

**February 20, 2010 – Short-eared and Long-eared Owls Field Trip Report – Shiawassee NWR (12 participants)**

The weather was mild (mid 30's) with mostly sunny skies and a very light wind out of the south. We started at Great Lakes Mall and headed north up I-75 to meet other participants at Birch Run. We arrived near the refuge and began birding along Fort and Curtis Roads. We found a few Horned Larks but not much else. When we arrived at Shiawassee NWR, we started to walk the refuge. We got the two Long-eared Owls fairly quickly and then walked a large portion along the Ferguson Bayou trail. At the end of the day, we scouted the fields to the south of the parking lot for Short-eared Owl. We only saw one briefly at great distance through the scope as it perched on a tree. Below is a listing of all species seen by some or all of the group.

Bald Eagle – an immature near the parking lot plus one near a nest far off

Northern Harrier – in field north of Ferguson Bayou Trail

Cooper's Hawk – seen crossing Curtis Road ahead of vehicles

Red-tailed Hawk – several of these

Rough-legged Hawk – dark phase at parking lot, light phase north of trail area

Rock Dove – on wires on Curtis road

Mourning Dove – several about the area

Long-eared Owl – on trail to observation tower

Short-eared Owl – in the field south of parking lot

Red-bellied Woodpecker – on trail to tower

Downy Woodpecker – several seen along trail

Hairy Woodpecker – several seen along trail

Pileated Woodpecker – one seen along trail

Horned Lark – seen along Curtis Road

Blue Jay – seen along Curtis Road

American Crow – several seen

Black-capped Chickadee – several seen along trail

Tufted Titmouse – several seen along trail

White-breasted Nuthatch – one seen along trail

American Robin – seen along Curtis Road

European Starling – several seen along Curtis Road

Northern Cardinal – several seen

American Tree Sparrow – a large number seen near parking area

Song Sparrow – several seen near rest room

House Sparrow – a couple seen along Curtis Road

Trip Leader – Don Burlett