

IBirds



Prothonotary Warbler

America's greatest migration corridor

- **Thousands of Tundra Swans in the downriver backwaters.**
- **Over 500 Bald Eagles in spring and fall.**
- **3/4 of world's population of C. Mergansers in late November**
- **Hundreds of rare migrating songbirds, ducks and hawks.**

Designated by the American Bird Conservancy a
Globally Important Bird Area



Common Merganser

Minnesota



Hudsonian Godwit

Site 1. Lake City's Lake Pepin Vistas: Park on side streets and cross to the water's edge. Any duck species can be seen from here. Find huge rafts of Common Mergansers in November (and in December in a warm winter). Check for shorebirds on the sand April through November (in cold weather, there may be a Purple Sandpiper!) Bald Eagles can be found in any season from any vista.

Head toward Ohuta Park and follow the one way signs past the mobile homes to a parking area. Find great vistas in late fall when C. Mergansers are in the thousands and Bald Eagles are fishing. Scoping carefully, even in the distance, you might see a rare Pacific, Red-throated or very rare Yellow-billed Loon, besides migrant Common Loons April-June and in September until freeze-up.

Especially in November, December and May check the two in-town marinas and the jetty for Black, White-winged and Surf Scoters. Someday, Eiders will be found here, too.

From Roschen Park boat landing, see terns (Common, Caspian, Forsters and Black are regular) during spring migration and in fall, jaegers may be harrasing gulls. Check for Glaucous, Iceland, Thayers and less common Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwakes among the Herring and Ring-billed roosting on the lake at night. Many species are waiting to be discovered along this shore. Long-tailed Ducks, any loons, scoters and rafts of C. Mergansers can be found here in spring or fall. From Roschen Park, take two left turns and follow Oak Street, staying close to the river. Past a creek and across from a railroad trestle on your right, scope Lake Pepin for shorebirds in May and scoters (especially Black) and gulls in November. A good Bald Eagle spot along the creek. Check the water at open vistas behind the small brick building further down Oak Street and at the dead end at the Sportsman's Club for Greater Scaup flocks and other ducks and gulls.

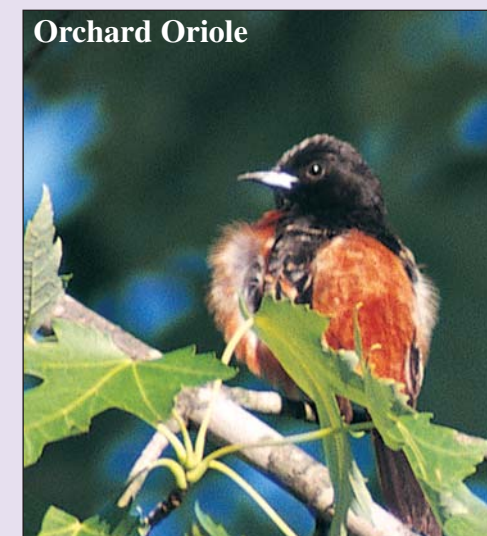


Common Tern



Site 2. Hok-si-la Municipal

Park-Lake City: A migrant trap of mixed woods that juts out into Lake Pepin where warblers drip from trees in a good mid-May migration, including Cerulean and Connecticut. Check the entrance road's bottomland woods, wetland areas and parking lot woods for Barred Owls, ducks, Pileated Woodpeckers and migrants. A walk through the grass opening to the right of the parking lot eventually weaves throughout the campground with an overlook above a "birdy" creek. Continue upriver through oaks and circle to the lot through tall pines where there are more warblers, records of Cooper's Hawks and Long-eared Owls. Walk an old road down to the water for shorebirds, gulls and tern rarities. Heading upriver on Hwy 61, scope the boat landing and rest stop for loons, Greater Scaup, gulls and Canvasbacks. Try mid-late November for huge C. Merganser flocks and swooping/feeding Bald Eagles.



Orchard Oriole

Site 3. Frontenac State Park:

Very diverse uplands, scenic vistas, oak savanna, bison farm adjacent bottomland woods, wetlands and a small lake. Look for these areas on a park map: From Old Frontenac, turn inland on Cty 2. In the fields on your left, listen for dawn and dusk singing Henslow's Sparrows in late May and summer. Turn right onto Cty 28 to drive or walk and listen for breeding Orchard Orioles or Northern Shrikes in winter. The scenic overlook of Lake Pepin parking lot has trees where you might find Cerulean Warblers, and in winter, concentrations of Bald Eagles. Another hot area and road worth driving, stopping or walking all seasons is Hill Avenue for Wild Turkey, Ring-necked Pheasants and songbirds. After a mile, gated park roads on your right have breeding E. Towhee, Scarlet Tanagers and Wood Thrush. Winter birds also find good shelter here. Also take Cty 2 to Hwy 61 stopping at the wetlands and the lake area. *Frontenac State Park is only 6 miles from Lake City.*



