

**Seven Ponds Nature Center**  
**Eastern Upper Peninsula Birding Field Tour**  
**January 25-27, 2019**

**LEADERS & GUIDES**

- **Daryl Bernard** (Executive Director – Seven Ponds Nature Center)
- **Nancy Kautz** (Naturalist – Seven Ponds Nature Center)

**PARTICIPANTS**

- **Gavin Awerbuch** – Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
- **Michaela Boomer** – Almont, Michigan
- **Gary Boomer** – Almont, Michigan
- **Loraine Campbell** – Rochester Hills, Michigan
- **Ken Eaton** – Ypsilanti, Michigan
- **Cassidy Eaton** – Ypsilanti, Michigan
- **Jan Giesken** – Lapeer, Michigan
- **Andrea Meldrun** – Harrison Township, Michigan
- **Katrina Moilanen** – Howell, Michigan
- **Candy Petrick** – Beulah, Michigan
- **Ward Randol** – Troy, Michigan
- **Anita Spencer** – Lapeer, Michigan

**LODGING**

**Plaza Motor Motel** – *Sault Ste. Marie*

**DINNERS**

Friday, January 25 – **Karl's Cuisine, Winery, and Brewery** – *Sault Ste. Marie*

Saturday, January 26 – **Cozy Corners Tavern & Grill** – *Barbeau*

## **BIRDING LOCATIONS**

### **Friday, January 25**

- **Northern Hawk Owl stakeout – Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie**
- **Dafter Post Office**
- **Dafter Dump**
- **Kinross Rd. private feeders**
- **S. Centerline Road**

### **Saturday, January 26**

- **Edison Sault Power Plant**
- **Dunbar Forest private feeders**
- **Riverside Drive**
- **Pickford (town)**
- **Pickford Grassland Loop**
- **S. Centerline Road**

### **Sunday, January 27**

- **Hulbert Bog**
- **M-123 south of Tahquamenon River**

## **BIRDS (37)**

**Common Goldeneye** – a few of these hardy ducks were seen in the foggy far distance at the Edison Sault Power Plant on Saturday morning.

**Common Merganser** – a few females and a lone male were swimming and diving nearby at the Edison Sault Power Plant on Saturday morning.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse** – Andrea spotted these two, distant plumps of feathers in the far distant deciduous trees, where we watched them through the scopes as they fed on buds.

**Wild Turkey** – we saw a large flock of turkeys near the private feeders on Kinross Rd., then saw a few other individuals during our travels.

**Rock Pigeon** – not prevalent in the U.P., we did see lone birds at the double Snowy Owl barn and again flying overhead in Pickford.

**Mourning Dove** – Mourning Doves were seen at the Kinross Rd. private feeders, and in larger numbers throughout Pickford.

**Herring Gull** – numerous, but the only gull we saw at the Dafter Dump.

**Bald Eagle** – seen at several locations, most prevalent at the Dafter Dump, where we saw upwards of 20.

**Red-tailed Hawk** – our only Red-tailed Hawk of the tour was seen on 11 Mile Road in Dafter Township.

**Rough-legged Hawk** – more common in some years than others, we only saw two confirmed Roughies, one on Riverside Drive and another on S. Lechner Road.

**Snowy Owl** – always a joy to encounter, we saw over 35 “whities” during our time in the UP, mostly in the vicinity of Rudyard, but also around Sault Ste. Marie and the Pickford area. Perhaps the highlight was seeing two snowies within 20 feet of one another atop a barn roof.

**Northern Hawk Owl** – the first bird of the tour, one of our *longshot birds*, and the star of the show; we viewed this bird from an auto body shop on Mackinac Trail as it sat contentedly atop a tall spruce, keeping vigil over its snowy domain.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker** – not a common winter bird in the eastern U.P., we saw our lone bird in the ravine in Pickford (Mackinac County).

**Downy Woodpecker** – we saw a few Downies during the tour, notably at the Kinross feeders and Hulbert Bog.

**Hairy Woodpecker** – at least two were seen at the Kinross feeders; we also had two on some feeders on 9 Mile Road.

**Pileated Woodpecker** – we had two, possibly three, of these large woodpeckers on S. Centerline Road while searching for Ruffed Grouse.

