

Duluth/Superior Birding Map



Duluth Audubon Society

- * Preserving and enhancing our natural environment
- * Supporting local education and research projects
- * Monthly programs September—May, excluding December
- * Field trips
- * Birding maps
- * Networking with some of the regions most avid birders
- * Website with news and information relevant to local birds
- * Low cost local chapter membership used solely to fund local activities and programs

For more information visit <http://duluthaudubon.org>

1. STONEY POINT AND SUCKER BAY

Description:

This is a broad point of land jutting into Lake Superior on the east side of a bay at the mouth of the Sucker River. There is easy walking along the gravel road (Stoney Point Dr.) that circles the point, which is bisected by a township road (Alseth Rd.). The narrow strip of land lakeward of the county road is public; the opposite side is private with a few houses, adjacent overgrown fields and roadside clumps of large spruces and poplars.

Birds:

When the wind is right this is a good place to watch diurnal migra-

tion of raptors, woodpeckers, corvids, finches, etc. in the fall, and reverse diurnal migration in the spring. This can be a migrant trap for small birds: sparrows along the road and warblers in the wooded fringe. Scanning Sucker Bay can turn up loons and grebes and various ducks during the migration peak and sometimes into the winter. Bald Eagles frequently perch along the bay's edge near the mouth of the Little Sucker River.

Access:

Follow North Shore Dr. (County Rd. 61) 10.7 miles northeast from the junction with Minn. Hwy. 61; turn right on Stoney Point Dr. opposite "Tom's Logging Camp."

2. LAKE SUPERIOR ALONG NORTH SHORE DRIVE

Description:

This scenic drive along a paved road has several turnouts that allow scanning Lake Superior for waterbirds. The narrow strip lakeward of this parkway is mostly public, although there are a few houses on the lakeside. The inland side is mostly suburban residential. Fishermen and some ducks congregate at the mouth of the French River.

Birds:

During migration Common Loons, Red-necked and Horned Grebes and Common and Redbreasted Mergansers are the usual species on Lake Superior. There may also be rafts of diving ducks. Other species of loons are occasionally seen as well as arctic ducks such as Long-tailed, Harlequin and all the scoters. In the fall diurnal migration jays, robins, finches and other passerines can be seen overhead, especially early in the morning.

Access:

The junction with the North Shore Dr. is 0.6 mile east beyond the Lester River bridge on Minn. Hwy. 61; turn onto the scenic drive (County Rd. 61) which is also called Congdon Blvd. within Duluth city limits, and drive along the shore of Lake Superior for 9 miles to "Bluebird Landing" at the west end of Sucker Bay

