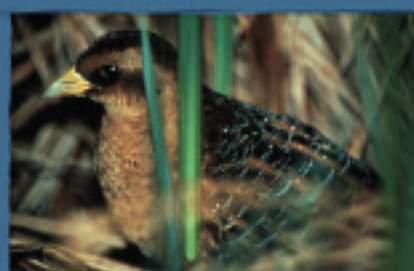


PINE TO PRAIRIE BIRDING TRAIL



Minnesota's First Birding Trail



Pine to Prairie Birding Trail

Minnesota's First Birding Trail

Welcome to Northwestern Minnesota where a unique collection of habitats provide homes for a tremendous variety of birds. Pine forests, deciduous woodlands, native tallgrass prairie, aspen parkland, sand dunes (remnants of Glacial Lake Agassiz), calcareous fens, bogs, marshes, large and small lakes and rivers make up the transition zone that offers over 275 species of birds. Most of the sites are on public land or private reserves open to the public. There are not facilities at all sites.

Some of the unique “lifers” you can see here include the Northern Goshawk, Ruffed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Yellow Rail, American Woodcock, Snowy Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Boreal Chickadee; Bay-breasted, Connecticut and Mourning Warblers; Red and White-winged Crossbills and Pine and Evening Grosbeaks.

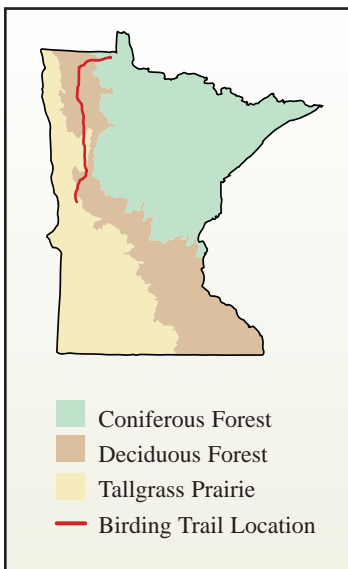
This guide will help you get started. It provides a reference for beginning to advanced birders. The trail is over 200 miles in length with 45 sites to view birds. These sites offer some of the most spectacular birding in the state, along with scenic beauty and friendly communities. Although spring, summer and fall offer an abundance of birds, winter is also an exciting time to see winter specialties.

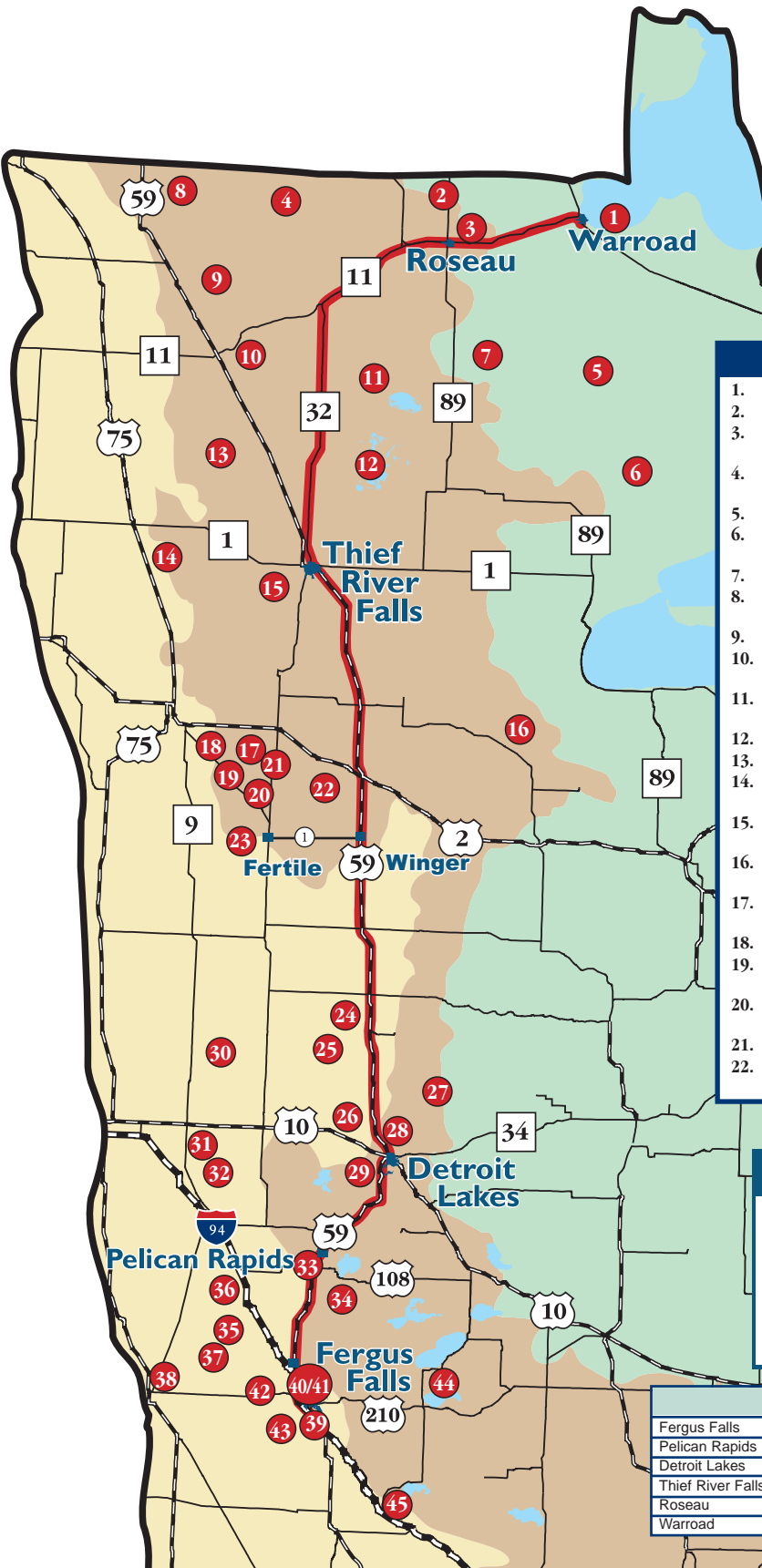
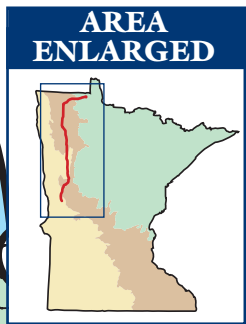
The Pine to Prairie Birding Trail is dynamic. Birding trail logo signs are in place at a number of birding locations; however, complete signage is not currently in place. Interpretive signs are in place at featured sites; the future will bring additional signage and informational improvements.

Currently, check with Tourism Officials at Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids, Roseau, Thief River Falls and Warroad for information on bird sightings and assistance with trip planning.

The Pine to Prairie Birding Trail is a unique partnership between the NW Minnesota communities of Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids, Roseau, Thief River Falls and Warroad; participating agencies U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program, Explore Minnesota Tourism, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; the birding entities of the Minnesota Ornithologist's Union, Audubon Minnesota, Lakes Area Birding Club and the Agassiz Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Special contributors to this brochure include Audubon Minnesota, as well as funding for the project by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR).





SITE NUMBERS

1. Warroad Point Park
2. Lost River State Forest
3. Roseau Waste Water Treatment Ponds
4. Roseau River Wildlife Management Area
5. Beltrami Island State Forest
6. Red Lake Wildlife Management Area
7. Hayes Lake State Park
8. The Wallace C. Dayton Conservation and Wildlife Area
9. Lake Bronson State Park
10. Twin Lakes Wildlife Management Area
11. Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area
12. Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge
13. Old Mill State Park
14. Wetlands, Pines and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary
15. Thief River Falls Waste Water Treatment Ponds
16. Gully Rice Paddies / Gully Fen Scientific and Natural Area
17. 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
23. Agassiz Dunes Scientific and Natural Area / Agassiz Environmental Learning Center
24. Waubun Wildlife Management Area
25. Helliksen Prairie Waterfowl Production Area
26. Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge
27. Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
28. Detroit Lakes Wetlands Management District
29. Dunton Locks County Park
30. 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
36. Rothsay Wildlife Management Area
37. Kettledrummer Prairie / Foxhome Prairie
38. 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)

LEGEND

- Coniferous Forest
- Deciduous Forest
- Tallgrass Prairie
- Site Location
- City
- Trail Route
- Headquarters



	Fergus Falls	Pelican Rapids	Detroit Lakes	Thief River Falls	Roseau	Warroad
Fergus Falls		20	45	141	203	223
Pelican Rapids	20		24	118	181	203
Detroit Lakes	45	24		96	158	178
Thief River Falls	141	118	96		62	82
Roseau	203	181	158	62		20
Warroad	223	203	178	82	20	

1. WARROAD POINT PARK/OBSERVATION MOUND

HABITAT: Mouth of the Warroad River and Lake of the Woods; sandbars at times of low water levels; lake edge with trees and cattail marsh.

