



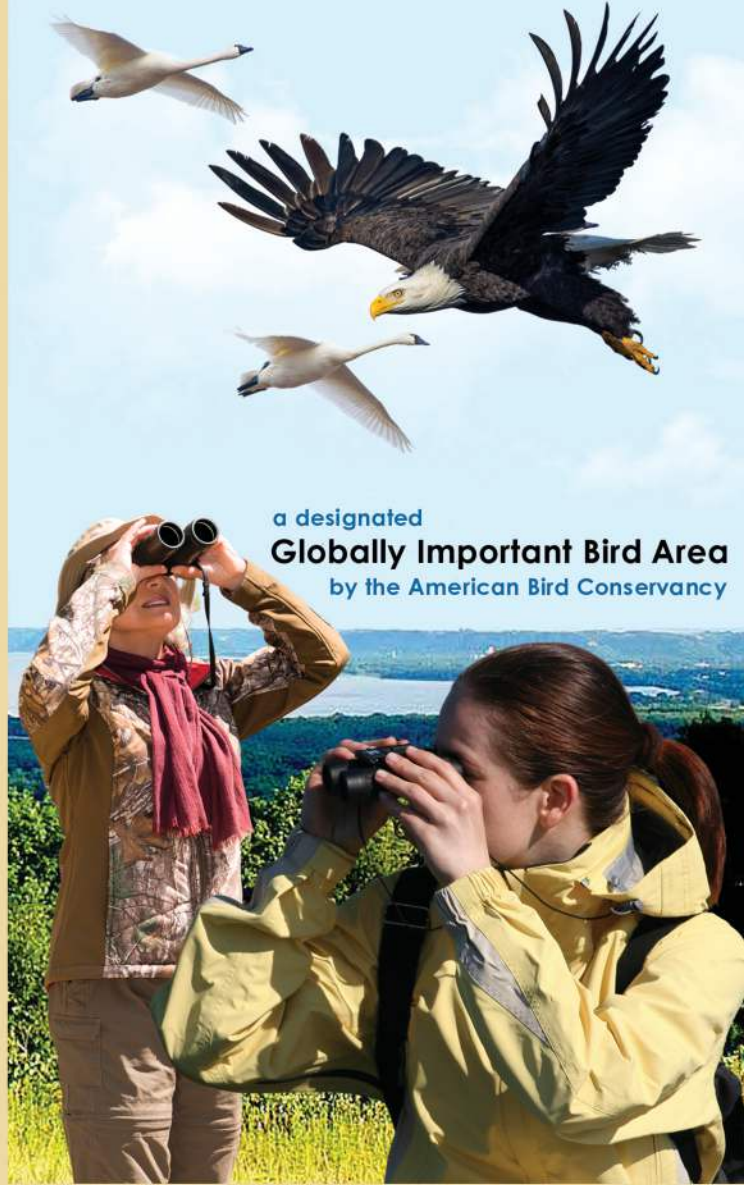
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BIRD WATCHING

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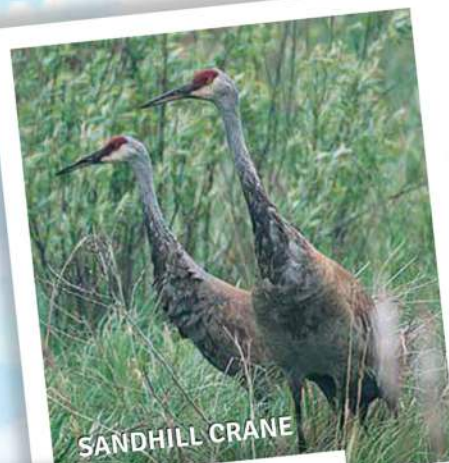
BIRD WATCHING