3. LESTER RIVER MOUTH AND KITCHI GAMMI PARK

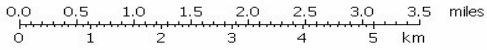
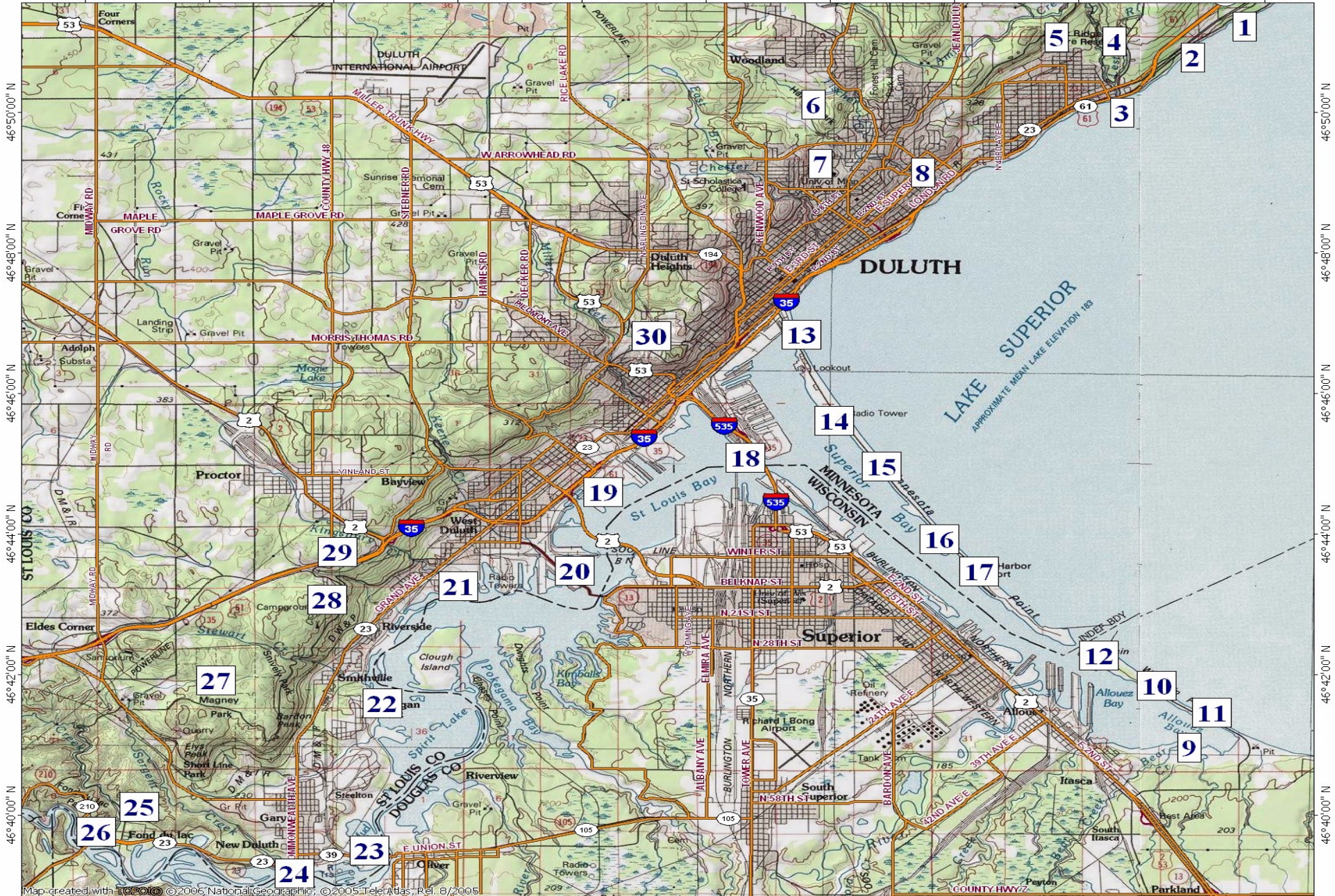
Description:

There are two small parking lots just east of the mouth of the Lester River on Minn. Hwy. 61 that provide pull-offs for scanning Lake Superior. Just to the northeast of the Lester River is a roadway that goes through Kitchi Gammi Park (locally known as Brighton Beach) along the lakeshore. This is a 150-acre park with picnic areas, playground and portable toilets. People commonly walk along the roadway and feed gulls on the rocks.

Birds:

The mouth of the Lester River can be productive for loons, grebes and diving ducks during migration and into the winter. Ring-billed Gulls congregate in Gitchi Gammi Park and sparrows and warblers can be grounded there during migration.

Access:



Lester River is the demarcation between the residential part of the City and the North Shore area. The river is 3.5 miles to the northeast along London Rd. from I-35.

4. LESTER/AMITY PARK

Description:

This 300-acre city park has a network of hiking (and winter skiing) trails. There is a picnic area and playground at the entrance; trails branch out from there into the forest along both the Lester River and Amity Creek. Part of this forest is a remnant but degraded old growth conifer stand with many large white pines and white spruces.

