

# BIRD GUIDE

## *Birds of Stillwater*

### Explore Stillwater, MN

As part of the Mississippi flyway, the St. Croix River Valley is an important breeding and migration corridor for significant numbers of breeding and migrating raptors, waterbirds, and songbirds. Its location and variety of habitats result in great diversity with 268 documented species.

Photographer: Simon d'Entremont

Whether you're looking for an easy short nature walk or a long birding hike, you'll find what you're looking for. This downloadable/printable guide is brought to you by Sustainable Stillwater MN/Bird City Stillwater in collaboration with St. Paul Audubon and Next Bend Birding Tours & Photography. The City of Stillwater became a Bird City in 2021. Sustainable Stillwater MN Org/Bird City Stillwater continues to implement bird conservation best practices in the area.

Photographer: David Boltz

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Photographer: Jeff Wind



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# EXPLORE

## North of Stillwater

Photographer: Linnet Tse



## Short Loop [3-4 hours]



### First Stop: Pine Point Regional Park

01

**Parking Address:** [11900 Norell Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55028](#)

**Fee?** Yes

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 6 miles (10 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** The best birding trails in Pine Point are north and west of the parking lot. A full outer loop here (about 3 miles) will bring you through mixed woods (mostly deciduous), restored prairie, the edge of Louise Lake, and above a pond. Common Loons and Trumpeter Swans nest on the lake, while the woods are host to Wood Thrush and Scarlet Tanager. This is a terrific warbler habitat (22 species have been found here) during migration.

**Estimated Birding Time:** 1.5 hours



### Second Stop: Arcola Bluffs Day Use Area

02

**Parking Address:** [11471-11871 Arcola Trail N, Stillwater, MN 55082](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Pine Point:** About 8.5 miles (14 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 6 miles (10 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** This small parcel of National Park land is part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Stroll through an oak forest restoration atop the bluff before descending through pines, mixed woods, and a spring-fed ravine until you reach the St. Croix River in front of the historic Arcola High Bridge. All 7 species of southern Minnesota woodpeckers have been seen here, and the mixed habitat is good for just about anything in migration (including 26 warbler species). Of particular interest are breeding Prothonotary Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush, both species at the northern edge of their range.

**Estimated Birding Time:** at least 1 hour (for out-and-back to the river)



### Return to Stillwater

03

**Quick Directions:** Head southwest on Arcola Trail N and take MN-95 South following the St. Croix River to Stillwater

# EXPLORE

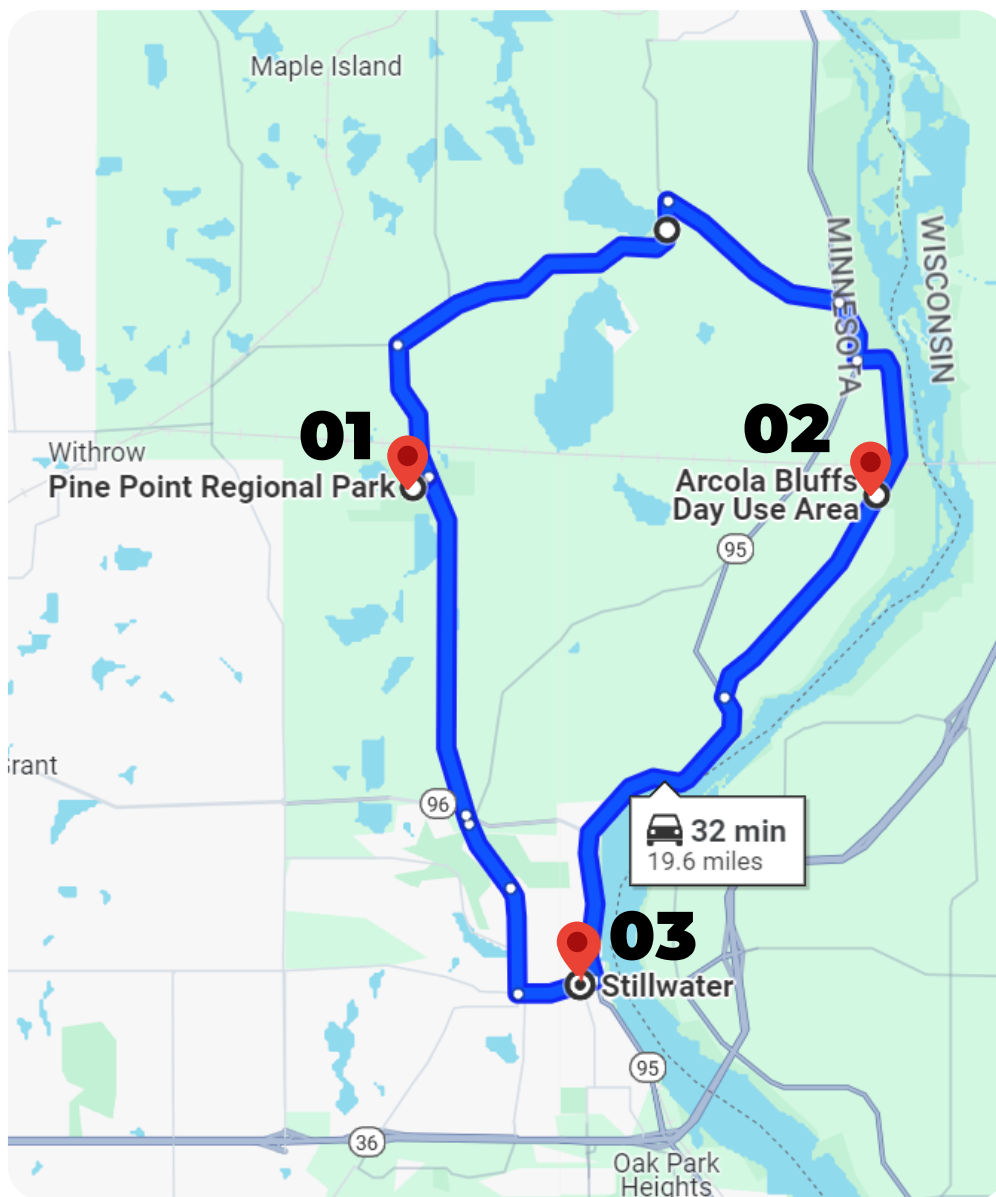
## *North of Stillwater*

### Short Loop [3-4 hours]

Photographer: Jacob Woulf



#### Google Map of locations





# EXPLORE

## North of Stillwater

Photographer: Kenneth McCloskey



## Long Loop [6+ hours]



### First Stop: William O'Brien State Park

01

**Parking Address:** [16821 O'Brien Trail N, Marine on St Croix, MN 55047](#)

**Fee?** Yes

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 13.5 miles (17 minutes drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** Great birding abounds in any direction here. A great way to sample the park and its wildlife would be to park at the Wedge Hill Group Camp trailhead. Hike the Wetland Trail (about 2.3 miles), where you may, depending on the season, come across Wilson's Snipe, American Bittern, Rusty Blackbirds, Virginia Rail, Common Raven, Sandhill Crane, Northern Shrike, Ruffed Grouse, and Beaver. Then drive (or walk, if you have time) down the steep park road to the Riverside Trail. The 1.6 mile loop may reveal a Barred Owl, Bald Eagle, migrant waterfowl on Lake Alice, Wood Thrush, Bank Swallow, or some of the 31 species of warblers noted here (including nesting Prothonotary Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush)—making this park one of the top warbler spots in all of southern Minnesota.

