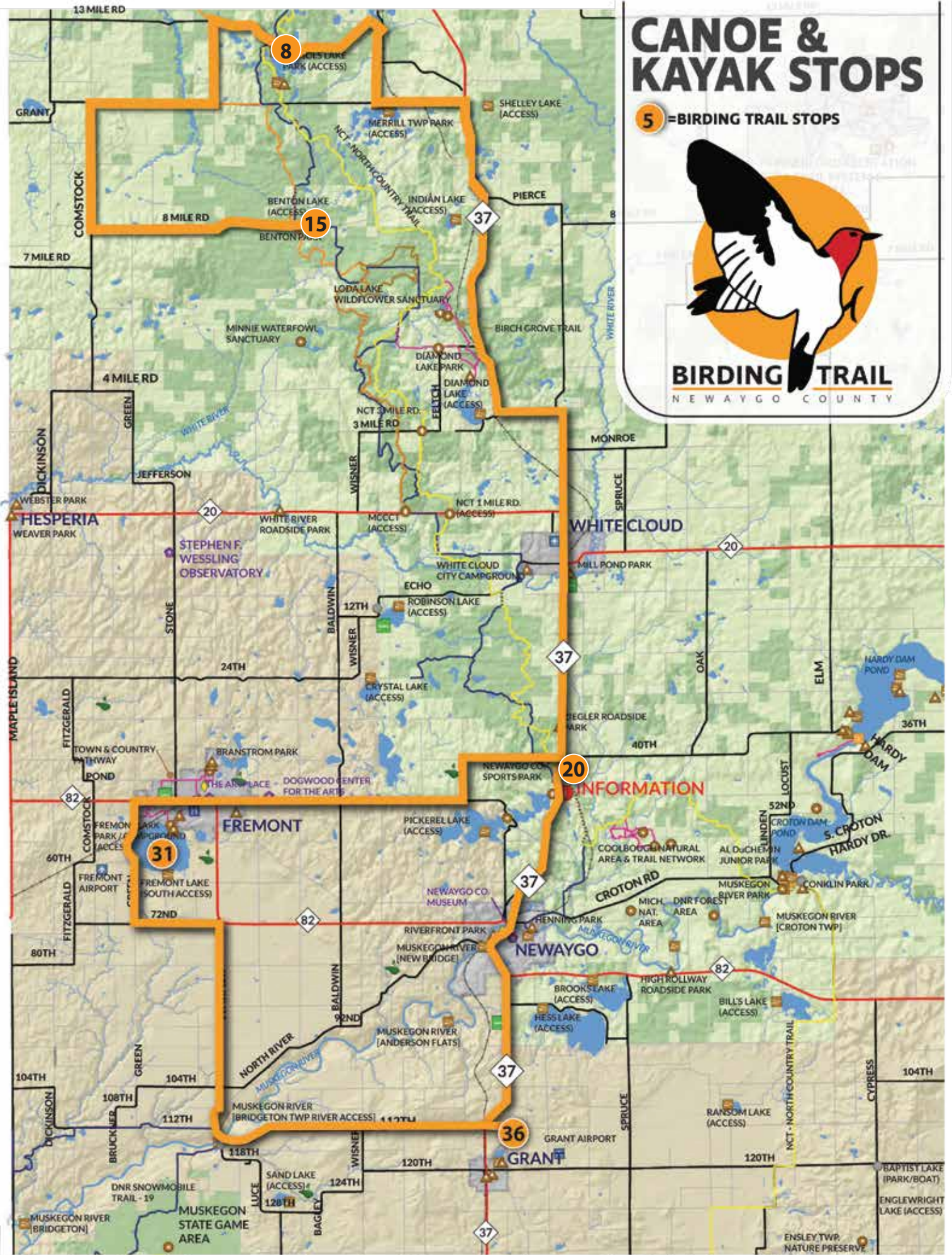


CANOE & KAYAK STOPS

5 = BIRDING TRAIL STOPS



BIRDING TRAIL
NEWAYGO COUNTY



Newaygo Co. Birding Trail

CANOE & KAYAK STOPS



ABOUT THE ROUTE

Sites that can be birded by canoe/kayak. These sites have small lakes with unimproved launches suitable for small boats, but can also be birded from land. County's varied habitat.

