

# Minnesota: Winter Owling Species List | February 1 – 6, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Mollee Brown with co-guide Bryan Calk. Our clients included Brian, Bruce, Coleman, Dana, Ellen, Gayle, Lyndi, Jim, Patricia, and Zoltan.**

A weeklong blitz of many sorts — of birds, of time together, and of the wintry variety! — made for unforgettable times with this intrepid group of bird and nature enthusiasts. Together, we roamed the peat bogs, farmlands, boreal forests, and shorelines of northern Minnesota, plus a touch of Wisconsin, in search of some of the hardest-to-see wintering birds in the United States.

Though the total number of bird species recorded might sound low at 39, this is a tour that focuses on quality. Each day was filled with the spirit of pursuit and a mix of exciting encounters and anticipatory builds. By the time we finished, we'd amassed a delightful list of boreal specialty birds and mammals. Those, combined with the luxury of a single accommodation for the week, delicious food from local establishments, and wonderful company, made for an adventure worth taking.

## **BIRDS (39):**

During the trip, thirty-nine species were recorded of which three were introduced. Details are included below. The eBird link below details the 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 | Feb. 1-6, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

## **MAMMALS (6):**

**Eastern Cottontail** (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) – observed on the hotel grounds, moving through the parking lot and along the sidewalks.

**Eastern Gray Squirrel** (*Sciurus carolinensis*) – seen on the hotel grounds around landscaped areas and near buildings.

**American Red Squirrel** (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) – abundant throughout the trip, especially active around feeder setups in Sax-Zim Bog.

**Southern Red-backed Vole** (*Myodes gapperi*) – repeatedly emerged from snow tunnels at the Admiral Road feeder to collect fallen seed.

**American (Pine) Marten** (*Martes americana*) – a little planning and a lot of luck put us in a marten's path at the Admiral Road feeders, where our entire group watched it up close for several minutes.

**White-tailed Deer** (*Odocoileus virginianus*) – observed in multiple locations in the Sax-Zim Bog area, and closer to the lake shoreline - even in a few towns.