



The Tahquamenon Scenic Byway

Birding Along the Byway

Whitefish Point is designated an important bird area by the National Audubon Society, which has classified the migratory patterns of certain species and the appearance of others as globally significant. This area is the number one site in the country for owl banding, with some spring seasons producing over 600 bandings on one count alone. It is also one of the nation's most diverse migration spots for owls. Eight species have been banded here during the 20-plus years of the ongoing study that tracks owl population trends. Visitors can watch 'banders' weigh and measure the owls, dusk to dawn nightly, and may even get to personally send them skyward.

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory's annual Spring Fling is a good time to catch migration at its peak and attend seminars, like bird identification by sounds. This location is famous for the large variety, the migration of certain species and being one of the leading observatories in the country. Spring and fall are the ideal time for birders to come to this area and observe the many species that travel through the area. Included are the migrations of Hawk, Loon, Eagles, Falcons, Owls and songbirds. The bird enthusiasts of the area compile statistics of the different species each year. Annually, over 300 different species have been spotted and recorded. The beaches and sand dunes of the Lake Superior Shoreline are also protected areas during the nesting season of the piping plover.



Birding Fast Facts

- Annually, over 300 different species have been spotted and recorded.
- Whitefish Point is designated an important bird area by the National Audubon Society.
- The practice of conservation and lawful protection of certain shorelines, forests and wildlife areas ensure that the lands that these animals call home will remain intact for future generations to see and enjoy.

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