Canada 2018

Manitoba, Nunavut and British Colombia
Introduction

Following my retirement at the end of 2017, Lyn and I wanted to take a long wildlife trip abroad and we chose Canada because I had been there on three previous occasions and enjoyed my time there immensely and also the fact that it is packed with wildlife and English is spoken as a first language in our chosen provinces.

We flew to Winnipeg via Toronto with Air Canada from Heathrow and returned from Vancouver 53 days later with the same airline.

We hired a Ford Edge SUV at the airport and used it throughout Southern Manitoba. The railway track to Churchill, Northern Manitoba has long ceased to run and has broken down into disrepair, although there is some talk of resurrecting it in the near future; however we travelled there with Calm Air who those in the North renamed Calamity Air and we swiftly found out why. They managed to lose my main bag for two days on a week’s trip to Churchill on a flight from Winnipeg, they later admitted to “bumping it off the flight” but they excelled themselves later by cancelling our flight to Najaat/Repulse Bay in the Arctic claiming maintenance issues on one of the finest spring days that part of the World has ever seen.

Our screaming and shouting forced them into action and to be fair to them they laid on a flight to Nunavut with just three passengers aboard and so we only lost a single day of our five day sortie. The flight back to Winnipeg went without incident.

We then flew to Vancouver with Air Canada and on arrival we picked up our RV/Camper Van from Cruise Canada and used this for the whole of the British Colombia leg, using car ferries and mainly Provincial Park Camp Sites, which meant that we were based right in amongst the wildlife.

In Southern Manitoba we used Air B&B accommodation and this turned out to be economical, bringing us face to face and allowed us to engage with local folk.

In Churchill we stayed at the Iceberg Inn and hired a Pick-up truck from Tamarac Car hire in town. In the Arctic we stayed at Inns North and they arranged for us to hire an ATV/Quad Bike to travel around with and it was perfect. The Arctic leg of the tour was expensive and to be honest not worth the money, seeing a minimal amount of wildlife, although it was an experience that we will never forget.

On a tour of this size we had no major incidents but plenty of minor ones such as the steps falling off our RV, getting stuck in sand, flat tyres, flat battery on the pick- up, all fairly minor but in Canada and particularly Churchill one can be miles away from habitation and assistance.
The cost of living was higher than the UK but not hugely so and the whole thing cost in excess of £15,000. We opened up a Caxton Debit Card this meant that we didn’t have to exchange £s into $CADs during our visit.

The food and drink was excellent particularly the fruit of the Okanagan region an area that also produced superb wine. Supermarkets do not sell alcohol in Canada one has to visit a liquor store to purchase these items, although prices are similar to the UK in that respect.

**Itinerary**

**24 May:** Air Canada flight from Heathrow to Toronto and then onto Winnipeg. We picked up hire car and drove to Delta Bay, distance 109Km. Birded around garden of Blue Heron Guest House. We had a good fall of migrant birds, our best possible start.

**25 May:** Birded Delta Bay and Ambroise Provincial Park (PP), habitats included beach front, gardens, scrub and marshland. Local driving.

**26 May:** Birded Delta Bay then moved onto to Portage La Prairie, distance 26Km, birded Island Park then drove to Brandon Hills Wildlife Management Area, distance 137Km. Finally onto Oak Lakes distance 68Km. Overnight Deleau distance 25 Km.

**27 May:** Drove to Plum Lakes distance 14.6Kms, onto Lauder on the River Souris Bend distance 52.2 Km. Overnight Medora distance 15.8Km.

**28 May:** Birded The Southern Prairie Birding Trail including Pierson, Melita, Gainsborough Creek and Section 29. Birded around Lewis’ Farm, Medora. Local driving. Overnight Medora.

**29 May:** Birded Lewis’ Farm, Medora then onto The Souris River Bend near Melita. Drove to Coulter Park to finish the day. Local driving. Overnight Medora.

**30 May:** Once again birded The Southern Prairie Birding Trail visiting Section 29 then returned to Melita for lunch. Drove to Wasagaming in Riding Mountain National Park distance 228Km. Overnight Wasagaming.

**31 May:** Birded in Riding Mountain NP at Clear Lake, The Boreal Trail, Moon Lake Trail and Beach Ridges Trail. Local Driving. Overnight Wasagaming.

**1 June:** Headed East of Riding Mountain NP to Mount Agassiz Ski Resort via McLeary, 65.7Km birded around the resort and the Oak Ridge Trail. Local driving. Overnight Wasagaming.

**2 June:** Birding in Riding Mountain NP at Bead Lakes Trail and the Boreal Trail. Carried out a late evening mammal drive in the park. Local driving. Overnight Wasagaming.
3 June: Started with an early morning mammal drive. Drove to Eastern Gate and birded the Burr and Bittersweet Trail. We then drove to Neepawa and birded Rotary Lake distance 82.4Km. Then onto Winnipeg distance 186Km. Overnight Winnipeg.

4 June: Birded Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg then bought new walking boots and rested. Local driving. Overnight Winnipeg. Our British bought Vango boots already ruined!

5 June: Drove to Oak Hammock Marsh distance 42.2Km birded various trails had lunch at the Northern viewing mound with Marbled Godwits. Drove to Cape Coppermine distance 121Km birded forest and gardens. Overnight Cape Coppermine.

6 June: Drove to MacArthur Falls on Lac du Bonnet and birded lakeside scrub and forest, drove towards Lake Winnipeg and had lunch at Pine Falls from there onto the Belair Forest and drove the North Star Trail. Went to Pinawa PP for evening/night birding. Extensive local driving. Overnight Cape Coppermine.

7 June: Drove to Whiteshell PP distance 58.9Km and birded the Forester’s Footsteps Trail then drove back to Winnipeg for tomorrow’s flight to Churchill. Overnight Winnipeg.

8 June: Fly to Churchill distance 1,005Km. Check into Iceberg Hotel birded Granary Pools drove the short distance to Cape Merry and birded the headland, tundra, shoreline while scoping the sea. Drove to Twin Lakes Road. Extensive local driving. Overnight Churchill.

9 June: Drove to Twin Lakes Area, Landing Road, Goose Creek and Hydro Road. Overnight Churchill. Extensive local driving.

10 June: Cape Merry, Goose Creek and an evening visit to Granary Pools. Local driving. Overnight Churchill.

11 June: Twin Lakes including Cook Street, Coast Road including “Miss Piggy”and Goose Creek. Extensive local driving. Overnight Churchill.


13 June: Twin Lakes including Cook Street, visited the feeders at Button Street, Churchill Town, Goose Creek and Hydro Road. Extensive local driving. Overnight Churchill.

14 June: Cape Merry, Goose Creek and coast road out of Churchill Town. Local driving. Overnight Churchill.
15 June: Goose Creek and Churchill Town then an afternoon flight North to Repulse Bay/Naujaat via Rankin Inlet in Nunavut, distance 954Km with Calm Air. Walked around Repulse Bay town and birded the airfield and graveyard. Overnight Repulse Bay/Naujaat.

16 June: A walk around town, we birded the airfield and the graveyard, visited the Refuse Tip, Elder’s Cabin and Whalebones. Local driving. Overnight Repulse Bay/Naujaat.