COMMON TERN



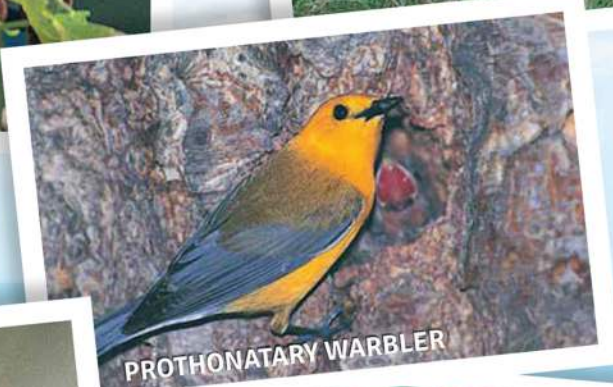
ORCHARD ORIOLE



SANDHILL CRANE



HUDSONIAN GODWIT



PROTHONOTARY WARBLER



HENSLAW SPARROW

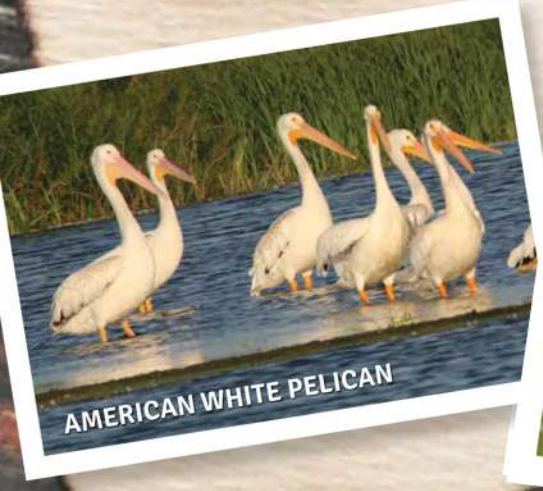


LARK SPARROW

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EXPLORE
MINNESOTA



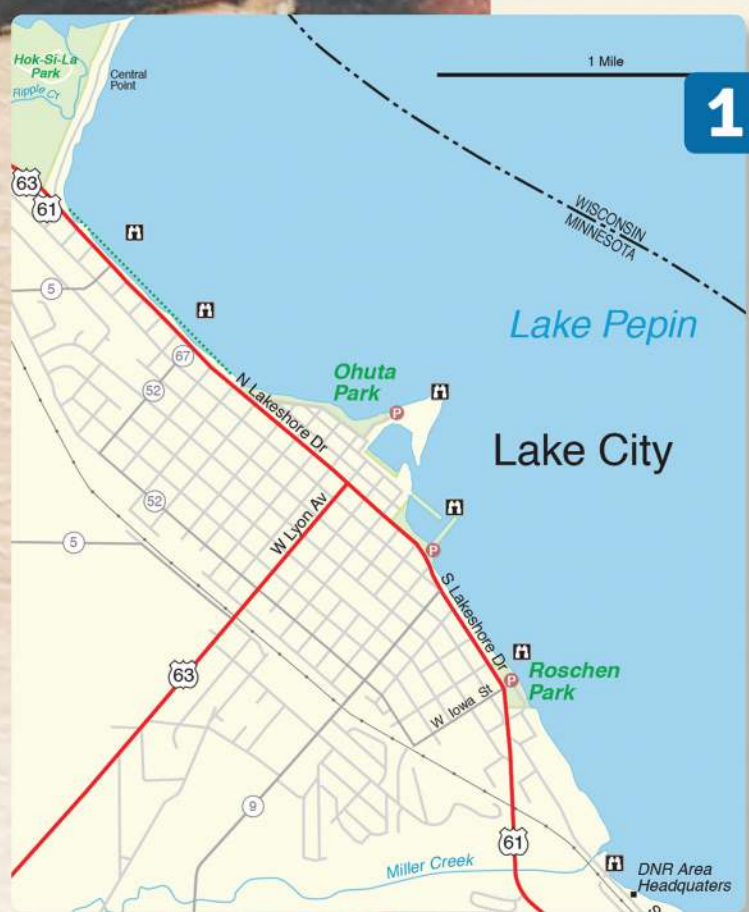
- Thousands of Tundra Swans in the downriver backwaters
- Over 500 Bald Eagles in spring and fall
- Three-quarters of world's population of C. Mergansers in late November
- Hundreds of rare migrating songbirds, ducks and hawks



AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN



COMMON MERGANSER



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 where **Common 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, Somenay, Eiders** will be found here, too.

From Roschen Park boat landing, see terns (**Common, Caspian, Foresters** and **Black** are regular) during spring migration and in fall, **jaegers** may be harassing **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 **Common 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 an at the dead end at the Sportsman's Club for **Grater Scaup** flocks and other **ducks** and **gulls**.