Henslow's Sparrow



Site 3. Old Frontenac:

At Hwy 61, continue up Cty 2, a great songbird area. Scan the creek and stop for any migrating flocks. Walk through Villa Maria where at dusk Chimney Swifts funnel in. Walk the Old Frontenac Cemetery off Wood Street. Tufted Titmice, Red-shouldered Hawks and birds in all seasons can be heard and seen on the gated cemetery road. Wintering crossbills are sometimes in the evergreen treetops and many birds hang in the low brushy areas. In Old Frontenac, walk any of the neighborhood streets or roads checking the area in spring for migrants and at feeders for Tufted Titmouse and other wintering species. *Old Frontenac is only 8 miles from Lake City.*



Scarlet Tanager



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Site 6. Kellogg Dunes, Nature Conservancy and McCarthy Lake area: A prairie patchwork of public land among private areas. South of Kellogg and opposite Hwy 42, turn left, right, then left onto Cty 84, a loop off Hwy 61. In low lying fields, check for flocks of Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks (erratic October-April.) Flooded fields can host interesting shorebirds and ducks. Listen in spring and summer for dawn-calling Sandhill Cranes (in fields in summer) and Eastern Bluebirds on wires. This narrow road requires parking at intersections but not blocking traffic. *Kellogg is only 17.4 miles from Lake City.*



At Half Moon Landing, birds gather in shrubs and wood edges during spring migration. At the Dunes SNA, listen for Eastern Meadowlarks and Field Sparrows. You may see or hear Orchard Orioles and Lark Sparrows, too. On the right at signs marked McCarthy Lake WMA, find two parking spots. Walk the gated road listening for Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels. At the first wetland with a small wetland, you can hear Bell's Vireos. On the left side of Cty 84, find Nature Conservancy signs (private). Walk any road in this area for sparrows. Tall pines in winter might have crossbills, finches and owls.



Saw-whet Owl

Site 7. Weaver Bottoms: Best known as a significant Tundra Swan concentration area from mid-October through November, however, concentrations of several species of waterbirds are found here. At MM 45 on Hwy 61, pull off and enter the frontage at the cemeteries. Walk up this road and scope safely. In spring and fall, find ducks of every species and check for rarities. In July, August and September (sometimes June), find numbers of American White Pelicans. Look skyward toward the bluffs where they may be soaring high in the thermals. In September to early October, Trumpeter Swan families stop. From April to November, shorebirds are a bit far out, but Am. Avocets and others stop. Herons and Bald Eagles are common. Between MM 45 and Minnieiska, unpredictable concentrations of almost any species can be seen. Records here include thousands of Ring-billed Gulls and huge migrant waves of Common Terns. Scope for more solitary and unusual loons as well as Goldeneyes and Long-tailed Ducks. *Weaver Bottoms is only 26.6 miles from Lake City.*



Tundra Swan

Site 8. Whitewater Valley-Highway 74: A scenic, mostly public Wildlife Management Area and State Park with cold water streams, ponds, bluffland and woodland areas. One of Minnesota's best birding areas along this 14-mile stretch of Hwy 74. Easy access from Hwy 61 at Weaver. Check hunting schedules before venturing through this popular hunting area.

Ponds: Many heron and duck species, some in large concentrations. Shorebirds in draw downs.

Wetland areas: Check for Common Moorhen, Least Bittern, marsh birds, rails and Sandhill Crane.

