



CANADA - Gaspé

TRIP REPORT June 1 – 12, 2025



Our wonderful Sunrise Birding group enjoying the sunshine at Reserve Faunique de Matane

Canada - Gaspé Peninsula - 2025

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TOUR SUMMARY:

The Sunrise Birding tour to the famed Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec, Canada got underway with everyone meeting up in Quebec City. Under the guidance of Charlie Roberto, we then took our 2 large 4x4's and drove to the first destination of Tadoussac on the St. Lawrence River. Here we checked out the bird migration at the dunes and visited the Bird Observatory, and enjoyed a look at some birds at the banding station. We then went on a Whale Watching trip where we eventually saw up to 5 distant Beluga Whales and a fairly close Minke Whale. A few seabirds included a pair of Snow Geese sat on the water looking initially like Gannets. Moving on, we headed along the north shore and made a few birding stops before taking the ferry crossing to Matane. Among the highlights of our crossing were several groups totalling 26 Red-necked Phalaropes. In Matane we visited sewerage ponds seeing several duck species and an unusual Brown Thrasher. In Forillon National Park we enjoyed some welcome sunshine and numerous warblers, Ruffed Grouse, Snowshoe Hares, and even the Canadian endemic Short-tailed Swallowtail. A visit to the beautiful Jardins de Matis gardens was a wonderful afternoon treat. We then birded our way along the coast until we reached the charming village of Gaspé at the tip of the peninsular. Our journey found us many ducks and gulls, including a rare Franklin's Gull, plus Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Loons and our first good looks a Northern Gannets and Razorbills. We also found a family group of Sandhill Cranes in a marsh, a rarity here, and we watched them take off and fly far away over the hills. From here we moved to Percé and its famous rock which was visible from the rooms of our lovely hotel. An early morning boat trip around the rock and onto Bonaventure Island was a real highlight with up to 40,000 Gannets seen breeding on the cliff tops, plus Common Murres, Razorbills and Black-legged Kittiwakes nesting on the rocks. Add to this a pair of Pine Grosbeaks and a singing Mourning Warbler and it added up to a great day out. With more warblers on our list than we could count, we moved onto the beautiful Parc National de la Gaspésie, an area of boreal habitat and white-water rivers. From our forest cabins we explored several areas finding a very confiding Spruce Grouse and several lumbering Moose. Finally, we headed back toward Quebec with a night at Rimouski where a stunning male King Eider was a fitting finale to our wonderful tour.

HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Spruce Grouse
- Franklin's Gull
- Pine Grosbeak
- Ruffed Grouse
- Sora
- Evening Grosbeak
- Bobolink
- Harlequin Ducks
- Red-necked Phalaropes
- Black Guillemot
- Mourning Warbler
- American Bittern
- Canada Warbler
- Lots of American Redstarts
- King Eider
- Gannet Colony
- Sandhill Cranes
- Beluga
- Moose
- River Otter
- Beaver
- Porcupine
- Short-tailed Swallowtail
- Mourning Cloak
- Chocolate/Ice-cream Shop
- Percé Rock
- Gaspésie National Park
- Bakeries

Our first day on the Gaspé, Peninsula Tour had us all starting from Quebec City where we took in the magnificent Montmorency Falls. At 83 m (272.3') high, it's a full 30 m (98.4') taller than Niagara.



We then made our way north to Tadoussac where we had a quick look out the Sand Dunes ready for tomorrow's birding before checking in to our delightful hotel.



Our first full day birding the Tadoussac Dunes



Some very smart Purple Finches like this lovely male showed up.



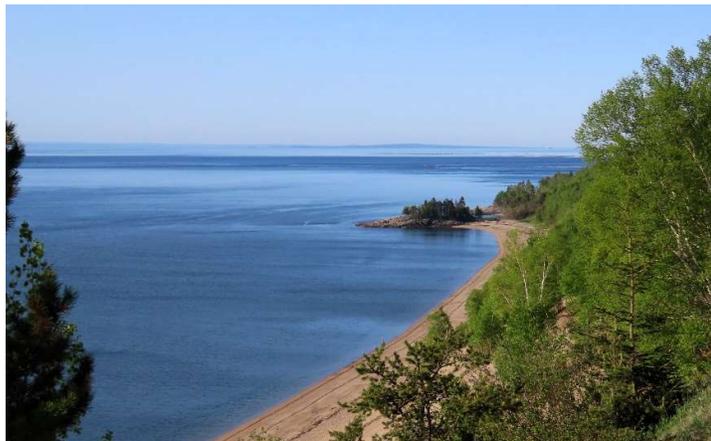
And the first of 19 species of warbler that we saw was this fine Black-throated Green Warbler.