**Northern Shrike** – thanks to the shrike-eyes of Andrea we picked up a bird on a way distant oak tree in the middle of a field on the Pickford Grassland Loop, specifically on Hancock Road.

**Blue Jay** – normally very numerous at the Dunbar feeders, we had low numbers there.

**American Crow** – two crows were seen and heard at the Dunbar feeders, but most of our corvids were the larger ravens.

**Common Raven** – the default large, dark bird of the trip, we enjoyed these birds nearly everywhere we went; it was especially fun to watch pairs dipping and dancing across the sky during their courting and bonding flights.

**Black-capped Chickadee** – despite the sub-zero temps, the chickadees of the U.P. seem to retain their cheerful nature, always active and alert; we truly enjoyed the friendly antics of these diminutive birds when we came across several flocks along Hulbert Bog.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** – at least one was seen on a suet feeder at Dunbar Forest.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** – several were seen during the tour, generally associated with feeders.

**American Robin** – a lone, very puffed-up bird was seen in the crabapple tree on Poplar Street in Pickford (Chippewa County).

**European Starling** – seen in small numbers throughout the weekend.

**Bohemian Waxwing** – a lone individual gave fleeting looks in Dafter; we then enjoyed wonderful views of at least four of these stunning birds at the crabapple tree on Poplar Street in Pickford (Chippewa County).

**Evening Grosbeak** – we had our first Evening Grosbeak on a feeder on S. Riverside Drive; then a short distance down the road we had well over a dozen on another S. Riverside Drive feeder. We also had them at a couple different locations in Pickford (both Mackinac and Chippewa counties).

**Pine Grosbeak** – we were privileged to see these beauties in many different locations; first seen at the Dafter Post Office, we also saw them at on 9 Mile Road, 7 ½ Mile Road, Dunbar Forest, Riverside Drive, and Pickford, always associated with feeders or fruit trees.

**Common Redpoll** – we spotted a few of these little finches in the ravine area of Pickford (Mackinac County).

**Pine Siskin** – at least one individual was seen in the ravine area of Pickford (Mackinac County).

**American Goldfinch** – seen at the Dunbar Forest feeders and also in Pickford (both Mackinac and Chippewa counties).

**Snow Bunting** – persistence paid off when we found a large flock (~50) in the conifers and at the feeders of a farm house on M-48 just east of I-75. It was fun watching the flock fly back and forth between the feeders and the conifers.

**American Tree Sparrow** – seen under the spruce trees at Dunbar Forest.

**White-throated Sparrow** – rare this far north this time of year, we found one hardy little sparrow at a feeder in Pickford (Chippewa County).

**Red-winged Blackbird** – a continuing female red-wing that didn't make the flight south was seen at the private feeders at Kinross Road.

**Northern Cardinal** – quite uncommon in Chippewa County – especially in winter – one male cardinal was seen at Dunbar Forest.

**House Sparrow** – somewhat hanging out with the Snow Buntings, one House Sparrow was seen in the conifers along M-48.

**TOTAL BIRDS SEEN/HEARD BY OUR GROUP: 37**

**(your total may differ)**

**TARGET BIRDS WE MISSED...**

- **Canada Jay** – conspicuously absent this year, we tried unsuccessfully at Hulbert Bog
- **Crossbills** – both species (Red and White-winged) have been AWOL this winter
- **Ruffed Grouse** – never a lock, we gave it a good shot down Centerline Road
- **Great Gray Owl** – one was seen a few times in early January, but not since January 12
- **Lapland Longspur** – another bird that has not been reported this winter in the EUP
- **Short-eared Owl** – we gave it a try during our first evening, but these owls have not been seen in 2019
- **Purple Finch** – at least one has been seen in the Pickford area, but we never came upon it
- **Gulls** – with the Arctic blast, only Herring Gulls were holding on at Dafter Dump, so we missed out on Iceland, Glaucous, and Great Black-backed gulls

**MAMMALS (3)**

**White-tailed Deer** – *Odocoileus virginianus*

**American Red Squirrel** – *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

**“Mackinac Island” Horse** – *Equus ferus caballus*