

Birding Hotspots in Ashland & Bayfield Counties



Ryan Brady
23 July 2011

Local Birding Resources

- Two birding maps (emailed to Tim Tully)
- Ashland Yahoo Group
- *Chequamegon Bay Birds* by Dick Verch
(dverch2@charter.net)
- Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival
- Chequamegon Bay Birds Checklist (avail at NGLVC)
- Wisconsin Birding Network (www.wsobirds.org)
- *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts* by Daryl Tessen
(www.wsobirds.org)
- Wisconsin eBird

Members Only

- Post
- Files
- Photos
- Links
- Database
- Polls
- Members
- Calendar
- Promote
- Groups Labs (Beta)

Info Settings

Group Information

Members: 58
 Category: [Birding](#)
 Founded: Apr 7, 2005
 Language: English

? Already a member? [Sign in to Yahoo!](#)

Yahoo! Groups Tips

[Join This Group!](#)

Activity within 7 days: [1](#) New Member - [2](#) New Messages - [New Questions](#)

Description

An electronic network of individuals interested in birds of the Chequamegon Bay area of northern Wisconsin. The group's primary function is to exchange current sightings, behavioral observations, and photographs of local area birds. Members are encouraged to share their knowledge of the local avifauna and engage in discussions concerning bird distribution, identification, habitat, and behavior. Observations of all flora and fauna are also welcome.

Latest good bird: GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS
 Near Benoit, Bayfield Co., Wisconsin
 20 June 2010
 Photo by Ryan Brady

This species apparently occurred in the Chequamegon Bay area more regularly several decades ago but these are the first individuals documented here since at least 1995.



Most Recent Messages [\(View All\)](#)

[\(Group by Topic\)](#)

Search: [Advanced](#) [Start Topic](#)

[Sandhill Cranes](#)

Nick called and asked me to report 35+ Sandhill Cranes in a field on the north side of Hwy 112 about a mile west of Hwy 13. They've apparently been there each

Posted - Tue Jul 20, 2010 2:55 pm

Ryan Brady
[ryanbrady10](#)
 Offline
[Send Email](#)

[Butterfly count](#)

Many of you probably saw the article in the paper (which had its obligatory errors, of course)

Ryan Brady
[ryanbrady10](#)

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ashlandbirders/

www.birdandnaturefest.com



Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival



- [Schedule](#)
- [Presenters](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Area Wildlife](#)
- [Travel Info](#)
- [Past Festival](#)

May 20-22, 2011

Welcome to the 5th Annual Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival -- a weekend of birding and nature activities on Wisconsin's south shore of Lake Superior at the peak of spring migration.

With nearly 120 activities to choose from, birders and nature lovers of all skills and ages will find a wealth of choices at this year's festival.

Next years date is **May 20-22, 2011**.

Keynote Speaker

Stan Tekiela will be the speaker at the 2011 Fest.

A well-know columnist and radio personality, his syndicated column appears in over 20 newspapers and his wildlife programs are broadcast on a number of Midwest radio stations.





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Welcome to Wisconsin eBird

All birds, all day, every day.

Birding News and Features

[eBird Tip--Use the "Jump to Species" box for faster data entry](#)

June 21, 2010

As eBird goes global, using the "Jump to Species" box for faster data entry will become more important. In many parts of the world we have rudimentary checklists in place, unlike the refined ones that exist across most of North America. These basic checklists will have many species, in some cases more than 1,000! In these cases it's a lot easier to run through your species list using the "Jump to Species" box on the checklist page. A list of 50 birds can be entered in just a few minutes! The "Jump to species" box is also handy if you write field notes and your species lists are not in alphabetical or taxonomic order.

Show: **Most Probable Species** | [Rare species](#)

Jump to Species:

Waterfowl			
Brant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brant (Black)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canada Goose (moffitti/maxima)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood Duck	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mallard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cinnamon Teal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Pintail	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater Scaup	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surf Scoter	<input type="checkbox"/>	scoter sp.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common Merganser	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-breasted Merganser	<input type="checkbox"/>



Most Checklists Submitted for Current Month

Seasonal Overview

Summer: Late May - July

- Interior birding - forests, fields, wetlands, etc.
- Some bay/lake opportunities

Early Fall: Aug - Sept

- No fields, no deep woods*
- Shrubby/forest edges, wetlands/bay/lakes for shorebirds and early ducks

Late Fall: Oct - early Dec

- Fields for shrikes, RLHA, Snowy Owl
- Bay/lakes for ducks, gulls, etc.

