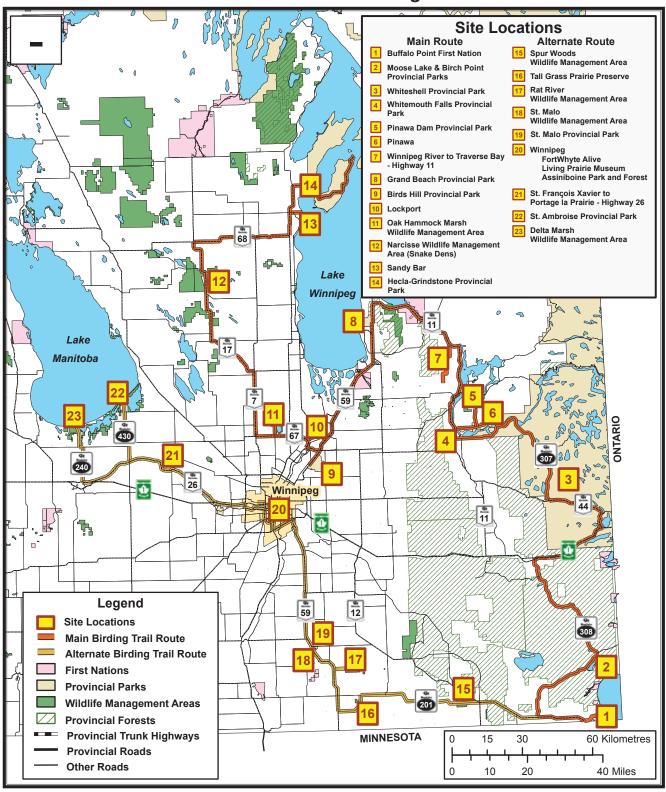
Manitoba's Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail





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Welcome to Manitoba's Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail. The trail is a northern extension of the Pine to Prairie Birding Trail that was developed in northwestern Minnesota. Southern Manitoba is a premier birding site for both the novice and experienced birder. Here in the centre of the continent we have species representative of the north, south, east and west. A day's drive will take you through a range of habitats including boreal forest, mixed forest, aspen-oak parkland, tall grass and mixed-grass prairies.

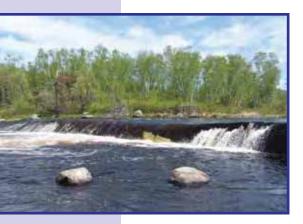
The Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail gives you an opportunity to watch birds and a variety of other wildlife. It identifies sites that welcome the public and connects the sites together in a logical route. Some of the special species you might find along the way include Great Gray Owl (Manitoba's provincial bird), endangered species such as Piping Plover, and a host of other species sought after by birders such as Spruce Grouse, Yellow Rail, Black-backed Woodpecker and American Three-toed Woodpecker, a rich variety of warblers including the Blackburnian and elusive Connecticut Warbler, and many breeding sparrow species including Nelson's and Le Conte's Sparrows.

The Manitoba and Minnesota trails connect at Warroad, where Minnesota's Highway 313 meets Manitoba's Provincial Trunk Highway 12 at the Canada-US border crossing near Middlebro. The Manitoba trail follows a main route with most of the viewing sites located on or near the main roadway. From Middlebro, in southeastern Manitoba, you traverse the Northwest Angle Provincial Forest and Whiteshell Provincial Park to the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg. From there the trail leads to world famous attractions like Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area and the Snake Dens at Narcisse Wildlife Management Area on its way to its terminus at Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park.

The Manitoba trail also identifies an alternate route for those who wish to avoid the unpaved portion of Provincial Road 308 through the Northwest Angle Provincial Forest. The alternate route will take you through the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve and on to Winnipeg. You may also wish to visit the Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area, internationally known for waterfowl and wetlands research, west of Winnipeg. Watch for the Blackburnian Warbler signs that identify the Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail sites.

You can use this guide to help plan day trips or weeklong excursions. It could take you two weeks to complete the trail from one end to the other if you visit every site. The Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail has watchable wildlife adventures aplenty.





Rainbow Falls, Whiteshell Provincial Park

- For more information on the Minnesota route visit www.mnbirdtrail.com or contact Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 1-888-646-6367, www.mndnr.gov.
- For information on traveling and other outdoor adventures in Manitoba see www.travelmanitoba.com or call 1-800-665-0040.
- If you are interested in some of the cultural heritage in the region you
 might also want to visit the La Vérendrye Trail website at
 www.easternmanitobatourism.ca/laverendrye.htm.
- You can find out more about birding in Manitoba at www.birdingmanitoba.com or by visiting www.manitoba.ca/ watchablewildlife. Nature Manitoba's website (www.naturemanitoba.ca) also includes useful birding resources, as well as information on how to report rare bird sightings. To find out more about the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas, visit www.birdatlas.mb.ca.

Please note:

- Use a Manitoba Highway Map for details on provincial roads.
- Please be respectful of private property.
- There is no entrance fee to Wildlife Management Areas. Some have few or no facilities.
- A park pass, sold at park offices and some local businesses, is required for provincial parks.
- In the larger provincial parks, pick up a park map for details on trails and routes. In the smaller parks, look for trailhead signs to help you navigate.
- In case of emergency call 911. Where 911 services are not available, dial the operator (0). Cell phone coverage may be poor or non-existent on portions of the trail.

When to visit

Large numbers of raptors and waterfowl migrate through southern Manitoba from mid-March to April, and breeding waterfowl can be seen during April and May. April and early May are also the best months to see and hear displaying grouse and to do some nocturnal owling. Migrant warblers and other songbirds, as well as shorebirds, peak in the second half of May. June and early July are the best times for the songs and displays of most breeding birds. Warblers, and shorebirds in particular, begin to return south in July, with most passing through in August and early September. August through October is the best time to see large numbers of waterfowl staging in marshes. Raptors migrate along the west shore of Lake Winnipeg from September to November. In the winter months, it is possible to find over 20 bird species during a day of birding, including winter finches, woodpeckers and owls.

Acknowledgements

A number of people and organizations volunteered materials and expertise for this guide including the authors of *Finding Birds in Southern Manitoba*, *Manitoba Birds*, *The Birds of Manitoba*, and *Pelicans to Polar Bears: Watching Wildlife in Manitoba* and representatives of the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas and Nature Manitoba. Technical assistance was provided by Donna Danyluk. Photographs are courtesy of Robert R. Taylor, Christian Artuso and Benoît Jobin.

Main Route

1. Buffalo Point First Nation

Buffalo Point is located on the southwestern corner of Lake of the Woods, just north of the International Border. It is a 1,600 hectare (3,952 acre) peninsula of bog, willow, tamarack and mixed forest with large birch. This is an excellent site to see a wide variety of migrating birds. The best birding opportunities are along the roads in the cottage subdivision and Lake of the Woods shoreline. There are sandy beaches and a hiking trail. The museum tells a story of human occupation of the point and provides an introduction to the area's natural history. Works by local First Nation artists are on display and tourist information is available.



Blackburnian Warbler

• Birds to look for: Wood Duck, Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Bald Eagle, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Tern, Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Pileated Woodpecker

For more information:

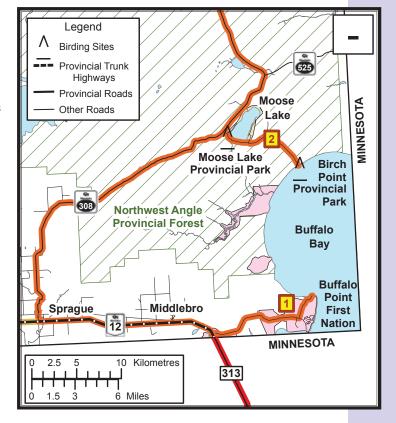
Buffalo Point Resort

PO Box 1037 Buffalo Point, MB R0A 2W0

Phone: 204-437-2133

Email: campground@buffalopoint.mb.ca
or reservations@buffalopoint.mb.ca
www.buffalopoint.mb.ca

 Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UQ33



2. Moose Lake and Birch Point Provincial Parks

Moose Lake is known for its stand of white pine, one of few places in Manitoba where trees of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region are found. There are birding opportunities in the campground and along the old forestry roads around Moose Lake. At Birch Point, try some birding along the edge of the lake, in the campground nestled in a stand of cedar and willow, or in the picnic area.



Golden-winged Warbler

- Birds to look for: At Moose Lake, watch for Spruce Grouse, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Indigo Bunting. At Birch Point you might find Northern Parula, Osprey and Caspian Tern. Warblers to listen for at both sites include Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Magnolia and Black-and-white. Owls to listen for include Great Gray, Boreal, Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared.
- For more information:
 Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497
 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784
 <u>www.manitobaparks.com</u>
- Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 15UQ35 and 15UQ34

3. Whiteshell Provincial Park

The Whiteshell, 272,900 hectares (674,063 acres), is one of Manitoba's most popular parks. You will find all the amenities here. There are many cottage subdivisions along the roads but once you are out on the trails it is wild boreal forest with plenty of rock outcrops, wetlands, lakes and rivers. Many clearly marked walking trails will help you explore for boreal forest birds in all seasons. If you are going out on the trails, keep in mind there is uneven terrain - proper footwear is a must. If you only have a short time, stop in at Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary and Visitor Centre and take a walk around its trail.

There are a variety of campgrounds, resorts and rental cabins in the park. Most of the cottage subdivisions have a store and public beach access. Services are limited from mid-September to the end of May, but the park is accessible in winter. The area is popular for cross-country skiing and great for winter birding. Pick up a park map for information on the trails and other facilities.