FEATURES: Warroad Point Park is part of a recreational site managed by the City of Warroad. The area has public ramps, a drive-up nature viewing area, an observation tower, Osprey nesting platforms, a beach, campground and ample parking. The observation mound is located 1/4 mile west of the city pier.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT:

May through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Common Loon; Red-necked Grebe; American White Pelican; Greater Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Bonaparte's, Franklin's and Herring Gulls; Caspian and Common Tern; shorebirds and migrant passerines. *In migration, look for rarities such as:* Red-throated Loon; Harlequin Duck; Scoters; Little and Sabine's Gulls and Piping Plover.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Check marshes and sandbars near the overlook and lake, at the drive-up nature viewing area or climb the observation tower, a good spot to look for passerines during migration. Warroad is a gateway to Lake of the Woods, a large unique lake spanning two provinces and the state of Minnesota.

The lake has 65,000 miles of shoreline and 14,582 islands. The Warroad Point Park is one of many sites to visit on the lake, including Zippel Bay State Park, Garden Island State Recreation Area and the unique Northwest Angle islands.



Warroad Observation Tower

Katie Haws



CONTACT: Warroad Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 551, Warroad, MN 56763, 800-328-4455 or 218-386-3543. www.warroad.org

2. LOST RIVER STATE FOREST

HABITAT: Coniferous and deciduous forest; peat bog; river; willow and alder thickets; fields.

FEATURES: State Forest bordering Manitoba which is known to be a reliable location for viewing Great Gray Owls.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through December.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Spruce Grouse; Snowy, Northern Hawk, Great Gray and Northern Saw-whet Owls; Whip-poor-will; Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; Common Raven; Boreal Chickadee; Magnolia, Cape May, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Connecticut and Mourning Warblers; White-winged Crossbill and other winter finches. Sprague's Pipit has been recorded here also.



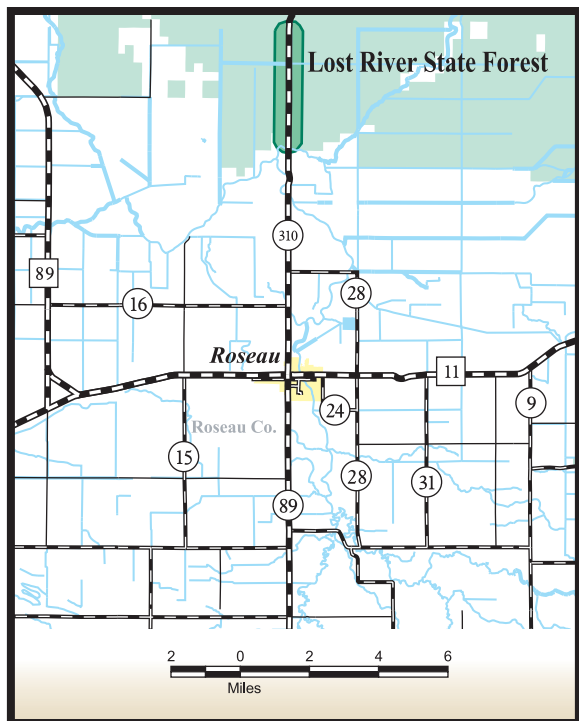
Great Gray Owl

MN DNR

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA:

The northernmost three miles of Hwy. 310, just before reaching the Canadian border, are the best. Access to areas off the highway are mainly by minimum maintenance roads, hiking forest trails and ditch grade trails. Some roads may be difficult to travel in winter. The interpretive sign is located West of Highway 310.

CONTACT: Lost River State Forest, 1101 Lake St. NE, Warroad, MN 56763, 218-386-1304. www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_forests/sft00057

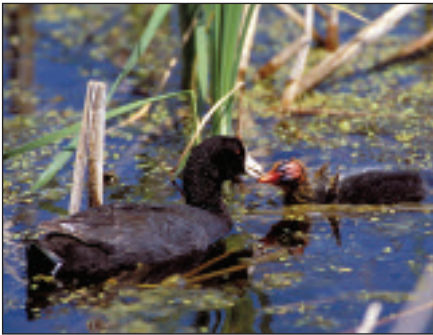


3. ROSEAU WASTE WATER TREATMENT PONDS

HABITAT: Three ponds surrounded by fields.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October. Use caution during hunting season.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Waterfowl; gulls; shorebirds. *In migration, look for rarities such as:* Harlequin Duck or California Gull.

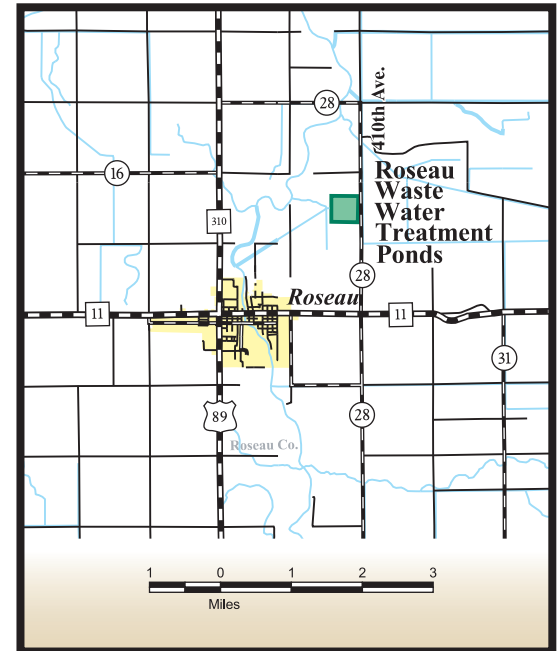


American Coot

Stephen Maxson

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Fenced and gated. Only the east pond can be scanned from outside the fence. For access inside the ponds area, prior permission is required. Foot traffic only.

CONTACT: Roseau Utility Department, 1198 Center St. W., Roseau, MN 56751, 218-463-2351. www.city.roseau.mn.us



4. ROSEAU RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

HABITAT: Marshes; fields; deciduous woods and large pools.

FEATURES: Roseau River Wildlife Management Area encompasses 61,333 acres and is managed by the DNR. The Roseau River flows west through the unit. There are 27 miles of dikes which create three large pools that are managed as wetlands. The area provides premiere wildlife habitat for breeding and migratory birds, and is the only nesting spot in Minnesota for the Horned Grebe.

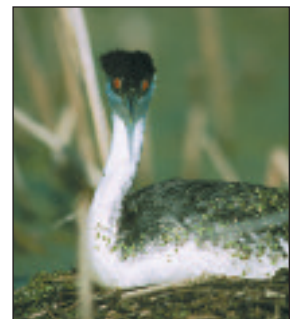
BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October. Very popular with waterfowl and deer hunters during season. Check at the headquarters for restrictions and areas to avoid.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Five species of grebes; Least Bittern; waterfowl; Yellow Rail; Sandhill Crane; Wilson's Phalarope; Franklin's Gull; Forster's Tern; Marsh Wren; LeConte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA:

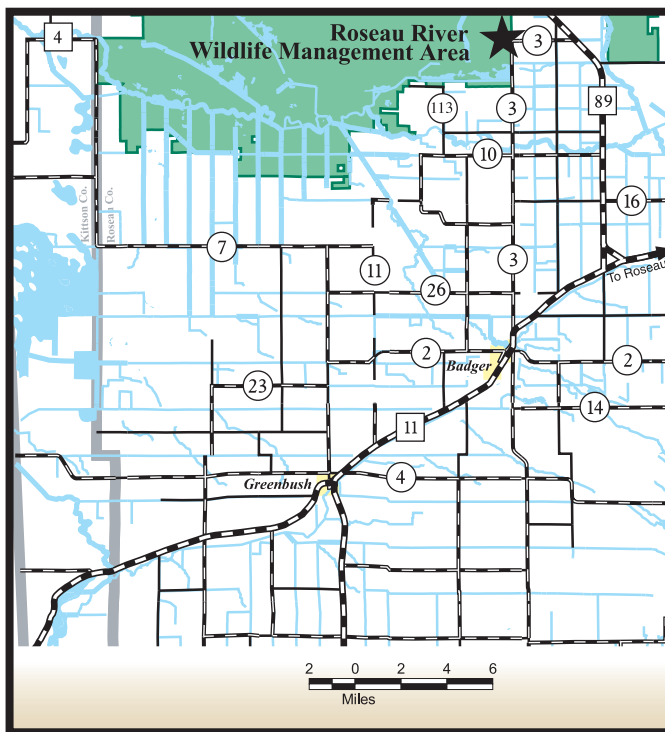
Dike roads along pools may be accessed on foot or by bicycle. Best viewing in spring, as cattails may obscure view of some areas in late summer or fall. Blinds on the east side of Pool One may be used for bird observation except during the waterfowl hunting season. Also check areas of sedge marsh south of this WMA along Co. Rd. 7.

