi
Etheostoma exile

Yellow Perch LS, InL
Perca flavescens

Northern Logperch LS, Sis, Dus, Wht
Percina caprodes

Walleye LS, Chi, Wht
Stizostedion vitreum

SUNFISHES

Family Centrarchidae

Pumpkinseed LS, Mas, Rich
Lepomis gibbosus

Black Crappie LS
Pomoxis nigromaculatus



SCULPINS

Family Cottidae

Mottled Sculpin
Cottus bairdi

LS, Chi

Slimy Sculpin
Cottus cognatus

LS, InL

Spoonhead Sculpin
Cottus ricei

LS, Sis, Chi, Wht

Fourhorned Sculpin
Myoxocephalus quadricornis

LS, ?

STICKLEBACK

Family Gasterosteidae

Brook Stickleback
Culaea inconstans

LS, Str, InL

Ninespine Stickleback

Pungitius pungitius

LS, Sis, Des, Hat



Amphibians

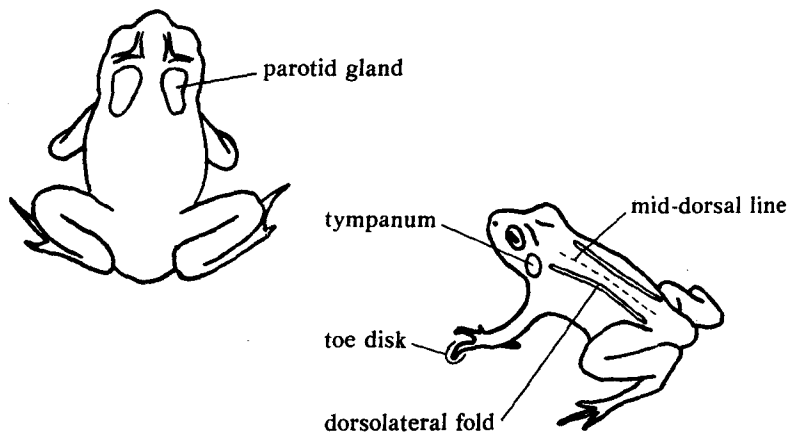
Amphibians, present-day representatives of the first vertebrates to become adapted for terrestrial life, are still closely associated with water. Frogs, toads, newts and salamanders lay their eggs mainly in water (or in very moist soil), and the larvae (tadpoles) spend an extended period in water, breathing with gills, before metamorphosing into a terrestrial form with four legs and air-breathing lungs. A few species, or members of some species, never leave the water. On Isle Royale there are six species of frogs and toads and three newts and salamanders. Our published source for current status and regional distributions is Roger Conant's, *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern North America*, Second Edition (1975), Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

KEY TO THE AMPHIBIANS FOUND ON ISLE ROYALE

- A. Hind legs not specialized for jumping; tail present.
SALAMANDERS B.
- AA. Hind legs specialized for jumping; tail absent in adults.
FROGS AND TOADS F.
- B. With external gills C.
- BB. Without external gills E.
- C. Four toes on each hind foot.
MUDPUPPY 1.
- CC. Five toes on each hind foot D.
- D. General color light greenish-yellow; gills scarcely branched.
Larva of RED-SPOTTED NEWT 3.
- DD. General color dark, gills distinctly plume-like.
Larva of BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER 2.
- E. Color variable; greenish-black to yellowish-brown, but always with red spots, belly yellow with black dots; top of head with two longitudinal ridges; no costal (rib-position) grooves.
RED-SPOTTED NEWT 3.
- EE. Bluish-black with white or light blue flecks; belly dark gray to grayish-brown; top of head smooth; costal grooves well developed.
BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER 2.



- F. Parotid glands present. AMERICAN TOAD 4.
- FF. Parotid glands absent G.
- G. Toe discs present (small in chorus frog); body length less than 1 ½ inches; back either with a dark X or five dark bars or rows of spots on a lighter background H.
- GG. Toe discs absent; body length usually more than 2 inches; color of back usually uniform, or with indistinct or irregular dark mottles J.
- H. Toe discs well developed, one-half or more the diameter of the tympanum; back usually brown with an X-shaped dark mark, often imperfect. NORTHERN SPRING PEEPER 5.
- HH. Toe discs poorly developed, less than half the diameter of the tympanum; back with five dark strips or rows of spots. WESTERN CHORUS FROG 6.
- J. Dark mask through eye and tympanum (sometimes fragmentary or obscure); back often reddish with a light mid-dorsal line. NORTHERN WOOD FROG 7.
- JJ. No dark mask through eye and tympanum; back never reddish K.
- K. Dorsolateral folds prominent; distinctive odor lacking. GREEN FROG 8.
- KK. Dorsolateral folds indistinct or lacking; has a distinct, musky odor. MINK FROG 9.



CHECKLIST OF AMPHIBIANS FOUND ON ISLE ROYALE

MUDPUPPIES

Family Proteidae

☐ Mudpuppy

Necturus maculosus

Mudpuppies do not have a terrestrial stage, but spend their entire lives in murky, weedy lakes or streams. They are dull, dark-colored, sometimes obscurely spotted animals whose nocturnal and secretive habits make them unfamiliar to most people. Most notable are their conspicuous, external feather-like gills. Mudpuppies were collected from Benson Creek (Daisy Farm) and Summer Lake in 1905, but none have been reported since then. There is an urgent need to determine whether the Mudpuppy still exists on Isle Royale.

MOLE SALAMANDERS

Family Ambystomidae

☐ Blue-Spotted Salamander

Ambystoma laterale

A common, widespread salamander which lays eggs in ephemeral, forest ponds early in spring. The larvae emerge from the water sometime in summer and move to the forest where they live in the litter and under logs, feeding on insects and worms. Color is reminiscent of an old enamel pot: white or blue flecks and spots on a bluish-black background.

NEWTs

Family Salamandridae

☐ Red-Spotted Newt

Notophthalmus viridescens

A common amphibian around many beaver ponds, this species has a complex life history. Newts, incidentally, differ from salamanders in having a less-slippery skin in the terrestrial stage and having nearly indistinct costal grooves (external furrows corresponding to ribs). Sexually mature adults are aquatic, laying eggs on submerged plants. After a few months, the aquatic larvae transform into a terrestrial stage known as the "eft." This, the most commonly seen stage, is red or red-yellow with black dots or red dots margined by black; the skin is dry, and the tail lacks fins. After 2-3 years, the eft matures and returns permanently to the water where it develops tail fins and a skin which is adapted for aquatic respiration. Under some circumstances (not necessarily at Isle Royale) larvae mature without leaving the water. The aquatic adult retains its spots but otherwise turns yellowish brown or dark olive. Ability of efts to travel overland is important for maintaining a secure population at Isle Royale: new beaver ponds are colonized in this way, and this should compensate for loss of existing ponds, most of which last only a decade or so before drying up due to abandonment by the beavers.



TOADS

Family Bufonidae

☐ American Toad

Bufo americanus

The most commonly encountered amphibian on Isle Royale, adults are found in summer in many terrestrial habitats. At night they move about slowly on the ground, catching beetles and other insects. They spend daylight hours concealed in shallow ground depressions or similar cover. Occasionally large numbers of the 1/2-inch long, newly transformed (metamorphosed) toads are encountered mid-day on the forest floor, presumably in the process of dispersing from their pond. Toads return to ponds to overwinter, and they emerge from the mud in early spring to breed. Their chorus of sustained, high-pitched trills is a loud and distinctive note of spring. Tadpoles hatch in early summer.

TREEFROGS

Family Hylidae

☐ Spring Peeper

Hyla crucifer

This tree frog is widely distributed on Isle Royale. It congregates around beaver ponds and swamps in early spring to breed, preferring sites where trees or shrubs are standing in the water. At this season its call, a single, clear whistle with a terminal, upward slur repeated about once per second, is commonly heard. Adults wander far from water in summer, but are seldom seen because their activity is nocturnal and they tend to stay in shady, shrubby cover.

