

## Financial support for this publication provided by:



#### Lake Champlain Basin Program

PO Box 204, 54 W. Shore Rd. Grand Isle, VT 05458 802 372 3213 www.lcbp.org



#### New York State Department of Environmental Conservation\*

625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-4754 518 402 8919 www.dec.state.nv.us



#### **Vermont State Parks**

103 S. Main St., 10 South Waterbury, VT 05671-0603 802 241 3665 www.vtstateparks.com



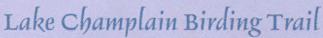
#### Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

103 S. Main St., 10 South Waterbury, VT 05671-0501 802 241 3700 www.vtfishandwildlife.com

#### Additional project planning assistance provided by:

Audubon Vermont, Otter Creek Audubon, Rutland County Audubon, Green Mountain Audubon, Lake Placid/Essex County Visitors Bureau, US Fish & Wildlife Service—Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Vermont Recreation Trails Fund, University of Vermont Extension Service Renewable Resources Education Act funds, Lake Champlain Byways, George D. Aiken RC&D Council, Inc., New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and High Peaks Audubon.

\*Funding provided by New York State "Return a Gift to Wildlife"



PO Box 196, Poultney, VT 05764 802 287 4284

www.lakechamplainbirding.org

Thanks to Watchable Wildlife, Inc. for the use of their viewing tips.

Project coordination and design—Ghostwriters Communications.



### **OPEN WATERS**

akes and ponds provide birds with a place to congregate, a source of food, and a safe haven from predators. Some birds can be found on open water year round. Open water is also a great place to see migrating waterfowl. Lake Champlain is within the Atlantic Flyway and attracts a variety of species. It is a premier spot to watch birds in the spring, fall, and winter.

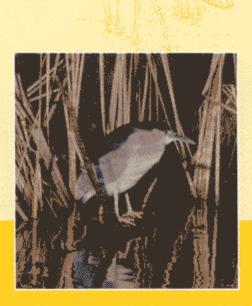


Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Scaup, Black Scoter, Whitewinged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Mergansers, Northern Shoveler, Osprey, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Greater Black-back Gull, Common Tern.



#### SHORELINES

horelines are prime habitats for migrating shorebirds to rest and feed. In years of low water many uncommon species can be found in the newly exposed mudflats taking advantage of their richness.



Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night
Heron, Bald Eagle, Plovers, Greater
Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary
Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper,
Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper,
Pectoral Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher



### WETLANDS

here are many types of wetlands in the Lake Champlain Basin including, cattail marshes, swamps, and bogs. Wetlands are extremely important environments in the Lake Champlain Basin, as well as nationwide. In addition to providing shelter and cover, wetlands act as natural filters to water systems. Wetlands also make the perfect breeding habitat for many species of birds.



Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Green Heron, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Greenwinged Teal, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird.



#### FIELD & GRASSLAND

ields and grasslands are excellent sources of food for birds of prey. Smaller birds also find food in the form of seeds and green plants.

Only a few species nest in grasslands because of the limited protection.



Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk,
American Kestrel, Killdeer, Upland Sandpiper,
Great Horned Owl, Tree Swallow, Eastern
Kingbird, Horned Lark, Eastern Bluebird, Field
Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song
Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Bobolink, Eastern
Meadowlark.



### WOODLANDS

oodlands provide many habitat qualities for nesting birds. Food sources include nuts and seeds, insects, and small mammals. Woodlands provide nesting habitat that is protected from the elements and predators. Trees also provide homes for cavity nesting birds. The forest edge also acts as a resting-place for migrating birds.

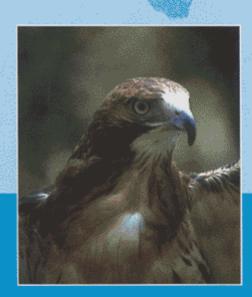


Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak.



### **CLIFFS & BLUFFS**

liffs are a perfect place for birds of prey like the Peregrine Falcon to nest. The cliffs provide protection from predators and a place to watch for prey. Cliffs and bluffs are a great place to view migrating hawks.



Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Phoebe, Cliff Swallow, Common Raven.

# **BIRD WATCHING TIPS**

# Sharing Their Perch

Not all birds perch – some will be found on the water, some along shores, in wetlands and in open fields. Still others will be in flight. You'll find that early morning is the best time for





viewing some species, while dusk will be better for others. The more frequently and the longer you watch, the more you will see. Bird watching may take you onto private and public lands. Either way, you should proceed as a guest. Be mindful and practice common courtesy toward all creatures. If you are bringing children with you, let your behavior be a

good example. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to practice respect for wildlife.