**Estimated Birding Time:** 3 hours

### Second Stop: Big Marine Park Reserve

02

**Parking Address:** [17585 Lomond Trail N, Marine on St Croix, MN 55047](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from William O'Brien:** About 10 miles (16 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 14 miles (20 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** In any season, head first to the lake at the end of the park road. It's one of the largest in the metro area and supports nesting waterfowl (Common Loons, Blue-Winged Teal, Trumpeter Swans, Hooded Mergansers) and just about any migrant waterfowl in early spring and mid-to-late fall. Sea ducks seen include the Long-Tailed Duck and all three Scoters. A walk on any of the relatively short forest or marsh edge trails can provide a glimpse of Veery, Great Horned Owl, Least Bittern, Red-Shouldered Hawk, or a variety of sparrows. Also, enjoy the Purple Martin colony in spring and summer!

**Estimated Birding Time:** 1.5 hours

# EXPLORE

## North of Stillwater

Photographer: Julie Torkomian



## Long Loop [6+ hours]



**Third Stop:** Gateway Trail (Pine Point Park access)

**Parking Address:** [11900 Norell Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55028](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Big Marine:** About 9 miles (13 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 6 miles (10 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** Stay on the paved Gateway Trail that cuts through the heart of Pine Point. Hooded Mergansers, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanagers, and an occasional American Woodcock can be seen as you make your way out of wooded Pine Point and through the countryside of May Township. Here, horse ranches abound, and you'll pass scattered small marshes and wooded pockets as well; look and listen for Great-Crested Flycatchers, Sora, Black-Billed Cuckoo, Eastern Meadowlark, Indigo Bunting, Clay-Colored Sparrow, and orioles (Baltimore and Orchard). The trail goes all the way to St. Paul, but you can get some great birding by walking toward Manning Ave and back (about 3.8 miles round-trip if you go all the way to Manning).

**Estimated Birding Time:** Up to 3 hours

03

## Return to Stillwater

**Quick Directions:** Head south on Norell Ave N to Stillwater

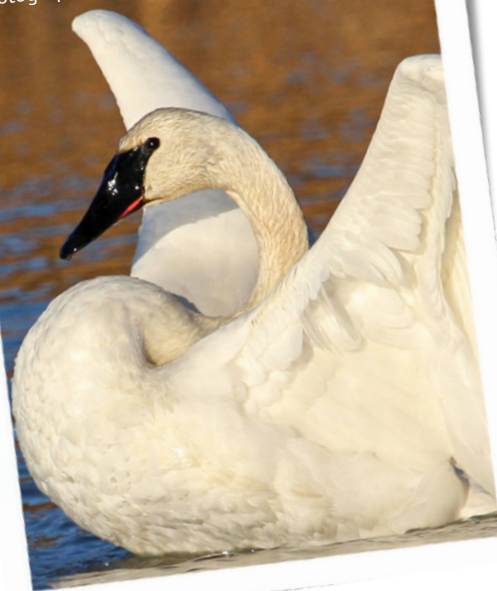
04

# EXPLORE

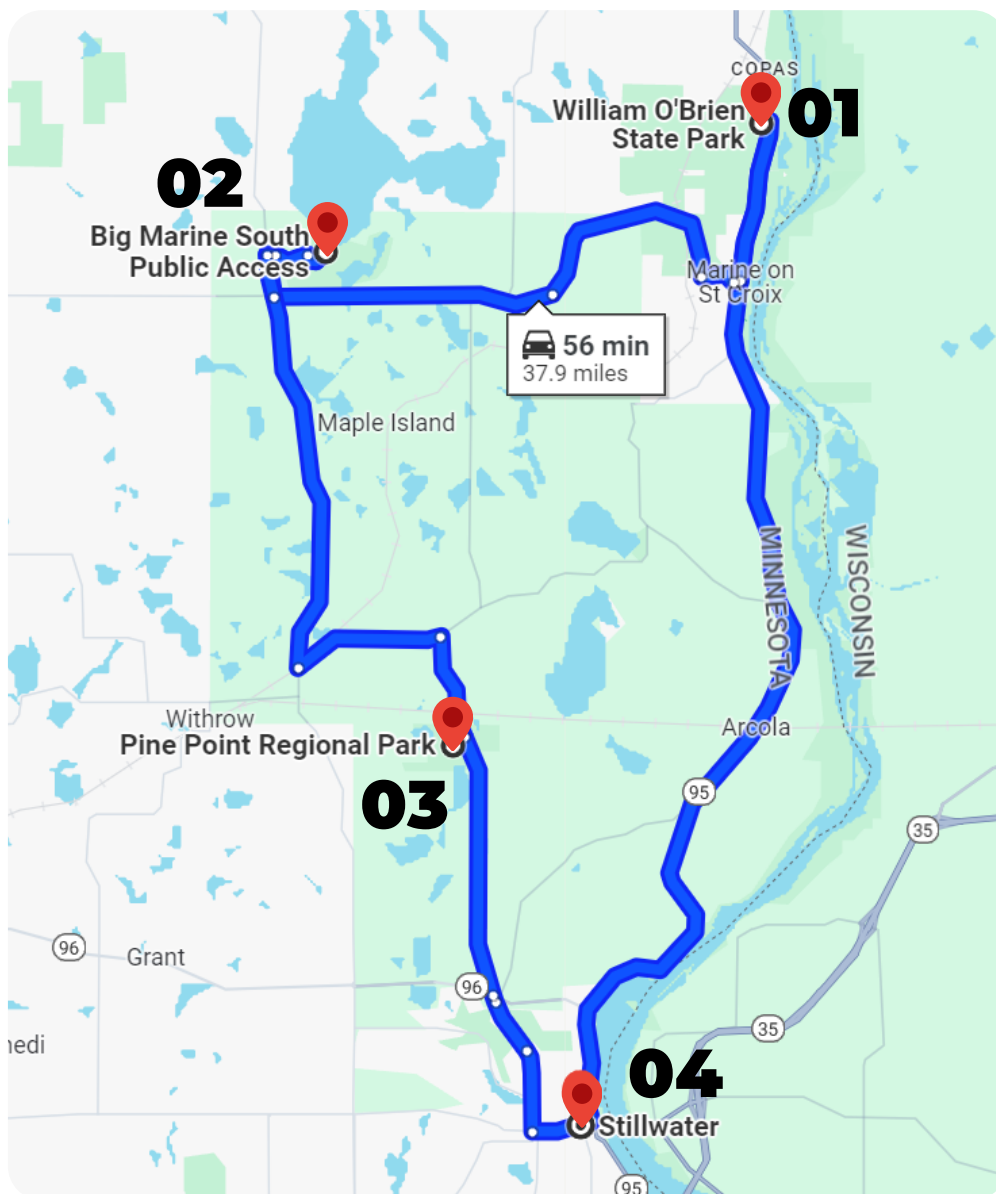
## *North of Stillwater*

### Long Loop [6+ hours]

Photographer: Gary Rasmussen



#### Google Map of locations





# EXPLORE

## West of Stillwater



## Short Loop [3-4 hours]



### First Stop: Katherine Abbott Park

01

**Parking Address:** [1000 Lincolntown Ave, Mahtomedi, MN 55115](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 8.5 miles (16 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** At least 140 species have been found in this small, little-visited park. Less than 2 miles of trails wind through meadows, pine stands, ponds, and brush. Some of the exciting finds here include Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Saw-Whet Owl, Red-Headed Woodpecker, Horned Grebe, and Le Conte's Sparrow.