• Birds to look for: Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Belted Kingfisher, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Veery, Northern Parula, Canada Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Pine Grosbeak (winter), Evening Grosbeak, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Common Loon, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Tern

· For more information:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784 www.manitobaparks.com

Visit the park offices at Falcon Lake 204-349-2201, Rennie 204-369-3153 and Seven Sisters 204-348-4004

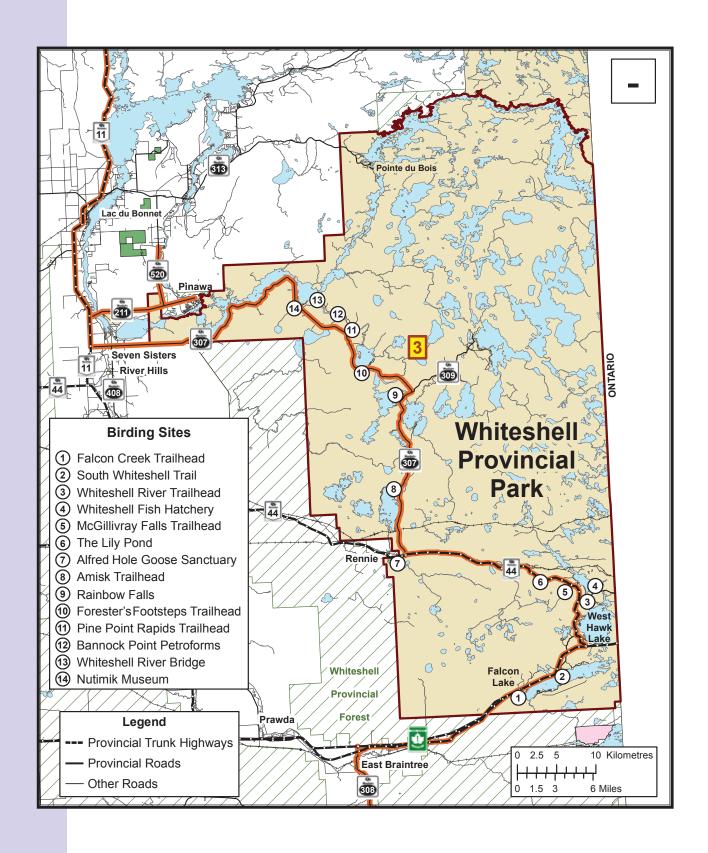
Whiteshell Trails and Birding Sites

- 1 Falcon Creek Trail (2.2 kilometres/1.3 miles): At the trailhead, check the Falcon Beach Ranch pond for Wood Duck and other waterfowl.

 On the trail look for Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker and White-winged Crossbill. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR30
- 2 South Whiteshell hiking/biking trail (29 kilometres/18 miles): This is a spur of the Trans Canada Trail that links Falcon Lake with West Hawk Lake. There are many access points from the road. Look and listen for Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Black Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Great Crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Sedge Wren and Swainson's Thrush. Kinglets and warblers are plentiful here in migration, and many species breed here. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 15UR30, 15UR31 and 15UR41
- (3) Whiteshell River Trail (2.8 kilometres/1.7 miles): Osprey, Bald Eagle, Eastern Phoebe and several species of warblers can be seen. Also watch for woodpeckers, including American Threetoed, Black-backed and Pileated. On the river look for Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR41
- (4) Whiteshell Fish Hatchery: This is a good place to see Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Osprey, Bald Eagle and Belted Kingfisher. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR41
- (5) McGillivray Falls Trail (4.6 kilometres/2.8 miles): This trail winds through some of Whiteshell Provincial Park's most picturesque forest. Look for Pileated Woodpecker and Veery; sparrows including Chipping, Song, White-throated; and warblers such as Nashville, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Canada. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR32
- (6) The Lily Pond: Known more for its beautiful water lilies, this is also a good place to see Sedge Wren, Sora and Wilson's Snipe. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR32.
- Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary Trail (2.5 kilometres/1.5 miles) and Visitor Centre: Visitors are guaranteed to see Canada geese from spring to fall. The sanctuary also attracts Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe and other waterfowl during migration. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR12



Connecticut Warbler



- (8) Amisk Trail (4.8 kilometres/2.9 miles): This trail winds through a combination of old growth coniferous forests and rock outcrops providing several access points to the Rennie River. Watch for grouse, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture and woodpeckers. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR13
- (9) Rainbow Falls: There is a small parking area and picnic site at Rainbow Falls. Look for Mallard, Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Great Blue Heron, Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR24
- 10 Forester's Footsteps Trail (2.4 kilometres/1.4 miles): This trail follows an old logging road through mixed-wood forest and pine plantations. Look for Spruce Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush and Bay-breasted Warbler, as well as Harris's Sparrow and American Tree Sparrow in migration. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR14
- (1) Pine Point Rapids Trail (8.2 kilometres/5 miles): On a warm summer day you can combine birding with a dip in a natural waterslide. Along the way to the rapids, look for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blue-headed Vireo, Redeyed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR15
- (2) Bannock Point Petroforms Site: A walk along the trail into the archaeological site will provide excellent birding opportunities for species such as Ruffed Grouse, Broad-winged Hawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Harris's Sparrow (in migration), Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Purple Finch. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR15
- (13) Whiteshell River Bridge at Nutimik Campground: This is a lovely spot to sit with a spotting scope in May. Look for Common Goldeneye, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Hermit Thrush, White-winged Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15UR05
- Nutimik Museum: A walk through the grounds surrounding the museum will provide some good birding opportunities. You may see Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager and Purple Finch. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas Square: 15UR05

4. Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park

This small park is located where the Whitemouth River flows into the Winnipeg River. A good place to start is in the picnic area at the base of the falls where you can watch American White Pelicans fishing and loafing. American Redstarts are prominent in the woods nearby. Look for a trail system linking the picnic area to Seven Sisters Dam.

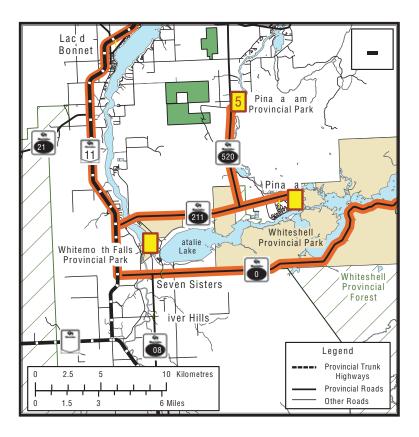
Archaeological sites adjacent to the falls indicate that this area was used as a campsite as early as 4,800 years ago. Today the falls are a popular recreational day-use, fishing and picnicking area from spring to late fall, with road access closed in winter. Natalie Lake, above Seven Sisters Dam, is especially good for migrating waterfowl, including scoters and other rarities.



 Birds to look for: Wood Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, Mourning Warbler

- For more information:
 Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497
 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784
 www.manitobaparks.com
- Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14QA15

Mourning Warbler



5. Pinawa Dam Provincial Park

This 25 hectare (62 acre) park has a network of trails that provide a variety of birding opportunities. The park offers a picnic area, two interpretive trails and the ruins of Manitoba's first hydroelectric dam. The park is open from dawn to dusk and there is no camping allowed. Roads into the park are closed to cars in the winter. Spring owl watching is good anywhere along Provincial Road 520.

• Birds to look for: Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Bald Eagle, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Sedge Wren, Veery, Blackburnian Warbler, Le Conte's Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow (in migration), Scarlet Tanager, Bobolink

· For more information:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784 www.manitobaparks.com

Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15TR96



Pinawa is a good area for forest birding. This picturesque little town is on the edge of the Canadian Shield along the Winnipeg River. Approximately 300 bird species have been found in the Pinawa area, with over half found in town. Increasing numbers of Trumpeter Swans are found in the area. In winter up to 27 species can be seen at feeders and at natural food sources, including flocks of Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak. Birding within the town is good along its network of trails, including part of the Trans Canada trail. Try the Ironwood Trail at the edge of town or the Alice Chambers Trail north of town for migrating warblers in spring or fall. The coniferous forest along Provincial Road 211 into town is an excellent environment for Manitoba's provincial bird, the Great Gray Owl, and other boreal birds. This is Manitoba's first area specifically identified to conserve, manage and maintain the owl's habitat.

• Birds to look for: Some 20 species of warblers are found in this area, including Mourning and Chestnut-sided. Also look for Osprey, Bald Eagle, Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Harris's Sparrow (in migration) and Scarlet Tanager.

· For more information:

Pinawa Community Development Corporation Box 234, Pinawa Mall, Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0 Phone: 204-753-5172; (toll free) 1-800-806-0412; outside North America phone: 204-753-5172/5170 Email: info@pinawa.com www.pinawa.com

Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 15TR95



Northern Saw-whet Owl



Great Gray Owl

7. Winnipeg River to Traverse Bay (Highway 11)

As you follow Highway 11 north, you will be driving alongside the Winnipeg River which widens into Lac du Bonnet, then narrows to become the river again. This is a very picturesque drive with lots of communities to stop in for lunch or supplies. A series of waterfalls on the river were developed into hydroelectric stations in the early part of the last century. Birding is opportunistic along the roadways and in the communities along the route. At the north end you will drive through Sagkeeng First Nation and then Belair Provincial Forest until you reach Highway 59, which takes you south to Grand Beach. The Belair Provincial Forest has many trails, including the North Star Trail that you can access from Highway 59. If time is limited stop at Great Falls. In winter Maple Creek Road is often good for owls.

Birds to look for: Watch for Caspian Tern migrating along the Winnipeg River. Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Boreal Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Veery, Snow Bunting (in winter), Pine Warbler, Canada Warbler, Bobolink, White-winged Crossbill and Red Crossbill can be found here.



