

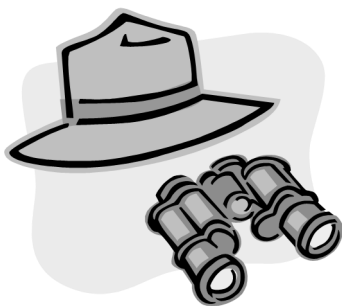


Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Superior National Forest | Tofte and Gunflint Ranger Districts | April 11, 2023

Birding

East Zone
Map Inside



More on Important Bird Areas

<http://mn.audubon.org/conservation/minnesota-important-bird-areas>

The Superior National Forest is truly a superior place for birding. It is recognized by the American Bird Conservancy as a Globally Important Bird Area, one of 500 in the United States. Audubon Minnesota also identifies it as an Important Bird Area in Minnesota. Located at the boundary between boreal and eastern hardwood forest types, the Superior has a wide variety of habitats which support 155 nesting species of birds and 220 species with regular occurrences. Adding to the variety of its forest ecosystem are wetlands ranging from peat bogs to the Superior's namesake lake at its eastern border.

FR=Forest Road—gravel, narrow, lower maintenance, often not plowed.

CR=County Road—paved or gravel, wider, higher maintenance.

Point numbering is mostly from west to east.

Summer Locations

FIRE-DISTURBED LANDSCAPES

Look for mourning warblers, white-throated sparrows, dark-eyed junco and black-backed woodpeckers. You might also find three-toed woodpeckers, or olive-sided flycatchers.

1. Greenwood Fire Area — 2021 wildfire viewed from McDougal Lake Campground and CR2.

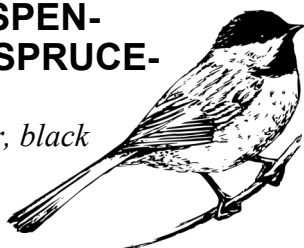
7. Pagami Fire Area — 2011 wildfire which crossed the Tomahawk Road FR377.

30. Upper Gunflint / Magnetic Rock Tr — Road stops along Gunflint Trail: see forest regenerating after 2007 Ham Lake wildfire.

31. Kekekabic Trail — Hike trail to see diverse post-fire habitats.

MIXED FOREST (ASPEN-BIRCH OR ASPEN-SPRUCE-FIR)

Look for Nashville warbler, black-throated green warbler, magnolia warbler, Swainson's thrush,



ruffed grouse, American woodcock, least flycatcher, Canada warbler. You might find northern goshawk, black-billed cuckoo, Cape May warbler, northern saw-whet owl.

12. Hoist Lake Road FR358 — Drive west following FR 358, FR359, FR361, FR362 to FR172.

13. Cramer Rd CR7 — From Finland to FR171 north to Harriet Lake.

27. Shoe Lake Rd FR313 — Drive loop from Greenwood Lake Rd to Arrowhead Trail, and south to Hwy 61.

RIPARIAN SHRUB

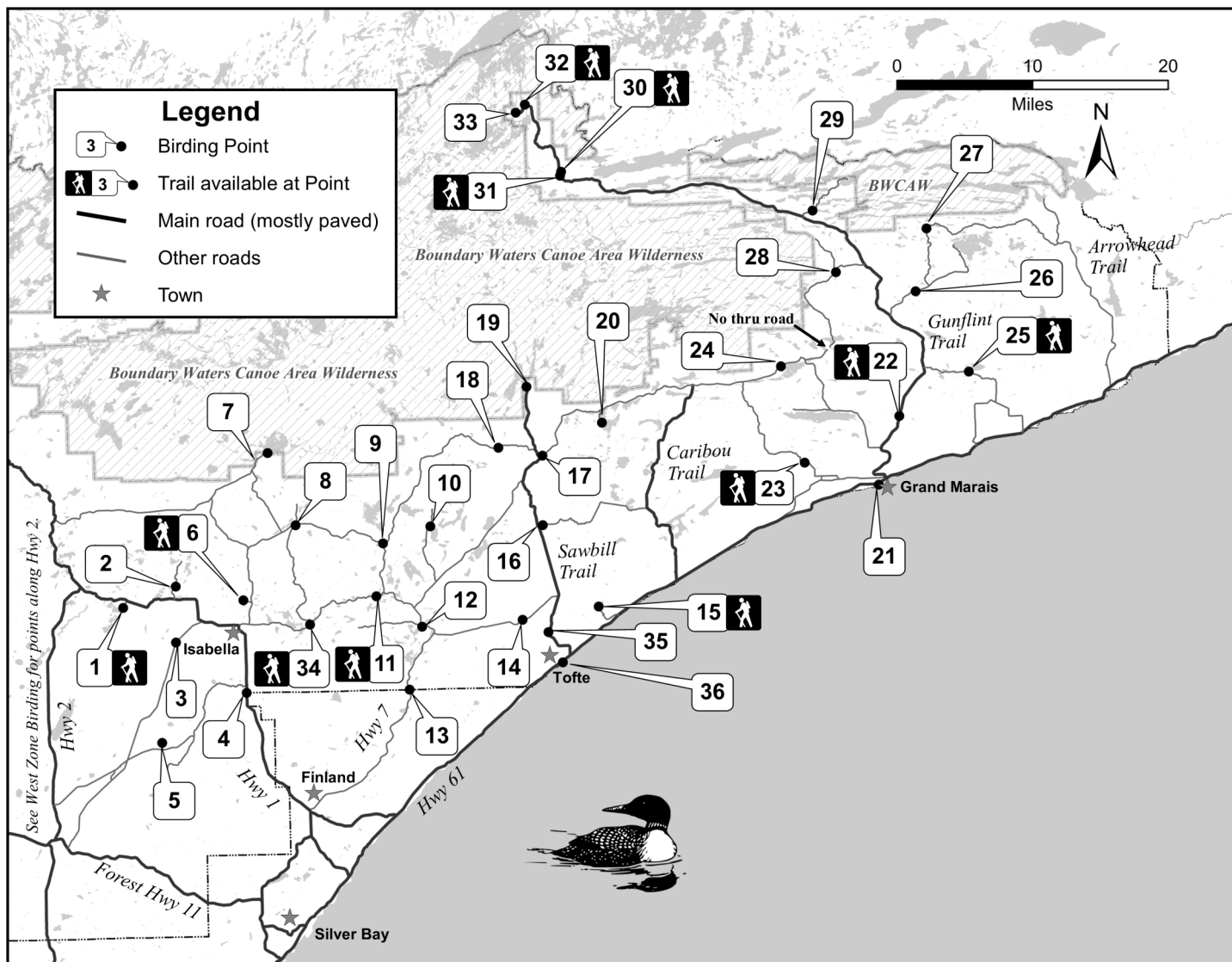
Look for alder flycatcher, common yellowthroat, Wilson's snipe, swamp sparrow, yellow warbler, or cedar waxwing. You might find Wilson's warbler, golden-winged warbler or Philadelphia vireo.

