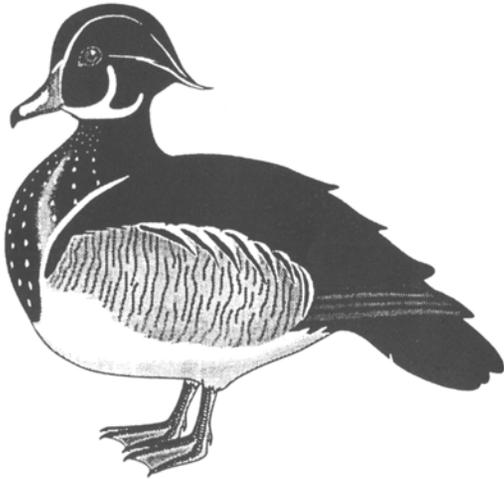


## WINTER

This can be one of the most exciting seasons as the nomadic winter visitors arrive. You are in one of the bird census' "hot" spots. One year the Audubon Society observed a Gyrfalcon near the island. The amount of open water dictates the waterfowl count; in a warm period, the ducks come in, and you can see Northern Shovelers, Pintails, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers. The far northern finches visit us at this season; you can hope for Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, and Common Redpolls. Alpena usually hosts a flock of Bohemian Waxwings, a much sought-after species. Bald Eagles come to the open water in the winter.



This information was compiled and confirmed by **Thunder Bay Audubon Society**. If you see an unusual bird or seek more information, call them at (989) 727-2877.

## NESTING BIRDS ON ISLAND PARK

All nests of these birds were found on the island or in nearby marshy shoreline areas in 1993.

Canada Goose  
Tree Swallow  
American Robin  
Mallard  
Cedar Waxwing  
European Starling  
Killdeer  
Warbling Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
Mourning Dove  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Yellow Warbler  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
American Redstart  
Northern Cardinal  
Northern Saw-whet Owl  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Common Flicker  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Eastern Pewee  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Gray Catbird  
House Finch  
Eastern Kingbird  
American Goldfinch



City of Alpena  
Wildlife Sanctuary Board  
208 N. First Avenue  
Alpena, MI 49707

# BIRDS OF ISLAND PARK



Island Park is a natural aviary that rewards both the serious and casual birdwatcher with many exciting glimpses of nesting and migratory birds.

City of Alpena  
[www.alpena.mi.us](http://www.alpena.mi.us)

## BIRDS OF ISLAND PARK

The Thunder Bay Audubon Society has recorded over 280 species in northeastern Michigan since 1965, and many of them can be seen right here. Binoculars and scopes are invaluable, but your best tools are your eyes and ears. As you walk through the various habitats of the park, listen and look; and you may discover birds you have never seen before.



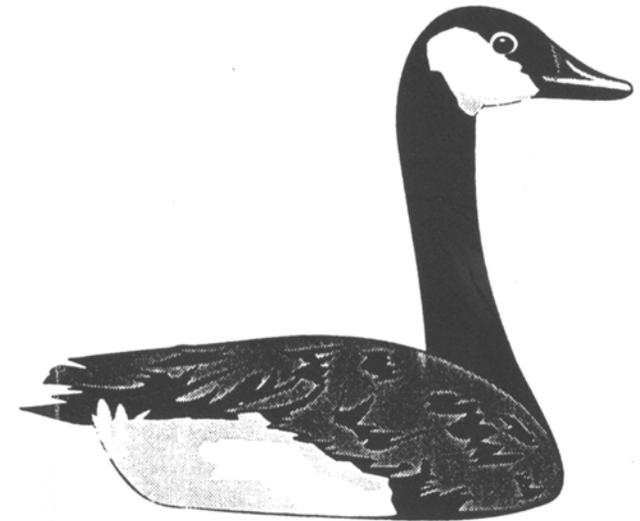
## SPRING

This is probably the best time of year for birding. Migrants use familiar landmarks such as waterways, and you will see them as they follow the shoreline and woods' edges. Delightful warblers such as American Redstarts, Yellow-rumped, Cape May, Blackburnian, and Black-and-white are common visitors as they work their way north to nesting grounds. Scan the thickets and trees. American Robins and other thrushes such as Veeries, Swainson's, and Hermits are possibilities. From the viewing platform, pan across the water and marsh for ducks and geese. You will see many Mallards and Canada Geese, of course, but also present are Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Gadwalls, mergansers, and many more. Our Mute Swans are a "planted" series, but they are a pleasure to view. You may also be treated to an egret, either Snowy or Great.



## SUMMER

In this season you can hear the songs of many birds as they establish territory and attract mates. Tune in to Common Yellowthroats, Yellow Warblers, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, various flycatchers and woodpeckers. Watch for Green Herons, Great Blue Herons, bitterns, and don't forget to look up; you may see a Black-crowned Night Heron fly over near dusk. Those phantoms of the wetlands: Sora, Virginia, and King Rails have nested here; they are usually russet flashes against the green. Three or four kinds of swallows may sweep the air above you. One year a pair of Northern Saw-whet Owls nested here.



## FALL

Migration brings us many pleasures again; the birds are the same, although the plumage is not as bright. This is a perfect time to improve your identification skills.