Birds:

When there is a good cone crop on the conifers this is a good spot for crossbills and other winter finches. The trails provide access into the forest where migrants can be found both spring and fall. Breeding species include the usual woodland birds plus conifer specialists like Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blackburnian and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Access:

Turn off Minn. Hwy. 61 (London Rd.) at 60th Ave. E. (3.5 miles from the end of I-35) and drive a short block, turning right at Superior St. Go one block and turn left on Lester River Rd. The parking area is just a short way up the road on the left side

5. HAWK RIDGE AND AMITY CREEK PARK

Description:

Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve is one of the premier places in the United States to watch the fall hawk migration. A seasonal average of over 90,000 raptors migrate along the bluffs at this western end of Lake Superior. Most of the hawk watching is from an overlook along the Skyline Parkway. There is also a network of trails that lead to other rocky observation knobs within the 365-acre reserve and that connect to the walking path along Amity Creek.

Birds: The hawk migration lasts from mid-August through mid-December with a peak from mid-September to mid-October. There are 14 hawk species that are regular migrants plus seven casual or accidental species; owls recorded from nighttime banding include six regular species and two accidental. Lake Superior produces a migration funneling effect for a wide variety of other species that have been spotted from Hawk Ridge. The shrubby forest provides stopover resting sites for many smaller birds. All told, 230 species have been recorded, many of which have been rare or accidental.

Access:

From the east end of I-35 continue along London Rd. to 43rd Ave. E. Go north until it makes a junction with Glenwood St., turn left and at the top of the hill (0.5 mile), take a sharp right onto E. Skyline Parkway and drive east about 2.5 miles to the Hawk Ridge main overlook. There is a map and other information at the Hawk Ridge web site: www.hawkridge.org.

6. HARTLEY PARK AND NATURE CENTER

Description:

This 640-acre city park has various habitats from reclaimed farm fields, wetlands and a pond to forests, both deciduous and coniferous. There are 8 miles of trails that intersect these habitats and a sustainability-designed nature center at the parking lot off Woodland Ave.

Birds:

With a variety of habitats accessible by walking trails, this is a good place to bird watch at any season of the year. On days with good migration both spring and fall it is possible to observe over 100 species. During the summer the list of breeding birds approaches 65 species. The marsh in the middle of the park is unique for the city and has nesting woodcock, snipe, Sedge Wren and Swamp Sparrow.

Access: Take the 21st Ave. E. exit (#258) from I-35 and continue up the hill on 21st Ave. E. until it merges to the right onto Woodland Ave. Continue right on Woodland Ave. for 2.5 miles to the Hartley entrance which is a left turn 0.8 mile past the Oxford St. stop sign. Check out the nature center web site at www.hartleynature.org.

7. BAGLEY NATURE AREA AT UMD

Description:

This is a small 20-acre natural area on the University of Minnesota Duluth campus. It has a two-acre shallow pond at the foot of a wooded hill (Rock Hill) with a great vista from the top. There is a network of trails that lace the pond and a mixed deciduous forest of oak, maple and aspen.

Birds:

During spring migration there can be a variety of ducks in the pond and passerines in the forest. Mallard, Wood Duck and Green Heron (rare in Duluth area) nest there and other local waterbirds visit the pond. In the fall, hawk migration can be observed from the top of Rock Hill.

Access:

Take the 21st Ave. E. exit (#258) from I-35 and continue up the hill on 21st Ave. E. until the

road merges to the right onto Woodland Ave. Continue right on Woodland Ave. 0.9 mile to the St. Marie St. traffic light, turn left and continue past the UMD campus 0.6 mile to Oakland Circle, turn right and drive to the parking lot by the pond where there are meters and a trail map.

8. CONGDON PARK NATURE TRAIL

Description:

In the residential eastern part of Duluth, this is a narrow forested park along the canyon of Tischer Creek (known locally in this neighborhood as Congdon Creek) as it cascades down the hill toward Lake Superior. A 1.5 mile trail goes along the west bank from Superior St. to Ver-million Rd.

Birds:

Although this is a ribbon of woods in a built up area, the forest has many big conifers and a shrubby understory used for habitat by migrant and wintering birds. The adjacent residential area has feeders and berry trees that also attract birds, especially in the winter.

