Year Round Birding Locations

McDavitt and Admiral Roads bisect a large Black Spruce-Tamarack bog. Check for Great Gray Owls (year-round), Blackbacked Woodpeckers, White-winged Crossbills (winter), Connecticut Warblers and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (Summer). Don't miss the Admiral Road feeders in winter — the best spot in the state to see and photograph Boreal Chickadees (also Canada Jays, Pine Grosbeaks, redpolls and occasionally Pine Marten).

B Stone Lake Road — Watch for Northern Hawk Owls, Great Gray Owls and Northern Shrikes in winter. Summer breeders include LeConte's Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Black-billed Cuckoo and American Bittern. Yellow Rail has been recorded (very rare!). Scan the lake for Trumpeter Swans, loons, migrating waterfowl and a possible Moose. Check the public landing in spring migration for warblers. Short-eared Owl possible spring and fall.

Listen and look for Boreal Chickadees, Canada Jays, White-winged Crossbills and Great Gray Owls along Owl Avenue & Arkola bog stretches. Make sure to stop by our huge feeding array at the Welcome Center—Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Hoary Redpolls (some years), all possible. In summer, listen for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Connecticut Warblers.

The hayfields and meadows here are the year-round home of Black-billed Magpies and Sharp-tailed Grouse (the lek is 1.5 miles north of County Road 133 on the east side). In summer, look and listen for Bobolink, LeConte's Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbirds, Sedge Wren and both species of meadowlark. Snow Buntings and an occasional Snowy Owl may visit in winter. Nesting Sandhill Cranes.

Lake Nichols Road is a great place to look for Great Gray Owls at dawn and dusk year-round. Also winter finches, Ruffed Grouse, wolves, roadside wildflowers and butterflies.

Winter Birding Locations

County Road 133, County Road 7, and Lake Nichols Road all border large Black Spruce-Tamarack bogs. Scan for Great Gray Owls, Northern Hawk Owls and Bald Eagles. Don't miss feeders at Morse's and the boardwalk on Blue Spruce Road. Walk the Warren Woessner Bog Boardwalk at Warren Nelson Bog where both three-toed woodpeckers, crossbills, Snowshoe Hare and Canada Jays are possible (Pink Ladyslippers in summer).

G Scan the open country along County Road 7 for Great Gray Owls, Northern Hawk Owls, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes and Snow Buntings. Sharp-tailed Grouse are possible year-round.

Spring/Summer Birding Locations

Hayfields, pastures, and meadows — great for LeConte's Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Sandhill Crane, Black-billed Magpie and Black-billed Cuckoos. The pastures at the intersection of Poplar Road and Arkola Avenue (County Road 52) are especially good for Bobolinks and meadowlarks (Eastern and Western are possible) but also look and listen for Upland Sandpipers.

Huge wet willow flats. Listen for American Bittern, Snipe, Virginia Rail and Sora. Sandhill Cranes, Moose and Wolves are possible.

Just a nice quiet back road to stop and bird in spring/summer. Deciduous woods, creeks.

Sharp-tailed Grouse lek — activity possible late winter to early May, peaking in April.

Feeding Station (please make a donation if there is a donation box)

Friends of Sax-Zim Bog's Land Preserves: Yellow-bellied Bog, Warren Nelson Memorial Bog, Boreal Chickadee Bog, Indian Pipe Bog, Fringed Gentian Bog, Wood Thrush Woods & Blue Dasher Bog, Explore!

Avoid the north end of Stickney Road if possible. This is not a birder-friendly location.

= Gas, Food, Restroom/Outhouse, Public Access

