

# WINTER WONDERLAND BIRDING in the EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA

## A Birding Field Tour with Seven Ponds Nature Center

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, January 25-27

Join us as we venture north across the Mighty Mac to the winter wonderland of Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula. This unique area is popular with birders due to the high concentration of special winter birds that may be found in its varied habitats. In the fields near Pickford and Rudyard we may find Snowy Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, and Northern Shrike. At Dunbar Forest we'll look for winter finches such as Common Redpoll, Purple Finch, and Pine Grosbeak, as well as Bohemian Waxwing. The open water near the Sault power plant may hold wintering ducks. Dafter Dump can turn up several species of gulls, as well as large numbers of Bald Eagles. In the boreal forest of Hulbert Bog we'll search for Canada Jay and the two crossbill species. And you just never know when a true winter specialty may show up, such as Gyrfalcon, Northern Hawk Owl, or Great Gray Owl. But you have to search in order to find!

### TARGET BIRDS:

Sharp-tailed Grouse • Iceland Gull • Glaucous Gull • Great Black-backed Gull • Bald Eagle • Rough-legged Hawk • Snowy Owl • Short-eared Owl • Northern Shrike • Canada Jay • Common Raven • Bohemian Waxwing • Evening Grosbeak • Pine Grosbeak • Purple Finch • Common Redpoll • White-winged Crossbill • Red Crossbill • Pine Siskin • Lapland Longspur • Snow Bunting

### TOUR ITINERARY

**Friday, January 25** – Please arrive at our motel by 12:30 so we can be on the road and birding by 1:00. Our primary destination today is the famed Dafter Dump, open weekdays only. At the dump we'll scan the gulls looking for Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull. We'll also hope to see the numerous Bald Eagles and Common Ravens which call the dump their winter domain. Next we'll check out the Dafter Post Office, where we may find Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings feeding on the berries in the nearby trees. Time permitting we'll scan the fields lining the rural roads on our way back to the Soo in search of open country birds such as Snowy Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and others. Dinner together in Sault Ste. Marie (or on your own).

**Saturday, January 26** – We'll meet at 7:00 a.m. and head to the McDonald's just down the road for a quick breakfast, before for our day of winter birding. Destinations today include the (hopefully) open water in the St. Marys River, Lower Hay Lake Road, Riverside Drive, and Shunk Road, Dunbar Forest, the fields around Rudyard and Pickford, the Kinross feeders, and Hulbert Bog. Pack a sack lunch and any snacks and beverages you'll need for the day. Dinner together in Sault Ste. Marie (or on your own).

**Sunday, January 27** – Pack up and check out of your room early, then meet at 7:00 a.m. to head to McDonald's for breakfast. Today's birding destinations depend on what gaps we still have on our target list. There are plenty of good birding locations to keep us busy throughout the morning and early afternoon. Pack a sack lunch and any snacks and beverages you'll need for the day. We'll have you back to your car by 3:00 so you can begin your drive home.

## **TOUR LEADERS**

**Daryl Bernard** is a long-time birder who loves being outdoors and embraces every opportunity to share birds and nature with others. He enjoys organizing trips and tours, and strives to ensure that every participant has a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Daryl has made several winter road trips to the eastern UP and always enjoys the chance to see the special, hardy birds that winter here. Previous Seven Ponds birding field tours organized by Daryl include Colorado, Texas, California, and New Mexico, in addition to many local birding trips in Michigan. Daryl is the Executive Director at Seven Ponds Nature Center in Lapeer County, Michigan.

**Nancy Kautz** has been a naturalist at Seven Ponds Nature Center for over a decade. She is a passionate birder, but equally interested in all aspects of natural history. A consummate interpreter, Nancy takes every opportunity to help others enjoy the natural world around them. Nancy has been a leader on many Seven Ponds natural history field tours, and helped lead our Texas Lower Rio Grande Valley tour.

**COST:** \$200 (Seven Ponds members) or \$230 (non-members) in double occupancy

### **WHAT THIS TOUR INCLUDES:**

- Bird guiding beginning Friday @ 1:00, all day Saturday, and Sunday until 3:00
- Local transportation in two comfortable mini-vans
- Two nights of lodging (Plaza Motor Motel in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan)
- A unique keepsake commemorating the weekend tour

### **WHAT THIS TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Meals, snacks, and beverages
- Your transport to and from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, including your bridge tolls (we encourage carpooling!)

**THIS TOUR IS LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS.**

**REGISTRATION OPENS for SEVEN PONDS MEMBERS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12 at 9:00 a.m. and for the GENERAL PUBLIC TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 at 9:00 a.m.**

**CALL THE NATURE CENTER (810-796-3200) or STOP BY IN PERSON TO REGISTER.**