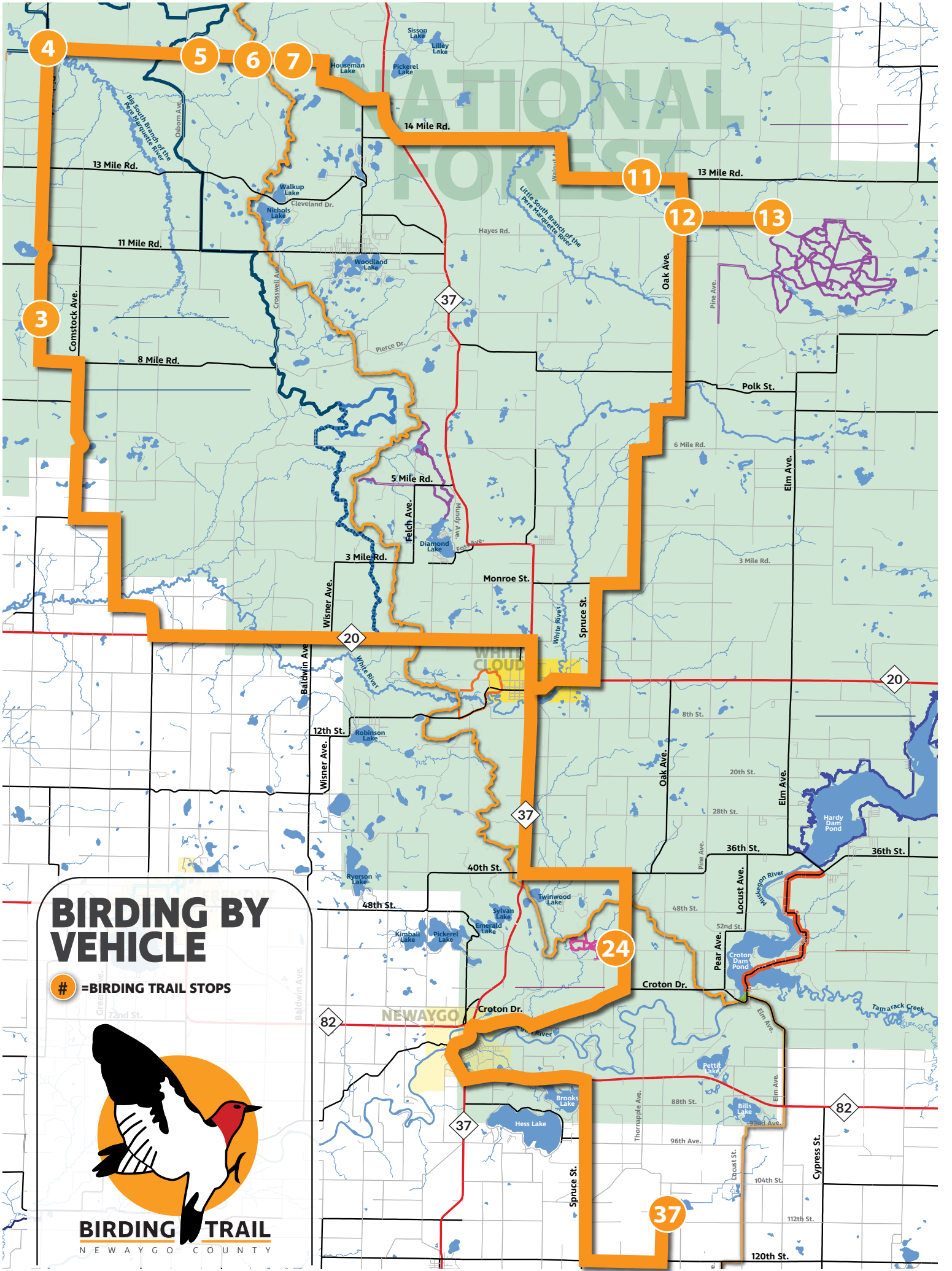


NATIONAL FOREST



BIRDING BY VEHICLE

= BIRDING TRAIL STOPS



BIRDING TRAIL
NEWAYGO COUNTY

Newaygo Co. Birding Trail

BIRDING BY VEHICLE



ABOUT THE ROUTE

Sites that can be birded by car. Do you have time limitations? Are you of limited mobility? These are roadside sites that don't require any walking and can be birded from your vehicle.

3 Beaver Creek at Dickenson Ave.

Between 8 Mile and Lincoln
(43.683525, -86.01927)

Habitat: Mix of riparian, mature woodland, grassland, agricultural, and wetland;
Notable Species: Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Sora, Virginia Rail

Where to explore: This .07 mile stretch of Dickinson Ave hosts an impressive diversity of habitat. Beginning south of the creek the road is lined with shrubs, then transitions to open woodland along Beaver Creek. Past the creek is a pond and wetland, then a small farm with some cultivated fields and pastures south of Lincoln Street. You will find a variety of songbirds in the shrub and woodland, waterfowl and marsh birds around the pond, and grassland birds at the farm. You can park and walk this stretch or easily bird from your vehicle.