Access:

At the terminus of I-35 go up the hill on 26th Ave. E. to Superior St., turn right and continue to 32nd Ave. E. where there is a sign and entrance to the trail.

9. WISCONSIN POINT'S ALLOUEZ BAY

Description:

Wisconsin Point's Allouez Bay is one of the best places to observe migrating waterfowl, including Tundra Swans and American White Pelicans, especially as the ice breaks up in April or early May. Look down to spot migrating shorebirds along the shoreline or up to see hawks, plentiful during both migrations. Anytime during migration, but especially during inclement weather, warblers and other songbirds can be anywhere and everywhere.

Birds:

As the ice breaks up in early spring, Bald Eagles, ravens and a good variety of gulls can be seen picking up dead fish and other matter on the surface of the ice. The marsh area is good for rails, Pied-billed Grebes, terns and some shorebirds, especially during July, August and September. As the ice disappears in spring, an excellent variety of ducks can usually be seen in the bay. (This is where a Smew was spotted in March 2000.) You may need a spotting scope to

get good looks at swans and pelicans, which are often on the far side. Keep your eyes and ears open for migrant songbirds. This is a great spot to see warblers at eye level and below as they drop down after a long flight in search of food. Look up frequently in case hawks, loons or flickers are flying overhead. In winter, scan the ice for Snowy Owls.

Access: From Wisconsin end of I-535, go on Hwy 53E for 6.5 miles and turn left onto Moccasin Mike Rd. Make a left where a conspicuous sign directs you to Wisconsin Point. Allouez Bay is on the left. There are many turnouts where you can park your car along the drive.

10. WISCONSIN POINT FORESTS

Description:

As you proceed down the main road to the point, you will notice forested areas on the right, and you'll drive through a lovely mature pine forest.

Birds:

In winter, owls sometimes roost here and Pine Grosbeaks and crossbills may feed in the pines. Watch for fruiting trees, which may hold Bohemian Waxwings. During migration, thrushes often run along the ground, and the trees can be dripping with warblers and kinglets. Merlins and ravens often nest in the mature pines and Mourning Warblers nest in the dense vegetation of the mixed forest areas.

Access:

Follow the directions above. There are many pullouts where you can park your car.

11. WISCONSIN POINT LAKE SUPERIOR

Description:

Depending on how choppy the lake and how fierce the wind, the lake side of Wisconsin Point can provide an amazing contrast to Allouez Bay, just a stone's throw away.

Birds:

Red-necked Grebes and Red-throated Loons are regularly seen in the lake, particularly in May. Gulls can be abundant year-round. In mid-September, this is the best place in all of Wisconsin for finding jaegers. Diving ducks can be abundant in spring and fall, and in winter until the ice sets in. Interesting shorebirds can be anywhere along the shoreline.

Access:

Follow the directions above. It's impossible to see the lake from the road, so you will need to

park in the pullouts to explore the lakeside.

12. WISCONSIN POINT SUPERIOR ENTRY and MN entry

Description:

At the end of Wisconsin Point is the Superior Entry to Allouez Bay. This is a narrow channel between Wisconsin and Minnesota (Park) Points where some ships enter the Duluth/Superior harbor.

Birds:

You may be surprised at the variety of land birds that can be seen while walking on the rocks and even along the lighthouse jetty, including longspurs, Snow Buntings, thrushes and warblers. Cormorants and gulls often rest on the rocky jetty on the Minnesota side, and a few species of warblers, especially Yellow-rumps, pick at bugs in the crevices on the walls of the jetties. You never know what you're going to see here!

Access:

Follow directions above. Park in lot to the right of the Coast Guard area and explore.

13. CANAL PARK

Description:

Canal Park, the area surrounding Duluth's famous Aerial Lift Bridge, is famous for Ring-billed Gulls, which make picnicking pleasant - or unpleasant - depending on personal taste and how well protected you have your food and your head. But, a wide variety of other birds can also be seen in Canal Park.

Birds:

You can watch a variety of gulls in the water and sky around Canal Park. In fall, also watch for jaegers, loons, diving ducks and grebes in the water.

