Planning a trip to the Sax-Zim Bog? See our Visit Sax-Zim/FAQ page at www.saxzim.org

Year-round Birding Locations

McDavit & Admiral Roads bisect a large Black Spruce-Tamarack bog. Great Gray Owls (year-round), Black-backed Woodpeckers, White-winged Crossbills (winter), Connecticut Warblers and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (Summer). Don’t miss the Admiral Rd feeders in winter—best spot in the state to see and photograph Boreal Chickadees (also Gray Jays, redpolls).

Stone Lake Road—Watch for N Hawk Owls, Great Gray Owls and Northern Shrikes in winter. Summer breeders include Le Conte’s Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Black-billed Cuckoo and American Bittern. Only remotely possible location in the Bog for Yellow Rail. Check the lake for Trumpeter Swans and migrating waterfowl.

Listen and look for Boreal Chickadees, Gray Jays and Great Gray Owls along the Arkola bog stretch. Make sure to stop by our huge winter feeder array at the Owl Avenue spot (and future home of the Sax-Zim Bog Welcome Center)—Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Hoary Redpolls (some years) & more. Breeding Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Connecticut Warblers.

Hayfields and meadows here are the year-round home to Black-billed Magpies, Sharp-tailed Grouse. Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Hoary Redpolls (some years) & more. Breeding Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Connecticut Warblers.

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

Winter Birding Locations

Hwy 133, CR7, and Lake Nichols Rd all border large Black Spruce-Tamarack bogs. Scan for Great Gray Owls, Northern Hawk Owls, Bald Eagle. Don’t miss the Morse’s feeders on Blue Spruce Rd, 1 mi. N of CR133—Pine Grosbeaks, Evening Grosbeaks, redpolls and more.

Scan the open country along CR7 in winter 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, pasture and meadows—Le Conte’s Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Sandhill Crane, magpie, cuckoo. The pastures at the intersection of Poplar & Arkola/CR52 is especially good for Upland Sandpiper, Bobolinks and meadowlarks (Eastern & Western possible). Grouse lek SW of corner. Huge wet willow flats. Listen for American Bittern at dawn and dusk. Sandhill Cranes, Moose and Wolves 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)

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