

## Wastewater Facts

The Muskegon County Wastewater Management System (MCWMS) can accommodate up to 42 million gallons of wastewater per day. A lagoon storage capacity of over 5 billion gallons provides water for slow-rate land application for crops. The facility accepts many forms of hauled waste that may some day be used as energy sources. The MCWMS encompasses about 11,000 acres.

### Northern Shoveler



Photo by Mike Moran

### Peregrine Falcon



Photo by Mike Moran

## Local Accommodations and Attractions

There are many delightful restaurants, exciting attractions, and comfortable hotel rooms within fifteen miles of the MCWMS. Please log onto [muskegon.org](http://muskegon.org) or visit [visit-muskegon.org](http://visit-muskegon.org) for access to different packages that suit your taste and budget! Other recreation opportunities at the County Wastewater site include radio control planes, model rocketry, snowmobiling, and the observatory. Please visit our website at [www.co.muskegon.mi.us/wwtf.htm](http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/wwtf.htm) for more information.



Muskegon County Wastewater Management System

Protecting  
Natural  
Resources  
—  
Providing  
Recreational  
Opportunities



Photo by Mike Vanderstelt



Photo by Marge Beaver

# Birding Info

## *History*

Since 1973, 259 species of birds have been documented at the facility -- two-thirds of all species ever recorded in Michigan.

Possibly the rarest bird ever seen in Michigan was seen here, a White Wagtail in April of 1985.

Each year since 1974, the Grand Rapids Audubon Society compiles a bird count summary of the site. This can be found on our website [www.co.muskegon.mi.us/wwtf.htm](http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/wwtf.htm)

## *So many birds!*

As many as 40,000 Canada Geese migrate through the site, sharing the area with Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Snowy Owls, plovers, sandpipers, and dozens of other bird species.

At other times of the year, birders might see Red Phalarope, Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Gyrfalcon, Eared Grebe, or American White Pelican.



*Green Heron*

## *Diverse Habitat*

Lagoons (1,700 acres), dikes, and fields east of Maple Island Road and north of Apple Avenue (M-46) attract migrating shorebirds, waterbirds, and raptors. Grassfields south of Apple Avenue are excellent for upland sandpiper, short-eared owl, sparrows, and hawks.

## *Birding Clubs*

Muskegon County Nature Club  
[www.muskegoncountynatureclub.blogspot.com](http://www.muskegoncountynatureclub.blogspot.com)

Grand Rapids Audubon Society  
[www.glsge.org/grac.htm](http://www.glsge.org/grac.htm)

## *Wilson's Phalarope*

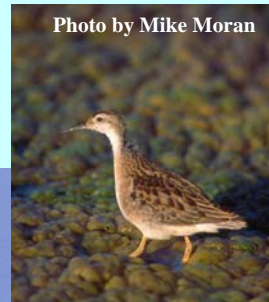


Photo by Mike Moran



*Snowy Owl*

Photo by Mike Moran

## *Hermit Thrush*



Photo by Charlie DeWitt

## *Please Visit!*

Birders are welcome here at the facility, provided they obtain a pass at the Wastewater System office before touring the site. The office is open M-F 8AM-5PM. Please call ahead 231-724-3440. Tours are available.

The facility is located at 8301 White Road, Muskegon, MI 49442 (take the US-31 Apple Avenue exit, travel seven miles east, go north on Maple Island Road 2.1 miles to the access road, and turn east into the System.)

## *American Avocet*



Photo by Mike Moran