☐ Chorus Frog

Pseudacris triseriata

The chorus frog has been recorded from Isle Royale only within the last 25 years, but it may have been overlooked before. Its voice, an ascending "prreep," is commonly

heard in spring from semi-permanent rock pools around the shore, and less often from inland bogs and swamps. The frog is difficult to locate, even when calling, because of its habit of hiding in cracks or burrowing into moss or grass tussocks. Most of the tadpoles found in rock pools are probably of this species.

TRUE FROGS

Family Ranidae

☐ Green Frog

Rana clamitans

The dominant color of the green frog is dark olive. The upper lip is light green, and males have bright yellow throats. This is the most common frog in the park, found in or near all aquatic habitats except open shores of Lake Superior. The breeding season lasts all summer; hence this is the only frog likely to be heard during July or August. The call is a short, throaty croak, often described as a pluck on a loose bass string of a banjo. Startled green frogs often give a sharp chirp as they spring into the water from a sunning place.

☐ Mink Frog

Rana septentrionalis

This frog is often difficult to distinguish in appearance from the Green Frog. The latter has cross-banded hind legs, and its foot webbing fails to reach the tip of the 5th toe. The Mink Frog has a musky (mink-like) odor. This species is restricted to water and water edges. On Isle Royale it is the least known of the frogs. Its call is a blurred, deep "cut-cut-cut-cut."

☐ Wood Frog

Rana sylvatica

The brown color and black mask as well as its tendency to move by short hops, more as a toad, than by frog-like leaps identify this frog. It

is not abundant, but adults occur in both moist and dry woods. Its call, heard only during the short, early-spring breeding season and not carrying far, is a hoarse, clacking, suggesting a duck's quack.

Besides the nine species of Amphibians known for Isle Royale, there are eight others reported from around Lake Superior of which three are only reported from the south shore (S):

☐ Tiger Salamander

Ambystoma tigrinum (NE Minn.)

☐ Spotted Salamander

Ambystoma maculatum

☐ Red-backed Salamander

Plethodon cinereus

☐ Four-toed Salamander

Hemidactylium scutatum (S)

☐ Greater and Lesser Gray Tree Frog

Hyla versicolor and
H. chrysoscelis

☐ Bull Frog

Rana catesbeiana (S)

☐ Northern Leopard Frog

Rana pipiens

☐ Pickerel Frog

Rana palustris (S)



Reptiles

Snakes and turtles are not abundant or diverse at Isle Royale's latitude; there are but 13 species reported around Lake Superior, 9 of which are confined to the south shore. The island's isolation has further limited species numbers to four known at present, one of which has not yet been collected and positively identified.

Reptiles lay eggs on land and spend their lives either on land or in water. They hibernate in soil or pond substrate over the long season of cold. There are no poisonous snakes on Isle Royale.

Our source of regional distributions and updated names is Roger Conant's *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America*, Second Edition (1975), Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Symbols for location of specimens are explained under "Amphibians."

CHECKLIST OF REPTILES FOUND ON ISLE ROYALE

TURTLES

Family Testudinidae

☐ Western Painted Turtle

Chrysemys picta

Common in large beaver ponds and small or shallow lakes with muddy bottoms, painted turtles feed on aquatic vegetation, insects, mollusks, and small fish. Their four or more eggs are laid in soft soil within a few yards of the pond; young hatch in early fall and enter the water directly. Turtles overwinter in the mud; they are most readily seen in spring when pond waters are still cold and the turtles line up on logs to bask in the sun.

brown and yellow to deep blue-black, but the characteristic three stripes are always discernable, though very faintly in the darkest specimens.

☐ Red-bellied Snake

Storeria occipitomaculata

This small snake (seldom exceeding 8 inches) is usually associated with thick leaf or plant cover close to the ground. It feeds on worms and insects. It occurs widely over the island.

☐ Black Rat Snake ?

Elaphe obsoleta

A specimen was captured at Chickenbone Lake in July 1977, photographed, and released. The photo does NOT permit positive identification, but it did permit herpetologists from the University of Minnesota to state with certainty that this was not one of the previously known species for the island. Dr. William Schmid suggested that the Black Rat Snake is a "reasonable

COLUBRID SNAKES

Family Colubridae

☐ Garter Snake

Thamnophis sirtalis

Common in many habitats, though generally associated with moist, grassy or brushy sites. Garter Snakes eat insects, small fish, amphibians, and possibly mice. Color varies widely — from light



guess"; however, the closest reported distribution of this species is more than 100 miles south of Lake Superior. Needless to say when a specimen of what may be an unreported species for the island is discovered it should be reported to Park authorities and photographed if at all possible. Positive identification, however, will require having a specimen examined by an authority on reptiles.

Reptiles found around Lake Superior but never reported from Isle Royale: "S" indicates recorded on south shore of the Lake only.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Common Snapping Turtle
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i> | ☐ Water Snake (S)
<i>Natrix sipedon</i> |
| ☐ Wood Turtle (S)
<i>Clemmys insculpta</i> | ☐ Eastern Hognose Snake (S)
<i>Heterodon platyrhinos</i> |
| ☐ Map Turtle (S)
<i>Graptemys geographica</i> | ☐ Ringneck Snake (S)
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i> |
| ☐ Blandings Turtle (S)
<i>Emydoidea blandingi</i> | ☐ Smooth Green Snake (S)
<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i> |
| ☐ Five-lined Skink (S)
<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i> | ☐ Fox Snake (S)
<i>Elaphe vulpina</i> |



Mammals

Being mammals ourselves, we tend to relate more closely and take more interest in wild mammals than in any other animal group (note, the term "animal" is NOT the same as "mammal," although they are often used interchangeably). Ecologically, mammals are the most influential animals at Isle Royale — from the Beaver which alters drainages or the Moose which reshapes the forest to the Red Fox which may steal your boot or your wallet. The Gray Wolf is doubtlessly the species of greatest interest to the public, and the Moose probably provides more rewarding wildlife experiences for visitors than does any other animal.

The island's mammal fauna is, not surprisingly, less diverse than in similar habitats on the adjacent mainland. Species which are not likely to swim or walk across the jumbled surface of an occasional ice bridge, or were never transported by man or on driftwood, simply are not here. The bats are not so restricted; of six species known on the adjacent shore, four have been recorded at the island. Among those mammals which can reach the island, there is always the chance they will become extinct. Were such an extinction to occur in the mainland within a tract the size of Isle Royale, it could soon be repopulated from nearby. At the island, however, centuries may pass before a chance dispersal restores a missing species. At least four species have recently disappeared, in part reflecting man's activities and in part reflecting natural processes.

For more information on life histories of species found on Isle Royale, see W. H. Burt, *Mammals of the Great Lakes Region* (1957), Univ. Mich Press. Most names and the listing sequence of species are in accord with the *Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico, 1979*, by J. K. Jones, Jr., D. C. Carter, and H. G. Genoways (1979), Occasional Papers of Texas Tech Univ. Sources of Isle Royale records include C. C. Adams, *An Ecological Survey of Isle Royale, Lake Superior*, Mich. State Geol. Survey (1908); Adolf Murie, *Annotated List of the Mammals of Isle Royale*, unpublished (1929); and W. L. Johnson, *Food habits of the Isle Royale red fox and population aspects of three of its principal prey species*, Ph. D. thesis, Purdue Univ. unpublished (1969). Species of the adjacent mainland are based on A. I. Dagg, *Mammals of Ontario* (1974) Otter Press, Waterloo, Ont.



In the list which follows common names in parentheses indicate cases where a breeding population is either not now present or its status is uncertain.