**Estimated Birding Time:** 1 hour



### Second Stop: White Bear Lake County Park

02

**Parking Address:** [5050 Lake Ave, White Bear Lake, MN 55110](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Katherine Abbott:** About 5 miles (11 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 11.5 miles (18 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** About 150 species have been found here, but the lake is the main draw. Over 20 species of waterfowl, including Cackling Goose, Canvasback, Red-Breasted Merganser, and Red-Necked Grebe, have been spotted. This is one of the only decent shorebird locations in the area, with 15 species on record (including notables such as Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, and Dunlin). Gulls and terns of all varieties are worth scanning for here—Iceland Gull has shown up in winter.

**Estimated Birding Time:** Up to half an hour





# EXPLORE

## West of Stillwater

### Short Loop [3-4 hours]



Photographer: David Held



**Third Stop:** Gateway Trail Bridge (Hwy. 96 access)

03

**Parking Lot Coordinates:** [45°04'46.6"N 92°53'48.5"W](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from White Bear Park:** About 5.5 miles (8 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 6 miles (10 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** Head northeast toward the trail's crossing with Lansing Avenue, then retrace your steps (about 2.5 miles if you go the whole way). Even a partial jaunt of this segment of trail brings you at the edge of some large ponds, marshes, and a mix of open space and woods. Scarlet Tanager, several hawks (including Cooper's, Broad-Winged, and Red-Shouldered), Eastern Towhee, and Rose-Breasted Grosbeak are among the highlights of this trail.

**Estimated Birding Time:** Up to 1.5 hours

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### Return to Stillwater

04

**Quick Directions:** Head East on Hwy 96 to Hwy 95. Turn South to downtown Stillwater

# EXPLORE

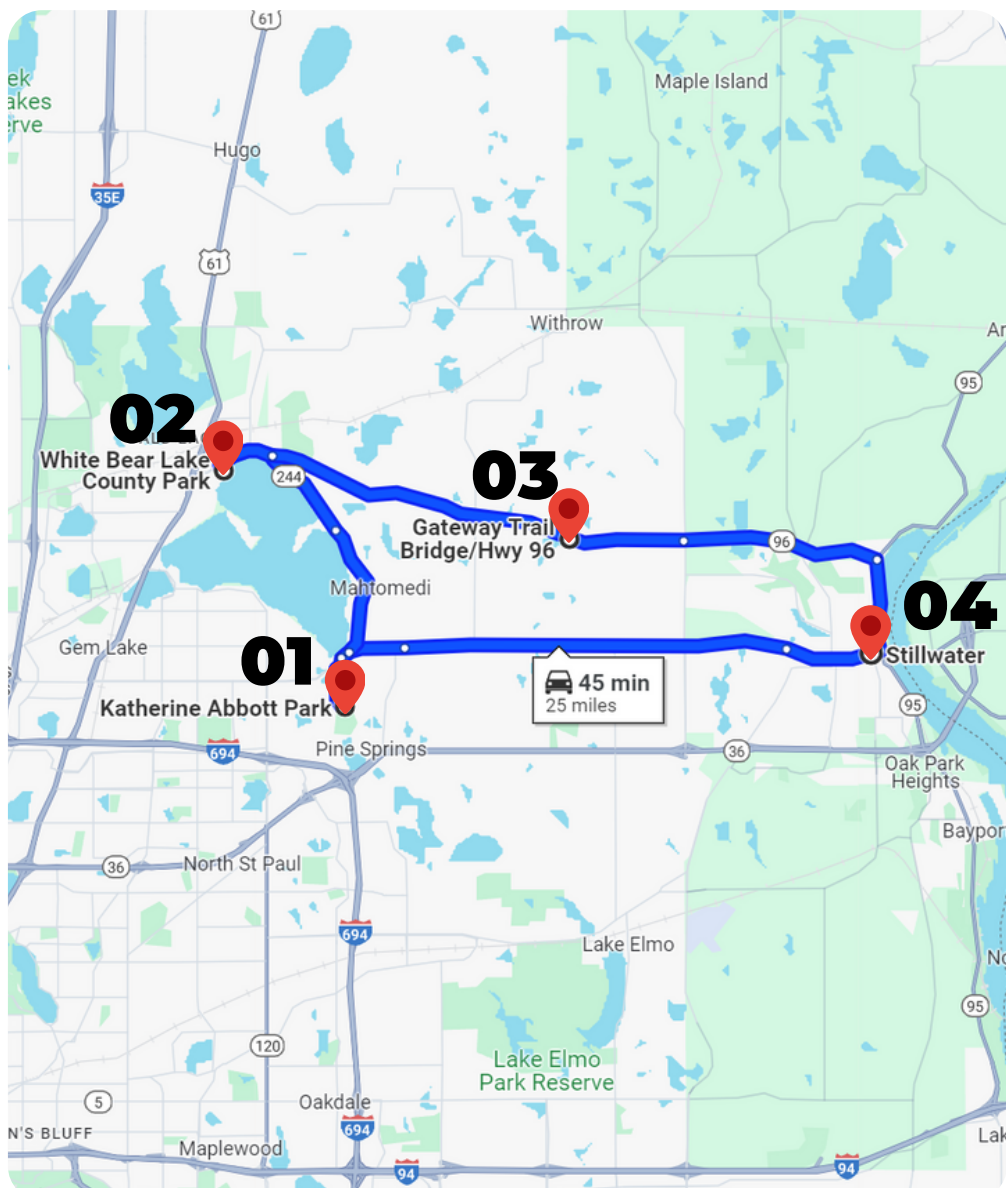
## West of Stillwater

### Short Loop [3-4 hours]

Photographer: Jessica Nelson



#### Google Map of locations



# EXPLORE

## West of Stillwater

Photographer: Corey Raffel



## Long Loop [6+ hours]



**First Stop:** Gateway Trail Bridge (Hwy 96 & Kimbro)

01

**Parking Lot Coordinates:** [45°04'46.6"N 92°53'48.5"W](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 6 miles (10 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** Head southwest through a densely forested stretch of Washington County. You'll pass some ponds and, eventually, a pleasant rural residential area as you approach 75th Street and the edge of Wildwood school (about 2.2 miles one way if you do this whole segment). Look for Blue-Winged Teal, Wood Duck, and Hooded Mergansers on the ponds; Common Loons often call and fly overhead. Brown Thrashers, Indigo Buntings, Savannah Sparrows, and Yellow Warblers can be found in the sunnier open areas. Warblers abound in the forest during migration.

**Estimated Birding Time:** 4 hours



**Second Stop:** Paul Hugo Farms WMA

02

**Parking Address:** [14650 Homestead Ave N, Hugo, MN 55038](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Gateway Trail:** About 11 miles (14 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 14 miles (20 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** Take the old farm road (now a wide gravel and dirt trail) through an open field in which you may find a mix of sparrows, Indigo Buntings, Brewer's Blackbirds, and Sandhill Cranes. At the valley floor, you'll cross wetlands and an old-growth forest that hosts nesting Veery, Baltimore Orioles, Swamp Sparrows, and Wood Thrush. The lake at the end of the trail (.8 miles one-way) has Yellow-Headed Blackbirds, Virginia Rail, Sora, Black Tern, and some of the best waterfowl habitat for spring and fall migration. Exciting finds at this site include Henslow's Sparrow, Common Gallinule, Black-Necked Stilt, and the state's first recorded Limpkin.