17. The Grade FR170 (West) — start here and follow FR170 east.

13. Cramer Rd CR7 — From Finland to FR171 north to Harriet Lake.

23. Bally Creek Rd FR158 — Good stops along road or hike along Superior Hiking Trail.

28. Lima Triangle — Famous birding spot; explore dense shrub habitat around Triangle: Lima Grade Rd FR152 to FR315 (fork going north) or FR152 (fork going south) for excellent views of coniferous wetlands.



Use this map with a Forest Visitor Map, available online on the Superior National Forest's "Maps and Publications" webpage or at Forest offices.

A georeferenced pdf version of this map usable with wayfinding apps such as Avenza is available also on the Superior National Forest's "Maps and Publications" webpage.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/superior/maps-pubs>



Look for your desired habitat type in the text under Summer or Winter Locations, or look for highlighted species in *italics*.

The map above will guide you to points which are examples of that habitat.

OR

Plot your route using the map. The table on the next page will show you the season and habitat under which you will find the text related to the points along that route.

Birding tips

Many publications exist for birders on the Superior. Area check lists, local field guides, and more are available free or for purchase at Forest Service offices.

Point	Season: Summer Winter	Habitat
1	S, W	Fire-disturbed
2	S	Conifer Forest
3	S	Bog
4	W	Bog, Plowed Road
5	S	Bog
6	S	Conifer Forest
7	S	Fire-disturbed
8	S	Young Forest
9	S	Young Forest
10	S	Lakes
11	S	Lakes
12	S	Mixed Forest
13	S	Mixed Forest, Riparian, Plowed Road
14	S	Hardwoods
15	S	Hardwoods
16	S	Hardwoods
17	S	Riparian
18	S, W	Bog
19	S	Conifer Forest
20	S	Lakes
21	S, W	Lakes, Plowed Road, Town
22	S	Conifer Forest
23	S	Riparian
24	S, W	Bog
25	S	Hardwoods
26	S	Young Forest, Plowed Road
27	S	Mixed Forest
28	S	Riparian
29	S	Lakes
30	S, W	Fire-disturbed
31	S	Fire-disturbed
32	S	
33	S	Conifer Forest
34	S	Bog
35	W	Plowed Road
36	W	Town

Summer Locations

CONIFER FOREST (RED AND WHITE PINE, WHITE SPRUCE, BALSAM FIR)

Look for red-breasted nuthatch, Blackburnian warbler, blue-headed vireo, hermit thrush or northern parula. You might find pine warbler, eastern wood pewee, evening grosbeak or red crossbill.

2. Mitawan Lake Rd CR702 — old-growth red and white pine north to Grouse and Mitawan Lakes.

6. Eighteen Lake — Public landing and hiking trail around lake.

19. Sawbill Lake — Public landing. Also see Point 17 (The Grade FR170 West).

22. George Washington Pines — Hiking in summer, cross-country skiing in winter.

33. Trail's End — Walk campground loop with mature white pines.

YOUNG FOREST (DECIDUOUS AND CONIFEROUS)

Look for Nashville warbler, mourning warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, veery, white throated sparrow, and American woodcock. You might find golden-winged warbler.

