The southern end of the AuSable River Birding Trail begins here. Located on the AuSable River Bridge to the north of Iosco County Road 545, a good view is possible from the bridge, which is wooded and has cherry trees. Birding is best where the stream flows over rocks and waterfalls. 

In downtown Oscoda at US 22, turn west onto DuPont Street. Two blocks later, you will come to a canopy of trees which provides shade and shelter. Great Blue Herons are a common sight here. From here, continue north until you reach River Road. The park is located on the left just prior to the AuSable River. A large group of ducks makes their way across the river. A small landing on the woods bordering the bridge offers great cover and food sources for the birds. The American Redstarts are abundant during the spring movement.

1. Shoreline Park - AuSable River Mouth

Located near the intersection of South Partridge Point Road to parking areas. The north two-track that connects to Negwegon Park Road north from US 23 is very sandy and a four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended.

10. Nepawagan State Park

Located approximately three miles north of Rogers City, P.H. Haast State Park offers beautiful views of the AuSable River from the bridge. Visitors can observe a variety of waterfowl and birds that nest in and around the wetlands.

23. Herman Vogler Conservation Area

Located on the banks of the Trout River, this 240-acre park features fishing piers, viewing areas, and many sites for birding. Species that have been spotted here include Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Redstart, Northern Mockingbird, American Coot, Blue Jay and a House Wren striking the area.

3. Iosco County Sites

Located on the map, these sites are important to the overall birding experience. Although they may lack information on this map. Although they may lack information on this map, they are worth a stop along the way to enhance your visit. This site is best in the winter, when open water is limited locally. The river remains open, and bald eagles are often seen along the river. Visitors are encouraged to come and share their observations.

20. Big Sand Lake Natural Area

Located on the north end of the city of Alpena along the Thunder Bay River, this 1,500-acre area is one of the best sites for birding. The river is a major flyway for a number of warblers and thrushes. American Redstarts are abundant during the spring movement.

2. Alpina Wildlife Sanctuary (including Duck & Island Parks)

Located off the AuSable River Road, this 350-acre park offers excellent birding opportunities. The area is home to a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, including Snowy Owl on the break wall and Bald Eagles patrolling the shore and river. In summer and migration, the great blue heron may be seen wading through the cattail marsh (where Virginia Rail is considered an endangered species). Also found here are the two-track that connects to Negwegon Park Road north from US 23, which is used by migrating birds.

25. Gordon Turner Park

Located off US 23 and Sturgeon Point Road, this 30-acre park offers a variety of birding opportunities. The site is best in the winter, when open water is limited locally. The river remains open, and bald eagles are often seen along the river. Visitors are encouraged to come and share their observations.

26. Dingman Marsh

Located at the confluence of the Eighteen Mile River and the Thunder Bay River, Dingman Marsh is a 150-acre park that offers excellent birding opportunities. The area is home to a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, including Snowy Owl on the break wall and Bald Eagles patrolling the shore and river. In summer and migration, the great blue heron may be seen wading through the cattail marsh (where Virginia Rail is considered an endangered species). Also found here are the two-track that connects to Negwegon Park Road north from US 23, which is used by migrating birds.

27. Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

Located at the confluence of the Eighteen Mile River and the Thunder Bay River, Dingman Marsh is a 150-acre park that offers excellent birding opportunities. The area is home to a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, including Snowy Owl on the break wall and Bald Eagles patrolling the shore and river. In summer and migration, the great blue heron may be seen wading through the cattail marsh (where Virginia Rail is considered an endangered species). Also found here are the two-track that connects to Negwegon Park Road north from US 23, which is used by migrating birds.

28. Machries Straits Roaptor Watch

Located on US 23 at Sturgeon Point Road, this 30-acre park offers a variety of birding opportunities. The area is home to a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, including Snowy Owl on the break wall and Bald Eagles patrolling the shore and river. In summer and migration, the great blue heron may be seen wading through the cattail marsh (where Virginia Rail is considered an endangered species). Also found here are the two-track that connects to Negwegon Park Road north from US 23, which is used by migrating birds.

29. Kiplinger's Point River Management Area

 Located off US 23 at Sturgeon Point Road, this 30-acre park offers a variety of birding opportunities. The area is home to a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, including Snowy Owl on the break wall and Bald Eagles patrolling the shore and river. In summer and migration, the great blue heron may be seen wading through the cattail marsh (where Virginia Rail is considered an endangered species). Also found here are the two-track that connects to Negwegon Park Road north from US 23, which is used by migrating birds.

30. Big Rapids

Located on US 23 at Sturgeon Point Road, this 30-acre park offers a variety of birding opportunities. The area is home to a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, including Snowy Owl on the break wall and Bald Eagles patrolling the shore and river. In summer and migration, the great blue heron may be seen wading through the cattail marsh (where Virginia Rail is considered an endangered species). Also found here are the two-track that connects to Negwegon Park Road north from US 23, which is used by migrating birds.

31. Sunset Point Lighthouse State Recreation Area

Located two miles north of Huronville, this 10-acre park offers a variety of birding opportunities. The area is home to a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds, including Snowy Owl on the break wall and Bald Eagles patrolling the shore and river. In summer and migration, the great blue heron may be seen wading through the cattail marsh (where Virginia Rail is considered an endangered species). Also found here are the two-track that connects to Negwegon Park Road north from US 23, which is used by migrating birds.

32. AuSable Point Lighthouse State Recreation Area

Located on the north end of the city of Alpena along the Thunder Bay River, this 1,500-acre area is one of the best sites for birding. The river is a major flyway for a number of warblers and thrushes. American Redstarts are abundant during the spring movement.

11. Porcupine Point

Porcupine Point is a 16-acre parcel owned by the State of Michigan, located just south of Alpena. There is a 20-foot trail that extends off South Point Road to parking areas. The north two-track should be attempted during the wet seasons, as the run is on a boggy mess of mud and water-filled in places. Porcupine Point’s excellent views for bald eagles is noted.

12. Alpina Wildlife Sanctuary (including Duck & Island Parks)

Located at the north end of the city of Alpena along the Thunder Bay River, this 1,500-acre area is one of the best sites for birding. The river is a major flyway for a number of warblers and thrushes. American Redstarts are abundant during the spring movement.

13. Ninth Street Dam Outflow

This is a flooding of the Thunder Bay River (caused by the Ninth Street Dam), this short 1.5 mile area is a gathering point. A series of shoal out into the big lake as a gathering point. A series of shoal out into the big lake as a gathering point.
The **Sunrise Coast Birding Trail**

This trail highlights the remarkable habitat along Michigan’s Sunrise Coast from the Au Sable River to the Mackinac Bridge.

**Sunrise Coast Birding Hotspots**

For an interactive online birding experience, please visit: [sunrisecoastbirding.org](http://sunrisecoastbirding.org)

For information on the Saginaw Bay Birding Trail, visit: [saginawbaybirding.org](http://saginawbaybirding.org)