**Estimated Birding Time:** 1.5 hours



**Return to Stillwater**

03

**Quick Directions:** Zigzag South to Manning Trail N. Turn East onto Hwy 96 then South onto Hwy 95. Follow river to downtown Stillwater.



# EXPLORE

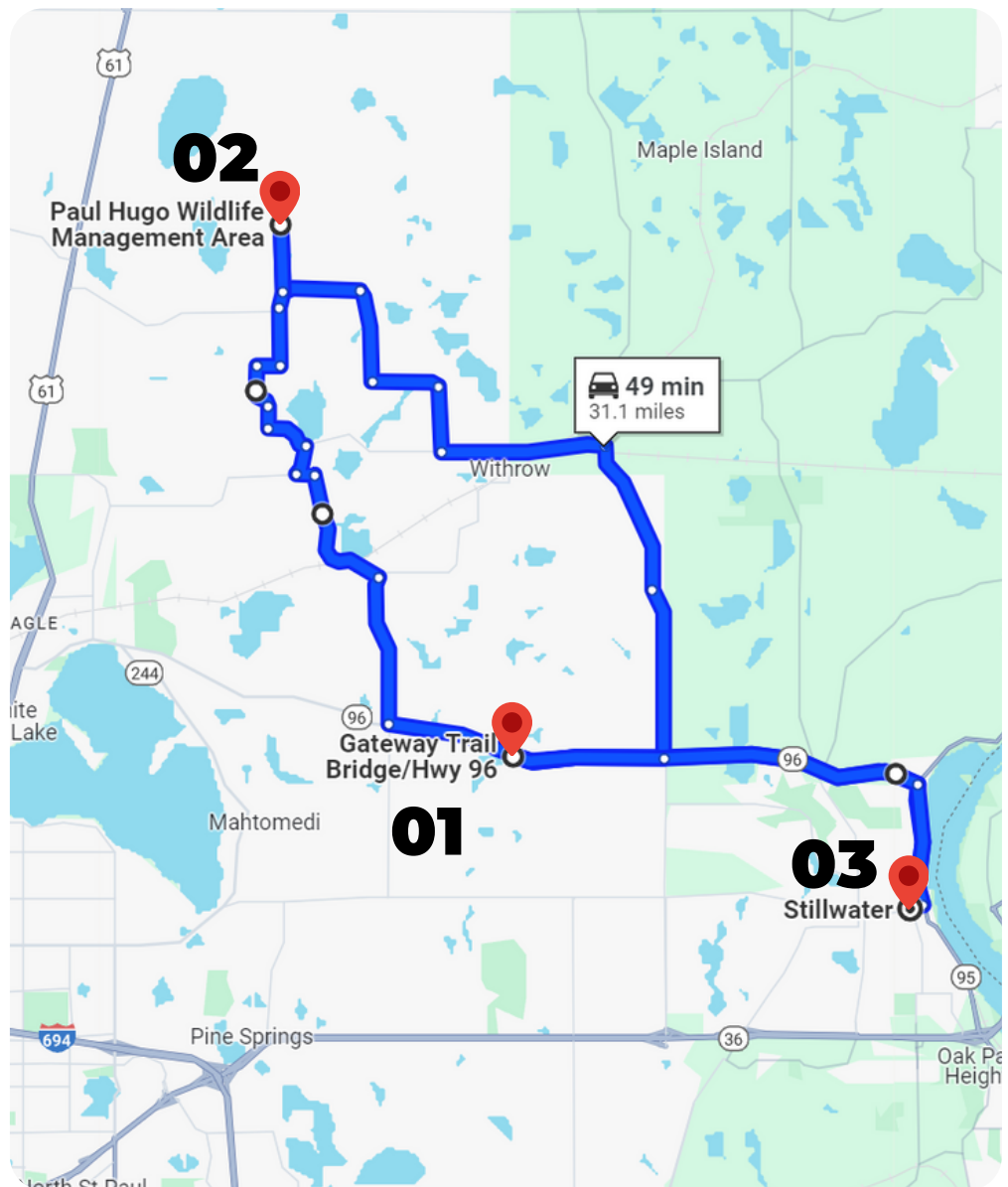
## West of Stillwater

### Long Loop [6+ hours]

Photographer: Sunchie Yang



#### Google Map of locations





# EXPLORE

## South of Stillwater

Photographer: Terri Shaddick



## Short Loop [3-4 hours]



### First Stop: Lake Elmo Park Reserve

01

**Parking Address:** [1515 Keats Ave N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042](#)

**Fee?** Yes

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 10.5 miles (17 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** One of the top 5 metro area birding locations—with about 225 species on the park's list so far—just about any southeastern Minnesota bird (and the occasional rarity) can be found here. For a short visit, park at Eagle Point Lake (the first lot after the entrance) and head straight to the lake's viewing dock. Then make a loop back to the parking lot; you'll have options ranging from an out-and-back (.5 round trip) from the dock, 1.5 for a short loop, or longer if you desire. The lake, small ponds, and restored woodlands here feature Great Horned Owls, nesting Osprey, Bald Eagles, Eastern Bluebirds, and a long list of nesting and migrant waterfowl (29 species to date).

**Estimated Birding Time:** 1.5 hours



### Second Stop: Belwin Conservancy BO Platform

02

**Parking Address:** [15551 Division St, Afton, MN 55001](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Lake Elmo:** About 7 miles (10 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 8.5 miles (13 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** The bison steal the show in late spring through summer, but the habitat they help maintain also brings several prairie birds to the site, including the elusive (and still relatively rare locally) Henslow's Sparrow, plus Bobolink, Dickcissel, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Eastern Meadowlark. Across the street is a network of trails through a prairie/cedar stand/mixed woodland, where you find Cedar Waxwings, Merlin, Northern Shrike, and a variety of owls, depending on the season.

