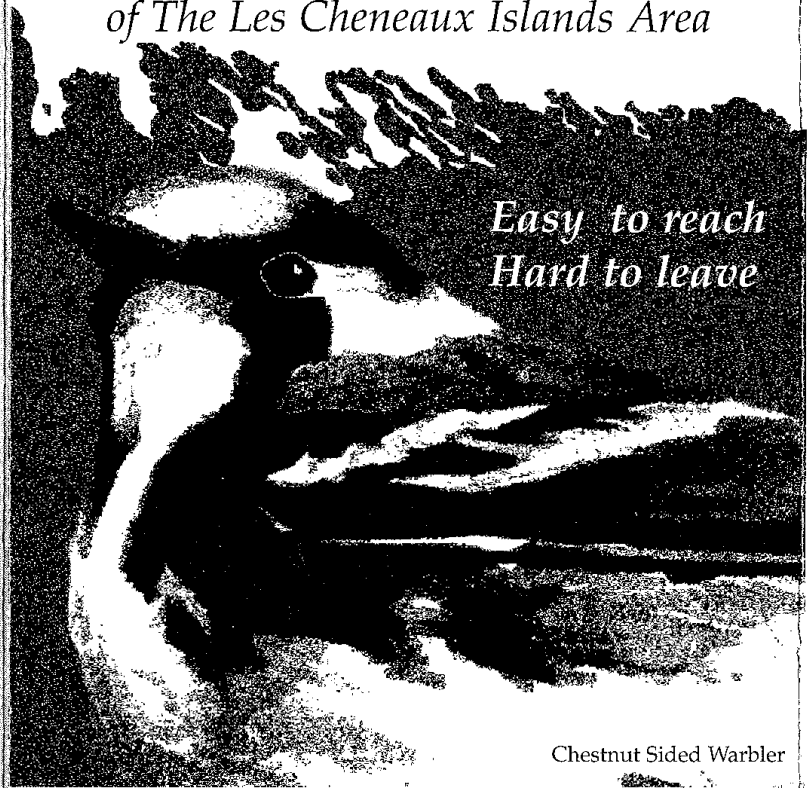


BIRDS

of The Les Cheneaux Islands Area

*Easy to reach
Hard to leave*



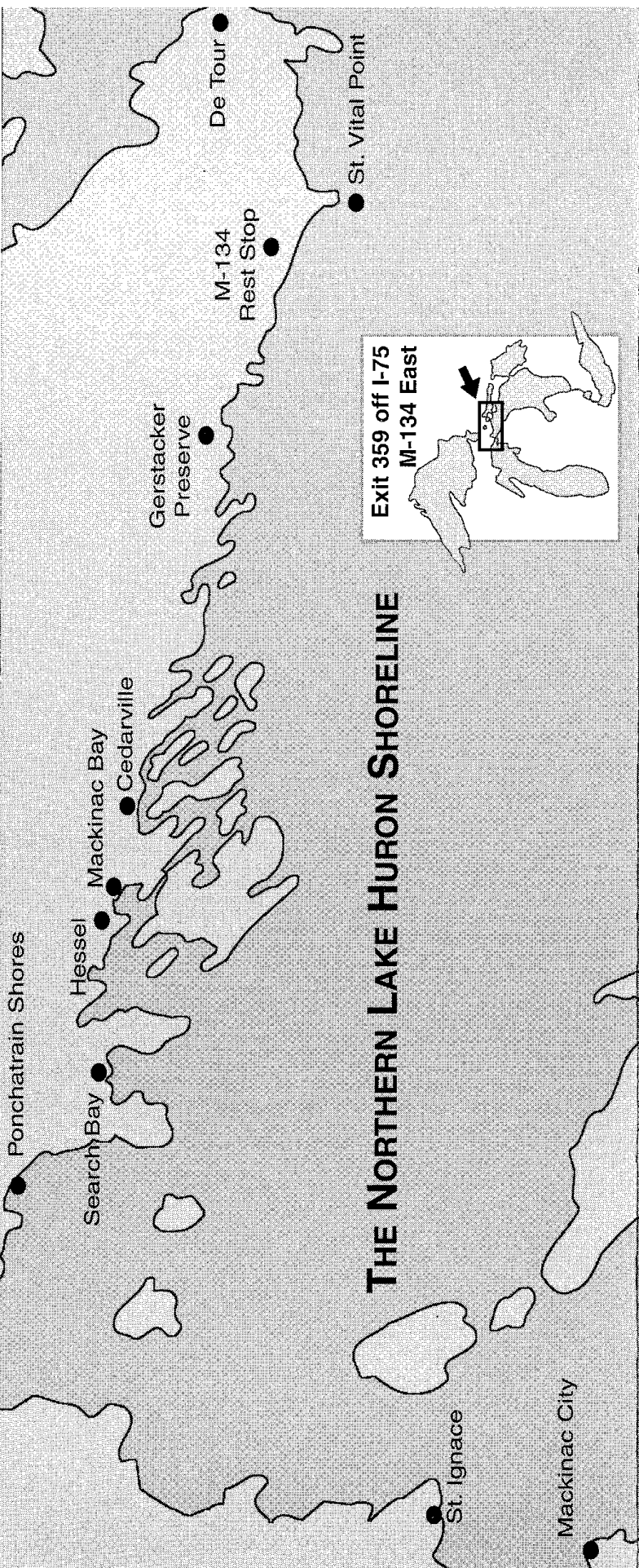
Chestnut Sided Warbler

The northern shore of Lake Huron is a place rich in marshes, rocky peninsulas, and sandy coves. Forests of white cedar, balsam fir, white birch, and quaking aspen dominate the shores. Hardwood forests of sugar maple and beech favor the deeper soils inland. Wetlands range from marshes along Lake Huron, with their neighboring sedge meadows, to bogs with tamarack and black spruce, and white cedar swamps. White and red pine tower above sand ridges and old beaches near the lake. Meadows and other grasslands can be found just inland from the lake and at the northern end of Drummond Island.

Les Cheneaux Welcome Center
Hwy M-134 / PO Box 422
Cedarville, MI 49719

1 888 36 ISLANDS

THE NORTHERN LAKE HURON SHORELINE



The birds that call these places home

This rich diversity in habitat and the changing seasons provide a constantly changing panorama for bird watchers. Few of the 250 species of birds found in the Les Cheneaux remain here all year. Some migrate through, others breed here and winter far south, while still others breed as far north as the arctic and come south to winter here.

Winter in Les Cheneaux

Winters are snowy. Rare northern raptors (such as the great grey owl) appear occasionally, while pine grosbeaks, evening grosbeaks, crossbills and redpolls are more frequently seen. Persistent birders may spot spruce grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, gray jays and boreal chickadees.

Spring

As snow and ice melt, birds trickle back and the growing tide of returning or migrating birds reaches a spectacular peak in mid to late May. Those here earliest include robins, juncos, siskins and blackbirds. These are soon followed by waterfowl and loons. Finally, large numbers of songbirds alight.