8 Nichols Lake North Recreation

3967-3999 Cleveland Dr. W. | Bitely
(43.733392, -85.906851)



Habitat: Mix of lake, lake shore, wetland, and mature mixed deciduous forest. A scope is helpful to scan the lake.

Species: Cerulean Warbler, Winter Wren, Common Loon, Black-billed Cuckoo

Where to explore: This 153-acre lake is home to loons, bald eagles, a variety of songbirds, and attracts migrating waterfowl in season. There are two boat launches, an improved launch at the day use area and an unimproved launch at the south end, as well as a rustic campground. The eBird hotspot is at the day use area and this is where a Cerulean Warbler was found carrying food in the summer of 2023.

To access the improved boat launch, turn south off Cleveland Dr and take the road to the right that goes down the hill. There is parking for cars near the day use area—please do not park in the trailer parking spots. Birding can be done from the boat launch, the parking lot, and from the day use area. If you have a boat, birding the shoreline can also be quite productive, but keep in mind this is a no-wake lake for only part of the day and can be busy on the weekends. There is also a second parking lot almost immediately after turning off Cleveland Dr that serves as trailhead parking for the North Country Scenic Trail if you are interested in hiking. Managed by the National Forest Service.

15 Benton Lake Day Use Area

2900-2998 W Pierce Dr. | White Cloud
(43.670242, -85.89327)



Habitat: Lake/wetland, early successional forest

Notable Species: Trumpeter swan

Where to explore: The day use area is situated between the campground and boat launch. Explore the day use area and walk the park road through the campground and to the boat launch. Benton Lake is a no wake lake so is great for canoeing or kayaking.

20 Twinwood Lake Campground

Basswood Dr. | White Cloud
(43.4760393, -85.7676746)



Habitat: Lake/wetland, early successional forest

Notable Species: Trumpeter swan

Where to explore: Twinwood is an undeveloped lake with a richly diverse habitat including a wetland, a tributary of Bigelow Creek, oak forest, and large white pines. Views of the lake from the boat launch reveal waterfowl in season as well as wading birds, and Bald Eagles have been known to nest here. A trail leading from the east end of the parking lot passes behind the campsite next to the lot and winds along a Bigelow Creek tributary. This is an old section of the North Country Scenic Trail and while it is no longer on any maps is well-traveled and easy to follow, eventually coming out on 40th Ave. Much of this hike is through a floodplain and is lined with towering white pines. This is a good place to find a variety of songbirds including several species of warbler as well as Wild Turkey. The wet margins of the lake and along the Bigelow Creek tributary hold American Woodcock.

31 Sheridan Park/Fremont Lake

5260 Lee Ave. | Fremont
(43.441243, -85.963671)



Habitat: Woodland, wetland, shrub, parkland, lake

Notable species: Common Goldeneye, Redhead, Greater Scaup

Where to explore: Sheridan Park is located north of the township hall and includes a small park and mature woodland. A wetland extends along the road to the boat launch and the shrubby habitat along the shore is good for sparrows and other songbirds. Fremont Lake is a good place to see large number of waterfowl during migration.

36 Blanche Lake Park

300 N Park Dr. | Grant
(43.339818, -85.801377)



Habitat: Lake, open woodland, parkland
Notable Species: Least bittern, Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe

Where to explore: This park is located on Park Drive just off East State Road across from the Grant Elementary School. Blanche Lake Park is a mix of open woodlands, small grass fields and lake shore. Here you should find herons, resident songbirds, and woodpeckers. In the spring and fall look for migrant waterfowl and warblers. This is a public area with easy access and a well-marked Disk Golf course that you can follow. Blanche Lake is accessible by boat from the beach.

KEY

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