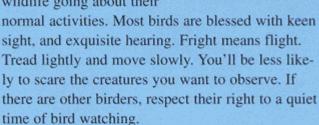
Respect all private property, wildlife, vegetation and other birdwatchers. In any situation involving birds and birders, the welfare of birds comes first.

## Responsible Birding

Respect wildlife homes, families and their natural habitat. As a guest, you have certain responsibilities. This is a good time to teach children to never approach wildlife of any kind, never to pet or feed

them, never disturb their nests and never take wildlife home.

Blend in with your surroundings. Wearing natural color clothing will enable you to observe wildlife going about their



Birding in Groups. If you are bird watching with a group, special consideration is required. Group size and activity should not negatively impact the environment or interfere with others. Special permits/permission may be required for groups, so be sure to check with the appropriate site managers or landowners before your visit.

Take advantage of natural or artificial cover to get a better view.

## Before Your Visit

*Obtain* permission before visiting private land, even if it's not posted.

Secure appropriate permits when visiting parks or other public areas.

Learn about the species that you might see at sites you are planning to visit.

Consult field guides and learn to "think" like a bird. Consider factors that affect bird behavior: time of day,



season, weather, food, cover, mating, migration, etc.

Leave pets at home, and you will be more likely to see birds. Pets may disturb wildlife or other birders.

Pack cameras, binoculars, and field guides within easy reach.



### Getting the Most Out of Your Visit

Since you are going to keep a distance from your subjects, you may need binoculars, or even a spotting scope. If you're just starting out as a birder, the advice of a professional will help you get the right equipment.

Light binoculars of 7 or 8 power are recommended. A close focus feature may also be desired. Practice at home so you're comfort-

> able with them. Find the subject with your unaided eyes. Bring the eyepieces just under your eyes. Sight the subject over the tops of the eyepieces. Slowly bring the binoculars to your

eyes.

Like a memory, a picture is worth a thousand words. You may need a telephoto lens since your subjects will be at a distance. Early morning and afternoon light is best, try to keep the sun behind you. A photograph of your subject in its natural surroundings, behaving naturally, will make the best photo of all.

### **During Your Visit**

Stay on established paths, trails and roads. Going off pathways may damage plants or disturb birds.

Follow all rules and regulations pertaining to the site you are visiting.

Leave nests and nest areas alone. Your presence could lead predators to nests or cause parents to abandon them.

Share your lunch only with other humans. Wildlife digestive systems are different from ours, and your food may be harmful to them or make them dependent on human handouts.

Limit use of recordings, calls or whistles to attract birds or wildlife.

Do not leave anything behind after your visit, including food.





## Where the Birds Are

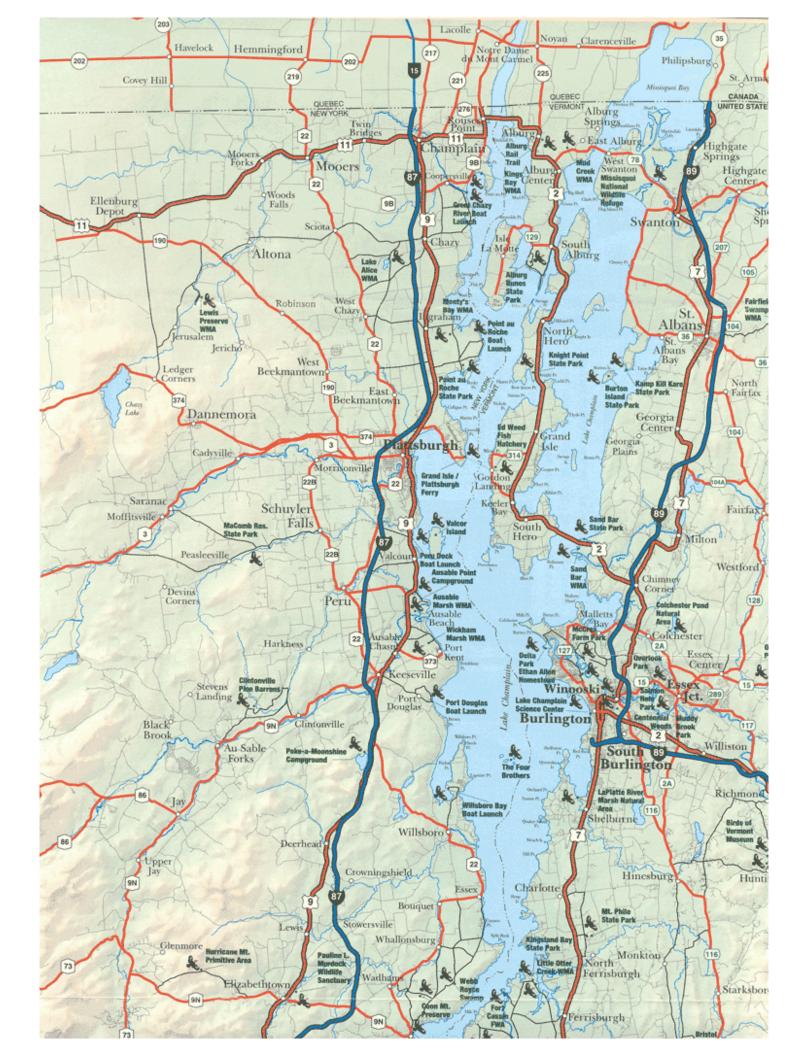
Look for these distinctive birding trail signs along

