

COPPER COUNTRY ADVENTURE

Exploring the Birds, Botany, and Rocks of the Keweenaw!

A Birding and Natural History Field Tour with Seven Ponds Nature Center

September 20-25, 2026

Join us as we venture north across the Portage Canal Lift Bridge to “Copper Island” and the adventure that awaits! The Keweenaw Peninsula projects about 65 miles northeasterly into Lake Superior. We will explore the portion of the Keweenaw north of Hancock, all the way to Copper Harbor and the end of US-41. This remote, mineral rich region is the crown jewel of all the peninsulas of the Great Lakes and is composed of some of the oldest exposed rock in the world, dating back some 1.1 billion years. The Keweenaw is also home to an abundance of wildlife and a wealth of unique plant life. The Upper Peninsula’s “upper peninsula” is well worth the long drive to get there – and we hope you’ll come with us for this unique experience.



TOUR ITINERARY



Sunday, September 20 – Please plan to arrive in Copper Harbor no later than 4:00 PM to check into our lodging. After we gather for introductions, we'll head to dinner at a local restaurant. We'll then kick off our tour by taking a drive up Brockway Mountain to enjoy the view and a sunset over Lake Superior.



Monday through Thursday, September 21-24 – We will meet each morning at a predetermined time for breakfast, then head out for a morning of birding and exploration. While Keweenaw County is one of Michigan's smallest in terms of land area, there are incredible opportunities to wander, and we will not run out of places to search for birds. Fall migration will be underway, so we'll be on the lookout for migratory birds starting their journey, along with local residents. We'll visit parks and sanctuaries, harbors and beaches, lakes and rivers, and even sewage ponds!



After a break for lunch, we'll continue our adventures by taking in scenic beauty, rugged landscapes, rocky outcrops, waterfalls, beaches, and cultural points of interest. Rocks and botany will be the focus of our afternoon rambles.

We'll return to Copper Harbor – or another nearby Keweenaw town – for dinner each evening. Participants will then be free to wander the small town of Copper Harbor, take in the sunset over the harbor, do a bit more hiking on nearby trails, or head back to their rooms to relax. One evening we will offer an optional owling outing.

Friday, September 25

– After our final breakfast together, we'll take one more short bird walk at a

nearby Copper Harbor hotspot (optional), then get back to our rooms to pack and start the journey home – or wherever your wandering spirit takes you!





TOUR LEADERS

Daryl Bernard and **Carrie Spencer** have each been captivated by the Keweenaw Peninsula for many years. Carrie is an experienced naturalist who enjoys sharing her knowledge and love of the natural world with others. Daryl is an avid birder and has been birding the Keweenaw for more than ten years – he calls it his favorite Michigan county for birding. Carrie and Daryl have each led many field tours, and they are excited to share and explore this extraordinary place with you.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging for this tour will be at the **Mariner North Resort** in the heart of Copper Harbor.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

We will travel in a single 12-passenger van. Keeping the group together in one van allows everybody to have a shared experience and helps develop group camaraderie.

FEE and REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Tour Fee: **\$1350 per person** in double occupancy from Copper Harbor, Michigan
- Single Supplement: \$450 (upon request, subject to availability)
- Deposit: \$300 (due upon registration)
- Final Payment Due: August 1, 2026
- Group size is limited to **10 individuals** and early registration is encouraged

WHAT THE TOUR FEE INCLUDES:

- expert leader services – Daryl and/or Carrie will be with you every step of the way
- lodging for five nights
- all meals from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 6 of the tour
- ground transportation in a single 12-passenger van
- all park entrance fees and parking fees
- pre-tour information and a post-tour trip report
- eBird checklist sharing (for those using eBird)

WHAT THE TOUR FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Your transportation to and from Copper Harbor
- Alcoholic beverages
- Laundry
- Other items of a personal nature



**ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL OPEN FOR SEVEN PONDS MEMBERS ON
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026, at 9:00 AM**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL OPEN FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026, at 9:00 AM (if space remains)**

Registration for this tour will take place online at www.sevenponds.org with a \$300 deposit due at the time of registration. At the Seven Ponds home page, go to Programs then Seven Ponds Field Tours and select the Keweenaw Field Tour registration button. Upon successfully completing your online registration you should receive an email confirmation immediately. Participants will be sent a registration form to complete and return.

For more information, contact Daryl Bernard at
989-513-5195 (cell)
or via e-mail at dbernard@sevenponds.org



Birds, Botany, and Rock locations we hope to visit, time permitting:

- Estivant Pines
- Brockway Mountain
- Owen Krumm Trail (Brockway Mountain Sanctuary)
- Hunters Point
- Mary MacDonald Preserve @ Horseshoe Harbor
- Westcoat's Field
- Eagle Harbor (town, marina, harbor)
- Pine Grove Cemetery
- Eagle River (town)
- Calumet Sewage Ponds
- Fort Wilkins Historic State Park
- Hebard Park
- Esrey Park
- Cat Harbor
- Cliff Road Marsh
- Gratiot River County Park
- Ahmeek Sewage Ponds
- Ahmeek Marsh
- Lake Linden Recreation Park
- Lake Linden Sewage Ponds
- Gay (town)
- Tobacco River Park
- Brunette Park
- Bete Grise Preserve
- Bete Grise (town)