17 June: Visited the same sites as yesterday and also Water Lake. Local driving. Overnight Repulse Bay/Naujaat.

18 June: Visited the Airfield, Graveyard and Refuse site. On Foot. Overnight Repulse Bay/Naujaat.

19 June: A travel day fly from Repulse Bay/Naujaat to Winnipeg via Rankin Outlet with Calm Air distance 1,953Km. Evening walk near Assiniboine Park. Overnight Winnipeg.

20 June: Another travel day. We caught a delayed flight to Vancouver distance 2,314.4Km. Picked up RV (Camper Van) drove locally to Capliano River RV Park, birded the site and river banks. Overnight Vancouver.

21 June: Met local birder Larry Cowan and drove locally first to Grouse Mountain and birded the Power Line Trail, Maplewood Conservation Area, Cypress PP the Yew Lake Trail and finally back to the Capliano River and the Salmon Hatchery. Local driving. Overnight Vancouver.

22 June: Drove to Horseshoe Bay distance 15.1Km. Took ferry to Nanaimo distance 70Km. Drove locally to Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary birded Tranquility, Beaver Pond and Rocky Knoll Trails. Drove to Brennen Lake RV Park distance 12 Km. Spent the evening at Buttertub Marsh, Nanaimo. Overnight Brennen Lake did night birding from 10pm.

23 June: 03:30 out night birding again at Brennen Lake drove to Ucluelet via the picturesque Stroat Lake. Birded Ucluelet Campground area. Distance 175.3Km. Overnight Ucluelet.

24 June: Drove locally to Amphitrite Point birded around the lighthouse area and along the coast, carried out a seawatch. Drove to Tofino distance 40.3Km. Walked around town and waterfront and organized a whale watching trip then drove back to Ucluelet via Combes Beach birded trail and shoreline. Drove locally to Wickaninnish Sewage Lagoons before birding around Ucluelet Campground once again. Overnight Ucluelet.

25 June: Drove back to Tofino for whale watching trip headed out to Clayoquot Sound and to some small pacific rocky islets that were seabird breeding colonies. Drove to Deep Bay distance 193.1Km via Stroat Lake again. Birded Deep Bay Campground. Overnight Deep Bay.
26 June: 03:30 night birding around Deep Bay Campground drove the short distance to Rosewell PP birded the disused railway line then drove to Port Hardy distance 318.6km via Dalrymple Creek Nature Trail and the Salmon River Estuary. Birded Port Hardy Harbour, shoreline and sewage works and outfall. Overnight Port Hardy.

27 June: Sailed on the 16 hour ferry journey to Prince Rupert distance 516.4Km through stunning wildlife filled scenery on MV Northern Explorer across the Queen Charlotte Sound through the Inner Passage including the Hugh Sound and the Grenville Channel stopping at the first nation village of Bella Bella where a Humpback Whale put on a memorable show. Arrived in Prince Rupert in the dark and stayed overnight.

28 June: Birded Butze Rapids Falls Trail near Prince Rupert. Drove to Kinnickkinick Camp Site, Prince Edward, distance 9.8Km birded campground then drove back to Prince Rupert and birded the harbour and shoreline visited the Kwinitsa Railway Museum before driving back to Prince Edward where we birded around the harbour before staying overnight.

29 June: We caught the morning ferry from Prince Rupert to Skidegate, Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands a 6 hour crossing on the MV Northern Adventurer distance 201.5Km. Seawatching the whole crossing with myriads of seabirds including a spanking Yellow-billed Loon in full breeding plumage sitting on the sea that didn’t dive as the vessel closely passed by. Birded around Skidegate Harbour, the shoreline and the village then visited the Haida Gwaii museum with all its famous totem poles. Caught the ferry back to Prince Rupert and drove to Prince Edward for an overnight stay.

30 June: Drove to Prince Rupert for a nice breakfast and then onto the fabulous Lakelse Lake PP near Terrace a distance of 165.7Km we birded the Sockeye Trail. We then drove to Fort Telkwa distance 234.4 Km via the historic Sealy Lake PP where we birded the Lookout Trail. Birded Fort Telkwa Campground in the evening on the side of the Bulkley River where Harlequin Ducks are denizens of this crystal clear, fast flowing torrent. Overnight Fort Telkwa.

1 July: Canada Day: Drove locally to Mount Hudson Bay near Smithers and climbed then birded above ski lift in challenging weather and walked down to car park. We then walked Crater Lake Trail. Later we birded around Fort Telkwa Campground. Overnight Fort Telkwa.

2 July: Drove a short distance to Tyhee PP looked on the lake and along the shoreline. Then drove to our lunch stop at Nechako River Bird Sanctuary near Vanderhoof distance 259.3Km. We then drove to Purden PP between McBride and Prince George and birded the campground. Distance 99.78Km. Overnight Purden PP Campground.
3 July: Loons could be heard wailing throughout the night. In the morning we birded the Purden PP campground and the Beach Trail before the local drive to McBride where we walked around the town birding the gardens and we visited the railway station. We then drove to Mount Robson PP for glorious views of the Rocky Mountains. Distance 69.78Km. Birded and overnight stay at Robson Meadows Campground.

4 July: Birded early morning around Robson Meadows Campground with stunning views. Then walked the 9Km Berg Trail to Lake Kinney had lunch and returned to the campground. We then walked the Fraser River Nature Trail within Mount Robson PP. Overnight Robson Meadows Campground.

5 July: We drove the short distance along the highway towards Alberta to Moose Lake and birded that area. We then drove locally to Jackman Flats PP and birded the Pine and Cedar Trails. We had lunch in a Swiss bakery at Valemount, where the vista was lovely. Distance 48.3Km from Moose Lake. Drove short distance to Cranberry Marsh and birded around the lake and surrounding habitat. Drove to Clearwater distance 196.34Km. Drove short distance to Birch Island campground and birded and camped there.

6 July: Birded Birch Island Campground and went for breakfast in Clearwater. We then went into the local Wells Gray PP and drove along the Clearwater Lake Road birding various areas such as Ray(‘s) Farm, a homestead in the 1930-40s with natural springs, the impressive Helmcken Falls, Pyramid Mountain Trail, Douglas Falls and the stables and horse fields around the Black Horse Inn. We finished up with a walk around Birch Island Campground where we once again camped.

7 July: We again went to the Black Horse Inn early morning to watch England progress to the FIFA World Cup Semi-finals and birded the area. We then headed south on highway 5 from Clearwater to Monck Park near Nicola and birded and had lunch. Distance 285.7Km. We then drove to the Country and Western town of Merritt on the Coldwater River. Distance 56.8Km. Drove up into the hills late afternoon/evening and birded the Lindley Creek Road. Overnight Merritt.