**Estimated Birding Time:** Up to 1.5 hours (shorter if you only view from the Bison Observation Platform)



### Return to Stillwater

03

**Quick Directions:** Head North on Stagecoach Trail up to Stillwater

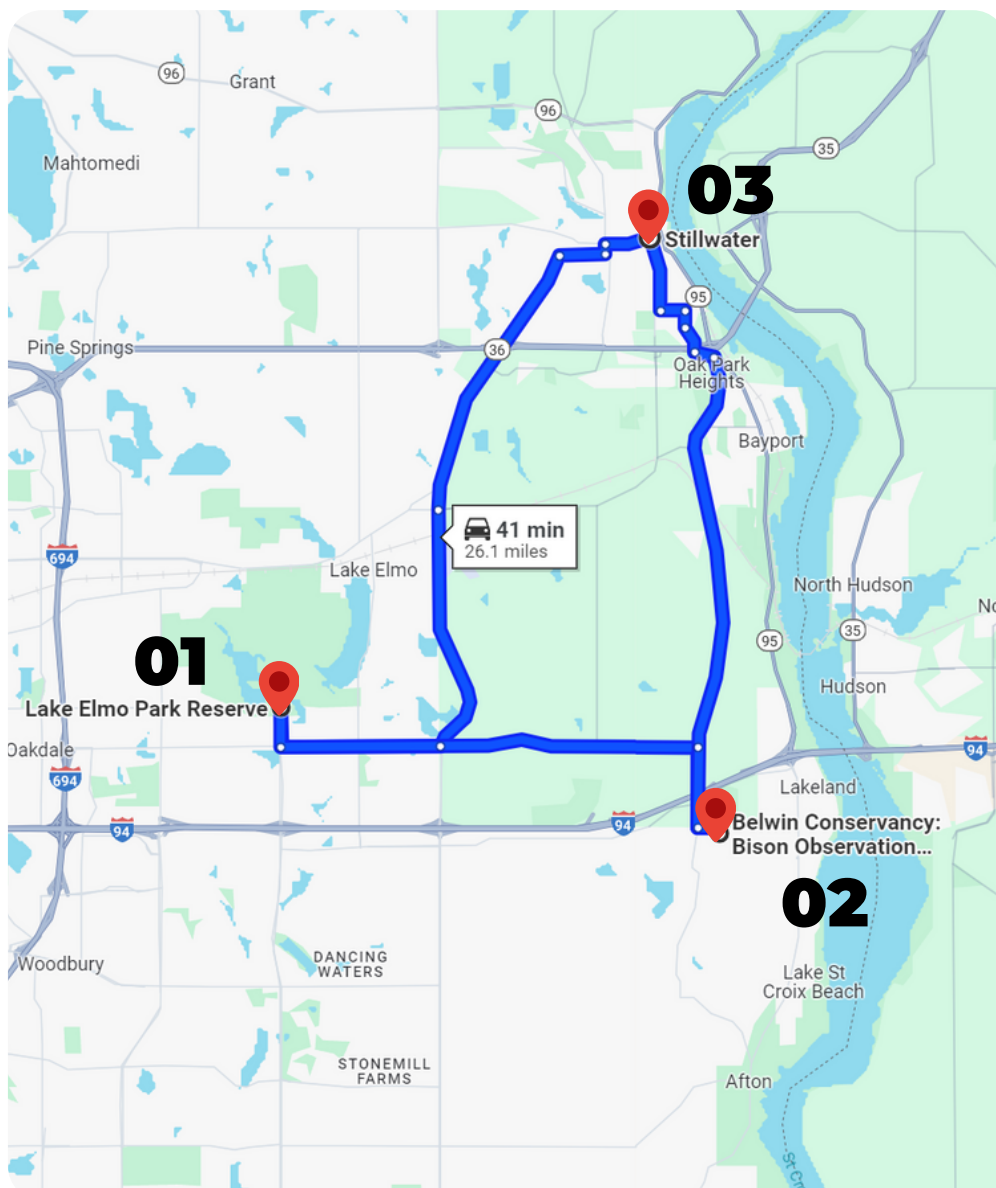
# EXPLORE *South of Stillwater*

## Short Loop [3-4 hours]

Photographer: Adam Brandemihl



### Google Map of locations



# EXPLORE

## South of Stillwater

Photographer: David Boltz



## Long Loop [6+ hours]



### First Stop: Lake Elmo Park Reserve

01

**Parking Address:** [1515 Keats Ave N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042](#)

**Fee?** Yes

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 10.5 miles (17 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** Lake Elmo is a must-stop whether you're doing our short or long tour. If you've got more time, check out the Eagle Point Lake area as described in the "short loop" tour above, but also drive and/or walk deeper into the park. You may encounter nesting Sandhill Cranes, Trumpeter Swans, Common Loons, and Field Sparrows, or simply get better looks at something (such as ducks hiding in some tucked-away corner of the lake, or a Red-Headed Woodpecker in a distant oak savanna) only viewable by longer walks. Some of the fun finds here have included White-Winged and Red Crossbills, Snow Bunting, Tufted Titmouse, White-Faced Ibis, Summer Tanager, and Black Bear.

**Estimated Birding Time:** 3.5 hours



### Second Stop: Belwin's Stagecoach Prairie

02

**Parking Address:** [825 Stagecoach Trail S, Afton, MN 55001](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Lake Elmo:** About 8 miles (12 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 9 miles (14 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** Choose your adventure by doing one, or connecting several, of their 7 short loops (all between .4 and 1.4 miles) of restored prairie surrounded by woods. Prairie birds like Bobolink and Lark Sparrow, plus unusual finds like Red Crossbill and Swainson's Hawk, plus species seen overhead (such as Tundra Swans) as they use the nearby river as a migratory flyway.

**Estimated Birding Time:** 1.5 hours

# EXPLORE

## South of Stillwater

### Long Loop [6+ hours]

Photographer: Fi Rust



#### Third Stop: St. Croix Savanna SNA

**Parking Coordinates:** [44°59'41.2"N 92°46'40.3"W](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Belwin Stagecoach:** About 6 miles (10 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 4.5 miles (11 minute drive)

**Where to go & What to look for:** At this Scientific & Natural Area, you have a riverside grassy bluff that rises steeply from the highway, and its top is dotted with a lovely oak savanna—a rare habitat today. You'll need to park on the side of the highway for this stop. Head straight up the trail ascending the hill, enjoying impressive views of the river valley below—and, with any luck, a look at the Osprey nesting across the road, or perhaps migrating American White Pelicans over the river, or the many Bald Eagles that hunt the waters. Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Vesper Sparrows lurk in the tallgrass prairie atop the bluff. Orchard Orioles and Blue-Winged Warblers nest in the transition zone between the prairie and the forest.