Access:

Use the Lake Ave. exit from I-35. There is plenty of parking, although during the tourist season cars can be more plentiful than parking spaces.

14. PARK POINT HEARDING ISLAND

Description:

Hearding Island in the bay along Park Point is an excellent resting spot for gulls and terns, ducks and shorebirds during spring and fall migration.

Birds:

In May, Bonaparte's Gulls and Common and Caspian Terns can be abundant here, sometimes with an interesting mix of shorebirds. Several rare gull sightings have also been made here. Migrating warblers and other songbirds may be flitting about any vantage point.

Access:

The best place to observe Hearing Island is on the public land behind the Bayside Market. From Minnesota Ave., turn west at the stop sign at 19th St., bear left around the apartment buildings, and park next to the apartment parking lot (which itself is closed to non-residents). The gate to the public access will probably be closed, but you're allowed to open it and go in. It is public land. The Sand Point Yacht Club sometimes stores their equipment on the public property, but as long as you stay in the area indicated by the signs you're fine. Walk down along the path while watching for warblers and then down to the bay. Shorebirds can be anywhere here. Bear left, and you'll get a good view of the island and, depending on the water level, good sandbars. A spotting scope is very useful here. You can also observe Hearing Island from the side of the road between the houses at 24th St. and from the Port Terminal.

15. PARK POINT PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

Description:

There are several spots along the point, as well as before you reach the Lafayette Recreation Center, where you may see a variety of shorebirds, gulls, loons, grebes and ducks, as well as songbirds.

Birds:

You never know what water birds and migrant land birds might turn up anywhere along Park Point in any season...from interesting sparrows on lawns to a Snowy Owl sitting on the lake or harbor ice, martins on telephone wires to Merlins overhead. There's also a good assortment of ducks and grebes in the lake and bay during spring and fall migration. The length of Park

Point can be rich in bird life.

Access:

You can park along Minnesota Ave. for most of its length. There are public Lake Superior accesspoints at 12th and 31st Sts. If you pull in at 15th St. on the harbor side, birders have been permitted to bird from the Army Reserve parking lot, and also at 19th St. behind Bayside Market.

16. PARK POINT RECREATION AREA

Description:

Unless filled with soccer players or large picnic groups, this is one of the finest birding spots in the entire state, combining some good cover and feeding opportunities for both forest and field birds as well as providing a wide view overhead for flying migrants.

Birds:

During spring and fall, all kinds of migrants can be anywhere here, including shorebirds, longspurs and pipits on the soccer fields or beach; virtually any songbird in the wooded dunes area; virtually any raptor overhead or flying through the trees. Merlins often nest in the large conifers and frequently make noisy flights. Kingbirds and waxwings often perch in the small trees along the edges of the grassy areas sallying out to snap up flying insects. On a good migration day, it's possible to see over 20 species of warblers on Park Point in this area.

Access:

The recreation area is 4 miles from the aerial bridge. The large parking area at the soccer area is a good place to park.

17. SKY HARBOR AIRPORT

Description:

This little airport where small airplanes and seaplanes take off and land is situated right in the middle of a major migration flyway. As with the rest of Park Point, just about any birds can fly overhead. Check the runway for grassland species, the dunes for any migrants, and the beach for water birds.

Birds:

Use a spotting scope to check out the runway where species such as Horned Larks, pipits, longspurs and Snow Buntings may gather. Owls sometimes roost in the pines. Just about anything may hide in the dunes and pines. You can take the trail and hike along the beach all the

way to the Superior Entry, about 2 miles from the airport gate.

Access:

There is a parking area just outside the airport gate. Be careful to stay within areas that are marked for hiking. This airport has regular take-offs and landings, so it's important to stay out of fenced areas.

