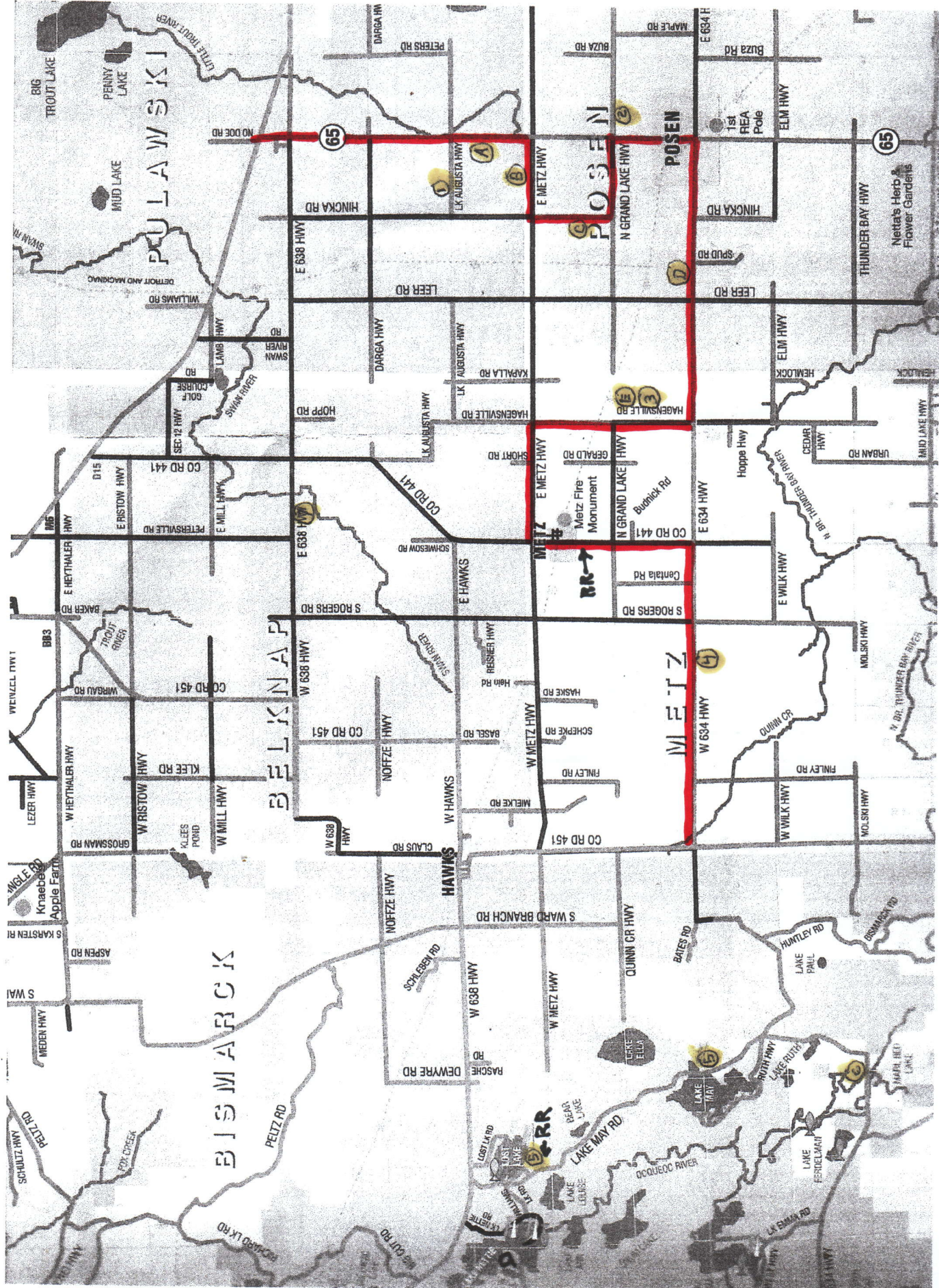


THUNDER BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP: 27 APRIL 2023





## **THUNDER BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP: 27 April 2023 to the POSEN / HAWKS AREA**

**ROUTE:** We will meet at the designated parking area just north of the intersection of M-65 and US-23. From here, we will travel south on M-65 Highway to East Metz Highway, going west on East Metz Highway for one mile. Turn south on Hincka Road for one mile, then east on Grand Lake Highway for one mile, back to M-65. Continue south on M-65 to the village of Posen, and then turn west on County Road 634. Turn north on Hagensville Road to East Metz Highway, then west on East Metz Highway to the village of Metz. Turn south on County Road 441: rest area is on the east side of the road, at the North Eastern State Trail Trailhead. Continue south on County Road 441 to County Road 634, and turn west onto 634.

### **BIRDING STOPS and COMMENTS:**

A – Along well-travelled M-65 Highway at (about) 8320 M-65 is a low, flooded site in a corn field. Ducks of many species gather here in the spring, as long as standing water remains. It is all dry and planted at other times.

B – Cattail marsh along East Metz Highway. Good for marsh birds: last summer, a least bittern was seen and heard here on three occasions.

C – “Connor’s Duck Farm”. A destination for winter birders, as this small roadside pond remains open all winter. Dabbling ducks concentrate here in good numbers. From mid-spring on, as soon as other areas become ice-free, activity here greatly diminishes. Also good for spring and fall shorebirds. The adjacent areas are good in winter for snow buntings, horned larks.

D – Along County Road 634, just west of Spud Road, is “Spud Pond”, a small pond on the north side of the road. Dabbling ducks, geese and shorebirds can be found here, but traffic is a concern. Spud Road is good for resting geese and cranes.

E – Hagensville Pond is on the east side of Hagensville Road. It is late to thaw in the spring and early to freeze in the late fall. This site is very good for ducks, shorebirds and rails, but as the vegetation grows up in the summer, viewing can be difficult. There is a bald eagle nest here, which, unfortunately, hasn’t been active in the past three years.

### **OTHER NEAR-BY BIRDING SITES and COMMENTS:**

1. Lake Augusta Highway, west of M-65, has fields that flood in mid-spring and is an excellent site for migrating ducks, geese and cranes. Once they dry up, crops are planted here.

2. Just east of the intersection of Grand Lake Highway and M-65, at the St. Casmir’s church cemetery, which has many fruit trees in it, whose fruit becomes edible in late-February. Frugivores – waxwings of both species, pine grosbeaks, European starlings - can be found here when the fruit becomes edible.

3. On Hagensville Road, south of the pond, on the east side of the road at the top of the hill is a very good site for congregating sandhill cranes and geese during their migration.

4. Along County Road 634, west of South Rogers Road, is probably the best site in Presque Isle County for nesting upland sandpipers and other open field nesting birds. Unfortunately, the sandpipers haven’t been seen here in the past several years, though the habitat here seems unchanged.

5. The ‘Sister Lakes’ – Lakes May and Nettie and Lost Lake – along Lake May Road, offer public access for fishermen and other visitors. Each is good in the spring and fall for ducks of many species. There is a public restroom at the boat launch to Lost Lake, off Lake May Road.

6. The Long Marsh or Lake Emma Marsh, off County Road 634 (south of Lake May Road) offers an excellent view of a shrubby, wet area. Marsh birds of many species occur here in the spring, summer and fall. The little-travelled road through the marsh is narrow, so please make certain that if you’re planning on walking along it, to park well in the clear.

7. Along County Road 638, just east of Petersville Road, there is a pond on the south side of the road that is good for ducks and shorebirds, though viewing must be made off 638 Highway, as the land is private and access isn’t allowed.