8 July: We headed out on highway 97c the Okanagan connecter then South, to Okanagan Lake heading towards Okanagan Falls Campground distance 172.21Km. Birded the campground headed locally to Green Lake, Mahoney Lake and White Lake through some very pleasant scenery. Evening walk around the campground and up the Okanagan River. Overnight Okanagan Falls Campground.
9 July: Early morning at Vaseux Cliffs just off the road to Oliver then up McIntyre Creek Road also known as Irrigation Creek Road, visited the small reserve at Vaseux Lake then onto Oliver for lunch. Afternoon and evening at Okanagan Campground watching hunting Nighthawks at Green Lake in the evening. Local driving. Overnight Okanagan Falls Campground.

10 July: Drove locally to Shuttleworth Creek south of Okanagan Falls where we hiked a few side trails and finished in boreal habitat at the mosquito infested Rabbit Lake, a breeding site for Barrow’s Goldeneye. Drove back down to the Falls campground. Local driving. Overnight Okanagan Falls Campground.

11 July: Birded sage habitat at White Lake and then tried River Road near Oliver before driving into Osoyoos, where we watched England crash out of the World Cup Semi-final in a sports bar. Distance 41.9Km. Late afternoon and evening we drove locally to Kilpoola and Blue Lakes. Overnight at the Nk’Mip RV Park, Osoyoos.

12 July: Drove North of town up road 22 at the North end of Lake Osoyoos, breakfasted by a vineyard overlooking the marsh then drove to Meadowlark Lane Cliffs and birded the area having a rare sighting another birder, called Gord! We then drove out on Camp McKinney Road to Mount Baldy Ski Area. Drove back to Osoyoos. Late afternoon and evening we visited the derelict Haynes Point PP Reserve. Overnight at the Nk’Mip RV Park, Osoyoos.

13 July: Drove to Chopaka on the US border distance 40 Km and birded sage habitat along the quiet road. Drove to Manning PP distance 162Km Birded Coldspring Campground seeing American Three-toed Woodpeckers. Headed up to Cascade Viewpoint and then further up to the top and birded alpine meadows and the Heather Trail. On our way back down we visited the Dry Ridge Trail before looking at Cascade Viewpoint again. Overnight Manning PP.

14 July: Drove within Manning PP to Lightening Lake and had a pleasant stroll around the 9Km Lakeside Trail and had lunch at the picnic tables with Gray Jays clambering over them. Mid-afternoon we birded the Canyon Nature Trail and we then drove to the east gate birding the derelict McDiarmed’s Picnic Site scoring on our target and final trip bird Red-naped Sapsucker. Evening visit to Beaver Pond and then Night Birding visit to Lightening Lake. Local driving. Overnight Manning

15 July: Our final day in Canada started with early morning birding around Coldspring Campground before driving to Vancouver distance 218Km where we met up with Larry Cowan once again and visiting the local Colony Farm Nature Reserve where we saw a superb American Bittern before going for lunch with him. We spent our final night at an RV park near
the hire company before dropping off the vehicle the next day and boarding the long flight to Heathrow Airport.

**Birds Recorded**

All birds in breeding plumage unless otherwise stated.

**Red-throated Loon/Diver:** 15+ birds in the bay by the docks and singles off Cape Merry, Churchill, MB.

**Pacific Loon/Diver:** c20 scattered about Churchill. Twin Lakes Road is a prime site. One also flying by Water Lake, Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nunavut. A large passage off Amphritrite Point and on the sea at Combe Beach, BC later that day some in non-breeding plumage.

**Common Loon/Great Northern Diver:** Up to five at Riding Mountain NP and a pair at Twin Lakes, Churchill, MB. At least five birds on the sea at Combe Beach, BC some also in non-breeding plumage. Also heard nightly, wailing like a banshee at Purden Lake PP, BC.

**Yellow-billed Loon/White-billed Diver:** A bird in full breeding plumage sat on the sea close to, on the Hecate Strait en route to Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands. This was a real banana-bill.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 25+ throughout Southern Manitoba of the race *holboelli* with a third of those at Rotary Park, Neepawa. A couple at Haynes PP, Okanagan, BC.

**Horned/Slavonian Grebe:** A pair at Riding Mountain NP.
**Eared/Black-necked Grebe:** Extremely numerous in Southern Manitoba with Oak Lakes a prime site. Present also at Purden Lake, BC.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** A single bird in the Lady Audy area of Riding Mountain NP, MB. A pair was seen feeding two young at Buttertub Marsh, Nanaimo, BC they are however numerous in the province.

**Western Grebe:** Numerous in Southern Manitoba with c20 at Island Park, Portage La Prairie.

**Northern Fulmar:** Two or three of the dark race *rogersii* were in the Hecate Strait en route to Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands.

**Sooty Shearwater:** 275+ were also in the Hecate Strait en route to Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands.

**Fork-tailed Storm Petrel:** Five were in the Hecate Strait en route to Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands.

**American White Pelican:** Many in Southern Manitoba, especially at Delta Bay.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Many in Southern Manitoba and Southern BC, especially at Delta Bay.

**Brandt’s Cormorant:** Around five on rocky islets in Clayoquot Sound, BC.

**Pelagic Cormorant:** Common on the coast of British Colombia.
American Bittern: One at Delta Bay, MB and another single at Colony Farm Nature Reserve near Vancouver, BC.

Great Blue Heron: Numerous in Southern Manitoba and BC with one or two at Churchill.

Great Egret: Up to 10 in Southern Manitoba at Whitewater Lake for instance.

Black-crowned Night Heron: Up to 10 in Southern Manitoba at also Whitewater Lake.

Mute Swan: One pair with six cygnets, four of the Polish white variety at Ambleside Park, Vancouver, BC.

Tundra Swan: A few seen at McArthur Falls and Churchill, MB, three also at Water Lake, Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nunavut.

Canada Goose: Abundant throughout the trip with several Lesser Canada Geese of the race parvipes at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu.

Cackling Goose: Three at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu in with Canada Geese.

Brant/Brent Goose: One bird was at Clayoquot Sound, BC.

Greater White-fronted Goose: One or two of the Greenland race flavirostris at Oak Lakes and Churchill, MB and then five at Airfield and Dump Marsh, Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu.

Ross’ Goose: Three on Hydro Road, Churchill, MB and 2 with Canada Geese at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu.
**Snow Goose:** Numerous at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu, also at Churchill and Oak Lakes, MB. White and blue morphs recorded.

**Wood Duck:** Eight at Island Park, Portage La Prairie, MB. Also at a few sites in BC, including with young at Butternut Marsh, Nanaimo.

**Mallard:** Abundant in Southern Manitoba and BC and also numerous in Churchill.

**American Black Duck:** Eight on Hydro Road, Churchill ducks often paired up with Mallards.

![Duck](image)

**Gadwall:** Numerous in Southern Manitoba and Churchill. A few recorded in BC with young.

**Northern Pintail:** Numerous in Southern Manitoba and abundant in Churchill. Two drakes at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nunavut.

**American Wigeon:** Several in Southern Manitoba but numerous in Churchill, Granary Pools is a prime site. 1 drake hybrid at that site crossed with a Green-winged Teal.

**Northern Shoveler:** Extremely numerous throughout MB.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Abundant in Southern Manitoba. A few recorded in BC.

