

Beaver Island Photo Hunt

49 things to find and photograph on the island — birds, trees, plants, the ground itself, and the places people have been writing about for two hundred years.

Explorer: _____

How it works

1. Take a photograph of each thing on the list. Any camera counts - a phone is fine.
2. Tick the box when you have the picture, and write down where you were.
3. You do not have to get them in order, and you do not have to get them all.
4. Stay on roads, trails and public beaches. Ask before you cross anyone's land.
5. Look, don't touch: leave the plants growing and the bark on the trees.
6. If an animal changes what it is doing because of you, you are too close. Back away.

How hard is it? ★☆☆☆☆ seen all the time ★★★★★ very rarely seen

Before you go

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A camera, or a phone | ☐ Water, and a snack |
| ☐ Sunscreen and a hat | ☐ Shoes you can get wet |
| ☐ A pencil for this book | ☐ Bug spray in summer |

Tick them off and earn these

5

Beachcomber

☐

12

Trail Finder

☐

24

Island Explorer

☐

40

Archipelago Naturalist

☐

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Eight birds the record says are really here.

Bald eagle
The biggest bird here, with a white head. Look at the tops of tall trees near the water.

Protected. Nests are not to be approached, though the birds themselves are the easiest big raptor here to photograph.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE

Common loon
You will hear it before you see it. Watch a quiet lake early in the morning.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE

Wild turkey
Big, dark, and walks instead of flying. Look along the edges of dirt roads.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE

Ruffed grouse
Hides in the leaves, then bursts out with a loud whirr and makes everyone jump.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE

Eastern bluebird
Bright blue back, orange chest. Sits on fence posts and wires in open fields.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE

Merlin
A small falcon that flies fast and straight over open ground.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE

American bittern
A marsh bird that freezes and points its beak at the sky so it looks like reeds.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE

American woodcock
Round brown bird with a very long beak. Comes out at dusk in spring.

★★★☆☆

WHERE

Other things I found here

Harder than the birds. Be patient and be quiet.

White-tailed deer
Look at the edge of a field in the first or last hour of daylight. The tail flashes white when it runs.
★★★★☆
WHERE _____

Snowshoe hare
Brown in summer, white in winter. Huge back feet for the snow.
★★★★★
WHERE _____

Smooth green snake
Small, bright green, and harmless. Very lucky to find - the record here has only three.
★★★★★
WHERE _____

Yellow-banded bumble bee
A bumble bee with a yellow band across its back. Look on milkweed and thistle flowers. Only one has ever been recorded here - which may mean it is rare, or that nobody has looked properly.
★★★★★
WHERE _____

Other things I found here

Ten trees you can tell apart without a book.



American beech

Smooth grey bark like an elephant's leg. The most recorded tree on the island.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Hemlock

Short flat needles and a droopy top. Some here are older than the United States.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Paper birch

White bark that peels like paper. Never pull it off - it does not grow back.

★★★★☆

WHERE _____



Sugar maple

The leaf on the Canadian flag. Look up: this one makes the roof of the old forest.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



White pine

Needles in bundles of five. Count them. This is the tree the loggers came for.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Northern white-cedar

Flat, scaly leaves. It leans out over the water along almost every shore.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Balsam fir

Flat needles and bubbly bark. Smells like Christmas.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Tamarack

A conifer that turns gold and drops all its needles in autumn. Nothing else does that.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Aspen

Round leaves on flat stalks, so the whole tree shivers in wind.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Red oak

Leaves with pointy tips, and acorns.

★★★★☆

WHERE _____

Get down low. Most of these are near your boots.



Sphagnum

Spongy moss that builds the bogs. Squeeze it and water runs out.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Star-flower

A tiny white star on the forest floor in spring.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Canada mayflower

A carpet of small leaves with a spike of white flowers.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Bearberry

A low mat with tiny leathery leaves, growing right on the sand.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Common milkweed

Fat pods and pink flowers that smell sweet. Monarch caterpillars eat only this.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Royal fern

A tall fern that grows in wet ground, in big fountain shapes.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Sand cherry

A low shrub on the dunes with small dark cherries.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Twinflower

Two tiny pink bells hanging from one thin stalk. Get down low.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Wild sarsaparilla

Three groups of leaves on one stem, held like an umbrella over the forest floor.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Reed canary grass

A tall grass that takes over wet ground. This one is invasive - photographing it is recording a problem.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____

The island is made of these. Photograph them close up.