CONTACT: Roseau River WMA, 27952 400th St., Roseau, MN 56751-8057, 218-463-1130.



Western Grebe

James Mattsson



★ indicates headquarters

5. BELTRAMI ISLAND STATE FOREST

FEATURES: 669,000 acres of jack pine, aspen and vast inaccessible peatlands.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: May through June; August through March.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Northern Goshawk; Ruffed Grouse; Spruce Grouse; Northern Hawk, Great Gray and Boreal Owls; Black-billed Cuckoo; Whip-poor-will; Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers; Alder Flycatcher; Boreal Chickadee; more than 20 species of nesting warblers including Golden-winged, Cape May, Blackburnian, Pine, Bay-breasted, Connecticut and Mourning; Pine and Evening Grosbeaks; Red and White-winged Crossbills.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA:

Forest roads are open to the public. Thompson Forest Road is highly recommended. A few secondary roads are gated to protect surfaces during very wet periods of the spring and fall. Many forest roads are not plowed in winter. Logging trails may be hiked, giving good access to remote areas. Campgrounds and picnic areas can be found here.

CONTACT:

For the west half of the state forest:

Area Forest Supervisor, DNR Forestry,
1101 Lake St. NE, Warroad, MN 56763,
218-386-1304.

For the east half of the state forest:

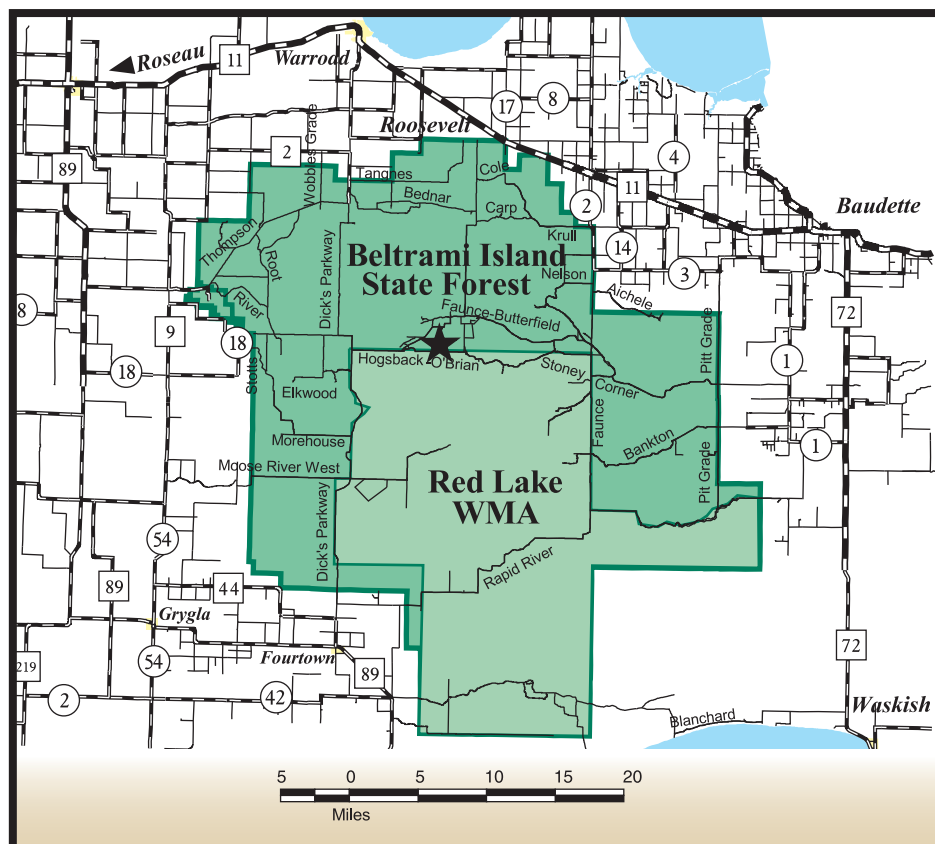
Area Forest Supervisor, DNR Forestry,
206 Main St. E., Baudette, MN 56623,
218-634-2172.

www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_forests/sft00005



Spruce Grouse

Steve Mortenson



★ indicates headquarters



Pileated Woodpecker

Roland Jordahl

6. RED LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

HABITAT: Deciduous and coniferous forest; peat bog and meadow.

FEATURES: 417,000 acres wildlife area managed by the Minnesota DNR.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: May through June; August through March.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Same as Beltrami Island State Forest.

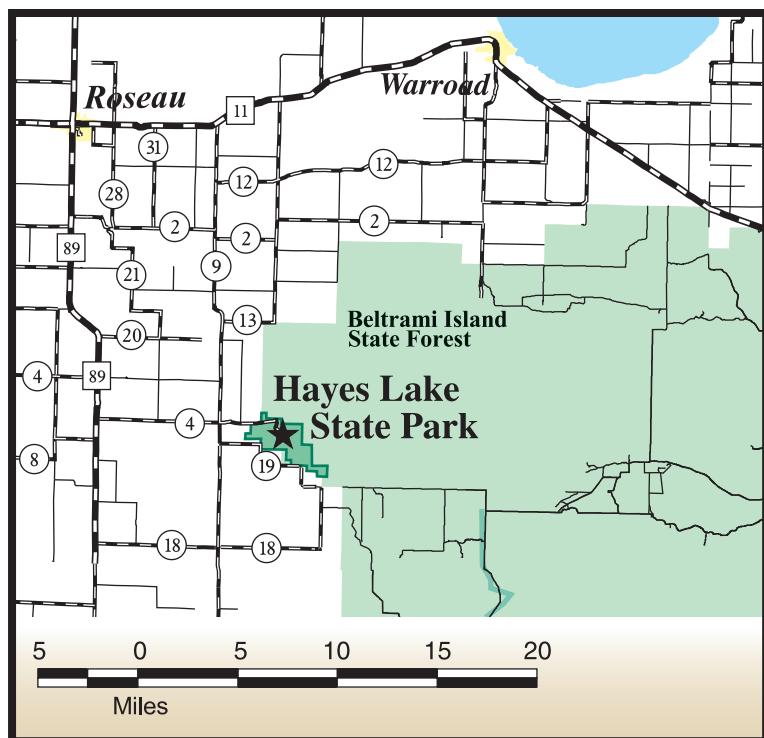
NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Remote. Accessible only by forest roads and walking trails. Bird checklist available. Visitors should contact the headquarters office at Norris Camp for current condition of roads and trails.

CONTACT: Red Lake WMA, PO Box 100, 11536 Faunce Butterfield Rd. SW, Roosevelt, MN 56673, 218-783-6861.



Connecticut Warbler

Kathy Adams Clark



★ indicates headquarters

7. HAYES LAKE STATE PARK

FEATURES: Hayes Lake State Park, located 15 miles south and nine miles east of Roseau, is managed by the Minnesota DNR. It is located at the western edge of the extensive peatlands and forests of Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties. This 2,950 acre state park features hiking, a campground, a group camp and camper cabins. A new bog boardwalk provides the visitor with opportunities to view boreal bird species, as well as ladyslippers.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT:

May through June;
August through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR:

Common Loon; Osprey;
Whip-poor-will;
Black-backed Woodpecker; Gray Jay;
Black-billed Magpie and Cedar Waxwing.
Rare birds recorded here include:
Spruce Grouse; Boreal Owl and Western Wood-Pewee.



Black-backed Woodpecker Warren Nelson

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE

AREA: Vehicle permits are required. Area map and bird checklist are available. Picnic area and camping available. Adjacent to the Beltrami Island State Forest.
Two hundred bird species have been sighted in the park.