Several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen at a feeder beside the dunes.



And then we had the great sighting of a River Otter down on the rocks below.



This was our view from the top of the sand dunes over the St. Lawrence River.

We visited the nearby banding station where several of the students showed us some species that had just caught ready for release. Here we have a Yellow Warbler on the left and a male American Redstart.



Beside the banding station they had a feeder set up and we got fantastic views of male and female Evening Grosbeaks.



This was the view overlooking the town of Tadoussac where we were staying.

And so began our encounters with many warblers and some northern migrants.



A Swainson's Thrush gave us nice close views in the forest.



And our first Cape May Warbler was also a delight to see up close.



Magnolia Warblers became one of the commonest warblers we saw.



And this Canada performed wonderfully right in front of Steve and Ernie.



Bay-breasted Warblers became common, and here is another shot of that wonderful Canada Warbler.



A walk in the pine forest found us a showy Blackburnian Warbler and then on our way out this Ruffed Grouse strolled around the track with no concern that we were all looking at it.



A walk around the coastline of Tadoussac had some close Cedar Waxwings feeding in the low bushes.



And out in the bay this drake White-winged Scoter gave us incredible close views.



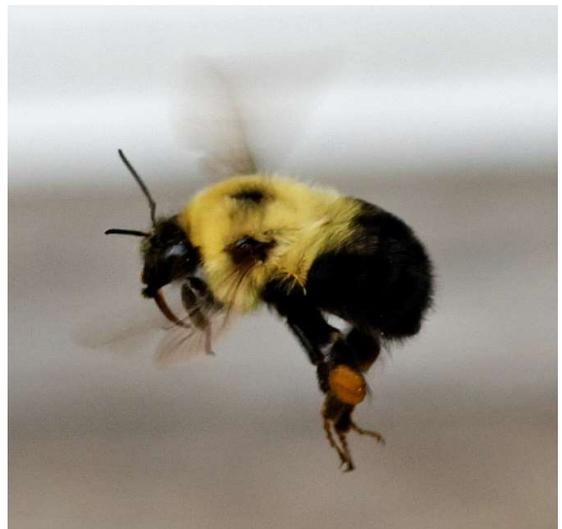
We went out on a whale watching trip and were lucky to get distant views of several white Beluga Whales and one Minke Whale, but photographs were difficult. However Black Guillemots showed well.



Razorbills showed well and we saw a few Red-throated Loons.



Our first good insects included a fine fresh Morning Glory and a Two-spotted Bumble Bee.



Moving on we crossed the St. Lawrence River by ferry to arrive at Matane. Here we visited the Forillon National Reserve and birded a quiet track. A nesting pair of Hairy Woodpeckers was a nice find.



More insects were found included the rare Short-tailed Swallowtail and Green Comma.



We also had probably one of the smartest bees you could imagine, the Tricolored Bumble Bee plus several Snowshoe Hares.



The beautiful Lake Matane was such a relaxing place!



We stopped at some grasslands and got fabulous views of a singing Bobolink.



As drove north along the coast we made numerous stops to check out the huge flocks of ducks. Here are a group of Surf Scoters.



A roadside stop produced a nice Glaucous Gull and our first group of gorgeous Harlequin Ducks.



Our next stop was a real delight as we scanned through the gulls, finding 10 Bonaparte's and 2 Iceland Gulls. Charlie spotted this breeding plumage Franklin's Gull, a rarity in this part of the world!



Not just one rarity today as Steve spotted a family group of Sandhill Cranes in a marsh. Apparently just dropped in today, and as we watched them, they took off and flew over the hills never to be seen again!



So many beautiful scenic sites on this trip. This was looking across one of the marshes in Gaspé.



Around Gaspé we found Red-breasted Nuthatch and a confiding Savannah Sparrow.



We enjoyed a full day visit to Bonaventure Island via a boat crossing around Percé Rock with its nesting Great Cormorants and Razorbills and onto the main Bonaventure Island.



Great Cormorant perched on the rock, while Grey Seals can be seen loafing around below.



We got superb views of literally thousands of Razorbills and Common Murres from the boat.



Black Guillemots showed off their bright red legs and then there was the Northern Gannets, thousands of them!!!



We landed and took a walk through the woodland to the nesting cliffs of the Gannets. Some 40,000 were said to be present and it was a remarkable experience.



Gannets, Gannets everywhere! All sorts of behavior and interactions were observed and many close flybys. There was a rope to stop people getting too close but even then, some of the Gannets were just a few feet from the rope.