The movement of the warblers into the Les Cheneaux can be spectacular. Literally hundreds of vireos, thrushes, and brightly-colored warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks may crowd the shoreline areas where they feed on tiny midges hatching in the near-shore waters.

Summer

More than 15 species of warblers call Les Cheneaux home. Each has a favored habitat: American redstarts and black-throated green warblers, for example, are commonly found near white cedar trees.

Blackburnian, black-throated blue and mourning warblers are scattered throughout the shoreline area.

In secluded spots on water, bald eagles and loons nest. Marshes support nesting black terns and sedge wrens. Look for grassland birds like sharp-tailed grouse, northern harriers, bobolinks, and Savannah sparrows in grasslands north of M-134 or at Maxton Plains on Drummond Island.

Fall

The cool, crisp northern winds bring birds flying south. Mixed flocks of chickadees, nuthatches, warblers and vireos move through quickly. Migrating flocks of blue jays, broad-winged hawks and a steady stream of sharp-shinned hawks, merlins and the occasional peregrine falcon follow this shoreline westward toward Wisconsin. Sandhill cranes call high above, in flocks of dozens heading over the Lake. As in spring, close looks at this shoreline will reward you with sights of loons, red-necked grebes and waterfowl. Beaches and rocky points provide stopover sites for small flocks of horned larks, American pipits, Lapland longspurs and snow buntings.

When visiting these remarkable natural places, please stay on trails and roads; note that boundaries between public lands and private are not always well marked.