18. RICE'S POINT AND INTERSTATE ISLAND

Description:

Rice's Point is the industrial heart of the city with railroad yards, a port terminal and grain elevators that border the harbor and the river estuary. It is a hot spot for birders in the winter because the spilled grain attracts rats and pigeons that are prey for northern raptors. Most of the land is private and much of it is fenced, so birding is a challenge. Interstate Island was created from harbor dredge spoil and lies in the middle of the channel between Minnesota and Wisconsin at the southeast end of Rice's Point.

Birds:

The winter specialty here is the Snowy Owl, seen around the elevators, docks and out on the harbor ice. Occasionally, other raptors are present, such as Peregrine Gyrfalcon (extremely rare), Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk and Great Horned Owl. On Interstate Island there is a small breeding colony of Common Terns within a huge colony of Ring-billed Gulls. During migration and into the summer other gulls, terns and waterfowl may be seen loafing along the shore of the island.

Access:

Interstate Island is best scanned from the southeast end of Rice's Point. Take the Garfield Ave./Port Terminal exit from I-535; keep to the right toward the boat launch site and the gravel road that runs along the water's edge. For winter raptors, work back along Garfield Ave. toward Duluth.

19. ERIE PIER DREDGE DISPOSAL SITE (40TH AVENUE WEST)

Description: Please note: This site is currently closed to the public.

This is an industrial site where harbor dredge spoil is deposited in a diked basin. Depending on the year and the activity the basin can be filled with water, dry and overgrown, or somewhere in between. When there are exposed mud flats, it is the best shorebird spot in the city. There are degraded wetlands along the edge of the harbor estuary adjacent to the dredge disposal site.

Birds:

Waterbirds and shorebirds during migration are the specialties, together with sparrows in the weedy edges. Many vagrants have been seen here, especially in the fall. In the summer, it is overrun with Canada Geese and their young.

[Access:](#)

Leave I-35 at the 40th Ave. W. exit (#253B) and head toward the bayfront. Adjacent to 40th Ave. on the right there is a gate to the access road to the dredge site. A 0.25 mile walk is required even if the gate is open (to avoid getting locked in). After crossing the railroad tracks, the diked area is straight ahead; there is a perimeter road in both directions.

20. GRASSY POINT

[Description:](#)

This is a restored wetland in an industrial area of the St. Louis River estuary that was heavily polluted in the last century. There is a short trail and boardwalk that goes to a couple of cattail fringed ponds adjacent to the river.

[Birds:](#) Ducks and geese rest here in migration, and herons, gulls, terns and cormorants can be seen flying overhead. Canada Geese and Mallard are common nesting birds and Green Herons are also breeding. The marshes are one of a few areas in the river estuary where Virginia Rail, Sora Rail and Least Bittern have been seen.

[Access:](#)

Turn off I-35 at the Grand Ave. exit (#251B) and go southwest 0.4 mile to the stop light at Raleigh St.; turn left and go east for 0.6 mile to the stop sign; go straight ahead on Waseca Industrial Rd.; continue across the RR overpass then left on Lesure St.; follow that 0.2 mile to the parking lot.

21. INDIAN POINT AND WESTERN WATERFRONT TRAIL

[Description:](#)

The public campground at Indian Point sits on a bluff overlooking the St. Louis River and is bordered along the water's edge by the Western Waterfront Trail. This is a 5 mile hiking and biking trail that goes both northeast (to 63rd Ave. W.) and southwest (to Riverside Marina) from Indian Point. It is adjacent to the water in many places.

[Birds:](#)

During the spring migration, this is one of the best places to see warblers and other passerines along the wooded brushy bluff where the trail curves around the edge of Indian Point. Waterbirds may be seen in the marsh or open water on either side of the point or further along on the Waterfront Trail.

[Access:](#)

There is a joint parking lot for the Western Waterfront Trail and the Munger Trail just beyond the Duluth Zoo; turn left next to the Munger Inn. Continue past the parking lot to the entrance to Indian Point campground. To get to the Zoo take the Grand Ave. exit (#251B) from I-35 and go southwest on Minn. Hwy. 23.