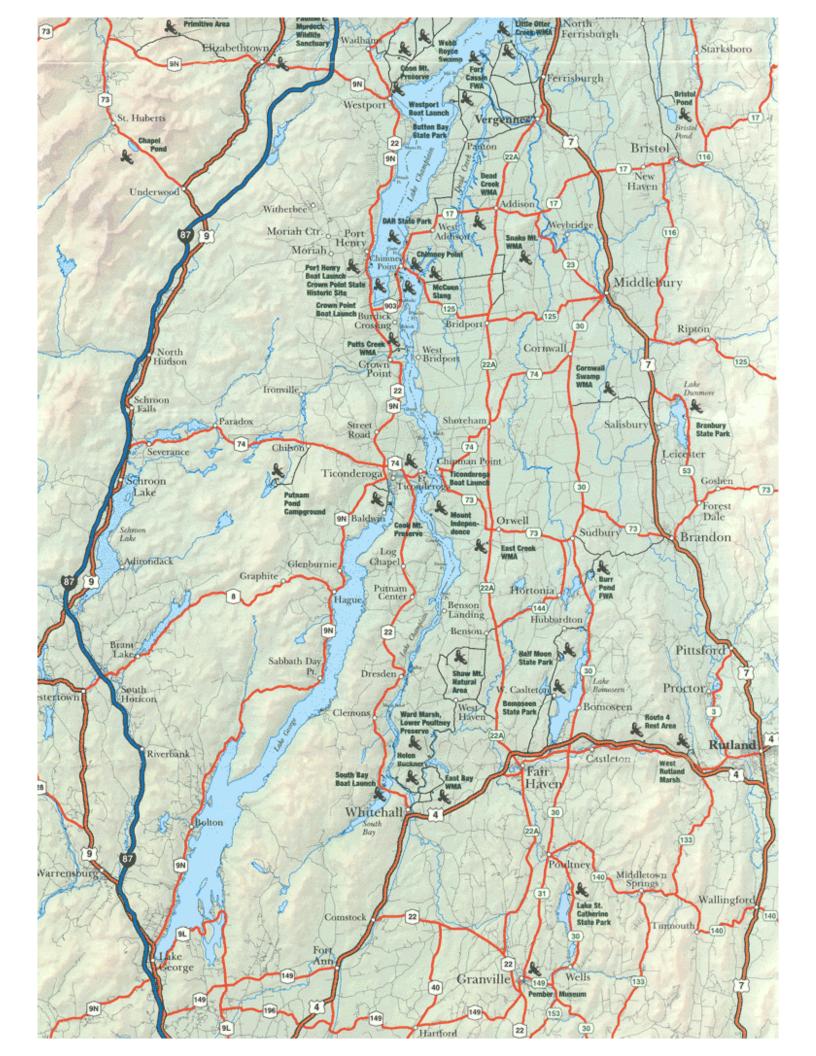
Vermont and New York highways to help guide you to the best viewing sites. Remember, wildlife can't read signs. Watch for animals while you are traveling from site to site.