Fabulous views of flying Northern Gannets

On the path through the forest we got good but brief views of a pair of Pine Grosbeaks feeding on the ground, and plenty of singing Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.



After seeing the Gannets, we made our way back through the forest to the dock. During that walk, a Yellow Warbler and a Mourning Warbler posed nicely for us.



Sunrise over the Percé Rock.



Another sunrise at Gaspé. Plus, a singing Blackpoll Warbler before we set off to wards our next destination of Gaspésie National Park.



We stopped at a small harbor and got great looks at an Iceland Gull and several close Double-crested Cormorants. (For identification purposes, look at this Iceland Gull compare with the Glaucous on day 5.)



A group of male Harlequin Ducks gave us a great fly past!



And so on to the wonderful Gaspésie National Park where we stayed in beautiful cabins inside the park. With a superb restaurant and access to many trails, this was a highlight of our tour. Along the way we stopped at a marsh where a Sora showed superbly to Ernie and Millie and a drake Blue-winged Teal posed nicely.



In the beautiful boreal forests of the park, we encountered many warblers including this female Blackpoll and a very confiding Bay-breasted Warbler.



A male American Redstart shows off and a male Cape May Warbler tries its best to hide!



One of our big target birds and a definite highlight as this male Spruce Grouse that performed right in front of us! Simply fantastic!



Moose was a mammal everyone wanted to see and Gaspesie was a great place for several sightings including this one at Lac aux Americains.



It was time to leave the park and head towards Quebec with a one-night stop at Rimouski on the way.

Stops found us more Philadelphia Vireos and some Blue-bead Lilies.



One last stop at a fabulous marsh found us 3 American Bitterns, Pied-billed Grebe, Merlin and another showy Sora.



A quick look around Rimouski and we eventually found our target bird, a fine male King Eider in full breeding plumage, Wow!



There were other things to look at along this shoreline including some cute Killdeer chicks and a pair of American Wigeons.



And so, it was all over. And a celebration with our favorite chocolate covered ice-cream brought the tour to a fabulous end. But what happened to Steve's !!!





WILDLIFE LIST for Gaspé 2025

A = Number of species recorded on tour
 B = Number of days out of 12 recorded C = Highest daily count
 H = Heard Only by Ear (not Merlin) N/C = No Count C=Common

This list is in line with IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v(13.2) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomy's – any additional notes see appendix *

A	BIRD SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	B	C
1	Brant Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	3	120
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	10	40
3	Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	4	12
4	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	1	1
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	3	2
6	American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	4	4
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	9	10
8	American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	5	8
9	Northern Pintail	<i>Anus acuta</i>	1	2
10	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anus crecca</i>	3	2
11	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	1	2
12	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	3	6
13	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	11	300+
14	King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	1	1
15	Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	4	20
16	Surf scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	5	400+

17	White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>	5	500
18	Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta americana</i>	6	4,000+
19	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	2	2
20	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	4	4 + chicks
21	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	9	4
22	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	3	20
23	Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	5	3
24	Spruce Grouse	<i>Canachites canadensis</i>	1	2
25	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Colomba livia</i>	7	N/C
26	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	9	4
27	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	6	4
28	Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	2	Heard
29	Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	2	2
30	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1	1
31	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	3	4 + chicks
32	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	2	2
33	Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	2	4
34	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1	26
35	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	6	3
36	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	1	1
37	Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	1	1
38	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	8	40+
39	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	8	1,000+
40	Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	4	1,000+
41	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	7	500+
42	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	4	10
43	Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	1	1
44	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	7	30+
45	American Herring Gull	<i>Larus smithsonianus</i>	10	200
46	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	10	120
47	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	3	3
48	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	1	1
49	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	5	4
50	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1	4
51	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	1	2
52	Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	7	6
53	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	7	12
54	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	5	40,000+
55	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1	20
56	Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	10	300
57	American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	1	3
58	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	1
59	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	5	4
60	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	4	6
61	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2	2
62	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	5	7
63	Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	2	1
64	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	4	1
65	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	5	1
66	Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	1	1
67	Sandhill Crane	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	1	5
68	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1	1 + 1H
69	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	4	H