For more information:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784 www.manitobaparks.com

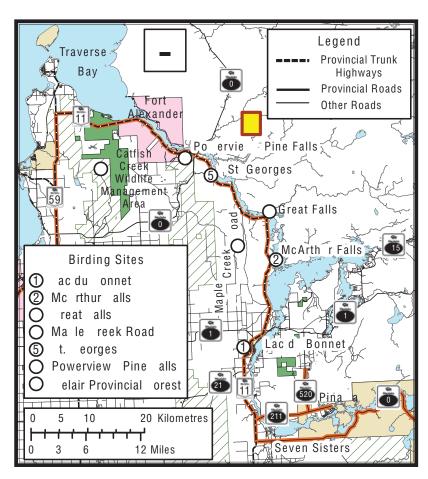
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Lac du Bonnet Office: 204-345-1400 Town of Lac du Bonnet: www.lacdubonnet.com Town of Powerview-Pine Falls: www.powerview-pinefalls.com

Caspian Tern and Common Tern

Birding Sites along Highway 11

- (1) **Lac du Bonnet:** Check the dock near the town centre and the riverside park farther south for waterfowl. Watch parks and gardens for Eastern Bluebird, Baltimore Oriole and House Finch. In winter look for Bohemian Waxwing and White-winged Crossbill. Lac du Bonnet has a variety of amenities and accommodations. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14QA07
- (2) McArthur Falls: At the hydroelectric station walk along the dike to the south a good spot for warblers including Nashville, Magnolia, Connecticut and Mourning. Follow the access road to the north where there is parking at a point below the hydroelectric generating station and look for American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant and a variety of waterfowl. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14QA18
- (3) Great Falls: Pull into this old hydroelectric company town and head towards the station. You will see a large turbine on display in a picnic area. At the end of the road there is visitor parking and a large sign for the Trans Canada Trail. You can take the trail south into the trees or north to cross over the dam. This area attracts a variety of birds from eagles to grosbeaks. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14QA19

- Maple Creek Road: This is often a good spot for winter owl watching from December to March. You can find it on the west side of Highway 11, on the north edge of Whitemud Falls. Look for Great Gray Owl and Northern Hawk Owl in winter. In summer you may find Sandhill Crane, Sedge Wren, Connecticut Warbler, Bobolink and even Yellow Rail in some years. The road may be impassable in wet or snowy conditions. Please be respectful of private properties. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14QA08 and 14QA09
- (5) **St. Georges:** Look for the large park at the south end of town. Watch for waterfowl, Merlin, Western Kingbird and Warbling Vireo. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14QB00
- (6) Powerview Pine Falls: Look for Anniversary Park on the riverside, west of the junction with Provincial Road 304. You can also try Manitou Point Road further along Highway 11 at Pine Falls where there is a peninsula jutting into the river and a nice set of rapids. Make a quick stop here to look for birds migrating along the river. You will also find a variety of amenities in town. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14PB90
- 7 **Belair Provincial Forest:** Here you may see Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Scarlet Tanager. Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PB80, 14PB81, 14PB70 and 14PB71



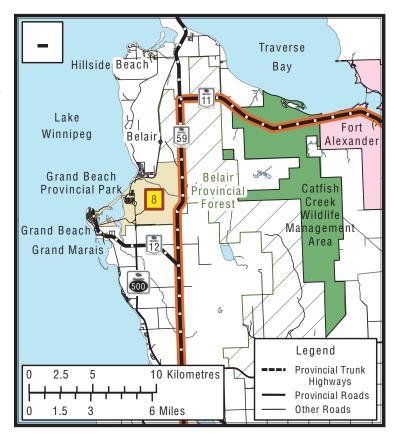
8. Grand Beach Provincial Park

The sought-after species here is the endangered Piping Plover, which nests on the busy beach. It is best viewed from mid-May to mid-August. Look for brightly coloured fencing that protects nesting sites on the beach or in the parking lots. A 3 kilometre (1.8 mile) long white sand beach, active sand dunes, jack pine forest, spruce bog and a large lagoon complex make up this 2,490 hectare (6,150 acre) park. The park is part of the Belair Moraine. Prevailing northwest winds pile the fine white sand into dunes that are more than 12 metres (39 feet) high. There are several interpretive trails and 30 kilometres (18.6 miles) of backcountry trails to explore. Pick up a park map for trail details. Camping is available and there are lots of amenities in the local community of Grand Marais. Grand Beach is one of Canada's premier beaches and on hot summer days the park is very busy.

- Birds to look for: Watch for Western Grebe, Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Piping Plover, Sanderling and Black-bellied Plover (in migration), and Forster's Tern. Look for Osprey on artificial nesting platforms. In late fall, scan the lake and lagoon for rare gulls and waterfowl.
- For more information:
 Manitoba Conservation
 and Water Stewardship
 1-800-214-6497 (toll free);
 in Winnipeg 204-945-6784
 www.manitobaparks.com

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Grand Beach Office: 204-754-5040

 Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PB60 and 14PB70



Grand Beach Trails and Birding Sites

Dunes and Beach Complex: Manitoba's most popular beach is ideal habitat for the endangered Piping Plover. The plover nesting sites are fenced during June to protect the nests and young. Interpreters and volunteer Plover Guardians are on site to protect the birds from disturbance and provide viewing opportunities from a safe distance. This is a rare opportunity to see this endangered plover and its young.

Ancient Beach Trail (2.1 kilometres/1.3 miles): On this trail you can walk along what was once a beach of glacial Lake Agassiz, which is about 21 metres (68 feet) higher than the present lake level. The ancient beach is now covered with a mixed deciduous and coniferous forest and is home to a variety of forest birds. Watch and listen for American Three-toed Woodpecker, Swainson's Thrush, Blackburnian Warbler and Pine Warbler.



Piping Plover

Spirit Rock Trail (1.1 kilometres/0.68 miles): The trail includes views of the lake, majestic oak and ash trees and immense glacial erratics. The trail has a reputation as a migrant trap – an attractive habitat that concentrates birds to rest and feed during migration.

9. Birds Hill Provincial Park

This park, just outside the city of Winnipeg, is 3,500 hectares (8,645 acres) in size and sits atop an esker. It is popular in all seasons for walking, biking, in-line skating and cross-country skiing. Six interpretive trails reveal the natural and cultural history of the park. If you only have time for one trail, try the Cedar Bog Trail for the greatest variety of habitat. This area was once dominated by mixed-grass prairie but fire suppression has resulted in a mosaic of landscapes – dry prairie, wet meadows, cedar bog, oak savannahs, aspen-oak and mixed boreal forest communities. Watch for poison ivy throughout the park. Pick up a park map for trail details. Camping is available. Every July, one of the largest folk festivals in North America is held in this park.



American Woodcock

Birds Hill was not named for its birdlife, but rather for James Curtis Bird, who worked for the Hudson Bay Company and was the first Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in 1870.

• Birds to look for: Over 200 species of birds have been identified in the park. Small flocks of juncos and warblers are common along roadways in migration. Common winter birds, such as finches, visit the many bird feeders in the park. Look and listen for Great Horned Owl, Northern Sawwhet Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Vesper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Indigo Bunting and Bobolink. Watch for American Woodcock, Eastern Bluebird and Lark Sparrow near the east gate. Sedge Wren and Le Conte's Sparrow nest in the tall grasses west of the lake. In late fall and winter look for Northern Goshawk, Northern Shrike, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill and redpolls.

· For more information:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784 www.manitobaparks.com

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Birds Hill Office: 204-654-6730

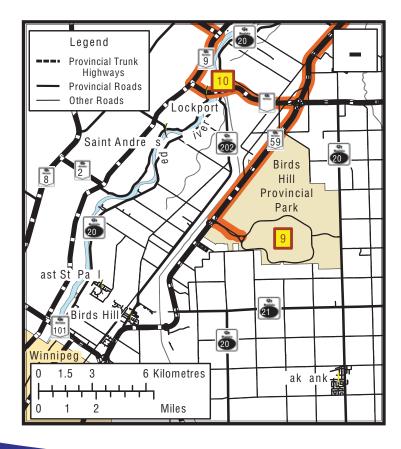
Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PA44 and 14PA54

Birds Hill Provincial Park Trails

Cedar Bog Trail (3.5 kilometres/2.1 miles): This interpretive trail takes you through a variety of habitats including a stand of eastern white cedar. Snow on this trail is often packed down for improved walking in winter. Listen and look for Ruffed Grouse, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee (in winter) and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Bur Oak Accessible Trail (1 kilometre/0.6 miles): Along this paved interpretive trail look and listen for Ruffed Grouse, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Eastern Towhee, Clay-colored Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting and Baltimore Oriole.

White-tailed Deer Trail (1.5 kilometres/0.9 miles): This interpretive trail loops through aspen stands and prairie meadows leading to a viewing tower. Some of the birds you might find are Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Least Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Lark Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole and American Goldfinch.



10. Lockport

A small provincial park is located on the east bank of the Red River at Lockport, next to the St. Andrews Lock and Dam. It protects one of Manitoba's most important archaeological sites with evidence of early Aboriginal agriculture. A short interpretive trail winds through the picnic ground and along the riverbank. The park offers good viewing of American White Pelicans fishing below the dam and is open daily in spring and summer from dawn to dusk.

This Caméré Curtain Dam, completed in 1910, is the largest of its kind in the world and is a National Historic Site. A fish ladder, built so fish can bypass the dam, can be seen at the edge of the park. Lockport is also well known for its old-fashioned hotdog stands.