**Estimated Birding Time:** 1 hour

03

#### Return to Stillwater

**Quick Directions:** Head North on Hwy 95 into Stillwater

04



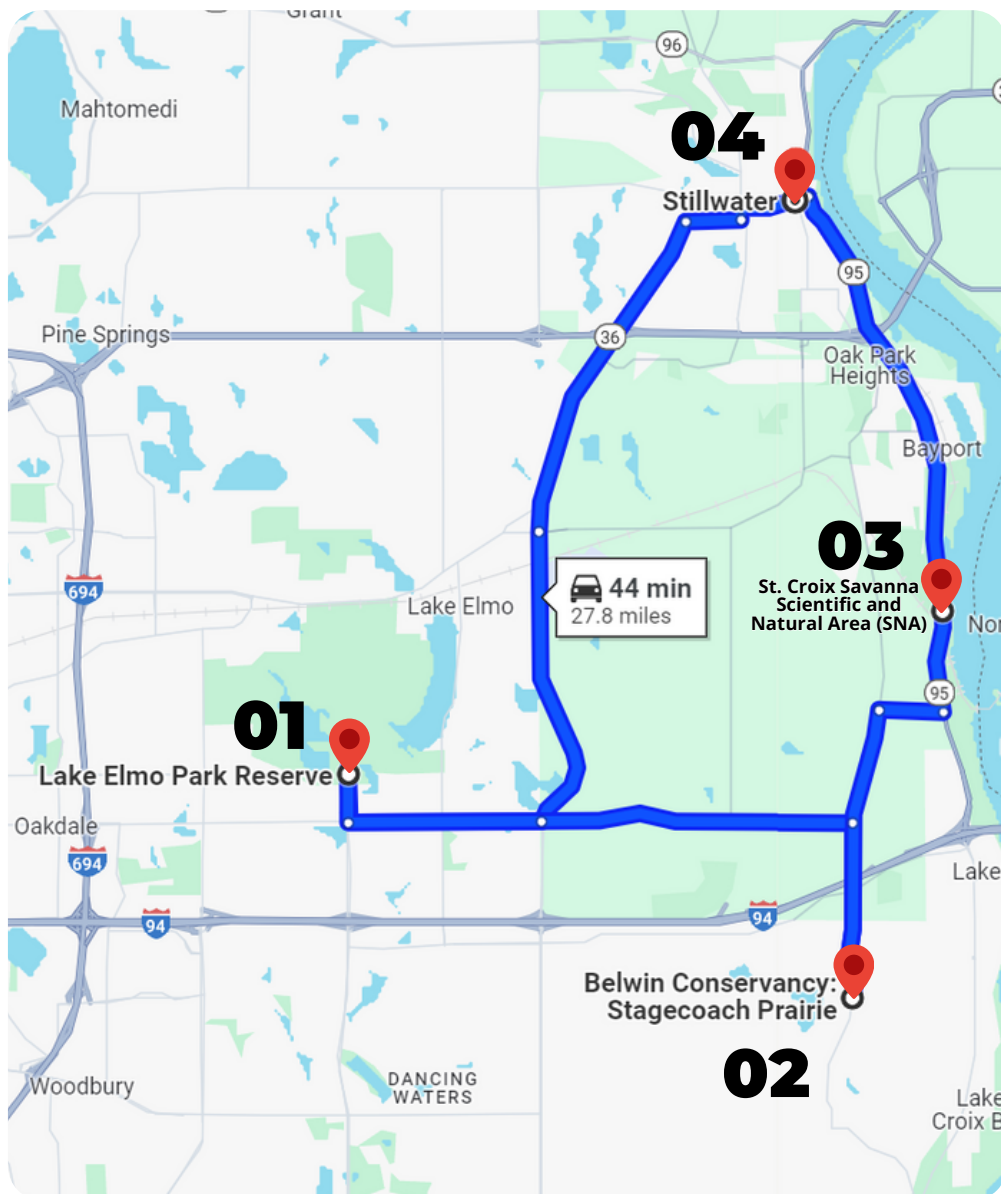
# EXPLORE *South of Stillwater*

## Long Loop [6+ hours]

Photographer: Teddy Fotiou



### Google Map of locations



# EXPLORE

## Central Stillwater

Photographer: Joseph Mahoney



## 1 Hour Walking Tours



**First Location:** North Hill Ravine (Mulberry & 4th N)

01

**Staircase Coordinates:** [45°03'26.9"N 92°48'45.1"W](#)

**Fee?** No

**Directions:** Park near the Stillwater Library (4th and Mulberry) and walk 200 yards west on Mulberry (up the hill), and you will see a staircase on your right-hand side. You can walk the entire trail to Laurel, head back, or connect to the Lake McKusick trail.

**Where to go:** A hidden gem only a minute's walk from the Stillwater Library and downtown Stillwater. This .75-mile (one-way) walk through a big-woods forest feels very secluded, with a small creek running along the path.

**What to look for:** All five species of woodpeckers, Hermit and Swainson Thrush migrating and resident warblers, Red Shoulder, Coopers, Red Tail Hawks, Tufted Titmouse, and numerous Cardinals, Nuthatches, and Blue Jays. You may also see the resident Great Horned Owl (the crows will tell you if it's around).

**Second Location:** Lake McKusick (Owens & Laurel)

02

**Parking Lot Coordinates:** [45°03'36.4"N 92°49'14.8"W](#)

**Fee?** No

**Directions:** Park at trailhead - Owens and Laurel

**Where to go:** The North Hill Ravine walk ends just a few hundred yards from Lake McKusick (nice to combine these two walks). Starting from the parking lot on Owens and Laurel, this 2.5-mile walk (on a paved trail) lets you see the lake from all sides.

**What to look for:** Chickadees, migrating warblers, shorebirds, egrets, herons, ducks, sparrows, Baltimore Orioles, and you may even hear Soras. Look out to the lake; during the spring and fall, there are usually Commons Loons among the geese, Mergansers, and Grebes.

# EXPLORE

## Central Stillwater

Photographer: Ken Shults



## 1 Hour Walking Tours



### Third Location: Brown's Creek Park

**Parking Address:** [8312 Neal Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082](#)

**Fee?** No

**Directions:** Trailhead is on Neal Avenue, just south of McKusick Avenue

**Where to go:** This small park has a small grassland, marsh area, and woods.

**What to look for:** Migrating and resident warblers, woodpeckers, numerous sparrows (Fox, Tree, Field, Clay-Colored, Swamp, Lincoln's), vireos, flycatchers, Baltimore Orioles, and woodland raptors. If you have time, walk the trail back towards Stillwater and look for warblers, vireos, and sparrows along the creek. Snow Buntings have been seen along the trail in late fall and winter.

# 03

### Fourth Location: Long Lake (62nd & Legend)

**Parking Coordinates:** [45°02'23.4"N 92°51'20.7"W](#)

**Fee?** No

**Directions:** Travel west of Stillwater on Myrtle, turn left (south) on Manning Avenue, and right on 62nd St. N. Ave (just before crossing Hwy 36). At the dead end, you will see the trailhead.

**Where to go:** This one-way, 1-mile walk along the west side of Long Lake always offers something unique for the birder.

**What to look for:** Migrating and resident warblers (21 species reported in spring, 2023), swallows, sparrow species (Swamp, Lincoln's, White-Crowned) along the bank of the lake, vireos, and flycatchers. egrets, ducks, shorebirds, Sora, mergansers, grebes (a nice variety in migration), loons, and kingfishers.

