



**OWLS AND OTHER WINTER BIRDS OF  
MINNESOTA: SAX-ZIM BOG AND DULUTH**

**11 - 16 JANUARY 2019**



**Snowy Owl** is one of our targets on this trip.

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One of the best places for owls in the US winter is in Duluth, Minnesota. Up here there is a chance for irruptive **Owls** like **Snowy** and **Boreal** plus **Great Grey** and **Northern Saw-whet**, as well as other irruptive species like crossbills, **Evening** and **Pine Grosbeaks**, **Ruffed** and **Spruce Grouse**, **Common Redpoll**, **American Three-toed** and **Black-backed Woodpeckers**, plus other winter denizens.

*Please note that the detailed itinerary below cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.*

### **Itinerary (6 days/5 nights)**

#### **Day 1. Arrival at Duluth International Airport**

If there is time, we'll bird around the Duluth area until dinner. We'll try Canal Park and Wisconsin Point landfill for **Thayer's Gull**, **Glaucous Gull**, and possibly **Iceland Gull**. We might also see **Great Black-backed Gull** as well. Then at dusk we'll look for **Snowy Owl** in the Duluth-Superior harbor.

Overnight: Days Inn, Duluth

#### **Day 2. Birding the Sax-Zim Bog IBA**

Today we'll bird Sax-Zim Bog for **Sharp-tailed Grouse**, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Rough-legged Buzzard** (Hawk), **Snowy Owl**, **Northern Hawk-Owl**, **Great Grey Owl**, **Black-backed Woodpecker**, **Great Grey Shrike**, **Grey Jay**, **Boreal Chickadee**, **Black-billed Magpie**, **Pine Grosbeak**, **Common Redpoll**, **Arctic (Hoary) Redpoll**, **Two-barred (White-winged) Crossbill**, **Red Crossbill**, **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin**, **Snow Bunting**, and **Evening Grosbeak**.

Overnight: Days Inn, Duluth

#### **Day 3. Birding Lake County and the north shore of Lake Superior**

Today we'll visit Lake County to try for **Spruce Grouse**, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Great Grey Owl**, **Northern Hawk-Owl**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Great Grey Shrike**, and **Bohemian Waxwing**. We'll also check Ely or Two Harbors for **Grey Jay**, **Boreal Chickadee**, **Black-backed Woodpecker**, **Northern Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Pine Grosbeak**, **Common Redpoll**, **Arctic (Hoary) Redpoll**, **Two-barred (White-winged) Crossbill**, **Red Crossbill**, **Purple Finch**, **Pine Siskin**, and **Evening Grosbeak**.

Overnight: Days Inn, Duluth

#### **Day 4. Birding the north shore toward Grand Marais**

We'll leave Duluth and bird our way to Grand Marais along the north shore of Lake Superior. We'll keep our eyes out for **Sharp-tailed Grouse**, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Rough-legged Buzzard** (Hawk), **Great Grey Owl**, **Northern Hawk-Owl**, **Snowy Owl**, **Grey Jay**, **Great Grey Shrike**, **Snow Bunting**, **Pine Grosbeak**, **Common Redpoll**, **Arctic (Hoary)**

**Redpoll, Two-barred (White-winged) Crossbill, Red Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.**

Making our way up the North Shore to Grand Marais along Hwy 61, we will have a chance for **Long-tailed Duck** and possibly some scoter species. We will see **Common** and **Red-breasted Mergansers** and **Common Goldeneye** here too. There is an outside chance for **Harlequin Duck**.

Overnight: Grand Marais

#### **Day 5. Birding the Gunflint Trail and the north shore near the Canadian border**

Cook County - Grand Marais. We'll hit the Gunflint Trail and locations along the north shore of Lake Superior today, looking for **Spruce Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker**, and several of the wintering finches like **Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak**, and **Pine Grosbeak**. Possible finds here will include both **Red** and **Two-barred (White-winged) Crossbills** and **Arctic (Hoary) Redpoll**, or **Purple Finch, Boreal Chickadee, Grey Jay, Bohemian Waxwing, Great Grey Shrike**, and **Northern Goshawk**. There is an outside chance for **Boreal Owl, Great Grey Owl, Northern Hawk-Owl, Varied Thrush**, or **Townsend's Solitaire**. Along Lake Superior we hope to come across **Long-tailed Duck, Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye**, and **Red-breasted Merganser**. Both **Glaucous Gull** and **Thayer's Gull** are possible here too.

Overnight: Grand Marais

#### **Day 6. Birding our way back to Duluth International Airport**

We'll make our way back to Duluth to catch our flights home.

#### **Other Resident birds we should encounter:**

**Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, American Crow, Northern Raven, Mallard, American Herring Gull, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, and American Goldfinch**

#### **Outside rarities:**

**Gyr Falcon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Slaty-backed Gull**

#### **Mammals:**

Gray Wolf, Eastern Coyote, Moose, White-tailed Deer, Canadian Lynx, Bobcat, Red Fox, Grey Fox, American Marten, Fisher, Ermine, Snowshoe Hare, and Eastern Cottontail are all possible to see on this trip.

#### **Habitats:**

Black spruce-tamarack bog, Jack pine-white pine-red pine-balsam fir forest, upland deciduous forest, maple-birch forest, and coastal Lake Superior habitat.

**Duration:** 6 days

**Limit:** 4 – 8

**Date:** January 11 – 16 2019

**Start:** Duluth

**End:** Duluth

**Price:** US\$2145 per person sharing, assuming 4-8 participants

**Single supplement:** US\$327

**Price includes:**

Meals

Accommodation

Transport

Guiding fees

Park entrance fees (if applicable)

Tolls (if applicable)

**Price excludes:**

Flights to and from Duluth

Personal insurance

Alcoholic beverages

Gratuities

Laundry service

Personal expenses such as gifts