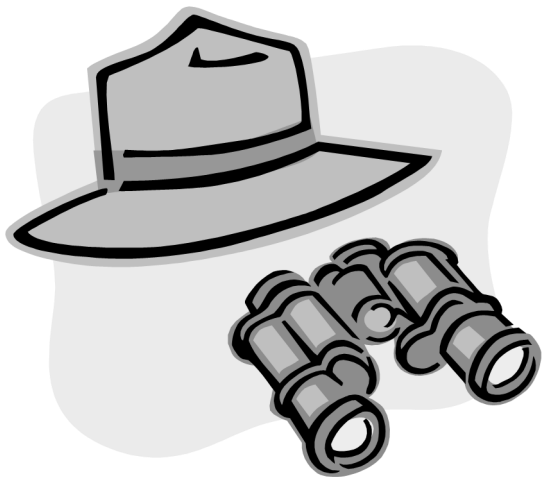
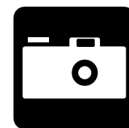




Birding

West Zone
Map Inside



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. This West Zone birding guide includes opportunities on the

forest's LaCroix, Laurentian and Kawishiwi districts.

More on Important Bird Areas

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

Summer Locations

FIRE-DISTURBED LANDSCAPES

Look for black-backed woodpeckers, mourning warblers. You might find three-toed woodpeckers, northern hawk owls, olive-sided flycatchers.

- 1. Pagami Creek**—Large wildfire at end of Tomahawk Road (Forest Road 377)
- 2. Foss Lake**—Wildfire on south end of Crab Lake accessed from Burntside Lake portage to Crab Lake
- 3. Pitcha Pine**—Fire in pines by Highways 1 and 2

MIXED FOREST

Look for broad-winged hawks, Canada and black-throated green warblers, golden-crowned kinglets, rose-breasted grosbeak. You might find northern goshawks, northern saw-whet owl.

- 4. Burntside Armpit**—Portage between Burntside Lake's North Arm and West Twin Lake
- 5. Bass Lake Trail**—Trailhead on Echo Trail
- 6. Vermilion Gorge Trail**—Trailhead in Crane Lake
- 7. White Pine Picnic Area**—Old growth white pine forest off Highway 2

RIPARIAN SHRUB

Look for alder flycatchers, common yellowthroats, American goldfinch. You might find golden-winged and Wilson's warblers, clay-colored sparrows.

- 8. Stoney River**—Lowland shrubs near rest stop at the intersection of Highways 1 and 2
- 9. Pelican River**—Follows Elephant Lake Road (CR180) for several miles
- 10. Island River**—Crosses the Tomahawk Road (Forest Road 377) on the east end

