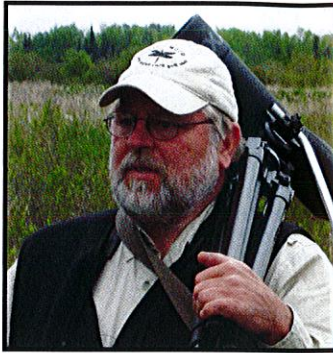


Who is Bill Tefft?

Since the 1970s, Bill Tefft taught biology, outdoor recreation, and parks classes while raising a family and exploring the area. Bill shares his love of nature with others through writing, radio, teaching, and Ely Field Naturalists' activities. Whenever anyone wants to learn more about nature and northern Minnesota, Bill is glad to help.



The Ely Field Naturalists (EFN) has grown to over 350 people who enjoy experiencing, learning, teaching and sharing northeastern Minnesota's natural history. EFN includes all backgrounds and age levels: scientists, artists, students, writers, resource managers, land owners, artists, researchers, retirees, teachers, and parents. The list can go on and on through all types of amateurs, professionals, and enthusiasts, with outdoor interests.

The EFN mission is to develop science education opportunities and educational resources, to facilitate communication through nature-related activities, and to coordinate events and partnerships in community service and collaborative learning for northeastern Minnesota residents and visitors.

EFN began and continues as a non-profit google group. New members join to link with others of common knowledge and interest in nature. Members are able to receive email postings, create postings, and respond to the postings of others. To join the group, go to elyfieldnaturalists.wordpress.com and follow the link.

Ely Field Naturalist Jodi Chaffin developed this brochure in the Minnesota Master Naturalist course for the Northwoods Great Lakes Biome. The Master Naturalist Program promotes awareness, understanding, and stewardship of Minnesota's natural environment by developing a corps of well-informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities. The Ely Field Naturalists regularly sponsor this course in the Ely Area.



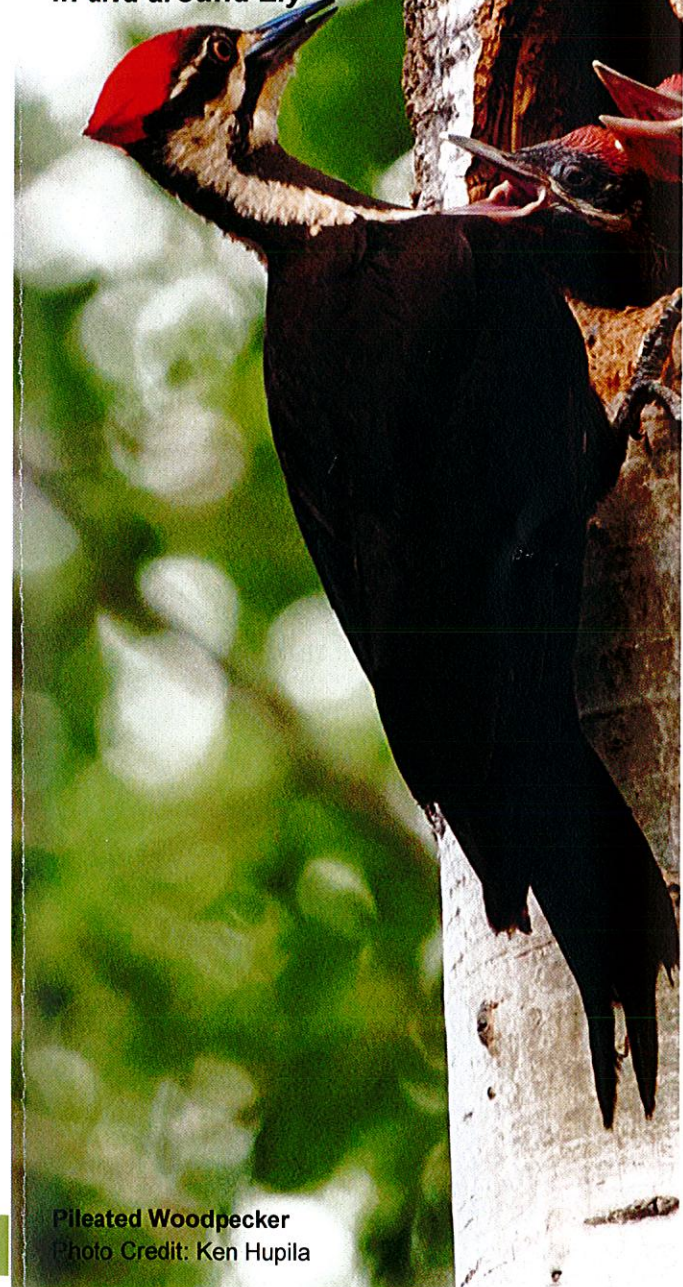
Common Redpolls and Pine Siskens
Photo Credit: Les Conrad

Why Tefft's 10?