- Birds to look for: The Lockport area attracts a variety of waterfowl, American White Pelican, Osprey, Bald Eagle and Chimney Swift. During spring migration you can see raptors, gulls and terns.
- · For more information:

Red River North Tourism 18 Main Street, Selkirk, MB R1A 1P5

Phone: 204-482-2022; 1-800-894-2621 (toll free)

Email: <u>info@northredcfdc.com</u> www.redrivernorthtourism.com

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship: 1-800-214-6497

(toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784

www.manitobaparks.com

Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14PA45



American White Pelican

11. Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Oak Hammock Marsh is a North American birding hotspot and a must see for any birding adventure. More than 100 species of birds breed in or near the marsh, and some 300 species have been sighted here. During migration the number of waterfowl using the marsh can exceed 400,000 daily. The marsh is part of a 3,600 hectare (8,892 acre) Wildlife Management Area that includes the restored marsh, aspen-oak bluffs, waterfowl lure crops, artesian springs, remnants of tall grass prairie and 30 kilometres (18.6 miles) of trails. Several gravel islands called loafing bars have been created in the marsh near viewing blinds and trails to provide excellent viewing opportunities.

As soon as the spring thaw begins in April the marsh comes alive with birds. In spring, ducks, warblers and shorebirds are abundant. Summer is great for ducklings and marsh specialities like Yellow Rail, Nelson's Sparrow and Le Conte's Sparrow. Fall is extraordinary for large numbers of ducks, geese and shorebirds. The birding continues until freeze-up in November.



Migrating Lesser Snow Geese

There is no fee to visit the wildlife management area; however, a small fee is charged to enter the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. The centre is open year-round and is wheelchair-accessible with facilities that include interactive exhibits, multimedia theatre, café, gift shop, meeting rooms and rooftop observation deck. The centre is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily and later during fall migration. You can pick up a trail map in the centre.

• Birds to look for: In summer look for Sharp-tailed Grouse, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, Least Bittern (uncommon), Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Yellow Rail, Sora, Virginia Rail, American Avocet, Willet, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Short-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Bobolink and Yellow-headed Blackbird. In migration there are massive flocks of Canada Geese and Snow Geese and flocks of various duck species as well as Tundra Swans and the occasional Trumpeter Swan. You might also see small numbers of Greater White-fronted, Cackling and Ross's Geese. Search shorebird flocks for American Golden Plover, Black-bellied Plover and Semipalmated Plover; sandpipers including Least, Semipalmated, Baird's, Pectoral, Stilt and White-rumped; Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher, Dunlin, Hudsonian Godwit and Ruddy Turnstone. Other migrants include Rough-legged Hawk, Harris's Sparrow and Smith's Longspur (uncommon). Some Oak Hammock rarities include Eurasian Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Garganey, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and White-faced Ibis. In winter look for Snowy Owl, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting and the occasional Gyrfalcon.

· For more information:

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre 1 Snow Goose Bay on Provincial Road 220, Stonewall, MB P. O. BOX 1160, Oak Hammock Marsh, MB R0C 2Z0

Phone: 204-467-3300; toll free 1-888-506-2774

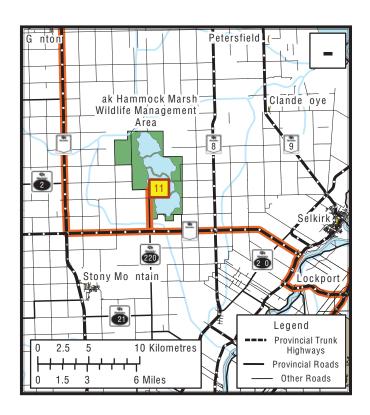
Email: ohmic@ducks.ca www.oakhammockmarsh.ca

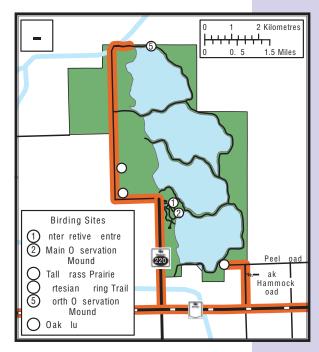
• Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PA36 and 14PA35

Oak Hammock Marsh Trails and Birding Sites

- (1) Interpretive Centre: Around the interpretive centre you may see American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Forster's Tern, Black Tern and Yellow-headed Blackbird. A wide variety of dabbling and diving ducks, American Coot and Pied-billed Grebe can be seen in the open water. You might see swallows including Bank, Barn, Tree and Cliff sitting and sometimes nesting on the building. The roof's observation deck is a great place for an evening of watching the geese during fall migration.
- (2) Main Observation Mound: Here you can get above the cattails and look out over the marsh to see a variety of ducks, gulls and, at times, Western Grebe and Tundra Swan. At the base of the mound, look for Brown-headed Cowbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Brewer's Blackbird. On the gravel islands and mud flats, look for a variety of shorebirds. Bald Eagles are often seen here in the fall.
- (3) Tall Grass Prairie Trail (1 kilometre/0.62 miles): Look and listen for Western Meadowlark and Bobolink.

- 4 Artesian Spring Trail (1 kilometre/0.62 miles): The water flows continuously, even in winter, at this site. Listen for Sedge Wren and other prairie songbirds. In winter, if the road is passable, look for Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting and Common Redpoll.
- (5) North Observation Mound: Along the drive to the North Observation Mound watch for Sharp-tailed Grouse, Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk and Short-eared Owl in the early morning or late evening. From the mound you can see many species of ducks, including Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Redhead and Ruddy Duck. You might also see Western Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Forster's Tern and Black Tern. A viewing blind and gravel island provide excellent bird watching opportunities.
- Oak Bluff: This site is good habitat for species that require trees. Watch for Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, and various warblers and sparrows in migration. Just west of the Oak Bluff, at the end of Peel Road, there is a short trail leading to an observation blind at the edge of the marsh. Pelicans and a variety of shorebirds frequent the gravel bar near the blind.





12. Snake Dens at Narcisse Wildlife Management Area

The snake dens are part of the 11,880 hectare (29,343 acre) Narcisse Wildlife Management Area that protects the hibernacula (winter dens) for the largest concentration of red-sided garter snakes in the world. The habitat here is aspen-oak parkland. While the snakes are most active from late April to the end of May, early May is the best time to see their mating rituals. By mid-June most of the snakes have dispersed from the dens to local marshes. In September they return to the dens. When the snakes are active you might see American Crows dining on snake liver. Great Horned Owls also hunt the snakes; watch for both around the dens.

The snake dens are on the east side of the highway. There is no entrance fee. Four dens with viewing platforms are connected by a trail, with interpretive signs at each den and at the site entrance. The best birding is along the trail.

 Birds to look for: The aspen forests and grasslands provide habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Red-tailed Hawk, Upland Sandpiper, Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Flicker, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Western Meadowlark and American Goldfinch.

· For more information:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784

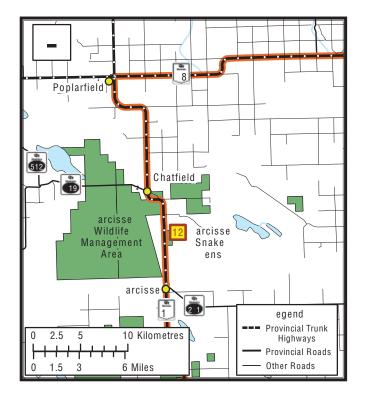
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Gimli Regional Office: 204-6

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Gimli Regional Office: 204-642-6070 www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife/spmon/narsnakes/index.html

• Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14PB02



Great Horned Owl



13. Sandy Bar

This site is a long sand peninsula that stretches eastward into Lake Winnipeg towards Hecla Island near the community of Riverton. The sand and gravel islands beyond the peninsula are partially colonized by grasses, willows and aspen. The closest island is 50 metres (164 feet) from shore and is best viewed from the mainland. The site has been designated as an Important Bird Area because of the significant populations of Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns. You can also see nesting Herring Gulls.

Sandy Bar is located east of Riverton and 4.6 kilometres (2.8 miles) east of the intersection of Provincial Road 222 and Provincial Road 329. Access to Sandy Bar is along Provincial Road 329 via the public beach area.



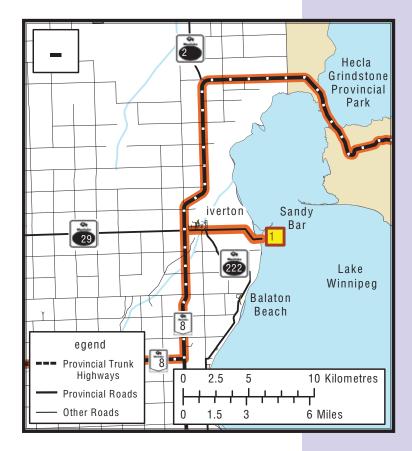
Forster's Tern

- Birds to look for: This is a good site to see Red-necked Grebe, American White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Common Tern and Forster's Tern. In migration, look for Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone. Watch for migrating warblers in the vegetation along the spit.
- For more information:

Riverton Transportation and Heritage Centre Box 250, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0

Phone: 204-378-2666 www.rivertoncanada.com

• Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14PB45



14. Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park

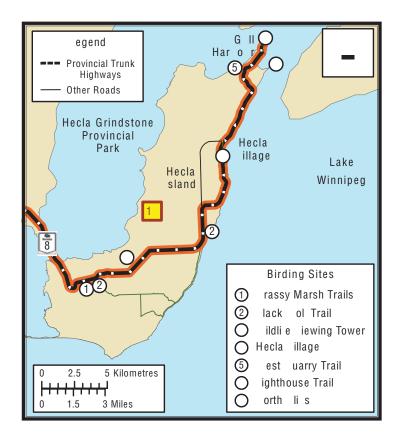
The park is a group of islands and a large peninsula jutting into Lake Winnipeg with a total size of 108,400 hectares (267,748 acres). The landscape is rugged and varied – limestone cliffs and silica sand beaches, as well as coniferous and mixed forests, marshes, bogs, fens and wet meadows. The diversity of landscapes means a diversity of birds. An eagle festival is held in October. If you have limited time start with Grassy Narrows Marsh. Pick up a park map for trail details.