CONTACT: Hayes Lake State Park, 48990 Co. Rd. 4, Roseau, MN 56751, 218-425-7504. www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/hayes_lake

8. THE WALLACE C. DAYTON CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE AREA

FEATURES: 12,600 acres of aspen parkland habitat are preserved within the Wallace C. Dayton Conservation and Wildlife Area, owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). This site has been designated by TNC as a "last great place," and is an intact remnant of a vast dynamic landscape. Moose, elk, wolves and bear can be seen here.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR:

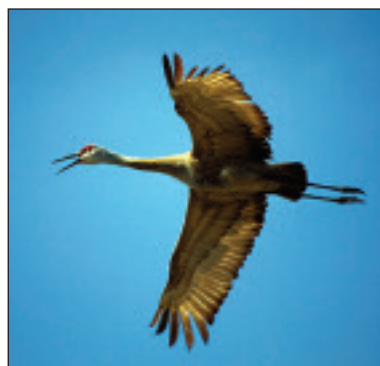
Sharp-tailed Grouse;
Yellow Rail;
Sandhill Crane; Marbled Godwits and Wilson's Phalarope.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE

AREA: The vast area can be best explored on foot.

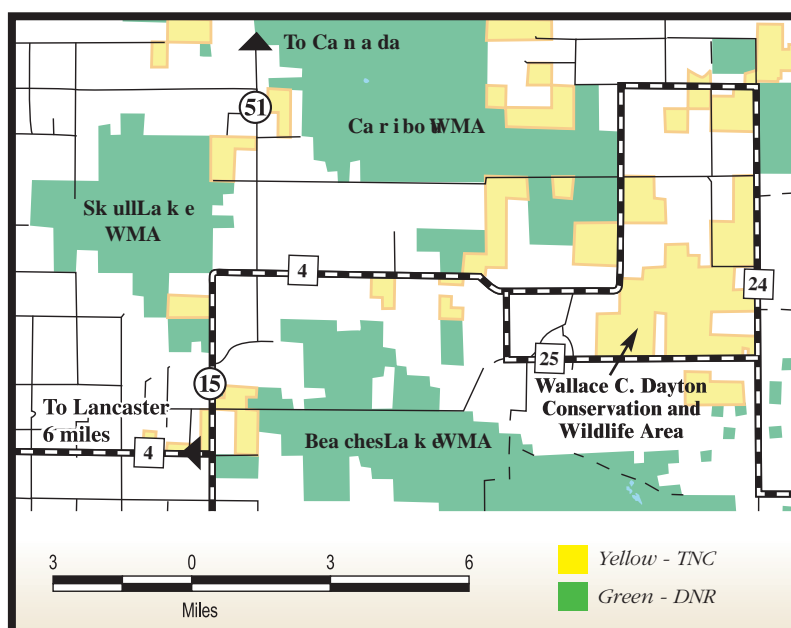
CONTACT: TNC Tallgrass

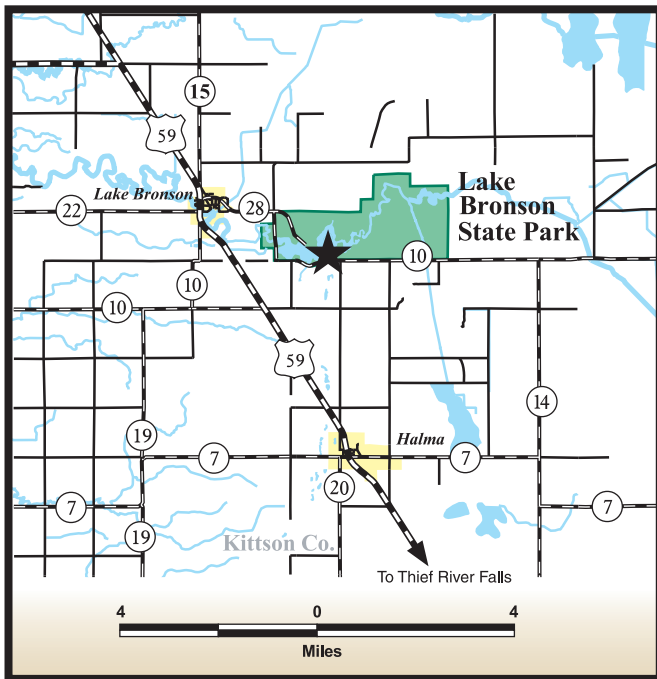
Aspen Parkland Office, 202 N. Main, P.O. Box 139, Karlstad, MN 56732, 218-436-3455. www.nature.org



Sandhill Crane

Stephen Maxson





★ indicates headquarters

9. LAKE BRONSON STATE PARK

FEATURES: Lake Bronson State Park, 3,598 acres in size, is located two miles east of the town of Lake Bronson, in Kittson County. The park is located within the aspen-parkland ecological province of NW Minnesota and features unique associated wildlife such as moose and Sandhill Cranes. Unique amenities include an observation tower and a new visitor's center. There are three campgrounds in the park plus several primitive sites and a group camp.



Northern Saw-whet Owl

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: May through June; August through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Waterfowl; Sharp-tailed Grouse; shorebirds including Upland Sandpiper; Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls; woodpeckers; warblers; sparrows and finches.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Vehicle permits are required. Area map and bird checklist are available. Hiking trails allow for excellent park access.

CONTACT: Lake Bronson State Park, Box 9, Lake Bronson, MN 56734, 218-754-2200. www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/lake_bronson

10. TWIN LAKES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

FEATURES: The Twin Lakes WMA, located in Kittson County, is comprised of over 50 percent wetlands with the remainder in aspen forest, oak savannah and dry prairie. The site is managed by the Minnesota DNR and is over 8,000 acres in size.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: May through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Waterfowl; rails; Sandhill Crane; warblers; Eastern Towhee; American Bittern; sparrows; Bald Eagle and Common Loon.

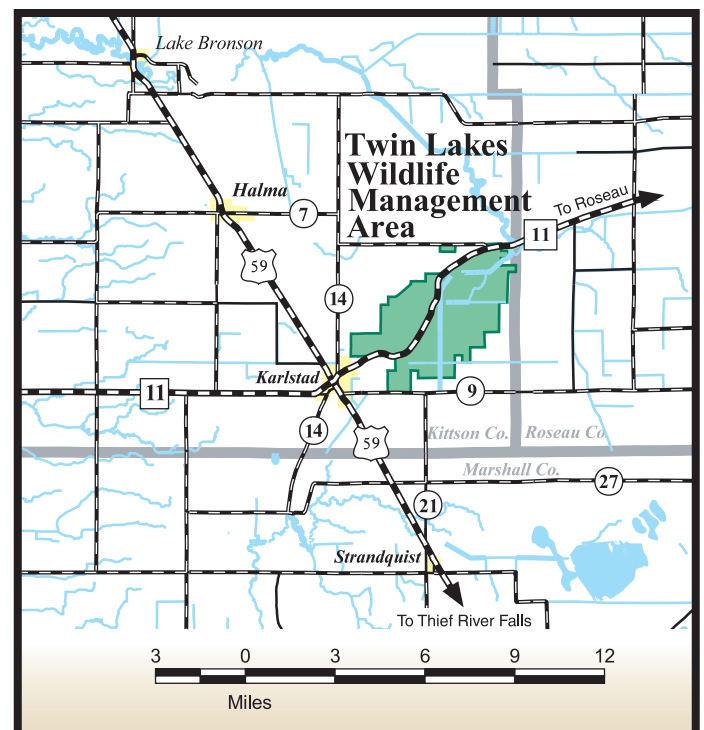


American Bittern

Stephen Maxson

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Prairie wildflowers are lovely in mid summer. Watch for moose, wolves, bobcat and river otter. Free camping at eight primitive sites within the WMA. A wildlife observation mound is located on the unit.

CONTACT: DNR Wildlife Area Office, 202 Main St. N., Karlstad, MN 56732, 218-436-2427.



11. THIEF LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

HABITAT: Lake; marsh; deciduous woods; alder thickets; fields.

FEATURES: This large wildlife area, managed by the Minnesota DNR, contains a large shallow lake as well as several thousand acres of upland forested ridges. All told, the unit is 55,000 acres in size and provides habitat for 232 different bird species. A small elk herd can be sighted in the vicinity.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Five species of grebes; American Bittern; Black-crowned Night-Heron; waterfowl including Canvasback and Ruddy Duck; Franklin's Gull; Sandhill Crane; warblers and grassland sparrows.