CHECKLIST OF MAMMALS FOUND ON ISLE ROYALE

SHREWS

Family Soricidae

☐ (Water Shrew)

Sorex palustris

One observer, Bernie Klugow of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, reports having seen this species on several occasions, most recently near the outflow of Lake Richie. No specimen has been collected; obtaining one should be a high-priority goal. It can be assumed that if the identification was correct, a breeding population exists. The species is found on the adjacent mainland. (In addition, K.L. Lange, a naturalist with the Wisconsin DNR, reports shrew tracks on the Island Mine Trail near the Greenstone Ridge in Sept. 1973).

PLAINNOSE BATS

Family Vespertilionidae

☐ Little Brown Myotis (Bat)

Myotis lucifugus

Commonly found roosting in buildings in summer, this species hibernates in caves during winter. The Isle Royale population may remain at the island, or it may migrate to caves elsewhere.

☐ Keen's Myotis (Bat)

Myotis keenii

Habits are similar to the Little Brown Myotis, perhaps less inclined to use buildings. It is

difficult to distinguish between these two species.

☐ Big Brown Bat

Eptesicus fuscus

Larger, but otherwise similar in appearance and habit with the two species described above. May hibernate in buildings.

☐ (Red Bat)

Lasiurus borealis

One set of remains was collected at the nest of a Merlin on Raspberry Island in 1966 by W.J. Johnson. Breeding status is unknown, since this individual bat may simply have been in migration. The Red Bat does not remain at the latitude of Isle Royale for winter hibernation.

HARES AND RABBITS

Family Leporidae

☐ Snowshoe Hare

Lepus americanus

Moderately common in forest habitats, particularly in burned areas where birch and aspen twigs are abundant, or in swamps where cover is heavy, or on offshore islands. The heavy impact of moose on forest understory diminishes protective cover for this vulnerable prey. Hares compete with moose for food, particularly winter browse — birch, aspen, willow, maples and mountain ash. Hares are preyed upon here mainly by Red

Fox and larger hawks and owls; the primary predator of hares throughout the boreal forest of North America is the Lynx; it is no longer present on the island, or at least not to the extent of having an effect on the hare population.

SQUIRRELS

Family Sciuridae

☐ (Eastern Chipmunk)

Tamias striatus

One sighting reported on 4 June 1977 near Siskiwit Lake by Bernie Klugow, an experienced naturalist. There is no evidence of a breeding population on the island, although the site and habitat are well within this species' range, and this chipmunk is common on the north shore of Lake Superior. It is assumed this sighting represents one "accidental" individual.

☐ Red Squirrel

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

Isle Royale's population is reportedly a separate subspecies, *regalis*. This diurnal forest rodent is the island's most commonly seen and heard mammal. It occurs abundantly in many forest types and is active year round; it is preyed upon by the Red Fox plus various birds of prey. Its typical predators elsewhere, the Marten and the Fisher, are absent from the island. Red Squirrels eat large amounts of spruce and cedar seeds. They are extremely bold in seeking food from campers.

BEAVER

Family Castoridae

☐ Beaver

Castor canadensis

Apparently trapped to extinction on Isle Royale by the mid-19th Century, beavers reappeared around the 1920's and have since fluctuated from a few dozen to over 300 colonies. Beavers live on inland



lakes, protected harbors, and in ponds they make by damming gently flowing streams. Most live in lodges built of sticks and mud. Typical colonies consist of a breeding pair and three or four young from each of two successive years. In summer they eat aquatic, herbaceous, and leafy vegetation; but the remainder of the year they feed mostly on twigs and inner bark of woody plants, particularly aspen and birch. Cutting is most conspicuous in fall when winter stores are being accumulated near lodges. Beavers form an important food source for wolves in spring, summer, and fall. Their ponds are important habitat for a variety of aquatic animals and plants. Dr. P.C. Shelton, who has studied the island's beavers intensively, estimated their numbers at 1900 in 1974 based on an aerial survey supplemented by ground survey; since then numbers have apparently been dropping sharply (1980).

MICE, VOLES AND MUSKRATS

Family Cricetidae

☐ Deer Mouse

Peromyscus maniculatus

The only mouse known on the island, this species occurs widely though not abundantly in various habitats. It will readily move into buildings and forage on campers' food. This species is highly variable over its wide North American distribution: the Deer Mouse of Isle Royale appears adapted to forests. Deer mice are more abundant on small, off-shore islands than on the main island.

☐ (Southern Red-backed Vole)

Clethrionomys gapperi

This species was reported only before 1900, but the validity of the two records is uncertain. Extensive trapping for small mammals by Wendel Johnson during the 1960's



should have uncovered the Red-backed species, if still present; it is readily caught in similar forests of the mainland.

□ **Muskrat**

Ondatra zibethicus

This species has probably never been abundant on Isle Royale, perhaps due to lack of cattails for food and lodge-building or to lack of adequate substrate for bank burrows. Most muskrats here are seen in ponds created by beavers where the emergent and submergent plants they prefer to eat are common. In summer 1964, W.K. Seitz observed muskrats coinhabiting with beavers in a beaver lodge.

OLD WORLD RATS AND MICE

Family Muridae

□ **(Norway Rat)**

Rattus norvegicus

Peter Edisen, commercial fisherman, reported that rats came ashore from an old grain freighter tied up near the Rock Harbor Lighthouse about 1915, but they did not survive the following winter. One would assume that during the mining era of the 19th Century, the House Mouse (*Mus musculus*) also came ashore and survived as long as the settlements were active. Both of these Old World introductions are present on the adjacent mainland.

WOLVES AND FOXES

Family Canidae

□ **(Coyote)**

Canis latrans

Common on the island until the early 1950's, coyotes were apparently extirpated by the Gray Wolf which immigrated in the late 1940's. Coyotes scavenged on moose carcasses and caught hares and squirrels. They exist on the ad-

jacent mainland, but only in areas marginal for wolves or where wolves are controlled. Coyotes have only been known for northern Lake Superior since the early 1900's, and it is believed they first arrived on the island at that time.

□ **Gray Wolf**

Canis lupus

Not known on the island prior to the late 1940's, a breeding nucleus of wolves apparently immigrated around 1948 via an ice bridge from the mainland where, in the Sibley Provincial Park, a population had recently been allowed to re-establish. A primary predator of moose and beaver, wolves have varied in numbers on Isle Royale over the period of intensive studies (by D.L. Allen, R.O. Peterson, L.D. Mech and others — 1959-1982) from 14 to 50. Wolves have not been known to attack a human in North America, except in very rare cases where the wolf was rabid. The Isle Royale population is one of the very few which still survives south of Canada; its 1980 density (one per 4 square miles) was doubtless the highest known in the world for free-living wolves feeding entirely on wild prey.

□ **Red Fox**

Vulpes vulpes

A relatively common carnivore on Isle Royale, the fox becomes a camp pest if encouraged. Foxes feed on squirrels, hares, mice, fish, and berries; and they scavenge on carrion such as remains of wolf-killed moose. Their numbers are reported by old-timers to be much greater now than when coyotes were present, suggesting an intolerance between that pair similar to the intolerance between gray wolves and coyotes.

WEASELS

Family Mustelidae

□ **(Marten)**

Martes americana

This forest mustelid (weasel family) has not been reported for Isle Royale since the early 1900's. Uncertainty exists as to whether it ever was present and, if so, whether it was extirpated by trapping. Proposals have been made to reintroduce martens. By National Park Service policy, this would only be justifiable if it were certain that a natural population had been extirpated by man. Martens prey extensively on tree squirrels. They are apparently easily over-trapped. Currently they are at very low levels within their natural range along the north shore of Lake Superior.

□ **Short-tailed Weasel (Ermine)**

Mustela erminea

This weasel changes color with the seasons, a phenomenon triggered by decreasing and increasing day length. Weasels are not commonly seen at Isle Royale, but periodic sightings — often around docks — indicate a secure population. Food includes mice, birds, eggs, amphibians, and invertebrates.

□ **(Long-tailed Weasel)**

Mustela frenata

Two skins from 1903 and 1905 supposedly came from Isle Royale. No other records exist.

□ **Mink**

Mustela vison

Occasionally seen along lake shores, mink at Isle Royale are at a level typical for the region. This semi-aquatic mustelid feeds on fish, frogs, small mammals, and invertebrates.



□ **(Striped Skunk)**

Mephitis mephitis

Kevin Aldrich reported seeing one, 10 June 1977, 5 feet away, in daylight, on the portage trail between Duncan Bay and Tobin Harbor; he wrote that he was "familiar with skunks." No other report exists, so even if one was present, there is no suggestion of a breeding population on the island.

□ **River Otter**

Lutra canadensis

First known recent sighting by P.C. Shelton and D.E. Murray in 1963; a specimen was collected at Fisherman's Home in 1968. It had been reported on the island around 1790 by Tanner. Otters travel widely among inland lakes and shoreline harbors; they feed mainly on fish.

CATS

Family Felidae

□ **(Lynx)**

Lynx canadensis (*Felis lynx*)

This species had been sufficiently abundant to be heavily trapped in the 1930's; since that decade there has not been evidence of a breeding population. Sightings of a "cat," possibly a Bobcat (*Lynx rufus* or *Felis rufus*), but more likely a Lynx, have been made in various seasons during the 1960's and 1970's. Lynx tend to disperse southward at this latitude, probably as populations of their principal prey, Snowshoe Hare, decline. Perhaps hare densities at Isle Royale seldom reach the level required for successful reproduction in Lynx, so that its presence will always depend on the occasional immigrant from farther north.



DEER

Family Cervidae

☐ (White-Tailed Deer)

Odocoileus virginianus

This species has never been known to occur naturally on the island. Several popular accounts report that 12 were introduced in 1906, and that a few were present until the 1930's; but, according to D.L. Allen, no official record of this can be located. The species now occurs along the north shore of Lake Superior, having expanded its range there over the past 50-80 years.

☐ Moose

Alces alces

The present population is descended from an apparent immigration during the early 1900's. There developed a renowned irruption of numbers, followed by die-offs, followed by a more stable level after wolf predation commenced in the late 1940's. Moose, the largest of the deer family, are primarily browsers taking twigs and conifer greens in winter and leaves in summer. They also eat aquatic plants in midsummer, this probably being mainly to meet their require-

ment for sodium. This animal has profoundly shaped the form and composition of woody vegetation on the island. Moose can be dangerous — particularly cows if they sense their calves are threatened, or bulls during the rut or mating season, which extends from early September through mid-October. Population during 1965-1980 has been estimated as ranging between 650 and 1500 (pre-calving level in spring); it is currently (1980) declining.

☐ (Caribou)

Rangifer tarandus

The last records of Caribou at Isle Royale were around 1927; this disappearance coincided with a general retreat of Caribou along the southern edge of its range in eastern North America. A viable remnant has survived on the Slate Islands in Lake Superior, some 75 miles to the northeast of Isle Royale. Efforts are currently (1980's) underway to re-establish this animal in northeastern Minnesota; if successful, the reintroduction would have implications for a possible attempt at Isle Royale.

Northern Flying Squirrel

Glaucomys sabrinus

Heather Vole

Phenacomys intermedius

Meadow Vole

Microtus pennsylvanicus

Rock Vole

Microtus chrotorrhinus

Southern Bog Lemming

Synaptomys cooperi

Meadow Jumping Mouse

Zapus hudsonicus

☐ Woodland Jumping Mouse

Napaeozapus insignis

☐ Porcupine

Erethizon dorsatum

☐ Black Bear

Ursus americanus

☐ Raccoon

Procyon lotor

☐ Fisher††

Martes pennanti

☐ Least Weasel

Mustela nivalis

- Peter Edisen, long-time fisherman-resident, claims that a mole-like animal was present at Daisy Farm when that site was cultivated for growing potatoes many years ago.

-- The Fisher has increased dramatically in recent years on the adjacent mainland, so one might expect an immigrant to appear at Isle Royale in the near future.

Other mammals known for the north shore of Lake Superior but never found or suspected at Isle Royale (i.e., not listed above) include the following:

☐ Masked or Cinereous Shrew

Sorex cinereus

☐ Smoky Shrew

Sorex fumeus

☐ Arctic Shrew

Sorex arcticus

☐ Pygmy Shrew

Microsorex hoyi

☐ Short-tailed Shrew

Blarina brevicauda

☐ Star-nosed Mole†

Condylura cristata

☐ Silver-haired Bat

Lasionycteris noctivagans

☐ Hoary Bat

Lasiurus cinereus

☐ Least Chipmunk

Euamias minimus

☐ Woodchuck

Marmota monax



Birds

There are more species of birds found on Isle Royale than species of all the other vertebrates there combined. On the other hand, the set of birds at the island is probably less distinctive, relative to the mainland, than that of any other vertebrate group, because birds are so mobile. Of all endemic species listed for the surrounding mainland as "permanent residents," i.e., they are not regular migrants hence may not be able or inclined to fly long distances, only the Ruffed Grouse and the Spruce Grouse have not been recorded on the island. This suggests that most species, whether or not regularly migratory, can cope with the flight across the Lake. On the other hand, a number of migrant species which commonly breed on the adjacent mainland have either not been reported from Isle Royale or are considered rare or accidental there. Does this reflect a lack of observation success at the island, or does it say something about the probability of migrants becoming established on distinctly isolated islands? Isle Royale is a good place to explore such ecological questions.

While Isle Royale's assortment of birds may not be unique, there is a strong interest and some compelling arguments for keeping close track of all the species occurring there. Being a large piece of land that will remain undisturbed, this island park serves as a "control" against which effects of man-caused disturbances elsewhere can be compared. Also, because the island can be used for long-term ecological monitoring, changes in the species of birds breeding at the island should be recorded on a systematic basis.

For the many serious students of birds who visit Isle Royale, the list here should provide a convenient summary of each species' status. The experienced bird watcher will recognize that, compared with locales near cities where birding clubs exist, the record is rather spotty. There has never been a serious program to centralize and standardize biological records for the island. Also there have been few birders present between mid-fall and early spring and virtually none in the months of November, December and April. Worse than the lack of migratory and winter records is the deficiency of summer breeding records (when the greatest number of persons is on the island). For more than a third of the birds believed to be summer residents based on their being seen in all months of summer, there is no record of their reproducing here. Either nests or fledglings of these species have never been

observed, or, if seen, have not been reported. Even where breeding records have been made, there are many species for which we do not know whether breeding on the island is regular, sporadic, or even still occurring.

Please, therefore, consult this list, and if you make an observation which (a) you are sure is accurate, and (b) which appears to add information or contradict that which is printed here, submit a written observation to a Park ranger. Include your criteria of identification and the extent of your birding experience.

Bird names in the list, both vernacular (common) and scientific, and the sequence in which they are listed are based on the most recent "official" classification and organization of bird species by the American Ornithological Union. While many of us feel frustrated on discovering that old friends such as the Myrtle Warbler or Baltimore Oriole have suddenly changed their names, the efforts of AOU are really intended to help us. By maintaining strict rules about use of names, the Union makes it possible to apply common names with the same reliability that is achieved with scientific names alone for other groups of plants and animals.

The status of each species on Isle Royale is indicated by abbreviations: "R" - regular, occurring on the island at some time each year; "O" - occasional, seen from time to time, but not believed to be here every year; "A" - accidental, based on one or two records *plus* information for the region as a whole, it is believed to be an unusual occurrence; "H" - hypothetical, never recorded here but, based on the bird's regional distribution and flight habits, would be expected to occur at the island. It must be emphasized that a hypothetical rating does not mean the bird must be here for sure; some birds, even though they migrate thousands of miles and travel through western Lake Superior, may simply never cross over to the island. The majority of species listed as "hypothetical" are migratory water birds, especially shorebirds, which migrate through when few birders are present or which are difficult to identify. If a species has not been recorded as breeding at Isle Royale, but is known to breed on the adjacent mainland, this circumstance is indicated by "T" for the Thunder Bay District of Ontario.