LES CHENEAX BIRD LIST		Seasonal Abundance				
	<i>C</i> is common. <i>U</i> is uncommon (seen on <25% of trips). <i>R</i> is rare (you are lucky to see it!).	Breeding	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Eastern Kingbird		x		C	C	R
Horned Lark		x		U	U	U
Purple Martin		x		U	U	
Tree Swallow		x		C	C	C
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		x		U	U	
Bank Swallow		x		R	R	
Cliff Swallow		x		R	R	
Barn Swallow		x		C	C	
Gray Jay		x	R	R	R	R
Blue Jay		x	U	C	U	C
American Crow		x	U	C	C	U
Common Raven		x	C	C	C	C
Black-capped Chickadee		x	C	C	C	C
Boreal Chickadee		x	R	R	R	R
Red-breasted Nuthatch		x	C	C	C	C
White-breasted Nuthatch		x	R	R	R	U
Brown Creeper		x	U	U	U	U
House Wren		x		U	U	U
Winter Wren		x		U	U	
Sedge Wren		x		U	U	R
Marsh Wren		x		R	R	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		x	U	C	U	C
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x		C	R	C
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				R		R
Eastern Bluebird		x		U	U	U
Veery		x		U	U	U
Gray-cheeked Thrush				R		R
Swainson's Thrush		x		U	U	U
Hermit Thrush		x		C	C	C
Wood Thrush		x		R	R	R
American Robin		x	R	C	C	C
Gray Catbird		x		U	U	U
Northern Mockingbird				R	R	
Brown Thrasher				R	R	
Water Pipit				U		U
Bohemian Waxwing				R	R	R
Cedar Waxwing		x	C	C	C	C
Northern Shrike			U			
European Starling		x	U	U	U	U
Solitary Vireo		x		U	R	U
Yellow-throated Vireo				R		R
Warbling Vireo		x		R	R	R
Philadelphia Vireo				U		U
Red-eyed Vireo		x		C	C	C
Golden-winged Warbler		x		R	R	R
Tennessee Warbler		x		C	R	C
Orange-crowned Warbler				R		R
Nashville Warbler		x		C	C	C
Northern Parula		x		C	C	C
Yellow Warbler		x		C	U	C
Chestnut-sided Warbler		x		C	C	C
Magnolia Warbler		x		C	C	C
Cape May Warbler		x		C	R	C
Black-throated Blue Warbler		x		C	U	C
Yellow-rumped Warbler		x		C	U	C
Black-throated Green Warbler		x		C	C	C
Blackburnian Warbler		x		C	C	C

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Pine Warbler		x		U	U	U
Palm Warbler				C		C
Bay-breasted Warbler		x		C	R	C
Blackpoll Warbler				U		U
Black-and-white Warbler		x		C	C	C
American Redstart		x		C	C	C
Ovenbird		x		C	C	C
Northern Waterthrush		x		U	U	U
Connecticut Warbler				R		R
Mourning Warbler		x		U	U	U
Common Yellowthroat		x		C	C	C
Wilson's Warbler				U		U
Canada Warbler		x		U	U	U
Yellow-breasted Chat				R		
Scarlet Tanager		x		U	U	U
Northern Cardinal		x	R	R	R	R
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		x		C	C	C
Indigo Bunting		x		U	U	U
Eastern Towhee		x		R	R	R
American Tree Sparrow			U	C		C
Chipping Sparrow		x		C	C	C
Clay-colored Sparrow		x		R	U	R
Vesper Sparrow		x		U	U	U
Savannah Sparrow		x		C	C	C
Grasshopper Sparrow				R	R	R
LeConte's Sparrow		x		R	R	R
Fox Sparrow				U		U
Song Sparrow		x		C	C	C
Lincoln's Sparrow		x		U	R	R
Swamp Sparrow		x		C	C	C
White-throated Sparrow		x		C	C	C
White-crowned Sparrow				C		C
Dark-eyed Junco		x	C	C	R	C
Lapland Longspur				U		C
Smith's Longspur				R		
Snow Bunting			U			C
Bobolink		x		C	C	C
Red-winged Blackbird		x		C	C	C
Eastern Meadowlark		x		U	U	U
Rusty Blackbird				U		C
Brewer's Blackbird		x		U	U	U
Common Grackle		x		U	U	U
Brown-headed Cowbird		x		U	U	U
Baltimore Oriole		x		U	U	U
Pine Grosbeak			U			C
Purple Finch		x	U	C	C	C
House Finch			U	U	U	U
Red Crossbill		x	U	U	U	U
White-winged Crossbill		x	U	U	U	U
Common Redpoll			C			C
Hoary Redpoll			R			R
Pine Siskin		x	C	C	U	C
American Goldfinch		x	U	C	C	C
Evening Grosbeak		x	C	U	U	C
House Sparrow		x	U	U	U	U

Our thanks to Harry & Helen Harris, Central Michigan University, and participants in the breeding bird survey for compiling much of this information.