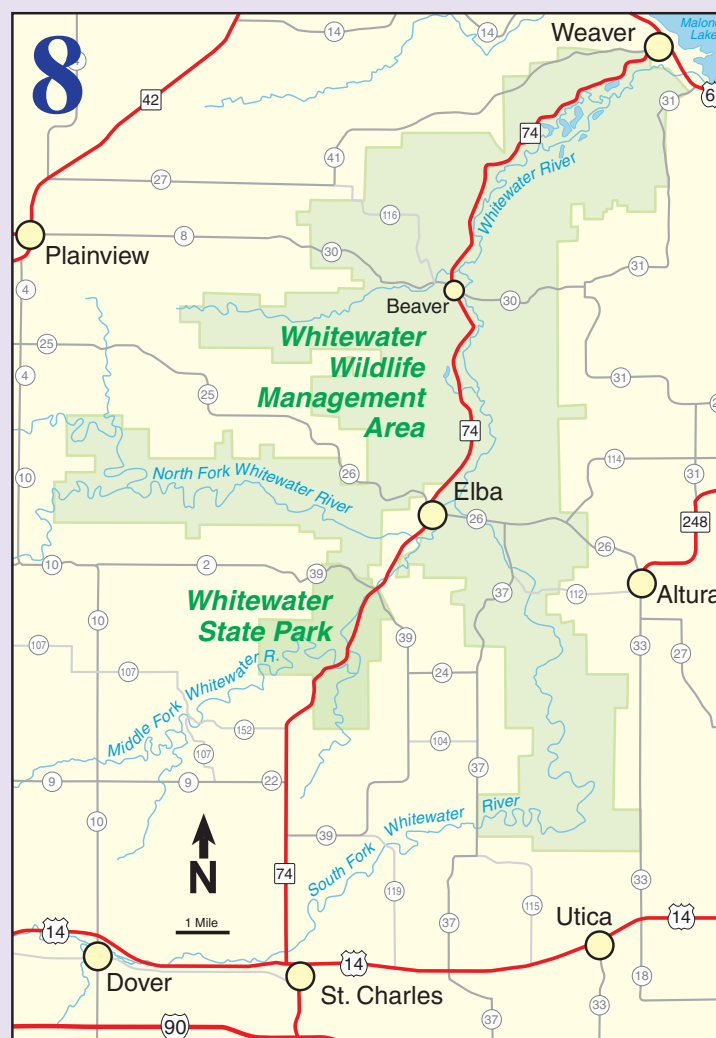
Woods: Find diverse species such as Blue-winged Warbler, Eastern Towhee, some Cerulean Warbler, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager and Ruffed Grouse. Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Cooper's Hawks nest, and in migration, find Merlins, Sharp-shinned Hawks and N. Goshawks. Peregrine Falcons have been spotted.

Streams: Attract Winter Wren and Louisiana Waterthrush.

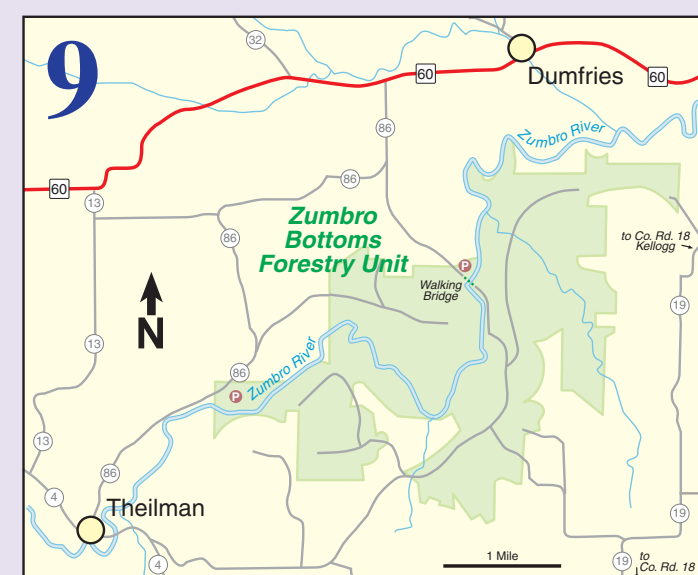
Winter: Scope for Golden Eagles flying above tree tops and blufflands, not to be mistaken for immature Bald Eagles. Good spot for finch, crossbills possible, owls (including a record Great Gray in an invasion year). Well-maintained feeder areas at Park and WMA headquarters. *The Whitewater Valley area is only 24.8 miles from Lake City.*



Sandhill Crane



Site 9. Zumbro Bottoms: A beautiful area with a slightly complicated access, and well maintained long trails. The habitat is nearly identical to Whitewater Valley with no ponds or extensive wetland areas. Favored during the weekends by horse lovers. Best access is from Hwy 61 at Kellogg. *The Zumbro Bottoms are only 13.7 miles from Lake City.*

