

**August 2-4, 2019 – UP Boreal Chickadee Quest**  
**Leaders: Don Burlett, Jeff Stacey**

The quest for the Boreal Chickadee began on Friday morning as 8 intrepid explorers headed north. A quick stop at Hartwick Pines produced Evening Grosbeak, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, hummingbird, lots of Red-eyed Vireos and a couple of Scarlet Tanager. We proceeded north with a stop at St. Ignace for pasties and then headed to Seney NWR. It was a bit quiet but a Common Loon with a youngster was calling making it great fun. We also caught an American Bittern in the open hunting for lunch. We tried unsuccessfully to find a Black-backed Woodpecker that had been seen near Seney. A quick stop in AuTrain produced nothing, so we headed for the night in Marquette.



On Saturday, we were up early and headed to the McCormick Wilderness on the Huron Bay Grade/Peshekee Grade. We worked our way up the road and eventually found some bird activity near a small rain puddle beside the road. Right before we left, we heard the call of the chickadee and we were rewarded with great looks at two Boreal Chickadees. We also stumbled upon our first group of warblers. We did travel further north and hiked a trail where more warblers and an Alder Flycatcher were calling. We returned to Marquette and visited the beautiful Echo Lake Nature Preserve. After lunch we headed back to Seney for another drive and another pair of loons with youngsters. It was great fun watching one of the youngsters pop his head into the water to watch mom and dad fishing. Surprisingly, we caught another American Bittern in the open hunting.



After the night in Newberry, we headed directly to the Munuscong potholes to bird. Nearby, we found over 20 Bobolinks feeding and cavorting. We caught yet another American Bittern here, flying away from us.



In the end, we had 96 species, 13 of which were warblers, the Boreal Chickadee, the days with bitterns and a whole lot of fun. The list of species is below.

Picture credits: Jeff Stacey – Grosbeak, Sapsucker, Chickadee and Bittern; Dan Gertiser – remainder of shots.

**Bird Species Seen:**

Canada Goose  
Trumpeter Swan  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Ring-necked Duck  
Hooded Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Wild Turkey  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Common Nighthawk  
Chimney Swift  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Sandhill Crane  
Killdeer  
Upland Sandpiper  
Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull  
Caspian Tern  
Common Loon  
Double-crested Cormorant  
American Bittern  
Great Blue Heron  
Green Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Northern Harrier  
Northern Goshawk  
Bald Eagle  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Belted Kingfisher  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
woodpecker sp.  
American Kestrel  
Peregrine Falcon  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Alder Flycatcher  
Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher) – not calling  
Eastern Phoebe  
Eastern Kingbird  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Tree Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
Boreal Chickadee  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Winter Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Veery  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin

European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Evening Grosbeak  
Purple Finch  
American Goldfinch  
Chipping Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Vesper Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Bobolink  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Common Grackle  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Tennessee Warbler  
Nashville Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
American Redstart  
Cape May Warbler  
Northern Parula  
Yellow Warbler  
Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Canada Warbler  
Scarlet Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
House Sparrow