4 Big South Branch Pere Marquette River at Dickenson Rd

Dickenson Ave and 16 Mile Road
(43.785621, -86.01737)

Habitat: Riparian, floodplain, backwater
Notable Species: Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk

Where to explore: The southeast corner of W 16 Mile and Dickenson is a mix of river, backwater, and floodplain. The woods along Dickenson are mostly maple but along 16 Mile it transitions to cedar and hemlock. There is some roadside parking on Dickenson near the bridge but use caution birding here as there is some traffic and sightlines are short. There is also some roadside parking along 16 Mile east of Dickenson. Look for waterfowl and wading birds in the backwaters, thrushes, warblers, and other songbirds in the hemlock.
LIMITED CELL SERVICE

5 16 Mile Road at Wet Meadow

(43.785152, -85.937698)

Habitat: mostly grassland/wet meadow bordered by mature forests
Species: Marsh Wren, Virginia Rail, Wilson's Snipe, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rough-legged Hawk (winter)

Where to explore: Either park on the roadside and walk or drive slowly along this extensive wetland complex. To the north is a shrub-dominated wetland, to the south is a wet meadow/grassland, each containing unique species. This is private property so please stay on the road.
LIMITED CELL SERVICE

6 16 Mile Road at Cedar Creek/ North Country Trail

(43.785261, -85.911225)

Habitat: mix of riparian, marsh, and mature woodland
Notable Species: Golden-winged Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Where to explore: 16 Mile Road is dirt, but the area around the bridge is paved. Park at either end of the bridge, being sure to bird both sides of the road along the floodplain. The North Country Scenic Trail crosses 16 Mile just west of the bridge and provides access to a greater variety of habitat. South on the trail will take you through edge habitat as the floodplain transitions to forest and then on to a wooden bridge across Cedar Creek and a dense thicket of alder. North on the trail follows a marsh and into mature forest. There are a great variety of birds in the area, and this is an excellent location for migrating warblers in autumn.
LIMITED CELL SERVICE

7 16 Mile Road at Cedar Swamp

(43.785261, -85.90094)

Habitat: wetland/swamp, mix of shrub and cedar, bordered by mature mixed forest
Notable Species: 12 warbler species including Northern Waterthrush and Canada Warbler

Where to explore: Park on the shoulder and walk along 16 Mile. The wetland extends approximately 1/10 of a mile and is bordered by mature forest. On the south side the habitat is shrubby while the north side is dominated by white cedar. Listen for Northern Waterthrush and watch for dueling Blue-winged Warblers in spring, as well as any of the other ten species of warbler reported here. This is private property so please stay on the road.
LIMITED CELL SERVICE

11 Poplar Ave at 13 Mile

(43.744156, -85.721774)

Habitat: grassland with small wetlands/ vernal ponds and hayfields
Notable species: Dickcissel, Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, American Kestrel

Where to explore: Park on Poplar Ave north of 13 Mile and walk, or drive slowly north along Poplar Ave. The area features hay fields, left uncut until late June or early July, affording grassland birds the opportunity to nest. Many of the birds use the trees and shrubs along Poplar to perch and sing, especially the Dickcissel. There are also several small ponds/potholes that increase diversity. American Kestrels perch on utility wires and Northern Harriers cruise above the grasslands. Winter is a good time to look for Rough-legged Hawks. Private, please stay on road.

Newaygo Co. Birding Trail

BIRDING BY VEHICLE



ABOUT THE ROUTE

Sites that can be birded by car. Do you have time limitations? Are you of limited mobility? These are roadside sites that don't require any walking and can be birded from your vehicle.

12 12 Mile Road at Oak Ave

Monroe Township (Private--bird from road)
(43.728118, -85.700013)

Habitat: Mix of agricultural fields, grasslands, and wooded riparian/wetland
Notable Species: Swamp Sparrow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Eastern Meadowlark

Where to explore: This section of road is bordered by private property so please stay on the road. Park on 12 Mile Road as Oak Ave is paved and busier. This location is a nice mix of agricultural, riparian, mature woods and thicket where you may find both grassland and woodland species. Private, please stay on road.

13 12 Mile Road at Hemlock

Monroe Township (Private--bird from road)
(43.728276, -85.6535776)

Habitat: Grassland, agricultural fields, pasture, bordered by woodland.
Notable Species: Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Where to explore: You can either park your car along the road and explore on foot or bird from your vehicle. Look for Upland Sandpiper perched atop fence posts and power poles along 12 Mile. Be sure to bird the corner of 12 Mile and Hemlock as well as north along Hemlock for grassland birds. The open pastures are a good place to watch for raptors in winter.

24 Newaygo Prairie Sanctuary

5600-5998 S. Poplar Ave. | Newaygo
(43.448881, -85.722606)

Habitat: Prairie, mature woodland
Notable species: Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow

Where to explore: The Newaygo Prairie Sanctuary comprises 110 acres of prairie habitat owned by the Michigan Nature Association. In late spring and summer, look for dry prairie species like Savannah, Vesper, and Grasshopper sparrows along with Eastern Towhee and several woodpecker species. There are no established trails, so use care while exploring the site, keeping an eye out for the boundary and prickly pear cactus.

37 Old Rice Lake Muck Flats

Corner of Oak Ave and 110th Street
(43.355328, -85.712285)

Habitat: Agricultural fields, canals, sometimes flooded fields in spring
Notable Species: Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, Brewer's and Rusty Blackbirds

Where to explore: This site is private land and must be birded from the roadside. Oak Ave connects to many dirt roads that follow drainage ditches where open-country birds can be found. Sparrows of several species along with blackbirds are common. Migrant shorebirds such as American Golden and Black-bellied Plovers stop-over in the fields and their cousins, the Killdeer, are common in spring, summer, and fall. Rusty blackbirds are found on the power lines in fall. This is also the site where the Ferruginous Hawk Erieau was spotted in June 2023.