8. Dumbbell River Road FR174 — Head south from point to intersection with FR172.

9. Trappers Lk Road FR369 —

Head west from point on FR369 or follow CR7 north.

26. Greenwood Lake Rd FR309 — Views of recent harvests with reserve areas and scattered trees.

32. Chik-Wauk Museum & Nature Center — Trails through several different habitats, usually nesting loons in spring. Partially burned in 2007.



LAKES AND LAKESHORE

Look for bald eagle, common loon, belted kingfisher, common merganser, trumpeter swan. You might find osprey, northern waterthrush, hooded merganser, common goldeneye, merlin.

11. Hogback Lake — Hiking trails to Scarp and Lupus Lakes.

10. Whitefish Lake — View from landing or canoe to Elbow, Timber and Frear Lakes.

20. Crescent Lake — Public landing. Or drive east along FR170 to Lichen, Gust or Cascade Lakes.

21. Grand Marais — Excellent views of Superior from the waterfront park or campground marina.

29. Clearwater Rd CH22 — Many small lakes and wetlands viewable close-up from this road; public boat launch.



Superior National Forest - Birding East Zone

Summer Locations

Winter Locations

HARDWOOD FOREST (NORTH SHORE UPLANDS)

Look for ovenbird, black-and-white warbler, rose-breasted grosbeak, yellow-bellied sapsucker, pileated woodpecker. You might find black-throated blue warbler, scarlet tanager, wood thrush, great-crested flycatcher.

14. Heartbreak Hill — This point and all of the '600 Road' FR166 from Sawbill Tr CR2 to CR7.

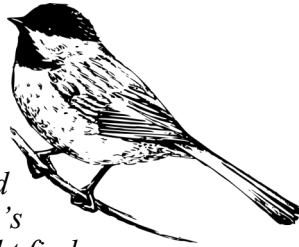
15. Oberg Mountain — Onion River Rd FR336 and hiking trails to Oberg and LeVeaux Mountains.

16. Honeymoon Trail FR164 — From point go east and follow FR164 about 10 miles to intersections with the Caribou Trail CR4.

25. Trout Lake Rd FR140 — Stop along road or boat around any of the Lakes. Mature sugar maple stands reachable from Kadunce Hunter-Walking Trails.

BOGS (OPEN AND FORESTED)

Look for Canada jay, yellow-bellied flycatcher, golden-crowned kinglet, yellow-rumped warbler, palm warbler, Lincoln's sparrow, winter wren. You might find boreal chickadee, spruce grouse, boreal owl, great gray owl, Connecticut warbler, white-winged crossbill.



3. Stony River Grade FR380 — Follow old railroad grade from point southwest to CR15.

5. Whyte Road Bog FR102 — Off-trail hiking north from the Whyte Road FR102 into an open bog, also great site for dragonflies. Experienced navigators only.

18. Plouff Creek — This point and driving east or west along CR3.

24. The Grade FR170 (East) — Excellent driving route in summer and winter.

34. Bog Boardwalk — A floating boardwalk into the bog. It can be submerged in high water

FIRE-DISTURBED LANDSCAPES

Look for black-backed and three-toed woodpeckers, downy, and hairy woodpeckers, northern hawk owls.

1. Greenwood Fire Area — 2021 wildfire viewed from McDougal Lake campground and CR2.

30. Upper Gunflint/Magnetic Rock Trail — Multiple fires have left their mark here. 2007 Ham Lake fire was the most recent.

BOGS (OPEN AND FORESTED)

Look for great gray owl, hawk owl, boreal chickadee, Canada jay, golden-crowned kinglet, spruce grouse.

4. MN Highway 1 — Between Finland and Isabella.

18. Plouff Creek — Driving east or west along CR3.

24. The Grade FR170 — Between points 17 and 24.

PLOWED ROADS

Look for red and white-winged crossbills, pine grosbeak, common redpolls, purple finches, pine siskins and Bohemian waxwings. You might find hoary redpolls, northern shrike, spruce grouse and great gray owls.

4. MN Highway 1 — Between Hwy 61 and Isabella.

13. Cramer Rd CR7 — Finland north to road's end.

35. Sawbill Trail CR2 — Between Tofte and Sawbill Lake. Check north end for spruce grouse.

26. Greenwood Lake Rd FR309 — Usually plowed; also Shoe Lake Rd FR313 typically plowed 5-10 miles.

TOWNS

BERRY-PRODUCING TREES Look for Bohemian waxwings, cedar waxwings, pine grosbeaks. You might find northern cardinals. **PUBLIC FEEDERS:** Look for pine siskins, common redpolls, downy woodpecker, pine grosbeaks. You might find evening grosbeaks and hoary redpolls.

35. Tofte Park — Waxwings visit the berry trees between the park and Bluefin Resort.

21. Grand Marais — Drive or walk down many of the residential streets in town and you are likely to encounter mountain ash and other berry producing shrubs and trees.

For more information, go to www.fs.usda.gov/superior on the web or contact:

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