Dune sand

Get your camera right down on the sand and photograph the ripples the wind made.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Lacustrine sand and gravel

Old lake bottom that is now dry land. Find a spot where big and small stones lie together.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Coarse-textured glacial till

Everything jumbled together - clay, pebbles, boulders - because ice does not sort what it carries.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Barrier dunes

Photograph the whole shape of the dune from the beach, not from the top.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Limestone cobble shore

Smooth flat stones under clear shallow water. Shoot straight down through it.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____

Other things I found here

Twelve places worth a picture, and why.



Saint James Harbor

Stand where the ferry comes in and photograph the whole harbour curving away.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Mormon Print Shop

The oldest building in town, and now the museum. A king printed his newspaper here in the 1850s.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Beaver Island Harbor Light

The little lighthouse at the point that guards the way into the harbour.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Beaver Island Light Station

The big lighthouse at the far south end, with the tower you can see from the water.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Holy Cross Catholic Church building

The island's Catholic church. Quiet voices - people are often praying.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



King's Highway

The main road. Photograph it going away from you until it disappears.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Donegal Bay

A north-facing beach. Good for sunset AND sunrise in summer.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Sand Bay

Facing the mainland, so the sun comes up over the water here.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Iron Ore Bay

The beach at the south end, with rocky gravel.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Lake Geneserath

The biggest lake inside the island, down at the south end.

★☆☆☆☆

WHERE _____



Barney's Lake

A quiet inland lake with a nature preserve beside it.

★★★☆☆

WHERE _____



Beaver Island Marine Museum

An old net shed on the shore, full of boats and shipwreck stories.

★★☆☆☆

WHERE _____

Island Bingo

The sixteen easiest things on the list. Get four in a row — across, down, or corner to corner — and shout BINGO. Get all sixteen and you have done better than most grown-ups.

 Common loon	 Wild turkey	 Ruffed grouse	 Eastern bluebird
 Merlin	 American bittern	 American beech	 Hemlock
 Sugar maple	 White pine	 Northern white-cedar	 Balsam fir
 Tamarack	 Aspen	 Sphagnum	 Reed canary grass

Look, but don't go near

These are on the island, and they are not on your list. Some are protected by law, some are so rare that walking near them is the danger, and some nest in big noisy colonies that abandon their eggs if people come close. You can still photograph them - from far away, with a long lens, from a boat or a road. A photograph is never worth a nest.

Common tern *Sterna hirundo*

Nests in crowds too, and panics the same way. Watch these from a boat, well out.

Caspian tern *Sterna caspia*

Nests in a big noisy crowd on the outer islands. If people come close the whole colony lifts off at once and the eggs go cold.

Piping plover *Charadrius melodus*

A tiny beach bird that lays its eggs straight onto the open sand, where they look exactly like pebbles. One footprint can end a whole family. Part of High Island is closed every spring and summer so they can nest.

Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*

The fastest animal alive. Only eleven have ever been recorded here, so if you see one you are very lucky - and you should stay well away from where it nests.

Little brown bat *Myotis lucifugus*

Bats here are dying from a disease called white-nose syndrome. Never disturb a place where bats are sleeping.

Northern long-eared bat *Myotis septentrionalis*

Same disease, and now so rare it is protected by law. Roosting bats are not a photograph.

Tricolored bat *Perimyotis subflavus*

One of the smallest bats here, and also protected. Leave sleeping bats alone.

Hine's emerald dragonfly *Somatochlora hineana*

One of the rarest dragonflies in the world, with bright green eyes. It lives in a wet fen on Garden Island, and the ground it needs is squashed flat by people walking on it.