22. SPIRIT LAKE AND MORGAN PARK

[Description:](#)

Spirit Lake is a wide place in the St. Louis River where waterfowl may congregate at the height of the spring migration. There is a public overlook at the high bluff edge in Blackmer Park, a small playing field in the community of Morgan Park.

[Birds:](#) A spotting scope is necessary to observe the waterfowl that may be present. The peak migration is in mid-April, and Tundra Swans often congregate in the St. Louis River near Spirit Lake.

[Access:](#) Turn off I-35 at the Grand Ave. exit (#251B) and go to the southwest 3.5 miles on Minn. Hwy. 23 to the stoplight at the entrance to Morgan Park. Follow Arbor St., keeping left at the church, to 87th Ave. W.; turn right; at the next junction turn left on Beverly St. and go to the end at 84th Ave. W.

23. MUD LAKE AND ST. LOUIS RIVER

[Description:](#)

Mud Lake is a backwater on the St. Louis River, upstream from Spirit Lake. There are marshes along its border, and it is accessible by walking along the railroad tracks (used by a tourist train) that bisect the marsh on the north side of the Oliver Bridge. Further upstream, on the south side of the Oliver Bridge, is another marshy backwater adjacent to the river; out in the marsh there is a radio tower.

[Birds:](#)

This stretch of the St. Louis River is the best place to look for waterfowl, both during the spring migration and summer months. Tundra Swans are a specialty, and many other species of ducks and geese may be present during the April migration peak; Bald Eagles also congregate at this time. Marsh birds like herons, rails and Marsh Wren can also be found. Several rarities have been observed here.

[Access:](#)

Exit (#251B) from I-35 on Grand Ave. and go southwest approximately 6 miles on Minn. Hwy. 23 to the community of Gary-New Duluth; turn east toward Oliver, Wisconsin on Minn. Hwy. 39. The marsh with the radio tower (WWJC) is on the right, just before the Oliver Bridge. Birds can be observed by scanning from the radio station parking lot, if it is open. Go back 0.1 mile on Minn. Hwy. 39 to the unmarked foot access to Mud Lake, which is located under the railroad trestle. You can park by the gate. Walk down to the

railroad tracks that bisect the marsh and hike out along the tracks to the north end, which is usually the most productive for birds. (For safety sake, check the schedule of the tourist train before venturing out along the tracks.)

24. BOY SCOUT LANDING AND RIVER OVERLOOKS

Description:

This is a public boat-launching site with a view of the St. Louis River and the marshes on the opposite shore. There are also two overlooks to the west where other stretches of the river can be observed.

Birds:

The marshes can produce ducks during the migration peak and some shorebirds, like yellowlegs, as well. Raptors, especially Bald Eagles, can be seen along the river.

Access:The landing is off Minn. Hwy. 23 just beyond the junction with Minn. Hwy. 39, which is 6.1 miles west of the I-35 exit (#251B). The next overlook is 0.3 mile west on a bluff above the river landing. Further west is another river overlook across from Perch Lake at 121st Ave. W.

25. MISSION CREEK PARK

Description:

This 600-acre forest park contains heavily wooded hills and is in the far western Duluth neighborhood of Fond du Lac. It has an historic trail that follows part of the old Skyline Blvd. system as it winds around Mission Creek south from Becks Rd. This trail has unfortunately been heavily washed out and is not maintained. There is another hiking trail about 1.5 miles long to the east of the creek which climbs up through a mature spruce-fir forest on the lower slope and hardwood forest on the upland.

Birds:

This large tract of mature forest has the potential for many breeding flycatchers, thrushes and warblers that are usually found further north in state and federal forests. It has not been investigated much for birds.

Access:

The trailhead is at the gate at the end of 131st Ave. W. This is 8.7 miles on Minn. Hwy. 23 from I-35 exit (#251B).

26. CHAMBERS GROVE

Description:

This is a small 20-acre park adjacent to the St. Louis River just before the bridge over

Minn. Hwy. 23 to Wisconsin. It has picnic tables, grills and a playground. The open area is fringed by woods and penetrated by informal trails.