There is a historic Icelandic village to explore with bed and breakfast accommodations available. A campground and a golf course are located in the park.

- Birds to look for: This is a very good area for boreal species. Look for Spruce Grouse, Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Northern Parula and Canada Warbler. The lake and wetlands also attract good numbers of Western Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Common Tern, Forster's Tern and Caspian Tern.
- For more information:
 Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free);
 in Winnipeg 204-945-6784
 Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Riverton District Office: 204-378-2945
- www.manitobaparks.com
 Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PB55, 14PB56, 14PB65, 14PB66 and 14PB67



Red-breasted Merganser



Hecla Trails and Birding Sites

- (1) Grassy Narrows Marsh: This area has five trails that range from 0.5 kilometres to 10 kilometres (0.3 mile to 6.2 miles), along which you might see many waterfowl species, Western Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, American Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, Least Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Yellow Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Lincoln's Sparrow and Yellow-headed Blackbird.
- (2) Black Wolf Trail (22 kilometres/13.6 miles): Developed specifically for wildlife viewing, this hiking trail in the southern portion of the park includes interpretive signage about the local wolf population and early Icelandic settlers along its route. The trail offers excellent birding opportunities for species such as Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Parula, Cape May Warbler and Mourning Warbler.
- (3) Wildlife Viewing Tower: This tower is located 1 kilometre (0.62 mile) east of the park gate on the north side of the highway. The trail to the tower provides an opportunity to see forest birds.
- 4 Hecla Village: Along the trail through the village there is great viewing of migrating Bald Eagles from August through November. At the same time watch for scoters, scaup, mergansers, Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead.
- (5) West Quarry Trail (10 kilometres/6.2 miles): The trail takes you through boreal forest. Listen and look for Broad-winged Hawk, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Mourning Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco.
- 6 Lighthouse Trail (3 kilometres/1.8 miles): The trail runs along a narrow peninsula on the northern tip of Hecla Island. Look for Red-breasted Merganser in early spring migration and Common Merganser in late fall migration. This trail is also a good place to see Canada Goose, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Osprey, Bald Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk (in migration).
- 7 North Cliffs: At this site located at the extreme north end of the island you will find a series of interpretive signs about colonial nesting birds and the islands on which they raise their young. Birds to watch for are Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern and Common Tern.

Alternate Route

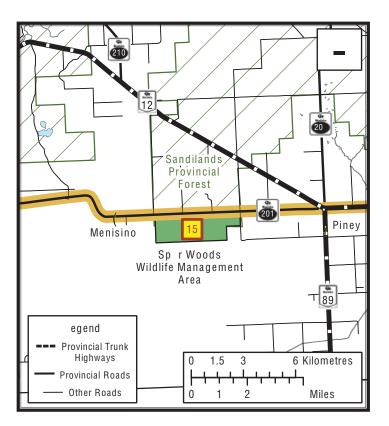
15. Spur Woods Wildlife Management Area

The 731 hectare (1,806 acre) Spur Woods Wildlife Management Area was established primarily to protect old growth red pine and eastern white cedar stands. You can bird along the trails where glacial beach ridges and moraines create a sandy, rolling landscape. There are several access trails for year-round use, including one that follows the old railway spur line. These trails are rough and not maintained. West of Spur Woods and just west of the town of Sundown is Caliento Bog, which is an excellent spot for marsh birds including Yellow Rail, Nelson's Sparrow and Le Conte's Sparrow.



Spruce Grouse

- Birds to look for: Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Barred Owl, Boreal Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Bay-breasted Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco
- For more information:
 Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
 1-800-214-6497 (toll free);
 in Winnipeg 204-945-6784
 www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife/viewing/wma.html
- Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14QV14



16. Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

The 2,200 hectare (5,434 acre) preserve is the largest remnant of tall grass prairie left in Manitoba, an ecosystem that once blanketed the interior of the continent from here to Texas. More than 100 species of birds nest in the preserve and over 160 species have been sighted here. There are no fees to visit the preserve.

There are two developed trails within the preserve to guide you through the prairie. The Prairie Shore Trail is located on Provincial Road 209 east of Tolstoi. The Agassiz Trail is found north of Provincial Road 201 and just east of the junction with Provincial Road 209. You might also visit the Gardenton Museum and St.Michaels Ukrainian Orthodox Church, for local interest and to do some birding in the area.

 Birds to look for: Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Snipe, Upland Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Sedge Wren, Le Conte's Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark

· For more information:

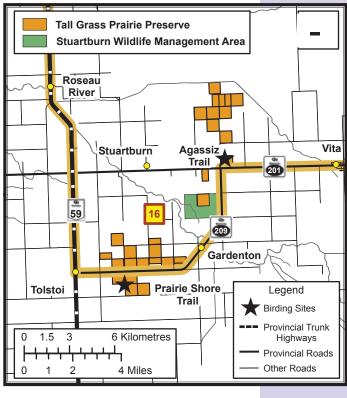
Nature Conservancy of Canada 611 Corydon Avenue, Suite 200 Winnipeg, MB R3L 0P3

Phone: 204-942-6156; 1-866-683-6934 (toll free)

Email: manitoba@natureconservancy.ca

www.natureconservancy.ca

Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PV63 and 14PV64





Upland Sandpiper

17. Rat River Wildlife Management Area

The 1,054 hectare (2,603 acre) Wildlife Management Area is primarily a managed marsh, with surrounding uplands of aspen forest. The marsh cell creates an appealing breeding and staging area for waterfowl. There is a chance to hear, if not see, the Least Bittern. The marsh is about 6 kilometres (3.7 miles) east of Highway 59 on road 16N just south of the town of Rosa. The dike that borders the marsh is good for walking.

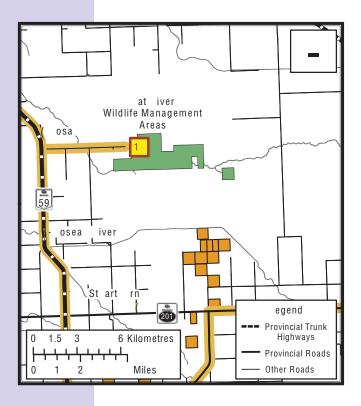


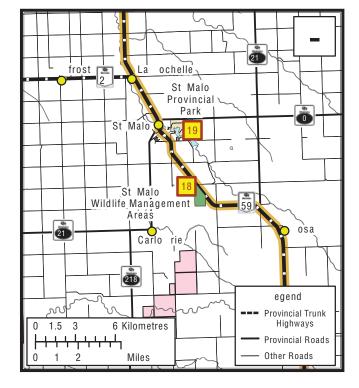
Least Bittern

- Birds to look for: Sharp-tailed Grouse, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Marbled Godwit, Upland Sandpiper, Black Tern, Forster's Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Redheaded Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swamp Sparrow, Bobolink, Yellow-headed Blackbird
- For more information:

 Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497
 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784

 www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife/viewing/wma.html
- Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14PV65





18. St. Malo Wildlife Management Area

This 179 hectare (442 acre) Wildlife Management Area is mostly aspen-oak forest on a flat to gently rolling landscape, with a few remnants of tall grass prairie. Listen for the drumming of Ruffed Grouse and watch for migrating birds in spring. There is a pull-off on the edge of Highway 59, located 5 kilometres (3.1 miles) south of town. There are a number of unmarked trails in the Wildlife Management Area so be sure to keep track of your route.

- Birds to look for: Ruffed Grouse, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole
- · For more information:
 - Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784 www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife/viewing/wma.html
- Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PV55 and 14PV56



Red-headed Woodpecker

19. St. Malo Provincial Park

The park is located in aspen-oak parkland – a mix of forest, prairie and wetlands. Explore the park on the Tallgrass Parkland Self-Guiding Trail (1.6 kilometres/1 mile). It will lead you through both tall grass prairie remnants and mixed forest. Park trails are popular for hiking and bicycling in summer. Pick up a park map for trail details. The park features a family swimming beach and offers facilities for camping, picnicking and boating.

- Birds to look for: Ruffed Grouse, Cooper's Hawk, Red-talied Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Northern Flicker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Gray Catbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Eastern Towhee
- · For more information:
 - Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784 Manitoba Conservation Steinbach District Office: 204-346-6110 www.manitobaparks.com
- Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PV46 and 14PV56



Chestnut-sided Warbler

20. Winnipeg

Winnipeg is the capital of Manitoba, with a population of more than a half million. Two major rivers, the Red and Assiniboine, meet in the city, with a number of smaller streams feeding them. Three major sites, FortWhyte Alive, Living Prairie Museum and Assiniboine Park/Forest, provide great birding opportunities. In addition to these sites, Winnipeg has many other urban parks to explore.

• Birds to look for: Look for Peregrine Falcon and Chimney Swift downtown and Eastern Screech-Owl along the rivers. Look for Swainson's Hawk and Gray Partridge in open areas around the city. More than 20 species of warblers and up to 12 species of sparrows can be seen in migration in city parks. Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager and Orchard Oriole may be found within the city as well.

