

Seney/UP Field Trip – July 14-16, 2017

Leader – Don Burlett

This weekend trip started Friday with 12 people gathering along the route to the UP. Once together, we first stopped at a Forest Service road to look for Black-backed Woodpecker. No luck but we did get a few warblers and other birds. Our next stop was the Racco burn, with a little information from Curt Hofer. We walked into the burn and soon found a young black-backed woodpecker calling for food from an adult that was working nearby trees. Because the youngster was stationary in one tree, we got great looks at the two birds. Tick! A lifer for most folks. We then headed to Seney NWR for a relaxing drive through the reserves before we headed for dinner.

On Saturday, we were up early and headed to Seney NWR to see what was out and active. Lots of Trumpeter Swans and Canada Geese and good number of loons along with some youngsters were seen. We watched one adult loon feed a crayfish to a young bird that managed to get it down. We also saw beavers and muskrat. Osprey and Northern Harrier and many other birds were observed in the drive. After that drive, we headed to a spot on the north side of the reserve where Black-backed Woodpeckers have been for the past two years but no luck, as the area has grown in a bit. After lunch, we headed to Whitefish Point and got a lecture on Piping Plover and were taken out to observe the breeding pair and a couple of their young on the beach. A few other shorebirds were also observed. Dinner again, after which, the leaders car got a coyote crossing the road on the south end of Newberry.

On Sunday, we drove toward Pickford with a stop at a spot where a White-winged Dove had been reported. No luck (even with two stop there). Our real destination was Munuscong WMA (Potholes). Here we got looks at LeConte's Sparrow, Bobolink, other sparrow, Wilson's Snipe, a Black-billed Cuckoo and other birds. Again, a life bird for many in the group.

All together, it was a fun trip with lots of birds, our list totaling 83 species by the end. A great group then disbanded for other sites in the UP. At the high point, there were 13 birders but only 7 went back to the lower peninsula on Sunday.

Canada Goose
Trumpeter Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
Mallard
Ring-necked Duck
Hooded Merganser
Ruffed Grouse
Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk

Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Sandhill Crane
Piping Plover
Killdeer
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Least Sandpiper
Wilson's Snipe
Ring-billed Gull
Caspian Tern
Common Tern
Rock Pigeon
Mourning Dove
Black-billed Cuckoo
Chimney Swift
Belted Kingfisher
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
American Kestrel
Alder Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch
House Wren
Winter Wren
Sedge Wren
Eastern Bluebird
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher

European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
Ovenbird
Common Yellowthroat
American Redstart
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Chipping Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
LeConte's Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Easter Meadowlark
Common Grackle
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow