

**February 6, 2010 – Short-eared Owls Field Trip Report – Northern Lapeer County (10 participants)**

The weather was cold with partly cloudy skies and a strong wind out of the north. We began the trip in Oxford and drove north to Lapeer State Game Area off Barnes Lake Road, where we saw a few species of birds. We then caravanned north winding our way through the countryside west of M-24 until we reached Murphy Lake Road. We then proceeded to the area for the owls on Murphy Lake Road, about ¼ mile west of the intersection with Squaw Lake Road. We watched the area north of the road and late into dusk, four different short-eared owls flew over our location headed south to other fields. Good lucks were had of these owls. Below is a listing of all species seen by some or all of the group.

Wild Turkey – several groups along M-24 (in transit)  
Purple Finch – two at Lapeer SGA  
Cedar Waxwing – 40-50 in a flow at Lapeer SGA  
American Robin – several at Lapeer SGA  
American Kestrel – along road head north (with small mammal in talons)  
Red-tailed Hawk – several at various locations  
Cooper's Hawk – resting in tree on leeward side of stand  
Dark-eyed Juncos – several about  
American Tree Sparrows – at Murphy Lake Road  
Common Pheasant – heard at Murphy Lake Road  
Short-eared Owl – 4 seen at Murphy Lake Road

Trip Leader – Don Burlett