(1) FortWhyte Alive

FortWhyte Alive is a 243 hectare (600 acre) nature centre on the edge of the city, with prairie, lakes, forest and wetlands. Open year round, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (hours are subject to change with different programs). There is a small admission fee. Some of the features include a bison viewing mound, interpretive trails, bird feeding stations, floating boardwalks, interpretive centre, café and gift shop. (Pets are not allowed.)

This is a good place to see migrating birds in the spring. The centre offers many different programs, including early morning bird walks and breakfast. From late September to the end of October you can see hundreds of geese returning from surrounding grain fields and landing at the centre's lakes at sunset.

- Birds to look for: In summer look for Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Franklin's Gull, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, Brewer's Blackbird and American Goldfinch. In winter look for Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin and redpolls.
- · For more information:

FortWhyte Alive 1961 McCreary Road Winnipeg, MB R3P 2K9 Phone: 204-989-8355

Email: info@fortwhyte.org

www.fortwhyte.org

Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14PA21 and 14PA22

(2) Living Prairie Museum

The Living Prairie Museum is a 12 hectare (26.6 acre) tall grass prairie remnant set aside in 1968 to preserve over 160 species of prairie plants and an array of wildlife. The Living Prairie Museum includes several trails and a small interpretive centre and gift shop where you can buy prairie wildflower seeds. There is a small entrance fee. The preserve provides a great opportunity to see some grassland birds within the city.

- Birds to look for: Commonly seen birds are Great Crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Gray Catbird, Clay-colored Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Yellow Warbler and Western Meadowlark.
- · For more information:

Living Prairie Museum 2795 Ness Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3J 3S4

Phone: 204-832-0167

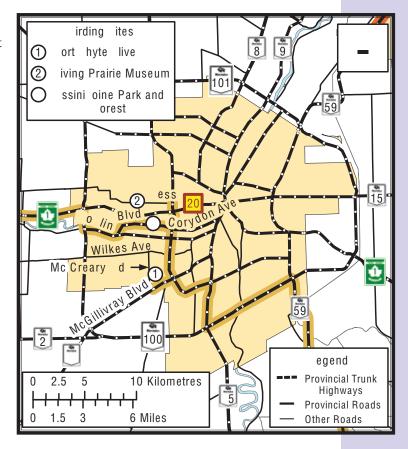
www.winnipeg.ca/publicworks/naturalist/livingprairie

• Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14PA22

(3) Assiniboine Park and Forest

Assiniboine Park is Winnipeg's largest park at 450 hectares (1,111 acres). Here you will find the Zoo, Conservatory, Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, English Gardens, open spaces, riverbottom forest and a few nice restaurants. Assiniboine Park is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, although facilities such as the Pavilion, Conservatory and Zoo have hours that change seasonally. There is no admission fee for the park or for the Conservatory, just for the Zoo. The best birding is along the river and in the English Gardens.

Assiniboine Forest is just south of the park and can be accessed by well-marked bike and walking trails from the park. The main trail entrance is located off Grant Avenue. It is 280 hectares (691 acres) of aspen-oak forest, with a small wetland.



• Birds to look for: More than a dozen species of sparrows can be seen in April and early May. The last two weeks of May are excellent for migrating warblers, vireos and flycatchers, including Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler and many other species. In summer watch for Wood Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Cliff Swallow and Indigo Bunting. During fall migration, from early August to mid-October, the English Gardens are an excellent place to watch migrants including Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. In winter look for Bohemian Waxwing and White-winged Crossbill.



Peregrine Falcon

For more information:

Assiniboine Park

2355 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Phone: 1-877-311-4974, 1-877-927-6006

Email: 311@Winnipeg.ca, info@assiniboinepark.ca www.assiniboinepark.ca or www.winnipeg.ca/publicworks/naturalist/

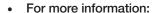
ns/AF/index.asp

• Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14PA22

21. St. François Xavier to Portage la Prairie (Highway 26)

As you leave Winnipeg along the Trans Canada Highway, heading west to St. Ambroise and Delta Marsh, turn onto Highway 26 at the White Horse statue about 16 kilometres (10 miles) west of Winnipeg. Birding is opportunistic along Highway 26, which is a nice country drive. You are driving on the north side of the meandering Assiniboine River and pass through a few small communities. Stop in at St. François Xavier to see the historic Grey Nun's Convent built in 1916. In Poplar Point you can see the oldest log church in Western Canada, St. Anne's Anglican Church. In Portage la Prairie try some birding at Island Park and Crescent Lake or Garrioch Creek Trail in Koko Platz.

• Birds to look for: Along the route, watch for Gray Partridge, Wood Duck, Bald Eagle and Eastern Bluebird. At Crescent Lake in Portage la Prairie you can see Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup (in migration), Redhead, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron and Baltimore Oriole.



Central Plains Tourism Network PO Box 148, Oakville, MB R0H 0Y0

Phone: 1-877-856-5002

www.centralplainsmanitoba.ca

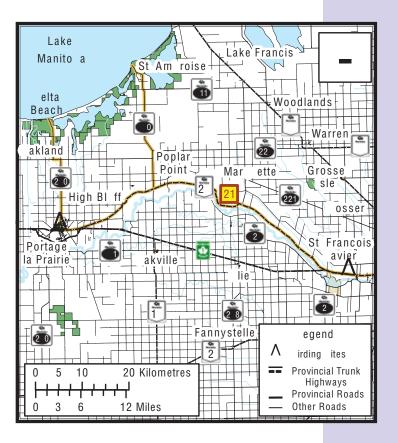
Portage la Prairie Tourism Phone: 1-204-239-8334

Email: <u>tourism@city-plap.com</u> <u>www.tourismportagelaprairie.com</u>

• Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14NA43 and 14NA53 (Portage la Prairie)



Eastern Bluebird



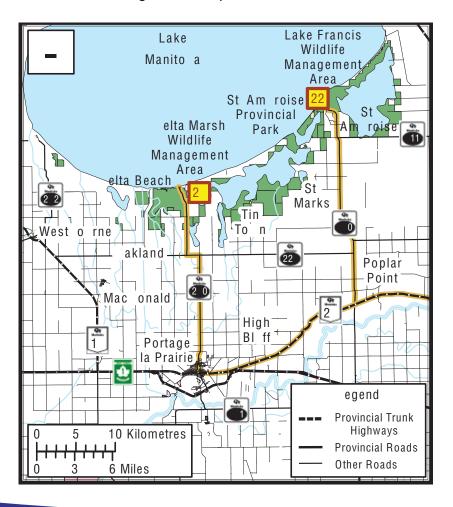
22. St. Ambroise Provincial Park

Birdwatchers head to this park on the southern shores of Lake Manitoba from April to the end of May. Spring migration is wonderful here with a wide variety of birds including warblers, geese and pelicans. Colourful summer residents include American Goldfinch and Yellow-headed Blackbird. You might even find the endangered Piping Plover. Some say the spring and fall migrations at St. Ambroise provide the finest songbird viewing in Manitoba. The Sioux Pass Marsh Trail features a boardwalk into the marsh and a viewing tower.



Western Grebe

- Birds to look for: Watch for Western Grebe, American White Pelican, American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Virginia Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Warbling Vireo, Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Le Conte's Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow (in migration) and Orchard Oriole. Look for mixed flocks of migrants anywhere along the beach ridge.
- For more information:
 Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497
 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784
 www.manitobaparks.com
- Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas square: 14NA67



23. Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area

This world famous 18,000 hectare (44,460 acre) marsh stretches along the southern shore of Lake Manitoba. In spring colourful warblers migrate through by the thousands and you can see the water ballet of courting Western Grebes. The marsh is a major staging area for waterfowl. The habitat includes the lake, treed beach ridge, marsh complex, upland grasslands and pastures, maple and aspen-oak bluffs. Delta Marsh is a wetland of international importance under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Ramsar Convention. It is designated an Important Bird Area because of its significance for waterfowl and songbird migrants.

The best locations to see birds are along Provincial Road 240 at the Wildlife Management Area entrance sign and at the Taking Flight Interpretive Trail at the Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station. There are interpretive signs, viewing blinds and an observation tower. For a bird list see www.dmbo.org/festival/species.html.

 Birds to look for: Watch for Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Western and Clark's Grebes, American White Pelican, American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Blackbellied Plover, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, California Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Sedge Wren, Yellow Warbler, Le Conte's Sparrow, Orchard Oriole and Yellow-headed Blackbird. In migration watch for Ross's Goose, Snow Goose (blue and white forms), Tundra Swans, Bald Eagle, Harris's Sparrow and occasionally Hudsonian Godwit and Red Knot. Look for Snowy Owl in winter.

For more information:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship 1-800-214-6497 (toll free); in Winnipeg 204-945-6784 www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife/viewing/wma.html

Central Plains Tourism Network PO Box 148, Oakville, MB R0H 0Y0 Phone: 1-877-856-5002 www.centralplainsmanitoba.ca

Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas squares: 14NA45, 14NA55, 14NA56



Canvasback

Manitoba's Wildlife Management Areas

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are Crown lands designated for wildlife and people. WMAs can range in size from 64 hectares to the largest, Churchill WMA, at 848,813 hectares. There are more than 80 WMAs across the province that conserve Manitoba's biodiversity.

Wildlife Management Areas are yours to enjoy. They provide an opportunity for a variety of wildlife-related activities – birding, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, trapping and just enjoying the sounds and experiences nature provides. There is no fee to visit a WMA.

To find out more about Manitoba's WMAs see www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife/viewing/wma.html.