# 04



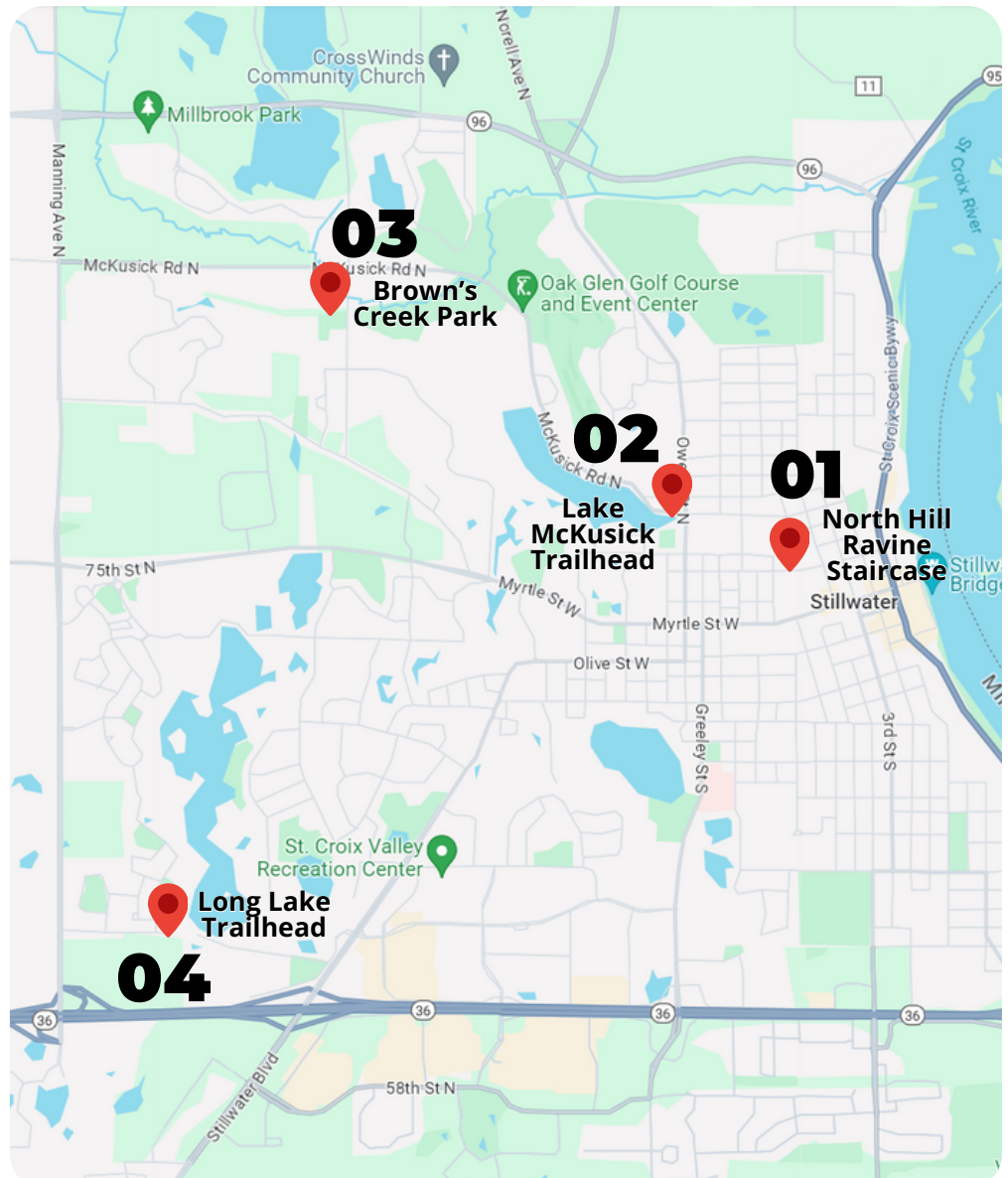
# EXPLORE *Central Stillwater*

## 1 Hour Walking Tours

Photographer: Darlene Wells



### Google Map of locations





# EXPLORE

## North Stillwater

Photographer: Megumi Aita



### 3-4 Hour Tour



#### **First Stop:** Lumberjack Landing Park (Hwy 95)

01

**Park Coordinates:** [45°03'55.7"N 92°48'20.5"W](#)

**Trailhead Address:** [401 Laurel St E, Stillwater, MN 55082](#)

**Fee?** Yes

**Directions:** Park in downtown Stillwater near the Brown's Creek State Trailhead. Walk North along the trail and when you find a road and gate, follow the road towards the St. Croix River.

**Where to go:** A short walk north on the Browns Creek Trail from downtown Stillwater. Aiple Park does not have signage or parking as of February 2024.

**What to look for:** Woodpeckers (including Pileated), thrush, and snipe in water along the trail. Migrating and resident warblers, vireos, and other resident birds.

#### **Second Stop:** St. Croix Boomsites (Hwy 95)

02

**Boat Ramp Address:** [9134 MN-95, Stillwater, MN 55082](#)

**Overlook Coordinates:** [45°04'53.8"N 92°47'26.5"W](#)

**Wayside Coordinates:** [45°05'07.1"N 92°47'07.9"W](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 3 miles (6 minute drive)

**Directions:** Follow Hwy 95 North of Stillwater. Watch for signage on the right side of the road.

**Where to go:** There are multiple locations to pull off on Hwy 95 - St. Croix River Boom Site Public Boat Ramp, St. Croix Scenic Overlook, and St. Croix Boom Site State Wayside. At each location, you get a view of the cormorant/egret roosting area.

**What to look for:** egrets, cormorants, warblers, sparrows, ducks, herons, Ospreys and Belted Kingfishers

# EXPLORE

## North Stillwater

Photographer: Jacquelyn Wells



### 3-4 Hour Tour



#### Third Stop: Arcola Bluffs Day Use Area

03

**Parking Address:** [11471-11871 Arcola Trail N, Stillwater, MN 55082](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Boom Site Wayside:** About 3 miles (5 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 6 miles (10 minute drive)

**Directions:** Follow HWY. 95 North, turn right on Arcola Trail North. Look for the pull-off parking area on the right side of the road.

**Where to go:** Stay on the upper level for an easy walk

**What to look for:** Scarlet Tanager, Pine Warblers, and all local Vireo species. If you are willing to walk down to the river, look for Waterthrush species where the creek empties into the river, and you get a spectacular view of the river and the railroad bridge.



#### Return to Stillwater

04

**Quick Directions:** Head southwest on Arcola Trail N and take MN-95 South following the St. Croix River to Stillwater



# EXPLORE *North Stillwater*

## 3-4 Hour Tour

Photographer: J Arthur Anderson



### Google Map of locations



# EXPLORE

## East/South Stillwater

### 4-5 Hour Tour

Photographer: Trina Orbach



#### First Stop: Hudson River Lakefront Park

01

**Park Address:** [1st St, Hudson, WI 54016](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 9 miles (15 minute drive)

**Directions:** From Stillwater, take Hwy. 95 south to Hwy 94 east towards Hudson. Just after crossing the bridge, take the WIS-35 Exit towards Hudson, 1-mile Turn left onto Buckeye St., right on First St., and left into Lakeside Park.

**Where to go:** This spot provides a wonderful river view and is a unique St. Croix River gathering spot for ducks, raptors, and other water birds.

**What to look for:** Many duck species, migrating shorebirds, soaring Eagles and Peregrine Falcons, Osprey, Egrets, Comorant, Trumpeter Swans, and migrating Common Loons.



#### Second Stop: Carpenter Nature Center (Wisconsin)

02

**Park Coordinates:** [44°54'26.8"N 92°44'44.4"W](#) (S Cove Rd)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Lakefront Park:** About 6.5 miles (12 minutes drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 15 miles (23 minute drive)

**Directions:** From Lakefront Park, take Coulee Rd, Heggen St, and Hanley Rd to County Rd F S/Carmichael Rd. Turn right onto County Rd F S/Carmichael Rd. Drive to S Cove Rd.

**Where to go:** Situated on the St. Croix River bluffs south of Hudson, Wisconsin is a broad prairie and a wooded hillside, an old farmstead, and an oak savanna, linked together by winding trails. Drop into the new visitor center for updates on recent bird sightings.

**What to look for:** Migrating Warblers, grassland birds, Kestrel, Merlin, Red-Shouldered Hawks, and Bald Eagles. You will also find various woodland birds, including nuthatches, vireos, woodpeckers, and Scarlet Tanagers.





# EXPLORE

## East/South Stillwater

Photographer: Tim Kauffman



### 4-5 Hour Tour



#### Third Stop: Belwin's Stagecoach Prairie

**Parking Address:** [825 Stagecoach Trail S, Afton, MN 55001](#)

**Fee?** No

**Distance from Carpenter:** About 10 miles (16 minute drive)

**Distance from downtown Stillwater:** About 9 miles (14 minute drive)

**Directions:** From Carpenter Nature Center, Take E Cove Rd to County Rd F N, Continue on County Rd F N. Take Carmichael Rd and I-94 W to Stagecoach Trail N/St Croix Scenic Bywy in Afton. Look for the parking area on the left side of the road.

**Where to go:** Featuring gently rolling hills dominated by native tallgrass prairie, this 280-acre area contains 5 miles of family-friendly trails of easy to moderate difficulty.

**What to look for:** Sparrows, flycatchers (edge forests), Kestrels, Bald Eagles, migrating and nesting warblers, Eastern Towhee, and Woodpeckers (including sightings of Red-Headed).