**Green-winged Teal:** Numerous in Southern Manitoba and abundant in Churchill with a few at White Lake, Okanagan, BC.

**Canvasback:** Numerous in Southern Manitoba with Delta Bay a prime site.

**Redhead:** Numerous in Southern Manitoba with Delta Bay also a prime site.
**Ring-necked Duck:** 20+ in Southern MB with Riding Mountain NP a prime site. Several with young in BC at Moose Lake for instance.

**Greater Scaup:** Abundant in Churchill.

**Lesser Scaup:** 30+ in Southern MB with Oak Lakes a prime site.

**Common Eider:** Numerous in Churchill birds of the hudsonian race *sedentaria*. Cape Merry is a prime site with a few also at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu.

**Long-tailed Duck:** Numerous at Churchill and a few at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu.

**Surf Scoter:** Also many at Churchill with lots at Cape Merry. 20+ at Port Hardy, Vancouver Island, BC.

**Black Scoter:** Numerous also at Churchill with many at Cape Merry as well. A small passage was seen at Amphitrite Point and on the sea at Combe Point and Hardy Bay, BC.

**White-winged Scoter:** Seen on its breeding grounds at Secluded Lake near Twin Lakes also many at Cape Merry, Churchill. 15 also at Port Hardy, Vancouver Island, BC.

**Common Goldeneye:** Numerous throughout MB. A few in BC present on the same lakes as Barrow’s.

**Barrow’s Goldeneye:** One drake on White Lake, Okanagan and females with ducklings seen on several BC lakes such as Lightning Lake, Manning PP.

**Bufflehead:** c15 at Riding Mountain NP and twice as many in Churchill. Secluded Lake is a prime site. A few also with young in BC at Maloney Lake, Okanagan for instance.
Hooded Merganser: One drake from highway 10, heading north towards Dauphin at Riding Mountain NP, MB. A 1st year drake at Maplewood Conservation Area, BC and others scattered around that province.

Common Merganser/Goosander: A few at Riding Mountain NP on Clear Lake but numerous at Churchill with some large flocks at Cape Merry for example. Also on rivers in BC.

Red-breasted Merganser: Recorded throughout MB being abundant in Churchill.

Ruddy Duck: Numerous in Southern MB with Whitewater Lake being a prime site. Also present with ducklings in BC at Blue Lake, Okanagan for instance.

Turkey Vulture: Numerous in Southern MB and Southern BC recorded at various sites with often 10 or more in the air at one time. They were seen devouring carrion.

Northern Harrier: Recorded throughout the trip, even one or two in Nunavut, Oak Hammock Marsh, MB is a prime site.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A small male was at McArthur Falls, MB with another male at Shuttleworth Creek, Okanagan, BC.

Cooper’s Hawk. Nice views of a perched juvenile at Maplewood, Vancouver, BC. A few others scattered elsewhere, more numerous in BC. A partial albino bird was near Ray Farm, Clearwater Lake Road.

Northern Goshawk: A male was near Salmon River Estuary, Vancouver Island, BC.

Swainson’s Hawk: Two recorded near Brandon Hills WMA, MB with other single sightings in Southern Manitoba. A single near Okanagan Lake, BC.

Red-tailed Hawk: Scattered ones or twos throughout Southern MB with some in Riding Mountain NP. More numerous in BC, especially Okanagan.
**Ferruginous Hawk:** A first year perched at Section 29 of the Southern Prairie Trail near Lyleton, MB.

**Rough-legged Hawk/Buzzard:** A single pale morph at Repulse Bay/Naujaat Airfield, Nu.

**Golden Eagle:** One 1st year bird was at Goose Creek, Churchill, MB.

**Bald Eagle:** At least five at various sites in Southern MB with one watched and photographed catching a large fish at McArthur Falls, MB and a sub-adult watched on two days running at Twin Lakes, Churchill. Numerous throughout BC, including nice views of an aerie containing three eaglets at Maplewood CA, BC.

**Osprey:** One or two birds seen at a few sites in Southern Manitoba and BC such as Delta Bay, MB. A few scattered around BC being more numerous in the Okanagan.

**Merlin:** A single was near Brandon Hills WMA and several were recorded around Churchill such as at Dene Village.

**American Kestrel:** One or two at various sites in Southern MB and a single on Goose Creek Road, Churchill. A couple was also in the Okanagan, BC.

**Peregrine Falcon:** A single at Elders Cabin, Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu, got the heart racing for a moment. Another was at White Lake, Okanagan, BC.

**Gray Partridge:** A pair was at Lewis’ Farm, Medora, MB.

**Ring-necked/Common Pheasant:** Fairly numerous in Southern MB.
**Willow Ptarmigan/Grouse:** Around six birds with hens a minority at Twin Lakes Road, Churchill. One also on Hudson Bay Mountain in Northern BC.

![Willow Ptarmigan/Grouse](image)

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Twelve at Section 29 of the Southern Prairie Trail near Lyleton, MB.

**Sooty Grouse:** A hen with chicks was photographed at Cypress Provincial Park, BC.

**California Quail:** Abundant in the Okanagan often in large family parties with many pip-squeak young.

**American Coot:** Numerous in Southern MB with Delta Bay a prime site.

**Virginia Rail:** Four or five birds at Delta Bay, MB feeding out in the open early morning.

**Sora:** Six at Delta Bay, MB often quite brazen and chasing one another around.

**Sandhill Crane:** Seen in North and South Manitoba although never more than six together. Five were at Repulse Bay/Naujaat Refuse Site, Nunavut.

**Black-bellied/Grey Plover:** Seen at several sites in Southern MB and a further 12 were scattered across the Tundra at Twin Lakes, Churchill Northern MB.

**American Golden Plover:** 9 at St Ambroise PP and further sightings of 15 on the tundra at Twin Lakes and a single at Camp Nanuk, Churchill, MB.

**Semi-palmated Plover:** Seen throughout Manitoba with St Ambroise PP a prime site. A single was at Repulse Bay/Naujaat Airfield, Nu.
**Killdeer:** Omnipresent in large numbers across Southern Manitoba and a few at Granary Pools, Churchill, Northern MB and BC.

**Black Oystercatcher:** Regularly seen around the rocky coasts of BC with the rocky islets in the Clayoquot Sound being a prime location.

**American Avocet:** Numerous across Southern MB and often seen breeding, Whitewater Lake is a prime site.

![American Avocet](image)

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** A common breeding bird of Churchill, MB and watched singing from tree tops there, Goose Creek is a prime site.

**Willet:** Fairly common in Southern MB with Oak Hammock Marsh a prime site.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** A common bird of Manitoba with an arrival at Granary Pools, MB while we were there of eight birds, less common in BC although watched with chicks at Kinney Lake, Mount Robson PP.

**Upland Sandpiper:** 16 recorded from Southern MB often singing from fence posts and telegraph poles. Whitewater Lake is a prime location.

**Hudsonian Whimbrel:** Just one at Twin Lakes, Churchill, MB.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** Numerous at Churchill and also often seen singing from tree tops.

**Marbled Godwit:** Observed at a number of Southern Manitoban sites including Whitewater Lake and nine together at Oak Hammock Marsh, MB.
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 20 or so in Southern MB and abundant in Churchill and a single at Repulse Bay/Naujaat Harbour, Nu.

