



BIRDING AT COUNTY PARKS

5 = BIRDING TRAIL STOPS



BIRDING TRAIL
NEWAYGO COUNTY

Newaygo Co. Birding Trail

BIRDING AT THE COUNTY PARKS



ABOUT THE ROUTE

These sites are operated by Newaygo County Parks and Rec and have bathrooms (in season), paved roads, and other amenities including trails and campgrounds.

17 Diamond Lake County Park

3351 N. Mundy Ave. | White Cloud
(43.6145745, -85.8136432)



Habitat: Open water, mature woodland
Notable species: Philadelphia vireo, Orchard Oriole, Common Loon

Where to explore: This 150-acre County Park has ample room to hike and birdwatch. From this park you can also access the famous Birch Grove Trail which links to the North Country Scenic Trail and accesses Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary. Around Diamond Lake look for raptors, wading birds, and migrating ducks and geese. The mature woodlands host many species of songbirds in spring and summer including vireos, warblers, orioles, and many others.

18 White Cloud County Park/ North Country Trail

680 E Wilcox Ave. | White Cloud
(43.548775, -85.786026)



Habitat: Open woodland, wooded riverbank, ballfield
Notable species: Red-headed Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler

Where to explore: This 80-acre County Park offers a variety of habitat including a half mile of frontage along the scenic White River. The park sits atop a high bank along the river that holds a mature woodland with hemlock and oak, while the far bank is floodplain. Parking in the day use lot gives you access to the connector for the North Country Trail, which heads west behind the ballfield where it splits in two. Take the trail to the left to head down to the river and Flowing Wells Artesian Wells Park but note, the trail is steep at times. This park is typically the summer habitat for a significant number of Red-headed Woodpeckers. You may see raptors

nesting in the trees. Look for songbirds along the river, including several species of warblers, woodpeckers, and Brown Creeper. If you are a paddler this section of the river hosts the White River Blue Water Trail. Access is gained at Rotary Park east of M-37 and it ends at Flowing Wells.

19 Newaygo County Welcome Center

4684 S. Evergreen Dr. | Newaygo
(43.469597, -85.774471)



Habitat: Open parkland, mature woodland
Notable Species: Least Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Pileated Woodpecker

Where to explore: The Newaygo County Welcome Center and Sports Park is a great place to start your tour of the southern half of Newaygo County hotspots. The facility sits atop a steep hill overlooking Little Lake Placid and features a bird feeding station with webcam. A spur trail (blazed in white) that leads to the North Country Trail (blazed in blue) is accessible behind Graves Lodge. The trail is steep and is recommended only for those in reasonably good condition. This spur will take you down along Little Placid Lake and to the bottom of the toboggan run. Return to the Welcome Center on the same trail. Bird around the grounds and watch the feeders, and/or take the spur loop down and back for closer views of the lake. Look for waterfowl in season and a variety of songbirds.

KEY

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| PARKING | FISHING DOCK |
| FEE | CAMPING |
| RESTROOM | BEACHES |
| BOAT DOCK | TRAILS |
| PICNIC TABLES | PLAYGROUND |

22 Sandy Beach County Park

6926 E. 30th St. | White Cloud
(43.495150, -85.630662)



Habitat: Open water, lake shore, mature mixed forest, open parkland
Notable Species: Magnolia Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Where to explore: Sandy Beach County Park encompasses 130 acres on the west shore of the 4,000 acre Hardy Dam Pond. The main attraction here is the Dragon, a new hiking and mountain biking trail that encircles Hardy Dam Pond. When the park is open and operational, park in the paved lot at the south end where you can access the trail and have views of Hardy Dam Pond. Off season park at the north end near the Port-a-potty and access the trail from E 30th Street. Explore in either direction along the Dragon through mature mixed forest, search the campground for species who prefer open habitat, and scan the lake for waterfowl. PLEASE NOTE the Dragon is a mixed-use trail and is very popular with mountain bikers. Pay attention to activity on the trail, not just the birds.

27 Ed Henning County Park

500 Croton Rd. | Newaygo
(43.419404, -85.789200)



Habitat: Mix of parkland, woodland and riparian
Notable species: Eastern Screech Owl, Carolina Wren, Baltimore Oriole, Osprey

Where to explore: Park in the large lot on the left side of the entrance road and walk along the disk golf course which winds through the woodland on the bluff above the river. You can also walk down to the river and boat launch area. Watch for raptors and herons along the river and a variety of songbirds in the woodlands and open grassy areas around the campground.