Seasonal Overview

Winter: Dec - early Mar

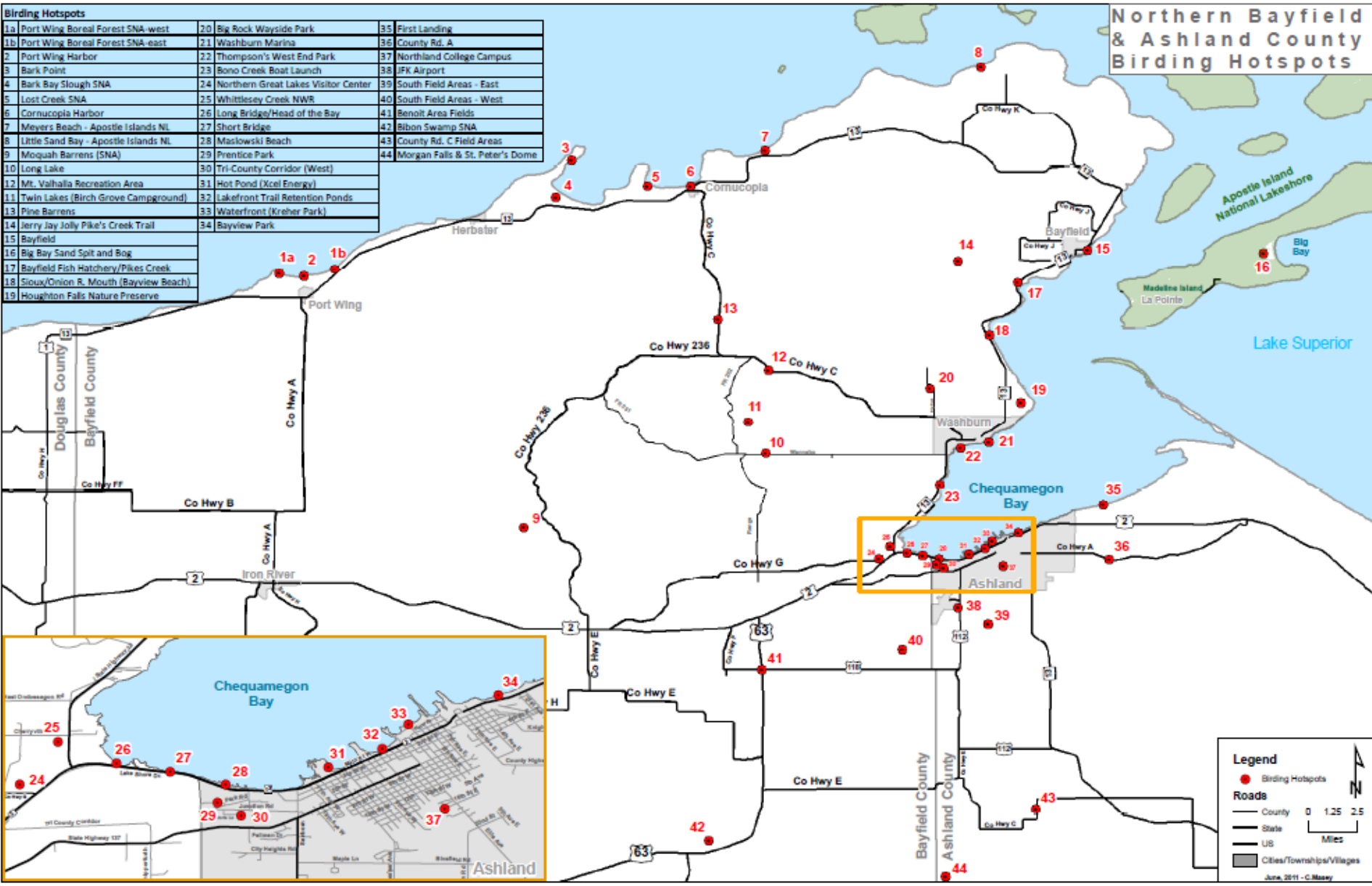
- Boreal conifers - Gray Jays, Boreal Chickadees, crossbills, grosbeaks, etc.
- Towns - Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, etc.
- Bay/Lake Sup - gulls, SNOW, GYRF, lingering ducks

Spring: Mar - May

- Field, forest, lakes, wetlands... anywhere!
- Woods better later, water anytime
- South shore of Lake Superior - hawks, ducks, & songbird migration