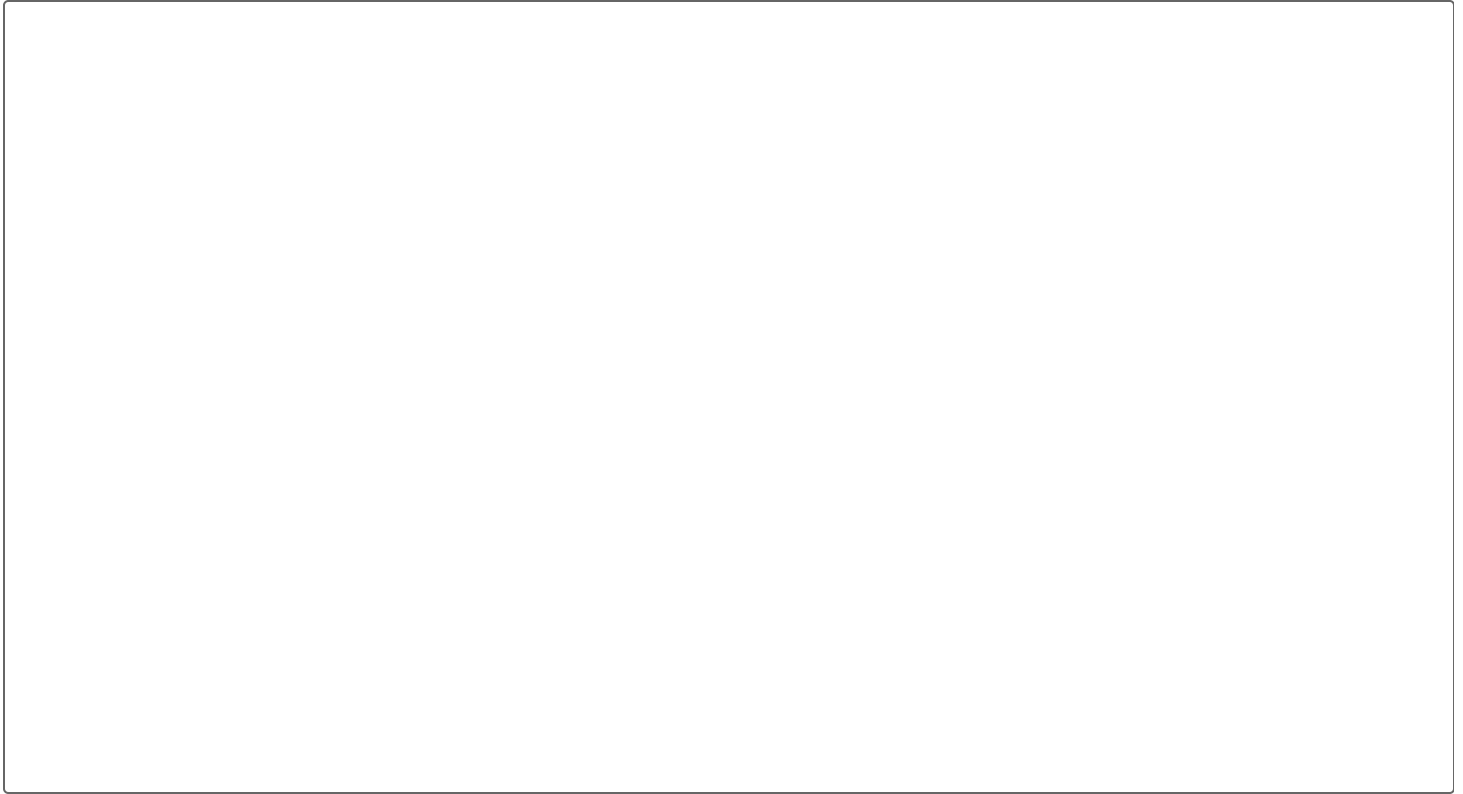
Lake Huron locust *Trimerotropis huroniana*

A grasshopper that lives only on open Great Lakes dunes and is the colour of sand. Walking on the dune is what harms it.

Pitcher's thistle *Cirsium pitcheri*

A prickly silver-blue plant that grows nowhere in the world except Great Lakes dunes. Photograph it where it stands - the dune around it is the fragile part.

Draw the best thing you found



Made from the Beaver Island Archive. The birds and animals come from public observation records; the trees and plants from forest surveys, 1800s land-survey field notes and natural-features reports; the ground from geological mapping; the places from the archive's own encyclopedia. Nothing here was made up. The full list of all 337 subjects, and the reasons behind each one, is at beaverislandarchive.org/photo-hunt/.