**Red Knot:** Five or six at Delta Bay and St Ambroise PP in Southern Manitoba.

**Sanderling:** Numerous throughout Manitoba with Delta Bay a prime site.

**Dunlin:** 20+ on the tundra at Twin Lakes, Churchill, MB.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Eight at Delta Bay and nine at Oak Lakes, MB were the only records.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 20 at Delta Bay with other sightings at St Ambroise PP and Granary Pools, Churchill, MB.

**Baird’s Sandpiper:** Up to six birds present on each visit to Granary Pools with one or two on Hydro Road, Churchill, MB

**Semi-palmated Sandpiper:** One of the most numerous shorebirds/waders in MB. Seen singing and displaying at Repulse Bay/Naujaat Airfield, Nu.

**Least Sandpiper:** Also many throughout MB and a few at Repulse Bay/Naujaat Airfield, Nu. Where they were observed singing from telephone wires.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Numerous at Churchill with Granary Pools and Hydro Road being prime sites. They were watched on the tundra at Twin Lakes.
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Seen throughout MB including out on the tundra at Twin Lakes, Churchill.

**American Woodcock:** 3 birds were watched displaying on the ground and sky-dancing at Pinawa PP, MB.

**Wilson’s Snipe:** Numerous throughout MB and often watched singing from fence posts.

**Wilson’s Phalarope:** A common bird of Southern MB, Whitewater Lake and Delta Bay are prime sites.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** A flock of 100+ were at Whitewater Lake and frequently seen in Churchill especially at Granary Pools. Hundreds were seen in the Hecate Strait en route to Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands.

**Parasitic Jaeger/Arctic Skua:** Up to 15 seen at Churchill with Cape Merry a prime site, MB.

**Bonaparte’s Gull:** Numerous after our third day in Churchill, MB and often seen on the top of spruce trees.

**Franklin’s Gull:** Abundant in Southern Manitoba. We watched super-pink birds mating at Delta Bay.

**Mew Gull:** Thirty in a variety of plumages in Hardy Bay, Vancouver Island. Hundreds were along the ferry route between Port Hardy – Prince Rupert often resting on floating timber.

**Ring-billed Gull:** Numerous in MB especially in Churchill. A few recorded in BC.
California Gull: Thirty-five at various locations in Southern MB especially Delta Bay. Five young gulls were at Hardy Bay, Vancouver Island, BC.

American Herring Gull: Abundant in MB, less common elsewhere.

Thayer’s Gull: Two adults were at Churchill, MB although numerous at Repulse Bay/Naujaat Nu, especially at the waste disposal site. All birds of the smaller *barrovianus* race.

Glaucous Gull: One or two in Churchill. Also very numerous at Repulse Bay/Naujaat Nu especially at the waste disposal site. All birds of the smaller *barrovianus* race.

Glaucous-winged Gull: Abundant along the BC Pacific coastline.

Heermann’s Gull: Two adults in the Clayoquot Sound, BC.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Twenty in the Hecate Strait en route to Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands.

Caspian Tern: Fairly numerous in Southern Manitoba with Delta Bay a prime location, a couple recorded at Churchill where they are north of their usual range, also a few in BC at Maplewood Nature Reserve for instance.

Arctic Tern: Abundant in Churchill and as a famous Canadian birder stated “if you don’t see um in Churchill, then turn your binos in”. Let’s hope that lasts forever.

Forster’s Tern: Extremely common in Southern MB with Whitewater Lake a great site for them.
Black Tern: Also very numerous in Southern MB with Oak Lakes being a good site for them. A single at Hydro Road, Churchill was North of its usual range.

Common Murre/Guillemot: Many seen in the Clayoquot and Queen Charlotte Sounds, BC.

Pigeon Guillemot: Numerous on offshore islands in the Clayoquot and Queen Charlotte Sounds, Breeding on structures in the harbour of Skidegate, Haida Gwaii, BC.

![Image of Guillemot](image.jpg)

Marbled Murrelet: Twelve in both breeding and non-breeding plumages at Amphritrite Point, BC. They looked like two different species such was their difference in plumage.

Cassin’s Auklet: At least eight in the Hugh Sound and the Grenville Channel in BC seen from the MV Northern Explorer en route to Prince Rupert from Port Hardy.

Rhinoceros Auklet: Numerous in the Clayoquot and Queen Charlotte Sounds and the Hecate Strait, BC.

Mourning Dove: Omnipresent in Southern MB and BC.

White-winged Dove: One vagrant in Churchill Town that is perhaps the most northerly record ever.

Eurasian Collared Dove: Horribly numerous in Southern MB and in BC. It is such a shame that these introductions of invasive species are made, upsetting the ecosystem.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon: Numerous everywhere excepting Nunavut.

Band-tailed Pigeon: only a couple of sightings one at Grouse Mountain, BC with our friend Larry Cowan.
**Short-eared Owl:** Just two sightings in Churchill with one close to “Miss Piggy”.

**Great Horned Owl:** One seen at Delta Bay, MB and others heard at Brennen Lake Campground, BC.

**Barred Owl:** One watched at Brennen Lake Campground, BC.

**Common/American Nighthawk:** Many were seen in Southern MB at Delta Bay and in the Okanagan at Green Lake for instance.

**Vaux’s Swift:** A few recorded in BC at Maplewood Nature Reserve and near Telegraph Cove, Vancouver Island, BC.

**Chimney Swift:** Recorded at several urban sites in Southern MB such as Melita, Wasagaming and Winnipeg.

**Black Swift:** 20 or so birds found at a couple of sites such as with Vaux’s Swifts near Telegraph Cove, Vancouver Island and Wells Gray PP on Clearwater Lake Road.

**White-throated Swift:** A single was at White Lake, Okanagan, BC.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Several in Southern MB including a spectacular male at Cape Coppermine.

**Calliope Hummingbird:** Two recorded at Shuttleworth Creek, Okanagan, BC. They are such dainty birds.

**Allen’s Hummingbird:** A single was on the Yew Lake Trail, Cypress PP, BC.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** The most numerous hummer of the trip with many seen in BC, Deep Bay Campground is a good spot for them.

**Belted Kingfisher:** Fairly numerous and seen in MB and BC with Skidegate Harbour, Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands a prime location.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** One or two in Southern Manitoba with a single at Delta Bay.

**Downy Woodpecker:** Numerous in both MB and BC with Delta Bay and Okanagan Falls PP Campground prime sites.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** Several observed in MB and BC and often in pairs at Idlewyde Cabins, Wasagaming, MB and on the Sockeye Trail, Lakelse PP, BC for instance.
**Lewis’ Woodpecker:** Fairly common in the Okanagan, BC especially at Vaseux Cliffs.

**Red-breasted Sapsucker:** Numerous in Pacific BC and seen at many locations such as the Yew Tree Trail, Cypress PP.

**Red-naped Sapsucker:** A pair were found at the disused McDiarmid Picnic Site, by the East Gate at Manning Provincial Park, BC.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** A common woodpecker of Southern MB with Brandon Hill Wildlife Management Area being a prime location.