Watchable Wildlife Manitoba

From Arctic tundra to the boreal forest, aspen-oak parkland and prairie grasslands, Manitoba's diverse landscape supports some amazing wildlife. Where else can you see the largest carnivore on land, the fastest bird in the sky, and the largest congregation of snakes in the world?

Look for the Watchable Wildlife symbol as you explore in Manitoba.



Check out the websites at www.manitoba.ca/watchablewildlife, www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife/viewing/index.html or www.watchablewildlife.org.

Local Books

The Birds of Manitoba, by Manitoba Avian Research Committee

Manitoba Birds, by A. Bezener and K. De Smet

Finding Birds in Southern Manitoba, by Manitoba Naturalists Society

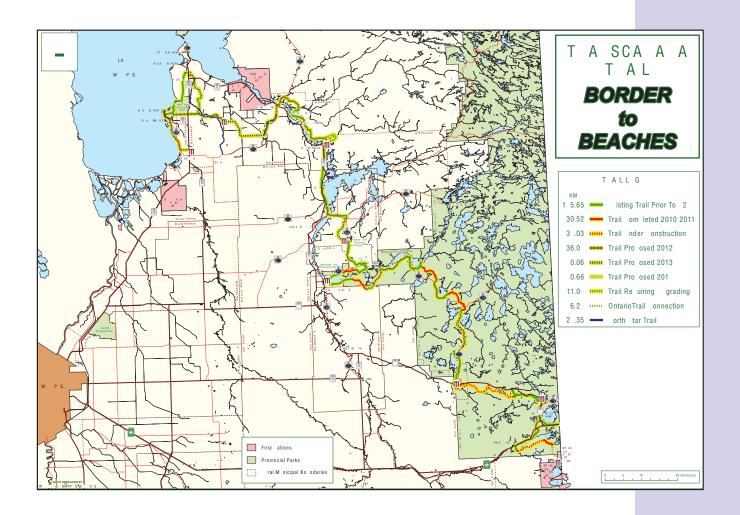
Manitoba, Naturally: Scenic Secrets of Manitoba, by B. Stilwell

Pelicans to Polar Bears, Watching Wildlife in Manitoba, by Catherine Senecal

Wildflowers Across the Prairies, by F. R. Vance, et al.

Manitoba Backroad Mapbook and Outdoor Recreation Guides, by Mussio Ventures Ltd.

Manitoba Back Road Atlas, by MapArt Publishing Corp.



The Border to Beaches Trail

The Border to Beaches Trail is a 370 kilometre (230 mile) trail in eastern Manitoba that essentially parallels Manitoba's Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail. It also provides a wonderful venue to view Manitoba's rich and varied species of wildlife. The Border to Beaches Trail is part of the 22,000 kilometre Trans Canada Trail and connects to Ontario by land and water at Whiteshell Provincial Park. This recreational trail is a showcase for the varied and stunning landscapes in eastern Manitoba, winding through the bedrock and along the crystalline lakes of the Canadian Shield, following the old fur traders' route along the lakes and waterfalls of the raging Winnipeg River system to the Powerview/Pine Falls Hydro Dam. At Pine Falls the trail works its way through Shield, bog, and glacial tills until it reaches Lake Winnipeg, among the golden sands of one of North America's premier beaches in Grand Beach Provincial Park.

The Borders to Beaches Trail is a multi-use hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, skiing, and snowmobile trail. The trail is being developed by the Manitoba Recreational Trail Association (MRTA) with grants from both Manitoba and Canada. For more information on the Border to Beaches Trail please visit the MRTA's website at www.mrta.mb.ca.

Manitoba's Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail Checklist

Ducks, Geese and Swans	Partridge, Grouse and Turkey	☐ Northern Harrier
☐ Greater White-fronted Goose	☐ Gray Partridge	☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk
	☐ Ring-necked Pheasant	□ Cooper's Hawk
☐ Snow Goose	☐ Ruffed Grouse	☐ Northern Goshawk
□ Ross's Goose	☐ Spruce Grouse	☐ Broad-winged Hawk
☐ Canada Goose	☐ Sharp-tailed Grouse	☐ Swainson's Hawk
☐ Cackling Goose	☐ Wild Turkey	☐ Red-tailed Hawk
☐ Trumpeter Swan	Loons	☐ Rough-legged Hawk
☐ Tundra Swan	☐ Common Loon	☐ Golden Eagle
☐ Wood Duck		Falcons
☐ Gadwall	Grebes	
☐ American Wigeon	☐ Pied-billed Grebe	☐ American Kestrel
☐ American	☐ Horned Grebe	☐ Merlin
Black Duck	☐ Red-necked Grebe	☐ Peregrine Falcon
□ Mallard	☐ Eared Grebe	☐ Gyrfalcon
☐ Blue-winged Teal	☐ Western Grebe	Rails and Coots
☐ Northern Shoveler	Pelicans	☐ Yellow Rail
☐ Northern Pintail	□ American White Pelican	□ Virginia Rail
☐ Green-winged Teal		□Sora
☐ Canvasback	Cormorants	☐ American Coot
☐ Redhead	☐ Double-crested	Cranes
☐ Ring-necked Duck	Cormorant	☐ Sandhill Crane
☐ Greater Scaup	Herons, Bitterns and Allies	Plovers
☐ Lesser Scaup	☐ American Bittern	☐ Black-bellied Plover
☐ White-winged Scoter	☐ Least Bittern	☐ American Golden-Plove
☐ Surf Scoter	☐ Great Blue Heron	☐ Semipalmated Plover
☐ Black Scoter	☐ Great Egret	☐ Piping Plover
☐ Long-tailed Duck	☐ Black-crowned	☐ Killdeer
☐ Bufflehead	Night-Heron	
☐ Common Goldeneye	Vultures	Avocets
☐ Hooded Merganser	☐ Turkey Vulture	☐ American Avocet
☐ Common Merganser	Hawks and Eagles	Sandpipers and Allies
☐ Red-breasted Merganser	□ Osprey	☐ Greater Yellowlegs
□ Ruddy Duck	☐ Bald Eagle	☐ Lesser Yellowlegs
		☐ Solitary Sandpiper

□ Willet	Cuckoos	Tyrant Flycatchers	
☐ Spotted Sandpiper	☐ Black-billed Cuckoo	☐ Olive-sided Flycatcher	
☐ Upland Sandpiper	Owls	☐ Eastern Wood-Pewee	
☐ Hudsonian Godwit	☐ Eastern Screech-Owl	☐ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	
☐ Marbled Godwit	☐ Great Horned Owl	☐ Alder Flycatcher	
☐ Ruddy Turnstone	☐ Snowy Owl	☐ Least Flycatcher	
☐ Red Knot	☐ Northern Hawk Owl	☐ Eastern Phoebe	
☐ Sanderling	☐ Barred Owl	☐ Great Crested Flycatcher	
☐ Semipalmated Sandpiper	☐ Great Gray Owl	☐ Western Kingbird	
☐ Least Sandpiper	☐ Long-eared Owl	☐ Eastern Kingbird	
☐ White-rumped	☐ Short-eared Owl	Shrikes	
Sandpiper	☐ Boreal Owl	☐ Loggerhead Shrike	
☐ Baird's Sandpiper	☐ Northern Saw-whet Owl	☐ Northern Shrike	
☐ Pectoral Sandpiper	Goatsuckers	Vireos	
□ Dunlin	☐ Common Nighthawk	☐ Yellow-throated Vireo	
☐ Stilt Sandpiper	☐ Eastern Whip-poor-will	☐ Blue-headed Vireo	
☐ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Swifts	☐ Warbling Vireo	
☐ Short-billed Dowitcher	☐ Chimney Swift	☐ Philadelphia Vireo	
☐ Long-billed Dowitcher	Hummingbirds	□ Red-eyed Vireo	
☐ Wilson's Snipe	☐ Ruby-throated	Jays and Crows	
☐ American Woodcock	Hummingbird	☐ Gray Jay	
☐ Wilson's Phalarope	Kingfishers	☐ Blue Jay	
☐ Red-necked Phalarope	☐ Belted Kingfisher	☐ Black-billed Magpie	
Gulls and Terns	Woodpeckers	☐ American Crow	
☐ Franklin's Gull	☐ Red-headed Woodpecker	☐ Common Raven	
☐ Bonaparte's Gull	☐ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Larks	
☐ Ring-billed Gull	☐ Downy Woodpecker	☐ Horned Lark	
☐ Herring Gull	☐ Hairy Woodpecker		
☐ Caspian Tern	☐ American Three-toed	Swallows	
☐ Common Tern	Woodpecker	☐ Purple Martin ☐ Tree Swallow	
☐ Forster's Tern	☐ Black-backed Woodpecker		
☐ Black Tern	☐ Northern Flicker	☐ Northern Rough-winged Swallow	
Pigeons and Doves	☐ Pileated Woodpecker	☐ Bank Swallow	
☐ Rock Pigeon		☐ Cliff Swallow	
☐ Mourning Dove		☐ Barn Swallow	