# 03

#### Return to Stillwater

**Quick Directions:** Head north on Stagecoach Trail S/St Croix Scenic Bywy to Stillwater.

# 04

# EXPLORE

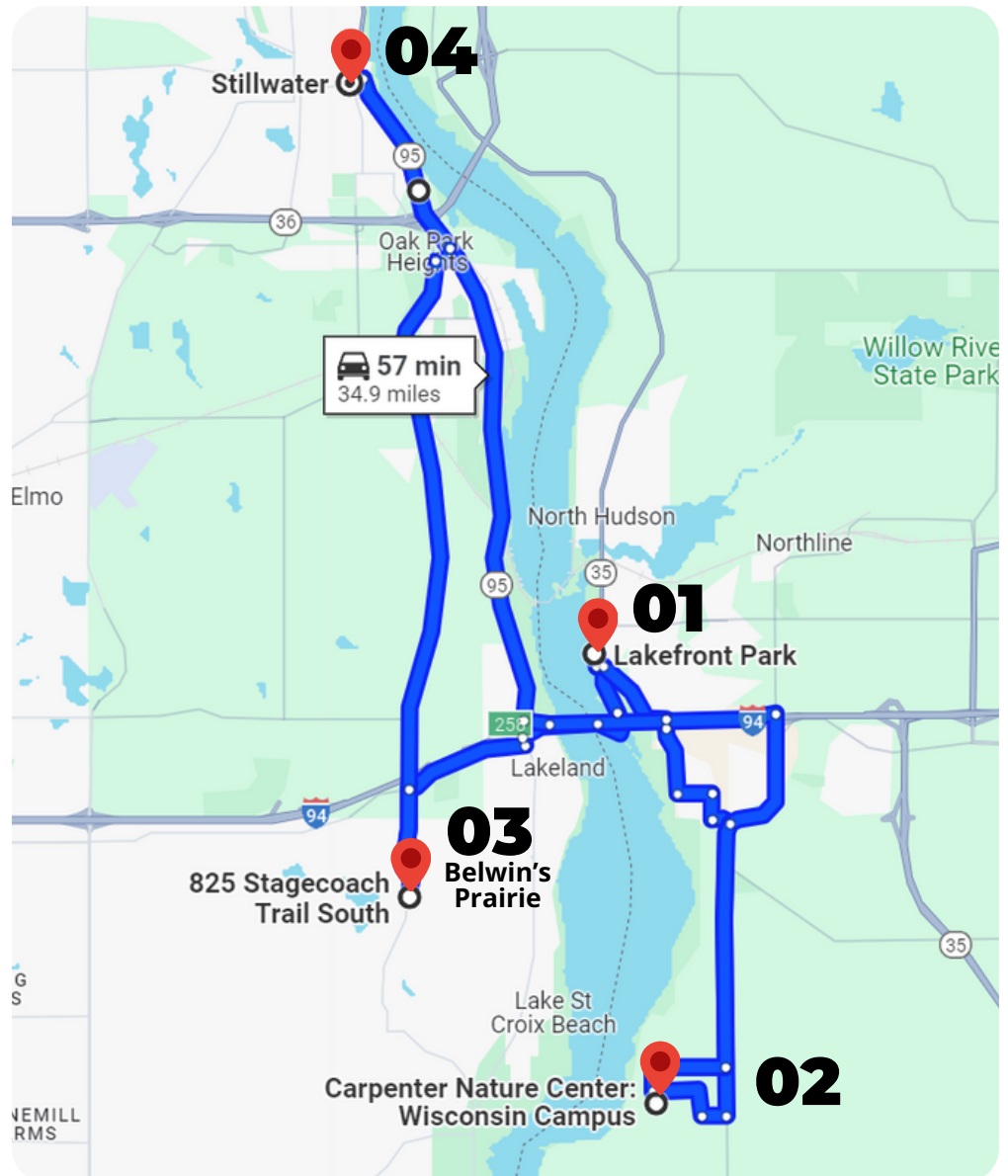
## East/South Stillwater

### 4-5 Hour Tour

Photographer: Bob Feldman



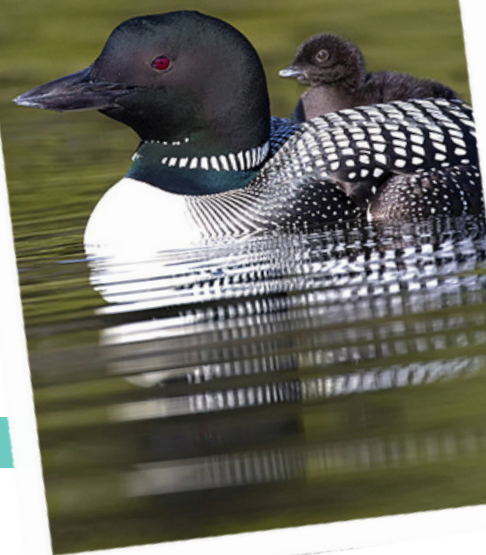
#### Google Map of locations



# TOOLS TO ID Birds Quick

## Tools to ID Birds

Photographer: William Pohley



**Merlin Bird ID**  
From the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

### Merlin Bird ID App

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

The Merlin Bird ID App is a must-have for birders, offering quick and accurate identification of birds through three simple questions. With its comprehensive global bird guide, including photos, sounds, and maps, it's an invaluable tool for birdwatchers of all levels. Powered by community contributions and expert insights, Merlin enhances your birding experience wherever you are, making it essential for anyone passionate about birds and nature.

## eBird

### eBird Mobile App

<https://ebird.org/home>

The eBird Mobile App is a vital tool for birders, turning sightings into valuable data for science and conservation. With access to the latest sightings worldwide and the ability to track your lists effortlessly, it's essential for bird enthusiasts. By contributing your sightings, you directly support conservation decisions and scientific research. Join the global birding community and make every observation count with eBird.

# BIRD GUIDE

## Resource Credit

**Thank you to...**

Photographer: Eric Stogner



### **BIRD CITY STILLWATER**

Bird City Stillwater is a workgroup of Sustainable Stillwater MN Org, a nonprofit 501c3, that is dedicated to implementing the bird conservation best practices as part of Audubon's Bird City Program, which works on transforming the places where people live and work into habitats where birds thrive. Visit us at: [www.SustainableStillwaterMN.org](http://www.SustainableStillwaterMN.org)



### **NEXT BEND BIRDING TOURS**

Locally-owned, certified green business, providing customized birding & wildlife tours for individuals and small groups throughout the St. Croix Valley, Twin Cities, statewide, and beyond. Led by naturalist Kyle Te Poel, each tour aims not only to see and enjoy the wildlife and scenery, but also increase your knowledge of and appreciation for our natural world. Kyle also provides guest speaking appearances, works with schools and community education programs throughout the metro, and regularly offers unique and exciting birding adventures both locally and nationwide. Featured in the New York Times, and hosting clients from all over the world, Next Bend may be Stillwater's best kept secret. Read more at [kyletepoel.crevado.com](http://kyletepoel.crevado.com)



**Saint Paul  
Audubon Society**

### **SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Saint Paul Audubon's mission is to engage our community in enjoying, understanding, and protecting birds and the habitats they need to thrive. We offer over 35 field trips yearly for bird lovers of all experience levels, a speakers series that provides different perspectives on nature and conservation, and numerous opportunities to get involved. There is something for everyone and no fees for any of our programs. Visit us at [www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org) to learn more.

*All photos of birds in this bird guide were obtained through the Audubon Photography Awards Photo Gallery.*