Birds:

There may be diving ducks on the river, especially when the ice is going out in the spring. The field and woods can attract migrant passerines.

Access:

The picnic area is adjacent to the Minn. Hwy. 23 bridge to Wisconsin on the northeast side immediately after Minn. Hwy. 210 turns off to Jay Cooke State Park. It is 9 miles west of the I-35 exit (#251B).

27. MAGNEY-SNIVELY NATURAL AREA AND WEST SKYLINE PARKWAY

Description:

This 1800-acre forested tract of City owned land in the southwestern hills of Duluth is a functional ecosystem rarely found in an urban area. There are eleven distinct plant communities with the dominant rich maple-basswood forest that includes some old-growth stands. There are magnificent displays of spring flowers. It was given a special designation as a Natural Area by the Duluth City

Council in November 2003. Skyline Parkway winds through the forest with dramatic rocky knobs (Ely's Peak and Bardon Peak) with great vistas over the St. Louis River valley. The Superior Hiking Trail intersects this forest, and there is a network of ski-touring trails that also provide hiking (perhaps wet) opportunities in summer.

Birds:

The extensive deciduous forest provides habitat for several species more commonly found to the south and east: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting, plus 40 or more other nesting birds.

Access:

The western entrance (closed in winter) to the Skyline Parkway is 1.2 miles south of the I-35 interchange (#246) via Midway to Becks Rd. It can also be reached from Minn. Hwy. 23 via Becks Rd. (County Hwy. 3) in Gary-New Duluth; the entrance is 3.2 miles up Becks Rd. The eastern entrance to Skyline goes through the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area from the Boundary Ave. I-35 exit (#249). Find information about Duluth Natural Areas Program at www.ci.duluth.mn.us/cityplanning/dnap/dnap.htm and about the Skyline Parkway at www.skylineppa.org.

28. SPIRIT MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA

Description:

This recreation area features a downhill ski complex on the slope above the St. Louis River. The Skyline Parkway goes through it, and there is also a network of ski-touring trails in the 500-acre mature hardwood forest to the west of the parkway. There is a drive-in campground with 73 wooded campsites at the Nordic Center.

Birds:

About 50 species of birds breed here with the Red-eyed Vireo, Veery and Ovenbird the most abundant. Other notable summer birds are the Yellow-throated Vireo, Winter Wren, Golden-winged Warbler and Scarlet Tanager.

Access:

The Skyline Parkway through Spirit Mountain is south from the Boundary Ave. exit (#249) from I-35. More information about the recreation area can be found at www.spiritmt.com/resort/stats.shtml.

29. THOMPSON HILL REST AREA

Description: This is a Department of Transportation information (maps, guides, bathrooms) and rest area with a spectacular view over the St. Louis River estuary and the City of Duluth.

Birds:

When the winds are right this is a place to see migrant raptors along the river corridor in the spring.

Access:

Take the north Boundary Ave. exit (#249) from I-35 and follow the signs.

30. ENGER PARK AND SKYLINE PARKWAY

Description:

The Skyline Parkway loops both through and around the southern end of this 130- acre park. At the summit is the 70-foot high Enger Tower with an interior stairway to a panoramic view of the Duluth harbor; there is also a nearby overlook and gazebo. There are picnic tables, two small ponds and a 200-acre adjacent golf course.

Birds:

During the spring hawk migration of March and April, this stretch of the Skyline Parkway is the best spot in the city to count hundreds of migrating raptors; 16 species of hawks are

seen yearly. Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk are the most abundant. Two very rare species have also been spotted: Mississippi Kite and Gyrfalcon. The birds seen from here travel the Minnesota Point and Rice's Point corridors and the St. Louis River valley.

Access:



Hawk watching is best from the lower loop of the Skyline Parkway below Enger Tower. Go west on Skyline Parkway at E. 9th St. from Mesaba Ave. (downtown exit from I-35). More information about the hawk migration is available at www.hawkridge.org. The entrance to Enger Park is off Hank Jensen Dr., which intersects the parkway loop at both ends.

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