

The BIRDS of MARINETTE, MENOMINEE and PESHTIGO

The cities of Marinette and Peshtigo, Wisconsin, and Menominee, Michigan are located approximately 50 miles northeast of Green Bay, WI on the shores of Green Bay. Two large rivers, the Menominee and the Peshtigo, empty into the Bay, creating large areas of marsh and wetlands where swans, geese, ducks, shorebirds, herons, cranes, gulls and bald eagles have been observed. Winter provides a chance to see a snowy owl, shrikes, redpolls or rough-legged hawks; and spring is excellent for migrating passerines and shorebirds.

This pamphlet contains a map of 10 key observation areas in the tri-city area, a checklist of species an observer might find in the area, and a brief description of seasonal bird activity during the months most people visit the area.

1. Harmony Hardwoods Memorial Forest

This Marinette County-owned forest comprises 478 acres of forested and open areas including a prairie demonstration site and stands of old-growth northern hardwood. A small stream enhances the biodiversity of the area. The area provides nesting habitat for many species requiring mature forests. Find it by taking WI 64 west from Marinette, 6 miles to County Highway E; turn south on E then east on the dirt road just past the buildings. Go to the end of the road where signs will guide you onto the trails. A trail map is available at the Marinette County Courthouse.

2. Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area- West Side

This State of Wisconsin property comprises more than 4,000 acres of forest and marsh, is bisected by the Peshtigo River and includes more than four miles of frontage on Green Bay. Many marsh birds nest here including: ducks, rails, marsh and sedge wrens, bittern, sandhill cranes, bald eagles and ospreys. The area is best explored by canoe but many areas are accessible by walking and many species may be viewed from launch sites. The western section may be accessed from Front Street in Peshtigo, while County Highway B and BB provides access to the east.

3. Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area – East Side

This area includes many side roads along County Highway BB. Coming from the east, turn onto Pond Road. The entire area after the black-topped road is public land managed by the Department of Natural Resources and has many diversified habitats for excellent bird observations. Alternatively continue along County Highway BB and turn at the sign for the Wildlife Area and the boat landing.

4. City of Marinette Nature Walk

This city-owned 40 acre conservation area has a one-half mile loop that begins along Bay Shore Street, north of Edwin Street, and extends into a lowland wooded marsh. The trail parallels several drainage ditches and ends back at Bay Shore Street. In spring it is a good site for migrating passerines. Summer residents include typical marsh birds.

5. Seagull Bar Natural Area

Seagull Bar is a system of sand ridges and low dunes in Green Bay just south of the Menominee River mouth and adjacent to Red Arrow City Park. The sand spit shelters a lagoon of shallow water with mud flats and emergent vegetation, which changes from year to year according to Green Bay water levels. During the spring and fall, thousands of migrating birds, especially shorebirds, waterfowl, gulls, terns, and warblers, can be observed on the shore and in the shallows. Approximately 200 bird species have been recorded from this site.

6. Menekaunee Walkway

This paved walkway on the mouth of the Menominee River and along the shores of Green Bay is lined with shrubs, willows, boxelder, balm and cottonwood trees. Expect to see many shorebirds, gulls, terns, cormorants, ducks, woodpeckers, and in spring look for warblers and blue-gray gnatcatchers. Check to see what ducks are on the small pond just off the walkway. Along the river there are large piles of sand, salt and coal. Many bank swallows nest in the sand, and in winter, you may see a snowy owl. The walk begins on Ogden Street by the river or from Red Arrow Park.

7. Tourist Park, Harbor Drive and Lighthouse Pier

In Menominee, turn east off 1st Street on Harbor Drive next to the Credit Union Office to access Tourist Park, a good viewing spot for migrating shorebirds and water birds. Continuing along Harbor Drive to Lighthouse Pier Walkway, expect to spot gulls, terns and waterbirds. Grebes and loons are seen in migration here, while in early winter, snowy owl, kestrel and peregrine falcon are often seen in the cottonwoods along Harbor Drive.

8. Henes Park

This Menominee City park is a unique elevated glacial till point on Green Bay, with a mixture of forest, ponds and open sites. The park includes more than 20 undeveloped acres with improved trails winding through diverse habitat. Orchids, orioles and many other northern forest and shoreline species can be found in the park in addition to great birding opportunities during migration. Access is via Henes Park Drive off M-35, 5 blocks north of US 41.

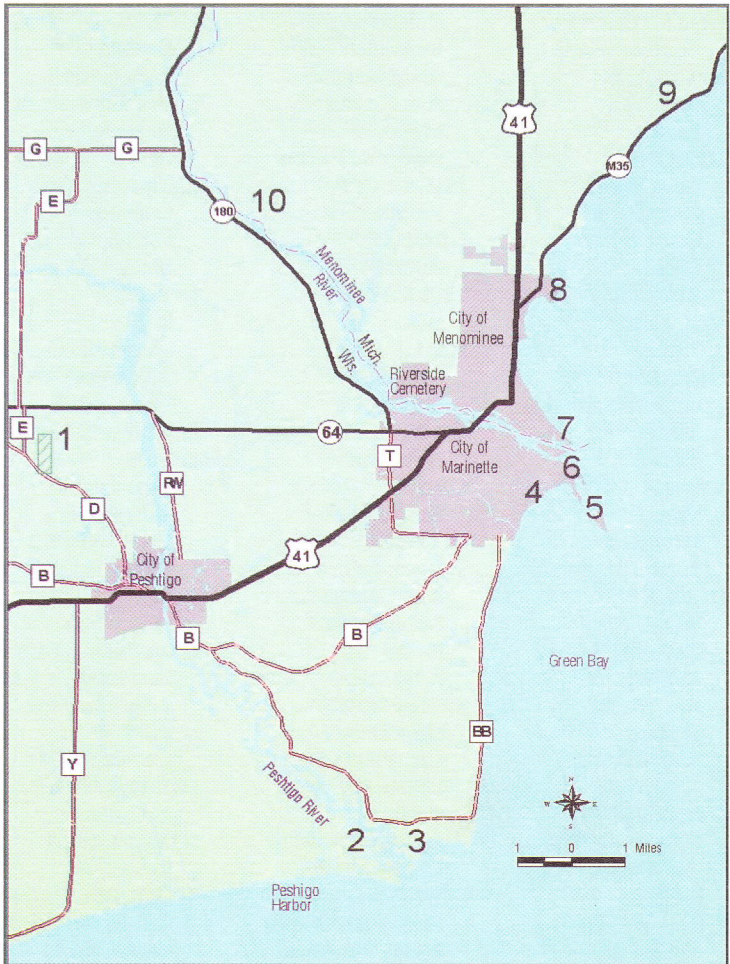
9. Airport Park

This county owned park on Green Bay features rocky shores, mudflats and shallow water making this a good site for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Willow shrub along shoreline provide habitat for cardinal, yellow warblers and sparrows. Airport Park is located approximately 5 miles northeast of Menominee via M-35 and has a paved parking and public boat launch.

10. Chappee Rapids Learning Center

The Center is located on eleven acres on the Menominee River that includes old field successional habitat in the uplands and lowland deciduous forestlands along the river. This is a quiet site offering views of jays, bluebirds, bald eagles, Cooper's, osprey, broadwings, as well as good warbler viewing during migration. The Center is located approximately 5.5 miles north of Menominee on River Road. There is a small parking area at entrance and trail leading down to the river.

Key Observation Areas and Sightings of Interest



For more information, contact:
Chappee Rapids Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1133, Marinette, WI 54143

www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org