Northern Bayfield & Ashland County Birding Hotspots

Birding Hotspots		
1a Port Wing Boreal Forest SNA-west	20 Big Rock Wayside Park	35 First Landing
1b Port Wing Boreal Forest SNA-east	21 Washburn Marina	36 County Rd. A
2 Port Wing Harbor	22 Thompson's West End Park	37 Northland College Campus
3 Bark Point	23 Bono Creek Boat Launch	38 JFK Airport
4 Bark Bay Slough SNA	24 Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center	39 South Field Areas - East
5 Lost Creek SNA	25 Whittlesey Creek NWR	40 South Field Areas - West
6 Cornucopia Harbor	26 Long Bridge/Head of the Bay	41 Benoit Area Fields
7 Meyers Beach - Apostle Islands NL	27 Short Bridge	42 Bibon Swamp SNA
8 Little Sand Bay - Apostle Islands NL	28 Maslowski Beach	43 County Rd. C Field Areas
9 Moquah Barrens (SNA)	29 Prentice Park	44 Morgan Falls & St. Peter's Dome
10 Long Lake	30 Tri-County Corridor (West)	
11 Twin Lakes (Birch Grove Campground)	31 Hot Pond (Xcel Energy)	
12 Pine Barrens	32 Lakefront Trail Retention Ponds	
13 Jerry Jay Jolly Pike's Creek Trail	33 Waterfront (Kreher Park)	
14 Bayfield	34 Bayview Park	
15 Big Bay Sand Spit and Bog		
16 Bayfield Fish Hatchery/Pikes Creek		
17 Sioux/Onion R. Mouth (Bayview Beach)		
18 Houghton Falls Nature Preserve		