"Some of the best birding sites exist a short walk, bike, or drive to the edge of town."

TEFFT'S 10

*favorite birding sites
in and around Ely*



Pileated Woodpecker
Photo Credit: Ken Hupila

TEFFT'S 10

1. Dorothy Molter Museum This Ely community bird feeding site was established at the Dorothy Molter Museum in 2014. The feeders attract a variety of birds throughout the year. Reminiscent of the feeders on Dorothy's Isle of Pines on Knife Lake, these feeders sit at the edge of an open area between the tall trees of the Jon Rozman Memorial Forest and the meadow-like environment of the Ely Cemetery. This area is ideally situated to attract both nesting birds during summer and migrating birds in spring and fall. Winter residents visit the feeders in large numbers.

2. Softball Complex/Wetlands Head south on Highway 1 from the Ely Visitor Center and take the first left on Old Airport Road to reach the softball fields. Park and walk the road that surrounds the fields and adjoins the wetlands. This area has a variety of wetland and open area birds. Go back to Highway 1, turn left, and the next left is an entry into an electric transfer station. Park and walk around to check out into patch of forest and the edge of the adjoining wetlands.

3. Shagawa River Crossing at CR 88 Walk, bike or drive to Shagawa River. Walk or bike the unpaved snowmobile trail from the south side of Miner's Lake to CR 88 and on east. Previously this was the railroad grade Ely to Winton lumber mills and iron mines. Patches of open water exist during winter. Waterfowl and songbirds are plentiful along the forest-river edge. Or just view the river at CR 88.

4. Old Koschak Farm Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Farther north on the right side of CR 88 is a pull-in and sign marking this area. A barn and fenced pastures are just beyond the pull-in. Try to park without blocking entrance to the gated area and walk through the trees next to the sign. Walk the dikes around the wetlands and ponds to view waterfowl, open area and forest birds. The snowmobile trail just south of the parking area provides more upland area to explore in the WMA.

5. Active Eagles Nest Continue on CR 88 to Fire Marker 1514. For more than six years there has been a nest visible from the roadside. Scan across the tallest white pines at the top of the hill on the north side of the road to find the nest. Viewing is best from the south side of the road near the driveway. Trees in the foreground may soon hide this nest from view.