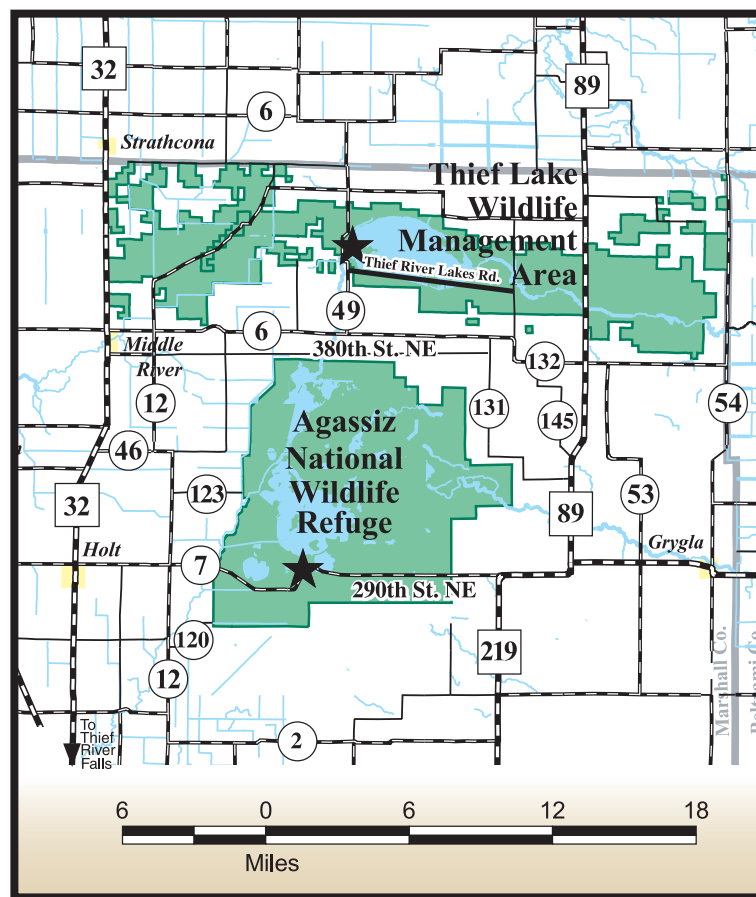
NOTES FOR BIRDING THE

AREA: Follow the road along the south end of the lake. There is a "wildlife viewing mound" along this road. The area is noted for providing nesting and migratory habitat for many waterfowl species. There is a handicapped accessible wildlife observation mound located east of the headquarters and spectacular views of the lake can be had from the mound. Look for shorebirds by the thousands during August.



Eared Grebe

James Mattsson



★ indicates headquarters

CONTACT: Thief Lake WMA, 42280 240th Ave. NE, Middle River, MN 56737, 218-222-3747.

12. AGASSIZ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HABITAT: Large pools; marshes; grassland; brushland bog; aspen woodland.

FEATURES: Located in the Aspen Parkland of MN, this National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is 61,500 acres and was designated as a globally important bird area in 2001. It contains over 40,000 acres of managed shallow wetlands and is a premier spot for viewing wetland wildlife. One of the best 100 birding sites in North America. One of the best 50 wildlife observation areas in the U.S.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Five species of grebes; Black-crowned Night-Heron; waterfowl; rails; American Bittern; Black-billed Magpie; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Sandhill Crane; shorebirds; Short-eared Owl; Sedge Wren; LeConte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Rarities recorded include: Snowy and Cattle Egrets; White-winged Scoter; Golden Eagle and Willow Flycatcher.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Bird checklist, general brochure and refuge map available. Stop at the office for current information. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays year-round. Closed Federal Holidays. Gift shop. Auto tour route open May-October. Three short hiking trails, two wheelchair accessible, Headquarters and Rodahl. Pools in drawdown are good for shorebirds. Two hundred and ninety-four bird species have been sighted at the refuge. It has the largest colony of nesting Franklin's Gulls in North America and is home to 17 nesting species of waterfowl. Moose and wolves can also occasionally be seen here. There is excellent wildlife viewing from several roads in the refuge, as well as an observation tower and wildlife displays in the office.

CONTACT: Agassiz NWR, 22996 290th St. NE, Middle River, MN 56737-9754, 218-449-4115. www.fws.gov/midwest/agassiz
E-mail: agassiz@fws.gov



Franklin's Gull - Adult & Chick

James P. Mattsson

13. OLD MILL STATE PARK

HABITAT: 406 acres. Deciduous woodlands; coniferous plantations; aspen parkland; oak savannah; prairie; wet meadows; river and lakes.

FEATURES: The park features hiking/ski trails and a steam powered flour mill, as well as a campground and swimming beach. Old Mill State Park is operated by the Minnesota DNR.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT:

April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Sharp-tailed Grouse; Snowy (winter only), Long-eared, Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls; Pileated Woodpecker; vireos; wrens; warblers and finches. **Rarities seen here include:** Clark's Nutcracker and Mountain Bluebird.

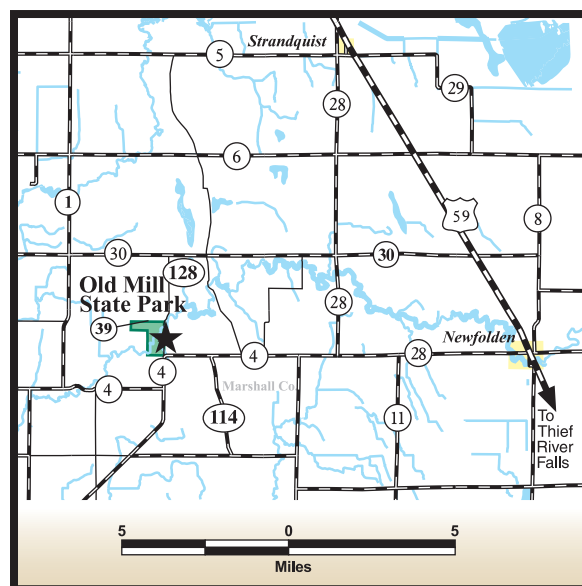
NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Vehicle permits are required. Area map and bird checklist are available. Picnic area and camping available. Birding can be excellent with over one hundred species commonly found in the park.

CONTACT: Old Mill State Park, 33489 240th Ave. NW, Argyle, MN 56713, 218-437-8174. www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/old_mill

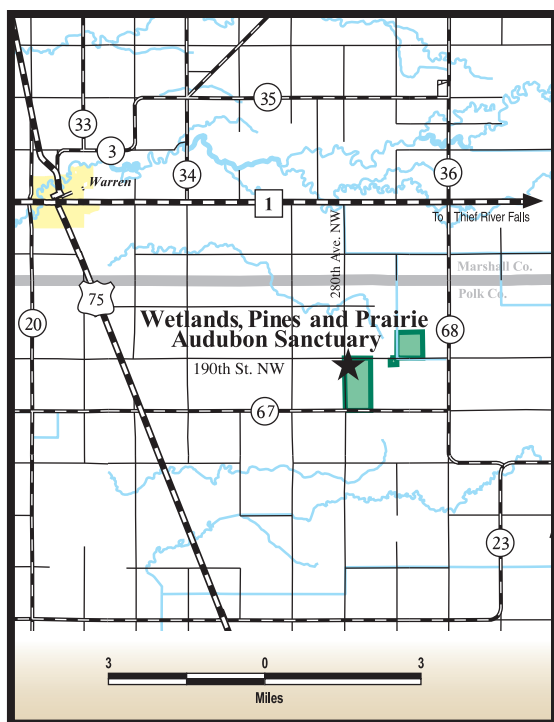


Old Mill State Park

David Arscott



★ indicates headquarters



★ indicates headquarters

14. WETLANDS, PINES AND PRAIRIE AUDUBON SANCTUARY

FEATURES: The site is 800 acres in size and includes wetlands, waterways, tree plantings, trails and an interpretive center. The center is staffed by a director and tours are available to individuals and school groups. Call for hours and availability. This site is owned by the Agassiz Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: May through June; August through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Many passerines, especially during migration. American Bittern; Long-eared and Short-eared Owls; Gray Partridge; Black-billed Cuckoo; Western Kingbird; grassland sparrows; Orchard Oriole.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA:

Stop at the visitor center or information kiosk and sign guest book. Bird checklist available. Trails are open to the public. Watch for moose.

CONTACT: WPP Audubon Sanctuary, 27453 190th St. NW, Warren, MN 56762, 218-745-5663. www.wikt.net/wpp



Wetland Pines Prairie

David Arscott



Sharp-tailed Grouse

Steve Mortensen

15. THIEF RIVER FALLS WASTE WATER TREATMENT PONDS

HABITAT: Two primary ponds of 131 acres each and a secondary pond of 88 acres.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT:
April through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR:
Waterfowl; gulls and shorebirds.
Rarities found here include:
Little and California Gulls.

NOTES FOR BIRDING

THE AREA: Main access - use County Rd 73 to West side of pond overlook. Prior to your visit, contact the plant superintendent.