**American Three-toed Woodpecker:** Lyn found a pair at Coldspring Campground, Manning PP, BC that showed well and allowed photography. It was a lifer for me.

**Northern Flicker:** Yellow-shafted abundant in MB and Red-shafted even more so in BC.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Recorded at several sites including the central reservation of Overdale Road, Winnipeg, MB and a very tame pair at Lightning Lake, Manning PP, BC.
**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** One on the Beach Ridge Trail, Riding Mountain NP, MB and another on the Yew Tree Trail, Cypress PP, BC both birds were conspicuous siting on exposed perches vociferously calling.

**Western Wood-Pewee:** Numerous in BC with Okanagan Falls PP a terrific site for them.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Seen several times in deciduous woodland giving its onomatopoeic pewee call, Brandon Hills WMA, MB is a prime location for viewing.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Two or three birds were at Lewis’ Farm, Medora, BC. They are very numerous in BC with the Pipeline Trail, Grouse Mountain a good bet for them.

![Olive-sided Flycatcher](image)

**Alder Flycatcher:** Three or four seen in Churchill, MB with Twin Lakes and Goose Creek sites where they were present. It is the only breeding *Empidonax* in Churchill.

**Least Flycatcher:** Extremely common in Southern MB with Oak Lakes being a top spot to see and hear them.

**Hammond’s Flycatcher:** Frequently seen and heard in coniferous and mixed woodland in BC. We found a nest on the Sockeye Trail, Lakelse PP and I photographed them at Kinney Lake, Mount Robson PP.

**Dusky Flycatcher:** Numerous in BC at low altitude in mixed woodland and scrub, I photographed them at Cranberry Marsh, Valemount.
**Eastern Phoebe:** Extremely numerous in Southern BC with Delta Bay a prime site.

**Say’s Phoebe:** Several recorded in the Okanagan with the farm near Vaseux Cliffs a good site to see them; they were often perching on No Hunting signs.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Two or three watched in Southern MB the Souris River Bend is a good spot to find them.

**Eastern Kingbird:** Abundant at low altitude in Southern MB and BC. A single bird at high altitude on the Yew Tree Trail, Cypress Mountain was the first record for the recording area and was strangely being mobbed by the usual species that are seen in that area.

**Western Kingbird:** Less abundant than Eastern but still very numerous in Southern MB especially the grasslands around Melita and BC in the Okanagan with the farm near Vaseux Cliffs being a good place to study them closely.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Very, very common throughout Southern MB and BC and often singing its monotonous although melodic song during all daylight hours. I photographed them at Island Park, Portage La Prairie, MB.

**Warbling Vireo:** recorded very often at many sites the Eastern Race I photographed at Oak Lakes, MB and the Western with young at Cranberry Marsh, Valemount, BC.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Just one record of a migrant at Delta Bay, MB.

**Hutton’s Vireo:** Recorded at a couple of sites in BC and photographed at Morrell Nature Reserve near Nanaimo.
**Cassin’s Vireo:** Just two sightings in BC on the Cedar Trail at Jackman Flats PP and at Mount Baldy, Okanagan.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Seen on several occasions in Southern MB with Delta Bay being a good site for them.

**Steller’s Jay:** Recorded at several sites in BC and hand tame at Purden PP where readily coming to trail mix.

**Blue Jay:** Recorded at a few Southern MB sites with Oak Lakes being a top spot for them.

**Gray Jay:** Numerous in Churchill and also hand tame with Secluded Lake, Twin Lakes a prime site for them, also at a few sites in BC such as Lightning Lake, Manning PP where they are with affection known as Whiskey Jacks or Canadian Jays.

**Clark’s Nutcracker:** A single at Vaseux Cliffs with 12 at the Cascade Overlook, Manning PP coming down to trail mix and feeding out of the hand.

**Black-billed Magpie:** Numerous in Southern MB and Okanagan, BC where we spent a lot of time in their environment discovering that they have a whole range of calls that are quite unlike Common Magpie of Eurasia. A potential future split! Wasagaming, MB and Vaseux Cliffs, BC are premier locations.

**Common Raven:** Very common in all environments even at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nunavut.
**American Crow:** Also very common in Southern MB and Eastern BC with no preference for low altitude habitat.

**North-western Crow:** Abundant in almost plague like proportions on the Pacific Coast at times reminding one of Alfred Hitchcock’s “The Birds”. They are a small crow not much bigger than a Jackdaw; we watched three be dwarfed by a Raven they were mobbing.

**American Horned Lark:** Three subspecies identified during the vacation Pallid Horned Lark *articola* on Mount Hudson Bay, BC, Hoyt’s Horned Lark *hoyti* on the tundra at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nu and Saskatchewan Horned Lark *enthymia* on the prairies near Melita, MB. Several were seen at all locations and often displaying.

![American Horned Lark](image)

**Purple Martin:** We visited several nesting colonies in Southern MB at Neepawa and Oak Hammock Marsh for instance and at Maplewood Wood Conservation Area, BC where the species has a preference for nesting above water.

**Rough-winged Swallow:** Numerous in Southern MB usually over water but in the Okanagan region abundant.

**Bank Swallow/Sand Martin:** Numerous in Southern MB and as such present at many sites.

**Violet-green Swallow:** An extremely numerous hirundine west of the Rockies in BC and they are beautiful birds, frequently recorded nesting.

**Cliff Swallow:** Plentiful in Southern Manitoba and sometimes nesting in huge colonies such as under bridges, less common in BC.
**Tree Swallow:** Abundant throughout the tour except in Nunavut. Many nest boxes have been erected for them by local residents, many were occupied.

**Barn Swallow:** Omnipresent in all areas excepting Nunavut, also nesting in large colonies. Male birds can have very rich-coloured underparts. We noticed a Green Sandpiper-like call in their repertoire that I had not heard from Eurasian birds.

**Chestnut-backed Chickadee:** Numerous in British Columbia and especially so on Vancouver Island with the Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary a great spot for them.
**Black-capped Chickadee:** Abundant at low altitudes in a range of habitats in Southern MB and BC with it being noticeably more numerous in the latter province.

**Mountain Chickadee:** Frequently encountered at higher altitude in BC with Cascade Lookout, Manning Park a prime site.

**Boreal Chickadee:** Just one record at Goose Creek, Churchill, Northern Manitoba.

**Bushtit:** A family group of around six birds were photographed at Buttertub Marsh, Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, BC.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** A few recorded in MB and BC with Cape Coppermine, MB and Green Lake, Okanagan being good sites for them.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** Also observed in MB and BC. We found a pair nesting at Brandon Hills Wildlife Management Area, MB. Singles were seen at Monck Park, Okanagan Lake, BC.

**Pygmy Nuthatch:** Fairly numerous in higher altitude pine forests in the Okanagan, BC with at least ten at Shuttleworth Creek.

**Sedge Wren:** One or two watched and photographed at Oak Hammock Marsh, Southern MB.

![Sedge Wren](image)

**House Wren:** Many seen in Southern MB and also in BC as its name suggests they are often around habitation.

**Pacific Wren:** Very numerous in forests along the whole BC Pacific coastline and photographed at Morrell Wildlife Management Area.
**Marsh Wren:** A lot more numerous than the previous wren and consequently watched at several sites in Southern MB, Delta Bay and Oak Hammock Marsh for instance.

