

Minnesota Winter Owling Species List | February 2 – 7, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by Bryan Calk and Vernie Aikins with Marcia, Tracy, Chris, Mary, Kathleen, Don, Bonnie, Margo, Shelli, Brenda, and Tina

This birding trip through the winter wonderland of Minnesota's Arrowhead was absolutely amazing! From the snowy shores of Lake Superior to the vast, wild Sax-Zim Bog, we tracked down some incredible birds—Great Gray and Northern Hawk Owls, and even some amazing winter finches like Pine Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills. We watched Snowshoe Hares digging through the snow, and feeders were packed with Redpolls and Purple Finches. The area's history was interesting too, especially the Aerial Lift Bridge in Duluth just down the street from the hotel—just one of the unique pieces of the region's past. We found Snowy Owls hunting in frozen marshes, and the sight of the ice sheets at Park Point was jaw-dropping! Every day had a new surprise—whether it was a Red Fox darting across our path or catching a glimpse of a Boreal Chickadee—but the whole trip was just a fantastic mix of awesome birds and beautiful, wild scenery. Sharing these experiences with the group made it all the more memorable, as everyone came together to appreciate the magic of the North.

BIRDS: 40 species were recorded of which 4 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 40 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Minnesota Winter Owling | February 2 - 7, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

MAMMALS (6):

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus* – Seen around the Two Harbors area, including with thermal scopes at one point!

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus* – Several in the parking lot of the hotel, seen on early mornings/late evenings

Snowshoe Hare *Lepus americanus* – One found hunkered in the snow off the road while cruising for owls around Two Harbors

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* – One sitting in the middle of the road in Superior National Forest, before bounding into the woods

Eastern Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* – Seen in the neighborhoods of Two Harbors

Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* – Many seen during the trip, especially around bird feeding areas