

123

Warren

144

42

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77

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# **Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail**

The Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail includes more than 70 sites in Minnesota and Manitoba for viewing birds and other wildlife.

In Minnesota, the birding trail spans 200 miles and has more than 50 that offer some of the most spectacular birding in the state. Look for birding



trail logo signs to identify trail sites or indicate trail sites are nearby. Interpretive signs are featured at select trail sites

Along with the scenic beauty and friendly communities, this birding trail provides a unique collection of habitats that provide homes for a tremendous variety of birds including some highly coveted species. Come any time of year. While spring, summer and fall offer an

> abundance of birds, winter is also an exciting time to see winter specialties.

> Enjoy your visit to northwestern Minnesota and happy birding!

> Additional information about the trail and the trail sites can be found at: MNBirdTrail.com



**explore** 

Otter Tail Lakes Country

800-423-4571

OtterTailCountry.com

MINNESOTA

# Biomes

Biomes are distinct biological communities that have formed in response to a shared physical climate.

# Conifer/Mixed Forest

This biome is characterized by cone-bearing conifer trees such as pine, spruce, fir and tamarack. It also includes mixed forests of aspen, birch, maple or basswood with the conifers. The landscape ranges from rugged lake-dotted terrain, to large, flat, poorly drained peatlands and conifer bogs.

# **Tallgrass Aspen Parklands**

This biome is a mosaic of prairie and sedge fens (wetlands fed by groundwater) accented by scattered groves of aspens or bur oaks. "Parklands" refers to the open prairie dotted with patches of trees. This biome is a transition between dry, windy prairies to the west and moist, cool bogs and forests to the east. Minnesota is the only place in the continental United States where this biome is found.

## **Deciduous Forest**

This biome is characterized by deciduous trees such as maple, oak and aspen; the leaves of these trees change color and drop at the end of the growing season. This biome is a transition between prairie and conifer/mixed forests, and generally receives more precipitation than Tallgrass Aspen Parklands.

## **Prairie Grassland**

This biome is characterized by flat or rolling grasslands as well as many wetlands and shallow lakes. Summer temperatures tend to be warmer and rainfall is lower than other biomes of Minnesota. Prairie grasslands once covered more than 16 million acres in Minnesota. Only three percent of prairie remains in modern Minnesota.

Pine to Prairie

**International Birding Trail** 

prairie Intern-

# **Community Information**

For detailed information about the trail sites and their location, sponsoring communities, lodging, and birding tips, visit the Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail website: MNBirdTrail.com

> Fergus Falls 218-446-0002 VisitFergusFalls.com



**Pelican Rapids** 218-863-7076 PelicanRapids.com



**Kittson County** 218-843-3674 TourKittsonCounty.com



**Detroit Lakes** 218-847-9202 VisitDetroitLakes.com



Thief River Falls

**SFALLS** 

Roseau 218-463-0009 GoRoseau.com



Warren 218-745-5343 WarrenMinnesota.com WARREN

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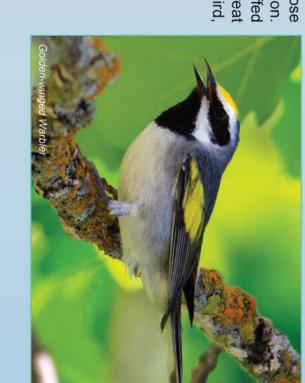
# **Habitats**

Information about habitats is provided to help you choose trail sites for your visit. All trail sites provide good birding opportunities. See *MNBirdTrail.com* for detailed trail site information and refer to eBird Trail Tracker for recent sightings.

# **Deciduous Forest**

Deciduous forest is characterized by trees that lose their leaves at the end of each growing season. Birds associated with deciduous forest: Ruffed Grouse, Cooper's Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Baltimore Oriole, Ovenbird, Golden-winged Warbler, and American Redstart.





# Conifer/Mixed Forest

Conifer/mixed forest contains evergreen trees that bear cones as well as some deciduous trees. Birds associated with conifer forest: Spruce Grouse, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Northern Goshawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Boreal Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Pine Siskin, White-throated Sparrow, Connecticut Warbler, and Pine Warbler.





# Prairie

Prairies are grasslands that can be dry or wet. Birds associated with prairie: Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Upland Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Short-eared Owl, American Kestrel, Horned Lark, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, and Brewer's Blackbird.

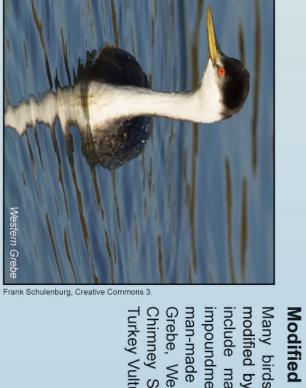
One of the best ways to experience Greater Prairie-Chicken is to view them in spring from a blind. The Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society has contact information for reserving a blind: *PrairieChickens.org/how-to-view.* 

# Wetlands/Lakes/Rivers

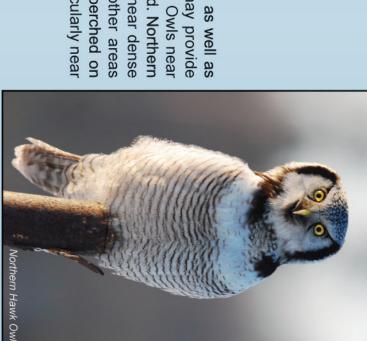
and bog. Birds associated with wetlands: Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Yellow Rail, Black Tern, American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Sedge Wren, Nelson's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Birds associated with lakes and rivers:

Mallard, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Spotted Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Common Loon, American White Pelican, Osprey, and Belted Kingfisher. Wetlands are the link between land and water and have many names: pond, swamp, marsh, and bog. Birds associated

Franklin's Gull in Flight by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren is licensed under CC BY 2.0.



Many birds are adaptable and will use habitats modified by people. These habitats along the trail include marinas, waste treatment ponds, water impoundments and city parks. Birds associated with man-made habitats: Gadwall, Redhead, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Chimney Swift, Greater Yellowlegs, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, and Tree Swallow.



Winter

Winter is an excellent time to look for owls and finches as well as other hardy species. Open bodies of water in winter may provide opportunities to see Trumpeter Swans. Look for Snowy Owls near open fields, on the tops of power poles, or on the ground. Northern Hawk Owls can be seen perched on the tops of trees near dense conifer or conifer/mixed forest bordering marshes or other areas cleared by fire or logging. Look for Great Gray Owls perched on the edge of bogs and open areas and along roads, particularly near conifer/mixed forests.

Northern Hawk Owl by Evetuisk is licensed under CC-BY-SA-3.0.