BIRDING SITE

Please follow all rules and regulations of this site





### SITES

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Alburg Dunes State Park 802-796-4170					•	•		0.5		•	•	200				
Alburg Rail Trail 802-524-5958			1				1.2			•	1		1		•	
Ausable Marsh WMA 518-897-1291			•	•	, sec	•	egi.		•					13	•	
Ausable Point Campground 518-897-1200	•	•			•	•				•	•	•	•		•	
Birds of Vermont Museum 802-434-2167				•	•					•	•				•	
Bomoseen State Park 802-265-4242		•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	
Branbury State Park 802-247-5925		•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	
Bristol Pond (Winona Lake) FWA 802-878-1564	•					•			•	•						
Burr Pond FWA 802-483-2172	•					•				•						
Burton Island State Park 802-524-6353	•	•		•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•	1
Button Bay State Park 802-475-2377	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•		•	
Centennial Woods 802-656-4055		3	7	100					13	•		J.			•	1
Chapel Pond 518-897-1200					A .	•				•					•	
Chimney Point Historic Site 802-759-2359	•					•		•		•	•					
Clintonville Pine Barrens 518-576-2082	1000									•					•	
Colchester Pond Natural Area 802-863-5744			•			•				•					•	
Cook Mountain Preserve 518-576-2082								-		•				23a	•	
Coon Mountain Preserve 518-576-2082										•					•	
Cornwall Swamp WMA 802-878-1564			•			•	1.50	•	•	•						
Crown Point Boat Launch 518-897-1200	•					•				•						
Crown Point State Historic Site 518-597-4666		•		•	•	•				•	•	•			•	
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Dead Creek WMA 802-878-1564	•		•			•			•	•					•	
Delta Park 802-863-5744	•					•				•					•	
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East Creek WMA 518-878-1564			•			•		S. Comment	•	•		1-23				
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Ethan Allen Homestead 802-865-4556			•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•				•	
Fairfield Swamp WMA 802-878-1564			•			•			•	•					100	
Fort Cassin FWA 802-878-1564	•					•		•		•	•					
Four Brothers Islands 518-576-2082																
Grand Isle Ferry 802-864-9804					•						•					
Green Mountain Audubon Center 802-434-3068				•				•		•	•				•	
Great Chazy River Boat Launch 518-897-1200	•					•				•						
Half Moon State Park 802-273-2848		•	•		•	•				•	•	•	•		•	
Helen Buckner Memorial Preserve at Bald Mtn. 802-256-8645										•					•	
Hurricane Mountain Primitive Area 518-897-1200									•	•				2	•	

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Lake Champlain Narrows WMA 802-483-2172							•		- 5	•	•	3				
Lake St. Catherine State Park 802-287-9158	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	
LaPlatte River Marsh Natural Area/Allen Hill Trail 802-229-4425			•							•		7	123		•	
Lewis Preserve WMA 518-897-1291		5				•		•	•	•			1		•	
Little Otter Creek WMA 802-878-1564			•			•			•	•				× /		
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Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge 802-868-4781	•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•		¥.		•	Ī
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Mount Independence Historic Site 802-948-2000			- 3	•	•		•	•		•	•				•	Ī
Mt. Philo State Park 802-425-2390		•		210	•			•	3	•	•	•	•		•	T
Mud Creek WMA 802-878-1564	5		•			•			•	•						T
Muddy Brook 802-863-5744			•			•				•					•	T
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Overlook Park & Woodside Natural Area 802-863-5744			•	1		•				•					•	T
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Pember Nature Preserve 518-642-1515		-		•						•					•	T
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Point au Roche State Park 518-563-0369	•	-	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	T
Poke-O-Moonshine Campground 518-897-1200		•		2	•					•	•					T
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Port Douglas Boat Launch 518-897-1200	•		-			•				•						
Port Henry Boat Launch 518-897-1200	•					•				•						
Putnam Pond Campground 518-897-1200	•	•			•	•				•						1
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Sand Bar WMA 802-878-1564	•	. 1			•		•	•					
Shaw Mountain Natural Area 802-265-8645								•				•	
Silver Lake Bog Preserve 518-576-2082								•				•	
Snake Mountain WMA 802-878-1564						•	•	•				•	
South Bay Boat Launch 518-897-1200	•				•			•	•				
Ticonderoga Boat Launch 518-897-1200	•				•			•	•	5			
US Route 4 Rest Area 802-483-2172								•					
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Webb Royce Swamp 518-897-1200			7.7				•						
West Rutland Marsh 802-438-5133						.,		•					
Westport Boat Launch 518-897-1200	•				•			•					
Wickham Marsh WMA 518-897-1291			200		•		•	•				•	
Willsboro Bay Boat Launch 518-897-1200	•				•			•					

FWA=Fish & Wildlife Access Area - WMA=Wildlife Management Area - Area code 518=New York - Area code 802=Vermont