70	Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	1	H
71	Downy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	4	2
72	Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates villosus</i>	7	2
73	Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	1	1 + 4H
74	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	5	1 + 1H
75	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	4	3
76	Merlin	<i>Falco Columbarius</i>	5	1
77	Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	4	4
78	Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	1	H
79	Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	7	4
80	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	4	5
81	Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	3	6 + 3H
82	Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	4	4
83	Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	4	2 + 2H
84	Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	6	6
85	Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	9	4
86	Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	9	20
87	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	11	N/C
88	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	11	6
89	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	8	6 + 1H
90	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	2	10
91	Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	8	20+
92	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	4	20
93	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	6	2 + 4H
94	Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	2	1
95	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	3	H
96	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	10	N/C
97	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	5	2
98	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1	1
99	Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	1	1
100	Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	3	2 + 4H
101	Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	7	1 + 2H
102	Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	1	H
103	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	11	C
104	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	9	60
105	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	1
106	Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	2	5
107	Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	2	2
108	Purple Finch	<i>Haemorhous purpureus</i>	5	6 + 2H
109	Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>	5	30
110	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	10	4
111	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	9	4
112	Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	2	1
113	Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	6	4
114	White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	9	5 + 2H
115	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	4	4
116	Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	10	6
117	Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	1	1
118	Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	2	1
119	Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	1	1
120	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	11	C
121	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	1	1
122	Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	11	C

123	Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	8	H
124	Northern Waterthrush	<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>	3	1 + 3H
125	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis peregrina</i>	3	4 + 3H
126	Nashville Warbler	<i>Leiothlypis ruficapilla</i>	3	2 + 2H
127	Mourning Warbler	<i>Geothlypis philadelphia</i>	1	2
128	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	5	2 + 2H
129	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	10	6
130	Cape May Warbler	<i>Setophaga tigrina</i>	4	3
131	Northern Parula	<i>Setophaga americana</i>	8	4
132	Magnolia Warbler	<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	11	6
133	Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Setophaga castanea</i>	9	10
134	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>	8	3
135	Yellow Warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	9	4
136	Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>	2	1
137	Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Setophaga striata</i>	5	4
138	Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Setophaga caerulescens</i>	2	1
139	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	7	2
140	Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Setophaga virens</i>	8	4 + 2H
141	Canada Warbler	<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	2	2 + 2H

A	OTHER SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	B	C
1	Beluga	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	2	5
2	Common Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	1	1
3	Harbor Porpoise	<i>Phocoena Phocoena phocoena</i>	1	6
4	North American River Otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	1	1
5	North American Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	1	2
6	Harbor Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina concolor</i>	3	20
7	Gray Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus atlantica</i>	5	20+
8	Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	3	8
9	Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	1	2
10	North American Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	3	2
11	Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	2	1
12	Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	1	1
13	Common Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	1	2
14	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes fulvus</i>	2	2
15	White-tailed Deer (Piebald)	<i>Odocoileus virginianus borealis</i>	1	1
16	Moose	<i>Alces alces americana</i>	4	3
17	North American Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	1	1
18	Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis pallidulus</i>	1	1
19	American Toad	<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>	1	2
20	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	1	1
21	Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	2	2
22	Northern Azure	<i>Celastrina lucia</i>	1	1
23	Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio canadensis</i>	5	20
24	Short-tailed Swallowtail	<i>Papilio brevicauda</i>	1	1
25	Dreamy Duskywing	<i>Erynnis icelus</i>	1	2
26	Clouded Sulphur	<i>Colias philodice</i>	2	8
27	Common Basket	<i>Epithea cynosura</i>	1	1
28	One-eyed Sphinx	<i>Smerinthus cerisyi</i>	1	1
29	Modest Sphinx	<i>Pachysphinx occidentalis</i>	1	1
30	Dogwood Thyatrid Moth	<i>Euthyatira pudens</i>	1	1
31	Comstock's Sallow Moth	<i>Feralia comstocki</i>	1	1
32	Sigmoid Prominent	<i>Clostera albosigma</i>	1	3

33	Subdued Quaker	<i>Orthosia revicta</i>	2	4
34	Speckled Green Fruitworm Moth	<i>Orthosia hibisci</i>	1	1
35	Doubleday's Bailey Moth	<i>Baileya doubledayi</i>	1	1
36	Colorful Zale Moth	<i>Zale minerea</i>	1	2
37	Two-lined Hook-tip Moth	<i>Drepana bilineata</i>	1	1
38	Spear-marked Black Moth	<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	1	1
39	Two-spotted Bumblebee	<i>Bombus bimaculatus</i>	Seen	
40	Tricolored Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus ternarius</i>	Seen	
41	Half-black Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus vagans</i>	Seen	
42	Dogwood Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Seen	
43	Blue-bead Lily	<i>Clintonia borealis</i>	Seen	
44	Common Dandelion	<i>Traxacum officinale</i>	Seen	
45	Lowbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Seen	
46	Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Seen	
47	Star-flowered Lily-of-the-Valley	<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	Seen	
48	Two-leaved Toothwort	<i>Cardamine diphylla</i>	Seen	
49	Wild Sarsaparilla	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	Seen	
50	Bitter Wintercress	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Seen	
51	Bartrum Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>	Seen	
52	Black Spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>	Seen	