Seasonal status of each species is classified as follows:

1. "Permanent resident" - present year round and breeding on the island. This does not mean that none migrate — that's a

possibility which we cannot check, at least for Isle Royale.

2. "Summer resident" - a migrant which presumably breeds on the island.
3. "Migrant" - one which stops regularly in spring and/or fall in the course of normal seasonal migration.
4. "Visitant" - one which occurs regularly or irregularly at a particular season, mainly winter, presumably independently of breeding or migration.

Measures of abundance are difficult to define since numbers ~~seen~~ reflect both actual abundance and the ease of observation. They also reflect expectations of the observers. The reader is advised to take the abundance ratings here with a grain of salt. "Common" implies easily and regularly seen; this is for the specified season and habitat and with reference to similar birds — e.g., a warbler among warblers or a duck among ducks. If no designation appears, this signifies either that abundance is not known or it falls somewhere between common and uncommon. "Uncommon" signifies that, while the species is assumed to occur regularly, it is not seen very often. "Rare" means that the species is believed to be very sparse or very occasional in its occurrence.

Where only one sighting or one instance of nesting has been recorded, details, including the observer's name, are given because this pamphlet is really the only source today where new records are systematically published. In cases where additional records have been made since the preceding edition of *The Vertebrates of Isle Royale*, the first record is no longer detailed.

Information on regional status of birds was taken from the following sources:

- Chandler, S.R., B. Bruun and H.S. Zim. 1966. *A guide to field identification: Birds of North America*, N.Y. Golden Press.
- Denis, Keith. 1961. *Birds of the Canadian Lakehead Area*. Thunder Bay Field Naturalist's Club, Supplement No. 2, (mimeo).
- Green, J.C. and R.B. Janssen. 1975. *Minnesota Birds: Where, When and How Many*. Minneapolis, Univ. Minn. Press.

For more details on records and habitat associations and for a list of pertinent literature from before 1963, see the pamphlet by L.W. Krefting, F.B. Lee and P.C. Shelton, *Birds of Isle Royale in Lake Superior*, U.S. Bur. Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, Spec. Sci. Rept—Wildlife No. 94 (1966).

- R regular occurrence
 O occasional occurrence
 A accidental occurrence
 H hypothetical occurrence
 T breeds on adjacent mainland
 * positive record of breeding at Isle Royale

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS FOUND ON ISLE ROYALE

LOONS

Family Gaviidae

- ☐ **Common Loon** * *Gavia immer*
 Summer resident, migrant. Nests on inland lakes. Notable for loud calls day or night.
- ☐ **Arctic Loon** *Gavia arctica*
 No record. A few migratory records elsewhere in western Lake Superior.
- ☐ **Red-throated Loon** *Gavia stellata*
 Several sight records, all in Lake Superior. Considered an uncommon Lake Superior migrant.

GREBES

Family Podicipedidae

- ☐ **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisaegea*
 Uncommon migrant, most records from May, a few from late summer.
- ☐ **Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*
 Common fall migrant, seen mostly on open harbors.
- ☐ **Western Grebe** *Aechmophorus occidentalis*
 Probable observation of one off Huginnin Cove May 1976, D.G. Miquelle. Probable sightings at Thunder Bay.
- ☐ **Pied-billed Grebe** * *Podilymbus podiceps*
 Uncommon summer resident and migrant. Formerly more abundant; no breeding records since 1908.

PELICANS

Family Pelecanidae

- ☐ **White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*
 Rare, late summer migrant.

CORMORANTS

Family Phalacrocoracidae

- ☐ **Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*
 Rare summer resident; few recent records. Regional numbers have dropped sharply since the 1950's. Cormorants were attracted by commercial, pound-net fishing at Washington Harbor in the late 1940's.

R O A H T

HERONS AND BITTERNS

Family Ardeidae

- ☐ **Great Blue Heron** * *Ardea herodias*
 Summer resident. Small rookeries of limited time spans have been known for Washington Cr., Hawk I., Caribou I., and Paul I.
- ☐ **Green Heron** *Butorides striatus*
 One record, 30 May 1963, Hidden L., P.C. Shelton. North of reported range, but data from Minnesota suggest northward trend since 1960.
- ☐ **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
 One record, July 1974, Todd Harbor, E.J. DeGayner. Probable records reported from Thunder Bay; otherwise well north of normal range.
- ☐ **American Bittern** * *Botaurus lentiginosus*
 Summer resident, localized in grassy wetlands.

SWANS, GEESE, AND DUCKS

Family Anatidae

- ☐ **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*
 One semi-tame bird reported around Hay Bay in 1958. Probable escape from captivity reported in Thunder Bay (date unknown).
- ☐ **Whistling Swan** *Olor columbianus*
 Rare migrant. In 1976 from May to August four birds, presumably the same group, were seen in various harbors around the island.
- ☐ **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*
 Common migrant, especially in fall; normally only seen in flight but occasionally uses inland lakes when weather is unfavorable. Rare summer visitant. Large subspecies more common than smaller ones.
- ☐ **Snow Goose (including Blue Goose)** *Chen caerulescens*
 Migrant mainly seen in flight. One blue-phase bird recorded as semi-tame on Washington I., 1948 and 1949. The white-phase is seen more frequently than the blue.
- ☐ **Mallard** * *Anas platyrhynchos*
 Uncommon summer resident, more common migrant. Seen on large beaver ponds and harbors.
- ☐ **American Black Duck** * *Anas rubripes*
 Most common summer resident duck; on inland waters and sheltered harbors. Readily becomes tame.
- ☐ **Mallard X Black Duck Hybrid** *Anas rubripes X platyrhynchos*
 One record, October 1976, near Todd Harbor, D.G. Miquelle. Crossing is increasingly frequent as mallards

R O A H T



expand into eastern regions where formerly only black ducks occurred.

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ Gadwall | <i>Anas strepera</i> | | | | |
| Six migrants recorded in Washington Harbor, 4 and 6 May 1964, P.A. Jordan. A prairie duck which is spreading eastward; "very rare visitant" in Thunder Bay. | | | | | |
| ☐ Common Pintail (Northern) | <i>Anas acuta</i> | | | | |
| Rare migrant, three records. Considered a regular migrant around Thunder Bay. | | | | | |
| ☐ Green-winged Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> | | | | |
| Common migrant, uncommon summer resident in beaver ponds. | | | | | |
| ☐ Blue-winged Teal | <i>Anas discors</i> | | | | |
| Common migrant, uncommon summer resident on small ponds. | | | | | |
| ☐ American Wigeon (Baldpate) | <i>Anas americana</i> | | | | |
| Uncommon migrant. | | | | | |
| ☐ Northern Shoveler (Shoveler) | <i>Anas clypeata</i> | | | | |
| Rare migrant; four May records. Considered a regular migrant for Thunder Bay. | | | | | |
| ☐ Wood Duck | <i>Aix sponsa</i> | | | | |
| Summer resident on small, inland ponds. Abundance variable over the years. | | | | | |
| ☐ Redhead | <i>Aythya americana</i> | | | | |
| Occasional migrant, three records from May and October. Considered a regular migrant for Thunder Bay. | | | | | |
| ☐ Ring-necked Duck | <i>Aythya collaris</i> | | | | |
| Summer resident on inland, open ponds. | | | | | |
| ☐ Canvasback | <i>Aythya valisineria</i> | | | | |
| Rare migrant, two records. Considered a regular migrant for Thunder Bay. | | | | | |
| ☐ Greater Scaup | <i>Aythya marila</i> | | | | |
| Common migrant. | | | | | |
| ☐ Lesser Scaup | <i>Aythya affinis</i> | | | | |
| Common migrant, possibly a summer resident. | | | | | |
| ☐ Common Goldeneye | <i>Bucephala clangula</i> | | | | |
| Common summer resident and migrant on harbors and large lakes. One record of offshore flock in February. | | | | | |
| ☐ Bufflehead | <i>Bucephala albeola</i> | | | | |
| Migrant, seen on large lakes and harbors. | | | | | |
| ☐ Oldsquaw | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> | | | | |
| Migrant, mainly offshore; also on large harbors and bays. Presumably winters in open waters around the island. | | | | | |