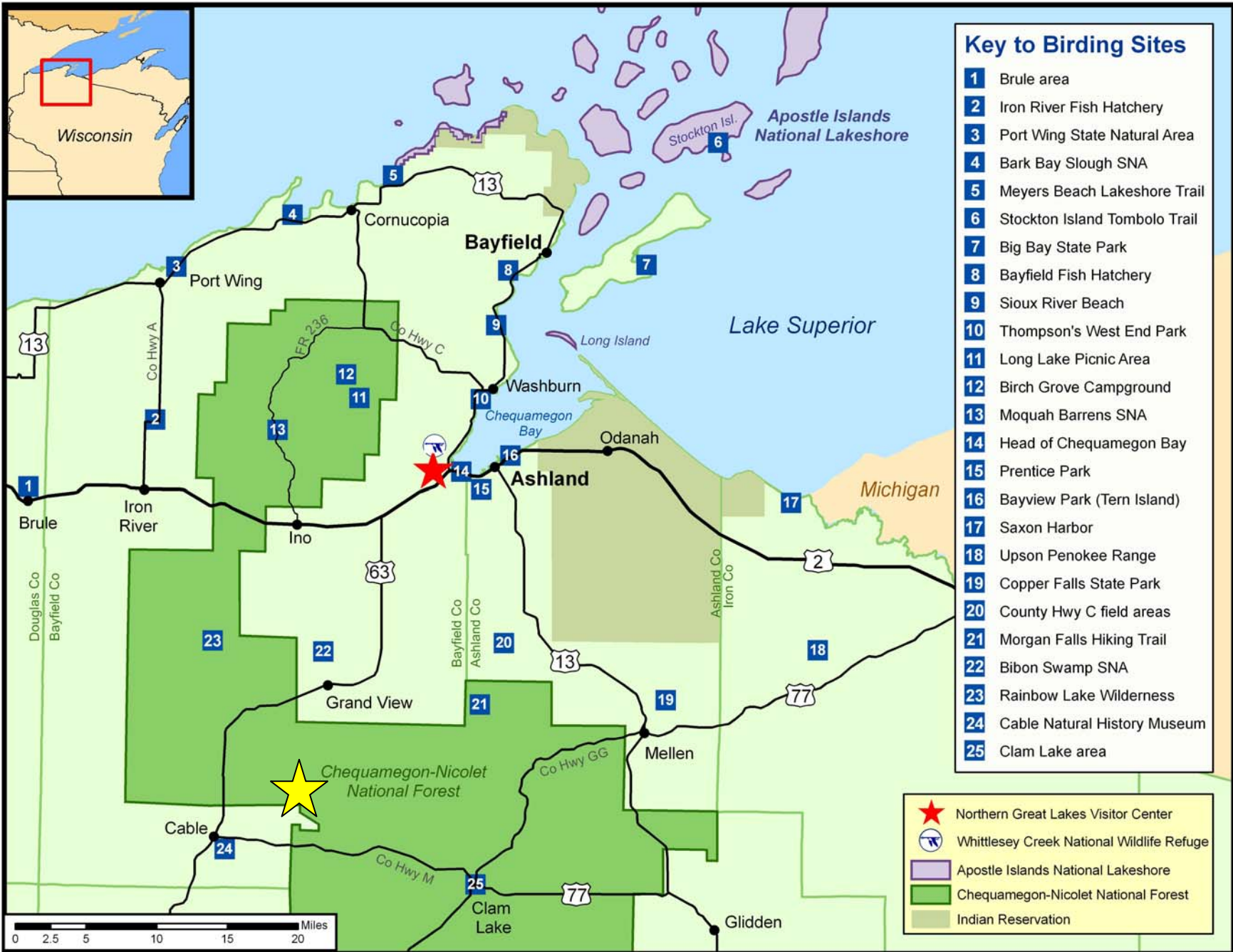


Legend

- Birding Hotspots
- Roads
 - County
 - State
 - US
- Cities/Townships/Villages

0 1.25 2.5 Miles

June, 2011 - C. Massey



NGLVC

Site Name: Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Location: West of Ashland near Hwy 2/Cty G

Habitat: Fields, ponds, small amount of mixed woods

When to Visit: Spring, summer, early fall

Species Highlights: Raptors (spring only), ducks, rarities, Le Conte's Sparrow, Sedge Wrens, American Bittern, American Woodcock (dusk in May)

Comments: Observation tower for hawk migration; flat easy hikes for songbirds on two short- to medium-length trails

Moquah Barrens

Site Name: Moquah Barrens State Natural Area

Location: FR236 & FR241 ~5 miles north of Ino

Habitat: Open barrens, scrub oak, jack/red pine

When to Visit: April - July

Species Highlights: Vesper and Clay-colored Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, Eastern Towhee, Brewer's Blackbird, Upland Sandpiper, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Kirtland's Warbler?

Comments: Globally unique; recently burned; bear dog training in July

Benoit Area Fields

Site Name: Benoit Area Fields

Location: Vicinity of Hwy 63 and Hwy 118/Cty F; also Colby, Curry, Franzel, and especially Moonshine Alley Rds

Habitat: Open hay fields, hedgerows, other ag/grazing

When to Visit: Late May-early July

Species Highlights: Dickcissel, Western Meadowlark, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolinks, Brewer's Blackbirds, Upland Sandpiper, Northern Harriers

Comments: Second week of June ideal; good photo ops

Bibon Swamp

Site Name: Bibon Swamp State Natural Area

Location: Taylor Lane north of Grand View

Habitat: Mixed shrub-swamp woodland

When to Visit: May - July (Aug-Sept?)

Species Highlights: Golden-winged Warbler, Sandhill Cranes, Sedge Wrens, American Bittern, warblers, other songbirds, Yellow Rail?

Comments: Walk dead-end Taylor Lane; can also paddle White River; big conifer bog on north end (hard to reach)

Birch Grove (Twin Lakes)

Site Name: Birch Grove/Twin Lakes Campground

Location: Chequamegon NF west of Washburn and north of Long Lake

Habitat: Open lakes and birch/maple/oak forest

When to Visit: May - Sept

Species Highlights: Whip-poor-will, Least Flycatcher, vireos, Veery, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, good warbler migration, Common Loon, Barred Owl

Comments: Camp a night or two near full moon; bird campground and/or walk trail around western lake

Meyers Beach Sea Caves Trail

Site Name: Meyers Beach Sea Caves Trail

Location: Meyers (Park) Road ~5 miles east of Cornucopia

Habitat: Unmanaged forest - maple, birch, pine, spruce/fir

When to Visit: Late May-early July

Species Highlights: Canada Warbler, Winter Wren, warbler diversity, thrushes, woodpeckers, Peregrine Falcon

Comments: Rugged, moderate-length hike but well worth it

Clam Lake Area

Site Name: Clam Lake Area

Location: Forest roads surrounding town of Clam Lake, esp. south along axis of Cty GG and east near Hwy 77

Habitat: Deep woods, conifer forest/bogs, rivers/wetlands

When to Visit: Anytime, but esp. May-June and winter

Species Highlights: Gray Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse, grosbeaks, crossbills, flycatchers, Palm Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, warblers

Comments: Bugs; offroad bushwhacking helps; use aerials to see bogs; e.g. Chippewa & Day Lakes, Dead Horse Slough