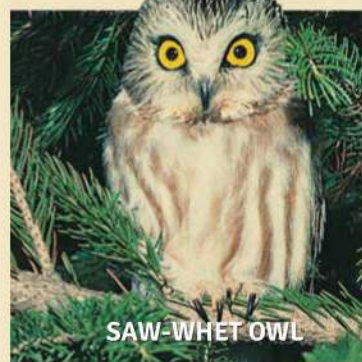
Cartography: Don Pirius
Editorial & Text: Carol Schumacher
Photography: W.J. Drazkowski,
Daria Dalager, Gary Krogman



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** 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 **Common Merganser** flocks and swooping/feeding **Bald Eagles**.



SAW-WHET OWL

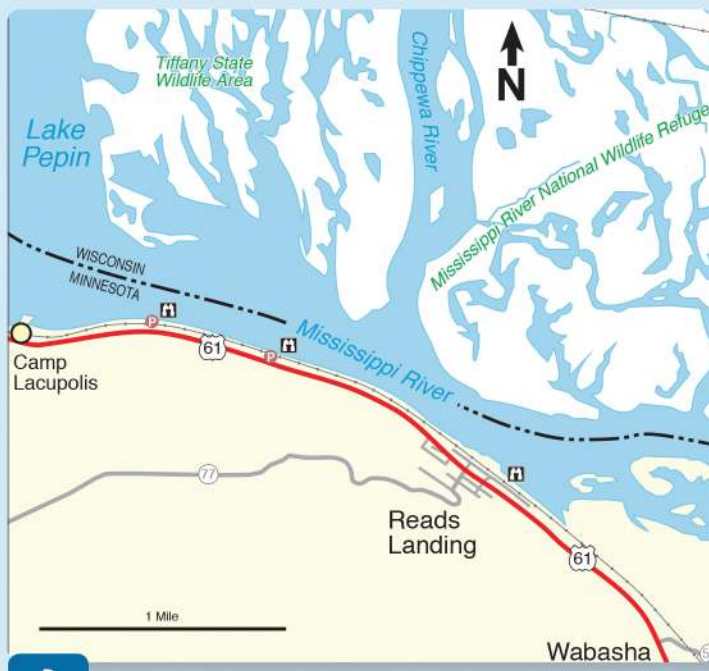


3 Frontenac State Park.

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. 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.*

Sand Point Trail. A lovely forested walk to Lake Pepin. At Hwy 61, park left of Cty 2 and walk the signed trail right. Listen for breeding **Acadian Flycatcher** near the woods entrance, **Prothonotary Warbler** near the boardwalk, and **Pileated** and **Red-headed Woodpeckers** along the trail. At the lake's edge, walk right checking for migrating **Piping Plover** or other **shorebirds** beyond the point.

Old Frontenac. At Hwy 61, continue up Cty 2, a great songbird area. Scan the creek for migrating flocks. Walk through Villa Maria where at dusk **Chimney Swifts** funnel in. Walk the Old Frontenac Cemetery off Wood Street where **Tufted Titmice**, **Red-shouldered Hawks** and birds in all seasons can be seen. Wintering **crossbills** are sometimes in the evergreen treetops and many birds hang in the low brushy area. In Old Frontenac, walk any of the neighborhood streets 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.*



4 Lake City to Reads Landing.

Carefully pull over to lakeside parking areas with great vistas. These pull offs make easy viewing of **Common Mergansers** and other duck species, especially as the ice forms and retreats. **Bald Eagles** display on the ice edges, some days over 500, and feed from November 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.*



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 Ave. 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.*

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 renowned 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 number, 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.*



TUNDA SWANS



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 **shorebird** 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 SNAN, 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 woods 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**.