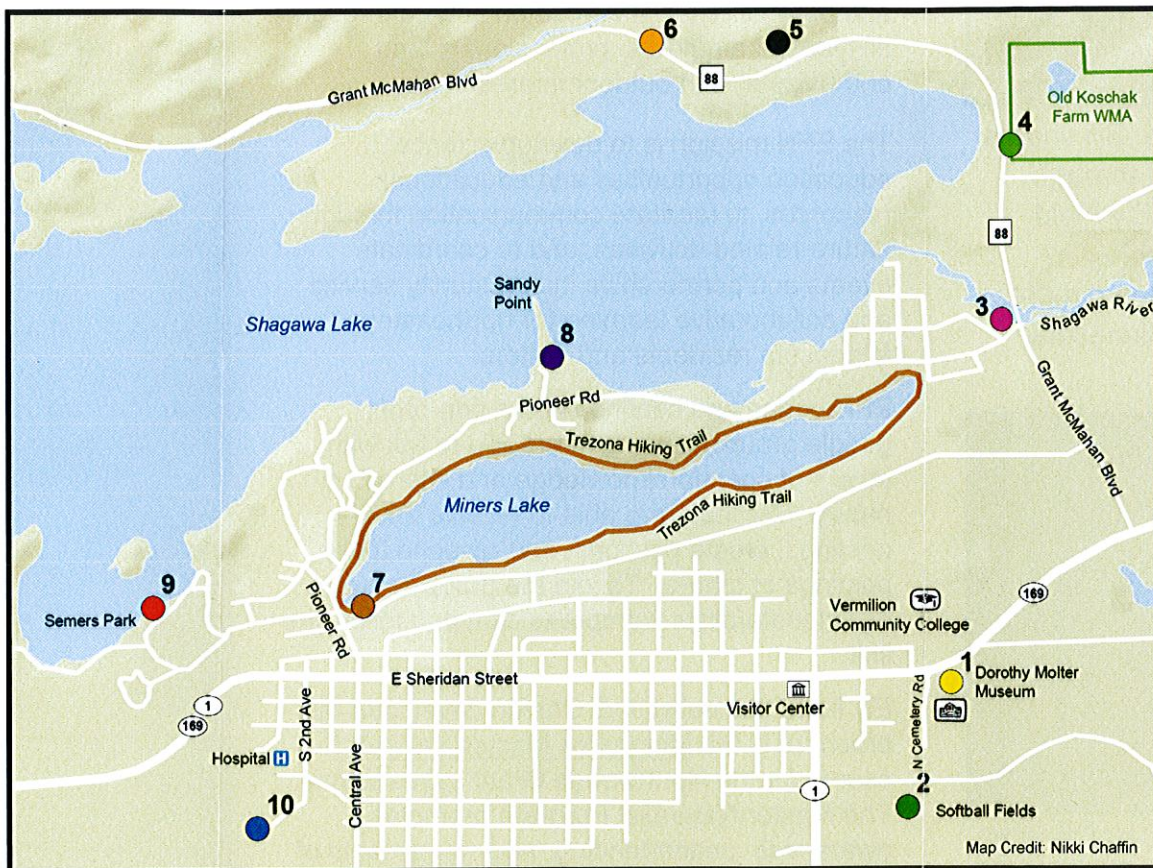


Photo Credit: Ken Hupila

7. Trezona Trail Around Miner's Lake The trailhead for this forested trail around Miner's Lake is just 3 blocks north of downtown Ely at the intersection of Central Avenue and Miners Drive. Park at the trailhead or across from Grand Ely Lodge on the north side of the lake. The trail includes flat to rolling terrain with occasional great views of the lake. The trail of less than 4 miles loops around a former underground iron mining area. The south side of the trail is flat to gently rolling, following old railroad grades and mine haul roads. The north side of the trail is rolling to hilly, passing through white pine stands, residential areas, and the historic Pioneer Mine buildings and head frame. Songbirds abound in warmer months, and you can come back to cross-country ski the trail in winter.

8. Boat Access at Sandy Point Just east of Grand Ely Lodge, look for the drive down to the boat access on the south side of Shagawa Lake. This north facing location offers a shoreline view with the sun at your back from dawn to dusk. Resident loons, waterfowl, eagles and other open water birds are often joined by seasonal migrants on the lake. This is a great place to bring a chair, camera and binoculars.

9. Semer's Park Turn left from the west end of Miner's Lake and follow by trail or road to 476 Shagawa Rd N. This park has a beach and a large bay. Look for birds from shore or walk out to the islands. Note: there are no defined trails on the islands. Scan the lake and explore the islands. Raptors, waterfowl, and songbirds take advantage of the forested islands bordered by two bays. Another highlight can be float planes arriving and departing the west bay at the Superior National Forest Sea Plane Base.



Map Credit: Nikki Chaffin

6. North Shore of Shagawa Lake CR 88 is also named the Grant McMahan Boulevard. You can continue to drive it along the north shore of Shagawa Lake. Be careful because there are many curves, poor visibility and only a few safe places to stop. Spots you can pull over include the boat access across from Camp Easton Road and near the bridge at Burnside River. When you reach the end of CR 88 turn east to return to Ely.



Photo Credit: Ken Hupila

10. Snowmobile Trail Past the Lucky Boy Ponds This snowmobile trail is an old road that goes back along the shoreline of some dewatering ponds from mining days. Drive south on 2nd Avenue West to where it curves around to the right and ends in a large open area. Park and walk or bicycle down to where the road meets the snowmobile trail. Turn left and walk this old road for approximately a mile to reach the ponds. Continue as far as you like before turning back. There are plenty of songbirds along the entire roadway and often loons and other waterfowl at the ponds.