**Rock Wren:** A family group of six birds were the only sightings at Meadowlark Lane Cliffs, Okanagan, BC.

**Canyon Wren:** Observed on a rock face at Vaseux Cliffs and then a pair on a dead tree at Meadowlark Lane Cliffs, Okanagan, BC.

**American Dipper:** One seen on the Berg Lake Trail, Mount Robson PP, BC.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Recorded at several BC sites including a family group with juveniles on the Canyon Nature Trail, Manning PP. Several displaying males observed.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Fairly numerous and watched displaying at Goose Creek, Churchill, Northern MB, more often recorded in BC though with the Canyon Nature Trail, Manning PP also having a family party of this kinglet as well as the previous species.

**Northern Wheatear:** A male at Cape Merry, Churchill was my first North American record of this is a species that we are extremely familiar with at home.

**Townsend’s Solitaire:** Just two records, one bathing in a puddle at Shuttleworth Creek and another on the road to Mount Baldy, BC.

**Western Bluebird:** Fairly common in the Okanagan and often using provided nest boxes. Vaseux Cliffs, BC is a good location to watch them closely.
**Eastern Bluebird:** A single male was near Brandon Wildlife Management Area followed by a family group at Pinawa PP near the main car park in the large oak trees.

**Mountain Bluebird:** First seen in the prairie grasslands nesting near Melita, Southern MB although fairly numerous at high altitude in the Okanagan with Green Lake being a good spot for them.

![Eastern Bluebird](image)

**American Robin:** Abundant in a range of habitats and altitudes, although absent from Nunavut. Many spotty juvenile birds were also had.

**Varied Thrush:** Seen on several days in BC with good views at Purden PP Campground and Kinney Lake, Mount Robson PP where young were being fed.

![Varied Thrush](image)
Veery: Nine recorded on the Beach Ridge Trail, Riding Mountain National Park seen and photographed in full song.

Swainson’s Thrush: Extremely common in Southern MB (Olive-backed race) and the whole of BC (Russet-backed race). Their haunting song was ever present even on rainy days.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Just one sighting at Goose Creek, Churchill, MB of a bird scoped in full song.

Hermit Thrush: Numerous in BC particularly at higher altitude, these birds obviously were of the Pacific race. They were still singing with gusto well into July.

Gray Catbird: Abundant in Southern MB and BC and a single bird North of its usual range in Churchill Town, Northern MB.

Brown Thrasher: Just one pair enjoyed at Section 29 of the Prairie Grassland Trail near Lyleton, Southern MB. The species has a rich song.

European/Common Starling: Unfortunately abundant in Southern MB and BC. Why oh why do we have to introduce common birds such as these to places where they then compete with native species for survival, generally having no parasites and few predators their population explodes, at a cost.

American/Buff-bellied Pipit: Seen on the breeding grounds in Churchill (Cape Merry), Nunavut, Repulse Bay/Naujaat Graveyard and BC (Mount Hudson Bay) often display-flighting.

Cedar Waxwing: Abundant and seen at almost every site that we visited in Southern MB and BC. They would often be on our campgrounds. I’m afraid the saying “it’s only a waxwing” crept into our vocabulary.
Bohemian Waxwing: Recorded on several occasions on their breeding grounds at Churchill, Northern MB and often watched flycatching and singing. Twin Lakes is a prime location.

Orange-crowned Warbler: The Taiga race birds were recorded with migrants at Delta Bay and breeding birds at Churchill, Twin Lakes and Goose Creek for instance. Pacific race birds were very numerous in BC even on the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii.

Golden-winged Warbler: At least four singing males watched and photographed of this beautiful New World Warbler on the Oak Ridge Trail, Mount Agassiz Ski Resort Road, Riding Mountain NP, MB.

Nashville Warbler: Several of this endearing little warbler were enjoyed in Southern MB with MacArthur Falls being a prime site for them.

Yellow Warbler: Omnipresent at all locations except Nunavut and very high altitudes. At times their plumage was so bright you could feel it on your eyes.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Very numerous throughout Southern MB with breeding birds in Riding Mountain NP. The Bead Lake Trail for instance.

Magnolia Warbler: Several had in Southern MB in Riding Mountain NP. The Bead Lake Trail for instance too and in BC at Ray Farm, Wells Gray PP also.

Blackburnian Warbler: Fairly common in Riding Mountain NP, MB with yet again the Bead Lake Trail being good for them as well as Moon Lake.
**Myrtle Warbler:** Very common in MB especially at Churchill where they were on their breeding grounds. A surprise was a male West of the Rocky Mountains at Kinney Lake, Mount Robson PP, BC.

**Audubon’s Warbler:** Abundant throughout BC. They are very pretty birds.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** Just one male seen from the disused railway line at Rosewall PP, BC.

**Townsend’s Warbler:** Very numerous throughout BC in coniferous forest especially at altitude. Lightning Lake, Manning PP is a prime location.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Common on their breeding grounds in Churchill with many migrants passing through Southern MB at Delta Bay for instance.

**Black and White Warbler:** Just one sighting of a male on the Oak Ridge Trail, Mount Agassiz Ski Resort Road, Riding Mountain NP, MB.

**American Redstart:** Extremely common throughout Southern MB and BC.

**Northern Waterthrush:** A common and very vociferous bird of Churchill, Northern MB and Northern BC. Scrap Metal Dump Road in Churchill is a good site for them.

**Connecticut Warbler:** Boom! A Lifer! A male in the Blue Heron B&B garden at Delta Bay was our only sighting and my only sighting ever.

**MacGillivray’s Warbler:** Several seen throughout BC with Ray Farm, Wells Gray PP a great site for them.
**Common Yellowthroat:** Abundant in all aquatic habitat in Southern MB and BC. They were seen feeding young at Tyhee Lake PP, BC.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** Watched in Southern MB and BC although more numerous in the latter province with the disused railway line at Rosewall PP a cracking spot for them.

**Canada Warbler:** Observed at a couple of Southern MB sites such as Bead Lake Trail, Riding Mountain NP.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** At least three birds seen by the dyke on road 22 near Osoyoos, Okanagan, BC.

**Western Tanager:** Numerous in BC especially in coniferous and mixed forests at altitude. Helmcken Falls, Wells Gray PP is a good location.

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**Black-headed Grosbeak:** Seen at Grouse Mountain, Meadowlark Lane Cliffs and by the dyke on road 22 near Osoyoos, Okanagan, BC.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A pair was photographed singing on the Burr and Bittersweet Trail, Riding Mountain NP, Southern MB these were the only records.

**Indigo Bunting:** Amazing views of a cock bird singing in Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg, MB.
**Lazuli Bunting:** Several were seen in coniferous woodland in the Okanagan, BC with Shuttleworth Creek a prime location.

