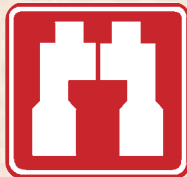


Common Loon

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

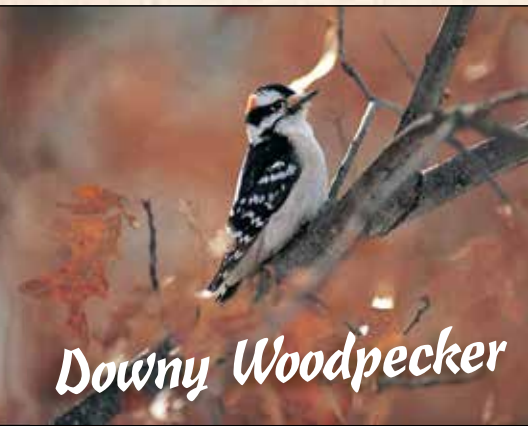


Bill Marchel

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.



Downy Woodpecker

Steve Kohls

If you set out to find a place on this continent with the highest counts of different breeding bird species, a place with exciting viewing in every season of the year, you'd need look no further than right here in Brainerd Lakes Area of North Central Minnesota.

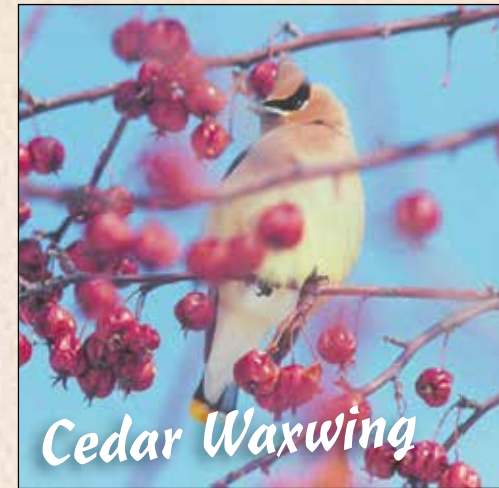
Here you'll find a unique coming together of prairie, evergreens and deciduous forests- all centered around the Mississippi River. This is one of the world's major flyways for migrating birds. This diverse blend of geography- with its lakes, streams, forests and wetlands- and our four-season weather pattern results in a combination unlike any other in the world.

Here, it's not unusual for a keen-eyed birder to log more than 100 different species in an eight-hour day. The luckiest may spot a northern goshawk or an American woodcock, found in woodland openings. Seeing either of these species, let alone both, is an experience of a lifetime.

This inviting scenic area, long a vacation destination for those looking for family resorts and angling opportunities, also offers an abundance of wildlife and nature-oriented centers. These include

the Uppgaard and Lowell/Rice Lake Wildlife Management Areas, the Old Grade Area, Veteran's Memorial Walking Trail, Crosslake Corps of Engineers Park and many others. Some of the best spots are shown on our Area Map. Local guide, Judd Brink, promotes bird watching year round along the Scenic Byway, including the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count at Uppgaard WMA.

So, enjoy your stay and keep your eyes open for bird watching opportunities that await you around every corner.



Cedar Waxwing

Non-Game Wildlife Program



Non-Game Wildlife Program

Some of the birds you may see along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway have not always been here. As habitat and other environmental factors change through time, so do bird populations and their distribution. The northern cardinal's recent dramatic range expansion is a good example. This is largely due to the increasing popularity of feeding birds during the winter.


In 1886 the cardinal was only occasionally found north of the Ohio River. Since that time it has expanded its range to the northeast and northwest. Presently, cardinals can be found regularly in central Minnesota and along the Byway throughout the year.

Kent Montgomery,
The Nature Conservancy





Byway route

1  Site marker: self-guided tour on perforated panel

The Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Association supports birding.
www.PaulBunyanScenicByway.org/birding
 Record and share bird sightings from around the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway!
 Visit www.BirdsoftheByway.com

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

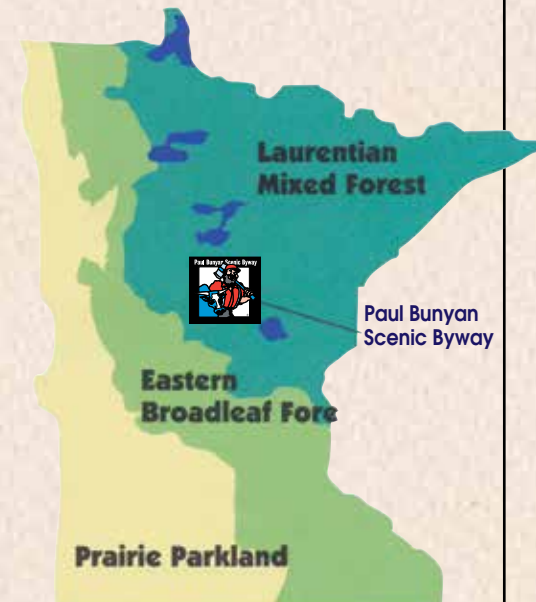
Maples, oaks, birch, aspen, ash, and a variety of other hardwood species make up our deciduous forests. Red-eyed vireos, ovenbirds, American redstarts, whip-poor-wills, and wood thrushes are among the species that make this habitat their home.

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.