CONTACT: Plant Superintendent,
PO Box 528, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-4425.
www.citytrf.net



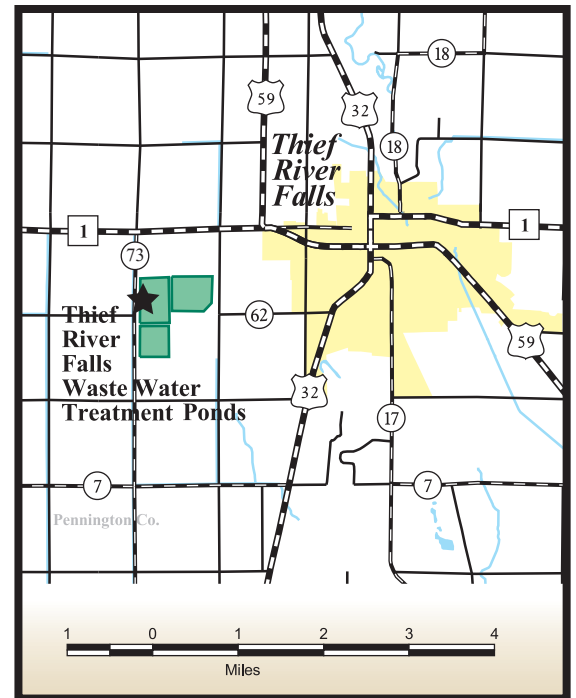
Spotted Sandpiper

Roland Jordahl



Black Tern

Stephen Maxson

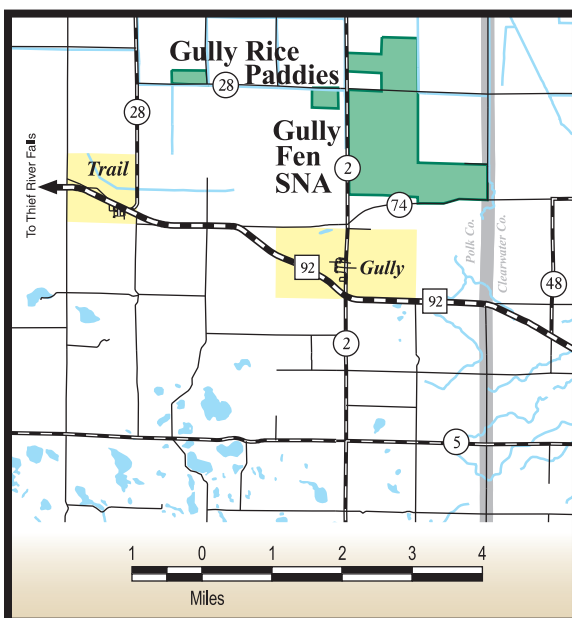


★ Pond Overlook



Roland Jordahl

Canvasback



16. GULLY RICE PADDIES / GULLY FEN SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA

HABITAT: Rice paddies; fields; pastures; shrubby grasslands; woodland edges; calcareous fens; conifer and hardwood seepage swamps.

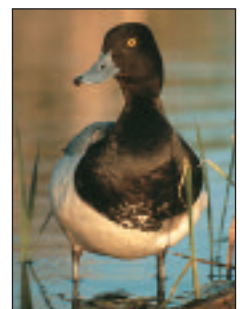
FEATURES: Gully Fen SNA, a 1,610 acre natural area managed by the Minnesota DNR, includes a calcareous seepage fen and a lowland tamarack swamp. Birds associated with lowland conifer such as the White-Throated Sparrow are common here. The privately owned rice paddies nearby, when water-covered, are great places to view waterfowl and shorebirds, especially in migration. At times, hundreds of swans can be seen here.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: March through May.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Waterfowl, including Snow Goose and Tundra Swan; Rough-legged Hawk; Peregrine Falcon; Marbled Godwit and other early shorebirds; Snowy and Short-eared Owls. Watch for Ross's Geese mixed with Snow Geese.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Excellent area to visit in early spring. As migration proceeds, migrant songbirds are common in the area also. Paddies are privately owned so please stay on main roads. Interesting and rare plant communities and beautiful wildflowers. Waterproof footwear is recommended. Bird checklist for Gully Fen SNA found at: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoor_activities/snas/gully_fen_checklist.pdf

CONTACT: Regional Manager, DNR Ecological Services,
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE
Bemidji, MN 56601, 218-755-3634
www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/sna01084



James Mattsson
Lesser Scaup

17. PEMBINA TRAIL PRESERVE SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA

HABITAT: Tallgrass prairie; aspen woods; wet meadows; willow thickets; marsh and sedge.

FEATURES: This 2,377 acre preserve is one of several spectacular prairie areas near Crookston. This site is owned by The Nature Conservancy and leased to the DNR-SNA Program. It is associated with the Pembina trail, a major ox-cart route that traders used to haul fur and supplies between Winnipeg and St. Paul.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: May through September.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Sharp-tailed Grouse; Greater Prairie-Chicken; Yellow Rail; Sandhill Crane; Upland Sandpiper; Wilson's Phalarope; Short-eared Owl; Marsh Wren; LeConte's Sparrow; Bobolink.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Waterproof foot gear recommended. No trails available. Foot traffic permitted. Beautiful wildflowers in summer. Watch for moose. Bird checklist at: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoor_activities/snas/pembina_trail_checklist.pdf

CONTACT: Regional Manager, DNR Ecological Services,
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE • Bemidji, MN 56601 • 218-755-3634 • www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/sna00988



Pembina Trail Preserve SNA

Katie Haws



Greater Prairie-Chicken

Roland Jordahl

18. PANKRATZ MEMORIAL PRAIRIE

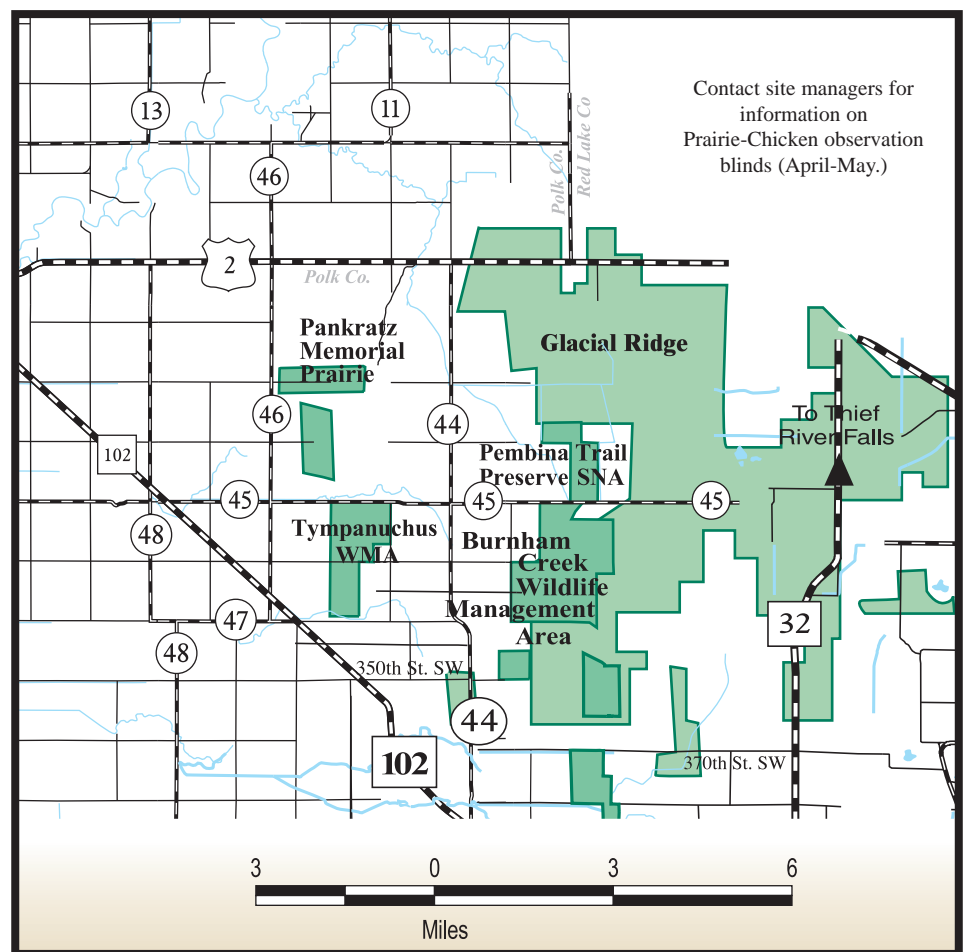
FEATURES: Native tallgrass and mesic prairie; calcareous fen and sedge marsh.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Greater Prairie-Chicken; Yellow Rail; Upland Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Wilson's Phalarope; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Sandhill Cranes stage in this area in April. Waterproof footgear recommended. No trails. Foot traffic permitted.