Washburn Area

Site Name: Thompson's West End Park, Big Rock County Park

Location: Washburn lakefront and a few miles inland
northwest of Washburn

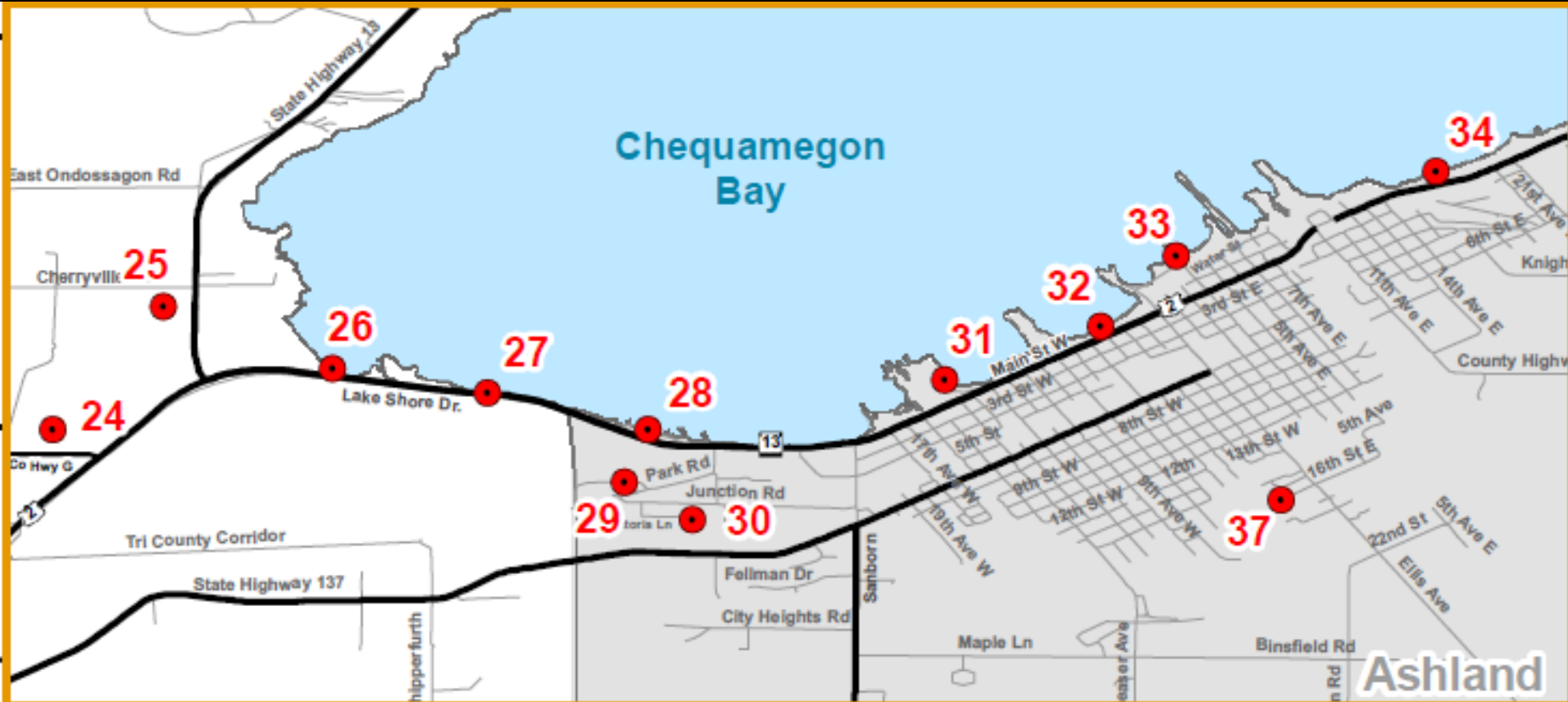
Habitat: Open lake, lakefront shrubs, conifer forest

When to Visit: BR = May-July; TWEP = all but winter

Species Highlights: Warblers at BR; Ducks, loons, gulls,
terns, and rarities at TWEP

Comments: Scope the lake and pilings at TWEP; also walk the
lakefront trail north to marina; not much to walk at BR but
excellent bird diversity in a small area near bridge & camp

Ashland Lakefront Area



- 26, 27, 28, and 34 great for waterbirds spring & fall
- 29 can be good for landbirds spring thru fall

Final Birding Tips

- Know what to look for, when to visit, etc. - homework!
- Get out early during breeding season, later OK for migration (e.g. raptors at mid-day)
- Birding by ear!
- Need scope on bay/lake (window mount for fields)
- Be a weather watcher!
 - ✓ Fronts for migration
 - ✓ Bad weather = good birding (wind can be challenging)
 - ✓ Calm lake conditions in spring/fall