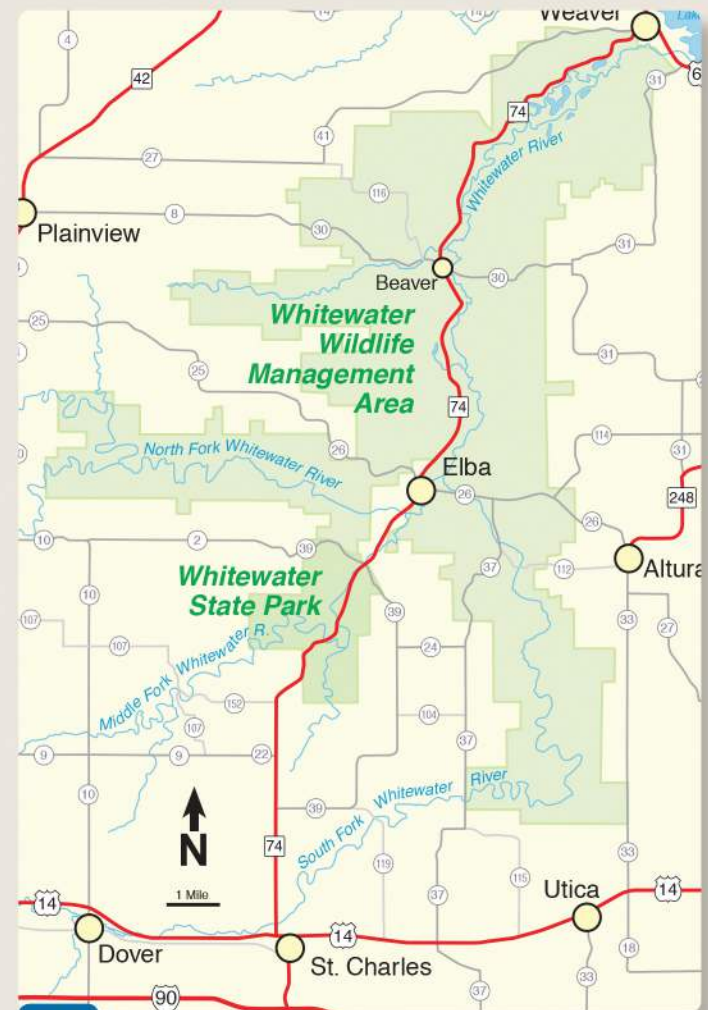


7 Weaver Bottoms.

Best known as a significant **Tundra Swan** concentration area from mid-October through November, however, concentrations of several species of water birds 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 number 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 **American Avocets** and others stop. **Heron**s and **Bald Eagles** are common. Between MM 45 and **Minneska**, 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.*



AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS



8 Whitewater Valley-Highway 74.

A scenic, mostly public Wildlife Management Area and State Park with cold water streams, ponds, bluffs 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.

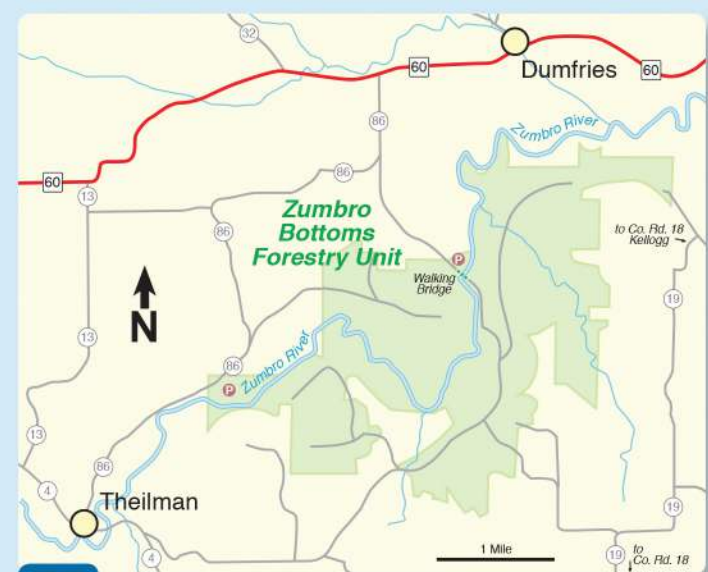
Wetlands areas: Check for **Common Moorhen**, **Least Bittern**, **marsh bird**, **rails** and **Sandhill Crane**.

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**.

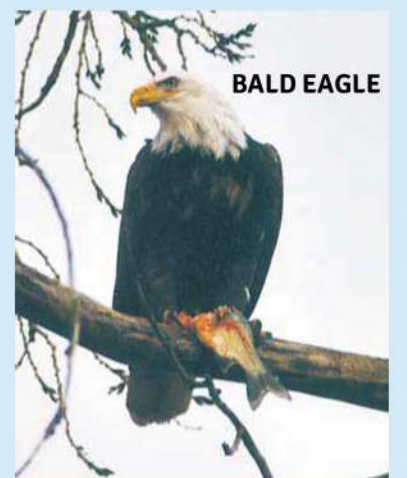
Winter: Scope for **Golden Eagles** flying above tree tops and bluffs, not to be mistaken for immature **Bald Eagles**. Good spot for **finch**, **crossbills** possibly **owls** (including a record **Great Gray** in an invasion year). Well-maintained feeder areas at Park and WMA headquarters.

The Whitewater Valley area is only 24.8 miles from Lake City.



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.*



BALD EAGLE