CONTACT: The Nature Conservancy,
15337 28th Ave. S., Glyndon, MN 56547,
218-498-2679. www.nature.org



19. TYMPANUCHUS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

FEATURES: 840 acre native prairie wildlife management area, managed by Minnesota DNR.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Greater Prairie-Chicken; Upland Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Short-eared Owl; LeConte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Waterproof footgear recommended. Foot traffic permitted. Prairie Chicken blinds are maintained by the DNR on prairie units in the area and booming chickens may be observed in late April/early May. Contact the Wildlife Office to make reservations.

CONTACT: Wildlife Area Manager, MN DNR, 204 S. Main, Crookston, MN 56716, 218-281-6063. www.dnr.state.mn.us • E-mail: info@dnr.state.mn.us



Blue-winged Teal

S. Nielsen



Yellow Rail

Warren Nelson

20. BURNHAM CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

FEATURES: This unit, comprised of 1,460 acres of prairies and a wetland impoundment, is managed by the Minnesota DNR.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through August.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Waterfowl; Rough-legged Hawk; Peregrine Falcon; Sandhill Crane; prairie sparrows; longspurs; passerines along brushy edges of impoundments.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Large concentrations of Sandhill Cranes are most likely in April. Longspur flocks move through in early spring. Shorebirds often use the impoundments. Best time to look is late April, May, July and August. Check brushy edges of east side of east pool for passerines. Area is closed to the public during September and October (waterfowl refuge).

CONTACT: Wildlife Area Manager, MN DNR, 204 S. Main, Crookston, MN 56716, 218-281-6063. www.dnr.state.mn.us • E-mail: info@dnr.state.mn.us

21. GLACIAL RIDGE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

FEATURES: The nation's largest tallgrass prairie restoration project was created in 2004 as the 545th refuge through the efforts of many partners. This 24,700 acre area of FWS and TNC land includes tallgrass prairie (dry, mesic and wet); aspen woods; sedge meadows; calcareous fens; and oak savanna.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Sandhill Cranes, Greater Prairie-Chickens, Bobolink, Marbled Godwits, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Savanna Sparrow, shorebirds and waterfowl.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Waterproof foot wear is recommended. No trails available. Access is by foot only. Prairie-Chicken Viewing/Photography blinds are available April-May. Contact the Crookston CVB, at 800-809-5997, for reservations.

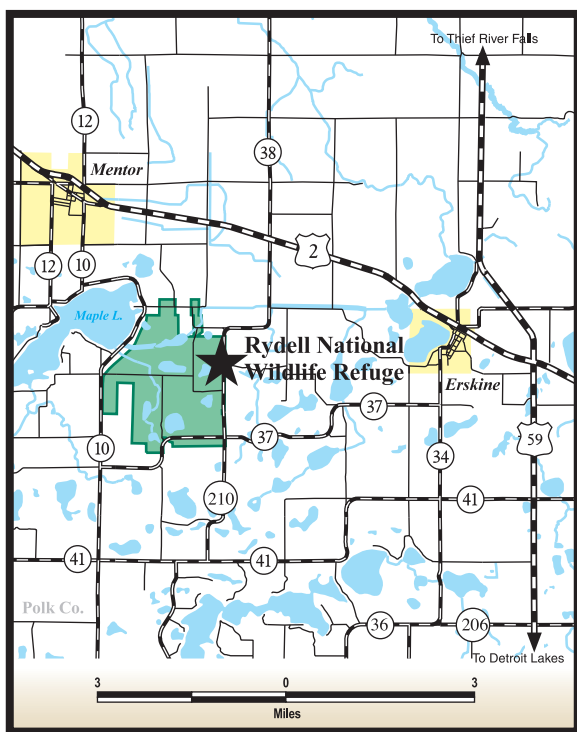
CONTACT: Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, please see contact info for Site #22 or The Nature Conservancy, Glacial Ridge Project, 31077 State Hwy. 32 S., Mentor, MN 56736, 218-637-2146. www.nature.org



Sandhill Crane

Stephen Maxson

Map on page 12 for sites 17-21.



★ indicates headquarters

22. RYDELL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HABITAT: Marshes; deciduous woodlands; fields.

FEATURES: This National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1992. It includes 2,200 acres with over seven miles of accessible trails, four of which are paved. A 500' bog boardwalk is also featured, as well as a wetland overlook platform.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: May through June; August through October.

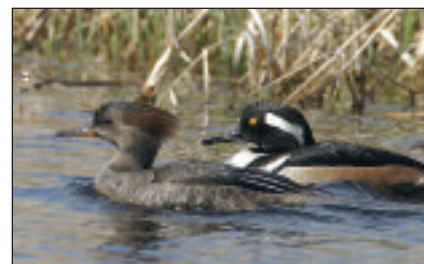
BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Nesting Trumpeter Swans; passerines, including Scarlet Tanager; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; grassland sparrows; Bobolink and finches.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE

AREA: Checklist available. Universally accessible trails. Refuge Office is open 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call ahead for visitor center and trail access hours.

CONTACT:

Rydell and Glacial Ridge NWR
17788 349th St SE,
Erskine, MN 56535, 800-841-0172.
www.fws.gov/midwest/rydell
E-mail: rydell@fws.gov



Hooded Mergansers

Roland Jordahl

23. AGASSIZ DUNES SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA (SNA) / AGASSIZ ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER (ELC)

FEATURES: Two interesting sites are located near Fertile. Both locales preserve remnants of Minnesota's only dunefield associated with Glacial Lake Agassiz. The ELC is owned and managed by the city of Fertile and consists of a 640 acre natural area. There is an interpretive center, a campground and ten miles of trail through riverine forest, blufflands, oak savannah and prairie. The SNA is managed by the Minnesota DNR. The SNA is 417 acres and contains dry prairie and oak savannah communities.



Agassiz Dunes

Bruce Lenning

BEST TIMES TO VISIT:

April through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Sharp-tailed Grouse; Greater Prairie-Chicken; Sandhill Crane; Upland Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Wilson's Phalarope; Marsh Wren; Clay-colored, LeConte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and a variety of migrant songbirds.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: The Sandhill River is a good corridor for songbirds in migration. The Learning Center offers trails and a rustic campground that are open every day. Call ahead for a program schedule and nature center hours.

Bird checklist:

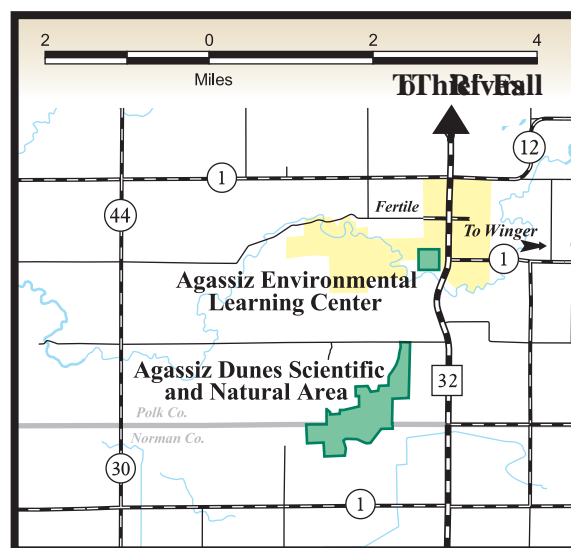
http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoor_activities/snas/agassiz_dunes_checklist.pdf

CONTACT: Regional Manager, DNR Ecological Services,

2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE • Bemidji, MN 56601

218-755-3634

www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/sna00972



24. WAUBUN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

FEATURES: Tallgrass prairie; cattail/sedge marsh; wet meadow.

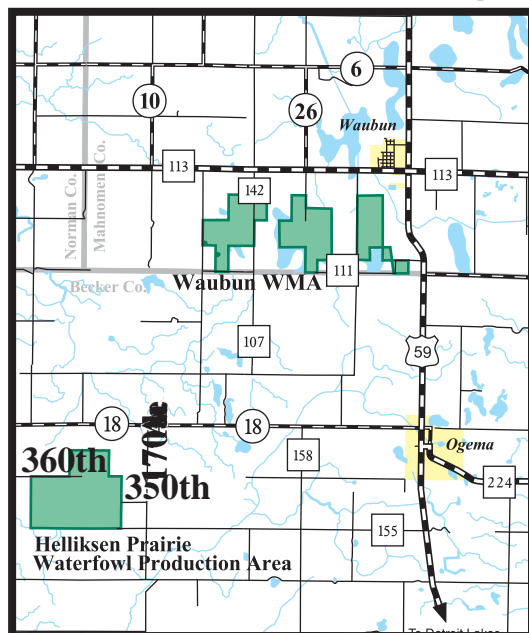
BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through June.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Northern Harrier; Greater Prairie-Chicken; Yellow Rail; Sandhill Crane; prairie sparrows including Nelson's Sharp-tailed.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE

AREA: Rails may not be present during dry years. Foot traffic permitted. Waterproof footwear recommended.