Chickadees	Waxwings	☐ Lark Sparrow
☐ Black-capped	☐ Bohemian Waxwing	☐ Savannah Sparrow
Chickadee	☐ Cedar Waxwing	☐ Le Conte's Sparrow
☐ Boreal Chickadee	Wood-Warblers	☐ Nelson's Sparrow
Nuthatches	☐ Golden-winged Warbler	☐ Fox Sparrow
☐ Red-breasted Nuthatch	☐ Tennessee Warbler	☐ Song Sparrow
☐ White-breasted Nuthatch	☐ Orange-crowned Warbler	☐ Lincoln's Sparrow
Creepers	☐ Nashville Warbler	☐ Swamp Sparrow
☐ Brown Creeper	☐ Northern Parula	☐ White-throated Sparrow
Wrens	☐ Yellow Warbler	☐ Harris's Sparrow
☐ House Wren	☐ Chestnut-sided Warbler	\square White-crowned Sparrow
☐ Winter Wren	☐ Magnolia Warbler	☐ Dark-eyed Junco
☐ Sedge Wren	☐ Cape May Warbler	☐ Lapland Longspur
☐ Marsh Wren	☐ Yellow-rumped Warbler	☐ Smith's Longspur
	☐ Black-throated Green	☐ Snow Bunting
Kinglets	Warbler	Cardinals and Allies
☐ Golden-crowned Kinglet	☐ Blackburnian Warbler	☐ Scarlet Tanager
☐ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	☐ Pine Warbler	☐ Northern Cardinal
Thrushes	□ Palm Warbler	☐ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
☐ Eastern Bluebird	☐ Bay-breasted Warbler	☐ Indigo Bunting
☐ Veery	☐ Blackpoll Warbler	Blackbirds
☐ Gray-cheeked Thrush	☐ Black-and-white Warbler	☐ Bobolink
☐ Swainson's Thrush	☐ American Redstart	☐ Red-winged Blackbird
☐ Hermit Thrush	☐ Ovenbird	☐ Western Meadowlark
☐ American Robin	☐ Northern Waterthrush	☐ Yellow-headed Blackbird
Thrashers	☐ Connecticut Warbler	☐ Rusty Blackbird
☐ Gray Catbird	☐ Mourning Warbler	☐ Brewer's Blackbird
☐ Brown Thrasher	☐ Common Yellowthroat	☐ Common Grackle
Starlings	☐ Wilson's Warbler	☐ Brown-headed Cowbird
☐ European Starling	☐ Canada Warbler	☐ Orchard Oriole
-	Sparrows and Allies	☐ Baltimore Oriole
Pipits	☐ Eastern Towhee	
☐ American Pipit	☐ American Tree Sparrow	
	☐ Chipping Sparrow	
	☐ Clay-colored Sparrow	
	☐ Vesper Sparrow	

Finches	☐ Whimbrel	☐ Hooded Warbler
☐ Pine Grosbeak	☐ Western Sandpiper	☐ Spotted Towhee
☐ Purple Finch	□Ruff	☐ Field Sparrow
☐ House Finch	☐ Red Phalarope	☐ Lark Bunting
□ Red Crossbill	☐ Little Gull	☐ Grasshopper Sparrow
\square White-winged Crossbill	☐ Laughing Gull	☐ Baird's Sparrow
□ Common Redpoll	☐ California Gull	☐ Summer Tanager
☐ Hoary Redpoll	☐ Thayer's Gull	☐ Western Tanager
☐ Pine Siskin	☐ Iceland Gull	□ Dickcissel
☐ American Goldfinch	☐ Lesser Black-backed Gull	□ Eastern Meadowlark
☐ Evening Grosbeak	☐ Glaucous Gull	☐ Brambling
Old World Sparrows	☐ Great Black-backed Gull	☐ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
☐ House Sparrow	☐ Sabine's Gull	
Casual Species	☐ Parasitic Jaeger	
☐ Eurasian Wigeon	☐ Eurasian Collared-Dove	
☐ Cinnamon Teal	☐ Yellow-billed Cuckoo	
	□ Rufous Hummingbird	
☐ Harlequin Duck	☐ Red-bellied Woodpecker	
☐ Red-throated Loon	☐ Willow Flycatcher	
☐ Clark's Grebe	☐ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	
☐ Snowy Egret	☐ Rock Wren	
☐ Little Blue Heron	☐ Carolina Wren	
☐ Tricolored Heron	☐ Mountain Bluebird	
☐ Cattle Egret	☐ Townsend's Solitaire	
☐ Green Heron	☐ Wood Thrush	
☐ Yellow-crowned	☐ Varied Thrush	
Night-Heron	☐ Northern Mockingbird	
☐ White-faced Ibis	•	
☐ Red-shouldered Hawk	☐ Sprague's Pipit	
☐ Ferruginous Hawk	☐ Chestnut-collared Longspur	
☐ Prairie Falcon	☐ Black-throated	
☐ Whooping Crane	Blue Warbler	

Notes:	

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Manitoba's Pine To Prairie Birding Trail

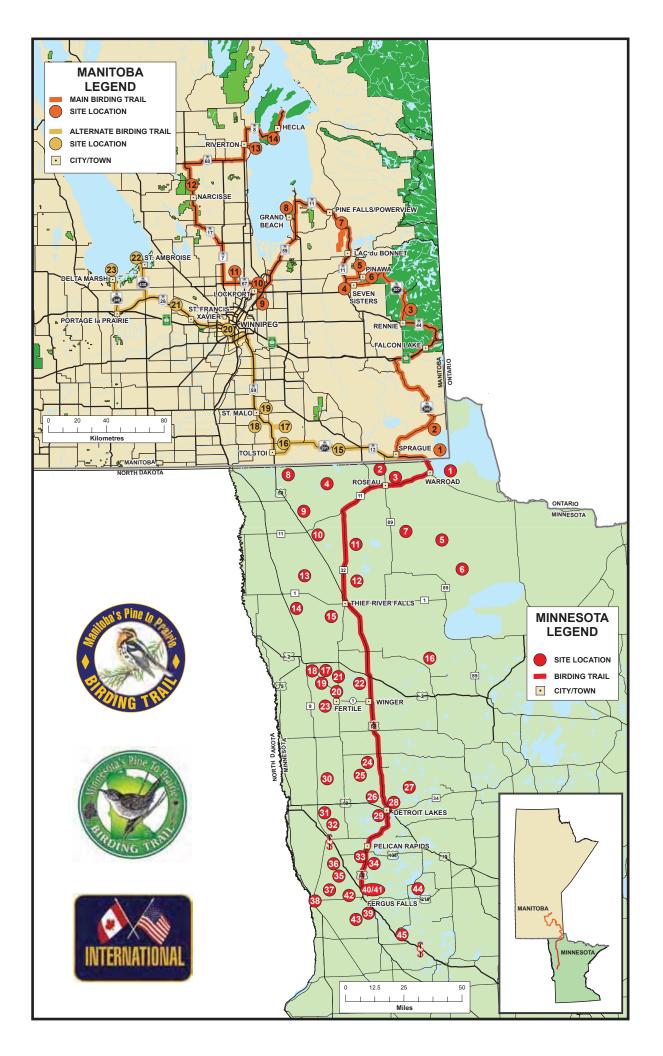
Manitoba Locations

- 1 Buffalo Point First Nation
- 2 Moose Lake and Birch Point Provincial Parks
- 3 Whiteshell Provincial Park
- 4 Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park
- 5 Pinawa Dam Provincial Park
- 6 Pinawa
- 7 Winnipeg River to Traverse Bay (Highway 11)
- 8 Grand Beach Provincial Park
- 9 Birds Hill Provincial Park
- 10 Lockport
- 11 Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- 12 Narcisse Wildlife Management Area and Snake Dens
- 13 Sandy Bar
- 14 Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park
- 15 Spur Woods Wildlife Management Area
- 16 Tall Grass Prairie Preserve
- 17) Rat River Wildlife Management Area
- 18 St. Malo Wildlife Management Area
- 19 St. Malo Provincial Park
- 20 Winnipeg FortWhyte Alive Living Prairie Museum Assiniboine Park and Forest
- 21 St. Francois Xavier to Portage la Prairie (Highway 26)
- 22 St. Ambroise Provincial Park
- 23 Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Minnesota's Pine To Prairie Birding Trail

Minnesota Locations

- Warroad Point Park
- 2 Lost River State Forest
- 3 Roseau Waste Water Treatment Ponds
- Roseau River Wildlife Management Area
- 5 Beltrami Island State Forest
- Red Lake Wildlife Management Area
- Hayes Lake State Park
- 8 The Wallace C. Dayton Conservation and Wildlife Area
- 1 Lake Bronson State Park
- Twin Lakes Wildlife Management Area
- Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area
- 12 Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge
- Old Mill State Park
- Wetlands, Pines and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary
- 15 Thief River Falls Waste Water Treatment Ponds
- Gully Rice Paddies / Gully Fen Scientific and Natural Area
- Pembina Trail Preserve Scientific and Natural Area
- 18 Pankratz Memorial Prairie
- 19 Tympanuchus Wildlife Management Area
- 20 Burnham Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 21 Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge
- 22 Rydell National Wildlife Refuge
- Agassiz Dunes Scientific and Natural Area
 Agassiz Environmental Learning Center
- Waubun Wildlife Management Area
- 25 Helliksen Prairie Waterfowl Production Area
- 26 Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge
- Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
- 28 Detroit Lakes Wetlands Management District
- Dunton Locks County Park
- Felton Prairie
- 31 Buffalo River State Park / Regional Science Center
- 32 Bluestem Prairie Scientific and Natural Area
- 33 Pelican Rapids City Parks
- 34 Maplewood State Park
- 35 Anna Gronseth Prairie / Town Hall Prairie
- Rothsay Wildlife Management Area
- Kettledrummer Prairie / Foxhome Prairie
- Breckenridge Waste Water Treatment Ponds
- 39 Prairie Wetlands Learning Center
- 40 Fergus Falls Lake Alice
- 41 Fergus Falls Riverview Waterfowl Sanctuary
- 42 Agassiz Waterfowl Production Area
- 43 Orwell Wildlife Management Area
- 44 Glendalough State Park
- 45 Egret Island Scientific and Natural Area (Pelican Lake)





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Wildlife Branch

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