

Birding Milford Neck

- Gate
- Unimproved Road
- ▭ Wildlife Management Area
- ▭ Forest
- ▭ Tidal Wetland

Delaware Bay

South
Bowers
Road

Bennetts
Pier
Road

Brockambidge
Road

Bennetts
Pier
Road

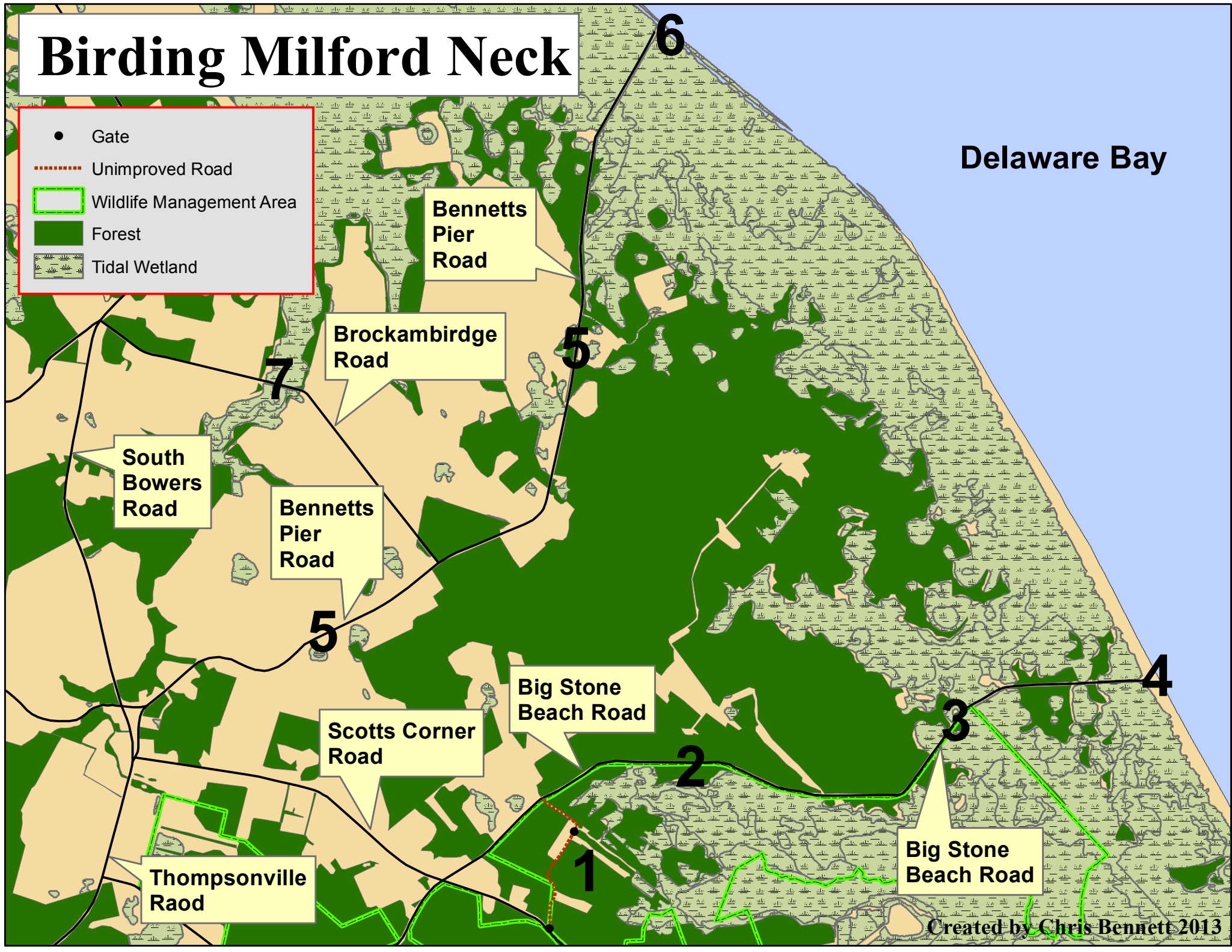
Big Stone
Beach Road

Scotts Corner
Road

Thompsonville
Raod

Big Stone
Beach Road

Created by Chris Bennett 2013



Birding Milford Neck – Big Stone Beach & Bennetts Pier

Milford Neck includes both private and public lands. The public land is owned and managed by the DE Division of Fish & Wildlife. You are welcome to wander off the roads on F&W lands, though be aware of hunting seasons. Please remain on the paved roads where land is posted.

1. Milford Neck Wildlife Area – Big Stone Beach Road

This area is accessed via a dirt road approximately 0.4 miles from the intersection of Big Stone Beach and Scotts Corner Roads. There is a trail of sorts leading from the gravel parking lot east and south through fields bordered by hedgerows to a borrowpit pond. The best seasons are spring and fall migration. Look for sparrows and other songbirds.

2. Big Stone Beach Road – Woods and Marsh

The woods and marsh along Big Stone Beach Road can be very good for migrating songbirds during spring and fall migration. In wooded areas look and listen for Pine and Yellow-throated Warblers and Brown-headed Nuthatches during the breeding season. Listen for owls (year round) and nightjars (spring and summer) after dark. Clapper, Virginia and Black (very rare) Rails, marsh sparrows and Marsh Wrens may be heard in the marsh. Look for shorebirds in the marsh ponds in spring and fall.

3. Big Stone Beach Road – Little Wood Bridge

This site is one of the best places in Delaware to hear Chuck-wills widow and Whip-poor-will during the spring and summer. Brown-

headed nuthatch can usually be found year-round. Sedge Wren is occasionally found here in winter.

4. Big Stone Beach

Scan the Delaware Bay from the end of the road for waterfowl and seabirds – Gannets from late fall to spring and Wilson’s Storm-Petrel in summer. In May the beach usually has spawning horseshoe crabs and hungry shorebirds. You can walk north on the beach – but should avoid disturbing feeding shorebirds.

5. Bennetts Pier Road

Bennetts Pier Road winds through farmland, woods and marsh before ending at the Delaware Bay. Loggerhead Shrike showed up here several winters in a row. When fields are flooded in spring they may attract migrating shorebirds.

6. Bennetts Pier Beach

See # 4 above

7. Brockonbridge Gut Bridge

The woodlot at the corner of Brockambridge and Bennetts Pier Road and the hedgerow along the road between the woods and the bridge can hold migrating songbirds in spring and fall. The marsh along Brockonbridge Gut has breeding marsh sparrows and King Rail.