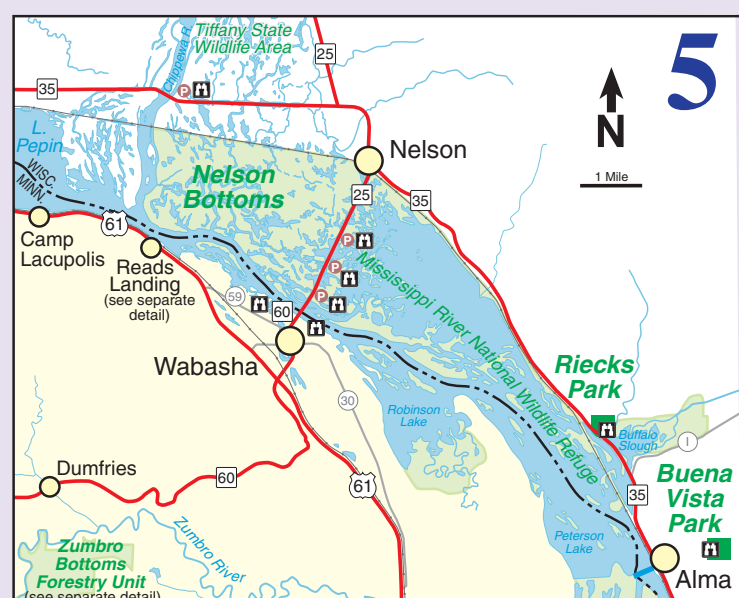


American White Pelican

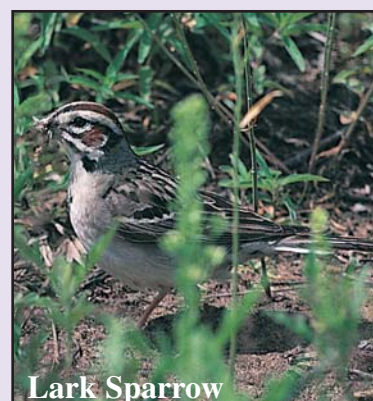
Site 4. Lake City to Reads Landing: Carefully pull over to lakeside parking areas with great vistas. These pulloffs make easy viewing of Common Mergansers and other duck species, especially as the ice forms and retreats. Bald Eagles display on the ice edges and feed from November (some days over 500 counted) through March. The confluence of the Chippewa River keeps the water open year round and food accessible for several species. In fall and spring, scope for all three scoters, Long-tailed Ducks and possible Barrow's Goldeneye at the narrows and check for jaegers and rare gulls in November. Take the first left in Reads Landing driving toward the water. In spring, the waterside road is a migrant hotspot. Some duck species and numbers of Bald Eagles roost and winter here. *Reads Landing is only 8.5 miles from Lake City.*



Bald Eagle

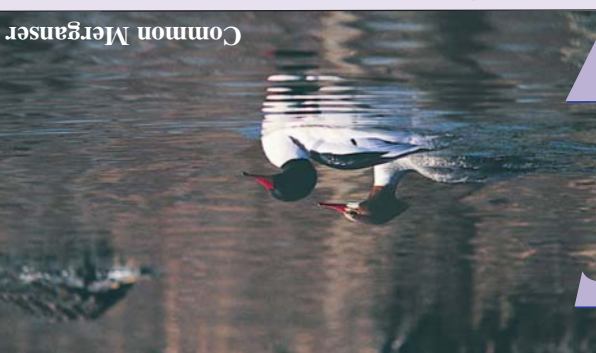


Site 5. Wabasha to Alma: Immediately south of Reads Landing on Hwy 61, turn left onto Cty 59 and cross the tracks. Pass the Hwy 60 interstate bridge and turn left at Pembroke Avenue looking for the National Eagle Center signs as you approach the River. Backtrack to the bridge and cross the river to enter the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge at Nelson Bottoms. At the boat landings and the woods edge in spring and fall, songbird migration can be good. In this great bottomland forest, Prothonotary and Cerulean Warblers, several species of woodpeckers, Great Crested Flycatchers and Yellow-throated Vireos nest. Check the ponds and sloughs for migrating ducks and possibly Tundra Swans and American White Pelicans close to the road in season. In Nelson, follow Hwy 35 as the road crosses through Tiffany Bottoms. At the Chippewa River, find numerous Bald Eagles from November through March. *Wabasha is only 9.6 miles from Lake City and Nelson is another 3 miles.*



Lark Sparrow

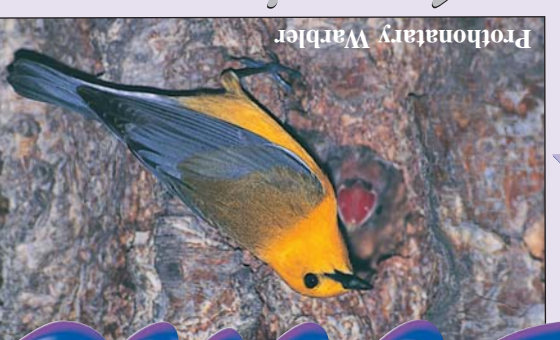
From Nelson turn south onto Hwy WI 35. On the rock face cliffs, look for perched and flying Peregrine Falcons between April and fall. At Reick's Lake in Alma, Wis., enjoy premium looks at very close ducks in spring and fall. This is a renown stop-over site for migrating Tundra Swans mid-October through freeze-up in late November and sometimes spring. The observation deck has permanent scopes. In Alma, look for signs to Buena Vista Park, well worth the drive for an awesome panoramic view of the Mississippi River. In spring and fall, find migrating hawks and eagles in good numbers, and summer through September soaring American White Pelicans. You might catch the fly by Peregrine Falcon near the smoke stack. Return to Lake City via the Hwy 60 bridge or head south to cross the Mississippi at Winona taking Hwy 61 north. *Alma is only 9 miles past Nelson, Wis.*



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Former a greater migration corridor



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