LES CHENEAX BIRD LIST		Seasonal Abundance				
<i>C is common. U is uncommon (seen on <25% of trips). R is rare (you are lucky to see it!).</i>		Breeding	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Red-throated Loon				R		R
Common Loon		x		C	U	C
Pied-billed Grebe		x		C	U	U
Horned Grebe				U		U
Red-necked Grebe		x		R	R	U
American White Pelican				R		
Double-crested Cormorant		x		C	C	C
American Bittern		x		U	U	U
Least Bittern		x		R	R	R
Great Blue Heron		x		C	C	C
Green Heron		x		R	R	R
Black-crowned Night Heron		x		R	R	R
Tundra Swan				U		U
Mute Swan		x	U	U	C	C
Snow Goose				R		R
Canada Goose		x	U	C	C	C
Wood Duck		x		U	U	U
Green-winged Teal		x		U	R	U
American Black Duck		x		U	U	U
Mallard		x	C	C	C	C
Northern Pintail				U		U
Blue-winged Teal		x		C	C	C
Northern Shoveler				U		U
Gadwall		x		U		U
American Wigeon				C		C
Canvasback				U		U
Redhead				U		U
Ring-necked Duck		x		C	R	C
Greater Scaup				C		C
Lesser Scaup				C		C
Oldsquaw				C		C
White-winged Scoter				C		C
Common Goldeneye		x	U	C	U	U
Bufflehead				C		C
Hooded Merganser		x	R	U	R	U
Common Merganser		x	U	C	C	C
Red-breasted Merganser		x		C	C	C
Ruddy Duck				U		U
Turkey Vulture				U	U	U
Osprey		x		U	U	U
Bald Eagle		x	U	U	U	U
Northern Harrier		x	R	C	U	C
Sharp-shinned Hawk		x		C	U	C
Cooper's Hawk		x	U	U	U	C
Northern Goshawk		x	R	R	R	U
Red-shouldered Hawk		x		R	R	R
Broad-winged Hawk		x		C	C	C
Red-tailed Hawk		x		U	U	U
Rough-legged Hawk			C			C
American Kestrel		x		U	U	
Merlin		x		R	R	R
Peregrine Falcon				R		R
Spruce Grouse		x	R	R	R	R
Ruffed Grouse		x	C	C	C	C
Sharp-tailed Grouse		x	R	R	R	R
Virginia Rail		x		U	U	
Sora		x		U	U	

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American Coot				C	U	C
Sandhill Crane		x		C	U	C
Black-bellied Plover				U		U
Lesser Golden Plover						R
Semipalmated Plover				U		U
Killdeer		x		U	U	U
Greater Yellowlegs				C		C
Lesser Yellowlegs				C		C
Solitary Sandpiper				U		U
Spotted Sandpiper		x		C	U	C
Upland Sandpiper		x		R	R	R
Whimbrel				U		
Ruddy Turnstone				R		
Red Knot				R		
Sanderling				U		
Semipalmated Sandpiper				U		
Dunlin				U		
Common Snipe		x		C	C	U
American Woodcock		x		C	C	U
Long-tailed Jaeger				R		
Bonaparte's Gull				U		U
Ring-billed Gull		x		C	C	C
Herring Gull		x		C	C	C
Lesser Black-backed Gull						R
Caspian Tern				U	U	U
Common Tern		x		U	U	U
Black Tern		x		U	U	U
Rock Dove		x	R	R	R	R
Mourning Dove		x	C	C	C	C
Black-billed Cuckoo		x		R	R	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		x		R	R	
Great Horned Owl		x	U	U	U	U
Snowy Owl			U			U
Barred Owl		x	U	U	U	U
Long-eared Owl		?	R	R	R	R
Short-eared Owl				R	R	R
Northern Saw-whet Owl		x	R	R	R	R
Common Nighthawk		x	R	R	R	R
Whip-poor-will		x	R	R	R	R
Chimney Swift		x		U	U	R
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		x		C	C	R
Belted Kingfisher		x	R	U	U	U
Red-headed Woodpecker				R	R	R
Red-bellied Woodpecker				R		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		x		U	U	U
Downy Woodpecker		x	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker		x	U	U	U	U
Black-backed Woodpecker		x	R	R	R	R
Northern Flicker		x		C	C	C
Pileated Woodpecker		x	U	U	U	U
Olive-sided Flycatcher				R		R
Eastern Wood-Pewee		x		U	U	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		x		R	R	R
Alder Flycatcher		x		C	C	
Least Flycatcher		x		C	C	U
Eastern Phoebe		x		U	U	U
Great Crested Flycatcher		x		C	C	U