R O A H T

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ Harlequin Duck | <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i> | | | | |
| No record. Is known as an uncommon visitant in open waters of Lake Superior mid-October to April. | | | | | |
| ☐ White-winged Scoter | <i>Melanitta deglandi</i> (fusca) | | | | |
| Uncommon migrant on large harbors and bays. | | | | | |
| ☐ Surf Scoter | <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i> | | | | |
| Three records in October and one in May, Moskey Basin and Hay Bay. Considered a regular but rare spring and fall migrant on Lake Superior. | | | | | |
| ☐ Black Scoter (Common Scoter) | <i>Melanitta nigra</i> | | | | |
| Two records: on June 1905, L.D. Dart reported several small groups, and on 20 October 1978, P.C. Shelton saw one near Baker Pt. Considered an uncommon migrant on Lake Superior. | | | | | |
| ☐ Ruddy Duck | <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> | | | | |
| One record, 16 May 1937, L. Dayton. Considered a rare, irregular visitant around Thunder Bay. | | | | | |
| ☐ Hooded Merganser | <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> | | | | |
| Uncommon summer resident on beaver ponds and small lakes. | | | | | |
| ☐ Common Merganser | <i>Mergus merganser</i> | | | | |
| Common summer resident on harbors and larger lakes (female is easy to confuse with female red-breasted merganser). | | | | | |
| ☐ Red-breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | | | | |
| Summer resident on harbors and lakes, less abundant than Common Merganser. | | | | | |

AMERICAN VULTURES

Family Cathartidae

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ Turkey Vulture | <i>Cathartes aura</i> | | | | |
| Reported 13 October 1972 by R.O. Peterson at Daisy Farm and also by B. Klugow (date unknown). Outside normal range, but listed as an "irregular, rare visitant" for Thunder Bay. | | | | | |

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND HARRIERS

Family Accipitridae

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ Northern Goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | | | | |
| Uncommon summer resident, uncommon migrant and winter resident. | | | | | |
| ☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk | <i>Accipiter striatus</i> | | | | |
| Uncommon summer resident, common migrant. | | | | | |
| ☐ Cooper's Hawk | <i>Accipitor cooperii</i> | | | | |
| Rare summer resident, occasional migrant. | | | | | |

R O A H T

- ☐ **Red-tailed Hawk** * *Buteo jamaicensis*
Uncommon summer resident, rare winter resident.
Nesting recorded by E. Stauber, 1964.
- ☐ **Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*
Rare summer visitor; no records since 1930. There are probable records for Thunder Bay.
- ☐ **Broad-winged Hawk** * *Buteo platypterus*
Common summer resident, primarily in forests.
- ☐ **Rough-legged Hawk** *Buteo lagopus*
Rare migrant, principally in fall.
- ☐ **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*
Rare fall and winter visitant.
- ☐ **Bald Eagle** * *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
Formerly a summer resident and occasional winter resident. Now seen only occasionally. There had been 15-20 known nests, but the last record of young was in 1966. Because the species persists well in Wisconsin and Minnesota, demise here is attributed to biocides in the Lake Superior watershed.
- ☐ **Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk)** *Circus cyaneus*
Occasional migrant and summer visitant; paucity attributed to absence of grassland rodents on Isle Royale.

OSPREYS

Family Pandionidae

- ☐ **Osprey** * *Pandion haliaetus*
Previously a summer resident. Last certain record of nesting was 1972, and last successful rearing probably earlier. Demise also attributed to regional biocide effect (see Bald Eagle). Bird is still seen occasionally.

FALCONS

Family Falconidae

- ☐ **Gyr Falcon** *Falco rusticolus*
One positive identification, February 1960, L.D. Mech, from a small plane along southwest shore. Regionally is a casual winter visitant.
- ☐ **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
Possibly a former summer resident. Regionally extirpated as a breeding bird, presumably due to biocides. Last positive sightings in the early 1970's.
- ☐ **Merlin (Pigeon Hawk)** * *Falco columbarius*
Summer resident, nesting in spruce forests usually near a shoreline. Common fall migrant, seen in greatest numbers around Feldtmann Ridge.

R O A H T

- ☐ **American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk)** * *Falco sparverius*
Summer resident, most commonly along open ridges.

GROUSE

Family Tetraonidae

- ☐ **Sharp-tailed Grouse** * *Pedioecetes phasianellus*
Permanent resident, uncommon and localized. This species, which requires grass-brush, upland openings, would doubtless disappear if both moose and periodic fire were not suppressing woody vegetation. It is not known whether this bird occurs naturally or was introduced; however, the earliest record is from 1884. Sharp-tails have greater sustained flight capability than the Ruffed or Spruce Grouse, hence might be able to span the 13+ miles of water to reach Isle Royale.

RAILS AND COOTS

Family Rallidae

- ☐ **Virginia Rail** *Rallus limicola*
Three records, 1962, 1974 and 1981. Considered an "occasional, very rare visitant" around Thunder Bay.
- ☐ **Sora** *Porzana carolina*
Uncommon summer resident and migrant. Frequenting dense vegetation and mud banks of wetlands, it is seldom seen.
- ☐ **Yellow Rail** *Coturnicops noveboracensis*
The island is within the range and habitat of this cryptic, rare marshbird.
- ☐ **American Coot** *Fulica americana*
Occasional fall migrant, groups seen most commonly in Washington Harbor area.

SHOREBIRDS (I) PLOVERS AND TURNSTONES

Family Charadriidae

- ☐ **Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*
Rare migrant, four records June, August and October.
- ☐ **Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*
No record. Occurs sparsely throughout the region.
- ☐ **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*
Uncommon migrant.
- ☐ **Lesser Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*
Rare fall migrant, single birds seen in Rock Harbor and Washington Harbor September-October. One summer record, 17 June 1969, Siskiwit Bay, S. Hoyt.
- ☐ **Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
Uncommon migrant.

R O A H T



- ☐ **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
No record. Regionally is an uncommon migrant along Lake Superior.

SHOREBIRDS (II) WOODCOCK, SNIPE AND SANDPIPERS
Family Scolopacidae

- ☐ **American Woodcock** * *Philohela minor*
Uncommon summer resident.
- ☐ **Common Snipe** *Capella gallinago*
Presumably a summer resident because courtship flights and calls are regularly heard near open beaver ponds in May; five records in July, 1970, by R.O. Peterson.
- ☐ **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
Rare migrant.
- ☐ **Upland Sandpiper (Upland Plover)** *Bartramia longicauda*
One probable record, Windigo, 19 May 1967, Z. McKinney. Is known as a Lake Superior migrant.
- ☐ **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia*
Summer resident seen regularly along rocky shores. Presumably nests here.
- ☐ **Solitary Sandpiper** *Tringa solitaria*
Uncommon migrant, possibly a summer resident.
- ☐ **Greater Yellowlegs** *Tringa melanoleucus*
Rare migrant.
- ☐ **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*
Uncommon migrant or accidental summer visitor.
- ☐ **Red Knot (Knot)** *Calidris canutus*
No record. An uncommon migrant through western Lake Superior.
- ☐ **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*
One positive record, 30 September 1965, Mott I., W.W. Dummire. Considered a regular migrant around Thunder Bay.
- ☐ **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*
No record. Uncommon regular migrant in the Lake Superior region.
- ☐ **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*
A regular but uncommon migrant in the region. Difficult to identify.
- ☐ **Least Sandpiper** *Calidris minutilla*
Uncommon migrant.
- ☐ **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
No record. Regular Lake Superior north shore migrant.

