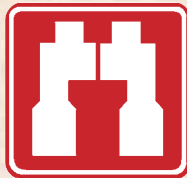


**Common Loon**

Steve Kohls

Research assistance and direction was provided by Steve and Jo Blanich and Pam Perry of the DNR Non-Game Wildlife Program.



Watch for this symbol on the map. It indicates a prime wildlife viewing area. Refer to the self-guided tour on the perforated panel.

For information on lodging, dining, shopping, and playing in the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway area contact these local Chambers of Commerce:

**Brainerd Lakes Area Chambers of Commerce**  
800-450-2838

- Brainerd
- Crosslake
- Pequot Lakes/Breezy Point

**Pine River Chamber of Commerce**  
800-728-6926



*This brochure is sponsored by:*

- Bee Nay She Council Bird Club
- Breezy Point Resort
- BirdsoftheByway.com
- Jean Segerstrom
- JM Plein Consulting
- MN DNR Non-Game Wildlife Program
- Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association



Bill Marchel

# Birds of the Byway

A guide to bird watching along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway.

54 miles of stunning scenery through the cities of Breezy Point, Crosslake, Jenkins, Manhattan Beach, Pequot Lakes & Pine River; townships of Barclay, Gail Lake, Ideal, Jenkins, Mission, Pelican, Timothy, Wilson; and counties of Cass and Crow Wing.

## SUMMERING

After our lakes empty of ice, they quickly fill with an astounding variety of waterfowl and water loving birds. You'll see and hear the haunting loon, various ducks, osprey, gulls, great blue and green herons and many more.

In the forests, you may spot a scarlet tanager, hear a thumping grouse, or see any number of other species.

## WINTERING

As ducks head south in their great V-formations, they seem to pull winter in behind them.

Along with snow and frost, you're likely to see bald eagles; great horned and barred owls; woodpeckers including the hairy, downy, red-bellied and pileated; gray and blue jays; ravens; nuthatches; snow buntings; and finches including tree sparrows, juncos, pine siskins and evening grosbeaks.

## PASSING THROUGH

The open spaces of our beautiful area offer unique viewing opportunities as our seasons change. Each fall and spring, you can view an immense variety of birds, including some species that may be seen as they pass through the area during their annual migration.

Among the bounty of species seen during these times are Canada geese, swans, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers and sparrows. Loons become more evident and their cries more frequent as activity builds during their pre-migration, multi-lake visits.

Eight of the country's most sought-after species may be seen in our area: the great gray owl, yellow rail, snowy owl, northern hawk owl, three-toed woodpecker, black-backed woodpecker, yellow-bellied fly catcher and Connecticut warbler.

The best way to increase the numbers and types of birds you spot is to visit more frequently. Remember, you're always welcome here along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway.

## THE FOUR ECO-REGIONS OF THIS AREA

### CONIFEROUS FORESTS

Conifer forests of pine, spruce, and fir represent much of central Minnesota as pure stands or mixed with several species. Look for red-breasted nuthatches, pine warblers, evening grosbeaks, Swainson's thrushes, and solitary vireos in this type of habitat.

### DECIDUOUS FORESTS

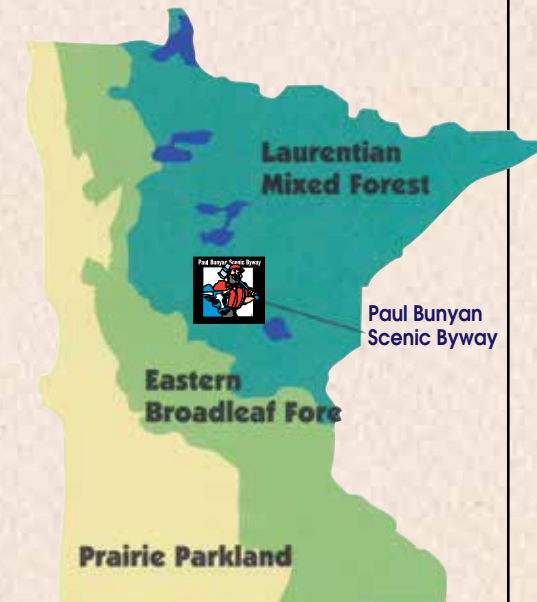
Maples, oaks, birch, aspen, ash, and a variety of other hardwood species make up our deciduous forests. Red-eyed vireos, ovenbirds, American redstarts, whip-poor-wills, and wood thrushes are among the species that make this habitat their home.

### FIELDS AND MEADOWS

Much of our forested habitats are punctuated with small grassy openings, old fields, and recent timber harvests. These areas provide habitat for bird species like bobolinks, savannah sparrows, eastern bluebirds, killdeer, and American kestrel. These birds are among those that may not be able to use forested areas.

### WETLANDS

Central Minnesota is known for its abundance of lakes as well as its spectacular forests. Water bodies, both large and small, and the margins around them provide habitat for waterfowl and other bird species, including pied-billed grebes, blue-winged teal, sedge wrens, common yellowthroats, and red-winged blackbirds.



**The Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway is located in the Laurentian Mixed Forest. Four eco-regions are represented within this area.**