

UP Trip – February 3-5, 2017
Leader: Jeff Stacey

Our semi-annual eastern UP trip was based out of St. Ignace this year due to an extremely popular snowmobile race in Sault Ste. Marie, but it was just as convenient. We were still able to visit most of the standard UP spots, some of them more than once.

On Friday, the highlights were Evening Grosbeaks in Pickford, Bohemian Waxwings in Dafter, and Pine Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Common Redpolls at Dunbar Park. Waterfowl was hard to come by, but we were stunned to see a Belted Kingfisher flying over a narrow channel of open water at Dunbar Park. The Dafter landfill had many Bald Eagles as usual, but also a Glaucous Gull.

Saturday started at Hulbert Bog where the temperature was a brisk 3 degrees. While there was quite a bit of activity in the area, no Gray Jays were willing to eat the peanuts we brought for them. The day picked up from there with several in the group thrilled to get a lifer Sharp-tailed Grouse at the 9 mile and Nicolet feeders. There we met a group from the Indiana Audubon Society, and they gave us a tip on a Northern Shrike, which we were able to find later at extreme range. We finished the day on the Rudyard Loop. It did not disappoint, playing host to five Snowy Owls, including one incredibly light bird.

A snowstorm came through Saturday night, so we got an early start back on Sunday. Part of the group made a detour to Maple River. This side trip turned into a raptor bonanza. Sightings included Long-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, American Kestrels, and a Merlin.

Although we didn't get to see everything we wanted, it was a whole lot of fun and I can't wait to do it again.

UP

1. Sharp-tailed Grouse
2. Bald Eagle
3. Rough-legged Hawk
4. Ring-billed Gull
5. Herring Gull
6. Glaucous Gull
7. Rock Pigeon
8. Mourning Dove
9. Snowy Owl
10. Belted Kingfisher
11. Downy Woodpecker
12. Hairy Woodpecker
13. Northern Shrike
14. Blue Jay
15. American Crow
16. Common Raven
17. Horned Lark
18. Black-capped Chickadee
19. Red-breasted Nuthatch
20. White-breasted Nuthatch

21. Golden-crowned Kinglet
22. American Robin
23. European Starling
24. Bohemian Waxwing
25. Snow Bunting
26. American Tree Sparrow
27. Northern Cardinal
28. Red-winged Blackbird
29. Pine Grosbeak
30. Purple Finch
31. Common Redpoll
32. Pine Siskin
33. American Goldfinch
34. Evening Grosbeak

LP (additions only)

1. Northern Harrier
2. Red-tailed Hawk
3. Long-eared Owl
4. Red-bellied Woodpecker
5. American Kestrel
6. Merlin
7. Dark-eyed Junco
8. Eastern Meadowlark
9. House Sparrow
10. Mute Swan
11. Mallard
12. Carolina Wren