R O A H T

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- ☐ **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*
One record, two birds, 26 August 1964, W.E. Doyle.
Regular migrant in Lake Superior region.
- ☐ **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*
One record, small flock Siskiwiit Bay, 2 June 1943, K. Gilbert. Considered a regular migrant around Thunder Bay.
- ☐ **Dowitcher (Species)** *Limnodromus* sp.
One record, Grace Cr., 20 May 1967, P.A. Jordan, not identified to species; long-billed (*L. scolopaceus*) and short-billed (*L. griseus*) both migrate through this region and are quite difficult to distinguish in the field.
- ☐ **Stilt Sandpiper** *Micropalama himantopus*
No record. An uncommon but regular migrant of Lake Superior region.
- ☐ **Marbled Godwit** *Limosa fedoa*
One positive observation. Fisherman's Home, 25 May 1978, D.G. Miquelle, O. Alreck and S. Tice. Considered a regular migrant in the Thunder Bay region.
- ☐ **Hudsonian Godwit** *Limosa haemastica*
An uncommon migrant in this region.

PHALAROPES

Family Phalaropodidae

- ☐ **Wilson's Phalarope** *Steganopus tricolor*
Known as an uncommon but probably regular migrant in
northwestern Lake Superior.

JAEGER

Family Stercorariidae

- ☐ **Jaegers** *Stercorarius* sp.
No records. There are periodic sightings of Pomarine (*S. pomarinus*) and Parasitic (*S. parasiticus*) Jaegers in western Lake Superior between fall and spring. Such wide-ranging fliers should certainly reach Isle Royale.

GULLS AND TERNS

Family Laridae

- ☐ **Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*
No records. An uncommon migrant and winter visitant along Lake Superior shores.
- ☐ **Herring Gull** * *Larus argentatus*
Most common gull; summer resident. Nests on offshore rocks and islands. Large numbers dependent on commercial fisheries. Uncommon and occasional in midwinter.
- ☐ **Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*
Migrant, occurring sparsely within flocks of Herring Gulls.

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- ☐ **Bonaparte's Gull** *Larus philadelphia*
Uncommon migrant.
- ☐ **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*
Rare migrant. Within normal migratory region.
- ☐ **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*
One record, 2 October 1929, N.A. Wood. Within region of normal migration.
- ☐ **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*
One record, Siskiwit Camp Dock, 18 May 1975, R.O. Peterson. Considered an occasional, rare visitant around Thunder Bay.

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Family Columbidae

- ☐ **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
A few of this introduced, feral species have been seen.
- ☐ **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*
Uncommon migrant or visitant; recorded as late as 29 October.

CUCKOOS

Family Cuculidae

- ☐ **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*
Rare migrant or possible summer visitant.
- ☐ **Black-billed Cuckoo** * *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*
Uncommon summer resident. Marked increase between
1960's and 1970's.

TYPICAL OWLS

Family Strigidae

- ☐ **Great Horned Owl** * *Bubo virginianus*
Uncommon, permanent resident.
- ☐ **Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*
Rare winter visitant. One summer sighting 22 June 1975.
- ☐ **Hawk Owl** * *Surnia ulula*
Rare or irregular resident, adult and downey young recorded 4 August 1905 by M.M. Peet.
- ☐ **Barred Owl** *Strix varia*
One positive sight record, Belle I., 18 September 1967, W.J. Johnson. Several reports of calls. Island is within breeding range and habitat of this owl.
- ☐ **Great Gray Owl** *Strix nebulosa*
One record, 24 August 1976, B. Klugow. Common in winter on north shore of Lake Superior. Recently discovered breeding in good numbers in north-central Minnesota.

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- ☐ **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*
One record, year unknown, K. Gilbert. A permanent resident of forests surrounding Lake Superior.
- ☐ **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*
One sight record 1905, one dead specimen recovered 1963.
- ☐ **Boreal Owl** *Aegolius funereus*
No sightings, one remains recovered at Daisy Farm, 1967.
- ☐ **Saw-whet Owl** * *Aegolius acadicus*
Rare; only two records, but one by M. Peet in 1908 suggested the species was breeding.

GOATSUCKERS

Family Caprimulgidae

- ☐ **Whip-poor-will** * *Caprimulgus vociferus*
Uncommon summer resident. Nest with egg found by P.C. Shelton, July 1963, near Newt L.
- ☐ **Common Nighthawk** * *Chordeiles minor*
Common summer resident, one nesting record, R.O. Peterson, July 1971.

SWIFTS

Family Apodidae

- ☐ **Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*
Summer resident, mainly in the southwest third of the island.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Family Trochilidae

- ☐ **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** * *Archilochus colubris*
Uncommon summer resident. One nesting record, 1976, S. Reeb.

KINGFISHERS

Family Alcedinidae

- ☐ **Belted Kingfisher** * *Megaceryle alcyon*
Common summer resident along lakes and harbors.

WOODPECKERS

Family Picidae

- ☐ **Common Flicker (Yellow-shafted Flicker)** * *Colaptes auratus*
Summer resident; more abundant during migrations.
- ☐ **Pileated Woodpecker** * *Dryocopus pileatus*
Permanent resident. Nest and young recorded by P.C. Shelton, 1962.
- ☐ **Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*
Rare spring and fall visitor.

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☐ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>		■				
Summer resident and migrant.							
☐ Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>		■				
Common permanent resident.							
☐ Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>		■				■
Common permanent resident.							
☐ Black-Backed Three-toed Woodpecker *	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>		■				
Uncommon resident, probably permanent. One breeding record, black spruce of Siskiwit Swamp, June 1973, G.E. Belovsky and P.A. Jordan.							
☐ Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>			■			■
Rare visitant.							
TRYANT FLYCATCHERS							
Family Tyrannidae							
☐ Eastern Kingbird *	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>		■				
Common summer resident, especially around old beaver ponds.							
☐ Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>				■		
Two reports of vocalizations, June 1972, K.I. Lange (call very distinctive). Considered an occasional, very rare visitant around Thunder Bay.							
☐ Eastern Phoebe *	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>		■				
Uncommon summer resident; probably more common migrant.							
☐ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>		■				■
Uncommon summer resident.							
☐ Alder Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher) *	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>		■				
Traill's (<i>E. traillii</i>) has been classified as two species, and the northern, boreal-habitat type (Alder) is more likely the one occurring at Isle Royale than is the open-country Willow Flycatcher (<i>E. traillii</i>). Summer resident; one probable nesting record, June 1976, Washington Cr., D.G. Miquelle.							
☐ Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>		■				■
Summer resident in open, birch-aspen forests; usually near water.							
☐ Eastern Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>		■				■
Uncommon summer resident in sugar-maple forest. Occurs more widely during migration.							
☐ Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Nuttallornis borealis</i>		■				■
Uncommon summer resident. Prefers coniferous woods.							

**LARKS**

Family Alaudidae

- ☐ **Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*
Migrant, seen on bare ground and beaches.

SWALLOWS

Family Hirundinidae

- ☐ **Tree Swallow** * *Iridoprocne bicolor*
Common summer resident, nesting frequently in holes of dead snags around beaver ponds.
- ☐ **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*
Rare visitor, two records.
- ☐ **Barn Swallow** * *Hirundo rustica*
Uncommon summer resident.
- ☐ **Cliff Swallow** * *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
Nested on Scoville Pt. in 1905; few records since.
- ☐ **Purple Martin** *Progne subis*
Reported by K. Gilbert, 1940's. Known to breed in north-eastern Minnesota but not around Thunder Bay.

JAYS, MAGPIES, AND CROWS

Family Corvidae

- ☐ **Gray Jay** * *Perisoreus canadensis*
Common, permanent resident. "Camp robber".
- ☐ **Blue Jay** * *Cyanocitta cristata*
Permanent resident; increased numbers from 1960's to 1970's.
- ☐ **Black-billed Magpie** *Pica pica*
One record, October 1976, Windigo Dock, D.L. Allen and Noel Poe. Reported as a rare visitant at Thunder Bay with a recent (1961) increase in sightings.
- ☐ **Northern Raven (Common Raven)** * *Corvus corax*
Permanent resident.
- ☐ **American Crow (Common Crow)** * *Corvus brachyrhynchos*
Summer resident. One mid-winter record.

CHICKADEES AND TITMICE

Family Paridae

- ☐ **Black-capped Chickadee** * *Parus atricapillus*
Common, permanent resident.
- ☐ **Boreal Chickadee** *Parus hudsonicus*
Three records: March 1963, June 1976, June 1977. Island is well within species' range and habitat.

NUTHATCHES

Family Sittidae

- ☐ **White-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta carolinensis*
Rare summer resident.
- ☐ **Red-breasted Nuthatch** * *Sitta canadensis*
Common summer resident, uncommon as permanent resident or winter visitant; mainly in spruce-fir forest.

CREEPERS

Family Certhiidae

- ☐ **Brown Creeper** * *Certhia familiaris*
Summer resident.

WRENS

Family Troglodytidae

- ☐ **House Wren** * *Troglodytes aedon*
Rare summer resident; probably southwest end only.
- ☐ **Winter Wren** * *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Common summer resident in forests with dense shrub layer. Beautiful song commonly heard.
- ☐ **Marsh Wren (Long-billed Marsh Wren)**
Cistothorus palustris
One record, Windigo 8 May 1981, P.A. Jordan and T.M. Pierzina.
- ☐ **Sedge Wren (Short-billed Marsh Wren)**
Cistothorus platensis
Uncommon summer resident, restricted to marshes.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS

Family Mimidae

- ☐ **Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*
One record, 26 September 1929, N.H. Wood. Considered an occasional, very rare visitant around Thunder Bay.
- ☐ **Gray Catbird (Catbird)** *Dumetella carolinensis*
Rare migrant and summer visitant. A number of summer records from Windigo.
- ☐ **Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum*
Uncommon migrant or summer visitant.

THRUSHES AND BLUEBIRDS

Family Turdidae

- ☐ **American Robin (Robin)** * *Turdus migratorius*
Uncommon summer resident, more common migrant. One winter record, March 1965, a year of abundant mountain ash berries.

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- ☐ **Wood Thrush** *Hylocichla mustelina*
Rare summer visitant or resident.
- ☐ **Hermit Thrush** * *Catharus guttatus*
Uncommon summer resident. Common migrant.
- ☐ **Swainson's Thrush** * *Catharus ustulatus*
Common summer resident, more abundant during migration.
- ☐ **Gray-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus*
Uncommon or rare migrant; perhaps more frequent than records indicate due to difficulty of identifying fall birds.
- ☐ **Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*
Summer resident, found primarily in south-western portion of the island.
- ☐ **Eastern Bluebird** * *Sialia sialis*
Uncommon or rare summer resident.

KINGLETS

Family **Sylviidae**

- ☐ **Golden-crowned Kinglet** * *Regulus satrapa*
Summer resident, common migrant.
- ☐ **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus calendula*
Summer resident, common migrant.

PIPITS

Family Motacillidae

- ☐ **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*
Migrant, occasionally in large flocks; seen primarily on beaches, roads and docks.

WAXWINGS

Family Bombycillidae

- ☐ **Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*
No record. Regular, common winter visitant on adjacent mainland.
- ☐ **Cedar Waxwing** * *Bombycilla cedrorum*
Common summer resident, particularly around openings in mature forests of southwest end.

SHRIKES

Family Lanidae

- ☐ **Northern Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*
Uncommon migrant, rare winter visitant.

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- breeding in shrubby shoreline in 1978, but did not persist.
Common in riparian habitats of adjacent mainland.

☐ **Magnolia Warbler** * *Dendroica magnolia*
Summer resident, common in heavy spruce or fir stands.

☐ **Cape May Warbler** *Dendroica tigrina*
Migrant.

- ☐ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens*
Summer resident with breeding restricted primarily to the
sugar maple-yellow birch forest.

- ☐ **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle Warbler)** *
Dendroica coronata
 Perhaps the most common migrant among the warblers; also the first to be seen in spring. It is among the less numerous summer resident warblers.

- ☐ **Black-throated Green Warbler** * *Dendroica virens*
Common summer resident in spruce-fir-birch forest,
occasional in sugar maple-yellow birch.

- ☐ **Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca*
Summer resident in mixed conifer-deciduous forests.
Migrant.

- ☐ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** *Dendroica pensylvanica*
Perhaps the most common summer resident warbler; prefers forest clearings, hence is favored by moose browsing, beaver cutting, and windfall.

☐ **Bay-breasted Warbler** *Dendroica castanea*
Occasional migrant and possible rare summer resident.
Characteristic of conifer forests farther north.

☐ **Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata*
Uncommon migrant, possibly a rare summer resident.

- ☐ **Pine Warbler** *Dendroica pinus*
Rare migrant, reported four times. Listed as an occasional rare visitant around Thunder Bay. A somewhat difficult species to distinguish.

- ☐ **Palm Warbler** *Dendroica palmarum*
Common migrant.

- ☐ **Ovenbird** * *Seiurus aurocapillus*
Common summer resident. Ground nester in dense forests. (Abundance judged from its easily recognized, loud song.)

- ☐ **Northern Waterthrush** *Seiurus noveboracensis*
Migrant (inconspicuous); possible rare summer resident.
Breeding habitat is at edge of bogs.

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Migrant (inconspicuous); possible rare summer resident.
Breeding habitat is at edge of bogs.



- ☐ **Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*
Rare migrant, five records including June 15 and 25.
Listed as a regular breeding bird around Thunder Bay —
probably in association with farms.
- ☐ **Common Grackle** * *Quiscalus quiscula*
Common summer resident around wetlands, more
abundant during migration.
- ☐ **Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*
Summer resident, more common at southwest end.
Common migrant.

Family Thraupidae

- ☐ **Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea*
Uncommon migrant; possibly a rare summer resident;
several June and July sightings including a pair and
singing males. Considered summer resident around
Thunder Bay.

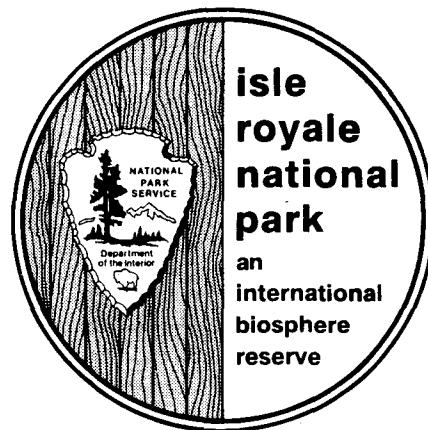
Family Fringillidae

- ☐ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
Migrant, most common in May, possibly a rare summer resident. Singing males have been recorded in mid-June.
- ☐ **Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea*
Until the 1970's considered rare, now a summer resident at the western end of island where it is known as the "Windigo Bunting."
- ☐ **Dickcissel** *Spiza americana*
One record, road at Windigo, 19 May 1966, P.A. Jordan. Not recorded around Thunder Bay and listed as "rare to casual" in northeastern Minnesota.
- ☐ **Evening Grosbeak** * *Hesperiphona vespertina*
Migrant and occasional winter visitant. Rare summer resident; possibly an occasional breeder on the island.
- ☐ **Purple Finch** *Carpodacus purpureus*
Uncommon summer resident, occasional winter visitant.
- ☐ **Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator*
Uncommon winter visitant; possibly a rare summer resident, at least formerly; sighted 27 June 1970 by R.O. Peterson. Listed as a "very common winter visitant" around Thunder Bay.
- ☐ **Hoary Redpoll** *Cardualis hornemannii*
Could be among winter flocks of Common Redpolls from which it is quite difficult to distinguish. Listed as a very rare winter visitant around Thunder Bay.

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