**Spotted Towhee:** Very numerous throughout BC with Morrell Wildlife Sanctuary being an easy place to study them.

**American Tree Sparrow:** Two or three seen singing at Goose Creek, Churchill, Northern MB.

**Field Sparrow:** We had just one record of a single at Ambroise PP, MB.

**Brewer’s Sparrow:** Five adults and juveniles at Kilpoola Lake, Okanagan and then three additional birds near Chopaka Customs also Okanagan.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Very numerous in Southern BC with Oak Lakes being a prime site.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Abundant throughout the tour except in Nunavut and recorded at all altitudes.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Also abundant especially in Southern MB slightly less common in Northern MB and BC.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Several recorded on the Southern Prairie Birding Trail near Melita, Southern MB. Two or three were near Chopaka Customs, Southern BC.

**Lark Sparrow:** Observed on several occasions in Southern MB and BC with five birds near Chopaka Customs, Southern BC.
Harris’ Sparrow: Great views of two males at Twin Lakes and Goose Creek, Churchill, Northern MB.

Golden-crowned Sparrow: At least ten singing males seen at Mount Hudson Bay, Smithers, BC.

White-throated Sparrow: Several watched in Riding Mountain NP giving its haunting song.

White-crowned Sparrow: Abundant in Churchill with a single North of its natural range at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nunavut. Less common but frequently recorded in BC at Vancouver for instance.

Fox Sparrow: Several birds of the Red Taiga form were at Goose Creek and Twin Lakes, Churchill. Around 12 were on Mount Hudson Bay, BC of the Sooty/Pacific race.

Song Sparrow: Another abundant sparrow in a whole range of habitats with the Eastern and Pacific birds looking quite different. They are especially numerous in Southern MB and BC.

Lincoln’s Sparrow: Recorded at a variety of sites in MB and BC for instance The Boreal Trail, Riding Mountain NP, Goose Creek, Churchill and Mount Hudson Bay, BC where above the tree line they would run across the tundra in a mouse-like fashion.

Swamp Sparrow: Three singing males at the Granary Pools, Churchill, MB.
**Dark-eyed Junco**: The Eastern Slate-colored Juncos were numerous in MB especially in Churchill with the Western Oregon Juncos even more so in BC being in a range of different altitudes.

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**: Up to half a dozen birds singing in the prairies at Section 29 of the Southern Birding Trail near Lyleton, Southern MB recorded on two occasions.

**Lapland Longspur/Bunting**: Abundant at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nunavut and present at all sites. They were at one location using Glaucous Gulls feathers to line their nests.

![Chestnut-collared Longspur](image)

**Snow Bunting**: Equally as common as the previous species at Repulse Bay/Naujaat, Nunavut. One pair was recorded nesting in a converted petrol/gas can.

**Western Meadowlark**: Very, very common in the prairies of Southern MB and the Okanagan region of Southern BC with White Lake being a great spot.

**Bobolink**: Recorded on several occasions in Southern MB with St Ambroise PP being a good site, they were also present near the dyke on road 22 near Osoyoos, Okanagan, BC.

**Brown-headed Cowbird**: Extremely numerous in Southern MB and BC and recorded at many locations.

**Red-winged Blackbird**: Present in plague-like numbers in Southern MB and adding a welcome patch of extra colour to the environment. Also present in BC particularly in the Okanagan.

**Brewer’s Blackbird**: Again a numerous *Icterid* in both Southern Manitoba and BC where it was often in towns such as Nanaimo, Vancouver Island.
**Rusty Blackbird:** Seen only at Goose Creek, Churchill with up to a dozen assorted-plumaged birds. Recorded on every visit and often very showy.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Abundant in Southern MB especially at Delta Bay and Whitewater Lake with a few seen in the Okanagan, BC.

![Yellow-headed Blackbird](image)

**Common Grackle:** Very numerous in towns, parks and gardens in Southern MB.

**Bullock’s Oriole:** They were often watched in the Okanagan with Okanagan Falls PP, BC Campground a prime site to see them.

**Baltimore Oriole:** A common bird of Southern MB and abundant at Delta Bay for instance.

**Orchard Oriole:** Several recorded in Southern MB with Section 29 of the Prairie Grasslands and Lewis’ Farm, Medora great sites.

**Purple Finch:** Just one male at Maplewood Conservation Area, Vancouver, BC that was found by Larry Cowan.

**House Finch:** Numerous in Southern MB and BC and often at altitude in the Okanagan with Cassin’s Finch.

**Cassin’s Finch:** They are pretty common in Okanagan, BC coniferous woodland at altitude with Shuttleworth Creek being a good spot.

**Red/Common Crossbill:** Recorded at several different sites especially in the Okanagan, BC with Kilpoola Lake a good site.
**White-winged Crossbill:** Four at Purden Lake PP were followed by a small colony of 12 birds that included at least four singing and flight-displaying cock birds, hens and juveniles at Cranberry Marsh, Valemount, BC.

**Pine Grosbeak:** Fairly numerous in Churchill and often ridiculously tame, they are regular feeder visitors with Goose Creek and Twin Lakes prime spots to see and photograph them.

![Image of Pine Grosbeak]

**Common/Mealy Redpoll:** Very numerous in Churchill and present at most sites. They were often present at feeders such as at Goose Creek.

**Hoary/Arctic Redpoll:** One of my favorite birds of the trip with a spanning adult male coming to feeders at Goose Creek allowing close viewing and photography. A truly stunning bird!
Pine Siskin: A common finch throughout BC in pine forest with many seen. Mount Hudson Bay is a great spot just below the tree line near the ski lift.

American Goldfinch: Abundant in Southern MB and Okanagan, BC and present at most sites.

House Sparrow: Another Old World species that has been introduced to the Americas by Europeans and their numbers have soared and distribution expanded. They are even common in Churchill, Northern MB and I heard it said “next stop Rankin Inlet, Nunavut”.

Mammals Recorded

Big Brown Bat
Arctic Fox
Red Fox
Coyote
Black Bear

![Black Bear](image)

Raccoon
Least Weasel
Northern River Otter
Sea Otter
Striped Skunk
Steller’s Sea Lion
Harbour/Common Seal
Ringed Seal
Humpback Whale
Gray Whale
Beluga

Harbour Porpoise
Dall’s Porpoise
Common Bottle-nosed Dolphin
Pacific White-sided Dolphin
Elk
Mule Deer
White-tailed Deer
Caribou/Reindeer
Moose

Bighorn Sheep
American Pika
European/Common Rabbit
Eastern Cottontail
Snowshoe Hare
White-tailed Jackrabbit
North American Beaver
Eastern Gray Squirrel
Douglas’ Squirrel
American Red Squirrel
Hoary Marmot
Yellow-bellied Marmot
Cascade Golden-mantled Ground-squirrel
Thirteen-lined Ground-squirrel
Columbian Ground-squirrel
Richardson’s Ground-squirrel
Arctic Ground-squirrel

Yellow Pine Chipmunk
Townsend’s Chipmunk
Creeping Vole

Amphibians Recorded
American Bullfrog
American Toad
Western Toad
Wood Frog
Boreal Chorus Frog

Other interesting Critters
Painted Turtle
American/Common Tortoiseshell
Black Swallowtail

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail

Pine White

Checkered White

Mourning Cloak/Camberwell Beauty

Painted Lady

Red Admiral

White Admiral

Common Whitetail