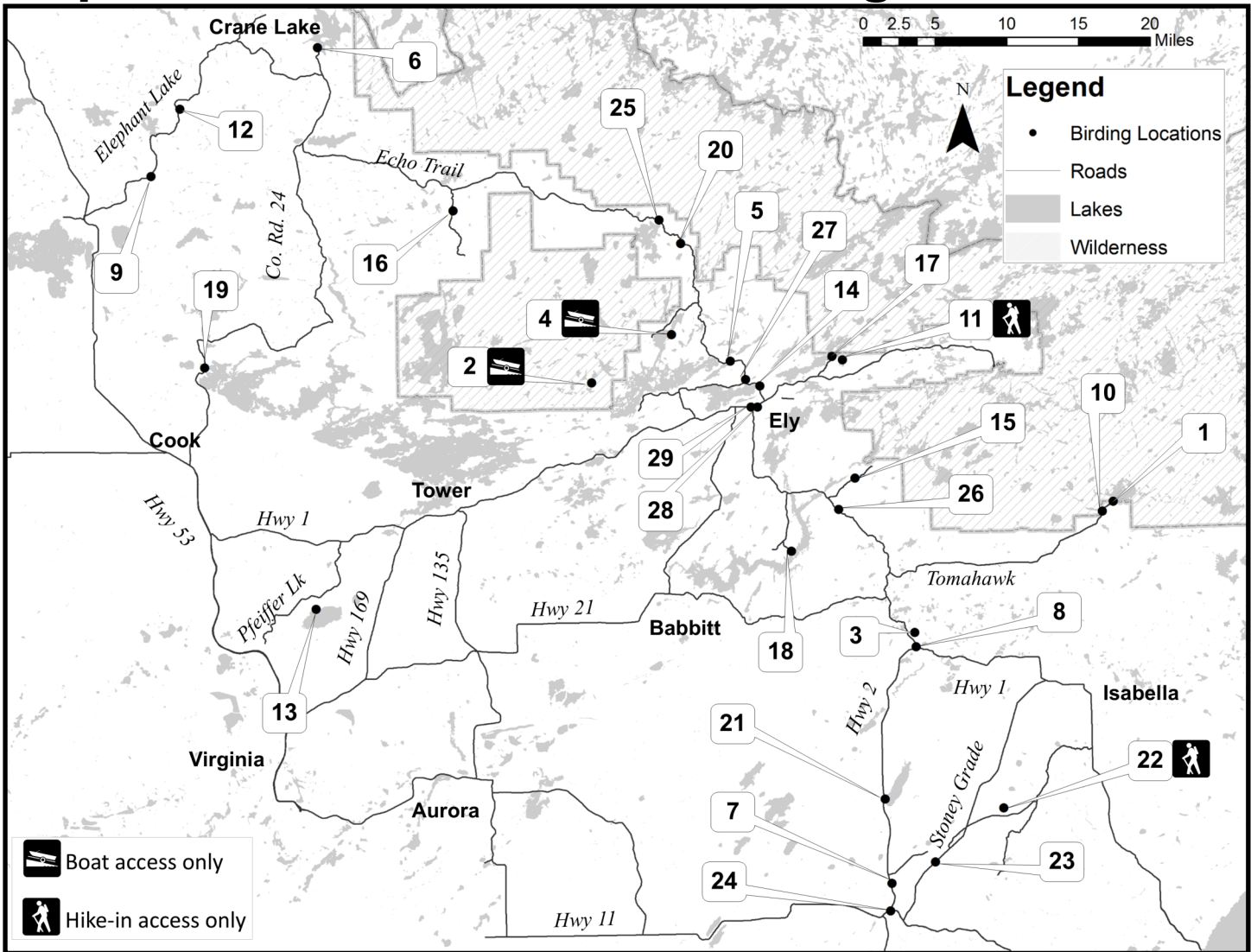
PONDS AND MARSHES

Look for waterfowl, American bitterns, sora rails, marsh wrens, great blue herons. You might find Virginia rails, American coots.

- 11. Stub Lake Trail**—End of 1-mile trail accessed from Fall Lake Campground
- 12. Pat Zac Impoundment**—Great spot for waterfowl on Bug Creek Trail.
- 13. Big Rice Lake**—Boat landing on Pfeiffer Lake Road off Highway 1 towards Cook
- 14. Old Koshak Farm**—State trails off Highway 88



Superior National Forest - Birding West Zone



Summer locations continued

YOUNG FOREST (DECIDUOUS AND CONIFEROUS)

Look for chestnut-sided, mourning, and Nashville warblers. You might find golden-winged warblers.

15. Spruce Road—Young mixed stands with mature pine leaf trees in several locations

16. Nigh Creek Road (Forest Road 471)—Several young stands, road is just south of Jeanette Lake

LAKES AND LAKESHORE

Look for common loons, bald eagles, common mergansers, northern waterthrushes. You might find trumpeter swans, ospreys, belted kingfishers, merlins.

17. Fall Lake—Campground off Fernberg Trail

18. Birch Lake—Campground at end of Little Lake Road off Highway 1

19. Lake Vermilion—Boat landing off County Road 24

BOGS (OPEN AND FORESTED)

Look for boreal chickadees, spruce grouse, ruby-crowned kinglets, gray jays. You might find boreal and great gray owls, Connecticut and Tennessee warblers, white-winged crossbills.

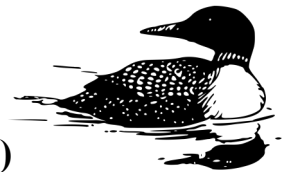
20. Ed Shave Bog—Park at boat landing and walk the road for a chance to see red crossbills along the Echo Trail

21. Greenwood Lake Bog—Access from boat landing off Highway 2

22. Whyte Road Open Bog—Off-trail hiking north from the Whyte Road yields an exceptional open bog, also great site for Odonates.

Experienced, well-fit navigators only (UTM coordinates: Zone 15 614644E, 5261137N).

23. Stoney Grade Trail—Unofficial trail on old railroad siding



Superior National Forest - Birding West Zone

Winter Locations

FIRE-DISTURBED LANDSCAPES

Look for black-backed woodpeckers. You might find three-toed woodpeckers, northern hawk owls.

3. Pitcha Pine—Fire in pines by Highways 1 and 2

24. Highway 11—Wildfire in old growth white pine forest

BOGS (OPEN AND FORESTED)

Look for boreal chickadees, gray jays. You might find boreal and great gray owls, white-winged crossbills.

21. Greenwood Lake Bog—Access from boat landing off Highway 2

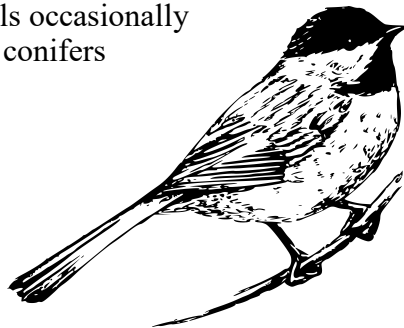
25. Stuart River Bog—Parking pull off Echo Trail, .5 miles east of Stuart River entry point

ROADS

Look for red and white-winged crossbills, pine grosbeaks, common redpolls, snow buntings. You might find northern shrikes, spruce grouse, and great gray owls.

26. Highways 1 and 2—Northern hawk and great gray owls are occasionally seen perched. Spruce grouse frequent the young pine stand south of Spruce Road.

27. Echo Trail—Red crossbills occasionally seen gathered on roadway near conifers

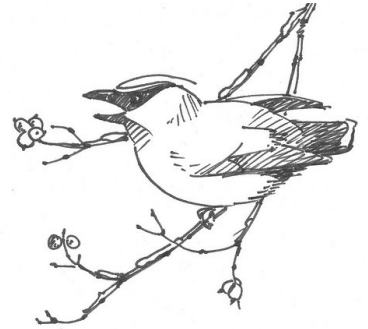


TOWN

BERRY-PRODUCING TREES: *Look for bohemian waxwings, cedar waxwings. You might find northern cardinals.*

Ely, Aurora, Cook—

Drive down many of the residential streets in local towns looking for birds on mountain ash, choke cherry, and other berry producing shrubs



PUBLIC FEEDERS: *Look for pine siskins, common redpolls. You might find evening and pine grosbeaks, hoary redpolls.*

28. Dorothy Molter Museum—Parking lot off Highway 169 in Ely is always open

29. Ely Chamber of Commerce—At corner of Highways 169 and 1 in Ely. Also check the berry-producing trees at this location.

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.

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

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