CONTACT: Wildlife Area Manager, MN DNR, 14583 Cty. Hwy. 19, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501. 218-847-1578. www.dnr.state.mn.us



25. HELLIKSEN PRAIRIE WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA

FEATURES: One of 168 Waterfowl Production Areas managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the surrounding counties, this site is 1372 acres of native tall grass prairie with numerous "prairie pothole" wetlands.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through June; September through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Waterfowl; Peregrine Falcon; Greater Prairie-Chicken; Sandhill Crane; Upland Sandpiper; Common Snipe; Sedge and Marsh Wren; prairie sparrows.

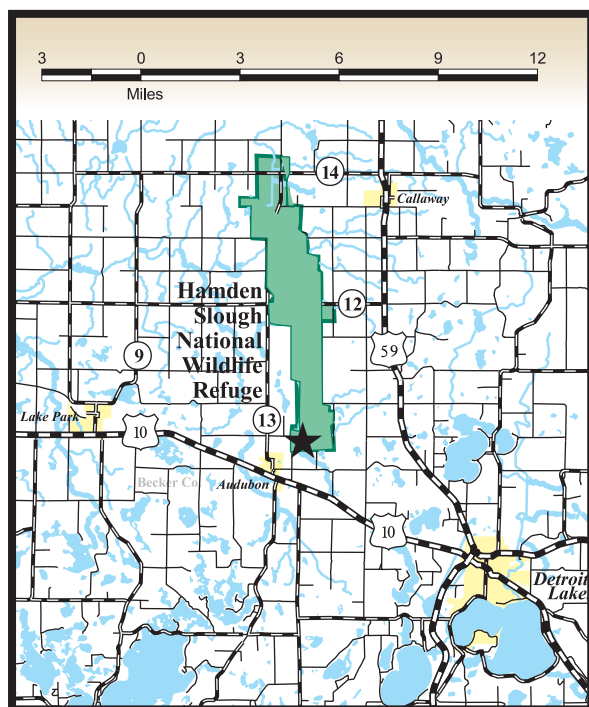
NOTES FOR BIRDING

THE AREA: Access the area from the east or west sides of the WPA. This WPA is a good area to view wildflowers.

CONTACT: Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, 26624 N. Tower Road, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, 218-847-4431. www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitlakes E-mail: detroitlakes@fws.gov



Greater Prairie Chicken Gerald Maertens



★ indicates contact station

26. HAMDEN SLOUGH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

FEATURES: This 3,200 acre USFWS refuge was established in 1989. The refuge features the prairie wetland ecosystem and is located in the prairie-hardwood transition zone.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through November.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR:

Waterfowl including Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Common Goldeneye and Ruddy Duck; shorebirds when marshes are in drawdown; Snowy Owl (winter only); Sedge and Marsh Wrens; Nelson's Sharp Tailed Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Dickcissel; Bobolink and Yellow-headed Blackbird. **Rarities seen include:** Cattle Egret and Piping Plover.

NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Checklist available.

CONTACT: Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District 26624 North Tower Road, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 218-847-4431 • www.fws.gov/midwest/hamdenslough/ E-mail: DetroitLakes@fws.gov



Hamden Slough

Bruce Lenning



Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

27. TAMARAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

FEATURES: Close to 43,000 acres. Prairie, bogs, hardwoods and pine forests. The refuge has an interpretive center, hiking trails, auto tour routes as well as boating available on refuge lakes and ponds. Managed by the USFWS.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT: April through June; August through October.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR: Common Loon; Trumpeter Swan; Wood Duck; Bald Eagle; Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks; Peregrine Falcon; Ruffed Grouse; American Woodcock; Winter, Sedge and Marsh Wrens; many neotropical migrants including 25 species of warblers possible in mid-May. **Rarities seen include:** White-winged Scoter; Great Gray Owl; Black-backed Woodpecker; Boreal Chickadee; Townsend's Solitaire; Northern Mockingbird; Cerulean Warbler and Spotted Towhee.

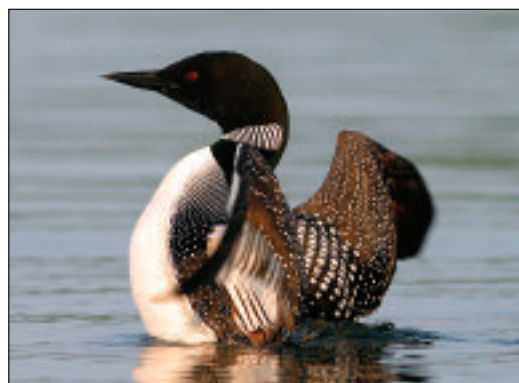
NOTES FOR BIRDING THE AREA: Checklist available. Stop at the visitor center for current information and several bird feeders offer excellent birding opportunities. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays year-round, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. summer weekends. Please share wildlife sightings with refuge staff. Closed federal holidays.

CONTACT: Tamarac NWR, 35704 Co. Hwy. 26, Rochert, MN 56578, 218-847-2641. www.fws.gov/midwest/tamarac
E-mail: tamarac@fws.gov



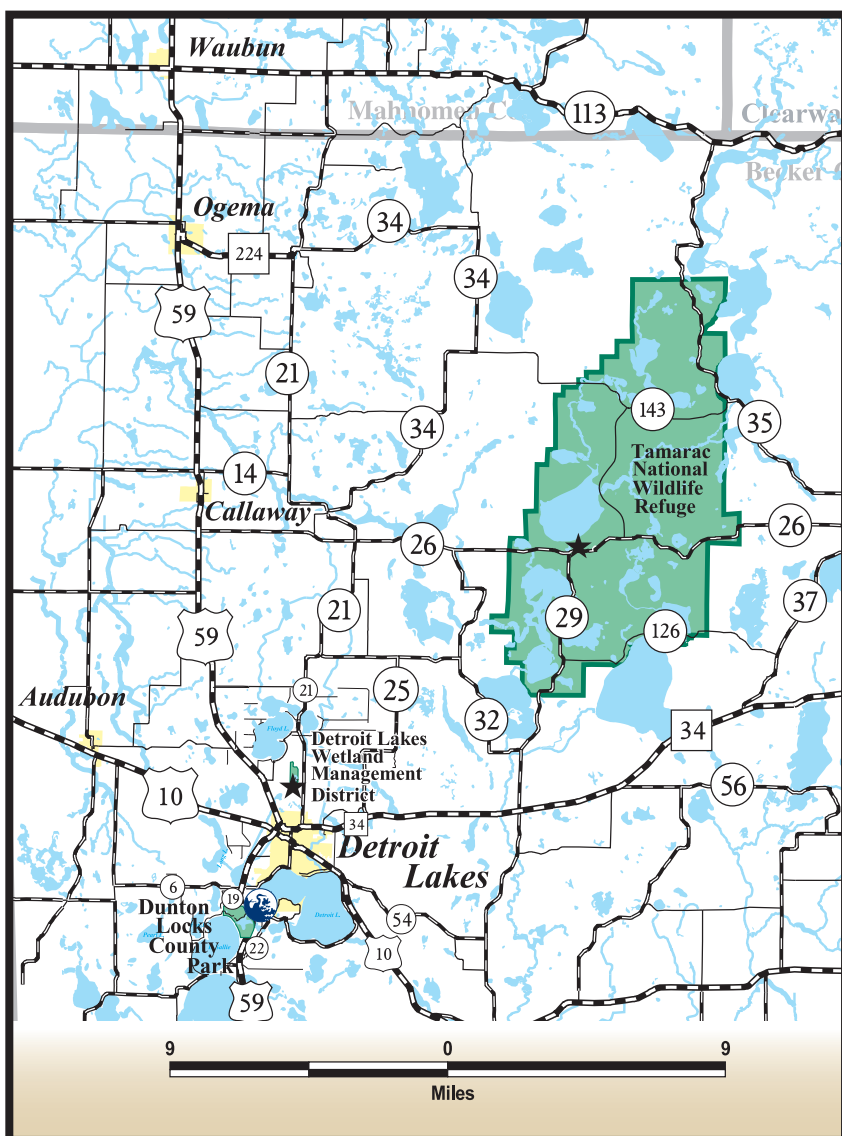
Ruffed Grouse

Peter Card Jr



Common Loon

Stephen Maxson



★ indicates headquarters